

Offchurch News

The Village Magazine

February 2013



Crocuses

February 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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11 	 12 Offchurch CAMEo	13  氣功 氣功	14 	15	16	✝ 17 
18 	 19  	20  氣功 氣功	21 	22	 23 	✝ 24 <i>Diane & Alan</i>
25 	 26 	27  氣功 氣功	28 			

Village Hall Cleaning for February: John McPherson



Offchurch News deadline. All notices for next month to offchurchnews@gmail.com or Nine Hills Cottage, Welsh Road by this date at the latest. Thank you.



Grey bin collection



Green bin collection



**Mobile Library Tudor Cottage 9.35am - 9.55am
Old Post Office 10.00am-10.20am**



Bell ringing practice, 7.30pm-9.00pm, Church Tower



Services in St Gregory's Church p. 5



Sunday School, St Gregory's Church p. 5



Family Service, St Gregory's Church p. 5



Prayer Group, 7.30pm-8.30pm, The Osier, Welsh Road



Upholstery and soft furnishings class, 9.30-11.30am, Village Hall



Afternoon Club, 2.30pm, Village Hall p. 15



Village Hall Committee Meeting, 7.30pm, Village Hall p. 15



Cameo, 8.00pm, Village Hall p. 8



Offchurch Crafts, 7.30pm, Village Hall p. 8



Offchurch Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall p. 9



Tennis Club Night, Offchurch Sports Club



Churchyard Working Group, 9.30am-12.30pm, Churchyard pp. 14-15



Reading Circle, 8.00pm, private home p. 8



Farewell lunch for Diane and Alan Patterson, 12.30pm, Wethele Manor, Weston under Wetherley p. 7



Coffee Morning, 10.00am-12.30noon, Offa House p. 5



Qigong class, 5.00pm-6.00pm, Village Hall



Pilates class, 5.45pm-6.45pm, Village Hall

From Hunningham Vicarage

As I write this, there is snow on the ground but the snowdrops are bravely pushing up reminding us of Spring and new life. And a new life is just what is on my mind at the moment because as many of you will know already, I am retiring at the end of this month and moving to Stratford-upon-Avon where we have a house. It will be an enormous wrench to leave the Feldon group parishes and I know I am going to miss being here and above all I will miss all of you.

So clearing out is very much on my mind and very soon now I shall have to stop just thinking about it and start work. It is amazing how much junk two people can collect in twelve years! But apart from the junk there are harder decisions to make, about what furniture to take for instance as the Stratford house is considerably smaller than Hunningham Vicarage and won't accommodate it all. So we have to decide what we really need and what can we very well do without. It's difficult!

We are in tune with the season because this month sees the start of Lent and that great season of clearing out and doing without things we have got attached to. It is surprising how many people still mark Lent by giving something up - alcohol maybe or chocolate - and it can be a very useful exercise too. Or people may mark Lent by giving money to a charity, or read a book or join a Lent group. There is a special service for the Feldon Group to mark the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday 13th February at 8.00pm in Long Itchington church and you would be very welcome at that. The previous day, 12th February, is of course Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday, when many of us enjoy eating pancakes and some brave people even run races with them ... traditions of feasting and fun that remind us that Lent was for most people and still is for many, a time of fasting and going without luxuries.

We all have so much, don't we, more than we really need. Maybe this Lent we could all have a bit of a clear out - in our lives as well as in our houses and get rid of the junk! If there is some money that can be spared, many charities could make good use of it so maybe a gift would be in order. And I'll be leaving our new address and we will always be delighted to see visitors so do call and see us in Stratford.

Diane Patterson



February Church Diary and Rota

3 rd	10.00am	Matins	David / Gordon
10 th	10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School	Tim / Gordon
13 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	Tim
17 th	10.00am	Family Service	Marcia
24 th	10.00am	Holy Communion	Diane / Gordon



Coffee Morning at Offa House



Saturday 23rd February 2013
10.00am - 12.30pm

in aid of the
 Sisters of St Mary (CMM) Support Group,
 supporting the disadvantaged in Tanzania and Zambia





ST GREGORY'S MATTERS

Advent: Whilst clinging to Advent tradition, we probably managed to squeeze more amusement out of “four candles” than did The Two Ronnies: Diane brightly invited us to “set the Advent Calendars alight”, and Tim remained smilingly unphased by a whole series of stubbornly unstrikeable matches. It goes without saying that the services were as fulfilling and meaningful as ever, particularly those that involved our children, the St Gregory's Trio / Singers and the ever-popular Pilgrim Puppets.

Christmas: A busy and rewarding Christmas season during which, notably, we were pleased to welcome to our Carol Service the Chairman of Warwick District Council, Michael Kinson and Mrs Kinson. Also, the generous response to a number of our seasonal appeals, enabled us to

a) provide gifts for local needy children, b) donate £75 to Leamington Christian Mission, and c) ensure the profitability of the entire local mince-pie industry.



Diane: After a dozen mutually rewarding years in our midst, Diane will soon be casting off, to sail away, with Alan, on the good ship ‘Retirement’. As we wish them bon voyage, each of us at St Gregory's will give thanks for the rich contribution that they have made to our lives.

Among her many loyal duties, Diane has regularly taken Holy Communion to local residential homes and to people in their own houses. In her services, she has always radiated a faith-inspired confidence, underpinned by good humour and a sympathetic, caring attitude.

An entertaining preacher, Diane has never been reluctant to reveal secrets of her domestic life, family events, and even the contents of her bathroom cabinet! – just who else would demonstrate “Three-in-One” with a dollop of striped toothpaste? And, for sure, none of us will ever again recite the ten commandments without seeing an image of a beaming Diane, proudly holding up her numbered cards.

“Some people come into our lives and quickly go.

Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same.”

An event to celebrate Diane and Alan's time with us is to be held on Sunday 24th February at Wethele Manor.

Prior to this there will be a collection for a farewell gift. Should you wish to contribute please contact Jenny (01926 336760).

Offa House: A warm St Gregory's welcome to Lil and Mel Robson who recently moved into 'The Lodge', having taken over the Retreat House Manager duties from Julie Howell, who has left us for a spell in The United States.

December Wedding: Harriet Moreton and James Williamson.
We wish Harriet and James a long and happy life together.

David Varnish





Offchurch Crafts

Tuesday 19th February 2013
7.30pm in the Village Hall

Spend a couple of hours doing something creative!

In this February session, we'll try and plan our year ahead, and discuss whether it's feasible to embark on a joint project, or whether people would prefer to bring along what they already have in hand. Perhaps you would like to start the year trying something new – let us know and we'll see if we can organise a specially "tutored" session.

We'll also get started on this year's Altered Books – you just need to come along with a book that's dispensable (must have the pages stitched in).

Everyone is welcome.

Janet (425430)



Reading Circle

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th February 2013, at the home of Kate Innocent, 2 Village Street, at 8.00pm. The book for February is *House Rules*, by Jodi Picoult. If you would like to come along, you will be very welcome. For further information, ring Liz on 01926 886119.

Reading Circle members

Offchurch
C^AM^EO

Tuesday 12th February 2013

8.00pm, Offchurch Village Hall

What Makes the Weather

A talk by Richard Seaton

Everyone welcome, £2 for non-members.

Magazine Reminder

Thank you to you all who have sent in your £6 for the magazine. Some are still outstanding; please let us have them ASAP.

YOU ARE NOT TOO LATE.

Please put through the door of Greta Sollett, Church Cottage, School Hill

or Valerie Graham, Gable House, Village Street
or Joan Hillyard, Ham Farm Cottages, Welsh Road.

Thank you. Valerie Graham 01926 423677.



Offchurch Garden Club

The next meeting will take place on Monday 25th February 2013 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Topic: *How to take better photographs.* Speaker: Sandy Hedderwick. There will be a members' plant table.

For further information, please contact Mo Chivers on 01926 613477 or e-mail mo@crisford.net.

The Stag Car Park - Update

In last month's edition, I reported on the hearing into the appeal against the enforcement notices relating to the use of the overflow car park. The decision has now been published and the enforcement notices have been quashed, so it can continue to be used in its present form. The decision includes the following restriction "a condition is required to prevent the installation of any lighting without the prior consent of the local planning authority, to avoid any lighting being installed which might cause a nuisance to local residents or cause harm to the appearance of the area and the Green Belt".

The Decision letter and other associated documents can be accessed on the internet at <http://www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcspportal/caserearch.asp> under case references **APP/T3725/C/12/2181691** and **APP/T3725/C/12/2181689**.

Dave Crisford



Kids' Corner is back! Time to make Offchurch News fun again!
This month's theme is winter. Brrrrr!

Wordsearch

(Words can be found backwards, forwards, diagonally and downwards)

F	G	L	O	V	E
R	T	S	K	I	S
O	A	N	U	F	I
S	H	O	V	E	L
T	Y	W	C	T	S
I	C	I	C	L	E

SNOW
FROST
SHOVEL
ICICLE
ICE
SKIS
GLOVE
HAT

Quiz

- 1) What traditional drink is drunk on New Year's Day?
- 2) What is Santa's real name?
- 3) What do you wear to keep your hands warm that are not gloves?
- 4) What do you call pointy looking ice that hangs from a roof?
- 5) What carol talks about a baby being born in a royal city?

Guess the picture

I wonder what it is?!



Answers in next month's *Offchurch News*.

If you would like to design your own Kids' Corner, why don't you send in a picture, poem, story, game or joke? Just use the contact details at the top of page 3. This month's Kids' Corner games were designed by Alice Kaye, age 10.

**Offchurch Toddler Group**

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee and all the toddlers in the village, a special thank you to Wendy for her energy, enthusiasm and flair in running the village Toddlers Group for the past few years. The Group has been a brilliant resource to offer in our tiny village and will be greatly missed by the toddlers and their mums.

This is Wendy's 2nd "retirement" so we may not be able to prevail upon her to take on a third term, however if anyone else would like to take up the challenge please get in touch with Wendy on 01926 612279, or anyone else on the Village Hall Committee.

Kate Sargent





Offchurch Photographic Competition



The subject was challenging this year, but despite this, there were more entries than ever before and the judges were very impressed with the standard.

Class 1 - Under 14

The winners were

1 st	<i>Hyper Tree</i>	Kate Macintyre
2 nd	<i>Highland Reindeer</i>	Henry Crees
3 rd	<i>Reflections</i>	Annabel Crees

Highly Commended

<i>Meerkats</i>	Sandy Innocent
<i>Desolate</i>	James Trigger
<i>The Stuntmen</i>	Thomas Warden
<i>Tree Owl</i>	Annabel Crees

Class 2

1 st	<i>Jumping for Joy</i>	David Johnson
2 nd	<i>Windsurfing</i>	Ian Crees
3 rd	<i>Village Haul</i>	David Varnish

Highly Commended

<i>You Call This Fun</i>	Brian Green
<i>Just Hanging In</i>	Wendy Green
<i>Off to Work</i>	Richard Seaton

Next year's subject will be *Weather*, in all its different guises. Wind, rain, frost, snow, ice, sun, people and places being affected by weather good or bad, the list is endless; it's up to your imagination. The photos must have been taken in 2013 but the full rules will be in the magazine nearer the closing date.

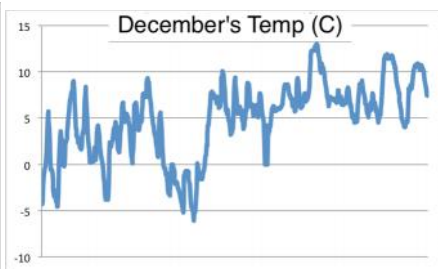
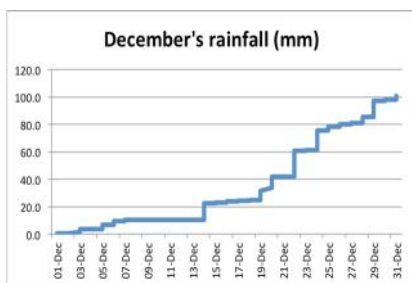
Thank you to everyone who entered this year and made the competition such a success.

Sandy Hedderwick

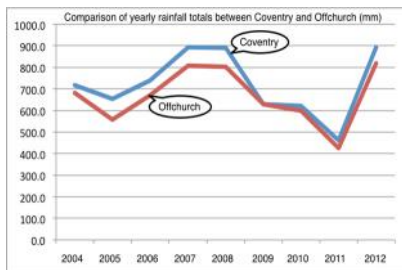
Offchurch Weatherwatch – December 2012

It's official, 2012 was the wettest year since records began! Well true, at least in Offchurch, since 2004 which is when village records were first kept on a database. This wasn't the wettest year ever because little rain fell in the first three months of the year. You may recall that a hosepipe ban was in force in much of the UK at the end of March last year, always a precursor to a deluge!

Here, December was another very wet month with 101 mm, over double our December average of 46.4 mm. Outdoor temperatures averaged 4.9 °C with a cold snap in the middle of the month but unusually mild over Christmas.



As this has been such an unusual year I thought it was interesting to compare Offchurch rainfall with that of Coventry over the past nine years. As you can see we tend to get slightly less rainfall (average 70 mm less) although it varies from year to year. Coventry's details from: <http://bws.users.netlink.co.uk>



Weather sayings: "As the days lengthen the cold strengthens"

Following the shortest day on 21st December the days start to lengthen. The seas cool more slowly than the land, which means that our weather generally continues to get colder during January and February. High pressure brings Arctic winds south which are not tempered by the cool seas. Frost on the shortest day is supposed to foretell a cold winter to come, but this is not borne out by statistics.

RKS.

PS I am speaking on *What Makes the Weather* at the *Cameo* meeting on 12th February in the Village Hall at 8pm. Everyone welcome, £2 for non-members.



St Gregory's - A Sanctuary for Wildlife

*Isolated fine days in February
Are known in Surrey as "weather
breeders", and are considered as
certain to be followed by a storm.*

The fact that this Surrey saying restricts fine weather to only one day greatly increases the odds for sudden storms to follow. I'm sure the same applies to Warwickshire. Now it's February, I can't resist the "fill dyke" sayings. Sorry to bore you.

*February fill dyke,
black or white, don't care which;
If it be white,
It is the better to like.*

This is a most famous bit of English weather lore. White refers to snow and black to rain. I'm afraid a lot of people, not you of course, fail to grasp the real meaning. Really, it is a command by the farmer for rain or snow to fill his dyke, or ditch, in February. The above saying comes from East Anglia. Snow is preferred by the farmer as it gives protection from hard frosts to crops in the ground. It doesn't mean that February is always a wet month, but it is the month that the farmer prefers to have the rain or snow. So now you know.

In the churchyard, we don't really mind rain or snow except on Saturdays. After the bit of snow last month, I think a dry February will suit us, sorry farmers. Overall, things are pretty well under control - a lot of mole hills which are a nuisance, but we do use the spoil to make seed beds as you will see. Also, it is useful to fill some of the hollows in the main burial area. This does help with the mowing in the season. We don't like bumps and holes.

This is always a good month, at least as it gives us glimmers of hope for the spring and summer. Snowdrops and winter aconites already out with signs of the wild crocus and primroses coming. I nearly forgot, the early daffs that John planted in front of the church door are just out. A reminder of the wedding last February. Things are moving on and I know it is the same every year, but it's always fresh and exciting.

Just to let you know, we had a very successful dinner at the White Lion in Radford, thirteen of us all chatting like mad, putting the world to rights. I hope you noticed the improvement. This is a reminder for me; we must repair most of the bug boxes and check the bird boxes too.

Note made. Now I've chosen two dry Saturdays for our work days: the 9th and the 23rd February, 9.30am till 12.30pm, so that should be alright. Coffee at the normal time, say 11.00am. Wow, next month will be spring. Hooray!

Thanks for all your help, keep it up.

Mike Porter



Village Hall Notices

Village Hall Committee

The next meeting of the Village Hall Committee will be on **Monday 18th February 2013** at 7.30pm in the Hall.

AGM

The AGM will take place on Monday 8th April 2013 at 7.30pm, at the village hall. Do come along and find out what we do. Stop for a chat and a glass of wine at the end. We look forward to seeing you!! More details and agenda in next month's magazine.

Treasurer

We are currently seeking a new treasurer to look after the Village Hall finances. This enjoyable and satisfying role does not require anything more than recording our income and expenditure, as well as paying the bills and reporting to the committee. It only requires a few hours each month. For further information about what is involved (with no obligation to commit), please contact Liz Varnish, the current treasurer, on 01926 886119 or ldvarnish@gmail.com. Thank you.

Village Hall Cleaning

On the rota for February: John McPherson



Afternoon Club

Our next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on Monday 11th February 2013. We will plan the programme for 2013. For further information, please ring Greta Sollett on 01926 429990 or Valerie Graham on 01926 423677.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch and Wappenbury Joint Parish Council, held on Tuesday 20th November 2012 at Offchurch at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillor W. Redford, chairman, Councillors J. Hammon, Mrs R. Commander, Mrs C. Foyer, Mrs M. Green, M. Brooks and M. Burgun.

Also present: County Councillor M. Doody and District Councillor N. Pratt.

1. Apologies

Received from Councillors S. Palmer, Mrs J. Seaton, D. Mynors and Mrs M. Weeks.

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Minutes

Having been circulated beforehand, the minutes were taken as read, agreed, and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising

The pot hole at Hunningham has finally been repaired.

The missing fire hydrant plaque has been reported, but nothing further heard.

The Code of Conduct information was circulated earlier. It was agreed to adopt the local authority format, and the outstanding DPI forms were completed.

The clerk is to proceed with a Land Registry search of the Offchurch field.

The street lamp near Gable House Offchurch is now working.

5. Planning

W12196	Bunkers Hill Farm	Storage - No objn
W121045	Wisteria Cottage, Offchurch	Porch - Granted
W201189	Wappenbury Hall	Barn - No objn
W121188	Park Farm Wappenbury	Ménage - Do
W121090	The Cottage Hunningham Hill	Extension - Do
W121007	Old Bakehouse Hunningham	Do - Granted
W120722	Newhaven Hunningham	Do - Response sent
W120409	Manor Farm Offchurch	Change of use

Appeal to the enforcement notice at the Stag received

A projector and screen have been provided in connection with large scale applications, and is held by Councillor Palmer.

6. Highways

Damaged kerbing towards the foot of School Hill Offchurch has been reported.

Councillor Mrs Seaton has noted that the Offchurch bus shelter is looking rather shabby, and is in need of attention. Ask for a photo and to check for any repairs also.

The waste bin has been removed and placed in the shelter, resulting in it not being emptied. Could need either re-siting or a new bin.

An additional street lamp between the Village Hall and Merryhill House is also requested.

Councillor Burgun notes that the high banks on the Welsh Road are being eroded by traffic, and will provide photos to assist in pursuing this.

Water is not draining near the bus shelter at Hunningham, due to a blocked culvert.

Councillor Doody detailed the proposals to switch off street lighting between midnight and 5.00am, the problem being financial. No date has yet been given for this. Councillor Burgun expressed a concern over rural areas, which he felt is rather different than the rural areas with regard to their lighting from traffic and other sources.

Councillor Doody noted that although there has been a reduction in police officers and PSOs, there has also been a reduction in crime.

There has been fly tipping in Back Lane Hunningham and on Hunningham Hill. Councillor Doody will report this for us.

It was also observed that the speed of traffic has increased since 50mph limits were imposed.

7. Police Matters

Councillor Redford continues to receive the Rural Watch updates. In our area a trailer was broken into on the Fosse, and at Wappenbury strangers were challenged but escaped, breaking 2 farm posts in doing so.

We are reminded to beware of door-to-door salesmen who can be over-persuasive. They should always provide suitable identification. If in doubt, the police should be advised straight away. Many are harassed by those selling dusters.

Councillor Doody clarified the role of the new Police Commissioners who will have a party of 10 advisers to keep a political balance. The immediate concern is the police budget being worked after the precept is announced.

8. Chairman's Report

Councillor Redford reported having attended the District Council Chairman's supper.

The flood report is still awaited from the Environment Agency, so this will be followed up. Councillor Doody noted that a change in the people producing it has caused a delay.

The Eathorpe lights will be switched on 8th December.

9. Correspondence

Draft recommendations of the Boundary Commission were received. Councillor Doody advised that 2 councillors per ward are suggested, but not agreed. He considered that Cubbington would be more suited in joining with Stoneleigh and Baginton than with Radford, Offchurch and Hunningham.

Various leaflets etc were distributed.

10. HS2

We are indebted to Councillor Burgun for again giving a comprehensive update to the meeting, and for subsequently providing the following summary.

1) Third Community Forum meeting was held on 20th September 2012. The key points were:

Presentation on noise given.

The last Planning Forum had been a poor meeting and WCC were planning to write to HS2 executive to complain.

The progress update was very sketchy.

All Cubbington and Offchurch issues were summarised again.

Robust statement to HS2 regarding their lack of answers and poor approach to the public.

2) Second bilateral meeting held 1st November 2012. Key points were: General design review of the line height across both Cubbington and Offchurch.

Leam flood plain to be discussed between Environmental Agency and HS2 but little progress to date.

HS2 will take a first camera shot of the project to prepare the draft E.S. at the end of November 2012. This camera shot will be effectively the Post Consultation Route published in January and therefore the draft E.S. will be less complete than it should be.

HS2 advised they were well advanced on the rights of way study.

The SIFT process that HS2 use to evaluate mitigation items was discussed, with HS2 needing to clarify the whole process.

Land access letters were discussed, these are now being revised.

There was a general discussion regarding the local roads around the Fosse, including the HS2 proposal to close part of the Long Itchington

road. HS2 were advised that, at the level of principle, we did not agree to the closure of ANY road, right of way, etc.

3) WCC meeting with Action Group Heads 8th November 2012.

Key points were:

General feedback from all Action Groups present showed that all of them were facing the same frustration at lack of information and progress.

HS2 senior staff had advised at a separate meeting that there was NO separate budget for mitigation. The agreed mitigation items would be built into the design for the contractors to construct.

There is to be a WCC meeting with HS2 Engineering Director on 30th November 2012, at which several key questions will be asked regarding the conduct and transparency of the project.

4) Future key events:

27th November Fourth Community Forum meeting.

30th November WCC meeting with HS2 Engineering Director.

30th November HS2 to take first camera shot in order to prepare draft E.S.

15th January Compensation Roadshow in Offchurch Village Hall
1.00-8.00pm.

31st January END of compensation consultation period.

1st February Third bilateral meeting with HS2.

Spring 2013 Draft Environmental Statement produced for 3-month public consultation period.

11. Finance

Received final precept £2450. Payments: Cheques 045 - £758.16 – insurance; 046 - £192 – mowing; 047 - £99.84 – printing; 048 - £330 – hedging; 049 - £120 - play repairs; 050 - £2305.26 - play equipment; 051 - £192 – mowing; 052 - £240 - clerk salary; 053 - £60 – tax; 054 - £114.75 – expenses; 055 - £20 - room hire.

A request was received from the allotment association for assistance towards their insurance costs. It was agreed to ask for sight of their accounts in order to consider.

12. A.O.B.

Confirmed that Eathorpe received warnings of recent flooding.

Councillor Doody advised that he will not be standing at the next County Council elections, but will continue with the District. Councillor . Councillor Pratt will not be standing for the District Council.

Next meeting at Hunningham on 22nd January 2013.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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Ballet Lessons

Tuesdays, The Grange, Southam



4.00pm - Prima Ballerinas (3-4yrs)
4.30pm - Pre-Syllabus (5-6yrs)
5.00pm - Pre-Primary (7-8yrs)
5.45pm - Primary (8yrs+)

Dance Classes

Thursdays, The Grange, Southam



4.00pm - Funky Dance 1 (4-6yrs)
4.30pm - Gymnastics (all ages)
5.00pm - Grade 1 Ballet (9yrs +)
5.30pm - Funky Dance 2 (7yrs +)
6.00pm - Grade 2 Ballet (11yrs+)
6.45pm - Grade 3 Ballet (13yrs+)

Tap Lessons

Fridays, The Grange, Southam



4.00pm - Little Tappers (3-5yrs)
4.30pm - Pre-Primary Tap (6-8yrs)
5.00pm - Primary Tap (8-10yrs)
5.30pm - Grade 1 Tap (10yrs+)

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