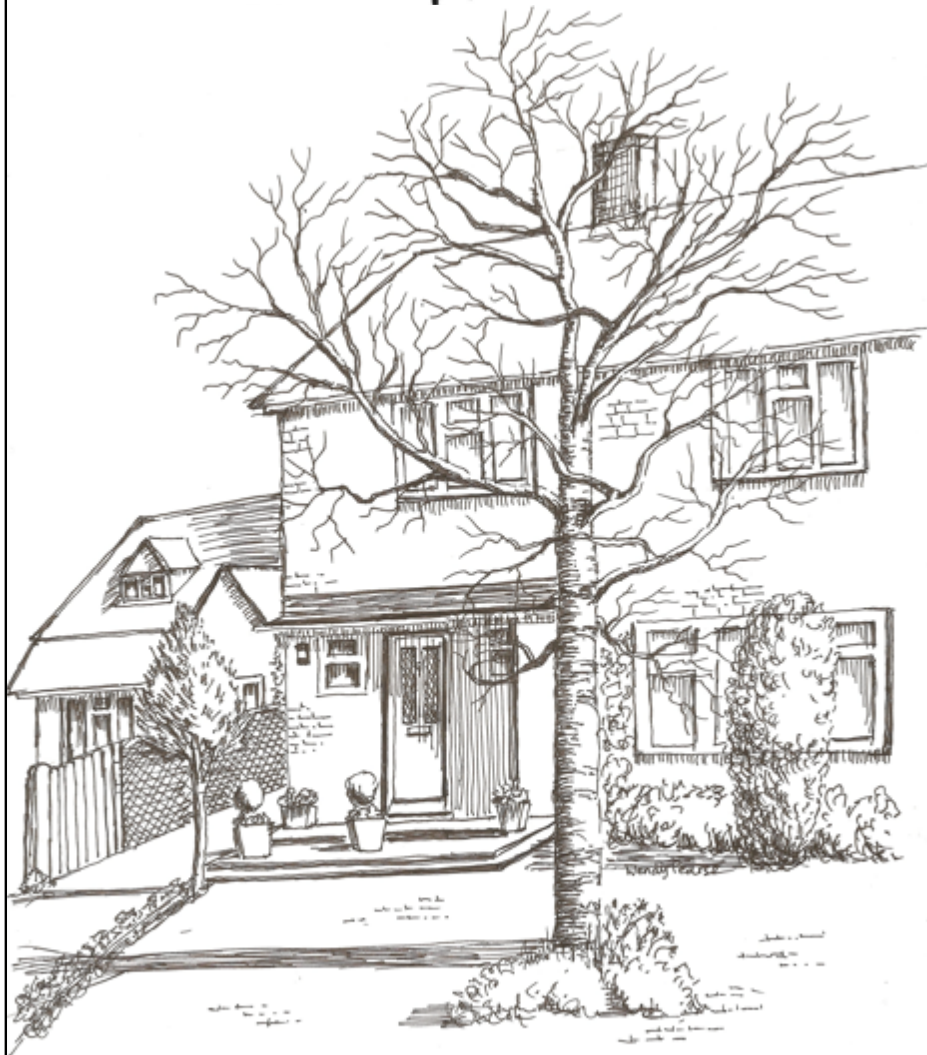


The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

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

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

If there is an aspect of village life not already covered in ‘The Grapevine’ please contact a member of the team to discuss your ideas.

Articles for the next issue of *The Ascott Grapevine* should be submitted by 5th May 2013. Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email: wendypearse@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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ASCOTT TEAS 2013

Starting in March, Ascott under Wychwood will be holding afternoon teas once a month on a Sunday from 2.00 - 4.30pm, and to add a bit of variety each afternoon will be themed and organised by different people from our Village.

The ideas have been overwhelming and it's guaranteed there will be something for all ages! So apart from being tempted with tea and a slice of delicious homemade cake or scone and things to buy, there will be entertainment some months, or we may ask you to join in and enter competitions! Look out for the **Teapot signs** at the top of each hill and out towards Shipton. These will be displayed the week before and there'll be one on the Green too! Flyers will also be placed in the local tourist areas, and as well as the AuW website, we now have a facebook page set up and ready to go.

The Ascott Teas will be served in the Church and all the money made will go to much needed funds. It's going to be fun and we look forward to seeing you!

The dates and themes are listed below:

March 17th	Easter
April 21st	Spring
May 19th	Plants
June 16th	Red white and blue Celebration
July 21st	Mad Hatter
August 18th	Summer fruits
September 15th	Harvest Bake off
October 20th	Cotswold Kitchen garden
November 17th	Christmas Fayre

Debra Cull

Deaths

On the 13th November 2012, Rt. Rev. Kenneth Cragg, aged 99 years.

On the 7th December 2012, Lisbeth Brainin (Liesl), aged 93 years.

On the 16th December 2012, Robin Haydon Burleigh, aged 71 years.

Births

On the 9th November 2012 to Andrea Pratley and Nick Forrester, a daughter, Agnes-Rose.

OBITUARIES

LIESL BRAININ

My mother Liesl Brainin, who has died aged 93, was a truly private person. She took against fame in childhood. Her uncle, Hans Kelsen, was the main author of Austria's new constitution after the first



During the blitz Liesl Brainin shared the fatalism of many Londoners and regularly refused to leave her warm bed for the safety of the air raid shelter

world war, and on hearing her name everyone would ask: "Are you Hans Kelsen's daughter?" "No!" she would cry. "I'm Ernst Kelsen's daughter. My father is somebody too!"

Ernst was a chemist, his wife Lilli a pianist. Liesl decided early that her parents' high culture was hard work, and she would "concentrate on being a pretty girl". Yet she always embodied the values of the educated Viennese Jewish bourgeoisie.

Her parents separated in the early 30s and Ernst moved to Britain. In 1937 he died and Lilli came to London to settle his estate, leaving Liesl in the care of a guardian. Thus, in March 1938, she found herself alone in Vienna, aged 18, when Hitler's armies marched in. Like so many, Liesl's guardian failed to recognise that everything had changed, and refused to let her travel alone across Europe. So she begged the travel money from another

relative, and fled for London – on the last train, she said, to leave Austria before the border closed.

That fearlessness remained a keynote of her life. In 1940, she married Jussi Brainin (cousin of the

violinist Norbert Brainin), also a Jewish refugee from Vienna, and a week later he was arrested and interned as an enemy alien on the Isle of Man – for only a few months, luckily, after which he joined the British army.

During the blitz, Liesl shared the fatalism of many Londoners and regularly refused to leave her warm bed for the shelter. When Jussi sent her into the countryside for safety's sake, she was so bored she came straight back. Then, after the war, when his family were all reuniting in Montreal, it was she who made the decision that they should make the leap into the unknown, as Canada seemed then (in Vienna, she remembered, they'd called it "*Keiner da*" – "Nobody there").

My father built up a successful life as an insurance broker in Montreal, but it took him several years. In the meantime, Liesl decided to take holidays they could not afford and have more

children even though they were short of money – after me, born in England, Kay and Danny were born in Canada. In 1978 my father sold his brokerage, and he and Liesl moved back to Britain. He died in 2008. Some years before that, Liesl began to suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Dementia cruelly

reduced her, but could never completely deprive her of her grace and refinement.

She is survived by Kay, Danny and me, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Carole Angier



THE RT REV KENNETH CRAGG 1913 – 2012

The Right Reverend Kenneth Cragg, who has died aged 99, was a distinguished scholar who, more than anyone else in the 20th century, helped Christians to a deeper understanding of, and a wider sympathy for, the religious faiths of Muslims and Jews.

This he achieved long before the importance of such understanding for world peace was widely recognised. Besides a long teaching ministry in universities, he was the author of some 40 books, two of which, *The Call of the Minaret* (1956) and *Sandals in the Mosque* (1959), became classics.

In these Cragg concentrated on Muslim prayer and spirituality, showing the rich treasury of devotion available to the devout Muslim and its affinity with the Christian tradition.

Cragg, who was an assistant bishop in the Anglican Church's Jerusalem archbishopric from 1970 to 1974 had

many Muslim and Jewish friends. He counselled Christians to approach members of other faiths with humility and openness.

Albert Kenneth Cragg was born on the 8th March 1913 in Blackpool and went from the local grammar school to Jesus College, Oxford, where he read Modern History. After two further years at Tyndale Hall, Bristol, he was ordained in 1936 to a curacy at Tranmere, Birkenhead.

Three years later he was appointed chaplain of All Saints', Beirut. While ministering to the English-speaking community there from 1939 to 1947, he mastered Arabic and laid the foundations of an extensive knowledge of the Middle East. He was also Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the American University of Beirut from 1942 to 1947.

On his return to England, Cragg became rector of Longworth, near Abingdon, where he stayed for four years and completed an Oxford DPhil. In 1951 he moved to the United States to become Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut; in the following year became editor of *The Muslim World*.

After five years' teaching and research he went back to the Middle East as a residentiary canon of St George's Collegiate Church in Jerusalem and began to travel widely in the region and beyond, alerting Christian groups to the importance of their engaging with Islam and its believers.

In 1959 he returned once more to teaching when he became a Fellow of St Augustine's College, Canterbury, the then Central College of the Anglican Communion. He was Warden of St Augustine's from 1961 to 1967 and was made an honorary canon of Canterbury Cathedral in 1961. He also taught at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies and was a member of the Divinity faculty of Cambridge University. His book *The Dome and the Rock* (1964) broke new ground in the Jewish-Christian dialogue.

In 1969 Cragg became a Bye-Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, in order to undertake further research and writing, but the next year he was appointed an assistant bishop in the Jerusalem archbishopric. There

was at that time no Bishop of Egypt, and Cragg was given responsibility for the oversight of the Anglican communities in that country.

In 1974 Cragg returned to England to become Reader in Religious Studies at Sussex University and an assistant bishop in Chichester diocese. Two more books, *The Wisdom of the Sufis* (1976) and *The Christian and Other Religions* (1977) were widely noted.

On his retirement from Sussex University in 1978, Cragg moved to the West Riding of Yorkshire as vicar of Helme and as an assistant bishop in Wakefield diocese.

When he retired from full-time ministry in 1982 Cragg served for many years as an honorary assistant bishop in Oxford diocese and also undertook some teaching at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Somewhat belatedly, in his 90th year he was awarded a Lambeth DD, and there were many who felt that the Church of England had made insufficient use of his unique insights and experience during a period of increasing religious and racial tension in Britain. He continued to write and publish until the end of his life.

Kenneth Cragg married, in 1940, Melita Arnold, who died in 1989. He is survived by three sons; a daughter predeceased him.

The above is from an obituary in *The Daily Telegraph*, November 2012, and abridged by J. Stedford.

In 1982, Kenneth Cragg and his wife Melita came to live in Ascott-under-Wychwood. Melita died in 1989 and Cragg moved to Oxford. In 2010 he moved to St. Barnabas College, Lingfield, Surrey, (a care home for the clergy) and published two more books. He died on the 13th November 2012 and his funeral took place at Holy Trinity Church, Ascott-under-Wychwood on the 22nd November, 2012. He and his wife are interred in the churchyard.

J Stedeford

DID YOU KNOW that prior to Enclosure in 1838, there was a gate across London Lane near the old vicarage and one in Priory Lane just pass the cottages?

There was also a door into the Forest up above Smallstones Farm, in the then high boundary wall, and another gate near the top of Brazil Lane. So why did the village need these barriers? Presumably the culprits were the livestock, cattle, sheep and pigs, and the gates were necessary either to keep them out of the village and the Forest, or more likely, vice versa, to keep them out of the arable fields.

This practise leads us on in turn to the Pound, where the elected Hayward impounded the straying animals who could only be released on payment of a fine.

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SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2013

Sunday 17 th Feb	6.00pm	Quiet Communion
Sunday 24 th Feb	8.00am	Holy Communion
	12.00noon	Baptism
Sunday 10 th Mar	10.00am	Mothering Sunday Family Communion
Sunday 24 th Mar	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31 st Mar	6.30pm	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th Apr	10.00am	Holy Communion <u>Followed by Annual Meeting</u>
Sunday 28 th Apr	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th May	10.00am	Holy Communion
	12.00noon	Baptism
Sunday 26 th May	10.00am	Trinity Sunday Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th June	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd June	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 7 th July	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 14 th July	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th July	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th Aug	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd Sept	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th Oct	10.00am	Harvest Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th Oct	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th Nov	10.15am	Remembrance
Sunday 24 th Nov	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th Dec	4.00pm	Carols
Sunday 22 nd Dec	8.00am	Holy Communion

140 YEARS

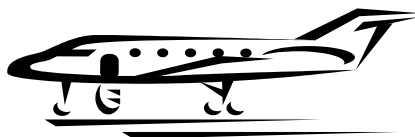
This coming May will see the 140th Anniversary of Ascott's claim to national fame. In May 1873 Ascott women were drawn into the popular press when their actions on behalf of their husbands and sons, hit the headlines. The following extracts are taken from the newspaper, the Times, published on Monday, May 26th 1873. Headline: 'THE CHIPPING NORTON MAGISTRATES (from our special correspondent.)

Very considerable excitement at present prevails throughout a large district of Oxfordshire in consequence of the committal to prison of 16 women by the Chipping Norton Bench of Magistrates on Wednesday last....

That the public may rightly understand the facts connected with the decision at which the Chipping Norton magistrates arrived, it would be well to go back a little, and state how it was that discussions between the employers and the employed grew up in a neighbourhood remarkable for its generally pacific character until two magistrates adopted a course which, to say the least of it, was extremely harsh and singularly ill advised, and which has led to serious riot and wide-spread uneasiness.

..since Mr Arch set that movement on foot the (Agricultural Workers)

Union has made strong and not altogether unsuccessful efforts to establish itself in Oxfordshire. ..the levy off each labourer in employment is 2d per week. About 10s, a week is allowed to each labourer on strike, and the mode in which a strike on any particular farm is got up is short and simple. The men make the demand at the end of one week for an increase of wages the next. If, at the end of the next week, the farmer does not comply, he gets a formal notice that on the following Saturday the men will quit his employ should he still remain obdurate.



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Some three weeks ago the body of men working on the farm of Mr. Hambridge, of Ascott, went out after due notice, and after he had declined to pay them the increase they had demanded. There was a carter in his employment, who seems to have had no grievance of his own; but, as Mr Hambridge had allowed his fellow-labourers to go out, the carter thought fit to join in the strike without any notice whatever. For this Mr Hambridge summoned and obtained costs against him, and 'the neighbourhood' added this to the previous cause of 'aggravation' against the farmer. The next step in the business was the employment by Mr Hambridge of two labourers named John Hodgkins and John Millan, whom he had brought from a village at some short distance from his own. The labourers out on strike took no visible part in any proceedings to obstruct the two strange hands; but the women of Ascott, resolved on a physical force demonstration in favour of Union principles. Some 16 or 17 of them assembled at a gate by which Hodgkins and Millan had to enter Mr Hambridge's field, some of them being provided with sticks; and saying that they were determined the men should not work for Mr Hambridge, they 'dared' them to enter on his land. Not a blow was struck, and, though very abusive and threatening language was used, the fright and peril which a few girls and middle-aged women had occasioned to the two stalwart labourers could not

have been very serious, seeing that, according to the evidence of the men themselves, the women actually offered to escort them back to the village and give them 'a drink' and that, while declining the protection and hospitality of the Amazons who had so terrified them, they walked to Mr Hambridge's homestead unguarded and unhurt, and subsequently went to work on the farm under the powerful protection of one police constable. Most people will, perhaps, be of the opinion that the matter might well have been allowed to end there; but Mr Hambridge thought otherwise, and summonses



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were taken out at his instance against 17 women.

The case came before the Chipping Norton Bench on Wednesday, the presiding magistrates being the Rev. Thomas Harris and the Rev. W.E.D. Carter, Mr Wilkins, a local attorney appeared for the complainant. The women pleaded 'Not Guilty' but they had no professional assistance. The charge as against one of them was dismissed; but of the 17 charged, 16 were found *Guilty*, and the two reverend magistrates, after a 'lengthy consultation' ordered seven of the women to be imprisoned for ten days, and the remaining nine to be imprisoned for seven days, with the addition of hard labour in every case.

Such a sentence staggered the poor women; and well it might, for it has staggered the whole county. The indignation at its severity is deep and outspoken.

(The Justices) might have allowed the women to stand out on their own recognizances, binding them 'to come up for judgement when called upon.' If the object of the Justices was to prevent a recurrence of threatening, can anyone doubt that it would have been effectually achieved by such a course? No-one about the district appears to doubt it; and the two Justices would have the less excuse for not having come to such a merciful and conciliatory decision.

The labouring population of the village were astounded when they heard

the sentence, but they bore it quietly until about 9 at night, when the 'roughs' of the neighbourhood... assembled in considerable force. Then, after much shouting, an onslaught was made on the police station; the windows and the door were broken, and some of the tiles were stripped off the roof. Police Superintendent Larkin and his men are admitted to have acted with great forbearance, but the Superintendent thought it advisable to telegraph for assistance to Oxford, 19 miles distant from Chipping Norton. On receipt of his telegram, Inspector Yates, with a force of police, started in a drag and four, and at Woodstock

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took up Superintendent Bowen. So riotous was the aspect of Chipping Norton that it was not deemed safe to keep the women there till the time at which the first train leaves; and in the small hours they were driven in the break the whole distance to Oxford, where, at about 6 o'clock, they were locked up in the County Gaol. Two of the unfortunate prisoners had infants at the breast while being conveyed on their cold journey to prison. Petitions to the Home Secretary are spoken of in the district, and so threatening is the attitude of the village that on Saturday evening police were again despatched

from Oxford. The more respectable portion of the population believe that Mr Bruce will feel it his duty to send down an order for the immediate discharge of the whole of the women, who have now been in confinement since Wednesday afternoon.'

For Mr Hambridge we should substitute Mr Hambidge, the farmer who was then tenant at Crown Farm.

Wendy Pearse



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With spring just around the corner we have topped up our garden design and house makeover books to help you fulfil those dreams when the weather allows. This is on top of the large number of new titles we receive on a regular basis. Any suggestions or recommendations of books that you would like to see in the Library are always gratefully received.

We have just held another "Introduction of Mindfulness" course with the local charity Oxfordshire Mind following the successful sessions in 2012. Do look out for further courses later in the year.

Other regular activities at the Library include the Evening Reading Group, the Afternoon Reading Group, Poetry Club, the IKNIT craft morning and Computer classes for beginners and refresher courses. We also host the Wychwood Circle which is an open discussion forum where we explore what we believe in and why we believe, and of course the weekly Wednesday coffee mornings where you can bring along a friend and enjoy fresh coffee and cake.

"Wychwood Wordpeckers" has started up again. This is the very lively junior reading and discussion

group from age 8 to 12. Liz Newport runs this happy lot who benefit from her extensive teaching experience.

"NEW EVENT" UNTIL EASTER. We will be serving coffee, tea and hot chocolate on Saturday mornings from 10am until 12noon. So come along after football and warm up and exchange your books or just pop in and enjoy delicious pastries as well and all for just £1.50!

Come and visit us at Wychwood Library

Ruth Gillingham

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CAUTIONARY TALES

Mike Long, MD of a leading UK software company, flew to Seattle to discuss a major new contract with Bill Gates and the board at Microsoft.

On arrival at Microsoft's skyscraper HQ, he found the receptionist a bit flustered.

"Mr Long, Bill and the board are expecting you and they've set up a demonstration. The meeting's on the top floor, floor 40, and we've had a lift breakdown. There are two sets of lifts, one to floor 28 and a second to floor 40. It's the second set that that have stopped. Unfortunately, all the lift engineers in Seattle are on strike over more pay. Two of our engineers are working on it and reckon they can fix the problem. Would you mind walking up the last 12 floors?"

Mike still played rugger and was quite fit, so found no great difficulty with the stairs. As he walked along the corridor to Bill Gates' penthouse office, he passed the lift motor room. Through the open door, he could see two men in jeans, T-shirts and wearing Microsoft ID badges poring over a printed circuit board.

Bill greeted him and apologised about the lifts.

"How come your guys are working on it?" asked Mike.

"They're actually systems analysts, but Tom and Luiz are chartered electrical engineers, so they know what they're doing."

The meeting went well, draft heads of terms were agreed and Mike was mentally calculating the £ signs as things drew to a close. Just as the meeting wrapped up, Bill's PA popped her head round the door to say the lifts were fixed.

Bill Gates personally escorted Mike to the lifts and pressed the call button. The doors slid open, Mike stepped inside and pressed the button marked 28.

In a flash, the lift dropped like a stone. Totally out of control, it plummeted to the bottom of the shaft, killing Mike instantly.

And the moral of this story? Beware of geeks repairing lifts!

Americans have always loved Mercedes.

In the 1970s, a US serviceman was posted to Germany. The first thing he did was to buy a shiny new Merc and kept it pristine throughout his three year tour. His pride and joy was never less than sparkling and he almost gave himself tennis elbow with his frequent polishing.

Driving in Germany could be fast and furious, with accidents not infrequent, but he stayed out of trouble. As his tour came to a close, the car was totally unblemished.

He personally drove it to Bremerhaven for shipment home, watching as it was sprayed with protective wax and lowered carefully into a freighter.

Some weeks later, now back home in the US, he got a call from the shippers to say his car was at the docks ready for collection.

When he arrived at the dockside, his heart almost missed a beat. There stood his beloved Mercedes, steam-cleaned and freshly waxed, gleaming from headlamp bezel to tailfin.

With a smile as wide as Texas, he slid behind the wheel and aimed the three-pointed star towards home.

He had been driving along the freeway for about two hours when he decided to stop for a break and a coffee. He indicated, turned onto the ramp to the service area and slowed. As he did so, he was rammed from the back by another car. Incandescent with rage, he leapt from his car and hurled himself towards the driver's door of the offending vehicle. As he approached, the driver's window opened.

"What the hell do ya think ya doing?" he yelled.

A voice from inside the car enquired: "Bitte?".

Nigel Wild

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Did you know that Community First Responders(CFR) operate across Oxfordshire and the South Central Ambulance Service Region as well as many other areas in the country. CFRs are volunteers, trained by the ambulance service, to attend certain types of 999 calls in their local community to use life-saving skills to provide early and often vital intervention for patients in life threatening emergencies. This is an additional service and the nearest available ambulance will still be sent to you to back up the CFR. CFRs are equipped with automatic external defibrillators and oxygen among other equipment to assist patients.

The scheme was originally set up to benefit patients suffering from a cardiac arrest, where every minute that passes without cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation, a patients chance of survival decreases by 14%. As Community First Responders are responding to calls in their neighbourhood there is potential for them to arrive on scene before an ambulance, particularly in rural areas.

However there are now a range of calls a CFRs may attend, these include:

- Cardiac arrest
- Heart attack
- Strokes

- Choking
- Diabetic emergencies
- Traumatic emergencies (not road traffic collisions)
- Breathing difficulties
- Patients suffering from seizures
- Chest Pains
- Unconscious patients
- Paediatric and children aged one year and over

We are always on the lookout for new responders, ideally we would like to setup a CFR group in as many different areas throughout the four counties covered by the south central area as possible. If you are interested in becoming a responder, please see our website <http://www.scas-responders.info/> or contact [08005870207](tel:08005870207). If you don't fancy the idea of actually attending an emergency situation, groups always need organisers, fundraisers and volunteers who are willing to help in other capacities.

Please bear in mind that all the work that community responders do is on a voluntary basis, the equipment has to be bought and maintained, which all costs real money. If you want to make a donation and help a particular group,

or the scheme in general, whatever the amount, it is all very gratefully received and will make a difference! There are also a variety of ways that donations can be made, we have an online shop, with 80 retailers and a recycling scheme for unwanted printer cartridges and mobile phones.

Sara Ancombe
(article submitted by Tim Lyon)



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WINTER WEATHER ASCOTT'S "PROJECT SNOWSTORM"

As the New Year began mild and bright it was proving difficult to summon up the enthusiasm to sit down and write something about snow, ice and blocked roads. However, within days I was shaken out of my complacency as temperatures plummeted and the first snow of the year fell. I was immediately reminded of conditions at the end of December 2010 when with the exception of those lucky few who had access to 4 wheel drive vehicles others could only sit and watch as untreated village roads acted as a very effective barrier to travel.

This was to prove the catalyst for the birth of "Project Snowstorm". Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had recently established a Big Society Fund and were inviting bids from local groups seeking funding for initiatives that would **"offer something new to meet currently unmet needs or will meet needs in a different way"**. The proposal would need to show strong local support and commitment within the community. Funding would be available for one year only and an ability to sustain the project beyond this timescale would need to be demonstrated. Perfect I thought, we already have an Award winning Village

Shop, an active Volunteer Group tackling many of the village maintenance issues and a strong Emergency Response Plan ready to swing into action in times of need such as flooding. Following discussions by the Parish Council it was agreed that a bid should be submitted and that funding of £3,000 would be allocated by the Parish Council to the project as a demonstration of our commitment and ability to sustain the project beyond the first year.



L/R: Tim Lyon, Mike Pearce, Chris George, Rob Morgan, Laurence Mellor

And so it was that my induction into the mysteries of "winter resilience" started. I was soon to discover that keeping roads and pavements clear of snow and ice was not simply a case of throwing some salt or grit down. What size of plough would we

need, who would use it, where would it be stored and how much salt/grit should we "throw down" were all questions that needed to be answered before a viable bid could be made. Any plan would also need to have options to deal with pavements which in many respects present more problems for residents than impassable roads do. Would we rely on residents to clear their own stretch of pavement, would we turn out in numbers wield-

ing large shovels or was their some way to bring machinery to bear on the problem.

Again the solution was not as simple as just “throwing some grit down”. The folklore of clearing pathways and pavements was littered with stories of householders being sued if they undertook such action and someone fell and injured themselves. Additionally, the prospect of local farmers coming to our aide was thrown into doubt over the use for non agricultural purposes of red diesel fuel.

As daunting as the task appeared, help was at hand. An approach to Chris Badger, of Crown Farm resulted in him very generously offering to act as lead driver for snow ploughing and road gritting duties supported by two of his staff Jacob Davies and Tony Gjyla, with further help from David Cook and Robin Walker. Not only was Chris offering to drive but he was also able to offer storage for large items of machinery and was aware that Her Majesty’s Custom and Excise Department had shown some common sense and lifted the ban on red diesel fuel being used in agricultural vehicles (tractors) for snow clearing.

Further research showed that advice from the Ministry of Justice published in February 2010 stated that “a snow clearer does have a duty to anyone who passes along the pavement to do the clearing with reasonable care so as not to create a new and worse risk **but the only person who is at risk of being sued is the person who clears the**

snow so badly that things are worse than before”. It was also verified that volunteers who were tasked by the Parish Council to assist with snow clearing would be covered by the Council’s Public Liability Insurance whilst undertaking this work.

With many other logistical aspects of the project satisfactorily resolved a bid to The Big Society Fund was submitted. The bid was ambitious, other voluntary groups and local councils were asking for relatively small sums of less than £1500. Project Snowstorm offered a comprehensive solution to combating adverse winter weather, allowing the local community to have the tools to do a job no longer done by OCC. The total level of funding sought was £8,625 with a further £3,000 provided by the Parish Council. Following a few anxious months, whilst bids from throughout Oxfordshire were evaluated, notification was received that our bid had been successful and as they say “the cheque was in the post”.

Since receiving the funding we have purchased the following equipment:

- * 3 metre wide snow plough with tractor attachment
- * Large mechanical salt spreader for road use
- * Bulk store of several tonnes of salt for use on roads and pavements
- * Pedestrian operated drive unit complete with snow plough and brush attachment

Don’t forget about the Ascott website:

- * Two walk along salt spreaders for use on pavements
- * Several snow clearing shovels
- * Items of Personal Protection Equipment such as gloves, goggles and hi viz coats

However, the most important asset we have is the volunteers who have eagerly come forward and shown such a willingness to turn out to clear our roads and pavements regardless of the weather. These include Alan Chubb, Chris George, Mike Pearce, Ken Smith, Richard Squires, Tim Lyon, Rob Morgan and yours truly. Several others are waiting in the wings for a suitable opportunity and will join our team. In addition to keeping our village roads and pavements clear, following advice, we have nominated Shipton Road to its junction with the A361 as the preferred vehicular route out of the village and we will do our very best to keep it clear.

For our efforts on your behalf to be successful we need your **HELP**. If you own a vehicle and snow is forecast do not park it on the pavement as the obstruction makes snow clearing or salting difficult. Again, if you normally park your vehicle on the road and snow is forecast please do your best to get your vehicle off the road. This not only helps our volunteers but reduces the risk of accidents.

Finally, please remember that all of us involved in delivering Project Snow-storm are volunteers; we are learning as we go along and are keen to provide you with a safer village. It has been very heartening to receive so many positive comments, thanks and messages of support as we have gone round the village during the recent heavy snow. If you wish to join our volunteer group please contact a member of the Parish Council. To all our current volunteers on behalf of all residents a very big thank you.

**Laurence Mellor
Parish Councillor**



Rob Morgan, Tim Lyon & Mike Pearce



Alan Chubb



Mike Pearce, Tim Lyon & Rob Morgan

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GARDENING IN ASCOTT

Forcing Rhubarb.

Last autumn I was the lucky recipient of a belated birthday present of 3 new varieties of rhubarb. My previous crowns, of unknown parentage, were losing their vigour and had become too overshadowed by the ash tree to produce a prolific crop. So in November I prepared a new rhubarb bed in a sunnier spot and planted my newly acquired varieties of Timperley Early, Raspberry Red and Victoria. Hopefully these 3 varieties will produce stems at slightly different times giving me a longer rhubarb season. I lifted the old rhubarb crowns and divided them, saving some of the healthier outer parts with a bud; and some of these have been replanted in the new sunny rhubarb bed. However I couldn't just throw away the remaining crowns so I decided to try forcing them into early growth by putting them into pots and excluding the light.

For many years now I have ordered a large box of very early forced rhubarb direct from Oldroyds, who for generations have been growing rhubarb in Yorkshire. I have

always looked forward to phoning in my order each January, and until recently my call was usually taken by one of the team who were hard at work harvesting the pale pink sticks, and

jotting down my order with their free hand. This forced rhubarb, grown in completely dark sheds, lit only by candles to allow the pickers to see, grows so quickly that the staff said you can hear it grow! I would laugh and say something like, 'How lovely,' but until the phone was placed next to an unfurling leaf for me to hear, I had not believed it possible.

Well, with Oldroyds as an inspiration, I checked out some old gardening books for help. Then, as directed, left the old crowns on the surface of the soil to be 'frosted' before potting-up into large pots using old potting compost, watered them, and put them in the dark garage until February. Lo and behold, there are pink shoots showing above the compost as I write; not enough to put Oldroyds out of business, but at least one last crop out of the old boys before they go to the great compost heap in the corner of the garden.

Planting Under cloches.

While searching my old gardening books for help with the rhubarb forcing, I came across a book published in 1948 titled *Cloche Gardening* by one

J.L.H Chase. Now, I should explain that these old gardening manuals hold a magnetic attraction for me and despite their techniques often being outdated, I cannot help but collect them.



Some are gems and all offer an insight into our predecessors struggles to make beautiful and productive gardens. Mr Chase's (or perhaps Miss or Mrs Chase's, as the book is generously illustrated with ladies in stout shoes happily harvesting impossibly early crops from under their cloches) Cloche Gardening is inspiring in its certainty of success in the production of significantly earlier crops. It's pages are littered with black and white photographs of sturdy outdoor types harvesting, for example, runner beans on June 28th; a chalk board with the date written on it is placed artfully alongside the row of vegetables. I suppose these hand-written boards are to lend verisimilitude to us incredulous readers. We should, according to Chase, here in the middle of England, be able to plant out our tomatoes under cloches in early May. They should be planted in a trench for both extra wind protection and to give enough height with the cloche above to grow into a decent size bush tomato. Now we would probably need to use one the varieties Chase recommends such as Woodward's Open Air Wonder or Harbinger! These fabulous names, now long forgotten and replaced by recent improved varieties, do include the still widely grown Moneymaker. I note the absence of photographic evidence and the accompanying harvest date board for tomatoes, but have just found a photo of melons being harvested on July 23rd!

If you ignore the references to using DDT there is still some useful practical advice here. However, the real gem in this book is the old envelope I found in it, used I imagine as a book marker by the original owner, a Mr Burns of Farnborough, and post-marked 6 October 1952. He has made some rough layout sketches of his vegetable garden, noting the use of cloches for his early peas. On the front of the envelope is a recommendation for Bakers Red Champion Radish, which he has noted as 'very good.'

Another book mark Mr Burns was using is an instruction leaflet for Q.R. Miracle Herbal Compost Activator. It contains advice on making compost with still stands good today. By way of recommendation, Miss T.G.M.A of Christchurch wrote...'we're greedily revelling in Q.R. potatoes (Epicure) grown with that little something other compost hasn't got'.

I shall be sowing my broad beans during February, for which I use these new root trainer pots. I have found they are excellent for beans, taking up very little space in the greenhouse or cold frame. A full-size seed tray can hold a set of 32 root trainer modules. I usually plant out when they have made good root growth, around about middle of March under my cloches. I know broad beans are very hardy, but I find here in my rather cold garden they really appreciated a few weeks of protection, before removing the cloches when the plants have grown too

high to be comfortable under their polycarbonate sky.

The use of cloches for growing a good crop of Dwarf French beans is very useful here in Ascott. Of course if we have a long hot summer ahead these tender green sticks may feel very at home, but even if they do, cloches allow small plants to be put out into the vegetable garden at least a month earlier than if they had no protection. This means for me, sowing in late March undercover, and at the same time placing my cloches over the soil where the beans will be planted out, in order to dry out and warm the soil ready to receive the little bean plants in late April. I remove the cloches at the end of May by which time the plants are fighting for head room. I have to admit that last year this early crop was a failure, but later sowings given the protection of cloches at the end of their growing season did reasonably well taking into consideration the cold wet summer. Gardeners are ever optimistic, so I shall be trying my early crop again this year with the hope of better weather.

While writing, it occurs to me that why restrict the use of cloches to vegetables? Could we get some early flowers for cutting to use in the house? Small early narcissi might come in time for Christmas! Could we emulate

the Cornish and grow anemones successfully here in Ascott? On a recent trip to Oxford's Covered Market, my long suffering husband bought me a lovely big bunch of short stemmed anemones, which had been grown in Cornwall. It was lovely to see them slowly open into a ray of bright summer colours in the depths of winter. How wonderful it would be to grow my own!



Sweet Peas

Another seed I shall be sowing in February are my sweet peas. As my readers know, I usually save my own seed at the end of the growing season and I did just that last autumn. However, I thought my selection was getting a bit restricted in colour so, in addition to my usual dark mix of colours, I have invested in some new seed, which I hope will introduce some greater colour variations in my mix. I shall now make a rash prediction and say I should have some plants ready to be planted out into the garden in April. Keep a look-out for my curb-side sales box!

A Flower Meadow for those of us without a meadow!

Has anyone else noticed the proliferation of annual flower seed collections in the seed catalogues this year? These collections are designed to produce the

feel of a wild flower meadow in our garden borders, using a mix of cultivated forms of hardy annuals. There are enticing photographs of tightly packed borders abundant with a mix of annual garden flowers such as Californian poppies, cosmos, dark coloured cornflowers and



all sorts, looking wonderful without a weed in sight. Claims of instant borders without the need for staking, and by just broadcast-sowing the seeds into prepared soil, leave me a little sceptical. I do remember making just such a border in my first year of gardening, with very little money but lots of energy. I cleared an overgrown garden over winter and sowed a range of any cheap annual flower seeds I could buy. Neighbours were kind enough to say it looked delightful as a first attempt, and I remember feeling rather pleased with it, but I have probably forgotten the

weeds and how long it took before it reached maturity. I would guess around late July it may have looked something like the desired article, which makes me wonder what it looked like before that. Well,



the photographs in the catalogues look great, so perhaps if anyone has a bit of spare soil to fill this year they could try it and report their success or otherwise to us other Ascott gardeners!

Gardeners' Tea in May

Well actually, it is tea for anyone, not just gardeners! You have probably heard

there will be a series of Sunday afternoon teas held in the Church this year. All will have a different theme and in May the theme will be Gardens, with a plant stall selling an interesting range of perennials, annuals, vegetable plants and herbs. There will be some gardening publications on sale, so you can read your purchases while having tea and cakes. There might even be some garden inspired cakes....carrot cake perhaps! It should be fun and it will be supporting the fund-raising for the church.

Madeline Galistan

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GREAT GREEN DEAL FOR WEST OXFORDSHIRE



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

West Oxfordshire District Council, on behalf of a consortium of 18 authorities, has successfully bid for a £600,000 government Green Deal funding grant.

Green Deal provides loans, at no upfront costs, that will assist householders and businesses interested in becoming more energy efficient, saving money on fuel bills and staying warmer.

Improvements could include insulation, draught proofing, double glazing, a new boiler/heating system and renewable energy technologies such as solar panels.

The consortium is supported by the National Trust, the Low Carbon Hub, National Energy Foundation, Bucks Business First, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, Sustainable Energy Academy and United Sustainable Energy Agency.

The local authority consortium will form a not-for-profit company to administer Green Deal, due to launch mid-2013.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment said, "We are delighted to be working with so many other forward-thinking authorities and organisations and to have led a successful bid for funding.

"Green Deal is an exciting opportunity with the potential to make a big difference to reducing both carbon

emissions and energy bills, as well upgrading

housing and property energy efficiency standards throughout our district. We also foresee this will provide additional employment in our area.

"The beauty of the scheme is that it will not be an extra burden on existing budgets for the consumer. Payback is through financial savings made from energy efficiency property improvements and these savings will be deducted from electricity bills. I believe the scheme is excellent news for us all in the current economic climate."

To access funding, Green Deal energy advisors will assess a property to see what improvements can be made and how much can be saved on energy bills. Once the work has been done, the loan is paid off in instalments through energy bills.

Leading up to the launch, the consortium will be engaging with the community and businesses to raise awareness of the programme, as well as liaising with Green Deal installers.

More information about Green Deal is available on the [Department of Energy and Climate Change website](#) and www.westoxon.gov.uk/greendee

NEW DISCOUNTED LEISURE MEMBERSHIP FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

A new discounted leisure centre membership card is now available for disabled people living in West Oxfordshire.

For just £19.95 a month disabled residents will be able to join the Windrush, Carterton, Chipping Norton and Bartholomew leisure centres. Their carers would be able to use the facilities for free.

Cllr Richard Langridge, Cabinet Member responsible for leisure said, "I'm sure the discounted card will be greatly welcomed by our disabled leisure centre users and it will encourage more people to join and reap the benefits of getting fitter. Improving disabled access to our leisure centres has been a Council priority for many years and so I am delighted to see the new Inclusive card introduced."

The new Inclusive membership is being offered through West Oxfordshire District Council's operating partner, GLL.

Peter Bunday, GLL Deputy Managing Director said: "As the largest provider of public sport and leisure facilities in the UK, one of GLL's key corporate aims is to maximise opportunities to increase and sustain sports participation as part of the legacy of the Olympic and Paralympic games. The Better Inclusive card is an important part of our basket of initiatives and programmes to provide practical ways of promoting participation and per-

formance within disability sport".

The membership provides:

- access to all leisure centres run by the Council's partner, GLL.
- access to centres at anytime (not restricted to off-peak times)
- inclusive access to the gym, swimming, group exercise classes and a fitness induction
- carers of disabled customers given free access to centre
- no joining fee and no minimum contract
- available as a direct debit or annual membership
- 6 days advance telephone booking
- online booking for activities
- access to courses and other member only activities
- up to 30% off non member prices for any other activities

Anyone over 16 years old will be able to get an inclusive leisure centre membership, as long as they are in receipt of any of the following: severe disablement allowance; mobility allowance; disability living allowance; industrial injuries disablement benefit; disablement benefit; attendance allowance; employment and support allowance.

Don't forget about the Ascott website:

MY SPORTING HEROES

GOLF

SIR HENRY COTTON

Sir Henry who? Wasn't he a boxer? No, that was Sir Henry Cooper, featured in the last edition of "The Grapevine". Sir Henry Cotton was a golfer whose life makes for a fascinating story. Firstly, he changed in a relatively short space of time and often amid controversy, a subservient profession. Secondly, he achieved by example, personal regime and physical courage an all-round standard of golf that others never contemplated, nor even tried to copy. Finally, he ensured his fame and exploits endure to this day. To the golfers of his generation, he was quite simply "The Maestro".

Cotton, (to use the contemporary convention of referring to a professional sportsman by his surname only), was born in 1906. His father was a businessman in Dulwich and an enthusiastic golfer, albeit of modest skill due to arthritis. He transferred his ambitions to his two sons, Leslie and Henry and as a result, both attended Alleyns, Henry winning a scholarship. He was probably the first professional golfer to have attended a public school, something that was to plague him for some years. Henry planned to go on to university and read Civil Engineering, a profession he thought would give him



a comfortable living and enable him to play golf for the county – he was already a highly proficient golfer. However, he left school at 16 to become a golf professional, a remarkable decision given that at that time, the game offered no prospect of fortune or self-advancement. Cotton, in effect, was relegating himself to the status of a servant.

Cotton first became an assistant at Fulwell, but shortly after moved to Rye. By this time, he had qualified for full membership of the PGA, enabling him to play in the very few tournaments then in existence. Shortly after, he accepted the post of head professional at Langley Park, not so far from the family home in Dulwich. He was just nineteen, and the youngest golfer ever to be appointed a head professional.

Over the years, he was head professional at various clubs, notably Waterloo (Belgium), Ashridge, Monte Carlo, Royal Mid Surrey, Temple, Penina (Portugal) and Sotogrande, (now Valderrama) Spain.

He now controlled his own fate as a player, because apart from giving lessons and playing with club members, he was able to practise as much as he

liked. His ambition drove him to practise for inordinate lengths of time, even to the point of damaging his health. By this time, Britain's traditional supremacy in golf had been surpassed by the United States. So in 1928 – 1929, with the support of his club, Cotton took himself off to America to compete in their winter tournaments. The American power game forced Cotton to change his swing in order to compete on equal terms.

In America they used steel golf shafts, whereas Cotton was still using hickory shafts. For a non-golfer changing your swing may not seem too drastic, but for a professional golfer who has hit hundreds of balls a day for years, even the smallest change in technique can take months, or even years to accomplish, (witness Faldo in recent years). Cotton worked hard on making the necessary adjustments and success followed which formed the pattern for the rest of his life.

In 1930, Cotton played an extremely successful Ryder Cup. The Evening News engaged him to write a weekly column on golf, (something he was to do for many years for many papers). He appeared in advertisements for Yeast-Vite tablets, played in exhibition matches and gave lessons. He also promoted sales of his own brand of golf shoe! While Cotton was now firmly established as a force in British golf, he was by no means a popular figure. The older champions (Taylor, Vardon, Ray for example), shared his vision of raising the status and rewards of the pro-

fessional golfer, but players of his own generation considered him aloof, snobbish, selfish and ostentatious, their opinion probably fuelled by envy of his success.

Cotton then received an invitation to visit Argentina to give lessons and play exhibition matches, a visit which was to change his life completely. He gave lessons to a Señora Isabel-Maria Estanguet de Moss. Later she said, "I fell in love with his golf". He said, "I fell in love with her money". Her father just happened to own the largest estancia in Argentina. Hers was a world he wanted for himself, but she was married to an Argentine diplomat and a Roman Catholic, and therefore unable to obtain a divorce. The story of their relationship which lasted till her death in 1986, would fill a book. Suffice to say they did come together and many years later married. She exerted a forceful and highly successful influence on his life and work. Known as "Toots", they were very happy together, living a life of luxury in big houses and the best hotels, driving expensive cars and the Prince of Wales was Cotton's golfing companion.

In 1934 Cotton won the Open Championship and was now the most popular of heroes, having become the first Briton to win the Open after eleven years of overseas domination. As champion golfer, he became Captain of the PGA and took the opportunity to promote his views on the position of the golf professional and his ambitions for the profession. Gradually all Don't forget about the Ascott website:

Cotton's niggling objections to the way professionals were treated were resolved, even if it took some years for some to come to fruition.

Cotton went on to win two more Open Championships, in 1937 and 1948, the Open Championship of France, twice, Germany, three times, Belgium, twice, Italy and Czechoslovakia and more than 20 professional tournaments in the UK, US and Argentina. This was at a time when tournaments were less frequent, unlike today's multi-million European and US tours. He wrote ten golf books, (he did not employ a ghost writer), and designed or revised more than 30 golf courses in the UK and Europe.

He died in 1987. Just before he died, he received a letter from 10 Downing

Street, informing him that he had been nominated for a Knighthood. Unfortunately he died before he could receive the accolade, but Buckingham Palace announced that never-the-less, he should be known posthumously as Sir Henry Cotton.

I never saw Cotton play, other than on newsreel, but his instructional book "My Swing" has been my golf bible all my golfing life. However, I was taught the game by one of Cotton's successors at Langley Park, Walter Hitchcock, who knew him well. I also had the privilege once of playing with Cotton's great contemporary, Alf Padgham, the 1936 Open Champion, a real gentleman and wonderful golfer.

Clive Fieth

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NATURE NOTES

Instead of an article exclusively about wildlife I'm looking at our climate, particularly the recent rainfall patterns and considering whether we should conclude that there is going to be fundamental shift in our climate and if so why this might be and the effect that it has had on the natural world.

Year	Inches of Rain
2000	37.67
2001	31.75
2002	34.67
2003	24.59
2004	32.46
2005	24.23
2006	33.78
2007	41.33
2008	35.85
2009	31.68
2010	24.57
2011	21.30
2012	40.99
Average	31.91

Nationally we are told that 2012 was the second wettest year on record and that the two wettest years occurred in the last ten years. This seems to be borne out by our local figures with 2007 having the highest rainfall and 2012 following close behind. Whilst my own rainfall records only go back to 1985 no other year shows more than 40 inches of rain. The closest was 1992 with 38.6 inches. The average since 1985 has been 30.6 inches. During that

same period there were seven dry years with fewer than 25 inches of rain falling.

In Ascott 2007 was the year that substantial property damage was caused by over seven inches of rain falling across the area in one day. This combined with pinch-points on the River Evenlode allowed a surge of water to overwhelm parts of the village to depths of up to five feet. Fortunately works carried out by National Rail, the Environment Agency, County District and Parish Councils and a number of individuals is likely to stop this happening in the future.

The current year's flooding was of a different nature, no one month had such a high rainfall total as July 2007 although 5.48 inches fell in December; instead there has been consistent heavy monthly rainfall since April 2012. The previous two years had been particularly dry, especially over the winter period when, traditionally, ground water levels and reservoirs are filled. In early 2012 a drought was declared, which was followed by nine months of above-average rainfall!

The soil acts like a sponge absorbing and retaining moisture within its structure. It normally consists of pockets of air, which surround the fine particles of sand, clay or silt and humus. After excessive rainfall all of the air is driven out and the soil can no longer absorb more water; this causes the kind

of flooding we have experienced in 2012 that has been concentrated on the floodplains of our local rivers and within low lying areas. Now the ground is so saturated that relatively small amounts of rain will quickly lead to flooding.

Whilst it was good news that a serious drought, in the South of England, was averted, there are many negative aspects of having too much rain. Farmers, in particular, have struggled both at harvest and autumn planting time and growers of fruit and vegetables have experienced poor quality and low yields. Food prices are predicted to rise as shortages here and overseas cannot keep up with global demand. The effect on yields may continue for some time as nutrients have been washed out of the soil and into the rivers.

What is causing this wet season? The causes of our weather patterns are complex, but one of the factors this year is the position of the polar jet stream over Britain. The jet stream is a narrow band of high speed wind that blows from west to

east in a series of waves between 23,000 and 39,000 feet above sea level. As it does so it moves the Atlantic



low pressure systems, which bring unsettled weather and rain, in our direction. Normally, during our summer, the jet stream moves north of Britain keeping many of the weather systems away from us, but since 2007 it has been moving further south and in 2012 remained in position over the English Channel.



Why should this be? Possibly it's just bad luck or coincidence that as part of the natural cycle we are entering into a short period that will

bring wetter and cooler summers. Some suggest that this represents a more fundamental shift in climate patterns, brought about by rising sea temperatures, a reduction of Arctic sea-ice



and global warming, man-made or otherwise. Time will tell, but we must remember that climate does move in cycles both long and short and very little can be predicted on the basis of a couple of wet years over the last decade.

Wildlife has suffered; the wet summer caused a drastic fall in the insect

population. The absence of butterflies was particularly noticeable; in the dry spring the early butterflies, Brimstones and Orange Tips, were to be found in abundance, but once the rains came very few of the usual summer species were to be found, even the unwelcome Cabbage Whites that normally infest our brassicas were scarce. The very wet conditions will also cause problems for many of our meadow butterflies that overwinter amongst the coarse grasses either as eggs or immature caterpillars.



A fall in the insect population has also impacted on song-bird breeding as they rely on a ready supply of insect protein to raise their young. Even seed eaters, like Blue Tits, rely on insects to feed their young. Owls too have found this a difficult year. The Field Vole is the mainstay of their diet and waterlogged fields have reduced the supply of these small mammals. A fall in the population of night-flying moths has been very bad for bats as this is their main food source and there is a danger that the bat population will not have built-up sufficient fat reserves to allow them to survive their period of winter hibernation.



Bees too have been badly affected by the poor weather. Lack of summer flowering plants and rain preventing bees from foraging has reduced honey production. The British Bee Keepers Association reports that amongst their members honey production per hive has fallen from 30lbs in 2011 to 8lbs in 2012. Wild bees too have been suffering; although we don't derive any direct products from them they are vital in the pollination of many of our food crops.

Whilst you would have expected this to have been a good season for Frogs, Newts and Toads, this has not been the case. Because of the dry winter in 2011 followed, in early 2012, by a dry spring, many of the traditional breeding ponds were at very low levels and when the rains came in April conditions were too cool to encourage breeding.

Did any wildlife benefit from the wet conditions? There was certainly a population explosion of Slugs and Snails, which was good news for the Hedgehogs and Thrushes that feed on these creatures. Earthworms too flourished, which was good news for Moles and Blackbirds. Amongst the plant king-

dom mosses have done well, but so too have some of our orchid species. Unfortunately 2012 proved to be an excellent year for Ragwort and although this is an excellent source of nectar for hoverflies and other beneficial insects it is poisonous if eaten in large quantities by Cattle and Horses.

One plant that did benefit was the Field Poppy, leading to an explosion of colour in some of our cereal fields, probably because herbicides that are regularly sprayed to keep weeds under control were less effective as they were quickly washed away during the frequent showers.



Sitting here, writing this, I'm watching the first heavy snow-fall of winter, looking forward to spring and hoping for a kinder summer season, with just enough rain to allow the crops to grow, but not too wet.

Stuart Fox



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CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME 2012

The cast and all people involved with producing the pantomime wish to thank the villagers for their continued support, you raised the fantastic sum of £325 which was split £162.50 for the Grapevine magazine and £162.50 for the village charity.

The cast and the other entertainers did a great job considering we lost our director, Carole, whose mother sadly died in the week of the pantomime. Also, we will always miss Robin Burleigh who had been a great supporter of the pantomime from its early days through to his last performance in 2011. We wish Anthony Wood a

speedy recovery from his recent stroke after he retired from his standing role as St George.

A big thank you to Mark Pidgeon and his fellow musician for not only providing the entertainment at the start of the show but, at very short notice due to the loss of the Village Songsters, they entertained us all at the end of the show, thanks to you both. Fortunately Daphne is well on the road to recovery and the Village Songsters should be available this year.

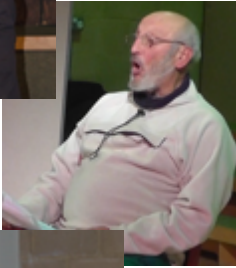
The two young ladies, Lauren and Bel, performed very well and we are looking at bigger parts for them in this year's show. We have the promise of two more young recruits who wish to show their acting ability in this year's show.

Last but not least a big thank you to Fred Russell for writing the script of yet another great pantomime.

Thank you again for your support and look forward to seeing you all again in December 2013.



Keith Ravenhill





ASCOTT VILLAGE CHARITY UPDATE “Supporting our Community”

This is a significant year for the Village Charity, as it is 10 years since it was formed to support fund-raising for the Village Shop, which subsequently opened in 2004. We are also proud to be launching our strap-line and logo which has been designed by Jon Woods.

Over the past ten years, we have helped the Community in getting various projects off the ground. Our remit is extensive, supporting individuals and groups in three areas; social, environmental and educational. Typically the way we work is to offer top-up funds to help support new or ongoing projects. For example, The Tiddy Hall Committee in 2012 successfully raised money throughout the year for the refurbishment of the ageing kitchen. At the Ascott Village Charity Run in October, we raised over £1,200 which was donated to The Tiddy Hall, and will be used to buy the new cooker!

In addition to raising our own funds we also receive donations from people who wish their money to be ring-fenced for specific projects. Two of these are: the Education Fund, which helps provide small grants to buy books for young people in their continued learning. The second is the Open Gardens Fund which have been used to plant bulbs at each entrance to our Village, which you'll be able to enjoy very soon! In addition, the fund has provided planting in a designed garden layout on the Village side of the Ascott station.

Looking ahead to 2013, we are keen to receive further applications from anyone in the Village who has a specific need which fulfils the Charity remit. If you would like to receive further information please contact Mark Dawbarn and request an application form. **Mark can be reached on 831632 or email markdawbarn@tiscali.co.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you!

John Cull (Chairman)

Trustees: Mark Abrey, Elaine Byles, Pauline Marshall (PC Representative) Mark Dawbarn, Keith Ravenhill and Stuart Fox.

P.S. One final thank you goes to Keith Ravenhill and Harry and Karen Kappen, who raised £325.00 at the 2012 Xmas Panto which was divided between The Grapevine and The Village Charity.



**John Cull, Ingrid Ridley,
Nick Carter**

Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

Happy New Year to you all and “thank you” to those parishioners who still braved the elements and sang carols round the Christmas Tree on Christmas Eve. The money raised was given to The Wychwoods Day Centre, together with a top up from the Parish Council. Unfortunately due to the dreadful weather the annual event had to be cancelled. This was a very difficult decision to make and the Parish Council are looking into contingency plans for the future.

The Parish Council met in January, after the Christmas break and confirmed the meeting dates for 2013. Please note that these continue to fall on the second Monday of the month. The Agenda is always displayed on or before the first Monday of the month. In April the council will meet twice; Monday 8 April for their ordinary parish meeting and on Monday 22 April for the Annual Village Meeting. Can I remind everyone that you are all welcome to attend any of the meetings.

Planning remains quiet with only a handful of planning applications submitted. One major issue that faces the Parish Council is the numerous high-ways issues, including bus routes and

the implications of inconsiderate parking, leaking water on to the highway, road surfaces and potholes to name only a few. The council are working with Oxfordshire County Council and the other authorities to get these issues dealt with.

Finally it is with sadness that I report Cllr Pauline Marshall has decided to step down as a councillor and on behalf of the Parish Council we would like to thank her for her hard work whilst a councillor and wish her well in the future.

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

Parish Council:

Rob Morgan (Chairman)	831958
Bridgette Crundwell (Vice)	830671
Laurence Mellor	831182
Philippa Carter	830344
Angela Barnes (Parish Clerk)	01608 641045

The Parish Council has allotments available to rent. If you're interested contact Laurence Mellor telephone number 831182 or any member of the Parish Council.





YOUR SHOP NEEDS YOUR CUSTOM

Ascott Shop is *your* shop, run by the village, for the village.

Now in our 10th year, we've listened to all your comments and suggestions and honed the stock to give an amazing variety for a village shop. There's something to suit every taste and every pocket.

But, times are tough, everyone is tightening their belts several notches. Ascott Shop is no different to any other retailer – our trade has taken a knock. Major supermarkets are cutting each other's throats for market share and dangling irresistible offers in front of customers.

Seeing the supermarkets delivery vans around the village, the temptations are clearly too hard to resist.

That's fine, but for the shop to thrive, we need your regular custom and support. While we're proud to be there when the snows and the occasional tsunami cut us off, it's not just about emergencies – it's all year round. Just £10 per head each week from everyone in the village will keep the good ship (shop?) Ascott sailing comfortably.

So, keep *your* shop afloat and sail a regular course for the High Street.

Nigel Wild

WHY DO I KEEP ON MOANING WHEN I'M SUCH A CHARMING MAN?

How much can we trust the B.B.C.? If anyone listens to Radio Four early on Sunday mornings, they will know they have a short feature called 'Bells on Sunday'. A few months ago they said they were at Stow on the Wold. But were they? How do we know they don't stick a microphone out of the studio window and record the nearest peel of bells to where they are broadcasting?

I think Bellringing is like Morris Dancing. When you've seen one dance, you've seen the lot. So it is with a peel of bells. When you've heard one peel, you've heard the lot.

I'm quite sure Stuart Fox wouldn't agree.

I do know Bellringing can be a dangerous hobby. I was taught to ring over 50 years ago, by Frank Tucker. I once let go of the rope while ringing down. The sally danced about the belfry like a writhing snake. Frank went red in the face and shouted, 'Don't you ever do that again. You could have hung me.' Fred Alden was foreman of the side. He would shout change meaning the order in which the bells were to be rung. I would shout, 'Where do I come in?' Fred would get annoyed and tell me if I once wrote down the table of changes, I would remember when to change. I never did.

We rang regular on Sunday mornings during the early 1960s. By the mid sixties most of the younger ones went

their separate ways. Often the relationship between the ringer and the clergy is not always a harmonious one. Sometimes there is mistrust and a feeling by the ringers they are not appreciated. Often the ringers can be seen marching from the belfry to the church door 5 minutes before the service starts. Do they escape to practise heathen rites of the Old Religion rather than stop and grind through those boring psalms in the cause of Christianity? When the Archers began being broadcast in 1951 I was young and naïve. I am no longer young. When the actors were acting a scene in the cowshed, I thought they were in a cowshed, until I found out it was a recording of animal noises from Westminster.

Have you noticed the B.B.C. seems to be going through the seven deadly sins? They seem to be stuck at the moment on gluttony judging by the number of cookery programmes shown. I can't wait for them to get to lust. But I have this fear, when they get round to it, I shall be too old.

What could be even more sinister, the B.B.C. could be controlled by this alien blob of flesh, which demands food to be shovelled into it. That's why there are so many cooking programmes. I have this thought that it will escape like a great lump of blubber and devour us all.

Fred Russell



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WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The subject of the talk at the meeting in March to be held in Milton Village Hall, is Lost Railways of Oxfordshire with the speaker Muriel Pilkington. It will be held on Thursday, 21st March at 7.30.p.m.

On Thursday 18th April at 7.30.p.m. in Shipton Village Hall, there will be A Talk and Exhibition by the Society's Probate Group.

Then in May, on Thursday 16th, in Milton Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. Brigadier Rickett will talk about The Battle of Edgehill.

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 £3 per head.

More information can be obtained from Wendy Pearse on 831023 or the WLHS Website www.wychwoodshistory.org



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A GROVES UPDATE

Just before Christmas the partial demolition was carried out and contents removed this took a good two weeks. Alan is currently running on a small scale from a port-a-cabin by the sands and gravels. He has a good selection of items and does have storage space elsewhere for larger items, as always he will try and oblige if possible. At the moment plans are being drawn up for the rebuild, it will be unfortunately a lengthy process, as everything, it takes time, but we are all looking forward to the outcome.

The telephone line to the shop was obviously lost in the fire and a main line will not be installed in the port-a-cabin, therefore Alan can be reached on 07970 262425 or you can still ring the main Alfred Groves office telephone number 01993 830302 and a message will be passed on.

Thank you to all for your continued support and best wishes for 2013.

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WYCHWOOD FLOWERS

Many of you will have come into contact with the team at Wychwoods Estate Agents over the years. They have a deserved reputation for providing an honest, trustworthy and caring service in the local area with a particular emphasis on the 'Wychwoods'. That part of their business hasn't changed but they have added to their coverage of the area by teaming up with well known and respected Woodstock estate agent Simon Flowers.

This has resulted in a new office in Woodstock, opening on 21st March. But that's not all! Wychwood Flowers, as the business is now known, has also acquired an office in Charlbury, which is due to open towards the end of February.

These new offices will give Wychwood Flowers an unrivalled ability to bridge the gap between Burford and Oxford in a way that has not been done

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e burford@wychwoodflowers.com
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before. With Woodstock having such close connections to Oxford and indeed London, Wychwood Flowers' marketing strength has increased enormously. They also have an associate office in London plus the power of the internet to deal with national and international clients.

So, exciting times in the local property market that continues to hold strong despite global economic woes. Wychwood Flowers has a new identity which includes striking new board de-

signs, eye-catching offices and smart new literature.

One thing that hasn't changed however is the straightforward and professional way the company deals with its sales and lettings clients. All of the original team are still in place and new members share the same values. All said, it's business as usual at Wychwood Flowers.

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WINDRUSH VALLEY SCHOOL



January has been a busy month for Windrush Valley School, with the start of our new extended day activities for the term, including lots of new clubs from Decopatch, Button Craft and no less than 4 cookery clubs!

Chinese New Year: Our Foundation Unit and Key Stage One pupils enjoyed a trip to Chipping Norton Theatre to see a production of “*Why the lion danced*”, which coincided nicely with Form 2s topic on the Chinese New Year. All the children thoroughly enjoyed this exciting performance, especially the **HUGE** lion dancing for the finale!

HISTORY COMING TO LIFE ...

We reported in March last year, how our Form 5 and 6 classes took part in digging and planting a 200 metre hedge for Crown Farm as part of a countryside community project. The children from Windrush Valley planted blackthorn, hawthorn, chestnut, crab apple and hazel, in total planting over 400 trees!

We are really proud to see the hedge-row and trees are already established and growing well. They can now be seen clearly from the road.

Thank you to all the children who took part in this community project, and take a look as you are passing opposite the Crown Farm cross country course.

Puss in Boots

– every year the children from Windrush Valley put on a marvellous Easter production at New Beaconsfield Hall. Children from age 6 upwards take part in the production, which can be quite daunting with the large stage, lighting and audience. This does not seem to phase them at all, and this year is no different! Our production is Puss in Boots, and we can’t wait for Friday 22nd March for our future budding actors to shine. Watch this space.....

Annual overseas residential – every year children from Year 4 through to Year 6 take part in a week long overseas residential. This year we will be travelling to France to visit the beaches of the Normandy landings combined with a trip to the Bayeux tapestry. It’s always an action packed week, with visits to local traditional French markets and a fun party night to end an eventful, exciting week.

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see page 59), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or wendypearse@btinternet.com. The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

THE WYCHWOOD PHARMACY



The Wychwood Pharmacy will open for business on 23rd February 2013. Oxfordshire PCT granted consent to a third party to open a pharmacy in Ship-ton under Wychwood, subsequently the Partners have taken over the consent and are now about to open the community pharmacy.

We hope that the transition from a GP surgery dispensary to a community pharmacy will be smooth but you will note some differences from the current service. The Partners own the pharmacy but the dispensing within the pharmacy will be carried out under the rules and regulations of the General Pharmaceutical Council and will be managed by a Pharmacist. Medication cannot be handed out from the Pharmacy unless there is a pharmacist present. There will be two pharmacists sharing the role of Responsible Pharmacist, Paul Jenner from Oxford and Julie Clouth from Milton-under-Wychwood. The rest of the dispensary team remains unchanged.

Opening times: Initially the pharmacy will open the same hours as the dispensary does now except for lunchtime:

Monday - Friday 8.30am-6.30pm
Closed for lunch 1.00pm-2.00pm
Saturday 9.00am-12.00pm

After the initial transition period the Pharmacy opening hours will change to:

Monday - Friday 9.00am-6.00pm
Closed for lunch 1.00pm-2.00pm
Closed Saturdays & Bank Holidays

The legal requirement for a pharmacist to be employed for these services is a considerable expense and it is for that reason that we are rationalising our dispensary hours. If you are unable to collect your medications during our intended opening hours please discuss this with the pharmacist or one of the dispensing team and they may be able to offer alternative arrangements. Please note we will still make our usual deliveries for those patients who find it difficult to get to the surgery/pharmacy to Milton-under-Wychwood Post Office, Fifield, Leaf-field Village shop and Ascott under Wychwood Village shop.

Having a pharmacy will mean that we can now offer a full dispensing service to all our patients, patients who we were previously not allowed to dispense to, will now be able to get their prescriptions.

Our pharmacy will be able to sell OTC ('over the counter') medicines such as Calpol, paracetamol tablets, anti-inflammatory medicines (ibuprofen), anti-histamines, anti-fun-

gal treatments, worming medicines, nicotine replacement treatments, and many others. It will provide this service to the whole community whether or not they are “our” patients.

Whenever the pharmacy is open there will be a pharmacist in charge, ready to provide advice on your medicines and other health matters you may wish to raise. The pharmacy will provide additional services, as and when requested by the NHS, such as the supply of ‘Quit Kits’ to help smokers give up their habit, and Medicine Use Reviews. **Repeat Prescription Requests** - You will still request your repeat prescriptions with the same options as you currently have and your requests will still be processed by the dispensers and authorised by the GPs. Please note that you should still allow 2 working days between placing your order and collection of your prescription or medication to allow time for your request to be processed. You can order your repeat prescriptions online through a secure order form at www.wychwoodsurgery.co.uk or email wychwood.prescriptions@nhs.uk or by using the repeat prescription voicemail [01993 831061](tel:01993831061) or by leaving your request in the post box at the surgery or by post. If you want a script to be posted to you, we will require a stamped addressed envelope.

Please let us know either when you request your repeat medication or when you next visit the surgery or by writing if you do not wish Wychwood Pharmacy to process your medication

requests. We will then be able to arrange for you to collect your prescription or in certain cases for the request to be sent to your preferred pharmacy.

Acute Prescriptions – If after you have a consultation with your doctor you require immediate (acute) medication you will be given a signed prescription by the doctor. Patients will then have the option of presenting their prescription to the pharmacy in the surgery or taking it away to have it dispensed at another pharmacy. We will aim to dispense the acute prescription while you wait as long as the medication is in stock, you will be advised by the pharmacist/dispenser at the time of presenting the prescription. services. 111 is a free phone number even for mobile phones. The 111 service replaces NHS Direct in Oxfordshire from 25th January 2013.

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45TH ENGADINE SKI MARATHON

The 2012 Olympic Games in London drew to a close last summer and my husband, Brian, and I were watching the closing ceremony on television (like most of you were, too, I suppose!). As the parades of athletes filed in to take up their places in the stadium, we were filled with inspiration, as everyone else was, I'm sure, by the dedication and tremendous hard work they had put in and by their magnificent achievements.

So inspired were we, that we looked at each other and shared a tacit understanding that we were going to sign up for something that we had talked about for a long time, but had always put off. We went straight to the computer and enrolled to participate ('compete' would be too strong a word) in the 45th

Engadine Ski Marathon. I should perhaps add here that this winter sees a couple of special 'turn of the decade' birthdays for us both, so, insane as it sounds, the Marathon would provide a suitable challenge.

The Engadine Ski Marathon is an annual cross-country ski marathon held on the second Sunday of March in the Upper Engadine Valley in Switzerland. It is part of the Worldloppet Tour and is by far the biggest cross-country event in the Alps. It covers the usual marathon distance of 42km and around 13000 – 15000 people take part. Our goal is just to complete it (I am sure that M. Herve Balland, who holds the track record of 1:16:10, will be most relieved to hear that!). To achieve this, we needed a) to establish a reasonable level of fitness, which



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we've been working on for the last few months (interrupted by Christmas/New Year) and b) to learn how to langlauf/cross-country ski. Even though we like to downhill ski, we would be complete novices at this.

Fortunately, our daughter, Elysia is based at Ruhpolding in Bavaria, Germany, this winter, where she is undergoing biathlon training. So, en-route to Switzerland, we intend spending a few days with her and hope she will find a few spare moments to give her parents some much needed coaching!

We have chosen a charity for which we would like to raise some funds - ABF – The Soldiers Charity who give lifetime support to serving and retired soldiers and their families. If you feel you would like to donate, please see our Just Giving Page at www.justgiving.com/ingrid-ridley, or

ring us on 01993 830612. We are covering all our expenses, so any donation you make, great or small, will go to the charity. As we slog it out over the 42km, knowing we would be raising a sum for charity would give us much encouragement to get to the finish!

Incidentally, there is a small group of us in Ascott, who share our interest in being reasonably fit and healthy. A few of us go cycling on Sundays, a couple swim once or twice a week, some of us are regular 'joggers', a few went on a short ski break in January, and we meet every Wednesday evening at Tiddy Hall at 7pm for a 45 minute exercise session. Why not come along for a taster session? It would be good to see some new faces! www.soldierscharity.org

Ingrid Ridley

THE DEADLINE FOR THE

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We urgently need more volunteers for the village shop, because we simply don't have enough to cover the working week. Without volunteers, we're stuck. It's YOUR shop - please come and help us.

It's a great shop and great team, real fun and a wonderful atmosphere.

Any time you can spare - even just an hour or two every week - would really make a difference.

We also need new Committee members. Three of the present Committee will step down shortly at the AGM, plus the Committee is too small at just five members. Please - the Shop does not run itself, we need you.

Call Mark Dawbarn now on 831632 or speak to:

Nigel Wild 830561
Richard Squires 830970
Margaret Ismail 832829
Sue Mellor 831182
Stuart Fox 832004

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP NEW OPENING HOURS

From Monday 4 March, the shop opening hours will be:

Monday - Friday : 8am - 6pm

Saturday : 8am - 1pm

Sunday : 9am - 12 noon

The decision to reduce the opening hours has been taken because we lack sufficient volunteers to fulfill the current trading hours.

It's a decision taken with great regret, but we have no alternative. We urgently need more volunteers, so if you can help, please let us know.

TIDDY HALL REPORT

The end of 2012 saw four fundraising functions held at Tiddy Hall. Back in October, to end Tiddy Hall's centenary celebrations, another excellent Folk Night took place! Entertaining us this year was 'Rag n Roll' with their upbeat, good time fingerstyle music. And of course, to all the 'regulars', a big thanks as you help to make this evening such a unique and successful event in the Tiddy Calendar each year. Tony & Lyn, you have done a superb job over the years, bringing such a variety of entertainment to our village and keeping the folk tradition alive at Tiddy Hall!

In November, the Pre School held another Film Night, 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' to help raise funds for their latest project. The outside play area is soon to be resurfaced, replacing the old one which was becoming increasingly worn after 12 years. Unfortunately, Quiz Night, which was scheduled for November 24th, had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. We may try again later this year – but, *we need you there* for the evening to be a success – please do your best to support! On December 1st, the Fishing Club help their annual Race Night for which nearly £1400 was raised! An excellent result and the club would like to thank all those who came to the evening for your support. Without these funds it would be very difficult to keep up the general maintenance of the

lake and to refresh the stock, not to mention the water rents that need to be paid every season. The annual Ascott Pantomime returned the following week. 'Wot Dinah Saw', written by Fred Russell, was performed with enthusiasm by Ascott's local thespians. A large audience not only enjoyed the play but also music, poetry, a Christmas carol sing-along and delicious food & drink! Funds raised this year went to the Village Charity and The Grape Vine.

The Tiddy Hall Trustees hosted the annual Anniversary Dance on Saturday 26th January to start off this year's events. After a lovely meal, we were entertained by 'Cooper Black', a new band to Tiddy Hall, and many enjoyed dancing to their uncompromising and potent mix of eclectic folk-bluescountrypop! It's always great to see such a good turn out to this event and we were delighted to see some new faces!

Tiddy's New Kitchen. For well over a year now, there has been talk about a new kitchen for Tiddy and over the course of last year, various fund raising events were held. The Trustees are very grateful to all those who organised these events and to all who supported them – Mark & Dave who make up Acousticana, Daphne & the Ascott Songsters, Robin Martin-Oliver, David Ridley, Debra Cull (sale of mugs), Lyn & Tony Collins, the Fun

Run Committee of John Cull, Dave Wilkinson, Stuart Fox, Roger Shepherd & Elaine Byles. We are delighted to have a sum of £6,669 in the 'kitchen fund' and we are now in a position to move forward with our plans. A 'kitchen' sub-committee has been formed and they have made visits to other village halls to look at the pros and cons of their facilities and kitchen layouts. Kitchen suppliers have been contacted and will be coming to Tiddy over the next month to draw up a kitchen plan and discuss our requirements. When we are happy with a quote and a design, the Trustees will then look into any grants that may be available to us. We will report further in the next issue of *The Grapevine*!

Please come to Tiddy on Sunday 14th April to hear the wonderful Ascott Songsters! Following last year's success, they are hosting an evening of 'Songs of the Musicals Part 2'. Tickets are £8, which includes tasty nibbles, and are available from Daphne Abe (01993 832078) and Lyn Collins (01993 830114). A bar will also be available. Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30 start. All proceeds to the Tiddy Hall kitchen fund!

Not to be missed! – *Les Miserables* is coming to Tiddy! *Flix* in the Stix will be screening the popular Academy Award nominated film sometime in April or May. Please keep a look out for further information on our village notice boards!

Ingrid Ridley



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**The Editorial team
of *The Ascott
Grapevine* would like
to thank those who
organised the
Pantomime for their
generous donation.**

TIDDY HALL

Regular Activities:

Monday - Friday Mornings

Pre-school

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant
07968 006451

Wednesday Evenings 7.00 - 7.45

Circuits

Contact: Simon Gidman 01993
831479

Friday Afternoons

Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter
01993 774568

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SPECIAL EVENTS:

Sunday 14 April

The Ascott Songsters - songs of the
Musicals, Part 2. Tickets £8
(including tasty nibbles) from Daphne
Abe 01993 832078 or Lyn Collins
01993 830114

Forthcoming event in April or May
(date to be confirmed) - Flix in the Stix
presents: Les Miserables



To book the Tiddy Hall contact:

**Ingrid Ridley
01993 830612**

COOK'S CORNER : ASCOTT'S FAVOURITE RECIPES

CHOCOLATE YUM

8 oz butter or margarine
2 large tablespoons Golden Syrup
4 oz sugar
2 heaped tablespoons cocoa powder
8 oz self raising flour
4 oz porridge oats
200 g dark chocolate

Line a roasting pan with parchment or foil.

Melt butter, golden syrup and sugar, then add cocoa powder and mix well.

Add flour and oats and mix well.

Pour into roasting pan, flatten out and cook at 180°/gas mark 4 for 10 minutes **NO MORE**.

When cool, cover with melted chocolate.

Sue George

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ANNIE HOLDEN CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993 830687/07989
497253 www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993 831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

BERTIE THE SWEEP 01993 899143/07954 180371

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993 823006

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

CRISTINA COLLI 07530 454737/01608 646135 cristina@cristinacolli.com
www.cristinacolli.com

DAVENPORTS 01993 358252

FARMHOUSE B&B 01993 831900 sally@college-farm.com

GROVES SHOP 01993 830302 info@alfredgroves.co.uk

www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk

HOME TUTOR 01993 830970

INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993 830612/07952 657906

ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk

IN2PETS 01993 773111 www.in2pets.co.uk

IVY'S FLORIST 01993 830268

LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993 878357

MALLAMS ESTATE AGENTS 01993 822666 burford@mallams.co.uk

www.mallams.co.uk

MEADEN CREATIVE 01993 831383 www.meadencreative.com

MILTON POST OFFICE 01993 832243

PAW PALS 01993 869051/07917 703468 www.paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon

ROBERT GRIPPER 01993 831960 robgripper@btinternet.com

ROSENEATH 01993 774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com

THE LOFT GALLERY 07941 503519 www.lovethetree.co.uk

TIDDY HALL 01993 830612

TOM HAZZLEDINE, DRY STONE WALLING 01993 881476/07980

564508 drystonewalling@tomhazzledine.co.uk www.tomhazzledine.co.uk

WITNEY SHUTTLE Freephone 0800 043 4633 www.witneyshuttle.com

WYCHWOOD FLOWERS ESTATE AGENTS 01993 824800

burford@wychwoodflowers.com www.wychwoodflowers.com

WYCHWOOD FUNERAL SERVICES 01993 831557

info@wychwoodfuneralservices.co.uk

WYCHWOOD WROUGHT IRON 01993 832850

www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR - 2013

DATE	EVENT
17 March	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Easter (Church)
21 March	7.30pm WLHS : Lost Railways of Oxfordshire(Milton Village Hall)
8 April	Parish Council Meeting (Tiddy Hall)
14 April	The Ascott Songsters - songs of the Musicals, Part 2. (Tiddy Hall)
18 April	7.30pm WLHS : Talk & Exhibition by the Society's Probate Group (Shipton Village Hall)
21 April	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Spring (Church)
22 April	Parish Council Annual Village Meeting (Tiddy Hall)
16 May	7.30pm WLHS : The Battle of Edgehill (Milton Village Hall)
19 May	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Plants (Church)
Apr/May (TBC)	Flix in the Stix - Les Miserables (Tiddy Hall)
16 June	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Red White & Blue Celebration (Church)
21 July	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Mad Hatter (Church)
18 August	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Summer Fruits (Church)
15 September	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Harvest Bake off (Church)
20 October	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Cotswold Kitchen Garden (Church)
27 October	Charity Run
17 November	2.00 - 4.30 Ascott Tea : Christmas Fayre (Church)
December (TBC)	Ascott Village Pantomime (Tiddy Hall)

If there are activities not included in the above calendar please let us know. Call 01993 831023 or email: wendypearse@btinternet.com