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OCTOBER 25' - Issue 155



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HELLO READERS

Welcome to the **October 2025** issue of Look Local Magazine.

Autumn is here in Chinnor and our surrounding villages. With schools off for half-term (27th - 31st) and **HALLOWEEN** around the corner, the area is buzzing with seasonal events. As the evenings grow crisp and leaves turn golden, communities are planning all kinds of spooky and festive fun.

HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Chinnor Christian Aid Autumn Barn Dance** - Live music and dancing at Chinnor Village Hall on Friday 3rd. It's a fun evening for all ages (bring your dancing shoes and refreshments).
- **Chinnor Tennis Club Monster Smash** - A Halloween-themed morning of tennis for kids (5-11 yrs) on Sunday 27th. Fancy dress is encouraged and it's completely free!
- **Milletts Farm Centre** - A Wizard of Oz family show runs 24th - 31st, plus a Spooktacular Disco (28th - 30th). Their pumpkin patch is open, with plenty of plump pumpkins and Halloween props for fun photos.
- **Ridgeway Adventures** (near Didcot/Goring) - Pumpkin-picking and a Scavenger Hunt Trail all October.
- **Blenheim Palace Halloween Trail** (Woodstock) - 23rd Oct - 2nd Nov. Walk through a spooky, dusk-lit trail with fire shows and ghostly surprises (watch for the headless horseman!).

Whether it's carving pumpkins or picking apples with the family, there's plenty on offer. We hope you make the most of these local activities around Chinnor, Watlington and our neighbouring villages this October. And don't forget to look ahead to Bonfire Night (5th November) - we'll be featuring local firework displays in our next issue.

Wishing all our readers a fun and safe **HALLOWEEN!**

Until next month,

Love Emma

For **Advertising** contact **07707 386034**
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 **Look Local Magazine**

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**WIN
TICKETS**
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**BOOKING DEADLINE FOR
NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE:**

Friday 17th October

7,100 copies of Look Local Magazine are printed on a monthly basis and delivered to households in, **Aston Rowant, Chalgrove, Chinnor, Great Haseley, Great Milton, Henton, Kingston Blount, Lewknor, Little Milton, Milton Common, Stadhampton, Sydenham and Watlington**. In addition, the magazine can also be picked up from businesses in these areas and also **Thame & Wheatley**.

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These days most homeowners suffer from a lack of storage space. So many precious items that need to be kept – but where to store it all? That's where Home Counties Loft Ladders come in.

The company, based locally, offers homeowners the opportunity to maximise their storage space with a loft ladder, 50sqft of boarding and a light – all fully fitted in less than a day from just **£444!** But it's not just the affordability of the package that makes Home Counties Loft Ladders stand out, as manager Jamie Oakley explains: 'Our

watchwords are Quality, Integrity and Value. Quality in the materials that we use for all our installations and the fact that all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesmen, so our customers are assured of the best job.

Integrity in that we will turn up at the time we say and make sure the house is spotless when we leave, and value in that we offer our services at a price people can afford.

Our business relies on referrals and we get a huge amount of our calls from people who have been referred to us by our existing customers

– that simply wouldn't happen if we didn't adhere to our overriding principles.

At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for

every installation we carry out!

So, if you want to make use of your loft space, call Jamie free on **0808 301 9558** and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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Why Time With Your GP Matters..

By Dr. Large, Private GP at 222 Healthcare with a Postgraduate Diploma in Allergy from Imperial College London.

For many people, getting an appointment with a GP can feel like a challenge in itself. Once you're finally in the room, the clock is ticking. You may have waited weeks to be seen, yet the standard 10-minute consultation often leaves little space to share your concerns fully. By the time you've described your symptoms, the appointment is already drawing to a close, and there may be no time left to ask the questions that matter most.

This feeling of being rushed is a common frustration, and it can have a real impact on your health. When patients don't feel listened to, or leave without clarity, it can lead to worry, uncertainty, or even delays in seeking further help. That's why time with your GP is so important.

The Benefits of Longer Appointments

A little more time makes all the difference. With longer consultations, patients can:

- Raise more than one concern without feeling they must prioritise one issue over another.
- Explore the background, not just the symptoms, giving the GP a fuller picture of overall health.
- Leave feeling informed and reassured, with clear answers and confidence in what to do next.

Why GPs Value Time Too

It isn't only patients who benefit. Doctors themselves often say that the most rewarding consultations are those where they can really get to know their patients. Without the pressure of racing against the clock, GPs can deliver the thorough and compassionate care they set out to provide.

A Different Approach at 222 Healthcare

At **222 Healthcare**, we believe healthcare should never feel rushed. Our private GP service is designed to give patients the time and attention they deserve. We offer:

- Longer consultations as standard, so you always feel listened to.
- Flexible booking, including same-day and next-day appointments where possible.
- Continuity of care, with the option to see the same GP each time, helping to build trust.

Patients often tell us that the biggest difference isn't just medical - it's emotional. They leave feeling heard, supported, and confident in their next steps. If you've ever left a GP appointment wishing you had a little more time, you'll understand how valuable that can be. At **222 Healthcare**, our goal is simple: to put time back into your healthcare, so you feel truly cared for.

If you would like to book in or find out more, you are very welcome to get in touch by calling 0333 242 2107 or visiting our website www.222healthcare.co.uk

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“ Very reassuring to have a face-to-face appointment with your Doctor. Kind and thorough examination from a doctor who used the time to question & treat in an holistic way. ”

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A will gives you the opportunity to appoint guardians for your children which is the only way to ensure they are safeguarded if the worst were to happen to you.

For more in-depth information or experienced advice regarding Wills, and Lasting Powers of Attorney contact

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NEWS & EVENTS

Campaign for Jason's Law - Support for Families Bereaved by Suicide

Last September, local resident Mimi tragically lost her husband, Jason, to suicide. In the days and weeks that followed, she and her family found themselves facing not only immense grief but also the daunting process of navigating an inquest and preparing statements - all without any official support or guidance.

"It felt like we were completely alone during the most traumatic experience of our lives," Mimi explains. "There was no aftercare and no one to guide us through what was happening. We were left to piece everything together ourselves while trying to cope with our loss."

This experience has led Mimi and her family to begin campaigning for what they are calling **Jason's Law** - a proposal to make it mandatory for families bereaved by suicide to be assigned a trained Family Liaison Officer (FLO). These officers already play a vital role in supporting families affected by other traumatic deaths, such as murder or fatal accidents. Jason's Law seeks to ensure that the same level of care and guidance is offered to those affected by suicide.

The aim of the campaign is simple but powerful: no family should be left to deal with the aftermath of suicide alone. Having a dedicated Family Liaison Officer would mean that families are properly supported, guided through legal processes, and given access to vital emotional care during one of the most difficult times imaginable.

Mimi has launched a government petition calling for mandatory FLO support. She hopes that with enough signatures, this important change will be considered in Parliament and eventually become law so that no other family has to go through what herself and her family did.

The petition has already gained support locally. Mimi is now reaching out to our readers to help spread the word and gather as many signatures as possible.

If you would like to show your support for **Jason's Law**, you can sign the petition online. Every signature brings Mimi and her family one step closer to ensuring that all families bereaved by suicide receive the care, guidance and compassion they deserve.

SIGN THE PETITION HERE: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/731608>

Chinnor's Jem Celebrates National Hairdressing Success

Chinnor-based stylist Jemma Stevens, founder of Hair by Jem, is celebrating a series of national award wins that confirm her place among the UK's top mobile hairdressers.

In the past month alone, Jemma was crowned National Mobile Hairdresser of the Year at the UK Hair Awards, achieved Silver at the Beautyfull Awards, and gained national recognition at the UK Hair & Beauty Awards and Manchester Hair & Beauty Awards, where she reached finalist spots for Blonde Specialist, Hairstylist of the Year and Balayage Specialist.

Specialising in bespoke blonding, balayage, colouring, cutting and hair enhancements, Jemma brings a luxury salon experience directly to her clients' homes.

"These awards mean so much," Jemma says. "For me, it's about giving clients confidence, care and a luxury experience wherever they are."

Follow Jem on Facebook & Instagram:
[@hairbyjemchinnor](#)



Santa is coming early to the railway at Chinnor Station!

The elves that work all year in the community for Santa have reported back to Lapland that some children who come to railway are not always good as they should be and just hope they will get presents for being good at Christmas!

Well - Santa is worried about this and wants to come and see the children to make sure they are good and they get the presents they deserve. He is making a surprise visit to the railway on Sunday 14th September from 10am to 4pm to meet the children, so the elves in the workshop can make the right presents for Christmas.

He will be at the station and may travel on the train so make sure you have tickets for the train ride. Come and ride behind our big steam engine! Elves will be with Santa and there will be chance for adults to take pictures with him as proof that Santa thinks their little ones are good and should get presents.

We will have facepainting on the station for all the children (and adults!!). A donation to the Railway charity of £5 is suggested for the face painting. Our shop and café will also be open on the day.

Come along and see Santa at Chinnor and get ready for the Christmas fun.

Bookings for the Santa Specials in November and December will be on the website shortly so book early if you want to come and see him and enjoy a magical trip with us.

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Saturday 11th October at 7.45pm

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Friday 17th October at 7.30pm

The Poems of Seamus Heaney

The Book House presents Irish poet, Bernard O'Donohue in conversation with Fiona Stafford discussing the works of arguably Ireland's greatest poet.

Tickets £5



Saturday 18th October at 7.45pm

Golden Oldies Rock and Roll Show

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Look locally over the garden gate with Lucie Giselle Ponsford



Welcome to the October edition of Look Local Over the Garden Gate. As we move into the final quarter of the year, it's time to consolidate all we've discussed so far: water conservation, coping with wet or dry conditions, hosepipe bans, boggy lawns, and how climate change is reshaping the way we garden..

Our award-winning BBC Gold show garden this year demonstrated how thoughtful design and plant choices can help us adapt and thrive, even on the most challenging plots. So this month, let's turn our attention to one of the most misunderstood and, let's face it, maligned soil types: clay.

Clay Soil – Friend or Foe?

Clay often gets a bad reputation. In winter, it can resemble a swamp; in summer, it bakes solid and cracks wide open. It's heavy, sticky, and hard to dig. Many gardeners simply give up. But clay isn't all bad news. It's naturally rich in nutrients and, with the right approach, can be transformed into one of the most rewarding soils to work with.

Five Practical Tips for Thriving on Clay

1. **Build Up, Don't Dig Down:** Raised beds or mounds improve drainage and make planting easier. Treating clay with lime (flocculation) also helps break down particles and improve structure over time.
2. **Let Plants Do the Hard Work:** Clay's nutrient-holding power makes it ideal for deep-rooted perennials, moisture-loving shrubs, and groundcovers. Their roots break up compacted soil, add organic matter, and protect against extremes.
3. **Use Trees for Shade and Soil Structure:** Trees draw up excess moisture, improve aeration, and provide a cooling canopy. This reduces evaporation and prevents the surface from cracking in hot summers.
4. **Make Winter Walkable:** Avoid compaction by creating gravel paths or laying stepping stones to key areas like sheds and greenhouses. You'll save your soil—and your boots—from unnecessary damage.
5. **Feed the Soil with Organic Matter:** Autumn is the perfect time to enrich clay with well-rotted farmyard manure. Follow this with a layer of wood-based mulch to protect the surface, suppress weeds, and boost soil life as it breaks down.

Nature's Way of Healing Soil

Left alone, nature gradually improves poor soils. Roots loosen compacted ground, organic matter builds fertility, and leaf litter forms a protective mulch. By copying these processes, we can accelerate clay's transformation.

Autumn Action Plan

With cooler days and rain on the horizon, autumn is the ideal season to get outside and start improving your soil. Whether it's spreading manure, planting trees, or simply laying a path, each step brings you closer to healthier, more productive ground. Clay soils may be challenging, but with time and care, they can become your garden's greatest asset. Step outside, spade in hand—your plants, and your future self, will thank you.

With love, Lucie x

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What our customers say



Mary Clements

Mimosa carried out a full redesign and build of the front and back gardens in 2024. Their design gave me exactly what I wanted and more by creating a low maintenance garden full of round year interest. The planting has settled and grown so well and each month so far has shown new areas of interest. It's difficult to find a company that will provide a full design and build package, with the skills to deliver, on time and in budget.



Olwen Comino-James

Firstly I LOVE my new garden! The whole process was really great - Lucie came up with a lovely design, then successfully tweaked it to take budgeting considerations into account without compromising too much on the end result. The construction team were great. The planting is looking lovely and I can't wait to see it all flourish. Thank you Mimosa, highly recommend!

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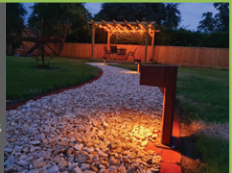
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