

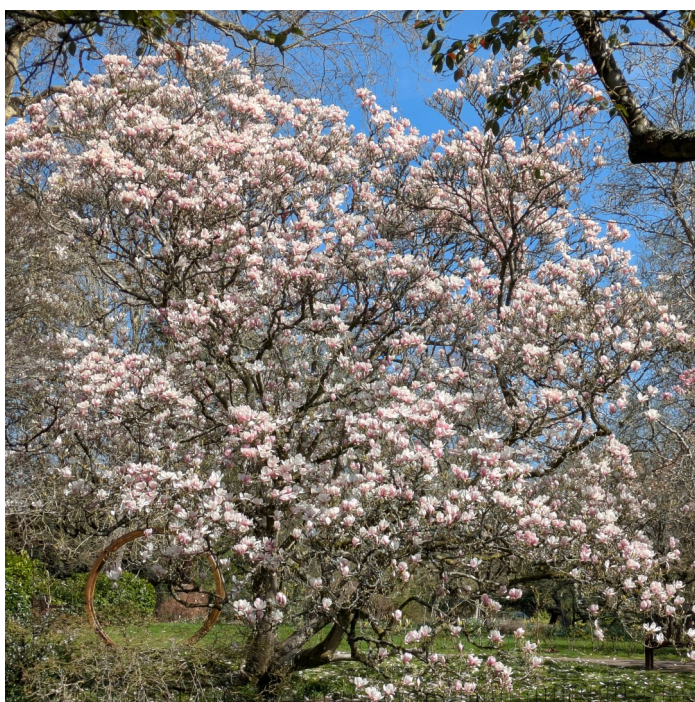


Hilmarton Parish

Spring 2026 Edition

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

*The Parish Council ~ St Laurence Church ~ The Primary School
Goatacre Sports and Social Club ~ The Chapel ~ Smile ~ Gardening Club
Pre-School ~ Bell Ringers ~ Goatacre Cricket Club*



After one of the wettest starts to the new year than anyone can remember, the first signs of spring are a welcome boost as we see nature bursting back into life. If this makes you feel energised, read on.

As well as lots of exciting events, there are some great opportunities for those looking to become more engaged in the local community. If you have any spare time on your hands, please do consider getting involved.

Looking ahead to the autumn, due to a change in formatting, you also have a chance to give some input into the design of the *Neighbourhood News*. If you would like to put forward ideas on content, design or even volunteer to write a regular feature, see page 14!

If you have new neighbours who are not already on our mailing list and would like to be added, please ask them to email Jacquie Henly at Jacquie88@btinternet.com. If you no longer wish to receive the *Neighbourhood News*, please also email Jacquie as above.

HILMARTON PARISH 200 CLUB

DECEMBER 2025 - Drawn on 05/01/25			
1 st PRIZE	£25.00	# 5	Hazel Moxey
2 nd PRIZE	£20.00	# 166	Piers Maynard
3 rd PRIZE	£15.00	# 10	Chloe Kew
4 th PRIZE	£10.00	# 94	Darren Brench-Kremer

JANUARY 2026 - Drawn on 02/02/26			
1 st PRIZE	£25.00	# 82	Jacquie Henly
2 nd PRIZE	£20.00	# 46	Rose Hoar
3 rd PRIZE	£15.00	# 186	Kim & Barry Watts
4 th PRIZE	£10.00	# 6	Rob Fry

Thank you to all our 200 Club members, we really appreciate the support our community shows.
For any further information, please contact Jacquie Henly on Tel: 07850 567068.

THE WILTSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY

Date	Time
Monday 9 th March	10.15am 10.45am
Monday 6 th April	10.15am 10.45am
*Monday 4 th May NB check online	Bank Holiday

Calling all booklovers, the Mobile Library Bus service is a great resource that makes scheduled visits to the School Hall carpark in Poynder Place.

For the most the up-to-date information (including changes to Bank Holiday dates) and further details about the Mobile Library service, please visit the Wiltshire Council website ([click here](#)).

HILMARTON SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2026

Calling All Hilmarton Residents - Please can you help us?



This year's Hilmarton Scarecrow Festival will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May 2026 and the theme is **Classic Family Games**.

This year we are raising money for our usual local causes and our chosen charity is Ridgeway Breast Care Support Group. Over the past 13 years we have raised £49,750 for the community and chosen charities which is a fantastic amount for the village **BUT** we really need your help for this event to continue.

We would love you to be involved in any way you can, be it making a scarecrow, buying some raffle tickets, baking a cake, helping on a stall for an hour or donating some unwanted items to the tombola.

As Tesco says, "Every Little Helps!!"

Raffle tickets will be available soon. Top prizes include £100, A luxury picnic hamper and an afternoon tea.

If you would like to help in any way, please get in touch on:

07765 244494 or via our Facebook page – Hilmarton Scarecrow Festival.

Best wishes from the Hilmarton Scarecrow Committee

If you would like to enter a scarecrow, please note that the entry deadline is:

NO LATER than Friday 27th March 2026.

Please note that the scarecrow entry form has been sent as an attachment to Jacqui's email together with this newsletter.

EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Bingo!

Every Tuesday
At Goatacre Village Hall
Doors Open 6:30pm
Eyes Down 7:45pm
Cash Prizes!

17

411

Goatacre Village Hall



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 7th March

DOORS OPEN 7.30PM | QUIZ STARTS 8PM

Don't miss our Quiz Night fun at Goatacre Village Hall! Come on and show your knowledge in an interactive quiz that is fun and challenging with your friends.

£2.50 PER PERSON | TEAMS OF 4-6

Goatacrevillagehall@gmail.com

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Bushton & Clyffe Pypard Women's Institute

welcomes new members. Our meetings are on each third Thursday at 7.15 in the Village Hall, Bushton.

Our spring meetings are:

19th March

An introduction to Tai Chi

by Mark Green



16th April

The History and Operations of the RNLI

by Mary Bentley

21st May our AGM

As well as a speaker, we have information and discussion about courses or trips and what the WI is doing on a county or national level. Then there is social time with refreshments – always delicious!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Madelaine Flight (madelaine_flight@outlook.com or 07748 075377) or Sally Fox (sally_fox@btinternet.com or 07568 311823). **Or just come!**

Hilmarton Community Room

by the School Hall in
Poynder Place

Sat March 21st

12 noon to 2pm

Sat April 18th

12 noon to 2pm



SOUP LUNCH

Come
And
Meet
Each
Other

Homemade soup
and bread roll
Pudding
Hot drink

Payment by donation.

Pay what you can
afford.

Relax and chat

ALL WELCOME

EVENTS IN THE PARISH



Cribbage Evening

Join us for a friendly evening of cards

Wednesday 25th March 2026
8pm start
Goatacre Village Hall

Open to all abilities



Hilmarton Scarecrow Festival
PRESENTS
CLASSIC FAMILY GAMES
SCARECROW FESTIVAL

9th & 10th MAY 2026
10AM - 4PM

SCARECROW TRAIL | BBQ | RAFFLE | REFRESHMENTS
TOMBOLA & LOTS MORE!

Raising money for The Ridgeway Breast Care Support Group and other local causes



Hilmarton Gardening Club & Local Area



Everyone is very welcome!

Meets fourth Tuesday of most months

7.30pm at Hilmarton School Hall, Poynder Place, Hilmarton SN11 8SQ

For more information and membership details, please email: hgcwiltsgmail.com

SPRING PROGRAMME



MAR 24

Adam Alexander
Recent adventures, discoveries & how we can all be seed heroes!



APRIL 28

Sally Flatman
Our Plant Stories

LOCAL EVENTS THIS SPRING

MARDEN HOUSE CONCERTS



Sunday 29th March at 3pm Ewan Millar (oboe) & Tomos Boyles (piano). This concert will be a celebration of music for oboe and piano played by two outstanding young performers. In 2020, Ewan won the woodwind final of BBC Young Musician of the Year, advancing to the Grand Final, and rising Welsh star, Tomos, is also rapidly carving out a career as a young and exciting concert pianist. They will be playing Ravel, Barber, Boulanger and Schumann.

Sunday 26th April at 3pm Joseph & Daniel Tong (piano duo). Brothers Joseph and Daniel have been playing together for over 30 years. Joseph is an accomplished soloist, having performed concertos and recital programmes at home and around the world. Daniel's life is spent with music, as solo and chamber pianist, teacher and writer. He has played at all the major venues and festivals in the UK and is frequently heard on BBC Radio. They will be playing both solo and piano duos by Schubert, Mozart and Chaminade.

If you are interested, please look at their website for booking details and more information on their 2026 programme: www.themardenhousecentre.com/concerts.html.

REME MUSEUM

REME has got a range of specialist talks, holiday kids activities and family friendly event days to keep the whole family busy this spring. [Subscribe to their newsletter](#) to be the first to hear about upcoming events. Please note that all events are subject to change, but they aim to give as much notice as possible of significant changes. Click on each of the links below to find out more.

[EASTER ENGINEERING WORKSHOPS](#)
[31ST March & 2ND APRIL](#)

[DIY EASTER CRAFTS](#)
[7TH & 10TH APRIL](#)



[SCI-FI DAY](#)
[18TH APRIL](#)



[WARTIME BRITAIN](#)
[9TH & 10TH MAY](#)

[MAY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES](#)
[26TH & 28TH MAY](#)

TIME FOR WILTSHIRE



Time for Wiltshire's 'What's on in Wiltshire, is an excellent resource to find out what's going on locally for the whole family. It is full of options for arts, music, theatre, food, walks, and so much more.

[Click here](#) to see what's happening in wonderful Wiltshire in March, April and May. For further information and ideas, their 'Timeless Wonders'; 'Timeless Nature'; 'Timeless Places'; and 'Timeless Pleasures' are also worth a look. [Click here](#) to view.

NO MOW MAY



Silent and wonderful May!

May, a month of new life unfolding, and yet across the country you can hear the noise of lawnmowers drowning out the sound of this new life.

Can we resist the urge to mow our lawns in May? Why?

By the seemingly simple act of 'tidying' our gardens, it has profound consequences for our biodiversity.

May is the peak season for pollinators; bumblebees, honeybees, and countless Solitary Bees are frantically foraging, gathering nectar and pollen crucial for their survival and the propagation of wildflowers and plants which we all enjoy. A freshly mowed lawn is a wasteland for these vital creatures. It destroys their food source, their nesting sites hidden in the grass and their sheltered pathways.

The slightly unkempt lawn in May is a haven, teeming with life and tiny ecosystems beneath our feet.

Mowing in May also disturbs the balance for other creatures; ground-nesting birds lose their nests, larvae and insects vital to the food chain are destroyed. A wild lawn allows these organisms to flourish.

Letting your grass grow long in May is not about laziness; it is an act of environmental stewardship. It's about recognising the intrinsic value of the natural world even in our own back gardens.

So, this coming May, PLEASE resist the urge, let the grass grow and watch our wonderful world of nature unfold.



WHAT'S ON AT THE DUKE HOTEL & DUCHESS LOUNGE

The Duchess Lounge
HILMARTON

[Click here for details.](#)

MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA

Available from the 11th of March until the 15th of March

£50 for two

Our usual afternoon tea tier + a glass of prosecco each & a small potted succulent (including tea or coffee, scones, jam, clotted cream, sandwiches & mini patisserie bites)

The Duke Hotel
HILMARTON

MOTHER'S DAY 2026

ENJOY OUR USUAL SUNDAY ROAST MEAL WITH A GLASS OF PROSECCO FOR ALL MOMS COMING ON THE DAY.

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE, BOOKING ONLY

[Click here for details.](#)

WWW.DUKEHOTELHILMARTON.CO.UK
01249760634
IG/FB @DUKEHOTELHILMARTON

6PM TO 10PM
18th March

QUIZ & FRENCH NIGHT

£15

Towards the Quiz prize & food
Choice of Coq au vin (qɑɑ dʁɑ) or

6PM TO 10PM
22nd April

QUIZ & THAI NIGHT

£15

Towards the Quiz prize & food
Choice of Massaman chicken curry

20th May

Quiz & Mexican Night

£15 Towards Quiz prize & food



Easter at The Duke Hotel

[Click here for details.](#)

JOIN US ON SUNDAY THE 5TH OF APRIL 2025

PUB OPEN FROM 11:30 AM TO 7 PM
EASTER EGGS AVAILABLE IN OUR GARDEN FOR ALL KIDS COMING FOR SUNDAY LUNCH



For more details about The Duke Hotel and The Duchess Lounge, please visit their website: www.dukehotelhilmarton.co.uk

HILMARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Jeff Files 01249 760336	John Henly (Chairman) 07901 750564	Jasmine McFadzean 01249 760611
Rob Fry 07900 526369	Wendy Leaning 01249 760112	Shawn Warren-Willcox 07545 322101
Lynne Hays 01249 760535	Piers Maynard 01249 760621	Mel Wilkins 07443 940367

Clerk to the Parish Council: Jacquie Henly
Tel: 07850 567068 E-mail: Jacquie88@btinternet.com



The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Wednesday 4th March** and the Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 6th May**, both at **8pm** in the Community Room, Hilmarton. Anyone can attend the PC meetings; there is a break for residents of the Parish to ask questions or bring something to the attention of the council. Questions should be submitted to the Clerk prior to the meeting, as this will aid a quicker response.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Wiltshire Council Customer Service: 0300 4560100 or customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk

Highways Emergency Faults: 0300 4560100 or northernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk

Calne Town Council: Telephone: 01249 814000 Website: <https://www.calne.gov.uk/>

If there is a cause for concern, including blocked gullies and drains that need clearing, please report to Wiltshire Council using: MyWilts: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting

Parish Defibrillators:

- **Hilmarton** - on the wall by the car park at the School/Community Room, SN11 8SQ
- **Goatacre** - on the wall by the Cricket Club/Village Hall, SN11 9JA

Emergency Contact Hubs: These are located at Hilmarton Church and Goatacre Village Hall and are designated to act as a venue for communities to come together to help one another in an incident. To find out more information please contact the Parish Council or visit: 'Wiltshire and Swindon Prepared' online at wiltshireandswindonprepared.org.uk.

Please be respectful and considerate to others



Parking: Residents and visitors are respectfully asked not to park on the pavements, as there are a number of people with disabilities and also young families living in the parish with prams and pushchairs, and having to walk into the road is difficult and dangerous. Please also keep junctions clear for emergency services.



Dog Litter: Please be considerate to others and pick up your dog litter and place it in the bins provided.



Refuse Collections: General Refuse, Recycling and Garden Waste Collections are emptied fortnightly. Please note that only rubbish put into wheelie bins or WC bin liners will be collected. For more details about household collection dates and recycling centres, please visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

GOATACRE VILLAGE HALL

- Open evenings and Sunday lunchtime (see Facebook page for weekly opening times)
- Tuesday Night Bingo
- Fully licensed bar at club prices
- Well-appointed hall to hire for function
- Fully equipped kitchen to hire
- Skittle alley and pool table
- Large car park

Goatacre village Hall Enquiries/Bookings

Please contact **Katrina Wilkins**

goatacrevillagehall@gmail.com or 07999 291905

All our prices are on our website

www.goatacrevillagehall.co.uk

GOATACRE SKITTLES LEAGUE

Contact Adam Iles: 07786 225313

CHURCH BELLRINGERS

PRACTICE NIGHTS ARE MONDAYS FROM 7.30PM TO 9PM AND THE BELLS ARE RUNG FOR MOST SERVICES. NEW RINGERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, AS ARE INTERESTED VISITORS.

CONTACT:

TOWER CAPTAIN

STEVE STOTT 07746 695500

'SMILE GROUP'

Smile Group is an all age gathering which meets on alternate Tuesdays from 10am - 11.30am in the Church Hall. We are a jolly bunch and our aim is to have fun, enjoy a cuppa and company. We enjoy indoor Kurling, and various activities. Something for all tastes! We would be delighted to see you.

For more information, please ring Val Procter on 01249 760312

CRICKET

4 Saturday League sides. Friendly nets on Tuesdays at 6.30pm. Midweek 20 over league. Under 11s, 13s and 15s. Qualified coaches – new members always welcome.

For details contact: allatt.tom721@gmail.com

For newsletter email: mattoswilkins@googlemail.com

HILMARTON COMMUNITY ROOM

DDA compliant, function room. Situated next to the School Hall by a large open playing field and close to well-equipped play park. Perfect to hire for parties, meetings and fundraising. For more details, contact:

Jacquie Henly on 07850 567068 for more details.

ST LAURENCE CHURCH

Services are held every Sunday in rotation with the other Churches in the Benefice. The pattern varies and can be found in the *Neighbourhood News* or www.achurchnearyou.com

Benefice Administrator: Elaine Leighton

To visit the beautiful Church of St Laurence or to hire the Church Hall, please contact:
Elaine on: 07570 799477

CHAMPING IN THE CHURCH

Do you fancy a night or two champing in the Church? Read more about champing, [click here](#).

HILMARTON CHAPEL

Hilmarton Chapel is an independent Evangelical Chapel affiliated to the FIEC.

The Chapel holds Sunday morning worship at 11am. Prayer meeting at the Chapel at 7.30pm on Thursdays.

For further information please contact Alan Tarling on alantarling7@gmail.com

A Warm Welcome to All!

HILMARTON PRE-SCHOOL

Hilmarton Pre-school was established in 1972. Meets every weekday term time, 8.45am until 2.45pm in Hilmarton Community Room:

contact Steph 07798 643028

HILMARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

There is a thriving village school, which offers a secure and friendly atmosphere that allows all children to fulfil their potential both academically and socially. There is an active parent led School Association.

For further details about Hilmarton Primary School or to hire the School Hall:

contact the School Office: 01249 760602

HILMARTON SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB

Open from 7.30am to 8.30am - A session includes a healthy breakfast & supervised activities and lots of fun.

For further details, contact the School Office as above.

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, HILMARTON

Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill Interregnum



The Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill

In the Autumn newsletter, we updated you on the process of appointing a new rector for the Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill, which includes the Parish of Hilmarton. We were hopeful that the search would come to a successful conclusion in January, but in the event it was not possible to find the right candidate.

The post will be readvertised in the *Church Times* on 6th and 13th March, with a closing date for applications of 8th April. Following this, there will be an Orientation Day on 5th May, when candidates are shown around, followed by Interviews on 6th May. We wish the selection team the very best of good fortune in all their efforts.

In the meantime, we would like to thank everyone who is working so hard to keep our church services and events running, whilst we work towards appointing the best possible candidate to serve our whole community, as well as St Laurence Church itself.



Hilmarton Parochial Church Council (PCC) Vacancies



The PCC is inviting new members to join their friendly committee, which meets several times a year to discuss the administration, maintenance and fundraising for St Laurence Church.

Elections will be taking place at the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting, which is being held on Sunday 22nd March at 11.15am, following an All-Age Service at 10.30am.

All those with energy, enthusiasm and love of our beautiful church who may be interested in becoming a member of the PCC, are asked to contact acting Chair, Elaine Leighton (07570 799477), for further details.

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, THEN AND NOW

Kindly shared by Geoff Procter, the restored photos below show St Laurence Church before the Victorian remodelling in the 1870's and afterwards, as we know the church today.

Compare them carefully and you will see a number of fascinating differences.



Pre 1870's



Post 1870's



Pre 1870's



Post 1870's

Hilmarton • Hoppingstones • Upper & Lower Littlecote • New Zealand • Rodwell • Whitcombe

Hilmarton • Hoppingstones • Upper & Lower Littlecote • New Zealand • Rodwell • Whitcombe

PLANNED CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH AND APRIL

Services for May will be put on the website and on the church notice boards sometime in April.

Please check on the Facebook page (The Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill) and the website (www.achurchnearyou.com and search for Hilmarton) in case of last-minute changes. If you wish to be kept informed of church services and events on a regular basis then email Elaine Leighton on beneficeofwoodhill@yahoo.co.uk and ask to be added to the benefice email list.

	COMMUNION SERVICES	OTHER SERVICES
Sunday 1st March Lent 2	Clyffe Pypard – Communion - 9am Tockenham - Communion - 10.30am	Lyneham All-Age Service - 10.30am
Wednesday 4th March	Hilmarton (service at 48 Poynder place) - Communion - 2pm	
Sunday 8th March Lent 3	Bradenstoke - Communion - 9am Hilmarton - Communion - 10.30am	Broad Town Morning Service - 10.30am
Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday	Clyffe Pypard – Communion - 9am Lyneham - Communion - 10.30am	
Sunday 22nd March Lent 5	Bradenstoke - Communion - 9am Broad Town - Communion - 10.30am	Hilmarton All-Age Service - 10.30am
Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday	Lyneham - Communion - 10.30am (This service led by Archdeacon Louise)	
Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thurs	Services at Salisbury Cathedral and at Royal Wootton Bassett - details on their websites	
Friday 3rd April Good Friday		Lyneham Walk of Witness - 10am Tockenham Good Friday Meditation - 3pm
Sunday 5th April Easter Day	Clyffe Pypard – Communion - 9am Tockenham - Communion - 9am Hilmarton - Communion - 10.30am Broad Town - Communion - 10.30am Bradenstoke - Communion - 10.30am Lyneham - Communion - 10.30am	
Sunday 12th April 2nd Sunday of Easter	Broad Town - Communion - 10.30am	
Sunday 19th April 3rd Sunday of Easter	Clyffe Pypard – Communion - 9am Lyneham - Communion - 10.30am	Tockenham Morning Prayer - 10.30am
Sunday 26th April 4th Sunday of Easter	Bradenstoke - Communion - 9am Broad Town - Communion - 10.30am Hilmarton - Communion 10.30am	



THE CHAPEL, HILMARTON

Hilmarton Chapel is an independent Evangelical Chapel affiliated to the [FIEC](http://www.fiec.org).

The Chapel holds Sunday morning worship at 11am.
Prayer meeting at the Chapel at 7.30pm on Thursdays.

For further information please contact Alan Tarling on alantarling7@gmail.com.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL!

NOTICE BOARD



GOATACRE VILLAGE HALL

Goatacre Village Hall is perfectly located beside the beautiful Goatacre Cricket Grounds and offers a spacious, versatile venue for up to 140 guests.

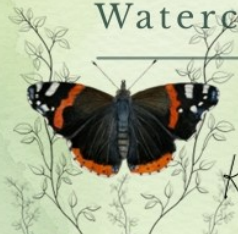
Ideal for parties, weddings, corporate events, children's parties, and much more, the hall can be tailored to suit your occasion. We offer optional extras including an indoor marquee, atmospheric lighting, round tables, chairs, and table linens to help create the perfect setup.

The venue features a large, fully equipped kitchen, plus a fully stocked and staffed licensed bar, along with a pool table and dartboard for added entertainment.

With ample parking and stunning views across the cricket grounds and

surrounding countryside, Goatacre Village Hall provides a memorable setting for any event. For more information or to receive a free quote, please contact us via email, GOATACREVILLAGEHALL@GMAIL.COM, or Facebook.

Nature & Wellbeing Watercolour Evenings



PAINTINGS BY

Kim Watts-Seago
KW SEAGO ART



Slow down, relax, and learn the basics of watercolour in a calm, friendly space!

📍 **Hilmarton Community Room**
📅 **Starting Thursday 5th March**
🕒 **7-9pm**

💷 **£25 per session (drop in)**

★ **£80 for a block of 4 -(use any week that suits you!)**

Visit my website under classes to book!

kwseagoart.co.uk



NOTICE BOARD

TAKING THE NEWSLETTER FORWARD

Due to a future update in the publishing format, there will be an opportunity to change the design of the *Neighbourhood News* in time for the Autumn Edition at the end of August.

If you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to share in terms of content, design or perhaps are tempted to get creative and write a regular quarterly feature that would be of interest to the local community, we would be delighted to hear from you.

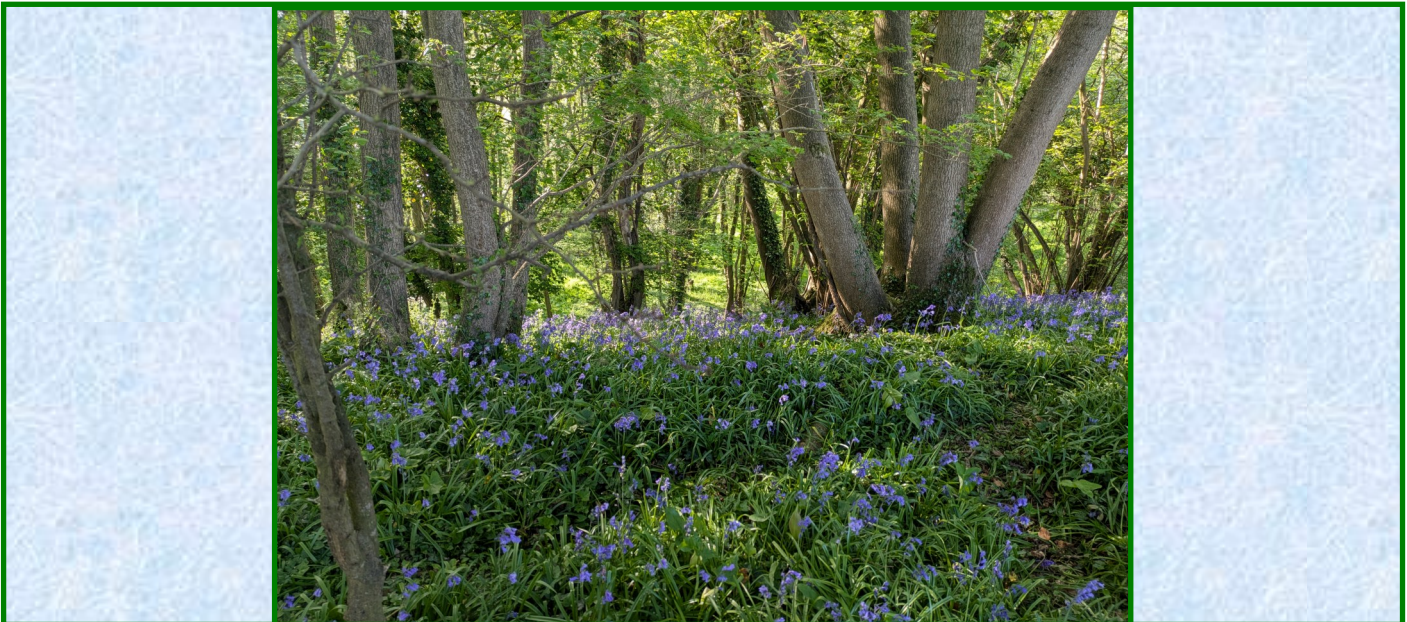
Aspiring young journalists are also very welcome to get involved who might like to reach younger readers, as well as keen photographers who could share seasonal images for future issues.

If you are interested in contributing, please contact the Editor, Kate Mastin-Lee, at k.mastinlee@gmail.com.



ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR THE *NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS*

Subject to space, additional items from business and private contributors may also be included for a suggested donation of £10 and £5 respectively, which can go to a chosen Parish Group. Please contact Jacquie Henly for more details on 07850 567068, or by email Jacquie88@btinternet.com. Please note that if you would like to include any items in the Summer *Neighbourhood News*, final copy should be sent to Kate Mastin-Lee at k.mastinlee@gmail.com by 15th May.



[Wilkins Builders](#) has pleasure in providing the printed copies and sponsorship of *Neighbourhood News*.
Wilkins Builders Ltd - 01249 822433