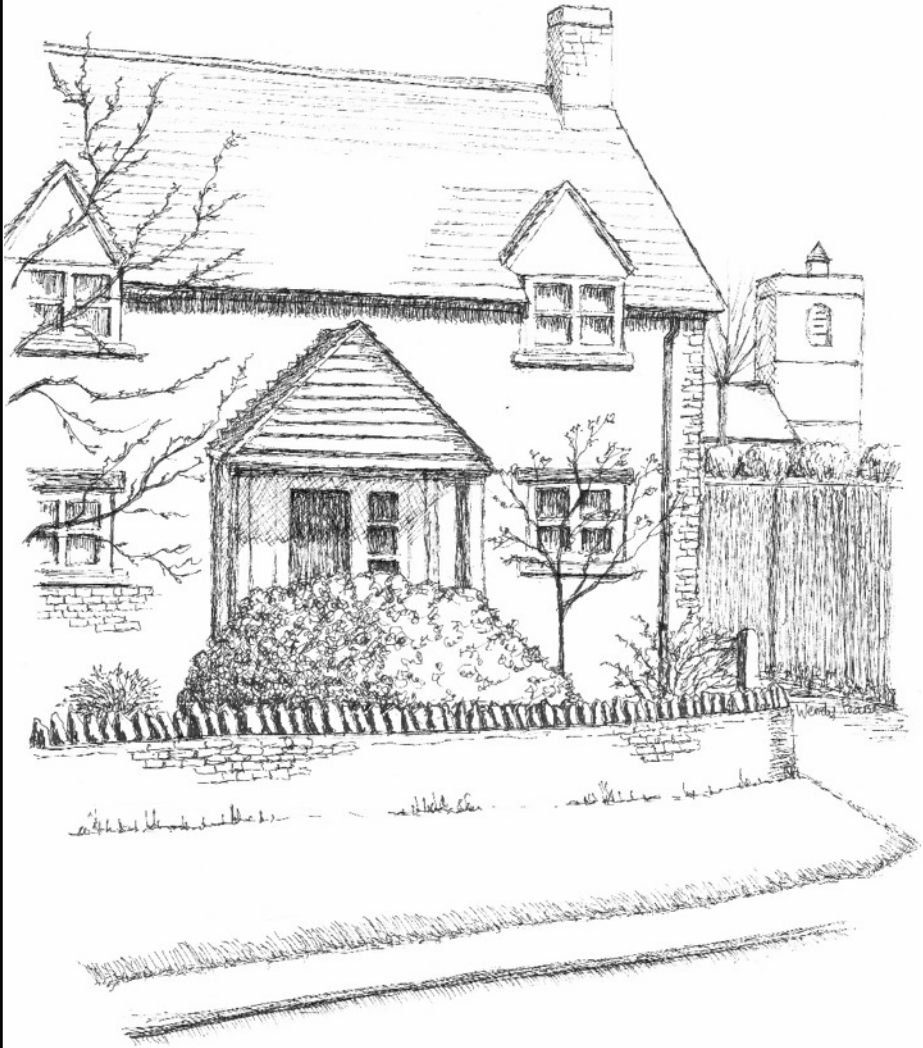


The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1st August 2022.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email:
wendypearse@btinternet.com

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

Advertising Rates

£16.00 full page

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

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

Local Churches

Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572

St Mary's Shipton

Churchwarden James Walmsley

01993 830842

SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Wychwood Baptist, Milton

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

Burford Methodist

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993 845322

Westcote Methodist

Tony Gibson 01993 830699

Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

Roman Catholic

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-in-the-Wold

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton

Priest: Fr Antony Joyce 01608 642703.

St Teresa, Charlbury

Priest: Fr Clive Dytor 07484158642

Mass at Charlbury 09:15

Services at the Chase Benefice 2022

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

1st Sunday of the month 10 am BCP Communion Service at Spelsbury

2nd Sunday of the month 10 am CW Communion Service at Ascott

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. 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.

Death

Annie Gripper died on April 13th, RIP

Tongue Twisters

The World Tongue Twister Champion has just been arrested, he is hoping for a tough sentence.

The well known Peter Piper was first printed in 1813, in a book by John Harris, the title itself being a Tongue Twister.

"Peter Piper's Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation"

Although popular in the 1800's the first mention of the term was in 1895. I wonder what they were called previously. It has been suggested Tongue twisters are a great way to practice and improve pronunciation and fluency. They can also help to improve accents by using alliteration, which is the repetition of one sound. They provide fun and entertainment, they are not just for kids, but are also used by actors, politicians, and public speakers, who want to sound clear when speaking. A sure test of mastery is to say a Tongue Twister fast five times. Of course some are more difficult than others, some are diabolical.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records (although I couldn't find it in the 2022 edition), the most challenging tongue twister ever created is

"The sixth sick Sheik's sixth sheep's sick"

Of course sheep are not the only animals to provide subject matter.

"If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose"

I can tell you the pups we have had living with us over the years have without exception always chose chewing my wife's shoes over mine.

Ever heard of a bald bear, or was it a toy bear.

"Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he".

"I saw a kitten eating chicken in the kitchen".

The chicken should have been put away.

Here is part of a song from a 1903 musical and may be found on Youtube. A Woodchuck is perhaps better known to us as a Groundhog

"How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

He would chuck, he would, as much as he could, and chuck as much wood

As a woodchuck would if a woodchuck could chuck wood"

In this one was it the skunk or was it the trunk, your call.

"A skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stank

But the stump thought the skunk stank"

These two horses were on good form when this was written

"One One was a race horse

Two Two was one too

One One won one race

Two Two won one too"

People are also much featured

"Susie works in a shoeshine shop.

Where she shines she sits, and where she sits she shines"

The least said about that one the better, however I know I shouldn't but I do sometimes wonder if Susie is friends with the following three characters from Twister land

"Willie's really weary"

"Shep Schwab shopped at Scott's Schnapps shop;

One shot of Scott's Schnapps stopped Schwab's watch"

That last one won a contest in Games magazine in 1979

"Wayne went to Wales to watch Walruses"

Wayne must have visited a Welsh Zoo to see them.

"Tom threw Tim three thumbtacks"

Did Tim catch them yes or no?

Just two more.

"Betty Botter bought some butter

But she said the butter's bitter

If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter

But a bit of better butter will make my batter better

So 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter"

"Which Witch switched the Swiss wristwatches"

Should you have time, YouTube yields a good crop of Tongue Twisters, I like Danny Kays' The Pellet with the Poison and Moses Supposes

For Adults only seek out the one from Mrs Browns' Boys

Non Nom

TIDDY HALL

Tiddy Hall is steadily returning to a normal running pattern, and we are seeing a slow increase in our bookings. Our hall is multi-functional so do please consider **Tiddy Hall** for your children's parties and other social functions. It's a wonderful clean space with a fully equipped kitchen, updated toilet facilities and plenty of car parking places. We also have a comfortable committee room upstairs which is available for hire, a perfect space for smaller meetings. Do look at our website for further information – www.tiddyhall.com

The Wychwood Folk Club has had a busy first half of the year with many great gigs including a couple of foreign acts from Spain and Canada! After the June date, the club will be taking a break for the summer until it returns in early September. Tickets are now available for the following events:

Saturday June 4th

Billy Mitchell & Bob Fox

Saturday September 10th

Pete Morton

More information and tickets available through the website:
www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

After our successful **Coffee Morning** held in April, the **Tiddy Hall** team will be hosting another on Saturday June 18th. Entry is £3 which includes as much coffee or tea as you can drink, and a piece (or two) of homemade cake! Everyone welcome, please come and join us for a friendly chat with your fellow villagers!

The Roseneath School of Music will hold its' **Annual Concert** on Saturday 25th June. Tickets are available from Pauline Carter 01993 774568 or pauline@paulinecartermusic.co.uk - £10 to include a glass of wine. Doors open at 7.30pm.

Summer Yoga will be returning to **Tiddy Hall** this July! First session starts on Wednesday 20th July and the course will run for 6 weeks. Please contact Nikki Jackson for further information and to book your place – nikki@yogafocus.co.uk or 07816 786656.

Rachel Stokes Lovel has begun running **Sound Bath** sessions at **Tiddy Hall**. These sessions use Tibetan singing bowls, gongs, zaphyr chimes and tingsha bells. Whilst cocooned in a blanket, either laying on the floor or sitting in a chair, the healing vibrations and an immersion in sound can bring huge benefits such as improving sleep patterns, lowering stress, activating self-healing from within, increases focus & learning, deepens meditative state, pain management, headache relief, building resilience and self-esteem. Rachel's next session is Tuesday May 24th at 7pm and she is planning to run a monthly class. Contact Rachel for further information: reikibyrachelsl@gmail.com

And finally, the Tiddy Hall team is hosting The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration on Friday 3rd June at the Playing Fields! The afternoon will begin at midday – please see separate poster in this magazine – we hope to see you there!!

A reminder of our regular activities at **Tiddy Hall**:

Matt Fiddes School of Martial Arts on Mondays (John & Sally 07730 453172)

Mighty Matt's (3-6 years)	17.15-18.00
Junior & Family (7+ years)	18.15-19.15
Ladies Only (14+ years)	19.30-20.30

Pauline Carter Piano Lessons on Fridays – 3.30pm – 6.30pm (07551 563115)

Pauline has a few places available for anyone wishing to have lessons.

Post Office every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

The Tiddy Hall Team

You are invited to a

COFFEE MORNING at TIDDY HALL

Saturday 18th June

10am – noon



Entry is £3 per person to include as much coffee/tea as you can drink and a piece of cake (or two)!!

Travel with Merv Bates

The world of travel has been turned upside down and inside out over the last 2 years and although we are not completely out of the woods, things are becoming much brighter. More and more of us are starting travel if not making plans to do so in 2022 and beyond.

More countries are lifting restrictions and opening their borders, much less preparation is needed to travel and masks on flights are becoming optional rather than mandatory with some of the world's largest airlines. As examples, Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada are all reducing restrictions to welcome more visitors in the forthcoming months. This is fantastic news. Asian countries, although slowly opening their borders, seem to be more hesitant but industry experts predict that countries in Asia will be more open to visitors in the forthcoming year.

I have seen a surge in bookings especially for customers visiting family and friends or rebooking that trip that has been postponed over the last couple of years. Cruising is also having a huge comeback. Small cruising ships with capacity of around 100 up to 1200 passengers are booking particularly quickly and much faster than normal. Only a couple of weeks ago, I checked the availability for a Seabourn cruise sailing around Australia for 2024 and the cruise was almost full!

Airlines still haven't got all their aircraft back flying and some routes still operate a reduced schedule. This is driving up prices as customer demand is there but not the capacity. My advice for anyone thinking about travelling in 2022 or early 2023 is to start planning now to ensure you lock in the best possible prices. Remember when booking with me I can often make your booking with a deposit only and if your plans change or you need to amend then I can easily do that for you. If you need to cancel, then most airlines will often move your deposits to a credit booking to be used in the future if you do this around 10-12 weeks prior to travel.

In other news, as I write this the UK passport office are having huge delays up to ten weeks to issue replacement passports. If you are travelling to EU countries in 2022 it's a good idea to check now that all your families' passports are valid.

If you need help planning your next trip, I have more than 35 years in this wonderful industry and can create memorable experiences for you and tailor the service around you. With me, you are never tied to high street opening times, I don't charge a fee and am very competitive on price. Some customers are happy dealing with the details by phone but if you prefer, book an appointment, and we can meet in my village based "travel bureau" at times to fit around you (including both evenings and weekends).

Please get in touch and I would be delighted to help you.

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Church Activity

Church Teas

We are restarting the teas in the church on Sundays through next summer. The PCC are kicking off on Sunday April 3rd 2022 and we welcome people to come forward to organise the rest. Hoping to hold them in:

- June 26th
- July 24th
- August 21st
- September 25th

If you are interested, then let one of the PCC know.

Sarah Tribe DipTA MBACP

sarahtribe@hotmail.co.uk

07427 660338

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Church Teas

Are Resuming
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Sunday 22nd May 2022
3-5pm
Holy Trinity Church

Future dates for your diary
July 24th, August 21st and September 25th

All proceeds towards the upkeep and maintenance of the church

Community Bus Services

210 Service linking Crawley, Leaffield and the Wychwoods with Witney
Timetable with effect from Saturday 5 June 2021

Operated by West Oxfordshire Community Transport



Wychwoods to Witney Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)				
Milton u Wychwood, The Hare	08:00	10:00	12:50	15:55
Shipton u Wychwood, PO	08:04	10:05	12:55	15:59
Ascott u Wychwood, The Green	08:09	10:11	13:02	
Leaffield, Lower End	08:19	10:21	13:12	
Crawley, The Lamb	08:28	10:31	13:22	
Deer Park Medical Centre	08:35	10:38	13:29	
Witney Market Sq (Bus stop A)	08:42	10:44	13:36	16:40
Sainsbury's	08:45	10:47	13:40	
Range Road	08:50			17:13
Fernleigh ⁽¹⁾ drop off only	09:07	11:00 ⁽¹⁾		

Witney to Wychwoods Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)				
Sainsbury's	09:10	12:00	15:15	17:18
Witney Market Sq. (Bus stop D)	09:13	12:05	15:20	17:22
Welch Way Library	09:15	12:07	15:22	17:24
Range Road				
Deer Park Medical Centre		12:12	15:24	17:29
Crawley, The Lamb	09:24	12:16	15:27	17:35
Leaffield, Lower End	09:33	12:26	15:32	17:43
Ascott u Wychwood, The Green	09:43	12:36	15:44	17:53
Shipton u Wychwood, PO	09:50	12:44	15:50	17:58
Milton u Wychwood, The Hare	09:55	12:47	15:54	18:00

Wychwoods to Witney Saturdays (except Public Holidays)				
Milton u Wychwood, The Hare	09:00	11:00	13:00	
Shipton u Wychwood, PO	09:04	11:04	13:04	
Ascott u Wychwood, The Green	09:10	11:10	13:10	
Leaffield, Lower End	09:18	11:18	13:18	
Crawley, The Lamb	09:26	11:26	13:26	
Deer Park Medical Centre	09:32	11:32	13:32	14:22
Witney Market Sq (Bus stop A)	09:38	11:38	13:38	14:28
Sainsbury's	09:40	11:40	13:40	14:30
Fernleigh (*Request only)	09:42	11:42*	13:42	14:32*

Witney to Wychwoods Saturdays (except Public Holidays)				
Fernleigh (*Request only)	09:42	12:15*	13:42	
Sainsbury's	09:45	12:17	13:45	15:17
Witney Market Sq (D)	09:50	12:20	13:55	14:16 15:20
Deer Park Medical Centre	09:56	12:26	14:22	15:26
Crawley, The Lamb	10:02	12:32		15:32
Leaffield, Lower End	10:10	12:40		15:40
Ascott u Wychwood, The Green	10:18	12:48		15:48
Shipton u Wychwood, PO	10:24	12:54		15:54
Milton u Wychwood, The Hare	10:28	12:58		15:58

Operated by West Oxfordshire Community Transport Limited: T: 01993 630124 E: info@woct.org.uk F: @WOCTbus W: www.woct.org.uk

V19 VILLAGER Chipping Norton service

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Short Back and Sides

“Get your hair cut” came a shout from behind me. I then felt a dig in the ribs by a junior N.C.O. with a pacing stick.

It was April 1958, I was on the Barrack square in Aldershot, beginning my two years National Service. Until the nineteen sixties it was a rite of passage all young men had to go through when they reached eighteen. It was to do two years in the Army or R.A.F., very few went into the Navy, being the Senior Service they had first choice.

When I went to the barber he said “I can’t take any more off, I shall be cutting into the skin on your scalp”. Regimental barbers could give men a short back and sides quicker than a New Zealand farmer could shear a sheep.

Most of the men I met while doing my two years were like me. We did what we were told and soon started to cross off the days until we had done our stint and were out of it. In the meantime, we had to tolerate the spiteful sport of bullying from mostly Junior N.C.Os.

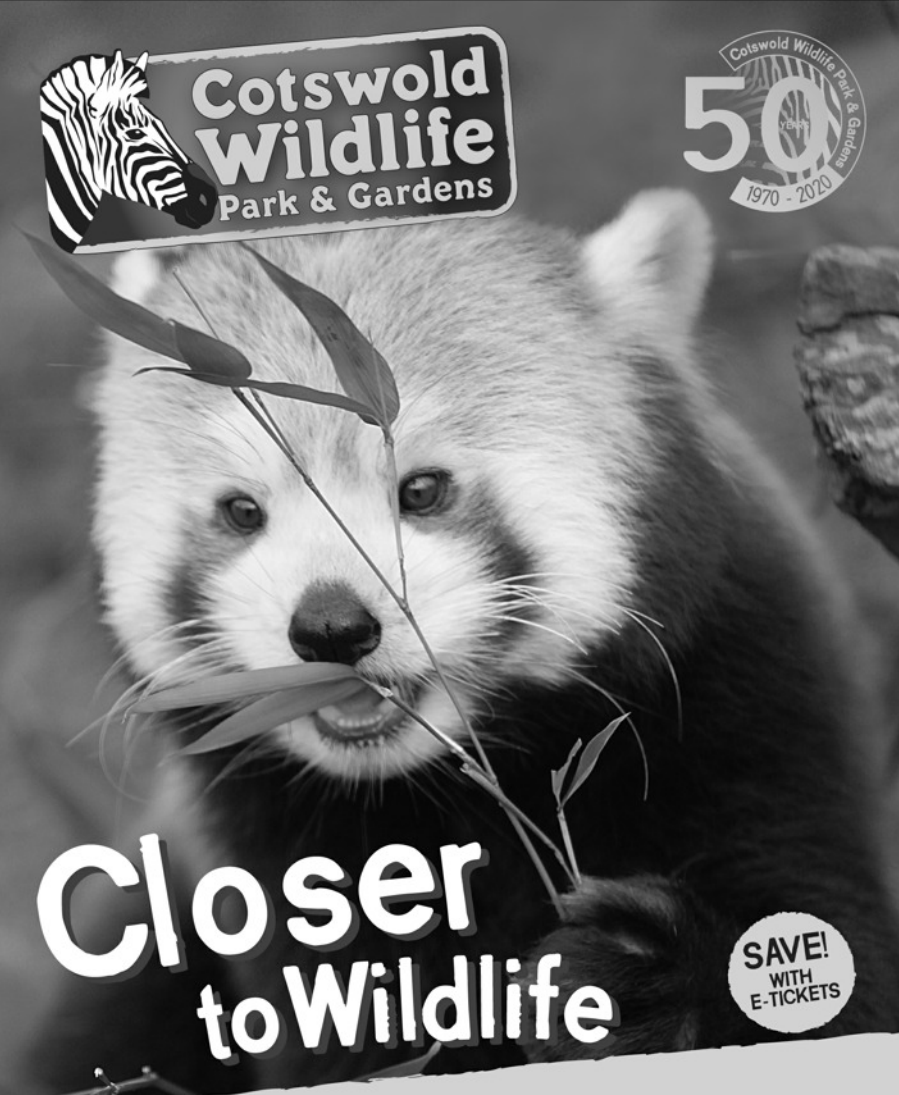
By April 1960 I was out. I had served most of my time in Cyprus in the cook-house. It wasn’t all bad, I enjoyed many of the days I spent out there on the beach. I was back home to the beginning of the swinging sixties. No more short back and sides. Everyone wanted to be a poet or a pop star, so they let their hair grow long. I noticed that the longer footballers let their hair grow, the shorter their shorts got. By the mid-sixties I realised I wasn’t going to be any of these, my hair was coming out in combfuls. By the time I was in my late twenties I was as bald as my father and grandfather.


Now, if we move to the present day, early 2022, there is something which has happened that I find interesting. Where as it was under orders in my National Service days to get a haircut, today it seems to be the fashion for young men to have their hair cut short. So I wonder why or how do these trends begin, or is it because we are generally more militant and aggressive towards each other and want to show our sharpness by having short back and sides. Today I know many men, including family, friends and a vicar who have shaved their heads completely, robbing the barber of a living. I expect any time to see them in their saffron robes with a begging bowl, which may not be a bad thing, most Buddhists seem to be very cheerful people.


In old age I have become more intolerant and unforgiving which makes me think all religions where old men control their beliefs cause great unhappiness for the people who follow them. Jesus Christ was killed when a young man, had he reached old age, would he still have preached salvation, forgiveness and love?

P.S. N.C.O. stands for Non Commissioned Officer, Junior N.C.O’s. are Lance Jacks and Corporals.


Fred Russell



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STRANGE TALES – FACT OR FICTION

Over the centuries myths and legends have combined with true occurrences to enrich the history of our area of West Oxfordshire but how many hold some semblance of truth?

One curiosity is the mention of ‘Priory’ in Ascott village. People in the past have assumed that there must have been a priory here, hence the use of the word. Priory is basically associated with the area from Richard and Anne Smith’s property up to and along Priory Lane. The reason for the association is that the Doyley family who held the manor and land of Ascott Doyley from the time of the Norman Conquest, in the early medieval period, gave this small area of ground plus some land in the open fields, to St. Frideswides Priory in Oxford. Basically this meant the Priory collected the tithes – a tenth of all products. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII the property was sold into private hands and never returned to Ascott Doyley Manor, but the name continued to be remembered through the succeeding centuries. In the 19c Ascott Manor Farm was sometimes called Priory Farm but that seems to be simply to identify the farm at the end of Priory Lane. The lane was cut across when the railway was constructed. There used to be a belief that a tunnel ran from Manor Farm to Priory House but with no reason for the properties to be connected this is only a myth.

Ascott Manor the oldest building in the village has long been associated with a presence or ghost and in a similar way, so has the Grange. But the Grange’s ghost only appeared in the 19c. In the church near the lectern is a plaque commemorating Elizabeth Harris who was the mother of Esther Boyes. It was believed that Esther Boyes’ ghost would sit crying on the stairs at the Grange their home. Perhaps at the loss of her dearly loved mother.

The Grange with its land belonged for several centuries to Brasenose College in Oxford. All the land and property in Ascott Earl unlike Ascott Doyley, had come into private hands before the Dissolution of the Monasteries. In the 16c The Grange belonged to a family named Smythe. There was a case concerning the property held in the 16c before the Chancery Court in London which took several years to resolve. John Smythe the heir, was said to have sold the property to Ellis Shepherd’s grandfather whilst the Master of Brasenose College maintained that he had bought the property from John’s cousin George and that John was unable to sell it because he was in his ‘none age’ under 21. Of course the power of the college was undefeatable and Brasenose won.

This case is interesting because part of the evidence was that John Smythe was born at the Crown Inn in Shipton. This was stated by the midwife who attended his birth there prior to 1500. Contrary to popular belief today’s Shaven Crown

(this name only came into existence when the inn was bought by a brewery in the 1930s) the Crown Inn was established many centuries earlier as a Charity for the village of Shipton, and the Crown Inn Charity was largely responsible for the maintenance of the bridges at Shipton and Milton. The Crown Inn never had any association with Bruern Abbey which the present name seems to imply.

Under Shipton Bridge is said to be laid the ghost of Sir John Reade the owner of Shipton Court. An incident occurred whilst Sir John and his butler Sinden were together in one of the Court rooms in a none too sober state. No-one ever knew exactly what happened but Sinden was found dead having it was believed struck his head on the fender following a fall. A patch of blood is supposed to be still visible under the carpet. Sir John never got over the incident and following his own death his ghost was said to be seen in various places around the Court. In the end and this is true, a party of clergymen came to Shipton and laid his ghost under Shipton Bridge where it still remains.

Another myth about the present Shaven Crown is that it was once an Elizabethan Hunting Lodge. Like the association with Bruern Abbey this is totally untrue. Why would you have a Hunting Lodge in the middle of a village?

The local Hunting Lodge for Wychwood Forest was up at Langley Farm where the initials of King Henry VII and Elizabeth his queen are still displayed on one of the walls. Several Tudor monarchs stayed at Langley whilst hunting in the forest.

As well as a Hunting Lodge there were several Keepers Lodges throughout the forest and a notorious murder was committed close to South Lawn Lodge in 1824. An underkeeper was shot and two local poachers were soon hanged near the Castle mound in Oxford. They protested their innocence until the end. A true occurrence but were these men really responsible or were they scapegoats under the power of the local gentry who raised a big hullabaloo about the crime?

Another murder occurred in the late 18c near the A361 on Shipton Downs in an inn set back from the road. The villains were the notorious Dunsden brothers, born in Fullbrook, highwaymen and robbers supreme. They killed the landlord of the inn and were finally run down, captured and hanged. They were brought back to Shipton Downs and left hanging there in chains for all to see. People visited to view the remains of the criminals and the initials of the brothers were carved in the bark of what became known as the Gibbet Tree. The tree still stands close to the forest.

There is however one mystery which will never be solved. Just across the downs, above Shipton, are the crossroads of the Shipton to Leafield road and the Charlbury to Burford road. This is known as Judds Grave. In the past murderers and other criminals were often hanged then buried in unconsecrated ground near crossroads. But who was Judd and was this his misfortune?

Wendy Pearse

Spring Migration

Spring Migration, most birdwatcher's favourite time of year, winter visitors like Fieldfare, Redwings, Siskins, Redpolls & Bramblings are still hanging around as a steady influx of oversea birds start to arrive to commence their breeding season. You'll start to hear more and more birdsong as they partner up and begin nest building. Our own resident birds are in full song and many start to come into their summer plumage.

There's always a bit of a healthy competition on the bird blogs to see who'll be the first to sight the early arrivals like Sand Martins, Chiffchaffs, Wheatears and Ring Ousels (only passing through our county to get to higher ground), closely followed by Swallows, House Martins, Blackcaps, Redstarts. The arrival of Willow Warblers signal the start of the many other warbler species (little brown jobbies) that like to gather near a water source with reedbeds. If you're lucky you might catch sight of a Turtle Dove or Cuckoo although sad to say they are becoming rarer and rarer in this country due to the hazards they face during the migration from Africa. Nine out of ten Turtle Doves have been lost since the 1970's and they've been on the red list for a while (facing extinction) due to this sustained population decline. This is down to many factors including farming practices, global warming and being shot by hunters in the Mediterranean countries they have to pass through. The same applies to the Cuckoo, another summer visitor that makes a similar dangerous journey from Africa.

Inland counties like Oxfordshire experience spring migration on a smaller scale than coastal sites and no matter where I've looked in our fair county, I've yet to discover a coastline. Nevertheless, we can still experience some rare and exciting birds like Black Necked Grebe, Great Northern Diver (one juvenile has currently been wintering at Farmoor Reservoir) and an Osprey passing through to its breeding grounds. It's always worth checking out Herons in case there's a Purple Heron amongst them (a regular overshooting migrant to Britain). One was discovered at Blenheim Palace last year.

Early May sees the spring migration peak with thousands of birds passing north, waders visit the south and east coast many in full summer plumage and a visit to any east coast site should prove worthwhile with Knot, Bar-tailed Godwits and Dunlin. Scarce waders seen along the east coast can include Curlew Sandpipers, Temminck's Stints and Spotted Redshank. Temminck's Stint are also often seen at inland sites often on small areas of mud on gravel pits. Inland gravel pits and reservoirs are also known for occasional sighting of rare terns such as Whiskered, Sandwich and Caspian Tern. Rare raptors are a feature of May with Red-footed Falcon and Black Kite being reported in south and east of the UK. Red-footed Falcons often arrive with Hobbies on light south east winds. Montagu's Harrier sighting can number up to 60 during late April and May and as the breeding population in eastern Britain seems to be improving this acrobatic bird should become more

Ascott Grapevine

common on migration. Alpine Swifts can be found from March to May and are often found with the first flush of spring migrants.

The end of May is renowned for producing rare birds from east and south east Europe and is a great time to look for Bee-eater, Common Rosefinch, Red-Rumped Swallow, Thrush Nightingale, Melodious Warbler, Collared Flycatcher and Rosy Starling.

There are many, many more that could be added to what I've mentioned above but if you are interested in taking up birding as a relatively inexpensive hobby then you can't beat getting the Collins Bird Guide (& app for your phone).

Mark Pidgeon



Blackcap



Wheatear



Spotted Redshank



Turtle Doves

FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT PAST

Part 17



It is hard to believe that up until the 20th century the majority of Ascott's inhabitants worked in agriculture. All through the centuries it had been a village based on farming, the necessity of life. Today there is virtually no-one here who relies on this basic need. However through the centuries the majority of the village inhabitants have been labourers and their families.

We call them labourers, seemingly an unskilled section of the village population. But they were not unskilled. They became the carters, shepherds, cattlemen and cowmen, hedgers and ditchers who learnt their skills from their elders regarding the care of the land and animals. They also acquired knowledge about the weather, a skill which had been growing from the earliest times. Weather lore was universal hence the many rhymes and sayings we are aware of today. These several skills contributed greatly to the existence of the village. How many people today would know how to guide a team of oxen to plough a field, lay a hedge to form a secure barrier or poultice an animal with a foot infection?

In our day the existence of ridge and furrow in fields seems an archaic way of farming but when all work was performed by manual labour it was a skilled way of coping with the weather. The sinuous shape of the furrows allowed drainage in wet periods but helped to prevent the erosion of soil. And this system also allowed the preservation of crops. In a wet time the crop could grow on the ridge and in a

time of drought it could grow in the damper furrow. They endeavoured to treat illness in animals – not necessarily effective but what else did they have? Some methods must have worked, perhaps using herbal methods as was indeed probably the only asset their families could have used to treat themselves. That is apart from prayer.

Religion played a huge part in the lives of these earlier villagers. From Pagan times into Christianity how fervently their prayers must have been delivered to seek answers to the many disasters and problems with which they were beset. Today science has come to the fore and has had a huge impact on reliance on religion, but for generation after generation the power of prayer was their only salvation. From the church great emphasis was placed on how they had caused their own troubles by their acts and ways of life. Imagine living with the heavy weight of multiple sins bearing down on you, day after day after day and constantly being reminded of this during church services.

They also had to endure the fear generated by the many myths and legends which circulated in their lives. Tales of witches, ghosts, and magic, and rare phenomena which today we can explain so much more easily. Even at the end of the 19th century Wychwood Forest was still considered a forbidding and sinister place, best to be avoided at all times, especially in the dark of night, so much darker than today with the effects of the myriad forms of lighting in this 21st century.

From the earliest times when Neolithic people began to work the land, if the village was to survive, the constant round of ploughing, planting and harvesting was unending. Through the Iron Age and Roman era there must always have been labourers in the fields of the valley producing enough food to ensure this survival of the village. But it is only in the 11th century that a record of those people, both men, women and children, becomes visible. In fact the Domesday Book records 10 slaves working on the two manors of the village. How did these slaves fit into the system? Were they obtained through warfare, purchase or descended from earlier slaves? No one knows, but their tied hands must have had some input into the existence of the village. There is no record of how long slavery persisted but for the other villagers under the overlords and bailiffs in the harsh Norman Feudal System and in Ascott under the even more severe Forest Laws, where the game in the forest had priority over the villagers; life must have also been tough. Our garden sheds today are most likely far superior to many dwellings and shoes and clothing would have been fairly inadequate to cope with the vagaries of the weather. How did they cope with the clouds of dust created in hay and corn harvesting especially when the crop was contaminated with mould following a wet summer, or in winter the energy sapping weight and suction of mud on shoes and boots? How tough those people must have been!

I know from experience how bitterly the wind cuts across whilst ploughing the upper slopes of the valley in the winter months on an open top tractor, or how the sun blazes remorselessly down on the hay field on the lower slopes in the midst of

summer. But the sense of achievement is great when the whole field consists of freshly ploughed furrows, or the rows of hay gradually disappear into bales waiting to be stacked, especially so when the weather threatens. There is that gnawing anxiety of whether you can reach the finish before rain overtakes you as thunderclouds approach the hay or corn fields, or the onset of sudden snowy blizzards that arrive whilst attempting to sow a field of spring corn. Through all the centuries the Ascott labourers must have faced these same major obstacles, and in past centuries it also meant the threat of famine and starvation.

As today there were years of drought, harsh winters, ceaseless rain and the spread of disease amongst men and animals, culminating in the Black Death arriving around 1349. This did eventually ease the Feudal System when a major drop in the population made the value of labourers increase considerably and slightly improved their status.

So these were Ascott's long centuries of nameless hard labouring inhabitants. Some traces of their bones may still exist in the churchyard but apart from the layout of some features in the landscape which they may have worked on, nothing remains.

Only after the Tudor era into the early 17th century can we perceive a more tangible sense of their presence. Amongst the around 200 Ascott Wills from between 1526 and 1730 which still survive, are five wills and/ or inventories where the testator is named a labourer. They are John Carter 1635, William Bridgeman 1642, Richard Sherborne 1683, George Thomas 1685 and William Ryman 1698. Their wills and inventories will at last provide some insight into this major section of the village population. (To be continued.)

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Wychwood Library Bulletin

Wychwood Library Bulletin

Book Donations & Book Stall

We would love to receive donations of second-hand books in good condition throughout June ready for the fete on Saturday 2nd July. Please come and support our stall on the day to raise money for additional library stock.

Digital Help

Did you know that you can also get digital help with mobile phones, ipads and tablets, as well as computers? Sessions are free but need to be booked. Local libraries providing this service include Chipping Norton, Carterton and Burford. Contact these libraries directly or get in touch with us and we'll help arrange them.

Summer Reading Challenge

Keep a look out for this year's Summer Reading Challenge, which will run from Saturday 9th July to Saturday 10th September! We've teamed up with the Science museum this year for a 'Gadgeteers' theme, encouraging participants to discover the amazing science and innovation in the world around them. Featuring amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for cool experiments and activities, it's well worth joining in! It keeps the children reading (and entertained) over the long summer holiday too.

Contact us at wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk or on 01993 830281 during opening hours.



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WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



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

Sat June 4th Billy Mitchell and Bob Fox + support by **Dan Sealey**

Tickets £16.00 in advance £18.00 on the door

A rare opportunity to see **Billy Mitchell** and **Bob Fox** perform once again as a duo after several years of highly successful individual work.

Billy Mitchell has done it all as a performer and songwriter. He spent eight years as front man of the legendary 'Lindisfarne' till their retirement in 2003

Bob Fox has twice been nominated as Folk Singer of the Year at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. Bob was invited to join the National Theatre's production of 'Warhorse' in London's West End in 2011 and subsequently the UK, Ireland and South Africa touring version in 2013 playing the role of 'Songman'.

Dan Sealey is the former bass guitarist for the rock group **Ocean Colour Scene**. He was drafted in by the band after Damon Minchella left the band in 2003. Sealey is also in **Merrymouth**, a folk band with Ocean Colour Scene bandmate Simon Fowler and Adam Barry

Sat Sept 10th Pete Morton + support by **Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer**

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Pete Morton began his musical journey after he came across a Buffy St Marie record. It was from that moment on he decided to become a folk singer. Discovering the songs of the early sixties protest movement, it inspired him to write and take his songs into folk clubs and beyond.

For thirty years, Pete has been performing to audiences all over the world. Throughout that time, he has been regarded as one the best on the contemporary roots' music scene. His latest album 'A Golden Thread' has received rave reviews with eight newly self-penned songs, a Pete Seeger classic 'Oh Had I A Golden Thread', and versions of the traditional gems, 'Barbry Allen' and 'The Farmers Boy'.

Sat Oct 1st Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

Tickets £14.00 in advance £16.00 on the door

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

Parish Council News 2022

Once again, my report on the work of the PC is dominated by planning. As I write, the two appeals remain under consideration: the Cow Shed site beyond the end of High Street in what should be regarded as open countryside; and the Blue Cedar proposal accessed from London Lane.

Planning Appeals

This has been a baptism of fire to the appeals system. The Cow Sheds appeal took place by means of a virtual hearing followed by a site visit by the Inspector, accompanied by representatives of all parties. The good news is that the Inspector was very thorough in his visit (in the rain) and took pains to carefully consider the arguments on all sides. The final decision rests on a number of complex legal interpretations and so we do not expect a quick answer.

The Blue Cedar appeal, by contrast, is by written submission only and a considerable volume of submissions have been produced by legal experts arguing for and against the proposed development. I have stated this before, but it is important to restate that the appeals are both against the decisions made by West Oxfordshire District Council and the PC can only act in a supporting role. It is also the case that the Inspector does not rule on whether the development is good or bad for the village, only on whether WODC was correct in how they applied the rules leading up to their decision.

Playing Fields

Whilst our attention has been focussed on planning, the normal work of the Parish Council has been continuing. A number of repairs have been made to the play equipment and my thanks in particular to the brave volunteers who tackled the ivy in the playing fields.

Parking

Another continuous theme is the constant threat posed by dangerous and inconsiderate parking around the village. The PC has no legal enforcement power in this regard other than to ask everyone to behave reasonably. The fact is that our roads were simply not designed for the level of car ownership we need in the absence of viable public transport, and we all know that parking around the village is difficult, and visitors cause parking problems too - but please consider others when you pull in. There are blind bends and pinch points all around the village and you may not even be aware of the danger you are causing from your vantage point behind the wheel. Please look all around where you park and think twice.

Elections

The Parish Council has been automatically re-elected for the simple reason that nobody else has offered to stand. However, we urge everyone to turn out and vote for their choice of District Councillor on the 5th May.

Jubilee and Annual Parish Meeting

Looking ahead, we have two events in store: the Jubilee celebrations and the Annual Parish Meeting. The Jubilee weekend is being organized by a separate committee - please check out their publicity and Facebook posts. One theme of the Jubilee is the planting of trees, which revisits the question of whether to replace the tree on the village green. There are a range of strongly held views on this subject and an even wider range of views on what should be a replacement if it goes ahead, and we will be discussing how we come to a decision on this at the next meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be different this year! We are taking a leaf out of Shipton and Milton's books and running this as a community event with wine and nibbles, representatives of various organizations and clubs in the village for you to meet and a theme of Amenities. As well as a chance to put your views to your Parish Council, there will be talks on planning, conservation areas and social media; tables for clubs and organizations (think Fresher's week) and we invite short (maximum five minute) spoken contributions so you can discover what is going on and available in our village.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st May at 7:30pm at Tiddy Hall. It is open to the whole village to attend and if you wish to take part as a member of an organization please contact us below. We would like to hear from you and look forward to meeting you on the night.

Brian Leach

Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council

contact@ascottpc.org.uk

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Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

After feverish preparations we started the 2022 season on April 10th with a comfortable win at home vs an Indian team called Oxford United Cricket Club. No reactions to the football club! Subsequently we produced a few mixed results but as I write this on 30th April we're fresh from a 124 run home victory over local rivals Swinbrook.

On Saturday (May 7th) we commenced our Cherwell League campaign with a home match vs Cropredy 4th XI, with fixtures every Saturday home and away until 3rd September. Target this season is promotion - after we narrowly missed out in 2021 by just 7 points.

Many villagers will have noticed how fabulous Memorial Playing Field is looking, a lot of graft is put in to keep it so tidy for the benefit of all. We wish to thank all the team, particularly Mr Shane Barnes for his effort and expertise in tending to the grass on his classic Massey Ferguson, but also Philippa & Nick Carter, Mary Barnes, Pauline Plant, Sarah Russell and others. We consider ourselves privileged to play at such a beautiful venue which is frequently complimented by away teams.

Amongst a gaggle of new players we've acquired over the last few months are Alex Mitchell, Rupert Derham, Mark Read and Sam Hollier - all Ascott residents, which is fabulous! Also, village youngsters William Harvey (13) and Eddie Russell (11) are already playing with the squad, and improving rapidly - I predict both will soon take their first 'senior' wickets in Sunday matches.

We are extremely grateful for the spectator support we get at home matches - do please wander over and relax by the cricket for a bit when you see / hear a game going on! We put out a number of benches all around the boundary for exactly this reason - for you to cheer on Ascott, the team wearing bright lime green trim!

Stewart Moss 07866 278685

Email: AUWCricetClub@Hotmail.com

Twitter: [@AUWCricetClub](https://twitter.com/AUWCricetClub)

Instagram: [ascott_u_wychwood_cricket](https://www.instagram.com/ascott_u_wychwood_cricket)



Women's Tour of Britain

Residents of Chipping Norton will be centre stage at the start of Stage 6 of the Women's Tour of Britain, as the highest town in the county hosts the start of the last day of the race on Saturday June 11th. The full route details were revealed today.

Starting at Chipping Norton and travelling south through West Oxfordshire, competitors will travel through Charlbury, Burford and Carterton before culminating in the heart of Oxford City.

Chief Executive for West Oxfordshire District Council, Giles Hughes, said, "What a great day this promises to be for communities in West Oxfordshire. We are delighted that Chipping Norton has been chosen as the start for Stage 6.

"Hosting the start of the race gives our residents the opportunity to soak up the excitement and spot some of the world's most decorated and accomplished women cyclists right on their doorstep.

The race brings with it benefits for our residents and local businesses, and will bring a welcome boost to the West Oxfordshire economy. We also hope the race will inspire people to get on their bikes and enjoy the health benefits that come with cycling."

The 145-kilometre (90-mile) route will again be a picture postcard for one of Britain's most loved areas. It will head as far north as Milcombe – a short distance from Banbury where Italian rider Marta Bastianelli triumphed in the 2021 race – before changing course and travelling south through West Oxfordshire towards an intermediate sprint near RAF Brize Norton in Carterton.

Stage six will also feature Faringdon – which memorably turned pink when the race visited in 2019 – and Didcot in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire districts respectively.

Riders will cross the River Thames via the Folly Bridge as the race enters Oxford from its south side. In what promises to be a truly stunning end to the 2022 race, the stage will finish on the historic St Giles'.

Oxfordshire is expecting economic and health benefits from hosting the prestigious event, with cycling fans expected to visit the county to watch the race, generating additional business for restaurants, bars, hotels, B&B's and shops.

Over 100 professional riders will weave their way through towns, villages and rural areas, inspiring local schools to organise themed sport and fitness lessons.

Families are expected to line the route to cheer on competitors, turning the event into an exciting community spectacle. Spectators will be encouraged to use healthy and environmentally friendly transport to reach vantage points to watch the race.

Ascott Open Gardens

Jubilee Weekend

Sunday 5th June 2022

1pm - 5pm

Tickets and map available on the day,
from the church porch.

Cost - £5 per adult
Children free

Afternoon tea and bubbly served from The
Old School House, The Green.

Selection of stalls including a raffle and plant
stall on the green.

Forge Gallery @ Wychwood

If all goes to plan the Forge gallery should have opened on 20th May



SCARECROW COMPETITION

We have decided to defer this until later in the year, possibly September. We will provide more details in the summer.

County Councillor

The Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance administration at the County Council is now operating its first budget. The budget is based on the nine priorities that the Fair Deal Alliance agreed back in May 2021, which can be summarised as addressing the climate emergency, tackling inequalities and promoting the health and well-being of all our residents. We consulted extensively on this and have incorporated what we heard back from residents and stakeholders into the budget. We had a total of 1392 responses to our consultation compared with 652 the previous year, and we intend to continue to engage actively to hear the views of residents across a wide range of topics. To that end we are conducting a number of consultations, which can be found on the Let's Talk Oxfordshire <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>. We want to hear from everyone as we regard all your views to be important.

The new budget includes £8 million to introduce 20 mph speed limits across the county. I have been in discussion with Ascott Parish Council to introduce a 20mph speed limit to the village. At the moment I do not know exactly when this will be implemented but it will be soon. Improving safety for walkers, cyclists and riders is high on our list of priorities.

Helping people to get out of their cars and onto public transport is another priority. This is difficult in a rural area, but we are very fortunate to have the 210 bus which runs between the Wychwood villages and Witney. I have used my Councillor Priority Fund to give several grants to the bus over the past few years, but like all bus routes, the 210 has suffered from a loss of passengers during the pandemic, and people seem reluctant to return to using it. This is entirely understandable – during the pandemic we were told that we had to stay safe and so cars were the only option for many. At the moment numbers are running at about 70% of pre-pandemic levels. Now, if we want to keep the 210 service going, it is critically important that passenger numbers increase. Unless people start taking the bus again we risk losing it altogether, so please consider taking the bus whenever you can. Not only will this help to reduce our carbon footprint, it will help to safeguard the future of the bus, ensuring that it is available for those who cannot drive.

I am also very conscious of the flooding issues that are a feature of life in Ascott, and have been working with Thames Water to look at what we can do about this. I realised some time ago that on the issues faced by rural communities are often not understood by the various agencies, and so there will be opportunities for parishes to meet with Thames Water and the County Council, which is the Lead Flood Authority, over the next few months. These “surgeries” will be hosted at the WODC offices in Witney and data collected at these sessions will be shared with the Environment Agency. This is a good example of how various agencies can work together to improve things for residents. The purpose is to establish where the flooding “hotspots” are, so that preventative work can be carried out.

This is particularly important for Ascott where flooding is a regular issue, and we had a useful meeting recently with the Parish Council and Thames Water, who are beginning to understand the difficulties that rural communities face due to the lack of appreciation of local issues and the consequent under-investment in infrastructure.

Please feel free to get in touch with me if there is anything that you think I can help with. My email is liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Liz Leffman

Ascott Preschool

Learning, growing and fun at Ascott Pre-school this summer

We are looking forward to a busy summer term at Pre-school. We have some hens' eggs incubating, and are eagerly awaiting the first chicks hatching. They will then go to live on Aleesha's farm. We have grown our own runner beans to take home, and enjoyed lots of crafting, cooking and messy play. The older children have been continuing their visits to our Forest School site at Bruern, looking out for all the signs of spring and making the most of this beautiful natural play-ground.

Fundraising update – we finally have a new fence!

We are delighted to have made a brilliant start to our fundraising for 2022. We set ourselves a target to raise £7,000 throughout the course of the year, and have already managed to raise over half this amount. This has allowed us to replace the fence around our outdoor play area. This much-needed improvement project was completed over the Easter holidays, and we are delighted with the result:





We have received some very generous donations, and would like to thank everybody who has supported us so far. We also held a successful kids' yoga event at New Beaconsfield Hall in early April, which raised over £600. This was organised and run by Pre-school parents, including Beth Tibble of Yoga Bees who ran the yoga sessions. Thank you to all who attended the event and enjoyed the yoga, crafts and cakes.

Looking ahead to our Sports Day & Summer Fête event

On **Saturday 9th July 2022** we will be holding our annual Pre-school Sports Day and Summer Fête at the Playing Field in Ascott from 12 - 3pm. This day has been our most important fundraising event in the past, and is crucial to providing additional funding to Pre-school. After a two-year hiatus this year's event is set to be extra special, especially for those children leaving Pre-school this summer who haven't had the opportunity to take part in a Sports Day yet. We are looking forward to a day of fun for all ages, including a raffle with some great prizes and lots of cakes to buy. Please do come along and join us!

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

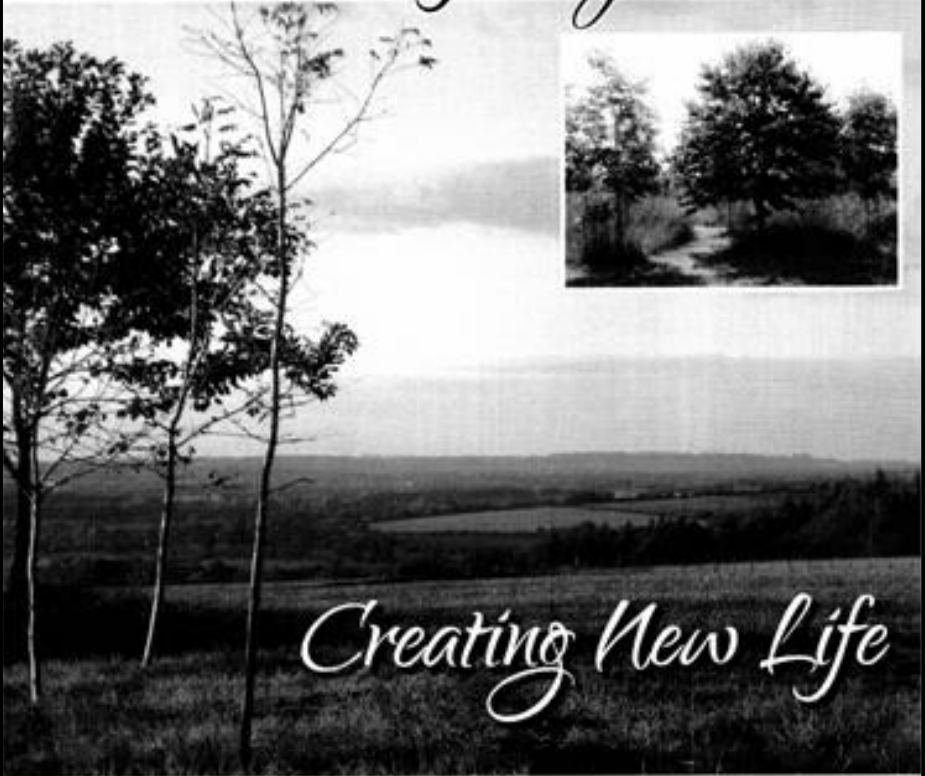
Preschool runs at Tiddy Hall during term time from Monday to Friday. Activities include child-led learning through play, craft, messy play, singing, forest school, and dance sessions with the wonderful Dancing Sally. If you'd like to know more, please visit our website www.ascottpreschool.co.uk, or contact Pauline via email (ascott_pp@btinternet.com) or phone (01993 832671).



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Wychwoods Local History Society

Meetings Programme 2022

Milton Village Hall at 7.30pm (but please check our website or posters for confirmation)

September 14th Mark Bathurst – The Medway Queen

October 2nd Julie Ann Godson – Oxfordshire in the Past

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Ascott Village Shop

After a fairly tough trading period in January and February, we are now back on track with sales exceeding our break even. This was in some part to a successful Easter trading where Bridgette's range of Easter eggs simply flew off the shelves. We supplemented this with a Pop Up shop experience on the Green where parents (and indeed villagers) were encouraged to take a look at a selection of what is in the shop with a reminder of all the locally sourced products we sell. Something you can't easily get on-line! We are continually looking at ways to increase visits to the shop and make it a destination point for day-to-day essentials without the need to travel to Chippy or Witney and this was part of our message.

Volunteers

We now have pretty much two teams of volunteers; a core team for Monday to Friday and a separate team for weekends. The weekday team generally have a regular shift pattern and at weekends the teams are more flexible given full-time work and family responsibilities. Compared to some other community shops in the Oxfordshire area, we offer greater diversity and inclusivity amongst our volunteers providing everyone with an ideal opportunity to support and contribute to the community. We know from conversations with some of the 'newer' volunteers, this notion of 'giving back' and being an active part of village life is significantly important. So why not come and join the team?

Opening hours

During Covid when we 'lost' around 50% of our long-term volunteers, we reduced hours to 9-4pm during the week and 9-12pm at weekends. The good news is that after more than two years, we will extend opening hours to 5pm for a trial run on Wednesdays & Thursdays commencing 15th June. **However, more volunteers means we can extend our opening hours even further so if you have any free time, please call in the shop and see Bridgette or drop me a note john@greenascott.co.uk**

Calling all Ascott Fruit & Veg growers

Last year we had a very productive partnership with FarmED who supplied the village shop with surplus vegetables. However, with the success of their café and lunch venue, FarmEat this is no longer the case. As an alternative, we would like YOU to think about donating your surplus fruit & veg to the shop. We will sort out prices by 'inviting a donation' and so it a win/win/win all around. Our customers WIN with fresh produce at very reasonable prices, YOU win by supporting the community and the shop WINS by having access to fresh produce at nil cost and a welcome boost to our finances. We will, of course have regular Fruit & Veg sup-

plies from our wholesaler. Interested? Please log your name with Bridgette in the shop and we will get back to you. Remember, only the freshest will do!

Refillables

Hopefully, you will have read Louise Woods excellent article ‘Think Global – Act Local’ in this edition of the Grapevine. You will be aware that we do need to start to change our shopping habits and look to reduce our carbon footprint. Mindful of this, we have now introduced our first ever range of REFILLABLES in the village shop. We hope you will give it a try and we would encourage your feedback. The Refillables project is being championed by one of volunteers Sandra Staples and any questions/feedback on future products will be gratefully received

sstaples2015@outlook.com

Shop AGM 2022 – Tuesday June 21

This will be held in The Swan function room starting at 7.30pm. A beer or glass of wine awaits at 7pm! Everyone is welcome however, only Shareholders will be entitled to vote. If you wish to become a Shareholder for the cost of £10, please contact our secretary Geoff Taylor for the forms geofftay@hotmail.com

As well as hosting a face-to-face AGM for the first time since 2019, we will also be voting for a new management committee. Three of us will be standing down and we are fortunate to have three of our current volunteers who have confirmed they will be ready to stand and become part of the new shop committee. To maintain continuity, our treasurer Stuart Fox will stand for re-election. I’m also delighted to report that Bridgette our shop manager will continue in post.

So, after my third ‘stint’ as Chairman, it is time to say ‘goodbye’ and hand the baton to a new committee who will write the next chapter in the life of our wonderful community shop.

Since we first opened the doors in 2003, I have been blessed to work with many dedicated committee members and volunteers and of course, Bridgette. I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to you all! I now look forward to continuing my role as a member of the shop volunteer team. After all, how else would I keep up with village gossip!

John Cull

Shop Chairman



Our first pop up shop experience with volunteer Per Henriksen



Ascott Village Shop



Reduce, Reuse, Refill, Repeat

Ascott Village Shop now sells refillables

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Fusilli pasta Jumbo porridge oats

Ecover washing-up liquid Ecover washing detergent

Tilda Basmati Rice

Bring your own containers and buy just what you need.

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and take a small step towards reducing climate change.**

Heart of the Community

Think Global – Act Local

Many of us are trying to be a little more environmentally conscious these days, as awareness of global warming mounts. Now heatwaves, heavy rainfall, floods and wildfires which would once have been considered rare or unprecedented are becoming ever more common. 19 of the warmest years on record have all occurred within the past 20 years and fear is mounting about what will happen if global warming continues to escalate.

The problem is ever-growing levels of greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide or CO₂) released into the atmosphere by human activities whenever we burn fossil fuels are trapping the earth's heat, leading to a slow rise in temperature. Bringing these carbon emissions down is one way to slow the pace of climate change.

We each have a 'carbon footprint' which measures the impact our activities have on the amount of CO₂ and other gases released into the atmosphere. So, the average Briton is thought to have an annual carbon footprint of around 13 tonnes, but the experts believe, just by making a few changes, we can each more than half our carbon use and get closer to 5 tonnes a year.

One great way to reduce your carbon footprint is to shop locally.

By walking (or cycling) to Ascott village shop you'll save the considerable greenhouse gases emitted by a car trip to Chipping Norton or Witney. As another environmental bonus, you'll find an abundance of locally produced meat, vegetables, jams, breads and cakes on sale. Local produce isn't just fresh and delicious, it means a dramatic cut in the carbon emissions that go into transporting goods long distance to fill the supermarket shelves.

Now the villagers who run the shop are now striving to up their eco game even further by offering a range of refillables this summer.

The idea is that you can drop by with empty jars or containers and get them topped up with essentials such as washing up liquid, laundry liquid, pasta, bread flour and porridge oats. Not only will you save money but you'll get a warm sense of satisfaction to know that every plastic packet or bottle you avoid buying reduces your carbon footprint further.

The shop has a new mantra of 'reduce, reuse, refill, repeat' and the team will be trialling an assortment of products in plastic-free and zero-waste packaging over the coming months. So why not pop over to Ascott and have a look around? The shop is open from 9am to 4pm on weekdays and 9am to noon at the weekends.

You can pick up the stylishly branded jute bag for £4.79 and fill it with a delicious selection of eco-friendly goodies to take home.

10 great ways to help save the planet:

1. Shop local (and buy local produce when possible to avoid carbon emissions from transportation)
2. Avoid single use plastic (straws, bags etc)
3. Search out products in recycled and recyclable packaging (glass, aluminium, cardboard)
4. Cut food waste by buying no more than you need
5. Buy personal care and cleaning products as concentrates or refills
6. Wash clothes at 30° and dry clothes on a washing line
7. Use solid soap (Liquid soap uses five times more energy to make, uses 20 times more packaging and 15 times more transport emissions.)
8. Enjoy plants not cut flowers (most carry a huge environmental burden because they are flown in from Kenya, Ecuador or Colombia).
9. Switch off 'standby mode' around your house. TVs, dishwashers, game consoles, smart speakers, phone chargers and other devices use up to 90% of their power when on standby. The older an appliance is, the more energy it eats up in standby mode.
10. Have a short shower not a long bath – the average bath holds 136 litres, while a typical shower pumps out 19 litres of water per minute.

Louise Woods

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Oxfordshire, OX7 6AL
01993 831960
01993 830395 fax



robgripper@btinternet.com

TIDDY HALL

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Tiddy Hall presents

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Friday 3 June from 12.00pm

The Playing Fields, Ascott-under-Wychwood*

**Come and celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee
with the village!**

Entertainment includes:

- Punch and Judy show (12.15pm and 1pm)
- Royal cake competition
- Loyal toast at 3pm
- Fancy dress competition (best crown/ tiara for adults and children)
- Beat the Keeper
- Giant jenga

Please bring your own picnic, picnic blankets and chairs. BBQ also available with cash bar.

Free entry but to help manage numbers, please call to let us know you're coming: Simon (01993 831479) , Kevin (07889034683) and Gaby (07739473142). Final day to confirm is Friday 27 May.

***In the event of rain, the celebration will take place at Tiddy Hall**



Reginald Tiddy



1921 Empire Day Celebration in Ascott

Ascott Grapevine



Ascott Baseball Team 1922



Ascott High Street from London Lane



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Try us first we will try and oblige if possible.**

Shop Hours

Monday – Friday 7.30am – 5.00pm

Saturday 8.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday 10am – 2.00pm

**SHIPTON ROAD, MILTON-U-WYCHWOOD,
CHIPPING NORTON, OXON OX7 6JP**

TEL: 01993 830302

email: info@alfredgroves.co.uk

The Ascott Village Charity



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

Further Education

The village charity is 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.

Financial Aid

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

Chairman

John Cull john@greenascott.co.uk

Trustees

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

Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Mark Dawbarn markdawbarn@outlook.com

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com

Eleanor Bishop eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk



Lighting Showroom

www.LEDOxford.co.uk

Come and see our fabulous range of traditional and modern lighting.

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For gardens, driveways and every space outside

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(opposite Topps Tiles and Screwfix)

Perfect presents

***Our gorgeous lamps make ideal Wedding, Birthday, Christmas or
Anniversary gifts***

We'll help...

Bring in your old light bulbs and we'll find the right LED match and you can
immediately start

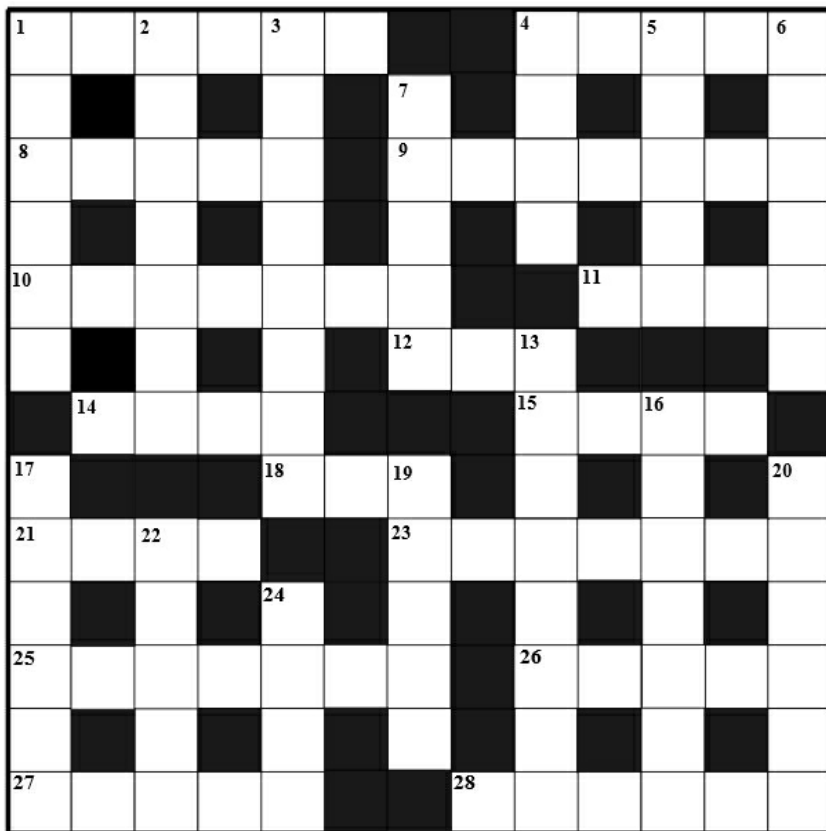
saving 90% off your lighting electricity bill

It's easy. LED bulbs have exactly the same fittings as your current bulbs. Screw in
and switch on.

Station Park, Avenue 1, Witney, OX28 4XZ

01993 704 105

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Strikes sharply (6)
- 4 Treatise (5)
- 8 Hydrophobic (5)
- 9 Lament (anag.) (7)
- 10 London borough (7)
- 11 Japanese pillbox (4)
- 12 The alphabet (3)
- 14 Leg joint (4)
- 15 Pawn (4)
- 18 Epoch (3)
- 21 Open-mouth (4)
- 23 Legacy (7)
- 25 Trimmed (7)
- 26 _____ Doolittle (5)
- 27 Cheek (5)
- 28 Agreement (6)

Down

- 1 Trill (6)
- 2 Egg white (7)
- 3 Fish and rice dish (8)
- 4 Shroud (4)
- 5 Songs of praise (5)
- 6 Allowance (6)
- 7 Russian country house (5)
- 13 Draughts (8)
- 16 Narrow crack (7)
- 17 Bird of prey (6)
- 19 Dwell; tolerate (5)
- 20 Royal house (6)
- 22 Willow (5)
- 24 Church recess (4)

Solutions to Crossword in Edition 112

Across

- 4 Cholera
- 5 Untie
- 8 Upper
- 9 Agitate
- 10 Descent
- 11 Opera
- 12 Gadget
- 14 Empire
- 17 Ingot
- 19 Servant
- 22 Leisure
- 23 Thing
- 24 Dodge
- 25 Masseur

Down

- 1 Could
- 2 Opposed
- 3 Eyrie
- 4 Awaits
- 5 Uniform
- 6 Trade
- 7 Elevate
- 12 Grilled
- 13 Enthuse
- 15 Imagine
- 16 Esteem
- 18 Grind
- 20 Rates
- 21 Tiger

Local Business Directory

ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253
www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

Page 12

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

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COTSWOLD BEAUTY 01993 832446/07917 341143
enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net www.cotswoldbeauty.net

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COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Page 14

ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk

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FAIRSPPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND 01993 878387
helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk

Page 36

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

Page 9

FINGERS AND TOES 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com
www.fingersandtoes.info

Page 23

FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299
wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

Page 25

GROVES SHOP 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425
info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk

Page 47

THE HAIR SALON AT THE PADDOCKS Ladies' and Gentlemen's Hair dressing
The Paddocks, Shipton Road, Milton-underWychwood, OX7 6GF
Alison 07980645995; Joy 07867585053

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INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993830612/07952657906
ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk

Page 12

IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268 Page 21
Instagram@Ivy's Florist

JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com Page 28

JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020
info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com Page 37

LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357 Page 28

LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105 www.LEDOxford.co.uk Page 49

PHOEBE THE SWEEP 07960627457 phoebe@phoebethesweep.co.uk Page 24

ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com Page 42

ROSENEATH 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com Page 43

SIMPSON ARCHITECTURE 07555 490460 www.simpsonarchitecture.co.uk
Email: info@simpsonarchitecture.co.uk Page 12

THE SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascot.com
www.countrycreatures.com Page 22

TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com
www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates Page 8

Events Calendar - 2022

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 31	7.30pm	Annual PC Parish Meeting	Tiddy Hall
June 3 rd	12.00 noon	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	Playing Field
June 4 th	7.30pm	Bob Fox & Billy Mitchell	Tiddy Hall
June 5 th	1.00pm	Open Gardens	Ascott-u-W
June 18 th	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Tiddy Hall
June 21 st	7.30pm	Shop AGM	The Swan
June 25 th	7.30pm	Roseneath Concert	Tiddy Hall
June 26 th	3 - 5pm	Church Teas	Holy Trinity Church
July 9 th	12 - 3.0pm	Preschool Sports & Summer Fete	Playing field
July 13 th	8.0pm	Tiddy Hall AGM	Tiddy Hall
July 24 th	3 - 5pm	Church Teas	Holy Trinity Church
August 21 st	3 - 5pm	Church Teas	Holy Trinity Church
September	tbc	Scarecrow Competition	Ascott-u-W
September 10 th	7.30pm	Pete Morton	Tiddy Hall
September 25 th	3 - 2pm	Church Teas	Holy Trinity Church
October 1 st	7.30pm	Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman	Tiddy Hall
October 22 nd	7.30pm	Steve Tilston	Tiddy Hall
November 12 th	7.30pm	Anthony John Clarke & Dave Pegg	Tiddy Hall
December 17 th	7.30pm	Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer	Tiddy Hall