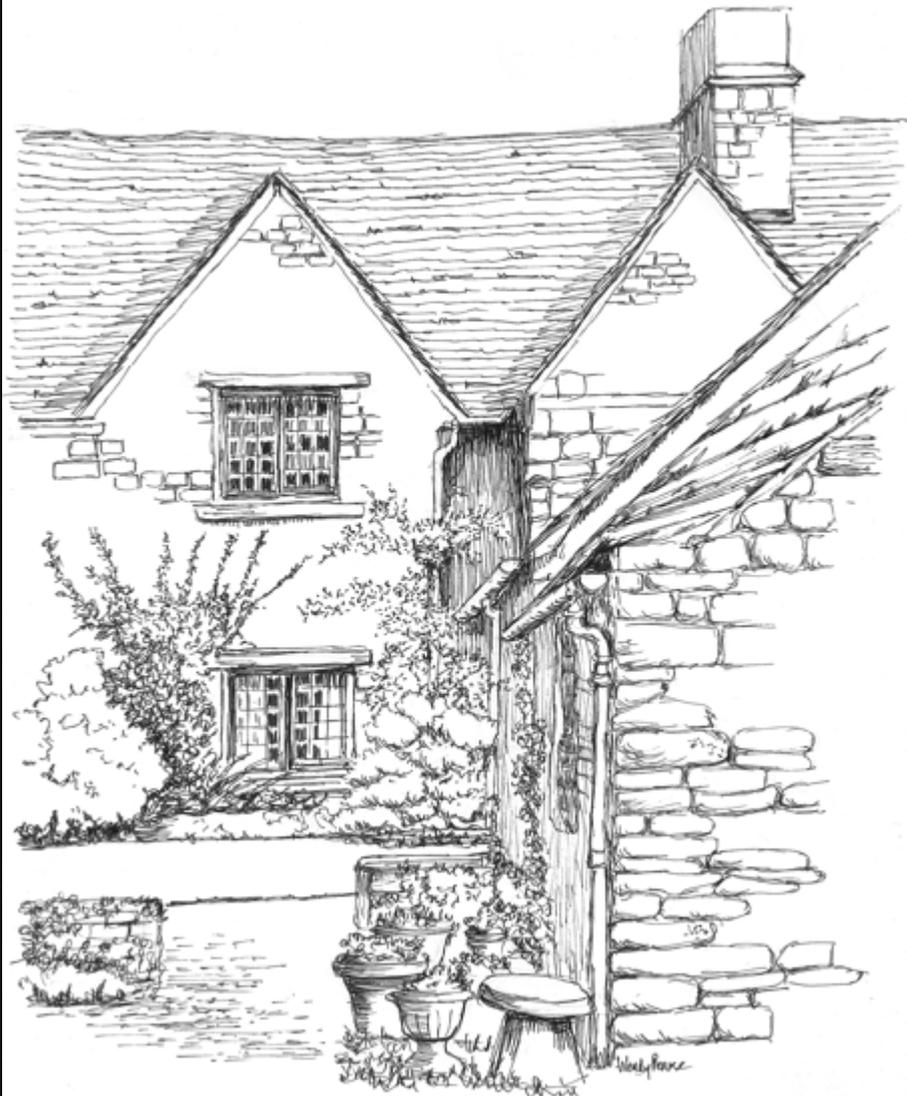


# The Ascott Grapevine



Issue 74

Spring 2012

## 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 Summer issue of *The Ascott Grapevine* should be submitted by 5th July 2012.**

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

### The Editorial Team:

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Deaths

On the 8th February 2012, Wendy Butler, aged 56 years.

### OBITUARY Wendy Elizabeth Butler 1955-2012

There are many things for which Wendy will be remembered.

Firstly, she had an endearing love of life. She had a great sense of fun, had a genuine interest in people and was a great listener, coach and above all else a great friend to many.

Secondly, she was a great mother to Natalie and Becky whom she adored unconditionally. They are both a wonderful credit to their mother and I know only too well how much she meant to them.

Thirdly, was the inspiration she created in others. She was dedicated to helping others whenever and wherever she went and so many have said that Wendy was elegant, kind, energetic, brave, inspirational, lady of strength, beauty, honour, full of pride and love, a wonderful personality and funny

Wendy was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1955 in Dunn, a tiny hamlet in North Devon. She was the eldest child of Morna and William (Bill) Dallyn and was joined later by her siblings, Gill, Shirley, Jenn and Geoff.



Shortly after she was born, the family moved to a farm in Parracombe where, in time, Wendy attended a small primary school – and so began that thirst for learning which continued throughout her life. Wendy spoke often about that “wonderful school”. This was followed by a short spell at Barnstaple school.

At the age of 11 she was the Carnival Queen – she always liked to be the centre of attention!

When Wendy was 12 the family moved again, this time to Little Shelfin Farm, Mullacott Cross, near Ilfracombe, North Devon. Wendy attended Ilfracombe Grammar School. Not surprisingly, Wendy did very well at school. She was always top of the class in maths with a consistent 100% in her tests. She worked part time in the school as dinner money monitor, counting all the money – another clue for the future.

Wendy had great memories of Little Shelfin Farm. She recalled the year they were snowed in at the farm for three months with helicopters dropping supplies. She loved going up the

track with her dad to take the milk up to the road and collect the empty churns.

This was also the place where Wendy demonstrated her imagination. Wendy “created “ another family in her head, people she could play with in the straw bales with her sisters. She called them Tronnums, Ponnnums and Lollums – imaginary friends.

It was also at Little Shelfin Farm that Wendy developed one of her great passions in life, tennis. She had a practice wall and used to try to hit the right spot time and time again. Her mum encouraged her and she soon found herself playing in competitions all over the County. Her claim to fame was reaching the North Devon final, only to lose to Sue Barker.

But this is not the match I remember the most in our conversations about her prowess. She told me that she was playing in an important tournament one day and rapidly took a two set lead in a best of five. Her opponent sat on her chair at the end of the second set and sobbed loudly. Wendy took pity on her and eased up a little – with predictable consequences. She lost 3 sets to 2 and her coach was not a happy man.

So, whilst Wendy was very determined, it was not at the expense of others – another trait of her life

When it was time to leave school Wendy was encouraged to consider University. She told me that she came to London for an interview. It was the first time she had been out of North

Devon, but she decided University was not for her. So she joined Midland Bank for the first couple of years of her working life. Due to travel difficulties she switched to NatWest and little did they know that Wendy would rise through the ranks to become an executive.

Many of Wendy’s work colleagues have fond memories of her. She spent almost her whole professional career at NatWest/RBS and had many treasured relationships at the Bank. I cannot do justice to the positive influence she had over so many friends and colleagues, but here are some thoughts they have contributed, giving a small glimpse into the affection and respect she inspired.

First, from Tony Williams who started working with Wendy back in 1994.

*“I was met by a warm and engaging Wendy who took massive pride in how her training centre was set up and the value that was created. I was left in no doubt as to their remit and purpose and in particular how well organised the centre was. It was not a hard decision to recommend that Wendy should manage all seven centres and as a result she was asked to instil her best practices in others. Organisation and passion for the job are words everyone uses to describe Wendy”*

Another colleague comments as follows: *“Around 2002 Wendy was*

*part of a challenging resourcing and leadership team during which she brought to bear her extensive experience and skills combined with a detailed commercial understanding of the business. Wendy was not only able to find common ground between the divisions and head office but also to sensitively influence all parties to create a common purpose, devoid of egos. Even in 2011 she was still facilitating meetings and guiding the direction of colleagues within the HR world at RBS”*

And finally some words from Elaine Arden, Group Human Resources Director at RBS.

*“It was very typical of Wendy that she quickly set herself a challenge to ‘beat’ the diagnosis: she knew it was incurable but decided she would beat the odds and survive longer than anyone expected. She decided to do whatever she could to campaign for others like her. Despite all her activities she was still a bit bored so embarked on a few ‘coaching jobs’ with some people at RBS. As many know, Wendy was forever coaching us whether we asked for it or not! In fact she did it so well we didn’t even realise she was doing it! I visited her recently and she was radiant, serene and wise to the end”*

Wendy found the time to fit in the birth of Natalie in 1986 and Becky joined them in 1989. Whilst the family were young Wendy was determined to

continue her education, passing her banking exams and gaining her Human Resources qualifications. Wendy was so proud to be elected a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development for her work in this specialist area.

I first met Wendy in 1996 and we were married in 2000.

Wendy was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2011. She made public appeals on the internet, newspapers, radio and TV programmes for better understanding and effective treatment of this disease.

She was an immensely talented lady; intelligent, a great listener and had a strong passion to help people to achieve their best.

Wendy died at her home in Ascott on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 aged 56 and her funeral took place at St. Kenelms Church, Enstone, where she is buried in the churchyard. A celebration of Wendy’s life took place at Heythrop Park where in excess of 150 people paid their last tribute and respects to her.

**Peter Butler**



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# SCOTCH MIST

Do you watch the weather forecast on television? Have you noticed the weather charts for the British Isles do not include weather for the Republic of Ireland? Does this mean the Irish only get weather in the north? The question is – if Scotland gains independence, will they lose their weather on television? Will they have to forecast their own climate? They could be better off. They could have a milder climate than the severe weather they sometimes get. For centuries, because of the cold, those poor souls north of the border have had to eat stodgy porridge to stick to their ribs, while we in the soft south have enjoyed prunes and orange juice for breakfast. To keep us on the go. Keep slim and beautiful if you want to be loved, is my motto.

Where will it end if the Scots go it alone? Will England be for the English? Will all Scotsmen who manage Premier League Football Teams be deported back home? What would happen if they deported Sir Alex? Wouldn't it be fun to listen to the wailing and gnashing of teeth of Man United supporters?

What I would like to see if the Union is broken, would be the restoration of Hadrian's Wall to the splendour it was during the Roman period. I once walked the Pennine Way. Part of the walk is along the Wall. Thousands of young people walk from Edale to Kirk Yetholm. Many are still students. The rebuilding work could be done volun-

tarily. Each young person could carry in their rucksack two stones from where they live. Wouldn't it be wonderful to think Cotswold stone could help rebuild Hadrian's Wall?

I can foresee in the near future the closing of many rural churches. The buildings and surrounding churchyards will be sold for development. There will be a plentiful supply of large flat tombstones. Far better they should be used to help in the rebuilding of an ancient monument, than to finish as flagstones in someone's patio.

**Fred Russell**



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# GARDENING IN ASCOTT

## THE KITCHEN GARDEN

All of us who grow fruit and vegetables in our gardens or on our allotments know that at certain key times in the growing cycle we wonder why we do bother. This uncertainty is usually triggered by an over-abundance of a particular crop or the failure of usually reliable favourites, and we find ourselves asking why we spend hours bent over our spades preparing the perfect tilth and paying out for seed and fertiliser at a cost in excess of buying ready to use produce from the shops?

I suppose we can say that they are different products; there is a greater range of fruit and vegetables available to the kitchen gardener and we know what fertiliser and any pesticides we have used. They will be fresher than anything we purchase in the shops. Despite all these arguments, there are times during the growing season when doubt seizes me and I vow that next year I will only grow a few reliable crops such as broad beans, lettuce and greenhouse tomatoes.

All this is forgotten when those enticing publications – seed catalogues – land on the door-mat in January. I devour them with tea and the last of the Christmas cake. Long wish-lists appear on the kitchen table. What does Thai basil taste like; are ‘Flyaway’ carrots really immune from the dreaded carrot root fly? Before I realise, the

list is so long that I shall never have room to grow them all.

The optimism I feel as the daylight lengthens encourages me to believe anything is possible and last year’s failures are forgotten.

The poet Robert Frost, writing in 1914, described beautifully this passion, in his poem ‘Putting in the Seed’.

..... *Slave to a springtime passion  
for the earth.*

*How Love burns through the Putting  
in the Seed*

*On through the watching for that early  
birth*

*When, just as the soil tarnishes with  
weed,*

*The sturdy seedling with arched body  
comes*

*Shouldering its way and shedding the  
earth crumbs.*

In my garden, the kitchen garden needs to be beautiful as well as productive. I do not have acres of space where the kitchen garden can be hidden away from sight. It is enclosed by low woven hazels hurdles and entered by a painted gate announcing your arrival and a warning to Peter Rabbit to keep out. It really is not in the best position for growing, being shaded by trees for part of the day and rather overshadowed by garden fences.

I have 4 raised beds contained by cheap wooden planks each around 4ft x 8ft to grow vegetables together with additional beds for rhubarb and raspberries. Apple, pear and plum trees are also nearby. This less than ideal situation is helped by the addition of great amounts of homemade compost which is heaped onto the beds over winter and gently forked in just before spring sowing and planting. After the first digging of the newly cultivated soil when making the raised beds, I never dig them again. I do dig trenches to fill with compost and manure for growing runner beans, but that is the only time I lift that much soil with a spade.

Early in the year sun is in short supply in my kitchen garden so I sow most seeds under cover in the greenhouse to plant out as little plants when the sun is higher in the sky. My favoured method for crops such as carrots, lettuce, rocket, beetroot and spring onions is to sow them in 3ft lengths of half-round plastic guttering. These are filled with sowing compost and can be accurately sown with seed just as one would do if sowing direct into the outside soil. Keep the lengths moist by covering with a sheet of clear polythene or cling film until the seeds germinate. Grow them on until the little plants are well established and then plant out in their final growing positions in the garden. Make a shallow furrow in the soil the same depth and length as your guttering and slide the growing snakes of seed direct into this. You may need to slide it in a foot or so at a time, but the

end result will be a beautiful row of seedlings.

The obvious advantage to this method is an early sowing date while the ground would still be too cold for germination of seed, but there are other advantages. The little plants are growing away strongly when planted out and are able to withstand the attentions of slugs and poor weather conditions better than small seedlings. A second sowing, again in guttering, will produce rows of vegetables ready to replace those just harvested which is a great advantage to those of us with limited growing space. I am still experimenting with suitable candidates for this method and will be trying herbs and peas this year.

Obtaining my lengths of guttering from our local builders' merchant proved to be an amusing episode. Guttering does not come in small lengths and I only have the usual family sized car. It took some explaining why I needed it cut into 3ft lengths and how I was going to use it. At least you can now purchase this without fear of a ribbing as they now know what seed sowing in guttering is all about.

### **Space to Grow**

I guess many of us here in Ascott are fortunate to have gardens with space for at least a small kitchen garden and some of us grow on the allotments. I used to have an allotment and while juggling long working days, somehow managed to sow, water, weed and harvest in the early mornings and late into

the evening when I returned from work. Now the allotment has been replaced by my small kitchen garden and best of all – I have time to play in it! Since there are only two mouths to feed in my family (hungry mouths) my modest patch provides a good selection of fruit, vegetables and herbs for much of the year.

If your space is very small, tomatoes, salad leaves and herbs all grow well in pots and other containers. This year I shall be repeating last year's success sowing a whole packet of mixed salad leaves into a terracotta bowl about 15" wide and 6 – 8" deep. This was watered and covered with clear polythene until germination, and then placed on an outside table until required. A second bowl sown with seed a few weeks later will give another crop just as you finish the first bowl.

I am also going to try growing my carrots in old 12" deep black plastic pots filled with compost. The theory here being that the roots will delve deep into the soft compost and produce the best carrots, and the carrot-root flies can be fooled by placing the pots on the outside table. Apparently carrot root flies like to fly low to the ground. I shall report on the success or otherwise in a later article.

My favourite outdoor tomato for growing in pots is Tumbling Tom Red. It withstands our unpredictable weather and tastes good. It doesn't need staking or the pinching-out of side-

shoots because, as its name suggests, it just tumbles over the sides of the pot. I find a tallish pot, say 12" – 15" tall is best for keeping the fruit well clear of the ground and away from any slugs.

### **Early Arrivals**

The first broad beans and rhubarb herald the beginning of the growing year in my kitchen garden. Both are easy to grow and produce a bumper harvest with very few problems. They need a bit of room, but could be squeezed into a small part of the ornamental beds. When mixed with flowers, rhubarb looks particularly good with its lovely pink stems and large leaves.

### **Rhubarb**

It is such an easy crop to grow needing only a sunny site, plenty of water and a good mulch of well-rotted manure during the winter. The reward for such

little work is lovely tender pink stems in the spring and early summer. There are many different varieties available some of which produce stems earlier, some with pinker stems, so it is worth doing a little research before

you buy your plants. The Royal Horticultural Society has an excellent website for this type of research as does the BBC Gardening site. I do however still love to read in bed with an early morning cuppa, and if you are like me, our excellent local libraries are a great source of gardening books.



## RECIPE FOR RHUBARB

**The simplest way of cooking rhubarb to keep its stems whole but tender is to bake them in the oven. This is my method:**

**Snap off the leaves and wash the rhubarb stalks.**

**Cut the rhubarb stalks into 2" lengths**

**Place in an oven-proof ceramic dish.**

**Add sugar to taste (vanilla flavoured is good) – about 3-4 tablespoons for every 500g of rhubarb.**

**Add enough orange juice mixed to just barely cover the bottom of the dish.**

**Place in a 180c/gas mark 4 oven for about 30- 40 minutes depending on the thickness of the stems. Test for tenderness with a thin knife.**

**Leave to cool and serve with Greek yoghurt or stem ginger ice cream.**

**Other good things to cook with rhubarb:**

**Replace all or some of the orange juice with cranberry juice;**

**Stem ginger with a little of the syrup; Star anise;**

**The herb Sweet Cicely which can be added as a natural sweetener thus reducing the amount of sugar required.**

**(Remove the stems before serving).**

### **Broad beans**

Broad beans are hardy plants and a good vegetable for the novice kitchen

gardener to start the new growing year with. They are best picked, podded, cooked and eaten as soon as possible. There are lots of varieties out there but I always grow The Sutton which is a shorter plant than some varieties (18") and works well for me as it needs very little support. I have grown a lovely old variety with red flowers which is much taller and produces some lovely beans but took much longer from sowing to reaping.

As they are so hardy you can sow them directly into the ground in late February or early March, but I like to give them a head-start by sowing them in root trainer pots indoors. These are small, long, thin pots which come in modules and fit into a frame the size of a seed tray. One tray will give you 32 plants in a relatively small space. When the plants are about 4-5 inches tall, I plant them out into the ground under plastic cloches in late March or early April. I remove the cloches when the plants are too tall to fit under them and insert a stout cane each end of the rows and run garden twine either side of the rows attaching it to the canes. I find this provides sufficient support for the shorter Suttons.



### **Companion planting.**

Summer savory is an annual herb which is a lovely seasoning for broad

beans. When planted alongside the rows of beans, it is said to discourage black fly which can be a pest on the tips of the plants.

### **An Afterthought**

Remember not to dig up the plants at the end of the season. By some miraculous bacterial interaction, the broad bean roots are able to give back nitrogen to the soil via their root nodules. Sorry to all you scientists out there, but that is the best I can do! Anyone who can explain it better please write a piece for The Grapevine!

## **RECIPE FOR BROAD BEANS**

**350g - 400g cooked pasta (fettuccine or thin spaghetti are good)**

**600g shelled broad beans**

**30g butter**

**1 desertspoon of flour**

**250ml crème fraiche (or double cream!)**

**1 garlic clove**

**A bunch of Summer Savory or thyme**

**About 6 slices of pancetta or smoked streaky bacon**

**A handful of chopped parsley**

**Cook the broad beans in a pan of water for about 5mins. Take off the outer grey skin. A long process, best done sitting down with something interesting on the radio.**

**Melt butter in pan and add the flour. Add the crème fraiche, chopped garlic and savory or thyme. Bring to the boil then take off the heat and leave**

**for about 15 mins for the flavours to infuse.**

**Fry the bacon until crisp. Drain on kitchen paper and then break into small pieces.**

**Add the broad beans to the crème fraiche mixture and boil for about 5 mins.**

**Season with salt and pepper if required.**

**Toss in the cooked pasta and serve with a scattering of the bacon and chopped parsley.**

**Serves 4**

### **The joy yet to come**

What greater delight can there be than to harvest and eat something which we have carefully nurtured from a tiny seed and watched grow into something so beautiful? And then, in the early morning, to quietly open the back door and tread lightly in the kitchen garden, trug in hand, to harvest the dew-fresh produce grown by our own labour. Life does not get any better than this.

### **Kitchen Gardens to admire**

Upton House near Banbury has a fine example of a large kitchen garden which is maintained to a very high standard by National Trust gardeners. Unusually, it is situated on a slope leading down to a lake, but benefits from facing full south, and must have almost perfect growing conditions. It

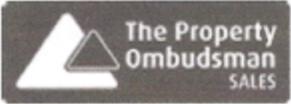
is well worth a visit in June and July just to see the kitchen garden alone.

The fabulous garden created by Marylyn Abbott at West Green House in Hampshire has a delightful and beautiful kitchen garden.

**Are there any Allotment gardeners out there who could let us know about their growing methods and successes this year? Perhaps you could write something for The Grapevine?**

**Madeline Galistan**

**Did you know** that Heritage Lane was formerly known as Longland Lane. Before the houses on the south side were built, the close or field that ran alongside the lane was called Longland Close. This is another name that dates back to at least 1600. Heritage Lane seems to have taken over when Heritage House and Heritage Villa were built there at the end of the 1800s.



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## **DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

### **SUNDAY 3rd JUNE**

Preparations for The Jubilee Lunch on June 3<sup>rd</sup> are almost complete! Tickets have sold quicker than we thought and more have had to be printed! So far, we have sold 150!! It's going to be a fabulous afternoon up at the Sports Pavilion. Starting at 12.30, a pig roast lunch with all the trimmings will be served, with fruit pie to follow and plenty of beer, wine or soft drinks to buy before, during and after! The Children's entertainment is going to be great fun too, and we have the Debbie Arthur's Jazz Band joining us as well! Don't forget all the money raised will be for the new facilities which are being proposed for the recreation area, so another good reason to join in!

Tickets will only be on sale for another 4 weeks, so if you would like to buy them please contact any of the names below. Just a reminder they are £12.00 for Adults and children 16 or under are FREE. There is also a vegetarian option on the menu, so please let us know when you buy your tickets. Other sale items for you to buy and help raise more money will be raffle tickets with £100.00 as first prize, and the lovely Tiddy Hall Centenary/Diamond Jubilee mugs at £5.00 each.

There is just one other thing, we want to enjoy it with you and not be left afterwards with all the washing up, so we would like you to bring your own plates and cutlery. We'll provide the tables, chairs, napkins, plastic glasses and of course the entertainment!

Everyone, family and friends are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there! **Debra: 831621, Mary: 832008, Jacque: 832040, Louise: 831975**

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## MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS CHARITY WALK

To celebrate a special birthday this year, Debbie Shirley, in partnership with her friend Martina Edmunds, organised a sponsored walk from the Tiddy Hall in March, in aid of the charity Medical Detection Dogs. This charity has a local support group raising money for the wonderful dogs who are saving lives daily, working with people with life threatening conditions.

Forty dogs set off on a fine morning with their owners for a six mile circular walk, returning to the hall for refreshments and to spend lots of money at the various stalls and the very impressive raffle. There was also a professional photographer, Martina's husband Darren, taking portrait photos of the dogs. Every dog participating was given a rosette inscribed 'I helped a dog save a life'.

Medical Detection Dogs owes huge thanks to Debbie and Martina, and lots



of friends, Mums, husbands, and all who helped by organising the day, making cakes, serving teas, donating prizes, taking photos, and having fun with their dogs.

The total raised at the time of writing is well over £1,200, with more

sponsor money still to come. This money is being given to the Sniff 5000 campaign - adding 40 more dogs to the target of finding 5000 dogs to raise at least £20 each for the charity.

The whole day was brilliantly organised and great fun for people and dogs alike. New friends were made, and there is a suggestion that maybe a regular charity walk could be arranged in the future - watch this space.

**For more information about the charity** [www.medicaldetectiondogs.org](http://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org)

**To join our local group, or book a speaker, contact** [01993 831909](tel:01993831909), or [oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk](mailto:oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)



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### Part 2

#### Discovering the Marina and preparing for "Lift Out"

We were up and about at 0800hrs, which was reasonably early, considering the time we had gone to bed. I made a pot of tea and we went out on the sun deck at the stern of the yacht and lived the imaginative life of ourselves as rich luxury yacht owners taking breakfast on the sun deck. But how far from the truth those thoughts were. In truth we must have looked a dishevelled, unkempt and dare I say a smelly trio that we clearly were! However it was a truly glorious morning the sun was shining and there was clear blue sky in all directions and we were going to enjoy it. Over our cuppa we discussed a tentative way forward for the day.

Because this delivery was assigned to Dave(1) and we were helping him it was best that he should deal with the owner and the yacht builders and we would sort out the availability of getting the yacht lifted out and put in a place where work could be carried out if agreed by the insurance company.

Having decided on a plan "A" we gathered our individual washing gear and a change of clothes and headed up the pontoon at about 0900hrs towards the huge marina building looking for the much needed shower block! The building for me was impressive. You entered the ground floor through double rotating glass doors, stepping into a large marble floored reception area.

Page 20

with passages leading off this area probably leading to shower rooms, wash rooms, toilets and drying rooms. Straight ahead there was a grandiose curved marbled stairway ascending to the next floor level. The stairs were wide, the three of us could stand side by side on the steps and there would still be room for another person! That's wide, especially given the design of us three!

Given our luck with the delivery thus far, it wasn't too much of a shock when we met our next challenge. It came in the form of a four feet tall and probably the same wide, 50 years plus, Spanish cleaning lady! She would have made "Grunhilda" look tame. She was near the door as we entered the foyer, with her mop and bucket at the ready. Dave(1) Our elected Spanish translator plucked up courage and asked her, in his best Spanish along with waving arms and showing her his towel and toilet gear, directions to the male shower rooms. It produced a low level grunt and a slight movement of her mop in the general direction we needed to go. Thanking her we moved off in that direction. We had only moved a pace or so, when Grunhilda's voice stopped us in our tracks. We turned and she was frantically waving her mop at us. It took a while before we realised what she was indicating. She had meticulously cleaned the mar-  
Don't forget about the Ascott website:

ble floor and had placed opened cardboard cartons on the floor, for people to walk on and we were walking on her clean floor, where she certainly didn't want us to be and she wasn't a happy cleaner.

As a footnote we were going to be in the marina for another three days at least. Given certain repair timescales on the yacht my chums could be there for longer. So imagine we would have to walk this gauntlet at least twice a day!

We made our way to the washing room first. It took a few minutes to sort out how to operate the washing machine and even longer for it to sink into our heads that it was free! (Un-heard of in UK marinas)!! But once sorted we stripped off all our clothes; grundies socks, the lot! And got them into the machine as quickly as possible before they tried to escape! The shower room was just across the corridor, it was a large and clean area and the marble theme continued throughout the room. The individual shower cubicles were fantastic, with lovely hot water with good pressure. It was sheer luxury and I could have stayed in there for hours. I felt really great after the shower. Almost human once more!

After the luxury of the shower our next move was to locate the marina manager's office, which was up on the next floor. So off we went, up the marble stairway to the office. We opened the door and went in. It was a large open plan room, one side of which, along its length opened up onto

a balcony overlooking the marina. There were a couple of separate offices off to one side and there was a reception desk area directly in front of us.

We started to explain who we were and our situation to the woman at the reception desk whom to our relief spoke English. Our situation didn't need a lot of explaining, because we had been observed leaving the boat, heading for the marina building. The woman invited us towards one of the side offices. Which turned out to be the office of Georges Fendez, the marina manager.

He was a tall man, six foot plus, probably in his mid forties. His dress

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sense made him look very dapper. He wore an open neck, short sleeved white shirt. Long black trousers with what looked like razor sharp creases, bright red socks and highly polished shoes and to top it he supported a very well groomed black moustache, which complimented his head of equally groomed black curly hair. I felt Georges description needed a mention, because in all my years of sailing I have not come across any marina manager as well turned out as he was. This turned out to be his normal dress code for the office and his outside duties as well. He was very helpful from the outset.

He had a command of English, far better than we had of Spanish! And after twenty minutes or so of explaining our situation to him, we found ourselves agreeing a time slot of 1500hrs that afternoon, to haul the vessel out of the water and store on the hard standing. He then drew our attention to a couple of sheets of paper on his notice board. The print was obviously in Spanish, but the format looked similar to a UK maritime circular "Notice to Mariners". With George's translation the notice was a report of various ships deck cargo that had worked loose and fallen overboard in that shipping area. It was a wake up call for me. There were twenty plus individual reports of cargo loss. The vast majority were of crated items and would you believe a number of reports of deck timber loss! The items that took me by surprise were the number

of containers that had fallen overboard. I mentioned to George that I was surprised, he said the majority of reports he received generally showed a couple of containers going missing and he estimated at any given time in this sea area there could be as many as fifteen or more of them out in the bay in various states of buoyancy, depending on contents and watertight state. As I mentioned earlier, these containers would probably not be a huge danger to the large ships, but to us yachtsmen they definitely present a huge problem. So that was more info to store in the little memory box. As we were leaving his office he said we could have use of his office phone in order for Dave (1) to contact the owner to get the legal side of things moving. Which Dave did while we were still in the office.

On route to the marina office we had passed the entrance to the restaurant. Dave (2) and I would go there and order a full breakfast each whilst he was on the phone. The restaurant was another large airy room. It was also well positioned with one side of the room fully opening up onto the same balcony as the offices. We ordered our breakfast and coffee and asked the lady to hold Dave (1)'s back till he arrived. When breakfast arrived it was an "eye opener" like a mini mountain. Double eggs, bacon, sausages (chorizo I think), sauté potato, mushrooms, tomatoes and strangely enough asparagus, all on a large oval plate. It was huge. I remember joking

with the lady who brought our breakfast to the table; asking her if we were meant to eat or climb it! The quip didn't work she looked at me with a quizzical smile and said Gracias señor. Quieres un trago. Which loosely translated is Thank you sir, would you like a drink!

We were well into our breakfast when Dave (1) joined us. The lady brought his over right away. He told us he had contacted the yacht builders in UK (with whom he had the contract) and on behalf of their customer ie the owner, they had told him to go ahead and have the yacht hauled out and shored up on the jetty. Also given the expected damage report Dave had given them, they made a decision there and then to get one of their marine engineers out to us as soon as possible, in a van on Brittany ferry with spare shafts and propellers. We could expect him to be with us within the next day or so.

After an hour or so having finally worked our way through breakfast we trundled back to the yacht, on route we met George, he had arranged for a couple of his berthing staff to assist us round to the "hauling out" berth, using the marina work launches. That was great news for us it would save the problem of starting up the engine coupled with the dodgy steering gear. I also guess crafty George didn't really want a 26 metre yacht with very limited steering capabilities coursing her way through a very full marina.

On board, we busied ourselves by cleaning through the boat and squaring things off in general. We also went on deck to identify the marks where the lifting slings have to be positioned, in order to give balanced lift attitude. The marks are usually triangular sticky labels stuck to the deck adjacent to the place where the slings need to be positioned. The markers on this yacht were clearly visible and actually moulded into the gel coat on the curvature of the hull, where it was welded to the deck section during construction. We had a couple of hours to kill before the lift out, but not long enough to walk into



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the city of La Corunna, so we went ashore and explored the marina and its facilities. We then went walking up and down the pontoon moorings looking at all the yachts. Some we viewed with envy and others with comments like. Well someone loves her!

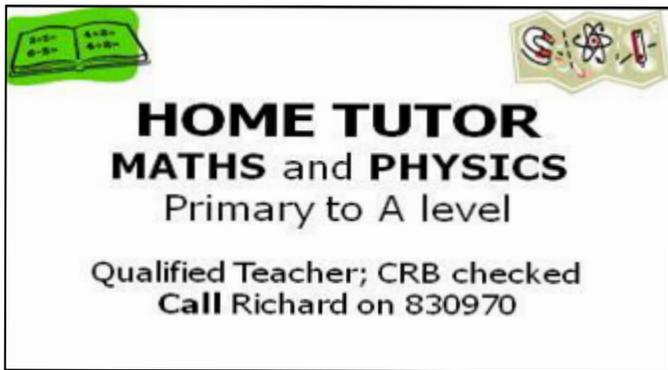
By the time we arrived back at the yacht the marina berthing staff were waiting to take us round to the hauling out berth. We secured their boats to ours one on the bow initially. Then we slipped our lines and let him pull us free of the berth. We then secured the other boat alongside, so between them they had better control of us. It only took ten minutes or so to get to the lift berth. The area was really busy there were a number of staff up on the jetty all busy rigging the slings on the hoist ready for the lift. The hoist was a large unit; not the biggest I have seen but never the less an imposing size. It looked like a big oblong box framework. Four upright steel girders. Each of the girders had a large wheel and tyre at its base and each wheel if needed could be independently steered. The uprights had other horizontal girders welded between them at the top of the framework plus bracing steelwork to provide strength and rigidity. Just beneath the top there was another framework containing tracks, running the

length of the hoist, along which travelled four drums containing the four hoist wires to which the webbing lifting strops were attached by four huge "bow shackles". (Shackles, as opposed to hooks are always used in boat hoisting situations, because of the safety factor). The other end in turn came down to a much larger drum that was mechanically connected to a huge diesel engine. The diesel engine and drum along with the hoist control and steering gear was situated on a platform a third of the way up the structure.

The hoisting out berth is a purpose built area. They have generally been of a similar construction in most of the marinas I have visited. They consist of an open ended concrete structure the size of which depends on the size of yachts the marina hoist can safely lift. We entered the open end of the dock and waited for the hoist to be manoeuvred into position above us.

David Wynters

FINAL EPISODE TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT ISSUE.



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# COULD IT BE YOU ?

## THIS IS A MESSAGE TO THOSE OWNERS WHO DON'T CLEAR UP AFTER THEIR DOGS !

I am saddened, once again, to raise the vexing subject of dog fouling in our lovely village!

I am a regular walker around our village (with Dolly my JRT) and I am appalled to see the **INCREASING** amount of dog fouling on the footpaths and verges over the last couple of months. Why there should be an increase in the last couple of months I do not know, **BUT** I want to ask **ALL** you owners who do **NOT pick up** after your dog – “Do you not feel **ANY SHAME?**” What I **do** know however, is that you have an absolute **TOTAL** lack of respect for the community in which you live and a complete disregard for your friends and neighbours who share this beautiful environment with you.

I urge you to **PLEASE, PLEASE** pick up after your dog – it is such a quick and easy thing to do (and illegal not to) - you really should try it for yourself!

**Maggie Lyon**



p.s. to further encourage you to do the decent and proper thing, I would like to point out that Ascott Village Shop sells dog waste bags\* costing just £1.00 for a packet of 15 (or why not re-use your old plastic carrier bags?). In addition there are 4 conveniently placed dog waste bins located throughout the village. I find also that since the invention of the torch, it is **so** much easier to pick up on those early morning/late night walks, so no excuses on that front either!!

*(\*Suppliers: In2Pets)*

# KEEP ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD 'POO FREE' CAMPAIGN

## AMAZING FREE OFFER !

Since writing the aforementioned article, In2Pets of Witney have very kindly offered to sponsor the **Keep Ascott-under-Wychwood 'Poo Free' Campaign**. They are offering every dog owning household living in the village, 100 Doggy Poo Bags, **completely FREE** (no purchase necessary). All you have to do to receive this wonderful offer is to cut out the coupon below and present it at **Ascott Village Shop or In2Pets**, 2-4 Corn Street, Witney. Offer is restricted to one coupon per household, valid until 31 May 2012.



Thank you to In2Pets for your generosity.

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.....

## GOING DIGITAL

I was really looking forward to going digital, having been stuck with four terrestrial channels for years and unwilling to invest in satellite.

I'm a technophile not a technophobe, so the prospect of dealing with new channels and widgets held no fears. All the adverts and leaflets said it would be simple.

First question was whether our lounge TV was digitally enabled. I scoured the handbook but could find no mention, so resorted to the web to confirm that we needed a set top box. Our dining room TV I knew was digital, as it searched for those channels when I set it up in 2010.

Wanting HD on the lounge TV, I bought a good quality box from John Lewis in High Wycombe at the end of June. I tested it and sure enough, it searched for digital channels yet to come.

We arrived home from holiday the day after the initial switchover and I started the changes. The set top box worked straight away, but to bridge the two week gap until total switchover, I needed a coax cable to connect the box to the TV for analogue channels. That's when I found that moulded coax cables only have male plugs at either end. Rooting around an electrical store revealed a sleeve to convert male to female. Problem solved.

The new digi TV proved more of a struggle. When first installed, it automatically went through a self-tuning

programme. I trawled through every on-screen menu and the handbook several times before lighting once more upon the self-tuning setup. Bingo! Our TVs share an aerial, all properly connected, but for some reason, the dining room set had produced really fuzzy pictures, even with a booster box. Now we had pictures so sharp you could cut yourself on them.

I breathed a sigh of relief. That relief was short-lived. For no reason, the set top box stopped working. I removed and reinserted the power plug and all was well, so I thought the cable has been strained. But it kept happening, so I phoned John Lewis.

"We'll deliver a new box tomorrow."

Scarcely had the courier left our drive when I found the the new box produced 'motor boating'. This is an interference that sounds like a motor boat engine. As I was in High Wycombe next day, I took the box to JL. The technician checked stock, then pronounced that the box was no longer made or held in stock. Was he trying to tell me something? I had to choose another, more expensive box which has proved 100% reliable.

Three days before main switchover, the digi TV went on the blink, no channels of any kind. I called Digital UK to check if there were any interruptions, there were none, but they gave me Sony's help line. I think the

call centre is in the Phillipines, as the otherwise very helpful lady had a less than adequate grasp of English. She must have led me through the tuning programme seven or eight times before admitting defeat and promising to have the local Sony dealer call me.

Two hours later, a firm in Banbury called and I explained my plight.

“What’s your model number?”

After some muffled conversation, I was told that certain models were having tuning difficulties, but it should all be fixed by the 28<sup>th</sup>. It was and everything came back on song.

Simple? Excuse me while I laugh.

**Nigel Wild**

**Did you know** the Ascott name of High Street is derived from earlier times when the two main Ascott streets were known as Upper Street and Lower Street. Shipton Road was Lower Street, and High Street, the highest up from the river, was Upper Street.

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring is in the air.

I saw it the other morning, drifting from the chestnut on the Green, towards Chippy Hill.

It didn't look at all well.

It looked weak and wan.

It needed warm sunshine and longer days.

It needed love and joy,

Like young lambs leaping in a field, With no thoughts of mint sauce.

It needed Easter,

After the long, cold, dark sleep of winter.

**Fred Russell**



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## WE GOTTA WOBA!

Forget the Emmys, the Tonys, even the Oscars – Ascott shop’s gotta WOBA!

The West Oxfordshire Business Awards are now in their second year. Spear-headed by West Oxfordshire District Council, these annual awards recognise and showcase the wealth of business talent in this neck of the county.

In 2012, an extra category was added, the Blenheim Palace Best Rural Business, and we were invited to enter.

The shop submitted a lengthy and very detailed application form, setting out our business, our history, our finances and our unique selling points. At the end of January, two judges spent over an hour with the committee and said how impressed they were by what we had achieved, not only as a business, but in being at the very heart of the community.

A few days later, WOBA announced us as one of three finalists; our competitors were supplier Foxbury Farm and eco solutions for farming company Agrivert.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel at Heythrop Park was the setting for the awards ceremony in mid-March. Prime Minister David Cameron dropped in as part of a whistle-stop day immediately after landing from his Presidential visit.

Foxbury Farm won the Best Rural Business Award; Agrivert won the Best Green Business Award, then topped their evening by scooping Best West Oxfordshire Business Award 2012.

As a relative minnow against two pretty large fish, we are proud and delighted to have won our Finalist certificate. It reflects huge credit on the whole shop and the dedicated team that has made it such a success.

Here’s to 2013!

**Nigel Wild**

# Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

The Parish Council can report that since the last Grapevine edition in January, the Carols round the Christmas Tree was extremely well supported and raised £170, which was duly donated to the Wychwood Day Centre.

## Helpers of Ascott-under-Wychwood

The Helpers of Ascott-under-Wychwood are busy doing lots of clearing up around the Village and just to remind you that all parishioners are welcome to attend any of the sessions held. Please contact Cllr Philippa Carter if you are interested in helping.

## Community Emergency Plan

After a lot of hard work and determination Cllr Laurence Mellor presented “Project Snowstorm” to Oxfordshire County Council’s Big Society Fund. In January the Parish Council were advised that their bid to the Big Society had been successful and a cheque for £8,650 was given to them. This has enabled them to purchase a Snow Plough, a Gritter and Salt. The Parish Council would like to thank Chris Badger and his staff for their support and advice with this project and for kindly storing the equipment.

## Sports Pavilion

If anybody wishes to hire the Sports Pavilion please do not hesitate to contact Cllr Philippa Carter or indeed the Parish Clerk, contact details noted below.

## Planning

This still remains quiet with only a handful of applications. The Swan Public House application, 11/1870/P/OP, has been deferred to WODC’s April meeting. Should anybody wish to view the plans please do not hesitate to contact either of the councillors or the Clerk. These can be viewed online too.

## Queens Diamond Jubilee 2012

Progress is being made for this wonderful event to be held in June. Debra Cull and her team of ladies are working hard to ensure this event is celebrated in true Ascott style. The Parish Council have given a donation for the commemorative mugs. A mug will be given to each child who lives in the Village and there will be spares for people to purchase. Keep your eyes open for final details of this event.

## Dog Mess

This issue has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council once again. There would appear to be a frequent offender and this seems to be around the Heritage Lane area and the Village Green. Please can everyone be responsible for their dogs and clear up after them.

If you have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact either myself as Parish Clerk or indeed any of the Parish Councillors.

**Parish Council:**

Rob Morgan (Chairman)	831958
Bridgette Crundwell (Vice)	830671
Laurence Mellor	831182
Philippa Carter	830344
Pauline Marshall	830912
Angela Barnes (Parish Clerk)	01608641045



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## BRIEF ENCOUNTER

No, nothing whatsoever to do with Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard or Carnforth Junction.

My wife Cathy and I had just flown to Paris for a short break and taken the train from Charles de Gaulle to Châtelet les Halles near Notre Dame.

Châtelet is the Baker Street of Paris, a mass of platforms and levels. We hauled ourselves and our two cases up several escalators to the barriers. My ticket opened the gate, but Cathy's refused to work. We tried mine, no good either. Paris underground stations, unlike the London Tube, have very few staff, so no help was at hand.

How were we going to get wife and suitcase over a two metre barrier? Just at that moment, a man with a bike hove into view and opened a large barrier with the equivalent of his Oyster card. I called to Cathy to come through. Hearing us speak, he talked to us in fluent English. I asked him if he knew our hotel, as our map was not large-scale enough. He whipped out an iPhone and rapidly pinpointed the street, Rue des Archives, on his map.

He led us towards the street, explaining en route that he had spent two years in London and Oxford honing his English. Then he rode off into the night.

Once at the Rue, an American at a bar pointed out the hotel's location. Before we could take another step, our Good Samaritan screeched to a halt

beside us and thrust a slip of paper into my hand.

"Do you like music?" he asked. "Then come to a Liszt concert tomorrow night, 8 o'clock. The address of the theatre and the nearest Metro station are on the paper. I'll be in the foyer."

With that, he disappeared once more. The scrap of paper, actually a receipt, bore the address of Theatre Athénée and the Metro station as Opera. No name or phone number for our friend.

We thought we had allowed ourselves plenty of time to get there, but as usual, streets in a strange city look nothing like the map. By the time we found the Athénée, it was ten past eight. So we stood outside on the horns of a dilemma. Should we go in or abandon ship?

A kindly Frenchman inside came to investigate, whereupon I had to explain that we had met this chap whose name I did not know at Châtelet and he had invited us as his guests. I showed him the piece of paper.

He ushered us inside to the reception desk, where another Frenchman encouraged us to speak English and gave us two guest tickets. A lady led us up several flights of stairs to the dress circle. The Athénée was a gorgeous Victorian or Edwardian theatre, all reds and golds and curlicues.

The pianist was by then in full swing playing a Liszt etude, the strong rhythms and melodies of his native Hungary filling the auditorium. Leaving the stage to rapturous applause following a second work, he returned accompanied by a baritone. Piano and voice combined for stirring melodies across a range of the composer's repertoire, truly concert standard performances.

Our hands were quite worn out from clapping as we wended our way down to the first floor, where yet another surprise lay in store in the shape of champagne and canapés. And we are

not talking plonk here. Everyone else was French and we got a few curious stares. Who were these funny rosbifs?

Of our friend there was no sign. We did not see a programme, nor was there anything in the theatre to say who had organised the concert. Our guess was a music society.

Replete, we took the Metro back to our hotel.

So, monsieur, whoever you are and whatever your name, we thank you for your kindness and entente cordiale to complete strangers in Paris. Merci bien!

**Nigel Wild**

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## WEST OXFORDSHIRE CONFIRMS OLYMPIC FLAME ROUTE

The beautiful backdrop of Blenheim Palace has been chosen as a photographic location for the Olympic flame as it travels through the historic town of Woodstock on the afternoon of Monday July 9<sup>th</sup>.

This announcement accompanies more detailed street level information about the Olympic torch relay route, ready to help people attending to plan their day.

Cllr Richard Langridge, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism said, "We are looking forward to welcoming West Oxfordshire residents to join us on 9<sup>th</sup> July and share in the Olympic

spirit and cheer on the inspirational torchbearers, most of whom have been nominated by the public. Seeing the Olympic Flame on its journey for most of us is a once in a lifetime opportunity, but even more exciting seeing it travel through our own local community.

"Historic Woodstock and the splendour of Blenheim Palace are both wonderful examples of the rich heritage and breathtaking beauty of West Oxfordshire, which we are very proud to be showcasing that day. It will indeed be our moment to shine,"

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

Excitement has set in for the residents of Cottsway Housing's Caroline Court sheltered scheme in Woodstock, who will have a front row view of the torch passing through.

David Hadrill, a resident at Caroline Court said, "Many of our residents can remember the 1948 London Games quite clearly. We are delighted to think we are having another chance of seeing the Olympic flame passing by some 64 years later."

More information about the route, including proposed timings, as it travels through Woodstock, Blenheim Palace and other stops throughout the country can be viewed in full on: [www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelay](http://www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelay). For a map, you can also visit the following web page: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/London2012](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/London2012)

Wheatley and Thame, which are described as wonderfully social places. They welcome people of all ages and fitness, including those with special needs. His desire isn't to create black belts, but to build confidence and character and awareness and also to have fun.



**Roland Read**

### **Torchbearer named**

Also published today are names of some of the inspirational Torchbearers who will carry the Olympic flame through Woodstock and Blenheim Palace.

Roland Read of Oxford is the first to be named of the Torchbearers running through Woodstock and Blenheim Palace. There are likely to be around 8 to 10 running in total.

For over 30 years, Roland Read has run the local karate clubs in

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Or visit: [www.paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon](http://www.paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon)

## WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The last two meetings for this season focus on law and order, comprising the history of the local police force and the history of Oxford Castle which was of course, for many centuries, used as a prison.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May in Milton Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. Ken Wells will talk about the History of the Thames Valley Police.

Then on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June in Shipton Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. John Griffin will talk about The Development of Oxford Castle.

Old and new members are welcome. Subscriptions are £9 for an individual and £12 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)**

### CAN YOU HELP?

#### LOCAL WILLS AND INVENTORIES PRIOR TO 1799

The Wychwoods Probate Group, part of the Wychwoods Local History Society, would like to make a request to anyone living in Ascott, Milton, Shipton, Leafield, Lyneham, or Bruern, or anyone else who may have connections to these villages.

Do you have any complete photocopies or indeed original copies of local wills and inventories of people who lived in the above villages, dated prior to 1799? If so, would you be willing to let a member of the Group borrow those items to make a photocopy which we could use in the course of our research?

We are hoping to compile a complete record of all wills and inventories of our region dating from around 1500 and at present, up to 1799. Any that we could borrow locally would be of great assistance. Eventually, hopefully, these should become available for research on the internet.

Perhaps you have your copies in relation to family history research or through investigating the history of your house. We would be most grateful for your help.

**Please contact Wendy Pearse on 831023 or [wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com).**



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## COMMONPLACE IRRITATING GRAMMATICAL AND PRONUNCIATION ERRORS

How many times do you shout at the TV or radio out of pure irritation at bad grammar and pronunciation out of the mouths of the general public and also some TV announcers/link voices?

Unfortunately it seems to be more prevalent now than in previous times due to the increase in audience participation and journalists shoving microphones into peoples' faces at every opportunity. Don't get me wrong, participation of the general public is good, the powers that be need know the public's opinions.

Here is an example of one of the most common errors that really triggers my irritation: "Me and my (wife, husband, partner, mother, family, friend, etc.) like going to.....". This is wrong on two counts; I was always taught that good manners demanded that you always put yourself last in a group of people. Also if you leave out the group of people in the sentence, does it make sense? "Me like going to.....", does that make sense? What should be said is "My (wife, husband, partner, mother, family, friend, etc.) and I like going to.....". What is difficult about that? That's not posh talk, just grammatically correct. It is not even colloquial or regional, just poor grammar. But when is it OK to use "me"? If you say for example "It was an exciting experience for my (wife, husband, partner, mother, family,

friend, etc.) and me", it is correct because if you remove "my (wife, husband, partner, mother, family, friend, etc.) and" the resulting sentence reads correctly, "It was an exciting experience for me".

What about the letter H? How many times do you hear it pronounced as Haitch? You won't find that anywhere in the dictionary. However, if you look for Aitch you will see that it's the correct pronunciation of the letter H. This error is becoming widespread even on the BBC, once the upholder of good English. Once again it cannot be claimed to be colloquial or regional, just poor pronunciation.

Another common error is the misused apostrophe. I know a lot of people bang on about it and get accused of being unnecessarily pedantic, but the worst incorrect use of the apostrophe is with "its or it's". Used incorrectly, it can be completely confusing when trying to read any text. There is a really easy test to see if it should be "its or it's". Unfortunately English can become confusing as so called grammatical rules are constantly broken and so we have to learn all of exception to these "rules". "Its or it's" is a fine example. The apostrophe is associated with possession, for example "Mary's shoes" and also with shortening words into one, for example "It's raining today" meaning "It is raining



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today”. However, with “it” the possessive is “its”, for example “The car shows its registration by way of the number plate.” If you add an apostrophe, as so many people do, “The car shows it’s registration by way of the number plate”, which if you expand it, it would read “The car shows it is registration by way of the number plate.” So , if you need to test whether to use “its or it’s”, just expand it’s to it is and see if it makes sense, if it doesn’t use its.

By the way, the TV or radio can’t hear your irritation but sometimes it can make you feel better!

**Keith Ravenhill**

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# ‘Nightwalk’

## An unlikely Resistance hero’s pacy and passionate war

A novel by Nigel Wild

What suddenly catapults the original anti-hero into French Resistance hero?

Young Guy Duplessis’ quiet war in occupied central France is thrown into turmoil when his parents are slain and he kills a German looter.

In a trice a fugitive from the Nazis, Guy and his soulmate terrier Colonel are forced on the run, to walk by night and hide by day. The pair traverse hundreds of miles to escape across the Channel. Enduring a long and grueling trek, they cheat death by a hairs-breadth again and again.

Recruited by Special Operations Executive, SOE, Guy is transformed from callow youth to clandestine warrior. Returning to France, he rebuilds a network and annihilates crucial installations. And then he is betrayed....

His final mission is so vital that failure will cost Britain the war. And then he is betrayed again.....

Will he return safely to the English girl he loves?

This is a spy thriller with a difference, one that will appeal to men and women alike, young or old. Part historical novel, it revisits the past, painting pictures of Guy’s family and antecedents.



Nigel Wild

Deliberately, it avoids the time-honoured wham, bam, macho action man spiced with a little dalliance formula.

Intermingling explosive action and suspense with romance, tenderness, passion and warmth, it is about finely drawn characters and events far beyond those of death and destruction. Nightwalk is a compelling, absorbing story, one that keeps the pages turning and the bedside light burning until the wee small hours.

Nigel said: “If you enjoy a great read, one you just can’t put down, then you’ll love Nightwalk.”

*Nightwalk* is published by Austin and Macauley and available through all good bookshops and internet booksellers. **ISBN: 9781849631037**  
[www.nigelwildbooks.com](http://www.nigelwildbooks.com)

## NIGEL WILD'S DEBUT NOVEL LAUNCHED BY RADIO OXFORD'S BILL HEINE

Regular Grape Vine contributor and village shop chairman Nigel Wild launched his debut novel *Nightwalk* at Jaffe and Neale's bookshop in Chipping Norton on 13 March.

Radio Oxford presenter, author and personality Bill Heine was the guest speaker. He spoke eloquently about the roller coaster emotions he had experienced in reading the novel, described as an unlikely Resistance hero's pacy and passionate war.

"It is really action-packed," said Bill, "and I was so enthralled, several nights, I was still reading at 3.30am!"

Over 50 guests attended the launch party. After Bill's introduction, Nigel told of his abiding passion for writing, how *Nightwalk* was the realisation of a long-held ambition and how the book was actually written. He then read an excerpt.

The novel was on sale and Nigel was kept busy signing copies while guests enjoyed a glass of wine.



## **JUBILEE FLORAL CELEBRATIONS**

**Come and start Ascott's biggest weekend of celebration in Church. No, not at a service, but with a glass of wine, nibbles, and the wonderful fragrance of flowers.**

**Vases and arrangements of red, white and blue flowers will be on show throughout the weekend, but to see them at their best you're invited to join us on**

**MAY 31<sup>st</sup> 7.00 - 9.00pm**

**Entrance is free, but a donation towards the Church will be very much appreciated.**

**Debra Cull**

## **FARMERS MARKETS**

### **Moreton in Marsh**

Every Tuesday 9.00am - 1.00pm

### **Stow on the Wold**

2nd Thursday of every month 9.00am - 1.00pm

### **Charlbury**

3 monthly

### **Witney**

3rd Wednesday of every month 9.00am - 1.00pm

### **Woodstock**

1st Saturday of every month 9.00am - 1.00pm

### **Chipping Norton**

3rd Saturday of every month 9.00am - 1.00pm

## **SUPPORT FOR NEW HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**

Plans to create a new household recycling centre have moved a step closer, after gaining unanimous support from West Oxfordshire District Council's Cabinet.

Cabinet Members agreed to invest in the redevelopment of Greystones, a former council depot site in Chipping Norton, subject to both pre-planning consultation and the securing of planning permission.

Following the closure of Dean Pit, the Council has been exploring how it could provide a new facility at Greystones, supplying an important service to residents living in the north of the District. The Council and external advisers have been working on the feasibility of the project for five months.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment said, "West Oxfordshire residents are keen recyclers and the Council is passionate about improving services that deliver long-term environmental benefits.

"Creating a household recycling centre at Greystones would provide a useful service for householders in Chipping Norton and surrounding area with more opportunities to recycle. Better facilities would also discourage fly-tipping, which is a concern for local people."

The new recycling centre is projected to generate recycling income of around £22,000 a year and this will

payback an initial investment of £190,000 over an 8-year period.

Cllr Simon Hoare, Cabinet Member responsible for Resources and Asset Management explains why the council-owned site would be a good investment for West Oxfordshire: "This is a very good proposal for Greystones and for the Council's Asset Management Strategy. While the payback will be over eight years, we've decided to make this long term investment for the benefit of the north of the District. Our prudent management of the Council's finances allows us to make such a long term investment."

At present the site is largely redundant with only one of its 5 units occupied. Attempts to let the site have been unsuccessful. Rental income does not cover the costs of maintaining the site and business rates for the empty units.

The above decision, made by Cabinet, is subject to the usual call-in period.

**DEADLINE FOR  
SUMMER 2012 ISSUE  
JULY 5TH  
PLEASE DON'T BE LATE**

## WHAT PRICE A FUNERAL!

If we imagine Ascott in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, what do we envisage? A basic, rather inward looking village, not a lot going on apart from the daily grind. A few employers, many labourers. A village mostly devoted to agriculture, with a population of mainly poor people.

So it may surprize you to know that in 1687 a certain Anne Draper decreed in her will that she was to be buried in the Church of Ascott and that £50 of the 'Lawfull money of England' was to be spent on her funeral. In today's terms this must mean between £3000 to £4000 pounds. It's hard to imagine what this vast amount of money, for those days, was to be spent on.

Anne, in February 1686 when she made her will, appears to have been living with her daughter's family in Burford. She had two sons and three daughters and a large number of grandchildren and relations, all of whom were to receive considerable sums of money relative to their status. In addition there were many household goods, plate and linen which had become Anne's after the death of her husband John Draper, eight years earlier. She lists diligently which items were to go to each offspring. Her son Richard was to have equipment for use around a fire, needed in cooking etc. like spits, shovels, tongs, fire dogs with brass knobs, and a trunk marked with her husband's initials. Son Winchester

was to have silver, pewter, sheets and other linen, bed curtains and valance, chairs, pans etc. Daughter Mistress Claridge was to have more linen, bed hangings, blankets etc., silver, chairs and 'a gold Ring with a stone in it.' Daughter Mistress Johnson was to have silver, linen and pewter. Daughter Emlin Hughes whom she appeared to live with, was to have the rest of Anne's husband's goods. However if any of the children questioned the terms of the Will, they were to have nothing.

But, to return to the funeral. Presumably Ascott Church at that time, must have been adequately maintained for someone of Anne's status to ask to be buried there. Nothing like its condition 160 years later when parts of it were practically collapsing.

1687 was a time of dissension in religious practises since Charles II who practised the Church of England faith, had died two years previously and Roman Catholicism was beginning to rear its head again with the accession of his brother James II. It is unknown how much these forces would have affected church life in this area but religion may have played a part in people's choice of their final resting place.

However Anne's reason for burial in Ascott was because she wished to be 'neare my deare Husband' who had already been buried there. The strange

twist to this story is that neither John Draper nor Anne Draper are listed in Ascott's Burial register. But - and this is entirely due to a question which Fred Russell asked me a couple of years ago. 'Do you know anything about the grave slabs that are under the carpet in the church vestry?' We lifted the carpet and found on two of the black marble slabs forming the flooring, the words 'Here lieth the body of John Draper the elder late of Brewerne Grainge Gent who departed this life the 27<sup>th</sup> of November AD 1679' and 'Here lyeth the body of Ann the wife of John Draper Gent who departed this life 12 September AD 1687'.

So Anne did get her magnificent funeral and also, as she states in her Will 'and a Marble stone of the value of Fourteene pounds laid over my grave'. Not quite as she intended however, because the stones were probably moved from their original positions in the chancel, during the renovations by G.E. Street in the 1850s. Still the bones of John and Anne Draper presumably still reside under the chancel floor or wherever they were originally interred. Anne also left an item to Ascott Church, 'a peece of black cloth of the value of Thirty shillings to be kept by the Churchwardens of Ascott for the time being to be made use of for a hearse cloth when any of the inhabitants are to be buried.' I wonder how long the cloth lasted? Anne must have considered this cloth a worthy gift to the village since although the poor of

Shipton and Milton were each to have twenty shillings distributed amongst them, Ascott's poor were to have nothing.

But why did Anne Draper and indeed her husband John Draper, Gent, wish to be buried in Ascott Church? No records have been uncovered which associate them particularly with the village. There are just two records in the parish registers relating to the name Draper in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. There is a birth of Thomas son of John in 1629 and a death in 1659 of Thomas son of John. And a close at the end of High Street on the south side was in the eighteenth century known as Drapers Close.

We can only conclude that the Draper family must have lived in the village at some time. This must have encouraged John and Anne to desire to have their mortal remains interred in Ascott Church, and in so doing they have left a puzzle for us to ponder over today.

**Wendy Pearse**

**DEADLINE FOR  
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JULY 5TH  
PLEASE DON'T BE LATE**

## TALKING HORSES AND OTHER STORIES

A new Ascott under Wychwood project is offering children the opportunity to explore and enjoy the art of effective communication and self expression in the company of horses and ponies and through creative storytelling and writing.

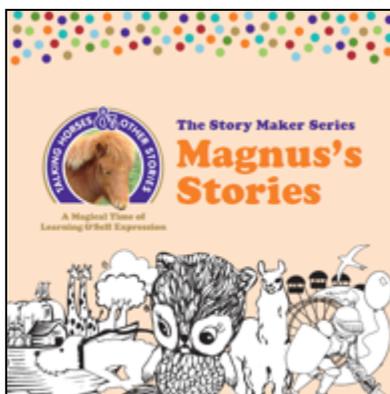
Equine involvement therapist Jo Corfield, who has worked with her horses to help children and adults free themselves from damaging thoughts for the past seven years, and writer Caroline Wright, share a deep love of horses and a passion for helping children build confidence and find the freedom to express themselves fully and creatively.

Friends for sometime, it took them a little while to realise their combination of skills and experience could create a magical learning environment for children. When they did, *Talking Horses & Other Stories* was born. This unique combination of storytelling and working with ponies has proved itself a fabulous vehicle for learning and has

been a real hit with both children and parents.

Children learn about how horses communicate with one another and how we can listen to, understand and talk to them in a language they understand. All this is done using fun, play and grooming their wonderful and very kind team of ponies, all of whom have very distinct characters. Inspired by their time with the ponies and exciting ideas and props, children then create their own stories.

Their special formula has proved incredibly popular, and one of its strengths lies in its flexibility. The pair adapt their approach for children of different ages and interests, and take their events and wonderful miniature Shetland ponies on the road, visiting venues, events and schools across the region. They have recently visited Jaffe & Neale in Chipping Norton, Barefoot Books in Oxford and Waterstones in Witney.



They are launching their first Story Maker first book in April. Brimming with wonderful ideas fresh from the mind of Mighty Magnus, an incredibly special pony, the beautifully designed book will fire the imagination of young writers, artists and storytellers



**Magnus**

everywhere. They also produce wonderful parties for children, taking great care to ensure each party is just what everyone attending will most enjoy.

Creating a supportive, friendly and creative environment for children to learn and explore in is of paramount importance to Caroline and Jo who take great pleasure in seeing children leave inspired by their experiences and with a sense of achievement and confidence. One of the many rewards of their work, they maintain, is its lasting value.

As well as providing events and workshops from their new base in Ascott at weekends and throughout the summer holiday, they are busy building a number of ongoing partnerships with bookshops and schools. They will also be holding a number of open days during May and June.

*Talking Horses* also works with children with learning disabilities and difficulties and with emotional and behavioural problems, tailoring its programmes to meet the specific needs of individual groups of children.

Working in partnership with Hopethruhorses and the Foundations charity, it helps deliver the Horse Harmony project for children from London with learning disabilities and special educational needs.



**Two of our Team**



**Talking Horses Party**

***Further information including dates and details of events can be found at the Talking Horses & Other Stories website [www.talkinghorsesandotherstories.com](http://www.talkinghorsesandotherstories.com)***



A Magical Time of  
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[enquiries@talkinghorsesandotherstories.com](mailto:enquiries@talkinghorsesandotherstories.com)  
01993 831144

## IN PRAISE OF ... PREBENDAL

Not many of you will have met my mother Jean Richards who died in September 2010 at the age of 85. She was a strong rather socially reserved person who never expected any fuss or placed unreasonable demands on anyone – always eager to hear of two generations of family activities, successes and disasters, travel plans or exploits. Although a native of Bristol and having lived married life in the Thames Valley, she and my father loved the Cotswolds enjoying many family holidays here. On retirement in 1984 they bought our cottage in Milton under Wychwood as we were moving to a larger house as our own family expanded. They spent seventeen happy years there enjoying their eventual thirteen grandchildren here (three), in Cambridge (three), in Washington State USA (five, including triplet girls) and in Newcastle (two), as well as their own interests in greater depth.

When my father died in 2002 my mother, already partially-sighted, deaf and with reduced mobility due to arthritis, with some encouragement sold the cottage with the windy stairs and empty rooms, and bought a delightful apartment on the ground floor of Prebendal Court. Possessions were whittled down, memories jettisoned and with support she made a life on her own for the first time.

My mother had a new lease of life at Prebendal – a retired art teacher, she began painting again at the weekly art class with artist Karen Lord, she went shopping in both Chipping Norton and Witney weekly, and she made new friends. Adrian the handyman was there to change the lightbulbs or fix the dripping tap, Sandra came to clean weekly, there were always comings and goings outside her window and the beautiful garden was always there for exercise or sitting out on sunny days. As she became more frail she made more use of the restaurant and on a couple of occasions was forced to use the alarm system to call care staff at night. Twice she was very poorly so transferred seamlessly to a nursing room for a couple of weeks to recuperate.

I'm not sure that many people appreciate the existence of this wonderful facility. Prebendal House is a care home with a difference – the environment and rooms are superb, the care exceptional, and of course that comes at a cost. But purchasing a flat there is quite reasonable considering that all the facilities of Prebendal House are available as required and mostly included in the quarterly service charge. There are twenty apartments and maisonettes with a number on the market or for rent at present.

So thank you everyone at Prebendal who befriended her, supported her and cared for her, and to Doctor Mann and the Wychwood Surgery for their support and expertise over the years.

**If you are interested in sharing in the Prebendal experience for yourself or family – please contact me Sue Richards 01993 830122, email [suerichards@phonecoop.coop](mailto:suerichards@phonecoop.coop) - or Prebendal direct on 01993 831888.**

**Sue Richards**

**Did you know** that Andrews Yard was given that name after a man named Andrews moved from Surrey to Ascott around 1890 and set up a Grocery Shop in the yard.



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## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US .....

The **Oxfordshire Animal Behaviour Centre** started collaborating with Cotswold Canine Rescue when Alison and Gary, two of CCR's coordinators, sought help and behaviour advice for some of the dogs they foster. Occasionally, behaviour clients will surrender their dog to the OABC when they cannot cope anymore. Sometimes people and dogs are what we call a 'bad fit' - meaning their lifestyle and the environment they live in is not suitable for their dog, or they simply cannot meet their dog's needs. Alison and Gary are often on hand to provide a temporary home and work through existing behaviour issues under my guidance, while we all try to find a new forever home.

We also help each other with the rehabilitation of fear aggressive dogs, e.g. dogs that react aggressively to others whilst on lead, dogs that are frightened of people, items, etc, as the methods we use require the use of two handlers and two dogs. For example, we did some reciprocal sessions with one of CCR's rescue dogs, Beatrice, a 18 months old Great Dane cross with lead frustration and fear aggression - to maximise the chance of successfully rehoming her. Beatrice has now found her forever home.

**Cotswold Canine Rescue** is a registered charity rehoming dogs in West Oxfordshire.

We have been established for over four years. We only use foster homes for our dogs as we believe this gives us the very best chance to assess them before finding them their forever homes. All dogs that come through the CCR doors are microchipped, vaccinated and neutered when applicable and the parents of any dog we rehome is required to sign a rehoming agreement. We keep in touch with as many of our homes that we can and love hearing how our CCR dogs are enjoying their new lives. One such dog is Ruffy a beautiful rough coated Lurcher boy who we rehomed to Maggie and Tim from Ascott and I believe that many of you will have spotted him (and his other two canine pals) on their windowsill.

CCR are always looking for great foster homes... are you that special kind of person that could help a needy dog on his or her journey. All vet and food costs are covered by the charity. If you are interested in finding out more... we would love to hear from you!

07956 822 402 | 07866 736 251 [rehomeing@cotswoldcaninerescue.co.uk](mailto:rehomeing@cotswoldcaninerescue.co.uk)



Cotswold Canine Rescue



oxfordshire animal behaviour centre

[www.oabc.org.uk](http://www.oabc.org.uk)

07809 562 526

**"Oxfordshire Animal Behaviour Centre and Cotswold Canine Rescue are desperately looking for affordable premises in West Oxfordshire. We need somewhere where we can carry out dog training and canine rehabilitation, outside but also inside in adverse weather. A small field or yard, and an old barn, outbuilding, or any sheltered area would be sufficient. Can anyone help? Please call Muriel on [07809 562 526](tel:07809562526) or contact us via the website [www.oabc.org.uk](http://www.oabc.org.uk) "**

Looking forward to hearing from you. Dr Muriel Brasseur,  
[www.oabc.org.uk](http://www.oabc.org.uk)

## ASCOTT VILLAGE THROUGH TIME

On behalf of the History Society I will be leading an historical walk around Ascott on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, meeting in Shipton Road outside the Church at 10 am. The fee will be £2.50 and all proceeds will go to the Church Funds.

Non-members are welcome to join us. Please contact me if you have any questions. We can just collect the money on the day.

Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 [wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com)

## HOCKEY FOR ALL

Witney Hockey is a thriving community club with over 200 members of all ages drawn from across three counties: Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire - including several from Ascot-under-Wychwood. With strong sides in the younger age groups for both boys and girls, the Club is looking to attract the following age groups to support the club's continued growth:



Boys of all ages  
Girls aged 14 and over  
Male and female adult players

The Club currently features mixed teams for boys and girls aged 8 - 10, single sex boys' and girls' teams for the 10 – 16 age group, 5 senior men's teams, 3 senior women's teams and a girls' development side.

Junior Coach, Linda Billington, said: "We aim to enable people to play top quality hockey by providing excellent coaches, a busy training schedule and a wide range of fixtures. Do come and find out what we offer. If, as an adult, you played hockey at school or college and would like to brush up those skills, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

For juniors, club hockey can be a great way to complement the often one-term-a-year approach of school hockey. We're a busy, friendly club and would love to hear from anyone interested in finding out more."

Training for senior women takes place at the Astro Turf Pitch on Gordon's Way in Witney on Wednesday evenings, and for senior men at Wood Green School on Tuesdays. Juniors train on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at both locations depending on age group. Full details of times and venues at: [www.witneyhockey.org.uk](http://www.witneyhockey.org.uk)

**To find out more about joining please contact Linda Billington:  
01993 778068  
linda.billington@btopenworld.com**

**DEADLINE FOR  
SUMMER 2012 ISSUE  
JULY 5TH  
PLEASE DON'T BE LATE**

# CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT IS ???



See the answer overleaf .....

## AND HERE'S THE ANSWER .....

This extraordinary stone structure which is virtually unique, is a **BEE SHELTER**. It was constructed in his back garden by stonemason Paul Tuffley, one of a family of Victorian stonemasons and quarrymen, sometime before 1850. In 1957 it was found in the garden of Nailsworth Police Station. The site was due for redevelopment and so the structure was moved to the grounds of Hartpury College. Eventually with the agreement of English Heritage, it was fully restored and moved to a site in Hartpury churchyard where it can now be seen. Hartpury is five miles west of Gloucester.

Wendy Pearse

## WYCHWOOD LIBRARY

We are celebrating a success at Wychwood Library as the "Singing for Fun" Group that started a year ago has outgrown the Library premises and moved to the Baptist Church Hall. We just couldn't fit any more in so the very happy sounds are just up the road. They would welcome new singers to the group so turn up on a Tuesday at 12.30 to 2 and enjoy yourself for £4.

The IKNIT Thursday morning sessions are now weekly as well to cope with the growing numbers. 10 – 12noon for coffee and a chat and help with craft skills.

I hope that this is a trend of something that Wychwood Library can offer to the community in the future. The Singing Group started with about five or six people and it has grown to over 40. If you would like a "start-up" venue for a non-commercial, community minded idea come in and we can have a chat.

We already have two Reading Groups here. One during the day and one in the evening and also the Poetry Group which is a delightful addition to our literary stable.

### New Books

We have had a large number of new children's books added to our stock. We have especially concentrated on our First Readers or Beginning to Read group and can offer exciting titles such as Star Wars and Spiderman books to encourage those new reading skills as well as the delightful Usborne collection.

For garden design and general gardening books, I feel that Wychwood Library offers one of the most comprehensive selections around. These expensive books are free here.

The Oxfordshire Library service has not cut the book fund budget so we have lots of new titles across the range

coming in all the time and the greater the usage of the library, the more books they will send to us!

### **eBooks**

eBooks or eAudio items is the latest facility we have on offer. Our eBook service will be compatible with PCs, Macs, iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch Android, Blackberry, Sony eReader, Kobo and other eBook readers but currently not Kindles which are proprietary devices for eBooks purchased from Amazon.

Up to three titles can be borrowed at one time and users can choose between seven day, 14 day and 21 day loan periods. This is a free service. For more information come in and talk to us or visit the web page.

### **Reservations**

Wychwood Library was very kindly acknowledged recently by one of our local authors for supplying him with books for research into his latest title. Thankyou.

For the sum of £1 per item we can get in titles available on the Oxfordshire Library catalogue. For £4 we are able to supply you with items held in the British Library etc. The books come in very quickly and if you are under 18 there is no cost at all!

### **Computer classes**

The last few months have been very successful with introducing customers to computers. We will be offering sessions on a Wednesday and Friday af-

ternoon for more of these as well as help with the Ancestry and Find My Past websites. Come along and sign up for these limited places.

Make use of Wychwood Library and we will still be here in the future.

**Ruth Gillingham**  
**Liz Newport**

### **Opening Times:**

**Monday:** 2.00pm to 7.00pm

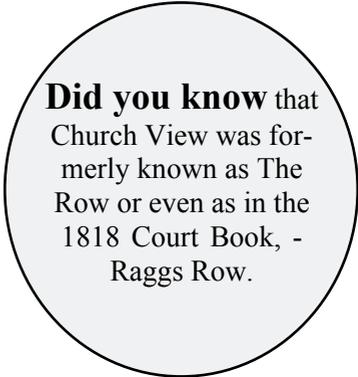
**Tuesday:** Closed

**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



**Did you know** that Church View was formerly known as The Row or even as in the 1818 Court Book, - Raggs Row.

## TIDDY HALL REPORT

If you have been to Tiddy Hall since February half term, you will have noticed that our floor is looking wonderful! It was sanded down and varnished and new badminton court lines were then repainted. A great job and in time for our special year!

Lots of musical events have taken place over these past few months at Tiddy Hall!

In January we danced to Darwin's Wish at our annual anniversary dance, while Acousticana and friends entertained us in February with an eclectic mix of blues, folk and Americana. Thank you Mark for organising a fantastic evening, which featured Rag 'n' Roll, and who will be returning to Tiddy at our annual Folk Night in October. As no charges were made by any of the musicians, all proceeds were given to Tiddy Hall funds – a kind gesture which is very much appreciated! March saw a singing workshop take place over a weekend and we were entertained on Sunday afternoon by students singing pieces from various West End Musicals. Again, a big thank you to Robin Martin-Oliver for passing on the proceeds from the concert to Tiddy Hall. Mrs Pauline Carter organised a drumming workshop the following weekend and she tells me everyone had a brilliant time! And finally, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March, our very own Ascott Songsters entertained us with a wonderful assortment of

songs. A great turn-out and a lot of money raised once again! Thank you to all for working so hard – keep those voices well-tuned!

To keep the musical theme going, David Ridley will be giving a concert on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm. He will be performing an assortment of piano pieces by French composers in preparation for his final performance for his degree in Music at Bristol University - more details nearer the time. And finally, don't forget our big Anniversary Weekend at the beginning of June! Friday night, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 100 years of Tiddy - an evening of light entertainment to include folk and Morris dancing and reminisces of those who have performed at Tiddy over the years. This will then be followed by a Ceilidh dance on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> - get your dancing shoes ready! Food will be provided on both evenings!

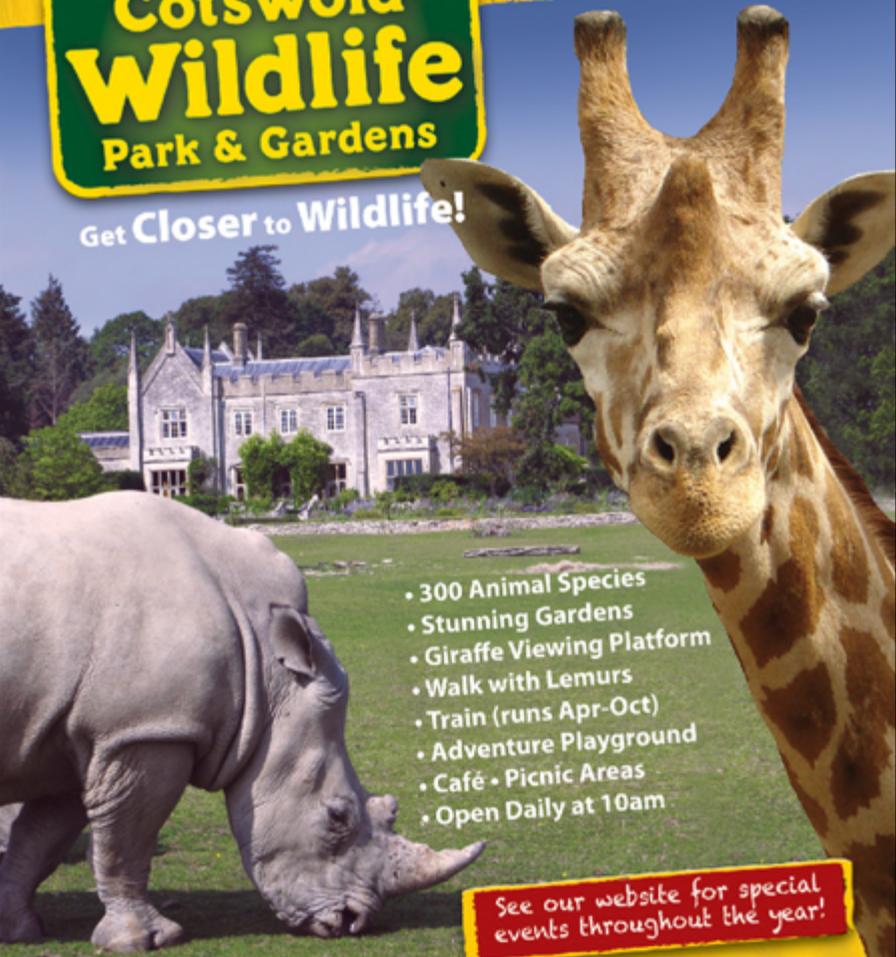
The kitchen at Tiddy Hall is looking tired and needs some attention. The committee are hoping that with the proceeds raised from all the various events taking place this year, we will be able to start replacing it next year. So do come and support any event, if and when you can!

Other events which have taken place these past few months include a Quiz Night run by Burford School to raise funds for their Uganda Link, a Craft Morning by Ascott Pre School and Debbie Shirley organised a Charity



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Dog Walk in March to raise money for Medical Detection Dogs. Almost £1200 was raised and dogs and owners enjoyed a wonderful walk up through the Wychwood Forest and back.

Jan Harvey is running a Life Drawing for the Terrified Workshop on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 9.30 am. Jan, who runs Wychwood Workshops, says, "The light in Tiddy Hall is perfect for Life Drawing thanks to the tall windows and also the new floor has really made a difference – it's a great background colour!" The class is aimed at people who are new to drawing the human form or who feel they have lost their confidence. If you have ever wanted to try your hand at drawing or would like to participate in other workshops run by Jan, you will find more details at [www.thewychwoodworkshops.co.uk](http://www.thewychwoodworkshops.co.uk) or call Jan on 01993 832357.

As you can see, our Tiddy Hall is used by many different people for various activities.

If you are interested in running an event or having a party, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

**Ingrid Ridley**  
**01993 830612**



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**Did you know** that the name Ascott derives from the word Estcote, mentioned in the Domesday Book, when Ascott was a hamlet at the east end of King Harold's royal manor and estate of Shipton, and Westcote was a hamlet at the west end.

# TIDDY HALL

## Regular Activities:

### Monday - Friday Mornings Pre-school

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant  
0796 8006451

### Tuesday Evenings 7.30 - 9.00 Yoga

Contact: Jan Holah 01608 810620

### Friday Afternoons Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter  
01993 774568

### Thursday Evenings 7.30 - 8.30 Zumba & Body Conditioning

Contact: Christina Worth  
07920 031280

## POST OFFICE RUNS EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 4.00pm

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

### Saturday 19 May 9.30 - 12.30 Life Drawing Class

Contact: Jan Harvey  
01993 832357

### Saturday 26 May 4.00 Piano Concert

Contact: Ingrid Ridley  
01993 830612

### Friday 1 June 7.30 100 Years of Tiddy

### Saturday 2 June 7.30 Ceilidh with Supper

### Saturday 16 June 7.30 Roseneath School of Music Summer Concert



To book the Tiddy Hall contact:

**Ingrid Ridley**  
**01993 830612**

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**Jan Harvey**  
Painter and Writer

**Beryl Maile**  
Artist and  
After Dinner Speaker



For more about Arts Talks go to [artskool.net](http://artskool.net) or call 01993 832357

# A Journey Through France

Artweeks 2012 May 5 -13

## A French inspired exhibition for Artweeks

**Local Wychwoods artist**, Jan Harvey, is hosting an exhibition in May this year entitled **A Journey Through France**. The paintings are on display at The Garden Gallery, Shipton-under-Wychwood as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks and are an eclectic mix of styles inspired by a single day's journey through France last summer. Jan explains: 'Our holiday in the Dordogne last July was a wash out! It rained or threatened rain every day and it was very cold! Having said this we had a great time taking day trips around this fascinating region which is full of pre-historic sites but, sitting by the pool and switching off with a good book was a no go! However, on the way home, driving from Bergerac to Gu erande in Brittany we had the most amazing day! The light was extraordinary and I kept asking my husband to pull over so I could make quick sketches and take pictures for reference.'

The result is a body of work that reflects the changing scenery from the rolling vineyards of the Bergerac region to the beautiful salt flats of the Gu erande Peninsula.

The paintings on display will be in journey order and include notebooks and sketches, which create a fascinating dossier of the sites, colours and memories of the day. It is truly France at its best.

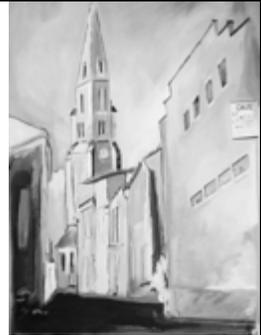
Jan, who is widely recognized for her figure drawing, will also have a small selection of life studies on display.

A Journey Through France takes place from Saturday 5 May to Sunday 13 May and is open every day from 12-6pm (12-8pm on 10 May). The Garden Gallery is located in the heart of Shipton-under-Wychwood and will be marked by an Artweeks flag. For more details email [jan.harvey1@virgin.net](mailto:jan.harvey1@virgin.net) or call 01993 832357

### Get creative yourself

Jan also runs **The Wychwood Workshops** a range of creative sessions for new, rusty or nervous artists and writers!

To see more visit:  
[www.thewychwoodworkshops.co.uk](http://www.thewychwoodworkshops.co.uk)



La Cave Chabrol

<b>Art's Kool</b> Competitions Workshops Fringe Events Instant Exhibition	 Sponsored by the Rooflight Company The Professional Choice <a href="http://artskool.net">artskool.net</a> or call 01993 832357	<b>Saturday</b> 23 June	<b>Arts Talks</b> An evening of presentations by professional artists New Beaconsfield Hall 7 June, 2012
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**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY 7 JULY 2012**  
**2.00 - 5.00 pm**

**OPEN GARDEN AT WYCHWOOD MANOR AND  
ASCOTT BAKE-OFF/PRODUCE SHOW**

If you have ever driven along the Charlbury to Burford road and glanced down the valley to the renovations at Wychwood Manor and wondered what was going on behind all that scaffolding and polythene, now's your chance for a sneaky peek.

The owners of Wychwood Manor have very kindly offered to throw open their gates for an exclusive Open Garden afternoon on Saturday 7th July, as a fund-raiser for the Ascott Church.

Not only will you be able to wander around the immaculately manicured lawns, pristine borders and the stunning walled vegetable garden as featured in the June issue of House and Gardens magazine but this is also your chance to show off your own gardening prowess.

This year, for the first time, there will be a Produce Show, where you can show off your best blooms and vegetables, plus take part in the first Ascott Bake Off, with classes for children and adults alike. So get that vegetable patch prepared, practice your Victoria Sandwich and look out for posters and more information in the coming months.

In the meantime, put the date in your diary and start looking forward to a wonderful afternoon in the summer sun, sipping Pimms or enjoying tea and homemade cakes in the grounds of one of the Cotswolds finest houses.

**\* all information updates and entry forms will be available on the Ascott Bake Off / Produce Show website [www.facebook.com/ascottbakeoff](http://www.facebook.com/ascottbakeoff)**

**Did you know** that the name Priory Lane does not indicate that there was a priory in Ascott. Rather that the land to the east of the lane, in medieval times, belonged to the Priory of St. Frideswides in Oxford.



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## RUNNING FOR WENDY

The Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu once said *'a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step'* and I suppose the first step on my London marathon journey could be said to have begun in the early spring of 2011 in Ascott's Tiddy Hall while I was talking to Wendy Butler, who had been diagnosed with terminal Pancreatic cancer a month or so earlier.

I hadn't known much about pancreatic cancer at the time of Wendy's diagnosis and was very shocked to discover that while the outlook for someone with breast cancer had greatly improved over the last 40 years to an almost 80% 5-year+ survival rate; the figures for pancreatic cancer had stayed almost static.

While undergoing treatment Wendy was actively campaigning to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer and talking to Wendy made me want to do something. With Wendy as my inspiration I applied for a place to run the London Marathon for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund (PCRF).

It was late autumn and Gareth and I were out in the front garden taking the opportunity of a sunny, dry and windless day to get the Christmas lights up in our cedar tree when my mobile rang.

It was Maggie Blanks from the PCRF phoning to say there was a place available for me If I wanted it: "did I still want to run?"; I took a deep breath and said "yes".

I had never been a runner; in terms of running I'd have to go back to my school-days where as a competitive gymnast the extent of my running was limited to 6 or so strides across a mat, and though I had once been a very regular cyclist, working further afield had drastically reduced the amount of time I spent on a bike; so in fact for a number of years my main source

of exercise consisted of walking the dogs. It suddenly dawned on me that if I wanted to be able to finish and do Wendy proud, I needed to start training straight away!

Gareth bought me a book about running your first marathon. I started reading and it was full of useful advice on getting the right running shoes and kit, and eating a proper diet and how as it was your first marathon you shouldn't pick a finish time, but only plan to finish, because if you picked a time and were a few minutes over you would be disappointed when you should be elated that you'd finished a marathon. This all sounded like sensible advice and I took it on board. Then

Don't forget about the Ascott website:



I got to the section with the ‘training plan’. Day 1: Rest day. “That’s OK” I thought, “I can do that.” Day 2: Run 3 miles. “Ah. Slight problem here. I can’t run 3 miles....” So I trawled the internet and found a ‘Walk to Run’ programme which alternated jogging for 1 minute with walking for 1 minute and built up from there. So one dark evening in November, on the village playing field I started a training programme that would get me to a point where I could start the marathon training programme!

Six months, or in training terms, 78 hours, 320 miles and 24,569 calories later on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April there I was standing amongst some 37000 other runners waiting for the London Marathon to start.

Gareth and I had travelled down to London the night before so that getting to the ‘Red Start’ in Greenwich Park for 8:30am would be relatively panic-free. We got up early and went down to the hotel restaurant where they were serving huge bowls of porridge and giving away bananas to all the marathon runners. Back upstairs and into race kit and off to catch the tube. London transport had waived their charges for marathon runners so we were waved straight through the barriers and wished ‘good luck’ by the station staff. At Bank, we changed onto the DLR (free as well) where just about every passenger was carrying the big red Virgin marathon official kit bag. As the train filled, the nervous energy was palpable, the smell of ‘Deep Heat’

grew stronger and conversations began.

There was a chap from Wales, who was running 7 marathons in 7 days and this was to be his 7<sup>th</sup> and final one. There was the chap running for a children’s charity worried about whether he was going to be too hot in his gingerbread-man costume as it was quite sunny. There was the chap whose ex-army mate was running for Save the Rhinos in a rhinoceros costume that weighed 65lbs! There were people hoping for good times and people just hoping to finish and a lot of nervous excitement... Soon enough we all arrived at Greenwich, piled out of the train, were wished ‘good luck’ by the staff and took the short walk to the park. Gareth and I headed in, deposited our kit bags on the support trucks and wandered off to find the loos, drink a final sports drink and do some warm up stretches.

As 9:45 approached we went off to our start zones. Depending on your predicted finish time, you were allocated to a zone, and I was in zone 9, the pen for everyone who predicted taking more than 5 hours to complete the course. On my way in I passed people getting into some elaborate fancy dress costumes: various Mr Men, a very tall Blackpool tower, and other buildings St Paul’s Cathedral, Big Ben and the Gherkin to name a few. I saw care bears, fairy princesses, the 4 rhinos from Save the Rhino, a Labrador from Guide Dogs for the Blind and I very quickly hurried past the man in a

tankini/thong – I was definitely not going to be behind that for 26.2 miles! 9:45 eventually came, there was a bit of shuffling, fiddling with watches and iPods and we moved... absolutely nowhere! To ease congestion as well as having 3 different start points that join near mile 2, they release the zone pens one by one. Slowly and gradually we started to move forward towards the park gates and after 25 minutes we turned the corner and could see the start line and then suddenly I was across the start line and running!

As I'd done all my training runs on my own, I was worried that I might be overly influenced by all the runners around me and set off at too quick a pace and run out of steam, so I had worked out a race pace that I knew I could do. It

didn't matter if I went slower than that pace, but I mustn't try to go faster; my goal was to finish.

The day had dawned cool and sunny, but it was gradually warming and it was amazing to be running through the streets of London, past cheering crowds, high-fiving children and hearing complete strangers shout your name. Training in the hills around Ascott must have paid off, because I was jogging along quite comfortably and actually 'lost' a mile between miles 4 and 6, and the mile markers could hardly be considered to be inconspicuous! When I passed mile 6 I thought,

“OK, only 20 miles to go and I've done that in training.”

Soon enough I was going past the Cutty Sark and on through a route lined with people, running past churches and vicars of various denominations out blessing the runners, crowded pubs and people having garden parties or out on their balconies with drinks. There were banners galore to encourage individual runners, held by their friends or family in the crowd or tied to lampposts along the way. Passing one block of flats I looked up to where a group were having drinks and read the banner that they had draped the length of their balcony that said: 'Run Random Stranger Run!'. It really made me smile.



And then there was the music, I had my own

playlist on my iPod to keep me going, but there were rock bands and jazz bands and blues bands and brass bands. There were DJ's playing all sorts of music, though some of them did seem to be following a bit of a theme, as I heard snippets of 'Keep on Running' by the Spencer David Group, 'We are the Champions' by Queen, 'Don't Stop Believing' by Journey and '500 Miles' by the Proclaimers as I ran past various pubs. There were a number of Caribbean steel drum bands along the route and somewhere beneath an underpass there was an amazing drumming

troupe that filled the underpass with an amazing sound that you could feel in your chest before you ever saw them.

It was still sunny when I turned the corner towards Tower Bridge but clouds were beginning to gather. Running across Tower Bridge was an extraordinary feeling and the noise from the crowd on the bridge was amazing. I was still feeling really comfortable as I crossed the bridge and turned the corner onto The Highway to suddenly spot my friends Karen and Jon and my god-children Sophie and William in the crowd shouting my name. Some quick hugs and off again and through mile 13 and then the half-way marker. I heard my name shouted again and looked up to see another PCRFB runner, John, going in the opposite direction about to approach mile 22.

It was around this point that I noticed that my right knee was hurting. I paused and tried a few stretches, walked for a minute and then carried on running. It was becoming more and more painful and so I stopped by a medical tent near mile 14, had some sports massage and 'magic' spray, did some more stretches under the guidance of the physio there and set off again.

I was trying to run through the pain and was alternating walking for a minute with running for a minute when around mile 15, I heard my name shouted again and there was a friend from work Dave and his wife Liz. They had come down in their boat and were staying in St Catherine's dock. Shortly

after leaving them the pain in my right knee was too much when I tried to run, so at that point I decided I would 'power' walk the rest of the way.

It was getting cloudier and there was a light mizzle falling, which actually felt quite pleasant, by the time I approached mile 20 where Maggie Blanks and others from the PCRFB were there showing their support for all the PCRFB runners. It was shortly after this that the temperature dropped perceptibly and the light mizzle turned to steady and rather heavy rain and a strong gusty wind blew up. At the next mile marker they were giving out space blankets, which kept the worst of the rain off but it was a bit of a challenge trying to hold onto them in the wind – still it kept me occupied.

Suddenly there was Tower Bridge again and luckily the wind began to ease off as I wasn't looking forward to battling a strong headwind all the way along the Embankment. Somewhere near Cleopatra's Needle, the song Wendy choose for my playlist 'Twisting by the Pool' came on, and really gave me a lift and an incredibly strong sense that she was there encouraging me onwards.

And then I was going past Big Ben and still onwards, and then ahead I could see the park and Birdcage Walk. It had stopped raining by then so I draped my wet space blanket on one of the barriers and carried on. As I approached the park, I slowed to walk with a girl who was really struggling, telling her she'd done the hard part, we

were almost there and the finish really was “just around the corner”. At this point the signs started: 800m to go! 600m to go! 400m to go!; then turning the corner there was the sign saying 385 YARDS TO GO!

I heard my name being shouted and there was Gareth and his daughter Laura and her partner Wayne, jumping up and down and screaming encouragement.

After stopping to receive big hugs from all of them, I really, really wanted to run that last bit up to and across the finish line, but my knee wasn't cooperating, so I continued to walk up the Mall and over that line. I had finished the London Marathon in 7 hours 16 minutes and 11 seconds.

I still have some sponsorship money to collect and donations can still be made to the JustGiving account <http://www.justgiving.com/KingsleyLondonMarathon> but adding together online and offline donations, including gift aid and extra ‘matching’ contributions that the company I work for makes for donations given by employees, the total raised so far for the PCRf is £3822.00. This money will be put to good use by the PCRf to fund medical research focused on developing effective early diagnostic tests for Pancreatic cancer and/or the development and monitoring of new Pancreatic cancer treatments; advancement in either would be a fine legacy for Wendy.

I'd like to thank the village shop for hosting my sponsorship forms and everyone who sponsored me, everyone who wished me well and asked me how my training was going, waved as

I ran past and gave me words of encouragement along the way. I really couldn't have done it without you.

**Kingsley**



**Did you know** that the name London Lane, obviously the direction in which you travelled to London, was mentioned as early as 1600, in the old Ascott Doy-ley Manor Court Books.

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**ASCOTT PLATOON HOME GUARD, SEPTEMBER, 1942**

DESMOND PRATLEY, A. G. KEEP, GEO. LONGSHAW, NORMAN EDGINTON, A. R. BARRETT, JOHN T. LONGSHAW, A. R. EDGINTON  
 E. R. BENFIELD, I. H. WARNER, JOHN SAMPSON, G. W. TRINDER, JOHN YOUNG (R.O.C.) D. G. EDGINTON, S. J. RAINBOW, E. G. RAINBOW  
 C. EDGINTON, L. CORPL. H. PRATLEY, SERGT. H. R. SCOTT, 2/LT. H. A. JONES, CORPL. LESLIE BARNES, L. CORPL. ARTHUR J. BADGER, E. H. RAINBOW  
 PHOTO: BOURNEMOUTH WATER

**Ascott Platoon Home Guard, September 1942**

Desmond Pratley, AG Keep, Geo. Longshaw, Norman Edginton, AR Barrett, John T Longshaw, AR Edginton  
 R Benfield, IH Warner, John Sampson, GW Trinder, John Young (R.O.C) DG Edginton, SJ Rainbow, EG Rainbow  
 C Edginton, L/Corpl. H Pratley, Sergt. HR Scott, 2/Lt HA Jones, Corpl. Leslie Barnes, L/Corpl. Arthur J Badger,  
 ER Rainbow



**Ascott-under-Wychwood**



**Ascott under Wychwood FC winners of Wychwood League 1927-8**

**Back Row: R Farmer, W Powell, H Clark, N Edginton, A Shirley**

**Middle Row: J Edginton, G Hambidge, R Storey**

**Front Row: M Shayler, T Moss, F Alden, A Longshaw, H Chandler**



**"Play-time" Ascott-under-Wychwood, June 1922**

## **COOK'S CORNER : ASCOTT'S FAVOURITE RECIPES**

### **CORONATION CHICKEN**

This is such a well known dish these days and has probably been much modified since first put together by Constance Spry and Rosemary Hume for the Coronation luncheon in 1953. This is the original recipe.

2 young chickens	salt
A bouquet garni	3 or 4 peppercorns
2 or 3 large carrots	cream of curry sauce

Poach chickens with carrots, bouquet garni, salt and peppercorns in water and a little white wine, just enough to cover, for about 40 minutes until tender but not overcooked. Cool in the liquid then joint the birds, removing bones.

#### **Cream of curry sauce:**

1 tablespoon oil	1 lemon
2 oz onion, finely chopped	1 dessertspoon curry powder
1 large teaspoon tomato puree	1 wineglass red wine
1 wineglass water	1 bay leaf
salt, pepper and a little sugar to taste	juice of 1 lemon
2 tablespoons apricot puree	$\frac{3}{4}$ pint mayonnaise
3 tablespoons whipped cream	

Heat oil with onions and curry powder gently for a few minutes, then add puree, wine, water and bay leaf. Bring to boil with salt, sugar to taste, pepper and lemon juice and simmer for 5 to 10 minutes. Strain and cool. Add slowly to the mayonnaise and apricot puree, and stir in whipped cream.

Mix the chicken and some of the sauce together, arrange on a dish and coat with the remaining sauce.

This was served with a rice salad at the Coronation luncheon.

This recipe was given to me by Rosemary Hume and I still make it in quantity for parties. The recipe above will serve 8-10 people.

**June Holmes**

## LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**Annie Holden Curtains and Blinds** 01993 830687/07989 497253  
[www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk](http://www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk)

**Art's Kool** 01993 832357 [www.artskool.net](http://www.artskool.net)

**Ascott Village Shop** 01993 831240 [shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk)  
[www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk)

**College Farm B&B** 01993 831900 [sally@college-farm.com](mailto:sally@college-farm.com)

**Cotswold Wildlife Park** 01993 823006 [www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk)

**Davenport's** 01993 358252

**Fiddlers Hill B&B** 01993 830640/07803 399697 [cw@gardencott.co.uk](mailto:cw@gardencott.co.uk)

**Groves Shop** 01993 830302 [info@alfredgroves.co.uk](mailto:info@alfredgroves.co.uk) [www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk](http://www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk)

**Home Tutor** 01993 830970

**Ingrid Ridley B&B** 01993 830612 [www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk](http://www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk)

**In2Pets** 01993 773111 [www.in2pets.co.uk](http://www.in2pets.co.uk)

**Ivy's Florist** 01993 830268

**Knight & Day Financial Services** 0808 101 6224

**Leaffield Picture Framing** 01993 878357

**Martin & Co** 01993 708638 [witney@martinco.com](mailto:witney@martinco.com) [www.martinco.com](http://www.martinco.com)

**Milton Post Office** 01993 832243

**Paw Pals** 01993 869051/07917 703468 [www.paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon](http://www.paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon)

**Robert Gripper** 01993 831960 [robgripper@btinternet.com](mailto:robgripper@btinternet.com)

**Roseneath** 01993 774568 [www.roseneathmusicschool.com](http://www.roseneathmusicschool.com)

**Talking Horses & Other Stories** 01993 831144

[www.talkinghorsesandotherstories.com](http://www.talkinghorsesandotherstories.com)

**Tiddy Hall** 01993 830612

**Victoria's Beauty Room** 07970 509393 [victoriasbeautyroom@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:victoriasbeautyroom@hotmail.co.uk)

**Witney Shuttle** - Freephone 0800 043 4633 [www.witneyshuttle.com](http://www.witneyshuttle.com)

**Wychwood Estate Agents** 01993 824800 Burford 01993 832288 Milton under  
Wychwood 0207 298 0314 London [sales@wychwoods.com](mailto:sales@wychwoods.com) [www.wychwoods.com](http://www.wychwoods.com)

**Wrights Funeral Services** 01993 831557 [info@wychwoodfuneralservices.co.uk](mailto:info@wychwoodfuneralservices.co.uk)

**Wychwood Healing** 07780 572283 [pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk](mailto:pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk)  
[www.wychwoodhealing.co.uk](http://www.wychwoodhealing.co.uk)

## ASCOTT CALENDAR 2012

DATE	EVENT
5 May	10 a.m. – mid-day Coffee Morning in Church
15 May - 5 June	Jubilee Churches Festival
19 May	Life Drawing Class (Tiddy Hall)
26 May	Piano Concert
31 May	Jubilee Floral Celebration 7 - 9pm in Church
1st June	The Big Weekend - 100 years of Tiddy
2nd June	10 a.m. – mid-day Coffee Morning in Church
2nd June	Tea Party (Tiddy Hall)
2nd June	Centenary Barn Dance (Tiddy Hall)
3rd June	The Big Lunch (the Playing Field)
16 June	Roseneath School of Music Summer Concert
7th July	10 a.m. – mid-day Coffee Morning in Church p.m. Open Gardens/Bake Off/Produce Stall at Wychwood Manor
4th August	10 a.m. – mid-day Coffee Morning in Church
1st September	10 a.m. – mid-day Coffee Morning in Church
8th September	Sponsored Ride and Stride for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust
TBC	Autumn Film Night - Flix in the Stix (Tiddy Hall)
6th October	10 a.m. – mid-day Coffee Morning in Church
20th October	Folk Night (Tiddy Hall)
28th October	Centenary Charity Run
3rd November	10 a.m. – mid-day Coffee Morning in Church
1st December	10 a.m. – mid-day Christmas Bazaar in Church

**If there are any events not included in the above calendar please do let us know:  
Call 01993 831023 or email: [wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com)**