

Askett News

Photo: Chris Judge

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

As we reflect on the last newsletter, published at the end of what was already the warmest spring on record, few of us could have predicted that summer would go on to break records too. With mean daily temperatures reaching 16.13°C, this has been the hottest and driest summer ever recorded in England. Gardens have wilted, water butts have run dry, and the village has basked in a prolonged spell of sunshine that's been both glorious and, at times, challenging.

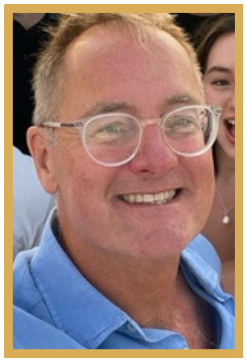
Now, as the evenings begin to draw in and the scent of autumn edges into the air, our thoughts turn to the Askett Society's Annual General Meeting. This year's AGM will take place on Sunday 12th October at 6pm, hosted once again at The Three Crowns – thank you Charles, Laura and Lucy! We've chosen this date and time deliberately, before the clocks go back, to encourage as many villagers as possible to attend while it's still light and, we hope, pleasantly warm.

In addition to our usual AGM business, we hope to be joined by one of our local councillors, who will provide an update on the recent granting of planning permission for 390 houses on the edge of Princes Risborough. This development has raised understandable concerns about increased traffic volumes through Askett, and we look forward to hearing more about the mitigation measures previously agreed following consultation with local residents.

Finally, as part of our ongoing efforts to celebrate and preserve the heritage of Askett, we're inviting contributions of historical stories, photographs, or anecdotes relating to The Three Crowns. If you have anything of interest—whether it's a tale from decades past or a treasured image—please do send it to either Stuart Thompson or Phil Crookes well ahead of the meeting. We'd love to feature these as part of our AGM gathering.

We look forward to seeing many of you on the 12th.

Warm regards,



Stuart Thompson
Chair of the Askett Society

SUMMER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



The Summer Picnic

On Sunday June 22 over 80 Asketteers enjoyed a lively picnic in the beauty of Jacque and Chris's sprawling meadow. Swarms of children ensured the two bouncy castles had nonstop use. The water bouncy castle was a particular hit with kids from toddlers to teens (and the grass received well needed watering).

The Three Crowns outdid themselves with a bountiful hog roast feast. Donated cakes rounded out the menu to ensure no one went home hungry.



Photos:Alan Strawn



Many thanks to the 15 volunteers that helped assemble and disassemble the marquee. The takedown set an Askett record for quickest ever cleanup! Thank you to Hannah and Lucy who hosted creative nature-based crafts.

The athletes in the crowd enjoyed tennis and lawn games. Everyone enjoyed conversation and laughter. A fun day was had by all.

Kristin Clark



Walking Club (The Wandering Asketteers)



I am happy to report that the group of enthusiastic walkers in the hamlet is still going strong. Since the last Newsletter, we have met up three times. This summer has been the perfect weather for walking.

Photos: Cristina Baker



Wednesdays' routes are a bit shorter and flatter while Saturdays are a bit longer and may include a little challenge. No walk is more than two hours and usually around five miles. All walk details are sent out prior to the date of the walk. This will include the route, elevation, and duration.

Since this group has started, I have really enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people. I am getting to know the area a lot better too and I now definitely have favourite routes. If anyone would like to lead their favourite route, please feel free to do so. Just let me know.

Looking forward to continuing to explore the area with your company. All two- and four-legged creatures are welcome. I do want to state that I am not a professional guide, just a keen walker.



The next walks will be:

- Wednesday, September 24 at 1 pm
- Saturday, October 18th at 9:30 am
- Wednesday, November 12 at 1 pm
- Saturday, December 13 at 9:30.



Cristina Baker

Safari Supper

Photos: Alan Strawn





On a sunny evening in July 33 intrepid Asketeers donned their bush hats and set out on our Safari Supper. We again arranged things so everyone hosted a course and each time we sat down it was with a different group.

The organisation seemed to go off okay, insofar as no one got very lost, hosting was amazing throughout and this year we added pre-dinner drinks to set things off properly. At the end of the evening those who were still able came back to Ken and Mary's for coffee, tea and the occasional nightcap.

Thank you to all who came and made it such a great evening.
Cheers
Ken

(p.s. I made up that bit about bush hats, maybe next time)

Ken Coppock

Alan Strawn took a group photo of the Safari Supper participants (at the start of the evening when we were all more or less upright)



Crowbrook Motorcycle Group (yes, really!)

It seems that over the past few months, a dark insidious menace has been percolating through the delicate gossamer that is Askett life. That's right, there is now a 'chapter' of motorcyclists in the neighbourhood (cue sinister music)!

You know those times where you are simply sitting and enjoying a convivial G&T on the croquet lawn in quiet contemplation of the natural world when all of a sudden, the tranquillity is rent asunder by the banshee wail of a high-revving motor overlaid with the strident blare of an un-silenced exhaust? Well, that isn't us!



More 'Sons of Arthritis' than 'Sons of Anarchy', our very own Richard Pither recognised a gap in the Askett offering; namely there were about half a dozen bikers within a (admittedly hefty) stone's throw of his abode – although (and whisper it) membership does stretch into Monks Risborough!

The aim is simple, a few old duffers go for a potter (astride their immaculately silenced iron steeds) on a lovely evening for an hour or so, enjoying the surrounding countryside before returning bikes to garages and thoroughly de-briefing at the 'Three Crowns'. We have even managed a couple of Sunday morning runs.



All are welcome to join though the ability to actually ride a motorcycle (or be accepted as pillion) is considered somewhat key! Many thanks to Richard Pither and Gary Prince (think Dukes Wine Bar) for their detailed knowledge of the sort of roads that we ride bikes to enjoy.

Jonathan Baker



Photo: Roger Lawson

Three Crowns Gardening Team

We would like to recognise Alan Strawn and his team of volunteers who are supporting Charles in the upkeep of a beautiful Three Crowns garden: it is looking superb.
Thank you!

The Committee



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



COFFEE MORNING
Thursday 25th September
10.30am at Westwell

ASKETT SOCIETY AGM
Sunday 12th October at 6.00pm
at the Three Crowns.
Agenda to follow.

THE KOP HILL CLIMB
Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st September
A great day out, traditionally with help from Askett volunteers.
kophillclimb.org.uk

WALKING GROUP
Meet on the Green:
>Wednesday 24th September at 1pm
>Saturday 18th October at 9.30am
>Wednesday 12th November at 1pm
>Saturday 13th December at 9.30am
Contact Cristina Baker

HALLOWEEN SPOOKY WALK
Friday 31st October 5.30-7.00pm
Starting on The Green, map and details to follow.

CAROLS AROUND THE TREE
Friday 19th December at 6.00pm
On the Village Green, followed by mince pies and mulled wine at Askett Farm.

The Askett Choir



Following the joyous appearance of an Askett Choir at last year's Carols around the Tree - and a lot of fun rehearsing for that - I am delighted to say we'll be back this year!

Keep a look out for more information, rehearsals will start around the end of November.

Anna Crookes

The AAA

Having discussed the Motorcycle Group, the Committee's thoughts turned to four wheels and what might be lurking in Stuart's over-sized barn. There was much excitement with the revelation of an Alfa Spider, appropriately shrouded in cobwebs.

Further development of this thread led the Committee to realise that there was sufficient horsepower (not your kind Mr Shearman) to instigate the AAA. The Askett Automobile Accumulation. (The name can be changed!)

We understand that we ought to be able to rustle up:

- ·A stable of Ferraris (well, at least a Mondial and a Testarossa)
- A thoroughly Bond-ish Aston DB9
- A melange of MGBs
- A McLaren
- Jaguars of varying vintages and letters of the alphabet.
- A plethora of Porsches (inc. perhaps a race car.)
- A scintillating S2000.
- A thoroughly Hoffman-ish Alfa Spider.



You owners know who you are. If you feel that Kop Hill has become too unnecessary and fancy an occasional drive out or meet up, then ping me.

Jonathan Baker

ASKETT INTERVIEW

Jacque Pavloski

In a quiet corner of Askett, something magical is happening. It involves slumping, fusing and pâte de verre ... and a huge amount of creative talent. The outcome is stunning and wonderfully diverse art with one common ingredient: glass.

I recently met Jacque Pavlosky a resident (with husband Chris) of Askett for more than 30 years, to talk about her lifelong passion for this fascinating art form.



> This is my large fusing and slumping kiln which is primarily for sheet glass. My casting kiln is much deeper as it has to accommodate moulds as well as the glass.

So Jacque, when did you first become interested in glass?
My father was in the cathedral choir when I was a very young child and I remember being awestruck by the stained glass windows. When I was about twelve I saw an artist making stained glass in his studio. I held up a red piece up to the light and was fascinated by the magical way light brought the glass to life.

From the age of 10-23 I attended and worked in a fine arts camp for eight weeks every summer where my father taught choral music at Interlochen, Michigan near the town where I grew up. I attended many art, drama, music and craft classes and later taught craft.

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How did your learning journey continue?
I have formal qualifications including a BA in Arts Education and Humanities from Michigan, a Higher Diploma in Art and Design from Amersham College, a certificate from the Academia de Belle Artes in Perugia, Italy, and a BA in Glass taken in Wycombe.
I have sculpted with a group of artists working with life models and sculpture for many years and was an assistant for a famous glass artist in Stroud for a while. But it never stops, I love to learn and have studied all over the world and will be attending four courses this month alone!

My passion for the arts is actually very broad and includes all visual arts, architecture, print making, sculpture, textiles and folk art which takes me thousands of miles across Europe and the world to appreciate different cultures and their creative arts. I have had a particular focus on glass which can be used in so many different ways.



Please explain some of the basics of working with glass.
For thousands of years glass has been made basically from sand heated to an extreme temperature, blown or cast, typically with the addition of oxides to produce colour.

I start my work with glass in various forms – from fine powders to large ingots weighing a kilo or more. Here are some jars of frit.

"Laughing Face"
An image made with powdered glass



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There are then many ways of working with the glass which I use, including:

- Casting: very similar to bronze casting, I make a mould using plaster and quartz
- Slumping: heating glass until it softens into a mould
- Fusing: melting pieces to combine them
- Brushed power: moving the powder to create an image – I use a porcupine quill and specialty brushes in this process
- Painting on glass
- Pâte de verre: using finely ground glass call ‘frit’ for delicate effects
- Stained glass

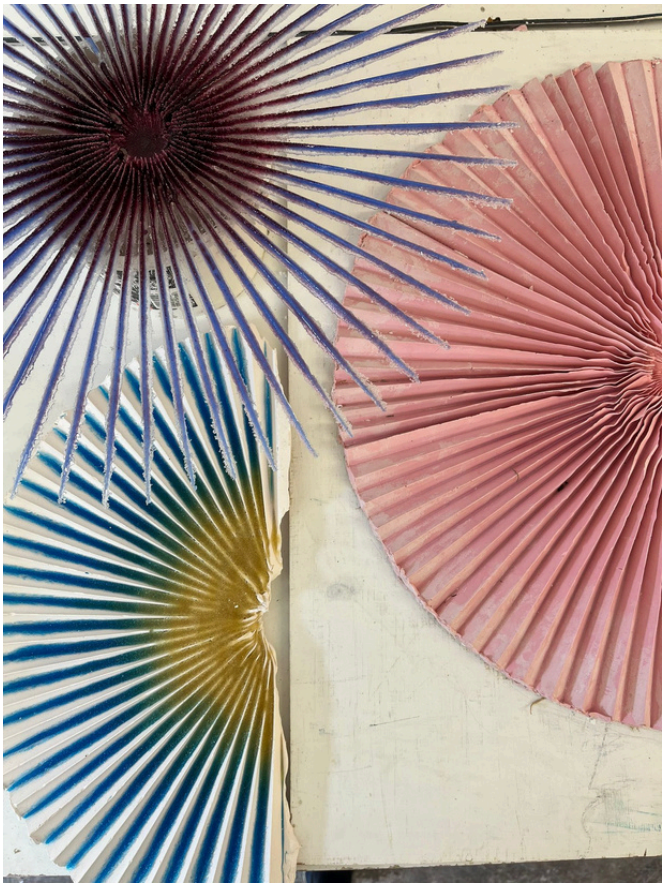
An example of pâte de verre



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The range of techniques and equipment is amazing, including your three kilns. What's the highest temperature you are using?

Depending on my process, the temperature can go up to 840 Celsius. Some pieces can be in the kiln for a month if they are large because they require special heating and cooling gradients or the glass will crack! I don't do glass blowing which is what most people think of when they are talking about art glass. Glass blowing requires a glass furnace kept at 1000 degrees 24x7 and is a very different technique altogether. Too hot for me!!!



Making my starburst pâte de verre piece requires making a rubber mould (pink), then a refractory mould made of plaster and quartz (bottom left, with blue and yellow frit which has been fused into it in the kiln), and top left, a piece remoulded and finished, ready to be mounted



continued...

Where does your inspiration come from when starting a new work?
Sometimes I just find it a therapeutic thing to be doing. Other times I'll be working toward an exhibition.

I get to travel, learn from world-class artists and be inspired by like-minded people. Being within the glass community often sparks new ideas.

I am also inspired by teaching people, that gives me a lot of satisfaction.



Equipment for Health & Safety is important and it's quite a look.

What are you working on at the moment?
I'm producing work for a group exhibition focusing on an arboretum creating dragonflies, moths, butterflies and birds which reside within that environment. I'm using a special dichroic glass that causes the colours to bounce off the wings and a stained glass technique called copper foiling to produce these pieces, and have done some glass painting on the body and wings.





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Do you have a favourite work of glass art in the world?
In Paris there's Sainte-Chapelle, a royal chapel with incredible medieval stained glass windows. Also, the glass artist Dale Chihuly from Seattle has been producing enormous and dramatic blown glass sculptures which you will see in many major cities around the world, as well as the chandelier in the entrance to the V&A. He has drawn much public awareness of glass as an artistic medium. By the way, the V&A has an entire department devoted to glass, as well as wonderful displays of stained glass from around the world - medieval glass is my favourite.

What about a favourite from your own work?
This piece, Green Ovoid Zigzag, is quite large, 30 x 40 x 12cm. And was my first major piece.



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"Crystal Towers", which is based on my love of towers in architecture.



"Exotic Towers"



"Homo Tacit" a philosophical piece which was part of an exhibition in Wells Cathedral

I left Jacque's studio with a new curiosity about glass and greater awareness of its presence. Our meeting also reminded me that excellence in art is not merely a product of 'talent' or 'inspiration', there are years of hidden trial and error, learning and hard work behind every beautiful creation we call Art.

Phil Crookes

SPOTLIGHT ON NATURE



There have been no more otter sightings so we'll have a look at some of the smaller creatures found in the garden over the last few weeks. Firstly, a very small moth which appears in the same clump of marjoram every year. With a wingspan of just 18mm it is the Mint moth. A day and night flying moth, it has two generations each year and this one was photographed in August.



If you are picking Autumn raspberries keep an eye open for the Dock bug. It is a common species and the adults are seen from August. This one was on our crop of 'Autumn Bliss'.



Rescued from inside one of our compost bins, having been attached to some clippings no doubt, was a Hairy shieldbug, a common species of hedgerows and woodland. After recuperating on top of the bin it flew off to live another day.



The shieldbug most commonly seen in gardens is the Common green shieldbug which can be seen between May and November. This one was resting on a spike of a cardoon flower. Once confined to Southern England the species is now widespread throughout England and Wales.



Finally, a large bug hitched a ride on our car windscreen from Tesco in Risborough in early August. It is a Western conifer seed bug. Measuring 2cm in length it is a native of North America and is now widespread in the UK after reaching our shores in 2007. We were parked under evergreen trees on the far side of the car park so I imagine it descended for a quick joy ride.

There are some beautiful creatures in our gardens, you just need to keep an eye open for them !

Alan Strawn,

ASKETT PAST

From the Archives

During the late summer of 2020, with Covid restrictions in place, we were treated to a series of concerts on the village green by Anna and Phil Crookes. We listened to a variety of songs and styles often accompanied by guest musicians, including the village saxophonist Eddie Bains.

The audience partook of beverages obtained via socially distanced queues in the Three Crowns. As you can see, some of the sunsets were spectacular, only adding to those memorable evenings.

Alan Strawn



Photos: Alan Strawn



Quirky Old Askett News

THE BUCKS HERALD, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1938

MOUTH ORGAN VIRTUOSO.

Patrick Plater, of Crowbrook Road, Askett, did not appear to answer a charge of making a loud noise at night time.

P.C. C. Smith said on July 24th at 10-15 p.m. he was in Mill Lane and heard defendant playing a mouth organ loudly.

The Bench ordered that defendant should pay costs and the Chairman observed that it might be a warning to other youths.

Saturday, August 10, 1907

ASKETT.

As Mr. R. Williams was proceeding home on Sunday evening, he saw a snake lying on the ground, and with a stick he had, quickly dispatched the reptile, which measured 40 inches long. Mr. Williams carried his trophy home, and has hung it outside his house, where it can now be seen.

Saturday, March 30, 1907

ASKETT.

An Old Coin.—A ploughman named Richard Curley, of Askett, near Monks Risborough, while at work in a field discovered an old coin. On examination it proves to be a Roman copper one, of Constantius II., second son of Constantine the Great, who ruled over the eastern portion of the Empire.

FRIDAY, JULY 16th, 1937

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, the Duchess of Kent, Honorary Colonel of the Bucks Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry T.A., paid her first visit to the Battalion since her appointment, at the annual regimental shoot on the Kimble range on Sunday.

Though the Duchess' intended visit had, at her personal request, been kept as quiet as possible, a cheering crowd greeted her arrival at Askett, and hundreds lined the narrow lane leading to the range. She was accompanied by the Countess of Brecknock, Lady-in-waiting.

BUCKS HERALD, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1

Hospitals.—The Medical Officer of Health replied in connection with the outbreak of diphtheria among the pupils attending the public elementary schools at Monks Risborough, that his attention was called to the brook flowing through Askett, it being alleged that the smells emanating from it were sufficient to account for the diphiberia.

LITTLE KIMBLE.
VELVET LAWN COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY.
ANNUAL SHOW YESTERDAY. BUCKS STANDARD—FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1901

There were not so many honorary exhibits as usual. In fact, they only numbered two. One of these consisted of a fine show of comb and run honey from Mr. Messenger's well-known apiary at Askett, and the other a large folding-screen.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1865.

THE BACHELORS v. THE MARRIED MEN OF ASKETT

On Tuesday a pleasant holiday was spent at Askett, near Monks Risborough, in a meadow kindly lent by Mr. H. Baldwin, for a game at cricket between the married and single. The single played in a creditable style and made a very fair score, and might have come off victorious, but they had to encounter two or three veterans, who made them unwillingly succumb. After the game a dinner was provided by Mr. Bishop, to which ample justice was done by the cricketers and friends. The following is the score:—

MARRIED.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
H. Baldwin, b Adams	12	b East	0
J. Crook, c Isley	7	c Rogers	14
L. Pauling, c Lacey	0	b Stevens	39
P. Baldwin, c ditto	1	c Picton	12

THE BUCKS HERALD, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1913.

A Singular "Freak."—A chicken with four legs has just been hatched at the farm of Mr. Darvill, Askett, near Princes Risborough. The "freak" was one of a brood of nine healthy birds hatched on Friday week. Mr. Darvill has been a breeder of table poultry on an extensive scale for many years, but this is the first time that, in any of his successful hatchings, he has produced a chicken with four legs. The legs are

Phil Crookes



Photo: Josephine Graham

SOCIETY MATTERS

Speed Watch report

Those of you who drive into Askett from the Lower Icknield Way will have noticed a recent addition to our speed watch armoury. This is a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) which we have been able to acquire with the generous financial support of Buckinghamshire Council and Princes Risborough Town Council. As the name suggests the MVAS is not fixed to a single point and we plan to move it every six weeks or so (studies have shown that a speed camera that remains at a single location looses its ability to impact speeds). We have three sites initially identified, two on Askett Village Lane to cover each direction and one on Crowbrook Road.

Our system also has the ability to record traffic volume and speeds at different times of the day which will help us with planning our speed watch sessions.

Speed watch sessions have continued throughout the summer, most recently as part of a coordinated session undertaken by 18 police forces across the England and Wales. On that occasion 579 speed watch teams recorded the speeds of 91,000 vehicles with 10,000 exceeding speed limits. Our contribution was 98 vehicles with 20 speeding.

With thanks to the speed watch volunteers and all Askett Society members who helped to fund this investment in safety through their subscriptions.
Cheers
Ken

Ken Coppock

Environment

This month is ten years of our living in Askett.
A celebratory lunch at the Three Crowns with our friends Alan and Debbie of similar duration residency will mark the occasion.
Looking forward to the milestone I reflected on what makes Askett such a special place. The people of course, with a caring neighbourly attitude in this lovely semi-rural location.
A further factor is our known and growing appreciation of our surroundings – the Environment.
We can be proud that we will welcome a seventh and possibly an eighth delegate completing the volunteering element of their Duke of Edinburgh award in September.
These younger members of our community all express the same aims. Litter Picking for a cleaner environment and safer situation for Wildlife and help maintain this very pleasant place live.
Very inspiring.

Stuart Shearman

Infrastructure and Planning

Traveller Site

Askett residents will be aware of the Traveller site located between Askett and the Lower Icknield Way (A4009).

The Committee keeps abreast of developments on the site and the actions of Buckinghamshire Council. We believe it would now be wise to formulate a community viewpoint and potentially a plan of action for the coming year given the possibility of further development or applications being made by the Travellers.

Recognising that opinions may vary on this matter, for example considering a balance between protection of the environment and social fairness, the Committee has decided to run an anonymous poll to gauge opinion in the village. Watch this space and please do participate so we can best represent the community.

The Committee

Infrastructure and Planning continued

On 28 August 2025, Buckinghamshire Council approved Bloor Homes' plan for 390 new houses on green fields between Mill Lane and Alscott. While the scheme was passed unanimously, councillors voiced strong concerns about traffic and road safety.

Askett came into the discussion at the very end, when Cllr Penny Drayton asked about traffic calming in both Mill Lane and Askett. The Council's Principal Planning Officer confirmed that funding from the development will go towards "strategic highway infrastructure... including traffic calming... Mill Lane, Monks Risborough and Askett." This is significant because the Wycombe District Local Plan (2019) and Princes Risborough Expansion SPD (2021) already require "Mill Lane / Askett area traffic calming" as part of the expansion's infrastructure package.

The Askett Society is now pressing for these measures to be named in the legal Section 106 agreement, for clarity on what will be delivered, and for the works to be carried out early. Askett's narrow roads, lack of pavements, and dangerous pinch points already pose risks—especially to children walking to the bus stop on the A4010. With the new homes likely to increase traffic together with the opening up of a 'rat-run' from Longwick road to Askett, We will continue to hold the Council to its commitments and push for early, effective traffic-calming solutions.

A local Councillor has been invited to the AGM to discuss the matter with us.
Please be there!



Richard Bushnell

Final Editor's note

I am most grateful to the many contributors to this Newsletter.
At least fifteen people helped in some way. Please do keep a look out for great photo snaps or stories to tell in the Winter (December) edition and send to me at: phc.home@btopenworld.com.

If I were to call out one mega-contributor: thank you Alan Strawn, our de facto village photographer and nature buff, for your support. Also thank you to Duncan Bull for your help with distribution via the village email system.

To finish on a high, and in anticipation of falling leaves, here's a lovely image of Whiteleaf Woods by Ann Phipps.

Phil Crookes

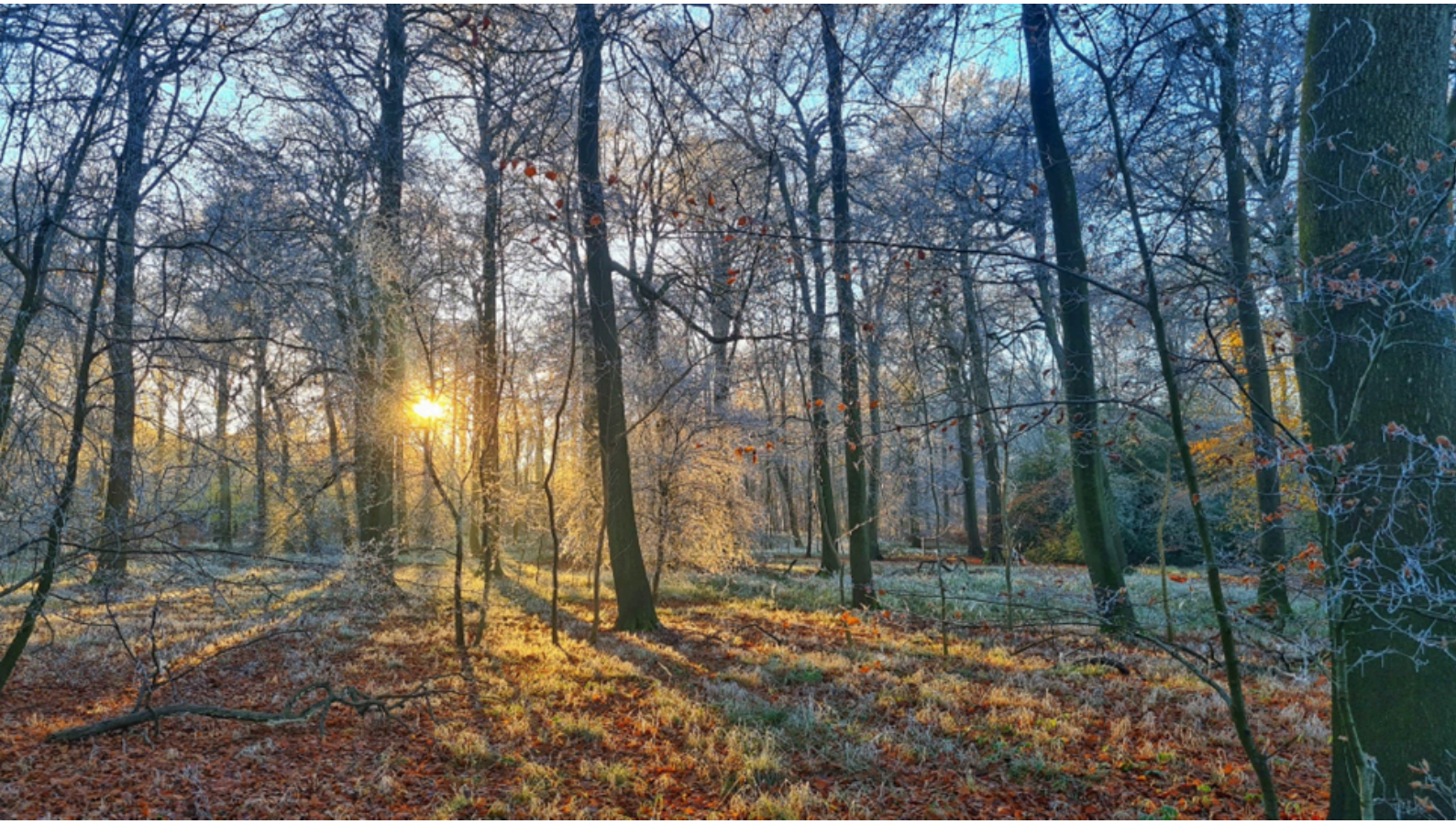


Photo: Ann Phipps