

The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1st August 2017.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email:
wendypearse@btinternet.com

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

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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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.

11 th June	1000	Holy Communion [C]
25 th June	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
9 th July	1000	Holy Communion [C]
23 rd July	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
13 th August	1000	Holy Communion [C]
27 th August	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
10 th September	1000	Holy Communion [C]
24 th September	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

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Local Churches

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Churchwarden James Walmsley
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SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993
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St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

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SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

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

St Teresa, Charlbury

Chase Benefice

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572
rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

Ascott Church

Letter from the Rector

A few years ago I remember seeing a very striking advert a day or two after Easter Sunday. It was for one of those weight-loss support groups and underneath a rather unhappy person holding a box of chocolate eggs it said, *“Time to put Easter behind you – come and join us!”*

Time to put Easter behind you. Yes, I quite agree.

When I’ve had a particularly sad, hard or just rubbish-for-no-particular-reason kind of day, I always think: it’s time to put Easter behind me – and above me, beside me and before me.

Easter says that after the very worst kind of human screw-up, failure, shame, and evil, God can and will bring new life and a new future. Jesus is the living embodiment of this. He is the Resurrection. He is Easter. So, especially when life is weighing you down, or when you feel sad, angry or frustrated with yourself, it’s time to put Easter behind you, above you, in front, beneath and all around you. Jesus is here. He invites you to live and breathe Easter.

With all good wishes

Mark Abrey

Marriage

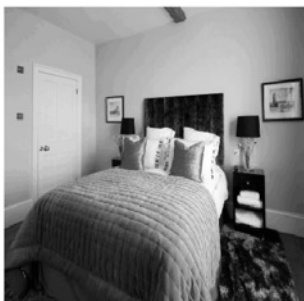
Mark Reid and Alice Day on the 25th February 2017 at Holy Trinity Church



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Wychwood Foresters Football Club

FC ASCOTT are still performing well and slowly coming to the end of another successful season with the men's first team in the semi- final of the Watts Junior Cup kicking off at 7.30 pm at Clanfield on 28th April. The team is currently sitting in second spot in Division 2 and getting ready for Division 1 next season. The reserves are sitting middle of Division 4 and they have reached quarter finals of the supplementary cup, narrowly losing 2-1 to Aston reserves in Division 3.

The men's teams are attracting lots of players so we decided to form a 3rd side called ASCOTT RANGERS and will play in Division 4 alongside the reserves, so if anybody is interested in playing for any of the men's teams you are very welcome.

The youth department is running very well attracting children of all ages from 5's to 10's and a team of 14's which will be all playing back at Ascott-under- Wychwood after the summer holidays, so if there are any children who would like to start football or you would like to play for Ascott youth then please come along and have a go. It's all fun. We meet on Sunday mornings and 14's on Sunday afternoon everybody is welcome. Please contact Mike Ody for any of the teams on 01993830170 07928722367 or finalgoal7@aol.com thank you.

Every season the club is increasing in size therefore it needs helping in its funding department i.e. sponsorship and donations. We require funding for new goal posts which are expensive, so if you are out there and would like to sponsor the club and see lots of sporting activity please, please contact me on the above numbers. THE SWAN PUB new owners have donated £500 pounds to the cause so a big, big thank you to Tom the new manager .



Pilates with Ursula

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RECIPE

Hearty Vegetable Soup

Ingredients

- 1oz of butter
- 3 medium onions chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic crushed
- 2 large potatoes diced
- 2 carrots diced
- 2 sticks of celery chopped
- A few leaves of cabbage chopped
- 2ozs dried macaroni or spaghetti broken into 2 inch lengths.
- 1 415g tin of baked beans
- 1 415g tin of chopped tomatoes
- 1½ pints of vegetable stock

Bouquet garni - 1 bayleaf, a few parsley stalks & a sprig of thyme chopped fresh basil grated cheese to serve

Saute the onions and garlic in the butter for 5 minute, then add other vegetables and stir for a further 5 minutes. Add the tomatoes, stock and bouquet garni. simmer for 20 minutes until vegetables are just tender. Ten minutes before serving add the baked beans and macaroni/spaghetti and cook until the pasta is just tender. Season with salt and pepper, sprinkle with chopped fresh basil and serve very hot sprinkled with grated cheese. Serve with warm crusty bread if liked.

Sue Mellor

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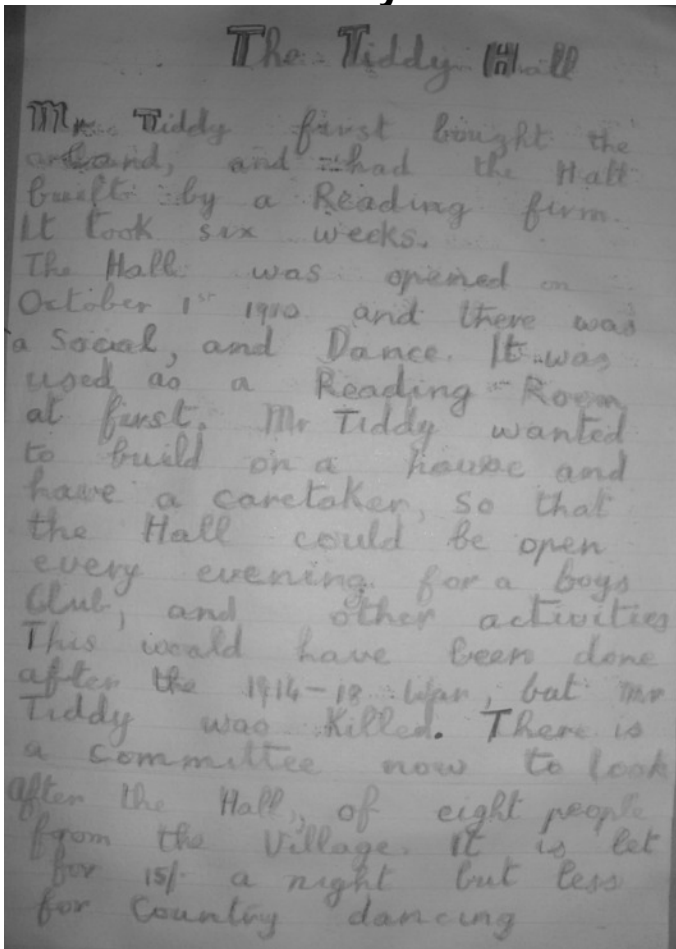
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Ascott School Journal c1955

The Tiddy Hall



The Tiddy Hall

Mr Tiddy first bought the land and had the Hall built by a Reading firm. It took six weeks.

The Hall was opened on October 1st 1910 and there was a Social, and Dance. It was used as a Reading Room at first. Mr Tiddy wanted to build on a house and have a caretaker so that the Hall could be open every evening for a boys club, and other activities. This would have been done after the 1914-18 war, but Mr Tiddy was killed. There is a committee now to look after the Hall of eight people from the village. It is let for 15/- a night but less for Country dancing.

In Memory of
Reginald John Elliot
Tiddy
Fellow of Trinity college Oxford
Lieutenant in the 14th Battalion of the
Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry
Friend of all in this village
who fell in France
on the 10th of August 1916 aged 36
This stone is set up by those who
worked and danced with him here
For whose use he set apart this land
and built this room
Himself of our countryside
He cherished its traditions with the
passion of a lover and the memory of a

In Memory of Reginald John Elliot Tiddy

Fellow of Trinity College Oxford. Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. Friend of all in this village who fell in France on the 10th of August 1916 aged 36. This stone is set up by those who worked and danced with him here. For whose use he set apart the land and built this room

Himself of our countryside

He cherished its traditions with the

passion of a lover and the memory of a....

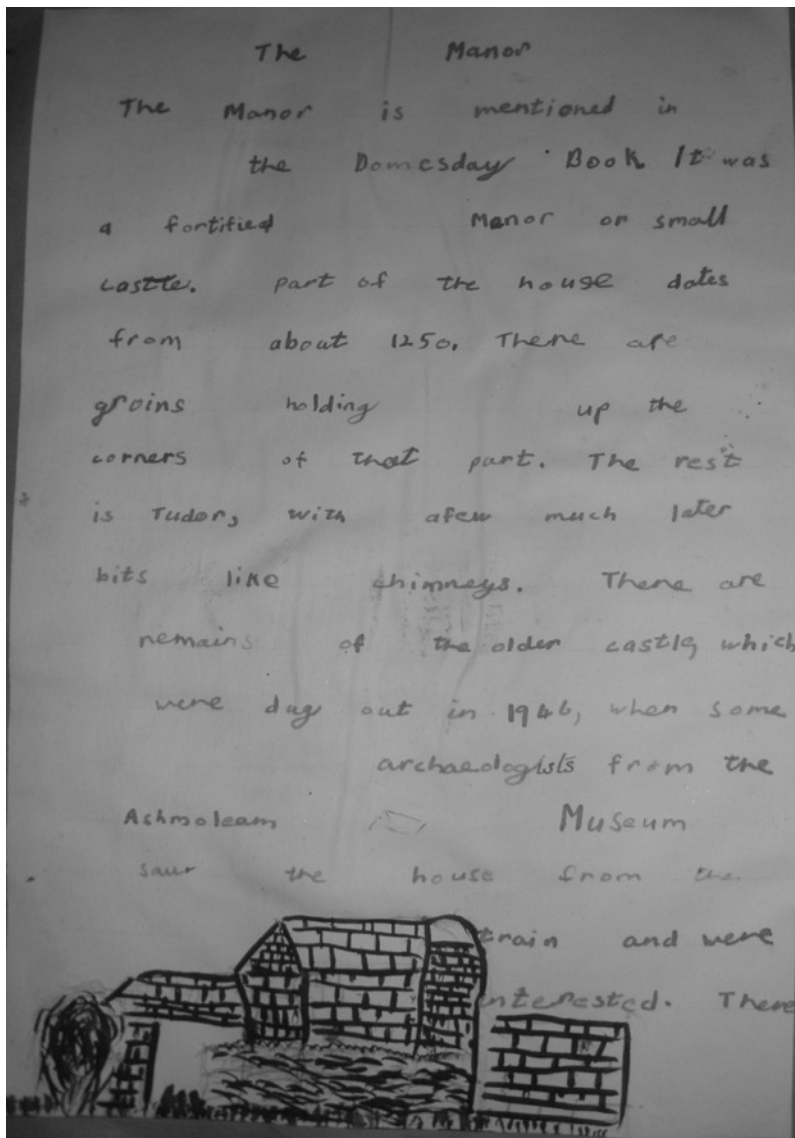
Scholar. Here he taught us to remember
our old songs and dances and with a
genius for friendship, sympathy and laughter
He made our old life young again
His body lies with those of many friends
in the English Burial ground at Laventie
Beneath a cross which bears these words
"Greater love hath no man"

...Scholar. Here he taught us to remember our old songs and dances and with a genius for friendship, sympathy and laughter. He made our old life young again.

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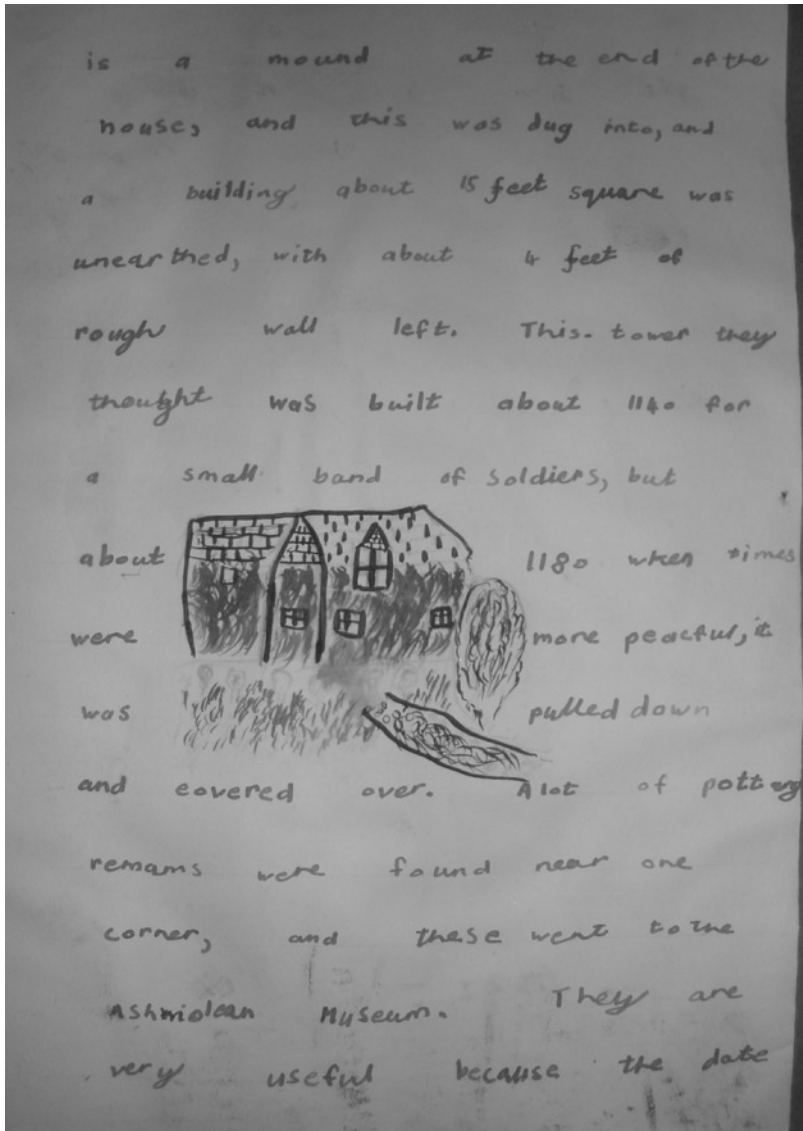
Beneath a cross which bears these words

"Greater love hath no man"



The Manor

The Manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was a fortified Manor or small castle. Part of the house dates from about 1250. There are groins holding up the corners of that part. The rest is Tudor, with after much later bits like chimneys. There are remains of the older castle, which were dug out in 1946, when some archaeologists from the Ashmolean Museum saw the house from the train and were interested. There.....



....is a mound at the end of the house and this was dug into, and a building about 15 square feet was unearthed with about 4 feet of rough wall left. This tower they thought was built about 1140 for a small band of soldiers, but about 1180 when times were more peaceful, it was pulled down and covered over. A lot of pottery remains were found near one corner, and these went to the Ashmolean Museum. They are very useful because the date is so well known.

Nature Notes

All the plants, fruit and cereals that we eat depend on pollination to produce the food for our consumption and to ensure their successful reproduction. Cereals and grasses and some trees such as yew and conifers are wind pollinated, much to the distress of hay fever sufferers, but all other plants rely on insects to pollinate them.

Our main pollinators are the bees. In Britain we have three bee families; the domesticated Honey Bees (*Apis*), Bumble Bees (*Bombus*) and Cuckoo Bees (*Psithyrus*). Cuckoo Bees live up to their name by killing the Bumble Bee queen and laying their eggs in Bumble Bee nests and letting the Bumble Bee workers feed and rear their young.

Bumble Bees tend to be out working earlier than Honey Bees and with their longer tongues they are able to pollinate flowers that Honey Bees can't. For example Honey Bees fertilise White Clover, but Red Clover with its long tubular flowers can only be served by Bumble Bees.

Unlike Honey Bees, whose protected hives continue from year to year by producing successive generations, Bumble Bee's nests die out in the winter with only some fertilised females surviving until the following year. No store of honey is laid-up to cover the winter.

The Bumble Bee's year starts in the late summer when the old queen produces eggs that develop into male and fertile female bees, rather than workers (infertile females). The males and females leave the nest seeking mates. Once fertilised the females will feed and seek a suitable sheltered place to spend the winter in a deep sleep. The males will not be allowed to return to the home nest and will die as the weather cools. In the spring the females will wake on warm days feeding on early flowering plants, such as Blackthorn, only to return to their torpid state if the weather cools. Once the warm weather returns and more plants are in flower the fertilised female (queen) will start to search for a suitable site to build a nest. Depending on the species this could be in a mossy hollow in meadow land or underground, perhaps in a disused mouse hole.



Once a suitable nest site has been found the queen will collect a mass of pollen, which is held in baskets on her hind legs and drink as much nectar as possible to fill her honey stomach and to provide the energy for flight. At the end of a foraging flight the pollen and nectar she carries may equate to 75% of her body weight. On returning home the pollen is unloaded onto the floor of the nest, moistened well with honey and formed into a circular plate upon which she lays six to twelve eggs enclosing them in a low wall of wax that is extended to form a roof. The wax to make the cell is exuded as minute brown scales from glands under the plates forming her abdomen. She also builds another cell, about the size of a hazel nut, which is used to store honey. She sits on the roof of the egg cell to help maintain the temperature.

After about four days the eggs hatch and the larvae start feeding on the pollen and honey paste in the base of the cell, as they grow and exhaust this food supply the queen will open the top of the cell dropping in more of the nectar and pollen mix. Within three weeks the fully grown larvae will have pupated and emerged as small workers. Once they start foraging the queen will build another cell and lay more eggs. This second and subsequent batch of workers will be larger than the first brood and at this stage the queen stops foraging herself and devotes her energy to egg laying, leaving the increasing numbers of workers to provide food and build the cells to

house each new generation of bees. Because of the way the nest of round cell is haphazardly extended it tends to be an untidy affair, unlike the orderly home of Honey Bees with their tightly packed hexagonal cells. The largest nests have been known to contain 800 individuals, but a more usual number is 100 to 200, with some even smaller than this.

Bumble means to move awkwardly and it is often stated that they are so badly designed and they are not at all aerodynamic they should not be able to fly at all particularly as their wing are small when compared with the size of their bodies. In fact they are very efficient flyers able to carry heavy loads of pollen and nectar. Flight is achieved by the twisting of their wings as they flap forming a figure of eight pattern with each stroke making the wing act more like a helicopter rotor providing lift. They beat their wings at a staggering 8,000 time a minute. In order to sustain this level of effort they need the energy provided by the nectar that they gather. They also need their flight muscles to reach a temperature of 30 centigrade (86 Fahrenheit) to operate efficiently. They achieve this temperature by a lengthy period of pre-flight shivering.

Like many of our insects recorded numbers are falling and some of the nineteen UK varieties of Bumble Bee are increasingly uncommon. One small insect, but it provides a magnificent service pollinating our crops.

Stuart Fox

Ascott Martyrs

Keeping the story alive

The Ascott Martyrs were sixteen women, some with babies in arms, who were imprisoned in 1873 for supporting their striking farm worker husbands in the Oxfordshire village of Ascott-under-Wychwood. The traumatic event led to riots and a reprieve from Queen Victoria. Their legacy today is that picketing was made legal and local religious leaders were no longer Magistrates. The project will raise the profile of the event to ensure a more permanent tribute for descendants and the wider village community. It will also provide continued awareness in the local schools as well as a national online centre for information and research.

41 High Street
Ascott Under Wychwood
Chipping Norton
Oxfordshire
OX7 6AW
UK



Phone +44 (0)1993 83 1967 Mob 07974 565 618 Skype:paul.d.jackson

WEA Textile Workshops



A group of curious and enthusiastic local people met in Ascott on Friday 4 May to share ideas and stories and to plan a textile hanging to remember and celebrate these sixteen women. In 1873 they dared to challenge authority in supporting their agricultural worker menfolk who at that time were striking for better pay and improved conditions.

This was the first of two taster sessions prior to a course of six workshops to create the textile. The course, open to EVERYONE, is organized by the Workers Educational Association with guidance and facilitation by tutors Clare Goodall and Kate Joyce. If you are interested in finding out more about the project please contact Clare on 07904 966367 or Ascott resident Sue Richards 01993 830122.

For more information about the work of the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust please contact Paul Jackson 01993 831967.





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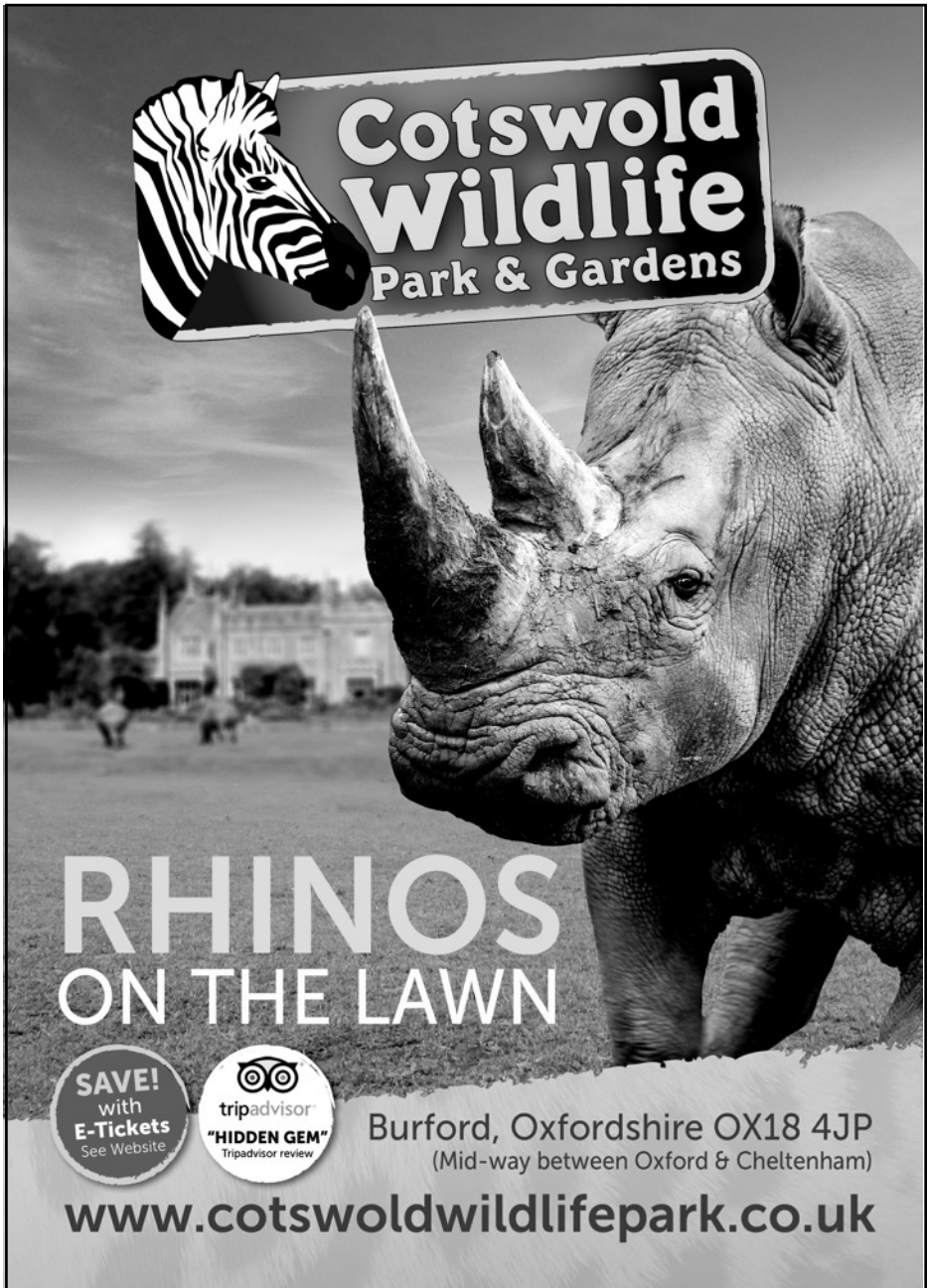
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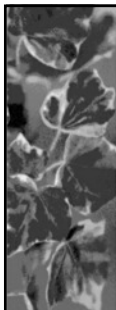
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DID YOU KNOW?



DID YOU KNOW that the girls in Ascott were very fashion conscious in the early 20th Century? This is a photo from that time of the Ascott Girls' Friendly Society. They certainly made the most of their hats.



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WINDRUSH VALLEY SCHOOL CONSERVATION CENTRE

Friday 16th June
(12 to 4pm – Free entry)
Grand Opening at 1.30pm
By Robert Courts MP

Windrush Valley School is thrilled to announce the opening of their **new** and exciting **Conservation Centre** located at Manor Farm Barn, just by the railway crossing in Ascott-under-Wychwood.

Come and join us for the **GRAND OPENING** where you can enjoy ice creams, stalls, face painting, bar, competitions, walks and lots more; there is even a supervised play area for the under-5's.

Here we teach '**Our World**' an exciting, new and innovative way of teaching science and geography, indoors and outside. The children learn what they need to know and do to help protect their own heritage – our world, well into the 21st century; learning life-enhancing skills and knowledge, not only the academic success for which the school is renowned, but also for personal well-being, health, fitness and happiness.

The Conservation Centre, managed by Robert Gripper, is in the 52-acre former working farm, Manor Farm Barn. Outdoors it has open fields, a vegetable garden, woodland, river and fishing lake, and a cluster of historically significant buildings. An indoor study room provides a large teaching area for practical activities, a large screen projection facility, internet access for personal and group research; as well as a welcome cover from the occasionally inclement British weather!

Lessons are practical, dynamic and innovative; deliberately different from traditional class-based learning. Many subjects and areas of interest, other than the planned science and geography, often find their way into the programmes of study; maths, history, biology, art, English, even politics and drama. Whether foraging for wild berries to make jam, growing cauliflowers, sprouts, sweetcorn and parsnips in the

The Ascott Grapevine

garden, planting a thousand-tree copse or building nesting boxes for local birdlife, the children are learning life-enhancing skills for adulthood. By incorporating Ascott-under-Wychwood's rich history and landscape in lessons, children are presented with fascinating insights into former times.

A variety of endangered animals live on the land, badgers, owls, bats and cormorants, with frequent visits from muntjac deer and foxes. Teaching staff from Windrush Valley School, working alongside Centre Manager Robert Gripper, ensure lessons are deliberately different and practical, with mixed-age classes, often working in pairs or in small groups, on a variety of scientific experiments based around rural life. There is always great emphasis on teamwork and engaging all children in the topics, always encouraging wider thought and debate.

Windrush Valley School could not have established this innovative and hugely successful project without the active support of many people in our community. The following are among the many who have given their support and time to this unique and exciting new way of teaching.



First and foremost

- John and Annie Gripper for providing the land and building for this exciting and innovative project and their invaluable support and enduring patience throughout the inaugural term
- Their son, Robert Gripper, who, as the Conservation Manager, has brought immense knowledge, boundless enthusiasm and energy to the project and whose efforts have certainly ensured its continued success

The local community

- Pete Moss for making the new gates and helping build the new path and steps
- Nigel and Anne Braithwaite for welcoming us into their home to see and describe the workings of Ascott Mill
- Christine Wilson for arranging a visit to Cornbury Park to see the ancient oak trees and the different species of deer
- Philip Pratley for allowing us to collect hazelnuts from his driveway and
- Graham Collett for helping us source quantities of palettes to use for building the bug hotels next spring

The local farming community

- Mr Edgington for supplying us with crop seeds
- Ken Cox and Joe Stanley for supplying us with water troughs to plant our crops in
- Bill Izod for giving us access to the ancient oak on his land
- Chris Badger for welcoming us onto his farm to see the drier and the corn harvest and the auction viewing

The wider community

- The Wychwood Project for supplying us with trees and expert help with planning the new one-acre wood
- Mark Warwick for his help with building the new classroom
- David Milson for his educational support
- Thames Valley police for their support via the Country Watch Scheme

Last but most certainly not least

- The staff, parents and children at Windrush Valley School, for embracing this exciting project and making it the success it has become

THE SCHOOLMASTER'S LOT

I wonder what the schoolchildren who attend Windrush Valley School today, would make of the lives of their compatriots who attended Ascott Village School 150 years ago?

In this age school children can attend living history sessions where they dress in Victorian clothes and sit in classrooms with all the paraphernalia of that bygone age. They sit at old fashion desks, learn how to use slates and chalk, ink and inkwells, are very severely disciplined and are made aware of severe forms of punishment for misdemeanours.

But what was it really like for these long departed schoolchildren? We can get a bit closer to their lives when we look at the Log Book of Ascott Village School through the decade of the 1860's. The real nitty gritty emerges.

The premises of Windrush Valley School were not built until 1872 so these Victorian children would have been taught in the old schoolroom. This had been built in 1833 with the support of Lord Churchill, the then Lord of Ascott Doyley Manor. It was attached to the present Schoolhouse which was where the Victorian schoolmaster lived with his wife. She was the schoolmistress who taught the infants in a little room attached to the schoolroom, with the assistance of a paid monitor.

In 1861 the headmaster was Abel Hill and his wife Louisa was schoolmistress. They had already been in Ascott for at least two years but in 1863 he became a very worried man. Although a certified teacher, he was only 27, his wife two years younger and a big responsibility lay on their shoulders.

Education for schoolchildren was not absolutely compulsory in the 1860's. More stricter adherences to law arrived in the 1870's and 1880. Nevertheless the register of Ascott School listed the names of over 90 children in the 1860's covering virtually all of the school age children in the village. However the usual weekly attendance was just over 60% and many varying factors contributed to this.

Abel Hill was worried because new rules in 1862 meant that the monetary grant for education depended on both the attendance and ability of the schoolchildren. Each child was allocated a certain sum which could well be reduced depending on the above factors. An Attendance Officer tested the children once a year and reviewed their attendance levels, and non-attendance in turn reflected on their ability to reach the required standards. A no win situation and a big headache for Abel. Rev. Tweed, the Ascott vicar, oversaw the running of the school and he may well have been a difficult man to satisfy, perhaps adding an extra degree of concern.

In an age of poverty, real poverty, every penny that could be earned in a household was sorely needed. So when work in the fields was available for the women then children were kept home from school to look after their younger siblings, or the older children probably from about seven upwards, joined their mothers in the fields. In June there was hay-making which went on into July. Then the school term would finish in August for the holiday which was really a workaday for the children since it was primarily a number of weeks when the whole fami-

ly could help with the harvest in the fields. When the spring came round many children were away during potato planting and in October they were away picking up the potatoes for storage. And there would have been other field jobs which meant they would have been absent from school during other times of the year.

Another barrier was the weather. Severe rain and snow kept the children from school. With inadequate footwear and no real waterproof clothing, the journey to school meant the children sitting in cold, wet clothes all day. The heating in the school was very unreliable. Mr Hill writes in January 1864 'Very cold. Writing bad because of cold hands.'

Another factor was hygiene. Mr Hill again, 'Martha S came to school very dirty: sent her home to wash.' Then in June 1864 this lack of hygiene meant, 'Heard today that some of the children in school were infected with itch'. Presumably this meant lice. The parish doctor, Dr Routledge was called in. He stated 'A family of children attending here are infected with a bad form of itch and it would be dangerous in this hot weather to keep open the school.' Imagine the anxiety of those more hygienic conscious families regarding their children. However a week later Dr Routledge confirmed there were no new cases of itch. The usual coughs and colds increased the problems in the winter with even Mr Hill being so hoarse he could hardly speak.

Mrs Hill, with a paid monitor, looked after the infants who in 1861 surprisingly, contained at least nine three year olds and four two year olds. At the same time hardly any boys over eleven were in school but there were at least eight girls

between eleven and fourteen, mostly daughters of farmers or other craftsmen.

So back to Mr Hill's dilemma. Although in 1863 the Inspector reported that apart from the fact that 'The copy books were dirty and full of blots' he said that the school was 'in good order'. But in 1865 The Inspector confirmed 'the weaknesses the head teacher had feared'. In February 1866 Abel says, 'I feel almost disheartened today, my year's work seems almost thrown away on some of the children.'

By July 2nd of that year, Ascott School had a new headmaster- Mr Henry Melling and Mrs Emily Melling as schoolmistress for the infants. We are not aware whether this change had been instituted by Abel Hill or by the School Managers.

By 12th July Henry Melling had made his presence felt. On 2nd July he wrote, 'Very sorry to find such a low scale of Education.' By 12th July he had made an example of a little girl for being obstinate, kept three boys in for not performing their home lessons creditably, two boys for fighting and one for taking a leaf out of a reading book, and he also found the children rather noisy. The school then closed for Harvest Holidays. Possibly the children breathed a sigh of relief.

During 1867 and 1869 there were obstacles with the paid monitor Elizabeth Jackson, either arriving late or staying away. This must have added to Mrs Melling's burden since in both of those two years she gave birth to a son.

By 1868 February the Inspector reported that 'the writing was excellent and there was a decided improvement throughout the school in other subjects.' But children were still absent for potato planting and other fieldwork.

The Ascott Grapevine

Two years later the Inspector said he was well satisfied with the results at the school and two of the girls, Emily Reynolds and Ellen Tymms were awarded prizes for proficiency.

So Henry Melling appears to have achieved more than Abel Hill but by January 1871 the Mellings had left Ascott and a new headmaster, Mr Lee, had arrived.

Circumstances had changed quite considerably since the previous decade. Only

one child of three years appears to be in the school with more children present between the ages of eleven and fourteen, including at least eight boys. Rural education was beginning to change possibly assisted by the parent's attitude towards their children's need for schooling. By 1880 Night School in the village was very well attended, another indication of young people's growing desire to advance themselves through education.

Wendy Pearse



Ascott Schoolchildren in the early 20th Century

Community First



Did you know that there is a small group of people in your community that volunteer to help the South Central Ambulance Service on 999 calls.

Community First Responders are trained to a nationally recognised standard to give lifesaving medical aid to those in need of it. We provide vital early assistance, help promote recovery and occasionally, make the difference between life and death and, as we are local, often attend before the ambulance can get to an emergency.

I qualified in January 2017 and I now volunteer most Mondays and Fridays. Living in Shipton under Wychwood I cover the Wychwood villages.

Community First Responders do not receive any funding from Governments and all funding is raised via the South Central Ambulance Charity (charity number 1049778).

It costs approximately £3000 to train and equip a First Responder so every penny that you can donate helps.

There are many ways that you can help: by donating using the collection tins distributed around the villages, just look for the tins with the logo above. You can also volunteer to be a Community First Responder; we need more people in this area. There is also a lottery run specifically for charity where 50% of all money raised is donated to the charity

Please give generously. There are contribution tins distributed around the local villages or if you want to help in other ways then you can call South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust in Bicester on 01869 365000 or you can call me, Peter, on 07825 628419

Ascott under Wychwood PC News May 2017

SPRING CLEANING!

We are well into spring now and the start of our new financial year, so your Parish Council is currently focussing on its responsibility of keeping the village assets in good order. Already you may have seen that we have 3 renovated notice boards and we would like to thank Pete Moss for his excellent work on these. In the next few months gates, seats, signs and bins around the village, in the Playing Field and the Pound will be given a face lift. Volunteers will be re-painting the interior of the Pavilion. The Playing Field Drainage work will continue throughout the spring and summer, making sure that the pitch is completely level and safe and the grass is growing well. Just at the wrong time we have had very little rain, so new growth on the drainage lines has been slow – but we will get there and we look forward to welcoming back all our users very soon.

POTHoles etc.

We have very little influence when it comes to road issues and this can be very frustrating. We continue to badger the County Council Highways Dept. about potholes, broken kerbstones, kerb posts etc. but their answer is usually that the department has no money. We are particularly concerned about the 3 entrances to the village and how dangerous they can be. We have written to the Highways Dept. to lobby for specific improvements that should not be too costly. What the PC itself is legally allowed to do is very limited but we will do what we can.

Numbers make a difference so if you want your potholes dealt with, please everyone support our efforts and use the OCC website to report a pothole or other problem on 'Fix my Street'. The more people do this, the more likely the work will be done.

TRAINS

Thank you to all who responded to our enquiry about the level of support for a trial of an 'extra stop of an existing weekday, mid-morning train to Oxford and beyond, with a mid-afternoon return'. The trial would be for 1 day only – the date is still to be decided and formally requested by the Cotswold Line Promotion Group (CLPG). We hope that GWR will agree to the trial and, if successful, that they will be convinced to introduce an extra stop during off-peak hours. We will let you know the date of the trial as soon as we know. We understand from CLPG, however, that no permanent change will be made before publication of the new timetable in December 2018.

LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATION – SHARING YOUR IDEAS AND CONCERNS

Recently we held our Annual Parish Meeting in Tiddy Hall where the 3 Councils and Village Organisations present their annual reports. It was a very inter-

esting round-up of the year and we all had a chance to share information with 1 common goal – to keep the community of Ascott-under-Wychwood working well. In February the 3 Wychwood Parish Councils were invited by Milton PC to meet and discuss shared issues. It was an extremely interesting meeting where we covered such topics as Emergency Planning, crime, speeding and Planning. In the Joint Councillors' Surgery in February Parish, District and County Councillors were joined by Mr Robert Courts, our new MP. About 10 residents came along and everyone had a chance to lobby on various issues from Parish level right up to National policy.

DON'T FORGET THE JOINT COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES TAKE PLACE EVERY 2 MONTHS. THEY ARE VERY INFORMAL AND ALLOW TIME TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUE THAT CONCERNS YOU ON PARISH, DISTRICT OR COUNTY COUNCIL LEVEL. NEXT SURGERIES ARE SATURDAYS, 24 JUNE AND 26 AUGUST FROM 11.30-12.30 - HOPEFUL-

LY IN THE SWAN INN BUT CHECK THE NOTICE BOARDS.

You have probably noticed that our news this time has a distinct flavour of joint community participation. Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who give whatever time they have available to maintaining and improving the village for everyone. It is an interesting and challenging balancing act but worthwhile, we believe. We really do appreciate any support that residents give us. We have recently delivered a letter to each household asking for new recruits to the Parish Council. Please seriously consider joining us so that we can spread our load – we are short of one Parish Councillor at this very moment. Then in May 2018, the whole Council will be up for renewal and at that time current Parish Councillors may wish to stand down. Exercise your democratic right at the most local level and keep your Parish Council going!

For more information come and see us at a Parish Council meeting, each 2nd Monday in the month (except August), 7.30pm in the upstairs meeting room of

Parish Council:

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

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**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

IMPROVING ACCESS TO OXFORDSHIRE'S COUNTRYSIDE AND GREEN SPACES



Oxfordshire has an excellent network of local rights of way and accessible green spaces in its countryside, rural communities and in urban areas. The county is also criss-crossed by longer trails such as the Thames Path and the Ridgeway and by regional routes such as the Oxfordshire Way.

Footpaths and bridleways provide opportunities for people to

access green spaces for relaxation, exercise and enjoyment. Walking or cycling has many health benefits and brings people closer to the natural world, while better links along rights of way within and between communities offer scope for reducing car use. Local voluntary groups are often involved with looking after local paths and bridleways; now the summer is on its way, what better time to get outside and get involved with local access projects, or just enjoy exploring our beautiful county?



But could we make better use of rights of way in Oxfordshire? Some routes have challenging surfaces, stiles or gates and many lack information and signage about points of interest and circular routes. The County Council is responsible for managing the rights of way network, doing so by working with farmers and local communities. But OCC has limited funding and time to carry out improve-

ments; this is where TOE2 and volunteers can help.

TOE2 works in partnership with OCC, supporting communities to ensure better rights of way networks that are more accessible and easier to use, providing valuable links between and within settlements. TOE2 is keen to support more local voluntary groups to help maintain and improve Oxfordshire's Rights of Way Network, building on the excellent work of ex-

isting groups such as the South Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, and the Ramblers Path Works Volunteers. Working alongside Parish Councils and OCC such groups help ensure that local people can enjoy better connected paths and bridleways to access local green spaces.

What is TOE2 and what are we doing for rights of way in Oxfordshire?

TOE2 is Oxfordshire's independent environmental funder, supporting projects that make real and lasting improvements to the environment and to the lives of local people. TOE2, a charity and a not-for-profit company, has worked in partnership with OCC for several years to improve access to rights of way and green spaces across the county, supporting the aims of the Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/rowip).

TOE2 can provide grant funding to support local access projects so that local groups can get materials and possibly training. Since 2011 TOE2 has allocated about £200,000 to access projects across Oxfordshire, primarily with funding provided by Grundon Waste Management through the Landfill Communities Fund. Here are a few examples of projects we have funded:

- South Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers – several significant projects across the southern Chilterns to improve access through replacing stiles with gates. Projects often link to pubs and other village facilities and usually improve a number of stretches of rights of way or even whole routes (<https://chilternsociety.org.uk/path-maintenance/>)
- A grant of £5,000 supported path surface improvements between Benson and Wallingford, a very well used section of the Thames Path National Trail (http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/sites/default/files/tp_newsletter_autumn_2016.pdf)
- The Oxford Preservation Trust has recently carried out a range of access improvements over a stretch of open countryside on Boars Hill providing valuable access to green space on the edge of the city (<http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/sites/www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/files/Dreaming%20Spires%20walk.pdf>)
- Bloxham Parish Council - The project created circular walks of 4.5 miles and 1 mile, including replacing stiles with gates. The route is now being enjoyed by the local community and is used by the health walks organ-

ised through the local surgery

(http://www.bloxhamparishcouncil.co.uk/?page_id=1977)

- Aston Rowant Parish Council used TOE2 funding to create a more accessible promoted 'Discovery trail' route that gave access to the Aston Rowant NNR Talking Trail (<http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/Aston-Rowant-Discovery-Trail.pdf>)
- A partnership with Brakspear is involving local volunteers in providing information to create circular routes from 30 Brakspear pubs (<http://www.pub-trails.co.uk/>). In return Brakspear is providing funding to support additional grants for access improvements. TOE2 would welcome the opportunity to work with other corporate partners in this way.

TOE2 welcomes funding applications from non-profit making organisations and groups including:

- Parish Councils
- Local charities
- Environmental charities and groups
- Other local voluntary groups

What sorts of projects would we like to fund?

- More support for strategic routes and for links to these routes, e.g.; National Trail links, the Oxfordshire Way, longer riding routes
- Better links with the health agenda, e.g.; Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, trim trails and path exercise circuits, access for people with disabilities, Green Health Routes
- More funding to support families wishing to access green spaces on foot or by bicycle
- Improving year round access for wheelchairs and pushchairs
- Projects that link biodiversity, education and access
- Supporting the establishment, training and work of groups of access volunteers

Are you interested in supporting access to green spaces in Oxfordshire?

We would love to hear from any local organisations or companies interested in supporting better access to green spaces in Oxfordshire; TOE2 provides an effective mechanism for delivering funding to good local projects.

For further information about TOE2:

Fiona Danks, Director, Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2)

Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, OX14 4QZ

www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk 01865 407003

fiona.danks@trustforoxfordshire.org.uk @toe2_oxon

THE SWAN

After several months of extensive refurbishment The Swan reopened its doors to the village at noon on 1st May. Invitations had been delivered to every house in Ascott and the new owners were rewarded with an excellent response; everyone wanted to see and enjoy the results of all the hard work that had been planned and organised by the new owners Charles Crossley and Tom Stanley

Visitors were welcomed with a glass of wine or non-alcoholic refreshment and tempted by a wide range delicious canapés.

The work on the interior of the bar area, the dining room and the en-suite guest rooms has created a comfortable and relaxing venue for villagers and visitors. The interior work is complemented by an outside seating area and a new front porch.

We wish the new Swan a long and happy association with Ascott.



Charles Crossley



Tom Stanley

The Ascott Grapevine



A welcoming drink



Bar Staff



Garden Area



Dining Room



Two of 6 Bedrooms

Oxfordshire's Nature



STATE OF NATURE

IN OXFORDSHIRE 2017

The state of Oxfordshire's nature: Wild Oxfordshire's new report reveals the county's nature is at a tipping point.

On 21 March, local conservation charity Wild Oxfordshire launched the first ever complete picture of the **State of Oxfordshire's Nature**. Over 100 people representing some 45 organisations attended the launch at Blenheim Palace. Oxford University's Professor David McDonald set the scene and fascinating range of speakers gave their perspective on Oxfordshire's wildlife. From young photographer and nature enthusiast 13 year old Alex White, to a local group of volunteers working hard to restore the precious Lye Valley in the middle of Oxford, whilst Smiths Bletchington showed how good gravel pit restoration can benefit wildlife.

The report draws together a wealth of expertise and knowledge from the county's professional and volunteer base in biodiversity and nature conservation. The news is mixed and wildlife faces many pressures from increased development, agriculture practices and climate change.

Some species are doing well:

- Breeding bitterns and marsh harriers have returned to the Otmoor reserve
- Water vole numbers have plummeted by 95% nationally but locally, specially targeted work has seen them treble their range.
- Otters and red kites, both rare 30 years ago, are now widespread across the county thanks to huge conservation efforts. Otters have even been sighted in Oxford.

Other species are suffering:

- There have been long term declines in farmland and woodland biodiversity and some associated species are at serious risk of extinction, including the turtle dove.
- Grassland specialists such as the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and Wall butterfly are considered extinct in the county.
- Between 2005-2015, outside of the RSPB's Otmoor reserve, wading birds including the Snipe and Curlew have suffered large declines.

The Future

Challenges and pressures on wildlife will not go away. Oxfordshire's State of Nature Report supports previous national calls for more, bigger, better and joined up natural habitats. That requires action across all sectors not just conservation organisations. Sian Liwicki, Chair of Trustees, for Wild Oxfordshire, said: *"Wild Oxfordshire is delighted to have played a key role in what has been a huge partnership effort. The fate of the county's future is at a tipping point and only the involvement of all sectors can secure Oxfordshire's nature for future generations."*

We are grateful to Oxfordshire County Council, Natural England, Banbury Ornithological Society, Beard Construction, Blenheim Palace, Seacourt Press and Smiths (Bletchington) for their kind support.

Oxfordshire's Wildlife Assets

Oxfordshire's geology and eight river systems create a gentle yet complex landscape supporting a variety of habitats including, beech woodlands, chalk grassland, gravel pits, flood plain meadows and small amounts of acid grassland and heathland.

Designated Areas	Species	People
7 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) 162 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) 362 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	146 UK legally protected species 138 endangered plant species	222 Environment Groups Hundreds of volunteers

State of Nature in Oxfordshire 2017 – local background

Oxfordshire's 2017 State of Nature report is the most comprehensive review of the current situation for wildlife across the breadth of Oxfordshire. It covers all aspects of the natural environment including the status of our flora, fauna and land use. For over 18 months more than 60 skilled individuals and 40 environmental and conservation-focused organizations have worked on this report. It highlights the natural jewels in Oxfordshire's crown and considers what is being done, and what could be done, to ensure these treasures will still be there to benefit future generations. We are grateful to the thousands of hours of volunteer time, organisational resources and sponsors that have made the report possible.

National State of Nature – background

A national State of Nature report was published in 2013, with the second national report produced in September 2016. It can be downloaded from http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/StateOfNature2016_England_updated%2020%20Sept%20pages_tcm9-424986.pdf. Some of the national figures show large declines, for example 97% of the lowland meadows in England and Wales were lost between the 1930s and 1982, and around 60% of vascular plant and butterfly species declined.

Wild Oxfordshire

Wild Oxfordshire, established in 1999, is a local conservation charity building partnerships to improve Oxfordshire's nature. Wild Oxfordshire fosters a collaborative and strategic approach to nature conservation, encourages better land management and increases awareness and interest in nature.

Wild Oxfordshire:

- Works with nearly 100 partners on strategic projects such as Conservation Target Areas and the Evenlode Catchment
- Supports Local Groups, providing- bespoke ecological advice, conferences, regular environmental news
- Engages new audiences with projects such as our biannual Waterblitz

For more information about Wild Oxfordshire: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk or email clare@wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Cotswold 24 Free FitClub

It should be called the Cotswold 24 Free Fun FitClub.

Run by Lynne Westnage a qualified Physical Training Instructor and Sam O’Kane in Tiddy Hall on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm., the club is very welcoming, an excellent platform for making new friends while improving fitness and mobility and is great fun to boot.

The FitClub caters for everyone over the age of 16 irrespective of size, shape and fitness level. It’s not competitive, involvement in a Body Challenge is entirely optional (you compete against yourself), nutritional advice is available should you require it.

If you have goals for weight loss, fitness levels or body shape changes, fit club will help you achieve them while having fun and making friends.

None of the exercises are compulsory, if you can’t run, you walk, if you can’t skip, you pretend, if you have an injury which prevents you doing a particular exercise you do an alternative. Exercise mats are provided and there is a good selection of equipment which varies each week - medicine balls, dumbbell weights, boxing, resistance bands, exercise wheels etc. Although encouraged to do one’s best, there is absolutely no pressure to attempt anything you are not comfortable with.

If you are dubious about attending, come along (dressed in clothes totally unsuitable for a fitness class so that there is no danger of being asked to participate), watch and see how it works.

A £1 donation is welcome to cover the cost of hall hire.

For further information please contact Lynne 07917 861950 or Sam 07730 507380

MR. NICHOLLS

The man who loved Charlotte Brontë

Many people know the extraordinary life-story of the Brontë family. Less well known is the man who loved Charlotte Brontë. Juliet has written the story seen through the eyes of a young boy. .



Mr. Nicholls was the village curate at Haworth where Patrick Brontë, the father of the family, was the vicar. Patrick's work, in a notoriously unhealthy environment, was helped by the appointment of curates - young academic churchmen who took up posts in neighbouring villages. These were placed not unlike the churches within the Chase Benefice, but the curates had to travel on foot over wild, Yorkshire moorland, not the picturesque Cotswolds.



Mr. Nicholls' background was unknown to Haworth villagers. He was simply a difficult man who helped Mr. Brontë in his arduous work. Charlotte took a profound dislike to all curates and made caricatures of them in her novel 'Shirley'. Mr. Nicholls did not escape her criticism. She did not know he was profoundly in love with her.

One person who witnessed the whole of Mr. Nicholls' agony, was John, the young boy he taught on Saturday mornings. John was from a nearby moorland village, his father a shoemaker. Between himself and Mr. Nicholls there grew up a close relationship - and John became the guardian of the secret.

An event to mark the publication of the novel - **Mr. Nicholls by Juliet Heslewood** - is being planned by Jaffé & Neale where it can be ordered. It will also be available, at a reduced price, at the shop.

Juliet is planning to do an illustrated talk on her work on the novel and its fascinating characters as a **fund-raiser for the church bells**. This will be later in the year.

So please watch this space - and happy reading meanwhile!



LOTTERY FUNDED

A Wychwood Project exhibition about the history of Wychwood Forest over 800 years has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £8,000.

Thanks to National Lottery players, the free exhibition will go on display from June to September this year in the Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. It explains the origins of the Forest as a hunting ground for Norman royalty and illustrates the way of life of local people over the centuries, whether shepherds, woodsmen or gloveresses. It also covers the dramatic change to West Oxfordshire in the



1850's when much of the forest was enclosed, trees were felled and the land was turned over to farming.



The Wychwood Project's Learning Officer, Debbie Pain, is delighted the exhibition has secured the HLF grant:

"We are thrilled that National Lottery funding is helping us to bring the story of Wychwood Forest to local people and visitors to West Oxfordshire.

Many people are not aware that West Oxfordshire used to be a Royal Forest. The forest ruled our region for over 800 years influencing our landscape, buildings, industries and way of life and much of that history is still tangible today. We hope people will come along to the exhibition, get a taste of what it was like to live here in the time of the forest and see what a great legacy it has left us."

The Wychwood Forest Exhibition opens on June 10th 2017 at the Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock and will run throughout the Summer holiday period.

To learn more about the Wychwood Project

visit: www.wychwoodproject.org

phone: 01865 815423

email: wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/WychwooProject



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Vet's Advice

I am out in Dahab at the moment, taking part in our 4th TNR project (Trap, Neuter and Release project). All over the world vets are involved in these projects in an attempt to lower the birthrate of stray cats and dogs, and to improve the quality of the lives of these animals. It is also important to the environment - hopefully fewer birds being killed by cats as well as lower incidence of parasites, particularly those which could infect children and even livestock. Diseases such as Rabies can hopefully also be kept under control, or even better, be eradicated if the project is combined with a vaccination programme where needed. These TNR projects also take place in the UK. Our practice alone has neutered more than 200 feral cats over the past couple of years.

All these projects are heavily reliant on local volunteers and it never ceases to amaze me how many people turn up to help. Not only the number of people but also the variety - at the moment we are being helped by a group of people of diverse nationalities, ages and backgrounds. Caroline, who we call our 'Official Tick Remover' is a belly dancer and teacher by profession. She has promised to teach us a few moves. While I was operating she demonstrated the shimmy which involves wobbling the knees backwards and forwards very quickly. As you can imagine it isn't easy to concentrate on surgery while 3 women are trying this out around you! And we haven't even started on the belly yet.

While on the subject of parasites, please do not forget to worm your pets. This is really important for children but also important to farmers who can suffer serious losses due to parasites in faeces which could infect their livestock. And we all love walking our dogs across their fields and are very fortunate that we are allowed to do this.

Karen

If you want to read more about the work Karen & Lisa are doing in Dahab, look at their blog, accessible from www.coggesvet.com. You will also find a link there to AWD (Animal Welfare Dahab).

Chipping Norton Choral Society

Excerpts from Handel's Samson oratorio will be presented at the Church of St Simon and St Jude in Milton-under-Wychwood on Saturday 17th June, at 7.30pm. Tickets at the door £15 and U16's are free

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FUND RAISING FOR REPAIRS TO ASCOTT CHURCH BELLS

First I would like to say thank-you to all those who responded to last month's appeal by generously offering pledges towards the cost of repairing our church bells.

We have been busy applying for grants and so far with the pledges we have raised £4,455 towards the total costs of £13,000 plus VAT .

As part of our fund raising activities we are holding a coffee morning at Brambletye courtesy of Rosemary and Mark Dawbarn on Saturday 22nd July and there will be an illustrated talk by Whites of Appleton on Friday 20th October. Whites repair and maintain church bells across the region.

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 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

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ASCOTT CHURCH BELLS**

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on

Saturday 17th June

Saturday 15th July

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Saturday 16th September

Saturday 21st October

Saturday 18th November

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Wychwood Library

Regular events at Wychwood Library

Tai Chi: Mondays at 10am

Coffee mornings: Wednesdays from 10 – 12am

Late Spring with Age UK: 6th and 20th June, 4th and 18th July from 10.30am and 1st and 15th August.

Wychwood Circle: Sunday June 4th Julian Bond (Christian Muslim Forum): 'What Jesus says about Muslims'

Evening Reading Group: Monday 5th June and 3rd July at 7.30pm. Please enquire about an August meeting

Afternoon Reading Group: Thursday 8th June and 13th July at 1.30pm. No August meeting

Poetry Club: Thursday 15th June and 15th July at 2.30pm. No August meeting.

Look out for flowers and plants for sale on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

The theme for the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge is Animal Agents, illustrated by the UK's best-selling children's illustrator Tony Ross.

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read six books during the long summer holiday.

Children can read whatever they like - fact books, joke books, picture books, audio books - just as long as they are borrowed from the library.

Children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate for everyone who completes the Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities.

So this summer there's something peculiar happening at the local library - and that's where the Animal Agents come in!

From solving the case of the graffiti writing to the strange case of a missing lunch, children will join in the fun with the Animal Agents by reading along. As children read library books on the Summer Reading Challenge, they will receive a host of stickers, some with mysterious smells. By collecting these clues in their detective folder, young readers will help the Animal Agents find out what's really been going on behind the scenes!

We look forward to seeing you all at Wychwood Library this summer.

Premier cycling event set to boost tourism

Cycling fans are set to flock to West Oxfordshire after it was announced the OVO Energy Tour of Britain will pass through the District.



Officials at Cotswolds Tourism and West Oxfordshire District Council are celebrating the boost in visitor numbers as a result of the penultimate stage of the Tour visiting the area on Saturday 9 September.

More than 120 cyclists will pass through towns and villages including Wootton, Charlbury and the Wychwoods before continuing through the Cotswolds, eventually finishing in Cheltenham town centre.

Sally Graff of West Oxfordshire District Council Tourism said: “Many residents will be thrilled to see world-class cyclists up close. Also, being part of the event should attract a lot of visitors who have not previously sampled the hospitality and attractions of the Cotswolds and we will be in touch with businesses to make the most of this opportunity.”

Andy Sanders from the Cotswolds Tourism Partnership added: “We know the race will generate lots of interest in cycling now and into the future. We are hoping businesses and communities will engage in the event to showcase all the area has to offer.”

Race Director Mick Bennett said: “The OVO Energy Tour of Britain has passed through the Cotswolds on a number of occasions, but this will be the first stage to finish in the area. The race will showcase the area’s beautiful scenery.”

Any business, local community or organisation wanting to be involved should attend one of two meetings to learn more. The first is at The Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh on Monday 15 May at 5.30pm. A second meeting will be held at The White Hart Inn, Winchcombe on Wednesday 17 May. For more information, email cotswoldstourism@cotswold.gov.uk

Ascott Pre-school

May 2017

Ofsted, farm trips and cooking – all in a day's work at Pre-school

We are well and truly embracing the joys of Spring here at pre-school and we certainly have been keeping the children and ourselves busy over the last few weeks.

In March, we received a visit from Ofsted and are really pleased to say that we have been officially designated as “Good” in our latest report. Some of the key comments from the report included:

“Children make good progress. They are confident, motivated to learn and gain a good foundation for their future learning.” and “Staff know children well and are caring and attentive. Children are happy, secure and settle quickly.”

We are so pleased to have had such positive feedback on the care that we provide and are delighted to have maintained our high standards from previous years.

In other news, our Cookery Club is now in full swing and children have been enjoying baking in small groups in the kitchen. So far we have made delicious chicken, sweetcorn and spring onion pies and spiced fruit muffins. Lots of parents have been commenting on the delicious smells wafting out the door when they come to pick the children up!

Last month, our Forest School groups were delighted to visit two local farms to learn about farming first-hand. The children particularly loved seeing the animals and meeting the owners and we would like to say a huge thank you to both the Rimell and Walker families for hosting us.

Pre-school Open Morning

On Saturday 10th June we are hosting an open morning from 10am – 12pm. This will be a brilliant opportunity for new parents in the area, and parents with children due to start pre-school, to come along and speak to staff and find out more about how our pre-school works.

We currently have spaces available for children aged two and above across our sessions, which run from 9am – 2.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and from 9am – 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 to find out more. We'd love to hear from you!

Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Saturday 10th June 10:00am

Wychwood to Bould Wood

Follow the Oxfordshire Way from Shipton under Wychwood to Bruern Abbey and Foxholes Nature Reserve, returning via Bould Wood and the villages of Idbury, Fifield and Milton under Wychwood. Please bring a packed lunch.

Meeting Place: Dog Kennel Lane Shipton under Wychwood

Wednesday June 14th 9:30am

Conservation around Charlbury

An opportunity to see some of the landscape and nature conservation work carried out by Cotswold Voluntary Wardens in this part of the Evenlode Valley.

Meeting Place: Spendlove Centre Charlbury

Sunday 25th June 10:00am

Hiking Through History – life in Roman Oxfordshire 2

A five hour walk of 11.5 miles

Discover the Roman influence on the North Oxfordshire part of the Cotswolds. Please bring a packed lunch.

Meeting Place: Sibford Gower Primary School

More details are on the website www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/walking and only assistant dogs are allowed on the walks.

TIDDY HALL

Piano Lessons

Pauline Carter

BA A Mus LCM CTABRSM MISM



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WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



In association with the Wychwood Brewery
At Tiddy Hall, Shipton Rd, Ascott -u- Wychwood

Sat June 3rd Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

Winners – 'BEST DUO' – BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2016

Winners – 'BEST DUO' – Spiral Earth Awards 2015

Winners – 'BEST DUO' – BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2013

Two of the British folk scenes most accomplished performers, Kathryn and Sean have graced stages the world over in a number of guises. However, the intimacy and strength of passion shown as a duo, combined with an ever evolving eclectic repertoire ensures a rare treat for any listener

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door.

Sat July 29th Under the Wychwood & The Ponderosa

Two of Oxfordshire's finest come together in this double bill. An hour from each band of their best material which will be recorded for future live album releases. Entry to this event is free with donations being accepted on the night. Anybody donating £5 or more will receive a free CD of a selection of the evening's material

Tickets – Free entry

Sat Sept 2nd Steve Tilston + support from Laphooka

One of our most celebrated songsmiths, widely recognised within the world of folk and contemporary music; the words, arrangements and subtle, quite superb guitar playing could be no one else.

The story of Steve's "lost" letter from John Lennon inspired the Hollywood movie Danny Collins starring Al Pacino in the title role, now available on DVD.

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door.

Sat Sept 16th Na-mara + support from Edward Naysmith

Na-Mara brings together talented English singer songwriter and guitarist Paul McNamara and wonderful mandolin player Rob Garcia

They write "fantastic songs and the stories grab you from the start" and may be put on the list of enjoyable English duos such as veteran Knightley and Beer or young Cadie and Bloomer.

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: 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

Trustees

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

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

Charity Run 29th October to raise funds for the church bells repair

Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

Mark Dawbarn mark@dawbarn.co.uk

Pauline Marshall 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 14th 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 – Summer 2017

Price Comparison

In previous articles for the Grapevine, I have been keen to say that the Village Shop is not as expensive as many people think it is. To add some objective advice to what was only my opinion, I made up a shopping basket of everyday items and went to the Co-Op to compare our prices with that of our closest supermarket in Milton. The results are shown in the table below. (I am grateful to the very helpful shop manager in the Burford Co-Op for letting me make this comparison)

You can see, the main difference between the two shops is in the cost of meat, where buying a whole chicken, bacon (adjusted for 200g) and some sausages will cost you £4.95 more in your Village Shop. Several years ago, we tried stocking cheaper brands of fresh meat but I am told there were very few sales and a lot of waste. An experiment with the excellent, locally sourced farm fresh meats proved popular with many of our regular customers so the line was continued and we now have very little less waste. If there is a call for cheaper meat by regular shoppers in the future we will do what we can to provide it – the Village Shop is there for everyone, not the few.

Shopping Basket (8 March 2017)	AVS (£)	Co-Op (£)
1 Sliced loaf	1.75	1.55
½ lb slightly salted butter (lurpak)	1.85	1.89
1 litre semi skimmed milk	1.19	0.98
2 tins baked beans	1.58	1.70
2 tins tomato soup	1.98	1.98
200g cheddar cheese	1.74	2.00
1 pack fish fingers (12 in AVS / 10 in Co-Op)	2.50	2.75
1 bag oven chips	2.50	2.50
1kg potatoes	1.20	1.48
1 Cabbage	0.99	1.09
6 sausages (farm fresh in AVS / own brand Cumberland in Co-Op)	4.57	1.89

The Ascott Grapevine

1 pack bacon (188g farm fresh in AVS / 340g own brand in Co-Op)	1.97	2.39
6 eggs	1.60	1.35
1 jar instant coffee (Nescafe original 100g)	2.95	2.99
1 pack tea bags (50 x Twinings breakfast on special offer in Co-Op)	3.99	1.49
2lb bag sugar	1.09	0.95
1 jar marmalade (Frank Cooper)	2.45	1.99
1 box cornflakes (Kelloggs in AVS / own brand in Co-Op)	2.99	1.70
Chicken (farm fresh in AVS)	5.54	3.95
 TOTAL	 44.43	 36 62
 Adjust for number of fish fingers in pack, 200g bacon and remove the tea offer	 44.56	 40.43

Annual General Meeting

The 2017 AGM will be held on 21 June at 7.30pm in the function room of the Swan, by the kind invitation of the new Landlord, Mr Tom Stanley.

The AGM is open to all our shareholders, who may raise issues from the floor and vote for members of the Management Committee

Break-In

Finally, you might be interested to know that the police caught the man, James Whitaker, who broke into the Village Shop on the night of 28/29 January and he was committed to prison for 16 weeks, suspended for 12 months by Banbury Magistrates' Court on 12 April.

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

ASCOTT WALKERS



ASCOTT WALKERS SUMMER SEASON UNDERWAY

The second Sunday each month sees the Ascott Walkers off on their Sunday morning walks. So far a grand tour of the Daylesford area in April was a great success and in May the group enjoyed the bluebells of Bruern Wood.

Ascott Walkers switches to 2nd Sunday of each month until October and welcomes new members. Walks on a Sunday morning are about 5/6 miles and start at 9.30 am and usually end up with a drink/optional pub lunch.

If you want to be kept informed, then be added to the mailing list by email to paul.jackson@triangle.eu.com.

NEED A LIFT LOCALLY?

A group of us have got together, calling ourselves

Ascott Car Lift Club

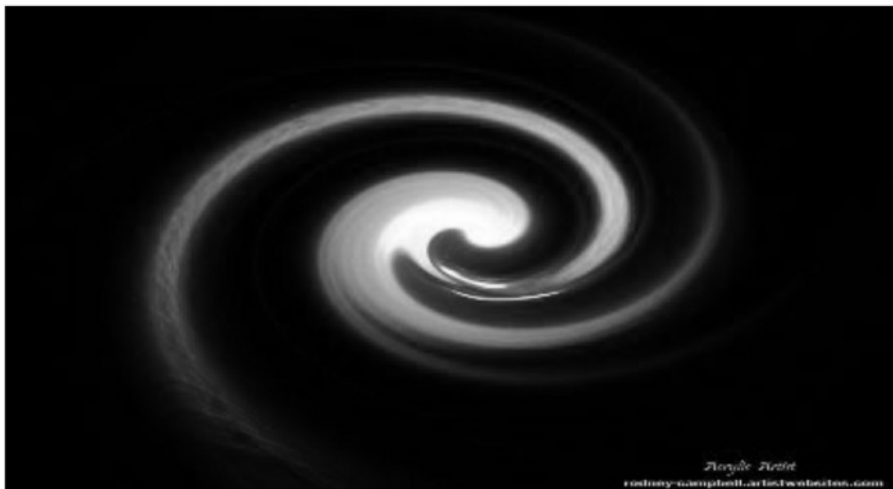
One of us was recently quoted a price of £15.00 for the run between Ascott and Charlbury by taxi (one way).

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

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

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

Qigong for Health



For gentle healing, relaxation and integration

Come along to four summer sessions of the ancient healing forms of Qigong-focusing on breathing, movement and awareness. Suitable for everyone.

Featuring Shibashi Set 2

Tiddy Hall
Ascott-under-Wychwood

7.30pm - 9pm

Dates: 15th, 22nd, 29th June & 6th July
£5 per session

Teacher: Pam Quirke
E: pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk
T: 0780 572283

Gardening in Ascott



For many people the informal charm of the cottage garden is irresistible. The first cottage gardens grew fruit, vegetables, herbs and probably had to accommodate some livestock as well. Flowers would be few, and then probably only those with some practical medicinal or culinary use. With most of us now supplying our needs from shops and pharmacies, cottage gardening today tends towards the ornamental rather than the purely useful, and perhaps we see these old cottage gardens through rose coloured spectacles! So how do we create a cottage garden of our dreams? It may seem simple - leave plants to grow naturally, be more relaxed about intruders from the hedgerows, but this would in time become a jungle of thugs and little else. In fact cottage style gardening requires hard work and careful management to produce the desired casual artlessness.



Designing the Layout and Structure

In the past a cottage garden layout developed naturally around the cottage. The plot would be surrounded by hedges and crossed with practical paths. In

following these principles today, the cottage gardener should avoid too much hard landscaping, and the materials used should be local and follow the vernacular style of the house.

Although the desired style is a loose informality, the cottage garden is often di-

vided into separate plots by the use of brick, gravel, grass or beaten earth paths. Some of these plots would be for livestock, and some for edible use, flowers and herbs. These plots could be surrounded with low hedges or, I have done this year, rustic fencing. My little herb and produce area somehow looked too utilitarian, but this spring I edged it with some second-hand two feet high trellis panels and it has now become a distinct and attractive area of the garden.

Grassed areas surrounding the essential fruit trees could be left to grow long with shorter mown paths to give access and provide vistas. Wildflower meadows would require a separate written article altogether, being far from simple to achieve, but a few plug plants in the long grass might give a similar feel. Perhaps primroses, a small narcissi or fritillaria might work well for a fine spring display.

Some Ideas for Structure and Layout

Boundaries

Woven hazel panels. New timber fences can be painted with a dark colour. Hedging of yew, or mixed native species where the garden adjoins agricultural land. Metal estate fencing.

Edging

Tanalised timber boards. Railway sleepers. Rope-edged garden tiles or old bricks.

Gates

Recycled builders' wooden pallets can be fashioned into rustic gates. Old wrought iron.

Paths

Old bricks, hoggins (a mix of gravel, sand and clay), beaten earth, gravel or bark chippings.

Seating

Old simple benches, a railway sleeper supported on breeze-blocks or bricks. New wooden furniture should be left to "silver" naturally or be painted in muted colours.

Plant supports

Natural materials such as hazel poles and birch twigs

Watering devices

Hose reels need to be hidden from site. Aged galvanised watering cans left at random points around the garden.

Pots and containers

Old butler or stone sinks, weathered terracotta (paint them with yoghurt to speed up the ageing process). Old tin baths or animal troughs.

Beehives and compost heaps

Perhaps not all of us keep bees, but a stylish replica hive can make a pretty feature in the wilder parts of the garden. Compost heaps are not the most attractive garden feature but would certainly have been part of cottage garden recycling, so try to make them either attractive or unobtrusive.

Planting principles

Out of necessity, the cottage gardeners of old grew fruit, vegetables and household herbs to feed and treat themselves and their animals. Cottage gardeners today

can take a more ascetic view and perhaps will grow plants more for their ornamental merits. Herbs still seem to be an integral part of the cottage garden, as do lavender and roses for their fragrance and still-room usefulness. Even a small plot can usually accommodate a wigwam of hazel poles adorned with runner beans or sweet peas. Fences and arbours can be clothed in sweet smelling honeysuckles and roses.

Some Ideas for Cottage Garden Plants

Daisy like flowers

Echinacea, Rudbeckias, Leucanthemum and Argyranthemum.

Pot Marigolds

Calendula officinalis 'Indian Prince' is a fine vibrant orange and the petals can be used to make hand cream or included in salads.

Lavender

The large so called English lavender, Lavender augustifolia, or the smaller varieties such as Hidcote or Munstead.

Hollyhocks

I know they are prone to rust and end up with very unattractive low stems, but you could go for a look-a-like x Alcea suffruticosa, or plant something bushy in the front of them to disguise their short-comings.

Cow parsley "look-a-likes," or as they are known, Umbellifers

Annuals like Ammi majus. Angelica or Sweet Cicely (Myrrhis odorata)

Perennials, biennials and self-seeders

Foxgloves, Lupins, Sweet Williams, Phlox, Poppies, Forget-me-knots, Aquilegias, Cornflowers and Geraniums.

Climbers

Small-flowered Clematis, old fashioned Roses, Honeysuckles and Jasmine.

Herbs

All sorts, especially rosemary, sage and chives.

Trees

Preferably an old gnarled-trunked apple. Damson, plum, cherry or quince.

Pot plants

Auricular displayed on an old shelf, or pelargoniums in terracotta pots.

Some final flourishes!

Although it is desirable to add a few rustic ornamentations, it should never jar or look too smart. Accessories such as lighting should be simple - jam jars filled with tea-lights or old industrial style lanterns.

Faded fabric cushions for that old bench.

Old tools simply arranged on hooks on the shed door, or an artfully discarded garden fork in the border just waiting for the old cottager to continue her digging.

Old ladders leant against the fruit tree awaiting the harvest.

Old clothes placed ready for use against the frost.

And of course, the old gardener taking her rest on the rustic bench with her cup of tea and homemade cake.

Madeline Galistan

ASCOTT-under-WYCHWOOD – A CELEBRATION at Tiddy Hall

As somebody so astutely observed after the event, “We might all have passed each other on the street and never have known what people can do”. Not any more!

We have in the past had many a great evening doing the two D’s, dining and dancing, but this year we thought we needed a slight change to our annual celebration and with so many musicians and talented entertainers in the village what better alternative than to organise “Ascott - under - Wychwood – a Celebration”.

It may surprise people reading this that we actually started organising the event in June of last year trying to arrange dates and suggest ideas. At our first meeting I did say that, on no account, was anybody to do anything beyond their current repertoire. The evening was to be a casual glimpse into their musical lives and they were not to spend hours practising – just to repeat what they had done in past recitals.

How naïve can anybody be? Professional pride is a very strong emotion and, not surprisingly, everybody practised their hearts out to make sure everything was right on the night. Tom G. re wrote his script, Wendy Pearse wrote and rewrote her script, Daphne, Bob, Katrina and Mat practised together and separately, Will and Amarin did the same in London and the 3 Piece Sweet shared some drinks, just joking guys!

All tickets were sold within 6 days of coming on sale in the Grapevine and

somehow we managed to cram 100 guests into Tiddy Hall. Ceci Magee prepared a 3-course and delicious meal for us – we still don’t know how she managed it!

Reginald Tiddy himself was a great one for public entertainment so it was fitting that the venue should be in the shadow of his picture in the centre of the hall.

Wendy Pearse started the evening off with a brief and very interesting history of the village - it’s amazing to think that occupation of the village dates back to some 4000 years BC, perhaps even earlier. She had to compete with diners eating their first course as she spoke, but she did it admirably. After supper we were then entertained by an absolutely fabulous mix of music. Classical voice and piano, Will Diggle and Amarin Zenaishvilli, fresh



from the Royal Academy of Music, singing, amongst others, works by Ravel, Donizetti, Strauss and Beethoven, what a great future they have. Classical/jazz piano and violin from Daphne Abe and Katrina Davies performing works by Kriesler, Nigel Hess, Czardas, Strauss,

The Ascott Grapevine



such fun and such variety; Bob Chilcott singing the beautiful “Can you hear me”



and a comic turn with “A plea”; and Katrina and Mat Davies performing a wonderful array of folk numbers on violin and bouzouki. Interspersed with the music we had a comic guest appearance from a Tech Executive from Silicon Valley in America, Sir Andy Murray and Oswald the magician, aka Tom Gidman.



After all that entertainment was over, Mark Pidgeon, John Bujega and Mat Davies (3 Piece Sweet) finished the evening in perfect style with many well-

known hits and getting us oldies off our seats and dad dancing the rest of the night away. Well done lads!

The energy and sheer exuberance of the acts was amazing, particularly as some had been struck down with the dreaded “lurgie” but still gave it their all. As I say, professional pride is a powerful spur.



I’m afraid I do not have the literary skills to convey the quality of the performances on the night or to reflect the enjoyment that the performers gave us. Suffice to say, that, at the end, the entire cast were dragged to the front again and given a standing and lasting ovation. It was an evening that those that attended it will never forget, and I hope that all those that performed on the night felt their hard work met with the response that it so thoroughly deserved – thank you all.

Villagers may not have known in the past what some people can do but they certainly do now!

Reginald Tiddy would have given more than a nod of approval, I’m sure!

Simon Gidman

Tidy Hall Report

The first part of this year has been busy at Tiddy Hall! Local girl Alice Day married Mark Read on February 25th and celebrated the happy occasion with a reception at Tiddy Hall. The Tiddy Hall Committee would like to wish Alice and Mark much happiness in their new life together.

Ursula Beele's new **Pilates** class started early April and she now has a waiting list. If there are a few more interested persons, Ursula is thinking of running a second class on Tuesday evenings. Class one is 6.30pm-7.30pm and her second would run from 7.30pm-8.30pm. Please give her a ring if you are interested – 01993 300267 or contact her by email – info@pilateswithursula.co.uk.

Pam Quirke continues with her **Qigong** classes. **Qigong** is a traditional form of Chinese exercise and meditation using slow flowing movement, deep rhythmic breathing leading to a calm meditative state of mind giving you access to higher realms of awareness. Pam's next session will run from Thursday June 15th for four weeks. She is also running a day's workshop on Sunday July 30th. Please contact Pam if you are interested – pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk or on 07780 572283.

If you'd like something a bit more energetic, don't forget the very successful **Fit Club** which runs every Wednesday evening, 7.30pm-8.30pm – it's free!!! – contact LynneWestnage@aol.com

On a Friday evening back in March, there was a fun evening of singing when a fund raiser for the church was held. The sing-a-long version of the film Ma-

ma Mia was shown and we all enjoyed joining in with the cast, singing those classic Abba songs which we all know so well...but, some of those words I thought I knew, I now realise I've been singing incorrectly all these years!

To continue with musical theme, **The Wychwood Folk Club** has also been busy in the first part of this year. Damien Clarke performed with his unusual instruments, the dulcimer and the hurdy gurdy in February and finalist of The Voice, Sally Barker performed in March. April saw two gigs. The first one was a return of our patron, Chris Leslie – our biggest crowd to date at 151! While at the end of April, a lot of fun was had with the indie folk band, Harry Bird & Rubber Wellies. Forthcoming gigs at Tiddy Hall:

May 20th – Melrose Quartet

June 3rd – Sean Lakeman & Kathryn Roberts

July 29th – Under the Wychwood & The Ponderosa (free event!)

September 2nd – Steve Tilston

September 16th – Na-Mara

A **quiz night** will be held on **Friday 9th June** in aid of the Church. Six people per team/table and tickets cost £10 per person which includes sandwiches and light bites and there will be a bar available. You can ring Judith Mitchel to reserve your place – 01993 830895. Doors will open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm! Get those thinking caps on!!

The Roseneath School of Music is holding its annual **Summer Concert on**

Saturday 10th June at 7.30pm. Reserve your tickets with Pauline Carter (01993 774568) - £8 for adults (to include a glass of wine) and £5 for under 16's.

A **drawing workshop** will be held on **Sunday July 9th** starting at 10am and finishing at 4pm. Please contact Jill Colchester on 01608 676320 to reserve a place.

A date for your diary.....Saturday October 7th – Flix in the Stix goes Italian. We will be showing “Cinema Paradiso”, a classic of Italian cinema, written and directed by Giuseppe Tornatore, with music by the brilliant Ennio Morricone. Salvatore, a successful film director, returns to his native Sicilian village for the funeral of his old friend Alfredo. He was the projectionist at the local Cinema Paradiso where Salvatore spent the happiest times of his childhood and developed his

love of film. To the fatherless young boy Alfredo became a father figure who guided and loved him. His return also brings back poignant memories of his teenage love, Elena, whom he had to leave in order to pursue his dream. The subtitles are a help, but what makes this film truly memorable are the characters, the acting, the Sicilian settings, and, of course, the beautifully evocative music of Morricone. Enchanting, emotionally uplifting, beautifully crafted – miss this Classic at your peril.

Oscar Winner – Best Foreign Language Film – BAFTA 5 Awards – Cannes Grand Jury prize – Golden Globe Best Foreign Language Film

Tickets will be £12 to include a two course meal. Tickets from Simon (831479) or Ingrid (830612).

Simon Gidman

Regular Activities:

Monday – Friday Mornings

Pre-school

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant 07968006451

Monday Afternoons 3.30pm – 6pm

Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Monday Night 7pm - 9pm

Dancing

Contact: May & Terry Cox 01608 810721

Tuesday Night 6.30pm-7.30pm

Pilates

Contact: Ursula Beale 07917 090346

Wednesday Night 6pm – 6.45pm

Circuits

Contact: Simon Gidman 01993 831479

Wednesday Night 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Cotswold Free Fitclub

Contact: Lynne Westnage 07917 861950

Thursday Night 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Qigong

Contact: Pam Quirke 07780 572283

Friday Afternoons 3.30pm – 6pm

Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

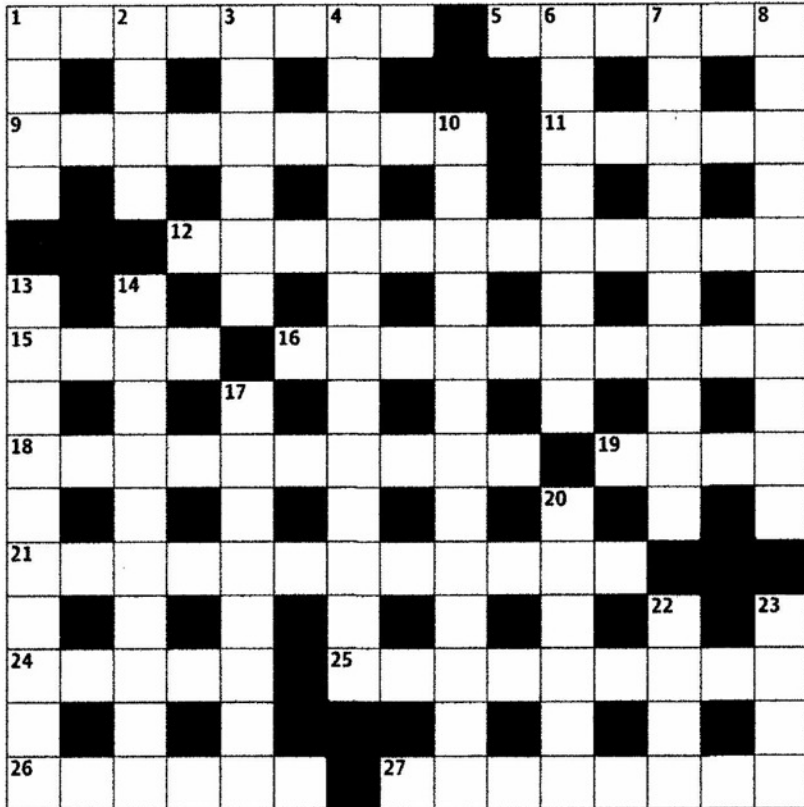
1st Sunday of each Month – Sunday Tea Dance

2.30pm – 5pm

Contact: Jess 07827 235457

Post Office runs every Friday after-noon 2pm – 4pm

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Fellow runs away from European prepared to sell his soul (8)
- 5 Clumsy like Hollande's politics? (6)
- 9 Show extravagant pictures from east - there'll be scoffed here (9)
- 11 Gobbles up accompaniment for nuts (5)
- 12 Deploying sarcasm etc? It's negative campaigning (5,7)
- 15 Gong rings round part of orchestra (4)
- 16 Dailies to set out to pen paper's conclusion in these (10)
- 18 Loose woman rejected by respectable novelist (10)
- 19 Abandon offspring when outspoken (4)
- 21 Hones cryptic setting to produce brilliant display (12)
- 24 Female's dressing outside of Dog and Duck (5)
- 25 Upper seconds by alumni failing in avoiding alcohol (9)
- 26 Just holding covers for literary chronicler (6)
- 27 Climb on fairground's chief attraction? (8)

Down

- 1 Cheers up, entertained by extremes of fame and fortune (4)
- 2 Where men go, but not in river (4)
- 3 I'm off, then I'm back for oriental furnishing (6)
- 4 Song by desert peoples contains constant affectation (4,3,6)
- 6 Lab re-created a heart for a fish (8)
- 7 Refined schoolboy having one butt in (10)
- 8 Time to leave new US states and the other part of the country (4,6)
- 10 Sparkling stuff back in print, feature by magazine showing how to save Labour (1,6,2,4)
- 13 Hot dog prepared with English, fatty mishmash (10)
- 14 Group withdrawing pound before bank charge is levied here (10)
- 17 Nervous, tense rabbit close to anxiety (8)
- 20 Where money's deposited and left free of charge (6)
- 22 Independent publication's first old-fashioned spellers?
- 23 Last year, contracted medical problem (4)

Solution to Crossword in Edition 93

Across

- 1 Inept
- 4 Scarface
- 8 Dress Rehearsal
- 10 Autonomy
- 11 Asthma
- 12 Sounds Off
- 15 Easel
- 17 Makes
- 18 Taxidermy
- 19 Entrap
- 21 Volcanic
- 24 Vanishing Cream
- 25 Spyglass
- 26 Exist

Down

- 1 Indian Summer
- 2 Awestruck
- 3 Tyson
- 4 Steamboat
- 5 Abed
- 6 Farmstead
- 7 Coach
- 9 Halley's Comet
- 13 Descaling
- 14 Foxhounds
- 16 Serengeti
- 20 Tramp
- 22 Cycle
- 23 Whoa

Local Business Directory

ACADEMY/GB DOORS 01993 778836/01865 246444

www.garagedoors.org

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ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253

www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

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ASCOTT MARTYRS 01993 831967

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ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

[Page 28](#)

BESPOKE VINTAGE TEA PARTIES 01608 642233

www.chippingnortontease.co.uk, tweet@chipnortecas

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COTSWOLD RURAL SERVICES 07582962600

www.cotswoldruralservices.co.uk

[Page 5](#)

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

[Page 15](#)

DRY STONE WALLING 01242263428/07980564508

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

[Page 14](#)

FARMHOUSE B&B 01993831900 sally@college-farm.com

[Page 18](#)

FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299

wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

[Page 52](#)

GROVES SHOP 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425

info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk

[Page 40](#)

INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993830612/07952657906

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

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IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268

[Page 17](#)

JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	<u>Page 18</u>
LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357	<u>Page 14</u>
LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105	<u>Page 51</u>
PILATES WITH URSULA 01993 830267 07917 090396 info@pilateswithursula.co.uk www.pilateswithursula	<u>Page 4</u>
ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	<u>Page 53</u>
ROSENEATH 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com	<u>Page 50</u>
STYLE INFUSION 01993 832031 www.styleinfusion.co.uk design@styleinfusion.co.uk	<u>Page 3</u>
THE BULL INN Sheep Street, Charlbury OX7 3RR 01608 810689 www.bullinn-charlbury.com	<u>Page 44</u>
TV AERIAL SERVICES 01993 608118	<u>Page 42</u>
WITNEY SHUTTLE 08000434633 www.witneyshuttle.com	<u>Page 28</u>
WYCHWOODS ESTATE AGENTS 01993824800 burford@wychwoods.com www.wychwoods.com	<u>Page 14</u>
WYCHWOOD FUNERAL SERVICES 01993831557 info@wychwoodfuneralservices.co.uk	<u>Page 28</u>
WYCHWOOD HEALING 07780572283 pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk	<u>Page 58</u>
WYCHWOOD WROUGHT IRON 01993832850 www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com	<u>Page 18</u>

Events Calendar - 2017

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 3 rd	8.00pm	Sean Lakeman & Kathryn Roberts	Tiddy Hall
June 9 th	7.30pm	Quiz Night	Tiddy Hall
June 10 th	10-12pm	Pre-school open morning	Tiddy Hall
June 10 th	7.30pm	Roseneath Summer Concert	Tiddy Hall
June 15 th	7.30pm	Qigong for Health	Tiddy Hall
June 16 th	12-4pm	Conservation Centre Opening	Manor Farm
June 17 th	Martyrs Day		
June 17 th	10am	Coffee Morning	Ascott Mill
June 21 st	7.30pm	Shop AGM	The Swan
June 22 nd	7.30pm	Qigong for Health	Tiddy Hall
June 24 th	11:30/12:30pm	Councillors' Surgery	The Swan
June 29 th	7.30pm	Qigong for Health	Tiddy Hall
July 6 th	7.30pm	Qigong for Health	Tiddy Hall
July 9 th	10am	Drawing Workshop	Tiddy Hall
July 15 th	10am	Coffee Morning	Ascott Mill
July 22 nd		Coffee morning - Brambletye, High Street	
July 29 th	7.30pm	The Ponderosa & Under The Wychwood	Tiddy Hall
August 19 th	10am	Coffee Morning	Ascott Mill
August 26 th	11.30-12.30am	Councillors' Surgery	The Swan
September 2 nd	7.30pm	Steve Tilston	Tiddy Hall
September 16 th	10am	Coffee Morning	Ascott Mill
September 16 th	7.30pm	na-mara	Tiddy Hall
October 7 th		Flix in the Stix	Tiddy Hall
October 14 th	7.30pm	Sarah Jane Scouten	Tiddy Hall
October 20 th	7.30pm	Illustrated talk by Whites of Appleton	
October 21 st	10am	Coffee Morning	Ascott Mill
October 29 th	10.30am	Ascott Village Charity Runs	Playing Field
November 4 th	7.30pm	Martyn Joseph	Tiddy Hall
November 18 th	10am	Coffee Morning	Ascott Mill