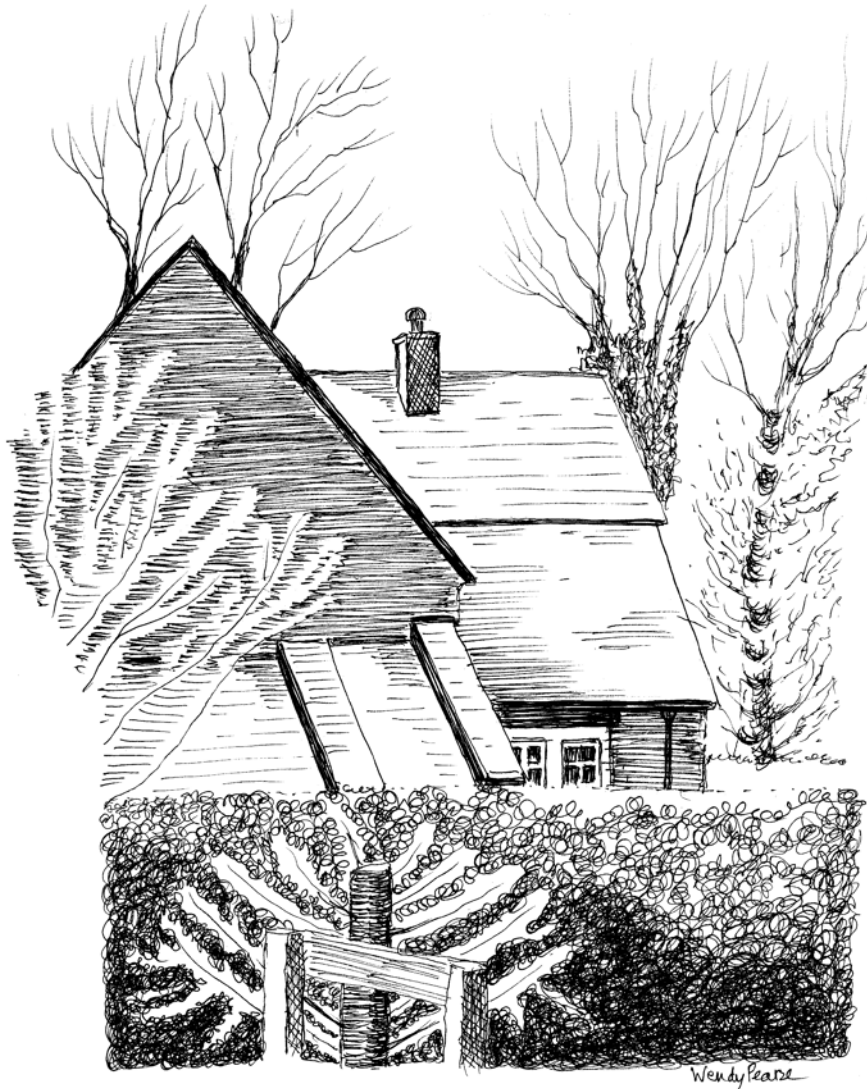


The Ascott Grapevine



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 1st February 2017.

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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Only if possible, any adverts submitted for publication should be in any of the following formats: .jpg .tif .png .bmp .emf .gif .svg .wmf but other formats can be used.

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 68](#)), 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 2016/17

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.

11 th December	1000	Holy Communion [CW]
18 th December	1600	Ascott Carol Service
Christmas Eve	1500	Crib Service
	1130	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	1000	Holy Communion [BCP]
8 th January	1000	Holy Communion [CW]
22 nd January	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
5 th February	1000	Holy Communion [CW]
19 th February	0800	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

Follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/chasebenefice

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
rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

Ascott Church

From the Associate Priest

Dear Friends

As our West Oxfordshire region voted 53.7% to 46.3% to *Remain* in the EU, many of us will have woken to the Referendum *Leave* result with a sense of disbelief, shock and apprehension. How is this going to play out? What will happen next? What about the unintended consequences? The divorce from the EU is now inevitable, but as one person interviewed in a TV news report said 'I voted to leave the EU, but not to break up Great Britain'. Much has been said and written about divisions in the country, uncertainties, mistrust, alienation, anger and sadness – but others speak of a future of opportunity, excitement and creativity. Divorce can be painful and messy – but life continues, sometimes better than before. We are where we are. After a campaign that has at times been bruising, offensive and dehumanising it is time for acceptance and healing. A time to think positively and productively.

The Church Times issued just before the result was known refers to a number of church voices from across the UK agreeing that: 'The UK must move towards

reconciliation and healing within communities'. One Church leader speaks of healing: 'We are a people of reconciliation; at its best the Church is a people of peace-making and bridge-building.' Another describes the way forward as 'To pick ourselves up and redefine our common humanity. It will take some nimble hard work, plenty of forgiveness, and a good dose of grace to move us forward together.'

The final part of a prayer produced by the Evangelical Alliance for the Referendum campaign is particularly apt:

Lord, after a decision is made grant us to accept it

and to move forward together with unity of purpose.

Lord, help us to be a people who live in peace and forgiveness,

seeking to be a blessing to others, pointing always to the love that flows from you alone.

Amen

Every blessing

Marian Needham

www.thechasebenefice.org.uk



Grapevine



The Grapevine Editorial Team wish a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year to all our Advertisers, Contributors and our readers all of whom make this magazine worthwhile to gather and put together something we hope you all enjoy.

From Stuart Fox, Wendy Pearse, Elaine Byles and Keith Ravenhill.

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RECIPE

This German cake, packed with fruit and marzipan, is traditionally enjoyed over the festive season.



Ingredients

2 Teaspoons of dried active baking yeast	50g (2oz) sultanas
175ml (6 fl oz) warm milk	50g (2oz) glace cherries - quartered
1 Large egg	175g (6oz) diced mixed peel
75g (3oz) caster sugar	200g (7oz) marzipan
½ teaspoon salt	Icing sugar to dust
75g (3oz) unsalted butter (softened)	1 teaspoon ground mixed spice
350g (12oz) Bread flour	50g (2oz) flaked almonds
50g (2oz) currants	

Method

1. Dissolve yeast in warm milk, leave to stand for 10 to 15 minutes until creamy.
2. In a large bowl, combine the yeast mixture with the egg, caster sugar, salt, butter and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the bread flour and beat well. Add the remaining flour, a little at a time, stirring well. If the mixture seems a little wet at this stage add a little more flour. Add the dried fruit, cherries, peel, almonds and mixed spice.

Continued over page

The Ascott Grapevine

3. When the dough has started to become elastic and pull together, turn it out onto a floured surface. Continue kneading until smooth, about 8 to 10 minutes.
4. Place the dough in a lightly oiled bowl turning the dough to coat it with oil. Cover with a damp cloth and leave to rise in a warm place. It should double in volume in about one hour.
5. Remove the dough and place on a lightly floured surface and roughly shape to a rectangle. Roll the marzipan into a rope and place in the centre of the dough. Fold the dough over to cover the marzipan and pinch the seams together to seal.
6. Place the stollen seam-side down on a lightly greased baking tray, cover with a damp cloth, put in a warm place and allow it to rise until doubled in volume. This should take between forty minutes and one hour.
7. In a pre-heated oven, cook at 180°C (gas mark 4) for 10 minutes then reduce the heat to 150°C (gas mark 2) and bake for a further 30 to 40 minutes until golden brown. Timings and temperatures may vary according to your oven!
8. Cool and dust stollen with icing sugar.

Christmas Pantomime

Hansel and Gretel

Don't forget the Christmas Pantomime at the Tiddy Hall on Sunday 11th December. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Opening with a short poem by Wendy Pearse revealing some amazing facts about our village, followed by "Hansel and Gretel" an everyday story about the area we live in, well almost!

After a refreshment break Mark Pidgeon, well known for his folk and country style singing with the Wychwood Folk Club, will get us all in the mood for Christmas with some sing-a-long tunes for us all to sing merrily.

Entrance is free so get along nice and early to ensure you get a seat. There will be a box at the door at the end for donations for the Grapevine magazine and as yet an undecided charity, all will be revealed closer to the day.

A main sponsor for the pantomime is The Swan , your village pub.

Donations to The Grapevine

We are especially grateful for the generous donations we have recently received, Thank you

Autumn time at Preschool

It's the start of a new term here at Ascott-under-Wychwood preschool and we have been delighted to welcome back children and parents after the summer break and to have some lovely new families join us too.

During these first few weeks we have been busy getting the older ones prepared for Forest School, which we run every Wednesday throughout the school term for children aged three and above and have done so successfully for the last nine years. We usually start the children off slowly, getting them used to going out of the setting and listening to guidance from the staff. As part of this introduction, we have been taking them on lovely walks through the village, starting with walks up Gypsy Lane over the little bridge and picking a few of the juicy blackberries along the way to take home, although most of these were eaten on the walk back to Tiddy Hall! There seemed to be quite a bit of dog poo on the way but luckily we managed to avoid any accidents!

We have also visited the allotments to learn about growing fruit and vegetables and the children had the wonderful opportunity to pick some of the last ripe raspberries of the season and pull up some potatoes to take home for dinner.

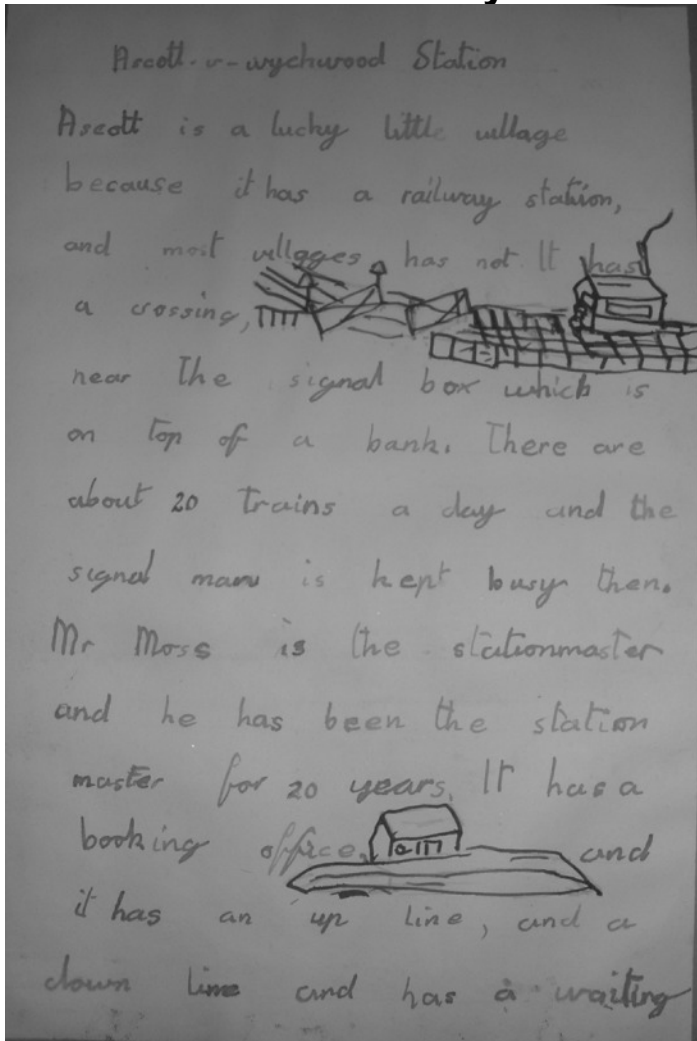
During our outings the children have all been interested to learn about the changing colours of the leaves and have noticed those that have already fallen from the trees as we get further into autumn.

Soon we will be taking the children for their very first trips to the Bruern Estate, by kind permission of the Astor family, where they will be continuing visits for the rest of the school year. Here they will learn about all aspects of woodland life, from den and fire building, to identifying animal footprints, fungus and nettles and spotting some of the wide variety of wildlife in the woods too.

For more information about Ascott-under-Wychwood Preschool, please visit www.ascottpreschool.org.uk or telephone 01993 832671.

Ascott School Journal c1955

The Railway



Ascott-u-wychwood Station

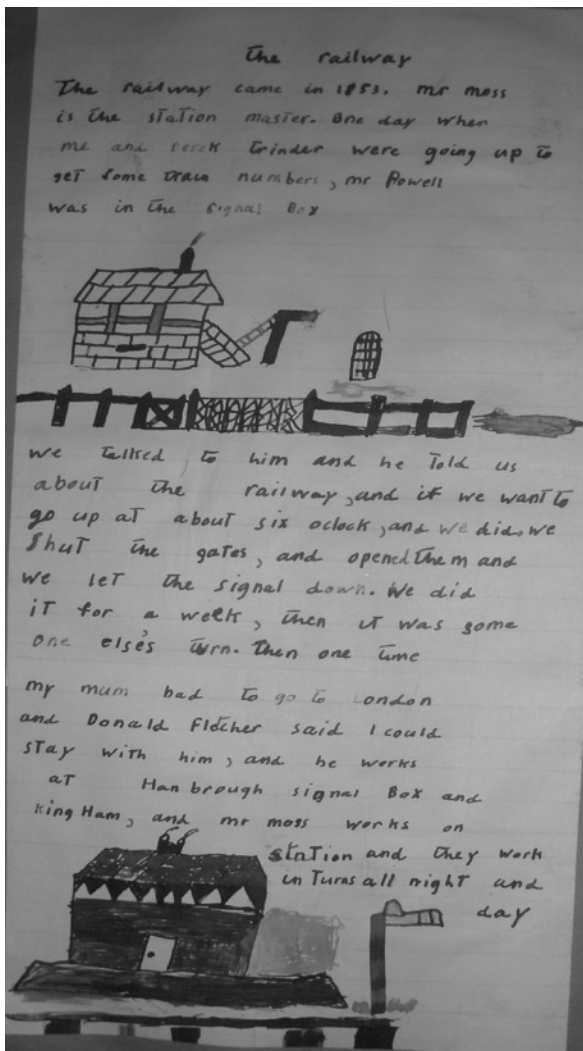
Ascott is a lucky little village because it has a railway station and most villages has not. It has a crossing near the signal box which is on top of the bank. There are about 20 trains a day and the signal man is kept busy then. Mr Moss is the stationmaster and he has been the stationmaster for 20 years. It has a booking office and it has an up line, and a down line and has a waiting Continued over page

room Mr Moss lives in a little wooden house that leads to the road and to the railway station. He has to carry water from a tap about 100 yds away. The signal box has a stove in, and has a thing that goes click and it rings at the same time



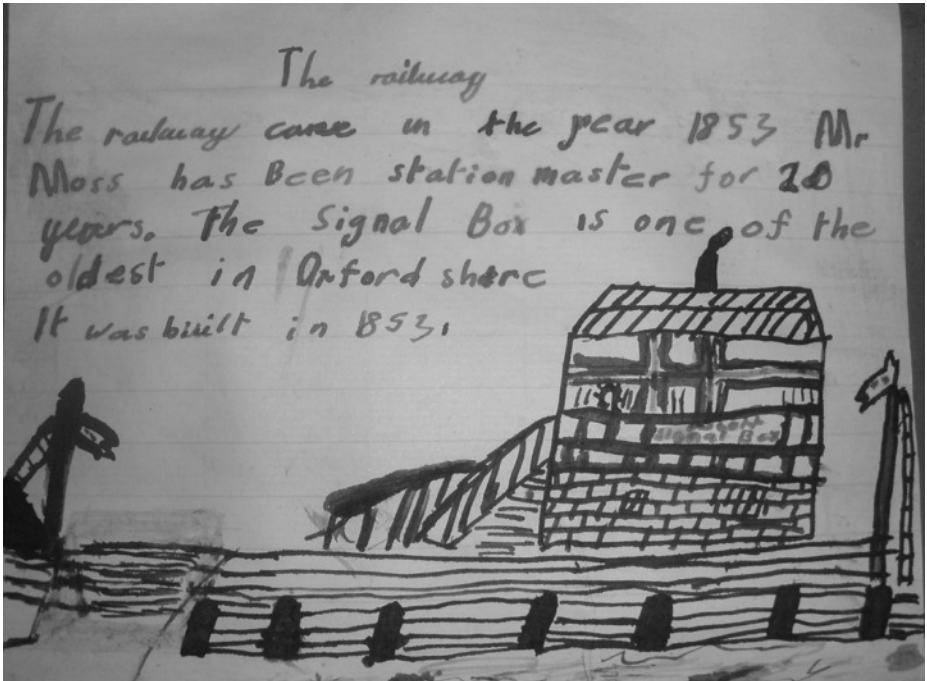
Room. Mr Moss lives in a little wooden house that leads to the road and the railway station. He has to carry water from a tap about 100 yds away. The signal box has a stove in, and has a thing that goes click and it rings at the same time

The Ascott Grapevine



The Railway

The railway came in 1853. Mr Moss is the station master. One day when me and Derek Trinder were going up to get some train numbers, Mr Powell was in the signal box. We talked to him and he told us about the railway, and if we want to go up at about six o'clock, and we did, we shut the gates, and opened them and we let the signal down. We did it for a week, then it was someone else's turn. Then one time my mum had to go to London and Donald Fletcher said I could stay with him, and he works at Hanbrough signal box and Kingham, and Mr Moss works on station and they work in turns all night and day.



The Railway

The railway came in the year 1853 Mr Moss has been station master for 20 years. The signal box is one of the oldest in Oxfordshire. It was built in 1853.

From the Parish Magazine Oct
1882
"Our line was constructed
about 28 years ago, and
was opened as the
Oxford, Worcester and
Wolverhampton Railway.
Through bad management
it did not prosper
well at first, so that
from its initials
(O.W. and W) it obtained
the ignominious name
of the "Old Worser and
Worser" but after a
while was amalgamated
with the Great Western.

From the Parish Magazine Oct 1882

"Our line was constructed about 28 years ago, and was opened as the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway. Through bad management it did not prosper well at first, so that from its initials (O. W. and W) it obtained the ignominious name of the "Old Worser and Worser" but after a while was amalgamated with the Great Western.

Nature Notes

By the time this edition of the Grape Vine is delivered we will be heading towards the shortest day and deep mid-winter, an ideal time to look back at the summer just past and look forward to lengthening days and spring's rebirth.

Although the previous winter was relatively mild and the summer was warmer than average and not too wet, for me one thing was missing. Where were all the butterflies? Even my cabbages didn't suffer the usual ravages from the kind attention of the caterpillars of Large and Small Whites!

The spring season started well with overwintering Brimstones coming out of hibernation in reasonable numbers followed by one of the best years for Orange Tips



and Green Veined Whites that both spend the winter as pupae, with the adults on the wing from April through to June. After that there was a rather quiet period which extended right through the summer months. Yes, there were butterflies such as the Large White, Ringlet and Speckled Wood, but in much reduced numbers and it wasn't until late in the year that we saw encouraging numbers of Red Admirals on the wing.

During my misspent youth, in the 1960's, I used to be an avid butterfly collector killing and setting these beautiful insects. At that time twenty five of our fifty seven native species were to be found in abundance and taking a few didn't seem to be harmful. Today the situation has changed and once common species such as the Wall Brown and Small Copper have virtually disappeared and butterflies should only be collected, using the camera and not the killing jar! The Small Copper numbers fell by 65% in 2015 and a further 30% in 2016. The Wall Brown, which was once a common butterfly, has seen an 87% decrease since 1976 and is also struggling in Europe. Locally I cannot remember when I last spotted a Wall Brown.

What has changed and why was this summer season so poor despite weather conditions being good? If the summer had been cold and wet, like 2012, we would have expected a fall in numbers. Likewise extensive winter flooding in 2015 would have had a major impact on many of our grassland species, such as the Meadow Brown and Large Skipper that



spend the winter either as pupae or in the case of the Skipper a larva, at low level amongst the grass stems. Neither of these

The Ascott Grapevine

situations applied so the fall in numbers of some species this year cannot be easily explained.

About fifteen years ago I planted a couple of Buddleia shrubs and once they had matured they regularly attracted large numbers of Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells and Commas when in flower. This year the only regular visitors in reasonable numbers were Large Whites.

Peacocks, Tortoiseshells and Commas all overwinter as adult butterflies, emerging in late spring to mate producing one or two broods during the summer. There seemed to be very small numbers emerging from their winter sleep and consequently very few new generation adults on the wing in late summer.

This year one very notable absence in this area was the Painted Lady. This butterfly is a summer migrant arriving here in May and June. These early summer visitors breed and produce adults in late summer, but they are unable to survive an English winter. In some years they can be found in substantial numbers, but this year I saw one! Other migrants include the Clouded Yellow, which travels to England from the Mediterranean arriving here from July to October. They never appear in large numbers, but I was lucky enough to see one near Great Tew.

One butterfly that has always been abundant when the Brambles are in flower is the Gatekeeper, a brown butterfly with bright orange patches on its fore wings. On a warm summer's day you could expect to see large numbers feeding on patches of Bramble. This year this common species suffered a 40% decline, despite there being a very healthy blackberry crop.

Of course species do decline in some years and prosper in others, depending on weather conditions, availability of larval food and for some species that are confined to a small geographical area, local



conditions, but for many butterfly varieties the long term trend is downwards. There is no easy explanation for this, but loss of habitat, changes in farming methods, wide use of agricultural pesticides, pollution and predation by parasitic flies and wasps may all contribute.

It's not all doom and gloom, some varieties did well in 2016. The Ringlet a dark brown butterfly with noticeable white eye spots on the underside of its wings in-



creased by 32% in 2016. The Speckled Wood, another dark brown butterfly, this time with white chequered markings on

The Ascott Grapevine

the fore wings and eye spots on the hind wings, not only increased numbers in 2016, but in recent years has extended its range northwards in England and a small Scottish population has expanded its range eastwards from its former stronghold on the western coastal areas. The Large Blue which had become extinct in the UK has been reintroduced and despite its strange life style, which relies on spending its larval stage in the nests of a certain species of ant, is thriving albeit in

a localised site. Other butterflies that have thrived in 2016 include; Green Veined White, Marbled White, Small White and the Red Admiral (possibly as a result of early summer migrants breeding successfully).

Every year since 2010 there has been a Big Butterfly Count, which this year involved 38,237 entries. The results for 2016 showing the numbers of each species seen and the percentage change since 2015 are shown in the following table.

Rank	Variety	Number Seen	% change from 2015
1	Large White	62,890	2
2	Small White	61,955	15
3	Meadow Brown	57,281	1
4	Gatekeeper	47,597	-40
5	Ringlet	26,968	32
6	Red Admiral	26,568	70
7	Peacock	18,508	-42
8	Green-veined White	16,879	58
9	Small Tortoiseshell	12,335	-47
10	Speckled Wood	10,271	12
11	Marbled White	9,461	58
12	Large Skipper	8,182	-2
13	Comma	7,514	-46
14	Common Blue	5,938	-55
15	Painted Lady	4,246	-23
16	Holly Blue	3,969	-48
17	Brimstone	3,629	-20
18	Small Copper	2,286	-30

What can be done to conserve our native butterflies? Gardeners can plant nectar rich plants, such as Alyssum, Aubrietia, Wallflower, Honesty, Valerian, Sweet William, Lavender, Verbena, Michaelmas Daisy and Sedum that will feed the adults enabling them to breed successful-

ly. Owners of larger areas of land can set-aside wild areas including nettles, wild flowers and areas of coarse grasses and when planting hedgerows include as many of our native species as possible as these will provide the food-plants for our native butterflies. Native trees and shrubs that

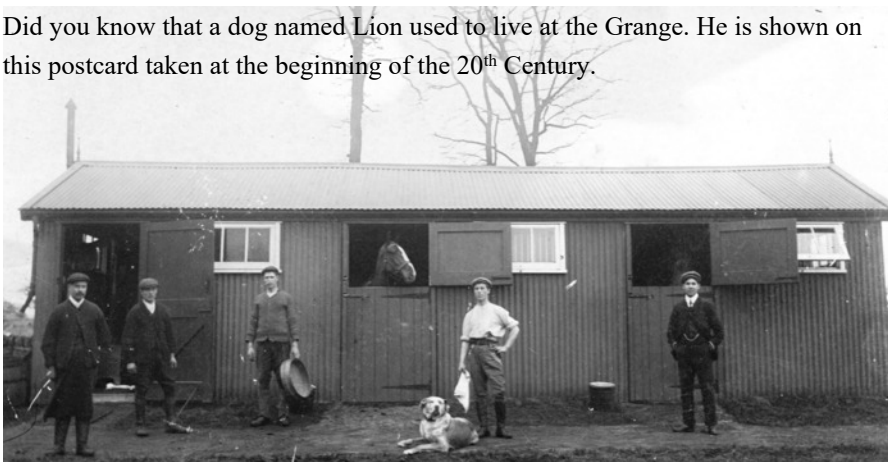
provide food for butterfly larva includes, Buckthorn, Holly, Blackthorn, Ivy, Gorse, Honeysuckle, Sallow, Pussy Willow and Bramble. We can all support our county Wildlife Trusts and organisations such as butterfly conservation

It would be very sad if we were to lose these exotic jewels of summer.

Stuart

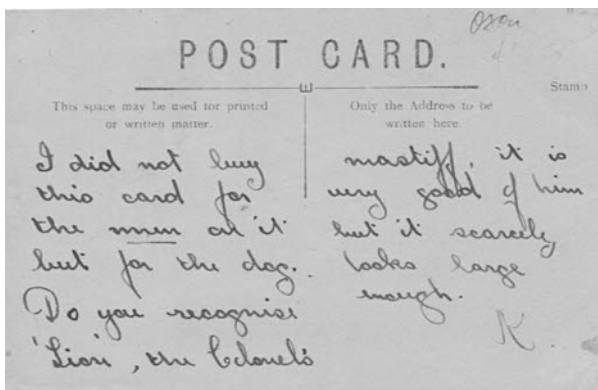
DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that a dog named Lion used to live at the Grange. He is shown on this postcard taken at the beginning of the 20th Century.



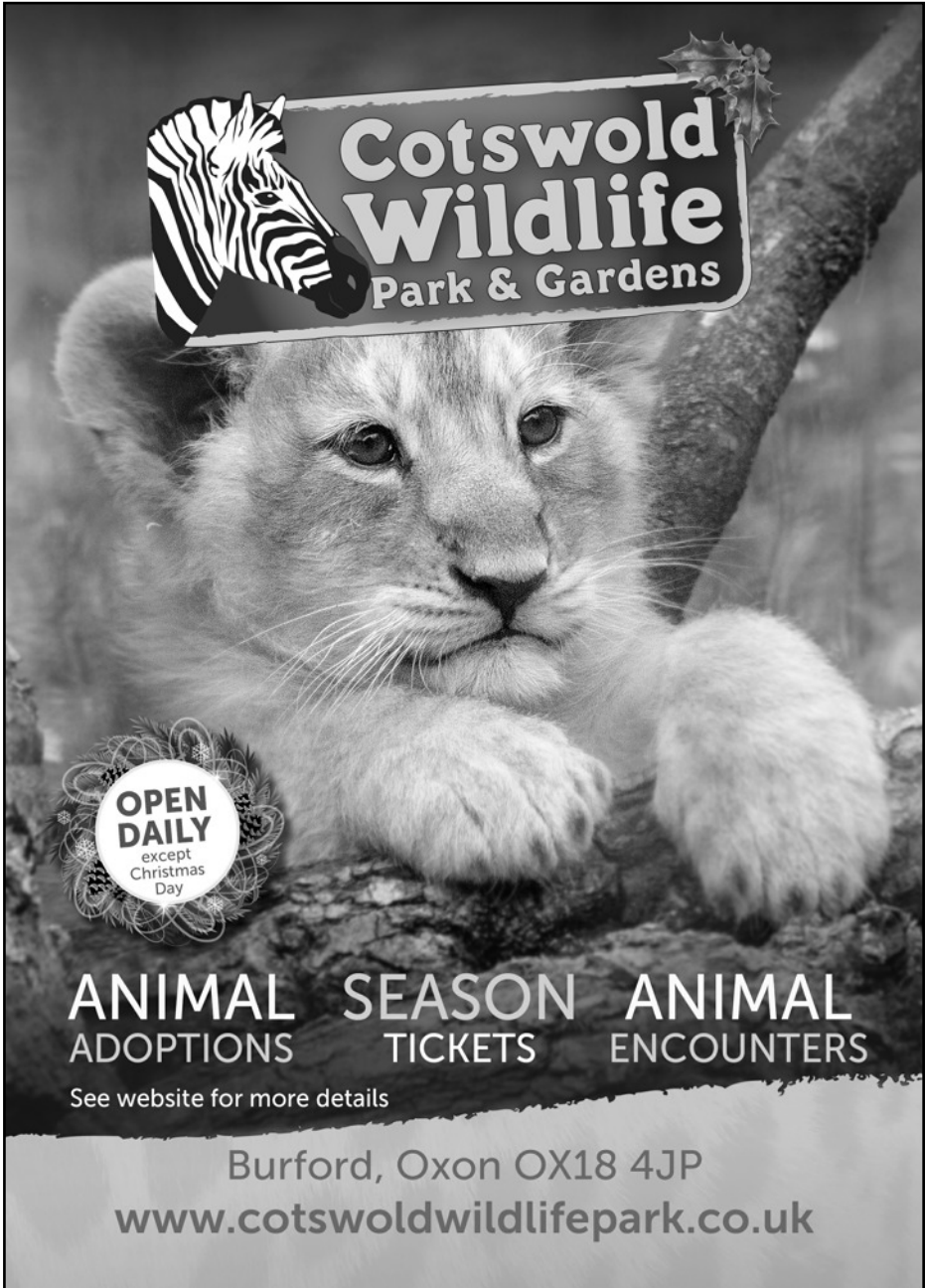
Along the bottom of the photo is written - 'Ascot under Wychwood' 'The Grange Stables.'

The message on the back reads:



We do not know who 'K' was or who she sent the message to but the Colonel was probably Colonel Henry Railston who owned the Grange in 1912.

Wendy Pearse



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Beware fraudsters claiming to be from the HMRC

Residents in West Oxfordshire are being warned of a phone scam that is currently taking place across the country.

Fraudsters pretending to be from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are calling unsuspecting residents and telling them they are under investigation and are due in court.

The automated phone message then asks you to press 1 to speak to a case officer. **Please do not follow this instruction.**

Instead, hang up immediately - this is a scam and if you continue with the phone call it could direct you to a premium-rate number which may accumulate very expensive charges on your phone bill without your knowledge.

The reminder follows calls to be extra vigilant about any emails from GOV.UK which claim the recipient is eligible to receive a tax refund. The email claims this can be recovered by completing and submitting a tax return form - the form asks for the recipient's bank details.

We advise all residents to be wary of any unsolicited calls and emails from unknown companies. If you cannot verify the identity of the caller, do not give out any personal details, especially bank details.

To report a suspected scam contact Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cyber-crime reporting centre:

- **Call:** **0300 123 2040**
- **Visit:** **www.actionfraud.police.uk**



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New waste and recycling calendars now online

West Oxfordshire's new waste and recycling collection dates are now published for the next 12 months and can be viewed and downloaded online at www.westoxon.gov.uk.

As well as accessing online bin collection calendars, residents can register for handy weekly email alerts about waste collection dates, including a reminder the day before about which bins to put out and helpful information about changes to collection days over the Christmas period and bank holidays.

Over 8,000 householders are registered for email alerts and receive weekly email reminders of their next collection.

Paper copies of the waste calendars are available for those that do not have web access. These can be picked up from:

- The District Council's Town Centre Shop and Elmfield offices in Witney.
- The Guildhall, Chipping Norton.
- Burford Visitor Information Centre.
- Carterton Town Council
- Woodstock Town Council.

As well as bin collection information, residents can use the alerts service to receive information about planning applications registered near to their homes.

Media enquiries:

Communications: tele: 01993 861615 mob: 07771 965360

e: communications@westoxon.gov.uk

Visit our news centre at www.westoxon.gov.uk/news

Christmas Carols

Don't forget, weather permitting, Christmas carols will be sung around the Christmas tree on the Green on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm.

Christmas Waste/Recycling Collection Dates

Normal collection

Monday 26 December
Tuesday 27 December
Wednesday 28 December
Thursday 29 December
Friday 30 December
Monday 2 January
Tuesday 3 January
Wednesday 4 January
Thursday 5 January
Friday 6 January
Monday 9 January
Tuesday 10 January
Wednesday 11 January
Thursday 12 January
Friday 13 January

Revised collection

Wednesday 28 December
Thursday 29 December
Friday 30 December
Saturday 31 December
Tuesday 3 January
Wednesday 4 January
Thursday 5 January
Friday 6 January
Saturday 7 January
Monday 9 January
Tuesday 10 January
Wednesday 11 January
Thursday 12 January
Friday 13 January
Saturday 14 January

Garden waste collections suspended 25 December - 9 January.

Normal collection dates resume Monday 16 January 2017.

Tis the season to be aware of recycling:

Once the gifts have been opened, the mince pies eaten and the needles are dropping from your tree, don't forget that most of your Christmas waste can be recycled!

Extra recycling

Leave in open cardboard boxes or clear bags on your collection day. (Glass must go in your recycling box).

Extra food waste

Leave out your kitchen caddy for weekly collections too.

Christmas tree recycling

From 10 January, Real Christmas trees, holly, ivy and mistletoe can be put out as garden waste. (Remove decorations, pot, wire etc.). You don't need to be signed up for garden waste collections - simply leave out on your green collection week. Trees over 4ft/120cm must be cut in half.

For more information, visit www.westoxon.gov.uk or call 01993 861000.



CHILDREN'S CHARITY CEILIDH

The ceilidh in aid of 'Jennie's Children's Trust' was a marvellous success – as many people who attended (and danced the night away) will agree. Friends from Ascott and neighbouring villages all gathered together and sat at various tables not only to watch the dancing, but to join in! All age-groups danced. Everyone delighted in the fine, jovial music of 'Jigworks' and the competence of their caller who encouraged so many onto the floor at Tiddy Hall. The pies and chutney and sticky toffee pudding gave us renewed energy for merry-making.

Several have talked about 'next time...' which is not something we have planned as yet, but we'll see. The outcome of the evening was a brilliant sum of over £1600 towards the Trust.

'Jennie's Children's Trust' was begun over twenty years ago by my sister, Jennie, who felt she would like to share a favourite place in Pembrokeshire with children who were suffering some kind of trauma. Ever since I could toddle, my family has been to this exquisite and wild spot of Britain that makes you feel happy, just to be there. We continue to go every year (and Homer just loves it on those wide, unending beaches...).

Over the years children arrived with their families to stay in a rental holiday cottage, paid for by the Trust. Here they could simply...holiday. I remember the first children we received were two Bosnians, accompanied by their parents. The mother was pregnant, the father hardly spoke, being too shocked by his experiences of war. It was lovely to share the simple enjoyment the children gained and I recall running with them across the sand and into the sea – something they had never seen before.

Other children have suffered not only the horrors of war, but chronic illness, bereavement or difficulties that have been temporarily alleviated, even if for one short week, by the blessings of nature and liberty.

Thank you for your support. The Trust continues its work.

Juliet Craig

Fame (of a funny kind) Comes to 43 Shipton Road, Bedroom 3

Some of you may have seen young Tom Gidman doing a comedy stint at the Swan pub, sandwiched in between professional comedians, Steve Bujega and Matt Ford, and others. Well someone's got to fill in the gap!

Tom has done quite a bit of stand up at Bristol Uni, both as a solo comedian and with a good, small but well formed, friend of his as a double act.

In January he entered, and won, the South west region of Chortle 2016, a national student comedy programme, and then went to the semis held on the River Thames in London. There we thought the journey would end.....but no, out of 16, he was one of 8 successful winners selected for the final Chortle 2016 National event to be held at the Edinburgh Fringe in August.



Kate and I, along with great friends Josh and David Ridley - plus it seems half of Britol Uni - went up to watch Tom in the final. Tom doesn't do observation comedy; his is more of wacky, impersonation

type of comedy featuring Andy Murray's comedy club, Ed Milliband and David Attenborough and a bit of magic thrown in for good measure. All this in his allotted 7 minutes. Mark Watson compared the show.



Hard to believe this perhaps, but again perhaps not, with the volume of laughs he received during his set, but he actually went and won the event; and Ascott under Wychwood has its very own Chortle 2016 national comedy winner. Great excitement in the household.

Things didn't end there, and there followed a number of requests to perform at the Fringe, a review on Radio 4 (after the Archers) and a small slot on TV Channel 5, Saturday morning show with Gabby Roslin.

It's all too much for Mum and Dad who now need a rest ; and I notice his bedroom needs a good tidy up ! Really, who does he think he is ?

HIS DAD

CHINESE WHISPERS

OR DON'T TAKE YOUR EYE OFF THE BALL

If I were to start a revolution I would think it good tactics to start at the centre and work out toward the edges.

Has the Prime Minister taken her eye off the ball by concentrating on security at a nuclear power station in Somerset?

Is she aware that in the West Midlands the four biggest football clubs Birmingham, Albion, Wolves and Villa, have all been taken over by the Chinese? I have great respect for their ancient civilisation and culture and on the few times I have tried Chinese food, I have enjoyed it. But I would draw the line at eating dog although it would be interesting to know which breed tasted the best and what sauce would improve the flavour. A Jack Russell would be alright for a family Sunday lunch. But would you need a great Dane for a spit roast at a church fete or a pop festival?

Is my imagination running away with me? Supposing one August Bank Holiday in the near future, weather permitting of course, all people around Birmingham were persuaded to go to seaside resorts around the coast of Britain. Once there the takeover of 'Brum' would begin. Millions of Brummies stranded like refugees. In places like Weston camped on the sands until the tide came in. It would not be a pretty sight.

I am told by a lady who lives at Bourton on the Water there are dozens of coaches from Birmingham that visit Bourton every week. This lady who once lived in Ascott and a supporter of the W.I. all her life, told me she is ready and waiting to organise soup kitchens if a refugee camp is set up for Brummies who cannot return to the second city.

I think all of us would be well advised to start practising with chopsticks.

Fred Russell

P.S. Could the cooking of dog in various ways be another big hit for the B.B.C. to match The Great British Bake Off and other cooking programmes I see every time I switch the T.V. on?

THE VILLAGE FETE

You ought to have been at our fete last week

On our village green.

It would have made you laugh I bet

At what you would have seen.

There was a tug of war on the rummage stall.

One woman with a corset,

Found it far too small, she caused a brawl

When she tried her best to force it.

She moaned and squeezed, she bent at the knees

To try and get it round,

But when she breathed in, and thought she'd won

Another bulge she found.

One old bloke who'd bought a suit,

It didn't cost him much.

But it didn't fit, the seat was split,

And too tight in the crotch.

When he tried it on, it came undone,

It burst open at the seam.

He had no underclothes, he was all exposed

Which made the ladies scream.

What a frightful sight, it's never right

What our children now can see.

He should have known, before he left home,

There's such a thing as decency.

There were odd socks and frocks and coloured frocks

And loads of ladies knickers,

Some so big you could have hid

The choir and our two vicars.

On the produce stall was another maul

When someone squashed their onions.

Tears in their eyes, they looked surprised

And threw tatters at the young ones.

There was a marrow there, two foot or more

That one bloke said he'd better.

He said that his was twice the size

And full grown would be fatter.

Peas and beans, all sorts of greens

And lettuce by the sackful;

Whoever bought and ate that lot

Would have a real big plateful.

There was a 'Roll a Penny' and 'Aunt Sally'

And bowling for a tenner,

But one poor chap was out of luck,

He knocked the tea tent over.

The Ascott Grapevine

Cups and plates and homemade cakes
Went flying through the air.
Jam and cream and clouds of steam
Got splattered everywhere.

Smack in the eye went an apple pie
Of the woman selling toffee.
Around the place every face
Was stained with tea and coffee.

The fancy dress got in a mess
When a young girl went as Eve.
A large cheese flan hit her when she ran
And she shed her three fig leaves.

When the fig leaves fell she began to yell

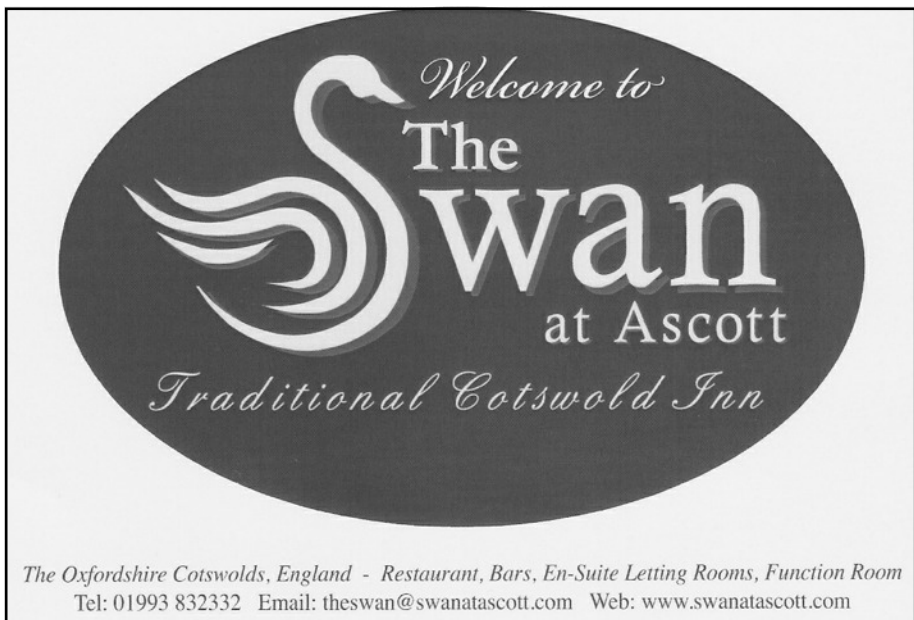
‘Oh woe I am undone’.

‘We don’t mind that.’ shouts one young chap

‘You’ve got a lovely bum.’

It went on ‘till late, our village fete,
There was dancing on the green.
Pony rides, and loads more besides
In the pouring rain.

Fred Russell



Ascott under Wychwood PC **News**

NOVEMBER 2016

PLANNING

Planning issues have been our main focus recently. Cottsway has applied for planning permission to build 6 affordable houses on the site of the garages at the top of Maple Way. This had been rumoured for a long time but in the end the application was made during August without any consultation with the Parish Council and with minimal consultation with the worst affected residents. There have been several meetings with Councillors and residents and thank you to resident, Kester Harvey for instigating the first meeting. All have agreed that affordable houses are welcome but that we object strongly to the proposed layout of the houses. This goes before the Planning Committee on 7 November.

A lot of our time has also been spent considering ‘retrospective’ applications. A retrospective application creates added pressure for the Parish Council because an objection from us could potentially result in the owner being told to pull the building work down – not a happy situation. Also, retro-

spective applications often come about when neighbours have complained about a building or alteration suddenly appearing without warning. To avoid a lot of work and ill feeling we strongly recommend that residents take advice from the WODC Planning Office when considering alterations to their homes and offices – sometimes even architects, surveyors and builders give wrong advice. The advice from the Planning Office could end up saving you time, worry and money. It is also good practice to talk to the neighbours who will be affected. We understand that this is not always easy but it could mean the difference between a reasonable compromise or a lot of bad feeling.

ASCOTT HISTORY

Victoria County History Trust - This Trust was set up during Victoria’s reign to record all the documented history of each County in England. During the August break we had a visit from Dr Simon Draper of the Oxfordshire branch of the VCH as he wanted to inspect all the Parish records. Simon and the team are based at County Council offices but funded by the

Trust. They are coming to the end of compiling the Oxfordshire History and the section about the Wychwoods will be ready to be published by 2020. A draft history of Shipton-u-W was web-mounted earlier this year and Simon hopes to web-mount his account of Ascott-u-W shortly. (See {Ref})

Ascott Martyrs – Many of you may know that Paul Jackson has been keen to develop a memorial to the Ascott Martyrs which compliments the commemorative seats on the Green and explains the reasons why the women and events were so significant.

Many very interesting ideas have been discussed throughout the summer and one decision has been taken - to develop a web based rather than a physical museum. Much more is under discussion and Paul and his team are committed to creating something that will make the residents of Ascott-under-Wychwood proud.

Paul has written a more detailed article elsewhere in this Grapevine edition.

WINTER AND FLOOD RESILIENCE

We are now making sure that all is prepared to deal with the worst of the winter weather. We would like to take this opportunity to ex-

tend a very big thank you to Chris and Janet Badger for storing the village gritting and snow ploughing equipment over several years and to Chris and his team for being on standby to clear our roads when necessary. We would like to extend every good wish to them both for a long and happy retirement.

As most residents know, we usually have one or two incidents of road flooding per year plus occasions of flash flooding. Earlier this year the OCC drainage team checked and cleared many of our drains but because of budget cuts they only plan to carry out future maintenance every 4 years. Please help us to keep our village road drainage system clear by removing the debris/fallen leaves that accumulate around a drain outside your house – this would be an **enor-**
mous help. Any seriously blocked drain should be reported immediately on the ‘Fix my Street’ part of the OCC website and please make the PC aware as well.

Farmers have started to cut back hedgerows and clear ditches and OCC have dug some of the grips again. These are slits in the grass verges which drain running water off the road where there are no drains higher up the Chippy Rd and London Lane. They serve to reduce the amount of storm water

reaching the heart of the village and the PC is hoping to be able to keep these grips open more regularly now that OCC has cut this budget as well.

PRECEPT PLANNING

The repercussions for the Parish budget from OCC cuts had become clearer by the August break. We have taken decisions with regards to road and verge maintenance as well as bus and library subsidies. We are still waiting for the OCC decision regarding the Wychwood Day Centre funding.

CHRISTMAS

We have been notified that GWR is aiming to repeat the pre

Christmas Saturday trains that stop at Ascott on 26th Nov for Worcester Christmas Fayre plus 3rd, 10th and 17th Dec for Oxford. **However, we have to wait for confirmation** because Network Rail must first approve them because of potential impact of engineering works. If the trains are running, GWR will place adverts on Ascott Station noticeboard.

And finally By the time you read this it will be nearly time to put the Christmas decorations up. We hope you have a wonderful festive season and don't forget the Village Christmas Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve. Fingers crossed for a dry evening this year!

Best Wishes

Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

Parish Council:

Philippa Carter (Chairman)	830344
Peter Rance	831113
Sandy Timms	831870
Mark Tribe	359769



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Have your say on district's parking strategy

Following a car parking survey which took place earlier in the year, West Oxfordshire District Council is now seeking people's views on its' new parking strategy.

Over 2,600 people completed the council survey last spring and this data, coupled with further in-depth research, has led to the development of the strategy for West Oxfordshire.

The report offers a range of proposals including the provision of more parking spaces in key areas, improvements to existing facilities and a review of enforcement. It will provide a blueprint for the Council to help make a decision on any proposed parking changes or improvements.

The key policy of free parking at all 15 car parks across the district which the Council owns or manages remains at the heart of the strategy. Detailed solutions for individual car parks and communities are not included as this will vary for site to site.

Cllr Carol Reynolds, Cabinet member for the Environment and Community, said "The Council is committed to providing free car parking as it is a fantastic way of supporting our local economy, businesses and residents. But we are well aware of the growing population and the need for additional spaces, so we are looking at different ways we can improve parking capacity in the future, including working with the private sector.

"The strategy is flexible and will be amended as circumstances change or significant new parking concerns arise. We are keen to ensure that all the key issues are covered and welcome people's views during this consultation, which ends on 14 November."

The parking strategy is available to view at council reception points and online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/parkingstrategy

Comments should be emailed to parking@westoxon.gov.uk or sent to the Parking Manager, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1PB before 5pm on Monday 14 November 2016.

Notes to editors

- Once agreed the Parking Strategy will formally be adopted in December.
- Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for on-street parking across the County. Any suggested changes to this provision will need to be referred to them for further action.

Ascott Martyrs Project

Progress Update

The Ascott Martyrs were a group of defiant women who were imprisoned in 1873 for supporting their striking husbands in Ascott Under Wychwood. The traumatic event led to riots and a pardon from Queen Victoria. The legacy today, which is generally recognised is that picketing is allowed and Magistrates are no longer local religious leaders. Emma Walker, Researcher at the Wychwood Local History Society, is following this up. The project which is now underway will raise the profile of the event to ensure a legacy for the village community and descendants. It will also provide continued awareness in the local schools as well as a centre for information and research.

The first task after our launch in September where we played a BBC 1984 drama and 40 villagers attended was to form a small Steering Committee which we have just done.

The main tasks are fundraising, which Kester Harvey from Maple Way, is leading. Kester is the Commercial Director of the Shipton Rooflight Company who has kindly donated £2,000 to the project. If anyone has suggestions for other possible funding sources do let us know.

We are building a team of researchers and will welcome any members of the community who would like to join the group. Wendy Pearse, who more than anyone has kept the story alive, acts as a Senior Advisor.

The other main task is what we are calling Community Relations which is tasked to develop public relations, marketing including a virtual museum on the website, as well as displays in the village and educational programmes with the schools. Carol Anderson of the High Street who is the Director of the Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock brings a lot of experience to the team. Again, anyone from the community is welcome to join and help develop the project with Carol. See the advertisement overpage.

The first decision of the Steering Committee was to abandon any idea of having a permanent museum in the village. Whilst no doubt this would have been the right thing to do even 5 years ago the emergence of the internet is meaning that more information can be “displayed” and a story more fully told via the internet so we will be setting up www.ascottmartyrs.org.uk. We will then be able to keep the community up to date on our progress and gradually add the results of the society’s research, as well as others plus archives.

We are also going to set up an Educational Trust and operate on a non profit basis with Trustees from the Village Charity and an actual decendent of the Martyrs.

The response from the village to the project has been very positive. It is certainly felt that the Martyrs’ story should have more recognition especially around the village itself. We’ve already had many suggestions ranging from a memorial bus shelter on the green, more

The Ascott Grapevine

information under the Martyrs tree itself, display boards in the Pound, a shelter in the recreation ground and a sign as you enter the village "Home of the Ascott Martyrs." More ideas are welcome.

Another project is to have the community make a memorial mosaic which could possibly be sited at the entrance to The Swan pub. Again if you would like to be part of the team (if it goes ahead it will probably meet Saturday mornings) then do get in touch with Sue Richards. If anyone has an empty garage or barn where it can be built available please call.

Recognising that more people do want to get involved with the project, which is very much appreciated, we will hold an open evening in the New Year when we will update on the progress to date including the research from the Wychwood Local History Society. They are trying to focus on the supposed links

to the law changes, the non appointment of religious leaders as magistrates and the pardon by Queen Victoria including her gifting red petticoats to the Martyrs. Family research is also well underway as we seek to establish what happened to the martyrs.

The Team

Kester Harvey (Fund Raising) 01993 832120

Carol Anderson (Community Relations) 01993 814114

Paul Jackson (Chairman) 01993 831967
paul.jackson@triangle.eu.com

Emma Walker (Wychwood Local History Society) 07572 239 848

Sue Richards (Mosaic Project) 01993 830 122

Jack Morgan (Website Advisor)

Ascott History online

Dr Simon Draper has researched the history of the village and written a lengthy account on behalf of the Victoria County History Trust. For those who may be interested in this history, Dr Draper has created an online version which can be found at

[http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/oxfordshire/work-in-progress/ascott-under-wychwood.](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/oxfordshire/work-in-progress/ascott-under-wychwood)



Come and Join Us!

Website Editor
Schools Liaison

Artist / Designers
Mosaic Makers

We are looking for help with our project which is to raise the profile of the Ascott Martyrs. We want to build a virtual museum on the internet telling the story and also take the story to the local schools. We also want to build a pop-up museum for regular displays as well as more information in the village itself.

We therefore need a website editor who will post archives and information, creative writers and artists to make the virtual museum an exciting experience and an educationalist to develop a schools programme. We intend building a mosaic celebrating the story so if you are able to give say 3 hours a week from January to May you will be most welcome. There will be a small charge for the course.

Call so you can interview the team, or to find out more;
Paul Jackson 01993 831 967

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Vet's Advice

Please , no more bladder stones!

The past few months I have been inundated with bladder stone problems starting with the human form, and then being presented with cases in dogs and guinea pigs at the veterinary surgery.

The first case was that of a lovely little Bichon Friese bitch called Tilly who was straining when trying to urinate and had streaks of blood in her urine. This had a sudden onset and the dog was otherwise very well. While examining her I palpated her abdomen and came across something that felt like a bag of sea sand and stones. We radiographed her abdomen and were astounded by the picture that showed a very large number of stones filling her bladder. This was particularly surprising as Tilly had only that week started showing symptoms of discomfort and the stones must have been developing over the previous months and possibly even years.

We operated on Tilly and removed all the stones from her bladder with the help of a special spoon, although a sterile teaspoon would have been just as useful and a lot cheaper. She has since made a full recovery.

One of the stones has been sent to a specialist

laboratory in the USA where they are able to analyse the structure and once we have the result and know what type it is, we will be able to advise the owner how to prevent the formation of new ones.

The preventative treatment usually involves a change of diet, and there are a number of specific diets available.

When Ella, a Chow Chow was presented with similar symptoms a week later, we found only 2 small bladder stones. In her case we opted for diet therapy straight away. After four weeks we repeated her radiographs and the stones were reduced to half their original size. Quite amazing what a special diet can achieve.

The stone we removed from Mabel, the guinea pig, was not smooth like the ones in the dogs, but spikey and caused an enormous amount of irritation and pain. Our biggest problem with guinea pigs is still anaesthesia, the surgery itself is just a bit finicky. She too has made a good recovery.

Thus far I have never come across a cat with bladder stones, but we do regularly get male cats with blockages of the urethra caused by grit. This can be fatal if the



cat is not treated very quickly. Should your male cat start straining: get him to a vet as quickly as you can. Females can develop the same sandy

The Ascott Grapevine

grit in their bladders, but do not get blocked. So their straining, although just as painful, is not necessarily an emergency.

As in the case of dogs, diets can be very useful, but it is also very important that the cats take in a lot of fluid to flush their bladders.

Rabbits tend to have sandy urine because of their calcium metabolism. Managing them can be quite a challenge - too little

calcium in the diet and we get problems with teeth, too much and you get irritation of the bladder.

I hope that you and your pets have a happy Christmas. Please remember to keep the dogs and cats away from the chocolates and the chocolates away from the dogs and cats. And no Christmas cake - raisins can be lethal.

Karen Kappen



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HARRY HONEYBONE

A BOY GROWING UP IN ASCOTT IN THE LATE 1880s Part 8

(We come to the last part of Harry's Life History whilst he was in Ascott. A brief story of the rest of his life will follow this article, written by his grandson Fred with his wife Rosalie. I am really grateful and thank them for allowing us all to gain such a detailed view of life here in our village at the end of the 19th Century. Harry continues in his own words and punctuation.)

‘Things went on in similar vein until the year 1888. Grandmother was not getting any younger and I had no settled occupation so communication was set up between Uncle Reuben and Brother George to see if there was any possible chance of me finding employment in Yorkshire. I believe it was in the latter end of September. I finally took my departure by the first train in the morning for Sheffield arriving earlier in Sheffield than expected. When ‘Sheffield’ was called out I was taken by surprise, it was only about 2 pm, I was told I should not arrive until 4 pm. Uncle Reuben was there to meet me; he took me to his house at Heeley in his pony and cart. All my possessions were wrapped up in a bundle handkerchief, the only clothes I possessed were hob-nailed boots, corduroy trousers and a jacket of some description. What a contrast to how people were dressed in Sheffield. Soon after I had left Mr Hambridge was seeking me up, he wanted me to go back as second horseman which would have meant about 9/- or 10/- per week, but the bird had flown. It was a wrench to leave everything behind, every-one I knew who

had been brought up with me, who had shared my joys and sorrows; it was a varied existence but not the best, such is life.

I arrived at the same station I had left 10 years 9 months before. During the train journey I had the change at Worcester, the train was already waiting for passengers from the Oxford train. The guard was calling for us to be quick. I boarded the train which was the Bristol train to the North. During the journey there was shouting and bumping and a crash of bottles, it was something alarming. The guard must have either seen or heard what was going off. Perhaps he was on the lookout because as a rule they know who is on board. The guard stopped the train at a station and came to where all the rowdiness was. It appears that at Bristol where a boat's crew had been discharged and paid up, they had boarded the train. So no doubt the guard had been on the lookout for trouble. He made them separate at this stopping place, putting them in different carriages. The Captain, who seemed a nice fellow, came into our compartment voluntarily as soon as the train pulled up. He related to us what the trouble was. It appears that the crew hailed from the North, South Shields and they were journeying hither but before they had boarded the train at Bristol they had been imbibing freely and in addition had taken several bottles of whiskey on the train with them. The Captain, who was quite sober, said he did not touch the stuff but he said from arguments they got scrapping, someone opened the carriage

The Ascott Grapevine

door trying to put some of the others out. He said he got two or three bottles of whiskey and threw them out of the train; that would be the smash we heard. But however he was glad to be away from them. I suppose they let go the painter when they had the chance; they had been deprived of the stuff for so long their boat having been away for three years chiefly in foreign parts taking cargoes from one port to another.

Having arrived at Heeley, brother George came towards evening and took me to Woodhouse, walking from Heeley to Woodhouse across the fields on Haggis Lane to Intake, through Normanton Spring, we duly arrived at Woodhouse rather late at where I was going to lodge. Although it was with Aunt Folwell whom I knew so well before leaving Handsworth, they all appeared to be strangers now. The dialect being different from that in Ascott, I scarcely understood what people were saying to me. The talk was strange; the people strange, the surroundings and the environment was a complete stranger to me. I felt sick at heart, completely homesick like a fish out of water; like a bird in a cage who had been for years enjoying the liberty of the wilds. I was absolutely fed up, I was one amongst thousands yet completely alone. Our George had to leave shortly after we arrived, he having to retrieve his weary way back to Hollinsend ready for work the next day. I also had to go to work too the next day. The very sight at Birley as we walked down the road to Normanton Spring was enough for me, it set my nerves all on edge and fear into my very being. The Black Hole of Calcutta was not in it. But however it was arranged for a man to give me a call the next morning and take me down with him as he was

going to work somewhere near where I was. You can imagine my thoughts as we journeyed along; this man trying to keep me in conversation, but I could no more tell what he was talking about than had he been a native of Africa. I could hear some of the words but with missing others, it broke the connection. We eventually reached the coke-oven we had to pass to reach the place I was going to work. Of course it was not daylight until about seven o'clock, everything looked weird and strange. I cannot explain my feelings; what a contrast to the beautiful open country, this dark hole where I had to spend thirteen hours a day, the time of starting work was 6.30.am until 7.00 pm shut up like a bird in a cage, everything and everybody strange. Only one among the whole crowd did I know and that was my brother George; he was working on the opposite side of the screens to where I was. My first job after being signed on was to stand beside the belts picking out dirt as the coal was conveyed along the belt past where we stood from the screens to the wagons. What an awful experience. I had not been there long when I did not know whether the whole paraphernalia, I along with it was going somewhere and the belt remains still; this is how it appeared to me. It took me a long time to distinguish between the coal and the stuff required to be picked out but eventually I mastered it. It was either the second or the third day I was there that I saw some people I took to be the Gaffers, watching us work and inspecting the condition of the coal I surmised. I had scarcely got used to the different kinds myself. I was turning round to throw something where it had to go when another youth had the same intention, but his piece of coal instead of going where it intended it to go (I suppose he was flustered like myself) it

hit me behind the ear and the blood gushed out. I had to go and have it dressed. The buzzer blew at 8 am for breakfast time, which is for a quarter of an hour only. I saw them all running and the machines stopped. I wondered what it was all about but I went also to a cabin where I had previously taken my day's rations. There was another quarter of an hour stand for dinner time and a third 15 minutes at 4 pm for tea time. I thought twelve and a half hours at work, three quarters for food, much the same duties each day and every day, no variation more monotonous I thought than farming, with the absence of the open country and the song of the larks and all kinds of various birds to which I had been accustomed. What a contrast! I thought this is where two extremes meet or the two extremes are far as far apart as the Poles. The first three weeks the monotony seemed to increase, the longing and yearning for old friends and faces; never, I said to myself more than once, could I hold out and stick it. I eventually sat down and wrote back home telling them I was coming back as I could not settle down but I got no reply. *(This is where Harry's Life History here stops but later he wrote.)*

Final Reflections on My Life in Ascott

The greatest praise is due to my Grandmother for the hard work she did and the great sacrifice she made on my behalf. In addition to going out to work two or three days a week, which had it not been for me, would not have been necessary, she knitted scores of pairs of socks and stockings in addition to refooting them. I have wound into a ball scores of skeins of wool for her. I also made from a piece of elder wood a hollow sheath, cutting the

piece of wood about four inches from a joint, cleaning out the pith. This sheath in which she placed one needle to hold it firm, was twisted somehow underneath her apron string on the left side, by this method she would knit and converse at the same time. She was not long knitting a pair of socks or stockings, she knew exactly how many stitches on each needle for different sized legs, she could also knit scarves and shoulder shawls. By this means the income was augmented, never an idle moment.

During the season when rhubarb, gooseberry, currant, plum and apple, all in due season. We always had plenty of jam to eat, sugar being about one and a half penny per pound. Every article we could spare was filled with jam, cups and tumblers, glasses or anything. All this was done in addition to household duties. Harvest time she would go out gleaning which was all the vogue there, the wheat was threshed out, taken to the mill, ground into flour, then made into bread.

Although bacon, potatoes and green vegetables which were grown in the gardens and allotments, were the chief diet for dinner. In addition grandmother made jam roly puddings, bacon roly which was made in a similar manner to jam roly, the method being getting a few rashers of bacon, it was mainly prime cured, take the rind off, cut the rashers into finger bits, place them all over the paste, chopped onions, sage, pepper and salt, rolled up and placed in a pudding cloth. Another pudding was to mix ingredients similar to plum pudding, sultanas, raisins and the like; this put in the pudding cloth and boiled. Take a basin, put in a layer of paste, then some treacle another layer of paste and more treacle and so on until the basin was full, then top with a crust,

The Ascott Grapevine

wrapped in a cloth and boiled. Or take a basin lined with paste, filled with pork bones with some meat on of course, and some pieces of pork, seasoning to taste, cover with a top paste and boiled in the usual manner, also plums, apples, etc. could be cooked in like manner.

On occasions we would have some spare rib or other choice bits of pork after pig killing or a piece of mutton and roast it in the dutch oven which consisted of a trough shaped bottom, two triangular upright side pieces, narrowing from the bottom upwards, a cross piece from which was suspended a sheet, often free to swing, being pivoted on either side at the top. Attached to this from the top was suspended some hooks where meat could be suspended and free to turn round. The whole consisted of tin with strengthened upright pieces of iron. The meat when cooking or roasting before the fire was covered in on three sides, being exposed only to the heat of the fire; beef could also be roasted in this manner. Pea soup was also made occasionally, split peas, neck of mutton, suet dumplings, carrots, turnips, celery and any other vegetables added to taste; this was all boiled down to a mash. Sweet loaf was occasionally made in the usual manner, either fruit loaf or seed loaf. These were taken to the bakehouse, each with a name on to distinguish them; also sometimes home made bread, when we had the flour, was taken to the bakehouse. They would bake it for a trifle. No savoury dishes were warmed up after dinner, everything partaken cold at supper time, there being no means only by frying pan to warm them up. During the summer no fire was used after dinner only a few sticks to warm the kettle up for tea. Chiefly beef, if any, mutton and pork was placed in the cauldron with the rest of the dinner. You try

some of these dishes, I can recommend them.

There was no recognised holidays with the exception of Christmas Day, even then we had to attend to the horses. There was plenty of trout in the stream across the road. I have caught many a one but somehow I did not relish them, but when Aunt Fanny came once I caught some, they had them fried for tea. I once caught some crayfish which are the same species as lobsters and when cooked are red and not so large as lobsters. I took about eight home one evening put them in my bowl until morning; when we got up in the morning they had all got out of the house, some were wending their way across the wall towards the stream. Others had already gone. The few that were left I threw back in the stream. I had taken them out of the river but they knew how to find their way back again.



Harry's grandparents, Jane and John Honeybone.

The Ascott Grapevine

Grandmother would always attend divine service at the Baptist Chapel whenever it was possible to do so. In wet weather she would wear pattens which consisted of a piece of flat wood the shape of the foot, with toe pieces to hold them onto the foot. Underneath and raised from the ground about two inches was an oval ring sufficient in size to enable the person wearing them to walk. Sometimes this underneath piece of iron was another shape from round or oval. The purpose of these was to keep people out of the dirt and wet which was prevalent there. I sometimes used to accompany her to the chapel but many times I forgot to go. I was sometimes unruly which would grieve her because she was one of those pious persons who detested anything apart from religion; lies, deceit, pride, haughtiness and uppishness were abomination in her sight; she resigned herself and had complete faith in the promises of the teachings of the scriptures. She was practically puritanical, anything unduly hostile to her views, as far as the strict biblical teachings of Christianity was concerned, was a sin and an abomination. The old method of teaching and preaching was in vogue at that time, it was either heaven or hell, both these were flaunted before the eyes of everyone more so than they are today. Things would be far better in every way today (1933) if everybody, young and old, rich and poor, the learned and illiterate were as religiously minded as some of the pious old dissenters were in those days. Grandmother had absolute faith and confidence in the teachings of the Bible, the ideal life was the life as portrayed by the Sermon on the Mount, each for all and all for each, but alas we have gone astray like lost sheep.

Grandmother has earned my sincere gratitude and thanks for her sacrifice and devotion on my behalf and I appreciate the sincerity and devotion, the sacrifice on the altar of love and affection towards my interest and welfare, had it not been for me she would have had less anxiety and care, more ease and comfort. She had the bringing up of her own family, then I was thrown on her care. Had she been my own mother she could not have done more for me. She had suffered loss and family bereavement, having lost three married daughters in addition to my parents and also a niece about 9 years of age who was burned to death, she was a nice girl too. She belonged to Aunt Fanny. All this care and anxiety yet she bore up wonderfully through it all. Therefore I dedicate this to her memory.

After I left Grandmother went to live at Churchill with someone with whom I could never get to know the connection. She was a widow and had a sister who lived out Burford way and whom we visited occasionally and they visited us. I have an idea they were sisters but I cannot vouch for the truth of this. Churchill was a rather nice place to spend one's last days. They lived just at the junction of a three road, not end for one was a through, the other branched off more a T piece. The church was just across to the right, one of these roads went north to Chipping Norton which was about two miles distant; the other going west was towards Chipping Norton Junction and Bledington, going west into Gloucestershire; the other southwards towards Ascott and other places to the south and west. The land sloped away falling away in those directions and was thickly wooded, large trees dotted here and there made the surroundings quite pleasant. These two old wid-

ows lived together quite comfortably. I visited them twice afterwards. They had an allotment garden which they used to cultivate themselves, growing all the vegetables they required and tending to flowers of which they had a very large number. On one occasion during a visit Annie and I made to Oxfordshire, Grandmother could get around as well as ever, better than we cared to follow, up the fields and through the woods, she was always in front. Hard work, care and anxiety had not stiffened her muscles or hardened her arteries beyond the power

of getting over the ground quickly. She always had a pleasant smile and a cheery word to greet one with. Grandmother lived at Churchill about twenty years. I was told that they had a load of coal to get in during which, I suppose, she got overheated with the result that she contracted a chill which eventually proved fatal. Her demise taking place a fortnight afterwards at the ripe old age of 94 years. She was born in 1815 and died 1910. She was buried in Ascott churchyard.'

Wendy Pearse

POSTSCRIPT

(I asked Fred and Rosalie Ryley if they could give us a brief account of Harry's later life and this is the information they sent. I repeat our thanks for letting us read Harry's Ascott story – a rare survival indeed.)

Wendy Pearse



Harry, back right, at his daughter Enid's wedding to Fred Ryley in 1930.

By the time Harry was 17 work in Ascott was scarce. His Grandmother, now well into her 70s, was finding it harder to look

after him, so he was forced to ask his brother George to help him find some employment in Yorkshire.

In 1888 he moved to Birley, lodged with his Aunts and worked opposite his brother on the colliery screens. He became very homesick and wrote to his Grandmother asking to come back to Ascott. He never received a reply, possibly because his Grandmother could neither read nor write, and the family did not encourage him to return.

He continued working on the screens and at the same time attended Mining Classes at Sheffield University. His work took him to Dinnington where George had already met and married the blacksmith's daughter. Harry fell in love with her sister Annie and they were wed in 1893 and raised 8 children.

Annie had a beautiful voice and was a member of the Dinnington Harmonic Society. They were both worshippers at the Wesleyan Chapel and Harry was also a Sunday School teacher. Harry's mining studies were recognised and he was promoted to Pit Deputy in 1912. He remained

The Ascott Grapevine

working underground until his retirement in 1933.

The death of Annie in 1926 came as a shocking blow to the whole family. Harry wrote very movingly about it in his memoirs. He was left with 4 children still at home, the eldest 19, the youngest 10.

Certainly Harry's childhood in Ascott and his Grandmother's devotion towards him had a lasting impression. It was said that he loved going on walks in the countryside and was able to name the wild

flowers and plants of the hedgerows and enjoyed hearing the larks singing.

In summing up his memoirs he wrote: 'Perhaps you will have noticed that events that took place in my earliest childhood days have been recalled in more detail than those of recent years owing to the fact that the brain is more plastic and receives impressions during youth more easily than as we advance in years.'

Harry died in Dinnington in 1944 and was buried in Dinnington Churchyard.

Fred and Rosalie Ryley

ASCOTT FOOTBALL CLUB

Ascott Football Club has started the season really well with the 1st team playing in the new Division 2 and the reserves playing in Division 4. Using their temporary pitch at Chipping Norton, the 1st team have played 7 matches and won 7 in the cup and league, I couldn't ask for a better start we are heading for the top of the league which is fantastic. The reserves are doing very well winning half of their games so far and currently lying halfway in the league, which is a massive improvement from last year. Hopefully they will finish top half, supporting the 1st team in every way. The youth team is doing very well playing at Churchill recreation ground attracting over 20 kids every week all enjoying fun footy, with a possibility of a under 14's team starting at the end of November. We will be advertising for that in 2 weeks. Also a big thankyou to the Swan Pub who have sponsored us this year and kept us going with sausage and chips after the game, NICE!

The Ascott recreation ground is looking very smart after the initial work has been finished, thanks to the very hard work of the sports committee, the men's teams and the youth teams are looking forward to getting back to our home ground and playing on a not so wet surface and hopefully we can expand to a larger and greater club with kids of all ages, so if you would like to get involved please email me on finalgoal7@aol.com or ring 01993830170 or 07928722367 many thanks.

Mike Ody,

Celebrate the Season!



Christmas Market

Fri 9th December

6-10pm

Tiddy Hall

Ascott-Under-Wychwood

Christmas stalls, mulled wine and mince pies

Proceeds in aid of Holy Trinity church

TIDDY HALL

Piano Lessons

Pauline Carter

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Wychwood Library

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016/7

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Another year has passed and Wychwood Library is working well with the help of our wonderful volunteers. I would like to thank all who give up Monday and Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings to shelve mountains of books and process the many items that make their way around the county and also to the team of ladies who organise them.

I would also like to thank the people who make coffee and wash up on Wednesday mornings. This is the perfect venue to make new friends, drink real coffee, eat good cake and get your books at the same time.

There are also the knitting ladies who meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. If you ever have a problem with understanding a knitting pattern, then this is where you would come to get it sorted, meet some lovely people in the process and have a cup of coffee.

The Evening Reading Group and the Afternoon Reading Group meet to discuss a variety of book titles and the Poetry Club reads poems around a theme each month. There is space available at the Afternoon Reading Group for a few more members as well as the Poetry Club.

Joan from Age UK runs a support group for the over 60s who have been bereaved called Late Spring. They meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 10.30 – 12noon for coffee

and cake and of course support. You would be very welcome.

The Wychwood Circle is an open forum where philosophy, theology, ethics and spirituality is discussed and it meets at the beginning of the month on a Sunday evening, usually in the Library but sometimes in the Milton Village Hall. The programme for 2016/17 includes Revd Dr David Nixon, 'Theology and Homelessness' on December 4th; Dr Mark Vernon, 'Why we need Plato and Freud in the twenty-first century' on February 5th; Canon Brian Mountford, 'Spiritual but not religious', on March 5th and more. Look at the website, wychwoodcircle.org and many thanks to David Soward for organising this enlightening gathering.

Tai Chi will be starting up again in the New Year on a Monday morning. This is gentle exercise concentrating on balance and memory and is suitable for all ages and ability. Come on in if you would like to know more.

I would also like to thank Mary Edginton for the delightful seasonal garden flowers displayed in the library each week and for sale on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. We are indeed fortunate to have such caring customers.

Heather Shute is a very lucky person. For the second year running she has won a prize in the Summer Adult Reading Challenge so very well done and thank you to all who took part this year.

You may have noticed the good number of new books available at Wychwood

The Ascott Grapevine

Library which has been made possible by funds from the Friends Group and the fundraising at the annual Milton Village Fete. We do not have room for every new title though so it is good to be reminded that for only £1 you are able to make a reservation for books held within Oxfordshire. This service is free if you are under 18 years of age.

Exciting news! Wychwood Library is going to hold STORYTIME for 5 – 9 year olds at 6.30pm on Friday evenings during the winter. The plan is for the

children to snuggle up in the children's area with a hot chocolate and listen to a chapter or so per week, getting through a whole book during these dark evenings. Spaces will be limited so let us know if you are interested.

WE HAVE FREE WIFI HERE!

And it is wonderful to have Liz Newport back!

Come and visit us at Wychwood Library
From Ruth Gillingham, Amanda Clarke and Liz Newport

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 Closed
Friday 2.00 to 7.00 pm
Saturday 9.30 am to 1.00 pm

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The Ascott Village Charity



Your Village Charity- What does it do, and who does it help?

The village charity is still in the position to offer help to any person in the village who is embarking on further education and is in need of books or equipment for the course. They can apply to the charity to assist with the cost. All applications are dealt with in strict confidence.

If any villager feels that the Charity could help anyone in the village with financial aid then please contact one of the trustees to discuss the application procedure. The trustees will review all applications in full confidence to determine if they are within the Charity's power to assist.

Chairman

John Cull johncull@wowmatters.com

Trustees

Elaine Byles elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk

Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Mark Dawbarn mark@dawbarn.co.uk

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

Pauline Marshall pollymarshall@gmail.com

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk



The Village Shop

Owned by the village, Run by the village, There for the village

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 – Winter 2016

Owned by the village, run by the village and there for the village.

We are in our 13th year of trading and remain economically viable through the support of our volunteers. Can you help, by volunteering just two hours per week please?

The Shop Committee

The new Shop Management Committee has now been in place for five months so Stuart Fox has reverted to his role as Hon Treasurer, after three months of holding the fort as Chairman and I, having learned as much as possible about the shop's running, have stepped in as Chairman:

Chairman – Nick Leadbetter

Vice Chairman – Mark Tribe

Hon Secretary – Sally Jordan

Hon Treasurer – Stuart Fox

Member – Geoff Taylor

Manager – Bridgette Crundwell

We are extremely keen to listen to our customers – ideas, comments and criticism, so if any of you

wishes to speak to us please don't hesitate to stop us in the street, telephone or email us or drop into the shop. I would like to set up a Twitter account to notify you of promotions, special offers and new stock items. If you are on Twitter, please consider letting us know by email

at shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk so we can judge the amount of interest there is in the idea.

Shop Stock

I have heard that some of our potential customers think the shop stock is aimed too much towards the upper end of the market and is not for them. It is true that we work hard to make the presentation of some top-of-the-range items look exciting to tempt customers to buy, perhaps for a special occasion, but otherwise we stock a wide range of commonly branded items at competitive prices. If you are in doubt, please just come in and try us; you will always get a warm welcome.

From newspapers to dry cleaning, prescriptions to flowers and excellent fresh coffee to second-hand books. From cleaning materials to fresh fruit and vegetables, sausages to biscuits and soups to beers, we aim to provide a service for everyone in the village.

My 'Holley's Fine Foods' Christmas order makes ordering the extras for Christmas easy and will be on display from Monday 14th November. Also, information from our new local Fresh Meat and Poultry supplier, Patrick Straingé (based in Bampton), Upton Smokery and Wychwood Fine Foods, will be found in this next issue of 'The Grapevine'.

Hook Norton brewery's Hooky Bitter 'Three for £5' promotion continues, as does Bridgette's two bottles of wine for £10 bargain shelf.

Welcome Packs from the Village Shop

To raise the profile of the shop among new residents to the village, we offer a small welcome pack. We try to reach people immediately on arrival in their new home but information is often sketchy and we might be days late. If you have recently come to live here and have not received a pack, please contact Mark Tribe or Debra Cull, who

have kindly agreed to continue taking these round and meeting new faces. I am still trying to increase the number of our shareholders. To repeat a few sentences from the last Grapevine: in July 2003 everyone in the village was given the opportunity to buy a single £10 share in the shop. Shareholders in the Village Shop Association are entitled to vote on any matter of policy and to elect members of the Shop Committee. The shares are not transferable and people coming to the village since that initial distribution of shares are immediately eligible to become shareholders for the same £10 purchase price. If you want to buy one – just ask in the shop. We need support and will welcome your input.

Maintenance

We are very lucky to have Geoff Taylor on the Committee – he has saved the shop a lot of money by painting all the external woodwork, trimming the shrubs in the car park and doing some maintenance works. In the Spring, he is going to set his hand to brightening up the bit of garden at the side of the shop.

Finances

We remain on course to make a modest profit this year, though this is partly subject to receiving a grant from the Doris Field Charitable

Trust to help us replace one of our big chest freezers. We have reviewed our insurance costs and believe we have adequate cover at a reasonable premium and Stuart was successful in making a case to the local District Council, asking for our charitable rates relief to be increased to 100%, bringing us in line with other businesses with a low rateable value – this has saved us nearly £600.

Next year's forecast includes a further spend on replacing freezers – essential for us to be able to hold enough stock to satisfy varying demand on our line items – and this will further eat into our margin. As nearly all our equip-

ment is now over 10 years old, this demand on our resources can only increase in the future.

Volunteers

It must seem that we have an unquenchable thirst for volunteers as I ask for more to come forward in every article. Our volunteers are the true backbone of the shop; without them the shop would not be even remotely viable. We had a terrific BBQ, hosted by Mark and Sarah Tribe, on 14 August for our volunteers and we will continue to hold an event every summer to say a small but essential "Thank You" to them.

Nick Leadbetter



WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



In association with the Wychwood Brewery

At The Swan or Tiddy Hall, Shipton Rd, Ascott -u- Wychwood

Sat Dec 3rd Hatful of Rain + Support by Thom Morecroft

Playing original material, *Hatful of Rain* strive to combine powerful song-writing with musical virtuosity whilst retaining a strong traditional feel. The Hatful's make full use of the "single microphone" approach to performing which creates an engaging visual spectacle whilst underlining the warmth and communal style of the music played.

"Hauntingly beautiful....I love it!" (Bob Harris)

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door

Sat Dec 17th Ewan McLennan + Support by Shivelight

Ewan McLennan has come to be known as a guitarist at the very forefront of his generation; a troubadour, balladeer and storyteller cut in the old style; a singer that can move audiences with his passion and pathos; and a songwriter for whom social justice is still a burning issue.

Tickets £8.00 in advance £10.00 on the door

Sat Jan 14th Steve Knightley

Steve Knightley is an English singer, songwriter and acoustic musician. Since 1992 he has been one half of possibly the UK's most successful Folk/Roots duos – 'Show of Hands'. His partner Phil Beer is widely regarded as one of the world's finest acoustic multi-instrumentalists.

Tickets £16.00 in advance £18.00 on the door.

Sat Jan 28th Duotone

DUOTONE is the name under which Barney Morse-Brown (cellist for multi-platinum artist Birdy, the Imagined Village & Chris Wood's, Handmade Life,) writes and performs his own contemporary acoustic songs. He loops guitars and cellos, percussion and voices to create ethereal sound-scapes for his poignant lyrics to weave in and out of.

Tickets £8.00 in advance £10.00 on the door

Sat Feb 11th Kieran Halpin + Support by Damian Clarke

Since 1979 *Kieran Halpin* has recorded 18 albums, one live DVD and published 2 songbooks with 50 songs in each book. He is a successful songwriter with many of his songs covered by other artists. His songs are performed in clubs, pubs and concert halls throughout the world.

Tickets £8.00 in advance £10.00 on the door

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com

NEED A LIFT LOCALLY?

A group of us have got together, calling ourselves

Ascott Car Lift Club

One of us was recently quoted a price of £15.00 for the run between Ascott and Charlbury by taxi (one way).

This is surely unacceptably high? Our names are up on the board in the shop and here we are:

Sara Arkle	831978
Susie Boyer	830142
Ann Burleigh	831377
John Cull	831621
Nicky Coldstream	831123
Juliet Craig	831578
Sally Jordan	832003
Judith Mitchell	830895
Anne Smith	832933
Margaret Ismael	832829

Please don't hesitate to call us if you want a lift locally – we'll run you there. We may be planning a trip anyway. Some of us go regularly past the station in Charlbury or do an evening school collection in Oxford or do a shop-up in Chipping Norton or Witney. We might just feel like the ride and the company!

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Gardening in Ascott

The dark months of winter, starry skies, frosted branches of trees, the low sun setting red against the bare boughs, sitting beside the fire toes and fingers slowly thawing after a long day pruning. A magical time. A time to think and to plan. To dream with seed catalogues and old gardening magazines. Next year the garden will reflect my dreams.



and the surrounding area as described below for planting bare rooted trees and shrubs.

Now it's time to get to grips with the shrub you want to move and this may not be an easy job depending on how large the plant is and how long it's been in the ground.

Moving shrubs

Autumn and early winter is the natural time to move deciduous shrubs and plants which are in the wrong place. It's also a good time to plant new ornamental trees, shrubs, roses and fruit trees. Once the leaves have fallen and the plants are preparing for their winter dormancy, any deciduous woody plant can be dug up with their roots and replanted, so if there are any you would like to move, now is the time.

Prepare carefully especially if you are attempting to move a large mature shrub. A few weeks before you intend to start work, make sure that you water the plants and the soil around it well. It's a good idea to prepare a new home for it before you attempt to lift it because that way the shrub is out of the ground for as little time as possible. Prepare the hole

Slice down with your spade in a circle all around the shrub and preferably make this circle as large as you are able to lift. The aim is obviously to lift the plant with as many of the roots intact as you can. A tarpaulin or heavy old sheet is useful when lifting a large shrub enabling you to drag the plant to its new position - or enlist someone's help to grab two corners of the tarpaulin to lift it.

If the soil in the new planting place seems very dry, tip a can of water into it now before placing the plant. Once you have moved your plant into its new home, backfill the hole (as for planting bare rooted shrubs and trees below), and water well and mulch with some compost or well-rotted manure.

It would be as well to make a note on the calendar to remind you to water this plant every couple of weeks over the next year, as it will have suffered from the trauma of being dug up.

Planting new bare-rooted trees, shrubs, roses and new hedging plants.

Planting bare-rooted trees and shrubs is both economical and horticulturally sound the cost element being particularly useful if you are planting in large numbers such as for a hedge.

To successfully plant bare-rooted plants, you need to be well prepared ensuring you don't leave plants hanging about once you purchase them. Plants in pots can stand around for weeks or more provided you keep them watered because the roots have a protective layer of soil around them whereas bare rooted ones have no protection and will dry out very fast. If you can't plant them immediately, then dig a rough hole in some spare ground and heel them in. (This means placing the plant in the ground and covering with the soil and use the heel of your boot to firm in the soil around the roots, giving them temporary protection from drying out).

When it is time to plant, I like to soak the roots in a bucket of water for a couple of hours before planting, which seems a good idea to me, but I have no sound scientific proof that this is helpful to the plant when it is establishing itself!

Dig a hole large enough for the roots which allows them plenty of room to spread out. Work-in plenty of organic matter or well-rotted compost into the base of the hole and into the soil that you removed. Place the plant in the hole and arrange the roots out of the bottom. Looking at the soil mark near the base of the plant and that shows you the level it was growing at before it was dug up and aim to replant it at the same depth. When you are happy, replace the soil around the roots and gently heel the soil in around

them. Don't be too enthusiastic about this; you don't want the plant to be set in concrete! Prick over the soil around the plant with a fork, water well, and spread some mulch such as composted bark or spent mushroom compost. Don't forget you need to keep these bare-rooted plants well-watered for at least a year to ensure they establish good root growth.

Planting trees

The same technique can be used for planting trees, but in their case they will probably need staking at least for the first few years of their life.

Always purchase a good quality substantial stake and a proper tree tie. For most trees, a 3ft stake is about right; it stops the tree rocking loose in a gale. Research has shown however that young trees whose trunks are allowed to sway in the wind develop a stronger trunk and more roots, so the idea is just give it support and not truss them so tightly that they cannot move at all!

Place the stake at the base, about a foot away from the tree and hammer it half-way into the ground at a 45° angle, then use a single tree-tie to fix the tree to the stake at about 12 to 18 inches from the ground.

Renewal Pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs

Perhaps you've inherited a garden full of old overgrown shrubs or perhaps things have just got out of hand and an overhaul of the garden is long overdue. Now is the perfect time to tackle overgrown deciduous hedges, out of control climbers such as ivy, Virginia creeper, and those monster shrubs which have just outgrown their space.

The Ascott Grapevine

With large overgrown shrubs it is a temptation to butcher them by cutting them back down to the ground. Although this is possible, and even desirable with some fast growing shrubs, like dogwoods and ornamental elders, which will respond quickly by producing a mass of new growth in the spring, with most shrubs a long-term plan is advisable. Make a start in this first year by selecting two or three of the oldest, gnarled branches and cut them out as close to the base of the plant using either loppers or a pruning saw. Now prune out any dead or damaged wood, removing it back to a bud. Mulch around the shrub with some good organic matter and feed with some blood, fish and bone fertiliser in the spring.

By next winter the plant should have produced some nice new vigorous shoots and you can repeat the process of cutting out more of the old wood. By repeating this process every winter over a period of 3 to 4 years, you will have replaced the whole of the plant with new strong healthy growth without losing the structure and the impact of the plant.

Ivy is a most underrated and much maligned plant. They come in a variety of colours and forms of marking, and grow in shady spots and can hide a bare fence.

They provide excellent cover for the birds and a valuable late source of nectar for the bees. They do however mostly have a habit of vigorous growth and need to be kept in control if not to outgrow their space. Pruning is best left to January, when I find they have finished flowering and can be tackled ruthlessly by cutting back any overgrown shoots to their support post of fence or wall.

In our garden the birds love nesting and roosting in the ivy, so I try to keep a good framework for winter roosting, and also to cut back now so as to not disturb their spring nest building.

Dark Nights

Although these long nights can lower the spirit and gardening days are short, the compensation of clear nights makes for some fine star gazing for those of us mad enough put on winter gear and stand and stare!

*I know that I am mortal and ephemeral;
but when I stare in the multitude circling
spirals of stars, no longer do I touch
earth with my feet, but sit with Zeus him-
self, and take my fill of the ambrosial
food of the gods.*

Ptolemy
Madeline Galistan

TIDDY HALL

The Committee are very pleased that **Tiddy Hall** has become a very busy village hall during this past year! The **Pre School, Windrush Valley School, Post Office, Roseneath School of Music** are all regular daytime users each week, while in the evenings, we now have dancing classes, circuit training, fit club, Qigong and starting in January, a new **Pilates Class**. Please see the regular activities list for contact details.

If it is **Pilates** you are interested in, Ursula Beele will be starting this new class on a Tuesday evening in the New Year (starting date to be confirmed). At the time of writing, Ursula has about 6 people interested, so there are still a few spaces available. She would like to keep the classes relatively small, to ensure individual attention, and they would last no longer than 1 hour. Ursula is a qualified exponent of the art. Please contact her at info@pilateswithursula.co.uk or on 01993 830267 for more information or to register your interest.

Cotswold Free Fitclub has now settled into their Wednesday evening slot at Tiddy Hall! Come and join in a fun workout for free, to improve your fitness level and meet new friends. All ages over 16 are welcome – 7.30pm – 8.30pm. Please contact Lynne Westnage at LynneWestnage@aol.com or on 07917 861950 for more information.

The Wychwood Folk Club has also been busy these past few months, hosting the duo **Johnny Coppin and Mike Silver** back in September. October saw the return of the great guitarist, **Sunjay**. November's gig featured **Vin Garbutt**, winner of BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards for

'Best Live Act' not once, but twice (2001 and 2007)!

Upcoming gigs at **Tiddy Hall**:

December 3rd – Hatful of Rain

January 14th – Steve Knightley

March 11th – Sally Barker

On the night of **Friday 9th December, Tiddy Hall** will be hosting an **Advent Market**. A chance to buy some Christmas presents and enjoy a glass of mulled wine whilst mingling with villagers to start the run-down to Christmas! Doors open at 6pm and the market will run till about 10pm. Stalls include Neals Yard, Usbourne Books, jewellery, Christmas pot plants, bulbs and Danish decorations and lots of other 'goodies'! For further information, please contact Debra Cull on 01993 831621.

And, if you're not in the Christmas mood after the Advent Market, the annual village **Pantomime** will take place on Sunday 11th December, 7.30pm! Please reserve your tickets at the village shop – entry is free, however, it would help with catering purposes if it is known how many people to expect.

TIDDY HALL DINNER / not DANCE

This year the committee have decided to do something different and we are going to call the evening :-

“ Ascott under Wychwood – a celebration”

The event will include a talk on the history of the village from Wendy Pearse, music from Bob Chilcott (voice), Will Diggle (voice), Katrina Davies (Classical violin), Daphne Abe (piano), Tom Gidman (comedy) and the three amigos (Mark Pidgeon, Matt Davies and John Bujega) doing some of their classics at the end of the evening.

All these talented people live in the village and that is the theme of the evening. There will be a three course meal provided by Ceci Magee and the event will be on **Saturday February 4th, 2017**. Tickets are £15.00 and can be purchased from Simon Gidman 01993 831479 or Pauline Plant 07968 006451.

Tickets are available now so please order them as soon as you can. Tickets will be limited.

Over the past few months there has been an increase in the use of our badminton court! If you'd like to play, we have a net available and it's only £2 per adult and £1 for juniors per session. Please contact Ingrid for availability – 01993 830612 or ingrid@meadowbank.ascott.co.uk

The Tiddy Hall Committee would like to wish all our regular users a Very Merry Christmas and all good wishes

for the New Year! And, remember those New Year's resolutions! Why not try something new, meet new people, have fun and at the same time, get fit! It's all happening on your doorstep at **Tiddy Hall!**

Regular Activities:

Monday – Friday Mornings Pre-school
Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant 07968006451

Monday Afternoons 3.30pm – 6pm Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Monday Night 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm Dancing
Contact: May 01608 810721

Wednesday Night 6pm – 6.45pm Circuits
Contact: Simon Gidman 01993 831479

Wednesday Night 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm - Cotswold Free Fitclub

Contact: Lynne Westnag 07917861950

Thursday Night 7.30pm – 8.30pm Qigong
Contact: Pam Quirke 07780 572283

Friday Afternoons 3.30pm – 6pm Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

1st Sunday of each Month – 2.30pm – 5pm
Sunday Tea Dance

Contact: Jess 07827 235457

Post Office every Friday afternoon 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

CAN YOU HELP

Please?

Earlier this year, Bertie Trinder sadly hung up his gardening shears after maintaining the Churchyard for several years. He did an incredible job along with Tony Gillings who has decided to hang up his gardening gloves too, leaving Mark Read and Bill Duckworth (our only paid member) of the brilliant team in 2016. So as we all put our own gardens to bed for the year, I'm putting feelers out for 2017. It's a large area to look after and of course there are numerous headstones and graves to respect, so it needs at least 4 to keep it all under control on a regular basis. Ideally, we would love it to be cared for solely by volunteers, so if anyone could spare some time to help cut the grass, strim and generally help maintain the Churchyard for next season, please call me on 831621.

Many thanks

Debra Cull

On behalf of the PCC

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Remembering Reginald Tiddy

Late one evening, on August 10th 1916, at the battle of the Somme, Reginald Tiddy was hit by a stray bomb after he went out to the trenches to see if there were any wounded needing help.

As some people may know Reginald Tiddy was very keen on all matters relating to village life and in particular Morris dancing and Mummers plays. In Tiddy Hall itself is a remembrance plaque, part of which states he had “a genius for friendship-sympathy and laughter. He made our old life young again”. A lovely tribute. The village commemorated this sad event in two ways.

The first was a wonderful evening on August 6th of Morris Folk Dancing, songs and memories of Reginald Tiddy. This evolved after Mr Joe Dunn, who has organised a young, national Morris Dancing side known as Fool’s Gambit, and was researching the life of Reginald Tiddy, spent the night at Ingrid and Brian’s B & B. During the evening, the idea developed of bringing Fool’s Gambit to Tiddy Hall to commemorate Reginald Tiddy’s death which would coincide with the village trip to Reginald Tiddy’s grave. In addition to Fool’s Gambit, Roger Shepherd also invited the Oxford University Morris Dancers to perform. So we had two Morris sides who sang and danced through the evening, all there to commemorate Reginald Tiddy.

What struck the

audience was the youth and energy of the sides, in particular of Fool’s Gambit, and it was very moving knowing that they had come from all over Britain to commemorate, not just Reginald Tiddy but his associates, George Butterworth and Cecil Sharp and had sung and danced throughout Britain in their honour.

As part of their commemorations, Fool’s Gambit had been to Reginald Tiddy’s grave and laid both a wreath and a Sword Lock at the grave side in his memory. It was a truly magnificent evening and we are so grateful to both Fool’s Gambit and the Oxford University Morris men for their efforts and for giving us such a moving evening. It’s strange to think that the person after whom our village hall is named is such a national treasure.

To conclude the evening Joe, who had made another Sword Lock, presented it to Roger who subsequently asked Ingrid Ridley to set the Sword Lock below the picture of Reginald Tiddy, where it will remain. During the proceedings Mark Pidgeon played the last post on the trumpet, another fine tribute.

Three days later about 40 of us left from the Swan pub, at some ungodly hour, to

visit France and to visit the grave of Reginald Tiddy at Levantie, on the centenary of his death. Brian and Ingrid Ridley had organised the four day trip, which took in not only Levantie but the War Memorial at Etaples, near Le Touquet (where



The Ascott Grapevine

Liz Bell's grandfather is buried and who



laid a wreath in his honour), the city of Amiens, the enormously impressive Memorial at Thiepval, the Menin Gate at Ypres, a trip to the Lochnagar Crater and trips to Ghent and Bruges. All in four days!

Also buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, from Ascott, we paid tribute to Private Albert Thomas (Tommy) Longshaw 42079, 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment, originally of The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, who died from his wounds on April 16th 1918, aged 28.



The highlight, of course, was the trip to Levantie on the 10th August. The weather was uncanny. Rain poured down horizon-

tally for about 30 minutes before our visit and for a further half an hour after our visit. But during the visit, nothing but sun. Somebody was looking down on us .

Levantie, like many other cemeteries in this part of France, is only small but beautifully looked after. The ceremony consisted of Simon Gidman reading a poem by Siegfried Sassoon, the well known World War 1 poet, and Roger Shepherd reading some of the letters from Reginald Tiddy to his friends and relations written during the war. At the end of the "speeches" Mark Pidgeon again played the haunting Last Post which provided a fitting conclusion to the afternoon. It is difficult to convey the emotion of the event but it says a lot for the person we were there to commemorate that so many of us ventured hundreds of miles to his grave to pay our tributes to our patron.



The Ascott Grapevine

The trip also included a visit to the Somme trenches, near Beaumont Hamel and Brian had organised a trip to the Newfoundland Memorial Park and a tour guide to talk us through the war and the soldiers' life in the trenches. At the Park, we walked up the raised monument called the Newfoundland Caribou, to look over the no man's land toward the Germans trenches.

And to think these soldiers were ordered to casually walk across this field in front of us in the face of constant gun fire and to their inevitable death !

Later we visited the Lochnagar Crater, the largest man made crater ever made in anger. It is an awesome site some 91 me-

tres in diameter and 21 metres deep and is now a privately owned war memorial.

So much happened in so little time and we have Brian and Ingrid Ridley to thank for organising such a great trip. Like a true pro, Brian kept us abreast of events from the front of the bus – whether we wanted to sleep or not – but his knowledge of all matters is incredible; the war, architecture, history - you name it, he knows about it. Remind me not to argue with him ever again.

But we had a fantastic trip, thank you Brian and Ingrid for making it possible and I hope Reginald Tiddy felt we paid him his due respect.

Simon Gidman

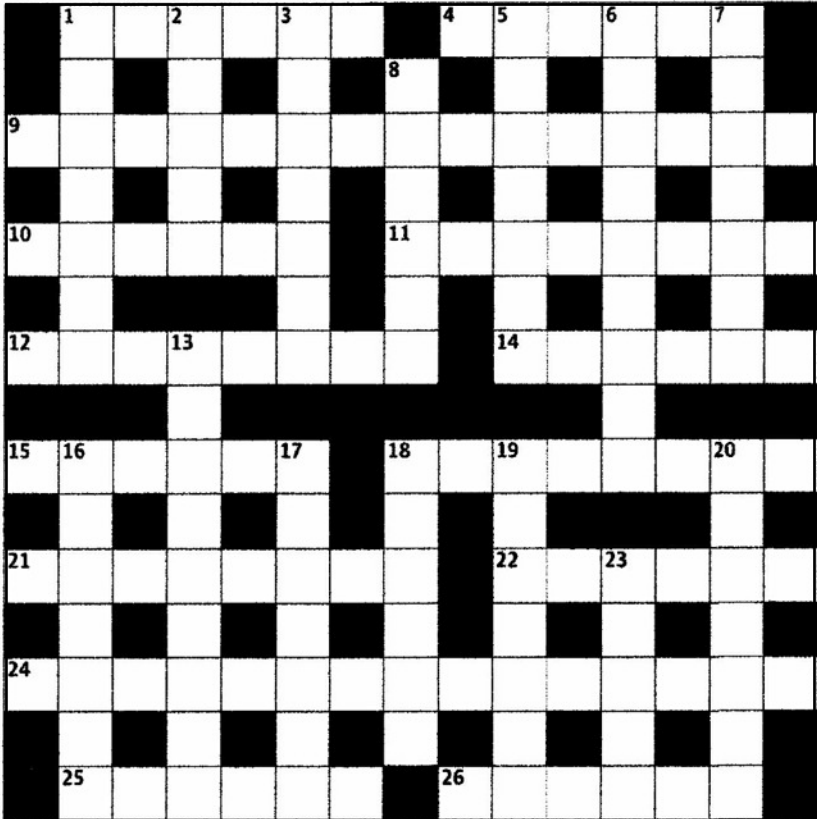
The Oxfordshire Restaurant Awards 2016

Best Traditional Pub Restaurant

Held 1st November 2016

Richard Haddon and Michiel Verkoren, owners of **The Swan Inn at Ascott-under-Wychwood**, were delighted with their win for the best traditional pub restaurant in Oxfordshire. Richard said: "Everybody at The Swan, Ascott under Wychwood, is absolutely delighted to have won '**Best Traditional Pub Restaurant**' - especially with such strong and superb competition from the other finalists."

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Might spanish port be linked to ancient city? (6)
- 4 Pretend to have influence (6)
- 9 Actresses retain potential - never getting wrinkles (6-9)
- 10 Various birds that go underwater (6)
- 11 Recluse entertains fellow capitalist (8)
- 12 Writer's name is chromium plated (8)
- 14 A short nap in Susie's tavern (6)
- 15 Admitted a number was in debt (6)
- 18 Unhappy with change into recession (8)
- 21 Smack around the ear? Go away! (5,3)
- 22 Forgo sleep when touring island (6)
- 24 Mercenary marshal bearing means of transport (7,8)
- 25 Name complete idiot (6)
- 26 A carriage seen initially in French city (6)

Down

- 1 Disappear after kidnapping monarch in Japan, say (7)
- 2 Breeding good stock (5)
- 3 Implement breaking let us in (7)
- 5 Rex interrupts the Devil's familiars (7)
- 6 Hearty pirate wearing old doublet? (9)
- 7 Function where Hazel gets a man (7)
- 8 Physician has girl drinking booze (6)
- 13 Novel place to sell game (9)
- 16 Football team elected rogue (7)
- 17 See Oscar tucking into chops with energy (7)
- 18 Remove cadet wrecking hotel (6)
- 19 Treatment area's weird? That'll create unrest! (3,40)
- 20 Leaves when singers mess about (7)
- 23 Beat small child (5)

Solution to Crossword in Edition 91

Across

- 1 Sarnies
- 5 Best Man
- 9,19 Makes
- 10 Booby Trap
- 11 Canal Barge
- 12,24 Anti
- 14 Departmental
- 18 Onomatopocia
- 21 Dory
- 22 Dog and Bone
- 25 Epitomise
- 26 Awful
- 27 Tangent
- 28 Desktop

Down

- 1 So Much
- 2 Raking
- 3 Its Illegal
- 4 Sabra
- 5,23 Brought To
- 6 Styx
- 7 Marinate
- 8 Nuptials
- 13 Behind Bars
- 15 Apologist
- 16 Cold Feet
- 17 Coercion
- 19 Youfat
- 20 Dewlap
- 23 Ahead
- 24 Gone

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Events Calendar - 2016

Date	Time	Event	Venue
December 3 rd	8.00pm	Hatful of Rain	Tiddy Hall
December 9 th	6.00pm	Advent Market	Tiddy Hall
December 11 th	2.30pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
	7.30pm	Hansel & Gretel	Tiddy Hall
December 17 th	8.00pm	Ewan McLennan	The Swan
December 18 th	4.00pm	Carol Service	The Church
December 23 th	6.00pm	Christmas Carols	Village Green

2017

January 14 th	8.00 pm	Steve Knightly	Tiddy Hall
January 26 th	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
January 28 th	8.00pm	Duotone	Swan Inn
February 2 nd	7.30	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 4 th		Tiddy Hall Dinner/not Dance	Tiddy Hall
February 9 th	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 11 th	8.00pm	Kieran Halpin	Swan Inn
February 16 th	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 23 rd	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
March 2 nd	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
March 11 th	8.00pm	Sally Barker	Tiddy Hall
March 20 th	8.00pm	Robert Lane	Swan Inn
April 15 th	8.00pm	Chris Leslie	Tiddy Hall