

Ampney Times

Ampney Crucis and Surrounding Villages

Editor

clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk

01285 283220

Letter from Ampney Crucis Parish Council

A warm welcome to this summer edition of The Ampney Times

An exceptionally cold first half of May gave way to an unprecedented heatwave over the Bank Holiday weekend. The warmest spring on record for England and Wales provided challenges and the water outage on the 28th May certainly didn't help.

On 12th May, four Parish Councillors attended a Town and Parish Council Forum run by Cotswold District Council at the Royal Agricultural University. Updates on the proposed developments around the district were discussed. The Local Plan will go to consultation in late August for a six-week period, however the papers will be available from early July for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider. The Residents' Action Group continues its sterling work in opposing the development of 660 houses in the Parish with the full support of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council looks forward the publication of the conservation area appraisal for Ampney Crucis. This assessment of the special architectural and historic character of Ampney Crucis will hopefully help to protect the Parish in the face of unprecedented planning proposals.

The Parish Council has finally been given the go ahead to replace the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on the London Road. Works to erect the sign are scheduled to begin soon, so fingers crossed.

We wish all the leavers of Ampney Crucis Church of England Primary School lots of success in their next journey in education!



Photo by Jacky Leadbeater

July - August 2026

Contents:

Petanque Club: pg 2

Pleydell Trust: pg 3

Parish News: pg 4-6

W I: pg 7

Communit-tea: pg 7

Ampney Crucis Cricket Club: pg 8

Harnhill Centre: Pg 9

ACRAG: pg 10

Village Hall: pg 11

Ampney Flix: pg 11

Car boot: pg 12

Harnhill Tug o War: page 13

Gardening Club: pg 14-15

School Fete: pg 15

Useful contact info: pg 16

Community news

Ampney Crucis Pétanque Club

We played our first game of the season in early April in fine weather.

The highlight of the month was afternoon tea for members who had so much to celebrate.

Phil reached 90, still looking years younger and playing like a demon and Marlene and Dave celebrated 60 years of marriage and are still talking to each other! (Only joking Dave).

We were lucky to be able to use the newly renovated cricket pavilion for tea as it was a bit chilly.

We had a super spread of sandwiches and cake including fizz to toast the occasion.

We play every Wednesday at 4pm, then again on Monday at 3pm for those who can make it. If you want to give it a go then this is the best day for you when it is quieter.

Contact info

Liz 07891525166



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 9th July &
Thursday 10th September
at 7.15pm in Ampney
Crucis Village Hall.

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?

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 to 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, please email me at holt.neil@btinternet.com.

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.

The origins of the Robert Pleydell Educational Charity may be viewed on the village website at [The Robert Pleydell Educational Charity - Ampney Crucis](#)

Neil Holt

Chair of trustees, The 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 Flowers Rota

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help out or arrange flowers in our church. It really does brighten our church, and we receive lots of lovely comments from locals and visitors. If you would like to help out and/or join our rota, please contact Michelle on 07912 230021. Thank you.

News from Ampney Churches

Church Services for July and August 2026

Sunday 5th July	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	11.00am	Down Ampney	Parish Communion
	Nb TIME		
	6.00pm	Ampney St Mary	Evensong
Sunday 12th July	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10.00am	Driffield	Parish Communion
Sunday 19th July	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Ampney Crucis	Parish Communion
Wednesday 22nd July	12 noon	Poulton	Communion followed by light lunch
Sunday 26th July	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Poulton	Parish Communion
.Sunday 2nd August	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Down Ampney	Parish Communion
Sunday 9th August	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Driffield	Parish Communion
Wednesday 12th August	12 noon	Poulton	Communion followed by light lunch
Sunday 16th August	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Ampney Crucis	Parish Communion
Sunday 23rd August	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00am	Poulton	Parish Communion
Sunday 30th August	10.00am	Harnhill	Word and Worship
	10:00 am	Ampney St Peter	Parish Communion

News from Ampney Churches

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Almost summer time and I hope you all have wonderful plans for the next couple of months; a holiday here or abroad, maybe plans to enjoy your gardens, visit friends, perhaps make interesting visits locally or even just enjoying your home. Whatever your choice may you enjoy to the full. I have to admit that the end of May was too hot for me and certainly for my pooch who occupied pole position in front of the fan!! Even though the longest day is near, 21st June, and though the days will be getting shorter gradually there is still light up to 8.30pm.

I thought to update you on the current (or lack of) progress with our quest for a new Vicar. The advert was again launched in April's edition of the Church Times (this is a quarterly publication) and I regret to say that we received no response at all. The Churchwardens subsequently asked to meet with the Archdeacon Katrina (to do nothing is Folly) in order to revisit the way forward. For the time being the Diocese is NOT revising the job description! To clarify, that is to say that the position advertised remains as a House for Duty Priest. I wonder if anyone of you has had the time to look at the advert but as a group we now feel that perhaps the job advert could be somewhat off putting as it is indeed a big job for 2 ½ to 3 days per week and for very little monetary reward (and definitely no pension) which maybe is not of interest? The Archdeacon was reminded of her statement in January when she said that IF a person is interested in applying for the position but as a full time Priest then the Diocese would reconsider their stance. Meanwhile Kempsford is still available too but this is as full time clergy post. Being quite bold here, yes, it is an extraordinary fact that there appears to have been a complete lack of vision to see that the clergy numbers are heavy on retirement age – indeed currently half the stipendary clergy are age 55 or over! However on a brighter note, more curates are currently being trained/ordained so we can hope and pray for our situation to be resolved in due course. On a realistic note I honestly believe that we shall not have a resident Priest this side of Christmas – I do sincerely hope that I am proved totally wrong?

With our team of Lay Worship Leaders, Churchwardens and the register of retired clergy available for us to call upon, we are able to maintain the rhythm of weekly services – ensuring pastoral care is available as required as well as finding ways to support the children at our 2 schools. The principle service is 10:00am Parish Communion EVERY Sunday, rotated through the Benefice in the main 4 Churches (Down Ampney 1st Sunday of the month, Driffield 2nd Sunday etc, Ampney Crucis and Poulton) and where there is a 5th Sunday in the month then the service will be at Ampney St Peter. The 12 noon service of prayer and communion at Poulton on 3rd OR 4th Wednesday of the month followed by a light lunch, consisting principally of soup n roll, conversations and a general feeling of well-being and inclusion continues to be very successful.

Of course, there are Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals to arrange too. At Ampney Crucis it has been a busy year so far with a Memorial Service, 4 Baptisms to date plus 7 weddings booked for 2026 and 3 already booked for 2027!

Our thoughts then turn to the Parish Share; this is the amount EACH PCC pays the Diocese of which just under 60% goes towards Vicars' stipends and pensions. Church plate collections are generally down at present so the Treasurers are going to strongly and respectfully suggest to the Diocese that our individual Parish Shares are reduced – watch this space!!! After all the “void” is currently being filled by volunteer roles, quietly working many hours in the background to effect the smooth running of the Benefice.

The funds raised by individual PCCs for their respective churches also goes towards their upkeep. All the buildings are old and overall are in good repair but as ever with old buildings you never know. No funding is received from the Church of England and the never ending task of fundraising and grant seeking can be a daunting task – even more so now that the Government has removed the ability to reclaim the VAT so a further 20% has to be sought . Again at Ampney Crucis you may have noticed ladders and scaffolding at the church which was necessary to install, in order to effect repairs and refix broken slates, coping stones etc. The job is envisaged to be complete by the end of June.

I would like to say a huge thank you to you All who continue to support our churches in your various ways; whether by your attendance at Church, attendance at any of our myriad of fundraising events, keeping graveyards tidy, joining in or helping to ensure that our churches (which are so much more than buildings), are a living, welcoming place and a joy to be in.

Wishing you All a wonderful happy Summertime.

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

From the Register

May

Baptism	Winnie Matthew	Ampney Crucis
Memorial Service	Desmond Keen	Ampney Crucis

Ampney Crucis WI

We are pleased to welcome 4 new members, which brings our numbers up to 31.

Dates.

Thursday 23rd July - Visit to The Ivy Church 2pm. Followed by tea and scones at The Cricket Pavilion, Ampney Crucis, with opportunity to watch or play a game of boules.

Thursday 27th August - Backpacking along the Silk Road with James and Rosanna Armitage. 7.30pm start. Visitors welcome to join us and hear of their exploits! Contact Anne so we have enough cake!

Inspired by The Red Dress Project, where women from 51 countries embroidered panels of red silk to form a magnificent dress which now tours the world; members of Gloucestershire WI are going to be working on a calico 'sister dress.' Still at the design stage with the theme No More Violence Against Women, ideas are being sought from members on how to convey words into images for the dress. Our first task is to embroider our name which will be placed on the hem of the dress with 101 other Institutes from the county. We will follow this project with interest and possibly be able to offer some assistance as it evolves.

Community-Tea Is Returning

We shall be back in the Village Hall in October on the first Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm as usual.

Please come and join us for Cake, Sausage Rolls and Tea/Coffee.

Thank you for your support and help to run this monthly get together. It's always a joy to see you all. Please get in touch if you'd like to help out .

Michelle, Linda and Chris

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

The new cricket season for us started on 18th April when Kempsford CC played a pre-season game. Following all the work that had been carried out on the pitches pre-season we hoped that the wicket would result in a good game. The feedback we received from Kempsford was very positive.

Since then we have had 7 matches played at our ground by teams including: Tamil Nadhu, Kempsford and Siddington. We now have a series of games booked going forward and we are expecting a busy summer. The first Ampney Crucis team game is planned for 19th June against Old Pilotonians. We have a team selected and have struck a good balance between experienced and novice players, young and old. This and future teams will prioritise maximum participation while ensuring we remain competitive.

We have 5 pitches available on the square and the work is carried out under the supervision of Charlie Robinson to ensure that the pitches are match-ready. We are really grateful to him for doing this. We recently purchased a specialist mower to prepare the pitches to a high standard which has been very beneficial. We also shared with Kempsford the purchase of a cricket net for practice.

The amazing transformation carried out over the last few months has been well-received and teams have commented positively on the improvements made. The next phase of improvements are now being planned, including: carpeting/flooring, shower floors, restrooms, external painting as well the installation of some pictures

We are continuously looking to identify ways of improving our financial situation to provide funds to invest in improving the ground and its facilities. On May 17th a successful Car Boot Sale was held in conjunction with the Village Hall, and we will be planning a fundraising event in the autumn/winter so please watch this space.

In April, we invited our existing ACCC members to renew their membership for 2026/27 and we have been delighted with the response. There is still the opportunity for those members who have not renewed to do so or for new members to join. This can be done by paying the £10 fee direct to the Ampney Crucis Cricket Club bank account (Sort 23-05-80, account 56111611) or by contacting Doug Benham (doug@dougbenham.com). Thank you in anticipation.

On joining we will be issuing Membership Cards and will be updating members on a some added-value benefits from being a member.

Volunteers

We are very grateful to all our volunteers who help with ground preparations and pavilion works but we are always looking out for additional volunteers to assist our team so if you feel you can help in any way, please contact me.

Thanks for your support, Mike Fielder, Chair



Join us at Harnhill

Summer 2026

Throughout the summer, there are several opportunities each week at Harnhill to step away from the busyness of everyday life and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Harnhill, including time to receive prayer on Wednesday evening and Friday Morning.

Weekly Services

Prayer Ministry and Compline Service

Wednesday Evenings - 7:30pm - 9pm

Healing Service and Prayer Ministry

Friday Morning - 11am

Refreshments from 10:30am

Sunday - Morning

Morning Worship Service 10am

The Dwelling Place Cafe



Please see the website for Cafe dates

No booking is required so please do join us.

Retreats Coming Up

We also have a range of retreats coming up, offering space for rest, reflection, and renewal:

- **Silent Retreat Weekend 10th - 12th July**
- **Creative Weekend 24th - 26th July** (only spaces left day guests)
- **Retiring Well 31st - 2nd Aug**
- **Personal Retreats: we have a number of dates and availability in July and August.**

For dates and further details, please visit our website or contact our bookings team.

www.harnhillcentre.org.uk

Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing, Harnhill, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 5PX
CIO Registered in England and Wales CEO 12520 Charity No 1176053

Ampney Crucis Residents Action Group

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended the Conservation Area Character Appraisal public consultation events and took the opportunity to meet Natalie and Victoria of NCF Heritage. Your involvement has been invaluable. Thanks to such impressive participation, the Parish Council and the Residents Action Group (RAG) working party have now received the initial draft of the reappraisal. The document is thorough, and we look forward to submitting it to Cotswold District Council (CDC) and sharing its findings with the wider village community.

Looking ahead, CDC will launch the next stage of public consultation for the new housing plan, Regulation 19, in August. Meanwhile, the Residents Action Group has been busy behind the scenes, reviewing multiple fee proposals from planning consultants and narrowing the list to two excellent candidates. We anticipate that, by the time you read this, we will have commissioned our preferred consultant. Their role will be to conduct a comprehensive gap analysis of our Regulation 18 submission, highlight areas needing improvement, and advise us on strengthening our case. This preparation will ensure we are ready should the plan move forward to Regulation 19.

Thanks to the efforts of proactive residents, we have submitted numerous Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Requests (EIR) to CDC, Thames Water, and the Environmental Agency. As our collection of information grows, it will serve as a valuable resource throughout the ongoing process.

To further our outreach, we are launching a dedicated ACRAG website and establishing social media channels. However, with our workload increasing, we are finding ourselves somewhat stretched. Recognising the importance of maintaining a strong and clear public profile, we are seeking someone with marketing/communications expertise to help run these workstreams including developing our online message content. If you possess these skills, have the time and are interested in supporting us, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Ampney Crucis Residents Action Group

Village Hall

In June we invited previous members of the Committee, some of whom were in post in the 1980's, to come along and see what the Hall looks like today. We were able to show them the newly refurbished kitchen, the batteries in the storeroom, the solar panels and the redecorated main hall. Our thoughts went back to Mr and Mrs Godden who were the hall caretakers, to Paddy and Peggy Thompson, Sir Anthony Bonham, Ken Butler, Gerald Gaden, Peter Payne, Beryl Dunford and Sheila Beresford to name a few no longer with us, who gave their time for the Village Hall. Each year the Committee sign a form of declaration stating we agree to act in the interests of the Hall as laid down by the Trust deeds, so our future should be secure for as long as the village needs a community building and we continue with good housekeeping.

Tai chi based exercise class

Come join us for some gentle exercise
Mondays 2.00pm - 3.00pm.
Tutor Denise Nethercott
Details from Anne bridgesae@aol.com

Ampney Flix

Next showing Wednesday
22nd July and Wednesday
26th August.

Prompt start at 7.30pm.
Suggested donation £5.
Last month we were
pleased to welcome a
couple of Americans
staying at an Airb and b in
the village and two who
had cycled through the
village during the day,
seen the sign and decided
to join us for the evening!

The title of the film will be
advertised on the village
What's App and the Psst!.
Otherwise contact Anne
bridgesae@aol.com.

Film suggestions always
welcomed.

Ampney Crucis Car Boot Sale

This was held on Sunday 17 May 2026 at the Ampney Crucis Cricket Ground, surely one of the prettiest venues for a Car Boot Sale. It was organised by members of both the Cricket Club and the Village Hall Committee who worked well together and were more than happy to share the proceeds.



The sale was well advertised throughout the area with posters, social media, and signage promoting it in Ampney Crucis and the surrounding villages which attracted a lot of interest.

We gathered at 7.30am on a sunny day with perfect conditions. Sellers started arriving and were directed to the sellers parking area. It became clear that it was going to be a busy day as the sellers kept on coming and when the buyers arrived from 9am it became even busier. At one point all the available parking on the Cricket Ground was virtually full.

The days success became clear when a total of over £1,000 was raised and was shared between the Cricket Club and the Village Hall.

A special thanks to everyone who helped on the day collecting fees, parking, operating very successful tables selling donations from villagers and other tasks carried out to result in a great day.





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*

The Ampneys Gardening Club

'June 21 is the longest day of the year, and the extra light and warmth encourages the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. This brings some of the first harvests from the vegetable garden'



Introduction

As spring changes into summer, the weather should improve. It has been a time of extreme conditions changing from cooler weather to being hot and dry creating challenges for gardeners. June is the peak growing season so it's the perfect time to plant heat-loving crops, move sensitive plants outdoors, and enjoy early harvests.

Gardening Club Plant Sale - 18 April 2026

A very successful plant sale was held in the Village Hall and was well supported by both villagers and local residents. Everyone enjoyed a wide range of plants to purchase, teas/coffee with an excellent range of cakes and of course lots of chat to friends and neighbours. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the day a great success. A total of over £500 was raised, which exceeded expectations.

Meeting Thursday 21 May 2026

A joint meeting with the Down Ampney Gardening Club was held in the Village Hall and over 40 people attended which was great to see. The highlight was a talk by Margie Hoffnung titled; *'Westonbirt School – A Historical Introduction to the Gardens and the Holford Legacy'*. Margie described the history of the gardens at the school supported by many photographs and images illustrating her talk. The gardens are amazing, probably the highlight being the Italian Garden dating from the Victorian era. The evening finished with a raffle.

Membership

I am very pleased to say that we now have a total of 52 members of the Gardening Club which has exceeded last years total. Thank you for your support.

Future Events

Open Gardens Outing - Sunday June 28 2026

A visit is planned to Blunsden Open Gardens, which will be open 12-5pm, with a plan for members to meet up for tea and a chat at 2.30pm. The entrance fee of £5 will be subsidised for members by the Gardening Club. Hope to see you there.

Open Gardens Visit - Thursday 9 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,

Summer Social - Thursday 20 August 2026

Please save the date as it is always a very enjoyable event.

Barbara
Chair



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 August for Sept/Oct** edition. Contributions and photos are welcome and are included at the Editors discretion.