



THE POULTON EYE

COMMUNITY - NEWS - INFORMATION

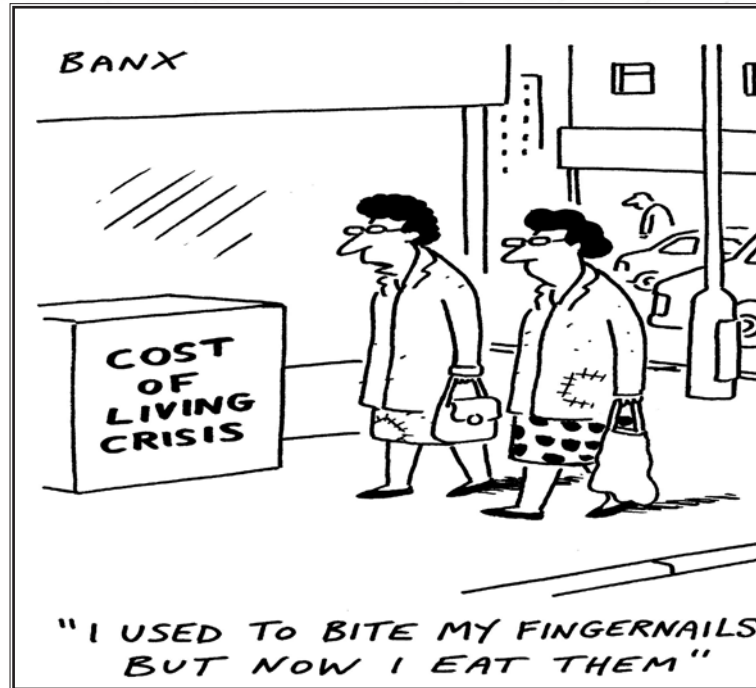
IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION:

Cost of Living & How it
Affects Us All

Poulton Profiles

A Project for Poulton

Roundup of News, Events
and Village Activities



Welcome to the November edition of the Poulton Eye. In fact, the newsletter has now been up and running for a full 12 months. It's been quite a 12 months one way and another.

This time last year we were still beset with Covid and all the concerns that brought with it. Now we notice how many more village events and activities are being planned, and Covid seems to be rather old news. We have a King, not a Queen. And, of course, we are in the midst of a European war and an economic downturn.

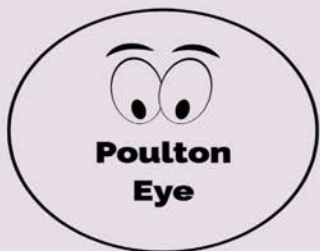
So many of these events are things that we simply can't change. So we decided to look at things slightly differently - and to look at things we could change - however small, however insignificant they might be. We hope that the articles about the Cost of Living Crisis will be helpful and that some of the ideas included may help you. So often I hear "well, of course, you're in the Cotswolds, you won't see deprivation, addiction, or people struggling there".

That is simply not the case. If you have any ideas about how we, as a community, can support each other, please let us know and we will direct you to someone who may be able to help.

As ever, we hope that you find something to interest you, and we welcome contributions from all.

Rosie and Lizzy

Editors, Poulton Eye
poultoneye@gmail.com



Do you enjoy reading the Poulton Eye?

The Poulton Eye is one year old this month!

The newsletter is produced and delivered free to every house in the village

The Poulton Eye is produced by Poulton Parochial Church Council for the benefit of the community, whether churchgoers or not

The aim is not to make money, but to ensure that everyone in the village can be included in village news and events

The newsletter is free, and will remain free - but software licences and printing is expensive only partially offset by advertising revenue

If you feel able to make a £10 annual contribution towards the cost of producing the Poulton Eye, please let us know: poultoneye@gmail.com

REMEMBRANCE DAY PROFILE - JOHN MARKS

On reflection I am lucky to be here today as my father John Marks DFC piloted a Lancaster in World War 2.

I am lucky because 55,573 members of Bomber command lost their lives, one in three of all crews died, so that Europe might live in Peace.

My Dad joined up from a reserved occupation in October 1941 and after initial training in the UK he was sent on a troop ship to South Africa to learn to fly. He gained his wings in February 1943. By November of that year he was back in the UK, and immediately put onto Wellington and then Lancaster Bombers.

Crewing up was an informal affair and his crew of 7 was a mix of Canadians and British. His squadron 625 was based at Kelstern near Binbrook in Lincolnshire.

They were a very distinguished bunch and flew over 60 bombing missions over France (on D-Day), Holland and Germany. During this time Dad became a Master Bomber Pilot and also much involved in the Special Duty Flight, as a result they all received at different times the DFC medal. There are of course many stories relating to my fathers flying career... this is one of my favourites:

My Grandparents lived at this time in Solihull on a broad avenue. His mother one day asked if ever flew over that way, so on the next training flight he told his crew that they would go and visit his Mum. He flew very low level over the house, which brought his mother outside to see what the hell was going on. On the next fly past they were so low that they took off the top of the poplar tree in the garden! Nor did Dad know then that many of the windows broke as a result of the vibration, and the local girls school was evacuated! When he spoke to his father on the phone that evening, totally unaware of the mayhem he had caused he was very seriously chastised.

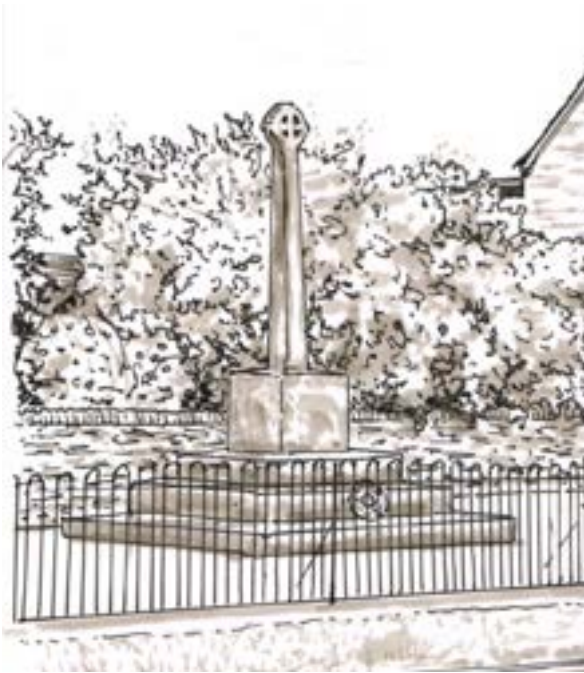
I have attached a picture of his Lancaster. The Lady on the front is 'Olivia' holding a lantern to show the way to the other Bombers following him.

The picture opposite shows the unveiling of The Bomber Command Memorial in the presence of her Majesty the Queen in June 2012 to which my Mum and I were invited.



James Marks

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends

Recently, whilst walking through Horse Guards Parade in London. I noticed the fresh, young faces of the troops of the Blues and Royals on ceremonial duty. These are not just ceremonial soldiers who do duty in London, but also do military service as armoured reconnaissance troops. I was reminded that many of the names we shall read out at War Memorials or Cenotaphs are those of young people, whose lives were cut short by the act of war and military conflict. The young troopers on duty in London had no idea who I was (why should they?), and I did not know them. But I hope – for their sake and their families' sakes – that they will never have their name read out on Remembrance Sunday.

This year, the Royal British Legion has an advertising campaign which reminds us that we probably don't know any of the former service personnel whom they support. They tell us that those who serve in the navy, army and air force don't know who we are – and yet they are prepared to serve our country on our behalf, and are ready to put their lives on the line in doing their duty for us.

We may well not know those whom we shall commemorate this year and, as the years pass, many have been forgotten. However, the Bible is clear that God knows each one – as the prophet Isaiah puts it (44:21):

“I, the Lord, made you, and I will not forget you.
Always remember, you are not forgotten. Not by God.
Be encouraged.”

As we hear the names of the fallen and those who have been forgotten, may we be assured that God remembers and, that in the end, all will be redeemed and nothing will be lost. Not even you or me.

Yours as ever - John

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USED STAMPS

For many years now I have been collecting used stamps for Bransby Horses, Rescue and Welfare. If anyone has saved used stamps but has no intended home for them I would be happy to receive them!

Thank you.

Ann Young 851570 New York. No. 1019.

CHURCH DATES IN OCTOBER

Tuesday 1st November <i>All Saints' Day</i>	12pm	Holy Communion	Down Ampney
Tuesday 4th October	12pm	Mediation and Communion	Poulton
Sunday 6th November <i>3rd Sunday before Advent</i>	8am 10am 10am 3pm	BCP Holy Communion Parish Communion Service of the Word A Service of Remembrance for Those We Have Loved & Lost	Ampney Crucis Down Ampney Harnhill Poulton
Friday 11th November <i>Armistice Day</i>	10.50am	An Act of Remembrance	Driffield
Sunday 13th November <i>Remembrance Day</i>	8am 10.50am 10.45am 10.50am	BCP Holy Communion A Service of Remembrance A Service of Remembrance A Service of Remembrance	Poulton Ampney Crucis Down Ampney Poulton
Sunday 20th November <i>Christ The King</i>	8am 10am 10am	BCP Holy Communion Parish Communion Service of the Word	Ampney St Peter Ampney Crucis Harnhill
Saturday 26th November <i>Advent Eve</i>	6pm	Advent Gathering <i>Preparing for Christmas with seasonal readings, songs and carols by candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies Bring a torch and dress warmly!</i>	Ampney St Mary
Sunday 27th November <i>Advent Sunday</i>	8am 10am 10am	BCP Holy Communion Parish Communion Service of the Word	Harnhill Poulton Harnhill

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms	Tommy George Tomlinson James Frederick Montagu Stopford	15th October 16th October	St Peter's Church, Ampney St Peter Holy Rood Church, Ampney Crucis
Wedding Blessing	Andrew and Michelle Tibbles	2nd October	Holy Rood Church, Ampney Crucis
Funerals	Howard Sear Jeremy Charles-Jones	5th October 13 October	All Saints' Church, Down Ampney Cirencester Parish Church
Memorial Service	Wilfried Bechtolscheimer	14th October	Fairford Parish Church

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

As part of our focus on the Cost of Living Crisis, we thought it would be appropriate to take expert advice – and turned to a Poulton resident, Jane Davidson. Here, Jane shares her thoughts on how best to manage finances in the current climate.

Poulton's Jane Davidson has a wealth of financial experience with over 25 years in financial services. She became an Associate Partner of St. James's Place in 2007 and has been running Davidson Financial Planning ever since.

As the nation struggles with the cost of living crisis and winter approaches, Jane offers some practical tips on how to make your money go further whether you are struggling to fill the fridge or trying to make unearned income spread further.

Firstly, a brief resume of Jane's career. She's worked in the financial services industry for 28 years, initially training for the ICMA (Institute of Cost and Management Accountants) joining Citicorp Financial Group and then Lloyds Wealth Management before being head-hunted by St. James's Place. She says she always loved working with figures and money, and financial services was a perfect career because it combined this with the enjoyment of helping people organise their finances, save tax and generally plan money more carefully to get the best from it.

Her first job at Citicorp came about because she had just moved to a new family home after the UK had come out of the ERM and interest rates rose to 16%. She was at home with one child and thought she needed to help pay the huge mortgage. Financial services were far less well-known in those days and it was with some trepidation that she started work there. It proved to be a natural home for her talents and despite having a one year old child, Jane was consistently ranked as one of the top 10 employees so it was no surprise that she was head-hunted by SJP and has what she calls her dream job, with her own Practice with the backing of a FTSE 100 Company, their technical support and compliance.

So, now to the cost of living crisis. Jane, along with so many of us, is a huge fan of Martin Lewis. She urges people to look at his website and follow his tips on saving money. That is tip number one for everyone. He has a great team of people working with him to find and verify the money-saving tips given and there will be something for everyone there.

Secondly, Jane says setting a budget is one of the most important things you can do and really helps reduce financial stress. Whether money is tight or not, it is essential that you look at your outgoings, potential unexpected outgoings, and your income. If you set a budget, you will know whether you are sticking to it and whether you are likely to run into problems later in the month or later in the year. If you're really not left with anything then you will have to make major cuts to outgoings in whatever way you can, and that's where Martin Lewis comes in.

If the situation is really looking bleak, do talk to someone. It could be a financial adviser, she says. They are debt and bankruptcy licenced and will be able to give you advice. Otherwise, go to Citizen's Advice, or another professional organisation. Whatever you do, don't do nothing! Burying your head in the sand and pretending it's not happening is the worst thing you can do. There is help available and there will always be some sort of resolution.

Here are some more of Jane's suggestions of practical tips for saving money this winter.

- Pay off your credit card each month if you can.
- Look for interest free credit cards or transfer an existing credit card debt into a loan. It can be useful if a debt is getting out of hand and you can't see how you are going to pay it off. It can be much cheaper to consolidate it into a loan.
- Try having some designated 'no spend' weekends.
- Set limits on the number of takeaways you have.
- Have a freezer month where you try to only eat from the freezer topped up with fresh fruit and veg.
- Set up regular savings if there is any spare cash so that you have an emergency fund. It really does take the pressure off.
- Think about getting a bus pass. It can be quite an adventure, even with the frequency of rural buses!
- Share lifts. It could be a good way to make new friends and spend time with others in your community. Perhaps set up a little transport WhatsApp group.

This winter is probably quite a good time to check that your National Insurance contributions are up to date. If you have missed payments, make sure you catch up with them so you are eligible for your full pension when the time comes.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Can I afford to invest any money or save beyond an emergency budget?

One of the quirky analogies I've used over years, especially on paper, is to compare finances to your larder, fridge and freezer when people are trying to work out if they can afford to invest. In the larder is your income. You need to feel comfortable that you have enough to cover bills. In the fridge is your emergency money, which can take the pressure off you and ensure that there is a pot of money available no matter how small. It's there and you won't have to resort to credit cards. Emergencies always crop up so we need to have some sort of ballast to protect ourselves. Your freezer symbolises longer-term investments and if you are lucky enough to have accrued some savings, get some advice and think about setting it aside to make it work harder for you. If you hold cash and that's the way you are and you don't ever want to invest, then shop around for a decent current and savings account to maximise the financial benefits. Do remember that money sitting in cash will fall below the value of inflation unless you take action.

What about the markets and market behaviour during this economic period of uncertainty? The areas to be in are global investments because fund managers have the remit to invest globally where they feel the best opportunities are and good fund managers will be seeking good opportunities because they know their stocks well. Historically, following numerous major economic disasters, big drops in the markets will be followed by rises which are generally higher than before the crisis. Fund managers like volatility and buy stocks at reduced prices on the assumption they will rise after the crisis. That's just the way the markets work. But you need to have the confidence that you can afford to take advantage of any volatility and invest because first you need to know you have enough to pay your bills and to cover emergencies so back to the larder, fridge, freezer analogy.

Another thing to mention here is compound interest. Albert Einstein said it was the most powerful force in the universe and the sooner you start, the more choices you have later in life.

If a £10,000 investment was made into a pension scheme for someone aged 30, with certain assumptions made, at age 60, that pot of money would be worth £461,000 but if it was delayed 5 years, it would be £358,000 and if it was delayed 10 years, it would be £266,000 and 15 years it would be £186,000. Please note, this example makes a number of assumptions: The average annual investment growth before charges is 4.61% each year. Investment charges of 1.96% each year. Contributions are invested on the same day in each year in a pension and are shown before charges are taken into account. The example is only an illustration and actual investment returns may be more or less than those assumed in the illustration. Please note that these benefits are not guaranteed. Benefits depend on how the investment grows and its tax treatment. Contributions are not limited by the Annual Allowance or by earnings.

Putting money into saving schemes works the same way so you can make money work for you or not, if you can only afford to save on a regular basis into an investment fund rather than bank or building society get something called pound/cost averaging which, as you get ups and downs in the stock market, compensates for the vagaries of the market.

Finally, make sure that you have an up-to-date will. For example, most people think, even if they haven't made a will, that if they are married, all their money goes to their spouse or civil partner automatically, but it doesn't. It can be a huge problem for your family and also can cause rifts in families. If a spouse or civil partner dies without a will, only the first £270,000 will go to the partner. Then half the residue goes to the children and other half of that residue to the partner. That may not be the way you want to divide your estate. A straightforward will is quick, easy and costs a couple of hundred pounds to save a lot of aggravation later on.

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Will writing involves the referral to a service that is separate and distinct to those offered by St. James's Place. Wills are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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Associate Partner

**St
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**Jane Davidson in conversation with
Rosie Arkwright**

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COST OF LIVING CRISIS

We have been hearing a lot about a “cost of living crisis” and thought it would be useful to examine the impact of increased energy prices (these start in November) on our day-to-day running costs. Here we try to calculate what price increases will look like in the real world...

HOW WILL ENERGY PRICE INCREASES AFFECT YOU?

- Using a dishwasher costs from 54.6 to 78p (was 29.4 - 42p) / hour
- Boiling a kettle for 3 minutes costs 7.8p (was 4.2p)
- Turning on the oven for an hour costs 104 - 114p (was 56 - 61.6p)
- Running the washing machine costs 62.4 to 67.6p (was 33.6p to 36.4p) / hour
- A microwave now costs 5.2p to 13p for every 10 minutes of use (was 2.8p - 7p)
- Using the tumble dryer costs 104 - 156p per hour (was 56 - 84p)
- A heated drying rack now costs 13p - 26p per hour (was 7 - 14p)
- A toaster now costs 20.8 - 39p for 30 minutes (was 11.2 - 21p)
- Watching an LCD TV for 2 hours costs 13 - 26p (was 7p - 11.2p)
- It costs 2.34 and 9.88p per hour to use a games console (was 1.26 - 5.32p)
- Using a PC or laptop costs 1.04p - 3.38p per hour (was 0.56 - 1.82p)
- Using an overhead light costs 2.1 - 5.2p per hour (was 1.1 - 2.8p)
- Turning on an electric heater costs £1.30 per hour (was 70p)
- Charging your phone now costs around 0.13p to 0.26p per hour



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We recognise that talking about money and finances can be tricky. It's a personal topic. So it's reassuring to know there's someone on hand who can help you address your needs, understand your goals and realise your dreams.

Our friendly and approachable service is backed by the strength and security of a FTSE 100 company, St. James's Place Wealth Management. What's more, being local means we're here to help whenever you need us.

Get in touch for a chat

Jane Davidson
DipPFS
Principal

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07968115592
jane.davidson@sjpp.co.uk
www.davidsonfinancialplanning.co.uk



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Associate Partner Practice

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COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Having got over the shock of how the price increases will affect our energy bills, we started investigating ways to keep on top of energy use. Here are some suggestions that we (and others) came up with...

MAKING YOUR MONEY GO FURTHER - TIPS FOR REDUCING YOUR ENERGY BILLS

Insulation

- Close the curtains at night to keep warmth inside
- Block draughts around the house (can save £30/year according to The Energy Saving Trust)
- Loft insulation is an investment, but can save £315 a year, according to Which? Don't forget to insulate the loft hatch...
- Use foil behind your radiators to prevent heat loss - a common energy saving tip, but only effective when placed behind radiators on outside walls
- Keep doors shut to keep cold air out and warm air in
- Use rugs on hard floors – these will act as an extra layer of insulation on the floor

Heating

- Bleed your radiators – this is far easier than it sounds; put towels underneath in case of drips and always turn your heating off first to avoid scalding
- Think about replacing your boiler if it's old – remember that in some cases, your landlord may be responsible for fixing or replacing the boiler

Energy Efficiency

- Buy energy-efficient appliances when replacing older models
- Always ensure that you clean appliance filters regularly to keep appliances running at their most efficient. Appliances that have filters include hoovers, tumble driers, dishwashers, extraction hoods and more...
- Use a smart meter to monitor your real-time energy consumption and costs (I know, not always possible if you don't have a strong mobile signal)
- Switch things off and don't leave devices on standby - The Energy Saving Trust estimates that between 9-16% of electricity used in homes is spent on devices that are on standby - on a bill of £500, this could add up to £80
- Don't use appliances if you don't have to – think about using a broom to sweep the floor instead of getting the Hoover out, let your hair air-dry rather than using a hairdryer etc.

Cooking

- Use residual oven heat to cook - ovens take a while to cool down, so you can turn them off at least 10 minutes before your food is due out and let the residual heat finish the job (making sure that your food is piping hot all the way through, especially when cooking meat)
- Don't open the oven door while cooking – this causes the oven temperature to drop and makes the oven use more energy to reheat itself. It also adds time on to cooking your meal
- When cooking on the oven top, use saucepan lids wherever possible to preserve heat inside the pan
- Where possible, use a microwave instead of an oven – microwaves don't need pre-heating and tend to cook food much faster
- Reduce cooking times by defrosting food in the fridge the night before - this will not only cool the refrigerator temperature but also reduce your cooking time the following day
- When you are cooking, double up on recipes and bulk cook when possible – this helps to cut down oven usage, avoids food waste and is particularly helpful if you live on your own

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COST OF LIVING CRISIS

MAKING YOUR MONEY GO FURTHER - TIPS FOR REDUCING YOUR ENERGY BILLS

Fridges

- Let food cool down before putting leftovers in the fridge - heat increases the ambient temperature, causing the fridge use more energy to cool down again
- Keep your fridge stocked – experts reckon that keeping the fridge 75% full ensures it is running at maximum efficiency, and is not wasting energy in cooling empty space

Other Kitchen Appliances

- Make sure you only fill the kettle with the amount of water you actually need. The kettle is ranked one of the most expensive household appliances, after showers, heating and ovens
- Only run the dishwasher when it is full – on average a daily dishwash costs £1.98/week according to USwitch – so doing half-cycles could double that cost

Lights

- Yes, your parents were right. Leaving lights on in unused rooms can cost around £2.30 per day, or £828 per year according to Utility Design
- Use energy efficient light bulbs - The Energy Saving Trust estimates a saving of £2 to £3 a year for every traditional halogen bulb you switch to a similarly bright LED bulb

Laundry

- Wear clothes more than once – yes, do the sniff test!
- Run the washing machine only when you have a full load, and at the minimum temperature possible
- Air dry rather than tumble dry clothes – using an outdoor washing line in summer and an indoor rack in winter

In The Bathroom

- Switch from baths to showers - on average, baths use more water than regular showers
- Don't leave the tap on while brushing your teeth and you could save around £60/year

Tips, savings and costs compiled with reference to:

- The Energy Saving Trust
- U Switch
- Which?

Let us know if you have additional money-saving tips or suggestions and we will share them next month...

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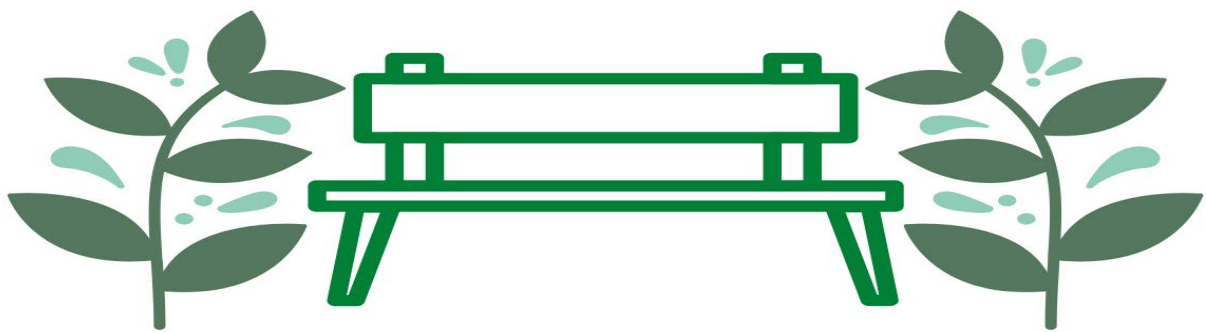
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DOWN ON THE FARM

It's drilling time in Poulton... This month, Charles and the team are sowing winter cereals ready for harvesting next year.

What's involved in drilling? Well, the ground needs to be prepared, ploughed and worked with cultivators before sowing the seed. Most cereals are drilled direct into the ground, so before that happens, farmers must spray off all the weeds from the previous crop. Competition between established weeds and new seedlings under the ground may result in the new crop failing to thrive.

The farm uses a seed drill for the actual sowing – that is the big machine you may see in the fields now. It has a tank on the top which holds the seed and pipes coming down from it in order to sow the drills neatly. The seed drill machine is satellite guided, which enables farmers to create even tramlines for the sprayers to follow.

The other activity you may see this month is that the rams are being put in with ewes to ensure that lambing will take place next spring. You will see that the ewes have coloured marks on their bottoms. Rams usually have a raddle attached to them. This is a device applied to the chest of a ram, making bright, long-lasting marks to easily identify which ewes have been mated. Use of colours means that infertile rams can be quickly identified and removed from the flock straight away.

The raddle colour is changed frequently to allow the farmer to identify ewes that have mated more than once and thus, what the lambing date might be. Rams are left with the ewes for around six weeks and then the ewes will be scanned in January. If there is no lamb present, they will be sent to market.

The scans also show how many lambs each ewe is carrying. Ideally, Charles wants a 200% breeding rate - i.e. 2 lambs per ewe. It doesn't always happen. Some will have three and some only one, so he will consider a 170% rate to be a good result. Very occasionally ewes will have up to 5 lambs, depending on the breed. Generally speaking two is the optimum number because ewes only have 2 teats and can only rear 2 lambs. If there are more, you have to take the others off and try to foster them. If that fails, you may end up having to hand-rear them on a bottle. More on this closer to lambing time.

The final seasonal job being completed at the moment is trimming hedges. This is done gently over the winter period. This has historically been an annual job but the frequency and severity of hedge trimming is now a much debated and contentious issue. Government advice is to trim hedges every two years for environmental reasons; most hedgerow species produce fruit on old wood, meaning that untrimmed hedges will tend to produce more berries. Disturbance of nesting birds is also a consideration.

Whether or not the trim is done annually or bi-annually, all hedges must be trimmed at some stage. Charles believes that a regular gentle trim is best; leaving a longer time between trims means that the next trim will be more drastic and the hedge may take longer to recover and regrow. Nesting birds that might be disturbed to the point of leaving their nests if the hedge is severely cut every 2 or 3 years will be relatively undisturbed by an annual light tidy.

So that's what you are likely to see around the fields this month. Now, as promised last month, we return to some of the big farming issues of the moment. Charles, on behalf of many farmers, would like to respond to some of the anti-farming headlines generated particularly by Animal Rebellion. Here we continue to examine some of these claims and, for the sake of balance and fairness, put forward Charles' local farming perspective, using information from Farmers Weekly.

Firstly, greenhouse gas emissions. Animal rebellion claim that farming produces higher greenhouse gas emissions than any other sector. They say that 30% of all greenhouse emissions come from food production.

This figure is correct. It is true that 30% of greenhouse gases are generated during food production - but the key question is how "food production" is defined. Agricultural and farming processes are only a part of full food production - Charles says that it accounts for about 10% of that 30% of the total food production. Of this 10% which agriculture generates, 6% is livestock-related and 4% is arable (fertiliser, sprays, diesel for tractors etc).

The remaining 20% is generated from processing, transport, retail and consumption. So the picture is rather different from the attention-grabbing, but inaccurate headlines.

DOWN ON THE FARM

Secondly, let's look at the claim that beef production generates 50 kilos of carbon dioxide for every 100 grams of protein.

This figure is an average for global beef production and includes carbon dioxide generated through a huge variety of production systems. In farming systems where land deforestation is factored in, the figure becomes much greater than the global average, and this significantly skews the figures. Emissions from British silage and grass fed beef are far lower. According to the Sustainable Food Trust, a more realistic figure for the UK is 10 to 15 kg of co2 per kilo for dairy beef and 15 to 20 kg of co2 per kilo for suckler herds. (A suckler herd is where you leave the calf on the cow so all the cow produces in a year is a calf which then goes off for beef). Charles' cows are sucklers and are part of a project with Morrisons supermarket trying to find ways of reducing co2 emissions to zero by 2030. We will explore this further with Charles over the coming months.

Finally, we examine claims about Soya. Animal rebellion say that 90% of soya goes to animals and should go through humans first.

Soya is a very touchy subject because a huge amount soya is unsustainably grown overseas, often using environmentally unfriendly methods. The UK climate isn't suitable for growing soya and although attempts have been made, these have to date met with very limited success, so 99% of soya used in the UK comes from abroad, mostly from North and South America.

Figures show that the amount of soya used as a component of animal feed is lower than the 90% figure which Animal Rebellion and other groups commonly claim. For example, of the total 3.2 million tonnes imported to the UK annually, about 75% is used as livestock feed. This, however, is not the whole story. Most soya beans are processed into 2 components – soya meal and soya oil. The food industry needs soya oil for human food, meaning that the soya bean by-product of the oil processing is essentially waste material from the human consumption perspective. But it is very valuable for use as animal feed due to its high protein content. Thus, 80% of imports go into both the human and animal consumption chains - as oil for humans and as bean meal for animals.

Soya has a reputation for being as an evil crop because of the deforestation that has resulted from its cultivation. But it is very hard to find other similarly good sources of protein with which to feed livestock. Charles himself feeds beans and peas, but the tannins these plants contain mean that you have to limit the amount you can give to cattle because cows have problems with digesting too many tannins. In fact, the biggest consumers of soya meal are pigs and poultry. As these species have simple stomachs, their food has to be easily digestible.

As with reducing greenhouse gas emissions, there is a lot of work going on trying to breed varieties of soya which will grow in temperate climates. It will happen one day, but the science isn't there yet.

Charles emphasises the importance of buying British. British beef is some of the most sustainably produced beef in the world. It is easily available in supermarkets and butchers - but it is in catering outlets which tend to buy cheaper, lower quality imported beef where the provenance is not a factor for consumers. It is interesting to note that during lockdown, beef wasn't imported because there was no market for it as catering establishments were closed. Everyone bought from the supermarkets and butchers instead, and sales of British beef increased.

Finally, a plea from Charles and other local farmers about sheep and dogs.

Last week, a dog got into one of Charles's fields, chasing the sheep around the field, panicking them and eventually sending all 400 of them crashing through the electric fence and onto the main road. The dog owner didn't alert anyone and simply disappeared. Incidents like this are very distressing for the sheep and the farmer. It takes a lot of time to round them up, and more time to mend fences before they can be put back in. At the moment there are a lot of sheep in temporary grazing behind electric fences so please be vigilant. If your dog does get in amongst sheep, please do tell someone immediately. This means that the farmer can be alerted and can take steps to avoid serious or even fatal accidents to livestock and potentially to people as well.

Most importantly of all, please keep your dogs under control.

Charles has kindly agreed to answer any farming questions you would like to ask him. If you have a question, please email poultoneye@gmail.com and we will include as many as possible.

Rosie Arkwright in conversation with Charles Horton

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GARDEN NOTES

ORANGE IS MY FAVOURITE COLOUR

The colours of Autumn are everywhere at the moment - reds, purples, pinks, yellows and, of course, orange. I am lucky enough to have a Copper Beach (*Fagus sylvatica* f. *purpurea*) in my garden and the leaves are turning from a deep majestic purple to an iridescent coppery orange as they pile up on the ground.

The fallen leaves can be collected and stored in holey black plastic bags. Kept moistened, they will gradually decay to produce a fabulous soil conditioner after two years.



Another tree that is spectacular now is the Maple. I visited Westonbirt Arboretum last week and walked the 'Maple Loop'. Standout specimens were the Acer (*Atrorubrum* Group) 'Red Jonas' and 'Edna Bergman'.

Plant in partial shade for the most intense leaf colours and protect from the late frosts with horticultural fleece.



The blackbirds are feasting on the flame-coloured berries of the Firethorn, or *Pyracantha* that overhangs my wildlife pond. It is a large, evergreen, thorny shrub that has white flowers in spring and can be grown as a freestanding shrub, a hedge, or trained against a wall as a column or an espalier.

The best time to prune a *Pyracantha* is in the spring, after blossoming. Cut back a third of the old non-flowering growth, as well as flowering shoots to three leaves above each bloom. Remember to always wear thick gardening gloves as the thorns are lethal.

Finally, have you planted any spring bulbs yet? I have just finished layering up tulips in some outdoor terracotta pots- in a 'bulb lasagne'. My favourite variety this year is *Tulipa* 'Ballerina' which has a gorgeous intensely orange lily-shaped flower...

Add grit to the compost for container grown tulips as they prefer well drained conditions and remember to protect the pots from squirrels with some wire mesh.

I am planning to include a list of gardening related Christmas gifts in the December edition of the Poulton Eye, and would love to hear from you with your suggestions. Please email me at [jackie.pigott1@btinternet.com](mailto:pigott1@btinternet.com).



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NATURE NOTES

A WELCOME AUTUMN VISITOR?

As I was sitting on my sofa a giant male house spider (*Eratigena atrica* previously known as *Tegenaria atrica*) ran across the living room at speed. They are impressive beasts at 2-3 inches long and move at 1.2 mph which meant it held the Guinness Book of Records title as speediest spider for some years. As the picture shows they have slightly hairy legs and the body is brown with tan chevrons on its abdomen. Spiderlings, which hatch from eggs in the spring, are tiny versions of the adult. Each will go through up to 7 moults as they grow steadily bigger.



We rarely see these amazing creatures because they hide away in quiet undisturbed spaces in our houses, lofts, garages and outbuildings and are mainly active when we are asleep.

The female, which lives the longest at about 2-3 years, rarely moves from her web, where she sits waiting for an unsuspecting insect to touch the delicate fronds before rushing out from the funnel at the back of the web. It bites its prey, injecting its venom. This venom is a neurotoxin called agatoxin, which blocks nerve action and thus paralyses the prey. The spider then wraps the prey with its incredibly strong silk. This is 5X the tensile strength of steel but, unlike steel, it is also very elastic allowing it to be stretched without breaking. Silk wrapping allows the spider to take its prey back to its hideaway and eat at its leisure. It does this by injecting proteolytic enzymes into the prey's body, These dissolve the body matter into juices which the spider sucks up, leaving just the shell of the insect behind.

Eratigena atrica spiders do a great job of controlling the insect population inside our houses, keeping the numbers of woodlice, ants, fleas, flies and moths down - so think twice before killing them. They really are an important part of our ecosystem, without which we would have a lot more insects in our homes.

Why are they so much more obvious in the autumn? This relates to their breeding pattern. The giant I saw was a male looking for a female. This involves searching all over the house including in waste pipes, which results in them getting caught in the bath whose shiny surface defies their grip.

Once he finds her he will offer her a package of sperm which she stores until spring when she uses it to fertilise the up to 60 eggs she will lay in the egg sac. The spiderlings stay together for a few weeks before spreading out to find their own territory. They grow slowly through the summer and overwinter as juveniles not maturing enough to mate until the following autumn. Mating is a fatal business for the males, who will die shortly after mating and will then be eaten by the female.

The spider's natural habitat is in caves and holes in the ground in the southern Mediterranean but they have been brought into our homes on imported goods and find English houses very comfortable!

Robin Spiller



Christmas Party



Saturday 10th December 2022

Poulton Village Hall

7.30pm-Midnight

Glass of Fizz on arrival

Disco with John Newman

Bring your own drinks

Snacks and canapés provided

Entrance £17 per person

Payable in advance

Limited availability so please
reserve a place by emailing:

poultonvillagehall@gmail.com

or speak to a committee member at:

The Pantry 1:30pm-3:30pm Tuesdays

Books and Bickies 10:30am-12:30pm
Saturday 5th November



Christmas Craft Fair



Saturday 3rd December
Poulton Village Hall
10.30am to 2.00 pm

Books and Bickies
Local Crafts and Produce including
Jewellery, Pottery, Hand Made Gifts
Honey, Preserves, Cakes, Chocolate bombs
Christmas Trees for sale

Tea, Coffee, homemade mince pies,
sausage rolls and biscuits from 10:30am

Bar and BBQ from 12pm
Village Hall Stall selling gifts
Bottle Tombola and Christmas Raffle



Stall Enquiries to Judy 851230

Raffle Tickets on sale now



Donations gratefully received for
the Village Hall Gift stall and Bottle Tombola
Please bring to The Pantry 1.30-3.30 Tuesdays
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Thank you for your support, we look forward to seeing you there.



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FROM THE VILLAGE HALL



CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

Plans for Village Hall Christmas Events are well underway with dates set for the Craft Fair – 3rd December and the Christmas Party – 10th December. With the sun shining as I'm writing, it may feel too soon to be talking about Christmas, but as these events take place early in December, we want to make you aware of them in plenty of time. We look forward to seeing many of you at one or both events.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 10.30am to 2.00pm

Our Christmas Craft Fair, with local craftspeople selling a whole range of items including handmade jewellery, ceramics, honey, preserves & chocolate bombs. Christmas Trees will also be on sale. There will also be a Christmas Raffle, Tombola Bottle Stall, Small Gifts and Cake stalls run by the Village Hall.

A couple of table places are still available if you or someone you know is interested in having a stall. The charge is £10. If so, please contact Judy Harmsworth on 851230 to book your place.

Any donations of bottles (for the bottle Tombola) or small gift items would be most appreciated and can be left at the hall during November's BBB on Saturday 5th November 10.30 to 12.30 or on any Tuesday in November between 1.30 and 3.30pm.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY - SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER

We are pleased to be able to host the Christmas Party again and are adopting the same format as previously in that your ticket includes a welcome glass of fizz, canapes and snacks and music & dancing (not obligatory) courtesy of John Newman's disco. Bring your own drinks (glasses available at the hall) for the evening which begins at 7.30pm, finishing at midnight. Tickets are £17, payable in advance. Numbers are limited, to reserve your tickets & arrange payment, please contact us via email to poultonvillagehall@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION OF POULTON VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7pm MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER

Agenda

Apologies

Approve the Minutes from the last AGM

Chairperson's Report

Treasurer's Report (Draft accounts for Year 2021/22

Secretary's Report

H & S Report

Maintenance Report

Election of Officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer - also H&S
& maintenance) for 2022/2023

Appoint other Committee Members, update contact details, agree liaison with other Poulton groups

Any other business (items must be notified to the Secretary beforehand – Rachel Hutchinson - raych.hutchinson@talk21.com)

We welcome new members of the team, so do come along and get involved!

Each Tuesday afternoon – 1.30 to 3.30 pm – Post Office & Pantry

Outreach Post Office run by Matthew each week. Take advantage of this local service for your postal and banking needs. Stop for a while longer and enjoy a pot of tea/coffee and a homemade slice of cake at The Pantry in the Courtyard when weather permits.

Film Nights – take place on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Hall opens at 7.30pm for pre-film drinks and chat. Film begins at 8pm. Please join our mailing list to receive more information about the forthcoming films, send an email to poultonone&nines@gmail.com and we'll add you to the group.



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!

As I live in the village, Poulton residents get 10% off the list price of any order.

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!

PARISH COUNCIL

Poulton Parish Council met on Monday 10th October. All Councillors excepting Ed Hyslop were in attendance, plus CDC/GCC's Lisa Spivey, and 3 members of the public.

Lisa updated the PPC on local Government activities – not as “exciting/depressing as Westminster’s” fortunately.

The PPC’s finances appear very healthy but they will slowly be eroded by regular maintenance outgoings plus keeping Reserves for eventual spending on new playground equipment and eventual Cemetery costs.

The local police have finally signed-off on the locations for the village’s volunteer Speed Watch force so don’t be surprised to see yellow-jacketed individuals around and about shortly. We really don’t want to be identifying Poulton residents and locals driving slowly hopefully also deters visitors from speeding. The resurfacing work on the main road is due shortly so look out for signs/dates as there will be minor disruptions for residents.

A lengthy discussion took place around the dwindling burial space in the Churchyard and potential options around having a cemetery and if so where. England’s Trustees were represented and conversations will be continuing. This is a major issue for Poulton, with large cost and planning implications, and we would really like to hear resident’s views ASAP.

The planned additions to the Playground are happening with active discussions with a provider for a replacement climbing-frame and slides. The PPC is planning to utilise CDC/GCC Crowdfunding to help defray the cost.

There will be painting and other maintenance of the War Memorial area in the Spring.

With a looming cost of living crisis and potential hardship for many UK citizens the PPC, and other village organisations, will be assessing various ways to help anyone in need of help. These may include help with meals, transport etc; etc;. The main thing is we should all be keeping an eye out for any villagers who may need help and support.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday December 12th @ 7pm @ the Village Hall when all members of the public are most welcome to attend and contribute.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Ed Hyslop and Jo on the birth of their daughter. Her arrival was a very valid excuse for Ed missing the meeting!

Simon Collyer-Bristow – Chair

POULTON ACTION GROUP (PAG) UPDATE

PAG was set up several years ago when news of a potential 90 acre solar farm located between Poulton and Meysey Hampton was being discussed. Currently PAG is in relative abeyance until an actual planning application occurs – this is expected in 2024 at the earliest due to Central Government involvement in assessing various schemes that have been lodged plus Local Grid planning. The good news is that current Government thinking is that decent agricultural land (as exists between Poulton and Meysey Hampton) should be used for producing crops and/or feeding livestock rather than building solar farms. They should be located on poor agricultural land or disused airfields etc;. PAG will continue to keep Poulton residents in touch as and when.

Simon Collyer-Bristow - Chair



Natasha Hughes
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Poulton Hill

VINEYARD

Get ready for the Christmas season
with Poulton Hill Vineyard



Our Cellar Door is a great place to look for Christmas gifts for friends, family and work colleagues. We have bottles for every taste and budget, from small stocking-filler size bottles of Cotswold Brandy and Sloe de Vie, to full cases of still or sparkling English wine.



Think Local, Drink Local

www.poultonhillestate.co.uk

The Cellar Door is now open from 09:00 – 16:30 Tuesday to Friday.
If you wish to visit outside of these hours, it may be possible by appointment. Please call 01285 850257.

FROM THE CELLAR DOOR

Poulton Hill's Laura Cooper explains how the vineyard is winding down after the growing season and is gearing up for the festive season

We have our final totals for this year's harvest – and it was a corker! We managed to pick 6 tonnes of Phoenix, 4.6 tonnes of Seyval Blanc, 1.6 tonnes of Rondo & Regent and 1.3 tonnes of Pinot Noir. All the grapes have been picked, sent to the winery and pressed. We look forward to sharing our 2022 vintages with you next year.

In November, the growing season and the harvest are behind us, and the vineyard is settling into its dormant phase for the winter. The remaining leaves are falling to the ground. While the vines themselves look like dry, dead twigs, the roots are still very much alive and are burrowing deep into the warm earth.

This is a time when the pressure is off a little, as the vines need little attention until the winter pruning starts in the new year. We still keep an eye on the soil to ensure that the roots get what they need to survive the winter. We will add nutrients when needed to keep them nourished and healthy.

During the dormant season, we also undertake maintenance jobs in the vineyard, replacing any posts or wires that may be old or damaged.

At the Cellar Door, we are working hard to get ready for the Christmas season. Our stockists, both shops and restaurants, are gearing up for the busy festive period and we need to make sure they have all the Poulton Hill wines and spirits they need.

A full list of all our stockists is available on our website: <https://poultonhillestate.co.uk/where-to-buy/>

Our Cellar Door is a great place to look for Christmas gifts for friends, family and work colleagues. By visiting us at the Cellar Door, you can purchase our wines and spirits at a special price. We have bottles for every taste and budget, from small stocking-filler size bottles of Cotswold Brandy and Sloe de Vie, to full cases of still or sparkling English wine. We offer a range of gift options, including branded wooden gift boxes for one or two bottles of wine, as well as gift vouchers that will allow your friends or family to choose a wine for themselves.

If you would like to discuss gift options with us, or would like to come to visit, we are open Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 4.30pm. Or, alternatively, give us a call on 01285 850257.

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POULTON PROFILE - AN UPDATE

A few months ago, we featured Poulton's Charlotte Wilton – marathon runner extraordinaire. We promised an update after she ran the Berlin Marathon so here it is.

On Sunday 25th September Charlotte set off with the other 39,999 runners for the 26 mile run around the centre of Berlin. Charlotte had never been to Berlin before and loved it. She said the people, food and architecture were all fabulous. She had to go on her own to this one as the children's commitments meant her husband and children couldn't come. Although it is slightly daunting being on your own, she said people were very friendly and welcoming.

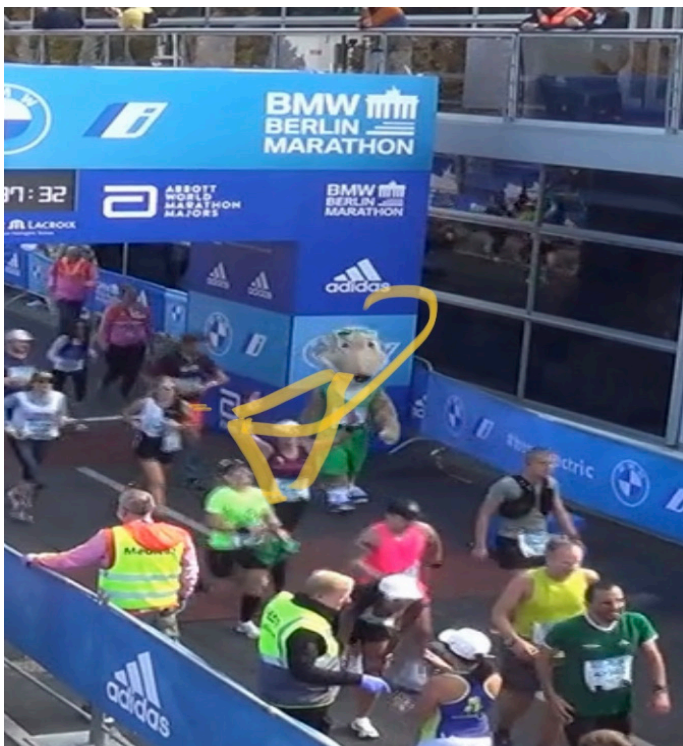
The day before there was an international inline skating championship in Berlin so the city was closed for sport all weekend. If you don't know (and I had to look it up!) the definition of an inline skate is a roller skate whose wheels are set in-line for greater speed and maneuverability. Charlotte says the speed with which the contestants tore about the city was extraordinary.

Charlotte achieved a personal best in Berlin but it was the most painful thing she says she has ever done because only 10 days earlier she fell on a tree stump whilst out running and cracked a rib. Every step was painful and without painkillers it would not have been possible to complete. Anyway, she did it finished it and got a PB so huge congratulations to Charlotte.

Last time we spoke to her, we reported that she was aiming to complete the big six - the marathon majors – in the next couple of years. After completing Berlin, she has now done four of those six - with only Tokyo and Chicago left to run.

Next stop is Tokyo on 5th March. There were 300,000 applicants to run in Tokyo and only 33,000 places. Luckily Charlotte got a place so off she goes.

We wish her the very best of luck with her training and look forward to catching up with her after Tokyo. For now, I leave you with the thought that more people have climbed Everest than have completed the marathon majors worldwide! **Go Charlotte!**



Rosie Arkwright in conversation with Charlotte Wilton

Next month, we will continue with Part 2 of our profile of Poulton's Vicar, John Swanton .
If you think there is someone in the village that we should feature, please let us know: poultoneye@gmail.com

WINTER DONATION DRIVE FOR UKRAINE

KHARPP

THE KHARKIV &
PRZEMYŚL PROJECT



Local resident Alexander Thomas & Ada Wordsworth have been based between Poland & Ukraine for the past seven months, helping refugees in Poland and doing deliveries of vital aid deep into Ukraine on a regular basis. In May this year, they founded KHARPP.

So far ...

- over 40 volunteers have come to support its operations in Przemyśl & on the front line of the war in eastern Ukraine.
- There are 3 core languages spoken amongst volunteers - Ukrainian, Russian & Polish.
- They have donated a fleet of 10 ambulances through monies raised, but need more
- Currently, they are focused on providing support to internally displaced persons in Kharkiv.
- A core team of volunteers remains on the ground, providing support to the steady stream of refugees still entering Poland.

Whilst fundraising for another ambulance, our goal is to provide as much support as possible through a winter aid drive. These items will be loaded into the ambulance & driven to Ukraine.

Clothes (Men, Women & Children of all ages):

- * Warm coats
- * Scarves, gloves, hats
- * Ski gear
- * Jumpers, hoodies, fleeces and cardigans
- * Warm socks (new)
- * Thermal underwear
- * Pyjamas

- * Blankets
- * Shoes & slippers

Other:

- * Mobility aids (wheelchairs, crutches, walking-sticks, zimmer frames)
- * Pushchairs

If you're able to donate any of the listed items, please bring them to:

Poulton Hill Vineyard, GL7 5JA or
Bibury Trout Farm, GL7 5NL

For large items/quantities within a 10-mile radius, we can arrange collection from you. Contact 01285 850257
Or donate directly at kharpp.com

GEOFF CHAPMAN

TEN YEARS ON - REMEMBERING A GREAT POULTONER

It was springtime 1992 and the urgent knock on the door of my caravan suggested I should open it without much delay. Beaming at me was an unknown face but one which immediately seemed warm and friendly. “Ah, good morning, I think you might be new in the village, so welcome to Poulton!” the friendly face went on without much of a pause “.... and it looks as though you are building your own house so should the delivery of twenty-one doors to my driveway around the corner be perhaps intended for you?”

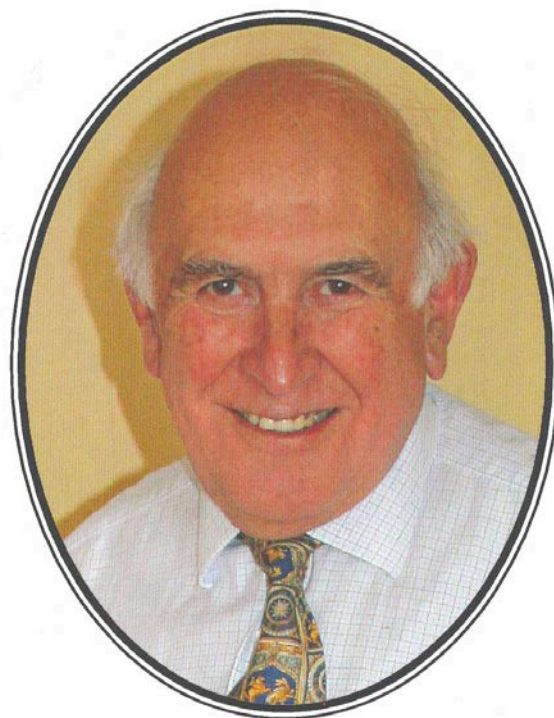
How Geoff had known about our building project and where to find us remains a mystery.

This was my first meeting with Geoff Chapman and over the next two decades we would share a friendship which included many aspects of Poulton life. The time and effort he put in to village affairs, the Parish Council, and Poulton Cricket Club was probably unprecedented so I feel newcomers to our village will appreciate knowing more about him and what he did for us, whilst old Poultoners will be happily reminded of a man who dedicated over twenty of the last years of his life to the village.

For fifteen years Geoff was the President of Poulton Cricket Club and before that had instigated the transfer of Allotment Trust land to Englands which, together with help from others, was then put into use as a cricket field - the forerunner of how we now know it today. Over many long months Geoff raised the funds for our magnificent cricket Pavilion there on Englands, ably supported by the club members, and he also project-managed the build of it. Few would doubt how fortunate we are in Poulton to have such a Pavilion, without Geoff it almost certainly would not be there the way it is today, and a plaque on its outside wall since he passed away ten years ago this November is testament to all his efforts.

Geoff and his wife Rosemarie had moved into Poulton in 1972 from Surrey, the same county as my wife Suzanne and I moved from, and further common ground soon emerged after that first meeting at the caravan door. In 1968 I had started my airline flying career on VC-10's, the same aircraft which Geoff had been involved in Flight Testing.

He was ex-RAF, had ONC and HND qualifications, and became part of Concorde's design team responsible for its flight test computers which sent him to Bristol, Toulouse, and of course Fairford. Concorde's worldwide testing meant yet more travelling.



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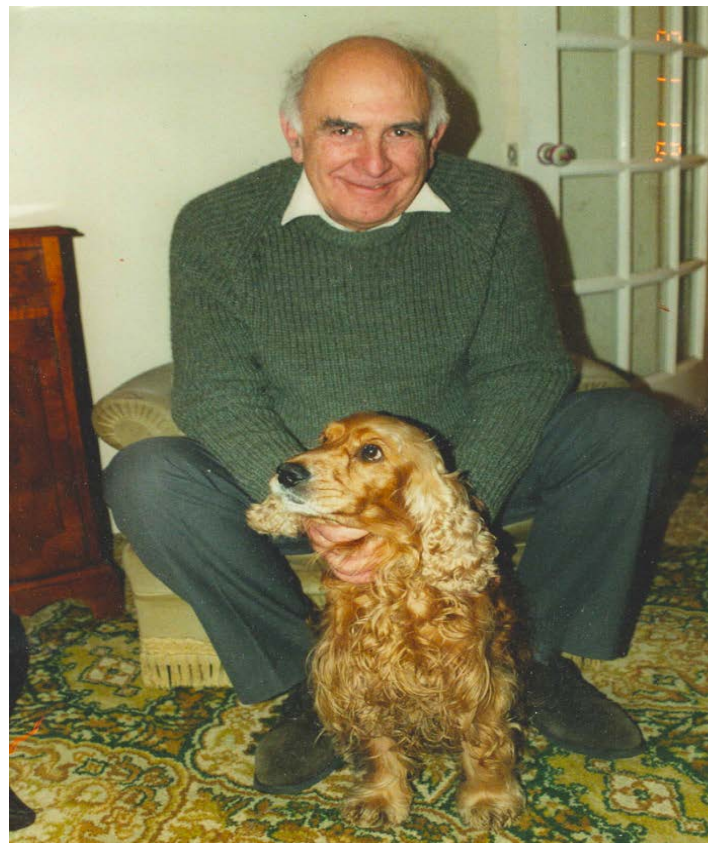
GEOFF CHAPMAN

Perhaps eventually moving to Poulton and throwing himself into village life came as a welcome rest, relatively-speaking, yet Geoff still didn't let the grass grow under his feet. Having joined the Parish Council he became its Chairman and, amongst other things, raised funds to re-equip the children's playing field, ensured our public footpaths were kept open as well as a new path from the field to what was then the village shop, and registered to the village the land that is opposite the Falcon as well as the bus shelter at War Memorial land. Under his leadership the Council did its best to address drainage issues across The Butts and Bell Lane with Thames Water - and the "Ranbury houses" became part of Poulton Parish rather than Ampney St.Peter. Geoff was also a church warden for vicars Robert Nesham and Peter Naylor, raising funds for the church during his tenures.

I joined Geoff in one of the last tasks that he did for Poulton - chartering the position of the table top tombs in the old churchyard at the Priory which, centuries ago, used to be the centre of the village. Being an ex-Navigator I could tell Geoff and the Council the Lat & Long of exactly where each tomb was located, Geoff then securing charitable donations to restore them. If you are interested in the amazing history of Poulton (back as far as AD 43 and including the Ranbury Ring) you would do well to read Tom Boyd's excellent book all about Poulton "A World in a Grain of Sand" last revised in 2012, half of its sales revenue going to the Poulton Parish Church we have today. On page 229 the book recalls "Poulton's Mediaeval Michaelmas Festival" of 1997 when we celebrated such events 700 years on with Geoff's idea of a "Mediaeval Celebration for the whole village".

At Geoff's funeral in 2012 in Poulton's church St.Michael's and All Angels it was "standing room only" as virtually the whole village joined those from outside and paid their last respects to a great man, a great Poultoner, one who always lead from the front and without whom Poulton would now be much the poorer.

Gordon Lee
The Staddles.



POULTON CRICKET CLUB

The season is now over and the cricket club can look back on what was an incredibly successful season both on and off the field under some of the most challenging circumstances that I can remember since I have been a member.

Our first XI had a very strong end to the season finishing mid table in Division 1 of the County League, while the Second XI did, in the end, win the District League with this going to the very last game of the season, which saw our good friends Oakridge defeating Lechlade at home. Lechlade needed a minimum of 18 points from the maximum 20 to win the league and the loss meant they did not get near. Our Second XI now go straight back up to the County League in 2023, a year ahead of our development plan and with the basis of this performance driven by a healthy mix of emerging youth and experienced campaigners. We can't wait to get going in 2023!

It has been amazing to be part of The Club in 2022, picking up the pieces and getting going again after two years of Covid interruptions. We have got our Club Mark accreditation back until 2025, sorted the finances out, grown the membership, laid on a beer festival for the village, coped as well as we could with the loss of Wayne (both on and off the pitch), coached our youth members and enjoyed playing. It was the most amazing summer to be a part of and so many of us have learned valuable lessons and new skills.

In the last article, we mentioned some options for the future that we were considering. At the end of a cricket season, attention turns immediately to the next and inevitably hopes, aspirations and dreams have to be balanced against finances and practicalities. For the 2023 season the club has faced no choice but to hire a professional groundsman to prepare the wickets that we will play on. Understanding soil, grass growth and reacting to weather quite aside from the hours and hours that are required to do it makes this a full time job that requires huge knowledge. The club played 85 games across its sections at Englands in 2022 so this demand has meant that we will make the major investment in the square and it is hoped will place the next stage of our development plans onto a metaphorically and physically surer footing.

For well over 20 years a team of volunteers has looked after the square and Englands during the summer. This year proved no exception, with amazing volunteers such as Cliff Cutts & Max Arnold helping Graham Clarke who managed the wicket prep. We thank them for their outstanding effort. It is, however, time to recognise the amount of work involved and to bring in paid help - and so we are putting the cricket wickets into the hands of a professional who once worked at Trent Bridge. He has already started work, preparing the wicket at the start of the season and then more recently 'putting it to bed for the Winter" scarifying, seeding, fertilising and laying down several tons of Loam. We have put a rope up around the square due to the fertiliser and to protect the work done while the square recovers and grass seeds germinate.

The cricket club faces a dramatic shift in finance requirements to pay for a groundsman. We are already focussing on costs and will maintain this focus while also looking to increase fundraising activities and develop other income streams. With this in mind, it is very likely we will lay on an event in the summer of 2023.

Our major fundraising effort in 2022, the Jubilee Beer Festival, raised £2k - but this was passed on to the Englands Management Committee in order to meet a 100% increase in Pavilion running costs and as a contribution towards grounds maintenance (e.g. tree cutting). The Cricket Club did not, therefore, benefit financially from the event. The lion's share of the Pavilion income comes from cricket season bar sales, but as the cricket club doesn't benefit financially from these we have to get creative in our fundraising efforts.

Finally, we face further significant change off the field as after 23 years at the helm, David Dunn will not stand again as Chair and after 10 years Rosemarie Chapman will be stepping down as our President. Both have done so much for the club, it is impossible to list their contributions here. Rosemarie took over from Geoff and so for the first time since 1998 we will not have the invaluable input of a Chapman as President gently reigning in overexuberance and enthusiasm and helpfully shepherding us in the right direction. This means new leadership for the club from the AGM onwards. The new team will be tasked with taking us forward and building on the legacy of two fantastic individuals. It'll be a daunting task for whoever is elected by the AGM to step into their shoes but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them publicly for everything they have done, they have been incredible to work with for so long.

Our Club Development Plan is being rewritten currently in time for the November AGM following surveys of our membership and will soon be on our website. As ever while we shape these, we are keen for any villager input whether positive or negative. Please email these in confidence to PoultonCC@hotmail.com

Will Bathurst

ROUND & ABOUT

November Events

Wednesday 2nd November	2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting: Celia & Kenny will give a talk on "AA & AI – anon" + Bring and Buy stall	Watermoor Parish Hall, Ampney Crucis
Friday 25th November	12pm	Middy Prayers for 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence in Gloucester Cathedral.	Gloucester Cathedral
Thursday 17th November	7pm	Ampney Crucis Gardening Club A practical talk by Medical Herbalist – Caroline Sheldrick on "Medicinal Herbs in the Garden".	Ampney Crucis Village Hall
Friday 18th November	6pm	Race Night in aid of Driffield Church Tickets £15 to include Fish 'n Chip Supper. Invite your friends and make up a table of 8. BYO glasses and cutlery. Please contact Angharad 07764 515078, Sue 07887 847906 or Jenny 01285 851666	Ampney Crucis Village Hall
Wednesday 23rd November	7pm for 7.30pm	Ampney Crucis Rural Cinema: 7.30pm. See village noticeboard for film details. Seats £3.	Ampney Crucis Village Hall
Thursday 24th November	7pm for 7.30pm	WI Annual General Meeting with Fish 'n Chip supper	Ampney Crucis Village Hall

Regular Events

1st Saturday monthly	10.30 - 12.30	BBBs - Books, Biccies and Beverages	Poulton Village Hall
Tuesdays	1.30 - 3.30	Post Office and Pantry	Poulton Village Hall
Tuesdays	6.30 - 7.30 7.30 - 8.30	JIG Dance & Pilates Pilates Adult Ballet	Ampney Crucis Village Hall
Tuesdays	9.30 - 11.00	Ampney Crucis Playgroup	Ampney Crucis Village Hall
1st Thursday monthly	7.30pm	Ampney Crucis Bridge Club	Ampney Crucis Village Hall
Wednesdays	9.15am	Yoga Classes £10 per class. To register please contact lammenowyogo@hotmail.com or call 07732529297.	Ampney Crucis Village Hall

Save the Date!

Friday 9th December.
Quiz Night, Auction & Raffle
Fish and Chip supper

In aid of local cancer charity The Focus Support and Information Centre and the Poulton PCC

The Falcon is currently undergoing cancer treatment and has found the centre to be a help. We hope that Dave will be able to join us on the night.

DIRECTORY

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Poulton Village Website	www.poultonvillage.co.uk
Poulton Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/groups/959278000806216/?multi_perma-links=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; john@swanton.plus.net Church Wardens: Simon Collyer-Bristow scb@crfc.co.uk rosie.arkwright@icloud.com
Village Hall	Available to hire for parties, wedding breakfasts, clubs or meetings - kjclapton@gmail.com
Playing Field & Allotment Charity (PFAC)	pfacrustees@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 .
Fix My Street	Report issues within Poulton: potholes, fly tipping, etc. www.fixmystreet.com
Refuse Collections	Food bin weekly Friday 7am. All other bins & bags on alternate Fridays.
Gloucestershire Police	The Forum, Cirencester GL7 2QY Mon-Sat 8am-8pm www.gloucestershire.police.uk
Poulton Sports Club	David Knight: knightd@hotmail.co.uk
Poulton Football Club	www.poultonfootballclub.co.uk
Poulton Cricket Club	Club Secretary: Will Bathurst w.m.bathurst@gmail.com www.poultoncricketclub.co.uk/
Heart & Soul Yoga Class	Becky Barry
Ampney Crucis WI	Anne Bridges 652471
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
Ampney Crucis Mothers Union	Rosemary Franklin 01285 654282
Ampney Crucis Playgroup	Meet Tuesdays during term-time 9.30 – 11.00 Ampney Crucis Village Hall. £2 per family. Ella Milligan – daniellaceliarmorris@yahoo.co.uk – 07815502463 or Sofia Richie – sofia.kluge@hotmail.com – 07540198151
The Falcon Inn	www.falconinnpoulton.co.uk email: bookings@falconinnpoulton.co.uk 01285 850878
Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School	Head Teacher Tana Wood – 01285 851440 www.ampneycrucis.glous.sch.uk

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