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Chipperfield NEWS

Issue 382

October 2026

www.chipperfield.org.uk



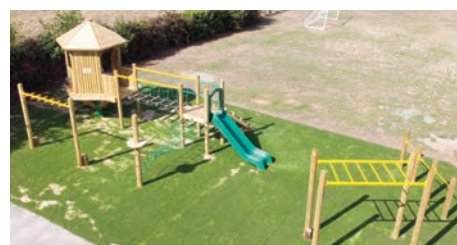
Exciting Summer Improvements at Our Primary School

Pupils returning to school this September were greeted by some fantastic improvements that were completed over the summer holidays. While the classrooms were quiet, a significant amount of work took place behind the scenes to build a new playground, refurbish pupil toilets and install solar panels in readiness for the new school year.

One of the most exciting changes for the children is the new playground. This has been made possible thanks to the wonderful fundraising efforts of our PTA and the generosity of parents, families and members of the wider community who have supported its events and activities. The new playground provides an improved space for pupils to play, exercise and enjoy spending time with their friends during break and lunchtime.

Inside the school, the pupil toilets have been refurbished. This important project was funded by St Albans Diocese, with additional support from generous parent donations. The improvements have created a much brighter, fresher and more welcoming environment for the children.

Looking upwards, there has been another significant addition to the school: new solar panels. Funded by the school's Governors, the panels will help the school generate renewable energy,



reduce its environmental impact and demonstrate to pupils how practical changes can contribute towards a more sustainable future.

Together, these three projects represent a major investment in our school and its children. They would not have been possible without the support and commitment of our Governors, St Albans Diocese, the PTA, parents and the wider community.

We are enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed through funding, donations, fundraising or their time. It has certainly been a busy summer, and now our pupils have even more reason to be excited about coming back to school!

Luke Varney, Headteacher



Inspire

Women Inspiring Women

Join us on the 1st Monday of every month
in St Paul's Parish Room, Chipperfield
from 1.30 to 3pm.

Have time away from your busy lives
with activities, conversations and
inspiring talks over tea, coffee and cake!

We would love you to join us

On **Monday 5th October** Viktoria will
be talking to us about her experiences
when she was forced to flee her home
in Ukraine to come to England
when the war started.

For more info contact Fay on
fay.dent@live.co.uk



Poppy Appeal Collection 2026

Once again I'm delighted to say that the volunteers (over 50 of them) have agreed to help out with collections on tables and door-to-door. It can be cold and wet, but there was no hesitation and everyone is looking forward to meeting up with old friends and trying to raise even more than last year's total collection with Bovingdon village of **£12,105.25**.

Launch date is **Thursday, 22 October**, when tins will be out in the village shops, pubs, churches and school. We will be collecting outside the Two Brewers, Blackwell's, the Post Office and the newsagent on **Saturday 24th** and **Saturday 31st October** from **9am to 3pm**. Cash is no longer needed to make a donation; you can use a QR code or a contactless machine. Gift aid will be much appreciated.

If you would like to take part in any way - just an hour on a table would be very useful - please contact **Sue Walker** on **01923 261847 / 07541 553659** or **m.sue.walker100@gmail.com**

After the collection last year, the following awards were made: Lucinda Blake (5 years), Tom Keatley (5), Jenny Laurie (5), Popsi Stokes (5), Liz Kerry (10), Karen Melhuish (10) and Sandra and Peter Chipperfield (25). *Sue Walker*





Chipperfield Horticultural Society

Finally! Our parched gardens have had some welcome rain!

The RHS has created a survey that is quick to complete and looks at the impact of the summer heatwaves on our plants and gardens:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6L9S3DT>. It will be interesting to see the results when they are published.

Our Summer Garden Party was a great success and was attended by over 40 of our members. As always, it was a great chance to catch up with friends and share some lovely food, Pimms and other refreshments! Thank you to **Aylett Nurseries** for the generous donation of a gift voucher as our main raffle prize and to **Maria** and **Andy** for sharing their lovely garden.

Our final event of the year is a talk on **Tuesday, 13 October at 7.30pm** by **Becky Fincham**, Director of Programmes at **The Serge Hill Project for Gardening, Creativity and Health**. The Project is a not-for-profit initiative that works to foster community inclusion through gardening, nature-connection and creativity. It operates on the understanding that working with nature can radically transform people's lives. Whether you have already visited the project or are yet to do so, this will be a unique insight to this wonderful initiative. Please note: this talk will take place in **St Paul's School Hall**, with parking on the school playground.

Our AGM will take place on Monday, 8 February 2027 in the Parish Room at 7.30pm. More details to follow.

Members should be receiving emails updating them of our plans. If not, then please contact us at chipperfieldhortsoc@hotmail.com. *Mo Barton*



Susan Gray Exhibition

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 10AM - 5PM

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 11AM - 5PM

I am holding my annual exhibition at **St Paul's Parish Room, St Paul's Church, The Common, Chipperfield, WD4 9BS** on the above dates and will be showing many new works from mini paintings to large ones, both figurative and more abstract.

All welcome

shgray@live.com www.susan-gray.co.uk

Instagram [susangrayartist](https://www.instagram.com/susangrayartist)



Chipperfield Corinthians Football Club

After an impressive end to the season in mid-May, when we celebrated our glorious quadruple, there have been massive developments at the club house in Queen St.

The club embarked on significant plans to improve the facilities at Queen Street. A small side extension was added to the existing kitchen, effectively doubling its size. The social area was extended at the front of the club house, a new all accessible toilet was built and finally a much enlarged changing room was completed for the officials.



The project was only made possible through funding from a variety of sources, including the Football Foundation, Chipperfield Village Clubs (Trustees of Blackwell's) and S106 monies from Cala Homes. The club is enormously appreciative of the financial support provided.

The Club House was formally reopened on Saturday, 6 September, with junior games played in the morning before the official re-opening. The ribbon was cut by Kevan

Cassidy, representing Chipperfield Parish Council, and Councillor Richard Roberts was also in attendance. This was followed by a game for Chipperfield first team and the occasion culminated in a BBQ at the Club House.

There are games at Queen Street every Saturday with kick off times usually at 2.00pm. A lot of work is involved in running grass roots football, so if anyone fancies getting involved in any capacity we would be delighted to talk with you - please email me at martyn.dicker2@btinternet.com

Martyn Dicker, President, Chipperfield Corinthians FC

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BINGO
THURSDAYS at BLACKWELL'S
Eyes down at 8.30pm.
Have a chat, a drink and something to eat with friends

Joyce Doris Marchant

6 September 1928 - 28 June 2026

Joyce ('Joy') was born in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire on 6 September 1928 and attended a local school. Joy had a love of both geography and maths which led to a career in cartography within the Civil Service in London. Ron Marchant had been flying for the RAF and, after he finished this role, he met Joy. They married in Cricklewood, London in 1948 and set about building a life together in North London. The couple shared a passion for motorcycling, dancing and gardening.

In the mid 60's Joy and Ron moved to Kings Langley before settling permanently in Chipperfield in 1971. They both loved the peace and beauty of the village. Joy was an active member of the community on village days and also worked at St Paul's School for a number of years with her best friend



Ron and Joy

Peggy Harpley, with whom she also participated in a shared and long-lasting love of patchworking. Joy was also a fan of Cliff Richard and she and Peggy went together to see him perform on stage on many occasions.

Joy and Ron's son Roy was born in 1967. Mother and son did many things together, which taught him the art of cookery, sewing, crafting, gardening and learning how to 'see' and transform materials. While this might sound like a list of chores, to Roy they

became gateways to so much more and created many future opportunities in both art and furniture restoration as well as valuable skills he was to use throughout his art career. Joy was always interested in Roy's achievements and enabled Roy to find his own path in life, even though it was very different from her own, and at times probably incomprehensible to her!

Joy was determined to live an independent life and did so in her home in Stoney Lane up until 2021. Owing to a decline in mobility, and with Roy and his family having moved to Australia in 2004, Joy moved from Chipperfield to Auburn Mere Residential Care Home in Watford in 2021, where she was living when she sadly passed away at the tender age of 98. *Roy Marchant*



Roy



Roy and Joy



Joy and Peggy



Chipperfield Village Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Chipperfield Village Hall will take place in the Village Hall at **7pm on Tuesday, 29 September**. All are welcome to attend. If you would like

to receive an agenda when it is ready, please drop me a line and let me know at andrea.jvthornton@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there! *Andrea Thornton, Secretary, Village Hall Committee*



Parish Council Update October 2026

Dear Villagers,

I hope you are all enjoying the cooler weather and the return of rain to our weather patterns, which should present us all with a burst of greenery across the parish before autumn sets in.

It is with tremendous admiration and respect that I share that Geoff Bryant is stepping down as Chair of the Council's Planning Committee after a long and distinguished service. If you have ever wondered how it is that we are fortunate to live in such a picturesque village, then Geoff takes much of the credit for this. The Council is fortunate that Kevan Cassidy, a longstanding member and former Council Chair, has agreed to take over this role.

As we now face turnover at the Council, if anyone is interested in the possibility of joining us, do contact me or Usha for an introductory conversation.

The Council continues to meet on a regular basis. Meetings are open to the public and dates and agendas are available online on the Council website and on village notice boards. If you have matters to raise, please contact Usha and/or join us at one of our meetings.

Paul Foxall, Parish Council Chair

Planning

The Summer holiday period has again been very quiet on planning matters in terms of the low volume of applications made within Chipperfield and the low volume of applications being determined by case officers.

Planning applications received in the month of August and validated in early September:

Ref 26/01928/TCA Saddlebow, The Common,
Chipperfield - Works to Tree

Ref 26/01906/LBC The Pale Farm, The Street -
Replacement windows

Ref 26/01897/DRC Details submitted seeking approval of planning conditions in respect of 23/00691/FUL - New dwelling Pilgrim Cottage, Megg Lane, Chipperfield

Planning Applications received and validated in the month of August

26/01794/FHA Rose Farm House, The Common, Chipperfield - Single and double storey rear extension; front facing dormer extension, followed by 1no. bay window and new front porch

26/01764/DRC Details submitted seeking approval of planning conditions in respect of 26/00026 Hazel Croft, 47 Scatterdells Lane. The discharge of conditions concerning Driveway materials and Tree Protection measures. Discharge of these conditions granted 13 Aug 2026

CHIPPERFIELD CLUBS, CLASSES AND SOCIETIES

EVENT	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Adult Dance Class with Diana	Monday (no class on 26 Oct)	9.45am to 11.15am	Village Hall
Art Workshop	Saturday monthly	9.30am	Parish Room
Brownies	Wednesday	6.30pm	Parish Room
Chipperfield Care - Coffee Club	Tuesday, 20 October	10.30am to 12.30pm	Village Hall
Chipperfield Choral Society	Thursday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Village Hall
Chipperfield Horticultural Society The Serge Hill Project for Gardening, Creativity and Health by Becky Fincham	Tuesday, 13 October	7.30pm	St Paul's School Hall
Chipperfield pre-school and out of school care	Monday - Friday (Term time)	7.30am to 6.15pm	Small Hall
Collective Dance - Junior Tap Dance (9yrs+)	Monday	4.30pm to 5.15pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Grade 3/4 Ballet (9yrs+)	Monday	5.15pm to 6.00pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Senior Tap Dance (13yrs+)	Monday	6.00pm to 6.45pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Senior Acro Dance (11yrs+)	Monday	6.45pm to 7.45pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Junior Commercial Jazz (7yrs+)	Wednesday	4.30pm to 5.30pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Inter Commercial Jazz (13yrs+)	Wednesday	5.30pm to 6.30pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Primary Tap Dance (6yrs+)	Thursday	4.00pm to 4.30pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Grade 1/2 Ballet (6yrs+)	Thursday	4.30pm to 5.00pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Grade 5 Ballet (10-14yrs+)	Thursday	5.00pm to 6.00pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Grade 6+ Ballet (15yrs+)	Thursday	6.00pm to 7.00pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - PrePreliminary Tap (2.5yrs+)	Saturday	11.30am to 12.00pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - PrePreliminary Ballet (2.5yrs+)	Saturday	12.00pm to 12.30pm	St Paul's School Gym
Collective Dance - Mini/Junior Acro Dance (5yrs+)	Saturday	12.30 to 1.30pm	St Paul's School Gym
Church Choir	Friday	7.45pm	Parish Room
Christian Congregation in the UK	2 & 16 October	6.30pm to 10.30pm	Village Hall
Drumming	Tuesday monthly	7.00pm	Parish Room
Eurythmy, followed by coffee	Monday	10.15am to 12.15pm	Parish Room
Gentle Yoga	Monday (no class on 26 Oct)	1.30pm to 3.00pm	Village Hall
Inspire (ladies group)	Monday, 5 October	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	Thursday	10.00am	Parish Room
Knatty Knitters	Wednesday	2.00pm to 3.30pm	Parish Room
Pilates	Tuesday	9.30am and 10.30am	Blackwell's
Pilates	Wednesday (no class on 28 Oct)	6.30pm to 8.30pm	Blackwell's
Pilates	Wednesday (no class on 28 Oct)	9.00am to 11.00am	Village Hall
Pilates	Monday (for an hour each)	6.50pm and 7.55pm	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 - Birding in Morocco by Richard Bashford	Tuesday, 6 October	7.45pm to 9.45pm	Parish Room
Selah Church	Sunday	9.30am to 1.30pm	Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls - 25/26 season has ended.	Friday	2.00pm to 4.30pm	Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls - 25/26 season has ended.	Tuesday	7.00pm to 9.30pm	Village Hall
T'ai Chi	Friday	1.45pm	Parish Room
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 www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7587	Thursday	6.30pm to 8.00pm	Parish Room
Zumba	Thursday	10.30am to 11.30am	Village Hall
Zumba	Friday	10.45am to 11.45am	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.

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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www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7587

Incumbent: Reverend Sarah Miles

Tel: 07525 491496

rectorchipperfieldsarratt@outlook.com

UNITY



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Father Richard Mway Zeng SDS

01923 266177

Assistant Priest: Fr Patrick Musinga SDS

ST PAUL'S AND HOLY CROSS

Rectors Ramblings October 26

As the seasons turn and autumn colours begin to appear, we come once again to celebrate Harvest. It is a time of thanksgiving: for the fruitfulness of the earth, the labour of farmers and growers and the abundance we so often take for granted.

Harvest reminds us not only of the gifts we have been given but also of our calling to share them with others. In a world where many go without, thanksgiving and generosity belong together. We are called to live as people of hope, sowing kindness, justice, and peace in our communities.

Whilst we are privileged to live in peace and our beautiful surroundings, many are forced to live in fear and oppression across the globe. Indeed, as you read this, we as benefice churches and members of our communities would have just finished our week of prayer; joining with thousands of others across 124+ countries to pray for those who are in need of kindness, justice and peace - all of which, we as people of hope are called to sow.

As we live out our lives in love and kindness, it cannot help but to trickle out of our communities into others until that trickle turns into a stream and the stream to a river.

Our wonderful Knatty Knitters who meet in St Paul's Parish room on Wednesday afternoons are using their gifts to show love and kindness to young children from war torn areas of the world. These children, in desperate need of life saving heart surgery, are taken to Jordan by the fantastic charity Chain of Hope (www.chainofhope.org) where they are safe to undergo surgery. Each child on the charity's next mission will now receive a little knitted teddy, filled with love, hope and prayers from our little corner of the world to theirs. This is sowing kindness. This is love in action.

In the wisdom and words of St Paul: 'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'.

So, as we move into this season of thanksgiving let us ask ourselves where are we called to sow love and kindness in our villages and across the globe? Where are we called to spread hope so others too may give thanks.

Every Blessing

Revd Sarah

OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR RC CHURCH

After a Spring/Summer of exceptionally hot and very dry weather, many farmers have completed their harvest ahead of their usual timeframe. They have also experienced reductions in both yield and quality. While crops like wheat, barley and oats may suffer heavily, I have read that the weather has allowed grapes and vineyards to thrive.

The readings for the first Sunday in October (27th Sunday of Year A) remind us that God expects us to care for what he has given. Like a vineyard we are supposed to bear good fruit. Isaiah in the first reading tells the story of a vineyard that has gone wild because it was neglected. It only produced bitter sour grapes. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells a famous parable about tenants who refuse to honour the landowner of a vineyard. He planted it, he fenced it, he dug a winepress and he built a tower. He did all that and then he handed it to them so that they might produce the fruit. And he was let down - even taken advantage of. They refused to give the landowner his share of the crop. Not only that, but they thrashed and murdered the servants he sent and then they even murdered the landowner's son.

Have you ever thought or actually used the expression 'after all I did for him/her...'? You think of those whom you have helped, but who have then sadly let you down. Sometimes we may think 'once bitten, twice shy' and declare we will never go out of our way to help anyone else. God doesn't act like that. And neither should we. He constantly offers his gifts to people but expects them to produce fruit. God has given each of us time, talents and gifts - in fact he gives us everything we need to grow in love and kindness - and He will hold us accountable as to how we use them. Sometimes we forget and think just of ourselves. We can't blame the weather for that!

Let us strive to produce good fruit by being kind and doing good works for His glory.

Sue Croucher



Chipperfield Coffee Morning and Wellbeing Hub

20 Oct, 17 Nov, 15 Dec 2026
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CHIPPERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**Allotment Meeting - 13 October 2026****Blackwell's, starts 7.15pm****Parish Council - 27 October 2026****Blackwell's, starts 7.45pm****Planning Committee - 6 October 2026****Blackwell's, starts 7.15pm****Planning Committee - 27 October 2026****Blackwell's, starts 7.15pm**

Usha Kilich, Clerk to the council, 01923 263901
 parishclerk@chipperfieldparishcouncil.gov.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 AND HOLY CROSS BENEFICE**Contact details: Anita Ayrey****holycrossstpauls@outlook.com 01923 264377****Office opening hours:****Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 2.30pm only****ST PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH WARDENS****Judy Olney: 07958 377622 judy.stpaulscw@gmail.com****David Collette: 07740 319008 david.stpaulscw@gmail.com****BURIAL GROUND**

Requests for a burial or interment,
 contact the Trustees of the Burial Ground,

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

**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.

Our help line is run by volunteers, our Duty Officers, Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm. They then contact our Drivers to arrange the safe transport of our clients to and from their requested destination. **Could you volunteer as a Driver or Duty Officer for a few hours a month?**

Judy Saunders (Chairman) 07507 352664

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

The Church of England Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

A new pattern of services and times of worship has begun, with exceptions for our Harvest Festivals, see below.

The most up-to-date information is to be found in our Benefice Weekly News Sheet by searching for Holy Cross Sarratt or St Paul's Chipperfield on the website 'A Church Near You' **achurchnearyou.com**

Join us for worship & fellowship. Everyone welcome.

SEPTEMBER**Sunday 27 4th Sunday of the month 17th Sunday after Trinity**

9.30am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
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10.30am	Chipperfield Harvest Festival Eucharist	St Paul's
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OCTOBER**Sunday 4 1st Sunday of the month 18th Sunday after Trinity**

10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross
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3.30pm	Forest Church	St Paul's
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Sunday 11 2nd Sunday of the month 19th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Morning Worship	St Paul's
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10.30am	Sarratt Harvest Festival Eucharist	Holy Cross
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Sunday 18 3rd Sunday of the month 20th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	BCP Communion	St Paul's
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Coffee & croissants available between the morning services

10.30am	All Together Informal Worship	St Paul's
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6.30pm	Compline (traditional night prayer)	Holy Cross
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Sunday 25 4th Sunday of the month**Last Sunday after Trinity - Bible Sunday**

9.30am	Morning Worship	St Paul's
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10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross
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Please continue to pray for the health of our world, 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>
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Saturday	18.30	Vigil Mass	<i>weekday Masses, please check the</i>
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Friday	10.00	Mass	<i>newsletter available at Saturday Mass</i>
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Pints of View - Monday, 19 October

Stephen Morrill is to lead our informal POV discussion at **The Boot in Sarratt on Monday, 19 October**, starting at **8pm**. We shall consider the ethical implications of using live facial recognition technology in the prevention and detection of crime.
 Everyone welcome. *John Guy*



Chipperfield Tennis Club

Chipperfield Tennis Club has been making the most of the long, hot summer, especially through the Thursday evening "Social Tennis" sessions (a free session open to anyone in the community).

Over 150 people attended the very successful "CTC Summer Party". Since then, we have held two Friday night fun social tennis/bbq events which were greatly enjoyed by both participants and spectators. Our latest evening on 4 September had over 60 members and friends taking part in various games and making good use of Blackwell's (as ever!).



In our Doubles Tournament the Men's Plate Final was won by **Paul Olney** and **Andy Coote** who just beat father/son pair **Steve** and **Bryce Askins** in the championship tie-break. The other finals will be played in September.

Having been promoted 3 times in a row in the Hertfordshire Men's Hot Rackets League, we certainly faced tough opposition this year. It looked as though we might be heading for a low table finish, but two great results put us right back in contention for promotion. Unfortunately, in our final match in the local derby against Bovingdon, their young lads proved just too strong for us; we finished a very respectable 3rd out of 6. Well done to everyone who played and represented CTC and to those who supported our home matches.

Throughout the autumn we have a full programme of tennis: adult drill sessions, including for beginners, free Pickle Ball on a Tuesday, and Saturday morning children's coaching (see website Clubspark / Chipperfield Tennis Club / Home). Alan Rees, Chair CTC



SANG and Friends of Chipperfield Common

Works are well underway for the path upgrades on the Common and are expected to be completed by 9 October. We appreciate everyone's understanding following the temporary diversions while the contractors were working on site.



Following completion of the path construction, we will be upgrading the area next to the cricket ground car park into a 'welcome area', with additional picnic benches and tree planting. We will also be installing several new benches across the common and replacing litter bins.

On **Saturday, 17 October** we will run our '**Wander on the Common**' which is an opportunity to discuss current and planned activity. It is also a chance to hear your thoughts and gather knowledge. We will meet at the **Cricket Ground Car Park** at **9am** for a **9.15am** start. I look forward to seeing you there.

We will pair up the 'Wander' with our usual Friends of Chipperfield Common working party. If FOCC participants wish to take part in the walk, there will be a habitat management task on the Common to join. The walk will take approximately an hour and a half and the volunteering session will run until around 12.30pm. All tools, gloves, high-vis clothing, plus tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

The Chipperfield Common Working Group meets every two months to discuss plans for the Common. For more information, please contact **Steven Werrell** at steven.werrell@dacorum.gov.uk or get in touch with Chipperfield Parish Council. **Steven Werrell, SANG Officer**

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Chipperfield Short Mat Indoor Bowls Club



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Our 2026/27 season starts on Friday, 2 October.

New members are always welcome.

No experience is needed. Simply drop in during one of our sessions, wearing comfortable clothing and ideally flat or minimum tread footwear. Our experienced bowlers provide coaching and support as needed, and light refreshments are available during the session.

Come and join us - everyone is welcome!



Slim Pickings

Last summer I was out picking baskets of blackberries for the freezer; although they were early, they were big, juicy and lovely and sweet. This year things could not be more different. The berries are very small, a bit “pippy” and not very plentiful. Along my favourite hedgerow I only collected half an ice cream container - most were dried up. There are still some underripe fruits on the briers. Will these fatten up with a nice drop of rain? Who knows, but I won’t go out picking again as I think the birds are going to need them.

It’s not just birds that like them though. Foxes, badgers and all kinds of rodents enjoy them too. Earthworms make up a large part of the diet of badgers and, to a slightly lesser extent, of foxes, but they have been really hard to come by this summer. As I walked along the hedge I could see where the grass had been trampled, and all the lower berries were gone. The fox poo by the hedge was jet black, as was the poo in the badger latrine in the wood - a sure sign that berries had been on the menu.

I haven’t had the hedge cut for a few years near my tree planting and the hawthorn bushes have fruit on them. Even if they are not very plump, the fruit will be better than nothing in the coming months. The black thorn bushes are covered in sloe berries and, although these are never quite as popular with the birds, they will come in handy in hard times!

Last year was a great year for apples and I managed to press a lot of juice, which was just as well as there is not a single apple to pick on the three juicing trees. Hard times all round! *Wendy Bathurst*



HEMEL HEMPSTEAD LOCAL GROUP

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, 6 October** and will be held in the **St Paul’s Church Parish Room**.

Richard Bashford, who has worked extensively in environmental roles with the RSPB, BTO and Barefoot returns to give us a talk entitled: **‘Birding in Morocco’**.

Although just a short sea crossing from Europe, Morocco’s culture and wildlife are very different, making it a popular destination for both travellers and birders. In his ‘tour guide’ role, Richard takes us to the sensory overload of Marrakech, crosses the spectacular Atlas Mountains to the edges of the mighty Sahara and heads west to explore the rich coastal estuaries. The many spectacular species include the delightful Moussier’s Redstart, the bizarre Bald Ibis, Wheatears, Larks and Sandgrouse, with the roosting Pharaoh Eagle Owl and Egyptian Nightjar among the highlights..

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 **Friday, 16 October** to our local **Amwell and Rye Meads reserves**, the latter subject to confirmation.

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/hemelhempestead/> 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*



Temminck’s Lark
Copyright is with Richard Bashford

Chipperfield News

The **November 2026** issue is published on **29th October 2026**, the last date for copy is **9th October 2026**.

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



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