



THE POULTON EYE



COMMUNITY - NEWS - INFORMATION



Welcome to the November edition of the Poulton Eye

The amazing picture of the Northern Lights over Poulton was taken last month by James Headspeath. A rare occurrence as far south as Poulton, the northern lights, or aurora borealis, appear as bright, dynamic curtains of colour in the night sky of the northern hemisphere. Their southern hemisphere equivalent is the aurora australis.

These beautiful displays are caused by activity on the sun. During events known as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), the sun spews out plasma – a super-hot gas made up of charged particles. When these particles head towards Earth, they can interact with the planet's magnetic field, resulting in a geomagnetic storm. Some of these particles are funnelled towards Earth's magnetic poles, passing energy to atoms and molecules in the atmosphere such as oxygen and nitrogen. These gases then emit energy in the form of light.

The phenomenon typically occurs at high latitudes – think Canada, Scandinavia and near the south pole – but bigger CMEs mean the aurora can be seen further away from the poles, hence it's spectacular display literally on our doorsteps.

Next month we will be turning our attention to Christmas lights... but in the meantime, we hope that you find something of interest inside these pages to tide you over until December.

Please do feel free to contact us with comments or contributions for The Poulton Eye. Our deadline for contributions is 15th of November. We will especially welcome Christmas articles, cards and contributions.

Rosie and Lizzy - poultoneye@gmail.com

In this month's Edition:

Acting Up - A Second Career
as a Film Extra

Up in the Air Gliding

Darwin's Wasps

Gingering things Up

Down on the Farm

Parish Council News

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MESSAGE FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friend

One of the poignant sights we often will see on our television screens during the Remembrance weekend are images of the Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries with their serried ranks of headstones standing to attention across well maintained lawns. The size and scale of these cemeteries are a reminder of the lives lost in the heat of battle; and the many more hearts broken amongst those left behind to mourn and rebuild lives.

In the past two years, the live images from Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and Lebanon viscerally show us the horrors of war and the devastation of homes and communities which are bombed to smithereens. Not to mention the lives and livelihoods lost and the hearts broken.

It is easy to tear down, and much harder to build up.

As we enter the sombre season of remembrance this year, I hope that we will appreciate that it is a time of commemoration and lamentation. I hope I don't hear commentators call the national rituals that so many people still take part in 'celebrations' – for that is definitely not what they are.

As we stand in silence for two minutes on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day may we remember with respect those who gave their lives in the pursuit of our peace and freedom; and pray for those who are working for peace and bringing relief to those suffer at this time.

**When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.**

Yours as ever - John

The Rectory, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester, GL7 5RY | 01285 851309 | ampneyrector@gmail.com | www.ampneychurches.info



10.45 AM
SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER
POULTON WAR MEMORIAL

**REMEMBRANCE
DAY**

LEST WE FORGET

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please arrive in plenty of time.

A collection will be held during the service in support of the Royal British Legion. Last year we raised an incredible sum of nearly £300 which reflects the strong support for Remembrance Sunday within our village.



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CHURCH DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Friday 1st November	12 noon	All Saints' Day Communion	Down Ampney
Sunday 3rd November All Saints' Sunday	8am 10am 10am 5pm 6pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Word and Worship All Souls' Service <i>When we remember those whom we love but see no more</i> Prayer & Praise - contemporary songs, prayer & teaching	Ampney Crucis Down Ampney Harnhill Poulton Fairford Church
Sunday 10th November Remembrance Sunday	8am 10am 10.50am 10.50am 10.50am 12 noon	Holy Communion Word & Worship Act of Remembrance Service of Remembrance Act of Remembrance Act of Remembrance	Poulton Harnhill Ampney Crucis War Memorial Down Ampney Church Poulton War Memorial Down Ampney War Memorial
Monday 11th November Armistice Day	10.55 10.55	Act of Remembrance Act of Remembrance	Down Ampney War Memorial Driffild
Sunday 17th November 2nd Sunday before Advent	8am 10am 10am	Holy Communion Parish Communion Word & Worship	Ampney St Peter Ampney Crucis Harnhill
Saturday 23rd November	10.45am	Bellringers Service	Ampney Crucis
Sunday 24th November Christ the King	8am 10am 10am	Holy Communion Parish Communion Word & Worship	Harnhill Poulton Harnhill
Thursday 28th November Christingle	5.30pm	Christingle Service	Ampney Crucis
Saturday 30th November	2 - 3.30pm	Christmas Bazaar	Ampney Crucis Village Hall
Saturday 30th November	7.30pm	Christmas Concert - A Splash of Red Choir	Poulton

Church website: www.ampneychurches.info





We submit our article/ad to *The Poulton Eye*, around the same time as sending a mid-month e-newsletter to travellers who have booked their holidays with us. It's called "The Custom Traveller"

As a small business, our e-newsletter is a great way for Custom Travel to stay connected and offer a reminder that we're here to help with future holiday plans, it also showcases the variety of holidays we book.

Each edition features a couple of updates from the world of travel, and a small selection of holiday ideas to hopefully inspire plans.

Our October newsletter we sent today (it is still mid October whilst typing this)

And it includes

- New Easyjet route from Bristol to Tromsø, Norway (*often referred to as the gateway to the Arctic!*)
- Two Beach Stay Offers for Mauritius, and Khao Lak, Thailand
 - 3-night 5* Spa Hotel City Break in Tirana, Albania
- Lovely 7-night Rhine River Cruise with a 3-night Extension to include a journey on The Scenic Glacier Express

& more ...

If you'd like to receive our monthly newsletter, simply email us at **enquiries@customtravel.biz**, and we'll add you to the list!

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DOWN ON THE FARM

Rain, Rain Go Away!

October on the farm is proving to be quite the challenge. The relentless rain has brought frustration for farmers everywhere, and Charles is no exception. With only four days of drilling in a whole month, his winter barley is mostly in, but the wheat and spelt are still waiting, the fields too wet to make much progress. The delay is now at least two weeks behind schedule, and while it's not the end of the world yet, it's a huge frustration. Some of the fields are so heavy and wet they may not even dry out enough to be used this autumn.

The winter wheat crop is the most profitable, and everything revolves around it. If Charles can't get it into the ground, the entire rotation gets thrown off. The fallback plan might involve planting beans later on, which can tolerate worse conditions than wheat but aren't nearly as profitable. They do help the soil, making it more fertile for the next wheat crop, but they won't bring in the bread and butter income that winter wheat does. This is a problem for farmers around the country.

"Don't poke a farmer at the moment," he warns with a chuckle, "they might explode."

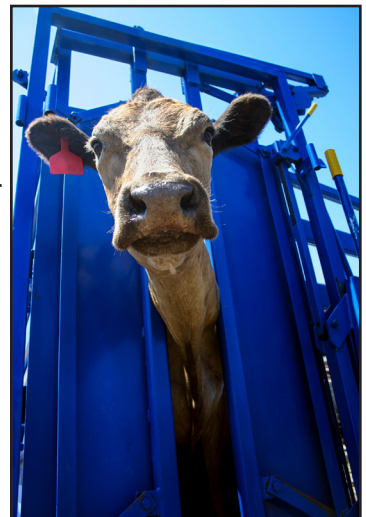
To add to the stress, Charles had to carry out an out-of-sequence TB test for all his cattle because a neighboring farm went down with TB for the first time. This "contiguous test" was a nerve-racking process, but thankfully, all of his 200 animals passed clear. As the TB tests were underway, he decided to pregnancy test all the cows and heifers too, and the results were encouraging: a 95% conception rate, with only 11 out of 140 cows empty. Charles was pleased with the bulls' performance.

The TB test itself is a bit of a process, involving two rounds. On the first day, two different inoculations are injected into the top and bottom of the cows' necks. After three days, the vet comes back to check for reactions and uses callipers to measure the difference between the avian and bovine TB injections. Meanwhile, the cows are also scanned to check if they're in calf, and this year's calves go through as well, receiving their first pneumonia vaccination.

The adverse weather conditions mean that the cattle have had to come in early, because of the flooded ground, even though they wouldn't usually be inside until November. It's all added hassle: gathering them, housing them, opening up the silage clamp, and bedding them down. On the brighter days, the calves are let outside again for health reasons, as it's better for them to be in the fresh air than in warm, wet, poorly ventilated barns.

The pneumonia vaccinations are a relatively recent introduction to Poulton Fields Farm. Since starting them a few years ago, he hasn't lost a calf to pneumonia over the winter. A few years back, when some calves fell ill, the vet ran every single one through the crush to take temperatures. Those with higher temperatures received powerful antibiotics, while those with lower ones got standard treatment. Out of 70 calves, only five didn't need treating, which revealed how many actually got pneumonmia even when there were no outward signs. The decision to vaccinate before winter has made a massive difference, and with vaccines costing around £1,000 for 100 calves, it's more than paid off.

Speaking of the crush, it's part of the handling system which is crucial for getting cattle through efficiently. It works like a funnel, starting with a circular gate that pushes them around—because, for some reason, cattle prefer going in circles. The system leads them down an alleyway, one by one, into a crush—a crate-like structure that gently but securely holds them in place. From there, the vet can administer the necessary injections, and the electronic ear tags record each animal's details automatically, saving time and effort. It took just a few hours to get all 230 animals through the TB test and pregnancy check. If only the NHS could run that smoothly, he jokes—though some patients might not appreciate the stick on the bum to keep things moving!



Amidst all this, it's also tugging time. The rams have been sent in with the ewes, getting ready for lambing in mid-March. The ratio is typically one ram to 50 ewes, and they'll stay in for about five weeks to ensure lambing doesn't drag on. After scanning the ewes in January, any empty ones are culled, along with those who don't pass the "three T's": toes, teeth, and teats. Ewes with bad teeth or udder problems simply can't feed their lambs properly, and keeping them would only lead to suffering.

In case you thought, as I did, that ewes would be exhausted by putting up with the attention of the ram every day for the next five weeks, that doesn't happen. Charles politely explains that ewes are only fertile for 1 ½ days every 12 and the ram won't go near them in between. Similarly, cows have a 21-day reproductive cycle, and they are only of interest to a bull for 48 hours every 21 days. It's a far cry from the human world, where fertility can be a mystery—there's no randomness to mating in the animal kingdom.

Charles Horton in conversation with Rosie Arkwright

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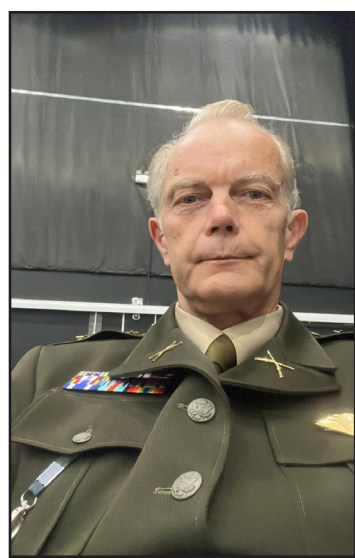
SJP Approved 16/10/2024

SJP15030a_DS B1 (07/24)

My Life As An Extra – an interview with David Hicks Beach

David Hicks Beach has lived in Coln St Aldwyn most of his life. He is known to many in the County as an excellent magistrate, and sits on numerous committees around the region. However, you may not know about his other career, which he took up in retirement. We thought it might inspire some of our readers to take up the same hobby.

Imagine sitting down to watch a movie or TV show, the room filled with your family and friends, all eagerly waiting to catch a glimpse of you on screen. You've spent hours on set, been dressed by top costume designers, had makeup artists transform you into someone from another time or place, and experienced the energy of a film crew working to capture magic on camera. Then, the moment comes. Your scene flashes by, but - wait - there you are! A barely recognizable blur, a blob in the background, out of focus. This, as Dave humorously describes, is the life of an extra.



It all started with a suggestion from his wife, Kate (who many of you will know from Mindsong or Kate's Choir). "Why don't you give it a go?" she said, and with that, Dave signed up with a Bristol-based agency, Phoenix. He had photos taken, felt excited about this new adventure, and then... silence. Weeks turned into months, and Dave quickly learned the hard truth about the extra business: you're turned down for 80-90% of jobs. There's a massive pool of hopefuls, and competition is fierce. But just as his hope began to wane, the odd text began to trickle in. He said yes to everything, but time and again, plans fell through at the last minute.

But then came his first big gig: Mission Impossible 5 at Blenheim Palace. Dave found himself suited up in a DJ, standing right behind Alec Baldwin in a scene. But when the film came out, his face was out of focus - a blob behind the action. He had been there, but you'd hardly know it.

His next role came in Traitors, a Channel 4 series where he spent all day filming at the House of Commons, dressed in authentic post-war attire. But when the scene aired, all his work - and the hard efforts of the costume and makeup team - ended up on the cutting room floor. You never know if you're going to make it until you see the final product.

Then came Poldark, where Dave was cast as a dandy in Vauxhall Gardens. This time, he made the cut! People started calling after they saw him on TV, and for a brief moment, he thought this could be it - his phone would be ringing off the hook. But after Poldark, he didn't get another gig until Doctor Who in 2019.

And what a gig it was! This time, Dave wasn't just an extra - he was a tortured, brainwashed character with the camera squarely focused on him. He spent hours screaming in a torture chair, repeatedly, from 8:30 in the morning until nearly 1:00 pm. When Doctor Who star Jodie Whittaker complimented him on his screaming, it became one of his proudest moments. After all, he had watched the very first Doctor Who episode at prep school in 1963. To be part of the show 55 years later? That was a dream come true.

The journey continued with roles in The Pale Horse, The Pursuit of Love, and Manhunt with Martin Clunes.

Each experience had its own set of challenges and surprises. In The Pursuit of Love, for example, Dave had the unique task of having champagne knocked off his tray by Lily James during a lively dance scene. Despite the glamour of working with big names like Lily James and Andrew Scott, Dave quickly learned that this job could be full of disappointment. In Manhunt, his lines - where he had to lead the crowd in cheering for Martin Clunes' father - were cut. He had been in the scene, but his voice wasn't heard.



By now, Dave had earned his Equity card, a sign that he was a bona fide professional in the business.

And then came a role that truly stood out: Christopher Walken's body double in The Outlaws. Standing in for Walken required incredible precision. Dave was fitted for a wig that cost over £4,000, each hair done by hand to match Walken's style perfectly. He even had to wear a fat suit when the measurements given by the Hollywood legend weren't quite right. It was a surreal experience, one where he felt like a pawn on a chessboard, standing in the cold for hours on end, awaiting the next shot.



CHAMBERLAIN WINES

Hello. My name is Mark Chamberlain, and I have lived in Poulton with my family for more than ten years. If we haven't met, you may have seen me walking the dogs around the village!



I am an Independent Wine Merchant. I have almost twenty years' experience in the Wine Trade, including living and working in Saint-Emilion. I have run my own Wine Merchant's business for more than a decade.

I list wines from all over the World, and in a wide range of styles: crisp, dry whites; richer, fuller bodied whites; pale and refreshing Provençal rosés; light, supple reds; full-bodied fruity reds; luscious pudding wines; an array of sparkling wines including some excellent Grower Champagnes; a selection of ports and sherries; classic Clarets, Burgundies, Riojas and Barolos; lots of interesting wines from off the beaten track. In essence, anything that I like and I think represents good quality and good value for its type and origin. I don't list anything I wouldn't drink. And I always try to be amongst the most competitively priced for the wines I list.

I don't have a shop, but I do offer a range of traditional Wine Merchant services – expert advice, naturally; free local home delivery (or I can send wine anywhere in the country using a reliable courier service); glass loan for events; gift boxes. If I don't stock a wine or style you're looking for, I will do my best to find it for you. In short, all you could want from a Wine Merchant, on your doorstep!

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If you want to see a list of the wines I have currently, join my local email list, or have any other questions, please do get in touch: mark@chamberlainwines.co.uk or on the mobile, 07894 528 580.

All the best!

ACTING UP

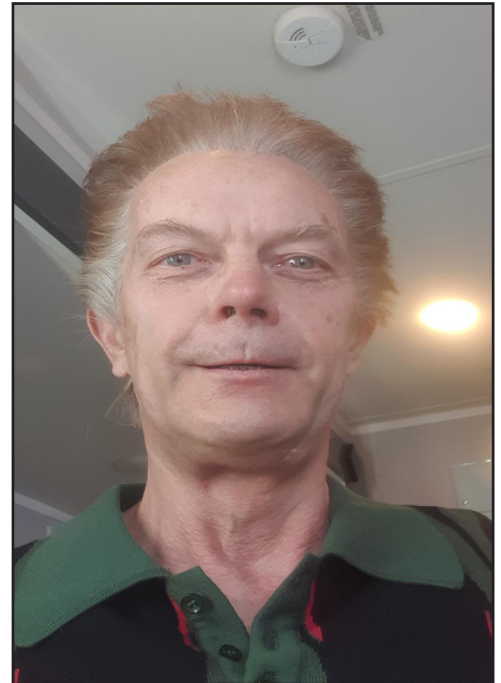
Working with Walken wasn't without its challenges, though. During a scene where Dave had to walk out of a house with a bag of money, Walken yelled at him to get out of his eyeline, even though Dave was just doing what he was told. "Traumatized" is the word Dave uses to describe that moment, but he took it in stride, understanding that big actors have their quirks.

Despite the ups and downs, Dave treasures the experiences he's had. Being on set with Helen Mirren, Ben Kingsley, and David Tennant during The Thursday Murder Club filming recently was an absolute highlight. Pushing David Tennant onto the ground for a scene was fun, and watching Ben Kingsley perform a eulogy over and over, opposite him, was simply fascinating. And this film is obliged to keep him in as he has a pivotal role in several key scenes so do look out for him when it comes to our screens in the New Year.

And that's the thing about being an extra - some days, you're just a face in the crowd, barely noticeable, and other days, you're involved in the action, right in the thick of things. Dave has worked on sets with famous actors, stood in iconic locations, and even had moments where the camera was solely focused on him. But he's also faced disappointment. Scenes he spent hours filming have been cut entirely, and the phone doesn't always ring as often as he'd like. You always get paid, however, whether you end up on the cutting room floor or not, and if you are a 'walk on' as opposed to part of the background scenes, you get paid even more.

But for Dave, it's not just about being seen on screen. It's about the thrill of being part of something bigger, the camaraderie with fellow extras from all walks of life, and the sheer excitement of watching TV and films being made. He's learned to pack books, crosswords, and other ways to pass the time because there's always a lot of downtime. And he's had his fair share of surreal moments, like being turned down as a dead body for Gangs of London. Really?? Still, there's nothing quite like the joy of seeing yourself and fellow extras - whether in a starring role or just in the background - on the big or small screen.

Dave's advice to anyone thinking about becoming an extra? Be prepared for early starts, long days, and, more often than not, disappointment. But when it works, it's an absolute blast. And if nothing else, the food is always fantastic.



David Hicks-Beach in conversation with Rosie Arkwright

POULTON DEFIBRILLATOR DETAILS

The yellow defibrillator is located on the outside wall of the village hall, on the pub side.
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UP IN THE AIR GLIDING

What do the two aircraft on this page share in common? Surprisingly they are both gliders, or can be. On June 24th 1982 this 747 jumbo jet of British Airways, G-BDXH, was flying between Kuala Lumpur and Perth at FL370 (37,000 feet) when all four of its Rolls Royce engines stopped, thus becoming the world's largest glider to date. The aircraft had flown through a lot of volcanic ash erupting from Mount Galunggung



south-east of Jakarta, Indonesia, yet it continued to glide on for almost 100 miles. As a rule-of-thumb if you divide the starting altitude by 4 (so 92 in this example) that will equal the number of miles the aircraft can glide. We all know that if you drop a tennis ball and a cricket ball simultaneously from the same height they will reach the ground together - because they both present about the same size and shape to the air. With airliners you need to allow for their wing efficiency and shape so our very approximate answer of 92 would need adjustment for aircraft type and wind to be accurate but it forcibly brings home the point that even a big aeroplane can glide for a significant number of miles without any power at all. Over the years airliner engines have become extraordinarily reliable - to the extent that once we had to have four engines, then three, and now two



still represent an extremely high level of safety. And the airline industry is one of the few that really does learn safety from past mistakes, for example no longer are routes allowed to get too near to areas where volcanic ash might erupt. The Icelandic eruptions of 2010 closed vast areas of airspace and caused significant disruption to passengers but better that way than having another airliner become a glider. In previous editions of the Poulton Eye you will have read about the role gliders played in WWII from their Down Ampney base, and about how birds, Red Kites in particular and other birds of prey, glide so effortlessly. If you

haven't yet done it, the sensation of flying through the air in a glider like the one on the left - the slight swish of the air against the cockpit, the sense of freedom - is an experience to put on your bucket list, or as an unforgettable Christmas gift. It can be organised through (eg) the Cotswold Gliding Club <https://www.cotswoldgliding.co.uk> who are based at Aston Down west of Kemble (Cotswold Airport). These days it is extremely unlikely you will have such an experience in an airliner but spare a thought for the 248 passengers and 15 crew on flight "Speedbird 9" above who all survived unharmed after the emergency landing in Jakarta. Their Captain, Eric Moody, passed away earlier this year at the age of 82. His Co-pilot was Roger Greaves and his Flight Engineer, maybe the biggest hero of that night back in 1982, was Barry Freeman.

Gordon Lee. *Images courtesy of Wikipedia.*



The Falcon Inn Christmas Party Menu 2024

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Roast chestnut soup v

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Confit duck leg croquette with pear and celeriac remoulade and plum puree

Mushroom parfait with brioche roll

~

Roast turkey breast with all the trimmings

Sea bass fillet, crushed new potatoes, roast fennel with a cherry tomato and mussel sauce

Slow cooked pork belly, mash, mulled wine braised red cabbage, roast celeriac, apple and quince puree, pork jus

Paella of wild mushrooms, baby spinach, roast red peppers, butternut squash and pine nuts v

~

Homemade Christmas pudding with brandy custard

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Please speak to a staff member if you have any food allergies or intolerances

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GARDEN NOTES

As the days shorten in November we look forward to cosy evenings by the fire, either at home or in the local pub!

Bonfires are also traditional at this time of year, so we hope for a dry day to burn our fruit tree prunings as this reduces the risk of spreading disease in the orchard.

We have chosen to write about a plant which can sometimes be described as fiery, is versatile in the kitchen and features prominently in some of the bottles in our drinks cabinet.

Herb of the month: Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*)

As the botanic name suggests, ginger was a key component in the mediaeval medicine cupboard. It is a member of the plant family Zingiberaceae which also includes turmeric, cardamon and garangal.

Ginger was one of the first spices to be traded between Asia and Europe and was introduced to the mediterranean by Arab traders at the time of the Romans, when it was a luxury that only the wealthiest could afford. To put this into context, a pound of ginger cost as much as a sheep in 14th Century England.



Medicinal uses

For hundreds of years the traditional Indian medicine system known as Ayurveda has used ginger for the treatment of arthritis, cardiovascular complaints, respiratory illnesses and to aid digestion.

It has also been used as a medicine in Europe for the past two millennia. Gerard's Herbal writes of ginger "it gently looseth the belly, and is profitable for the stomach". Here in the Pigott household, we have discovered that the anti-emetic properties are less effective if a whole packet of ginger biscuits are eaten in one sitting however!

Ginger in the garden



Ginger is a plant that thrives in a tropical climate so likes to have plenty of sunshine and water. It is possible to grow it in the UK although it is not tolerant of frost and prefers ericaceous soil.

It is best grown in a well-watered pot in a sunny spot during the summer and moved indoors or into the greenhouse during the winter months. Buy a knob of ginger at the supermarket; cut it up into thumb-sized pieces each with an eye; plant to a thumb's depth and keep warm and well watered. Oh and cross your fingers.

We tried and failed to grow ginger this year but we will try again in the coming months.

In the Kitchen

Ginger is well suited to both sweet and savoury cooking. We are lucky that there are at least three types to choose from – root ginger, crystalised stem ginger and the ginger powder that grandmothers love to use in their baking.

On bonfire night, whilst traditionalists might like to have a toffee apple, home-made gingerbread is irresistible – just as Hansel and Gretel found when they came across the enchanted house in the Brothers Grimm fairytale.





CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE

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NATURE NOTES

Darwin's Wasps

It is a rare sunny late September morning and I am standing by my ivy-covered hedge which is swarming with buzzing stripey insects. They are all using the black and yellow universal code for toxicity, the so called aposematic signalling indicating they are poisonous or dangerous, though for some of them it is a bluff. Some are clearly wasps and to be treated with care (see image right) but others are rather different.

I was pleased to see my honey bees, also stripey but less yellow with a furry thorax and slightly smaller. They will sting you, but only if you try to steal their honey. This ivy pollen and nectar will provide them with a last chance to stock up to get enough honey stores to feed the colony through the dark winter months.



The next one, illustrated left, is the ivy bee, *Colletes hederæ*. It is characterised by its orangish hairy thorax and very obviously stripey abdomen. It is a few millimetres bigger than a worker bee but unlike the honey bee its sting is weak and rarely able to penetrate human skin.

They are a solitary mining bees who like loose sandy soil to make their nest, where they lay their eggs and provision with pollen and nectar for their grubs to feed on. They often nest together and can be seen emerging from lawns in large numbers giving the impression of being a colony, but they are all doing their own thing. They are only seen from late August through to the end of October coinciding with the flowering of their main food source which is ivy. They originated in Southern Europe but have extended their range north as the climate warms, arriving in Dorset in 2001 and now found as far north as Northumberland.

There was also a large hoverfly, *Volucella pellucens*, roughly twice the size of a bee which has a shiny black abdomen with a broad yellow stripe reminiscent of a hornet. They have no sting and are only bluffing.

The last very splendid stripy insect was the ichneumon wasp, *Ichneumon Sarcitoris* (see right) also with no sting. This male is about 14mm long with a bright black and white striped abdomen and strikingly long antennae with 18 or more segments. These need to be supersensitive as they have to detect the grubs of other insects which they parasitise, often buried beneath the ground.

It is a parasitic wasp, laying its eggs in the caterpillar of the owl moth, also called the yellow underwing, one of the many Noctuidae that are abundant in late summer in our Cotswold gardens. The wasp grub develops within the caterpillar, eating it from the inside, allowing it to continue to feed though ultimately killing it when it is ready to emerge. This rather ghastly behaviour led Darwin to say that he found it hard to believe that a benevolent creator would make such a beast and the name "Darwin's wasps" has stuck.

Amazingly there are at least 25,000 species world-wide, found on all continents bar Antarctica. One study of apple orchards in Michigan, U.S.A reported 169 different species of parasitic wasps with an average of around 10 per tree. They are easily overlooked as they are tiny, 2-5mm in length, however they play an important part in reducing codling moth, leafrollers and leafminer moths as well as the woolly apple aphid so common in apple orchards everywhere. The wasps were seriously depleted in orchards that were frequently sprayed with insecticides.

The story is made even more complicated by the existence of hyperparasitoid wasps which parasitise the grub of the parasitic wasps! These have become very important since the widespread use of parasitic wasps to control aphids and whitefly in commercial greenhouses. Thus you can buy on Amazon a range of parasitic wasp eggs (*Aphidius colemani*) which will hatch in your greenhouse and find the aphids to lay their eggs in. These hatch and develop within the aphid ultimately killing it, forming an aphid "mummy" in the process.

These are tan coloured sacs, a few mm in diameter with vestiges of aphid limbs. The wasp eggs are rather expensive for a hobby gardener, at £22 per pot since they need repeated applications in a season. You could get a lot of tomatoes for the same price!





Cotswold Friends

***Reducing isolation and
supporting independent living***

Cotswold Friends needs you!

Cotswold Friends provides Community Transport across Cirencester and needs more Volunteer Drivers.

Local charity Cotswold Friends has been providing Community Transport to elderly and vulnerable people in the North Cotswolds since 1978 to combat loneliness and isolation.

They began to expand into Cirencester and surrounding areas (from Rencdomb to South Cerney, Sapperton to Poulton and many places in between) after the pandemic and have seen the demand for the service grow year on year. Their incredible team of volunteers take clients anywhere they'd like to go; for medical or social appointments – to see family and friends, to the hairdresser, shops, doctors, or the hospital. And they'd love you to get involved.

Becoming a Volunteer Driver is a wonderful way to meet new people, bring a smile to someone's face, get more involved in the community and be part of the inspiring team of Cotswold Friends volunteers with events throughout the year to celebrate one another.

You can give as much or as little time as you have, from a few hours a month to several hours each week – it can be very flexible.

If you'd like to find out more or to apply to become a volunteer, please contact their lovely Volunteer Manager on 01608 697007 or email volunteering@cotswoldfriends.org

NATURE NOTES

However, apparently they are competitively priced for the huge commercial greenhouses for whom the alternatives are repeated spraying with expensive insecticides. One big advantage is that they are simple to apply and incur less labour costs since they find the aphids themselves. The existence of "hyperparasitoid wasps" means that the population of these desirable parasitic wasps can be decimated by the hyperparasitoids which are nearly as numerous as parasitoids.

One parasitic wasp to look out for in Poulton is the 3 cm beauty on the right I saw in my garden last year, whose ovipositor has an impressive white tip. The wasp uses this amazing device to detect the vibrations made by the grubs of solitary bees in their underground nest. It then injects its eggs into the nest. These develop and eat the grubs.

So next time you see a "wasp" look twice, it may not be what you think.



Robin Spiller

Writing a book?
Or thinking
about it?
Come and join
us

The Cotswold Writers' Group

Tuesdays 10.30 - 12.30

The Dakota Room
Down Ampney Village Hall

Contact: Derek Skinner 01793 750598





POULTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on October 14th. Lisa Spivey reported/updated on matters relating to the Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council. All four Councillors and the Clerk were present. No members of the public were in attendance.

Below you can read updates regarding the Playground Project and Traffic and Speeding Report, plus some notices.

As many of you will be aware, after a few delays, the new Playground equipment is in situ and being really enjoyed by users and their parents/grand-parents etc;. There is still some refurbishment work (painting/repairs) on old equipment to be completed. This will most likely take place in the Spring when the weather is better.

2 massive “thank you’s” are due – firstly to all those villagers/village friends/CDC/GCC whom donated or match-funded via the various fund-raising schemes put in place. Over 150 separate donations were made (large and small) to raise in excess of £30,000. That is absolutely brilliant and shows real support for the village. Poulton now has a playground facility to be proud of. Secondly to Ed Hyslop and Tom Gillibrand whom have led the project from inception. A huge task dealing with multi-agencies and contractors over several years. Make sure you thank them both !!

As many of you are aware Traffic and Speeding has been on the PPC’s Agenda for years and years. I am pleased to let you know that in the next 2 months you will see some major additions on Poulton’s roads that will hopefully really benefit the village and it’s safety.

In addition to the existing camera to the West of the village there will be three more cameras installed in proven “speeding locations” to the East of the village x 2 and on the Butts plus new signage being put up including “speed camera” signs. The “speed gun” Poulton own will also be made available to Bell Lane (which actually has little proven speeding). Please believe me when I say that the whole business of speeding, National Highways, the Police, local Government lawyers and processes is GLACIAL & EXPENSIVE especially on a major A-road ie; £1k per camera installation. Currently 50 “warning only” letters have been issued and all our statistics are fed to the police/authorities. Eventually that may result in statutory automatic fines. The main thing for villagers is don’t speed in or out of the village/any villages – the act of you slowing down will automatically slow cars behind you plus make people aware that Poulton cameras are watching !!

A vacancy on the Parish Council is still being sought. Anyone interested in volunteering to help our village and community please feel free to have a chat with any of the Councillors or the Clerk. It is a worthwhile and ultimately rewarding role.....and fun !!

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 9th December @ 7pm @ the Village Hall.

Simon Collyer-Bristow, Chair



Justin Rundle

Painter & Decorator

07970 296579

justinrundle@hotmail.com



Local & Trusted



Restore Health
&
Wellbeing

ROOT CAUSE HEALING FOR LASTING WELLNESS

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RESTORES FUNCTION BY UNCOVERING THE ROOT CAUSE OF CHRONIC HEALTH CONCERNS RATHER THAN TREATING THE SYMPTOMS OF ILL HEALTH.

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07842641241

15% discount off an Initial Consultations with code: **poultoney15**

SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY POULTON VILLAGE HALL

In aid of Poulton Church

FISH & CHIP SUPPER
(supper pre-orders essential)

**BAR SERVING WINE,
PROSECCO, BEER**

THE BIG QUIZ

NOT TOO HARD | NOT TOO LONG!

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM FOR 7.15 START
COME AS A TEAM (UP TO 10 PEOPLE)
OR WE'LL FIND A TEAM FOR YOU

**TICKETS £10 TO INCLUDE A
WELCOME DRINK**

Numbers are limited so please book your place/table/supper asap:
rosie.arkwright@icloud.com



Poulton Hill
ESTATE

Christmas at the Cellar Door

Get into the Christmas spirit at our late-night shopping evening at the Cellar Door

November 28th, from 5pm until 8pm



Think Local, Drink Local

www.poultonhillestate.co.uk

Come along to see our full range of wines, spirits and gifts, and enjoy a mince pie and maybe a glass of wine too!
We will also have the team from Bibury Trout Farm selling trout and trout products, with samples for you to try.
So if you are looking for the perfect party snack or festive meal starter to pair with your Poulton Hill wines,
you can find them all in one place!

FROM THE CELLAR DOOR

Awards, offers, gifts and celebrations!

Poulton Hill Estate's Natalie Barker is raising her glass after the vineyard won a prestigious award

Our Christmas present arrived very early this year as we won Drinks Producer of the Year 2024 at the Cotswold Life Food and Drink Awards! We want to thank everyone who nominated us as it means such a lot. These local awards celebrate the very best local producers, and we were so pleased to be shortlisted. To win the award was the icing on the cake.

The Cotswold Life Food and Drink Awards focus on local sustainability and environmental sustainability, both of which are really important to us. We grow our grapes in the Cotswolds and most of our customers – stockists, restaurants and individuals – are local to us. We are always concerned with our environmental impact, and it influences our decision-making on everything from using natural ties on our vines, to using flocks of sheep to keep down weeds, aerate the soil and add natural fertiliser in the winter. We do not use lots of machinery and most of the work in the vineyard is done by hand (including pruning and harvest). It was wonderful to see this recognised in the award.

The Cotswold Life Food and Drink Awards were announced at a ceremony at Hatherley Manor near Gloucester on October 7th. It was great to see our friends and stockists, Jolly Nice Farm Shop and Jesse Smith Butchers, also win awards on the night.

Special offers for Autumn

To celebrate winning this award, we have two special offers for our customers. If you are looking to buy your Christmas gifts early, this could be the ideal opportunity.

The Autumn Trio: One bottle of Arlington Red NV, One bottle of Arlington White 2022, One bottle of Phoenix 2022
This can be purchased for £44.99, saving £11 on the RRP of £55.99.

The Poulton Hill Six: One bottle of Bulari White 2019, One bottle of Bulari Rosé 2021, One bottle of Arlington Red NV, One bottle of Arlington White 2022, One bottle of Phoenix 2022, One bottle of Rosé 2022
This can be purchased for £133.16 saving 10% off the RRP of £147.96. The Poulton Hill Six will also qualify for free delivery if it is ordered online to be delivered within the mainland UK.

The offers run until midnight on November 30th or until stocks run out. You can buy them online www.poultonhillestate.co.uk, at the Cellar Door in Poulton or by calling 01285 850257.

Christmas at the Cellar Door

Get into the Christmas spirit at our late-night shopping evening at the Cellar Door. You will be able to see our full range of wines, spirits and gifts, and enjoy a mince pie and maybe a glass of wine too at our festive event on November 28th from 5pm until 8pm. The team from Bibury Trout Farm will be there selling trout and trout products, with samples for you to try. It is a great way to find the perfect party snack or festive meal starter to pair with your Poulton Hill wines.

Please vote for us

We have been nominated for two awards in the Taste of the Cotswolds Awards 2024: Best Drinks Producer in the Cotswolds 2024 and Best Vineyard in the Cotswolds 2024. These awards shine a spotlight on the region's exceptional culinary scene, giving recognition to the chefs, producers and establishments that make the Cotswolds a destination for epicureans.

We would love it if you could vote for us here <https://cotswoldsawards.com/taste-of-the-cotswolds-awards/>.

Wine tasting at Cotswold Lakes Brew Co. Tap Room

We are really excited to be hosting a Winter Tasting at Cotswold Lakes Brew Co, as part of its Meet the Producer events. The tasting will be held on November 15th at 5.30pm at the Cotswold Lakes Brew Co Tap Room, Field Farm, Somerford Keynes. Tickets cost £20 per person, and you will get the opportunity to taste our Bulari White 2019, Phoenix 2022, Arlington White 2022 and Arlington Red NV. We will take you through the history of the vineyard and the process of growing our grapes. Spaces are limited so don't miss out.

You can book through our website: www.poultonhillestate.co.uk or over the phone on 01285 850257.



VILLAGE HALL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Books, Bickies & Beverages – “BBB”

Village Coffee Morning

**10.30 to 12.30pm - Saturday 2nd
November**

Come and enjoy a pot of coffee or tea and
homemade biscuits. Meet & chat with other
villagers and visitors.

Browse/buy from the selection of good
quality pre-read books, including Children's
titles

All welcome

We accept donations of paperback novels &
children's books (not too many & in good
condition please!)

Film Night at the Village Hall on

Tuesday 5th & Tuesday 19th November

Email: poultononeandnines@gmail.com to
be added to the mailing list for news of
forthcoming films

Entrance £4 (£1 if a member) – All Welcome

Hall open from 7.30pm for pre-film drinks.
Film begins at 8pm.

POULTON VILLAGE HALL
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
10.30AM TO 2.00PM

Poulton Vineyard, Local Honey, Pottery, Festive Decorations, Costume Jewellery, Brownies &
Cupcakes, and more...

Cakes, Bottle Tombola, Christmas Gift Table

Hamper Raffle – Tickets on Sale from November 2nd (BBB) – Draw to be made at the end of the Fair

Refreshments available : Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Mulled Wine, Sausage Rolls, Mince Pies, Soup
etc

Donations of bottles for the Tombola and Gifts for the Village Hall Stall most gratefully received
They can be left at the hall during BBB on Saturday November 2nd 10.30 to 12.30 or
on Tuesdays at the Pantry between 1.30 & 3.30pm
Or contact poultonvillagehall@gmail.com to arrange alternative time or collection.



VILLAGE HALL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



**Make a Christmas Wreath
or Table Decoration**

With group tuition from Beth Bruce-Gardner
A Cotswold Artisan Florist

Tues 10th December
7pm -8.30pm
at Poulton Village Hall
£25.00

Includes materials & a welcome drink
Bring your own secateurs, apron & gloves

Places are limited, so must be booked and paid in advance
Contact: Rachel: rach.hutchinson@talk21.com
OR
Kristina: kjclapton@gmail.com

Must advise at time of booking if you wish to make a willow wreath
with part foliage or a table decoration. Places are non-refundable.
This is Poulton Village Hall Event



Poulton Village Hall

Christmas Party

FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER
7.30pm to 11.30pm

A relaxed, informal time to celebrate Christmas with friends & neighbours
Dancing optional !

Tickets £8
to include a Welcome Glass of Fizz & Canapes

Bar Selling Wine, Beer, Cider & Soft Drinks

Tickets to be purchased in advance please.

Contact poultonvillagehall@gmail.com for more details

Or buy them at November BBB on 2nd November or the Christmas Fair on 30th November



CALLING FOR CHRISTMAS ARTICLES, CARDS OR OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE POULTON EYE'S DECEMBER EDITION

Please send to
poultoneye@gmail.com
by Wednesday
13th November

Poulton Eye Newsletter	Poultoneye@gmail.com Editors: Rosie Arkwright, Lizzy Roughton
Poulton Village Website	www.poultonvillage.co.uk
Poulton Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/groups/959278000806216/?multi_permalinks=4503302606403720
Poulton WhatsApp Group	Please contact Rachel Hutchinson to be added to group; 07557 006623
St Michaels and All Angels Church, Poulton	Vicar: The Rev'd Canon John Swanton 01285 – 851309; ampneyrector@gmail.com Church Wardens: Lizzy Roughton - pryorlizzy@gmail.com ; rosie.arkwright@icloud.com
Village Hall	Available to hire for parties, wedding breakfasts, clubs or meetings - kjclapton@gmail.com
Playing Field & Allotment Charity (PFAC)	pfactrustees@gmail.com
Post Office	In the Village Hall. Tuesday 1.30 – 3.30
Parish Council	Chairman: Simon Collyer-Bristow scb@crfc.co.uk Clerk: Heather Harris poultonclerk@gmail.com
District Councillor	Lisa Spivey: lisaspivey4@gmail.com
Poulton Action Group (solar farm)	poultonactiongroup@gmail.com
Refuse Collections	Food bin weekly Thursday 7am. All other bins & bags on alternate Thursdays.
Poulton Football Club	www.poultonfootballclub.co.uk
Poulton Cricket Club	Club Secretary: Will Bathurst w.m.bathurst@gmail.com www.poultoncricketclub.co.uk/
Poulton One and Nines	Films in the village hall every 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of the month. Contact poultononeandnines@gmail.com
Books Bikkies & Beverages	Village get-together 1 st Saturday of each month, 10.30 – 12.30 Poulton Village Hall Judith – 01285 851230
The Falcon Inn	www.falconinnpoulton.co.uk email: bookings@falconinnpoulton.co.uk 01285 850878

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