



THE POULTON EYE



COMMUNITY - NEWS - INFORMATION



In this month's Edition:

What to Look Out for in 2025

The Farming Outlook

Festivals in the Cotswolds

The Barn Theatre 2025 Programme

Friends The Musical

Poulton Then and Now

A New Gardening Expert Joins the Team!

Blackbirds Under Threat

Welcome to the February 2025 edition of the Poulton Eye

While we had a houseful over Christmas, I was nursing a guilty secret - that at the end of the day, when everyone had enjoyed a good time, I was going to curl up and have a quiet moment after they had gone to bed. I was watching Rivals. Easy TV, no concentration required, but the best bit? Knowing that there would be a happy ending.

The good thing about the past, and about enjoying history, is that you know what happens next. How I wish that life was like that!

The retirement of our vicar, John Swanton, is a case in point: a change. A sudden appreciation of all that we have taken for granted for so long. That every Sunday means a church service somewhere within the group of villages. Now comes the unwelcome realisation that there will be a gap in our lives (although of course he will go with our love).

How we rely on certainty! Whether represented by a person, a role and/or simply having a home, it matters...

Well, what is certain is that we have a living village, a living community and that we will remain committed to keeping it that way. Aren't we lucky?

Please do feel free to contact us with comments or contributions for The Poulton Eye. Our deadline for contributions is 15th of February.

Rosie and Lizzy - poultoneye@gmail.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends

You can find a long list of Rectors/Vicars in most of our local churches which go back centuries. At Ampney Crucis the first incumbent was Thomas de Wade in 1304; at Down Ampney it was Wibert of Kent in 1258; Alexander of Bluntesden was the first Vicar of Harnhill in 1302; and at Poulton Thomas de Lechlade was Rector from 1297.

These lists (a 'rogues gallery' perhaps?!) reminds a new Rector/Vicar that he or she is here for a season - a period of time. It's always good to remember that clergy are passing through. I have been in South Cotswolds Team Ministry for nearly 14 years. Some clergy on those lists have stayed for longer and some had shorter tenures. Last year I concluded that the time was coming for another new name to be added to the list of Rectors/Vicars beneath mine. New ideas, energy, new gifts are required; I feel I have done what I can. We have loved being here and leaving will be a huge wrench.

I have tendered my resignation to the Bishop, and my last Sunday Service will be on Easter Day. After that Nicola and I will be moving to Cirencester, so we won't be going far.

As I enter my 65th year, I want to have some time to follow my interests. I also need to take some of my own advice that I give to others - to seize opportunities and do some new things. One of those is being a 'Duty Chaplain' at Westminster Abbey from time to time.

When I retire, I shall not be allowed to officiate at any church services in this diocese for six months. After that time, I can then decide whether to seek the Bishop's 'Permission to Officiate'. I also need to be careful to respect the space and ministry of whoever comes after me in these parishes – I don't intend to be the 'Ghost of Christmas Past', as it were!

Nicola and I have made many friends in these parishes – and we are enormously grateful for all the support, encouragement and help that has been given to us, and particularly to me in my time as Rector/Vicar. It will therefore be hard to leave and many people will continue to have a place in my heart (and that might just include you too!). Friends are indeed special people – but as my niece pointed out recently during a period of change in her life -

Some friends are for a reason, Some friends are for a season, Some friends are for life.

Whatever the reason we have shared moments of friendship, I will give thanks for people of South Cotswolds into the future. May God bless you on your journey of life wherever it takes you and may you always travel with friends.

Yours as ever - John

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

CHURCH DATES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd February <i>Candlemas</i> <i>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>	10am 10am	Parish Communion Word and Worship	Down Ampney Harnhill
Sunday 9th February <i>4th Sunday before Lent</i>	10am 10am	Parish Communion Word & Worship	Driffield Harnhill
Sunday 16th February <i>3rd Sunday before Lent</i>	10am 10am	Parish Communion Word & Worship	Ampney Crucis Harnhill
Sunday 23rd February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	10am 10am	Parish Communion Word & Worship	Poulton Harnhill

Would you like to volunteer with The Willow Trust?

Join our team of volunteer helpers and enjoy the benefit of the tranquillity of the beautiful Gloucester-Sharpsness Canal while accompanying our guests on a day out on the water on board Spirit of Freedom II and Leonard Matchan.

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No boating experience is required. If you are interested in hearing more, please call Sophie on 01285 651661 or email admin@willowtrust.org

We look forward to welcoming you to the Team!

CHURCH NEWS

Funeral Ministry

One of the great privileges of Christian Ministry is supporting families through the initial stages of grief and dealing with all the practicalities of arranging a funeral service and then leading it. It is lovely to be able to listen to families speak about their loved one; select readings and music that is appropriate to them; and share their memories and tell some of their stories. Nearly all clergy will tell you that this aspect of their role is very rewarding and special.

However, it's not just clergy who are able to lead funeral services. Lay Readers in the church can do so; and there is a growth in civil celebrants leading funeral ceremonies and celebrations of life.

In spring and summer 2025, the Cirencester Deanery working with the Gloucester Diocesan Funeral Project will be offering a training course for those who would like to use their skills, empathy and talents helping bereaved families celebrate the lives of their loved ones. This eleven-week evening course (April – July) will take place in central Cirencester and will be led by people who have decades of experience with funeral ministry. Each participant will gain practical experience with a mentor to guide them through some funerals. At the end of the course you should be eligible to be 'Licensed' by the Bishop of Gloucester as a 'Funeral Minister'.

If you would like to explore whether 'Funeral Ministry' is something that might be for you – please do come and speak to me. More details of the course will be available in January.

Perhaps you could make a New Year's resolution to walk with others as they say 'Good Bye' – which means 'God be with you' - to their loved ones.

John

The Reverend Canon John Swanton, Rector of the South Cotswolds
ampneyrector@gmail.com

Christmas Decorations on Graves

The Church's season of Christmas officially ends at Candlemas, on Sunday 2nd February. Christmas wreaths and ornaments left on graves will be removed after this date.

Could this be you?

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2025: A Year of Uncertainty and Challenge for UK Farmers

Next month we will go back to Charles and Poulton Fields to see what the monthly challenges are but this month, we thought we'd provide an overview of the year for our local farmers and nationally.

The year ahead looks to be a turbulent one for UK farmers, who are already grappling with the aftermath of Rachel Reeves' budget announcements and facing ongoing conflict with the government. Protests have erupted across rural areas, with farmers voicing concerns about policy decisions they feel undermine their livelihoods. With global factors such as rising input costs, unpredictable weather patterns, and shifting public perceptions, farmers are bracing for a difficult year ahead.

The Fallout from Rachel Reeves' Budget

Rachel Reeves' budget, announced in late 2024, has been a major flashpoint for farmers as discussed with Charles, Jo and James before Christmas. The budget included reductions in subsidies and incentives that farmers have relied on for years, particularly through the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). The government's decision to focus more on environmental targets rather than food production has left many farmers feeling abandoned.

Farmers argue that the policy changes fail to account for the realities of agricultural production, especially at a time when they are already struggling with rising costs for fuel, fertilisers, and animal feed. In response, farming unions have staged protests, with more planned for the coming months. The National Farmers' Union (NFU) has warned that unless the government rethinks its approach, the UK could face a significant drop in domestic food production.

Rising Costs and Market Pressures

One of the biggest challenges for farmers in 2025 is the rising cost of essential inputs. Fertiliser prices remain high due to continued supply chain disruptions and the impact of the war in Ukraine, which shows no signs of abating. The conflict has affected global grain and energy markets, pushing up prices for animal feed and fuel for the last 3 years.

Additionally, new trade agreements have opened the UK market to cheaper imports from countries like Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Many British farmers fear they cannot compete with these imports, particularly as standards for animal welfare and environmental protections differ widely between countries. This has led to concerns about a race to the bottom in terms of quality and safety.

Meanwhile, supermarket price wars are squeezing farmers further. Retailers are under pressure to keep food prices low for consumers facing a cost-of-living crisis, but farmers argue that they are not being paid fairly for their produce. The NFU has highlighted cases where farmers are receiving less than the cost of production for milk, eggs, and other staples.

Weather and Climate Challenges

The impact of climate change continues to be a major concern for UK farmers. The past few years have seen increasingly erratic weather patterns, from prolonged droughts to unexpected floods. The Met Office has warned that 2025 is likely to bring more of the same.

Farmers are adapting by investing in more resilient crops and improving drainage systems, but these adaptations come at a cost. Many smaller farms simply do not have the resources to invest in the necessary infrastructure.

Extreme weather events also affect crop yields and livestock health, further adding to the uncertainty farmers face. A poor harvest in 2025 could compound existing financial pressures and force more farmers out of business.





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Government vs. Farmers: A Growing Divide

The relationship between farmers and the Government has become increasingly strained. Many in the agricultural sector feel that their concerns are not being taken seriously, and that policymakers in Westminster are out of touch with rural realities.

This divide has been exacerbated by environmental policies that farmers feel are being imposed without proper consultation. While farmers are generally supportive of sustainability goals, they argue that current policies place too much burden on them without providing adequate support.

Recent protests have included tractor convoys through city centres and demonstrations at major events like the Oxford Farming Conference. The message is clear: farmers feel under siege, and they want the Government to listen.

However, the Government appears to be sticking to its guns. Ministers have defended the budget as necessary to meet climate targets and reduce the UK's carbon footprint. They argue that farmers need to adapt to a changing world, but many in the agricultural community feel that they are being asked to shoulder an unfair share of the burden.

Public Perception: Are the Public on the Side of Farmers?

Public perception of farming is a crucial factor in this conflict. Farmers have long been viewed as custodians of the countryside and essential providers of food. However, there are signs that this perception is shifting.

Younger generations, in particular, are more focused on environmental issues and animal welfare. Campaigns from organisations like Extinction Rebellion and Greenpeace have influenced public opinion, leading some to see farming practices as part of the climate problem rather than part of the solution.

However, there is also a significant portion of the public who remain supportive of farmers. Recent surveys suggest that many people value British-grown produce and are concerned about the impact of cheap imports on food quality and safety. The challenge for farmers is to ensure that their voices are heard in the wider public debate.

Social media has become a key battleground in shaping public opinion. Farmers are increasingly using platforms like Twitter and Instagram to share their stories and highlight the challenges they face. This direct engagement with the public can help counter negative narratives and build support for their cause.

What Needs to Change?

To navigate the challenges of 2025, farmers are calling for several key changes:

- **Fairer Prices:** Farmers want assurances that they will be paid fairly for their produce. This includes better regulation of supermarket supply chains to prevent retailers from driving prices down below the cost of production.
- **Support for Sustainable Farming:** While farmers are willing to embrace more sustainable practices, they need government support to do so. This includes grants for new equipment, investment in infrastructure, and better access to advice and training.
- **A Rethink on Trade Deals:** Farmers are urging the government to ensure that trade agreements do not undercut British farming standards. They want assurances that imported food will meet the same high standards required of UK farmers.
- **Improved Consultation:** Farmers want a seat at the table when it comes to policy decisions that affect their livelihoods. They argue that too many policies are being imposed without proper consultation.

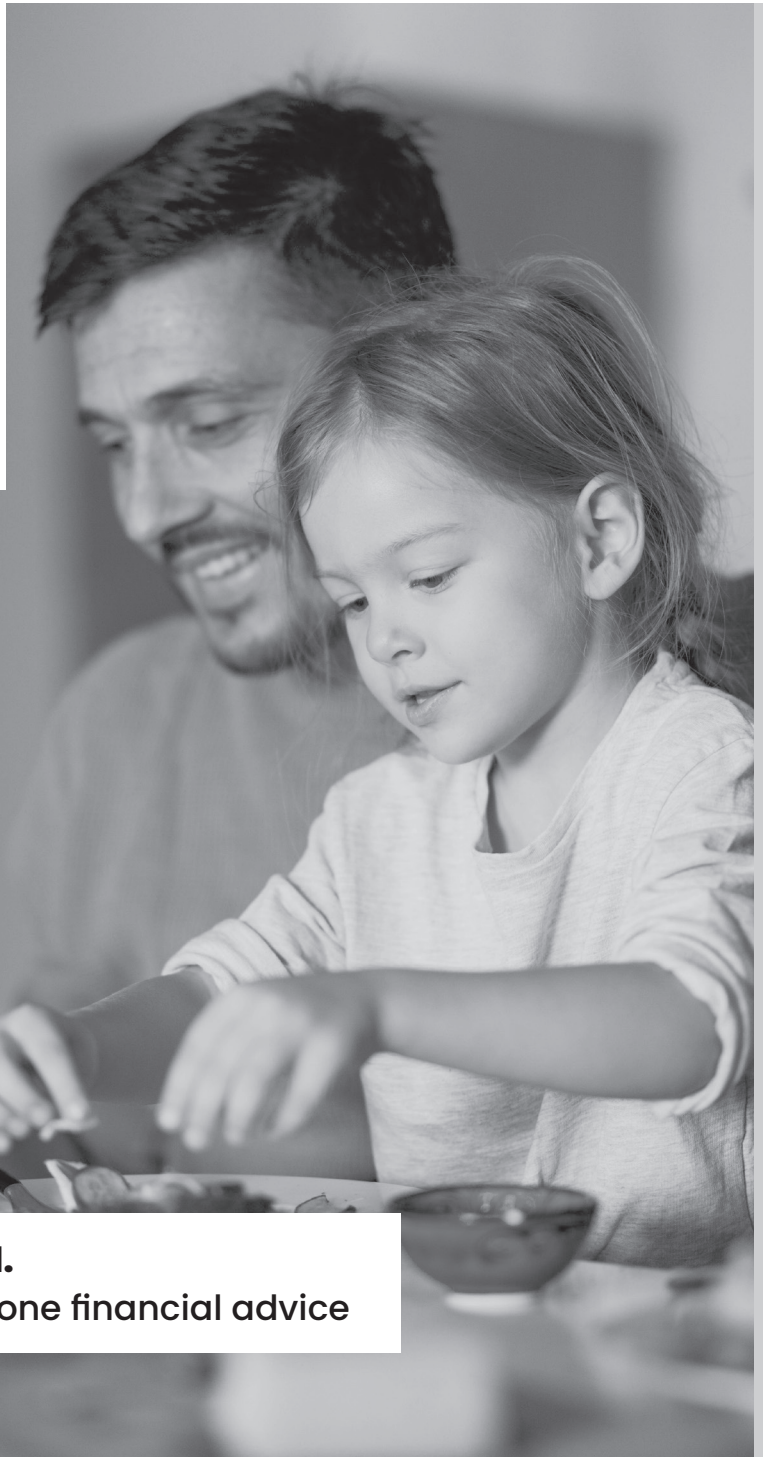
Farmers are a resilient community.

They have weathered crises before, and many are determined to fight for the future of British agriculture. Whether they can achieve the changes they seek will depend on their ability to influence public opinion and engage constructively with the Government.

One thing is clear: the future of farming in the UK is at a crossroads, and the decisions made in 2025 will have long-lasting consequences for the industry.

Eat. Sleep. Save. Repeat.

Whether it's eating greens or putting a little extra cash aside each month, good habits will set them up for the future.



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WHAT'S IN STORE IN 2025? GLOBAL AND UK EVENTS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Global Politics: A New (or Familiar) Face in the White House

One of the most talked-about political developments this year is the return of Donald Trump to the White House. Following a tumultuous campaign, Trump's second term as President of the United States will officially begin with his inauguration on 20 January 2025. Trump's return to power is likely to have a major impact on global politics, particularly in areas such as international trade, NATO relations, and climate policy. Speculation is already mounting over whether his administration will attempt to withdraw from the Paris Agreement once again, a move that could set back global efforts to combat climate change.

Meanwhile, in Europe, the political landscape is also evolving. Bulgaria is expected to adopt the euro in July, making it the 21st member of the eurozone. This marks a significant step towards deeper economic integration within the European Union.

Technological Milestones: The Age of Artificial General Intelligence?

The technology sector will continue to push boundaries in 2025, with one of the most intriguing developments being advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI). More specifically, experts are predicting a breakthrough in the quest for Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). But what exactly is AGI?

Unlike the AI systems we use today – which are highly specialised and trained to perform specific tasks, such as recognising faces or translating languages – AGI refers to an AI that can perform any intellectual task a human can do. In other words, it would have the ability to reason, learn, and adapt across a wide range of subjects without being specifically programmed for each one.

Some researchers believe there's a 30% chance that AGI could be achieved by the end of 2025. If this happens, it would represent a seismic shift in how we live and work, potentially automating a wide variety of jobs and raising important ethical questions about the future of humanity's relationship with technology.

Cultural and Sporting Events

This year is also packed with major sporting and cultural events.

One of the biggest events on the sporting calendar is the **Womens Rugby World Cup, which will be held in England from 27 August to 27 September**. Rugby fans from across the globe will descend on England to watch the world's top teams compete for glory.



**WOMEN'S
ENG25**

Another significant global event is the **World Expo 2025**, taking place in Osaka, Japan, from 13 April to 13 October. This six-month-long exposition will showcase innovations from around the world, with a focus on creating a more sustainable and inclusive future. World Expos have a rich history of unveiling game-changing innovations – for example, the telephone was first introduced to the world at the Philadelphia Expo in 1876 – so this year's event promises to be an exciting platform for new ideas.

In the world of music, it's the year of the **Oasis Live 25** as the Gallagher brothers reunite for a UK, European and North American tour.

And all eyes will be on **Glastonbury Festival, returning from 25 to 29 June**. At the time of writing (January), the official lineup for Glastonbury Festival 2025, scheduled for June 25 to 29 at Worthy Farm, has not been fully announced. However, several artists have been confirmed or are strongly rumored to perform:

Confirmed Performers: **Neil Young:** Initially withdrawing due to concerns over corporate involvement, Neil Young has reconfirmed his participation as a headliner after clarifying the situation. **Rod Stewart:** Set to perform in the coveted Sunday Legends slot, marking his return to the festival after 23 years. **The 1975:** Celebrating their 20th anniversary, The 1975 are expected to deliver a memorable performance. **Stevie Wonder:** The legendary musician is slated to bring his timeless hits to the Pyramid Stage.

For theatre enthusiasts, London's West End will offer some unmissable performances in 2025. Among the highlights is **Tom Hiddleston's much-anticipated portrayal of Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing**, which promises to be one of the year's theatrical highlights. Meanwhile, **Cate Blanchett will take to the stage at the Barbican in a new production of The Seagull**, bringing her star power to one of Chekhov's classic plays.



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WHAT'S IN STORE IN 2025?

Scientific Exploration and Environmental Challenges

Space exploration will remain a focus in 2025, with several high-profile missions planned. The European Space Agency (ESA) will **continue its work on the JUICE mission (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer)**, launched in 2023, which is on a seven-year journey to study Jupiter and its moons. The mission aims to provide new insights into the potential habitability of other celestial bodies.

Climate change will also continue to dominate global discussions, with the next **UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) set to take place in Brazil in November 2025**. This year's conference will be critical in assessing whether countries are on track to meet their emissions targets and implement the commitments made in previous agreements.

Back on Earth, environmental activists are gearing up for what they hope will be a landmark year for global conservation efforts. **2025 marks the halfway point to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals**, and there will be increased pressure on governments to accelerate progress on issues such as clean energy, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture.

Other stuff.....

In the UK, 2025 will be a pivotal year for the monarchy. King Charles III is expected to mark his second year on the throne with a focus on climate change, continuing his long-standing commitment to environmental issues. His speeches and engagements will likely align with the COP30 discussions in Brazil.

In Westminster, The Reform Party and the Tories are in fierce contest despite the huge disparity in number of seats in Parliament. At this stage, it's hard to predict who will come out on top by the end of the year.

Entertainment

In the world of film, 2025 is shaping up to be a blockbuster year for cinema. Highly anticipated releases include the next instalments of popular franchises like **Avatar**, **Mission: Impossible**, and **The Marvels**.

For TV streaming, the most expensive production for 2025 is **Stranger Things (Season 5)**, with Netflix investing more than £300 million to deliver a cinematic send-off for the beloved series. Other high-budget productions include **Daredevil: Born Again**, **A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms**, and **The Last of Us (Season 2)**, each costing £150-200 million for their respective seasons. Expect lavish sets, cutting-edge CGI, and huge marketing campaigns for these shows as streaming platforms and networks continue to compete for viewers in an increasingly crowded market. I was really fascinated by the astronomical cost of these productions so I have copied this chart which you might be interested in.

TV Show	Estimated Cost Per Episode	Total Season Cost
Stranger Things (S5)	£25-30 million	£300+ million
Daredevil: Born Again	£16-18 million	£200 million
A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms	£15-20 million	£150-200 million
The Last of Us (S2)	£15-18 million	£150+ million
Alien: Earth	£12-15 million	£120-150 million
Squid Game (S2)	£10-12 million	£100-120 million
Devil May Cry (Animated)	N/A	£80-100 million



The moon pictured by JUICE - courtesy of ESA

Happy New Year to all our readers! Here's hoping it's peaceful, prosperous and harmonious.

Rosie Arkwright



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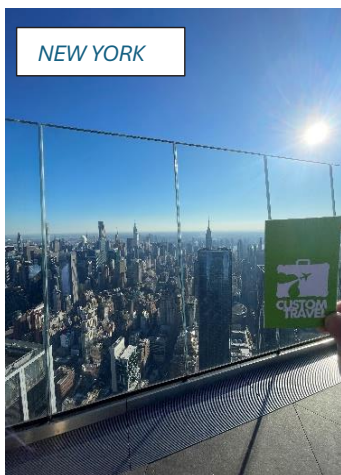
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FEST-TASTIC - A Cotswold Year in Festivals

February

Mudfest	15th - 23rd February	World Wildlife Trust, Slimbridge GL2 7BT	Connect with nature and discover the magical powers of mud through hands-on activities for all ages and activities
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March

Cheltenham Festival of Racing	11th - 14th March	Cheltenham Racecourse GL50 4SH	Jump racing's 'world championship'
Craft Festival	21st - 23rd March	Cheltenham Town Hall GL50 1QA	Meet makers, shopping stalls, demonstrations and workshops. Free childrens activities.
Cotswold Homes & Interiors Festival	29th March	Cirencester Corn Hall GL7 2NY	Stalls, exhibitions, talks, advice - plus Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen

April

Gloucester History Festival Spring Weekend	25th - 27th April	Blackfriars Priory, GL1 2HN	Compelling talks and controversial debates led by 40 leading historians
Chipping Campden Literature Festival	25th - 26th April & 3rd - 10th May	Various locations around Chipping Campden GL55	Tim Coulson, Professor Robert Winston, Petroc Trelawney and more
Cheltenham Jazz Festival	30th April - 5th May	Montpelier Gardens, Cheltenham GL50 1SD	International stars and upcoming artists perform

May

Badminton Horse Trials	7th - 11th May	Badminton House, Badminton GL9 1DF	International 3-day horse trials set against the background of Badminton House
RHS Malvern Spring Festival	8th - 11th May	Three Counties Showground Malvern WR13 6NW	Show gardens, talks, stalls and more
Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts	9th - 17th May	Cheltenham Town Hall	Music, dance and drama performed by children from local schools and clubs
The Bath Festival	16th - 25th May	Various locations around Bath BA1	Celebration of books and music with visiting artists and authors
Cotswold Festival of Steam	24th - 26th May	Cheltenham Racecourse Station GL50 4SH	Celebration of the magic of steam
Royal Bath & West Show	29th - 31st May	Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA 4 6QN	Country show for the west of England
Cheltenham Fringe Festival	26th May - 1st June	Cheltenham Playhouse Theatre GL53 7HG	Music, theatre, film, drag, poetry, comedy and more
Wychwood Festival	30th May - 1st June	Cheltenham Racecourse GL50 4SH	Summer family-friendly music festival

June

Cheltenham Science Festival	3rd - 8th June	Montpelier Gardens, Cheltenham GL50 1SD	Scientists, science writers and artists come together to talk science
Cheltenham Running Festival	8th June	Cheltenham Racecourse GL50 4SH	Your opportunity to run 5k, 10k or a 1/2 marathon around Cheltenham racecourse
Glouce & Warwicks Railway & Real Ale Festival	13th - 15th June	Cheltenham Racecourse Station GL50 4SH	Vintage locomotives and beer...
Forest Live at Westonbirt Arboretum	17th - 22nd June	Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury GL8 8QS	Live music in the magic of Westonbirt Arboretum
Cheltenham Food & Drink Festival	20th - 22nd June	Montpelier Gardens, Cheltenham GL50 1SD	Music, wine & food tasting, stalls and demonstrations
Cotswold Show	28th - 29th June	Cirencester Park GL7 1XB	Country show

Justin Rundle

Painter & Decorator

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Local & Trusted

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 Rencomb 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

FEST-TASTIC - A Cotswold Year in Festivals

July

Cheltenham Music Festival	4th - 12th July	Montpelier Gardens, Cheltenham GL50 1SD	Claassical music, performances and events
2000 Trees Festival	9th - 12th July	Upcote Farm, Withington GL54 4BL	Family-friendly music festival
Fantasy Forest Festival	18th - 20th July	Sudeley Castle, GL54 5JD	Stalls, live music and cosplay
Royal International Air Tattoo	18th - 20th July	RAF Fairford, GL7 4EG	International air show
WOMAD	25th - 28th July	Charlton Park, Malmesbury SN16 9LL	International music festival
Wilderness	31st July - 3rd August	Cornbury Park, OX7 3HH	Feasting, live music, talks & debates

August

Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Extravaganza	1st - 3rd August	South Cerney Airfield Cirencester GL7 5RD	Displays, fun fair, countryside stalls
Bristol Balloon Fiesta	8th - 10th August	Ashton Court, Bristol BS41 9NJ	Watch over 100 hot air balloon take to the skies, balloon rides, stalls, food
The Big Festival	22nd - 24th August	Alex James' farm, Kingham OX7 6UJ	Good music, good food, good times
Didmarton Bluegrass Festival	29th - 31st August	Kemble Airfield GL7 6BQ	Americana and old-time music festival

September

Cheltenham International Film Festival	12th - 21st September	Various locations around Cheltenham GL50	International film festival with Mexican Film Fiesta theme
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October

Cheltenham Literature Festival	10th - 19th October	Montpelier Gardens, Cheltenham GL50 1SD	The original literature festival
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Lizzy Roughton





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!

WHAT'S ON AT THE BARN IN 2025

The Barn Theatre in Cirencester has announced an exciting lineup for its 2025 season, featuring a mix of world premieres, classic plays, and musicals.

Since its opening in 2018, the Barn Theatre has gained national recognition for its high-quality productions and innovative approach to theatre. The venue features a state-of-the-art, 200-seat auditorium and has been praised for its commitment to both classic and contemporary works. For more information on the 2025 season and to book tickets, visit the Barn Theatre's official website: barntheatre.org.uk



Here's what's coming up...

A Role to Die For

A new comedy by Jordan Waller about the challenges of casting a world-famous British spy film role. Directed by Derek Bond, the production runs from 30 January to 15 March, with a press night on 4 February.

In the Mouth of the Wolf

A world premiere adapted by Simon Reade from Michael Morpurgo's book. The play examines the lives of two brothers during World War II as they navigate personal and political conflicts. This production runs from 28 March to 10 May, with a press night on 1 April.

Educating Rita

A new production of Willy Russell's classic play, following the relationship between a working-class student and her disillusioned tutor, exploring themes of education and self-discovery. Directed by Stephen Unwin, performances run from 16 May to 28 June, with a press night on 19 May.

Friends! The Musical Parody

A comedic take on the well-known television series, developed in partnership with Mark Goucher, Matthew Gale, and Oskar Eiriksson. This production runs from 14 July to 23 August, with a press night on 16 July.

Haywire

Written by Tim Stimpson, this play tells the story of the creation of The Archers, marking the lead-up to the 75th anniversary of the long-running radio drama. It runs from 1 September to 11 October, with a press night on 4 September.

The Last Five Years

A musical by Jason Robert Brown that charts the story of a relationship through intersecting timelines. It will run from 17 October to 15 November, with a press night on 20 October.

A Christmas Carol

A fresh take on the theatre's 2019 adaptation of the Dickens classic, adapted by Alan Pollock. This production runs from 1 December 2025 to 4 January 2026, with a press night on 3 December.



Rosie Arkwright

POULTON DEFIBRILLATOR DETAILS

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

The code is C159X

FRIENDS THE MUSICAL HITS CIRENCESTER THIS SUMMER

The beloved sitcom *Friends* has left an indelible mark on pop culture since its debut in 1994. Now, *Friends: The Musical* is set to take the stage at Cirencester's Barn Theatre this summer, bringing the laughter, nostalgia, and iconic moments to life in a whole new way. Here's a look at the history of *Friends*, its enduring success, and the story behind the musical adaptation.

The History of Friends

Created by David Crane and Marta Kauffman, *Friends* first aired on September 22, 1994, on NBC. The show followed six friends—Rachel, Monica, Phoebe, Ross, Chandler, and Joey—as they navigated life, love, and careers in New York City. The relatable humor, memorable catchphrases, and heartfelt moments quickly made *Friends* a hit.

The series ran for ten seasons, with a total of 236 episodes, concluding on May 6, 2004. It became one of the most popular TV shows of all time, consistently topping viewer ratings during its run.

How Successful Was Friends?

Friends became a cultural phenomenon, drawing an average of 25 million viewers per episode at its peak. The series finale alone was watched by over 52 million people in the U.S., making it one of the most-watched television episodes in history. The show's influence extended beyond TV, with merchandise, catchphrases, and even the characters' hairstyles becoming trends.

Thanks to streaming services like Netflix and HBO Max, *Friends* has continued to captivate new generations. The show's themes of friendship and belonging remain timeless, appealing to viewers born long after the original episodes aired.

How Did Friends Come About?

Crane and Kauffman drew inspiration from their own experiences of moving to New York and forming close friendships in their 20s. The concept was pitched as a show about six young people trying to make it in the big city, with their friendships serving as their chosen family. NBC executives saw the potential, and *Friends* became a cornerstone of the network's "Must See TV" lineup. The show's blend of humor and heart resonated with audiences worldwide, making it a defining series of the 1990s and early 2000s.

Where Are the Cast Members Now?

The cast of *Friends* became household names during the show's run and have enjoyed varied levels of success since.

- **Jennifer Aniston** (Rachel Green) has had a prolific film career and returned to TV with *The Morning Show*, earning critical acclaim.
- **Courtney Cox** (Monica Geller) continued acting in series like *Cougar Town* and recently starred in *Shining Vale*.
- **Lisa Kudrow** (Phoebe Buffay) appeared in numerous films and TV shows, including *The Comeback* and *Web Therapy*.
- **David Schwimmer** (Ross Geller) has worked both in front of and behind the camera, recently appearing in *American Crime Story*.
- **Matt LeBlanc** (Joey Tribbiani) starred in the spin-off *Joey* and later had success with *Episodes*.
- **Matthew Perry** (Chandler Bing) struggled with addiction and was found dead at his home last year.



FRIENDS THE MUSICAL HITS CIRENCESTER THIS SUMMER

Friends: The Musical

Given the lasting popularity of the show, it was only a matter of time before Friends was reimagined for the stage. Friends: The Musical Parody was first conceived in New York. The musical pays homage to iconic episodes and moments from the series, featuring characters and plotlines that fans know and love. The show includes hilarious musical numbers like “We Were on a Break!” and “How You Doin’?” that highlight the quirks and dynamics of the six friends.

The concept for the musical parody emerged from Bob and Tobly McSmith, the creative duo known for other successful parodies like The Office! A Musical Parody and Saved by the Bell: The Musical. Their goal was to create a fun, nostalgic experience that would appeal to die-hard Friends fans and casual viewers alike.

The musical debuted in 2017 at St. Luke’s Theatre in New York City and has since toured across North America. The show has earned positive reviews for its clever writing, catchy songs, and affectionate nods to the original series. Critics and audiences alike have praised its ability to capture the spirit of the TV show while delivering fresh laughs. It’s been described as a loving tribute that balances nostalgia with humor, appealing to both long-time fans and newcomers.

Nearly 30 years after its debut, Friends continues to resonate with audiences. The themes of friendship, love, and finding one’s place in the world are universal, and the show’s humor has stood the test of time.

Rosie Arkwright



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HOAR FROST - PHOTOGRAPHY BY PIERS BELMONT



POULTON THEN AND NOW

In 1930, Lord Bledisloe, a local viscount, became Governor General of New Zealand. He donated a trophy, The Bledisloe Cup, which is played for to this day between the rugby teams of New Zealand and Australia.

Upon his return to the UK in 1937, he inaugurated an award for the best kept village in Gloucestershire, and donated another “Bledisloe Cup” as the trophy. In 1987, the 50th year of this prestigious award, Poulton was proudly announced as the winning village, with the trophy being presented on the village green.

Thanks to Ann Young for helping with this article.



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Is Usutu Virus A Threat To Our Blackbirds?

The blackbird, with its beautiful song and close association with humans had seemed to be the exception to the general decline in our native birds, but that may be about to change. As its name *Turdus Merula* implies, it is a thrush which feeds mainly on insects and earthworms - but will also eat berries and other fruit like strawberries and raspberries if you don't protect them! Our gardens provide all these things as well as hedges in which to nest, though the blackbird does need to keep a close eye out for domestic cats whose presence it loudly proclaims to all its kin with its loud alarm calls (chink-chink) which are so familiar.



They are a beautiful addition to our gardens as illustrated by this photo from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds website. It is therefore somewhat alarming to hear of the potentially serious appearance of the Usutu virus in London blackbirds, whose numbers have declined by around 20% since 2020.

Usutu virus is a Flavivirus, a family of viruses which affect humans and other animals, including significant pathogens like dengue, yellow fever, Zika, Japanese encephalitis and hepatitis C virus. The Usutu virus is named after the Usutu river in South Africa where it was first detected. It has spread widely, reaching Europe in 1996 via Italy from whence it has spread north and west, most likely carried by migrating birds.

Usutu virus is one of the *Moboviruses* (mosquito borne viruses) which are a major public health concern worldwide with dramatic increases in recent decades, probably as a result of increased travel and climate change. Thus dengue, chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever have all seen increases in incidents and are appearing in regions previously devoid of them.

While this sounds alarming we need to remember that malaria, transmitted by a mosquito *Aedes aegypti*, was once common in Europe and the UK. It was particularly common in the fens and Lincolnshire, where locals still describe a rigor as an "aguey bout", which is medieval English for a bout of malaria. It was only the mini-ice age in the 18th and 19th century which drove it south (from whence it is now returning, being found in Cyprus and the Crimea and in some parts of The Netherlands).

Usutu virus is rather different from malaria, being spread not by *Aedes aegypti* (the yellow fever mosquito) but by *Culex pipiens*, the common "house mosquito". It is particularly important to humans because it favours an urban environment. It is less than 10mm long, brown in colour without any obvious pattern. While both males and females live off nectar and are effective pollinators, the females need to take in a substantial amount of blood to get the protein needed to produce eggs.



It can be found throughout the world in temperate climates and is a major vector of viruses. It is abundant in cities, especially those with poor sewage management, since they like to lay their eggs in stagnant water which is rich in organic matter. Typical sites are wetlands, pools, puddles, sewage ditches and water containers such as barrels, garden ponds and swimming pools. They overwinter as adults in caves, basement cellars or other underground structures provided by humans. As soon as the temperature starts to rise the female lays eggs, first needing that vital sip of blood. This is mostly from birds that associate with humans, like pigeons and blackbirds, though it will occasionally bite humans. The eggs hatch into "wrigglers", larvae which hang from the water surface eating micro-organisms. These mature rapidly, hatching as mature adult mosquitos within about 10 days, so numbers can build up very rapidly.

A rather unique natural experiment unwittingly occurred during the London Blitz when a huge number of humans suddenly started sleeping in underground tube stations. A particular strain of *Culex pipiens* evolved, which from genetic evidence appears to have started with just one individual and spread throughout the underground system. It now appears to be a distinct variant, *Culex pipiens f. molestus* which can no longer breed with the original *C. pipiens*.

As its name implies this mosquito is a voracious biter but differs quite markedly from the more common mosquito in favouring rats, mice and humans rather than birds, so happily will not be widely spreading Usutu virus among blackbirds. Usutu virus causes a fever, viremia and vasculitis affecting all the blackbird's organs with focal lesions in liver and brain which is fatal in many. Symptoms include lethargy, incoordination and inability to fly. It rarely affects humans, and the resulting illness is so far reported as mild with headache and fever. If you see an affected blackbird there is nothing one can do for the unfortunate bird. However it would be useful to report to the RSPB, since they are trying to monitor the situation, which at present appears limited to London and the South East, perhaps related to the warmer climate and larger number of favourable habitats for the overwintering *Culex pipiens*.

Robin Spiller

Exciting News for Poulton Village Hall!

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new online booking system for Poulton Village Hall! This system has been introduced to make the process of hiring the hall easier, and more convenient for everyone in our community.

With the new online system, potential hirers can:

- Check Availability: View a live availability calendar to see when the hall is free
 - Request Bookings: Submit booking requests online
- Find full details of hire rates, terms, and conditions in one central location.

Poulton Village Hall is the perfect venue for a wide range of events, including birthday parties, community meetings, fitness classes, and much more.

To explore the new system and book the hall for your next event, visit

<https://hallbookingonline.com/poulton>

We hope this link will also be included on the Poulton Village website.

Books, Bickies and Beverages "BBB"

Village Coffee Morning

1st Saturday of each month

10.30 - 12.30 Saturday 1st February

Come and join us for a pot of coffee or tea and homemade
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Meet and chat with other villagers and visitors

All Welcome!

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

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

GARDEN NOTES

We are sad to announce the retirement of The Pigotts after their invaluable contributions to the Garden Notes column, but delighted to welcome our new gardening expert, Trina Wood. We are looking forward to wheelbarrow loads of advice!

February in the garden

For all its grey skies and chilly mornings, February is a time of promise. Each day something new and amazing appears - a crocus bud peeping cheerily through the turf, the spellbinding azure of a clump of iris reticulata, or the perfume wafting from the modest flowers of a daphne so delicious it can stop you in your tracks. Welcome harbingers of Spring.

As the days grow noticeably longer, we gardeners are emerging from hibernation, keen to get our green fingers dirty. Temptation to get a head start on the season is strong, but hold your horses! Tramping over wet or frozen ground can do more harm than good and the soil is still too cold for sowing.

Heavy clay soils, like we have here in parts of Poulton, are particularly prone to this kind of damage and can take a while to warm up and dry out sufficiently to be workable, meaning we have to wait even longer to get started. One solution is to cover the soil - and there are several options.

In the veg garden, where most of the ground is bare at this time of year, spreading plastic sheets over the soil is effective. I'm not a huge fan of plastic in the garden, but if you can get hold of a heavier gauge - clear or black, it doesn't matter - it can be used many times over. Alternatively, re-use empty compost bags, cut open and laid flat with the black side up to absorb any warmth from the sun. Weigh them down with strategic spadefuls of soil or stones to stop them blowing away. The bags can be recycled when their work is done.

Horticultural fleece or fine insect mesh will also help warm the soil, but they don't keep the rain off. Cloches placed on the ground two or three weeks before sowing will warm the patches underneath by trapping air which is gently heated by the sun.

Mulching is my favourite option. Cover the soil of your beds with compost or well rotted manure, a good thick layer ideally 5-10cm deep. Gardening professionals say this should be forked into the surface as spring approaches, but I find birds and worms do a reasonable job, especially if you are organised and get the job done at the beginning of winter. Mulch helps to suppress weeds (as long as it is thoroughly composted), improves the soil structure, warms the ground and feeds the soil, setting the scene for spring and summer cultivation.



Another feature of February, St Valentine aside, is the seductive display of seeds burgeoning in shops and garden centres. Such is the cost of living these days that a fistful of these little packets of promise can cause a serious dent in the pocket.

So before splurging, dig out any old seeds you squirrelled away last year and do a quick test to see if they are still viable. Place a couple of folded sheets of generously damp kitchen paper on a plate and sprinkle a pinch of your sample seeds in rows, making a note of each variety. Cover them with a glass dish or cling film and pop them on a window sill, keeping them moist. After a couple of weeks you should see which are germinating strongly and which are destined for the compost heap. If the seeds have been stored in a cool, dry place and are less than a year or two old, the chances are good.

To do in February

- Catch the spectacular swathes of snowdrops at Cerney House Gardens, North Cerney and Colesbourne Gardens near Cheltenham. In your own garden, divide congested clumps once flowers fade.
- Cover rhubarb crowns to encourage early tender stems. Chit early potatoes.
- Order summer bulbs and corms - dahlias, gladioli, lilies, and also onion and shallot sets and garlic bulbs.
- Prune wisteria, fruit trees and roses. Cut back buddlea, hazel, willow and deciduous ornamental grasses. Also cut back clematis that flower in late spring or early summer.
- Check plant ties and supports and firm in any trees and shrubs lifted by this winter's biting frosts - humdrum chores, but best done before growth really takes off in a few weeks.
- For a warming workout, turn the compost heap. The aeration helps break down material.



Trina Wood

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Think Local, Drink Local

Think Local, Drink Local



FROM THE CELLAR DOOR

Share the love with our Valentine's Day Gift Box

February might be a short month, but it is filled with love! Valentine's Day on the 14th is a great opportunity to treat your loved one. We have just the thing to help you to share the love with our special Valentine's Day Gift Box. The set comprises a bottle of our silver-medal-winning Poulton Hill Bulari Sparkling Rosé 2021, a box of Joe & Steph's Chocolate Caramel Dark Chocolate Truffles and a gift bag of Bibury Milk Chocolate Honeycomb bites. These are all placed in one of our branded, wooden double-bottle gift boxes. This very special gift costs £64.99 and you can purchase it from our website or from the Cellar Door.

<https://www.poultonhillestate.co.uk/wines-and-spirits/valentines-day-gift/>

Starting 2025 with two medals

Poulton Hill Vineyard started off 2025 with some winning news. We won two medals in the WineGB West Awards, with a silver for our Bulari Sparkling Rosé 2021 and a bronze for our Bacchus 2023. If you would like to purchase any of our award-winning wines, you can pop into the Cellar Door here in Poulton to buy them at special Cellar Door prices. For more information or to buy online, visit:

<https://www.poultonhillestate.co.uk/wines-and-spirits/>

Vineyard news: Winter pruning

Although our vines are currently dormant, we have been busy in the vineyard starting our winter pruning. This is a huge task every year that is vital to ensure we have a good growing season and harvest, and it is all undertaken by hand.

We select two strong canes and one spur for the year (which is about the thickness of a pencil). We remove the rest of the unwanted canes with secateurs, ensuring these are sharp for a clean cut. It is essential not to damage the vine as we do not want to reduce opportunities to produce canes in future years.

Then we trim the selected canes down so that between eight and ten buds remain on each. We tie down each of the remaining canes to the fixed fruiting wire. The tie should not be too tight or the cane will be strangled. We use eco-friendly, natural cane ties. With the two canes (now arms of the vine) tied down, we treat any large wounds with garlic paste. This acts as a barrier and prevents disease from entering the vine. The only difference in our pruning this year is our approach to our Pinot Noir vines. Last year we pruned the Pinot Noir in the same way as the other vines in the vineyard, with a double arm. This involved selecting two canes with each trained out from either side of the stem. However, for this grape variety, which is one of the more difficult varieties to grow in our location, it did not prove to be as fruitful with a double cane. So, this year we have returned to pruning the Pinot Noir to a single arm to allow the vine to focus its energy. The single arm is trained uphill from the trunk. It is vital to get the pruning process completed before bud break or bud burst, which occurs in March to April.

Winter Wine Tastings

Our Winter and Spring tastings are running up until Easter, with the chance to sample a selection of our wines and also learn about our award-winning spirits. The tasting will include one sparkling wine and three still wines. Snacks can be purchased to accompany the tasting. Each session lasts an hour and 45 minutes and costs £20 per person. The dates for the tastings are:

11:30am, Saturday 15th February

11:30, Saturday 29th March

11:30, Saturday 12th April

11:30, Saturday 19th April

For more details and to book, visit <https://www.poultonhillestate.co.uk/events/>

Watch this space!

Our Friday Nights at the Bulari Bar were a huge success last year. We loved seeing so many people enjoying our wines and some amazing local food in the beautiful surroundings of the vineyard. We will be opening up the vineyard and the Bulari Bar again on Friday evenings in the summer of 2025. Watch this space for details on the opening date and the pop-up food vendors.

Natalie Murphy

POULTON'S UNSUNG HERO CHRIS DAVIES IS RECOGNISED BY CDC

Cotswold District Council has launched a new award scheme to recognise the 'Unsung Heroes' in the Cotswold district. The Unsung Heroes Awards acknowledges all the work being done across the district by volunteers who give up their time to help others.

We are delighted to announce that Poulton villager Chris Davies has been recognised as one of the inaugural award winners.

Chris's nomination highlights his commitment to improving life in Poulton – over 40 years of volunteering!

He has served on the Parish Council for over two decades, including two terms as Chair, tirelessly working to enhance village life.

He organised the Poulton summer fete for many years and played a key role in the development of Fairford Youth Football Club, leading efforts to secure land, build facilities, and create a thriving sports hub for over 200 children.

Beyond Poulton, Chris has mentored with The Prince's Trust for over a decade, served as a governor of Ampney Crucis Primary School, and was an active member of the Farringdon Round Table.

Chris exemplifies community dedication and is a true Unsung Hero.

POULTON CRICKET CLUB

A very Happy New Year from the Cricket Club which of course also means a New Season is just around the corner.

Our application to vary the alcohol licence will go in shortly. We have covered this change previously but the focus is on the club being a private one but with membership open to villagers at the heavily discounted rate of £10 per annum for a social membership. Playing memberships will be at the same rate as the wider club given the costs of laying on cricket.

We will have digital membership cards kept on phones. Your digital card will be scanned at the bar when you go there to enjoy a drink. Without one you would need to be a guest of a member. A reminder that the club is a charity and all funds raised through the bar go into the upkeep of the pavilion and England's. Physical cards will also be an option but regardless of cards, basic member details will be kept at the pavilion as well. Villagers who have mentioned a desire to join have been noted. It will never be too late however and an email to PoultonChair@gmail.com will start the process! Having as many villagers as members as possible will only make the club stronger. We are very good at the cricket provision but less so at offering a venue for the village to use. We hope increasing village membership will enhance that feeling and rather than a big event this year will do some smaller ones instead.

This Winter has been a wet nightmare for the club and the recent cold snap has done very little to improve things. The current focus is on off-field matters and the club will be re-organising its managerial structure over the next few months to ensure villagers are present on a restructured body of trustees which will shape the direction of the club and provide the environment for sub committees to focus on the delivery of cricket, freed from the shackles reporting.

The Accounts are closed for 2024 and will be registered with the charity commission when audited along with our annual report. This will be also be posted on our website for anyone interested. The 2025 season will be about balance sheet consolidation after a year of expenditure.

As far as playing matters go, our women start their softball winter league campaign very soon. It is NEVER too late to get involved in this. If there are any women who weren't aware that we have this softball unit and would like to give it a go, get in touch. Winter nets at Fairford for both Seniors and Juniors are now booked in and before we know it, it will be April.

Will Bathurst, Chair

LOCAL POLITICS - UPDATES FROM THE MP AND THE PARISH COUNCIL

As we enter 2025, I've been taking some time out to reflect on 2024, and to set my priorities for the year ahead, given the many opportunities and challenges facing our South Cotswolds community.

The recent rainfall and consequent flooding issues remind us that we live in a changing climate, putting environmental issues front and centre. I'm pleased to see so many businesses, farmers, and local groups stepping up to do their part and make a difference. My Climate and Nature Bill, which had its second reading in Parliament on 24th January, is part of this push to support positive environmental changes nationally, but also right here in our community.

Here are some of our other priorities for this year:

- Tackling the challenges of health and social care, public transport, and broadband provision in our rural communities
- Working with farmers and the Royal Agricultural University to promote regenerative agricultural practices and making high quality, local food accessible to all
- Addressing water quality and flooding issues – we're hiring a dedicated team member and will be drawing together residents, landowners and authorities to create effective solutions
- Building and sharing community best practices to help tackle the continuing cost of living crisis, share skills, and boost social connections
- Ensuring the views and voices of our young people are heard, and their needs met

There is still so much untapped potential and expertise in the South Cotswolds. I firmly believe that the best people to decide what a community needs are the people who live in that community.

My team and I are keen to listen to what you have to say, and to coordinate efforts to face whatever challenges may come our way and build a brighter, more sustainable, more secure and resilient future for all.

Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with hope, health, and new opportunities.

Dr Roz Savage, MP for South Cotswolds

roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

Happy New Year to all Poulton residents from your four Parish councillors and the Parish Clerk.

The last Parish Council meeting was on the 9th December with 2 members of the public also present. There were apologies from Councillor Spivey, CDC/GCC Councillor.

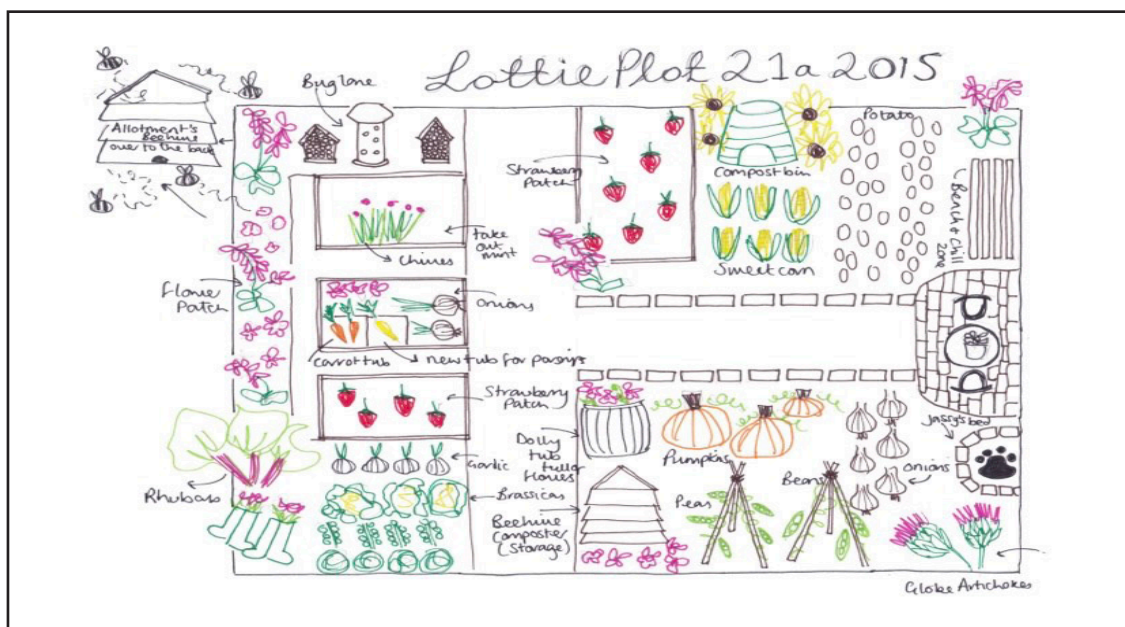
Main items discussed were:

- 1) Planning for a village Summer Fete in the playground/Village Hall in late June and the various insurance/liability/safety aspects that needed covering. The PPC are very supportive of the event once permissions are granted;
- 2) Finances – following the recent large playground refurbishment expenditure and “Business as Usual” annual costs there is still adequate money in the bank;
- 3) The proposed 2025/26 Budget, in line with inflation, was approved and the 2025/26 village Precept will remain unchanged (as per last 3 years);
- 4) An updated Speeding and Traffic Report was given – new cameras and signage have been erected in various village locations. The PPC reiterated their determination to crackdown on village speeding and traffic issues;
- 5) Playground Refurbishment – outstanding work will be finished in the Spring when the weather improves;
- 6) There is a new vacancy on the PFAC Trustee Board + still a vacancy on the Parish Council.

The only AOB item related to the recent national flooding and the localised effects in Poulton. Discussions with CDC/GCC will continue.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 10th March @ 7pm @ the Village Hall. Any/all Poulton residents are most welcome to attend.

Simon Collyer-Bristow, Chair



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 - poultonvillagehall@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
MP - South Cotswolds Constituency	Dr Roz Savage MP: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
Poulton Action Group (solar farm)	poultonactiongroup@gmail.com .
Refuse Collections	Food bin weekly Thursday 7am. All other bins & bags on alternate Thursdays.
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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