

Ewelme



News

August/September 2026



Churchyard's new mowing plan is attracting new flora and fauna... p12

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Parish Directory

Parish Council

Chairman	Barry Tindall barrytindall@ewelmeaparishcouncil.gov.uk
Vice Chairman	Rebecca Lanigan rebeccalanigan@ewelmeaparishcouncil.gov.uk
Councillors	Nigel Layton nigellayton@ewelmeaparishcouncil.gov.uk Sally Stockings sallystockings@ewelmeaparishcouncil.gov.uk Paul Stillaway paulstillaway@ewelmeaparishcouncil.gov.uk Mike Ibbott mikeibbott@ewelmeaparishcouncil.gov.uk
Parish Clerk	Jo Brock clerk@ewelmeaparishcouncil.gov.uk (Mon-Fri 07510 250508)

County & District Councillors

County Councillor	Gavin McLauchlan gavin.mclauchlan@oxfordshire.gov.uk
SODC Councillors	Sue Cooper 01491 835631 Andrea Powell Andrea.Powell@southoxon.gov.uk

Ewelme Church

Rector	Rev. Dr Patrick Gilday 01491 838535
Associate Priest	Rev. Marion Harrison 01491 281341
Churchwardens	Sally Fehr sally_fehr@hotmail.co.uk Martin Spence martinhsjpsence@gmail.com
Visits Co-ordinator	Sally Fehr 01491 824822
Flower Co-ordinator	Angela Smailes 01491 836964

Almshouses

Almshouse Warden	Ian Jones warden@ewelmealmshouses.org
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Ewelme School

Headteacher	Joe Ottaway 01491 839240
Chair of Governors	Jess Readings jessica.readings@gmail.com

Village Groups & Services

Ewelme Society	Carol Sawbridge 01491 833154
Ewelme Store	01491 834467 manager@ewelmevillagestore.co.uk
Village Hall	ewelmehall@gmail.com
Village Preschool	Jo Hoskin 01491 281266
Admissions	01491 613143
Veterinary Surgery	Larkmead 01491 651379
Millstream Surgery	Dr Lucy Jenkins 01491 838286
Millstream Centre	Emma Gallagher 01491 834889
Newelme Club	Angela Harrison 01491 834111
Watercress Painters	Trisha Scott 01491 834734 / 07884 330453

The Village Diary

Saturday 1st - Sunday 2nd August

Nettlebed Art and Craft Show

Nettlebed School

Wednesday 12th August 7pm

Ewelme Parish Council Meeting

Ewelme Village Hall

Saturday 29th August 6.30pm-10.30pm

Ewelme Hootenanny 2026

Recreation Ground

Monday 31st August 2pm

Ewelme Village Show

Recreation Ground

Saturday 19th September 10am-12.45pm

Cholsey Repair Cafe

Cholsey Pavilion

Sunday 6th September

Ewelme Horse Show and Fun Dog Show

Ford's Farm, Ewelme OX10 6PL

Regular Events

1st Sunday in month (April-Sept)

Watercress Beds Open Afternoons

2.00-4.30pm Watercress Centre

£5 Entrance fee (members and children free) Teas available, no dogs please

2nd Friday in month

Newelme Club - Afternoon Tea

Everyone welcome

2.30pm Village Hall

Every Wednesday

MUGS - Coffee Morning

Everyone welcome

10.20-11.45am Shepherd's Hut

Every Sunday

11am St Mary's Church Service

(3rd Sunday 'Break Out' - Family friendly)

The Ewelme News is published **bi-monthly** by the Ewelme Parish Council. The copy date for the next issue is **15th September 2026**. Please send your contributions to the editor, Tash Troth at tashtroth@outlook.com

EWELME VILLAGE HALL

YOU CAN HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL

Main hall maximum of 120 seated, 96 with tables
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Ewelme Parish Council



Notes on Parish Council meeting held on 10th June & 8th July 2026

The purpose of these notes is to summarise some items discussed at a recent Parish Council meeting, there is no intention to duplicate the minutes, which can be viewed on the PC website at www.ewelmeparishcouncil.gov.uk. Not all matters discussed at the meeting are covered here.

Traffic: Cameras were set up in Ewelme and Benson to monitor traffic activity around the Hazell & Jefferies' site. On 18/06/2026, the Ewelme camera registered 19 movements each way that day. This is within the CLEUD, which allows for 25 movements each way a day.

There isn't a date yet for the completion of the new Benson ring road.

Gavin McLaughlan (GM) encouraged the PC to apply for Quiet Lane status on Parson's Lane to stimulate conversation with OCC about traffic issues on this section of road.

Bike stands: The PC have received a grant from GM for bike stands in the village. The Parson's Lane road sign by the shop has been moved, with permission, so 3-4 bike stands can be erected in this location.

Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC): Members of the committee have stepped down. Four residents have said they may be able to join the committee. This is still ongoing.

Proposed footpath on Cat Lane & Parson's Lane: Residents have been cutting back the vegetation to make the area safer for pedestrians.

Bus shelter: The display is changing to showcase the Horticultural Show event next month. The Ewelme Almshouse Trust is also displaying information in the bus shelter.



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Ewelme Hootenanny '26

Fun for all the family - Rain or shine - 29 August from 18.30

Following the success of last year's Hootenanny, we are holding another social, picnic-style evening with live music on Cow Common on Saturday 29rd August 2026. There will be a large marquee (erected for the Village Show on 31 st August) with both indoor and outdoor seating. Tables for up to ten people can be booked by emailing ewelme@icloud.com or at Ewelme Village Store.

Entry is free - we will provide music, a bar, a brownie pudding station and a children's entertainer. We are hoping that you will feel able to make a donation in aid of the Horticultural show.

Please bring your own food and as many friends and family as you can. Everyone is welcome. Please put the date in your diary, and spread the word as far and wide as possible!

Best wishes

Sarah



Ewelme Village Show

This year is the 44th year of the Ewelme Show which will take place on Ewelme Recreation ground on August Bank Holiday Monday 31st August 2026. Please join us to make this an extra special event this year.

Schedules for the event will be available from the Village Shop in Ewelme and Derry's Den in Benson so why not try your hand at an entry with several categories for children.

The show tent will open at 2pm with free entry and an auction of the produce will take place at 4.15

There will be a variety of stalls at the event including a BBQ, ice creams - tea and home made cakes - music and and a selection of interesting classic cars - the grand draw has a main prize of £100 which has been kindly donated by Grundons.

Any information regarding the event please contact Tracey on 01491 834358 or Linda on 07810884663

Look forward to seeing you

Linda

Ewelme Village Store & Tea Room

Oil syndicate news: we're moving to Affinity Fuels

Over the last ten years, Ewelme Store has run a very successful oil syndicate in association with Lovell Fuels. Recently, we have identified an alternative supplier who we believe will offer additional benefits to our members. Consequently, we have decided to move our oil syndicate to Affinity Fuels from 1 August and we think members and the village will feel the benefit.

We looked for a supplier that could offer similar or lower prices, keep money flowing back to our Village Store, and make life easier for members. Affinity ticked every box. It's a heating-oil buying group and part of AF Group, a not-for-profit agricultural co-operative serving rural communities — so the community spirit that underpins our syndicate stays firmly in place.

By joining Affinity we also become part of a buying group of around 4,000 members, giving us far greater buying power — Affinity simply secures the best price available in our area at the time you order, and shares market insight on good times to buy.

The biggest change is flexibility. Instead of three fixed deliveries a year, you order whenever your tank needs filling, at the best live price. Because Affinity isn't tied to one delivery firm, we should also see fewer hold-ups. Members can flag any additional needs and receive helpful reminders, and — importantly — the Village Store still earns 0.5p per litre on everything the syndicate buys.

This is also a good moment to join. The flexible deliveries suit smaller tanks and shorter top-ups, so households that couldn't make the old fixed schedule work can now take part. And you don't have to live in Ewelme to be a member — anyone in the UK can join, so do tell friends and family. More members means a bigger contribution to our shop.

Existing members: you'll receive an email with our unique sign-up link — please re-register before 1 August. New members: sign up via the Village Store website, scan the QR code or sign up using this link:

<https://www.affinityfuels.co.uk/createaccount?syndicate=105>

Questions? Contact Nicky Hickman:
nickyhickman@hotmail.com



Summer Visitors? Pop into Ewelme Village Store!

If you've got grandchildren, nieces, nephews or other family and friends coming to stay over the summer holidays, why not bring them along to Ewelme Village Store? We've got lots of tasty treats to keep everyone happy, including ice creams, traditional sweets, cold drinks and plenty of delicious homemade cakes and bakes. If you're after something a little healthier, we've got those too, along with all your everyday essentials.

Our tea room and outside seating space are the perfect place to stop for lunch, coffee and cake, whether you're catching up with family or taking a break during a summer walk around the village.

And if you've got guests staying in the village, or someone house-sitting while you're away, don't forget we can order newspapers for them too – just let us know in advance.

We'd love to welcome you and your summer visitors this summer!

Cara Chapman

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Chair's Charities for 2026/27

At its Annual Meeting on 14th May, SODC elected Cllr Andrea Powell as its Chair for the 2026-27 Municipal Year. As the author of this article, I can state what a privilege it is to have been elected by fellow Councillors to this important non-political role and how much I am looking forward to a year of meeting volunteers, charities and residents from across the District. I will also have the “pleasure” of chairing the meetings of Full Council and keeping your councillors in order! It’s worth noting that I take on the role of Chair exactly thirty years after my fellow ward representative, Cllr Sue Cooper, had the same honour. Sue has always been an inspiration to me and I look forward to representing the District Council in our final year as a fully functional local authority as well as she has always done.

One of the best bits about becoming Chair is that I am able to nominate two charities to be the focus of fundraising activities over the course of the year. My two charities are very local and support vulnerable and less able people in our community, enabling them to enjoy fulfilling and active lives. **Style Acre** is a charity which supports around 275 adults with learning disabilities and autism in supportive, creative and dynamic environments that allow them to fulfil their potential and live the life they choose. You may be familiar with the Style Acre shop in Wallingford or the café at Savages garden centre in Blewbury, but less so with the community hub called Turnstyle located at Howbery Park. This hub hosts activities which include arts, crafts, gardening and cookery while acting as a base where people come to learn life skills, make friends, have fun and to develop their independence and confidence. Style Acre also accommodates adults in housing across the District, enabling them to live independently but with appropriate support as needed.

Cycling Without Age is a global charity founded in 2011 which now has over 4000 hubs worldwide, including a brand new one in Benson and another in Wallingford! CWA Oxfordshire provides free trishaw rides to elderly, isolated and vulnerable people, whether they live in one of our local residential care homes or in their own homes. Trained “pilots” take up to two passengers in specially adapted e-trikes for joyful rides around the local area, enjoying social interaction with others, feeding the ducks at our local ponds and experiencing the “wind in their hair” whatever their age or ability. You may already have seen the trikes taking elderly residents from Benson House Care Home around the village and up to Kings Pool in Ewelme; next time be sure to give them a cheery wave!

By the time you read this issue of the Ewelme News, the first fundraiser for these two amazing charities will have taken place; on 21st June I will have (hopefully) completed a 66-mile cycle ride across Dartmoor, including some gruelling climbs and

1830m of ascent. Then on 23rd October I will be hosting a Chair's Charity Quiz at Crowmarsh Village Hall, so watch this space for more details. In the meantime, a JustGiving page has been set up for this year's fundraising efforts; if you would like to support these two local causes, please feel free to visit the page at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/southoxon. (Please note that JustGiving does charge a small commission).

Latest Progress with the Local Plan

On 18th June, Council will be meeting to review the timetable for the Joint Local Plan and new government requirements to start work on the next local plan before the independent examination on the last one is even finished! A local plan is a document councils are required to prepare to provide plans and policies for all types of development, including new housing and employment sites in the area as well as identifying the infrastructure needed to support them. New government rules mean using higher housing targets and focusing less on supporting policies surrounding issues such as biodiversity and nature recovery. We hope to be able to preserve the excellent policies developed as part of our emerging Joint Local Plan (with Vale of White Horse), but ultimately our new unitary authority will be the one that will adopt the next local plan.

EWELME **FREE ENTRY!**
HOOTENANNY' 26
ON THE COMMON
Live music by Tragik with support from Laurianne Chusseau – plus children's entertainer Bertie Slippers
SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 2026
6.30PM - 10.30PM
Bring your own picnic!
We've got the drinks covered!
To keep the entry free, please support this event by using the on site licensed bar
Reserve a table (£10) ewelme@icloud.com or at Ewelme village store
Donations to the Ewelme Horticultural Society

The next **Cholsey Repair Café** will take place on **Saturday 19th September** at the **Cholsey Pavilion**. Doors open at 10.00 and close at 12.45.

Talented fixers offer help and advice free of charge, to get a wide variety of broken household items back into working order, although donations to cover operating costs are always appreciated.

Excellent refreshments are available next door, in the Cholsey Community Café.

Further details can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com or you can email repaircafe@cholsey.com.

Ewelme Church Organist

St Mary's, Ewelme, is seeking an organist to play twice a month at our 11 a.m. services – on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We offer a fee of £50 per service.

The organist's duties are to

- accompany the congregational singing of four hymns
- play a voluntary before and after each service

The ideal candidate would be a competent organist with some experience of playing at church services, but...

- pianists and keyboard players looking for a new challenge are also welcome to apply
- practical skills are more important than formal qualifications
- even if you could only play once a month, we would still like to hear from you



Our historic organ dates from 1840 and is in good working order

We are a small and friendly congregation and would love to have our own organist again.

To apply, or for further details, email martinhjspence@gmail.com

Closing date for applications – 6 September 2026

Orchids in the Churchyard

It was a delight to see two pyramidal orchids spring up in one of the 'no-mow' areas of the churchyard earlier in the summer. They must have been lying dormant there for years, but now at last they have had a chance to flower.

In July we began cutting the long grass - this helps to reduce nutrient recycling, thus improving the environment for wild flowers, which prefer nutrient-depleted soil. The hay was allowed to rest for a few days - allowing time for seeds to disperse and insects to migrate - before being removed.

Next year we hope to conduct a survey of the flora and fauna present in the churchyard. This will serve as a baseline against which to monitor the increase in biodiversity that we're hoping for. Volunteers to help with the survey will be much appreciated - watch this space!

***Martin Spence,
Churchwarden***



*Pyramidal Orchid -
Photo by John Brannan*

Owl Box Success

Ewelme citizen scientists Barry Tindall, Mark Powell and Andrew Walker spent a fascinating evening monitoring local owl boxes with Lu Barton of the Owl Conservation Project. 11 boxes were checked in and around the village starting with some of the newly installed Barn Owl boxes in Ewelme itself then moving on to check boxes installed by Crowmarsh Battle Farms. Results were two sets of Barn Owl chicks, one clutch of Barn Owl eggs and one set of Kestrel chicks. Those with chicks were then revisited by a licensed bird ringing team the following week. All chicks were weighed and checked-over then ringed, photographed and returned to their box. All this information was later logged on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) data base. Both Barn Owl broods had 4 healthy chicks near to fledging and the Kestrel brood was of 7 chicks.

2026 has been a good year for Barn Owls after something of a disappointing 2025. Their diet is small mammals, especially short-tailed field voles, hunting mainly at night over open grassland. Their success depends upon good hunting habitat and favourable weather conditions. They are seldom seen and rarely heard, making a screeching noise but only in breeding season. The hooting in the village is from Tawny Owls.

Many thanks to those of you who have either sponsored a box or provided a location for one and to Crowmarsh Battle Farms.



Old Father Thyme

The Village Hall - the building project that sparked a 'civil war'

The May 13th, 2026, Annual Parish Meeting focused on keeping the Village Hall Charity in existence, and the urgent need for volunteers to join the present long serving but diminishing Village Hall Management Trustees! This discussion prompted an investigation into archive documents, revealing the astonishing 'birth' of the present village hall.

Previous Ewelme News have covered the 1909 provision by local benefactors of two amenities, being the Reading Room and the Rifle Range next door - separated by 'some rather unsavoury public toilets.' (The Rifle Range gradually lost popularity for shooting practise after World War I, becoming increasingly dilapidated. In 1926 village boys - seeking a meeting space more comfortable than the bus shelter - broke in and squatted. A Youth Club evolved which continued into the 1980's). Indoor village events had historically been staged in the church, the relatively small Reading Room, or in the two school classrooms - causing disruption and involving labour in the clearing and replacing of desks. A central venue for community use was required. A newspaper cutting dated February 8th, 1938, reported on a meeting in the school room to discuss two suggestions - to build a new hall, or, as a cheaper alternative, the Reading Room doubling in size by being joined to the Rifle Range - costing approximately £500. Two groups objected to the latter proposal. The Women's Institute used and financed the upkeep of the Reading Room, and the Boys' Club would lose a free venue. The outbreak of World War II disrupted the plans, and the two buildings were utilised for various essential purposes during hostilities.

In the 1976 June issue of the Ewelme News the editor, George Cannon, asked for



opinions on the need for a Village Hall "...as a common meeting place to suit the needs of all the community. Some favour a meeting place at the Benson end of the village. There are those who favour the other end, on the Common. Some there are who see no need for a meeting place at all, and some favour a place in the centre, near the water. What do you think?"

In 1980 positive movements began to build a new hall to replace the Rifle Range (now known as The Social Club). A Village Hall Management Committee was formed, acting in conjunction with the Parish Council, with the first meeting held on June 6th, 1980. Fund-raising events were organised, and personal loans and gifts poured in. On January 9th, 1981, the Management Committee signed a contract agreement for £50,154 with Chiltern Development Company Ltd of Princes Risborough, to build the new hall, to commence on February 2nd, 1981, and be completed by August 22nd, 1981. The overall estimated cost was £52,000. (As motor car ownership had increased, the lack of parking became apparent, and the first outline plans show five parking spaces - in the present Playschool garden!)

As noted in 1976. the divergence of opinions continued, and the advancing scheme attracted vigorous opposition. A document written by Mrs Joy Best (of the Old Coach House) illustrated the surprising toxicity evolving between two factions. One group, with full Parish Council support, preferred to replace the Rifle Range. The other, to build a new hall on the playing fields, possibly situated near the present cricket nets against the bank, with parking provision beyond the Sports Pavilion.

However, on November 6th, 1980, the Parish Council agreed to replace the Rifle Range with an overall estimated cost of £52,000. Three main factors influenced the decision. No serious planning problems were likely, plus a substantial grant of £27,200 was available (but only for that project), from the District Council and the Department of Education & Science - a grant withdrawn the following year! Other grants raised the sum to around £40,000. A further bonus was the Parish Council could combine its previously separate Rifle Range and Reading Room charities into one, becoming Custodian Trustee of both venues.

Mrs Best wrote that the project was initially received enthusiastically, but - "The site, the size, the cost, could not please everyone, it would have been hard to have done so. Still they worked together, raising money for this and that, but below the surface a rumble could be felt. Then as the new hall began to appear the community cracked, split, and divided. Resentment grew on both sides. The project dismissed and the whole thing became nothing but a battle of principles. Those for it rushed things along regardless of anyone. Those against it did all they could to stop any sort of community in the village. The resentment became like a cancer; it festered and grew angry." (One villager recently revealed participating in a door-to-door campaign to canvass support for the sports field site!)

Although the generous 50% grants were not applicable to an alternative site, the rift widened. A bad-tempered meeting on November 27th, 1980, expressed the '...opposition of a great many villagers in favour of the sports field!' Opposition even continued through the building phase in 1981. Mrs Best recorded some clandestine activity - "On the very last

meeting in the school to discuss the arrangements of the grand opening of the hall... The other group heard of the meeting, and the cancer burst. They rushed to the meeting and angry spiteful words hung in the air, like raw icicles!"

How long it took for the 'raw icicles' to melt is best not remembered now, but the present village hall was finally opened on September 26th, 1981 by Mrs Lizzie Winfield, Ewelme's oldest resident. All eleven of the village's organisations planned to use it - some of whose members must have included the dissenters!

Carol Sawbridge - Ewelme Village Archive

We regret to announce the sudden death on May 27th of Tony Leathem. The Leathem family were the last to live in The Mount, the Elizabethan house demolished in the mid-1960s to make way for Nos. 1 and 2 Chaucer Court. Tony shared many interesting memories of his childhood spent living there.

Update from Wallingford Emergency Food Bank

We are well into the second quarter of the food bank year.

We continue to see increases in demand. In terms of households March was up 16.3% and April was up 31.1%. More concerning numbers of children on these two months have been up 50.3% and 43.0%. Last year however, April was the last month to see a significant decrease in demand. It was the end of a trend that ran all the way through 2024. So we hope that as we enter the third quarter increases will steady and not keep edging up. We are now entering our 'lean' months as we historically have fewer extra donations over the summer months and become dependent on our regular supporters, so do please consider giving some food, or a cash donation.

On a personal note, I am stepping back from running food bank at the beginning of February in 2027. So, we are looking for someone new to manage the food bank. Wallingford Emergency Food bank is a well- established charity, with an amazing set of supportive volunteers and donors. Unlike many food banks most of our contact with clients is over the phone. We rely on referrers to decide who is in genuine need of food, which means we do not make those decisions. The existing systems and policies all work well and will be handed over in good order. This allows you either to simply carry on the work, or to consider developing the organisation to do more.

If this appeals, do have a look at our advert for the new manager. The deadline for applications is 14 August, and we will interview in late September.

Ewelme Horse Show and Fun Dog Show



Illustration by Sapphire Hodson aged 12

Sunday 6th September 2026 at Ford's Farm, Ewelme, OX10 6PL

By kind permission of Miss Marlene Edwards, President

£3.00 entry per car – space will be limited

Join us on Facebook at Ewelme Horse Show and Fun Dog Show 2026

Schedules available in usual places and on Facebook.

Enter via www.horse-events.co.uk

Field open from 8am

Horse Show Enquiries: Catherine Hordern

Email: catherinehordern@hotmail.co.uk

Phone/What's App: 0771 264 5793

Entries close: Tuesday, 1st September 2026 or before if classes are full.

Dave's Ices

On-site catering - selection of hot food, burgers,
breakfast baps, jacket potatoes, curry.

Reflection for August/September

Here it is, at last, the time of year when we all look forward to slowing down from the rush of day to day living and take timeout to smell the roses. Well, not just smell roses but take time to go swimming or visit that museum you heard about from a friend. Or spend a day at the beach or do the tourist bit and visit London for the day. Perhaps you have a holiday booked or are planning to take a last-minute break, a few days away somewhere peaceful or noisy or just days out with the children or grandchildren. Whichever it is, summer is here, and the weather, although erratic, on the whole is fair to really good. If venturing abroad to the south of France, Spain or Italy, the weather is HOT, HOT, HOT and DRY, DRY, DRY, please do take precautions.

I often find myself thinking of August as the month of journeys. There are the short journeys of days out that often involve traffic jams or queuing at your destination for carpark space or entrance to a venue. And the old fashioned call of "are we there yet" from the back seat floods into our minds. Then there are the short breaks away, long weekends or mid-week trips with nights in B&B or hotels or the full holiday away. Both of these involve travelling, by car, rail or even air with their associated problems.

The thing is the journey is an integral part of going somewhere and returning home again. Something pilgrims of old and some more modern pilgrims understand. It should be a time out for your souls and stress levels. A chance to connect or reconnect with different surroundings, a chance to take time-out from the normal day to day run of life and do something different. So make the journey a thoughtful and gentle time to unwind or recover from the fast and hectic lives we all lead.

In August, if all your journeying has left you some energy, St. Mary's will be holding a Pet Service on 16th August at 11.00am followed by refreshments and doggy biscuits and please, do bring your owners. All welcome.

Wishing you all a safe journey, there and back again, this summer.

Rev. Marion Harrison



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DOMESTIC DRAIN SERVICES

Nettlebed Country Music Club

The ever popular TONY COLLINS will be on stage again on SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST at the Nettlebed Hall, High St, Nettlebed RG9 5DD. Tony is an accomplished singer who travels widely across the country and covers a mix of tempo of well known Country Music, popular 60's/ 70's numbers and perhaps some Irish songs. Doors open at 7:30pm for an 8:00pm start running through to 11:00pm. No tickets are needed. Whilst we run these social community events on a not for profit basis, we do ask for a donation of £10pp to help cover our costs for the evening. As always, the bar also sells tea/coffee and soft drinks. The venue is pleasant with a friendly relaxed atmosphere and comfortable seating. Free local parking. For those who like to dance there is a good size floor - and no problem should you prefer to relax and enjoying the music. Family, friends and colleagues? bring them along as well for a good night out!

THEN OUR NEXT DANCE IS SAT 26th SEPT when the Merv and Steve Duo return again. AND take advantage of our special offer of FREE entry (normally £5pp) to new people for each and every one of our CD evenings every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in July, August and September 2026 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

All these events are run by the Nettlebed Country Music Club. Your contact is Keith on 07752 374 610 - please call if you have any questions. All dates and artists are subject to change/cancellation at short or no notice.

Ewelme Village Hall Committee



The Village Hall is a very important village asset that is well used by the community, local groups and a venue for many village events.

The committee now urgently needs to recruit new members to be able to continue the management of the Hall on behalf of the village.

Are you able to spare 1-2 hours per month to support this very important village asset?

If you think you can help, please contact clerk@ewelmeaparishcouncil.gov.uk for further details.

Mill Stream Surgery Update

Dr Steve Ross: Plans for retirement from the partnership on 30th September 2026

I have had the enormous privilege of working as a GP Partner at Mill Stream Surgery since July 2014 when I joined the practice to replace Dr Peter Rose on his retirement.

It is always a difficult decision knowing when the time is right to retire. With the practice having been able to appoint Dr Ellen Keith as an additional partner in September 2024 and take on Dr Sadi Dhakal as an additional salaried GP in September 2025 the time feels right for me to retire from my GP Partner role. I will not be leaving the surgery completely. I will be available to work as needed to cover any needs such as holiday periods or sickness absence. I will also continue to have a role in medical student education with the longstanding links the surgery has with the University of Oxford.

The 12 years that I have been a partner at the surgery have seen huge changes in the NHS and some enormous challenges, including the COVID crisis. Throughout all of these years it has been a joy to work with such amazing partners, and such a fantastic team. Every single person in the team, those seen and those working in the background unseen, is committed to providing the best care possible for our patients.

For me, it has been a privilege to contribute to the care of many of our patients over these years. I am deeply aware of the trust placed in me by our patients who come with needs or questions or at crisis points in their lives. I am also very aware that it is a team effort, and it has been wonderful to work with such an open and supportive team.

Ever since its inception the NHS has undergone change after change. Change is the one constant! I know that the team will continue to serve the local community, striving to offer the best possible patient care in an ever-changing environment. I look forward to supporting the team as I am able going forward.

With best wishes

Dr Steve Ross

MILL STREAM SURGERY



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GENERAL PRACTICE

Mill Stream Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Join up! Join up!

As we write this in early June, it is both Volunteers' Week and PPG Awareness week, so it seemed timely to write a bit more about the PPG. All patients of Mill Stream Surgery are members of the PPG, but we are always looking for new members for the PPG Committee. We are often asked what our role is.

The PPG Committee is a group of patients who take a proactive role to:

- Support the practice, keeping up to date with changes required by the NHS
- Act as a link between patients and the Practice
- Support and encourage patients to take an active role in managing their own health
- Help identify areas for development and improvement

The Practice value the work and support of the PPG.

Amongst other things, we:

- Promote the use of the NHS App, offering help and support to patients to register with the NHS App and understand its benefits – including ordering repeat prescriptions, booking appointments, viewing test results and consultations, receiving messages, viewing medical records
- Liaise with local schools to use the schoolchildren's artwork to brighten up the Surgery waiting room
- Help promote the Surgery Facebook page
- Support the JOY Social Prescribing Platform (referring patients to non-clinical services), and we continue to liaise with Village groups to support health and wellbeing locally
- Assist with admin tasks at Covid and Flu Clinics run at the Surgery
- Have a role in interviews for new clinicians and other staff
- Arrange CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) courses, which include showing local residents how to use the AEDs (defibrillators) situated in the village. Please do contact us with ideas for other events
- Support the monthly Carers Group in Benson Library from 1030-1200 on the first Thursday of each month
- Early in 2025 we facilitated the NHS Change workshop, giving patients across our Primary Care Network (PCN) the opportunity to join the national conversation about the Future of the NHS

We work closely with other PPGs across our PCN and more widely, to share ideas and information. What we don't do is discuss any individual medical conditions or clinical circumstances. We are always looking for patients who will be active members of our PPG Committee. We meet 3 times each year and encourage members to use their particular skills to take on a specific activity or project within the group. It should not take much time or interfere with your social life! As the NHS 10-year plan focuses more on healthcare in the community, local voices and ideas are important.

Interested in joining the Mill Stream Surgery PPG Committee?

Why not have a chat with a Committee member? If you email millstreamsurgery.ppg@gmail.com or leave your contact details with the Care Navigator/Receptionist at the Surgery, one of us will be in touch – no commitment! You can also contact the Practice Manager at the Surgery – email admin.millstream@nhs.net FAO Practice Manager

If you are a patient at a different Surgery and would like to find out more about their PPG – please make contact with them direct.

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