

Ampney Times

Ampney Crucis and Surrounding Villages

Letter from Ampney Crucis Parish Council

Greetings from the Ampney Times and a warm welcome to all residents, old and new.

The village clean-up took place on the 14th March which was a lovely spring day. Many thanks to all who turned up to help on that day and to those who help at other times throughout the year.

The Parish Council is sad to lose its chair Jan Mills. A huge thanks to Jan for her dedicated work during her time on the Council. She will be sadly missed.

The Parish Council now has a vacancy and the post is being advertised. Why not come and take a seat at the table and help to shape the future of the parish? If you are interested, please contact Roz, the Clerk to the Parish Council, on clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk.

The Parish Council continues to support the sterling work of the Residents' Action Group (RAG). Hopefully, all residents have now received the RAG newsletter with details of village events. All information provided at the events, along with subsequent questions and answers, will be published on the Parish Council website, ampneycrucis-pc.gov.uk.

The Parish Council would like to invite residents to come to the Annual Meeting of the Parish on Thursday 14th May at 6.30pm. Wendy Farrel from English Rural will be giving a presentation. English Rural are a specialist rural housing provider who work with Parish Councils, local communities, and land owners to deliver small developments to provide affordable homes for people with a local connection to the village.

Best wishes from
Ampney Crucis Parish Council

Editor

clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk

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Photo by Jacky Leadbeater

May - June 2026

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Community news



Held at Harnhill Lower Farm Field & Barns GL7 5PU

Friday 3rd July, 2026

From 6pm (free entrance & parking)

Grand Raffle drawn on the night - with many exciting prizes

Good Food, Bar & Entertainment
**A TRADITIONAL VILLAGE EVENT –
 GOOD FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

Tombola, Stalls & Games for ALL ages
 Plus the Tug of War Competition – entries on the night for any team of 6

*BBQ * Real Ale Bar * cider *
 wines and other refreshments
 available*

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 14th May &

Thursday 9th July at

7.15pm in Ampney Crucis
 Village Hall.

Ampney Crucis Pétanque Club

Our first game of the season was well supported and we managed two games before cold stopped play.

This year we will play every Monday at 3pm when we have a smaller group and Wednesday at 4pm when we usually have a full house. Please come along on a Monday to have a go and meet up with our members.

There are spare boules and you are most welcome to borrow them.

Contact info

Liz 07891525166

THE ROBERT PLEYDELL EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

Grants for local young people

Are you a student? Are you considering your next move? A levels? Degree? Apprenticeship? Vocational training?

Did you know that the Lord of the Manor of Ampney Crucis in 1722 was Robert Pleydell? He gifted land and buildings to the village to be invested and the income to be distributed to help support the village school, and also to help young people from the village going into apprenticeships, further education or with essential costs of starting work.

You may be eligible for a grant from The Robert Pleydell Educational Charity to help with essential expenditure on books, equipment or field work, though applications for help with other essential costs will be considered.

To qualify you must be between 16 and 24 years old on 1st September, 2026 and either live in the parish of Ampney Crucis or your parents are on the Ampney Crucis Electoral Roll as at 1st September, 2026.



If you are interested in applying for a grant, then please email me at holt.neil@btinternet.com. Please note, the closing date for applications is 31st August 2026. The trustees will discuss applications and allocate grants at their September meeting and all applicants will be contacted shortly thereafter. Late submissions will not be accepted so please make sure that your application reaches me on time.

Mr Neil Holt
Robert Pleydell Educational Charity



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

Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club

Do you want a chance to win £100, 5 times each year?

If so, join the Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club and you will be helping to maintain our ancient village church! Prize Draws will take place four times each year, starting in June 2026 and wherever possible at village events.

Each Prize Draw will award one Prize of £100 and two Prizes of £25 each and an extra prize of £100 will be awarded at each December Prize Draw. For every share that you buy in the Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club, you will have at least: 5 chances to win £100 or 8 chances to win £25

The cost of EACH share will be £12 per annum, payable in advance.

The more shares you buy, the greater your chances of winning a cash prize and ALL surplus proceeds will be used to help with the upkeep of our old and much loved parish church.

If you want to be part of the 100 Club PLEASE e-mail Sue Philips at soupsphilips@gmail.com or call her on 07887 847906.

Ampney Times incl. Parish News May - June 2026

The Ampney's Gardening Club

As spring starts, after the horrible winter, and gardens begin to burst with colour, April becomes one of the busiest and most exciting months in the gardening calendar with warmer days, longer evenings, and fresh new growth happening.

Meeting Thursday 19th February 2026

This was a presentation by Julie Ritchie titled 'Small is beautiful – Easy Alpines'. This was a very interesting talk illustrated with lots of photographs and images of plants and gardens. It was not only about Alpines but also Low Growing Perennials with an index supplied of each image to identify the plants. There were many examples of plants for members to consider for their gardens and at the end Julie had some plants for sale which proved very popular.

Ampneys Gardening Club AGM

This was held on **Thursday 19th March at 7pm** in the Ampney Crucis Village Hall attended by 27 members. Barbara presented a combined Chair and Treasurers report. The Club's finances are currently in a good position. Key highlights of the year were: a strong membership of 50, the visits to Hannington Village Gardens and Down Ampney House, the popular Plant Sale, the successful New Year Lunch, 2 compost orders giving members preferential prices, 5 excellent presentations from speakers and the Summer Social evening. The Committee for 2026/27 was elected. The planned events for the year were described by Sue with thanks to Jackie for all she has done in the previous 6 years. In summary it was a fantastic year for the Club.



Gardening Club Plant Sale – 18th April 2026

This has taken place with a full report being provided in the next issue of the Ampney Times.

Meeting Thursday 21st May 2026

This will be shared with the Down Ampney Gardening Club where there will be a talk by Margie Hoffnung titled; 'Westonbirt School – A Historical Introduction to the Gardens and the Holford Legacy'. This sounds especially interesting so let us make sure that we have a big turnout of members.

Open Gardens Visit 9th July 2026

A reminder of the visit to the amazing RHS Badminton Flower Show on 9th July. Members should book their own tickets, and we will plan to meet up on the day. For more information and any questions, please contact **Jackie on: mjgluning@outlook.com**,

Thanks to everyone for your continued support

Barbara, Chair

News from Ampney Churches

Church Services for May 2026

Sunday 3rd May	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	11.00am	Down Ampney	Parish Communion
	* NB NB time*.		
	6.00pm	Ampney St Mary	Evensong
Sunday 10th May	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Driffield	Parish Communion
Wednesday 13th May	12 noon	Poulton	Communion followed by light lunch
Sunday 17th May	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Ampney Crucis	Parish Communion
Sunday 24th May	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Poulton	Parish Communion
Sunday 31st May	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Ampney St Peter	Parish Communion

Church Services for June 2026

Sunday 7th June	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Down Ampney	Parish Communion
	6:00pm	Ampney St Mary	Evensong
Sunday 14th June	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Driffield	Parish Communion
Sunday 21st June	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Ampney Crucis	Parish Communion
Wednesday 24th June	12 noon	Poulton	Communion followed by light lunch
Sunday 28th June	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Poulton	Parish Communion
From the Register:			
	March	Baptism	Angus Mc Cloud
	April	Baptism	Ezra Ritchie
			Ampney Crucis
			Ampney Crucis

News from Ampney Churches

Can you help our ancient church to stay open to serve future generations?

Our village church dates back at least 1,000 years to before the Norman conquest in 1066 and is almost certainly the oldest surviving part of our village. It has seen many changes since then, including 47 known Vicars and Rectors since 1304!

Village churches such as ours receive no financial support from either the Church of England or from central Government. Until very recently, we were able to recover VAT paid on essential maintenance, but the Government has withdrawn that.

Rural churches across the country are closing and we don't want to risk Ampney Crucis being one of those.

Our church is managed by a small group of unpaid volunteers but it still costs an average of £23 per day, every day, just to keep the church maintained and open.

In addition, over the last 10 years, we have raised and spent over £360,000 on conservation work to the church building, the organ and the churchyard, again with no support from the Church of England. We would like to do more to make the church building more accessible for village activities.

We really appreciate the regular financial support we receive from less than 30 current or former village residents which, together with collections taken at services and fees charged for weddings and funerals (shared with the Church of England), help us to cover our basic running costs.

We also appreciate the help and support given by the Parish Council in maintaining the churchyard and CP Jefferies Ltd in maintaining our elderly heating system, but we do need to increase our regular income.

Would you be prepared to make a regular contribution, however small to help us?

If so, please contact me or Doug Benham (PCC Secretary) – our contact details are shown below.

Regular payments can be made by Standing Order or more easily by Direct Debit through the Parish Giving Scheme. We can make any necessary arrangements.

Please consider helping us to keep our ancient church open and accessible for future generations of villagers and others.

Thank you for reading this.

Neil Holt
Treasurer,
Ampney Crucis Parochial Church Council

Neil Holt e-mail: holt.neil@btinternet.com or
mobile 07885 202050

Doug Benham e-mail: doug@dougbenham.com
or mobile 07920 010372

News from Ampney Churches

At the time of writing Easter week is upon us – spring has sprung, the clocks have been changed to British Summer Time, leaves are emerging from their winter dormancy, tulips are blooming and things are looking hopeful.

Within the Christian church this is also a time of renewal and hope for the future. The resurrection of Jesus, and his ascension to Heaven forty days later – Ascension Day is marked on May 14th this year, and a midweek communion will be held in Poulton Church with a soup lunch – see details of church services within this newsletter.

By the time of reading we should have finished our Easter Eggs and perhaps be working off those delicious calories by spring cleaning our homes and tending our rapidly blooming gardens. Those flowers will cheer us, keep the bees busy and provide fruit and vegetables to sustain us through the year. Our churches hope to do the same for our communities!

We are hopeful that we will soon be able to announce a new vicar – although the first advertisement produced no applicants by the deadline date we have not lost heart, and the second advertisement is in the system. We are sure that before long a new face will be welcomed in all our villages, and we look forward to renewed vigour in our churches and parishes. We have been blessed by the hard work of the local clergy who have stepped in to lead services during this period and by those in the church community who have trained to become lay preachers, as well as all the hard work ‘behind the scenes’ by other volunteers. This means we can continue to provide regular services and community activities throughout our area.

A neighbour recently passed on an article from Country Life about celebrating the Saint’s Day in their village church. Which prompted a thought – should we know more about and do more to celebrate our saints? Saint Peter and Saint Mary are commemorated in the village names – but did you know there used to be an Ampney Saint Nicholas? This was the area around the Red Lion pub. Both Poulton and Harnhill are dedicated to Saint Michael & All Angels – and Saint Mary is also commemorated at Driffield. St Michael’s Day – Michaelmas - is observed on the quarter day of 29th September. While many days are associated with Mary, the official Feast Day of St Mary the Virgin takes place on August 15th. Ampney St Peter held their last communal Village Lunch in the churchyard on St Peter & St Paul’s Day last year – 29th June. An old tradition renewed?

Finally we welcome new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, and hope for renewed focus on the challenges faced by rural churches across the country.

Ampney Crucis WI

In March members and guests learned all about the Country Women's Association, Australia from Pepper Mills, queen of the Cotswolds and her lady's companion Elektra Lux. Our speaker was suitably coiffed with a huge hairstyle, killer heels and large spectacles.



The topic was well researched and interspersed with anecdotes and songs. Refreshments enjoyed by all included various sweet treats popular in Australia.

Reminder to members, Subs were due in April.
Speakers Thursday 28th May Indian Spices with Nasim Desai.
Thursday 25th June The History of shoes. Sally Ferrers.
Visitors always welcome.
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.

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

As we approach the start of the new cricket season it is now a busy time for the Club. There is lots going on which makes the year ahead a very exciting one with our first match on 18 April.

Fixtures

We have got over 20 cricket matches currently booked which is fantastic, and these include 4 games for an Ampney Crucis team. Our agreement with Kempford CC is going well and they have 12 matches booked during the year. They are proving to be good partners, and they will be participating in ground preparation and maintenance, So, lots to look out for and everyone is welcome to come and watch and we will be posting the fixtures in due course.

Company Status

The ACCC became an incorporated company on 30 January and from 29 January we were registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) with HMRC. This puts the Club in a very good place with regard to fundraising and Gift Aid benefits with fundraising being a priority.

The Cricket Grounds and Pavilion

The square and pitches are now having the final touches carried out following the remedial work carried out at the end of last season. This is being done under the supervision of Charlie Robinson to whom we are very grateful.

An amazing transformation has been carried out over the last few months. The changing rooms and reception area have been completely redecorated and looks amazing. A big thank you to Linda Benham and Dave Broadhurst for their hard work. A new water heater has been installed so we now have a reliable supply of hot water available and thanks to Heather and Charlie Jefferies for installing this. Other enhancements, such as lighting (thanks to Binna and Gerry) have also been carried out to ensure the Pavilion is 'fit for purpose' for the new season.

ACCC Membership

We are now inviting our existing ACCC members to renew their membership for 2026/27. The fee will remain the same at £10 for the year. We will also update members on the added-value benefits we are planning to offer. We hope that current members will renew as their support was invaluable last year in getting the Club established. We are always looking for more volunteers to assist us in carrying out various tasks so if anyone can help, please let me know.

The ACCC Committee

We are looking out for another person to join The ACCC Committee. If anyone is interested and can add value to what we are doing, please contact me.

Thanks for your support, Mike Fielder, Chair

Village Hall

The Village Hall AGM

The AGM was held on March 18 2026. Three members of the public attended. Anne Bridges was re-elected as Chair and secretary and Mark Gluning will continue as Treasurer and Booking Secretary.

Our annual accounts were presented and checked/verified by Bridget Lazenby.

The Committee comprises 11 members, 7 of whom are Trustees as specified by our Trust deed. Details of the Committee have been posted on the Village Hall noticeboard.

Hall Heating

One point of discussion has been how to judge a suitable temperature in the Hall. We have no wish for hirers to be cold and we are happy to adjust the thermostat according to each groups needs so please feel free to contact us.

Car Boot Sale

Our next fundraising event will be a joint Car Boot sale with the Cricket Club to be held on the Cricket Ground on Sunday 17th May. The gate will open for sellers at 8am and from 9am for buyers. Look out for posters throughout the village and beyond. All proceeds will be divided equally. Please support either by having a 'Boot', donating some items to sell on the joint table or even coming along as a buyer.

Thanks for your support.

Anne

Chair

Ampney Flix

March's film was a bit of a venture into uncharted territory as our chosen title, Lee, starring Kate Winslet, has not been issued as a dvd in this country. Amazon only sold it with Polish Subtitles which reviewers said couldn't be removed. So, not to be deterred we 'streamed' it via a mobile phone and it worked very well. Well done Hazel ! At the end of the school term we put on a showing of Charlottes Web for the children, popcorn and spider web decorated cakes replacing the Kit Kats.

A blip in our diary means film night in April will be now be on Wednesday 29th April. We then return to the usual formula of the 4th Wednesday of the month, 27th May and 24th June. Prompt start at 7.30pm. Half time Interval with hot drink. Titles will be advertised on the village WhatsApp and Psst! Or contact bridgsae@aol.com



Ampney Crucis Cricket Ground Sunday 17th May 9am to 12 noon

Sellers £7 per car, £10 per van (from 8am)

Buyers £1 per car (from 9am)

All proceeds to the Ampney Crucis Village Hall and Cricket Club

Enjoy Barista Coffee and Refreshments

Enquiries:

Binna: binnarobinson@gmail.com



Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra (CSO) will give a concert in Cirencester Parish Church on Saturday 16 May, at 7.30pm to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of local charity The Churn Community Hub (formerly The Churn Project).

'A Celebration of Contrasts' will bring wit, mystery, and majesty to Cirencester with music by Brahms, Schubert and Saint-Saens.

Under the baton of conductor David Curtis, CSO will begin the evening with Brahms' Academic Festival Overture, a playful and exuberant tribute to student life in the University of Breslau in Poland. From there, the haunting beauty of Schubert's masterpiece of lyrical melancholy and emotional depth, his Unfinished Symphony, will fill the Parish Church. Finally, there will be Saint-Saens' Symphony No. 3, the magnificent 'Organ Symphony', where orchestral brilliance meets the grandeur of the organ, played by Cirencester Parish Church's very own Director of Music, Thomas Hawkes.

CSO is an ensemble of committed and experienced amateur, student and professional musicians who play a huge variety of classical pieces throughout the year in various venues in and around Gloucestershire. Their decision to support The Churn Community Hub with this celebratory concert will help raise vital funds to enable the charity to continue its vital work, which supports anyone in Cirencester and surrounding villages who is at a point of crisis or transition in their lives or who is experiencing loneliness or mental health issues. Last year the charity directly supported over 1,700 people from across the community through a mix of group activities and one-to-one support.

To book online visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheltenhamsymphonyorchestra, or call 0333 666 3366.

To find out more about The Churn Community Hub, to support, or volunteer for us, please visit www.thechurn.org.uk.

Useful contact details

Village Hall	Mark Gluning	07922036826	
			acvillagehallbookings@gmail.com
	Anne Bridges	01285 652471	bridgesae@aol.com
Play Group	Katriona Millard	07496860758	Katmillard2019@icloud.com
Social Bridge	Carol Thompson		carol@richardandcarol.net
AC Cricket Club	Doug Benham	07920 010372	doug@dougbenham.com
	Mike Fielder	07968 565482	miketfielder@yahoo.co.uk
WI	Anne Bridges	01285 652471	bridgesae@aol.com
Gardening Club	Barbara Fullick	07960 113752	fullick.ba@gmail.com
	Doug Benham	07920 010372	
Yoga	Daria	07732 529297	lammenowyoga@hotmail.com
Yoga	Rosanna Armitage	07773 474717	
Adult Ballet	Jenny Gaden	07713 044702	purplejen11@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates	Jenny Gaden	07713 044702	purplejen11@hotmail.co.uk
Petanque	Liz Anderson	07891525166	

Village Marquee Hire: Rosanna Armitage rosannaarmitage@gmail.com

Village Network

Keep up to date with village events and important notices by subscribing to the Village Network, otherwise known as Psst!

Simply email psst@ampneycrucis.org.uk

The Ampney Crucis village WhatsApp group is used as a village information exchange group for sharing info and news.

If you want to join, please WhatsApp Jennie Haden on 07884118050 asking to be added to the group.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of The Ampney Times. If anyone would like to contribute to future editions, please email Roz Morton at clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk. Copy to be received by **5th June for July/August** edition. Contributions and photos are welcome and are included at the Editors discretion.