

The logo features the word 'Challow' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a blue oval. This oval is surrounded by a white elliptical ring. The entire logo is set against a red rectangular background with rounded corners. In the top right corner of the red background, there are three small white stars.

Challow

NEWS

~ September 2026 ~

The central text is enclosed in a thin, double-lined green rectangular border. In the bottom left corner of this frame, there is a detailed illustration of golden wheat stalks with green leaves.

Harvest Festival

~ 27th September ~

11.00 am

St Nicholas Church

'Challow News' is the Community Newsletter of St. Nicholas Church, East Challow



Main Street, East Challow.
OX12 9SH

Churchwardens

Mrs Liz Belcher: 01235 763966
Dr. Jeff Penfold: 01235 763173

Vicar: Rev Alec Gill

07739 563894

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar:

Rev Dr. Miriam Jones

07474 095190

vicarmiriam@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sarah Shackleton

07587 776609

Email: SarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk

Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church,

Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ

Open: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 12.00

Tel: 01235 771479

Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk



Details of all Services and Festivals
can be found on the

St. Nicholas website page of

A Church Near You

**www.achurchnearyou.com/
church/5811/**

East Challow Parish Council

clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk

Cricket Club - 01235 763335

R B L Club - 01235 763430

Village Hall - bookings.ecvh@gmail.com

Challow News - nigel.langford@me.com

Mably Way Health Centre

Church Street - 01235 770245

Newbury Street - 01235 639521

Emergency Defibrillator Locations

The Old Red Telephone Box

The Village Green, Main Street. OX12 9SR



Entrance Doorway

Challow & Childrey Cricket Club

Vicarage Hill. OX12 9RR

3 - Digit Numbers

999 - Emergency

111 - NHS (non emergency)

101 - POLICE (non emergency)

105 - NATIONAL POWER CUT
SERVICE



In Remembrance

Mary Mann

It is with great sadness I tell you that our dear friend Mary Mann passed away unexpectedly on 19th July following a fall in her garden. Mary was such an important and central part of our Church, with her faith, dedication and service to our Lord. The work she did at Saint Nicholas church has been phenomenal over the years. Mary was our "go to person" if we wanted any information about anything in the church.

Mary and David were married for sixty-three years and brought up their children Alison and Jonathan in East Challow. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Both Mary and David were very active in village life over the years a great deal of the work done quietly but meticulously behind the scenes. Indeed, they were both involved and instrumental in building our village hall.

Mary was a very active person and didn't fritter away her time, she was always occupied, she was an excellent needle woman and there are many items in our church that Mary has either made or repaired over the years. She enjoyed painting and art, appreciating shape, colour and design. I have received many Christmas cards over the years which Mary designed. Mary was one of the original Open the Book team that once a week go into Saint Nicholas School and enact Bible stories for the children. David and Mary created most of the props that were used each week. She also enjoyed writing, contributing with David and Hazel and Clive Brown to their book Ceawa's Burial Mound which is a book written as a celebration of East Challow. Mary was quite an expert on the history of our church and due to her we have a written document that people are most welcome to read.

Mary also wrote regularly in the Challow News. Giving us accounts of the wildlife that she had such love and respect for.

She somehow found time to read, and we often swapped books that we had enjoyed.

David and Mary spent a lot of time on their narrow boat exploring the canals and rivers and enjoying the wildlife around them. They must have missed it greatly when they eventually gave it up. Canal life is very peaceful and calming in-between managing locks and bridges and she loved it.

Mary was quiet, gentle and helpful with a subtle sense of humour and I feel so glad to have had her as a friend.

Rest in peace Mary.

Liz Belcher...

Hello Everyone...

I hope you have been enjoying your summer holidays whether at home or away. It does everyone good to have a break from normal routine if you get the opportunity. I hope those starting or changing schools settle in well soon and make new friends. September always seems an unpredictable month, I remember sometimes going back to school in summer uniform and other years glad of the more substantial winter gear. We have certainly had a great deal of sunshine this year.

I had to change my walking routine walking with Roxy during the heatwave, we would go out some mornings at 5.30am and then again late evening, for both our sakes.

The hosepipe ban in the drought conditions certainly made gardening harder work and we lost a lot of plants although the begonias definitely thrived in the sunshine. I think if the climate is changing this much different plants will need to be considered in some parts of the garden. Everywhere looks so parched and dry around and about. The blackberries were early and I hope to have made use of them by the time this goes to print. The prospect of jam making in a hot kitchen doesn't appeal much though. Perhaps midnight jam making might be the thing.

There is some very sad news to have to tell you, Mary Mann, a very all-round talented lady that did so much for both the Church and the village, sadly passed away on 19th July following a fall at home in the garden. She will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with David and her family.

The collection back in July for "Home for Good" raised £190 including gift aid. This is a Christian based charity working to provide support, accommodation, fostering and adoption for children and young people in care.

A very good result, so thank you to all who contributed.

There was a great deal of work put into the construction and displays of the Scarecrows this year, with the world cup theme, so well done to everyone who participated. I hope you had the opportunity to see them. They were so well thought out and amusing. It was very difficult to choose between them so well done everyone for putting the work in. I hope even more people join in next year whatever the theme. It adds brightness to the village.

This year was a very good year for butterflies, I have seen so many of them on my dog walks with Roxy. I must say I don't know many of the names only Brimstone, Peacock, Meadow brown, Tortoise shell, Red Admiral, Cabbage White, Common Blue, and a few others. I did try unsuccessfully to photograph some of them, but I wasn't quick enough. So, if you saw an elderly woman manipulating a dog, walking stick and a phone, dementedly chasing something it was probably me trying to identify a butterfly. Just a point, if your plants have been damaged by caterpillars, it's very annoying I know, our nasturtiums were totally destroyed last year, we were left with only skeleton leaves, but without the caterpillars of course there are no butterflies.

We lost several of the ducks down the canal, there were at least three dead ones along the towpath. Not a pleasant sight, and the pointless killing of defenceless creatures is horrible. There are more ducklings hatched so that is good news.

It has been lovely to see our summer visitors, the house martins and swift zooming about the sky, the numbers seemed lower than last year, but I hope they do well this year. They work so hard and fly thousands of miles from Africa every year and then back again. That's some distance for such small birds. They also return to the same nesting site they were hatched in, now that really is amazing. They stay from April to October.

I learned an interesting fact and wanted to share it. The term to "raise a toast" comes from Roman times when they put a small piece of burnt toast in their vessel of wine to enhance the flavour then raised it in celebration. That's one theory anyway, I'm pretty sure I won't be doing this myself so I will stick to "cheers".

I am sorry that Emma English has left the Scout movement, but pleased that she has a very good personal reason for doing so. She and the other Emma (sorry I don't know her name) did such a lot to promote and re-establish Cubs and Beavers in the village, and now we have Scouts. So well done the Emmas, I hope all goes well for you in the future. I also hope as a Church we can maintain our links with the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. It is lovely to have them participate in church services and we enjoy the displays they do for our different festivals.

A quick reminder that our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 27th September we will be supporting our local food bank this year, so if you have anything to donate or want to help decorate the church we will be doing so on the Saturday. Please feel welcome to help with that and of course come to the service. There will of course be refreshments after as usual.

That's all for now so as always stay safe for yourself and others.

Harvest Festival Appeal 2026

Harvest Festival is a time to give thanks for the food we have and to share our surplus with those in need in our communities

As we prepare for Harvest Festival 2026, we're inviting you to pledge your support for the Wantage & Grove Food Bank

Over many years, we have received tremendous support from our local community, and every contribution makes a real difference

Please bring your donations of Store Cupboard / Non Perishable foods to



St. Nicholas Church, East Challow
on the morning of Saturday 26th September



in readiness for the

Harvest Festival Service of Morning Worship
Sunday 27th September ~ 11.00 am

Cemetery Reminder

East Challow's Cemetery regulations are available on the Parish Council website via the Village Facilities and Burial grounds tabs. They can also be viewed on the notice board within the Vicarage Hill Cemetery.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council represents and serves the whole community of East Challow and is responsible for maintaining the local environment and amenities. If you are interested in joining the team please contact the clerk for more information.

clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk

Local Government Reorganisation

On Thursday 16 July, the government confirmed that Oxfordshire and West Berkshire will move to three new unitary councils in 2028; Greater Oxford Council, Northern Oxfordshire Council and Ridgeway Council.

A unitary council is responsible for all local council services – such as housing, planning, recycling, roads and social care – in each area, rather than responsibilities being split between county and city/district councils.

More information can be found at 3councils.org

Temporary Footpath Closure

East Challow & Wantage, Footpath 195/7/20

A temporary closure will operate from the 01/08/26 until 31/01/27 for essential electrical surfacing works.

This will temporarily prohibit vehicles and public using the Footpath 195/7/20 from Main Street, East Challow to the junction with Public Footpath 391/35/20 just before Stockham Bridge.

Dog Fouling

With increased usage of the recreation ground for sport, please can I remind you that Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 a person who is in charge of a dog must clean up after it when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access. **Please clean up after your dog.**

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 9th September 2026

You are welcome to attend, minutes are available to view on the Parish Council website.

Can you help to reduce speeding in our Village?

Thank you to the residents who have volunteered to become part of the CSW team, this will be an important part of reducing speeding in East Challow.

Training for the volunteers is taking place but we are still in need of more volunteers, please see below.

Community Speed Watch is a volunteer-led initiative where residents work with Thames Valley Police to monitor and report speeding in their areas.

- Volunteers are trained to use speed detection devices and report vehicles exceeding the limit.
- The training will be online via a link supplied and will involve watching a few short videos and answering some questions.
- You would become part of a team; we estimate the ongoing time commitment will be 2 hours per month.

The goal for drivers? Education, awareness, and long-term change – not punishment.

If you are interested and could be part of the CSW Team, please email clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk



Government consultation on Weddings proposes greater flexibility

Couples will soon be able to marry almost anywhere, including forests, beaches, canal boats, and at home, under Government proposals that “shift the focus from bricks and mortar to people and promises”.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is to consult on plans to allow “authorised officiants” of any religion or belief to conduct weddings, in what are being described as the most radical changes to marriage law in England and Wales since the 19th century.

The Government says, however, that the “permanence” of marriage will be strengthened by enabling more questioning of candidates before their weddings.

“To protect against forced, predatory and sham marriages, couples must complete a two-stage process, including in-person interview, to verify their identity and demonstrate eligibility to marry.”

Anglican banns of marriage would continue “as an important part of the established Church”, the document says.

It continues: “The Government agrees with the Law Commission’s recommendation that Anglican weddings should continue to be conducted as they are now. It recognises the unique role of the Church of England and the Church [in] Wales in relation to marriage and has no plans to alter . . . these roles.”

The MoJ says that the proposals will reduce costs. The average wedding in England costs more than £20,000 and venue hire alone typically costs around £6,000 - before any food.

About 470,000 people marry in England and Wales each year. Anglican weddings are generally required to take place in a church or chapel, although they can take place in a private home by special licence.

Back to School - facing that first Day

No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you’re rising five!

And that’s what hundreds of thousands of children are going to experience this month. Parents may have prepared them for it, and they may in a slightly apprehensive way be looking forward to it, but it must feel to the five-year-old like a massive step into the unknown.

Not much less is the anxiety of mum, who leaves her precious child, proudly resplendent in their new school uniform, in the Reception class-room. Will he or she suddenly panic, and cry for that familiar parental cuddle? Will they feel abandoned in an alien setting? Will they like the teacher?

Of course we’ll be praying for them, and we know that like millions of others before them they will very probably eventually decide that their schooldays were among the best of their lives.

But end of class can’t come soon enough for mum on that first day! How wonderful when they come running out, laughing and excited, clutching a piece of paper with some obscure crayon marks on it – written evidence of their first day’s education.

S. J. ACKRILL

BUILDING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS

ESTABLISHED OVER 60 YEARS

VAT No. 198 9173 96

The Croft,
Letcombe Hill, East Challow
Wantage, Oxon. OX12 9RW

01235 769728

07831 247130

sjackrill@gmail.com



SlimmingWorld

feel *real* good

Comrades Club, 69 Newbury Street, Wantage, OX12 8DJ

5:30pm & 7:00pm 7:30am & 9:00am
Monday Saturday

Old Mill Hall (Dixon Suite), School Lane, Grove, OX12 7LB

4:00pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm, Tuesday

Consultant : Becky 07359 531030

Find me on Facebook for more information & special offers,
even better, come join us, it could be the best week of your life!!

* Price shown is RRP. Visit slimmingworld.co.uk/offers for terms and conditions.



King Alfred Quilting & Textile Group
Monthly Meetings

Are you creative? Do you like textiles, hand sewing, or machine sewing?

Come along to the King Alfred Quilting and Textile Group in East Challow. We're about much more than just quilting; we turn our hand to all sorts of textile arts and needlecraft and a bit of mix media. Whether you're a lifelong maker or a complete beginner, there's always a warm welcome waiting for you.

We meet on 1st Wednesday evening of the month where we have speakers, or demonstrations. The 3rd Wednesday of the month is a sewing day where you can hone your skills and get advice and chat.

Wednesday 2nd September: 19.00 hours: @ East Challow Village Hall. Our speaker is Anne Tylor – My passion for Colour, Dye, Print & Stitch, this includes a talk about Ice & tray dying. www.bluespacequilts.co.uk

Wednesday 16th September: 10.00am: Sewing day @ Challow & Childrey Cricket Club.

Saturday 19th September: We have a workshop which is open to visitors. A Tulip collage, cushion or wall-hanging www.sewforestofdean.co.uk. Fees apply please contact Helen 07763 923000 for further details.

Come along to see what we are about and join our friendly group. You can come to a day or evening events or both. Visitors are welcome for all events (fees apply).

For more information visit our website www.kingalfredquilters.org.uk

Helen on 07763 923000

Janice 07786 333497



East Challow Community
Warm Spaces

Join us for a Hot Drink and friendly conversation at Challow and Childrey Cricket Club from 11.00 am

Friday 25th September

Service Changes

from 30th August 2026



From Sunday 30th August

Thames Travel will be making a number of changes to their services in the Vale of White Horse area to improve reliability and overall punctuality.

Bus Service Number 68

Wantage - Letcombe Regis - Childrey
- Uffington - Faringdon

To simplify the route, and allow the use of higher capacity vehicles,

Buses will no longer serve
Sarajac Avenue.

All journeys will instead operate via Ickleton Road between Wantage and Letcombe Regis.

From the same date, the operation of the service will transfer from

Pulhams to Thames Travel.



Help save our Village Hall - committee volunteers are needed.

Our Village Hall is the heart of the community, it's busy, well used and we want it to remain that way, but our small management committee is currently stretched too thin.

At present we have a small team meeting bi-monthly who look after the day to day running of the hall, without new volunteers we will struggle to keep the hall running, maintained and open for regular bookings / local events.

We are looking for volunteers to help with small but vital tasks:-

Building Support:

Checking on maintenance needs and helping to co-ordinate local trades.

Admin and Technical Support:

Assisting the Bookings Clerk / Treasurer, tracking bookings, bookings payments, paying basic utility bills.

You do not need prior experience, just a desire to support our Village. Meetings take place in the Village Hall, and any time that you can spare to assist us will make a massive difference.

Our next meeting is on Monday 28th September - 8.30pm

at the Village Hall, Main Street, East Challow.

Please come along and meet the team.

The Parish Church of
St Nicholas
Notices

~ St Nicholas Churchyard ~



22nd Aug - 4th Sept

Mr S. Tyrrell

5th - 18th September

Mr R. Godfrey

19th Sept - 2nd Oct

Mr D. Roberts

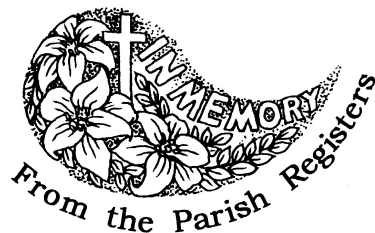
**Are you thinking about having a
Church Wedding ?**

Getting married in church is
personal, meaningful, spiritual and
beautiful, just as you would want it
to be.



Discover all you need to know about
Church of England
Weddings and Blessings.

[www.churchofengland.org/life-
events/your-church-wedding](http://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding)



Funeral Mass

Mary Mann

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Funeral

Josephine Bowler

All Information / Details are held as Public
Records within the Vale Benefice

- INFORMATION -

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Blessings
and Thanksgiving services
which have taken place at
St. Nicholas Church, East Challow.



Blessing & Thanksgiving

Leighton Edith

Alder

All Information / Details are held as Public
Records within the Vale Benefice

Parish Church of St. Nicholas - Service Information & Rotas

Sunday	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel	Coverings
6th September Eucharist Rev Alec Gill Trinity 14	Ezekiel 33: 7 - 11	Romans 13: 8 - 14	Matthew 18: 15 - 20	Green
13th September Eucharist Rev Miriam Jones Trinity 15	Genesis 50: 15 - 21	Romans 14: 1 - 12	Matthew 18: 21 - 35	Green
20th September Eucharist Rev Alec Gill Trinity 16	Jonah 3: 10 - 4: 11	Philippians 1: 21 - 30	Matthew 20: 1 - 16	Green
27th September Harvest Festival Rev Miriam Jones Trinity 17	HARVEST FESTIVAL (see Clergy for alternative readings)			Green
Donations of store cupboard / non perishable goods would be gladly received. ~ all donations are in aid of Wantage & Grove Foodbank ~				

	Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Prayers	Readings	Organist
1st Sunday	6th September	Ruth	Frances / Nigel	Linda	Ruth	Ruth
2nd Sunday	13th September	Louise / Claire	Linda / Noel	Louise / Claire	Graham	Ruth
3rd Sunday	20th September	Jenny	Liz / Jeff	Jenny	Fiona	Graham
4th Sunday	27th September	Morning Worship	Trish / Sue	Nick / Paul	Claire	Graham
~ If you are unable to attend please arrange cover for your week ~						

Thursday	Sacristan
3rd Sept	Mandy
10th Sept	Jenny
17th Sept	Heather
24th Sept	Mandy
	Nigel

Cleaning		Flowers	Coffee
31st Aug - 6th Sept	Linda	Heather	Mandy
7th - 13th Sept	Claire	Claire	Jan / Hilary
14th - 20th Sept	Savita	Jenny	Val
21st - 27th Sept	Mandy	Mandy	Linda, Janet, Sylv
	Sue & Trish	Linda	Sue, Trish, Frances

St. Nicholas Church



July

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

£50 - N° 79 ~ Mrs L. Shaw

£20 - N° 63 ~ Dr & Mrs Penfold

£10 - N° 72 ~ Mrs J. Evans

August

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

£50 - N° 67 ~ Mrs M. Hives

£20 - N° 34 ~ Mr T. Penfold

£10 - N° 133 ~ Mr R. Swift

Would you like to join?

For further information please contact

Tricia Shand - 01235 764222
the.shandies@btinternet.com

Sunday 27th Sept

Charitable Offerings
will be taken in aid of

Wantage & Grove
**FOOD
BANK**

~ Thank you for your generosity ~

WANTAGE & GROVE

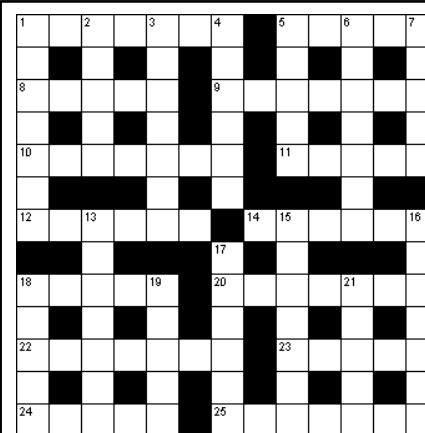
Food Bank

To highlight the precarious nature of personal finances, some years ago the charity Shelter estimated that 50% of those in rented accommodation were one pay check away from being homeless. In some ways the modern equivalent is now food poverty and this has given rise to an increasing number of local foodbanks. The Wantage and Grove Foodbank is one of those and provides short term emergency help to people who find themselves, for whatever reason, job loss, benefit problems, ill health, relationship breakdowns etc, unable to feed themselves or their families.

Started over 10 years ago it is a practical and independent community-based project organised and manned by a number of the local churches. It is entirely voluntary and relies on donations of food and money. When it started it supplied a few parcels a week. In 2025 it provided more than 900 parcels.

Those supported are referred to the Food Bank through a number of different agencies, Wantage Community Impact, Social Services Job Centres, Health Centres, local churches and so on. Deliveries are made from Monday to Friday, and cover Wantage, Grove, Stanford in the Vale and all the neighbouring villages. There are donation points at the VCI, Grove CO-OP, Sainsburys and Waitrose. Cash and food donations are both welcomed and needed. There is also always a need for more volunteers.

The cash collection and food donations at our Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday 27th September is in aid of the Wantage and Grove Food Bank.



Across

1. Gruesome (7)
5. Small piece of bread (5)
8. Machine for lifting (5)
9. Toothed wheel (7)
10. Foes (7)
11. Profundity (5)
12. Altitude (6)
14. Remained (6)
18. Heads of the Roman Catholic church (4)
20. Deficiency of red blood cells (7)
22. Immortal (7)
23. Hackneyed (5)
24. Chaplain (5)
25. Snake (7)

Down

1. Shakespeare's Scottish play (7)
2. Pursue (5)
3. Defect (7)
4. Exit (6)
5. Quoted (5)
6. Miserable (7)
7. Female dog (5)
13. Hampered (7)
15. Renegade (7)
16. Local variety of language (7)
17. River that flows into the Bay of Bengal (5)
18. Well-rounded (5)
19. Grab (5)
21. Corn (5)

Shaun Guard TV AERIAL & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied & repaired also poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q upgrades, discreet dish installation
- Internet - black spots cured, internal & external data cables installed
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up and tuned

OXFORD AERIALS

www.oxfordaerials.co.uk shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk

Call us on 01235 642689

Black Fox Chimney Sweeping

- ✓ Clean, professional service
- ✓ Fully insured & DBS checked
- ✓ Sweeping certificate provided
- ✓ All types of chimney and appliance
- ✓ Nest Removals
- ✓ Stove repairs & maintenance

info@blackfoxsweep.co.uk

www.blackfoxsweep.co.uk

073 873 88 999



WANTED

Record Collections
LP's - Singles & Memorabilia
Rock - Blues - Folk - Jazz - Reggae
Large or Small
Collections in Ex Condition

> Cash Paid <

07789 158485 / 01235 760383

SKY SPORTS
 SHOWN HERE
 - LIVE - Super
 Sunday Football

Planning an Event or Party

Our Main Hall
 with Kitchen
 Facilities
 are available to
 hire

~ Contact ~
01235 763430

Hand Bell Ringers

10.30 am
 Every Tuesday
 New Members
 Welcome
01235 763430
 For more details

Challows Afternoon Club

for all over 60's
 we meet every month
 2.00 pm
 on the 3rd Thursday
**Everyone
 Welcome**

Challows RBL Club



Call in and see all that
 the Club has to offer
 Socialise over a drink
 from the Bar
 or enjoy a game of Darts,
 Snooker or Pool

Saturday Night Entertainment

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
28th September

Frank Haze

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

October

T. B. A.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

14th November

Locarno Beat

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

8.30 pm

Admission £10.00

[Cash on the door]

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday

7.00 pm - Close

~ ~ ~

Friday - 6.00 pm - Close

Saturday 1.00 pm - Close

Sunday 1.00 pm - Close

Sunday Night Cash Bingo



(Eyes down at 8.00pm)

Monday Night Poker



Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

Why early prison release matters beyond the headlines

Last month we heard the news that under the new Sentencing Act the killers of PC Andrew Harper would be eligible for early release next year. Andrew was killed in the line of duty just seven years ago. Along with many others I was hopeful when the story prompted the new Prime Minister to review the policy, but the news this month is that his killers will still be released as planned early in 2027.

There are some welcome changes to the Sentencing Act that will see rapists and child sex offenders remain in prison for longer. This is good news considering just a few months ago the Government rejected moves to do exactly that.

I am the first to accept there is a real problem with prison capacity, frankly more prisons need to be built, along with other changes to our courts, sentencing and more. Nevertheless, the solution cannot be to let dangerous people back out on the streets.

The problem with the Sentencing Act goes far beyond the case of PC Andrew Harper, because it fails to look at the risk individual prisoners might pose, and instead is a blanket approach based on the type of offence. Where previous early release schemes have been risk based, this new law means that whether someone has a violent past or is a persistent domestic abuser, they will still be released. Rehabilitation matters, but it takes time and punishment, and public protection remain important reasons for keeping people in prison.

The current plan will put huge strain on the Probation Service and the police, who will be dealing with more criminals out in the community. The National Police Chief's Council has forecast an overall increase in crime of 6% as a result of the changes. These aren't just statistics, that means more victims of crime.

Andrew Harper's killers have shown no remorse for their awful crime. The potential early release of these two individuals has highlighted the failings in the Sentencing Act. It is important that some of the worst problems created by the Government's plans are fixed as a result of this case, but it would be a huge disservice to Andrew and his family if despite a change in the law two of his killers were released early. This cannot be allowed to happen. I am working with colleagues in Parliament and with civil servants behind the scenes to try to get this position changed for when Parliament returns in September.

The Thames Valley Police Federation have launched a petition at [Change.org/PCHarper](https://www.change.org/p/Change.org/PCHarper).



Matthew Barber

Listening. Serving.
 Taking Action

www.matthewbarber.co.uk

Club Membership is NOT a requirement to attend any events here



OUR AUTUMN OFFERING

SKY & TNT Sports

now shown LIVE

Bar opening times through this period will generally be

Monday	4pm - 9pm
Tuesday	4pm - 9pm
Wednesday	4pm - 9pm
Thursday	4pm - 9pm (11.00pm when Darts match is on)
Friday	4pm - 10pm
Saturday	11.30am - 6.30pm
Sunday	11am - 6pm

If you would like to join the club as a member it's just £20 for the year

Remember that everyone is welcome at the Cricket Club, membership is not required to enjoy the facilities, although it does mean we can keep you up to date with news and events at the Club

www.challowcricket.co.uk
admin@challowcricket.co.uk

01235 763335

Dirty Oven?

I'm here to help...

I'm Tom, your local Ovenu expert. I can bring your cooking appliances back to a showroom shine using 100% eco-friendly, odour free products. I professionally refresh ovens, hobs, extractors and microwaves, giving you more time to savour the moments that matter.

oven oven valeting service **01235 239 938**
oven.co.uk/south-oxon



Those new Royal Mail solar-powered digital post-boxes

Royal Mail has converted about 3,500 of the old trusty red post-boxes into digital affairs, out of the 115,000 post-boxes in the country.

The new solar-powered digital post-boxes feature a solar panel roof, a built-in barcode scanner, and an extra-large drawer that accepts parcels up to shoebox size.

The idea is that the solar panels on top capture sunlight to power the digital scanner and automated drawer mechanism. So, then all you have to do is to scan the 2D barcode on your pre-paid parcel label, using the box's scanner to automatically open the large drawer. The traditional letter slot remains, for regular stamped mail.

As for proof of posting? You use the Royal Mail app on your phone to track and request confirmation when you drop off an item.

If you don't want to download an app or use a printer, the good news is that you can still send your parcels as before, at a post office counter.

All entries for the **OCTOBER** Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by **10th SEPTEMBER 2026 ***

Email: nigel.langford@me.com

Please note * **NEW MONTHLY PRINT DEADLINE**





PEST WIZARDS

YOUR LOCAL PEST CONTROL SERVICE

WASPS & ALL INSECTS
RATS, MICE, MOLES & SQUIRRELS
PROMPT SERVICE
MARK DEARLOVE • 07446377816
01235 642689 • info@pestwizards.co.uk



How often should you change your sheets?

When the question was put to various sleep coaches and sheet manufacturers, they came up with a variety of things to consider.

Once a week is thought to be good practise by many, but no more than twice a week, or you risk putting unnecessary wear and tear on your bedlinen.

Do you bath at night or in the morning? It matters, because that determines how much dust and sweat you will be taking to bed with you each night.

Do your pets sleep with you? In that case you may wish to change your bedding more than once a week. They may be leaving the odd flea, tick and certainly some fur in your bed.

Do you have allergies? If they include dust mites, it may be worth changing your bed every three to four days. Allergy UK advises a 60 degree wash to kill dust mites.

And finally, don't rush to make your bed each morning. Instead, pull back the sheets, open the window, and give it some time to air.

Why wearing slippers isn't always so cosy

Many of us love the comfort of wearing our slippers around the house. They are warm and cosy and keep the carpets clean.

But – if you wear them for many hours a day, beware: slippers can be dangerous when they show signs of wear and tear. Soles with holes, flaps, worn down backs, or frayed uppers are the reasons for thousands of painful falls each year.

How sturdy are your slippers? If you can fold them in half, they are not supporting your feet. So walking on the hard floors in your home will mean that the impact from each step goes straight to your knees, hips and lower back.

And what about arch support? Anyone with arthritis, sciatica, knee and back pain or plantar fasciitis will really struggle without it.

Instead, slippers need to have a rubbery cushioned thick sole, which provides some shock absorption. And they need to have a heel cup indentation, so it is easy to keep the slipper on. Otherwise, you will be clawing your foot to hang on to them, which will put strain on the tendons below. Some people find that croc-style clogs are a good option.

At the end of the day, it pays to be good to your feet. They are a complicated and wonderful mix of 26 bones, 33 small joints, 29 muscles, and dozens of tendons, ligaments, nerves and blood vessels. In the words of the Psalmist, your foot is 'fearfully and wonderfully made' and deserves your protection and support.

*"Thank you for putting the colour into my
once black-and-white world."*

Life Coaching
and
Neurodiversity Coaching

Orchard House Clinic
Wantage
CreativeChangeCoaching.org

Proud to be a member of
 Association
for Coaching



Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrates 70 years: 1956 - 2026

It was back in February of 1956 that Buckingham Palace released a press announcement outlining plans for a trial period of 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'.

It was the post-war era, and His Royal Highness wanted to help boys bridge the gap between leaving formal education at 15 and starting National Service at 18. He also wanted them to build self-confidence and a sense of purpose to support them into their future. A youth programme, he believed, would improve their skills and equip them to make valuable contributions to their communities and society.

In 1956, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award pilot was launched to national voluntary youth organisations. It soon expanded to include Local Education Authorities, the Armed Forces and some schools across the UK.

After the first year, 7,000 boys had started a programme and 1,000 Awards had been achieved. Girls were allowed to join the programme in 1958. Since that first year, millions have joined the D of E Award programme.

The D of E Award continued to evolve, and programmes took on their current format of Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition, and Residential at Gold level in 1980.

In 2020, D of E participants stepped up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The volunteering efforts of 330,000 young people equated to an investment of almost £8.5 million in a time of need.

The D of E says: "It hasn't been the easiest few years for young people. From the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic to the anxieties of the cost-of-living crisis, the future doesn't always feel certain.

"But, in seven decades of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, we've learnt one thing: never doubt what young people can do. Time and time again, we've seen that when young people are given the chance to prove to themselves what they're capable of, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

"We're here to celebrate and champion every young person. To provide a safe environment of support and challenge that grows as they do.

"Whatever their ability, interest or background, D of E offers young people the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set their minds to a personal challenge. Because when you prove to yourself that you're ready for anything, nothing can hold you back. Our Founder HRH Prince Philip once said: 'There is more in you than you might think.' And, here at the D of E, we help you realise that."

Prince Philip passed away in April 2021, but his legacy thrives thanks to the tireless support of the new Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.

More info at: www.dofe.org



Open Doors and the persecuted church

“With God all things are possible.”- Matthew 19:26

I don't know if you ever sign petitions? For the last two years, Open Doors has been gathering names for the Arise Africa petition. Our aim is to get 1 million signatures worldwide to present to the UK and other governments in November. Why do African Christians need our help? Let me explain.

At the end of July, just as people here were looking forward to the holiday period, 30 Christians (That's about the size of St Nic's) were killed in an attack in Nigeria's Middle Belt region. The youngest victim was aged three and the eldest 87. The incident happened just before midnight, when suspected militant members of the Fulani people group attacked the village of Naridon in Kauru Local Government Area. The victims comprised 21 from a Catholic church and nine from the ECWA (Evangelical Church Winning All). Nine were men, ten were women and 11 were children. A further seven people (four children, two women and one man) were injured. Others remain unaccounted for, so the death toll may have risen.

If you are part of the church – any church – these are not just fellow believers. They are family. And if you're not part of a church, this is still a justice issue in our world.

“They were going from house to house, shooting,” Jacob Nera, a former councillor, told media. “Yes, they set three shops and two houses on fire. For now, we don't know if anyone was kidnapped.” Security forces are accused of another slow response. Nera said the Nigerian Army ‘refused to come on time’. Police also did not arrive until after the incident.

“People are being killed without any resistance in their homes where they expect to be safe, and businesses and farmlands where they work to provide for their families are repeatedly destroyed,” shares John Samuel*, legal expert for Open Doors' work in sub-Saharan Africa. “That these attacks are allowed to happen over and over again is totally unacceptable. We continue to call upon the Nigerian government and its security agencies to take decisive action in fulfilling their constitutional responsibility to protect all citizens.”

“Impunity is driven because of the absence of rule of law,” adds Jo Newhouse*, Open Doors spokesperson for work in the region. “Unless the Nigerian government and their partners find a way to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to book, and do more to protect vulnerable communities, these attacks will continue until life in one of Nigeria's most pluralistic areas – the Middle Belt – becomes completely dominated by fear and trauma. The international community should not allow the Nigerian government the luxury of inaction.”

Attacks like these rarely make the headlines, contributing to a silence which only adds to the vulnerability of Christians in Nigeria and across sub-Saharan Africa. That's why the [Arise Africa petition](#) is absolutely critical in making such a loud noise about it. If you have already signed the petition, thank you - please pray for the greatest impact possible. If you've yet to add your voice, please do so today by going to www.opendoorsuk.org, and if you can, please share it with your family, friends and churches. Thank you.

For more on the progress of this petition, ask Nick or Claire Page for details.

Waste & Recycling Information

	* Wednesday 2nd Sept	Black + Food	
	Tuesday 8th September	Green + Brown + Food	
	Tuesday 15th September	Black + Food	
	Tuesday 22nd September	Green + Brown + Food	
	Tuesday 29th September	Black + Food	
	Tuesday 6th October	Green + Brown + Food	

*Change of collection day due to BANK HOLIDAY

*Please ensure your Waste & Recycling Bins are placed on the kerbside before
06.00 am to ensure your bins are emptied*

* * * * *

Please return your bins to your property ASAP after collection to ensure they are not blown onto the road causing an obstruction or damage to other vehicles

Please help to keep our Village Tidy and free from Fly Tipping

From 14 January 2026 you will need to **book a time slot** before every visit to our Household Waste Recycling Centres.

You can book up to **two weeks** in advance or **30 minutes*** before you visit.

*Subject to availability

The booking system will help manage demand and make your visit quicker and easier.

oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking

Unable to book online?
Call 01865 519800 Monday to Friday.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Please take any Large Items to the Waste & Recycling Centre at Stanford in the Vale

Faringdon Road, SN7 8LD

There is an Air Ambulance **BLACK** Recycling Bin for Clothing situated in the Parish Council car park on Canal Way

There is also a **GREEN** Recycling Bin for Shoes etc. situated in the car park at the Cricket Club on Vicarage Hill



- After Sales Support
- Friendly Service
- Garden Machinery Hire for Trade & DIY
- Collection & Delivery Service available



STIGA

Mountfield

Local Dealer

*Dickies Workwear - Buckler Boots
PPE - Hoggs of Fife Country Clothing*



- Special Weekend Hire Rates
- Competitive Prices
- Friendly Service
- Parking



Trade & DIY Hire Centre
Plant & Tool Hire

Challow House Farm, Main Street, East Challow, OX12 9SR
Tel: 01235 763103 www.ljcannings.co.uk

A helping hand to shape your land