



The Window

September
2025



Music At The Barn

The word is that the Music at the barn (or in The Barn) in Ipsden has been going for over 20 years –I've heard even 25 or 30!!

It is a much loved event held each year courtesy of Ipsden

Farm. The team this year was led by Kate Moberly and Siobhan Bennett, and the music programme was put together by Steve Daniels. The entertainment was provided by Steve Daniels, Mary Daniels, Anne Sherwood and Martin Butler, Aaron McRobbie & Lightnin' Willie with guests Nobby and Aitch, and Harlequin (Chris Hawes, Anya Goldberg and Jon Clifton). We enjoyed a wide range of music from popular 60s classics, to more modern pieces written by the performers themselves. There was something for everyone to tap and clap to.

The evening raised just over £900 for the church.

Thank you everyone for a great evening on Saturday 9th August.
There are more pictures on pages 2 and 3.





THE CLUE TO A REFUGEE CAMP PAST



An abandoned Catholic chapel in rural Oxfordshire is one of the last visible reminders of a refugee camp that once housed thousands of people after World War Two. The chapel's stained glass windows were moved to the Polish church in Reading

The Checkendon Polish Camp was officially a

resettlement hostel which became home to families who had fled Poland in the aftermath of the conflict. Zbigniew and Basia Karpowicz spent their early childhoods living there, and now, alongside friend and local historian Graham Drucker, they are hoping to trace others who lived in the camp, or in a nearby one at Nettlebed, and install a commemorative monument or plaque.



The camp was thought to have been built in 1942 to serve as a base for US soldiers in the run up to the D-Day landings. It was later used as a hospital and then a prisoner of war camp for German and Italian soldiers. But after the war, millions of eastern Europeans found themselves in displaced persons camps around the continent, waiting for the time they could return home. Checkendon was one such camp, housing an estimated 2,500 Polish people on a site big enough to not only have a chapel, but also shops and a cinema.



Mr and Mrs Karpowicz were both born in the camp and christened in the chapel there. Both left with their families when the site closed in 1961. They recalled 'lovely' memories of the site, including playing in the bluebell woods and walking to the post office in Checkendon.

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"For children this place was really quite idyllic. It was a Polish village in the middle of the Beechwoods", said Mr Karpowicz, now 70. But for his parents and grandparents, "This was just another temporary place where they would live ... like a road to Nowhere", he said.

Mr and Mrs Karpowicz both lived in the camp until they were about five, although they did not meet until later. Mrs Karpowicz, now 69, and her family eventually moved to Reading, Berkshire. Both she and Mr Karpowicz attended the Polish Sacred Heart Church in Reading and later got married.

Little remains at the site of the Polish camp now - just a few abandoned Nissen huts and, for the eagle-eyed, carvings left on some of the surrounding trees. The year 1946 is carved into one tree, which Mr Ducker said was likely either written by a British soldier, a German PoW or one of the first Polish troops "It's not even a ghost town - just isolated ghostly buildings", he said, adding that there was "next to zero" in the way of official records about the site and the people who lived there. "Checkendon and its history has been forgotten", he said. But the trio want to change that.

Their plan, Mr Ducker said, was to host an event to mark next year, to mark the 80th anniversary of when Polish troops first came to guard the prisoners of war. Another event would mark the anniversary of its official establishment as a resettlement camp in 2028. He also said he wanted to create a roll of honour for the people who served and lived there, as well as a memorial to mark site. "Because



the generation that endured the Second World War and post-war are largely dying out, we want to do something to keep alive that memory of the unwritten heroic deeds" said, "Checkendon is so special... I think it deserves it".

Anyone who lived in the camp, or who knows or is related to someone who lived in the camp, to get in touch via the **Commonwealth Family History Research Society**.

Editor's Note: This is an abridged version of an article published on the BBC website on Saturday 5 July 2025. If you would like to read the original article you can find it here:

[Hidden chapel in Checkendon offers clue to refugee camp past - BBC News](#)

EARLY DAY HAPPENINGS AT THE NURSERY

We cannot believe that we are just about to start another academic year already. But before we do let us look back to how we marked the end of last year and the graduation of Owl Class, celebrating the children's many achievements throughout their time at nursery with a pang of sadness that in September they will be off to *Big School*. We know they are more than prepared for the journey ahead and always excitedly pour over their 'first day' photos that parents so kindly send us.

Owls Class celebrated their graduation at Braziers, which is always really special day: the children were presented with their 'diploma' and their Leavers Gift: a book from Mrs. Murphy. We also take photos of them in their gown and mortar board, something that they are always tickled by but they kindly humour the grown ups nonetheless! The books are always a classic story that can be treasured for many years to come: I know my siblings still have their books some thirty years later! The ceremony starts with a family picnic and this year the children also prepared a song for their families which was especially beautiful.



During July, our theme is Pirates and Mermaids. The children's imaginations are always truly captured by this theme and they have a fantastic time sailing ships, hunting for treasure and demanding the occasional plank-walk from their grown-ups!

The younger children celebrated the end of term with a pirate-themed picnic. I think we can safely say this was a hit! Our wonderful staff made a pirate ship, buried treasure in the sandpit and prepared telescopes and pirate hats for us to make

and wear.

We sat in the sunshine and had a delicious picnic lunch prepared by our chef Amber: she even packed our lunch into little individual boxes which was so exciting! We've also made our own treasure maps and we could see how much the children had enjoyed this theme when we did some creative modelling with the children and one of the children decided they needed to make 'Spidey-Ship'.



Spidey-Ship is a pirate ship owned by Spiderman, captained by a dinosaur.

We are always so energised by our children's creativity and brilliance!

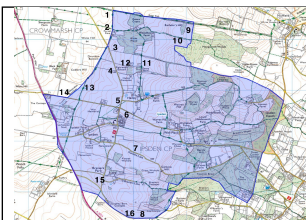
Continued on page 7



Our Hedgehogs Class have of course continued to receive the amazing nurture and care our baby room educators provide: they work hard to settle each new baby so that they trust the setting and feel a sense of belonging to the nursery. They have enjoyed lots of walks in our beautiful environment: at Early Days we passionately believe that children will care for the environment if they are given multiple opportunities to be in and enjoy it - we start this process early

We hope you all have had a wonderful Summer, and will keep you updated on Early Days Adventures.

Becks Fern (Nursery Deputy Manager)



UK OIL AND GAS DISTRIBUTION THROUGH IPSDEN PARISH

The UK has over 16,000 miles of pipeline for the transmission / distribution of oil and gas products (when you add in gas distribution to businesses and homes that increases to approaching 200,000 miles).

The Government Pipeline and Storage System (GPSS) was established in 1939 to ensure secure oil distribution during wartime and was originally constructed between 1941 and 1944 to provide petroleum fuel to RAF stations and then extended after the war during the 1950s, 1970s and 1980s.

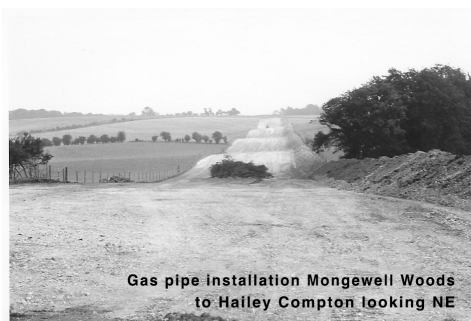
Most of the National Transmission System for gas was built from the 1960s to the 1980s following the discovery of natural gas on the UK continental shelf in 1965, with production starting in 1967. This led to a government driven move to natural gas and consequently ceasing the manufacture of gas at local gasworks.

Amazingly both of these nationally important networks pass through the heart of our small parish with markers placed where they cross roads and rural footpaths /bridleways.

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UK Oil And Gas Distribution Through Ipsden Parish

The gas pipeline (36 inch in diameter) enters Ipsden Parish from north of Mongewell Woods and runs south west crossing the Ipsden/ Crowmarsh road near the entrance to Hailey Compton then crossing Church Lane on the edge of the parish boundary, over Larkstoke land and leaves Ipsden Parish, crossing the A4074 to enter the gas pressure control plant on the west side of the A4074 then onward towards Goring, getting an injection of biomethane on the way from the anaerobic digester at Icknield Farm. There are gas pipe markers indicating a crossing of Bottom lane to the east of Ouseley Barn Cottages, which I assume comes into Ipsden Parish from the previously mentioned gas pressure control plant. Once it has crossed Bottom Lane to leave Ipsden Parish it runs south east on towards Checkendon.



The B/W photographs show the site of the gas pipeline installation works carried out in the 1970s for the length from north of Mongewell Woods south west towards Hailey Compton, one looking north east and the other looking south west. The pipeline came from Bacton in Norfolk, the landing point for all North Sea gas at the time.

The oil pipeline (originally an 8 inch diameter pipe through our parish replaced by a 6 inch pipe in 1973) runs roughly south from The Ridgeway to the west of Forest Row/ Icknield Way, crossing the road by the Forest Row houses then crossing the Ipsden/ Crowmarsh road by the entrance to Hailey Compton and continuing SE to recross the road by the junction up to Hailey then passing to the east of village crossing Well Place Road, Garsons Lane and Braziers Lane then down to cross Bottom Lane and leave our parish in a south westerly direction on its way to Southampton.



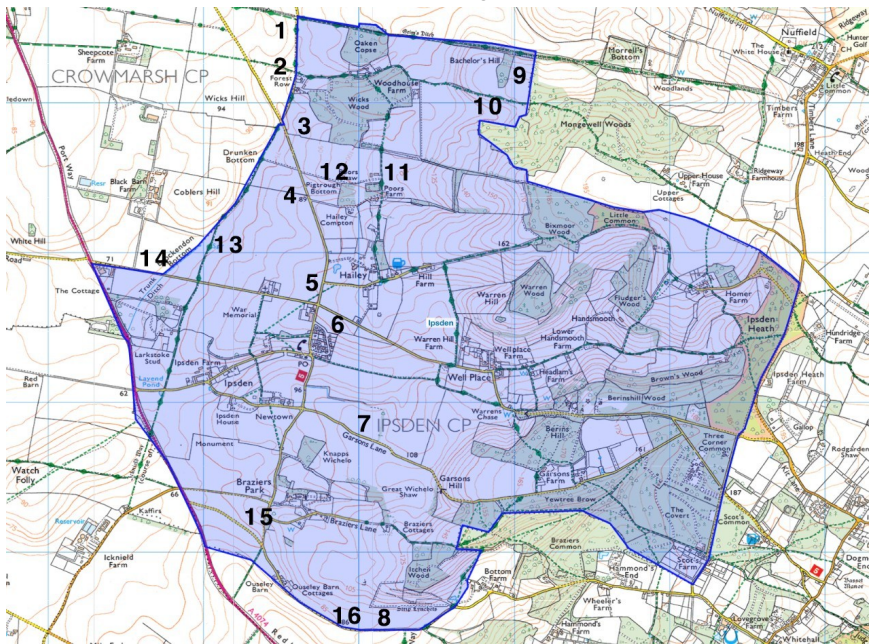
The oil pipeline played an important part towards the end of WWII when planners knew that the future invasion of Europe would be the largest amphibious landing in history and without adequate and reliable supplies of petrol any advance would at best be slow and at worst would grind to a halt.

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The innovative solution was PLUTO (Pipe Line Under The Ocean) which was to supply petrol from oil terminals in safer areas of England down to storage tanks on the south coast for onward transmission via pipelines under the Channel to the Allied armies in France in the weeks and months following D-Day. The oil pipeline coming through Ipsden Parish originated at the Stanlow Refinery at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire. The 8 inch pipe was reduced to 2 inches in Southampton and 70 miles of 2 inch pipe was wrapped around each of 10 huge floating drums called conundrums (which had been built in SW Scotland), and towed across the Channel a few days after D-Day, allowing these pipes to unwind and rest on the seabed before emerging in Normandy. Eisenhower acknowledged the significance of this feat when he said "Second in daring only to the Mulberry Harbours, was PLUTO."

The map below shows the locations of oil and gas pipeline marker locations in Ipsden Parish numbered 1 to 16. The line of the pipes themselves is deliberately omitted as I cannot be certain exactly where they run.

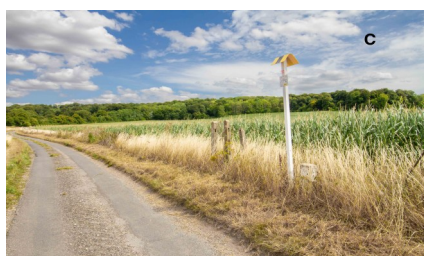
On Pages 10 & 11 below, are photographs of the markers referenced A to P. The challenge is to match each photograph to its location on the map and to identify them as Oil or Gas markers. Answers on page 13



My thanks to Vaughan Williams and Steve Atkinson for their help in putting this together.

David Coldwell

Photo	Oil or Gas	Marker	Photo	Oil or Gas	Marker
A			I		
B			J		
C			K		
D			L		
E			M		
F			N		
G			O		
H			P		





View from the Vicarage



***"To everything there is a season,
and a time for everything
under heaven."***

Pity the middle child who isn't the oldest with all the big responsibilities or the youngest who gets all the attention. They're just sort of... there, trying to find their place. That's September – stuck in a weird in-between stage, trying to figure out its identity. We've still got a bit of sunshine, but it's not the same. There's a crispness in the air, but it's not quite time for the full autumn vibe. Summer's still clinging on, but you leave the house in a hoodie and come back sweating as if it's July. September says to us that we need a little time to adjust and a chance to gear up for whatever's coming next.

And then we're faced with back-to-school chaos! Kids objections change from "I'm bored!" to "I hate homework!" (if they're lucky enough to get any!); parents suddenly become maths tutors, lunch packers, and motivators; and teachers cry "welcome back!" secretly counting days until half term!. Oh yes! Supermarkets are already selling Halloween essentials and you've hardly packed away the beach towels! September is "Wake-Up" month -summer's fun is over, and you suddenly remember you had goals for the year... and only 3 months left to achieve them.

In the rhythm of creation (which may well be in transition), September traditionally whispers, "Slow down. Pay attention. Something is changing." In many ways, this mirrors our spiritual lives. We often move through seasons—times of abundance, times of pruning, times of waiting. September invites us to consider what season we're in. Are we harvesting the fruits of a faithful summer, or are we entering a quieter time, where God calls us to rest and listen more deeply?

In the Jewish tradition, September often coincides with High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) —a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. For Christians, it's a beautiful opportunity to embrace the same spirit: to take stock of our hearts, to seek reconciliation, and to prepare for what God might be planting next.

Many churches celebrate Harvest Festival in September (we traditionally wait until the first Sunday in October), giving thanks for the bounty of the earth. But harvest isn't just about apples and wheat—it's about recognizing the blessings in our lives and offering them back to God. Paul writes: "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness." *2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

Continued on page 13

View from the Vicarage (Continued)

What might a “harvest of righteousness” look like in our lives? Perhaps it’s a deeper patience with others, a renewed commitment to prayer, or a willingness to serve in new ways. Whatever it is, God is always cultivating something within us.

A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON

Lord of the changing seasons, as September unfolds, help us to embrace the transitions in our lives. Teach us to be grateful for the harvest, patient in the waiting, and faithful in the quiet. May we listen for your voice in the rustling leaves and find your presence in the cooling breeze. Amen.

Blessings to you all, Canon John



Answers to the Oil and Gas Competition

<u>Photo</u>	<u>Marker</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Marker Ref</u>
A—oil	6	I –gas	12
B—oil	2	J—gas	16
C—oil	8	K—oil	5
D—gas	11	L—oil	1
E—gas	13	M—gas	14
F—gas	4	N—gas	15
G—gas	10	O—oil	3
H—gas	9	P—oil	7

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WINDOW

Thanks to Vaughan Williams and the team of volunteers who give up their spare time to deliver paper copies to homes in Ipsden, Mongewell and North Stoke. The Window is available online on the Ipsden village website and some paper copies are held in the Ipsden shop for individual collection.

Date	Ipsden	North Stoke
Wed 3 Sep	935 129(Please wait to be admitted)5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410	
Sun 7 Sep	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 10 Sep	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 14 Sep	10am Service of The Word. Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Wed 17 Sep	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 21 Sep	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 24 Sep	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 28 Sep	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
Wed 1 Oct	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 5Oct HARVEST	6.30pm Harvest Service & Supper	11am Holy Communion Harvest Auction for FoodBank

Dates for Your Diary

Sat 6th Sep	Liz & Damian Wedding	St Mary's, Ipsden
Wed 10th Sep	Ipsden Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Tue 23rd Sep	Ipsden Parish Council Meeting	See page 15
Sat 4th Oct	Bingo in Ipsden	See page 15

This newsletter is edited, published, printed and distributed by the churches of Ipsden and North Stoke. The copy deadline for the next issue will be 18th September please to revjwblair@gmail.com

**We need a new Editor for this newsletter
Could that be YOU ??**

THE NEXT IPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on **Tuesday 23 September 2025**

In the Village Hall at 6.30pm

All are welcome.

The agenda is posted a few days before the meeting on the **Ipsden Village Website Home** (PC Agendas & Minutes page) and on the **Parish Council** notice board outside

Save the Date for Ipsden Bingo!

Come and join us on Saturday 4th October in the Village Hall for a fun night of bingo. For those who don't know how to play there will be a coaching session at 6pm and the evening will start at 7pm.

Books will be £10 for adults or £5 for half a book
and £1 for children.

All proceeds towards the renovation project at our beautiful church, St Mary the Virgin.

Shirley Merritt

Ipsden Village Lottery Winners

19th July	No winner	16th Aug	No winner
26th July	J Plaisted	23rd Aug	See next issue
2nd Aug	No winner	30th Aug	See next issue
9th Aug	F Hayward	6th Sep	See next issue

Ipsden Village Lottery Tickets

There are **17** numbers available for the Ipsden Lottery, which helps fund our Village Memorial Hall. A ticket is £1 per week, payable in 10-week blocks, with the winning number worth £25 each week. The winning number is the Saturday night bonus ball number in the National Lottery. If you are interested in joining, please talk to Shirley in the shop to arrange payment and to choose your number.

RIDE+STRIDE **for Churches 2025**

Oxfordshire has a rich heritage of churches, many of which date from Saxon and Norman times, which stand as landmarks in their neighbourhoods, providing an important focus of continuity and stability in ever-changing times.

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OCHT) is an entirely volunteer-led organisation which aims to provide funding to help local communities repair, maintain and improve Oxfordshire's historic churches, preserving them for future generations. The initial involvement from trusts such as the OHCT provides vital encouragement and confidence to church councils and are key factors in preserving these architectural gems.

OHCT also works to increase public understanding of these buildings via a programme of Events (such as church tours), their Annual Sponsorship event Ride and Stride, and via our Publications. You can find all this information at Home - Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

The annual Ride+Stride event this year is on
Saturday 13th September 2025

and it I hoped that it will be a blessed with a dry day, with neither too much wind or heat!. Cyclists and walkers will be visiting both of our churches which are open all day. If you have some spare time (however much) and would like to join the team at St Mary's in Ipsden to greet visitors, please text David Kelley on 0776 256 6195 or email dickelley@aol.com

