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you would like to help The Ascott Grapevine continue, any donation large or small would be ap-	The Grapevine editorial team reserve the right to shorten, amend or reject any material submitted for publication.
preciated. You can give a donation to any member of the editorial team.	Opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the edi- torial 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.	Advertising Rates
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Local Churches

Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572	Burford Methodist Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993
St Mary's Shipton	845322 Westcote Methodist
Churchwarden James Walmsley	Tony Gibson 01993 830699
01993 830842	Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472
SS Simon & Jude, Milton	Roman Catholic
Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160	SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford
St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385	Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-in-the- Wold
Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282	Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton Priest: Fr Antony Joyce 01608 642703.
	St Teresa, Charlbury
Wychwood Baptist, Milton	Priest: Fr Clive Dytor 07484158642
Pastor John Witts 01993 832865	Mass at Charlbury 09:15

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. 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 - Summer 2021

Changing perspective

I spend a lot of time in my car, driving between the four villages of the Benefice. I never tire of looking at this beautiful corner of Oxfordshire. Each season brings its own joy: the daffodils appearing in the verges, the May blossom and gradual greening of the trees as they burst into leaf, the changing colour of the fields as crops grow and are harvested and the way that the differing angles of the sun affects what you can see in the distance.

But this spring, as I have been driving from Enstone to Chadlington, through Taston and Spelsbury, I have enjoyed seeing something that I have not noticed before. Over the winter months the mature hedges on either side of the road have been cut back, revealing a view of Spelsbury Church not previously visible from the road. A good few years ago a large conifer was removed from the front of Spelsbury Church by the west door. The result has been that the Church is now visible from all over the valley, and very fine it looks too in the spring sunshine. Cutting things down, stripping things away, often gives us a new view or perspective.

On 1st June, I am going to undergo something of a similar experience — although I hope not as dramatic! The Bishop has granted me a three-month Sabbatical – a period of time when I lay down my day-to-day responsibility for the parishes of the Chase Benefice and I will be away from the Benefice until Sunday 12 September. A sabbatical is not a holiday as such. It is a chance for rest, reflection and discernment. During this time I am going to spend time in retreat, taking time away from normal working life to be alone with God. I am also going to spend time weaving, a much neglected hobby, and visiting some weavers on the islands of the Outer Hebrides, as well as enjoying being with the family, doing some reading, walking and just 'being' rather than 'doing'. Some of this time will be away from the Benefice, some of it will be based at the Vicarage - but I will not be involved in any Benefice activity nor will I engage in any conversations about the Benefice or look at emails!

This is the second sabbatical that I have been granted in 28 years of ordained min-

istry and comes as I approach the 20th anniversary of becoming Rector of the Chase Benefice. I am ready for three months of Sabbath rest with its change of pace and perspective.

During this time Ilona Cheyne, our Assistant Curate, will be taking on pastoral responsibility for the Benefice, supported by the Churchwardens and PCCs. All enquiries should in the first instance be directed to her. I am extremely grateful to have Ilona as a colleague and to be able to leave the Benefice in her care. And I will look forward to returning to the Benefice in mid September when hopefully we will have emerged fully from the shadow of COVID-19. In the meantime I wish you a peaceful and sunny summer!

With every good wish and blessing.

Mark Abrey

A Trip down Memory Lane

I have just returned from my sister, who lives in Ascott, (best part of 70 years I myself grew up there, lived in Ascott, from 1953 until 1986), she gave me 3 editions of your wonderful magazine. I was reading the 2020 winter edition, and came across a feature about the garage. I remember it so very well, Chris, and Vernon before him. My first car was a Wolseley 1500 in 1967, I was 17 years old, earning fantastic money on building sites, it was mentioned in the article, that in the late sixties you could buy approximately 4 gallons (18.2 Litres) of petrol for \pounds 1, well that's about right, because when I first got my car, as I said 1967, it was 4 shillings a gallon, for younger readers that's 20 pence a GALLON. I used to put 10 shillings (50 pence) worth in on a Friday, when I got paid. If I put a pounds worth in I was off to Cornwall or somewhere like that. In those days, as I recall, only Kevin Scully and I in our gang had cars, and Jacko (Geoff Jackson) used his dad's, his dad was the landlord of the Swan for I think for 23 years, it was an unwritten rule we never left anyone behind when we went, we all went, off to Chippy or Witney or anywhere for that matter. Thinking back virtually every house had a couple of kids of our age group so there was quite a lot of us, those cars were jam packed full usually, where we went we all went.

I have very fond memories of Ascott, born in Chippy war memorial hospital, first 3 years of my life in Lyneham, then from aged 3 until 30 in Ascott. Travelled extensively in USA, Africa, Europe, Scandinavia and so on, but coming home from say Leafield, or the Shipton downs direction, when it all opens out, I always sing, you know "The Green Green Grass of Home" by Tom Jones "The old home town looks the same", even to this day I sing it. Hello to all my childhood friends, what a time we had growing up in the 60's and 70's never to be repeated by any generation, in my humble opinion.

Best Regards to everyone.

Brian Guntrip Now a townie in Witney. 2/4/2021

Nick Leadbetter

Nick Leadbetter was born in Aldershot on the 24th of May 1953 and sadly died

from a heart attack on Friday 19th February 2021, aged 67. He is survived by his two daughters, Emma and Hannah and 4 Grandchildren whom he adored, Holly (11), Zach (8), Summer (7) and Halle (4). He was a much-loved Dad, Grandpa, Father-in-Law and friend to many and will leave a un-fillable hole in all their lives.

Nick's father was in the Army and as such he lived in several places throughout his early childhood years and was lucky enough to experience living in Nigeria from 1959-1961 when Nigeria was granted full independence. He had many fond memories and interesting stories of his life there during that time. He left Nigeria in 1961 when he was 8 years old and moved to Truro in Cornwall where he spent the rest of his childhood doing what he loved most - surfing, riding horses and playing rugby, he was a very talented rugby player and continued to play during his early years in the Army.

Nick had always wanted to join the Army and in 1969 he went to Welbeck De-

fence 6th Form College, where he became Head Boy during his last year. From Welbeck Nick joined the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and commissioned into REME in 1973. A successful 23-year career followed which included tours in Northern Ireland during the troubles, Cyprus, USA and various locations in the UK and Germany. Nick was awarded the MBE in 1986 for successfully leading the first trial of a networked computer system within the Army. Nick was described by his peers and seniors as "having an infectious sense of humour" and "painstakingly diligent, perceptive, and popular. He combined the ability to make decisions along with not standing fools gladly and adding humour when appropriate."

Sadly in 1993 whilst serving in Germany, his wife Sarah was killed in a road traffic accident that left him totally devastated. He relocated back to the UK and in 1995, after a couple of years working at the Royal Military College of Science he moved to Ascott-U-Wychwood and retired from the Army.

Despite retiring from the Army, Nick maintained a theme of service - particularly service to the community throughout the rest of his life. He became a non-executive Director for the NHS Primary Care Trust and a member of the Board of Visitors for HM Prison Grendon. In 1999 he spent 6 months with the Foreign Office in Bosnia and on his return undertook numerous consultancy projects with the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) and Royal Military College of Science. He became chairman of the ABF for Oxfordshire in 2006 and during his tenure raised £240k for the charity.

Nick's love of horses continued throughout his life and he took the opportunity to ride whenever he could. Nick went on a number of horseback safaris in Malawi

before his big adventure in 2014 when he rode over 1500 miles across the Namibian Desert, an experience he described as "a once in a lifetime opportunity never to be forgotten".

In 2012 he stopped work to focus on the things he enjoyed most in life including spending time with his grandchildren. He organised a family holiday in Cornwall every May over his Birthday weekend and the grandchildren still affectionately call Cornwall "Grandpas Birthday Home". He created so many happy memories for them of beach time, ice creams, horse riding, surfing, Easter egg hunts and many other adventures.

In keeping with his wishes Nick was privately cremated on the 26th February at Oxford Crematorium, and will be laid to rest with his wife Sarah - who was the love of his life, on 29th May. The family are comforted by thought that they are finally together again.

Nick will be fondly remembered by the many people in Ascott that he came into contact with through his involvement in village activities and his vast leadership skills. He served as a Parish Councillor and also as the Parish Responsible Financial Officer. During his time as a Councillor and in the years afterwards he always took an interest in planning matters, often campaigning against developments that he felt were unsuitable. After the floods of 2007 he was instrumental in organising the village emergency plan, liaising with local authorities, advising on equipment to be purchased, explaining the correct use of communications via radio and drawing up a list of procedures to be followed to ensure that all volunteers knew exact-



ly what to do and how to stay safe whatever the emergency.

In the months preceding the year 2000 Nick was one of a small band that was taught to ring Ascott's church bells, so that we would be able to ring-in the new millennium. Nick became a regular ringer, for Sunday services and weddings, almost always ringing the heaviest bell! Nick was a regular volunteer at the village community shop taking charge of the opening shift on Tuesdays prior to Covid. You could guarantee that on that day the shop always opened early with everything in place ready to welcome the first customer. In 2016 he became Chairman of our shop management committee stepping down in 2019. Under his guidance as Chairman sensible and necessary improvements to our equipment and infrastructure were made for which the shop is still the beneficiary today.

A tribute from John Cull

It is with great sadness that we heard earlier this week of the sudden death of our fellow volunteer and past Chairman Nick Leadbetter.

Nick always had the village close to his heart. He moved into The Old Post House in the nineties and it's where we first learned about Nick's charity work as Chairman of the Oxfordshire Branch of the Army Benevolent Fund.

Nick had a distinguished Army Career and served with the Household Cavalry. He was awarded his MBE for services in Germany recognised as 'exceptional'. This was during a period in the Cold war, when tensions were running high between East and West and under Nick's leadership the British Army ensured all British tanks and vehicles were 'up to scratch'.

Some job!

Nick brought his vast leadership skills to the village and we saw this at first hand in 2016 when he took over as Chairman of the Village Shop. Under his guidance, sensible and necessary improvements to our equipment and infrastructure were made for which we are the beneficiaries today. When he stepped down as Chairman in 2019, Nick continued as one of our front-line volunteers taking charge of the Tuesday opening slot prior to Covid.

I have attached Nick's first 'Volunteers' Newsletter which tells us all we need to know about Nick's dedication as a 'Man of the Village' and his calling to the Village shop.

To Nick's family, friends and colleagues, we salute a great man.

John Cull

Nick's Letter About the Village Shop

This is my first shot at continuing John Cull's Newsletter to all of you, the backbone of the Village Shop. I will not repeat what you can all read in the Winter Grapevine article but I hope to paint a picture for you about where the Shop is successful and where vulnerable. I also hope you will find what follows interesting to you but am conscious that one person's interest can be a large yawn for others. This is my take on what is happening and how things might take shape in the near-future. Please let me know if there is an area I do not cover that you would like to know more about. Any factual errors are my own.

The Viability of the Shop

I believe the Shop is still viable and in good shape, though only a small part of the village uses it on a regular basis. In 2007 when we had the terrible floods, masses

of people came in for essentials and when the water receded, they floated away. Similarly, in 2010 with the snow storms that made life difficult right across the Christmas period, the Shop was a saviour for many, who came and bought us out of lavatory rolls, cans of soup and wine. Sadly, those people didn't come back to support the very Shop that they, then had relied upon.

It seems that fewer than 20% of the village uses the Shop on a regular basis – that is about 80 people, out of a population of about 450. You will recognise, of course, that you the volunteers are 50 out of this 80, so I must do more to try to get local villagers into the Shop.

The sales were 10% down on 2015 when John sent out his Newsletter in the Spring and I am very happy to say that this has improved with a good Summer season but we are still down by 4.6% on this time last year. Our cash reserve is around \pounds 31,000 but I must say that this should not make us feel reassured as the future costs of replacement equipment (freezers, chillers and the oven and the air conditioning system) is beginning to hit us quite hard. Most of the expensive equipment was bought in 2003, when we opened for business and it is now that we must think seriously about replacing it.

Promotions

Bridgette and I had an interesting first excursion together to Aldi to buy wine for her "two bottles for £10" promotion. I think that it is this sort of initiative that will encourage people to come in and use the Shop, so we must do all we can to advertise. Jack Morgan is helping me with advice on Twitter and Facebook – any ideas?

If I drive into Witney to do a supermarket shop it costs me £7.00 just to get there and back. There are, of course, things I can buy there that I cannot buy in the Village Shop but if I do it three times each week, that is a lot of money that I can spend in the Shop. I wonder how many people appreciate how much they might save by shopping with us; can we get this message out? I am very keen to emphasise the Shop is not exclusive, we have a wide range of normally priced stock items that cannot be bought more cheaply in Sainsbury's.

Competitiveness

What do you think? Are we competitive – are we competitive enough? Our mark up, across the range of our shelf items is 24.5%. I know that many people will be horrified at this but we are small and competing in a market that is brutal. The supermarkets are muscling in with delivery to door and this is particularly worrying. I honestly believe that the mark-up on our products is fair. You all know that the fresh produce gets discarded when it is past its best; and goodness, I only recently realised we can buy beer past its sell-by date at 3 for 2 - and my larder always seems to have beer past the date (bought from other sources), that still tastes fine. I bought three bottles of the Flagship beer on offer on Friday and enjoyed one last evening.

The Christmas treats are coming in now and are all displayed so well at the front of the shop; please do what you can to encourage friends to go in and look at it. I bought lovely Advent

Calendars from the shop for my grandchildren this year and my own mother loved to get a small basket of goodies from the Shop at Christmas; others in the village might think of these as appropriate gifts.

Committee

You all know that you have a new Committee to guide, help and run the Shop. I was appointed Chairman at our meeting on 16 October after being voted onto the Committee at the AGM. I am indebted to Stuart Fox for standing in as Chairman, while I tried to find my feet, and there are still some volunteers that I do not know personally, and for this I apologise. I will do my best to be better at this, because you are all so important and I do believe in the Shop and your vital role in its success.

To my Committee members: Mark, Geoff, Stuart, Sally and Bridgette; I can only say thank you for the energy you bring to the Shop.

To all our volunteers, I say the village would not be the same place without you. The Shop is always a lovely place to walk into. The warmth and friendliness simply leaks from the building.

To all of you who have done your stuff over the years, and have decided to stand down but continue to support us in so many ways, the Village is surely in your debt.

Nick Leadbetter

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🞇 Wychwood Project

Local artists launch community project to encourage fresh perspectives on nature

Do you have a favourite place, plant, or walk in the Wychwood area? Artists in residence at the Wychwood Project Nimmi Naidoo and Flora Gregory would love to hear from you. The artists would like to invite anyone living in the Wychwood area to share photos, videos, poems or artworks reflecting the places they love in the Wychwood Forest, to form the basis of an innovative virtual artwork that explores how we see the environment around us. Using these contributions, the artists will create an accessible webpage that celebrates our local environment, encourages us to discover new spaces, and helps us experience familiar places with fresh eyes. The Wychwood Project will also share contributions on their Instagram channel, to inspire audiences to engage afresh with the natural world around them.

Flora and Nimmi, known as the Mappists, create participatory art events that offer people different ways of connecting with nature. Recent events include 'Come into the Woods: Topples Wood' an opportunity for forest bathing and to connect to the woods through audio works, and 'The Map Room: Make your Mark!' where people mark the route of their Wychwood Forest walks on a map and talk about what they love about being in the forest. Flora and Nimmi both gained an MA in Social Sculpture at Oxford Brookes University. Social Sculpture is an art form that employs social processes, and puts forward the idea that we are all artists in that every aspect of life can be seen as creative.

So whether it's a space with wonderful birdsong, that one tree you always admire, a view filled with memory, or just a path you walk along every evening, the Mappists would love to see, hear, or read your impressions of it. Please send in anything you would like to contribute to <u>miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk</u> (who will share it with the Mappists), and keep an eye on the Wychwood Project's Instagram (@wychwoodproject) to learn what others love about the Wychwood area. We hope you enjoy the project, and that it helps us all find fresh perspectives on the natural world around us, for lockdown and beyond.

Notes

- To find out more about the Mappists, visit their website: <u>https://themappists.wordpress.com/</u>
- The Wychwood Project restores habitats in the area formerly covered by the Wychwood Forest, managing nature reserves in Witney, Charlbury, Woodstock, and Hailey. It also runs events and initiatives to help local communities engage with nature, from courses to a popular annual Forest Fair. Learn more at http://www.wychwoodproject.org/cms/.

- The Wychwood Project will share contributions on its Instagram channel (@wychwoodproject) and the Mappists will create a dedicated webpage presenting local people's impressions on nature.
- Any contributions at all are welcome.
- The idea is to develop a fresh perspective on the spaces around us, and to deepen understanding of how we all experience them.

If you would like further information, or to talk to Nimmi, Flora or the Wychwood Project, please contact miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk.









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

Share your life, change a life

Could you give someone the opportunity to live the fullest life they can live? Help them grow in confidence? Encourage them to become more independent and do things they never thought they would be able to do?

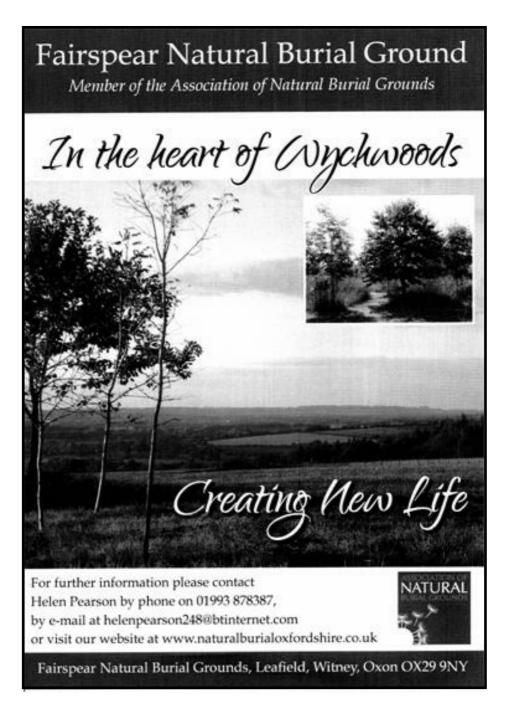
The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. The opportunity to share a family's life, as part of their household, gives them a valuable alternative to staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers.

Becoming a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council will make a big difference to someone's life. If you love people, and are looking for something that is rewarding, paid and home-based - share your life, change a life - oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers



The Forge Gallery

The Forge Garage at 2 the Green has been renovated and transformed into **The Forge Gallery** at Wychwood. The owner Motoko Aritake-Wild, is hoping that the gallery will be ready sometime at the end of the summer or early autumn this year as long as restrictions allow. This is such an exciting development for the future of Arts in our community. Motoko hopes that many of the Grapevine readers will join her for the opening. If you would like to come to the opening reception, please send an e-mail to <u>gallery@forgeatwychwood.co.uk</u> so that she can send you an invitation. Any local artists who are interested in showing their art work in the new gallery are also welcome to email details of their art with a link to their websites or Instagram.



Why 20mph limits are being set by local and national governments and why you should do the same

20's Plenty for Us Briefing Dec 2020

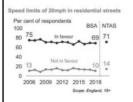
It is a near universal aspiration in communities to reduce traffic speed to be more compatible with community life and human survivability. 30mph limit 20's Plenty for Us defaults are no longer seen as fit for purpose for urban and village streets. Lower default limits are being set. Choose 20mph.

http://www.20splenty.org/why20mph

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Ask any Local Councillor or Police and Crime Commissioner for their most common public complaint and they will often say "traffic speed". Many local and national governments are ending default 30mph and setting 20mph limits for most roads instead. Council administrations for 21M people from left, right and centre parties as well as coalitions already agree that 20's plenty where people live, work, play, learn and shop.

At community and constituent level the support is overwhelming. In successive government social attitude surveys 70% agree that 20mph is the correct limit for residential streets. This is matched by local surveys before 20mph implementation which always show increased support after implementation.



The efficacy of a 20mph limit as normal road speed policy is supported by organisations such as WHO and UN General Assembly who endorsed the call made by 130 global road safety ministers to set 30kmh (18.6mph) as the maximum speed wherever pedestrians and cyclists mix with motors unless evidence exists that a higher speed can be made safe by separate facilities. Speed limiters in all new car models from 2022 will enhance compliance. In 2021 30kmh and 20mph default limits are the focus of the UN Global Road Safety Week.

Whilst Wales decided with cross-party Senedd support to set a national 20mph urban/village limit, English and Scottish central governments encourage local authorities to move away from the 30mph national limit and set 20mph on local roads. This is more expensive than a national approach. But already 17.5m people living in local authorities in England and Scotland benefit from a 20mph limit on most roads with signed speed limits with minimal new physical calming.

Costs are approx. £3 per head and provide value for money seven times higher than targeted physically calmed speed reduction zones. Gains are an impressive 20% reduction in crashes. Doing nothing simply adds to societal crash costs and the load on the NHS. And whilst 20mph gives quick value for money returns to society by crash and casualty reduction, the lower speed limits also become the foundation of local active travel, community connection, noise reduction, air quality and duty of care strategies so further widening the benefit. Wide area 20mph limits are a popular policy that wins economically, socially and environmentally.

Rod King MBE, Founder and Campaign Director for 20's Plenty for Us commented:-

"Once councillors understand the efficacy and popularity of 20mph default limits it is evidently a successful change for the better in communities. Key to understanding the benefits is to detach from the 'behind the windscreen' view and understand it as a network-wide lowering of speed, risk, casualties and fear of walking and cycling. We ask all prospective and elected local councillors and PCCs to embrace this important and vote-winning initiative. Put it in your manifesto and contact us for more information."

20's Plenty for Us campaigns for a 20mph default speed limit in built up areas without physical calming. Web www.20splenty.org Twitter @20splentyforus

Rod King MBE Founder & Campaign Director Campaign Manager rod.k@20splenty.org

Anna Semlven anna.s@20splenty.org 07973 639781 @20splentyforus 07572 120439 @AnnaSemlyen1 07415 243015

Jeremy Leach London Campaign Co-ordinator jeremy.l@20splenty.org

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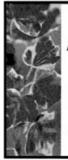
Station Road Garage, Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire OX7 6BQ

Overwhelming Response to Village Petition Against New Martyrs Memorial

Over 180 residents have signed the village petition opposing the idea of another memorial to the Ascott Martyrs in the form of an orchard/garden at the far end of High Street linked to a proposed development of seven new houses on the Cow Sheds put forward by Cornbury Estates and Bloombridge Developments. The strength of feeling against the idea has also been expressed in written objections to the planning application, with residents saying that the existing memorial seating around the Horse Chestnut tree on the Green and the Martyrs tapestry in the Church are enough and are in the right location to commemorate the historic events in a suitable way, and putting forward concerns that a fruit orchard could become unsightly over time, with wasps and flies gathering on fallen fruit in the summer. The petition has been presented to the Parish Council, the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust and WODC Planning. The proposers would like to thank everyone who has contributed and signed the petition.

Richard Smith, John Cull, Harriet O'Brien and Kevin Bishop

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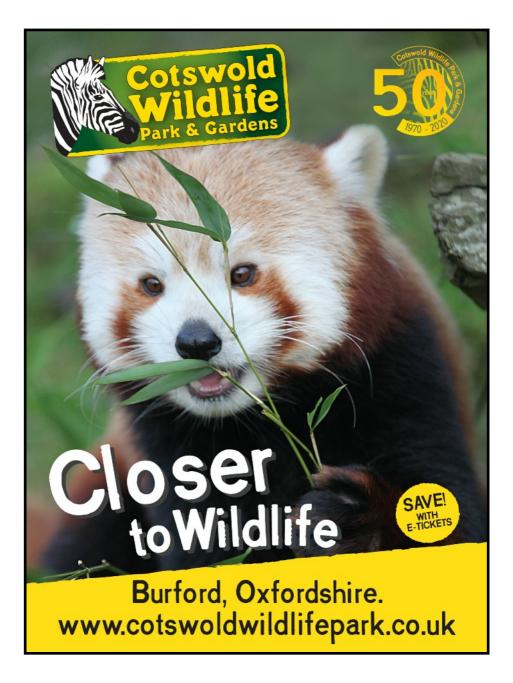
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	Programme							
	2020 – 2021							
	Milton Village Hall at 7.30pm							
2020	17 Sep Wychwood	Tim Marshall connection	Quaker clocks and Milton-	under-				
15 Oct	David Beaumont The Battle of Edge Hill							
19 Nov	Liz Woolley Leisure and Entertainment in Victorian and Edwardian Oxford							
2021								
	21 Jan	Simon Batten	The Prebendal					
	18 Feb	Martin Buckland and Future	The Wilt's and Bucks Canal	Past, Present				
	18 March	Tom Shannon	The Journey from Afghanistan					
	15 April	David Innes Infantry	Capt. Ralph Kite MC Oxon	& Bucks Light				
	20 May AGM Julie Ann Godson Oxfordshire in the Past							
	16 Sept	Stephen Barker	Oxfordshire during the Sec	cond World War				
	21 Oct	David Young	Primitive Methodism					
	!8 Nov	Juliet Heslewood	William Morris and the Co	tswolds				







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

FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT PAST Part 13

Two surnames stand out in Ascott during the nineteenth century, the prolific Moss family amongst whom were the Moss family of sawyers, and the Tymms or Timms family. In the same way that the Moss family contributed to the production of timber, the Tymms family contributed to the production of stone. Many of them worked as masons, 7 of them in 1841, 9 in 1851 and 6 in 1861, after which the number gradually declined. Like the Moss's the trade ran through generations; the first mention of Tymms in the Parish Registers is in 1705. Then in an early Church Wardens Book an item records that in 1711 George Timms was paid £36 for three loads of stones and two days working on the churchyard wall.

The word mason covers many criteria which indicate the various aspects of the trade. These included the actual quarrymen who first removed the stone from the ground; the shapers of the stone preparing it for delivery to its various destinations, either to building sites or for further transport by barge or cart; the builders; and finally the banker masons who achieved the fine sculptures and carvings which decorate vast numbers of grand buildings today. Carters were employed to convey the stone to either building sites or across the more than ten miles of downs and causeway to Radcot Bridge for transport down river. It was found that sledges worked better than wagons because they had wider runners to support the heavy load. Also they found that oxen drew the loads better than horses. What a sight it must have been to see a convoy of oxen driven sledges proceeding across the causeway towards the river and then unloading onto barges at the wharfs It must have been a turmoil of noise and commotion.

We do not know where the Tymms family fitted into this regime, possibly covering all aspects. And Ascott had associations with the Groves family of stone masons in Milton because in 1817 George Groves married Hannah Upstone who had been born and brought up in Ascott. There are still a number of long abandoned quarry sites in Ascott in various parts of the parish. Five Shilling Corner quarry on the north east tip of the parish was leased at one time to the Groves family. These

sites are on the upper reaches of the valley where the clay soil changes to oolitic limestone. A few were sited along the Charlbury - Burford road, one being mentioned in the reign of Elizabeth the first when the then owner was encroaching on what was the Queen's Crown Land. The original Wychwood Manor known then as Chestnut Close was constructed from stone quarried further up the hillside. Oolitic limestone is formed by concentric layers of calcium carbonate enveloping a fragment of shell or quartz, and it appears under the microscope like minute spherical bodies. This is why it was called oolite the Greek word for eggstone. When used in construction the mortar must always be softer than the stone, usually composed of lime putty and pulverised limestone. The use of cement causes problems when it hardens. The limestone must also be laid as it was lain down, with the grain lines running horizontally. This enables it to withstand the weather. Masonry was a skilled trade achieved following a number of years of apprenticeship and experience. Those who practised the carving and sculpting of stone would have needed to be able to read and write and one such was the William Tymms who in 1841 was living with his wife Miriam and their children in Church Street (The Green). In his early twenties he became the Parish Clerk and his name can be seen on the Jury of The Court Leet and Court Baron held in Ascott each Easter and on the applications of those applying for apprenticeship support from the Village Charity. William was obviously a hardworking and ambitious man because by the end of the 1840 decade he had become a farmer of 85 acres employing 4 men. There are several William Tymms in the nineteenth century and it is difficult to differentiate between them but William, Parish Clerk and farmer, appears to be the man who bought Priory Barn in Priory Lane around 1860 and converted the barn into three, later four cottages. However he soon left Ascott and took over a much larger farm in Worcestershire.

There are a number of John Tymms amongst the masons, this christian name does run through the Tymms families similarly to William, but only one has a gravestone, John Tymms who died aged 81 in 1856. Both the Johns and Williams represented their families in other ways in the village serving as constable and fieldsmen, on the Jury at the Manor Courts and on the apprenticeship applications to the Charity.

Who knows what their legacy is in the village? Perhaps some of the present houses and cottages are evidence of their work. Certainly one William Tymms worked on repairs to Ascott Bridge in1846. They may have worked on the restoration of the church when it was restored under G.E.Street in the 1850s and 1860s. Possibly one of them carved the two gargoyles on the north side of the church when the wall was rebuilt following a disastrous lean. Perhaps they worked on the erection and additions to the village school in the nineteenth century.

The Tymms were certainly a major factor in village life in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the evidence of their passing still standing all around us.

Wendy Pearse

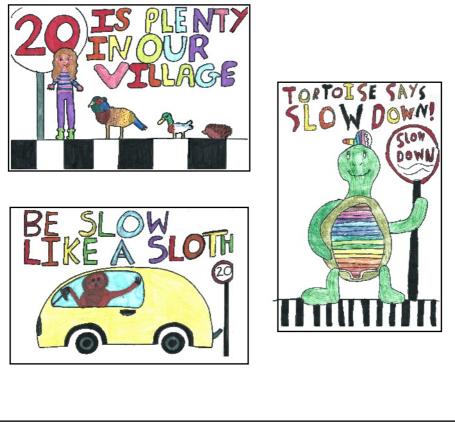
Children's Road Safety Poster Campaign

As a members of the Traffic & Transport group, we wanted to find a way to get a message across in response to our concern about inconsiderate speeding here in Ascott.

We agreed a poster competition would be a good way to do this and the 'word' was put out. The Village Charity also decided to award book prizes from Jaffe and Neale in Chippy to the winning entries.

We had a great response from one family (the Morris') and decided it would only be fair to recognise all three sisters. So to you Ava (12 years) Zebra Crossing, Grace (9 years) Sloth and Poppy (7 years) Tortoise - THANK YOU!

> John Cull Chair - Ascott Village Charity



West Oxfordshire residents to get improved waste service experience

Residents in West Oxfordshire will soon see a more efficient and effective waste collection service following a decision by West Oxfordshire District Council's Cabinet to invest up to £140k in a new 'in-cab' technology system.

The specialist software system will be retro-fitted to the Council's entire fleet of refuse, recycling, food and garden waste vehicles and will help reduce the number of collections being missed as well reducing the fuel used and cutting vehicle carbon emissions. Greater efficiencies in service delivery will bring projected annual savings of £50,000 per year from the Council's contract with its waste service delivery partner, Ubico.

A West Oxfordshire District Council spokesperson, said: "We will be working with Ubico to implement the in-cab system across our waste collection fleet, which will go live later this year. The project is just one example of how we are working in partnership to ensure our waste services are fit for the future and how innovation can better the customer experience.

"Crews will be able to record problems as soon as they encounter them and this information will be relayed back in near real time to both Ubico and the Council's customer services team.

"The waste sector is still recognised as a high risk industry and the in-cab system will make collecting safer too. Locations near to schools where extra precautions must be taken and potential hazards - such as blind corners or low bridges - can be easily added to the collection schedule information, making the working day safer for crews, pedestrians and road users alike."

Utilising GPS technology, the new system will enable crews to follow a map of their collection routes, reducing the need for local knowledge and allowing drivers unfamiliar with the area to complete the round without unnecessary delays or disruption to the householder.

Issues encountered whilst on the round, including reasons for why a collection has not been able to take place, can be logged directly against individual properties and any special collection requirements flagged in advance of the crews' arrival.

With 45% of all District Council CO_2 emissions generated from vehicle fleet and transportation, the new in-cab system should bring environmental benefits through the better routing of rounds and crews being able to return for missed bins whilst still working in the local vicinity, resulting in less miles needing to be travelled. The anticipated CO_2 savings will contribute to the Council's declaration to reach a carbon-neutral target by 2030.

SUNDAY WALKS

When I was packed off to Sunday School on a Summer's morning I would whisper a short prayer to myself that it would rain by tea time. Why did I do this? It was because if it remained fine it meant having to go on a Sunday evening walk with my father, mother and my sister Shirley. It wasn't unusual to see families going on a Sunday stroll even if it was just to the pub where they sat on the wall around the Churchill Arms, the children drinking lemonade while their parents had shandy or a pint of beer. My prayer was to grow up and be free from Sunday walks.

In the very early post-war years I remember one midsummer's evening walking across the fields to Chilson. When we arrived Chilson was full of people, they were there to take part in the open-air church service of rousing hymns organised by the Methodist Chapel in Chilson. Don Barnes told me they hired Stonesfield Silver Band to play the music. He should know, he was born and bred in Chilson. It was an annual gathering of people from this part of the Evenlode Valley. The other occasion would have been on Palm Sunday when the forest would be open. There were still people from the older generation who kept the custom of collecting water from a spring in the forest, taking it home where they made Spanish Water. Fred Alden was the last person I know who made the concoction. It was made by dissolving a stick of liquorice in the water. Fred gave me some to try once, it was awful. I didn't tell him because he was my childhood hero of Ascott cricket. We are told by historians that there are many sacred wells and springs throughout the country that were being worshiped in pre-history, the one in Wychwood Forest must be one of these.

Do you believe in ghosts or wishing wells? A walk we went on more often was over the river bridge, a little way up Chippy Hill through the gate just above Brick Hill following the footpath across the bank until we reached the A361 Chippy to Burford road only a short way from the Lyneham turn. Near the turn there was a clump of Beech trees which are still there after all these years, known as Lyneham Clump by local people. When we reached the Clump my mother would tell me to make a wish. About six feet from the ground in one of the trees the branches had grown away from the trunk. This, over time, had caused a hollow to form where rain water collected. My father would lift me up and told me to put my hand in the water and make a wish.

I have wondered over the past seventy years or so, have children, sweethearts and lovers still made a wish there. If they have, I hope many wishes did come true. Sadly my wish never did, I never got to play for Villa at centre forward. It was only a little way from Lyneham Clump that Eric Pratley late on a dark night, while biking home after courting his future wife Joan Souch in Lyneham, saw a dark figure on a horse galloping towards him in the direction of Shipton. Eric said the figure wore a three-cornered hat like that of a Highwayman. Did Eric see a ghost? Many years later when Eric and Joan were married, one early evening he went in his car to pick Joan up at Charlbury Station. Soon after he turned for Charlbury at the top of London Lane he saw a man carrying a bundle of wooden faggots on his shoulder on the opposite side of the road walking in the direction of Burford. Eric told me what happened next he still couldn't believe. A car coming in the opposite direction drove right through the figure carrying the faggots. I know of other people who have experienced strange happenings on that stretch of road.

I started by writing I wished to be free of Sunday walks with my family, now I yearn to know those days again if only for a moment. All I can do is see them in my mind's eye in every word I write.

PS. I have noticed there is only one Beech tree remaining at Lyneham Clump, it could be the one with the wishing well in it.

Fred Russell

Can You Sing?

For many years there has been a choir in Chipping Norton called Chipping Norton (and district) Choral Society, CNCS for short. There is always a need to introduce new members as some existing members decide to move away or feel a need to start a new hobby.

There is no restriction on age, all are welcome. There is no audition to join and no requirement to sight read the music, although it is useful if you can. If you love to sing along with your favourite songs at home, come and join us to see if you feel you can fit in. If you enjoy what we do and do not feel out of place you can then become a member. If you are not sure whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass you will soon find out in which section you are most comfortable.

Currently we have approximately 100 members; this number varies depending on what piece we present at concert. CNCS has a regular following and concert venues change to various areas in and around Chipping Norton and further away, for example the last concert was Belshazzar's Feast in Cheltenham Town Hall. There is a real comradery with the members and you soon make friends and find yourself fitting in and really enjoying the whole experience.

Rehearsals are usually for two hours during school terms but the pandemic has meant that the venue for rehearsals has yet to be confirmed, if you visit the website the latest venue will be displayed. We like to present concerts around the Easter and Christmas periods.

CNCS has a website at <u>https://www.cncs.org.uk</u> where you can find more information. If you would like to have a chat to know more about the CNCS you can contact <u>keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net</u>.

WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB





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

Sat Sept 4th Pete Coe

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door

Pete has been a professional musician since 1971, playing at festivals, concerts, clubs, dances & schools throughout Britain, Europe, Asia, New Zealand & USA.

His strong, distinctive voice is enhanced by his instrumental versatility, the ringing strings of his bouzouki, the sweet chords of his mountain dulcimer, the plaintive frailing banjo & the pulsing reeds of his melodeon. He's also a country dance caller, creator & musician. He sings, plays & step dances, sometimes all at once!

Sat Sept 25th Paul Downes

Tickets £10.00 in advance £12.00 on the door

Paul spent his youth playing classical guitar, rugby, soccer, cricket, the field and looking at maps. He played a solo recital in Westminster Abbey at the age of sixteen and subsequently took up folk music.

From the age of 12, Paul's best friend was Steve Knightley; then at 16, they met Phil Beer. However, despite these drawbacks, Paul was reasonably well-balanced until, after giving up a promising academic career, he went on the road as a professional muso. "Was it the women or the curry houses?", Paul was once heard to rhetoricise.

Sat Nov 6th Clive Gregson (Farewell Tour) + support by Mandolirium

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

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

All events start at 7.30pm Doors 7.00pm SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com

PC News - Summer 2021

With the lighter months upon us let's hope that the COVID news remains hopeful for the future. It is a season for change and no less so in the Parish Council. 3 Parish Councillors are due to retire imminently - Sandy Timms and Peter Rance plan to leave at the May meeting; Philippa Carter will stand down as Chairman in May and leave the PC by July. As Parish Council elections are postponed by 1 year, new Parish Councillors will need to be co-opted and the due process has delayed the changeover slightly. May I say how much I have appreciated working with Sandy and Peter over these past 8 years – their sound advice has been invaluable. They very much have their own opinions and experiences to bring to the table and it has made the PC stronger for it.

MORATORIUM ON NEW DEVELOPMENT DUE TO SEWAGE POLLU-TION OF THE EVENLODE

Thank you to Mark Purvis and Richard Smith who attended a meeting with Robert Courts MP along with Philippa Carter. Mr Courts MP was sympathetic and aware of other serious problems within his constituency, so he acknowledged that Thames Water have not always been honest about the lack of capacity in their system and the need to upgrade. He could not support the call for a moratorium because he was afraid that many other communities will call for the same but he promised to make representations to the Environment Secretary and Defra to put pressure on TW to act sooner than they have planned in upgrading their system. Defra and the Environment Secretary responded very blandly. Our general impression was that everyone was going through the motions. However, they are being pressed by many people and organisations so the profile of this issue is being raised higher and higher. It is also an issue which is now repeated regularly by Ascott residents in planning responses.

PLANNING

<u>12-18 LONDON LANE</u> – The original plan is now being developed. This was granted planning permission in 2018 by an Appeal Inspector. But the site has been reduced and we understand that there will be 4 homes, not 5. The contractors plan to take about 12 months. The PC has explained the water issues many times to the planning department, the contractors and the WODC and OCC drainage teams so we hope that they come up with a plan which keeps the village safe from more flooding.

<u>7 RETIREMENT HOMES</u> off London Lane and <u>7 HOMES</u> on the Cow Shed site in High St -These 2 planning applications are under consideration at the time of writing.

 $\underline{2 \text{ HOMES}}$ between Tyacks' Coalyard and Wychwood Court and $\underline{2 \text{ HOMES}}$ on the Dutch Barn site, High St - These already have been given 'Outline Planning Permission' which is permission in principle to build on those sites. To agree the details there needs to be a second planning application.

FLOODING

The Head of Flood Risk at WODC visited the village and met some of the residents who were affected. He has a full report of 23 December 2020 and of the many issues that the village had to deal with throughout the winter. He was made aware of the different planning applications and the issues that his team might have to consider when agreeing a drainage strategy for each site.

A similar tour of the village was undertaken with a Highways Engineer. Both were shown the water issuing out of the ground at the Vicarage, how it passed through the 2 ponds and then through the Highways pipework or the overflow onto the field. Both were shocked by the volume and agreed that it was spring fed not just ornamental pond water.

Philippa Carter is developing the flood risk document for the Neighbourhood Plan and the Parish Council has agreed to commission a consultant's report to support this document. Work on this is already underway and the report will be match funded through the Neighbourhood Plan fund.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (Brian Leach)

Some residents may have noticed suspicious looking people with clipboards at the junction of London Lane and Shipton Road. Don't be alarmed – these are the hardy volunteers for a traffic survey undertaken by the Traffic and Transport Group to gain statistics on how the traffic flows are increasing as we emerge from COV-ID. Of particular interest is whether the closing of the bridge at Burford to large vehicles is causing them to re-route through Ascott, as they have through Leafield. Over the past two months the group has been looking into issues of public transport, cycling, pedestrian movement (both residents and tourists), and the ever present issues of bad and over-crowded parking. It can be difficult and dangerous to walk around this village, especially for some of the older residents.

I am pleased to announce that a second group will from next month be starting to look at the built environment and heritage of the village, with the other working groups to follow shortly. The lions' share is, of course, the watercourse mapping that has been organized by Pippa.

The groups continue to work towards their section of the Parish Vision, the enclosing document from which we will be distilling the (dry and legal) policies that will make up the final Neighbourhood Plan. As a reminder, the Plan will have to be voted on by the community at the end of the process, and so we hope to be able to start sharing the Parish Vision as soon as possible

TRANSPORT

Peter Rance is pleased to report that the WOCT and Villager buses have resumed their services as they were pre-Covid.

ROAD REPAIRS

Thank you to all who take the trouble to report defects in the roads, pavements or drains on FixMyStreet. This is very helpful to the Parish Council so do please keep up the good work because it reinforces the complaints that we make. We must not forget also the great support that we get from our County Councillor, Liz

Leffman. Our team effort does give results although we still live in hope of better quality and longer lasting repairs. We have been promised 'edge strengthening' of the Chipping Norton Road in August which, apparently, is the same work as was done recently on the road to Lynham.

SPORTS CLUB

Very sadly we have to report that Ascott FC has changed to Leafield FC. This was a surprise to us and certainly not as a result of us 'throwing them out'. The club clearly found it hard to share the Ascott playing field with cricket but could not actually say so. We wish them luck and have started putting feelers out for other football teams. In the meantime, we have a very active cricket club and a good working relationship with Windrush Valley School.

WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to Ingrid and Brian Ridley who perfectly organised a Covid-safe litter pick this year and who have offered to do something similar next year. Thanks to all who offered to get involved and who continue to keep the village clear of litter whenever they take a walk. It really does warm the heart.

Many thanks also to Rob Lane who did a professional job on renewing all the boards around the Ascott Barrow. Rob is such a discreet and professional worker who has been a support to the PC ever since he and Val moved to Ascott; we are enormously grateful for his expertise.

AND FINALLY this will be my last contribution as Chairman to Parish Council News. Thank you for the support of all my colleagues over the past 12 years and for their patience – I know I am not the most efficient of Chairmen at meetings! I will nominate Brian Leach as Chairman at the May meeting and he is ready to stand if no other contender comes forward. He has already shown himself to be a very able Chairman for Neighbourhood Plan meetings and I am sure he will do a fine job. I will continue with Sports Club work until someone better comes along and I will also enjoy having more time for the station gardening with all the chat that goes with it!

PC work is a brilliant way to get to know the community and I honestly do recommend it to anyone. It can be a challenge and you definitely can't please all of the people all of the time but I started as a relative newcomer and really feel that this is 'home' now – albeit a wet one sometimes!! Thank you to EVERYONE who has given me support and encouragement.

Philippa

Please remember that you can contact members of the Parish Council, the Ascott Village Charity or the Parochial Church Council if you are in need of help.

Chairman – 01993 830344 <u>PC emails:</u> <u>clerk@ascottpc.org.uk</u> <u>contact@ascottpc.org.uk</u>

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOURS BY NOT LIGHTING BONFIRES



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

Cllr Norman MacRae, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "These are difficult and challenging times for us all whether you are adjusting to life and work at home, isolating yourself or looking after loved ones. Most of us are spending more time at home and while having bonfires can be tempting, they carry risks for vulnerable members of our communities. Bonfires cause issues for your neighbours, especially those with respiratory problems, people who are shielding themselves from COVID-19 or anyone who may have contracted the virus.

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

Cllr MacRae added: "Please be considerate of your neighbours and use alternatives such as composting. You can put most of your garden waste to use - a successful compost heap needs lots of brown material as well as

green. Don't burn it, use prunings and dry material to improve your compost heap."

If considered a waste offence or statutory nuisance, it may result in enforcement action and fines.



Liz Leffman County Councillor

As I write, we are in the middle of the election period, and the County Council has not met for several weeks. However, I continue to work on behalf of local residents, and I hope to be able to continue to do so once the election is over. I would like to take this opportunity to say that I have really enjoyed the four years that I have been your Councillor in Ascott.

Looking back over the four years, there are a number of things that I have been able to assist with in the village. The first thing that I was able to do was to get the posts on the Green replaced – these had variously been knocked over by parking cars or had rotted. The Green looks a lot tidier now I am glad to say!

I was also able to work with the Parish Council to improve the signage on the bridge coming into Ascott from the A361. Residents were very concerned at the speed of traffic, and also that the warning signs were not very visible. There is still concern about the speed of traffic generally in the village. I am a great advocate of 20 mph in our smaller communities, and I hope that now we have a commitment at the County Council to installing lower speed limits across the county, Ascott will benefit from this.

There is still more work to be done on our roads: Shipton Road is due for re-surfacing this coming year, and there are a lot of potholes on the road to Chipping Norton which need attention, and they are on my radar but it sometimes takes a while to get them done. Flooding is a continuous issue in the village and I am working to ensure that our drains and gullies are cleared regularly. For the past six years they have been cleared on a four year cycle – this is obviously not enough and I have agreed with officers at the County Council that this will be reviewed and those gullies that require more regular clearance will be prioritised.

As the lockdown eases, we will start to meet up in person and I hope to see many of you at events during the summer and beyond. If there is anything that you would like my help with, please do not hesitate to contact me. Whether I am still your Councillor or not by the time you read this, I will always be a member of our community and willing to help in whatever way I can.

Liz Leffman. 07741 073088

Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club - Spring 2021

After the long tough lockdown and cancellation of all of our winter activities it was a huge tonic when we were able to finally resume outdoor practice and matches in April. By the end of the month we'd played 4 friendlies and a first round tie in the prestigious National Village Cup. We lost and were knocked out by 'big club' Eynsham but played with incredible spirit and defiance (against a far superior team with a battery of hostile fast bowlers), attracting much praise. We've already had some terrific Ascott innings - the evergreen Clive Jowett thumped a 61, Alex Vaughan has scored 52 not out, and Jay Hussain cracked a sensational 76 not out in the Eynsham game. 17 year old Rowan Moss has been the pick of the bowlers to date, with 9 opposition wickets taken in April.

On Sat May 8th we start Ascott's first league campaign in a generation, in the Cherwell League Division 8B - one of 17 divisions in a huge organisation encompassing all of Oxfordshire and beyond. Our matches are predominantly local, and we start at home, against 'mighty' Chipping Norton 2nd XI, followed by Charlbury 3XI the following Saturday. If COVID-19 rules permit spectators by then it would be lovely to have home support - you'll recognise 'The Martyrs' by our eye catching lime green and white shirts & caps! We've a long busy season lined up - news & fixtures on our social media channels.

We're being very cautious due to Covid-19 at present, but at some point in May we're hoping to start some basic junior fun cricket training - probably on Weds evenings at the field. It will be aimed at local boys and girls wanting to start out aged 9-13, mostly with a softball. All kit will be provided, and it will be very very low cost. To express interest or for more details please email or call me ASAP. Stay safe everyone and thank you for the lovely support we've received to date!

Stewart Moss 07866 278685 <u>Auwcricketclub@hotmail.com</u> Twitter: @AUWCricketClub



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.

Nature Notes

After a dark cold winter what makes you begin to feel that spring and early summer are about to arrive? Perhaps its Rooks noisily rebuilding their nests, primroses flowering in the hedgerow, trees and hedges greening as leaves unfurl. For me the iconic herald of spring is the noisy drumming of the local Woodpeckers on the trees around the village. A rapid machine gun sound that carries for a remarkable distance, calling for a mate and warning others 'this is my territory.' Often the responsible bird will not be seen even though their presence is being noisily announced.

There are three species of Woodpeckers native to England, two of which are often seen locally. All Woodpeckers share certain characteristics; their feet have two toes pointing forward and two backward, an adaptation to allow them to cling to vertical surfaces such as tree trunks and telegraph poles. They also have long tongues which can be darted forward to capture insect prey or explore bark fissures in search of wood boring grubs and short, stiff tails to aid balance.



Local 'drummer' is a **Greater Spotted Woodpecker**, sometimes called the Pied Woodpecker. A shy bird, though sometimes spotted on garden bird feeders, its normal habitat is mature woodland, both deciduous and coniferous. It's about the same size as a Starling, but of stouter build and with shorter tail, with striking black & white plumage with bright crimson patches on lower belly and under the tail and the male has a red patch on the back of his neck.

They enjoy a very wide range of food, everything from woodboring insect larvae, seeds and nuts, even fatty scraps from a bird table. With their powerful bill they are able to crack plum and peach stones to extract the kernel. They will also enlarge the holes of tit nest boxes in order to take the young chicks.

Their nest hole will be made high-up usually in the trunk preferably in the softer wood of dead or dying trees. Usually, a new nest hole is made each year consisting of an entrance excavated for several inches then an enlarged chamber is formed downwards. Apart from the wood chips produced during production there is no other nesting material in which 4 to 6 eggs are laid

in April and May. There may be a second brood in June.

There is a smaller relative which shares the black and white plumage although in a different pattern, the **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**, also known more descriptively as the Barred Woodpecker on account of the pattern of its markings. This is a much smaller bird of similar size to a Sparrow and it is much less common and even



when present is rarely seen as it spends much of its time in the highest branches of large trees. The male has a bright crimson crown, but no red under the tail. It frequents open woods, well timbered parks and gardens, but unlike the Greater Spotted is not found in coniferous woodland. It is rare in the north of England and absent from Scotland. Its diet is almost entirely insectivorous.

They nest in soft, partially rotten wood usually in a tree truck or large, dead branch, but they have been known to build a nest hole quite low down in a dead stump. The style of the nest is the same as the Greater Spotted.

Our third Woodpecker is the Great Green, the largest of the three, about the size



of a Pigeon. They have other country names, Yaffle (on account of its call) and Rain Bird. Compared with the other two native Woodpeckers it differs in plumage, voice and habitats. It prefers wooded open countryside, parks, orchards, heaths and meadowland, avoiding dense woodland and coniferous areas. It is usually a ground feeder, probing damp pastures for leatherjackets, earthworms, millipedes and grubs. In the summer months it will be found on drier ground searching for its favourite food, ants and their pupae. When other food is

not available it will take seeds and nuts. It will rarely come to garden bird tables, but will occasionally peck at fallen apples.

Their voice, the yaffle, is unique and is best described as having a laughing quality, usually beginning loudly and slowly, rapidly getting faster, but diminishing in both volume and pitch. Hearing the call was said to predict coming rainfall, hence its other country name. Unlike the other two Woodpeckers it doesn't drum to announce its presence.

Their appearance is quite distinctive, with a bright crimson crown and greenish plumage being their most obvious features. In flight their bright yellow rump is what catches the eye. Its flight is undulating, because it makes a few wing-beats upward, followed by a shallow plunge downward with wings closed.

When other birds approach it too closely it makes a threat display, adopting a stiff upright posture, elongating its neck to an extraordinary extent, pointing its bill upward and moving head from side to side. This fearsome snake-like performance seems to be effective in warning off possible competitors.

They nest in excavated holes in tree trunks, the entrance will be the size of a tennis ball and after being horizontal for several inches there will be a vertical descent to the nesting chamber which can be up to 12 inches. Five to seven pure white eggs will be laid. Once the nest has been constructed there may be an attempt by Starlings to take it over, leading to noisy squabbles as attempts are made to evict the squatter.

Once common the Green Woodpecker is now less often seen.

Stuart Fox

Ascott Preschool Looking forward to a fun summer at Ascott Preschool

We feel very lucky to have stayed open throughout the entire lockdown. We have been able to flexibly furlough staff, adapt the days and times we are open, and work with the Tiddy Hall team to maintain enhanced cleaning regimes. We are very grateful to all staff and parents for helping to keep everybody safe, so that the children have been able to continue having lots of fun at Preschool.

We have spent a lot of time playing outside, enjoying activities such as tackling an obstacle course, giving some of the staff cars a wash, and making the most of the snow we had one morning.



Our 'school leaver' children have been attending Forest School every other Wednesday, exploring our lovely site at Bruern. It is really special to hear the children talking about what they see outside, and using their imagination to play. On one winter outing a great game was had on a log with branches, pretending it was a 'super slug' and going on a journey to London.

We have been talking to the children about signs of Spring. They have really

enjoyed witnessing the arrival of new baby chicks from the eggs we have in an incubator – the first ones hatched just as we returned from the Easter break. Other topics have included Chinese New Year, when we learned about customs and traditions by trying foods like spring rolls and prawn crackers and by making crafts including a Chinese dragon and a lantern.

Looking ahead to summer, we will be holding our Sports Day on Saturday 17th of July. This will be a slightly smaller, lower-key event than usual, but will be our first chance to fundraise in over a year. As we are a registered charity and non profit making organisation, this 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).

Bad Parking in the Village













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

Food and Farm Education

Summer Events @ FarmED

From seasonal eating suppers and a midsummer feast, to pizza nights, virgin olive oil tasting and an introduction to sustainable farming and food, there's something for everyone at FarmED, the new Centre for Farm & Food Education. Based at Honeydale Farm in the Cotswolds, we aim to be at the heart of local, regional and global agroecological transition, nourishing people and regenerating the planet.

Friday Farm Walk & Picnic (most Fridays May - June)

Explore Honeydale Farm on an inspiring and informative guided farm walk, led by Founder, Ian Wilkinson or a member of the FarmED team. You'll visit the flower rich meadows, heritage orchard, micro-dairy, kitchen garden, natural flood management, woodland and more.

Seasonal Eating Supper: Spring & Summer - May 20th

Communal eating, learning, and the exchange of knowledge and experience will all come together to provide a rich and fulfilling evening, leaving you inspired to live more seasonally.

Heritage Grains & Sourdough Day - May 22nd

Enjoy a day with Matt Saunders, our very own resident baker, learning all the basic knowledge and skills to produce delicious homemade bread, as well as an education into the history of the grain and the health benefits of sourdough.

Managing Grassland for Horse Health & Biodiversity - May 24

Want to know more about horse nutrition and the health benefits of species-rich grasslands? Interested in maximising the positive impact that your equine businesses has on landscape and biodiversity? This one day workshop is for you.

An Introduction to Sustainable Farming and Food – Nourishing People and

Regenerating the Planet - June 2nd

Join us for an informative and inspiring day on the farm to explore the challenges and opportunities in sustainable farming and food and how we can nourish people and regenerate the planet.

Wild Fermentary Workshop: Sauerkraut and Pickles - June 11th

Join our interactive afternoon, led by the Wild Fermentary Workshops to learn all about the importance of gut health and why fermented foods are so beneficial.

A Taste of Community Supported Agriculture (Evening Event) - June 10th Join us for an evening of inspiring talks about Community Supported Agriculture and delicious pizza from FarmED's own CSA initiatives, the market garden and bakery.

Doctor on the Farm: Mood Food - June 13th

Come and learn more in this interactive and experiential dinner in which we will explore the role of the key foundations of good health - nutrition, movement, sleep, rest and connection.

Herbal Ley Establishment & Management - June 15th

Join us for a one day course on Herbal Leys Establishment and Management brought to you by the FarmED team and Cotswolds Seeds.

Midsummer's Feast - June 26th

Join us for a celebration of summer at FarmED! The evening will start with a tour of the farm, followed by a four-course feast prepared by our very talented guest chef Hannah Thomas of Herbs & Wild, using all local, seasonal British ingredients – most of which will come from our own kitchen garden.

Extra Virgin Olive Oil Tasting Workshop and Dinner - July 9th

Real Extra Virgin Olive Oil is brimming with fresh, raw polyphenols, vitamins, antioxidants and even anti-inflammatory molecules. Part of the Mediterranean diet, this traditional oil has been a dietary staple for some of the world's healthiest populations. This event is led by Sarah Wolferstan, an EVOO taster and Sicilian olive farmer and oil producer.

Booking through the events programme on our website: <u>https://www.farm-ed.co.uk</u>

Social: @RealFarmED

FarmED is the Centre for Farm & Food Education. We aim to be at the heart of local, regional and global agroecological transition. Based at Honeydale Farm in the Cotswolds, we are a not-for-profit organisation. Our mission is to provide learning spaces and events that inspire, educate and connect people to build sustainable farming and food systems that nourish people and regenerate the planet. At the heart of FarmED are two impressive eco-buildings – one providing space for conferences, lectures, workshops and special events; and the other a farm to fork kitchen and food space.

For high res photos or further information, please contact fiona@farm-ed.co.uk

Fiona Mountain Marketing Coordinator FarmED fiona@farm-ed.co.uk

Martyrs Orchard - Letter to the Editor

As the founder of the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust (no longer living in Ascott) I am really sorry that there have been such vociferous objections to the proposed Memorial Orchard. It shouldn't distract from the much-needed improvement of the old cowshed site. However, I do feel I should personally respond to comments on the WODC Planning website that I am "in league with the developers" and "hell bent of pushing for the Orchard".

Addressing the first, I was an outright supporter of the cowshed demolition from the start (8/9 years ago) when a meeting of Yew Tree Farm residents rejected a single dwelling. 2/3 years later I was bold enough to say, with support, at a village meeting of that new alternative would perhaps be a good thing to discuss with the developers.

I eventually pursued on my own a meeting (the others got NIMBIED!) and can justify several improvements e.g., using traditional stone, having the garages out of site and visitor parking. It helped consulting with a property developer in the village, which led incidentally to an opportunity to have our own house built (earlier than planned) to downsize and move from Ascott to Charlbury.

After the first application, which was rejected, a "redundant" piece of land was identified because of objections as a possible site for more houses. The developer's response was to offer the land to the Martyrs' Trust ensuring that it would not be built on. In other words, it was the NIMBYs that enabled the opportunity for the Martyrs Orchard...... not yours truly.

Coming to the "hell bent" comment, frankly having spent many frustrating moments trying to work with a negative Parish Council, it took us 3 years just to be granted an audience, the Orchard idea "to do our own thing" seemed too good to be true. The Ascott Martyrs story is a national event yet to be fully understood in the village, particularly the overriding legacy of improvement for the oppressed working class.

It is hoped the "new management" of Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust, particularly as there is no liabilities to the village and the Trust itself, will eventually be able to take up the generous offer but let's see if the planning is approved Meanwhile I hope such personal and untrue accusations will prompt apologies. Yours etc.

Paul Jackson pauldjackson1@outlook.com

Ascott Parish Council Response to Section of Planning Application 21/00651/OUT which deals with the Ascott Martyrs

Ascott-under-Wychwood would like to respond separately to this proposal. Over the years Mr Cutler of Bloombridge has suggested several donations of a community space within their planning applications – an orchard, a group of 16 trees for each one of the Martyrs and now an orchard of 16 fruit trees for the Martyrs. The previous 2 suggestions were rejected by the community for various reasons.

We commend the designer for an attractive plan but we do feel that the arguments that this will be beneficial to the community are weak and at times contradictory:

- 1. Scenic picturesque and peaceful space for the community
- 2. Understated, natural rural beauty
- 3. Open space that emphasizes harmony
- 4. Provision of vital easily accessible green space
- 5. An aesthetically pleasing space with a connection to the outdoors
- 6. Elegant and sophisticated approach to orchard design
- 7. Gate to keep wildlife out but 'constantly left open to allow ease of access'

The community feels that they are already surrounded by spaces described in 1-5 where people can roam and sit freely. Point 6 'elegant and sophisticated' is a contradiction to the area in which it would sit and to the Martyrs' story. The gate seems to be just a decoration serving no practical purpose if it is left open constantly.

A major reason for rejection of other proposals for an orchard, garden or copse is that the community cannot commit time and funds to maintaining and developing such a community space. Bloombridge has said that it will maintain the space for 5 years or hand it to the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust (AMET) for adoption. It is not at all clear that AMET will still exist in 5 years' time and certainly not 10 years. Minutes of the trustees' meetings do not show agreement to this scheme before it was submitted.

It is most likely that the Orchard will eventually become the responsibility of the community and the work undertaken by the Parish Council.

This is a small village with a small precept for Parish Council work on behalf of the community. There are 5 unpaid P Councillors, many of whom have paid jobs and limited time to do PC work. To save money, a lot of work is dependent on volunteers who are not always available. The Parish Council already spends a large proportion of its annual income on the maintenance of the village assets which already include 4 open community spaces and many trees. The PC has also adopted gardens at the station where there is a prolific apple tree. Most of the apples which fall are never picked up as so many gardens have fruit trees of their own.

A consultation will have to be taken to discover if there is support for Parish money being spent on the upkeep of what would be the <u>fourth memorial to the Ascott</u> <u>Martyrs</u>. Residents, in conversation with Parish Councillors, have not asked for another memorial – on the contrary, many feel that more than enough has been done to commemorate the women and their story. It is just one part of a wider historical story and that whole story is being successfully perpetuated through education, which is the core purpose of the Ascott Martyrs' Educational Trust.

On the Green, in the centre of the village, we already have a magnificent Martyrs' Chestnut Tree originally planted by one of the Martyrs. For the millennium the Parish Council installed 4 large benches around this tree and they explain the Martyrs' story. In the Holy Trinity Church, just off the Green, is a large wall hanging created recently by local women and portraying the Martyrs' story in wools, silks, felts and fabric painting. The making of this piece as a group recalled the group of women who were sent off to Oxford prison for standing up for the basic rights and pay for their menfolk and their families.

The location of these existing memorials is significant to the Martyrs story. They are within sight of land at Crown Farm and the pub *(now a private home)* where the action took place. Yew Tree Farm, where this new memorial is proposed, is nowhere near, at the far eastern end of the village on a different owner's land.

The Location of This New Memorial is, on the other hand, <u>very</u> significant to this planning application. It suggests that the developer is concerned to preserve and enhance the historical character of village. It will also allow the curtilage of the development to encroach onto open green space. It will domesticate this green field site and allow an argument to be made that the other green fields between the site and the end house (no 32 High St) should also be developed.

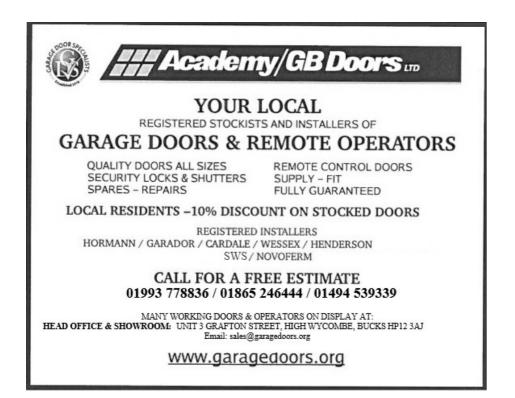
If Cornbury Estate, the owners of the land, believe that this green field space needs trees to aid drainage or to improve wildlife habitat then they have every right to plant them without planning permission and without domesticating the site in any way. They are, however, notoriously bad at maintaining their land, watercourses, vegetation and assets in Ascott-u-Wychwood (*witness the Cow Sheds and Dutch Barns, the stream next to the bridleway close by, the stream north of the signal box etc*).

Cornbury Estate has shown their intention to develop the land on which the old Cow Sheds sit <u>and all the way up to the B3347, Charlbury-Burford main road.</u> They offered the plot to WODC for inclusion in the Local Plan 31 and thereby showed their hand. This is extremely wet land as is the land where the Martyrs Orchard would sit and the land from there to No 32 High St and the land behind/south of the whole of High St. Cornbury Estate obviously does not consider this to be a problem as we see from the flawed application by their other developers, Blue Cedar. We contend that Cornbury Estate and Bloombridge are not concerned with contributing a historical community asset out of the goodness of their hearts and, if as we believe, the Orchard leads on to development on very wet land with increased threat of flooding to existing property, then the good name of AMET and the beloved story of the Ascott Martyrs will be seriously tarnished.

Ascott-under-Wycwood Parish Council

Football Club

The village has now lost the Football Club which has moved to Leafield.



Ascott – a great place to live

I have recently become more interested in Ascott fifty years ago and how it compares today. The reason for this 'interest' is the sudden changes we all seem to be experiencing here in Ascott. And we know that change is not an easy concept to accept. In general, we like predictability and we dislike uncertainty. The recent threat of speculative planning proposals, and the lack of adequate services and infrastructure (think poor public transport, overloaded sewerage and drainage systems) is causing much concern.

Has this always been so?

It's been both interesting and informative talking to fellow villagers of a similar age who lived their teenage years here in Ascott while I was having my own 'experience' in Birmingham.

Back in the day, Ascott had two pubs; The Swan and The Churchill Arms. It had football and cricket teams. Rounders was played on the recreational ground and Ascott even boasted its own tennis courts. There was the annual cricket competition between the two 'ends' of the village Ascott D'Oilly and Ascott Earl. The village shop was run by the Cook family at Corner House farm and a youth club was regularly held at the old Tiddy Hall.

The Swan put a Dansette record player in what was the upstairs committee room and Ascott teenagers would spend Friday evenings polishing their dance moves before live music gigs in Shipton. If music and cinema was an important part of growing up in Birmingham so it was for my contemporaries here in Ascott. The bus would take filmgoers to the Regal in Chippy (now flats) while I walked along the Bristol Road in Longbridge to the Essoldo (now the LA Fitness studio) to watch popular films of the day, films Dr No and Dracula.

There were regular train services to Oxford for college studies or shopping and also to Charlbury where there was a cinema tucked away in a back lane by the Church and of course, one or two significant watering holes.

So what of today?

It would be too clichéd to say; 'those were the days'. What would be fair to say is that things are not the same, just different. Today, in Ascott, we still have our Tiddy Hall, the village school has survived albeit private and The Swan, saved from housing by community action, is thriving as a gastro pub plus. We have seen the return of the cricket team and the introduction of the community village shop. There is a thriving and hugely significant folk club (again a nod to bygone days) and the allotment society is benefiting from newer and younger members. We are a vibrant, energetic, welcoming community and it's this sense of community sprit that makes Ascott special. We fundraise for special causes, take care of each other and accept people for who they are.

Sadly, we have also lost something along the way.

We are a car dominant society. The lack of adequate and regular bus services (I do applaud the recent rise of community buses), the disappointment in connecting Ascott with railway stations at Kingham and Charlbury and the dismal failure to increase stopping trains at Ascott after a £70m investment to upgrade single track into double track along a twenty mile stretch including Ascott is beyond belief. As a consequence, car users see us as a convenient rat-run between both sides of the Evenlode valley. What makes it worse is the amount of litter thrown by passing cars (both ways) from London Lane and up Chippy Hill not forgetting the road out of the village to and from Shipton. And this doesn't include, stoppers who dump the occasional fridge, shower screen door and fish tank. Why do people do this? It drives me crazy!

The fast pace of development we have seen in neighbouring areas such as Milton and Shipton is evident here in Ascott too. We are under constant threat from developers and landowners who see Ascott as a convenient 'cash cow'. We currently have nine new houses where planning permission has been given and two further schemes under consideration for an additional 14. If this all happens there will be 23 new homes here in Ascott. Yet building more and more houses does not seem to be a problem. What is a 'problem' is the failure to deliver the infrastructure that is needed to support new housing.

Since the floods of 2007 (described as a once in 100 year phenomenon), the mood and tone of the village has changed. In December, we experienced flooding once again in the village (not the 100 year phenomenon we were promised). Once again, floodwater entered homes causing much anxiety, unease and long-term misery. When this happens, the drainage system doesn't cope very well, sewerage bubbles up in the street and the road between the level crossing and the bridge floods entrapping unsuspecting motorists.

What to do?

We have a proud past and want to see a bright future. Like many others, I want to be part of a village that takes on the big challenges and uses its voice fairly and constructively. We are a fantastic community (which is why so few leave once they have discovered Ascott). People are kind, welcoming and there is always a friendly chat if that's what you need. It's a great place to live but it comes at a cost. For Ascott to continue to prosper fifty years from now and have something special to hand to the next generation requires commitment, involvement and action. Doing nothing is not an option! We have to be the architects of our own future. Ascott was a great place to live back in the day, it is now and it will be tomorrow but we have to fight for it!

John Cull

The following photos show some parts of the village before the proliferation of vehicles lining the streets.



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

WEST OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY TRANSPO POWERED BY PE	EOPLE 210	Wycł	woo	ods
Wychwoods to Witney—Mondays to Fi	ridays (except bank	holidays)	fr	om 6 April 2021
Millon U Wethwood, Ascott U Wethwood, The New The Seen The Seen Shipton U Wythwood, Po	od, Crawley, The Lamb Leaffeld, De Lower End	Witney, Market Squa er Park	sre Sainsburys	210
Milton U Wychwood, The Hare	0800	1000	1250	1555
Shipton U Wychwood, PO	0804	1005	1255	1559
Ascott U Wychwood, The Green	0809	1011	1302	
Leafield, Lower End	0819	1021	1312	
Crawley, The Lamb	0828	1031	1322	
Deer Park Medical Centre	0835	1038	1329	
Witney Market Sq (Bus Stop A)	0842	1044	1336	1640
Sainsburys	0845	1047	1340	
Range Road	0850			1713
Fernleigh	09071	1100 ²	¹ Pick up	only/ ² Drop off only
Witney to Wychwoods —Mondays to i	Fridays (except bank	(holidays)	from	6 April 2021
Sainsburys	0910	1200	1515	1718
Witney Market Sq (Bus Stop D)	0913	1205	1520	1722
Welch Way Library	0915	1207	1522	1724
Range Road				
Deer Park Medical Centre		1212	1524	1729
Crawley, The Lamb	0924	1216	1527	1735
Leafield, Lower End	0933	1226	1532	1743
Ascott U Wychwood, The Green	0943	1236	1544	1753
Shipton U Wychwood, PO	0950	1244	1550	1758
Milton U Wychwood, The Hare	0955	1247	1554	1800



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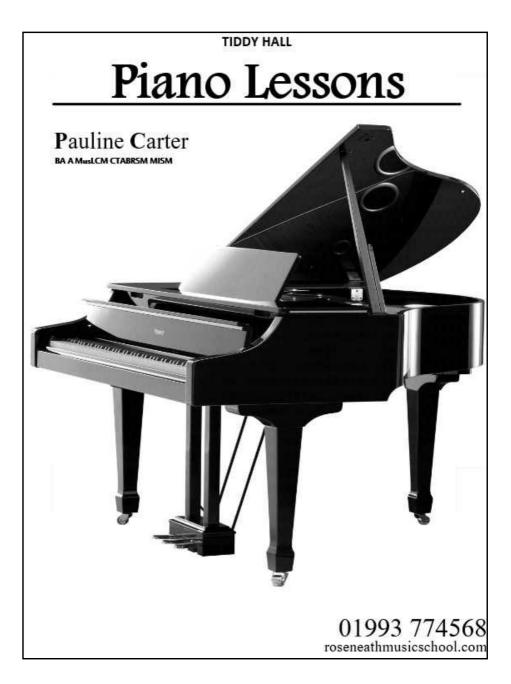
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TIDDY HALL

With the easing of Covid restrictions, we are slowly seeing the return of our regular activities at **Tiddy Hall**! Of course, **Ascott Pre School** remained open throughout the pandemic, allowing younger children to continue with their early years' education. Credit must go to all the staff who have worked tirelessly keeping the children and staff members safe during these difficult times.

In April, we saw the return of the **Kick Boxing** school after supervised activities for children could resume once again. Just to remind everyone that there are still places available in the two groups running on Monday evenings – Mighty Matts for children 3 - 6 years, 5.30pm – 6.15pm and Juniors from age 7, 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

After May 17th, adults will also be able to join the Juniors class. Do call John & Sally Fahey on 07730 453172 for more information. You are invited for a free taster class!

Pauline Carter also returned in April to restart her piano lessons. These are held in the Committee Room every Monday and Friday afternoons from 3.30pm. You can contact her if you would like more information - 01993 774568.

The **Saturday Morning Yoga** class has also resumed. This is run by Ascott resident Loren Killeen and takes place every Saturday morning 10am -11am. Do contact Loren if you are interested in attending her sessions – 07570 023868.

Pam Quirke will hold another set of **Qigong** classes starting on Thursday June 10th running for four consecutive weeks. Contact Pam on 07780 572283 if you are interested in practising this ancient Chinese martial art of cultivating and balancing your qi -'life energy'.

If you would like to continue your yoga practice through the summer months, then **Tiddy Hall** will be hosting **Summer Yoga**. Classes will run every Wednesday evening beginning 21st July and run for six weeks. If you would like to book your place, do get in touch with Nikki Jackson – 07816 786656 or <u>nikki@yogafocus.co.uk</u> **The Wychwood Folk Club** has decided to postpone all events until after the summer. The first gig back is due to be held on September 4th with the singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Pete Coe. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30 start. Please see the website for further information on upcoming gigs in the autumn – <u>www.wychwoodfolkclub.com</u>

Once again, the Tiddy Hall Committee would like to thank Sally Franks for her continuing dedication in keeping the hall clean and safe for our regular users! It is great to see **Tiddy Hall** being used once again for these different activities and as restrictions continue to ease, we should see the return of a very vibrant village hall! **The Tiddy Hall Team**

Regular Activities:

Monday – Friday Mornings Pre-school Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant 07968 006451 Post Office runs every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

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 2020 was £224.95

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

Chairman

John Cull john@greenascott.co.uk

Trustees

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk

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

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



Convid Opening Hours Monday - Friday 7.30 am to 2.0 pm Click & Collect 2.0 pm - 5.0 pm Saturday 8.0 am to 12.0 pm Now open on a Sunday from 10.am to 2pm To help protect you and our staff, we will be observing the 2m rule and will only be accepting credit card payments Please be aware that we are very busy and at times you will not get through on the phone straight away. We have limited staff and are trying our best to serve and fulfill orders. We will call back as soon as we can if you leave a message. Please note that we do not take orders via email or messenger as we cannot

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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!

If Ascott Village Shop were a dog what would it be?

That was one of the somewhat strange questions we asked the shop's management committee and selected volunteers and customers earlier this year.

The shop is in the process of updating its branding, layout and marketing and we wanted to define some brand values to guide the decisions we were taking. By asking some unexpected questions – we also invited comparisons to cars and celebrities - we encouraged people to think 'outside the box'.

The answer soon became obvious. Ascott Village Shop is apparently a labrador - reliable, faithful and lovable (it was perhaps not coincidental that many of the people surveyed were Labrador owners). We then asked people which dog they would like the shop to become. The Labrador remained top of the list, but this time people wanted one that was a little younger, more sprightly and more responsive.

The same pattern held for the car. A Golf GTi was a favourite answer – a reliable, timeless classic, equally at home in front of a stately mansion or a suburban semi. But when asked what car the shop should become, people wanted an updated Golf - more environmentally friendly, more comfortable, more cutting edge.

Mary Berry, Alan Titchmarsh and Joanna Lumley were popular responses in the celebrity category – reliable experts in their fields, delivering wisdom with a friendly twinkle. But were they also not a bit faded and past their best? Certainly, when we asked which celebrity the shop should become, younger people were mentioned – Olivia Colman, Joe Root, Graham Norton, Nadiya Hussein – great at their jobs but also crowdpleasers with a lot of quirky charm.

We were pleased to note that nobody thought the shop needed a radical overhaul, more a gentle update. We chose the words 'dependable' and 'welcoming' as our first two brand values – like a faithful Labrador, reliable Golf or beloved celebrity, you can always rely on us to be there for you, come rain or shine, with a friendly welcome and a twinkle in our eye, inclusive and accessible to all, whatever your budget. We recognise too that we are 'traditional' in the very best sense of the word – a timeless, classic village shop. Many of our current efforts though are focused on ensuring that this doesn't tip over into 'old-fashioned'.

We chose 'local' as our fourth value, not just convenient - though we are certainly that - but local in the broadest sense of the word, supporting and celebrating local farmers, producers and businesses, and protecting our wonderful Cotswold landscape. And finally we want to be known as 'forward-thinking', making intelligent use of technology and social media, stocking interesting new products and staying abreast of trends such as the farm-to-table movement, environmental issues and new ways of eating healthily.

We hope you agree that these are the right values to keep us at the 'heart of the community' and look forward to sharing the fruits of our rebranding efforts later this year. In the meantime, and in the spirit of innovation, we would love you to join the conversation on our popular Instagram and Facebook pages – just search for @ascottvillageshop.



Alfie the Labrador outside Ascott Village Shop. All other makes and models of dog (and their owners!) most welcome.

Crossword Puzzle

1		2	3			4		5	6
				7					
8				9					
10							11		
				12		13			
	14					15		16	
17			18	19					20
21		22		23					
			24						
25						26			
27					28				

Across

1 Rectitude (6) 4 Narrow lane (5) 8 Hoists (5) **9** Haggle; a good deal (7) **10** Caustic (7) 11 Lake (4) 12 Female sheep (3) 14 Tidy (4) 15 Sewn (anag.) (4) 18 Female pig (3) 21 Cupid (4) **23** Building (7) 25 Jumper (7) 26 Thicket (5) 27 Name (5) 28 Private (6)

Down

Book (6)
Umpire (7)
Social climbers (8)
Land measure (4)
Depart; permission (5)
Tugged (6)
Diminish (5)
Surround (8)
Speak covertly (7)
Set against (6)
Eerie (5)
Desert; flaw (6)
Last Greek letter (5)
Post (anag.) (4)

Solutions to Crossword in Edition 109

Across

1 Water 4 Grade A 9 Puccini 10 Cases 11 Note 12 Bondage 13 Moo 14 Free 16 Long 18 Trv 20 Amnesia 21 Sewn 24 Choir 25 Replica 26 Denude 27 Title

Down

1 Wiping 2 Tacit

- 3 Ruin
- 5 Recently
- 6 Disdain
- 7 Answer
- 8 Limbo
- 13 Measured 15 Rundown
- 17 Rancid
- 18 Tarry
- 19 Inmate
- 22 Evict
- 23 Spot

Local Business Directory

ACADEMY/GB DOORS 01993 778836/01865 246444/01494 539339 www.garagedoors.org	Page 43
ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253 www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk	Page 17
ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk	Page 48
COTSWOLD BEAUTY 01993 832446/07917 341143 enquiry@cotswoldbeauty. www.cotswoldbeauty.net	net Page 10
COTSWOLD CORNER 07973884232 CotswoldCornerMaintenance@gmail.con	n Page 15
COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006 www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk	Page 16
ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk	Page 10
FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND 01993 878387	
helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk	Page 12
FARMHOUSE B&B 01993831900 sally@college-farm.com	Page 8
FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299	
wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com	Page 26
GROVES SHOP 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425 info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk	Page 52
INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993830612/07952657906 ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk	Page 17
IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268	Page 15

JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	Page 17
JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020 info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com	Page 14
LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357	Page 17
LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105 www.LEDOxford.co.uk	Page 54
ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	Page 15
ROSENEATH 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com -	Page 49
THE SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascot.com www.countrycreatures.com	Page 19

Events Calendar - 2021

Date

Time Event

Venue

August 8 th	TBC 'a post lockdown	Party in the Paddock celebration for the village'	Paddock
September 4 th	7.30 pm	Pete Coe	Tiddy Hall
September 25 th	7.30 pm	Paul Downes	Tiddy Hall
October 31st	10.30 am	Charity runs 5 & 10k	Playing Field
November 6th	7.30 pm	Clive Gregson	Tiddy Hall

The Events listed depend entirely on whether the Covid 19 conditions allow such activities