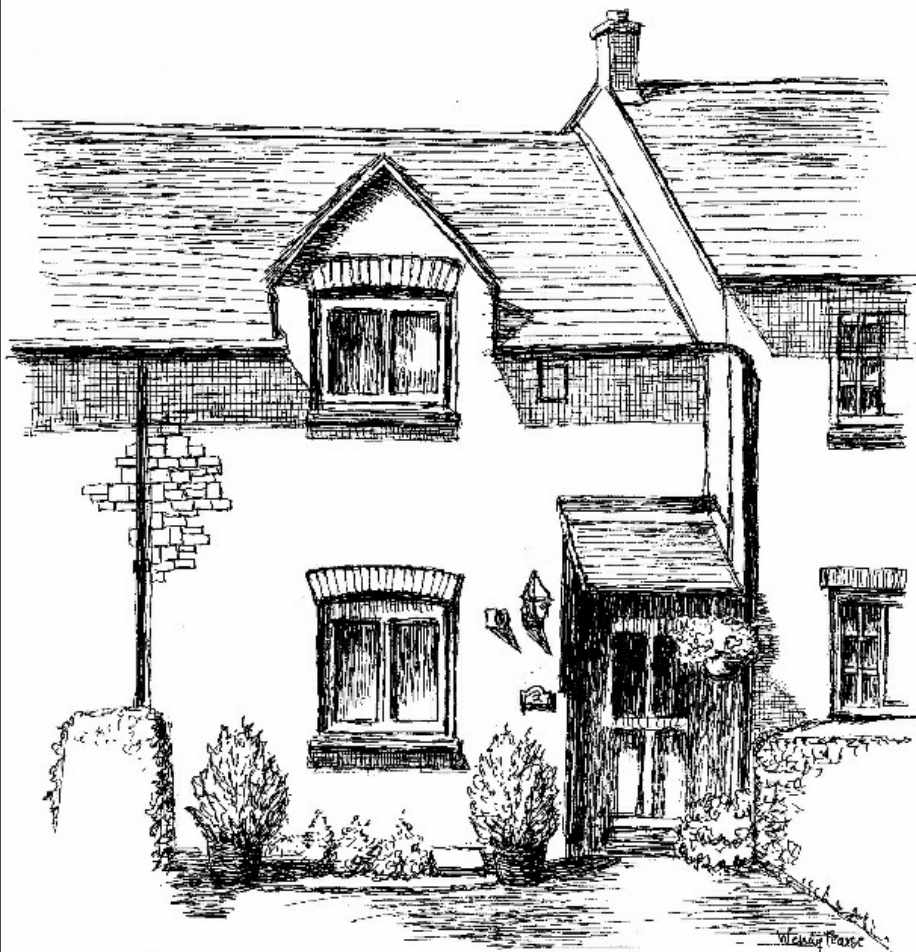


The Ascott Grapevine



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 November 2021.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email: wendypearse@btinternet.com

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

Advertising Rates

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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

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Churchwarden James Walmsley

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SS Simon & Jude, Milton

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Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993 845322

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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 2021

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 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.

Rector's Letter - Autumn 2021

Mark Abrey is currently on a sabbatical so there will not be a Rector's letter for this issue.



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FarmEd

H.R.H The Prince of Wales officially opens FarmED in Ascott-under-Wychwood.



On the morning of Tuesday 22nd of June, H.R.H The Prince of Wales officially opened FarmED in Ascottunder-Wychwood. FarmED provides spaces and events to inspire, educate and connect people with an interest in farming, food, wildlife and the environment.

FarmED also helps lead the debate on how diverse farming systems can reverse climate change and increase biodiversity while feeding everyone healthy food, a cause very close to the Prince's heart.

The not-for-profit CIC was founded by Ian and Celene Wilkinson of Cotswold Seeds, Moreton-in-Marsh, which for decades has championed mixed, diverse farming systems with an emphasis on soil health.

H.R.H arrived at FarmED in an electric Audi and was greeted by the vice Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire Brian Bucan where namaste greetings with counsellors and other dignitaries were exchanged before Ian and Celene escorted Prince Charles around their farm and education centre. During the walk, His Royal Highness saw how mixed farming, incorporating diverse crops of herbal pastures, with grazing livestock and arable crops, builds healthy soil and leaves space for nature. H.R.H viewed samples of fertile soil, produced by this mixed farming system. He met young farmer, Hallam Duckworth, who owns the micro dairy herd of cows and their calves and Emma Mills, co owner of The Kitchen Garden People, a community supported agriculture vegetable box scheme, which supplies 125 local families as well as providing the FarmED kitchen with vegetables through a subscription model. H.R.H Prince Charles also viewed the Honeydale wildflower meadow, where pollinator experts, Tanya and Esme Hawkes, discussed the ecology of the meadow and their natural beehives in hollowed out tree trunks, which were of particular interest to him.

At the education centre H.R.H met local farmers and growers taking part in a workshop about inspiring farmers, growers and land managers to move towards a mixed and diverse future. He met Head of Sustainable Farming, Jonty Brunyee, who explained the FarmED educational programme that aims to inspire, educate,

Ascott Grapevine

and connect farmers, advisors, academics, students, policy makers and the general public through courses run onsite.

His Royal Highness was presented with honey from resident beekeeper and manager of Cotswold Seeds, Paul Totterdell before he unveiled a plaque made of Welsh slate, on a plinth created by Rhys Davis Woodcraft out of a two hundred year old horse chestnut tree.



I had the honour of accompanying Jim and Wendy Pearse, the original owners of Honeydale and witnessing history in the making for my sister Celene, brother-in-law Ian, nephew Jack and nieces Sophie, Lucy and Beth.



With the buildings now complete and restrictions hopefully easing, there is an open invitation to anyone in Ascott-under-Wychwood who might be interested in seeing the work at the farm and taking part in a guided farm walk on Friday 3rd September at 2.00pm. To book a place please contact Sophie via email sophie@farm-ed.co.uk.

Speech as delivered, by H.R.H The Prince of Wales at the opening of FarmED:

“I am thrilled to have had this far too brief opportunity to come and see the remarkable things you are doing here, if I may say so, Ian and Celene. I can imagine what a huge effort has gone into it over the last five or six years. What you are showing people and introducing them to is of such great importance in terms of regenerative agriculture and reminding people of the absolute critical importance of the health of the soil, building soil fertility, capturing carbon. If we could regenerate more soils around the world we could recapture at least 70%. People forget it's not just trees, it's the soil and the plants you are showing people; all the different mixtures that you can grow, and the effect that they have, biodiversity benefits, all these things, the combination of everything, to remind people how interconnected we are with nature. We are a part of it. What we do to nature, we do to ourselves. I have always believed what we take out of nature, we need to replace. All the traditional societies around the world have always known that and it seems to be a madness that we ignore some of the wisdom that's been around for thousands and thousands of years. I can only offer my warmest congratulations for what you are doing and hope you have the greatest possible success. I hope you manage to encourage even more people to understand the importance of getting away from monoculture systems to something much more sympathetic.”

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SOFO Museum



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Sofa Museum launch Crowdfunding campaign to build WW2 Air-Raid Shelter

- Building a life-size WW2 Anderson shelter exhibit for visitors, families and schools to enjoy and learn from.
- Expands on popular WW1 Trench display at the museum, built by local Cadets in 2014.
- A funding goal of £2000, with stretch goals include expanded audio-visual elements and themed events
- Rewards for supporting the project include pin badges, guidebooks, family passes and having your name included on a plaque in the exhibit itself. Pledge levels start at just £5.

crowdfunder.co.uk/anderson-shelter-project

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, are launching a crowdfunding campaign on 21st Jul 2021 to help build a new WW2 exhibit - a life-size Anderson Shelter. The campaign is set to run for seven weeks with a goal of £2,000 to build and install the display.



Anderson shelters were used in the Second World War by families as a place to hide when air raid sirens sounded, warning of a potential bomb attack. The project aims to expand upon the ways in which visitors can learn about conflict and engage with the county's history through an interactive environment. Despite the pandemic SOFO is still looking forward, aiming to create an imaginative space that can connect people again while breathing life back into the galleries.

Already installed at the museum is a model trench which was built with help from local Cadets when SOFO first opened in 2014. The trench has proved a hit with visitors of all ages, and an invaluable tool when teaching the First World War to visiting school groups.

Ascott Grapevine

If fully funded, the air raid shelter experience will become a vital part of SOFO's WW2 education sessions which teach about the changes to life at home during wartime, while regular visitors will be able to enjoy it during our opening hours. We will also use the handling materials in our reminiscence work which helps participants explore their memories of the past in a safe and welcoming environment. Donations of any size can be made towards the project, but rewards are available for those making donations of £5 or more, including pin badges, visitor guide-books and museum annual passes. Those who back the project at the highest donation tier will have their name included on a commemorative plaque inside the exhibit itself. Only through the support of the community can the museum continue to provide unique and engaging connections to the county's wartime heritage. Should the project push beyond its initial funding target, a number of stretch goals have been set to expand on the air raid shelter itself. These include the potential to audio soundscapes and video experiences to the display, as well as themed events and workshops.

Find out more and back the project at:

crowdfunder.co.uk/anderson-shelter-project



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210 WOCT Witney service

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Services leave Ascott Green at:

08.09 10.11 13.02

Returning from Witney Market Square at:

08.42 10.44 13.36

Saturday

Services leave Ascott Green at:

09.10 11.10 13.10

Returning from Witney Market Square at:

09.50 12.20 15.20

Full 210 route and timetable available at:

<https://www.woct.org.uk/routesandtimetables/>

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Book Launch and Folk Night at FarmED

Fiona Mountain

In my working life I wear two hats! I'm an award-winning historical novelist and I'm also Marketing Coordinator at FarmED, the new centre for Farm and Food Education, just up the valley and on Saturday September 18th FarmED is hosting a book launch and folk night, with a performance by Ric Sanders of Fairport Convention and Vo Fletcher.

The plot of my new novel, *The Keeper of Songs* is inspired by folk music, which is often about the land, and FarmED is the place to come if you are passionate about regenerative agriculture, farming with nature and great food, so it's a perfect fit and the evening is being organised by our local Wychwood Folk Club in partnership with Jaffe and Neale Bookshop.

The Keeper of Songs

The Keeper of Songs is a story about a folk song, a missing singer, and dark family secrets. It's inspired by the work of Mercury Music Nominated folk singer and song collector, Sam Lee and Bella Hardy's song *Henry & Clara*, which is based on real events - the murder of 'The Runaway Lovers' in the Winnats Pass in the Peak District. In 1967, enigmatic young folk singer Molly Marrison disappears on the cusp of fame. Years later, in 2002, Silva is working as a housemaid at Chatsworth House when her father suddenly dies, leaving her with one instruction - find Molly. The only clue is a haunting song, centuries old, that Molly recorded before she vanished. I've been thrilled to have the book reviewed by Mark Radcliffe, presenter of *BBC Folk on 2*, who said: 'Fiona Mountain understands everything about the fine folk art of storytelling. The Keeper of Songs is a wonderful tale exquisitely told, showing a deep empathy with the landscape of the Peak District and the traditional music that has emanated from it. Fiona creates a world of romance, detail and heartfelt emotion.'

The Book Launch and Folk Night at FarmED will include a short reading of The Keeper of Songs and book signing before a performance by Ric Sanders and Vo Fletcher.

Tickets £12 in advance, £14 on the door available from: 01993 831427

www.wegotickets.com/wychwoodfolkclub

wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com

FarmEd

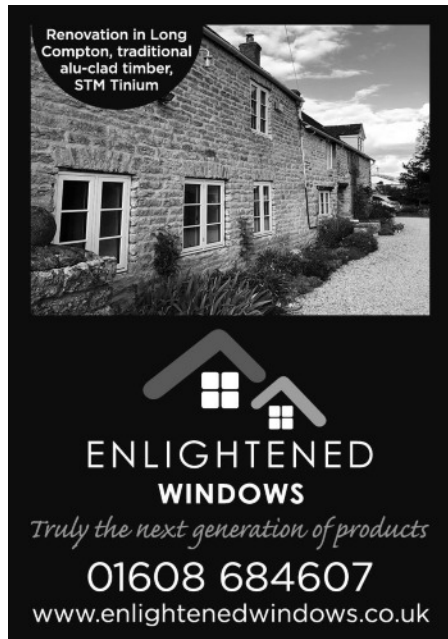
It will also give ticket holders the chance to enjoy the stunning surroundings of FarmED, complete with bar facilities. If you are not able to come to the folk night, or are more interested in food there are lots of other events coming up in the Autumn, including Doctor on the Farm: Gut Health with Dr Sally Bell on 8th October, An Introduction to Sustainable Farming and Food – Nourishing People and Regenerating the Planet, on October 28th and a Wild Fermentary Workshop on October 30th. More events are being added, so do check the website for more details.

<https://www.farm-ed.co.uk>


<https://www.bellahardy.com>

<https://www.fionamountain.com>

<https://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com>



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New Kids on the Block

What a difference a year makes!!

After the traumas and tragedies of 2020 for everyone it has been my absolute pleasure to bring smiles to faces through the development of our little herd of equine heroes in the field at the centre of our village.

When Phil sadly passed away in 2020 I was left with his beautiful ex racehorse Le Briar Soul and my own ex racehorse Chandos Belle. These two gorgeous souls dragged me through those early months, giving me a reason to get out of bed, and providing a never ending supply of support and entertainment.

Briar is a 21 year old gelding and Bella is an 8 year old mare. Both would have started work at the age of 2 or 3, training followed by relatively successful racing careers over hurdles and chase fences. Bella snapped a front tendon during her final race aged 5 years old. She was gifted to me by her owning syndicate for a safe forever home. Briar embraced Bella's company after years of being a solitary ridden horse. Would it be possible to put Bella in foal and for them both to rear it together? Briar wouldn't be able to father a foal of his own, he had no necessary equipment. Myself and Phil had planned to take Bella up to Batsford Stud for a date with the thoroughbred stallion Native Ruler.

As the weeks went by in Phil's absence I gradually worked out a plan for the future.

Bella could have a foal via artificial insemination by an Arab stallion called Fames Dakota. This foal would be stunning in looks and would be ideal for a future as a sports horse, competing in dressage, show jumping and cross country events, just as Phil had done with his first horse (another ex racehorse called Ball-ygrooby).

The summer of 2020 was spent working closely alongside our lovely vet and in conjunction with the stallion stud to make the magic happen. End of July brought the confirmation that Bella was indeed in foal, due end of June 2021. She was really well in herself and Briar was an attentive partner.

September came around and an online post appeared regarding an entire herd of Shetland ponies that had been given up by their owner and needed permanent homes.

I looked into the case and noticed that there was a pregnant mare with a 4 month old foal at foot that still needed somewhere to go.

Cue another lightbulb moment.

If I took in the Shetland mare, called Mai, and her unhandled foal, called Pixel, then Bella would be able to see and learn all about foals etc. It would also give me the option of a companion for Briar as well as for Bella should I need to split them up to prepare for the birth.

The horses had saved me, so why not add to our herd?

Mai and Pixel arrived in the back of a horse lorry and were herded up the driveway. They were nervy and had very rarely been handled. The winter of 2020/21 was spent taking the time to get to know them, and getting them to trust us. Pixel has such a curious personality that it was so rewarding to see his progress over those weeks and months. He went from a nervous foal hiding behind his formidable mother to a confident and playful young pony, interacting happily with us and also with his big mentor Briar at the stable door.

Everything we do here is at the pace of the individuals in our care. We have the confidence to try a combination within the herd, and the awareness to see if things are working out. There are so many different ways of managing and caring for horses and ponies, there are many different fixed ideas as to what will work and what won't.



Who would mix a pregnant mare with a gelding? Who would wean an 8 month old Shetland pony in the company of a 21 year old thoroughbred ex racehorse? Who would reunite the weaned and newly gelded Shetland pony with his mother and new brother? The important thing to us was to trust this gang of equines of all sizes and ages to work things out for themselves and live as a happy social herd.

We gradually blended the Shetland family with the thoroughbred pair, with the safe delivery of a Mai's colt foal, Shenanigan Juno, in June 2021 and Bella's colt foal, Shenanigan Flying Felipe in July 2021.

The Shenanigan prefix reflects the general attitude to life shared by myself and Phil.

I am so delighted to see the smiles on the faces of everyone who follows our story or visits the herd in person.

I am always happy to chat about the work that we are doing, and explain the reasoning behind it. We will be offering non ridden interactions with the herd for the amazing benefits of equine assisted therapy.



Please get in touch via jo@shenaniganstud.co.uk to book a session.

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I will keep the updates coming via the Shenanigan Stud Facebook and Instagram pages. There is a dedicated PayPal account for donations:

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Jo Wheatley
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The logo features a stylized swan in profile, facing left, with its tail feathers fanned out to the right. The swan is rendered in a woodcut or engraved style.

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FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT PAST

Part 14



The photograph above shows children at Ascott School about 1920, the front row seemingly proudly displaying their laced up boots. Probably by that date the boots would have come from manufacturers but perhaps some could have been handmade by the last shoemaker in the village. He was Charles White and he lived in Centuries House in London Lane.

Harry Honeybone who lived in Ascott in the 1870's and 1880's later wrote in his memoirs, " there were two cobblers' shops, the inhabitants chiefly wearing home made shoes and boots, preferring them to boots purchased at the shops in the nearby towns. The price of hand made boots being anything from 18 shillings upwards, but one had the benefit from extra comfort and harder wear, each patron had their feet measured, not one foot, but both of them, which ensured perfect fitting and greater comfort, keeping them well greased against all weathers, they would endure two or more year's wear."

Harry calls them cobblers but writing in the 1930's this was the term in common use meaning shoe repairers. In the past the handmade shoemakers or cordwainers as they could be called, covered the whole process of boot and shoe making. The Ward of Cordwainers is one of the 25 Wards of London, the Roman Watling Street running east to west through the Ward. The term cordwainer derives from cordwain or cordovan, the leather produced in Cordoba, Spain and the cordwainer was known for making shoes or other goods in fine new leather.

Ascott Grapevine

There would always have been a need for shoemakers in the village and although there are no known records of them in Ascott until the 19th century we can assume that some must have always followed the trade. The first recorded mention is in the applications for aid with apprenticeships from the Ascott Charity. In 1825 an application was made for William Moss to be apprenticed to Jonathan Bookings of Witney as shoemaker. This was to cover 6 years and £14 was paid out by the charity. William was the son of William Moss, a sawyer, and the family lived in the upper part of The Row (Church View). Six years later another application was made to the Charity for William's younger brother Richard to be apprenticed to his brother. The length of time was 7 years but this time the sum secured was just £6. Presumably some of the expenses would have been absorbed by the family. William was then living in Witney and nothing further is known about him but Richard returned to Ascott and by 1841 was living at the east end of Shipton Road with his wife and year old son Reuben pursuing the trade of shoemaker.

Another shoemaker, John Perkins, also lived in Shipton Road but at the west end in James and Christine Wilson's present home. John was aged 60 in 1841, he died in 1843. His son Philip worked with him, but after his father's death he seems to have left the village. Richard Moss then appears to have taken over John Perkin's home and lived there with his wife Mary and eventually ten children, until he died in 1890 aged 74. We cannot know whether Richard and Mary were very religious but the sons were named Reuben, Moses, Solomon, Isaac, Abraham and Jacob and the girls Miriam, Sarah, Lydia and Mary.



The third shoemaker listed in the 1841 Census was Thomas Jackson who lived next door to Corner House in London Lane. Aged 35 he was there with his wife Harriet and seven children. Sadly Harriet died in 1846 but by 1861 Thomas had remarried to Catherine a widow from Bampton who worked as a dressmaker. All but one of Thomas's children had left home, just Charles, also listed as a shoemaker, was living with his father and Catherine as well as Catherine's nine year old son Edward Walsh. Thomas died in 1890 and his and Catherine's gravestone is still visible in Ascott churchyard.

In 1844 Charles Weaver son of Richard Weaver applied for apprenticeship aid from Ascott Charity. He was to train with Albert James Clarke a shoemaker from Eynsham and this time the agreement was for seven years at the price of £16. In 1848 Charles' brother John was also apprenticed to a shoemaker, this time in Hook Norton. Nothing further is known about John but Charles returned to Ascott and by 1861 was living at the east end of High Street with his wife and eventually six children. Charles seems to have been part of the backbone of the village. He served on the committee of the Benefit Club and was acting as a steward in 1879 when the Club had their annual festival, as Reverend Yorke, the Vicar of Ascott recorded, "The members of this Club kept their annual festival on Tuesday, July 22nd, headed by their banner and the excellent band of the Chipping Norton Rifle Volunteers, they marched to the Vicarage at 11 a.m. to call for the Vicar and proceeding to the Church, after the Morning Service, he preached. In the afternoon the annual dinner took place in the Churchill Arms, the Vicar presiding. Mrs Morris provided as usual a very good repast."

Charles was also on the committee of the Cricket Club and his son Albert was one of the star players. But Ascott lost their star player when Albert and his elder brother James sailed for Australia in the Charlotte Padbury in 1881. Albert who was also a bellringer in the village was 18 and James 20. Later that year Albert would write home, "Swan Bridge, December 26th 1881. Christmas has come again and found me a long way from the post I occupied, last year, that of ringing the old Church Bell. We travelled up into the bush from Perthfound ourselves in a very rough place and resolved to leave as soon as possible. I left the work and took up my trade again (shoemaking) and am doing capital well, but I must tell you that if one comes out here they must not care how they live, or they had better stay at home, though a man can earn more money here, but I would not advise anyone to come out here for I shall not stay long." But Albert and James did stay; they both married in the next couple of years and remained in Australia for the rest of their lives.

Their father Charles Weaver continued his trade as shoemaker in the village until he died in 1890.

By 1881 the young Edward Walsh stepson of Thomas Jackson had returned to Ascott. He was married to Elizabeth and had three young children. Two more arrived in the next decade. Perhaps Edward initially worked with his stepfather but after Thomas Jackson's death he continued supplying the village with boots and shoes. At first the family lived in Priory Lane but by 1901 was living in Heritage Villa in

Ascott Grapevine

Heritage Lane. Edward's second son Ernest followed his father in the trade but left Ascott to marry a girl from Wedmore in Somerset. Ernest seems to have thrived in Somerset because by 1911 Edward and the rest of the family had moved to Wedmore and set up a business there.

Obviously proud of their work all of these shoemakers advertised their trade in the Post Office Directory and Kelly's Directory between the 1840's and 1900.

So then it seems that only one shoemaker remained in the village, Charles White of Centuries House.

Charles was the son of James White, one of Ascott's last blacksmiths and in 1891 Charles was listed as an apprentice shoemaker. By 1911 he was married to Kate and had three young children, his 13 years old son apprenticed under him. When the First World War began Charles was roped in to mend the boots of the King's Liverpools, the regiment sent to guard the many aerials of the Wireless Station on the hill south of Fairspeare. After the War, in 1925 the family took over the Post Office in Ascott and although Charles died in 1929, his daughter Doris continued to run the Post Office in Centuries House until the end of the Second World War. And so the story of Ascott's handmade boots and shoes finished at the end of the 1920's. The 20th century saw an ever increasing swell of technology and modernisation whilst also hastening the increasing disappearance of traditional handmade crafts in many villages.

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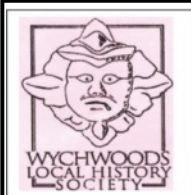
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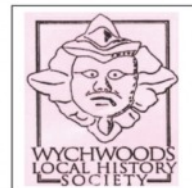
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The Wychwoods Local History Society



Programme 2020 – 2021

Milton Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

Platinum Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to Ken and Audrey James who celebrated their 70th (Platinum) Wedding Anniversary in July.

Thankfully the very hot weather cooled a little for Family and friends to enjoy a celebratory lunch in the garden.

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

WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



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

Sat Sept 4th Chris Leslie – Support from *Dolly Mavis*

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Chris is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter based in Oxfordshire UK, primarily known for the past nineteen years for his work with Fairport Convention. He has toured and recorded with, amongst others: Steve Ashley, the Albion Band, Jez Lowe, Ian Anderson, Chris While and Julie Matthews, Whippersnapper, Alan Stivell, Feast of Fiddles and St. Agnes Fountain.

CHRIS RELEASED HIS FIRST NEW SOLO ALBUM IN FIVE YEARS on the 29th July 2020

Following on from the much acclaimed "Turquoise Tales" in 2015, Chris Leslie's brand-new solo CD "Fiddle Back", recorded under lockdown at home, includes new songs, new instrumentals and traditional medleys.

Featuring vocals, guitars, fiddle, Hardanger fiddle, mandolin, electric 5-string mandolin, Celtic bouzouki, whistles, percussion and samples. An album straight from the heart!

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 rhetorise.

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 - Autumn 2021

This is the first time I get to spread the news as Chair of the Parish Council, and it has been a baptism of fire, dealing with two planning applications that could have huge implications for the village.

As I write, the Blue Cedar proposal is awaiting a decision, and the Cow Shed proposal has, at least for the present, been refused. In both cases, the Parish Council has argued against the proposals and has put a huge amount of time and effort into dealing with the claims, counterclaims and legal arguments made by the developers. Fortunately, this village is not without expertise, and my huge thanks go out to all those who have rallied round and offered their professional assistance.

Why these matter

We believe that the Blue Cedar proposal is simply in the wrong place. Why build a group of retirement properties, set apart in their own enclave, overlooking properties in the High Street, in a village with few amenities, no healthcare facilities, a single (however good!) village shop, no way to cross the village without walking in the road, a history of flooding – the latest this December - and wholly inadequate public transport?

The real reason is that retirement arguments are being used to circumvent the planning restrictions imposed by the AONB. When a similar local scheme failed to find buyers, all age restrictions were removed for the properties to sell; should that happen here, this could simply become a manicured estate for more second homes in the countryside. Either way, there is no guarantee that any of these houses (and they are not ‘affordable’) would benefit local residents.

For the Cowsheds development the argument is more technical. We know from previous submissions that the landowners want to build up to 60 houses in the area behind, leading up to the main Burford/Charlbury road. The main thing stopping them now, is that it would extend the ‘build line’ of the village. Letting the Cow Shed development go ahead would allow them to claim the green fields between as in-fill. It is also substantively no different from the proposal that was rejected in 2017 for both the Cow Sheds and Dutch Barns: the owners have effectively simply split that proposal into two halves and resubmitted, making a mockery of the planning system.

What is critical with both sites, is that the village simply cannot absorb that level of housing, unless something radical is done to improve the infrastructure. Drainage, sewerage systems, transport, facilities – all of these are on a knife edge. We already have the Kingerlee site in London Lane, outline permission for the Dutch Barns and more housing by Tyack’s Yard.

We are doing our best with the neighbourhood plan to identify sites and strategies whereby new housing could be met safely and sustainably: until we have all the evidence to plan, more houses means more cars, more development in areas crossed by (often unmapped) springs and watercourses, more village-wide potential for flooding and more load on the already over-capacity sewerage treatment plant at Milton.

Talking of which.

Neighbourhood Plan

Coming soon to Ascott – a neighbourhood plan roadshow!

We want to make sure that everyone has a say in the neighbourhood plan – it is your neighbourhood and your plan! With COVID restrictions that has been difficult, and so we are running two events, one at the Sports Pavilion and one at Tiddy Hall, over the last weekend in September. Here you can meet the groups involved, ask questions, give your opinions, and see all the work that has taken place to date.

Watch out also for a transport group tent on the Green early in September. We will be talking about all things transport related and want to hear from you.

Strimming and Signage

Some of you will have seen me out and about trying to keep the foliage at bay over the bridge and to keep the Ascott signs visible. Sadly, my little Stihl trimmer simply isn't man enough for the task, so if anyone has a professional one (FS70 or above) that they could lend, that would be highly appreciated.

You will all, hopefully, have seen the new signs designed by some of the kids in the village reminding motorists to slow down, especially near the school and pre-school. We will be moving these around from time to time for maximum effect.

The roads are once again in a parlous condition and we share everyone's frustrations at the slow pace of getting them dealt with. If you can do so safely, please report any issues on Fix My Street – your voices together are more powerful than the PC alone.

Community Emergency Plan

At this time of year, the PC reviews the emergency plan. This was first written after the floods in 2007 and is kept up to date to handle other emergencies such as COVID. The role of the Parish Council is to coordinate any local response until the emergency services take over. Much of this involves keeping up to date lists of contacts, skills, those at risk and volunteers.

Dealing with an emergency requires people with a wide range of practical skills, from basic healthcare to tea making to tree surgery (unblocking roads, gullies

and the like). We are always looking for those who feel that they can volunteer in an emergency. We are organizing a mail drop, so please read the leaflet and get in contact.

Defibrillators

Everyone should know that there are two defibrillators in the village: one outside the village shop and one outside Tiddy Hall. These are checked weekly and advertised on the national database. It has been some while since the last training course, and so the PC will be organizing a new round of (free) training in the near future: keep an eye on the notice boards. Knowing what to do could save someone's life.

Last but definitely not least..

New Councillors

I take great pleasure in welcoming our three new Parish Councillors: Keith Ravenhill, Sue Richards and Sarah Russell. Pauline Plant has stepped up as Vice Chair and taken over the brief for the Playing Fields and will be helping with the Emergency Plan. Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, and so my heartfelt thanks go out to all of them for standing, for the effort they have already put in, and I am looking forward to working alongside them in the future.

Remember you can always contact all of us at the address below.

May I wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable summer.

Brian Leach

Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council

contact@ascottpc.org.uk

Your Parish Council

Having been asked to join the Parish Council and not really knowing what was involved, I thought I had better find out what the Parish Council is actually all about. The following gave me a reasonable background to what I was letting myself in for and maybe help you understand what the PC is involved in.

Definition of Parish

1. An area cared for by one priest with its own church
2. The smallest unit of local government

Your Parish Council (PC) relates to N° 2, in other words the council is to do with the governing of affairs for the village, subordinated to West Oxfordshire

District Council (WODC), and not associated with the church. Why then did we contribute to the improved path through the churchyard? The path is a public path through the churchyard and therefore it effectively belongs to the village.

Parish Council Councillors

The council comprises people living in the village who are unpaid volunteers to carry out governance of village affairs and one person to act as secretary, who does not necessarily need to be a resident and is the only person receiving a stipend. The minimum number of councillors is 5, and the minimum number of members required to vote is a quorum of 3. The council currently has 5 members and a secretary but can co-opt other personnel to aid any specific process requiring specialised expertise.

The current PC councillors as from July 2021 are:

- Brian Leach – Chairman
- Pauline Plant – Deputy Chairman
- Sarah Russell
- Sue Richards
- Keith Ravenhill
- Angela Barnes – Secretary

Although the responsibilities are met by the whole PC, some specific responsibilities are handled by individual councillors, usually where they have an input into that area.

Meetings

The Council meets on the second Tuesday of every month except August. Residents of the village may physically attend any of these meetings (except under circumstances such as a pandemic) or via video systems such as Zoom, and may ask questions of the council regarding subjects pertaining only to the village. Occasionally, representatives from the county and district councils will attend meetings to give any guidance or updates from these councils that may directly affect or concern the village. This sort of information is important for the PC when making plans and decisions.

Powers and Restrictions

The PC must act within the law, it can only spend, raise or use money if it has the statutory power to do so, and only on certain prescribed items (it can only spend a very small amount on charity, for example). The PC has a wide range of powers under different acts of Parliament. Most of these powers are discretion-

ary, i.e. the PC *may* do something, rather than it must do something. The exercise of these powers may be subject to various consents, from, for example, the owner of land or another public body such as the highways authority. Almost all PC powers are concurrent with those of the district council (WODC), i.e. the power may be exercised by either the PC or the WODC. In recent years the WODC has attempted to push ever more responsibility onto the PC.

The PC is funded through a precept (a mandatory demand) on the WODC. The precept required by the PC is then collected by the WODC as part of the council tax levied on tax payers in that parish. The PC acts as a sounding board for local opinion and has important rights of consultation. County and District councils are obliged by law to consult the PC on certain matters affecting the parish.

PC Responsibilities

Parish councils have a variety of powers and duties, all of which impact directly on the community.

The following are all under the remit of local councils:

- Allotments
- Burial Grounds, Cemeteries, Churchyards and Crematoria
- Community Centres, Conference Centres, Halls, Public Buildings
- Drainage – of ditches and ponds
- Entertainment and the Arts
- Footpaths
- General Spending – parish councils can spend a very limited amount of money on anything they deem of benefit to the community that is not covered by the other specific responsibilities described in this list
- Gifts – parish councils (but not councillors!) may accept gifts
- Highways – lighting, parking places, right to enter into discussions about new roads and road widening, consent of parish council required for diversion or discontinuation of highway, traffic signs and other notices, tree planting and verge maintenance
- Land – acquisition and sale of
- Legal proceedings – power to prosecute and defend any legal proceedings in the interests of the community, power to take part in any public enquiry
- Litter - provision of litter-bins and support for any anti-litter campaigns

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- Planning – parish councils may be notified of any planning applications for the area
- Postal and Telecommunication Facilities – power to pay a public telecommunications operator any loss sustained in providing services in that area
- Public conveniences – provision and maintenance of public toilets
- Recreation – provision of recreation grounds, public walkways, pleasure grounds, open spaces, village greens, gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps and boating ponds
- Rights of Way – footpath and bridleway maintenance
- Seats (public)
- Signs – danger signs, place names and bus stops signs
- Tourism – financial contributions to any local tourist organisations allowed
- Traffic Calming
- War Memorials
- Water Supply – power to utilise stream, well or spring water and to provide facilities for general use

Not all responsibilities are relevant to Ascott from that list and an additional set-up in Ascott is as listed:

- Maintaining the two Defibrillators (outside of the village shop and Tiddy Hall)
- Annual litter patrols
- Snow and ice clearance of footpaths
- Emergency flood clearance equipment
- Cutting and clearing vegetation around roadside signs

There are certain actions listed as the responsibility of the PC where villagers can assist the PC by being diligent and caring about their village, i.e. not littering – taking litter home with them to dispose of in household waste; clearing up their dog's poo and putting it in the bins provided; informing the PC if any possible dangerous condition is seen that needs correcting.

The PC has a role in reacting to any emergency that might occur in the village and a clear and precise plan has been developed and PC councillors have a copy for their guidance. The Emergency Plan covers such emergency actions:

- To monitor early warnings and respond accordingly

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- To maintain a contingency plan until the Emergency Services are able to take over
- To assist the Emergency Services, if required
- To open a Survivor Reception Centre, if required
- To keep local residents informed
- To ensure vulnerable residents are safe and comfortable
- To mobilise volunteer help, if required

Potential emergency events include:

- Flooding from River Evenlode
- Heavy snow and freezing conditions
- Major Road Blockage – (e.g. fallen trees)
- Sustained failure of a major utility
- Major health risk
- Gas leak
- Major Fire
- Railway Accident from Cotswold Line (level crossing across London Lane)
- Aircraft Accident (low flying from Brize Norton and Oxford Airport)

The PC has access to a water pump if needed to assist any properties that are flooded before the Fire Brigade is available. Sand bags are available to be filled with sand from a sand bin at the Tiddy Hall car park and a whole variety of other useful equipment and clothing depending upon the specific emergency is stored in Tiddy Hall. Forms are available for recording the emergency actions and times along with contact details of all the emergency services that may need to be contacted.

ASCOTT OPEN GARDENS & SCARECROW COMPETITION 2022

Ascott PCC will be organising an Ascott open gardens event combined with a scarecrow competition in early to mid-June 2022 as a fund raiser for Holy Trinity Church. So far eleven householders have agreed to open their gardens, but we would be happy to hear from anyone else who might like to participate. The scarecrow competition will be open to everyone, but we hope that it might particularly appeal to the younger members of the village.

We hope to be able to serve teas on the day, organise a plant stall, raffle and possibly a tombola or bottle stall. If you could help with or organise any of these attractions, please let us know. There might also be scope to allow local crafts producers to display and sell their wares.

If you have any ideas to make the event a success or want to help or to include your garden, please contact Stuart at stuart.john.fox@gmail.com, or discuss the event with other members of the PCC; Sara Tribe, Sue Smith or Sue Mellor.

Jenna Saunders

Seamstress and Dressmaker

Alterations

Dressmaking

Soft Furnishings



01993 831338

saundersjenna@hotmail.com

Nature Notes

Introducing animals that once flourished in Britain, but are now rare, existing in isolated pockets or extinct is part of a current movement to rewild our Islands. Re-introductions have included the Red Kite, Beavers, Large Blue butterfly and the White-Tailed Sea Eagle. It has also included Red Squirrels, Pine Martins and Natterjack Toads, where attempts are being made to extend their range bringing them back into parts of Britain that they occupied in the past by creating suitable natural habitats. This is sometimes achieved by moving groups from existing areas, captive breeding and release or by importing genetically similar species from countries where they are still plentiful.

Rewilding not only looks at individual species, but is also concerned with the natural environment. Previously conservation was mainly concerned with protecting and maintaining isolated areas of ecological importance where special animals or plants existed. Now there is an understanding that there needs to be a wider view, linking reserves and creating more wild spaces to allow for the return of plants and animals in the wider landscape.

Introducing species to Britain needs to be done with care, even if there is evidence that they existed here in the past. Should Wolves be reintroduced in Scotland and the European Lynx throughout Britain even though we need apex predators to control the deer population? However, done with care the results can benefit the environment and enhance the natural history of Britain.

One such project is the White Stork Programme that has been in progress for the last three to four years. These magnificent birds once bred in Britain and archaeological records indicate that their presence can be traced back at least 360,000 years. Sadly, the last record of a breeding pair, until recently, dates back to the 15th century. Today they are rarely seen and apart from the birds in the programme do not breed here, despite being common across parts of Europe.



They often build their large and untidy nests on roof-tops and church towers and people fix cartwheels to their roofs to encourage them to build. Having a Stork's nest on your roof is said to bring good fortune. Storks fly far and wide seeking feeding grounds, favouring river-sides, water meadows and grassland. They are omnivorous and will seek out small mammals, earthworms, snails and large insects. They tend to nest in the north, but in winter fly south, usually through Spain across the Straits of Gibraltar and into Africa.

Four years ago, a group of landowners, based in Sussex and Surrey, came together to establish a White Stork breeding programme. They worked in partnership The Roy

Dennis Wildlife Foundation, Durrell Wildlife Conservation, Warsaw Zoo and Cotswold Wildlife Park. The main centre of their activities was at the Knepp Estate where large predator-proof breeding pens, each covering 6 acres, were constructed and 166 previously injured, but now rehabilitated Storks, were imported from Poland, plus a small number of birds from France. It is hoped that these birds, which are now free-flying, will breed and ultimately the youngsters produced will migrate, but eventually return and form the nucleus of a breeding population in England.

Cotswold Wildlife Park also received a breeding group of adult Storks from Poland and is using its animal husbandry and hand-rearing skills to provide fledglings to Knepp each year. On arrival at Knepp they will initially be kept in captivity under the watchful eye of the Wildlife Park team until they have become accustomed to their new surroundings. They are then released and are free to roam over the Sussex countryside. This is quite a sight as these large birds are seen riding the warm air thermals. In 2020 twenty-four birds bred at the Wildlife Park were released at Knepp. Some of our juvenile birds have been fitted with tracking devices and these are being monitored by the University of East Anglia and Durrell and we know that some of these birds arrived in Morocco and some had joined a large group of Storks feeding at a recycling centre and rubbish tip just south of Madrid, before moving on to Africa. Our hope is that some of these young birds when mature will eventually return to their release area in Sussex and form new breeding pairs.

In April 2020 one female, recognised by her ring showing that she is from the original 2016 imports from Poland nested in an Oak tree at Knepp and laid five eggs. Her partner was not ringed so must have been one of the 50 or so vagrant Storks that pass-through England each year. After waiting 33 days three eggs hatched and the parents were seen



to be working hard to feed and care for the chicks. They were the first White Storks to breed in the wild in Britain for hundreds of years. On 9th July one of the fledglings completed its first flight round the nest tree, landing nearby and then returning to the nest. By the 13th July all three chicks had left the nest.

What is happening today? The good news is that in April 2021 there were seven nests at Knepp and four of them held a total of eighteen eggs and by May they had started to hatch. We also know that one of the first of the juveniles released in 2019 appears to be making her way back home to Knepp and her arrival is keenly awaited.

Who knows, one day a Stork may nest on Ascott Church tower!

Stuart Fox

Ascott Preschool

A term full of fantastic learning at Ascott Preschool

The children have enjoyed a summer term packed with fun activities, including food tasting, science experiments, learning about different countries, and plenty of crafts. We waved a fond farewell to our school leavers, and are looking forward to welcoming our new starters in September.

As part of our learning about healthy eating, we showed the children lots of different kinds of fruit and vegetables. We talked about how they grow and why they are good to eat. The children then tasted a selection of vegetables and decided which they liked the best. We have also been focusing on drinking plenty of water by putting stickers onto a picture of a bath when the children have a drink from their water bottles, and seeing which 'side' of the room can fill the bath first!

The children were excited to try out some science experiments, such as dropping food colouring into milk and adding a little washing up liquid to make the colours 'dance'. We created a volcano using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. This caused raucous giggling as it erupted six feet in the air, raining vinegar all over everyone... "do it again" they all shouted!

Although we were sadly unable to hold our usual 'Sports Day' event at Ascott playing field, the school leavers took part in races on their last day, and we raised over £400 for Pre-school from our raffle – thanks to all who supported this.

We have continued our weekly trips to Forest School at Bruern, and would like to thank the Astor family for allowing us to use this lovely site.

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

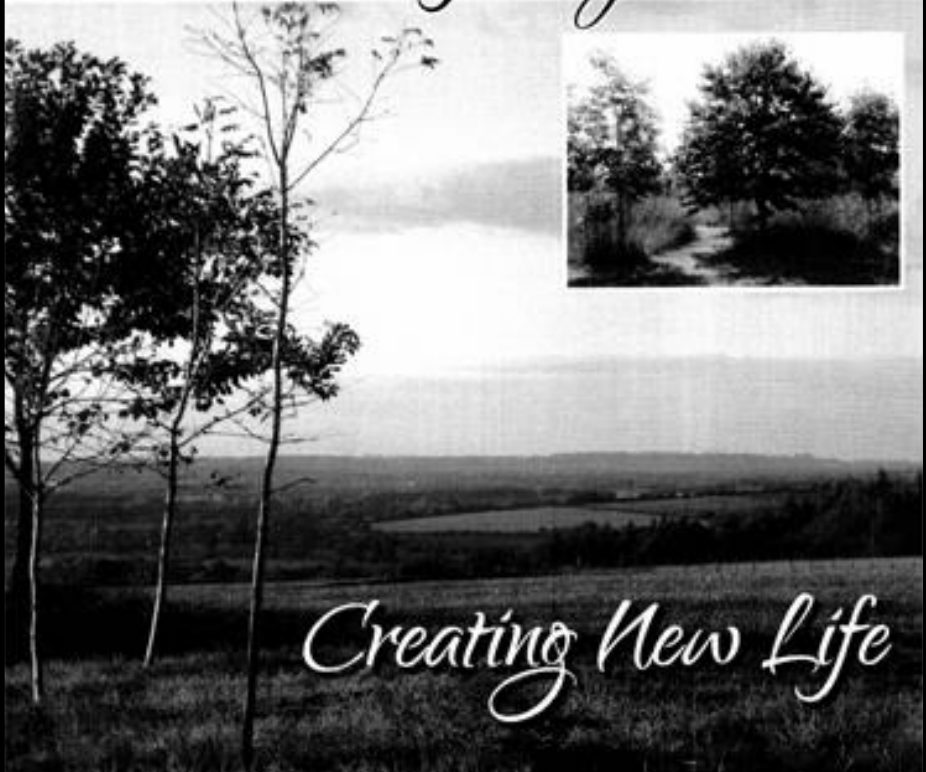
Preschool runs at Tiddy Hall during term time from Monday to Friday. Activities include child-led learning through play, craft, messy play, singing, forest school, cooking club and dance sessions with the wonderful Dancing Sally. If you'd like to know more, please visit our website www.ascottpreschool.co.uk,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



Fairspear Natural Burial Ground

Member of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds

In the heart of Wychwoods



Creating New Life

For further information please contact
Helen Pearson by phone on 01993 878387,
by e-mail at helenpearson248@btinternet.com
or visit our website at www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk



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

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAY IT'S HOW YOU SAY IT

There are some words which I dislike, for many people they are the four letter Anglo-Saxon words often heard amongst the riff-raff at football grounds and not drawing rooms of the more genteel class. I must admit I've been in very few drawing rooms, for all I know they could be a hot bed of the best dirty jokes in England. Just as salt and pepper can, when used sparingly, help flavour food, so four letter words when used sparingly and in the right place can add flavour to the language.

I can just remember when I was very young a very old man who never used the F word, instead he used the M sound instead. For example he would have said 'what a mucking day, it's rained since breakfast. My old friend Eric Moss told me the old man was known as Mucker by people in Ascott, but not to his face.

Filthy language was not allowed in my home, go and wash your mouth out with soap I would have been told. I had the feeling in those years, to use four letter words was a greater damnation than being a child or wife beater.

Living alone, in old age, I have the freedom to use these naughty words whenever I like. There are other words I don't like using. The word pretty, I think it's an insult to call anyone or anything pretty. It is either attractive or beautiful, pretty is a milk-sop word. The colour pink and pretty go well together, I don't like pink but I like red. Some of the most famous football clubs play in claret.

Two words which I do like are Evenlode and Autumnal. Autumnal conjures in my mind the first leaves falling and that short time of rest when long summer days have gone and harvest festivals are over. Old villagers would say 'Stow fair's over, time to close the door and light the fires for winter'.

Time to relax in front of warm kitchen fires before bonfire night and the beginning of the excitement and celebration leading up to Christmas

And Evenlode reminds me of those warm summer's evenings sat on the river bridge in the quiet of twilight listening to the water rippling over the stones on its way to meet the Thames.

Do you have words you don't like? Why not share them with the Grapevine.

Fred Russell



ELYSIA HARRISON
BSC (HONS) SPORTS SCIENCE
SPORTS MASSAGE THERAPIST | RUNNING COACH | ATHLETE

ELYSIA IS A FULLY QUALIFIED SPORTS MASSAGE THERAPIST AND RUNNING COACH WHO COMBINES MOVEMENT, MASSAGE AND EXERCISE IN ORDER TO PROMOTE RECOVERY, AID MOBILITY, RELIEVE STRESS AND ABOVE ALL IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

ELYSIA'S TREATMENTS INCLUDE:

- ✓ **SPORTS MASSAGE**
- ✓ **MYOFASCIAL CUPPING**
- ✓ **TRIGGER POINT THERAPY**
- ✓ **PREGNANCY MASSAGE**
- ✓ **BESPOKE RUNNING COACHING**

WITH A BACKGROUND IN ELITE TRIATHLON, A MILITARY CAREER, AND NOW A MOTHER OF 2 YOUNG CHILDREN, ELYSIA HAS TRAINED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND HAS A RANGE OF EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES, SOLDIERS AND MOTHERS.

TREATMENT IS INDIVIDUALLY TAILORED TO YOU, HELPING TO ENSURE YOU CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO REACH YOUR GOALS; ACHIEVING A HEALTHY AND BALANCED LIFESTYLE.

GET IN CONTACT TODAY TO DISCUSS YOUR TREATMENT PLAN.

T: 07825 736 603
E: ELYSIA_HARRISON@HOTMAIL.COM
IG ELYSIA.SPORTS.THERAPY
F ELYSIA.SPORTS.THERAPY

REHABILITATION | STRESS RELIEF | PAIN MANAGEMENT
CONDITIONING | INJURY PREVENTION

I will be starting a clinic on the first Friday of every month beginning in September. If you'd like more information please feel free to contact me on 07825 736603.



'the Heart of the Community'

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

VISIT US FOR

- A wide range of fresh, local & seasonal produce
- La Parisienne bread
- Fresh & frozen locally-reared meats from Patrick Strainge Butchers
- Award-winning wines, local beers & artisan spirits
- Convenient, healthy meal options including a freezer full of COOK 'homemade ready meals'
- Newspapers, magazines & sourdough bread to order
- A friendly welcome

ON YOUR DOORSTEP & AT YOUR SERVICE

Ascott Village Shop, Cook Row, High Street,
Ascott-under-Wychwood

01993 831240 | shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

Instagram & Facebook: [@ascottvillageshop](https://www.instagram.com/ascottvillageshop)

A Fresh Future at Ascott Village Shop

If you've recently popped into Ascott Village Shop you will know that we have not been sitting on our hands during this last peculiar year.

We decided to invest our additional revenue from the early days of lockdown and a one off £10,000 grant generously provided by West Oxfordshire District Council, in a substantial upgrade of the customer experience to help make us even more welcoming, reliable and forward thinking.

The most obvious refresh has been to the shop layout. We have moved things around, replaced a chest freezer with another upright freezer, installed new bespoke vegetable racks and created a bank of chiller and freezer cabinets. We know that freshness and quality is of paramount importance to our customers and that it can be frustrating when favourite items are not in stock, so this will allow us to stock a wider range of fresh and frozen foods and keep produce and deli items fresher for longer. We would like to thank shop manager Bridgette Crundwell and maintenance man Geoff Taylor for all their hard work earlier this year to make this happen.

As part of the layout changes we are also experimenting with a little seating area, so that members of the community can hang out with a coffee and a pastry and take advantage of our new broadband WiFi. Stay tuned for more improvements to this area in upcoming months.

The upgraded WiFi has also been key to the installation of a brand new till system. The old system was not only notoriously unreliable – we all have our memories of being asked to wait several minutes for the system to reboot - it was also complicated for management to programme and for volunteer staff to learn.

The new VEND system and new card machine is much more intuitive to use and much more flexible, allowing us to create specific discounts and special offers. It also provides much more data around customer shopping habits and will allow us to tailor our merchandising and marketing activities much more closely to customers' needs.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to volunteer Per Hendriksson, who researched, specified and installed the new system, as well as training staff and making himself available for troubleshooting and maintenance.

All these improvements have created additional work for our volunteer staff, which they have taken on with their usual good grace and humour. It was wonderful to be able to thank everyone in person this year at the annual Volunteers' Summer Party, held in shop chairman John Cull and his wife Debra's lovely garden. If you too would like to attend next year's shindig, then talk to us on

Ascott Grapevine

shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk about volunteering. It is a really fun way to get to know your neighbours and give back to the community.

We would also love to hear your thoughts about the changes on our Facebook and Instagram pages. You will find us under 'AscottVillageShop'. Your feedback will help us to further refine and improve your shop experience and help keep the shop where it belongs, at the very heart of our community.

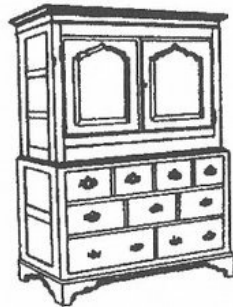


Volunteers having fun at the annual summer party

Robert Gripper Antique Furniture Restorer

Repairs & rebuilds, veneering, carving & turning, colouring, French polishing, finishing, upholstery, desk leathers, gilding mirrors & picture frames, insurance work & valuations, clock repairs, and much more.....

**Manor Farm
Ascott under Wychwood
Oxfordshire, OX7 6AL
01993 831960
01993 830395 fax**



robgripper@btinternet.com

Wychwood Library Update!

Joining the Library

Joining the library is free and well worth the effort. You can join online or in the branch and can use your library card to access e-books, e-audio, newspapers, magazines and much more. Once you join, you can use any Oxfordshire Library and can reserve books from over 40 branches! Reservations are free for children and just £1.30 for adults, even for the most sought-after of titles. Just check out the website for more details!

A Thank you to our Customers

A big thank you to our customers for adapting to all the changes we've put in place in Oxfordshire libraries as a result of the pandemic. It's been wonderful to be able to welcome you back!

This Summer, we've been delighted to host the Summer Reading Challenge, 'Wild World Heroes'. We have already joined up many excited young borrowers, keen to read their six books and gain certificates, medals and goodies! We're tentatively beginning to host events, including two children's craft sessions. Thank you to everyone involved in organising these events and, of course, to our hard working volunteers and Friends group who have supported the library throughout this difficult period.

Wychwood Local History Society Exhibition



A big thank you to the Wychwood Local History Society for their fabulous exhibition of photographs of the High Street over Local History Month in May. It proved very popular with our customers as well as passers by. A Short History of the High Street by John Bennett, is still available at the library (£2); it gives locals and tourists alike a fascinating insight into how the buildings of the high street have changed over time! If you are interested in joining the society, please take a look at their website: www.wychwoodshistory.uk.

I am delighted to announce that the winners of the Local History Society Colouring Competition, launched to coincide with the exhibition, are **Joshua Hope** (age 8) and **Belle King** (age 10). A big well done to you both!

See www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries for more information and current opening times.

TIDDY HALL

Piano Lessons

Pauline Carter

BA A Mus.LCM CTABRSM MISM



01993 774568
roseneathmusicschool.com

TIDDY HALL

With the easing of covid restrictions, the **Tiddy Hall** team are hoping that we can start to move forward and from September, operate a fully open Village Hall! We held our AGM in early July and our Chairman, Simon Gidman, commented that he hoped the travails of the past 18 months were now behind us and that we could start acting on behalf of the village as befits a village hall and its trustees.

Simon thanked all the current members of the committee for their work and support over the past 12 months and mentioned the difficulties faced during that time. Having had fewer committee meetings, putting on fewer events, we all felt a sense of a wasted year, which none of us were happy about and we are all looking forward to getting things done again as the constraints of Covid are eased. Simon wanted to add a particular note of thanks to Sally Franks who has been a marvellous help to us keeping the hall clean under such difficult circumstances over the past year and carrying out extra duties when asked. Having had so many cleaners in the first 5 years of his Chairmanship, having somebody reliable and doing such a good job is a tremendous asset to the hall.

We welcomed a new member onto our committee, John Bugeja. His experience will be of huge benefit to our decision making.

Your Tiddy Hall Team:

Chairman	Simon Gidman
Honourary President	Roger Shepherd
Treasurer	Nick Carter
Booking Clerk	Ingrid Ridley
Secretary	
Health & Safety	Graham Bell
Pre School Rep	Pauline Plant
	Jacquie Bugeja
	John Bugeja

We are keen to recruit a secretary – is there anyone out there who may be interested? We meet approximately every 6 weeks on a Wednesday evening at 7pm. We are a friendly bunch, and our meetings are informal and usually last about 1 hour. Please get in touch with Simon Gidman for more information – srg@simongidmangolf.co.uk

Bookings for the hall are still slightly down from what they were pre pandemic, however some of our regular users have continued to operate throughout such as **Pre School** and the **Post Office** while others have returned as government guidelines allowed – **Kickboxing, piano lessons, Yoga.**

Ascott Grapevine

During the summer break, we welcomed back Nikki Jackson with **Summer Yoga** which was held on Wednesday evenings in July & August. Also, the Tuesday night dancers returned with their Tuesday evening meetings.

September sees the return of the **Wychwood Folk Club** and their gigs for the remainder of this year are as follows:

Saturday September 4 th	Chris Leslie
Saturday September 25 th	Paul Downes
Saturday November 6 th	Clive Gregson
Saturday November 20 th	Martyn Joseph
Saturday December 11 th	All on a Winter's Night with Johnny Coppin

Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Further info on the website www.wychwoodfolkclub.com or get in touch with Mark & Elaine 01993 831427.

Unfortunately, we are losing the Saturday morning **Yoga** class, as Loren will be moving away from Ascott. We wish her happiness in her new home.

The Matt Fiddes Martial Arts School has continued throughout the summer holidays and will be starting a new term in early September. They have 3 classes on Monday evenings:

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

John & Sally Fahey run these classes, contact them for further info 07730 453172 and there is also an excellent website www.mattfiddes.com where you can book your class online - your first one is free!

The **Parish Council** will be presenting their Neighbourhood Plan at **Tiddy Hall** on Sunday September 26th. Do come along anytime between the hours of 10am – 2pm to see what has been done to date and to ask any questions you may have.

The first weekend in October will be the first event that we, the Trustees, will have organised since the pandemic. The plan is to hold a **Musical Gala** on Friday 1st October. The **Roseneath School of Music** will hold their concert on the Saturday evening, while on Sunday, we would like to host an afternoon tea for the elderly residents in our community:

Friday 1st October: Entertainment will be provided by Bob Chilcott, William Diggle & fellow musicians, the Wychwood Classical Players who are a string quartet led by our own Katrina Davies! Katrina will also play as part of a quintet which will include a clarinetist and we have also invited a harpist to play as well. It should be a great and varied evening. Ascott at the Proms !!!

Ascott Grapevine

Doors open at 7pm

Tickets £8 to include canapes and a bar will be available

The evening will be relaxed and informal with a variety of music performed by some of the most talented musicians in the country, who just happen to live in or have connections with Ascott!

Saturday 2nd October: Roseneath School of Music Annual Concert

Tickets £10 (concessions available) – contact Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Doors open 7pm

Sunday 3rd October Afternoon Tea 3pm

As mentioned above, we would like to invite the elderly citizens of Ascott to come to Tiddy Hall for an informal afternoon tea. Refreshments and treats will be provided by the committee and there will be some musical entertainment. There will be no charge, but you will need to book a ticket so that we can get an idea of numbers. We will also be happy to provide transport, so just ask when booking!

Please contact Ingrid Ridley 01993 830612 ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk or Jacquie Bugeja 07768 174952 jacquiebugeja@aol.com for tickets for the Friday and Sunday events. Pre booking is essential!

Plans are also in the pipeline for another **Flix in the Stix** evening, perhaps with Fish n Chips, sometime in the autumn. Details will be put on our village notice boards once plans and dates have been finalised!

And...one more date for your diary - Saturday November 27th - **Race Night!** Pete Moss is your contact for tickets – 01993 830758

We are thrilled that our village hall is once again getting booked up with our regular clubs and we are looking forward to welcoming villagers back to **Tiddy Hall** at our social occasions!

All the above will be run in accordance with government guidelines.

The Tiddy Hall Team

Regular Activities:

Monday – Friday Mornings & Afternoons

Pre-school

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant 07968 006451

Monday Afternoons

Piano Lessons 4pm – 6pm

Ascott Grapevine

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568
Kick Boxing 5.15pm – 8.30pm
Contact: John & Sally Fahey 07730 453172


Tuesday Night

Dancing 7pm - 9pm
Contact: May & Terry Cox 01608 810721

Friday Afternoons

Piano Lessons 3.30pm – 6pm
Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Post Office runs every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm



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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

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Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

The 2021 season to date, has been quite superb for the club. We are playing every Saturday & Sunday, training 2 or 3 times a week, coaching a handful of keen juniors, and have a thriving social scene. I'd urge any Ascott residents with an interest in playing, scoring, generally helping, or just spectating - do get in touch - everyone involved is loving being part of the club.

With the expert help of Shane Barnes, we have Memorial Playing Field looking an absolute picture. Our hard work improving the cricket square is paying off handsomely, as it's producing lots of runs (3 visitor centuries to date!) and the ground is receiving much praise from visiting clubs.

As I write this at the end of July, the league XI, captained by myself, is proving a 'dark horse' for the Division 8B title. After a slow start we've strung together 6 straight wins to climb to 2nd, and trail leaders Chipping Norton 2nd XI by just 18 points. Notably we recently bowled Kidlington 3rd XI out for 23, and Deddington 2nd XI for just 24! Special mention to our 17 year old fast accurate bowler Rowan Moss - he's taken a sensational 38 opposition wickets already this season! With 6 league matches remaining it promises to be a very exciting climax to the summer. Our 'social' Sunday XI hasn't been quite as successful, but has had lots of fun! In June we enjoyed lovely games at picturesque Blenheim Park CC and Middleton Stoney Park CC, and a few memorable wins have been recorded, e.g. vs Headington Quarry CC, Bibury CC and Far From The Madding Crowd CC. Sam Barnes (Brent's son) and Clive Jowett (of Shipton Road) in particular, have been heavy Ascott run scorers. A warm welcome to our latest recruit; 16 year old spin bowler Josh Beasant, who has just moved to Chestnut Close - and took wickets in his first two appearances in men's cricket.

One slight negative - we've suffered some incredibly disappointing and mindless vandalism at the field, courtesy of some teenagers from the village. A lot of people have worked hard on facilities & equipment to the benefit of many, and anti-social behaviour simply won't be tolerated.

Finally, on Sunday August 30th we've an 18 player squad embarking to the Sidmouth area of South Devon for a 3-match summer tour, very exciting!

For bang up-to-date club news follow our Twitter page [@AUWCricketClub](#) or Instagram [ascott_u_wychwood_cricket](#).

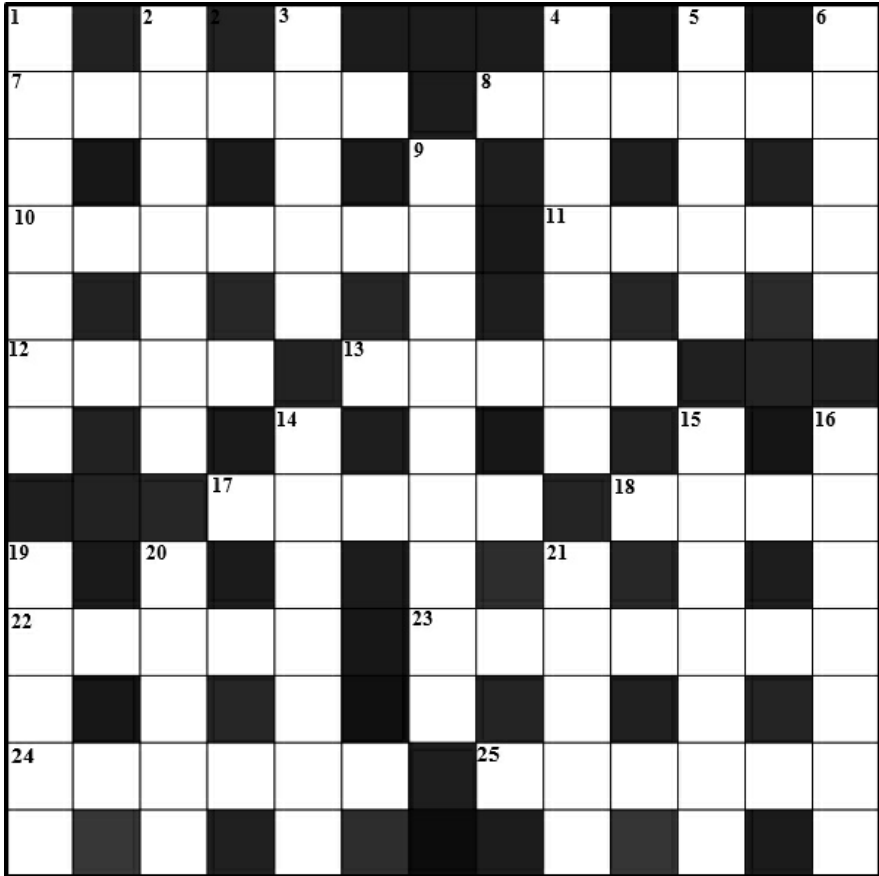
Thank you again to all that have supported us to date!

Stewart Moss, Chairman

AUWCricketClub@hotmail.com

07866 278685

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 7 Jeered (6)
- 8 Authoritative statement (6)
- 10 Let go (7)
- 11 Wait in line (5)
- 12 Outbuilding (4)
- 13 Sorrow (5)
- 17 Alloy (5)
- 18 Prefix for thousand (4)
- 22 Requirements (5)
- 23 Cold dry wind (7)
- 24 Biochemical catalyst (6)
- 25 Medieval land-holder (6)

Down

- 1 Hold dear (7)
- 2 Liturgical book (7)
- 3 Muscular fellow (2-3)
- 4 Game on lawn (7)
- 5 Eightsome (5)
- 6 Gem (5)
- 9 Tedious (9)
- 14 Suppose (7)
- 15 E.g. Pepys (7)
- 16 Urbane (7)
- 19 Attach after conquest (5)
- 20 Grab (5)
- 21 Dissertation (5)

**Solutions to
Crossword in
Edition 110**

Across

- 1 Virtue
- 4 Alley
- 8 Lifts
- 9 Bargain
- 10 Mordant
- 11 Mere
- 12 Ewe
- 14 Neat
- 15 News
- 18 Sow
- 21 Eros
- 23 Edifice
- 25 Sweater
- 26 Copse
- 27 Scamp
- 28 Secret

Down

- 1 Volume
- 2 Referee
- 3 Upstarts
- 4 Acre
- 5 Leave
- 6 Yanked
- 7 Abate
- 13 Encircle
- 16 Whisper
- 17 Versus
- 19 Weird
- 20 Defect
- 22 Omega
- 24 Stop

Local Business Directory

ACADEMY/GB DOORS 01993 778836/01865 246444/01494 539339 www.garagedoors.org	Page 2
ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253 www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk	Page 19
ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk	Page 37
COTSWOLD BEAUTY 01993 832446/07917 341143 enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net www.cotswoldbeauty.net	Page 45
.COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006 www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk	Page 6
ELYSIA HARRISON SPORTS MASSAGE THERAPY 07825736603 ELYSIA_HARRISON@HOTMAIL.COM	Page 36
ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk	Page 12
FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND 01993 878387 helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk	Page 34
FARMHOUSE B&B 01993831900 sally@college-farm.com	Page 5
FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299 wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com	Page 22
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IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268 Instagram@Ivy's Florist	Page 10
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THE SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascot.com www.countrycreatures.com	Page 15

Events Calendar - 2021

Date	Time	Event	Venue
September 3 rd	2.00pm	FarmEd Guided Walk	Farm Ed
September 4 th	7.30 pm	Chris Leslie	Tiddy Hall
September 18 th	8.00pm	Book Launch and Folk Night	FarmED
September 25 th	10am -2pm	Neighbourhood Plan	Pavilion
September 25 th	7.30 pm	Paul Downes	Tiddy Hall
September 26 th	10am -2pm	Neighbourhood Plan	Tiddy Hall
October 1 st	TBC	Musical Gala	Tiddy Hall
October 2 nd	7.00pm	Roseneath School of Music concert	Tiddy Hall
October 3 rd	3.00pm	Elderly residents afternoon tea	Tiddy Hall
November 6 th	7.30 pm	Clive Gregson	Tiddy Hall
November 20 th	7.30pm	Martyn Joseph	Tiddy Hall
November 27 th	TBC	Race Night	Tiddy Hall
December 11 th	7.30pm	All on a Winter's Night with Johnny Coppin	Coppin Tiddy Hall