

HULLAVINGTON

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1203 FF 1310 FF Calendar of Feet of Fines

News



DECEMBER 2023 ~ JANUARY 2024

Photo Credit— Sandra Samdra

Hullavington News is **FREE!** - Please take a copy
(and don't forget one for your less able neighbours - help share our news!)

In this issue...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 03) Editorial | 23) Film Reviews |
| 10) Village Life | 24) History Spot |
| 12) Sweet & Savoury & Food Review | 25) St Mary Magdalene Church Update |
| 13) Womens' Institute Update | 26) Walks around Hullavington |
| 14) Councillor's Questions | 29) Hullavington Community update |
| 15) Parish Council News | 48) 200 Club |
| 18) Editorial Team Quiz | 50) Film Group |
| 19) Hullavington 'HOPS' Scheme | 51) Past Times — Snow Special! |
| 20) Book Group | 52) Past & Present |
| 22) Hullavington Hall News | 54) Hullavington 'What's on' |

Contributions...



We love to hear from you. Please send any articles & news to: editorhullavingtonnews@gmail.com. We reserve the right to edit any article. Please send in a Word file with a font of 12 and pictures/logos etc in jpeg. Pictures are printed in black and white.



New deadline for the next issue is the **Friday 19th January 2024**.

With regret late submissions will not be included in the newsletter!



£65 per page for 6 issues a year and £35 per half-page (black & white). All payments to Liz Greenman, address below.
Email: julianandlizgreenman@gmail.com.



Donations are invaluable to the running of this newsletter, they can be made through the collection box in the village shop or sent to Liz Greenman, 84 The Street, Hullavington. SN14 6DU. Lloyds Chippenham. Sort 30 91 99, AC 'Hullavington News' No 03041845.



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***S**o, here we are in December already!
Just how quickly has 2023 and my first year
in the editorial hot seat gone?! ...*

I hope you feel both myself and my brilliant team have successfully sailed through our first storms of newsletter land with interesting, funny and factual Hullavington based fodder as we continue to steady the good ship editorial into 2024 and beyond....

So, not one to ever let us down, Graham McDougal is once again indulging us with another brilliant article, this time about the mysterious headless horseman rumoured to roam the village. See page 24. There's a new recipe and review on page 12 and don't forget to pop into page 19 with Harry and his update on 'HOPs' - the 'Hullavington Oil Purchasing Scheme' to help get us thorough the winter. Jon is back with a great walk, on page 26 to work off any Christmas excesses. All the latest book and film reviews and news can found on pages 20, 23 and 50.

"Mind your own Business" is temporarily closed for a Christmas break, so instead we have compiled some great vintage and modern 'Winter in Hullavington' photos from page 51 featuring pretty houses, lanes, pets, people, garages and your very own 6 year old editor literally under feet of snow—I kid you not! Many thanks to the kind villagers who have sent in images of the past and present for us all to stare at in disbelief! (I know, how was I already so cool at just age 6 I hear you cry...?!)

So anyway, may your read bring joy throughout December and January when we all need some help to keep smiling, and from the whole HN Team, we would like to wish you all a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year...

*Abi Elliott-Williams, Editor
And the whole editorial team*

*All ideas, village news, views, information or photos you feel should, would and could be included in the next issue, please send them with a clear title in the subject line to: **editorhullavingtonnews@gmail.com***

Hullavington News can be picked up at the Village Shop and Post office, Village Hall foyer, Church Porch, Queens Head bus stop and also at the 'Tap' - Don't forget to take an extra copy for less able neighbours and friends who might like one.



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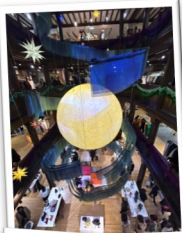
LONDON TRIP 2023.....



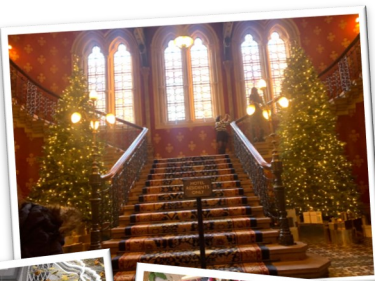
So we all made it back from London in one piece, despite the protest marches you probably all saw on the TV or read about, (and one of our party inadvertently got caught up in!!)

With everyone excitedly waiting for the coach at 8am we made really good time with little traffic so our first drop off at 'The Museums' at South Kensington was an earlier than expected 10:20am, then on to Harrods, Haymarket and finally the Embankment.

There are many reasons for heading to the big smoke in our coach party; the larger than life festive lights, shop displays and shop fronts, museums, galleries, restaurants and bars, shopping and shows. Others use the opportunity to visit friends and family or simply just to take in the history and soak up the sights, sounds and smells our capital has to offer, all with the hassle free luxury of being picked up and dropped off practically by our front door!



Our favourite and most unusual reason this year has to be from Helen Butler and her sister Emma, who decided to travel around the Monopoly board, mainly by bus, but some on foot. That is definitely a first for us, and what a brilliant first it is too! Helen and Emma were kind enough to send us a couple of photos from their travels. Other photo credits to Debbie Lawley, Kate James, Madeleine Rowell and the HN Editorial Team.

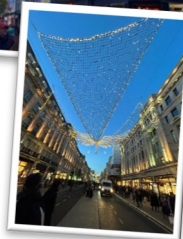
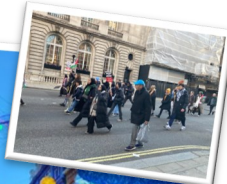




After a busy day in what can only be described as a *extremely* busy city, everyone wearily made their way to the pick up spot in Hanover Square for 7.30pm to make our merry way home to the fresh air and green fields, arriving in the village at a very respectable 10pm so plenty of time for mugs of cocoa and a city detox before bed!



Thank you so much to our Deputy Editors Liz and Peter Parry-Williams for yet again organising another successful London trip, and I think we'll all agree that we hope there will be at least one trip next year, if not two!....



The lesser spotted **openreach** have been spied twiddling and diddling in Hullavington again.... Could this be the beginning of our journey into fibreland, or just patching our rubbish broadband?....



HULL-ANKSY IS BACK WITH MORE COMEDY FOR THE SULLIED SOLAR SIGN!

Our mysterious artist is back again —but unfortunately the sign in full working order still isn't???!!... Hopefully we'll get an update on that soon?...

If YOU have any stories or photos of village events you have organised or attended please send them to editorhullavingtonnews@gmail.com for the next issue!



SWEET and SAVOURY



*With
Amanda
Opperman*

BEEF MEXICANA (Beef casserole - serves 4)

Tips Please don't be put off by the rather weird ingredients this is truly an easy to make, wonderful, tasty, comforting casserole that benefits from being made the day before. It makes a great addition to your Christmas fair as it can be made well in advance and frozen.

Ingredients

4 small onions (halved or quartered)
2oz/60g chestnut mushrooms (halved)
1lb/500g diced stewing steak
1 level tbs plain flour
1oz/30g fat or vegetable oil for frying
8oz/400g tin tomatoes
1 dessert spoon dry mustard, mixed with water
1 level tbs Branston pickle (I prefer the smooth)
1 level tbs runny honey
1 level tbs blackcurrant jam
Sprinkle of garlic salt
Dash of Worcestershire sauce
Salt & Pepper
1/4 pint/150ml red wine



Method

Heat oven to 160
Roll meat in seasoned flour and fry in oil until browned
Add rest of ingredients and cook for 5 minutes
Transfer to oven, once boiling reduce heat to 130 and cook for 2 hours.
Serve with creamy mash and green veg. Also tasty with coleslaw.



Restaurant

Review

The Old Royal Ship - Luckington

I had not been to the Old Royal Ship in Luckington since before Covid Lockdown but have driven past it a few times and saw that it had been extensively renovated.

Looking for a venue that would suit a variety of tastes I remembered that the Old Royal Ship used to have an extensive menu that would cater to all. Looking on-line I was not disappointed and on arrival the Specials Board added an even more delicious selection.

The young staff were attentive and very efficient. Food arrived promptly but we never felt rushed and our various choices were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The venue has been very tastefully renovated with the dining area now more intimate rather than the previous rather too open plan.

Anyone one looking for a competitively priced pub to suit a variety of generations this is a great choice. **www.oldroyalship.co.uk**

It was a very spooky meeting in October and the run up to Halloween when Tony Mcaleav came to talk about The Malmesbury Witches. We held a competition titled 'Spooky' and one of our members came as a very spooky witch. We could hardly recognise her. We all enjoyed this fascinating talk which made us realise that these women were badly treated.



Also in October 3 members attended the Wiltshire Federation's Annual Council meeting which this year was held in The Steam Museum at Swindon. The new chief constable of Wiltshire, Catherine Roper, was one of the guest speakers. We were impressed with her enthusiasm, her aims for policing in Wiltshire and the fact that she stayed on to discuss with individual members their problems that needed police attention.



Fourteen of us enjoyed the John Aubrey group meeting at the beginning of November when our speaker arrived dressed as Florence Nightingale.....this was a grey outfit with her face and hair grey as well. She stood on a rostrum and was just like a statue until after 3 minutes she started to sing. She told us such a lot about her life, but most of them were things that the majority of us did not know. She was the person who created the Pi chart!! This talk finished far too soon, we could have listened for so much longer it was so good.

We have just had an interesting talk from Terry Ransome, 'Finding Eliza Carr'. Having found a Victorian sampler made by Eliza, Terry wanted to learn all about her, where she lived, her school, her parents her job, her marriage and her own family. Terry certainly had persistence as he travelled round the country following leads.

With Christmas coming all too soon we are now preparing for our Christmas party on December 20th when members will sit down to a lovely hot meal and dessert and enjoy some Christmas singing too.



We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the village hall. New members and visitors are always welcome.



Councillor's Questions

with Nick Botterill

Winter news from Wiltshire Council

Being a councillor is probably one of the most varied roles around. One minute you are sitting in County Hall at a meeting ploughing through some interminably dry and long paper.

At the conclusion of this meeting a decision will have to be taken but during which a room packed full of officers and councillors will nod periodically as if to demonstrate their understanding of the matter under consideration as well as no doubt their continued attention. An hour later you are getting thoroughly soaked walking around putting your leaflets through residents' doors – this is what is known as the 'feet on the street' aspect of the job and can be highly unpredictable: "Ah you must be the man who has come to fix my internet!" calls out a cheery voice which becomes a decidedly less enthusiastic when you say that no, you are just the local councillor.

I would argue however both these roles are equally important; how can we hope to represent people and take decisions on their behalf if we don't practically engage with them? There may be very important things going on in County Hall but our job as councillors is to bring the local dimension to what is done in all our names. Anyway, I will over the next few weeks be delivering a letter to as many of the c2,000 homes in the division as possible – it is an exercise that is not for the faint hearted particularly in winter and given the division covers over 30 square miles in total. If you see/meet me when I'm delivering, please feel free to engage me on any topic.

Another upside in the job is to witness where due recognition is given to local communities. Two of the villages in By Brook have just received **Best Kept Village** awards for 2023, one of which is Hullavington. I just want to congratulate everybody who has played a part however large or small in securing this accolade for the village – it is very well deserved. Too often we see plastic and detritus littering the verges along the rural roads (n.b. Wiltshire Council has plans to do more to combat this) so it is really good when communities take the initiative and show such pride in their area.

It remains for me to wish everyone a thoroughly merry Christmas and a happy new year. As always, please do feel free to get in touch with me (see contact details below) about anything to do with Hullavington or the wider By Brook or Wiltshire County areas. This is generally a fantastic area to live in but sometimes you just need to speak to the local councillor to get something done.

Cllr Nick Botterill – Wiltshire Councillor for By Brook division* Cabinet Member for Finance, Strategic Planning & Development Management

Nick@Botterill.org 0795 617 6255 - * includes Hullavington, Biddestone, Castle Combe, Grittleton, Nettleton, North Wraxall & Yatton Keynell

HULLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chair of the Parish Council Update

<http://www.hullavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

A Message from the Chair - Hullavington Parish Council

*W*ishing all parishioners, a Merry Christmas,
and a prosperous new year.

At the November Parish Council meeting I was honoured to accept on your behalf the Best Kept Village award present by Ann Henshaw the Chairman of Campaign to Protect Rural England. The framed certificate is on the Parish Council filing cabinet in the Village Hall Foyer. Thank you all for doing everything you did again this year in support of the best kept village competition.

Ann brought to the public open question time, different and interesting views on the wider countryside, transport, planning, and the Wiltshire Local Plan, transport plan and the Wiltshire Local Plan are separate planning activities, something for Wiltshire Council to consider, should they not be in alignment to inform the allocation of sites for development.

The 3rd Parish Steward since I have been the Chair will appear monthly in the village, we are yet to get a mobile contact number for him for the odd occasions when we may need to call on emergency support. The scope of a Parish Steward tasks isn't very wide, but they do play an important part in Parish general maintenance and always look out for potholes and patch repair all year round.

A quick shout out, as we enter the darker winter months, please report issues such as potholes or blocked roadside gulleys and drains (leaves and debris) via the Wiltshire Council report and issue page.

Kind regards to all

Graeme Slaymaker

01666 837073 if not in please leave a message.

And now for some END-OF-YEAR Parish Information

“Should we know and be interested in how our money is spent by the Parish Council?”

Yes - Because it's our money that's being spent.

As a part of our Council Tax Bill each year most households in Hullavington pay a sum of money which goes to our Parish Council to spend on our behalf– the **Precept**

The Precept should cover the Parish's annual expenditure budget. The Parish Council should also have **Reserves** – these act as a float and can be used if unexpected events occur. It's recommended that these reserves are between 3 months to 12 months of the annual budget– ie in our case for this year a maximum of £23,000. Any money over this amount should be assigned for specific purposes.

The Parish Council 's Accounting Statements for the tax year April 2022 – March 2023* shows that there were nearly £89,000 in reserves, this is nearly £66,000 more than the maximum recommended amount.

Last year Hullavington's budget for regular expenditure was £22,929. Normally the Precept would at least match this budget and be at least £22,929. However, the Parish Council decided to set the Precept at £17,000, this was £5929 below the amount they had decided needed to be spent in the budget.

Council Tax Band	Cost if the Precept = Budget	Cost as Precept was set below the budget	Saving your household £ for the year	Saving your household £ per month
H	£91.59	£67.90	£23.68	£1.97
G	£76.32	£56.58	£19.74	£1.64
F	£66.15	£49.04	£17.10	£1.43
E	£55.97	£41.49	£14.47	£1.21
D	£45.79	£33.95	£11.84	£0.99
C	£40.71	£30.18	£10.53	£0.88
B	£35.62	£26.24	£9.21	£0.77
A	£30.53	£22.63	£7.89	£0.66

To balance the books £5929 from reserves will need to be used to fund this shortfall set for the precept.

Using reserves to reduce our Precept bill sounds attractive and a positive thing to do when every penny counts.

.....Did you notice the reduction in your bill??

You can see from the table that reducing the precept gives the greatest benefit to those who need it least and if you don't pay Council Tax at all you receive ZERO benefit from the Precept reduction.

If instead the Precept had been set to cover the annual budget, the £5929 could have been spent or would still be available to be spent on things that benefit / have an impact for everyone and make our Parish better in the longer term.

The Parish Council will be discussing how to spend our money for the next financial year April 2024 to March 2025 at their meeting on the 13th December in the Village Hall 7.30pm.

If you are interested in the decisions made regarding how your money will be spent, please come along to find out.

[*http://www.hullavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/ UserFiles/Files/Annual%20Reports%20and%20Accounts/Accounting%20Statements%202022%2023.pdf](http://www.hullavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/UserFiles/Files/Annual%20Reports%20and%20Accounts/Accounting%20Statements%202022%2023.pdf)

.... DEFINITELY TIME FOR A BIT OF FUN AFTER READING THAT HEAVY STUFF!



We are a village full of many things (insert your own gag here if you like!) but brilliant amateur photographers is one of them and we'd love to share your fabulous, funny or facetious photos with everyone!

You can send in the wonderful, beautiful or just plain silly village scenes, events or oddities to the editors desk and maybe you'll be editors choice in the next issue of Hullavington News!



This time it's the turn of (drum roll please...)
Former editor of HN

Sally Jeeves & 'Goat on a wall'
@ The High Street

Please ensure you have all the necessary permissions before you submit and don't forget to let us know all the names, places & faces so we can credit you all....



Time to get the grey matter working with this issues' quiz from the puzzle queen at the HNHQ!

- 1) What is the capital city of Christmas Island?
- 2) Which famous King was crowned at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day?
- 3) What Christmas food is it supposed to be lucky to eat one of every day of the Twelve days of Christmas?
- 4) What was the original meaning of the word 'Carol'?
- 5) In medieval times what did the poor eat for their Christmas dinner?
- 6) Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
- 7) Which country donates the Christmas tree for London's Trafalgar Square every year?
- 8) Where did the name Santa Claus originate?
- 9) When were Christmas celebrations made illegal in England?
- 10) Postmen in Victorian England were commonly called what?
- 11) Where did the tradition of hanging stockings out for Christmas come from?
- 12) What is Frosty the Snowman's nose made of?
- 13) Which ocean is Christmas Island situated in?
- 14) If you were born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?
- 15) What is the chemical formula of snow?
- 16) What Christmas item takes its name from the old French word 'estincelle' meaning spark?
- 17) Balsam, Douglas, Fraser, and Noble are all types of what?
- 18) Stars, needle, plate, dendrite, column, lacy, and capped column are the six main types of what?
- 19) True or false: Iceland has 13 Santas that visit throughout December?
- 20) What does the shape of a candy cane represent?

Answers on page



Hullavington Oil

Purchasing Scheme (HOPS)

The scheme began on 14 November 2022 with 91 members. On its first anniversary there were 113 members, 64 of whom had taken advantage of the HOPS discounted price of domestic heating oil over the year.

Alex Elsworth, our contact at Ford Fuels, the current HOPS supplier, has provided me with a report for the period from 01.11.22 to 31.10.23. It shows that HOPS members received a total of 90,057 litres over the year at a total cost of £66,229.17. The average unit price was £0.7354 per litre and the unit price ranged from £0.9295 per litre on 23.12.22 to £0.5555 per litre on 03.07.23 for one fortunate or astute member.

HOPS members receive an email from Ford Fuels every Monday morning. It informs them of the discounted price available to them for the week. There are no additional charges for delivery or administration. There is also no obligation to use Ford Fuels and members can still phone other companies to see if they can find a better price.

If you would like to join HOPS, click on this link: <https://forms.gle/ztx4w6CMGCYmpLtl9>

If you do not use email or would prefer to use a paper version of the application form, copies are available from the Post Office or Village Hall.

For those who may have mobility difficulties the Chair of our Parish Council, Graeme Slaymaker, has kindly offered to deliver a form and then deliver completed forms to me. Graeme can be contacted by phoning or text on 07838 446181.

Harry Dicks

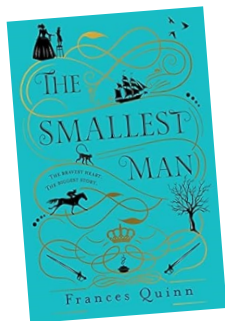
HOPS Coordinator

Beanfield House
58 The Street.



HULLAVINGTON BOOK GROUP

SEPTEMBER: 'THE SMALLEST MAN' BY FRANCES QUINN



'I want you to remember something, Nat. You're small on the outside. But inside you're as big as everyone else. You show people that and you won't go far wrong in life.'

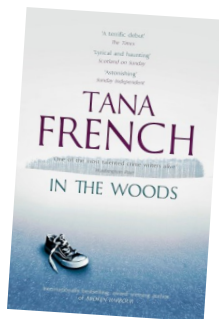
The story follows Nat Davy, a little person from humble circumstances who lived during the reign of Charles 1. Separated from the family home, and the perennially disappointed eye of his discontented father, ten year old Nat finds himself in London awaiting presentation to new teenage Queen of England, Henrietta Maria of France. Nat is presented to the Queen, as her court dwarf, in a pie. Nat Davy of Oakham is loosely modelled upon Sir Jeffrey Hudson (1619-1682), and was in real life known as 'Lord Minimus'. Anthony Van Dyck painted a portrait

of the Queen and Jeffrey together in 1632.

The book provided the group with plenty to talk about, the period during England's Civil War, and overcoming disability to achieve what you want in life.

OCTOBER: 'IN THE WOODS' BY TANA FRENCH

Outside Dublin. Three children ran into the woods to play. Only one came out and he had no memory of what had happened to the other two. Twenty years later, Detective Rob Ryan and his partner Cassie Maddox come to the woods to investigate the murder of another child. But Ryan is keeping a secret of his own. He has changed his name and no one knows about his past.



The group had a good afternoon discussing this book. We felt it was thought provoking, a good read, but overly long.

Reviews:

Spoiler alerts!

'I am a big fan of thrillers and the whole mystery genre, but I found 'In The Woods' overly long with the plot developing very slowly. I feel the novel could have been half the length, and this would have kept my interest without losing any of the suspense.'

The plot embraces child abuse, corruption and ticks all the modern day boxes you would expect. And it does so very well. There is a great sense of suspense maintained throughout the novel and I liked the atmosphere and sense of place that the author captured. Apart from the length of the novel my other major criticism was the ending.'

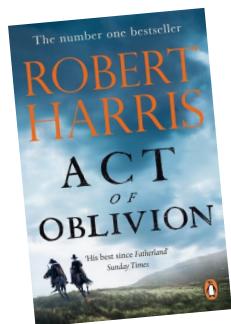
I like a mystery to end with all the loose ends tied up and this was not the case. You are left hanging with too many unanswered questions.'

'I enjoyed the book, and although it was long, I didn't find it difficult to read and it did keep me engrossed up until the end'. An exciting thriller.'

'Set in countryside near Dublin, this is a detective novel set in two time zones, both the scenes of child murders.* The current investigation is led by two detectives Adam Ryan and Cassie who become best friends despite the gender difference. But there is a flaw - Adam is the one surviving child from the early murders (* bodies never found) and his character is flawed from the trauma. The ending doesn't complete the early mystery which I think many will find a tad disappointing. But the characterisations, the pace, and the plot are all convincing and fast flowing.'

NOVEMBER: 'ACT OF OBLIVION' BY ROBERT HARRIS.

Returning to the time of the English Civil War, the 1660 Act of Oblivion of the title was the edict in the wake of the fall of the English Commonwealth that pardoned all those who took up arms against the King save those who had direct hand in Charles I's execution.



Many of these so-called regicides are already dead, Cromwell himself had died two years prior to the Restoration in 1660. But one of the most prominent names on the decree that sealed Charles's fate was that of Colonel Edward Whalley, a cousin and childhood friend of Cromwell who has fled to America with his son-in-law, another regicide, Colonel Will Goffe. Two men set off to search for the two men who signed the death warrant.

Book Group meets in the afternoon of the **second Tuesday** in the month, 2.00 in the side room of the village hall.

Books are provided by the Wiltshire library service.

Film of the Book evenings are held on the **first Wednesday** in the month.

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR TO ALL BOOK GROUP MEMBERS AND
YOUR FAMILIES. THANK YOU FOR A LOVELY YEAR OF BOOK READING AND CHATS,
ROLL ON 2024 AND MORE FUN.

For information about Book Group and Film of the Book, please contact Elizabeth Parry-Williams tel: 01666 837713 email: peac@globalnet.co.uk



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Whew – what a lot of events we've had recently in the hall!

The Hullavington Live! Event was an amazing evening and plans are being made for the next one next year. The Rural Arts Touring show was also really well received, and the Halloween party was sold out! The hall was packed out for our first Bingo night with ages from 11 to 83; we plan to have them every 6 months.

There must be something for everyone going on in our hall so If you have any suggestions as to future events, please contact any of the committee members.

The hall is going to buy a **defibrillator** for use in the hall and we will shortly be raising funds for this.

We have a new children's dance group on Wednesdays in the hall and a children's art group on Thursdays. So nice to have something for the younger villagers!



VILLAGE HALL EVENTS IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

Friday 15th December – Village Christmas party 7.30pm. Free entry, so what are you waiting for?! Please contact Vicky or Sophie to reserve your place.

No pizza night on 1st December as it's Malmesbury Late Night Shopping but Erik will be coming back on **Friday 5th January 2024**, serving pizzas from 4pm and the hall and bar will be open for **Pub and Games** from 7pm.

To check hall availability go to the schedule section of the hall website <https://www.hullavingtonhall.org.uk/>

For hall bookings contact Helen at helen@hullavingtonhall.org.uk or Lizzy at lizzy@hullavingtonhall.org.uk

For more information about all the village hall activities please contact Vicky at vicky@hullavingtonhall.org.uk or Sophie at sophie@hullavingtonhall.org.uk



Our members are proper film buffs and regularly found in the back row... No, not snogging, taking in the movie of course!!
We decided they should share their honest opinions of the latest offerings from the silver (and hall) screen so without further ado, over to our very own (and better looking) answer to Barry Norman!!...

Film of the Book Wednesday 1st November

FILM—MARLOWE:

2023

Certificate 15

Based on the novel 'Black-Eyed Blonde' by John Banville. Private detective Philip Marlowe is hired to find the ex-lover of a glamorous heiress.

Starring Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger and Jessica Lange

"Good try but Liam Neeson couldn't quite match the world weary sardonic style of the original Marlowes played by Mitchum and Bogart. Bit too old for the part perhaps as well. OTT performance by Alan Cumming as a villain but given a great death. Jessica Lange and Diane Kruger made the most of their roles as the traditional past and present femme fatales.

Excellent collection of songs on the soundtrack."

Film Group EXTRA Wednesday 15th November

FILM—THE COLOUR ROOM:

2021

Certificate PG

Starring Phoebe Dynevor and Matthew Goode.

In the grey industrial British midlands of the 1920's, creative young factory worker Clarice Cliff works in the potteries. Driven by imagination and ambition, she fought her way through prejudice and an industry caught in economic hardship to become a trailblazer for Art Deco.

"This was a little gem of a film. The film audience loved it. Phoebe Dynevor, known to many for her role as Daphne in the Netflix series 'Bridgerton', was excellent as the young Clarice Cliff."

"I really enjoyed it. I didn't know it was about Clarice Cliff and was pleasantly surprised. A good film."

"A charming film charting the rise of Clarice Cliff from determined factory girl to one of the Twentieth Centuries leading designer/makers of pottery. A well made and scripted story with an excellent cast who capture well, the feeling of the era."

GRAHAM McDOUGAL'S'

HISTORY SPOT

THIS EDITION :

The Headless Horseman of Hullavington

(Found this anecdote in an old Malmesbury Almanac and would like to think it is true)

Apparently during the English Civil War there was a skirmish at Surrendell Manor which was besieged and set on fire. In the fighting a mounted officer had his head cut clean off. The headless rider then sped off along the Street in the direction of Malmesbury Common still wielding his sword in hand. Later his body was found and carried away by a group of men carrying lanterns.

Many years later a thatcher named William Freeth was engaged by Mr Beak to rethatch all the buildings at Bradfield Farm. When he finished Freeth was invited to have supper and afterwards made his unsteady way across the Common. In the distance he spotted some men carrying lanterns but as he got nearer the lights went out. Suddenly a horse rose up out of the ground and a headless soldier mounted it and rode off waving his sword in the air.

On approaching the spot Freeth toppled into a very deep hole and managed finally to crawl out. In the process he realised he was totally lost however eventually succeeded in finding the path leading to Malmesbury.

When he arrived home wet and bedraggled he told his wife the terrifying tale. Her cold reply was that he was drunk and had fallen into a 'quob' hole. His wife mentioned to their neighbours about him seeing the Headless Horseman. However since that day it was dangerous to ever utter the word 'lanterns' except when people were at a safe distance from William.

Editorial Quiz - Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Settlement | packed with food for St Nicholas' donkeys. (He left small presents in return!) |
| 2) William I (The Conqueror) | |
| 3) Mince Pies | 12) A button |
| 4) To sing and dance in a circle | 13) Indian Ocean |
| 5) Humble (or umble) Pie | 14) Capricorn |
| 6) Canada | 15) H2O |
| 7) Norway | 16) Tinsel |
| 8) From 'Sinterklaas', meaning Saint Nicholas in Dutch. | 17) Christmas Trees |
| 9) 1644 | 18) Snow flakes |
| 10) Robins – because their uniforms were red | 19) True - they are known as The Yule Lads |
| 11) The Dutch custom of leaving out shoes | 20) The Shepherds' Crooks from the story of the Nativity |



PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER

Sunday	3	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	3	15.00pm	Group Service: Messy Church
Sunday	10	18.00pm	Group Service: Advent Service
Sunday	17	18.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday	24	16.00pm	Nativity Service
Sunday	24	21.00pm	'Midnight' Mass
Monday	25	11.00am	Christmas Day Family Service
Sunday	31	11.00am	Group Service: Holy Communion (location to be advised)

For January services, please see the church notice board.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



On Sunday 12 November 89 people, including families, veterans and members of 9 Regiment RLC based at Buckley Barracks filled the church to participate in the annual service of Remembrance.

During this solemn yet dignified occasion, the names of those from the parish of Hullavington who died in the service of their country in both world wars were read aloud and a two-minute silence was observed in memory of all those British and Commonwealth service men and women who have lost their lives in conflicts since 1914. Thank you to all those who took part in the service and for the generous donations to the collection which

raised almost £250 for the Royal British Legion.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO THE REVd ADAM BEAUMONT

On Sunday 26 November, Adam will be leading his final service for the Gauzebrook group of churches, in Hullavington.

Many of you will know that from 1 December, in his new role as Associate Archdeacon, Adam will join the team of Archdeacons across Bristol Diocese to implement the new Diocesan Strategy, Transforming Church Together.

As the process of appointing Adam's successor progresses, a leading role across the churches in the Gauzebrook group will be taken by The Revd Sharon Gleed, supported by the Area Dean, The Revd Steve Wilkinson. We wish Adam and his family every blessing as he embarks upon his new role. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sharon and all members of the ministry team in the busy weeks that lie ahead.



PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE

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WALKS AROUND HULLAVINGTON by *Jon Atkey*

This month's selection from *Walks Around Hullavington* explores

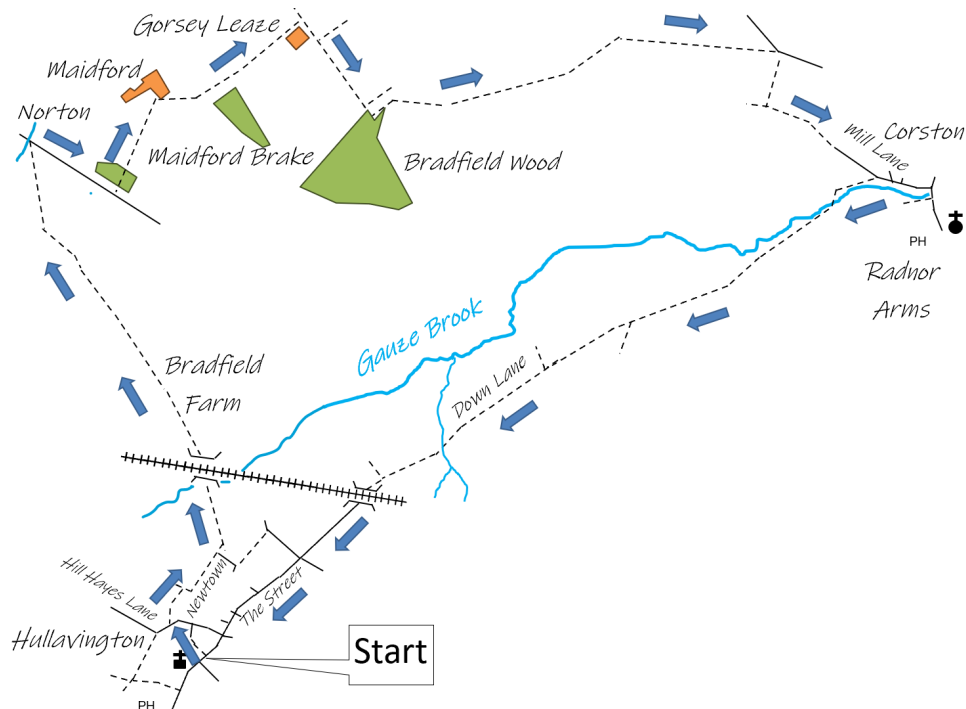
Walk Nine – Norton, Maidford, Gorsey Leaze and Corston – 7.5 Miles

With this issue dear reader, I'd like to draw your attention to the longest of the ten delightful "Walks Around Hullavington" series. It offers some great views of the countryside north of the village, with a mid-way hostelry for refreshment – so just perfect for anyone looking for a longer local ramble during the Christmas break!

Due to the length of the walk, the following is just a summary, which might best be followed with the aid of the local Ordnance Survey map. For a fuller description, please visit the Parish Council website and look under the "Our Community" drop-down menu. If you are unable to find the description for any reason, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will be pleased to provide a printed copy. My contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

From Hullavington Garage, go through Belfry Drive opposite into Hill Hayes Lane. Take the footpath behind Latymer Gardens and Newtown. When the path intersects the drive take the stile to your left and follow the little stream until you reach a stile and a little bridge to a footpath that will take you on past the sewage works, a wooden bridge over the Gauze Brook, under a railway bridge to emerge behind Bradfield Farm. You then need to follow the path through a succession of fields until you emerge eventually near the bridge on the Hullavington/Norton road. The Ordnance Survey map could prove especially helpful for this section!

Turn right at the road and, after about ¼ mile, take the footpath on the left towards Maidford. Keeping the woodland (Maidford Brake) to your right, head towards a house straight ahead (Gorsey Leaze). Pass through a gate into another field keeping the boundary hedge of Gorsey Leaze to your right. Go through another gate that brings you out onto a wide byway. Turn right to follow the byway until it comes to a road. At this point there is a stile in the hedge on your right just before a gated driveway. Take the stile into the field and, keeping the hedge on your immediate left, follow it across the field to a stile in the hedge opposite where you will join a metalled track. Go left along this track until you reach Corston. You will find the Radnor Arms by turning right at the main road.



To return to Hullavington from the Radnor Arms, retrace your steps back over the bridge and left into Mill Lane. After the old cottages and mill you will see a brideway on your left, which you follow with the Gauze Brook first on your left and then on your right. The brideway runs lower and parallel to the outward path. Pass through a gate, then follow the left-hand hedge until it becomes a boundary fence. Take the gate in this fence into the adjoining field and cross to the hunting gate at the end into a larger field. As the ground rises, you will see the beginning of the old cart track, Down Lane, which will take you back to Cemetery Corner. You then continue straight on up The Street to your starting point.

The full set of 10 Walks is available on the Parish Council website: http://www.hullavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/Walks_Around_Hullavington_31117.aspx

HULLAVINGTON VILLAGE STORES NEEDS YOU!



The village shop is looking for a shop assistant to work weekends. Hours are 8.30 - 4 on Saturday and 9 - 1 on Sunday. Applicants must be 18 years of age or over as they will be selling Alcohol, cigarettes / tobacco and lottery tickets. We are willing to consider any hours / shifts but applicants must be willing to work most week-

ends. If anyone is interested or would like to discuss further please pop in to the shop or contact Paul on 01666 837279 or email hullavingtonmotors@gmail.com for further details.



Letters to the EDITOR

Dear Miles,

Thank you for your email, plenty of readers will love to have a look at those images! I have shown the link below;

[https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/RAF 106G UK 1416 RP 3360](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/RAF_106G_UK_1416_RP_3360)

Best wishes,
The Editor

Dear Editor,

I've just found your lovely magazine in the village shop. What a lovely read and what a busy village.

I found this link of recently released and images and thought you may wish to share with your readers.

Kindest regards

Miles



HULLAVINGTON COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES



SUSTAINABLE HULLAVINGTON

Blister packs now have a new process for recycling. It involves registering online with Terracycle, printing off labels and using up to two envelopes per month with up to 30 blister packs in each.

This is the link - <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/aldi-uk>. If you would like to use this scheme but don't have access to a computer or printer, please call 07375816739 or email mandyhouse.hpc@gmail.com and we will help.

We have four recycling slots in Hullavington in addition to the textile recycling announced on behalf of the school:



- Dental objects such as toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes plus tee pee dental cleaners
- Empty or unused asthma inhalers
- Writing instruments excluding pencils
- Printer cartridges

You will find all these recycling points in the Village Hall car park. Please take care to only use these bins for the specific purpose. That will help the volunteers who will be processing the contents.

Whilst we check to ensure full bins are emptied promptly, do let us know if any are getting full or if you have any worries – call 07375816739 or email mandyhouse.hpc@gmail.com.

Here's to a **Greener Hullavington!!**

With thanks to Gill Rothwell, Mandy House and the Village Hall Committee.

Hullavington Community Group



smile

and let me take care of your holiday,
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lynne.redfern@hays-travel.co.uk

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Refreshments will be provided as will all equipment.

Not played for a while – or at all? Help will be on hand to get you started (or just come for a chat!).

For more information contact Anna on 07816 304904 or anna@hullavingtonhall.org.uk

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Lucy Tom

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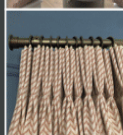
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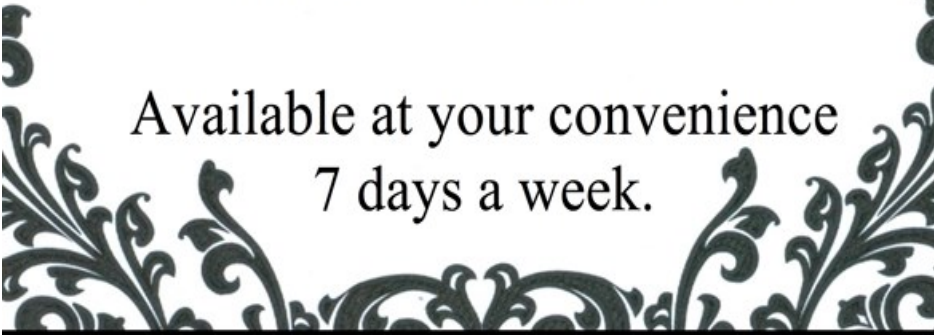
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RATES FOR HIRING HULLAVINGINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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Rate Minimum booking 1 hour	Small Room	Main Hall	Both Rooms	Kitchen (per booking)
VILLAGE USER – including all users who run clubs, regular events	£5.00	£8.00	£10.00	No fee
NON VILLAGE USER – one off bookings (not parties)	£8.00	£12.00	£15.00	£5.00
REGULAR/CORE/BUSINESS USER (who do not reside in Hullavington)	£10.00	£15.00	£20.00	£5.00

PARTY BOOKINGS—will be on the basis of a 4 hour slot, giving time for setting up/ clearing away/cleaning. A deposit of £100 will be required. If more hours are required these will be charged at the appropriate hourly rate. The rate includes the use of tables, chairs and the kitchen.

PARTY BOOKINGS FOR 0-11 year olds

Rate—4 hours	Both Rooms	Kitchen (per booking)
VILLAGE USER	£50.00	included
NON VILLAGE USER	£65.00	included

For any queries, please contact:

Lizzy@hullavingtonhall.org.uk or helen@hullavingtonhall.org.uk



200 CLUB FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

Recent winners of the monthly draws have been;

September Lynette Warren - £50 Maddy Rowell - £25

October Liz Moulder - £50 Rachel Hurst - £25

Thank you for paying your annual subscriptions to the 200 Club. Our collectors will be chasing some outstanding ones shortly.

We now have 6 vacancies if you'd like to take up one of the them.



Contact Geraldine McKibbin – 01666 837736 or Linda Hadley - 01666 837096

Handy Information...

Shop opening hours:

Mon—Fri 08.00—18.00

Sat 08.30—16.00

Sun 09.00—13.00

Post Office opening hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs 09.00—12.30

Wed 09.00—12.00

Fri—Sat Closed

Bat & chat table tennis	Anna Durrant	anna@hullavingtonhall.org.uk
Biodiversity	Debbie Lawley	debbie.lawley@willowdna.com
Book group	Liz Parry Williams	01666 837713
Fibre Optic		Hullavingtonsustainability2021@gmail.com
Film Group	Bob Fenner and P&E Parry-Williams	01666 837320 and 01666 837713
Football Club	James Nation	07894 715080
Footpath Group	Jon Atkey	jon.atkey@willowdna.com
Jolly Tots	Rachel Cripps	07850 176901
M'bury & District Link	-	01666 840861
N'hood Police Team		101
N'hood Watch mandy.hullavington.nhw.@gmail.com	Mandy House	07955 410350
Parish Church	Adam Beaumont	01666 311177
Parish Council	Sharon Neal	01249 659842 www.hullavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk
P.O.S.H Public Open space		poshfor2022@gmail.com
Primary School & Little Hoots Nursery	Mrs Lynsey McGinn	01666 837604
Recorder Group	Maggie Dyson	01666 837358
Rights of Way (roads)		0300 4560105
Knit & Natter (all crafts)	Sandra Samra	01666 838710
Short Mat Bowls	Pat Harper	07462 136889
200 Club	Geraldine McKibbin	01666 837736
Village Hall anna@hullavingtonhall.org.uk	Anna Durrant	01666 837569
Women's Institute	Isobel Acott	01666 837458



HULLAVINGTON FILM GROUP

Films are shown in the main hall on the fourth Wednesday in the month. Some Film Group EXTRA films (third Wednesday) are also shown in the main hall.

Film titles and details will be announced nearer the time via email, 'Hullavington Happenings' and posters. Please let us know (peac@globalnet.co.uk) if you would like your name added to our mailing list.

£3.00 for adults, £1.00 under 18's, refreshments included.

Films start at 7.30 with doors open at 7.00, unless otherwise stated.

DECEMBER—Wednesday 6th

Film of the Book, (normally in the side room), but this film will be shown in the main hall, so there is no requirement to book seats in advance.



A HAUNTING IN VENICE

2023 1 hour 40 minutes Certificate 12

Kenneth Branagh stars as Hercule Poirot in this adaptation of the book 'Hallowe'en Party' by Agatha Christie.

Doors open at 7.00, the film will start at 7.30.

£3.00 for adults, £1.00 under 18's, refreshments included.

Wednesday 20th

INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

2023 Certificate 12 2 hours 28 minutes

Please note: On this occasion, doors will open at 6:30 for a film start at 7:00pm **FREE ENTRY**, but a donations box will be available for the Chippenham based charity 'DOORWAY'.



MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE.



JANUARY (Please note: this is an 5 Wednesday month)

10th Film Group EXTRA Film title to be announced.

24th Film Group **OPPENHEIMER**

The film will be shown on the 4th Wednesday in the month. This film may have a 7.00 pm start, please look out for emails and posters nearer the time.

We would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas, and Best Wishes for the New Year. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm this year. We look forward to some lovely film evenings in 2024!

From the film and refreshments team

For information about films, please contact Bob Fenner tel: 01666 837320 or Peter and Elizabeth Parry-Williams tel: 01666 837713



PAST TIMES by *Various Villagers*

THERE ARE MANY LOVELY VILLAGERS WHO HAVE SOME WONDERFUL MEMORIES & PHOTOS FROM TIMES GONE BY, SOME MORE RECENT THAN OTHERS BUT ALL IMPORTANT TO BE RECORDED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND ENJOYED BY US RIGHT NOW!



GRACE JONES lived in Latimer Gardens and was a talented flower arranger. For many years she would build a Christmas display just inside the front doors of the village hall. Pictured is her display for 2012 which might well have been her last one because shortly after she decided to 'retire' from doing the displays. Sadly she passed away a few years later.

HULLAVINGTON SNOW SPECIAL

We've been snow ploughing through our photos and have dug up some corkers from the 'Great Snows' of Hullavington!! There's also a dusting from last year....



The 'Great Snow' of winter 1980/81

Windmill Hill

Credit. Mary Greenman

The 'Great Snow' of winter 1980/81

Below: Between Windmill Hill and

Happylands railway

Credit. Mary Greenman





The 'Great Snow' of
winter 1980/81
Left. Hullavington
Garage

Credit. Mary
Greenman

The 'Great Snow' of winter 1980/81

Above. Hullavington Garage

Credit. Mary Greenman



The 'Great Snow' of winter 1982
Left. The Old Street towards the

Queens Head Pub

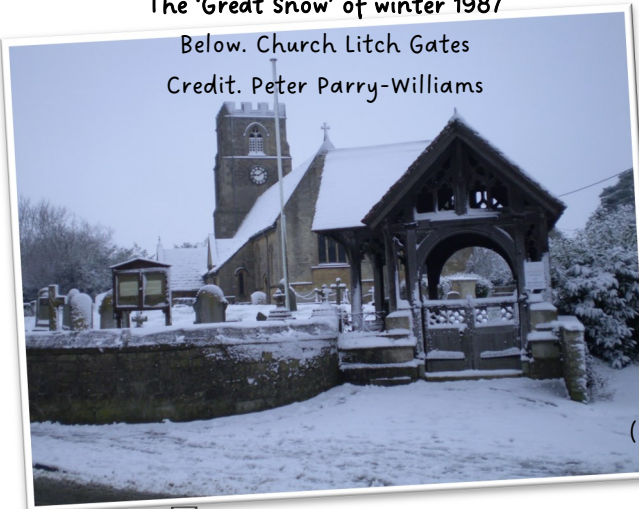
Credit. Dave Hunt



The 'Great Snow' of winter 1987

Below. Church Litch Gates

Credit. Peter Parry-Williams



The 'Great Snow' of winter 1986
Above. Abi & Tilly - Court Field
(now part of Court House Garden)
Credit. Peter Parry-Williams



The 'Great Snow' of winter 2010

Above. Snowman & Dog, Village Green
Credit. Dave Hunt



The 'Great Snow' of winter 2008

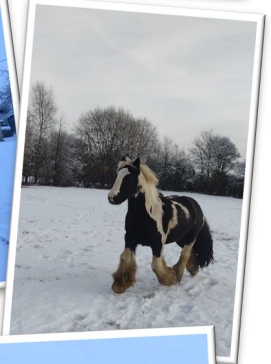
Above. Liz, Toby & Percy
Credit. Peter Parry-Williams



The 'Great Snow' of
winter 2022/23

Various Scenes in
Hullavington

Credit. James Elliott
& Abi (Editor)



Village residents we have sadly lost...

The family of the late William Laurence Friend Matthews "Bill", who passed away on 1st September 2023, would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who attended Bill's funeral and for all the cards, messages of sympathy and donations received.

It was sad to hear of the passing of Annabelle 'Rusty' Johnson on the 28th of September. She died peacefully in her home in Latimer Gardens at the age of 95. Our thoughts are with her family.

Four village residents who have also passed away recently were Pat Joiner, Sue Humpage, Peter Mitchell and also Terry Pearce. Our thoughts are with their families.



HULLAVINGTON ^{ALPHABETICAL} WHAT'S ON...

RED Non regular events

OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD, DATES AND LOCATIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WE DON'T GET ISSUED DATES FOR REGULAR CLUBS SO WE OCCASIONALLY HAVE TO USE ARTISTIC CALENDAR LICENCE!—PLEASE CONTACT THE RELEVANT CLUB OR GROUP LEADERS TO CONFIRM DATES TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

DECEMBER 2023

Coffee Shop (every Friday) - 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th. Village Church. 10-12pm. Tea, coffee and cake —just drop in!

Bat & Chat Table Tennis— (every Monday). 4th, 11th & 18th. Hullavington Village Hall. 2-4pm. table tennis for all, £2/session with first session free. Refreshments included.

Knit & Natter Group (every Tuesday)— 5th, 12th & 19th. Village Hall, 2pm—4pm. £2 includes refreshments. Bring along any craft you like, it does not have to be knitting. We have spare wool and needles if you want to learn knitting.

Film of the Book (First Wednesday) — 6th. Village Hall. 7:30pm. £3. Refreshments included

Stay Fit with Emma (every Thursday)— 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th. Village Hall. 2-3pm. Fun, exercise to music for the over 60's (seated or standing) £7 PAYG or £30 for 5-week term (try first week free!). Emma Taylor, 07968 814965

Hullavington Christmas Fayre— 8thth. Village Hall. 4:40pm until late. Details on page 37

Church Hub (First Saturday) —9th. Village Church. 11-1pm. Light lunches and refreshments—Just drop in!

Book Group (Second Tuesday)—12th. Village Hall 2pm. £2 per person, per session. Refreshments included

Village Christmas Party. Friday 15th Village Hall. ADULTS ONLY—Village Christmas party 7.30pm til late. Free entry, so what are you waiting for?! Please contact Vicky or Sophie to reserve your place. (see page 22)

Film Group EXTRA (Third Wednesday)— 20th. Village Hall. 7:30pm. £3. Refreshments included

Film Group (Fourth Wednesday) - 27th. Village Hall. £3.00 for adults and £1.00 for under 18's. This includes refreshments. Doors open at 7.00, the film starts at 7.30. There is no requirement to book.

JANUARY 2024

Knit & Natter Group (every Tuesday)— 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st. Village Hall, 2pm—4pm. £2 includes refreshments. Bring along any craft you like, it does not have to be knitting. We have spare wool and needles if you want to learn knitting.

Film of the Book (First Wednesday)—4th. Village Hall. 7:30pm. £3. Refreshments included

Stay Fit with Emma (every Thursday)— 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th. Village Hall. 2-3pm. Fun, exercise to music for the over 60's (seated or standing) £7 PAYG or £30 for 5-week term (try first week free!). Emma Taylor, 07968 814965

Pub & Pizza Night - 5th. Village Hall car park. 5-9pm. Serving freshly baked pizzas. The hall bar will be open and tables ready for anyone that wants to eat in the hall with friends.

Coffee Shop (every Friday) - 5th, 12th, 19 & 26th. Village Church. 10-12pm. Tea, coffee and cake —just drop in!

Church Hub (First Saturday) - 7th. Village Church. 11-1pm. Light lunches and refreshments—Just drop in!

Bat & Chat Table Tennis (every Monday). 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th. Hullavington Village Hall. 2-4pm. table tennis for all, £2/session with first session free. Refreshments included.

Book Group (Second Tuesday) - 10th. Village Hall. 2pm £2 per person, per session. Refreshments included

Film Group EXTRA (Third Wednesday) - 17th. Village Hall. 7:30pm. £3. Refreshments included

Film Group (Fourth Wednesday) —25th Village Hall. £3.00 for adults and £1.00 for under 18's. This includes refreshments. Doors open at 7.00, the film starts at 7.30. There is no requirement to book.

IF YOU HAVE ANY HULLAVINGTON BASED EVENTS, CLUBS OR GROUPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE HERE **FOR FREE**, PLEASE EMAIL THE EDITOR AT THE ADDRESS BELOW