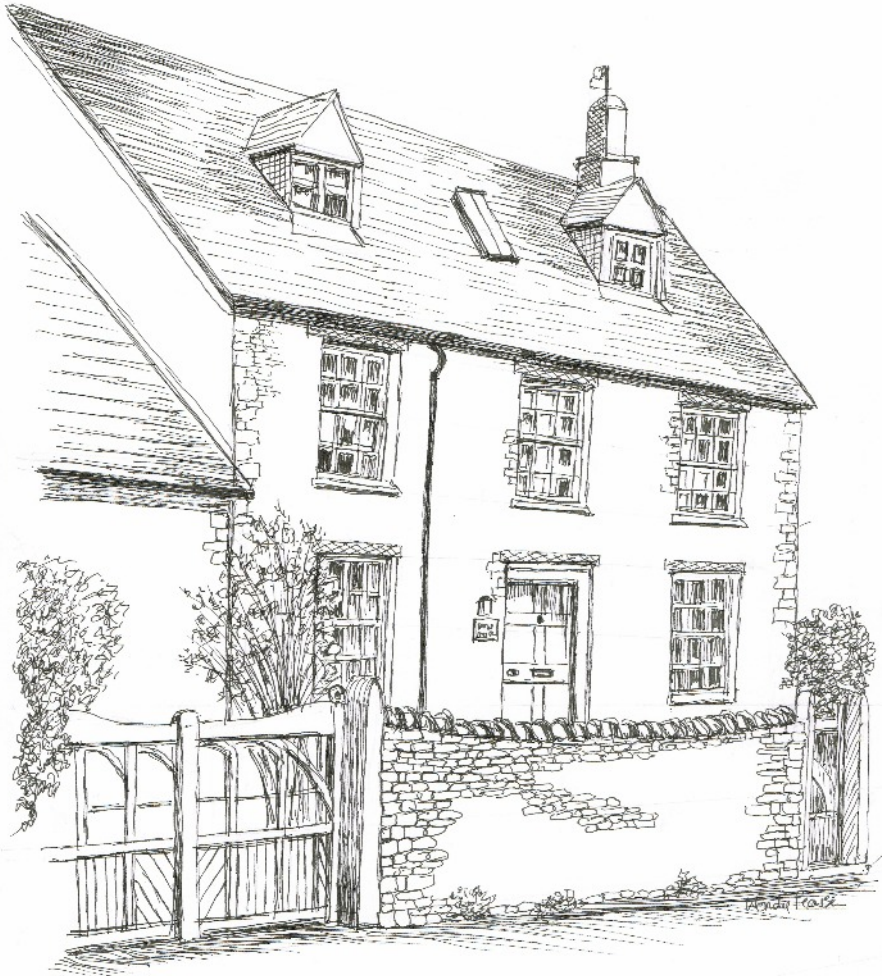


The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

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

Advertising Rates

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

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 52](#)), 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 2019

Sunday 8 th September	10.00 am	HC C
Sunday 22 nd September	0800 am	BCP
Sunday 13 th October	1000 am	HC C
Sunday 27 th October	0800 am	BCP
Sunday 10 th November	1055 am	Remembrance
Sunday 24 th November	0800 am	BCP
Sunday 8 th December	1000 am	HC C

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

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

Local Churches

Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572
Assistant Curate: Rev'd Ilona Cheyne, The Vicarage, Church Road, Chadlington. OX7 3LY ilona@thechasebenefice.org.uk

St Mary's Shipton

Churchwarden James Walmsley
01993 830842

SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley
01993 830160

St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385
Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford
Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Wychwood Baptist, Milton

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

Burford Methodist

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993 845322

Westcote Methodist

Tony Gibson 01993 830699

Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

Roman Catholic

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

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

Rector's Letter - Autumn

Dear Friends

I wonder if you saw the programme *Pilgrimage: The Road to Rome* shown on BBC1 in April?

Over three episodes, it told the story of eight celebrities of differing beliefs as they walked part of an ancient pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome. It was a demanding journey. The sheer physical effort transformed them: they became purposeful, more open about talking about their beliefs and what the journey meant to them. The pilgrimage ended with a very moving private audience with the Pope. It seemed that they were expecting Pope Francis to tell them what they should believe. Instead, he requested humbly that they should pray for him. The programme ended with at least one person saying: "I have found what I was searching for."

People have always gone on pilgrimages: a spiritual journey to a holy place. It offers a way of engaging with the surrounding landscape and a space where we can reflect and pray and enrich our spiritual lives. The desire seems deeply ingrained in human nature. Pilgrimages nurture and sustain our inner life, our 'sacred centre'. I know this because each year I spend a week as Duty Chaplain at Westminster Abbey, where people have been making pilgrimage to the Shrine of Edward the Confessor for over 900 years.

For many of us, it is not possible to make long journeys — and probably not by foot to Rome, as those eight celebrities did in the television programmes. But such journeys can be much nearer to home than we may think. The Rev'd Sally Welch, Vicar of Charlbury and our Area Dean, has, with the help of a team in the Deanery, created a series of 10 Pilgrim Paths — circular walks of between 2 and 6 miles between local churches. Copies of the Pilgrim Paths can be found at the back of the churches and on a dedicated website - <https://pilgrimpaths.info>. These guides not only give directions, but also some great resources to help you reflect and pray as you make your spiritual journey through some beautiful places. If you don't want to walk alone, there are monthly guided walks, led by experienced walkers, offering reflections and insights. Over the August Bank holiday weekend, there are a four longer walks planned - see the website for details.

So if you are looking for some time out over the summer months, why not make your own pilgrimage?

May the road rise to meet you, and the wind be always at your back!

Mark Abrey

Wedding

Jake Wilmot-Sitwell & Elizabeth Saunders on the 13th July at Spelsbury

Friends at 4

Come and join us for Friends at 4 – an hour of play, praise, prayer and tea.

Sunday 13 October, 4pm at St Kenelm's Church, Enstone (OX7 4NN)

There will be a warm welcome for everyone.

Contact: Sarah Tribe Tel. 07427 660338

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

Volunteers needed to help cut the grass in the churchyard

Can you spare a little time each week during
the spring and summer to keep part of our churchyard
mowed and kept tidy?

We don't expect one person to take on responsibility for
the whole churchyard, but to choose an agreed area for
which they will be responsible.

If you are willing to help or would like to discuss this further
please contact Stuart Fox on 01993 832004 or email

Stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Parliamentary train to Oxford



Nowhere in the London commuter belt does any rail traveller enjoy a less frequent or convenient rail service than that offered to the inhabitants of three attractive North Oxfordshire villages – Ascott-under-Wychwood, Finstock and Combe.

Ever since being reprieved from proposed closure during the Beeching era of the mid-1960's, this trio of halts has been served by a sparse “Parliamentary” service, usually comprising just one up morning train and one down evening train a day, while there is currently no week-end service whatsoever.

Looking back 30 years, my British Rail timetable for summer 1989 shows two up services calling at the halts on weekdays (by request), with a single down service in the evening, and one service each way on Saturdays.

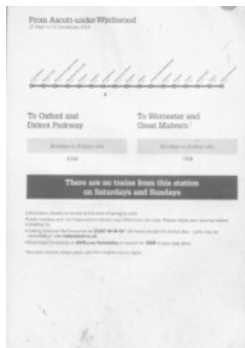
By summer 2000, the weekday service had been reduced to the single return service we have today, but things looked a good deal brighter on Saturdays, when Ascott and Shipton both enjoyed four up services (all on request) and two in the down direction.



A view of Ascott-under-Wychwood station from the level crossing, showing the new (2011) up platform, built when the section of line to Charlbury was re-doubled.

Ascott Grapevine

One weekday stopping service is all franchisee GWR is contractually obliged to provide, and is in stark contrast to the vast improvements that have taken place elsewhere in recent years along the Oxford-Worcester Cotswold Line, thanks in no small part to the successes of its energetic promotion group. Having been formed more than 40 years ago to fight threatened closure and then threatened loss of direct service to London, the Cotswold Line Promotion Group's (CLPG) efforts have seen regular services restored at Pershore, Honeybourne station re-opened, enhanced facilities at many stations and an hourly pattern of direct London trains.



But for all its remarkable successes, the CLPG's one failure has been in securing any improvement in services at places like Ascott-under-Wychwood, a delightfully attractive village, whose halt even gained a new second platform when the section of line from here to Charlbury was re-doubled in 2011.

Not only is the village of Ascott-under-Wychwood growing, but its station is by far the best located of all the halts. It is only yards from the village centre, where attractive features of note are a medieval enclosure called The Pound, where livestock was secured, and the adjacent Grade II* Listed Holy Trinity church (pictured below).



It seems quite incredible that such a delightful place – its recently-reopened Swan Inn is highly recommended (pictured below) and only a minute's walk from the station – does not have the proper train service that would bring visitors to the village and would allow residents to have a day out in Oxford or London.



Ascott Grapevine

Nearby Shipton was another of the Oxfordshire halts to have a basic or Parliamentary service for many decades. But things there now look a little brighter, with two up and three down weekday services and no less than four trains in each direction on Saturdays.



Lady in red: a solitary passenger waits at Shipton on 1 June 2019 to board the 14.00 departure for Oxford and Paddington, formed of IET 800320

Shipton is not nearly as well located or accessible as Ascott-under-Wychwood. The station is half a mile north of the village, there is no signage whatsoever on the busy A361 to indicate its existence, and the two platforms are reached separately down long and unlit approach roads.



To makes matters worse, getting to and from the down (northbound) platform requires squeezing along a narrow path (pictured above) past numerous trucks belonging to FWP Matthews, “the Cotswold flour millers”, which occupies a large site south of the station.

There was a time when Hanborough was a fifth Oxfordshire halt that only had a token service. In 1978, the year that the CLPG was formed, just three trains a day called here.

Today though, extensive new industrial and residential development, coupled with its proximity to Oxford, has seen it become a core stop on the route, used by more than 230,000 passengers in 2017/8.

Ascott Grapevine



IET 800303 speeds through Shipton station on 1 June 2019 with the 12.22 Paddington to Moreton-in-Marsh service.

Hanborough is stopped at by virtually every train on the line, with waiting room and toilet facilities recently installed and staffing provided. Not bad for a station proposed for closure by Beeching.

But for the residents of the three villages, it is an early start if they want to catch the only up train of the day, which stops at Ascott (07.44), Finstock (07.54) and Combe (07.59) on its journey to Oxford (08.11).



Returning home, their train leaves the city at 17.25 (a through service from Paddington), stopping at Combe (17.39), Finstock (17.46) and Ascott (17.58).



IET 802112 passes Ascott-under-Wychwood signal box on 1 June 2019, with the 10.22 Paddington to Hereford service.

Ascott Grapevine

After a year blighted by delays and cancellations, it is perhaps hardly surprising that passenger numbers have fallen, with the most alarming decline at Ascott, where the 2017/8 total of 3,321 (around 13 per day) represents a 29% fall on the previous year. At Combe the total fell only slightly to 1,994 (8 per day) and at Finstock it was down 4.4% to 1,756 (7 per day).



Paying a late afternoon visit to Combe – a brisk 35 minute walk from Hanborough – it was easy to appreciate how distressing any disruption can be. On 28 May there were severe problems outside Paddington, so having initially showed the 17.39 departure as delayed the digital display suddenly declared that the train had been cancelled.

Stranded, and wondering what would become of the luckless owners of the five bicycles chained up alongside a path up to the tiny platform, my day was saved when a lady arrived in a car to pick up her son.

After explaining my dilemma and the cancellation she kindly drove me back to Hanborough, only for me to discover that the stopping train had been mysteriously reinstated, albeit running 40 minutes late (pictured bottom of page).



In its latest newsletter, CLPG Chairman John Ellis laments the group's lack of success in persuading GWR to provide mid-morning stops by one train at Shipton and Ascott and an early afternoon return service.

Operator GWR maintains that there is insufficient demand to justify the cost of extra stops, and is sticking to the basic level of service specified in its franchise agreement. But after spending a pleasant couple of hours in Ascott-under-Wychwood on a sunny Saturday lunch-time, contemplating my 35 minute walk back to Shipton station while savouring Hook Norton ale in the garden of the Swan Inn, I must strongly disagree!

Membership of the CLPG costs £8.00 (£6.00 seniors) p.a. and brings you an excellent quarterly newsletter. To join, or learn more, go to www.clpg.org.uk.



I'm a railway blogger and longstanding member of the CLPG, but had never visited Ascott until yesterday (1 June). It prompted me to write the piece in the link below - please feel free to copy it or post the link as you see fit. As I conclude, I find it simply staggering that Ascott does not yet have a proper train service.

Gareth David

<https://railwayworld.net/2019/06/02/parliamentary-train-to-oxford/#more-2820>

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW that as well as the Ascott Martyrs incident the village also hit the headlines around 1929-1930 when a school strike took place? The authorities had decided that all Ascott children would not remain in the village school after the age of 11 but would be taught at Shipton School. They also decreed that those living over two miles from Shipton School should be given a free bicycle for their journey to school. Unfortunately this meant that only those living to the east of the present village shop in High Street came into that category. Other parents and schoolchildren in the village thought this was unfair. A huge bonfire was built on the Green by the protesters and apparently photos were printed in the newspaper. Unfortunately the authorities won and the protesters did not prevail

Wendy Pearse

Would I ever see land again?

Having done some ocean sailing back in the '90's I'd often found myself dreaming of the romance of crossing another ocean, gazing at the endless seas and skies, especially when studded with stars, cut off from the incessant noise of today's technology driven life.

So having decided to give up the day job and retire at the end of March, I booked myself with Rubicon 3 on a leg of an Atlantic crossing, sailing from the Azores to Gosport on a Clipper 60 yacht. There were two additional elements to the romance of this trip; firstly, I'd taken part on the very first Clipper Round the World Yacht Race on the very yacht I was to sail on this time (originally called Blackadder, now known as Hummingbird); secondly we were to navigate solely using the sun and the stars - no GPS this time - would we ever find land again, and if so would it be England, France, America or some other shore?



I joined the boat on a sunny Saturday at the end of April in Ponta Delgada on the island of St Miguel. The boat had already sailed from the Caribbean, via the Bahamas and had travelled through some fairly rough weather. Many of the crew were only going as far as the Azores, so there was only the skipper (Nigel), first mate (Holly) and one crew member who were going to be doing the entire trip, 2 crew were transferring from another boat (that had some technical issues so was going to be delayed), everybody else was new to the boat, in total there would be 12 of us. The rest of the crew were a varied bunch of different nationalities, from different walks of life (geologists, chemists, insurance, real estate, IT, army etc) and had varied sailing experience, some owned their own (smaller) boats; some were using this as qualification for their ocean yacht masters ticket; whilst others had never

sailed before. For many this would be their first ocean crossing. Nigel and Holly had a vast range of experience and were used to training novice sailors, so it felt that we were in safe hands.

After a training sail on the Sunday, including man overboard drills, and an epic shopping trip (4 huge trolleys and a very large taxi) we set sail on Monday afternoon. The plan was to basically sail along the edge of the island and then head north, through some light winds, to approximately the latitude of 45 degrees, where hopefully we'd pick up a favourable current and winds which would take us north east and up to the Scilly Isles and then onto the southern coast of England.

It was approximately Tuesday lunchtime when we lost sight of land and were then dependent on traditional navigation techniques to work out where we were and where we should be heading, the only modern luxury we allowed ourselves was the occasional download of a weather file, to help us know what to prepare for.

Traditional navigation relies on two methods, the first is called "dead reckoning". This is where you keep track of what direction you've been sailing in and how far you've travelled (or your speed). The complication you have to factor in the "leeway" or the amount the boat has moved sideways through the water. So basically if you know your starting point, and these three things, you can work out your approximate current location. I say approximate because it can be hard to steer an accurate course; depending on the wind your speed can fluctuate significantly; and the amount of leeway can vary depending on the wind, currents and boat trim.

This is where the second method becomes important and involves taking a fix from the sun in daytime or the stars at dawn and dusk (you can also use the moon but it wasn't making an appearance until the end of our voyage). At any moment of the day the sun is at a specific point above the earth, and using a sextant you are measuring the angle you are from the sun. The problem you now have is that there is a huge circle around the sun's point that has this "equal altitude" and you don't know where you are on this circle. So you have to use a known fixed point, and it's angle to the sun at that same point in time, to work out where on that circle you are. Here follows lots of look up tables and some maths using the principles of trigonometry to arrive at the answer (I won't bore you with the details here :-)).

Using the stars is a slightly different method, basically you take sightings from 3 different stars, hopefully in different parts of the sky, and use the angles to work out a 3 point fix, a bit like when doing coastal navigation. The problem we had with this method was that we often had cloud at dawn and dusk, so didn't get the opportunity to practice this much.

You'd like to think that with a number of people taking sun sightings at roughly the same time we'd be getting some fairly accurate positions, but as with dead reckoning there are a few variables to factor in; is the clock accurate to GMT (or

UTZ as it's called now), a small difference in time can result in differences in the tables used to lookup the figures; was the sextant angle accurate; was the right lookup table used (there are volumes of these and it's easy to make a mistake); was the maths done correctly (did you add when you should have subtracted?). Needless to say we got some variable results, but overall, combined with the dead reckonings, they seemed to be telling a fairly consistent story, within 20 - 30 miles or so - so surely we'd be able to hit the south coast of the UK - somewhere!

After a few days sailing, at the lunchtime briefing, Nigel (the Skipper) announced that the latest weather file was showing a depression forming to the northwest, which was due to track south east and race up the channel, this would give some very uncomfortable sailing with strong winds against the prevailing current, creating a very choppy sea. At this point we'd not got as far north as we'd hoped, but he recommended we cut the corner and tried to ride the weather front, which was moving in advance of the low pressure system, and get into a port before the system hit us. So we adjusted course to the north east and as the wind built we picked up speed and started flying towards the western approaches, aiming for Falmouth. The sailing at this point got a bit more uncomfortable, at times we were "close hauled" (sailing into the wind) and boat was jumping around at a 45 degree angle, making doing the simplest things quite hard work, but all this got forgotten when it was your turn to take the wheel. The thrill of keeping the boat "in the groove" and getting the speed consistently high bought big grins to peoples faces - this was what we'd signed up for.

Our first sighting of land was 7 days after we'd last seen it, on the second Tuesday at sea. It was a bit hazy but we believe it was the southern part of Lands End, it seems we'd passed too far south of the Scilly Isles to be able to see them. Shortly afterwards Lizard point was spotted and eventually we moored up in Falmouth on Tuesday evening, in time to get soaked by the rain from the low pressure system as we walked to the local pub to celebrate our successful crossing using celestial navigation - a feat not often attempted in this technological age.

Sandra Staples

Belshazzar's Feast by William Walton

Performed by the Chipping Norton and District Choral Society at Cheltenham Town Hall on Sunday November 3rd. Contact Keith Ravenhill at keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net or 07436001674 for details.



**Ascott-under-Wychwood
Football Training**



**Adult Football training
Wednesday evenings 6.30pm
Matches on most Saturdays 2pm**

**Children's Football training
Sunday Mornings 10.30am**

**@ Ascott-Under-Wychwood playing field
Everyone welcome, beginners to
advanced - come and join us!**

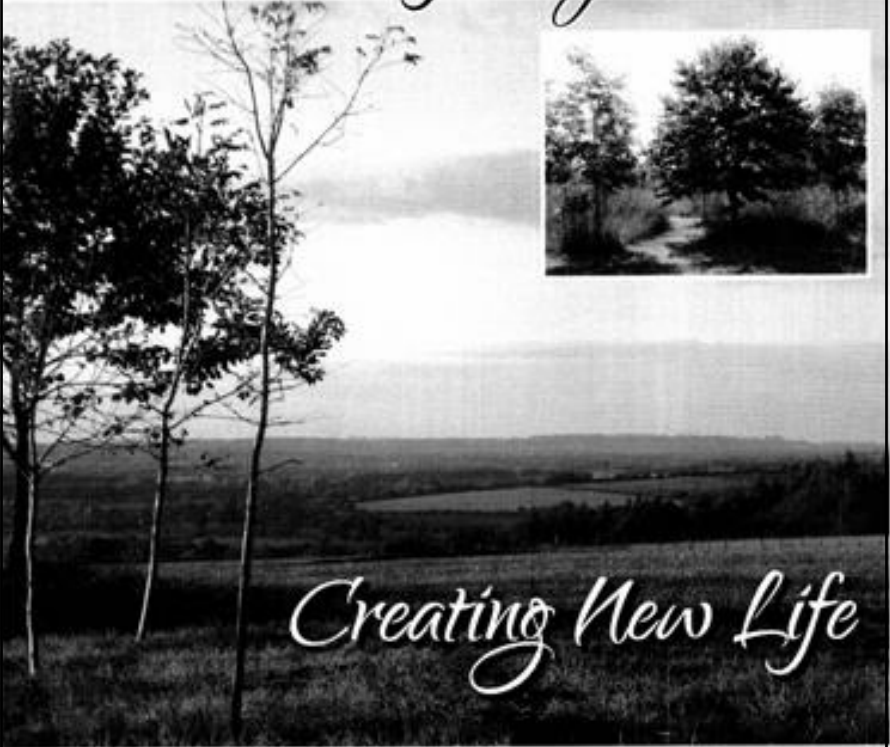
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For further information please contact
Helen Pearson by phone on 01993 878387,
by e-mail at helenpearson248@btinternet.com
or visit our website at www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk



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Be your other self for an hour or so.

Or the Big Bad Wolf may get you..

Please contact Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net .

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Garden Notes

Grow Wild!

All of my life, I have been in love with wild flowers. Being able to identify and getting to know these beautiful gems certainly adds a new layer to the way you experience the countryside. An ordinary walk is suddenly full of a new cast of characters. Our countryside was once full of meadows bursting with a gorgeous variety of wild flowers supporting butterflies, insects, farmland birds and other wildlife.

Wildflowers are pretty and charming and grow with a minimum of fuss and bother. They are hardy and well adapted, surviving admirably with little gardening effort and often their charms shine all the brighter when combined with garden plants. They also provide a home to many beneficial insects including lacewings, ladybirds, hover flies and parasitic wasps which are natural predators to common pests such as leaf beetles and aphids as well as providing early and late season pollen and nectar resources for important pollinators such as bumblebees and solitary bees.

Wild flower meadows are an alternative to lawns and borders, and can provide a display for many months. You might want to turn some of your lawn, or an old flower border into your new wildflower meadow. Many experienced wildflower gardeners would recommend that you stick to British seed mixes as not only will you be doing your part to preserve the native flora, but these species will be ideally suited to our climate and ecosystems.

Wildflower meadows grow better on infertile, dry soil, where vigorous grasses don't out-compete the flowers.

The best time to create and sow your meadow is in the autumn. It needs to be somewhere open and sunny and relatively large in area to allow space for growing a wide range of wildflowers. Your soil is likely to be too rich for a meadow if it has had a lot of fertiliser added over the years. The best way to reduce some of the fertility is by sowing a crop of mustard plants as they're notoriously hungry plants and will remove the nutrients from the soil as they grow. Get rid of any weeds and dig the soil to create a fine tilth. Once you have bare soil, lay black plastic over it so that any weeds already in the soil germinate and die. Next choose your wildflower seed mix. Good mixes include cowslip, field scabious, common sorrel, hoary and ribwort plantain, red clover, yarrow, wild carrot, greater and common knapweed, meadow buttercup, bird's-foot trefoil, a range of wild grasses such as fescues, bents, crested dogstail and the annual flower yellow rattle; this is a hemiparasite, which fixes its roots onto the root system of adjacent grass and extracts the water and minerals it needs. This weakens the vigour of the grasses and hence the competition, allowing more delicate and often more colourful and interesting wild flowers to thrive.

You will need about 5g of seed; about a teaspoon full per m² of meadow. You are ultimately aiming for a lush, natural spread of flowers, so broadcast sowing is usually best. Mix the seed with some dry silver sand; the pale colour helps you to see the areas that have already sown and whether you have missed a spot. Scatter the seed as you walk across the ground. There is no need to rake the seed in or cover it with soil, but gently walk across it so that the seeds are in contact with the soil then keep it well watered for the first six weeks until established. You may need to net it from birds.

In the first growing season, cut the growth in midsummer and remove all of the dead material. In subsequent seasons, the main method for managing your wild-flower meadow is to not mow from early April to late July, August or even early September. It's best to vary the time you cut each year or some plants may begin to dominate others. Cut as if for hay in dry weather and leave it lying on the ground for up to a week for the seeds to drop, and then clear it all away for compost. Give your meadow a couple more mows during the autumn and maybe once in early spring if it needs it. Your meadow will evolve year by year with some species coming through strongly to start with and then others taking over. You should see bees, grasshoppers and butterflies start to use your meadow. Birds should feed there and bats fly overhead picking off the moths.

In time it can become one of the most life filled parts of your garden.

Juliet Ingram

COFFEE MORNINGS AT ASCOTT CHURCH

DATES FOR 2019/20

Tuesday	September	24 th
Tuesday	October	29 th
Tuesday	November	26 th
Tuesday	December	17 th
Tuesday	January	28 th
Tuesday	February	25 th

All at 10.30 - 11.30am

Nature Notes

Too often we read or hear of loss of wildlife, both in our own country and globally. Creatures that were once common are now seen as threatened and scarce. In our own parish Hedgehogs have almost disappeared, Song Thrushes no longer hammer Snail shells on the stone in my garden and how many Cuckoos did you hear this year? There may be many reasons for the loss of animals and plants; climate change, loss of habitat, intensive farming methods and so on. With care and imagination some of these losses can be reversed. The reintroduction of the Red Kite to England and Beavers in Scotland are two good examples.

For many years the Cotswold Wildlife Park has been at the forefront of international conservation efforts, with reserves in Madagascar and its work with Lemur, Rhino and Wolverine breeding programmes. We have now turned our attention to the reintroduction of two species that once used to breed in England; the White Stork that was a summer migrant and the Great Bustard that was a true native.

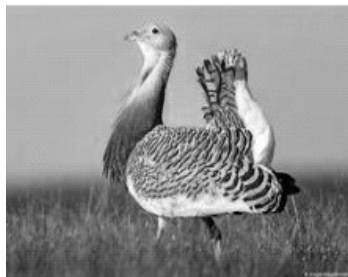
White Storks are migratory birds that are now found in Spain, Eastern Europe, Asia Minor and North Africa. They used to travel north during the summer to breed in Britain, choosing river valleys, marsh, water meadows and open grassland building their untidy nests high in trees or even on suitable man-made structures. The last breeding pair was recorded in 1416 when two nested on St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. Their disappearance may have been as a result of changes in farming practice and being hunted for medieval feasts; roast Stork being considered a delicacy. They are impressive birds, larger than a Heron, with white plumage except for black wing-feathers a long red bill and red legs. It weighs up to 4.4k (9.7lbs) and its broad wings have a span of 215cm (7 feet), in flight they flap their wings slowly, riding the warm air thermals. They can be long-lived with a lifespan of 30 years not being unusual.



The Wildlife Park is working with the Knepp Castle Estate in West Sussex and is responsible for the captive breeding and incubation of the eggs produced, whilst Knepp are taking the young offspring, housing them in large natural pens and releasing adult birds hoping they will meet up with migratory birds, but return to Britain in future years to breed. Cotswold Wildlife Park currently have a breeding flock of 50 birds that were imported from Poland in 2018. This year was our first

breeding season and 34 eggs were produced of which 31 hatched. We hope that in future years as the birds become settled in their new environment more eggs will be produced. At three months old the fledglings are sent to Knepp where they are cared for until ready to be released.

The Great Bustard, one of the heaviest flying birds with adult males weighing up to 10.6k (23.3lbs), became extinct in Britain in 1832 when the last one was shot. They were found on the chalk down land of central southern England and in the sandy Brecklands of Eastern England. Today 60% of the world's population is to be found in Spain and Portugal with scattered pockets throughout central Europe, temperate Central Asia and Northern Morocco.



Since 2004 there have been attempts to reintroduce them onto Salisbury Plain, initially with 20 birds imported each year from Russia, with mixed success. In 2012, for the first time, eggs were imported, initially from Russia but from 2014 Spain. The change from Russia to Spain was because the Spanish population was believed to be closer genetically to the former English population. The Wildlife Park is now responsible for incubating the eggs and looking after the young chicks until they are two months old when they are then transported to protected enclosures on Salisbury Plain, and grown on to the point where they are ready to be released. Currently there are between 70 to 80 adult birds on Salisbury Plain.

At the Wildlife Park we have retained a male and female and hope to receive two more females in order to set-up a breeding group. Great Bustards have never been bred in captivity in England, so we are hoping that this will be a first.

The Great Bustard is a gregarious bird often living in small single sex flocks with males and females only coming together during the breeding season in March. At this time the males become aggressive as they try to establish areas to display to the females. Two to three eggs are laid in shallow scrapes in the ground made by the female and these hatch in 21 to 28 days. Being ground nesting birds they suffer high levels of predation and even as adults their reluctance to fly makes them prey to Foxes in England and in Spain Lynx and Wolves. It has been estimated that 80% of Great Bustards die in the first year of their life. If they survive their early year the average life expectancy is 10 years although 15 years and more is possible.



Please note that Great Bustards are not on show at the Wildlife Park.

Stuart Fox

A Prologue to Antony Wood's Memoirs

In the summer of 1955, I found myself at Wallingford on the banks of the Thames drinking tea with one of Britain's leading archeologists, Professor Max Mallowan and his wife Mrs Mallowan, perhaps better known as Agatha Christie. I had just left Oxford and was hoping for a place on an archeological dig. I wasn't to be disappointed – six weeks later I was on train bound for Dover and the start of a voyage that would take me to Baghdad.

The meeting is the starting point for my memoir, which I published earlier this year, and pulls together adventures in the Middle East that spanned some thirty years. It is written partly from memory but mainly from the large number of letters I seemed to have written at the time.

It has been a daunting task, pulling together strands of my life, going back what must seem like an age to most people but it has also been tremendous fun.

The dig at Nimrud (outside Mosul, in Iraq) was a great success and ultimately became a springboard to continue travelling and learn Arabic. At the end of it Max gave me a generous honorarium and asked what I was going to do next. I thought the Foreign Office or the British Museum and he replied "Well, I don't think you need to decide what you are going to do until you are at least 40", a wonderful philosophy fit for an archeologist. From there I travelled back to Beirut and then taught English and studied Arabic in Merjayoun, a remote town overlooking Mount Herman.

My parents viewed my progress with alarm from the vicarage in Charlbury where I grew up and where my father was vicar from 1940 to 1962: Not long after I had first set out across Europe, passing through Italy, my mother had read in the papers that wolves had come down from the Apennines into the cities to for look for food due to the severity of the winter. "Do be careful," she wrote, clearly worried that I was going to be devoured by a hungry pack. My father, ever concerned about excess, thought that the further east I went the more it would cost to come back.

Those first forays led to a career with the Foreign Office and postings to Beirut, The Gulf including Abu Dhabi (at the time really no more than a fishing village but one that had just discovered oil) Paris, Benghazi, Aden (then still a colony) Basra, Tehran and finally, Muscat.

I have written about life in the Middle East at the time rather than work. The book describes a region in the throes of enormous change; the end of Empire, the knock-on effects of the conflict in Palestine (we were expelled from Basra in 1967 during the six day war) and Iran under the Shah just before the Islamic Revolution. It was

written for my family, but has found its way to the shelves of the village shop, Blackwells and even Daunts in London. I have had the pleasure of being able to share it with friends many of whom I haven't seen in years. Charlotte, my wife, arranged a wonderful launch party for me at home here in Ascott.

During the research and writing I lost my eyesight, so I was grateful to have the help of Dick Crampton to piece it all together. How many authors of their memoirs get to have an Emeritus Professor of History as their guide and editor?

I have now found yet more letters, mostly to my children, that provide detail about my last posting in Oman, but also my return to Oxfordshire – and buying my house in Ascott, then two very rundown cottages belonging to the Cornbury estate. Is there room for an epilogue or another book perhaps?

(Anthony Wood's memoir, Time in the Levant is available in the Ascott Village Shop).

Thames Valley
ALERT

This site provides an invitation for you to participate in the exchange of information with Thames Valley Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other community groups. As a registered recipient you will not only benefit from two way messaging but may also learn about those in your community subject of anti social behaviour orders, help identify suspected or wanted criminals or learn about community groups, events or meetings in your area

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The now well established Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust is looking for a “company secretary” to help with admin and Charity Commission compliance. Meeting 3 times a year there is need for an experienced individual to guide and help the Trustees.

The Trust has achieved in the last few years it’s “keeping the story alive” objectives and now moves to concentrate on detailed research and liaison with academic institutions.

For more information do call Carol Anderson (Chairman designate) on 01993 831068 See www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk

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:

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- **Sunday 29th September**
- **Sunday 3rd November**
- **Sunday 1st December**

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FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT'S PAST

Part 7

If you stand on the Gypsy Lane bridge over the Evenlode and look east, away to your right you will see earthworks rising to a mound at the top. These are the ramparts of Ascott Earl Castle. They were probably erected in the early part of the twelfth century during the First English Civil War between Stephen and Matilda, known as The Anarchy. Remembered as the time when 'Christ and his saints slept', it was notorious for a high degree of horror and violence over a large part of England. The problem had arisen when Henry 1, son of William the Conqueror, was left with only one legitimate heir, his daughter Matilda. Matilda was married to Geoffrey of Anjou and living in France at the time of Henry's death, and a number of the English Lords, reluctant to be ruled by a woman, supported Henry's nephew Stephen and pronounced him king. Matilda was a very strong woman, determined to secure her birthright. She embarked for England and for the next nearly twenty years the country lived through a time of terror as each contender for the throne caused havoc throughout the country, in an endeavour to secure their goal. Eventually the matter was settled when Stephen whose son had died, agreed with his cousin Matilda that when he died, Matilda's son Henry should become the next king. One of this Henry's main claims to fame was when as Henry II he pronounced the fatal words, 'Will no-one rid me of this turbulent priest?' culminating in the murder of Thomas a Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

But back to Ascott. In the twelfth century the de Clare family were the Lords of Shipton and they also held one of the two manors (areas of land) in Ascott, known later as Ascott Earl. To build a castle a lord had to receive permission from the sovereign, but as this role was in contention – should you seek permission from Stephen or Matilda – some lords just went ahead and built a castle anyway. We know that this was the situation with the Ascott Doyley Castle at the other end of the village, because when Henry II came to the throne he ordered all such castles to be torn down. Records show this is why Roger Doyley's castle in the east of Ascott was dismantled and whether the Ascott Earl Castle suffered the same fate is a possibility. Unlike the Doyley Castle which was stone built, the Earl Castle, built slightly earlier, was most likely constructed of wood.

Known as motte and bailey castles, this type of construction was brought to Britain by the Norman Lords who came with William the Conqueror. A raised area known as the bailey constructed with an outer ditch, surrounded an inner mound, again surrounded by a ditch. These were approached by drawbridges. A palisade of wood would have surrounded the outside of the bailey above the ditch and probably another was constructed around the mound (motte). There would have

Ascott Grapevine


been a wooden, or in the Doyley case, a stone keep (tower) constructed on top of the mound as the last line of defence. Many examples are known all over the country.

The site was probably a natural spur into the river valley and evidence from pottery sherds indicate that it was settled by Iron Age people. Some ramparts may already have existed there before the Normans came.

Nothing further seems to have been constructed on the Ascott Earl site apart from in recent centuries some small agricultural buildings. But the earthworks still visible today indicate a much different role in the distant past.

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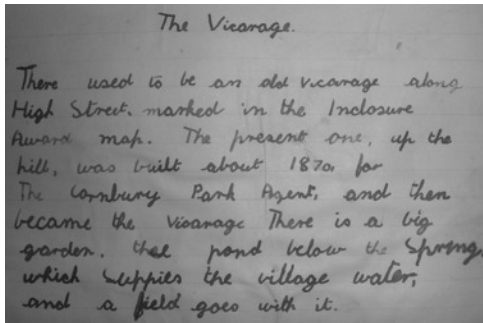
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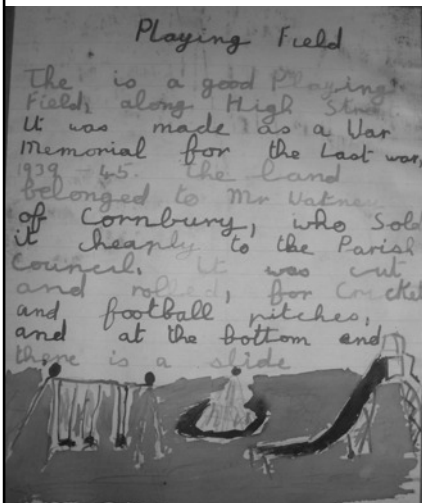
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Ascott School Journal c1955



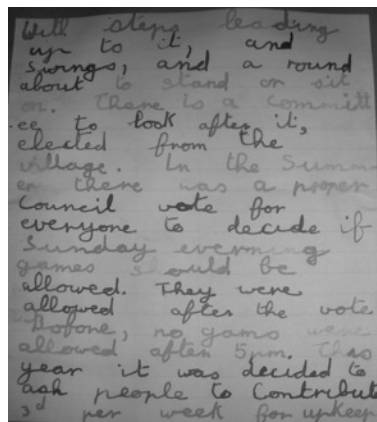
There used to be an old vicarage along High Street, marked in the Inclosure Award Map. The present one, up the hill, was built about 1870 for The Cornbury Park Agent, and then became the vicarage. There is a big garden, the pond below the spring, which supplies the village water, and a field goes with it.



Playing Field

The is a good Playing Field along the High Street. It was made as a War Memorial for the last war 1939 - 45, the land belong to Mr Watney of Cornbury, who sold it cheaply to the Parish Council. It was cut and rolled for cricket and football pitches, and at the bottom and there is a slide...

...with steps leading up to it, and swings, and a round-about to stand or sit on. There is a committee to look after it, elected from the village. In the Summer there was a proper Council vote for everyone to decide if Sunday evening games should be allowed. They were allowed after the vote. Before, no games were allowed after 5pm. This year it was decided to ask people to contribute 3d per week for upkeep.



Ascott Village Charity Presents 2019 Ascott-u-Wychwood Charity Run 10k Multi Terrain & 5k Fun Run

Sunday October 27th

**Race starts 10.30am at the Recreation
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(Neither course is suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs)

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Medals and prizes

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

5k - **£6** (£7 on the day)

Closing date for postal entries is 20th October 2019

Entries will be accepted on the day between 9am & 10am

Entry forms from

www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk

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Ascott-u-Wychwood village shop

<https://wychwood01.wixsite.com/ascott-u-wychwood10k>

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County Matters

As your County Councillor, I am often contacted by members of the community about roads. The roads in Ascott have been neglected for many years, like so many rural roads across Oxfordshire. Since becoming a councillor, I have been badgering officers to make sure that our roads are properly repaired. I was therefore very pleased to learn in July that London Road and Shipton Road are scheduled to be repaired this financial year, which runs till next April. I don't know exactly when repairs will happen, but I am assured that they will be done, and I will be keeping an eye on the schedule and will let you know when the work is due to begin.

Apart from my day to day responsibility towards local residents, I am also a member of various committees. The one that I most enjoy is the Joint Working Partnership committee which oversees the new arrangement between Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council. We are using this as an opportunity to bring together services from the County and the District, which we hope will result in a much better service to local residents. For example, Trading Standards, which is a County responsibility, is now working closely with Environmental Health, which comes under Cherwell, and there is a shared senior officer. Similarly, we have recently appointed an officer to oversee housing, which is Cherwell, and social care commissioning, which is County. By bringing these two functions together, we hope to see better integration of extra care housing into new developments in the district. A similar arrangement is also being piloted between children's services at County and the well-being team at Cherwell.

At the moment, this will only affect Cherwell, but the committee hopes that this will herald a new way for councils across the county to work co-operatively with each other, to offer the best possible service to residents. Whether West Oxfordshire will want to go in this direction remains to be seen, but I am hopeful that they will see the advantages and want to get involved.

Councillor Liz Leffman



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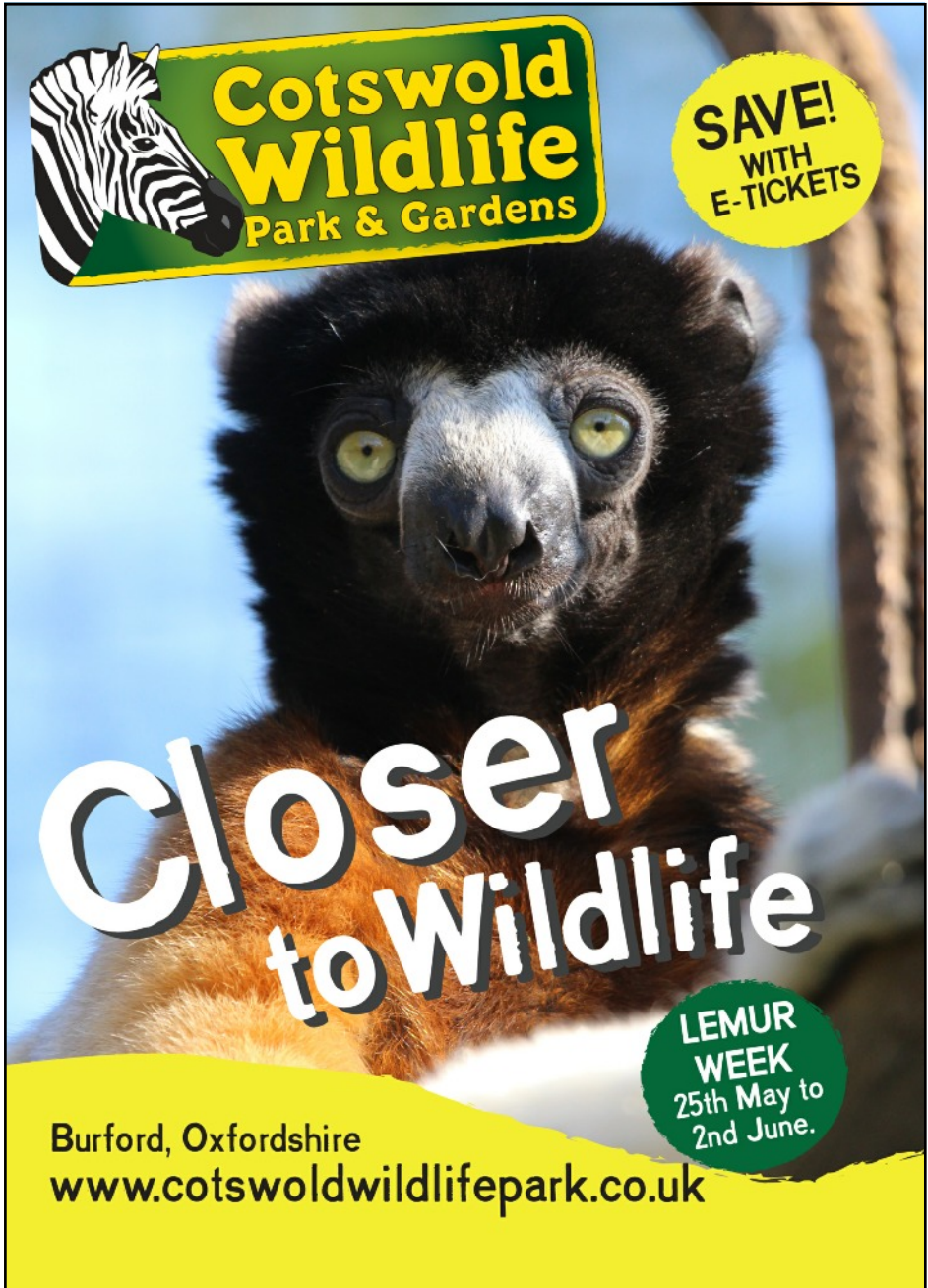
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Parish Council News

This has been an interesting quarter for the Parish Council when much of our discussion has been given to considering the wellbeing and safety of residents.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS MOVE DOWNSTAIRS

Thank you to one of our residents who reminded us that our meetings are not accessible to all. Consequently, from 10 September the monthly Parish Council meetings will be held downstairs in the main Tiddy Hall and will continue downstairs every second Monday of the month (except August) at 7.30pm. We have had a few visitors recently and we welcome anyone who is interested or who has an issue to raise.

PRIORITY ON THE BRIDGE AND TRAFFIC SPEED

The Highways Dept at Oxfordshire County Council is slowly making arrangements for a priority system to be introduced at the Chipping Norton Bridge following their survey and village consultation. The system will take the form of signs and lines in the road and priority will be to traffic leaving the village.

Over the years there have been many calls for an improved system of speed limits in the village and, following the recent accident on London Lane these calls have increased. The PC has considered asking for a 40mph limit to be introduced some distance before each 30mph limit so that traffic has time to slow down and it has considered having 30mph changed to 20mph. It has not considered speed bumps. We would like to know what you think so we will be carrying out a consultation after the school holidays. Any suggestions/comments would be gratefully received about this topic.

We have 4 people interested in forming a SpeedWatch group now – we need more. Anyone interested?

VEGETATION BLOCKING ROADS

Please make sure that your trees and bushes are not causing cars, vans, buses and lorries to pull out into the middle of our roads – this could be lethal, especially on a bend.

VEGETATION AND CARS BLOCKING PAVEMENTS

One of the reasons that people move to this village is because they love to walk but quite often they have to walk in the road because of overhanging bushes or vehicles parked on the pavements. Please, please consider the safety of elderly people, those with walking aids or needing to hold onto an arm, those with impaired vision or hearing, those with pushchairs or young children holding hands. Our roads can be quite busy at times and if someone feels that they cannot walk on the pavements they end up isolated in their home – how very sad. Cutting vegetation can be done now with autumn approaching so do a good deed for the village and please free up the pavements and do it to last! Also, use your drive as much as you can and when you have visitors or workmen please could you ask them to park in your drive or on the roadside rather than on the pavement. They may have to walk a little further to your door but we would all be very grateful and much safer.

FOOTPATHS

More work has been done to see that our regularly used village footpaths are all officially registered on the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. Thank you to Parish Councillor Pauline Plant who has agreed to take this task on from Philippa Carter. The body which administers all Public Rights of Way in the area is Oxfordshire County Council. If you ever have a complaint to make about a footpath or bridleway then they are the ones to contact as only they have the enforcement powers to make sure that these rights of way are clear and safe at all times. They will do that either using their own contractors or by insisting that the landowner does the work. Phone OCC or find the details on their website. Any problem which is a real emergency, such as a large tree blocking a road, is dealt with by the fire service so you should phone 999. A friendly neighbour with a chain saw may be able to help but remember that, if it is stormy weather, there may be still danger from more falling branches and so take precautions or leave it to the firemen with the right training.

If you wish to discuss anything with the Parish Council, please contact:

The Parish Council Clerk at clerk@ascottpc.org.uk

All Parish Councillors at contact@ascottpc.org.uk

Or phone Philippa Carter on 01993 830344.



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From Oxfordshire to the Orne: Normandy 75th Anniversary exhibition comes to the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

The new exhibition, Normandy 75: Oxfordshire to the Orne, will go on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum from 7th August – 3rd November 2019. This exhibition will combine a travelling exhibition from the National Army Museum with stories that staff at the museum have collected from around Oxfordshire. These stories will be told through objects, a map of key locations, and quotes from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire-born soldiers who served on D Day and beyond.

The National Army Museum's touring exhibition marks the 75th anniversary of the Normandy Campaign. The exhibition will tell the courageous stories of soldiers who fought in Normandy and during D Day, and will detail the events that helped secure an allied victory.

To enhance the National Army Museum exhibition, staff at the museum have been working to collect stories of World War 2 from around Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

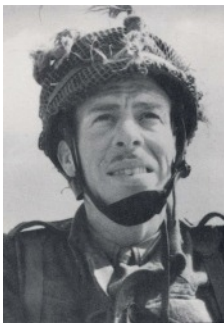
Peggy Ainsworth, Collections Manager explains, 'In addition to our own regimental stories, we wanted to use this exhibition as a way to represent the local soldiers who contributed to the Normandy campaign. There have been many fascinating stories coming in from the public, which we will be telling through artefacts from our collection and information gained through our Stories of Conflict and County campaign launched last year.'

Soldiers from the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were some of the first to set foot in Normandy on the 6th of June 1944, and were perhaps most famous for the capture of Pegasus Bridge in the early hours of the morning, prior to the beach landings. Visitors can put themselves in the shoes of these soldiers and sit inside a life-size reproduction of a Horsa Glider's compartment and listen to recorded interviews of D Day veterans.



The exhibition will run from the 7th August – 3rd November 2019 and will end with a special collecting day on the 2nd November. SOFO's 'We'll Meet Again' Collections Day will encourage members of the public to bring objects to the museum and tell their stories of Oxfordshire from the Second World War to the 1970's. Any objects donated or loaned on the day will be used to form our Second World War and Reminiscence displays.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is open from Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 2pm-5pm. The county's only military history museum is located in the grounds of the Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock.





Wychwood Library

Book Suggestions!

Now that the fete has been and gone, Wychwood Library is very lucky to be able to start spending the money raised on our popular book stall. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day and donated books to the stall. I would be very grateful to know which authors and titles you'd like to see on our shelves.

Drop in to let me know or email:

wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Lego Club 2!

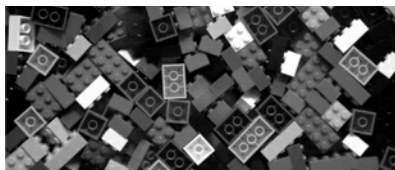
Lego Club returns on Monday 9th September.

We've had great fun this Summer and can't wait to get creating again with new kit and renewed enthusiasm! A big thank you to Sue Mellerick for leading the group. It's open to 5-11 year olds and runs from 3.30-4.30 until October half term. Drop into the library or email to join up.



Donations of Lego

We would be very grateful to accept any lego you can spare for our popular Lego Club. Any donations, great or small, would be greatly appreciated.



Opening Times

Monday: 2.00-7.00pm;

Wednesday: 09.30-1.00 & 2.00-5.00;

Friday 2.00-7.00;

Saturday: 9.30-1.00

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SUMMER DANCE IN AID OF ASCOTT GRAPEVINE – TIDDY HALL 22ND JUNE

We first heard of this event from a group of our friends who are members of the Wychcraft Rock and Pop choir. We soon gathered our very own Three Piece Sweet would also be performing. As former members of the Ascott Songsters we appreciate how much effort goes in to a choir performance and, as most of you know, it doesn't take too much to get me and Carol on the dance floor, so we felt this night would be right up our street!

On a balmy evening we arrived to lovely aromas from the BBQ put on by the Hall committee to raise funds for Tiddy, it was yummy! They had also provided a bar and so once we had eaten, got a drink and had a chat with friends, we took our seats for the performance. The choir did really well, their vocals and harmonies were really excellent and we enjoyed all their pieces, good conducting from Gordon and also backing from Charles on guitar. We even managed to join in with a few we knew.

After a short interval, as Charles had to change outfit, instrument and genre, on came Three Piece Sweet. We could see Charles (bass and vocals), Mark (lead vocals and guitar) and John (lead guitar) had made a great effort not only to sound authentic but to look the part as well. Sweet was a band from my era, so as soon as they struck up one of their classics, we were straight up there along with a good crowd of dancers. We danced the rest of the night away to a medley of 60's and 70's greats.

We had a fabulous night, there must have been c80-100 present, and I'm sure I can pass on thanks from all of you to all those involved in organising this event, the choir, Three Piece Sweet and the Hall committee. I am sure Elaine's photos will bring back memories to those who were there and for other readers, you can see what you missed!

I understand the evening raised £530 for the Grapevine and a further £455 for the Village Hall. Fantastic!

We look forward to the next event.

Richard Squires



The Grapevine says THANK YOU

The Ascott Grapevine editors would like to say a very big thank you to The Wychcraft Rock and Pop Choir, Three Piece Sweet, the Tiddy Hall committee and everyone who supported this event. We would also like to thank the Tiddy Hall trustees for their kind donation of £50.

TIDDY HALL

Piano Lessons

Pauline Carter

BA A Mus LCM CTABRSM MISM



01993 774568

roseneathmusicschool.com

TURNED OUT NICE AGAIN

How many more ways will Europe find to humiliate the United Kingdom?

Back in the spring, once again, at the European Song Contest, this country came in the bottom three. It's been many years since I watched the event because I don't like pop music but I cannot believe that year after year the United Kingdom finishes near the bottom without there being a 'carve up' by the other states. What is interesting, many years ago the UK entry was sung by Cliff Richard and it came second and is still popular today. Can you guess what it is? Congratulations! It's Congratulations. I've heard it played many times since then even by brass bands.

So what would I do to redress the unfair judgement of our Euro friends? I would select the sauciest song George Formby ever sang. Something like 'My little stick of Blackpool rock' or 'He keeps his ukulele in his hand', have it sung in English but not with what is known as a mid-Atlantic accent and have it backed by a mass band of banjo ukuleles. It may not win but it would entertain and amuse me and I might even watch the programme.

Fred Russell

(Turned out nice again is what George Formby said on films.)



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Ascott Preschool

Summer term at Ascott Preschool – lots of fun, whatever the weather!

We had a wonderful time at our Summer Fun Day and BBQ despite not-so-summery weather. The children enjoyed the bouncy castle, teddy tombola and craft activities, and took part in ‘sports day’ races. The event raised nearly £1,500, which we will invest in new equipment to enhance the children’s learning experience. Thank you to everybody who helped to make the day so special.

Learning about nature and looking after our planet

We joined the Wildlife Trust’s ‘Go Wild’ challenge in June – 30 days of nature-based activities. The children have loved getting outside and taking part in activities such as learning about bug boxes, feeling the sand on our feet and meditating outside. We’ve also focused on recycling this term. When clearing up after lunch, the children are learning what can be recycled. We hope they are helping to recycle more at home too!



Train trip to Moreton-in-Marsh

We had a wonderful sunny day for our train trip from Charlbury to Moreton. The children were very excited when the train pulled into the station, especially when the driver spotted them and tooted the horn! We enjoyed sharing a picnic at the park at Moreton before our return trip.

Stepping up to primary school

Our school leavers are excited to be starting school in September. Most of the children will be attending Wychwood Primary School, and we were pleased to welcome two of the Foundation Stage teachers from the school for a visit to Preschool in June. They spent time chatting with the children, which will help to make the transition to school as smooth as possible.

Spaces available from September 2019

We will have space available for children aged two and above across our sessions from September. Preschool runs at Tiddy Hall during term time from 9am – 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (9 – 12.45pm on Thursdays). Activities include child-led learning through play, craft, messy play, singing, Forest School, Cooking Club and dance sessions with the wonderful Dancing Sally. If you'd like to find out more visit our website www.ascottpreschool.co.uk, or contact Pauline via email (ascott_pp@btinternet.com) or phone (01993 832671).

It's not worth the risk

Do you know that 95% of collisions are due to human error? Distraction, speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs are the big fatal four on our county's roads.

Could you?

- put your phone in your glove compartment or set your phone to do not disturb before you start your journey
- adjust your speed and make sure you have time to react to the unexpected
- make sure everyone is wearing their seatbelt before you set off
- get a taxi, the bus or be the designated driver on a night out
- make sure you're safe to drive the morning after, you could still be over the drink drive limit, even if you feel fine

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service have put together top tips to help you avoid the fatal four, and have created an handy 'don't get caught out the morning after' guide 365alive.co.uk/fatalfour.



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The Ascott Village Charity



Your Village Charity- What does it do, and who does it help?

During 2018 the Village charity raised a total of £2,785, of which the annual charity 5k & 10k run contributed £2,061. The remaining income came from donations in the shop collection box, rent on land that we own, dividends on our investments and gift aid.

Our expenditure during the year included £1,000 towards the cost of a second defibrillator, £440 to assist parishioners suffering financial hardship, £500 emergency funding for the village magazine, £248 printing the Ascott Martyrs

booklet, £25 for an education grant and paid for a Strimmer for the church to help maintain the grass.

If you are a student, particularly if you are planning to embark on further education, we are able to make grants towards the cost of books and materials required for your courses.

If you think that the village charity might be able to help you or support a project that would benefit the village please contact one of the charity trustees listed below to discuss the issue.

As a result of the church being vandalised, CCTV is going to be installed and to help with the funding of this equipment, the charity is making a donation.

The Charity Run this year will be on Sunday 27th October

Chairman

John Cull johncull@wowmatters.com

Trustees

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

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

Mark Dawbarn mark@dawbarn.co.uk

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

TIDDY HALL

As I write this article for The Ascott Grapevine, Summer has well and truly arrived, with soaring temperatures, and I'm thankful for the cool of our house while I write about things to come during the autumn at Tiddy Hall.

The Wychwood Folk Club goes from strength to strength with five more gigs to see out the rest of the year:

September 7th – Luke Jackson

October 5th – The Roving Crows

November 9th – Chris Cleverly Trio

November 23rd – Martyn Joseph

December 7th – Melrose Quartet

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

The **Sunday Tea Dances** are continuing to be popular. Autumn dates are September 1st, September 29th, November 3rd and December 1st.

The Monday night dancing has now changed to Tuesdays, 7pm – 9pm. For further information, please contact Terry & May Cox on 01608 810721.

Get your dancing shoes on! Another charity fundraiser in aid of **Lawrence Home Nursing** will be held on Saturday 21st September, this time a disco! For more information and tickets, please contact Carly Halls – carlyehalls@yahoo.co.uk

The **Roseneath School of Music's Annual Summer Concert** on June 8th was postponed and will now take place on Saturday September 28th. The proceedings will begin at 7.30pm and tickets are £10 for adults & £6 for under 18's.

Please ring Pauline Carter for tickets – 01993 774568.

And **Flix in the Stix** is returning! Saturday 19th October – we will be showing the very popular film **Fisherman's Friends**, who have actually performed at Tiddy and it is hoped will do so next year. Tickets are £ 15.00 for the film and 2 course meal. Good value !!

Pete Moss will be hosting his annual **Race Night** in support of the **Ascott Fishing Club** on Saturday 2nd November. Tickets are £12 to include supper. Raffle and bar available. Please contact him for tickets - 01993 830758.

Ingrid Ridley

Regular Activities

Monday – Friday Mornings

Pre-school

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant 07968006451

Monday Afternoons

3.30pm – 6pm Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Tuesday Night

7pm - 9pm Dancing

Contact: May & Terry Cox 01608 810721

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: May & Terry Cox 01608 810721

Post Office runs every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

Special Events:

Sun Sept 1 st	Tea Dance	2.30pm-5pm
Sat Sept 7 th	Folk Night Luke Jackson	7.30pm
Sat Oct 5 th	Folk Night The Roving Crows	7.30pm
Sat Nov 9 th	Folk Night Chris Cleverly	7.30pm
Sat Nov 23 rd	Folk Night Martyn Joseph	7.30pm
Sat Dec 7 th	Folk Night Melrose Quartet	7.30pm

THE SWAN

The Swan at Ascott reopened in May having undergone the fourth major restoration in the last 14 years. The Swan is now owned, together with the Chequers in Churchill by Elizabeth Murdoch, daughter of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, together with her husband Keith Tyson and property magnate Tony Gallagher of Sarsden House.

Since 2005 the Swan has had five owners and we wish the new landlords every success keeping the Swan trading successfully and becoming a long-term part of the local community.

The Swan offers eight designer bedrooms and extensive menus, including bar food, afternoon tea, and special Sunday treats. Where possible products are sourced locally

WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



In association with the Wychwood Brewery
Tiddy Hall, Shipton Rd, Ascott -u- Wychwood, OX7 6AG

Sat Sept 7th Luke Jackson + support by **The Mad Marston Hares**

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Luke's songwriting draws on his experiences, family life, poignant stories he's been told and fortunately, they're all written in English as in his own words, he's dreadful at languages! His performance style and songwriting skills are constantly developing and improving as confirmed by him winning the Male Artist of The Year from Fatea in 2014 and 2016 and being nominated in 2013 for the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards Best Emerging Talent and Young Folk Categories.

Sat Oct 5th The Roving Crows + support by **Bill Bates**

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Roving Crows have been carving out their niche in the UK folk music scene since early 2009. Over the years & evolving incarnations they have cultivated an arresting, singular sound that pushes the boundaries of the Celtic Folk genre. The band play with genuine passion, energy & soul. Vital & vibrant, a must-see live act who showcase a mix of fiery, Celtic-inspired fiddle, conscious, intelligent lyrics, backed by pounding tribal rhythms and electronica infused dance grooves.

Sat Nov 9th Chris Cleverly Trio + support by Kith & Kin

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

An award-winning Songwriter & Guitarist Chris is renowned for his ability to draw audiences to the edge of their seats with hauntingly delivered tales of ghost women, lonesome clock towers, lovelorn mariners & hospital beds.

Chris has crafted a reputation as a songwriter of singular ability with characteristic original & traditional material that has resonated deeply with audiences up & down the UK.

Also coming up in 2019

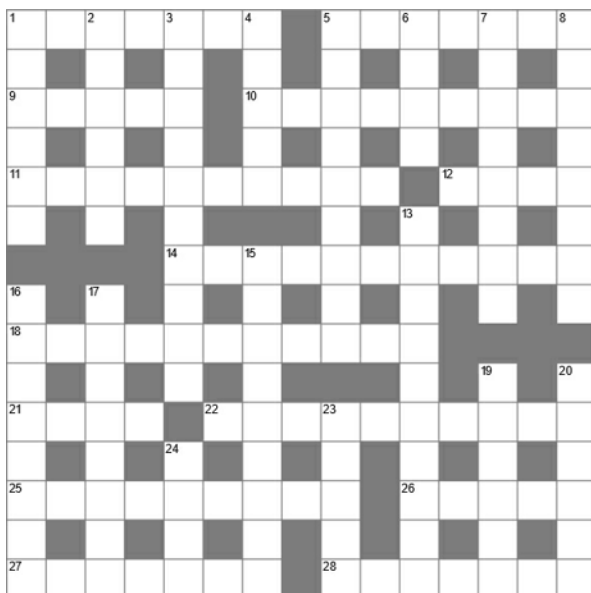
Sat Nov 23 rd	Martyn Joseph	Tickets £16 in Advance £18.00 on Door
Sat Dec 7 th	The Melrose Quartet	Tickets £12 in Advance £14.00 on Door

All events start at 7.30pm Doors 7.00pm

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Lean to one side, then lean back, in part of plane (7)
 5 Position breaking off, inelegant(4,3)
 9 Perfect oil for cooking mayonnaise (5)
 10 See 26
 11 Choral work - I'm flipping expected to stretch singer (1,5,4)
 12,24 Dull people run without jumping (4,4)
 14 Labouring obsession in creation of an icon, barmy? (11)
 18 Having spoiled a couple of drinks, bloke taking last of Cointreau in case (11)
 21 Groom, male snared by nag? (4)
 22 Might one fear the motor in old scanning device? (4,6)
 25 Party atmosphere initially does for singer (9)
 26,10,2,17 Never mind, come to the bakery - what's this clue about? (5,3,3,3,6,8)
 27 Philosopher has to take stock, they say? (7)
 28 According to Spooner, lad observed pulse (7)

Down

- 1 Irritable, as shelled on the beach, perhaps? (6)
 2 See 26
 3 Carefully prepare oneself to accommodate criminal as con - is here? (6,4)
 4 Bear market's first symbol (5)
 5 Stagger round filthy house in outskirts of Folkstone - or crawl, perhaps? (9)
 6 Cattle good in Texas? (4)
 7 In general, something designed to grip much less (3,5)
 8 Change of gear, rating outstanding western as "monstrous action" (5,3)
 13 Posh gets to make an impression with mean clothing in audacious fashion (10)
 15 Trigger a memory, as circle on mysterious label (4,1,4)
 16 Counter, on top of which room key (8)
 17 see 26
 19 Commercial programs showing up in some raw data (6)
 20 Prayer is of, - as an alternative? (6)

Answers for Spring Issue 102

Across

- 1 Ingenu
 4 Asphodel
 9 Advent
 10 Lie Doggo
 11 Hostest Trolley
 13 In The Money
 14 Adze
 16 Coot

18 Attractant

- 21 Pre Raphaelites
 23 Bought It
 24 Cometh
 25 Exccrate
 26 Myosin
Down
 1 Ivan
 2 Give Out

3 Nineteen

- 5 Saint George
 6 Hadron
 7 Dogsled
 8 Loony Left
 Short Shrift
 13 Incapable
 15 Acrimony
 17 Overuse

19 Ageless

- 20 Washer
 22 Then

Local Business Directory

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www.garagedoors.org

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Events Calendar - 2019/20

Date	Time	Event	Venue
September 1 st	2.30 - 5.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
September 7 th	10 -12am	Coffee Morning	The Mill
	7.30pm	Luke Jackson	Tiddy Hall
September 24 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee Morning at Ascott Church	Holy Trinity Church
September 28 th	7.30pm	Roseneath School of Music	Tiddy Hall
		Annual Summer Concert	
September 29 th	2.30 - 5.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
October 5 th	7.30 pm	The Roving Crows	Tiddy Hall
October 12 th	10 -12am	Coffee Morning	The Mill
October 19 th	7.00 for 7.30pm	Flix in the Stix	Tiddy Hall
		Fisherman's Friend	
October 27 th	10.00am	Charity Race	Recreation Field
October 29 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee Morning at Ascott Church	Holy Trinity Church
November 2 nd	7.00 for 7.30pm	Ascott Fishing Club Race Night	Tiddy Hall
November 3 rd	2.30 - 5.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
November 9 th	10 -12am	Coffee Morning	The Mill
	7.30pm	The Chris Cleverly Trio	Tiddy Hall
November 23 rd	7.30pm	Martyn Joseph	Tiddy Hall
November 26 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee Morning at Ascott Church	Holy Trinity Church
December 1 st	2.30 - 5.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
December 7 th	7.30pm	Melrose Quartet	Tiddy Hall
December 17 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee Morning at Ascott Church	Holy Trinity Church
January 18 th	7.30pm	Reg Meuross	Tiddy Hall
January 28 th	10.30 - 11.30	Coffee Morning at Ascott Church	Holy Trinity Church
February 8 th	7.30pm	Whetstone, Brinsford & Burgess	Tiddy Hall
February 25 th	10.30 - 11.30	Coffee Morning at Ascott Church	Holy Trinity Church