

The Ascott Grapevine

*The Grapevine was started in
1994, 25 years ago, and this is
Issue 100*



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, 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 2019.

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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To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 68](#)), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or wendypearse@btinternet.com. The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2018 - 2019

Sunday 9 th December	1000	CW
Sunday 16 th December	1600	Carol Service
Sunday 23 rd December	0800	BCP
Monday 24 th December	1500	Crib and Christingle Service
Monday 24 th December	2330	Midnight Mass
Tuesday 25 th December	1000	CW
Sunday 13 th January	1000	CW
Sunday 27 th January	0800	BCP
Sunday 10 th February	1000	CW
Sunday 24 th February	0800	BCP
Sunday 10 th March	1000	Shared Communion
Sunday 24 th March	0800	BCP

Ascott Church is part of the Chase Benefice, comprising the parishes of Chadlington, Ascott-u-Wychwood, Spelsbury and Enstone. For enquiries please contact the Rector: Rev'd Mark Abrey, The Vicarage, Church Road, Chadlington. OX7 3LY. 01608 676572 or rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

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

Local Churches

Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572

St Mary's Shipton

Churchwarden James Walmsley
01993 830842

SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Burford Methodist

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993 845322

Westcote Methodist

Tony Gibson 01993 830699
Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

Roman Catholic

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

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

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and St Teresa, Charlbury

Priest Fr Antony Joyce 01608 642703.
Mass at Charlbury 09:15

From the Rector

Dear Friends

This edition of *The Grapevine* marks a milestone: 100 editions spanning the past 25 years! That is some achievement and I want to put on the record the thanks of the whole community to the editorial team - both past and present - for your sterling work: thank you!

Back in 1994, when the first edition was delivered to homes in the village, I was a newly ordained curate working as part of a team in a large suburban parish in Liverpool: quite a contrast to the Chase Benefice! It was a very busy parish: the main service on Sunday morning had congregations of well over 300. The Christmas services were even larger: 500 children for a Christingle service - a health and safety nightmare with all those candles!

Looking back through my diary of that first Christmas in ministry, I found an entry of a conversation with a friend who was also newly ordained, comparing stories of how we had coped and reminiscing about the Christmases of our childhood.

One of my friend's favourite moments always came just after the Christmas lunch. When all the grown ups flopped after the washing up and nodded off during the Queen's speech, she would creep upstairs to her bedroom. Once there she went through a sort of ritual, arranging all her presents on top of her bed - even down to the smallest stocking fillers. When they were all neatly arranged, she would stand and look at them for a while. For Jane, 'contemplating' the gifts in this way became an important part of receiving them, giving thanks for them, looking forward to owning, using and enjoying them.

This act of 'contemplating' a gift is at the very heart of the Church's major post-Christmas feast in January, that of the Epiphany. For us in the Western Church, at Epiphany we celebrate the arrival of the Magi with their gifts and watch with awe as these 'Kings' pay homage to and kneel before the babe in the manger, the great gift of God for all peoples. However, in the Eastern Orthodox Churches there is a different focus. They remember the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by St. John, when the voice of God proclaims Jesus as God's Son. The word *Epiphany* means a divine manifestation in Greek and in that moment of disclosure, the Orthodox Church see not only the confirmation of the divine nature of Jesus but also a revelation of the one God as Holy Trinity: Jesus, the Son, rises from the waters of the Jordan; the Spirit of God descends like a dove, and the voice of God the Father is heard. I think that understanding of the Epiphany is important: whilst we still celebrate the gift of the Christ-Child, we are called to remember and think about the mystery of God as the Holy Trinity.

Just as my friend Jane used to step back and look at her Christmas presents set out on her bed, so I hope there will be time for each of us during the season of Christ-

mas to step back and contemplate God's great gift to us in Christ Jesus and so to receive and enjoy the love that is offered us by God the Holy Trinity: the communion of love by whom we are called together.

With my best wishes for a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Mark Abrey.

FUTURE OF THE GRAPEVINE

Welcome to the 100th edition of the Ascott Grapevine, we've certainly seen a lot of changes since the first issue was published in January 1994. We are very proud that throughout this time the magazine has been delivered each quarter to every house in the Parish. Two members of the existing editorial team have been working on the magazine since 2004, having taken over production of the magazine from Ann Braithwaite, its founder, and we have seen it grow from 20 pages up to 70 pages in a recent issue.

Producing a magazine like the Grapevine is quite costly, up to £425 per issue, and we are fortunate that the Parish Council supports us with an annual grant which almost covers the cost of one issue. The remaining annual costs have been covered by private donations, proceeds from local events and advertising revenue. Unfortunately, costs have risen and over the last couple of years we have gradually been losing advertisers and have not been able to generate new advertising revenue.

We now find that after publishing the current issue we need to find new sources of revenue to ensure our future viability. Any suggestions for fund-raising assistance would be welcome. Also, if any reader has contacts with local businesses can they persuade them to advertise with us?

On a more positive note we are always looking for new contributors to the Grapevine, also we would welcome anyone interested in local journalism joining our small team bringing new ideas and ensuring editorial continuity.

Recipe

Velvet Cheesecake

Cake Mixture

- 1 Packet Trifle Sponge Cakes
- 2 Level Tablespoons of Cornflour
- 2 Tablespoons of Top of Milk or Cream
- Juice & Rind of half a Lemon
- Few drops of Vanilla Essence
- 1lb Curd Cheese
- 2ozs Castor Sugar
- 2ozs Butter
- 2 large eggs separated
- A pinch of Cinnamon

METHOD

Topping

1 large carton soured cream mixed with 1 level tablespoon castor sugar and a few drops of vanilla essence

Cake

Split the sponges and use them to line the bottom and sides of a 7 inch square or 8 inch round tin.

Mix the cheese, egg yolks, soft or melted butter, sugar, lemon rind and juice, cinnamon, vanilla and cornflour (mixed to a cream with the milk).

Beat until fluffy then fold in egg whites whipped till they hold soft peaks.

Spoon mixture on top of the sponges and level with a knife.

Bake in a moderate oven at 180 degrees for 25 minutes or until cake feels firm to the touch one inch from around the edge. (The centre will firm as it cools).

Remove and leave to cool for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile turn the oven up to 200 degrees.

Spoon the soured cream over the cake and return it to the oven for 8 minutes to set the topping.

Take it out and leave to cool in a draught free place.

When cold, foil cover and chill for several hours.

Avril Rance

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Honeydale Development

I'm pleased to report that earlier this year, planning approval was unanimously granted for the development of Honeydale Farm and we were overwhelmed by the response from the planning committee who commended the work we've already been doing here. This has included a natural flood management scheme, soil improving crop rotations, a traditional orchard and the creation of wildlife habitats which have seen the farm bird count rocket from 44 species to 81 in the four years we've been managing the farm.

The green light from the West Oxfordshire District Council planning committee meant that our plans for the creation of a Centre for Farming Diversity have been able to go ahead and at the end of May we began by demolishing the rundown

sheds. As you'll now be able to see from the valley, these are being replaced by new agricultural buildings which have been sympathetically designed to complement the Cotswold AONB, while providing an inviting and user-friendly facility. One of the buildings will offer space for meetings, presentations and other events, while the second will be an Enterprise Barn, to encourage new young growers and micro-businesses operating on the farm and the processing of produce. There will also be a barn for storing our farm machinery.



We've also completed a new entrance to improve road safety. The new access, further up the A361 towards Chipping Norton, offers better visibility for vehicles arriving and leaving the farm. The traditional dry stone wall has been rebuilt on either side of the new entrance and the track itself is made of Cotswold stone.

The architects' illustration shows what it will all look like when it's completed, which is scheduled to be mid 2019.

We're very excited about Honeydale Farm. We want it to be a place where organisations and people with an interest in agriculture, land and farm produce, and the wider countryside environment, can meet to learn, discuss, discover and share ideas. Many local people have already been to one of the Honeydale

events and farm walks, such as the Pollinator Open Day and Sainfoin Experience Day and we aim to be holding many more events at the farm, with proper facilities for a cup of coffee once the buildings are operational.

Watch this space!

You can follow the development Honeydale on the new Honeydale News section on our website

www.cotswoldseeds.com, as well as on Twitter (#HoneydaleFarm) Facebook and Instagram

Ian Wilkinson



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

New waste and recycling calendars now online

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

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

Over 10,000 householders are registered for email alerts and receive weekly email reminders of their next collection.

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

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

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

BE BETTER AT RECYCLING

Although we all separate our rubbish for recycling only 1/3 of it actually ends up being processed. Unfortunately much of the stuff we put in our recycling bin ends up being 'contaminated' by unrecyclable or food-smearred items.

The process varies from one local authority to another and it can be very difficult to know what you can recycle and what you can't. Follow these tips to ensure more of your stuff gets recycled:

DO

- remove lids and put all glass bottles and jars out in a black box NOT your blue-topped recycling bin (no broken glass)
- rinse all plastic items in washing-up water to remove food or cleaning products
- squash bottles and Tetrapaks flat (to reduce bulk), remove lids and put them with the rubbish (too small to recycle)
- trigger sprays can be left on the plastic bottles but remove pump dispenser tops to rubbish
- fold or scrunch clean foil
- pull film lids off plastic food trays (clear trays can be recycled, the lids cannot)
- aerosols can be recycled if you remove the plastic lid
- rinse and squash tin cans (plastic lined cans cannot be recycled) no need to soak off paper labels
- rinse plastic pots, tubs and food trays, stack to save space and separate lids
- remove plastic tape from cardboard boxes (to rubbish) and flatten them
- remove plastic sleeve from newspaper supplements/junk mail and recycle the paper separately
- remove plastic sleeve from milk bottle if it slips off easily (put in with plastic bags)

DON'T RECYCLE

- plastic bags, cling film, bubble wrap or 'flimsy' plastic wrapping (bundle it up and take it to the plastic bag drop off point in the entrance of Sainsbury's in Witney)

- fabric (it clogs up machinery) instead take it to a clothes bin (the nearest is the Coop carpark in Charlbury) or place in clear carrier bag alongside recycling bin
- food-smearred aluminium foil
- black or brown plastic food trays
- polystyrene (pizza bases, seedling trays)
- foil pouches (baby food, pet food), crisp packets, laminated or metallic wrapping paper, sweet wrappers, greetings cards with glitter, post it notes, sticky labels, wet wipes, tissues, tissue paper, cotton wool, nappies
- pyrex, light bulbs, broken glass, drinking glasses, sheet glass
- pizza boxes (if the cardboard is food smeared) - tear out contaminated sections and recycle the rest
- plastic items smaller than 4cm (plastic cutlery, sachets, straws, tooth picks) as they get lost in the process
- padded envelopes with bubble-wrap lining
- plastic toys
- batteries should be put in a labelled used envelope on top of recycling bin lid

FOOD WASTE BIN

- you don't need to line the bin or use compostable bags (any plastic bags will be removed before the food is processed and incinerated).
- Use this for all food, cooked and raw, including meat and fish bones, tea bags and coffee grounds and pet food
- Liquid cooking oil should be put in a sealed and labelled plastic container (5l max) alongside recycling bin

GARDEN WASTE BIN

DO INCLUDE: bark and wood shavings, grass and hedge cuttings, animal bedding, leaves, shrubs and houseplants, soil-bound roots, tree trunks and branches up to 15cm in diameter, non-invasive weeds, wind fallen fruit, Christmas tree (cut into sections).

DON'T INCLUDE: any plastic, paper or polystyrene, cat litter, dog waste, food waste, invasive weeds, soil or rubble, timber.

For more information about what can and can't be recycled in the Wychwoods, see www.recycenow.com

Louise Woods

Garden Notes

Trees for every garden

If you think your garden is too small for a tree then think again!

There's a wide and varied range of small flowering trees suitable for the smallest garden and at this time of year, when leaves are falling and branches are exposed our focus turns to these beautiful specimens. The whole cycle of the gardening year is acted out within a deciduous tree; from bare architectural branches in winter to new growth, fresh leaves and blossom in spring and summer's slowly changing canopy to culminate in autumn's kaleidoscopic display of dazzling colour.

In my opinion, every garden, whatever its size should have a tree, it will give your garden structure, provide shade and make a wonderful resource/habitat for wildlife. A tree will bring all sorts of interest to your garden whether through fragrance, flowers, foliage, fruit or bark and also give the garden a sense of belonging. Of all the plants in our gardens, trees are the ones that give us a sense of permanence; they are the punctuation marks in our hedgerows.

The best time to plant bare-rooted and pot grown trees is between October and April as the ground is still warm so the tree will get a chance to establish its roots and bind itself to the soil where, with love and attention it may live for many years and outlive whoever has planted it. Trees grow up not only with the garden around them, but also with the individuals who have planted them.

If you're considering planting a tree it is vital that you do your research and make the right choice as there are hundreds of varieties on offer. In a small garden the main practical consideration is size. Most trees have a maximum eventual height and spread. Scale is important and a small garden calls for a small tree but that's not to say it can't have presence and impact. Choosing a tree that fits the space is vital as it should never feel cramped nor dwarf its surroundings. Columnar or fastigiate trees are often chosen for smaller gardens because their branches grow up rather than out thus casting smaller shadow but keeping it narrow is not the only option. There are many trees with a moderate spread and elegantly disposed branches that don't block out too much light. Whichever tree you opt for, more important than its habit or size is its suitability to the site, situation and soil in your garden. Silver birch and rowans prefer a light sandy soil whilst Japanese maples appreciate shelter and slightly acidic soil. Many trees are accommodating and will thrive in a wide range of conditions such as Cherries (*Prunus*) which are happy in a range of soils as long as conditions are free draining. If your tree can offer you more than one season of interest, particularly in a small garden where any large plant needs to earn its place, than that is a bonus.

One of the most common fears with trees is that their roots will damage house foundations. In fact this is seldom the case as most foundations are able to withstand the odd tree root. It is however possible for roots to cause indirect damage through subsidence if the wrong variety is planted too close to the house. Large trees, 70ft (2133.6cm) or more should be planted at least 20ft (609.6cm) from the house, medium-sized trees up to but not exceeding 70ft (2133.6cm) tall, at least 15ft (457.2cm) from the house and small trees 30ft (914.4cm) tall or less, at least 8-10ft (243.84-304.8cm) from the house. If you plant a tree outside of the danger zone then a tree is unlikely to cause subsidence.

To help you make a decision in choosing the right tree for you, you may find it useful to visit Westonbirt or Batsford Arboretums where a good range of well established and mature ornamental trees can be seen in their full glory and evaluated.

My Top 10 trees for small gardens are

Amelanchier grandiflora 'Ballerina' H x 16ft (487.68cm), S x 16ft (487.68cm)

Exochorda serratifolia 'Snow White' H x 13ft (91.44cm), S x 13ft (91.44cm)

Prunus x blireana H x 13ft (91.44cm), S x 13ft (91.44cm),

Prunus x yedoensis H x 13ft (91.44cm), S x 16ft (487.68cm)

Malus 'Indian Magic' H x 15ft (457.2cm), S x 15ft (457.2cm)

Aesculus x mutabilis 'Induta' H x 10ft (304.8cm), S x 10ft (304.8cm)

Magnolia stellata 'Jane Platt' H x 13ft (91.44cm), S x 8ft (243.84cm)

Cornus kousa 'Miss Satomi' H x 16ft (487.68cm), S x 10ft (304.8cm)

Liquidambar straciflua 'Gum Ball' H x 10ft (304.8cm), S x 7ft (213.36cm)

Sorbus villmorinii H x 16ft (487.68cm), S x 13ft (91.44cm)

Tips for planting your tree.

- When planting the tree dig a hole 3x as wide as the pot and the same depth. Loosen the soil around the hole with a fork.
- Thoroughly soak the root ball in water before planting. Standing it in a water filled bucket is good for this.
- Loosen the root ball to encourage roots to grow into the soil.
- Place the root ball in the hole so that the point where the roots meet the trunk is level with the surface of the soil surface.
- Refill the hole ensuring there are no air pockets around the roots. Firm the soil around the tree ensuring the trunk remains upright.

Ascott Grapevine

- Use a tree guard or spiral if your garden has wildlife visitors.
- Water well. Add a 2-3 inch layer of mulch, but leave a 4 inch (10.16cm) mulch-free collar around the base of the trunk.
- Top-heavy trees will need staking. Put the stake in firmly at a 45° angle and attach a tree tie to support your tree in windy weather.

Trees are way and above the most memorable plants in anyone's garden. They become life-long friends and more than any other plant, will repay you tenfold.

Juliet Ingram

The Secrets and Scandals of the Queen's Jewels

Please save the date

Friday 15th February, 2019 at 7.30pm

The Tiddy Hall, Ascott under Wychwood

The Secrets and Scandals of the Queen's Jewels

A talk by Douglas Chirside

Tickets £10 to include a glass of wine.

All profits to go to Holy Trinity Church and

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A Safari Supper will be held again this year on 1st December in aid of church funds

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Nature Notes

The cool damp days of autumn initiates the appearance of mushrooms and toadstools in our fields, woods and gardens. These fungi of all shapes, colours and sizes are the fruiting, reproductive bodies of organisms that exist unseen for the remainder of the year. The bulk of a fungus (the mycelium) is hidden from view growing through the soil or the material, such as decaying wood, from which it obtains its nutrients. The mycelium is composed of fine, often microscopic, branching threads called hyphae that come together to form a loose web. This web is the true body of the fungus equivalent to the roots, leaves and stems of a flowering



plant with the mushroom being the seed producing flower. Once a fruiting body is formed vast quantities of spores are produced. Unlike seeds which contain an embryonic plant spores consist of a single microscopic cell that will produce a hypha if it lands on a suitable spot. Fungal spores may be carried by the wind as they are so light or in some cases, like truffles, rely on animals eating them and some are distributed by insects. Some spores simply fall from the gills on the underside of the fungus, others are explosively ejected and some are released when they are struck by a rain drop. It has been estimated that the edible mushroom

can produce many millions of spores. Not all fungi produce visible fruiting bodies, the spore producing bodies of yeasts, moulds, mildews and rusts can only be seen with a hand lens or microscope.

The fruiting bodies of fungi come in all shapes and sizes, not just the traditional mushroom shape. There are Jelly fungi, such as the so-called Jew's Ear; Candle Snuff Fungus, like miniature candelabras; Bracket Fungus, growing on tree trunks; Earth Stars; Dead Men's Fingers; Shaggy Ink Caps; Stinkhorns (Latin name *Phallus Impudicus*, which describes their unique appearance) and Football sized Puff Balls. Something like



120,000 fungi species there are probably discovered.

saprophytes obtain from dead organic matter or parasitic decomposers,

breaking-down living organisms. Fungal Hyphae secrete enzymes that break-down dead or living tissue enabling them to absorb nutrients.



Most fungi are terrestrial and are found in almost every habitat world-wide, but there are a small number (estimated at 500) that exist in

marine and freshwater environments, often on submerged wood, but also in the sediments on the sea floor. Their history goes back at least 400 to 460 million years and they may have moved from a marine environment to the land before the first true flowering plants. However, fungi have established a very close relationship with the majority of plant families that is beneficial to both creating a symbiotic relationship between the underground mycelium of the fungus and the plant's roots. The roots are penetrated by the Hyphae of the fungus allowing the fungus to obtain carbohydrates in the form of glucose and sucrose from the plant and in return providing minerals and nutrients from the soil that the plant might not be able to access through its roots. Fungi in such a relationship are referred to as Mycorrhiza. It has also been discovered that extensive underground mycelium is able to connect individual plants transporting water and nutrients from one plant to another. Plants with a mycorrhizal relationship seem to be better protected from soil borne pathogens and are better able to thrive in acid and nutrient poor soils. Some fungal species are specific to particular plant families, but others create relationships with many different plant species.

Our relationship with fungi is quite wide ranging, here are a few positive ways that they interact with us:

- With bacteria they recycle organic materials and prevent us disappearing under mountains of dead organic waste.
- They provide or enhance food production. Without yeasts we wouldn't enjoy wine and beer or

leavened bread. They give us blue cheese and are used in the manufacture of Soy Sauce and Quorn is a fungal product.

- The discovery of Penicillin and other anti-biotics that have saved millions of lives and made complex operations safe from infection.
- Biological controls. Some fungi have been used to control insect pests (the Colorado Beetle) and soil-based organisms.
- Production of industrial chemicals such as citric acid and malic acid.

As well as positive uses there are some negatives:

- There are many crop diseases that may substantially reduce yields or completely destroy a crop as happens with potato blight.
- Fungi produce toxins and can be highly poisonous if eaten. Some such as Fly Agaric and so-called Magic Mushrooms produces hallucinogenic chemicals.
- Food is spoilt if not correctly stored.
- Humans and animals can be subject to fungal diseases, such as Athletes Foot and Candida.

Finally

There is a colony of Armillaria fungus whose underground mycelium covers an area of 3.5 square miles and is believed to be 9,000 years old!

Stuart Fox

Councillor for Ascott

As this is my first piece in the Grapevine since I was elected in May 2018, I want to thank the 457 people who voted for me. But I also want to reassure all the people who didn't vote for me: I am still here to represent you and make sure your voice is being heard. My first article will cover what I have been doing over the last few months.

In September, the Local Plan was passed in the District Chamber. However, I did not vote for this plan. I voted against on one premise: the lack of infrastructure proposed. There will be 16,000 homes built across West Oxfordshire by 2031, how many cars will this put on our country roads? We need to invest in infrastructure; not just build houses. We need to dual the Cotswold Line, so A). we can have a more reliable service into London and B). we can campaign for a stopping service through our rural villages into Oxford. This would take cars off of the road Secondly, we need to invest in our bus service, which is exactly what Liz Leffman has been championing in the County Chamber and earlier this year, we managed to bring back the Wychwood bus into Witney. Invest in infrastructure will be the key to success for West Oxfordshire over the next few years and that is what I will be pushing for in the District Chamber over the coming months.

In Ascott, I have been working on two projects: one major, one less so. The first being trying to set up speed-watch, however, due to the lack of volunteers I am struggling to set it up. When I was on the campaign trail, I would often hear: 'Speeding is a major issue' or 'our streets are not safe because of the fast cars'. Here, we could put a community innovative into action. We could act against speeding. We need five eager people volunteers to set up speed watch.

The second project I have been working on is for the residents of Dawls Close. Earlier this year they received a letter suggesting that some of the residents could not park on their drives because they do not have 'dropped kerbs'. I have recently been organising meetings with Cottsway housing to sort this out. Due to their lack of response, this case is dragging on much longer than I anticipated. I will hopefully be able to update you in the next issue with a success story for all involved.

If you have an issue you would like me to look into, please do email me on jake.acock@westoxon.gov.uk and I will respond as soon as I can.

Thank you all for your support,

Jake Acock

Robert Courts MP

I may be biased, but I believe West Oxfordshire is home to some of the most active, compassionate volunteers in the UK. In October, Parliament was in a brief recess for the party conference season; so I used the chance to get away from Westminster, to give my time to local causes and encourage more people to get involved in their local communities. Over three weeks, I – quite literally – rolled up my sleeves and joined in with some of the fantastic volunteering work that goes on in our constituency.



In my Volunteering Week, I joined in with the work led by volunteers at Wild Oxfordshire, Sunshine Cat Rescue, Guideposts, the Blue Cross, Bridewell Organic Gardens and Witney Besom. Then, in my Communities Week, I ran training sessions for First Aid and Dementia Friends for members of the community, and visited The Junior Citizens Trust, the Wychwood Pantry, and local Day Centres. I even brought my toddler along for a wonderful morning at Rock-A-Tots in Burford – you are never too young, or too old, to get involved in your local community!

It was a fantastic experience to see so many of you giving your time to help others in our local area, and it is testament to the compassionate communities that we live in. I cannot overstate just how important it is that we all look out for one another as the winter months approach. Please do take a moment to think about anyone you know who may be in particular need in the run up to Christmas, or how you may be able to support the more vulnerable members of your community.

Even with Parliament in full swing, I will continue to be in the constituency on a weekly basis, so please do get in touch if there is ever anything you think I should get involved in – or if you would simply like to meet for a chat. You can always reach me at robert@robertcourts.co.uk, or sign up for my fortnightly newsletter at www.robertcourts.co.uk.

Robert Courts

1066: A Medieval Mosaic Exhibition

1066: A Medieval Mosaic is a Guinness World Record-winning exhibition which has toured a number of locations in the UK before arriving at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO Museum), Woodstock.



The mosaic took its creator Michael A. Linton 33 years to complete after he started work on the piece in 1979. Made from 33 million individual pieces of spring steel, the mosaic now measures 64 metres long and weighs 350kg. This earned 1066: A Medieval Mosaic the title of the world's largest steel mosaic and a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.



The mosaic re-creates the entirety of the original Bayeux Tapestry, including the depiction of the Battle of Hastings, but also expands on it with additional



historic scenes. In 2005 Michael added an 8 metre 'Finale Section' which depicts events leading up to the crowning of William the Conqueror on Christmas Day 1066.

In 2012, a further 22 metre section was added to cover the Battle of Fulford and the Battle of Stamford Bridge. These added scenes bring this recreation close to twice the length of the real Bayeux Tapestry.

To coincide with arrival of the mosaic, SOFO Museum will also hold a mini-exhibition of objects that tell the story of WW2 as the Bayeux tapestry does for the Norman Conquest. Visitors will be able to see these objects on display until February 2019.

1066: A Medieval Mosaic will be on display from 5th September 2018 to 1st February 2019, throughout the museum's regular opening hours and is included in the admission price.

While SOFO Museum typically charges an admission fee, it will also celebrate Heritage Open Days this year by opening its doors free of charge on Thursday 6th and Thursday 13th September 2018. Visitors to these Open Days can see not only the Bayeux Tapestry mosaic, but also all of the museum's permanent exhibits.

SOFO Museum is open Tuesday – Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturdays 11am to 5pm, and Sundays 2pm to 5pm. Changes to regular opening times are always added to the museum website.

In addition to the exhibition of the mosaic itself, Michael Linton will also give a talk about his work on the piece and the history that surrounds the events depicted

within it. The talk will take place at SOFO Museum on 12th September 2018, with tickets available now through the museum website.

About the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum



The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust (SOFO) museum opened during the summer of 2014 and was officially opened by the Princess Royal.

Sitting in the grounds of the Oxfordshire Museum, the site now offers two fascinating museums for visitors of all ages to explore and engage with.

SOFO uses the material of the two county regiments, the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars (QOOH) and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, to act as a starting point for reflecting on the county's rich and diverse military heritage. These collections contain over 3,500 objects and 7,500 archive items. The regimental collections date back to the late 18th Century and reflect the local regiments' involvement in major conflicts such as the War of American Independence, the Peninsula War, the Boer Wars, the Great War and World War II, together with less well known events such as the New Zealand war of 1864 and the Brunei emergency in the 1960s. They comprise weapons, equipment, clothing, flags, musical instruments and regimental silver as well as extensive personal memories, diaries, letters and photographs.

The breadth of the collections has allowed us to present and contribute to a wide range of historical themes and mark key anniversaries, for example the 2015 bicentenary of Waterloo and centenary of the Great War.

About Michael A. Linton

Michael Linton was a textile technician by trade and between 1985 and 2016 was in business with his wife Gillian as a knitwear manufacturer and retailer. In 1999 Michael and Gillian were recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as having the "World's Largest Jersey" and in 2012 received the Guinness World Record for the "World's Largest Steel Mosaic."



With the help of their son Steven, Michael has produced two puzzle books and has a keen interest in all aspects of number theory. Hidden throughout the mosaic are many of Michael's alphametic puzzles.

www.sofomuseum.org.uk/ or www.medievalmosaic.com

SOFO Appeal for Oxfordshire



Memories and Objects from the Second World War to the 1970s from the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) in Woodstock is planning a new 1930-1970s Oxfordshire exhibition and is now appealing to the public for help fill-

ing new displays with local stories and mementos. The new exhibit will link the home front and domestic experience more closely with the county's military history and tell the stories of the women and children living in close proximity to the various military bases and locations that feature so heavily in the area's history. One example is a child's necklace given to a young Oxfordshire girl during the Second World War, having been made by a German POW held at a local camp. Local POWs often made toys and children's playthings to sell for a little extra cash. The necklace was kindly donated to the museum by Rosemary Warner from Witney.

A set of dog-tags, also planned to feature in the upcoming exhibition, form a reminder of one young man's time in the Stalag Luft III camp, now in Poland, and infamous as the location of 'The Great Escape'. Sgt Leslie Mitchell from Woodstock was captured aged just 19 after his plane came down in 1940. He remained a prisoner until 1945. All the time he kept in touch with home, and the letters sent to him provide a fascinating insight into war-time Oxfordshire.

SOFO Museum would be delighted to hear from anyone that could help with this appeal by donating their own objects, photos and stories.

Please contact SOFO at: oxfordshirehome@sofo.org.uk. Alternatively, stories and images can be uploaded to the SOFO website directly by going to: <http://www.sofo.org.uk/storiesofconflictcounty/>

SOFO also plans to take boxes of objects out into the community for reminiscence and outreach work with objects, magazines, photographs and music to reflect a number of themes, including:

1. Childhood
2. Home Sweet Home
3. Working Week
4. School Days

5. Saturday Night Out
6. Celebrations and Jubilations
7. Keep the Home Fires Burning (WW2)
8. We're All Going on a Summer Holiday
9. Hobbies and Gardening
10. Local Oxfordshire Life - Town and Gown, Farming, Markets, Transport

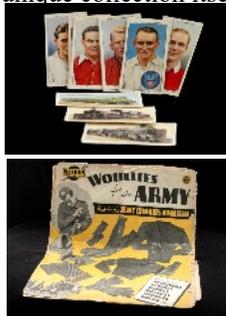
Vicki Wood, SOFO's Education and Outreach Officer, says: "We are looking to local people to help us find the stories and mementos for the displays and reminiscence boxes. Do you have small objects or photographs of domestic life in Oxfordshire from about 1930 to 1970? We're looking for ordinary items that are typical of each era – perhaps baby clothes, children's toys, empty tins and packets, and items from the home.

Perhaps you have diaries, letters or memorabilia from family members who lived through the Home Front in the Second World War, post-war National Service or the Cold War?"

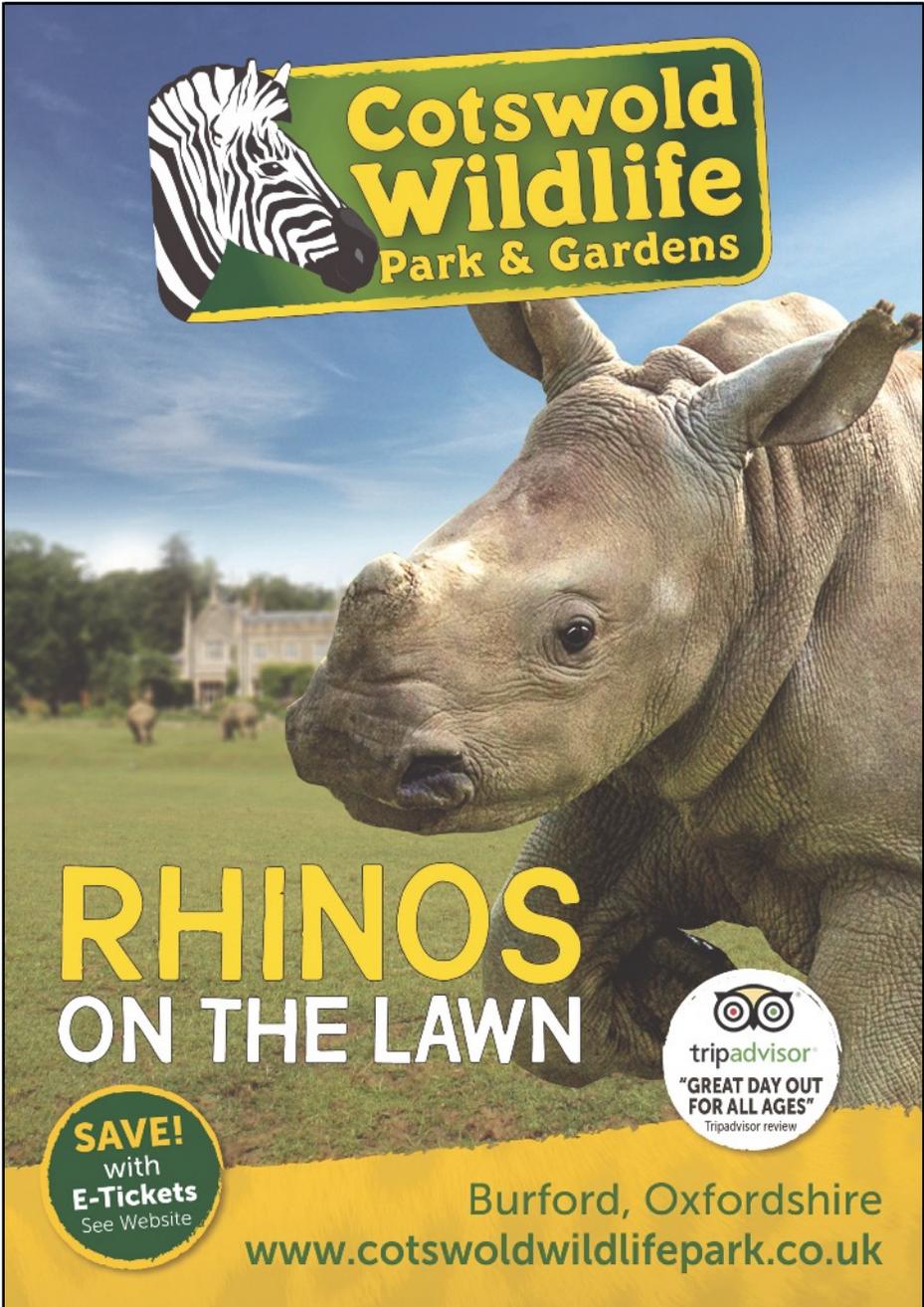
SOFO Museum would also like to thank Owen Mumford for sponsoring our reminiscence work.

On Friday 31st August 2018 a considerable donation of material to SOFO was made by the family of Charles Jacobs MBE, a Private in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars during the First World War and a Pioneers Corp Major in the Second. The donated materials included medals from WW1 and WW2, German memorabilia, his WW2 camp bed, a photographic record of the War Trials at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp, as well as his MBE - awarded just after the war. He was a life-long Oxford man originating on Osney Island, and Charles' pre-WW1 QOOH uniform had been donated to SOFO a number of years ago. His family were thrilled to find a home for the rest of this collection.

SOFO and the family of Charles Jacobs welcomed a press presence on the day, providing an opportunity to photograph the process of the museum accepting donations of items for the upcoming exhibition, as well as the unique collection itself.



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Latest addition to Cotswold Wildlife Park, Luna the Zebra foal 4 days old.



Wychwood Library

There are a wide range of events at Wychwood Library, from our popular coffee morning every Wednesday, to our monthly Poetry, Reading and Knitting groups.

We have started a new Rhyme Time for children from 0-5 on Mondays from 2.00-2.30; an exciting opportunity to share interactive stories and rhymes, as well as make music, crafts and a bit of mess along the way. Please drop in and spread the word!

Late Spring, held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the library, is a bereavement support group which, over tea and cake, offers an opportunity for people to meet in a warm, friendly and supportive environment. Organised by Age UK, its aim is not to counsel but to enable people to meet together to look to the future, without forgetting.

Wychwood Library also offers one to one computer help sessions for beginners and customers with individual needs, such as searching for jobs or completing online forms. Our digital helper is available by appointment.

If you are interested in any of the groups or in our computer help sessions, please drop into the library, call us on 01993 830281 or email us at wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

We would love to hear from you.

Opening Times

Monday 2.00-7.00

Wednesday 9.30-1.00

2.00-5.00

Friday 2.00-7.00

Saturday 9.30-1.00

Events

Every Monday	Tai Chi	9.30am-12pm
Every Wednesday	Coffee Morning	10am-12pm
Every Friday	Rhyme Time	1.30pm-2.00pm
1st Sunday (of Month)	Wychwood Circle	7.00-8.00pm
1st Monday	Evening Reading Group	7.15-8.15pm

Ascott Grapevine

2nd Monday	Knitting Group	7.00pm-9.00pm
1st and 3rd Tuesday	Late Spring (Age U.K)	10.30am-12.00pm
2nd Tuesday	Poetry Group	3.00pm-4.00pm
2nd Thursday	Afternoon Reading Group	1.30-2.30pm

Wychwood Library Needs YOU!

**Interested in joining our volunteer force?
Warm welcome guaranteed!
From one 3 hour session a month
(at your convenience).**

Please contact the library:
Tel: 01993 830281
wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Wedding

Wedding of Bernadette Jayne Pratley & Dean Leslie Collins was on 12, October 2018

The bridesmaids were Bethany and Emily Pratley , Andrea Forrester, Charlotte Taylor, flowers girls were Agnes & Elsie Forrester and Tallis Annersely.



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SIAMS June 2017



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Christian McGuinness
Headteacher



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Remember that parking on pavements is now illegal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ascott under Wychwood

Parish Council



FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT'S PAST

PART 5

A CHARITY

William Cote, Gyles Poole, Robert Whiting, John Gardener, Robert Austin, John Selwood, Richard Poole, William Hall all of 'yerllys ascott'.

The above named men were living in Ascott Earl in the 1480's They were the first trustees of the Ascott Charity which still exists today and their footprints would certainly have been left in the west end of the village and in the surrounding open fields of the parish.

They are all listed as of 'yerllys ascott' , a name which had been known as far back as 1316 when the west end of Ascott belonged to the manor of Shipton which was held by the de Clare family, the Earls of Gloucester. It seems that several of the men may have been freeholders since property in Ascott Earl had already come into private ownership by that date, unlike Ascott Doyley where the manor remained largely intact from the Conquest of William the Conqueror until the 20th century.

So these eight men became the first trustees of the Charity on the 24th November in either 1480 or 1483, the original site donated being Church View where two messuages (dwellings) and two closes existed. The men's status was witnessed by

Edward Beckingham, Gent. and several others. The original document for the Charity remains in Oxford History Centre to this day, carefully retained through the centuries.

We know little more about the men although William Cote was an attorney, named in a deed of 1468 when the Earl of Warwick granted to Thomas Smyth of Lyneham, the property we know today as the Grange, together with its land in the open fields.

The Poole family was remembered in a piece of land called Poole's Rickyard running alongside the present Gypsy Lane, and John Selwood gave a field known as Cutts Close to the Charity in 1512. This was the field which was to the south of the Tiddy Hall site.

The Whiting family were very prominent in the village in the 16th and 17th centuries and several of their wills have survived.

Through all the succeeding centuries many more villagers would have become trustees of the Charity as are some villagers today, but the names of these original men will survive as long as the document is preserved.

Wendy Pearse

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Ascott Martyrs' Trust

Textile comes home

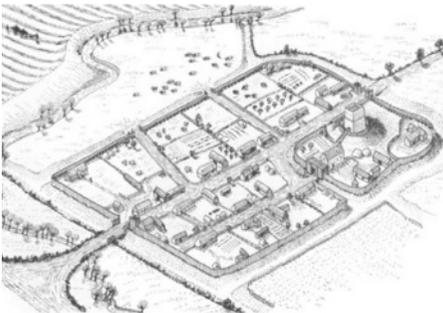
The Trust's wall-hanging is now in the Holy Trinity Church and will be used by the Trust for external presentations particularly to local women's groups some of which are already arranged.

We have offered to pay for improved lighting and we hope that the wall-hanging will eventually become a part of the Cotswolds Tourist Trail. We are actually now receiving requests for presentations with a follow up visit to the Swan (for lunch) and then the Church to see the textile.

The 3 recent page article by the Cotswolds Times was well received and reprints will be produced to hand out at and be available in the Church alongside other Trust material.

Before 1873

The recent presentation by Dr Simon Draper, Assistant Editor with The Oxfordshire Victoria County History, was well supported with many learning a lot about our village both before and after 1873.



Reconstruction of Ascott D'Oilly in the 12th century, showing castle and planned village. Drawn by James Bond.'



The highlight of the evening was the showing of the detailed map drawn up for the Marlborough estate in 1771. Many fingers were pointed to various parts, accompanied by gasps of "that's my house!" Sadly those of you who missed Simon's presentation will have to wait until next year to see the map, which will feature as one of the illustrations in the 'red book' priced at £95 but after 5 years free online.

We were reminded that the area has a long history stretching from the prehistoric period, as evidenced by the Ascott Neolithic barrow, the remains of which can now be seen in the Pound. Field names and stray finds of pottery suggest that the area was farmed and settled in the Roman period. Simon also reminded us that for many centuries Ascott (east cote) was a hamlet in the parish of Ship-ton (as was Westcott just over the border in Gloucestershire).

Other than its Neolithic barrow, Ascott's other early landmarks are the remains of its two early Norman motte and bailey castles, Ascott Earl and Ascott D'Oilly, with evidence for a third 'false start'.

The removal of the original medieval village from its site around the manor house at Ascott D'Oilly to enable the lord of the manor to better enjoy his house and grounds, provided early evidence for the interests of the landowner being predominant, an issue well-illustrated centuries later in the incident involving the Martyrs.

Simon provided a rich and detailed account of the history of the village into the 19th century, when life was grim for the majority of the inhabitants. Most striking was mention of a record from 1874 of a child whose death was attributed to malnutrition. The incident of the Ascott Martyrs was set in the wider context of the distress caused by the loss of grazing rights in the Wychwood Forest and the mounting agricultural depression. Together these factors led to the growth of agricultural trade unionism, which in May 1873 was to assume national significance with the Ascott Martyrs incident.

The rise of Nonconformity, the Baptist chapel opened in 1816, caused particular aggravation to the established church as the Baptists and other non-conformist congregations attracted followers. The antipathy shown to nonconformists by the Anglican Church may have had a negative influence on the sentences handed out to the Martyrs by the clerical Anglican magistrates who heard their case.

Ending his lecture on a more positive note, Simon, showed how from a village dominated by the interests of the landowners, the Anglican church and the Tory party, the turn of the 20th century saw the arrival and rise to prominence in the community of two men, Reginald Tiddy and the Liberal Lord Sanderson, who built Wychwood Manor. Both of a very differ-

ent political persuasion, they were perhaps attracted to the village by memories of the Martyrs and the desperate living conditions of many which their struggle had highlighted. Tiddy taught folk and Morris Dancing and built what became the first village hall. With his wife, Averill, Furness started one of the earliest branches of the Workers Education Association in 1913 and a branch of the Gladstone League. He also set up a children's health clinic at Tiddy Hall (1913) and founded a home offering respite care for over worked women and girls.

Dr Draper's draft transcripts for the history of Ascott, which will be published next year in the Oxfordshire VCH Volume XIX, can be viewed on line at

<https://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/oxfordshire/work-in-progress/ascott-under-wychwood>

Study Group

The group has identified a large number of outstanding issues which need investigating so they are looking for more volunteers to investigate the many gaps in the Martyrs story particularly the legacy and what happened to many of the families. Call Carol Andersen 01993 831068 to see if you fancy one of the tasks! It is now planned to publish a comprehensive book which will include the research in time for the 150th anniversary in June 2023.

Trust Accounts

Now that we have a set of approved accounts we are working with the Charities Commission for approval of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is for smaller charities with no actual members. If anyone wishes to see the accounts. Call 01993 831967.

Facebook and Website

Mark Pidgeon has become editor/administrator of our Facebook page, do join the group to keep up to date with developments. See also www.ascottmartys.co.uk where we have now reached over 1,000 visits! Well done Mark.

Martyrs Days

It has been decided to hold Martyrs Day every 2 years i.e. next will be 2020 June 20th.

Memorial Seats

We continue to try and work with the Parish Council. In the last Grapevine issue we were seeking to place a small QR Code block on one seat but it was decid-

ed to wait until the Trust's status is approved.

5 year plan

We have recently agreed a 5 year plan leading up to the 150th anniversary in 2023 with our founding sponsors Unite and The Rooflight Company of Shipton still offering enthusiastic support which is much appreciated. Again our plan has been offered to the Parish Council. We aim to give a short presentation/reception with Q&A in the New Year, do come along, we will advertise in advance.

If anyone would like an individual discussion on the 5 plan they are very welcome. Again call 01993 831967.

Paul Jackson



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A Windfall Pledge: a new way of charitable giving?

A friend of mine, Brian Bertram, recently received a letter from one of those companies that seek out heirs, telling him that the long-lost estate of a relative of his who died 140 years ago had been traced, and it was to be distributed among all the known heirs. One might immediately suspect one of those scams, which seem always to come from China, that offer help in exchange for half the proceeds. This one, however, was genuine.

Brian immediately decided to give 10% of his share, whatever it might be, to charity; and he has now extended this idea into a pledge that henceforth, should any other windfall come his way, he will always do this. It would be separate from his regular charitable giving, just a surprise extra gift, perhaps to a small, local charity rather than the big national and international ones.

I am much taken with this idea and pass it on with Brian's permission, in case others are also enthused. No windfalls have as yet come my way, but there's always hope.

Incidentally, Brian's share of the estate was £128. So some lucky charity received £12.80. Every little helps.

Nicola Coldstream

DID YOU KNOW

That Miss Walkinshaw the lately retired schoolmistress of Ascott School wrote the following in 1965 about 'The Donkey'

'We must be the only village to have a donkey owned by a syndicate of twenty people, and loved by all the children. He is quite a character, and his name is Winston but called Winnie by the children. He is so artful, he will Hee-haw at anyone passing to get a titbit. He was first bought to take part in our Donkey Race. Although he runs very well he has never come first in a race. He is very quiet with children and they all feed him titbits. He is about seven years old now.

We hold our Donkey Races every year, so we live in hopes that Winston will one day win a race for us. The money raised by the races goes to the Amenities Fund.'

Wendy Pearse



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WHICH END TO STUFF A TURKEY?

With Christmas just around the corner have the expert cooks and chefs we see on television all the time, ever given their judgement and ruling about which end a turkey should be stuffed?

I cannot say I have ever watched a cooking programme on T.V. all the way through. My Anglo/Saxon DNA in my makeup tells me I don't like to see food messed about with. Our friends across the channel may like to see it. I don't!

There are some of these chefs I see on T.V. who are not satisfied with cooking food which tastes good, but want to turn a Sunday dinner into a work of art and have it stuck on the wall at the Victoria and Albert.

What about Down Under? Do the Aussies stuff a turkey Christmas morning when they have a barbie on Bondi or do they spit roast an emu, well plucked of course? What I do find difficult to believe that I was once told. 90% of Australians are called Sheila or Bruce!

Back here in Britain there are still some who remain patriotic and would never dream of having turkey. Their choice is roast beef of Merry England. Which makes me think when I go by a butcher's shop and see advertised, 'Great British beef sold here.' do the cattle think to themselves, 'We may be going to our end but we are British and proud of it?' After Brexit will they become even prouder with an even bigger stiff upper lip?

Do animals really know what nationality they are? It has never seem to bother all the dogs I've had. Provided they have been well fed and cared for it has never bothered them. The dog I have now is a border collie. Her ancestors were bred to round up sheep on the hills of Scotland and Wales. My dog Joy, has never tried to sing 'Land of my Fathers' or asked to play the bagpipes. If she did she would be off to the Dog's Home straightaway.

It is said everything evolves. Who is to say in a million years the role of dogs and their owners could be reversed. Maybe dogs will keep human beings as pets. Imagine at the age of one year being taken to the vets to lose more than your dignity or perhaps on a cold winter's night, Granny being dragged on a lead around the village to make sure she carries out her ablutions, so she doesn't wet the kitchen floor during the night.

When I have seen in the back window of cars the slogan, 'A dog is not just for Christmas', I've wanted to write underneath, 'You can eat them cold on Boxing Day with bubble and squeak.'

Fred Russell

Bigger wheelie bins for keen recyclers



**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

West Oxfordshire residents wanting to recycle more can now swap to a larger recycling wheelie bin for free.

The current blue-lidded wheelie bin for recycling materials is a standard 240 litre size, but the new larger bin, at 360 litres, offers 50% more capacity.

Cllr Steve Good, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: “We are responding to households that regularly have extra recycling and feel that their current bin is not big enough.

“In addition to making recycling easier for them, it will help boost our recycling rates even further, which is good news as West Oxfordshire is already one of the top districts in the country for recycling.”

West Oxfordshire’s recycling is collected fortnightly in the blue-lidded bin and glass is collected separately in a black box. However, food waste is collected weekly.

Recycling materials collected in the blue-lidded wheelie bins are cardboard, paper, foil, cartons, aerosols, food tins, drink cans, plastic bottles, tubs and trays.

To order a bigger recycling bin or any additional recycling container, call 01993 861000 or email enquiries@westoxon.gov.uk

Photograph: Cllr Steve Good next to a standard size bin, with the larger bin in the foreground.



Rare butterfly returns for fleeting visit



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

A rare butterfly has returned to a West Oxfordshire beauty spot after a 30-year absence.

The Black Hairstreak was seen on North Leigh Common – the first time it has made an appearance there since 1988.

It was spotted by Stuart Hodges of Butterfly Conservation at the site which is maintained by West Oxfordshire District Council after reports the hot summer was encouraging increasing numbers.



Mr Hodges said: “We had tried unsuccessfully to find it at North Leigh Common before. The last time we have any reference of it being seen there was in 1988 which was an exceptional year not equalled until this year.”

The sighting was particularly significant as the Black Hairstreak has a very limited range with most colonies limited to Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. It is only seen in June and early July.

The butterfly relies on the presence of blackthorn to lay its eggs and the plant is found in the wooded area of North Leigh Common.

The open common land is set to be the subject of a new management plan set up by the Council in the hope of encouraging the Black Hairstreak to thrive along with other flora and fauna.

Cllr Steve Good, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: “It is fantastic to hear that such a rare species of butterfly has been seen in the District and through woodland management we will look to protect and develop its micro-environment by retaining blackthorn.”

Picture shows the Black Hairstreak butterfly.

Credit: Dave Wilton

Parish Council News

As we come to the end of the year what memories we have of a beautiful summer and autumn (sorry farmers). However, here at the PC we are now hoping that there will be a little less snow and definitely no power cuts!

ROADS AND PAVEMENTS

We think that we could cautiously say there has been some progress. Many thanks must go to Peter Rance for his determination and County Councillor Liz Leffman for her understanding and support with road issues. After much 'badgering' the dip on the Leaffield Rd has been levelled again. Exactly how is not clear but we will keep an eye on it. Within the village there have been new lines and more patching but most importantly Peter and Liz secured a site visit with an OCC officer to witness quite how dangerous the driving at the Chipping Norton Road Bridge can be. At very least we will have secured better signs but OCC are also undertaking a feasibility study for a priority system there.

Unfortunately there was only 1 volunteer for Speedwatch so that will not go ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has cut back their hedges and general undergrowth along the pavements. I know that it is HUGELY appreciated by all pedestrians. Please keep in mind all our various residents who have a right to go for a stroll but might not be so steady. They may need the support of another walker, they may have walking aids. Families may have pushchairs and little children holding hands. This means that ideally the pavements should be as wide as possible with hedges cut back to the boundary and cars parked on the road. Sadly, our roads are not as quiet as they used to be and so lots of pedestrians are worried about stepping off the pavement.

ALLOTMENTS

Thank you to Brian Leach for being so proactive with allotment issues. We do still have 1 large or 2 small plots available. On his recommendation we are actively investigating a supply of water which avoids using Thames Water and Brian has introduced the holders to a cost-effective way of buying seeds through the Milton Allotment Group, MUAGA.

PLANNING

12-18 London Lane – We learnt in October that the site had been put on the market again after the first developers had withdrawn their offer.

Cowshed Site at end of High St – This site is owned by Cornbury Estate and this is the second time that it has been suggested for development. This time we expect a planning application to go ahead following a village consultation held by the developers Bloombridge, on 15 November in Tiddy Hall. (See page [42](#) for further details)

TRANSPORT

Trains - You may be interested in a quote from the Cotswold Line Promotion Group (CLPG) latest publication – *‘Three of the Oxfordshire halts – Finstock, Coombe and Ascott-under-Wychwood now have a poorer level of service than after the Beeching cuts of the 60’s. Sadly our decade long campaign for better services from Ascott Station – ideally situated right in the centre of the village – continues to fall on deaf ears. (Cotswold & Malvern Line News, Summer 2018, Number 130)* CLPG have formally applied to GWR for pre-Xmas Saturday trains to stop at Ascott-u-W.

Buses – The WOCT 210 will not be able to organise Saturday buses at this stage due to the lack of Saturday volunteer drivers.

DEFIBRILLATORS

Sandy Timms is busy organising a second defibrillator which will be sited at Tiddy Hall. We do hope that the final funds will become available imminently and the defibrillator installed by January.

STONE WALLING

Again we must say a huge thank you to the Wychwood Project for rebuilding the shared wall between the churchyard and the Pound. The Church and Parish shared the cost of the stone but the Project wallers gave their time, muscle and expertise for free and the odd payment of cake! Many, many thanks to them and to Brian Mitchell for co-ordinating.

GENERAL DATA

Consent forms have been issued to everyone on our contact lists. If you haven’t answered we will not be able to e-mail or phone you from 1 January, so please get in contact if you want to remain on our phone and e-mail lists. If we have missed you out please accept our apologies and similarly get in contact. All our PC e-

Ascott Grapevine

mail addresses have changed and so please use the following addresses when writing on PC matters:-

contact@ascottpc.org.uk (for all Parish Councillors at one time)

Parish Council Members:

Philippa Carter (Chairman)	830344	pippa.carter@ascottpc.org.uk
Peter Rance	831113	peter.rance@ascottpc.org.uk
Sandy Timms	831870	sandy.timms@ascottpc.org.uk
Brian Leach		brian.leach@ascottpc.org.uk
Graham Ranson		
Angela Barnes (Parish Clerk)	01608 641045	clerk@ascottpc.org.uk

Don't forget Carols Round the Tree on Christmas Eve at 6pm on the Green (bring torches).

Best wishes from us all for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

ASCOTT BELLS

The bell frame has been treated to remove years of rust and repainted and the room housing the bells has been thoroughly cleaned removing a centuries dirt and debris.

The tenor bell has been repaired and the other five bells re-hung. The next job is to stabilise the bell frame so that it doesn't move when all the bells are rung. By the time this magazine is delivered this work should be completed.

Thanks to everyone who made this work possible. We look forward to hearing the bells ringing regularly once again.

Village Planning

1. The developers who had made an offer to buy 12-18 London Lane have withdrawn and the land is on the market again. Green & Co are the agents and it is advertised on RightMove. The developers quoted the problem of drainage and the proposed access road as factors.
2. Cornbury Estate do intend to put in an application to develop the Cow Shed site at the end of High St. The PC has recently been told 6-9 houses of 2 and 3 beds. Our District Councillor has been told 2 large houses and 1 shop type building with flats above. Who knows! Bloombridge is the agent and they have had surveyors on the site recently. They intend to produce plans to show to the whole community sometime in November before they apply for planning permission. They are suggesting it be at Tiddy Hall during a late afternoon going into early evening and it will be a 'drop-in' session. The best day for Tiddy is a Thursday but we don't know the exact date yet. Bloombridge say they will put notices up. After passing the High St residents' views on to Bloombridge the PC feels that we should remain impartial and from now on we are communicating politely through our clerk.
3. I have been asked if and when the PC is going to publish the sites which have been put forward by residents as possible development sites. We believe that this would not be a good idea for the following reasons:
 - 3.1 It would help developers to identify sites (and there are at least 4 developers keeping an eye on Ascott).
 - 3.2 All sites have drawbacks and have been suggested by residents at the opposite end of the village. This is because each individual is very well acquainted with the problems of their own territory but not always anywhere else. It could be a very divisive subject and, whether we publish the list or not, there will be worry. Let the developers do the thinking! Neighbourhood Plans have not given the protection that we were told they would.
4. There is talk of negotiating with developers for the community to accept a development as long as funds are used to improve the village amenities or infrastructure. I have investigated this in detail with WODC Planning and our OCC and WODC Councillors. The planning clause is S106 and the legal advice states that the negotiations would be between lawyers of the developer and the Planning Office, not the village. I have been advised by several expert parties that it only comes into play when affordable/social housing is planned, that a developer pays nothing if it is less than 10 dwellings and that the amount negotiated would be in pro-

portion to the size of the development. The last point is obvious, I would think, given the fact that developers want to make a profit. When Cornbury first talked about developing the Cow Shed site 4 years ago they offered to develop an orchard on the Dutch barn site as a community sweetener. I think we have enough apples already!

5. The West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 is no longer “emerging” but approved by the Inspector and adopted by WODC. As with all planning documents, you can find contradictory clauses if you look hard enough but the general consensus is that it does give A-u-W and the AONB more protection than during these past few years when a Local Plan was not in place. You will find it on the WODC Planning website. There are general policies which apply to everyone and then the District is divided up into sections and Ascott comes under the Burford-Charlbury section.
6. We are aware that there are some residents who support more development, those who support nothing and all shades in between. The PCs job is to weigh up all the pros and cons bearing in mind the needs of the village. Sometimes development can improve a space as well as provide much needed affordable housing as has been the case at the top of Maple Way. Other development has provided smaller dwellings for people to downsize, such as in Cooks Row and Station Approach. Some residents were against those plans at the time but have come to accept them. Predicted disasters don't always come about and new friendships are forged so that on balance the village has gained. Although not all the old problems are solved, there are sometimes improvements to the neighbouring environment because of better building materials being specified.

It is up to us all to keep a close watch. If you are worried about development in your area because of a specific problem then take photos to be able to prove your point. Building up a dossier with proof is much more powerful than heresay. Don't forget that the PC cannot always be just in the right place to take those photos - you are on the spot. Try to really understand the issues accurately, share knowledge with your neighbours and educate the PC too. The Planning Dept will take the community more seriously when the issues can really be proven rather than just sounding like Nimbyism.

We hope you attended the Cornbury consultation in November (see [Page 44](#)) and will keep in touch if you have views or news.

Parish Council

**THE COWSHED AND DUTCH BARNs, YEW TREE FARM,
HIGH STREET, ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD**

Committee Room, Tiddy Hall, 3pm to 7:30pm

15TH NOVEMBER 2018

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ('DROP IN') EVENT

Bloombridge LLP is proposing to submit a planning application for a small-scale residential development to replace the barns at Yew Tree Farm. Best practice encourages early community involvement in the design process to ensure easily addressed concerns, ideas or opportunities are incorporated in the plans.

We would welcome suggestions in this regard.

Our preferred option at this stage is eight predominantly 2 and 3 bed houses, designed to a high standard on the 'previously developed' element of the site.

All trees will be retained.

Please 'drop in' any time during the consultation.

We look forward to seeing you.



**Coffee Mornings at
Ascott Church**

10.30 -11.30am on Tuesdays

December 18th

January 29th

February 26th

March 26th

Farmhouse B&B

In Ascott u Wychwood

Spacious comfortable rooms with

Fantastic views over the

Evenlode Valley

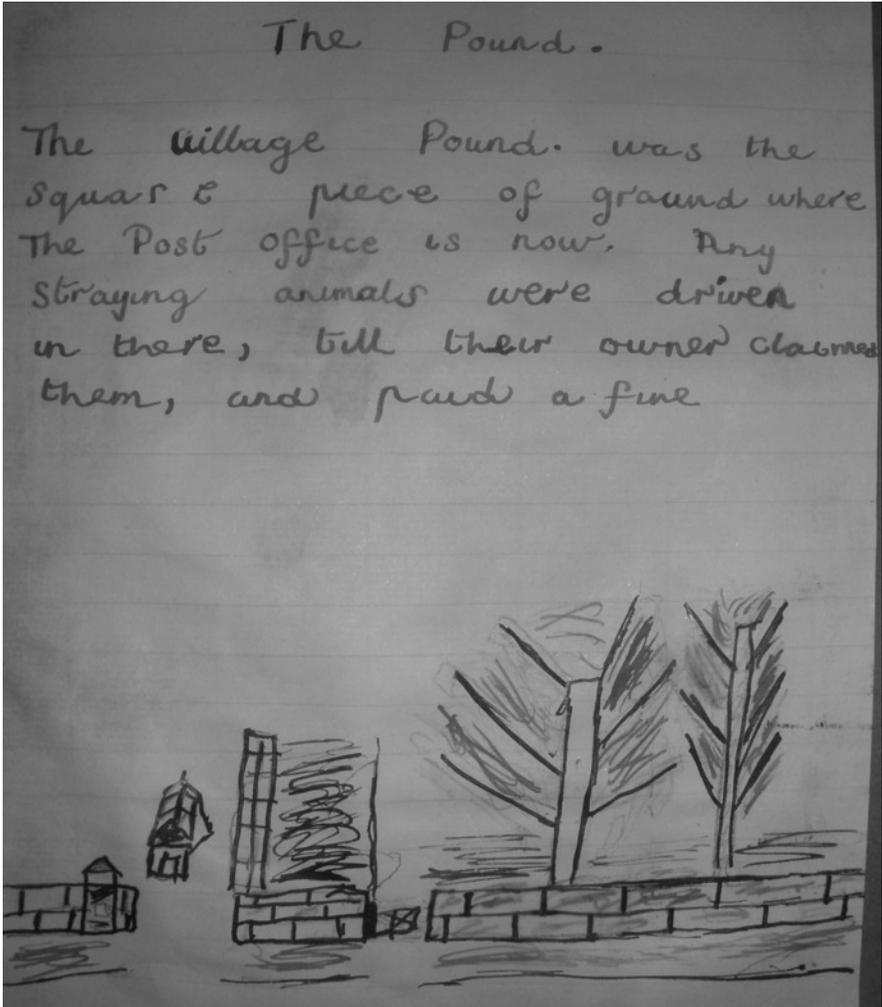
Please ring Mrs Sally Walker on

01993 831900

Email : sally@college-farm.com

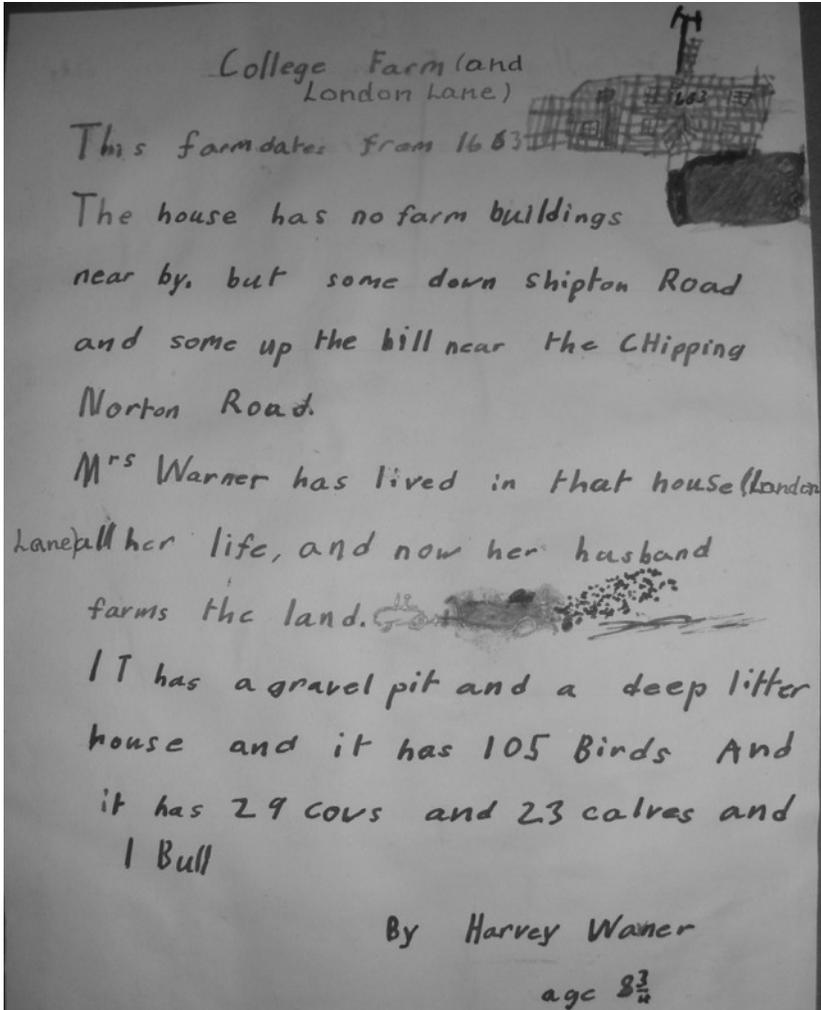
Ascott School Journal c1955

The Village Pound



The Village Pound was the square piece of ground where The Post Office is now. Any straying animals were driven in there, till their owner claimed them, and paid a fine.

College Farm (and London Lane)



The farmhouse from 1663. The house has no farm buildings near by, but some down Shipton Road and some up the hill near the Chipping Norton Road.

Mrs Warner has lived in that house (London Lane) all her life, and now her husband farms the land.

It has a gravel pit and a deep litter house and it has 105 birds and it has 29 cows and 23 calves and 1 bull.

By Harvey Warner age $8\frac{3}{4}$

Corner House Shop - Mrs Cook

Corner House Shop
Mrs Cooks
The house and buildings are very old,
and used to be an Inn, the
Churchill Arms, before the present
one was built by Lord Churchill.
The court was held here, and
there was a little room divided
off the room where the shop
is now, which was the Judge's
closet. Mrs Wallis, who now
has the other shop in the
village, used to live there and
was born in the Corner House.
The building and stables at
the back were used for post horses
for the London to Worcester coach.
There used to be a big ring on a
tree, which was used for hanging wrong doers.

The house and buildings are very old, and used to be an Inn, the Churchill Arms, before the present one was built by Lord Churchill. The court was held here, and there was a little room divided off the room where the shop is now, which was the judge's closet. Mrs Wallis, who now has the other shop in the village, used to live there and was born in the Corner House. The building and stables at the back were used for post horses for the London to Worcester coach. There used to be a big ring on a tree, which was used for hanging wrong doers

MID-MONTH MIDDAY MEDITATION

With the clocks going back and the winter nights drawing in, MMM is acquiring a fourth M as we move to lunchtime on the third Tuesday of each month, viz 12 noon to 12.30. This will make both the journey and the enjoyment of the church brighter and maybe warmer.

At the same time we might experiment with a new approach to our short meditation time. Rather than beginning with a few lines quoted to provoke us to less mundane thoughts, we will begin with a whole twenty minutes, at least, of silence. This may allow more stillness and a deeper level of consciousness which can then be fed by some appropriate lines – say, of poetry or scripture (not necessarily Christian). How we receive such words, and whether we think about them or just let them dwell ‘in our hearts’ or not at all, will depend on the individual entirely.

The benefits of meditation are becoming better known both as an antidote to busyness and the deafening chatter of our minds and also as a means of sitting with others with a variety of cultural approaches and worldviews, and probably yearning for the same outcomes for self and society.

Ascott Church, 12 – 12.30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of each month

Deaths in the Village

Michael Johnson

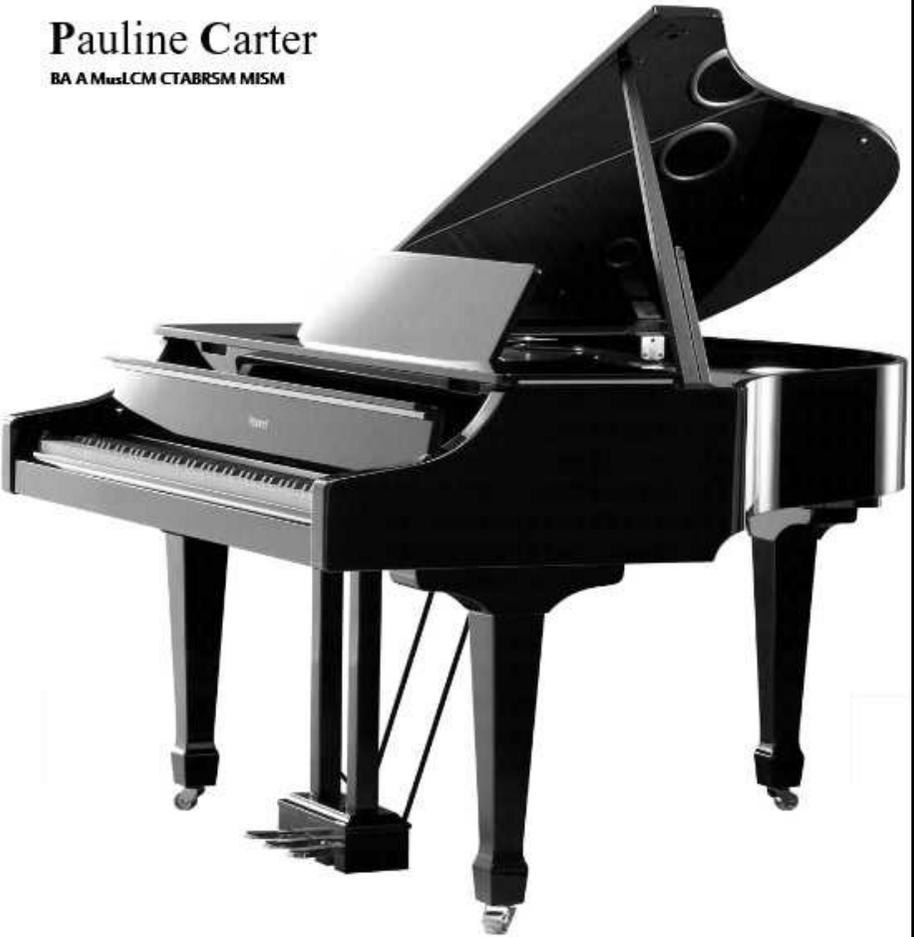
Robin Martin-Oliver

TIDDY HALL

Piano Lessons

Pauline Carter

BA A Mus LCM CTABRSM MISM



01993 774568

roseneathmusicschool.com

CHARITY RUN 2018

Our 8th annual Charity Run was held on Sunday 28th October 2018, on a cold but sunny morning. As usual there were two races a 5K and a challenging 10K. Altogether 81 runners took part, 36 for the 5K and 45 for the 10K. This was a little disappointing as last year we had 111 runners, 38 for the 5K and 73 for the 10K.

However, because of the generosity of our sponsors, the Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust, Pennington Manches solicitors, Cotswold Wildlife Park, the Wychwood Folk Club, the Rooflight Company and Ingrid Ridley after costs we raised £2,043. Part of these proceeds will be used to fund a second defibrillator for the village.

We extend our thanks to Roger & Ros Shepherd and also Bradley & Kate Wickens for allowing us to stage these two runs over their land.

We are also grateful for everyone involved in putting on this annual event including the course marshals, the organising committee, providers of refreshments, those timing the runners at the finish line, collecting entry forms and fees before the race and recording running times afterwards.

We are very grateful to the two photographers who attended the event; Barry Cornelius who photographed the 10K competitors part-way through the race and Alan Vickers who photographed all runners at the finishing line and also the prize giving. Barry's pictures can be viewed at www.oxonraces.com/photos/2018-10-28-ascott-under-wychwood. Alan's photographs will be posted on the village web site.

Of course, we must also thank the runners without whom there would be no event.

A complete list of runners and times for both races will be made available on the village web site but here are the main winners:

5k

Male

1	Jake Astor	20mins 40
2	Rupert Smith	21mins 22
3	Alexander Spaul	21mins 40

Female

1	Emily Davenall	25mins 56
2	Moya Lynchsmith	27mins 35
3	Abi Norgrove	28mins 06

10K

Male

1	Jamie Parkinson	33mins 04
2	Tegs Jones	35mins 43
3	Sam Upton	36mins 02

Female

1	Beth Owen	47mins 55
2	Jo Creber	48mins 21
3	Anne Taylor-Vissers	48mins 46

Jamie Parkinson has broken the previous course record!

In the 10K there were special categories and the winners in these are:

Male Veteran 40 years: Henry Astor 47mins 23

Male Veteran 50 years plus: Kenny Lowies 41mins 49
(Kenny was fourth overall)

Female Veteran 35 years: Andrea Finnigan 49mins 12

Female Veteran 45 years plus: Zoe White 55mins 52

5k Male

5k Female



Jake Astor



Emily Davenall



Rupert Smith



Moya Lynchsmith



Alexander Spaul



Abi Norgrove

10k Male



Jamie Parkinson

10k Female



Beth Owen



Tegs Jones



Jo Creber



Sam Upton



Anne Taylor-Vissers

Village runners



Matt Gulland



Laura White



Rupert Smith



Anne Smith

Wychwood Project Forest

The Winter update for the Forest project can be found at the Ascott website

There is the Wychwood Project Forest AGM with guest speaker John Tyler on Thursday 29 November 7.30 – 9pm at New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-u Wychwood.



Wychwood Folk Club – What’s in a name

At the time of writing Elaine & I have been running your local Folk club for almost 5 years.

Now do not be put off (and I’m sure many are) by the words ‘FOLK CLUB’. Over the last 5 years we’ve put on artistes whose genre has been predominantly Blues, Bluegrass, Americana or just Acoustic Singer/Songwriter, musicians who have sung/played some incredible songs. Yes, we have had some really fantastic folk artistes but that’s to be expected of a folk club. We’ve had some of the biggest names in the business with the likes of Steve Knightly, Phil Beer, Julie Felix, Peter Knight & Fisherman’s Friends plus many others too numerous to mention. We can have anything from 40 to 160 turning up for our events (we obviously prefer the higher figure) with some shows selling out quite quickly, others have taken up a lot of our time advertising and promoting to try and get people through the door. We’ve had people buying tickets from as far away as East Anglia, South Wales and the West country, tying one of our events in to a long weekend in the Cotswolds so we like to feel we’re doing our bit for the local economy

It has been very hard work, quite stressful at times, extremely worrying, but we’ve also had lots of fun & the bonus of meeting many talented artistes along the way. We have also met some wonderful guests and at the end of the night when they tell us they’ve had a great time it makes it all worthwhile. See the feedback section on our website www.wychwoodfolkclub.com.

Our main venue is Tiddy Hall but we have also taken our shows to other venues as and when the need requires including Aston Village Hall and Beaconsfield Hall in Shipton. We are also planning to utilise other venues in the future including Leafield and possibly Witney or Chipping Norton. Not forgetting we also utilised the outside area of the Swan Inn to hold a festival (Swanfest) 3 years running engaging the services of Barbra Dickson as headline in 2016 & Martyn Joseph in 2017

Since we’ve started we have gradually built up our equipment and now boast a really good PA system (which we are not averse to hiring out). So, don’t be put off by the words ‘Folk Club’, come on down and take in a show, you never know you might enjoy it.

Mark Pidgeon

WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



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

Sat Dec 8th All on A Winter's Night featuring Johnny Coppin

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

One of England's finest singer-songwriters presents a fine mix of traditional carols, new songs, humorous readings and folklore.

Sat Dec 22nd Listen Listen – The Songs of Sandy Denny featuring Sally Barker + IOTA + 15 String Trio

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door'

Listen Listen' formed in 2017 to recognize and to celebrate the music of the late Sandy Denny, who is considered a founder of the British folk-rock movement,

Sat Jan 19th The Paul McClure Trio + support by Dolly Mavies

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door

UK Americana Folk/Roots singer songwriter, full-time touring Troubadour, storyteller, road-warrior, raconteur and serial house concert performer from Rutland, England signed to Clubhouse Records.

Sat Feb 2nd Daria Kulesh + support from the Pete Watkins

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door

A hardworking and in-demand live performer, Daria offers her audiences a thoroughly engaging, entertaining and enchanting experience

Sat March 2nd Chris Leslie + support from Under the Wychwood

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Chris is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter based in Oxfordshire UK, primarily known for the past nineteen years for his work with Fairport Convention.

March 23 rd	Peter Knight/John Spiers	April 6 th	Ninebarrow
May 4 th	The Gerry Colvin Band	June 1 st	Martin Harley
June 15 th	Steve Knightly		

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - www.wychwoodfolkclub.com
Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com

**The Ascott Pantomime Players Proudly
Presents**

THE BIG BAD WOLF



Sunday 6th January (12th Night)

Doors open at 16:30 for 17:00

Script by Brian Leach

Produced by Keith Ravenhill

LED Lighting Showroom

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Come and see our fabulous range of traditional and modern lighting.

For every room and space in the home

For gardens, driveways and every space outside

Newly opened

Our brand new and massive showroom is just off the A40 in Witney

(opposite Topps Tiles and Screwfix)

Perfect presents

Our gorgeous lamps make ideal Wedding, Birthday, Christmas or Anniversary gifts

We'll help...

Bring in your old light bulbs and we'll find the right LED match and you can immediately start

saving 90% off your lighting electricity bill

A fruitful Autumn term at Ascott Preschool

It's been a wonderfully energetic start to the academic year at Preschool. We've loved hearing what children did over the holidays and welcoming lots of new starters. Early in September we enjoyed a Saturday morning picnic at the playing fields, which was a great opportunity to get to know the families who've joined us this year.

Getting outdoors

We have made the most of some beautiful autumn weather by getting out and about with the children in the village. After reading *Postman Bear* by Julia Donaldson, the children designed and wrote their own postcards and we walked to the post box to send them home. We've also been out to collect blackberries, which we made into crumbles along with apples brought in by a parent.



Harvest Festival celebrations

In October, we walked to Holy Trinity Church for a special Harvest Festival. The Revd Mark Abrey had a lively chat with the children about where our food comes from. They had some great ideas about how farmers harvest crops – suggestions included tractors, spades... and motorbikes! The children took donations for the local Food Bank to the altar and sang harvest-themed songs. We also went through a 'secret door' to view the bell that had been brought down from the tower for repair.

Reading, crafts and cooking

We've been having great fun getting to know Marianne from the Wychwood Library. She has visited several times, reading delightful stories and leading craft activities. The children have been busy in the kitchen making dinosaur-shaped biscuits, vegetable soup and bread. And we held a week of 'sharing breakfasts' which was very popular with the children.

Special visitors

We were lucky to have some unusual visitors to the car park one Friday in October... a huge lorry arrived, and two beautiful horses emerged along with a smart carriage. This was the transport for a wedding at the village church (the bride was the aunt of one of our children). It was really exciting watching them getting everything ready and waving them off.

Looking ahead to Christmas

The children will soon be getting ready for the Christmas concert by learning some new songs. We are looking forward to visiting the church again, when we will hopefully get a chance to ring the newly reinstated bell. We are also told a special somebody might find time to fly over from Lapland for a visit to Preschool... ho ho ho!

If you'd like to find out more about Ascott Preschool visit our website www.ascottpreschool.co.uk (*note this is a new web address*), or contact Pauline via email (ascott_pp@btinternet.com) or phone (01993 832671).

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.

The Charity run this year on October 28th see pages [50](#), [51](#), [52](#) and [53](#).

Chairman

John Cull johncull@wowmatters.com

Trustees

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

Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Mark Dawbarn mark@dawbarn.co.uk

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

Pauline Marshall pollymarshall@gmail.com

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk



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All the usual electrical, plumbing, tools, decorating and heavy building materials.

Delivery available on larger items please enquire.

Try us first we will try and oblige if possible.



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Saturday 8.00am – 12.00pm

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TIDDY HALL

As I write this, the weather has suddenly turned wintery and the days are beginning to draw in! It's easy to shut the doors and close the curtains, but to help keep our minds and bodies healthier during these colder months, it's important to get out of the comfort of our homes, do some exercise and socialise. You need not go far because your village hall has a lot to offer over the winter months!

The Wychwood Folk Club gigs for the remainder of this year and into next:

December 8th – Johnny Coppin's All on a Winter's Night

December 22nd – The Songs of Sandy Denny featuring Sally Barker

January 19th – Paul McClure

February 2nd – Daria Kulesh

March 2nd – Chris Leslie

March 23rd – Peter Knight & John Spiers

Please see the website www.wychwoodfolkclub.com for further information.

The **Sunday Tea Dances** will continue into next year. December 2nd will see the last of this year's dances; dates for the first part of 2019 are January 13th, February 3rd & March 3rd.

This year's **village pantomime** will take place next year, on Sunday 6th January!

The next session of **Qigong** will start on Thursday January 10th. If you'd like to attend, please contact Pam Quirke on 07780 572283.

Don't forget that there is also **Pilates**, **Circuits** and **Happy Fitness** taking place on various evenings during the week – see the regular activities for further details, and contact numbers, at the end of this article.

And finally.....we hope to see many villagers at our **New Year's Eve Party** to help bring in **2019!!!** The festivities will start at 8.00pm, tickets are £10 per person, to include food and a glass of bubbly, and we ask every couple to bring a plate of food (please check with Ingrid as to what to bring). There will be a bar and dancing will be to the beat of Ascott's own **3 Piece Sweet!!!** Tickets can be booked with Ingrid (830612) or Simon (831479).

Your **Tiddy Hall Trustees** are:

Honourable President	Roger Shepherd
Chairman	Simon Gidman
Treasurer	Nick Carter

Regular Activities:

Secretary	Rowena Haig
Booking Clerk	Ingrid Ridley
Health & Safety	Graham Bell
Pre School Representative	Pauline Plant

There are still plenty of gigs coming up at **The Wychwood Folk Club** during the second half of this year:

Ingrid Ridley

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

7.30pm – 8.30pm Happy Fitness

Contact: Andrea Forrester 07747 853989

Thursday Night

7.30pm – 8.30pm Qigong

Contact: Pam Quirke 07780 572283

Friday Afternoons

3.30pm – 6pm Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

1st Sunday of each Month

2.30pm – 5pm Sunday Tea Dance

Contact: Jess 07827 235457

Post Office runs every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

Special Events:

Sun Dec 2nd Tea Dance 2.30 – 5pm

Sat Dec 8th Folk Night 7.30pm

Johnny Coppin

Sat Dec 22nd Folk Night 7.30pm

The Songs of Sandy Denny featuring Sally Barker

Mon Dec 31st New Year's Eve

8.30pm

Sun Jan 6th Village Panto

Sun Jan 13th Tea Dance 2.30pm

Sat Jan 19th Folk Night 7.30pm

Paul McClure

Sat Feb 2nd Folk Night 7.30pm

Daria Kulesh

Sun Feb 3rd Tea Dance 2.30-5pm

Fri Feb 15th Church Fundraiser Talk by Douglas Chirnside

Sat March 2nd Folk Night 7.30pm

Chris Leslie

Sun March 3rd Tea Dance 2.30-5pm

Sat March 23rd Folk Night 7.30pm

Peter Knight & John Spiers



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 undertake one (or more if you are inclined) of the following tasks:

Serve our customers

Stock the shop

Promote and market our produce

Organising and carrying out maintenance

Administration

The Village Shop Autumn 2018

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

The following newsletter to our volunteers, embraces the essence of the shop, the part it plays in our community and reflects the dedication of those who give some of their time to making it work for us all; without whom, the shop would cease to function.

Ascott Village Shop, Cooks Row, High Street, Ascott-under-Wychwood, OX7 6FY

Tel: 01993 831240: shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

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

We are economically viable only through the support of our volunteers. Can you help, by volunteering just two hours per week please?

As I sit to write this brief article, I am reminded of the loyalty, effort, conviction, and dedication of all those who have made the shop a successful enterprise over the past 15 years, since we opened in 2003.



Today sees the retirement of Dorothy, seated with Bridgette outside the shop last week who has worked in the shop for nearly 12 of those years; she perfectly embodies the ethos of the shop – always kind and helpful she has been a staunch supporter of the shop and its place in the village. Staff, customers, and volunteers will all miss her greatly.

Sales

Sales have held up quite well this year, except for a couple of slow periods during the school holidays. But the number of customers continues to fall (for the summer quarter of July – September there was a 1.8% drop in customers from 8,673 in 2017 to 8,509 this year). Our reserves are adequate and the general feedback we get from customers is that the range and quality of foodstuff and other sundry products is good.

This is probably the right place to tell you the special **Christmas Goods' Display** will be laid out for you from 19 November. Advent Calendars are already on sale.

We have also managed to save a little on overhead costs

Maintenance and Shop Area

I am indebted to Empire Homes, who reacted promptly to clear a masonry bees' nest from the eaves of the flat's stairwell at the end of July and have trimmed all

the hedges around the parking area used by the shop. With Geoff's work on the borders and re-painting some of our woodwork, the shop area is tidy and pleasant.

We have nearly finished the task of replacing out of date and essential equipment, with only one freezer to go. This is the stand-up at the front of the shop and it will be replaced early in 2019.

The Parish Council asked us if we would host the defibrillator that used to be on the front wall of the pub. The Committee agreed this and it will be mounted very shortly on the wooden shed by the back door. It will be re-charged from the shop supply and the PC will provide ongoing revenue to maintain it in full working order.

Volunteers

Gaynor continues to do a splendid job of running the weekly rota, though there are often taxing times when four or sometimes more slots need to be filled during the week. Bridgette steps up frequently, though she really has her hands full with all her management responsibilities.

There are also all the, too often, unsung volunteers who work behind the scenes to help keep cards, organic produce, hot drinks, newspapers, Hook Norton beer and many other special things on the shelves for our customers, and there are others who have specialist knowledge and who we turn to for advice.

If anyone in the village would like to join us, but does not want to oversee the counter, please get in touch – there are many ways in which you might help.

Nick Leadbetter

Chairman, Shop Management Committee

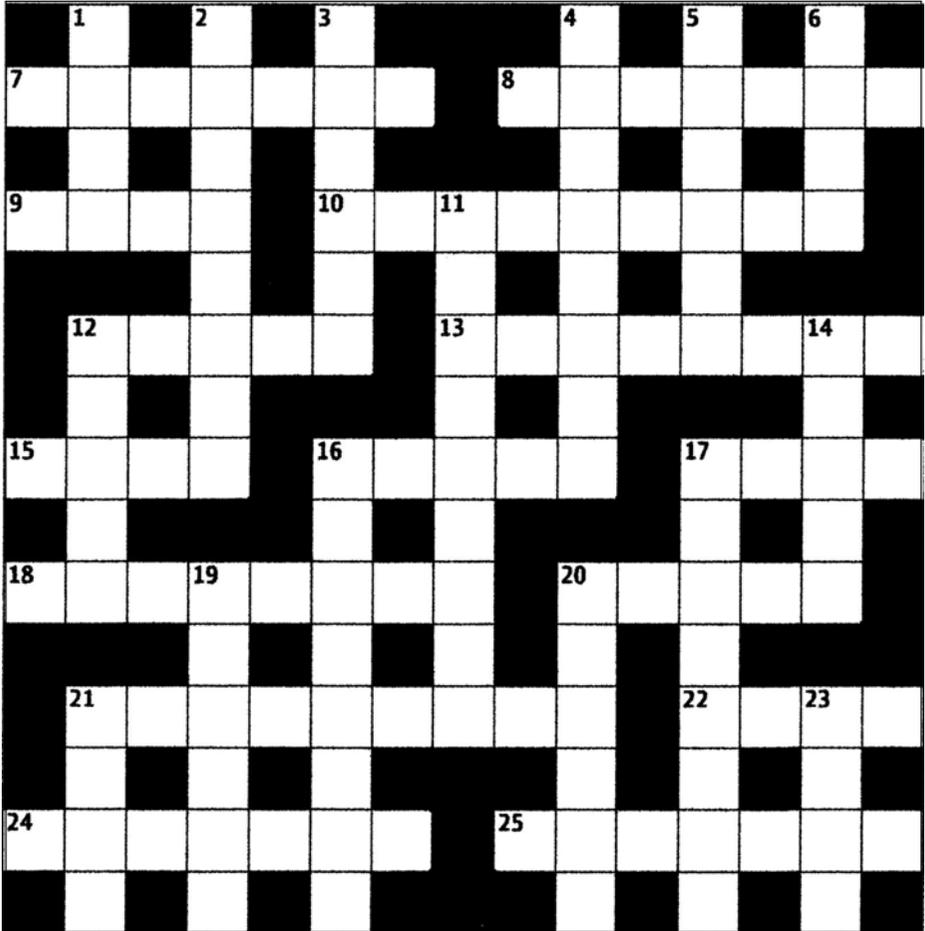
Tea Dances

Age UK Oxfordshire.

Age UK hold a tea dance at Tiddy Hall in Ascott-Under-Wychwood on a monthly basis held from 2.30 - 5.00pm on the following dates:

- **Sunday 2nd December**
- **Sunday 13th January**
- **Sunday 3rd February**
- **Sunday 3rd March**

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 7 12 across in curried food business (7)
- 8 Lionel, a hot favourite at Christmas? (7)
- 9 Deal here in broken toys (4)
- 10 See 2
- 12 An expert in the gymnasium? (5)
- 13 It helps feet go on platforms (8)
- 15 Two elements essential to our existence (and to 16 across?) (4)
- 16 Queen may, we hear, be confused with 8(5)
- 17 A girl, not a son? I'm not happy about that (4)
- 18 Brief order to stop working (8)
- 20 Savages bad housing that holds area back (5)
- 21 See 2
- 22 Expected learner to get to the end of Pushkin (4)
- 24 Paul had one for 10 (7)
- 25 B_ awful noise made by group together (7)

Down

- 1 Home adopted by the Guardian (4)
- 2,10,23,21 across Excuse me? Did some old people at any time cause our ruin? That's a funny revolutionary line (4,4,3,6,4,4,3,2)
- 3 Feel shame, seeing horse in pen (6)
- 4 Obligated to look over opponents (8)
- 5 A short clever answer is capital (6)
- 6 Bog briefly venerated by 10 (4)
- 11 Drink while young - make mine purer when brewed (2,7)
- 12 Sit, keeping one's balance (5)
- 14 A part of Norfolk that's not British (5)
- 16 Firm moves into sort of market with no room left (4-4)
- 17 A line abandoned by Europe, avoided in hearing (8)
- 19 To remove electrons from position is easy (6)
- 20 What hurts me in Indian city (6)
- 21 Patsy's English, looked down on by Irish party (4)
- 23 See 2

Answers to Autumn 2018

Across

- 1 Step up
- 5 Salacity
- 9 Calabria
- 10 Hamlet
- 11 Asbo
- 12 Unforgiven
- 13 Pinnie
- 14 Recusant
- 16 Surroyal
- 19 Vacate
- 21 Herbicidal
- 23 Isle
- 24 Mercia
- 25 Dramatic
- 26 Strachey
- 27 Enough

Down

- 2 Transfiguration
- 3 Platoon
- 4 Perfumery
- 5 Staffer
- 6 Lahar
- 7 Comfits
- 8 Theres no telling
- 15 Cavalcade
- 17 Rebecca
- 18 Lady Day
- 20 Chicago
- 22 Crash

Local Business Directory

ACADEMY/GB DOORS 01993 778836/01865 246444

www.garagedoors.org

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ALAN GORDON HEALTH 07833 110364 www.alangordon-health.co.uk

alangordonhealth@aol.com

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ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253

www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

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ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

[Page 33](#)

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

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DOOR2DOOR PET SUPPLIES 01608 658358 info@door2doorpetsupplies.co.uk

www.door2doorpetsupplies.co.uk

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DRY STONE WALLING 01242263428/07980564508

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

[Page 13](#)

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

[Page 44](#)

FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299

wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

[Page 55](#)

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 35</u>
JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	<u>Page 35</u>
LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357	<u>Page 13</u>
LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105	<u>Page 57</u>
PILATES WITH URSULA 01993 830267 07917 090396 info@pilateswithursula.co.uk www.pilateswithursula.com	<u>Page 23</u>
ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	<u>Page 35</u>
ROSENEATH 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com	<u>Page 49</u>
TV AERIAL SERVICES 01993 608118	<u>Page 26</u>
WITNEY SHUTTLE 08000434633 www.witneyshuttle.com	<u>Page 13</u>
WYCHWOOD WROUGHT IRON 01993832850 www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com	<u>Page 26</u>

Events Calendar - 2018/19

Date	Time	Event	Venue
December 1 st		Safari Supper	
December 2 nd	2.30 - 5pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
December 8 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning	The Mill
December 8 th	7.30pm	Johnny Coppin's - All on a Winter's Night	Tiddy Hall
December 18 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee Morning	Church
December 18 th	12-12.30pm	Mid-Month Midday Meditation	Church
December 22 nd	7.30pm	Iota, 15 String Trio & Songs of Sandy Denny	Tiddy Hall
December 24 th	6.00pm	Carols Round the Tree	The Green
December 31 st	8.30pm	New Year's Eve	Tiddy Hall
January 6 th	5.00pm	Pantomime "The Big Bad Wolf"	Tiddy Hall
January 10 th	7.30-8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
January 13 th	2.30 - 5pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
January 15 th	12-12.30pm	Mid-Month Midday Meditation	Church
January 17 th	7.30-8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
January 19 th	7.30pm	The Paul McClure Trio	Tiddy Hall
January 24 th	7.30-8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
January 29 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee Morning	Church
January 31 st	7.30-8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 2 nd	7.30pm	Daria Kulesh, Vicky Swan & Johnny Dyer	Tiddy Hall
February 3 rd	2.30 - 5pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
February 7 th	7.30-8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 15 th	7.30pm	The Secrets & Scandals of the Queen's Jewels	Tiddy Hall
February 14 th	7.30-8.30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
February 19 th	12-12.30pm	Mid-Month Midday Meditation	Church
February 26 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee Morning	Church
March 2 nd	7.30pm	Chris Leslie + support from Under the Wychwood	Tiddy Hall
March 3 rd	2.30-5pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
March 16 th	pm	Quiz night	Tiddy Hall
March 19 th	12-12.30pm	Mid-Month Midday Meditation	Church
March 23 rd	7.30pm	Peter Knight & John Spiers	Tiddy Hall
March 26 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee Morning	Church
April 6 th	7.30pm	Ninebarrow	Tiddy Hall