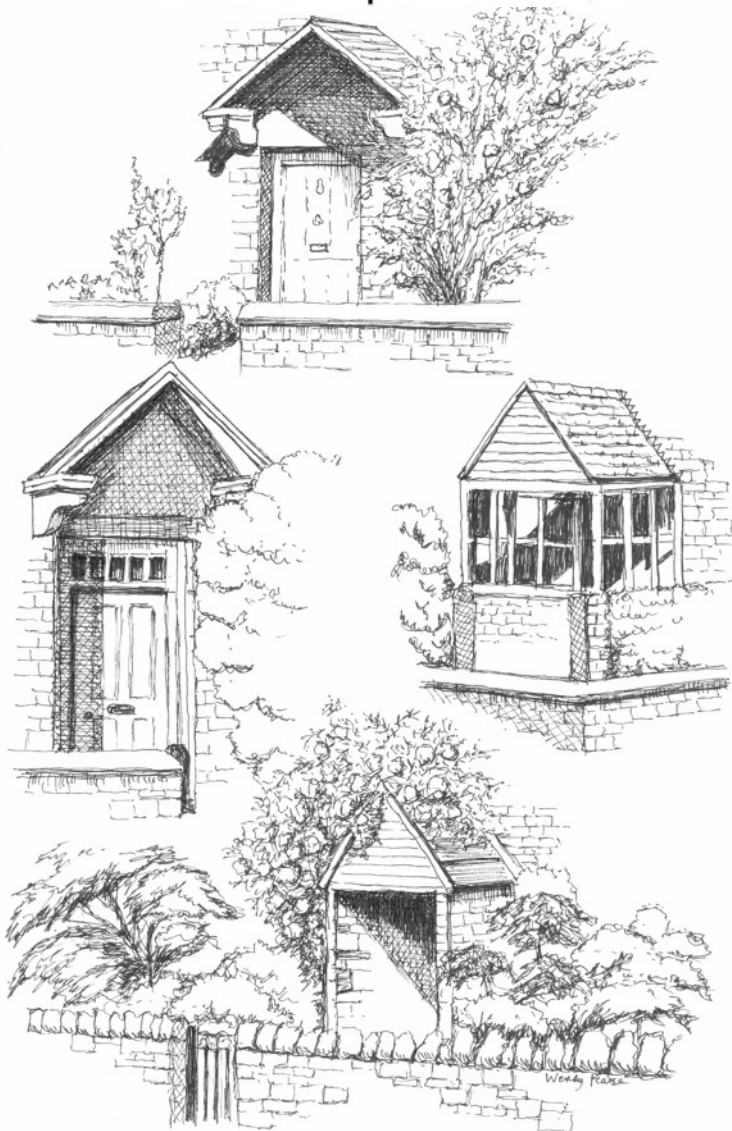


# The Ascott Grapevine



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

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

The Editorial Team:  
Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,  
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

## Content & Editorial Policy

If you have an article, story or poem you would like to submit for publication The Ascott Grapevine editorial team would love to hear from you. Material for publication is gratefully accepted. Due to space considerations material may not be used immediately but may be held over to be included in a later issue.

The Grapevine editorial team reserve the right to shorten, amend or reject any material submitted for publication.

**Opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the editorial team.**

\*\*\*\*\*

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**To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 64](#)), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or [wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com). The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.**

## SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2017

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.

12 <sup>th</sup> March	1000	Holy Communion [CW] 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lent
26 <sup>th</sup> March	0800	Holy Communion [BCP] Mothering Sunday
9 <sup>th</sup> April	0945	[BS]
16 <sup>th</sup> April	1830	Holy Communion [C] Easter Day
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
30 <sup>th</sup> April	1000	[BS]
	1400	Baptism
14 <sup>th</sup> May	1000	Holy Communion [C]
28 <sup>th</sup> May	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](mailto:rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk)*

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## Local Churches

### Wychwood Benefice

Rev'd Kate Stacey Tel: 01993 832514

### St Mary's Shipton

Churchwarden James Walmsley  
01993 830842

### SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993  
830160

### St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993  
831385

### Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

### Wychwood Baptist, Milton

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

### Burford Methodist

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993  
845322

### Westcote Methodist

Tony Gibson 01993 830699  
Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

### Roman Catholic

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton

Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-on-the-Wold

St Teresa, Charlbury

### Chase Benefice

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572  
[rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk](mailto:rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk)

# ***Ascott Church***

## **From the Rector**

Dear Friends

I am writing this at the beginning of February - and already Easter Eggs have been on sale in our supermarkets for nearly a month!

Although it is still a long way off, I wonder what Easter means to you? Chocolate and chicks and spring flowers? Hot cross buns and the start of the gardening season? Maybe just the first bank holiday since the New Year. Even for those for whom it has no religious significance it is a time filled with hope and joy. People have always celebrated the return of spring. We may now know that it happens simply as a result of the way the Earth orbits the Sun, but it still feels like a miracle. Most of us are fairly sheltered from the effects of the winter gloom and cold, but even so, we greet the return of the Sun's warmth with a sense of relief. For our ancestors, it must have been even more welcome, and it is no surprise, therefore, that people have celebrated spring festivals in every culture and faith.

But for Christians Easter is far more than a celebration of the natural year, just as it was for the Jewish people in whose faith Christianity was born and nurtured. Their spring festival was Passover. It was both an agricultural festival, and the feast in which they remembered their liberation from slavery in Egypt. The fact that Jesus was executed just as the Passover was being celebrated was soon picked up as significant by the first Christians. They believed that his death and resurrection brought about a new liberation. Just as Moses had led the Hebrews to the Promised Land, so Jesus led his followers into the Kingdom of God. This kingdom had no boundaries or borders, and was open to all. It came into being in this world, wherever people chose love over hatred just as he had done.

May the coming of spring - and the season of Easter itself when it arrives - be a blessing to you as you see signs of new life all around.

**Mark Abrey**

# ASCOTT BELLS

The bells of Ascott Church were first mentioned in 1526 when Richard Tayler made a bequest of a sheep towards the cost of the bells. Documents from a Dr Rawlinson dated 1720 noted that the tower at Ascott had three bells. Two further bells were added, probably between 1722 and 1744. Today we have six bells, the lightest known as the treble, was added in 1905 as a gift from the Cornbury Estate.

It was in 1905 that the last major work was carried out on the bells when they were all rehung on a steel frame. Since then only minor repairs, servicing and safety checks have been carried out. Very few mechanical devices continue operating for over one hundred years without major repairs.

Our bells have rung for nearly five hundred years, calling the faithful to worship, celebrating feast days and important events local and national and rejoicing at weddings.

We are very fortunate in having a band of six ringers keeping the ringing tradition alive in this Parish, but we are now facing some problems!

After one hundred years all of the six bells are in need of restoration and refurbishment and one bell, the tenor (which weighs 7 1/2 cwt or 381 kilos) is becoming very difficult to ring. Except for one forthcoming wedding we will restrict our ringing to five bells.

In order to repair the tenor bell and at the same time strengthen the frame which holds all the bells to prevent it moving when the bells are rung we need to raise £13,000 plus 20% VAT. There are grants available for some of the cost, but this will still leave a substantial sum to be raised locally.

At this early stage we are not seeking cash donations, rather we want to ascertain the level of support that we might expect from members of the Parish.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE COST OF REPAIRING OUR ASCOTT CHURCH BELLS PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE FORM AND RETURN IT TO ME by email: [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com) or post to 27 London Lane, Ascott-under-Wychwood, OX7 6AN or deliver it to the Village Shop and ask them to place it in my tray.

## PLEDGE TO HELP FINANCE ASCOTT CHURCH BELLS

I .....OF .....

.....

TELEPHONE .....EMAIL .....

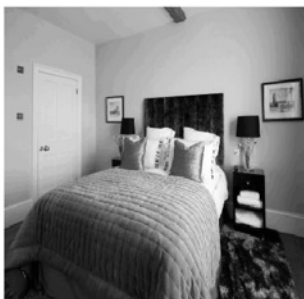
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# ***ALL CHANGE AT THE SWAN***

The Swan has been acquired by Pack Taverns Ltd, a company that has been running the Bull in Charlbury for the last fifteen months. Charles Crossley is the owner and he is currently engaged in the renovation of the Swan.

The renovations at the Swan are going to be extensive, as you can see by the fleet of skips lined up in the car park. The whole interior is being stripped, new bathrooms installed and the eight bedrooms professionally and individually designed. The bar will be moved in order to improve the entrance and a new porch and entry area will be created, somewhere warm and welcoming before entering the main bar area. Banquette seating will be installed in the dining room.

The function room will be used for business conferences, workshops, private dinner parties and as an activity area for the Swan's guests. Subject to availability local organisations would be able to book the function room for village events.

In the first few months after the Swan's reopening Charles will be running the pub and will be in regular attendance, but eventually a manager will be appointed. The Swan will be open all day, every day.

Food will be an important part of the Swan's offering. Meals will be based on the simple idea of 'great home cooking,' with a range of traditional meals such as pies, soups and fish and chips.

The proposed date for the Swan to reopen is 1<sup>st</sup> May.

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# ***RECIPE***

## **Lemon Pudding**

### ***Ingredients***

10 fluid ounces of double cream

1 397g can of full fat condensed milk

12 tablespoons of lemon juice

The zest of two unwaxed lemons

### ***Method***

Lightly whip the cream into soft peaks, taking care not to over whip. Fold in the contents of the can of condensed milk. Stir in the lemon zest, the 12 tablespoons of lemon juice and the mixture will thicken.

This can then be poured into a large or individual bowls. Decorate with grated chocolate and serve with soft fruits such as raspberries and chocolate/hazelnut paste cigar biscuits (sold in the village shop).

Another option is to crush ginger biscuits, stir in some melted butter and put into a loose bottomed cake tin to form a base. Chill then top with the lemon mixture and chill for several hours until needed. Turn out of the tin when required and decorate to taste.

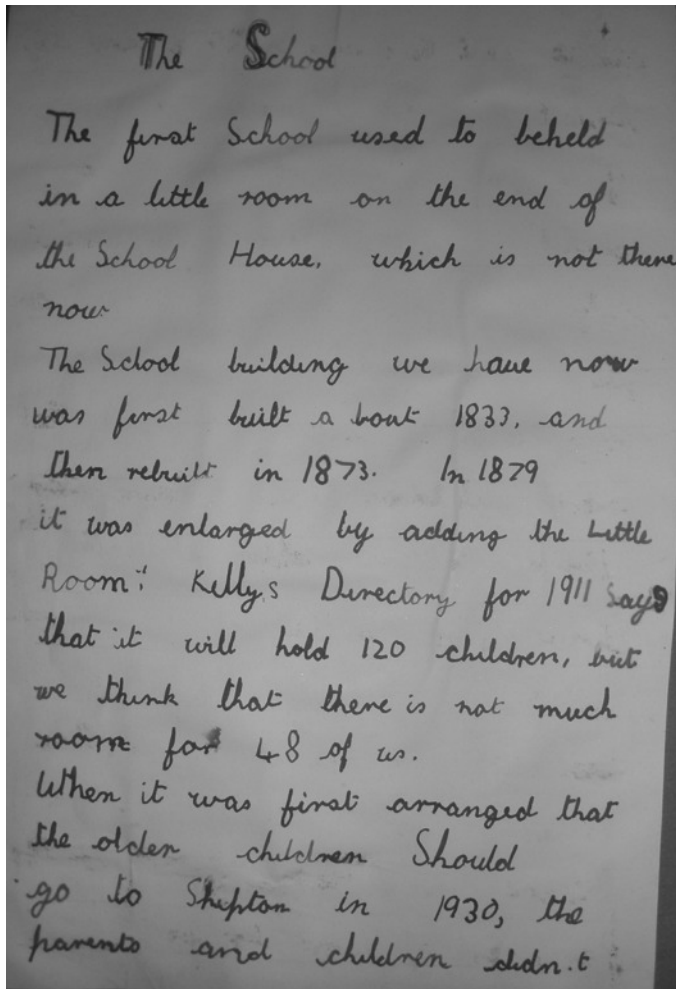
The lemon mixture freezes well.

### ***Enjoy***



# Ascott School Journal c1955

## The School



The first school used to be held in a little room on the end of the school house, which is not there now.

The school building we have now was first built about 1833, and then rebuilt in 1873. In 1879 it was enlarged by adding the Little Room! Kelly's Directory for 1911 says that it will hold 120 children, but we think that there is not much room for 48 of us.

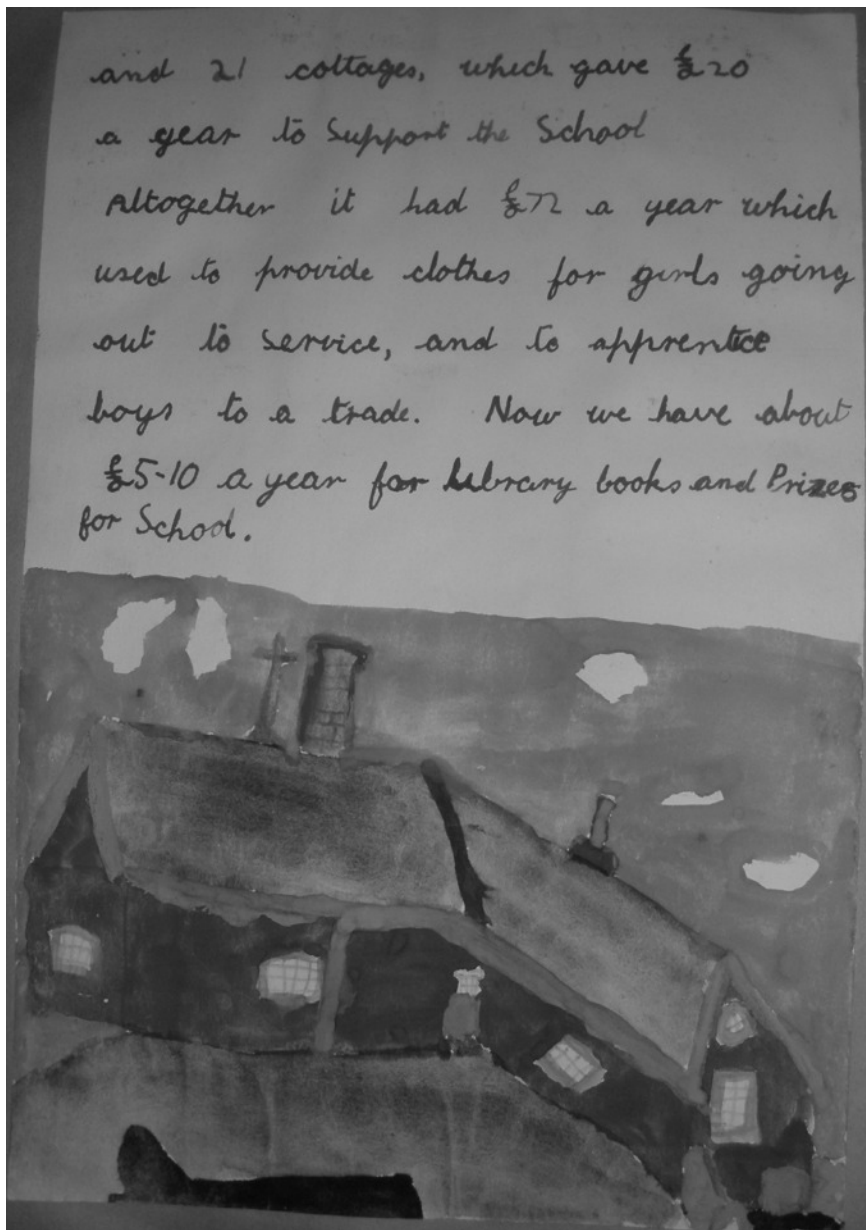
When it was first arranged that the older children should go to Shipton in 1930, the parents and children didn't (Continued over page)

like it, and there was a Strike, and they didn't go for a week or so. If it was over two miles the children were given bicycles, but only High Street end got them. one father measured the road all the way with a chain, to prove that more children should have them. From 1949 the older children have gone to Burford Grammar, or Modern School, and a bus collects them, and brings them back. There was a Poor's Estate in the village, of alms houses

like it, and there was a strike and they didn't go for a week or so.

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There was a Poor's Estate in the village of alms house (Continued over page)



and 21 cottages, which gave £20 a year to support the school.

Altogether it had £72 a year which used to provide clothes for girls going out to service, and to apprentice boys to a trade. Now we have about £5-10 a year for library books and prizes for school

From Parish Magazine May 1878.

April 6 Mr groves (builder, Milton) comes and takes measurements for the building of an Infants' School Room. This addition to the School accommodation is very greatly needed, and specially asked for by the government. It is proposed to build a room, 20 feet by 16, to be built out from the north side of the present Schoolroom. The work is estimated to cost a bout £200.

From the Parish Magazine, October 1878.

"The Diocesan Society has granted £25 on behalf of building the new Infants' Room. but neither Lord Churchill nor the authorities of the Crown property have given their final determination as to the amount of their help: so that the work cannot be commenced at present"

*From the Parish Magazine Nov: 1879.*

*"The new Infant Schoolroom is now completed, with the exception of the fixing of the gallery. It promises to be a very valuable addition to the original school. A porch is also provided at the back of the fireplace, fitted with pegs for bonnets, caps, shawls, etc.*

*On a wet day the warmth from the chimney will make it a nice drying place. A new window has been placed at the west end of the big school, and is a great improvement to the lighting of the room."*

*1955 note. We wish the window had been made at least three feet lower.*

# Nature Notes

If the question was asked “what is the most successful creature on earth” then you might reply human kind after all there are 7.5 billion of us and with our technology and intelligence we have conquered the land, sea and air. However after a little more thought you might question that assumption, after all *Homo Sapiens* have only existed for 200,000 years and even the earliest *Homo* species only date back 3.4 million years. The real answer to the question is “insects” that first appeared 479 million years ago and conquered flight 406 million years ago.

Today there are 1.65 million known animal species of which approaching 80% are arthropods which includes insects. No other group of living creatures has evolved such a variety of form, colour, function and habitat. They can be found on mountain tops, hot deserts, lakes, rivers and even hot springs. Only the sea remains unconquered, although there are many shore-living species.

No one has even tried to estimate the number of individual insects that are alive on earth at any one time, but one scientist once estimated that if you took the top nine inches of an acre of meadowland this would contain up to 230 million individuals, though I’m not sure how far he could actually have counted. In Britain we have 20,000 insect species, some like bees are beneficial, others are pests of our crops, some are parasites of us and other species often spreading disease and others keep other pests, like aphids, under control. It has been suggested that insects consume 10-15% of the world’s food production.

What defines an insect and separates them from other ‘creepy-crawlies’ like spiders, centipedes, scorpions and wood lice? Most simply all insects have three pairs of legs and their bodies are divided into three parts; the head, thorax to which the legs are attached and the abdomen. All winged invertebrates are insects, although it should be noted that some insect parasites have lost their wings. After



all a flea or head louse doesn’t need to fly to move from one host to another. Originally insects evolved with two pairs of wings but over time in some species evolution modified this.

Beetles front wings became hard or leathery to form a protective covering for their soft abdomen and rear wings. Houseflies rear wings degenerated and all that remains is a pair of balance organs called halteres. Dragonflies four wings can all operate independently of each other, but butterfly and moth front and rear wings are linked together and beat as one. The ability to fly has been a big factor in the spread of insects, also enabling them to escape from their enemies, find mates and reach new feeding grounds.

## The Ascott Grapevine

The insect's eye is also unique. Unlike ours, with its single lens focussing an image on our retina, adult insects have compound eyes consisting of many lens,



each producing its own image, so that insects see a mosaic made-up of many small pieces. The picture may not be sharp, but it is well suited to detecting movement, which is one reason trying to swat a housefly does not always succeed. The number of lens in each eye varies with species; some like dragonflies that hunt fast moving aerial prey have huge eyes, almost covering their entire head and containing up to 30,000 individual lens in each eye. At the other end of the scale the ant, which relies mainly on smell and touch may only have a few hundred lens in each.

If you are a devotee of science fiction or horror films you will undoubtedly have seen the world being invaded by giant insects, but in real life all insects are rather small, even the largest beetles are only a couple of inches long and the large tropical silk moths with their large wings only have relatively small bodies. Why is this? Part of the answer lies in the way insects obtain oxygen. Unlike other creatures they don't have lungs and their blood doesn't contain haemoglobin. Oxygen is taken in by small openings in the insect's abdomen, called

spiracles. These are connected to a system of air tubes allowing oxygen to diffuse through their body. In larger insects these air tubes are modified with the presence of a number of thin-walled air sacs, which can be expanded or compressed by movements of the body. Such pumping movements can sometimes be observed in resting insects. This system is not very efficient and would not be capable of oxygenating the organs of a large creature. The largest known insects existed on the carboniferous era (300 million years ago) and these were dragonflies the size of seagulls. At this stage in the earth's history atmospheric oxygen levels were very much higher than today allowing insects to become larger whilst still being able to absorb sufficient oxygen.

Most insects start life as an egg, although some notably the summer generation of aphids give birth to live young. Primitive insects, such as crickets and grasshoppers,



pers, hatch into small copies of their parents only lacking wings and reproductive organs. These nymphs go through several moults until they are fully mature. More evolutionary advanced insects, such as butterflies go through a complete metamorphosis where the young bears no

resemblance to the adult. The advantage of this arrangement is that the young and the adult occupy different habitats and do not compete with each other for food.

Insect's success lies in their adaptability, evolution has enabled them to exploit widely different food sources and environments.

*Stuart Fox*

## ***Wildlife Update***

An otter was recently spotted in the Evenlode, by Mr Grippers fields.

It's possible that a pair of Buzzards will nest in an Oak tree by the fishing lake. And finally, bad news for the fishermen I spotted a Cormorant keeping watch over the river.

---

### **Warning issued over council tax 'scam'**

West Oxfordshire residents are being warned to guard against bogus callers telling them their council tax bands maybe too high.

Several residents have been in touch with the District Council saying callers from the 'Claims Review Bureau' have contacted them offering to work on their behalf to obtain a reduction in exchange for a fee of about £80.

But staff have emphasised that anyone wanting to appeal against their band can do so for free by contacting the District Valuation Office.

Cllr Toby Morris, Cabinet Member for Resources, said: "This is a scam and residents must ensure they do not pass on any financial or personal details to these callers.

"Appealing against a council tax band does not require a third party and is free. Anyone receiving one of these calls should end the conversation as quickly as possible."

Residents wishing to appeal against their council tax banding can do so by contacting the District Valuation Office on 03000 501 501.

To report a suspected scam, contact Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845.

The District Council has also reminded residents that staff would never ask for a customer's bank details via email.



## ***Pantomime 2016***

A big thank you to all cast and backroom helpers for their hard work to make the Pantomime another success. Also a big thank you to all the people who made the effort to come and see the show and their enjoyment of what they saw is shown by the very generous donation of £246. This donation was split evenly to support the village charity and the Grapevine magazine.

Thank you all again and we hope to see you in December 2017.

## ***DID YOU KNOW***


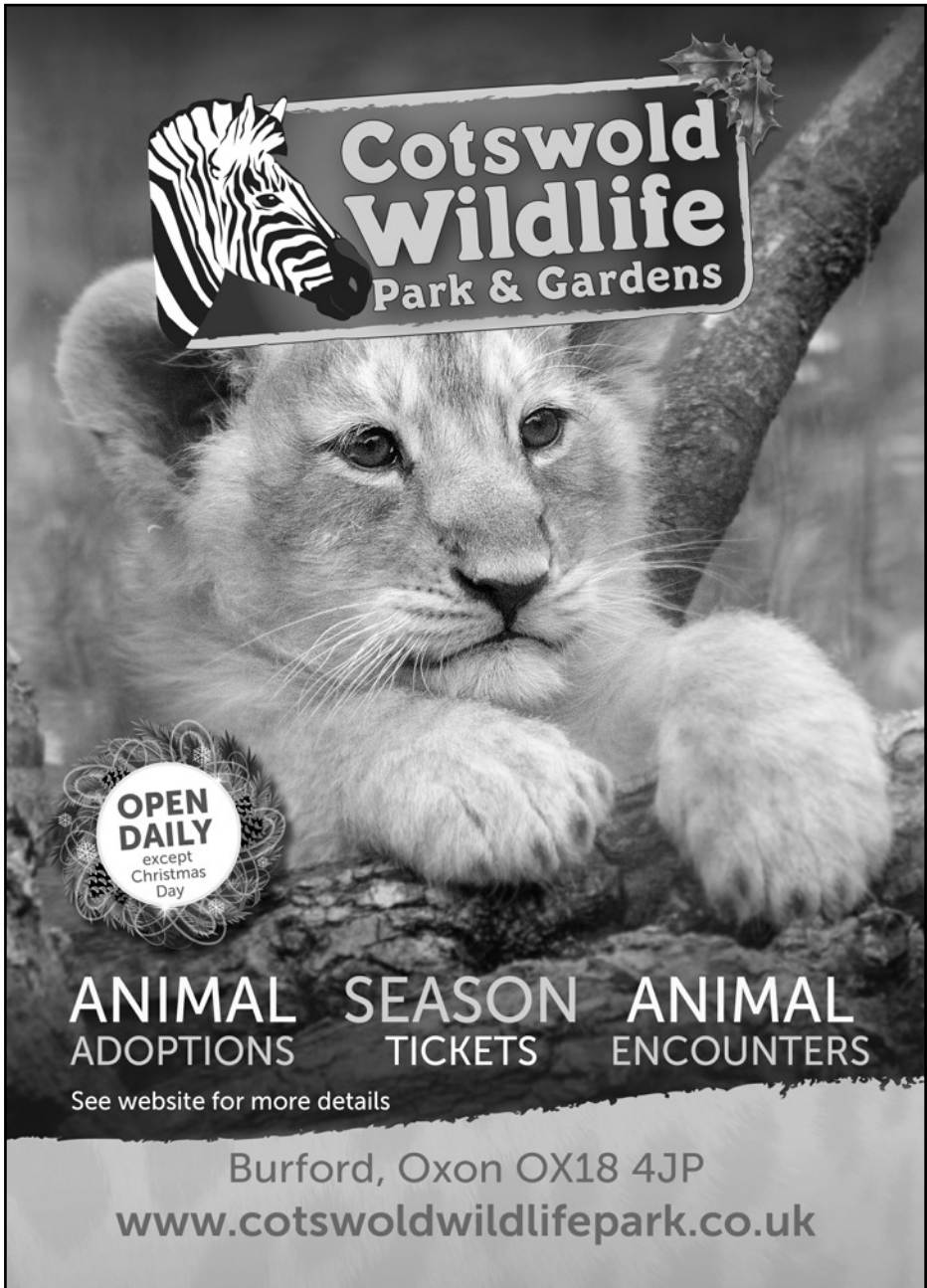
When Chris Harries set up Coldstone Pottery in the grounds of the present Coldstone House in 1953, his daughter Dinah was working at a Lutheran Pastor's Friendship House in Northern Germany. There she met Dieter Kunzemann. They became friends and in that summer he came to Ascott and stayed for eighteen months, and he learnt to love potting. He had to return to Germany but in 1957 he came back to England and was able to stay provided he married Dinah within three months. They were married at Shipton and lived in Ascott where Dieter worked in the pottery and gained valuable experience. In 1964 they moved to Evenlode where Dieter set up Evenlode Pottery. He died in 2010.

---


Actor Sir John Hurt died at the end of January age 77. During the 1970's and early 1980's John Hurt lived in Ascott at Vine House, opposite the village pound, with his partner of fifteen years Marie-Lise Volpeliere.

John and Marie-Lise were keen horse riders, but whilst out riding on 26th January 1983 both were thrown from their horses. John landed in a hedge without serious injury but Marie landed on the road, hitting her head. She fell into a coma and died later that day.

The beautiful magnolia in the front of Vine House was planted by John in memory of Marie-Lise



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for donating the Christmas Eve Carols collection to the Day Centre.

The collection made £320. This will be of particular importance this year, given the probable cuts in funding announced by Oxfordshire County Council.

All funds collected will go towards the continuation of this invaluable charity which supports the elderly of Ascott and surrounding villages.

With many thanks to all villagers and friends for your support.



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# ***End of an Era at Crown Farm***

## **1934- 2016**

My grandfather moved to Crown Farm in 1934 from Westwell Farm, near Burford. I never knew why he moved but he had the choice of many farms on the Crown Estate and Cornbury Estate but chose Crown Farm, then about 320 acres. He felt that it was enough land. If he had chosen a Cornbury Park farm, with a landlord that dies as opposed to the Crown that doesn't, I would have not have been able to farm, because when Lord Watney died suddenly, none of the sons of the tenants were allowed to take on their fathers farms.

The sheep and cattle were herded by road from Westwell to Ascott under Wychwood. I never met my grandfather, he died in 1945, four years before I was born. My father said he was a real worker. When pulling and cleaning swedes, it was said he always had one in the air!

My father, Arthur, took over the tenancy in 1945 and married my mother, Monica, soon after. My mother was a Rose from Churchill Heath near Kingham. One of six children, 3 boys and 3 girls. My father was one of 3. Uncle George worked for the government in Kenya and Auntie Drucella married Ralph Edginton of High Lodge Farm, Milton under Wychwood where she lived all her married life.

My earliest memory is of a cart horse pulling a cart up the track before the first tractor arrived on the farm.

When Harry Ferguson invented hydraulics it changed the face of the farm. Soon the muck fork was replaced by the fore-

loader and suddenly some of the real hard work was gone.

Early combines like the Massey Harris put the grain into bags that were then dropped in the field and then picked up by hand and put onto a trailer. This was



an improvement on the binder, which I remember working at Crown Farm. The binder tied the cut wheat in sheaves that were then stoked up in the field to ripen before being picked up and stacked in the



Dutch Barn to await the threshing machine sometime in the winter, or into stacks which were then thatched. Mother was a very good thatcher I am told!

Soon the bagger combine was converted to a bulk combine by A V Filt Ltd of

Great Tew. The grain was now emptied into a trailer before being taken to the drier, again another new invention. Our first drier was an Alvin Blanch Cascade 45, capable of about 2 tonnes/hour. But the grain leaving the drier was put into bags. Barley in 3 Bushel bags, bags about 11/2 cwt and wheat in 4 Bushel bags about 21/4cwt. These we would carry on our backs to their final destination in one of the barns. There was quite a skill dropping a 21/4cwt bag off your back on to the correct spot without having to move it again.

My father employed four staff at that time, about 1960. I remember in particular, Tom and Stan. They were always together, always wearing tweed jackets and tweed caps, which never came off regardless of how hot it was. They even wore them in the pub!

Farming at that time was very traditional, sheep, cattle and corn. All the livestock was sold locally at Kingham market. A weekly trip to the market was part of the social calendar. These were good times for agriculture. If you worked hard you made a good living. The word 'bureaucracy' had not been heard of. At that time there were many dairy farms. There were two in Ascott, one at Yew Tree Farm and the other at College Farm, which was then in the village. Anything between 30 and 80 cows. Doorstep deliveries were the norm. Schools had free milk.

I left school in 1966, aged 16, and came straight home and started work that afternoon. I was very lucky, I got on very well with my parents and I was keen to learn. At that time we had a breeding sheep flock of about 150 and bought store cattle to finish yards during the winter. We grew kale which was cut by hand and loaded onto a trailer. This was then



chopped and mixed with rolled barley or oats and fed to the cattle in mangers. We lambd the sheep in February inside, aiming for fat lambs for the Easter market. The sheep were grazed on roots, kale and swedes in early

spring. They would have a new pen every day. Many hours were spent putting sheep wire up and taking it down again the next day! In early April they would be moved to the one leys and the roots would be ploughed up and planted with Barley. The planting was quite late in the season and became known as Cuckoo Barley.

We were about to join the Common Market. Deficiency payments were gone. This was a mechanism that put a base into the market for all commodities. When we joined in 1972, farmers received an acreage payment. The governments of Europe needed to up the output of food so also introduced around this time was a Capital Grant Scheme known as F.H.D.S. This gave farmers a 40% grant on fixed equipment, mainly buildings.

My early memory of ploughing was a 3 furrow one way plough on a 50hp tractor with no cab. When 5 o'clock came one didn't stay – one went straight home and into a hot bath! About this time fungicide came in and there was a surge in yields from 2 tonne/acre to 3 tonne/acre. This was the start of real technology in agriculture. Plant breeding was improving, research was being done into seeding rates, chemical rates and everything asso-

ciated with growing crops was looked at in trying to improve efficiency.

Machinery was improving all the time too so one was constantly changing equipment to keep up with technology, which still goes on today. The first combine I bought cost £3,000, the last one I bought was £230,000. The first tractor I bought cost £1400 and the last one £82,000. The cab on the first tractor cost £40.00 and still was very cold but at least you kept dry.

Gradually over the years agriculture became more competitive. Mountains were being produced – mountains of butter, grain, lakes of wine, so inevitably prices began to drop behind inflation. Supermarkets were putting pressure on prices because of their buying power. The mountains now seemed to have gone. We are now in a world market when our UK harvest good or bad has no influence on prices. The value of the pound and the weather in America have more influence. As incomes came under pressure, diversification became the in word. Tenanted farms, particularly below 500 acres had to find some other form of income to exist. So we went into firstly, a cross country training course which developed into the British Eventing course. The livery yard grew very fast to 37 horses. This was great. We now had a good income, good cash flow but the work load increased accordingly. Janet had to take on the running of the livery yard which I must say was no easy task.

We soon realised that there was an unsatisfied market in equestrianism so we expanded. Firstly with Pony Club and Riding Club events and then moving to British Eventing events. We have now run over 35 BE affiliated events.

It was very sad for Janet and I that Crown Farm was not sold before we left on September 29<sup>th</sup>, so everything to do with the cross country and events had to be sold in the farm sale.

Crown Farm had some new buyers by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thankfully, they would like to continue the events, thus we have been asked to rebuild the cross country course in preparation for the first event in April.

Crown Farm has been a wonderful place to have lived and worked, the views have always been very special. I suppose it is an end of an era, but also the beginning of a new one. John Hook and his family are the new owners of Crown Farm. They are local farmers and are well known and well liked in the area. When the various legalities have been dealt with, the farm and livery yard will be continued. Hopefully everyone will benefit.

Janet and I have moved just down the road from the farm to No. 3. We feel very lucky to live in this lovely community and look forward to meeting people from the village more often than in the past.

**Chris Badger**



**Snow 1962/63 & Straw burning Ascott Hill**





# MARY MOSS

## A LASS OF THE WYCHWOODS

Mary Moss was a real person. She was christened in Ascott in 1802 and lived there all her long life, not dying until she was over eighty years old. Her lifetime covered a series of major changes in Ascott's history and these are her memories of those times.

I was born and brought up in the Wych-  
woods.

More than three score and ten I be now,  
And dear Lord all the changes I've wit-  
nessed.

Would you like I to tell of them now?

I were christened the month of October  
In the year eighteen hundred and two  
In the old Holy Trinity Ascott  
And later were married there too.

Mary Moss were my name at my chris-  
tening,  
Mary Moss when I married my John.  
You see Ascott were full of they Moss's,  
The stones there did gather them on.

Ag labs was the family status.  
My father, sons, husband each one,  
And we women we worked there aside  
them  
Whenever the job needed some.

When I were a girl in this valley  
The fields was all open and free  
Few hedges and walls sub-divided  
The vale of the Wychwoods you see.

Then along come Lord Churchill to  
change it.  
A private enclosure says he,  
And Ascott erected its fences  
And restricted its freedom from me.

No commons to collect the firing  
And nowhere to pasture the cow  
And fleas in the ears of the urchins  
Who defied them barriers now.

Then later to Shipton and Milton  
The self same divisions arrived,  
Those quickthorn and drystone defences  
Erupted upon every side.

But fast on the heels of Enclosure  
Another quite monstrous idea.  
They said a fire eating marauder  
With designs on our valley drew near.

The cattle and horses would scatter  
At first sight of its gigantic head  
And fiery doom, death and disaster  
Would threaten good folk in their beds.

The vicar, he preached in the pulpit,  
Dire fears for our morals, he said.  
That monster would reap dreadful venge-  
ance  
On all those too easily led.

Men with long sticks and chain measures  
Along by the river were seen.  
Surely no smaller divisions  
Would threaten our valley so green.

## The Ascott Grapevine

Yes, the Railway. It captured our village  
With its great mounds of earth, topped  
with rails  
And shattered the peaceful surroundings  
With the sounds of loud clatters and  
wails.

And then they disrupted our forest.  
The Queen, they said, ordered it so.  
The farmers demanded new cornfields  
So much of our greenwood must go.

Another devouring monster  
Gorged up all the bushes and shrubs.  
Two horses, a winch and long hawsers  
Created great chasms of mud.

And then all the men with their breast-  
ploughs  
Tackled the roots, stumps and stones,  
To make land fit for cultivation  
Where past forest life had its home.

Next, our old church needed tending,  
The north wall were near falling down.  
With new walls, new floors and new  
seating,  
T'would match up with any in town.

All children to school was the order  
To learn sums, write letters and read.  
But the farmers, they knew where to find  
'em  
To pick up stones, scare crows and weed.

We Moss's was mostly illit'rate,  
Our marks in the church books sufficed,  
But my grandchildren all knows their  
letters  
And writes their names ever so nice.

And then with the rise of the Unions  
The Wychwoods provided the core  
Of a drastic and strong confrontation,  
The women the ones to the fore.

My son's wife, Charlotte, were a Martyr.  
To Oxford the women were sped.  
A week passed afore they released them  
But the Queen praised their efforts t'was  
said.

But the times just gets harder and harder,  
Near eighty are me and my John.  
I just hopes the Union don't get us  
That damn workhouse at Chipping Nor-  
ton.

## Wendy Pearse

Ag labs was a term meaning agricultural labourers.

Lord Churchill was the owner of Cornbury and Ascott Doyley land in Ascott.

The Chipping Norton Union Workhouse catered for all the villages around and 19  
people from Ascott died there and were brought back to Ascott to be buried.



*Pilates with Ursula*

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# ***Ascott under Wychwood PC News***

Happy New Year to everyone – we hope that your festive season went well and that the year ahead brings plenty of happiness to you and your family.

## ***Christmas Carols and Wychwood Day Centre***

This year's 'Carols on the Green' was absolutely lovely – no bad weather, no panics, a great band and lovely singing, even descants. Thank you to the Parish Council team who organised this seamlessly, to the brass band, Daphne Abe and Ascott Songsters who gave us confidence to sing out, and to all our helpers who warmed up the mulled wine.

Thanks also to everyone who turned up and for the generous donations towards the Wychwood Day Centre. It has been confirmed that our Day Centre will no longer receive a grant from Oxfordshire County Council and so private donations are all the more precious. We will keep supporting this very special community asset as we believe that it is essential for our older citizens to be able to get out and socialise.

## ***Xmas Trains***

We hope you enjoyed the extra trains on Saturdays before Christmas. All were well used including one Saturday when 17 passengers boarded at Ascott-u Wychwood.

## ***Planning***

West Oxfordshire District Council put their amended draft Local Plan out to

consultation in November. This sets out the WODC plans and vision for building new homes up until 2031. The two sites in Ascott (which had been considered in the summer) were regarded as unsuitable and, therefore, not included in this amended Plan. We have yet to hear if the Government Inspector will approve it – once a Local Plan is approved it will give a degree of protection against speculation.

Local residents, supported by the PC, worked hard this Autumn to persuade the WODC Planning Committee that the original Cottsway plan for 6 homes at the top of Maple Way should be rejected. We all felt that the layout of the houses would make life for some residents very miserable indeed. Cottsway are now re-designing the layout and the PC and residents have been included in discussions. We do hope that the results will suit most people. The new planning application (when it comes out) will still go through the usual consultation period and there will be a residents' meeting to look at the paper plans, so plenty of opportunity for people to comment.

## ***Finances***

December is when we set our level of Precept for the following financial year. This is the small amount that we are allowed to draw from everyone's Community Tax. We are pleased to say that we have reduced our Precept this year as we were not asked to take on as many tasks from OCC as we had been led to expect.

## ***Keeping Ascott Safe and Tidy***

A big thankyou to everyone who took part in the January Litter Pick – there must have been over 20 people involved. This is usually an annual event but if you are walking and come across some litter why not pop it in a litter bin. Gloves advisable, of course. Over the past year there has been a great response to our request to keep drain covers clear and cut back vegetation overhanging the footpaths and pavements. So thank you to all - it makes walking about safer and more pleasant.

I think that we all get fed up with the potholes in our roads. Don't forget - the more people who report them on the OCC website 'Fix my Street' the more likely they will come out because one of their budget cuts is to monitoring the state of our roads. We are very thankful that OCC Highways have recently cut 'grips' (slits) in the verges of London Lane and Chippy Hill for the first time for several years – this will help to reduce the rainwater on the hills reaching our road drains and the river.

River watchers may want to check out the following link to the Environment Agency website <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/7051>. This will give you the levels of the Evenlode at the monitoring points in Evenlode, Shipton and Cassington. Evenlode levels can be erratic so don't panic!

## ***Ascott-under-Wychwood History***

2016 was the year for raising the profile of Ascott's history. You all received a

free copy of the excellent Potted History written by Elaine Byles and financed by the Ascott Village Charity. What a fascinating and well-produced booklet – we are very grateful to Elaine for her hard work and her longstanding dedication to the village.

In November the Victoria County History Society posted their draft history of Ascott-under-Wychwood on their website - <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/oxfordshire/work-in-progress/ascott-under-wychwood> This will be included in a smartly bound copy of the history of Oxfordshire in about 2 years' time.

Beverley McCombe published her very carefully researched book on the Ascott Martyrs (Beverley is a descendent born in New Zealand). She gave a very interesting talk at the Swan in January organised by the Martyrs Trustees and there were quite a few descendants swapping stories and memorabilia.

## ***The Swan***

The Swan pub has now been sold to Mr & Mrs Crossley, who also own the Bull at Charlbury. They plan is to refurbish the Swan over the next 3 months and Mr Crossley is keen to welcome the Ascott community back once it is open again. He is very happy to maintain our defibrillator there, although it will be moved to the car park side as a porch is going to be built leading to the front door – the Ambulance Service is aware.

## ***Councillors' Surgery***

Over page

## Joint Councillors' Surgery

This surgery is an opportunity to meet County, District and Parish Councillors all at the same time. Do take this opportunity to ask your representatives for help and advice face-to-face.

**At the February surgery we are pleased to announce that we will be joined by our new MP, Mr Robert Courts.**

Future surgery dates are:

Saturday 25 February	11.30-12.30am	Trinity Church
Saturday 29 April	11.30-12.30am	Trinity Church
Saturday 24 June	11.30-12.30am	To be advised on notice boards

## *Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council*

### Parish Council:

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



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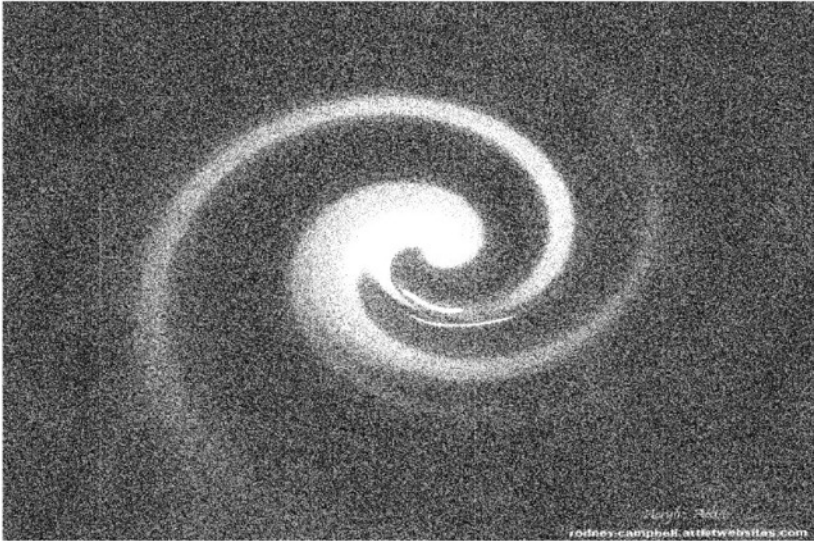
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***Spring 2017 Dates:***  
***March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>***

£5.00 per session or £25 for all 6  
Contact : [pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk](mailto:pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk)  
07780 572283 to book your place

## ***Are you interested?***

### **An extra weekday train from and to Ascott under Wychwood?**

The pre-Christmas trains that specially run on four Saturdays, are clearly popular and appreciated by villagers as a very useful supplement to our otherwise minimal one train a day service on weekdays only.

The Cotswold Line Promotion Group (CLPG) have helpfully explained that if a sufficient number of villagers can be organised to use an existing weekday service to justify it to additionally call at Ascott, the GWR franchise service provider might be motivated to arrange it.

The additional attraction would be to seek a Group Save Fare arrangement, which might be around a £5 return fare to Oxford.

The existing service that the CLPG have recommended as best suiting both the GWR franchise operators and our villagers is the 09:50 from Moreton, that could additionally call at Ascott around 10:05 and Oxford at 10:30. The return from Oxford being the 15:20 service calling at Ascott about 15:45. So this would appear attractive for those wanting a reasonable duration in Oxford but avoiding the rush hours.

Clearly, to succeed, the idea has to have sufficient support in numbers and for starters at least, a consensus on the particular weekday chosen, of course some may even want a Saturday service, and whether if a once off trial proved viable all round, it could become an established weekly event.

Nothing is guaranteed of course, but to start the process we need to gather a sufficient response from villagers, hence this insert in the Grapevine.

Please phone me on 831113 with your views or complete the simple form being placed in our Ascott Village Shop. I will collate the response and liaise with CLPG on their approach to the GWR operators if they consider our interest has sufficient numbers to convince GWR to run at least a trial.

Thank you

**Peter Rance**

(Ascott Parish Councillor with Transport Focus and CLPG Rep for Ascott)



## Sign up for garden waste collections by 3<sup>rd</sup> March

From April, West Oxfordshire District Council will be charging £30 per bin, per year, for its fortnightly garden waste collections.

You need to sign up to receive this service and the Council are writing to all households in early February with more details.

To take advantage of the maximum number of collections for the year, starting from April 2017, please register before 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

If you do not wish to pay the £30 charge, simply do nothing and your garden waste collections will cease at the end of March 2017.

For more information or to sign up:

- Visit [www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden)
- Call 01993 861025

Payment will be taken with a debit or credit card only.

For many years this service has been free in West Oxfordshire, but due to the loss of external funding it is now necessary to charge.

### A CHALLENGE TO OUR READERS!

Your magazine relies on a regular flow of articles, news and ideas from the village. We are always delighted to receive contributions especially from anyone who hasn't previously written.

Do you have an interesting or unusual hobby or pastime that you would like write about? Perhaps you have travelled to interesting locations and would be happy to share your adventures? Do you have special knowledge or skills that would make interesting reading? Have you retired and have amusing anecdotes from your working life that you would be happy to share? Would you like to air your views about current affairs or life in the Ascott area, if so we'd like to hear from you?

The editors will always be happy to receive letters dealing with aspects of life in Ascott that you feel strongly about either to praise or see changed.

If any of the above applies to you why not take the plunge and send us an article and if possible any suitable photographs. If you are hesitating don't. Please feel free to contact us for further guidance.

Stuart Fox                      [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com)

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

Elaine Byles                 [elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk)

Keith Ravenhill             [keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net](mailto:keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net)

## **Cotswold Walks**

If you would like to walk in our Cotswold countryside and enjoy this in the company of others, why not join some of the walks listed below organised by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. The walks are themed the idea being to enable walkers to understand and appreciate the landscape, they are not just rambles. All you have to do is to turn up in appropriate gear! For full details of all of the walks [www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/walking](http://www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/walking)

### **Tuesday 4th April 6:00pm**

#### ***Blenheim Estate***

Of Kings, Queens and Heroes An easy walk of 4 miles lasting 2 hours This short walk on public rights of way around the Blenheim Estate looks for traces of its historic past. From Henry II and his mistress to Princess Elizabeth 1st, the Dukes of Marlborough and more Recently Sir Winston Churchill.

#### **Meeting Place**

Hensington Road car park in Woodstock

### **Tuesday 18th April 10:00am**

#### ***Swalcliffe, Epwell and the MacMillan Way 10 miles, 5 hours.***

This circular walk through North Oxfordshire takes in the attractive ironstone villages of Swalcliffe and Epwell. It follows part of the MacMillan Way to Traitors Ford, where maybe a traitor was hanged following the battle of nearby Edgehill. Please bring a packed lunch.

#### **Meeting Place**

St Peter & Paul's Church, Swalcliffe.

### **Thursday 11th May 10:00am**

#### ***Bluebells in Foxholes 6 miles***

Starting from Shipton under Wychwood the walk passes by Bruern Abbey reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where the bluebells should be in flower. We return by woodland and field paths. Lunch options in village at the end of the walk.

#### **Meeting Place**

New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood.

## Sunday 14th May 10:00am

### ***Hiking Through History – life in Roman Oxfordshire, a 5 hour walk of 11.5 miles.***

Discover the Roman influences on this part of the Cotswolds, including a Roman villa and a Roman road.

Please bring a packed lunch.

### **Meeting Place**

Stonesfield Parish Church

## Saturday 27th May 10:00am

### ***Family Walk – The Milk Story, 2.5 miles 4 hours.***

This family walk and tractor and trailer ride links two farms; one is where young cattle graze and the other where the cows are milked - by a robot! Some car sharing - see website. Please bring a picnic.

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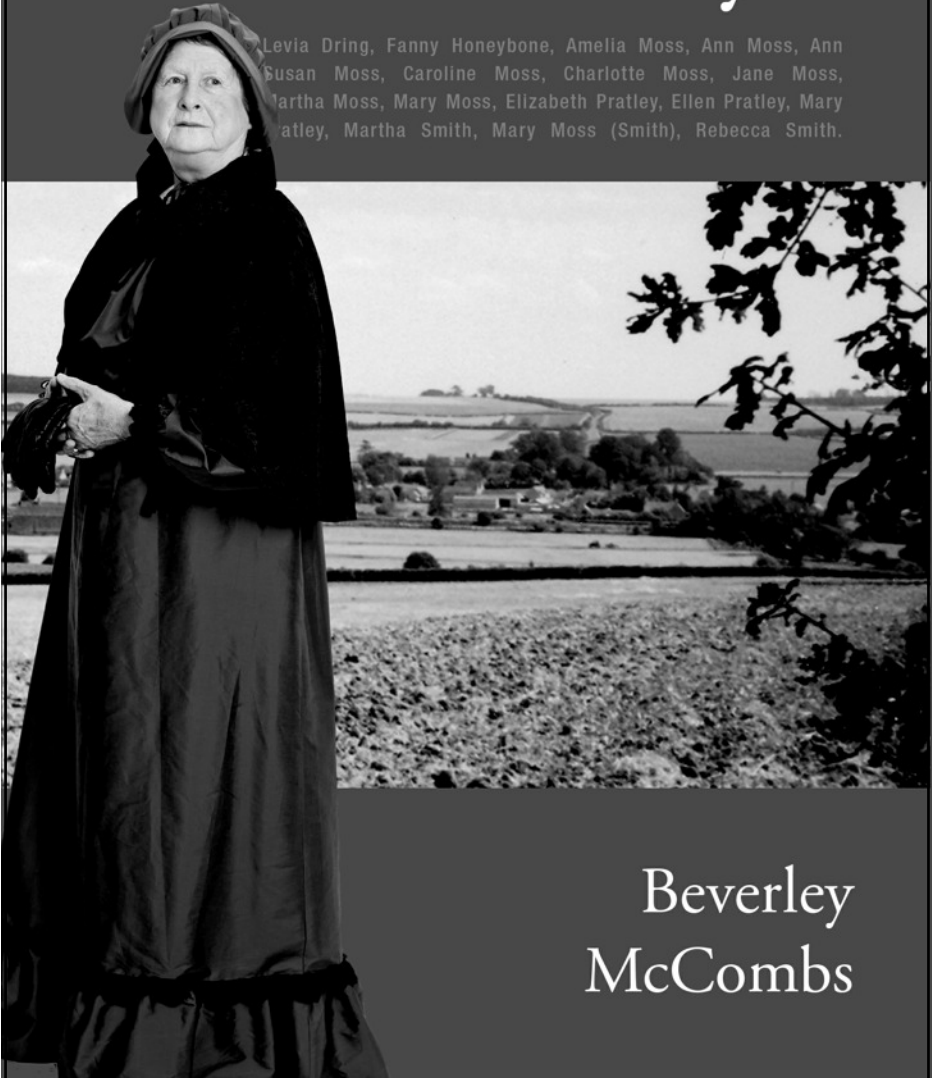
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Sixteen women from Ascott-under-Wychwood  
who were sent over the hills to glory

# THE Ascott Martyrs

Levia Dring, Fanny Honeybone, Amelia Moss, Ann Moss, Ann  
Susan Moss, Caroline Moss, Charlotte Moss, Jane Moss,  
Martha Moss, Mary Moss, Elizabeth Pratley, Ellen Pratley, Mary  
Pratley, Martha Smith, Mary Moss (Smith), Rebecca Smith.



Beverley  
McCombs

## Book Review

### ***The Ascott Martyrs by Beverley McCombs***

#### **A remarkable 28 year project**

You live in New Zealand and back in the family history you know your descendants had emigrated from England in 1874. The author of this remarkable book, Beverley McCombs, was on holiday in England in 1988 searching the gravestones in the church at Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire to no avail, only to be directed to a plaque on a seat around a tree on the village green, and yes there was her great grandmother's name!

*This seat was erected to celebrate the centenary of the 'Ascott Martyrs', the sixteen women of Ascott who were sent to prison in 1873 for the part they played in the founding of the Agricultural Workers Union when they were sent 'over the hills to glory'*

Twenty years later and many revisits to the UK, an inspired Beverley who had had no idea of the Martyrs has extensively researched the lives of these women, the court case, the Oxford Jail and the legacy. She then wonders what to do with all this information so off she goes to study how to write a book.

The result, after 8 years, is a very comprehensive analysis of the Martyrs' lives, which by today's standards were appalling. Large families lived in hovels exploited by the landlord farmers. The influential Church of England were on the side of the gentry and it was vicars as local magistrates who sent the woman and babies to prison. The Duke of Marlborough organised fellow farmers to hold firm against the fast rising and newly formed Agricultural Workers Union but at the end of the day after a massive media and political backlash, picketing was allowed and magistrates were no longer religious officials.

The book tells the story so well that one cannot help but be grateful to the 16 women who became Martyrs to a cause that even today makes our lives more agreeable. Take time to read what life was like not so long ago.

The book is available from the Ascott Village Shop at £15 or from the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust 01993 831967 £20 including post and packing.



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## ***Vet's Advice***

The campaign to stop giving pets as gifts for Christmas is working well. This, along with the new microchip laws, seems to be having a good effect. We now have fewer discarded pets post festive season and the owners, particularly of dogs, are quicker to trace when a lost animal is presented at the clinic. Facebook has also played a part in tracing owners of lost dogs and cats - it is amazing how quickly owners are located. Although it is not a legal requirement to chip our cats, it is definitely a good idea to have it done.

We have welcomed a large number of puppies in January. Always a joy - particularly if they are called Hattie. Our initial priority is to make sure that the pups are healthy, vaccinated, de-wormed and protected from disease as soon as possible, but as important is the socialising process. The two are slightly at odds as pups need to be kept away from possible sources of infection while developing immunity, but at the same time we need to socialise them

as soon as possible and get them used to other dogs, people, noises and experiences such as car rides. Most practices now offer puppy parties as a start to the socialising process. The party can be attended after the first vaccination. We find that puppies who have had these good experiences are generally less fearful of visits to the vet in later life. A good thing for the vet as well as the dog.

We expect the kitten numbers to increase in the spring. Kittens tend to be born more seasonally. I suppose that it is now a good time for the shelter cats needing homes. There is always a plentiful supply despite all the neutering that we do.

Looking forward to seeing if Mr Trump will be introducing a new dog into the White House. They say that we often choose pets that reflect our personality or looks - this could be interesting! (As the owner of a Boxer I might regret what I have just written.)

**Karen Kappen**

---

## ***Ascott Football***

The Ascott football teams will start again on the 8<sup>th</sup> January for all teams, plus the addition of under 15s and 16s, training at Churchill on Sunday afternoons at 1:30 pm start. If there are any youngsters from Ascott wanting to play, any ability, they are very welcome, just turn up.

For further information please ring Mike on 01993830170 or 07928722367

**Mike Ody**

**Shaun Guard**  
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# THE SCHOLAR GIPSY

Matthew Arnold was a well-known figure in Oxford in the mid nineteenth century. He was well acquainted with schools - his father was the famous headmaster of Rugby school where he attended for a time. He also taught there as an adult. In 1851 he was appointed one of Queen Victoria's Inspector of Schools but found the work especially dreary. However, he was required to travel all over England and must have experienced more journeys than most people on the recently built railways.

He wrote poetry and had several volumes published. One of his more famous poems is *The Scholar Gipsy*, a long tale, written in 1853. It is the story of a poor Oxford student who leaves his studies to join a band of gipsies. Much of the poem is set in the countryside not far from Oxford, where Arnold praises its beauty:

*'...rumours hung about the countryside,  
That the lost Scholar long was seen to stray,  
Seen by rare glimpses, pensive and tongue-tied,  
In hat of antique shape, and cloak of grey,  
The same the gipsies wore.'*

The scholar comes across all kinds of country folk, including shepherds and people gathered in rural inns. 'Maidens' spy him on his travels and he gives them the flowers he's picked. The poem is a great celebration of the freedom to be found in wandering. The scholar is an elusive person, only 'spotted' by people and Arnold at one point invents the idea that perhaps he is still to be seen roving the countryside, not subject to ageing or death.

One verse will be of interest to readers of 'Grapevine'. It allows us to understand that Arnold must have known our neighbourhood well:

*And leaning backward in a pensive dream,  
And fostering in thy lap a heap of flowers  
Pluck'd in shy fields and distant Wychwood bowers,  
And thine eyes resting on the moonlit stream.*

The lovely image is so peaceful! Arnold compares it to

*'this strange disease of modern life,  
With its sick hurry, its divided aims...'*

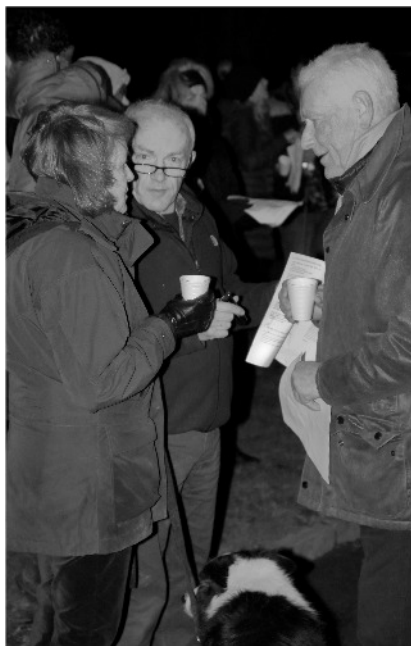
Matthew Arnold was elected Professor Poetry at Oxford in 1857 and was the first person with this position to deliver his lectures in English, rather than Latin.

**Juliet Craig**



# ***Carols on the Green***







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# Mamma Mia



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Debra 831621    Sarah 359769    Rachel 831035    Judith 830895

Fundraising for the Village Church



## ***New Year at Pre-school***

We have bounced back from Christmas to a very happy and busy start to the year here at pre-school and are pleased to have been joined by several new families since the start of term.

Despite the frosty weather, the children have loved getting outdoors to play and have wrapped up warm to take their first outings of the year to the Bruern Estate which, by kind permission of the Astor family, is the home of our Forest School. This past month we have been working closely with the Bruern Estate's Forester to move our site to another part of the woods and are extremely grateful to the Astor family for giving us the opportunity to do this. The children have loved exploring the new site and were especially delighted to help move logs and branches to create a seating area where they will continue to enjoy circle time and a hot chocolate for many months to come!

In other news, we are planning a range of fundraising activities between now and the end of the summer term to help raise funds for new equipment, craft materials and the building of a new storage shed in the garden. This will help keep our outdoor toys and equipment safe and

protected from the elements, as well as keep the outside area looking tidy.

Going into Spring we are excited to talk to the children about the changes happening in nature - the arrival of new leaves on the trees, flowers, and wildlife – and we are looking forward to getting out on walks through the village to see what we can discover. We are also exploring different topics, including around the world, space, pirates, and all about me which focuses on building self-confidence in a nurturing and supportive way.

We currently have spaces available for children aged two and above on our sessions, which run from 9 – 2.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and from 9 – 12.45pm on a Thursday. These sessions include learning through play, craft, messy play, singing, Forest School, Cooking Club and dancing sessions with the wonderful Dancing Sally.

For more information, or to find out about availability for your child or children, please telephone us on 01993 832671 or email Pauline at [ascott\\_pp@btinternet.com](mailto:ascott_pp@btinternet.com) to find out more. We'd love to hear from you!

# ***It's all happening with the Ascott Martyrs***

**1873**

## **Ascott Martyrs**



We aim to keep the village up to date (in each edition of Grapevine) with the developments in the work of the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust(designate) which aims to maintain the memory of the Martyrs and of the traumatic events of 1873, which still resonate in our laws today, and act as a centre for research and education.

The most exciting event in the last 2 months was the very popular 'Meet the Author' session which attracted a substantial number of Martyrs' descendants as well as village supporters. It was fun (someone said surreal) to see lost 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins working out they were related. A review of the book is included in this edition but it was fascinating listening to the 28 year journey of research which culminated in the splendid book.

Meanwhile we have been building the team which will enable us to have a website, hold regular events as well as build a membership of supporters. Research is

underway into the 'gaps' in our knowledge of the Martyrs and their story that either need confirmation or would add to the story. So far we have identified a number of 'mini research projects' and we are looking for individuals to take on one of the following:

- Research at the National Archive at Kew to see if they hold photographs of the Martyrs
- What was Queen Victoria's role in the event.Did she grant a pardon and gift red flannel for petticoats?
- What more can we discover about the other people involved in the event, including the farmer, Mr Hambridge and the strike breakers from Ramsden
- What part did religious affiliations play in the events

## The Ascott Grapevine

- What was the impact of this incident on the future make up of magistrate's benches?
- What impact did the event have on changes to the laws relating to Trade Unions?

We now have a bank account and will soon be set up as a charitable trust. We have recently been given to understand that the seats under the Martyrs' Tree need renovation at an estimated cost of £4,000 so any proposals to add information to the corners has been put on hold for the moment.

We have decided to set up an annual 'Martyrs Day' which this year will be on Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> and in 2018 on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, to echo the celebrations that took place in June 1873 following the women's safe return from Oxford Gaol. We have yet to work out what to do?!

We are starting to talk to local schools to make them aware of the Martyr's story, and its educational potential, and the Windrush School is 'on board' which is great when you consider it was the village school in 1873.

We are waiting confirmation of a substantial donation from the Unite union who absorbed the Agricultural Workers Union a long time ago. If a replacement to the seats is considered we will be seeking further funds from various grant giving bodies to create a pleasing memorial which will contain a fuller explanation of the Martyrs' story. We will be consulting the village as our plans develop.

If you would like to know more, or to be part of this fascinating village project please call Paul Jackson on 01993 83 1967.

**Paul Jackson**

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TIDDY HALL

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## WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



*In association with the Wychwood Brewery*

**At Tiddy Hall, Shipton Rd, Ascott -u- Wychwood**

**Sat March 11<sup>th</sup> Sally Barker + Support by Kadia**

**Sally Barker** reduced *Tom Jones*, & viewers alike, to tears with her flawless performances on BBC's 'The Voice'. As a young widow her music career took a back seat in favour of bringing up her two sons who later persuaded her to enter the competition. Sally turned down a £75,000 advance and the opportunity to record a covers album for Universal, choosing instead to finish the Poozies' album 'Into the Well' and work on her own material.

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door.

**Sat April 15<sup>th</sup> Chris Leslie + Support by Ian Brown**

**Chris** is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter based in Oxfordshire UK, primarily known for the past nineteen years for his work with *Fairport Convention*. He has toured and recorded with, amongst others: *Steve Ashley, the Albion Band, Jez Lowe, Ian Anderson, Chris While and Julie Matthews, Whippersnapper, Alan Stivell, Feast of Fiddles* and *St. Agnes Fountain*.

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door.

**Sat April 29<sup>th</sup> Harry Bird & the Rubber Wellies + Support by The Skeptics**

Travelling folksters **Harry Bird & the Rubber Wellies** present their intimate cabaret of joyful, sing-a-long choruses and general participatory fun. Pirates, lizards, cracks in the wall and Basque cyclists all inhabit the songscape. They are currently touring with their latest album "Bricks and Feathers".

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door.

**Tue May 9<sup>th</sup> Wychwood goes Walkabout** with American duo 'Anna & Elizabeth'  
@ New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton -u- Wychwood.

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door.

**Sat May 20<sup>th</sup> Melrose Quartet + Support by Fly Yeti Fly**

Melrose Quartet are truly an all-round folk act, with both tight a capella harmony and energy-packed instrumentals. They comprise leading English musicians Nancy Kerr (2015 BBC Folk Singer of the Year), James Fagan, Jess & Richard Arrowsmith with twin fiddles, guitar and bouzouki, melodeon and four strong voices.

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

**SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - [www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com)**

**Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: [wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com](mailto:wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com)**

# ***The Ascott Village Charity***



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

## ***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](mailto:johncull@wowmatters.com)

### **Trustees**

Elaine Byles [elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk)

Stuart Fox [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com)

Sandy Timms [se.timms@btinternet.com](mailto:se.timms@btinternet.com)

Mark Abrey [rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk](mailto:rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk)

Keith Ravenhill [keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net](mailto:keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net)

Mark Dawbarn [mark@dawbarn.co.uk](mailto:mark@dawbarn.co.uk)

Pauline Marshall [pollymarshall@gmail.com](mailto:pollymarshall@gmail.com)

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## **The Village Shop**

*Owned by the village, run by the village and there for the village. We are in our 14<sup>th</sup> year of trading and remain economically viable through the support of our volunteers. Can you help, by volunteering just two hours per week please?*

## **SHOP NEWS – Spring 2017**

### **Shop Vandalised and Burgled on 29 January**

I will start this short article with the depressing news that after smashing a window, one or more selfish criminals broke into the shop, apparently to steal cigarettes. The alarm was heard at about 2.25am by at least three people, who reported the break-in to the police – and thanks to you all for doing so; your action and the lights going on, along with the alarm caused the thieves to flee empty handed. The police responded quickly but not before the vandals drove away at speed. I am grateful to the police for calling out an emergency glazier to seal the window. We found out about the break-in at 8.15am when the shop was unlocked for the 9.00am opening.

I want to apologise to our regular Sunday customers for restricting our service to the sale of newspapers only during that morning; we had to keep the area around the counter clear until the police could investigate the crime, and this was not completed until just before closing time at midday, after which we had to clear up the broken glass and mess left by the burglars.

The police gathered a blood sample, some fingerprints and boot prints from the scene and are hopeful about identifying at

least one of the people responsible. Let us hope they are caught and successfully prosecuted.

The cost to the shop in repairs and lost sales will come close to £400. This is money we can barely afford. Some generous individuals have offered to make special donations to the shop, but while I am very grateful for these kind offers of help I am minded that the shop must stand on its own so, this time at least, we will cover the cost with our reserve funds.

### **Year-End Finances**

The shop's stock was checked and counted by volunteers on 8 January and the total value of the stock was included in the shop's assets in our year-end financial report, which will be sent to the Independent Accountants for their official Annual Report. I am very grateful to those who turned out to do the stock-check, which was completed in record time because of the detailed work in preparation for the count done by our Manager, Bridgette Crundwell and our spreadsheet wizard, Chris George, who not only helped prepare us for the day but completed the calculations on the value of all our stock within 18 hours – a special thank you is due to both of them.

The statement of our financial position on 31 December 2016 shows we had an operating profit for the year of £1,272 and sales of £132,949 (that is £3,283 down on the sales for 2015).

I am very grateful to the Doris Field Charitable Trust, for a generous donation of £500 to cover half the cost of replacing one of our ageing chest freezers. The job of replacing more of our old equipment will continue this year.

### **Shop Stock**

We try to stock the things people want and need. Much of what we sell is branded with a fixed price that is the same in our shop as it is in a supermarket. Other items are priced at a level the Committee thinks is reasonable to give us a viable profit margin with which to cover our overhead costs, but we are keen to hear from you if you think we should stock something we do not or if you think the price of particular items is too high. We aim to provide a service for everyone in the village.

Our new local Fresh Meat and Poultry supplier, Patrick Strainge (based in Bampton), Upton Smokery and Wychwood Fine Foods, are all proving to be popular with our customers. If you haven't tried them yet, I do recommend them to you and invite you to come into the shop to see for yourself – you will always get a warm welcome.

The Christmas produce was very well received and nearly all the special stock bought in was sold. For all those who bought Christmas treats from us, thank you and I hope you enjoyed them.

The hot pies and sausage rolls we sell daily and the fresh coffee “to go” are

very popular, especially with people who are working out of doors in the village. If you have builders in, you will be doing them and us a favour by telling them about the shop.

### **Ownership of the Shop**

I continue to try and increase the number of our shareholders. There are currently 211 shareholders in the village (each share costs £10) and only they are eligible to attend the Annual General Meeting, vote on shop-related matters including policy issues and for the members of the Management Committee. If you want to buy a share – just ask in the shop. We appreciate your support and will welcome your input.

### **Volunteers**

Our volunteers remain the true backbone of the shop; without them the shop would not be even remotely viable. We will be holding another Barbecue in the Summer, this time at Long Barn following a kind invitation from Geoff and Gaynor Taylor. We have not gone firm on a date but it will be in July – and we will ask to use Tiddy Hall in case of rain. If any of our volunteers want to come, but are away at any time during July, please let me know so the date, when confirmed, is most convenient for as many of you as possible.

Finally, and now in their absence, I want to thank Michiel and Richard, erstwhile owners of the Swan, for their support for the shop during their time in the village and wish them well for their future in Spain.

**Nick Leadbetter**



**Do you want to get involved in the community? Meet new people, make friends, and help us provide an essential facility.**

**The Ascott Village Shop has been serving the whole village since 2003. We are always looking for new volunteers of all ages over 16 to help us keep the shop open 7 days each week.**

**Run by the village, for the village.**

**If you think you can spare a little of your time, please contact Bridgette in the shop or by telephone. She will be pleased to tell you what is involved.**

**The shop relies on volunteers to:**

**Serve our customers**

**Stock the shop**

**Promote and market our produce**

**Organising and carrying out maintenance**

**Administration**

## Can you please help with the lime trees?

Following the pollarding of the lime trees last year, several local residents helped to cut back lower growth on the trunks and clear the massive amount of debris from the Churchyard.

Now the PCC is looking for help later this year in cutting back growth when it reappears on the trunks, in order to maximise growth at the tops. This work should be confined to what is within reach using secateurs or loppers, but not steps or ladders! Anything higher will need to be done professionally. (Loppers will be available.) The PCC are hoping people will come forward to 'adopt' a tree, or a pair of trees as one kind person has already done, and in this way we can spread the load and reduce the maintenance cost. Please get in touch in the next 2 or 3 weeks if you are willing to help.

Judith and Brian Mitchell	jbmitchell@hotmail.com	830895
Sarah Tribe	sarahtribe@hotmail.co.uk	359769
Debra Cull	debra@greenascott.co.uk	831621
Ash Ismail	aiatcb@gmail.com	832829
Rachel Lovell	rachelsuzannesl@gmail.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:

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

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!

## ***Help Needed At The Wychwoods Day Centre***

One of the highlights of attending the Day Centre is the chance to sit down with friends and to enjoy a home cooked meal. Anyone eating alone at home knows how miserable an experience that can be.

A team of cooks work in pairs on a Thursday providing two courses for 22 elderly people and helpers- we usually cook for 30 because volunteers eat with us and there can be a need for an extra meal or two to help a villager who is housebound through illness or accident. The joy of catering for this age group is that they eat and enjoy everything and clear their plates- no fussy eaters for the over 80s age group.

Cooks are reimbursed for their efforts and flexibility is encouraged. We usually cook once every two months on a rota which is published well in advance and you can cook either at home or in the Beaconsfield Hall. To give you an idea we use £70 as a guide budget for food for the day.

We have come up with a plan to make things easier and not to overload our volunteers.

Would any of you be willing to cook a main course ( casserole, pie etc), a dessert ( crumble is popular) or cakes ( for afternoon tea) that could be made in advance, frozen and used as and when we have a gap in the rota? It would help us enormously and would not involve a commitment to be at the Day Centre on a Thursday.

If you can help or would like more information please get in touch with:

**Katherine Gidman 01993 831479 or**

**Joanna van de Poll 01993 830090**



# Gardening in Ascott



Winter seems so long with the skeletal branches of the bare trees, grey skies, mud, and everything monochrome and dark, but there is a point towards the end of winter when you wake up to different sounds outside. There is a different smell in the air that foretells of lengthening days and of gentler times. The hawthorn in the hedges springs to life in places, infusing the landscape with a green buoyancy, and the hazel catkins shout for attention with their pale streamers.

The reality is that spring can still be cold and wet, but there is the stirring of life which can be gathered in early posies of snowdrops, catkins and primroses. The tide of winter is on the ebb.

The stars of spring are sensibly low growing, keeping their heads down below the often fierce and cold winds. The spring is heralded by these brave knights; *Iris reticulata* with its complex markings reminiscent of orchids, crocus - brave jewels of colour, cyclamen coem spreading its carpet of colour, hellebores with their fat flower buds ready to burst and of course, the purity of snowdrops.

In the dry shade under shrubs, I have planted snowdrops with *Arum italicum*

'*Marmoratum*', with its white-marbled spade-like leaves. At this time of year they make the perfect companions. Its green arum flowers emerge as the leaves are fading in spring and are followed by toxic berries on an orange club in autumn. But now it is at its best, and looks wonderful in an otherwise dark dead space.

Standing and admiring is all very well, but to create and then ensure the same spring picture for next year, now is time for a few garden jobs.

## Snowdrops

Just as the snowdrop flowers are going over, it is the best time to lift and divide a clump, either to replant elsewhere in the garden or to give away to friends. Likewise, if you want to buy snowdrops, now is the best time while they are 'in the green'. Many gardens specialising in snowdrops open their gates at this time of year and have snowdrops to sell, but some of these are beautiful and rare with prices to match. The nursery at Batsford Arboretum just outside Moreton in Marsh usually has a good supply of the common snowdrop, *Galanthus nivalis*.

## ***Hellebores***

Hellebores are wonderful plants for very early spring, lifting the garden and one's spirit out of the gloom of winter. Now is the time to cut off all the leaves of *Helleborus orientalis* to expose the lovely flower stems as they rise from the cold earth. By doing this, it not only tidies away last year's leaves, but gives space for the flowers to shine.

## ***Clematis viticella***

The late flowering type of clematis, *C. viticella* is by now a tangled 'birds nest' of brown stems, and perhaps if it has been a mild winter, green buds are beginning to show. Now is the time to do some really hard pruning. Cut all the top growth back to a bud if you can see them, at about 8-12 inches from the ground. Pull away the birds nest and job completed. You will have a good show of flowers on the wood they will make this year. Not sure what type of clematis you have? If it flowers from after mid-July it should be safe to prune it now as described.

## ***Herbaceous perennials***

Towards the end of February and the beginning of March herbaceous perennial clumps which have either outgrown their space or have lost some flowering vigour can be divided. My preference for this would be in autumn when you can replant the divisions into the still warm soil, but now is also fine if you didn't get around to it then. Even if you don't need to split any plants, it is now time to go through the border carefully cutting-out the dead growth making sure not to damage any early emerging shoots.

Replanting divisions of perennials

When planting perennials, prepare the soil over the whole area to be planted, not just into the individual planting pockets. This means forking in well-rotted garden compost or manure. Plant in large drifts which will eventually knit together to produce a large clump, and then put a 'breakaway' plant a little away from the 'mother-ship' giving the border a more natural look. This is how the plant would seed around the garden if we gardeners didn't hoe them out!

## **Final words**

By the time you read this, if it has been mild, we may be getting out the lawn mower for the first time this year, and before we know it Chelsea Flower Show will nightly be on our television screens!

Some interesting gardens to visit this spring:

Bolters Farm  
Chilson  
Pudlicote Lane  
Chipping Norton  
OX7 3HU

A cherished old cottage garden restored over the last 10 yrs. Tumbly moss covered-walls and sloping lawns down to a stream, with natural planting and character.

Open Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2-6pm. Teas

## The Ascott Grapevine

Broughton Grange  
Wykham Lane  
Broughton  
Banbury  
OX15 5DS

An impressive 25 acres of gardens and light woodland in an attractive Oxfordshire setting. The centrepiece is a large terraced walled garden created by Tom Stuart-Smith in 2001. Vision has been used to blend the gardens into the countryside. Good early displays of bulbs followed by outstanding herbaceous planting in summer. Formal and informal areas combine to make this a special site including a newly laid arboretum with many ongoing projects.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 10am - 5 pm

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# ***TIDDY HALL***

The **Tiddy Hall Committee** would like to welcome back their regular users for the start of another year and wish them all a happy and successful 2017! **Ascott Pre School, Windrush Valley School, Roseneath School of Music, Wychwood Folk Club, Cotswold Fit Club, Post Office, Qigong** and the **Circuiters and Dancers** have all returned, booking their sessions and the first part of this year is looking to be busy at **Tiddy Hall**! Please see the list of regular activities for contact details of any clubs/sessions you may be interested in.

**The Wychwood Folk Club** ended their successful run of gigs in 2016 with **Hatful of Rain** in December. The first gig of 2017, on January 14<sup>th</sup>, was a sell-out crowd! The singer/songwriter and other half of the acoustic roots duo, Show of Hands, **Steve Knightley** delighted the audience with his vast repertoire of songs. A second gig in January saw **Duotone** looping guitar and cello, percussion and voice to perform his unique show at **Tiddy Hall**. Forthcoming gigs at **Tiddy Hall**:

**February 11<sup>th</sup> – Kieran Halpin**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> – Sally Barker**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> – Chris Leslie**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> – Harry Bird and The Rubber Wellies**

**Pilates** classes will officially start on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30pm-8.30pm - with Ursula Beele. If you are interested, please contact her on 01993 830267 or at [info@pilateswithursula.co.uk](mailto:info@pilateswithursula.co.uk)

Come a long for a sing-song! Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March the sing along version of the film **Mamma Mia** will be showing at **Tiddy Hall**. A bar will be available, to help lubricate your vocal chords! Funds raised will go towards our beautiful Church. Please contact Debra Cull for further information – 01993 831621 or [debra@greenascott.co.uk](mailto:debra@greenascott.co.uk).

## **Regular Activities:**

### ***Pre-school***

Monday – Friday Mornings

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant 07968006451

### ***Piano Lessons***

Monday Afternoons 3.30pm – 6pm

Friday Afternoons 3.30pm – 6pm

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

## ***Dancing***

Monday Night 7pm - 9pm

Contact: May & Terry Cox 01608 810721

## ***Circuits***

Wednesday Night 6pm – 6.45pm

Contact: Simon Gidman 01993 831479

## ***Cotswold Free Fitclub***

Wednesday Night 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Contact: Lynne Westnage 07917 861950

## ***Qigong***

Thursday Night 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Contact: Pam Quirke 07780 572283

## ***Sunday Tea Dance***

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each Month 2.30pm – 5pm

Contact: Jess 07827 235457

## ***Post Office***

Every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

## **Special Events:**

Saturday March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Folk Night with Sally Barker
Friday March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mamma Mia Sing-a-long Film
Saturday April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Folk Night with Chris Leslie
Friday April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fishing Club AGM 7.30pm
Saturday April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Folk Club with Harry Bird and The Rubber Wellies

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# **WYCHWOOD PROJECT – Spring 2017 Update**



Ascott-under-Wychwood lies within what was known as the **Royal Forest of Wychwood**, once a hunting ground for monarchs. This area, stretching from Burford east to Woodstock and north to Chipping Norton, is rich in its variety of landscapes, habitats and wildlife. As Spring arrives bumblebees will be out and about seeking nectar from spring flowers like crocuses, dog-violets or cowslips. Look out for new leaves on hedgerow hawthorn, while ash and wild cherry will soon be coming into bloom. Frogs and toads become active in our ponds, streams and rivers – look for frogspawn – while chiffchaffs are an early migrant re-joining our native birds as they begin to nest.

The **Wychwood Project** is a registered charity that works with local communities and other partners to conserve and restore this area's natural environment. The Wychwood Project's tree planting continues through the Spring. All in all we will have planted over 1,500 trees since December in Ascott-under-Wychwood; Asthall Leigh; Charlbury; Long Hanborough; Milton-under-Wychwood; Pudlicote and Witney.

Our recent conservation work also includes managing fish stocks in the Woodstock water-meadows; coppicing trees near Charlbury; feeding overwintering farmland birds; building drystone walls and hedge-laying to improve the habitat for wildlife. This work relies on the great efforts of our volunteers.

## **Why not join one of our FREE activities this spring?**

Throughout **2017** on the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** and **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of **every month** there will be a variety of **FREE outdoor volunteering opportunities**. Boots, gloves and suitable clothes are all you need – we provide the tools and any training. Sessions run 9:30am – 3:00 pm, or just come along for the morning if you prefer.

**You can find out more at:** [www.wychwoodproject.org/volunteer](http://www.wychwoodproject.org/volunteer)

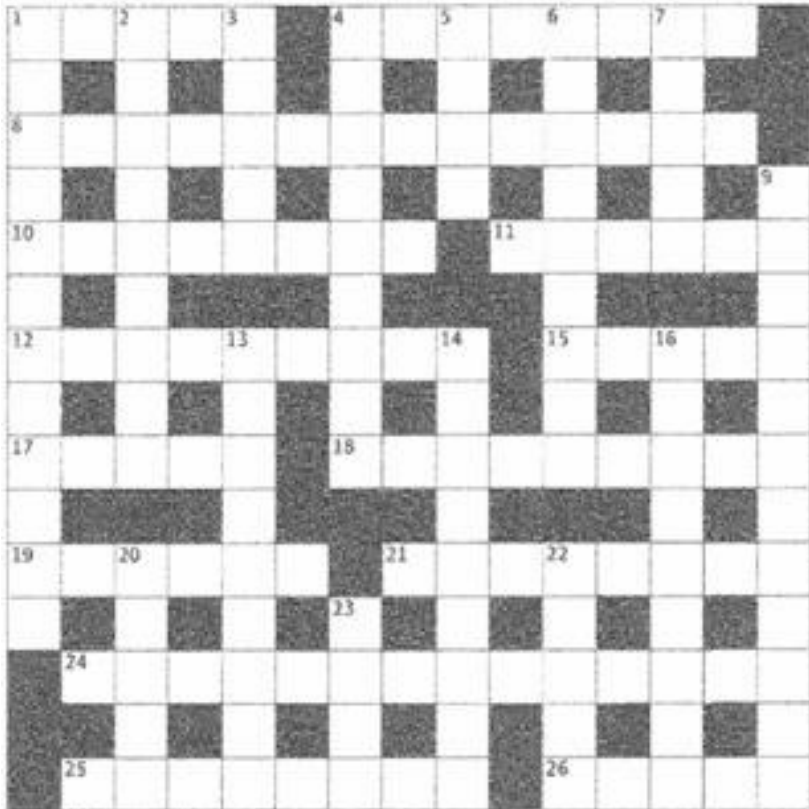
Phone: 01865 815423; email: [wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Sharon Williams, Project Director

## The Ascott Grapevine



# Crossword Puzzle





## Across

- 1 To snooze in the course of it is un-seemly (5)  
 4 Gangster seldom seen pocketing note (8)  
 8 Players' last practice session covered up (5,9)  
 10 Many initially opted out in conflict for independence (8)  
 11 Complaint from Queen on street hemmed in by motorists (6)  
 12 Kicks up a fuss as channel's about to go (6,3)  
 15 Skinned bass displayed in fish stand (5)  
 17 Forces join around a thousand in retreat (5)  
 18 Revised dietary mix omitting one type of stuffing (9)  
 19 Catch parent in a flustered state (6)  
 21 Book about leaders of note in conurbation like St Helens (8)  
 24 Cosmetic effect of brain drain? (9,5)  
 25 It helped Nelson see grand plays produced on board (8)  
 26 Are spades imported to make tracks? (5)

## Down

- 1 Native American with something to add when success comes late? (6,6)  
 2 Stunned in vehicle after a stitch-up (9)  
 3 Fighter at one time stony broke (5)  
 4 Second eleven cricketer bagging duck - an old 20, perhaps (9)  
 5 Lying president finally exposed (4)  
 6 In fancy, prepares to fight alien over ranch (9)  
 7 Trainer has nothing in reserve - energy's lacking (5)  
 9 Space traveller's walks occur amid high tension (7,5)  
 1.3 O'Connor, left out of pursuit, removing unwanted coat (9)  
 14 I'm surprised about vote cutting money reserved for dogs (9)  
 16 Before half-time, still bagging good place for big game (9)  
 20 Constituent pinches money raised for march (5)  
 22 Endless succession of agency clerks (5)  
 23 Stop distress becoming audible (4)

## Solution to Crossword in Edition 92

### Across

- 1 Vigour  
 4 Affect  
 9 Crease Resistant  
 10 Divers  
 11 Londoner  
 12 Chandler  
 14 Siesta  
 15 Avowed  
 18 Downturn  
 21 Clear Out  
 22 Resist  
 24 Hackney Carriage  
 25 Nutter  
 26 Amiens

### Down

- 1 Varnish  
 2 Grace  
 3 Utensil  
 5 Friends  
 6 Extrovert  
 7 Tangent  
 8 Healer  
 13 Newmarket  
 16 Villain  
 17 Diocese  
 18 Detach  
 19 War Drum  
 20 Resigns  
 23 Smite

# ***Local Business Directory***

**ACADEMY/GB DOORS** 01993 778836/01865 246444

[www.garagedoors.org](http://www.garagedoors.org)

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**ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS** 01993830687 07989497253

[www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk](http://www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk)

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**ASCOTT MARTYRS** 01993 831967

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**ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP** 01993831240 [shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk)

[www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk)

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**BESPOKE VINTAGE TEA PARTIES** 01608 642233

[www.chippingnortontease.co.uk](http://www.chippingnortontease.co.uk), [tweet@chipnortecas](mailto:tweet@chipnortecas)

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**COTSWOLD RURAL SERVICES** 07582962600

[www.cotswoldruralservices.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldruralservices.co.uk)

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**COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006

[www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk)

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**DRY STONE WALLING** 01242263428/07980564508

[drystonewalling@tomhazzledine.co.uk](mailto:drystonewalling@tomhazzledine.co.uk) [www.tomhazzledine.co.uk](http://www.tomhazzledine.co.uk)

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**FARMHOUSE B&B** 01993831900 [sally@college-farm.com](mailto:sally@college-farm.com)

[Page 19](#)

**FOLK CLUB** 01993831427 07870563299

[wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com](mailto:wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com) [www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com)

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**GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425

[info@alfredgroves.co.uk](mailto:info@alfredgroves.co.uk) [www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk](http://www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk)

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**INGRID RIDLEY B&B** 01993830612/07952657906

[ingrid@meadowbank--ascott.co.uk](mailto:ingrid@meadowbank--ascott.co.uk) [www.meadowbank--ascott.co.uk](http://www.meadowbank--ascott.co.uk)

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<b>Ivy's Florist 01993 830268</b>	<u><a href="#">Page 18</a></u>
<b>JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com</b>	<u><a href="#">Page 19</a></u>
<b>LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357</b>	<u><a href="#">Page 45</a></u>
<b>LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105</b>	<u><a href="#">Page 47</a></u>
<b>PILATES WITH URSULA 01993 830267 07917 090396</b> <u><a href="mailto:info@pilateswithursula.co.uk">info@pilateswithursula.co.uk</a></u> <u><a href="http://www.pilateswithursula">www.pilateswithursula</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Page 25</a></u>
<b>ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com</b>	<u><a href="#">Page 49</a></u>
<b>ROSENEATH 01993774568 <a href="http://www.roseneathmusicschool.com">www.roseneathmusicschool.com</a></b>	<u><a href="#">Page 46</a></u>
<b>STYLE INFUSION 01993 832031 <a href="http://www.styleinfusion.co.uk">www.styleinfusion.co.uk</a></b> <u><a href="mailto:design@styleinfusion.co.uk">design@styleinfusion.co.uk</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Page 4</a></u>
<b>TV AERIAL SERVICES 01993 608118</b>	<u><a href="#">Page 38</a></u>
<b>WITNEY SHUTTLE 08000434633 <a href="http://www.witneyshuttle.com">www.witneyshuttle.com</a></b>	<u><a href="#">Page 33</a></u>
<b>WYCHWOODS ESTATE AGENTS 01993824800</b> <u><a href="mailto:burford@wychwoods.com">burford@wychwoods.com</a></u> <u><a href="http://www.wychwoods.com">www.wychwoods.com</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Page 57</a></u>
<b>WYCHWOOD FUNERAL SERVICES 01993831557</b> <u><a href="mailto:info@wychwoodfuneralservices.co.uk">info@wychwoodfuneralservices.co.uk</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Page 28</a></u>
<b>WYCHWOOD HEALING 07780572283</b> <u><a href="mailto:pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk">pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Page 29</a></u>
<b>WYCHWOOD WROUGHT IRON 01993832850</b> <u><a href="http://www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com">www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Page 19</a></u>

# ***Events Calendar - 2016***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Womens' World Day of Prayer	The Church
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Sally Barker	Tiddy Hall
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Sing along Mamma Mia	Tiddy Hall
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Chris Leslie	Tiddy Hall
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	11:30/12:30pm	Councillors' Surgery	The Church
	8.00pm	Harry Bird & The Rubber Wellies	Tiddy Hall
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	10am/5pm	Open Garden	Broughton Grange
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	2 - 4.30pm	Afternoon Tea	The Church
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Anna & Elizabeth	New Beacons field Hall Shipton
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	2-6pm	Open garden	Bolters Farm
	8.00pm	Melrose Quartet	Tiddy Hall
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	2-6pm	Open garden	Bolters Farm
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00pm	Sean Lakeman & Kathryn Roberts	Tiddy Hall
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Quiz Night	Tiddy Hall
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	11:30/12:30pm	Councillors' Surgery	The Church