

## PROTECT OUR PONDS

There are five ponds on Chipperfield Common, all unique in their size, shape and wildlife. This winter we undertook important management to improve three of them for nature,



including Apostles Pond. Despite this positive work and new signage, we were upset to see that many sticks and logs had been thrown into Apostles Pond. This pond is thought to be almost 1000 years old. It is incredibly important for wildlife and is a much-loved feature of the Common. We hope that everyone appreciates its importance and the ways in which we can protect it into the future.



Sticks and logs thrown into the pond disturb wildlife and over time fill the pond, reducing our ability to manage it effectively. Last winter, professional contractors had to be brought in to remove them.

Special thanks go to Vas, Chipperfield's Village Warden, who recently cleared away many sticks and logs that had been thrown into Apostles Pond. His hard work will benefit the wildlife that call the pond home, and we hope that we can all keep it attractive for them.

Please do not throw sticks and logs into the pond - the wildlife will thank you!  
Steven Werrell, SANG Officer

Chipperfield Village Hall  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
SATURDAY 28 MARCH

- 7 for 7.30pm prompt
- Tables of up to 8 people
- £10 per head
- Prizes, raffle, licensed pay bar with wines, beers and soft drinks
- Bring your own picnic supper

For tickets and more details, please contact  
Hugh Clifford on 07970 646154 • hugh@barrettfirrell.co.uk

To raise funds for the Village Hall  
Registered charity no: 250164

Chipperfield Choral Society  
Patrons: Emma Bell, Delia Meehan Musical Director: Sheila Cornall

## Spring Concert 2026

# Mozart Requiem

## Haydn 'Maria Theresa' Mass

Sheila Cornall	Conductor
Ali Ponsford-Hill	Soprano
Melissa Davies	Alto
Gareth Treseder	Tenor
Peter Edge	Baritone

Saturday 14th March 2026  
7:30pm at St John's Church  
Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1JH

Tickets: £20 (under 17: £5) trybooking.com/uk/FPZP  
Box office: 01923 400520 or from choir members

Reg. Charity No. 288170 Website: www.chipperfieldchoral.co.uk

Inspire  
Women Inspiring Women

Inspire Ladies Group meets on the first Monday of every month at 1.30pm in St Paul's Parish Room.

We spend time together listening to visiting speakers, trying out different activities, and enjoying tea, coffee and cake.

We would love to welcome more ladies to our group.



## Pani's Quiz Night

On a horrible, rainy night at the end of January, Pani held its very first **Quiz Night**. The weather didn't spoil the fun. The café was full of people looking forward to a great evening, despite the relentless rain outside. Amazing food platters were on offer, together with tasty desserts, and the fine wines and beers helped the evening go with a swing. Even the quizmaster, **Phil Waine**, had to battle (just a little bit) to make himself heard! All in all, it was a great evening, with a good prize for the winners and a donation to St Paul's church from the lovely **Panayi family**. I can't wait for the next one! *Ann Waine*



Chipperfield  
VILLAGE HALL

## Spring Wine Tasting

**Saturday, 11 April 2026**  
**7.30pm-10.00pm**

A relaxed evening hosted by Dalling & Co, our highly respected local Kings Langley wine merchant, sampling their favourite wines from around the world.

**Wine Tasting: £22.50 per person**  
**Optional Food Platters: £12.50 per person**

**Call to book: 01923 265574**  
**Tickets and Food Pre-orders:**  
[www.dallingandco.com/tastings](http://www.dallingandco.com/tastings)

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Wine Merchants & Co  
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01923 265574

## Well-known organist to play at Chipperfield

Enfield organists have chosen our St. Paul's church organ to host a recital by **Ben Markovic** at **6pm** on **Saturday, 7 March**. Ben will play a variety of short pieces, ranging from early composers such as Bach, Rossi, Rubinstein and Scheidemann to more recent compositions from Dupré, Howells and McDowall, including Hakim's 'Variations on Amazing Grace'. There is no charge for the recital, just a retiring collection.



## Friends of Chipperfield Common

The 'Friends of Chipperfield Common' (FOCC) run practical tasks on the Common each month from September to June, alternating between Thursdays and Saturdays. We meet at the Cricket Ground Car Park for 9am. All tools, gloves, hi-vis, tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. If we're lucky, we get homemade cakes, too!

Our tasks include cutting back small trees/scrub, cutting invasive holly/laurel, path clearance, litter picking and general maintenance. Recently we have been opening up the 'main glade'; removing trees allows light to the ground for plants and insects. The Common once had many patches of grassland/heathland which we aim to recreate.

Malcolm, one of our regulars said:

"Volunteering with FOCC means being part of a friendly group of local people working together to make a practical and positive difference to our local environment. This experience is both enjoyable and rewarding, as well as providing a regular form of exercise, taken at your own pace, surrounded by nature."

If you would like to join our welcoming group, either meet us there or email Steven Werrell for more information. Our next task is on Thursday, 19 March.

The Chipperfield Common Working Group meets every two months to discuss plans for the Common. If you would like further information, please contact me on [steven.werrell@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:steven.werrell@dacorum.gov.uk), or Chipperfield Parish Council.

*Steven Werrell, SANG Officer*

CTG  
Chipperfield Theatre Group  
presents

## A COMEDY MURDER MYSTERY

# BINGO & Biscuits

17  
42

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

**24 and 25 April 2026**  
Chipperfield Village Hall - 7.30pm  
**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW FROM**  
[www.seaty.co.uk/ctgmurdermystery](http://www.seaty.co.uk/ctgmurdermystery)



## Exciting sponsorship opportunities!

Chipperfield Corinthians Youth FC is delighted to welcome sponsors for the 2026/27 season.

As a growing grassroots club supporting mixed youth teams and dedicated girls' teams, community backing makes a huge difference to what we can offer our players.

Sponsorship helps to provide kit, equipment, training resources and opportunities that allow young players to develop confidence, teamwork, fitness and friendships in a positive environment. It's incredibly rewarding for local businesses too, offering visibility in the community while directly supporting young people to thrive through sport.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting grassroots youth football, we would love to hear from you to explore how we can work together.

Please contact [chipperfieldfc@gmail.com](mailto:chipperfieldfc@gmail.com) for further information. *Jennifer Hibberd, CCYFC Secretary*



## Chipperfield Corinthians Football Club

The battle for this season's HCL Premier League continues to twist and turn, with 4 teams in the running, including Chipperfield. The league table shows that, if Hinton & Chipperfield win their games in hand, only two points would separate the top three teams!

	P	W	D	L	Points
1. Hertford Heath	22	16	2	4	50
2. Hinton	19	13	4	2	43
3. Cuffley	20	13	3	4	42
4. Chipperfield	18	12	3	3	39

Last Saturday, Chipperfield overcame Cheshunt 3-1 to reach the Herts Senior Centenary Trophy Final. In addition, the team has two quarter finals to come, so an exciting finish to the season beckons.

The reserves season has continued well with their only league defeat being back in September 2025. They remain unbeaten at fortress Queen St this season and, if they win their games in hand, they would be second in the league. Just like the first team, they have progressed well in the cups and are in two quarter finals.

After a difficult first half of the season, the third team has started 2026 in great form, winning its opening two games, and has moved up to 5th place in the table.

Games are played every Saturday afternoon at Queen St, with kick off now usually at 2.00pm. All support is very welcome.

*Martyn Dicker, President, Chipperfield Corinthians FC*

The club is still on the lookout for a new treasurer. It's not an onerous job so, if anyone has the skillset to take it on, please contact me – [martyn.dicker2@btinternet.com](mailto:martyn.dicker2@btinternet.com)



## Chipperfield Coffee Morning and Wellbeing Hub

20 Jan, 17 Feb, 17 Mar, 21 Apr, 19 May, 16 Jun 2026  
10:30 to 12:30 in Chipperfield Village Hall

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PSP Spring Event

**Saturday 21st March 2026 doors 7pm**

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The Common, Chipperfield WD4 9BS



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On the day £17.00 + fees

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# CHIPPERFIELD CLUBS, CLASSES AND SOCIETIES

EVENT	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Art Workshop	Saturday monthly	9.30am	Parish Room
Brownies	Wednesday	6.30pm	Parish Room
Cake & Create - Decorating class	Tuesday 10 & 24 March	10.00am to 1.00pm	Village Hall
Cake & Create - Decorating class	Saturday 7 March	10.00am to 1.00pm	Village Hall
Cake & Create - Decorating class	Sunday 22 March	2.00pm to 5.00pm	Village Hall
Chipperfield Care - Coffee Club	Tuesday 17 March	10.30am to 12.30pm	Village Hall
Chipperfield Choral Society	Thursday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Village Hall
Chipperfield pre-school and out of school care	Monday - Friday (Term time)	7.30am to 6.15pm	Small Hall
Church Choir	Friday	7.45pm	Parish Room
Drumming	Tuesday monthly	7.00pm	Parish Room
Eurythmy, followed by coffee	Monday	10.15am to 12.15pm	Parish Room
Gentle Yoga	Monday 2, 9 & 23 Feb	1.30pm to 3.00pm	Village Hall
Inspire (ladies group)	first Monday of the Month	1.30pm to 3.00pm	Parish Room
Invigorating Local Walks	Tuesday and Thursday	9.30am	Blackwell's car park
Keep Fit	Tuesday	11.30am	Parish Room
Keep Fit - gentle!	Thursday	9.30am	Parish Room
Keep Fit	Thursday	10.30am	Parish Room
Knatty Knitters	Wednesday	2.00pm to 3.30pm	Parish Room
Pilates	Tuesday	9.30am and 10.30am	Blackwell's
Pilates	Wednesday	6.30pm to 8.30pm	Blackwell's
Pilates	Wednesday - 11, 18 & 25 March	9.00am to 11.00am	Village Hall
Pilates	Monday - evenings at 6.50pm and 7.55pm (for an hour each)		Parish Room
Pilates	Wednesday (for an hour each)	10.00am, 11.05am, 12.10pm	Parish Room
Pilates	Friday (for an hour each)	10.00am, 11.05am, 12.10pm	Parish Room
RSPB Talk - 'Swifts' by Laurinda Luffman	Monday, 2 March	7.45pm to 9.45pm	Village Hall
Selah Church	Sunday 1, 8, 15 & 29 March	9.30am to 1.30pm	Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	Tuesday	7.00pm to 9.30pm	Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	Friday	2.00pm to 4.30pm	Village Hall
T'ai Chi	Friday	1.45pm	Parish Room
Tappy Toes - Tots Toes - 2.6 yrs to 5 yrs	Friday 6, 13 & 27 Feb	9.30am to 10.00am	Village Hall
Tappy Toes - Toddle Toes - walking to 2.5 yrs	Friday 6, 13 & 27 Feb	10.15am to 10.45am	Village Hall
Toddler Group	Tuesday	9.30am	Parish Room
Yoga - all levels	Thursday	10.00am	Blackwell's
Yoga for men	Tuesday	7.00pm	Blackwell's
Yoga with Carolyn	Thursday	7.00pm to 8.00pm	Blackwell's
Youth Group <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7587">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7587</a>	Thursday	6.30pm to 8.00pm	Parish Room
Zumba	Thursday	10.30am to 11.30am	Village Hall
Zumba	Friday	11.30am to 12.30pm	Village Hall

**For information about an event, club or class, contact the appropriate hall booking agent listed on the back page or visit the village website: [www.chipperfield.org.uk/organisations](http://www.chipperfield.org.uk/organisations).**

*Chipperfield News* is a newspaper for the community of Chipperfield and the surrounding area. Articles are welcomed though are published at the discretion of the editors. While it is our intention that readers should find these of interest, any such contribution, whether or not it bears the author's name, is published on the basis that the views contained therein may or may not reflect those of *Chipperfield News* and, in all such cases, are not endorsed by the newspaper. As such, *Chipperfield News* takes no responsibility or liability for the information in these articles.

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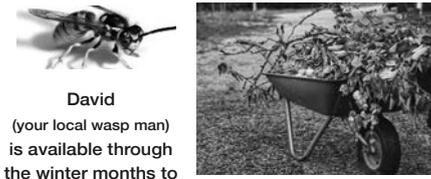
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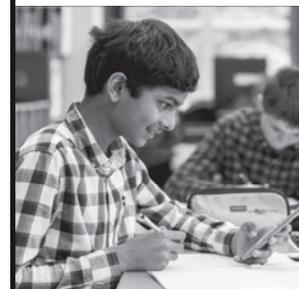
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## The Churches in Chipperfield

### ST PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7587](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7587)

**Incumbent:** Reverend Sarah Miles

Tel: 07525 491496

rectorchipperfieldsarratt@outlook.com

### UNITY



### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY

Father Richard Mway Zeng SDS

01923 266177

Assistant Priest: Fr Dieudonne Zeng SDS

### ST PAUL'S AND HOLY CROSS

#### View From the Pew

In January, our 15 year-old grandson Daniel came to stay with us. He emigrated with his family to Australia in 2019 when he was 9 years old, but he loves England. When I asked him why, he said, 'It makes me happy.' When pressed, he thought about it and said, 'I feel rooted here.' As someone who has only lived within a six-mile radius of my birthplace, I too feel rooted here – in South West Herts and, for the past 22 years, in Sarratt.

This made me think about roots and soil. I'm not a gardener of any kind, but my guess is that, at this time of year, the gardeners among you are thinking about your soil and how you can improve it to ensure your plants are at their best.

This, in turn, led me to think about my life. What kind of 'soil' am I rooted in? Is there any resentment or unresolved hurt over disappointment or

perceived injustice? Any unforgiveness? Am I bearing any grudges? All of these are likely to lead to persistent flare-ups of anger, jealousy, bitterness or a critical attitude – a distorted 'plant'.

Perhaps now is the time to think about improving the 'soil', letting go of grudges or offences, shifting focus from the hurt I feel to the grace of God, which acts as the antidote to the poison.

The Bible speaks about being 'rooted and established in love', in particular the love of God shown to us in Jesus. If our roots are deep in Him – in His mercy, forgiveness and grace - the fruit of our lives will be 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' (Galatians 5:22-23).

Now, that's a plant I'd like to cultivate!

*Jeannie Poulton*

### OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR RC CHURCH

The old saying tells us that March 'comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb'. After the storms, high winds, heavy rain, snow, ice and flooding that have begun this year, I'm sure we are all looking forward to some lamb-like weather. Having given up chocolate for Lent, which began on the 18th February, I am also looking forward to Easter!

The 4th Sunday of Lent, which falls this year on 15th March, is known as 'Laetare Sunday'. This comes from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon for Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" —which translates from Latin as "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." It indicates the half-way point of the season of Lent where we are offered a very slight pause in the solemn mood to reflect on our journey so far. It reminds us of the happiness that the Lord brings into our lives. In the gospel for today, we read about Jesus restoring the sight to a blind man – emphasising the gift of enlightenment, the gift of faith. Representing joy, rose-coloured Mass vestments are worn by the priest on this Sunday instead of purple ones.

On Laetare Sunday each year we also celebrate Mothering Sunday. It has now developed into the more commercial 'Mother's Day', hasn't it? We cannot underestimate the value and the power of a mother's love. We celebrate and honour mothers - the women who have made sacrifices for us and moulded us. This includes mothers who are no longer with us but whose memory we always cherish.

On this day we show our appreciation with bunches of flowers, presents and cards. We remind ourselves of the unconditional love of mothers for their children, and children's love for their mothers. We give thanks for what they mean or meant to us. We also remember all of the mother-figures who care for us, too. However, we have to be aware also that, for some, Mother's Day can be poignant — those who have lost a mother recently, those longing to be a mother, or those who experience stressful relationships, for example. God always loves us, whatever our circumstances.

We are also reminded of our heavenly Mother, Mary, and the very special place she has as the mother of Jesus. Without the motherhood of Mary, we wouldn't be observing Lent or the joy of the resurrection. She showed

her obedience to the call of God, and she lived her calling throughout her entire life. She also showed us her strength and courage as she stood at the foot of the Cross. Also, in John 19:26-27 we read, "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." This final act, even when suffering the agony of his crucifixion, showed Jesus' loving devotion to his mother and his concern for her welfare.

*Sue Croucher*

### Pints of View, Monday, 16 March

The **Brexit Referendum** took place on **23 June 2016**, and the United Kingdom officially left the European Union at **11pm on 31 January 2020**. With 2026 marking ten years since the Brexit vote, join us at **The Boot in Sarratt at 8pm on Monday, 16 March** when **Dennis Goldthorpe** will lead an informal discussion on **The Impact of Brexit**. Have the expectations of the Leavers been fulfilled, or have the worst fears of the Remainers been realised? Everyone welcome.

*John Guy*

**BINGO**

**THURSDAYS**  
**at BLACKWELL'S**

**Eyes down at 8.30pm.**

**Have a chat, a drink and something to eat with friends**

**CHIPPERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council - 31 March 2026**

**Blackwell's, starts 7.45pm**

**Planning Committee - 10 & 31 March 2026**

**Blackwell's, starts 7.15pm**

Usha Kilich, Clerk to the council, 01923 263901  
parishclerk@chipperfield.org.uk  
www.chipperfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Visitors are welcome in the CPC office in the Village Hall on Monday - Thursday 11am to 1pm, Friday with appointment only.

**ST PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH WARDENS**

**Judy Olney: 07958 377622**  
judy.stpaulscw@gmail.com

**David Collette: 07740 319008**  
david.stpaulscw@gmail.com

**ST PAUL'S AND HOLY CROSS BENEFICE**

**Contact details: Anita Ayrey**  
holycrossstpauls@outlook.com 01923 264377

**BURIAL GROUND**

**Interment of Ashes: Jill Betts - 29 January 2026**

For requests for a burial or interment, please contact the Trustees of the Burial Ground:

**Mike Joseph on 01923 261305**  
or **Tony Thompson on 01923 265690**

**ST PAUL'S PARISH REGISTER**

**Interment of Ashes:**  
**Pamela Jean Dawson - 2 February 2026**

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CHIPPERFIELD AND THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SARRATT**

The Church of England Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

**Holy Cross Services** start at 9am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, and at 10.45am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

**St Paul's Services** start at 10.45am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, and at 9am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

**For the most up-to-date information, see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet.**

**You can find us on 'A Church Near You' [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com)**

**Join us for worship and fellowship. Everyone welcome.**

**MARCH 2026**

**Sunday 1 2nd Sunday of Lent**  
9am Morning Worship Holy Cross  
10.45am Benefice Eucharist St Paul's

**Sunday 8 3rd Sunday of Lent**  
9am Morning Worship St Paul's  
10.45am Benefice Eucharist Holy Cross

**Sunday 15 MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
9am\* All Together Family Service \*St Paul's (Note venue)  
10.45am\* All Together Family Eucharist \*Holy Cross (Note venue)  
6.30pm Compline (traditional night prayer) Holy Cross

**Sunday 22 5th Sunday of Lent - Passiontide begins**  
9am Morning Worship St Paul's  
10.45am Benefice Eucharist Holy Cross

**Sunday 29 PALM SUNDAY - Holy Week begins**  
*British Summer Time begins*  
9am Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer) Holy Cross  
10.45am All Together Service St Paul's

**APRIL 2026 (first part of month)**

**Thursday 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
6.30pm Benefice Eucharist with the washing of feet St Paul's

**Friday 3 GOOD FRIDAY**  
2pm Service for Good Friday St Paul's  
6pm Service for Good Friday Holy Cross

**Saturday 4 HOLY SATURDAY - Easter Eve**  
Both churches open all day for quiet reflection, with prayer stations

**Sunday 5 EASTER DAY - First Sunday of Easter**  
5.30am Easter Sunrise Service Holy Cross Churchyard  
9am All Together Family Eucharist St Paul's  
10.45am All Together Family Eucharist Holy Cross

**Please continue to pray for the health of our nation and each other**

**DIARY OF SERVICES AT OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR RC CHURCH**

Sunday	10.00	Mass	<i>NB For further information regarding</i>
Saturday	18.30	Vigil Mass	<i>weekday Masses, please check the</i>
Friday	10.00	Mass	<i>newsletter available at Saturday Mass</i>



**Chipperfield Care**

Registered Charity Number 1002737

**CHIPPERFIELD CARE is a group of volunteers who have got together to help those who are unable to find their own transport to essential appointments such as hospitals, doctors, dentists, medical clinics, fortnightly Sainsbury's shop etc.**

If you are having problems getting to these, and are unable to use public transport or ask family for help, please call our **Help Line on 01923 264700 - 9.30am - 12.30pm** on weekdays, and we will do our very best to help.

*Patricia Harrison (Organiser) and Judy Saunders (Chairman)*

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## Chipperfield Horticultural Society

**A big "Thank You" to all who attended our AGM on 2nd February.**

**John Hopkins**, who has been our Chair for a number of years, took the opportunity to step down and **Bob Edwards** was welcomed as his successor. We thanked John for all his hard work and presented him with a box of cider.

**Steven Werrell** from Dacorum Borough Council gave an interesting and informative talk on the SANG Management Plan for the Common, which focuses on maintaining a high-quality environment through active woodland and pond management.

Our **Spring Show** is at **2.30pm** on **Saturday, 21 March** in the **Village Hall**. Weather permitting, daffodils should take centre stage, and we welcome entries in our Flower, Vegetable, Floral Art, Handicraft, Photography, Home Baking, and Junior Sections.

**Photography categories are:** FROSTY FEBRUARY, SIGNS OF SPRING and TIME. So check your phones and computers, or head outside to find inspiration.

**Domestic classes include:** 4 Hot Cross Buns, a Chocolate Sponge, and a Bakewell Tart (specific details and other classes are in the Show Schedule).

**For the Juniors** we have a POTATO PRINT PICTURE (A4 SIZE) and a DECORATED BISCUIT.

Our first talk of the year on **Tuesday, 19 May** is **'Death in the Beds, Poison in the Borders'** by **Dr. Twigs Way**, a professional landscape and garden historian. It will be held in the **Parish Room** at **7.30pm**, followed by questions and refreshments.

If you were unable to renew your membership at the AGM, don't worry - someone will call at your door soon! If you renewed online, your membership card and schedule, if you requested one, will be put through your door unless you collected it at the AGM. Members should be receiving emails updating them on our plans, including a copy of the 2026 Show Schedule. If not, please contact us at **chipperfieldhortsoc@hotmail.com**. Please also let us know if your contact details have changed.

*Mo Barton/Gail Compton*

## Chipperfield Short Mat Indoor Bowls Club

### TAKING THAT FIRST STEP:

I've joined an indoor bowls club! They meet twice a week in the Village Hall, so that people who work can play in the evening and others can play in the afternoon. It's great fun, gets me out of the house and gives me another interest. This friendly group has made me really welcome and I look forward to going along to the Village Hall each week when I'm free. Taking that first step has provided new friendships, laughter and the pleasure of being part of a genuinely nice group of people. I really do recommend it. Come and join us: Tuesday evenings at 7pm - Friday afternoons at 2pm.

*John Theobald on 07761 256462*



*Photo Credit: John Theobald*

## Pickled onions for charity

Every year for some years, **Zahia Rogers** and I have pickled onions of varying strengths for charity. This year we raised **£800**, which has been split equally between the **Heather Club** (for those who live with dementia and Alzheimer's in Hemel Hempstead) and **Kwa Mkono**, an orphanage and hospital for disabled children in Tanzania. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing sum.

*Mike Joseph*



## Parish Council Update - March 2026

Dear Villagers

I hope you are looking forward to the coming year now that spring is nearly upon us, with increasing daylight hours and fresh growth everywhere. Although the Common paths are still pretty muddy, I was delighted recently to meet birdwatchers (firecrest spotting) on the Common - an illustration of what a fabulous asset this is for the village. With this in mind, I would like to thank Vas, who kindly removed a significant amount of the wood thrown into Apostles Pond, which is once again looking great. Please let's keep it this way.

Regarding Council business, we are continuing to progress replacement signposts for the main village junctions. The regular cycle of planning and full council meetings has also restarted after the holidays. Do come and join us if you have any matters to raise, or contact Usha, our hard-working clerk. Meeting timings and agendas are on the Council website.

We have all recently been suffering with the roadworks and diversions in and around the village. NB Details of local roadworks can be viewed online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk.com](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk.com). While we have roadworks and diversions, I would remind all drivers to take extra care at school opening and closing hours, including the after-school club. Please can drivers also remember to keep to the village speed limits and park sensibly and considerately, especially near the school, Village Hall and opposite the newsagent.

Best wishes on behalf of all Council members - and do remember to put your clocks forward one hour on March 29!

*Paul Foxall, Parish Council Chair*

**Planning Applications and Decisions as at 6 Feb 2026**

### Applications

26/00230/LBC The Two Brewers Inn - Full internal and external redecoration, new entrance doors, repairs to the flint barn, new doors to flint barn, replacement rainwater goods

### Decisions

26/00067/TCA Saddlebow, The Common: Works to Trees - Granted  
 25/03018/FHA Whippendell Lodge, Langley Road: Double storey side extension - Granted  
 25/02973/FUL & 02974/LBC The Boot, Tower Hill: Installation of external fire escape stairs - Refused  
 25/02774/ FHA & 25/02775/LBC Broughtons Cottage, The Common: First floor rear extension and loft conversion - Granted  
 25/02723 The Bungalow, Croft Lane: Side fill extension - Granted  
 25/02648 Old Stocks, 86 Scatterdells Lane: Proposed outbuilding/car port - Refused  
 25/02114/02115 The Pale Farm, The Street: Barn to residential use, air source heat pump, conservatory, new glazed doors - Granted

## A Tale of Two Woods

**January and February are always busy months for me; the apple trees all need pruning and the woodlands that I planted in 2014 and 2017 both need work.**

The first acre that I planted, by the footpath where the old Christmas trees used to be, has done really well - almost too well! If I had not planted a single tree, it would have still become a wood as so many seedlings came up. There are trees of all sorts: oaks, hazels, grey poplars and lots and lots of goat willow, so now I'm having to thin them before the goat willow outgrows everything else. Some of them are now big enough to make firewood - not the best for burning, but it's a shame to waste it. The brash from the top branches and twigs gets put into heaps, known as habitat piles. Small birds and invertebrates will make good use of them. I've done a lot, but I'll have stopped by the time you read this so that the birds can nest in peace.

The bigger, very wet field where I planted 5500 trees is a very different story! It was a field with a big dip in it before the A41 was re-routed, and spoil from the cutting was dumped in it, along with God knows what else. It was supposed to be a good idea at the time; the spoil would go into the field beside the new road and a difficult sloppy field would just become slightly

domed. In reality it became a bog, the run-off started to flood houses in Chipperfield Road and nothing would grow in it! We dug a leaky holding pond, a ditch and a soakaway and planted trees to help to drain it. We hoped that the trees would stop the run-off after five years, but they took seven. There are a few volunteer trees, including some Scots pines grown from seed in a nearby garden and a very few oaks, but in some of the wettest places the planted trees have drowned. It's so wet that every winter 30 to 40 snipe arrive! So, rather than having to thin out the weakest trees to create more space, I've just ordered 50 more trees to plant in some of the gaps.

The contrast between the two woods is incredible. The trees that have survived in the wet have made half the growth of the others, but they are both keeping me out of mischief! *Wendy Bathurst*



Two swifts. Copyright is with Robert Booth

Anyone is welcome to attend the monthly meetings and outings, whether experienced or not. RSPB membership is not essential. There is no annual membership fee, but a small entry fee.

So, please come along and/or visit our [website at https://group.rspb.org.uk/hemel Hempstead/](https://group.rspb.org.uk/hemel Hempstead/) or by contacting **Mary** on **01442 264752**. For outing details contact **Axel** on **01442 257856**.

We look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. *Ian Parker*



## HEMEL HEMPSTEAD LOCAL GROUP

Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of each month at Chipperfield Village Hall, featuring a natural history talk, not necessarily just about birds.

Our next meeting is on **Monday, 2 March**, with a talk by **Laurinda Luffman** entitled **'Swifts'**.

Laurinda is RSPB's Head of Trusts & Foundations and their swift species lead, helping to coordinate support and knowledge-sharing for this Red List bird. She is a founder member of Bedfordshire Swifts, one of the many dedicated Swift Local Network groups. Laurinda's talk will describe the swift's lifecycle, provide some amazing facts, and also explain why swifts are in decline and what steps we can all take to help these masters of the sky.

**Doors open at 7.15pm, with the meeting starting at 7.45pm and finishing at around 9.45pm.**

As usual, there will be refreshments, raffle, displays of members' photographs, local news, and other activities.

Our next outing is a car share trip on **Tuesday, 10 March** to **Cassiobury Park LNR, Watford**.

The wet habitats found in this Local Nature Reserve were once shallow watercress beds, fed with water from the river through a series of ditches. They have since developed into marshland and open pools, surrounded by wet woodland of alder and willow, providing valuable cover and nesting sites for birds.

### Chipperfield News

The April 2026 issue is published on 26th March 2026, the last date for copy is 6th March 2026.

Articles or Advertisements are welcome if sent by e-mail or as an attached MS Word doc to: [editor.chipperfieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.chipperfieldnews@gmail.com) (editorial) - [ceciliaf44@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliaf44@gmail.com) (advertising).

Chipperfield News is printed by **GPS Printworks**.

**Tel: 07968 728552**

**Email: [sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk](mailto:sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk)**

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

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### CHIPPERFIELD ASKING PRICE £795,000

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WD4 8AB



### CHIPPERFIELD GUIDE PRICE £975,000

Nestled within woodlands on Penmans Hill, this private and secluded detached home is located in the Hamlet of Belsize, in between the villages of Chipperfield and Sarrott. This four bedroom family property briefly has three reception rooms, mature gardens and double garage, benefitting from being sold with no onward chain. EPC - EER: F / Council Tax Band: G

[www.proffitt-holt.co.uk](http://www.proffitt-holt.co.uk)