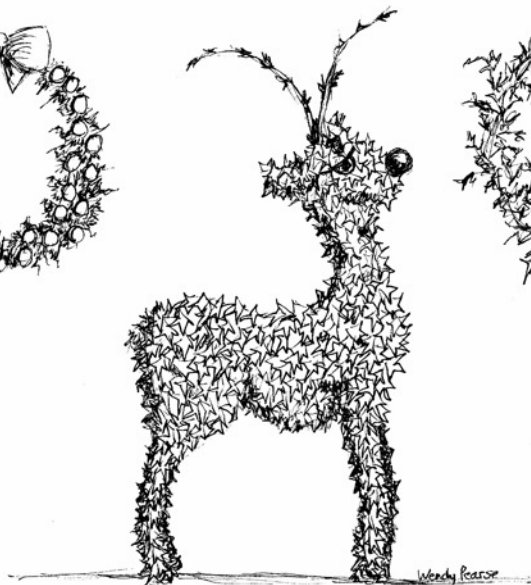


The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1st February 2018.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email:
wendypearse@btinternet.com

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

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2017/2018

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 December	1000	Holy Communion [C]
17 th December	1600	Carols
24 th December	1500	Crib Service
	2330	Midnight
31 st December	1000	BS
14 th January	1000	Holy Communion [C]
28 th January	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
11 th February	1000	Holy Communion [C]
25 th February	0800	Holy Communion [BCP]
11 th March	1000	Holy Communion [C]

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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SS Simon & Jude, Milton

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St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

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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

Dear friends

Once I lost a key. It was a very small key and the carpet was one of those multi-coloured, patterned ones – very good for hiding stains but very bad for finding lost keys. I looked everywhere but I could not see it. In the end I found it by getting down on my hands and knees and crawling around until at last I felt the cold metal with my hands.

It is the natural thing to do when you lose something, to get right down to its level. The same thing applies to us. When a young child loses their temper and lies there kicking the floor the best way to get through to them is to get down on to the floor yourself. If a parent tries to pontificate from six foot above they get nowhere. When they get down to the child's level they often stop crying and begin to listen.

That's exactly what God did that very first Christmas. When he looked upon the human race with all its failings and injustices he did not pontificate from on high. He came down to earth from heaven. He who is God and Lord of all lived on earth with the poor and mean and lowly. He came down to our level in order to find us who were lost.

So when I am lost, and when the child in me wants to kick and scream, and when I feel little, weak and helpless, I thank God that he is not remote or judgemental, but he is with me, feeling for my sadness and, by his grace, sharing in my gladness.

With every blessing this Advent and Christmas.

Mark Abrey

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 so for now hold the date!!

RECIPE

Flapjacks

6 ozs. Butter

1 tablespoon of golden syrup

4 ozs. Emperor sugar

8 ozs. Porridge oats

Grease a tin, 11" x 7"

Melt butter, syrup and sugar in a pan. Stir in the porridge oats. Spread evenly into tin and bake [oven temperature 350°/mark 4] until golden. Cut into fingers while warm. Remove from tin when cold

Extra recycling

Excess recycling can be put out in your black boxes, open cardboard boxes or clear bags. Glass must be separated and put in a recycling box.

Don't forget you can recycle small electrical items in your black boxes and textiles in a clear bag.

Extra food waste

Leave out your kitchen caddy for weekly collections too.

Garden waste and Christmas trees

From 9 January, garden waste customers can recycle their real Christmas trees, holly, ivy and mistletoe. Please cut up and place **inside** your licenced garden bin, remembering to remove decorations, pots, wire etc.

Garden waste collections suspended 25 December - 8 January.

Normal collection dates resume Monday 15 January 2018.

Collection dates:

Normal collection	Revised collection
Monday 25 December	Wednesday 27 December
Tuesday 26 December	Thursday 28 December
Wednesday 27 December	Friday 29 December
Thursday 28 December	Saturday 30 December
Friday 29 December	Tuesday 2 January
Monday 1 January	Wednesday 3 January
Tuesday 2 January	Thursday 4 January
Wednesday 3 January	Friday 5 January
Thursday 4 January	Saturday 6 January
Friday 5 January	Monday 8 January
Monday 8 January	Tuesday 9 January
Tuesday 9 January	Wednesday 10 January
Wednesday 10 January	Thursday 11 January
Thursday 11 January	Friday 12 January
Friday 12 January	Saturday 13 January

Marriage

Sophie & Tim



Deaths

Jean Stowe

Mrs Riley

Roland Stedeford

Jack of all Trades!

For what occupation do you need to have the knowledge and working abilities of a builder, a secretary, a salesman, a carpenter, a diplomat, a midwife, a vet, an I.T. operator, a lavatory attendant, a mechanic, an agronomist, a vehicle driver, an accountant, a weather forecaster and also have patience, strength, a steady hand and a tolerance of stress?

Answer

A working farmer.

Jim Pearce



Pilates with Ursula

Mat-based Pilates classes from w/c 13th Mar'17

Ascott under Wychwood, Tiddy Hall:

Tues 18:30 - 19:30

Classes will also be held in The Wychwoods, Fifield, Fulbrook and Burford.

Register early to avoid disappointment via bookings@pilateswithursula.co.uk, as participants per class will be limited.

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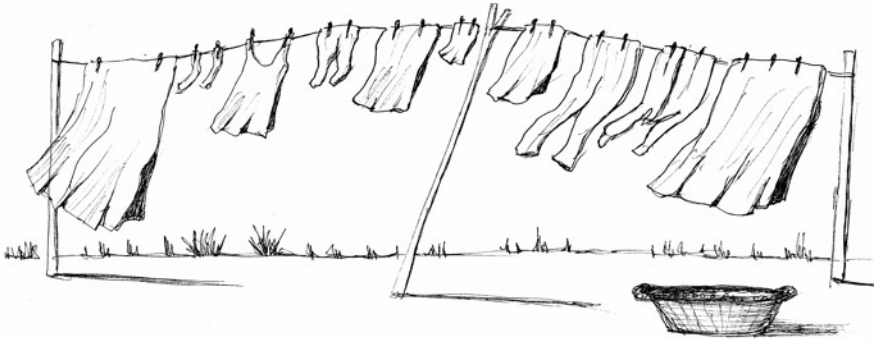
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ASCOTT WASH DAY 1940's STYLE



Some people such as the 'well to do' made use of the Swan Laundry. Their distinctive dark delivery vans were a common sight going to and from their premises in Witney and Burford.

Some people employed that 'fount of all knowledge' the washerwoman. These women would do other people's washing (and bring the local gossip) for a few pence, to help keep their families fed and clothed. These days were before the modern interpretation of poverty and lavish handouts of taxpayers money.

For most housewives it was an early start on Monday mornings. Bring bucketsful of water from the tap in the street, pour it into the boiler and light the fire underneath. It's a dull, foggy morning - fire goes out - swear at it - get more dry kindling sticks and light it again.

Primitive washing machines were used by some families but these were hand powered and there was a lot of rubbing and scrubbing to do until the clothes looked clean.

Linen and cotton things were boiled. Then it was a case of rinse out the suds before adding a blue bag or dolly bag to the final rinse. These bags were made by Reckitts. They were small bags of strong blue material containing a one inch cube made of synthetic ultramarine and baking soda. This produced a blue dye which made the white items whiter presumably by negating any yellowing appearance. Then the washing was wrung out as much as possible. There were wringing machines with rollers but they were turned by hand. Some people had a mangle. These were free standing machines with an iron frame, two large wooden rollers and a handle for turning. The clothes were usually still quite damp and comparatively heavy. They were hung on a line of cord or wire across the garden. In a row of houses on a Monday morning it was pleasing to be the first to have washing on the line. The washing was held by wooden pegs made by the gypsies who came round selling them

from time to time. In winter damp sore hands got very cold doing this and sometimes it was a case of hanging it out again next day to get the washing sufficiently dry. After ironing on a cloth covered table with a flat iron heated on a stand beside the open fire, it was hung on a wooden horse by the fire for airing. Very few houses had airing cupboards at that time. The clothes were then stacked away until it was all change at the week-

end before the whole process started over again.

What would these people have thought of a modern automatic washing machine with various programmes available, plus temperature control and a 1000 r.p.m. spin dry facility?

Just chuck it in, shut the door, and press a button. Aren't we lucky!

Jim Pearse

A rhyme from the time.

Those who wash on Monday have all the week to dry.

Those who wash on Tuesday are not so much awry.

Those who wash on Wednesday are not too much to blame.

But those who wash on Thursday wash in very shame.

Those who wash on Friday wash in sorry need.

And those who wash on Saturday are lazy sluts indeed.

Anon

Jim Pearse



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Nature Notes

As Christmas approaches preparations are made to decorate our homes to dispel the gloom of mid-winter and celebrate Jesus' birth. There may be a Christmas tree with sparkling lights, paper chains, strings of Christmas cards and tinsel. We also bring into our home or make into a wreath to hang on our front door Holly with its glossy green leaves and bright red berries.

The use of Holly to decorate houses in the dark days of winter can be traced back to the pre-Christian Roman era



when houses were decorated with boughs of Holly during the festival of

Saturnalia, which was held close to the winter solstice. Saturn was the Roman god of agriculture and harvest and the festival celebrated and honoured him. It involved a public banquet, followed by private gift giving and a carnival lasting several days. It was a fairly wild event! The Christian church continued with a winter festival and we celebrate the birth of Christ, but still keeping some of the features of the original festival.

In our own nation's history the Holly tree has accrued many myths and legends. The Druids considered it to be a sacred

plant, a symbol of fertility and eternal life endowed with magical powers. Cutting down a Holly tree would bring bad luck, whereas hanging it in our homes would bring good fortune and protect against lightning strikes.

The Celts believed that the year was ruled by two Kings; the Holly King reigned



from the summer to the winter solstice only to be defeated by the Oak King after the shortest

day. The Holly King was depicted as a powerful giant covered in Holly leaves and wielding a Holly bush as a club. To-day the idea of the Holly King lives on in the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy' in which of all the trees in the wood the Holly bears the crown.

Early Christian stories have been created about the Holly tree. The prickly leaves represent Jesus' crown of thorns, the red berries the drops of blood shed for humanity's salvation and the bitter bark Christ's passion. It was even supposed that Christ's cross was made from a holly tree and that originally holly berries were white, turning red after Jesus' blood was spilt.

Nearer to our own time many myths have been created about the Holly tree. Holly

The Ascott Grapevine

trees growing in the hedgerow were frequently left uncut and allowed to grow into specimens. There are two possible explanations for this; first it was believed that witches could run along the tops of hedges and they were stopped by a fully grown Holly or as is more likely, given that no one has ever seen a witch running along the top of a hedge, they were left by the farmers to act as markers to establish lines of site used during winter ploughing. Still considering witches, doorsteps were made from Holly wood as this stopped a witch entering your house.

Holly is said to have some healing properties. Drinking out of a cup made from Holly wood was said to be a cure for whooping cough. Chilblains could be cured by beating them with a Holly branch, a cure that might be more painful than the ailment! Eaten in small quantities Holly berries are a purgative and in large quantities an emetic.

Like many native plants Holly could be used to foretell the future. Sleeping with Holly leaves under your pillow would induce prophetic dreams and in various parts of the country these dreams were supposed to show a young maid their future husband.

Holly trees produce two kinds of leaves, the lower branches produce prickly leaves, whilst the leaves above 2 to 3 metres are smooth edged. There is a superstition that says if prickly Holly (he-Holly) is brought into the house then for the following year the man of the house rules. However, if smooth leaved Holly (she-Holly) is taken in then the house will be ruled by the woman during the coming year.

A Holly wreath is taken into church at the start of Advent, laid flat on a table top with four red candles standing around the

wreath. Each candle represents the four Sundays of advent and in the centre is a white candle that is lit on Christmas day. The circular shape of the wreath is a sym-



bol that Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again.

After all the myths, superstitions and use for Christmas decorations does Holly have any practical uses? Yes, but these are limited. Historically young shoots of Holly were collected and dried and used to provide winter food for cattle. The wood is white and close grained and is used in marquetry making chess pieces, tool handles and printing blocks. Holly was often planted close to a house as a protection against lightning strikes and we now know that the spines on Holly leaves can act as miniature lightning conductors, protecting the tree and other nearby objects.

Only two insects regularly use the Holly as a food source, The Holly Leaf-Miner and the Holly Blue butterfly. The Holly



Blue butterfly produces two broods each

year. The first adults are on the wing in April and May. Eggs are laid singly on shoots or flower heads in May and June, hatching from June onwards. The Larva feed for four to six weeks before pupating. This brood will emerge as adults from August onwards and start the breeding cycle again. Their food plant will be

Ivy and not Holly and they will spend the winter as a pupa hidden in the Ivy ready to emerge during the following spring. This behaviour where each generation uses a specific and different food plant is very unusual.

Stuart Fox

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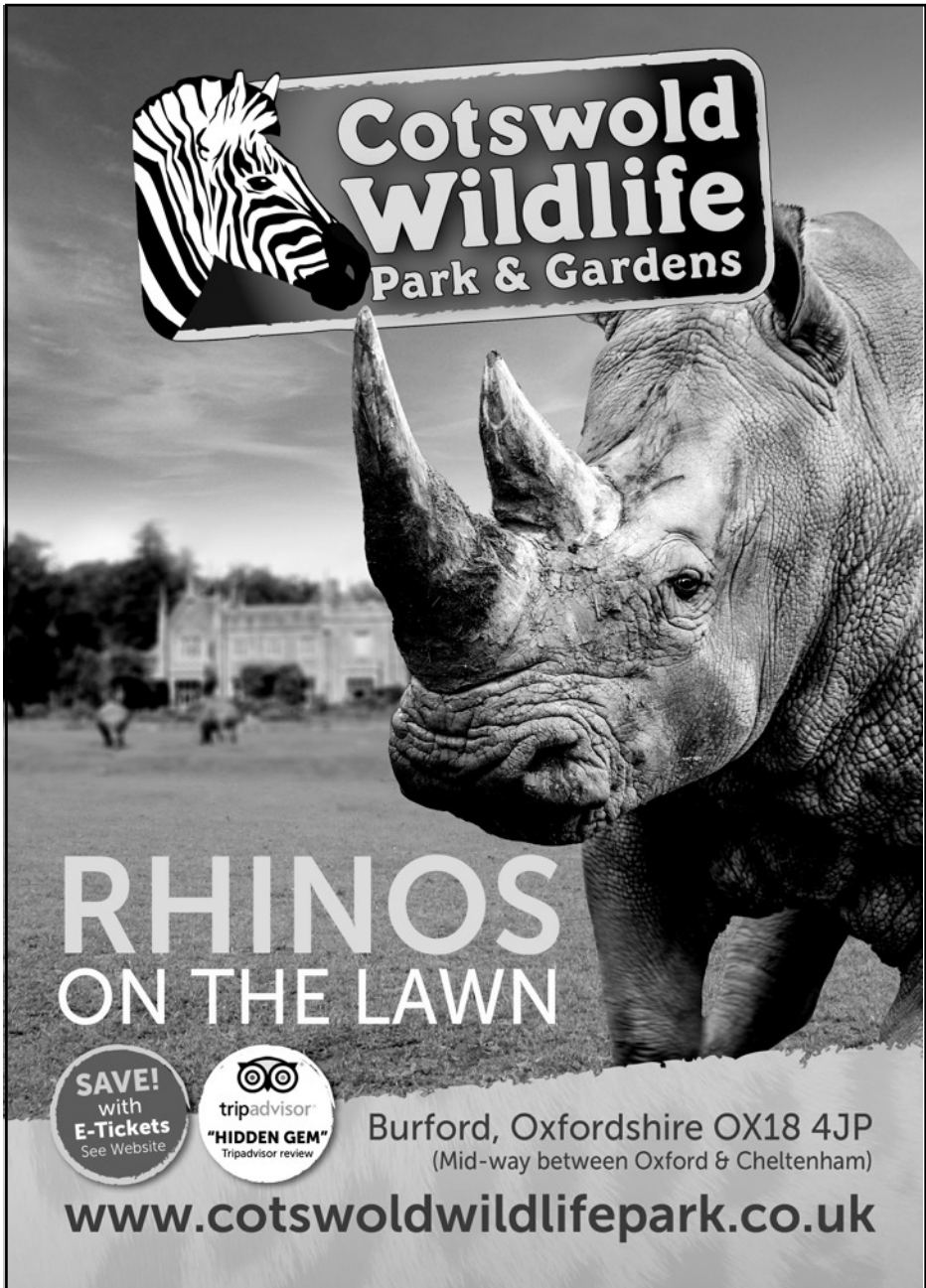
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DID YOU KNOW?

Our modern day addresses sometimes contain a visual description of the actual place where we live? This description can date back to Saxon times and a very good example is that of Honeydale Farm in the northern part of Ascott parish.

When Jim and I lived on the farm, our address read Honeydale Farm, Station Road, Shipton under Wychwood, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. We were in Ascott parish but the postman passed our entrance on his way to Shipton hence the change of village.

So let's decipher the description.

Honeydale Farm. Honey describes the soil – yellow clay, in the dale – a portion of land, on the farm.

Shipton Road. A more modern reference to the 19th century station further down the road.

Shipton under Wychwood. Ton – the settlement, ship meaning sheep, so the settlement where lots of sheep are raised. **Wychwood** – derived from the wood belonging to the Hwicc, a Saxon tribe.

Chipping Norton. Chipping means a market town, Norton – a settlement in the northern part of the area.

Oxfordshire. The county town where oxen can ford the river.

So there we have it.


A field of yellow clay on the farm, near the station, close to the settlement with numerous sheep, under the wood which belonged to the Hwicc tribe, near the market town to the north, in the county where oxen can safely cross the river.

Of course many of us live in more recently named roads which have not necessarily a past connection. But a few more Ascott examples are – **Coldstone** House which was formerly Coldstone Farm. Cold means boundary so the farm by the stone which marks the boundary between Ascott and Shipton. London Lane – a centuries old name which denotes the way to London. And the old name of **Raggs Row**, now Church View, which described the Ascott Charity houses which were normally let to the poorer people of the parish.

Wendy Pearce

The Ascott Pantomime

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Council helping first time home owners

People looking to get on the property ladder are being offered a helping hand by West Oxfordshire District Council.

Through the Local Authority Partnership Purchase Scheme (LAPP) individuals can buy a share in a home with the council purchasing the rest. Occupiers then pay rent to the council to cover its stake.

The LAPP scheme is for those who can afford mortgage repayments but can't meet the cost of a deposit on a property.

For example, an individual can buy a 70 per cent share in a property using a mortgage of up to 90 per cent loan to value. The Council will buy the remaining 30 per cent, subject to an independent valuation done by a surveyor it will appoint.

The Council's Finance Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee instigated the new scheme after researching alternative ways of providing affordable housing.

Cllr Peter Emery, the Overview & Scrutiny committee chair, said: "We were keen to explore different ways of helping people become first-time home owners and came upon the recent very successful LAPP model."

"We liked the fact that potential buyers can purchase a house on the open market up to the value of £375,000 and they are not restricted to choosing from designated properties or sites. And, as someone who was helped onto the housing ladder by a local authority mortgage in 1974, I am delighted to see this plan come to fruition."

West Oxfordshire District Council is investing around £500,000 into the LAPP, which will be the first of its kind in Oxfordshire and the second in the south east region.

Cllr Toby Morris, Cabinet Member for Resources, said: "We know how difficult it can be for people to buy their own home in West Oxfordshire given how high house prices are.

"This innovative scheme could help make the difference between renting and ownership and allow people to really put down roots in the District."

Each applicant will be assessed and awarded points based on a range of criteria focusing on local residents, key workers, those with dependents and applicants in social housing or on the council's housing waiting list.

Applications for a LAPP mortgage can be made from 21 August. Further details will be online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/lapp

Additional notes

Up to 70 per cent share of a home can be bought by obtaining up to a 90 per cent loan to value mortgage on the share. The size of the deposit must be at least seven per cent (10 per cent of the 70 per cent share) of the estimated value of the property.

The LAPP scheme is run in partnership with a mortgage broker that will provide advice on shared ownership mortgages and support in accessing a mortgage from a number of high street including TSB, Halifax and the Nationwide Building Society.

Details of the successful applicants will be forwarded to the Council's recommended broker, Censeo, to confirm financial viability. However, applicants are not restricted to using Censeo and may arrange a mortgage independently.

Further information:

Communications: t: 01993 861615 / 861616 or

e: communications@westoxon.gov.uk

Christmas Train Services

We have been asked by GWR to provide them with the pre Christmas services from and to Ascott that we wish them to stop additionally here for Christmas shopping etc.

This year, we have focussed upon travel to Oxford, Reading & London and return on Saturdays 2nd, 9th and 16th December only.

However, we have to wait for formal confirmation that they will be provided, because Network Rail as well as GWR are involved. If these trains do run, the PC at least will place notices in the village shop, at the Station and on the village Notice Boards, and the services will appear on the train service websites.

FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT'S PAST.

Part 2

100 years after the Norman Conquest the next character to emerge from the mists of Ascott's past is Roger Doyley, the Lord of the Manor of Ascott Doyley. His memory is preserved because he owned the land in Ascott at the time of the Civil War between Stephen and Matilda 1135-1154, generally known as the Anarchy. A time when it is written that 'Christ and his Saints slept' signifying a disorganised, terrifying and harrowing time for the population of England.

After the sudden death in 1100 in the New Forest, of William Rufus, the eldest son of William the Conqueror, his youngest brother Henry seized the throne of England despite the fact that an elder brother Robert, was still alive.

Henry 1st ruled England for 35 years, governing a fairly settled country, but disaster struck when his only legitimate son was drowned off the coast of France in what became known as the White Ship Disaster.

Henry had a number of illegitimate children but his only legitimate heir was a woman, Matilda, who was married to Geoffrey Plantagenet of Anjou. Henry 1st made his earls and retainers swear to accept Matilda as his heir but when Henry died suddenly in 1135 his cousin Stephen of Blois seized the throne with the support of the church and citizens of London and became the next king.

Incensed, over the next four years Matilda and her husband in France, raised an army and invaded England resulting in nearly twenty years of Civil War which raged wherever supporters from both sides came together. After the relative peace of Henry First's reign the country erupted into total disaster.

With no commonly acknowledged monarch from whom to obtain permission, wealthy landowners decided to erect their own castles as protection. These castles came to be known as adulterine castles and one such was that constructed by Roger Doyley in Ascott. It has been suggested that it was in opposition to that at Ascott Earl which was constructed slightly earlier as a wooden keep on top of a motte (mound) surrounded by an embanked bailey, the owner of which supported a different contender for the throne than Roger.

He built a stone keep with earth piled around it to form a motte. The bottom level of the tower is still visible inside the mound today. This supposition of opposing factions will never be known.

The lords of the adulterine castles made their own rules and the sole right of the monarch to hunt in the Royal Forests fell by the wayside. With the Royal Forest of Wychwood close by it can't be surprising that many deer bones were found on the castle site when it was excavated in the 1940's.

The days of the 'Anarchy' came to an end with Stephen agreeing that Matilda's son Henry should become his successor. Stephen died in 1154 and the young Henry 11 soon brought his dominance to bear and the builders of adulterine castles like Roger, were ordered to destroy them. Roger was also accused of defying the Forest Laws on hunting and fined a great deal of money.

It must have taken a large amount of manpower to construct Roger's castle with its stone tower of several levels, the walls massively thick with Taynton stone used for the quoins. The locals who must have been conscripted into the workforce surely muttered in irony as they were probably the ones who had to demolish the castle following its short period of

use. The stone was probably reused somewhere, perhaps in Ascott church which was built around the time of the tower's demise. If so this must have been some consolation to Ascott villagers since they could worship in their own village instead of trudging in all weathers to Shipton church.

The Manor, then a house without its defensive structure seem to pass in and out of the hands of the heirs of Roger Doyley but it was frequently leased to other gentry. Perhaps the locals were happier when it came into other hands. Who knows what type of character Roger was? They may have been glad to see the back of the Doyley family.

Wendy Pearse

Universal Credit

A major change to the benefits system is scheduled to start in West Oxfordshire at the end of November. A leaflet **WODC universal credit leaflet FINAL.pdf** about the new scheme can be found at the Grapevine website and below is a summary.

Getting ready for Universal Credit

Universal Credit merges several benefits and credits into a single payment replacing a number of existing benefits and tax credits. From November, all new applications must be made through Universal Credit.

The changes mean that:

- all new applications must be done online,
- applicants must have a bank account

claimants will be responsible for managing their own changes and making their own payments such as rent and housing costs.

Universal Credit will be managed by the Department for Work and Pensions. Council officers will be on hand to offer general advice and assist people with setting up their own accounts and with online form filling. Benefit applicants will be able to use computer terminals in council reception areas.

More information is online at: www.westoxon.gov.uk/universalcredit or by calling 01993 861030. A WODC leaflet can be viewed at the Grapevine website - WODC universal credit leaflet FINAL.pdf.

A Bird in the Hand

One Thursday afternoon in late September I was working my dog Tilly in the grass field above the Allotments. I was trying to get her up to speed for the new shooting season, when I became aware of a bird flying round and round us. It didn't appear to want to fly away and when I looked more closely I could see it was a bird of prey and that it had a pair of leather jessies hanging down from its feet. Obviously it was a tame bird which I thought someone had lost.

What should I do. It clearly appeared interested in Tilly quartering the field, maybe expecting her to put up some quarry that the bird could catch. I decided to blow my dog whistle and immediately the bird turned and made a very low rapid pass at us both, closing to within three to four feet and then swooped up into the air. Tilly, who was sitting a couple of feet from me didn't move and I could imagine her thinking what's a bird doing flying at me, they normally fly away from me. Anyway on the next turn I had my arm out and I called to the bird. It flew towards me but wouldn't land on my arm. What could I do I wondered, I know, I had a red tartan handkerchief in my pocket which I tied to the end of Tilly's lead. I swung it round and round in the air and as soon as I did that the bird flew towards me and grabbed the handkerchief with a great force landing at my feet. I pulled at the lead and the bird, which I could see was a Peregrine Falcon, mantled its wings over the handkerchief and refused to relax its grip. She started shrieking as if to say this is mine and you're not having it. Apparently they mantle their wings over any prey they have caught to prevent any other birds stealing it.

So the Peregrine was on the ground in front of me and clearly wasn't going to give up her 'prey'. Somehow I needed to get hold of those leather jessies, but not having a Falconers leather glove it could prove a bit of a problem. I decided to pull my sweater sleeve down over my hand and hold my arm out. 'Up' I called to the Peregrine and low and behold it immediately flew up and sat on my arm. I got hold of the jessies so that she couldn't fly away and walked back to my car which was parked at the Allotments. I put her in Tilly's dog cage, not with Tilly I hasten to add, and drove home. When I got home I could see the bird had a radio tracker and a numbered ring attached to one of its legs. I went into the house and said to Kathy "come and have a look at what I have in the car." I thought the best thing would be to contact the police but Kathy said "why don't you contact Batsford Falconery Centre", which is near to Moreton in Marsh. By this time it was ten to five and I could see from their webpage that they closed at five. Luckily someone answered the phone and put me on to Geoff Dalton, one of the Falconers there. He suggested that we meet somewhere halfway to do a handover. We agreed to meet in the New Street Car Park in Chippy by the recycle bins which we duly did. The attached photograph shows the Peregrine on Geoff's gloved hand before he put it into his van. What the people passing by thought was going on I have no idea. Ge-

The Ascott Grapevine

off said it wasn't one of their birds but he was pretty hopeful of finding the owner from the ring details. He said he was amazed that I had been able to catch the bird.

The next day I contacted Geoff at Batsford and he was able to tell me that the bird belonged to someone who lived near Chapel House at Chippy. Apparently he had lent it to a friend to fly and he had lost contact with it. It had been tracked as far as Evenlode village near Stow but he then lost the signal. Evenlode To Ascott, as the Peregrine flies, is not that far I suppose.

The event was certainly amazing for me and one that caused a lot of excitement. I have always loved Raptors (Birds of Prey) and Peregrines in particular. It is estimated that when they go in a stoop to catch prey they can reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour.

I'm glad it didn't hit my handkerchief at that speed.

Mike Pearce



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Nathan Vale tenor

Robert Rice bass

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The Wychwoods Day Centre

A Big Thank You and a Request

The Day Centre for the elderly at the New Beaconsfield Hall has become a fixture within the Wychwoods for almost 20 years now, with members from Ascott attending ever since its inception. It seems unimaginable that its future is anything but assured.

Whether a reader of this magazine or one involved with its operations you may be aware that for nearly two years there has been the threat that Oxfordshire County Council would withdraw our grant as a result of budget cuts. The grant actually ceased in August 2017 and as it represents half of our costs it has a major impact on our ability to continue.

We are therefore so grateful for the donations already made to us from villagers from Ascott and all around the Wychwoods, which along with the Parish Councils and our local organisations have exceeded our expectations. They have allowed us to build a financial buffer, while we find a permanent solution. However, we still need every donation possible to reduce the shortfall of income we now have and alternative funds will be a necessity.

The Day Centre has continued to provide an invaluable service in the last year organised so effectively by our Coordinator, Katherine Gidman. It has again allowed the opportunity for elderly people to get out of the house and meet one day a week to enjoy companionship, a hot lunch and other refreshments, plus a range of activities. Needless to say,

there is a waiting list for places and as soon as one becomes available it is filled.

Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers for a number of organisations throughout the Wychwoods. It is also a problem which preoccupies the Trustees of the Day Centre as well and is considered a more immediate issue than the loss of our grant.

A pool of around 50 unpaid volunteers currently drive, cook and help keep the Day Centre operational on a rota basis. We have been so lucky to have so many long standing volunteers, but inevitably we lose a number for a variety of reasons and need replacements. So a big thank you goes to all those that have helped us in the past in so many ways, as well as to all our current volunteers who we rely on completely.

We would love to hear from anybody else who might be prepared to join our team and offer their assistance as we plan our future. We are seeking volunteers to assist in:

1. Driving their own cars about once a month and delivering members to the Hall in Shipton for a 10.30 am start, picking them up again around 3.15 pm to return them home.
2. Cooking a hot lunch of your choice every couple of months, prepared at home or cooked on the premises. Two cooks gen-

erally share the responsibility in preparing a main course, a dessert and cakes and assist on the day. Advise on menu selection and guidelines on quantities is given with expenses being reimbursed for the purchased ingredients.

3. Helping and assisting our Coordinator, about once a month, with the routines through the day to ensure our members are comfortable and entertained.

If you are prepared to give up some time to support the Day Centre in one of these roles, we are sure you would find it re-

warding and with our thanks would ask that you contact us by phone or email to explore it further:

- Katherine Gidman on 01993 831479/email to: klgidman@gmail.com
- or Chris George on 01993 832364/email to: r.chrisgeorge@gmail.com

As we move into uncharted waters with the loss of our grant, we must reiterate our thanks for the tremendous support from the local community and to reassure all that with your help, the Trustees are determined to overcome the challenges ahead.

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FUND RAISING FOR REPAIRS TO ASCOTT CHURCH BELLS

Our fundraising activities are progressing well and we are expecting to reach our £15,000 target early next year which will enable us to start the work in mid to late summer of 2018.

Next year, possibly in early June, we are planning an open gardens event. If you would be happy to open your garden please let me know. We will share the proceeds from this event with Ascott Church.

Thank you to all those who have pledged financial support to this project. We will be collecting the funds that have been pledged and asking you to sign Gift-Aid forms in the spring of 2018.

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

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.....

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

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If you wish to drop in for a session the fee is £7.00

Contact : pam@wychwoodhealing.com

Tel: 07780 572283 for more information

Ascott under Wychwood PC

News October 2017

Our summer flurry of maintenance has slowed down and normality returned – there are school activities and sport on the playing field, the Pavilion is in use again with a new boiler and fresh paint, the verge posts around the Green are all standing upright and – to the relief of so many – the Martyrs’ Benches have returned with gleaming new paint. This is now the season to consolidate outstanding work, plan our finances, prepare for bad weather and look forward to Christmas.

Planning

5 Houses at 12-18 London Lane – This application was rejected by WODC and the applicant has taken it to appeal which is expected to be considered in the New Year.

6 Houses on Maple Way Garage site – Building of these houses should have started on 6 November and is planned to take about 6 months.

Roads

We ‘treated’ our new County Councillor, Liz Leffman, to a tour of the worst problems with our roads and road drainage systems. It is helpful for our senior colleagues to understand the complexities of the village drainage system and how important it is to keep the system maintained. Liz has already organised replacement verge posts around the Green and is continuing to press for Highways to remove the shingle just north of the Chippy Bridge. However OCC do not have the budget for brand

new verge posts opposite Tiddy Hall and – as a matter of policy - will not allow a mirror at the Ascott Earl blind bend. We are trying to negotiate improvements to safety as traffic approaches all 3 entry points to the village.

Emergency Planning

The Parish Emergency Plan is reviewed at this time and we will be updating our database of volunteers. **Look out for a note through your door - we would very much appreciate as many offers of help as possible.** Our Plan is designed to deliver a local response to a minor emergency or a first response while waiting for the Emergency Services to reach us. Typical first responses can be –

- following strict OCC instructions on Road Flood signage,
- early pavement/road gritting and snow ploughing
- clearing certain obstructions in roads, such as small trees
- alerting the correct agency to blocked drainage and sudden deep holes in the road

During more serious emergencies we can make hundreds of sandbags in the Tiddy car park or open refuge centres and we have direct links, if necessary, to the OCC and WODC Emergency teams. All this very local emergency planning has come about as a national policy since the 2007 floods. The good news is that there have been very few Ascott emergencies since the Plan was put into place and a

lot of work done to the river and road drainage. River watchers might like to follow the Environment Agency link to see what our River Evenlode is doing at the Shipton-under-Wychwood gauge - <https://flood-warning.information.service.gov.uk/station/7051>

Please remember that, while we really do try to help anyone in need, Parish response to emergencies is done by volunteers and therefore limited. Recently, we were asked to attend to a very large tree blocking the Shipton Rd. Volunteers did go to the scene armed with chainsaws but this was an emergency for the professionals and it took 6 Firemen to clear the road, so 999 was more appropriate in that situation. If there is a problem on private land or property then the responsibility is that of the owner first and foremost, but call the PC if you are desperate and we might at least be able to advise.

Playing Field and Sports Club

We are very relieved to say that play has resumed on the pitch after a hair-raising time up to August when the weather was so dry that the new grass kept refusing to grow! Enormous thanks must go to Simon Gidman for keeping us sane with his expert advice and hard work, to Shane Barnes for work well beyond his contract, to our band of volunteer waterers and to Laurence Mellor who co-ordinated everyone while working overtime himself. Players report much improved conditions despite wet conditions in October and we were thrilled to see a very successful Charity Fun Run take place after cancellation last year.

Ascott Football Club now currently fields 2 senior teams, with under 16s training early on Wednesday evenings and a junior session on Sunday mornings. Please contact the Manager, Mike Ody via e-mail - finalgoal7@aol.com - if you are interested in getting involved. There is usually a senior match every Saturday afternoon if you would like to watch. The players would be thrilled to have your support.

Martyrs Seats

The siting of the Martyrs Seats has only come under discussion because the birds are so active in the tree above that it can be impossible to keep the seats clean for more than a few minutes. We have had recent complaints from residents and even visitors who have made special trips to Ascott because of the history of the Ascott Martyrs. There has been a volunteer cleaning rota but it can be very disheartening and the PC cannot afford to pay to keep them clean at all times. We have been assured by the company (who originally supplied the seats and this summer refurbished them) that the new paintwork is stronger than the original and should be more resilient to the acid effect of bird muck. We shall see.

The Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust (AMET) has started a debate about whether the seats can be protected or whether they should be moved slightly away from under the tree. This is just a debate and absolutely nothing is decided. Your views/suggested solutions would be very interesting to us so please get in touch with a member of AMET or the Parish Council.

And finally:

CHRISTMAS!

Before you know it the Christmas Tree will be up on the Green. Don't forget to come with family, friends and strong voices to 'Carols on the Green' at 6pm on Christmas Eve.

We wish you happiness and peace at this festive season!

Parish Council:

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



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THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Trans-Siberian Railway. Those three words are so evocative and for me they will always remind me of a truly fantastic holiday. We have been to Russia on four different occasions but this was something Mark had really wanted to do - to go on the train from Moscow to Vladivostok. However, I was not so sure that I wanted to spend 12 nights on a train especially as I knew our cabin/living accommodation was not much bigger than our bathroom but we did have our own “facilities” even though they were very small and fairly basic.

However it seemed too exciting a holiday to miss and so we found ourselves in Moscow with about 20 other English speaking people being shown the highlights of Red Square starting with a private tour of the Armoury Palace Museum inside the Kremlin. This housed a sumptuous collection of works that celebrated Russia’s imperial heritage including the tsars’ personal effects, displays of gold and silver from the 12th to 17th centuries, jewellery, crowns, thrones, coronation gowns and a fabulous collection of Faberge eggs. There was also an impressive collection of carriages and sleighs the largest of which took about 12 horses to pull, the smallest, a miniature coach made for the young Peter the Great, was pulled by ponies with dwarves serving as coachmen. It was all luxuriously lavish and I wished I could have spent longer wandering round admiring all the amazingly extravagant items on display. But there were plenty of other things to see in the Kremlin including the largest bell in the world, the largest cannon and the three

cathedrals enclosed within the Kremlin walls (of which we only went round one). However we did visit the well-known St Basil’s Cathedral with its colourful



domes. It is said that the two architects who designed it were blinded by Ivan the Terrible so that they could never again create such a beautiful church.

We also visited the one and only extant underground bunker 65 metres beneath the centre of Moscow. We could hear the underground trains running above us as we were shown a terrifying mock-up which gave us a vision of how the Cold War might have ended if it hadn't been brought to a peaceful conclusion.

We were then escorted on to our train, “The Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express”. An old steam engine pulled us slowly out of the station at the start of our journey of a lifetime whilst we settled into our cabin and tried to find space for all the clothes and knick knacks we had brought with us and we both agreed we would really have to be ultra-tidy if we were to survive the journey without getting in too much of a tizzy!

We travelled across Tatarstan, whose capital, Kazan, is one of Russia's largest and most prosperous cities situated on the Volga River. Like the day before, the weather was very warm (28-30 degrees) which is the usual temperature for June – but not August. We visited the local Kremlin, now a World Heritage Site, and the Cathedral with its 5 beautiful domes. There was a wooden tower, near the cathedral, made up of 7 storeys and rumour has it that it had been built in 7 days but this is thought to be a myth. However, over the years it started to lean very noticeably and repairs had to be carried out to strengthen it. We went inside the nearby Kul Sharif Mosque which is reputed to be able to hold 5,000 people at Prayer Time. We were allowed to go up a narrow staircase to the Visitors' Gallery and could then look down on the Women's Prayer Area and the much larger Men's Prayer Area. On the way back to the train, we drove over the Volga River on Kazan's Millennium Bridge.

Next day we crossed the Southern part of the Ural Mountains and approached the geographical border between Europe and Asia, where we were given a celebratory drink which we were able to enjoy with one foot in Europe and the other in Asia! We were then driven on to Yekaterinburg which is synonymous with the murder of the Romanov family by the Bolsheviks in 1918. The Tsar and his family were imprisoned in a house there but some two months later, on the orders of the Bolshevik Government, they were escorted to the cellar and shot together with the faithful servants who had accompanied them. Their bodies were then taken to a mine 25 miles outside the town where guards spent three days destroying the evidence before burning the bodies. The house

where the Romanovs were executed was demolished in 1976 and a simple white cross marked the spot until 2000. The Church on the Blood now stands here and contains an exhibition telling the story of the Romanov Family and what happened to them. Outside the church is a large statue of Tsar Nicholas holding his young son in his arms with the Tsarina and their 4 daughters clustered around a large cross.

Yekaterinburg's other claim to fame is that Boris Yeltsin was born there and his family founded the Yeltsin Centre which was recently opened to the public and tells of Yeltsin's rise to power.

Day 4 and it's my birthday! When we returned from breakfast our cabin attendant had made up our cabin for us and had fastened a banner and 2 balloons to the curtains saying Congratulations and Happy Birthday. (The next day after breakfast, the balloons and banner had vanished because someone else was having a birthday!) We spent the morning travelling on the train and had our second lecture entitled "Post Revolution: Lenin



to Stalin". After lunch, we arrived at Novosibirsk where we disembarked for our afternoon visit. The choice was quite difficult to make as neither a Railway Museum nor a Mineralogical Museum

appealed to either of us. So we decided to separate and go on different excursions.

Next day we stayed on the train all day but were entertained by another lecture (Khrushchev and Breznev), a Russian class, a documentary and a talk on the history of the Trans-Siberian Railway. It also gave us a chance to look out of the window at the passing scenery which I found absolutely fascinating. For mile after mile we passed shabby looking villages with very small houses most of which had large gardens filled with vegetables and a few had tunnel shaped plastic greenhouses. In one village a woman was standing by the side of a culvert watching her cows, sheep and goats. But everywhere was very wet and soggy looking and you couldn't always tell whether the track was a "road" or a stream. The best way to get around was by quad bike or tractor. Mostly the ground was covered with grassy weeds and shrubs and there were silver birches galore. The land was not cultivated and the same scenery could go on for mile after mile. Another time, I saw masses of telegraph poles and pylons standing beside a disused shell of a huge factory and other abandoned buildings which were then hidden from view by a freight train pulling at least 79 huge tankers (I lost count) into the nearby town which was built beside a large lake.



There was a signal box just before the town and four cars waiting to cross the track but what amused me was a very neat little wooden path which led to the toilet! The town had a football pitch with a wooden stand for the fans and an old man was holding a child by the hand as they walked across the fields. It was also surprising how many large rivers and streams ran alongside the train throughout the whole journey as we meandered along the tracks for miles at a time.

Next day we arrived in Irkutsk and had a quick bus tour of the town stopping at an amazing little church which had been used as a bakery at some point but has now been converted back to a church. It had a small icon of Tsar Nicholas II with his family set into the wall. We then visited a museum which had a collection of Mongolian clothes and artefacts some of which are very similar to what is used today.



The following day we arrived at Lake Baikal known as the Pearl of Siberia which is situated in one of the most beautiful locations in Russia. The lake is about 395 miles long and 50 miles across at its widest point. It was originally 5

miles deep but the lake's 336 tributaries have deposited 4 miles of silt on the bottom. Consequently it now plunges to a depth of only one mile deep. It is so large that it has its own weather system and unique diversity of plant and animal life. Around 80% of the species here cannot be found anywhere else in the world. The lake is crystal clear due to several species of sponge that continually filter the lake's water. It is so clear that items resting on the lake floor seem deceptively close to the surface. It is also bitterly cold although some hardy souls from our train managed to have a quick dip and were rewarded with a hot toddy by one of the train attendants.



Our last stop before we cross the border into Mongolia is Ulan-Ude, the capital of the Buryat autonomous republic. We drove out of the town to visit a village of "Old Believers" who are descendants of



the religious dissidents who split from the mainstream Orthodox Church in the 17th century and were exiled to Siberia. The indigenous people of the region, the Buryats,

put up the stiffest resistance to attempts throughout history to infiltrate their culture and, to this day, they still preserve their unique culture, language and religious beliefs.

Having crossed the Russian/Mongolian border during the night, we arrived at Ulaan Baatar which apparently is the coldest capital in the world. It is a bizarre cocktail of ancient temples, crumbling Soviet-era apartment blocks, newer glass towers and derelict suburbs of gers (yurts) and brick houses. We visited a Buddhist monastery before going on to see an enormous stainless steel statue of Genghis Khan sitting on his horse, holding his golden whip. You could walk up quite a lot of steps to the viewing platform on the horse's head or take the easy option of a lift rising up through the horse's tail and on through to the head where there was a fantastic panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

Having crossed the border back into Russia, we had two days on the train but had lectures, discussions, documentaries and a couple of films to keep us occupied. We also had a piano recital and then those passengers who had been learning Russian also entertained us with a couple of songs to show us how proficient they were. Some of the more energetic passengers took the opportunity, when the train stopped to refuel, to run up and down the platform in an effort to keep up their fitness regime! Not us though!

We were coming to the end of our holiday after an incredible journey passing

through 8 time zones across Europe and Asia traversing taiga (pine, fir and larch forests), tundra and permafrost on this amazing train and we had travelled nearly 6,000 miles. We were all quite sad when we arrived in Vladivostok, the home of Russia's Pacific Fleet. The city has been inhabited for at least 4,000 years and was part of China for most of this time. Until 1990, Vladivostok was off-limits to all visitors because of its military and strategic importance as one of Russia's key naval ports. Today ferries travel to ports in Japan and Korea and the city has a very cosmopolitan air with many people driving right-hand-drive Japanese cars. Over the years Vladivostok has grown from a military outpost to a thriving city. Its proximity to China and Japan make it a lucrative base for merchants but its military origins have never been forgotten.

We were given a tour of the city which included enjoying views of Vladivostok harbour and the Gold Horn Bay and we also looked round a WW2 submarine before being taken to our hotel to prepare

for our final Farewell Dinner at a magnificent seafood restaurant.

Next day we took a plane back to Moscow which took 8 hours. We managed to have a snack for breakfast at our hotel and were then given a three-course lunch and a three-course dinner on the plane. We began to feel quite ready to go to bed but it was only 10.00am in Moscow and we had the whole day ahead of us before it was time for bed.

The whole trip was magical and I feel very lucky to have been on it. The scenery has been like nothing I have seen before – vast flat green plains stretching miles into the distance. We saw villagers gathering in the hay with pitchforks making little haystacks ready for the winter. Trees standing guard on the tops of distant hills. Rivers rushing by. Enormously long freight trains. Mongolian horsemen with their yaks. And everyone we spoke to wanted to chat to us and tell us about their country. I can't wait to visit it again!

Rosemary Dawbarn

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OFSTED June 2014

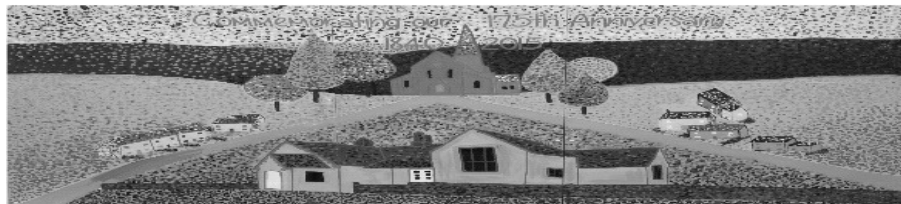
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IF IT WASN'T FOR ME BEING A MISERABLE OLD GIT, I WOULD BE FULL OF JOLLY JOY OF THE SEASON.

There is something about the character of Scrooge which I admire
Especially when I hear, the bleeping from the checkout till

In a supermarket store.

Or when those middle aged amazons charge with their over laden
Trolleys up and down the shopping alleys

Pushing, shoving everyone. While from the loudspeakers

The sickly carols come. Peace on earth, goodwill to man.

And nodding Santa Claus laughs on. Ho Ho Ho.

Until the batteries run down and someone bursts the red balloon.

It's humbug I say. Humbug. Baa.

And it's humbug when I hear, "Well it's only Christmas after all."

When some loutish, drunken bore is sick along the arcade floor.

Or when some screaming child won't do what it's told.

Demanding the most expensive toy.

While pandering parents easily give way to their little pride and joy.

Humbug, humbug. That's what I say.

And I am Scrooge like when I see the plastic baby Jesus packed away

With the artificial Christmas tree.

Until again the Advent celebrations

When he is dusted down and then stuck up with all the other decorations.

All my long life I've never known a plan

For plastic baby Jesus to grow up and become a real man.

Humbug, humbug, that's what I say.

If you don't agree, please yourself, it's no skin off my nose

Have a happy Yuletide.

Fred Russel

THE BELLS, THE BELLS!

Did you know Campanologists are a very strange breed of people? I have seen over the years most Anglican priests often have this 'stand-off' with bellringers. At times a very uneasy peace.

I have seen in our own parish church how reluctant the vicars are to enter the belfry if the bellringers are in there. I have seen them timidly tap on the bell-tower door hoping they will be granted audience by ringers who occupy the place like illegal squatters.

Usually the bells are rung down five minutes before the service is due to start. It's then you see them slink out of the belfry, proudly march down the nave and out through the main church door. In years gone by, maybe to read the News of the World before the pubs opened after twelve o'clock. It wasn't until the latter half of the last century public houses opened before the end of the service on Sunday morning.

When did this schism begin between the clergy and the bellringers? By the middle of the last century many ringers were late middle aged men who had survived the First World War. They were no longer going to be ordered around by the clergy or the church. Does this standoff go even further back in time? To the old religion when the peasants went into the Wychwood Forest to worship the spirits of the wood.

George Longshaw always rang the tenor bell. He lived in the house overlooking the churchyard with his wife Nellie. Nellie was sister to Ada Cook who was the grannie of Mary Barnes who lives in the

same house as did George and Nellie, her great uncle and aunt.

George Longshaw survived the trenches of the First World War. I never saw him stop to a Sunday service. He could have stopped sometimes to the Harvest Festival service held on a Thursday night in mid-autumn, when the congregation filled the church and every vacant space was loaded with fruit and vegetables.

When he came home safe after serving in the Navy in the Second World War, Owen Shirley, my uncle, caught the bug and became a very keen bellringer for the rest of his life. In the early years after the War he would get on his bike on a dark December night and pushbike along the lane to help the Shiptonites ring in the New Year.

I tried bellringing over fifty years ago. Not with much success. I could never remember what the changes were when Freddie Alden called them out.

Once during ringing practise I let go of the rope before the bell was fully rung down. The rope writhed about the belfry like a wild snake. When things settled down, Frank Tucker shouts to me, "Don't you ever do that again. I could have been hung."

Many is the time I've been tempted to boo and hiss when the ringers have walked out before the service. But it would be bad form and the hissing may make the vicar think there was a gas leak. I would give this advice to all young clergy when dealing with bellringers. Put your foot down with a firm hand before it's too late.

Fred Russell

THE WYCHWOOD SINGERS

Singing in a choir has become a popular pastime in recent years and over the past six years the Wychwood Singers has gone from strength to strength. The choir has rapidly grown to 50+ choristers of all ages, all of whom share one common purpose – to enjoy singing with friends in four-part harmony.

We practise every Tuesday at the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood, from 1 pm to 2.30 pm. Anyone is welcome from the least to the most experienced and no audition is required. Everybody agrees that it is a great social event and an uplifting experience.

Our repertoire extends from Gospel to pop, folk to classical. We have sung at weddings, social events, concerts, charity fundraisers and were delighted to be awarded a distinction at a recent Chipping Norton Festival. This year we performed at the Burford Festival singing to a sell-out audience.

If you would like to join us or have more information, call the Secretary, Joanna van de Poll on 01993 830090 or email thewychwoodsingers@gmail.com.

ROBIN MARTIN-OLIVER – MUSICAL DIRECTOR

As a singer Robin had an extensive and varied career appearing with many of the country's leading companies, performing principal roles with, for example, Glyndebourne Opera and Covent Garden. He is Musical Director for several choirs in Oxfordshire and is in demand as a vocal coach and Stage Director.

LYDIA TOMITA – ACCOMPANIST

Lydia studied music at Royal Holloway University of London, where she specialised in performance. We are very privileged that she has joined The Wychwood Singers as our regular accompanist.

The choir is available for weddings and fund-raising events within a reasonable distance of Shipton-under-Wychwood.

Our final concert for 2017 will be at St Simon & St Jude Church, Milton-under-Wychwood at 7 pm on Thursday, December 14th – A Christmas Celebration.

Why not come along and give it a go (first two visits free) or just come along and listen to us in rehearsal.

Gardening in Ascott

Remember your Feathered Friends this Winter!

I do love this time of year with the sun low in the sky, the shorter days and longer nights in front of the crackling of an open fire; but Winter is a tough time for our garden birds, the cold damp weather and limited food supply create a really challenging environment for our feathered friends who will often struggle to find enough insects, worms, berries and seeds to eat and this can cause their body weight to drop considerably. Your garden can be a real sanctuary for our native birds and by providing a variety of food you can improve their chances of survival at this time of year.

In Winter, birds need high energy, high fat foods and once you start offering food it is important to keep your feeders topped up. A fresh supply of water is also essential as birds not only love a drink, but they also need to bathe. They must be able to keep their feathers clean in order to keep warm in severe weather. Keep the water clean and fresh to avoid disease and in very cold weather keep the bath clear of ice. If the bath is made of metal and stone, a night light underneath will stop any ice from forming.

Mealworms make a great alternative to the food they would usually find in the ground at this time of the year; they are hugely nutritious and will attract a wide range of birds to your bird-table including robins, wrens, blue tits, blackbirds and pied wagtails. I pre-soak my mealworms as the birds seem to appreciate the extra moisture. Put out food appropriate for the

feeding habits and preferences of the birds that visit your garden. Seed eaters, such as chaffinches, greenfinches and tits enjoy being offered a supply of seeds such as black sunflower seed all through the year. Ground-feeding blackbirds and thrushes like windfall apples and pears. Winter visitors such as redwings and fieldfares from Scandinavia, may be attracted too.

Peanuts are rich in fat and attract a host of birds, including house sparrows, nuthatches, siskins and great spotted woodpeckers. Crushed or chopped nuts may be put out for robins and hedge sparrows. Apart from putting out special food for the birds there are several other ways in which we can attract more bird species into our gardens.

Grow shrubs which have berries and fruit such as Elder, Rowan, Hawthorn, Honeysuckle, Holly, Ivy, Mahonia, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha, Honeysuckle, Viburnum opulus, Rosa canina and rugosa, Sunflowers and Teasel. Although holly berries are often ripe by autumn, birds such as song thrushes, blackbirds and fieldfares do not usually feed on them until late winter. Only female plants produce berries so there must be a male holly nearby to ensure pollination. The more berrying plants you grow the better, as these provide a perennial source of nutritious antioxidant-rich food for birds in the winter, which is a longer lasting and more reliable way to help birds than by filling feeders. These plants may also provide nesting sites. In

autumn ivy flowers attract insects which provide food for robins and wrens. When the black berries appear in the middle of winter they are devoured by thrushes, starlings, finches and blackbirds. The shiny clusters of haws can stay on the Hawthorn until February or March. They are the favourite berry of blackbirds, fieldfares, chaffinches, starlings and greenfinches. The leaves are the food-plant for caterpillars of many species of moth, providing food for baby birds in spring. Honeysuckle is ideal to grow when space is tight. In autumn it provides berries and shelter for birds such as thrushes and bullfinches. In summer, its scented flowers attract insects and provides food for a vast range of birds. Depending on which species of Rowan you plant, it will bear berries from late July (*Sorbus aucuparia*) to November (*Sorbus torminalis*). The tall architectural Teasel plant is a stalwart of naturalistic plantings which form striking seedheads in early autumn, which can last until December depending on the weather. These are enjoyed by goldfinches and sparrows which feast on the compact seedheads. Leave the faded flowers on your sunflowers to form large seedheads. The plentiful seeds tightly packed at the centre, provide oil-

rich nourishment throughout autumn for finches, long tailed tits and other seed-eating birds. The Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* bears heavy clusters of glossy berries from November through to March. These are loved by mistle thrushes and bullfinches. Some of the largest rosehips are produced by the hedging rose *Rosa rugosa* a favourite of blackbirds, fieldfares and mistle thrushes. The smaller hips of the dog rose *Rosa canina*, are eaten by a wide range of birds and stay juicy until late winter.

Bear in mind that birds prefer slightly untidy gardens. Leave dead heads on plants so that the birds can pick out the seeds. Leave some autumn leaf litter on the lawn so that birds can scratch around in it for insects. Leave some aphids on the roses for blue tits to enjoy. If you have thrushes in your garden they will help to control the slug and snail population so there should be no need to resort to chemicals or pesticides. Birds are a gardeners best friend and can really help us to keep our gardens looking good in addition we have the added benefit of being able to watch some of our most beautiful garden birds at close quarters so we need to do our best to look after them this winter!

Juliet Ingram

Ascott Charity Run 2017

The Village Charity held its 10k and 5k run on the 29th October attracting entries not only from Ascott but from running clubs as far away as Kenilworth. There were 71 entries for the gruelling 10k run and 37 entries for the 5k, a small increase on the last race that was held in 2015.

The event was a success in all ways, competitors complemented us on how well the race was organised and financially, after paying all costs, we raised £1,269. We will be donating £1,000 to the Church Bell repair fund and the remainder will be added to our charitable funds.

The full race results will be published on the village web site, but the prize winners are as follows:

5k

Male	Time	Female	Time
1 st Matthew Lock	19:42	1 st Abi Norgrove	27:03
2 nd Kevin Dykes	20:25	2 nd Susie Morgan	28:45
3 rd Alex Spaul	22:01	3 rd Anne Smith	29:11

10k

Male	Time	Female	Time
1 st Connor Carson	36:35	1 st Elysia Harrison	43:08
2 nd Sam O'Neill	37:10	2 nd Stef Lunn	47:44
3 rd Richard Taylor	39:53	3 rd Jo Creber	47:55

Male Veteran 40+

Time
Chris Colbeck
40:37
Kenny Lowies
42:10

Female Veteran 35+

Time
Inge Dornan
50:16
Lucy Garrod
49:36

Without the many volunteers who are happy to give up their time both before the event and on the day, the races would not be able to take place. Special mention

must be made of Mark Pidgeon and Elaine Byles who designed, laid-out and marked the two courses, Charles Marshall who organised the course marshals and John Cull who keeps all of us focused and enthusiastic. However there are many more jobs to be filled on the day and we must thank the course marshals, the ladies providing refreshments, those waiting at the finish line with their stop watches, the two ladies who collected the entry fees and those responsible for recording the runners and their running times and finally a big thank you to Ros & Roger Shepherd and Katherine and Bradley Wickens. Well done to you all for making the day such a success!

A big thank you also to our sponsors, Rooflight, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Penningtons Manches and The Wychwood Folk Club.

10k photo's by Barry Cornelius

1st 5k Female

Abi Norgrove



1st 5k Male

Matthew Lock



1st 10k Female

Elysia Harrison



1st 10k 35+ Female

Inge Dornan



1st 10k 45+ Female

Lucy Garrod



1st 10k Male

Connor Carson



1st 10k 40+ Male

Chris Colbeck



1st 10k 50+ Male

Kenny Lowies



Humming Bird Hawk Moth

I was walking back from the shop yesterday and saw this humming bird hawk moth on Nicola Coldstream's Valerian. I was just thinking I wish I had my phone on me when John Cull came along and I asked him if he had his phone, so here we are a photo. I happened to see Nicola when I walked round this morning and showed her. She said would I mind sending it to you for the Grapevine. I also saw John this morning and asked him if this was the best one and he said he would have another look. Of course not easy to take a picture of because of their hovering all the time!!



Lyn Collins

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Rotary Club of Burford & Kingham

Early autumn was marked by a successful sponsored charity cycle ride to Paris. The last day involved a 93 mile cycle and a celebration evening of the arrival at our linked club of Savigny d'Orge. Clearly, some members have more stamina than others! Over £2000 has been raised for local charities and the orphanage in Africa supported by a local Rotary club & mentioned in Tom Tuckwood's interesting talk to the club late this summer.

An "impromptu" Burford street collection raised £187 for the ShelterBox charity to help the disastrous typhoon flooding, etc., in Puerto Rico. A big thank you to all who gave so generously!

In late October, thanks to the Hickman Bros Ltd free loan of a turf cutter we planted several thousand crocus corms adjacent to the A40 roundabout to advertise the worldwide Rotary "Purple4Polio" campaign to eradicate polio.

At our meetings, Burford firemen talked about plans for a sponsored walk along the River Thames next year which will involve "volunteers" carrying the heavy camera equipment to film the entire route as a "Google Street View" production! The club gave £500 towards their initial expenses. Please contribute to their charities next year! David Brown, a member of the North Cotswold Rotary club, gave a fascinating talk about the scuttling (& retrieving) of the German fleet at the end of World War 1, after which he donated his honorarium to the Cycle Ride charities. In November Peter Aylmer will give his widely acclaimed talk on "Life over 40 years as a Vet" & club member Jane Coombs will present her "my job" talk.

In addition, members visited the Woodstock Rotary Club and the Chipping Norton theatre to see the entertaining production "Sherlock Holmes & the Crimson Cabbles".

In December, Robert Llewellyn who is known to many as Red Dwarf from BBC TV, Scrapheap Challenge presenter and author is coming to speak at our Charter Night & Christmas dinner.

Finally, may we wish you all a ...

"MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

A HAPPY, HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS 2018"

Ascott Martyrs



Stop looking in your loft?

The Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust and the Wychwood Players have been trying to track down the scripts of previous plays about the Martyrs, one in particular written by Doris Warner and performed in the early 1950s. The good news is that not only have we found the script of Doris Warner's play but also a Chipping Norton School production in 1977 by Junior Drama Club and the Spring Street Theatre Company, performed at the Theatre Chipping Norton in 1982. So thanks to all those who have been looking in their lofts, and where were they? In Ralph Mann's files in the Chipping Norton Museum! Says Chairman Paul Jackson "we are now able to talk to schools if they want to perform the story"

Martyrs Day

Meanwhile plans are afoot for Martyrs Day on Saturday 23 June 2018 when it is hoped to present with the Wychwood Players an enactment of the court scene from 1873 when 16 women were sent to prison for picketing when their husbands were on strike. It is believed to be the first picketing incident of its type and it soon led to the law changing and enabling picketing to become legal.

Seats!

Full marks to the Parish Council (PC) for renovating the seats under the Martyrs Tree BUT we still have the problem of daily muck from roosting birds which not only corrodes the seats but doesn't exactly encourage their use either. Working with the PC we are thinking through the options like moving them out from under the tree to building mini roofs over them. If anyone has any ideas please speak with the PC or call Paul Jackson on 831967. Either way we are keen to provide more information on the story on or around the seats.

Archives researcher wanted

Now we have a website up and running we are looking for someone (a good charity project for Duke of Edinburgh's Awards?) to research the media in 1873. We have some but we want to comb the local paper websites and then put them all chronologically on the website. The local and national press at the time played a very significant part highlighting the injustices which led to a pardon from Queen Victoria. Call Paul Jackson 01993 831967

Pictures

- A) Martyrs direct descendants with their work
Marilyn Baker (Moss) Ascott resident and
Janet Wiltshire (Honeybone) from Milton
under Wychwood.



- B) Group picture with their work in progress.

Tutor Claire Goodall (left), Vicki Robb, Sue Richards, Behind -Marilyn Baker, front Ann Smith, behind Enid Hugil, front - Alice Burns, Behind -Cynthia Briant, Janet Wiltshire, Christine Kuznik. Missing Pippa Carter and Sara Tribe.

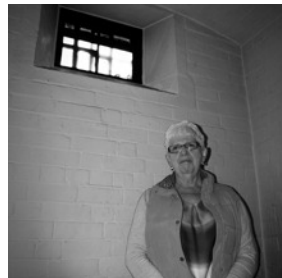


- C) Work in Progress



- D) Locked up! Marilyn Moss a descendant and nominee for the Trust in the jails at Chipping Norton during the recent open day organised by the Trust.

www.ascottmartyrs.org.uk





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Vet's Advice

Of cats and bunnies

Is a Jaguar a cat?

Harry and I recently had an amazing holiday in Brazil. We spent some time in the Pantanal - one of the world's largest areas of wetland. We had the privilege of seeing 12 jaguars during our time there and on one occasion actually HEARD a jaguar growl. It sounded like a cat but a very, very big cat. We were out on a walk with a guide at the time. He turned out to be one of the calmest people on the planet - on hearing the loud growl he simply turned around and said "I think we will take a different path". We followed. No running, no crouching down, stay calm.



Tickle my Tummy

Back home again. 2 different clients in one week lost 2 pet rabbits each. Sudden death - no signs of illness. We performed a post mortem on one of the bunnies and I sent a frozen sample of the liver to the diagnostic laboratory requesting tests for specific viruses. The rabbit was found to be positive for a relatively new virus called VHD2 (Viral Haemorrhagic Disease 2). The number 2 in this case turned out to be very important as all the rabbits had been vaccinated against Myxomatosis and VHD1. A new vaccine has been developed for VHD2 but we hadn't pushed it as we weren't sure of the prevalence in our area. A lesson for us - don't wait for an outbreak. We are now encouraging all owners to vaccinate against all 3 diseases (Myxomatosis, VHD1 and VHD2).

Vaccination remains a contentious issue as the great MMR debacle illustrated. In a recent book called *The Vaccine Race* I was reminded of the fear that I had as a child that I might get polio. I had seen a film in which a child was placed in an "iron lung" to keep her alive when her muscles were weakened by the polio virus. I also had a friend in callipers. She had lost the use of one of her legs after contracting polio. Vaccination has wiped out polio - a truly amazing feat.

This does not mean that we should stop questioning the frequency of vaccinations, possible side effects and numerous ethical issues around the development and trials of vaccines. However, vaccines do have a huge, valuable role to fill in human and veterinary medicine.

Karen Kappen

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Ascott Pre-school

Changing seasons at Ascott Preschool

We are well into our first term here at preschool and what a busy one it has been! We've welcomed many of our children back after the summer holidays and are so pleased to be joined by new families too.

As we move from Autumn into Winter, we are enjoying taking the older children out for walks into the village and further afield to Leaffield Community Woods as we get them prepared for their first Forest School outings to the Bruern Estate.

The children have loved visiting the church and we have even enjoyed a little trip to the Village Shop to buy biscuits to have with a hot chocolate and a rest in The Pound! We also took a trip up to Gypsy Lane to pick blackberries, which the children then turned into delicious miniature crumbles to take home and enjoy with their families.

Already the children have noticed big changes in their natural surroundings, with leaves changing colour and falling off the trees and the days getting colder.

We have been running a successful Forest School programme, for children aged three and above, every Wednesday throughout the school term for the last nine years. During Forest School, children can learn about all aspects of woodland life, from den and fire building, to identifying animal footprints, fungus and net-

ties and spotting some of the wide variety of wildlife in the woods too.

Soon the children will go on their very first trips to the Bruern Estate, by kind permission of the Astor family, where they will be continuing visits for the rest of the school year.

30-hour funding

In September, a new Government Initiative enabled families, where both parents are working (or one if a lone parent), to access 30 hours of childcare funding for children aged three and above. To be entitled to the funding, both parents must earn at least the equivalent of the minimum wage for 16 hours a week, though their combined earnings must be under £100,000 per year.

This commitment from the Government is a great step towards an enhanced childcare provision nationwide and Ascott Preschool is pleased to be able to offer flexible extra hours to support working families. It is important to note that families with three and four year olds, who are not eligible for 30 hour funding will still receive the current 15 hours funding.

We currently have spaces available for children aged two and above on our sessions, which now run from 9am – 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and from 9 – 12.45pm on a Thursday. These sessions include child-led learning through play, craft, messy play, singing, Forest School, Cooking Club and

dancing sessions with the wonderful Dancing Sally.

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

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

Wychwood Library

Wychwood Library will be open between Christmas and New Year!

Get out of the house and meet up with your friends on Wednesday 27th December for our regular Coffee morning. We will also be open on Friday 29th and Saturday 30 at the usual times.

Events for DECEMBER 2017, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2018

Tai Chi: Mondays at 10am

Knitting Group: Monday 13th November, Monday 11th December and Monday 12th December at 7pm. All knitters and want to be knitters welcome. Also help with sewing!

Coffee mornings: Wednesdays from 10 – 12am

Storytime for 6 – 10 year olds: Fridays at 6.30pm. Serialised story time with hot chocolate and marshmallows!

Wychwood Circle: Sunday December 10th, Ian Cave, “Robots, Humans and the Ethics of AI.

Sunday January 14th, Tom Simpson: Can we still trust the experts?”

February discussion date to be advised. All at 7pm.

Evening Reading Group: Monday 4th December, Monday 8th January and Monday 5th February at 7.30pm

Afternoon Reading Group: Thursday 14th December, 11th January and 8th February at 1.30pm

Poetry Club: Thursday 21st December, 18th January and 15th February at 2.30pm

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and thank you for all your wonderful support during 2017.

Ruth Gillingham

TIDDY HALL

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WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



In association with the Wychwood Brewery

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

Sat Nov 25th **Kim Lowings & the Greenwood**

Tiddy Hall

Inspired by the folk tradition, **Kim Lowings & The Greenwood** perform their songs with a contemporary twist. Their live shows are an energetic blend of original compositions and traditional songs. Kim Lowings, Andrew Lowings, Tim Rogers and Dave Sutherland bring together their multi-instrumental skill and individual experience resulting in an innovative and sensitive approach to arrangements.

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door.

Sat Dec 23rd **The Songs of Sandy Denny & Fotheringay** **+ 15 String Trio**

Tiddy Hall

The musical achievements and professional experiences of the band combined is too long to list and spans 40+ years, you couldn't find folk who know more about folk.

The line-up for tonight is PJ Wright, Sally Barker. Anna Ryder and Mat Davies. A night celebrating the music of Sandy Denny.

Katrina Davies will also join the boys as together they form the fabulous **15 String Trio**

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Sat Jan 13th **The Goat Roper Rodeo Band**

Tiddy Hall

With just an upright bass, two old guitars and a bucketful of aching harmony, **The Goat Roper Rodeo Band** are preaching 'Country Blues' like you never heard... It's up, it's down, it's soft and loud, it's dark and lonesome too, there's hurt and shame and some mean old pain but there's love in what they do! There's a hint of Gram, a sniff of Dylan and a twist of Waylon's blues ... Simply put, it's exactly what it says on the tin.

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door

Sat Feb 3rd **Phil Beer**

Tiddy Hall

Phil is one of the most popular ambassadors for acoustic roots music. A dazzling instrumentalist, he is perhaps best known as a top flight fiddler and plays in the all-star line-up, Feast of Fiddles. But his skills don't stop there, he also plays slide, Spanish and tenor guitar, mandocello, viola, mandolin and South American cuatro, not to mention contributing rich vocals.

Tickets £14.00 in advance £16.00 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

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SHOP NEWS – Winter 2017/8

General

Since the Autumn edition the shop has continued to run at a marginal profit. Our volunteers continue to surpass all expectations by covering extra shifts made vacant by illness, holiday and pressing other commitments. As a result, our staff costs have been reduced and our general overheads have been cut. We have, though, purchased essential new and replacement equipment. In particular, a new stand-by air conditioning unit and a new computerised till, both of which were mentioned in the last edition of Grapevine - these have both been installed at a considerable cost to our reserve funds. The new air conditioning unit is tested every two months and works well. The new till seems, *with fingers firmly crossed here*, to have settled down after a few teething problems and is working much more reliably than the old one.

Maintenance

We have carried out a maintenance audit to identify work that needs doing. I am pleased to report that both the internal and external fabric of our shop is in good condition with only minor works required to external paintwork and a small amount of touching up to internal walls. The storeroom floor needs to be repainted but this is a fairly simple task and will be done early in the new year by volunteers.

I would like publicly to thank Geoff Taylor for the report he produced and for doing so much of this work himself, often with the help of Laurence Mellor. Together they save the shop a lot of money in maintenance costs.

Volunteers

I am delighted to welcome Tamsyn Markham and Sarah Tribe to our list of volunteers. They both serve at the counter and are a great asset to the team. I would also like to say a special thank you to those who volunteer to work the weekend shifts, which are ably controlled by Mark Tribe. Though a lot of us are retired, it is still, I think, an extra commitment to give up that valuable free time we all look forward to at the weekend.

Our volunteers:

Serve our customers with a smile and very often a chat

Keep the shelves stocked

Promote and market the shop and its produce

Organise and carry out maintenance

Administer the shop and ensure good governance

If you want to join us, please call me or Bridgette in the shop and we will discuss how and what you can do to help us and keep the shop alive

Finances

At the half-way point this year our sales very slightly exceeded the forecast and our overhead costs were up on 2016 by only £20. Despite increases in electricity, water and equipment maintenance, the savings on wage costs and our insurance have helped greatly.

A comparative table for July sales (a good indicator of the annual trend) over the last three years shows a small decline in sales, an increase in loss and slightly fewer customer visits:

	2017	2016	2015
Sales £	12,071	12,010	12,200
Profit (Loss)	(574)	(368)	267
Customer visits	3,094	3,118	3,260
Sales per visit £	4.34	4.13	4

As a snapshot, this indicates the shop is holding its own and remains viable. As I wrote in my last piece for Grapevine, we are spending a lot on replacing old and unreliable, yet essential, equipment and our reserves are now reduced by over £6,500 during the year. Because of the unexpected, and therefore not-budgeted, purchases of the new till and air-conditioner, I wrote to the Parish Council in July, asking for a grant of £1,977 to cover half of the cost to the shop. I have just heard that the parish Council, at its September meeting, rejected our request; this is regretted and might reduce our options for replacing essential equipment next year. However, it will not directly affect our short to medium-term viability.

Christmas

I hope, along with all our volunteers, to welcome many of you to the shop in the weeks leading to Christmas. As always, Bridgette our Manager will have some special treats to enjoy over the Christmas period.

Nick Leadbetter

See over page for Parish Council response to shop funding.

RESPONSE FROM ASCOTT-U-W PARISH COUNCIL RE ASCOTT SHOP

Ascott Parish Council considered Nick Leadbetter's request for a grant to the Village Shop at the first PC meeting after receiving his letter i.e. September. Regrettably, due to a misunderstanding, the decision was not communicated directly after the meeting and the PC Chairman unreservedly apologised to Nick Leadbetter as soon as she was made aware of the mistake.

To clarify the reason for our decision at the time we should explain that each financial year all Parish Councils have a small discretionary fund to use for expenditure which is not their core responsibility. Ascott Village Shop is not one of our core responsibilities and its request must be considered and compared with other non-core requests for grants.

Unfortunately, over the past 3 years County Council budget cuts have forced Parish Councils to use this discretionary fund for what we have come to regard as essential services - in Ascott's case the Wychwood Library, the Day Centre and the Villager Bus Service. In the PC's view this is wholly unfair and the rules on discretionary funds outdated; we are lobbying our County Councillor to seek changes.

It was, therefore, very regrettable that the Parish Council felt obliged to vote (4 against and 1 citing 'Conflict of Interest') not to support this particular request *at this time*. We certainly do appreciate the value of the Ascott Village Shop as a community asset. The decision was made after very careful consideration and after taking expert advice. We hope very much to have more freedom to spend our discretionary funds in the future and will look at any future request from the Shop with equal care.

Philippa Carter
Chairman



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

Tidy Hall Report

Autumn has been a busy time at **Tiddy Hall** with many birthdays being celebrated! Not only have we had a lot of children's parties taking place, but also a 50th & 80th! Many happy returns to you all and hope you enjoyed the celebrations at our beautiful village hall!!!

Back in September we were fortunate to have William Diggie & Millie Forest sing for us with Amiran Zenaishvili on piano. These will be stars of the future, Millie probably already is having debuted recently at the Wigmore Hall to rave notices. They performed duets and solos and received a standing ovation at the end of the recital. We are so grateful to them for coming up from the Royal Academy to put on this one show – such entertainment!

The Wychwood Folk Club is becoming more and more popular with great artists already signed up for next year. Canadian Sarah Jane Scouten performed back in October and Martin Joseph early November – both fantastic evenings at Tiddy Hall!

Upcoming events:

November 25th – Kim Lowrings & The Greenwood

December 23rd – The Songs of Sandy Denny & Fotheringay featuring PJ Wright & Sally Barker & 15 String Trio

January 13th – The Goat Roper Rodeo Band

February 3rd – Phil Beer

February 22nd – Fisherman's Friends

All events start at **7.30pm**, doors open **7pm** - check the website for further information –

www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

The Fishing Club's Annual Race Night will take place on Saturday November 18th and a change of date for the **Village Panto** - Saturday December 16th!

Happy Fitness, meeting every Wednesday at 7.30pm. and now under new leadership, goes from strength to strength - a fun way to keep fit and make new friends.

The **Tiddy Hall Committee** are organising a village party to welcome in 2018! We will have a live band – Ascott's own Three Piece Sweet, disco and bar. Tickets are £10, to include a glass of bubbly at midnight and we are asking everyone to bring a plate of food which will be shared and served buffet-style during the evening. The fun will start at 8.30pm! Please book your tickets with either Ingrid (10993 830612) or Simon (01993 831479). Hope to see you there!

And another date for your diary.....**Saturday March 10th** – a remembrance dance for Michael Angless in aid of Air Ambulance. Entertainment will be by our very own friends Three Piece Suite and AMC Blues Band.

Ingrid Ridley

Tiddy Hall - Regular Events

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

Happy Fitness

Contact: Andrea Forrester 07747853989

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

December 10th Afternoon Tea Dance
2.30pm

December 16th Village Pantomime

December 23rd Folk Night – The Songs
of Sandy Denny & Fotheringay Featuring
PJ Wright, Sally Barker, Anna Ryder,
Matt Davies & 15 String Trio

December 31st VILLAGE NEW YEAR'S PARTY - 8.30pm

January 13th Folk Night – The Goat
Roper Rodeo Band

February 3rd Folk Night – Phil Beer

February 22nd Folk Night – Fisher-
man's Friends



**SEE IN THE
NEW YEAR
AT
TIDDY HALL**

31st December – 8.30pm

The Tiddy Hall Committee are organising a Village Party to welcome in 2018!

- **Live band – Three Piece Sweet**
- **Disco and Bar**
- **Free glass of bubbly at midnight!**
- **FOOD:** We would like to ask everyone to bring a plate of food – savoury or sweet – to be shared and served buffet-style during the evening.

PLEASE RING INGRID RIDLEY to discuss options.

TICKETS - £10

Simon Gidman – 01993 831479
Ingrid Ridley – 01993 830612

Places limited so please book early





Wychwood Project's Annual Meeting – Restoring Landscapes, Inspiring People

Come along to the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood at 7.30pm on 30th November to learn more about the range of activities of the Wychwood Project that have improved the life and environment of West Oxfordshire this year.

The Wychwood Project is a conservation charity working across an area stretching from Burford to Chipping Norton, over to Woodstock and south of Witney – the ancient hunting forest of Wychwood. At its annual meeting on 30th November there's a great opportunity to hear about its many initiatives in 2017:

- Tree planting
- Nature reserves and environmental land management
- Wildflower verges – “suck seed and sow”
- Exhibition on the History of Wychwood Forest
- Barn owl conservation
- Bird aid – field flock feeding
- Drystone walling
- Protecting endangered flora

Also learn about the range and extent of volunteering opportunities, how it is winning grant funding and how it plans to invest in the future to improve Oxfordshire's environment further.

The Project's Director, Sharon Williams, is keen to welcome all-comers to this year's meeting:

“Whether you are a lifelong supporter of the Project, want to join for the first time, or just love nature and want to spend more time in the outdoors, we would love to see you on November 30th so you can learn more about what we do. And hopefully, get inspired to take part in one of our many projects.

We are fortunate this year to have Robert Crocker as our main speaker at the meeting. Robert is passionate about improving and increasing our hedges for wildlife. He has an ambition for hedgerow to run continuously from Oxfordshire to Devon all across southern England.”

There will be refreshments provided at the event and an opportunity to join, to meet members of Wychwood's specialist conservation groups, and to pick up information about the Project's work.

To get involved with the Wychwood Project

visit: www.wychwoodproject.org

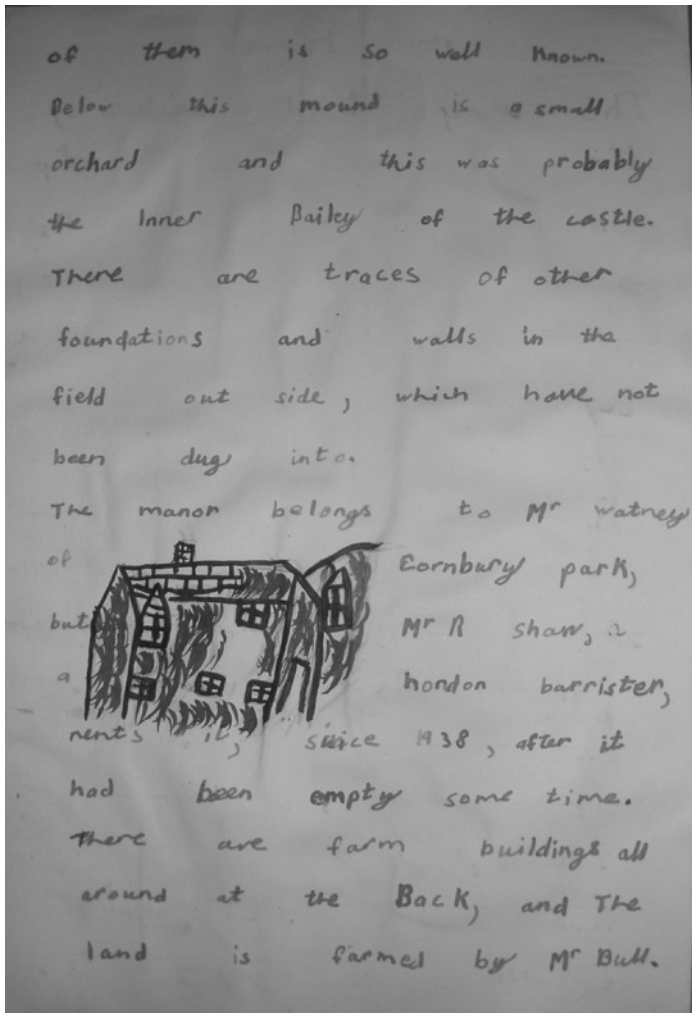
phone: 07584 262437

email: wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/WychwoodProject

Ascott School Journal c1955

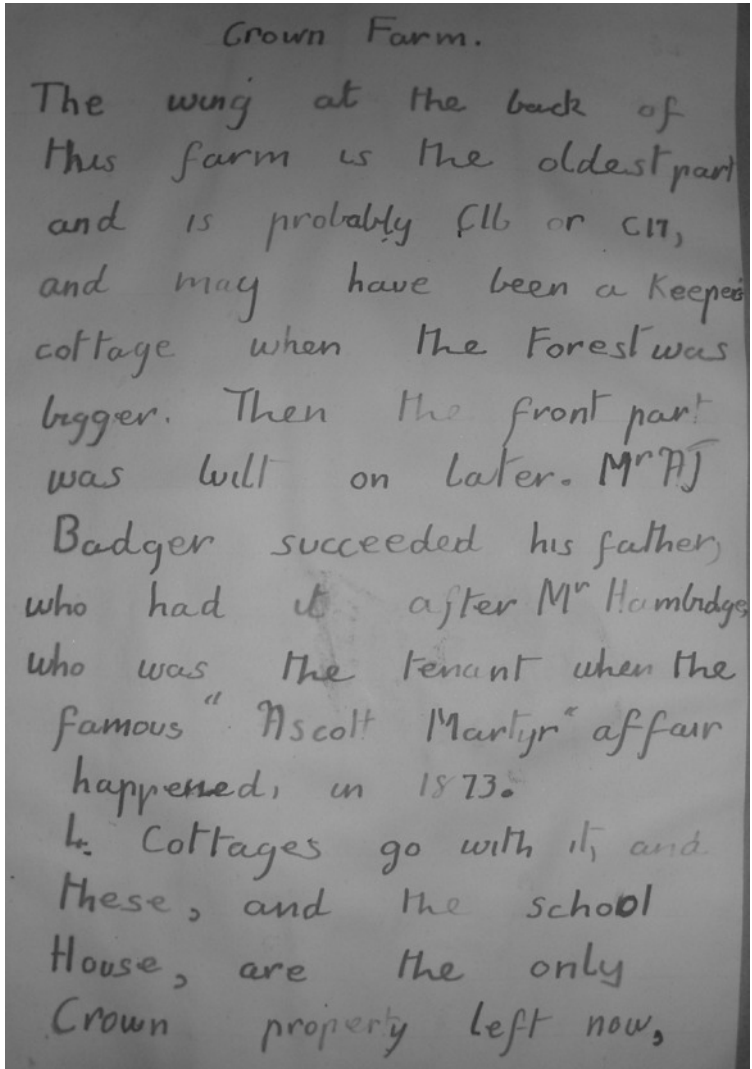
The Manor continued



Below the mound is a small orchard and this was probably the inner Bailey of the castle. There are traces of other foundations and walls in the field out side, which have not ben dug into

The Manor belongs to Mr Watney of Cornbury park, ut Mr A Shaw, London barrister, rents it, since 1938, after it had been empty some time. There are farm buildings all around at the back, and the land is farmed by Mr Bull

Crown Farm



The wing at the back of the farm is the oldest part and is probably c16 or c17, and may have been a Keepers cottage when the Forest was bigger. Then the front part was built on later. Mr A J Badger succeeded his father who had it after Mr Hambridge who was the tenant when the famous "Ascott Martyr" affair happened, in 1873.

4 cottages go with it, and these, and the school House, are the only Crown property left now



Leaffield C.E. Primary School

Another Year flies by.....

One of the summer holiday activities I really enjoy is reflecting on the past year at school. In a busy school, the excitement of a November event is easily forgotten by July! What follows is a brief account of some of our activities from another fantastic year at Leaffield C.E. Primary School.

October 2016

All children were treated to a guided tour of St Michaels and All Angels church by Rev. Paul. Children from Year 3-6 then spent a day visiting Christ Church Cathedral and the Oxford Jewish Centre. This was all part of our work to develop children's understanding of different places of worship.



November 2016

Fundraising for Children in Need, a visit from the Fire Service, singing and drumming with the Evergreens all took place in November. The highlight this year has to be the official opening of our library by renowned children's author Julia Donaldson. We were even treated to a performance of The Gruffalo.

Our sincere thanks to FOLS and the local community for raising £5000 to make the library possible.



December 2016

Christmas Concert, our Nativity Whoops a Daisy Angel and Christmas Dinner were favourites this month. The highlight though was our 3rd Annual Lantern Procession with the Christmas Tree lights switch on. We really look forward to this great community event. Watch out for number 4....



January 2017

Our choir performed at Genting Arena in Birmingham with children from across the country as part of Young Voices 2017.



A significant milestone in our schools 175-year history, as we became an academy with Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust and held our opening ceremony.



March 2017

Ash Wednesday Service and amazing costumes for World Book Day.



April 2017

A visit from Thames Valley Police, the Easter Bunny and Finstock School for our annual joint Eastertide Service.



Thanks to FOLS for another exciting Easter Raffle- (and thanks Easter Bunny for appearing too!) Thanks everyone for buying lots of tickets..





June 2017

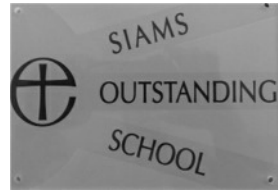
Year 5 and 6 had an amazing time on the Isle of Wight for their residential.



Year 3 and 4 performed beautifully at Dorchester Abbey for Festival of Voices.



We had our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) on June 13th and were judged to be an Outstanding School.



July 2017

A hugely successful sports day and time to wish our Year 6 leavers every success at secondary school.



These are just some of the wonderful events that take place throughout the year. More can be found at <https://twitter.com/Head3124>

Our SIAMS inspector noted *“Leaffield Primary School provides a truly caring Christian learning environment where pupils flourish, make good progress and grow in confidence.”* Thank you to everyone in our community that makes this possible.

In September we will welcome another full cohort of reception children, and look forward to another amazing year.

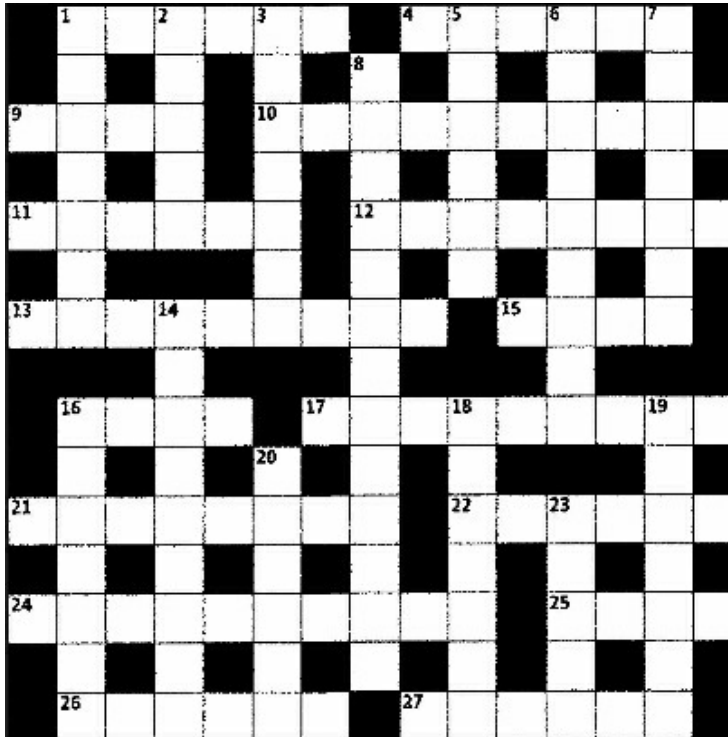
Christian McGuinness. Headteacher.



OXFORDSHIRE TEACHING
SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

Inspiring-Learning-Together

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. Style

Local Business Directory

ACADEMY/GB DOORS 01993 778836/01865 246444

www.garagedoors.org

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ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253

www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

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ASCOTT MARTYRS 01993 831967

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ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

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BESPOKE VINTAGE TEA PARTIES 01608 642233

www.chippingnortontease.co.uk, tweet@chipnortecas

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COTSWOLD RURAL SERVICES 07582962600

www.cotswoldruralservices.co.uk

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COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

[Page 12](#)

DRY STONE WALLING 01242263428/07980564508

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

[Page 10](#)

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

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FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299

wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

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GROVES SHOP 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425

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

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INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993830612/07952657906

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

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IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268	<u>Page 7</u>
JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	<u>Page 29</u>
LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357	<u>Page 10</u>
LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105	<u>Page 55</u>
MARK DAVID ESTATE AGENTS 01993824800 www.mark-david.co.uk	<u>Page 11</u>
M.P.N Plumbing & Heating Services Ltd 07787434865 mike@mpn-plumbingandheating.co.uk	<u>Page 5</u>
PILATES WITH URSULA 01993 830267 07917 090396 info@pilateswithursula.co.uk www.pilateswithursula.co.uk	<u>Page 4</u>
ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	<u>Page 57</u>
ROSENEATH 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com	<u>Page 54</u>
THE SWAN 01993832332 www.swanascott.com	<u>Page 51</u>
TV AERIAL SERVICES 01993 608118	<u>Page 50</u>
WITNEY SHUTTLE 08000434633 www.witneyshuttle.com	<u>Page 24</u>
WYCHWOOD HEALING 07780572283 pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk	<u>Page 26</u>
WYCHWOOD WROUGHT IRON 01993832850 www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com	<u>Page 44</u>

Events Calendar - 2017/18

Date	Time	Event	Venue
December 9 th		Safari Supper	Church
December 16 th	7.30pm	Village Pantomime	Tiddy Hall
December 23 rd	7.30pm	The Songs of Sandy Denny & Fotheringay & 15 String Trio	Tiddy Hall
December 24 th	6.00pm	Christmas Carols	Village Green
December 31 st	8.30pm	New Year's Party	Tiddy Hall
2018			
January 11 th	7.30 - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
January 13 th	7.30pm	The Goat Roper Rodeo Band	Tiddy Hall
January 18 th	7.30 - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
January 25 th	7.30 - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 1 st	7.30 - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 3 rd	7.30pm	Phil Beer	Tiddy Hall
February 8 th	7.30 - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 10 th	7.30pm	"Talk on the Brontës" for the Church Bells	Church
February 15 th	7.30 - 8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 22 nd	7.30pm	Fisherman's Friends	Tiddy Hall
March 24 th	7.30pm	Mike Silver	Tiddy Hall