

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

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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## Advertising Rates

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

**To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 56](#)), please contact Stuart Fox 01993 832004 or [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.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

### **Wychwood Baptist, Milton**

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

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

Churchwarden James Walmsley  
01993 830842

### **Burford Methodist**

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993  
845322

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

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

### **Westcote Methodist**

Tony Gibson 01993 830699

### **St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Id-bury**

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

### **Roman Catholic**

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford  
Priest: Fr Paul Whieldon

Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-in-the-Wold  
Priest: Father Stefan

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

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and  
St Teresa, Charlbury

Priest: Fr Clive Dytor 07484158642

Mass at Charlbury 09:15

## Services at the Chase Benefice 2023

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 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month | 10 am BCP Communion Service at Spelsbury   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month | 10 am CW Communion Service at Ascott       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month | 10 am CW Communion Service at Enstone      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month | 8 am BCP Communion Service at Ascott       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> 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.

# ***Ascott Pre-school***

## **Spring is in the Air at Ascott Pre-school**

With the emergence of Spring, we have been enjoying some sunny weather (alongside the rain!) and have been doing a lot of activities around the topics of 'Spring' and 'Lifecycles'. The children put some chicken eggs in an incubator and waited patiently, checking every day, until at last the chicks hatched on Day 21. We learnt that chicks get out of their eggs by using their 'egg tooth', and that they are very tired and wet when they hatch. They dry off in the warm air of the incubator and become livelier and fluffier. The children were very gentle and caring and made sure that the chicks were well fed on chick crumb and that they always had water available. The chicks were also kept warm under a heat lamp after they left the incubator.



The bulbs we planted in the Autumn are now blooming and we will be continuing our 'Growing' theme as we move into May by planting sunflower seeds and runner beans. Some children will visit the allotments in Ascott to explore and dig over one of the beds.

As I write we are starting our celebrations to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. Amongst other things, the children are making bunting, decorating London bus biscuits, enjoy-

ing a castle craft activity, making a scroll, and making their own crowns to wear at our own pre-school Coronation party.

### ***Family Fun Day Fundraiser***

Our Family Fun Day takes place this year on 8th July 12pm–3pm at the Ascott Playing Fields. We welcome everyone, please do come along for tea and cake, or to enjoy something from the BBQ!

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](http://www.ascottpreschool.co.uk), or contact Pauline via email ([ascott\\_pp@btinternet.com](mailto:ascott_pp@btinternet.com)) or phone (01993 832671).

## ***Now I am old***

Now I am eighty-four years old I have to accept I am an old man. The green, bitter-sweet years have gone many decades ago. The years when my grandmother would often repeat to me “they says love ull draw ya further than gunpowder ull blow ya”.

I now feel I have reached that plateau of neutrality, it’s quite comfortable being there, but it lacks the vitality of years gone by.

I think to myself, should I take up a new hobby, something like upskirting or downblousing, then I realise I don’t have the enthusiasm, desire or energy, so instead, I spend most afternoons dozing in front of the television. Before I do this, I try and think of questions there seems to be no answer to. For example, is a Zebra an animal which is black with white stripes or a creature which is white with black stripes? Which makes me think that black and white are not colours, all colours found in the world and art are found in the rainbow. Black and white are of the void and oblivion.

Much of what I’ve written, I can hear my father calling me from down the years saying “what a lot of rubbish you do talk and write”, then repeat a saying he must have known from rural Somerset “you are sometimes like a jackdaw, all jabber and s..t”. How would I answer him now I am twenty years older in life years than he was? I would answer him by saying “you are quite right, it’s a story told by an idiot signifying nothing”. I know that would have annoyed my father. He disliked Shakespeare plays on television, he would say “I don’t want to watch actors strutting across the stage making long speeches nobody understands”.

Blood is thicker than water, so I will defend him. If I made him sound like a country bumpkin, he certainly wasn’t. I am more like a bumpkin than he was. He was very proud of the fact he helped install the electrical circuit in the snowcats, the transport Fuchs used when his team crossed the Antarctic in 1959 and he would sit by the fire on winter’s evenings doing algebra because he enjoyed it.

P.S. Are gold and silver colours or names of elements?

# **County Counsellor**

Now 2-years into its first 4-year term, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the progress made by the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance administration since taking control from the Conservatives. Its vision is laid out in its 9 priorities, that includes ‘putting climate at the heart of everything we do’. The IPCC’s ‘final warning’ to humanity in March this year, puts back into focus the importance of following through on this commitment – even in the face of rising opposition from conspiracy theorists, climate change deniers, and those who would wish to see a much-diminished role for the county council.

The County Council is responsible for delivering a range of services to residents of Oxfordshire, including adult social care, children’s services – including for children with special educational needs and disabilities, and of course, maintaining Oxfordshire’s highways and transport infrastructure, and a range of other services, including libraries, fire and rescue, and coroners’ services.

Adult social care is the largest responsibility of OCC in terms of spend. Demand is growing due to our ageing population and an increase in complexity of needs. In Oxfordshire, we are seeking to manage this demand with a pioneering ‘Oxfordshire Way’, that aims to keep people active and independent for as long as possible in their homes and communities. As part of this, OCC has been promoting a scheme to empower small scale care businesses in the community to thrive. Support is provided to ‘micro-enterprises’ to navigate the paperwork and start out as a commercial enterprise. An all-age unpaid carers strategy review is also ongoing to better support this vital group in our communities.

Children’s services remain a challenge, particularly in the area of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The service receives this year a boost to its budget of 12.3% (£18.8m), which will provide much needed funds to improve the assessment of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in particular. The county was also successful in bidding for £5.2m to fund new residential homes for children with autism and children with adverse childhood experiences.

In transport and highways, the county is leading the way, alongside the Welsh government, by moving to 20mph as the speed limit for villages and towns. Ascott will be getting a 20mph speed limit installed later this year. The newly adopted Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP5) is a radical change from the previous plan, and places an emphasis on active travel, public transport and reducing car journeys. Its ambitious targets to reduce car journey’s by 25% by 2030 and 33% by 2040 will shape infrastructure decisions going forward, and be a powerful tool when developers seek massive car-centric developments.

Additional investment is being made in taking on stubborn highways flooding issues that will see more projects brought forward in 2023 and 2024 to take on problem areas, and I am pleased that we have also included in our budget funding for

the improvement of footpaths. A new strategy for managing roadside verges has also been agreed, making it possible to improve bio-diversity while also ensuring safety through visibility at key points on the roads.

Finally, I am very aware of the very poor state of our roads. The potholes this year have been absolutely atrocious, and the subject of much comment on the Charlbury Forum. The very hot period last summer, followed by heavy frost earlier this year and torrential rain in the past 6 weeks has led to more than usual potholes opening up, and they can't be filled if they are full of rain. Government gives Oxfordshire £15 million a year to manage our roads – we need £45 million just to stand still. We have allocated £15 million from council tax but that still leaves a shortfall of one third off what we need. Earlier this year the government announced a £200 million fund to “tackle potholes”. That amounts to just £3.7 million for Oxfordshire. The potholes have been marked up with white paint which means they will be filled and I have seen some work happening this week. Please report any potholes, or other road defects, on Fix My Street, or send me an email.

[Liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## ***Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle car club pilot launches***

Fourteen new car club EVs have launched across Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Eynsham, Henley, Kidlington, Oxford, Thame, Witney, Wallingford and Wantage. These shared vehicles – operated by CoWheels, Enterprise CarClub and Thame EV Hire Club - are available for people to use on a pay-per-use basis that provides a convenient and affordable alternative to individual car ownership, as well as providing an opportunity for petrol and diesel drivers to try an EV without any long-term commitment. [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/EVcarclubs](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/EVcarclubs)

# ***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 3<sup>rd</sup>***

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.

### ***Orchard Design - June 8<sup>th</sup>***

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 9<sup>th</sup>***

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 7<sup>th</sup>***

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 21<sup>st</sup>***

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](http://www.farm-ed.co.uk)

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

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**Wedding of Alex Mitchell and Emily Taylor  
on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>**



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LIONHEARTH  
1852



The advertisement for Simpson Architecture features a background image of a modern house with a large glass extension. The word 'simpson' is written in a large, lowercase, white sans-serif font, with a small square above the 'i'. Below it, the word 'ARCHITECTURE' is written in a smaller, uppercase, white 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.

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

Contact: Michael Simpson 07555 490460  
Email: [info@simpsonarchitecture.co.uk](mailto:info@simpsonarchitecture.co.uk)  
Website: [www.simpsonarchitecture.co.uk](http://www.simpsonarchitecture.co.uk)

RIBA   
Chartered Practice



The advertisement for Enlightened Windows features a photograph of a white-framed window set in a brick wall, with a small lantern hanging next to it. The text 'Timber-composite windows' is written vertically on the left side of the image. Below the image is a dark grey rectangular area containing the company logo and contact information.

Timber-composite windows

  
ENLIGHTENED  
WINDOWS  
*Truly the next generation of products*  
01608 684607  
[enlightenedwindows.co.uk](http://enlightenedwindows.co.uk)



The advertisement for Jenna Saunders features a simple line drawing of a needle and thread. The text is arranged in a clean, sans-serif font.

**Jenna Saunders**  
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## ***Tiddy Hall Ramblings***

I think everyone in Ascott would agree that Tiddy Hall is a fantastic resource that has been at the centre of social life in the village since 1912 when the original wooden structure was built. This was replaced in 1994 with the current structure, so next year will be our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am sure that we will organise a suitable event to mark this occasion.

I can't imagine that Reginald Tiddy, who bought the land and built the original hall for the benefit of the village, could have foreseen the dramatic events of the last few years and the impact of these events on Tiddy Hall. The pandemic lockdowns inevitably resulted in vastly reduced activity which is only now beginning to recover. We are still a long way away from the levels of activity seen before the pandemic. This is probably not surprising given the inflation-led cost of living crisis which is limiting the amount of cash people have available to spend on anything deemed non-essential. Energy costs have increased dramatically for everyone, and Tiddy Hall is no exception. We did very well to lock into a contract before the energy prices hit the current levels, but they are still a great deal higher than they used to be. The current contract expires in Q1 2024, so we are bracing ourselves for an even bigger increase next year.

The Tiddy Hall Trustees have taken steps to safeguard the future of Tiddy Hall, but we do need the support of the village community. As reported in the previous issue of The Grapevine, we reluctantly decided to increase our prices this year but have managed to keep the increase to a minimum. We have also taken steps to improve the energy efficiency by installing new LED stage lights which use only 10% of the energy of the older system. The new LED lights are highly configurable using a remote console and so can be set-up to suit the needs of different types of events. Our aim is to promote Tiddy Hall as a 'venue' for a variety of musical events. Many of you will have attended Folk Nights, dinner dances and classical music events at Tiddy Hall in the past and we want to see more of these in the future. With state-of-the-art stage lights and access to a professional PA system we can now offer a compelling package to potential event organisers. If anyone becomes aware of a band or promoter looking for a venue, please point them in our direction!

Speaking of the Folk Nights, it is great to report that attendance is picking up after a relatively slow start. The most recent event, featuring the superb 'Track Dogs', was a fantastic evening and we look forward to welcoming them back next year.

We have organised some fundraising events to pay for the new lighting system and help boost our finances. The first is on 17 June when the legendary local supergroup, Three Piece Sweet, will be performing their greatest hits! There will be

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a BBQ and a bar so an entertaining evening is guaranteed. Get your tickets from any of the Trustees.

This will be followed on 8 July by a performance by a genuine legend – Chris Leslie (founder member of Fairport Convention and patron of the Folk Club). Chris has very generously agreed to perform for free, with all proceeds going to Tiddy Hall.

Other events are at the planning stage. We are hoping to arrange a performance by the Rock Choir later this year and to organise an evening of classical music in early 2024. We also plan to repeat the previously successful and very popular craft fairs and coffee mornings in the coming months and may even re-launch 'Flix in the Stix' if there is sufficient demand. Please let us have your feedback regarding these events.

We want to encourage much greater use of Tiddy Hall for everything from kids' parties to wedding receptions and sporting activities. We have the facilities for badminton and do, in fact, have regular bookings but we would love to see more of this type of activity. We are currently considering adding paddleball/pickleball equipment so if anyone has an interest in this, please let us know.

Check out our website for the latest news and information: [www.tiddyhall.com](http://www.tiddyhall.com)

## *In Memory Of*

Leisha Braithwaite who sadly passed away on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023, may she rest in peace.

DONALD BENNETT  
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[www.donaldbennettpestcontrol.biz](http://www.donaldbennettpestcontrol.biz)

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The music you grew up with.  
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Fancy Dress if you dare  
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WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SUPER GROUP

# THREE PIECE SWEET

Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

@ Tiddy Hall – 8pm Doors 6pm

Tickets £10

Tickets available from

John Bugeja 07958 568804

Ingrid Ridley 07952 657906

Mark Pidgeon 07870 563299

Simon Gidman 07768 600102



# **Ascott Village Shop**

## **Financial Update**

The current year, having started well and delivering a small profit, is now looking challenging. The government's energy subsidy has significantly decreased since 1 April and the builders have finished in London Lane and hence we are forecasting to make a significant loss for the full year.

On a more positive note, our social media posts have been very successful and although we have not been able to fully quantify its impact on sales we have seen an increase in sales of products that have been featured on Facebook and Instagram. The best example of this is with our refillables products. We significantly increased our range back in October to include a far wider selection of personal care products. We have had people from other villages, having seen our social media posts, come into the shop to specifically buy body wash, shampoo, conditioner and washing detergent.

## **Shop Management and Volunteers**

After eight years, and many more hours, of dedicated work Bridgette Crundwell has decided to call time on her tenure as Shop Manager. Bridgette has been a tremendous asset to the shop throughout its existence, including being a very active volunteer prior to taking on the role of Shop Manager. Some of the many tasks Bridgette has performed over the years include: ordering products, ensuring that products are well presented in the shop, maintaining the product catalogue in our till system, performing stocktakes, supporting on-duty volunteers, and also when we struggle to find cover for shifts she happily covers these whilst still carrying out her Shop Manager duties. Bridgette's last day will be on Wednesday 31 May. We wish her all the very best and invite everyone who knows her to pop into the shop on her last working day to say thank you to her.

We are now in the process of recruiting a new Shop Manager and although we have received a few applications we are yet to find a suitable candidate. A contingency plan is being prepared in case we do not hire a new manager before the end of May.

At the end of February we said goodbye to Rosemary Dawbarn. Rosemary had been involved with the shop since its inception and has worked as a shop volunteer, performed the role of Secretary to the Committee and until a few years ago Trainer in Chief.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers and we are happy to report that we have had two new volunteers joining us in 2023, namely Pippa Hogg and Sarah Witheridge. We still need more volunteers and hence please do not hesitate to

contact one of the committee members if you know of anyone who may be interested.

There are also congratulations to William Lovel who four years ago joined the volunteer group as part of his Duke of Edinburgh programme. William has been working in the shop two Saturdays a month, and having achieved his Gold Medal in January of this year, he has continued his twice monthly shifts. William will be travelling down to London on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May to receive his Gold Medal from Prince Edward, the new Duke of Edinburgh.

## ***Customer Survey***

During the month of April we carried out a customer survey at the shop. Customers were invited to take the survey via a link posted on Facebook. In total 29 individuals completed the survey. The key findings from the survey were:

26 out of the 29 respondents use the shop on a regular basis. All three respondents, who do not currently use the shop, have all been customers in the past but have stopped shopping with us as they find us too expensive. This has been duly noted.

About half of the respondents were happy with the existing product range. The other half were equally split between wanting more affordably priced products and more locally sourced (premium) products. Recently, we have been increasing our selection of locally sourced products e.g. SaltPig and Burford Pies. Many have also asked for fresh soups, quiches, more lunch options and we shall be looking into all of these. We will also be expanding our range of affordable (price marked) products, and although we will never be able to compete with the likes of Aldi and Lidl, we will hopefully be able to entice some of our lost customers back into the shop.

Many people also commented that our Fruit & Veg selection could be greater, that it lacked freshness and was expensive. Fruit & Veg has been a constant challenge for us over the years. We have no real buying power with the wholesalers and our purchase prices are for the most part higher than supermarkets' retail prices and hence we are unable to compete on price. Turnover is low and hence our waste levels at around 10% are relatively high, resulting in us achieving only a small margin on Fruit & Veg.

Finally, a number of respondents called for a decorative refresh of the shop. If anyone can spare a day or two to assist with the refresh please let us know by leaving your details in the shop.

**Per Henriksen Shop Committee**



**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'S CORONATION CELEBRATIONS 1937**

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1937 the Ascott under Wychwood Coronation Celebrations Committee held their first meeting to decide how the village should celebrate the coronation of George VI on May 12<sup>th</sup> 1937. Thirteen persons were present including Doris White, postmistress from the former Post Office at Centuries House, London Lane. Doris was elected Secretary and Treasurer and the main source of this article is the minutes of the meetings which she took at the time. Doris' father, Charles had been Secretary for the 1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and Doris was again Secretary for the 1952 Coronation Celebrations of Elizabeth II.

Between 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> May arrangements were made for a day long Celebration to include all Ascott's residents.

The funds came from various sources. Four members of the committee, Mrs H Chaundy, Mrs T Chaundy, Mr Ivor Warner from College Farm and Mr W Chance did a house to house collection which resulted in the grand sum of £15 15s. Donations were requested from Mr Fellowes, Mr R. Moss, Mr Watney at Cornbury Park and Mr Eccles who all gave £1. The Crown gave two guineas. Hitchmans Breweries of Chipping Norton gave 10s. Morrells Breweries gave 4 dozen bottles of beer and the Co-operative Society gave £1 9s 6d in goods. With subsequent donations from visitors the total sum of £25 18s was raised.

From this £25 18s the following schedule of events was arranged. At 1.15 p.m. the schoolchildren assembled in the schoolyard for a procession to church where a service was held at 1.30 p.m. Folk Dancing and Sports took place in the afternoon followed by tea in the school for children up to 14. Children over 14 could join in the Adults Tea which was held in Long House Farm Barn at 4.30 p.m. The Tiddy Hall Committee arranged the Social which was held in the Hall at 7 p.m. followed by a Dance at 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. A mug was given to all schoolchildren as a memento of the occasion. Forty of these were purchased at 5s 6d per dozen. Is it possible that any of these still remain in the village?

Probably in the same tradition as survives today, the flower arrangements in the church rose to the occasion and we may imagine a well attended service, with hearty hymn singing using the leaflets specially printed for the day.

The Sports began at 2.15 p.m. Mr Jimmy Andrews, the blacksmith, was the Chairman of the Sports Committee and £5 was allowed for the prizes which were presented by Mrs Badger. The races were arranged by age, commencing with the Tots aged 6 and below and going through all age groups to OAPs who were awarded a bottle of port as a first prize. Amusement must have been caused by some of the alternative races such as the Tie Leg Race, Ladies Brick Race and the Triangle Race comprising one Gent and two Ladies. Even more eventful, the

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Relay, Obstacles, Tug of War and Six a Side Football. The Ladies even lined up for an Ankle Competition. The childrens' toy prizes were bought from De La Mares in George St, Oxford and several cigarette related mens' prizes, lighters, cases, etc from H.R.Beechey, also in George St, Oxford. The Boys' Sack Race prize of a Garden Tool Set would certainly not go down too well with most of today's fourteen year olds and the mouth organ and drum may have caused more than a little exasperation.

Folk Dancing also took place in the afternoon, the children trained by Doris White's sister, Florence.

£2 10s was allowed for the Childrens' Tea organised by Mrs T Chaundy. From Mr Ketbero, Baker and Pastrycook of High Street, Shipton under Wychwood came loaves of bread, fruit, plain and mixed cakes, in total 10s 4d. From Mr Cook's and Miss Busby's shops in Ascott came 1937 party bags (paper bags with a variety of sweets) as well sugar, jam and tea. Mr David Edginton of Ascott provided milk and butter. Miss Edginton provided one large cloth and three small cloths, and the finishing touch was added with five dozen flags at 10d per dozen.

Mr Young was the Chairman of the Food committee and £10 was allowed for the Adults Tea.

The meat was purchased from WJ.Davey of High Street, Milton under Wychwood, prices as follows. 13 lb 8 oz Topside Beef at 1s per lb. 62 lb Home Cured Ham at 1s 3d per lb. 13 lb 10 oz Silverside Beef at 1d per lb. The beer including Coronation Ale was provided by W A Gardener from the Swan, in total 14 gallons.

From the Co-operative Grocery (their donation) came bread, tea, sugar, butter, mustard, salt and sauce. Slab Cake to the value of 14s 11d was purchased from E.R. Price, Sheep Street, Charlbury, the varieties included lemon, sultana, trinity, mansfield and merton. Could the last three have any connection with the Oxford Colleges? Cheese came from Mr Cook and Miss Busby in Ascott and more cake was also purchased from a Mr Harris but there is no indication of his premises.

No one was forgotten. Tea was provided for invalids in their homes.

And so to the evening. A radio set was hired by Mr Young so that listening to the King's Speech could be the first event of the Social Evening. A radio broadcast was obviously a rare highlight for the villagers. £4 10s was allowed to cover the evening, the Band's fees and transport cost £2 2s 6d and the rest went towards decorations, prizes and yet more feasting, with cakes, biscuits, tea, coffee, lemons and lemonade crystals. All non-alcoholic drinks. Whether Morrells 4 dozen bottles of beer were on offer is unknown - perhaps it was purely a teetotal event.

And so the village came to the end of George Vi's Coronation Day. Hopefully many happy memories but probably also a few tears. Much planning and organisation had been contributed by members of the village community And clearly when the forthcoming Millennium Events are underway, they will form yet another link in the continuing story of Ascott's celebrations.

## ***Monetary Inflation from 1937 to 2023***

To put the money raised in 1937 for the coronation of George VI in perspective to 2023 values, here is the value of £25 in 1937 in today's value of £2,178.84, i.e. that is the spending value of the £25 back in 1937. The pound had an average inflation rate of 5.33% per year between 1937 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 8,615.37%. So what seems small amounts raised in 1937 there was a lot of money raised and spent for the coronation celebrations back in 1937.

## ***The Village Coronation Party***



# Ascott Grapevine









The tree and the plaque set-up to Commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022



The flower arrangements in the church to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

# ***Painters and Printmakers in Oxfordshire***

Charlbury ArtRoom opened at the beginning of last year and is now well established in The Corner House in the centre of town. It is in a large, warm, well-lit room with huge windows and a wooden floor.

It is well stocked with art materials for members to use, there are easels available and a small library of art books. We are very proud of our large etching press which is perfect for intaglio and relief printmaking.

The project was set up under the umbrella of The Charlbury Art Society to support creativity in the community. It provides space for people who either do not have enough room at home or who like to work together with others to learn and share ideas. The kettle is always on.

Members can use this room for £ 2.50 per week, the cost of buying a coffee. You can choose your day to share with a small group of other artists. The room is secure, and you will have a large box in which to store your materials. The space is available at all times of the day to members who have the entry code.

In addition to individual activity the room is ideal for workshops and for group creative activities. We are always looking for people to organise workshops and to run them in the evenings or at weekends.

If you would like to join the ArtRoom, or want further information, please contact Jane Crane [fjanecrane@gmail.com](mailto:fjanecrane@gmail.com).



# **Ascott Martyrs 150 June 2023**



As many of you will know, this year sees the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ‘Chipping Norton Incident’ which in May 1873 saw 16 women, and two babies, from Ascott under Wychwood made ‘martyrs’ as they were sent to prison with hard labour. They had been found guilty of preventing two young men from hoeing a bean field, at a time when the majority of the male working population in the village were on strike in an attempt to increase the meagre wages they earned as agricultural labourers.

The women were of all ages and backgrounds, the majority had been born and raised in Ascott, others had married and moved here from nearby, Chipping Norton, Churchill, Leafield and villages further afield including Stanton Harcourt and Mixbury. Some were married with children, others single. Many undertook casual work as fieldworkers, domestic servants or hand-stitching gloves to help feed and clothe their families. Some attended the Baptist Chapel in Swan yard, others declared themselves to be members of the Church of England, whilst one was a Methodist.

For a few weeks in the early summer of 1873 these women, their actions and the consequences they brought were national news. Chipping Norton saw a riot and gatherings of thousands of agricultural labourers to listen to the leaders of the newly-formed National Agricultural Labourers Union. Questions were asked in the House of Commons, investigations conducted into the conditions experienced by the women and their babies and into the decisions reached by the Chadlington magistrates bench, and demands were made for clergymen to be excluded from becoming JPs. The war of words conducted through the medium of the local and national press, both *The Times* and the *Daily News* sent reporters to the village, raged for several weeks. It provided details of life in the village at this time and highlighted the tensions between the agricultural labourer and the ‘occupiers of land’.

The Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust has organised a variety of activities to mark the anniversary and raise awareness of this significant event in the history of the village. Exhibitions in Witney, Burford, Chipping Norton and Wychwood Libraries, and Chipping Norton Museum’s window on the market place, will introduce the story of the Martyrs to a wider audience.

A conference will take place on **Friday 16 June** at FarmEd details of which are available at <https://eur.cvent.me/7q3dR>

On **Saturday 17 June** 1.30 - 3.30pm. A **Free Family/Local History Afternoon** will be held at the Tiddy Hall. Wherever you come from this is an opportunity to drop in and discover more about your family history, or perhaps solve the knotty problem of that relative you just can't find! Come and take a look at our amazing **Martyrs Family Tree** and perhaps help us by adding to it. Meet **Beverley McCombs** whose book 'The Ascott Martyrs' introduced us to their family histories.

The **Oxfordshire Family History Society** <https://www.ofhs.uk> will be there to provide help with your family history enquiries. You can also learn more about the free advice and online access to websites, such as Ancestry and FindMyPast, available in your local library. The **Wychwoods Local History Society** <https://wychwoodshistory.uk/whistory> will be sharing some of the resources for family history to be found in their archive, as well as photographs of people and places from the past in the Wychwoods.

Come and see if you recognise the people/places in our display of old photographs of Ascott. If you have any old photographs you'd like to share please bring them along.

Tea/coffee/biscuits will be available. **Free Martyrs pin badge** for first 50 descendants!

**Saturday 24 June** sees a special performance of **Three Acres and a Cow** starting at 7pm at the Tiddy Hall. Part 'TED talk', part folk club sing-a-long, this nationally acclaimed show will feature additional material to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Martyrs, and performances of songs about the Martyrs by Mark Pidgeon, the Sea Green Singers and Turning Signs. A bar will be provided and there will be a raffle, with proceeds going to the local food bank. Tickets (subsidised by the Trust) £10 in advance & £12 on the door, can be purchased online at [www.wegotickets.com/event/568374](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/568374) or by emailing AMET: [ascottmartyrsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ascottmartyrsinfo@gmail.com)

**Sunday 25 June** join us to enjoy the delights of an **English village Sunday afternoon**.

Watch a cricket match on the Memorial Field, off the High Street. An Ascott under Wychwood Cricket Club XI, representing the Martyrs and including some descendants, will take on the Establishment XI, a team representing the landowners and the government. The aim is to settle the dispute in a friendly manner, on the cricket field. The losing team won't be sent to prison, but we promise they won't go unpunished! We hope the Martyrs team will include a lady cricketer from New Zealand (the destination for many emigrant families from the Wychwoods in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century). The question is, will the AuWCC team be wearing blue dresses or even red flannel petticoats? Join us to find out!

## Ascott Grapevine

Visit the parish church where many of the Martyrs and their families were baptised, married and eventually buried, to see the stunning contemporary **commemorative textile** celebrating the Martyrs and their community and meet some of the women who created it. **Tea and cake** will be served 3–5pm. Here you can also pick up a **trail** to explore aspects of the history of the village and the Martyrs' story where it happened.

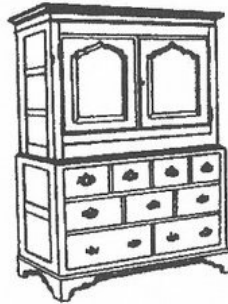
Follow our posts on **Facebook** (Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust) for reminders of upcoming events, and the story as it unfolded 150 years ago.

Visit the website to discover more [www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk)

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# Cost of Living Crisis



Hello 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](mailto:markdawbarn@outlook.com) (Tel: 01993 831632) [setimms123@gmail.com](mailto:setimms123@gmail.com) (Tel: 01993 831870) who will guide you through a simple application process.

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](http://wychwoodlife.org) or The Wychwood Post on Facebook.

*The Village Charity*

Registered Number: 1099078

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

# The Villager Bus

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 Sipton-under-Wychwood, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Leaffield, Crawley, South Leigh

**v23**

**Thursdays only**

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



## Management Committee Contacts

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*



# Ascott Grapevine



Registered Office

**West Oxfordshire Community Transport Limited**

2A Windrush Valley Rd  
Witney

Oxfordshire, OX28 5AA

T: 01993 630124

E: [info@woct.org.uk](mailto:info@woct.org.uk)

W: [www.woct.org.uk](http://www.woct.org.uk)

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## Service supported by Oxfordshire County Council

Witney to Wychwoods, Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays)

### Timetable valid from 03 April 2023

Sainsburys		0910	1200	1515	1718
Witney Mkt Sq (D)	0715	0913	1205	1520	1722
Welch Way Library	0717	0915	1207	1522	1724
Range Rd	0722				
Deer Pk Med Cntre			1212	1524	1729
Crawley Lamb		0924	1216	1527	1735
Leafield Lower End		0933	1226	1534	1743
Burford	0741				
Ascott U Wychwood		0943	1236	1544	1753
Shipton U Wychwood	0753	0950	1244	1550	1757
Milton, Hare	0758	0955	1247	1559	1800

Wychwoods To Witney, Monday to Friday( Except Public Holidays)

Milton Hare	0800	1000	1250	1600	1800
Shipton U Wychwood	0804	1005	1255	1605	1804
Ascott U Wychwood	0809	1011	1302		
Leafield Lower End	0819	1021	1312		
Burford				1617	1815
Crawley Lamb	0828	1031	1322		
Deer Pk Med Cntre	0835	1038	1329		
Witney Mkt Sq (A)	0842	1044	1336	1646	1828
Sainsburys	0845	1047	1340		
Range Road	0850			1713	
Fernleigh (*Request only)	0907	1100*			

**This Timetable is valid from 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.**



Buy tickets from the App

Registered in England and Wales as a charitable Community Benefit Society No.7458 under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Society Act 2014

## WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB



**Sat June 3<sup>rd</sup> Wychwood Folk Club Double Header with Steve Turner & Dan Sealey**

**Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door**

**Tiddy Hall**

*Steve Turner* is known as a pioneer of highly sophisticated English concertina song accompaniments, stretching the boundaries of traditional forms, with one of the best voices in the business. He is a multi-instrumentalist, who also accompanies himself on the cittern, and also plays mandolin and banjo.

*Dan Sealey* has had an incredible career. Starting his musical journey as part of 'Ocean Colour Scene' who had a double platinum selling number 1 album in 1997!

Dan now has his own solo show he's currently touring with Live and local rural touring scheme (From the Albert Hall to the Music Hall) with great success and is due to release his first solo album in 2023.

**Sat July 8<sup>th</sup> Chris Leslie + support by Ian W Brown**

**Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door**

**Tiddy Hall**

*Chris Leslie* has kindly agreed to perform this event to help us raise funds for the village hall. Chris is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter based in Oxfordshire UK, primarily known for the past twenty-three years for his work with **Fairport Convention**.

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July The Mark Harrison Band + BBQ**

**Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door**

**Bruern Farm Cafe**

Described at BBC Radio 2 as 'quirky' and an artist who 'makes you think afresh', Mark is a totally original songwriter, a stunning guitarist, and a master storyteller. Mark's live shows are well-known not only for the music but also for his introductions and explanations of the songs, delivered in a manner often described as 'wry' and 'dry'.

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Aug Paul McClure + BBQ**

**Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door**

**Bruern Farm Cafe**

*Paul McClure's* songwriting style takes inspiration from the greatest of sources, from Bob Dylan to Loudon Wainwright III, Ray Davis to The Felice Brothers. A wonderful lyrical balance of wit, pathos, compassion and strength combines with an ear for timeless melody to prove the songs more than strong enough to carry the weight

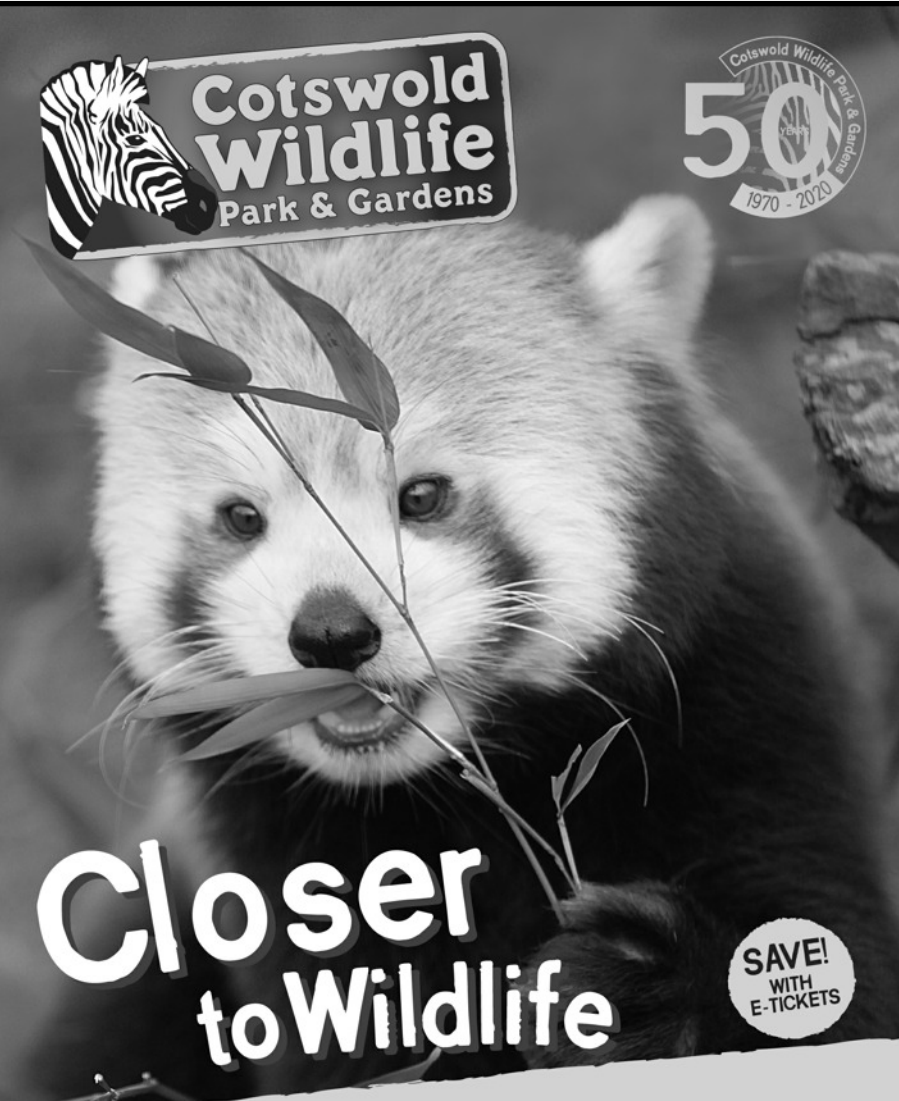
All events start at 7.30pm

Doors 7.00pm at Tiddy Hall

6.00pm At Bruern Farm

**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)



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## Nature Notes

When this magazine is delivered to you, and you read this article, mid-summer will only be a few weeks away and hopefully we will all be enjoying warm sunny weather.

However, I want to look back to the beginning of the year and consider the eventual arrival of spring. January was an average month. We did not experience any significant snow fall and we had 79mm of rain compared to our average rainfall over the last 29 years of 73mm. The average maximum day time temperature was 6.2C, but in the second half of the month there were 10 nights when the temperature fell below zero. The coldest night registered minus 7.0C.

In the traditional Rhyme February was referred to as 'fill dyke' meaning that this was traditionally a wet month, but not this year. Rainfall was a meagre 8mm compared to our long-term average of 60mm. Unusually this year during the month we experienced regular high air pressure, which kept the Atlantic storms at bay. However high pressure in winter tends to mean cold nights and there were 13 nights at or below freezing.

March heralded a complete reversal of February's weather. Low air pressure dominated, bringing sleet and snow early in the month, winds gusting up to 40-50mph and rain. Precipitation (rain and snow) was recorded in 26 days out of 31 during the month. In total we received 152mm of rain compared with the long-term average of 59mm. There were 9 frosty nights in the first half of the month.

April showers bring forth May flowers so traditional weather patterns predict and indeed there were 16 days when it rained. Overall, we did experience average total rainfall during the month of 58mm. There were 8 frosty days, most of which were at the start of the month.

Over the last three years I have been trying to monitor the start of Spring weather by recording the first sighting of our early butterflies. I tend to walk, with my dog, in similar places each year so whilst not truly scientific it does give an indication of how the seasons change each year.



The first butterfly to appear each year is the bright yellow male Brimstone, the females being paler. Brimstones spend the winter as adults hibernating amongst evergreen foliage, especially Ivy. From February onwards, if the weather is warm and dry, Brimstones may be tempted out, only to return to hibernation if conditions change. Their peak activity coincides with the flowering of Bluebells. In 2021 the first Brimstone was recorded on March 16<sup>th</sup>, in 2022 the

record was earlier on March 14<sup>th</sup>, but this year I did not see the first Brimstone until Mar 31<sup>st</sup>. Throughout April they were reasonably abundant.

The second butterfly to appear this year was the Peacock. This is another butterfly



that spends the winter hibernating as an adult, choosing outbuildings or tree hollows. Its dull brown underwings provide perfect camouflage. My first sighting this year was on April 8<sup>th</sup>, compared with March 30<sup>th</sup> in 2021 and March 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2022. Some years there are large numbers on the wing in April, but this year numbers are low.

My final early sighting was the Orange Tip, a small white butterfly with the male's forewings bearing a bright orange flash. The female lacks this striking marking and is often confused with a Green-Veined or Small White. Unlike the



two previously mentioned butterflies the Orange Tip does not hibernate as an adult but spends the autumn and winter as a pupa suspended from hedgerow twigs. It emerges in April and May as it starts to become warmer and this usually coincides with the appearance of its larva's main food plants, Garlic Mustard, also known as Jack-by-the-Hedge and Cuckoo Flower. My first

sighting this year was on April 23<sup>rd</sup> ten days later than in 2021. In 2022 my first sighting was on April 8<sup>th</sup>, which is early for this species. Normally the Orange Tip is a very abundant butterfly, but this year so far (early May) numbers seen have been low. A final butterfly, that usually emerges from hibernation early in the year is the Small Tortoiseshell. In 2021 the I saw the



first Tortoiseshell on April 12<sup>th</sup> and in 2022 it appeared exceptionally early on April 1<sup>st</sup>. This year I have not seen one by the first week in May, although I am sure that on the dry and warm days someone will have seen one.

*Stuart Fox*

# ***OH NO! HERE HE COMES AGAIN!!***

From across the field one day I caught sight of two men walking purposefully up our drive at Honeydale Farm, going towards the A361. 'They had probably been enjoying the view', I thought. No worries. We had a policy of live and let live in any case, which no doubt is why we were able to enjoy from close quarters the radiance of some of the cock pheasants with their mixture of very bright colourful feathers. This was enhanced for a while when our neighbouring farmer at the time decided to rear some pheasants for the shooting season. When the time came for them to be released from the pens to provide sport some of them had other ideas. Evading their planned destiny they became refugees and sought refuge on Honeydale Farm. Having been hand reared they were very friendly and quite approachable.

On the day following the exit of the two men up our road, whilst I was carrying some cattle feed down to the yard, our trouble arrived. I became aware of a close presence by my right heel and was amazed to see a cock pheasant trotting along beside me. Not a pretty bird, all over red feathers and about a third bigger than normal, the equivalent of a heavyweight boxer. He was equipped with a large hooked beak and the longest, strongest spurs I had ever seen. But never mind he seemed very friendly. He seemed intent on staying with us and visitors to the farm were amazed to see him stood by me or following me about. They had never seen anything like it, they said. He also seemed to be very pleased to be with moving vehicles. He followed close to the tractor when I was using it, most of the time near to the front wheel with a disdainful over the shoulder look of catch me if you can. In my innocence I stopped several times in case he disappeared under the wheel but soon decided he must take care of himself and he did. Some more pheasants came. I thought perhaps he would join them and wander off. But no! He approached the cock bird with a flash of his spurs and chased him away before returning to me.

Incredibly he soon had a complete change of character. Gone was the veneer of friendliness and in was naked aggression. Attack seemed to be his first reaction. He began to attack the sides of my legs with claws and spurs when I was carrying cattle food to the yard. I was protected by overalls and wellingtons but Wendy was a softer target when hanging out the washing. She had to fend him off with the washing basket and dash indoors before he launched a vicious counter attack. I tried to entice him to the back garden behind the bungalow but with a beat of his wings he was up on top of the roof and out by the washing line again. We also worried about him confronting the dog and cats. He had become so spiteful

He continued to be belligerent. We became more hostile to the visitors who obviously brought him that day. Far from innocently enjoying our view they were dumping their problem on us. Now we had to deal with it.

Strangely he had this attraction to moving vehicles so perhaps I would be able to, in effect, lead him up the garden path. One day on my way to Shipton he followed me the quarter of a mile up our drive, down the A361 nearly to the railway bridge before he gave up and I lost sight of him. We thought it was a problem solved and breathed a sigh of relief. But no! By the middle of the next day the wretched bird was back with us, he must have found his way across the fields. Where or how could we lose him? We didn't want him to be near children or small animals. The Forest seemed to be the best answer, his surely natural habitat. But how would we capture him and take him there?

We had a dog crate and he seemed partial to cat food. Would we be unbelievably lucky if we put a trail of cat food along the garden path and into the crate to entice him in there. It seemed worth a try. The miracle happened. He just followed the trail and I slammed the door on him. All wild animals and birds go berserk when they are locked in a cage. What would happen? He just carried on quietly eating as if he was fully at home which told the story of his early life as a pet who then became too much of a good thing. This explains his arrival at Honeydale Farm. .

We were surprised by the success of our plan. I quickly put the crate in the boot of the car and we took off for the Forest. We followed the Chadlington to Leaf-field road through the Forest and at the highest point beside a stone wall backed by trees, we unloaded the crate, placed it on the wall facing towards the trees, I opened the crate door. In a flash he was gone, and like Richard the Lionheart returning from exile he went to take command of his kingdom. In fact he went as fast as he could run. We took off rapidly in the opposite direction before he had a chance to return.

We were very dubious for the next few days. Would he return? But as the weeks went by we began to relax. Did he remain king of the Forest or did he end up on some dinner plate? We shall never know!

**Jim Pearse**

**POST OFFICE**

**TIDDY HALL**

**EVERY FRIDAY 2 PM TO 4 PM**

# **FOOTSTEPS FROM ASCOTT PAST**

## Part 20

Amongst all the Footprints of Ascott Past there seems to be a glaring omission. Where are the women? As the various census which began in 1841 show, there were almost equal numbers of male and female in the village so surely this must have been the case through all the previous centuries. But there are so few records of women. That is until the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century when a number of women began to make their Wills, almost all of them widows. Just one of them gives her status as spinster. I suppose this omission must point to the generally lower status that women must have held despite cooking, cleaning, washing, working for their menfolk and probably most important of all producing the next heir. Once married until around the 20<sup>th</sup> century all that belonged to a woman became her husband's property as soon as that ring was on her finger and this must have applied through all the previous centuries giving a woman little recourse to make her case.

But it is not quite as black and white as that because surprisingly in 1241 one woman was able to bring to court the crime of force and rape. Her name was Gillian of Ascott and she brought her case before the justices during the Oxfordshire Eyre.

An Eyre was the name of the circuit which in medieval times the Justices of Eyre from the Royal Court, travelled in certain years around the country. Begun in the time of Henry II the justices looked into all manner of cases from land disputes to serious crimes which obviously included rape.

Gillian accused the son of Nicholas of Kingham of the crime. Sadly although perhaps waiting months or even longer for the justices to arrive in Oxfordshire the Court was told that although both parties were in Court she did not wish to proceed with the case. The Court assumed there must have been some collusion. But what! Had the couple made up? Was there a child involved? Was it a case of blackmail or even a payoff? We have no idea but it does appear that women did have some type of recourse. It may have been a difficult case to prove and probably there was little chance of bringing the offender to justice as has happened well into modern times.

For more minor disputes the Manor Court in Ascott held its own proceedings. The Court was held on behalf of the much larger Ascott Doyley Manor although the freeholders of Ascott Earl were obliged to attend and abide by its decisions. Some of these Court records survive and a few women are mentioned for various reasons. In 1590 Ellen Fletcher and Margaret Whiting were presented to Court for



picking pulses before the allotted time and later Margaret Whiting was granted wood from one tree to make necessary repairs to her home. Margaret Whiting is also listed in a Survey of Ascott Doyley land in 1591. She was a widow and held a cottage and area of land on behalf of herself and her son.

Between 1554 and 1720 thirty seven Ascott women's Wills survive. All but one term themselves widows. Surprisingly more than half of these women are not recorded in the burial registers. Yet sadly for one woman she was recorded for all time as 'Elizabeth Quinch a harlott'. What must her life have been like here in the village? These widows would not have been from the poor of the village. They must have been of some standing to even consider making a will, their husbands perhaps yeoman tenants of Ascott Doyley Manor or freeholders from Ascott Earl.

### ALICE HICKES 1554

The earliest surviving Will is that of Alice Hickes. She died in 1554 in the first year of the reign of Mary Tudor. Henry VIII, Mary's father, had established the Church of England but Mary brought back the former Roman Catholic religion and this can be seen in Alice's Will when she asks to be saved by Almighty God and the whole company of heaven. She asks to be buried in Ascott churchyard and appears to be a fairly young woman since her three sons Thomas, Hew and George are all minors. These she leaves in the care of her brother and also asks that all her goods and chattels valued at £13 6s 8d be equally divided amongst the boys when they reach the age of twenty.

### ELIZABETH MARY CELYE

By the time of Elizabeth's Will in 1562 Elizabeth Tudor has succeeded to the throne and the Church of England religion was back in force. Elizabeth Mary bequeathed her soul solely to Almighty God. She asked to be buried next to her husband in Ascott churchyard and she left money for the church bells and the poor of the village. Son Tom was to have one cow and four sheep and household items including a trestle table, her grandchildren sheep and Jone her daughter most of her clothing including curtle, petticoats, sleeves, smocks, kerchief and a coffer with everything inside it and her ring. Her daughter Anne a kettle. The above three were to have a fifth of her pewter each as well as son Peter and son Robert was to have all the rest of her goods and chattels and to be her executor. Her will was written by Matthew Walker the priest and there were several witnesses. Other women, perhaps servants were to have her older clothes.

### JOANE HICKS

Neither Alice Hickes or the above are recorded in the burial register but Joane Hicks of Ascott Dawley who made her Will in 1684 is recorded. This was during the reign of Charles II. Joane asked to be saved by Almighty God trusting in the merits of Jesus Christ her saviour. She actually asked to be buried in Ascott Church so must have been a person of some consequence. She left £5 for funeral expenses. She left money to her sister and nephew in Wantage and her silver spoons and

household items to her nieces. She also asked for her husband's nephew to keep the chamber where he lived in her house for the rest of the year and when the deed was renewed for him to take it on if he wished and she hoped her land would continue to be sown in thirds, that is pulses, wheat and barley. Her goods and chattels were valued at £30 9s 11d, £16 of which was the deeds year and she was owed £2 6s 9d in debts. Joane was able to sign her name at the end of the Will.

The last two women give their residence as Ascott Earl. One Anne Ody was obviously the widow of a very wealthy man and the second Isabell Chaundy who had been born in Ascott could well have been an early non-conformist.

### ANNE ODY

Still during the reign of Charles II Anne's Will was written in 1671. Her husband had died in 1639 leaving her with five daughters and three sons. Some of these children were left houses and property in various parts of Oxfordshire by her husband whilst Anne remained in Ascott for the rest of her long life. She must have been between 70 and 80 when she died but she was not apparently buried in Ascott. Her husband had asked to be buried in Faringdon so perhaps Anne was too. Although wealthy the house in which she lived along Shipton Road does not appear to have had several rooms. Her Inventory lists just a cockloft, a chamber (bedroom) and a lower room. However the rooms must have been substantial since the chamber held two great beds and another bedstead. She had large amounts of linen, a coffer, boxes, a press and even a looking glass. Downstairs lots of kitchen equipment, a table, benches, chair etc. Her goods and chattels were valued at £96 19s but £60 8s were all debts owed to her so presumably she acted as a money lender. Her sons and married daughter were only left 1s each but the sons were to support Katherine Ody with £5 10s yearly whilst the other unmarried daughter Hester was to be executor and the major part of all Anne's goods and chattels were left to her. Despite her wealth Anne could not write and made her mark at the end of her Will.

### ISABEL CHAUNDY

Isabell Chaundy made her Will in 1722 in the reign of George I and styled herself Spinster. She was born in 1642 and was the daughter of Fulke Chaundy of Earles Ascott. When Fulke died in 1693 he made Isabell his executor and she then remained in the house, possibly today's Meadowbank House, until her death. Her brother John who was her executor was born in 1654 and died in 1729. It seems possible that Isabell and her father before her could have been early non-conformists from the wording of their Wills.

First Isabell firmly declares that this is her final Will revoking all other in word or writing made before. Then she states 'First being penitent and sorry from the bottom of my heart for my sins past most humbly desiring forgiveness for the same I commend my soul to Almighty God my Saviour and Redeemer'. Then follows a long religious declaration. She asks for all her debts and duties to be settled before turning to her goods and chattels. In our throwaway world of today it is hard to believe how people in the past treasured their clothes. Many of the Wills list clothes

## Ascott Grapevine

as bequests and Isabell was no exception. She was obviously very clothes conscious. She leaves one sister a damask gown, black petticoat, a riding hood, shifts and household items. Another sister a gown, damask petticoat and 2 flaxen shifts and a third sister her best damask petticoat and shift. She leaves her niece £20 of good and lawful money of Great Britain, a black hood and scarf and a silk handkerchief. Everything else was left to her brother John as executor. Like Anne Ody despite her long life and apparent wealth Isabell could not write and made her mark at the end of the Will.

This is just a tiny example of the intricacies of life in Ascott that can be discovered from these Wills and proves that women despite their lack of acknowledgement were just as much a part of life in the village as the men.

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# **Parish Council News Summer 2023**

Spring has well and truly sprung, and the village is now bedecked with tulips and apple blossom. A few days ago, as I was putting up posters on the board opposite The Swan one of the guests said, 'You are so privileged to live here'. We are and privileged to be able to share.

## **Flooding**

With the Spring however has come the first heavy rains and the first road closure of the year due to flooding. For any new residents, this is a reasonably common occurrence and the decision to close the road is done with both mechanics and safety in mind - given the often parlous state of the roads, you can never tell what the surface is like underneath the flood water. You may be lucky and avoid that gaping pot-hole; then again, maybe not!

With perfect timing, three residents - Keith Ravenhill, Mark Pidgeon and I - had just completed our inductions to become *bona fide* flood wardens for OCC and I had only shortly before taken one of the emergency team around the village pointing out the danger areas. This is part of a pilot scheme launched by the OCC Emergency Response Team with an aim to start building more resilience in the community; and for us, an important opportunity to feed back some of the knowledge and practices that Ascott has developed over the years.

On the subject of which...

## **Railway Garden**

Residents cannot have failed to notice the aftermath of the chainsaw-happy contractors who rampaged through the railway garden opposite the signal box. As well as ripping through much of the carefully tended planting, they left behind a sea of debris.

Now the railway garden is not simply aesthetic, to be enjoyed by residents and passers-by alike; it also serves a critical function for the village. Through the centre of the garden runs a ditch that is one of the main surface water drains; this in turn meets with a series of other drains from right across the village and sends the water down past Manor Farm and to the river.

The planting is specifically designed to hold back the banks on either side of that ditch, so that it never silts up. Ripping out the plants and leaving so much debris, all ready to wash into the ditches and the six narrow, easily blocked pipes that pass under the road on the far side of the level crossing - well, this could be disastrous.

So my first thanks go to those volunteers, both from the PC and outside, who have donned the pink GWR vests and helped to bag up and eventually to clear most of this from the site. We will be continuing the work and then deciding what can be done to repair the damage.

## ***Coronation***

As I write this, we are in the final lead-up to the Coronation Event. Whilst the Coronation itself is lavish, no money has been made available for local celebrations like ours, and so the PC has teamed up with Tiddy Hall and the Village Charity, and with help from the Village Shop and The Swan, together decided that the best option would be to have a picnic on the playing fields and lots of silly games to bring the village together. Whether you are a royalist celebrating the Coronation of our new monarch, or an ardent republican just wanting to celebrate the start of spring, we hope we have something for everyone. Anything that brings the village together is a good thing.

## ***Cost of Living***

For many, daily life could not be further from the glamour of that event. We know that the cost of living is still biting hard, especially to working people in critical jobs who are finding it hard to make ends meet. These are people who never expected to be in trouble.

The new financial year coincides with a Council Tax rise (the money coming to the PC is on the only constituent that has gone down), and other costs continue to spiral. This affects everyone, not just those directly feeling the hardship, but all who depend on them either socially, professionally or as neighbours.

We have, finally, managed to bring the three Wychwood parishes together to kick off a Cost of Living Event in Shipton. Here we will be inviting a number of agencies, charities, and other organizations that can offer genuinely practical help and advice. This is open to everyone, not just to those who need support, to find out what is on offer and what we can all do to help. A lot of work has gone into this and we hope you will support it.

## ***Annual Parish Meeting***

The other big event for the Parish Council this month is the Annual Parish Meeting. For those who did not attend the 'new-look' format last year, this is an opportunity for all residents to come along and hear what has been happening in the village, and to meet with the various organizations represented. There is always something new to learn! There will be some short presentations, but the focus is on meeting and talking together. If you are part of an organization doing work or wanting some publicity in the village, please let us know.

As always, please watch the village notice boards for details.

## Ascott Grapevine

We have a busy month ahead and so I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all of my fellow Parish Councillors and to all the other volunteers for their efforts. We still have a vacancy for one Parish Councillor: feel free to reach out to any of us to discuss what it means to be a Parish Councillor and whether you could volunteer.

**Brian Leach**

**Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council.**

**[contact@ascottpc.org.uk](mailto:contact@ascottpc.org.uk)**



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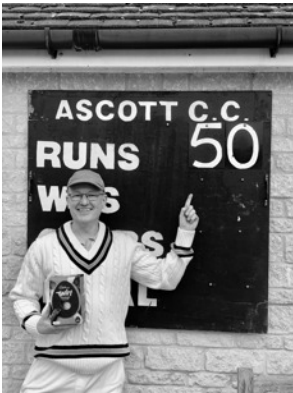


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# Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

Despite the exceptionally wet showery spring, the sound of red leather on finest willow has resumed and we managed to complete 4 matches by the end of April - winning 3, and losing 1. One of those was an emphatic victory at Charlbury, where we dismissed the home team for just 55! Some early standout individual performances have included a first ever 'half-century' by London Lane's finest



Steve Russell with an innings of exactly 50 runs, and a spectacular bowling return of 5 wickets for just 12 runs by our 19-year old fast bowler Rowan Moss.

We start our league programme in early May with tough fixtures vs Hook Norton 2nd, Swinbrook, and then a local derby vs Chadlington. Following our promotion to Cherwell Division 7B, a season of consolidation will be regarded as success.

We've made an eye-catching "new signing" in 20-year old Phoebe Dundass, who is a British citizen but has grown



up on South Island, New Zealand; and is an accomplished bowler. She's very quickly become popular with her team-mates with her fully committed attitude and skill, taking 6 wickets over her first 3 appearances. She's staying in Ascott so if you see her around do say Hello! We already have another young lady in training, as we hope to field more mixed XIs.

New local players, of all abilities and ages are still welcome. We practice at the field every Tuesday & Thursday evening (if it's not raining). If you're interested in joining, get in touch or come over to net practice and have a go.

On Wednesday evenings we have a small but keen group of youngsters in training, aged mainly 10-14. I would describe a couple of these as exceptionally talented - and despite their tender years they will make their debut in Sunday friendly matches this season.

In one Sunday game our youngest player was 12, in the same team as a 55 year old! There are not many team sports where this occurs, mixing multiple generations in the same team.

## Ascott Grapevine

If your son or daughter wants to learn this great and social game, contact us via the details below. All kit is provided, and the coach qualified to ECB Level 2.

Finally, don't forget 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 made up of several village senior figures skippered by Mr Andrew Weaver. We hope for a sunny day and to have the BBQ running, with as many spectators as possible encouraged to cheer on a Martyrs victory!



**Stewart Moss, Chairman.**

**07866 278685**

**[Auwcricetclub@hotmail.com](mailto:Auwcricetclub@hotmail.com)**

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

**Instagram:**

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

# Church Coffee Morning

Please come and join us on  
Sunday 21st May 2023  
10:30am - 12:00pm

At  
Corner House, 1 High Street,  
Ascott - Under - Wychwood

**Everyone welcome!**

Future Dates:  
16th July, 20th August, 17th September

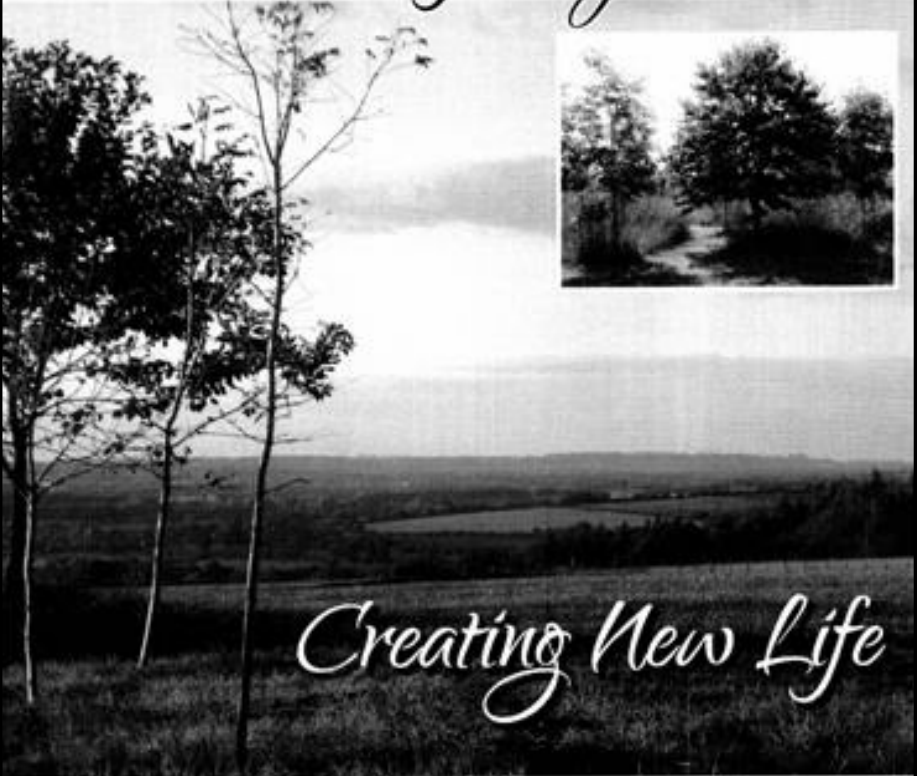
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# Combe Mill

Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, OX29 8ET

Come to our steaming event with all machinery running. Market Stalls to explore and refreshments from our BBQ and Tea Room. We also welcome bookings from local groups and book the Tea Room for your next Family Party

STEAMING EVENTS for 2023 WWW. Combemill.org

Sunday		Event
May	21 <sup>s</sup>	Barn Engines & Horticultural
June	18 <sup>th</sup>	Classic Wheels - We have invited Cars, Tractors, Motor Cycles, Models and much more, come along and take a look at the past of any vehicle with wheels.
July	16 <sup>th</sup>	Wildlife by the Evenlode - We have invited exhibitors to bring along and show wildlife as it is on the River Evenlode.
August	20 <sup>th</sup>	Models & Collections
September	17 <sup>th</sup>	Crafts & Skills
October	15 <sup>th</sup>	Wood craft
December	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas Fair Not in SYEAM

Combe Mill a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, all Machinery running 'In Steam' volunteers will be on hand with lots of interesting information. Come along and see the Blacksmiths in the forge you might just be able to make a poker.

Tea room will be open, BBQ, Gift Shop and Tombola.

Ever thought of volunteering at Combe Mill? Come to a steaming event when you will see were you have an interest and can join the 'Team'

Dog on Leads most welcome.

STREAMING 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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!

## Regular Events at Wychwood Library

### Afternoon Reading Group

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month 1.45-2.45

### Evening Reading Group

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month 7.00-8.15

Contact the library to book a free place.



### Craft Night

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month 7.30-9.30

Ask in the library to find out more.

Book a place. Charge to cover costs.



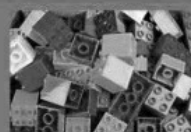
### Lego Club

Every Monday

3.30-4.30

Just drop in.

Free



### Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday

10-11.30

Just drop in. All welcome.

£1.50 for coffee and cake



### Rhymetime & Stay and Play

Rhyme-time every term-time Weds 9.30-10.00

Stay and Play every holiday Weds 10.00-11.30

Just drop in.

Free. £1.50 for coffee and cake (from 10.00)



### Family History Sessions

Wednesdays 10.30-11.30 & 11.30-12.30

Free bookable sessions with our local history volunteer.



For more information, drop in, call 01993 830281 or

email us at [Wychwood\\_library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Wychwood_library@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

Follow us on Facebook @ Wychwood Library.



TIDDY HALL

# Piano Lessons

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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)

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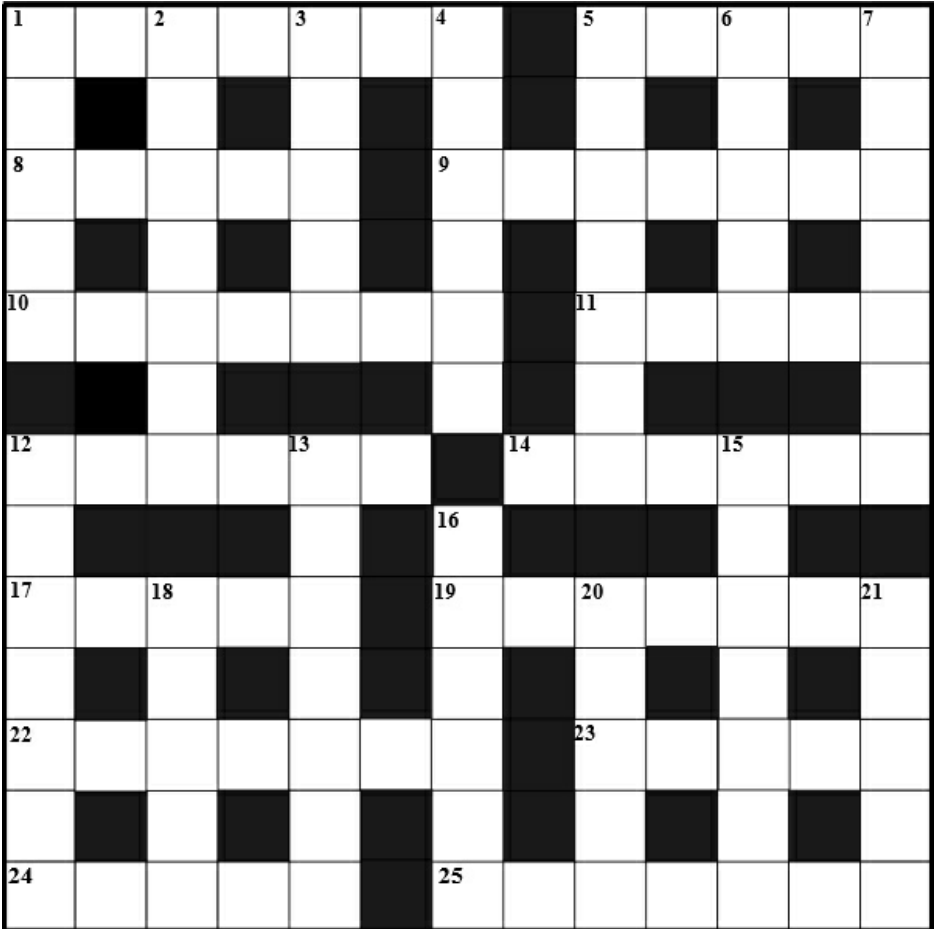
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# Crossword Puzzle





**Across**

- 1 Cor! Rain! (anag.) (7)
- 5 Movies (5)
- 8 Derek —, late comic actor (5)
- 9 1,000,000 (7)
- 10 London Street (7)
- 11 Metal bar (5)
- 12 Sole (6)
- 14 Road past town (6)
- 17 Hoist; wading bird (5)
- 19 Firedog (7)
- 22 Girl in *Great Expectations* (7)
- 23 A — and shaker (5)
- 24 Scatter (5)
- 25 Memory loss (7)

**Down**

- 1 Party dance (5)
- 2 Muslim holy week (7)
- 3 Elephant tusks (5)
- 4 Immature dragonflies (6)
- 5 Forge; misrepresent (7)
- 6 Fibbing (5)
- 7 Instrumental compositions (7)
- 12 Concealed facts (7)
- 13 Stays hidden (4,3)
- 15 Reaches destination (7)
- 16 Hat; country (6)
- 18 Thespian (5)
- 20 Devil (5)
- 21 A Bellini opera (5)

**Solutions to  
Crossword in  
Edition 117**

**Across**

- 1 Ponchos
- 5 Pilot
- 8 Anger
- 9 Resumes
- 10 Testified
- 12 Nil
- 13 Comedy
- 14 Stasis
- 17 Ill
- 18 Brown Bess
- 20 Buttons
- 21 Evade
- 23 Ranch
- 24 Literal

**Down**

- 1 Plant
- 2 Nag
- 3 Hurried
- 4 Sprain
- 5 Posed
- 6 Luminesce
- 7 Tussles
- 11 Simpleton
- 13 Climber
- 15 Tangent
- 16 Fossil
- 18 Booth
- 19 Shell
- 22 Air

# ***Local Business Directory***

**ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS** 01993830687 07989497253  
www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk Page 28

**ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP** 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk  
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk Page 17

**COTSWOLD WELLNESS** 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com  
www.fingersandtoes.info Page 48

**COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006  
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 33

**DONALD BENNETT PEST CONTROL** 07795 170457  
donaldbennettpestcontrol@gmail.com www.donaldbennettpestcontrol.biz Page 13

**DONALD BENNETT GARDEN SERVICES** 07795 170457 Page 13

**ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS** 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 9

**FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND** 01993 878387  
helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk Page 47

**FOLK CLUB** 01993831427 07870563299  
wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Page 32

**GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425  
info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk Page 51

**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 Page 48

**INGRID RIDLEY B&B** 01993830612/07952657906  
ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk www.meadowbank-ascott.co.uk Page 28

## Ascott Grapevine

<b>IVY'S FLORIST</b> 01993830268 Instagram@Ivy's Florist	Page 44
<b>JENNA SAUNDERS</b> 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	Page 9
<b>JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS</b> 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020 info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com	Page 44
<b>LED Lighting Showroom</b> 01993 704 105 www.LEDOxford.co.uk	Page 53
<b>OXFORDSHIRE PEST CONTROL</b> 07481553551 sales@oxfordshirepestcontrol.uk Www.oxfordshirepestcontrol.uk	Page 11
<b>ROBERT GRIPPER</b> 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	Page 28
<b>ROSENEATH</b> 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com	Page 50
<b>SIMPSON ARCHITECTURE</b> 07555 490460 www.simpsonarchitecture.co.uk Email: info@simpsonarchitecture.co.uk	Page 9
<b>THE SWAN</b> 01993 832332 reservations@swanascott.com www.countrycreatures.com	Page 8
<b>TOP OF THE TREES</b> 07971 310619 or 01993 830291 email: <a href="mailto:richardpolatch@gmail.com">richardpolatch@gmail.com</a> www.topofthetrees.co.uk	Page 41
<b>TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES</b> 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates	Page 10

# ***Events Calendar - 2023***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Steve Turner/Dan Sealey	Tiddy Hall
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 8pm	Ascott Martyrs Conference & Book Launch	FarmEd
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm - 3.30pm	AMET family/local history	Tiddy Hall
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.0pm	Three Piece Sweet (BBQ, 6pm)	Tiddy Hall
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Ascott Martyrs 150 Celebration	Tiddy Hall
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	tbc	BBQ and fun cricket match Martyrs vs Establishment	Playing Field
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	12pm - 3pm	Ascott Pre-school Family fun Day	Playing Field
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Chris Leslie	Tiddy Hall
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12.00	Coffee Morning	Corner House 1 High Street
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12.00	Coffee Morning	Corner House 1 High Street
September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Julie July Band	Tiddy Hall
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12.00	Coffee Morning	Corner House 1 High Street
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Phil Beer	Tiddy Hall
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Martyn Joseph	Tiddy Hall
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	All on a Winter's Night	Tiddy Hall

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