

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 November 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.

Advertising Rates

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

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 72](#)), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or wendypearse@btinternet.com. The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 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.

10 th September	1000	Holy Communion [C]
24 th September	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
8 th October	1000	Holy Communion [C]
22 nd October	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
12 th November	1015	Remembrance
26 th November	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
10 th December	1000	Holy Communion [C]
17 th December	1600	Carols
24 th December	1500	Crib Service
	2330	Midnight
31 December	1000	BS

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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Rev'd Kate Stacey Tel: 01993 832514

St Mary's Shipton

Churchwarden James Walmsley
01993 830842

SS Simon & Jude, Milton

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

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993
831385

Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Wychwood Baptist, Milton

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

Burford Methodist

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993
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Westcote Methodist

Tony Gibson 01993 830699
Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

Roman Catholic

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton

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

St Teresa, Charlbury

Chase Benefice

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

Ascott Church

From Rev'd Marian Needham

I am writing this on an afternoon at the beginning of August. The lights are on because it is overcast, and through the window I can see the rain pouring down. This is how I remember summer holidays from childhood – family outings viewed through windscreen wipers, and stoical days on rainy and windswept beaches. It always seemed a bit unfair when we had toiled through exams in the heat of June, eagerly anticipating the summer break, to find that as soon as the school holidays finally started, the weather turned.

August can be a damp month. It can also be a stressful month for teenagers, and their families, waiting for those important exam results. For many, of course, it will be a time for celebrating. For others, whose results perhaps did not meet their hopes and expectations, it will be a time for rapid re-thinking, adjustment and re-envisaging the future. Being able to adapt is a great strength in life and Autumn is a time for change and new opportunities.

Whether you have been on holiday this summer, or stayed at home, I hope there has been time for refreshment and relaxation, even if dodging the showers. We all need to find space and time to re-charge our batteries and refocus away from 'busyness'. From time to time Jesus withdrew alone from the crowds that followed him, or spent time together with his closest disciples and friends, and we do well to follow his example. That way we resource ourselves to tackle both new ventures and old routines.

Wishing you a stimulating, exciting Autumn!

Every blessing

Marian

Church News

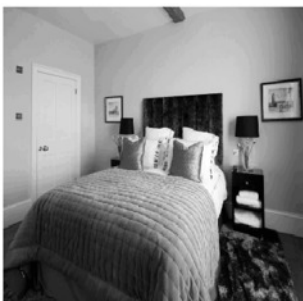
Safari Supper on December 9th

Please join us for a Christmas Safari Supper on December 9th. This will be held in various houses around the village and promises to be a fun evening. Please look out for more information in October so for now hold the date!!

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RECIPE

Coffee Morning Biscuits

All ingredients can be found in Ascott shop.

- Chocolate chip biscuits.
- 125 g of softened butter
- 50 g caster sugar
- 1 egg beaten
- 150g Self raising flour
- 175 g choc chips or plain chocolate chopped

Beat butter and sugar together either with wooden spoon or in food processor until fluffy. Add egg and beat again. Fold in flour and choc chips and put teaspoons on greased or lined baking sheet not too close together.

Bake in pre-heated oven 180°C gas mark 5 for 10-15 min.

Leave to cool on tin for 2 minutes and then transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Store in airtight tin (makes 25-30).

Oat Crunchies

- 175g rolled oats
- 150g soft brown sugar
- 120ml vegetable oil
- 1 egg beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon almond essence

Put oats, sugar and oil in bowl, mix well and leave for 1 hr.

Add egg and almond essence and beat well with wooden spoon. Put teaspoons of mix well apart on greased or lined baking sheet and press flat with back of damp fork. Bake in pre-heated oven at 160°C gas mark 3 for 15-20 minutes. Leave to cool for 2 mins and then transfer to wire rack to cool (makes 30).

Easy Peasy Shortbread

- 3 measures Plain flour
- 2 measures softened butter
- 1 measure caster sugar

Mix together either in processor or by hand as quickly as possible to stop mix getting too oily. Put in fridge to chill (30 mins). Roll out on floured cold work surface and cut into whatever shape you fancy OR roll mix into sausage shape in foil and screw both ends to firm up.

Leave in fridge for 1 hr or up to a week and then remove, take off foil and cut 1 cm slices. Put on greased or lined baking sheet and bake in pre-heated oven at 160°C gas mark 3 for 15-30 minutes until pale golden. Leave on sheet for 5 mins and then cool on wire rack. Take care these biscuits are delicious but quite fragile.

ENJOY !!

Ann Burleigh

Pilates with Ursula



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WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Checks to ensure residents sleep safely

Free electric blanket safety checks are being offered to residents.

The checks, part of a joint home safety scheme run by West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council, are taking place on 4th October in Witney and 18th October in Chipping Norton.

Last year, 178 blankets were tested in the district and 34 (19%) failed.

And in the last five years, of around 1,000 blankets tested, more than 20% have failed.

Cllr Carol Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, said, “Electric blankets are a common cause of fires but proper testing can help avoid that.”

“These checks will help residents feel confident their blanket will operate safely. But if there is any doubt or a blanket is more than 10 years old, the best advice is to buy a new one.”

Old or damaged electric blankets cause more than 5,000 fires a year in the UK. Each year around 20 people are killed and 100 injured as a result of such fires. Research has shown blankets that are 10 years old or more are responsible for 99% of these fires.

Danger signs include: worn or frayed fabric; scorch marks; tie tapes damaged; worn or damaged flex and damaged or displaced heating wires.

It is advised to always buy new and look out for a European Certification Mark such as the BEAB safety mark.

Safety check appointments must be pre-booked and are done on a first-come, first served basis, to book call 01993 861000.

Chipping Norton Theatre

This fabulous building began life as a Salvation Army Citadel, with the first stones, still visible on the front exterior of the building, being laid on **3 August 1888**. In a strange quirk of fate, its designers and engineers had also worked on many Victorian Music Halls, leaving it perfectly proportioned for its future theatrical life.

The Salvation Army left the Citadel in **1962** and for some years the building was used as a furniture warehouse. In **1968** two Royal Shakespeare Company actors, Tamara and John Malcolm, discovered



the building was up for sale and realised it's potential. An anonymous benefactor provided them with a loan and they submitted an application for planning permission to convert it into a theatre. In



September 1973, fundraising for the new theatre began in earnest, and the year was crowned with The Theatre's first Christmas Show, *Beauty and the Beast*, staged in the town hall. The Theatre began as a true community resource, with residents of Chipping Norton each asked to contribute £1 towards the conversion.

In **June 1974**, a grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation enabled the purchase of an adjoining cottage in Spring Street which was converted into the Bar and Gallery areas. The charity was first registered on **23rd September 1974** and The Theatre was opened officially in **1975** by Tom Baker, who was then Dr Who, and began



with a light programme including films and lunchtime Jazz concerts. The Theatre continued to grow and flourish, expanding its programme and reputation and purchasing, in **1990**, the building in Goddards Lane that now serves as the main daytime box office, green room, offices, dressing rooms and rehearsal space.

1996 saw a major refurbishment, funded in part by The Arts Council, improving many aspects of the building, particularly the stage and wing space. Graham Rust, one of Europe's finest muralists, was



commissioned to produce a set of murals in the bar. In May 2002, not long after receiving a well-deserved MBE for her services to The Theatre, Tamara Malcolm passed on the mantle of Artistic Director to Caroline Sharman.

The Space was constructed in 2007 following a major leak through the flat roof of the Gallery. In order to resolve the problem a pitched roof was required so it was decided to raise funds to insert a new room above the existing Gallery. As well as successfully resolving the problem this much needed room is now used on a daily basis for the Youth Theatre and other *Take Part* sessions and workshops.

The Theatre has built a strong reputation over the years for producing its own creative work, and notable performances of *Yerma*, *Don Giovanni*, *Taste and Huck* live in the minds of our audiences. These stand alongside perhaps our greatest claim to fame, the world-renowned Chippy family pantomime, which draws on a long history of traditional values, top notch creative teams, and original, daring twists to make it an irreplaceable part of countless family Christmases.

In 2008, John Terry took over from Caroline as Artistic Director, overseeing a period of further growth and professionalisation, and receiving on behalf of The Theatre, the **2009/10 TMA Stage Award for Achievement in Regional**

Theatre. The Theatre now stands as a rare example of a successful rural receiving and producing theatre, funded and supported almost entirely by local people, local councils and local businesses as well as the *Friends Membership* scheme and *Patrons*. The Theatre also receives some support from charitable trusts and foundations, and some show specific funding from Arts Council England.

In Autumn 2012 The Theatre took its first plunge for six years into producing its own home-grown professional work, with the production of *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. As a small rural theatre we have a fundamental role to play in the community and, despite continued funding cuts, it is imperative to provide arts and entertainment specifically suited for our local audiences. Since then The Theatre has gone on to produce several more shows including: *The Glass Menagerie*, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *Alarms & Excursions*, *Around The World In 80 Days* (also national tour), *The Kreutzer Sonata* (transferred to London) and more recently in Spring 2016, *Stones In His Pockets* (also national tour and about to do a summer run in Dublin), *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (transferred to London). Our plan is to continue producing our own work here in the Cotswolds, with our annual pantomime, and Spring and Autumn productions always selected to suit both our audiences and our venue. Our next show is *Sherlock Holmes and the Crimson Cobbles*, at The Theatre from 19th - 24th September.

Situated at the heart of the Cotswolds, where three counties and four regions meet, The Theatre Chipping Norton is a mixed arts venue, hosting, co-producing and supporting some of the most exciting,

The Ascott Grapevine

accessible and entertaining culture in the region.

Today we take pride in our existence as a theatre, an art-house cinema, a gallery and a concert hall. We are a resource for our community and a registered charity but we are also a professional venue, welcoming over 50,000 visitors every year. We are something unique, but we are also different things to different people. We are the cause and subject of many arguments and debates, and a fair amount of acclaim and affection. We are complicated and a little eccentric. We are not a little theatre. We like to make a big noise.

"A programme of distinctive artistic adventure" – **The Guardian**

"So charming it almost hurts" – **The Daily Mail**

"More intelligent, more esoteric and more intellectually exciting than many a theatre several times its size" – **Oxfordshire Life**

We are a hub where local people, businesses and organisations can meet, work, volunteer, play and be entertained. Come and join us and see why so many people have fallen for The Theatre Chipping Norton, and why it remains a local and regional treasure.

Jo Ludford, General Manager

HomeGrown Productions Coming Up at The Theatre Chipping Norton...

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Nature Notes

What's in a name? All our native plants are named in two ways; first with a scientific name which is understood by botanists and is unique to any plant species and secondly an English or common name which is not universal, the same plant being given different names in various parts of the country. The origins of these common names often date back to Anglo Saxon England or were wrongly translated from Norman French, Latin or German. Generally they were descriptive depending on how the plant was used or its appearance.

For instance the Wild Arum of our hedgerows is also called Lords & Ladies, Cuckoo Pint and Starchwort. Pint comes from the Anglo-Saxon *pintle*, meaning a vertical projecting pin and the prefix Cuckoo indicates that it flowers when the Cuckoo calls. In Elizabethan times the tuberous roots were processed to provide starch for ruffs and other finery, hence Starchwort. Other plants which relate to the arrival of the Cuckoo include Lady's Smock, which is also known as Cuckoo Flower.

The early flowering Primrose owes its name to the French who called it *primevere* from the Latin *primus* 'first' and *ver* 'spring'. This was translated in early English to '*primrole*' or '*pryme rolles*' eventually arriving at its modern name.

The origin of some plant names remain a mystery. Today the Forget-Me-Not is a commonly grown garden flower, but the plant that originally bore that name was the Ground Pine a flowering plant that when crushed smelt of pine. The name apparently referred to the unpleasant taste it left in the mouth if eaten. Why this

name should have moved from one species to another is not known.

Some names have an agricultural basis. Rest Harrow is a low growing, spiny weed of roadside verges with pink pea-like flowers. It used to be a widespread weed of agricultural land and its thickly matted root system would arrest the progress of horse drawn harrows. There is a tradition that Christ's crown of thorns was woven from this plant.

Often the Devil is blamed when things are not as expected and this is the case with Devil's-bit Scabious. The Common Scabious was named after the Latin *scabies* meaning 'itch' as it was once used to treat skin complaints. This plant has a longish tap root, but the Devils-Bit Scabious has a stumpy carrot-like root which appears to have a bitten-off end. Legend says that the Devil found it in paradise and was so envious of the good it might do as a medicine that he bit away part of the root hoping to destroy the plant.



Lady's Bedstraw with its fine foliage and small yellow flowers was once used as an aromatic dried herb to stuff mattresses and pillows and was noted as a flea repellent. The word straw comes from the verb to 'strew' as it was scattered over the floor to sweeten the atmosphere. Originally it was called Our Lady's Bedstraw as it was reputed to be amongst the herbs in Jesus's manger.



Meadowsweet, also called Queen of the Meadows graces our verges and damp

The Ascott Grapevine

meadows with its fluffy white flower heads and in the past lived up to its name. Possibly the current name derives from the Anglo-Saxon *medo-wyrt*, meaning 'mead' or 'honey-herb', because in the days before sugar was used the flowers were added to drinks in order to sweeten them.



Not all names have the expected origin. Good King Henry (also known as Fat Hen) was used as a pot herb in mediaeval times. The young leaves were cooked and were used as a substitute for Spinach. It was widely cultivated in Suffolk, Lincolnshire and other eastern counties and still grows on cultivated land as an annual weed throughout England and especially on Ascott's allotment! It would be logical to assume that it owed its name to Henry V111, but actually its origin is the German *fette henne* which was used to distinguish the plant from another, which was similar but poisonous, which was known as *malus henricus*, or 'Bad Henry'.



Several of our common plants have the word 'dog' in their name, for instance Dog Rose, Dog Violet and Dog's Mercury. This has nothing to do with our canine friends, but rather it is used as a prefix for wild flowers that were lacking in scent or other properties found in allied species.

The origins of a plant's name are often uncertain. The tall flower spike of Great Mullein or to give its other name Aaron's Rod could arise from two possi-



ble sources. Mullein could be a derivation of the French word *moleine*. This was a lung disease contracted by cattle, which could be treated by this plant. Alternatively the name may be derived from the old English *wolleyn* or *wulleyn* meaning woollen on account of the plant's velvety leaves. Its other name Aaron's Rod comes from the suggestion that the tall flower spike was likened to the staff carried by the biblical character.

Some plants, like the poisonous Ragwort have acquired their names by mistake. In the sixteenth century an English herbalist translated a German book and anglicised the name *Ragwurz*, unfortunately he got it totally wrong as this was an orchid and certainly not the yellow-flowered weed of our fields and waste places.

Walking in the woods at Cornbury in late spring you may notice the pungent smell of Ramsons, or Wild Garlic. This name originates from the Saxon *hramsa* that became *bramsa* in old English then *hramson* and finally Ramsons. It is said that if dairy cows eat this plant their milk will be tainted.

Finally, not all plant names can be explained. Herb Robert, a member of the geranium family with its small pink flowers and



rather smelly leaves, is a mystery. There is no explanation of who Robert was and why this plant might have been named after him. As a herb the crushed leaves were used as a compress for healing wounds and when freshly crushed can be rubbed on arms and legs as a mosquito repellent. With its strong smell it may also repel your friends and relations!

Stuart Fox



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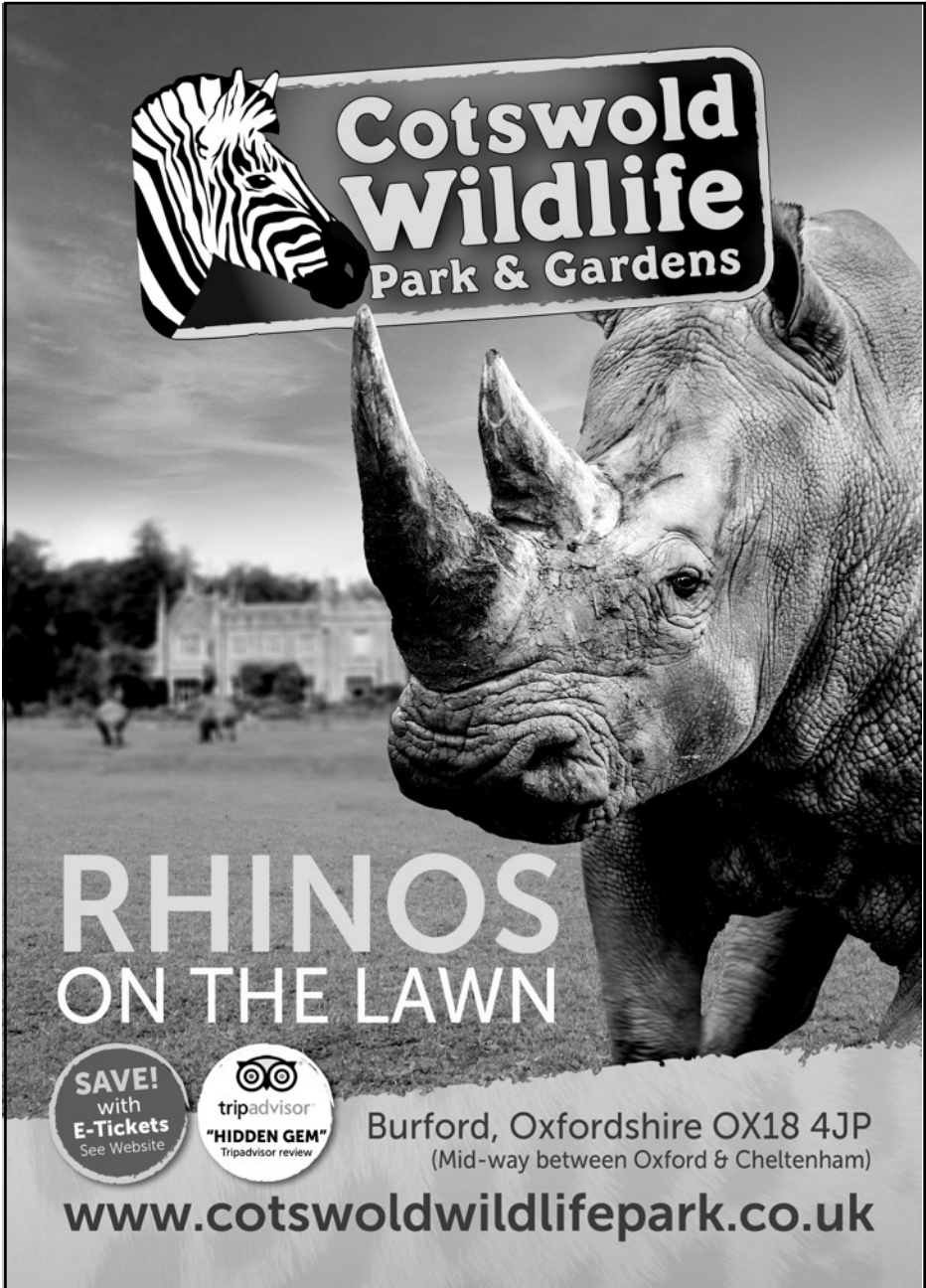
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DID YOU KNOW?

That even in 1914 the ladies of Ascott continued to wear their fashionable hats. This photo was probably taken just before the beginning of the First World War. What a different world it must have seemed when the next year had passed and many of the young men of the village had gone away to fight.



The photo shows two daughters of the miller, Mr Cooper of Ascott Mill. Ada is peering around her sister Charlotte on the right hand side of the left hand table.



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New recycling service set to launch

Residents are being alerted to the launch of a new recycling service in West Oxfordshire.

From October, all households will use a wheelie bin for recycling, except for glass which will be collected from their existing black box

The recycling service will become fortnightly, alternating with household rubbish and residents will be issued with a new recycling wheelie bin between July and September in readiness for the change.

In addition, small electrical items such as kettles, hairdryers and mobile phones will be recycled at the kerbside. There will be no changes to fortnightly household rubbish and none to weekly food collections while garden waste will continue to be collected fortnightly provided residents have a licence.

A letter explaining the changes to the service which will be run by local authority company Ubico from October will be sent to residents during the week beginning 10 July with delivery of the new wheelie bins taking place from 17 July.

Cllr Carol Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: “These changes will mark a major improvement in our service and should help boost recycling rates still further.

“But it is important that residents familiarise themselves with what is new to ensure the changeover happens as smoothly as possible.”

For further information including an in-depth Q&A about the new service, see www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins2017



ASCOTT WALKERS

Our May walk on an absolutely beautiful spring morning saw us head off across the fields from Wychwood golf club. After a while we walked along the banks of the Evenlode before heading for Bruern woods, the objective. I had been promising bluebells but none had been seen so far, until we entered the woods, then we were hit with the heady fragrance and an absolute carpet of vivid blue. We walked, meandered I should say, along trails through the woods for quite some while before, happily for me, exiting at the correct place! We headed back via Bruern Abbey. A really lovely walk on a beautiful day. Do come and join us, normally the first Sunday of the month, meet at the green at 0930.

Richard Squires

A visit to Iran

One hot, sunny day last April I stood, improbably, amid a field of *fritillaria imperialis*, our Crown Imperials, a mass of orange blooms growing wild in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran. The day before we had come across the *fritillaria persica*, closer to the snakeshead fritillaries that grow here, but with smaller, creamy flowers. It was thrilling to see these ancestors of some of our favourite spring bulbs growing in their native land.

The landscape itself was beautiful: a wide, shallow mountain valley about 8000 feet up, threaded by a river in spate with the chalky green melt-water from the snows, some of which still capped the surrounding heights. The valley was dotted with flocks of goats and sheep being herded by their nomad owners from their lowland winter quarters to the high summer pastures.

I travelled to Iran with a company called Kudu, which specialises in flowers and birds as well as architecture and ancient monuments, giving a fine balance of cities, archaeological sites and quiet walks in the countryside. We had an excellent Iranian guide and fixer, Mahmood, and no fewer than three people in charge of our bus. The driver and his assistant were accompanied by the owner of the bus, who had decided to come along to see how such trips were organised. He acted very much as the host. If the other two wanted to come with us on our sightseeing, Ismael would guard the bus and welcomed us on our return as if it were his home. Salomon drove long distances with skill and care, negotiating some fearsome bends or – worse – clogged

city traffic. Yusuf, his assistant, kept the bus clean and tidy, and made coffee on long trips. Yusuf took his afternoon sleep in a little cubbyhole next to the luggage compartment under the bus.

Iran is a huge country, four times the size of France, and we covered a lot of ground. Apart from the fritillary field we visited the ancient sites of Persepolis and Pasargadae; and the cities of Kashan, Shiraz, Esfahan and Yazd, with many smaller places along the way. The Iran plateau is 6000 feet up, and you are often higher than that, since mountains are never far off, always in view and frequently in your way, with spectacular gorges, rocks and rivers to negotiate. One of the most thrilling roads through the mountains is at the Persian Gates, the possible route of Alexander the Great's invasion: a narrow fissure through a gorge hundreds of feet high that forms a natural defence. As you climb up the far side you can only wonder how he got his troops through it without a massacre. Much of the land is semi-arid desert, with low-growing shrub, some just desert – no sand dunes and camels, but flat, dun-coloured dust, now crossed by trunk roads crammed with lorries. Because petrol is so cheap in Iran they have never developed the railways and most things travel by road. As well as lorries there is litter: tons of it, mostly plastic, and scattered all over the countryside, even among the fritillaries. You always know when you are approaching a town because the plastic is heaped thickly on both sides of the road. It makes our efforts to recycle seem futile.

But that is the downside of Iran. The landscapes and their huge scale are magnificent, the historic buildings and artefacts fascinating – civilisation has flourished in Iran since 6000 BC, which westerners are apt to forget – and the people a delight. We met nothing but friendliness, welcoming and curious. A typical conversation went, “Where are you from?” Reply: “Ingelistan.” Response: “Hallo, goodbye, I love you,” all in one breath, often followed by a request for a photo, always with their arms round us and much giggling and laughter.

The girls and women, out on group trips, often shrieked with excitement, and we loved to hear it, since the constrictions on them outside their homes are shocking to a westerner. From school age girls have to cover their heads, and from eleven they are confined in the manteau (a close-fitting, badly cut, hideously unflattering coat, worn over trousers) and the ubiquitous black headdress or scarf, so that only their hands and faces are exposed. The alternative is the chador, a black cloak that has to be held closed with one hand, thus automatically disempowering the wearer. The women often compensate for all this with vivid lipstick and much attention to their eyebrows. Most of them are very beautiful, with huge dark eyes. Their husbands and brothers, in the meantime, stroll ahead of them comfortably dressed in poloshirts, chinos and sandals. Foreign women have to wear long tunics, trousers and headscarves: the scarf is worn at all times outside your hotel room, and if someone knocks on the door, you have to put your scarf back on before answering it, because all the front-of-house staff in hotels are men, who must not see your uncovered head.

And what were the highlights? Persepolis, ceremonial palace of the ancient shahs, huge, impressive and unlovable; the rock-cut tombs of the shahs Darius the Great and Xerxes, and the built stone tomb of Cyrus the Great, alone in the landscape at Pasargadae, satisfyingly proportioned and intensely moving. We saw mosques, baked brick ones dating from the 10th century to the pink- and blue-tiled ones of the 18th. Esfahan was a revelation, laid out in the early 17th century by shah Abbas the Great, with its huge 20-acre square bordered by mosques and palaces, and the great river that bisects the city with parks laid out on either side, and crossed by 18th century bridges. When we were there the river was full of water pouring from the thawing mountain snows, and we were reminded that we had seen the same river, very small, near its source in the mountains.

At Yazd we saw buildings of the Zoroastrians, ancient fire worshippers who revered Ahura Mazda, and whose descendants survive, allowed to practise a modified form of worship. Although Iran is an Islamic Republic, only 20% of the populations worships at the mosque, and we heard the call to prayer only once in two weeks. Jews are allegedly tolerated, but our guide Mahmood, for all his apparent liberalism and openness, could hardly bring himself to mention Christians or Christianity. He did, however, tell us much about Sunni and Shia Islam, and although we did not discuss politics, we came away with a greater understanding of what is happening in the Middle East.

But Mahmood’s real love is medieval poetry, and on one memorable evening in Shiraz we visited the tomb of the poet Saadi, which is venerated as a shrine. Set

The Ascott Grapevine

in a garden, it brings together the Persian love of poetry, water and gardens, peaceful, tree-shaded and alive with roses and massed, softly-coloured petunias. Here Mahmood gathered us together and recited from memory his favourite verses from his favourite poet.

Iran is a beautiful, exciting country with a long, sophisticated history. Its politics may be dubious, but its people are enchanting, and I highly recommend a visit.

Nicola Coldstream



Tomb of Saadi in Shiraz



Allah Verdi Khan Bridge in Esfahan

WINDRUSH VALLEY SCHOOL CONSERVATION CENTRE

The conservation centre at Manor Farm was officially opened by Robert Courts MP on 16th June. The centre, based in one of Mr Gripper's barns and the surrounding area is teaching pupils about science, nature and geography indoors and outdoors. The centre is surrounded by fields, a vegetable garden and pupils have access to woodland and the fishing lake. As well as lessons in the centre the pupils are able to grow their own produce, forage for wild berries and plant trees with guidance from the Wychwood Project.

The building and the land have been provided by John and Annie Gripper and Robert, their son, manages the conservation centre. The indoor study barn features a teaching area plus space for many displays and a wide variety of activities, including jam making and producing elderflower cordial.

The day of the opening was sunny and warm and was well attended by many from Ascott and further afield. There were a number of stalls, including the Wychwood Project, Cotswold Wildlife Park and one providing food and another liquid refreshment. Entertainment was provided by pupils from Windrush Valley School.



Opening ceremony with Chipping Norton Mayor (Mike Tysoe), Robert Courts MP, G A Woods (Headmaster) and Robert Gripper.



Conservation Centre



Display Tent

Ascott Village Charity Presents

2017 Ascott-u-Wychwood Charity Run

10k Multi Terrain & 5k Fun Run/Walk

Sunday October 29th

**Race starts 10.30am at the Recreation Ground,
High Street**

*A challenging course set in the beautiful Even-
lode Valley!*

(Not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs)

Car parking, changing & shower facilities, refreshments
and prizes

Medals will be awarded for first 60 10k & 5k finishers

Entry fees: 10k (min age 15) - **£12** (£14 on the day)
5k - **£6** (£7 on the day)

Closing date for postal entries is 20th October 2017
Entries will be accepted on the day between 9am & 10am
Entry forms from either
www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk
stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Ascott Charity Run – Sunday October 29th, 2017

Probably, the prettiest run in the Cotswolds!

After a year off – we are back!

The drainage work has been completed and the sports ground is looking in splendid condition. We are also indebted to Roger & Ros Shepherd at Ascott Hill Farm and Bradley & Katherine Wickens from Pudlicote House who have once again, offered the use of their farmland to host the annual Charity Run.

This year we are raising funds for the Church Bell Restoration Fund. This is a massive undertaking and we plan to contribute £1000 towards the overall cost.

As in previous years we will be hosting two runs:

1. 10k multi terrain challenge for all runners aged 15 and over
2. 5k fun run and country walk for all ages

The runs will start at 10.30 promptly from the playing Field in Ascott. (See over page for the route map)

Our thanks also go to the team of volunteer race marshals who will ensure everything ‘runs’ smoothly. This year Chief Race Marshal – Charles Marshall, will lead them!

Sponsorship:

As ever, we are hugely grateful to our corporate sponsors, The Rooflight Company, Wychwood Folk Club, Cotswolds Wildlife Park, Pennington Manches (Solicitors) & The Swan (Ascott) along with The Bull (Charlbury). Together, this will help to offset our costs and ensure we reach our target of £1000.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A PRIVATE SPONSOR, PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH - ALL DONATIONS WILL BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND IF YOU WISH, CAN BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. IT'S FOR A VERY GOOD CAUSE!

Email to: john@greencott.co.uk

How to register?

Forms will be in Ascott village shop from July 1st or contact;

Stuart Fox; on stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

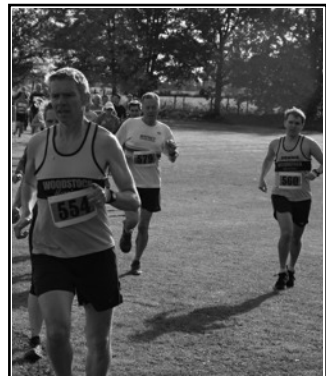
Village web-site www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk

Whether you are running, walking, supporting or volunteering ... we look forward to seeing you Sunday October 29th.

So, dust off those running shoes and give it a go!

Race Committee:

John Cull, Stuart Fox, Charles Marshall, Elaine Byles & Mark Pidgeon



Ascott under Wychwood PC News August 2017

A New Parish Councillor!

We are extremely pleased to say that the Parish Council has been joined by parishioner, Graham Ranson from Chestnut Drive. Graham has already made an enthusiastic start by reporting a long list of potholes on the OCC portal, Fix My Street, and many have already been repaired. We would like to welcome Graham and thank him for his keen interest in Parish Council work and the well being of Ascott-under-Wychwood.

A New County Councillor!

We also welcomed our new County Councillor, Liz Leffman, to the table at our June and July meetings. Liz has already been proactive in organising new posts to replace those that have rotted on the Green and she has been able to give us interesting advice on how to apply for road safety measures.

Planning

This quarter has seen a lot of planning activity. The application for the development south of 18 Maple Way is being dealt with by delegated powers after residents, the PC and Cottsway came to an agreement over a new layout. The PC and architect keep in touch about final details and work is due to start this autumn.

The Trustees of T J Hook Children's Settlement, owners of Crown Farm, applied for permission to develop 5 houses between Nos 12 & 18 London Lane. The

PC held a public meeting to allow residents to discuss all the issues and 70 responses were sent to WODC Planning. The decision to refuse this application was made on 10 July 2017.

Trains

Sadly, we have been informed that there are definitely no plans to improve our regular service for the foreseeable future and GWR does not plan to even run a trial on a 'group saver' basis. To add insult to injury, the concession to honour the Cotswold Line Card reduced fare to regular passengers has been withdrawn after 6 years, resulting in a 34% increase. Extremely short warning was given. In answer to P Cllr Rance's demand for an explanation, GWR stated that it was to bring fares in line with GWR policy across the region.

Village House-Keeping

The Parish Council is continuing to make renovations where it has responsibilities. The interior of the Pavilion is being re-decorated and renovations undertaken to heating, windows and kitchen. The playing field gates, handrail and pedestrian barrier have been renovated and re-painted and the Martyrs Seats on the Green have been returned to their original suppliers for a facelift, to be returned in August. We have also ordered new waste and dog bins where they have rusted badly as we were concerned about people cutting their wrists on the sharp metal.

Sports Club and Playing Field

We have been severely tested by the unusually dry weather throughout winter, spring and early summer and so it has been necessary to upgrade the watering of the playing field so that the new grass is ready for the football season's home matches to start *almost* on time. Ascott Football Club played at various temporary pitches last season and players are excited about returning to their home ground. We hope that games will be able to resume at the end of September.

Happily, the playing field has been able to accommodate some annual events this summer such as the Windrush Valley School Sports Day and the Pre-School Fun Day. We also expect the Charity Fun Run to take place on Sunday morning, 29 October 2017.

Helpers of Ascott-under-Wychwood

We must not let this opportunity pass without mentioning the band of volun-

teers who have been so willing to help with many, many tasks around the village, keeping the village attractive, safe and in good order as well as reducing expenditure for the PC and also for the Church. This quarter our main tasks have been to cut back the ivy on the church perimeter wall, gardening at the station, re-decorating the Pavilion, tree surgery at the Playing Field and Playground and maintenance of the Playing Field drainage lines as they slowly mature. Thank you one and all – you know who you are!

Enjoy the summer everyone!



Parish Council:

Philippa Carter (Chairman)	830344
Peter Rance	831113
Sandy Timms	831870
Mark Tribe	359769
Graham Ranson	
Angela Barnes (Parish Clerk)	01608 641045

*Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish
Council*

The Edinburgh Fringe

What is it? Quite simply the greatest show on earth!

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe (often referred to as simply The Fringe) is the world's largest arts festival, which in 2016 spanned 25 days and featured 50,266 performances of 3,269 shows in 294 venues. Established in 1947 as an alternative to the Edinburgh International Festival, it takes place annually during the month of August.

It is an open access performing arts festival; there is no selection committee and anyone may participate, with any type of performance. And when I say ANY type of performance, that is no exaggeration!

Debra and I first started visiting the Fringe twenty years ago and other than one missed year (we got married!), we make this our annual arts pilgrimage. We are now joined by Ros & Roger Shepherd and occasionally meet up with other Fringe fans from the village, John & Jacque Bugeja. We usually pick four days at the end of August (when the Fringe is starting to wrap up) and stay with our wonderful host, Jean de Vink in Edinburgh's New Town, a Georgian paradise. This is an important point as it is within walking distance of many of our favourite venues including our HQ and favourite watering hole, The Oxford bar – featured in many of Ian Rankin's Rebus detective novels.

So, what makes the Fringe so appealing?

In three words; diversity, fun and talent. Outrageous talent. Talent from every angle! It's a great way to spot the stars of the future before they hit the big time. We saw Graham Norton in the final of six comedians in a circus tent and a 1am late night slot in a venue seating 100 to enjoy, the yet to be discovered, Michael Macintyre. There are new acts (including from Ascott; David Ridley, Tom Gidman & Stephen Bugeja, who have all performed their Edinburgh acts for us) and more established stars. We have seen Jo Brand, Alistair McGowan, Frank Skinner, Rory Bremner, Tim Vine & John Bishop to name but a few. With so much to see, making the right choice comes from many years of experience. We think we have now got this down to a 'fine art'. We tend to book about 70% in advance and then filling in from whatever takes our fancy. Today, the Fringe is so popular that leaving everything to the last minute often leads to disappointment.

What does a typical day look like?

There isn't one! One of the appealing features of the Fringe is that there is so much variety and so much to discover. Our day usually starts at 10am with maybe some cutting edge theatre at the Traverse & then a walk across the Meadows to Mervyn

The Ascott Grapevine

Stutter's 'Pick of the Fringe'. Time for a pint and maybe curry tapas at Mother India, then a spot of comedy at the Pleasance before heading back for a debate at the Book Fest. The day (or night) then continues with some music at the Jazz Bar or a concert at Usher Hall. Not forgetting a final wind-down at the Ox before falling into bed – exhausted & exhilarated!

Is the Fringe worth getting out of bed for?

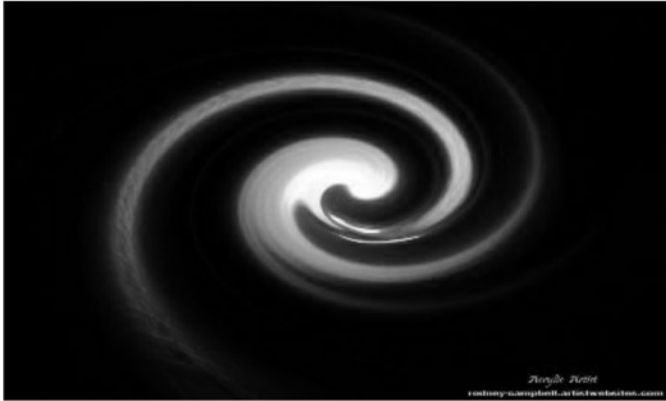
The answer is a resounding YES. On our travels home, we run our own 5 star ratings for each event similar to the Scotsman. On average, the score is 4 plus and that is certainly enough motivation to return the following year! However, it nearly didn't happen ... the first visit for Roger included a two-hour extravaganza in the company of the Ladyboys of Bangkok. Each year, Roger says; "I am really looking forward to the Fringe but please, no Ladyboys!"

Maybe, that's what makes the Fringe so memorable, so unpredictable. It's a spectacle for all ages, and all tastes. A welcome distraction from the more serious things in life.

It really IS the Greatest Show on Earth!



Autumn Qigong to Nurture, Harmonise and Conserve your Energy



For gentle healing, relaxation and integration
Come along to classes of the ancient healing forms of Qigong - focusing on
breathing, movement and awareness. Suitable for everyone.

Tiddy Hall
Ascott-under-Wychwood
OX7 6AG
7.30pm - 8.30pm

Dates: September 7th, 14th, 21st
October 5th, 12th 19th

Fee: £5 per session

Contact: pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk

Tel: 07780 572283 for more information

Qigong for Health

“Qigong is a way of being. Being soft, yet strong. Qigong is a way of breathing. Breathing deeply, yet calmly. Qigong is a way of standing. Alert, yet relaxed.” Nigel Mills

What is Qigong?

Qigong is an ancient Chinese health care system. Archaeologists and historians have found references to qigong-like techniques that are at least five thousand years old.

Qigong integrates physical movement, breathing techniques and meditative awareness. It is based on the same meridian system used in acupuncture and shiatsu. The movements are easy to learn and accessible to everyone. It is not necessary to be fit to begin to benefit from Qigong. Flexibility is not required. Qigong Forms can be modified for almost anyone, and you can sit down to practice if you need or wish to.

Learning Qigong requires energetic and physical skills that we can all cultivate. It encompasses, warm up exercises, feeling one's physical qi, connection to the support of the group, sitting meditation, breathing exercises, qigong walks, qigong movement forms, and nurtures an active, focused mind, humour, good grounding, curiosity, and lightness of being.

What are the Benefits of Qigong

Qigong is a practice that cultivates "qi," or life energy. Although Qi can't be measured objectively, science has now proved the existence of the meridian system through which qi flows. Please see the link below for more information. **1.**

Qigong fosters strength, flexibility and balance. It assists in calming the mind and alleviating stress.

Qigong has a harmonising, healing effect on the functioning of the internal organs and bodily systems. It increases the supply and flow of energy throughout the body, supporting rejuvenation and longevity. It helps to strengthen muscles through simple movements. Gentle, opening and stretching of the joints and muscles of the body releases long held tensions. The flow of blood increases so that all parts of the body are nourished.

The sense of peace that is found from practicing the gentle, flowing, meditative movements of Qigong cannot be underestimated. Dr Shin Lin, a professor of cell biology at the University of California, Irvine in his recent studies of qigong and tai chi practitioners found a boost in both alpha brain waves, suggesting relaxation, and beta waves, indicating strong focus. "It has the dual benefit of relaxing you, but also sharpening your mind," says Dr. Lin.

Another recent study focused on the alleviation of depression using Qigong. Although it is a modest study it revealed that Qigong had a positive effect on 60% of those who took part. **2.**

For more information about classes and workshops, please contact Pam Quirke at:

Tel: 07780 572283 Email: pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk

Sources:

1. <http://upliftconnect.com/science-proves-meridians-exist/>
2. A three-month, 14-person study of depressed Chinese-Americans, who were offered one-hour qigong classes twice a week and encouraged to practice at home, found that 60% of those who took at least 15 classes saw a significant improvement in depression based on a standard rating scale. "One theory is that qigong helps people to relax and combat stress," which tends to aggravate depression, says study co-author Albert Yeung, associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School in Cambridge.

'FLAMING' JUNE

We experienced the hottest summer solstice since 1976 with the temperature in Ascott reaching 30°C (84°F), in the shade, as warm air swept up from Africa and Spain. There was also a period of 18 days when no rain fell and this was followed in early July with a further 10 days where we only received a little drizzle, which evaporated almost before it hit the ground. My lawn turned brown, herbaceous plants wilted and my allotment began to resemble a dust bowl. Was this evidence of global warming I wondered?

Out of interest I looked back over the last 10 years and found that conditions this year were not that unusual. In fact the odd years were 2012 and 2016 when June was particularly wet. The following table shows statistics for rainfall and temperatures in Ascott over the last 10 years. The maximum temperature was exceptional and you have to go back to 2011 and 2009 for such hot conditions. Historically the low rainfall for the month is not out of the ordinary. For the year to date, following a dry winter, rainfall totals are low, but we do see similar rainfall levels for the six months in 2015, 2013, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

I haven't the statistic in the following table, but if you average out the maximum day time temperatures over the month 2017 at 21°C it is fairly typical with a range of 17°C to 21°C over the previous 10 years.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
June rainfall (inches)	1.785	5.395	1.42	1.175	1.025	5.345	2.25	1.14	2.41	3.23
Rainfall year to date (inches)	12.59	20.55	12.29	21.97	13.26	16.42	9.51	11.39	12.58	18.66
Days without rain	18	8	19	22	17	6	11	0	14	18
Maximum Temperature °C	30	24	24	23	23	21	28	27	29	23

They should call me the rain man! No sooner had I finished writing about lack of rainfall in June than the jet stream moved south and a series of Atlantic storms swept in bringing rain on an almost daily basis! In the last 21 days of July we received 3.11 inches of rain and it rained on 17 days out of 21.

This does not compare with July 2007 when we experienced Ascott's worst ever flooding. In that month 7.35 inches of rain fell and of that 3.5 inches fell in one day leading to the devastating overnight floods.

Lost and Found

Can I through the pages of the Grapevine thank, Vicki and Laurence, Elaine and Mark, Judith and Brian, my next door neighbour Rael Mills, my friends from Milton Christine and Andy, and Sue and Karen. I would like to thank them for their concern and help when my dog Joy went missing for over four hours.

On the 19th May this year, on Friday evening at about six o'clock there was a severe thunderstorm over Ascott. Because of the heat I had left the back door open and I had forgotten to shut the backyard gate. My dog became frightened and ran away. For the next three hours until dark the people I have mentioned spent their time searching the roads and lanes around the village trying to find Joy my dog. By ten that evening I was giving up hope of ever seeing her alive again. I imagined she had been hit by a car and crawled away to die in a ditch somewhere or if she had been dognapped, would the people who took her know Joy needed tablets every day to prevent her having fits?

I lay on the bed, my spirits very low, tired with worry and I knew I wouldn't sleep. At about ten past ten there was a knock on the back door. Struggling to pull my trousers on I opened the door. There stood my bedraggled dog on the end of a lead held by Karen Kappen. Sometime during the evening the dog had made her way back to Karen's which must prove some vets are very kind to animals. Joy had been discovered by Sue Boyer sat on Karen's front door step, soaking wet but unharmed.

When I opened my door back in May, to see my dog standing there, it was better than being given a million pound note.

I have had dogs as pets most of my life and I know the day does come when we have to get the vet to put them to sleep. Soon after these events there were the terrible events in Manchester and a summer full of heartbreak and loss. Should I feel ashamed getting upset over a dog? What have I learned? I think it is only those with very high intellect that reason through their personal emotions. For most of us our emotions govern us. We cannot reason in a wise way unless we are outside any situation.

Fred Russell

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

I wish I could always be good natured and good humoured but more often than not I have no intention of being friendly to my fellow man or woman. That's why after all these years I still go to church. Sooner or later I might get the message. It is in my own self-interest to love my neighbour. None of this can be said of Martin, a man who travels on the Villager Bus from Shipton to Chippy every week. Martin is always full of good humour and kindness. I would like to share some of the amusing tales he tells.

A man went into a shop and asked the assistant had they got any cheese from Israel? The assistant replied, 'We have cheese from all over the world. What region would you prefer?' The man answered, 'I've been told I should try cheeses from Nazareth.'

A Simple Man's Crossword.

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

Across

1. Old satirical magazine.
2. Woodwork tool
3. Blow by boxer.
4. Christmas winter drink.
5. Puppet seen at seaside.

Down

1. Found in pods
2. Female sheep
3. Lay eggs
4. Oceans
5. What us yokels are always dropping

What season does this suggest?

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Answer No L

I must also mention Martin is a very good baker. He bakes very rich chocolate and coffee cakes.

Fred Russell

FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT'S PAST.

Part 1

Over hundreds of years people have lived out their lives in the parish of Ascott, most of them forgotten as the centuries flowed past. The further back we go it becomes more and more difficult to resurrect these people but occasionally personalities emerge from the mist.

Most surprising is the presence of two strong figures from history connected with the village, two who have in fact become prominent in the history of England itself. Those two are King Harold of England and his rival Duke William of Normandy. Whether they ever trod or rode across the soil of Ascott we can never know but their connection lies in the ownership of the land.

Shipton under Wychwood was a royal manor (a manor meaning an area of land, not a dwelling) and in early 1066 it belonged to Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex, who had recently been crowned King of England, following the death of his brother in law, King Edward the Confessor. Whether Harold already owned the manor before Edward's death or whether he had acquired it on his accession we do not know, but the Royal Manor of Shipton included land outside its own parish and this reached Ascott (the east homestead) and stretched as far as Westcote (the west homestead).

Edward the Confessor had a family connection with William and the Bayeux Tapestry adds credence to the belief that Edward agreed to William becoming his heir and also that Harold, following a

shipwreck on the coast of France, also agreed, swearing over holy relics that he would accept William as his lord. Whether this is an accurate record of what occurred we cannot tell since it is a record of the Norman's side of the story, but on his deathbed Edward is said to have named Harold as his heir and the Witan (the English Council) agreed with his choice and Harold was quickly crowned King.

Probably unaware of the overwhelming odds against him Harold began his reign on 6th January 1066 and when he was killed on 14th October 1066 his short rule of his country had consisted of nothing but major warfare.

On hearing of Harold's coronation William began assembling a fleet in order to cross the Channel to claim the crown which he considered should be his. But the weather was not with him and when the fleet was ready to sail, the prevailing wind remained against the expedition for some months. In the meantime Harold's exiled brother Tostig had joined forces with Harold Hardrada of Norway, another contender for the throne of England. After a long period of waiting, on 8th September, Harold disbanded his troops who had been stationed on the Isle of Wight preparing to repulse William's expected invasion. They needed to return home to gather in the much needed harvest. That same day Tostig and Harold Hardrada landed at the mouth of the Tyne and defeated the northern Lords near York on 20th September.

The Ascott Grapevine

King Harold achieved a remarkably surprising attack on Tostig and Harold Hardrada on 25th September at Stamford Bridge having recalled his troops and marched them north to Yorkshire in just four days. Both Tostig and Harold Hardrada with many of their forces were killed in the ensuing battle.

The winds had finally turned in William's favour and his fleet made landfall in Sussex on 28th September, whilst Harold was still in Yorkshire. As we all learnt at school the Battle of Hastings took place on the 14th October 1066 and despite gallant endeavours Harold's forces were defeated and he was killed. Then everything changed for England and the Anglo Saxon people as William took command and began his harsh rule. An era of great hardship and terror began.

Robert Doyley was a very close friend of William and he was made tenant of the land in Ascott which later became known as Ascott Doyley, whilst the half-brother of William, Bishop Odo of Bayeux, became tenant of the land later named Ascott Earl.

Robert Doyley was a large landholder under King William. He was known as a hard man, strong and decisive. He built Oxford Castle and constructed or reconstructed Grandpont Bridge and its causeway into the town. However, with only one daughter Maud, who left no heirs, Robert's manors passed to his nephew after the death of Maud.

Bishop Odo was another strong presence in the new Norman England. The half-brother of William he was a much trusted deputy who often ruled in his brother's absence. Created Bishop in a political decision whilst still in his teens,

he was also created Earl of Kent in order to protect the doorstep of England from any invasion. Unfortunately for all his tenants including our locals he was also a tyrant, greedy and ruthless and one of the most hated men in the country. Many revolts occurred against his insatiability for land and power and when he finally sought to purchase the papacy, even King William lost faith and imprisoned him. But he retained his lands and when William died, he was released by the next king William Rufus, on his accession to the throne. But soon Odo led a revolt against the new king seizing royal and church lands. Finally captured after the siege of Rochester Castle, he was sent into exile from England. He left to the jeers of the English subjects as they called for him to be hanged. So Ascott Earl lost its hated lord although it is very unlikely that he spent any time at this tiny manor when he was known to be the richest tenant in chief by far, than anyone else in England.



The Saxons and later Normans were great followers of the Chase; hunting all manner of game occupied much of the life of the wealthier elite and with Ascott's close proximity to the then much larger Forest of Wychwood, there is a good possibility that both Harold and William spent time in our locality. In those days not only deer but also wolves and wild boar roamed the forest precincts and hare was another creature hunted in the glades of the woodland.

These were all classed as royal beasts and certainly from Norman times no commoner was allowed to encroach on the privileges of the elite.

In Saxon days the forest was used for hunting for both food and sport but none of the fierce Forest Laws concocted by the Normans were in existence. Locals could use the forest as they wished but it is believed, as evidenced by the very few finds of wild animal bones in archaeological excavations, that Saxons concentrated on the rearing of domesticated animals to provide the meat they consumed.

This all changed when the Normans arrived. They used the forest not just for food and sport but it was also considered that the hunt provided good training for warfare. Only the king with invited elite could hunt the royal beasts unless pur-

chase of a license by one of the aristocracy was granted by the king.

William was known as a great huntsman and it does seem possible that in the twenty years of his reign he could have joined his great friend Robert Doyley in the royal sport of hunting in Wychwood Forest. So perhaps they did ride along the trackways of Ascott village from his Royal Manor in Shipton en route for a day of hunting in the precincts of the forest. Riding magnificent horses he would have been accompanied by a richly appalled crew of wealthy companions together with their lowlier followers and servants including bowmen, hawkers and guards, as well as their large rangy hunting dogs. A taste of the life of the aristocracy for Ascott locals to discuss in their lowly dwellings.

Wendy Pearse



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LEADER Programme

WODC are helping to publicise grant funding of up to £75k for small rural businesses and communities through the LEADER programme.

The funding is for projects that create jobs, bring visitors to the area or provide essential community services to local people.

There are two LEADER programmes that cover most of rural West Oxfordshire:

- Oxfordshire LEADER - the area to the south of the District, south of Witney and south of Carterton (<https://www.oxfordshireleader.org.uk/>)
- Cotswolds LEADER - the area to the north of the District (<https://www.cotswoldsaoanb.org.uk/grants-and-projects.cotswolds-leader>)

If you think these grants may be of interest to small businesses in your area, please see the article on our website News Centre for more information.

Thousands of pounds available in grants to boost our rural economy

(<http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/news/july/leader-grants/>)

Wychwood Exhibition

New Wychwood Exhibition Opens June 10 at Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

A new free exhibition explains the origins of Wychwood Forest as a hunting ground for Norman royalty and illustrates the way of life of local people in the 19th century, 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, the land was turned over to farming, people were turned off common lands and many lost their livelihoods.

The Wychwood Project, a local conservation charity, is mounting this exhibition at the Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and West Oxfordshire District Council.

The exhibition opens on June 10th with rural craft demonstrations, wild food tasting, and arts and crafts for all the family to try. It runs until 19th September with additional wood craft events on 8th July, 29th July & 19th August. Sharon Williams, Wychwood Project Director, has high hopes for the exhibition:

“I really hope a lot of local people will be able to get along to this free exhibition in the Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock. It will show everyone who comes how much life in West Oxfordshire has changed since the days when the area was largely covered by the Wychwood Forest.

But we also hope that it will encourage everyone who comes to see what we can all do today to protect the area's valuable past and improve our green spaces and natural environment for the future. Do come and find out more about the past of this beautiful area.”

When you visit the exhibition you may be surprised to find that where you live today was once part of a Royal Forest, and all that entailed for its local inhabitants.

For more details about the Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock visit:
oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiremuseum

Ascott Shop Volunteer's BBQ

Each year the village shop holds an event as a way of thanking our volunteers for all their unstinting support manning the shop. Without them there would be no shop!

This year we held a BBQ at Long Barn and were fortunate that the rain held despite the threatening clouds. We must thank Geoff and Gaynor Taylor for their hospitality.



The Ascott Grapevine

The Fair will be held on Sunday 3rd September 2017 11am-5pm at the Ducklington Showground, A415, OX29 7YL Admission is just £7 for adults, under 16s free, dogs on short leads welcome. Parking £1.

The Fair will also include many popular favourites:

The Rural Craft Area will be filled with demonstrations from willow sculpture and hurdle making to beekeeping and wood turning.

There will be a large variety of local Arts and Crafts to see and buy – including Gypsy flower making, jewellers, wool-smiths, and a flute maker.

Entertainers will include Morris Dancers, Witney Town Band, Berkshire Ferret Racing Club, a traditional Coconut Shy, and Hatwells Fun Fair.

The second-hand bookstall is a treat for book and film lovers with a large stock of print and audio books and DVDs.

Many other mouth-watering refreshments will be on offer including: Middle Eastern delights from Sufi Spice, Oxford Pizza, fish finger sandwiches, pig roast and barbeque, locally sourced Punjabi curries and finger food, delicious local ice cream, handcrafted chocolates bars, buttons and lollies. Not forgetting of course the Wychwood Tea Tent with fabulous locally made cakes, and the Wychwood Bar supplied by Wychwood Brewery.

The Wychwood Forest Fair, one of West Oxfordshire's leading Green Country Shows, will be in a beautiful countryside location, on the edge of the ancient Wychwood Forest area. All in all the Fair is a fantastic family day out. Organiser of the Fair, the Wychwood Project, is a registered charity that aims to inspire people to conserve and restore our unique local landscapes and habitats. In addition to the Project's own display area, community and conservation groups will be promoting ways of "doing your bit" for the environment and for your community.

All proceeds from this event go towards the Wychwood Projects' on-going work of "Restoring Landscapes, Inspiring People" in the Wychwood area.

Come along for a day celebrating all things rural at the 18th annual Wychwood Forest Fair for "All the Fun of a Rural Fair".

For more details visit: www.wychwoodproject.org

phone: 07584 262437

email: wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/WychwoodProject



Wild Oxfordshire

Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water-Blitz

Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the county wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire. For your free sampling pack register today by emailing hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk subject "Waterblitz" and join in on Monday 2nd October. EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.

FREE fortnightly Environmental Email Bulletin

For the latest conservation news, evening talks or an afternoon of volunteering, plus jobs and training, SIGN UP to Wild Oxfordshire's email bulletin. Just click on their website www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

For the latest conservation news, an evening talk or an afternoon of volunteering - sign up to our Free fortnightly Environmental Bulletin

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Cotswold Line Promotion Group



CLPG's 2017 charter train links the Cotswolds with the Somerset coast

This year's Cotswold Line Promotion Group charter train combines fast running on the Great Western main line with a trip through the Somerset countryside on the West Somerset Railway heritage line to the seaside resort of Minehead,

The excursion on Saturday, September 23, is only the second time a CLPG charter has reached Minehead. The first Cotswold-Quantock Express ran in 2010.

Many seats on board the Great Western Railway (GWR) High Speed Train have been snapped up already by members of the group, which represents passengers on the rail route between Oxford, Worcester and Hereford, but tickets are now on sale to the general public as well.

A limited number of first class tickets are still available, along with plenty of seats in standard class.

The train will leave Oxford at 7.45am, calling to pick up passengers at Hanborough, Charlbury, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Shipton, Kingham, Moreton-in-Marsh, Honeybourne, Evesham and Pershore en route to Worcester Shrub Hill. It will leave Worcester at 9.20am, running via Bristol and Taunton, and arriving at Minehead at 1pm.

The return train will depart from Minehead at 5.20pm, running via Swindon and Didcot to reach Oxford at 8.25pm. The train will then make the same stops as the outward journey to drop off passengers, arriving in Worcester just before 10pm.

Standard class tickets are £50 for adults (£40 for CLPG members) and £20 for children aged 5+. Children aged under five can travel free of charge. First class tickets are £90, or £85 for CLPG members, but there are no child discounts in first class.

CLPG chairman John Ellis said: "We know how much our members and people living along the line enjoy being able to catch a direct train to a special destination. We are looking forward to seeing friends old and new. I would like to thank GWR for again making an HST available to us."

Booking forms can be downloaded from the group's website at clpg.org.uk.

Completed booking forms, along with a cheque for the relevant amount, made payable to the CLPG, should be posted to Brian Clayton (CLPG), Newhaven, Greenway Road, Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 9BQ. All applications must include a stamped addressed envelope, which will be used to send out tickets in September. Anyone who would like confirmation of a booking is asked to provide an email address or an extra SAE.

Inquiries about tickets can be made by phone to Mr Clayton on 01386 701528 or by email to bcclayton@btinternet.com, or to the group's chairman, John Ellis, on 01386 841253. Please note that anyone requiring first class seats is advised to check availability before making a booking.



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Vet's Advice

Pain?

People often say that they think that a vet's job is more difficult than a doctor's, because our patients can't talk. I don't agree. Provided the owner is relatively articulate and observant we can usually get down to the problem relatively easily. Most owners can tell me lot more about their dog's poo than I need, or wish, to know!

So how do I know if my dog or cat is in pain? Most animals suffer in silence but there are a number of signs that can help us. Behavioural changes such as antisocial behaviour, aggression, hiding away or simply being less friendly could be a result of pain or discomfort. Some animals will stop eating or have more difficulty eating particularly if they have dental issues or neck pain. Vocalising can be a symptom - either growling or yelping. Cats occasionally yowl.



Finding a comfortable position

Excessive grooming particularly of a specific area can indicate pain. Both dogs and cats tend to lick their wounds. Staining of the fur can indicate where a pet has been licking. The saliva contains porphyrins which cause the stains. Obvious signs of joint and muscle pain include stiffness, limping, no longer being able to climb stairs or simply difficulty in getting up. The lack of grooming by cats, on the other hand, can mean that the cat is arthritic or has dental problems. However, you could just be the owner of a fat and lazy cat!

Panting without having exercised, or shallow breathing could be indicators of pain. Animals are sometimes restless and pace, and have difficulty sleeping. Dogs with abdominal pain, particularly caused by pancreatitis, tend to stretch out in a "prayer position" - front of the body down and rear end up. And then of course we have obvious signs like swelling and redness in areas of the body.

Together we can work it out.

It is not a good idea to give human painkillers to your pets.

Cats are not small dogs and definitely not small humans. They metabolize most drugs in a different way and can easily be poisoned (that is if you can get the tablets into them at all...) with even the simple aspirin.

Dogs can react very badly to ibuprofen and paracetamol. We do use a lot of similar drugs for pets but dosages and intervals of medicating can differ significantly.

While on the subject of what not to give to your dog - there have been a number of reports of a condition called Fanconi Syndrome, dogs developing kidney failure after eating "beef jerky" strips, particularly from China. Tests are currently being carried out to work out which ingredient or contaminant is causing the problem. I would suggest avoiding these products.

Karen Kappen

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Food Waste Bins

Plastic bags can now be used to line food waste bins

Residents can now use plastic bags such as carrier bags and pedal bin liners, to line their food waste bins.

West Oxfordshire District Council collects food waste every week and takes it to the Agrivert Anaerobic Digestion plant near Cassington for recycling.

The processing plant is now able to accept thin plastic bags and carrier bags as caddy liners, as well as residents placing food waste in compostable bags, newspapers or directly into their caddies. Extracted liner bags are sent to an Energy Recovery Facility, where they are incinerated, and created into energy.

Cllr Carol Reynolds, Cabinet Member for the Environment at West Oxfordshire District Council said: “This is great news as many residents tell us that compostable bags are expensive and some tear easily, which can be messy.

“We know local people are keen recyclers as last year we collected over 3,480 tonnes of food waste, but this change will help make it even easier, cheaper and cleaner for people to recycle their leftovers.”

Residents can use any type of paper or plastic liners for food waste, provided they are not black bin bags.

Food can also be put loose, straight into the caddy. However, it is important that retail packaging is removed. For example, bacon should be taken out of its plastic packet and fruit out of any punnets.

For more information about waste and recycling in West Oxfordshire, or to order a **free** food waste bin and kitchen caddy, see www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins or call 01993 861025.

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between 10 o'clock and mid-day

at

The Mill

Ascott under Wychwood OX7 6AP

on

Saturday 16th September

Saturday 21st October

Saturday 18th November

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Ascott Pre-school

July 2017

What a year at Pre-school

The summer holidays are in full swing and we've been taking some time to reflect over the last school year here at pre-school, as well as busily preparing for the start of the new term in September.

Fundraising

As a registered charity, any funds we can raise during the school year make such a difference towards buying extra resources, toys, and equipment for use at pre-school. Our biggest fundraising focus of 2017 was to raise enough money to purchase a new outdoor shed, to help store all our outdoor play equipment and tidy up the appearance of the outside play area at Tiddy Hall.

As well as the Pancake Café in February, we hosted our first Rock 'n Roll night in May and, the biggest event in the pre-school calendar, our annual Sports and Family Fun Day at the Recreation Ground in early July. This event was attended by families past and present and was a fantastic, relaxed day out, with races for the children.

This year's event helped to raise an incredible £1,281.07. We are very grateful to all those who helped support the event, particularly to the local businesses who donated fantastic raffle prizes.

A generous donation

In July we also received a very generous grant from the Doris Field Charitable

Trust in support of our efforts to raise money for a new shed. We are incredibly grateful for such a kind donation, which will make a huge difference.

New 30-hour funding

From September, new legislation from the Government will give families access to 30 hours free funded childcare places for three and four-year olds.

This new initiative has been put in place to support parents returning to work after having children and we are pleased to be one of a few pre-schools in the area to be able to offer the funded places. Ascott Pre-School offers sessions Monday–Friday from age two upwards and we have extended our hours to accommodate the 30-hour provision.

Please bear in mind families who are not eligible for 30-hour funding will still receive the current 15 hours funding.

To find out more about the eligibility criteria for 30-hour funding, visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Farewell to our leavers

At the end of term, we said goodbye to some of our wonderful children as they head off to primary school in September. There is such a close community feel around pre-school between the staff, parents and carers, and their children and we really wish them all the best for this next exciting chapter.

We can't wait to hear what all our returning children have been up to over the summer break and are looking forward to welcoming some new faces too!

We still have space for children aged two and above on our sessions from September, so do get in touch to pop along for a play and find out more about our wonderful setting.

For more information, or to find out about availability for your child or children, please visit

www.ascottpreschool.org.uk, telephone 01993 832671 or email Pauline at ascott_pp@btinternet.com

Wychwood Library

Summer Reading Challenge

It isn't too late to join the amazing 2017 Summer Reading Challenge "Animal Agents". These detectives are looking to solve the case of the graffiti writing and also the strange case of a missing lunch! Join in the fun. You only need to read six books to complete the challenge and receive your certificate. Stickers and other rewards are awarded along the way.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities and we have lots of new books in the children's area.

Home Library Service

We are looking for volunteers to help deliver the Home Library Service in Ascott under Wychwood. Volunteers will need to:

- Agree to a DBC check (Disclosure and Barring Service check)
- Undertake training
- Commit to a regular schedule of visits
- Record the hours they volunteer
- Add volunteer to their motor insurance policy if they use their car for visits

If you would like to help we would be delighted to hear from you.

TAI CHI classes will start again on Monday 11th September at 10am. Please contact Valerie Ward at Vjw2015@outlook.com if you would like to join.

JAN HARVEY will be talking about her book "The Seven Letters" at the Evening Reading Group on Monday 4th September at 7.30pm. If you would like to join in the discussion you can borrow a copy of her book from the Library.

THE WYCHWOOD CIRCLE returns on Sunday 10th September at 7pm to discuss "Is Religion Irrational?" with Professor Keith Ward. All are welcome.

Other regular events include:

LATE SPRING with Age UK: Meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10.30am.

AFTERNOON READING GROUP: We are looking for new members for this group that meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1.30pm.

POETRY CLUB: This group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm to discuss poetry on an elected theme.

COFFEE MORNINGS: Every Wednesday at 10am.

We look forward to seeing you at Wychwood Library

FUND RAISING FOR REPAIRS TO ASCOTT CHURCH BELLS

As part of our fund raising activities we held a coffee morning at Brambletye courtesy of Rosemary and Mark Dawbarn on Saturday 22nd July. We raised a total of £974 and a pledge of £100, bringing the total raised to £10,694 so far. Our current target is £15,000.

There will be an illustrated talk by Whites of Appleton on Friday 20th October. Whites repair and maintain church bells across the region. We hope to hold the talk in the church, look out for posters nearer the time.

The Proceeds from the 10k and 5k Charity run which is being held on Sunday 29th October have also been promised to the bell fund. Please support this event, if you don't want to run the 5k course is an ideal country walk.

Next year, possibly in early June, we are planning an open gardens event as part of our fund raising activities. If you would be happy to open your garden please let me know.

Thank you to all those who have pledged financial support to this project

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE COST OF REPAIRING OUR ASCOTT CHURCH BELLS AND HAVEN'T YET MADE A PLEDGE PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN IT TO ME IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

Email to 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

IOF.....

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DATED.....SIGNED.....



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Quick action prevents bin lorry fire

West Oxfordshire District Council is urging everyone to take care about what they put in their rubbish bins after one of their contractor's vehicles nearly caught fire.

The incident happened yesterday in Witney when the crew saw smoke coming out of the back of the vehicle.

Fortunately their speedy action prevented a fire occurring as they contacted the fire service who doused the contents of the load.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but in the middle of the waste, the crews found mobile phones that could have contributed to the 'hot spot'.

Cllr Carol Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Environment said, "Thankfully, swift action by our crews and the fire service avoided what could have been a potentially serious incident.

"Finding mobile phones and batteries amongst the waste is a reminder that items such as these should be disposed of safely as they can ignite if they are punctured or compacted causing, or contributing to, bin lorry fires."

"Householders can recycle used batteries through their recycling collections or at retailers, such as supermarkets, or at council reception points. A small action such as this can make a big difference to preventing a fire hazard."

"From October, we are expanding our household recycling collection service to include small unwanted electrical items, such as mobile phones and laptops. Up until then, these items can be taken to recycling banks, which can be found in many of the District's main car parks or to one of the larger Household Waste & Recycling Centre."

Additional notes

Producing electrical items uses a lot of energy and valuable materials, including precious metals like gold and silver. Electrical equipment can also contain chemicals like lead and mercury. These chemicals can get into the environment and harm people or animals if items are not disposed of carefully.

As part of the recycling process valuable or harmful materials are removed safely and re-used or disposed. Recycling materials such as aluminium from computers saves raw materials and energy.

The 'crossed out wheelee bin' symbol found on many electrical items means that they should not be put into normal household rubbish bins.

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ASCOTT MARTYRS PROJECT UPDATE

The first annual Martyrs' Day held on a fine June day at the recreation ground was attended by many descendants and supporters. The film *Needs Must When the Devil Drives*, which features the Martyrs' history, and an update on the project were presented before a trip to Chipping Norton police station and the courtroom and jail where the women were held and charged. Next year Martyrs' Day will be Saturday 23rd June when the village will be invited to the celebrations.

The Project is raising the profile of the event to ensure a legacy for the village community and descendants. It will provide continued awareness in local schools as well as a centre for information and research. Our first priority is to raise awareness of the story locally, and to establish an Educational Trust which has already brought more descendants. We have also set up (thanks to Mark Pidgeon) the website www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk <<https://www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk>>.

We have been seeking funds and I am pleased to say that we have received a £2,000 donation from Unite which absorbed the Agricultural Workers Union some time ago. Incidentally they have also purchased 140 copies of the book by Beverley McCombs, available in the village shop at the reduced price of £15.

Discussions with a number of local organisations and businesses are ongoing in the hope that the Project can have a wider presence in the immediate community.

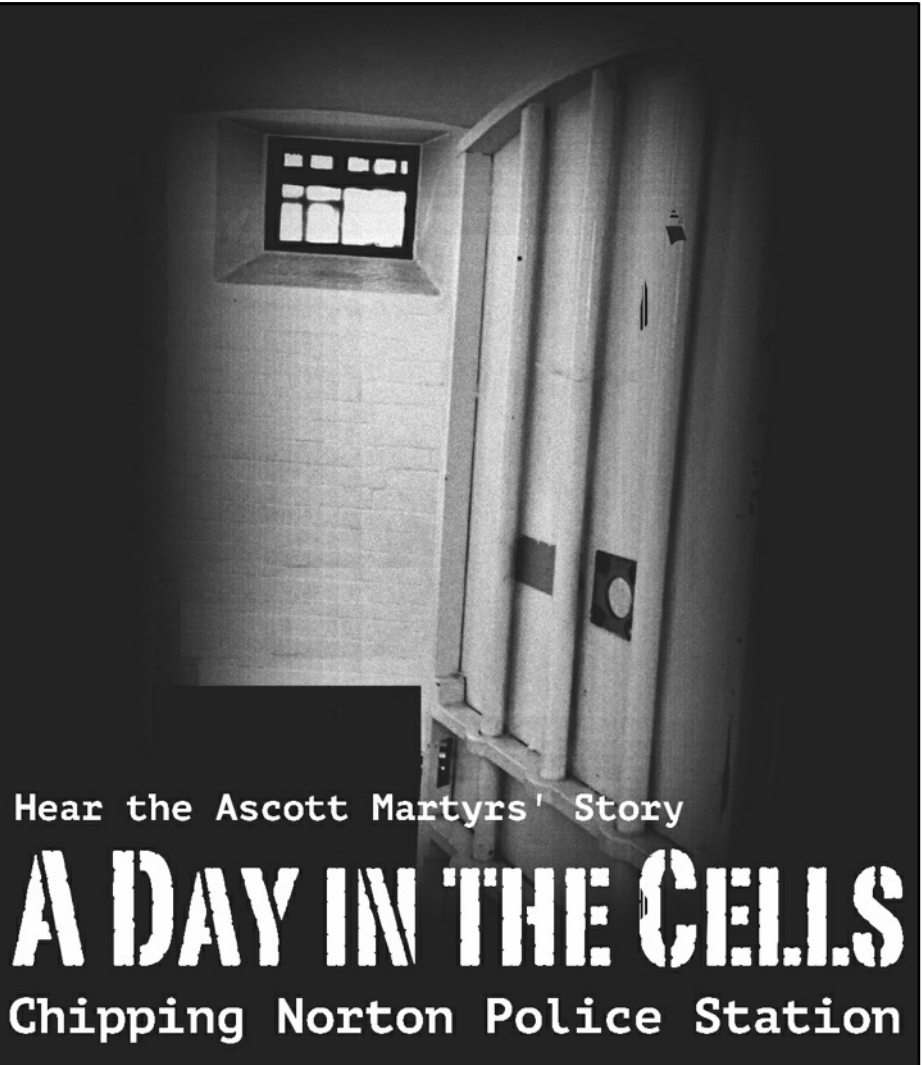
On the research side we will soon start to put various documents on the website and are seeking a partnership arrangement with Warwick University via Unite and/or Oxford Brookes University to dig deeper into the events of 1873 and the changes in the law that followed.

In September we are sponsoring the WEA community course to create a textile hanging, to be held fortnightly on Wednesday evenings 6 to 8pm from 20th September thanks to the generous support of The Swan, see proposed design rough page 57. If you are interested in joining the team or would like to know a little more call Sue Richards 01993 830122. There a few spaces still available.

Look out for the Project at the Wychwood Forest Fair at Ducklington on 3rd September. On Saturday 30th September we are organising an Open Day at Chipping Norton Police Station – here the story can be explored where it actually happened. See facing page.

We are now on Facebook "Ascott Educational Trust".....Please join/follow as we need 30+ for an easier access.

Paul Jackson 01993 831967




Hear the Ascott Martyrs' Story

A DAY IN THE CELLS

Chipping Norton Police Station

Saturday 30th September
Free Tours 11am – 3pm

An Ascott Martyrs' Project Event
'keeping the story alive'



1873
**Ascott
Martyrs**



Martyrs' Textile

WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



In association with the Wychwood Brewery

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

Sat Sept 2nd Steve Tilston + support from Laphooka **Tiddy Hall**

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 **The Swan Inn**

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

Sat Oct 14th Sarah Jane Scouten + support from Mike Weaver **Tiddy Hall**

Sarah Jane Scouten is an internationally touring songwriter, loved by audiences across the Northern Hemisphere.

With flavours of Lucinda Williams, Nanci Griffiths, Old Crow Medicine Show and a wealth of old-time and bluegrass music, the two-time Canadian Folk Music Award nominee's songs are faithful to a long-standing folk music tradition, but often spill over into modern themes that are outspoken and edgy, from homelessness to midwifery to tongue-in-cheek heartache songs and unabashed Canadiana.

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door

Sat Nov 4th Martyn Joseph **Tiddy Hall**

Martyn Joseph is a powerful singer and songwriter gifted with the rare ability to speak to the soul with his expressive and poignant lyrics.

Tickets £16.00 in advance £18.00 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



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

Robert Gripper Antique Furniture Restorer

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Manor Farm
Ascott under Wychwood
Oxfordshire, OX7 6AL
01993 831960
01993 830395 fax



robgripper@btinternet.com



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 – Autumn 2017

Annual General Meeting

We held the AGM of the Village Shop Association on 21 June 2017 in the functions room of the Swan, by kind permission of the new Landlord. It was attended by 18 shareholders. The shop accounts were presented and approved by the shareholders present and the Independent Examining Accountant was appointed for this year. All the existing members of the Management Committee were nominated to serve for a further 12 months and were approved unanimously. The range of products on sale was discussed and the shareholders agreed that the shop manages to offer a wide range of stocked items at reasonable prices. At the first Committee meeting on 12 July, the following appointments were confirmed:

Chairman	Nick Leadbetter
Hon Secretary	Sally Jordan
Hon Treasurer	Stuart Fox
Members	Geoff Taylor, Mark Tribe
Manager	Bridgette Crundwell

Finances and Capital Costs

The volume of sales is holding up on the position last year, but often we operate too closely to little better than a monthly break-even position – especially during the school holidays.

We are dipping ever deeper into our reserve funds to pay for the replacement of essential but old equipment and for some new equipment. We have bought a replacement oven to cook the pies, sausage rolls, pastries and bread and one new chest freezer to hold our “Cook” range of frozen ready meals. Following the failure of our air-conditioning unit in the June heatwave, which made the shop unbearably hot for our customers and especially for our volunteers and staff, we have decided to install a slightly smaller back-up system in case the main unit, which is nine years old, fails us again; this will be installed on 7 August. We also need urgently to replace our computerised till, which is over eight years old and runs XP software that is not entirely compatible with the card reader system software, which has caused many awkward

and annoying delays over the past months. These two purchases alone will cost us £4,000 and replacing the freezers and chillers, that were bought when the shop opened in 2003, over a period of two to three years will cost up to a further £11,000.

Customer Numbers

To keep the shop going, we need somehow to encourage more people in the village to use it on a regular basis. Some villagers who come in regularly to collect their prescription medicines, or buy their newspapers from the shop do not buy anything else, even though they have made the journey, and I wonder why when many of our stock items, as I explained in the Summer edition of The Grapevine, are as cheap, or cheaper, than in the Co-Op. We have a wide selection of fresh, tinned, bottled and frozen groceries, household cleaning materials, stationery, firewood and much, much more..... If I am missing some important reason for people choosing not to use the shop, please get in touch and tell me.

Volunteers

Our shop volunteers number fewer than 40 but manage, together, to keep the shop open for seven days each week, including most bank holidays. Not everyone works behind the counter; some do essential maintenance, stock purchases, cleaning and other behind-the-scenes' work. They remain the most important asset the shop has. To thank them we held our second BBQ party on 16 July, following a most enjoyable and successful occasion last year. It was hosted at Long Barn by Gaynor and Geoff Taylor and despite the drab weather, it was an afternoon of great camaraderie and good humour with really excellent food provided by Ceci Magee – and the rain only came as we were clearing up. We will hold another party next year and get the date out earlier in the hope that all our volunteers will be able to join us.

If there is anyone out there who might think about becoming a volunteer, please get in touch with me or with Bridgette in the shop and we will talk you through the various things our volunteers do for us, without any obligation on your part.

Nick Leadbetter

Thank you Ascott Shop

Late evening back in June I was discharged from Hospital. The following day, still feeling poorly and unable to get down to the shop, I rang and asked if I gave a shopping list over the phone would they mind putting it together for my husband to collect on his way home from work. What a lovely response I had. Mrs Crudwell not only walked around the shop with me on the phone, going through each item on the list she then came and delivered the shopping to my door!

Such a kind gesture meant a lot that day and was really appreciated.
THANK YOU.

Debbie Haynes



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

Army Cadets

Joining the Army Cadets can change that. We give young people - from all walks of life - access to fun, friendship, action and adventure. We challenge young people to learn more, do more and try more. We inspire them to aim high and go further in life, no matter what they aim to do.

Our volunteers get to know each cadet individually and offer a huge range of training, qualifications and challenges. They inspire young people to challenge their limits, become more independent, confident and able to step up to any challenge.

With 41,000 cadets and 9,500 adults in more than 1,600 locations around the UK, the Army Cadets makes a big impact on young people, parents and communities. Cadets and adults keep telling us 'It's the best thing I've ever done'

Please visit www.armycadets.com and use the postcode finder for your local detachment.

SSI J Duncan

Burford Detachment Commander

Somme Company

Oxfordshire "The Rifles" Battalion Army Cadets

NOT IN MY BACKYARD

A very famous person once said, 'Man does not live by bread alone.' If you know who said that then you will know that he knew more about human nature than any tinpot politician.

I am old now, so what will happen in the next fifty years will be of little importance to me. However, I do fear there seems no agreed plan where the country is going with the continued growth of the population. I have been fortunate to enjoy the beauty of the British countryside. But with the continued growth of building will we destroy the England of Wordsworth, Elgar and Constable and other great English artists? Compared with our neighbours across the Channel we have only half the area of land of France, Germany and Spain. Will, by the turn of the century, the south of England become one urban sprawl?

The expansion of Heathrow, the new rail link that will cut through the heart of England and the greater demand for clean water. Thames Water is again pressing for a massive reservoir near Abingdon to supply London with water.

It is suggested, to keep up with housing needs the country needs to build a city the size of Coventry each year. The W.I. doesn't stand a cat in hell's chance of seeing Blake's 'New Jerusalem' in this green and pleasant land. I foresee a future when the rich will protect themselves behind high walls and electric gates, in large well designed houses on attractive landscaped estates; while the lower classes will be housed in high rise flats; and we all know what happens when there is a fire.

Forty years ago I walked the Pennine Way. Thanks to many people who broke the law and demanded the right to roam, thousands of us have been able to walk that long distance path. In the future, land will be at such a premium that to walk the Pennine Way, will we have to pay and book months in advance to be able to do so?

Man does not live by bread alone; the spirit also needs to be fed. To live is to have a dialogue with the divine, or if you are an atheist, a dialogue with the cosmos. This is best done not in the rigid structure of a church or any other place of worship, but on the hills or in the woods and other open spaces.

Am I a N.I.M.B.Y.? I think I am. Given a choice I would return to the village of seventy years ago. The War was over, the anxiety had gone, we were poor, proud but clean, and the village belonged to itself and I was young. The older I get I feel more and more I am floating in the back waters of life. When I walk in Ascott now I feel I no longer belong. In fact I don't really like the place anymore, it's far too bourgeois and twee. I now walk around the village with memories of family and friends I knew fifty years ago.

I have just had this thought. In future to keep us lower classes happy, maybe we should be encouraged to own a virtual reality headset so we can walk round and round the living room believing we are strolling along the seashore or rambling in the Cotswolds.

Fred Russell

Gardening in Ascott



Autumn

I am writing at the end of July sitting in the garden on a lovely summer afternoon and making mental lists of the perennials which look like they have outgrown their space, or just aren't doing as well as in previous years.

Autumn is good time to lift and divide perennial plants and also a good time to move any which would perhaps look better elsewhere. If we get a very wet autumn, it is not always possible to get onto the soil and then spring lifting and dividing may be advisable. This is where a series of photos of plants taken in summer which will need attention in the autumn is very helpful as I find my memory is not too good these days!

With the soil still warm from summer and usually moist from some autumn rain it is also an excellent time to buy and plant new perennials giving them time to establish a good root system to provide a good flower display next year.

As a perennial plant grows over the years, the clump will spread out from the centre and they start to go a bit bald in the middle, and start to elbow out their neighbours. Obviously some spread more rapidly than others, but generally

lifting and dividing them three to six years after planting is about right, and this will renew their vigour and also make new plants to use elsewhere in the garden.

Dividing and Replanting Perennials

Work your fork under the clump and lever out of the ground with all its roots. If it is a very big clump, it may help to cut all around the edge with a spade first.

Cut the clump apart with a spade or an old knife. (I have an old serrated bread knife for this job). Cut out the bald bit in the centre and discard, and then divide the remaining parts in portions about the size of a big fist.

Dig in some well-rotted organic matter (garden compost or spent mushroom compost or bagged manure from the garden centre) and a good couple of handfuls of Blood, Fish and Bone fertilizer. Replant the divisions in groups of three, five or seven.

Water them in well even if the soil is wet or rain is expected, and tuck in some of the organic material around the plants which will help suppress weeds and retain moisture.

Astrantia as Companions for Roses.

This year the *Astrantia* looked particularly good and flowered for a long period.

In mid-July after they had been flowering since May, I cut them right back to the base of the plant and now, only 2 weeks later, they are a mound of fresh green leaves. They will then flower again by the end of August and last into the autumn providing under-planting for the second flowering of the roses. I also dead-head the roses now in mid-July, and give them a good water followed by a dose of liquid seaweed or rose fertiliser.

Astrantia come in a lovely range of colours from white through pinks into deep maroon. I have a lovely pink form

named 'Roma' which surrounds the highly scented rose 'Gertrude Jekyll'. It not only provides a good contrast in leaf and flower form to the rose but also hides the bare stems of the rose growth over the summer.

Inspiration!

If you feel in need of inspiration for planting ideas, Waterperry Gardens near Wheatley have a splendid 60metre long herbaceous border backed by a high brick wall which is colourful from May to the first frosts. It is lovely to visit at any time of the year, with a plant nursery, craft gallery and tea room, but in September the long border has its third major flowering of the summer culminating in a splendid display of *Asters* and *Heleniums*.

Madeline Galistan.

Cotswold Rural Services GARDEN AND ESTATE MAINTENANCE

Grass/Lawn Cutting

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Wil Gomm Mobile 07582 962600

For a full list of services please refer to our website:
cotswoldruralservices.co.uk

Tiddy Hall Report

The **Tiddy Hall Trustees** held their Annual General Meeting on the 5th July and our Chairman, Simon Gidman, wanted to thank all our regular users for their continued support – **Ascott Pre School, Post Office, Roseneath School of Music, Windrush Valley School, Pam Quirke with Qigong, the Sunday Tea Dances, Fit Club** and the new **Pilates** class run by Ursula Beele and of course, **Folk Club**, run by Mark Pidgeon and Elaine Byles. We have had many great nights this past year, thanks to Mark and Elaine, who have put **Tiddy Hall** back on the entertainment map, getting in well-known artists who have put in quality performances and attracted great attendances.

The **Tiddy Hall Trustees** feel the Hall is in a generally healthy state at the moment, we have continued to improve it and it has attracted more users over the past year. The usual election of trustees took place and the committee is as follows:

Honourary President	Roger Shepherd
Chairman	Simon Gidman
Treasurer	Nick Carter
Secretary	Rowena Haigh
Booking Clerk	Ingrid Ridley
Health & Safety	Graham Bell
Pre School Representative	Pauline Plant

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Young for the last few years in her role as Secretary and we welcome a new member to take her place, Rowena, who will add a lot to the

committee and the work involved with the hall.

Ursula Beele's **Pilates** class has proved to be popular and she will be starting a second class running from 7.30pm – 8.30pm after her first class, which runs from 6.30pm-7.30pm. 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. Pam's next session will run from Thursday September 7th for six weeks. Please contact Pam if you are interested – pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk or on 07780 572283.

Wychwood Folk Club this autumn:

September 2 nd	Steve Tilston
October 14 th	Sarah Jane Scouten
November 4 th	Martyn Joseph
November 25 th	Kim Lowings
December 16 th	Megan & The Common Threads

Some dates for your diary.....

Saturday September 16th – Classical singing - Will Diggle and Milly Forrest plus guest stars from the Royal Academy of Music are performing at Tiddy Hall. Both Will and Milly have performed at Tiddy before and it will be a great evening. We are not sure yet about ticket prices and the actual programme but if anybody would like to reserve tickets for the evening please ring either Ingrid (830612) or Simon (831479).

The Ascott Grapevine

Saturday October 7th – Flix in the Stix 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 movie truly memorable are the charac-

ters, 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).

The Fishing Club's Annual Race Night will take place on Saturday November 18th and the **Village Panto** is scheduled for Sunday December 3rd.

Ingrid Ridley

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

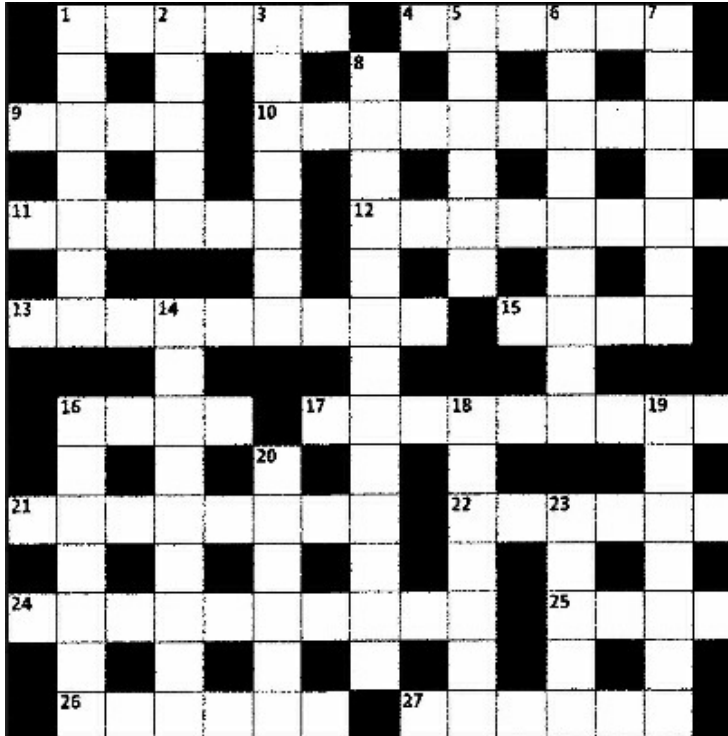
1st Sunday of each Month – Sunday Tea Dance

2.30pm – 5pm

Contact: Jess 07827 235457

Post Office runs every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Asian state means to split (2,4)
4. Lavish chums back at university (4-2)
9. Old creature with pride, ultimately wanting stew (4)
10. 2 22 in bucket with pictures one rejected (4-6)
11. Saint learning about alcohol (6)
12. Swedes possibly have whip applied to bottom (4,4)
13. Coy guys in gym writing on this? (9)
15. Whip brought round in car - good Swede possibly missing a game (4)
16. Only half of county, not all, like this Orlando (4)
17. Stand for outsiders in race here (9)
21. Liqueur produced by Scotsman in Gallo-way? No way! (8)
22. See 2
24. Home Guard's rear is positioned poorly (10)
25. List with little substance for film director (4)
26. Balloon filler's bunk (3,3)
27. Imagine missing one cracking puzzle (6)

Down

1. Statuesque woman having festive meal-part suiting a late actress (7)
- 2,22. Millions requiring our support are without pride (5,6)
3. Son of David, a born dancer but lacking energy (7)
5. Hide inflatable mattress in the auditorium (3,3)
6. Ballot instruction clearly communicated (3,6)
7. Noted hunter, 24, is to leave the group (4,3)
8. On cue, Charles managed to get Elizabeth's capital residence (8,5)
14. Illness caused by beef (9)
16. Stout stem (7)
18. Unwillingly involved with picture frame - framed by sculptor (5,2)
19. Final goal of Buddhist group (7)
20. Capital Asian wages, reportedly (6)
23. Second in command meets ensign in prison camp (5)

Solution to Crossword in Edition 93

Across

1. Faustian
5. Gauche
9. Trattoria
11. Bolt
12. Smear Tactics
15. Oboe
16. Editorials
18. Galsworthy
19. Cede
21. Pyrotechnics
24. Dodge
25. Stimulant
26. Evelyn
27. Bestride

Down

1. Fate
2. Ural
3. Tatami
4. Airs And Graces
6. Albacore
7. Cultivated
8. East Sussex
10. A Stitch In Time
13. Hodgepodge
14. Tollbridge
17. Twittery
20. Acquit
22. Magi
23. Styne

Local Business Directory

ACADEMY/GB DOORS 01993 778836/01865 246444

www.garagedoors.org

[Page 46](#)

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www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

[Page 42](#)

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[Page 57](#)

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

[Page 9](#)

BESPOKE VINTAGE TEA PARTIES 01608 642233

www.chippingnortontease.co.uk, tweet@chipnorneas

[Page 14](#)

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www.cotswoldruralservices.co.uk

[Page 67](#)

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

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DRY STONE WALLING 01242263428/07980564508

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

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

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wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

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

[Page 44](#)

INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993830612/07952657906

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

[Page 16](#)

IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268	<u>Page 15</u>
JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	<u>Page 16</u>
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LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105	<u>Page 55</u>
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WYCHWOOD WROUGHT IRON 01993832850 www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com	<u>Page 16</u>

Events Calendar - 2017

Date	Time	Event	Venue
September 2 nd	7.30pm	Steve Tilston	Tiddy Hall
September 3 rd	2.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
September 7 th	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
September 14 th	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
September 16 th	10am	Coffee Morning	Ascott Mill
September 16 th	7.30pm	Na-Mara	Swan Inn
September 16 th		Classical Singing	Tiddy Hall
September 21 st	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
September 30 th	11am - 3pm	A Day at the Cells	Chippy Police
October 1 st	2.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
October 5 th	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
October 7 th	Cinema Paradiso	Flix in the Stix	Tiddy Hall
October 12 th	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
October 14 th	7.30pm	Sarah Jane Scouten	Tiddy Hall
October 19 th	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Qigong	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 5 th	2.30pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
November 18 th	10am	Coffee Morning	Ascott Mill
		Ascott Fishing Club Race Night	Tiddy Hall
November 25 th	7.30pm	Kim Lowings & The Greenwood	Tiddy Hall
December 3 rd	7.30pm	Village Pantomime	Tiddy Hall
December 9 th		Safari Supper	Church
December 16 th	7.30pm	Megan & The Common Threads	Tiddy Hall