

THE APPLETON WITH EATON

SEPTEMBER 2025

NUMBER 697

Advertiser

PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

Besselsleigh Wood Group

WOODFEST '25

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

12 noon to 4^{PM}

Barbecue 12 noon to 2.00

Tea - Coffee - Squash - Cakes

Bushcraft - Green Appleton - Earth Trust

Story Telling - Guided Woodland Walks

A FUN DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

FREE ADMISSION

Please see
p.3 for details



Learning to live, living to learn

– in thanksgiving for schools at the start of a new year

by the Revd Wealands Bell, Rector

It's a joy to see our youngest villagers making their way willingly back to school each September, hungry to learn in the wonderful environments created by their teachers whom, along with our new Interim Headteacher, Mr Zaheer Ahmed, it is a pleasure to welcome to our community.

There can rarely have been a time when education has mattered more than today, when even the notion of a reliable fact is questioned in our politically volatile, post-truth, AI-generated, media-driven world. What-never-happened quickly erases and replaces what did. (A lie, they say, is half-way round the world while the truth is still putting its shoes on.) So teaching children how to identify and verify the facts, distinguishing between what-really-happened, and what-someone-wants-us-to-believe-happened, has never been more important, especially as we live in a tsunami of facts and false-facts that constantly spew from the portable googling-machines held in every hand, answering our every question, sometimes before we have voiced it.

Of course, we do not want school to be just about facts! That approach was tried and found wanting. 'Facts alone are wanted in life,' claims Mr Gradgrind in Dickens' *Hard Times*. We hadn't got much beyond this view when I was at school, fifty years ago. I have no recollection of ever being asked my opinion about anything at that time, though there were thousands of questions, all about facts: what chemical was this? when did that happen? what was the square on this or that hypotenuse? How many children had Lady Macbeth? My job was to know the answers; having opinions could and should wait until later.

This changed with the GCSE revolution of 1986, when opinion became king. Children whose parents had been required only to learn the poem, or recognise a simile from it, were suddenly required to say what they thought about the poem's imagery; or how successfully they thought the poet had conveyed the idea of love, or death, or daffodils! We were even supposed to ask the children how they felt, a question my own teachers would have found bewildering!

This more holistic approach (acknowledging, though not muddling facts and evidence, thoughts and feelings) is something we should encourage. A pressing problem in our day is our inability to argue dispassionately about facts and opinions. Our tendency is to rush – triggered, hurt and outraged – into our 'identity' groups, agreeing and disagreeing not according to the strength of an argument, but according to whether we suppose ourselves to be somehow similar to the person making it. Learning to separate facts from thoughts and feelings will help our children to 'build wisely for life' and be 'the best they can be for themselves and for others', as our school vision-statement puts it. It will make for clearer thinking and better communication for us all. It might even help to restore our democracy, and improve the quality of our life together.

To celebrate Education in all its forms, do please join us in church on Education Sunday, 14 September, for a short, family-friendly service at 10am.

Besselsleigh Wood Group

WOODFEST '25

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

12 noon to 4^{PM}

**In the woods – follow the main Appleton to
Besselsleigh path**

**A Fun Day Out for the Family - Free Entry
Barbecue 12 noon to 2.00**

Tea – Coffee – Squash- Cakes

Please bring cash – we cannot take card payments

Learn Bushcraft techniques with Wilderness Pioneers

Hear about Earth Trust, who manage the wood

Meet Green Appleton – and join up!

Story Telling for the young, or not so young

Guided Woodland Walks

Firewood Sales

**If the weather causes cancellation, notices will be put at the end
of Church Lane and in Besselsleigh.**

Appleton Voluntary Transport Scheme (AVTS)

We try to arrange transport to medical and dental appointments in Abingdon, Oxford, Witney and Wootton for residents of Appleton, Eaton, Fyfield and Besselsleigh, who have no other means of transport. The contact telephone number is 07503 447884. Leave a message if your call is not answered and we will get back to you.

Please note that

- Covid safety measures remain in force and masks need to be worn
- We need at least 48 hours notice of an appointment
- There is a small charge to cover the driver's costs.

Demand for our service is picking up again, but we are very short of drivers. If anyone would be happy to help, please do contact us.

Appleton Chapel

Tues 9th Sept 7:30pm	Healing and "Heart to heart" forum. Caring and sharing fellowship
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Sun 14th Sept	Family service and refreshments
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Tues 16th Sept 7pm	Sausage sizzle, salad, drinks and games
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Thurs 25th Sept, 7pm	Applejack Club
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Dr Ken Stallard

01235 868304

Grant available for local school leavers

If you previously attended Appleton Primary School, live in the Parish of Appleton with Eaton and are leaving Secondary Education this summer, you may be eligible for a grant of £100 towards University books or tools for an Apprenticeship.

To make an application, please send an email with details of your proposed course or training to Mrs Sue Halliday,

Clerk of the Appleton Trust: ClerkAppletonTrust@yahoo.com

Appleton WI

All you ever wanted to know about tea will be revealed at our September meeting. We shall meet at 2pm in Appleton village hall on Thursday, 18th September, when Two Spoons will teach us about tea, and we shall be able to taste various teas.

There will be a raffle and a bring and buy stall. Visitors are always welcome.

Elaine Flint

01865 861838

Fern Meadows Extra Care Housing – Now Open for Applications

Fern Meadows in Faringdon offers 60 modern homes for residents aged 55+ with care needs. The scheme supports independent living with tailored on-site care and welcoming community facilities.

Apartments are available for rent and shared ownership. Features include a café, hair salon, lounge, guest suite, communal gardens, and secure mobility aid storage.

To find out more or apply, please search online for 'Fern Meadows Extra Care Housing'.



Harvest Supper

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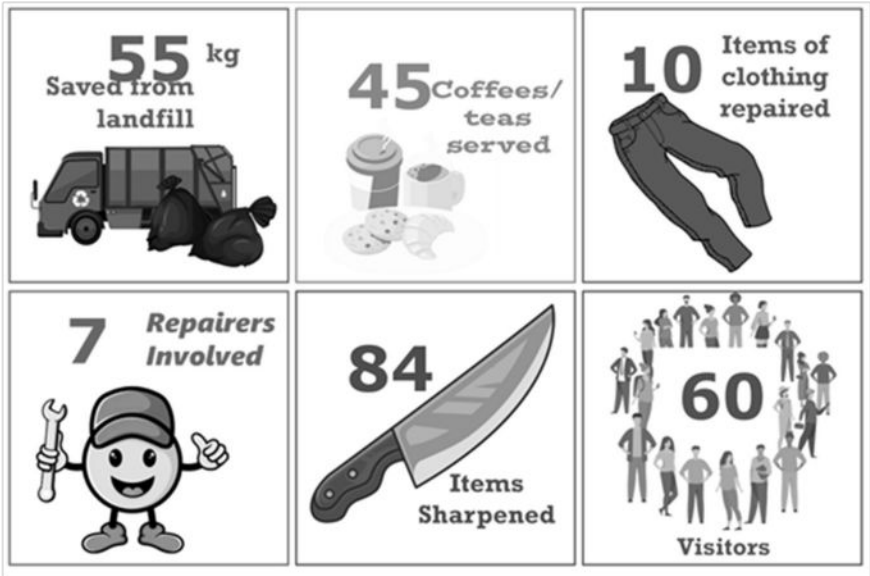


to



Green Appleton

Thank you to everyone that came to our most recent Repair Cafe. It was well attended and we had some interesting things to repair. As usual the knife sharpeners were busy but this time, our seamstresses were busy all morning. Thank you all our repairers, helpers and bakers - we couldn't do it without you!



EVERGREEN CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Friday 12th September. All welcome for tea and chat .

September 2025 Appleton Community Shop news

September at your Village Community Shop

As the summer holidays wind down and the school term begins, the Village Community Shop is here to support you this September.

We've got all your back to school essentials - from lunchbox snacks and healthy drinks to stationery and last-minute supplies. Whether it's pens, A4 notepads, office paper or glue, you'll find the stationary corner by the Post Office.

Start the school day right with fresh bread, locally sourced eggs, plus milk, cereals and baked goods. For after school treats, we have plenty to fill the gap before dinner.

You may have noticed baskets of seasonal fruit and veg, kindly donated by our local green fingered gardeners. No air miles here!

As autumn approaches, look for changes in our range as we prepare for warm comfort food and ingredients for home cooked meals, including our expanding deli range in the back chiller.

Please note that from September we will be back to closing at 1pm on a Saturday.

Shop opening hours

Monday-Friday: 7am–6pm

Saturday: 8am–1pm (no longer summer hours)

Sunday: 8am–12noon

Post office Mondays and Thursdays, 9am–1pm

Shop telephone: 01865 863191

Email: appletonship@gmail.com

Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/appletoncommunityshop>

Shop turnover			
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
May	£27,338	£27,718	£26,869
June	£29,347	£28,268	£28,376
July	£28,208	£30,582	£27,256
Aug	£24,841	£25,678	
Sept	£24,479	£25,345	
Oct	£26,318	£26,522	
Nov	£26,600	£26,224	
Dec	£27,354	£26,525	
Jan	£24,690	£23,937	
Feb	£24,144	£22,477	
March	£26,109	£25,360	
April	£24,762	£24,843	

Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club

Cardio Tennis and Adult intermediate coaching

The sessions will restart in the week beginning 8th September – a message will be sent out on the WhatsApp groups.

Email appletonwithheatontenniscub@gmail.com if you are interested in joining either of these groups. Members only for intermediate coaching (Monday 7:30-9:00 pm), but non-members welcome for cardio (Thursday day time).

Junior coaching - Autumn term 2025

Junior coaching sessions will restart in the week beginning 8th September. Hopefully you have signed up already if your child already attends these sessions. Any new joiners can sign up on our website (link below) subject to availability (there will be a waiting list if we are oversubscribed).

Membership

If you would like to join our friendly tennis club, please email the club on appletonwithheatontenniscub@gmail.com or turn up at one of our club sessions (Saturdays 10 am-12 pm, Wednesday 7-9 pm, or Thursday 1.30-3.30 pm).

For more information see: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/>

[AppletonwithEatonTennisClub/](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/)



School Holidays

Do you remember the school holidays, especially the long summer break that seemed to go on and on for weeks? I do! As a farming family, there were no holidays away from home, but then, these were the pre-war and war-time years so travel was very limited, and severely restricted.

With a milking herd and pigs to feed, and indeed two thousand egg laying hens; plus the difficulty in finding good farm labourers, there was no time for breaks as daily routines fell heavily on the shoulders of the family members! I had some school projects set for the holidays but I did mine in the first few days of breaking up from school, so I could help on the farm.

Thereafter it was daily farm work, feeding pigs and cleaning out their sties, settling the allocations of feed for cows when they came into the cowsheds for milking twice a day, or taking buckets of corn to scatter for the hens at various sites around the farm, collecting the eggs and cleaning them for the packing station.

If we were idle, mother would find us a job to do, so we escaped before she could suggest anything! One farmer's wife was known to say that if her children had nothing to do, the pavement outside the house needed cleaning with toothbrushes!! Imagine that! I wonder if they escaped?

Barbara Bunyan



September News – Rivers & Flooding

Evenlode Catchment Partnership - "Restoring the Evenlode catchment for the benefit of all"

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) is a dynamic collaboration of over 20 organisations and countless individuals, united by a shared commitment to improving the water environments within the Evenlode catchment which covers the north-west of Oxfordshire. Since our establishment in 2014, the ECP has been dedicated to enhancing water quality, improving flood management, enriching biodiversity, and fostering greater community engagement with our rivers.

Wild Oxfordshire hosts the ECP and leads the natural flood management (NFM), river restoration and wetland creation projects. Changes in land management and river engineering have had a big impact on our wildlife and biodiversity. Natural flood meadow habitat is rare in the Evenlode catchment due to changes to arable farming and past dredging activities, whilst weirs and other barriers block the passage of fish and reduce their access to spawning grounds.

As temperatures rise with climate change in the UK, extreme rainfall days are likely to increase. Recent large-scale flood events in the Cotswolds hit the national headlines, but behind the scenes the ECP delivered one of the first effective lowland NFM projects, demonstrating that NFM on a landscape scale works! Following Storm Bert (Nov 2024) our NFM interventions prevented flooding for all 12 homes at risk in Milton-under-Wychwood.

Field corner bunds in action



In 2018, natural flood management measures were installed on a farm above Milton-under-Wychwood to reduce flood risk in the village below. The first photo shows a group of people standing in the bottom of a field bund on 24th October 2024.

The second photo shows the same field bund in action on 25th November 2024, following Storm Bert. The water is around 2m deep at its maximum and the bund is holding back around 1700m³ flood water.



On this occasion, the houses along the Littlestock Brook in Milton-under-Wychwood did not flood.

Through regular monitoring of our NFM scheme on the Littlestock Brook, it has been thrilling to learn that not only does this project reduce flooding, but it brings multiple benefits including increased biodiversity.

Landowners can also help by increasing the organic matter in their soil which will increase the capacity of the soil to retain water. Many of the landowners along the floodplain are now reverting their arable fields to grass. This will have multiple benefits including sequestering carbon, reducing erosion of soils and keeping nutrients on farms.

The ECP's work has gained recognition for its impact, with coverage in outlets such as *New Scientist* on our water quality citizen science work. We have used our river restoration and natural flood management projects as models for learning and best practice. Together, we are making a lasting difference to the health of the Evenlode's rivers and the communities that depend on them.



Our mission is to create a thriving, sustainable water environment that benefits both wildlife and local communities. Find out more by watching our videos and exploring our website at www.evenlodecatchment.org.uk

Cornwell Estate river restoration.

Ann Berkeley, Evenlode Catchment Partnership Project Manager

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>

News from the Appleton with Eaton Parish Council:

Footpath from Long Close to Besselsleigh Woods

The surfacing of the path from Long Close to Besselsleigh Woods has now been completed.



We hope this enables everyone to enjoy the path.

Pavilion

At the time of writing, the Pavilion Working Group is due to hold its event at the Sportsfield. We will continue to post regular updates on our website, Facebook and shout outs.

If you would like to be involved in any way, please feel free to contact the Clerk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the

8th September 2025, 7:15pm, Appleton Village Hall.

All are welcome!

Allison Leigh, Parish Clerk

07767 596 650 / parishclerk@appleton-eaton-pc.gov.uk

Advertiser

Deadline for October issue:

19th September (19th of the month is the usual deadline)

Notices for village organisations

All printed copy to the editor - just post it through the letterbox—or by email to editor.advertiser@gmail.com before the deadline. Please email if you can!

No formal payment is required but we ask for a donation towards the running costs of the Advertiser: between £5-50 depending on the length and frequency of entries. Liaise with Wanda Todd to agree an appropriate donation.

Advertisements

To book advertising space:

email Wanda Todd: accounts.advertiser@hotmail.co.uk

2012 Advertising charges per issue

●Listing:

30p per word of 3 letters or more and a minimum of £3.00 per advert. Each telephone and email address is to count as a word

●Display adverts:

£25 for a quarter page

Please indicate whether you want (1) a display advert or (2) a listing. If you want a listing the charge is made per word so please either supply the text or say how many words. Note that payment is required in advance, and for long-term adverts we would like 3 months in advance.

Cheques payable to Appleton PCC

and sent to Wanda Todd, 12 Badswell Lane, Appleton OX13 5JN

Paintings by David Lockett and Peter Ross



recent works: landscapes,
seascapes, abstracts



selected works:
1975 to 2025



**The Garden Gallery, The Oxfordshire Museum,
Park Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1SN**

Saturday 6 to Sunday 21 September (closed Mondays)

Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 – 5.00, Sundays 2.00 – 5.00



FREE TASTER

Monday 22nd September at 5.30pm in Appleton Village Hall

Fitsteps: dance (ballroom and latin) fitness for everyone - no need for partners or experience.

FITNESS with the **JOY** of **DANCE**

Sessions:

- Monday at 5.30, Appleton Village Hall starting with the taster on 22d September
- Friday at 10.00am, Longworth Village Hall starting on 26th September

The taster or your first class is free

Contact alison.fitsteps@outlook.com for more details



FIELD | FAMILY | FORK

(but a bit naughty)

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ADVERTISEMENTS See p.14 for costs and deadlines

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DAVIDSON-DECORATING

Interior and exterior work.

References available.

Siobhan 07765780672

davidsondecorating@gmail.com



APT HARD LANDSCAPING

Paving: Fencing :Stone walling:

Brickwork :Turfing:General garden
maintenance

Andy:07887778784

email:andyphomas@hotmail.co.uk



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and wedding receptions.

www.appletonvillagehall.com



St. Laurence Church website
www.stlaurenceappleton.org

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NOTE: This newsletter is also available on
the Parish website. If you do not wish
your item to be displayed online, please
inform the Editor. All items are included in
good faith, and the Appleton with Eaton
Advertiser cannot take responsibility for
any content.

St Laurence Church Appleton with Besselsleigh

SERVICES – SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP said)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 14th	10.00am	All-Age Service of the Word – <i>child-friendly</i> ‘Education and Back to School Sunday’ <i>40 minutes, with coffee and pastries from 9.40am</i>
	5.00pm	Eucharist (short said service)
	5.35pm	Evensong (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
<u>Sunday 21st</u>	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 28th	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
	5.30pm	Evensong (BCP)
<u>Sunday 5th</u> October	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP said)
	10.00am	All-Age Harvest Thanksgiving a child-friendly service of the word <i>40 minutes, with coffee and pastries from 9.40am</i>

The Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated every Wednesday at 10.00am
(a quiet, peaceful service lasting 30 minutes)

The church building is open every day 9am to 5pm for all to visit

Contact us:

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care and home visits,
please contact the Rector, The Revd Wealands Bell: 01865 599003;
rector@stlaurencechurchappleton.org

For matters concerning the church building and churchyard, please contact one of
the Churchwardens: Jane Cranston: 01865 863681; jane@cranstonjane.co.uk; or
Pete Day: 01865 862671; p.h.m.day202@btinternet.com