

Ampney Times

Ampney Crucis and Surrounding Villages

Editor

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01285 283220

Letter from Ampney Crucis Parish Council

Welcome to this Spring edition of the Ampney Times. It's great to see snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils all blooming. Even the daffodils that we planted in the burial ground last clear up day in October are coming up.

On that note, the spring clear up day is set for Saturday March 14th. I will be at the Lych Gate in the burial ground between 10.00 and noon to allocate jobs. As usual we will aim for a full village litter pick, cutting back undergrowth in the playground and around the Wayside Cross and clearing the playground equipment. Any help would be appreciated on the day or litter picking at a time of your choice. Just let me know which area you intend to do.

It was noted by a resident that the trees on the triangles at the Pound and School Lane were growing through their guards so we have now had the guards removed to allow the trees to breathe. Thanks to Cllr Ross Leadbeater and Tony Williams for this.

Cllr Jacky Leadbeater and I met informally with the new headteacher Mrs Bulloch to introduce ourselves and have a chat. We would like to warmly welcome her to the village.

At this point I would like to add my grateful thanks to the ACRAG. We are so lucky to have such a well organised, competent and driven group of people spearheading our objections to the housing allocation. The council will support your endeavours as much as we can. Thank you.

Finally, if you have any queries or comments for the council please address them through our clerk. Contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Cllr Jan Mills, Chair.

Jan.mills@ampneycrucis.org.uk



Photo by Jacky Leadbeater

March - April 2026

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Community news

First Aid Training for your Village Community

Ampney Crucis Parish Council are pleased to invite Inspire First Aid Training to provide free-to-attend first aid training.

Thursday 16th April

6.00pm – 8.00pm

Ampney Crucis Village Hall.

To book your place, please email clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk

Places are limited and are on a first come first served basis.

Gary says: "I'm offering a Village first aid training session designed to give you the confidence to help in an emergency. The course will cover Basic Life Support (BLS), CPR, the Recovery position, and the Safe use of a public automated AED.

This training is ideal for anyone who wants to be better prepared to help family, friends, neighbours, and any stranger in need. You don't need any prior experience, just a willingness to learn and support your community. You will need to be able to kneel on the floor however, to be able to carry out procedures.

By learning these essential skills together, we can help make your village a safer place where you can look out for one another.

Please visit my website to read about all the other training courses that I provide.

www.inspirefirsttraining.co.uk"

Fairford & District Choral Society

Fairford & District Choral Society will perform Mozart's Requiem and his Te Deum and Ave Verum Corpus on Saturday 28 March at 7pm at St Mary's Church Fairford. There will be professional soloists and an organ accompanist.

Tickets are £15 and are available from Fairford Opticians.

Keep up to date with Ampney Crucis Parish Council news

Visit our website for the latest news, Minutes & meeting information.

Ampney Crucis Parish Council,

PO Box 366,

Fairford,

GL7 9LX

Tel: 01285 283220

If you would like to contact us then please email:

clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk

or call 01285 283220

You can visit our website: www.ampneycrucis.org.uk

NEXT MEETINGS

The next Council

Meetings will be on

Thursday 12th March &

Thursday 14th May at

7.15pm in Ampney Crucis Village Hall.

AC Residents' Action Group

Back in November the village received the bombshell news about the proposal for 660 new houses in the village and quite honestly it left many of us reeling. The shock and the emotions were running high, especially over the Christmas period and on top of that we were only given a very short seven week window to consider its impact and respond effectively!

Nonetheless, the village rose to the challenge and submitted a substantial number of objections and the Residents Action Group successfully submitted our formal representation to CDC supported by suitable professional reports. All the hard work over the preceding seven weeks came to a sudden halt and it wasn't easy to "switch off" from the looming prospect of a housing development.

Whilst we know we have strongly demonstrated just how unviable the land in question is, and we hope to be removed from the process, we must recognise that in the current political climate this may be unlikely. Even then the landowner could submit a full planning application regardless.

What's next

CDC have said they intend to publish their final local plan in June and we need to be able to respond quickly and effectively to it. That's why we're considering now, what the possible outcomes might be and what we would need for a meaningful response. This includes:-

- Researching the most suitable expert reports for the next stage
- Sourcing professionals that would be best placed to help us, if the need arises, that can challenge at this level
- Refining the terms of reference, objectives and costs,

Drafting the scope of this work now, and starting to build important relationships with the professionals who can help us, will hopefully make it easier to hit the ground running later, especially if we are given another short deadline. In the meantime, we have instructed Lawyers to review the Regulation 18 from several different legal perspectives and write to CDC accordingly with our concerns.

We are currently helping the Parish Council to scope out an important 3-month piece of work that could increase wider protection around the village. The Parish Council may then take this forward assisted by professional consultants and the RAG. We will hear from them after the EGM in February.

Fundraising

Fundraising continues and by the time of reading this piece we should have held our Auction of Promises. Shortly after we will share a complete picture of our fundraising, spending and projected spending requirements with all.

We have been overwhelmed by the support of both the village and our neighbours. Thank you!

Local Parish Council contact details

Ampney St Peter Parish Meeting
ampneystpeter@gmail.com

Driffield & Harnhill Parish Council
Roz Morton
dhparishclerk@googlemail.com
www.driffieldandharnhill.org.uk

Ampney St Mary Parish Meeting
Eric Partington
01285 850131
ampneystmary@gmail.com

The Ampney's Gardening Club



'Plants and gardens need the rain, so stay positive and work around the downpours. There is a saying "God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done"'

Introduction

What an awful month or two it has been for gardening. It does not seem that long ago that we had hosepipe bans and a drought and now we have had so much rain with floods and waterlogged gardens that it has made serious gardening impossible. There are always things that need to be done but I am sure most of us have taken a time out.

Annual Gardening Club Lunch

This was held in the Old Spotted Cow at Marston Meysey on 15th January. A total of 35 members signed up to attend which represented 70% of our Club membership which was a fantastic turnout and everyone who attended enjoyed the meal, the company, the friendly atmosphere and a good chat ! After the meal, there was a surprise raffle. All the feedback received was that it was a very special occasion.



Meeting Thursday 19th February 2026

At the meeting there will be a presentation by Julie Ritchie titled 'Small is beautiful – Easy Alpines'. A full report will be posted in the next edition of the Ampney Times.

Ampneys Gardening Club AGM

This will be held on **Thursday 19th March at 7pm** in the Ampney Crucis Village Hall so please **SAVE THE DATE**. This is always a good evening and we hope as many members as possible will be able to attend. Not only is it the opportunity to renew your membership for 2026/27 but also for new members to come along and join. We will also share our plans for the year. We had 50 members this year so let's see if we can beat that !!!

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Best Wishes
Barbara

News from Ampney Churches

Church Services for March 2026

Sunday 1st March	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Down Ampney	Parish Communion
	4.00pm	Poulton	The Gathering/Café
			NB note new time
Sunday 8th March	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Driffield	Parish Communion
Sunday 15th March	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Ampney Crucis	Parish Communion
Sunday 22nd March	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Poulton	Parish Communion
Wednesday 25th March	12 noon	Poulton	Communion followed by light lunch
Sunday 29th March	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
Palm Sunday	10:00am	Ampney St Peter	Parish Communion

Church Services for April 2026

Thursday 2nd April	6.30pm	Poulton	TIME could change.
Maundy Thursday			
Friday 3rd April	2.00pm	Ampney Crucis	The Last Hour
GOOD FRIDAY			
Sunday 5th April	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Down Ampney	Parish Communion
	10.00am	Poulton	Family service with
			Communion followed by Easter egg hunt
Sunday 12th April	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Driffield	Parish Communion
Sunday 19th April	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Ampney Crucis	Parish Communion
Wednesday 22nd April	12 noon	Poulton	Communion followed by light lunch
St George's Eve			
Sunday 26th April	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Poulton	Parish Communion

News from Ampney Churches

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Just a few weeks away and we shall be at the Spring Equinox; already snowdrops are showing their heads along with daffodils making their appearance, all signs of the promise of a glorious Spring to come. It has been a truly wet January, almost the 2nd wettest on record and February, for me, is the hardest month to get through even though it is the shortest as far as number of days are concerned. For sure the days are lengthening and it is a great time to clear out those cupboards, and take stock of how we envisage our lives in the year ahead. If, you are seeking guaranteed sunshine or even a break away, then planning those holidays with friends or simply just being with people whom you love to be with, is pure joy.

Latterly one of the main objects for the Benefice has been preparing the advert for our new Vicar. Personally I like the advert very much and hope that the prospective new Vicar feels the same! The advert was launched in January and we shall not know how many applicants, have applied to come and work among us until mid to end February. (Who knows we may be inundated with applicants or a few or none!) On receipt of the applicant's CV this is looked at and suitability considered before processing towards an interview. The committee is "at one" with their view that we shall consider carefully any applicant and not be tempted to appoint in desperation as "Fit" is so important. If there are no applicants following the first advert this is not necessarily a daunting process: Tetbury for example appointed on the 3rd occasion of advertising and their patience has been rewarded with their choice. Realistically, if our new Vicar is already employed, they will have to give 3 months notice so honestly with the interview process etc, we are looking at the earliest we shall have a new vicar will be sometime in the Autumn.

Meanwhile the rhythm of services continues and we are blessed that we have clergy who are happy to come and lead our worship: the congregation love the different styles of sermons. As well as the regular "Café Church" @ Poulton (The Gathering) on the 1st Sunday each month, (NB NB new time 4pm which is now afternoon tea) there is now a trial of a 12 noon service of prayer and communion on 3rd OR 4th Wednesday of the month followed by a light lunch, consisting principally of soup n roll, again at Poulton. Of all our 7 Churches, Poulton is the only 1 which has wonderful kitchen and loo facilities.

The plans for the coming year across the Benefice are full of a wide variety of fundraising events and we all earnestly seek your support in whatever way you think you can help, using your skills, volunteering or even just joining in and enjoying yourselves. It is such a great way to meet the residents from neighbouring villages and we are working on a system to advertise each village event to you All. Our Churches face huge annual overheads as well as care for the actual buildings so of course monetary contributions are always very welcome. There are many Churchwardens who plead poverty with regard to church funds and I am no exception!

Our Archbishop of Canterbury Dame Sarah Mullaly was officially appointed at the end of January in St Paul's Cathedral with her enthronement due in Canterbury Cathedral in March. As with the heralding of Spring we earnestly pray that the Archbishop will bring hope and newness to our Church, with strong leadership and some much needed vigour !

Wishing you All a very joyful and Happy Eastertide (with not too many Easter eggs!).

Love Sue - Churchwarden Driffield and Harnhill (resident of Ampney Crucis).

From the Register

February

Baptism	Archie Jenkins	Ampney Crucis
Funeral	Stuart Russell	Poulton

DRIFFIELD & HARNHILL FUNDRAISING



Friday 13th March

6:30pm

Ampney Crucis Village Hall

Tickets £20 each on tables of 8

Fun quiz with a fish & chip
supper & welcome glass of fizz

*Please bring along your own
drinks, ketchup, glasses, cutlery
etc.*

Tickets: Sue Philips 07887847906 or Angharad Clark 07764515078

All proceeds to the upkeep of our two beautiful churches, so please do support us

Ampney Crucis WI

The start of a New Year and 3 ladies from the village came to our January meeting to see what we got up to. It was so lovely to see new faces. The speaker Rebecca Cotton, updated us on the work of CHYP (Cirencester Housing for Young People) which has now been in business for 40 years, providing 24hour supported accommodation for youngsters aged 16-25 from the Cotswold area.

Dates.

Thursday 26th March: Mz Pepper Mill (MAHons) and Electra Lux will give a presentation about The Country Women's Association, Australia. From the names of the speakers you can guess this will be no ordinary meeting! Come as a guest if you fancy!

Thursday 23rd April: Anne Buffoni author, will speak on 'Everyone talks about the Romans.....!'

Our Meetings are on the 4th Thursday of the month, doors open at 7pm ready to start at 7.30pm prompt. You are welcome to join us.



Ampney Crucis WI enjoyed their New Years lunch at the Thameshead Inn.

Defibrillators locations

Ampney Crucis now has 4 24hour accessible defibrillators at the following locations:

- Village Hall.
- The Primary School.
- Opposite Dudley Farm.
- Hilcot End.

The cabinets are not locked.

We are always looking for more volunteers to do weekly and monthly checks on the defibs – it's very simple, but very necessary! Thank you to all of our volunteers who help to keep the village safe by checking these vital assets.

Do get in touch if you think you could help, just a few times a year would be a great help.

clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk

Ampney Crucis Cricket Club

Introduction

This is to give everyone an update on what has been happening at ACCC. Yes, it is the off-season but this is the time to plan for the new season that will start in April and that is what we are now doing. Of course, there has been the opportunity to follow the England Cricket Team but sadly that has not been a positive experience.



The Cricket Grounds

As I am sure you have all seen, the picture above shows the recently completed entrance to the Cricket Grounds with a new stone wall and entrance gate. Everyone agrees that it looks absolutely fantastic and has enhanced what is an iconic location in Ampney Crucis. A special thank you to Sophie and Anthony Kingsley.

ACCC Annual General Meeting

This was held on Thursday 29th January in the Ampney Crucis Village Hall. A total of 19 members attended. A review was given on what has been achieved in 2025 and it was considered to be a very successful year in establishing the club going forward. The Club's plans for 2026 were also described. The Committee for 2026/27 was formally appointed comprising Mike Fielder, Doug Benham, Heather Jefferies and Binna Robinson. An additional Committee member is needed and anyone who would be interested in joining should contact any Committee member. The meeting ended with plans in place for what is hoped will be a great 2026/27.

Company Status

The Committee decided to start a process to ensure the Club will go forward on a sound legal basis. I am pleased to say that on 30 January the ACCC became an Incorporated Company Limited by Guarantee and will be known as Ampney Crucis Cricket Club Ltd. We have also made a submission to HMRC to become a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) which will bring tax benefits to the Club including Gift Aid.

Fixtures

We are now actively looking to set up fixtures for the new season. An important but exciting development has been an agreement reached with Kempford Cricket Club for them to play their 10 League matches at Ampney Crucis this year. We also seeking other fixtures and will also be planning some games for an Ampney Crucis team.

Grounds

At the end of the last season, we carried out some works to upgrade the cricket playing surface and thanks to Charlie Robinson for his advice in doing this. Works are continuing which is aimed at ensuring the ground is ready for the first game which is currently planned for April 18th.

ACCC Cont'd

Fundraising

A key priority will be fundraising to enable us to carry out the further improvements we want to make to the grounds and pavilion. This will be easier with our new company status, in terms of grants, but we will also be planning a series of events over the year to raise funds.

Membership

We currently have a total of 72 members which shows the amazing level of support from the community. At the AGM it was agreed that we will be renewing membership for 2026/27 from 1 April 2026 and the fee will be unchanged at £10. We hope that all members will renew as well as attracting new members. We are also looking at the options to provide members with some benefits.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Best Wishes

Mike

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BARNSELEY
VILLAGE
FESTIVAL

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ON THE DOOR

SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026
10AM TO 5PM

Proceeds go to Cirencester Food Bank, James & Douglas Homes, Airs & Rivers Cancer, & other local charities and good causes.

St James's Place
Butler Sherborn

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TICKETS AVAILABLE ON
WWW.BARNSELEYVILLAGE.

Village Hall

Our AGM will be held **Wednesday 18th March at 7pm**. There are 3 elected positions on the committee which are reviewed annually. Please send any nominations to Anne Bridges.

At the end of 2025 we were able to look at the annual consumption and production of electricity from the grid, the batteries and from solar power. Annual cost was expected to be about £2,690, and this was reduced to £1,587 by using power from the panels and batteries. Monies received for exporting surplus electricity to the Grid was £687 which reduced the annual cost to us to £900, a saving £1790 or 66% of expected bill. This is a great result.

In an attempt to reduce heat loss in the Main Hall, door closures have now been fitted to both sets of double doors. There are hooks should you need to keep the doors open. Our next step is to try to reduce the draft from coming under the fire doors.

Hall bookings in 2025 were up from the previous year. Sadly, the Bridge Club who met for many years in the Hall have had to disband. Hopefully they will return in the future. A new Tai Chi exercise class now runs on Monday afternoons 2pm - 3pm. Details from Anne bridgesae@aol.com

Save the date and possibly things to sell, at a Car Boot Sale to be held on the Cricket Ground on **Sunday 17th May**. Details next time.



9.00am-12 midday
Sunday 17th May
All proceeds to the
Village Hall
and Ampney Crucis
Cricket Club

Ampney Flix

It is nearly a year since we left the CDC Rural Cinema scheme and bought our own MPLC licence to show films. The benefits are that we can choose our own films and after expenses, keep the entry donation. The slight disadvantage is that advertising the title widely is not possible. If you do not see the village What's App or Psst! we can happily email you the title each month if you contact Anne bridgesae@aol.com

Next dates:

Wednesday 25th March,
Wednesday 22nd April.

Prompt 7.30pm start.
Suggested donation £5.
Refreshments served at
the Interval.

COMMUNI-TEA 2026!!

Please come and join us for tea, cake, sausage rolls and a good natter

Ampney Crucis Village Hall 2.00-4.00pm

Tuesday 3rd March

Michelle, Linda and Chris

07912 230021

Evans.michelle@hotmail.co.uk

