

TOCKENHAM

"Wiltshires best kept small village"

Winner 2023



PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2024

From the editor.

We've had a slight change in circumstances now that our printer Bassett Stationary has closed down. In order to keep the costs down we're going to give it a go "in house". By that I mean the Cook household has volunteered to print and fold them for us which is quite an undertaking so please bear with us while this settles itself in.

The Curry Night sold out and was a great success thanks to lots of hard working people headed up by Jane and Julie. We are aware that the way the tickets are / were sold meant that people not on WhatsApp missed the boat and understandably felt left out. This won't happen again and a fairer way of distributing tickets will be employed in future.

Village Hall Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning is on Tuesday, 7th May, from 10.30 a.m. until 12 noon in the village hall, to which everyone is invited.

Thank you everyone for your support – and do come along and join us for coffee/tea, biscuits and a chat – we look forward to welcoming everyone.

If you are unable to join us in May, please add 4th June to your diaries for the following coffee morning.

Allotment 'Free' Shelf

Now is the time to start to keep an eye on the shelf at the Allotment gate for seedlings, plants and produce – everything is free, so please help yourself.

Tockenham 2025 Calendar.

After the great success of the 2024 calendar we are on the hunt for pictures for next years. So, if you'd like your photos to be included send them to Jon Batista at j.batista502@gmail.com. They don't necessarily need to be countryside ones, family images and pets, prize home grown veggies etc from Tockenham are all welcome.

The Christian church has its own celebrations following the holy Eastertide.

Rogation Sunday is on 5th May this year. It is derived from ancient rituals and is a time when the boundaries of the Parish are walked and blessings asked for the crops and husbandry of the land.

Ascension Day is on 9th May and always falls on the fortieth day after Easter. It marks the time when Jesus ended his physical time on earth.

Pentecost is on 19th May this year. This is when the gift of the Holy Spirit is celebrated by Christians. Scripture describes the Holy Spirit in terms of flames, wind, the breath of God and a dove, depicting both gentleness and power.

However you enjoy the this special time of growth, awakening and blossoming it is surely time to be thankful for the gifts and the beauty of the earth and the pleasure and nourishment that its bounty gives us. But also, for the companionship, care, support and stewardship that we receive from our neighbours, family and friends. Whatever values and beliefs you hold surely all is a force for sustainment and good. Perhaps this month you may want to walk your own boundaries or those of the village and ask blessings or give private thanks, just beware of the mud and the boggy bits this year!

Village Fair Helpers.

With such a big and busy fair being organised for June 22nd we need all hands to the pumps on the day please. If you could possibly help on a stall, or just provide muscle to set up and / or take down afterwards your contribution would be invaluable. The fair helps raise money for the village (amongst other things) which we all benefit from so lets all do our little bit and add to the huge amount others are doing to keep Tockenhams Village Fair the global success it has become.

If you let Di Kirby or Ali Pinniger know kirbydrew@yahoo.co.uk alipinniger@gmail.com they'll be delighted as will we all.

Benefice Services May 2024

Wednesday 1st May,

Communion, **Hilmarton Church**, 2.00pm

Sunday 5th May,

Communion, **Broad Town**, 10.30am

All-Age Service, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

Evening Service, **Bradenstoke**, 6.00pm

Thursday 9th May, Ascension Day

Communion, **Hilmarton**, 7.30am

Followed by breakfast

Sunday 12th May

Communion, **Tockenham**, 9.00am

Communion, **Bradenstoke**, 10.30am

Communion, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am

Wednesday 15th May

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.00am

Sunday 19th May, Pentecost

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 8.00am

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

Morning Prayer, **Tockenham**, 10.30am

Sunday 26th May, Trinity Sunday

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 10.30am

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

All-Age Service, **Hilmarton**, 10.30am

Evening Service, **Broad Town**, 6.00pm

May Reflection

May is exciting because Spring seems truly here. It marks the mid- point between the vernal equinox and the summer solstice and holds true promise of summer with lighter mornings and evenings and bright beginnings of green in trees and hedgerows, blossom, bluebells and some real warmth in the sun.

There are many traditional festivities linked to celebrating the new crowning a May Queen, who originally represented the goddess of spring in pagan times

Tockenham Village Fair 2024

The Fair Committee have been busy meeting monthly since January and preparations are progressing well for the big day on 22nd June. We hope for an upturn in our weather and hope it matches last year's glorious day.

You will agree it is a wonderful event but is reliant on the commitment of not just the Fair Committee but also our residents, families and friends. If you can spare anytime to help us, particularly in manning stalls/games and the gate entrances please contact Ali Bennet 07932732861 or Diana Kirby 07765644704.

Any donations in the way of plants, books, cakes, bottles, Tombola prizes would be very much appreciated.

Contributions to Tamsin.Rowe@gmail.com or 07990790617 would also be most welcome to the following Raffle Hampers:

Luxury Spa items, Food & Drink, Gardening and Toys.

Details of how, where and when to deliver any donations/ items will appear in the June magazine.

Kevin Woolnough – Chair Tockenham Village Fair.

Tockenham Fair Raffle Tickets

Dear Villagers

In this month's Parish Magazine, you will find a raffle ticket book and return envelope for this year's Tockenham Village Fair Raffle. Tickets for the Raffle are £1 each or £5 for a book of 5 tickets.

Raffle tickets serve to promote the Fair and drive ticket sales; so please do try to sell all of your tickets. If you would like more

ticket books, then please contact Tamsin Rowe at

Tamsin.Rowe@gmail.com or by text on 07990790617

Alternatively, if you are attending the coffee morning in May extra ticket books will be available there.

The drop off points in Tockenham for your cash and ticket counterfoils are, Meadow Court (Tamsin Rowe) and 7, West Tockenham (Mandy Cook).

Many thanks in advance for your support.

The Tockenham Village Fair Committee

Allotment News

I volunteered to write this piece then swiftly realised that I am not really qualified to provide Allotment News as I mainly enjoy the results from Kevin's allotment rather than contribute in any meaningful way to the production of it. So, to avoid Imposter Syndrome I am presenting some Allotment themed information and have called this an Article rather than News.

The tradition of allotment holding in Britain harks back to Anglo - Saxon times when swathes of land were commonly held for growing food, grazing livestock and collecting firewood.

The system we recognise today has its roots in the Nineteenth Century, when, following the rapid industrialisation of the Country some land was given over for the provision of food growing. Often provisions relating to use and the behaviour of the users were included in agreements. One Allotment Tenancy Agreement dating back to 1846 serving the Parish of Husbands Bosworth states "Every occupier is expected to attend divine service on Sundays; and any occupier who digs potatoes or otherwise works on his land on Sunday shall immediately forfeit the same."

At the end of the First World War land started to be made more widely available, primarily as a way of assisting returning service men (Land Settlement Facilities Act 1919)

Acts of Parliament followed in the 1920s and have been developed over the years to the system we have today with Allotments being owned and operated by a mixture of Local Authorities and private owners.

The following statistics from the Guardian newspaper (October 2023) relating to Council owned allotments illustrate how allotment popularity has exploded in the last 12 years.

In 2012 there were approximately 86,787 allotment plots Nationwide and by October 2023 that had grown to approximately 157,820.

The average waiting time for a Council allotment was 3 years but the longest waiting time was in Islington North London which had a 15 year wait. Bristol had the longest waiting list with 7,630 people on it.

Bushton Manor Plant Fair and Open Garden Bank Holiday Monday May 6th 11-3

Although we had parking issues, the Plant Fair last year was very successful with over 1000 visitors – we hope to be able to use the parking on site in 2024!

The 18th Century Manor House has delightful gardens and this Plant Fair is the only time they are open to the public. About 30 Stalls with Plants, Crafts, Food and other garden related items are scattered throughout the courtyard and lawns. Purchases can be left at the Plant Crèche so that you don't need to carry them around with you. And you can relax on the lawns enjoying home made refreshments or a Bacon Butty from the BBQ. Games and a Treasure Hunt can keep young people occupied.

Entrance is £3*. No charge for children or car parking. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Money raised will go to the St Peter's Church Roof Fund, a Grade 1 listed building in Clyffe Pypard.

*Facebook : **Bushton Manor Plant Fair 2024** for Eventbrite Link to pre -paid entry

Tockenham Fair Plant Stall

The plant stall is looking for items to put up for sale but this year we've decided to run it a bit different. Previously we bought stock in and grew it on which meant having to sell at a certain price. In the light of the current financial climate, we would prefer to focus more on home-grown plants, vegetables, herbs and houseplants and would be very grateful for any donations. If you would like any help (eg dividing existing perennials) or extra pots, please let us know.

We are also looking for pots, baskets, etc which could be planted up prior to the fair

Sara sara@cutlers.online)

