



THE POULTON EYE



COMMUNITY - NEWS - INFORMATION



- In this month's Edition:**
- Weather Woes on the farm**
 - Solar Power - a highly charged topic**
 - Damned Dandelions**
 - PCC Annual Report**
 - Cricket Club News**
 - Forage for Borage**

Welcome to the June edition of the Poulton Eye

June marks the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, which in my book is a cause for celebration. The verges are - well - verdant, with cow parsley putting on a stunning show, and the prospect of sunny days ahead is enough to lighten even the darkest of times.

It is also the month of the Summer Solstice and Father's Day (note for the diary, it's the 16th June this year). These are more well-known occasions in June, but did you know that there are a whole load of other 'observances' are coming our way this month? Participation is, luckily, optional, but you might feel like celebrating International Children's Day on 1st of June - although you might prefer to mark World Milk Day, which falls on the same date (bad planning that). A day later and you can mark International Whores' Day. Enough said.

Sadly, if you're not observanced out by this early stage of the month, you have to wait a whole 10 days for the next observance, which falls on 15th June - Global Wind Day (the mind boggles...) but then, lucky you, just a day later on 16th June you get International Day of the African Child, and then on the 18th June it's Autistic Pride Day. Attention then takes on a sporting theme, with the 19th June being World Sauntering Day (?) and 21st June Go Skateboarding Day. The month winds up with World Vitiligo Day on 25th June before ending with a real bang (hopefully not literally) - on 26 June with **World Refrigeration Day**. Who knew?!

More locally, we have our own observances coming up - Books, Biccies and Beverages on Saturday 1st June, and Film Nights on Tuesdays 4th June and 18th June and the D-Day 80 commemorative event at Down Ampney Airfield on Wednesday 5th June.

Please feel free to send us contributions for The Poulton Eye. Our deadline for contributions is 15th of each month.

Rosie and Lizzy - poultoneye@gmail.com



D-DAY 80 at DOWN AMPNEY

Commemorative Event

Wednesday 5th June

7.30pm

The Old Airfield

: Cirencester Town Band : VOKAL Singers : Military Vehicles : Refreshments :
: Cirencester Town Cryer : RAF Down Ampney Display : Beer Tent :
: Service of Commemoration : Sunset Ceremony :

Tickets £5 each from:

Ticket Source Website

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/All-Saints-Church-Down-Ampney>

Ticket Source QR Code

or Email: daevents@gmx.com



MESSAGE FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friend

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of two major military campaigns – Operation Overlord in June; and Operation Market Garden in September. RAF airbases in Gloucestershire were much involved in troop and supply movement and locally RAF Down Ampney played its part (photo of the commemorative window in the church, right).

Over the years parishioners have told me stories about those times – Jimmy Edwards (the actor), then a brave RAF pilot at Down Ampney - why he grew his signature moustache; and how he would drive over to The Crown at Ampney Crucis for some hard drinking and be thrown out by the landlady! The Air Despatcher, Harry King, nicknamed ‘Lucky Jim’ because he always came out of scrapes smelling of roses – and was, apparently, the first person to win £1,000,000 on the Moores Pools. I’ve heard about acts of courage and bravery from those who witnessed them – including an eyewitness account of how Flight Lieutenant David Lord DFC won his Victoria Cross over Arnhem. The role of the Flying Nightingales who brought casualties back to England on aircraft and, because they were not combat troops, weren’t allowed parachutes!

At the time these people were all young, living through exciting and terrifying times not knowing what the future would hold.

Remembering and commemorating is something woven into the human spirit. The Bible calls people to remember, to set aside times and anniversaries so we can think – of God; of our common heritage; think of people who have served us in the past and shaped our future; think of those who loved us (and we them) who still hold a place in our hearts.

As we commemorate 80th anniversaries of major campaigns, we do not celebrate (as some sloppy commentators will describe it); but rather recall with respect and thanksgiving the sacrifices of those who fought for our freedoms. These freedoms were costly and I hope we will all appreciate their value to us today.

Yours as ever - John

The Rectory, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester, GL7 5RY | 01285 851309 | ampneyrector@gmail.com
| www.ampneychurches.info



CONFIRMATION

The Bishop of Gloucester will be coming to Ampney St Peter on the evening of Thursday 1st August for a Service of Confirmation. If you are thinking about, or would like to be Confirmed, as part of your faith journey, please do let the Vicar know.

The Big Sing
In Aid of Mindsong and Poulton Church

Join the Coln and Poulton Choirs and band in a Musical Celebration

THE BIG SING - 5TH JULY, 8PM - 9.30PM
ST MICHAELS CHURCH, POULTON - DRINKS FROM 7.30PM



A VIBRANT SINGALONG EXPERIENCE - £10 ENTRY INCLUDES WELCOME DRINK
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Come and join in - it really is a case of the more, the merrier!

So spread the word and put the date in your diary.

Please note that the timing has been slightly altered to enable people to sing and go to the Drifffield tug of war (on the same night!)

7.30pm drinks for 8pm start

CHURCH DATES FOR JUNE

Sunday 2nd June 1st Sunday after Trinity	8am 10am 10am 12 noon 6pm 6pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Word and Worship Baptism Evensong Prayer & Praise - contemporary songs, prayer & teaching	Ampney Crucis Down Ampney Harnhill Poulton Ampney St Mary Fairford Church
Wednesday 5th June	7.30pm	Eve of D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemorative Event Commemorative Event Tickets £5 available online - search 'Ticket Source Down Ampney'	The Old Airfield, Down Ampney
Saturday 8th June	7.30 pm	Gregory Stewart In Concert Light classical and songs from the shows Tickets £12 available online - search Ticket Source Down Ampney	Down Ampney Church
Sunday 9th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	8am 10am 10am	Holy Communion Parish Communion Word & Worship	Poulton Driffield Harnhill
Sunday 16th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity	8am 10am 10am	Holy Communion Parish Communion Word & Worship	Ampney St Peter Ampney Crucis Harnhill
Sunday 23rd June 4th Sunday after Trinity	8am 10am 10am	Holy Communion Parish Communion Word & Worship	Harnhill Poulton Harnhill
Sunday 30th June Feast of St Peter	10am	Parish Communion	Ampney St Peter

Church website: www.ampneychurches.info



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Historic Churches Trust

You could be the perfect person!

If you enjoy cycling or walking and historic buildings, there's an opportunity right now for you to play a significant part in saving the wonderful heritage of our historic churches in Gloucestershire and Bristol. Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) awards £150000 in grants each year and a significant part of our funds are from Ride+Stride, our biggest annual fund raising event. GHCT has an opening for an administrator to coordinate the running of Ride+Stride 2024 in the two counties.

If you are interested, please contact Ray Singleton at ride-and-stride@ghct.org.uk for more details.

POULTON DEFIBRILLATOR DETAILS

The yellow defibrillator is located on the outside wall of the village hall, on the pub side.

The code is C159X



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DOWN ON THE FARM

Welcome back to “Down on the Farm,” where we catch up with our local farmer Charles Horton from Poulton Fields Farm. This month, Charles discusses the ongoing challenges due to adverse weather, the state of his crops and livestock, and the impact of governmental policies on farming.

The seemingly continual rain we have been experiencing has been a disaster for UK farmers. For some it means they will go bust, for others, they will survive but make no money. Planting schedules have been severely disrupted and in many cases, have had to be abandoned altogether.

“Crops which are not sown because of weather conditions means yield goes down as drilling dates goes back,” Charles explains. “The later you are, the worse the crop you’ll get.” For example, Charles planned to plant beans in some fields in Poulton, but had to reconsider and opt for peas as a break crop. Unfortunately, the soil never warmed up enough, and the ground remained too wet to plant them so there will be no crop at all there this year. Last week was the deadline for planting a viable crop, and with conditions not improving, Charles had to abandon his plans. This decision leads to lost income while still having to pay rent on unused fields. However, on the positive side, Charles views it as an opportunity to manage grass weeds and at least he is saving on crop expenses. Nearly 200 acres of his oilseed rape were drowned out by the River Coln, and nothing has been replanted in its place. These and a few other instances locally have resulted in a 10% loss in crops this year for his farm.

Charles emphasizes that the situation is far worse in other parts of the country, as water drains well in the Cotswolds. “There are farms in the country which will have no crops at all this year,” he says. Farms in the Vale of York and other low-lying areas have been severely impacted by winter floods, unable to plant anything. This is a genuine disaster for many, especially without the basic payment scheme that previously provided income regardless of crop growth.

Now, farmers must rely on environmental schemes for income, but the uptake has been overwhelming, and the Government system is struggling to keep up. Some farmers might not receive funds in time, pushing them to the brink of financial collapse.



Despite the challenges with crops, livestock farming is more buoyant. “Sheep prices are as good as they’ve ever been. Beef prices, while not at peak, are still quite good, and milk prices are stable,” Charles shares. “It’s Up Horn, Down Corn, this year, whereas usually it’s the other way around”. This underscores the importance of having a mixed farm. “That’s why it’s important to diversity and be a mixed farm, not relying on only arable or livestock,” he advises.

Diversification extends beyond livestock. At Poulton Fields they have had to convert buildings into holiday lets and, tying in with our Poulton Eye article on renewable energy this month, they have been approached about solar projects, though not in Poulton due to connection issues and the need for planning permission. The lands he is hoping to use for solar are next to National Trust estates, which are likely to oppose such developments despite their vocal support for renewable energy. Charles says however unpopular it may be with the public, “if you look at it from a farmer’s point of view, commercial rent on arable land is around £120 an acre a year and your starting point for solar farm rental is £1000 an acre a year. When people get grumpy about it – just look at the economics. Put bluntly, if people don’t pay enough for food, then what do farmers do?”

Charles is critical of current government policies and economic priorities. “Government policy since the war has been cheap food, and nobody will be brave enough to change that,” he laments. The focus on cheap food means ethical and quality considerations often take a back seat. He also points out the irony in housing policies: “EU rules say every house must have solar panels, yet areas like Swindon with acres of housing could support solar but face grid infrastructure issues.”

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DOWN ON THE FARM

Amid these broader issues, daily farm activities continue. The crops that are growing have needed fertiliser and bio-stimulants. “When you see the sprayer going around, it’s not putting on insecticides —we don’t use those. It’s applying bio-stimulants and trace elements, with some fungicide to keep diseases at bay,” Charles explains.

Despite cold weather holding back diseases, spring barley was drilled a month late but is now growing well.

On the livestock front, calving season is nearly over, with 85 calves on the ground and just 8 left to calve. Howard’s cows, in the fields behind Trevor Carr, are also busy calving, so visitors are advised to be cautious with their dogs. Lambing is ongoing, with Howard lambing last year’s lambs which happens later in the season than with older ewes. He has 500 lambs lambing. This happens later to ensure there is more time for the lambs to grow, and that the babies are born in better weather and with plenty of grass to feed on. Charles points out that lambing lambs requires a lot of skill and very few people can do it. I asked why and Charles said “Imagine 500 teenagers in a shed, all about to give birth. It is very different from when they are a year older, and easier to handle”.



As we go from May to June, the farm will enter a quieter phase. “Next comes a sort of quiet time because everything is just growing,” Charles says. Silage making is on the agenda, weather permitting, with some local farms cutting the first silage now, but Charles plans to do so in mid-June. This period is crucial for growth as crops head towards harvest, with rape pods forming and winter barley eight weeks from harvest.

Next month, we will not only have an update from Charles but we’ll also hear from Ed, following his Ultra Marathalon extravaganza in Peru.

Rosie Arkwright in conversation with Charles Horton

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Local & Trusted

Journey into June

Heading Abroad this Summer ?

Check the FCDO entry requirements for the country you are visiting at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. It will give you up to date advice on passport, visa requirements and any additional documents or forms you are required to complete or submit online

Check your passport validity complies with the entry requirements for your chosen destination – Check this in plenty of time just in case you need to apply for a new passport

Remember to purchase a good travel insurance covering your holiday dates, activities and travel needs

If travelling to the EU, apply for a GHIC Card which gives UK residents access to necessary state healthcare whilst in EU countries. The card is FREE of charge, so beware of third-party websites charging a fee. Apply via the NHS website & allow 15 working days for your card to arrive

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IN CONVERSATION WITH... RENEWABLES EXPERT JOLYON RIDGEWELL

Jolyon Ridgwell lives locally and has spent many years working in renewable energy. We thought it would be interesting to explore with an expert some of the issues around renewable energy, and solar farms in particular, so were glad to catch up with him for a chat...

Jolyon began by talking about some of the common concerns about solar farms, particularly the use of green spaces. Many people are put off by the appearance of them, although much time is spent designing sites with minimal visual impact, growing high hedges so that once installed, they are often not visible. Jolyon says he visited a solar farm in North Wales quite recently and drove past it twice because it was so well integrated into the surroundings.

Solar farms are typically temporary structures with finite planning permissions, generally ranging from 20-30 years, after which they must be dismantled unless extended permissions are granted. These installations are often situated on less fertile land, graded 3B or lower, which is not as suitable for agriculture but ideal for solar use. These lands can still support biodiversity and are increasingly used to promote wildlife conservation, and to graze sheep as well. That's good all round Jolyon says, because it keeps the grass levels down and provides shade from the heat for the sheep. (on those rare days when they need protection that is!) He says he often walks around solar farms where sheep are grazing and flowers are blooming which is, perhaps, contrary to popular perception.

Generating energy from solar farms is relatively easy, but storing that energy is a real problem. Solar panels do not inherently store power, so power generated on-site is either used straightaway or exported to the national grid. Much energy is wasted, so efforts are now being made to enhance efficiency by installing storage systems at solar sites to harness excess energy, which can then be released to the grid when it is needed. These storage systems are essentially large batteries which are housed in the sort of metal containers that you might see on the back of a shipping truck. Critics may think, goodness, putting containers to store power in the countryside is a horrific thing to do. But if you look at what's happened historically, Jolyon says, we had diesel generators being stored by farmers where they would just fire them up on a winter's night to provide additional power to the grid. It's a really dirty and inefficient alternative to storing the solar power, hence the increasing use of this sort of container at both solar and wind sites to store that excess power and sell it when the demand is really high.



I wanted to know how much sun you need to have to make solar panels work effectively. I had always thought that the more sun you had, the better, but not so, apparently. A decent amount of energy can be generated in the UK, even with significant cloud cover. Too much heat is actually a bad thing for solar panels. You might expect that sticking solar panels in the middle of a desert will result in the generation of amazing amounts of energy. But that's not true, Jolyon explains, because firstly, with increased heat you have to combat the resulting thermal resistance, so production is actually less efficient as it gets hotter, and you also have to deal with the dust from desert sand, which coats the panels and reduces effectiveness. So with this in mind, the UK's energy generation from solar is surprisingly effective even with a cloudy base.

Nevertheless, you need a lot of solar panels to provide enough energy for your household needs. A typical solar panel might generate roughly 350 watts of electricity. To put this into proportion, boiling a kettle uses close to 3000 kilowatts, so you can see that you probably need about 8/9 panels just to power your kettle. A further problem is that most home energy generation will take place in the middle of the day, while your peak energy demand will be in the evening. What are the ways around this if you can't store it? Well, Jolyon says you can work with your generation profile to use your power generation as much as possible when it's coming through in the middle of the day. You can time your washing machine or your dishwasher to come on at peak generating time as they are both high load machines. And if you think, well I can't use all my power in the middle of the day and I'm generating a lot, you can turn on the immersion heater, get your hot water heated up and that way you still have hot water at the end of the day when you want it. That way, you can reduce the amount of oil, gas or electricity you do use. Of course you can also sell or put it into the grid.



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IN CONVERSATION WITH... RENEWABLES EXPERT JOLYON RIDGEWELL

Jolyon doesn't think it's realistic to say that you could cover all of your energy requirements through solar at the moment though, because of the requirement to use most energy at the end of the day. This will undoubtedly change over time. Even now, some people do store solar energy at home. Jolyon mentioned a friend down the road who's got a few solar panels and a battery, and he hardly ever uses power from the grid for that reason. It's quite an expensive battery, a Tesla Power Wall, and he also has an electric car, so he's using his solar to power up his electric car as well as to store energy. There will be far more of this in the future as storage becomes more efficient and more common.

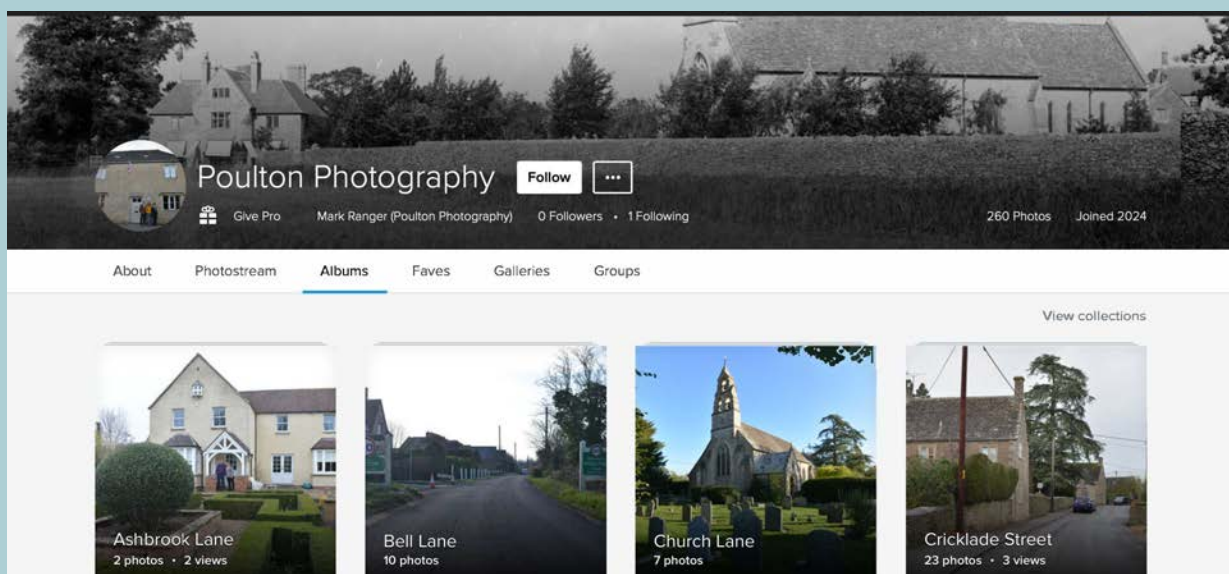
Moving away from solar energy, what about wind power? Jolyon described it as a significant part of the renewable energy mix. He differentiated between onshore and offshore wind farms, noting that offshore installations, while requiring substantial investment and robust infrastructure, contribute greatly to energy generation due to their scale and the consistent wind conditions at sea. He is also a big fan of onshore wind farms. The problem, he says, is that they are viewed by many people as unsightly and in order to achieve maximum effectiveness they need to be situated in high places where they are very visible. But, he says, they do work and we need more of them.

What other technologies are contributing to our quest for zero carbon emissions? Jolyon was particularly enthusiastic about green hydrogen, which involves using renewable energy to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. This technology could transform energy storage and supply, supporting heavy transport and industries like steel manufacturing, which are challenging to decarbonize using current technologies. It doesn't produce any greenhouse gases when it's consumed. It just produces water as a byproduct and the method of production is typically through electrolysis of water. The downside of that is that it has what they call a fairly inefficient round trip energy return. That means the energy it takes to make to produce the green hydrogen is a lot more than you will get at the end of it. (You all knew that anyway, didn't you!) But in a few years time, this may no longer be the case.

There was too much to say for one article so next month we'll return to our chat, looking at electric vehicles, what to do with dead car batteries, and the future for electric vehicles, petrol and diesel cars.

Rosie Arkwright in conversation with Jolyon Ridgewell

The Poulton Photography Project has been uploaded to Flickr.com!



Access is open and can be found by searching "Poulton Photography" in the search bar within Flickr, or type the following into a web browser address bar: www.tinyurl.com/yc3w72yj

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ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH MAY 2024

Parish Councillors – Cllr. Collyer-Bristow, Cllr. Hyslop, Cllr. Davies & Cllr. Gillibrand
Clerk to the Council – Heather Harris
Cotswold District & County Councillor – Cllr. Spivey

Chair's Report

Another interesting last year for most communities in Britain with a very wet winter and Spring; ongoing global issues such as Ukraine and Gaza; Westminster politics galore and illnesses for The King and Princess of Wales. Poulton has been impacted by the weather, avoided the global issues and politics but suffered its share of medical ailments and losses. Where our community is involved we simply can't "take our eye off the ball" and we must continue to look ahead and after each other and, as stated at last year's AGM, all work together to keep our village and it's residents in tip-top condition.

The village has continued to demonstrate unity, a sense of fun and camaraderie. It has also seen the various village bodies working together for the united benefit of all.

Sadly, some notable Poulton residents have again passed away in the last year. We have also said "goodbyes" to some long-standing residents but happily they have been replaced by newcomers – some of whom have jumped straight into community events and activities.

The Parish Council has been remarkably stable in the past year and is still made up of Ed Hyslop, Chris Davies, Tom Gillibrand and myself. We still have one outstanding vacancy, which we continue to try to fill and we await the right and available character to put themselves forward. And we will continue to seek wise counsel from those whom have "been there, seen it and done it" and remain in the village.

The same constant has been our excellent Parish Clerk, Heather Harris, and I know my fellow Councillors would like to join me extending thanks to Heather for her guidance in the worlds of local politics, Govt bureaucracy and Council administration.

Issues old and new remain prevalent on our Agenda. The large number of AirBnB's in the village, though two are currently being sold, continue to bring a regular influx of visitors throughout the year, all using the leisure facilities and footpaths and causing some loss of privacy and surfeit of noise in some parts of the village. Flooding, of sewage and surface water, are on-going problems and the state of the roads continues to tax and trouble us all. Planning applications, good and bad, come before the Parish Council on a regular basis. Special thanks to Chris Davies, as planning guru and author for his sage advice. We hopefully try and do all we can to encourage traditional buildings alongside modern additions. The playground facilities need to be kept safe and sound. Plans to replace broken and dangerous playground equipment have gathered apace over recent months following interminable and lengthy conversations with suppliers and grant investigations. Fundraising is currently happening via Crowdfunding [PLEASE SEE ELSEWHERE IN POULTON EYE THE QR CODE FOR PLEDGES] and the supplier plus equipment needed have been selected. Hopefully things can get totally sorted by late Summer. The Parish Council are aware of many youngsters having their own gardens but the playground is for all the villager's and visitor's children and grandchildren. Finally the green areas of the village, verges and the trees falling under the Parish Council's responsibility continue to be looked after.

The speed of traffic and the number of heavy lorries travelling through Poulton has continued impacting on our quality of life, our properties, and our safety. But again, as with the playground, things are finally happening following snail-like decisions from the police, Highways administrators and Council bureaucrats. The first of four speed cameras in the village has recently been erected with the others hopefully coming soon. The aim is to deter speeders rather than us wanting to report and fine them and we will be working closely with the police with the operation. Education not sanction. The ideal is less heavy traffic using the village as a thoroughfare, a reduction of speed on the East of the village and a 30mph speed limit observed throughout.

The Parish Council has been involved in some ongoing discussions between the England's Trustees, PFAC and the Cricket Club and hopefully the harmonious relationship necessary can be formed with everyone working as one.

The Poulton Eye continues alongside the Village Facebook and website to be Poulton's official communication hub. Many thanks to the co-ordinators, Poulton PCC and the two PE editors, Rosie Arkwright and Lizzy Pryor, for their hard work plus all those who contribute "copy" and help "spread the word".

As Chair of the Parish Council I have really tried to incorporate together all the various village organisations via open and transparent communication. Poulton as a village and community is much stronger working together rather than in factions and with individual agendas. More people, especially newcomers and younger residents, need to be joining and involved with all our voluntary organisations, helping share the work-load and being "one big happy family".

Finally, and again, I would like to thank the Parish Clerk, Heather, and my fellow Councillors, Ed, Chris and Tom, for all their support of me in the past year. It is also very important to record my public thanks to Lisa Spivey, our District and County Councillor for all her support and continual sound advice to the Parish Council and me. She has attended nearly all our meetings and I know is always working hard for us all.

Thank you

Simon Collier-Bristow, Chair



CHAMBERLAIN WINES

Hello. My name is Mark Chamberlain, and I have lived in Poulton with my family for more than ten years. If we haven't met, you may have seen me walking the dogs around the village!



I am an Independent Wine Merchant. I have almost twenty years' experience in the Wine Trade, including living and working in Saint-Emilion. I have run my own Wine Merchant's business for more than a decade.

I list wines from all over the World, and in a wide range of styles: crisp, dry whites; richer, fuller bodied whites; pale and refreshing Provençal rosés; light, supple reds; full-bodied fruity reds; luscious pudding wines; an array of sparkling wines including some excellent Grower Champagnes; a selection of ports and sherries; classic Clarets, Burgundies, Riojas and Barolos; lots of interesting wines from off the beaten track. In essence, anything that I like and I think represents good quality and good value for its type and origin. I don't list anything I wouldn't drink. And I always try to be amongst the most competitively priced for the wines I list.

I don't have a shop, but I do offer a range of traditional Wine Merchant services – expert advice, naturally; free local home delivery (or I can send wine anywhere in the country using a reliable courier service); glass loan for events; gift boxes. If I don't stock a wine or style you're looking for, I will do my best to find it for you. In short, all you could want from a Wine Merchant, on your doorstep!

As I live in the village, Poulton residents get 10% off the list price of any order.

If you want to see a list of the wines I have currently, join my local email list, or have any other questions, please do get in touch: mark@chamberlainwines.co.uk or on the mobile, 07894 528 580.

All the best!



Launching Fundraising for Major Playground Upgrade

We are excited to announce that plans for the new playground upgrade have now been finalised and, subject to fundraising, the works will be completed this summer.

The plans include:

- **New Tower Play System** – the previous one having been removed 12 months ago due to decay and safety issues. The new, improved unit will include a double-towered structure with climbing frames, slides and a rope wall.
- **New Adventure Trail** – the new apparatus will replace the existing agility trail, which is unfortunately starting to rot in places and will shortly no longer be safe. It will also have some new, enhanced features to improve the experience for children.
- **New Basketball Hoop** – a new free-standing professional basketball hoop and back-board with surrounding all-weather playing surface – to cater for older children and grown-ups.
- **Full Overhaul and Repair/Maintenance of existing equipment** – including re-painting of swings, refresh space net safety space and repairs to the roundabout, see-saw and train.
- **Please see the attached photos of the proposed new equipment.**

The overall cost of the project will be approximately **£40,000**. The Parish Council has set aside funds of around £10,000 to date, and we are delighted to have already secured an additional grant of £3,000 from Gloucestershire County Council via their “Build Back Better” fund (a big thank you to our County Councillor, Lisa Spivey for her support), and a further generous £3,300 donation from a corporate donor with close links with our village. In addition, we have now applied to Cotswold District Council for a grant in their Spring 2024 round of “Cotswold Crowdfunding”. This means that as soon as our application has been approved, we will be able to reach out to the local community to ask for donation pledges via the Cotswold Crowdfunding website (details, including a web-link to be circulated shortly). Importantly, if we can then demonstrate a strong community support for the project, evidenced by a large number of donations (however small) from multiple residents of the village, then Cotswold District Council will give us a further grant of up to **£10,000** towards the project. Even before our donation web-link has been released, any private pledges of support would be incredibly helpful in our application for the grant, and we obviously still have a big chunk of funds still to raise to bring this amazing project to life. We would therefore be very grateful if people would be prepared to send a brief email in the meantime to the clerk of the parish council at poultonclerk@gmail.com to either pledge “£xx” or else express an interest in possibly donating at a later date, so that we can forward you the crowdfunding link as soon as we receive it. Alternatively, Heather can provide bank details for an immediate direct bank transfer.

We hope, with your support, that by this summer we will have a wonderfully upgraded and enhanced playground, for the enjoyment of the children of the village and their parents and grandparents, as well as for the many visitors we welcome to Poulton every week.





Cotswold Friends

**Reducing isolation and
supporting independent living**

Cotswold Friends needs you!

Cotswold Friends provides Community Transport across Cirencester and needs more Volunteer Drivers.

Local charity Cotswold Friends has been providing Community Transport to elderly and vulnerable people in the North Cotswolds since 1978 to combat loneliness and isolation.

They began to expand into Cirencester and surrounding areas (from Rencdomb to South Cerney, Sapperton to Poulton and many places in between) after the pandemic and have seen the demand for the service grow year on year. Their incredible team of volunteers take clients anywhere they'd like to go; for medical or social appointments – to see family and friends, to the hairdresser, shops, doctors, or the hospital. And they'd love you to get involved.

Becoming a Volunteer Driver is a wonderful way to meet new people, bring a smile to someone's face, get more involved in the community and be part of the inspiring team of Cotswold Friends volunteers with events throughout the year to celebrate one another.

You can give as much or as little time as you have, from a few hours a month to several hours each week – it can be very flexible.

If you'd like to find out more or to apply to become a volunteer, please contact their lovely Volunteer Manager on 01608 697007 or email volunteering@cotswoldfriends.org

NATURE NOTES

A Lion's Tooth

As I was driving into Cirencester a few weeks ago the meadow by the Ivy church of Ampney St Mary was a sheet of golden dandelions. A beautiful warm yellow/orange colour emerging on a dull March day, enough to gladden anyone's heart (below left).

Then just as suddenly as they appeared they were gone only to be followed about a week later by a sea of trillions of "clocks" looking like gossamer (below right)



As a gardener I never ceased to be surprised by how they seem to evade control. Whenever I see a golden dandelion flower in the garden I make a mental note to dig it up before it sets seed but somehow it always defeats me. There is a reason for this, as the dandelion has a rather unique way of ensuring its seeds are widely dispersed. The flower is fertilised, either by a visiting insect or by self fertilisation, and then the flower closes and simultaneously its hollow stalk wilts and the ripening fruit lies hidden on the ground. Miraculously, once the seed is mature the stalk regains its turgor and the seed head is displayed in all its glory ready to be dispersed by the wind or the puff from some child wanting to tell the time from the number of puffs it takes to blow its head clean.

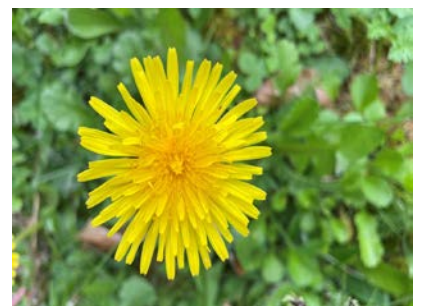
Even if you succeed in preventing the seed spreading the dandelion has other tricks to ensure it remains in your garden. If you try to dig it up invariably a small piece of root remains from which new shoots will sprout and reach the surface even if this is 10-20 centimetres deep.

The dandelion's name derives from medieval French, dent de lion or lion's tooth named after the serrated leaves. However it has innumerable names including blowball, faceclock, monk's head, priest's crown, white endive, swine's snout, cancerwort and piss-a-bed.

The monks head name no doubt derives from the appearance of the "clock" after it has had one puff (image right). The last name, piss-a-bed reflects the fact that it has mild diuretic properties and has been in English herbals since the 18th century. It has also been used in Chinese herbal medicine for 2000 years. The roasted root was used as a coffee substitute during World War II. It is of course part of the famous dandelion and burdock drink whose origins are in 1265 when Saint Thomas Aquinas was said to have prayed to God for inspiration and made the drink from the first plants he found, dandelion and burdock. Combined with carbonated water this made one of the first Victorian soft drinks and was being industrially produced in 1898. The American root beer is similar but both were overtaken by Coca-Cola which rather eclipsed dandelion and burdock though it is making a bit of a comeback. Looking more to the future, the white latex fluid which exudes from its cut leaves can be made into rubber and there are current attempts being made to industrialise this.



Each flower contains hundreds of tiny flowers, the outer ones having a long single petal while the inner flowers are tiny little trumpets, each with their anthers and style. The flower is designed so that it can self pollinate and produce identical copies of itself which may be why there are around 250 recognised species, all differing slightly in size and shape, presumably adapted to their local environment. Dandelion flowers are amongst the first to appear in early spring and are an excellent source of pollen and nectar at a time when these are scarce. Not only bumble and honeybees but also solitary bees, flies, beetles and butterflies all benefit from this. So perhaps there is a good argument, other than just laziness, for putting off that first cut of the lawn!



COTSWOLD FARM GARDENS OPEN WEEKEND

**1st & 2nd June
2pm - 5pm**

In aid of The National Gardens Scheme

**Entrance £7.50 - Children Free
Plant Stall
Tea, Coffee, Cakes**

**DUNTISBORNE ABBOTS GL7 7JS
01285 821837
www.cotswoldfarmgardens.org.uk**



GARDEN NOTES

The summer has finally arrived and on a sunny afternoon there is nothing more refreshing than a glass of Pimms and lemonade with the traditional accompaniment of cucumber, mint and of course a bright blue borage flower.

The tradition of adding borage flowers to drinks dates back to the crusaders who used to add them to their stirrup cups before going into battle for extra courage.



Herb of the month: Borage (*Borago Officinalis*)

Borage is an annual plant which originates from the mediterranean. It was brought to Britain by the Romans and is also known by the common names common bugloss, ox's tongue, cool tankard, star flower, bee bush and bee bread.

As the name suggests, it is highly attractive to bees in part because the clusters of flowers produce copious quantities of nectar which is regularly replenished. This might be another reason borage was a popular plant with the monks.

Borage likes to grow in full sun, but prefers moist soil, so grows well near water courses.

Medicinal Uses

Borage is another herb found in the monastery's medicinal herb garden. The reported medicinal uses included treatment of gastro intestinal, respiratory and cardiovascular complaints. It was also used as a sedative, diuretic and treatment of depression and mental illness.

The addition of borage to drinks was considered to have a beneficial effect on mood, in particular to address the complaint of melancholy.

John Gerard in his Herball quotes a latin saying: Ego Borago, Gaudia semper ago (I, Borage, bring always joys)

Francis Bacon expresses this somewhat differently and wrote "borage hath an excellent spirit to repress the fuliginous vapour of dusky melancholie" showing how borage can bring light into the darkness.

This might also explain why borage is reputedly associated with the Hierophant card in Tarot. (this relates to the High Priest or The Pope card).



Uses in the garden

Borage is, in fact, an annual herb, but once established it self-seeds freely so it will continue to appear to regenerate year after year.

Borage is an amazing plant for attracting pollinators, and in particular bees. It also acts as a companion plant and is particularly good with tomatoes (where it is supposed to improve flavour) and brassicas (where it is said to repel the cabbage white butterfly.)

Care is needed when handling borage as its hairy leaves can be an irritant so it is best to use gloves. Also be aware that it is toxic to dogs, so anyone with a puppy should be particularly careful.





Poulton Hill ESTATE

English Wine Week 2024 - 15th - 23rd June

Stock up on our
award-winning
English wines



Think Local, Drink Local

www.poultonhillestate.co.uk/maycase

Opening times

The Cellar Door is open Tuesday – Friday 9-4pm and Saturday 11-3pm, with staff on hand to chat about any of our wines and spirits.
If you wish to visit outside of these hours, it may be possible by appointment. Please call 01285 850257.

FROM THE CELLAR DOOR

Raise a glass to our wonderful English Wine

Poulton Hill's Natalie Barker on a month crammed with celebration

June is one of our favourite months in the vineyard. The weather is normally good and the vineyard is full of life. It is also a bumper month for celebrations, with the biggest for us being English Wine Week.

This year, it runs from June 15th to 23rd and we would love you to come along to the Cellar Door to celebrate English wine with us. We are running three Tours and Tastings during English Wine Week, on the 15th, 18th and 22nd of June.

During the tour you get a rare opportunity to not only taste our unique wines and spirits, but also to enjoy the countryside they were grown in. We take you through our history and the growing of grapes before you head to our Cellar Door for a guided tasting of a selection of our wines. You will also learn about our medal-winning spirits. The tasting will include one sparkling wine and three still wines.

Our Summer Tours and Tastings officially start on June 1st and they are held two or three-times a week throughout June, July, August and the start of September. Some of the early tours have already sold out but we have some availability on most other dates. Shortly after the end of English Wine Week, we are yet again raising a glass to the vineyard as June 25th is National Wine Day. Although there are no official tours on that day, why not pop up to see us at the Cellar Door for a chat and to enjoy a glass of wine? We sell wine by the glass and have seating inside and outside the Cellar Door so you can enjoy the vineyard's ambience whatever the weather is like

Our Cellar Door is open Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 4pm, and Saturday from 11am to 3pm. For dates and times, or to book a tour, go to <https://www.poultonhillestate.co.uk/events/> or call us on 01285 850257 or drop us an email at info@poultonhillestate.co.uk

Add some local sparkle to National Bubbly Day

June really is quite the month for celebrating wine and it starts on June 1st with National Bubbly Day. We will certainly be enjoying a glass of Bulari 2019 sparkling wine and toasting our British bubbly.

Poulton Hill Estate's Bulari is beautiful pale gold in appearance and has a vibrant nose of freshly cut green apple and pear with citrusy notes of orange peel, lemon and hints of lime zest. The palate is filled with mouth-watering fruits of juicy apple at the forefront, hints of grapefruit and lemon (sherbet) together with a fine mousse. It has a wonderfully well-rounded mouthfeel and a crisp, clean finish. It is made from a blend of Seyval Blanc and Pinot Noir grapes.

Don't forget to thank your Father!

Finally, let's raise a glass to all the dads out there on Father's Day on June 16th. We have plenty of gift ideas for you, with our range of wines and spirits, tickets to a Tour and Tasting or even gift vouchers so he can choose which wine he would like himself. We also have a range of gift boxes and wine accessories at the Cellar Door, so come to see us and make your gift extra special. All wines and spirits bought at the Cellar Door are sold at special Cellar Door prices.

If you want to take Father out for a nice lunch, a number of local eateries stock Poulton Hill Estate wines and spirits. If you visit our website, our Cellar Door page also lists all our stockists. <https://www.poultonhillestate.co.uk/the-cellar-door/>.

Natalie Barker





Score a financial century

Time is precious. You want to spend it doing the things that make you happy. So keeping on top of your finances can often fall way down your list of priorities. We get it. Managing your wealth is time-consuming and complex, after all.

Our friendly and approachable service is backed by the strength and security of FTSE 100 company St. James's Place Wealth Management. Yet being local means we're here to help whenever you need us.

We pride ourselves on building trusted long-term relationships, placing you at the heart of everything we do. You are unique, so you deserve a service that reflects your personal circumstances and aspirations.

Let's open the batting

Jane Davidson 01285 850567
DipPFS jane.davidson@sjpp.co.uk
Principal www.davidsonfinancialplanning.co.uk

Associate Partner Practice

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James's
Place**

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SJP Approved 16/05/2024

SJP11481a_DS B2 (10/23)

POULTON CRICKET CLUB

The first thing to flag up in the pages of the Eye is that

The Cricket Club is holding another festival this year on the last weekend in June (28th-30th)

This is intended as a village event hosted by us. We are planning a quiz on the Friday with BBQ and youth training, a party on the Saturday night after our 1st XI game and then on Sunday there will be a women's softball festival at the club with a bake-off and some relaxed live music. The backdrop will be a drinks festival (Beer, Cider, Gin, Soft) and food will be on sale too. It will be free to enter. Come along!

Our season is underway finally despite twice the usual rainfall at this time of year. We started an Under 5s this year and at time of writing our junior section is now full at 140 children but we will always prioritise Poulton families where we can. This cap though is to ensure our 20 in house qualified coaches are not overwhelmed. We never expected this quantity to join when we restructured the club a year and a half ago, moving away from the ECB franchise of Allstars and Dynamos, to just doing it ourselves. The impact of Friday night training on congestion in the village is clear and we are coming up with some solutions to stop any further parking in the village.

Due to the support of the PFAC trustees granting us a year-round repairing tenancy at Englands, a team of club volunteers (several of whom grew up through the youth ranks) have swung into action and we have started a three year project of renovating the pavilion. The social area and kitchen has been repainted, the carpet has been replaced with new flooring and new tables and chairs put in place along with new fridges. We plan to update the kitchen this Winter with new ovens and a fresher feel. You will all have seen our new robot (named 'Moween Ali' by one of our families) out doing its thing when our members are nearby or there. Please do not let your dogs near it. It has excellent security and safety features and has no value to anyone else as it only works within a virtual boundary, it is guided and trackable by GPS. A massive thank you to everyone who donated to our crowdfunder for this project. Our new Roller has also arrived and we are naming it after Wayne Tinson so that Wayne can continue to look after our square. Both these bits of machinery are far quieter and we hope this is noticed by our neighbours and you all see the improvement in the playing field too.

With the renovations, the time is right to offer a 2024 introductory annual Social Club Membership of £5 (usually £10) to residents of Poulton. This is your village club and we hope this amount encourages you to join us. The club is most active at the weekend with youth and Women's training on a Friday and matches on Saturdays & Sundays. When the weather allows, we have a BBQ on and the bar is open (We are hoping to add a new coffee machine too). Membership will get you all our news via an app called spond and make you a full member, welcomed into the club. You will be joining many of your local villagers and all bar sales go towards the care of Englands. A drink at Englands with a burger/chicken wing on a sunny evening looking at the views we have is one of life's great pleasures, there just aren't that many sunny evenings so come and try membership! Please email PoultonMembership@gmail.com if this interests you.

Will Bathurst
Chairman, Poulton Cricket Club
Registered Charity Number: 1102682

e: PoultonChair@gmail.com
t: 077765 251951
w: www.poultoncricketclub.co.uk



The Village Hall team will be hosting the regular village events in June, namely the monthly Coffee Morning (BBB) on Saturday 1st June, Tuesday Film Nights on 4th and 18th June and the weekly Post Office & Pantry held each Tuesday afternoon.

We are also planning Village Summer Drinks & BBQ for July - on Saturday 13th July. We look forward to seeing many of you on that evening, children very welcome. Come along on the (hopefully) warm Summer's evening to enjoy some food and drinks with friends and neighbours. No need to book in advance although it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers. Either let one of the VHT know or send us an email to poulton-villagehall@gmail.com.

POULTON VILLAGE HALL



**VILLAGE SUMMER
DRINKS & BBQ**

on

Saturday 13th July

from 5pm to 9pm

(BBQ until 8pm)

All welcome, children & adults

(No need to book, but you can let us know if you're coming by emailing poultonvillagehall@gmail.com)

Burgers & Hot Dogs from Andrew Butler Butcher in Fairford
Bar selling Beer, Cider, Fizz, Wine, Soft Drinks
Payment by cash or card





Film Nights at Poulton Village Hall

“Poulton One & Nines”

First and third Tuesdays of each month

7.30pm bar open for pre-film drinks - Films start at 8pm

Tuesday June 4th & Tuesday June 18th

Email poultononeandnines@gmail.com for more information

Books, Bickies & Beverages – “BBB”

Village Coffee Morning

First Saturday of the Month

10.30 to 12.30pm - Saturday 1st June

Come and join us for a pot of coffee or tea and homemade biscuits

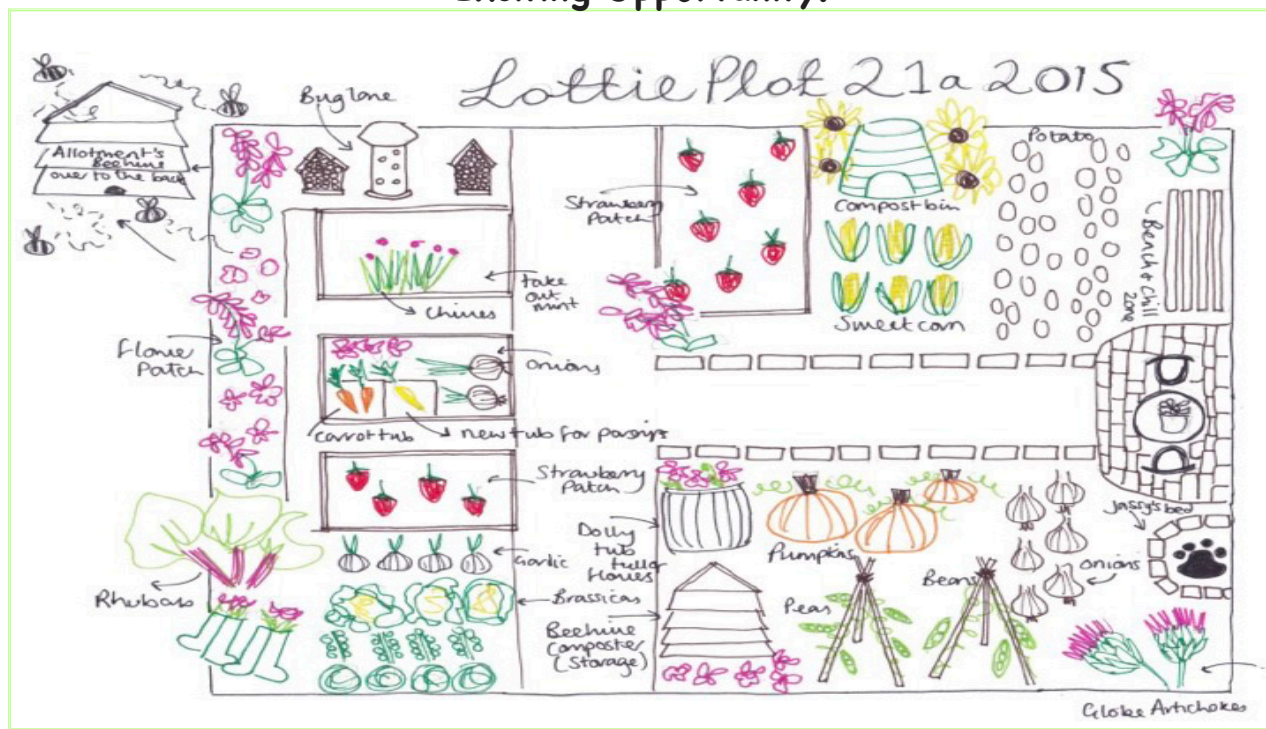
Meet & chat with other villagers and visitors

Browse/buy from the selection of good quality pre-read books, including Children's titles

We accept donations of paperbacks (not too many & in good condition please!)

All welcome

Exciting Opportunity!



It seems that the more fast food chains proliferate and the more ultra-processed food sits on our supermarket shelves, we see almost in parallel a growing desire to reconnect with nature and to eat local, sustainable, healthy, real food. And here in Poulton, there is exciting news on this front! One of our allotments has become available and can be taken over immediately! You'll need to be quick, because it won't hang around for long. So if you want the chance to grow your own fruit and veg (and improve your physical and mental health at the same time) then hurry! Contact Caroline - 01285 850429 / pfactrustees@gmail.com

Poulton Eye Newsletter	Poultoneye@gmail.com Editors: Rosie Arkwright, Lizzy Roughton
Poulton Village Website	www.poultonvillage.co.uk
Poulton Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/groups/959278000806216/?multi_permaLinks=4503302606403720
Poulton WhatsApp Group	Please contact Rachel Hutchinson to be added to group; 07557 006623
St Michaels and All Angels Church, Poulton	Vicar: The Rev'd Canon John Swanton 01285 – 851309; ampneyrector@gmail.com Church Wardens: Lizzy Roughton - pryorlizzy@gmail.com; rosie.arkwright@icloud.com
Village Hall	Available to hire for parties, wedding breakfasts, clubs or meetings - kjclapton@gmail.com
Playing Field & Allotment Charity (PFAC)	pfactrustees@gmail.com
Post Office	In the Village Hall. Tuesday 1.30 – 3.30
Parish Council	Chairman: Simon Collyer-Bristow scb@crfc.co.uk Clerk: Heather Harris poultonclerk@gmail.com
District Councillor	Lisa Spivey: lisaspivey4@gmail.com
Poulton Action Group (solar farm)	poultonactiongroup@gmail.com .
Refuse Collections	Food bin weekly Friday 7am. All other bins & bags on alternate Fridays.
Poulton Football Club	www.poultonfootballclub.co.uk
Poulton Cricket Club	Club Secretary: Will Bathurst w.m.bathurst@gmail.com www.poultoncricketclub.co.uk/
Poulton One and Nines	Films in the village hall every 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of the month. Contact poultononeandnines@gmail.com
Books Bikkies & Beverages	Village get-together 1 st Saturday of each month, 10.30 – 12.30 Poulton Village Hall Judith – 01285 851230
The Falcon Inn	www.falconinnpoulton.co.uk email: bookings@falconinnpoulton.co.uk 01285 850878

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