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Your Free Local Magazine **NOVEMBER 26' -** Issue 168

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A LOCAL CHRISTMAS INITIATIVE

THE CHINNOR CHRISTMAS GOLDEN TICKET

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This Christmas, Harris Consultancy is bringing local businesses together for a new festive initiative.

Participating businesses will be offering their own Golden Ticket treats, perks and special offers — giving you another reason to discover, support and shop with brilliant businesses in and around Chinnor.

From gifts and treats to services, experiences and a little something for the New Year, every participating business can offer something different.



GIFTS & RETAIL | FOOD & DRINK | HEALTH & WELLBEING | PETS & ANIMALS | BEAUTY & GROOMING | FITNESS & ACTIVITIES | HOME & GARDEN | EXPERIENCES & DAYS OUT | AND MORE... ACROSS CHINNOR AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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AND GIVE LOCAL BUSINESSES A LITTLE EXTRA LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS.

FOR LOCAL SHOPPERS

DISCOVER WHAT'S BEHIND THE GOLDEN TICKET.

Participating businesses, offers and updates this Christmas.

christmas.harris-consultancy.co.uk

Shop local. Support local.
Find something special.



RUN A LOCAL BUSINESS?

WANT YOUR BUSINESS INVOLVED?

Joining is completely free.

Add your business, share your Golden Ticket offer and be part of this local Christmas initiative.

christmas.harris-consultancy.co.uk

It's quick and easy to sign up through the website.



Chris

CHRIS HARRIS
FOUNDER
HARRIS CONSULTANCY

"I wanted to do something a little different this Christmas — something that helps local businesses while giving people another reason to shop locally."

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Hello Readers,

Welcome to the **November issue** of **Look Local Magazine**.

I can hardly believe we're approaching the end of another year. The clocks have gone back, the evenings are drawing in, and there's that familiar chill in the air that makes you want to light the fire, curl up on the sofa and reach for a hot chocolate!

November is always such a lovely month locally. We begin with **Bonfire Night celebrations**, with **Mill Lane School in Chinnor** hosting its Disney-themed fireworks display on **Friday 6th**, followed by the **Thame Fireworks Display** at **Chinnor Rugby Club** on **Saturday 7th**.

Of course, November is also a time for reflection, as communities come together for Remembrance Sunday on 8th November to remember those who have served and sacrificed.

It's beginning to look alot like Christmas!

And then, before we know it, the Christmas celebrations begin! There's plenty happening in and around our lovely villages and towns to get everyone into the festive spirit.

A few dates for your diary:

- 20th & 21st: Christmas Fair at Thame Barns Centre, with local stalls, seasonal treats and a visit from Santa.
- 21st: Thame's Christmas Green Fayre – a lovely opportunity to browse local stalls and discover something different.
- 27th: Thame Christmas Lights Switch-On, always a wonderful evening for families and friends.
- 28th & 29th: The Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway's Santa Steam Specials begin, bringing a little Christmas magic to our doorstep.

And speaking of Christmas, I'm particularly excited about the new Chinnor Christmas Golden Ticket initiative featured on our front cover and page 2. It's a wonderful way to discover local businesses, enjoy special offers and give our independent shops and services some extra love this festive season.

With Christmas just around the corner, I'd also encourage everyone to shop locally wherever possible. Our villages and market towns are home to some fantastic independent businesses, and every purchase, booking or recommendation really does make a difference.

Until next month, stay warm, enjoy the festivities and remember to support local!



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WIN TICKETS
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THE PLAYERS THEATRE



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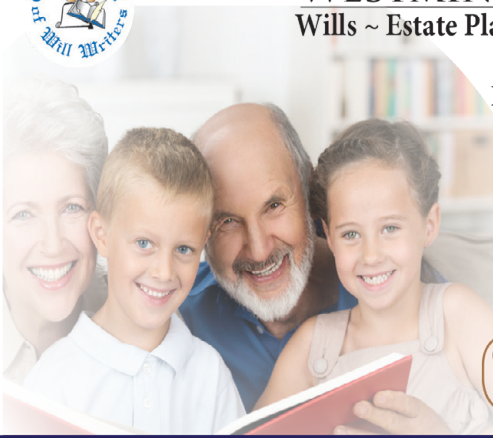
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BOOKING DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2026 ISSUE:
Wednesday 18th November

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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Why is your house full... but your loft is empty?

Local homeowners are discovering storage space they already own

With growing families, home working, and ever-increasing storage demands, many homeowners are finding their houses feel cluttered, even though there's often a large, unused space directly above them.

Home Counties Loft Ladders is a local company that helps homeowners safely and correctly use their loft space. By improving access, lighting and boarded storage areas, most installations are completed in less than a day, with minimal disruption to the home.

Jamie Oakley, Manager at Home Counties Loft Ladders, explains: "*Most people know their loft is there, they just don't use it because access is awkward or unsafe. Our job is to make that space easy, safe and practical to use.*"

"*We work to three simple principles: Quality in our materials and workmanship, Integrity in how we treat people's homes, and Value in offering a fair price for a job done properly.*"

That approach has led to much of the company's work coming from recommendations by previous customers, homeowners who wanted the job done correctly, without mess or hassle.

To find out how you could make better use of your loft, call Jamie on **0808 301 9558** or visit **homecountiesloftladders.co.uk** to book a free, no-obligation quotation. You may be surprised how much space you already have.



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OR SCAN ME!



Why We Launched 222 HealthTrack...

By Dr Oliver Large, Director/Founder/GP, 222 Healthcare.

Helping you stay well, not just treating you when you're ill

When we established 222 Healthcare almost five years ago, our aim was simple: to provide high-quality private GP consultations, with time to listen and appointments when people needed them.

It's worked well. We're proud of our excellent patient reviews and the service we've built. But we also recognise that, in many ways, we're providing what people have always hoped to receive from their NHS GP. We're very happy to offer that alternative.

What has surprised us is the growing demand for something quite different.

Increasingly, people are coming to us not because they're unwell, but because they feel well and want to stay that way.

I recently spoke with a patient who works as a personal trainer. She described how many of her clients, in their 50s, 60s and 70s, are watching their own parents become increasingly frail and dependent. They don't want that for themselves. So they're investing in exercise, strength and fitness to give themselves the best chance of remaining healthy and independent as they get older.

And we're seeing exactly the same attitude towards medical health.

People want regular blood tests, to understand their cholesterol, blood sugar and other health markers, and to see how these change over time.

That's why we've launched 222 HealthTrack.

Rather than a one-off health check, HealthTrack offers ongoing monitoring, regular blood tests and personalised GP reports.

And because we're an established GP practice, if something changes or you become unwell, we're already here, with your history and previous results, to help.

We'll continue providing the private GP consultations we're known for. But **HealthTrack** reflects a growing belief that healthcare shouldn't just be about treating illness.

It should also be about giving ourselves the best chance of staying well.

222 HealthTrack is from £39 per month and includes regular blood tests, personalised GP reports and ongoing health monitoring.

Contact us on 0333 242 2107 or visiting our website www.222healthcare.co.uk for more information

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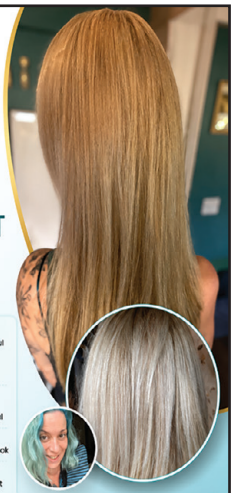
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Sue - Chinnor

★★★★★
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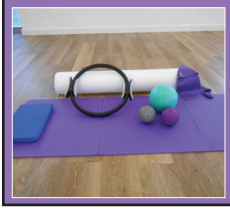
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Keeping Household Bills in Check This Winter..

As November brings darker evenings, colder weather and the countdown to Christmas, household budgets can feel stretched. Ofgem's energy price cap rose by 4% for October to December 2026, reaching £1,723 a year for a typical household paying by Direct Debit. With forecasts suggesting another increase in January 2027, now is a sensible time to review regular outgoings.

Between heating the home, buying Christmas presents and planning festive celebrations, it's easy to overlook the everyday services we pay for all year round. **Utility Warehouse** (UW) offers a different approach, bringing qualifying energy, broadband, mobile and insurance services together under one provider. That can mean fewer accounts to manage and a clearer picture of monthly household spending.

For customers switching multiple services, UW currently offers welcome credit through its Cashback Card, alongside potential contributions of up to £400 towards eligible early termination fees. The amount available depends on the services selected and qualifying conditions, helping some households make the move without waiting for existing contracts to expire.

The UW Cashback Card offers another way to make everyday spending work harder. Customers can earn up to 10% cashback with participating retailers and 1% on other eligible purchases, subject to terms and limits. Cashback is credited towards their UW bills, potentially making Christmas shopping and weekly essentials a little more rewarding.

UW also offers optional Home Insurance and Boiler & Home Cover, providing further ways to organise household essentials. There's no single solution for every family, but comparing costs, reviewing contracts and exploring available rewards could be worthwhile before winter spending gathers pace.

To explore your options, visit https://uw.co.uk/ref/connector/CN-CLW7, fill out the form and a UW Partner will contact you to guide you through the process and help you start saving.



NEWS & EVENTS

Local business brings family photos to the doormat

When the family is spread across the country, or the world, it's easy for older relatives to miss out, especially if they're not on WhatsApp or social media.

South Oxfordshire-based Taletrove turns the photos families share on WhatsApp into a printed magazine, posted every month.

Families simply send photos and captions to a group chat, and Taletrove designs and posts a personalised magazine to look through again and again.

With Christmas approaching, it's proving a popular gift.

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"Not quite Christmas"

Christchurch, Thame OX9 2DN | Friday 4th December| 7:30pm – 9:30pm

"Not quite Christmas" - a Concert of Seasonal Music to surprise and delight, with Village Voices Towersey and Galliard Recorder Band.

Tea, coffee, cake and mince pies during the interval. No tickets needed, retiring collection to be split between Helen & Douglas House and Rennie Grove Hospice care.

https://villagevoicestowersey.com







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Santa Steam Specials: *all aboard!*

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28 and 29 November - early season special with £5 off per person Adult/Senior or Child 1-12 years **all tickets £24.50pp**

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- Children, 3 - 11 can have their face painted while at Chinnor station
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- See website for full details, including accessibility and information about buggies





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WHAT'S ON AT THE PLAYERS THEATRE

Sunday 25th October at 7.45pm

A Shakespearean Life for Me



Bruce Alexander brings the Bard to life with the help of Charlotte Miranda-Smith and Matt Sparkes, celebrates and performs extracts of his works.

Tickets £13

Saturday 31st October at 3pm and 7.45pm

HMS Pinafore



Opera Anywhere return to the Players Theatre to perform one of Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas. **In aid of Thame Mayor's charities**

Tickets £6 to £22

Saturday 7th November at 7.45pm

The Denotones



The band returns to the Players Theatre to bring the best of music from the fabulous 50s and 60s

Tickets £16

Sunday 8th November at 7.45pm

A Christmas Carol

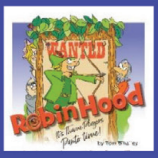


Join the great Victorian novelist, Charles Dickens, as he brings one of his best-known stories to life.

Tickets £16

Thursday 3rd to Sunday 13th December

Robin Hood



The Thame Players panto is back. Fun for all the family with lots of dancing and singing, corny jokes and knockabout humour.

Tickets £13, concessions £11

For these shows book online at **www.thameplayers.co.uk** or by telephone on 01844 212833, or in person from the Information Centre at Thame Town Hall

Exclusive Competition

For a chance to **WIN** complimentary tickets for a family of four to a Thame Players' production* answer the following question:

Q: WHO WILL BE PLAYING MHS PINAFORE?

Email your answer with your name and address to **info@look-localmagazine.co.uk** by 30th November 26'.

THE PLAYERS THEATRE

**There are five Thame Players' productions a year. See website for details.*

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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.

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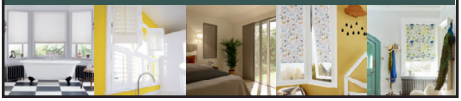
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Thinking About Air Conditioning? Why Now Could Be the Time to Install...

For many homeowners, air conditioning is still thought of as something purely for summer. But modern systems do far more than simply cool a room during a heatwave.

Today's air conditioning systems can also provide highly efficient heating, making them a practical year-round solution for bedrooms, living rooms, home offices, garden rooms and extensions.

And at the moment, there is another reason homeowners may want to consider installing sooner rather than later.

0% VAT ON QUALIFING INSTALLATIONS

Under the Government's Energy-Saving Materials VAT Relief scheme, qualifying air-to-air heat pump installations in eligible residential properties can currently be installed at 0% VAT.
That relief is due to end on 31 March 2027, after which the reduced VAT rate is expected to return to 5% from 1 April 2027.

For homeowners already considering air conditioning, that creates a useful window of opportunity The key point is that the relief applies to qualifying systems that are supplied and installed as part of an eligible residential installation. It does not mean that every air conditioning unit bought separately is automatically zero-rated, so the correct VAT treatment depends on the type of system and how it is installed.

MORE THAN JUST COOLING

One of the biggest misconceptions about modern air conditioning is that it only has value during hot weather. In reality, most modern split systems operate as air-to-air heat pumps, which means they can provide both cooling and heating. During summer, the system removes heat from the room and transfers it outside. In winter, the process is reversed, allowing the unit to extract heat energy from the outside air and bring it indoors.

This makes air conditioning particularly useful in rooms where you want more individual control over temperature without heating or cooling the whole house. A home office, for example, can be kept warm during the day without running the central heating throughout the property. Likewise, a bedroom can be cooled quickly before bedtime during warmer months.

WHY AUTUMN & WINTER ARE GOOD TIMES TO PLAN

It is also worth thinking about timing. The busiest period for air conditioning is naturally during spring and summer, especially when temperatures begin to rise. This year, exceptionally high demand across the UK led to significant equipment shortages and long waiting times.

Planning an installation during autumn or winter gives you more time to consider the right system for your property and helps avoid the rush that often arrives with the first spell of hot weather. It also means your system can be installed and ready long before next summer.

IS IT RIGHT FOR YOUR HOME?

Every property is different, so the best system will depend on factors such as room size, layout, glazing, insulation and how many rooms you want to heat and cool.

Some homes are best suited to a simple single-split system serving one room, while others may benefit from a multi-split system with several indoor units connected to one outdoor condenser.

If air conditioning is something you have been considering, now may be a good time to explore the options - particularly while qualifying residential installations can still benefit from the current 0% VAT relief.

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Look locally over the garden gate with Lucie Giselle Ponsford





The Imperfect Gardener

My faith is renewed with rain. Last month, I was feeling like the underdog, competing with all the other charms a house and life can offer when the ground is parched and the life has been boiled out of the soil. But not anymore.

There is something reassuring about the return of rain to the ground, the return of growth and flowers late in the season. Asters and Dahlias are still giving their all, grasses are turning bronze, and leaves are falling all around us in a kaleidoscope of colour. I've been able to watch gardens installed earlier this year begin to breathe again. Their death sentences revoked, they are returning to an abundance of calm, reassuring green. There are fermenting apples on the ground and berries still clinging to the trees and hedgerows. Some plants were spent early by the heat, but their seeds may yet persevere.

My gardening practice is at a nice level now. I'm slowly becoming more selective, making sure the clients I work with align with my ethos and my genuine desire to transform a green space into something beautiful.

I still believe that a garden is just nature with a chair in it, but I also understand that we need a path to the shed. We need to make it welcoming for guests, and we need to keep nature in a manageable state, with joy and flowers that reward and enliven our days, even if we're only looking at them through the kitchen window.

After a very busy summer, I finally feel as though I can breathe. The relentless hot weather has not been good for either the body or the soul, unless, of course, you're drinking cocktails in the Algarve. Although, with the forest fires, even life in the Mediterranean has hardly been easy.

And so I'm relaxing into the poetry of autumn.

I feel more poetic at this time of year. It is my time. It suits me, and it feels like coming home. As far as I'm concerned, it is also the beginning of the gardening year. A time to make plans and start again with renewed hope and vigour.

There are new plantings to consider, a few rose cuttings perhaps, hardwood cuttings to take shortly and seeds to sow for winter crops. Winter lettuce and salad leaves, maybe some radishes, peas and beans for an early harvest. Not everything is being put to bed just yet.

But as surely as the leaves fall from the trees, the garden is slowing, and with that comes a modicum of control. I'm glad of it. In my little patch, there is time to potter, to make plans and to enjoy the last flowers before the winter rains descend upon us.

I hope you enjoy the poetry of autumn as much as I do.

With love, Lucie x

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What our customers say

★★★★★ *Mary Clements*

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★★★★★ *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!

Please scan to visit our website

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October Auction Highlights



Lot 93B
AN ART DECO DESIGN WHITE METAL AND DIAMOND BRACELET
Sold £2,000 Hammer



Lot 344
A.M. GAUCI, 1848 - 1880, OIL ON CANVAS
Sold £2,000 Hammer



Lot 33A
AN EARLY 20TH Ccentury 9CT GOLD CIGARETTE CASE
Sold £1,780 Hammer



Lot 100
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