

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, 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 May 2023.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 832004 or email: stuart.john.fox@gmail.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 formats can be used.

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 56](#)), 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 and St Teresa, Charlbury

Priest: Fr Clive Dytor 07484158642

Mass at Charlbury 09:15

Services at the Chase Benefice 2022/3

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 st Sunday of the month | 10 am BCP Communion Service at Spelsbury |
| 2 nd Sunday of the month | 10 am CW Communion Service at Ascott |
| 3 rd Sunday of the month | 10 am CW Communion Service at Enstone |
| 4 th Sunday of the month | 8 am BCP Communion Service at Ascott |
| 4 th Sunday of the month | 10 am BCP Communion Service at Chadlington |

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

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

Towards a Greener Future

Like many businesses Ascott Village Shop is continually looking for ways to evolve and adapt to ensure it remains relevant and useful to the community it serves. This means trying new products and approaches, some of which may not work, others will hopefully prove popular and become a “standard” offering in the shop. One such experiment which seems to be working is the introduction of a range of refillable products.

When back in March a refillable products proposal was put to the committee there were concerns as to whether customers would be prepared to bring in their own containers, and also whether we’d actually sell more produce or just move existing sales to the refillable lines. But the decision was taken to invest a small amount of money in some dispensers and to see how it went on a fairly limited range of goods.

The good news is it has been a success. We’ve not just replaced sales of existing pre-packaged items but have sold a greater quantity of the items stocked and feedback has been positive, often suggesting additional items we should stock.

So based on this success we’ve expanded our range and are now selling:

- More varieties of rice, including white, brown and risotto
- Jumbo and standard porridge oats
- Luxury muesli
- Bread flour (strong white and Cotswold Crunch)
- Ecover washing up liquid
- Ecover detergent and fabric softener
- Ecolife general purpose surface cleaner
- Ecolife hand cleaner
- Faith in Nature shampoo and conditioner (various scents)
- Faith in Nature body wash (various scents)

All this is housed in our new refillables area (with some rather smart gravity dispensers) just inside the door of the shop. So come along, bring your containers (though we do have some for sale if needed), and take a small step to helping reduce climate change whilst also saving some money.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Harriet O’Brien for the original idea, Sandra Staples for developing the proposal and managing the trial and expansion, Jonathan Wells for assisting with the build and posters, Geoffry Taylor for some vital metal cutting and Bridgette Crundwell for sourcing the products.



Reduce, Reuse, Refill, Repeat

**Ascott Village Shop has EXTENDED
its range of refillables**

Now includes:

**Faith in Nature Shampoo, Conditioner & Body Wash,
Ecoleaf Hand Soap & Surface Cleaner**

Bring your own containers and buy just what you need.
(It's cheaper than the packaged equivalent)

**Help reduce plastic waste, save precious
finite resources and take a small step
towards reducing climate change.**

Heart of the Community

Ascott Village Shop

Having now entered into 2023 and with another year behind us, we thought it appropriate to provide you, our valued customers, with an update on what is happening in our Village Shop - Heart of the Community.

The year 2022 saw us turning a corner in that the shop was again back to being profitable. However, this profit comes with a small caveat in that it has been entirely driven by sales to the many trades people / builders who have been working in the village over the past 12 months. With several building projects soon to be completed we expect this incremental sales, and hence profit, to slide away. We are also not expecting the government's energy support to continue beyond March and hence eating further into our cash reserves. We are therefore even more than ever reliant upon our villagers supporting the shop. We appreciate that these are difficult times, yet we have many loyal customers, to whom we are thankful, but we would love for more of you to pop into the shop and support our continued existence.

Talking about difficult times, at the shop we have over the last many years been collecting products for the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank. We are very pleased, as is the Foodbank, with the significant increase in the in-shop purchased donations we have received over the past four months. All the products purchased in the shop, and donated to the Foodbank, go straight back into the North and West Oxfordshire communities, with several families in the Wychwoods receiving a fortnightly food parcel. Thank you!

We have been busy increasing our presence on social media. Those of you who are following the shop on Facebook will have noticed that we are now keeping you informed on new products as well as seasonal products in the shop. We also post meal ideas, should you have run out of ideas yourself or just need a last minute meal then pop in to the shop and we are confident you will find something to tie you over that evening. If you are on Facebook and do not already follow us, please do look us up and click Follow.

In January two new members joined the committee. Jon Wells and Sandra Staples have joined myself, Bridgette Crundwell, Jacque Bugeja, Stuart Fox and Merv Bates on the committee, and have come on board to help us identify and drive forward new projects. After seven plus years of hard work managing the weekday rota and ensuring the shop has been consistently staffed on weekdays, Gaynor Taylor has stepped down from her role as rota manager as has Nicky Coldstream, Gaynor's deputy over the last couple of years. We thank them both for their support and hard work over the years. We have been unable to find a new 'Gaynor' but we have found a new Deputy. The management of both the weekday and weekend rotas has been moved across to a new platform, the app(tly) named Deputy. We hope the app will stand up to the challenge of managing our volunteers' shifts.

Ascott Grapevine

On the subject of volunteers, we are still in great need of more volunteers. As of my writing this update, we have two permanent vacancies in the shop: Monday Midday Shift and the first Saturday of each month. If you would like your shop to continue to serve the community and can spare a few hours each week, please pop into the shop and leave your contact details with one of our volunteers.

Per Henriksen

Ascott Shop Committee



A great turnout for the Carols on the Green. Thank you all for a great Christmas gathering. £201.50 was collected and this has been sent to the North Oxon Food Bank

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www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk Venue: Burford School
www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-lenthall-concert-society

Farm ED

What's On at FarmED - Spring & Summer 2023

The FarmED Programme for 2023 includes a wide range of courses, workshops and events that inspire, educate and connect people to build sustainable farming and food systems that nourish people and regenerate the planet. All take place in our beautiful eco buildings at the heart of our demonstration farm in the Evenlode Valley. Delicious and nutritious refreshments are freshly prepared in the FarmED kitchen. *Further events will be added to the programme throughout the year.

Friday Farm Walk & Lunch - Most Fridays From February 3rd

Explore Honeydale Farm on an inspiring and informative guided farm walk, led by Founder, Ian Wilkinson or a member of the FarmED team. You'll visit the meadows, heritage orchard, kitchen garden, natural flood management, woodland and other areas and hear about all that's been going on at the farm. At the end of the walk there'll be a delicious and nutritious lunch freshly prepared in the FarmED kitchen.

Winter Trees Walk & Lunch - With Nick Patel - Monday, 13th February

Immerse yourself in the world of trees in winter. Join Nick Patel to learn how to identify tree and hedgerow plants and the wildlife that depend on them.

Wellbeing and Communication - Building a Thriving Agricultural Community - February 23rd

92% of farmers under 40 believe poor mental health is the biggest hidden problem they face. Learn how to spot the early signs of poor mental wellbeing and acquire the skills that will enable you to make a positive difference when it matters most.

Think Through Nutrition - Exploring Farming, Food, Nutrition and Brain Health - March 8th

The food we consume influences the health of our gut and our brains, and has a direct impact on how we think, feel and behave. The way we farm our land influences the nutritional value, taste and availability of our food. With guest speakers including Kimberley Wilson, author of *How to Build a Healthy Brain* and *Unprocessed* and host of the *Stronger Minds* podcast.

Foraging Farm Walk - March 25th

Would you like to uncover the edible and ecological secrets hiding in the hedgerows, trees and fields around you? Join us for a foraging walk, reconnect to nature and nibble on our abundant wild larder. This interactive, engaging and tasty foraging walk, guided by Justine Gens from Ma Roemca, will delve into the world of ecology and the environment.

Silent Earth: Averting the Insect Apocalypse: An Evening with Dave Goulson - March 30th

FarmED is delighted to welcome Dave Goulson for an eye-opening and thought-provoking evening. Dave will reveal to us the shocking and potentially catastrophic decline of insect populations in recent decades, as documented in his recently published *Silent Earth*. Dave will also present us with ways in which we can tackle this crisis, first by turning our gardens and urban green spaces into oases for life, and second by fundamentally changing the way in which we grow our food.

An Introduction to Care Farming - April 26th

Care farming is the use of farming practices to support individuals with education, health or social care outcomes through purposeful work, outdoor activities and social interactions.

Quick Drawings of Birds Workshop - May 12th

ArtWeeks at FarmED: Join local artist Jill Colchester to learn to draw birds quickly, in a matter of seconds.

Farm & Food Literature Festival - May 13th

Join us for the second Farm & Food Literature Festival, co-curated with Chelsea Green Publishing. A celebration of words, stories and experiences from the wonderful world of agroecology, regenerative farming and sustainable food.

Artist's Book Workshop - May 19th

ArtWeeks at FarmED: Join Ruth Shaw-Williams in this session as she teaches how to make a folded book from one sheet of paper.

Natural Paint Making Workshop - May 20th

ArtWeeks at FarmED: Join local artist Carol Harvey to learn how to make natural paints from soil and plants.

Tetra - pak carton drypoint etching workshop - May 22nd

ArtWeeks at FarmED: Join Judith Yarrow to create a wild flower drypoint etching, using recycled Tetra Pak cartons and a tabletop etching press.

Orchard Design - June 8th

Join Andy Howard from the Heritage Fruit Tree Co for a hands-on event to learn the basics of designing an orchard. Attendees will gain the knowledge, theory, skills and insight necessary to plan and plant an orchard whether as an individual or as a start up community orchard group.

Fruit Tree Maintenance - June 9th

Join Andy Howard from The Heritage Fruit Tree Co. for a theoretical and practical hands-on event. You'll learn all the essential tasks and when to do them to keep your orchard well maintained.

Summer Fruit Tree Pruning - June 7th

Join Andy Howard of the Heritage Fruit Tree Co. to learn the theory, skills and practice of Summer Fruit Tree Pruning in order to increase productivity.

Biodiversity Farm Walk & Lunch - July 21st

Explore the habitats at Honeydale Farm on a biodiversity themed farm walk, led by local ecologist, Katherine Holmes.

Please book through www.farm-ed.co.uk

Sign-up for our newsletter to keep up to date with what's on at FarmED

Follow us @RealFarmED



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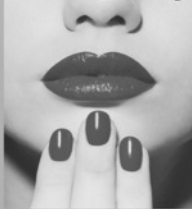
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Tiddy Hall Ramblings

Since the last edition of the Grapevine there have been a few changes to the trustees with Nick Carter standing down as a Trustee after many years of dedicated service to the hall and I along with the rest of the committee thank him for his efforts over the last few years. John Bugeja has taken over as chairmen from Simon Gidman who still remains a committee member (there's life in the old dog yet). Ingrid Ridley has also stepped down as the booking clerk but also remains on the committee. New members Howard Morris & Mark Pidgeon are now trustees with Howard taking over the treasurer role and Mark is now the Booking Clerk & Marketing Manager (who thought that one up?).

The hall has been steadily losing money each month due the massive rise in its running costs so unfortunately from the 1st January the hire rates have had to increase (not greatly, just enough to keep the hall afloat).

The stage lights use an awful lot of energy so we are going to be investing in a new LED lighting rig which only uses 5%-10% of the energy compared with the ones we currently have. To help us with the costs of installing these we are going to be holding some fund raising events over the course of this year and probably next. Wychwood Folk Club's patron Chris Leslie of Fairport Convention is going to play in July with all funds going to the hall (he's a very nice man) so if you've never been to a folk club event why not try this one (you may enjoy it) and you'll be contributing to keeping the hall afloat. Local Rock Gods 'Three Piece Sweet' will also be holding a fund-raising event in June which will include a BBQ, raffle etc so another event to look out for.

Also look out for future 'Flix in the Stix' among many other activities the hall is used for. If you fancy a go at Martial Arts then they have lessons every Monday evening, The Post Office is still there on Friday Afternoons. If you're new to the village and you have young children then we have an excellent pre-school situated right here in the hall Weddings, birthday parties, dances, fitness etc the hall can be used for all these and more. We have full fibre broadband and can also offer PA hire.

Check out our website www.tiddyhall.com for further information.

WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



Tiddy Hall, Shipton Rd, Ascott -u- Wychwood, OX7 6AG

Sat March 4th Steve Knightley

Tickets £20.00 in advance £22.00 on the door

In a brand new one man show Steve will perform material that surfaced over two years of isolation & inactivity. Songs such as the 'Bristol Slaver' & 'You'll Get By' were refreshed by headlines & current affairs whilst classic covers such as 'Forever Young' & 'The Boys of Summer' struck a chord with the thousands that tuned in to his hours of online content. Insights, anecdotes and a bunch of new songs will attempt to chronicle and draw a line under an extra episode in all our lives.

Sat April 8th Mike Silver + support by *Same Auld Story*

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

If you've also not come across Mike before, you will be able to savour his restrained yet effortless, honest vocal delivery. The guitar work weaves a web around his voice bringing the two elements together as one and the same. You will find humour, one or two good tales and maybe a couple of tall ones too!

Sat April 22nd Track Dogs

Tickets £15.00 in advance £17.00 on the door

"Sun-shiny songs thriving on dark themes behind irresistible rhythms."

Comprised of 2 Irishmen, 1 Englishman and 1 American the band came together in 2011 to make their unique brand of acoustic music; a veritable 4x4 of voices and instruments identified for their dynamic fusion of styles including Folk, latin, Americana & even some Bluegrass.

Sat May 6th The Radio Ballads (In the footsteps of Ewan MacColl) featuring Jez Lowe, Bob Fox & Julie Matthews

Tickets £16.00 in advance £18.00 on the door

Almost half a century after the original radio ballads, a new set of Radio Ballads were commissioned by BBC Radio 2 using the same format but this time involving a whole team of stellar musicians, singers and songwriters from the folk/acoustic/roots music scene under the guiding hands and watchful eyes of producer John Leonard and musical director John Tams.

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

Ascott Pre-school

A busy end to the year at Ascott Pre-school

The Christmas show

This Christmas it was wonderful for parents, grandparents, and carers to be able to come together to see the annual Ascott Pre-school Christmas show – The Night Before Christmas. It was the first 'live' performance in three years, and particularly special for that reason.

Staff update

The staff body at pre-school has always been one of our most treasured assets. Over the past year we have said goodbye to two members of staff, Nicky Davies and Sally Pitcher. We wish them well in their lives and adventures post-pre school and convey our thanks once again for all that they have contributed to pre-school. We're also pleased to welcome Millie and Daisy into our team, who have already built some great relationships with the pre-school children.

Fundraising

Our community of parents and carers also play a huge role in working behind the scenes to run extra events and fund raise to supplement our income. Our dedicated committee – headed up by Caroline and Tamsyn – set a new fundraising record last year which was much needed after a two-year hiatus thanks to COVID. Our thanks also go to all in the Wychwood community, Parish Councils, and those further afield who made donations to our 'fence fund' and supported various events.

Ending 2022 on a high

2022 year certainly ended on a high. We had an Ofsted visit in November which resulted in an OUTSTANDING rating – a first for pre-school but so well deserved by the staff and children. The report describes pre-school as “a magical place full of exciting learning experiences” and states that “children thrive here and make exceptional progress in their learning and development”. What a wonderful asset we have on our doorstep, which embodies something of the Wychwood community spirit and continues to provide such valuable care and memorable experiences for our young children.

Find out more about Ascott Pre-school for children aged 2.5–4 years

Pre-school 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 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).

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Oxfordshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said ‘There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Oxfordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you’.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

john@walkinginengland.co.uk



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I cannot tell a lie

One day George Washington said to his father
I cannot tell a lie
I felled the fruit tree in the orchard
When it fell an apple flew off
And almost hit old Newton passing by
Which caused him to contemplate the laws of gravity
Many, many years later Donald Trump came by
That much maligned, put-upon poor guy
Persecuted and misunderstood
More sinned against than sinned
That poor innocent guy could never tell a lie
If you don't agree with his point of view
He will send his thugs around
To make sure that you do

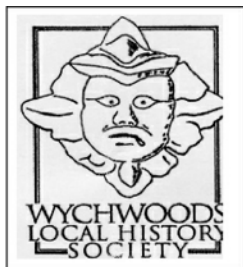
Fred Russell

O! Generation of Vipers

(Matthew chapter 3 verse 7)

Johnson, Trump and Putin
Decided to call a grand meeting
It was their desire
To find the world's biggest liar
And stop bigger liars competing
It soon ended in total confusion
It never did reach a conclusion
But all three did agree
It was second nature to lie
For what is truth, but a poor fool's illusion

Fred Russell



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
History of Windrush Stone Quarries |

Enquiries to Roger Watts mail@wychwoodshistory.uk

Website: wychwoodshistory.uk

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Cotswold Line Promotion Group (CLPG)

The Cotswold Line Promotion Group (CLPG) is delighted to announce that its first charter train since 2019 will take passengers from stations along the line to Taunton, Exeter and Torbay.

A nine-car Great Western Railway (GWR) InterCity Express Train (IET) will make the trip to the South West on Saturday, April 22, starting from Oxford and heading to Worcester, before running to Somerset and Devon.

On the return journey, the train will be routed from Taunton to Oxford and will then drop off passengers at stations towards Worcester.

Members of the CLPG, which represents passengers on the line, were given priority to book reserved seats on the train, but non-members are now welcome to make bookings as well.

CLPG chairman John Ellis said: "We know how much our members and people living along the line enjoy being able to catch a direct train to a special destination. We are looking forward to seeing friends old and new. I would like to thank GWR for making an IET available for the day."

While final timings are subject to confirmation, the train is due to leave Oxford at 06.00, the picking up passengers at Hanborough, Charlbury, Kingham, Moreton-in-Marsh, Honeybourne, Evesham, Pershore, Worcestershire Parkway and Worcester Shrub Hill, where it will depart at 07.36, then call to drop off passengers at Taunton and Exeter St David's. It is due to reach Paignton at 10.41.

The return journey will leave Paignton at 15.54, calling to pick up passengers at Exeter St David's and Taunton, before reaching Oxford at 18.53 and then stopping at Cotswold Line stations before terminating at Worcester Shrub Hill at 20.22.

Standard class tickets are £55 for adults (£45 for CLPG members) and £30 for children aged 5 to 16 (£25 for members' children). Children aged under five can travel free of charge. All first class tickets have been sold. Payment can be made by cheque or using online banking.

Full details of the train and a booking form can be downloaded from the CLPG's new website at <https://clpg.online> – any enquiries should be made to Chris Bates at chrisbates@btinternet.com or call (before 7.30pm) 07803 902030.

Completed booking forms should be returned to: Cotswold Line Promotion Group, Birch Rise, Swan Lane, Great Bourton, Banbury, OX17 1QR. All applications must include a stamped self-addressed envelope, which will be used to send out tickets.



**COTSWOLD LINE
PROMOTION GROUP**

In association with and with thanks to GWR

**Presents
An Excursion Train to**

Torquay & Paignton

CALLING at :Taunton & Exeter

Amended route & updated

**COTSWOLD
Torbay
EXPRESS**

**Saturday
22nd April
2023**



This year, the Cotswold Line Promotion Group is once again organising a special seaside excursion train with Great Western Railway. Our Hitachi 9 car IET will start at Oxford and cover the whole Cotswold Line to Worcester Shrub Hill. It will then proceed to Paignton (*approx 5hr break*) via Cheltenham and Bristol. The return journey is now via Swindon to Oxford then on to Worcester Shrub Hill.

Through bookings available from:

Approximate times - at the time of going to press, timings will be confirmed with your tickets.

OXFORD 0600 / 1853, HANBOROUGH 0610 / 1907, CHARLBURY 0618 / 1914, KINGHAM 0627 / 1924

MORETON IN MARSH 0636 / 1932, HONEYBOURNE 0648 / 1944, EVESHAM 0655 / 1952,

PERSHORE 0703 / 1959, WORCESTER PW 0710 / 2006, WORCESTER SH 0736 / 2022.

(Taunton arr 0921 dep 1707, Exeter St Davids arr 0953 dep 1646, Paignton arr 1041 dep 1554.)

Fares and How to Book - Please complete and return the booking form below on which the fares are shown. As the prices are set as low as possible, **NO** reductions are available for holders of Railcards.

CLPG MEMBERS DISCOUNT.

Individual, Senior and Corporate members of the CLPG qualify for up to **TWO** discount tickets. Family memberships qualify for a maximum of **FOUR** adult discount tickets. Any additional passengers who are accompanying members must pay the appropriate full fare.

BOOKING FORM.

Please reserve for me the following seat(s) on the **Cotswold ~ Torbay Express** train on **22nd April 2023**.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Telephone number

Joining train at

Email

STANDARD CLASS:

..... CLPG adult members @ £45 each	£.....
..... Other adults @ £55 each *	£.....
..... Children members 5-16 @ £25 each	£.....
..... Other Children 5-16 @ £30 each	£.....
..... Children under 5 requiring a seat	£.FREE.

* Includes one year's free CLPG membership

***Internet payments available see
overleaf *****

Total remittance enclosed £.....

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Please book early as accommodation will be limited to around 576 Standard Class and 71 First Class seats. The booking conditions are set out below. Priority will be given to bookings received from CLPG members until January 31st 2023

SEATING.

All seats will be reserved. First Class seats in the nine coach IEP are arranged in a mixture of two and four around tables and single seats. Standard Class seating is largely airline style, with a few tables. Priority for table seats will be given to groups of three or four.

There is accommodation for wheelchair disabled passengers in First Class. Please confirm disabled availability **BEFORE booking by telephoning, or sending an email to, one of the contacts below**

CHILDREN.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reduced rates for children (aged 5 to 16 years, inclusive) apply to Standard Class only. Children under 5 travel free in Standard Class but the CLPG would like to know the numbers involved, so that seating can be allocated appropriately.

ANIMALS.

In view of the length of the journey, we regret that animals, with the exception of assistance dogs for registered disabled people, cannot be allowed on the train.

CATERING.

GWR plans to provide an at seat trolley service from which a range of light refreshments can be purchased.

Details of catering will be included with your tickets

ON BOARD SERVICE.

CLPG stewards will be on board. There will be a raffle.

BOOKING CONDITIONS.

1. All seats on the train must be booked and paid for in advance.
2. Every effort will be made to run the train and provide facilities as advertised. The Cotswold Line Promotion Group (the organisers) cannot accept any liability for any alteration, delay, curtailment or cancellation of the train, or failure to provide an advertised facility, if this is outside their control.
3. If the train is cancelled by the organisers, a full refund of money paid for the tickets will be given. No liability for any consequential loss can be accepted.
4. In the event of a request to cancel a booking more than one week before the running of the train, the organisers will consider a repayment, subject to a 10% administration charge. Requests for refunds made within a week of the date of the train will be refused unless the ticket(s) can be resold to other passenger(s). If granted, such refunds will be subject to a 20% administration charge.
5. The purchase of ticket(s) constitutes an acceptance of these Booking Conditions.

**** Payment via Internet Banking accepted to Santander, Sort Code 09-01-55, account number 82585708, Account name: Cotswold Line Promotion Group, with surname of booker & "train" in the payment reference field along with booking form completed, scanned & emailed to me (email address below) - or booking form & cheque sent to the address below.**

Cheques should be made payable to the **Cotswold Line Promotion Group.**

Bookings should be sent to:

Chris Bates
Cotswold Line Promotion Group Charter Bookings
Birch Rise
Swan Lane
Great Bourton
Banbury
OX17 1QR

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (new-style barcoded stamp) for your tickets and information leaflet. It is expected that tickets and confirmed timings will be sent between 1 and 2 weeks before the date of the trip.

If you require an acknowledgement of your booking, please enclose a second stamped addressed envelope or provide an email address below

.....

Telephone enquiries can be made to Chris Bates 07803 902030 / chrisbates@btinternet.com. The booking situation will be regularly updated on website www.clpg.online (NEW URL/address & website!).



GWR IET 800320 is pictured on the Devon coast at Dawlish on May 26, 2022. Picture: Steve Widdowson

POST OFFICE

TIDDY HALL

EVERY FRIDAY 2 PM TO 4 PM

Ascott Martyrs 150 June 2023

This year sees the 150th anniversary of the ‘Chipping Norton Incident’ that made ‘martyrs’ of 16 women from Ascott sent to prison for supporting agricultural workers in the village who were striking for a living wage. Today these women and their story is commemorated by the chestnut tree on the village green planted to mark the 100th anniversary. Their names are displayed and their story told, on the seats that surround it.

Although not expunged from the history books, the story of the Martyrs is rarely referred to or widely known. After decades of research Beverley McCombs, a New Zealander whose Pratley ancestors hailed from Ascott, published her book *The Ascott Martyrs* in 2016. Copies of the book are available from the village shop. This helped to stir renewed interest in the story which was then taken up and promoted by the Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust, formed in 2018 and tasked with making the story known to a wider audience.

To mark the 150th anniversary of the ‘Chipping Norton Incident’, the Trust is planning a variety of activities. Exhibitions in local libraries, and a programme of talks will bring the story to the attention of people across Oxfordshire. Ascott will be the focus for events taking place over the weekends that fall either side of the 20th June, the date in 1873 on which the village celebrated the safe return of the Martyrs and two babies from Oxford Gaol, and saw each of the women presented with £5 (the equivalent of several months’ wages) collected by the Agricultural Labourer’s Union by public subscription.

A full programme is available on the Trust’s website, but high-lights will include a family/local history afternoon (with tea, cake, conversation and lots of pictures) in Tiddy Hall on Saturday, 17th June; a words and music event with Three Acres and a Cow, with contributions by local musicians, on the evening of Saturday 24th

June. A cricket match on Sunday 25th June will see the Martyrs pitted against the Establishment(!), together with teas and trails for those who would like to explore the Martyrs’ story and the village, or learn more about the contemporary hanging in the Church that celebrates the Martyrs and the community in which they lived.

To discover more of the Martyrs’ story and about life in Ascott in 1873, follow us on Facebook where regular posts will introduce you to the many aspects of this amazing story and the people who played a key part in it. Check out the website ascottmartyrs.co.uk to learn more about the Martyrs and follow their story as it gradually unfolds via our blog.

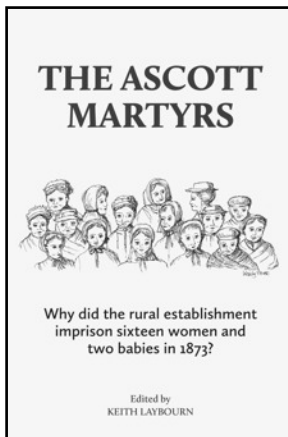
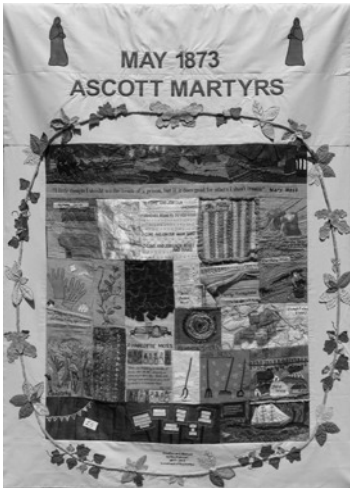
To mark the anniversary former Chair of the Trust, Paul Jackson, is publishing a collection of essays by academics and local historians, under the title *'The Ascott Martyrs – Why did the rural establishment imprison 16 women and two babies in 1873?'*. The book explores aspects of the Chipping Norton Incident in the wider context of later 19th century politics and society. The close relationship between the new Agricultural Labourers Union and the Nonconformist Church is highlighted and the impact of emigration explored. The book also draws heavily upon the extensive local and national newspaper coverage the event received and the discussions it provoked in the House of Commons. Copies of the book are available on Amazon from 8 March or from Jaffe & Neale in Chipping Norton at £14.99. Proceeds will go towards maintaining the memory of the Martyrs and their story.

Carol Anderson

Chair Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust

Email: ascottmartyrsinfo@gmail.com

www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk



We only have image of one of the Martyrs Rebecca Smith, seen as one of the ringleaders, she was sentenced to 10 days with hard labour

Cost of Living Crisis



A belated ‘happy’ new year to everyone who contributes to this great community of ours here in Ascott. Of course, ‘happiness’ is something people have sought since time began through wealth, power, success, travel, love & passion, security adventure, beauty – indeed every aspect of life. However, all that energy and experience has proved there are no easy answers, no magic formulas.

Here in Ascott, happiness is relative. Through no fault of their own, we will know friends and neighbours who are experiencing difficulties. Sometimes a kind word does the trick, sometimes something more substantial and practical is needed.

With the cold snaps we all experienced in December and January, a warm home & hot, nourishing food are an essential part of the survival basics as we wait for spring to kick in.

Many of us will be fortunate to have back-up cash reserves to pay for the unexpected. However, that doesn’t apply to everyone. This is where the Village Charity, can make a difference.

We started our Cost of Living appeal in September when we heard that heating bills were expected to double. Together with the unexpected rapid rise of food prices, it meant several people here in Ascott were going to struggle. Indicators such as extra donations to the Food Bank box in the village shop and subsequent delivery of free food within the community has brought this directly to the attention of the Charity Trustees.

We have since written a second letter to the community informing everyone that the Charity is here to help. Thanks to the generosity from all parts of the village, we now have more than £6,000 to assist a specific number of struggling households with a one-off, top-up grant. It will not solve all the difficulties people may be experiencing but it will go some way to alleviate the ‘pain’. Just as important, it shows that as a community, ‘we care’.

If you are facing increased heating or food bills which is causing real hardship and you have little or no means to meet the costs, please contact Trustees Mark Dawbarn or sandy Timms in confidence; markdawbarn@outlook.com (Tel: 01993 831632) setimms123@gmail.com (Tel: 01993 831870) who will guide you through a simple application process.

Ascott Grapevine

In addition to support from the Village Charity, WODC have published a ***Cost of Living Support*** guide (available in the village shop) as well as an initiative; ***Wychwood Winter Support*** brought to the area by several community groups and in co-ordination with Ascott, Milton & Shipton parish Councils wychwoodlife.org or The Wychwood Post on Facebook.

It's not too late to donate.

If you would like to contribute, you can contact me; john@greenascott.co.uk or if you prefer 07831 852846 and I will send a gift aid form and details for either a one off payment or a regular donation by standing order.

Whether it's a cash donation or alerting the Charity to someone in need, we can all make significant contributions in building happier communities by seeking always to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem!

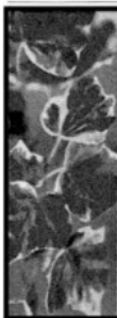
On behalf of the Charity Trustees – THANK YOU.

John Cull

The Village Charity

Registered Number: 1099078

Trustees: John Cull (Chairman), The Rev'd Mark Abrey, Eleanor Bishop, Elaine Byles, Mark Dawbarn (Secretary), Stuart Fox (Treasurer), Keith Ravenhill, Sandy Timms.



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The 210 Bus Service

* 210 SERVICE LINKING THE WYCHWOODS, LEAFIELD AND CRAWLEY WITH WITNEY

Timetable operated by West Oxfordshire Community Transport Limited (01993) 630124

Effective from Monday 27th June 2022.

Wychwoods to Witney, Monday-Friday (except public holidays)

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*	-	-

Witney to Wychwoods, Monday - Friday (except public holidays)

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

The Villager Bus Service

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Evenlode - Witney

via Lower Oddington, Upper Oddington, Bledington, Lyneham,
Shipton-under-Wychwood, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Leafield, Crawley, South Leigh

v23

Thursdays only

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

The Villager is proudly sponsored by...



Chipping Norton, Shipton Road

Local Elections on 4 May

West Oxfordshire District residents will need photo ID to vote.

For the first time, residents in West Oxfordshire District will need to show photographic ID to vote in person at this year's local elections which are being held on 4 May.

Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo and the name on the ID should be the same name as appears on the Electoral Register.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate> or by completing a paper form which is available from the Council.

More information is available on the West Oxfordshire District Council website, including details of how to apply for the free ID. Anyone not able to visit the Council website, or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online, is being encouraged to contact the Council as soon as possible and no later than the 5pm deadline on Wednesday 25 April.

Giles Hughes, Returning Officer for West Oxfordshire District Council, said:

“Anyone voting at a polling station in England this May will need to show photo Identification to staff before they can be given their ballot paper(s). It's important that everyone understands what types of ID they can use, and how to apply for free ID if they need it.

“With elections taking place in various areas in West Oxfordshire on 4 May 2023, it is important that those who want to vote make sure they are registered to vote and have an accepted form of ID. It may seem early but checking now means you will be ready to vote in May.

“Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID either online or by completing a paper application form which is available at our Woodgreen office or by calling us at 01993 861410. If you need any help with applying for the free ID, or want to request an application form, contact our electoral services team on 01993 861410.”

Ascott Grapevine

Anyone who wants to have their say in the elections this May must also be registered to vote. If you aren't already registered it only takes five minutes to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote.

The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

The changes do not affect postal votes but do affect proxy voters who will be required to show their own valid ID when voting on behalf of someone else.

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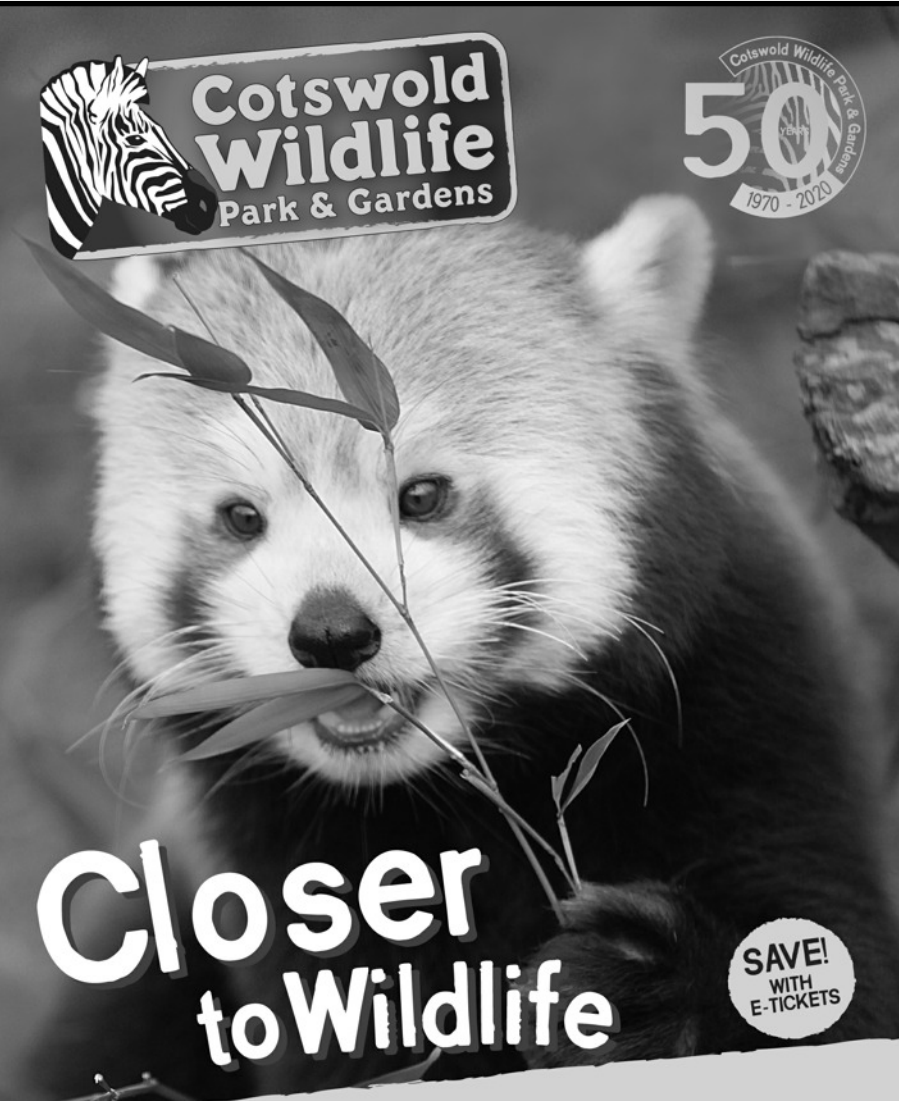
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Nature Note

Did you take part in RSPB's annual Big Garden Bird Watch? Were you pleased with the number of birds seen and the range of different species present? If not, what can you do to encourage more birds to visit your garden and help them survive the winter, when food is scarce and weather conditions are harsh? Why not consider setting-up a feeding station? Birds have a number of basic requirements. They need food, water, protection from predators and possibly somewhere nearby to roost and nest. All of these needs can be catered for in an average garden. For your feeder station to be as effective as possible, it is important to choose appropriate foods, present them in the right way and make sure that your visitors are well protected. You might also consider putting up a nest box or two and if you have the space consider cultivating trees that will provide autumn berries and nesting opportunities.



Collard Doves and Chaffinches normally feed on the ground scavenging seeds that have fallen. Greenfinches, Goldfinches, and Bullfinches harvest seeds from Docks and Thistles and also from catkins. The natural food of Tits, Warblers, Wrens, Treecreepers and Woodpeckers are insects and Spiders whereas Blackbirds and Thrushes are fruit eaters, although they also take worms, slugs and insects. Some birds, like Starlings, will eat almost anything and like Wood Pigeons can become a nuisance chasing off smaller birds and taking all the food. Birds will be attracted to feeding stations because they offer food in concentrated doses and require little expenditure of energy. Birds will often take food which is not part of their natural diet, for example Tits feeding on peanuts. To attract a many species you need to supply a range of food and offer a variety of feeding areas.

A wide variety of foods are available including wild bird food mixtures, although these often contain Wheat and Barley grains, which are only suitable for ground feeders such as

Pigeons and Pheasants. They may also be bulked-up with split peas, beans, dried rice and lentils, which are not suitable for smaller birds. If possible, it's best to buy individual varieties of seeds etc. Here are a few suggestions for suitable foods:



Black Sunflower seeds or Sunflower hearts- Highly nutritious, an excellent all year-round food and will attract a wide variety of birds.

Niger (Nyjer) seeds-These small black seeds will attract Goldfinches, Greenfinches, Sparrows and Nuthatches.

Peanuts- The most used food. Crushed or grated nuts attract Robins, Dunnocks and even Wrens. Whole peanuts in hanging mesh bags will be visited by many birds, especially Blue & Great Tits. A word of warning, never put out loose whole peanuts during spring or summer as these pose a choking hazard if fed to chicks.

Coconuts-Feed fresh coconut only, by hanging-up half shells. Never feed desiccated coconut and keep an eye on the shells removing them if they show any sign of black mildew.

Fat Balls- Are excellent winter food. They can be purchased ready-made or you can make your own with melted fat (suet or lard) mixed with seeds, nuts, dried fruit and cheese. The melted fat can fill suitable containers, such as empty coconut shell and left in the fridge to set. Don't use fat balls in the summer as the warm weather can quickly turn the fat rancid.

Live Food-The most widely available live food is Mealworms which will be enjoyed by a wide variety of birds, but especially Robins, Blue Tits, Pied Wagtails and other insect-eating birds. They are usually used dry, but can be soaked in warm water making it easier for young birds to digest. Specialist suppliers may also sell ant pupae and waxworms plus insectivorous food mixes.

Just as you might choose a range of different foods in order to attract a wide range of bird species, so too you need to offer a variety of bird feeders. A simple tray will serve to attract ground feeders and a bird table will be widely used by many different species. It is useful if the bird table has a canopy to keep the food dry. Tube feeders are ideal to contain fine



seed and will be well used by many Finches and Tits. Suet and fat balls can be contained in ready-made feeders or mesh bags or simply hung from a line or tree. Whole Peanuts can be contained in nylon mesh bags hung from a tree and will attract Tits and even Woodpeckers and Jays. Whatever feeders you use hygiene is vitally important. All feeders should be cleaned regularly and stale food discarded. Because you are potentially attracting a large number of birds to a small area any disease will be easily and quickly spread. Also, stale food may cause salmonella infections.

Make sure that there is always a supply of clean, fresh water nearby.

Ascott Grapevine

Remember, during the winter months birds visiting your feeding station will become dependent on you and once you have started feeding you should continue and not suddenly stop!

Pests and problems

Keep the feeding area clear of discarded food as this may encourage unwanted vermin. Squirrels can be troublesome so it may be necessary to use feeders that contain anti-squirrel arrangements, but

you will find it difficult keeping squirrels off of bird tables. A concentration of birds may well attract a Kestrel or a Sparrow Hawk. Whilst it may be distressing to see a small bird snatched remember that bird of prey has to get its meal somewhere, that's nature in action. Finally, cats will be attracted to your feeding area, but apart from keeping a watchful eye you have to rely on the birds disbursing when a cat is about.



Two diseases have had a major effect on songbirds. Trichomoniasis (Canker) has severely reduced populations of Greenfinches and Chaffinches and other song-birds. Avian Flu, once a winter problem brought to our shores by migrating birds is now endemic and all birds, large and small, can succumb. It's no longer just a problem for poultry farmers and breeders of our Christmas Turkeys.

I hope that I haven't put you off feeding the local birds. It doesn't have to be too complicated, one tube feeder filled with suitable seeds will be a life saver during the winter months and offer you the prospect of seeing many bird species that would otherwise go unnoticed.

Stuart Fox

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Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Diverse, personal collection of WW2 art to go on display at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

- **The Art of World War II: A Personal Collection will go on show from 25 February to 7 May 2023**
- **Featuring original artwork produced during, and depicting, the Second World War**
- **A diverse range of styles and subjects, from well known and lesser-known artists**
- **Exhibition to tour following first show at SOFO Museum**

An exhibition of diverse, original artwork, all produced during, and depicting scenes from the Second World War, will go on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, from 25th February to 7th May 2023.

The exhibition first went on display at the museum in March 2020, but was open for less than a week before national lockdowns were put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic - meaning many will now get the opportunity to see these historic pieces for the first time.

The Art of World War II exhibition has been curated from John Noott's personal collection of artwork, gathered together during his career as an art collector and dealer for over 40 years. Drawn together, the art forms a history in pictures of the Second World War while showcasing incredibly personal perspectives which reflect a varied range of experiences before, during, and after the conflict. Through the work of artists of the time, visitors will see the war unfold 'as it happened'.

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to see a view of Dunkirk as troops are evacuated, painted by a nephew of Winston Churchill, John Spencer Churchill, a reflection of what he had witnessed during his own army service. The artist would return to England to inform his uncle personally of the need for boats to assist in rescuing the troops there.

Elsewhere, the plight of both evacuees and refugees is seen as artists of the time depict the many people displaced by war, such as those coming to Britain as part of the *Kindertransport* rescue programme in the build up to the Second World War.

The artists whose work is included in the collection range from skilled amateurs to professionals, from those already renowned at the time to those who would go

on to make a name for themselves in a post-war world. A sketch by Eduardo Paolozzi, better known as a pioneering pop-artist, contrasts newly arrived American troops with a typical Oxford scene of a student cycling through the city with the famous skyline as a backdrop. The artist faced discrimination and later internment under the Enemy Aliens Act, along with many of his family, when they moved to Britain from Italy.

The exhibition also features art from *Vogue* fashion illustrators forced to flee Paris, and *Beano* cartoonists that turned their hand to cartography to aid General Montgomery in North Africa.

Collector John Noott also knows how wide-reaching the impact of the war was on a personal level, having grown up in wartime Britain. He was seven years old in 1939, and remembers clearly many nights in air raid shelters and his father's service with the Local Defence Volunteers after work (later to become the Home Guard, or 'Dad's Army'). These lived experiences inspired him to gather the collection throughout his own career. Following this first exhibition since the pandemic, John will make the collection available to hire for exhibition at museums and venues around the country as we approach the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is open from Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 2pm-5pm. The county's own military history museum is located in the gardens of the Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, on the doorstep of Blenheim palace.



Letters from Home by James Walker Tucker



A Fond Farewell by Pearl Falconer



VE Night Ruskin Spear



The Senior Warden Shearer Armstrong



Did People Used to Come Here for Fun Carl Erickson



Kindertransport by Bernard Scott



Luftwaffe Attack on Anzio Villas Roladn Davies



Preparations for War Vivian Buley

FUN ON THE FARM

GUNFIGHT AT HONEYDALE CORRAL

Once upon a time, not so long ago, I was happily cultivating a field at Honeydale Farm. The work was doing well that evening when a scud of fine drizzle came across; then I suddenly stopped the tractor and gazed in amazement. Some distance away through the drizzle and the dust stuck on the side window of the tractor cab, I could see a very strange animal trotting down the field. I thought it didn't look quite like a bear more like a wild boar. Perhaps it had escaped from a local zoo. Perhaps someone would come looking for it. I was partly right. About ten minutes later a man came across the field. I knew him, it was Gordon Smith. 'Hey Jim,' he said "Have you seen a wild boar?"

Unbeknown to us he was fattening some wild boar in the disused pig pens across the main road where the poultry sheds now are. One had escaped through the doorway while he was feeding them. We looked round the buildings but saw no sign of him. "Put some cattle cake in a shed," he said. "Then shut him in when he is eating it and we shall be able to catch him." So I tried that. Did not good. Well I never thought it would.

In a day or two the boar became adopted by our eighteen young cattle. They stayed in the field grazing through the daytime, then I called them in for a bucketful of cake in the evening and they stayed in at night. The wild boar stayed with them. I don't know how much grass he grazed but he certainly ate his share of cattle cake. We called him The Lodger. He didn't seem to grow much but that was not our problem.

A couple of months later and it was into autumn, the grass was less nutritious so I had the big cattle in for two bales of hay and a bucket of cake in the mornings. They had it in a round feeder in another yard. The Lodger soon sniffed it out and he was also soon jumping up into the middle of the round feeder having first go at the cake, before the cattle could get to it. In a week or two he had decided that he was king of that castle, he became greedy and belligerent. I didn't begrudge him a bit of cake but when he started snapping at the noses of the cattle to stop them having their share that was a pig with a different snout altogether. Their soft noses were no match for his rapidly growing tusks. "We shall have to have something done." I told Smithy. To give Smithy his due he was no slouch when it came to delivering a plan of action. He would get the Chippy Vets to come down and he would get the use of a pie van to transport the Lodger back over the road. This would be nothing new for the vets. They routinely treated the wild animals at the Wild Life Park.

The designated day came. Steve Cannon the vet arrived with a rifle and dart." I need to use the right amount of anaesthetic in the charge." he said "How much

Ascott Grapevine

does he weigh?" "About fifty kilos," I told him "but put plenty in." Then Smithy arrived with the pie van and we were ready for action to commence.

I spread a bucket of cake along the manger, Steve Cannon crouched down behind the manger in a sniper's position, then I gave the cattle a shout, "Come on you litt'luns," and rattled the cake bucket and they all came charging in including the Lodger. The Lodger immediately smelt a rat or a vet to be precise. The gun banged, the Lodger took off round the yard at a rate of knots; the dart bounced off his shoulder and flew over the wall of the yard. The Lodger then did a wobble. "I've got him," shouted Steve. Our cries of dismay, "Oh dear, what a pity," and more meaningful exclamations, changed to joy. Oh good, hooray and such like. The Lodger tottered on and then keeled over in the only large mucky puddle in the yard. Steve led the way with a sack to carry him on but his foot got stuck, he overbalanced and he also went down in the mucky puddle. To his eternal credit the language stayed clean. The cattle by now had finished their cake and were eager to escape before it was their turn, so I opened the gate and let them out.

Things were pretty straightforward after that. The Lodger was soon loaded up. Smithy drove off with the Lodger in the van. Steve followed on with the antidote vaccine to bring him round again and we were back to normal.

A week or so later Smithy brought us a very nice joint of wild boar meat. We feasted like kings. It was delicious. So all ended well but I did just wonder how thoroughly that pie van was cleaned after the event. We shall never know!

Jim Pearse

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Opportunity to join the Village Charity



The 'new' Village Charity will be celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. That's some milestone!

Previously, the Charity was a partnership between the village and the Church dating all the way back to the Middle Ages. It was referred to as the Poor's charity and was there to help parishioners who had hit hard times whether illness, housing, education or as we are experiencing today, to alleviate heating and food poverty.

Today, the Village Charity supports the community in line with its constitution which provides financial help for individuals and groups within Ascott. Every application is assessed by the Trustees and on the basis that it meets our criteria, speedy decisions are made to award grants which can make a significant difference to getting a project off the ground or helping an individual with a specific need.

Since 2003 the Charity has contributed funds to support (amongst others) village shop set-up, Church bell and trees, playgroup, playground equipment, cricket club, books for students, flood fund, bulb planting on verges as well as many individuals requiring speedy financial support.

As Trustees, we meet every quarter to discuss applications for funding as well as ensuring we maintain a strong financial position. Trustees commit to three years of service to the Charity and then decide whether to extend their service when the time comes.

This is where you come in!

With some of our Trustees coming to the end of many years of dedicated service, we now have opportunities to join the charity as a new Trustee. It is a wonderful opportunity to play your part for the community and help others at the time they need it.

If you are interested and would like to know more about becoming a Trustee please call me, in confidence, 078831 852846 or email john@greenascott.co.uk

John Cull

The Village Charity

Registered Number: 1099078

Trustees: John Cull (Chairman), The Revd Mark Abrey, Eleanor Bishop, Elaine Byles, Mark Dawbarn (Secretary), Stuart Fox (Treasurer), Keith Ravenhill, Sandy Timms.

Parish Council News Spring 2023

January has been a busy time for everyone as we look to the year ahead and your Parish Council is no exception. We have forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III, the 150th Anniversary of the Ascott Martyrs organized by AMET, and of course the many regular and irregular duties in the village.

Planning

As every resident should now be aware, the year has begun with the prospect of a new development of 41 houses on the Crown Farm land behind the Green, Church View and Heritage Lane. In addition to being the largest single development in the history of the village, this if granted would open the doorway to further developing the land to the West behind Maple Way and Dawls Close, and to the South all the way to the Charlbury Road.

Judging from the responses we have received to date the village shares in our concerns over the suitability and scale of such a development and its likely impact on our fragile infrastructure. The trigger for this is reportedly the current suspension of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan, following a challenge made in Burford over the available land supply.

The Local Plan affords the village a level of protection against unsustainable development, but even when that is not in effect there are still strong arguments that can be made on the basis of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the fact that the village lies within the Cotswolds AONB. These are, however, somewhat uncharted waters and it does make matters considerably more complicated when setting out our case.

As I write we are expecting a statement from WODC to clarify where this stands, and for the developers to submit their application, which in turn will determine how we respond, but one thing is for sure: this will be taking up a lot of the time and effort of the PC over the coming weeks and months.

Looking at the current development, Kingerlee have promised to make good the damage done to the verges in London Lane caused by vehicles having to navigate around their parked vans. We expect them to honour that.

Planning and development are not, however, the only thing that will be occupying us.

Coronation

We are looking into various options for marking the Coronation. Details have yet to be thrashed out, but we expect to hold an event at the playing fields during the Bank Holiday weekend where, amongst other things, we will be distributing coronation mugs to the young people in the village.

More details will be posted as they emerge, and we remain open to sensible suggestions. As always, please keep an eye on the village noticeboards and posters in the village shop.

Cost of Living

Last year we thought about hosting a Cost of Living event following a similar model to those run by Chipping Norton Town Council. At the time we decided that instead, we would concentrate our efforts on providing information on where to go both to get and to offer assistance, and so ran a leaflet drop to every household.

Now, the event is back on the agenda, as April will see both increases in Council Tax and the likely reduction in some areas of support, and we want to make sure that everyone who is eligible knows what they can receive. The aim is to run this in conjunction with the other Wychwood parishes, to make it worth-while for the various organizations and charities to come out in force.

Parking and Lines

White lines will be appearing in the village marking those areas where it is particularly dangerous and illegal to park. We are all aware of the issues raised by inconsiderate parking in the village, but also of the strong objections to having yellow lines painted. We hope this is a sensible and sensitive compromise and will work as a reminder to everyone, visitors included.

I have been asked by one of the residents to politely remind everyone that using telegraph poles for posters is not permitted.

Litter Pick

It's that time of year again! For newer residents, Brian and Ingrid (Meadowbank House) organize a litter pick twice a year to deal with the unsightly rubbish that ends up strewn around our verges and in the streams. These are timed to coincide with the grass being relatively short and no snow or other covering. Many hands make light work so please get in contact if you can spare a couple of hours sometime during February.

And Finally

We would like to thank Sue Richards for all her work on the Parish Council. Sue has now stepped down as she has left the village for pastures new, and we are looking to appoint her successor. If you believe that you can contribute to the life of our lovely village and can carve out some time to help your neighbours, please let any of us know and we will be happy to answer questions.

The first snowdrops are now poking out along the paths, and spring is around the corner.

Brian Leach

Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council

contact@ascottpc.org.uk



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Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

Our 2023 Season commences on Sunday January 29th at 2pm with indoor net practice at Charlbury Community Centre, a 1 hour session, for 10 weeks - through to April. We have 4 net lanes so all get to bat and bowl.

New local players, of all abilities and ages are needed, as we have 3 lads away at University this spring (who are not back until June/July), two more having babies which will severely restrict availability, and two who have sadly moved away.

So, if you fancy getting involved, and having fun at some of the beautiful cricket fields around Oxfordshire & Gloucestershire - your village club needs YOU now!

We are particularly keen on attracting young budding cricketers from the village, so if your son or daughter is keen to play, and is aged at least 10, do message us, details below. All kit is provided, and the coach qualified to ECB Level 2.

Our league XI has been promoted to Cherwell league 7B - a rise above 36 teams in the 'pyramid' structure. We start on Sat May 6th at home to Hook Norton 2nd XI, and will also play Chadlington, Freeland, Great Tew 2nd, Hanborough 2nd, Stanton Harcourt 2nd, Stonesfield 2nd, Swinbrook, and Witney Mills 2nd.

The Sunday XI starts in early April with a home friendly vs United Oxford Hospitals. We've got lots of enchanting fixtures this year e.g vs Lower Slaughter, Islip, Blenheim Palace, Stowell Park, Middleton Stoney Park, Bibury, Adlestrop, Hanney, Bladon and more. The focus is on enjoyment & camaraderie rather than league points, and we try to include numerous young players.

On Sun June 25th we are hosting a fun match at Memorial Playing Field to commemorate the 150th anniversary of The Ascott Martyrs. An AUWCC 'Martyrs' XI will take on an Ascott 'The Establishment' XI to re-settle the dispute in a sporting manner! Whilst it's true the cricket club XI will contain relatives of the actual 1873 Martyrs, there is no truth in the rumour that they will go to prison in Chipping Norton if the Establishment should manage to win! We hope for a sunny day and to have the BBQ running, with as many spectators as possible encouraged.

Stewart Moss, Chairman.

07866 278685

Auwcricetclub@hotmail.com

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

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

Ascott Grapevine

Brahms

ein deutsches Requiem

Chipping Norton
Choral Society
Adderbury Ensemble

Natasha Page • James Berry
Benedict Goodall (Conductor)

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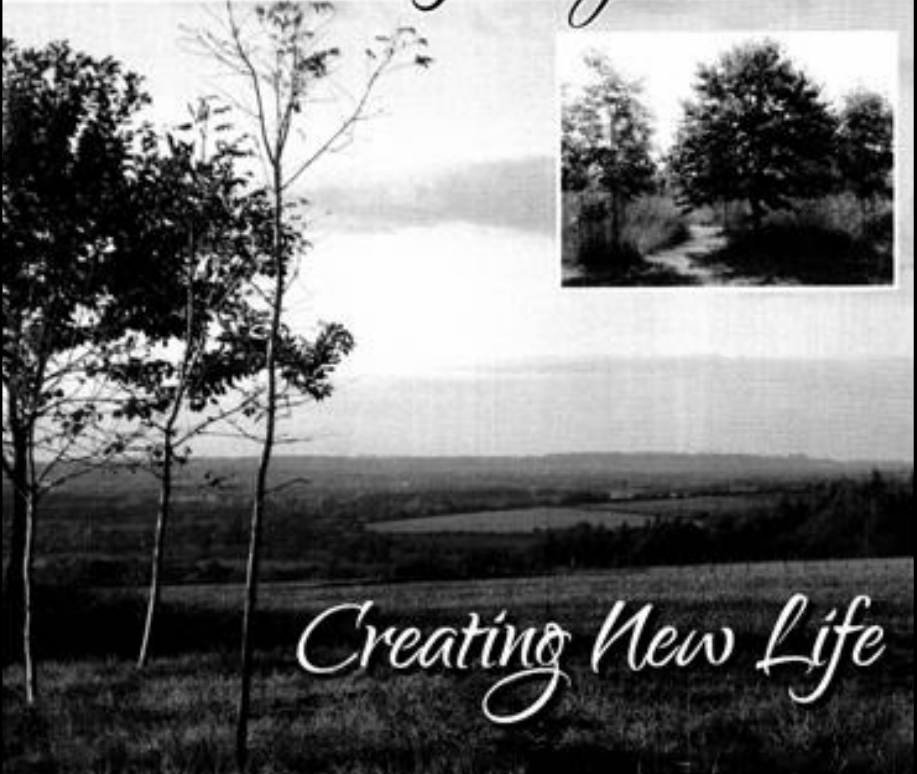
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by e-mail at helenpearson@fairspearbg@gmail.com
or visit our website at www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk



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Combe Mill

Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, OX29 8ET

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STEAMING EVENTS for 2023 WWW.Combemill.org

Sunday		Event
March	19 th	STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths
April	16 th	Military vehicle
May	21 st	Barn Engines & Horticultural
June	18 th	Classic Wheels
July	16 th	Wildlife by the Evenlode
August	20 th	Models & Collections
September	17 th	Crafts & Skills
October	15 th	Wood craft
December	3 rd	Christmas Fair Not in SYEAM

STEAMING EVENTS open from 10.30AM TO 5.00PM

CHILDREN FREE, Adults £9.00 Seniors £7.50

Combe Mill is also OPEN but NOT IN STEAM (1030am to 4.30pm)

Every Wednesday from the 23rd March to the end of October. Our Riverside Tea Room will be open too, call in for a cuppa or a Cream Tea to enjoy in the picnic area

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Wychwood Library Bulletin!

Happy New Year to all our customers.

A BIG THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Shipton Parish Council for a generous donation for new books. We have been able to give our junior non-fiction a huge boost with lots of books. The new titles for our grown-up customers have already started to arrive and are flying from the shelves. The library depends on the support of all the parishes and is hugely grateful for all their contributions!

Puzzle Swap

We have a popular puzzle swap at Wychwood library. Borrow as many as you'd like or donate any complete puzzles to us. 1000 + piece puzzles particularly welcome as we have plenty of 500s!

1st Tuesday of the month 7.30-9.30: Craft Night

We are running a regular craft night- all equipment is provided, as well as refreshments! We've learnt how to cross-stitch, needle felt, rag rug and much more...

Every Wednesday 10-11.30: Coffee Morning

Drop in for coffee and cake every Wednesday- a warm welcome guaranteed. £1.50 donation.

Other events:

Afternoon Reading Group: 2nd Thursday of the month 1.45-2.45

Evening Reading Group: 1st Monday of the month 7.00- 8.15

Lego: Drop in every Monday 3.30-4.30

Rhyme-time: Drop in on term-time Wednesdays 9.30-10

Stay and Play: Drop in on holiday Wednesdays 10-11.30

Children's Craft: Drop in on 1st Friday of the month 3.30-4.30

Keeping in touch

Events are advertised in the library and on our Wychwood Library Facebook page. Contact the library for more information & to book.

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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

Trustees

Elaine Byles elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk Keith Ravenhill keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com Mark Dawbarn markdawbarn@outlook.com

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com Eleanor Bishop eleanor-bishop@hotmail.co.uk

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk



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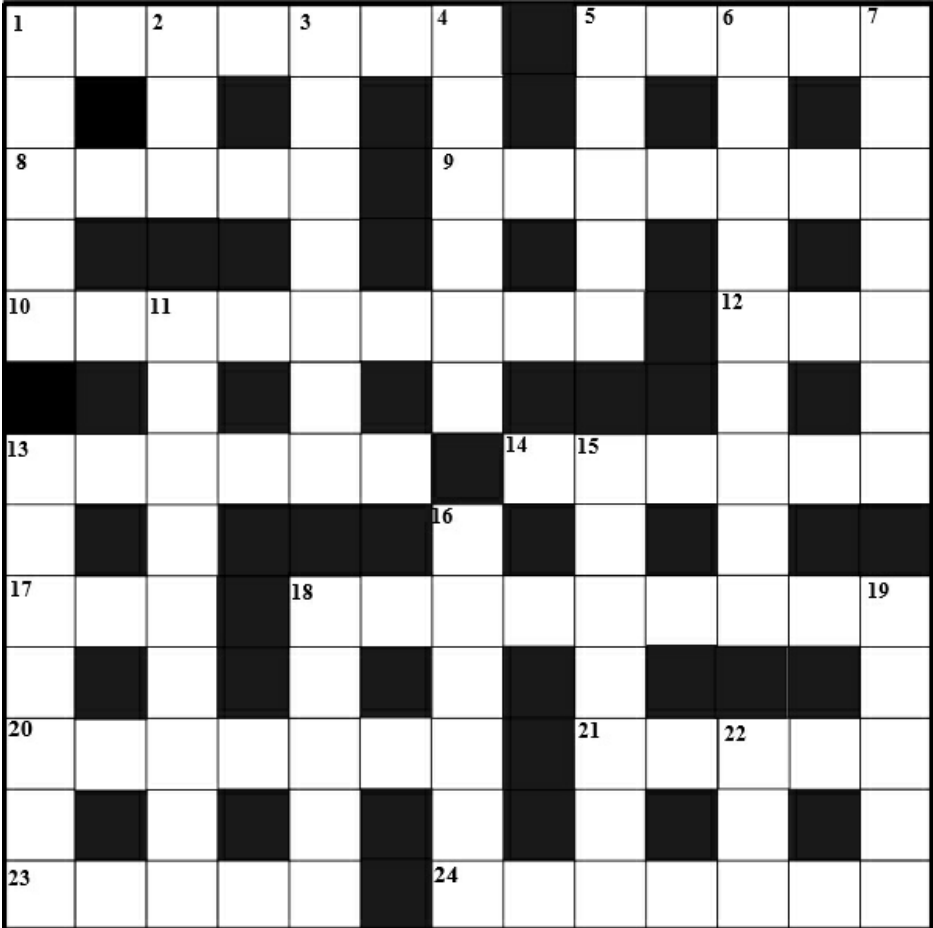
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Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 South American capes (7)
- 5 Flier (5)
- 8 Ire (5)
- 9 Takes up again (7)
- 10 Gave evidence (9)
- 12 Nothing (3)
- 13 Funny play (6)
- 14 Equilibrium (6)
- 17 Unwell (3)
- 18 Old army musket (5,4)
- 20 Clothes fasteners (7)
- 21 Dodge (5)
- 23 Cattle estate (4)
- 24 All tire (anag.) (7)

Down

- 1 e.g. flower (5)
- 2 Complain, worry (5)
- 3 Hastened (7)
- 4 Pulled muscle (6)
- 5 Sat for painter (5)
- 6 Glow (9)
- 7 Struggles (7)
- 11 Idiot (9)
- 13 Mountaineer (7)
- 15 Lines touching curve (7)
- 16 I floss (anag.) (6)
- 18 Stall at fair (5)
- 19 Carapace (5)
- 22 Atmosphere (3)

**Solutions to
Crossword in
Edition 116**

Across

- 4 Market
- 5 Tree
- 7 Invalid
- 10 Hives
- 11 Tedious
- 12 Stage
- 14 Diocese
- 15 Fauré
- 16 Sloth
- 20 Croft
- 21 Denizen
- 22 Lees
- 23 Forced

Down

- 1 Great
- 2 Gelid
- 3 Artiste
- 4 Mind
- 6 Energy
- 8 Lenient
- 9 Discord
- 10 Hussein
- 13 Laurel
- 14 Drifter
- 17 Tenor
- 18 Aitch
- 19 Need

Local Business Directory

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ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk	Page 3
COTSWOLD BEAUTY 01993 832446/07917 341143 enquiry@cotswoldbeauty.net www.cotswoldbeauty.net	Page 11
COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006 www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk	Page 31
DONALD BENNETT PEST CONTROL 07795 170457 donaldbennettpestcontrol@gmail.com www.donaldbennettpestcontrol.biz	Page 30
DONALD BENNETT GARDEN SERVICES 07795 170457	Page 30
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FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND 01993 878387 helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk	{Ref}
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TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates	Page 18

Events Calendar - 2023

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 4 th	7.30pm	Steve Knightly	Tiddy Hall
March 5 th	2.0pm - 4.30pm	Sunday Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
April 2 nd	2.0pm - 4.30pm	Sunday Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
April 8 th	7.30pm	Mike Silver	Tiddy Hall
April 22 nd	7.30pm	Track Dogs	Tiddy Hall
May 6 th	7.30pm	The Radio Ballads	Tiddy Hall
June 3 rd	7.30pm	Steve Turner/Dan Sealey	Tiddy Hall
June 17 th	Afternoon	AMET family/local history	Tiddy Hall
June 24 th	7.00pm	Ascott Martyrs 150 Celebration	Tiddy Hall
June 25 th	tbc	BBQ and fun cricket match Martyrs vs Establishment	Playing Field

There is a Post Office at Tiddy Hall every Friday between 2.00 and 4.00 pm