

QUAINTON ·NEWS·

THE PARISH MAGAZINE & VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

census 2021

The Census is Coming

Census Day is Sunday 21st March 2021. Every household in England and Wales needs to complete the census. For the first time, it will be available to complete digitally. Look out for your invitation pack in the post.

More details on p.23.

ISSUE No. 554

MARCH 2021

Welcome from Holy Cross & St Mary's Church



Dear friends,

You may be surprised where the following words come from: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Great words and most appropriate right now during the challenging days of lockdown when we have all been trying to navigate through the perilous waters of the pandemic.

The words above are a literal translation from the original Greek language and were spoken by Jesus as recorded by Matthew in the New Testament. I know of many people who have been quietly discovering that these words of Jesus are true. In the middle of the storms of life, the stresses and strains, the fear and the anxiety, what a relief that we can find someone who really understands and comes alongside us.

As you know our church is open for private prayer during the week and we have noticed that more than 500 prayer candles have been lit during the pandemic so far. On one day alone, 16 prayer candles were lit. The church is a sacred space for many people in our village, even those who would not call themselves church goers. It's a place where we can quietly reflect on the deeper questions of life and find some peace in a noisy world.

We all have faith in something. You may think that God is an imaginary being and that people believe in God to make themselves feel good, or as an emotional crutch. However, it also takes faith to be an atheist. An atheist must believe that DNA is the result of random chance and that the original raw material of the universe transformed itself into living organisms that evolved into human beings that show love and emotion, know the difference between right and wrong and can create beautiful works of art and music. That's a leap of faith I can't make.

For me it's easier and more logical given the evidence, to believe in a creator God rather than in random chance – the odds are too huge to contemplate.

Maybe you think I'm being too religious? I hope not! Jesus wasn't religious. In fact he stood against religion in all its forms because religion had become a stumbling block for many. Religion caused more problems than anything else because it was man made, not God made. He never intended us to live in a religious straight jacket. His intention has always been that we are set free to be the people he designed us to be, with a vibrant, life-giving, life-affirming relationship with him through faith in Jesus, who came to make God real.

As we approach the Easter season, may you know God's unforced rhythms of grace!

God bless,

Rev Steve

Reverend Steve Flashman, Vicar

Holy Cross & St Mary, Quanton; and All Saints, Oving with Pitchcott,

The Rectory, 27, Church Street, Quanton HP22 4AW

Welcome to the March 2021 issue



Louisa Richards, Editor

Hello Everyone,

The light at the end of that long, dark tunnel is coming closer! Slowly, maybe, but the closer it gets the more excited I become that life as we once knew it may no longer be so far away we can't even begin to imagine it! Since VE Day in May 2020, my neighbours and I have been dreaming of the big street celebration we'll have for VC Day – Victory over Covid!

This month is going to be all about the children going back to school, the vaccination programme continuing, the 2021 Census and edging ever nearer to 29th March for the next stage of the lockdown easing.

It's coming – we're on the home run now...

Enjoy the read!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louisa".

News From Our Church:

Message from Steve:

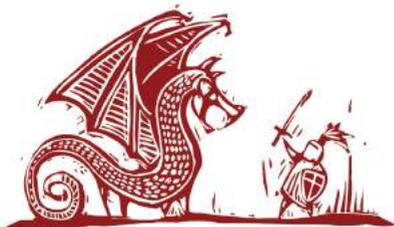
I am conscious that it has not been possible for us to meet so easily face to face of late, so we have set up a weekly Informal Sunday Tea where we can chat, share news and see each other! Although this will be on Zoom, it's still another opportunity to meet. No agenda, just informal chats with each other. The Zoom link will appear each week on our church website: www.quaintonchurch.com/sundaytea - all welcome for a chat.

We are running a LENT COURSE again this year which started on Wednesday 24th February at 7.00pm. Again, Zoom is not ideal, but we can at least meet. The liturgy will appear on the screen so people can join in if they wish, or just be quiet and listen. Nobody will be asked to pray or read unless they would like to, or I have asked them beforehand with plenty of warning! Once again links will appear each week on our Website: www.quaintonchurch.comn/lentcourse

LENT APPEAL. During Lent there will be an opportunity for us to support the crucial work of Tear Fund in our Lent Appeal. They are currently raising money for the refugee crisis. I have put an information video and links on our website. Please take a look: www.quaintonchurch.com/lentappeal

Morning Prayer: I am also considering offering Morning Prayer for people to join in with on a Friday at 8.00am starting next week. Jane will help me with this all being well.

Sunday Services will continue ONLINE for the time being. Youtube links appear on our website every Sunday on our website: www.quaintonchurch.com/live-services



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Follow us on Instagram  [@georgeanddragon_quainton](https://www.instagram.com/georgeanddragon_quainton)

or watch our blackboards for up to date event listings.

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TOP OF THE GREEN - TURN RIGHT

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SAT 9-4

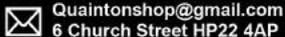
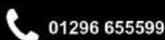
SUN 9-12

POST OFFICE

M-F 8-6

SAT 9-4

Sarah and Emma look forward to welcoming you at QUANTON VILLAGE STORE & POST OFFICE. Stocking 1000's of products. Services include Post Office, Dry Cleaning, Prescription pick up drop off.



Covid-19 Update: Roadmap out of Lockdown Announced!

After the government announcement on 22nd February, there is light at the end of the tunnel at long last! **From 8th March (until 29th March when more changes come into play), the only changes are:**

- Schools re-open and children can take part in outdoor after-school clubs
- You can meet one other person in an outdoor public space (e.g. parks) for recreational purposes – e.g. for a coffee/picnic – maintaining social distancing
Whole households/support bubbles can also go to a public place for this purpose
- Visits to care homes for a single named visitor will commence

Until more changes come into force on March 29th, for now, the rules remain...

- STAY AT HOME and work from home wherever possible
- HANDS FACE SPACE! Wash hands, cover face, give space...
- You cannot meet anyone indoors who is not in your household/support bubble
- You must not leave your local area (there are exceptions e.g. work, food shopping)
- You can exercise locally only with your household or one other local person
- Hospitality settings e.g. pubs/restaurants/hotels remain closed, except takeaway services
- All non-essential shops, entertainment venues etc remain closed
- Gyms, the tennis club, the football club, golf courses all closed

NB There are exceptions. If unsure of a particular rule, everything is listed at www.gov.uk.

COVID vaccinations: Villagers continue to be called to have their Covid vaccinations. If you need a lift to your appointment, the Quanton Support Network (QSN) is ready to assist, please call **Claire Lucas on 655552** to arrange a lift. **Thank you again to the QSN volunteers who are on standby.**

Quanton Support Network: The QSN volunteers remain in place to help those shielding or isolating, e.g. with shopping, delivering items from the Village Store or The George and Dragon/greengrocer; collecting prescriptions, lifts to medical appointments; walking dogs or simply being someone to talk to...

Need to Talk? The first lockdown was easier as the weather was pleasant and people were able to sit in gardens. If you would like someone to call you and just chat, particularly if you are shielding or self-isolating, then please do give us a call and it can be easily arranged.

Bucks Council's website has support pages and BC run a county wide support team. Food parcels are sent to people/children or families who need some extra support. Foodbank <https://aylesbury.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/> or ring 01296 382 414 or out of hours 0800 999 7677. If you can afford food but need support at this time, please contact: communities@buckscc.gov.uk or phone 01494 475355

Call Claire 655552 or Louisa 655560 if you need any help due to shielding or isolating.

Or email us on: qsn-help@quanton.org.uk **Visit the Covid-19 page at: www.quanton.org.uk**



GUMBOOTS & ROOTS PRE-SCHOOL

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George & Dragon Update for March:

March 2nd-7th National Pie Week: Keep your eyes peeled for a pie-filled Tues, Weds, Thurs
March 14th Mother's Day: Once again, we are not going to be able to have you in to treat your mums for a Mother's Day lunch, so why not book a takeaway roast of Beef, Gammon or Chicken and a selection of desserts? Orders must be placed by 11th March. Or, order your meat and everything else you need to cook for your loved ones at home through the grocers. Again orders must be placed by 11th March. We will also be offering afternoon tea for collection. This must be pre ordered by 8th march via email or telephone

5th April Easter Day: Why not get your family roast takeaway booked now with options of lamb, gammon or chicken and a selection of puddings. Orders must be in no later than 1st April. Or you can pre order your joint of meat from us and collect to cook at home.

We are also proud to have been a nominee in Cycling UK's Cyclist Café of the Year 2020; although we did not win an overall award, this nomination is a great accolade for us to have achieved.

We would like to thank Kelly Knight for all of her hard work keeping our presence on social media up to date; and for helping put together our Valentine's boxes with Ellen - it is much appreciated! Thank you.

Darren and George

Whitchurch Prescriptions

If you are aged 60 or over, Whitchurch surgery will deliver your prescriptions for free. When you order your repeat prescriptions you just have to ask for delivery. Many people are now using this service and it is working extremely well. If we use the service, it should continue after the pandemic is under control. The support network of volunteers can still pick up prescriptions if needed. Contact Claire Lucas 655552

Quanton Skate Park

The skate park in the sports field behind the tennis courts off Lee Road is a well-used recreational facility. At the moment, the Parish Council use a skate park contractor to repaint and patch any worn areas on the ramps twice a year in order to extend its life. However, the current skate park will soon be at the point where it needs replacing. So, what is the next step?

Is there interest to start the process of planning for a new, up-to-date concrete skate park in the same area? Take a look online at the recently opened skate park at Steeple Claydon. One of the first obstacles is usually finding the right place but Quanton is lucky to have the space already set aside for recreational use courtesy of the Saye and Sele Trust. I am opening this up for consultation. Please forward any comments to: parishclerk@quanton.org.uk

Claire Lucas



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Hi Everyone,

We remain here and open for you during these challenging times. As well as the many products and services we offer, don't forget that if you are isolating or know someone that is we will **deliver essential products directly to you.**

We've also worked intensely with all our suppliers to ensure that we are able to get the products onto our shelves. In addition, we continue to increase our range, so you can get most the things you need.

POST OFFICE: A reminder the POST OFFICE is OPEN during the **SAME HOURS** as the shop – except on Sunday.

WHAT'S NEW?

Last month, we announced our new **NEW** Parcel & Stationery unit for all your posting needs. This month, you will have noticed we have a new **ICE CREAM FRIDGE!** We are stocking a selection of locally produced ice creams, popular brands and some nostalgic flavours.

As always, we continue to increase our product range to ensure you get all your everyday essentials, including Gluten Free, Vegan and Vegetarian Products.

Products:

- Groceries
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- Off Licence
- News Papers & Magazines
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- Cards & Gifts
- Wildlife & Pet Products

Services:

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- Cash Withdrawal
- Foreign Currency Ordering
- Banking
- Insurances Services
- Money Transfer
- Dry Cleaning
- Prescription Drop off & Collection
- Self contained Bed & Breakfast

Hope to welcome you soon! Love Emma and Sarah
#here4u #Shoplocal #Notjustavillagestore



Quanton Parish Council

Chairman: Arthur Evans. **Councillors:** Nick Heirons, Mrs C Lucas, N Butler, J Knox, M Wearn, Ms M Thompson.

Clerk: Tony Pacetti. Tel: 651354. E: parishclerk@quanton.org.uk

The Chairman Reports:

Thanks to all those who continue to respond positively to requests for assistance from those who find themselves requiring lifts, shopping, prescriptions, or some other support. Your efforts are truly appreciated by all residents, especially by those who rely on such support. Please don't be reluctant to ask for help when you need it. This community has an envied reputation for service to others via individuals and our magnificently supportive businesses.

Roads Expectations of Network Rail officially displaying the threatened 3 ton weight limit on both Railway Station and Snake Lane bridges have so far not been fulfilled, yet no other information has been given. The powers that be continue to play cloak and dagger about their intentions, seeming not to care a jot for the uncertainty and inconvenience which local residents have to put up with. The Parish Council has continued to press for information and an end to uncertainty but comes up against a brick wall of silence, despite our questions going to the top of the (so called) organisation. Maybe it has been suddenly realised what difficulties such a weight limit would bring for public transport, farmers and HS2 vehicles, yet Network Rail will not cough up the cash to strengthen either bridge so the impasse continues. Now we also hear growing rumours of a possible change with regards to the previous plans to divert Station Road towards Snake Lane before turning it back towards the Station crossroads. Any change might mean extension plans, including new access for the Hatchery having to go back to the drawing board. This uncertainty also leaves the Railway Centre in limbo, not knowing if their locomotives and paying public will be able to enter the premises from either, or just one, end. Additionally residents in that area now have the inconvenience and disruption while the 40 house estate is constructed on the land immediately behind the now destroyed 151. Further south uncertainty will also affect the sale of the derelict property, where long delayed plans for replacement were finally permitted. So much for rural peace.

Following constant pressure, a review of the **traffic lights at Berryfields crossroads** was instigated. The result was no change despite many declaring they increase the chances of a collision rather than the opposite. We have requested that, as they insist on retaining them, they should operate in two phases instead of four. This would eliminate the present long wait leading some motorists to assume wrongly that the lights are not working and to proceed anyway.

Traffic calming While we still await training on making full use of our SID, and the erection of posts so the equipment can be deployed in other parts of the village a public spirited resident, already having the skills to interpret the information gathered so far, has shown that the flashing sign showing speed does make motorists slow considerably between the sign flashing and the vehicle passing the sign. The equipment also shows that the present average speed, at the point in which it is presently positioned, is 24mph. 91.6% of motorists adhere to the speed limit which means that 8.4% do not. We still need volunteers to change and recharge the batteries and, eventually to move the equipment between approved sites. If you are unable, or reluctant to join the Speedwatch team this is another way you can help to keep residents safe.

Planning Matters Unanswered questions about several applications listed in preceding months remain. Application for a change of use of an annexe to holiday let at **Blackgrove Barn** led to initial questions about access and parking. These having been fully explained there are no objections. There is particular concern that prospective purchasers of the **Swan and Castle** have wrongly assumed that the area outside the front door is parking space so we are seeking to have the pavement area clearly marked as such to provide clarity and prevent pedestrians being forced on to the highway.

New Prison Like many other parishes in the neighbourhood, our M P and our County Council, we have written to the Ministry of Justice to express our opposition to the proposals to extend considerably the present Grendon/Springhill prison site.

Flood Water After considerable pressure we have at last seen some action to relieve those whose property and welfare have been threatened by blocked drains, ditches needing digging out, insubstantial kerbing and poor road maintenance. Unfortunately the workmen and equipment were only present for a few days so many problems still remain. Our County and Parish Councillors continue to highlight the problems and press for action but progress is frustratingly slow.

Children's Play Area and Skate Park Finance to improve the drainage of both these areas is anticipated in the next financial year, starting in April, from both our own resources and by way of grants. Elsewhere in this News you will find details of plans to improve/replace Skate Park equipment since the present facilities are showing their age.

Local Elections for County, Town and Parish Councillors are now definitely planned for Thursday 6th May this year. Please make sure you are on the electoral register so that you may vote. Do also consider standing for election. There will definitely be vacancies. It is a fairly simple process and there will be several sources of information. The deadline for nominations is 4 p m on Thursday April 8th. Completed forms must be hand delivered, no doubt to the old AVDC premises in Gatehouse Road between 22nd March and 8th April. They are then usually checked immediately so you learn instantly if they meet legal requirements and are acceptable. Both Guidance booklets and nomination forms are available from infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk Our Clerk should also be provided with nomination forms from late February. Do speak to any of our present councillors who will give you a true picture of what the position entails.

Broadband improvements are still being sought, particularly for Station Road residents. We have some helpful and knowledgeable locals giving advice and support so we remain optimistic for progress.

Neighbourhood Plan We're greatly indebted to the small band of people who have given so willingly of their skills and time to amend the previous plan in order that residents' wishes for our village's future are given greater weight by planners, in hope of avoiding developments which show no sensitivity to our rural setting. Thank you to those who have commented on the plans and understood their importance.

Road naming Along with the developers and the local Community Board we have been invited to submit two possible names for the two roads in the new estate to be built behind what was 151 Station Road. The Post Office does not approve of names already used in the postal district and there are some other limitations, for example 'Way' if it does not lead to another road at each end. As I write Barwood Homes are insistent the word 'Romney' be used after, they claim, an air raid shelter of that name in the vicinity. No local has yet substantiated that claim. We have chosen Clifford (after Mr Cant, a well regarded neighbour who previously owned that site) and Brett (past Quainton Rector with a famous monument now restored in our church, a prominent translator of the King James Bible and the only Quainton School house not to have a Quainton road named after him). All other village developments in living memory have names with close local associations and we prefer to adhere to that practice rather than some arched corrugated iron shed with industrial, rather than human or rural, links.

Sign of the times A regular and avid walker of our field paths commented recently how she had suddenly realised that she had become lost when walking in fields only a little distant from the village centre. Reflecting on why that had occurred, she quickly concluded that the changes made to the topography, particularly hedgerows and trees and their substitution, by Harris fencing, low plastic sheeting and mounds of bare earth, had so altered the landscape that she found herself in an environment where she had, temporarily, completely lost her bearings. Beware!

Next Parish Council Meeting is Thursday 11th March, at 8pm. Present practice is certain to continue so this will again be an online meeting. Should you wish to attend, or just listen and/or view, please register with the Clerk who will provide access details.



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BERNIE'S RURAL TAKE OUT



The Clare Foundation has allocated money to Bernie's Rural Take Out, a scheme set up by Councillor Paul Irwin to support village residents and their pubs.

Quinton Parish Council is happy to support this scheme which allows the Parish Council and residents to nominate somebody or maybe a family living in Quinton who deserve a 'treat' takeaway meal. We are starting with 30 vouchers but more will follow. You decide who you would like to nominate – a NHS worker, a carer, someone who needs a boost, someone who is shielding, a vulnerable person, an elderly neighbour, a family etc. Once nominated, the person or family might be lucky enough to receive a voucher for a takeaway meal from a specified menu at the George and Dragon pub, Quinton (655436) on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays. Vouchers to be used by March 31st. Takeaways can be collected at an arranged time with the George and Dragon, although delivery can be arranged for those shielding etc.

Nominations can be emailed to qsn-help@quinton.org or phone Claire Lucas 655552.

Local Council Elections

Potentially taking place on Thursday 6th May. You can register here for a postal vote:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

The government appear to be carrying on with their plan to hold local elections in May for Buckinghamshire Council and Quinton Parish Council.

7 Quinton residents are currently on the parish council supported by a parish clerk. Anyone registered to vote and living in Quinton can be nominated and stand in the election for parish councillors. Notice of election 22nd March. Deadline for nominations 8th April. Voter registration deadline 19th April.

Projects:

- * new recreational facilities in the sports field where the skate park is
- * drainage in the Upper Street Park and planning for future refurbishment
- * Traffic calming
- * commenting on development and planning issues
- * supporting local charities as trustees (Winwood Almshouses Trust, Saye and Sele Foundation (owners of the Saye and Sele Hall), Schools Land Charity (owners of The Green)
- * HS2
- * drainage and utility issues

If you are interested, please look out for further information regarding the elections in a future issue of Quinton News.

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News from Quanton School

I am very pleased to say that school will be reopening to all children from March 8th, following the recent government announcement.



In line with Mental Health Week before half term, we took the decision to follow the example of other schools and designated Wednesday 10th February a Screen-Free Day. Children are spending so much time in front of screens at present and I wanted children to spend a day focusing on activities that wouldn't necessarily involve time in front of a computer. They were encouraged to prepare and write up their favourite recipe for a PTA project that will see us producing Quanton School's first recipe book! We'll keep you posted on that. We also challenged the children to read their books and to do some exercise – one of our fabulous teachers, Mr Dineen, has recorded some PE videos for the children to follow.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school and getting back to some form of normal.

Keep safe,
Mr James Vernon, Headteacher

Quanton School PTA 100 Club Draw:

100 Club January winners:

1 st prize £50	Neil Carlisle
2 nd prize £20	Hazel Jacobs
3 rd prize £10	Emma Rainbow
4 th prize £5	Paula Garner

Waddesdon Church of England School: WSA Waddesdon Winner

Waddesdon (Secondary) School's fundraising group, the WSA, would be very grateful for your support in their fundraising this year by taking part in their monthly Prize Draw, the Waddesdon Winner! By purchasing a £1 Waddesdon Winner ticket, you would be in with a chance of winning a **prize of up to £100 every month**.

Each annual subscription of £12 gives you one number which will be entered into the draw each month for 12 months. You may purchase multiple tickets at £12 each.

All proceeds directly benefit the school.

To purchase tickets, please email: wsa@waddesdonschool.com **with the subject:** Waddesdon Winner. Thank you very much for your support!





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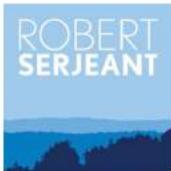
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Escapee Prisoner

You may have noticed a vast police presence in the village on Friday 19th February due to a prisoner escaping from one of the local prisons. After the extensive teamwork of four teams of officers from Thames Valley Police, including the police dog section and a helicopter, they were pleased to report that the individual was quickly found and arrested. They would like to thank the residents of Quainton for their help and assistance.

Blooming beautiful Bonnet Bonanza!

A little reminder to get planning, cutting, sticking, knitting, crocheting and creating your spring bonnets! Anything homemade goes. Open to adults and children. There will be prizes and hopefully cake too! We are aiming to display them on The Green on the last Saturday in April (24th). In fact, if you have made something or learnt a new skill in lockdown then bring it along and show it off. If you want to register your interest, ask a question, share your creation before then, please do.

Contact Juliet on 07523399274. Happy crafting!

The 40th Anniversary Year of Quainton's Heavy Onion Competition

It's that time of year again. Preparations for the Annual Competition are underway.

Dave Raynor has donated his 1st prize winnings to purchase onion seed, from Peter Glazebrook the world's record holder with an 18lb heavy onion, for this year's competition. 24 entrants took part in 2020, with onions weighing from 1lb up to nearly 6lbs. Last year's entrants will automatically receive a form in March. Entry fee is £7 for approx. 15 plants. New entrants are always welcome, and especially in this our 40th year.

Closing Date 31st March.

Please contact Jim Tel: 655457 or Bob Tel: 655375

Please note: Onion plants will be delivered to entrants (due to covid-19 restrictions) on Saturday 10th April in the morning.

Summer Grazing Licence Opportunity

The Trustees of The Anstiss Trust invite expressions of interest in grazing

Mill Hill, Quainton from spring 2021 with cattle

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Trees and Wildlife of Quainton

The Parish Council is collecting data on trees and wildlife found in the parish. Many responses have been received, thank you so much for this information. The parish has a wide variety of specimen trees, trees in hedgerows, copses, garden trees and orchards.

Tree of the Month!

A beautiful blue Cypress in Cautley Close, pictured below left.



As spring approaches, at last, it will be easier to identify trees, so if you haven't already, please can you send in your garden trees and garden wildlife or if you have seen anything of interest whilst walking in the parish.

Who would have guessed at the number of eucalyptus trees in gardens?

The Black Poplar is a species Buckinghamshire Council is looking to reintroduce to the county and luckily there is a magnificent specimen in North End Road, pictured above right.

Going forward: Question - Where do you think trees could be planted in the parish?

Please email: parishclerk@quainton.org.uk or have a word with Claire or Michelle

LOCAL SPECIES: BRIMSTONE BUTTERFLY*Written by David Gladwin***Plus, a Photography Competition!**

It is commonly believed that the word "butterfly" is derived from "butter-coloured fly" which is attributed to the sulphur yellow of the male brimstone butterfly (pictured below, left), the female being a much paler whitish-green (right). *Brimstone* is an old-fashioned name for sulphur. ("Fire and brimstone" as in the bible).



Male Brimstone butterfly

Photo credit: Tony Cox WTML

Female Brimstone butterfly

Photo credit: Allan Drewitt

Probably the first butterfly you'll see each year will be a male brimstone, taking the opportunity of the first warm, sunny spell to leave his winter quarters and seek a female to mate with, or find some nectar from an early flowering plant. If he finds a newly emerging female she will almost certainly not agree to mate straight away but fly vertically upwards as high as 20 metres or so, hotly pursued by the male. A wonderful sight to see and a welcome sign of spring.

Brimstones over-winter as adults, often choosing ivy or brambles in which to hibernate. They hang upside-down and resemble the dying leaves, both in shape and colour so are well camouflaged from hungry birds. Brimstones can actually be seen in any month of the year but peak times are April and May, then again in August when the offspring reach adulthood. Due to global warming, their range is increasing northwards, as with so many species. Distribution depends on the caterpillar's food plant, buckthorn and there are usually many adult brimstones in the Quinton area, if HS2 leave us a few bushes. If you have buddleia bushes in your garden you will almost certainly have brimstone butterflies, drawn to the strong smell of nectar. They have very long proboscises, which enable them to reach down deep into flowers like runner beans, teasels, cowslips and bluebells which many butterflies struggle to access.

Brimstone Butterfly Photography Competition!

As we all emerge from this difficult, Covid-ridden and soggy winter, signs of spring such as snowdrops and daffodils, then butterflies and nesting birds are particularly welcome sights. Within lockdown rules, why not take photos of distinctive male brimstones as they become visible locally?

How To Enter: Submit your brimstone butterfly photograph/s to the Quainton Village Society by email to: info@quaintonvillagesociety.org together with a short description of where and when you took each photograph.

Win! You could win a £10 voucher to spend with Emma and Sarah at Quainton Village Stores or with Darren and George at The George and Dragon!

Rules: Photographs must be of this year's adult male brimstone butterflies, taken in the environs of Quainton. Closing date is 30th April 2021.

We know we have so many expert photographers in the village and our illustrious Quainton News editor has promised to publish the best pictures! Get snapping!

**** Stay 2 metres apart from people and as close as you can get to the butterflies! ****

New Church View!

A new view of the church now that the dead Scot's pine has been felled.

Photo by Andrea Wearn.





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census 2021

What is the census?

- The census is a survey of every household in England & Wales every 10 years.
- The next census takes place on Sunday 21st March 2021.
- Your answers to the census questions will help organisations make decisions on planning and funding public services in your area, including transport, education and healthcare.
- The census gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.
- Everyone must complete the census and provide accurate information.
- The census should take about 10mins for the household questions and 10mins per person.

The importance of the census in 2021

Census 2021 will give us fresh information to improve our understanding of the pandemic. It will also help to make sure that the services you use meet the needs of our changing society. This could include hospitals, schools, universities and job centres.

How will the census be different this time?

- Census 2021 is a digital-first census, which means that we will encourage people to respond online if they can. You will be able to complete the census using any device, including your mobile phone or tablet.
- If you need help, we've got it covered. We will have an online help area on our website and offer help by phone, webchat, email, social media or text message. We're also encouraging people to get help from friends and family to complete their census.
- After Census Day, at the end of March and into April, our census field officers will be visiting households from which we've not received a completed census form. They will encourage them to complete the census and help them access further help if they need it.
- Our field officers will never need to enter your house and will be working in the same way as a postal or food delivery visit. They will be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and working in line with government guidance.
- You can request a paper census questionnaire to be sent in the post here:
<https://census.gov.uk/en/request/paper-questionnaire/enter-address/>

When to complete your census

Every household should complete the census on Sunday 21st March 2021 or as soon as possible after. If you've responded before 21st March and things have changed, you can let us know by calling us free. You can find the numbers on our contact us page: <https://census.gov.uk/contact-us> - this will be available from 1st March.

Get help to complete your online census at one of our support centres:

<https://census.gov.uk/help>



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Quanton Golf Society

Our golfing year restarts in March, however we are unable to hold our planned event on 26 March 2021 due to ongoing Government restrictions.

With the planned reopening of golf courses on 29 March we hope our April event will be able to go ahead. More information on the April event will be in the next newsletter.



The Rolling Oats



Keep well all, Happy Easter
& Happy Spring Everyone
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Hello Quanton!

Hope everyone is doing okay, Spring is finally here!

We hope to be back in the village soon, doing what we love best. Until then we are able to offer a delivery service for Quanton on Wednesday morning (last orders midnight Monday please), so you can still get all your household essentials plastic free! All food will be packaged in compostable bags and liquid products will be refilled on your doorstep. It will be lovely to wave at you through the window or have a physically distanced chat at your door!

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The January Draw

£100	35	Stan Speck	£20	4	Fiona Ginger
£50	29	Tim Chambers	£18	1	Sheila Small
£25	69	Trevor Davies	£12	105	Bryn Perrett
£25	42	Joyce Stratton	£10	178	G Bradbury
£25	131	June Hanson			

George & Dragon Meal Voucher: 10 Mike Germany



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We maybe closed for now...

With current restrictions, we may not be open, but there's lots going on around the estate, and we're planning ahead for when we can re-open safely.

We will soon have new, independent businesses joining us at Claydon Courtyard, and don't forget, you can still shop online at both The Flying Fox and Corzo & Wood.

From this summer, we hope to host exciting new events, including Humble Country Fayre and Towersey Festival.

Please keep checking our website and social channels for updates and recipes from our chefs at the Phoenix Kitchen.

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Come & Visit Us!



Light at the end of the Railway Tunnel!

After the government announcement on 22nd February, we are thrilled at the prospect of opening our doors once again, and are planning to re-open on Wednesday 14th April. We will post details of all the events and booking procedures on our website and social media as soon as we have everything in place.

For those of you with pre-existing bookings/tickets, we thank you so much for your patience and will contact you separately to book your event in due course.

Please bear with us as we set about planning the months ahead - we can't wait to see you all soon!

In the meantime, make sure you follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram and keep an eye on our website for more updates www.bucksrailcentre.org

Don't forget that we have a Local Pass which enables a family of six (2a + 4c) to gain free entry to most of our events for a year. (The only events not included are A Day Out With Thomas and our Christmas event, plus any specific fundraisers we may organise.) The price of the local pass is increasing this year, for obvious reasons, however the price for Quainton residents only will remain at £42! Please email office@bucksrailcentre.org for an application form.



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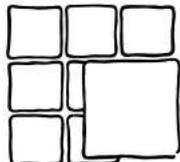
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Ramblings afar from Finemere Wood Charlotte Karmali - Volunteer Warden

February; cold, gloom, rain, more rain, and oodles of mud. Volunteers locked down in their warm houses, perhaps a little thankful that work parties in the wood are suspended for now. I took a walk around Finemere, footprints of adventurous souls evident in the thick, glistening, treacherous mud. Ponds brim with water and streams tumble through woodland. Muntjac nip nimbly through the undergrowth, and I spot just one flowering primrose. A robin sings loudly, defending its territory, as it contemplates enticing a mate. Spring is on the horizon.

The call of a green woodpecker, loud and laughing echoes through the naked winter trees. I think of David, a mainstay of the Finemere team, who is always amusing company. Vociferous, jolly and an expert in banter, his voice resonates through the wood with a never-ending string of extraordinary tales of adventure and intrigue. An exceptionally talented craftsman, David originally trained as a Cabinet Maker, running his own small company, hand-making furniture. He has always enjoyed passing his skills on to others, spent much of his career doing so, and continues to generously share his expertise with any keen, interested individual. He is a woodturner, a woodcarver, generally enjoys making things and is always looking for a new challenge.

Venturing into the world of volunteering, post-retirement, David tested out a role at Waddesdon Manor. He soon realised that he needed something less structured and so joined the Finemere team, where he enjoys “the conviviality of working with like-minded, good-humoured friends”. It is a niche which suits him well. You may also spot him at Calvert Jubilee and the Upper Ray Meadows, as he joins the volunteer workforces there. With a tool for everything, he is undoubtedly a useful chap to have around.

His favourite woodland activity? Scything. He “enjoys the gentle swish and satisfaction of being able to use such a classic tool.” Swathes of Finemere grass have been cut each year by this master of the scythe. An accomplished photographer and lover of wildlife, David endeavours to take “worthwhile” photos of all things wild, dragonflies being a particular fascination. Loaded down with powerful camera lenses, this fine specimen of a volunteer, never misses the opportunity to catch compromising photographs of unsuspecting fellow workers. Sailing is a passion. David was a sailing instructor, sailed across the Atlantic and helped to deliver yachts. As he has aged, he has found his body is less forgiving and was thus forced to give up dinghy sailing once falling out of the boat meant he couldn’t get back in. His body allows him to continue cycling, fixing other people’s bicycles along the way.

An intrepid traveller, he has visited all seven continents, the highlights for him, the Polar regions and British Columbia.

“So, tell me something few people know about you,” I ask. “I own a small plot of Peat Bog somewhere in the middle of Connemara” David answers. These volunteers really are a curious and captivating clan.

Contact **Charlotte** at charlottekarmali@outlook.com for further information.

At the moment I am unable to take on any new volunteers, as work party size has had to be reduced due to the coronavirus.





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FINE & COUNTRY

Hedgelaying at The Wildlife Garden



Thanks to a donation from the late Miss Barbara Hall, we have been able to enlist the help of professional hedgelayer Paul Blissett to help revive the hedge in the wildlife garden that runs along the road, which had become very gappy.

Hedgelaying is the traditional way of managing hedges by creating a thick barrier from untidy, gappy and straggling hedges. Stems are cut most of the way through so that they can be laid over without damaging them. Over many years, the laid stems, called 'pleachers', gradually die back. However, long before then, a new hedge has grown up from the base of the existing hedge. Hedgelaying has great conservation and wildlife value and is likely to take place every 15 years or so with just periodic trimming to encourage regrowth and keep it tidy. Managed in this way, hedges can last indefinitely.

Hedgelaying takes place between autumn and early spring to avoid disturbing nesting birds and trampling plants growing in and by the hedge which could contravene the Wildlife & Countryside Act. We look forward to watching the new hedge grow and in turn encourage more wildlife to our special garden.



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Applications should be made to Tim Friedlander, Clerk to the Trustees, Parrott & Coales, 14 Bourbon Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2RS. The Trustees usually meet in January, April, July and October to determine applications.



Weather Figures for Quainton Averages and Extremes for January 2021

Temperature			Rainfall		
Maximum	12.1°C	28th	Total for month	109mm	
Minimum	-6.5°C	25th	Wettest day	18mm	27th
Average Minimum	-0.2°C		Rain days	26	
Average Maximum	6.1°C		Dry days	5	
Highest Minimum	8.5°C	19th			
Lowest Maximum	-0.9°C	7th			
Wind			Pressure		
Highest gust	32mph	21st	Highest	1031hPa	15th
			Lowest	971hPa	20th

Figures supplied by Mike Beales. For the latest weather at Quainton go to: www.quainton-observatory.net/weather/quainton-weather/



How does your garden grow?

Would you like to be part of a fantastic & floral new fundraising initiative for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity?

Being confined to our homes for much of the last year, we know that lots of you have turned to your gardens as a lockdown project or haven of peace and safety away from Covid-19. With restrictions relaxing would you be willing to share and show off your hard work and help raise funds for the Hospice in our season of Open Gardens?

We are looking for individuals, streets and communities to open their gardens for a day or two between May and August this summer. So, whether your garden is small or large, urban or rural, traditional or modern, please get in touch to find out more at fundraising@fnhospice.org.uk or call Claire on 01296 429975.

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·NEWS·

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£5 donation for Horatio's Garden at Stoke Mandeville hospital. Call 655662.

Sourdough Starter: £4.50 per jar

Want to bake your own sourdough? I have been baking my own sourdough since the first lockdown and am now in a position to spread the love by dividing my mature sourdough 'starter' to create new 'starters' for others to use. A starter will last forever if you look after it!

The price (and going rate) is £4.50 for a jar and I will include full instructions and a recipe.

Can deliver around Quainton. Call Louisa on 655560

Post a FREE message on the *Quainton News* Notice Board!

Lost/found, Wanted, For Sale, Thanks Yous, New Baby Announcements, Engagements, Weddings, In Memory, Good Luck, Congratulations, etc.

Post to *Quainton News*, 32 Church Street or email: quaintonnews@gmail.com

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QUAINTON NEWS

Editor: Louisa Richards, Baker's Cottage, 32 Church Street, Quainton HP22 4AP.
Tel: 01296 655560. Email: quaintonnews@gmail.com Web: www.quaintonnews.com

Advertising: All queries to Cicely Davey on: cicelydavey@gmail.com.

Distribution: Dick Carter, 14 Church Street, Quainton HP22 4AP. Tel: 01296 655432.
Email: richard.carter11@btinternet.com.

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Please send orders with payment to: Mrs Tooms, 7 Torbay, Quainton HP22 4AX.
Tel: 01296 655306. Cheques payable to: Quainton PCC (QN).

Quainton News Online: Google 'Quainton News' to find our website with full colour versions of current and past issues. We are also on Facebook!

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

VILLAGE SERVICES

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

Quainton Village Life Facebook Page: This is a very active Facebook page for Quainton residents. Questions solved, advice, recommendations, plus lots more! There is also a Quainton Buying & Selling Facebook page.

Quainton Oil Group: Residents wishing to receive regular deliveries of heating oil on group negotiated terms from Lovell Fuels should phone 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: Online bookings go to: booking.quaintonmh.co.uk, email: quaintonmemorialhall@gmail.com, or call Deb Barker Boyd on 01296 655379. To report noise/nuisance only at weekends call 07704 851945.

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

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

Refuse & Recycling Collections for this month:

Monday 1 st March	Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin
Monday 8 th March	Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin ** Brown Garden Waste Bin **
Monday 15 th March	Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin
Monday 22 nd March	Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin ** Brown Garden Waste Bin **
Monday 29 th March	Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin



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SERVICES THIS MONTH AT HOLY CROSS & ST MARY'S

We continue to make our Sunday services available online, together with a load of other resource to support our community during these challenging days. www.quaintonchurch.com We will be opening our church for Sunday Services as soon as government guidelines allow, but will still be running Online Services alongside church services for the foreseeable future.

Our Online Alpha Course is going really well and we will be running another course, to which all are invited, later in the year.

PARISH REGISTER ENTRIES

None this month

CHURCH ROTA FOR MARCH

	7 March	14 March	21 March	28 March
Morning Reader				
Morning Sidesman				
Evening Reader				
Evening Sidesman				
Altar Flowers	LENT NO FLOWERS UNTIL EASTER			
Pedestal Flowers				
Tea Rota				
Church Cleaning	Sheila Hammond / Claire Lucas / Carol Merchant		Lesley Tarbox / Marilyn Beales / Louise Woodruff-Thomas	



Thank you to Chris Winstone-Partridge for sending in her very seasonal photo of the church surrounded by pretty snowdrops! If you have taken a photo of our Church or its surroundings which you would like to see in print, please email it to me at: quaintonnews@gmail.com

Thank you, Louisa, *Editor*

VILLAGE CALENDAR – MARCH 2021

- 8th March:** Schools re-open!
11th March: Online Virtual PC Meeting, see p.11
14th March: Mother's Day
21st March: Census Day, p.23
29th March: Next stage of lockdown easing should begin

Future dates:

- 5th April:** Easter Day
24th April: Blooming Beautiful Bonnet Bonanza, p.17

Quainton News: Our Parish Magazine & Village Newsletter

Editor: Mrs Louisa Richards

Assistant Editor: Melanie Curtis. Web Editor: Beth Vining. Advertising: Cicely Davey.

Contributions to the Editor: Baker's Cottage, 32 Church Street, Quainton HP22 4AP

Tel: 01296 655560. Email: quaintonnews@gmail.com. Website: www.quaintonnews.com

Please note the copy deadline is the 16th of each month