

THE APPLETON WITH EATON

MAY 2026  
NUMBER 705

# Advertiser

PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

OXFORDSHIRE

**art**  
WEEKS

# EXHIBITIONS



## 'ART TRANSPLANT'

APPLETON BARN, SOUTH LAWN,  
APPLETON, OX13 5JX

2-10 MAY, 10<sup>AM</sup>- 5<sup>PM</sup> DAILY

Art Exhibition, in a beautiful  
barn, filled with great art.

Paintings, Ceramics,  
Textiles, Prints, Jewellery  
and Mixed Media

Tea and Cake

**SATURDAY 2 &  
SUNDAY 3 MAY**  
**10.30<sup>AM</sup> TO 5.00<sup>PM</sup>**  
**APPLETON VILLAGE HALL**



**ORIGINAL  
WORK BY 11  
LOCAL ARTISTS  
AND MAKERS**



PEACHCROFT\_ARTISTS\_AT\_APPLETON

## Forty Days On – a thought for Ascension Day

When I was a little boy, my favourite TV show was *Trumpton*. I enjoyed, of course, the famous roll-call of ‘Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble, Grubb!’ But what really grabbed me was the fire-engine ladder climbing into the skies on the word of command; coming back to earth with equal obedience. “Elevate!” intoned the storyteller, when it went up to retrieve a cat from a tricky roof. “Descend!” he’d say again, when it came back in quiet triumph, the missing Mog safely gathered. I was always glad when it did: I learnt the hard way, from an injudicious habit of climbing trees much too tall for me, that it’s safer for everyone to have both feet on the ground.

I think of *Trumpton* as the Church celebrates Christ’s Ascension into heaven, forty days after Easter, this year on Thursday 14th May. The Bible paints a picture of Jesus shooting skywards in a hazy whoosh of billowing clouds, which you can sort of understand, given the writers’ need to convey the idea of his return to heaven, mission accomplished, to take his place at the Father’s right hand. But as things have turned out, it was perhaps an unfortunate choice of image. From where we sit, it looks quite like a dodgy science-fiction movie, making it all too easy for the truth of Christ’s Ascension to be dismissed as the foolish talk of fearful folk who can’t cope with their mortality. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is said to have remarked that Yuri Gagarin, the first human in space, ‘didn’t see any God there.’ He’d been as high as you can go, and had found nothing.

Khrushchev had missed the point. The purpose of the Ascension story is not to promote the idea of a divine territory so many thousand feet above sea level. Rather, it reminds us that the truth of God is revealed in the historic person of Jesus, but insists that Jesus is not limited by his history or geography. Just because we weren’t in Galilee twenty-one centuries ago doesn’t limit our ability to know Christ, or his ability to know us. In his Ascension, he swaps the local for the universal and the impermanent for the eternal. He who descended to the shop-floor of the human condition is now elevated to a vantage point from where he can see, know, and love us all. He who battled death and came through victorious takes his place with the Father at the very heart of reality. And – what is more – he shares his throne with all of his creation.

Our human nature is elevated with him; he budges up, and makes room for us all. We may have messed up after inhaling our first heady breaths of the pure air of Paradise. But the Unfortunate Incident of the Serpent in the Orchard is behind us now. Despite all appearances to the contrary, the future is bright.

Of course it pays to have both feet on the ground. Always has. But now we need to have our head in the clouds as well.

Wealands Bell – *Rector of Appleton and Eaton with Besselsleigh*

see also the Rector’s blog at [www.stlaurenceappleton.org](http://www.stlaurenceappleton.org)

*PS – If that all sounds like absolute nonsense, then come along and tell me so, over a philosophical or theological pint in the pub. Ask all the questions you’ve ever meant to ... Details in the box above.*

### **IN AT THE DEEP END**

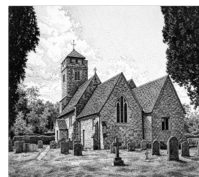
Enjoy a philosophical drink with the Rector in The Plough, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, from 7.00pm.

## **Join Us for a Community Walk/Run/Cycle!**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2.15 – 4pm**

### **Beating The Bounds on Rogation Day**

Come together as a community for a special Rogation Day celebration – a wonderful opportunity to meet new people (and familiar faces), enjoy the countryside, and explore a beautiful area of the parish.



### **What is Rogation Day?**

A traditional church celebration during the planting season, asking for God's blessing over crops, livestock and agriculture. It also includes the historic tradition of "Beating the bounds" – walking the parish boundaries and praying for the well-being of the community.

### **Choose Your Route:**

*(All Abilities Welcome - 3 Routes Available)*

#### **2km Walk**

Gentle route – ideal for young families and those with mobility needs.

#### **7km Walk**

Includes Lock Lane (kindly opened especially for this event). Suitable for confident child cyclists.

\* Children's quiz available

#### **10km Route**

Running route – can be walked if preferred.

Routes marked & maps available from 1st May from the village shop & St Laurence Church

### **Event Details:**

- Start & Finish: St Laurence Church
- Date: Sunday 10th May

All routes are timed so we return together for:

- Start times from 2.15pm. All to finish by 4:00pm at St Laurence Church
- Refreshments provided afterwards.

### **EVERYONE WELCOME**

Whether you want a short stroll, a family activity, or a longer walk, there's something for everyone. Walk, connect and be part of something meaningful. We look forward to seeing you there!



## **APPLETON CRICKET CLUB**

Your village needs you!

Cricket clubs across the county are preparing for action, with bats being oiled, pitches prepared, as teams get ready to take on the opposition.

We are a traditional village club who run a Sunday team, playing friendly 40 over matches starting at 2.00pm, and a 20/20 midweek team, normally on a Wednesday evening. We play both home and away fixtures against other like-minded village clubs where, although victory is very welcome, the main objective is that the game is enjoyed by all during, and as importantly, after the game.

After our tour matches on the Isle of Wight over the May bank holiday weekend, our first home match this season takes place on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>.

We start the year with a solid core of players, and we pride ourselves on always starting the game with 11 players on the pitch. However, as the older players hang up their boots, young people begin new phases in their lives, and others simply move away, the club is always eager to welcome new members.

We are a friendly, inclusive club, where friendships are quickly made, and where we offer a good social programme throughout the season. You may be a player who hasn't played for some time but would enjoy getting back into the sport, or a young person who's interested in cricket and wants to give it a go.

Feel free to come down to the ground to have a look see, or/and have a chat to one of the Appleton players. You'll find us at the Sportsfield, off Netherton Road, Appleton.

**RESULTS SO FAR: won some, lost some!**

So, if you just might fancy giving it a go and want to know more, give one of our team members, details below, a call for an informal chat.

Alternatively, further details can be found on our website [www.appletoncc.com](http://www.appletoncc.com)

You can email us at [info@appletoncc.com](mailto:info@appletoncc.com)

Co- chairman: Roger Gilkes 01865 863640

Club Captain: Phil Atkinson 07588 688824

Sunday Captain: Wayne Geller 07771 962707

appleton  
village  
cinema

# H IS FOR HAWK

[12A] 2026 115 MINUTES



BEAUTIFUL STORY OF FALCONRY TRAINING  
AND THE PROCESSING OF GRIEF FOR  
THOSE WE DEARLY LOVE.



**Appleton Village Hall**  
**Thursday 21 May**  
**Doors: 7.15<sup>pm</sup> Film: 7.45<sup>pm</sup>**



## **Easter Pony Walk**

Thank you to everyone who came out to see us over the Easter weekend during our Easter Pony Walk and thank you so much for all your very kind donations.

We collected £50 for the charity SAFE (Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines). We had a lovely day with our two jockeys, Ellessi and Millie-Rose on board Max and Enzo, who were very well behaved and even decided to leave some presents on some driveways to help the roses grow!!!



## **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 WI**

What a splendid celebration we had of our 100th birthday. Thanks to Ros and her team the hall looked beautiful, festooned with balloons and bunting of white, purple and green (WI colours), and flowers on the tables.

We were served a delicious meal of prawn cocktail, perfectly roasted beef with all the traditional accompaniments and sauces, and then a choice of profiteroles or trifle.

Quite a few of us had both! This feast was prepared and served very professionally by Sue White and her family. Thank you so much for all your hard work.

Then we were entertained by Claire and Stephen Barratt while we had coffee and mints. A perfect end to a lovely occasion.

The following week we held our AGM. The outgoing president was Sally Lawton, who has served us so well since 2017, and Ros Uren was elected, who has seized the reins with energy and enthusiasm. The committee stood down, and a new committee consisting of some former members and some new volunteers, was elected. We look forward to the coming year with interest and excitement.

On 21st May at 2pm in Appleton village hall our speakers will be John and Ann Ford. Their talk is entitled Morris Minors in the Media, and they will be dressed in 60s clothes. Sounds like fun.

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

Elaine Flint



## May 2026 Appleton Community Shop news



This May, the village shop is here for the everyday essentials and the extra bits that make the Bank Holiday weekends easier.

Whether you're topping up on groceries, picking up something for a last-minute BBQ, or grabbing snacks for a day out you'll find plenty on offer in the shop.

With the two Bank Holiday Mondays, it is a great time to head out for a wander in the local woods. Pop in beforehand for drinks, sandwiches, and a few treats to take with you, or stop at our outdoor seating to enjoy a coffee and a piece of cake after your walk.

With the warm weather arriving, you'll notice the bake-at-home products reducing and the ice cream display increasing, but you can still ask one of our volunteers for bake-at-home products from our stock room freezer.

### May bank holiday opening hours

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 9am–12 noon\*

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May: 9am–12noon\*

*\*No newspaper delivery. Shop collection only*

### Post Office

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Closed – open Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 9am–1pm

### Shop opening hours

Monday-Friday: 7am–6pm

Saturday: 8am–1pm

Sunday: 8am–12noon

**Post office** Mondays and Thursdays, 9am–1pm

Shop telephone: 01865 863191

Email: [appletonship@gmail.com](mailto:appletonship@gmail.com)

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

Shop monthly 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	£24,839
Sept	£24,479	£25,345	£23,608
Oct	£26,318	£26,522	£25,290
Nov	£26,600	£26,224	£24,547
Dec	£27,354	£26,525	£24,005
Jan	£24,690	£23,937	£24,055
Feb	£24,144	£22,477	£21,380
March	£26,109	£25,360	£26,058
April	£24,762	£24,843	

## **Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club**

### **Court cleaning**

The courts were power washed and treated for moss in mid-April as part of our move to twice yearly cleaning to keep our courts in good condition and improve the grip.



### **Club tournament**

If you've entered the tournament please remember to play your next match by the upcoming deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> May for most of the draws. Tournament rules and contact numbers can be found in the email from Alison Jackson dated 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Weekly coaching sessions run by Head Coach Bart (Term time only)**

Adult Tennis Coaching Beginners Course	Monday evenings 6.30 pm
Adult intermediate Tennis Coaching (pay & play)	Monday evenings 7.30 pm
Cardio Tennis (non-members welcome; pay & play)	Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am
Junior Tennis Coaching Course (all levels)	Thursday and Friday afternoons

Courses bookable via the coaching tabs on: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub>

For more information on pay & play sessions, please email: [appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com)

### **Car parking at the tennis club**

Please walk or cycle to the tennis club if possible, particularly on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings, which are our busiest times. If you need to drive please park considerately in our car park and surrounding streets.

### **Membership**

If you would like to join our friendly tennis club, please email the club on [appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:appletonwithheatontennisclub@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). You can see our membership fees on our website under the "Join us" tab.

### **Dates for your diary**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Club Tournament Finals Day

**For more information see:** <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub/> or email [appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com)

## **Oxford**

What has happened and is still happening to our beautiful dreaming city of spires – Oxford? As I sit in my chair day after day, I reflect on what used to be our interesting, vibrant city of lots of individual shops and department store, pavements thronging with shoppers from all corners of the country, especially on Wednesdays – market day. No longer the city of my schooldays and student times, when we enjoyed streets of interesting shops with bright frontages and colourful tarpaulins.

I recall eating fresh Chelsea buns sitting at a round table in the restaurant of Ellington and Carell, later Debenhams, drinking tea with my fellow students before classes – a lovely shop where you could buy hats, shoes, sportswear and knitwear. I still have a Jaeger coat bought with some of my first salary! Along the street was Taphouse's where sheet music could be bought for piano lessons, and around the corner in Fenge St Lavalettes who made some of my first dance dresses for various balls, countrywise and in town.

In the Cornmarket was Austin Reed for all kinds of men's wear, and further up the Cadina Café and Restaurant on the second floor, becoming a ballroom by night for trade events such as the Confectioners'.

Delicious cream teas were available and a coffee counter for coffee beans, which were ground for coffee making. On market days, the restaurant was full of dining visitors, farmers like my parents enjoying cooked meals on a Wednesday, while a trio of musicians played delightful, melodious tunes on a piano and violins.

The Clarendon Hotel came next – the meeting place for many servicemen and women in WWII, many from the United States – tall soldiers in khaki uniforms, very eye-catching and attentive! Grimbly Hughes was close by – a well-stocked store of all kinds of delicious food – from meat to cakes, biscuits, spices and many items for special occasions.

Like many, possibly, I would love to see those days again, but for now they are simply fading memories of really happy times.

B. Bunyan

### **EVERGREEN CLUB**

Our next meeting will be on Friday 8th May at 2pm. Our brains will be tested by a 1% quiz but without the huge prizes.

Tea and cake to follow. All welcome.

# Green Appleton Repair Cafe at Appleton School June 6th 1 - 4pm



- \* Sharpening \* Garments
- \* Small Electricals
- \* General Repairs

Children's Activities  
Free Tea and Cake

Experts from  
Abingdon Carbon  
Cutters will give  
bike advice



## Green Appleton

By the time you receive this Advertiser, we are hoping to have 'installed' our fifth photo station. If you recall we currently have 3 in Besselsleigh Woods and one in the Churchyard. Photo station #5 will be sited on the side of the path just as you enter the woods from the Appleton end.

We have spent some time over the past couple of years (along with Earth Trust volunteers), clearing Himalayan Balsam from the woods (or as much as we can). We made a concerted effort to clear as much as we could in the area which skirts the brook. We're under no illusions that we've cleared it all (there's plenty in other parts of the wood) but we're interested to record if we've made a difference, so we want a photo station to record changes in balsam amounts over time. The remit is exactly the same as for the other stations. Every time you pass, take a photo and upload it to our website. We should then gradually build a picture of the difference we are making (if any). Thank you.

**Bluebells in Besselsleigh woods** - We have been recording the changes in seasons in Besselsleigh Woods for almost 3 years now and we are now able to compare seasons of the bluebells emerging.

**Repair Cafe at Appleton School - 6th June 2026.** Please come along and help support the school attain their sustainability targets. Whilst you're there, get something repaired and have free tea and cake! This time we are open from 1 - 4pm,

## **News from Appleton with Eaton Parish Council (AWEPC):** **Have your say about grouping AWE Parish Council and Besselsleigh**



South Oxfordshire  
District Council



Vale of White Horse  
District Council



# ***Join the Conversation***



## **Community Governance Review**

**26 March until 7 May 2026**

We are seeking your views on potential changes to the parishes of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Fyfield and Tubney, Kennington, Radley, Appleton with Eaton and Besselsleigh.

Find out more and have your say by:

**Scanning the QR** code to go straight to the online survey

**Viewing the online survey** at [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communitygovernance](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communitygovernance)

If you would like a paper copy of the survey, have any questions or require the survey in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, Easy Read and alternative languages), please email [jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk) or call **01235 422422**.





### **Parish Meeting**

#### **Annual Parish Meeting date**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm in the Village Hall. We encourage all to come to the Meeting, to hear about what is going on in the Parish. It is also an opportunity for clubs / organisations to attract new members or volunteers.

Refreshments will be served - we hope to see you there!

## Asset of Community Value – The Plough Inn

In January 2026, the Parish Council learned that its application for The Plough Inn to be listed as an Asset of Community Value was successful.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on the  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 7:15pm, Appleton Village Hall.

All are welcome!

Allison Leigh, Parish Clerk

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

**Book your time slot**  
to visit our Household Waste  
and Recycling Centres.

You can  
book up to  
**30 minutes\***  
before on the  
day or up to  
**two weeks**  
in advance.

\*Subject to  
availability

OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

### Appleton Trust Hardship Fund

The Appleton Trust has some funds available to help those individuals or families in immediate hardship with no other means of support.

Please apply to the Trust Clerk by email at  
ClerkAppletonTrust@yahoo.com

Or Mrs Sue Halliday at 12, Netherton Road

The Appleton Trust takes your privacy very seriously and will not pass your personal details on to anyone

# Advertiser

Deadline for June issue:

**19th May**

## 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

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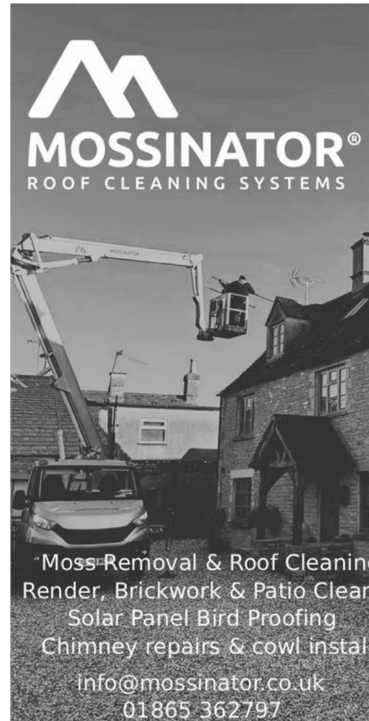
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**[www.pellmans.co.uk](http://www.pellmans.co.uk)**

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Home visits available



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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  
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Andy:07887778784

email:andythomas@hotmail.co.uk



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## Appleton Village Hall

Suitable for meetings, parties, dances  
and wedding receptions.

[www.appletonvillagehall.com](http://www.appletonvillagehall.com)



**St. Laurence Church website**

[www.stlaurenceappleton.org](http://www.stlaurenceappleton.org)

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Lane, Appleton. Email:

[accounts.advertiser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:accounts.advertiser@hotmail.co.uk)

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 – MAY2026**

<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> (BCP said)
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>All-Age Service of the Word: ‘When I grow up ...’</b> A celebration of May Day and the Dignity of Human Labour. <b>Preacher: Pastor Leonard from Embo</b> <i>with coffee and pastries from 9.40am</i>
	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Eucharist</b> (a short, said service)
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b> (BCP)
<b><u>Sunday 17th</u></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist for Ascension Day</b>
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist for the Day of Pentecost</b>
	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist for Trinity Sunday</b>
<b>Sunday 7th June</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> (BCP said)
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>All-Age Eucharist: Bread of Heaven</b>

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

For further details: [www.stlaurenceappleton.org](http://www.stlaurenceappleton.org)

**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@stlaurenceappleton.org](mailto:rector@stlaurenceappleton.org)

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