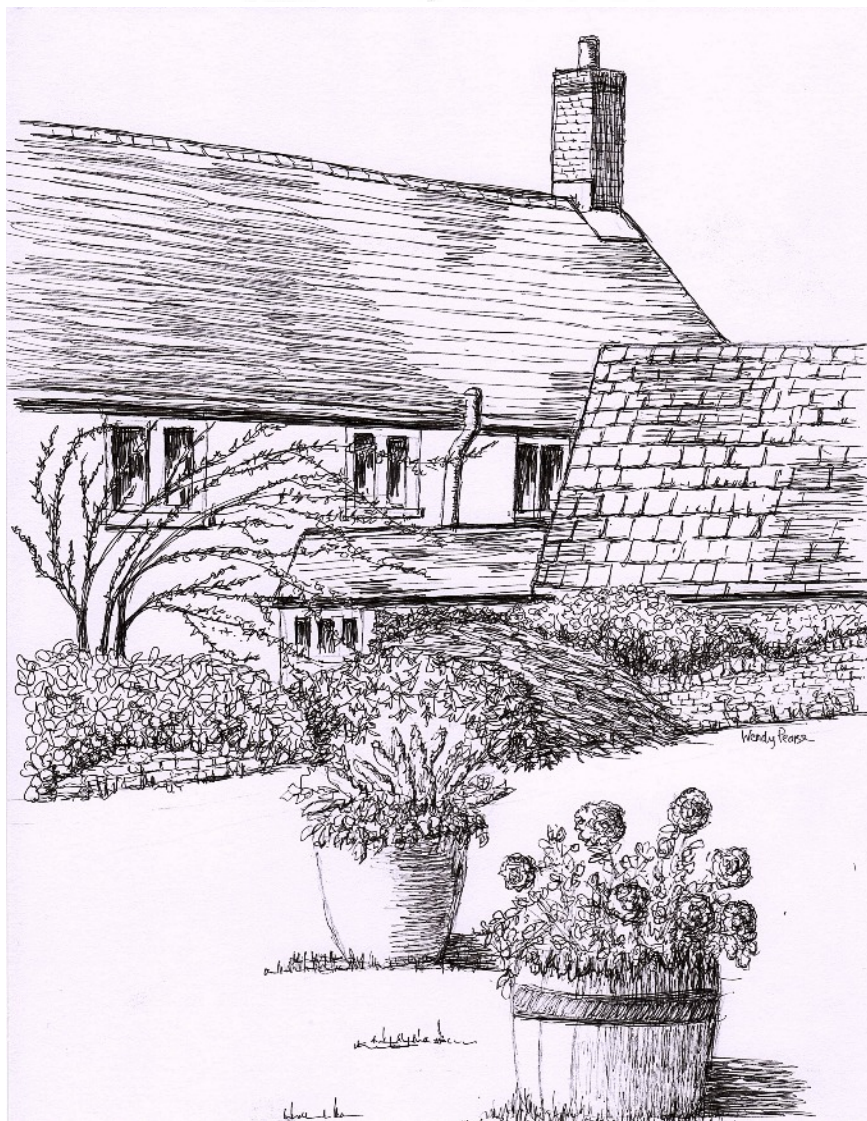


# The Ascott Grapevine



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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email: [wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com)

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,  
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

## Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Advertising Rates

£16.00 full page

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

**To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see Page 52), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or [wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com). The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.**

## 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

## Death

**Neville Rupert Mason-Kay**

Died 6th June 2020 aged 85 years RIP

## ***Rector's Letter - Autumn 2020***

Dear Friends

A lot has happened since the last edition of *The Grapevine*. At last, the first signs of the lifting of restrictions are taking place. More shops are open, pubs and restaurants are back in business and church buildings and places of worship have been able to open again - albeit with strict social distancing measures in place. But the threat from COVID-19 remains. We still have to be careful for ourselves and others and it looks as if that is going to be the case for some time to come.

At the end of June we were able to re-open Holy Trinity Church on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm for quiet reflection and personal prayer. Since then, the PCC has been meeting to decide how and when we might be able to resume public worship. We have been wading through reams of guidelines and risk assessments issued by the Government and National Church. Sadly, along with Spelsbury Church, we have concluded that, due to the current social distancing measures that are in force, we are unable to resume public worship for the time being. We will keep this decision under constant review and look forward to the day when we can meet again for worship in our village.

However, it is hoped that a weekly service in either Chadlington or Enstone might be possible from September and anyone from Ascott is of course welcome to attend these services. Details of them will be listed on the Benefice website - [www.thechasebenefice.org.uk](http://www.thechasebenefice.org.uk). Ascott Church will remain open each Sunday ready for you to visit and spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer. You can also say a prayer for a loved one and light a candle.

Ilona and I will continue to produce a short online service each Sunday - also posted on our website. For those without internet access, you can listen to it by telephone on 01608 698955 - all for the cost of a local rate call!

And, as always, we are here to offer pastoral support to anyone who needs it. Call us on 01608 676572 or 07305 355809 - we will be delighted to hear from you.

I am organising some online coffee mornings, see the website.

**With every blessing,  
Mark Abrey**

## **Services at the Chase Benefice 2020**

All the Church buildings of the Benefice are open for personal prayer and reflection on Sundays between 10 am - 4 pm. From September, we hope to be able to start public worship again as follows:

1st Sunday of the month	10 am BCP Communion Service at Enstone
2nd Sunday of the month	10 am CW Communion Service at Chadlington
3rd Sunday of the month	10 am CW Communion Service at Enstone
4th Sunday of the month	10 am BCP Communion Service at Chadlington

Ascott residents are welcome at any of these services. We hope to resume services in Ascott Church when restrictions are further lifted. Details will be posted on our website and notice-boards around the village.

For those unable to come to services, there will be a recorded weekly service of reflection and prayer on our website: [www.thechasebenefice.org.uk](http://www.thechasebenefice.org.uk) or you can listen by phone on 01608 998955.

## **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

### **ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD**

#### **Volunteers needed to help cut the grass in the churchyard**

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

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

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

[Stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:Stuart.john.fox@gmail.com)

# ***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**

## ***Rock The Lockdown***

Music in the Paddock on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August



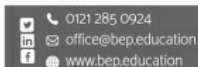
## ***New Home for redundant Laptops or iPads?***

This was as a result of wanting to recycle two old laptops I no longer needed and a BBC initiative pointed me to a BBC website [BBC.co.uk/makeadifference](http://BBC.co.uk/makeadifference) regarding refurbishing laptops and iPads for children who have no access to the BBC home school training sites or any other relevant sites available on the internet. The people dealing with this for the BBC is highlighted below. **KR**

### **Our Tech Project**

The Digital Learning Partnership (DEP) was initially brought together by Birmingham Education Partnership as a response to the impact of Covid19 on the education and wellbeing of the children & young people of Birmingham. The Coronavirus crisis is causing unprecedented challenges for our schools and highlighting the invisible barrier to learning and attainment caused by tech poverty. Our project, relies totally on the goodwill and generosity of individuals and businesses to help us support children and families trapped in digital poverty. For many children it means that the 12 weeks of lockdown has meant that they have not been able to access any online learning or wellbeing support. This problem has always been there but the current situation has revealed the extent of it and quite how much it is impacting on the life chances of disadvantaged children. How our project works is that, schools in Birmingham identify vulnerable children & families through their regular phones call home to see how children are getting on with online learning. Many schools have already sent out any equipment they have so they come to us when there is still a need that they can no longer meet. The DEP project uses donated devices that are repurposed to act like chrome books to donate to the school for their disadvantaged children. Many families do not have and cannot afford broadband so we will provide mobile broadband for up to three months. You will no doubt have heard that the government schemes also offer devices and connectivity but these target disadvantaged children that are in year 10 (14/15yrs old), those with social workers and those leaving care. As you will appreciate, that leaves out all children from 5-13yrs and those that are 16+ and those that need help but don't fall into the given categories. Our project seeks to fill the gaps. So, we donate the devices to schools for their vulnerable children; schools can then provide the safeguarding support for safe online use. In Birmingham alone we have 38% of children in poverty and our data estimates that there may be more than 5000 families that need this urgent help. So you can see the scale of the challenge. Any laptops or financial support to buy connectivity goes towards helping children in digital poverty.

Manjit Shellis  
Assistant Director of Wider Learning  
M: 07980 672075 | E: [manjit.shellis@bep.education](mailto:manjit.shellis@bep.education)



The Arch, Unit G4-G5,  
48-52 Floodgate Street,  
B5 5SL



## ***An Old Man's Fear***

I wake each morning and watch the dawn's light  
Shine through the window  
Thinking at my age how many more I'll see  
Soon anxiety takes over  
Will this vicious virus  
Slip uninvited in to my home

Is this the Grim Reaper's new found friend  
Which spreads across the land  
That like a venomous snake will wait and wait then strike  
Maybe in the friendship of a handshake  
Or so we are told  
Or in hymns of praise or songs of love  
If we get too close

Can this be the greatest evil of our time  
But can there be evil without an evil mind  
Should we create a devil once again  
Or does Beelzebub still remain  
Waiting in the shadows, sniggering  
Until we all have gone

**Fred Russell**

## ***Letting God Out***

Many years I've been on the church rota  
Which means I sometimes have the church key  
In the morning to open up early,  
In the winter to close up at three

For months the church has been locked up  
No one's been in there, or out  
Is the clock still being wound-up  
I've not seen the vicar about



When I've locked the door in the evening  
I would say "I'm keeping God safe for the night"  
I don't want the foxes to get him  
They are always ready to fight

When the church is eventually opened  
Will God burst forth with a shout  
You boulder left me alone, I've been on my own  
Next time I'll dig myself out

**PS.** The last line is not a good punch line but the word boulder is a good English word for a good English god.

**Fred Russell**

## ***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](mailto:andrew.smith@publicagroup.uk) 01993 861616

## What we once had and what we could have had!

[illegible]

Although it's an example of the then mass produced, cheap print Handbills, British Railways published, just like its predecessor GWR and other pre-nationalised companies, the example illustrated was difficult to reproduce because of its rather pale green type on cheap paper. Printed in December 1948, one year into Nationalisation, it is the first example I have seen which names all our "Halt" stations including Ascott. It advertises Saturdays only "Half-Day Excursions to Oxford"! How nice would that be today? As it very stridently states that those trains "Commence forthwith" and gives no termination date, I wonder how long they did actually run for and

My other discovery, came as a much bigger surprise, in that although it never came about, it begs me to conjecture “what would have happened had it done so?

## Ascott Grapevine

In 1845, a Cheltenham and Oxford Railway prospectus was published to seek support and finance towards it gaining the vital Parliamentary approval for the compulsory land purchases and other powers necessary to see it built and operate. A most distinguished list of gentlemen (always men in those far off days of course!) formed its "Provisional Committee" that conducted its business before it could become a legal entity after Parliamentary sanction. Of course it never made it, despite grand predictions of cheap fares, shorter journey times and high volume local goods traffic. Consequently all monies deposited with that committee, after paying any legal and other costs, would be returned to those prospective investors. So why am I sad?

Well, that Prospectus details its intended route, which surprisingly covered a line from Cheltenham via Shipton under Wychwood to Oxford, where it would unite with the Great Western Railway who's "branch line from Didcot to Oxford" had only just been opened in June 1844.

Yes, probably Mr Beeching or any other Government would have closed it down long ago I suppose, but things could have been very different and how many Ascott folk would have travelled to Cheltenham rather than always to Oxford?

History is full of "might have beens" and Ascott and Shipton are no different it seems.

I close by asking if any of you have material relevant to Ascott's railway history, then you surely know who to approach!

**Peter Rance**



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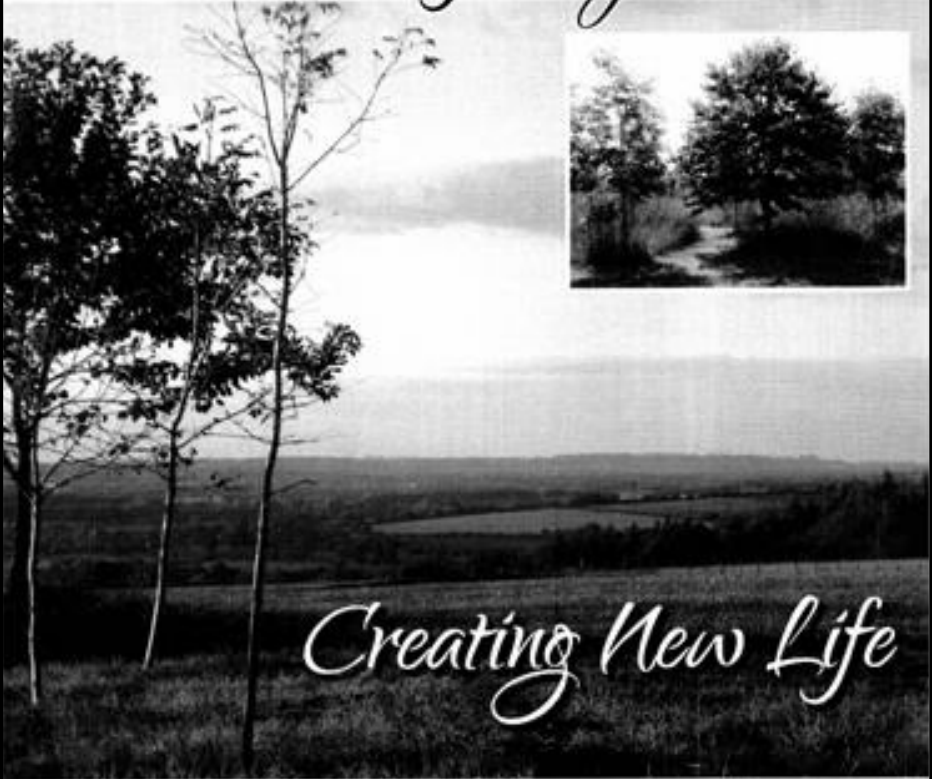
**Closed on Mondays**

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

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Helen Pearson by phone on 01993 878387,  
by e-mail at [helenpearson248@btinternet.com](mailto:helenpearson248@btinternet.com)  
or visit our website at [www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk)



Fairspear Natural Burial Grounds, Leafield, Witney, Oxon OX29 9NY

## ***The area looses an old Tree***

Very sad day for some. The big Ash Tree at the very top of Brasswell Lane is no more. It is not known why it was felled but there did not appear to be any sign of Ash dieback or any rot, looking at the stump. The photo when it was still there was from March 2019. Counting the growth rings on the stump it suggests it was between 150 and 200 years old.

For those who do not know where Brasswell Lane is, it is the lane up to Kingstanding Farm opposite London lane, sometimes Brasswell Lane is pronounced locally as 'Brazil Lane'.



## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

DID YOU KNOW that contrary weather conditions have existed throughout the centuries, certainly before Global Warming was even mentioned. The following was written by Rev. Samuel York, Vicar of Ascott, in the Deanery Magazine of July 1882.

“It may be some comfort to know that unsummerly weather during July, similar to that of the past month, has prevailed very much during the last 40 years: a hot and dry summer during the months of June and July is proved to be rather the *exception* than the rule; the summers of 1848, 1860, 1872, 1875, and 1877 were specially wet, and the rainfall of many others in the intervals, was almost as great, with low temperature; even further back there are plenty of complaints of the coldness and wretchedness of some of our summers; one writes from near London on St. Swithins Day 1789, -“I have had a fire these three days; in short every Summer one lives here in a state of murmur and mutiny; it is because we affect to have a summer, and we have no title to any such thing.”

**Wendy Pearse**

# **WODC Launches Annual Canvass 2020**

Local residents are being warned not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date.

With 17 seats on West Oxfordshire District Council up for election along with County Council, Parish Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

The annual canvass ensures that the Council can keep the electoral register up to date, identifying any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so.

Over the next few weeks residents will be receiving a letter encouraging them to check their details and update them if necessary.

Keith Butler, Electoral Registration Officer at West Oxfordshire District Council, said: “We are now in the process of writing to all households. It’s vital for residents to make sure their details are accurate and to ensure they respond where they need to. We want to make sure that every eligible resident in the District has the right to vote.

“If you’re not currently registered, your name will not appear in the messages we send. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote), or we’ll send you information explaining how to do this in the post.

“This year’s canvass, which we have to carry out by law, is taking place during a challenging public health situation. We are working to ensure that we take account of public health guidelines, including the continued importance of social distancing.”

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages from the Council and check the details.

Research by the Electoral Commission indicates that recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. Across Great Britain, 92% of people who have been at their property for more than 16 years will be registered, compared to 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

Melanie Davidson, Head of Support and Improvement at the Electoral Commission, said: “It’s really important that everyone who is entitled to vote is able to do so. Making sure you provide the necessary information to your local authority when it is needed will ensure the process runs smoothly. This is particularly helpful in the current public health situation, as it will help avoid the need for home visits from canvassers.

“There’s lots of helpful information about registering to vote on our website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter>.”

Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team on 01993 861410 or fill out a general inquiry form here:

<https://community.westoxon.gov.uk/s/general-enquiry>

Find out more about electoral registration and the annual canvass here:

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/register-to-vote/>

## ***Energy-efficiency Homes***

Council increases support for in bid to tackle climate change

West Oxfordshire District Council has boosted its commitment to tackling climate change.

A new £20,000 fund will be made available to residents this winter to help make their homes more energy efficient.

A biannual report on climate action presented at a full Council meeting on Wednesday goes on to highlight how tackling climate change is a key priority for the Council and a focus of its Covid-19 Recovery Plan.

A project to fast track the assessment of energy performance and sustainability of Council-owned offices has also been agreed. This will contribute to future decisions made by the Council on office space designed to be fit for the future.

Climate action is also now the ‘golden thread’ woven into the draft Area Action Plan at Salt Cross Garden Village. These draft planning policies expect exemplary standards for all new development, both residential and non-residential.

Climate action and sustainability standards have also been captured within the recent consultation draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Affordable Housing.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, said: “We have taken great strides in a very short time when it comes to delivering our commitment to tackling climate change. Climate action underpins the Council’s decision making. “We must ensure we continue to work as hard as we possibly can both now and in the long term so that we can lead by example and make a difference that will genuinely help shape the District for future generations.

“It is clear from the widespread engagement with our recent Climate Action Survey and from the art we received from young people entering our climate action competition that climate change is widely felt to be an important issue. We are harnessing this in our Carbon Action Plan and Climate Change Strategy, which are now taking shape.”

The Council has a public-facing Climate Action Network and database of people looking to engage with its work on Climate Action. If you would like to add your details to this database, please email: [Climate.Action@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Climate.Action@westoxon.gov.uk)



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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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

Sign Posting Referrals



## WHAT TO DO?

Someone may contact us at a time of need, where the services we are offering do not necessarily support them.

Please use the guidance below, to signpost them to the appropriate organisation, if you feel it is necessary.



## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL MISUSE

Turning Point Oxford Hub

01865 261690

[oxfordshire@turning-point.co.uk](mailto:oxfordshire@turning-point.co.uk)

## FINANCIAL WORRIES

Step Change  
[www.stepchange.org](http://www.stepchange.org)



## EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

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01865 722122

Emotional support on the phone

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Free phone : 116 123

## MENTAL HEALTH

Oxfordshire Mind

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[info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk)



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

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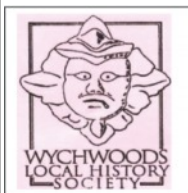
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## The Wychwoods Local History Society



### Programme

2020 – 2021

Milton Village Hall at 7.30pm

2020	17 Sep	Tim Marshall	Quaker clocks and Milton-under-Wychwood connection
15 Oct	David Beaumont	The Battle of Edge Hill	
19 Nov	Liz Woolley	Leisure and Entertainment in Victorian and Edwardian Oxford	
2021			
	21 Jan	Simon Batten	The Prebendal
	18 Feb	Martin Buckland and Future	The Wilt's and Bucks Canal Past, Present
	18 March	Tom Shannon	The Journey from Afghanistan
	15 April	David Innes Infantry	Capt. Ralph Kite MC Oxon & Bucks Light
	20 May	AGM Julie Ann Godson	Oxfordshire in the Past
.....			
	16 Sept	Stephen Barker	Oxfordshire during the Second World War
	21 Oct	David Young	Primitive Methodism
	18 Nov	Juliet Heslewood	William Morris and the Cotswolds

# ***Matthews Flour Mill***

Matthews Mill by the Shipton train station is a fine heritage industrial building. Built in 1912, if the walls could talk, they could tell us about both world wars and of course the Spanish flu. What has been going on in the mill during our current Covid-19 pandemic?

2020 has already been a very significant year for the mill. In February, a memorial service was held in Fifield church for Gordon Matthews who died aged 97, the fourth generation of the family to work in the mill. He started work there aged 16 and was a well-known figure in Shipton as a keen sportsman, and President of Shipton-under-Wychwood Cricket Club.

The mill is now run jointly by Gordon's son Paul, and grandson Bertie, but the Covid-19 lockdown kept both of them away from the mill. Due to his age, Paul had to isolate at home and Bertie, aged 29, was caught in Australia for several weeks. Luckily Michelle who joined as an apprentice miller has stepped up and is loving her new role and of course mobile technology allows for good communication and remote working wherever we are.

Paul and Bertie want to take this opportunity to thank all their local staff who worked flat out during lockdown to keep the mill going both day and night as flour production was doubled to meet demand. They would also like to thank their local customers for their support over the years.



## **Matthews flour mill**

Before lockdown, the majority of Matthews flour was supplied in large 16 kg bags to artisan bakers and professional chefs. When lockdown came this core trade business to restaurants, pubs and local shops stopped immediately. It was replaced however by the surge in home baking, but this put added pressure to produce more flour while also putting it into much smaller bags. You may have seen the tent in the mill yard which was erected to enable faster packing of more of these smaller 1.5 kg packs while also observing social distancing rules.



The lockdown has been tough on traditional mills like Matthews, where the machinery is not designed for constant working and in fact a slower speed of milling is part of what produces a better quality flour. Quality hasn't been compromised to make more flour, but instead the machinery and people have worked through the night to maintain constant production.

Local residents might like to know that the air itself in Shipton-under-Wychwood is considered extra special, and to affect the flour. The slower milling speed, including traditional stone ground milling which still goes on in the mill, allows more air and moisture to be incorporated into the flour, and of course the atmosphere of each mill will be unique. Many professional bakers swear that the flour from Matthews in Shipton-under-Wychwood is especially good to bake with because of this.

Finding a balance between old and new is part of the challenge for the mill, and buying the highest quality grain and sourcing as much as possible from local farmers around Shipton is a key part of Paul's job.



### **Paul and Bertie Matthews**

In this picture of Paul and Bertie they are standing in a field of wheat which Paul believes might have the smallest transport footprint in the UK, travelling half a mile from the field to the mill at harvest time.

Another challenge for the mill during lockdown is of course how costly it is to deliver small heavy bags of flour. Although some Shipton-under-Wychwood folk have been able to benefit from Paul selling bags of flour at the end of his garden with an honesty box, it is otherwise a logistical challenge to sell small, heavy bags of flour profitably.

Bertie has been working hard to modernise the mill's trading and has developed a new e-commerce website and online sales platforms which have proved life-savers for the mill. As we pass the halfway mark for 2020, the future now looks very bright for Matthews mill and we hope it continues to prosper and be part of our landscape and local community for many more years to come.

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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>



# ***FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT PAST***

## **Part 10**



From the very beginnings of Ascott as a village one of the most important villagers would have been the blacksmith. He was so necessary in regard to all aspects of metalwork from shoeing horses to making and repairing farming implements as well as all metal household items from buckets and troughs to cooking pots and knives: in fact to so many requirements of everyday life. For all this variety of items he would have been indispensable.

The first documented mention of a blacksmith in Ascott appears in the Hundred Rolls of 1278 when Henry the smith is listed. But no doubt with two motte and bailey castles in the village dating from more than 100 years earlier, there would have been much demand at that time, for weapons, horseshoes and other necessities in regard to the castles' defensive roles.

Moving on to the seventeenth century the wills of four Ascott blacksmiths are still in existence and from them we are able to gain an impression of a blacksmith's life.



Blacksmith Richard Hickes died in 1603. On an inventory of his goods are listed a great anvil, a little anvil and a bichorne which was a two pronged anvil. Also hand hammer, shoeing hammer, shoeing sledge, pincers, bellows, tongs, files and other tools. This came in value to the grand sum of £6 whilst the grindstone in the yard was worth 7s and his supply of coal was valued at 32s. At that time where would the coal have come from and how would it have reached Ascott? No wonder it was worth, at that date, a large amount of money. A pound at the time would have been worth over £120 in the year 2000.

In the 17c there were coalfields, mostly opencast, in the Forest of Dean, the New Forest and Nottinghamshire. Packhorses would have originally been used to transport the coal but in the drier summer months carts could have been used. However since most heavy goods were transported by water wherever possible, colliers were already sailing between the Newcastle and Durham area coalfields and London. Perhaps some was brought from London up to the long established stone wharfs at Radcot Bridge the embarkation point for Taynton Stone, and then carried up the county by returning stone carts. Some idea of transport costs can be suggested by comparing that of Taynton Stone. When Thame Church purchased stone from Taynton in the late 15 c the stone cost 3s whilst the transport cost was 25s 2d, so no wonder the coal was valued so highly.

In 1637 John Smith, blacksmith, had tools worth £2 whilst again his coal was valuable at £1.

1672 George Roffe's blacksmith's tools were only valued at 8s including eight horseshoes. However much wealthier tradesman William Thomas, blacksmith died 1729, was able to leave £20 to each of his four daughters as well as property to his wife. It seems very likely that this was the William Thomas born in Ascott in

1682 and sadly he was only 47 when he died. Just a year before he had taken on an apprentice, Mark Reeve from Shipton and in 1729 William's daughters were only 15, 13, 10 and 7.

The Will of Robert Fletcher, yeoman, dated 1715 adds a rather interesting aspect to the blacksmith's story. The Will reads ***'Item I give and devise unto William Thomas my son in law all that my Cottage or Tenement in Ascott aforesaid next to the high street there where in the said William Thomas now dwelleth together with the smith shopp thereunto adjoyning and belonging And also all that garden or garden ground lying on the backside of the said Tenement and shop and adjoyning thereunto ..... And also all ways walls mounds and fences belonging to the said premises'*** The interesting part is that the only area in High Street at the time that did not belong to the owner of Ascott Doyley Manor was the land running east of Priory Land up to and including the present premises of Richard and Anne Smith. This area of land had been given by the Doyley family centuries before to St Frideswides Priory in Oxford and had become available for private purchase after the dissolution of the monasteries. So it seems very likely that William Thomas, Blacksmith was working on that site. However, we know that from at least 1749 John Salmon was Ascott's blacksmith and he lived at N° 2 The Green, a cottage then owned by Ascott Charity, the home today of Richard and Pauline Plant. He was the one who first built the adjoining forge, in recent times it became Forge Garage.



**Ascott Forge 1890**

The original house was actually the first Swan Inn; its name was transferred to Corner House in 1767 before again moving to its present site in Shipton Road in 1820 when Corner House became known as the Churchill Arms. This change followed

the acquisition of Ascott Doyley Manor by Lord Churchill, a son of the Duke of Marlborough. When the railway arrived, Lord Churchill then had a new public house built and named the Churchill Arms, today's Sunset House.

But back to John Salmon. Listed on a document as the licensee of the Swan Inn from 1753 he ran both the Swan and the neighbouring forge which he had erected on the Green. Prior to this there must have been some form of a forge, perhaps open plan with a thatched roof. We know that in 1749 John took on an apprentice, William Upston, for the sum of £2. Then in 1762 he took on another apprentice Edward Morris, but this time the premium paid was £8. These apprenticeships covered approximately seven years. John had to face some setbacks in his life. His first wife Elizabeth died in 1754. He then married Mary Moss in 1755 but sadly, apparently their only child Mary, was born in January 1758 but only lived for three days. John died in 1790 leaving everything including several properties to his 'be-loved wife Mary' except for his silver watch which he left to a nephew. Mary died in 1803.

Following John Salmon several blacksmiths continued their trade in Ascott. Their names are listed on the Census Returns. In 1841 William Smith, 1851 Charles Dunn, 1861 and 1871 James White, 1881 George Butler, from 1891 to at least 1911 Joseph Alden.

It was during Joseph Alden's time that the house burnt down and the following photo shows the rebuilt house.



Thomas Hanks was also listed as a farrier and cattle doctor around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Ascott's last blacksmith was Jimmy Andrews whom some of the village's older members still remember. He died just a few years after the Second World War and with his death the long line of Ascott's blacksmiths came to an end.

However two modern day blacksmiths have recently lived in the village, sadly both now deceased. Philip Pratley, a traditional blacksmith, set up Wychwood Wrought Iron at his home in London Lane where he made and repaired all manner of iron items, and Mick Gulley, a highly skilled farrier, lived in the house opposite the old forge on Ascott Green.

Wendy Pearce

**DOGS – WE LOVE THEM but  
NOT IN THE PLAYING FIELD AND PLAY-  
GROUND  
PLEASE!**

For many years this has been a clear rule for every dog (except guide dogs) and yet some visitors to the space seem to think it does not apply to their dog. It is particularly bewildering when dogs are brought in with children. We can see that you might like to combine a walk with a visit to the ground but do you really not care about the health of children and playing field users?

These are the facts:-

- Dog poo infects open wounds (such as scrapes from footballers' studs). This definitely happened on our ground in the past.
- Dog poo undetected on children's shoes can easily contaminate play equipment. It then passes on to clothes, hands, faces, mouths, eyes and other skin.
- Each dog (and puppies particularly) can pass hundreds or even thousands of round-worm eggs every time. These stay alive on grass for up to 3 weeks.
- Round worm can cause stomach upsets, especially in small children.
- In worst cases it can cause blindness and there are 12 new cases of this in the UK every year.

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR DOG'S POO THROUGH-  
OUT THE VILLAGE AND ALONG OUR FOOT-  
PATHS – DISPOSE OF THE BAGS IN THE  
DEDICATED BINS  
DON'T BRING DOGS INTO THE PLAYING  
FIELD/PLAYGROUND**

## ***PUBLIC FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE***

While walking or riding along any of the official bridleways and footpaths you may come across something that needs repair/cutting back to keep the path and its users safe. The Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Rights of Way Dept is the organisation which polices all official bridleways and footpaths. They do not usually do the work but they are the only ones who have the official power to chase and fine the landowners. Their advice is the following –

‘If there is a problem with broken fencing or a gate that needs repairing then this can be reported here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access/public-rights-way/report-footpath-issue> Landowners are responsible for the maintenance of gates and stiles on their land.’

Landowners/homeowners are also responsible for making sure that a public path or pavement is passable and so should cut back any vegetation on their boundaries to keep the path/pavement clear for all users. While cutting back the wonderful spring growth in our gardens please remember the path or pavement on your boundary and always consider those with mobility issues or wheelchairs/pushchairs.

Thank you.

# PC News

As lockdown eases it is a nervous time particularly for those of us who have been cocooned in the protection of this village. But it can be an optimistic time, a sense of release, and a wonderful example of that is the smile on the faces of the children who can at last return to the swings and slides of our playground. However, bear a thought for those who have to shield for another few months - lockdown is not over for them. Please remember to continue to be careful about hygiene and social distancing so that we all can emerge from this crisis and not go back to the very dark days.

Again I must highlight the hard work and dedication that everyone at Ascott Village Shop has put in to become the centre of support for the Village through this crisis. Behind the scenes there has also been a very willing and caring band of volunteers giving support to anyone in need. Too many lovely people to name but thank you so much to each and every one for your warm hearts.

## PC ORGANISATION

Life at the Parish Council has been continuing – monthly meetings have been held online very successfully. August is our month off and September will be online but we hope to be allowed to resume in Tiddy Hall for our monthly meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. We shall and must wait for Government advice and it will be advertised on notice boards.

May was the beginning of our new year and the Parish Council line-up is Philippa Carter (Chairman) Sandy Timms (Vice Chairman) Peter Rance, Brian Leach and Pauline Plant. I am extremely lucky to have such an able group of colleagues who are positive but not afraid to give extremely professional and sound advice. Their specialist interests and training are very varied and cover so much of the work that a Parish Council has to undertake. Angela Barnes, our clerk, keeps us all in order, Stuart Fox makes sure that our finances balance and Shane Barnes does a great job keeping the grass on our verges and playing field. We in turn are supported by Liz Leffman, Oxfordshire County Councillor and Jake Acock, West Oxon District Councillor. My thanks goes to each and every one of my colleagues who have helped the progress of our work enormously.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Hopefully everyone is now aware of our intent to go ahead with creating a Neighbourhood Plan. Our thanks to all of you who completed the questionnaire, either online at our new NP website (<http://ascottpc.org.uk>) or the paper copies from the village shop. We would also like to especially thank our volunteers for delivering the leaflet to introduce it and for all those who spread the word.

We believe the Neighbourhood Plan is important, not just for its legal purpose in putting our views forward regarding development and the wider impact (housing

needs, flooding, sewerage, traffic, environment and so forth) but also as a focus for the community and for those of us involved in the process to learn more about what our fellow residents find most important about living in this lovely part of the world. It is really essential that everyone is engaged in this - not just the usual suspects and the loudest voices - and that everyone can have their say. We want to hear from you! If you missed the questionnaire, or chose not to respond, there will be plenty of opportunities to contribute as we go forward - this is the first step on a long and probably winding path.

The next steps, once we have collated the results, is to determine the priorities based on what has been submitted, and to use that information to set out the scope of what we want to achieve. There is the first of a series of statutory processes as the proposed boundaries are scrutinized and the initial application put up for public consultation by the council before we can officially make a start. Then the real work begins, with working parties drawn from the deep wells of expertise in the village. We may come calling!

Once we have published the areas of interest, if you feel you can assist either by joining one of the working parties or in any other capacity then please do contact us.

## **ROADS**

Liz Leffman and her colleagues supported our calls for the Shipton Rd to be repaired in many places all the way to the 3-way junction, plus potholes to be filled near Sunset House. New white lines have also made a difference to road safety. Thank you to them. Thank you also to resident, Lyn Collins, and anyone else who takes the trouble to complain directly to the Highways Dept in OCC – you can do so via Fix my Street or through Liz if you are not computer savvy. More voices, apart from the usual whining of the PC, are always helpful.

## **TRANSPORT**

On 6th July, GWR franchise resumed our once a day, out and return, Halts train service. This coincided with a general return of most of our normal scheduled services on the line. However, hardly surprisingly, actual passenger usage remains very modest on all services especially our Halts train, with many now working from home or furloughed.

On 27<sup>th</sup> July WOCT will have begun a modest return of its 210 bus service, focused upon those needing to get to Witney for work. Their revised timetable can be found on our village notice boards. Due to the needs of social distancing, if demand exceeds what a single bus can accommodate, WOCT intend to run two buses in tandem.

Good news also from Villager Buses, that from 3rd August they will resume their full services. However, as they have a reduced number of drivers and no spare buses, coupled to the social distancing rules, means that each bus will only pro-



vide 50% capacity. Parishioners wishing to use them must unfortunately accept that these constraints could prevent them travelling if the bus arrives fully occupied.

## **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

It has been possible to tick a few boxes on our Risk Assessment/Grounds Maintenance list as long as we could socially distance. In fact, a good amount of work has been completed during lockdown in the playing field, playground and Pound and, again, it is thanks to the hard work of individuals – Shane Barnes plus a dedicated band of volunteers – Simon Gidman, Richard Squires, Chris Badger, Tony Hill, Michael Tucker, Nick Carter, Brian Ridley. Joining in this summer with enthusiasm have been the cricketers, led by Stewart Moss, who have worked tirelessly to get ready for matches but have also helped out with jobs around the ground. Thank you to everyone.

## **OVERGROWN TREES AND HEDGES**

Autumn/winter is the time to cut back without bothering the birds but remember to wait till the blackberries are picked and leave any ivy with berries till they have been eaten. Please make sure that any pavement or footpath on the edge of your property is not blocked in any way by your plants, trees and hedges. This is your responsibility but, more importantly, it is a considerate thing to do. Please remember to cut enough so that the new season's growth won't get in the way and also remember that some walkers are over 6ft tall!

We are a relatively quiet village and sometimes it is ok to walk in the road but that should not be the norm and it certainly is a concern for elderly people, those who need support from another person or with wheelchairs and walking aids, parents with small children etc.

## **CRICKET**

Enthusiasm and sheer determination finally led to our first village cricket match in over 10 years being played at the Memorial Playing Field. And what a sight it was! Thank you so much to Stewart Moss for bringing the game back to Ascott. There are local people in the team, Don Barnes is the President and there were many locals enjoying the wonderful sunshine in the crowd. Starting from scratch in the winter, Stewart and the club members have worked so hard to prepare the wicket and gather/build the necessary equipment. It looked as though they had been established for years. We wish the club success and a long life.

## **FOOTBALL**

This will resume with friendlies in August and matches in September. Ascott Football Club continues to thrive under their super-enthusiastic and hard-working

Manager, Mike Ody. There are 2 men's teams, a Kids Club on Sunday mornings and the beginnings of a ladies' team.

We do hope that you have been enjoying the summer and that lockdown does indeed continue to ease over the next few months. Good luck to everyone returning to the 'New Normal'.

*Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council*

## **ASCOTT-UNDER- WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB**



The club is absolutely thriving again! Our players (which include at least a dozen from the village) and supporters have worked wonders to help turn Memorial Playing Field back into to a summer cricket field to be proud of. Thanks also to Shane Barnes & the Parish Council - we've received lots of compliments on its beauty. A heartfelt thank you for all the help & support received; the number of people that came to support our first few games in July - families, children, pensioners, picnics et al was incredible. After the low of the lockdown it's been an absolute tonic.

The commitment to make the club special again was epitomised by our new sight-screens. Since they're prohibitively expensive to buy, we worked together to build our own from scratch using timber. Circa 30 of us, boys & girls, some juniors as

## Ascott Grapevine

young as 10 years old, worked like Trojans to paint and construct them in just 21 days flat!

On the field we're currently the under-dogs and have lost our first 3 games, because this summer we've committed to playing a mixed XI (rather than our strongest) and we've come up against strong opponents. We're practising twice a week and building for the future - so far we've fielded 9 different teenagers aged between 12 and 18 in matches! And our graft on the square is already resulting in good pitches which produce buckets of runs, including an innings of 117 by a Minster batsman!

Magic moments already include Clive Jowett fittingly cracking our first 6, and a first AUWCC half-century with an innings of 64 by yours truly. We've had a leap-ing salmon-like diving catch by Kester Harvey, and an extraordinary bowling spell by Kevin Cambray with 5 wickets for 5 runs in an exciting match at Islip that saw us narrowly lose by an agonising 2 runs!

Due to the enthusiasm of our 25+ players we've arranged matches every weekend from 12<sup>th</sup> July to the end of September, do come and support, say hello and enjoy the cricket.

Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug (Home) vs Swinbrook

Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Aug (Home) vs Bampton

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Sept (Away) vs Stowell Park

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Sept (Away) vs Hawkesbury

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Sept (Away) vs Charlbury

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Sept (TBC)

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# ***Cotswold Way - Vital Statistics***

This year, as we were unable to take our usual foreign trekking holiday, we decided on a more local challenge and spent a week in June walking the Cotswold Way, from Chipping Campden to Bath. We used two cars each day and returned to the comforts of home each night - this meant no rough camping, dodgy camp meals and upset stomachs (hopefully)!

Here are some of the statistics from our walk:

Planned walking days	7
Actual walking days	8
Rest days (due to weather)	1
Miles walked	108.5
Miles driven	1400 (approx.)
Metres Ascended	4516 (approx 6 times up Snowdon)
Metres Descended	4706 (and back down again!)
Sandwiches eaten	12 Cheese & pickle
	6 Tuna mayonnaise
	6 Ham & mustard
Litres of water drunk	36
Coffees drunk	6
Closed pubs walked past	Too many!
Public toilets used	2
Wild toilet stops	That's private!
Times we missed the path	2
Dangerous road crossings	3
Monuments passed	3
Hours waterproofs worn	Jacket: 6
Trousers:	3
Cows who chased us	15 (1 herd)
Blisters	5 (we never get blisters abroad!)
Black toe nails	1
Stiff hips	1
Frequency Jon said "this is harder than I thought it would be"	Hourly (especially in the northern half)
Frequency Sandra said "I told you so"	See previous entry
Uphills in Bath (when you thought you'd finished)	2
If you'd like any more details of the walk just ask.	

**Sandra & Jon**

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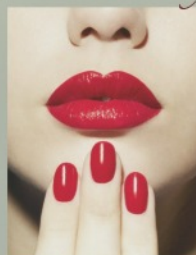


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## **Ascott Preschool**

### **An extraordinary end to the school year at Tiddy Hall**

It was a long ten weeks from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March until the beginning of June! We kept in touch throughout the lockdown via our 'Tapestry' online platform. Parents shared video and photo updates with the teachers so they could see what the children had been up to.



Some of the teachers made videos of themselves reading some of the children's favourite stories. They also posted stories of their adventures with newborn lambs, freshly-hatched chicks, unusual insects and an orphaned pigeon to keep the children entertained. Dancing Sally even shared her famous 'beaks, wings, wiggles!' routine with us.

### ***Staying safe and having fun back at Pre-school***

We were so glad to be able to welcome some of our older children back to Pre school from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of June. This gave them a chance to reconnect with their friends and adjust to being back in a group setting before they start primary school in September. Some were tentative at first, getting used to staying within their 'bubble' of friends, but by mid-way through the first week there was lots of laughter, chatting and general playfulness going on.

We are lucky that Tiddy Hall is a big, airy space and we were able to divide it into three areas for each small group, each with its own entrance. We had separate outdoor play spaces and spent a large proportion of our time outside, sometimes in the rain! We enjoyed singing together as a larger group at the end of each session.

Each week we asked the children what they would like to play with. Requests included making bunting out of paper and fabric, and making 'ice creams' and displaying them for sale with handwritten signs. We created patterns using the threading boards and wool, also using wool to wrap cardboard worms, as well as colouring in and sewing star shapes to hang up at home.

On the last day of term, we spent all day outside playing and running races in our groups, with medal presentations and a picnic lunch to finish. We were so impressed with how quickly the children adapted to our 'new normal' and wish all our leavers well in their next step to primary school. We hope to be a little closer to the 'old normal' by the autumn term, when we look forward to welcoming our younger children back and getting to know the new families due to join us in September.

### ***Find out more about Ascott Pre-school***

Preschool runs at Tiddy Hall during term time from Monday to Friday. Activities include child-led learning through play, craft, messy play, singing, forest school, cooking club and dance sessions with the wonderful Dancing Sally. If you'd like to find out more about Ascott Preschool visit our website [www.ascottpreschool.co.uk](http://www.ascottpreschool.co.uk), or contact Pauline via email ([ascott\\_pp@btinternet.com](mailto:ascott_pp@btinternet.com)) or phone (01993 832671).



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## NATURE NOTES

Weather permitting harvest will be nearing completion and farmers will be planning ahead for next year preparing the fields, ploughing in preparation for the sowing of wheat, barley and rape, crops that will overwinter. When ploughing starts we witness the annual invasion of Gulls, following the plough in large numbers eating the insects and worms and other invertebrates that are brought to the surface. Generally, farmers are happy with all this activity as the Gulls are ridding the soil of many pests that would damage the growing crop. Occasionally you will hear complaints about the volume of Gull droppings that are deposited all over the tractor!



Although Gulls are traditionally birds of coastal waters a century or so ago the first Gulls were encouraged to travel inland, possibly because of extreme weather conditions and in search of food and shelter. The biggest change occurred after World War II when there was a major movement of Gulls into cities and towns such as Bristol and Worcester and even central Birmingham etc. where they now nest and breed.

The first species to move inland, on a permanent basis, was the Black Headed Gull that generally likes riverside and wetland areas to colonise and breed. They were followed by the larger Herring Gull and the Lesser Black Backed Gull that were happy to live and breed in the centre of towns and cities. The Herring Gull in particular has a reputation for boldness and lack of fear of humans, often swooping down to steal someone's chips or sandwich. Gulls are opportunists and will exploit any available food source including, waste bins, rubbish tips and food waste left in our streets. Street lighting enables them to continue their search for food during the night time as well as in the daylight hours.

What encourages this urban population to expand? First, easily obtained food from land-fill sites that sprang-up around major centres of population and the general waste we humans leave in our built-up areas. Secondly by breeding in towns and cities they are relatively safe from predation and adverse weather conditions. Finally, the introduction of the Clean Air Act in 1956, which prevented land-fill operators from burning rubbish on their sites, meaning more food scraps were readily available.



These city and town dwelling Gulls are forming a distinct population, living all their lives and breeding in the urban environment and never returning to the coast. In the last 30 years the urban population has been increasing whereas Herring Gulls living on the coast have seen a 60% population decline and Lesser Black Backed Gulls have experienced a decline of more than 30%.

What I don't know is whether the Gulls that follow the plough are coming from the coastal or urban populations, or both!

A few facts about Gulls:

- They are monogamous and mate for life.
- They are attentive parents, both male and female incubate the eggs and feed the young.
- They are one of the few land dwelling species that can drink salt water. They have a pair of glands above their eyes that flush salt from their system through their nostrils.
- Their vision is excellent and they are one of the few birds whose eyes can move in their sockets.
- Whilst our eyes only perceive three colours, red, green and blue they can perceive a fourth. Infra-red.
- They need to eat 20% of their body weight each day which means that a Herring Gull weighing on average 1,250g would need to eat 250g (8.8oz) daily.
- When a Gull is on the ground it likes to face into the wind. This enables it to become airborne quickly and with less effort.
- 

Let's hope for a good harvest.

*Stuart Fox*

## TIDDY HALL

The world around us has certainly changed over the last few months and has been a great challenge for us all. The **Tiddy Hall** team are working collectively to adapting and planning for re-opening in September. At the time of writing, we are putting together a Covid 19 plan, following government guidelines, to ensure safety measures are put in place to safeguard the health of our users and make the hall as Covid secure as possible.

During the summer break, the work on refurbishing the toilets finally took place. This work was meant to be done during the Easter break, however, due to Covid, this was not possible. But, we now have three new toilet blocks which are looking splendid! We thank Blueglo of Witney for undertaking the work. We're sure you'll find it a great improvement to our village hall!

Unfortunately, the **Folk Club** have decided to postpone their events until 2021, when we hope larger groups may be able to gather indoors. The same goes for the **Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances** run by **Age UK**. At the time of writing, it was not clear whether the **Tuesday Night Dancing** would resume in September. Please contact May & Terry Cox for updated information.

Pauline Carter is resuming her **piano lessons** from the end of September, so if anyone should be interested in learning keyboard skills, please contact her on 01993 774568.

She has two sessions available, Monday afternoons and Friday afternoons.

Pam Quirke will be starting another session of **Qigong** in September. This class takes place on Thursday evenings, starting at 7.30pm. Please get in touch if you'd like to join her group, 07780 572283.

We are welcoming a new **Yoga Class** to **Tiddy Hall**, run by Loren Killen. It takes place on Saturday mornings, 10am – 11am and each class costs £10 or £40 for a 5 class pack. Contact Loren on 07570 023868 or email her, [killenloren@gmail.com](mailto:killenloren@gmail.com)

Due to social distancing rules, spaces are limited in these yoga and qigong classes, so if you are interested in joining, it would be wise to book your place in advance.

And last but not least.....**The Post Office** is still running its services every Friday afternoon 2pm-4pm! We thank Liz for keeping this vital service going throughout lockdown.

Fingers crossed that we will be able to write about more events happening in our village hall in the next issue of **The Grape Vine**, as we adapt and get used to our 'new normal'! Stay safe everyone!

**The Tiddy Hall Team**

TIDDY HALL

# Piano Lessons

**Pauline Carter**

BA A Mus LCM CTABRSM MISM



01993 774568

[roseneathmusicschool.com](http://roseneathmusicschool.com)

# **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.*

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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.

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**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**

# ***Ascott and Shipton Annual Report 2020***

As we emerge from this pandemic and navigate back to some kind of 'normality' (whatever that may be!), I firstly want to share my sympathies with every single family that has lost a relative or a neighbour or even a friend in these tough times. These last four months have not been easy for any of us. I have helped five families across the district who have suffered financial loss and have struggled to access shopping. I also want to thank volunteers in both villages for their efforts by collecting medicines and organising shopping for residents; most of these efforts were co-ordinated through the parish councils.

However, as we come out of lockdown we need to renew and develop society so it begins to work for everyone. One of the biggest challenges over the last year has been planning. In Ascott we have had two planning applications that were not well suited to the village- and thanks to the residents who turned up to the meeting in Feb and answered the survey- I was able to put your views across in the district council. Similarly, in Shipton, we have seen one or two very small planning applications that would have changed the area considerably. Despite the protection from the Local Plan, we had to fight off these developers who were not in favour of affordable homes or preserving the nature of our villages.

In the chamber before lockdown, I had been advocating for a solution to the woes that the A40 bring; more electric-vehicle charging points and increasing our renewable energy; and, most importantly, myself and other colleagues, lobbied for updated services to bring the council into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as live streaming of all council meetings. It is safe to say that all meetings are now streamed live on Facebook for the whole of West Oxfordshire to view.

As we emerge out of lock down, we must forge a new way forward in society that brings together these community values and bonds that have been made over the last three months. That is why I am thankful to the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, for introducing the 'Eat Out' campaign. I hope the residents of Ascott and Shipton can relish in this tasty policy which will also help our hospitality sector get back up on its feet.

It has been a pleasure conducting my 100<sup>th</sup> piece of casework just two weeks ago, and I now look forward to the next 100 pieces in the next two years. Please do all stay safe and carry on caring for one another. This pandemic, which will come to define 2020 in the history books, can be remembered for the positives over friendships growing stronger and villages recovering and renewing the local economies so it works for everyone in our society.

Stay safe and healthy.

**Cllr Jake Acock**

jakeacock@westoxen.gov.uk 07582379760

## **Folk Club**

Just to remind you that with much regret the Folk Club will not be arranging any performances for the rest of 2020.

## **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](mailto:john@greenascott.co.uk)

#### **Trustees**

Elaine Byles [elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk)

Keith Ravenhill [keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net](mailto:keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net)

Stuart Fox [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com)

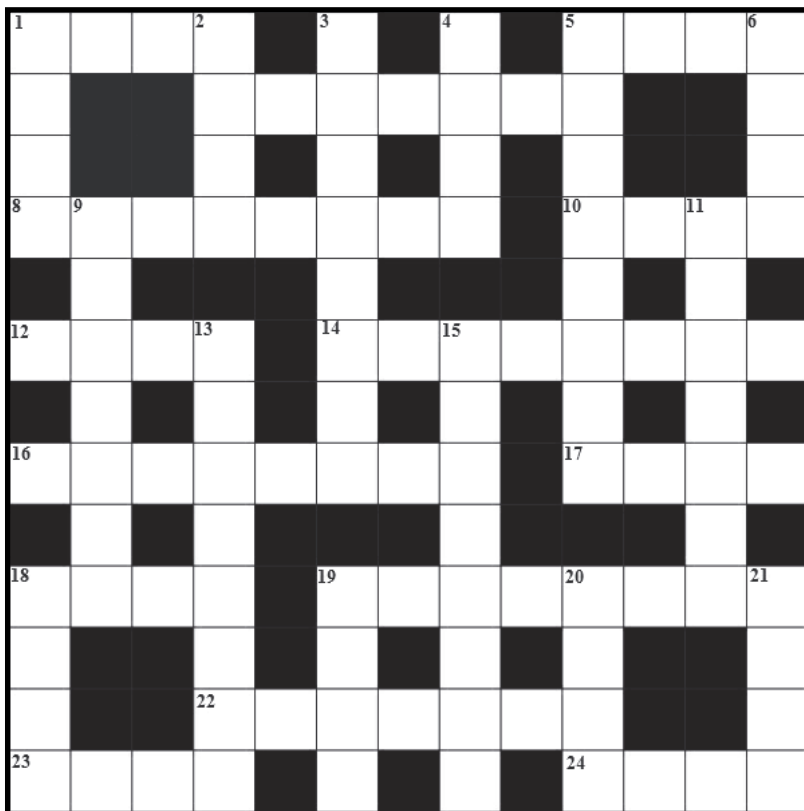
Mark Dawbarn [mark@dawbarn.co.uk](mailto:mark@dawbarn.co.uk)

Sandy Timms [se.timms@btinternet.com](mailto:se.timms@btinternet.com)

Eleanor Bishop [eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk)

Mark Abrey [rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk](mailto:rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk)

# Crossword Puzzle



## Across

- 1 Swindles (4)
- 5 Spirit (4)
- 7 Toenail (anagram) (7)
- 8 Polluted precipitation (4,4)
- 10 Vortex
- 12 Hebrew prophet (4)
- 14 Incarcerate (8)
- 16 Not a nobleman (8)
- 17 Sport; lame (4)
- 18 Portico (4)
- 19 Calming (8)
- 22 Spiral (7)
- 23 Fast (4)
- 24 Short violent pain (4)

## Down

- 1 Cold drink (4)
- 2 Despatch (4)
- 3 Holiday (8)
- 4 Omen (4)
- 5 Making sudden expulsion of air (8)
- 6 Arum —— (4)
- 9 Relief from pain (7)
- 11 Porter (7)
- 13 Pity (8)
- 15 Of necessity (8)
- 18 Omit (4)
- 19 Condiment (4)
- 20 Assist (4)
- 21 Metal disc (4)

## Solutions to Crossword in Edition 106

### Across

- 4 Curates
- 7 Terrine
- 8 Sprat
- 9 Plate
- 10 Lei
- 11 Sheer
- 12 Headfirst
- 14 Endurance
- 17 Sonic
- 18 Tor
- 19 Numbs
- 21 Miles
- 22 Seaweed
- 23 Nervous

### Down

- 1 Cease
- 2 Armada
- 3 Side Effects
- 4 Cellar
- 5 Target
- 6 Saturate
- 8 Sister-in-Law
- 12 Horseman
- 13 Antler
- 15 Duress
- 16 Number
- 20 Side

# ***Local Business Directory***

**ACADEMY/GB DOORS** 01993 778836/01865 246444

[www.garagedoors.org](http://www.garagedoors.org)

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**ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS** 01993830687 07989497253

[www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk](http://www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk)

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**ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP** 01993831240 [shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk)

[www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk)

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**COTSWOLD BEAUTY** 01993 832446/07917 341143 [enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net](mailto:enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net)

[www.cotswoldbeauty.net](http://www.cotswoldbeauty.net)

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**COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006

[www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk)

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**DOOR 2 DOOR PETS SUPPLIES** 01608 658358

[info@door2doorpetsupplies.co.uk](mailto:info@door2doorpetsupplies.co.uk)

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**DRY STONE WALLING** 01242263428/07980564508

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**FAIRSPPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND** 01993 878387

[helenpearson248@btinternet.com](mailto:helenpearson248@btinternet.com) [www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk)

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**FARMHOUSE B&B** 01993831900 [sally@college-farm.com](mailto:sally@college-farm.com)

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**FOLK CLUB** 01993831427 07870563299

[wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com](mailto:wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com) [www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com)

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**GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425

[info@alfredgroves.co.uk](mailto:info@alfredgroves.co.uk) [www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk](http://www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk)

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**HOUSEHOLD SERVICES** 07729712148 [brianjholmes@hotmail.com](mailto:brianjholmes@hotmail.com)

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<b>INGRID RIDLEY B&amp;B</b> 01993830612/07952657906 ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk	<u>Page 18</u>
<b>IVY'S FLORIST</b> 01993830268	<u>Page 9</u>
<b>JENNA SAUNDERS</b> 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	<u>Page 18</u>
<b>JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS</b> 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020 info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com	<u>Page 14</u>
<b>LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING</b> 01993878357	<u>Page 43</u>
<b>LED Lighting Showroom</b> 01993 704 105 www.LEDOxford.co.uk	<u>Page 46</u>
<b>MOTOKO ARITAKE-WILD</b> 07485024467 motoko@motokoalacarte.com	<u>Page 14</u>
<b>ROBERT GRIPPER</b> 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	<u>Page 33</u>
<b>ROSENEATH</b> 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com -	<u>Page 41</u>
<b>THE LAUNDRY COMPANY</b> 01608645582 07794 830703 www.tlccotswolds.co.uk	<u>Page 18</u>

# ***Events Calendar - 2020***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
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**The Events Calendar is suspended until the  
next issue.**