Our winter 2025 Berryfields

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Berryfields Parish Council

Chairman's View January 2025

Welcome to the first edition of Our Berryfields for 2025! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas & New Year filled with time to relax and celebrate with family and friends.

As always, we wrapped up the year at Roman Park Hall with a series of festive community celebrations and events. Highlights included our Afternoon Tea, Santa's Grotto & Craft Fair, and the Santa Float, which toured as much of Berryfields as possible over two nights. We concluded the year with our annual New Year's Eve Party, a memorable celebration for all.

Thank you to the volunteers who made these events possible, as well as to everyone who came out to see Santa and contributed generously to our Food Bank at Roman Park Hall. You'll find some wonderful photos from these events later in this edition.

I would also like to give special thanks to the children of the AVA Primary School Choir for their beautiful performance during Afternoon Tea, and to the 1st Berryfields Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, who lent their support to the Santa Float. Together, they helped raise an incredible £903.64-an amazing achievement!

Our Food Bank was once again at the heart of our community's generosity, providing 42 Christmas hampers to families in Berryfields. These hampers ensured that everyone could enjoy a festive meal, regardless of their circumstances. This wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, who collected, assembled, and distributed the hampers, or without the kind donations from our community and local businesses. Thank you all!

Looking ahead to 2025, we're already planning an exciting calendar of community events. From Youth Club sessions and coffee mornings to our much-anticipated summer activities during the school holidays, there's something for everyone. Be sure to follow us on social media and check future editions of Our Berryfields for updates.

This coming May there is the opportunity for members of our Parish to put themselves forward to become a Parish Councillor. Every four years an election to fill the roles can be held. If serving your community as a Parish Councillor is something you would be interested in, please get in touch for details on how to put yourself forward. It is a very rewarding role and gives you the chance to be a part of helping the Parish and being part of community projects and issues that can affect all of us living on Berryfields.

As we've entered the season of storms and windy weather, litter has been a recurring challenge around Berryfields. Our hardworking BerryPickers are always on the lookout for new volunteers to help keep our community clean and tidy. If you'd like to join, please get in touch. We also extend our gratitude to the Aylesbury Wombles for their recent efforts in tidying Berryfields and Martin Dalby Way. Every bit of help makes a difference!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing you at our events at Roman Park Hall and around the community. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Chairman, Cllr Laurílee Green laurilee.green@berryfieldspc.org



Useful contacts

Parish Office Anthea Cass CiLCA Parish Clerk clerk@berryfieldspc.org 01296 925750

Deputy Clerk Sarah Tomlin 01296 925750

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If you are running a business and would like to advertise with us, please contact: news@berryfieldspc.org.

Publication dates are subject to change depending on local events at the time of publication. All advertising will be invoiced before publication date. Payment of advertising space is required in advance of publication. Suggested content or articles for publication are welcome. Our Berryfields is also available on our website: www.berryfieldspc.org.

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AGES 11 - 14

ROMAN PARK HALL - SIR HENRY LEE CRESCENT HP18 OYT







By Diyaa Ashok



I'd Like to Borrow

As we welcome the new year, I'd Like to Borrow continues to thrive as a unique service that enables residents to borrow household items for home repairs at a fraction of the cost of purchasing or renting them elsewhere.

The new service offers a wide range of items for hire, from wheelchairs and lawnmowers to a variety of DIY and gardening tools.

Based at Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in Quainton, this initiative and 'Library of Things' is led by local councillor Ashley Waite, and Complete Package Marketing, a local social media and marketing company based in Westcott, is managing the service's growth and promotion.

I'd Like to Borrow strengthens community connections, reduces landfill waste by repurposing useful items, and supports low-income families with affordable repair solutions.

Councillor Ashley Waite shared his enthusiasm:

"We've been staggered by the positive response. We aim to offer the items that people may buy and only use once or twice such as a wallpaper stripper. We also offer a huge range of items to enable people to do small household and garden projects in the home when the cost of hiring or buying equipment can be a negative to start. We're offering a huge range of items from travel cots to angle grinders to cover every eventuality you may have."

> If you have unused items tucked away in your shed or garage, please consider donating them to the service. To arrange a pickup, text 07977 401548 or email info@idliketoborrow.com.

I'd Like a Bike

I'd Like a Bike is another inspiring initiative based at Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, providing bicycles to those who face travel challenges, such as care leavers, refugees, and underprivileged families. The service offers refurbished second-hand bikes to help individuals commute to work, attend school, or simply enjoy leisure activities along local greenways.

Originally launched as a low-cost secondhand bike shop, I'd Like a Bike now accepts



I'd

like to

Borrow

donations of working or non-working bicycles from across the Aylesbury Vale. A dedicated team of volunteers work regularly at the railway centre to restore these bikes to full functionality.

The program collaborates with Bucks Council, Helping Hands (a low-income support line), the Afghan and Ukraine teams, and most importantly the care leavers team. Last year, every care leaver in Buckinghamshire received a survey, and transportation emerged as their top need. It is our honour to meet this vital request.

If you have received a new bike for Christmas or recently upgraded your bike and have an unused one sitting in your garage, please consider donating it to the program. To arrange a pickup, text 07977 401548 or email info@idliketoborrow.com.

I'd Like a Bus

After seven successful years' operating as The Bernwode Community Bus, our service has grown to include three vehicles offering affordable community transport across North Bucks. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we also established a network of food bank collection points that remain active today.



Despite our success, the challenges of recruiting trustees and volunteers, and the pressures of running three charitable organisations have

made it difficult to sustain operations under the current structure. As a result, we have made the thoughtful decision to close The Bernwode Community Bus Charity on December 31, 2024.

Starting from 1st January 2025, all buses, customers, and trips will transition to I'd Like to Borrow. This change ensures continuity with the same reliable vehicles, drivers, and excellent service, now operating under a new umbrella organisation with a new name.

Why not plan your next group outing with us and check out where we can take you! Visit our website at www.idliketoborrow.com or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/idliketoborrow.

Thank you for supporting these community-driven services. Ashley Waite



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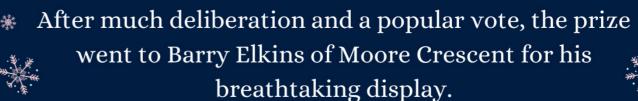
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Bright Lights of Berryfields



This Christmas, Berryfields was a sight to behold, glowing with vibrant colours and festive cheer!



It's truly heartwarming to see the incredible effort and creativity residents put into celebrating the festive season!





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Paddington^{**} is coming to Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. where he will be making appearances at intervals throughout the day!



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By Diyaa Ashok



In celebration of Storytelling Week from February 1st to February 9th, we're thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for all budding writers! This is your chance to craft a 200-word story on the fascinating theme of time travel—whether it's a journey to the distant past or an adventure into the unknown future.

Will your story feature dinosaurs roaming prehistoric Earth, or perhaps a world ruled by futuristic robots? Let your imagination soar!

Submit your tales for a chance to be crowned the most creative storyteller. The winning story will be published in our next edition, so don't miss this opportunity to share your talent with the community.

We can't wait to see where your time-traveling adventures take us! Submit your stories here competition@berryfieldspc.org

Dream up unique characters, exciting settings, and thrilling plots for your story. Start jotting down your ideas and bring your creative vision to life!



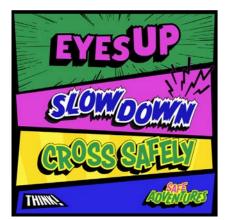


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Year 11

Back in October, we hosted our annual Year 11 Revision Morning-a dedicated session designed to help students develop essential revision skills and build confidence in their ability to study independently.





Road Safety Campaign

Launch by Student Parliament during November

During Parliament Week our Student Parliament had the opportunity to host a Q&A session with two members of the Berryfields Parish Council. During the discussion, students raised their concerns about road safety, particularly around the school, and shared details of the Road Safety Campaign currently being planned by the School Parliament members. The campaign aims to improve safety on the roads around Berryfields, with a focus on the area outside the school.



From January you will start to see our Student Parliament members outside during school drop off time. They will be the driving force in our Road Safety campaign to raise awareness and ensure students and the local community are educated on road safety measures around Berryfields.

Community Project

In November our Year 11 Prefects launched their community project in collaboration with AVA Primary and Green Ridge students. The project focuses on fostering the qualities of responsible citizens, encouraging students to reflect on what this looks like within their school community and beyond, all the way to an international scale.

On Thursday, we welcomed the feeder schools, where our Year 11 students showcased their leadership skills by working



with the younger students to brainstorm ideas for the next phase of the project.

AVA and Green Ridge students will now begin preparing assemblies for their schools. We will reconvene in February to share progress and collaborate on an article for the next edition of the Berryfields Life magazine.



We are excited to share some wonderful news about our ongoing commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our students, staff, and school community. AVA has recently completed the Healthy Schools Self-Validation, a process that recognises schools that prioritise and promote health and well-being as a core part of education.

This validation reflects our dedication to creating a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where students can thrive both academically and personally. It involves a comprehensive review of how we integrate health-related practices into our school culture, including:

- Promoting physical activity through curriculum and extracurricular opportunities.
- Encouraging healthy eating habits by offering balanced food options and educating students about nutrition.
- Supporting mental well-being with resources, programs, and strategies to build resilience and positive relationships.
- Creating an inclusive school environment that values diversity and fosters a sense of belonging for all students.



Did you see the AVA Dragon at Waddesdon Manor over the Christmas period? Every student at AVA designed a scale for the dragon. AVA Dragon will be returned safely to AVA and we will be proudly displaying them in the Atrium.



AVA Dragon



Toby Lloyd

We are proud to announce that Toby Lloyd, a Year 13 student at AVA, recently participated in a photography competition and has been ranked among the Top 100 images. His work was be featured in an exhibition hosted by Auto Photo.

If you would like to support Toby, you can view his work here: www.midasmachines.co.uk

Our Community Christmas Wish

Since 2020, AVA staff, Berryfields Parish Council and supporters have worked tirelessly to bring Christmas cheer to families in Aylesbury and beyond. Each year, with growing community support, we've expanded our reach, providing gifts and food hampers to local children and families facing financial challenges.

By December 2023, the rising cost of living increased the demand for assistance. Thanks to generous contributions from local businesses, residents, and organisations, we delivered over 200 gifts and 50 food hampers through partnerships with the Roman Park Food Bank, the Parish Council, Buckinghamshire Community Board, and others.

This past Christmas, in 2024, we witnessed the incredible impact of community kindness once again. Food hampers continued to come from the Roman Park Food Bank, made possible by the generosity of donations from residents, XYZ Music Academy and Helping Hands, while Bucks Radio provided the gifts. These efforts were supported by the unwavering dedication of volunteers who gave their time to shop for, collect food and gifts, and pack boxes. From the smiles of children opening their gifts to the relief of families receiving much-needed support, your generosity made the season truly special. Thank you for helping us spread joy and hope across Aylesbury.





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AVA'bury

Christmas 2024



A sincere thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Christmas events! From braving a cold night to following Santa around Berryfields and donating to the foodbank, to singing and playing carols at our Christmas tea and Santa's grotto - your participation made all the difference.

A special thanks to our incredible volunteers, without whom none of this would be possible, and also to XYZ Music Academy for kindly sponsoring our foodbank.

We can't wait to create even more wonderful memories together in 2025!



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