

The Ascott Grapevine



Issue 68

Autumn 2010

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 Winter issue of The Grapevine should be submitted by 5th January 2011.

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

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

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The Chase Benefice welcomes the arrival of a new Associate Priest



The Revd Andrew Thayer was licensed as our new Associate Priest at a service, taken by Bishop Colin Fletcher and the Archdeacon of Oxford, which was held at Chadlington Church on September 16th.

Andrew has moved into Enstone Vicarage, together with his wife Kelsey and two children, William aged seven and Natalie aged five. They are expecting their third child shortly (this may well have happened by the time the Grape Vine is published).

Andrew and family are originally from Texas USA where Andrew was Rector of an Episcopal Church. He is currently studying for a doctorate at Oxford and will combine his academic studies with working for the Benefice each Sunday and two further days each week.

I am sure that the Parishioners of Ascott and across the Benefice will be offering Andrew and his family a very warm welcome as our new Associate Priest.

Deaths

On the 12th October 2010 Cyril Mc-Call (Mac) aged 90 years, formerly of The Green, Ascott-under-Wychwood.

Marriages

On the 7th August 2010 at Holy Trinity Church, Paul White to Laura Marshall.

Paul and Laura



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FOLK AT TIDDY

On Saturday 20 November 2010 there will be a Folk Night in Tiddy Hall with the main guest being Johnny Silvo.

Johnny is an old time favourite who has appeared in the old Tiddy Hall as well as the new one. He is arguably the most talented all-round entertainer on the folk scene today and one might even be tempted to say one of the finest in any form of British entertainment. It is hard to imagine anyone with a more tremendous voice, a voice superb in volume, clarity, tone and versatility. It is a voice you will never forget! In addition he is an exceptionally fine guitarist and, for good measure, he intersperses his songs with lighthearted humour and chat. Johnny's wide musical interests and experience are reflected in his massive and varied repertoire, ranging from Jazz and Blues through Folk to Country and Soul, including show stopping versions of "My Brother Sylvest" and "Shimmy like my sister Kate".

We also have 'Anything Goes' as our warm up act together with some of our usual 'friends'.

Doors open at 7.15pm for an 8.00pm start. There will be a beer and wine bar and a raffle. Proceeds in aid of Tiddy Hall funds and the raffle proceeds to go to Diabetes UK.

Tickets are £10.00 and are available from myself on 01993 830114 or Roger Shepherd on 01993 830227.

Lyn Collins



A Project to record Oxfordshire's War Memorials

In the autumn of 2009 I embarked upon a personal project to travel the length and breadth of Oxfordshire to record and photograph our counties war memorials. To date I have visited almost 250 Oxfordshire towns and villages, taking over 1000 photographs of more than 300 different war memorials.

I have discovered a fascinating and diverse range of memorials across the county, including stone crosses on village greens, church windows and lychgates, photographic books of remembrance, memorial halls, stone and brass plaques and many many more.

All of my photographs, plus a searchable database of more than 5000 names (to date), are available to view for free, at my website: www.oxfordshirewarmemorials.co.uk.

The inspiration for the project came whilst researching my family history and I hope that any readers who may be researching their own family histories may also find the website of use.

Readers can also get involved with the project by advising on locations of memorials not yet recorded and by sharing stories or photographs of

service personnel remembered on the memorials. I am also supporting the forces charity SSAFA in 2010 and anyone who finds the site useful and would like to make a donation to SSAFA would be more than welcome.

With our last WW1 veterans now departed, WW2 veteran numbers declining and our current armed forces engaged in conflict, I hope you'll agree its now more important than ever that we remember the sacrifices our brave service men and women have and continue to make.

Shane Bywaters

contact@oxfordshirewarmemorials.co.uk
Telephone: 07506 738183



White Stuff

During the course of various meetings I have attended this year, several snippets of information about snow conditions have come to light which may be of interest.

- At times of limited resources OCC may only be able to keep main routes open to within 2 miles of a small community such as Ascott-under-Wychwood.
- The residents should be prepared to find a way to reach the main routes themselves.
- Salt and grit in the highway bins are not for individual use. The more these are 'raided' the less salt and grit there is for the roads.
- In the past 25 years no one has been prosecuted in WODC if a driveway, path or pavement has been cleared of snow and someone subsequently slips.
- Clearing fresh snow saves a lot of backache!

Also, Nick and I have become complete converts of winter tyres. We switched last December in preparation for a long drive to Austria. It was the best thing we could have done. While everyone else was stuck on the M2/20 and subsequently in the Channel Tunnel, we were able to drive through snowbound Kent (sometimes along B roads) and board the train before any of the problems. Our companions were the Riddleys who do not have a 4 x 4.

In the colder European countries these tyres are compulsory. They do not have studs so do not break up the roads but have a different tread to normal tyres. Swapping all four tyres at the beginning of the winter should give you much greater safety in freezing conditions as well as snow. Store your normal tyres and have them put back in the spring. It's much cheaper than buying a 4 x 4 or having an accident! Happy winter driving!

Philippa Carter



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HANS ACROSS THE SEA

Do you believe in the brotherhood of man and sometimes feel sorry for people from across the sea?

The Football World Cup begins to fade into memory once again, but I cannot get out of my mind what dirty football the Netherlands played. Let us hope in future they will use Ajax and get it cleaned up.

I do pity those poor people from the Low Countries. They all must suffer from continued identity crisis. Are they Netherlanders, Hollanders or Dutch?

No wonder Rembrandt spent a lifetime painting self portraits and Van Gogh cut his ear off. They must have been trying to find out who they really were.

I have it on good authority the Dutch Royal Dynasty take the family name Orange.

We should count ourselves fortunate.

I know the Saxe Coburgs changed to Windsor but supposing they had chosen Lemon or even Coconut. In some parallel universe we could be singing 'I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts' as our na-

tional anthem. It doesn't bear thinking about.

Is there anyone from over there who could reply to the questions I've raised through the pages of the Grapevine?

Fred Russell



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The Beauty Room Milton Under Wychwood Affordable Beauty

The Beauty Room is not just a place of work for me but is a joy to go every day; not only because I enjoy what I do but also because of the people I meet. I have now been in the beauty & cosmetic industry for 25 years and I still love it. I'm always looking for ways of giving more to my business and clients.

I passionately believe beauty is about how you look and how you feel inside. It's true that whatever is going on inside, whether it's stress, food, or life choices it will show on the outside. My belief at The Beauty Room is to give affordable luxury to help inner and outer beauty.

As a woman, taking time for yourself is so important but not always possible. When you do take some pamper time, it reminds you that you are human again and not just this washing, taxi, cleaning, cooking, working machine! It is so easy to put yourself last on a very big list of jobs and priorities. If you came to me for a 1 hour Aromatherapy facial (less than a pair of shoes...) or a manicure, you will feel 10 times better about going home to do that mountain of ironing! If you look good, you feel great!

I strive to source products which contain high quality natural ingredients. For my facials I use Susan Molyneux; their products contain the highest grade of essential oils, are not

tested on animals and they source the finest natural ingredients to deliver an exceptional product, that benefits your skin and your mind too.

I use Jessica nail products as they promote a healthy natural nail. They have just recently launched a new range "GEleration" - which is a gel polish to protect the natural nail and to give everlasting colour. Just think of coming for a manicure and leaving with flawlessly dry, smudge free and chip resistant perfect nails; no worries about putting on your coat, getting your keys, driving, sitting around for 2 hours while they dry... your manicure is solid dry before you leave the salon and will last up to 3 weeks. You can get straight on with your busy life at home but go out in the world with perfect nails, not hide them under the desk or behind your back.

In my continued passion for holistic beauty and giving my client's the best possible service, at the age of 43 I am going back to college to train in Swedish Body Massage and Indian Head Massage (which is based on traditional techniques for Balancing Body and Mind). I am very excited about adding these new treatments and whilst I complete my qualification, I will be offering 'student' rates from January 2011.

Finally my other passion is Bridal Makeup. Here my goal is to give the

bride a long lasting makeup, which maintains a natural look but also looks great in her photos. Makeup isn't to hide your features; it's to enhance them. I use M.A.C makeup for Brides to achieve this, along with my 25 years experience in the cosmetic industry! I love being involved on the wedding day and I can offer a great stress-free service.

Not many people can say nowadays they love their job, or have done for as long as I have. I feel very lucky not only with what I do but how well the local community supports me. I do try to give back as much as I can by donating raffle prizes, volunteering at The Day Care Centre in Shipton & by giving loyalty cards to my clients at The Beauty Room.

The Beauty Room provides, Affordable Luxury in Tranquil Surroundings for Ladies needing some 'me time'.

Heather Edwards

**Unit 24, Groves
Shipton Road
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OX76JP
01993 832446 or
07525 191015**

CHRISTMAS 1981

It must be more than this
The helpless child
Which sucks the breast
Then rests
So meek and mild
In this rough world
If there is any beauty in it
I cannot see it, here
Can you hear, yes you lay there
Yes you small brat
To think that
I, should come to honour you
And how are you to comprehend or
understand
These things which bother me
But you will see, yes you will see
When you become a man
How things are done
How the weak go to the wall
Cruel tyrants fall
To be replaced by even wickeder men
How the law becomes the orders
For the poor to shoulder
To preserve the status quo
But you are not to know
Not now
You just sleep
And I will quietly go.

Fred Russell

ASCOTT PANTO

Another Fred Russell classic pantomime, '**Toad in the Hole**' will be presented in the Tiddy Hall on **Friday 10th December**. Doors open at 19:00 for an evening's entertainment starting at 19:30. Admission is free and refreshment is provided.



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SILENT PARTNER

He has sensitive feet, so he doesn't like to walk on hard surfaces. Hence we drive to places where we can walk without discomfort. When we leave home he hops into the car, sits down and leans back into the passenger seat with a casually expectant look.

In the morning we listen to Radio 4. 'That John Humphrys,' I say to him, 'If he was half as intelligent as he thinks he is, he wouldn't think he's as intelligent as he thinks he is.' He agrees, but still we continue to listen.

On Saturday mornings we listen to Brian Matthew and sing along to old records, while in the afternoon we enjoy programs like 'Thinking allowed' or 'All in the mind' – we don't drive very far, so we only hear snippets.

At our destination he nimbly jumps out, sniffs the air, and we trot off, staying close to each other.

Our walks, especially these last couple of years, consist of relaxed strolls through our magnificent Cotswold countryside. Sometimes we sit down, side by side, and admire the scenery, the rolling hills, the countless shades of green. Often he leans against me and I enjoy his weight.

Sometimes he'll suddenly come running at me with a branch twice his own size clenched between his teeth, just to show me he can still do it. He looks a bit silly, and he knows it. I suspect he does it to entertain me.

We meet people. Usually he walks up to them and waits to be patted, wagging his tail with an exuberance that causes his entire rear-end to wag along. On occasion, people say to me: 'He's so ugly that he's beautiful.'

Children, untainted by the norms that will gradually be imposed on them, say: 'He's beautiful!'

At times a slightly anxious parent wants to know: 'Is he alright with children?'

Summer of 1999.

He's just 1 year old. Boisterous, hard-headed and puppy-clumsy. My cousin comes to visit. With her 2 little girls. We decide we need to keep an eye on him, as he's not used to children. But we're busy, we talk, we forget and suddenly we wonder: where are they? We look through the kitchen window and see him standing on a low wooden bench. He stands very still. Below him are sprawled the 2 little girls, clutching his feet, touching his chest, pinching his nose. He barely moves, merely wags his tail, slowly. When he does move, he does so with exaggerated care.

I reply: 'He's alright with children, yes.'

And he's good with old people too.

La Spezia, Italy, 2008.

We wait outside the shops while the art of shopping is being executed by those with a particular talent for that task: the women. It is hot and we stand in the shade. He looks comfortable, sits down and leans against me. This, he understands, could take a while. Opposite us, on a stone bench, the usual array of Italian men sits on a bench and observes the world with a critical eye. Men all over the world have an innate talent for this particular task. A couple of them wander over. When they come closer I see that it is a younger man who leads an almost blind older man to where we stand. In Italian he explains that his father would like a closer look at him - he points and his father nods. I don't speak Italian, but there's a lot you can say without understanding each other's language. I nod my approval and the old man bends down stiffly, touches his head. He responds immediately, wags his tail and looks pleased. The old man laughs out loud, and so does his son. The other men from the bench join us and when the women emerge from the shop, blinking into the bright light, they find us surrounded by a small crowd of smiling and laughing people. This is his particular talent.

He likes people, and people like him. He is a people-dog. Not immensely clever or astoundingly talented, but simply good. He aims to please, and his aim is true.

Here's one for the road:

The road from Parma to Milan, 2008. He has his basket behind the front seat, but sometimes, when he's bored, he moves into the passenger seat and looks calmly at the impressive scenery. We're on a toll road.

As we approach the toll booth he joins me in the front. As usual, paying the toll is a little awkward, as I drive an English car and Italians insist on driving on the wrong side of the road. I draw up next to the booth and roll down the passenger window, ready to lean across and hand over my credit card. The booth attendant leans forward and begins to laugh. He laughs louder and louder, tears in his eyes, and then he calls the other attendants to come and look. They abandon their posts, causing a substantial tailback, but how often do you see a dog apparently driving a car?

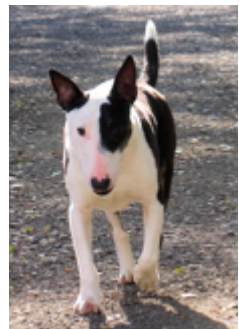
'You've made their day', I tell him.

He looks at me.

He knows.

Steve left us on the last day of 2009. He made my day, every day.

H Kappen



Hollie the Guide Dog Puppy

Hollie is now 23 weeks old and has grown into a slim, leggy adolescent dog weighing 16kg. She has lost all of her puppy teeth and grown her adult teeth, gone are the piercers and in have come the bruisers! Apart from the increase in size and weight, a lot has changed in her life regarding her training. Hollie is, however, still a puppy and I have to remind myself of that as she is playful and easily distracted and my patience is, at times, stretched.

Hollie has progressed very well with recall when called either by voice or by whistle. This is especially important as she is now allowed to have three days of free running, this means I can take her out into the fields and let her free to run about and 'do her own thing'. Considering the regime she will have to live in eventually, which may well be fairly restricted and in many cases mainly sedentary, it is with joy I watch her rushing about in circles, chasing swifts swooping just above the grass and running back to me to make sure I am keeping up with

her. I think she deserves as free a time as possible before she is restricted to the very controlled life she is destined for.

We have travelled into Chipping Norton on the bus, which is a long journey requiring Hollie to lie down and relax patiently as we drive through the countryside, in and out of the villages before reaching our destination.

She took this completely in her stride but was tempted to eagerly greet every passenger as they embarked; she just loves everybody as to her they are potential playmates. Hollie has travelled regularly to Southampton, about 100 miles, when we have visited family; she just falls asleep and has no travel sickness or worries. This is a



Hollie at 23 weeks

very important aspect as she could be transported by car fairly regularly and the owner must be confident that this will cause Hollie no distress.

The problems I experienced with lead control were easily resolved by the Puppy Walking Supervisor, who

visits roughly every four weeks to monitor my progress to ensure I am training Hollie correctly, and it came down to having a shorter lead and a stricter voice control so that Hollie fully understands who is in charge. She now walks just ahead of me with her hind legs approximately aligned with my legs. This replicates where she will be when she is in harness. She has to lead in a positive way but without pulling, this means that her movements are fed back to me as the handler. Therefore, in harness she will guide the handler as she moves left and right and slows down or stops. Hollie will have to be aware of all that is happening around her and eventually make decisions for her handler. One aspect of Hollie's nature as she is part Labrador, is the instinctive need to scavenge and therefore on our walks it is a constant battle to get her to ignore what she sees as potential food, for a Labrador that is anything smelling interesting regardless of what we may consider to be appetizing! Hollie must also learn that smells left by other dogs do not need to be investigated, she has to walk with her head held high looking and assessing what is happening ahead of her.

Although Hollie's progress to date has been excellent for the majority of her training, she has one major problem that I have to resolve as it is something I have failed to address correctly, mainly due to my inexperience in this one aspect, her spending routine. It is

of great importance that Hollie learns to complete her spending in a designated area at home, so that the eventual owner can confidently take her out and not worry about her stopping either for a wee or a poo. Obviously cleaning up dog mess in pedestrian areas is not an option for a blind or partially sighted person. I have failed to correctly identify when Hollie requires to spend so that I could ensure that this is done in the area laid aside and to praise her so that she understands that this is where she should do this. I now have to instigate a remedial programme to correct this, hoping that the routine of going where she wants has not become too ingrained. My supervisor has also identified that it requires a change of diet to control her digestive system to enhance the change in routine.

The supervisor is in the process of setting up a meeting place for puppy walkers in the Oxford area so that we can exchange experiences, difficulties and how people have resolved these. It is also a chance for dogs to meet in a controlled environment to socialise and learn that other dogs are not necessarily playmates or rivals and thus can be greeted and acknowledged in a calm and controlled manner. I am looking forward to this as I need to understand more of the training methods others have found useful.

I am extremely grateful for the response by everyone Hollie and I meet on our walks in the village, you have

all resisted any distraction and have reacted well when Hollie has found it too difficult not to jump up in joyful greeting. Hollie is slowly improving but it will be a few more weeks before she can greet you only by wagging her tail more vigorously.

To date my supervisor has to find puppy walkers for 43 puppies that are the result of a planned increase in working dogs to place with potential owners. At present supply is not keeping up with demand. If anyone feels that they can take on the work as a puppy walker I am sure that they will be well received by the association. All food and vets bills are paid for by the association, all you would have to provide is a home, time and patience and a disciplined approach to training. Many puppies are trained within a family environment and in some cases with other pet dogs. A home visit by a puppy walking supervisor is arranged to make sure that the home is suitable for providing the facilities required for the specific training. If selected, an induction day in Leamington Spa

is organized and training manuals are provided along with DVDs to help you through the processes of training. If you feel that this is something you might consider and you want to find out more you can contact me at keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net or directly to the Guide Dog for the Blind Association at leamington@guidedogs.org.uk or phone 0845 372 7417.

Keith Ravenhill

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COTSWOLD CONSERVATION BOARD

The Board runs courses in rural skills such as dry stone walling, green woodworking, thatching and hedgelaying.

They have a list of organised walks planned from October to March and 6 off-road cycle routes are available to download from their website.

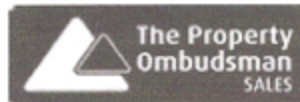
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THE WYCHWOOD FOREST FAIR

Despite a rather damp start this year's Forest Fair, which was held on our newly acquired land at South-down Farm between Crawley and Witney, was enjoyed by 3,000 visitors raising £15,000 for the work of the Friends of Wychwood. In addition we raised a further £2,700 towards the cost of planting trees at our new community wood at the site of the Fair. This new wood has been christened Foxburrow Wood and it will be developed over the next three or four years.

There were lots to see and do at this year's Fair with 169 stands including local charities and conservation organisations, archery displays, a storyteller, Witney Town Band, Hatwell's Funfair, plant and book sales, arts and crafts, displays of countryside skills and a very wide variety of trade stands illustrating the wide range of local industry.

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Most importantly it offered our visitors a chance to see the wide range of activities that the Friends of Wychwood and the Wychwood Project initiate and support throughout the area of the ancient Royal Hunting Forest of Wychwood. Also on display was information about Wychwood V, which has enabled 150

young people to become involved in conservation activities.

I hope that everyone who visited the Fair from Ascott enjoyed the event and will continue to support the Friends of Wychwood.

Stuart Fox



Don't forget about the Ascott website:

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FLOOD RELIEF UPDATE

BEFORE.....



AFTER



The trick now is to keep the river flowing well under all three bridges in Ascott. Would anyone who notices a blockage please phone me on 830344. Many thanks.

Philippa Carter

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD NEEDS YOU!

Oxfordshire County Council has asked all their Parish Councils to prepare a voluntary 'Community Emergency Plan'. This would be a self-help plan for all kinds of emergency including adverse weather conditions, accidents and long-term utility failure. The plan would only be used if the Emergency Services are unable to respond immediately.

The amount of support that the Parish Emergency Team could offer would depend very much on the number of volunteers and pieces of equipment available. The lists below give you some idea of what we may need but if there is anything else that you can offer please do come forward. We shall be enormously grateful for all offers of help

SKILLS AND SERVICES

1st Aid	Builder	Electrician
Gas FitterPlumber	Tree Surgeon	
Carpenter	Vehicle Recovery	Plant Operator
Strong Arm (<i>sandbags, lifting furniture</i>)		Cleaning
Washing	Runners	Support to vulnerable residents
Offer a temporary home		Anything else?

EQUIPMENT (to be called upon at the time of the emergency)

Tractor (<i>with bucket for snow plough</i>)	4 x 4 vehicle
Chain Saw	Emergency Generator
Dehumidifiers	Rope
Waders	Non-mains lighting
Camp/inflatable beds	Portable heaters/cookers
Blankets	
Anything else?	

THE DETAILS OF ALL VOLUNTEERS WILL BE HELD BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AND USED ONLY IN A MAJOR EMERGENCY. NO INFORMATION WILL BE MADE GENERALLY AVAILABLE.

Many thanks!

**Rob Morgan - 831958
Laurence Mellor - 831182
Pauline Marshall - 830912**

**Bridgette Crundwell - 830671
Philippa Carter - 830344**



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GARDENING NOTES

I love the garden in September. The michaelmas daisies provide such splashes of colour which last well into Autumn keeping the greyness of winter at bay for as long as possible. There is also a marvellous hotpoker called *kniphofia rooperi* which starts to flower at about the same time providing a grand complement to those daisies which tend towards the purple rather than the pink side of the colour spectrum.

Providing colour in the garden for as much of the year as possible has been my goal for a long time. I started off probably as most people have done by concentrating on the summer garden, I suppose because that is the easiest time in the year to find colour as there are so many plants that flower in the summer. But I did not realise that colour during the whole summer was difficult to achieve. I remember being astounded by reading a comment made by a famous garden writer that August was a difficult month to keep colour going. Surely not, there were so many summer flowers that it could not be true. Yet when I started to study what happened in the garden during that month I found the writer was correct. August was a low point, June's

and July's plants looked exhausted, very little new growth could be seen and there was hardly any plant ready to carry on the colour theme. That was the beginning of my ambition to fill the garden with continuous colour for as long as possible throughout the year.

As I started to plan to fulfil my ambition I came to realise that gardening could be a complicated activity if you wanted it to be. The 'colour year'

seemed to have 6 basic sections: spring; early summer; mid summer; late summer; autumn; and winter.

Spring seemed to be the easiest to get to grips with but even here there



were subdivisions: earliest flowers were snowdrops, then came crocuses, then daffodils, then tulips. These could be subdivided again into: early, mid and late snowdrops; early, mid and late daffodils; etc, etc, etc. Even these subdivisions could be further subdivided into early early; mid early; and late early; etc, etc, etc. Herein could lie the path to madness or in my case the path to endless enjoyment and continual ambition, sometimes achieved, of providing colour and flowers in the garden for as long as possible. What has my

ambition achieved so far? The garden generally has some plant in flower from about February to the end of October. But it is never enough. The best times are summer and autumn but I'm still working on making August as colourful as the rest of the summer months.

Starting off with the comparatively simple ambition of providing continuous colour, I got drawn into making it more complicated. It had to be the right colour, it had to match or contrast with its neighbours and if it were to clash with them it had to be the right kind of clash. I came to realise that 'pink' was not just 'pink', it could be a bluey pink or a brownish pink, yellow could be an orangey yellow or a lemony yellow or an apricot yellow. Red could be pinky, orangey or purpley. Not all shades of one colour would go with all the shades of another colour. Another road to madness? No, for me it just added to the pleasure of gardening. Of course, there is always the disappointment of finding that a new plant I was trying and had only seen a picture of was nothing like the colour it appeared to be and clashed horribly with its neighbours when it flowered. But the joy of find-

ing a flower which is just the right colour companion of its neighbours is wonderful and easily compensates for the disappointment. One of the reasons I love going to local plant sales is the possibility of finding that right plant and the anticipation of waiting for it to flower. Even if it is not the right plant of the right shade this time, the next plant sale might be the lucky one where I find exactly what I need. Such endless excitement!

So autumn is here and winter is not far behind bringing in another round of taking stock and planning to make good the colour clashes or lack of colour seen during the previous months. I've started taking photographs of problem areas as they occur during the year as an aid to my memory. When you get round to making the changes in early winter and spring, it is not easy to conjure up a scene of the garden in full flow in summer. The



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photographs remind me of which area to change and help my colour memory identify the right rainbow shade needed to make a harmonious picture. Then I can trawl through books or the internet to find possible plants and make a list for next year's plant sales making my gardening a year-long activity.

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 garden 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 Keaufling

THE GOGGLE EYED ONE AND THE SCREAMING ONE

Have you been aware as you walk through the avenue in Ascott churchyard, of the two unsavoury characters watching your every step? The same two who for many centuries have watched the steps of numerous Ascott villagers and their visitors. There they sit, atop the wall of the north aisle of the church. The goggle eyed one and the screaming one. What tales they could tell of Ascott life over untold decades.

From their appearance, they seem to be very old, certainly erected long before the renovation of the church in the mid nineteenth century. Originally, before the development of drainpipes, they would have held water spouts (long pipes) in their mouth or throat, helping to protect the roof and walls from the ravages of rain.



South Porch

They seem to have survived much better than the sculptures half way up each side of the doorway into the south porch. It would be difficult today to even suggest what they might have represented. But they probably did not act as deterrents to evil and the devil, as it is believed was one of the purposes of gargoyles such as the goggle eyed one and the screaming one, from their perches either side of the blocked north doorway into the church. One early belief is that the north door was built to let the devil out should he dare to enter the church. In the distant past, legend has it that the congregation, as they entered the church, dipped their fingers in a holy water stoup, and crossed themselves to expel the devil. He could not fly over their shoulders so he had to exit via the north door. Often in a church, the font is placed near the north door. Another belief was that the devil left the child during baptism and escaped through this door.



Tower Window



East Window

If you take time to stop and look around the church from the outside, it betrays many details of past centuries. In the tower, the round headed Norman style window arches can be seen, a survival of the original building style. The east window is of the Gothic style which was just beginning to be established around 1200AD, when the church was built. Another century or two saw the development of the perpendicular square headed windows to be seen on the south side in the lady chapel.



Lady Chapel



Chancel Door

The small doorway into the chancel on the south side, with its old wooden door, displays on the stone surround to the right of the door handle, small round depressions. These are believed to have been formed by medieval villagers sharpening their arrows. By law, at that time, all villagers had to practise archery in the village butts, in order to be ready, should the need arise, to provide a defensive force. Where the butts were in Ascott is unknown, but is it possible they could have practised in the churchyard?

These small craters can also be seen on one of the old bale tombs near the stand of yew trees. Alongside them is a scraped surface, possibly caused by the sharpening of scythes. Surely the method by which they mowed the churchyard in centuries past.



Bale Tomb

Bale tombs are believed to have been of those who made their money through the sale of wool, the sculpted top representing a woolsack.

One man who dealt in the wool business lived at Coldstone in the early 1700s, so these unknown tombs may possibly represent his family, the Lardners.

Just little features, for some of which we can only surmise their purpose, but one and all revealing pointers to the long life of Ascott Church.

Wendy Pearse

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WINTER 2011 EDITION**

JANUARY 5TH

PLEASE DON'T BE LATE

DEMISE OF ASCOTT CC

It's been in the pipeline for a while now, but at the time of going to press, Ascott CC will not be around next season to disrupt your Sundays with the sound of leather on willow and the cries of "Howzat !"

It's been a particularly difficult year for the team as the loss of 5 or 6 key players from last season has ripped the core out of the side, plus there is the added retirement of both myself and Gary Doggett after this season due to malfunctioning bones and muscles! My sympathies go out to Adrian Underhill, the Ascott CC skipper, who has had the impossible task of getting a side together for our games this year, I think we've managed to play with the full 11 on only 3 or 4 occasions. But our thanks go out to all those who answered the call.

It's a shame really as we had a full fixture card for the season with some familiar teams and some new teams to pit our skills against, but due to our lack of numbers we did spend a lot of time chasing the ball around the field this year, which is no fun at the best of times.

So rather than report on our fixtures this season, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who, by their own endeavours, have enabled me to be a part of a fantastic Sunday cricket team for the last 15 years.

There's Gary Doggett, who, if he hasn't done the fixtures secretary job, has done just about everything else within the club and has, with the aid of a few others, looked after the square and equipment for the last god knows how many years, Gary's wife Sharon, along with Tina Suter and Adrian Underhill's mum have worked tirelessly to provide the team with sustenance Sunday after Sunday, aided and abetted by many wives and girlfriends who have come to ridicule, I mean support their respective partners. Sharon is also the club treasurer and has done a fantastic job over the years. There's Adrian Underhill who has taken on the Captains responsibility over the last 2 or 3 years, a selfless and thankless task, which has a lot more going on behind the scenes than people imagine.

Finally I'd like to thank all the players who've come and gone over the years, without whom there would be no team, good, bad, or indifferent, they've all been welcomed and given the opportunity to bat, bowl or have a kip in the deep outfield. Hopefully they've all enjoyed themselves.

So to past and present Ascott CC members, a very big thank you.

Incidentally, if anyone out there is interested in taking on the mantle and keeping the club running, **please contact Gary Doggett on 01993 843603** all the equipment and contact details for opposing teams is still available to be put to good use.

Thank you for many years of fun and memories to treasure.

Clive Jowett

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LEAFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

As Leaffield Primary School broke up for the summer, we all had to say goodbye to Mrs Lesley Ryde, who retired after 9 years as our Headteacher. Staff, parents, governors and pupils past and present came together to celebrate Lesley's contribution to the school and wish her well. There were lots of laughs and a few tears and it was clear to see how well-regarded Lesley was and how much she will be missed. She is now exploring Europe with her husband and is keeping in touch with the school with regular postcards and emails.

We started the new Academic year with 11 new foundation children and a total of 92 children on the role.

Mrs Jane Ridley has joined us as Acting Headteacher until December 2010 and she has settled in well to the role. Jane has taken time to meet and listen to staff, pupils, governors and parents to help her guide the school through this period of change. As we go to press, the governors are making arrangements for interviews for a permanent Headteacher.

After school clubs are well under way, with staff kindly offering something on most days - children can participate in a range of activities,

including Netball, Art, Cooking and Engineering. The healthy breakfast club continues to be offered each morning and provides a wonderful start to the day, with cereal, toast and a cooked breakfast on offer. Class 4 also have the wonderful opportunity of learning a brass instrument and have been given permission to take these home to practise.

Arrangements are underway for the older children to take part in a residential visit to Yenworthy at the end of January 2011 – a fantastic opportunity for the children to bond and develop

skills before they move on to secondary school.

At the start of October, our children participated in the Harvest Festival in the church. Everyone sang beautifully and we were treated to a wonderful performances by each of the classes. We have also just enjoyed World Book Week, which rounded off with all children and staff dressing up as a character from a favourite book. It was a wonderful sight to see Cinderellas, Snow Whites, pirates, witches, rabbits and dalmations entering the school gates on Friday morning!

Carole Bartlett



ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council are now up to full capacity and would like to take this opportunity to welcome Cllr Pauline Marshall who was co-opted in July.

After the summer break the Council met in September and were joined by two members from Network Rail and one from First Great Western. Network Rail gave a very informative presentation on the doubling of the track and how this would be carried out. Indeed this was scheduled to commence on October 2nd starting at Honeybourne, on to Mickleton and by the end of December Ascott-under-Wychwood. They have promised to let the Parish Council have a schedule of works. Both Network Rail and First Great Western were optimistic about the future of the double track and confirmed they would consult, when necessary, with the parishioners who may be affected or disrupted. They were confident that disruption would be kept to a minimum.

Christmas Carols round the Tree

Following the enormous success and enjoyment last year the Parish Council will be holding the service this year on the Village Green on Christmas Eve. This will be held late afternoon, early evening - please look out for a notice giving full details nearer the time. The tree will be erected on Saturday 4 December and so any help would be greatly appreciated.

Planning Applications

Planning still remains quiet.

Flooding/ Contingency Plan

Cllr Philippa Carter continues her hard work in updating this and all councillors have attended one of the Emergency Planning workshops held by the district councils.

Sports Pavilion

As reported in the last edition of the Grapevine the Parish Council still need somebody to take on the bookings for the Sports Pavilion and so if anybody would be interested in this role please do not hesitate to contact any of the councillors below or indeed the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council:

Rob Morgan (Chairman) 831958

Bridgette Crundwell (Vice) 830671

Laurence Mellor 831182

Philippa Carter 830344

Pauline Marshall 830912

Angela Barnes
(Parish Clerk) 01608 641045

Harvest Flowers

The Church at this year's Harvest Festival was beautifully decorated by a dedicated handful of Ladies, who ensure that at Festival time the Church is adorned with colour and flowers appropriate to the season. This year's Harvest was no exception. The rich Autumnal colours looked splendid around the Church and whatever space could be filled, was! Those fortunate to see the Church will appreciate what I'm talking about, but there are plenty

who missed it. The next time the Church will be full of colour will be just before Christmas, so if you can spare a few minutes in what is a busy time of the year please, go and visit the Church, you may even pick up some ideas!

Debra Cull





Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens

Animal of the Month

Brazilian Tapir

The Brazilian Tapir is an ancient species of mammal, remaining relatively unchanged for millions of years. It is a distant relative of the horse and rhinoceros, though in appearance and habits can only be described as unique. Most species of Tapir occur in the humid forests of South America although, strangely, a separate species, the Malayan Tapir is found in similar environments in Asia.

With its prehensile snout and docile nature, this bizarre creature is a firm favourite with our visitors and we have had great success over the years breeding this species.



Our current male, Gomez, arrived this year from Longleat Safari Park and he is eagerly anticipating the arrival of a new female so he can make his own contribution to the Cotswolds breeding record! Our animal encounters scheme allows our visitors the opportunity to get close to Gomez who will never say no to a tummy scratch and a succulent branch or two. For more details, please visit our website, cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Don't forget the Park remains open over the winter months, daily from 10am, last admissions from October – February is 3.30pm.

FOR HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES SEE OUR WEBSITE or call 01993 823006

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Please see our website for more information

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The new season began very well with an interesting, entertaining and sometimes amusing talk by Gordon Ottewell, about the Evolution of the Village School. A far cry from the education system of today.

The talk in November will be on Country Chairs and their Makers by Mike Hodsdon. The venue will be Milton Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. on Thursday 18th November.

There is no meeting in December.

In January 2011 on Thursday 20th at 7.30.p.m. again at Milton Village Hall, the speaker will be John Hunt and he will be talking about Oliver Cromwell and his Family.

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**

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MY FIRST EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

Contrary to popular belief, absolutely anyone can take a show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. That's probably the main reason why the average audience size is 7, which, bearing in mind the large crowds the headline comedians attract, means there must be several very small audiences! In any case, Rosy, my co-director, and myself decided to apply to the Fringe venues using a company we created, 'In Short Productions'. We are a group of students at Bristol University – 5 drama students, 1 law student, 1 language student and 1 music student – but what we have in common is love of musical theatre! Although Music Theatre Bristol has a very good reputation at the festival, we wanted to distance ourselves from any association with student theatre, assuming it might put off audiences paying up to £10.50 per ticket, when professional theatre was the same price.

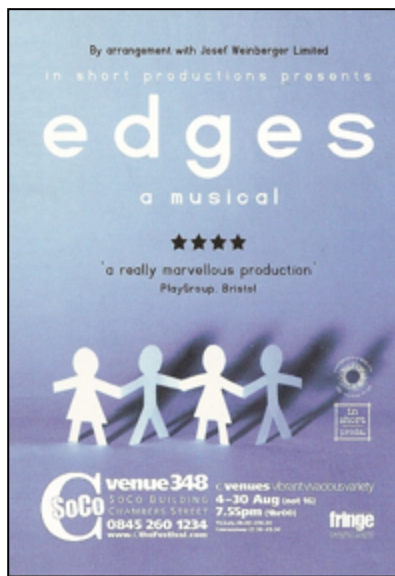
Our Fringe campaign started with an 'open-rehearsal' style performance in Ascott-under-Wychwood's very own Tiddy Hall. We were very nervous as

we thought that those coming to watch might not relish the show as much as the twenty-something age group it's aimed at. But the enthusiasm of the audience took us by surprise, and we were further taken aback when they assured us that they too were young once! This was a huge confidence-boosting success and also made us

aware of a much larger target audience for our show. This couldn't have been a better start to our month – thank you to everyone for your generosity and words of encouragement.

The show itself, 'Edges', is a contemporary piece of musical theatre, a song cycle, written by Americans Pasek & Paul, fusing the 'epic and the intimate' as our flyer said, but

what really drew me to it was its sincerity on stage. It charts the hopes, fears and social blunders of twenty-somethings living in today's world. We soon realized that the most effective way to draw in audiences was to sing on the Royal Mile, rather than pester people with flyers like the 2,500 other shows that we were competing



with! The entire time spent at the festival was far more hectic and exhausting than I had imagined. Not only were we performing every night, but we spent hours promoting the show every day. This was, however,

made easier with a five-star review which was published two thirds of the way through the month and this made audiences easier to attract, as well as being a confidence boost to everybody involved.

During our last week, we were told that we were one of ten groups to be awarded a Three Weeks Editor's Award, 'Three Weeks' being the biggest reviewing body at the festival! Although with no monetary benefit, we were invited to an awards ceremony, with free croissants and juice, along with several of our 'idols' of the festival, who were also given awards. To be placed upon the same theatrical tier as them felt like a true honour, but the real benefit lies with the fact that we now control an 'award winning' production company, which can now be used to secure more prestigious venues in festivals to come!

David Ridley

A CHRISTMAS POEM FOR THE CHILDREN

Shall we go to the woods today
And walk in glades of green
And find the spot where the pixies play
And the fairies sleep unseen?
Shall we go where the tall trees grow?
Where the oak and ash are many
Amid the beech and the sycamore,
The chestnut, elm and holly.
But could there be roaming free
In the dark depths of the wood
A wolf that prowls with frightening
howls
Who would eat you if he could?
And maybe bears are lurking there,
Behind the trees they're waiting,
With claws that tear they'll catch you
there,
Once caught there's no escaping.
Shall we go to the woods again
My good sweet little children?
Of course we will, so just sit still
Or I'll send the wolf to get you.

Fred Russell



NATURE NOTES

If, like me, you enjoy gardening or have an allotment then you know that it can be a perpetual battle against all manner of pests and diseases. Pigeons attack your young plants, Cabbage White caterpillars reduce your cabbage leaves to a few bare stems and other creatures do their mysterious work, usually after dark, reducing your prize plants to sad and deformed specimens. What to do? Well you can spray pesticides with gay abandon or do as I do,



plant more than I need hoping enough plants will thrive and the good guys of the insect world will arrive and see off the pests. Sometimes it works, sometimes not!

When talking of insect pests we often talk of ‘bugs’ including in that word anything from the insect world, but to an entomologist the word ‘bug’ refers to a very specific group of insects, many of whom are indeed pests in our gardens and of our crops. Worldwide there are in excess of 50,000 true bugs and about 1,650 can be found in the British Isle (Sometimes www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk

it seems that most of them visit my garden during the season!)



True bugs have piercing and sucking mouthparts, in the form of a ‘beak’ with which they suck plant and animal juices. They are a very successful group of insects having adapted to a wide variety of habitats and hosts.

This year my fuchsias suffered from an attack by capsid bugs. These small insects suck plant juices from the growing tips of the chosen plant and at the same time inject toxic saliva causing the leaves to become deformed, blistered and peppered with small holes and the flower buds are often destroyed.



These small bugs attack early in the season and have done their damage

and departed before we realise that there is a problem.

Another common group of bugs, are the aptly named Shield Bugs, also known as Stink Bugs because when threatened they exude a foul smelling liquid from glands in their thorax.

There are 33 species of Shield Bugs in Britain but the two most commonly encountered are the Hawthorn Shield Bug and the Green Shield Bug. Neither are considered pests. Most Shield Bugs are in a symbiotic relationship with a bacterium, which aids their digestion of plant sap. The mother bug smears her eggs with regurgitated liquid containing the bacteria so that the emerging nymphs ingest them as they feed on the egg case.



Water Scorpion

Also common in the garden and countryside is the Frog Hopper or Spittle Bug. There are a number of different species, but can be very difficult to identify. All share similar characteristics. The adults have flat 'frog-like' heads and are able to jump to safety when danger threatens and the young surround themselves with frothy 'cuckoo-spit.' This is made from the waste products that are excreted. Most adult Frog Hopper species are small (5-6mm) and plain brown, but there is one that is slightly larger and more colourful, the Red and Black Froghop-

per. The young of this species live underground feeding from plant roots.

Over the years humans have suffered

from the attention of the Bed Bug that feeds on our blood and also attacks poultry and mice. It is associated with overcrowding and became widespread in the first half of the 20th Century; thankfully it is now rarely encountered. Given the right temperature bed bugs will breed throughout the year, feeding at night and hiding in crevices during the day.

Scale insects, Mealy Bugs, White Flies and Aphids form another group of sap-sucking bugs that tend to be major pests of garden, greenhouse and farm. The Black Fly aphid is a major problem to anyone growing runner and broad beans as these crops act like a magnet to this particular pest. However it does have a fascinating and complex life cycle. In late summer winged females are produced and these leave the host plant (my beans!) and migrate to Spindle trees and the Guelder Rose (*Viburnum*). In early September they are fertilised by winged males. Eggs are laid that over winter and in spring wingless females hatch and without mating they produce live young, rather than eggs. These colonies expand and eventually produce a generation of



winged females which in early summer return to your beans to start the whole cycle again, initially giving live birth to wingless females and later winged females and later still winged males. Quite what triggers the change from producing wingless to winged females or to winged males no one can say.

Some of the strangest and most vicious bugs are to be found in our freshwater ponds. The Water Boatman and the Back Swimmer are two very similar insects that will be found skimming across a pond's surface or hunting just under it. The Back swimmer spends most of its time upside down swimming on a keel-shaped back, propelled forward by enlarged hind legs which have been modified as oars. The Water Boatman has a similar adaptation. Both can fly to find another pond and dive in pursuit of prey, which will include



small fish, tadpoles and the larvae of diving beetles. Any insect that happens to fall onto the water's surface is quickly attacked, stabbed with the feeding tube and injected with toxic saliva and sucked dry.

Another interesting group of water bugs are the Water Scorpions of which there are two species found in England, one is long and stick like and the

second broad and leaf-like. The second is the one that you are most likely to encounter. They are likened to true Scorpions because of their modified, grasping front legs, which they use to snatch their prey. Both have a long tube extending from their rear that is often mistaken for a sting, but is in fact a breathing tube used to take air from the surface. They are not strong swimmers, but lie in wait for passing prey, usually other insects, tadpoles or small fish.



When captured by the Scorpion's front legs the prey is injected with a toxic digestive enzyme and then sucked dry.

The diversity of insect life never ceases to amaze me, although as a gardener perhaps frustrate would be a better word to choose!

Stuart Fox

WINDRUSH VALLEY SCHOOL

Windrush Valley School started the academic year with a group of students from Key Stage 2, visiting Normandy in France. The children (aged 8-10), spent 4 nights in Chateau du Baffy. During the day, they visited the D-Day landing sights and bought and ate crepes from the local market.



They learnt how to make goat's cheese and tasted it! They had turns in milking the goats and tasting the milk, not sure how the goat's felt, but the children had fun and they tasted the milk straight from the goat, which was warm and sweet! They even found time to bake their own organic baguettes at a rural bakery.

Great fun had by all.



Harvest Festival:

With so many schools reported in the news as moving away from tradition and barely celebrating harvest festival, we are very proud that at Windrush Valley School

(Ascott-under-Wychwood), we are flying the flag for tradition. Children throughout the school, staff, parents, grandparents and friends, celebrated the harvest together with a wonderful church service, with singing and stories from the children. Each year, we ask the children and their families to donate home grown produce, cakes and the like, and each year out perform the last! We sold the largest pumpkin any of us have ever seen, and held a raffle for 2 wonderful fruit and vegetable baskets donated by 2 families of the school.

We would like to thank all the children, staff and families for making this a special event, with a very big thanks to the children from our Nursery and Reception classes, who raised £15 for the tomatoes, runner beans, beetroot, carrots and potatoes they grew in the school vegetable garden.

We are still counting the pennies, but the total raised from this event should reach £250. Windrush Valley School will be donating this money to the Pakistan Flood Appeal, which we very much hope will go some way in helping those affected by the terrible floods.



From little acorns

Well done to Max Boyns and Daniel Milner, who

Don't forget about the Ascott website:

successfully sat the entry examination for Magdalen College School, Oxford. Both Max and Daniel have been at Windrush Valley School (Ascott-under-Wychwood) since an early age, and have worked hard to gain a place at one of the top schools in the country. We would also like to congratulate Ella Greening in successfully gaining a place at St Helen & St Katherine School, Abingdon.

Staff and children at Windrush Valley School will certainly miss all 3 students, but feel proud to have been involved in helping them reach these goals and the strong friendships they have formed.

Well done to you all.

“The school’s approach to learning has firm traditional foundations, yet incorporates a wide variety of additional experiences, including trips abroad, local and national sporting competitions,”

and the last comment from a former pupil: ***“I started WVS in Nursery and have always been looked after really well. I have made good friends and always felt included and happy. All the different subjects were made enjoyable by my teachers and this made learning much easier and good fun. I will miss WVS and remember it forever”.***

Wychwood Valley School



Moving on up!!

Congratulations to Windrush Valley School **2010 leavers**. All children left Windrush Valley

School gaining their first choice school, with a record 10 pupils selected for their first choice independent school, 2 of these gaining scholarships. We would like to thank the parent's and students from our 2010 leavers for their comments and thoughts:

“Windrush provides the children with opportunities at every stage to build and develop their self confidence.”

**DEADLINE FOR
WINTER 2011 EDITION**

JANUARY 5TH

PLEASE DON'T BE LATE

Carols on Ascott Village Green

The Ascott Village Charity is delighted to be able to support the Parish Council this year and participate in what has now become an annual event during the festive season, Carols on the Green.

This year, the A.V.C. will be contributing towards the costs. There will be mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies for everyone who comes along. The singing as last year will be led by the village choir. The date as I write is yet to be confirmed, so please look out for the posters which will be put up around the village.

Whether you're 1 or 101 come along and get into the Christmas Spirit!

The Ascott Village Charity



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what we have to offer

Ascott Village Shop

By the village, for the village

It is our 7th Anniversary on 24 November and we
would like to thank all our loyal customers and helpers
that have supported us

We would certainly not be here without you, so a
heartfelt thank you

LOOK OUT FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND OFFERS

Ascott Village Shop – run by the community

Cook's Row, High Street,
Ascott-under-Wychwood, OX7 6AW
01993 831240

Email: shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk
Website: www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

WYCHWOOD LIBRARY NEWS

We are experiencing a really busy time in the Library at the moment so many thanks to all our new customers and also to those who have rejoined. With the present uncertain times ahead for Library provision in rural areas we are looking for maximum usage of all our facilities to put us in a good light should we come under scrutiny! Also, with winter upon us, it is a good time to curl up with a book and we can certainly help you there! Why not borrow instead of buying books. We have most of the new titles that you can find at the supermarkets and it's all free!

We have two very active Reading Groups for adults and one for children called "Wychwood Wordpeckers". The evening adult group is oversubscribed but the other group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1.15pm until about 2.30pm and there are still a few spaces there. Both groups discuss recent and more classic fiction.

The lively "Wychwood Wordpeckers" meets on a Wednesday afternoon once a month. Look out for meeting times.

We would like to promote "Bookstart" and "Bookcrawl" this time. These nationwide initiatives encourage the youngest of our children to come along to the Library and get into good reading habits. Even newborn babies love to hear familiar voices reading to them so get your children

started early. Every time you and your young children visit we give you a sticker on a small card then after four stickers we present you with a jolly poster! Also, we hand out a book bag to every child who is around 18 months old filled with early learning materials.

A recent newspaper article cited a study that found that keeping just 20 books at home can boost a child's chances of doing well at school! We allow each member of the library to take home 20 books and it is free! Just remember to renew or return the items every three weeks and you shouldn't need to ever pay overdue charges. So go for it. It's good for our issue figures and great for your family's well being.

We have mentioned it before but just to remind you of our WRVS connection. Angela Townsend is visiting quite a few of our very long standing customers who are finding it increasingly difficult to get along to the Library. Angela, who has passed all the usual checking procedures, will visit you in your home to discuss the range of your favourite reading items and will then choose some and so on. This is a wonderful service. Just let us know if you would like to use it as well.

IKNIT starts again in the Library for the cooler months. This creative group meets every two weeks on a Thursday morning to celebrate the world of knitting and other associated activities. They are such a happy

Don't forget about the Ascott website:

crowd of people sharing craft experiences and also knitting squares for blankets for the children in Africa in their spare time. Do come along and enjoy this peaceful pastime and also see the selection of craft books we have on offer in the Library.

We look forward to seeing you 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

Ruth, Liz, Angela



Stop Press !

We have relocated but only just over the road.

We are now in Market Street. Charlbury

(Next to the Rose & Crown)

We still offer an excellent Picture Framing service, so whether its just a reglaze or a complete new frame, we've got it all, lots of mouldings to choose from, Computerised Mount Cutting

We also offer the option of Schott Mirogard glass for that finishing touch.

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Monday – Friday 9-5.30

Saturday 9-5

Sunday 9-4 (excluding Jan/Feb/March)

Closed all day Tuesdays

FARMERS MARKETS

Moreton in Marsh

Every Tuesday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Stow on the Wold

2nd Thursday every month 9.00am - 1.00pm

Charlbury

Saturday 11 December 9.00am - 1.00pm

Witney

3rd Wednesday in the month 8.30am - 1.30pm

Woodstock

1st Saturday in the month 8.30am - 1.00pm

Chipping Norton

3rd Saturday every month 8.30am - 1.30pm

OPEN GARDENS 2011

**Open Gardens 2011 to be held on
25 and 26 June**



If you would like to open your garden or need some more information about the event please contact **Yvette Keauffling on 832144 or y.keauffling@btinternet.com**. You can still open your garden if you can only do it on one of those days.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Do you fancy contributing to our village community, by helping in our own village shop – **run by the village, for the village?**

We are looking for Ascott villagers who would be prepared to spend a little time helping the existing team keep it running. There are a variety of jobs to interest people, so why not spare us a few hours each month?

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

We very much look forward to welcoming you.

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Phone: 07780 572283

Email: pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk

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

COTSWOLD LINE PROMOTION GROUP

The following extract is taken from COTSWOLD & MALVERN LINE NEWS, Issue No. 106, SUMMER/AUTUMN 2010 and is published with the kind permission of Mr John Ellis, Chairman of the COTSWOLD LINE PROMOTION GROUP.

‘Progress on Redoubling

The first point is that the project is firmly committed, and is secure from any austerity cuts. You may have already seen that new rails are starting to be delivered to site, and the invitations to tender (ITTs) for the various key elements of the work have either been issued or are imminent. They are:-

Plain line track laying: tenders back in mid July.

1. Signalling, power supply and communications at end July.

2. Honeybourne bridge and Littleton & Badsey level crossing has been let to Birse and the work will be carried out in October. All of the level crossings on the redoubled sections will be converted to have 4 barrier arms, which are more robust and reliable.

3. Station designs are being finalized for submission to planning authorities. While there is no formal need for planning approval, being permitted works within the railway limits of deviation, the authorities are to be consulted. It has been agreed that the platforms at

Charlbury and Honeybourne will be built to 135 metre length, rather than the originally planned 225 metres. Some of the reduced costs will be used to extend the existing platform at Ascott to accommodate a 3 car Turbo unit. We are pressing for Shipton Up platform to be extended also as part of the project.

The contract for the stations will be awarded in October, and the work will start in January 2011. The plain line installation will be carried out during weeknight possessions starting in January. It is planned to lay approximately a mile of track each week. There will be no disruption to services by the work, except that the last two trains in each direction will be replaced by buses. While the rails will be delivered to site before work starts, the new sleepers and ballast will be brought to site each day as required. As explained previously, the section between Charlbury and Ascott will be carried out first. There will be a blockade of the line between Oxford and Kingham from 28th May to 5th June to connect the new track to the existing, and to commission the new signaling. Work will then continue from Moreton to Evesham during June and July with another blockade from Moreton to Norton Junction (just outside Worcester) from 6th to 21st August.

Rob Morgan

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
2.00pm - 4.00pm**

Special Events:

Saturday 13 November
Race Night

Saturday 20 November
Folk Night

Friday 10 December
Village Panto



To book the Tiddy Hall contact:

**Ingrid Ridley
01993 830612**



The Wychwoods Day Centre

Christmas Bazaar

Thursday November 25th

10.15am – 11.45am

The New Beaconsfield Hall

Shipton-u-wychwood

Tea and coffee

Cards

nearly new

cakes

Plants

Raffle



TIDDY HALL REPORT

We welcomed back our regulars to Tiddy Hall in September after the summer holidays. Ascott-u-Wychwood Pre-School started their term on the 2nd of September and Yoga, Karate and Circuit Classes all resumed their regular spot in the same week. We also welcome back The Roseneath School of Music which holds piano lessons on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. The Windrush Valley School are also using the Hall for several after school clubs.

The Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning which was held on Saturday September 25th was very successful and enjoyed by all! We raised £242 for Tiddy Hall funds! A big thank you to everyone, especially Mary & Sue in the kitchen, serving coffee & cakes, Pauline for running the raffle, Sally for helping me to organise the morning and to all those who contributed delicious cakes and other home baked goods. We'd like to make this a regular feature at Tiddy Hall, perhaps once or twice a year. If anyone has any ideas on how we can improve the morning, please don't hesitate to let me know.

A Quiz Night was held on October 2nd with 12 teams entering. The winning team was the Cunning Stunts, followed closely by the Shipton Shepherds. A very enjoyable evening with a delicious supper included, so thank you to Simon and Nick for organising the evening and to the cooks, Kather-

ine and Philippa. £300 was raised for Tiddy Hall funds! Another Quiz Night will be held in the spring and we are also planning another Flix in the Stix evening in February.

The Committee has started making provisional plans for Tiddy Hall's centenary celebrations in 2012. This will be a busy year with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London Olympics and European Cup Football. We plan to hold events in conjunction with these larger national events, so look out for things such as The Ascott Olympics (start training now)! Funds raised during the year will go towards a new kitchen for Tiddy Hall. Anyone who would like to help organise an event or who has an idea, please contact one of the committee members.

The Fishing Club are holding a Race Night on 13th November. For tickets please contact Pete Moss on 830758. And don't forget our Folk Night which is on the 20th November with special guest Johnny Silvo. For tickets please contact Lyn Collins on 830114.

After last year's success, the Village Panto is back on Friday 10th December. More details nearer the time. And, looking forward to the New Year, everyone is welcomed to our Anniversary Dance on Saturday January 29th, again further details nearer the time!

Ingrid Ridley

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THEN



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AND NOW !



Shipton Road, Ascott-under-Wychwood



Please pick it UP!

Dog fouling continues to be an unpleasant issue in Ascott. On a recent stroll along the verge in Church View I counted no less than six piles of dog faeces which is totally unacceptable, particularly since there is a bin by the bus stop in Shipton Road. I have even found it in the churchyard, not pleasant when you inadvertently mow over it.

It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up any dog foul left by their dog. If you fail to clean up after your dog you can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice, or if the case goes to court, a fine of up to £1000.00.

The regulations state specifically, that being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the faeces is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after your dog. If you have information about a dog fouling you can report it to the police, the local council or a dog warden, and it is up to them to decide whether they wish to proceed any further. So, if you spot an offender, report them and let's deal with this once and for all.

Tim Lyon

Ascott Village Shop Online!

You can now find the shop on:

Twitter: @AscottShop

Facebook: Ascott Village Shop (become a fan)

Email: shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

Internet: www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

The Ascott Grapevine Editorial Team would like to wish all our advertisers, contributors and readers a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Thank you all for your support during the year and we look forward to bringing you even more interesting articles and news in 2011.

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

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COOK'S CORNER : ASCOTT'S FAVOURITE RECIPES

BLACK WYCH STEW WITH HERB DUMPLINGS

(Serves 4)

1 lb cubed lamb
1 oz seasoned flour (salt, pepper, 1 teaspoon rosemary)
2 medium onions
2 garlic cloves
½ pint stock
1 bottle Black Wych stout
5 carrots
2 parsnips
10 herb dumplings
2-3 tablespoons R or Olive oil

Dumplings

3 oz self-raising flour
3 oz fresh breadcrumbs
3 tablespoons shredded suet
1½ tablespoon finely chopped mint
Salt/Pepper
1 large egg

Coat the cubed lamb with the seasoned flour. Chop the onions and garlic and scraps and chop the carrots and parsnips. Heat the oil in a heavy based pan or flameproof casserole and fry the onions and garlic gently until transparent. Add the lamb and fry until brown.

Stir in the stock and stout and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, skim the surface if needed. Add the chopped carrots and parsnips, reduce the heat, cover the pan with a lid and simmer gently, stirring occasionally for about 1½ - 2 hours, until tender.

Make the dumplings. Put the flour, breadcrumbs, suet and mint in a large bowl. Mix together well and season with salt and pepper. Beat the egg and add to the mix, stir in well. Lightly flour your hands and shape the mixture into 8 balls. Add the dumplings to the top of the stew, replace the lid and simmer for a further 15-20 minutes.

Kingsley

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