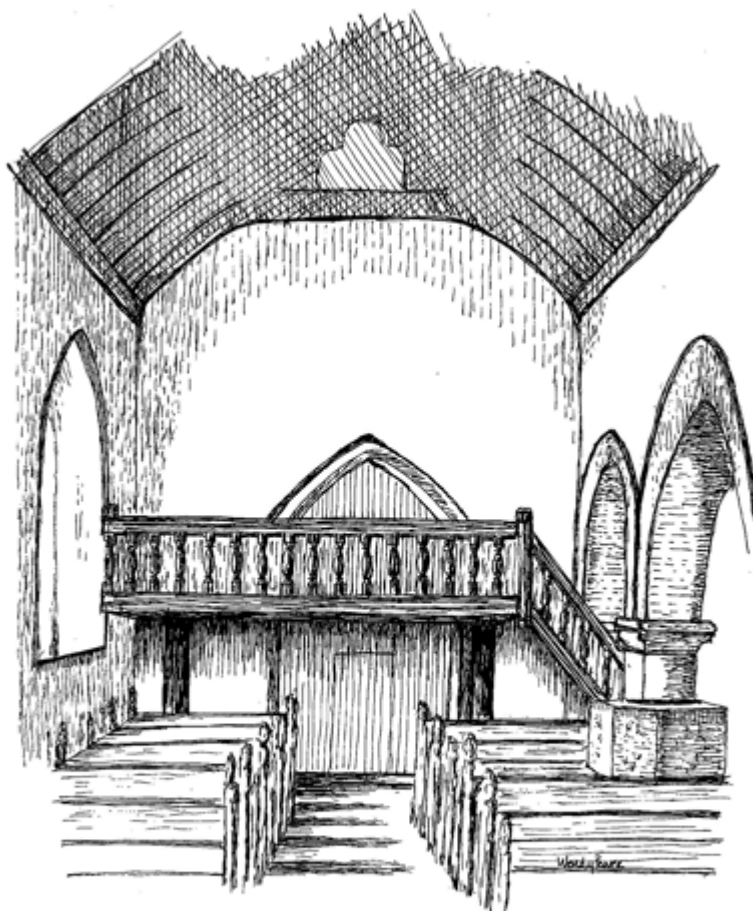


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# The Ascott Grapevine

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## 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 team to discuss your ideas.

**Articles for the Autumn issue of The Grapevine should be submitted by 5th October 2010.**

Call 01993 831023 or email:  
wendypearse@[btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com)

***Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,  
Wendy Pearse, Maggie Lyon.***

## 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.

Opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

## Advertising Rates

**£16.00 for a full page  
£11.00 for a half page  
£6.00 for a quarter page**

**BOOK and PAY in advance for FOUR issues and you only have to PAY for THREE**

# Across the Benefice and District

## *Future Pattern of worship in the Benefice*



After 14 months of experimentation, the PCCs of the Benefice met on Monday 21 June and decided to adopt the following pattern of worship from September this year:

1st Sunday: 08.00am Enstone; 10.00am Ascott-under-Wychwood  
2nd Sunday: 08.00am Spelsbury; 10.00am Chadlington; 10.00am Heythrop  
3rd Sunday: 08.00am Ascott-under-Wychwood; 10.00am Enstone  
4th Sunday: 08.00am Chadlington; 10.00am Spelsbury  
5th Sunday: 10.00am service in one of the Churches

Please note: services in Ascott and Spelsbury have changed. With the exception of Heythrop each of the churches will have a 08.00am BCP and 10.00am CW Order 1 service per month. One of the 10.00am services each month will be the new 'Shared Communion' service, which will move around the parishes. There will be a monthly Evening Service which will also move around the parishes - typically a BCP Evensong or a 'Quiet Communion' service. On the 5th Sunday there will be a service at 10.00am, again moving around the parishes - typically 'Liquid Worship', BCP Matins or CW Morning Prayer. In addition to these there will be a service in each Church at Christmas (Carol Services, Midnight and or Christmas Day); Mothering Sunday, Easter Day, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, except where there are long-standing arrangements between parishes to share services and as far as possible a 10.00am service on Patronal Services. Thank you for all those who have taken part in this period of experimentation.

***Shared Communion*** — Our first shared communion was a great success. 73 adults and over 16 children joined us, as together we learnt about the first part of the communion service—the gathering.

**Mark Abrey**  
**The Rector**

## Births

On 12th May 2010 to Jon and Helen Ensor, a daughter, Libby May Stratton Ensor.

On 6th July 2010 to Steve and Sarah Russell, a son, Edward John Russell - a brother for Thomas.

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## Marriages

On the 29th May 2010, Ron Hall to Shona Braithwaite at Holy Trinity Church, Ascott-under-Wychwood.

**May 29<sup>th</sup> 2010**

### **The wedding of Shona Braithwaite and Ronald Hall**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2009 we asked Nigel and Anne if we could have a traditional family wedding at the Mill. Thankfully they happily agreed and over a year of hard work, thought and planning began, especially for Anne and Nigel!!!

However, on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010 we were privileged to have, not just a traditional family wedding but a traditional village wedding. So many of you offered and happily gave your help and assistance. All of which, combined with the amazing best wishes you gave us, went into

making our day the wonderful and magical experience we will never forget.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you, to all of you who made our day so special and to thank you for sharing our special day with us, including the many of you who braved the pouring rain in order to watch the unusual transport! Finally and of course a huge thanks to the two people without whom none of it would have hap-

pened – Anne and Nigel Braithwaite.

**Ron and Shona**



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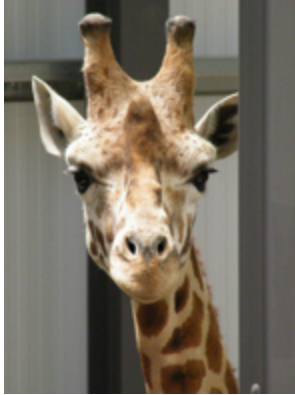
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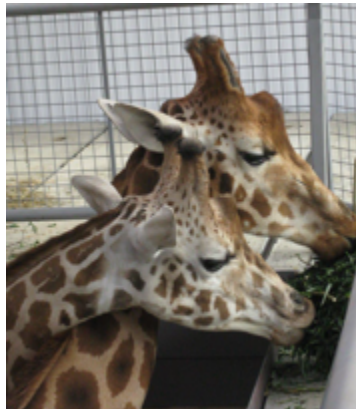
Like most Finance Managers I'm used to being asked to "look out for a special delivery as the carrier will need prompt payment," but when the delivery consists of three Giraffes it becomes slightly unusual!

At the beginning of June a carrier from Holland, who had a specially designed vehicle, was contracted to collect three male Giraffes and bring them to our newly constructed enclosure at the Cotswold Wildlife Park. Two animals were coming from Colchester Zoo and One from Blair Drummond in the Scottish Highlands. Century, who is four years old, was born at Longleat,



**Century**

moved to Colchester Zoo and now resides with us. Koife, who is nine and by far the tallest of the three at eighteen feet, was born at Colchester Zoo and Wallace, who is five years old, was born in Scotland. In common with most zoological collections we avoid importing animals



**Wallace and Century**

from the wild, especially creatures like Giraffes, which breed freely in captiv-

ity and are not particularly endangered in their native environment.

As you can imagine transporting a Giraffe is no easy business, first you have the problem of height and second their extreme reluctance to enter the confined space of a trailer. Like most animals of the open plains they hate being in an enclosed space and do everything possible to avoid entering the vehicle. Our Giraffe house has been designed to allow them a clear outside view and access at all times, even if this means having a twenty foot high

door open throughout the year. In order to keep control of winter heating costs we have installed a sophisticated

ground source heating system, which we hope, will keep winter fuel costs under control and keep the Giraffes comfortably warm. The problem of how to deal with the Giraffes' height, apart from avoiding low bridges and overhanging trees, is to use a specially constructed vehicle with a concertina roof that can be lowered, as required, to avoid obstacles.

Don't forget about the Ascott website:

All three animals are settling into their new home and establishing a 'pecking-order.' At the moment they are confined to a yard area that has been covered with an abrasive surface to keep their hooves trimmed, but later this year their enclosure will be extended to allow them to roam freely over an area of grassland, as we do with our Rhinos. We will also be erecting a Giraffe eye-level walkway round their house to allow visitors a closer view of these fascinating animals.



**Koife**

**Stuart Fox**

## **WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The season ended on a high note with a very comprehensive talk by Martin Way on the History of Radcot Bridge. Following on from the Time Team excavation at the site two years ago and the totally unexpected discovery of the foundations of a Norman Keep, Martin has increased his already knowledgeable research on the area. The artefacts which he brought along certainly added to the awareness of the type of life the locals lived.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new season in September.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September at Milton Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. Gordon Ottewell will talk on The Evolution of the Village School.

Then in October on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Shipton Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. following the AGM, Barbara Allison will talk about Women's Clothing in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

Old and new members are welcome. Subscriptions are £7 for an individual and £10 for a couple which includes a copy of Wychwoods History when published. Visitors are welcome at any meeting at £2 per head. ***More information can be obtained from Wendy Pearse on 831023 or the WLHS Website [www.wychwoodshistory.org](http://www.wychwoodshistory.org).***

**Wendy Pearse**



## A GLIMPSE OF ASCOTT PAST

You will probably not recognise the church illustrated on the front cover of the Grapevine but it is an impression of how the west end of Ascott Church may have looked in the early nineteenth century. We know that prior to the restoration of Holy Trinity by George Edmund Street in the 1850s, there was a gallery at the back of the church, because the plans included the words, ‘A western gallery will be taken down.

In the Chipping Norton Deanery Magazine for June 1882 under ‘Parochial Notes’, Reverend Yorke wrote an article entitled ‘Ascott 60 Years Ago, – One of our octogenarians makes the following statement..... My father used to take me to church on Sundays, when a boy, there was only one service and that was irregular, and few went: There was no clergyman living in the place, he came from Leaf-field or Shipton: the music in the Church was a bassoon and a flute, and a few girls sang hymns but no chants.’ Two references to a long forgotten episode in Ascott’s history! The bassoon and flute players played and the few girls sang, in the West Gallery, in a practically forgotten traditional form of church music, but somewhat revived and known today as West Gallery Music.

With the establishment of Cromwell and the Commonwealth after the Civil War, music of any kind was forbidden

in churches. But by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with Monarchy re-established, church authorities appeared to wish to improve the quality of psalmody by introducing sung psalms in church services. This would also have encouraged the parishioners who probably found the entirely spoken services rather tedious. At that time psalms (the word of God) were considered the only suitable musical material since hymns (the word of man) were not acceptable.

There were two obstacles to this change of ideas, the lack of suitable material and a place to perform it, since most of the space in a parish church was owned or rented. But at just this period in time, a large amount of secular music was being published and those publishers began to produce sacred music for churches. Although this was basically London produced music, local composers also took up the challenge and soon singing groups were set up in numerous parishes, initially to sing psalms. The question of where the singers should stand was solved by the erection of west end galleries, some by public subscription and some by wealthy benefactors. Not a great number of west galleries survive today but some of those that do, bear an inscription dedicated to their benefactors. It was not long before hymns were gradually added to the Repertoire. ‘While shepherds watched their flocks by night’ is a paraphrased



setting of a biblical text, and numerous local tunes were set to it.

Once someone was found to instruct the singers, things moved on, and three and four part harmonies were introduced. This became easier with the use of instruments and as the Ascott octogenarian remembered, Ascott had a bassoon player and a flute player. Perhaps Ascott was unusual in having girl singers since most groups were dominated by male voices. The parishes sometimes purchased the instruments and paid the singers but with Ascott's church attendance so poor at the time, it's hard to see where they would have found the money to cover these costs.

People like the Wesleys became great composers of hymns, and their music was taken up by various non-conformist churches, as well as the west gallery singers.

But the Anglican church encouraged by the Oxford Movement was beginning to sound the alarms on frivolous and light-hearted music. The Church was not being taken seriously enough. In 1861, 'Hymns Ancient and Modern', was published, and simple hymns could then be sung by the whole congregation, as opposed to com-

plex west gallery music only performed by the singing group. Ascott was to the fore in this movement since the Victorians had already agreed the restoration of the church and demolition of the west gallery.

The West Gallery Music was still a strong feature in non-conformist churches, whilst some of the singers moved into pubs to perform. In fact in the Pennines around Sheffield, West Gallery Music can still be heard in the pubs today, sung with gusto by the locals at Christmastime. Also the establishment of the West Gallery Music Association in 1990, has, through collection of archival material and by promoting performances by quires (not choirs) throughout the country, ensured the long term survival of this earlier church tradition.

Wendy Pearse



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## AH, THE COTSWOLDS

Doesn't the description of the Cotswolds sometimes make you feel sick? The honey coloured stone of the cottages, the roses round the door, this demi-paradise. I think for some of us who live in the area, it can make us far too smug for our own good.

What goes on behind closed doors in these chocolate box picturesque villages? Is there a seething resentment for our fellow man? We would all love to love our neighbours. But do we sometimes wish we could find some foolproof formula for murder that not even Miss Marple could solve?

Living in a village we all have exits and our entrances. To step out of line from the character and niche we are expected to play, then we are very quickly ostracised. Tim and Fred cut the churchyard grass. What a splendid job they make. But how do we know Tim and Fred might be involved in the white slave trade or gun running for the I.R.A. The ladies who do the flower arranging, who sip their tea in a genteel way, with their little fingers cocked. How do we know when the curtains are drawn, they don't convene a coven, practise black magic, and stick pins in a wax effigy? I have noticed the vicar begins to walk with a limp.

What more pleasing sight on a warm summer's morning than to see some villagers taking breakfast on their patio, while on the grass there is a sign

'Keep off the lawn', and another which reads, 'Strictly no turning in this driveway'.

Of course I prefer the village of my childhood when the grass grew long and rough where we could hide in summer on the green, and the large patch of black ash remained where we had our bonfire.

By the nineteen sixties Ascott was beginning to be discovered and I was discovered picking my nose and scratching my backside. The rest they say is history!

**Fred Russell**

**DEADLINE FOR  
AUTUMN 2010 EDITION**

**OCTOBER 5TH**

**PLEASE DON'T BE LATE**

# MARATHON POSTIE

By now most people will know that I completed the London Marathon in 5 hours and 17 minutes. This was not my first marathon but it was my first London Marathon. I found it exceptionally emotional and extremely fulfilling. The support and atmosphere was way beyond anything you would expect. The experience has left a huge impression upon me and I would love to do it all over again. I would also love to thank everybody who sponsored me. At the time of writing this letter, the grand total raised for the Evelina Hospital is £2,132 and ONCE AGAIN A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED.

**Brenda**



## I HAVE THE NOSE FOR FRENCH BUT NOT THE THROAT

While at a discussion group recently, I spoke to members more widely read than myself. I asked them what was this 'raisin dates' they keep talking about on radio and television? I was quickly told it was *raison d'être* which meant reason for existence. It was French from Latin.

This made me think how the British Tommie turned some French phrases into Anglo Saxon during the First World War, one being 'san fairy ann', from the French *ça ne fait rien*, meaning it doesn't matter.

English is puzzling. For example, the Arsenal had a very fine player called Thierry Henri. In the sporting press it was spelt Henry, which the football pundits pronounced Honry. I wonder where in the English Channel does Henry become Honry? In Tudor times was Henry VIII called Henry or was he called Honry? Which do you think sounds the most regal?

There can be no better example of British humour than the 'Carry On Films' but I am told they are full of French *double entendres*.

Of course I blame the Common Market for this. When, oh when, will the Government put a stop to this nonsense and we Anglo Saxons can return to our own simple language and I can continue to speak Oxfordshire English?

So until you hear from me again. I'll say..... Au revoir, Bon voyage, .Auf wiederehen pet.

P.S. There was great disappointment after the performance of our national football team. I think one of the reasons for such a poor show was Roo missed his Kanga, he didn't miss Eeyore because they all played like donkeys. After the result against Germany the whole country seemed to suffer from Alice. It was something Christopher Robin went down with.

I should like to put the Grate back in Britain but I've got to find the fireplace first!

**Fred Russell**

**DEADLINE FOR  
AUTUMN 2010 EDITION  
OCTOBER 5TH  
PLEASE DON'T BE LATE**

# Hollie the Guide Dog Puppy

Many people in the village may have notice a black puppy on a blue lead with a Guide Dog Puppy label being either carried or walking around the village. The puppy is called Hollie and she is a Black Labrador/Golden Retriever cross breed. Her destiny is to be a guide for a blind or partially sighted person. I am the person who has done the carrying or has been led by Hollie and I would like to write a regular report on Hollie's progress in her first stage of training towards being a guide dog. First of all, however, a very short history of The Guide Dog for the Blind Association beginnings.

The first four British guide dogs - Judy, Flash, Folly and Meta - completed their training in 1931, and three years after this The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association was formed. This would not have been possible without the selfless work of Muriel Crooke and Rosamund Bond, German Shepherd breeders who trained the first guide dogs. The first permanent trainer for Guide Dogs was Captain Nikolai Liakhoff, who came to England in 1933.



**Hollie at 6 weeks**

In 1956 Guide Dogs began to recruit volunteers to become puppy walkers. A few years later a breeding programme was introduced and by 1970 these components of Guide Dogs' work had grown so much they were given their own premises at Tollgate House, near Leamington Spa. The most influential figure in the development of Guide Dogs' puppy walking and breeding programmes was the late Derek Freeman MBE.

In 1964, the charity's work was introduced to a new generation when the children's television programme Blue Peter launched an appeal to collect silver foil and milk bottle tops. Blue Peter raised enough to fund two guide dog puppies, Cindy and Honey, whom the programme Blue Peter followed through their training. This feature was repeated in the early 1980s and again in 2006 with Andy Akinwolere and puppy Magic.

Many people throughout the country, like me, volunteer to become puppy walkers, which is an essential start in the life of a guide dog. The Guide Dog for the Blind Association (GDA) is always looking for volunteers as the more puppy walkers they have the

more dogs can be trained to become working dogs.

The breeding programme by the GDA is carefully controlled to breed dogs that are compatible with the work they are to do. Ideally they must be intelligent, trainable, good natured and willing workers. Families throughout the country take on the responsibility of caring for brood bitches who are put to specific dogs five times during their life. The first six weeks of the puppies' lives are within a home environment so that they are familiar with the sounds and movements of a normal household. The puppies are identified by the breeder with nail varnish marks on the fur in different positions so that names can be added later. As a general rule each brood is given a letter to use as the first letter of the puppies' name. Hollie's brood was H so all of her siblings' names began with H, however, there is an exception to this if people wish to individually sponsor a puppy they can name a puppy without complying to the brood letter. At six weeks the puppies are removed from the mother and taken to the area GDA centre, this area centre is in Leamington Spa, where they are checked by the veterinary staff, micro-chipped, inoculated and



**Hollie at 13 weeks**

taken to the designated puppy walker for stage one of their training.

As a puppy walker my responsibility is to start training Hollie to a very specific obedience level and also to socialise her to people, dogs, trains, buses and car travel ready for her second stage of training. The commands are standard throughout and consistency is important. Puppies are not allowed onto the furniture or upstairs as these habits may be a problem to a blind person. Hollie has to learn to react to a whistle for recall and also for permission to eat; the eventual owner must be in complete control to prevent accidents.

To date Hollie is very good at sitting and waiting on command, lying down and staying until called, she responds to the whistle for recall and will

wait for at least 20 seconds before being allowed to feed, for a Labrador that is like a lifetime! All guide dogs have to learn what is called a spending routine, which is to conduct their 'business' in a specified concrete area at home so that the owner does not have to search around to clean up and also to do this before leaving the house to reduce the chances of it happening out and about. It is a pity that not all

dog owners adopt this routine instead of allowing their dogs to foul the streets and footpaths, just because we are in the countryside does not remove the responsibility of cleaning up what the dog leaves behind.

Walking Hollie on a lead can be very frustrating as she is a very determined and obstinate dog and to persuade her that stopping for every smell, scavenging for any scrap of 'food' or stopping for no apparent reason is not what is required for her duties as a guide dog. Distraction techniques using a toy or treats work sometimes but when she sets her mind to something she will get grumpy if I try to move her on.

Hollie is now 13 weeks old and will soon be moving on-to public transport familiarisation which will be an interesting stage. She has already sat with interest and without fear at the station as trains have passed through despite the rush and proximity of noise. Car travel is very good, she settles down in a cardboard box with a toy in the boot of my hatchback. The distance travelled is gradually increasing so that she can adapt to any requirement comfortably.

Although Hollie has a lot to learn, as a puppy

walker I have even more to learn to make a success of the training. Hopefully I will be relating the next stage of Hollie's training and you may well see a more controlled and obedient dog around the village in the following months.

I will ask for your cooperation from now on, when you see Hollie, adorable as she is, please do not distract her by wanting to stop and talk to or make a fuss of her, she has to learn to be single minded in her task of leading her owner safely through streets and people, getting onto and off buses etc. So distraction is not helpful.

**Keith Ravenhill**

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## Nature Notes

We may consider how well we can control the natural world and insulate ourselves from change and yet why are our Market Gardeners and DEFRA so concerned about the health of Bumble Bees and Honey Bees?

The natural world can be likened to a tower with every plant or creature representing a brick supporting those above and around it. Remove one brick and others are weakened

and may also disappear. Remove too many bricks and the whole tower becomes unsafe.

We take our Bee population for granted and yet one third of all our agricultural crops depend on them and other insects for pollination, without which there would be no fruit or nuts, tomatoes, cucumbers or strawberries. Fields of rape and linseed would not set seed and there would be no peas or beans. Flowering plants that rely on seed to propagate themselves would disappear, followed eventually by the longer lived trees. Of all the insect pollinators the members of the Bee family are the most im-

portant. All this might happen if a few small insects became extinct. The bad news is that it is happening! Since 1970

the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust estimates that Bumble Bee numbers have fallen by 60% with two species becoming extinct and seven being listed as endangered. In the last twenty

five years the number of Honey Bee hives has declined by 50% so more and more reliance is being placed on wild Bee populations.

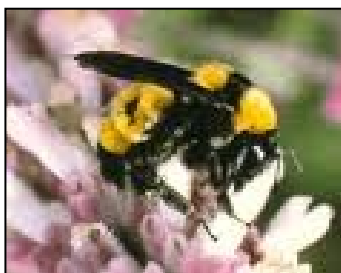
Not all crops are pollinated by insects, some,

such as cereals and coniferous trees are wind pollinated and some are self-fertile. Primitive plants like mosses and ferns do not produce seed, but rely on a film of moisture to allow the male gametes to travel to the female and produce a new plant. Fungi too do not produce seed and therefore don't require pollination.

Wind pollinated plants have insignificant flowers, but produce lots of

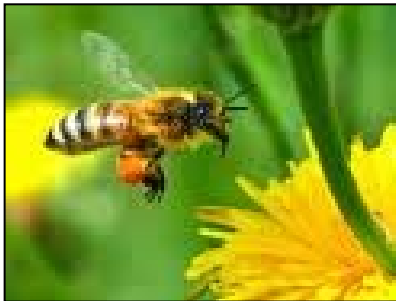
pollen as hay fever sufferers will attest. Plants pollinated by insects, birds or bats have gaudy attractive flowers and produce nectar as a reward. Some flowers have nectar guides visible under ultra violet light

(insects eyes can see further into the ultra violet than we can) and often produce an enticing scent. Some plants



and insects have formed an exclusive relationship; one cannot survive without the other. The fly orchid's flower looks like a female of one species of wasp and even produces a pheromone to attract the male. He attempts to mate with the flower and has a sticky bundle of pollen attached to him for his efforts, in the hope that he will travel to another fly orchid flower, be seduced again, this time leaving his pollen sack behind to fertilise the second plant.

Why is our Bee population declining? Honey Bees have, for several years been subject to increasing attack by the Varroa Mite, an introduced bloodsucking parasite that not only weakens the infected insects, but passes on a number of virus diseases. More recently hives across the world have been suffering from an unexplained phenomena, first named in the USA as Colony Collapse Disorder, where a hive weakens, sickens and dies out for no apparent reason. This disorder has been particularly destructive in the USA, but now seems to be spreading in this country and Europe and is probably caused by virus and fungal infections combined with other envi-



ronmental factors including pesticide use.

Bumble Bees and other solitary wild Bees are thought to be declining because of loss of habitat (since 1940 we have lost three million hectares of flower rich wild-flower meadows) and the use of pesticides. Some have even suggested that electro-magnetic radiation from phone masts is affecting the Bee's ability to find food and navigate back to their nest or hive.

In the UK only the Honey Bee has been domesticated but in New Zealand and several European countries some species of Bumble Bee have been. Recently we have been importing these domesticated Bumble Bees and using them to pollinate crops growing in glasshouses, such as tomatoes and strawberries.

In 2000 the short haired Bumble Bee became extinct in Britain, but back in the nineteenth century it had been exported to New Zealand to pollinate the crops of Red Clover that had been planted to improve soil fertility. These insects thrived and there are now plans to reintroduce

them to England. Five hundred hectares of land, in Kent, have been earmarked to provide suitable breeding and feeding areas in the hope that this species can re-establish itself and boost the national Bee population.

What can be done to halt the decline of pollinating insects in general and Bees in particular? Some suggestions include:

- Sowing wildflower mixtures on field margins;
- Treating hives infected with the Varroa Mite;
- Breeding 'super' Bees that are resistant to Varroa attacks;
- Further research to understand how much natural habitat is

needed to maintain a stable population of pollinating insects;

- A better understanding of which insect species fertilises which crops and how many pollinators are required to ensure adequate pollination.

If we don't succeed, certain foods will become scarce and expensive as they will require artificial pollination and many plants which adorn our countryside may disappear altogether because of the possible loss of a few small insects, one small brick in the tower of life.

**Stuart Fox**

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## Windrush Valley School Summer Term bonanza!

The children of Windrush Valley School (Ascott-under-Wychwood), have been busy working hard, with many completing their SATS, some for the first time. Amongst this hard work, they have found the time for many extra fun activities including .....



our annual May Dancing event. This was a great success, with children taking part from our Nursery and Reception classes, through to Year 6. Parent's, grandparent's and friends, all enjoyed a sunny afternoon with some memorable dancing!

The Year 6 boys create a new fun dance each year, and this year was no exception, with hats, sticks and costume to add to the mix.

A big thank you to parents of the school who provided a lovely cream tea for our audience, and drinks for the children.



Once again, a group of talented athletes represented our school at the ISA\* Athletics Championships, at Bedford International Athletic Stadium in May. The Bedford stadium is one of the finest facilities of its kind in the South of England, with the likes of Kelly

Holmes and Paula Radcliffe competing there, and now the children of Windrush Valley School!

They took part in a variety of events from shot put to sprint, with several children and relay teams making the final heats. We are eagerly awaiting information from ISA to confirm Tiana Thomas and Ross Hedigan (600m) and Alex Roscoe (Long Jump), have reached the ISA Athletics National Finals to be held shortly.

Well done to: Hollie Taylor, Florence Denham, Lizzie Cornish, Georgie Townley, Tiana Thomas, Catherine Hawkins, Augusta Townley, Romy Dawkins, Luke Milner, Ross Hedigan, Alex Roscoe, Edward Butler, Blake

Richardson, Eliot Jones, Harold Lear, Charlie Spencer, Dan Milner and Rachel Purvis for all being great competitors.

**\*ISA (Independent Schools Association)**



Not to miss out on making the headlines, our Foundation Unit and Year 1 children, performed Jack and the Beanstalk at Tiddy Hall, for a packed audience recently. Joe Kelly played a very brave Jack, with Harry Smith a convincing scary Giant!!

There was some great reading and expression from the Narrators: George Rooker-Roberts, Saskia Boyns, Angus Birrell, Benjamin Lewis-Ing and James Hill, with equally dramatic acting from Lily Taylor, Delphine Townley, Emily Whitear, Maggie Guest, Geronimo Neate-James and Ruby O'Brien.

The performance was enjoyed by all, with the Foundation Unit and Year 1 Chorus adding the finishing touches. I'm sure all who watched the performance, are still humming "One Fine Cow" to themselves!

Congratulations to all the children who took part, I'm sure we will be seeing much more of you in the Senior School productions.

## **CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT WEEK**



Each academic year, we hold a Curriculum Enrichment week, based on a specific theme. This year we choose woodland and the Wychwoods.

The whole week was dedicated to specific activities around the theme, starting with a Falconry display and Forest School throughout the week at Merriscourt.

Many of the children enjoyed a trip to Cornbury Park woodland, a talk from the Wychwood Project, making bird feeders and bark rubbing, hugging a tree and understanding the importance of our woodland. A group of children also camped at Banbury Hill Farm,

learning how to collect woodland and make their own shelters. However, they were relieved when they got to sleep in the wooden pods at the Farm!

The children fully embraced all the activities, of which there were many, especially enjoying Forest School, where they had to collect, construct and perfect the art of lashing to ensure their shelter was sturdy and kept them dry.

We would like to thank everyone involved in making this such a fun, informative and interesting week, and a big thank you to all parent helpers.

**Wychwood Valley School**



## **Windrush Valley School Readathon £1,189.10 !!**

Pupils from Windrush Valley School have raised a staggering £1,189.10 for Readathon. The money has been raised throughout the school, from the Foundation Unit through to Year 6.

Readathon is a national sponsored reading event that is held in schools annually. All the money raised is donated equally between **CLIC Sargent** and **The Roald Dahl Foundation**. The money is spent locally, caring for children and young people suffering from cancer, Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia, epilepsy, blood disorders or acquired brain injury.

Headteacher, Mr Alan Wood said: *"We are delighted to have taken part in Readathon and be involved with the ½ million children who read for Readathon each year. Last year our children contributed to the £1.1 million raised to help sick children, and we hope to better that total this year, well done to all the children, parents and staff who helped make this happen"*.

More information about Readathon can be found on their website [www.readathon.org](http://www.readathon.org).



## **Chipping Norton Poetry and Music Festival Windrush Valley School**

A number of children from Windrush Valley School attended the annual Chipping Norton Music, Speech and Drama Festival, held in the Town Hall recently. It was great to be involved and to see so many schools taking part.

Thank you to all the children from Windrush Valley who practiced extremely hard for their chosen pieces, all of whom displayed confidence and enjoyment whilst performing. Windrush Valley School was represented by:

- Isabel Slater
- Emma Slater
- Florence Denham
- Saskia Boyns
- Max Boyns
- Mark Milner
- Daniel Milner
- Luke Milner
- Rupert Smith
- Henry Gardner-Roberts
- Rose Cooper
- Freddie Astor
- Eva Astor
- Jessica Todd

Well done to you all.

The very next day, our much celebrated band returned to the Town Hall to play in an ensemble, conducted by Mr Ian Lovell-Meade.

The event was well attended by parent's and grandparents alike, who must have been delighted when the Windrush Valley Band was awarded a distinction for their arrangement of "Ode to Joy", Beethoven 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, and a medley of Walt Disney tunes; both arrangements by Mr Lovell-Meade.

Thank you to all the children who took part, to Mr Lovell-Meade and all the families that support this wonderful event.





## **Performing Arts, Sports and Music Festivals, we've been really busy at Windrush Valley School**

What an incredibly busy time the children of Windrush Valley School (Ascott-under-Wychwood) have had over the Easter and Summer Terms

.....

New Beaconsfield Hall was the venue for our senior school annual production. This year the children did *a take* on Cinderella, performing Cinderella Rockerfella over 2 evenings, to a full house both nights.

A budding future star to look out for, Emma Slater, played Cinderella, opposite Henry Gardner-Roberts as Rockerfella; Buttons was wonderfully performed by William Burnell. Their fellow cast members from Forms 2 through to 6 were equally exceptional; with a special mention of praise to the 2 ugly sisters, Neil Atkinson and Andy Dunstall – who certainly looked the part!

As well as fitting in all the play rehearsals and 2 evening performances the children found the time to take part in the many competitive sporting events the school is involved with, culminating in our Annual Swimming Gala and the Windrush Valley School annual Football Tournament.

Our annual swimming gala, held at Kingham Hill School, is always great fun for children, staff and parents alike, and this year's event was no exception. The standard of swimming from Form 1 through to the top end of our school is excellent, with several children representing the ISA North London\* area national swimming team.

The children and staff of WVS would like to thank Kingham Hill for hosting this event and providing much welcomed and needed refreshments. Also, a big thank you to Mrs Massy and Mrs Hicks, our weekly swimming teachers, who always ensure our swimming lessons are fun with lots of praise and encouragement.

What a great day was had by all at the Windrush Valley School annual football tournament, held at Ascott-under-Wychwood Playing Fields recently. We have hosted this event for many years, and each year the weather gets better, and the standard of football surpasses all previous years.

With a wonderful atmosphere, sunny weather and great football; everyone enjoyed the day. Windrush Valley U11 team won the senior tournament, with Emmanuel Christian U9's taking home the trophy for the junior section.

A very big thank you to everyone involved; players, parents, WVS Year 6 helpers and staff alike, and let's hope next year is even better.

**Wychwood Valley School**

## **Ascott Village Shop Online!**



**You can now find the shop on:**

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**Twitter : [@AscottShop](https://twitter.com/AscottShop)**

**Facebook : [Ascott Village Shop \(become a fan\)](#)**

**Website : [www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk)**

## Ascott Village Fete

Another year, another successful Village Fete and despite the heavy rain during the week, the sun shone for the Saturday afternoon! A variety of entertainment was there to entice people through the gates: Our now infamous Dog Show, Children's Punch and Judy and magic show, paint your own Pottery, The Debbie Arthurs Jazz Band and magnificent performances from The Wychwood and Leaffield Primary Schools. There was also a "lump in your throat" dance display of "Somewhere over the Rainbow" from the Ascott Pre-School, just wonderful!

Bunting decked marquees were filled with stalls selling anything you wanted! Early Christmas presents, plants potted in decorative containers or plants ready to put in your garden, second hand books, home made cakes, toys, bottles and the White Elephant, where you would have found that item you've always wanted!! Whilst the raffle stall was successfully heading for a 1,000 plus tickets to be sold!

The BBQ, beer and teas were kept busy providing some excellent burgers, sausages, beers and cakes for all the hungry parents keeping an eye on their children who were enjoying the Bouncy Castle

and the Gladiator Jousting. The vintage cars and tractors were also attracting both young and old as were the quick witted remarks made by our resident MC, Tim Lyon.

None of this would happen if the army of volunteers didn't come forward every year to help, so on behalf of the Fete Committee, thank you to each and everyone of you and to those who supported the afternoon, thank you too! You helped raise £3,700 which goes towards the upkeep of our lovely Village Church.

As ever, my personal thanks go to "The Apron Girls" Louise, Jacquie, Mary and Vicky.

**Debra Cull**





Photos: Harry Kappen

## **‘ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?’**

What wonderful sunshine we have been having in recent weeks – too dry for farmers and gardeners but perfect for Wimbledon and contractors of Ascott’s railway bridge! The latest engineer in charge of the project admitted that he felt one of the luckiest men around, being forced to work in such idyllic surroundings. Long may it last (sorry farmers and gardeners).

At the time of writing (July 5<sup>th</sup>) all piling has been finished and this week they are building a new slimmed-down version of the access path under the bridge. The narrower path (and therefore foundations) will give an extra 1.7m of channel under the bridge. This

will complete the new foundations to the bridge wall and protect the base of the wall from being scoured by high water. Only then will the removal of the old foundations and all debris be possible.

In the photograph you will see that there is still piling protruding into the channel. This is creating a temporary platform (cofferdam) on which to stand heavy machinery and is needed for a digger to scrape back and lift all debris onto the downstream bank for removal. Once this is finished the cofferdam will be completely removed – hopefully by the end of July. You can understand why we pray for





steady, low water until then. Contractors foresee nothing in the engineering line to hold up progress.

The bunds (raised banks) and swale (relief channel) are now more or less complete and once the grass takes hold we hope that the new contours will blend into the landscape. The bend of the river approaching the bridge has been widened and the bank secured with piling; this is the point at which the swale enters the river and the EA engineers calculate that, with all these renovations and improvements, flood water will find it easier to flow under the bridge in future. The bund at the entrance to the railway bridge will encourage high water to stay in banks

and therefore discourage water from flooding the land behind Shipton Road.

By the end of July the only outstanding work should be to make good the bank and land downstream of the bridge. This, of course, is where the contractors have sited their camp and which has taken the bulk of the machinery. Enormous thanks must go to John and Annie Gripper (and their sheep) for their patience and good humour, particularly as they were originally told that all would be finished by last Christmas!! Let's hope that in the next Grapevine I shan't have to write anything – simply publish a photo.

**Philippa Carter**

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## FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND

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It is situated in a stunning location and over the years is attracting an increasing number of wildlife. Indigenous trees may be planted but wild bulbs, wild flowers and shrubs would be a preferred option. Although it is very small and basic, in a few years time this burial site will have fully matured into a place of exceptional natural beauty and serenity.

Plots can be identified with a small wooden plaque or memorial placed on the grave.

For more information please contact Helen Pearson on 01993 878387 or visit our website: [www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk)







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Ascott-under-Wychwood**

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(and home made biscuit)**

**Between 10.00 and mid-day**

**In the Church**

**on:-**

**Saturday 4th September  
Saturday 2nd October**



## *SHOP ASSISTANT REQUIRED FOR SATURDAY WORK*

If you are over 18 and looking for extra income then award winning Ascott-under-Wychwood community shop is currently looking for an enthusiastic and friendly person to fill the role of Shop Assistant. Offering 4 hours every Saturday between 12.00pm – 4.00pm, the position requires the successful candidate to serve customers and also be responsible for the smooth running of the shop during the shift. Full training will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more about this position, then please contact Maggie Lyon  
01993 832531 or 07791 904471  
[maggie@maggielyon.co.uk](mailto:maggie@maggielyon.co.uk)

## Gardening Notes

It's been so dry, plants I have never seen suffer are looking very sad, even the buddleia is drooping. I had thought it was fireproof but hopefully like grass it will bounce back when the rain comes again. Other plants like hollyhocks have never seemed better and, amazingly, blackspot on roses seems to have almost disappeared yet I'd always thought it was worse in hot weather. Perhaps its demise has something to do with the hard cold winter we had. There seem to be very few snails or slugs either. Is this due to the combination of cold winter followed by dry spring and early summer? As with many things both good and bad seem to have come out of the extremes of weather encountered so far this year. Hasn't it been wonderful that the dry conditions have kept the weeds at bay?



Up to the beginning of July there have been no water restrictions but I'm not leaving anything to chance by keeping the water butts topped up to be in a good position if there is a drought ban. The accepted wisdom of giving plants a thorough drenching say, every four to five days, rather than a little every day has not been working well this year. A good soaking at least every other day has been necessary. I'm talking more about watering vegetables

rather than the ornamental garden. As far as that is concerned I've decided to water those plants I would be very sad to see die and those that were planted after March whose roots won't have had time to reach far down into the soil for moisture. It can be a bit of a chore but I cannot bear the idea of losing some plants particularly those that have been difficult to find or those that I love because of their colour or shape. Unfortunately everything else has to fight its own fight because there is a limit to the time and effort that can be put into the watering and the more pressure put on water supplies the sooner the restrictions will come. Fortunately, the main flower border was mulched with mushroom compost just after the last time we had a good bout of rain, some time in April I think. It

seems to have held the moisture in the soil, nevertheless, some plants are now beginning to look a little unhappy. Usually, I do not mulch because I like plants to self-sow which it can prevent in the same way it keeps the weeds at bay. But am I glad I did it this year.

I am always on the look out for local plant sales and there were some good ones this spring in North and South Leigh, Yelford and Fulbrook. It is such a cheap way of stocking the gar-

den with perennial plants although generally you have to have patience because the plants are usually small needing at least a year to make a reasonable size; and sometimes you have to take pot luck on flower colour or even what sort of a flower it will have. I find that quite exciting and eagerly await the flowering the following year. Sometimes it works really well and I get something unusual and very attractive, other times I get something I definitely was not expecting and may not like. As the plants are so cheap in the first place, it does not really matter. Unfortunately I missed the opening at Wilcote where they have a good range of plants from shrubs through perennials to annuals. I'm sure there is another open day in August, it is well worth looking out for it.

Believe it or not, and I am not sure I really do, we seem to have hit on the final layout for the garden. This means that instead of spending quite some time in spring on 'construction' jobs I'll be able to concentrate on the plants – sowing them, planting them, moving them to get the colour combinations right, tidying them – what bliss. I might even have more time to look in my gardening books, fantastic, and it has only taken eleven years! What is exercising my mind is how to pack in more plants. There's only one way, to gradually remove the lawn. Perhaps



then there will need to be more 'construction' but one thing is certain the lawn mower won't complain, he can't wait for his work to be reduced. I would like space to have another go at growing flowers specifically for cutting. I've tried doing this before: the growing has been OK but I have been very reluctant to cut anything and bring it into the house for fear of spoiling the garden; understandable when the flowers are growing specifically to furnish the garden but a little silly when they are being grown specifically to be cut. I have in mind growing annuals such as cornflowers, cosmos, antirrhinums, larkspur and the like, real cottage garden plants. If I don't cut them for the house they will stop making lots of blooms so won't even make the garden attractive. Hopefully that will spur me on to cutting them.

There are at least two months more growing time before Autumn and still a lot to look forward to: dahlias, late summer grasses, michaelmas daisies, sweet corn, runner beans, pumpkins and much more but we do need some rain soon before it all dries up. In the meantime take time to go into the garden on a balmy evening to enjoy the beauty and peace it gives after a hot sticky day.

**Yvette Keauffling**

## ROSENEATH CONCERT

David Attenborough may have played the floor polisher at the last 'Last Night of the Proms', but it was at the Tiddy Hall on the 19th. June that the humble 'Shopping Trolley' brought the house down. Under the command of Mark Milner at this year's concert by the pupils of the Roseneath School of Music, this humble conveyance was to steal the show. It performed 'wheelie dips', 'back flips' and even 'purred like a Rolls'. Sadly, the BBC symphony orchestra was otherwise engaged, but this musical mélange of two clarinets, two trumpets, 3 saxophones, a flute, an oboe, piano and two sopranos raised a symphony of celebration to the talents, hard work and potential of the young people of the Wychwood villages.

The all-encompassing programme included songs from the shows, classical gems, nursery rhymes and jazz. Some pieces of music were part of a fun repertoire. Others will be put to exacting use as exam material over the next few weeks, and this was a golden opportunity for these young people to try them out on a friendly and receptive audience. Romy Dawkins played a song

about the aspirations of a tea-bag. Rupert Miles-Marsh and Rhys Long gave two varied performances of the infamous Hanna Barbera moggie, Top Cat. By contrast, Edward Baldwin, saxophonist, played a haunting Romance by Ronald Binge and Ellen Garbutt gave a sensitive and competent performance of Bach's prelude no.1 in C major.

Anna Quartermain from Chipping Norton School was guest artist for the evening and in



**Anna Quartermain**

entertaining everyone handsomely with a repertoire including Lloyd-Webber, a compilation from Pirates of the Caribbean and Chopin prelude No.28, challenged every musician in the audience to practice more diligently.

It was a beautiful evening and concluded with a prizegiving for all the achievements since June 2009. Two

major awards are made each year. The Lavelle cup was presented in 2007 by Mrs. Dorothy Lavelle LRIAM, in recognition of technical ability. The cup itself, is a small replica of a very much larger cup won by Mrs. Lavelle in 1932 at the all-Ireland Feis. This year it was won by Harriet Cooney with



**Alex Fraser**

Jordan Eriksen and Ryan Long in third place and Elizabeth Hempstead and Elizabeth Shelmerdine second.

The Roseneath School of Music presents its own award for the Young Musician of the Year. This is based solely upon effort and any pupil is capable of winning, providing they work hard enough. A system of rewards operates during the preceding year and the overall winner is the one who has collected the most points. The forty-five pupils currently enrolled are divided into three age ranges and prizes awarded accordingly.

Third prizes were awarded to Matilda Shaw, Daniel Cooney, Charlotte Taylor, Ella Greening, Edward Baldwin and Rebecca Woods. Mark Milner, Emilia Belardo, Cassia Belardo, Luke Garbutt, Ellen Garbutt and Ryan Long were in second place and the Young Musician of the Year award was presented to Alex Fraser. A quarter of the Roseneath School of Music's pupils are adults - the oldest being 80 - and special presentations were made to Irene Woods for a performance of a Minuet by Bach, and to Wayne Vallentine, a pupil of only six months, for an im-

mensely spirited rendition of "She'll be coming round the mountain"!

I took some time this year to reflect upon the achievements of past pupils and as I looked at the names engraved on the sides of the trophies I was delighted to see the names of several local young people, some of whom are still actively involved in music. Previous Ascott winners include



**Andrew & Irene Woods**

Hannah Browne, Bethanie Nisbet, Nicola Scull and Joshua Ridley. I first came to live in the Wychwoods in 1988 and since then I have helped more than three hundred local people to enjoy and participate in music. It has been a great privilege and a tremendous amount of fun. If any of you are tempted to learn the piano or to refresh some long forgotten skills, then please get in touch. I am at the Tiddy Hall on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and I should be delighted to hear from you.



**Harriet Cooney & Pauline Carter**

On a more serious note, the government has warned us of significant future financial restraints and there is widespread concern among the musical fraternity that both local and national music will bear a

disproportionate burden in these money saving measures.

Although music is often seen as an optional luxury for the privileged few it is as important for the intellectual and educational progress of our chil-



Wayne Vallentine & Pauline Carter

dren as for their entertainment. Personal, practical and intellectual skills learnt in the music room are applicable and relevant to many other areas of the curriculum.

Richard Morrison, chief music critic of The Times writes in this month's BBC Music Magazine,

"If we care about our region's orchestra, choral society, Opera Company or that feisty local festival" (and the Roseneath school of Music concert) "now is the time to support it to the hilt. One thing is clear; "Use it or lose it" will be the brutal rule during the next few years.

Pauline Carter



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It is a very friendly place, so do please contact Maggie Lyon on 832531 to see where you might fit in.

We look forward to welcoming you.

## OPEN GARDENS 2011



There's a big head of steam working up to have an Opens Gardens Day or Week-end next year in the village, possible dates are Saturday and/or Sunday 25 and 26 June 2011. This would be two weeks after the Church Fete is expected to take place but before peak holiday season. Over the next couple of months I shall be contacting everyone who has opened their garden in the past. One or two of these people have now left the village so we could do with some new gardens for visitors to enjoy.

**If you are interested please contact me by email [y.keauffling@btinternet.com](mailto:y.keauffling@btinternet.com) or phone 832144.** Previous openings have been good fun and enthusiastically attended and it is lovely to receive compliments about your garden, so do get in touch.

**Yvette Keauffling**

**10 GOOD REASONS TO VISIT the WYCHWOOD FOREST FAIR on SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER at SOUTHDOWN FARM, CRAWLEY ROAD, WITNEY, 11a.m.to 5pm.**

*To look at and comment on our ideas for a COMMUNITY WOOD on the site and*

*To BUY A TREE to be planted on the site after the event to MARK A SPECIAL OCCASION or REMEMBER A LOVED ONE*

*To indulge yourself with LOCAL ICE CREAM, LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS including Foxbury Farm, and Kench's the butcher COOKING FOR YOU, LOCAL BEER FROM WYCHWOOD BREWERY, A TEA TENT and lots more food.*

*To view the WINNERS of the WYCHWOOD PLACES, WYCHWOOD PEOPLE, WYCHWOOD NATURE Photographic Competition,*

*To listen to the BAND, watch the MORRIS DANCERS, listen to the CHILDRENS STORY TELLER, have a go at ARCHERY, and lots more.*

*To support your LOCAL PUB TEAM in an AUNT SALLY COMPETITION or 'HAVE A GO' YOURSELF.*

*To browse round the TRADE STANDS, the ARTS and CRAFT TENT, the COMMUNITY and CONSERVATION AREA, and lots more.*

*To watch the RURAL CRAFT WORKERS at their timeless SKILLS, and maybe HAVE A GO.*

*To support the **FRIENDS OF WYCHWOOD** who are running the event by BUYING A TICKET IN THE GRAND DRAW, A BOOK from the LARGE SECONDHAND BOOK STALL, WINNING on the TOM-BOLA, PURCHASING PLANTS/PRODUCE, BECOMING A MEMBER, and lots more.*

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For further details contact Michael Drew 01993 702624 or visit the Wychwood Project Website at [www.wychwoodproject.org](http://www.wychwoodproject.org)



## SAVE ENERGY AND CUT YOUR BILLS

Energy meters to measure home electricity usage are now available for residents to loan out from West Oxfordshire District Council.

The energy monitors can be borrowed, free of charge, to record how much electricity different home appliances use and their associated running costs.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for the Environment said, "The monitors are a very practical way of showing how much energy is being used in the home. They can lead to a significant reduction in energy in the home

helping to save money and carbon emissions."

Monitors are available from the Council's Town Centre Shop, 3 Welch Way, Witney from Monday 2nd August. A small deposit of £10 is required and this is paid back on return of the whole meter. The Council has a supply of 10 meters and these will be loaned out on a first come, first served basis for a loan period of up to a month.

Although the monitors are easy to use, council staff are on hand to advise residents and signpost people to support agencies and energy providers,

**WYCHWOOD**



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should they want to know more about energy saving and how to generate their own energy.

Below are some simple energy saving tips:

Always turn your lights off when you leave the room.

Change your light bulbs to energy-efficient ones – they use less energy than normal light bulbs and last much longer.

Fill the washing machine or dish-washer – one full load uses less energy than two half loads.

Also remember to set the washing machine on 30 degrees Celsius.

Dry clothes on the line rather than in the dryer –one load can cost between 30p and 70p to dry in a machine.

Don't leave electrical appliances on 'standby' – turn them off completely at the switch in the wall.

Don't overfill the kettle – only boil what's needed.

**For more information about saving energy visit:**

**[www.westoxon.gov.uk/energy](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/energy).**

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# **FUND RAISING JEWELLERY EXHIBITION**

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## **ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

The new Parish Council Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 10 May and the Parish Council appointed a new Chairman and Vice, these being Cllr Rob Morgan and Cllr Bridgette Crundwell respectively, who are supported by Cllr Laurence Mellor and Cllr Philippa Carter. Please note that the Parish Council still need a fifth councillor and should you be interested please do not hesitate to contact any of the Parish Councillors or indeed your Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to past Chairman Stuart Fox and Vice Elaine Byles, who have stepped down after numerous terms in office. Their tireless efforts and knowledge have been second to none and a complete credit to the Village - "Thank You"

### **Planning Applications:**

Planning remains quiet with only a handful of applications having been received.

### **Flooding/ Contingency Plan:**

Cllr Philippa Carter has agreed to take responsibility for this and she and the Parish Council will endeavour to review this and keep it up to date.

### **Allotments:**

Cllr Laurence Mellor has taken responsibility for the Allotments and the Parish Council can report that plots are still being sought and accommodated.

### **Sports Pavilion:**

The Parish Council need somebody to take on the bookings for the Sports Pavilion and should anybody be interested please do not hesitate to contact any of the Parish Councillors listed below or indeed the Clerk.

### **Parish Council:**

#### **From May 2010**

#### **Rob Morgan (Chairman)**

**831958**

#### **Bridgette Crundwell (Vice)**

**830671**

#### **Laurence Mellor**

**831182**

#### **Philippa Carter**

**830344**

#### **Angela Barnes (Parish Clerk)**

**01608 641045**

# GLOBAL WARMING PLUS - ?

I write in response to the excellent article in the Winter 2010 Grapevine in which Stuart Fox throws doubt on the widely held opinion that global warming is being caused by the activities of mankind.

Stuart has done the research and has presented the facts and statistics. I too believe that these natural changes always proceed through cycles and I think that the ridiculous suggestion that global warming is caused by emissions of methane by cows and cattle is just a load of hot air.

I am however very much in favour of wind turbines and other renewable sources of energy in order to save some of the valuable fossil fuel reserves. I see no point in Britain unilaterally imposing restrictions and making expensive changes simply to reduce our carbon footprint; this will just make things dearer and disadvantage us as a trading nation. Can we really expect millions of people in developing countries, to curtail their newly acquired chance, to own cars and electronic goods, when we in the west have had the use of these luxuries for almost a century?

In addition to heat and energy fossil fuels also provide us with essential modern day items such as plastics, bitumen for road surfaces, chemical fertilisers, crop sprays and the chlorine without which mains tap water would

not be safe to drink. But fossil fuels are being burned and consumed at an almost unimaginable rate every minute of every day on a worldwide scale. However extensive are the reserves, eventually the day will come when the supplies are exhausted.

Soya, a major ingredient in food supplies is grown in vast quantities on very poor soil in Brazil, almost solely by using chemical fertilisers. Also, potatoes are grown in the Egyptian desert by use of chemical fertilisers and water pumped out of underground reserves. This water fell as rain thousands of years ago and is not being replaced.

Organic production is a pleasing idea but the fact is that without chemical fertilisers and crop sprays food supplies would be drastically reduced, possibly by as much as fifty percent. With this situation together with the non-stop rise in world population, and the inevitable, worldwide conflict for the last of the oil reserves, I suggest that future generations will face problems that will push global warming into the shade.

The planet earth will definitely survive the outcome but I am not so sure about its inhabitants. What do you think?

**Jim Pearse**

## BELL RINGERS REQUIRED

The Ascott Bell Ringers would like to recruit new volunteers who are able to ring for the occasional Sunday service or Wedding.



If you are new to the village and have rung in the past please contact me for a chat. We only ring rounds and simple call changes, nothing too taxing!

Sadly we currently lack the expertise to train anyone from scratch, so you must have learnt the basic skills elsewhere even if it was several years ago. Just like riding a bicycle it's a skill that's never forgotten!

**Contact Stuart Fox 01993 832004 (Evenings)**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
APPOINTMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Pam Quirke**

**Phone: 07780 572283**

**Email: [pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk](mailto:pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk)**

**Web: <http://www.wychwoodhealing.co.uk>**

## WORK ON THE RAILWAY AT ASCOTT



**Photos: Stuart Fox**

# TIDDY HALL REPORT

The Tiddy Hall Trustees held their AGM on Wednesday June 23rd. There is no change to the committee, those who stood down were re-elected and the others agreed to stay on for another year. The Tiddy Hall Trustees are:

Chairman:	Roger Shepherd
Treasurer:	Nick Carter
Secretary:	Ken Smith
Booking Clerk:	Ingrid Ridley
Pre School Rep:	Pauline Plant
Others:	Simon Gidman
	Chris Morgan
	Rebecca Baxter

It was a good year for fundraising with Flix in the Stix, Folk Night and the Anniversary Dance all helping to contribute to funds. There were of course big outgoings with the implementation of the new fire alarm and emergency lighting system. However, we can now move forward and make plans for further improvements to keep our wonderful village hall looking smart. We are hoping to have the floor reconditioned during the summer.

The year 2012 will be the centenary of a Tiddy Hall in Ascott and we are already making plans to celebrate with several special functions to be held during the course of the year. We have had plenty of suggestions and if you would like to help or if you have any ideas, please contact one of the committee members. Also, if any one has

any old photos of the hall which may be of interest, we would very much like to see them.

The circuits class has now been moved to a Wednesday evening. We would like some more members – a great workout on your doorstep!

Don't forget our regular classes of Karate at 6pm and Yoga at 7.30pm, both on Tuesday evenings. New members very welcome!

There will be a Coffee Morning/Table Top Sale on Saturday 25th September 10am – noon. Tables will cost £5. If you would like to book one, please ring Ingrid on 830612 or Sally on 831432. Any cakes or other homemade goods will also be very much appreciated.

On Saturday 2nd October, there will be a Quiz Night. Tickets are £6 per person which includes supper. Teams of 5 or 6, individuals welcomed – we will find you a team to join! Please ring Simon on 831479 or Nick on 830344.

There will also be another Flix in the Stix evening in the autumn, date and film to be confirmed, and don't forget Folk Night on November 20th – plenty of fun and entertainment to look forward to in Tiddy Hall this autumn!

**Ingrid Ridley**

# TIDDY HALL

## Regular Activities:

### Monday - Friday Mornings Pre-school

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant  
07968006451

### Tuesday Evenings 6.00 - 7.00 Karate Class

Contact: Rachel Ealey  
07929 338813

### Tuesday Evenings 7.30 - 9.00 Yoga

Contact: Jan Holah 01608 810620

### Wednesday Afternoons Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter  
01993 774568

### Wednesday Evenings 7.30 - 8.15 Circuit Training

Contact: Matt Jeffrey 07776  
490647

**POST OFFICE RUNS EVERY  
FRIDAY AFTERNOON FROM  
2.00 - 4.00**

## Special Events:

### Saturday 25 September

Coffee Morning and Table Top  
Sale 10.00am - noon

### Saturday 2 October

Quiz Night 7.30pm

### Saturday 20 November

Folk Night



**To book the Tiddy Hall contact:**

**Ingrid Ridley  
01993 830612**

**COFFEE MORNING AND TABLE TOP SALE AT TIDDY HALL**

**SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**10.00 AM - 12 NOON**

**TABLES £5 EACH**

**COME AND HAVE A CHAT OVER A COFFEE AND  
A PIECE OF CAKE!**

**PLENTY OF BARGAINS TO BE FOUND**

**QUIZ NIGHT AT TIDDY HALL**

**SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER 2010**

**DOORS OPEN 7.30PM FOR 8.00PM START**

**TICKETS £6 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE SUPPER**

**PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM!**

**BAR AVAILABLE**

**PLEASE RING SIMON GIDMAN (831479) OR NICK  
CARTER (830344) TO BOOK YOUR PLACE**



## WYCHWOOD LIBRARY

Thank you for all the amazing donated books for the Milton under Wychwood Fete. I know it is hard to part with these treasures but I assure you, they either go onto our shelves if we do not have that particular title, or they are much appreciated by a new owner. The proceeds go towards the Fete Committee as well as purchasing new books for our library.

We raised £300 this year (£125 going to the Fete Committee) so many thanks again for your support.

**Space Hop**, the summer reading scheme is in full swing. Do come along and take out books and be rewarded with stickers, bookmarks and other fun stuff.

The medal and certificate presentation ceremony will take place in the Library on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm.

**SUMMER ACTIVITY.** Come and help us make a **SPACESHIP** on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August from 10.30 until 12 noon. Lots of colouring and sticking and the wonderful machine will be proudly displayed across the ceiling space in the children's area.

### WYCHWOOD WORDPECKERS

Well done to all who contributed stories to the Creative Writing

Competition. The winner in the 10 - 12 group was Amelia Light with Shane Grimmett coming second. The under 10 group was won by Fabia Gomm. All the stories will eventually appear in book form in the Library for all to enjoy. It was lovely to see such enthusiastic, budding authors in the Wychwoods.

Look out for re-start date in September. New members welcome.

Year Six from Wychwood School visited the Library in June to learn about

#### Year Six

the Library Catalogue and Reference Online. Thirty two youngsters crowded around our computers to try out these valuable assets which is available to all library members for use from home or here in the Library. All you need is your library card and your PIN number. Please ask if you would like to know more.

We are calling all mums and toddlers on a Friday afternoon at 2pm to come along to the **"Two o'clock Club"** with stories rhymes and singing for about 10 – 20 minutes.

With all the current cuts can I urge you to make use of your local library. It is sur-

vival of the fittest time and only Don't forget about the Ascott website:



Wordpeckers

the well supported, busy libraries will continue.

**IKNIT** starts again in the Library in October. Look out for the posters with the dates. This group meets every two weeks so bring your knitting and a friend and enjoy sharing your handicraft skills.

The Thursday Afternoon Reading Group and the Monday Evening Reading Group start up again in September. New members are welcome. Come along and discuss your favourite titles.

Come and visit us at Wychwood Library.

**Opening Times:**

**Monday:** 2.00pm to 7.00pm

**Tuesday:** **Closed**

**Wednesday:** 9.30am to 1.00pm  
2.00pm to 5.00pm

**Thursday:** **Closed**

**Friday:** 2.00pm to 7.00pm

**Saturday:** 9.30am to 1.00pm

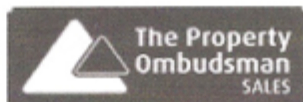
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# **Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens**

**Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the  
arrival of giraffes.**

**Visit soon to see these handsome  
animals.**

**Walk with lemurs in Madagascar, bring a  
picnic,  
ride on the train, visit the farmyard, play  
in the  
adventure playground.**

**Birds of Prey Flying Demonstrations all  
weekends in  
August and over the Bank Holiday.**

**Fairthorpe Sports Car Rally Sunday 8th  
August**

**The Park is open daily from 10am.**

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

## Are you a Blogger?

In other words do you maintain a 'web log' or 'blog' as they have come to be called?

A blog is a type of website where people regularly record information about events that interest them. Blogs originated as on-line diaries and the history of blogs goes back as far as 1994. It is now reckoned that there are in excess of 100,000,000 blogs in worldwide.

So, why might you decide that blogging is for you? Well, people often use blogs to share their interests and enthusiasms with like minded folk and, the point is, that you can allow people who visit your blog to leave comments. So, for example, perhaps you are a keen fisherman and use a blog to record where you have fished, the bait you used and the success of the catch. That information would be useful to other anglers who may enhance the entry by sharing their experiences. Really, whatever your interest, blogs are a way of sharing your thoughts with the world. They are not just words, you can also post pictures, videos, sound clips and links to other sites to bring the blog to life.

Starting a blog could not be easier. If you have a PC and an internet connection, you are in business. There are numerous free offerings with the best known probably being [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) from Google.

The one I use is [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com). It is simply a question of visiting the site, opening an account and away you go. Of course, if you are in business, then a blog on your website, or linked to it, is an essential way to keep your clients informed and to advertise special offers, new products etc.

Blogging has really given 'the people' a voice and blogs allow anyone to share their thoughts and opinions with the world. The 'Blogosphere' is a fascinating place, why not join in?

Tim Lyon



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## **CHOCOLATE APPLE PUDDING**

### **Place in a mixing bowl**

6 oz (175g) self raising flour

1 oz (25g) cocoa

1 teas baking powder

4 oz (110g) caster sugar

### **Rub in**

3 oz (75g) Flora

Add

1 egg

1 large chopped apple

1 oz (25g) chopped apricots

1 tbls milk

Mix well. Place in large, shallow greased pie dish. Cook 180 degrees, Reg 4 for 30 minutes.

Serve hot with custard, cream or ice cream.

**Wendy Pearse**

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