
The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

The Ascott Grapevine is provided FREE to every household in Ascott and we wish this to continue for a long time to come.

Although 'The Grapevine' does receive support from the Parish Council and the PCC, it only raises a limited amount of revenue from advertising. 'The Ascott Grapevine' survives mainly on donations. If you would like to help The Grapevine continue, any donation large or small would be appreciated. You can give a donation to any member of the editorial team.

If there is an aspect of village life not already covered in the Grapevine please contact a member of the production team to discuss your ideas. Articles for the Winter issue of The Grapevine should be submitted by January 4th.

Call 01993 832163 or email:

ascottgrapevine@dial.pipex.com

**Stuart Fox, Kingsley,
Wendy Pearse,
Karen Purvis**

Church Services

The details and times of the regular services are advertised on the various notice boards around the village and in the church porch, but here are some of the special services that are coming up over the next few months:

12 November

10.15am
Remembrance Day Service

19 November

18.30 Taize

3 December

10.00am
Back to Church Sunday

10 December

16.00 Christingle

17 December

16:00 Carol Service

24 December

15.00 Crib Service
23.30 Midnight Communion

25 December

10.00am Christmas Day Service

We look forward to welcoming you and worshipping with you.

Tim Lyon

Chase News

Further information about what's happening in the Chase Benefice is in the *Chase News*, included in the centre of this issue of the Grapevine.

Content & Editorial Policy

If you have an article, story or poem you would like to submit for publication the Grapevine editorial team would love to hear from you. Material for publication is gratefully accepted. Due to space considerations material may not be used immediately but may be held over to be included in a later issue.

The Grapevine editorial team reserve the right to shorten, amend or reject any material submitted for publication.

Harvest Supper

Having fed over 200 people with a Pig Roast back in July, and being entertained by some excellent budding artists from the Village at our Harvest Supper, the PCC would like to say a very big thank you to all those who supported either both or one of the events this year. We managed to raise just under £1,500 at the Pig Roast, and £350.00 at



these events can't be put together with one or two people. So in January, when it's dark and cold how about thinking about the Summer, and com-

If you are interested then please contact the number below.

Thank you once again.

Debra Cull. Tel. 831621

P.S. Don't forget the Carol Service December 17th at 4.00pm, Ascott Church. Join in with the choir singing many of your favourite carols.



the Harvest Supper. There are as ever too many names to mention who worked so tirelessly behind the scenes, but our thanks go to all of them as well.

So what about next year? Whispers amongst the hedgerows are to have a Church Fete, but



ing along to a meeting to discuss help organise a Church Fete?



Church News

It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us again and the end of another year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with the activities of Holy Trinity in 2006. There has been so much help with services, planning, bell ringing, administration, fund raising, socials, upkeep, keeping the churchyard tidy etc. etc that it would be hard to name everyone but you know who you are - and thank you very, very much.

Tim Lyon

Marriages

On 29th July 2006 at Holy Trinity Church, Oliver James Montgomery Hale to Anna Claire Swaby.

On 12th August 2006 at Holy Trinity Church, Christopher Robert Morgan to Kerri Louise Franks.

Deaths

On 16th August 2006, Albert Patrick (Pat) Collett aged 91years.

A Walk Through Ascott's Past

This summer compulsory installation of field margins by hedges has become part of the farming regime. These margins have enabled me to easily walk around our arable field to the gap in our wall where the bridleway from Lyneham leads down Chippy Hill and emerges just above Ascott Bridge. And I discovered a wealth of landscape history.

The path actually starts in our field opposite the turn to Lyneham on the A361. When the villagers of Ascott were asked to define their parish boundary in

1591, they said that the boundary ran along the 'waye' from Chipping Norton to a 'crosse' known as 'Laynham Crosse'. Whether the 'crosse' meant a cross-roads or in times past a wayside or preaching cross stood there at the top of the rise from Shipton, can only be a subject of speculation. Nevertheless the bridleway runs across our field to the gap in the wall leading on to Robin Walker's land where I pursued my walk. Earlier in the summer Robin's land which had been set aside during the previous winter, was sprayed, and now all the annual weeds were emerging and flowering. Scarlet pimpernel, pink broadleaved and great willowherb, yellow groundsel, blue speedwell, lilac cornsalad, creamy field pansy and white mayweed carpeted the track as well as prickly sowthistle which Rosie my little border terrier was keen to avoid.

Births

News from the Vicarage - Sunday 22nd Oct at 5.44am Becky gave birth to a baby boy, weighing in at 10lbs 6.25ozs. Mother and child are doing very well and the rest of the family are delighted to have them home. Many thanks to all those who have sent cards and messages.

In the past, roof tile, wall plaster and tesserae have been found in this field of Robin's suggesting the existence of a Roman villa. There used to be an old barn or shelter with walled yard in the middle of the field, slightly below the bridgeway. Now that these have been removed an obvious large rectangular platform which the buildings were built below and up against, stands out in the landscape. An embanked track from the east leads out to this platform which would seem a tempting choice for a villa. Broad views towards Spelsbury in the east and round the bend of the river towards Shipton in the west with the length of the river below. A source of water is suggested by the Roman pottery which has been found in the ditch running down from our spring, to the west and slightly uphill of this site. A furlong at this point in the Common Fields of Ascott prior to the Enclosure of 1838 was



named Wall Furlong and the name is definitely mentioned as far back as 1617. Could this have been a stony tract of land with perhaps foundations or walls when the furlongs were first named. Some ridge and furrow forming the furlongs is now believed to have predated the Norman Conquest.

I continued along the bridgeway through the gate into Cornbury's grass fields, the grass looking very lush and level in the top rectangular field. In 1838 at the time of the Enclosure the bridgeway led across this field to the road and remained in the same position in

1860. However by 1881 the entrance from the road was in the lower grass field, a diagonal route across to the western lower corner of the rectangular field, then up the side of the field wall to the bridge gate. This field wall runs from near the river right up the hillside to the A361 Chipping Norton Road. Brasenose College had owned land in Ascott from the 16th century, initially in strips all over the parish, but at the Enclosure Robin's field was part of their allotment, hence College Farm. It seems likely that the College had this wall built to divide their

land from that of Lord Churchill's of Cornbury. From Robin's field a track led directly down across both the river and later the railway to the College property in Ascott which was the Grange. Presumably around the same time and perhaps by the same builders Edward Marshall Hacker, Vicar of Iffley who inherited the land where our farm is, had our four upper fields defined by stone walls in the same manner. No other fields in Ascott seem to have been enclosed in this style.

The rectangular grass field lies on a gentle

slope, easily worked and now worked down level. So it seems likely that some time after 1860, the owner Lord Churchill or the tenant farmer Anthony Townsend of Long House Farm, must have decided that they would prefer the public to cross the lower grass field where the ridge and furrow probably indicate continuous grassland, rather than allowing passers by to intrude on their growing crops in the upper field. I wonder did they have vandals or light fingered locals in those days? The 1881 map clearly shows the track crossing the lower field and dipping

down into the gully where water used to rise, washing out a fairly deep hollow, and a marker stone indicated on the map showed the route through this hollow. No stone today but a couple of stumps and two large solid planks are still there. Perhaps a more recent footbridge. In the hollow the blue flowers of brooklime testified to their earlier damp situation, as does the spring marked on the maps. Ridge and furrow run down the western side of this sloping field until a level strip across the bottom is reached, where the ridge and furrow run the opposite way, east to west.. This could be an indication of the use by parishioners of all available land, perhaps before the Black Death curtailed the rapidly rising population. On the eastern side of the sloping field the ridge and furrow all run downwards and meet at a point near the gateway onto the road. The field has been called the Picked Piece since at



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least 1764 and would seem an apt title. Although ridge and furrow is an indication of past cultivation, it's preservation in the grassland could indicate several centuries of use for haymaking and pasture.

Below this field lies an area of overgrown trees and shrubs called Brickhill. After the Enclosure and before 1860 this land was acquired by Lord Churchill who had brickyard buildings and a kiln erected there. The only apparent brick building in Ascott is the granary at Manor Farm which would seem to predate this era, but perhaps Lord Churchill had eyes on the possibility of nationwide distribution through the nearby recently constructed railway opened in 1853. However apart from it's indication on maps I have not come across any documentation on the brickyard. I wonder whether any evidence exists under the undergrowth? A classification of pottery known as Ascott Ware

is known from the 12th and 13th centuries and a possible site for it's production is believed to be the field in London Lane above Centuries House. Perhaps the same type of clay was available on the other side of the river at Brickhill. The only indication of brickmaking amongst the Ascott population occurs in the two census of 1861 and 1871 and 1861 fits in well with the time Lord Churchill acquired the land. In 1861 William Puffett is listed

as a brickmaker aged 30 living with his wife and children in Shipton Road. He remained there into his seventies but after 1871 the census lists him as a mason not a brickmaker. Is it possible that the brickworks only had a very short term existence? Another mystery to mull over, but this mention of the parish's slight industrial past brings me to the end of my revealing journey through Ascott's landscape history.

Wendy Pearse.

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The Swan - Under New Management

Allow me to introduce myself as the new Landlord at The Swan, Ascott-under-Wychwood. My name is Dale Ganter. I took residence with my daughter Sarah, in your beautiful village on Friday 8th September 2006.



I have been in the brewery industry for seven years and have managed various types of public houses in and around the Oxford area.

I have been given the opportunity to revive the Swan as a respectable, comfortable and sociable centre of the community.

I am planning to offer a select menu of Bistro style food accompanied by a new wine list. I am hoping to have the kitchens fully equipped and operational before the end of November.

The interior will be changed and re-vamped to provide a pleasant and comfortable atmos-

phere and with the support of the local community we hope to revive the Swan as a traditional country pub.

We look forward to your patronage and welcome any constructive comments you may have.

Dale & Sarah

Costa Rica Coast-to-Coast Challenge

My training for the Prince's Trust Costa Rica Coast-to-Coast Challenge in February is now well underway.

I've been working at the gym on my general fitness, stamina and upper body strength, and have been trying very hard to find time to get out on my bike as well to get some running, and some walking, in.

The Ascott 10 K Fun Run helped with the running, but as my result time showed, I still have a way to go to reach peak fitness!

Thanks to everyone who is, or has, supported the various sponsorship money raising activities; we've now raised over £15,000 towards our target of £17,000!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Race night at Tiddy Hall on Nov 18th - it will be a fun evening.

Also many thanks to those giving donations directly. Any donation small or large is gratefully received and can be given online at:

www.justgiving.com/costarica-portrait

Gareth Evans

Nature Notes

We may not have lions and tigers in England but we do have some very ferocious predators that stalk, trap and chase their prey, SPIDERS! Why is it that such a small creature generates so many phobias? I've known grown men who wouldn't pick one up! Is it their eight legs, the way they scuttle across the floor or some distant ancestral memory of truly venomous species that should be avoided?

We notice spiders more in the autumn, the dew encrusted webs of the Garden Spider or the 'long-legged beastie' or House Spider lurking in the bath demands our attention and yet there are over 600 spe-

cies of spider to be found in Britain living in a wide variety of habitats throughout the year.

What makes a spider? First, its body is divided into two parts, the head which contains the eyes and jaws and to which the legs are attached and the abdomen which holds the digestive system, breathing apparatus and silk producing organs. An insect's body consists of three parts. Second, spiders have eight legs, but insects have six. Third, spiders never have antennae or wings and always have simple rather than compound eyes. Fourth,

many insects are vegetarian but all spiders are predatory, feeding on insects or each other! Finally all spiders can produce



silk, for weaving webs, protecting their egg sacs, building retreats and even aiding the wind assisted dispersal of young spiderlings.

Mention spiders and the first thing we think of is "they are poisonous" but of the 50,000 species world wide perhaps only half-a-dozen are known to be dangerous to humans. The poison produced is used to subdue or kill their insect prey and aid the digestive process. Spiders cannot chew or eat solid food; instead they either introduce digestive juices through their hollow fangs (chelicerae) and suck out the resulting soup through the same hole or tear open their prey whilst pouring digestive juices over



Nature notes continued...

it and drinking these juices. Feeding can be slow and a large fly may take a day to consume.

Like all creatures with an external skeleton spiders can only grow by moulting, shedding their old skin and leaving a temporarily soft outer covering which can be expanded until it hardens. Young spiders may moult every few days but as they approach maturity the time between moults increases. Depending on the species there may be between five and ten moults between hatching and maturity.

Most spiders use some form of web to catch their prey. The Garden Spider catches flying insects in its orb web, but other species construct their webs on tree trunks or at ground level in order to ensnare crawling insects. The



Wolf Spider, which is a hunter, does not spin a web but pursues and catches prey at ground level; it is one of the few spiders known to have reasonable eyesight. Most spiders have very poor vision relying on sensory hairs on their legs and bodies to detect the presence of prey. The Crab Spider hides in a flower and when an insect lands to drink the nectar and wanders within reach it becomes the spiders lunch!

Spiders can be quite long lived, taking two or three years to reach maturity, but once the male has matured and mated he dies shortly afterwards leaving the female to live on and lay her eggs. The commonly held view that the female always eats the male after copulation is incorrect, although there will always be the occasional unlucky groom!

The female lays her eggs in a spherical mass that she covers in silk to form an egg sac. These sacs may contain as little as two eggs or several

hundred, depending on the species. In some species the mother remains enclosed in the sac guarding the eggs, in others the sac is attached to vegetation or hidden under a stone or placed at the rear of a web, whilst other species carry the egg sac with them wherever they go.

Very few spiders abandon their egg sacs until the eggs hatch although several species die before the spiderlings emerge. Some species take maternal care to extremes, feeding the young with liquid they regurgitate and later catching prey upon which the young can feed. In one species the mother herself dies and the young feed on her body!

Spiders are fascinating creatures, you may not love them but you have to appreciate their resourcefulness and diversity.

Parish Conservation Challenge

In early September a small group met at dusk on the village green to

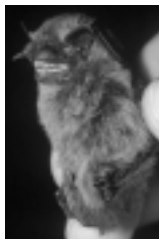
go in search of bats. We were equipped with torches, as bats are nocturnal and we intended



to cross the fields after dark. We also had a bat detector, an electronic device that allows us to hear the bats ultrasonic echolocation cries as they search for insects on the wing. Each bat species has a different call and with the aid of

the detector we can identify them.

We found two species. The commonest was the Pipistrelle, which we heard in the hedge-rows and again



when we returned to the village, but we also found the less common Daubentons or Water



Bat, which was hunting along the Evenlode on both sides of the road bridge. It is probable that several of these bats would have a summer roost under the road bridge emerging at dusk to feed close to the water. It will even dip its muzzle into the water to pick up surface insects.

In future years the Friends of Wychwood bat group hope to complete a more detailed survey of bats in the Wychwood Forest area.

Stuart Fox

Bluebells at the Barn

Crown Farm, A-U-W

Providing flowers for all occasions:

Xmas orders being taken from November 13th
for wreaths, arrangements,
hand tied bouquets or
cut flowers for a vase.

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C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) and 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'

"Everything began with images; a faun carrying an umbrella, a queen on a sledge, a magnificent lion. At first there wasn't even anything Christian about them; that element pushed itself in of its own accord. It was part of the bubbling." In these words C.S. Lewis described the moments of creative inspiration which were the genesis of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the first of the seven books he wrote which make up *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and which was turned into a successful film by Disney Studios in December 2005.

Like all great children's classics, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and the other stories making up *The Chronicles of Narnia*, have a timeless appeal. Narnia, the imaginative country they describe, is a beautiful world of mountains and lakes, rivers and streams, wooded hills and gently

rolling countryside, redolent of the rural England and Ireland in which C.S. Lewis loved to walk and climb from earliest boyhood. Because of this, it offers refreshment to the soul of noisy, urbanised 21st century man. This enchanted land also appeals to our sense of humour and touches our hearts, because it is peopled with a wonderful variety of idiosyncratic talking animals, ruled by human kings and queens brought into Narnia from our world, where they are usually children. In this imaginary country the struggle between good and evil is excitingly played out, from the creation of Narnia in *The Magician's Nephew*, to its (apparent) destruction in *The Last Battle*. Central to its theme, is the pivotal character of Aslan the Great Lion, the immensely attractive God-like figure who presides over that world and whose impact on its

characters (human and animal) is always the chief ingredient in the unfolding of each separate story.

Although *The Chronicles of Narnia* did not originate from any conscious desire on C.S. Lewis's part to preach Christianity to children, they do contain Christian themes. Aslan, for instance, is clearly a mythological portrait of Jesus Christ. As the 'Great Lion', Aslan is 'King of the Beasts', and therefore a powerful image of Christ's kingship and divinity. But as a lion he is also an animal like all the other inhabitants of Narnia, just as Jesus is described in the New Testament as sharing our humanity and sorrows. Similarly, in *The Magician's Nephew*, Aslan sings Narnia into existence from nothing, echoing the description of God's creation of our universe at the beginning of the Bible. In *The Lion, the Witch and the*

Wardrobe, on the other hand, Aslan allows himself to be sacrificed by the White Witch in place of the 'traitor' Edmund, just as Jesus dies on the Cross to pay the debt incurred to God by our wrongdoing.

The Narnian stories are not the only books written by C.S. Lewis. He also wrote poetry and science fiction, as well as works of philosophy, theology, and literary criticism. These books, together with *The Chronicles of Narnia*, have now sold 200 million copies in thirty languages. In fact, it is this combination of creative imagination and rigorous scholarship that makes C.S. Lewis such a fascinating writer. And far from being an 'ivory tower' Oxford academic, Lewis was a witty and jovial man intimately acquainted with the trials and tribulations of life. He lost his mother at the age of 10, was unhappy at school, and was wounded in the First World War, yet

despite this experience of suffering, he eventually abandoned atheism and embraced Christianity because he became convinced that disbelief in God made no sense. If evil and suffering proves the non-existence of God and the ultimate futility of life, from where, Lewis asked, do we get that sense of right and wrong which allows us to complain about evil in the first place? His book,

Mere Christianity, offers thought-provoking answers to this and other questions. It is the best place to start if you are interested in reading Lewis's non-fiction work.

Philip Vander Elst, author of *C.S. Lewis: A Short Introduction* (Continuum 2005).

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The Ascott Fun Run 2006

There was an impressive turnout at the Ascott Fun Run on Sunday October 22nd with a total of over 160 people taking part in either the 1.5km, 5km or 10km races. Cllr Hilary Biles



fired the starting pistol and was on hand to congratulate the winners.

Thanks to everyone who took part or helped to make the day such a success. Over £1000 was raised for the sports pavillion.

There will be another fun run about the same time next year (exact date to be confirmed nearer the time, tentatively: Sunday October 21, 2007) so mark it in your diary now.



1.5Km Results



Men

1st 00:06:05
David Naworynsky
2nd 00:06:42
Fred Whitehead
3rd 00:07:01
Gabriel Sayers
4th 00:07:28
Huw Morgan

Women

1st 00:07:14
Harriet Whitehead
2nd 00:07:29
Florence Woods
3rd 00:08:09
Emily Morrison
4th 00:08:18
Emma Purvis



5Km Reults

Men

1st 00:21:49
Josh Ridley
2nd 00:22:12
Robert Seymour
3rd 00:22:41
Andy Meaden
4th 00:22:42
Warren Harrison

Women

1st 00:24:14
Katherine Smith
2nd 00:24:26
Sacha Garay
3rd 00:26:58
Aidan Scott
4th 00:27:32
Amy Turner



10 Km Reults

Men

1st 00:37:08

Nathan Holmes

2nd 00:39:27

Richard Batsford

3rd 00:39:54

Paul Jegou

4th 00:39:58

Stuart Batsford

Women

1st 00:43:56

Hanna Thorner

2nd 00:44:37

Elysia Ridley

3rd 00:50:26

Kate Williamson

4th 00:50:54

Katherine Bates



“Rooperi-WOW”

Sunday 1st October and we had the last of the runner beans for lunch. There were a few more on the way, but decided to pull the plants up. It was rather windy and very wet on that Sunday and the wigwam that the beans were growing on wasn't as strong as it should have been!

So that was the last picking of the runners, but not the last meal as plenty went into the freezer weeks before. Once it started raining after the hot, dry spell in July the beans just grew and grew; we were picking handfuls almost every day.

I hadn't expected them or the rest of the vegetables to do well in my first year in the new garden, especially after the hot dry weather. I hadn't done anything to the ground apart from digging it over and removing a lot of rubbish but crops, like my carrots, were the best I've ever grown.

In a few weeks I'll have a delivery of farmyard manure and will

spread that over the ground and let the weather do its bit and let the worms pull it down into the soil, digging the whole plot over later on. Who knows what size harvest I'll have next year.

Every meal we eat this winter, that includes our own vegetables from the freezer, gives me a warm glow as I remember how hot and sunny it was when they were growing.

All the plants in my new garden survived the dry summer and in the end all produced a colourful show. The plum and apple trees fruited for their lives, which in reality was what they were doing, struggling with a water shortage and thinking (if trees think) that they might die. Their response was to produce a bumper crop of berries, fruit and seeds to keep the family line growing for another year.

If you didn't take cuttings of your favourite tender plants such as geraniums and fuchsias,

bring them indoors before they are frosted, cut them back by half and keep them fairly dry, then in the spring take your cuttings.

My “pea-soup” pond has now cleared and hopefully next year when the plants I put in this year are a lot bigger and cover more of the water surface it should stay clear. The frogs have found the pond and so too have the toads, I've seen four of each, which I'm very pleased about. I don't think that there are any other ponds near us, so where do they come from?

Kniphofia Rooperi (Red-Hot Poker) provides excellent colour for late summer and into autumn, the flowers really glow in the late sunshine, they are a real WOW! There are a wide variety of Kniphofias available, not just red but yellows, oranges and white. They are not planted often enough, so buy one or two and add a WOW to your garden.

In August the garden centres start filling up with bulbs, buy them as early as you can and store them somewhere cool. The more unusual bulbs sell quickly and stocks are usually limited. There are so many to choose from so make sure that you really look through them, or swat-up before you go shopping so that you have bulbs flowering through every month from early spring to early summer. There are even more bulbs that flower during the summer months, but that's for another time.

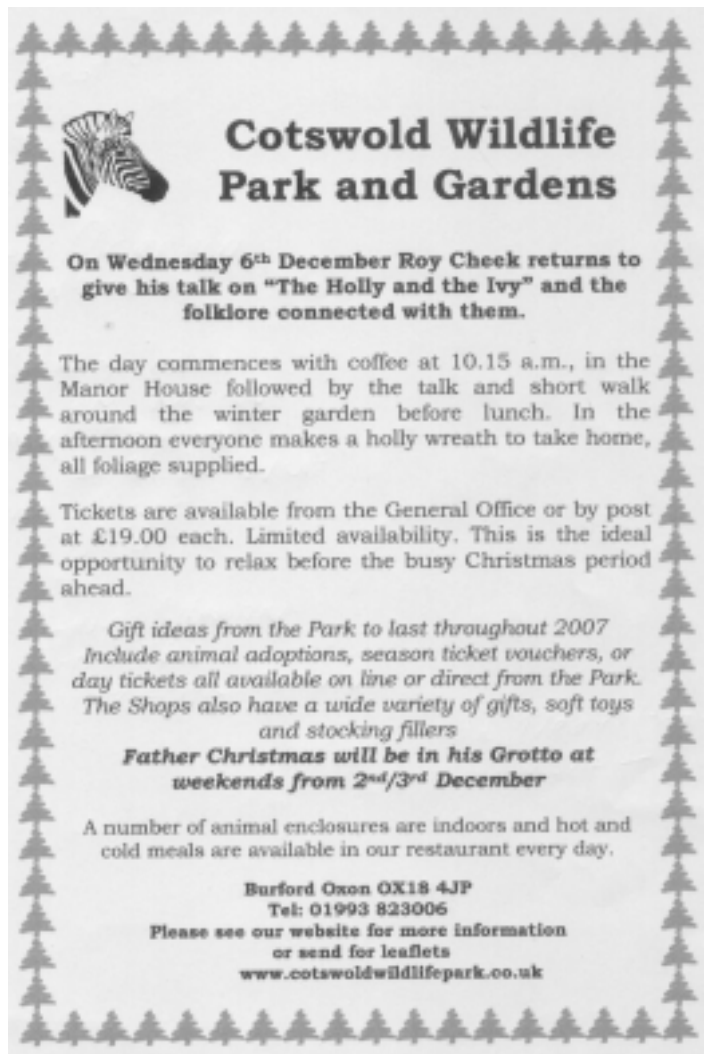
I like to plant up a few pots with bulbs, then you can put

them exactly where you want them and swap the pots over when one lot has finished flowering.

Well, I'm now going to sit by the fire with a cup of coffee, well it's a glass of mulled wine re-

ally and look through the seed and plant plug catalogues and start planning for next year's WOW!

AJP



Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens

On Wednesday 6th December Roy Cheek returns to give his talk on "The Holly and the Ivy" and the folklore connected with them.

The day commences with coffee at 10.15 a.m., in the Manor House followed by the talk and short walk around the winter garden before lunch. In the afternoon everyone makes a holly wreath to take home, all foliage supplied.

Tickets are available from the General Office or by post at £19.00 each. Limited availability. This is the ideal opportunity to relax before the busy Christmas period ahead.

Gift ideas from the Park to last throughout 2007 include animal adoptions, season ticket vouchers, or day tickets all available on line or direct from the Park. The Shops also have a wide variety of gifts, soft toys and stocking fillers

Father Christmas will be in his Grotto at weekends from 2nd/3rd December

A number of animal enclosures are indoors and hot and cold meals are available in our restaurant every day.

**Burford Oxon OX18 4JP
Tel: 01993 823006**

**Please see our website for more information or send for leaflets
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk**

Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

The Parish Council met in September after their summer break in August. September was a lengthy meeting with many many issues being discussed. One item which now appears on the Parish Council Agenda is the restoration of the Pound. An exciting project is about to be embarked upon (grant funds permitting) and with the help of Jane Bowley from the Parish Conservation Challenge we are hoping to restore the Pound in the Village with new stone walling and the placing of 12 historic stones known as the Ascott Barrow. Several Councillors went to view the Stones, after the Parish Council were sent a letter from Ox-

ford County Council Museum offering them back to the Village. It was decided that this would be a fantastic opportunity to place them in the Pound, together with an information board giving their history. Trial excavations of these stones dates back to 1965, followed in 1966 by the first full season of excavation on the site of the Long Barrow east of Coldwell Bridge. This was undertaken by D. Benson on behalf of the Ministry of Public Building and Works, this is just a small piece of the history relating to the Stones and should anyone know or have any information relating to this we would be very interested.

On a more serious note we have received more complaints of the ongoing speeding, vandalism and anti-social behaviour problems within the Village and would strongly urge anybody that sees or falls victim to any of these issues to report it to the local Police and obtain a crime reference number. Whilst we at the Parish Council cannot help or deal directly with these issues, if we can build up a catalogue or diary of reported issues and crime reference numbers, we have a much stronger case to put before the authorities, thus hopefully leading to the problem being dealt with appropriately and effectively.

Parish Council:

David Wilkinson,
Chairman 832144
Stuart Fox

Responsible Financial
Officer 832004
Elaine Byles 831427
Bridgette Crundwell
830671

Sally Franks 831432

*Angela Barnes - Parish
Clerk: 01608 641045*

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Letters to the Editor

Hands up who keeps to the speed limit in the Village? Tut-tut. Now let's have the truth...

Yes, I am talking to the mature drivers, mums on school/playground runs, and of course the young adults. A majority are breaking the speed limit, particularly in Shipton Road, Village Green, and London Lane areas.

Why is everyone in a hurry? Mature drivers must be hurrying into twilight zone, mums running late! Well whatever crisis makes you late and that also applies to workmen heading for work. I am sure arriving a few minutes late is better than arriving in a hearse or killing someone. As for the young adults, presumably you drive fast so we can all hear your loud exhausts (What's that about?). Ok, you've passed your test (I think) then you have to attach these kits to your car to let everyone know, then just to make sure you can be heard, drive at break-neck speed through the

village, with car entertainment at full blast, entertainment I don't mind, occasionally I turn mine up when Des O'Connor is on!

To the serious note, have any of you thought what it would be like to kill someone or someone's pet. Imagine if it was one of your relatives that was injured or killed by speeding or what your family would feel if it was yourselves, perhaps you may not kill a person, maybe you will maim them, disable them to a life in a wheelchair and that was all down

to your SPEEDING.

So come on residents of Ascott, let's stick to the speed limit, and tell your friends and visitors to keep within the speed limit. Don't let the village watch a funeral precession due to your speed, let's make Ascott a safer place.

Remember speed kills; I don't want to be saying I told you so!

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Village Ghosts in the Manor

Not until the early 1950's did Ascott have any street lighting. When a young boy if ever I went out on a winter's night I always carried a torch with me. The only light in the village was the dim glow coming through the curtains of the cottage windows or the welcome noise and light coming from the taproom of the Swan or the Churchill Arms pubs. It was easy then to creep about in the dark without being seen. I saw for myself, a number of times, an old lady lurking in the shadow of the telegraph poles around the area of the Green. What was she waiting and watching for? Years later I was told who it was and what she was doing. Her name was Hilda Edgington, but not enough time has past to tell you what she was doing!

What has this got to do with the stories my Grandmother told of the Ghosts that haunted the Village? When she

grew up in the late nineteenth century Ascott was just beginning to know of the rest of the world outside of the Parish thanks to the railway coming through a few years earlier, but it was still a community that believed in the old superstitions, and was much more aware of the changing seasons than we are today. It is understandable that on dark winter's nights they would entertain and frighten themselves with stories of Ghosts and the Devil. In a candle-lit old house it must have been easy to imagine dark shapes and forms in the shadows of the room.

My Grandmother would often say of all the houses to avoid on a dark night was the Manor near the river. Many had been terrified by what they had seen both in the grounds and in the house. The haunting had been so bad the spirits had been laid put in a barrel and then walled-up in one of

the rooms. When she was old and I had grown up I would tease her about this and asked, "what would happen if they found the barrel and opened it?" "You can make fun but I know it's true" was her reply.

Years later my mother worked in the kitchen for the Whitakers, who owned the manor in the 1970's and she told them about the story of the barrel. They had not heard of the tale, but did say that there was one part of the house it was considered very unlucky to touch with any alterations or building work.

Do I believe in ghosts? Logic and daylight tell me that most can be explained, but alone on a dark night I am less sure and maybe there is a ghost that follows us wherever we go, it is the ghost of our other self which waits for us.

Fred Russell

Memories of Coldstone Part 5

My very favourite interests on the farm were the old Fordson Tractors, first the iron wheeled one and then the one with the rubber tyres. They were the tractors which took over from the horses, a great number came onto the farms in the 1930s and 150,000 more were made at Dagenham during the war years. Practically every farm had at least one and they undoubtedly increased food production in the wartime. They carried no battery and had to be started by cranking the handle at the front keeping your thumb on the same side as your fingers so that it would not be dislocated if the engine kicked back. They ran for about five minutes on petrol to get warm then you switched over to tractor vaporizing oil - TVO. At about twenty five horse power they surprisingly gave better pulling traction than some heavier and stronger models produced in the 1950s.

There was only one foot pedal which operated the clutch and the brake simultaneously and before I was seven years old I was heavy enough to press it down, so that meant I could drive the tractor. In fact all my life we have had only Fordson tractors on the farm even though today they come under the name of New Holland which is owned by Fiat. My first driving job was loading hay, straddling the row round the field, towing the wagon with the hayloading machine at the back, the hayloader pitched up the hay and dad built the load. (History of Haymaking - Grapevine Issue 46 - April 2005.)

I was also able to help on the rick when dad unloaded the wagon. I had a fork and passed the hay across for grandfather to build onto the rick.

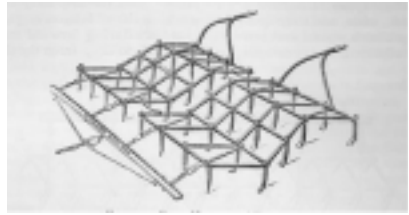
I also liked driving for dragging. Drags were like big harrows each with five rows of four tines and the tines were broadened at the end and curved forwards to make them draw into the soil. A pair of drags were used side by side and drawn over the ploughed land to break it down into a seed bed. If there were many weeds in the soil they would gradually collect around all the tines and make the work less effective so you had to tip the drags up and



clean off the tines. Drags were heavy and I soon found that the job was more easily done if they were facing downhill so that I could tip them up from the back whilst standing on higher ground. There was no cab on the tractor so if the ground was very dry a following wind could envelope you in a cloud of dust which was not so pleasant. I salute the farm workers of long ago who spent so many days walking behind horse drawn imple-

ments over rough and loose soil sometimes also in dusty conditions.

Before sprays like Roundup were available squitch and couch grass were a problem on shallow soil so like other farms we usually had a field for bare fallow. This was worked over at intervals with the plough, cultivator and drags for a period of twelve months by which time the land was clean



and ready for autumn sown wheat. Strangely barley would not grow well after a full fallow. Hundreds of peewits flocked in to feed on the bare ground.

Another method was to try and clean it before sowing spring corn. The land was dragged several times then worked with light harrows to knock the soil off the roots of the squitch. All the surface material was then forked by hand into rows of small heaps about six yards apart and set alight. The heaps then smoked and smouldered until you were left with little mounds of burnt soil, but my own opinion of this practise was that there were usually enough roots left to re-infest the soil within a few months.

Over the years the curved ends of the drag

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tines wore down and so they did not work so well. The drags were then taken to Jimmy Andrews the blacksmith. He removed all the tines and forge welded new tips on to them and they were then as good as new. I also went there a time or two when grandfather took a horse to be shod. Very often when we went home from school we could hear Mr Andrews hammering something on the anvil. His other contribution to village life was as cricket umpire when the pitch was in the field next to Manor Farm buildings beyond the railway line.

This was also the time of wooden wheels with iron tyres and

when a cart needed a new wheel or a trailer needed a new bed we went to Jack Young the wheelwright. He had his workshops along High Street behind Priory House. He employed Les Barnes as carpenter, Mike Shayler a stone mason and other workers. He and his men did nearly all the repairs in Ascott when I lived at Coldstone. I remember he came to do some plumbing work and he replaced a glass pane in the front door after I had kicked a ball through it. Another role he filled was funeral undertaker. Funerals seemed to be very solemn occasions in those days. I remember the tolling of the church

bell, a hearse full of flowers going past the school playground and people going to church all dressed in black with the men all wearing bowler hats.

Harvest at that time was a much longer and more interesting process than it is now. The corn was cut and tied into sheaves with a corn binder, there were usually about 700 sheaves to the acre, They were then picked up by hand and stood with six sheaves together in stooks to dry out before being carried on the wagons to the rickyard. Four rows of sheaves were put into one row of stooks. (History of Harvest - Grapevine Issue 43 - July 2004.)

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There were always a patch or two of thistles in the barley crop and some of their spikes stuck into your hands when you were stooking up the sheaves, but I found that if you left them for a couple of days they dug out fairly easily with a needle. Binders were strange machines, sometimes they worked all day with no trouble but on other days they had moods when things went wrong. The string would break or the knotter would throw out loose sheaves from time to time or occasionally it would throw off the driving chain. This chain circulated around five cog wheels to drive all the moving parts and it went quite



fast. On the older binders it was made up of open ended square links which just clicked together so that when it jumped off the links flew in all directions and we had to search for them in the stubble. Off course we had to find them all before the work could be restarted. I drove for binding once or twice in 1948 while dad was sharpening a binder knife and we got on quite well, so when we stopped I said “We’re getting on ever so

well aren’t we grandpa”, but he said “Ooh don’t talk like that Jim or we shall soon have trouble!”

In early summer in 1949 they were discussing whether we could cut the corn ourselves or employ a contractor and grandfather said we could do it if I could do the driving. Could I? Yes please!

Many farms had more workers on their farms than we did which meant that the sons were usually less involved in the work, so I was lucky. To me all farm work was a pleasure to be enjoyed to the full and it still is!

One thing I learnt really well at Ascott School was the multiplication tables. But this together with instructions on making rushes into table mats and bas-



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kets was about the extent of my education there. I was past the infant stage when Mrs Green came to teach so I learnt to read at home and my first acquaintance with decimals and fractions was on the question paper of the eleven plus examination. However I have always felt that I was living in the best place at the best time and this feeling was boosted when Mrs Clements the teacher informed me

that had I been born 7 days later I would have had the advantage of attending Ascott School for a further twelve months. "Your mother should have thought of that when she had you", she added. She spent quite a lot of time writing in the school log book. I expect there were some lurid comments written next to my name!

The golden day eventually arrived. 27th July 1949. My last day at

Ascott School and the oats were fit to cut. When Gertrude, my sister and I got home after afternoon school I could see the wheel marks of the binder going along Gypsy Lane towards the fields, so with a spirited dash we got to the field just in time for the start. So I was not yet eleven but I had left Ascott School with a seven weeks holiday to come and all the harvest to do. Yippee!

Jim Pearse

Wychwood Project

Would you like to improve your understanding about our Ancient Woodlands?

People with an interest in wildlife, history and the archaeology of ancient woodlands have an opportunity to take part in a new initiative being run in conjunction with the Wychwood Project. Ancient woodlands (those woods that were in existence before 1600) are often particularly valuable for wildlife and tend to have a range of historic features associated with them such as

woodbanks and ancient trees that are not found elsewhere. A new national programme aims to produce a *Woodland Heritage Manual* to assist woodland owners and local communities gain a better understanding of ancient woodlands in their area. Because of the close fit between this idea and the aims of the Wychwood Project we are able to offer local people the chance to participate in developing and testing the manual. Workshops on woodland archaeology and ecology are being

organised to introduce the basic concepts. After the workshops participants will have an opportunity, either on their own or with others, to test-run various topic worksheets and give feedback on how effective these are to the programme organisers. You don't need any prior experience in surveying woodlands, but if you would like to know more please contact the Wychwood Project office on 01993 814143 or email Wychwood@xfordshire.gov.uk

Nick Mottram

Book Review

Sybil Bedford died in January this year, at the age of 94. She worked right up to the end, publishing her last book – *Quicksands*, a memoir – only months before. Her life spanned not only the whole of the 20th century, but the whole of Europe as well: she was born in Germany, brought up in France and Italy, and made England and the English language her home. She is a remarkable figure, who I hope will avoid the usual decade or two of oblivion before being rediscovered by a new generation of readers.

The best place to begin keeping Sybil Bedford read is her first and best novel, *A Legacy*, published in 1956. This is a thrilling book, unlike anything you'll have read for a long time: a plunge into a

doomed upper-class past, in the late 19th century in Germany.

A Legacy is the story of two sides of Bedford's family: of her own legacy, therefore, and also of Europe's. On one side are the Feldens, impoverished Catholic nobility, still living 18th century lives – opposed to the Reformation and the new Germany, still speaking French, like their counterparts in Russia. On the other are the Merzes, the *haute bourgeoisie* Jewish family into which Jules Felden made his first marriage. At that time the Catholic side could not conceive of

marrying a Jew, and vice versa (a pair of wryly comic scenes); but by the time our narrator is born Jules has been supported by the Merzes for years (not unlike Germany in general and its Jewish citizens.) In fact, however, the Merzes are as much in decline as the Feldens – their eldest son a gambler, their interests reduced to family and comfort; dependent in their turn on their non-Jewish butler, Gottlieb. Both ways of life are dying, unable to change, as the world around them hurtles towards the 20th century.

But in the meantime they breed wonderful



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characters, in Bedford's glittering description, both ornate and spare. Jewish Sarah, the rich wife of Edu the gambler, who understands houses better than people, and Catholic Clara, principled and priggish, who understands heaven better than earth; Jules the melancholy aesthete and his three brothers, destroyed by a family tragedy; his new English wife Caroline, dominated by her

beauty; the comic duo of Emil and Markwald, the Merzes' poor relations – all are more eccentrically *themselves* than anyone would dare to be today. That is their glory, but also their downfall: especially Jules', who loses his brothers, and then his wife, because he cannot face human engagement. And that is perhaps the most interesting thing of all about this book. It portrays a

lost world of reticence and unsentimentality in reticent and unsentimental prose. Yet the story it tells is of the damage done by reticence and unsentimentality. In other words, the values it embodies are the same ones it rues. That yields a subtle pleasure indeed.

Carole Angier

Wychwoods Local History Society

The meeting of the Society on Thursday 16th November 2006 at Milton Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. will be a joint one with the Friends of Wychwood. The speaker will be Anne Cole and the subject Wychwood Place Names. There will not be a meeting in December. The New Year meeting will be on Thursday January 18th 2007 at

Milton Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. when Jonathan Smith will give a talk on Witney Blanks.

Old and new members are welcome. Subscriptions are £6 for an individual and £9 for a couple which includes a copy of Wychwoods History when published. Visitors are welcome at any meeting at £2 per head. More in-

formation about the Society can be obtained from Wendy Pearse on 831023.

Wendy Pearse

Hope for Declining Bird Species in the Cotswolds

In September the Wychwood Project Parish Conservation Challenge project officer Jane Bowley joined with the RSPB Lapwing Landscapes project officer Drew McVey to talk about the work to support declining bird species in the Cotswolds. Two evening talks, one at Burford and one at Ascott Tiddy Hall, attracted over one hundred interested people. They heard that evidence from Drew's 2005 survey of breeding waders in the Upper Thames Tributaries shows that there has been a dramatic decline in some species, with the snipe and redshank being at particular risk. But, there is encouraging news that numbers of curlew and lapwing are stable and even increasing in one or two sites in the area.

Drew talked about the techniques that farmers and landowners can use in their land management to create

more suitable habitats for these birds and how the RSPB will support them in adopting these measures. Together with interest generated through the Parish Conservation Challenge there is great potential to develop new sites and a comprehensive monitoring programme in the Windrush and Evenlode Valleys. After the talks several local farmers contacted Drew for advice on how to manage their land to create better habitats for wading birds. The audi-

ence also heard how the Friends of Wychwood are helping other bird species through their winter feeding programme for farmland birds known as Bird Aid and the barn owl project that installs and monitors nest boxes for barn owls.

For more information about any of these programmes please contact Jane Bowley, Wychwood Project Parish Conservation Challenge project officer on 01993 814131 or email janebowley@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Nick Mottram

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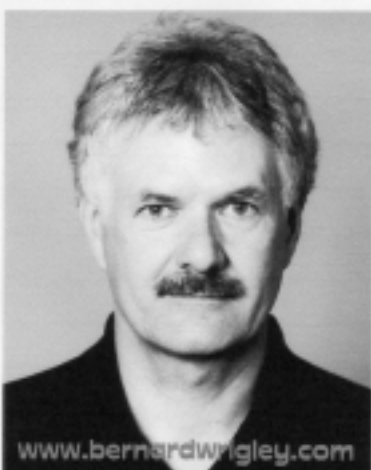
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Having a Laugh at the Churchill Arms

When I went to my local pub the other day, I sat down at the bar and this lady said "Hello, do you remember the days when we all went down to the Churchill Arms in Ascott-under-Wychwood?" I said "yes it was the first pub I went in to in the late seventies."

I still remember all the young people in the pool room and this record playing on the juke box called 'God Save the Queen' by the Sex Pistols. One lad used to say, "do you know why the lead singer has so many kids?" We used to say, "don't know" and then he'd say "because it's Johnny Rotten".

I remember the bus driver who used to come in, when his bus broke down in a country lane he had his head under the bonnet trying to work out what was wrong. Just then a rather roly-poly woman pulled up and called over "do you need a screwdriver?" The bus driver turned

around to her and said, "sorry love, but I'm 30 minutes late already."

The lady at the bar said, "do you remember the program called 'Name that Tune'?" Once this bloke in the corner shouted "wey up", the pub went silent, he'd then blown off and shouted "name that tune!" No one answered and he said "Times up, it's called 'Gone with the Wind'."

I remember this woman once told me, how her young son came home from Ascott primary school and rushed in and said "I need a set of pistols and a gun belt to take to school". His mother said "surely you don't need them for school" but her son said, "yes I do, my teacher said tomorrow she's going to teach us to draw."

The lady said, "do you remember the Navy boy who came back for the weekend and said how when he was sailing through the middle of the night his Navy

Captain saw a light dead ahead on a collision course with his ship? The Captain immediately ordered a signal sent out to 'change your course 20 degrees east' and the light signalled back, 'change your course 20 degrees west'. The Captain was furious and in such a temper sent another signal 'I am a battleship, I am not changing course' and the reply came back, 'very well, but I'm a lighthouse'.

I said, "do you remember a person who used to work in a Southern Electric shop in Witney who brought a red indian toaster home and everybody said 'what's a red indian toaster?' and he said 'instead of toast popping up it sends up smoke signals'."

Remember Mr Lifter who ran a lift business, when I asked how his business was going, he said "up and down everyday".

The lady said, do you remember the girl who

used to work in the old corner shop in Ascott? She once asked why did the tomato blush? She said it was because it saw the salad dressing.

I always remember this one time, when the vicar who came back from a fancy dress party said to this six-year-old boy, 'how many times a day do you say your

prayers' and the boy said only once at night time. The vicar asked, 'why don't you say any prayers at all during the day?' The six-year-old boy said, 'because I'm only frightened at night'.

And do you remember when they changed the pub sign to Sir Winston Churchill

with his famous victory sign? People used to complain because when you saw it from far away, people used to think he was sticking two fingers up at you.

What a laugh we used to have. That's the one thing we will never forget about the pub called the Churchill Arms.

Timothy Ryan

Cook's Corner: Ascott's Favourite Recipes

Whisky Trifle

For the busy cook especially at Christmas time. Takes 5 minutes. Find ingredients in the village shop.

Ingredients

2 packets of trifle sponges (each with 8 sponges)
strawberry jam
4 macaroons, broken up
450g can of pear halves, drained and juice reserved
6 tablespoons Scotch whisky
1 pint ready made custard.

½ pint whipping cream, whipped
50g flaked almonds, toasted.

To make:

Split the sponges, spread with jam and sandwich together. Cut each sandwich into small squares and use to line large glass bowl.

Scatter over the crumbled macaroons,

then arrange the pears on top.

Mix the whisky with the reserved pear juice, pour over the sponges and pears and press down firmly to give an even surface.

Add custard evenly, then whipped cream and decorate with toasted almonds.

Serves 10

Jill Stedeford

*Have you a favourite or seasonal recipe you would like to share?
Then please jot it down and hand a copy to
Stuart Fox, Wendy Pearse, Karen Purvis or Kingsley or email it to:
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Darren Moss Memorial Football Match

On Saturday 2nd September the second Memorial Match, in memory of my son Darren, was held at the Ascott Playing Field. In contrast to the first match the morning was very cloudy with rain. Undeterred the organisers continued with marking out the pitch and putting up the nets.

The teams kicked-off at 1.30 pm in a strongly contested match, which was very entertaining to watch. Eventually at the final whistle Ascott were the worthy winners, beating Milton by five goals to two.

Considering the weather the match was very well attended. Afterwards tea, coffee and cakes were served in the Pavilion, followed by a raffle. The raffle prizes were donated by various companies and individuals.

My thanks to all who gave the prizes. With the raffle complete the day ended with an excellent barbecue at the Swan, the proceeds of which were also given to the Memorial Fund.

I have not singled out any of the people involved with organising the event because there

are far too many to name, but to everyone involved many thanks for all the hard work that went into running the event.

The proceeds from last year's event were donated to Ascott Sports Club. This year's proceeds, which were £966, have been donated to Milton.

Finally, on behalf of my family I would like to thank both teams and all those who attended and contributed to the occasion

Peter Moss

Wychwood Forest Football Club is Welcomed

Where has the club come from?

Formally known as Burford United the football club moved to Ascott under Wychwood at the beginning of last season. By the end of the season we knew that we had found both a permanent and welcoming home in Ascot. During the Spring of 2006 the team

felt that the time was right to change the club's name to one that would more amply reflect our association with the village and thus Wychwood Forest Football Club was created.

Who can play?

The club is affiliated to the Witney and District Football Association and we field two

teams that play in divisions two and three of the league. Our players comprise of the young and the not so young and are drawn from the local villages as well as Witney and Carterton. Our aim is to ensure that all local lads who want to play and enjoy football are given every opportunity to join and play for the club. (Please

don't complain about PC aspects of this last sentence as girls, women and lads under 16 cannot play in the men's football league). We may not have won the league last season but we have the honour as being known as possibly the friendliest and most hospitable clubs in the area.

Our membership

Many of you will know Dean and Vicky Godfrey as they live in Ascott. Dean is one of our senior players and Vicky is the club Secretary. Leanne Miller has joined us this season as Treasurer with Jem Johnson and Malcolm Jones as team managers. Anyone that understands the workings of clubs will know that these members put in hundreds of hours on behalf of the club and the players. New members whether playing, supporting or organising are always welcome – thankfully neither age nor gender is a barrier.

Supporting the Village

We hope that we are beginning to repay the tremendous welcome given to us by the Ascott u Wychwood Sports Club Committee. Our first meeting with the officers ended in a convivial aperitif at the Swan where Roger Shepherd, John Cull, Mary Barnes and Mike Pearce carefully checked on our sobriety – luckily we passed!

Recently the club supported the Darren Moss charity event by organising and running the evening BBQ. Without doubt Darren would have been so proud to know that so many people cared for him and his family. The proceeds of this charity goes to local sport and this year the Sports Committee have received much needed funds for repair of the pavilion. The Swan pub has also extended a very warm welcome to the team and supplies food to the teams every Saturday.

Supporting the Club

Simon Gibbs of Gibbs Sawmill in Asthall has been a previous benefactor of the club. Last season Eldridge Pope the brewery at the Swan sponsored a kit for us. This season Adrian Dix and his now wife Pauline (married on 23rd September 06) have sponsored a kit in their name as SMC-Ltd of Fulbrook

With the permission of the editor we will now keep you fully informed of the season's progress – so you can expect some fun stories such as trying to get off a fine by claiming that the manager was suffering from Alzheimer's, depression, stress and a whole stream of ailments. It took us three days to write it and £1.50 to send it and we were still fined £3.00 – our thoughts being that there really is no justice in life!!!

***Wishing you well –
the Chairman***



Back Row
Kevin Webb
Rob Denmark

Middle row
Matthew Johnson
Mike Hornsby
Simon Gibbs
Dean Godfrey
Francis Burlingham
Peter Travers
Jem Johnson

Front Row
Adam Harris
Neil Taylor
Mike Ody
Dan Tasker
Mark Cozier



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For more information, a look round or to book places please either contact Joanne Williams on 01993 878062 or 878667 / Jackie Harper on 01993 878218 or Lisa Marston on 01993 878122

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Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) News

The Neighbourhood Management (Police) programme is part of a national government lead scheme which was implemented in Chipping Norton, Charlbury, the Wychwoods and the Bartons in October last year. This means the area now has an effective Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) and every parish is covered by a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team.

What is NAG for?

The Neighbourhood Action Group (or NAG), is primarily there as a problem solving group. It uses as its focus the issues highlighted by local people and is therefore not driven by the priorities of any one political or administrative body. It aims to suggest long and short term solutions through 'work in partnership' with local residents and organisations like the police, schools, youth groups and local councils.

Two of the NAG representative are Roger Shepherd and myself - we are both considering standing again next year. This is because it has taken some time to build meaningful relationships with the police and more importantly because some of the projects are still 'work in progress'.

Where can you find out more? There are 3 websites where you can find more information about local Neighbourhood Management:

www.whosmybobby.co.uk

A postcode search engine designed to help you find who your neighbourhood police officer is.

www.westoxon.gov.uk
and

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Both have information about Neighbourhood Management (Policing) in West Oxfordshire with a dedicated page containing information on what is happening in Chipping Norton, Charlbury and surrounding area.

John Cull

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Gareth Evans
07977 176 796**

Leaffield School News

School started the new academic year welcoming a number of new children and three new members of staff including Miss. Malony who now teaches Class 1. As a 'Healthy Oxfordshire School' new initiatives include a healthy tuck shop which has proved very popular and a breakfast club which is run when there are enough volunteer helpers. We now have visits by the children's mobile library and after

school clubs include circuit training, creative writing, cookery club, gym club and football club.

A good Harvest service in church was well supported with donations of food and produce going to 'The Porch' project in Oxford. There was also a collection with proceeds going to the 'Pearl of Africa Foundation' and 'Street Child Africa' in support of two of our parents who were

trekking to the top of Mount Etna to raise funds.

Music lessons have again started with violin and recorder being learnt by a number of children. Class 4 had a very successful trip to Banbury Museum to view the Victorian Exhibition as part of their studies and a number of the older children are already looking forward to their residential trip to Yenworthy early next year.

continued overleaf...

The Post Office Stores Milton-under-Wychwood

We have moved to our new address

**The Post Office
Shipton Road**

Milton-under-Wychwood OX7 6JL

Tel: 01993 832243

Opening hours:

Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5:30pm (Closed 1-2 for lunch)

Saturday 7am - 1:00pm

Post Office Services Available at 'The Swan', Ascott

Monday 10:30am - 12:30pm (Bank Holidays Excepted)

We have a good selection of Greeting Cards, Stationery, Agents for Sherlocks Dry Cleaners, Abbeycolor Photoprocessing, Passport Photos

We will be pleased to see you.

As mentioned in the last newsletter our results were again excellent and just to confirm this in more detail at Key Stage 1:- Reading, Writing, Maths and Science 100% achieved the expected level with 50%, 25% 62.5% and 38% respectively achieving level 3. At Key Stage 2:- Reading 85% achieved level 4 with 62% at level 5. Writing 85% achieved level 4 with 38% at level 5. English 85% achieved

level 4 with 38% at level 5. Maths 100% achieved level 4 with 85% at level 5 and 100% achieved level 4 at Science.

Our KS1 and KS2 results are above the national and Oxfordshire levels in all subjects and levels. In Foundation our results are above national and Oxfordshire levels in all areas of learning, so we must congratulate the children on their hard work and all the staff on their

excellent teaching, encouragement and nurturing of our children.

For further information contact the school secretary Mrs Deb Brown on 01993 878273.

***Vicky Greves,
Governor.***

Flix in the Stix Autumn Programme

The Autumn Programme is detailed below. There will be a film especially for children each month at Milton Village Hall. These will be shown at 2 p.m.

The three films for adults are "Memoirs of a Geisha", "Walk the Line" and "The White Countess".

We hope also to feature some local "short" films. We look forward to seeing you.

THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER Shipton Village Hall 8.00.P.M. "The White Countess" (PG) An American diplomat in 1930's Shanghai becomes enchanted with a former Russian Countess. Starring Ralph Fiennes Natasha Richardson and Vanessa Redgrave.

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER Milton Village Hall 2.00.P.M. "Curious George" (U) The Man in the Yellow Hat returns home from a trip to Africa with a monkey whose enthusiasm and inquisitiveness create havoc.

Admission

Adults £3

Children £2

Flix in the Stix Team

Wychwood Library

Opening Times

Monday:

2pm to 7.00pm

Tuesday:

Closed

Wednesday:

9:30am to 1pm/

2pm to 5pm

Thursday

Closed

Friday:

2pm to 7pm

Saturday:

9.30am to 1pm

*Beryl Brown,
Library Manager
01993 830281*

Tiddy Hall

Regular Activities

Monday to Thursday

Mornings Pre-School-

Contact Pauline Plant

07968006451

Friday Mornings

Mother and Toddler

Group. Contact

Pauline Plant

07968006451.

Wednesday Afternoons

Piano Lessons in the

Committee Room.

4pm - 7:30pm Contact

Pauline Carter 01993

774568

Wednesday Evenings

Badminton. Contact

Chris Morgan 01993

831958.

Saturday Mornings

Dog Training. Contact

Sharon Wilson 01993

831801.

Special Events

Sat 11th Nov - doors

open 7:15pm

Bernard Wrigley to-

gether with The Last

Straw

01993 830114

Sat 18th Nov - doors

open 6:00pm

Race night in aid of the

Prince's Trust

07977 176796

**To book the Tiddy
Hall contact:**

**Ingrid Ridley:
01993 830612**

FARMERS MARKETS 2006

Witney - 3rd Thursday
of the Month

Woodstock - 1st Satur-
day of the Month

Chipping Norton - 3rd
Saturday of the Month

Charlbury - Quarterly
on Saturdays (Dates to
be Confirmed)

Further details from Thames Valley Farmers'

Market Association on:

0870 2414762

or

visit the web site at:

www.tvfm.co.uk



Providence House, 49 High Street,
Burford,
Oxfordshire OX18 4QA
01993 824800

Dashwood House, Shipton Road,
Milton Under Wychwood,
Oxfordshire OX7 6JH
Tel: 01993 832288

Email: sales@wychwoods.com

Website: www.wychwoods.com

Wychwoods Estate Agents Ltd t/a Wychwoods

**We are an independent estate agency providing a wealth of
experience with a
fresh, pro-active, professional yet friendly approach.**

**Burford High Street is an ideal location from which we have
successfully marketed properties from not just Burford but as far
afield as Kings Sutton, Chipping Norton, Shipton Oliffe, Eynsham
and Lechlade areas.**

Our new office in Milton Under Wychwood is now open.

**Perhaps you are considering buying abroad? Let us help you
search for a permanent home, investment buy or a holiday home in
Spain, Portugal, Cyprus or Florida. A variety of apartments,
houses and villas at affordable prices. Contact us now for further
details.**

**So if you are considering a move or just want to look into any
options that may be available to you, contact us for a FREE
MARKET APPRAISAL or an informal chat and some advice.**