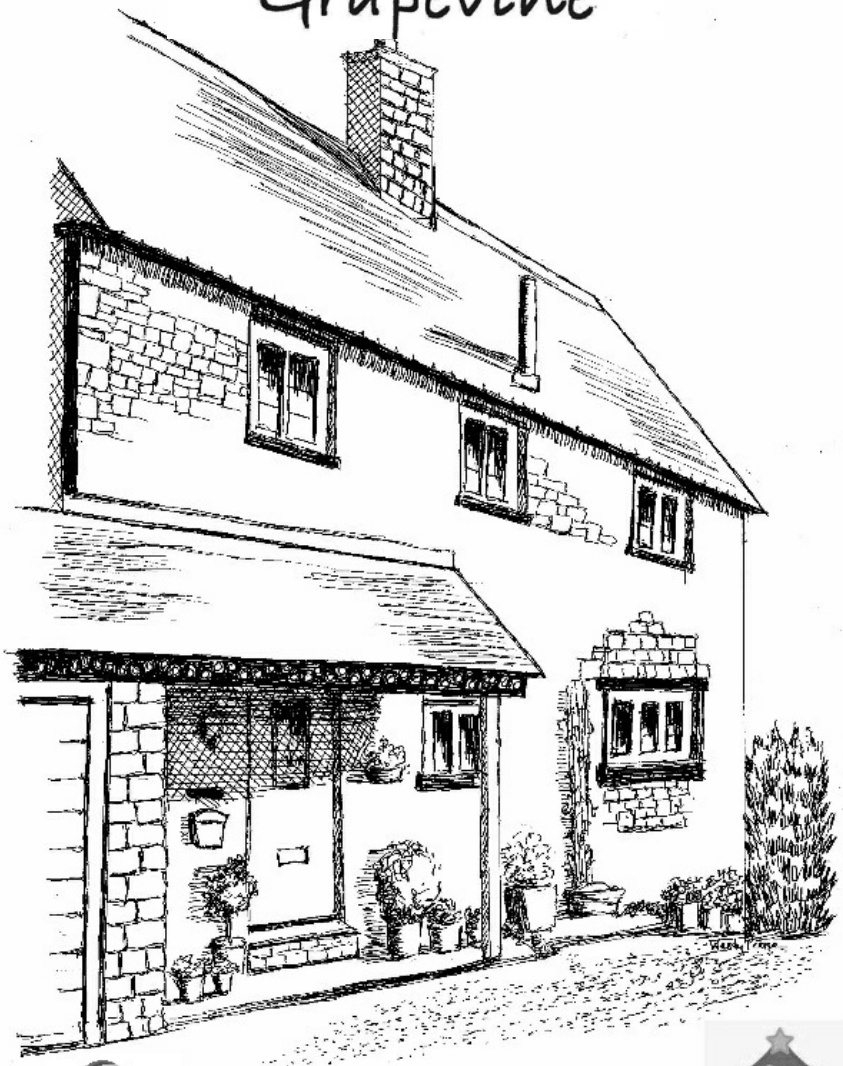


The Ascott Grapevine



Winter 2021/22



Issue 112

Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1st February 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

£11.00 half page

£6.00 quarter page

Advertising Discount:

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

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

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 60](#)), 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 2020/21

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

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

Marriages

Alice Tribe and Jamie Ashwin on Sunday August 29th

Georgia Ines Olivia Thomas and Daniel Matthew Firoozan on Sunday 12th September

Deaths

Anthony Wood - Tuesday 5th October

John N Gripper OBE B.sc MRCVS- Sunday 10th October

Geoff Barns - Tuesday 2nd November



Academy/GB Doors LTD

YOUR LOCAL
REGISTERED STOCKISTS AND INSTALLERS OF
GARAGE DOORS & REMOTE OPERATORS

QUALITY DOORS ALL SIZES
SECURITY LOCKS & SHUTTERS
SPARES - REPAIRS

REMOTE CONTROL DOORS
SUPPLY - FIT
FULLY GUARANTEED

LOCAL RESIDENTS -10% DISCOUNT ON STOCKED DOORS

REGISTERED INSTALLERS
HORMANN / GARADOR / CARDALE / WESSEX / HENDERSON
SWS / NOVOFERM

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
01993 778836 / 01865 246444 / 01494 539339

MANY WORKING DOORS & OPERATORS ON DISPLAY AT:
HEAD OFFICE & SHOWROOM: UNIT 3 GRAFTON STREET, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS HP12 3AJ
Email: sales@garagedoors.org

www.garagedoors.org

A Raccoon in my Log Pile!

Hi everyone. It's not just horses and ponies in the Shenanigan family on London Lane. Villanelle is a 7 year old female raccoon who needed a safe place to live back in 2019.

Raccoons are native to the Americas, ranging from Canada all the way down to Central American countries such as Costa Rica (which, ironically, is where myself and Phil were due to visit this year).

They are from an offshoot of the bear family and can adapt to most temperate climates including the UK. They are highly intelligent, very resourceful, and survive on a mixed omnivorous diet of pretty much anything they can get in their hands. The nickname of Trash Bandit is very apt and the first time I came across a family of wild raccoons was when I was working at a summer camp in Wisconsin. I was awoken on my first night in my cabin in the woods near Lake Delton by some banging and crashing outside. I opened the door to find a family of 6 raccoons rummaging through the rubbish bin on the porch. It was a beautiful sight and one I will always cherish - although less welcome to anyone living there permanently as they can take up residency in crawl spaces under houses and damage wiring etc with their inquisitive fiddly fingers.

One thing I must point out is that Villanelle is NOT a raccoon dog (or tanuki). They have grown in popularity amongst deluded idiots who want anything with the word raccoon in it. They are actually a small wild dog species originating from Asia that vaguely resemble a raccoon with the bandit mask but are a different prospect entirely. There is a saying among animal keepers about how to easily distinguish between the two:

“Put your hand out to touch it. If you still have your fingers then it's a genuine raccoon”.

So how on earth did a lone female raccoon end up in a small village in the Cotswolds?

My original chosen career was as a zoo keeper. I always had a natural affinity with animals of all shapes and sizes and it was never enough just to see them through the barriers at Chessington Zoo near where I grew up in Surrey. I managed to start my career on the last Youth Training Scheme run at London Zoo in 1985 and worked in various collections with everything from insects to big cats, great apes and even elephants and dolphins over a 30 year period.

I have very mixed feelings about animals in captivity, but have always been determined that every individual lives it's best life under the circumstances in which they find themselves.

My zoo keeping career ended due to various injuries taking their toll but I will always have contacts in that world who know that if I can step up and help I always will. There is a large community of private animal keepers around the country, you would be amazed at what lays behind the gates of some of the secluded

manor houses. There is also a network of specialised rescues for pretty much any species out there that have found themselves in less than ideal private hands. Villanelle (not her original name) had been dumped at a bird of prey rescue in Warrington in a very sorry state.

Raccoons were classed as an invasive species by the EU in 2016 (the same act that includes signal crayfish and Japanese knotweed). From that point it became illegal to breed or sell raccoons across the European Union, including the U.K. Existing raccoons in captivity were ok as long as they were not sold or bred from. The popularity of the raccoon character in the Guardians of the Galaxy films led to a demand for raccoons as pets, much as the Harry Potter films led to many poor owls being acquired by unscrupulous fools with no idea what they were doing.

Villanelle had been 'owned' by someone who had bought her on the black market as a baby. She had been taken away from her mum as a tiny baby, kept as a trophy pet in a council flat and then been dumped once she came out of the cute baby stage and demonstrated how inappropriate her surroundings were.

Raccoons are excellent climbers and tend to scuttle about on the ground. Villanelle had no muscle tone and had no idea how to climb or get about naturally. Her coat was completely matted (raccoons moult their winter coats in the spring) because she had been in such unsuitable surroundings that she hadn't ever had the space or the companion to help her moult properly.

I was contacted by Raccoon Rescue U.K., who I have always supported, because the rescue in Warrington was unable to integrate Villanelle into their little raccoon family. She had no idea what she was, and was at great risk of being ganged up on by these raccoon things that she was hissing at to leave her alone. It was in her best interests to find a rescue space without other raccoons, with an experienced human who had the time to rehabilitate her and bring her back to full health ie. Me.

An enclosure was put up within a few days and myself and Phil set off to Warrington to collect our new charge. Villanelle settled in relatively quickly, relaxing in human company without another raccoon in sight. We took our time to allow her to come out of her shell. Everything was on her own terms and every night I would sit in the enclosure for an hour so that she knew I was there and had the choice whether to interact or not. We sorted out her diet with a wide range of different foods and gradually added more logs, perches and a hammock to encourage her to learn how to climb and move about off the ground.

There was a terrifying time the first summer Villanelle was with us. There had been an overnight storm and the roof to the nest box had somehow got damaged. Villanelle was nowhere to be seen. I put out an appeal for people to keep an eye out and was especially thankful for the help given by Lissy and Lily-Ellen Timms. Cut a long story short, four days later Villanelle made her own way home. She was exhausted and slept off her adventure in her snuggly nest box with the newly repaired roof.

It was a frightening time to think that we had lost her, but it was an honour to see that she found her own way back to her safe haven and for the next two years she showed no inclination to wander anywhere.

For some reason 2021 was different.

Villanelle came out of her winter semi-hibernation in an absolutely foul mood. I had extended her enclosure with the use of an overhead tunnel. She now had a network of three separate areas to explore.

She was agitated and defensive, so it was down to me to decipher what she was trying to tell me.

Did she now need a companion of her own species?

Summer came along and we were contacted by Raccoon Rescue U.K. once more. A young male raccoon had been handed in to a Fox Rescue in the Midlands. Similar back story to Villanelle. Myself and John created a separate part of the enclosure adjacent to Villanelle and collected him. He was a big lad, much stronger than her, but with a very calm disposition. The two of them had some interaction through the mesh but Villanelle decided humans are still her species. Unfortunately Konstantin (as he became known) had some underlying serious health problems which were probably the reason he had been abandoned. On further investigation it was decided that the only humane option for him was to be put to sleep.

We gave Villanelle access to the whole enclosure again. This was where the problems started.

The first night with access to the whole enclosure Villanelle found an escape route that hadn't been there before.

Konstantin must have pulled away a section of mesh in his area just big enough for her to fit through. Villanelle spent a few nights of the summer sneaking out at night and wandering about nearby gardens before (mostly) making her own way home.

I would check over the enclosure, think I had found the weak point and secured it.

Next morning I would get a call from yet another lovely villager to let me know that a certain raccoon was sitting on their log store waiting to be collected.

She would sit tight until I arrived, happily get back in her catch box, and off back home we would go.

It was such a stressful time. All we wanted to do was to ensure Villanelle's safety and happiness, which certainly wasn't the case if she kept escaping. She was really happy and relaxed in herself once back home but what on earth was going on with the marauding?

In the end we worked out that the larger network of enclosures she had woken up to in the Spring was simply too big. She was stressed and anxious because she was overwhelmed by the increased space she had. This is amazingly common with rescued exotic species that have been brought up in unsuitable restricted areas. I once worked with a leopard that had been kept in a house. The

Ascott Grapevine

leopard was essentially agoraphobic and would absolutely panic in any large open space.

We have followed Villanelle's lead and she has now moved into the workshop area behind the stables. She can see what we are up to, listen to the radio, and will come out and interact with us whenever we are there.

Thanks go to everyone for their patience and understanding during this very peculiar year.

Villanelle is now very happily safe and secure, she is getting ready to wind down for her winter snooze here at home.

Hopefully spring time will come around next year without such raccoonly she-nanigans or calls of...

"There's a raccoon in my log pile"

Jo Wheatley
07548563487



Ivy's
*Flowers for all Occasions
and helium balloons*

Tel: 01993 830 268

Deliveries available
Instagram @ Ivy's Florist

family businesses on this site for over 120 years

8 Church Street, Shipton under Wychwood, Oxon OX7 6BP

Closed on Mondays

Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens

50 Years 1970 - 2020

Closer to Wildlife

SAVE! WITH E-TICKETS

Burford, Oxfordshire.
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Musical Gala Evening – 1st October 2021

This was the first event held at Tiddy Hall since the start of our enforced domestic incarceration (a.k.a. ‘lockdown’) and we all had great hopes for a wonderful evening of high-quality music. We were not disappointed! Indeed, the calibre of the performers was worthy of the West End stage; we are incredibly proud to be able to stage such an event in our little Cotswold village.

Tickets were sold out two weeks prior to the event, testifying to the high level of anticipation. After the event, we received fantastic feedback including a number of text messages and emails. I had planned to write a review myself but, having read one particularly eloquent Facebook post, it was clear that this totally independent (and unbiased!) review by Iain Russell-Jarvie could not be improved upon, so here it is verbatim:

“I can't believe what a wonderful musical evening I've experienced this evening at the Tiddy Hall in Ascott under Wychwood.

A wonderful group of exceptional musicians and singers gave the most beautiful concert of fabulous instrumental music and amazing singing.

Thank you to the organisers for bringing such a professional group of people to a village hall in the Cotswolds. It was worthy of the grand venues in the country.

Thank you to our local man Bob Chilcott for his singing of amusing songs and allowing us to join in.

A huge thank you to Amiran Zenaishvili, concert pianist from Moscow.

We were enchanted by the baritone voice of William Diggle, another local boy with a magnificent voice who was joined by the accomplished opera singer Rebecca Silverman.

We had the beautiful harp played by the principal harp tutor from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Last but certainly not least we were truly entertained by the Wychwood Ensemble giving us amazing Argentine Tangos alongside their great rendition of popular classics.

Thank you all so much for bringing your talent and professionalism to this inspirational evening.”

Many thanks Iain for your excellent review. Hopefully we will be able to organise another similar event before too long.

For those of you who could not get a ticket, or would like to re-live some of the performances, a number of videos can be found on my YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/Nzp6TvcwGXY>



An opportunity was taken during the concert for a presentation of a book with villagers' comments to Philippa Carter, highlighting the huge amount of work she has done during her time as the Chairman of the Parish Council and afterwards, regarding the flood problems and the geography of the village for preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). This information will be invaluable for the NP.



Festival of Light

In December 2020 the village was illuminated by the glow of hundreds of lights shining from the gardens, windows and doorways of many Ascott homes from the west end of Shipton Road to the east end of High Street. The crowning glory was the festoon of bright stars hung through the branches of the avenue of trees in the churchyard.

On Christmas Eve, with the traditional Christmas Carols on the Green sadly cancelled due to Covid-19, there was a socially distanced promenade around the village to admire the lights which was, nonetheless, a very enjoyable and memorable social occasion.

Last Christmas was undoubtedly an unusual one, but the churchyard lights will definitely go up again this year and there has been a lot of interest in having another festival of light. So with Christmas fast approaching the Village Charity would again like to support the event and would like to encourage everyone to brighten up the village in December by decorating as much of your house and garden as you are able to and make Ascott shine even more than in 2020.

Candles, lanterns, fairy lights and torches of all colours and hues will add to the overall effect. If we can all put up some lights it will be amazing.

Details and timing of the Promenade of Light will be circulated in early December and we look forward to seeing you strolling through the village for a little light celebration and maybe some spontaneous mulled wine over the garden wall.



Travel with Merv Bates

travel counsellors



Based here in Ascott Under Wychwood

- Cruise Specialist
- Tailor Made Itineraries
- Holidays UK & Overseas
- Ski Holidays
- Weddings & Honeymoons Abroad
- Flight Only
- Group Travel
- Single Holidays
- Adventure Travel

"I am an agent for most UK tour operators"



Call: 01993 240001

Email: merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com Info:



www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates

Church Activity

Quiz Night

Ascott PCC are holding a quiz evening at Tiddy Hall on **Saturday December 4th** at 7pm. Tickets are £12 each and include a hot supper.

Get together a table of 6 or let us know you would like to come, and we can allocate you to a table.

There will be a raffle and a bar.

To book your place please contact

Sarah Tribe sarahtribe@hotmail.co.uk

Sue Smith 01993 830982

Sue Mellor laurencemellor@hotmail.com

Safari Supper

Post Christmas blues? Dreary time of year? Cheer yourself up by coming to our Curry Club safari supper!!

Saturday February 5th 2022

We are bringing back the popular safari supper with a curry theme! Make a note in your diary and watch the village notice boards for more information later. If you would like to be a host, we would be delighted to hear from you.

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:

- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September

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

Sarah Tribe DipTA MBACP

sarahtribe@hotmail.co.uk

07427 660338

Community Bus Services

210 Service linking Crawley, Leafield 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	
Leafield, 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
Ferneleigh ⁽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
Leafield, 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	
Leafield, 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
Ferneleigh (*Request only)	09:42	11:42*	13:42	14:32*

Witney to Wychwoods Saturdays (except Public Holidays)				
Ferneleigh (*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	15:20
Deer Park Medical Centre	09:56	12:26	14:22	15:26
Crawley, The Lamb	10:02	12:32		15:32
Leafield, 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

Monday to Friday

Service leaves opposite Church View at:

09.40

Returning from Chipping Norton Co-op Car Park at:

11.40



Simpson
ARCHITECTURE

Experienced local architect -
services include private houses,
extensions, sustainable design,
contemporary/traditional/listed

Contact: Michael Simpson 07555 490460
Email: info@simpsonarchitecture.co.uk
Website: www.simpsonarchitecture.co.uk

RIBA 
Chartered Practice

4* BED & BREAKFAST IN ASCOTT
Meadowbank House

3 excellent independent en suite rooms
for your friends or relatives
coming to stay.
Quiet location with lovely gardens.
Off-road parking.
Children welcome.

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

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

Annie's Curtains and Blinds

Beautiful, hand-made soft furnishings.
Alterations, relining, recovering.

Friendly, local service

For a no obligation quote, please call
us on

Telephone: 01993 830687
Mobile: 07989 497253

www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

Nextdoor App

This year some residents of Ascott-under-Wychwood received an uninvited postal mailing from the **Nextdoor app**. Our household received one of these letters promoting the free app, which used the full name and street name of a “neighbour” to endorse its “neighbourhood hub”.

To me these letters used questionable tactics and I wanted to find out if ‘Nextdoor app’ were breaching any data protection principles.

Although the letters had a whiff of ‘scam’ about them, after a bit of research I discovered that they were not contravening any rules. The reason was that the envelope showed our address but not my name (just “Ascott-under-Wychwood Neighbour”) and the letter was headed “Hi ...Neighbours”. If the envelope and/or letter had my name AND address on it then the company would be using my personal data and this should not be done without my knowledge.

So this unwanted mailing was allowed, but what about the “neighbour” whose name was being used to promote the app? I went to the Nextdoor website to see what happens...

When a person signs-up for the app they are required to provide their own personal data. They are also presented with the option of inviting 10 people in their area to download the app by sending them a letter. When the ‘send’ option for this is selected the invite letters are given the go ahead, but the website does not reveal who the recipients are. So only the data of the person initiating the mailing is shared; although I think the way the name and address of those signing-up to the app is shown on the resulting letters may not have been anticipated.

If any reader thinks they have unknowingly agreed, when they signed-up for the app, for their name to be used for direct marketing purposes by Nextdoor, they can email ‘help@nextdoor.co.uk’ and ask them to stop processing their personal data.

For further information regarding postal marketing, go to Royal Mail’s website: **personal.help.royalmail.com**

and ask: *How do I opt out of receiving any leaflets or unaddressed promotional material?*

The answer provides useful links and opt-out forms.

You can also register with the Mailing Preference Service; visit:

www.mpsonline.org.uk or telephone: 0207 291 3310.

The 2018 Data Protection Act controls how personal information is used by organisations and businesses (see www.gov.uk/data-protection). This means you can request that companies stop processing your personal data in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations. Most organisations have now made it easy to ‘opt-out’ of their marketing communications.

If you need to complain about unsolicited direct mail, please contact the Mailing Preference Service (details above). Alternatively, you could make a complaint about the use of your personal data to the Information Commissioners Office: visit: ico.org.uk or call their helpline: 0303 123 1113.

Sarah Russell



**A photograph of 'Rock The Lockdown II', Tiddy Hall,
October 16th.**

Alice & Jamie

Our daughter, Alice, was married to Jamie Ashwin on Sunday August 29th. It was a joyful celebration after the long months of lockdown and was a wedding that was always planned for that date. We were so grateful that it could go ahead. Our village church was the perfect setting and afterwards we all walked down to the field by the Green where the marquee was decked out in jam jars, and milk churns, of flowers. We had hay bales and a fire pit and there was lots of laughter and joy at being able to celebrate together with family and friends. One of the highlights was the villagers sitting on the wall watching the wedding party and coming in the evening to share in the celebrations. It was a true village wedding, and we are thankful to Jo who lent us the field, Sue Smith and Viv Davies who did the flowers, the church bellringers and Ilona Cheyne for marrying them.

Sarah Tribe



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Benjamin Britten
ST NICOLAS

Excerpts from
Handel MESSIAH

CHIPPING NORTON
CHORAL SOCIETY
CHELTENHAM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Conducted by PETER HUNT

18th December 2021

St Mary's Church
Chipping Norton 7:30pm

Tickets £12 / u16s free
Jaffé & Neale or online
www.cncs.org.uk





THE · SWAN
ASCOTT · UNDER
WYCHWOOD



01993 832332

reservations@swanascott.com



www.countrycreatures.com

Sign up to our newsletter for all our news, offers and events.

FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT PAST

Part 15

You may be surprised to know that a dynasty of tailors lived in Ascott during the 17th century. They were the very prolific Fletcher family recorded in the village in the 16th century but apparently departed after 1800. Three of the family left wills in which they identified themselves as tailors, George in 1628, William in 1684 and Thomas in 1692.

They would have catered for the socially upper class members of the village probably mostly for men but as fashion dictated, also creating fitted waistcoats and jackets for women. Living at the time of the fall of Charles I, the Commonwealth, and the accession of Charles II, the fashion in clothes must have changed considerably during those years. Close to the wool merchants and later clothiers of Burford and especially Witney, cloth must have been readily available and easily delivered to local villages by merchants and carriers.

George Fletcher, buried in 1628, appears to have been a fairly young man. His son John was only 1 and daughter Anne 3 when he died. He left the children 50s (£330) in his will which was to be used at the discretion of his overseer who was his brother John. Frances, George's wife was to have everything else provided she did not remarry. But life for a young widow at the time must have been hard and 15 months later she married George Ryman, so presumably eventually the children received the rest of their father's legacy which including money and goods amounted to £19 2s (£2512)



George died during the reign of Charles I when clothing was very flamboyant and highly decorated. How the lower class villagers must have marvelled at their richly dressed superiors.

The upper class gentlemen and tenant farmers several of whom left a considerable amount of wealth in their wills, must as people do today, have wanted to keep up with the latest fashions. These were people like Leonard Box who lived at High Lodge and died the same year as George. His estate was valued at £226 9s 2d (£33000), Richard Hickes, yeoman in 1684 and Edward Dennett in 1696 both left around £168 (£20000) and Peter Poole, yeoman in 1669 £125 45s (£15000).

Sadly there is no known record of the Fletcher family as tailors during the Commonwealth but William and Thomas Fletcher dying in the last two decades of the 17th century and mentioning their grandchildren in their wills must have lived through that period. How their trade changed through the evolution of Puritanism

we cannot know but following the accession of Charles II in 1660 fashion must have rebounded back to the elaborate outfits of the first few decades of the century



In his will of 1684 William mentioned his orphaned grandchildren, John, Margery and Ursula, and left 20s (£125) for his daughter in law Mary to buy herself a gold ring. Five further grandchildren were listed and his son Nicholas was to carry out his father's wishes regarding the distribution of his legacies and the ownership of his copyhold land. (*Copyhold land was land held by a tenant which was listed on the Manor Court Rolls. It could last for more than a generation before being renewed. The*

Fletcher family were listed as copyholders in a 1591 Survey and Mary Fletcher widow was also listed as a copyholder in a 1764 Survey.) William's wealth amounted to £26 11s (£3500).

With the death of Thomas in 1692 there is mention of the business. On the inventory of his goods £25 10s (£3000) on the 'shoppe book' is considered recoverable whilst the goods in the shop were valued at £5 4s 6d (£626). Thomas appears to have had at least 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Apart from legacies to the family everything was left to his wife Joshuan. However, Joshuan died shortly after Thomas and their son Solomon became the benefactor. Thomas's wealth at his death amounted to £39 12s 10d (£4750).

We cannot know how the trauma of the Civil War affected this family. Conflict within families is recorded in those times but in a village like Ascott there are no records of how that period affected normal life. A certain amount of warfare took place in the local area and also the confiscation of goods, food and probably animals and also the billeting of soldiers into people's houses. Records of incidents are available for Chipping Norton and the Levellers were executed in Burford, both very close by.

However following the reinstatement of royalty with the accession of Charles II in 1660 life must have promised hopes of a more peaceful world, despite the Great Fire of London and the severe return of the Plague to the country. But when Charles died in 1685 religion again brought conflict between Protestants and Catholics until in 1689 William and Mary took over the throne and offered more stability. These 17th century years reflect the lifetimes of the Fletcher family of tailors in Ascott. Probably a very tough, uncertain period to live through.

The very approximate value of their money today is written in italics and brackets following the amount. This value is taken from the inventories of all their possessions, but we have to remember that the amenities we continually pay for today would not have been in existence at that time.

Wendy Pearse

THE GRAPEVINE STORY

For over 17 years the Editorial Team has enjoyed producing the Grapevine Magazine and hope that our readers also enjoy the fruits of our efforts. Many of you will remember that for ten years previously Anne Braithwaite made a sterling job of producing the first forty issues, solely on her own. But something of which you are probably unaware is that the Grapevine has a much longer pedigree and for the beginning of the story we have to go back 143 years to 1878.

The then vicars, Rev. S. Yorke of Ascott and Rev. T Lee of Leafield were friends and sometime during 1877 they must have discussed the possibility of producing a combined parish magazine. In January 1878 the first issue of the Leafield and Ascott under Wychwood Parish Magazine was published, price 2d. Whilst acting as Parish Clerk several years ago, I found copies of these magazines in the parish cupboard, but only covering three years. Rev. Yorke explains the reason why. In the inaugural copy of the Chipping Norton Deanery Magazine he wrote, "Our Parish magazine has assumed a new aspect and formed a new alliance. It has been wooed and won by the Rural Deanery Combination." The Deanery Magazine then went on to cover over 30 local villages and continued for over 100 years, recording various happenings and events, births, deaths and marriages throughout the Chipping Norton Deanery.

When its publishing finally ceased Anne Braithwaite took on the task of keeping the village informed by production of the Grapevine until finally handing over the task to the members of the Editorial Team.

So Ascott's parish magazine has a great deal more provenance than anyone would have believed and has indeed come back to its roots.

The present Editorial Team are Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles, Keith Ravenhill and Wendy Pearse. We have been really grateful to all contributors to the magazine and welcome articles, poems, reports etc. The Grapevine is delivered free and so all donations are also truly welcome. They will help the magazine to go forward into the future.

Wendy Pearse



Enjoying the Tea Party at the Tiddy Hall on Sunday 3rd October

Wychwood Library Bulletin

Late opening

We are now open on a Monday and a Friday from 2-7. Do drop in after work and take advantage of our evening opening! Current times are on the Oxfordshire Libraries website.

Coffee Morning: Wednesday 10-11.30

Our popular coffee morning is back, thanks to our amazing volunteers. We still have a couple of monthly slots to fill, so if you have time to bake and/or serve up monthly, we'd love to hear from you.

Reading Group: 2nd Thursday of Month 1.45-2.45

We still have spaces on our wonderful afternoon reading group. Books are supplied by the library and a warm welcome is guaranteed! Please contact us if you're interested.

Puzzle Swap

We now have an informal puzzle swap. We welcome donations of complete jigsaw puzzles, especially 500 pieces. Come along and take a look!

Lego Club: Mondays 3.30-4.30 in term-time

We've been delighted to welcome back our keen constructors on. They've come back with gusto and their wonderful models are on display in the library. It's open to all, especially primary age children. Just drop in

Fun Fridays: 1st Friday of the Month 3.30-4.30

We are holding craft sessions for pre-school and primary age children on the 1st Friday of each month. Often with a seasonal theme. We'll be advertising these in the library and on the Wychwood Post. Drop in- no need to prebook.

Volunteers:

Thanks again to our army of volunteers for their tireless support of the library. We are always on the look out for more recruits. Please contact us if you'd like to know more. We are a friendly bunch!

Contact us at Wychwood Library:

Telephone: 01993 830281

Wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS

AIRPORT & CITY TRANSFERS | CORPORATE & EXECUTIVE TRAVEL | PRIVATE HIRE

01993 830249
07768 507100 / 07971 236020
info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsonscars.com
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 Dec 11th All on A Winter's Night with Johnny Coppin

Tickets £14.00 in advance £16.00 on the door

One of England's finest singer/songwriters *Johnny Coppin* presents a rich mix of traditional carols & new songs, together with entertaining stories. There'll be new songs & material from his four Christmas albums, including *A West Country Christmas* & the very latest album *All on A Winter's Night*. The concert will include songs from many parts of the West Country. "Joining him on stage will be *Paul Burgess*, the multi-talented musician on fiddle, recorders & reading; *Dik Cadbury* on guitars and vocals. Paul has worked with John Kirkpatrick, & the Old Swan Band & Dik with Johnny in Decameron, as well as with Steve Hackett, & Mike D'Abo.

Beautiful and inspirational - a seasonal delight" - *Living Tradition Magazine*

Unquestionably at the top of his game" - *Acoustic Magazine*

Sat Jan 22nd Sarah McQuaid + support by Simon Loake

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Her award-winning musicianship, distinctive chocolatey vocals and mastery of the songwriting craft have led reviewers to describe Sarah McQuaid as a "triple threat". Add to that a warm, charismatic stage presence, five critically acclaimed solo albums and a battery of instruments including acoustic and electric guitars, drum and piano — and you've got a one-woman powerhouse who defies categorisation because there simply isn't anyone else out there quite like her. Not to be missed!

Sat Feb 12th Paul Cowley + support by MAIR

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Originally from Birmingham UK via mid-Wales Paul now resides in Morbihan Brittany France. A singer, songwriter, acoustic fingerstyle and slide guitarist he was originally inspired by the country blues of Lightnin Hopkins, Mississippi John Hurt, Robert Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy and others. This interest led to him becoming involved with the acoustic guitar/ folk club scene in the West Midlands UK and ultimately to the formation of The Sutton Blues Collective.

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 October 2021

This quarter the PC has refocussed on the Neighbourhood Plan, with our three Roadshow events: Traffic and Transport on the Green, followed by more general exhibitions at the Pavilion and Tiddy Hall. Our thanks to all those who attended and engaged in the discussions.

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Planning is all about getting the right number of the right type and scale of homes built with the right materials in the right place. That involves considering not only the local need, but also what the village can absorb in terms of flood risk, services, infrastructure and traffic. The risks, should we get this wrong, are real, and urgent.

It means answering questions like: what would be the effect, should the developers get the go-ahead to build houses at the top of Maple Way, Dawls Close and Heritage Lane? Where would the water, the sewerage and the traffic go? Do we need any more large houses built at the end of High Street, or does the village need more affordable homes for our youngsters? What, should the government decree that building has to take place to make up the numbers, would be a sustainable limit? And what about carbon neutrality and eco-homes?

It is never too late to comment so do speak to us about your thoughts.

Centre stage was the work that has been done to date, co-funded and made possible by a grant from Locality, to map the watercourses and catchment areas across the parish. We are still awaiting the final reports, but understanding this is vital, as we know that this is the primary risk and if unmanaged has the potential to affect the whole of the village, from one end to the other and in-between: something that has never been properly documented until now.

Emergency Plan

Another essential matter is the Emergency Plan. This collates information on the people, contacts, skills and equipment available should there be an emergency in the parish, and the PC reviews this periodically to make sure that everything is up to date.

Our leaflet campaign brought forward a couple of new willing volunteers for our list, and our thanks to them. If you have specialist skills that you think could be useful, please let us know. If there is another flood event or so forth, there isn't time to go asking around.

The other essential part of this is the list of vulnerable residents. Nobody wants to be part of a list, but this is absolutely necessary for the emergency services: it is held in complete confidence and only relates to people who would be vulnerable in an emergency, not in their daily lives - someone with limited mobility who would need extra assistance, or with limited hearing who might struggle to hear instructions at a distance, for example. We all look out for our neighbours but if you know of anyone who you think should be included, or if you yourself fall into those categories, please let us know. It's not a question of pride, or not wanting to bother the services: if we know, we can plan.

Defibrillator Training

The PC is organizing another round of training in the use of the defibrillators, located at the Village Shop and at Tiddy Hall. There are a few spaces available, so if anyone is interested in attending (paid for by the PC) please contact us. First come, first served and the day was Saturday 20th November 10am to 1pm in Tiddy Hall.

Christmas Carols

Yes, it's already time to be thinking about the Festive Season, and this year the PC has decided that we will try to resurrect the Carols on the Green, subject of course to any COVID restrictions imposed by the Government.

The intention is to hold this at 6pm on Christmas Eve around the Christmas Tree, or if the weather is too inclement, in the Tiddy Hall. Please watch for posters and announcements near the date and prepare to warm up those rusty vocal cords.

Other News

We are delighted that the closure of Chippy Hill for road strengthening passed off without too much incident and we should hopefully have a stronger and longer lasting surface for everyone, with fewer potholes to navigate and better drainage. On a similar subject, I would also like to thank the Thames Water engineers who responded so quickly and professionally to the burst water main at the end of High Street.

And last but by no means least, it was a real pleasure to be able to present to Philippa, at the wonderful music evening organized by the Tiddy Hall committee, the book in which so many residents have written messages of thanks for her time leading the PC.



Stay safe and warm this winter.

On behalf of the Parish Council

Brian Leach, Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council

Email: contact@ascottpc.org.uk

Renovation in Long Compton, traditional alu-clad timber, STM Tinium



**ENLIGHTENED
WINDOWS**

Truly the next generation of products

01608 684607
www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk

Jenna Saunders
Seamstress and Dressmaker

**Alterations
Dressmaking
Soft Furnishings**



01993 831338
saundersjenna@hotmail.com

Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

Aided by kind weather, we played until Sun 3rd October! What a fabulous year, with so many highlights.

Our Cherwell league campaign faded when we lost vs Stonesfield and then Great Tew 2nd XIs, but we still finished 5th (in a division of 12) missing out on promotion by just 7 points. We must thank Simon Gidman (Shipton Rd) and John Cull (The Green) for their outstanding umpiring - both firm but fair! In 2022 we go all out to win the Division...

At the end of August an Ascott squad of 15 embarked to Devon for a 3-match friendly tour. We played at stunning Sidmouth CC in the sun (lots of tourists watching), with Stewart Moss the delighted scorer of 101 not out! After a fun

game at Branscombe CC, we finished with a memorable match at Tipton St John - where Steve Russell (of London Lane) bowled an unbelievable final over to deliver the team a nail biting 1 run victory! "Memorable" doesn't cover those 3 days, we'll repeat in 2022.

In early Sept we played at unbelievably gorgeous Stowell Park near Northleach. Somewhat inspired, veteran batsman (and Ascott Signal Box supremo) Clive Jowett hit an incredible 112 not out, from just 61 deliveries. Clive rained 4s & 6s to the extent that the onlooking thoroughbred cattle were in genuine danger! But this was just one of many wonderful Sunday games - like the match at Islip where 16 year old George Worsley took 4 wickets *in the final over* to tie the match! Or the game at Hawkesbury Upton, where young William Harvey (of Maple Way), on the day of his 13th birthday, produced a blinding catch - and was 'mobbed' by his jubilant team-mates. Good times.

In October, 35 of us attended a club awards night and quiz (won by Team Russell) at the Pavilion, wrapped up by Tom Gidman's hilarious stand-up comedy slot. President Don Barnes presented both our League Batting & prestigious 'Players Player' awards to brilliant all-rounder Jay Hussain (he joined us when working in Ascott as a Care Assistant). Steve Russell bagged the Sunday Players Player. Sam Barnes (Brent's son) was our top Sunday batsman, and Rowan Moss scooped both bowling awards with his *incredible* 2021 haul of 64 opposition wickets! The honour of 'Clubman' of the year went to Kester Harvey for his limitless enthusiasm and generosity. After many other awards, thanks were given to all those who help with the ground, and our little band of loyal supporters, much appreciated at games.

During the Winter, we'll play some indoor cricket and then indoor net practice at Charlbury Community Centre on Sunday afternoons commence late Jan. Anyone interested in joining in do please make contact, new players are welcomed regardless of ability. Particularly early spring we've a number away at University so there are gaps to be filled.

Finally, our mission over the Winter is to raise funds to buy some mobile wicket covers to replace our labour intensive tarpaulin. These will prevent so many games being rained off, reduce work load, and enable us to produce better, harder pitches. It's a challenge, but given how far the club has come in 2 years, we think we can make it. If anyone is interesting in sponsoring or donating, please get in touch.

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

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

Stewart Moss, Chairman
AUWCricetClub@hotmail.com
07866 278685



The fabulous sea-front ground at Sidmouth, Devon and Ascott captain Stewart Moss scores 101 not out



An Ascott Sunday XI from a game in September

Road to Colditz

Brave the 'Road to Colditz' in SOFO Museum's upcoming online event

- An Online talk streaming at 7pm on Tuesday 23rd November 2021 with a live Q&A with speakers Stuart Rolt and Thomas Hamilton-Baillie.
- Two sons tell of their fathers' hair-raising wartime experiences and numerous escapes as prisoners of war in Germany, including the infamous Colditz Castle
- Free to view on the museum website, no registration required, but donations to support the museum and future events are welcomed.

The online talk to be streamed from the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) website at 7pm on 23 November 2021 will tell the story of two prisoners of war, Tony Rolt and Jock Hamilton-Baillie.

Two men captured during the Fall of France in 1940 who, after several escape attempts from other POW camps, found themselves at Colditz - the infamous castle reserved for those prisoners identified as serial escapers, the most troublesome to the Nazis.

Their stories will be told by their two sons, Stuart Rolt and Thomas Hamilton-Baillie, as they recount their fathers' hair-raising wartime experiences as prisoners of war in Germany throughout World War 2.

Tony Rolt MC was a racing driver both before and after his service in the Rifle Brigade during the Second World War, awarded for bravery during the Battle of Calais just before the Dunkirk evacuation, he would be awarded again for his numerous escape attempts - perhaps most famously coming up with a plan to escape Colditz via a scratch-built glider.

John 'Jock' Hamilton-Baillie was an officer with the Royal Engineers in France from the first week of the war, part of a division that was ultimately surrounded and forced to surrender to the German general, Erwin Rommel. Like Rolt, Jock was awarded for numerous escape attempts, including schemes to both tunnel under and climb over the defences of various camps.

The two men's sons will provide an in-depth look at the planning and execution of a number of real escape attempts their fathers were involved in, the risks they ran, the penalties for failure, the privations suffered, and what imprisonment at Colditz itself was really like.

The live event can be watched freely on the museum website, no ticket or pre-registration required, but donations to support the museum's work conserving the county's military heritage, as well as running events like this one, are encouraged.

Watch online at: www.sof.org.uk/whats-on/roadtocolditz/

Past talks available at: www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/

About the Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum

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

www.sofo.org.uk

frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk

01993 810 210

SOFO Museum first opened during the summer of 2014, tucked away in the beautiful gardens in the grounds of The Oxfordshire Museum and Woodstock Library, and just on the doorstep of Blenheim Palace.

More than a local military museum, SOFO is a museum that everyone can enjoy, from kids to parents and grandparents. We tell stories of how conflict has affected the county and its people, from soldiers serving on the front lines to ordinary people living on the Home Front.

On top of a range of ever-changing displays and events, our permanent exhibits explore topics that you'll find surprising and moving in equal measure, such as raw accounts of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen from both camp survivors and Oxfordshire soldiers.

Battles of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry puts you on-board a Horsa Glider as it prepares to land in Normandy in the early hours of D-Day 1944, while Secret War explores the world of spies and espionage and lets you try your hand at sending and decoding secret messages.

SOFO holds a collection of over 3,500 objects and 7,500 archive items from two county regiments, the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars (QOOH) and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. These are our starting point for reflecting on the county's rich and diverse military heritage.



Colditz

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.

Carols on the Green

Weather permitting there will be Carols on the Green at 6.0pm on Christmas eve. Music will be provided by Elaine Byles and Mark Pigeon. Mulled wine will be there to warm the body and lubricate your vocal chords. Christmas song sheets will be available for everyone.

Come and enjoy yourselves and meet fellow villagers.

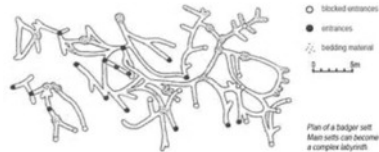
Nature Notes

Badgers are one of our commonest animals and yet, because of their nocturnal lifestyle, are rarely seen. Badger populations are widespread across the British Isles, commonest in the South and Southwest but scarce in parts of East Anglia and Scotland. The European Badger (*Meles Meles*) is found right across Europe from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean and in Asia north of the Himalayas and across to Japan. 25% of the world's population of European Badgers live in the British Isles.



Badgers belong to the same animal family as Otters, Martins, Weasels, Stoats and Polecats, the Mustelidae, and like them produce a powerful scent from glands under their tails. These scent glands are used to mark territories and anoint members of their own group to aid recognition. Scent is one of a Badger's main senses, together with hearing. Their eyesight is poor.

The Badger's home is called a sett, and comprises of a series of tunnels and chambers with several entrances and are usually found in woodland, hedgerows, sloping ground or under rocky overhangs. These setts may contain 8 individuals or more, especially when the young have just been born. Setts are often used by many generations of the same related family group and may be decades old. As well as the main sett there can be a number of outlying setts distributed around the Badger clan's territory. The main sett will consist of a network of tunnels and chambers excavated within a metre of the surface. The chambers will be lined with straw, dried leaves, bracken or coarse grasses brought in as bedding. An abandoned sett in Gloucestershire was surveyed and it was found to have 12 entrances, 94 tunnels totalling 310 metres in length and it was estimated that 25 tonnes of soil would have been excavated in its creation.



The Badger clan will have a territory, these vary in size, but can extend to 100 acres and will be fiercely defended. The territory is defined by scent marking and the placement of dung pits, known as latrines which are created on the perimeter of their territory. These smelly areas act as trespassers will be prosecuted signs! A dominant Badger boar will spend much time patrolling and marking his territory. Within their territory there will be well defined pathways between the sett, feeding grounds and latrines. Where these pathways pass under barbed wire fences you may find Badger hair caught on the barbs.

Badgers are omnivores and eat a wide variety of foods. The main component of their diet are earthworms, but they will also eat insects, grubs, eggs, young of



ground nesting birds, small mammals as well as roots and fruit. They are the main predator of Hedgehogs and have been known to eat young Rabbits that have been dug from their warrens.

Mating takes place throughout the year with peak activity in the spring. However, implantation of the fertilised egg is delayed until December with the young being born from mid-January to mid-March. A typical litter will comprise 2 to

3 pups. The pups remain underground in a breed chamber for 8 weeks until they are weaned at 12 weeks. Some pups stay with the group, but others leave to find new territories and may travel long distances to do so.

Historically and possibly today the so-called sport of Badger baiting sets a dog or several dogs against a Badger. This usually leads to the death of the Badger and severe injuries to the dogs. This sport was first banned under The Cruelty to Animals Act 1835. Wider protection was given under The Badgers Act 1992, that makes it an offence to kill, injure or take a Badger from its sett or to interfere with a sett, unless under licence from Natural England. Prior to statutory protection Badgers were trapped commercially for their pelts as their hair was used for shaving brushes. Today Badger hair is supplied from Badger farms operating in China.

It's not possible to write about Badgers in Britain without mentioning Bovine TB (bTB) and the Badger Cull. Badgers are a known vector for the spread of bTB to domestic cattle and other farm animals and in an attempt to control the spread of the disease, which has led to the slaughter of many cattle, a selective trial Badger cull covering the west and south-west of England and Wales was first initiated in October 2013. These trials were repeated in 2014 & 2015 and expanded to a larger area in 2016 and 2017. In 2020 it was proposed to extend the trial to cover Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire, with the aim of culling 60,000 animals. It seems likely that the Government will continue to licence Badger Culls until 2026, in spite of considerable opposition from the public and the Wildlife Trusts in the areas involved with the cull. Some Wildlife Trusts have been trapping Badgers and inoculating them. The ultimate answer to eliminating Bovine TB from cattle in the UK is the development of an effective vaccine. There is a vaccine currently available, but after it has been given, it gives false positives when cattle are subsequently Tuberculin tested. If the culls continue and no effective vaccine is developed it has been estimated that 35% of Britain's Badger population will have been culled.

Stuart Fox

Ascott Preschool

A feast of autumn activities this term at Ascott Preschool

We have had a great start to the new school year at Preschool. The children have been busy with plenty of harvest-themed activities, from baking bread to planting bulbs. There are still places available for more children to join us this year, do get in touch to find out more and arrange a visit.

Harvest trip to Ascott Church

Thank you to Revd. Mark Abrey for welcoming the children to Holy Trinity Church for our harvest celebration. We enjoyed walking through the village, making lots of observations about what we saw on the way. As we approached the Church, some of the children thought the weathervane on top was a chicken or rooster, and others noticed there was a clock on the wall. Once inside, we sat in the pews, sang our harvest songs and talked about how farmers help us by growing the food we eat. The children brought donations, which we took to the Food Bank collection at Ascott Village Shop.

The welcome return of our autumn Craft Café

We were delighted to be able to host our craft morning just before the half-term break. This was the first fundraising event we have been able to hold since February 2020. Thanks to all the families who joined us and made donations. The children had a great time making their crafts and we raised over £180, which will enable us to buy new equipment and toys.

Looking ahead to Christmas and into 2022

We are looking forward to once again being able to host a Christmas concert, and the children are already having fun practising carols and honing their acting skills. Next year we hope to hold more of our usual fundraising events, including our summer sports day. As we are a registered charity and non-profit making organisation, fundraising is essential to enable us to continue to be here for the local community.

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

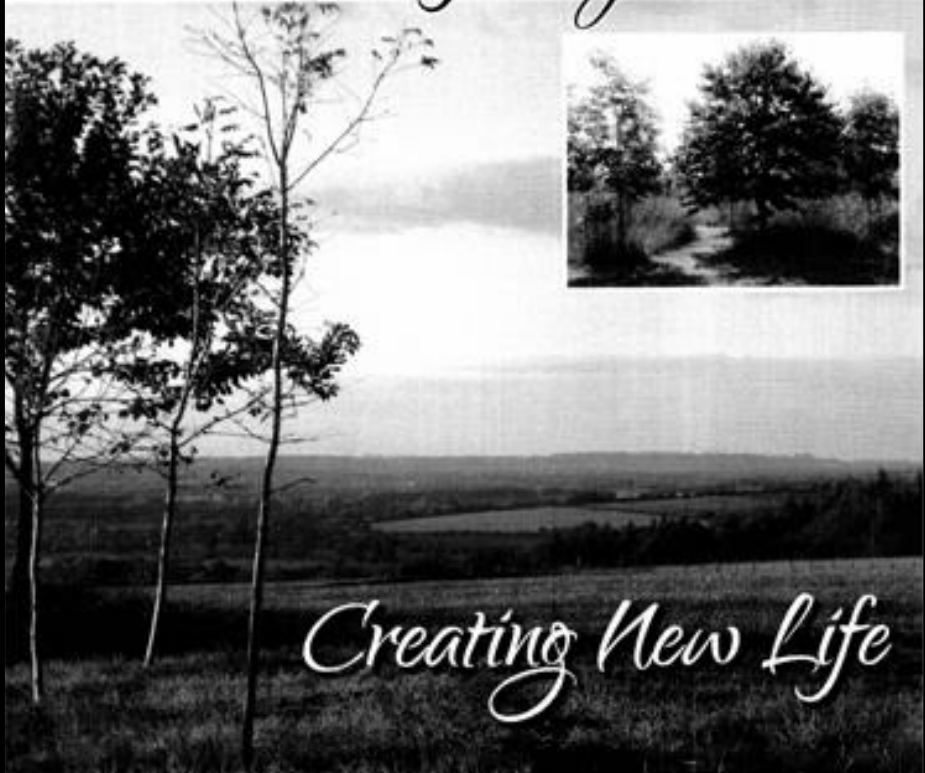
Preschool runs at Tiddy Hall during term time from Monday to Friday. Activities include child-led learning through play, craft, messy play, singing, forest school, cooking club and dance sessions with the wonderful Dancing Sally. If you'd like to know more, please visit our website www.ascottpreschool.co.uk, 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, Leaffield, Witney, Oxon OX29 9NY

Very Fishy

I don't wish to pour cold water, or should it be river water, on the yuletide celebrations, but is what I read somewhere true, or was it reported on television, that during the long lockdown due to the covid virus pandemic, gallons of beer were tipped down the drain because pubs and restaurants were closed?

Many now claim the alcoholic content of our rivers has risen sharply causing concern it could enter the food chain. Many anglers have told me, when fishing, they have observed fish remain on the river bed in a sleepy stupor too dosey to take the bait.

Further research suggests traces of alcohol pollution has been found around our seashores, the fear is this could enter the food chain and this could mean children could become addicted to fishfingers, not for fish meat but for the alcohol content. This is causing great concern amongst many religious groups who believe alcohol is the nectar of the devil. At the moment I don't think there are any test kits that can be bought from the chemist to test fishfingers before they are fed to children. I think anyway, everyone should get blind drunk once in their life to make them realise death could be no worse.

Over the years the family cat has been blamed for flicking the goldfish out of the bowl with it's paw. It might be a good idea for parents who think their children could become addicted to fish to get a close circuit camera to watch their children are not getting their fix by eating the goldfish. Please don't blame the cat.

P.S.

Question – is a batter something you dip fish in before frying it with chips or is it someone who opens the innings for England at Lords?

Question – In the Christmas carol 'Mary's Boy Child' the last two lines are:

And man will live for ever more

Because of Christmas day

What could they replace 'man' with to make it scan?

Answers on a post card to:

The Dumbing Down Society,

C/o BBC London.

Fred Russell

Making the World a Safer Place

Landmine and Explosive Ordnance Destruction Around the Globe

I've worked for the HALO Trust, the world's largest landmine and explosive ordnance clearance organisation, for a little over 3 years now. Many of you may know of HALO from its connection with Princess Diana, who after visiting our work in Angola in 1997 successfully campaigned for the (almost) global ban on the production, transport, storage and use of anti-personnel landmines worldwide (aka The Ottawa Treaty). Signed by the majority of countries across the globe (but not including key players such as Russia and China), the Ottawa Treaty has had an enormous impact worldwide. Without Diana raising the profile and global need for mine clearance, myself and many of my 10,000 colleagues working across 28 countries and territories would not have our jobs and hundreds of thousands more civilians would have been killed or injured by such indiscriminate weapons of war.

Landmines are in many regards the perfect soldier. They don't require training, a salary, food and water, functional weaponry and they will always do their job, and very well too. They also cost as little as \$1 to manufacture, making them extremely cost effective for often poor, war-torn countries with economies too weak to afford other similarly effective weapons. Testament to their efficacy is their widespread historical use in almost every conflict occurring between the 1960s – 2000. Right now, some 60 million people worldwide across 60 countries live in the vicinity of landmines and other explosive ordnance (unexploded grenades, aircraft bombs, mortars etc.). Unfortunately, there is no off switch for landmines, which function for several decades after they are emplaced, meaning civilians (often curious children) pay the price for a war fought a generation or two ago.

Since our foundation in 1988 in Afghanistan, HALO has expanded considerably and so too has our mission. This is in large part due to the extent to which conflict has evolved over the past few decades. For instance, widespread use of the infamous improvised explosive device (IED), which killed many US and UK troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, has resulted in HALO developing specialist capabilities to clear such items and providing training to authorities and other actors to enhance their capabilities to do so. Meanwhile, increasing illicit diversions of small arms and light weapons to extremist groups and non-state actors pose an increasing threat to global stability. HALO has programmes in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Bosnia (where the weapons used by ISIS in the Bataclan attack were traced to), Guinea Bissau and Malawi almost exclusively working to build secure armouries, safely storing ammunition, providing training to security staff and de-

veloping weapons tracking systems, while our programmes in Afghanistan and Somalia also have a heavy emphasis on this. While historically most landmine contamination has been in rural areas, where I currently work in Libya, the majority of fighting has occurred in major cities such as Tripoli, Sirte and Benghazi. Urban clearance is a completely different kettle of fish and presents many challenges such as contaminated rubble piles, booby traps and the risk of collapsing buildings, in addition to presence of nearby populations affecting how we conduct our operations. In urban areas, HALO is a world-leader in developing mechanical methods of clearance using armoured JCBs and excavators, which are also able to clear rubble and the remnants of damaged/destroyed buildings to enable re-construction activities to start.

There are many strands to the clearance of landmines and other forms of explosive ordnance. The first step of the process is conducting comprehensive surveys with key informants such as ex-combatants and local communities to understand the approximate location and nature of contamination (i.e. the type of landmines used which influences clearance methodologies/strategies). Then of course there is the clearance of minefields, for which we recruit and train local people (99% of HALO's workforce worldwide is local people, providing 1000s of jobs and salaries in war-torn communities). While HALO uses mechanical forms of clearance in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Cambodia, the majority of HALO's clearance capacity is our staff conducting clearance manually using handheld metal detectors to locate and subsequently destroy landmines. You can equate manual clearance of landmines to a marginally more dangerous form of gardening, except that you're often working in warzones, can be working in temperatures up to 45C and wearing body armour and a blast-proof visor (not to mention the scorpions and venomous snakes to watch out for!). Having been wiped out after a couple of hours of training one morning in Afghanistan, I have the upmost respect for our men and women who do this day in day out. In Cambodia, my previous posting with HALO, we had one member of staff who'd been working on minefields for as long as I'd been alive – 28 years! Other areas of our work involve victim assistance (in Cambodia alone, over 65,000 people have been killed or injured) and raising awareness of the risks of explosive ordnance through risk education initiatives.

One of our programmes I've been fortunate to spend time on was in Afghanistan, where we employ anywhere between 3000-4000 local people. While recent events in Afghanistan are heart-breaking, due to the sensitive and political nature of our work, we have been coordinating our activities with the Taliban since their inception in the early 90s. The Taliban declared Jihad against landmines decades ago (most of which were laid by occupying Russian forces in the 80s) and have hence long supported our work, while international government donors continue to support our work in Afghanistan despite the change of administration. Thanks to such Taliban and continued international support, HALO teams were back on the ground continuing their life-saving work just 4 days after the fall of Kabul on August 15th.

So far I have worked on 4 of HALO's programmes; Nagorno Karabakh, Afghanistan, Cambodia and Libya. Responsibilities vary from programme to programme but a common theme is that I spend a large proportion of my time managing the full life-cycle of our projects. This includes donor engagement and seeking new funding opportunities (cough cough), project development and proposal writing, project management of approved grants (e.g. team deployment planning, ensuring we're meeting our targets and contractual obligations), monitoring and evaluation, reporting, managing donor relationships, managing audits and monitoring the work of implementing partners. My work also reaches into information management and management of several teams who collect vast amounts of socio-economic data from beneficiaries before and after clearance, which I analyse to evaluate the impact of our work for the beneficiaries we serve. In Cambodia for instance, where 70% of the land we clear is used for agricultural activities after clearance, the household income of our beneficiaries doubles as they are able to grow more crops on the cleared land and sell them at their local market. Food security, which is a major issue in poor, rural mine-affected Cambodian communities, also increases sharply. Other aspects of my work involve general business management/improvement, training local staff, HR, monitoring information from security sources and literally anything else the day wants to throw at you (which it rarely doesn't). It is without doubt not a cushy job, but it is definitely rewarding, exciting and a privilege to work alongside some brilliant people and to learn about different cultures and ways of life.

I'll be sad to leave the Libya programme at the end of the year, but I'm equally excited to be moving back to Cambodia where I'll embark on a 4-month operations training course. This involves receiving training and doing each and every operational role one can do in HALO, and starts off working as a deminer on your hands and knees swinging a detector looking for landmines. Then you go up one level to managing a team of 9 deminers, followed by managing several teams and finally a regional HQ from where around 300 staff deploy out of. Other training modules involve surveying minefields, which includes ascertaining the boundaries and the nature of a potential minefield, judging the quality of evidence for there being a minefield and prioritising the urgency for clearance. I am most looking forward to around 4 weeks' worth of training in explosive ordnance disposal, which is every boy's dream of blowing stuff up and calling it work!

Josh Ridley

HALO is an acronym of **Hazardous Area Life-Support Organization** and is a non-political and non-religious registered British charity and American non-profit organization which removes debris left behind by war, in particular land mines.



A Cambodian deminer at work

*Fingers &
Toes*

Luxury Manicure with
heated mittens
Luxury Pedicure with
heated booties

Gel/Normal File & paint
Acrylics (powder) with Gel
or Normal polish

Ear candling (HOPI)

Your Mobile beauty therapist in the Cotswolds
in the comfort of your own home

Contact
www.fingersandtoes.info
fingersandtoes244@gmail.com
07525 411 658

Farmhouse B&B
In Ascott u Wychwood
Spacious comfortable rooms with
Fantastic views over the
Evenlode Valley
Please ring Mrs Sally Walker on
01993 831900
Email : sally@college-farm.com



'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)**

Ascott Village Shop

Though it has been yet another funny old year of lockdowns and fuel shortages, vaccines and masks, it has been our pleasure at Ascott Village Shop to provide you with a safe and pleasant shopping environment right on your doorstep. And, as always, the shop is here to see you through the festive season in style – no petrol required! Fingers crossed that this year we will finally be able to gather with our family, friends and loved ones.

We are enclosing our Festive Meats Order Form in this issue of the *Grapevine*, so you can preorder your turkey, goose, hams, other poultry and all the trimmings from *Patrick Strainge Butchers*. All of their top quality poultry and meat is reared locally under the very highest standards of animal husbandry and is utterly delicious - an easy yet tasty way to reduce your food miles. If you're going to be trying out some intriguing new recipes over the festive season, we can also accommodate special orders for fruit and vegetables. Just remember that your meat order form and special fruit and veg orders need to be with us by Monday 6th December.

As well as everything you need for your Christmas feast, shop manager Bridgette always amazes with her Christmas order full of gifts, treats and everything necessary to host all manner of festive gatherings, and this year's surprises and goodies will start arriving in the shop during the second week of November.

If you are looking to get ahead with your Christmas baking, you'll find the best quality dried fruits and everything else you need on our well-stocked baking shelves. If, instead, you're feeling lazy then we have a wide range of mince pies, Christmas cookies, chocolates, cakes and biscuits. And if the past two years have driven you to drink, then our shelves are loaded with booze, including our own Ascott Shop champagne, fabulous prosecco and wines, local spirits and beers and all the prerequisites for the merriest of Christmas cocktails, as well as lots of indulgent nibbles to accompany them.

If you're on the lookout for gifts, we stock premium advent calendars, tins of Christmas biscuits, boxes of chocolates, gourmet gift boxes and a huge range of other speciality items and Bridgette would be very happy to customize a personal selection of goodies for you. You can also place special orders for wine, champagne and other beverages. Please contact Bridgette on shop@ascottvillageshop to discuss your requirements.

Follow [@ascottvillageshop](#) on Instagram or go to [AscottVillageShop](#) on Facebook for news of all the new Christmas arrivals or visit the shop, grab a coffee from our



Ascott Grapevine

fantastic new coffee machine and check out the Christmas offerings for yourself, we guarantee you'll be amazed by the selection.

We here at the shop would like to wish all of our customers, suppliers, volunteers and other friends good health, happiness and the most joyous of festive seasons.

We like to think of our shop as the 'heart of the community' and what a wonderful community it is.

Cotswold Beauty
Michelle Moody



Professional & Experienced Therapist
Leaving you Looking and Feeling Amazing

Using Neal's Yard Remedies Organic Products,
Jessica Custom, GELeration & Phenom Nail Colours,
PhD Waxing, Delsera Hot Wax

T: 01993 832446
M: 07917 341143
E: enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net
www.cotswoldbeauty.net

Leaffield Picture Framing
(Tony Croft)


Complete Picture Framing Service
Mount Cutting
Wash Lining
Tapestry Stretching

Door to door delivery and collection
Home consultation if required

Please telephone
01993 878357 or call
Tony Croft
Cotswold View, Ascott Road, Leaffield
for
Free Estimate or Further Details

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

TIDDY HALL

Piano Lessons

Pauline Carter

BA A Mus LCM CTABRSM MISM



01993 774568

roseneathmusicschool.com

Roseneath Music Concert

What a difference a day makes! Well. In the case of my 'annual concert', more like a couple of years. During that time new pupils have come and older ones moved on, but musical progress has continued apace. Surprising, considering that for ten months piano lessons were being given via a rather different keyboard. Online lessons were surprisingly successful and there were only one or two casualties along the way. I met quite an array of exotic pets and vociferous parrots whilst visiting pupil's homes, safely at a cybernetic distance, whilst frequently being mistaken for Alexa.

During our recent concert in the Tiddy hall, 30 young pianists took to the stage and for twelve of those it was their first appearance. Their performances were polished and confident. The hall rang out as Martha Sherlock played Westminster Chimes and George Pullan created a truly Eastern European atmosphere with an ever-accelerating Russian Song.

Nat and Rafi Johnstone interspersed the evening with some gruesome, but highly amusing, poems by Roald Dahl. In summary, this usually involved the consumption of one creature by another. The menacing Crocodile who bastes his child victims in mustard and butterscotch and prowls around at night, coupled with The Pig who seized the opportunity to eat the farmer before he himself was eaten.

The two years without a concert resulted in some outstanding performances from the older pupils. Debussy's *Clare De Lune* had been meticulously rehearsed by Billy Foster and the standard of his performance was even more remarkable considering that he had not had an in person lesson since March 2020. Other notable successful contributions from the teenage pianists were made by Leo Walentiny with *Nuvole Bianche* by Einaudi and *Chopin waltz in A, Op 69 No.1* by Raveen Phan Purba. Ethan Gould gave a truly diaphanous performance of *The Sea Nymphs* by Walter, woven throughout with gossamer staccato. The Young Musician of the year was Alasdair Jackson, who played a *Sonatina in A minor* by the eighteenth century composer, George Benda.

Special guest for the evening was new professional pianist Eddie Gripper. Eddie has had a successful time at Cardiff university and graduated last year with a first class degree in music. Eddie is now available for social, family and corporate events. His choice of repertoire for the evening was *Waltz for Debbie* by jazz pianist, Bill Evans, and *Blame it on my youth* by pianist and composer Oscar Levant. With a lovely piano courtesy of the Piano Gallery in Faringdon, Ascott had a memorable weekend of music. First a gala concert on Friday evening and then my Saturday concert was followed by a village tea party on Sunday afternoon. By the time you read this, the piano will have returned whence it came, but hopefully it will return again next year.

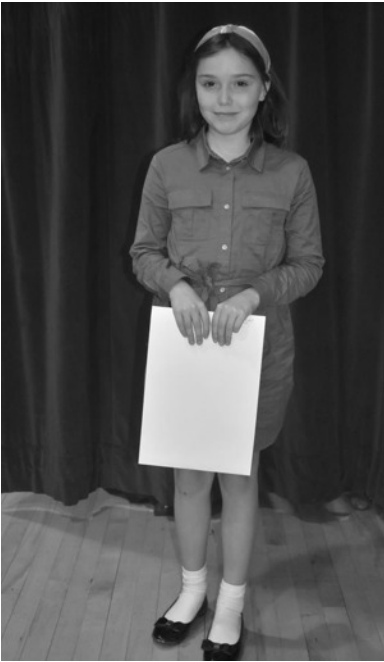
Pauline Carter



Concert Group



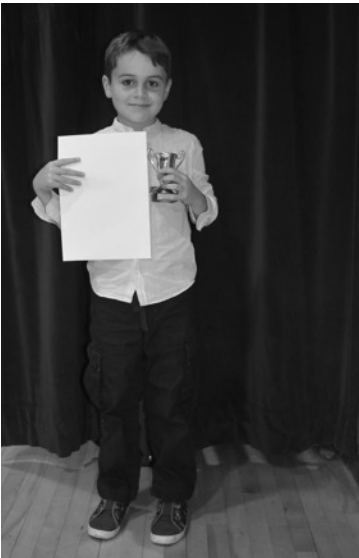
Alasdair Jackson, Pauline Carter Ethan Gould



Coco Davies-Jones



Maia Cruickshank



Sasha Gerry



Charlotte Douglas

Vintage Tractors Charity Run



Charity Run for Vintage Tractors calling in for tea and cakes at Farm Ed on 31st October, supporting Cancer Research and Farm Suicide.

TIDDY HALL

The Musical Gala held at **Tiddy Hall** on a Friday evening October 1st was a huge success (please see article in this edition of The Grapevine) and was in a sense a ‘welcome back’ to the normal functioning of our village hall after 18 months of upheaval. A big, big thanks to all the performers who made our evening so special. It was a real delight to see live music again, beautifully performed by the outstanding musicians, who all helped to create an evening of serene harmony!

On the following Sunday afternoon, the **Tiddy Hall Committee** hosted a tea party, and again, this was most enjoyable and enabled villagers to chat over tea and cake. We were entertained by our very own, Eddie Gripper, whose excellent piano playing skills created a lovely ambience. Eddie has just graduated from Cardiff University and is working towards a career as a professional musician. We wish him much success. Another big, big thanks go to the lovely ladies of Ascott who baked all the delicious cakes! What talent we have in our village!

The **Tiddy Hall Committee** will be hosting a **Christmas Coffee Morning** on **Saturday December 11th**, 10am – noon. Please join us for a festive cuppa with a mince pie or biscuit. Entry will be £2 per person. Plans are in the pipeline to host a regular coffee morning/afternoon tea, perhaps once a month, beginning in the New Year. If anyone would like to help us with hosting, maybe taking it in turns, or with baking, please get in touch with either Ingrid (830612) or Pauline (07968 006451).

The Wychwood Folk Club has got its rhythm going again and ticket sales are improving with each gig. Tickets are now available for the following events:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Saturday December 11 th | All on a Winter’s Night with Johnny Coppin |
| Saturday January 22 nd | Sarah McQuaid |
| Saturday February 12 th | Paul Cowley |
| Saturday March 5 th | Miranda Sykes |
| Saturday March 19 th | Track Dogs |

More information and tickets available through the website:

www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

Ascott Church are running a **Quiz Night** on Saturday December 4th. Tickets are £12 per person which includes hot food. Teams of six please, however, if you are a solo quizzer, do let either Sue or Sarah know, and they will find you a team! A bar will be available, and you will have the chance to take part in a wonderful raffle! Tickets from Sue Smith 07922 000489 or from Sarah Tribe sarahtribe@hotmail.co.uk

In our last meeting, the **Tiddy Hall Trustees** welcomed a new member to the committee, Kevin Bishop. Kevin has kindly agreed to take over from Graham Bell as our Health & Safety advisor. We are still in need of a secretary....is there anyone out there!!!

And finally, just 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) 5.15-18.00

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 Trustees would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy 2022!

The Tiddy Hall Team

Regular Activities:

Monday – Friday Mornings & Afternoons

Pre-school

Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant 07968 006451

Monday Afternoons 5.15pm – 8.30pm

Kick Boxing

Contact: John & Sally Fahey 07730 453172

Thursday Night 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Qigong

Contact: Pam Quirke 07780 572283

Friday Afternoons 3.30pm – 6pm

Piano Lessons

Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Post Office runs every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

County Councillor News

The past six months have been a very exciting time for the new administration at Oxfordshire County Council. We have started to see some of the key priorities that we agreed as a Fair Deal Alliance come through the pipeline, and these will have an impact in Ascott. The first of these is the decision to make “20 the new 30”. When I was re-elected last May I promised to campaign for 20 mph everywhere. So it is great to see this coming to fruition and we will be the first county in the country to do this across the whole of our area. It will take three years to roll this out but it will be done and I will be working the the Parish Council to get the limit of the 20mph zone installed in Ascott as I know that this is what many residents want. The police have agreed that if 20 is the speed limit, that will be enforced.

Another major step forward is the Bus Service Improvement Plan that has now gone to government for funding. The intention is to provide a more regular bus service across the County, with information boards being extended beyond the major towns, and better rural networks. Eventually we want to have mobility hubs which people can cycle to or drive to and then take the bus. We also plan to connect bus services to the trains, making it possible for people to use their cars less.

As well as transport, we are introducing a county-wide youth service. Funding for youth services was severely cut back under the previous administration, and we are investing £1 million this year, employing youth officers across the county and improving access to services. Our young people have suffered greatly from the effects of the pandemic and it is vital that we support them now, to ensure that they have a bright future.

This is just a flavour of what we are doing, and we are going out to consultation on this and our other priorities. We have completely overhauled our consultation process and have had a number of very successful meetings with town and parish councils and the voluntary sector and we have sent questionnaires to a random sample of residents. This is a process we will continue with as we recognise that as your elected representatives, we need to hear from you on a regular basis.

I was delighted to have been present at the Gala evening in Ascott a few weeks ago where the presentation was made to Pippa Carter marking her retirement as Chair of the Parish Council. She has done so much for the village, and she will be a hard act to follow, but I look forward to working with Brian and the new council to make Ascott safer and better for everyone.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Ascott a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. I hope that 2022 will be the year when we finally say goodbye to the pandemic.

Liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk. 07741 073088



ALFRED GROVES
AND SONS LTD

YOUR LOCAL DIY SHOP

Retail & Trade Sales

Serving the community for over 100 years

**Please pop in and take a look, homeware,
gardening, ironmongery and much more.**

**All the usual electrical, plumbing, tools,
decorating and heavy building materials.**

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

LED Lighting Showroom

www.LEDOxford.co.uk

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

For every room and space in the home

For gardens, driveways and every space outside

Newly opened

Our brand new and massive showroom is just off the A40 in Witney

(opposite Topps Tiles and Screwfix)

Perfect presents

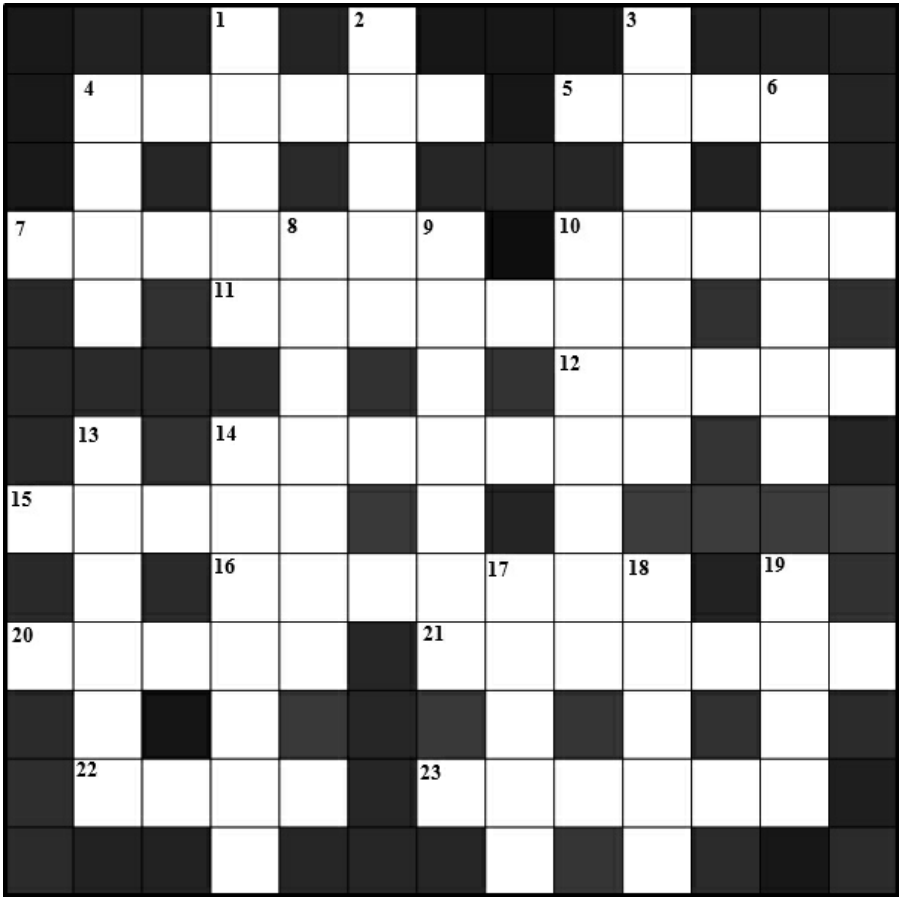
Our gorgeous lamps make ideal Wedding, Birthday, Christmas or Anniversary gifts

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

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 4 Warmest season (6)
- 5 Organs of sight (4)
- 7 Cautious (7)
- 10 Angry indignation (5)
- 11 Siren of the Rhine (7)
- 12 Educate, uplift (5)
- 14 Foot arches (7)
- 15 Tendency (5)
- 16 Degrades, lowers (7)
- 20 Natural talent (5)
- 21 Boat race meeting (7)
- 22 Insincere talk (4)
- 23 Pursue (6)

Down

- 1 Force into motion (5)
- 2 Thigh bone (5)
- 3 Crossbreeds (7)
- 4 Ascend, fly upwards (4)
- 6 Begin journey (3,3)
- 8 Sink, come to grief (7)
- 9 Tanned skin of animal (7)
- 10 Shedding tears (7)
- 13 Antic, romp (6)
- 14 US state (7)
- 17 Greek fabulist (5)
- 18 Black in heraldry (5)
- 19 Pack, put away (4)

**Solutions to
Crossword in
Edition 111**

Across

- 7 Hissed
- 8 Oracle
- 8 Lifts
- 10 Release
- 11 Queue
- 12 Shed
- 13 Grief
- 17 Brass
- 18 Kilo
- 22 Needs
- 23 Mistral
- 24 Enzyme
- 25 Vassal

Down

- 1 Cherish
- 2 Psalter
- 3 He-Man
- 4 Croquet
- 5 Octet
- 6 Jewel
- 9 Wearisome
- 14 Presume
- 15 Diarist
- 16 Worldly
- 19 Annex
- 20 Seize
- 21 Essay

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 14
- ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP** 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk Page 44
- COTSWOLD BEAUTY** 01993 832446/07917 341143
enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net Page 46
www.cotswoldbeauty.net
- COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 7
- ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS** 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 29
- FAIRSPPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND** 01993 878387
helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk Page 38
- FARMHOUSE B&B** 01993831900 sally@college-farm.com Page 43
- FINGERS AND TOES** 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com
www.fingersandtoes.info Page 43
- FOLK CLUB** 01993831427 07870563299
wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Page 26
- GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425
info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk Page 55

INGRID RIDLEY B&B 01993830612/07952657906
ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk Page 14

IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268 Page 6
Instagram@Ivy's Florist

JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com Page 29

JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020
info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com Page 25

LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING 01993878357 Page 46

LED Lighting Showroom 01993 704 105 www.LEDOxford.co.uk Page 57

ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com Page 46

ROSENEATH 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com Page 47

SIMPSON ARCHITECTURE 07555 490460 www.simpsonarchitecture.co.uk
Email: info@simpsonarchitecture.co.uk Page 14

THE SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascot.com
www.countrycreatures.com Page 19

TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES 01993 240001
merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com
www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates Page 11

Events Calendar - 2021/22

Date	Time	Event	Venue
December 4 th	7.00pm	Quiz Night	Tiddy Hall
December 11 th	10.00am	Christmas Coffee Morning	Tiddy Hall
December 11 th	7.30pm	All on a Winter's Night with Johnny Coppin	Tiddy Hall
December 19 th	4.00pm	Carol Service	Church
December 24 th	6.00pm	Carols on the Green	Village Green
January 22 nd	7.30pm	Sarah McQuaid	Tiddy Hall
February 5 th	TBC	Safari Supper	TBC
February 12 th	7.30pm	Paul Cowley	Tiddy Hall
March 5 th	7.30pm	Miranda Sykes	Tiddy Hall
March 19 th	7.30pm	Track Dogs	Tiddy Hall
April 2 nd	7.30pm	Over The Moon	Tiddy Hall
April 3 rd	TBC	Church Teas	Church
April 23 rd	7.30pm	Megson	Tiddy Hall
May 7 th	7.30pm	An evening with Rick Kemp	Tiddy Hall
May 21 st	7.30pm	Sunjay	Tiddy Hall