

# The Ascott Grapevine



## Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email:  
[wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto: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.**

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Local Churches

### **Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood**

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572

### **St Mary's Shipton**

Churchwarden James Walmsley  
01993 830842

### **SS Simon & Jude, Milton**

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

### **St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury**

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

### **Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford**

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

### **Wychwood Baptist, Milton**

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

### **Burford Methodist**

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993  
845322

### **Westcote Methodist**

Tony Gibson 01993 830699

Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

### **Roman Catholic**

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

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

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton

Priest: Fr Antony Joyce 01608 642703.

St Teresa, Charlbury

Priest: Fr Clive Dytor 07484158642

Mass at Charlbury 09:15

## Services at the Chase Benefice 2022

All the Church buildings of the Benefice are open for personal prayer and reflection everyday between 10 am - 4 pm. Public worship as follows:

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

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

3rd Sunday of the month 10 am CW Communion Service at Enstone

4th Sunday of the month 10 am BCP Communion Service at Chadlington

Ascott residents are welcome at any of these services. Details will be posted on our website and notice-boards around the village.

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

# ***Local Marriages***

***Melisa Holloway and Andrew Duckley 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at HolyTrinity***



***Emma Plant and Sam Greensmith***

## **Ascott to Scotland – a wedding with a difference**

Everyone has different ideas for a perfect wedding and the planning can seem to get out of hand but for us it was absolutely worth it.

It might sound a bit mushy but it sometimes seems like fate that Sam and I came to be together. Our mothers went to the same school, as girls in Glasgow, though didn't know each other at the time. My mum Pauline lived in Japan for a few years and Sam's parents lived in Jamaica where Sam was born before settling in Charlbury. Mum met my dad Richard and they settled in Ascott.

Sam had been friends with Adam, my brother, since school but we didn't really get to know each other until we started doing the weekly pub quiz at the Swan in Ascott, where his sense of humour won me over - along with actually knowing some of the answers!

I then went to University in Edinburgh and after a couple of years we finally got together and couldn't bear being apart so Sam decided to move up too. We really love Scotland and have now settled in Dunfermline in Fife where we are very happy.

We got engaged in November 2020 and set the date for 28th May 2022, which was luckily unaffected by the pandemic.

For those who don't know me, I grew up in Ascott, was christened in the Church, went to Ascott Preschool and then on to Wychwood Primary and Burford Secondary School.

As a child, I wondered if I might get married in the little church in Ascott but a few years ago Sam and I visited Inchcolm island in the Firth of Forth between Edinburgh and Fife that has a partially ruined medieval abbey on it. At the time we fantasised about what an amazing location it would be to get married then found out you really can get married there! When we got engaged we booked our wedding on the island. At the last minute we had news that we couldn't use the Abbey after all and the wedding would have to be outdoors. You may think that an outdoor wedding on a Scottish island seems a mad plan but Sam has always considered himself uncommonly lucky.

The journey to the island was all part of the experience so we arranged vintage double decker buses to take guests over the Forth Bridge from Dunfermline to South Queensferry where we all boarded the Maid of the Forth, with me and the bridesmaids hidden in the captain's cabin. Some guests even spotted a bit of Scottish wildlife from the boat, including seals and puffins.

Remarkably, there was only a light breeze on the island and the sun broke through at all the right moments to make it feel extra special.

With both of us being half Scottish, it felt right to have a piper and some old Scottish wedding traditions. There were a few to choose from but we decided on 'hand fasting' where the bride and groom literally tie the knot and a 'sand ceremony', where pouring sand together from two relevant places represents how you can no longer be separated.

Sam also wore a kilt and there was some ceilidh dancing at the reception in the Glen Pavilion in Dunfermline. The dance floor there is large, which was essential with the majority of the guests being English, making the ceilidh dancing a chaotic mess but still great fun, then everyone was ready to dance the rest of the night away.

## Ascott Grapevine

The wedding car was, of course, a Morris Minor supplied by my dad - though he did spend weeks teasing me that he might not have one ready in time! Mum collected as many rose petals and jars as she could for confetti and table decorations, even recruiting help from our good neighbour Mary in the village. Kirsty, my sister, made a stunning 4 tier cake and Adam was Sam's best man.

Although parts of the wedding planning were stressful, we were doing it together and that felt really special. It was a big project and we worked hard on every detail, spending hours together making things and organising it all. We took it as an opportunity, not only to indulge in our own romance, but also to give our family and friends a day to remember to show our gratitude for them being part of our lives.

So for us, getting married really was the most perfect day and for anyone thinking of visiting Scotland we would highly recommend a little trip over to Inchcolm Island and a visit to the Glen in Dunfermline.

### **Emma Plant (now Emma Greensmith)**



## ***Memorial Playing Field Working Party***

Mary Barnes, Pauline Plant, Sarah Russell and Gerhard Niebuhr, with help from Andrew Weaver, Debra Cull and Annalise Niebuhr, have done a sterling job removing ivy and a dead tree from the north-facing wall of the playing field. Their next project, starting in September, is the removal of ivy from the churchyard walls. Many hands make light work - any volunteers would be very welcome, the more the merrier.



## ***ASCOTT OPEN GARDENS 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE***

Despite a poor weather forecast and a dull and damp afternoon our open gardens event held on Sunday of the Jubilee weekend was a great success. We raised a total of £1,809.48, which will be used for the continuing upkeep of Holy Trinity Church.

Thank you to everyone who made the event such a success; the kind owners who opened their gardens, the volunteers who manned the plant stall and provided plants for sale, more volunteers who looked after the refreshments and Paul Cunningham who was selling wooden products that he had made. A final thank-you must go to the 110 visitors who came despite the occasional drizzle who helped make the afternoon a financial success.



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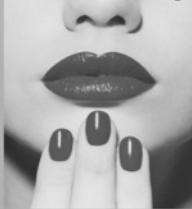


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# **TIDDY HALL**

As I write this article, the sun is beaming through my office window, a cool breeze wafts in and I can hear the joyful sounds of children splashing about in their swimming pool in the garden across the road! The summer holidays are here, but my thoughts are turning to the autumn and all the events which are happening at **Tiddy Hall**.

Firstly, our **AGM** was held back in July, at which Chairman Simon Gidman thanked the committee for all their hard work over the past two or three years and for dealing with the challenges that Covid threw our way. Simon commented that some of our former users have failed to return, a reflection perhaps of how difficult it has been for people to organise societies and clubs after what has basically been a pause of two years. However, that was not to say that there have not been events at Tiddy, just fewer of them.

Simon thanked Mark & Elaine for their continued hard work in keeping the Folk Club running, attracting former and new performers to the **Wychwood Folk Club**, which is now a key fixture on the folk circuit. Upcoming gigs this autumn:

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September Pete Morton

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October Steve Tilston

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November Anthony John Clarke & Dave Pegg

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Hatful of Rain

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer

Simon also thanked Pauline and her staff at **Ascott Pre School** for their ongoing hard work in maintaining and promoting the Pre School, a marvellous facility for the village and one that contributes to the lives of children and indeed parents not only in Ascott but in outlying villages.

The Chairman recognised those groups that are continuing to keep a strong presence at Tiddy Hall - **Matts Fiddes School of Martial Arts**, **Roseneath School of Music**, and the **Post Office**.

Sadly, after many years on the **Tiddy Hall Committee**, two of our members have decided to step down. Simon Gidman will retire from his position as Chairman, which he has held for 10 years. From September he will be handing over the reins to John Bugeja, who joined the **Tiddy Hall Committee** last year, and has unwittingly accepted to take over the role of Chairman. Nick Carter, our Treasurer for the past 10 years, will hand over the books to new member, Howard Morris, who

has kindly agreed to accept this challenging role. On behalf of all of us on the committee and indeed, on behalf of the village, we would like to thank you, Simon & Nick for your tireless, diligent hard work over all these years. It has been a real pleasure working with you both, it's been a great team and you will be sadly missed. However, we are delighted to welcome John & Howard to their new roles and look forward to fresh thinking and drive which we are confident John & Howard have aplenty!!

Throughout this past year, we have run a few **Coffee Mornings** at **Tiddy Hall**. It's lovely to see fellow villagers come along for a friendly chat, but we'd like to see a few more faces, so please join us, especially if you are new to the village. £3 for as much coffee and homemade cake as you like! **Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am – noon.**

Rachel Stokes Lovel will be running a few more **Sound Bath** sessions at **Tiddy Hall**. These sessions use Tibetan singing bowls, gongs, zaphyr chimes and tingsha bells. Whilst cocooned in a blanket, either laying on the floor or sitting in a chair, the healing vibrations and an immersion in sound can bring huge benefits such as improving sleep patterns, lowering stress, activating self-healing from within, increasing focus & learning, deepening meditative state, managing pain & headache relief, building resilience and self-esteem. Rachel's autumn sessions - **Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm.** Contact Rachel for further information: [reikibyrachelsl@gmail.com](mailto:reikibyrachelsl@gmail.com)

**Date for your diary!** After a long absence at **Tiddy Hall**, we are excited to once again be holding a **Christmas Craft Fair** on **Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>**. We plan to have activities for children such as a craft table and lucky dip run by Father Christmas! A real mix of crafts & other items will be on display and for sale. So do come, and support all the artists, socialise, and make a start on your Christmas shopping at **Tiddy Hall!** Refreshments will be served all day, 10am – 4pm.

Our hall is multi-functional so do please consider **Tiddy Hall** for your children's parties and other social functions. It's a wonderful clean space with a fully equipped kitchen, updated toilet facilities and plenty of car parking places. We also have a comfortable committee room upstairs which is available for hire, a perfect space for smaller meetings. Do look at our website for further information – [www.tiddyhall.com](http://www.tiddyhall.com)

**Ingrid Ridley**  
**Booking Clerk**

# ***Ascott Pre-school***

## **Looking back on a fun-packed summer at Ascott Preschool**

The summer term has just zoomed by at Preschool. We have been very busy celebrating the Jubilee, organising a successful sports and family fun day, and getting our older children ready to start school. We have enjoyed some fine weather for Forest School sessions in the woods at Bruern, thanks to the Astor family for providing us with a beautiful site for this activity. We are looking forward to welcoming more new starters from September, do get in touch if you would like your child to join us. We're always happy to arrange a visit to show you around.

### ***Three cheers for the Queen at our Jubilee 'Street Party'***

The children had lots of fun doing Jubilee-themed activities. We made crowns, bunting and swizzle sticks for a Street Party, which was set up on long tables outside Tiddy Hall. We ate party food, played music and danced in our crowns. We created golden coaches, Beefeaters, Queens, crown biscuits and a Platinum Jubilee Display board. The children told us that the Queen lives in a palace, and her favourite things are flowers, tea, horses and dogs, especially corgis.



### ***Super fundraising at our Sports & Family Fun Day***

We enjoyed beautiful weather for our sports and family fun day event, it was great to finally have the chance to bring all our families together again. The children ran, balanced eggs on spoons, and teamed up with their parents for a somewhat chaotic but very entertaining wheelbarrow race. We raised an outstanding £1,470.36, which Preschool will use to purchase new equipment and toys for the children to enjoy. We will also be receiving an additional £500 from A-Plan, who sponsored the event. Well done and thank you to all involved, with a special mention to parent committee members Caroline and Tamsyn who coordinated the event so efficiently.

## ***Celebrating our school leavers with a special concert***

The older children ended the term by giving a brilliant performance of an original play written by Preschool staff, entitled 'The Gingerbread Man and the Missing Golden Key'. The children all sang and acted confidently, and it was lovely to be able to celebrate the end of their time at Preschool with families, even though the event did coincide with the record-breaking heatwave!

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

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

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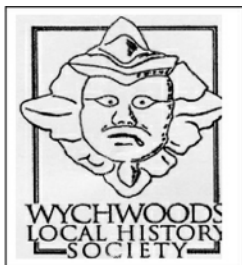


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**Hope to see you there!**



## Wychwoods Local History Society

### Programme 2022 – 23

All welcome to join us on the second Wednesday of the month September through to May

Milton Village Hall at 7.30pm

- |      |        |   |
|------|--------|---|
| 2022 | 14 Sep | Mark Bathurst – The Medway Queen  |
|      | 12 Oct | Julie Ann Godson – Oxfordshire in the Past                                      |
|      | 9 Nov  | Tom Shannon – ‘Known unto God’ A Great War Detective Story                      |
| 2023 | 11 Jan | Trevor Jackson – RAF Brize Norton 80 years of Flying Operations                 |
|      | 8 Feb  | Sue Smith – Conscientious Objection, Religion, and the Public in Oxford in 1916 |
|      | 8 Mar  | Chris Pickford Bells & Bell Foundry, Burford                                    |
|      | 12 Apr | Simon Randall – The English Civil War in the Cotswolds                          |
|      | 10 May | AGM and Jonathan Maisey<br>History of Windrush Stone Quarries                   |

Enquiries to Roger Watts [mail@wychwoodshistory.uk](mailto:mail@wychwoodshistory.uk)

Website: [wychwoodshistory.uk](http://wychwoodshistory.uk)

## ***Travel with Merv Bates***

August already! The World of Travel is now well and truly getting back on its feet. I have been incredibly busy with new bookings for 2022 and beyond. More countries have relaxed their travel restrictions and entry requirements. The main ones to note are Australia & New Zealand, United States, and many of our European neighbours.

Customers who have family overseas are booking well ahead to ensure they are reunited with their loved ones. Customers who have had their holidays cancelled time and time again during the pandemic are booking again. I have noticed most of these bookings are for longer durations too with many of them 4 weeks plus in duration. It is a good idea to book long haul travel in advance to ensure you secure availability (there is a lack of aircraft at the moment) and more importantly the best fares. You can currently book as far ahead as July 2023. It is busy!

Another thing that seems to have changed recently are villa bookings. I have recently returned from Kefalonia (one of my most favourite Greek Islands) and stayed in a villa with sea view and pool after a 2 night stay in the small pretty town of Assos with its handful of local restaurants clustered around a small beach with views. Villas are perfect for customers who want their own space whether couples, families or extended groups of friends wanting to be away from the crowds and hotels. If you're thinking about villas let me know. I can help

Talking of getting away from crowds, small group tours are also popular. More families are moving to this kind of holiday and away from the usual sun & sand holiday. I recently booked a family with older children to visit Zambia & Botswana on a 12-day magical holiday getting them back to nature with lots of animals and fantastic game drives including camping on a houseboat on the magnificent Okavango Delta.

I have been busy with tailor made tours. I am currently working with customers on two different itineraries to Iceland, a Canada trip including the Rocky Mountaineer train, a couple travelling to New Zealand for the first time as well as a family reunion in Australia.

It is great to be busier again! The airports have had their challenges, but I found Birmingham to be well handled. Yes, we had to arrive early, and the security checks were slow but nothing like the media would have us believe. I think if you prepare and take extra time it's a lot less stressful than you think. I can talk you through the challenges and offer you some tips when you book.

If you are thinking of travelling in 2022 or beyond, please get in touch, it would be a pleasure to help you.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has booked with me and, more importantly thank you all very much for your patience.

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# ***Church Activity***

## **Church Teas**

We are hoping to hold one on:

- September 25<sup>th</sup>

There will be a Safari Lunch in September or October, date to be decided, look out for posters.

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

**Sarah Tribe DipTA MBACP**

**[sarahtribe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahtribe@hotmail.co.uk)**

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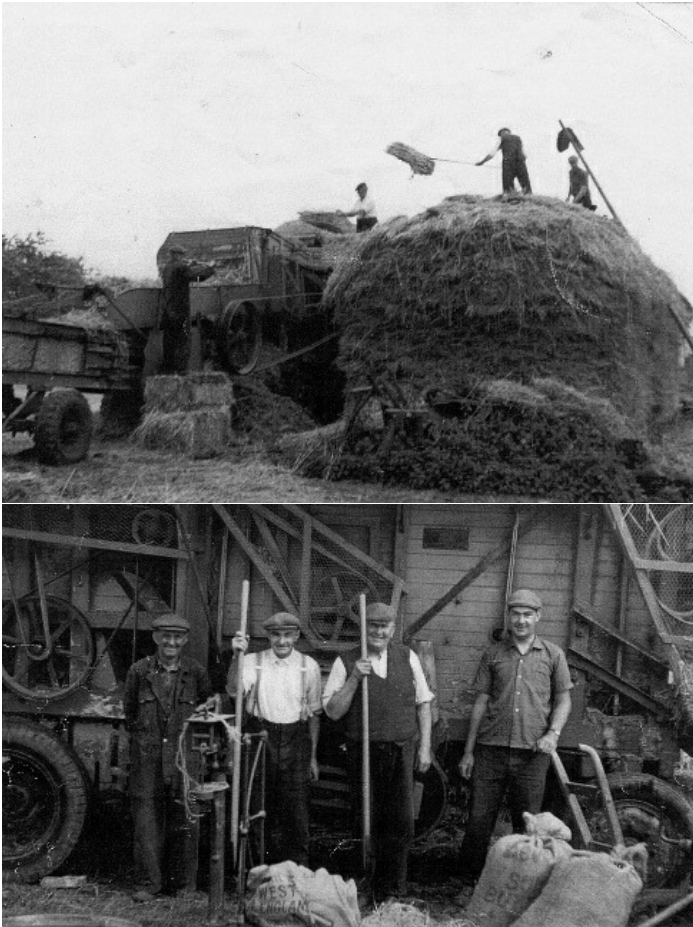
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# ***Wychwood Grain Threshing***



The photographs show the last days of threshing in the Wychwoods.

Early summer 1964 at Honeydale Farm (now Farm Ed.)

Threshing Machine, Baler and 2 men from Geoff Woolcock's farm at Chadlington.

Left to right standing Tom Powell, Arthur Pearse, Will Holloway and Jim Pearse

Photographer – Mrs Whittaker, Manor Farm. Ascott.

The Farm Eat Restaurant now stands where rick and machinery were at that time.

## HARVESTING – THEN AND NOW.

This wheat rick would have cleared about 6 acres, would have taken about six hours to thresh and would have contained about 7 tons of grain.

This was the last of nine corn ricks from the previous year. The crops were harvested with a binder. The sheaves were all stood up in rows of stooks to dry, then taken on wagons to the rickyard, built into ricks, then thatched.

The grain went into sacks of four bushels: wheat weighed 2¼ hundredweight each sack, barley 2 hundredweight (over 100 kilo grams.)

Traditionally, threshing gangs needed at least eight people. In the early 1940's housewives and pensioners were glad to earn a few extra shillings (1 shilling = 5p). A bit later and Italian P.O.W's came from the camp at Milton followed by German P.O.W's. These were followed by D.P's (displaced persons) from Eastern Europe driven out by Stalin's Russians.

By 1950 Land Girls were doing this work. There were several hostels around here and the girls came mostly from Yorkshire and Lancashire.

In early 1950's chaff blowers and self feed mechanisms were fitted and replaced two workers. By late 1950's a law dictated that all moving wheels and belts must be covered to protect workers. A bit late in the day – combines were already here.

By this time workers were few and far between and farmers helped each other. We went threshing on three other farms and they came to Honeydale.

Prior to the threshing of this size of rick, the amount of man hours to harvest the corn in the fields would have been as follows.

1. It would have taken two and a half hours for the two of us to cut and tie the crop into sheaves with the binder.
2. Three hours to pick up all the sheaves and stand them in stooks. Each stook would have been built of six sheaves, two in the centre leaning towards each other pressed firmly together at the top, then a pair each side of the first ones facing each other in a similar way, pressed firmly towards the first two at the top. This enabled a passage of air through the space in the middle of the stook to help the sheaves to dry.
3. Twelve hours to load the sheaves on the wagons, take them to the rickyard, unload them and build them into a rick.
4. Ten hours to thatch the rick.

TOTAL – 55 man hours before threshing!!

The threshing team would have visited each farm several times during the winter, threshing two or three ricks each time.

## Ascott Grapevine

For the same job on a modern crop of 4 tonnes per acre, a big modern combine would put 7 tonnes of grain in the tank in just a few minutes with nobody being made tired or dusty.

A truly phenomenal advance!!!

Personally I am so glad that I was there to be part of the old ways for more than twelve years. I enjoyed doing all the associated jobs and I did them well. It would have been two years more but my parents said I must go to school.

**Jim Pearse**

### ***Definitions:***

Stooks - a group of sheaves of grain stood on end in a field.

Rickyard - a place in a farm where haystacks or ricks are put.

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<b>Wychwoods to Witney, Monday-Friday (except public holidays)</b>				
Milton under Wychwood, The Hare	08:00	10:00	12:50	15:55
Shipton under Wychwood, Post Office	08:04	10:05	12:55	15:59
Ascott under 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 Square (Bus Stop A)	08:42	10:44	13:36	16:40
Sainsbury's	08:45	10:47	13:40	-
Range Road	08:50	-	-	17:13
Fernleigh (* Request only)	09:07	11:00*	-	-
<b>Witney to Wychwoods, Monday - Friday (except public holidays)</b>				
Sainsbury's	09:10	12:00	15:15	17:18
Witney Market Square (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 under Wychwood, The Green	09:43	12:36	15:44	17:53
Shipton under Wychwood, Post Office	09:50	12:44	15:50	17:58
Milton under Wychwood, The Hare	09:55	12:47	15:54	18:00

### ***The Villager***

### **Contacts**

#### **Management Committee**

Chairman and Operations	Keith Gowing	01608 811617
Operations	Paul Branch	07771 624578
Routes/Request Stops	Ken Ingamelis	01451 832114
Hiring	Pauline Jackson	01608 811370
	Keith Gowing	01608 811617
New Drivers	Roger Formby	01451 830439
Secretary (and Donations)	Richard Anning	01386 430129

*For queries in the event of bad weather, any of the above contacts will be able to provide advice on possible cancellations or delays to services. Alternatively look on our homepage for news/weather updates, or tune to Radio Gloucester or Radio Oxford*

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### Thursdays only

<b>TOWITNEY</b>	<b>Evenlode Village</b> 0900	<b>TOVENLODE</b>	<b>Witney Buttercross Stop C Northbound</b> 1140
	<b>Lower Oddington Village Hall</b> 0905		<b>South Leigh Village</b> 1152
	<b>Upper Oddington Horse &amp; Groom</b> 0907		<b>Witney Sainsbury's</b> 1204
	<b>Bledington The Green</b> 0912		<b>Witney Buttercross Stop C Northbound</b> 1205
	<b>Lyneham Village</b> 0920		<b>Witney Hospital</b> 1207
	<b>Shipton-under-Wychwood Shaven Crown</b> 0925		<b>Crawley The Lamb</b> 1212
	<b>Ascott-under-Wychwood Village</b> 0930		<b>Leaffield Witney Lane</b> 1219
	<b>Leaffield The Green</b> 0936		<b>Leaffield Lower End</b> 1222
	<b>Leaffield Lower End</b> 0938		<b>Leaffield The Green</b> 1225
	<b>Leaffield Witney Lane</b> 0942		<b>Ascott-under-Wychwood Village</b> 1231
	<b>Crawley The Lamb</b> 0948		<b>Shipton-under-Wychwood Shaven Crown</b> 1236
	<b>Witney Hospital</b> 0953		<b>Lyneham Village</b> 1241
	<b>Witney Buttercross Stop A Southbound</b> 0955		<b>Bledington The Green</b> 1249
	<b>Witney Sainsbury's</b> 0957		<b>Lower Oddington Village Hall</b> 1254
<b>Witney Buttercross Stop C Northbound</b> 1002	<b>Upper Oddington Horse &amp; Groom</b> 1256		
<b>South Leigh Village</b> 1014	<b>Evenlode Village</b> 1305		
<b>Witney Buttercross Stop A Southbound</b> 1026			

### Times shown in a green box are request stops only

If you wish to join or alight at these stops, please speak to the driver or call 01451 832 114

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# *I Want Answers*

I need an answer to a question which I hope one of our local Clergy can give me. Before I get an answer, I want to explain why I am asking it.

In the early nineteen nineties I was out of regular work and in my early fifties, it seemed I would not get regular employment again, I would have to scrat around to see me through to retirement. One of the jobs I finished up doing was gardening for Dr. Peter Goodford and his wife Carol at The Old Vicarage which is the last house going out of the village on the right going up London Lane. I remained working there for fourteen years but in the beginning I felt like walking away many times. Dr. Goodford I soon found out, was a perfectionist who demanded everything was done his way, he stood over me to make sure every plant planted was put in at the right depth and heeled in correctly. When the lawn was mown, he expected the lines to be straight and the same width and length. All Queen Anne's Lace I saw in the garden I was to dig up. The more common name for Queen Anne's Lace is Cow Parsley but for generations of us who live in Middle England we call it keck, this word was known by Shakespeare.

Anyone walking around the paddock would have seen many different varieties of Hazel nut trees the Doctor had collected from around the globe. My favourite was the one where the young shoots grew from the bowl of the tree, twisted and bent which he called Harry Lauder's walking sticks. Sir Harry Lauder was a famous Scottish music hall star. His most famous song was 'Keep Right on to the End of the Road' known well by Birmingham City fans. Harry Lauder used the twisted walking stick as part of his stage prop.

Over time I realised why the Doctor was such a perfectionist, he spent hours in his study in front of the computer working on medical research. In the past two years, it's been thanks to people like him that we have been given some salvation from this terrible Covid virus.

It was about the time of the millennium, one afternoon he came to me in the garden with a picture of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the 'Last Supper' and said "I want you to try and copy this with topiary on the Box bushes I have grown on the bank above the croquet lawn". I knew nothing about topiary. Shaping the table was not so bad, it was about the length of a cricket pitch. My attempt at the figures was not good, they finished looking like lollipops on a stick. I made the mistake of making Christ twice the size of the disciples. The other mistake, when I tried to shape the beard of Jesus, it took half his nose away.

Now I have arrived at the question. Anyone who is familiar with Leonardo's painting will know one of the disciples looks very strange with one finger stuck in the air. Who is he and why has he got his finger stuck in the air? I will accept an answer from any denomination.



## Ascott Grapevine

P.S. The Goodfords moved from the vicarage and Ascott in the late twenty noughties. A little over two years ago I met Mrs. Goodford in Chippy and I asked about the Doctor. She told me she lost him two years previous, he had spent his last days in a nursing home before he died. I thought how sad for a man who had been to many parts of the world to lecture on medical research.

Over the years I got to like him more, he never changed, he always demanded gardening was done his way, but I found over time, he did have a very dry sense of humour.

Looking back over those years, it was a privilege to have known him.

**Fred Russell**



The image is a promotional graphic for Simpson Architecture. It features a background image of a modern, multi-story house with large windows and a prominent gable. The word "simpson" is written in a large, white, lowercase sans-serif font across the middle of the image. Below it, the word "ARCHITECTURE" is written in a smaller, white, uppercase sans-serif font. To the left of the main text, there is a smaller image of a traditional house. Below the main text, there is a dark grey rectangular area containing contact information and the RIBA logo.

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## **FOOTPRINTS FROM ASCOTT PAST Part 18**



For century after century through sun, rain, storm, snow and tempest, the mainstay of the village, the labourers, spent their lifetimes ensuring the survival of the villagers. Some would have perhaps managed to lease a small area of land and work for themselves, rising in doing so to the status of husbandman but many spent their entire lives as day labourers for tenant farmers.

The keeping of parish registers was established in Tudor times and certainly by the end of Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> reign all churches were obliged to comply. Whether this always applied to the baptism of children is doubtful. Even in the 19<sup>th</sup> century there are records of several children from one family being baptised at the same time so it seems likely that some were missed. However, regarding marriages and deaths these records would have been more important and Ascott Parish Registers begin with baptisms in 1569, marriages in 1570 and deaths in 1571. The records seem a bit sparse at first but by 1602 the parish had purchased a special book in which Thomas Smith, the minister at the time, noted that from then on he earnestly hoped that all records would be kept correctly. In the early 1600s around 12 baptisms, 2-3 marriages and 8-9 deaths were recorded annually. Amongst those records would have been the labourers of the village and their families. No-one is actually recorded as a labourer in the registers but the deaths of two servants were noted, one killed by a cart in the tempest. Also listed are two poor women who died at Norcotts. The Norcott family leased the house and land belonging to Brasenose College, the house was on the site of the present Grange in Shipton Road. Many others were recorded as poor men and poor women, some of these were surely labourers. A house given to Ascott Charity which stood in Church Close and is named either as the Church House or Poor House may well have housed some of these unfortunates.

But from the 1600s there appears to be a change in the lifestyle of a few labourers. This is indicated by the Wills of five men who are named as labourer yet seem to have ended their lives well above their simple origins, no doubt by making good use of their experience, knowledge and determination.

John Carter, labourer, died in September 1635, six years after Charles 1<sup>st</sup> had dissolved Parliament and declared that he was only held to account by God. A troublesome time for Britain!

A picture of John Carter's life emerges from his will and inventory. He held the lease to Coldstone Farm (now Coldstone House) from the Lacy family at Shipton Court. Coldstone is legally in Shipton parish because the buildings lie to the west of Cawdell Brook but the land was scattered amongst the large open fields of Ascott. John's wife Kathrine had died two years previously so his heirs were his son William and daughter Elizabeth. He divided the lease and similarly all his goods and chattels equally between them. His description indicated that the house had two floors with the bedrooms above the hall. As well as household items the chattels included cows and calves and the hay and corn harvested in the past summer. His five grandchildren were to have a sheep and a pewter platter each. He also left 20s to another 'possible' grandson. The Ascott vicar Mr Fryer was left 3s 4d for writing the will and to 'sing John to church'. In total John's estate including goods and chattels was valued at £31 2s 10d, an equivalent in 2017 of £4095 75p. John may have been around sixty when he died and had apparently achieved a substantial rise in status.

The second named labourer was William Bridgeman who had died in November 1642 shortly after the first battle of the Civil War at Edgehill. Although his inventory of goods and chattels only came to £9 8s, £1104 8p in 2017, he obviously felt that he wanted to designate the distribution of his goods amongst his many sons and daughters. Perhaps he was trying to avoid squabbling since he notes that Margaret apparently claimed that the best coverlet was her own. Three of his sons were to have 6d each whilst his daughters Alice, Anne and Margaret were left household items. One grandson was left his biggest brass kettle whilst two more were to have 12d each and his son Joseph's son was to have his best stock of bees. Joseph was probably the eldest son and he was to be executor of the will and inherit all the goods not named which included one cow valued at £2 10s.

The third labourer was Richard Sherborne who died in July 1682. He does style himself as a husbandman in his will, but his friends describe him as a labourer in his inventory. Richard presumably married twice since he leaves 20s to his son John who was to wait three years to his full age before he was to receive the money. Richard also leaves £5 to his second son Thomas who was to wait six years. Four years after Richard's death his widow Christian died and left most of her estate to her only son Thomas. Hopefully John had received his money by then and presumably no longer figured in her life. Similarly to the house at Coldstone the Sherbornes lived in a two storied house but with only one room on each floor. Ri-

## Ascott Grapevine

chard's total on his inventory was given as £27 1s, the equivalent in 2017 of £3095 87p, although surprisingly the major item of £23 was due to him on a bond or lease.

George Thomas labourer, who died in 1685 seems to be someone who liked to keep his money close to his chest. In his inventory value of £34 6s equivalent in 2017 to £4110 3p, the major item was £27 for his purse and wearing clothes. George has also married twice. Son George from his first marriage to Joyce was to have 5s and his daughters Margaret and Christen together with each of their sons were also to have 5s each. All the rest of his goods and chattels were to go to Frances his wife of 32 years and at her death all except an iron bar and great cupboard for George were to be divided amongst the daughters, who were probably from the second marriage.

William Ryman of Ascott Dawley the final labourer is an enigma. His closest family was his brother John who lived at Combe. When William died in 1698 his inventory value was £37 18s, 2017 value £4054 67p. His purse and wearing apparel were listed as £1 3s 6d and the only other items were two coffers, an iron potage pot and a pewter platter which were valued at 10s 2d. All the rest of the items were money owing to him, one bond of £14 from an Ascott Dawley carpenter and debts totalling £21 5s from five other residents of Ascott Dawley. He appears to be more of a moneylender than a labourer but it is a mystery where a labourer would get this much money to enable him to lend to others.

These five were obviously not typical labourers but men of enterprise and determination. At the same time there would have been a good number of village labourers whose lives would have been lived barely above the breadline.

By 1764 Coldstone Farm had been sold by the Lacy family and was then owned by Mary Hacker. Her father's family, the Perrys, were long term residents of Ascott. On Mary's marriage the house and land had gone into the ownership of her husband Thomas Hacker of Kingham. The tombs of these two families are the tabletop tombs just to the left of the church porch. One covers the remains of Mary, her husband, son and daughter, whilst the other is that of her father Nicholas Perry and her mother Hannah. On a survey made in 1764 Mary, then a widow, had leased the land to two tenant farmers. This comprised 252 strips of land all over the parish. It was on these strips that the labourers working for the tenant farmers would have worked. They would have had to walk to the strips anywhere between land above the Burford to Charlbury Road and the Shipton to Chipping Norton Road, and between Coldstone Corner and Ascott Mill. What trudging at times it must have been to reach these various locations whatever the weather.

By 1840 all had changed in the parish. Enclosure had happened and all the tenant farmers had their own individual enclosed areas of land. But life had probably become more difficult for the labourers since restrictions on the movements of the general population of the village had also come into place following the erection of walls and hedges to keep people out.

The National Census which began in 1841 gives more insight into the labourers' story.

Wendy Pearse

### Note

The amounts listed in the wills are in pounds, shillings and pence. 20s was equal to £1, 12d was equal to 1s. The equivalents in 2017 are in the present currency of pounds and pence. Pre- decimalisation pence was written as d, today written as p. Also Dawley is d'Oyley as it was later called

## NATURE NOTES

When you are reading this issue of the Grapevine you may be starting to notice the increasing presence of Wasps as they feast on fallen rotten fruit, disturb picnics seeking jam and other sweet foods and buzz around you if you are trying to enjoy an al-fresco meal. They become a nuisance and we are wary of their ability to sting.

Why do Wasps appear and become a problem during late summer? Where have they been for the rest of the year? The answer lies in the life cycle of our two social wasps, the Common Wasp and the German Wasp, both of which appear identical to the casual observer.



The Wasp year starts in spring, usually by mid-April as temperatures rise. The queen, who was born and mated at the end of the previous year, emerges from her slumber having spent the winter in an outbuilding, a hollow tree or some other sheltered spot. Her first task is to find a suitable spot to build a nest. These are mostly constructed underground in disused animal burrows, although some are sited in buildings or tree hollows. She then starts to build a nest. This is constructed of paper made from shavings of woody fibre obtained from fence posts and palings mixed with saliva. The resulting pulp is worked by her mouth-parts and used to create an umbrella shaped dome then hexagonal cells are constructed beneath opening downward. She then lays an egg in each of the cells and when these hatch the larvae are fed by the queen with insects she has caught and pulped. These larvae pupate and hatch as sterile female workers. They take over the task of nest building, hunting for food and caring for future generations of workers. The queen's only duty then becomes egg laying and she will not leave the nest.

## Ascott Grapevine

As the nest grows it will typically contain 3,000 to 5,000 Wasps, but up to 20,000 is possible! During this part of the year, you are unlikely to be bothered by Wasps, unless you disturb their nest, because they are too busy hunting for insects to feed the ever-expanding population. This is when they are performing their most useful function of controlling insect pests. Although the workers are continuing to build new cells as the nest expands the old cells may be reused several times. This poses a problem because as each cell is vacated by an adult Wasp the waste material



excreted by the larvae is left in the upper part of the cells. The worker wasps won't touch this waste, but help is at hand. Sharing the Wasp's nest is a large army of Drone-Fly larvae that swarm over the previously used cells eating the waste material and leaving the cells ready for reuse. Wasp's normal food supply are insect larvae, but these scavengers are left untouched and the adult Drone-Flies are allowed free entry to the nest to lay their eggs.

Although the adult workers are effective hunters of insect pests, they do not eat their prey, but use them to feed the larvae. The adults feed on a sugary liquid secreted by the Wasp larvae.

At the end of the summer, males and fertile females are raised in special large cells. Once these Wasps have reached maturity, the colony begins to break up. The workers will have no more larvae to feed and therefore no sugary liquid for them to eat so they then turn their attention to rotten fruit and other sweet substances for food and energy. It is at this time of the year that Wasps make a nuisance of themselves and we are likely to be stung. Only female wasps can sting, the males produced at the end of the season can't. The sting is a modified ovipositor (egg-laying organ) and consists of an outer sheath and an inner structure, like a hypodermic needle. There is a small sack at the base which contains the venom. Wasps use their venom to paralyse their insect prey so that it can be carried back to the nest. To avoid being stung try and leave the Wasp alone and be warned Wasp venom contains a pheromone which will attract other wasps to come to the aid of the wasp that has stung you in self-defence!

Once the weather turns colder the female workers and the males will die, leaving only the mated queens to carry on the race next year.

**Stuart Fox**

# ***THE FIRST (AND ONLY) CUCKOO OF SUMMER***

When we moved to Ascott 28 years ago the call of the Cuckoo was regularly heard throughout late spring and early summer announcing their arrival from Tropical Africa. In recent years the call has become a rare event or even totally absent, so it was with great pleasure that I heard the familiar call at 7am on 19<sup>th</sup> June coming from the Shipton direction and later between 10 to 11am from the Ascott section of the Evenlode.



Where have all the Cuckoos gone? The numbers visiting Britain have reduced by 65% since the 1980's and there is no definite answer why. Cuckoos spend our winter months in Sub-Saharan Africa, travelling north and arriving here in April. They will remain here throughout the summer, the adults returning in August and September and the young later in the year.

There is no evidence that their migration is any more hazardous now than in the past. Another suggestion is that the decline in its host species or climate-induced shifts in the timing of the nesting season of its host species could have significantly reduced the number of nests available for the cuckoos to lay eggs. The adult cuckoo's main food is caterpillars, indeed it is possibly the only bird that will eat hairy ones, so it is likely that the general decline in the insect population could have led to a decline in Cuckoo numbers. Despite work by the British Trust for Ornithology, including radio tracking the Cuckoos during migration, we don't really understand the reason for the decline.

Incidentally, if you do hear the Cuckoos call it's probably the male calling to attract a mate.

**Stuart Fox**



# CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

TIDDY HALL

SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

10am – 4pm



Start your Christmas shopping at Tiddy Hall!

Lots of tables full of crafts to include jewellery, pottery, woodwork, Neal's Yard, cards & stationery plus many, many more. Activity area for kids, raffle &

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Refreshments served all day!

If you are interested in setting up a table, please contact

Ingrid 07952 657906

# *Taunton Deane Morris Men*



We started in 1973 and specialise in the Cotswold style of dance, although during the winter months we do perform some Border style', especially at the various Was-sail events that we attend. Taunton and the surrounding area still has a thriving Cider industry and we regard it as our duty to do all we can to ensure a bumper crop of apples every year!

In our almost 50 years of existence we have never done a proper tour of the Villages that we owe such a debt of gratitude to for preserving our culture & heritage and we thought it time we did; hence the tour of 25<sup>th</sup> June. We have picked a selection of 7 villages to visit, based on geography and the preferences of the team members (Ascott under Wychwood was my selection as the traditional repertoire includes my favourite dance & tune; The Valentine).





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## WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



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**Sat Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Pete Morton + support by Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer**

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

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

**Sat Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman**

Tickets £14.00 in advance £16.00 on the door

**Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman** have long established themselves as one of the UK folk scene's most rewardingly enduring partnerships. Duos come and duos go... and some nurture and fine tune their art and watch it grow into something totally original, captivating and award-winning.

**Sat Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> Steve Tilston + support by Odette Michell**

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

**Steve Tilston** is one of our most celebrated songsmiths, widely recognised within the world of folk and contemporary music; the words, arrangements and subtle, quite superb guitar playing could be no one else.

"The more you listen, the more there is to discover." - **Bob Harris**

**Sat Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Anthony John Clarke & Dave Pegg + support by Bruce Gomersall**

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

"When musical virtuoso **Dave Pegg**, sporting decades of experience in bands such as Fairport Convention and Jethro Tull bumped into **Anthony John Clarke**, now accepted as one of the most entertaining and amusing raconteurs and songwriters on the folk scene, we all knew something special was bound to happen and it did!! Nearly ten years on these great pals still tour with one of the most engaging and funny musical evenings ever. Great tunes, great songs, great gags and surprises galore. The guys strongly recommend you bring all your medication! "

All events start at 7.30pm Doors 7.00pm

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - [www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com)

Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: [wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com](mailto:wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com)

# Parish Council News July 2022

## Near Misses



The resurfacing of Chippy Hill is welcome to all of us, but it has temporarily extinguished the white lines including the line across the give way sign on the approach to the bridge. Whether it is that, or whether it is the build-up of vegetation, or just the fact that it is summer; but there have been even more near misses as drivers have come down the hill at speed and straight across the bridge with no regard for the traffic approaching.

Once again, I have cut back the vegetation but that is not a PC responsibility - nor is it an excuse for drivers to ignore the prominent signs telling them to give way and who has priority. It is absolutely clear who has right of way. The PC worked hard to get those signs erected, and they are there for a reason.

On a related subject, we have heard from OCC that our application for a 20mph speed limit through the village has been successful and will be implemented in the second tranche - we expect early next year. This had overwhelming support amongst those households who returned the Traffic and Transport Survey last year.

Even more exciting is the prospect that we may (no guarantee at this stage) also be able to get a reduced speed limit to 40 or 50mph down the two hills (London Lane and Chippy Hill) for which we have always campaigned, to assist in graduating the speed at which vehicles enter the village: the current 30 limit is too close to the village and drivers do not slow down in time. Fingers crossed we may finally be able to do something about that.

## Green Spaces

Thanks to the valiant work of two of my fellow councillors, Pauline and Sarah, the ivy in the Playing Fields is well on the way to being brought under control. This has taken a lot of effort and help from volunteers, notably Mary and Gerhard, for which we are very grateful.

The other corner that is urgent need of TLC is the railway garden - the stretch opposite the signal box and Station Row. This is officially owned by Network Rail

but by agreement has been planted and kept by the community. It has become overgrown and we would like to organize a working party to help bring it back under control in the autumn: nothing too arduous and many hands make light work! If you can spare an hour or two to join us on a weekend in September, please let us know. We will decide on dates when we know who is willing to help.

The replacement of the old-style dog poo bins has been under way and we know that some have been removed and not yet replaced, including the one at the top of Heritage Lane. We are chasing: in the meantime, please do not leave litter where the bins used to be!

And a reminder that the Pound is a public space: people are welcome to enter, to sit on the benches and relax. We believe the closed gate is putting off visitors from entering and are considering adding a sign to the gate to the effect that people are welcome. Let us know your thoughts.

On the subject of which:

## **Road Signs**

Three of the road signs in the village - Andrews Yard, Chestnut Drive and Meadowbank Close - are either illegible or rapidly getting that way. We have asked WODC for replacements.

## **Parking**

Everyone is aware of the parking problems in the village, especially with visitors. You will also know of the considerate parking leaflets the PC produced to try to encourage people to think about how and where they are parking. They are intended to be a polite reminder.

Unfortunately, we have been told of an alleged incident in which a vehicle was vandalized by a resident applying a leaflet. The PC is not responsible for the actions of individual residents, and of course we do not know what led up to this, but we would like to cordially remind everyone that we want to welcome visitors, and that we cannot condone vandalism.

## **Summer Heat...**

Summer is a lovely time for all of us, but not always for our pets: so it is time for the usual seasonal reminder about not leaving dogs in hot cars. People around here are sensible.

## **.. and Winter Chill**

It is strange to be thinking about this now, but the Cotswold Line Promotion Group (CLPG) are hoping once again to persuade GWR to run the Saturday shopping service to Oxford in the lead up to Christmas.

If this is to go ahead - and it has been popular pre-COVID - we need to make the case. The aim is for two services on the Saturdays in December to take people in and out of Oxford to shop, visit the Christmas Market or otherwise just enjoy the city. If you think it likely that you would use that service - especially if you have used it in the past - we urgently need you to get in touch at the email below and let us know, so we can feed back potential numbers to CLPG and GWR.

## **Planning Appeals**

Following on from the recent rejection of the appeal against the refusal of planning permission to develop the Cow Sheds site, we have some more news on the planning front.

As I write this, we have just been informed that the concurrently running Blue Cedar appeal against the West Oxfordshire District Council decision to refuse planning permission for their proposed retirement enclave, has also been rejected.

The PC has always stood behind both decisions believing that the two developments would have been harmful to the character and infrastructure of the village, and I would like to once again personally thank all of those who have worked so hard with us to counter their arguments. We will be studying the appeal decisions very closely over the coming weeks.

## **And finally**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Parish Meeting. The new format - wine and nibbles with short presentations from various groups in the village - worked well and we will build on this to do even better next year. We had talks on the Wychwood Local History Society, the Gallery on the Green, the Village Shop, the Facebook Page and West Oxfordshire Community Transport.

We don't meet in August, so we wish you all a happy and restful summer.

As always you can contact any of us on the address below.

**Brian Leach,**  
**Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council**  
[contact@ascottpc.org.uk](mailto:contact@ascottpc.org.uk)

## Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

As I write this at the end of July, Ascott sit proudly top of the Cherwell League Division 8B, with a fine record of 10 wins, 1 draw, 1 defeat on Saturdays. However, we're locked in a titanic battle with Hanborough 2nd XI for the league title, who are the only team to beat us so far and they sit just 7 points behind. The likelihood is our big clash when the two teams meet (1st vs 2nd) at Ascott at 1pm on Sat 13th August, will pretty much decide matters. It would be terrific if a big partisan home crowd could cheer on the plucky Ascott team that afternoon, it would make a big difference. Bring your picnic & wine! There will also likely be a club BBQ afterwards, all supporters welcome.

On Sundays we've also produced some superb wins - for example vs Bibury, Harwell, Banbury and Hanney to name a few. The emphasis is on participation and enjoyment, and a number of our young players have really developed their skills this season.

We've had some exceptional individual performances; like the epic 162 not out scored by Sam Barnes at Memorial Field to help us win a game vs FAS CC! An innings of 111 by Sam Townsend at Cropredy. 18 year old Rowan Moss destroying Middleton Cheney 2nd XI with a burst of 6 wickets for just 4 runs. Alex Vaughan taking 30 league wickets by the end of July. On Sundays, 17 year old leg-spinner Josh Beasant has taken 13 wickets so far this season, and 13 year old Will Harvey has 4 to date - his first *ever* in adult cricket.

Coming up, key home matches at Ascott on Sat 13th Aug vs Hanborough, and the 27th Aug vs Witney Mills - when we hope we'll be in a position to celebrate promotion (fingers crossed). Do please come and watch! On Sunday 28th Aug, 18 club members will then embark on tour to Devon for highly anticipated matches at Sidmouth, Honiton and finally Tipton St John. The 2021 tour was a huge success, hopefully this one will emulate.

Our final scheduled match of a hectic 2022 season is on Sunday 25th September, to be closely followed by our end of season awards & quiz night.

**Stewart Moss**

**07866 278685**

**Email: [AUWCricquetClub@Hotmail.com](mailto:AUWCricquetClub@Hotmail.com)**

**Twitter: @AUWCricquetClub**

**Instagram: [ascott\\_u\\_wychwood\\_cricket](https://www.instagram.com/ascott_u_wychwood_cricket)**



## Ascott Grapevine



Three of our excellent 'home-grown' young cricketers; William, Josh and Sam - pictured after they all took wickets in a win over Shenley Church End, from Milton Keynes.



The Ascott Sunday XI celebrate taking a wicket at the gorgeous 'Laurie Lee Field' at Sheepscombe in Gloucestershire

# **Annie Lowery Gripper**

(Nee Makepeace) 25.9.1929- 13. 4.1922

Annie was born in Grindon Gardens, Sunderland, and trained and worked as a nurse. She met her lifelong partner John at the age of 21 and they were subsequently married within three months. They moved to Chipping Norton in 1957 where she worked as a midwife and also provided family planning advice. They both fully immersed themselves in the community whilst raising their four children David, Peter, Robert and Sally.

Annie moved to Manor Farm with her husband John in 1984, she transferred her skills from midwifery to calf rearing and lambing sheep. She had an extremely kind and generous nature and was loved and respected by many people and made many close friends locally.

Family and friends were extremely important to her, and Manor Farm became a focus for regular visitors, including her four children, eight grandchildren and eight Great Grandchildren, not to mention cousins, Aunts and Uncles and all their friends who were always made welcome.

Annie was an active founder of the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust who operated in Zimbabwe. She was instrumental in the building of a number of schools in Zimbabwe, and personally raised huge amounts of money to support the work of the SBRT in Zimbabwe.

She was diagnosed with terminal cancer in mid-march, all her family visited her before the end of the month, and she died on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

She is missed so much by her family and friends who she supported and loved unconditionally, but lives on in us, and was a remarkable woman who set a wonderful example to us all of how to live a good life.

**Robert Gripper**



# ***The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration***

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Tiddy Hall organised a fantastic event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

This was held at the Memorial Playing Fields and was a huge success. The weather was relatively kind, though there was a little rain during the afternoon, and the event was very well attended. The celebration was free to enter and everyone was encouraged to bring their own picnics, chairs and picnic blankets. BBQ was also available with Nick Carter providing the culinary skills to deliver first rate burgers and vegetarian alternatives. Thanks to our willing volunteers, a bar was available. Both the bar and the BBQ proved very popular!

A programme of entertainment was provided to keep both the children and the young at heart amused. This included a traditional Punch and Judy show, a royal cake competition, a fancy dress competition and giant jenga. For me the highlight of the show was the 'beat the keeper' competition which was fiercely contested by some very skilful young players. In goal we had Kevin Bishop, whose goalkeeping skills were remarkable!

Pictures of the day can be seen on the Tiddy Hall website (<https://www.tiddyhall.com>). A short video of the day was also produced and can be found on the Tiddy Hall YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1kVeY5HUBo>)

Thanks are due to the Tiddy Hall committee that organised the event with additional support from Gaby and photography on the day by Dom Lashley.

We must also thank our generous sponsors who provided our raffle prizes, including:

- The Swan Inn – lunch for four
- Cotswolds Wildlife Park – tickets for two
- FarmEd – tickets for two to a Friday Farm Walk
- Woolly Wonders – half a sheep
- Wychwood Folk Club – tickets for two to a folk night at Tiddy Hall

In addition to the raffle prizes, The Swan Inn also provided all of the prosecco that we needed for the loyal toast and Mark Pidgeon (Wychwood Folk Club) kindly allowed us to use his PA system for announcements and music.

All in all, it was a great day!





# **WYCHWOOD BREEZE RIDES FOR WOMEN**

Do you have an old bike gathering dust in your garage? Bought a bike during lockdown and not sure what to do with it? Need some motivation to exercise? Lacking the confidence to go out on the roads on your own? Fancy some social cycling? Want to get fitter? Whatever your reason, the British Cycling Breeze programme is there for YOU!

BC Breeze Rides are designed to encourage as many women as possible to start or return to cycling. It's aim is to build skills, confidence and fitness, as well as to provide social opportunities for women of all ages. Whatever your level, there will be a ride for you. And if there isn't, we can make one!

My name is Cath and I have recently set up the Wychwoods Breeze Rides, using Bruern Farm Shop as our base. I will be leading rides for all levels of ability around the Wychwoods area. Our beginners rides are usually around 7 miles at a very steady pace, avoiding the bigger hills! I also offer intermediate rides for women who have cycled before but who would like to push themselves a little bit harder and further. Rides are completely inclusive of all abilities and we always go at the pace of the slowest rider, with stops along the way as required. All you need to bring is a road-worthy bike, a helmet and some money for cake & coffee afterwards!

Rides are free and are led by a qualified Breeze Ride Leader, who will be there to guide and assist you along the way. We are also covered by British Cycling Insurance. All you need to do is register and sign up for free on the British Cycling Breeze website. Here you can find out about all the local rides on offer, check out routes and sign up for any rides you would like to do. The website is: [www.letsride.co.uk](http://www.letsride.co.uk) We are also on Facebook – search for Wychwood Breeze – where I share upcoming routes, cycling tips, answer your questions etc.

I look forward to welcoming you to our fantastic Wychwood Breeze family! You will receive a warm welcome. And who knows, you may just catch the cycling bug like I did!



# Photo Gallery

The private view went very well, the gallery was packed and it was very hard to move about. Many friends and many from Ascott, Shipton and Milton came. I had quite a few purchases as well as lots of positive feedback about the new gallery, it was very nice and encouraging. I really appreciate the local community support and interest and I do hope to make this place not only for others to discover the beauty of the art, but also the place we meet and find special gifts for someone special or for special occasions. I hope to organise painting and craft classes for adults and children as well.



# ***Thames Water called upon to reduce pollution of our rivers with raw sewage***

The West Oxfordshire District Council is calling on Thames Water to do more to stop raw sewage being pumped into local rivers by increasing the capacity of sewage treatment works and also provide more transparent monitoring of sewage discharge.

Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, Cabinet Member for Environment, said; “As elected representatives of West Oxfordshire residents we are asking Thames Water to do more to tackle the issue of raw sewage being pumped into our local rivers and streams.

“We want to set targets to make improvements quickly and look for creative ways to achieve them. We also want to see more transparency around how much sewage is being released.

“The Council will work closely with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and other key local organisations such as Windrush Against Sewage Pollution, and other community groups to achieve these aims and protect our watercourses.”

Thames Water discharge raw sewage into West Oxfordshire rivers for many thousand hours every year.

Recent government legislation places no obligation or clear targets on water companies to reduce sewage discharges to our watercourses. The new District Council administration is committed to set up goals and find the solutions to address this dire problem.

The Council has asked Thames Water to move faster to increase sewage treatment capacity. Specifically, by December 2025 to have increased the capacity of each sewage treatment works so that they can not only meet current demand but also what will be needed in future. The capacity increases should take account of future housing growth, rather than just increasing capacity to catch up which is the current approach.

In the cases of smaller sewage treatment works, Thames Water are being asked to review which of these should be closed with the effluent pumped to larger sewage treatment works.

The Council is also calling for Thames Water and the Environment Agency to commit to working together to assign treatment capacity to all treatment works above Port Meadow by December 2022.



## Ascott Grapevine

Currently, most major treatment works in West Oxfordshire are fitted with monitors measuring lengths of time of sewage discharges. The Council is calling on Thames Water to also measure and share the information about the amount of sewage that is discharged.

Specifically, the Council is asking that by December 2022, Thames Water to have fitted volume flowmeters to all larger treatment works; and by December 2023 to have them fitted to all works in West Oxfordshire. These flowmeters should be linked to real-time open source monitoring which is accessible online, and on social media so there is full transparency around the issue.



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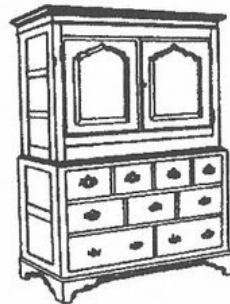
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## ***Could you help us make sure the Countryside adds up?***

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is looking for a Treasurer for its West Oxfordshire District. Could you help?

Our local committee of volunteers works to speak up for the environment, villages and market towns of rural West Oxfordshire. From challenging inappropriate planning applications to planting hedges, we help to ensure that our countryside is protected and enhanced for future generations.

Although the sums involved may be small, we still need a Treasurer to help us count our pennies and make them work hard for us.

If you can keep basic financial records and manage a bank account, have an interest in countryside matters and can spare just an hour or two a month, we'd really love to hear from you!

See [www.cpreoxon.org.uk/join-us/volunteer](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/join-us/volunteer)

Or contact the Oxfordshire Branch Office:

E: [administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk) T: 01491 612079

Julia Benning | Communications Manager

Mon, Tues. Thurs 9.30-2.30

T: 07392 769377

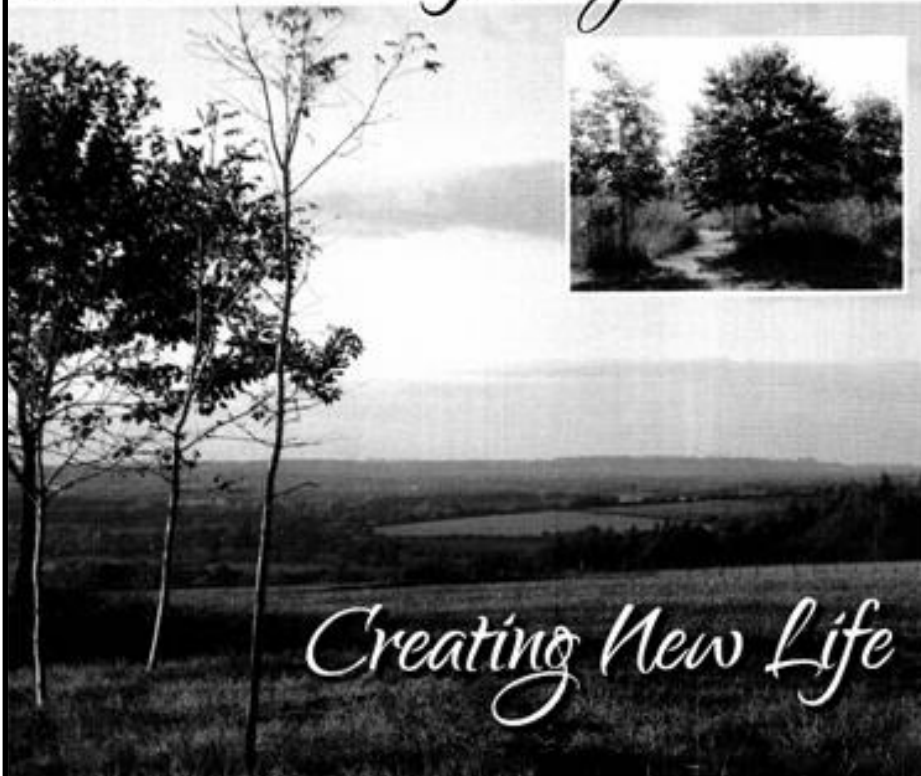
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Fairspear Natural Burial Grounds, Leaffield, Witney, Oxon OX29 9NY

# ***District Councillor***

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to re-introduce myself. My name is David Cooper, as a result of the elections in May I was duly elected as your District Councillor. I'm a married father of 3 girls all of whom keep me extremely busy. I was born and raised in rural West Oxfordshire and it's a privilege to be able to serve you for this term.

I have a strong desire to make positive changes and work as hard as possible on the items that affect you.

What I will do with each publication is to concentrate on one element and explain what actions will be taken.

During the election I promised to take action to stop the sewage discharge into the rivers and hold the water companies to account, along with my colleagues at WODC we aim to do this the following way;

We are asking Thames Water to do more to tackle the issue of raw sewage being pumped into our local rivers and streams.

We want to set targets to make improvements quickly and look for creative ways to achieve them. We also want to see more transparency around how much sewage is being released.

The Council will work closely with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and other key local organisations such as Windrush Against Sewage Pollution, and other community groups to achieve these aims and protect our watercourses.

Thames Water discharge raw sewage into West Oxfordshire rivers for many thousand hours every year.

Recent government legislation places no obligation or clear targets on water companies to reduce sewage discharges to our watercourses. The District Council is committed to set up goals and find the solutions to address this dire problem.

The Council has asked Thames Water to move faster to increase sewage treatment capacity. Specifically, by December 2025 to have increased the capacity of each sewage treatment works so that they can not only meet current demand but also what will be needed in future. The capacity increases should take account of future housing growth, rather than just increasing capacity to catch up which is the current approach.

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The Council is also calling for Thames Water and the Environment Agency to commit to working together to assign treatment capacity to all treatment works above Port Meadow by December 2022.

## Ascott Grapevine

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Specifically, the Council is asking that by December 2022, Thames Water to have fitted volume flowmeters to all larger treatment works; and by December 2023 to have them fitted to all works in West Oxfordshire. These flowmeters should be linked to real-time open source monitoring, which is accessible online, and on social media so there is full transparency around the issue.

I will ensure you are all updated regularly and I look forward to updating you on the carbon neutral plan in the next publication.

**Clr Cooper**

**West Oxfordshire District Council**



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Registering is easy, simply call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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## ***Ascott Village Shop***

### **CHANGES AT ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP**

Following our AGM in June there have been changes to the shop management committee.

Our long-serving chairman, John Cull has retired, together with Gaynor Taylor and Geoff Taylor. For the remainder of this year Gaynor will still be looking after the week-day rota and Geoff will continue to act as the committee's secretary until a replacement can be appointed.

The new management committee members who were voted in at the AGM are; Per Henriksen, Jacque Bugeja and Merv Bates.

Bridgette Crundwell and Stuart Fox will continue on the management committee.



# Ascott Village Shop



## **Feeling the Squeeze? Refill and Save Money!**

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Matthew's Cotswold Crunch	£1.20	£2.25	£1.05	47%
Jumbo Oats	£1.50	£2.70	£1.20	44%
Tilda Basmati Rice	£4.05	£5.25	£1.20	23%
Fusilli Pasta	£3.30	£3.50	£0.20	6%
Ecover washing-up Liquid	£3.20	£3.70	£0.50	14%
Ecover washing Detergent	£5.75	£6.65	£0.90	14%

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# Piano Lessons

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**Pauline Carter**

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# ***The Roseneath School of Music Concert 2022***

How lovely it was to open the doors for our first summer concert since 2019, and it was wonderful to welcome some new, exciting and talented young performers.

Emilia Alberts announced the start of a new day with the chimes of Big Ben before a thoughtful rendition of Morning has broken by Coco Davies-Jones. Joshua King completed the halcyon day with a Tandem Ride for Daisy before everyone set off on a train ride with George Pullan.

The scene was set and the audience of parents, grandparents and friends were set for an evening of entertainment from more than thirty pianists of a huge range of ability. Peter Morgan gave a commanding performance of the universally familiar Potato Song before Stanley Williams presented Doggy D who had set out on a maritime adventure balanced between just C and D and arrived at his destination with a beaming smile and without mishap.

Wychwood Film and Academy awards were due to Mary Holdsworth with the song from her namesake's film, Supercalifrajilisticexpialidocious, and to Max Walentiny with a rambunctious and swashbuckling Pirates of the Caribbean.

The audience was fortunate to hear two performances of Nuvole Bianchi by Ludovico Einaudi. This is a long piece with several difficult passages, so possibly unusual choices for two primary school children. However, both Sasha Gerry and Ben Walentiny captivated everyone with the standard of their riveting musicianship.

Some of the repertoire has, or will be doubled up as exam repertoire. Maia Cruickshank and the Irish ballad 'Down by the Salley Gardens' and Francesca Douglas' Minuet in C by Thomas Attwood were among the pieces for grade 1, Ethan Gould's pensive 'First Loss' as Robert Schumann cries out for his beloved but distanced Clara (grade 4) and Leo Walentiny with the bluesy 'Trumpet Man' by William Gillock (Grade 5).

This year has been underpinned by Camille Saint-Saens' suite, Carnival of the Animals. Having completed the Elephant and the Swan, everyone has had to find out the answer to specific details of Saint-Saens life in order to win tickets to the Carnival. Eleri Thomas completed the most tickets and is now quite an expert on Camille Saint-Saens. We found out the name of his dog, what he liked for breakfast, his hobby and that he actually thought the Carnival of the Animals was rather a silly piece, unbecoming to his musical ambitions, and which he forbade anyone to play during his lifetime. Fortunately, it is now considered to be a valuable piece which can be enjoyed by many. Martha Jones performed the Elephant

with consummate skill, negotiating several difficult rolling arpeggios with great elegance.

Thank you to all parents and friends, without whose help, this quality concert could not go ahead and to the committee of the Tiddy Hall for accommodating us all so cordially.

We are looking forward to another year of joyful music-making by our young people.

**Pauline Carter**

## **PRIZES**

### ***Progress***

George Fox, Magnus Mowbray, Jemima Curtis, Joshua King,

2<sup>nd</sup> Charlotte Douglas, Eli Adenuga, Ethan Gould Lucy Shaw

### ***Best New Pupil***

Emilia Alberts

### ***Best Pianist at Windrush Valley School***

**Winner** Freya Swinton

**Runner up** George Pullan

### ***Best pupil at Tower Hill school***

Roshini Mohan Babu

### ***Best pupil at Leafield school***

Ben Walentiny

### ***Young Musician of the Year 2022***

Raveen Phan Purba

2<sup>nd</sup> Charlotte Douglas, Eli Adenuga, Ethan Gould

3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Holdsworth, Martha Sherlock, Alasdair Jackson

Ascott Grapevine



Jemima Curtis



Ethan Gould



Sasha Gerry



Charlotte Douglas



Roshini Mohan Babu



Stanley Williams



Raveen Phan Purba



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# ***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](mailto:john@greenascott.co.uk)

#### **Trustees**

Elaine Byles [elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk)

Keith Ravenhill [keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net](mailto:keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net)

Stuart Fox [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com)

Mark Dawbarn [markdawbarn@outlook.com](mailto:markdawbarn@outlook.com)

Sandy Timms [se.timms@btinternet.com](mailto:se.timms@btinternet.com)

Eleanor Bishop [eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk)

Mark Abrey [rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk](mailto:rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk)



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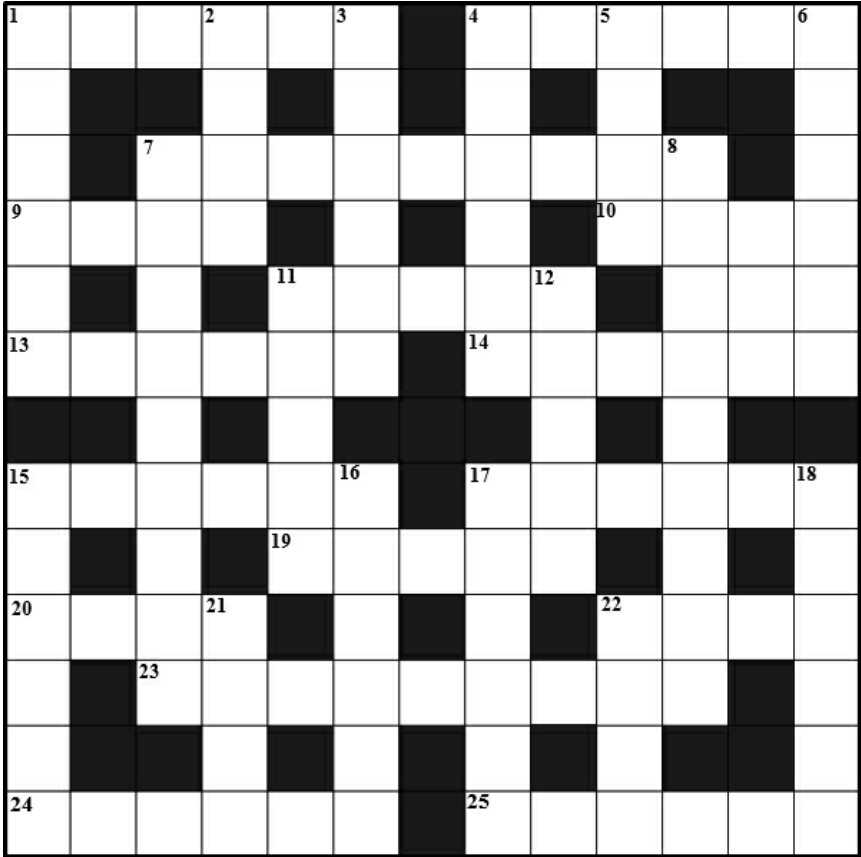
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# Crossword Puzzle





**Across**

- 1 Wrinkle (6)
- 4 Food (6)
- 7 Calumniated (9)
- 9 French cap (4)
- 10 Exploit (4)
- 11 Leading apostle (5)
- 13 Iraqi river (6)
- 14 Compliant (6)
- 15 High-ranking angel (6)
- 17 Crescent-shaped (6)
- 19 Spooky (5)
- 20 Facts given (4)
- 22 Sparkling wine (4)
- 23 Tetchy (9)
- 24 Old Testament book (6)
- 25 Guests (anag.) (6)

**Down**

- 1 Small patrol (6)
- 2 Hindu goddess (4)
- 3 Washes out (6)
- 4 Ranked (6)
- 5 Cook (4)
- 6 Steal cattle (6)
- 7 Pasta (9)
- 8 Coffee cup (9)
- 11 Resentful feeling (5)
- 12 Rascal (5)
- 15 Golfing assistant (6)
- 16 Creatures (6)
- 17 Quick; benefice (5)
- 18 Draw out (6)
- 21 Parched (4)
- 22 Charitable relief (4)

**Solutions to  
Crossword in  
Edition 114**

**Across**

- 1 Whacks
- 4 Paper
- 8 Rabid
- 9 Ailment
- 10 Lambeth
- 11 Inro
- 12 ABC
- 14 Knee
- 15 Hock
- 18 Era
- 21 Agog
- 23 Bequest
- 25 Clipped
- 26 Eliza
- 27 Nerve
- 28 Assent

**Down**

- 1 Warble
- 2 Albumen
- 3 Kedgeree
- 4 Pall
- 5 Paean
- 6 Ration
- 7 Dacha
- 13 Chequers
- 16 Crevice
- 17 Falcon
- 19 Abide
- 20 Stuart
- 22 Osier
- 24 Apse

# ***Local Business Directory***

<b>ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS</b> 01993830687 07989497253 www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk	Page 19
<b>ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP</b> 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk	Page 54
<b>COTSWOLD BEAUTY</b> 01993 832446/07917 341143 enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net www.cotswoldbeauty.net	Page 7
<b>COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK</b> 01993823006 www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk	Page 24
<b>DONALD BENNETT PEST CONTROL</b> 07795 170457 donaldbennettpestcontrol@gmail.com www.donaldbennettpestcontrol.biz	Page 11
<b>DONALD BENNETT GARDEN SERVICES</b> 07795 170457	Page 11
<b>ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS</b> 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk	Page 7
<b>FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND</b> 01993 878387 helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk	Page 49
<b>FARMHOUSE B&amp;B</b> 01993831900 sally@college-farm.com	Page 16
<b>FINGERS AND TOES</b> 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com www.fingersandtoes.info	Page 47
<b>FOLK CLUB</b> 01993831427 07870563299 wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com	Page 34
<b>GROVES SHOP</b> 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425 info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk	Page 59

**THE HAIR SALON AT THE PADDOCKS** Ladies' and Gentlemen's Hair dressing

The Paddocks, Shipton Road, Milton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6GF

Alison 07980645995; Joy 07867585053

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**INGRID RIDLEY B&B** 01993830612/07952657906

ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk

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**IVY'S FLORIST** 01993830268

Instagram@Ivy's Florist

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**JENNA SAUNDERS** 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com

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**JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS** 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020

info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com

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**LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING** 01993878357

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**LED Lighting Showroom** 01993 704 105 www.LEDOxford.co.uk

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**PHOEBE THE SWEEP** 07960627457 phoebe@phoebethesweep.co.uk

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**ROBERT GRIPPER** 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com

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**ROSENEATH** 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com

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**SIMPSON ARCHITECTURE** 07555 490460 www.simpsonarchitecture.co.uk

Email: info@simpsonarchitecture.co.uk

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**THE SWAN** 01993 832332 reservations@swanascott.com

www.countrycreatures.com

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**TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES** 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com

www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates

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# ***Events Calendar - 2022***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Pete Morton	Tiddy Hall
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	3 - 5pm	Church Teas	Holy Trinity Church
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman	Tiddy Hall
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Coffee Morning	Tiddy Hall
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Steve Tilston	Tiddy Hall
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Anthony John Clarke & Dave Pegg	Tiddy Hall
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Christmas Craft Fair	Tiddy Hall
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Hatful of Rain	Tiddy Hall
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer	Tiddy Hall