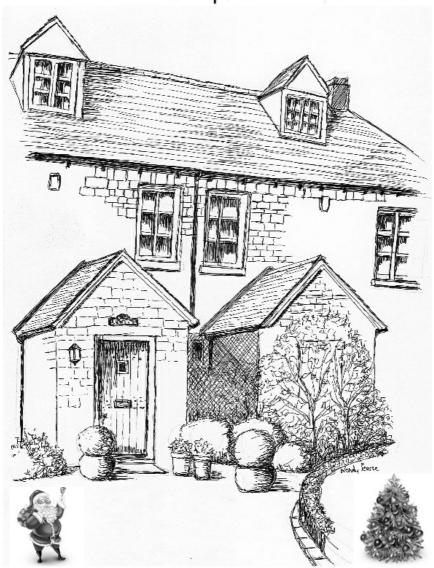
# The Ascott Grapevine



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

Winter 2020 Issue 108

### **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 February 2021.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email: wendypearse@btinternet.com

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles, Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

### **Content & Editorial Policy**

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

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

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

# \*Advertising Rates

£16.00 full page

£11.00 half page

£6.00 quarter page

Advertising Discount:

Book and pay in advance for four issues and receive one advert FREE.

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 <u>Page 68</u>), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or wendypearse@btinternet.com. The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

### **Local Churches**

Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood **Burford Methodist** 

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572 Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993

845322

St Mary's Shipton

Churchwarden James Walmsley **Westcote Methodist** 

01993 830842 Tony Gibson 01993 830699 Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160 Roman Catholic

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-in-the-Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385 Wold

Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Teresa, Charlbury Priest: Fr Antony Joyce 01608 642703.

Wychwood Baptist, Milton Pastor John Witts 01993 832865 Mass at Charlbury 09:15

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and St

### Services at the Chase Benefice 2020/21

All the Church buildings of the Benefice are open for personal prayer and reflection on Sundays between 10 am - 4 pm. From 3rd December, 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 or you can listen by phone on 01608 998955.

# Rector's Letter - Winter 2020/21

#### Dear friends

Looking ahead, Christmas will be different for all of us. Our churches would usually be full of people singing carols and remembering the birth of Jesus, the moment God came and lived among us and to give us everlasting hope. We can't gather in the same way and I, like most clergy up and down our land and indeed all over the world, are trying to think of creative ways that we can still celebrate because the good news of Christmas is just as real today as it was 2,000 years ago.

One of the names given to Jesus, which we often sing about in Christmas carols, is 'Emmanuel'. It means 'God is with us'. As we face an uncertain few months, we need to remember that promise. God is with us today, tomorrow and all of our tomorrows.

Every blessing,

Mark Abrev.

### Public worship in 'Lockdown.'

During 'Lockdown' public services in all churches in the country has been suspended. But the churches of the Benefice will still be open on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm for individual prayer and quiet reflection.

### Virtual Services

Even though we can't come to Church worship, we can still worship in our own homes! 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 number handy as the number will remain the same.

### Clergy

As always, Mark Abrey and Ilona Cheyne are available to offer pastoral support to anyone who needs it. Call them on 01608 676572 or 07305 355809 - they will be delighted to hear from you.

# The Ascott Grapevine editorial team wish all villagers a Happy Christmas and New Year

# Births, Deaths and Marriages

Marriage of Jessica Bull to Mr. Thomas Murray on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (see Page 9)

Marriage of Jessica Smith to Luke Browning on Saturday 31st October 2020 (See Page 10)

Rose Jones died on October 12th RIP.

Jan Kenny, funeral at Ascott church 11<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00pm, burial at Fairspear Burial Ground **RIP** 

# The Evenlode's Dirty Secret

The tender Evenlode that makes Her meadows hush to hear the sound Of waters mingling in the brakes, And binds my heart to English ground.

A lovely river, all alone,
She lingers in the hills and holds
A hundred little towns of stone,
Forgotten in the western wolds
From *The Evenlode*, by Hillaire Belloc



That most poetically named of rivers, the Evenlode, plays a central role in the story of the Wychwoods. We have all walked by it, our dogs have swum in it, we may have fished in it or gloried in the sight of a kingfisher fishing in it. It rises in the limestone hills above Moreton-in-Marsh and curves its way south and east until it meets the Thames near Eynsham. It shapes our landscape and our lives but I'm going to tell you a dirty secret about the river.

One of the things we take for granted, living in a modern civilized society, is the supply of clean drinking water to our homes and the subsequent removal of the waste water that comes from our bathrooms, kitchens and toilets. We probably all know that the waste water goes into a sewer and ultimately ends up in a sewage treatment works where it is cleaned before going back into the river system.

For those of us living in Ascott-under-Wychwood our sewage is pumped to Milton-under-Wychwood sewage treatment works, which is situated on the banks of the Littlestock Brook, a small tributary which feeds into the River Evenlode not far upstream of the A361 bridge in Shipton. The sewage works is operated by Thames Water and it serves all of the Wychwood villages, as well as other outlying villages and hamlets including Chilson. At the moment it treats the sewage for a population of just over 3800 people. It is one of ten sewage treatment works in the Evenlode valley upstream of its confluence with the River Glyme. Upstream of Ascott there are six treatment works but what you probably don't know is that Thames Water has a dirty secret.

All six of the works upstream of Ascott from time to time dump untreated sewage directly into the River Evenlode or its tributaries. That means that the river, as it flows through our village, may contain human waste as well as chemicals (e.g. cleaning products), microplastics, medication, sanitary waste and disease. That sounds alarming, and indeed we should be prudent during any activities that take us or our pets to the river bank as there is a real health hazard. There is also a negative impact on the ecology of the river. As many of you will have noticed, the water quality in the Evenlode has deteriorated in recent years. The river used to be clear in the summer but these days it is frequently murky and brown. This is believed to be directly attributable to the cumulative effect of phosphate pollution from the sewage treatment works. Excess phosphate causes eutrophication and algal growth with a consequential impact on the plants, insects and fish that live in the river. The kingfishers have to work much harder to find a meal these days. Fortunately, the release of untreated sewage doesn't happen all the time. In fact, the water companies are only legally permitted to discharge untreated sewage in this way under very specific and exceptional conditions, when the sewer system is overwhelmed by storm conditions – immediately after exceptionally heavy rainfall or rapid melting of snow. However, the water companies abuse this emergency provision and routinely use these so-called "storm discharges" as a way to compensate for a lack of capacity in their sewage treatment facilities. Sadly, the Environment Agency is not a very effective regulator and turns a blind eye to these spills.

Over the last year, I have managed to find out from Thames Water just how often they are discharging untreated sewage into the river. In the five months since a monitor was first installed in December last year, the Milton treatment plant dumped sewage into the river on a total of 91 days, totaling more than 1500 hours of discharge. In other words, between December and April, they were allowing raw sewage into the river on more days than they weren't!

The other treatment works in our valley are just as bad. According to figures from Thames Water, Chipping Norton treatment works discharged untreated sewage for more than 1300 hours last winter and the Bledington works dumped sewage for just over 2300 hours.

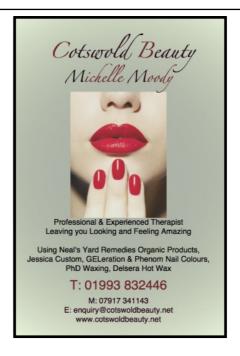
This has been going on for many years but it has been getting worse for a couple of reasons. Firstly, the capacities of the sewage treatment works have not been increased to meet population growth and new housing developments. Secondly, the old sewer infrastructure leaks and so when the groundwater level rises in the winter, groundwater infiltrates the system.

What can we do about this? The Evenlode is not the only river suffering from sewage pollution and there are groups all around the country campaigning for this pollution to stop. Ultimately it will be a political decision as we need to change the legislation that allows the water companies to use the loophole to allow them to dump sewage in our river. The best thing you can do is to write to our MP Robert Courts (robert@robertcourts.co.uk) and let him know that you are unhappy with raw sewage being released into our river.

There are also things we can do to reduce the load on our water infrastructure. Don't waste water in the summer. Our water supplies are taken from the aquifers that feed our rivers. The more we take out, the less pure water there is to dilute any impact of pollution. And to reduce the strain on the sewage treatment works, don't flush anything inappropriate down the drains. So please don't dispose of fat down your kitchen sink drain and only flush the three Ps down the toilet: paper, poo and pee!

Finally, if you do spot any signs of pollution in the river, whether that is obvious signs of sewage, sewage fungus or dead fish, please report it to the Environment Agency hotline 0800 80 70 60.

**Mark Purvis** 



### STORM ALEX HITS ASCOTT

The first of the autumn storms, Storm Alex. arrived at the end of September and stayed with us during the first two days of October. In those three days 4.24 inches (10.8cms) of rain fell causing the Evenlode to burst its banks, flooding the road between the level crossing and the river bridge and also, at the other end of the village, by the entrance to Gypsy Lane. Just before the river bridge the depth of water peaked at 14 inches (35.5cms) leaving the road barely passable to cars and vans. Many drivers decided not to risk passing through the flood and turned around, but some took a chance and made it to safety on the other side of the bridge. The photographs show those who made it.









# The Marriage of my daughter Jessica Bull to Mr. Thomas Murray

Jessica was given away by her very proud father, Eamon. She was attended by her youngest sister, Maisie and Thomas' sister Therese. Thomas' best man was his father Malachy.

.The day was enjoyed by all in attendance and the whole weekend was bathed in glorious sunshine. A perfect day. But nothing had been plain sailing, far from it! Covid-19 restrictions had delayed the wedding more than once. We were constantly checking the latest government guidelines. Right up until the week before, we didn't know for sure the wedding would go ahead.

The beautiful ceremony was performed by the Revd. Mark Abrey in Ascott Church. Mark made the service so special and brought his own brand of humour, which distracted the 25 strong congregation from the fact that they were all wearing face masks and could sing no hymns. Never before have I known a seating plan to be needed in church, only at the reception. In church we observed social distancing and sanitised our hands.

Due to only being allowed 30 people at the gathering the small reception was held in a marquee in my garden. The guest list only extended to parents, grand-parents and siblings. We were very fortunate too that Thomas' family were able to travel from Northern Ireland to celebrate the day with us. The whole day was better than we could ever have imagined-just amazing.

Coronavirus restrictions were tightened just two day after the wedding, restricting the number of people to 15. So just one week later would have been devastating! As widely reported community spirit is stronger than ever. I have witnessed this first hand! For the support, help and good wishes offered to us, to make sure the wedding actually happened, I feel very humbled. Friends and neighbours were offering garden furniture and additional parking etc., along with "can I do anything to help?" Quite overwhelming!

Despite being low in number, I'm sure we were noisy into the evening. That said, we were greeted with smiles the following day from neighbours, which was lovely.

**Lucy Jackson** 







# Love and Marriage In A Pandemic

The proverb says 'It takes a village to raise a child', and October 31st 2020 certainly proved that it takes a village to ensure that a girl raised in Ascott had the wedding of her dreams .....just in time.

Our daughter Jess originally planned to marry Luke Browning on May 31st 2020, at Holy Trinity Church Ascott Under Wychwood, but like so many other young couples, their plans were thwarted. Undaunted, throughout spring 2020 Jess and Luke began to re-arrange, to re-plan and look at possible dates. Their guest list of eighty five would still make for a big day, and their chosen venue in Stowe would still be the perfect location and backdrop.

As lockdown eased however, and as August became September....and then October, it became increasingly difficult to predict when rules would allow 'normal' weddings to resume. Wedding parties were restricted to a maximum of thirty, and this limit was soon reduced to fifteen. Tiered restrictions of all sorts were rolled out, and the prospect of a complete or partial national lockdown looked likely. Eighty five guests in a bespoke location would not be possible any time soon. Time for (another!) major re-think. Perhaps a small Christmas Wedding would be possible? Dates were suggested, and venues for a small reception were considered, but with the 'Covid' landscape changing on a daily basis, what would the world look like by Christmas? Better try for an earlier date - Halloween!

Ascott Church was available, as was Tiddy Hall. *Operation Halloween Wedding* was launched. Socially distanced seating plans, decorations, face masks, hand sanitizers were all researched and ordered alongside all of the normal trappings of a church wedding. Menus were planned, wedding gowns, hats, accessories, sparkle and lighting booked, music coordinated, speeches written, alcohol procured, all within the space of a month.

And still the restrictions tightened - could weddings of any size survive until Halloween?

October 31st dawned, wet, windy...and then it got wetter and windier, Halloween weather. At midday the Smith household was full of hair, make-up, veils, silk shoes.... anything and everything designed to perish in the wind and the rain. Check the weather forecast. Check it again and again.

At 1.20pm the rain stopped, and at 1.21 the sun came out....and stayed out. At 2pm a car full of hair and dresses was driven to Holy Trinity, to be joined at 2.20pm by the beautiful bride.

Even as announcements were being made from London about re-imposition of a lockdown, in Ascott-under-Wychwood, the sun shone a little brighter, and Jessica

and Luke were able to realize their dream of getting married in 2020. A dream come true, even if slightly modified

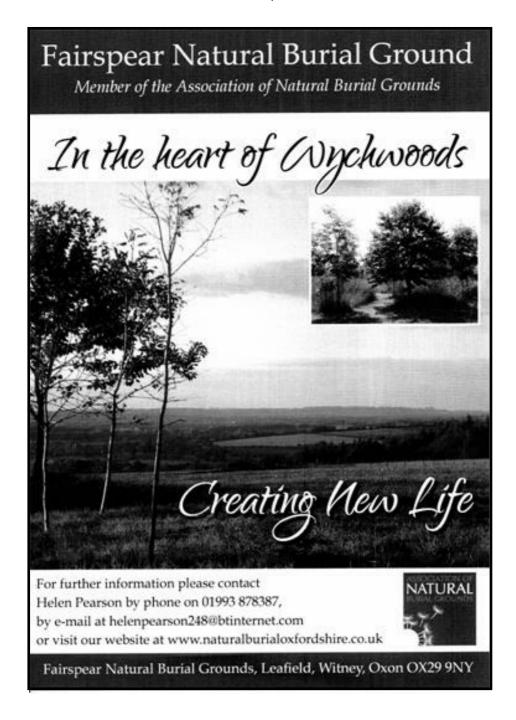
Jess and Luke had a truly magical day, supported not only by close friends and family, but also by friends, neighbours and residents of Ascott. Particular thanks go to The Revd Mark Abrey for his extraordinary patience in dealing with a never ending string of 'could we', 'would it be possible', ' are we allowed to…', questions, and also for his infectious and unflappable good humour on the day.

Thanks also to Sarah Tribe for undertaking Verger duties, to Ingrid Ridley for arranging the use of Tiddy Hall in such strange and unnerving times, to Pauline Plant for her help and support, to Simon Gidman for switching off the fire alarm (!), to Sue and Laurence Mellor for looking after Douggie the dog for the day, to Sue Boyer, Margaret Ismail, Dorinda and Mem Gensch, Brian Ridley, Kate Gidman, Fiona Currie, Mary Barnes and anyone else who came to watch proceedings from outside church. Your presence added a much needed dose of real world friendship to a weird and wonderful wedding day.

Thanks to all from Jessica and Luke Browning, & Susan and Andrew Smith (12 High Street, AUW.).







# ALL CHANGE FOR THE FORGE GARAGE



After keeping Ascott's motor vehicles serviced and repaired for the last 38 years Chris Wastie is retiring at the age of 76 for a well-deserved rest. Chris took over the Forge Garage from Vernon Howse in April 1982. In the early days Chris was not only servicing motor vehicles but was regularly called upon to use his mechanical skills for such diverse work as repairing electric kettles and spectacles, often on a free of charge basis or by being paid with produce from someone's allotment.

Over the years there have been many changes in how motor vehicles were constructed and how engine problems were diagnosed and repaired but Chris always kept up with the latest technology allowing him

to offer a fully comprehensive repair service.

Chris gained his mechanical training and experience working at a motor cycle company in Oxford specialising in BSA models.

Chris will still have plenty to occupy himself during retirement including looking after his classic cars, a Mark 4 Ford Cortina and a Fiat 500 together with three BSA motor bikes, including a BSA Bantam. He intends to catch-up with jobs around the house and garden and treat his energetic dog with plenty of walks. We wish Chris a long and happy retirement.

What of the future for the Forge Garage? We hear that it might become an art gallery, which will certainly be a big change, but something to look forward to.



Looking back in time, during the 1970's not only would your car be repaired and serviced, but you could also fill up with fuel. The attached photograph shows the two pumps on the Forge Garage forecourt. The photograph isn't detailed enough to read the prices, but I remember that when I purchased my first car in the late 1960's I could buy about 4 gallons (18 litres) of petrol for £1!

# Oh we all love figgy pudding....

Once a year it is with courage and pleasure that I face making the Christmas pudding. I put on the most dazzling of my several aprons, set out the utensils needed, search the cupboards and latest shopping for the correct ingredients and with a good programme on the radio or a favourite piece of music – go for it. Trouble was, this year, my dog Homer was alerted that something unusual was going on (I don't usually make such a performance of cooking). The Sainsburys bag of sultanas was quite hefty and required cutting open which I did, rather awkwardly. As I poured from the bag, into the scales, many sultanas flowed onto the floor to which Homer leaped with self-congratulation for his attentive vigil. I guessed he must have eaten about four...

LUCKILY I knew about the danger of this type of food (raisins, currants etc) for dogs. Telling him off didn't help the situation and he just stared at me, head on one side, as if to say 'Now what's she on about?' Promptly I rang the vets who said he should come along straight away...

This was not the first time I'd made such a dash. One Christmas in the past I had carefully hidden a large bag of presents beneath my desk, ready for wrapping later. I spent a convivial evening out at The Swan and on my return home found small bits of aluminium paper dotted about the floor. The king size Toblerone I had bought, which was at the bottom of the bag, had been attacked and demolished. Off I went to the vet...at top speed, and although he was sick en route, Homer stayed in for the conventional protocol of emptying his stomach followed by days of tests and further observation. One Welsh summer he found a large, crusty, sweet-smelling loaf of granary bread at the bottom of my shopping and polished that off too, though I only discovered it when I saw how he lay panting on the floor...and the shopping was in a disorderly state.

Why do dogs have to be such indiscriminate scavengers, despite being fed by caring masters and mistresses who have their good health as a priority of ownership? I wonder...

It just means we have to be alert...as watchful as them.

Happy- and careful - cooking this Christmas.

Juliet Heslewood

# No Christmas Pudding

This is the dangerous season for our dogs and cats!

Any grape or raisin is potentially toxic to our pets.

The actual toxin is unknown. Not every grape or raisin is toxic, but as little as 3g per kg of your pet's weight can lead to renal failure and death. As we cannot identify the toxin, we do not have an antidote.

So should your pet steal the Xmas pudding or the fruit cake, or even your muesli, it is very important to call your vet immediately. Do not wait! The vet will induce vomiting and admit your pet for intravenous fluid and monitoring of kidney function.

Chocolate intended for our consumption contains the obromine. The obromine is poisonous to dogs.

There is no antidote so quick action is needed. Call the vet.

Once again, vomiting will be induced and treatment will be given. Clinical symptoms include diarrhoea, increased heart rate, increased respiratory rate and convulsions.

Sweets containing xylitol, a replacement for sugar, can cause a dramatic drop in blood sugar levels, hypoglycaemia and lead to liver failure.

Macadamia nuts should also be avoided.

With Christmas around the corner, make sure that your mincemeat pies, puddings and chocolates are kept out of reach of your pets.

Gift wrapped chocolates under the tree? No!

Have a wonderful Christmas. But keep those goodies for your 2-legged friends and family members.

Karen

### HORSE SHOE ART

What do you do if your grand-daughter's husband is a farrier with an almost unlimited supply of used horse-shoes? Most of us would expect them to be recycled or melted down as scrap, but not Bill Greenaway who saw the potential to turn them into useful and often artistic objects.

Two years ago, Bill, a retired builder, who is 84 decided to learn a new skill, welding, purchasing an arc welder and accompanying kit. Using scrap metal to practice on he taught himself and with his new skill started to use his supply of used horseshoes to make a range of attractive and useful objects. These include fire pits, planters, log holders, coat hooks, house signs and numbers and even Christmas trees.

The horseshoes are carefully cleaned and welded to create the required product, in some cases they have to be cut to allow for more creative designs. Once welded the product is painted, usually with Hammerite or in the case of fire pits sprayed with a heat resistant paint.

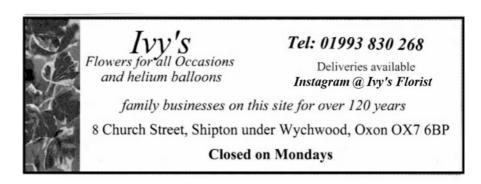
Bill is doing this work as a hobby, but is happy to sell the occasional object or even to try to produce something bespoke. Some of the items he has made are illustrated below.

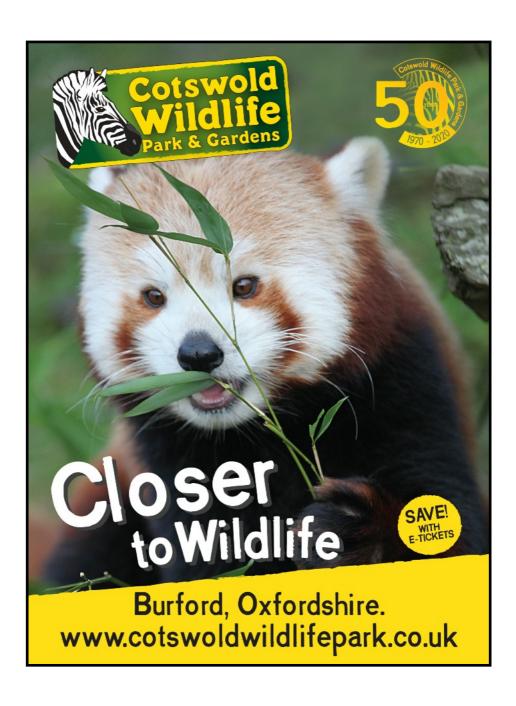
If you would like to purchase one of Bill's creations give him a call on 01993 830504 and arrange to visit his garage workshop and see the items he can produce.











# Street Tag

Street Tag is a new family-friendly game that rewards primary schools, families, individuals and communities for physical activities such as walking, running, and cycling.

Street Tag is turning streets and parks in Oxfordshire into a giant virtual playground. You can play to win rewards for your child's primary school, or as an individual or team of up to six people in Oxfordshire's community league.

Watch your total distance accumulate and see how far you climb up the local leader board. Get ready to push yourself and start your journey to a healthy lifestyle with Street Tag. For more info on how to play, head to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/streettag



# WELCOME BACK TO WYCHWOOD LIBRARY!

### We were open!

Unfortunately, to comply with the latest lockdown from 5<sup>th</sup> November we are now shut and but we may reopen on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. For more information about the click and collect service by the bigger branches please refer to the Oxford Libraries website.

It had been such a pleasure to be able to reopen our doors. A big thank you to our amazing Friends group and committed volunteers for enabling this to happen. I have really enjoyed catching up with customers and it's been lovely to see how excited they've been to be back! We have put in measures to keep our customers safe so that you can still browse, borrow and reserve for collection as before.

I'm sorry we're not able to welcome our regulars back to coffee morning. You are all very much missed and, as soon as it's safe to reintroduce activities and events we most definitely will! We have also had to say goodbye to several volunteers who have been unable to return to the library. Thank you for all your help over the years and do come and see us whenever you can.

For those of you who are unable to visit the library, we have an excellent selection of e-audio and e-books available to library members to read on a tablet or phone (but not a kindle). If you are not already a member, you can join online or in the library. Please call or check the Oxfordshire Libraries website for more information.

### **Get Creative With Colour**

As part of National Libraries Week, we held an Art Competition to celebrate the reopening of the library. The children were asked to produce an artwork inspired by their favourite book or character.

I am delighted to announce that the 1st prize has been awarded to Harriet Harper's 'Skulduggery Pleasant' with runners up prizes for Jonty Barham's 'Sharing a Shell' and Harriet Grigg's Harry Potter. Thank you to everyone who took part. All the entries are displayed in the library and look fabulous!

Marianne Ferrero



Harriet Harper's 'Skulduggery Pleasant'



Jonty Barham's 'Sharing a Shell'



Harriet Grigg's Harry Potter.

### **VOICES FOR A VACCINE**



Christmas and carols - they go together. I am setting up some carol singing groups that will wander through the village, as in the old days when you heard the familiar songs at your door.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to become part of one of the small groups going through Ascott during the middle weeks of December, please let me know through the email address below. At the moment I have several willing wassailers, but the more the merrier - and we can keep whatever distance is imposed upon us. It would be great to have some instruments also - guitar? recorder? tin whistle? accordion? - as these would make a jolly accompaniment.

We'll collect for a very worthy cause - Oxford University's Coronavirus Research - that is working at finding US ALL a vaccine. So if you are not singing, but you hear us, please remember how significant this donation may be.

The singing on The Green on Christmas Eve is a separate event - that will hopefully still happen.

Keep cheerful! <u>juliet.heslewood@btinternet.com</u>

Juliet Heslewood



### 4\* BED & BREAKFAST IN ASCOTT Meadowbank House

3 excellent independent en suite rooms for your friends or relatives coming to stay.

Quiet location with lovely gardens.

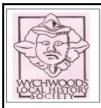
Off-road parking.

Children welcome.

WiFi, Flat screen TV's, hairdryers, Tea/coffee making facilities

01993 830612 mobile 07952 657906 ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk





### The Wychwoods Local History Society



# Programme 2020 – 2021

Milton Village Hall at 7.30pm

| 2020   | 17 Sep<br>Wychwood  | Tim Marshall connection    | Quaker clocks and Milton-under-          |
|--------|---|----------------------------|--|
| 15 Oct | David Beaumont The Battle of Edge Hill                                  |                            |  |
| 19 Nov | Liz Woolley Leisure and Entertainment in Victorian and Edwardian Oxford |                            |  |
| 2021   |   |                            |  |
| 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<br>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                      |
|        | !8 Nov  | Juliet Heslewood           | William Morris and the Cotswolds         |





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# FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT PAST

### Part 12



The Latin word carpentarius translates as wagon maker or carriage maker and these men would have been an essential part of village life after the invention of the wheel. Referring to themselves as carpenters covers all criteria so although the word wheelwright is not found in Ascott documents until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century we can infer that the trade always existed in the village.

Wooden wheels would have been the sole means of land transport until well into the 19th century so the skill of a wheelwright in both constructing and repairing them would have been in great demand, especially considering the state of British roads following the exit of the Romans, leading right up until the era of the Turnpike Roads in the 18th century. But still local roads would have exerted great pressure on carts, wagons and carriages. No RAC or AA to call out, just the expertise of the local wheelwright.

Two early Ascott carpenters left Wills; William Fletcher in 1680 and Charles Minchin in 1721. William Fletcher left his working tools worth 5s to his son Thomas and his mare worth £1. Thomas must have followed his father in the trade although there is no further reference to him in Ascott. Charles Minchin left everything he owned to his wife Jane so presumably she would have sold his tools on.

The next reference in the village to carpenter/wheelwright comes in the Census Returns. Beginning in 1841, three carpenters were listed.

Joseph Moss was aged 35 with a wife and several young children including Alfred aged 5 who would follow his father into the trade. Joseph was living near the west end of Upper Street (High Street) and remained there until he died in 1876 aged 70. Alfred his son continued the business until he died in 1887 aged 50. He was the husband of Mary Moss one of the Ascott Martyrs.

James Davis was a carpenter aged 25 living in Lower Street (Shipton Road) in 1841 but there is no further record of him.

John Hill senior aged 40 was the third carpenter listed and he lived in John and Debra Cull's present house by the Green. He had been born in Chadlington but his son John Hill junior who followed his father into the trade, was aged 12 and had been born in Ascott. John Hill senior died in the early 1870's but John Hill junior remained working beside the Green until sometime before 1881 when he had become the licensee of the Swan Inn in Shipton Road, although still retaining the trade of carpenter. He also had a son John and although John junior died in 1888 the third John was listed in the 1891 Census as solely the innkeeper of the Swan

So coincidentally after several decades of co-existence these two families of Ascott wheelwrights ceased plying their trades at virtually the same time.

with his sister Ann as housekeeper and brother, George as barman.

But another craftsman had moved into the village. By 1881 John Young aged 27 and listed as a carpenter and joiner had moved into the house today of Richard and Anne Smith in High Street and by 1891 Edwin Taylor aged 20 was working with John as a wheelwright's apprentice. John's son, John junior (known as Jack) was only 2 at the time but by 1911 Jack was working in the business. He spent time away during the First World War serving in the Air Force but when he returned home and later after his father's death, he carried on the trade of carpenter and wheelwright in Ascott and is still remembered by some older members of the village as a 'Jack of all trades'.



Robert Storey, Fred Dore and Michael Shayler in Jack Young's yard in High Street.

It was in Jack's yard that one of the Second World War bombs fell, demolishing the shed where Mrs Young was storing her sugar for jam making. Jack died in 1957. So after many centuries of need the trade of wheelwright disappeared from Ascott, with the death of Jack Young.

**Wendy Pearse** 

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### Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum



'Your Mission Starts Here' – *Spy Oxfordshire* exhibition to open at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

# Opening on Friday 28th October and running until 17th December 2021

Spy Oxfordshire, a major new exhibition, will get visitors thinking critically about the mysterious world of secret intelligence, once described by CIA Director Allen Dulles as "probably the least understood and most misrepresented of the professions".

The exhibition will shine a light on previously unknown but fascinating local connections to the intelligence world. Oxfordshire intelligence officers were at the heart of the British war effort during the Second World War: from the commandos that knew no fear and wreaked havoc behind enemy lines, to the codebreakers, analysts, and "connectors of the dots" who provided Prime Minister Winston Churchill with unprecedented insights into the Nazi war machine. Everyone featured in the exhibition has been chosen to illuminate a different part of what is called the "Intelligence Cycle", the process by which intelligence is collected, analysed, produced, and used by the policymaker in the service of protecting national security. In learning the stories of these remarkable men and women, visitors will see that the truth of intelligence is often stranger than the fiction.

While the exhibition will show that intelligence has a lot more layers to it than

what we see in spy fiction, there will be plenty to catch the eye of 007 fans eagerly awaiting the release of *No Time To Die*. Spy Oxfordshire will feature some iconic film props and replicas on loan to the museum, such as the Walther PPK used by Sean Connery in *Dr. No* and original concept drawings for the PPK/S handgun with dermal sensors used by Daniel Craig in *Skyfall*.

Bond author Ian Fleming features heavily in the exhibition alongside his famous literary





creation. Objects include Fleming's walking stick and an exact replica of the golden typewriter he used at his Goldeneye home in Jamaica, where he wrote the 14 Bond novels. On display will be items from the private collection of Mike Vanblaricum of the Ian Fleming Foundation, which have rarely been seen outside the USA, including original storyboards from the film *Diamonds are Forever* and Sean Connery's shoes from the film *Never Say Never Again*. Artefacts from fictional espionage sit alongside their realworld counterparts, as Spy Oxfordshire will also unveil a collection of rare WW2-era gadgetry, including everything from Special Operations Executive (SOE) lapel and sleeve

daggers to dummy pieces of coal used to conceal explosives. SOE parachutists' equipment, tools and weaponry shared with the French resistance, and uniforms and equipment of women in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) also feature among historic collections helping to illustrate Oxfordshire's lesser-known contri-

bution to the war effort.



Visitors will be encouraged to think about how everyone, even today, has a stake in the intelligence business. It is part of our daily lives, whether we like it or not, from what we read in the newspapers and the security measures we undergo at the airport to the use that is made by governments and private corporations alike of our internet searches, social media and even shopping habits.

"Ask yourself, as you walk through the exhibition: as a citizen, are you comfortable with what is being done to keep us safe? Are the methods employed by the secret services proportional to the national security threats we face?", urges the opening to the new exhibition.

### **About the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum:**

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1SN.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum currently opens Wednesdays to Saturdays from 11am to 5pm, and Sundays from 2pm to 5pm.

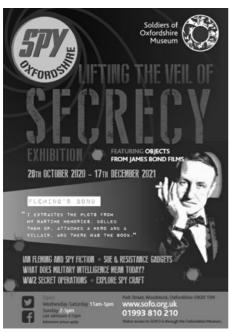
The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust (SOFO) museum opened during the summer of 2014 and was officially opened by the Princess Royal.

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

SOFO uses the material of the two county regiments, the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars (QOOH) and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, to act as a starting point for reflecting on the county's rich and diverse military

heritage. These collections contain over 3,500 objects and 7,500 archive items. The regimental collections date back to the late 18th Century and reflect the local regiments' involvement in major conflicts such as the War of American Independence, the Peninsula War, the Boer Wars, the Great War and the Second World War, together with less well-known events such as the New Zealand war of 1864 and the Brunei emergency in the 1960s. They comprise weapons, equipment, clothing, flags, musical instruments and regimental silver as well as extensive personal memories, diaries, letters and photographs.

The breadth of the collections has allowed us to present and contribute to a wide range of historical themes and mark key anniversaries, such as the bicentenary of Waterloo, the centenary of the Great War and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust is a registered charity No. 1145408





### OH YES I DID

On a dark grey day in early January 1948 I went on an Ascott School outing, on a bus hired by Mrs. Clements the school teacher, to the pantomime in Oxford at the New Theatre. Climbing what seemed endless steps, we arrived in 'the gods' in the roof of the theatre, the seats so steep behind each other, had I stood up, I felt I would have fallen into the orchestra pit.

We were there to see the pantomime. It was my first visit of any kind to a theatre. The pantomime was 'Babes in the Wood'. Coming into the theatre from the drab streets of Oxford and the leafless countryside of early New Year, when the show began we were transported into a wonderland of music, dancing and colour.

Throughout my life the word 'theatre' still conjures in my mind, an actor like a pompous Parson in love with their own voice, making long speeches from Shakespeare whom I never understood.

I write this with some sadness, many pantomimes this Christmas time have been cancelled. I do hope it's not the beginning of the end of a great national tradition. I have compiled a very easy quiz for those who know pantomime. I hope it helps bring back happy memories as it does for me. Oh no it doesn't. Oh yes it does.

- 1. In which pantomime will you find Widow Twankey?
- 2. Which County did Dick Whittington come from?
- 3. In which pantomime would you see 'Buttons'?
- 4. In which pantomime would you hear the lines 'Fee-fi-fo-fum'?
- 5. In which pantomime would you meet Abanazar?
- 6. In which pantomime is the character Dandini?
- 7. What was sold for a handful of beans?
- 8. What are the half-sisters of Cinderella usually called?
- 9. In which pantomime would you have to rub something to get results?
- 10. Which bird laid a golden egg?
- 11. What or who told Dick Whittington to return to London?
- 12. Which royal rodent did Dick Whittington's pussy fight?

To find the answers please see Page 52

# Report from Liz Leffman

The County Council is living with the legacy of the first Covid lockdown and has had to make savings of £15 million in the past couple of months, because only part of the money spent on the Covid crisis, such as purchasing PPE for care homes and schools, has been repaid by the Government. So while at the beginning of this financial year I was confident that we would for once in a long time have money available to repair our roads and manage drainage, we now find that there is no more money available and only those things that have already been scheduled will be done until the new financial year begins in April. This includes gully clearance which I know is a particular concern for Ascott residents. Of course, if there is a risk of a home being flooded, action will be taken, and if a huge pothole opens up in a crucial place, then it will be filled. If you do have an emergency of this kind to report, please get in touch and I will ensure that action is taken as soon as possible.

Although we are lucky to be living in a part of the county which is relatively Covid free, there have been some recent outbreaks in Witney, and the numbers are rising across the area. There is evidence that most of the spread comes from households meeting together. This is why the Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire recently recommended to council leaders that we should be seeking to move to Tier 2, to prevent further spread of the virus locally. Tier 2 means that households can no longer meet indoors unless they are part of a support "bubble", and pubs and restaurants would have to close at 10pm. All other businesses would remain open, and people could meet up outside their homes. However, although the Director was supported by the leaders of every council in the county, the four Conservative MPs in Oxfordshire refused to support this and appealed directly the Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State, to keep Oxfordshire in Tier 1. Having worked closely with the Director of Public Health over the past few months, I know that he can be trusted to make good decisions, and it was therefore very disappointing and discouraging to see him overruled by Westminster. We all need to do what we can to protect older and vulnerable residents, and I know that people in Ascott have done, and will continue to do, a wonderful job looking out for their neighbours. I have been inspired by the work that people all over this ward have done for each other over the past few months. Community spirit is definitely alive and well here!

As Christmas is just around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Ascott a happy Christmas. I hope that we will all be able to see family and friends during the festive season, and that the New Year will bring about a change for the better.

Contact details: 01608 180153, 07741 073088, liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

### WODC

# Councillors approve plan to build back after the pandemic

A comprehensive blueprint outlining how the Council will oversee the recovery of the District from the Covid-19 pandemic has been approved by councillors.

The Draft Recovery Plan outlines actions being taken against a set of themes which have been drawn up in line with the Council's priorities.

The themes are:

- **Economy:** The Council will support investment in the District's market towns, offering business support, backing for training organisations and investment in tourism. The overall aim is to see the economy recover to a position where it is 'better than before.'
- Community: This will involve investment in areas where there is greatest need, reducing isolation, tackling homelessness, developing Wellbeing Hubs in partnership with other organisations and engaging residents in the Council's work
- Climate: A commitment to continued investment to ensure the highest environmental standards are met across all Council activities
- Council Service, Delivery and Finance: This will see the continued development of recent initiatives such as home working and virtual council meetings which have been introduced as a result of Covid-19. The Council will also identify new investment proposals and focus on opportunities for accessing Government grant funding.

The Draft Recovery Plan was approved at a meeting of the full Council on Wednesday 28 October.

Cllr Michele Mead, Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, said: "The pandemic has had a profound impact on every aspect of Council activity and it is vital that we plan our recovery so that we can emerge stronger than we were before.

"Despite its devastating effects on lives, Covid-19 has led to some positive outcomes such as our greater engagement with communities and the need to protect our environment even more than before.

"We know there is still a long way to go before we can say we are free of the effects of Covid-19 but this Plan will help us along the road to recovery and adapt to the challenges along the way."

Village website: www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk

# New fly-tipping reporting service goes live

Residents will be able to report fly-tips more easily thanks to an improved service from West Oxfordshire District Council.

A new online form will allow the user to pinpoint the fly-tip on an interactive map so they don't have to spend time trying to describe the location or looking up a postcode.

That makes it easier for the Council team to locate and with previously reported cases visible, it also means less duplication, allowing a quicker investigation and clean-up.

If a resident calls for more information about their report, the customer services team can give more detailed case information on the spot.

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "Fly-tipping is a crime as well as blight on the environment which we take very seriously.

"This system will help us not only clean up fly-tips but track down offenders and ensure they are fined accordingly."

To report a fly-tip see: https://community.westoxon.gov.uk/s/fly-tip



## PC News

Looking back over our last PC article the mood was so optimistic but here we are with doom and gloom in the news again. But didn't we have the most wonderful spring/summer – I hope you have photos to reminisce – and at least our children are back at school and college. Let's hope that, with the annual dampener that November brings, we will feel like hibernating anyway, being 'creative' for Christmas and plan for new beginnings in the spring.

Your Parish Council has not been idle and started back with virtual meetings in September. It looks likely that there will be no change to that arrangement for the foreseeable future but if any resident has an issue that they would like to raise please always feel free to contact one of us and it will go on the agenda. If you would like to raise it in person at a virtual meeting then it is possible to arrange but, obviously, the time to talk has to be more strictly controlled as interruptions make it impossible for anyone to be heard.

#### **PLANNING**

There have been 3 applications to develop new sites –

**12-18 London Lane** – This second application was withdrawn as the drainage issues could not be resolved. There has been no Appeal and the deadline has passed.

Cow Sheds/Dutch Barns at the end of High St – the first larger application was rejected and there was no appeal. It was followed by an application for 2 homes on the Dutch Barn site only and this was approved on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

#### RECREATION

The playground remains open and is no longer being locked at night. Many thanks to Pauline Plant for her help and advice when re-opening the playground after full Lockdown and for diligently locking and unlocking over the summer months.

Cricket continued undaunted up to the end of September with lots of success and they will be fielding a league team next year. The pitch has never been so pampered! Lots of locals officiated, played and watched so we hope that helped to raise spirits. Football has resumed in full strength too with 2 men's teams, the kids' academy and a group of ladies training. We wish the men luck in their league matches and they too would welcome more local players and support. Both clubs are bound by Covid rules set by the UK Government, their governing bodies and the Witney Football League - this includes the use of the Pavilion.

A new Sports Club committee officially met for the first time in 10 years. When Roger Shepherd and John Cull retired, the Sports Club had to be run by Parish Councillors as the teams and other regular users disbanded – this was in large part due to the wet state of the pitch and surrounding areas. Now the space has fully

come alive again and those who played a large part in that have agreed to form a committee. Many thanks to everyone involved in the journey so far and long may the enthusiasm last.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)**

Excellent progress has been made with the Plan despite Covid-19 trying its best to disrupt – thank you to everyone in the wider team for their interest and enthusiasm. Taking the strain from the Parish Council is the Steering Group – Brian Leach, Richard Smith, Naomi Tiley and Philippa Carter – but, as you can see, the PC is keeping a beady eye open. The PC has the ultimate responsibility for the project and the NP is a regular item on PC monthly agendas.

The village questionnaire was a success with a good number of respondents telling us what is most important to them. The scores showed –

MOST IMPORTANT

1. Flooding

2. Village amenities

3. Footpaths and bridleways

LEAST IMPORTANT

Need for new homes

Horse riding

Cycling

And the changes that they wanted to see more than anything were:-

4. Wildlife and diversity

- 1. More trains in the daytime to Oxford, better bus services, resolve speeding and parking issues and improve roads and infrastructure.
- Improve the housing situation but with more control on aggressive speculation.
- 3. Improvements to the environment (not specified)
- Resolve sewerage/drainage/flooding problems caused by over development.

You can see that there are clear themes here which is wonderful as it has truly kick started lots of creative thinking and enthusiasm. We are now gathering and writing evidence which needs to be agreed with the community and accepted by WODC. The evidence will then be turned into Ascott-under-Wychwood community-agreed policies which the WODC Planning Office have to refer to when deciding any planning application. But also, this process could well produce ideas which would not be planning policies but could still be improvements to the Village if agreed by the community.

Of course, we are aware that not everyone was comfortable with answering a questionnaire and there will be other opportunities for people to have their say, potentially raising the importance of topics which do not currently appear on the list of priorities.

Clearly 2 huge topics are 'Traffic and Transport' and 'Water and Sewerage' and a lot of work has already been done on those. To help the Steering Group with Traffic and Transport we thank Keith Ravenhill, John Cull, Mark Pidgeon, Sue Rich-

ards and Ann Burleigh for joining in; they are full of new ideas and initiatives so look out for the T&T article in this issue. (Over page)

Alongside the questionnaire and creative work we have been going through the first official step which is to 'Designate the Neighbourhood Plan Area'. In our case we have applied to designate the full area within the

Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Boundary plus 5 Shipton properties around Coldwell Brook which unofficially act and think as if they are in Ascott. (Shipton-u-W Parish Council has given its blessing) Our application is now with WODC and has been posted for 6 weeks' public consultation; after that there will be a vote at WODC Cabinet level so 'fingers crossed'. Once this is agreed then we can develop much more face-to-face village consultation which we hope will be possible in the spring.

Of course, a cynic might say that the UK Government is just about to change everything and Neighbourhood Plans could become redundant. So far, UK GOV does say that it will still recognise NPs but, even if they were scrapped, this has already been a very positive exercise in so many ways and I am optimistic that it will benefit the community.

Keep up with our progress on the Neighbourhood Plan website – http://ascottpc.org.uk

#### **NEW LOOK PARISH COUNCIL**

And finally ...... next May will be the end of this Parish Council's 4-year term. We have received notice of 3 resignations – Philippa Carter, Sandy Timms and Peter Rance – and so will be searching for new P Councillors. Please do consider putting yourself forward as it is an exciting time to be involved and make a difference

Even more finally .... Whatever the Covid rules, Christmas will happen and it is up to us all to be creative while staying safe! We will definitely have a tree on the Green; 'Carols on the Green' will depend on government guidelines, of course, and so notice about the event could well be 'last minute', family groupings and definitely BYO in thermos flasks! Meanwhile Juliet Heslewood has taken the initiative by suggesting groups of 6 people singing carols around the village during the Advent weeks to raise funds for the Oxford Covid vaccine. This could be the start of something new and fresh for Ascott-under-Wychwood and we keep fingers crossed that lockdown will be eased enough to allow it all to go ahead! We know that this community is full of warm hearts so let's make doubly sure that absolutely no one is left feeling isolated or without support.

Stay safe and contact us if you need help in any way,

Merry Christmas everyone!

PC email: contact@ascottpc.org.uk

Local Phone: 830344

Clerk: clerk@ascottpc.org.uk

# Ascott Traffic and Transport Group

The Ascott Traffic and Transport Group is the first of the working parties to be set up in the wake of the decision to publish a Neighbourhood Plan. Formally responsible to the PC, who need to ratify any decisions, like all such parties it is made up of volunteers from the village and will be seeking to engage and consult with our fellow residents as widely as possible.

The focus is, naturally, on planning: but as a rural community transport touches so much of our lives; from the school run to the trips to town; the needs of agriculture or the daily commute; and the requirement for utility and emergency vehicles to reach all parts of the village unimpeded.

Along the way we will be looking at issues of safety and speed, what can be done (if anything) against the backdrop of ever-decreasing investment in public transport and services, how to manage the flood risks that mean our roads are often closed, and much more. We want to hear from you, and we need to understand what the new normal will look like – will people be returning to commuting from Charlbury, what will be the level of car ownership when kids cannot afford to use the scant public transport we have to offer, what journeys will people be taking? Expect, inevitably, a survey to canvas your views and opinions – remember, the Neighbourhood Plan is all about your chance to have your say.

Top of everyone's list today is parking. The founding of the group has coincided with a rush of complaints to the Parish Council about bad and dangerous parking and our Initial Questionnaire was full of comments about this issue. We all know the pinch points around the village, and yes, we also know that outsiders contribute to this: but before we can tackle that we need to get our own houses in order. And that means everyone taking responsibility and thinking about our fellow residents. It's not just about blocking the traffic: it's pedestrians, those with limited mobility, push chairs and children. We share a beautiful place and people should feel safe walking and driving around it. We don't want to have to resort to measures such as painting yellow lines over our lovely village.

So we are pleased to launch our **Considerate Parking** campaign with the full support of the Parish Council. Please read on.

#### Considerate Parking

Why launch a considerate parking campaign now, when people are being told to stay at home? Parking and traffic are perennial problems, and good neighbourliness never goes out of fashion. We are asking everyone to think twice about how and where they park, for reasons of safety and in a spirit of cooperation.

This is a small village. Even if you can't park exactly where you want, nobody has to walk far. So please be considerate where you park. We all know there are blind

corners as you head in out from Shipton; frequent congestion by the pub and rail-way crossing; difficulties manoeuvring around the Church and Green; problems for residents along the High Street and Shipton Road.

The Government is closing its consultation on parking regulations in November. By the time you read this, all parking on pavements may be illegal: obstructing pavements so that wheelchairs and pushchairs cannot get by is already an offence and can result in fines. Whatever the outcome, we are asking our fellow residents to go above and beyond the letter of the law when considering the needs of pedestrians, those with pushchairs, dog walkers, our elderly villagers, riders, children on bicycles and skateboards; and making sure you are not blocking driveways or visibility for those entering and exiting.

#### Roadside Parking

Although in some cases parking on a pavement is not currently illegal there are reasons that differentiate between acceptable and illegal conditions. The conditions are clearly laid out in the latest Highway Code (of which of course we have all thoroughly read the latest version!) and the guidelines are as shown below:

In general vehicles should not park on the pavement, but if vehicles need to park partially on the pavement, there is a legal requirement to leave enough space for pushchairs, wheelchairs and elderly people with restricted mobility to get through on the pavement, otherwise the vehicle will be officially causing an obstruction of the highway, which is an offence.

"Parking a vehicle on the pavement could lead to an offence of obstruction being committed - this could result in a fixed penalty notice being issued to offending vehicle/s. This is because parking on the pavement can obstruct pedestrians and wheelchair users, forcing them to use the road to pass a parked vehicle/s" Vehicles should not be parked within 10 metres of a junction (for example dropping off children at school) doors should not be opened onto the road or pavement without looking first and making sure children getting out of cars do the same.

#### Parking (Rule 243 Highway Code)

**DO NOT** stop (except when forced to do so by stationary traffic) or park

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- at or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank
- on the approach to a level crossing/tramway crossing
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane

- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend
- where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities

When considering the number of vehicles parked partially on the pavement there is a need to understand the reasons people do this.

- have they no driveways to park their vehicle/s?
- has planning allowed over-development of properties to remove parking?
- are verges and banks too wide, preventing pedestrians from walking?
- are owners concerned about possible damage to their vehicles from passing vehicles?
- are they thinking that they might be obstructing other vehicles?

#### Night-time parking

- 1. You **MUST NOT** park on a road at night facing against the direction of the traffic flow unless in a recognised parking space.
- 2. Cars, light goods vehicles, motorcycles and pedal cycles may be parked without lights on a road (or lay-by) with a speed limit of 30 mph (48 km/h) or less if they are:
  - at least 10 metres (32 feet) away from any junction, close to the kerb and facing in the direction of the traffic flow; or
  - in a recognised parking place or lay-by.

Other vehicles and trailers, and all vehicles with projecting loads, **MUST NOT** be left on a road at night without lights.

#### Legal Effect of The Highway Code

The Highway Code isn't the law, but many of its rules are also legal requirements under the Roads Traffic Act, which you can be prosecuted for contravening.

The parking rules in *The Highway Code* that are also legal requirements are identified by the words 'must' or 'must not'. In these cases, the rules reflect corresponding criminal law.

Offenders may be cautioned, given licence penalty points, fined, banned from driving, or imprisoned, depending on the severity of the offence.

Although failure to comply with the other rules would not, in itself, cause a person to be prosecuted, the Highway Code may be used in court under the Road Traffic Act to establish liability. These include advisory rules with wording 'should' and 'should not' or 'do' and 'do not'.

Government data states that the maximum vehicle width in UK is 2.55m, which covers emergency vehicles, ambulances and fire engines, and farm vehicles; this

width does not cover the rear view mirrors. This should give an idea that a road/lane of 6m width means that two cars should be able to pass each other safely without touching each other. These widths give some idea of what needs to be considered when looking at parking problems. We are looking at all solutions, but this begins with the residents. The Parish Council does not have the power to enforce parking at present.

### **Children Invited to Help**

As the children in the village are affected by the behaviour of vehicles driving through and/or parked in the village, it has been decided to offer a prize for any child designing a poster which is considered the best to attract the attention of vehicle drivers and putting forward the issues of speed and parking within the village. An example of the poster to be displayed for children living in the village to see is shown on Page 48.

#### **Comments**

If you have comments or questions regarding traffic and transport in Ascott, please feel free to contact the Neighbourhood Plan group on <a href="mailto:np@ascottpc.org.uk">np@ascottpc.org.uk</a> or any members of the Parish Council.





## **NATURE NOTES**

Two chance encounters, when walking the dog, served to remind me of the activities of my misspent youth. In my pre and early teens I developed an interest studying the insects to be found in the countryside around my home town. Because the roads were much quieter than today, I was able to cycle far and wide with no concern for my safety. I was especially interested in butterflies, which I collected (something that should not be done today, collect photographs only) and also raised them from purchased eggs or pupae. My second particular interest was beetles. These are always less conspicuous than butterflies and require more careful searching, often in some rather odd places.

There are approximately 20,000 insect species to be found in Britain of which only 50 to 55 are butterflies and this number includes some uncommon migrants, whereas the number of beetles is at least 3,600. Yet beetles are largely unnoticed going about their lives hidden from our view.

What makes a beetle? First the fore-wings are nearly always hardened into elytra which serve as covers for a pair of hind-wings which are elaborately folded underneath. In most cases the *elytra* cover the whole of the rear section (abdomen), but in some, such as rove beetles, the abdomen is partly uncovered. Beetles may be thought of as the armour-plated tanks of the insect world! Beetles have chewing mouthparts enabling them to eat a wide variety of food. Some are carnivorous, whilst others will consume vegetable matter, fungi and even animal faeces. There are a few beetle species that are parasitic and their mandibles are sharp and grooved so that they can be used for sucking blood. Beetles life cycle consists of egg, larvae, pupae and adult, the larval stage being totally different from the adults. Most beetle larvae have well developed heads, with jaws and three pairs of jointed legs and have as varied a diet as their adult stage. They are even more difficult to find than the adults spending this stage of their lives hidden away, underground, in leaf litter, under loose bark, in rotten wood and even cow-pats. Going back to my misspent youth I used to search for dung beetles and these were found by turning over cow-pats where the tops had started to dry out, but were still moist underneath. My search was for the Dor Beetle the largest of the dung beetles at 20-25mm with a black shiny body and a metallic blue or purple sheen. They are on the wing during spring evenings, often searching cow pastures looking for fresh dung to eat and to provide home and food for their offspring. After



mating the male and female stay together digging burrows with chambers and tunnels close to or underneath a suitable heap of dung. The female does the digging, whilst the male clears away the excess soil and provides dung balls that are pushed down the burrow and into a chamber and then a single egg is laid. More dung is taken down and finally the burrow is sealed with clay. Once the

egg hatches it will feed on the surrounding dung for up to one year, pupate and emerge in the following spring as an adult to start the whole process again. If you catch a Dor beetle turn it upside down and you may find many small yellow mites clinging to its underside. No one is quite sure why they are there. Are they parasites feeding on the beetle's body fluids or are they just passengers seeking a lift to new fresh faeces?

Not all my searches involved such unpleasant activities as searching cow pats. Many differing species could be found by turning over stones or moving fallen logs. One of my favourite finds was the Devil's Coach Horse a rove beetle with typical short wing cases and an exposed abdomen. At 20-30mm and with powerful jaws this beetle is a fearsome nocturnal hunter taking other insects, worms, woodlice, spiders and carrion. When disturbed it opens its jaws and raises its hind end as a threat display. It is quite capable of giving a significant nip if handled! If the threat gesture doesn't work it is able to emit a foul smell from its abdomen and unpleasant fluid from both ends. In a mild winter it will remain active throughout the year but in cold weather it hibernates underground. They mate in the autumn and a single egg is laid in a dark damp habitat, such as leaf litter or a mossy area. After 30 days the larva will emerge, living mainly under-



ground and like the adult it is carnivorous and equipped with powerful jaws. During this time, it undergoes three successive growth stages (instars) the final stage before pupation takes about 150 days. Pupation lasts for another month after which the adult will emerge. As far back as the Middle Ages this insect has been associated with the devil and they were thought to be able to curse a per-

son by pointing their upraised rear at them.

I was very lucky where I lived to be close to a stream that flowed into the River Cherwell. This was slow moving and housed many interesting invertebrates. I was not popular when arriving home with a jam jar of leeches! It was also home to a number of water beetle species, the most obvious being Whirligig beetles. Always found in a small group these small beetles seem to whirl around aimlessly. In actual fact their movements are carefully planned. Hungry beetles move to the outside of the group where there is less competition for food, but a higher risk of encountering predators, whereas those that have fed are happy to be in the centre of the group, which is a safer position. Males are also more likely to be found

on the outside of the group. Their front legs are designed for grasping prey, but the middle and hind legs are shorter and paddle like. Males front legs also have suckers in order to hold onto females when mating. Whirligigs spend most of their time on the water's surface, although they can dive and do lay their eggs on underwater plants. When they hatch their larvae spend their lives under water. One special adaptation Whirligigs have is eyes that



are divided into upper and lower portions so that they can see well both above and below the water's surface.

That's the end of my reminiscence from much longer ago than I'm happy to admit. I still have an interest in all wildlife, but my days of attacking cow-pats are fortunately well past.

**Stuart Fox** 



Guess who the babies are waiting to be picked-up to go to the clinic at Milton?. The photograph was taken outside Cook's shop on the corner of the High Street and London Lane in 1937?

For the answers please see Page 52

# Oxfordshire must play its part to control the virus and save lives

Help will be available to those who need it this winter as the Oxfordshire community comes together to do its bit to control the virus and save lives.

That's the message from local leaders who are urging residents and businesses to carefully follow the new lockdown guidelines from the government this week.

It's clear that the second lockdown will be tough on residents and businesses across the county, which is why it's so important to make sure it is effective. Oxfordshire's council leaders, the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership have come together to say that everyone must play their part to help control the spread of the virus once again to save lives.

That means staying at home and not gathering with people you do not live with. The full guidance is on the government's website:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november.

Even under normal circumstances, winter puts a significant strain on the resources of Oxfordshire's NHS and other health services, and the escalating cases of COV-ID-19 across the whole country are already adding an even bigger burden, putting more lives at risk. Staying home and following the guidelines is the only way to help save lives.

This brings additional challenges, and over the course of the first lockdown, communities across the county came together in an incredible show of support to make sure everyone in their neighbourhoods got the help and support they needed.

The six Oxfordshire authorities will once again be working together and closely with their local communities to ensure anybody in need of help getting their basic supplies is connected with people who are able to help them.

Information on the support available for residents can be found on the councils' websites:

- Cherwell residents: www.cherwell.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Oxford city residents: <a href="https://www.oxford.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.oxford.gov.uk/coronavirus</a>
- Oxfordshire County Council: <a href="www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus</a>
- South Oxfordshire residents: www.southoxon.gov.uk/covid19
- Vale of White Horse residents: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/covid19
- West Oxfordshire residents: <a href="www.westoxon.gov.uk/communities-and-leisure/coronavirus-community-support/">www.westoxon.gov.uk/communities-and-leisure/coronavirus-community-support/</a>

In addition to the support provided to businesses by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership <a href="www.oxfordshirelep.com/coronavirus">www.oxfordshirelep.com/coronavirus</a>, the councils also provide a vital support service to give advice and guidance to businesses worried about the impact the second lockdown will have.

- Cherwell businesses: www.cherwell.gov.uk/business
- Oxford city businesses: <a href="https://www.oxford.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.oxford.gov.uk/coronavirus</a>
- Oxfordshire County Council support for businesses: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/covidbusinesssupport
- South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse businesses: www.svbs.co.uk
- West Oxfordshire businesses: <a href="https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/">https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/</a> or email business@westoxon.gov.uk

Cllr Michele Mead, Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We have a fantastic sense of community in West Oxfordshire and I know we will all pull together once more to help each other over the next few weeks.

"It promises to be a difficult time but it is important we stick by the Government guidelines and try to stay as safe as possible. We will get through it hopefully in time to enjoy a proper family Christmas."

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, said: "It is well documented that we have been concerned about the rise in the number of cases in Oxfordshire. I welcome any move that will help to stem the spread of the virus and protect our communities. I urge people to stick to the rules and hopefully in time we will see a positive impact on the number of cases both locally and nationally."

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, said: "The announcement of a further national lockdown by the Prime Minister will come as a huge blow to us all. We all have an unenviable task of managing the economic, social and health consequences for us all against the apparently exponential spread of the virus. Many people will be uncomfortable with these further restrictions, that come after so many extraordinary months that have changed our lives. Thames Valley Police will continue to enforce these unprecedented restrictions in the same common-sense fashion that they have demonstrated in recent months. The approach will be to engage with the public, explain the new rules, encourage people to protect each other by following these new laws and to enforce only as a last resort. This is not the "new normal", but exceptional measures that must be taken to allow us to return to normality."

**Nigel Tipple, Chief Executive of OxLEP**, said: "Following the Government's decision to return the whole of England into lockdown – as has been the case in recent weeks and months – we will continue to work with Oxfordshire's health officials, our local authority counterparts, the county's MPs and our business

community to ensure the additional support that our businesses will undoubtedly require during this period is in place and made readily available.

"We ask that businesses follow the new guidelines and adhere to any actions required, including those industries permitted to remain active during this lock-down period.

"We also encourage businesses to be as proactive as possible and seek any support that is needed, whether via existing government schemes or indeed the support and advice we are able to offer as the county's Local Enterprise Partnership. We would also ask that businesses seek to understand – and be aware of – any future support announced by Government.

"Coronavirus has created an unprecedented situation and will cause concern and disruption to businesses of all sizes for the foreseeable future. We will continue to work hard to ensure that our business community can be supported – and remain resilient – during this challenging period."



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# Kids' Competition!

Design a sign to warn drivers to slow down through Ascott for a chance to win a prize and have your sign displayed on the village roads.

Please make your sign on A3 paper (you can collect some from Naomi at 8 Heritage Lane if you need it) and hand it in at 8 Heritage Lane by 30 January 2021. Put your name, age and address in Ascott on the back.

The competition is open to all children living in the Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish. There are two age categories, 0-10 and 11-18. There will be a winner (£25 prize) and two runners up (£10 prize) in each category. Winning signs will be printed and displayed around the village. Winners and runners up will be printed in *The Grapevine*. Thanks to the Village Charity for funding and judging the competition.

Things to think about when you are designing your sign:

- The sign needs to be read quickly from a moving car so your design needs to be big and bold.
- How will you grab the drivers' attention? Will you use bright colours or simple shapes? Will you include words? And pictures?
- What is your message? What might you need to remind drivers to slow down for?
- · What will you make it with: paints, collage, felt tips?

Help make the roads in your village safer.

# ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB

2020 is the historic year when AUWCC "came back from the dead" like a Phoenix. We crammed in 15 "socially distanced" matches, winning 6 and losing 9 using 33 different players, youngest 12, oldest 54! We're planning an end of season awards evening, when COVID-19 allows.

We started breathing life into the cricket square back in January, and it played very well - despite some games on soft damp pitches. We've just completed a full renovation of the pitches ready for next season.

We've acquired and built a mobile net frame, established some practice pitches, replaced the ancient pitch roller with a more modern one, and built two brand new sight screens!

A heart felt thank-you from all the players to supporters, villagers, Oxfordshire Cricket Board and everyone else that helped with this rewarding project.

We've lots of exciting plans for 2021. The most dramatic being we have been accepted to play Saturday league cricket; the first time at Ascott for generations. This should be in the new amalgamated Cherwell league structure, playing all the local teams. For this we are looking for some club umpires, to travel with the team on a rota each Saturday - paid £45 per match, with a free cricket tea!

We will also maintain friendly Sunday fixtures for those not wanting such a competitive playing experience.

All being well, we'll start indoor winter net practice in January / February - probably at Charlbury Community Centre, new players welcome.

Whether we win or lose, we enjoy ourselves and all 11 players are made sure to be fully involved in the game. And we'll really look the part! Thanks to The Swan, we've resplendent new match shirts in bright green and white, they look magnificent. And with assistance from G & M Tyack we've wonderful matching hooped green & white cloth caps too!

If anybody wants to get involved in either a playing or non-playing capacity, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Stewart Moss, Chairman. 07866 278685

Auwcricketclub@hotmail.com Twitter: @AUWCricketClub

Village website: www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk

# 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.

# Help at hand to keep you warm and help tackle climate change this winter

Temperatures are falling as autumn kicks in so there's never been a better time to make your home warmer while saving money and cutting carbon emissions.

Home energy retrofit is a Council priority as part of its commitment to taking climate action in West Oxfordshire.

We work with our partner organisation, the National Energy Foundation (NEF), to ensure residents have access to information on home energy efficiency and heating improvements as well as grants.

This is done through the Better Housing Better Health service available to residents.

This service aims to reduce the number of people in fuel poverty and provides access to impartial energy advice and free home energy visits known as Warm and Well assessments.

The NEF also helps people on low incomes to obtain grants for energy efficiency and heating improvements in their homes.

This winter the Council will be providing additional funding support for energy improvements to the people in West Oxfordshire who need it most. Contact the Better Housing Better Health service to find out whether you are eligible for our fuel poverty grant.

You may be able to receive a grant if you:

- Are in receipt of a means-tested benefit
- Are over the age of 60
- Live in an Energy Performance Certificate F or G banded property
- Are eligible for other schemes operated by Better Housing Better Health

Take a look at the NEF's Warmer This Winter campaign, for more information on making energy-efficiency improvements to your home. You can also find out how to apply for a voucher under the Government's recently launched Green Homes Grant.

For more information see: <a href="http://www.bhbh.org.uk/grants-and-funding/?utm\_source=NEF%20Website%20Home%20GHG&utm\_medium=NEF%20Website%20Home%20GHG&utm\_campa">http://www.bhbh.org.uk/grants-and-funding/?utm\_source=NEF%20Website%20Home%20GHG&utm\_campa</a>

For residents or landlords who need advice on how to make energy efficiency and heating improvements to their properties, the Cosy Homes Oxfordshire initiative can provide a home improvement plan.

Village website: www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk

It can also help maximise the value of the UK Government's green homes grant voucher scheme. See <a href="https://cosyhomesoxfordshire.org/green-homes-grant/">https://cosyhomesoxfordshire.org/green-homes-grant/</a> for more details.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, said: "There is plenty of advice and grants available for residents looking to make their homes warmer, as well as cutting carbon emissions.

"Heating your home effectively doesn't have to cost the earth and we are here to help residents with the access to the best advice, how to go about it and also access to grants for home energy retrofit."

#### **Contact Information**

West Oxfordshire District Council Communications Team

01993 861616 communications@westoxon.gov.uk.

# The Answer to the Questions

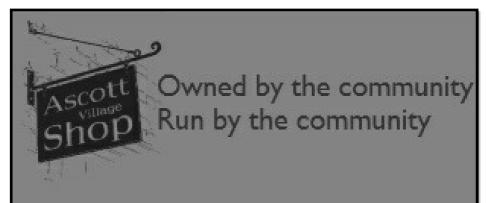
### **Photograph**

Left Jill Greenaway Centre Pat Barnes Right David Clemson

#### **Pantomime Answers:**

- 1. Aladdin
- 2. Gloucestershire
- 3. Cinderella
- 4. Jack and the Beanstalk
- 5. Aladdin
- 6. Cinderella

- 7. The family cow
- 8. Ugly Sisters
- 9. The lamp in Aladdin
- 10. Mother Goose (the goose)
- 11. Church Bells
- 12. King Rat



## LATEST NEWS

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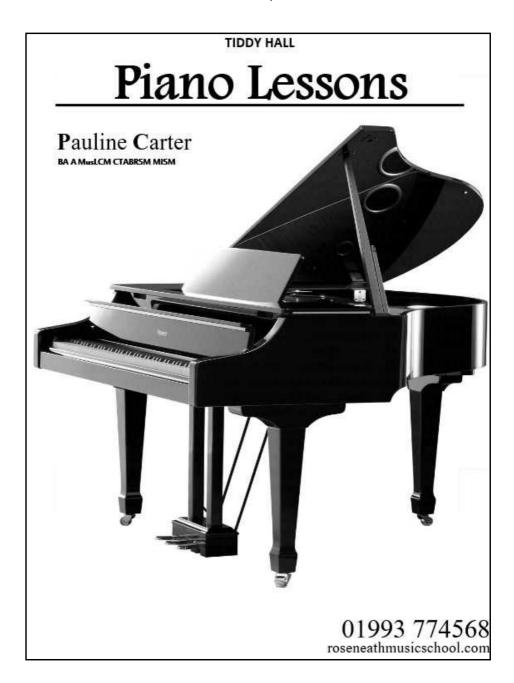
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## **TIDDY HALL**

Our world has certainly changed during this past year. However, at Tiddy Hall we have been working hard to overcome the challenges that the corona virus has put our way. September saw Pre School start up once again after their summer break and the Tiddy Hall Trustees would like to welcome them and our other regular users back during these challenging times. We all know that getting out and about, meeting up with friends and colleagues and having a good routine are important factors for our mental well-being. We at Tiddy Hall feel that by working collectively, and by adapting to doing things a little differently, we can make our hall a safe and pleasant environment for all during their lessons and classes!

The Trustees held their AGM in August and Chairman Simon Gidman expressed what

for us all, has been a very strange and somewhat disconcerting year. As with all village halls, Tiddy Hall closed in early March and it would not be opened properly until September.

Fortunately, Pre School continued to use the hall facilities from June 1st to July 17th and the Post Office also remained open during this time. Prior to the closing of the hall back in March, Tiddy Hall had frequent users, notably Qigong, Piano Lessons, Tea Dance Club, Fit Club, Circuits, Windrush Valley School, badminton, Post Office and of course Ascott Pre School. Simon thanked Pauline and her staff at Pre School for all their hard work during this year in particular. It had been very impressive to see the school get prepared so quickly and professionally in order to open on June 1st. Parents were impressed by the way the staff had to adapt the hall to limit children's interaction yet continue with their education — and during this rather dreary period, it was great to hear the children playing in the car park again during break times!

The trustees also discussed implementing a Covid 19 plan. Following government guidelines, safety measures were put in place to safeguard the health of our users and make the hall as Covid secure as possible.

Your Tiddy Hall Trustees for the coming year remain the same:

Chairman Simon Gidman
Honorary President Roger Shepherd
Treasurer Nick Carter
Booking Clerk Ingrid Ridley
Pre School Rep Pauline Plant
Health & Safely Graham Bell
Events Secretary Jacqui Bugeya

Pauline Carter has resumed her **piano lessons** which take place on Monday and Friday afternoons in the Committee Room. If you are interested in learning keyboard skills, please contact her on 01993 774568.

Pam Quirke is running more **Qigong** sessions, beginning November and again in January. This class takes place on Thursday evenings, starting at 7.30pm. Please get in touch if you would like to join her group, 07780 572283.

The new **Yoga Class**, run by Loren Killeen on Saturday mornings, 10am – 11am, is proving to be popular. Contact Loren on 07570 023868 or email her, <u>killenloreen@gmail.com</u> if you'd like to take part.

We are pleased to welcome another new class to **Tiddy Hall** – the **Matt Fiddes Martial Arts School** – they will be running **Kick Boxing** classes on Monday afternoon/early evening starting early November. Two beginners' classes will run initially, one for ages 3 – 6 and a second class for ages 7+, including adults. **Kick Boxing**, a form of martial arts, helps young people to develop key skills such as confidence, discipline and respect as well as improving one's general fitness. For further information please contact John & Sally Fahey on 07730 453172.

Due to social distancing rules, spaces are limited in all the classes mentioned above. If you are interested in joining, it would be wise to book your place in advance.

The **Tiddy Hall Trustees** would also like to take this opportunity of thanking our wonderful cleaner, Sally, who is working tirelessly, keeping our hall super clean for each user. As you can imagine, this is a humungous task during these times! Sally, we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being so understanding and flexible when required!

And, don't forget - **The Post Office** is still running its services every Friday afternoon 2pm-4pm!

Stay safe everyone!

The Tiddy Hall Team

### **Regular Activities:**

Monday - Friday Mornings

Pre-school

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant

07968 006451

Monday Afternoons 4pm - 6pm

Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter

01993 774568

Monday Afternoons 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Kick Boxing

Contact: John & Sally Fahey

07730 453172

Tuesday Night 7pm - 9pm

Dancing (temporarily suspended)
Contact: May & Terry Cox 01608

810721

Thursday Night 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Qigong

Contact: Pam Quirke 07780 572283

Friday Afternoons 3.30pm - 6pm

Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Saturday Morning 10am – 11am

Yoga

Contact: Loren Killeen 07570 023868

Post Office runs every Friday af-

ternoon 2pm - 4pm

## Ascott Preschool

# Sharing, learning and playing at Ascott Preschool this autumn

The children are having a wonderful time being back at Preschool. We had eleven new starters this term, and they have all settled in brilliantly. There are of course a few small changes to the way we work this year, but we have upped staffing levels to cope with extra cleaning and supervision within two 'bubbles' and it's working really well.

We have enjoyed lots of Harvest activities together. Everybody brought in foodbank donations, and some of the older children walked to Ascott Village Shop to add these items to the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank box kept there. We share breakfast at Preschool once a week and have been talking a lot about where our food comes from.

# Can you help? New minibus transport needed for weekly Forest School sessions

Our 'school leaver' children have started their Forest School sessions, getting suitably muddy on outings to the Bruern site we use. We currently hire a minibus from the Ace Centre in Chipping Norton to drive as a group to and from Forest School, but will not have access to this from March 2021. We are seeking an alternative, needed on Wednesdays to transport around ten children and three adults. Please do get in touch with Pauline Plant if you have any suggestions or think you may be able to help (ascott pp@btinternet.com or 01993 832671).

#### Making plans for a cheerful Christmas at Preschool

Looking ahead, we have exciting plans for Yuletide celebrations. Father Christmas is booked in to visit one night and leave a gift for every child by a 'chimney' at Preschool. We will be learning lots of festive songs and performing these as a Christmas 'show' that we will film for parents to watch at home. We will be selling Christmas craft packs and raffle tickets to continue to raise funds (Ascott Preschool is a registered charity and non-profit making organisation, so fundraising plays an essential role in enabling us to provide equipment and toys for the children).

# Find out more about Ascott Preschool: places available now for children aged 2.5–4

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 know more, please visit our website www.ascottpreschool.co.uk, or contact Pauline via email (ascott\_pp@btinternet.com) or phone (01993 832671).



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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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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

#### Administration

#### ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP GOES DIGITAL

You are now able to keep in touch with your community shop on Facebook and Instagram.

Log in as 'ascottvillageshop' and see what a wide and exciting range that we offer.

Keep up-to-date with new products and developments that will improve your shopping experience. Remember we are open 7 days a week and our volunteer staff will always greet you with a friendly smile. Come and visit us and you will be amazed at the wide range of products that we offer, often at very competitive prices. We look forward to serving you!

# Christmas at Ascott Village Shop

In these uncertain times of lockdowns and long queues, you can always rely on Ascott Village Shop to be there for you, to help make celebrating Christmas as easy, safe and sanitary as possible under the present circumstances.

We are enclosing our Festive Meats Order Form in this issue of the *Grapevine*, so you can preorder your turkey, goose, hams, other festive poultry and all the trimmings from Patrick Strainge Butchers. All of their top quality poultry and meat is locally reared under the very highest standards of animal husbandry and is amazingly tender and delicious. We guarantee you won't find any better meat at the supermarket. And if you're going to be trying out some new and exciting recipes over the festive season, we can also accommodate special orders for fruit and vegetables. Just remember that your meat order form and special fruit and veg orders need to be with us by Monday 7th December.

As well as everything you need for Christmas dinner, shop manager Bridgette always delights with her Christmas order, and this year's treats and surprises will start arriving in the shop during the second week of November.

If you've been baking up a storm in lockdown, you'll find the best quality dried fruits and everything else you need on our well-stocked baking shelves. If instead you're feeling lazy then we have a wide range of top quality mince pies, Christmas cookies, chocolates and other festive treats. And if 2020 has driven you to



drink, then our shelves are groaning with booze, including our own Ascott Shop champagne, fabulous prosecco and all the prerequisites for the merriest of Christmas cocktails, as well as lots of fancy nibbles to accompany them

If you're looking for gifts for your favourite people, we stock premium Advent Calendars and tins of Christmas biscuits and Bridgette has put together an excellent value hamper full of wine and treats. You can also talk to her about customizing a personal selection of goodies. Special orders for champagne, wine and other beverages as well as Christmas hampers also need to be with us by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Finally we've also joined the exciting world of social media this year. Follow @ascottvillageshop on Instagram or go to AscottVillageShop on Facebook for

news of the shop and community, special offers and new arrivals. Join in the conversation and let us know what you would like to see at the Ascott Village Shop. All feedback is useful and will help us support our community in every possible way, so you can celebrate the season in good health and happiness.

# DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LEAVES LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Jake Acock was elected in May 2018 as Liberal Democrat District Councillor for the Wychwoods. Since he joined the Liberal Democrats it became clear to him that there were serious issues within the party nationally and locally that he found difficult to accept.

For Jake the biggest issues were homophobia and lack of diversity coupled with ageism in the local party which lead to his views and ideas being challenged on the basis that he was too young. He finally decided to leave the Liberal Democrats as he was finding their ideas too left wing and certainly not liberal!

He has now joined the Conservative Party and will be working with them on the District Council. He says that they have shown they are the most diverse and accepting party and are always working effectively for the people of west Oxfordshire.

Jake will continue to work hard representing and helping all his constituents in the Wychwoods.

## Folk Club

The Folk Club is working hard in hopes of starting concerts in the new year but doesn't see much changing until at least March 2021.

# 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.

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 trustees will review all applications in to assist with the cost. All applications are dealt with in strict confidence.

The village charity is still in the position 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 full confidence to determine if they are within the Charity's power to assist.

#### Chairman

John Cull john@greenascott.co.uk

#### Trustees

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

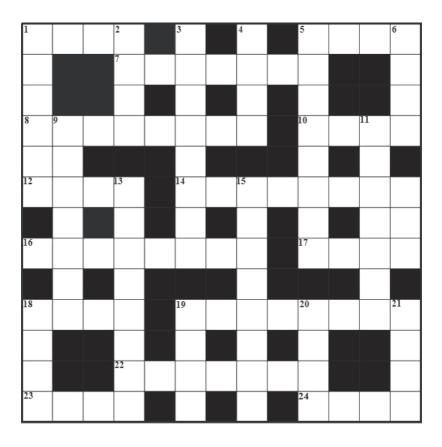
Elaine Byles elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

Mark Dawbarn mark@dawbarn.co.uk

Eleanor Bishop eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

## **Crossword Puzzle**



#### Across

- 1 Dandy (4)
- 5 Fish; heather (4)
- 7 Spire (7)
- **8** Vision (8)
- 10 Clarify; kind
- 12 Moist (4)
- **14** Amaze (8)
- **16** An escort (anag.) (8)
- 17 Culinary herb (4)
- 18 Lazy (4)
- 19 Stated (8)
- **22** Sure (7)
- **23** Enormous (4)
- 24 Small branch (4)

#### Down

- 1 French cheese (4)
- **2** Utilises (4)
- 3 NCO (8)
- **4** See; place (4)
- 5 Needless (anag.) (8)
- 6 Present (4)
- **9** Longed (7)
- 11 Determination (7)
- **13** Make-believe (8)
- 15 Renegade (8)
- **18** Irritate (4)
- **19** Night (4)
- **20** Female relation (4)
- **21** Haul (4)

#### Solutions to Crossword in **Edition 107**

#### Across

- 1 Cons
- 5 Soul 7 Elation
- 8 Acid Rain
- 10 Eddv
- **12** Amos
- 14 Imprison
- 16 Commoner
- **17** Game
- 18 Stoa
- 19 Soothing
- 22 Helical
- 23 Pacy
- 24 Pang

#### Down 1 Cola

- 2 Send
- 3 Vacation
- 4 Sign
- 5 Sneezing
- 6 Lily
- 9 Comfort
- 11 Doorman
- 13 Sympathy
- 15 Perforce 18 Skip
- 19 Salt
- 20 Hide
- 21 Gong

# Local Business Directory

| <b>ACADEMY/GB DOORS</b> 01993 778836/01865 246444 www.garagedoors.org                                    | Page 47 |
|--|---------|
| ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253 www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk                    | Page 58 |
| ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk                 | Page 53 |
| COTSWOLD BEAUTY 01993 832446/07917 341143 enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net                                     |         |
| www.cotswoldbeauty.net   | Page 6  |
| COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006   |         |
| www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk   | Page 18 |
| DRY STONE WALLING 01242263428/07980564508<br>drystonewalling@tomhazzledine.co.uk www.tomhazzledine.co.uk | Page 58 |
| FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND 01993 878387   |         |
| helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk  | Page 12 |
| FARMHOUSE B&B 01993831900 sally@college-farm.com   | Page 58 |
| FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299  |         |
| wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com   | Page 65 |
| GROVES SHOP 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425 info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk          | Page 61 |
| HOUSEHOLD SERVICES 07729712148 brianjholmes@hotmail.com  | Page 27 |
| INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993830612/07952657906 ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk     | Page 22 |

| IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268  | Page 17 |
|--|---------|
| JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com   | Page 22 |
| JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020 info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com | Page 17 |
| LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357   | Page 58 |
| LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105 www.LEDOxford.co.uk  | Page 59 |
| ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com   | Page 27 |
| ROSENEATH 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com -   | Page 54 |
| THE LAUNDRY COMPANY 01608645582 07794 830703   |         |
| www.tlccotswolds.co.uk   | Page 22 |
| The SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascot.com<br>www.countrycreatures.com                         | Page 24 |

## Events Calendar - 2020-21

Date Time Event Venue

The Events Calendar is suspended until the next issue.