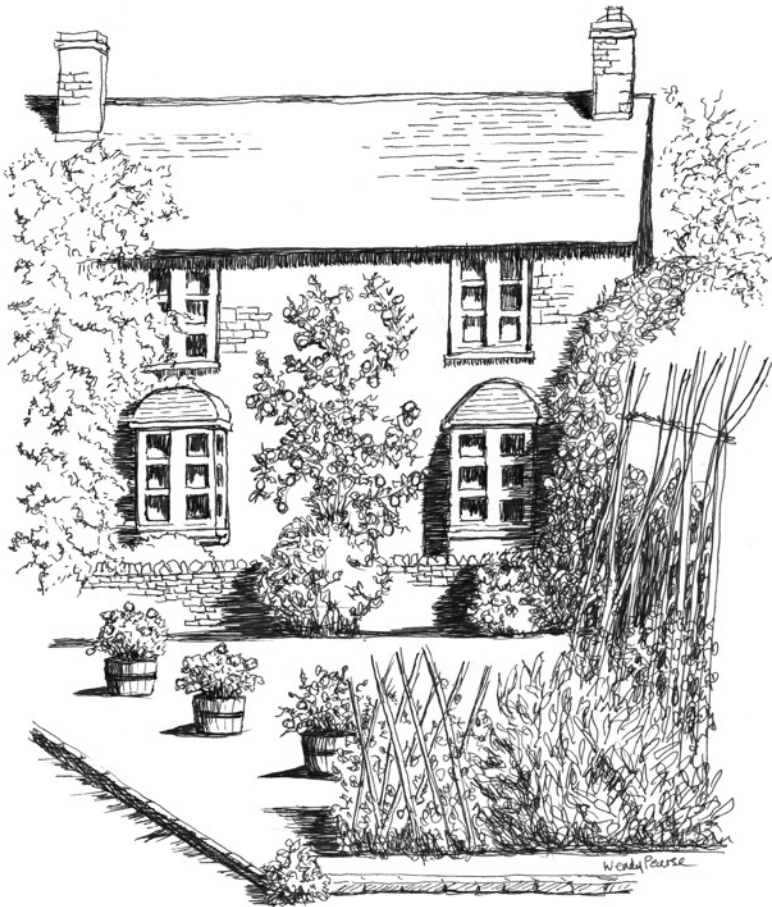


The Ascott Grapevine



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 Ascott 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 Ascott 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 November 2015.

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, Keith Ravenhill

Content & Editorial Policy

If you have an article, story or poem you would like to submit for publication The Ascott 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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To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see Page 72), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or wendypearse@btinternet.com. The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2015

On Sundays when there is not a service in Ascott there are services across the Benefice, normally 1st Sunday 0800 Enstone & 1000 Spelsbury; 3rd Sunday 0800 Spelsbury & 1000 Enstone. For full details see the Church notice boards. You will receive a warm welcome at any of our services.

Sunday 6th Sept	12.00 pm -	Baptism
Sunday 13th Sept	10.00 am	Holy Communion [CW]
Sunday 27th Sept	8.00 am	Holy Communion [BCP]
Sunday 11th Oct	10.00 am	Benefice Service for Harvest
Sunday 25th Oct	8.00 am	Holy Communion [BCP]
Sunday 8th Nov	10.15 am	Remembrance Service
Sunday 22nd Nov	8.00 am	Holy Communion [BCP]

Ascott Church is part of the Chase Benefice, comprising the parishes of Chadlington, Ascott-u-Wychwood, Spelsbury and Enstone. For enquiries please contact the Rector: Rev'd Mark Abrey, The Vicarage, Church Road, Chadlington. OX7 3LY. 01608 676572 or rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

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Local Churches

Wychwood Benefice

Rev'd Kate Stacey Tel: 01993 832514

St Mary's Shipton

Churchwarden James Walmsley
01993 830842

SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Wychwood Baptist, Milton

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

Burford Methodist

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall
01993 845322

Westcote Methodist

Tony Gibson 01993 830699
Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

Roman Catholic

SS John Fisher & Thomas More,
Burford
Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton
Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-on-the-Wold
St Teresa, Charlbury

Chase Benefice

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572

News from the Church

Letter from the Rector

It's a cliché, but where has the year gone? We're over half-way already and it can be easy to wonder how and to where the time has disappeared. When familiar faces leave for holidays, the weather gets a little close for comfort, and routine is shaken up because of schools being off (a far more difficult time than some may think: childcare costs and finding help is a common problem for parents, grandparents and carers), summer can be a time of disruption as well as relaxing.

But what is so 'normal' about life that we feel gets disrupted? Seasons change, times come and go, and even though we can sometimes feel things are in a cycle (and we try to organise ourselves as much as possible), the next day is always different from the one before. The great British weather is a good example of this!

The unpredictability of life is a necessary thing. While it's vital to recognise patterns, times and seasons to help us live and simply do basic things like farm and help the world grow, it's necessary to live for the day and seek all the unexpected potential it holds.

I was at a recent meeting where everyone got their diaries out to plan the year ahead and the thought struck about how sad that was: trying to pin down every day so you think you know what will come. Then each week you see some dates coming forward and the anticipation — or dread! — of an event seems ever nearer and we remember that it

was never like this in the ancient times. We didn't have watches with alarms or clever phones with diary reminders. We looked to the stars and the sun and moon; how the heavens and the earth work together.

Let's recapture some of that energy and pursuit of the unknown. Please use summer to look at what opportunities in your life exist to pursue dreams and long-held ambitions, which a life of 'time-management' (horrible phrases as they are...) and organisation can help with but can never truly deliver. Dreams and ambitions are desperately important parts of our lives: they are gifts given to us to see what we can achieve if we truly believe.

I believe that God has given us life to pursue the unexpected times; times of risk and uncertainty where we find the comforts of life challenged so that we become newer people every day. Our lives, particularly those who have faith, are about seeking life to its fullest and that only happens when we consider the unknown and are prepared to step into it.

On September 17 we are welcoming **Revd Marian Needham** into the Benefice as **our new Associate Priest**. She will be working with me across all four parishes on the Benefice. It is an exciting time in the life of the Benefice. A lot has changed in the 14 years that I have been here. Lots of new ideas are growing and into the future there will be more and more ways to build community both in Ascott and across the Benefice; bringing people together for fun times, caring for

The Ascott Grapevine

one another in the harder times, but most of all working together for a better world. These are times of the unknown and of possibility; of finding new dimensions of ourselves and of God.

When those times come up, seize them for everything they hold.

With my best wishes.

Mark Abrey

Trees in the Churchyard

Back in May, Ascott Church launched a '**Sponsor a Tree**' campaign to help care for and maintain the wonderful avenue of 25 Lime trees which is one of the iconic features of our beautiful and historic village. We have nearly reached our target of £3,000 and are very grateful to all those who have donated so generously.

As the avenue is subject to a Tree Preservation order, we have had a site meeting with both the contractor and the Tree Officer for WODC to discuss the work. Because the limes have not been pollarded for a number of years, the Tree Officer is concerned about the visual impact that this work will have and has suggested an alternative strategy of thinning and lowering the canopy. Logistically this is a much more complicated procedure and the contractor is now assessing whether it is possible, given the size of the branches that will need to be removed and the overall effect on the health of the trees.

Whatever the final course of action taken the avenue will look very different for a number of years until re-growth takes place. So be prepared for some change! The health and longevity of the trees is our primary concern and we await the professionals report. The work will not start until the end of this year when the trees are dormant.

So please do enjoy the shade and beauty of the trees over the summer months.

Weather permitting, on **Sunday 13th September**, we hope to hold some if not all of our service at 10 am under the trees we thank God not just for the beauty of these trees, but also of nature all around us. If you are free you are most welcome to join us!

Mark Abrey

Recipe

Gazpacho

Serves 4-6

2 small green peppers, de seeded

1kg ripe tomatoes, peeled and de seeded

2 small or 1 large cucumber, peeled

2 garlic cloves, crushed

1 slice of day old white bread, crusts removed 125ml extra virgin oil

6 tablespoons wine vinegar

Salt

Cut up the vegetables and put them through a blender with the garlic and bread. Add the olive oil vinegar and salt to taste and blend to a light creamy consistency. Serve very cold, with an ice cube (optional) accompanied by sliced pieces of cucumber and green peppers.

John Cull



Ascott Cricket

This summer saw the return of cricket to the village with a challenge match involving a development team from Ascott facing a much older and experienced team from Leaffield. A 30 over format saw Ascott lose a strongly contested game by just 30 runs. The much younger Ascott team can be very proud of their performance and with youth on their side have the potential to grow into a strong team.



Pictures show Richard Smith leading the teams in for tea and one of the young Ascott batsmen facing up to a Leaffield fast bowler. Talks are taking place about a return game and Stonesfield are also showing interest in a game.



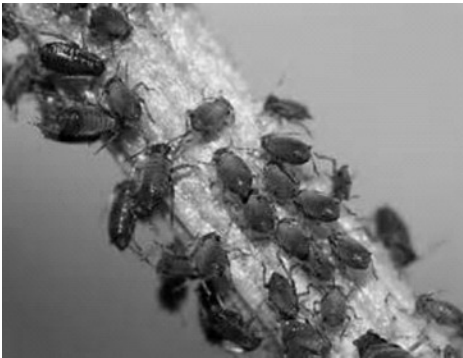
The Ascott Grapevine Editorial Team

The Ascott Grapevine editorial team would like to thank past and present contributors both for articles and advertising in The Ascott Grapevine. Without your support this magazine would not exist.

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL

Nature Notes

The weather this year has been ideal for fruit tree blossom, butterflies and wild-flowers. There were no late air-frosts; rain-fall has been low and temperatures generally mild. Sadly the number of Swallows and House Martins migrating from their winter homes in Africa seems to have markedly declined. Unfortunately these conditions have also been ideal for several less welcome visitors; various Aphid species whose populations seem to have exploded in June and July.



Having seen my Broad Beans absolutely covered with Black fly and my Roses infested with Greenfly I was curious to find out where they had come from and how they can expand their colonies so quickly. I

found the answer fascinating and complex.

Aphids are sap-sucking bugs belonging to the insect order *Hemiptera*, family *Aphididae*. Their one distinguishing and unique feature are two abdominal tubes (cornicles) that are the openings to specialised wax glands, producing a fluid that may, to some extent, protect them from predators. In the case of the Woolly Aphid that attacks Apple Trees, the secretion covers them with a fluffy, waxy material that is impervious to pesticides.



Apart from Greenfly and Black fly it is estimated that there are 4,400 known Aphid species, mainly found in the temperate regions of the world, of which 250 are serious pests for agriculture, forestry

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and gardeners. Not all Aphids suck sap from stems and leaves, some attack plant roots and others live inside plant galls (swellings of plant tissue) that are created by the plant as a reaction to substances secreted by the Aphids.

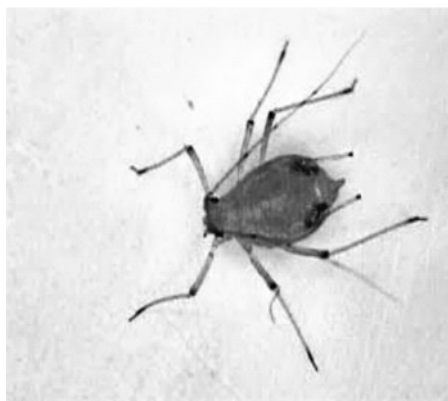
Aphids have been around rather a long time with the first record from about 280 million years ago, but the numbers of species significantly increased with the arrival of flowering plants 160 million years ago. In all that time their basic design has changed little.

Aphids feed by puncturing the soft tissue of plant stems, roots or leaf veins with their beak and sucking the sap. Sap is mostly sugar in solution so Aphids must consume large quantities to meet their nutritional requirements for protein and nitrogen, hence the excretion of a highly concentrated, sugary waste product known as honeydew. If you park your car under a lime tree in high summer in a short while it will soon be coated in sticky honeydew. Leaves coated with honeydew will quickly be colonised with sooty mould.

Honeydew is prized by other insects, especially Ants, as a food. Indeed some Ant species actively farm Aphid colonies. The Ants tend and protect the Aphids, even moving them to nearby food plants when the original plants become exhausted. One species, the European Yellow Meadow Ant, maintains a herd of Root Aphids in its underground nest and when the new Queen Ants leave, to start a new nest, they take an Aphid egg with them to start a new herd. Ants encourage each Aphid to produce honeydew on demand by stroking them with their antennae.

The Aphids annual reproductive cycle is complex and is driven by temperature,

daylight length and the availability and quality of their food plants. Aphids over-winter as eggs, in the case of the Bean Aphid (Black fly) these are laid in the autumn on the winter host, which can be the Spindle, Viburnum or Philadelphus. The eggs hatch in the spring to produce wingless females that can give birth to live young without mating (parthenogenesis). A few young are produced, by live birth, each day by each female and a single female could potentially be responsible for producing thousands of descendants.



The young are exact copies of their mother and unlike some other insect species do not undergo any major changes as they reach maturity. Each adult has an expected life span of 20 to 40 days. Eventually winged females will be produced and these will leave the winter host plants and in the case of the Black Bean Aphid migrate to their summer host, which can include Broad Beans, Runner Beans and other suitable plants. The migrating females will continue to reproduce live wingless young females without mating. As the weather changes and the summer food supplies diminish winged females are again produced and these return to the winter host plants and now both males and females are born. These now mate and eggs are produced

which are laid in the crevices of the bark on the winter host plant ready to start the whole process again in the spring.

Aphid's natural enemies are Ladybirds (both adults and larvae), Hover fly larvae, parasitic wasps, Crab Spiders and Lacewing Flies. They are also attacked

by some species of fungi. Sadly for me the predators seem to be rather thin on the ground at the moment and I've had to resort to other less environmentally sound methods of elimination!

Stuart Fox

THE WYCHWOOD 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

28th JUNE 2015.

Ascott-under-Wychwood held their 4th 7-a-side football tournament on Sunday 28th of June, and what a day!! With the increasing number of teams this year, up to 24, it was very busy for the footballing staff, with rain coming early and the sun coming out about 10:30. We kicked off with the BBQ smoking red hot as usual. The referees got quickly into their stride keeping the games all under control and there was some really good football played with the two Wychwood teams in the running with FC Nomads, Eynsham, Avengers, Abba, Chesterton, Corinthians, all in the quarter finals, which was a very close run thing, Wychwood Forest made it to the semi-finals but lost out to Eynsham and the Avengers making it to the final by beating FC Nomads, so there we have it.

The Final: Avengers vs Eynsham Social Club

This game was a very hard fought game with the referee, Mr Paul Coles, keeping it well disciplined. The Avengers scored

just before half time with lots of controversy and excitement but the Avengers just held on to their lead making them this year's THE WYCHWOOD FOREST 7-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS of 2015

I would like to say thank you to all the people who were involved from the players to all the staff and the Ascott sports committee who let us have the tournament.

News



Wychwood Forest FC Division 4 promotion winners 2014/15 are sponsored by Windrush Footballs the soccer ball and

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training equipment suppliers. Wychwood Forest FC are recruiting new members and training commences on 21st July at Ascott recreation ground and recruiting for our new reserve side, so if anybody is interested any age of 16 plus.

If anybody is interested there is a women's team, Wychwood Ladies, training at the recreation ground on Thursday evenings 6:30 kick off. If any ladies would like to play, they are very welcome to come along and have a go and have some

fun. Starting on Sunday morning 13th September Wychwood Forest FC are starting mini football for ages 5, 6, 7 and 8, kicking off at 11:00 am for boys and girls, all abilities welcome, it's called WYCHWOOD FOREST FC YOUTH FUN FOOTBALL ACADEMY for information please ring Mike Ody on 07928722367 or 01993830170 or email finalgoal7@aol.com

Mike Ody
Wychwood Forest FC.

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Weddings

Helena Gilbert and James Speedy were married at Ascott church on 20 June in bright sunshine, celebrating the occasion with friends and family at Foxholes where Helena grew up until moving to Ascott in 2002. The Speedys are renovating their home at Epsom and working locally, James as an engineer and Helena as a midwife. A wonderful day.



On the 11th July 2015, at Holy Trinity Church, Andrew Philip Luke Lake to Alice Victoria Walker.



West Oxfordshire Council

Council urges prompt action to keep electoral registration costs down West Oxfordshire residents are being urged to help keep public sector costs down by responding promptly, and if possible electronically, when they receive their electoral registration forms.

The Council is writing to over 47,000 households in the District asking them to take action by confirming their registration details either by text, by Freephone, online or by post.

If changes need to be made to the registration details sent, then the household is asked to notify the Council either online or by returning the form provided.

Electoral registration is a legal requirement that has to be done each year and residents must be on the Electoral Register to be eligible to vote.

“With it now being so quick and easy to reply we are hoping an early high response rate will reduce the need to send out reminders, as these are costly and could amount to as much as £50,000,” says Keith Butler, West Oxfordshire District Council’s Electoral Registration Officer.

He also added, “Costs can be reduced even further by responding digitally rather than by post.”

The Register is also often used by credit checking agencies and can be required for things such as getting a loan or mortgage or mobile phone contract. Other pitfalls of not being on the Register include not being eligible to apply for certain jobs which require security checks and not being able to open a bank account.

Further information is online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/register.

Anyone who has not received an electoral registration form by 1st September should contact the Council on 01993 861410 or email elections@westoxon.gov.uk.

Further information: Communications: tel: 01993 861615, mob: 07771965360, e: communications@westoxon.gov.uk Visit our news centre at www.westoxon.gov.uk/news.

Know Your Neighbour

Richard Squires

Where and when were you born?

I was born on 23 June 1957 in Nottingham, my parents then lived in West Bridgford, a stone's throw from the Trent Bridge Cricket ground.



Were you part of a large family?

I was the first son to my parents and the first grandson in the extended clan. Later I was joined by two sisters. We had a very large extended family, both my parents were from 5 children families and my grandparents, especially on my Dad's side, were yet bigger still. There was even a Squires cricket team in the local Nottingham leagues! We moved to Rainworth, a colliery village about 20 miles north of Nottingham, when I was three as my parents had taken over the village shop. I recollect every Sunday afternoon, the only time the shop wasn't open, was spent with Aunts, Uncles and lots of cousins.

Schooling, best and worst subjects.

I went to the local Primary school, where the focus was on the 3Rs and discipline was tough! I remember being hit with a 3 foot rule every time I got a times table wrong aged 8, how times change, but at least I know them by heart! I passed my 11 plus and with some pushing, of me, from my mum I got a place at Southwell Minster Grammar School, also helped by a good voice at that time. Strange but when I was about 13 my best 2 subjects were RE and Latin and I was finding maths and the sciences challenging, yet a few years later I failed these two at O level while doing well in the others, so much so I went on to do Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry at A level. I owe many thanks to a friend of my Dad who was a maths teacher and gave me a bit of tutoring for a couple of months that made all the difference.

Further education.

I didn't fancy full-time university and was lucky enough to get sponsored by the National Coal Board to study Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University on a sandwich course. My dad had got me an articulated clerk position to be an Accountant if I didn't get the grades, but luckily I did. I loved this course, it was six months at university and six months training in all aspects of coal mining/engineering each year for three years and then a fourth year at

uni full time. My first month was on the coal face hand digging where the coal cutter couldn't get, with an "old" boy named Wally, he looked at least a hundred but I found out later he was about 50! At this time, collieries employed the full range of skilled tradesmen and my training included learning management skills as well as some traditional engineering skills, from blacksmithing, through joinery to electrics, something which I appreciated and has stayed with me. Loughborough had great sports facilities and being from a sporty family and a bit of an all-rounder I managed to get somewhat distracted from studies but became a useful squash and of course bar-billiards player!



Career, places you have lived and worked, tutoring.

Luckily I knuckled down in the last year and got my degree with honours. I then had to complete a further 2 years training in engineering and management, mostly at collieries all over the Midlands to gain my professional MQB Engineer's Certificate. Then, in at the deep-end. I was appointed shift engineer at Gedling Colliery in Nottingham, with a

special responsibility for completing a long term project to install a high speed underground loco system to cut half an hour of each journey to/from the coal face. The work was tough as was the environment and the guys who worked for me and so the grass soon stopped sprouting from my ears. The industry got at odds with the then government and a certain female PM and never recovered. I moved on to join the Rugby Group, initially at a cement factory on South Humberside and then to Oxfordshire, where I was Engineer and then Manager of the Chinnor factory. I really liked living in our county and so despite several career moves kept it as my home. My wife Carol is originally from Cornwall and once our kids had flown the nest we decided to move there and semi retire. We had seven years living in a very small village St Dominick, looking over the Tamar Valley to Dartmoor. The downside to Cornwall is you are a long way from everywhere else and so when weddings were in the offing we looked into moving back to Oxfordshire, this time in the less busy West.

Hobbies and sports.

Apart from sports already mentioned, Carol and I met through sailing. We had both become interested, her in Cornwall and me not so easily from Oxfordshire, but we met up sailing yachts round the Greek Islands, for a while we had a small yacht which we kept in Poole and had many an adventurous outing! I have been a keen golfer for many years, luckily so is Carol. I also resumed tennis when I found out about the Wychwoods tennis club. While living in Cornwall I was

introduced to surfing and have progressed through body boards to being a low ability stand up surfer, don't get so much practice nowadays!

What do you do for relaxation, favourite music and books?

Carol and I are involved in dancing, originally as jivers, but now with Latin, sequence and ballroom. We have also loved being part of the Ascott Songsters for the last few years. Unfortunately both are on Monday's so logistics can be tricky. I am not as passionate about music as Carol but like a wide variety, although she would add I am not much of a sit and relax person more of a relax through doing, eg gardening, DIY (we have made significant changes to our house since moving in, most I have done). We both like to go away in our camper-van, tending to gravitate to the coast and enjoy good, strenuous walks, well me the strenuous bit.

Community involvement

I quickly became involved as a volunteer till person at our Village Shop. Later joining the Management Committee and ultimately as Chairman. At the tennis club I also got asked and joined the committee for some years finally as vice Chair. Also I still do my weekly stint opening in the morning and locking up the church at night. Some of you will know that golf is my favourite pastime and so I have become more involved in this and am currently Captain at my club. This is a big commitment and has meant giving up my committee activities at

Tennis and the Shop, however I still do my shift Friday's 8-10am.

Why did you decide to settle in Ascott? How long have you lived here?

When moving back to Oxfordshire in 2009, we picked an area, West Oxfordshire, found a good golf club, Chippy, then looked around for houses. When we came to view our house we explored the village, pub and local shop, where we had a lovely reception. We could see the potential in the house and I had hoped for a "project". At the time we had 2 golden retrievers and there was lots of local walking. Ascott under Wychwood seemed a perfect location, definitely was and still is.

Any favourite restaurants or pubs?

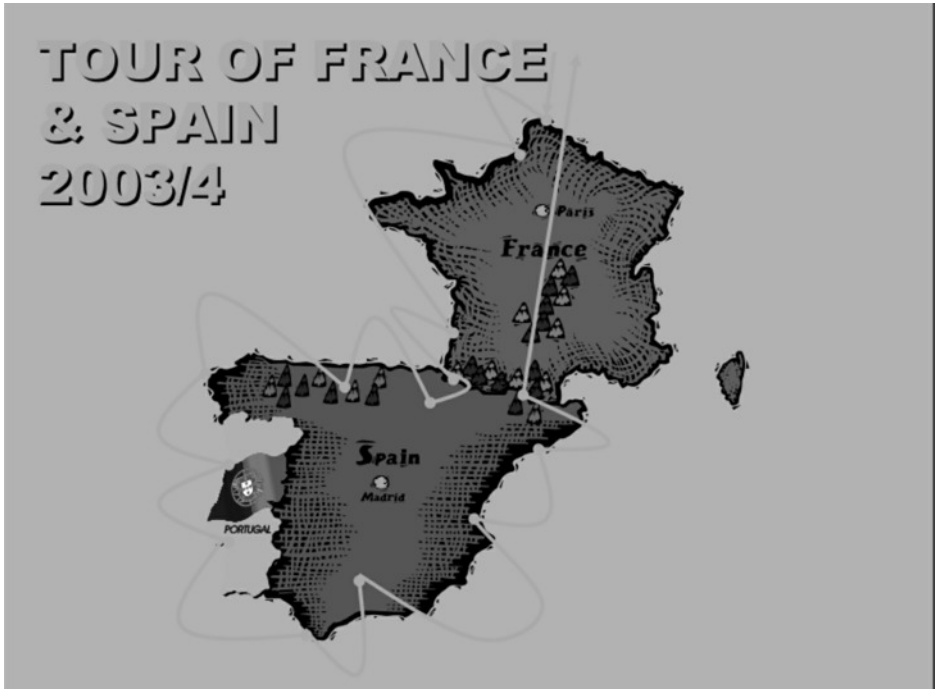
Of course, the Swan at Ascott. It was open when we first came here but within a year sadly closed, so it's been great to see the resurgence under Richard and Mikiel. We are not sit at the bar drinkers but more pop-inners. We have really enjoyed the social and music events they have put on and try and go for a meal as and when. Guys – keep it up!

Travels in the UK and beyond, any place that you would still like to visit?

I travelled a lot of the world with work and when we both worked Carol and I went to some lovely places, maybe one of the best included staying on a schooner sailing and diving on the barrier reef. The longest was between houses and jobs, as I had been una-

ble to talk Carol into a sailing adventure, we then had a caravan and decided on a "land yacht" adventure instead! We set off in the Autumn in our trusty old Volvo with the caravan so full the wheels were almost rub-

ing our circumnavigation of the Iberian peninsula. A few highlights: the Picos de Europa – stunning little alps; the cathedral at Santiago de compostella – so very spiritual; watching the Rugby World cup final in an English



bing the body, and the 2 dogs in the back. Once out of the tunnel we walked along the French coast and looked back at the "white cliffs", our last sight of "blighty", we didn't see it again until the following spring. We spent a lovely month tootling down the west coast of France before start-

ing our circumnavigation of the Iberian peninsula. A few highlights: the Picos de Europa – stunning little alps; the cathedral at Santiago de compostella – so very spiritual; watching the Rugby World cup final in an English

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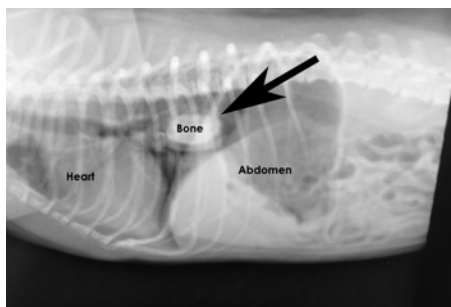
Daphne Abe (01993) 832078 & Jacquie Bugeja (01993) 832040

Vet's Advice

To Feed or Not to Feed

I want to talk about feeding bones to dogs (and possibly to cats as well).

On a Tuesday a few weeks ago a 12 year old Westie dog, Mia, was presented at the surgery, not because of a bad skin as is often the case but because she could not keep her food down for longer than a few minutes. The owner thought that she might have stolen some bones from the roast on the previous Sunday. We suspected that this was not just a mild gastritis and x-rayed her immediately (we don't have a waiting list) and could see an unusual object in her oesophagus, just before the entrance into the stomach.



The problem with this location is that in order to remove a foreign body we would probably have to approach through the chest which is much more dangerous than through the abdomen and any surgery to the oesophagus might cause scarring and stricture later which could make swallowing very difficult. We explained this to the owner and offered her a referral to a specialist centre but she opted to let us have a go.

Mia was anaesthetised and we used an endoscope to visualise what turned out to

be a piece of bone wedged in the oesophagus.

We decided to push the bone through to the stomach and remove it from the stomach after opening the abdomen. A scary procedure but it worked!

The oesophageal was badly ulcerated by the bone but Mia is now back to normal and able to eat solid food again.

Even when dogs chew bones quite finely we occasionally get the bone matter impacted into a ball that can cause a blockage. One of my not so favourite jobs is removing this from the rear end either digitally (I do wear gloves) or by giving an enema and breaking the matter down slowly. I have on occasion been surprised by the speed with which the blockage can be alleviated and not been able to get out of the way quick enough! Oh, the joys of being a vet.

Another problem we have encountered is Salmonella infection, usually caused by feeding raw chicken bones. Raw diets are getting very popular and as a result the manufacturers are doing more tests to prevent this problem, so hopefully this will be less of an issue in the future. But I would still advise against feeding raw chicken bought off the shelf at the moment.

We have a number of dogs in our practice that are fed proprietary brand raw diets and I have to admit that they usually have amazingly glossy coats and seem to be in excellent health, so I wouldn't want to put you off raw diets completely.

There are a few positive reasons to give bones to dogs. They can help with keeping teeth clean. We have, however, also

The Ascott Grapevine

seen a number of fractured teeth caused by chewing bones. They can help to give more structure to the faeces and reduce anal gland problems. And the biggest reason of all to give bones is that most dogs go crazy for them!

There are some great alternatives to bones. Dentastix can be useful unless your dog eats it in 2 seconds like Casey, our lab.

Hide-chews can keep dogs occupied for a while. Take care with the last remnants, they can sometimes cause a bit of choking and are very slimy, so difficult to remove. There are also bones made of a nylon like substance which some dogs enjoy. Not to forget the joys of

pigs' ears and various smelly hooves and horns.



No simple answer to whether or not to feed bones, but, on a personal note:

Our dogs will remain deprived of the joys of chewing any kind of bone.

Karen Kappen

The Ascott Village Charity



johncull@wowmatters.com;
keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net
mark@dawbarn.co.uk
pollymarshall@gmail.com

Students who are moving into further education are reminded that the Charity still has funds available to award grants for books, equipment etc.

If you have an idea that you would like to be considered by the trustees you can write down your idea, put it in an envelope, address it to Stuart Fox and post it in the shop or email any of the people listed below:

elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk
stuart.john.fox@gmail.com
se.timms@btinternet.com

Waste and Recycling

Updated waste and recycling calendars available mid-September

Updated waste and recycling calendars, for October 2015 to September 2016, will be available to download from West Oxfordshire District Council's website from mid-September.

These calendars will remind you which bins to put out on what days and are especially helpful to find out any changes over the Christmas period and Bank Holidays.

Alternatively, sign up to receive FREE email updates about your property direct to your inbox including:

- weekly bin reminders
- Bank Holiday bin reminders
- nearby planning applications.

For more information see: www.westoxon.gov.uk

Wychwood Investment Club



The club is now up and running with 13 members meeting the last Wednesday of the month at The Swan. The maximum set by the members is

15 so there are still 2 memberships available. Members who range from regular traders to newcomers who jointly invest in UK stocks, mainly the FTSE 250.

If anyone is interested in more information they should call:

Paul Jackson 01993 83 1967.

Deaths

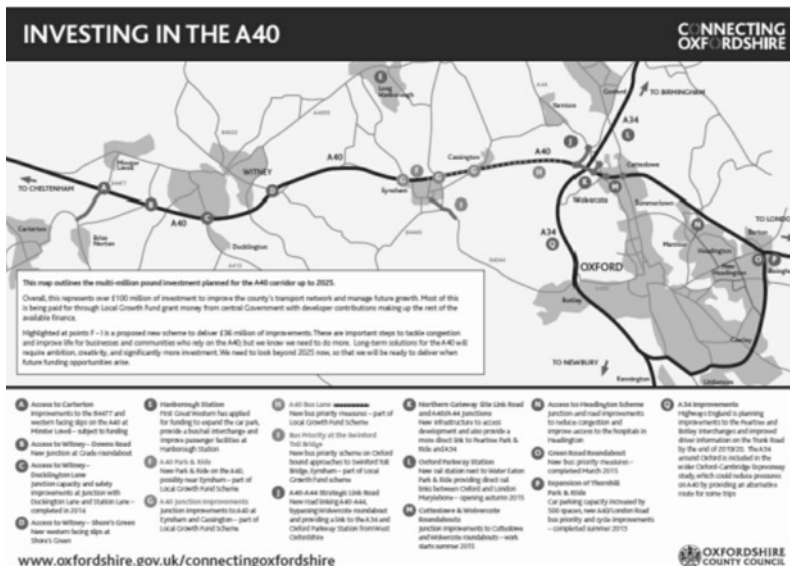
On the 19th April 2015, Dolly Guntrip, aged 89 years

On the 25th May 2015, Terence David Hanks, aged 72 years

Oxfordshire News

A40 – LTP4

This was discussed at a recent Cabinet meeting and plans for A40 improvements were accepted. Please see map below:



Consultation of HWRC

The main importance was to establish a strategy for Household Waste Centres, as this would make it possible for developers to contribute towards repairs and renovations to the centres, and the hope is to have the strategy in place by the New Year. We also need savings in the order of £1.35m out of our HWRC budget so the consultation will also be seeing public views.

Other consultations

Subject to consultation of supported bus routes is out to consultation until 14th September so local views would be appreciated on this. Also a consultation will soon be starting on the Children's Hubs and Centres.

Cllr Rodney Rose

Deputy Leader of the County Council

Oxfordshire County Council. 07919298277 01865 810419

Ascott Wychwood PC News

CELEBRATING PROJECT SAFEPLAY

This quarter began with a celebration. Finally all funds were in and equipment installed to complete Project SafePlay and so the PC invited all who supported the project to an afternoon cream tea.

We hoped that at that time of day we would also celebrate with some of the most important people – those who actually use the Recreation Ground.

We are very grateful to all our funders – organisers of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Lunch, Car Boot Sale, 2011 Pantomime and 2013 Charity Fun Run as well as Oxfordshire County Council Community and ChillOut Funds, Cottsway Well Community Fund, Ascott Village Charity and West Oxfordshire District Council Community Facilities

Grant. We would also like to say how much we appreciated the work of Trevor Stewart who built the playground.



It was a perfect day to see the play and sports equipment in action. Everyone enjoyed themselves including the children who very politely queued for ice cream, strawberries and cake. Special thanks must go to the Stedefords who lent us a marquee for much needed shade and the Frieths who gave us power for the much needed boiling water. Thank you to my colleagues and their spouses, to Laurence and Sue Mellor and last but not least to Alex Timms, who helped all afternoon and was a brilliant ice cream man!

COUNTY COUNCIL CUTS

In case we celebrate our achievements too much our County Councillor,

Rodney Rose, keeps our feet firmly on

the ground at monthly meetings. Post general election, Oxford County Council has to plan for further cuts in expenditure which Central Government expects them to make from April 2016.

Mark Tribe has been lobbying for a new recycling centre to replace Dean Pit but it has now been made extremely clear to us that, instead of building a new recycling centre, OCC are considering closing even more in Oxfordshire. It appears that they are required by law to supply only 2 recycling centres in the whole of the county. Dix Pit is not currently on the danger list. We investigated the possibility of having a village skip periodically but this would have to be manned 24 hours a day as certain items would not be allowed.

Another cut which will affect Ascott-under-Wychwood will be to the bus services. Rural buses are heavily subsidised and OCC are not obliged by law to keep them running. The Wychwood routes are under threat and also the rail bus to Charlbury. OCC is running a consultation process until 14th September and we would like to participate on behalf of our residents. If you use local buses (or would use buses if they existed at the right time) **PLEASE** make sure that you answer our questionnaire delivered to your door. We need a very clear picture of residents' needs to have any chance of influencing OCC decisions on which routes to keep. Do get in touch immediately if you want to fill out a questionnaire and have lost the original one.

WYCHWOOD PARISH COUNCILS' MEETING

There is an increasing need for co-operation and the sharing of good ideas between Parish Councils as support from County Council decreases and more re-

sponsibilities are being passed down to PCs. The 3 Wychwood Parish Councils met for the first time ever last year in Ship-ton and Ascott played host to the meeting this year in the Swan Function Room. It was an ideal setting much appreciated by all and we must thank Richard and Michiel for their excellent hospitality. We had an informal and very lively discussion about many common topics and all felt that we will benefit tremendously from the closer co-operation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

This item has become much more formalised in our business and it now forms part of our annual audit. We have recently arranged a survey of all the trees under our responsibility and will have to have some work carried out later in the year. The new look recreation ground was passed with flying colours by RoSpa and will continue to be inspected annually as in the past.

We are keen to maintain the village as a safe and pleasant place to live but without turning Ascott into a show village. Autumn and Winter are good seasons for cutting back without disturbing nesting birds. We absolutely do support maintaining wild life habitats but would ask you all to also consider the safety of pedestrians while walking past your property. Please could you cut back any vegetation so that pedestrians do not have to step out into the road – consider particularly children and tall people and the danger of eye injuries and nettle stings.

Another concern of ours is gravel drives. Please make sure that the gravel remains contained within the drive, especially if it is on a slope. If gravel is washed away it inevitably ends up in the road drains/gulleys, blocking them like concrete. With budget restraints, OCC High-

ways will not be impressed by blockages that are due to the neglect of parishioners.

Don't forget that we will be holding joint Council Surgeries on Saturdays 26 September and 28 November at 11.30am in the Swan. We will try to help with any question or complaint which applies to Parish, District or County Councils. Also you are very welcome to Parish Council meetings in the Tiddy Meeting Room at

7.30pm every second Monday in the month.

We do hope that you have had a very enjoyable summer and feel that batteries are fully recharged for the new term and the festive season ahead.

Ascott Parish Council

Joint Local Councillors' Surgeries

SSaturday 26 September 11.30-12.30 at the Swan Pub, A-u-W

Saturday 31 October 11.30-12.30 at the Wychwood Inn, S-u-W

Saturday 28 November, 11.30-12.30 at the Swan Pub, A-u-W

December no surgery

Parish Council:

Philippa Carter (Chairman)

Laurence Mellor

Peter Rance

Sandy Timms

Mark Tribe

Angela Barnes (Parish Clerk)

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The Nepal Earthquake

On the 25th April 2015 a large Earthquake of magnitude 7.9 struck Nepal, we were one week into a three week trekking holiday around Manaslu (the world's 8th highest mountain at 8156 m) and just 25 km from the epicentre.

We had spent the previous seven days walking up a steep river valley towards Manaslu, and arrived at the village of Lho (3000m) just 10 minutes before the earth quake struck.

Our accommodation was to be some new wooden 'chalet' type buildings which looked rather out of place beside the traditional stone buildings, at about 12.00 noon as we were opening the doors to our chalet the metal roof began flexing, at first we assumed it was a gust of wind, but a few seconds later we realised the whole building was moving, and heard people shouting to us to get away from the buildings. Fortunately we were able to run into an open area of ground away from adjacent buildings, which were soon full of local people and western trekkers. That first shock lasted about 4 minutes, and was followed by a period of calm, when locals and trek leaders made frantic phone calls to Kathmandu to try and find out what was happening, reports from Kathmandu were not encouraging.

About 30 minutes later, a second much larger shock struck, this lasted for only a couple of minutes, but caused much more damage as many of the already weakened stone buildings collapsed around us.

With paths and bridges from the village being destroyed by rock fall/landslides,

we were effectively cut off and our only choice was to wait in the relative safety of the village, which still had good supplies of food and water, until we were able to be evacuated by helicopter.

We spent a week in the village awaiting rescue, with little to do apart from sleeping or reading, it was a strange time of rest (isn't that what holidays are supposed to be about?) interspersed with periods of great tension and frayed nerves when the frequent and still fairly large aftershocks occurred. Finally a week later we were air lifted by helicopter (a story in itself!) out to Kathmandu and then on to the UK.

There's no doubt we were very lucky, arriving at the village 10 minutes before the earthquake struck and able to move to an open area in relative safety during the shocks. The faces of those who were caught out on the trail where stones were crashing around them expressed real fear as they arrived in the village. Some people were not so lucky, a small boy at the monastery above the village died, as did a mule driver from the village who died out on the trail and there are (unconfirmed) reports of trekkers being killed/injured in areas we'd walked through only days before. This was our third trip to Nepal and there's no doubt it is a great country.

Aside from the stunning mountain scenery the people are just amazing, always smiling and always happy to help and provide assistance, all against a backdrop of unrelenting poverty. Many people in rural areas live without things we take for granted; toilets, running water, electric light, access to schools, access to health care, roads - they basically live a subsistence existence with even very young children having to assist in the fields and

gather fire wood and fodder for the animals and all supplies having to be carried (either by an animal or human) to the village. Many of these people are now left with nothing and their supply routes are cut off. It is going to take Nepal very many years to recover from this disaster. There are obviously a lot of needs to be met in the short term, especially with regard to shelter as the monsoon season is now upon them, but there will be a requirement for ongoing assistance in the longer term, providing assistance for people to rebuild their houses, restore water supplies, rebuild bridges etc.

One of the country's main sources of income is from tourism and these earthquakes are just another blow following the disasters on Everest and the snow storm on the Annapurna circuit last year, so there is likely to be very little income from this source over the coming months. Now that the media focus has moved away from Nepal it is very easy to forget that these people still need our

support. If you haven't done so already please consider donating some money, this is a poor country and you'd be surprised how far a small amount will go (i.e. the £50 tip we left our porters was going to enable them to rebuild their houses). There are many organisations and charities you can donate through and I'm not pushing any one in particular, though I do have a personal bias to ones who enable the maximum amount to get to the people who matter. One I have supported in the past is Community Action Nepal (CAN), a charity set up by the British mountaineer Doug Scott with the aim of working with mountain communities to provide assistance for the projects that they want to run.

Alternatively, you may consider planning a visit to the country (once things have settled a bit) and spending your pounds directly, we certainly plan to return next year to complete the trek.

Jon and Sandra Wells



Swanfest 2

Folk, Ale & Cider Festival



Would it or wouldn't it.....rain that is. The BBC forecast stated that Saturday 25th July would be the only day it wouldn't rain over the course of the weekend but when have the BBC or any other forecaster ever got it right. The dark clouds that I woke up to were rather ominous looking. I looked up to the sky and promised him upstairs that if he held off drenching us today I'd go to church at least twice before Christmas (I still have to pay back my promise)

It did rain...while we were setting up and the mixing desk had to be moved forward a few feet because at the end of the day it doesn't matter how much ale you spill down them and they will still work, they don't like water (or cider for that matter but that's another story)

But as the small outburst passed, the sun started to poke its fiery rays through the clouds and we were indeed blessed, with the rest of the day being warm and dry (and totally frantic on my part).

The Ascott Grapevine

As the first of the artistes started to arrive it was meet and greet time, show them where to park (didn't want them getting silly little letters on their windscreen for parking legally on the road like last year), help them carry equipment, show them where to put their instruments and where to change. Where's the food and beer is all they really wanted to know and what time are we on (don't they ever look at my e-mails, or the website, or the stage plan)?



Barbara (OBE don't you know) and **Nick** were the first to arrive for the business of sound checking, followed by **The Mad Larry Band**. **Linda Watkins** was already here but her husbands the sound engineer so she was alright and I'm sure he's checked her out a few times.

Everybody was in position as the good folks who paid a lot of money to watch all day started to drift into The Swan. The Barbie was fired up (it was pretty angry as it burnt holes in my Gazebo), The bar staff were stood to, eager and ready for the off, Elaine and I were dashing round like some kind of blue bummed thingies and Richard & Michiel were busy in the main bar checking tick-

ets, serving and doing what all good pub landlords do.

CHALICE were first on stage at 2pm, they had to go first as they had another gig later that day, so it was arrive, quickly set up, play and then bugger off. They are all very experienced at this sort of thing, they've played previously at Tiddy Hall & The Swan so were totally unfazed and their set went off smoothly and then of they went. It all went so quickly and don't think I even had chance to thank them and say goodbye.

The Mad Larry Band came on stage next and are the first blues band we've had at the folk club. The sound levels went up a notch or two as they burst into their first number and to coin a phrase, 'didn't they do well'. Well they may not have been playing together as a band for long but again, they are all very experienced musicians with a combined age of about three thousand five hundred and sixty two. They certainly got people going as the garden started to fill with even more folk, (must have been the smell of the Barbie that attracted them)

The Linda Watkins Band were next on the schedule, except there was no band☹. Mike was ill in bed and Pete was busy washing his hair apparently, but Linda is a real troubadour and she wasn't unfazed by these events and soldiered on bravely being the lovely lady she is. She sang a great set and then went back to being the stage manager, Multi-tasking is not a problem for her. For a bit of contrast some grumpy old git and a guitar came on stage next and played a couple of numbers.

Blondes with Beards were next up. They arrived early from Gloucestershire where



they originate from and stayed late (I like their style) and appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed their day. (Which I'm sure everybody did). Their set as always was varied and I particularly liked the washboard. Nice band, nice people 😊

Pete Joshua was next to step into the breach. Pete proceeded to take over the show, making the audience laugh, making them sing, making us wonder if he was ever going to sing a song (it's good to talk). He does have a wonderful way with his audience and his interactions with them come from many, many, many years of experience and honing his skills.

Toots & Fraser were a last minute addition to the proceedings after realising that I had an extra half an hour to fill. They only came back from holiday the day before but this did not trouble them one bit. They have done this all before and set the tone perfectly for what was to come next. I've even forgiven them for not playing the jungle book song.

The Skeptics were the penultimate act, carried on as they left off last year, singing some marvellous tunes acapella style, entralling the audience, me and the other artistes that were still left standing at this stage (well there was plenty to drink in the changing room courtesy of our sponsors 'Wychwood Brewery'). I must get these guys back again soon. Actually I think I promised them I would 😊

And now we approach the finale (all I wanted to do was fall asleep at this stage as I was feeling totally exhausted) as **Barbara** (did I mention the OBE) & **Nick** were preparing themselves in the dressing room. So to the sound of fanfare trumpets, drums rolls, heavenly choirs (I did say I was exhausted) **Barbra Dickson & Nick Holland** enter stage right.

What can one say about an international superstar coming to perform in a sleepy Cotswold village in West Oxfordshire? Well I can't and I won't because you really should have been there 😊

Peace & Love

Mark www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

Barbara Dickson

What a treat we all had. A lovely warm summers day, real ale and cider at the Swan which was all part of the 2nd Annual Folk Festival organised by Mark & Elaine from the Wychwood Folk Club together with Richard & Michiel from the Swan.



We enjoyed numerous folk and blues acts during the day and around 8pm, Barbara-yes-THE Barbara Dickson OBE took to the stage.

As a multi-million selling recording artist with an equally impressive Olivier Award winning acting career, Barbara has firmly established herself as one of the most enduring and popular artistes in Britain today.

Here are some of her highlights:

Barbara readily admits that she would have been happy to continue her life as a travelling folk musician, but a meeting with an old friend, musician and playwright Willy Russell, in Liverpool in the early 70s was to change the course of her career completely. Willy offered Barbara the role of the musician/singer in his 1974 Beatles' musical 'John, Paul,

George, Ringo... and Bert', staged at Liverpool's Everyman Theatre. She was on stage throughout the entire performance singing the songs of The Beatles alongside a cast which included Antony Sher, Bernard Hill and Trevor Eve.

Her first hit single, 'Answer Me', was released early in 1976 and a guest residency on the BBC's hugely successful 'The Two Ronnies' show later that year brought Barbara into the homes of more than 15 million viewers on Saturday evenings.

'Another Suitcase in Another Hall', her second hit, followed in 1977 when Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber invited Barbara to sing on the original cast recording of their new musical 'Evita'.

Her move to the CBS (now Sony) record label brought Barbara further hit singles including 'Caravans' and 'January, February' and 'The Barbara Dickson Album' in 1980 provided her with her first gold album.

By 1982, regular TV appearances and sold-out tours had cemented her status as one of the UK's most popular female vocalists. Her 'All For a Song' album that year was certified platinum and went on to spend almost a year on the album chart.

A return to the theatre in Willy Russell's new musical, 'Blood Brothers,' in 1983 was to mark Barbara's debut as a stage actress. As with 'John Paul George Ringo... and Bert' nine years previously, the show transferred from Liverpool to Lon-

don and in the process earned her the 'Best Actress in a Musical' award from the Society of West End Theatres.

In 1985 Barbara's single 'I Know Him So Well,' recorded with Elaine Paige and taken from the musical 'Chess', was released. It reached Number One in the UK and went on to become a Top Ten hit around the world, eventually selling over 900,000 copies. Further hits followed, but in the early 1990's Barbara began to move away from pop and back towards her roots in folk and acoustic music.

All in all a memorable evening which also raised much needed funds for the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. We certainly won't forget being treated to a wonderful selection from her extensive songbook as well as many stories from her forty years at the top.

Thanks again, Wychwood Folk Club and the Swan - those of us who attended from the village have a memory which will stay with us for many years to come. The day Barbara Dickson came to Ascott!

John Cull

Seen at the Swan - 18th July



He was a gentle man that much I

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HARRY HONEYBONE

A BOY GROWING UP IN ASCOTT IN THE LATE 1880s Part 3

(In his own words Harry continues his history.)

“At the far end of the village to the west, stands a thatched cottage. It is oblong in shape with doors front and back; it stands flush up to the road facing west; it stands on rising ground, there being three steps from the ground to the floor of the cottage. (*The present Appletree Cottage.*) A third of the south end of the interior is partitioned off by a wood partition. This portion is used as a scullery and pantry. At the north end is a fireplace which consists of a few bricks built up with short iron bars as crosspieces to hold the whole together and to hold the hot embers in position. The fireplace is wide with a recess at one side, room for two persons to sit side by side, as one sits there at night-time the stars of the celestial sphere can easily be seen. During the daytime the bright blue sky is plainly visible. Swallows and starlings use this broad chimney in the summer months for nesting purposes and rearing their young. During rainy and snowy weather the soot is fairly frequently brought down. A large chain hangs, or is suspended from a distance up from the fire with hooks attached for the purpose of suspending either the kettle or pot, a large receptacle which is used for cooking purposes, there being no means of roasting anything except in Dutch fashion, that is by using an oven which stands in front of the fire with the joint of meat or whatever requires roasting. In this boiling receptacle are placed all necessary requirements for dinner. The pota-

toes are placed in a net, likewise the cabbage or other green vegetables, a piece of bacon or ham as the case may be.

Sometimes a savoury pudding, sometimes a sweet pudding which consists of either treacle, jam, apple or any other fruit as the case may be. These are securely wrapped in pudding cloths. It is all boiled up together, timed of course for the various dishes so that all is done at the necessary time. I will admit that this is a bit Irish fashion but it was the only means at our disposal. Fresh meat for roasting being out of the question, especially roast, very rarely did one see this commodity at mealtimes. If any fresh meat was obtainable it was as a rule placed in the pot with the rest of the dinner. Perhaps you will see later on why fresh meat was unobtainable owing to the meagre wages in force in the district. Most of the year round there were suspended flitches and hams and shoulders of bacon inside our chimney just above the fire, drying. You would be surprised how dry and firm it was when taken down and unlike the Wiltshire bacon, it did not taste of smoke. When cut up it was as white as pure lard and quite appetising, quite sweet to the taste and far superior to bacon dried by other means. I am sorry to say it did not always belong to us, many people who had no chimney like ours used to dry their bacon there after salting. On the right of this fireplace, built into the wall, was an oven, large enough to hold 20 or more loaves

of bread. This used to be heated by placing inside faggots, these are bundles of wood 4 feet in length and one foot to 15 inches in diameter. These faggots were then set alight, there being a way for the smoke to go up the chimney; when the oven was the required temperature it was all cleaned out and the bread put in to bake. But it was very rarely that this took place bread being baked at proper bake-houses, a livelihood for many people and brought round and sold at so much per loaf. On the other side of the fireplace was the staircase leading up to the bedrooms, anyone wanting to reach the far bedroom must pass through the first one, it being partitioned off similar to the room below. The house was simply a shell with this partition fixed up. The birds used to make their nests in the thatch in the summer season and many a times they found their way into the bedrooms, sparrows and starlings alike. Attached to the house was a good sized garden with fruit trees, apples, plums, damson, gooseberry, currants; a pigstye hovel where wood, coal (when there was any) and straw etc. were kept, also the necessary privy with earth ash midden.

These conditions comprised the majority of the cottages in the village, house, gardens and the necessary outbuildings, only as some of the interiors were rather more up to date, having a proper fireplace with a small oven attached. The rental of the majority of these cottages was at the maximum not more than 50 shillings per year, some less of course. It was absolutely necessary for the people to feed one or more pigs during the year; as a rule one was sold to pay the rent, which was paid either annually or half yearly at Lady Day and September. The other pig was kept for household purposes. Unless there was a Grocer's bill or any other bill

to pay then usually one half of the pig went to pay this and the other half kept at home.

With grandmother and I living alone and our cottage the last in the village facing west, it was detached from any other, standing alone as it were. We used to be rather nervy at night-time because of so many roadsters about. (*tramps*) It was about a mile and a half to the nearest village beyond all of it in open country. On retiring to bed at night we used to take extra precautions by locking and bolting both the doors, then spragging one with a mop, the other with the sweeping brush. We had shutters I believe up to the windows. Across the road was a running stream of pure drinking water emptying itself into a trout pond just opposite our house, the other side of the wall, the stream running through the wall just opposite, the river flowed not more than 200 yards from our cottage.

Many times during the year when there was excessive rainfall or melting snow the river overflowed and reached yards past our house. On one occasion it came four inches deep into the house, we left it that night to its fate. A farm across to the right removed all their cattle and horses to a higher ground the same night. The mills of course were nearly always surrounded during flood time, the people having to live upstairs. During flood time to get from North to South across the valley there was no other means than to paddle one's own canoe through it. More than one person has been drowned. I remember one night during October, it was Stowe Fair in that district during September and October (there were numerous Autumnal Fairs held in the area) some people, two men in fact, were coming home from the fair after nightfall with

horse and trap, with another horse tied behind which they had purchased at the fair. Not knowing the depth and the current, the current was always strong as the water raced down the valley, they entered the water but had not gone far in when the current overturned the trap, drowned the pony, the one tied behind broke loose or the current washed it away and swam to safety to the other side of the valley. One man who could swim a little was washed across the flood and with swimming a bit managed to reach safety, the other poor fellow was stranded and in the darkness he clung to the overturned trap and yelled for all he was worth but with the noise of the water his cries were not heard for some considerable time.

Quite late at night someone heard him then the question was, what was to be done? The men of the village were roused, they went to the farmer to gather all the ropes they could find and in the darkness had to traverse a roundabout way, along the railway line, over the bridge to get to the other side, more than a mile and a half distant. They tied a rope round one man, he took another in his arms to throw to the “ship-wrecked” man, then he tried to creep along a wall, rather a difficult matter in the darkness but after much buffeting and nearly getting drowned they managed to rescue the poor blighter. A fire was lit and the two men remained on that side of the flood for the rest of the night to prevent anyone else from entering it. When talking about this incidence once our Reuben’s wife chimed in, “Do you know who the person was?” – it was some relative of theirs from Leaf-field. One night through the same cause, there was a pair of horses with a miller’s wagon and a man as well drowned

about four miles distance; these floods frequently took place.

From where we lived to the school was a little more than half a mile. There was during my schooldays three schoolmasters, one whose name was Knowles, the next one whose name was Hirst, the last one whose name was Bradford. The first two were married with families who used to assist with the teaching, the other was a bachelor but he had his sister to help him. I found out that it did not always pay to play truant by this time. The ways of transgression are hard, only on a few occasions did I stay away from school. Perhaps the experiences I had witnessed had some influence bearing on the altered situation. Anyway I cultivated myself out of the persistent and defiant attitude adopted at Handsworth. (*Yorkshire where Harry was born.*) I was put in a lower class on first attending but it was not long before I was put in a higher standard. It seemed rather marvellous how readily I took to learning, the advance was rapid. As time went on I made wonderful progress. The schoolmaster used to adopt the system of having his class in a semi-circle for spelling lessons, he would start at the end of his right and ask the first one to spell a certain word. If he or she, because they were mixed classes, was not successful he would pass on to the next one and so on until someone could answer him. The one who answered passed to the top of the class. I was invariably at the top. (I am sorry to say that I am not at the top now because there are many misspelt words in this scribble.) On one occasion during arithmetic, I was the only one in the class who did a particular sum, then the master made me take the rest of the class round the blackboard to show them how it was done. I am not boasting, I am telling you the actual facts, but I am

aware that truth is stranger than fiction. I used to like Reading, Arithmetic and Geography. I was never a good writer and I absolutely detested parsing and grammar, could not embrace these on any account. On more than one occasion I was fetched to teach the class. Don't think by any means that I had developed wings instantly because quite the opposite was the viewpoint, especially the schoolmaster. It was a poorly lit place was the school. In the wintertime there was only one room when I first went oblong in shape, ends east and west. They ultimately built another portion on the north side for the Infant's department. The lighting consisted of two or three small candle power oil lamps, either end of the school was semi-darkness. I and a pal of mine, whose name was Kilby, were playing about one day, laughing and talking to such an extent until I absolutely forgot where I was. All at once I bawled out "Dummer", this was his nickname. It silenced the whole class. I won't divulge what happened, but you may guess. On numerous occasions I have had wheels on my hands and also on my buttocks. The school closets were semi-detached from the school at the west end, the coal being in between, also a door. To clean these out there were some doors which opened onto the boy's side, the girls having one side, the boys the other. Sometimes these doors were left unfastened, then when the girls sat on the seat, we would open these doors and tickle their buttocks with a long stick, you should see them sprint off. Then the fat was in the fire. They use to go straight to the teacher, then you know what happened.

Sometimes when hare coursing was on the go, which was a sport held frequently during the winter months, this coursing was a decent sport, perhaps 20 or more

greyhounds would take part at one meet. These were led in pairs on a slip-leash, by pulling a string, the collars were unfastened and the dogs liberated. There was a rule three or four men on horseback, the remainder on foot; a couple of dogs were led across the field with a few followers until a hare was put up, the leash was pulled, the dogs liberated and the chase began. Although there were two dogs they did not always kill pussy, the hare was called puss. Of course there was a certain amount of gambling attached to the sport as to which dog would capture the quarry. On one of these visits most of the larger scholars went to watch the sport. On getting back to school it was the dinner hour and we dare not go back in, so we decided to send a deputation to see the schoolmaster to see if he would allow us in. No he was determined on that but however we hung around the school until he eventually sent for us to go in. The village green was close to the school, only the road divided it from the schoolyard. The foxhounds used two or three times each season to meet on the village green. The hound kennels were at Chipping Norton and belonged to Lord Brassey at Heythorpe.(*stet*) The time of meet was 11 am, just at the time when we had the morning relax playtime. I was one who preferred the hunt to school lessons. We followed them through the fields and woods, over hill and dale until we found ourselves at a place called Swinbrook. We saw them kill one or two foxes but the foxes were so numerous that the pack got separated, some hunting one fox, some another. There were two ran past us while we were in the wood. When they caught the fox the first there got the brush, the huntsmen cutting it off and presenting it to the first to arrive. This particular one was killed not more than six yards from where we stood. He also cut off the head and the

four feet at the first joint, then throws the carcase to the dogs, urging the dogs on by crying, "tear him, tear him," until it is completely devoured. It is not long in disappearing when fifty two hounds are pulling and tugging at it. This blood sport encouraged, witnessed and taken part in by the noble gentry of the district, the blue blooded, refined aristocrat, so called, ladies and gentlemen, those whom we have to look up to for example and guidance. How exalting and edifying to see a poor fox, which has been hunted by a fifty two to one chance, dogs not counting horses, men and women, the poor animal run to exhaustion point, then to give in to be torn to pieces by its pursuers. Are we far removed from the savages? Because ladies have to be what they call bloodied, to be initiated into the hunting circle on their first appearance at the hunt, at the first kill the huntsman rubs his finger in the blood of the fox and then smears it on the cheek of the lady bloodhunters.

I will try to describe the village and surroundings of Swinbrook. It is a most picturesque village, wooded hills, valley with stream of pure drinking water running through, one stream in particular coming from the hill and wood on the east side, runs alongside the footpath which is elevated above roadway for a considerable distance, then underneath the path onto the roadway. From here it spreads itself out onto the whole surface of the road and covers the surface running along for a considerable distance

until it branches off to the right, nothing whatsoever can pass along the road without taking the water course, perhaps now it may be different. It passes along until it empties itself into the River Windrush. This river has its source somewhere in Gloucestershire, the neighbouring County, passing through Barrington, Taynton, Burford, Fulbrook, Swinbrook and on through Minster Lovell to Whitney (*stet*), then winding its way as a tributary of the Isis and Thames. A beautiful village is Swinbrook, in fact the whole district is full of picturesque surroundings. There is one licensed house at Swinbrook and here the majority of the hunt were having refreshments prior to their departure to their various homes but we poor beggars had not a dime wherewith to get a crust of bread. We were witnesses to the fat kind feeding, we as the lean kind starving, nothing to eat since breakfast, about five miles from home and nothing but shank's pony to convey us there.

You may have seen hungry waifs and strays looking with hungry longing eyes through a cook shop window at all the savoury dishes exhibited there. Well we were in a similar predicament watching the blighters feed with a good strong horse to take them safely home. So we wound our sorrowful way home, having played wag, until we reached the first turnip field, then we appeased our hunger somewhat."

Wendy Pearse

THE PATTERN OF THE EVENLODE

When in 1870 he found the lovely old manor house at Kelmscott, not far from Lechlade, William Morris felt he had walked back into another age. A short walk from the upper reaches of the Thames and surrounded by distant fields, it served as a retreat from London where the firm Morris & Co. was becoming increasingly more successful.

“Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful”. This maxim by Morris is one that places in a nutshell his thoughts on interior design. It’s also why he remains popular, well over a century after his death. Today William Morris textiles can be found in homes not only in England, but world-wide. His work as a designer of upholstery cloth, wallpaper, furniture, carpets, book-covers, the printed page as well as dress fabric put him ahead of his time and at the beginning of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

He loved the Thames Valley and in the 1880’s decided to make patterns that related to the gentle flow of the tributaries of the river. So he created the Medway, Wandle, Wey, Kennet, Windrush and Evenlode designs. His inspiration came from nature itself and his studied observation of wild or more domestic plant species form the basis of his many patterns. As his biographer, Fiona McCarthy writes about the Thames series: “These are not merely patterns but something more demanding: they are packed, poetic commentaries, edgy intimations of

the stretches of the river that had meant so much to Morris since he was a child.”

Evenlode was originally designed in 1883 and block-printed onto an indigo fabric. When working at a single block, Morris was careful to ensure that on each printing the flow of the design would imitate the natural, coherent movement of, for example, the growth of a flower. He said of pattern making: *“Even where a line ends, it should look as if had plenty of capacity for more growth if it so would.”*

Today the pattern survives in “Evenlode Trail” an adaptation of the original de-



signed by Morris with an emphasis on a regular tulip design. For Victorian customers, they could go to his shop at 264 Oxford Street to make choices for the decoration and furnishing of their homes. Now to find an image of the pattern that is named after our river (available in four colours) we can look for the online outlet known as ‘The Original Morris & Co’ company...

Juliet Craig

DOCTOR, DOCTOR

Patient: Doctor, I think I'm becoming the invisible man.

Doctor: Sorry, I can't see you without an appointment.

Can there be a more depressing place than a doctor's waiting room? When I have to go, I do it very reluctantly. I sit there uneasy and begin to understand in a simple way Einstein's theory of relativity regarding time. I discreetly look around at my fellow sufferers and try and judge who amongst us is in greatest need to see the doctor. And when some are called through for consultation, they must pass into a parallel dimension, never to be seen in the present time again. I never see them come back through. Perhaps to cheer things up there could be a bingo session for those waiting. The fee to enter could go towards the NHS or the surgery fund with a free raffle for patients at Christmas, or why not turn the waiting room into a comedy club where young up and coming comedians who think they are funny, could try and make us laugh. If they could succeed in this, then they would be well on the way to success.

I look forward to when surgery waiting rooms will be obsolete. Each home will have its own medical computer, which

could be called Comdoc. You would punch details of your symptoms into the computer. Comdoc would then print out what tablets you need or what other treatment you may need. The Comdoc computer would be paid for each year by having to obtain a license, similar to having to get a television license. One question remains with all this technology. In the future will we need the human touch of a doctor? Do we need the human touch to be completely healed and is there a difference between being healed and being cured?

The bible says Jesus went around healing people. It didn't say he cured any bacon. I will end, as I started, by trying to be funny.

Patient: Doctor, I've broken my wrist and can't get my jacket on.

Doctor: Never mind there won't be any harm in it.

Patient: Doctor, my wife says I'm behaving like a monkey.

Patient: Nonsense. Stop scratching yourself and mind where you're poking your banana.

Fred Russell

Pantomime

Mark your diary/calendar for the evening of Sunday December 13th the Pantomime this year is Snow White (the Ascott version!).

Village Amenities

It is well known now that pubs are closing at an alarming rate as it has become more and more difficult for pub owners to maintain a sustainable profit margin. The reasons for the decline are many but they add up to the fact that people are not frequenting pubs in sufficient numbers.

What are the reasons? well frankly there are too many to mention now but here are a few:

- Cost – on average a pint of beer costs £3.50 (this varies dependent on the area and type of premises), whilst the equivalent from supermarkets can be about £1
- Pub owners- some pubs are not welcoming enough to a wider clientele
- Is the pub purely for alcohol drinkers?
- Are non-alcohol drinkers equally welcome?
- Is there a variety of food available?
- Are family parties welcome?
- Are there pub games or other forms of entertainment on a regular basis?

Location – in towns and cities fewer pubs are needed to cater for the dwindling numbers and the loss of one or two pubs is not a major problem for those who enjoy the social side of visiting a pub

Location is a very important factor in the loss of pubs. There have been many stories of pubs closing in villages up and down the countryside, at which point the residents suddenly realise they will be losing a main social centre, the

village church is one of the other social centres along with a village shop. Churches, however, are struggling to maintain congregations, so in many villages the pub can be the main hub. If a village pub closes and is allowed to change its function from a business to a residential building it is virtually impossible for a pub to be re-established.

In rural communities that have an attractive, well-run public house, there is a tangible bonus for homeowners, said John Longden, chief executive of “The Pub Is The Hub”, a non-profit group backed by the brewing and beverage industry, the Post Office and Prince Charles, the group’s patron.

Depending on the region and other factors, Mr. Longden said, “the difference in house prices between villages with a good pub and those without a pub can be as much as 10%.” When asked, a local estate agent said that it was easier to sell a house in a village if there is a pub.

One of the reasons for pubs being forced to close in villages is that some residents become complacent about the pub and believe that as it is there it will remain so, therefore, they never bother to visit their pub. With only a small number using the pub for drinks and/or food it becomes very difficult for a pub to remain in business. Passing trade from walkers, cyclists or holiday visitors is very location dependent so cannot be relied upon to boost trade.

So villages with pubs need the residents to visit in greater numbers, not every night or every week but reasonably often to maintain a very important village amenity.

Apart from the pub, other amenities in this village are the shop, garage (See next article), Post Office and the children's play area. The shop relies on volunteers to help run the store and for a reasonable turnover of stock to remain in business, if we want a shop in the village, we must use it. The children's play

area should be used to justify the cost of the erection of some first class equipment. The Post Office is open for two hours on a Friday afternoon at Tiddy Hall, the service includes all that you get at a normal branch. This is a very good service if you do not have transport out of the village.

Motorists Beware

There are many car owners who know next to nothing about what happens under the bonnet of their vehicle, so that if something goes wrong they take the stricken vehicle to a garage for them to fix the problem. We rely on the integrity and honesty of the garage to accurately diagnose the problem and then repair the vehicle. Our reliance on the honesty of the garage leaves us vulnerable to incorrect diagnosis by inexperienced mechanics or deliberate incorrect diagnosis in order to carry out unnecessary work, thus costing us money.

Recently my son was driving down to the south coast from Ascott when he found the car had overheated when he reached Pear Tree services. Time factors required me to transport him to his destination and then arrange for the car to be recovered to a garage, which is situated between Pear Tree and Charlbury. On my return I asked the garage to repair the problem which I diagnosed as a sticking engine coolant thermostat. On enquiring the next day I was informed by the garage that the problem was more serious than the thermostat as either the cylinder head gasket was broken or the cylinder head itself was cracked, a common fault for this vehicle I was informed. The diagnostic proce-

dure they said that they carried out was the correct procedure so initially I let them know that I would consider what to do next. The estimated cost was in excess of £1,000. However, research told me that head gasket failure or head cracking was extremely rare for the vehicle and my prior knowledge of car mechanics led me to believe that the diagnosis was not correct. My alarm bells were ringing.

I decided to drive the car back here carrying lots of water in case of overheating. I drove home without any problem and the car drove well apart from the engine coolant being pressurised. I asked Chris Wastie at Forge garage to look into the problem. Chris carried out his diagnostic process and came to the conclusion that it was indeed the thermostat that was stuck shut thus causing the engine coolant to overheat, expand and push water out of the header tank. My son's car was back on the road for a 5th of the cost quoted by the first garage.

Either the first garage quoted a very high cost because they didn't want the job or they were trying to fleece me. So, if you can, get a second opinion if the cost of the repair quoted for seems outrageous or get Chris Wastie to have a look, he saved me a fortune.

Keith Ravenhill

Coldstone Angling Club



The boys were individually given instructions on handling the fishing rod, setting up the correct float and shot, baiting the hook with maggots, where best to find fish, how to plumb the depth of the water, how to cast and how to land a fish when it bites. The boys then had a good amount of time in control of their own fishing rods and managed to catch fish of

On a warm and overcast Sunday morning in July, twelve boys from Ascott and surrounding villages arrived at the lake for two hours of free tuition in fresh water fishing to be given by members of the Coldstone Angling Club. The weather conditions were ideal and Pete Moss and his fellow anglers had already set up four pegs with seats, rods, tackle, bait and nets.



The Ascott Grapevine

a great variety and size. Some of the fish were very lively and had to be held firmly! By the end of the two hours the boys had pulled scores of Chub, Bream, Rudd and Perch out of the lake. Even a small Carp was in the net. It was quite a catch!

All the fish went back in the water at the end. Rupert Smith wrote: "On behalf of all the boys at the lake that morning we would like thank Mr Moss and the other

tackle for the use of club members. It will be looked after carefully and will hopefully bring much pleasure and good catches to this and the next generation of Ascott anglers.

If anyone is interested in fishing and in membership of the Coldstone Angling Club please get in touch with Pete Moss on 01993 830758.

Richard Smith



Coldstone Anglers very much for finding the time to give us a very interesting and rewarding fishing lesson." There are plans to organise another event and notices will be put up in the village shop in advance. The club would like to encourage as many young people as possible to become occasional or committed anglers.

The lake is a peaceful and beautiful setting and we are very lucky to have it in the village. It is a place of great interest for nature lovers all year round as there is always some change with the flora and fauna throughout the seasons. It is also a very tranquil place for just sitting and thinking.

The club would like to give its warmest thanks to John and June Pratley for their extremely generous donation of fishing



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Charity Run for Pancreatic Cancer Research

Running for Wendy and Ken, 2015



After I crossed the finishing line at the end of the 2015 British 10 k London run, I slowed down, tired and happy. A woman who finished ahead of me smiled and said 'Well done.' And high-fived me.

A brief touch.

During her final weeks Wendy was bed-ridden and sedated. She was still very keen on seeing people and it felt good sitting with her, talking and sometimes sharing silence. As soon as you sat down, she would grab your hand and not let go until you left. Although she was visibly weakened, her grip was strong.

'I hope you don't mind.'

Wendy was not desperately hanging onto life - I have not known anyone who approached her own demise with such calmness and dignity. She simply wanted to touch you, she wanted the contact. It

brought her closer to everyone who saw her, and it made her more unforgettable.

Touch is important. We use the word to describe emotional response: we are touched by someone, touched by what they say or do - we are touched.

Some months ago I listened to a programme about loneliness. A woman called in to tell the listeners that her husband had died almost 10 years ago. 'Since then,' she said, 'No one has touched me. I never realized how important touch was.'

Wendy knew.

On 12th July I ran the 2015 British 10 k London run. I ran for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, in memory of Wendy Butler and Ken Smith.



Together we have raised just over £1,500. Which is phenomenal.

Thank you.

Harry Kappen

Did You Know?

In June 1591 a survey of the Manor of Ascott Doyley was made for Sir Thomas Heneage, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who at that time held the manor from Queen Elizabeth I? In their words and spellings, the inhabitants described the village as follows:-

“It standeth in a valley the arable wherof is somethinge barren. There is a proper River Runnunge thorough the same, yeldinge divers sortes of fysshe. The meadowes upon the sayd Ryver are verye fertile. It scytuateth upon Wychwood forest which yeldeth the Inhabytauntes both common of pasture and wood. It standeth easte 3 myles distant from Burford from Oxford 9 myles.”

We have to remember that a standard form of spelling only came in with the Victorians and a set distance for mileage had yet to be established.

Wendy Pearse

Railway events at Ascott under Wychwood and Oxford Stations

Continuing our story

The Present

A few courageous parishioners have stood waiting for the various steam engine special trains that occasionally run through Ascott. I say courageous because it can be a frustrating occupation and the most recent example of this occurred when Ken James, my wife Avril, and I stood in rather dismal murky weather for a painfully long time only to discover that the train had passed through earlier than expected! Anyway, whilst I strongly advise those of you who are web connected to always first check the www.uksteam.info/tours website, I believe that on Thursday 24th September the Cathedrals Express should pass

through Ascott bound for Worcester behind LNER loco 61306; on Saturday 3rd October GWR loco 5043 will head the Cotswold Explorer bound for Worcester and Tyseley; and Saturday 21st November GWR locos 5043 and 4965 will jointly head south from Tyseley to Oxford and then return.

But, you have been warned....

The distant Past

Would you like to experience a grand day out by train in 1850?

The first Great Western Railway excursion from Oxford took place on Monday 2nd September 1850, destination London with fares of three shillings and six pence (17.5pence today but actually with years of inflation nearer £15 in value today)

Second Class and five shillings (25pence) First Class return. It used the original Grandpont Station in Oxford (where the large station car park is now, south of the Botley Road).

Thanks to the records of Jackson's Oxford Journal, from which I quote below, we can admire or pity our forebears for their enthusiastic spirit to get away by train.

The excursion, which was considered by many, but not by the Great Western Company, as designed to surpass all others, and to prove the striking feature in railway transit, was that on Monday last from this City to London and back. No sooner was this project announced than large numbers of persons of both sexes eagerly sought for tickets; during the whole of Saturday there was an eager demand for tickets at the station, and Mr Thompson's in the High Street, but more especially at Mr Plowman's offices in St Aldgates, being so centrally situated was beset the whole of the day. The confusion and excitement however which increased to a tenfold degree in the evening, especially when it was intimated about 9 o'clock that the supply was not equal to the demand, and that no more tickets would be issued until the following morning at seven o'clock at the station. This announcement was less than satisfactory to the hundreds that were waiting on Carfax for the fresh supply of tickets which they had anticipated had been coming. Accordingly the next morning they went in shoals to the station and were so clamorous, besides upsetting the usual course of things, that, after supplying a large number with tickets it was found necessary to suspend the selling of more until eight o'clock that

evening. Long before that hour the station was again beset by an immense number of persons who kept clerks employed to a late hour. Up to Sunday evening about 2,000 tickets had been disposed of and it was anticipated that on the following morning some hundreds more would be required.

By daybreak, coaches, gigs, carts and vehicles of every description, were seen pouring into Oxford from all adjacent parts, laden to excess with young and old. From five o'clock there was one continuous stream of people to the station, and a rush for tickets unparalleled in the experience of the Great Western Railway Company. By seven o'clock all who had their minds up to go were at the station, which presented a scene of indescribable confusion, the first and second class passengers being all huddled together, affording a striking illustration that in spite of a difference in charge, all who are bent on a cheap excursion must be on equality, and submit to an equal share of crushing and inconvenience. But the worst part of all was that the carriages sent for had not arrived from Paddington, owing to the coupling chains having broken three times on the way, and thus an hour and a quarter was lost, and everybody out of humour in consequence. They did however at length arrive and some parties who could not wait to have the doors opened made their entrance at the windows, and by adopting this, and the more legitimate course, every carriage (53 in number) was soon filled to overflowing. As proof, too, of the limitless desire of those who were bent on the excursion, a large number took possession of open cattle trucks, and were willing to submit to all of the consequential inconveniences, rather than be deprived of their days enjoyment.

At about half past eight, instead of a quarter past seven, this monster train, with two engines, started from the station amidst cheers of hundreds of spectators who lined the rail on each side, and wondered at the sight. The number that left the Oxford station was 2,530 second class passengers and 134 first class; total 2,664. The train stopped at Abingdon Road [*now Culham*] and three more carriages were added containing 15 first class, and 323 second class passengers. At Didcot the train again stopped, and had the addition of two carriages containing seven first class and 123 second class passengers; thus making a total of 3,132 passengers and 58 carriages. The appearance of this train on the curve at Didcot had a striking and interesting effect, for the whole extent of it, which was not far short of half a mile, was seen in one view in the form of a crescent.

In consequence of the delay in starting from Oxford, another half an hour was lost at Reading, because it was necessary to stop there until the up [*to London*] express had passed, but an immense

number of passengers employed the time, if not profitably to themselves, at least so to the inn keepers and publicans near to the station, and the excursionists may have had reason to suspect that the Reading publicans made their charges stronger than their drink. At length the railway bell rang [*then employed by station staff to announce imminent train departures*] and shortly after the monster train was on its way to Slough, where it again stopped, “to give the horses water” for the puffing engines needed a good supply. After this stoppage the engines went on at a merry pace to Paddington, which they reached at half past twelve.

The “monster train” did not return to Oxford, since the service was split into three portions.

I am grateful to Laurence Waters, railway photographer and author who lives in Oxford and is the photo archivist of the Great Western Trust at Didcot Railway Centre for providing me with this snapshot of our local, social and transport history.

Peter Rance



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Wychwood Library

Autumn 2015

Ebooks and eAudio

It is just at the end of the summer holidays now but still time to get caught up on all that reading of your choice before you are back at school or work. We have all the latest bestsellers and a huge variety of other titles to choose from.

Record Breakers

We have had another wonderful turnout for this year's Summer Reading Challenge "Record Breakers" based on the Guinness World Record books. The challenge finishes on the 12th September so there is still time to read at least six books and collect your certificate and medal.

If you attend Wychwood Cof E Primary School, you will receive house points for each book taken out and read.

A Reading Challenge for Adults as well

This summer Oxfordshire Libraries are challenging our adult readers to try something new with the Summer Reading Challenge for Adults. Pick up a postcard here at Wychwood Library and tell us what your personal Reading Challenge is, recommend books to other readers or tell us about a book you've read. All returned postcards will be entered into a countrywide prize draw.

This also finishes on the 12th September.

It is that time of the year to remind you of our ebooks service. Download eBooks to enjoy immediately or transfer to your eBook reader or other mobile device. This is available 24/7 from the website <http://oxfordshire.lib.overdrive.com>.

You can borrow up to three items for 7, 14 or 21 days using your library card number and PIN. If a title is on loan you can add it to your wish list and be notified when it is available.

Loans automatically expire at the end of the loan period so there are no fines!

You will need to download free software to your computer or device – full help and information is available in the 'Help' section of the eBook and eAudio Library.

Library cards please

We would like to remind you to bring your Library card with you when you visit the library. There are times when the Self Service machine is all that is available and you do need your card to access your account to borrow, renew or pay your account.

Volunteers

We are looking for more volunteers to join our wonderful helpers here at the Library. If you could spare a few hours a week, fortnight or even once a month to volunteer in the library alongside a member of staff please come and see us. Training will be given.

Stamps

We are a collection point for re-cycling your used stamps. The charity we are supporting is "Young Dementia" so don't throw those stamps away, bring them here.

Charity Coffee mornings

If you would like to host a coffee morning for a chosen charity on one of our Wednesdays please ask.

Have a great summer and come along and visit us at Wychwood Library.

Ruth Gillingham

Opening Times

Monday	2.00 to 7.00 pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9.30 am to 1.00 pm 2.00 to 5.00 pm

Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Closed
2.00 to 7.00 pm
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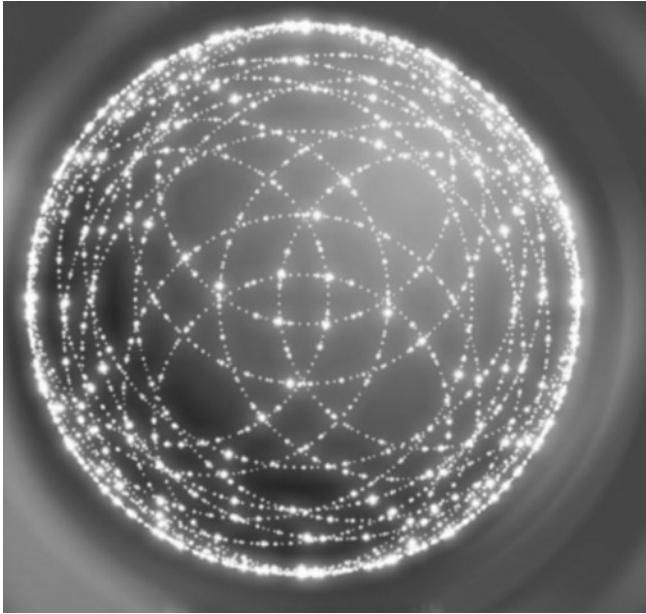
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In our 12th year of trading, the management committee, volunteers and staff send their greetings to the village community and we thank you for your continued support.

SHOP NEWS – SUMMER 2015

Welcome to the first newsletter from the new management committee. On behalf of Sally, Stuart, Mark, Bridgette our manager and myself, John, we are looking forward to another memorable year for the village shop.

On Tuesday July 7th we met as a new management team at the Wychwood Golf Club in order to agree our roles and to assess where we are now, our strengths and weaknesses and our priorities for the coming year. We decided that the big challenge is to continue to stay profitable even though we face fierce competition from on line shopping and the ongoing trade war between the leading supermarkets. Sadly, we are not immune from these factors that affect our everyday lives.

As a result we have decided we would like to make changes to staffing the shop on Saturdays and our intention is to create a Saturday Club similar to the Sunday Team. Mark Tribe and myself will put our names forward but we will probably need a further five or six volunteers to make this viable. As soon as we have a team Jane will help with putting this into the rota. The intention is that each Saturday Club volunteer would probably run a Saturday shift once a month.

Finances

You have probably noticed we have just posted our fourth consecutive £3000 weekly takings. This is great news and if we can maintain this figure, our year-end profit target of £1000 should be achievable.

Shop environment

We have recently installed a new fridge chiller by the front door. Not only will it keep the stock fresh, there will also be considerable cost savings in energy costs. We are now planning to install an awning at the front entrance where we can display seasonal products. This should offer an attractive feature to the shop and an opportunity to maximise those impulse buys!

Volunteers

This will be our top priority this year (as it should be every year!). We need to increase our volunteer pool and at the same time retain those who continue to provide a long-term commitment to the shop.

News & Views

- Jane has said she will continue with the rota in the short-term. We have promised to find a replacement, as it is unfair that any

The Ascott Grapevine

one person continues to take on this responsibility permanently! If you can help, please step forward.

- Following the AGM, Kathy and Rosemary have volunteered to reinstate annual refresher training for the till team. Systems and processes are always changing and this is an ideal opportunity to ensure everyone stays one step ahead.
- Plans are in place to hold a volunteer social evening (possibly in September). We hope to do this at least twice a year in response to your request at the AGM.
- As mentioned earlier, we will be forming a volunteers' Saturday Club, if you can help out please talk to Mark or Bridgette.
- It is still early days in organising volunteers to collect fresh meat & other supplies each week. Bridgette is working on this and will be in touch with those of you who have said you can help out.
- We have received comments that the hedges and bushes adjacent to the car park need some serious attention. We will look to commission someone to do this however, if you can help (or know someone who can) please let Mark or myself know.
- Another idea that came from the AGM was to arrange a weekend collection service for those who would like to have groceries from the shop but may be arriving too late on a Friday evening. Again, this requires someone to put a simple system in place. If this is

something you could help with, please let Bridgette know and we can see if we can set up a trial.

- I'm pleased to say we have been able to donate a magnificent £225.28 (collected in the tub on the counter) for the Nepal Fund following the dreadful earthquake in April earlier this year. Nearly 9000 were killed and around 0.5 million have lost their homes. Rob, the manager at Oxfam Chipping Norton was grateful for our generosity and extends his warm wishes to us all.
- Speaking of generosity, Harry Kappen was running in the London 10K on Sunday to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer and to keep the memory alive of Wendy and Ken who both died at far too young an age from this dreadful disease. Their spirit lives on ... well done Harry!

Spotlight on a Volunteer

Yes it's that time again and the nomination goes to Rosemary Dawbarn. Rosemary has done a sterling job as secretary



(and long term shop volunteer) and al-

The Ascott Grapevine

though we didn't want to see her leave, we felt it was the right thing to do as we had 'detained' Rosemary for at least two years after we promised she could leave her post! Rosemary will continue her shifts and as, mentioned, we're hoping she will be in charge of refresher training with Kathy. Rosemary is a great traveller with husband Mark and they are about to visit Sicily for the first time. Amongst her other 'retirement' activities, Rosemary is an active campaignologist and a volunteer for RDA (Riding for the Disabled).

We are now able to supply fresh meat, cheese & specialty fruit & veg of your choice.

Please let Bridgette know by phone or email each Wednesday morning by 10am latest.

Tel 01993 831240

Email shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

Thank you!

Committee roles

Sally Jordan; Secretary

Stuart Fox; Finance

Mark Tribe; Volunteers & premises

Bridgette Crundwell; Shop manager
(reports to the Shop Committee)

John Cull; Chairman

Onwards and upwards!

John Cull



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Oct 3 rd	Jim Moray + support by Said The Maiden £8.00 in advance £10.00 on Door	Tiddy Hall
Oct 17 th	Benita Johnson + support by Mark Pidgeon Entry £5.00	The Swan
Oct 31 st	Martin Carthy + Support £13.00 in Advance/£15.00 on Door	Tiddy Hall
Nov 7 th	Steve Turner £8.00 in Advance/£10.00 on Door	The Swan
Nov 21 st	Marie Dunn + support by Kim Lowings & The Greenwood £8.00 in Advance/£10.00 on Door	Tiddy Hall
Dec 5 th	Paul McClure £6.00 advance/£8.00 on Door	The Swan
Dec 19 th	The Hut People + support by Seth Bye & Katie Griffin £8.00 in Advance/£10.00 on Door	Tiddy Hall

If you would like to be added to our mailing list or want any further information then visit www.wychwoodfolkclub.com, or call **01993831427** or **07870563299** or e-mail: wychwoodfolkclub@gmail.com



Ascott Runners

There is a voluntary Lift Service/Village Taxi to/from Charlbury station for regular commuters. At present there are three names on the list displayed in the village shop. Please add your name to the list if you would like to join the scheme. This scheme should help to reduce running and parking costs for those of you making the regular journey.

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Have Your Say

West Oxfordshire District Council is inviting local residents to have their say on proposals that will reduce running costs without the need to cut services.

The Council is working with local authorities at Cheltenham, Cotswold and Forest of Dean on the 2020 Vision Programme, which is aiming to reduce the cost of providing services through sharing management and staff and making better use of IT.

At the same time, the Council will maintain the full range of services it currently provides and retain its own distinct identity. Elected West Oxfordshire District Councillors will continue to decide what is best for the residents they serve, and ensure local access to services.

As a result of the work on 2020 Vision so far, the partner councils are proposing initially, that the following services are shared:

- IT
- Public Protection
- · Building Control Legal

Continued over page

- Property
- Customer Services
- Revenues and benefits
- HR, finance and payroll (a shared service already established)

Not all partners will necessarily be involved in each of the above projects as some already have different arrangements.

Detailed proposals are going to each council in September and October this year. Before those meetings take place, the Councils are consulting with their local residents.

Cllr Barry Norton, Leader at West Oxfordshire District Council said: “Shared working is already well-established and proving to be extremely effective. Three years ago we formed a joint finance, accounts, human resources and procurement service with the 2020 partner councils and since then we have seen our administration and running costs fall dramatically; this is helping us to save money and safeguard services that matter most to residents. Furthermore, our actions have enabled us to balance our budget for the last three years, maintain the same level of Council Tax for five years consecutively and continue setting our own priorities to serve the best interests of local people.

“We are now looking at further opportunities to make efficiencies and would like the local community to let us know what they think about the proposals to share more services.”

How you can comment

You can have your say on these changes by emailing us at feedback@2020partnership.uk, letting us know the area where you live, or by writing to Communications - 2020 Vision Office, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1NB.

Please let us know:

- Do you agree with this approach?
- If not, how do you think the savings could be made?
- Any additional comments?

The 10-week consultation runs until Tuesday 15 September.

More information can be found at www.westoxon.gov.uk/2020consultation.

ASCOTT WALKERS



The launch of Ascott Walkers has gone well with new members arriving each month. There is now a possibility that the walks will continue through the winter.

We meet at the village green at 9:00 a.m sharp on the first Sunday of the month.

Local residents and visitors to the village are welcome to join us.

Dogs are also welcome on all walks.

All walks require cars to and from the starting place. Some transport will be available from regular members of the walking group who will normally car share. There is no need to book in advance. We book a lunch on the day if there is sufficient interest and generally at least have a pub drink at the end of the walk.

For further information about any walk, or availability of transport, please contact Paul/Pauline Jackson 01993 83 1967 07974 565 618

Please bring refreshment for a mid-point break.

Next walks:

Sunday September 6th

Long Compton/Cherington 5 miles

Sunday October 4th

Charlbury to Ascott 5 miles

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FUNERAL DIRECTOR**

TIDDY HALL

With all the new building works going on to houses around Tiddy Hall at the moment – mentioning no names – it seems entirely appropriate that Tiddy Hall should join in the fun .So this summer the committee have decided to ask a local contractor to carry out a number of works to the car park. The current car park has done us proud over the years, but those who use the hall frequently will know that after heavy rain , water slides at speed across the smooth limestone surface collecting masses of silt on the way which then deposits itself on the patio area ; it then dries and is walked into the Hall itself , lovely !

Anyway thanks to the efforts of the committee and the support of the village we intend to regrade the surface of the car park – removing much of the original limestone surface , then laying a blinding layer over the subsurface, installing a French drain alongside the bollards and then covering the car park with ,what is termed in the trade as a golden flint gravel, which is both very hard and long lasting. John Greatbach will be doing the work starting on August 10th and this will last about a week. Let us hope that days of scraping off limestone deposits off the patio after heavy rainfall are over ? Fingers crossed!

We have been asked a number of times recently about when we are going to do another Flix in the Stix. Well, Film Flockers everywhere, your wait is over. We shall be doing another Flix on Oct. 10th so please put that in your diaries. We haven't decided on the film yet. It might be "Far from the Madding Crowd" or the film about Stephen Hawking, "The theory of Everything". Perhaps you might like to let us know which film you would like and we

can see if there is a strong demand for it . Now that the kitchen is finished and we have new chairs, the website is complete and the Folk nights are well established we ,the committee, can concentrate again on other activities in the Hall. Flix is such a popular activity that we will do a show at least twice a year. Food and booze included , of course.

Talking of Folk Nights ,we continue to have some outstanding performers playing for us at Tiddy. Recently these have featured the *Red Moon Road*, all the way from Canada who apart from doing a great show at Tiddy also did an "off the cuff" performance in the Swan later on. Where do they get the energy from ? More recently the *Jigantics* performed for us with a great fusion of Blues,rock,folk and Americana . Our next show will be on September 5th featuring *Chris Leslie* who has played with the world reknown band *Fairport Convention* .He's also a local lad from Ad-derbury.

The other great thing about Folk Nights is some of the support singers we have had; up and coming stars who will no doubt make it to the top in folk music . With *Jigantics* we had *Kirsty Bromley* , what a voice ! and with *Chris Leslie* we have *Mark Harrison* . Please get advanced tickets from Mark Pigeon (07870 563299) or Elaine Byles - they're cheaper that way - and support live music in the villages. They're always great evenings.

During the summer we have Yoga and Quingong continuing in the Hall though I think by the time you read this the

programme(s) of Quingong will have finished, though it starts up again on Sept. 24th.

I'm looking forward to seeing the new car park and as I write this England are winning the third test match against the old enemy from Down Under !! Come on Boys !!

Cancel that last sentence: a win by 8 wickets – who would have believed it after Lords !!

Simon Gidman
Chairman

ASCOTT VILLAGE CHARITY RUN

This year's Ascott Village Charity Run will take place on Sunday October 25th at 10.30 am, starting on the Memorial Playing Field.

All proceeds will be donated towards pollarding the lime trees in the churchyard and re-instating the main path through the lime tree avenue.

The 10k is a very challenging, hilly course, the 5k is a fun run/walk suitable for all, apart from wheelchairs and pushchairs. Both courses are multi-terrain, but primarily off road.

The first 100 10k finishers will receive a technical T shirt, generously sponsored by The Rooflight Company, Shipton-under-Wychwood. The first 50 5k finishers will receive a medal, sponsored by Wychwood Folk Club. There are also prizes categories for both runs.

Entry forms are available from Ascott village shop, Ascott web site: www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk or by e. mailing Stuart Fox: stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Refreshments, changing and showering facilities and parking will be available.

If you would like to help with this event, particularly as a marshal (no prior experience necessary, you will be fully briefed), please contact Tony Gillings, 07584 294599/ e. mail:

tonygillings@btinternet.com, or to provide an extra pair of hands to help with the handing-out of water, medals and T shirts etc. at the finish line, please contact Elaine Byles, 01993 831427/ e. mail: elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk

Whether taking part or not, everyone is invited to come and buy refreshments – bacon butties, flapjack and drinks from 9.00 am.

Ascott Village Charity would like to thank Ros and Roger Shepherd (Ascott Hill Farm) and Bradley Wickens (Pulicote House) for allowing this event to take place over their land.

Gardening in Ascott

A few more topical entries from my garden diaries and some interesting rose training techniques from the wonderful Kent garden Sissinghurst Castle.

10th October 2014

It's been a lovely autumn, sunny with very little rain and very few days of cold wind. I have done a major cutback of the ivy and the Clematis Montana. A big job!.

Planted out all the white foxgloves which Mandy grew from seed.

11 October 2014

Started clearing the borders. Cleaned the greenhouse. Got most of the tender plants tucked away safely for the winter, but still more to do.

Need to do some more salvia cuttings.

13 October 2014

Seed order from Sarah Raven has arrived. I renewed all the sweet pea seeds this year. (I usually save my own seed from year to year from my plants at the end of the growing year)

14 October 2014

It's been a very mild autumn. Dahlia 'David Howard' was very late in flowering but now looking very good indeed.

16 October 2014

The first dry day for about a week. I still have a very bad cold, but cleared the front garden ready to plant out more foxgloves, and cut back lavenders at the

front of house, rather late in the year. I refilled all the lavender bags with fresh lavender cut from the front garden. Cut back all the foliage on the strawberry plants. Washed all the pots saucers and the seed trays ready for next year. Need to get the tender Salvias split up and under-cover in the greenhouse in the next week.

29 October 2014

The pear crop is great this year, lots of fruit in store and lots to use now. The best for flavour is from 'Doyenne du Comice' a tree which was a present from Patrick. One of the espaliered pear trees has only two long fruits but they are very large. The pear tree in the vegetable garden area is cropping very heavily this year.

15 November 2014

A busy weekend in the garden. Finish planting all the tulips in pots.

Paul cut the grass hopefully for the last time this year. Cut back the borders so we don't compact the soil by walking on it in the wet of January, when I usually do a big cut back and tidy.

Tulips planted in pots this year:

The big plastic pot - 30 bulbs of 'Cairo' (A single early Triumph tulip which is a deep orange with even deeper orange edges and centres. Sarah Raven describes it looking like a hanging lantern in a Moroccan souk lit from within. A great colour combination when planted in a blue glazed pot.)

2 plastic pots (to place in tall terracotta pots) of Sarah Raven's mixture 'Floren-

tine Mix' 15 bulbs of each variety in each pot.

(Tulips - 'Antraciet', 'Burgundy' & 'Tambour Maître' - 90 bulbs in all)

Five pots each with 7 bulbs of Roulette and Lasting Love (2 beautiful tulips, both red and Roulette has multiple flower heads on each stem which is great for flower arranging).

3 black plastic pots each planted with lily flowered 'White Triumphator' to slot into any gaps in the 'White' border in the Spring.

20 November 2014

Pruned and re-tied rose William Lobb. A big job! Next year need to cut out old wood, and replace the hazel supports. Also cut back the border around it to make room for a clematis to grow through the rose.

'William Lobb' is probably the best and healthiest of the Moss Roses.

It bears large, open sprays of double blooms. Their colour is both beautiful and variable - dark crimson, quickly fading to shades of purple, mauve and violet-grey. The blooms have a rich perfume and plentiful green moss. It is a robust rose, forming a tall, vigorous shrub with thorny stems and dark green foliage. 'William Lobb' is ideal for the back of a mixed border, where it can look over the top of smaller shrubs and perennials, or trained as suggested below. 6 x 6 ft

ROSES: a different approach to training of vigorous roses

I freely admit to be no expert when it comes to growing roses, but my method for training some of the more vigorous older varieties of roses which fits well

with my limited space was gleaned from regular visits to Sissinghurst Castle in Kent where they use a system of training which keeps these beauties well corseted. Of course given a bigger garden, these fountains of voluptuous, delicious-smelling, out-of-control geysers of flowers can be left to sprawl gracefully amongst shrubs and over low garden walls, but in my more modest space a different approach is required.

Old varieties of roses have a habit of producing long strong shoots very near the base which grow up during the summer. It is the shoots which form the foundation of the bush and send up sideshoots that bear the best flowers.

Sometime between October and December I cut, or buy, some hazel rods about 6' long and use these to create a roughly circular support system around the rose. These hazel lengths are called 'benders' and each one is bent into an arch by inserting the thicker end into the ground and bringing the slimmer tip over and inserting this in to the ground say 18" from the other insertion. By building up some overlapping arches of benders it is possible to produce a circular support which entirely surrounds the rose. The supporting structure needs to be strong enough to hold down the long whips of the rose.

Any dead, damaged or spindly growth is now pruned out, leaving the strong long stems ready to be tied in. The rose is then tied to the structure using soft string, bending over the long growth and securing it to one of the hazel benders. As each stem is tied down, the side shoots are pruned back to about 4 inches. By repeating this process with the other branches and securing them either to the hazel benders or to a suitable previous secured rose stem, a rough bush type shape can be

The Ascott Grapevine

produced. It takes some judgement here as the shape of the bush will be defined by the varying degrees of pliability of the stems which varies between rose varieties.

The shape needs to somehow look quite 'natural' and not too awkward.



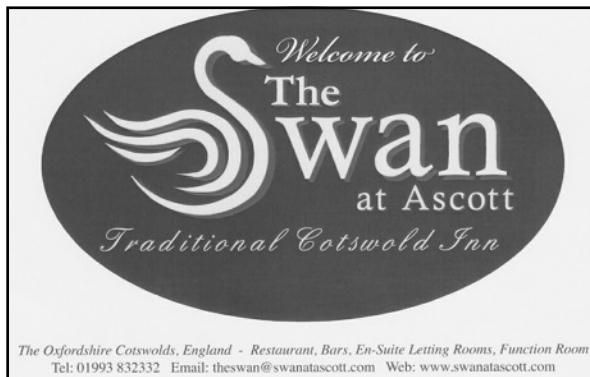
And you had to think ahead all the time, how would one stem affect another, and leaving long ones to the end, so that you had these to play with to help fill any obvious gaps. Gradually you can also start to see how the stems start supporting each other, so that it holds itself together and the likely chance of it springing out is almost nil.

This not only produces a bush with flowers not only at eye and nose height, but also stimulates, by the bending of the long growths, the production of more side-shoots, which in turn produces more flowers.

Three of my favourite roses which respond well to this training technique are the Hybrid Musk rose 'Buff Beauty', the Moss Rose 'William Lobb' and the deep-red 'Souvenir du Dr Jamain'. At Sissinghurst Castle garden they train many roses in this manner including roses Fantin Latour and Constance Spry responding well.

My final flourish is to plant one of the viticella type Clematis about 12-18" away from the base of the rose, using a cane to direct the clematis towards the rose. During the summer the clematis will weave its self through the bush and come into flower as the roses finishes flowering. This type of clematis fits well with the pruning and training regime of the rose, being cut back clear of the rose in Autumn and then given a final prune to within 12" of the ground in February or March.

Madeline Galistan



Solution to Crossword in Edition 86

Across

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ladle | 39. Tras |
| 6. Toast | 40. Ash |
| 11. Gas | 41. Pride |
| 14. Ended | 42. Roils |
| 15. Yules | 43. Email |
| 16. Emu | 45. Mousse |
| 17. Actual Price | 46. Staples |
| 19. Nus | 48. Hearken |
| 20. Moos | 49. Cadge |
| 21. Touch | 50. Fend |
| 23. Satraps | 51. Obi |
| 27. Dashiki | 52. Real Numbers |
| 29. A Frame | 59. Won |
| 30. Odeon | 60. Manic |
| 31. Crude | 61. Aerie |
| 32. All Is | 62. Log |
| 34. Eve | 63. Orate |
| 37. Roes | 64. Plebe |
| 38. Exact | |

Down

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Lea | 28. Adit |
| 2. ANC | 32. Axils |
| 3. DDT | 33. Lads |
| 4. Leu | 35. Valse |
| 5. Edamame | 36. Essen |
| 6. Typos | 38. Erie |
| 7. Ours | 39. Tour |
| 8. Ali | 41. Palermo |
| 9. Sec | 42. Road Map |
| 10. Tsetses | 44. MPG |
| 11. Genuine Risk | 45. Menu |
| 12. Amuck | 46. Scowl |
| 13. Sushi | 47. Taboo |
| 18. Lope | 48. Hence |
| 22. Oho | 50. Flit |
| 23. Sacra | 53. Ear |
| 24. Afros | 54. Ana |
| 25. True Heading | 55. Bel |
| 26. Rads | 56. Ere |
| 27. Dolce | 57. Rib |
| | 58. See |

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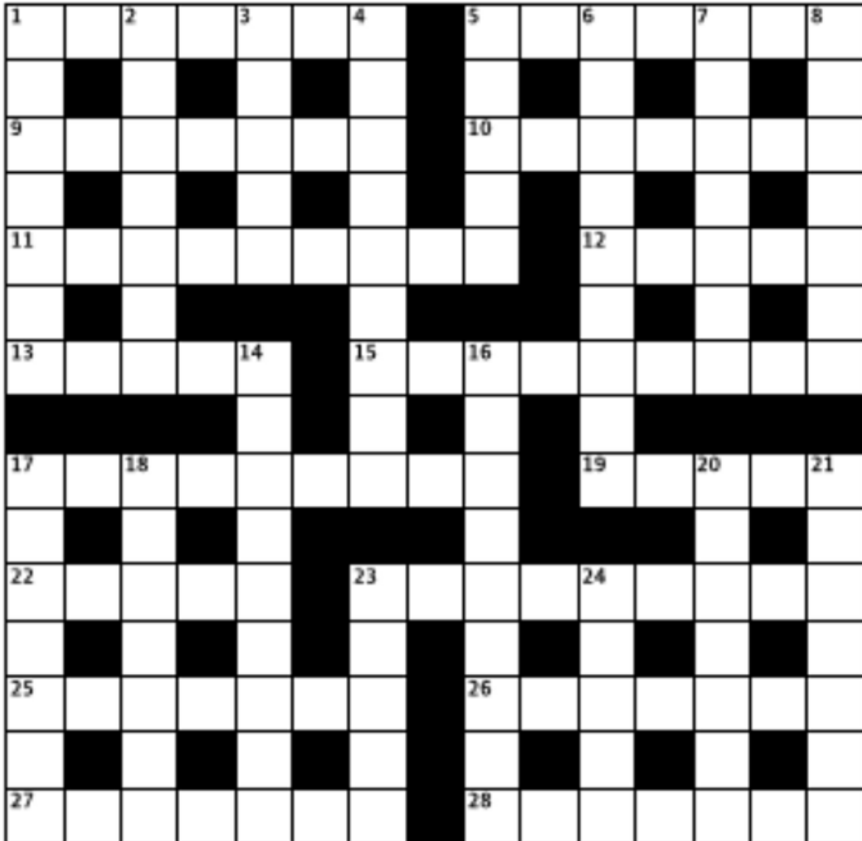


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Crossword



Across

1. Beethoven's fifth penguin? (7)
5. Pompous knights finally unseated in joust (7)
9. Silent movie star's sacrificed in film—wreath produced (7)
10. Went on securing gallery, ejecting one unknown thug (7)
11. Writer tails academic ignoring university order (9)
12. Eau de Cologne? (5)
13. Convention - Whitby's last hosted by retiring fellows? (5)
15. Arabs live all over the place - their values may change (9)
17. Old man's tract of land through which inlet runs (9)
19. British unit essential to further measurement (5)
22. Reach maiden in topless dress (5)
23. Liar hangs out in idyllic location (7-2)
25. Whistle-blower stops hard labour in plant (7)
26. One type of publicity I must spread round arena (7)
27. Mature sycophantic journalists might gather here (7)
28. Storage cabinet provided L by bald barber? (7)

Down

1. Two cases of executives catching better fights (7)
2. Gradually admit ropy Spanish hasn't succeeded when touring Spain (5,2)
3. Give another brief brush to ancient artefact? (5)
4. Barking terrier, extremely virile dog (9)
5. Orgy superseded on a regular basis (5)
6. He tips of six-footer currently playing well, perhaps (9)
7. Puny competitor, one entering after start of tournament (7)
8. Stubborn folk slip into islands (7)
14. Import deal possibly giving source of free fuel? (9)
16. Left-winger skirting last carriage run over (9)
17. There's talk of someone preserving a book of holy songs (7)
18. Skilled amateur in union creating scene (7)
20. Priest on team heartily curses exotic preparations (7)
21. Old Amerindian's lost a sheep going up country (7)
23. Firm dealt in clothing items, primarily (5)
24. Superficial damage to crop (5)

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

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WYCHWOOD HEALING 07780572283

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WYCHWOOD WROUGHT IRON 01993832850

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Events Calendar - 2015

Date	Event		
September 5 th	8.00 pm	Chris Leslie	Tiddy Hall
September 6 th	9.00 am	Ascott Walkers	Village Green
September 12 th	7.30 pm	Romance, Passion & Tragedy	Tiddy Hall
September 13 th	10.00 am	Service for Trees	Church
September 26 th	11.30-12.30 pm	JLCS	The Swan
October 3 rd	8.00 pm	Jim Moray	Tiddy Hall
October 4 th	9.00 am	Ascott Walkers	Village Green
October 10 th		Flix in the Sticks	Tiddy Hall
October 17 th	8.00 pm	Benita Johnson	The Swan
October 25 th	10.30 am	Ascott Village Charity Run	Recreation Ground
October 31 st	11.30-12.30 pm	JLCS	Wychwood Inn Shipton-u-W
October 31 st	8.00 pm	Martin Carthy	Tiddy Hall
November 7 th	8.00 pm	Steve Turner	The Swan
November 21 st	8.00 pm	Marie Dunn	Tiddy Hall
November 28 th	11.30-12.30 pm	JLCS	The Swan
December 5 th	8.00 pm	Paul McClure	The Swan
December 13 th	7.30 pm	Ascott Pantomime	Tiddy Hall
December 19 th	8.00 pm	The Hut People	Tiddy Hall
January 9 th	8.00 pm	Phil Beer	Tiddy Hall
February 6 th	8.00 pm	Fergus Elliot	The Swan
February 20 th	8.00 pm	Les Barker	Tiddy Hall