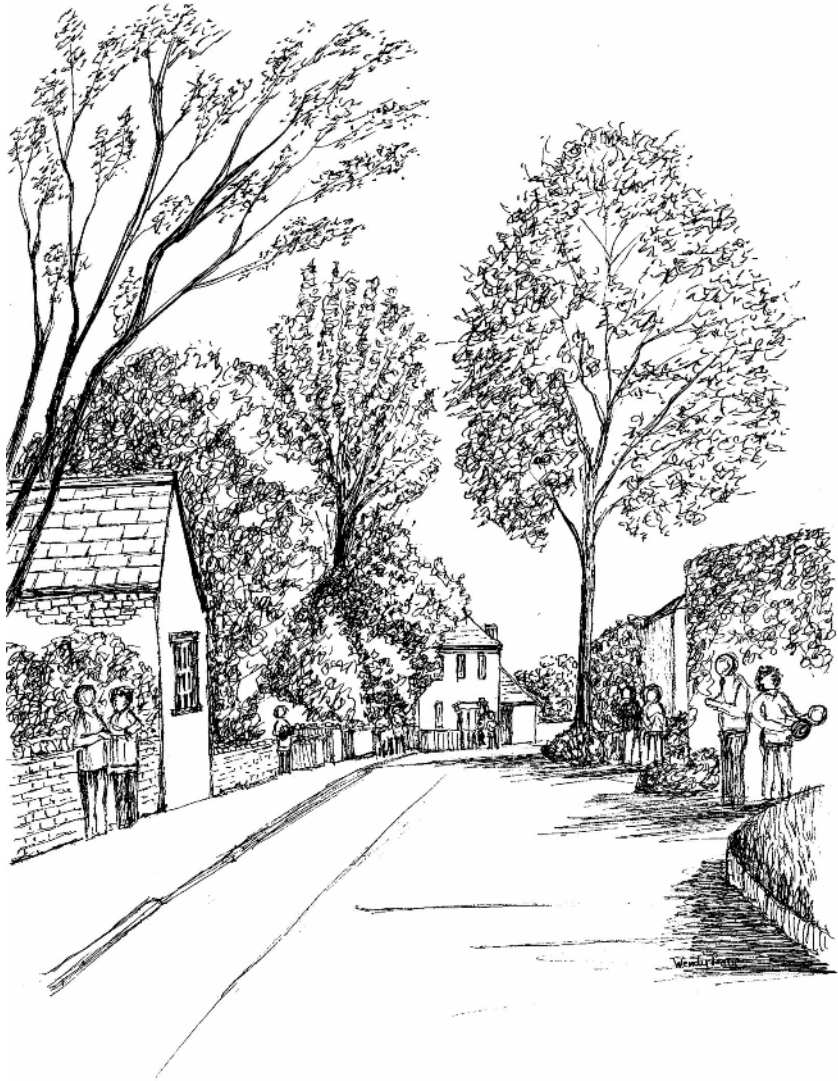


The Ascott Grapevine



All dates for events shown in this issue are entirely dependent on the Government restrictions on SD and Lockdown in place at those times.

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 August 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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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 60](#)), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or wendypearse@btinternet.com. The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

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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

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 - May 2020

Dear Friends

It doesn't seem so long ago that we were looking forward to celebrating Easter and the coming of spring. But it has been a very different Easter this year, as schools have closed early, holidays have had to be cancelled, and new ways of doing what is still possible have had to be found. Our personal lives have suffered: weddings and baptisms postponed, and families have had to stay apart from each other even in times when they most need the comfort of love and companionship. Funerals are still being held, though only with close family attending. This is heartbreaking at a time when people most need the support of their friends and wider family, physical contact and hugs. We can only make sure that each funeral is a caring and personal service, and look forward to the time when everyone can come to a memorial service later on. And everything has been made more difficult by the knowledge that the virus and the lockdown has affected people differently – some have been hit brutally hard, while others have found it a relatively easy time.

But the thing that has struck me most perhaps has been the resilience and practicality of our community's response to need. The Parish Council has been proactive in co-ordinating help for anyone who needs, and I know that people have been looking out for their neighbours without waiting to be asked. These amazing everyday acts of kindness embody everything that is good about the human spirit, and the love and compassion that Jesus teaches us is at the foundation of the Christian life. The Church has tried to work with village support groups where we can. We have set up a Benefice Telephone Network to make sure that everyone in the church family is contacted regularly by telephone if they wish. We hold a virtual coffee morning via Zoom on Tuesday mornings and the weekly 'A View from My Desk' is a more lighthearted response to the lockdown. Each Sunday, Ilona and I hold a Eucharist service from our homes to continue the ancient tradition of worship that has blessed this place. We also record a short online Sunday service available on the Chase Benefice website, and a Dial-A-Sermon telephone system for those who don't have access to the internet. On our website there are resources to help those who are living with depression and mental health issues and we have also created some online jigsaw puzzles from pictures taken of our Churches [see <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/chasebenefice/>]. We are always looking for ways to connect with each other at this time, so do check our website [www.thechasebenefice.org.uk] and the Bulletin if you receive it.

Keep safe and well. Be assured that you are held in prayer, each day and especially every Sunday at our Eucharist service.

With every blessing

Mark Abrey

SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2019/20

The church building is currently closed. But the Church continues to do what it does — loving God and loving neighbour — across the villages of the Benefice and beyond, and online.

Even though you can't come to Church, the Church can come to you!!

Virtual Services

Each week we are recording a video service for people to view in their own homes. To view it please visit our website: www.thechasebenefice.org.uk.

Dial-a-Sermon

For those without internet access, we have set up a way for people to listen to our Sunday services by landline. Simply call **01608 698955** and, after a few seconds while the call connects, you will be able to listen to the previous Sunday's service. The service, including prayers, reading and reflection lasts about 15 minutes, and the calls cost the same as a local landline call. We will change the recordings each Sunday morning so keep this card handy as the number will remain the same.

Clergy

If you want to talk to the clergy, please call our normal number 01608 676572.

CORONAVIRUS

With more people using foot and bridle paths particularly now the better weather has arrived, stock are now in many of the grass fields and other fields are shut up for silage and hay. It is **IMPORTANT FOR GATES TO BE SHUT OR LEFT AS THEY WERE FOUND**. Dogs should be kept under close control.

Please think of the awful consequence if gates are not shut or fastened properly.

Joanna Cook

Joan Pratley

Joan (Sylvia Joan Souch), one of 10 children, was born in Lyneham on August 5th 1928. In her youth she cycled from Lyneham to Chipping Norton to work at Johnsons. She married Eric Pratley on May 31st 1953 and moved to Ascott-u-Wychwood, initially living in a caravan in Corner House Farm rickyard (now 15/15A London Lane) while Eric and his brother Desmond built their houses on the opposite side of the road. Joan then went on to work for de Havilland and later, Roadline (formerly BRS) as an administrator. Joan spent much of her life caring for relatives and worked tirelessly (with Eric) supporting Holy Trinity Church. She liked knitting, sewing and embroidery, baked wonderful cakes, made potent home-made wine and enjoyed reading about local history. She was also a keen gardener, helping with the large family allotment for many years and loved to watch and listen to the garden birds. During their married lives Joan and Eric travelled the world extensively.

Joan died peacefully in her sleep on February 21st age 91.

Elaine Byles.



Phil Pratley

Philip Desmond Pratley was born on May 23rd 1968, the youngest of three children. Phil enjoyed his time at Ascott-u-Wychwood Primary School, particularly the trips to Wychwood Forest. At secondary school he was full of mischief, once getting caught for supplying ammunition for his classmates' peashooters! At 16 he left school and went to work with his father. Once able to drive, he and a couple of mates had the occasional trip away in the 'work's van', complete with CB radios and massive aerial, camping out on top of the hills, the Black Mountains being a particular favourite, to see from what distance they could receive signals (I believe Spain was the farthest). His father died suddenly in January 1987 so at the age of 18 Phil took over the family 'factory maintenance' business most of which was based at Smiths Industries Hydraulics Company, Witney. He ran the business very successfully until Smiths Industries Hydraulics Company was sold in March 2001, asset stripped and closed down. Phil had always had a keen interest in blacksmithing and consequently set up Wychwood Wrought Iron. During the years that followed he created some incredible commissions.

Phil loved wildlife, the countryside and horses, liked to travel, enjoyed music, gardening and the occasional clay pigeon shoot and was a very good cook.

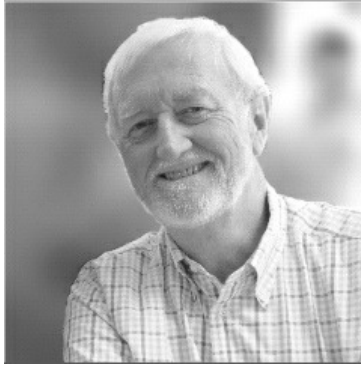
He married in September 2001 and subsequently had two lovely daughters. Sadly the marriage broke down at the end of April 2016, but two years later Phil was fortunate to meet Jo. He shared his life with Jo and her family for two years before dying from Sepsis on March 14th aged 51.

He will be remembered by family and friends for being gentle, kind, generous and helpful and having a great sense of humour.



Elaine Byles.

Nigel Paul Longshaw



Paul Longshaw, 66, died unexpectedly in his sleep early in the morning of April 15, 2020 at his home in Princeton, New Jersey. He had recently been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. The only child of lifelong Ascott-under-Wychwood residents John and Margaret Longshaw, Paul was born in Chipping Norton and grew up in Ascott. As a young boy, he attended the two-room village school (now the Windrush Valley School), followed by Burford Grammar School and Witney Technical College. From there he entered Aston University in Birmingham, graduating with a degree in Architecture.

Paul was an ardent traveller throughout his life, nurtured early on by countless spontaneous road trips across Europe with his closest friends. His itineraries in later life invariably traced the paths of architects and artists he revered, from Christopher Wren and Bernini to David Hockney and Zaha Hadid. The allure of new places happily remained a prevailing theme in his professional career and personal life. Paul visited the States for the first time in 1985 and instantly chose to make it his permanent home with his New York-born wife, Cille, whom he married in 1990.

A member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), he held his first job working for a small architectural practice in Oxford and later joined a team of architects and engineers affiliated with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, where he contributed to local community projects for eight years. Paul went on to forge a formidable career working with international teams to produce award winning, state of the art manufacturing facilities for leading pharmaceutical firms in the US and abroad. As a senior project architect and technical lead at Jacobs Engineering in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania for nearly 25 years, he was privileged to have worked on-site on projects around the world, including Washington, DC, Boston, Mexico, Ireland, Switzerland, Singapore and Sweden.

Ascott Grapevine

Throughout his career, Paul took particular joy in mentoring young architects, instilling the highest standards for design and construction practices.

Paul's passion for distinctive design permeated every aspect of his life. Taking the lead with his Canon camera around his neck, he eagerly enticed friends and family to accompany him on walkabouts to admire glassy new structures shoulder-to-shoulder with neo-classical landmarks in London and in Manhattan and to delight in the surprise of each new summer pavilion at the Serpentine Gallery. Lifelong travelers, Paul and Cille also made a point to spend time in Ascott several times a year. One of Paul's greatest pleasures upon each return was pausing at the crest of the hill to admire the majestic panorama of the Evenlode Valley.

Beyond his keen eye, Paul will also be remembered for his eclectic musical preferences ranging from Frank Zappa to Billy Strayhorn to Jenny Lewis, his talents as a photographer, his generosity, and his predilection for a proper English pint. In addition to his wife of 30 years, he leaves behind cherished cousins in Fleet, Oxfordshire and York as well as an exceptional constellation of life-long friendships far and wide.

His ashes have been interred in the memorial garden at Princeton Cemetery in New Jersey. Celebrations of his life with friends and family will be held in Ascott and in Princeton at a later date.

If you wish to make a contribution in Paul's memory, the British Heart Foundation, Samaritans, UK, and MS Society of Great Britain are among the many organizations he supported.

Calling all experienced practice nurses!

The NHS is looking to boost its teams in dedicated Covid-19 clinics across the country.

Anyone not already working in an Oxfordshire practice but interested in helping care for patients during the pandemic, please complete this quick availability survey and they will be contacted.

<https://surveyhero.com/c/e7684979>

Andrew Smith

Communications Officer (West Oxfordshire District Council)

andrew.smith@publicagroup.uk 01993 861616

The Art of Letter Writing

Having recently returned from travelling abroad, it is fair to say that many things have changed over time. Across each country I visited, it was possible to get hold of a local SIM card and stay connected to friends back home and in other parts of the world. Even just a few years ago, I can remember visiting places as close as Italy and Spain and being pretty much “off the grid” for a week. Now, in 2020, it is almost unthinkable to be without a smartphone, which serves not only as a means of communication but also as a boarding pass, a debit card and a GPS map. However, there is one thing, which I am very keen to champion and keep alive - the art of letter writing. Everywhere I went, I enjoyed buying postcards and sending them back home. And it seems I wasn't the only one, as I met other travellers doing the same. There's something exciting about a message being physically carried overseas and landing on the doormat of a home back in the UK, isn't there? This practice of letter writing is not simply something I developed whilst travelling. Over the last few years, I have taken the time to invest in pen-friendships, not only to bring joy to the recipient but also as a benefit to myself. From a personal perspective, I've found that when I take the time to set aside an evening to write to others, I'm able to be more open in how I relate.

The internet has a way of encouraging careful curation of our lives. Not only can we manipulate photos of ourselves but even our text and WhatsApp messages can be edited, deleted and rewritten until we're satisfied that we've conveyed our own news and sentiments towards others suitably, whilst retaining a sense of reserved dignity.

Meanwhile, sitting poised, with pen in hand and a blank page in front of you, you're free to write what is on your heart. To be vulnerable and honest. To look back over the preceding weeks and tell your story as it comes to you, rather than through stilted messaging, or a static video call.

During this time of isolation, we are incredibly blessed with modern technology, which allows us to virtually be together in one another's living rooms. We can hear our loved one's voices and see their faces. Don't get me wrong, I'm not against this at all - Zoom, FaceTime, Houseparty, they've all been life lines for many of us during this unprecedented time.

Yet, how much more might it mean to a friend or relative to receive a letter, hands-written and totally personal? Perhaps you know somebody working in the NHS who is tired after a long day and doesn't have time for a phone call - but would love to receive a note in the post? Maybe you know a younger person who finds messaging friends on their phone to be second nature - but would really listen and take notice of a message written down? Or, could it be that you have a friend, struggling with their mental health at this time - a postcard to pin on the wall may just go a small way to helping them smile?

I hope that this might inspire you to get writing (not typing) again if you've found yourself out of the habit. Whilst we're all at home more and missing our regular social activities, wouldn't it be great to get back to this meaningful way of connecting!

Georgie Bishop



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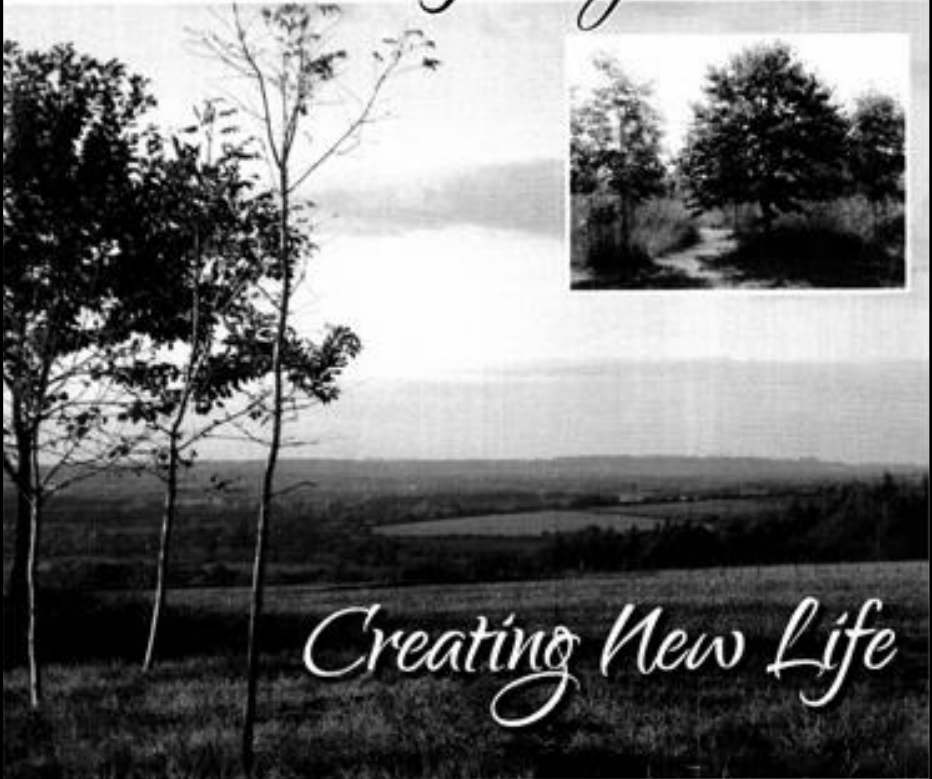
New Beaconsfield Hall

This is dependent upon the Government regulations on SD and Lockdown.

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WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wychwoods Local History Society has had to cancel the last two meetings of the season and the AGM in May. The talks by Cedric Reavley on the family pharmacy in Burford and Carol Anderson about the local glovemaking industry will hopefully be rescheduled to a later date. The meetings for the 2020/21 season have already been arranged, starting on 17 September with Tim Marshall on Quaker clocks and their connection with Milton-under-Wychwood.

The society has a new updated website with access to the wealth of research and records that have been compiled by members over the past forty years. All can be viewed at www.wychwoodshistory.uk or just type Wychwoods History Society into your browser. There you will find the digitised archive, audio recordings of local people, photos, society news and most of the issues of our journal Wychwoods History. Your help in identifying local villagers and some scenes would be greatly appreciated, as would stories or articles that could be up-loaded for everyone to enjoy.

It was hoped to arrange visits to Evesham Abbey and North Leigh Roman villa this summer, but these will be postponed for the time being.

Do please think about supporting the work of the Society by joining as a member. Subscriptions for the new season for new members start in September with the first meeting and AGM. Meetings are held monthly on Thursday evenings from September through to May at Milton village hall. The WLHS document archive is now mostly held at Chipping Norton Museum though still requires proper cataloguing and ordering. When the museum reopens WLHS members can benefit from free entry and full access to the collections.

Wendy Pearse was secretary of WLHS for many years – she and Jim have contributed immensely to the history of their home village of Ascott and the wider local area, and indeed continue to do so. Thank you both for sharing your painstaking research and actual experience of past generations growing up in the valley of the Evenlode.

To join WLHS or for more info contact Sue Richards

suerichards@phonecoop.coop www.wychwoodshistory.uk

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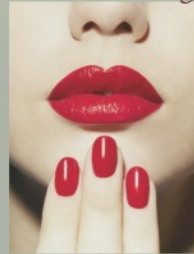


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Bonfires

West Oxfordshire District Council has seen a major increase in complaints about bonfires in the last few weeks and is calling on residents to be more considerate of those with respiratory conditions and people in self-isolation.

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: “These are difficult and challenging times for us all whether you are adjusting to life and work at home, isolating yourself or looking after loved ones.

“Most of us are spending more time at home and while having bonfires can be tempting, they carry risks for vulnerable members of our communities. Bonfires cause issues for your neighbours, especially those with respiratory problems, people who are shielding themselves from COVID-19 or anyone who may have contracted the virus.

“COVID-19 attacks the respiratory system so I would ask residents to please refrain from lighting fires which may affect vulnerable people while lockdown continues.”

Burning doesn't just affect the vulnerable. Bonfires and drifting smoke are a nuisance for neighbours wanting to spend time in their gardens or keep windows open.

Bonfires can also get out of hand and take up the valuable time and resources of the fire service which may put others at risk during the pandemic.

Cllr MacRae added: “Please be considerate of your neighbours and use alternatives such as composting or storing any waste until government restrictions are lifted. We know this isn't an ideal solution for everyone but these are not ideal times. You can put most of your garden waste to use - a successful compost heap needs lots of brown material as well as green. Don't burn it, use prunings and dry material to improve your compost heap.”

Environmental and Regulatory Services are required to investigate bonfire complaints whilst following guidance and procedures for social distancing. If considered a waste offence or statutory nuisance, it may result in enforcement action and fines.

To stay up-to-date on the Council's waste and recycling services, please see our [Coronavirus Bins and Recycling page](https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/coronavirus-bins-and-recycling/) <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/coronavirus-bins-and-recycling/>

Fact or Fiction?

Two book reviews

Given our current situation I've been reminded of a couple of books I've read and was wondering if there was any inspiration or lessons the village could take from them.

The first is "**The last town on earth**" by **Thomas Mullen**. This is set in Washington State during the influenza epidemic at the end of the first world war. As rumours spread of a disease that is killing people, the town of Commonwealth votes to block all roads and post armed guards to prevent any outsiders from entering. When a starving and apparently ill soldier attempts to enter the town, begging for food and shelter, the guard is faced with a moral dilemma.

Having been caught sneaking the soldier into a store shed the guard is placed in quarantine with the soldier, but as neither show any signs of illness over the next 2 days he is then released. Inevitably though the virus does arrive in the town and everybody blames the young guard.

People don't follow the doctors advice to stay inside and not see others and the virus spreads rapidly. The townspeople resort to some interesting approaches to avoid getting infected, these include wearing garlic, shooting dogs (apparently they spread the virus!) and the one I most approve of, a daily tot of whisky.

The other major side effect of the isolation is that supplies start running out, the town store gets burgled while the owner's wife is ill and the community vegetable patch is stripped bare one night.

There are more strands to this story that provide a number of twists to the plot - I won't spoil them all here.

The other book is "**The Mandibles**" by **Lionel Shriver**. This book is based in the future, again in America. But an America that's not so great. It follows the fortunes of a family and starts in New York where there are frequent problems with the supply of water and electricity, the national debt is out of control, a bank in London has failed and the principal character is advised to get all their investments out of the country and out of "dollar denominated assets" immediately. Things go from bad to worse when China, along with other countries, set up a new reserve currency to the dollar in which all international commodities will be traded which causes the collapse of the American economy. The stock markets close, cash withdrawals are limited, treasury bills, notes and bonds are declared null and void and the government calls in ALL gold (think wedding rings and tooth fillings!). Unemployment shoots up, people lose their homes, inflation goes rampant, supplies dry up and people start fighting in the supermarkets for produce and steal home grown vegetables from their neighbours gardens. They even resort to using old rags and washing them as they can no longer get toilet paper.

Ascott Grapevine

I found the first half of the book quite gripping but felt the second half, which is set another 10 years or so in the future, to be a bit rushed and some of the story lines rather neatly wrapped up rather than fully explored. Needless to say it works its way to an optimistic conclusion.

This is not what you call a cheerful book and to be honest it quite worries me that this could really happen, in a complex system it only takes a series of small events to make it catastrophically fail.

So should the parish council be considering:

- a) Barricading the routes into the village?
- b) Requisitioning the allotments (and any large gardens) for the good of the community?
- c) Setting up a laundry for the inevitable dirty rags?
- d) Collecting the gold and burying it in my garden (it will be safe, honest ;-)?)

I'll leave the books in the village shop if people want to read them for themselves, they might help you see that things are not as bad as they could be.

Sandra Staples



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Wychwood Folk Club in Lockdown

So, what does a folk club do during lockdown? Well quite a bit to start with actually. There's a lot of work to do when you have to cancel several shows. We had to spend a lot of time on various websites we advertise on cancelling/deleting all the shows we had planned up until the end of June. Then there's the pain of going round removing posters from various locations. We then had to contact several artistes informing them of our decision to cancel although most were expecting it. Contracts to go through with a fine-tooth comb making sure that we weren't liable to pay any of them for not performing and organising refunds for tickets already sold etc. etc. etc.

However once everything was sorted, we've actually enjoyed having a bit of a break, although we've kept the website updated regularly and added an extra page with a list of every artiste who has played here during the last 6 years, with links to their websites. During this period a lot of artistes will be struggling financially as they rely on the gigs they perform for their main income, so we've also added other links for things like CD sales, YouTube channels and lockdown concerts etc. for some of our favourite artistes.

During the last 6 years our audience has been steadily growing and we are becoming well known now in all parts of the UK. The number of artistes wanting to play here is phenomenal and we would have to put on two or three shows a week to accommodate them all (we have no plans to do that though).

Stay safe folks and we hope to see some of you when/if we reopen in September (see website for further details) www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

September 5th	The Fargo Railroad Co
Oct 3rd	Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
Oct 10th	Fairport Convention
Oct 31st	Sarah McQuaid
Sat 21st Nov	Anthony John Clarke & Dave Pegg
Sat 12th Dec	Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer

Ascott Village Charity Run

Probably the prettiest run in the Cotswolds!

The first Ascott Village Charity Run was organised to raise funds to help with the cost of fitting-out the new village shop which opened in 2003. With the exception of 2008 (the year following major flooding in the village) and 2016 (when extensive drainage and re-seeding work was carried out on the playing field) the run has been an annual event and is the main fundraising event for Ascott Village Charity. Starting in the beautiful Evenlode Valley, both runs are multi terrain. The 5k run is pleasantly undulating across fields and alongside the river Evenlode, courtesy of Mr & Mrs Wickens from Puddlecote and is suitable for runners of all ages. Our 'very special' (some say gruelling) 10k run up to Ascott Hill Farm with breath-taking views across the Evenlode valley, is a very challenging hilly course for runners aged 15 and over. Our thanks go to Ros & Roger Shepherd for preparing the 10k course around their farm and providing a water station. Unfortunately, neither course is suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

The aim of the Charity is to 'support our community' and over the years the Charity Run has raised thousands of pounds from donations, sponsorship and entries. This has helped to get some much-needed village projects underway, support existing fundraising schemes and get challenging projects over the finish line. The Charity has also assisted where possible, with cases of financial hardship, offered small grants towards educational and vocational studies and contributed towards some environmental projects.

The Charity has supported the Air Ambulance, Wychwood Day Centre, the Ascott Grapevine, the church bell repair fund, tree pollarding in the churchyard, a new drainage system on the Memorial Playing field, play equipment for Ascott Pre-school, Tiddy Hall car park re-surfacing, defibrillators, a new security system in our ancient church, booklets with information about Ascott and the Ascott Martyrs Project and we continue to look at ways to support and promote Ascott-u-Wychwood, our beautiful Cotswold village.

We are hugely grateful to our regular sponsors, the Cotswolds Wildlife Park, Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust, Meadowbank House Bed & Breakfast, Penningtons Manches Cooper Solicitors, The Rooflight Company, The Swan at Ascott and Wychwood Folk Club. Together, our sponsors help to offset our costs and lend a huge hand towards our annual fundraising target of £1000 plus!

Hopefully this year's event will take place on Sunday October 25th but this will be subject to the Government's guidelines on social distancing/COVID-19 at the time.

For further information, please see:

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



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PAVEMENT PARKING

**INFORMATION INCLUDED IN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM
OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

Proposals for a national pavement parking ban

New proposals to tackle pavement parking and make streets safer for parents and disabled people were set out on 12th March by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps. The 12-week consultation will (no dates yet) include options such as allowing local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to crack down on unnecessary obstruction of the pavement. Currently, outside London, only police have this power.

It will also consider how a nationwide ban on pavement parking enforced by local authorities might work, allowing for any necessary exceptions or designated spots for pavement parking where needed, and how a tailored approach may be required in rural and suburban areas which face very different challenges.

In 2019 the Department for Transport concluded a review which looked at the problems caused by pavement parking, the effectiveness of legislation, and the case for reform.


It found that pavement parking was problematic for 95% of respondents who are visually impaired and 98% of wheelchair users.

The Transport Select Committee also recently conducted an inquiry into the issue, with the commitment to consult on proposals forming a key part of the government's response to its findings.

The department is also looking at possible options to streamline and digitise the process used to create restrictions such as temporary road closures for roadworks, special events or permanent changes to speed limits and parking restrictions, known as 'traffic regulation orders'.

A TRO Discovery Project, carried out in partnership with GeoPlace, Ordnance Survey and the British Parking Association, completed last year which explored the process of making TROs, and how TRO data is made available and used across the country. A legislative review of this is now underway to find ways to improve it and make it easier for local authorities to implement restrictions.

More information here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-acts-to-make-pavements-safer-for-pedestrians>



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COVID-19 RESPONSE

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oxfordshire@turning-point.co.uk

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info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk



Dial 999, if the life of someone you know is in immediate risk.

Music

Music (1)

During this testing time (I'm not going to mention any details) I find that music and literature are prime providers of solace.

Plus, obviously, Netflix and Amazon Prime...

I've known about Spotify for a long time, but dismissed it because I'd heard all this business about 'recommendations' 'special playlists' and 'if you like this, you'll also like' and that put me off.

However, now that I use Spotify simply to play the music I like, and the music I already own in some other form, I'm enjoying the simplicity of it. Yes, you can create playlists, but you can also simply ignore the recommendations that are presented. Above all, the appeal lies in the vast amount of music that is available to stream.

The evolution of recorded music during my life time is astounding.

Initially it was all about revolutions. Revolutions per minute, that is. We began at 78, then went down to 45 and 33. Then back up to between 200 and 450. Enough to make your head spin.

I still have long playing records in the loft, and a stack of 7 inch singles and 'extended plays'. LPs and singles take up a lot of room and are easily damaged.

The step towards digital was, in my view, only partially successful. CDs offered remarkable quality, but the presentation was plastic, shiny and generally awful. Worst of all, you couldn't really read the cover notes.

When iTunes and the like appeared, I was really happy – quality music in a truly digital format, and no messing about with plastic. You kept all your music on your hard drive, and it was easy to copy onto various portable devices.

With Spotify, we have taken the next step. I don't download the files, I don't even own the music (I pay a subscription), but it is always available. And, in extreme circumstances (by which I mean 'no internet'), just make sure you download some of your Spotify content, which is easily done.

If you like classical music you will be amazed by the vast selection that's available, from David Oistrakh to Anne-Sophie Mutter, from Callas to Netrebko, it's all there, virtually everything that has ever been released. Pop? Everything I've looked for is there, from oldies to stuff that is released today.

Listen to the music!

There's no time like...

Music (2)

When people say ‘there’s no time like the present’, they are probably being more accurate than they realize, though not necessarily in the way they mean to be.

The way in which we experience time is through the travelling pinpoint of the present moment. The present moment is very small.

Everything that happened before *this* moment we call the past.

Everything that is to come after *this* moment we call the future.

The only thing that really exists for us, subjectively, is the present.

Never mind the physics, from a subjective point of view we know this to be true.

And this makes me wonder how it is possible for us to listen to music. Surely all we hear, each moment, is a single note, a single chord, a single beat.

Very boring.

But that’s not how we experience music, we hear songs, symphonies, concerts, performances, we recognize tunes, we can sing along to old and new favourites, we can hum the theme from ‘The Archers.’

So is a tune or a song or a symphony composed of memory, the present and the anticipation of future?

I think it is.

And it explains why music ‘grows’ on you. You remember bits and anticipate them.

That is why many tunes have patterns that are repeated, to settle in your memory and induce anticipation. Some composers are astonishingly good at creating so-called hooks, bits of music that almost instantly make sense and serve to hook you, drag you along.

My favourite creators of the ‘hook’: The Beatles, Mozart, Abba, Schubert, Vampire Weekend, and Chopin. I could go on, but I won’t.

Having attended a performance of Schoenberg’s opera ‘Moses und Aron’, I have personal experience of listening to music that lacks even the idea of a hook and emphasizes the present only. In other words, I could not remember a single note or anticipate another. This was almost certainly deliberate. You know: Schoenberg.

It was not, to my untrained ear, a pleasant experience.

But have a listen – it’s available on Spotify..

Enjoy music and keep well.

Harry Kappan

Leaffield School

A group of staff and parents of pupils got together to run in the OX5 at Blenheim , which is an annual event organised by the Oxford Mail to raise money for the children's hospital at the JR. Some pupils at Leaffield have been successfully treated for serious illness and life changing conditions which prompted a desire to raise money for the Oxford Hospitals Charity fundraiser. Almost 20 staff members embraced the opportunity and raised £1,220 for the unit at the JR Hospital.



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Love your Neighbour!

Due to the Coronavirus lockdown there are more people at home and with the days becoming longer residents are being urged to be extra considerate towards each other.

The council is asking residents to ensure noise is kept to a minimum, in particular dog barking and loud music.

Rubbish, recycling and garden waste collection services are still operating but if residents have an accumulation of rubbish at this time please stack or bag it for disposal when the current emergency is over and where possible please compost garden waste.

The council regularly deals with complaints of neighbour nuisance but the vast majority of cases are dealt with between neighbours.

The council is also urging residents not to light bonfires. Coronavirus can cause serious respiratory problems which could be made much worse if a sufferer is exposed to smoke.

If you are affected by nuisances such as smoke from bonfires or nuisance noise, the first action to take is to go directly to the person causing the problem and tell them that you are being disturbed. As we are all practising social distancing right now, please stay safe and remain at least two metres apart if talking with neighbours.

More information and a helpful letter template for neighbours can be found at: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/noise-pests-pollution-and-air-quality/noise-and-other-nuisances/>

If the problem persists, residents can make a complaint though the council and they will be asked to keep a log for a period of three weeks.

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: “We have a wonderful community spirit here in West Oxfordshire and I would encourage residents to give some extra thought for each other at this time.

“By being considerate to our neighbours we can help make staying at home more bearable for everyone.”

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Message from Jake Acock

'If anyone who is self-employed or runs a business or is worried for their jobs, please let me know and I can put them in touch with the business manager at WODC or add them to the daily briefing from WODC on the business front.'

Government agrees measures with Telecoms companies to support vulnerable consumers through COVID-19

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-agrees-measures-with-telecoms-companies-to-support-vulnerable-consumers-through-covid-19>

JAPAN – LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Last March we thought it would be rather fun to go to Japan in February/March 2020 for a couple of weeks and having looked at some brochures, we decided to go ahead and we booked our holiday. Christmas and the New Year passed and we started to get excited about our holiday. However Coronavirus began to be mentioned on the news rather a lot and we heard that many people in China were dying of a new bug for which there didn't seem to be a cure. Then friends and family kept asking "Are you still going to Japan?" and we kept saying yes we are, because it's not been cancelled yet and anyway we wanted to go there.

So towards the end of February, we flew off to Tokyo looking forward to a very different sort of holiday. We stayed in Tokyo for a few days with a guide the first day to show us round places of interest and then we were on our own. Not easy when you don't speak the language and can't fathom out which train platform or exit you should take to get you back to your hotel. We got off the train one day and thought we had chosen the right exit to get us back to our hotel. We were wrong and we hadn't a clue how to get back there and worst of all we couldn't remember the name of the hotel either. Fortunately a very kind Australian man, who lived in Tokyo, saw this poor couple poring over a map, looking very lost and very helpless and came to our rescue.

One of the places we visited was the Shibuya Crossing, the world's busiest intersection when there might be 2,500 people coming from all directions scrambling across the road using about 5 different zebra crossings. It was fascinating to watch the traffic lights change and to see all these people scurrying over the road knowing they had 3.3 minutes to get from one pavement to another before the lights changed. Just nearby there was an indoor market where there was a massive selection of fruit, veg, meat, cheese, bread, cakes, fish etc all looking very tempting, very fresh and beautifully displayed. We were encouraged to try some of the produce, which we were very happy to do but we didn't buy anything.

By chance we came across the statue of Hachiko (the Japanese version of Lassie) who belonged to a professor at Tokyo University who would take the dog with him as far as Shibuya station every morning and Hachiko would go back to the station every evening to greet him on his return. Unfortunately the professor died of a stroke but every evening for the next seven years, Hachiko would go to the station and wait there until the last train had pulled out of the station. When loyal Hachiko died his story made headlines and a bronze statue was installed in front of the station and is one of the most popular meeting places in the city.

We also went up the nearby Tokyo Tower, a massive 1,093ft building with incredible views in every direction, including the Crossing. Security was very tight

there and we weren't allowed to carry any sort of bag be it a handbag, rucksack or plastic bag.

We had a wonderful meal one evening in a very busy little restaurant full of office workers and having looked at the menu, fortunately in English and with illustrations of each dish, we had an excellent meal and like everybody else, we kept asking for another plate of meat or veg. Of course we had to have a drink to go with it and Mark ordered a beer and I ordered a glass of red wine and was very surprised when my wine arrived in a very cold half pint tankard. Tasted delicious though!

We moved on to Kawaguchi-ko and our bedroom window had a magnificent view of Mount Fuji which was covered in snow. We watched the sun rise in the morning and it was very pleasant lying in our hot tub enjoying the view. We travelled by bus through the Japanese Alps seeing quite a few skiers on the way and some magnificent scenery and eventually reached Takayama where we stayed in a beautiful Japanese style ryokan. Shoes were forbidden here and we had to leave



them at the front door and walk everywhere in our socks. All the bedrooms had their own outdoor hot spring bath and in our bedroom there was a Japanese style table and 2 chairs which meant we were virtually sitting on the floor as the table was only about knee high. Not very comfortable! Breakfast and dinner were served in a private dining room similar to the setting in a traditional Japanese style restaurant. Copious amounts of food were put before us by the ever so willing staff with explanations as to what we were eating. We had the local speciality, Hida Beef, the first night, which was absolutely delicious.

We then moved on to Kanazawa where we had a fantastic guide who showed us round both a pottery which had been in the same family for 350 years and whose pots were often used in tea ceremonies. We also went to a workshop where beautiful (and very expensive) kimonos were made. We had an excellent Japanese lunch and then continued our tour walking round the town. Our guide couldn't get over the fact that there were so few tourists around but that suited us very well and made the visit far more enjoyable. (The Coronavirus was making people think twice about the wisdom of visiting Japan.) At the end of the day, she told us that on our free day, we must visit some very special gardens which were right in the middle of the town and which had six attributes – spaciousness, tranquillity, artifice, antiquity, water, and magnificent views. She also said we should find plenty of plum blossom there as it was too early for the cherry blossom. We took her advice and found the gardens to be well worth the visit. What we found very interesting was that many of the gardens we visited cultivated moss growing instead of grass and it looked amazing. We thought this would

make life much easier for the gardeners but not a bit of it. At the Kanazawa gardens there were three people working really hard on the moss and we presumed they were pulling out weeds.

Next day, we were off to Kyoto using the Bullet Train which really raced along. We met up with our guide and she took us to Sanjusangen Hall, where we saw 1,001 graceful Buddhist images, one of the world's most magnificent collections of wooded statuary. We were then taken to one of Kyoto's best preserved historic districts. The streets were lined with small shops, cafes and restaurants which have been catering to tourists and pilgrims for centuries selling local specialities, sweets, crafts, jams and other souvenirs. Once again there were not many tourists around but we did notice that in many of the places we visited during our visit to Japan, there were lots of teenagers, boys and girls, wandering around sight-seeing - the girls dressed in beautiful "kimonos" and "obi belts" and the boys in their "kimono jackets, obi belt" and "hakama pants". Both sexes wore "geta sandals" and they all looked fantastic and not at all self-conscious.

It was in Kyoto that we first became aware that the Coronavirus was affecting us, apart from the scarcity of other tourists. We discovered two museums were closed to tourists. Another place we wanted to visit, Nijo Castle, was also closed although we were able to go round the Castle's gardens. However we were very lucky as we wanted to visit Himeji Castle (known to the Japanese as the white egret castle) and discovered that it was due to be closing to tourists the following day. This was an amazing castle and has been used as a backdrop for many samurai dramas and also in the Bond movie "You Only Live Twice".



It is a five-story, six floor stronghold built in 1333 and enlarged in 1601-10 and it has remained essentially the same ever since, surviving numerous wars and never once falling victim to the scourge of fire. It stands more than

100 ft high and is built into a 50 ft high stone foundation and it is surrounded by three smaller strongholds. Quite a sight to see! We managed to climb up numerous steep stairs looking at the various artefacts on the way and eventually reached the top where we had a wonderful view of the outlying countryside. We then had all those stairs to come down! Any attackers would have had to cross three moats, penetrate the outer walls, and then withstand withering attack from the four towers. The castle was impregnable! We wandered around the very pleasant series of gardens next door, which we both enjoyed. Some of the multi-coloured Koi carp that we saw were absolutely enormous and the gardens were immaculately maintained.

We then decided it was time for lunch. We found a funny little café offering home-made soups, sandwiches and other delicious looking offerings which was

run by three ladies, none of whom was in the first (or second) flush of youth. No one else was there and we both enjoyed sitting there enjoying a very reasonable meal as the three ladies sat at another table chatting away.

The following day we took the bus to the Temple of the Golden Pavilion which



was built by a shogun for him to retire to and it is possibly the world's most ostentatious retirement cottage! Following his death, his son converted the villa into a temple. After a fire in the 1950s, the top two stories were covered in gold leaf, a spectacular sight when reflected in the pond's still waters and with the sun shining upon them.

Our last night in Kyoto, we were taken to the Gion District on a food tour. The historic cobblestone streets are lined with traditional, narrow wooden buildings, teahouses and shops selling local specialities. We had hoped we might see an elegantly attired geisha but this was not to be. However the three restaurants we visited for a starter, main course and coffee were much enjoyed.

It was nearly time to go home and we took the train to Osaka ready to return to London. There were very few people at Kansai International Airport and indeed our plane to Heathrow was only about half full and both airports were very quiet. We hadn't realised the turmoil that Coronavirus was having on England and we know we were very fortunate to return to England with no problems at all.

Having been rather apprehensive about the holiday, it really exceeded expectations. The Japanese people were all so friendly and very helpful. The food was delicious, though I never mastered the art of using chop sticks, and we were really lucky with the weather having only one day of rain. We also have loads of photos to remind ourselves of an amazing and very different holiday.

Rosemary Dawbarn

JUST A' WALKIN' THE DOG

We now have a 'C' word in our minds that we will never forget, and that has haunted us for months. The news on TV, Radio and all sorts of devices has been bombarding us with the progress of the virus which at times is enough to send us hurtling into profound gloom as well as much disbelief. How can this be happening? What exactly is happening? When will it all end? Will it return?

The implementation of the lockdown has been an extraordinary measure that has touched everybody's lives. In a small village like Ascott it has created all sorts of changes - some that are welcome ('the garden has never looked so good', 'I've spring-cleaned the house like never before') and some that create hardship as a result of isolation. But there's one group in the community that is in blissful ignorance of the sorry state of the world - our animals.

First thing in the morning there's the same wakeful birdsong, earlier and earlier as the days grow lighter and lighter. Horses continue to crop the grass on the slopes of the valley - as usual. I'm presuming there are still fish in the river, which may well be surprisingly less polluted for them. And then there's the dog awaiting the first walk of the day. Normally, over the past weeks, we would amble past the school as the mothers, fathers, grannies or whoever deliver their children. There's not a soul in sight. Does my dog notice this? No, he sniffs his way towards his customary pavement landmarks as ever. Similarly, we go in the directions of our favourite walks...his tail wags nonchalantly.

One pleasant aspect of the daily dog walks is meeting up with others doing the same. You may ask 'is there any difference here to what the routine was like before lockdown?' Well there is. The discussion (between dog owners) is more than the usual 'mornin'. We talk about *the* situation. Our dogs must pause for longer as the chat goes on until cheerful good tidings to 'stay safe'. We walkers need to keep a good distance from each other, which actually encourages some laughter as the dogs sniff about their friends at greater length. Is it possible the walks are longer? We now have all the time in the world...And we may sneak in extra 'walkies' in order to get out of the familiarity of the rooms of our homes. Perhaps, if they do sense something is up, our dogs wonder why we are kicking about the place so much. They must be glad.

Something that is striking about dogs...that although they meet up with other dogs with whom they are on their own specific terms (love or hate or love-hate) they really only want to be with **us**. So as they remain oblivious of all that is going on in our world, they can be quite content with their lot. There's an old African folktale that talks about competition between animals to destroy the human race. The dog is elected to seek people out and bring them down. But he fails - it's too good to be by the fire at the feet of a person who has become his friend.

Juliet Heslewood

DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW that recently on the Smithsonian Channel there was a documentary called The Lost Ships. It concerned the Battle of the Falklands which took place in December 1914 when the German Grand Fleet was sunk in a major sea battle. The exact location of its sinking was unknown and a modern remotely operated vehicle ROV was used to try to locate the ships.

How does this connect with Ascott you may ask? Well it does.

At the beginning of the Great War the German Grand Fleet was deployed off the coast of Japan and a trio of British ships was sent to intercept its passage around South America to prevent it heading home across the Atlantic. Unfortunately the major British Fleet was held in the North Sea to prevent other German ships leaving their base in Germany. The older British Battle Cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth were sent to South America to intercept this far superior German fleet. A major battle ensued at Coronel off the coast of Chile in November 1914 and both British ships were sunk with all hands including nearly one hundred naval cadets fresh from Naval College.

On the Good Hope was the first Ascott man to die in the Great War. Elisha Pratley was born in Ascott, went to school in Ascott and his family lived in the lower end of Church View. He was a stoker on the Good Hope and he died together with all his shipmates when she was sunk.

At the time Winston Churchill was First Lord of the Admiralty and incensed by the sinking of these British Ships; after all Britain had ruled the waves for centuries; he sent the major battle fleet down to the South Atlantic to intercept the German Fleet which was then refuelling with coal, on the Falklands. Germany's largest and most modern battle cruisers, the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and two other cruisers were sunk in the battle whilst the third cruiser was later sunk elsewhere.

Last year, eventually, the ROV did manage to locate the wreckage of the Scharnhorst, well over one mile down on the ocean floor. Signs of the severe damage inflicted were still clearly visible recalling that fatal day of the Battle of the Falklands.

Wendy Pearse

PC News

At times of Emergency

I've said it before and I'll say it again how wonderful to live in Ascott-under-Wychwood at a time of emergency. In 2008, when the Parish Council was first asked to write a Community Emergency Plan it was for times of floodin', then came the 'snow-in' and now the 'lock-in'. (terrible, sorry!!) But each time, what a wonderful response there has been from volunteers and we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has, without question, offered to help those in the community who need support. Particular thanks must go to Bridgette Crundwell and everyone at the Village Shop – they have been the most important part of our Covid-19 response.

Parish Council Meetings

We did manage to hold our very first virtual PC meeting in April. Business was completed in an hour so I guess colleagues would like to do this more often! Sadly, it is more difficult to include the public and so we hope to resume meetings at Tiddy Hall very soon. As we meet in the main hall these days, it is much easier to sit well apart. The Annual Parish Meeting, where all village organisations give their Annual Reports, has had to be cancelled altogether as Local Council rules say we should hold it within a certain time period.

Neighbourhood Planning and Speeding

These are topics which we had hoped to present and discuss in depth at the Annual Parish Meeting. As soon as we are allowed public gatherings, we will re-schedule a meeting for these two important discussions. The results of the speed surveys show that there could be a case for reducing the speed limit to 20 mph but we must consult residents on their views, given the evidence. If the decision is to ask for a reduced speed limit then Highways will understandably want to know that the community is fully behind this. And there will be a cost to the community funds.

The 2 recent planning applications for developments at the end of High St and on London Lane have been aggressive and nail biting. If allowed they may ultimately open the doors to much more development on green fields. The Planning Dept have for many years maintained that Ascott-u-Wychwood would never be expected to absorb large development and that it would only be expected to accept small developments of affordable/social homes. Clearly, Cornbury Estate and Crown Farm do not agree and it is unclear how Appeal Inspectors will decide.

For this reason the Parish Council has decided to facilitate a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The aim of a NP is for a community to have more say in how it wants their village/town/city to develop. Best practice is to present the Plan to the community in stages; when complete, it must be presented to WODC Planning, ratified by a Government planning inspector and then formally agreed by the community in a

referendum. If successful at referendum, a NP will become part of the statutory development plan for the area (West Oxon in our case). This statutory status gives neighbourhood plans far more weight than some other local documents, such as parish plans, community plans and village design statements.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory planning document and will help guide the future development of the area. It is about the use and development of land. It sets out the community's vision of how the village should develop in the future. It can describe the positive and negative aspects (challenges) of the village and include plans to make improvements. It can (*but does not have to*) identify possible development sites (*even very small ones*) and it can explain why land should be left undeveloped. It should be in tune with the WODC Local Plan 2031 but it can outlast it, thereby bridging the gap between one Local Plan and the next.

To embark on writing this Plan is a big decision and so it is important that the community discusses this at a public meeting and is fully behind the decision. That said, we do feel that there are residents who have good specialist knowledge and interest to contribute to one particular chapter thereby breaking the whole task down into 'bite-size' chunks and speeding up the whole process.

A good accessible guide to Neighbourhood Planning can be found on

https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/NP_Roadmap_online_full.pdf

but bear in mind that this is aimed at all sizes of communities. Some Oxfordshire villages and small towns have completed their Neighbourhood Plans and are available online. They range from ones written by a single person to others which have taken 4 years to complete!

If anyone would like to contribute material/information please do get in touch with Philippa Carter (01993 830344).

Easing out of lockdown

The sun and the landscape have been the most wonderful tonic – we do hope that you have all kept well, if not always sane, and that you continue to keep free of the virus as lockdown eases. Life will be strange and not always easy so never be shy to ask for help, whatever it may be. Remember that Ascott Village Charity has always had a fund to help those in financial need (advertised on Page 47) and any applications will be dealt with in strictest confidence. For those who are more fortunate, the Village Shop will continue to collect for the North Cotswold Food Bank until the Church re-opens its doors every day and reclaims the collecting box.

We look forward to seeing you all out and about very soon.

Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

ASCOTT-UNDER- WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Since the last issue, we've done a considerable amount of work at the ground, and raised some funds towards the significant cost of getting the club on its feet again – a huge and sincere thank you to all those in the village that have assisted and registered their interest in playing and helping! Progress on the club's revival was going serenely until mid-March when the nation was hit by the dreadful virus and the lockdown. Whilst the safety and health of people is of course more important than any sport, it is also frustrating for us all to have our hobbies and pastimes put on indefinite hold. Recently we've had to cutback work on the ground to an absolute minimum in line with government guidelines, right at the time when we should have been intensifying our rolling and mowing activities. With the April weather so warm and dry we would have been training outside in the practice net from early Spring.

At the time of writing, our home fixtures are as follows:

Sun May 31st vs Bampton

Sun June 14th vs Shenley Church End CC

Sun June 21st vs Swinbrook

Sun July 5th vs Woodmancote Saints

Sun July 19th vs Deddington

Sun Aug 16th vs Bohemian Wanderers

Stewart Moss

All dates for matches are entirely dependent upon the Government's Covid-19 sanctions in existence at that time.

Recycling

Residents asked not to contaminate recycling

Residents are being urged to avoid contaminating their recycling bins with ordinary waste.

This week a growing number of collections have been mixed with a variety of non-recyclable items such as textiles, food and nappies.

It means the contamination has to be painstakingly removed before being sent off to be incinerated – a process that can cost thousands of pounds.

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: “We understand that with most residents at home, more waste is being generated but removing it is a costly and potentially hazardous process, particularly at this time.

“Please ensure your waste is put in the correct bin and store any excess recycling if necessary. If it is contaminated it may not be collected making the situation worse.”

Waste crews are instructed to check bins and leave a tag if they are contaminated asking the resident to re-sort it.

For a reminder of which bins to use see:

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-to-put-in-your-bin/>

Bulky Waste Collection

The bulky waste service for residents is being started again to help residents dispose of larger items.

While it is still subject to some restrictions, residents will still be able to arrange for the collection of up to three items per household including furniture, white goods and large electrical items.

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: “I am delighted to see this service starting again. We have recognised the inconvenience that the suspension of the bulky waste collection has caused to residents.

“I am sure residents will appreciate the hard work and determination of our officers and our contractor, Ubico, to facilitate this. We have listened to concerns around fly-tipping and acted accordingly.”

The bulky waste teams will be operating to strict Government guidelines on social distancing.

Currently, no beds, mattresses, sofas or carpets will be collected but the service is subject to ongoing review.

For more information and to book a collection, see:

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/getting-rid-of-large-items/>

Ascott under Wychwood Railway Station

The Present and it's distant Past – Our Journey Continues

Some years ago I posted articles in the Grapevine with the above theme and the Covid-19 Lock-down period has prompted me to add a little more to the Ascott station story that has come to light since then.

I must first record my gratitude to Wendy Pearse for her most illuminating and enjoyable “Footprints from Ascott’s Past” series. My wife Avril and I moved here not yet 7 years ago, so we are very aware of our “newcomer” credentials and still have much to learn about this village and its people. So “thankyou” Wendy, for your many insights.

Now, as probably a number of you already know, I have a very absorbing interest in matters railways, more specifically the original Great Western Railway etc etc! That takes practical effect, other than a house generously stocked with railway books, in my Trusteeship of the Great Western Trust (charity 289008) which has its Collection housed, conserved and part displayed in a dedicated Museum & Archive building at Didcot Railway Centre.

Ok, enough of plugging all that, “so what?” you can well ask. Well with further thanks to Wendy Pearse, her article (No 9) in the Spring 2020 edition, mentioned one William Moss who was a signaller on the railway here and very briefly one of Ascott’s first Parish Councillors who sadly died shortly afterwards in 1896 having fallen from a signal post. This poignant story adds to the sad truth that the railwaymen, as very much it was a male dominated occupation, had a very precarious existence. The Trust archive holds literally thousands of the Accident Records of the GWR from late 1911, and a project is in being to transcribe all UK Railway Accident records onto a digital database as beyond the many gruesome facts, there is an immense source of social, transport industry and legislative history in that data.

Anyway, returning to poor William Moss, I remarkably found a GWR reference to him and by extension his family, in our archives. Being a massive employer, railway companies had to create and operate a paper-based administration to record, check and file, pretty much anything relating to their “company servants”. Yes, that was the official description, “employees” only emerged in the post Great War era! One much valued bonus of being a railway company servant, was that they had an annual allowance for them and their family members of “privilege passes” or in effect, free railway tickets. Naturally to avoid abuse of such generosity, the

GWR in this case, created a standard record form, by which each and every station on their system, had a monthly record of passes issued, to whom, the journey and the “class of Ticket” all duly signed off by the Station Master himself. Wo-betide any errors or misdemeanours being discovered when each such a form was audited by the Divisional superiors!

Our scant records cover the entire line from Great Malvern to Worcester to Yarn-ton and even the Witney Branch but only for the month of November 1893. The Ascott under Wychwood sheet shows that a Ganger (responsible for the track), an Inspector (the most senior grade locally) and a number of Signalmen (they worked shifts) used Privilege tickets. Amongst the latter, on the 24th November, William’s wife travelled from Ascott to Charlbury (return) and on 29th November, William travelled to and from Ascott to Oxford but intriguingly, his wife and a child went to Paddington. We are left to guess the reasons, maybe pre-Christmas shopping in London or to visit relatives? What is more remarkable is that these record sheets have survived, probably stored in the attic of a station on the line or elsewhere.

Whilst the official archives of GWR servants is held at Kew, sadly they are very incomplete due to WW2 losses when those records were kept at Paddington.

Whether William’s exists I haven’t researched, but when they did, his sad demise in post would have been recorded and the official report on the cause. Climbing the long ladder up to the signal post top, to then hang on to it whilst changing over the oil lamps, was not for the nervous. One would expect that his widow and children would have been helped by the GWR Widow & Orphans Benevolent Fund, of which Queen Victoria was the patron. To prove the need for it, in 1880 alone it was helping 478 widows and 404 children!

In closing, again from the Trust Collection, I include a photo of the original leather



pouch, with engraved brass plate, from Ascott under Wychwood station. Every day, the cash takings would have been summarised, checked and signed for by the Station Inspector or Master there, and sent by specified train to Oxford or maybe Reading where in return, a cash “float” would be sent to use the following day. If of course the cash record had an error, trouble was inevitable. In fact, if a serious shortfall could not be convincingly explained by the signee, by their conditions of service, they were to make up that shortfall personally! Try that in current employment law?

Peter Rance

Business Grants and rates Relief

The Council is working closely with the Government to process both the business rates relief scheme and distribute the business grants announced in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

We fully understand the urgency from the business perspective and we are doing everything we can to get the funds out to businesses as fast as possible.

The grant scheme:

- We have written to all eligible businesses requesting additional information to enable us to process grants and made the form available on the website
- Where we have sufficient information, grant awards will be processed shortly and we expect payments to be dispatched by 10 April. We would urge businesses to submit their details as soon as possible to ensure payment is made promptly.

Business rates:

- We have deferred all business rates direct debits scheduled for April to give businesses an immediate improvement in their cashflow.
- We will shortly be rebilling all businesses that are due to receive the full year relief announced by the Chancellor and we anticipate dispatching new bills by 10 April.

Cllr Toby Morris, Cabinet Member for Resources, said: "I can't emphasise enough that your council is here for you and will continue to support you during these unprecedented times which none of us has experienced before. We will make this through together."

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NATURE NOTES

I sometimes think that I should write these notes a year in arrears as experiences I'm recording are up to six weeks out of date by the time the magazine has been printed and delivered, so forgive me if I'm writing about early spring but you are now enjoying early summer!

After a wet autumn and winter, that never seemed to end, the coming of dry, sunny weather starting in the last week of March and throughout most of April, with ever increasing temperatures, was a joy. What was encouraging was how quickly the natural world responded; trees bursting into leaf and wild flowers appearing, almost overnight. By the end of April the woods were full of Bluebells and it was as if the wet winter had never happened.

The real beneficiaries of the improved weather were the insects, especially the early butterflies, whose numbers gradually increased as March and April progressed.



The bright yellow Brimstone is usually the first butterfly to be seen and we were lucky to spot several enjoying the warm sunshine on 23rd March with regular and increasing sightings throughout March and April. The Brimstone is one of the few butterflies to overwinter as an adult hidden amongst evergreens such as Ivy and Holly and emerging in early spring during warm spells

returning to hibernation if the temperature falls. Female Brimstones are much paler in colour and in flight may often be confused with other members of the 'white' family of butterflies. The female lays her eggs on the tips of Buckthorn twigs during May and June. When they hatch the pale green larvae will feed from the underside of the leaves, systematically stripping them from the branch. After four to six weeks they leave the food plant to pupate on a shrub, suspended by their tail hooks and supported by a silk thread. The adult Brimstones will emerge in about a fortnight and may be seen on the wing until the weather cools and autumn approaches.

Shortly after seeing the Brimstone on the wing two other hibernating butterflies, the Peacock and the Small Tortoiseshell were found on the 26th March. Quite Large numbers of Peacocks were seen during March and April, far more than I remember from recent years; possibly the mild winter helped safeguard them during hibernation. Like the Brimstone only one Peacock brood is raised each year, from eggs laid on the underside of Nettle leaves in May and June. The larvae are gregarious spinning a silk web over the Nettle leaves as protection. When about to pupate they all march off together, not dispersing until the



Ascott Grapevine

last moment, each seeking a suitable tree or shrub branch to which they can attach and complete the process of pupation. After two weeks the adults will emerge, often remaining on the wing until October and will be found in gardens or anywhere where Knapweed, Thistles, Scabious and Clover are in flower.



The lifestyle of Small Tortoiseshells is similar to the Peacocks', with one exception, they produce two or even three broods each year, laying the first batch of eggs in early May, followed by a second batch in July and in exceptional years a final batch in September. The food plant is Nettle. Again, like the Peacock, the larvae cluster under a tent of silk, although as they grow the silk protection is abandoned. The pupae of

Small Tortoiseshells can be particularly attractive as they are mottled with varying designs of gold. The Pupae may be found suspended under the shelter of a wall or building. When the adults hibernate, they often choose to enter sheds and other buildings remaining motionless until spring. Small Tortoiseshells were once our most common and most widespread of butterflies, but in recent years their numbers have declined.

On April 8th we found our first Orange Tip. This butterfly has spent the winter as a pupa attached to a twig in the hedgerow and emerges when the temperature rises. Once one was found their numbers quickly increased and by the third week of April they seemed to be everywhere. The male can easily be recognised by the bright orange patches on the tips of the forewings, but the females lacking this feature can often be confused with other members of the 'white' family of butterflies. It's only when they settle and the grey/green distinctive markings can be seen on the hind wings that the female can be easily identified. Their main food plant is Garlic Mustard, but Lady's Smock, Honesty and Sweet Rocket can also be chosen. The eggs are laid singly, from May to July, at the base of a flower and hatch in about a week. The young caterpillar first eats its eggshell and then any eggs that it finds nearby that haven't hatched, then proceeds to consume buds, flowers and seedpods. After feeding for three to four weeks the caterpillar leaves the foodplant and pupates in a nearby hedge, where it will remain until the following spring. Only one brood is raised each year.



The second member of the 'white family' the Green Veined White was found on 14th April, although not in such large numbers as the Orange Tip. This butterfly will produce two broods each year with adults on the wing in April/May and July/August. Unlike the so-called Cabbage White this butterfly is not a pest of domestic brassicas. It's a butterfly of sunny woodland glades, lanes, damp meadows and verges, feeding on wild cruci-

ferous plants. It can be identified by the heavy green veining on the undersides of both wings. The larvae are solitary and like the Orange Tip they overwinter as Pupae attached to plants by tail hooks and a silk girdle.



A final, very brief sighting, on 21st April, was a single Holly Blue This is the earliest of the 'blue family' to appear, being on the wing in April and May. The other members of this family are more likely to be seen in high summer. As its name suggests its spring brood of caterpillars feed on Holly flowers, buds, unripe berries and shoots. The second summer brood feeds on Ivy flower buds and developing Ivy berries. Pupation of the summer brood occurs in September and they will be found amongst the leaves of holly bushes or Ivy where they remain until awakened during the following spring. The adults feed on flowers such as Lilac, Buddleia and Dandelion, but actually seem to prefer tree sap, particularly Oak and Birch. They will also drink from puddles and have been seen sucking the moisture from cow-pats.

One normally early butterfly that I expected to see, but didn't, was the Comma. Well, you can't expect to achieve everything!

Stuart Fox

P.S. On the 26th April I heard my first, and only, Cuckoo calling. In the distant past there was always competition to be the first person to hear the Cuckoo each year. Today the competition is to hear the Cuckoo's call at all!

TIDDY HALL

As you may be aware, the **Tiddy Hall** has had to close its doors during the Corona Virus lockdown. At the time of writing, it is uncertain when our regular activities (apart from the Post Office, see below) will be able to resume, and all events, up until the end of July have either been postponed or suspended. Please look out for any updates of forthcoming events during the summer months, posted on the village notice boards. Let's hope the world can get back to some sort of normality in the not too distant future and we will reopen **Tiddy Hall** as soon as we are safely able to do so. In the meantime, thank you for your understanding and we hope that you are all keeping well and staying safe.

The Tiddy Hall Team

*****Please note!!! The Post Office is still running a service at Tiddy Hall every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm*****

TIDDY HALL

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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

This event is dependent on the government lockdown sanction in place for July

Ascott Village Charity

Notification

During this time of hardship caused by the Coronavirus, we recognise that some of our fellow villagers may be having financial difficulties. If you, or someone you know, may be in need of support (including those young people going into further education & purchasing essential items), then please contact Ascott Village Charity in confidence:

Trustee: Eleanor Bishop
(eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk or 01993 831258)

Trustee/Secretary: Mark Dawbarn
(markdawbarn@outlook.com or 01993 831632)



Alternate Trustees:

John Cull (Chair), Revd. Mark Abrey, Elaine Byles, Stuart Fox, Keith Ravenhill, Sandy Timms

Ascott Village Charity, supporting our community for over 200 years.

The Ascott shop

At the start of the lock down in March I decided to volunteer at the shop, thinking it would be a good way of helping the community during this time of need while giving me a sense of purpose and routine.

One month on, what have I discovered about the shop and the wider community of Ascott?

Firstly, I have discovered what a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes by so many people to keep the village shop both open and fully stocked with as wide a range of produce as possible.

I have seen how important it is for many people particularly at this time to be able to call in to the shop, pick up a paper or a few groceries and be able to see a friendly face and have a brief chat with them. While other people pick up prescriptions or deliver food to self isolating or elderly neighbours.

So how does our shop compare with others in the area? One family I served recently had walked from Chadlington and were stopping off to buy ice creams and drinks (you remember the lovely weather we had in April?) before walking back. They were amazed at the size of the shop and the range of products we stocked and said to me “ I wish this was in Chadlington it’s so much better than our shop”

Working in the shop, particularly at this time, has brought home to me what a great community we have here in Ascott and how it rallies round to help those people in need in the village, and at the heart of this is the shop.

By supporting your village shop you are not only ensuring it will be here in the years to come, but also helping to maintain that community spirit that we have all come to appreciate in the last few weeks.

Jon Wells

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DIY SHOP UPDATE - COVID-19

We continue to serve the local community and thank all our customers for their support and patience

Shop Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 8 am to 12 pm

Come to the shop and wait outside while we pick your order

Order by phone for collection outside the shop

Orders can be placed by phone 01993 830302

Monday to Friday between 8 am and 5 pm and we offer Free Local Deliveries
To help protect you and our staff, we will be observing the 2m rule and will only be accepting credit card payments

Please be aware that we are very busy and at times you will not get through on the phone straight away. We have limited staff and are trying our best to serve and fulfill orders. We will call back as soon as we can if you leave a message.

Please note that we do not take orders via email or messenger as we cannot efficiently monitor these.

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Report from Liz Leffman

This has been a very strange month! The lockdown started on my birthday, March 23rd, so I celebrated with some friends on a Zoom call, in what was to become the first of many such social calls. My first online Parish Council meeting was the Ascott one on April 6th, since when I have participated in several others. We are all getting a lot better at using the available technology, but like many people I speak to, it doesn't make up for the fact that we are not able to get together in person, and may not be able to do so for many months to come.

Ascott, like every village and town in my ward, has a large number of willing volunteers, who are helping those who are required to self-isolate with shopping for food and medicines. The number of people who have come forward as volunteers is amazing. It shows how strong the community spirit is, and how generous so many people are.

The County Council has been very much at the centre of managing the pandemic. The shortage of PPE has been a great concern to all, especially in the care sector. The County decided to allocate £1 million to the purchase of PPE for carers when it became apparent that the government had failed to provide this. This has been distributed to care homes and also to carers who visit people in their own homes. Financial help has also been given by the County Council to care homes to ensure that they are able to maintain the level of PPE that is required. As well as social care, Public Health is a County Council responsibility. The lack of testing has been a great concern. Testing is now available at New Street car park in Chipping Norton, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Mental health during the lockdown is a big concern for many and help is available 24/7 for adults on 01865 904997, and for children on 01865 904998.

I hope and trust that everyone in Ascott will remain safe and well throughout this pandemic, and I look forward to seeing you again soon. If you need to contact me, please do so as I am always available, and of course I continue to work as your County Councillor.

01608 810153, liz.leffman@oxfordhshre.gov.uk



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

Covid-19 and the Village Shop!

At times of crisis, the Village Shop can always be counted upon to rise up and serve the community of Ascott. So, at the outbreak of the Coronavirus, it was imperative we responded quickly to ensure a continuity of service. This we have done!

Responsibility to the Community

The Shop is a critical social enterprise and a lifeline for food, medicines and communication. It is run by volunteers under the leadership of our manager Bridgette Crundwell and supported by the shop management committee. It is even more important that we look after the vulnerable and elderly in our community. We are able to offset unnecessary shopping visits to nearby towns in providing an alternative for those basic needs. Anyone visiting supermarkets, particularly in the early days, will know how shelves were being stripped bare of certain essentials. As a result, a flyer was distributed to every household, informing the community of how the shop can help, how it can be vital in peoples lives and how we will be adaptable by offering home delivery service to our most vulnerable customers.

Safety of Volunteers

The Government has stated that those with known symptoms need to self-isolate, that social gatherings are minimised and social distancing becomes the norm. We already have policies in place to reduce the transmission of the virus and we have now decided to take extra measures by restricting the number of people using the shop at any one time. We have a 'one in – one out' policy while customers queue up waiting their turn. Fortunately, the weather in April was lovely and the friendly banter of those waiting outside (observing social distancing rules) has been wonderful to see. There is a lot of kindness here in Ascott and we see it at the shop every day!

New volunteers

As a result of the government recommendations requiring the plus 70's to remain in their homes, this caused an immediate impact on our team of regular volunteers. However, a positive upswing of isolation has meant new volunteers and ex-volunteers have filled the rota. Our front line team are recognised and valued as 'key workers' in just the same way as supermarket staff, delivery drivers, postmen/postwomen and the brilliant bin men! One big difference, our staff are all volunteers!

New Opening Hours

We also took the difficult decision to reduce opening hours to ensure we are fully staffed and remain open seven days a week. In March, at the start of Covid-19, we announced the new times until further notice. The shop hours will now be:

Monday to Friday; 10am to 4pm

Opening hours for Saturdays and Sundays will be unchanged at present.

Saturdays 8.30am-12.30pm (subject to change from June in line with Sundays)

Sunday's 9am-12 noon

Stock

Bridgette continues to do a fantastic job in very challenging circumstances. Our sales bear this out with very healthy revenues rolling through the till. You may not always find exactly what you want however in most cases there will be alternatives. Also, we have had to restrict some of the more popular items where stock replenishments have become difficult. So, if we can only offer one tin of beans or a dozen eggs, then please bear with us! One of our major stock items is fruit & veg and although we recently lost our supplier (hibernating their business until further notice), we were able to make a quick switch to an alternative source assisted with back up Chippy runs from Eleanor Bishop and Sue Richards.

Home Delivery & Medicines

The home delivery service coordinated by Debra has now bedded in nicely offering a much-needed service to those most vulnerable in the community. Thanks go to; Rene, Maggie, Jon, Vicky & Amelia, Nick and Natasha. In addition, we are managing a weekly medicine service thanks to Richard & Carol Squires who have this firmly 'under control'!

Foodbank

We were asked by the Church if we could accommodate the foodbank in the shop, which, of course, we were pleased to do. At the time of writing the box has been emptied on SIX occasions. That is amazing and we thank everyone who has contributed for their generosity.

Social Media

The Shop is pleased to report it has moved into the age of Social Media! Bridgette is working with volunteer and Social Media expert Paola who has recently moved to the village. More details to follow but meanwhile check out: <https://www.instagram.com/ascottvillageshop/>



And finally

Stay safe, stay home and if you need to go out, within the government guidelines of course, our community shop will be there for you!

John Cull

Chairman of the Village Shop

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

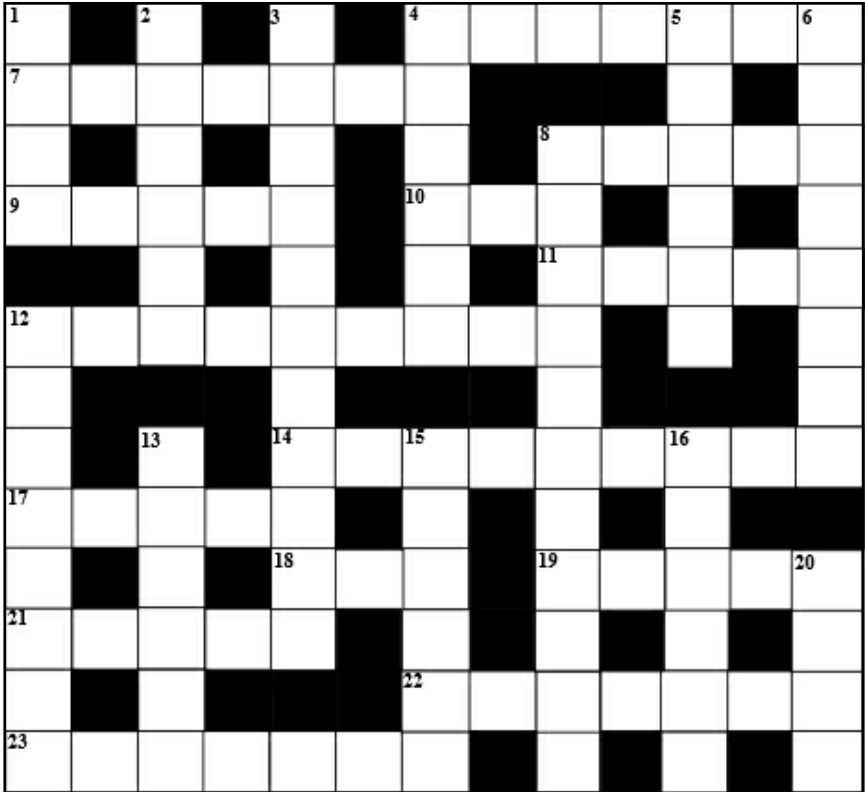
Mark Dawbarn mark@dawbarn.co.uk

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

Eleanor Bishop eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 4 Clergymen
- 7 Earthenware dish
- 8 Small fish
- 9 Flat sheet
- 10 Garland of flowers
- 11 Transparently fine
- 12 Top foremost
- 14 Withstanding hardship
- 17 Relating to sound
- 18 Hill
- 19 Loses feeling
- 21 distance
- 22 Saltwater plant
- 23 Anxious

Down

- 1 Cease
- 2 Fleet of ships
- 3 Unwanted symptoms of a drug
- 4 Basement
- 5 Something to aim for
- 6 Thoroughly soak
- 8 Relative through marriage
- 12 Rider
- 13 One of a pair of horns
- 15 Force
- 16 Enumerate
- 20 Team

**Solutions to
Crossword in
Edition 105**

Across

- 1 Maintenance
- 9 Scope
- 10 Vim
- 11 Motet
- 12 Dirge
- 13 Sunlight
- 16 Sri Lanka
- 18 Costs
- 21 No-One
- 22 Tea
- 23 Seine
- 24 Well-Dressed

Down

- 2 Abating
- 3 Nostril
- 4 Enough
- 5 Amend
- 6 Cover
- 7 Domesticate
- 8 Immediately
- 14 Illness
- 15 Endorse
- 17 Rapier
- 19 Shave
- 20 Sisal

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helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk

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

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FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299

wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

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GROVES SHOP 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425

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

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HOUSEHOLD SERVICES 07729712148 brianjholmes@hotmail.com

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Ascott Grapevine

INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993830612/07952657906 ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk	Page 25
IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268	Page 15
JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	Page 25
JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020 info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com	Page 18
LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357	Page 49
LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105	Page 52
MOTOKO ARITAKE-WILD 07485024467 motoko@motokoalacarte.com	Page 18
ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	Page 40
ROSENEATH 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com -	Page 45
THE LAUNDRY COMPANY 01608645582 07794 830703 www.thelaundrtcompanyuk.com	Page 25

Events Calendar - 2020

Date	Time	Event	Venue
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The Events Calendar is suspended until the next issue.