

The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1st May 2020.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email: wendypearse@btinternet.com

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2019/20

Sunday 8 th March	10.00	Holy Communion C
Sunday 22 nd March	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 12 th April	18.30	Holy Communion C
Sunday 26 th April	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 10 th May	10.00	Holy Communion C
Sunday 24 th May	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 7 th June	10.00	Holy Communion C
Sunday 21 st June	08.00	Holy Communion BCP

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

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Local Churches

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

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-in-the-Wold

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and St Teresa, Charlbury

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

Rector's Letter

As this is my first 'letter' in the Grapevine, let me wish you a Happy New Year! Christmas in the Benefice was a very good one. It was lovely to see so many at the Christmas services across the Benefice and between the Crib, Midnight and Christmas Day services we had record congregations - over 400 adults and 131+ children! Thank you to all those who have worked so hard to make Christmas so memorable. But the Christmas decorations have been packed away and a new year — and indeed a new decade — has begun. I wonder what it will hold for us as individuals and as a nation?

Over the last couple of days I have spent some time in each of the churches just sitting alone. Our buildings are lovely when they are full, as they were over Christmas. Still, they are just as special and beautiful on a wet January afternoon. As I have sat and enjoyed the stillness and silence, my mind was drawn to thinking about the past - taking the 'long view'. The importance of ancient buildings especially churches in their communities is that they are a constant presence through good times and bad.

Westminster Abbey, where I have the honour of spending a week each year as a Duty Chaplain, celebrated the 750 anniversary of its foundation last year. As Henry III began building the present Westminster Abbey, all of our churches were established. These were turbulent times, including wars, civil unrest and political instability. All of our village churches have been there through the Black Death, the dissolution of the monasteries and the break from Rome under Henry VIII. Times were indeed uncertain, and religious practices changed significantly with the introduction of the Prayer Book in English and a law that every person must attend Sunday worship!

In later years the civil war would have been a shocking event followed by the beheading of Charles I and the Parliament of Oliver Cromwell. The restoration of the monarchy brought more change and uncertainty. Our churches have stood through the Industrial Revolution and two World Wars.

There have been times when the buildings fell into disrepair and villagers must have wondered if there was a future for them. As Malcolm Guite, poet and priest writes: 'It's easy to take such continuity for granted, but, in times of change and consternation, times of confusion and uncertainty such as our own, these unperurbed continuities come to mean something more: they become signs of survival and hope.'

Churches are often the oldest buildings in the community and become the repository of community memory. It is there that significant moments in the lives of individuals and groups are marked. The church is there for celebrations of weddings, baptisms and festivals. It is to the church that people come to mourn their dead and at times of crisis. Over the centuries, all of our villages have grown and developed. They have experienced times of poverty and times of prosperity.

As we face some big challenges and changes in our national life, it is good to be reminded of the long view. It is also good to be reminded that through it all, God is with us. In Psalm 46, the Psalmist writes of God's constant presence even amid doubt and uncertainty. 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea. The Lord of hosts is with us.'

For over 2000 years, people have used this Psalm as a prayer. The permanence of buildings such as St. Nicholas' and All Saints' is a pointer to the permanence of God. As Malcolm Guite writes: 'The long continuity of unbroken worship, through the changes and chances of history, is lifted week by week into God's transfiguring presence.'

With every blessing,

Mark Abrey

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DOG FOULING

I'm sure that we all care about our environment and don't like to see discarded rubbish in our streets and on our verges. In particular it is distressing to see dog mess that hasn't been picked-up, bagged and placed in one of the many special bins provided by the Parish Council.

There are many dog owners in Ascott and the vast majority clean-up after their pets, but some seem content to leave the mess where it falls, even if this is on someone's garden or on an area of grass that is kept regularly mowed and tidy by the neighbouring householder.

Apart from being unpleasant to see around the village, it's even more unpleasant if you step in it when walking at night or during the dark winter morning or pushing your pram or child's scooter through it.

Dog faeces can cause a potential health risk caused because of the roundworm, *Toxocara Canis*, a parasite that lives in a dog's digestive system. The parasite lays eggs, which are released via an infected dog's faeces. These eggs can remain active in the soil for many years and if ingested by someone, perhaps a child playing, can cause serious illness and even blindness. So please pick-up and dispose of your dog mess and also worm your dog regularly.

DOG FOULING IS UNSIGHTLY, UNPLEASANT, SMELLY AND ANTI-SOCIAL



STATION GARDENING

Who is that odd woman that gardens in the ditch opposite the Signal Box or clambers over the station bank in all weathers? Isn't it a waste of time, effort and money? Why does she do it?

About 10 years ago a group of residents, led by former parishioner Yvette Keaufling, organised a Gardens Open event in the village. They raised a nice sum of money and Yvette asked the Village Charity to be custodian of that fund. Yvette wanted the fund to be used to improve the planting around the village. She was particularly upset about the new brutalist look of the station after the line had been redoubled. She also wanted more daffodils in the verges. Yvette and John Cull, Charity Chairman, asked me if I would take these projects on.

The first job to be done was to secure the bank of rubble and earth that had been pushed up at the side of the car park. Network Rail (NR) provided the funds for a retaining wall with Cotswold stone facing, built by local resident Kevin Cambray and father. NR also provided the sleepers for Joe Gomm to build into troughs. A planting plan was made by the son of a former resident, a whole band of volunteers were involved in weeding, planting and mulching and the garden started to take shape.

The ground on the station bank is stony and poor quality – it is very open to the elements especially the wind. The planting is deliberately quite bold as it is usually viewed from a distance as people pass by on foot or in their vehicles. But also, some plants that have seeded themselves are allowed to stay as long as they don't invade. They are naturally beautiful, I think, and I love these surprises that arrive on the wind.

The bank opposite is totally different. This is my favourite because each section is different in character, sometimes woodland or full of concrete, very steep and dry, very wet or very fertile and easy to dig. It is shaped like a crescent, very lush, sheltered and has changing light. I chose to garden here – no one asked me - and I am enormously grateful to those volunteers who indulged my eccentricities and joined me in hours upon hours of clearing very very well established weeds!

Why was I mad enough to take this on? This is Network Rail land and they would strim once a year, if at all. At the height of the growing season the weeds used to grow so tall and long that pedestrians could not walk on the pavement, drivers could not see around the corner and the ditch was so silted up that the water would run back and flood the road. This is the main drainage channel for the centre of the village!

We have a small grant from NR (looked after in the Parish Council account) which I use mainly to pay for hard landscaping materials. Kind residents have given their expert time voluntarily to do the building for me and this stops the bank from sliding into the culvert during heavy rain. Now the plants are established the bank is doubly secure. I would never ask for funds from the Parish Council – this is not

Ascott Grapevine

village land and if no one continues my work in years to come the land will once more be cared for by Network Rail.

But it is a delightful project full of plants donated by residents who I think of when I potter around the garden (because now it is really a garden, not just a 'bank'). I have relished the challenge of seeing what thrives where and eventually finding the right plants for the right places. I have also tried to remain sensitive to the nature of Ascott-u- Wychwood which is naturally beautiful, lovingly gardened without being perfectly landscaped.

And if that is not enough reward, it is a very sociable project!! How many new and old friends do I chat to over the garden fence? What a happy by-product!

In recent times my Parish Council work and growing family commitments have meant that I fit the gardening in when and if I can. That is why neither garden is ever perfect and you no longer see groups of volunteers working at the station but, if anyone would like to help me on the odd occasion please do get in touch. And, of course, there will come a time when I physically won't be able to climb around like a Welsh mountain sheep. I'd like to think that some younger person(s) might have the same eccentric interest that I have and, if so, do come and chat over the garden fence!!

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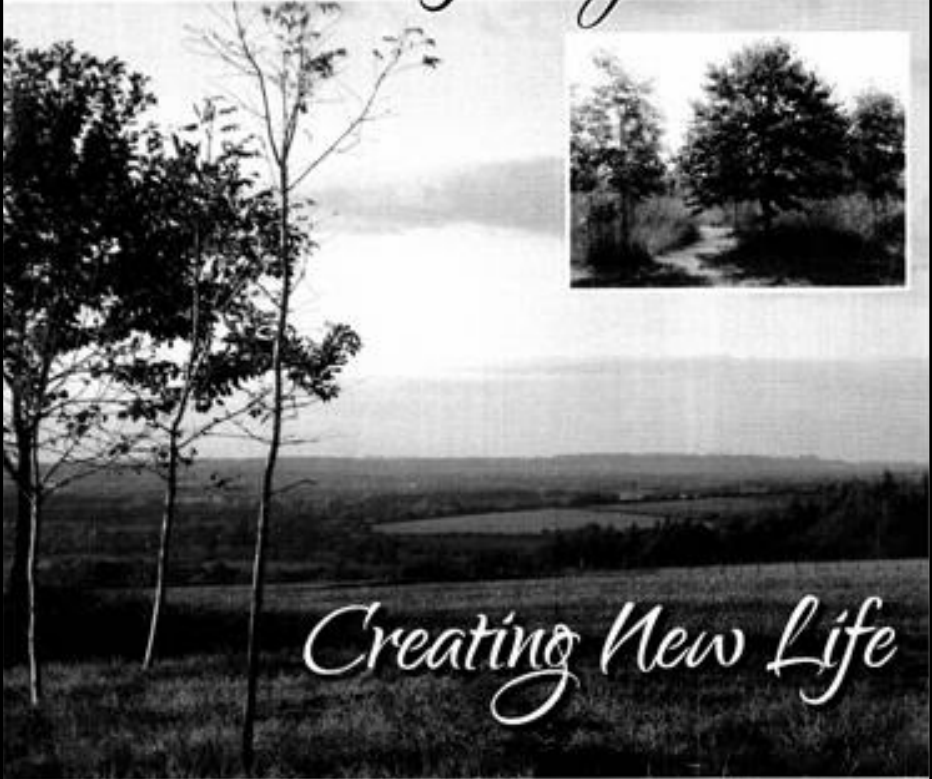
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WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings are held at Milton under Wychwood village hall at 7.30pm, usually on the third Thursday of each month.

Founded in 1981, the society now has around 100 members from all over the Wychwoods and beyond. As well as regular meetings there are occasional visits and tours; recording of memories and oral history; study groups who research and record items of interest, documents and records; and generally encourage conservation and a deeper understanding of our local heritage.

Guests are welcome to all meetings for a fee of £3. Annual membership is £15, which includes free entry to Chipping Norton Museum where the society archive is housed.

21 Nov Michael Davies The United Nations

16 Jan Brigadier David Innes Oxfordshire's Military History

20 Feb Tim Porter TBC


19 Mar Stephen Barker Oxfordshire during the Second World War

16 Apr Cedric Reaveley Pharmacist and Family History in Burford

21 May AGM Carol Anderson Glovemaking in West Oxfordshire

Contact Sue Richards 01993 830122 for further information

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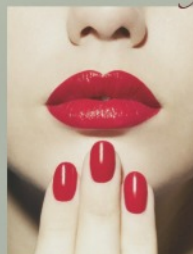


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WET, WET, WET!

Recently there has been great concern about climate change, but foolishly I had expected this might lead to Mediterranean summers not constant autumn and winter rain. From October to December there were only 19 days out of 92, in Ascott, when there was no measurable rain and this trend continued in January. No wonder the river is full and everywhere is waterlogged.

The table below shows Ascott's rainfall from October to December 2019 during the last ten years with 2019 being the wettest.

Year	Rainfall inches Oct - Dec	Rainfall mm Oct - Dec	Rainfall for the whole year in inches
2019	16.2	411	35.72
2018	8.27	210	28.80
2017	7.25	184	28.56
2016	6.09	155	31.61
2015	10.8	274	30.25
2014	9.92	252	37.44
2013	12.62	321	30.56
2012	14.11	358	40.99 **
2011	6.14	156	21.30
2010	5.76	146	24.57

**In 2012 we suffered a very wet April, June, July and August as well as the second wettest autumn.

I keep my fingers crossed that we will enjoy a sunny, warm and relatively dry spring.

ASCOTT-U-WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Yes, you did read that correctly. I hope the bulk of the village is pleased to learn that the club is reforming to play cricket again on the beautiful Memorial Field this season!

I live in Charlbury, but being a Moss I have both friends and deep historical family roots in Ascott - apples don't usually roll far from the tree! I've played local village cricket for 30 years, and played at Ascott many times. It was one of my favourite grounds; the tranquility, views, a good batting wicket - I recall many memorable afternoons here.

This is truly a historic village club. I've researched and the earliest reference that I can find to cricket being played in Ascott is in 'Jacksons Oxford Journal' of August 24 1861 - a staggering 159 years ago! The paper reports a local derby match played vs Shipton, resulting in an innings victory for the more established club. Shipton scored 89, and Ascott's two innings returned just 35 and then 48. The report goes on to say "at the conclusion the players and their friends sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by the worthy hostess of The Churchill Arms" - now Sunset House I believe. There are match reports regularly over the years from there on.

Personally I find this heritage hugely inspiring and I feel it was a terribly sad day for the village when this once proud club 'went to sleep' in 2010/11 - poignantly in what might have been the clubs 150th year! Nobody wants to live in villages 'with nothing going on' but it does take time & effort to keep things going. So, what are we waiting for? With the kind blessing of The Parish Council, I and a few friends aim to help bring this institution back to life. I have the contacts, drive and knowledge, and with a bit of teamwork - it will succeed. Roll on Springtime.

But there are challenges. N° 1, fundraising. I am personally working hard at this with a weekly tea & cakes stall at Chipping Norton School Parkrun, every Saturday from 9am to 10am. Any donations over stock I'm giving to the club - so if anyone would like to make a cake on a Friday in aid of the club do please let me know and I will collect. If anyone from Ascott is taking part and 'Parkrunning', do say hello after.

Everything costs money, and whilst the Roller has already been brought back to life (with a huge roar) sadly the engine block exhaust flange has been vandalised, necessitating specialist repair. The practice net is completely derelict & beyond restoration; the old cracked concrete needs to come up. The best solution is a new 'roll-on' net. Then there's liability insurance and all the normal cricket running costs...so if any one with a big heart and a desire to see the club thrive again wants to donate even as little as £1, do please get in touch, or we have a 'just giving' page at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/auwcricketclub

Challenge N° 2 - Players. I want the club to be all-inclusive, ability is completely unimportant at this stage, it's enthusiasm we need to get going again. **So, players of all ages from 10 to 65 are required!** You don't even need to have played before. Do please get in touch if you fancy a game, even if it's only 1 match per season. There will be no membership fees, it's pay-as-you-play, match fees only. Hopefully we'll have weekly net practice at the field from spring (free, all equipment provided) assuming we can get a net facility sorted. If anyone is interested in helping with umpiring, scoring, or doing cricket teas - please contact me.

I am a level 2 qualified coach, and have organised kids cricket previously - so at some point the plan is to start this at Ascott. If you have children interested, let me know.

We will be working hard bringing the wicket back to life, and have already booked Ascott's joyous first 'return' match, hosting Bampton 2nd XI on Sunday May 31st at 2pm. Please come and support the home team, there will be a cup of tea and piece of cake for all.

Obviously we can't compete with the size, prestige & facilities offered by the likes of Shipton & Charlbury Cricket Clubs. But there is absolutely no reason why a friendly, fun little club can't succeed at Ascott, as it did for well over a century. Let's make it happen.

All interest & offers of help much appreciated; email on

AUWCRICKETCLUB@HOTMAIL.COM or phone/text me on 07866 278685.

Stewart Moss

For the latest news on the revival of the club, follow us on Twitter @AU-WCRICKETCLUB

This wonderful period photo captures a ladies match at the club's original ground by the railway station, taken I believe in 1908 - copyright of the Grenville Collins Postcard Collection.



FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT'S PAST.

Part 9



Underneath the Garden Room of 43 Shipton Road, the home of Simon and Katherine Gidman, lies a well; a well that would have been a very important feature for a former occupant. For more than fifty years that occupant was Mrs Alice Moss, nee Kench, also known locally as Mrs Laundry Moss, and when she died in 1952 aged 89 most of her life had been spent as a laundress.

Alice had been born in Charlbury in 1863 where her mother and sister are also listed as laundresses in the 1901 Census. So a family who perhaps carried on a tradition and one which Alice was fortunate enough to be able to call upon.

In 1884 she married William Moss of Ascott and by 1896 they were already living in Shipton Road and had a family of five children, Frederick aged 11, Reuben 9, Albert 8, Annie 3 and Alfred. William worked on the railway as a signaller and was also in 1896 briefly elected as one of Ascott's first Parish Councillors But unfortunately later that same year he was found dead at the foot of one of the more distant signals, apparently having fallen whilst trying to light the lamp.

So aged 33 Alice was left a widow with five young children, Alfred being only a few months old. It seems she must have fallen back on a known occupation and carried on with it for over fifty years.

How can we today with washing machines and dryers have any real idea of Alice's life?

She would have had to begin by lighting a fire to heat the water and then drawn the water from the well before preparing the soap, pummelling the clothes in a dolly tub, rinsing, perhaps mangling, then hanging them out to dry before ironing with a flat iron heated on some source of heat, as well as collecting and later delivering the completed laundry. She would have worked in steam and heat as well as the damp air of indoor drying during inclement weather, both in heatwaves and hard frosty winters. Alice's life would have been a never ending round of all the tasks necessary to cope with other peoples' dirty washing. No light, flimsy and non-iron fabrics but far heavier clothes and household goods of cotton and linen, taking far longer to dry and more difficult to remove creases from. All this as well as coping with the needs of five children and the vagaries of the weather.

There would have been little time for relaxation, because through all the years she had to make a living.

In 1901 Reuben had left home and was living with his grandmother and aunt in Sheep Street, Charlbury and working as a draper's assistant. The other children were at home with Alice probably assisting with the various aspects of the laundry business. Although by 1911 Annie had changed track and was working as a learner in the Post Office.

The Great War arrived in 1914 and two at least of Alice's boys served. Alfred was a private in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and Reuben was a bombardier in the Royal Field Artillery. He was later awarded the Military Medal for bravery. After the War Alfred also joined the Post Office and became the Postmaster at Milton. But Alice carried on as a laundress into her eighties. She died in 1952. What a long, hard life she must have led. What a plucky woman!

Wendy Pearse

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Garden Waste Collections

Sign up now for garden waste collections

A record number of green fingered West Oxfordshire residents are signing up for garden waste licences.

A total of 32,983 licences have been issued in the last year with almost 60 per cent of households in the District subscribing to the service.

Now residents are being urged to sign up or renew their subscription which runs from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 and costs £30 per bin a year for a fortnightly collection.

Residents signing up before 8 March will have their licence in time for when the new subscription year starts, and can be sure of not missing any collections from April.

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "It is fantastic to hear so many residents are taking responsibility for their waste and we will ensure it is turned into compost used on local farmland.

"It is also a positive development as we continue our commitment to combating climate change."

Signing up for garden waste collections is quick and easy and can be done using a credit or debit card, either by calling 01993 861025 or online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden.

Garden Waste Bin no longer Needed?

Householders choosing not to renew their subscription service can have their bin collected.

The annual charge runs from 1 April until 31 March each year. Anyone signing up part way through the year will be charged the full amount (£30) until the end of March.

After collection, the garden waste goes to a composting site near Chipping Norton. This large scale site enables faster composting as it reaches higher temperatures. It is first shredded then stacked in long piles, known as windrows, which are regularly turned to produce compost. The process is monitored and closely managed to quality standard. Compost is then used on agricultural land.



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Waste Disposal in West Oxfordshire

Residents urged to use an official waste carrier or face a fine

Residents are being reminded of their responsibilities when it comes to waste disposal.

Government legislation stipulates that only authorised collectors can be used to take away waste that is not being removed as part of normal household collections.

Examples include old appliances and waste generated from a DIY project or a house clearance.

Collection services are often advertised on social media sites but the operators may not have the correct authorisation.

If residents fail to check their collector's credentials, they could face a fixed penalty notice of up to £400.

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "Many people may not be aware but as well as prosecuting unregistered carriers who may be fly tipping in the District, those that hired them in the first place could be fined.

"Fly tipping is a scourge on the environment and will not be tolerated. Anyone condoning it, whether they are aware of the legislation or not, will be dealt with accordingly."

The new fines have been introduced as an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Residents can check whether a waste carrier is registered at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

The fixed penalty notice of £400 will be reduced to £200 provided payment is made within 10 days of the notice being issued.

The move to issue fixed penalty notices was recommended at a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 15 January and will be considered by fully Council on 22 January.

Leaffield Primary School

Our 6th Annual Lantern Procession

On 4th December 2019

Children at Leaffield Primary School once again made stunning lanterns with artist Emily Cooling. 2019's lanterns had a recycling theme. These were used in our 6th Annual Lantern Procession. The procession started on The Green with switching on of the village Christmas tree lights and led to the church for carols and refreshments.



LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS

Now I am old I find I doze off often. I do find television a great sleeping draught. But is it worth the license fee which I have got to pay again, so I can watch 'East-enders' five days a week.

Most afternoons there are at least four quiz programmes to watch. Do they broadcast these to keep the mind alive of sleepy O.A.P.s? Commercials during this time are from Insurance Companies telling people to pay for their funeral now, so they can leave a little nest egg for the family.

People will say to me, "Remember you can't take it with you." To which I usually reply, "In that case I shall stay as long as I can. I'm not having my hard earned cash squandered by relatives."

During my dozing strange thoughts come to mind. For example, "Is God a naughty boy with a stick?" Imagine dozens of gold fish bowls all of which contain a universe. The naughty boy with a stick goes around and gives all a stir. He may get his sister to help him, because I don't want you to think I don't believe in sex equality. What is of interest, when stirred would the universes spin in a clockwise or anti clockwise direction?

I know very little about Classical Greece or Rome. The only Latin I know is 'Semper Fidelis' which means 'Ever Faithfull' and a fine march by John Philip Sousa. I think Annie Domini was a woman Opera singer from Milan.

One Greek I've heard of is Diogenes, a stoic who it was said lived in a barrel. When asked what he most wanted, answered, "Stand aside. You are standing in the light." I think Diogenes was correct. Light is very important in the Christian faith. Should I now begin to rage at the dying of the light? My main fear of eternity is that there will be no light and no colour. Having these strange thoughts people could say it's the first sign of madness. But is the second being an ardent Brexiteer? I needed to be reassured that Europe was not being run for the interest of German and French elite. I needed to be reassured that the bureaucrats in Brussels did not to deliberately set out to humiliate as much as possible the United Kingdom, a once great nation.

It would be my wish in twenty years' time people will say, "That silly old yokel got it all wrong now that we all drive on the right side of the road for the few of us that can afford electric cars."

Fred Russell

Christmas Carols on the Green 2019



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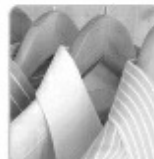
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**For more information please contact
either;**

Izzy on 0749 6673680 or;

Mike on 0792 8722367

FC Ascott

FC Ascott Rangers and FC Ascott are doing really well this season, lying 3rd in league and FC Ascott middle. The FC Ascott youth are doing really well to double in size and expanding, and we have started women's football on Sundays as well and looking for more ladies to join FC ASCOTT LIONESSES. Information for all ring Mick on 07928722367.

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Marie Moss



Marie was born on the 10th July 1924 in the Royal borough of Greenwich London. She was the eldest of six children three boys and three girls. When she left school at the age of 14 she was commissioned to war work and lived in London through the blitz. Having to move on two occasions due to the family home being bombed, after this her Father decided to take the family out of London, and as Mum had an aunt who was living in Leafield who knew Rangers Lodge was vacant decided to move there. This time work took Mum to de Havilland's where she met Dad who also worked there until he was called for national service at the age of 18. Dad went missing for six months and was found in an American hospital in France, later returning home and on the 4th of August 1945 they married in Holy Trinity Church here in Ascott, and set up home in Heritage Lane. Peter came along in 1946 then Dennis followed by myself. We had a happy childhood always a welcome when we came home, good food and a warm clean home, lots of picnics by the river while Dad and the boys fished, swimming again in the river, family walks. We were shown how to make things and I was taught to knit and cook and we learned about the countryside. When the boys were older they played football for the local team Ascott United, which was run by Dad. Mum would wash the entire football strip every week and cheered the team on each Saturday. It was a regular occasion to have a coach full with team and supporters for away matches and a good time was had by players and supporters especially if the team won. Along with Dad, Mum also helped form and run the Acorn club which was formed for the over sixties, with dominoes and cards, board games and a cup of tea. This was held in the old Tiddy Hall if they weren't on an occasional outing. Lyn and Tony Collins would sometimes take Mum and Dad horse racing which they both enjoyed. Nothing fazed Mum, she would have a go at anything even the glider flight Dennis bought

her for her 90th birthday and once we got her in the plane (no steps and very little room) she loved seeing her bungalow from above and said it was so quiet and graceful. When we were younger Mum used to clean the chandeliers for the Church, taking them apart, cleaning each piece separately and putting them back together. It is amazing how many pieces they have. In recent years she could be found at regular coffee mornings held around the villages. She used to lunch once a week at the Swan when Richard and Michiel held the pensioners lunch. She went to the lunch club at Burford where Jean and Sharon kindly took her under their wing. Mum loved the Day Centre chatting with friends and playing Rummy cub and was always very grateful to Katherine for the work she put into the running of it, also to David for the Good Companions Club. Mum loved family occasions and visits from her Grandchildren and Great grandchildren, they were all very special to her. About ten years ago Mum was very ill and spent five months in hospital. As she had such an awful Christmas and couldn't eat when she came home and had bounced back to reasonable health, we held a Christmas in July for her, held in Mandy and Jeff's garden in a marquee decorated with tinsel and baubles we all sat down to Christmas Dinner while carols played in the back ground. Mum loved it. I think the neighbours thought we had gone mad. Holidays were a joy to her as well. Norfolk with Judy and Pete with fresh mackerel which she was often telling me about. Spain with her brother, Ireland with Kath and Danny, Dennis's in-laws, Devon with Ken and myself, Mandy and Gayle. And for the last ten years when she was unable to fly on her own she came to Ireland to visit Dennis with Ken and I and for the entire long Journey she never nodded once. Mum was a very strong willed and contented person who was very loving and loved life, the simple things in life pleased her, knitting and crochet and in earlier years embroidery, watching rugby, flowers, bird song, a spider spinning a web, her family and friends and of course her coffee.

Marilyn Baker



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Garden Notes

Take care of your garden tools and they will take care of you!

Well that's easy to say but if you are anything like me the last thing I want to do after a long day of gardening is to clean my garden tools; however if you can spare some time and show them a little love they will last a lot longer, so as part of your gardening routine get into the habit of cleaning, oiling and sharpening your tools on a regular basis. When I was a student gardener at RHS Wisley this was constantly drilled into us by all of the Head Gardeners and has stayed with me ever since.

Garden hygiene is important for preventing the spread of diseases such as Box Blight, Phytophthora and Bacterial Canker throughout your garden. It is also important for your tools to be sharp as tools with a clean sharp edge will cut into the wood or soil with precision and less effort. Secateurs or shears that are blunt will do far more damage to your plants as rather than make a clean cut they will crush and rip the stem which then allows disease to set in. Blades of pruning tools can also become gummed up with sap attracting grime to the blade. This build up, affects performance causing blades to stick over time, making them difficult to use. It is a good idea to have a best pair for pruning and a cheaper second pair for jobs such as cutting back herbaceous plants.

Start by washing any dirt off of your tools with a garden hose and scrubbing any caked on mud with a stiff bristle or wire brush. Dip the tools in a diluted solution of household detergent such as Jeyes fluid or Citrox. Leave to soak for 15-20 minutes before drying off. Turpentine can be used for any items that might be covered in sap and a solution of 50/50 water and white vinegar can be used to soak items coated in rust. Leave to soak for 12 to 24 hours then allow your tools to dry completely before putting them away. Moisture will raise the grain of the wood making it feel rough so give wooden handles a light rubbing with sandpaper then coat with linseed oil once a year as this not only makes them much nicer to touch but will also help to preserve them.

Many modern tools are now made from stainless steel making them less likely to rust; however fertilisers and other chemicals will rapidly corrode any metal parts so thoroughly clean any stainless steel tools which have been used for chemical applications and depending on the quality of the metal, an occasional oiling may still be required.

Never use a petroleum based oil on your garden tools as you will just end up transferring it to the soil in your garden; instead use a natural oil such as Linseed. For extra rust protection you could fill a 5 gallon bucket with builders sand and

pour 2 pints of Linseed oil into it. Use this to plunge your tools into the oily sand several times after use and your tools will love you for it.

Hoes, shears, lawnmowers, secateurs, loppers, garden snips, scissors, knives and spades all need sharpening annually if in regular use. Wipe the blades down with linseed oil or a similar non-petroleum oil lubricant. Felco Lubricant spray or SAS food grade silicone spray can be used on any tools with moving parts.

Garden tool sharpening can be a dangerous operation so before you start it is imperative that you wear eye protection as the smallest sliver of metal in the eye can be very painful. Likewise always wear some heavy gloves to prevent slivers of metal from getting into your skin and also to prevent cuts from your newly sharpened tools. It is also important to have your tool properly secured before you start to sharpen it; so secure it in a vice or a clamp. The tools needed for basic sharpening are neither expensive or complicated. Most blades can be filed with a 10" flat mill file which you can purchase from most hardware shops or garden centres. Every tool blade has some sort of edge bevel on it so try to keep to this edge where possible. File at a 20 to 45 degree angle for most tools. For items that need a finer edge such as secateurs, loppers and shears, use a whetstone to finish the edge. When sharpening a blade on a stone simply slide the blade over the flat surface of the stone until you reach the desired sharpness. However, if this all seems a little daunting for you, there are professionals who can do this for you; so consult your local servicer/grinder.

Taking the time to maintain your garden tools on a regular basis will ensure that they work efficiently, that any task you complete gets done with accuracy and precision and will most certainly, add many years of life to all of your favourite garden tools.

Juliet Ingram

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that in November 1873 Mary Clifford from Charlbury sent a letter to her brother in London and included the following news. Amongst the ninety people from the area who left to emigrate to New Zealand, one woman from Ascott was left at Ascott Station as the train carried her family towards Charlbury. She ran all along the line and managed to catch up with the train just as it was leaving Charlbury Station. Mary wrote, "She was thoroughly exhausted but they lifted her in, to recover on the way. She was plucky, but it would have been no joke to be left alone in England."

Wendy Pearse

PC News

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

How fortunate we were to have a clear evening on Christmas Eve. The event was really well attended and we would like to say a very big thank you to all the volunteers who made it successful. Particular thanks must go to the Swan pub who supplied the wine this time – the saving covered the cost of new tree lights. Also huge thanks to the band who always make it a real stand-out occasion and to John Cull who very ably and amusingly acted as the Parish public address system!!! We are very proud to say that residents, family and friends generously contributed a record £462 to the North Cotswold Community Food Bank. Thank you all!

ROADS

I hope that residents are happy with the work completed on London Lane. Philippa Carter has subsequently had a walk through the village looking at other road surface issues with Liz Leffman, County Councillor and the officer from Highways who is in charge of pothole issues. There was much sympathy for the state of our roads and hopefully that will translate into quite a few repairs over the coming months. However, going forward we (residents AND Parish Council) are all advised that by far the best way to get work done is to report everything on Fix My Street on the OCC website. So, if you are incensed about particular potholes then take action straight away, particularly those of you who are very IT confident. Your action would truly help to add weight to the Parish Council argument.

SPEEDING

OCC Highways have organised speed checks using cables at 3 locations in the village and we are waiting for the results. When these have been analysed the Parish Council plans to decide on various options which could include changing speed limits and sign positions, organising SpeedWatch or even doing nothing at all. Once we have more concrete evidence from the cable checks we will let residents know what our next step will be. We have had very positive feedback about the new priority system at the bridge – all thanks to Peter Rance's determination.

FELLED TREE ON THE GREEN

Many, many thanks to Rob Lane, volunteer resident, who did a perfect job felling the dead hawthorn on the Green. We will let the earth settle this summer and then will be debating if we should plant another tree next autumn. Please give us your views on whether we should and, if so, what kind of tree you would like to see.

INTRODUCTION OF CRICKET

We are very excited to report that there are serious plans afoot to introduce cricket back to the village playing field. All members and officers of the Sports Club have given their support to this and we hope that residents will do the same, either by playing or watching.

TRANSPORT

The pre-Christmas Saturday stopping service at Ascott, all trains proved very popular especially that on the final Saturday when over 16 folk took the journey! That said, on the down side, the standard weekday scheduled service for the Halts stations, now a 2 car DMU (Dual Multiple Unit) both ways, is predictably very crowded on the evening return up to Charlbury, and because to catch that train is a dreadfully poor connection with trains from London, some previous both way users have stopped using it. An outcome entirely predictable and one that the GWR franchise team must have considered acceptable. CLPG continue to press for a better service but it appears GWR have profoundly deaf ears.

DIFFERENT PC DATES IN APRIL

The second Monday in April is Easter Monday and we also have to accommodate the Annual Parish Meeting in April, so the dates this year are –

Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Monday 6 April at 7.30

Tiddy Main Hall

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 27 April at 7.30

Tiddy Main Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting is where all the organisations of the village give their annual reports, plus County and District Councillors and sometimes local police. Everyone is very welcome to come along and hear how the village is getting along – the problems and successes. We try to make the meeting pretty relaxed, wine is served and there are plenty of opportunities to ask questions, make complaints or (dare I say it) say thank you! Otherwise, if you can't make the Annual Parish Meeting or any monthly meeting then contact us by email or phone as below:-

clerk@ascottpc.org.uk

contact@ascottpc.org.uk (for all P Councillors)

Clerk tel: 01608 641045 (Mrs Angela Barnes)

Chairman tel: 01993 830344 (Philippa Carter)

Litter Pickers

The villagers who got together on Saturday 1st February at 10 o'clock to pick-up litter. Thanks to them for their pride in our village.



Medical Detection Dogs

The folk band MAN THE LIFEBOATS will be playing at Milton under Wychwood village hall on SATURDAY 18th APRIL. Doors open 7pm. There will be a bar and light refreshments.

Tickets £12

All profits will be given to MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS Charity N° 1124533.

Contact:

Barbara Saunders 01993 832012

Heather Shute 01993 831909

COFFEE MORNINGS

Come and join us for a coffee / tea and chat

between 10 o'clock and mid-day

at

The Mill

Ascott under Wychwood OX7 6AP

on

Saturday 14th March

Saturday 4th April

Saturday 9th May

Saturday 13th June

Saturday 11th July

Saturday 8th August

Saturday 5th September

Saturday 10th October

Saturday 14th November

EVERYBODY WELCOME

WODC Councillor

What a busy few months! First we had the General Election, then Christmas and now we are heading for another set of local elections at WODC. The only difference with these set of local elections is the fact that WODC could be plunged into 'no overall control'. But what does that mean for the residents of Ascott?

Many people may suggest that having a majority is better, for whatever party is in control. I am going to argue against that case. Having no overall control means working together and actually listening to what everyone has to say, currently, opposition motions are often dismissed or not even debated at full council. I have been trying to work with WODC for them to go paperless for all councillors, which, not only would that have a positive impact on the environment and cut down on paper, it would be cost efficient, saving at least £8,000 a year for WODC. To put this into perspective, it would cost £15,000 to set up a new rural bus service, just like the one which travels from Ascott to Witney.

But more importantly, we can finally get back to actually solving some of the bigger issues in our district: transport issues, which should include dualling the Costwold Line (and then to push for a stopping service from the rural villages into Oxford) and a full consultation on bringing back the Witney to Oxford Railway with a link to RAF Brize Norton. We also seriously need to tackle the climate emergency head on at WODC, which means making West Oxfordshire single plastics free and installing electric charging points across the district. We need to boost Tourism and finally, we need to look at funding more arts, culture and younger people projects across the whole district including rural villages just like Ascott. I always welcome emails from my residents suggesting how we can tackle some of these issues and I will always deal with case work as and when it comes in, so please do send me an email or feel free to call me.

A very important note for Ascott residents is the Cow Shed Development application. I was pleased to support the Parish Council and I recommended for a refusal based on two grounds for me. Firstly, it goes against the Local Plan that was adopted back in October 2018 by WODC, which states that Ascott does not need more development as it is a small rural village. Furthermore, Shipton and Milton are already building nearly 200 houses in total, therefore, the 'need' could be proven. On a personal note, I was disappointed to not see more affordable homes in this application, which is exactly what is needed for local residents, not four and five bedroom houses. The application could have even contained a bungalow or two. Therefore, a rejection was recommend. I am confident that even if the developer goes for appeal, they will lose and the rejection will still stand.

Thank you for all your support for me I look forward to working with you all over the next few months and we shall see what May brings!

Cllr Jake Acock



Come and join us for coffee at
Holy Trinity on the last Tues-
day of the month

10.30 – 11.30

ALL WELCOME

Dates for 2020

January 28th February 25th March 31st April 28th May 26th June 30th July
28th

August 25th October 28th November 20th

THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE MORNING IN SEPTEMBER

The Green Tree

Now it is gone



What Happened to the Village Panto?

For a few years up to Christmas 2018, the Ascott Pantomime was a well attended show and loved by many of the villagers. The local “cast” (most of whom were amateur amateurs) thoroughly enjoyed themselves dressing up and acting to a locally written script, spending only a total of three evenings, two of which were rehearsals, and not required to learn their lines, all they needed was to be able to read! Sadly the 2019 pantomime was cancelled as some of the loyal cast were unable to perform.

There is a chance that the Pantomime can be resurrected for 2020, all that is needed is for any local resident of any age to be someone completely different, or to assist as a director or stage manager, for one night to hear the enjoyment and applause of the audience.

The format is that the pantomime is in Tiddy Hall and is free to watch and the audience is asked to donate some money for a charity.

If you have not been here long, it is a great way to meet other villagers either as a participant in the cast or seating in the audience watching the fun.

If you want to know more please contact: keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

The Village Needs YOU

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- **DRIVE - pick up Members from their homes at 10.15am
to get to Hall for 10.30 and take home from Hall at 3.15pm**
- **COOK - once every 8 weeks in a pair to provide a hot meal for
30 or just to help with kitchen prep and serving over lunch**

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NATURE NOTES

After enduring over three months of what seemed to be continuously wet weather it was a rare pleasure to enjoy two dry and sunny days in mid-January which made me feel that spring was not too far away.

After a relatively mild winter (so far) I noticed how advanced everything seemed. In a sheltered hedgerow Winter Aconites were in bloom and Snowdrops were fully opened. At the base of the hedge the leaves of Lords and Ladies were appearing and unfurling and Dog's Mercury was starting to flower.



Hazel catkins, which at the turn of the year, are normally still tightly closed, were fully extended ready to release their pollen. To complete the spring picture a pair of week-old lambs were calling for their mother in the nearby field and a small flock of Long-Tailed Tits were working the hedgerow, keeping ahead of us as we walked.

Sadly, the sunny interlude only lasted two days and we were back to cloudy, damp weather.

Before leaves appear, the Hazel is adorned by conspicuous male catkins, which used to be called Lamb's-tails. These may be found in an undeveloped condition

in the autumn in clusters of two or three hard, little grey-green cylinders.

Throughout the winter they lengthen, their scales loosen and by February they are a couple of inches long and yellow with the pollen which blows out of them as they swing in the breeze. The female flowers are much harder to find and need to be searched for on the top ends of the tree's twigs. They are tiny swollen buds from which issue fine crimson threads. These buds contain several ovaries, which when fertilised develop into the edible nuts. The hard shell is the ovary that has become woody. Hazel nuts ripen in August or early in September, are rich in oil and a valuable food source for many animals including Squirrels, Dormice, Wood Mice and Bank Voles.



We normally encounter the Hazel in our hedgerows or as a many stemmed coppiced shrub. Left alone it will grow into a small tree up to 30 feet in height. The pliant stems that are produced after it has been coppiced have been put to many uses, including; making hoops for wooden casks, walking sticks, hurdles, thatching spars, pea and bean supports and decorative items for the garden.

Hazel has a reputation as a magical tree, a Hazel rod is supposed to protect against evil spirits and a 'Y' shaped Hazel wand is still used as a dowsing rod to locate under ground water sources. When passing over water, the wand will twitch, vibrate or even turn in the hands of the water diviner. Does it work? Well perhaps. I once had a 20metre deep borehole dug on the recommendation of a diviner and it has supplied water continuously for fifteen years, even in times of drought. How and why does divining it work; no one knows!

Hazel is one of a number of trees that produce catkins and are wind pollinated, these include; Birch, Hornbeam, Poplar, Alder and various species of Willow. They all tend to flower early in the year, before the trees are in leaf allowing the pollen easier access to the female flowers. Some Conifers, such as Pine and Spruce also rely on the wind to pollinate the female cones and they tend to produce vast quantities of pollen.

In the autumn trees like the Birch, Poplar and Willow rely on the wind to distribute their mature seed, whilst the Alder also relies on the rivers and streams by which it grows to carry out the same task.

Next time you admire a Hazel tree laden with catkins remember that the Celts regarded it as The Tree of Immortal Wisdom, imbued with the ability to protect, bring prosperity, assure fertility and provide a wand that could be used to summon the Fey (Elves and other supernatural creatures).

Stuart Fox

Get your waste to the right place

A new and magical hero is in town to kill the confusion around recycling. The Waste Wizard is a new online tool that's here to provide a magical solution to help Oxfordshire residents in their quest to solve the riddle of household waste and defeat General Waste.

Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated, recycled, if it needs to go into a specific bin or can be disposed of at a Household Waste Recycling Centre - oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard

TIDDY HALL

Piano Lessons

Pauline Carter

BA A Mus LCM CTABRSM MISM



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Ascott under Wychwood

‘Green’ Afternoon Tea



Saturday, 11th July

2pm – 5pm

At the Sports Pavilion

As well as Tea and a selection of delicious Cakes of all dietary requirements there will be an
Interview with Environmental Services on Recycling
and
Local stalls promoting sustainability

Everyone welcome!

Proceeds in aid of AUW Holy Trinity Church

WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



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

Sat Mar 21st Phil Beer

Tickets £15.00 in advance £17.00 on the door

At the time of writing Phil will have been busily engaged in finishing a large number of recordings to make up a definitive Box Set of songs and music encapsulating everything he does or has done during the last 40 years. There will be archive material as well as copious new recordings all in one package.

The solo shows for 2020, will be the last time he undertakes such a large number of performances.

Sat April 25th Brooks Williams & Rab Noakes + support by Colin Pitts

Tickets £15.00 in advance £17.00 on the door

The Rab Noakes/Brooks Williams Scotland-USA Trans-Atlantic collaboration was inevitable. Fuelled by a shared passion for acoustic roots rock, hook-laden songwriter pop, and folky Americana, they met in Glasgow in 2018 when Rab sang backing vocals on Brooks' 'Lucky Star' recording. Shortly thereafter they got together to write songs and the plan to perform was hatched.

Sat May 9th Clive Gregson (Farewell Tour) + support by Mandolirium

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Born and raised in Manchester but now based in the USA, Clive Gregson is an accomplished singer, musician and record producer of world-renown who first attracted attention, when his now legendary band Any Trouble burst onto the music scene. He also formed the ground-breaking duo with Christine Collister.

Sat May 23rd Johnny Coppin & Mike Silver + support by 3 Bucket Jones

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Johnny and Mike first met in Penzance in the early seventies. Since then their paths have seldom crossed but a chance phone call in late 2004 generated the idea of them playing music together. The two voices are a natural mix and the way they share the songs shows this to be a duo in the truest sense.

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

Ascott Martyrs

Ascott Martyrs to feature in performance at Oxford Castle, 7 March 2020

This International Woman's Day, staff at Oxford Castle invite you to join them to celebrate the revolutionary women of Oxford Castle & Prison!

They will be performing a series of monologues written from the perspectives of Oxford Castle's unsung heroines, from the Empress Matilda to the **Ascott Martyrs**, from Elizabeth Lilburn to Felicia Skene.

Whether you are an expert or someone who has never heard these names before in your life, come along and enjoy an evening of theatre and feminism!

The event is being held to raise money for the Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis centre, a feminist organisation committed to supporting survivors of sexual abuse, rape, domestic violence and harassment.

Please see their website- <https://www.oxfordrapecrisis.net/> - for more details on their work.

Performance 7.00 - 8.00pm

7th March 2020

£5 entry (ticketed event: please visit oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk/events/ to book)

16+ recommended age (due to occasional references to sexual assault and violence).

Article in Rural History Today

Readers may also be interested in an article about the Martyrs, and the commemorative textile hanging, which has just been published in 'Rural History Today' by the British Agricultural History Society:

<https://www.bahs.org.uk/>. If you haven't come across this publication before I am sure you will find other articles of interest too, whether you are a fowl fancier, want to know the details of the work house diet, or a vicar's view of wartime life in a Lincolnshire village.

Carol Anderson

Chair Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust

ascottmartyrsinfo@gmail.com

TIDDY HALL

Spring is in the air, the snowdrops are showing their lovely blooms, the daffs are sprouting up, and even my tulips are starting to appear! I think most of us are happy to say goodbye to the winter months and are looking forward to brighter, longer days! However, one fine, fun day was held at Tiddy Hall at the end of January, when we celebrated Burn's Night! Ian Drainer (MacIntyre clan) was the brilliant addressor to the haggis, Keith Thompson (Thomson clan) was our formidable piper and Ceci and the committee did the food. The haggis was royally toasted with a wee nip and afterwards our excellent Ceilidh band, three of whom you all know, Katrina, Matt and Naomi organised us on the dance floor. We finished with a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne". A great evening - to be repeated!

And to continue on a musical theme, three brilliant Folk Nights have already taken place at Tiddy Hall this year! Reg Meuross entertained an enthusiastic crowd in January while Whetstone, Brinsford & Burgess and IOTA visited Ascott in February! Here are the following Folk Nights scheduled for this spring:

March 21st – Phil Beer

April 25th – Rab Noakes & Brooks Williams

May 9th – Clive Gregson

May 23rd – Johnny Coppin & Mike Silver

If you've never been to a gig at **Tiddy Hall**, please do give it a try – it's a fantastic evening, a friendly crowd and you'll be made very welcome! Check the website, www.wychwoodfolkclub.com for further information.

The **Sunday Tea Dances** are continuing at Tiddy Hall this year. Spring dates are:

March 1st, April 5th & May 3rd.

Once again, just a reminder that the **Monday Night Dancing** has now changed to Tuesdays, beginning at 7pm until 9pm. For further information, please contact Terry & May Cox on 01608 810721.

The **Parish Council** meet on the second Monday of every month (except August) and the committee are now holding their meetings in the main hall, instead of the committee room. This makes access easier for everyone. If you would like to attend these meetings, you are most welcome.

And don't forget **Quiz Night!** - A fund raiser for our village church on Saturday 7th March. Teams of 6, £12 per person, to include a hot supper, a bar will be available. Quiz master will be Nigel Clevely. For tickets please contact Sue Boyer at 01993 830142 or sue.boyer@btinternet.com

Are you looking to smarten up your outdoor space this spring? Then come along to **Tiddy Hall** on Sunday March 8th! There will be a sale of garden furniture – doors open 11am – 4pm!

The refurbishment of the toilets will be undertaken by Blueglo of Witney and will begin on Thursday April 2nd. They will take about 2 weeks to complete and Tiddy Hall will be closed during those dates. We are excited about making further improvements to our lovely village hall!

And finally, we are hoping to hold another Flix in the Stix evening during the spring – details to follow!

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: Jess 07827 235457

Post Office opens Friday afternoon 2.00pm - 4.00pm



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Ascott Pre-School

We're ready for a great 2020 at Ascott Pre-school

We are looking forward to lots of fun at Pre-school this year; there will be cooking, crafting, singing, dancing, Forest School, sports day and lots of learning through play. Look out for our Pop-up Pancake Café event in February half term – all welcome to join us for pancakes and craft activities.

Celebrating Christmas at Pre-school

Christmas was wonderfully busy at Pre-school. We enjoyed lots of seasonal activities, took part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, and had a fun Christmas party on the last day of term. Earlier in December we welcomed Marianne from Wychwood Library, who visited to read festive tales and make Christmas crafts with us.

The children put on a brilliant show at our Nativity Christmas Concert. The audience enjoyed enthusiastic renditions of a selection of delightful original songs alongside old favourites including 'Jingle Bells' and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. Every child took part in the performance, and the evening raised over £140 – we will use these funds to buy new equipment for the children.

Muddy fun at Forest School

The older children are continuing to enjoy regular Forest School adventures at the Bruern Estate. We have been fortunate with the weather we've had on Forest School days, though we have been getting extremely muddy. On one visit in December, we visited the car wash on the way home to clean the mud off our vehicle – the children found it very funny watching their teachers getting rather damp as the water bounced off the sides of the minibus!

Visits to Windrush Valley School

We are very lucky to have been invited several times to Windrush Valley School. In November we enjoyed playing in the new outdoor activity area, making leaf necklaces and searching for bugs. In December we met Father Christmas, listened to a Christmas story and made lots of festive crafts.

Want to know more about Pre-school?

We have space available for children aged two and above across our sessions. Pre-school runs at Tiddy Hall during term time from 9am – 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (9 – 12pm 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. To find out more, visit our website www.ascottpreschool.co.uk, or contact Pauline via email (ascott_pp@btinternet.com) or phone (01993 832671).





Do you want to get involved in the community? Meet new people, make friends, and help us provide an essential facility.

The Ascott Village Shop has been serving the whole village since 2003. We are always looking for new volunteers of all ages over 16 to help us keep the shop open 7 days each week.

Run by the village, for the village.

If you think you can spare a little of your time, please contact Bridgette in the shop or by telephone. She will be pleased to tell you what is involved.

The shop relies on volunteers to:

Serve our customers

Stock the shop

Promote and market our produce

Organising and carrying out maintenance

The Ascott Village Charity



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

Thank you to all those who put money into the Charity Collection Box in the village shop, the sum collected 2019 was £226.55.

The village charity is still in the position to offer help to any person in the village who is embarking on further education and is in need of books or equipment for the course. They can apply to the charity to assist with the cost. All applications are dealt with in strict confidence.

If any villager feels that the Charity could help anyone in the village with financial aid then please contact one of the trustees to discuss the application procedure. The trustees will review all applications in full confidence to determine if they are within the Charity's power to assist.

Chairman

John Cull john@greenascott.co.uk

Trustees

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

Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

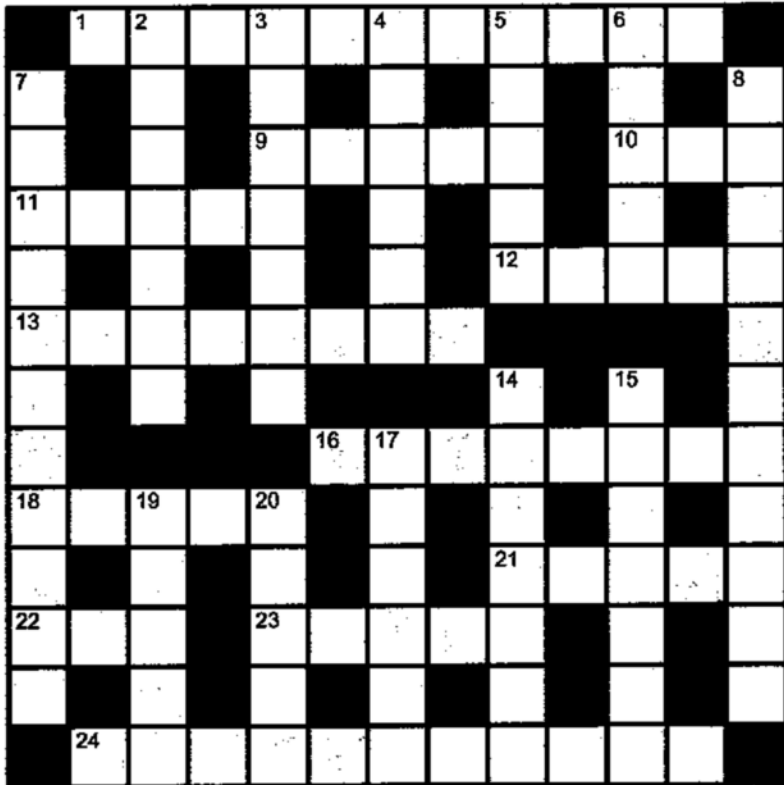
Mark Dawbarn mark@dawbarn.co.uk

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

Eleanor Bishop eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Care, upkeep (11)
 9 Ambit (5)
 10 Vigour (3)
 11 Anthem (5)
 12 Funeral lament (5)
 13 Natural source of illumination (8)
 16 Country formally known as Ceylon (3,5)
 18 Prices (5)
 21 Not a single person (2-3)
 22 Afternoon meal (3)
 23 River which flows through Paris (5)
 24 Having tasteful clothing and being neat (4-7)

Down

- 2 Decreasing in amount or intensity (7)
 3 Breathing hole (7)
 4 A sufficient amount (6)
 5 Set straight or right (5)
 6 Blanket (5)
 7 Make docile and tractable (11)
 8 At once (11)
 14 Ailment (7)
 15 Guarantee as meeting a certain standard (7)
 17 Straight sword with a narrow blade (6)
 19 Remove unwanted hair (5)
 20 Fibre used for making rope (5)

Solutions to Crossword in Edition 104

Across

- 9 Barcelona
 10 Etude
 11 Evens Up
 12 Tea Leak
 13 Evita
 14 Poor House
 16 Military Service
 19 Novelties
 21 Naomi
 22 Marital
 23 Bargain
 24 Offal
 25 Triteness

Down

- 1 Able Seamen
 2 Free Will
 3 Persia
 4 Coop
 5 Carthorses
 6 Metaphor
 7 Bureau
 8 Serf
 14 Partiality
 15 Eye Witness
 17 Tall Tall
 18 Idolater
 20 Verify
 21 Narked
 22 Moon
 23 Blip

Local Business Directory

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www.garagedoors.org

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Greenwood Osteopathy - Emily 07595 401224 greenwood.osteopathy@gmail.com

One to One Adult counselling 07503 040785 enquiries@francesmaclean.co.uk

Hypnotherapy - Katherine 07940 711949 k.riveratallents@btinternet.com

Homeopath, Aromatherapy 07513 058254 - marcela.holmes@cotswoldhomeopath.co.uk

Yoga Vinyasa Flow - Loren 07570 023868 killeenloren@gmail.com

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Events Calendar - 2020

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 1 st	2.30 - 5.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
March 7 th	7.30pm	Quiz Night	Tiddy Hall
March 8 th	11am-4pm	Garden Furniture Sale	Tiddy Hall
March 14 th	10.00-12.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill
March 15 th	4.00pm	Messy Church	Wychwood School
March 21 st	7.30pm	Phil Beer	Tiddy Hall
March 31 st	10.30-11.30am	Coffee at Church	Ascott Church
April 4 th	10.00-12.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill
April 5 th	2.30-5.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
April 6 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
April 18 th	7.00pm	Man the Lifeboats	Milton Village Hall
April 19 th	4.00pm	Messy Church	Wychwood School
April 25 th	7.30pm	Brooks Williams & Rab Noakes	Tiddy Hall
April 27 th	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
April 28 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee at Church	Ascott Church
May 3 rd	2.30-5.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
May 9 th	10.00-12.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill
	7.30pm	Clive Gregson	Tiddy Hall
May 23 rd	7.30pm	Jonny Coppin & Mike Silver	Tiddy Hall
May 26 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee at Church	Ascott Church
May 31 st	2.00pm	Ascott Cricket Match	Playing Field
June 13 th	10.00-12.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill
	7.30pm	Under the Wychwood & Towns Musicians of Bremen	Tiddy Hall
June 30 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee at Church	Ascott Church
July 4 th	tbc	Summer Dance	Tiddy Hall
July 11 th	10.00-12.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill
	2.00-5.00pm	Green Afternoon Tea	Sports Pavilion
July 28 th	10.30-11.30am	Coffee at Church	Ascott Church