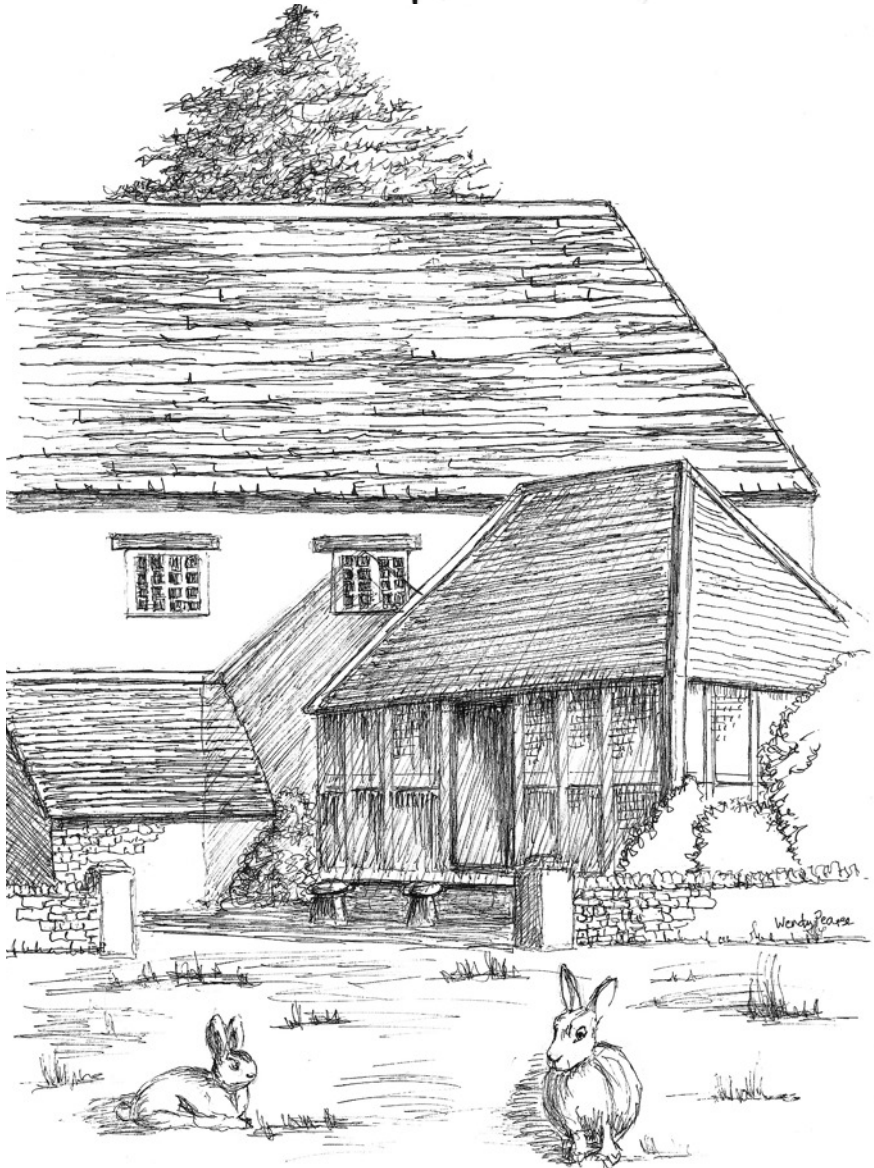


The Ascott Grapevine



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 November 2023.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email:
wendypearse@btinternet.com

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

Advertising Rates

£17.50 full page

£12.50 half page

£7.50 quarter page

Advertising Discount:

We still offer a 25% discount if you book and pay for 1 year's advertising in advance.

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. 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

Westcote Methodist

Tony Gibson 01993 830699

SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

Roman Catholic

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

Priest: Fr Paul Whieldon

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

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

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

Priest: Father Stephen Lambert

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and

St Teresa, Charlbury

Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

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:

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

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

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

4th Sunday of the month 8 am BCP Communion Service at Ascott

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

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

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

Ascott Pre-school

On Saturday 8th July we had our annual pre-school sports day and fundraising event at the Ascott recreation grounds. The weather gods were not kind to us, and it was what could only be described as a typical British summer's day with the heavens opening just as the races got underway. The children all had a fantastic time despite the weather, and the money raised will be put to good use as we are looking to the new September term when we will have a large intake of children joining us at pre-school. Thank you to everyone involved in organising this event and for all the kind donations we received. It is the dedication of our staff, parents/carers and volunteers that made this day possible.



NOTICE TO ALL OUR REGULAR ADVERTISERS

Everyone is aware of price inflation and the effect that it is having on our costs of living.

The Ascott Grape Vine is not immune from price increases and our printing costs have risen substantially in the last 12 months.

You may be surprised to know that we haven't increased the costs of advertising in the magazine for 10 years. Not many enterprises can make that boast!

However, we now must act and with immediate effect, our prices for new adverts are as follows:

Full Page £17.50, Half Page £12.50 and Quarter Page £7.50.

We still offer a 25% discount if you book and pay for 1 year's advertising in advance.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

FUTURE EVENTS

Make a note in your diaries to keep these dates free.
Sunday coffee morning in September, date and venue to be confirmed. Keep an eye on the noticeboards.

Quiz Night at the Tiddy Hall on the 18th of November

Carol Service on 10th December – time to be confirmed.

Support your church at these events.

Tiddy Hall Charitable Trust

It has been an interesting year since taking over from Simon Gidman as Chair of Tiddy Hall. We have faced several challenges and, though we have made good progress, the challenges are still significant.

Before I focus on ‘the good, the bad and the ugly’ of the last year, I want to thank my fellow trustees for their sterling work in running and promoting Tiddy Hall. During the last year, we welcomed two new trustees to the committee, Mark Pidgeon and Howard Morris; the latter took over as treasurer from Nick Carter who stood down as trustee after many years of excellent service. Sadly, Howard will be leaving us shortly as he is moving house and will no longer live in Ascott under Wychwood.

Simon Gidman, Ingrid Ridley and Kevin Bishop are also standing down as trustees after many years of excellent service. I am sure that the whole village will join me in thanking them for their fantastic support over the years. We are, therefore, in the market for a new treasurer and at least three additional trustees. If any villagers are interested in finding out more about becoming a trustee, please email me at jmjbugeja@aol.com.

Continuing the spaghetti western theme, let’s start with ‘the bad’! Our energy costs for the first three months of this year averaged £1,600 per month. To put that into perspective, that means that we need to have bookings at the full rate of £15 per hour for nearly 4 hours per day (every day) – just to cover the energy costs. On top of that we have the usual council tax, water rates, cleaning costs and general repairs. Excluding capital expenditure, our income fell short of our costs during this period at a rate of £632 per month.

There are clearly two sides to this equation: cost and income. On the cost side, we need to be more disciplined in ensuring that lighting is only used when necessary and that the heating thermostat is not set too high. We have underfloor heating which is effective but not very controllable. It takes days to warm up and can’t be quickly ‘switched off’ should the ambient temperature increase or the hall remain unoccupied for a few days. It is, essentially, a storage heater using a night-time tariff. The under-floor heating is supplemented by instant heaters mounted in the ceiling. These are much more controllable but, being mounted so high and given that hot air rises, are inherently inefficient and quite costly to run. We need to avoid using these heaters unless absolutely necessary.

With regard to lighting, Tiddy Hall has house lights and stage lights, both of which were installed several years ago and are now outdated in terms of energy efficiency. We recently installed new LED stage lights which are some 80-90% more energy efficient than the old lights and also are remotely programmable, meaning it is no longer necessary to manhandle huge, traditional spot and ‘wash’ lights whilst balanced precariously at the top of a long ladder. Additionally, they don’t generate

any heat, making the stage much more pleasant for performers. The new stage lights cost £5,200 (capital expenditure) and a number of fundraising events have been organized by the committee to cover the cost.

The house lights, which are used much more frequently than the stage lights, are of the traditional sodium variety and are also somewhat inefficient in terms of energy consumption. We are currently exploring the possibility of replacing the house lights with much more energy efficient LED installations. In order to evaluate the benefits of the switch to LEDs, we have arranged for an electrician to fit a device that will allow us to measure current energy consumption more accurately. We can then calculate how much energy could be saved if we were to switch to LED lighting. This would enable us to prepare a business case for the relative investment. Once we have the data, we will be approaching the village charity for a possible grant to cover some of the capital costs. We will also explore other sources of project funding including WODC and The National Lottery.

Turning now to 'the good', it is encouraging to see that bookings are picking up, though they are not yet at pre-lockdown levels. It is clear that post-lockdown demand has been negatively impacted by the cost-of-living crisis that we all now face.

Pricing had not been reviewed since 2014, so we decided that this should be undertaken without delay. Accordingly, new pricing, reflecting the increased running costs, was introduced earlier this year.

With regard to the fundraisers, so far, we have arranged and executed two events. The first was a 3PS performance (with BBQ and bar) and the second was a Folk Night featuring Chris Leslie (member of Fairport Convention and patron of the Wychwood Folk and Acoustic Club) and Ian W Brown. Both were hugely successful, and all proceeds were received by Tiddy Hall, raising around £3,000. Thanks are due to Mark Pidgeon who initiated and managed both events. Further events are planned including a joint Rock Choir/3PS performance and a classical music evening. Future events will be considered, including coffee mornings, craft fairs, 'flox-in-the-stix' and others, depending on demand.

Finally, 'the ugly'! The use of the car park has become something of an issue with one or two villagers bemoaning the recent decision to keep the gates locked. We invited feedback from the villagers who attended the AGM to determine whether a more pragmatic solution might be viable. Sadly, only three villagers turned up, so it was not possible to have a full debate on the subject. Those that did attend, however, expressed their views and these will now be taken into account.

To be clear, the aim was never to stop villagers or their guests parking in the Tiddy Hall car park but to ensure that priority is given to hirers of the hall. When a party hires Tiddy Hall for an event, they expect to be able to use the car park. As they are paying to hire the hall, this is entirely reasonable. So really, we want to ensure that the car park is fully available to hirers immediately before and during an event. Villagers and their guests can park there at any other time, but we do ask that they make a small contribution to Tiddy Hall funds.

Ascott Grapevine

Following the discussion at the AGM, we have decided that the car park will NOT be locked other than when an event is taking place. An 'A-board' will be positioned at the entrance the day before each event stating that the car park has been hired out for an event and will be unavailable for parties not attending the event. The gate will be locked the day before an event and opened for attendees when the event is due to start. It will then remain unlocked until the next event. The only exception to this general approach will be when Pre-school is in session. The car park has always been locked at these times and, for obvious reasons, this will continue to be the case.

In conclusion, we are making progress but the long-term viability of Tiddy Hall is still far from certain. I don't want to exaggerate the financial situation so, to put this into perspective, if we were to take no action and continue to draw on the funds held in the bank account, which were significantly boosted by a Covid grant, to cover the monthly shortfall, we would run out of funds in around four and a half years. We need more bookings and events, and we need to manage our energy costs as prudently as we can. This may mean investing in more efficient electrical equipment and even possibly having solar panels installed. If we can get funding for initiatives such as these, that would help enormously.

Our most immediate need is, of course, to recruit a new treasurer and some additional trustees. The best way to demonstrate the village's support of Tiddy Hall and to promote the community spirit for which Ascott under Wychwood is well-know, is to get involved as volunteers and to attend the events that are regularly hosted by Tiddy Hall, such as the Folk Nights, craft fairs, coffee mornings, musical performances, dinner dances, 'flix in the stix' and other fundraisers.

John Bugeja

Chair of Trustees

t +44 (0)7858 568804

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Ascott Community Shop are seeking a Treasurer to join the Management Committee.

Ascott shop is at the heart of our village community and is run by a manager and an enthusiastic group of volunteers providing a comprehensive retail service. We are soon to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

If you have book-keeping or accounting experience or are good when dealing with finance, why not consider joining our management committee as our treasurer? You'll find that your contribution will help to ensure the community shop's success and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to an essential village service.

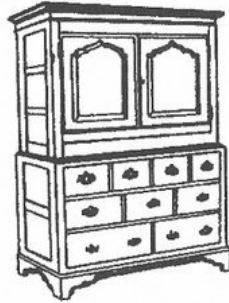
If you would like to discuss this voluntary position, please contact:

**Stuart on 01993 832004 or
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Pilates with Ursula, About, Why and How?

Pilates came into my life in 1994 through injury and quest for rehabilitation. Post-international corporate-world and part-time Pilates teaching in South Africa, England, and France, I began coaching in the Cotswolds in 2015. After surviving haemorrhagic strokes 2020, coma, meningitis and two brain surgeries, I now appreciate things we tend to assume. My neurosurgeons attest my ongoing recovery is enabled by Pilates. I've learnt being brave means pushing yourself outside your comfort zone.



Pilates created his low-impact method for fitness and mental health during WW1 internment. Scientific evidence demonstrates significant life quality improvements (Liposki et al. 2019) regardless of gender, ability, age, or physical challenges. Practice increases muscle strength and tone, flexibility, and bone density. Posture, lung capacity, circulation, motor-skills, along with balance improve too. Back pain reduces with added overall injury prevention. Pilates is complete co-ordination of body, mind, and soul. Repeated participation staves off potential Alzheimer related challenges, creating healthy habits. I see these benefits through changes in my clients.

The pandemic forced online classes and quickly showed its advantages, especially in time and travel costs. Zoom enables me more focus giving you simulated 1:1 minus the fee. All you need is a mat and internet connection and you're good-to-go. Post-class, socializing continues, depending on the day's 'mood' or other commitments. Class content varies weekly to challenge physical and mental ability. Age ranges 20-84, another affirmation it's never too late to start something new. Comments below from clients and

<https://www.facebook.com/pilateswithursula/reviews>

...dubious about online classes as I had the pleasure of studio classes with Ursula in the 'before times.' I now know that they really do work. Ursula is thoughtful and helpful in class; skilfully mixing the need to make sure we 'listen to our bodies' and gently pushing us to extend our efforts. I cannot recommend her classes highly enough! PB

...had Zoom reservations but incredibly surprised how Ursula never misses a trick! Love the flexibility and not having to travel, especially in the Winter. I don't have to jeer myself up to go, I'm in the warmth, and it feels like a private 1:1 session. Things change as we age, it's better to start off right then to fix a problem later. Pilates with Ursula keeps me doing what I love most. LB

There is no rewind. We're responsible for our wellbeing to ensure the transition through 'seasons of our lives' are healthful. Like anything, if you don't try, you'll never know. Come join the journey and experience all benefits for yourself. Looking forward to your questions/contact move@pilateswithursula.com





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Trump That

Holy week is the most solemn in the church year. Christ rode on a donkey in great humility into Jerusalem on the first day of the week, by the end of the week he was being hammered to a cross.

What I found intriguing during Holy week of this year 2023, was another man had to stand before his accusers, he was Donald Trump. The difference, he arrived in New York in great pomp in his own airliner with the name Trump written large along the fuselage, he was then taken by a fleet of limousines to the place where he would be charged.

I did wonder, why his followers could not have got him a big fat ass to ride through the streets of New York.

One question I hope they asked Trump was the same question asked by Pilate to Christ “what is truth?”

Many have a fear that if Trump becomes President again, he and his followers will do a quick deal with the criminals in Moscow. The sacrifice and heroism of the people of Ukraine will all have been in vain. I fear we have leaders who would not know the truth if it were pushed in their face like a custard pie.

But what is the ultimate truth - I doubt any human being knows. Perhaps one day artificial intelligence will find out. But will it be able to bleed and grieve and show empathy?

Maybe astronomers and scientists know the ultimate truth when they forecast somewhere in time the sun will start to lose its power and start to enlarge and the earth will be swallowed into its gravity. The idea of God, the idea of truth, justice, beauty and love won't exist any more.

So, the liars of the world had the right attitude after all. I get depressed writing this and look for a straw to cling to. Have I found one, when Christ was supposed to have said “Heaven and Earth may pass away but my word will remain”?

Perhaps He knew more than we are ready to give Him credit for.

Fred Russell.

Ascott Village Shop

END OF AN ERA AT ASCOTT SHOP

On 31st May Bridgette Crundwell retired as our shop manager. She has been the driving force behind many of the changes and improvements we have witnessed over the years. Bridgette was first appointed manager on 1st July 2012, but she had served as a volunteer supporting the management committee in the early days of the shop's existence. During her time in the shop, she became a friend and confidant to many of our customers and in retirement, she will be missed by all.

We wish her well and hope that she enjoys a well-earned rest and a break from the daily demands of shop duties.



Stuart-Shop Treasurer

The Tiddy Hall Trustees need you!



Have you got a bit of spare time to help your local community?

The **Tiddy Hall Trustees** are looking for a new **Treasurer** and a few new members to help with the running of the day-to-day activities at **Tiddy Hall** and the planning of fund-raising & village events once or twice a year.

Tiddy Hall was gifted to the village by Reginald Tiddy in 1912 and has a fascinating history, one we are very proud of and wish to continue.

The Trustees are a friendly bunch, meet once every 5-6 weeks and would welcome any residents, new or old, to help with this wonderful asset in our beautiful village.

Any further questions? Please contact the Chairman, John Bugeja jmjbugeja@aol.com or Ingrid Ridley ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk or 07952 657906



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We are looking to recruit volunteers for our bereavement service to provide support to family and friends who have lost someone close to them.

Our service offers the opportunity for people who are bereaved to share their experience of grief and their memories of the person who has died.

Are you

- *Warm, empathic and a good listener?*
- *Able to support other people's expression of grief and distress?*



Do you

- *Have 16 hours a month to spare?*
- *Have your own transport?*
- *Want to make a difference?*

What we provide

- *Foundation level training given (approx 56hrs).*
- *Ongoing training, supervision, and support.*
- *Travel and phone expenses.*
- *Online mandatory training (approx 8 hours).*

We do not recommend this work for those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years and it is essential that all training is attended.

CLOSING DATE: 1 November, 2023

If you are interested in finding out more or applying, please contact us on:

✉ pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk

☎ 01865 225994 or

☎ 01865 225868

www.khh.org.uk

www.sobellhouse.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Sobell House & Katharine House Hospices are currently recruiting for Volunteers.

In **Sobell House**, we currently require Ward Volunteers to support the work of the clinical team on our In-Patient Unit and Volunteer Drivers are needed to help us in the transportation of our patients and equipment.

In **Katharine House and Sobell House Hospice**, we need Bereavement Volunteers and Volunteer Companions, they are needed to help support our patients and families in the community and on both In-patient Units.

If you are interested in finding out more or would like an application form, please contact us at: [PallcareVolunteerServices@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto: PallcareVolunteerServices@ouh.nhs.uk)

Could you give up some time to be a Charity Trustee?

We need new Trustees from the village to help to manage the Ascott Village Charity. The Charity was set up many years ago for a wide range of community purposes. In one way or another it touches on most or all of our village activities, and the Trustees are likely to be involved in all sorts of ways in our local life together. Perhaps there are particular causes or interests that you would like to help or support? Being a trustee might give you a new opportunity to do so.

There are 8 trustees at the moment and they give of their time and experience freely. We meet for a couple of hours three or four times a year, and more often if needed. Why not give us a trial? Come and join us for one or two meetings and then decide if you would like to make it permanent. Our next meeting is fixed for 7.30 pm on Tuesday 19th September. We would love to see you if you would like to come along. Just phone John Cull our chairman on 07831 852846, or Mark Dawbarn our secretary on 01993 831632.

Kith & kin, song and dance, cake & cricket: Ascott Martyrs 150th Anniversary

It's hard to believe now, but the sun shone throughout June's programme of events marking the 150th anniversary of the Chipping Norton Incident that made Martyrs of 16 women from Ascott under Wychwood who were sent to prison in 1873.

Although the celebrations were centred around 20th June (the day in 1873 when the village celebrated the safe return home of the Martyrs) the programme began in April to coincide with the start of the strike, with displays in Burford, Chipping Norton, Witney and Wychwood (Milton) libraries, and the window of Chipping Norton Museum. These introduced the Martyrs and their story to a wider audience. Regular posts to our growing Facebook audience told the story as it unfolded 150 years ago and put us in touch with a number of descendants. A programme of talks given to groups across Oxfordshire (and beyond) helped to further spread the word and keep the story alive.

The Celebrations in Ascott began with a 'gathering of the clans' for a local/family history afternoon at the Tiddy Hall on Saturday 17th June. It was amazing to see so many people enjoying old photographs of Ascott from the Wychwood Local History Society's Archive. Performances by Charlbury Finstock Morris, included some of the dances traditional to Ascott, and the Wychwayz Border Morris transported us back in time and added colour, music and an air of festivity to the occasion. The appearance of a group of women waving sticks provided an uncanny link to the Martyrs' story. Reginald Tiddy would certainly have smiled.

The Martyrs' story is about kith, kin and the afternoon's star attraction was definitely the amazing Martyrs' Family Tree. At 11m in length and containing more than 2,700 names, the Tree is probably one of the longest ever printed and is certainly the only one we know of that is based on a group of people brought together by a single incident. In creating the Tree it soon became obvious that all the women involved were related to each other, if not by blood then by marriage. The population profile of Ascott has certainly changed a lot since then!

Volunteers from the Oxfordshire Family History Society were on hand to help people with their queries. They also provided a reminder that Oxfordshire's libraries provide free access to sites such as Ancestry and Find My Past, for anyone wanting to discover their family tree.

The prospect of learning more about Ascott, their Martyr ancestors and the potential to meet relatives, albeit it distant, and compare trees, drew people from as far away as Cornwall, Newcastle, Kent, Hampshire, Worcestershire, London, Birmingham, as well as from across west Oxfordshire. We were delighted that Beverley McCombs was able to make the long journey (although not the 96 days it took her forebears to make the arduous sea voyage) from New Zealand to join us to represent the overseas branches of the Martyrs' Tree. Many of those descendants are now proudly wearing their distinctive blue Martyrs' badge.

On Saturday 24th a capacity crowd was treated to a memorable performance of *Three Acres and a Cow* in the Tiddy Hall. Part 'TED talk', part folk club sing-a-long, the show was complimented by special performances of their 'Martyrs' Songs' by the Sea Green Singers, Turning Signs and Ascott's own Mark Pigeon, whose generous advice and expertise helped make the show such a success. A raffle on the night raised £75 for the North Oxfordshire Foodbank.

On Sunday 25th June we were blessed with yet another beautiful sunny afternoon for the 'Martyrs' v 'Establishment' cricket match. Establishment captain Mr Andrew Weaver won the toss and elected to bat, sending in his experienced best batter Mr Simon Gidman to try to blunt the Martyrs' young tearaway fast bowler Will Harvey (14) and naggingly accurate Miss Phoebe Dundass. He succeeded in seeing both opening bowlers off, but it was honours even as both claimed a wicket; 25 runs for 2 wickets. The Martyrs introduced their two talented junior bowlers - Andrew Taylor (11) and Eddie Russell (12) and they quickly showed why they are so highly regarded with the key wickets of Mark Pidgeon, and Andrew Weaver - both LBW. The Martyrs were jubilant as the Establishment soon subsided to 86/6 in the face of accurate bowling and good fielding. But the determined Mr Gidman was not to be easily dislodged, and he took the scoreboard to 101 before being unluckily run-out by Phoebe for a very fine score of 46 runs.

Simon declared afterwards "there's still a few runs in the old man yet!" The Establishment tail-enders then quickly withered against the Martyrs attack and were 104 all out from 32 overs.

Martyrs opener Steve 'Run Machine' Russell displayed all his patience as he defied all the bowlers Mr Weaver could call upon. Though the Martyrs lost a few batters at 63/3 (Mr Pidgeon cooing with delight when he clean-bowled the Martyrs no 3 Josh Beasant) - Steve remained undaunted, withstood the fast short pitched bowling of questionable 'ringer' Lorimer Kay, and broke the Establishment hearts. Several catches were dropped by fielders, veteran Clive Jowett rolled back the years with some big hits, and Steve reached his '50' as the Martyrs sauntered to victory. It was left to 12 year old Eddie Russell to joyfully whack the winning run in the 29th over at 108/4. The beautiful glass trophy was lifted by the Martyrs, looking resplendent with blue ribbons on their shirts!

As the sun set players and spectators alike feasted on BBQ, cake and cider - rounding off a memorable afternoon.

Ascott Grapevine

Those who preferred to spend the afternoon in a more leisurely fashion took a stroll along the **Blue Ribbon Trail** (the striking agricultural labourers wore blue ribbons in their hats) to explore the village as it was in 1873. *Copies of the Trail are still available in the Church for a small donation to parish funds.*

Although the barbecue and beer on the cricket field proved popular, many sought shelter from the sun to admire the Martyrs' commemorative textile and enjoy a refreshing cup of tea and slice of cake in the Church where many of the Martyrs and their families were baptised, married and eventually buried.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who supported the celebrations and especially to Les Timms for her incredible work on the family tree. Also to our Trustees and supporters, Cynthia Bryant; Paula Nielsen-Tickner, Andrew Weaver and Sue Richards, who beavered behind the scenes doing everything from making tea to posting on Facebook, producing exhibition labels, type-setting trails, stringing up bunting and organising car parking, never have so many cars been so neatly parked in such a small space!

The story hasn't ended yet. Follow our posts on **Facebook** to discover what happened to the Martyrs and their families, and to learn more about life in Ascott after 1873. There's more information about the Martyrs at www.ascottmartyrs.co.uk. Copies of Beverley McCombs' book on the subject is available in the village shop. My thanks to Stewart Moss, Chairman of Ascott under Wychwood Cricket Club who provided the cricket match report.

Carol Anderson Chair: Ascott Martyrs Educational Trust

See over page for Martyrs Family Tree



Three Acres and a Cow: Tiddy Hall



A confident Establishment team before the match



The Victorious Martyrs team receive the Trophy

Ascott Martyrs Family Tree



L-R Karl Rogers (descendant); Beverley McCombs and Les Timms

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Sat Oct 7th Phil Beer + support by *Sunjay*

Tickets £16.00 in advance £18.00 on the door

Tiddy Hall

Phil Beer is the multi-instrumental half of the west country's award-winning acoustic duo, Show of Hands. With a professional career of over 36 years, Phil has a great deal of material to draw on for his solo appearances, which are an eclectic mix of traditional tunes, covers of Springsteen or The Hollies, together with his own compositions and songs from his contemporaries.

Sat 25th Nov Martyn Joseph

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £20.00 in advance £22.00 on the door

Martyn Joseph is a completely unique and mind-blowing artist. Take everything you think you know about singer songwriters....and rip it up. For one man and a guitar he creates a performance with a huge far-reaching sound that is energetic, compelling and passionate. Be it to two hundred people or twenty thousand, he blows the crowd away night after night.

Sat 16th Dec All on A Winter's Night featuring Johnny Coppin

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £15.00 in advance £17.00 on the door

Drawing on material from five Christmas albums, **Johnny Coppin**, one of England's finest singer/songwriters, presents a rich mix of carols and songs old and new, together with stories and folklore.

Reviews of new Midwinter - Live in concert album (recorded December 2019)

"A joyous and celebratory collection" ***** from 5 star review in RnR magazine

"A flawless masterpiece ...highly recommended" – FATEA Magazine

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

Open day and demonstration of village crafts and skills', June 14th 1975

A lot of talent back then, there are probably a lot of similar skills residing in the village today in 2023

<p style="text-align: center;">ASCOTT - UNDER - WYCHWOOD VILLAGE SOCIETY</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">OPEN DAY and DEMONSTRATION of VILLAGE CRAFTS and SKILLS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY 14th JUNE 1975 at 2.30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CROWN FARM, ASCOTT--u-WYCHWOOD</p> <p>CAR PARK FREE Entry by Programme 10p.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lucky Number _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">2.30</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Peal of Church Bells</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Frank Tucker and team</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.00</td> <td>Butchery - Pig and Lamb Jointing</td> <td>Chris Cook</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.30</td> <td>Cream Separating</td> <td>Cornbury Park Estate (John MacTicar)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.00</td> <td>Children Dancing</td> <td>The School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.30</td> <td>Spaghetti Making</td> <td>Bruce Purchase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.00</td> <td>Sheep Shearing</td> <td>Arthur Badger</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.30</td> <td>Clay Pigeon Shoot</td> <td>Chris Badger</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">A l s o</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Display of Farm Machinery Flower Arrangements in the Church Exhibition of Brass Rubbings School open to visitors from 4.30 p.m.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p>Fony Hides and Play Area for Children</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p>Home made SOOME and freshly separated CREAM YEAST from 3.45 p.m.</p> </div> </div>	2.30	Peal of Church Bells	Frank Tucker and team	3.00	Butchery - Pig and Lamb Jointing	Chris Cook	3.30	Cream Separating	Cornbury Park Estate (John MacTicar)	4.00	Children Dancing	The School	4.30	Spaghetti Making	Bruce Purchase	5.00	Sheep Shearing	Arthur Badger	5.30	Clay Pigeon Shoot	Chris Badger
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<u>DISPLAYS AND DEMONSTRATIONS</u>	
Archeological Display ...	Reg. Edginton
Bird Display ...	John Campbell
Collage ...	Carol Howe
Corn Dollies ...	Joyce Tucker
Cotswold Walling in Miniature	Donald Fletcher
Dry Stone Walling ...	David Benfield
Fishing Flies ...	Peter Moss
Handwork ...	Irene Allison
Lampshades ...	Monica and Jenny Badger
Lino Cutting and Printing ...	Frank Warner
Paper Flowers ...	Mary Russell
Painting ...	Margaret Barker
Painting ...	Ann Kington
Painting ...	Stephen Sheppard
Patchwork ...	Phoebe De Syllas
Picture Frames ...	Eric Pratley
Rushwork ...	Florentia Tait
Smocking ...	Elizabeth Campbell
Soft Toys ...	Bertha Carpenter
Tapestry ...	Elfrida Pattinson
Upholstery ...	Geoff. Hickman
Wine Making and Tasting ...	Gordon Allison
Wood Craft ...	Gordon Barker
Wood Craft ...	Frank Tucker
Wood Craft ...	Don Wallis

A lot of familiar names and interesting to see how times have changed.

Ascott Grapevine

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Cost of Living Crisis



Following our community appeal in October 2022, I am pleased to report that we have received over £6,000 in donations from many generous people in the Village. We are most grateful for your response and as such, we have been able to help those within our community in genuine need.

The good news is that energy charges are starting to come down as well as inflation. We have all experienced the impact of increased food prices and this has been felt by many and as such, food banks continue to provide a much need service within the Wychwoods.

At a recent Cost of Living event at Beaconsfield Hall, representation was from a variety of agencies including WODC, OCC, Cottesway, and Trading Standards amongst others. What was evident is the massive amount of support to help people in three key areas, Financial Health, Physical Health and Mental Health. All three have to work in tandem and when there is a 'crisis' as we have all experienced during the winter, it is comforting to know there is help and support available to those who need it.

This is where we can help

We have the funds in the bank, and we will continue to help those in the need during this coming winter. We will then review the take up from local residents and decide what we will do next as we get into next summer.

If you are facing heating or food bills and have little or no means to meet the costs, please contact our secretary Mark Dawbarn markdawbarn@outlook.com (Tel: 01993 831632) who will guide you through a simple application process. This should be seen as a one-off top up in a time of crisis rather than a long-term solution. All enquiries will be dealt with confidentially. If this is difficult for you, we would urge a neighbour or friend to make contact on your behalf.

We also have established links and contacts across the Wychwoods and if you require help in other areas of your life that might be affecting your well-being, we can put you in touch with those agencies who have the resources and experiences to help.

Based on our 'lived' experience from last winter, here's hoping we ALL find the resources we need to cope with the coming winter.

On behalf of the Charity Trustees – THANK YOU!

John Cull

The Village Charity

Registered Number: 1099078

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



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WYCHWOOD



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 Sipton-under-Wychwood, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Leaffield, 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
	Sipton-under-Wychwood Shaven Crown 0925		Crawley The Lamb 1212
	Ascott-under-Wychwood Village 0930		Leaffield Witney Lane 1219
	Leaffield The Green 0936		Leaffield Lower End 1222
	Leaffield Lower End 0938		Leaffield The Green 1225
	Leaffield Witney Lane 0942		Ascott-under-Wychwood Village 1231
	Crawley The Lamb 0948		Sipton-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

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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



Service Supported by Oxfordshire County Council



210 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 Cntr			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)

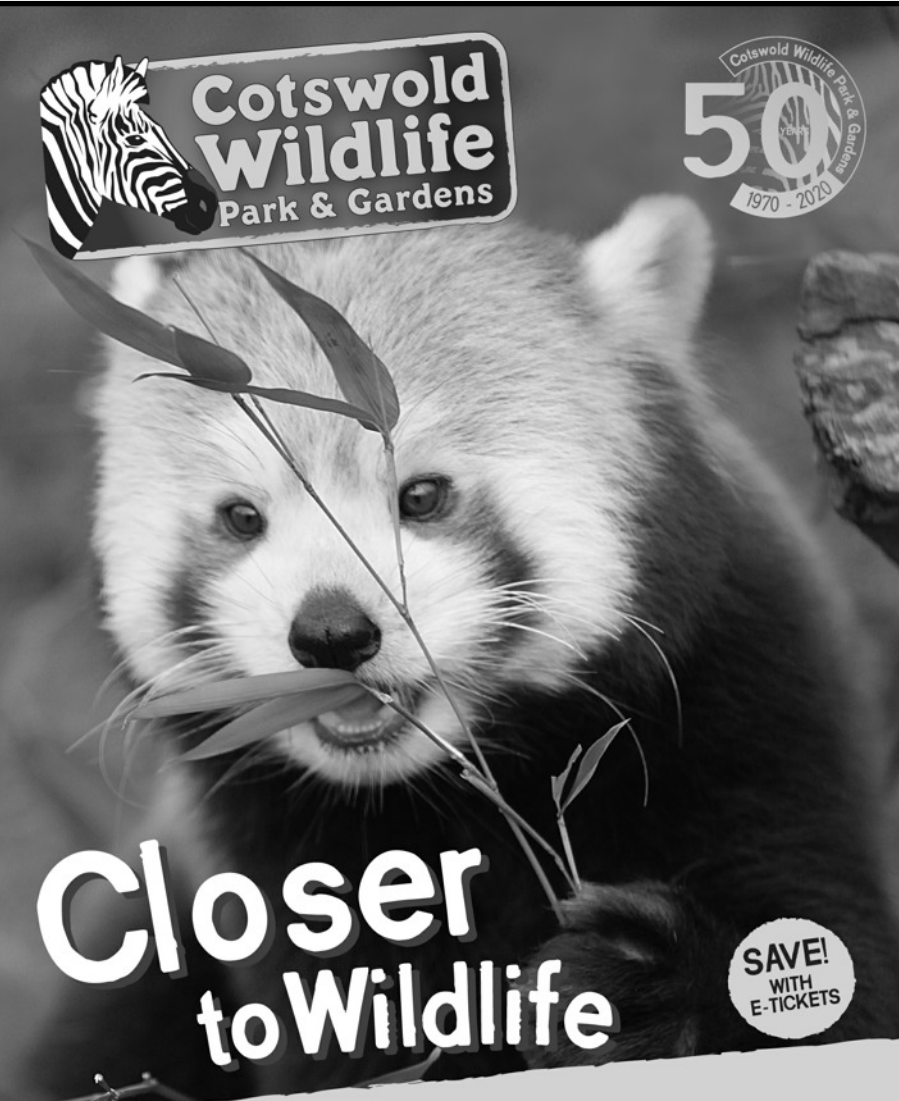
Milton Hare	0800	1000	1250	1600	1800
Shipton U Wychwood	0804	1005	1255	1605	1804
Ascott U Wychwood	0809	1011	1302		
Leafield Lower End	0819	1021	1312		
Burford				1617	1815
Crawley Lamb	0828	1031	1322		
Deer Pk Med Cntr	0835	1038	1329		
Witney Mkt Sq (A)	0842	1044	1336	1646	1828
Sainsburys	0845	1047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

This Timetable is valid from 03rd April 2023.



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Council warns people to check with planning department before purchasing land

West Oxfordshire District Council is warning potential buyers of land in West Oxfordshire to do proper checks before purchasing land.

Councillor Carl Rylett, Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Development, said, “We have been contacted by numerous people who are confused about the sale of plots of land in West Oxfordshire that are being sold with adverts saying they have future potential for development.

“While the adverts state buyers need to make their own enquiries about development of the plots, to an unsuspecting buyer that doesn’t have planning knowledge it is not very clear what would be possible on the land.

“Some of those contacting us are asking about buying land to build their own home when the likelihood of planning permission being granted is very low. Some of these plots have even had planning permission for development turned down on numerous occasions before being sold as individual plots.

“The plots often sell at what seem to be very attractive prices which are mostly so low because the land is not suitable for building homes on. If they were suitable for homes then the land would be worth far more, often up to 10 times the asking price, and would likely have been sold to developers.

“This happened a number of years ago on land at Hailey and Eynsham and we have recently received complaints regarding land that is being sold outside Church Enstone where concerns have been expressed that the land does not have planning permission, has had planning applications for development refused on multiple occasions and is not allocated in the Local Plan for development.

“There will be many reasons why people want to buy plots of land, and many of these plots will be great for different purposes, but we want people going into these purchases with their eyes open to the true potential of the land.

“We are calling out to anyone looking to purchase land for development to make sure they are fully aware of what planning is required for what they want to do and to get professional advice so they go into the purchase with the full information.

Ascott Grapevine

“Our planning team are happy to offer information and support so please do contact us if you are thinking of buying land or speak to another planning or development professional.

“We also call on auctioneers and those selling land to make it clearer to potential buyers about the planning history of sites, provide clearer details about who potential buyers should contact before purchasing and provide more information on the planning process and Local Plan.”

Contact Information

West Oxfordshire District Council Communications Team

communications@westoxon.gov.uk

ASCOTT CHURCH KEY-HOLDER ROTA.

We are seeking volunteers to join our Church key-holder group.

Recently we have lost two volunteers who are moving away from the village and we would like to replace them.

The duties are not onerous. When it's your turn on the rota you will open the church before 10 am and close it after 4 pm. The actual times are at your convenience. Depending on the number of volunteers on the rota your week's duty would occur every 6 to 7 weeks.

During your holidays or time away another volunteer on the rota would cover for you and if that was not possible a member of the Church P.C.C. would cover in your absence.

If you can help, contact Stuart on 01993 832004 or by email stuart.john.fox@gmail.com.

FOOTSTEPS FROM ASCOTT PAST

If someone today asked to be directed to College Farm, Ascott, you would probably direct them to Robin and Sally Walkers' farm up Chippy Hill. But this is only one of three sites in the parish which has been known as College Farm.

Originally when the farm came into the ownership of Brasenose College, Oxford in 1433, the buildings of the property were on the site of today's Grange in Shipton Road. The land was scattered in over 130 strips all over the parish from Ascott to Langley Mills and from beyond the Chipping Norton to Burford Road to beyond the Chipping Norton to Charlbury Road. However seven years later a Court Case in London which lasted for four years saw the ownership disputed by the father of an underage Anne Abley from Charlbury when it was claimed that Anne's grandfather Elis Shepherd bought the farm from a certain John Smyth. Matthew Smith, the Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford at that time had bought the property from George Smyth, a cousin of John. The case hinged on the age of John when he sold it to Elis Shepherd. It was stated by the College that John was in his none-age (under21) when the sale went through and was therefore unable to sell the property. Witnesses as to the date of John's birth were taken to London, even the midwife Agnes Fyppess from Witney who had attended John's birth on a Shrove Tuesday in the Crown at Shipton. (The Crown only became the Shaven Crown in the 20th century.) Of course the power of the college was the deciding factor. Matthew Smith won but was ordered to pay a sum of money to Anne Abley as a recompense. We may wonder what had prompted Anne Abley's father to pursue the case after this number of years.

Time passed and with the Enclosure Award in 1838 the strips vanished and each owner was given a compact area of land which they then had to enclose with walls or hedges. At that time the tenant of College Farm was Peter Harris. He already owned today's Meadowbank House and the farmland then attached to it. Peter subsequently swapped with the College some land which he owned nearer to Oxford for the Brasenose property in Ascott. This amalgamation of the two farms comprises most of College farm today. If you look west along the valley from Ascott Bridge you will see an embankment rising up to the railway track. This was the access to their fields from today's Grange (then College Farm) when the railway opened in 1853. A wooden bridge wide enough for wagons had already been constructed over the river. Sometime after Peter's death in 1856 his daughter Esther Boyes sold the Grange site on Shipton Road and moved to the Meadowbank site which then became known as College Farm.

The graves of Peter, Elizabeth his wife, and the family of his other daughter Mary Yapp who farmed at Crown Farm, are in the middle of the group of yew trees on

Ascott Grapevine

the southwest corner of the churchyard. Elizabeth is also commemorated by her daughter Esther Boyes on the memorial beside the lectern in the church.

Then in the late 20th century Alan Woodley the then owner of College Farm decided to sell for development the house and buildings in Shipton Road and to build a new house on the land up Chippy Hill and so the name College Farm moved to its third location.

Wendy Pearse



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Leisha Braithwaite

4th May 1984 - 22nd April 2023

Leisha was born at Chipping Norton Cottage Hospital. She attended Charlbury Primary School and at 11 moved to Rye St. Anthony School in Headington and then to York University where she read politics. In 2004 she embarked on travels through South America and was surprised at a Visitor Reception on the equator in Ecuador to find herself face to face with Matt Gidman from the other end of Ascott! On her return to the UK it was career time. She was determined to work in the charitable sector, and she obtained an internship with Dr. Barnardo's. Subsequently she secured a position with Clic Sargent where she spent fifteen months before moving to UNICEF in 2009. She worked there as a Corporate Fund Raiser, until her diagnosis with cancer in May 2021.

After years of shared rental accommodation in 2013 she purchased her flat in London between Herne Hill and Brixton. Shortly afterwards she met Andrew Davies, an ambitious infrastructure architect with Hawkins Brown and in 2015 he moved to live with her in the flat. Their first trip abroad together was to Greece, where they travelled to Athens, Naxos, and Santorini. It was on this trip Bubba learned that Leisha's directions were questionable despite her absolute assurance she was correct – this resulted in them driving down the face of a mountain on a footpath to their impending deaths. A heated debate ensued leading to Leisha taking over as driver only to immediately hit a post on pulling out. For the next few years Leisha was the beating drum of exploration. They enjoyed an ambitious holiday to Cuba where she famously enjoyed the local rum so much, she was sick in bed all over Andrew, who had also had his fair share of rum and slept through it, only realising what had occurred when he woke next morning. Their travels took them to South Africa, Sicily, weekends in Ghent, Madrid, Scotland, Wales, the Lake District and Cornwall. Leisha had an unquenchable thirst to explore and experience new places.

The pandemic firmly put a stop to these adventures. Leisha found this period particularly challenging, and she utilised the time to upskill. She learnt French from an app on her phone and learned crocheting. Covid slowly released its relentless grip on life and the adventures started again. In May 2021 Leisha and Andrew went for a long weekend in the New Forest for her birthday. They rented mountain bikes and went for a tough but very rewarding 22-mile bike ride, helped by regular stops at pubs along the way! They played tennis and Andrew experienced Leisha's surprisingly formidable back hand. A week later, Leisha would be diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer. The fact that she was this unwell and managed such a physically demanding weekend is testament to her strength.

Although not a conscious decision on her part the central theme of Leisha's life was "service". While at York she joined "Nightline" the university equivalent of the Samaritans and a separate local charity working with and providing seaside

breaks for deprived inner City children. She described collecting the children from run down local authority estates for time away. Often no parent appeared to see them off, or was waiting to welcome them home when they returned.

Between school and university she went on a GAP project to Hungary working in an orphanage and teaching in a nearby kindergarten. We learned later that the children would spit at her and kick and punch her and the staff who spoke little English offered no sympathy or support. Conditions in the orphanage were Dickensian. This was a pivotal moment in Leisha's life and she described on the second night sitting in misery facing the decision should she continue to battle the desperate situation or give up and return home. Despite their behaviour her concern for the children and her determination not to be beaten led her to the decision she must stay. When faced with crises later in life she would look back for inspiration on this experience and to the inner strength it evidenced. In the end when she left both children and staff were tearful and sad to see her go.

Immediately after leaving York she volunteered with the Tenteleni Charity to travel to South Africa and work teaching in the township schools. The poverty and living conditions were dire, AIDS was rampant and as a consequence of the local belief that sexual intercourse with a virgin gave protection against AIDS 80% of the girls Leisha was teaching were victims of rape. Despite their life conditions and prospects Leisha was blown away by the children's optimism, exuberance and their wide smiles.

During her professional life her service to others was concentrated in her full time employment, but beyond this in her own time she worked with the Newbridge charity writing to and visiting people in prison, and she was a Trustee in the Sai Ram Trust, a small family charity.

Leisha loved to travel, and by her mid-thirties had visited more than 40 countries. Inevitably her travels involved incidents and dramas. Her South American trip started badly when their passports and travellers cheques were stolen and the British Embassy had to come to the rescue. Our contacts during the six month journey were infrequent - we did get a call just before they entered Columbia - at a time when the British Government were advising the public not to go there. We argued strongly against proceeding only to be told "there is nothing to worry about, it is absolutely safe - there are soldier check points on every street corner".

The Tenteleni visit in South Africa included two bus crashes within a week. In the second the lady bus driver unable to reverse asked for a passenger to do it for her. Leisha's companion Ben obliged but the lady went on to successfully demolish two substantial street lights, and ended up bloody and apparently dead slumped over the steering wheel. Leisha moved to attend to her and was relieved to find her alive and only superficially injured. On a later UNICEF trip to Togo, to visit a project sponsored by Rangers Football Club a young girl stepped out in front of the UN Landover and was seriously injured. Leisha subsequently underwent counselling for this on her return to the UK. On another trip, in Zimbabwe, during Mu-

Ascott Grapevine

gabe's presidency at a time again when the British government advised against visiting the country, she was travelling on a bus which came to a halt [it had run out of fuel]. The driver leapt out taking the fares with him and the stranded passengers were left to complete their journey on foot.

While in Hungary with fellow volunteers she visited Transylvania in Romania. After an alcoholic day they went in the evening to the cemetery where Count Dracula was buried. It was a night of a full moon and after wandering round when they returned to the main gates they had been locked in. The prospect of a cold moonlit night in the company of Dracula's mortal remains was scary but they managed to scale the tall gates and escape. On a later occasion on a UNICEF trip to Papua New Guinea travelling up river in dug-out canoes the boatmen eventually announced they would go no further as they were at risk of being shot with bows and arrows by the local tribesmen.

Despite her distant travels Ascott was always dear to Leisha's heart and she always wanted to know what was happening here and she would return to The Mill whenever possible and is now at rest here.

One of Leisha's corporate sponsors was Manchester United Football Club and she accompanied them on their annual pre-season tours travelling by private jet to the USA, China and Japan. This brought her into contact with David Beckham, Wayne Rooney, Sir Alex Ferguson and the other stars of the team. Leisha was always self-effacing and understated and she rarely mentioned her VIP contacts. She never sought to be the centre of attention. She was unaffected by rank or fortune and it did not seem to matter whether you were the captain of the England football team or an eight year old orphan in the Johannesburg townships all received the same caring focussed attention and consideration, and the same heart melting smile. She would do anything for anybody and in the mountain of letters of condolence we have received so many people referred to her as "their rock" and described how at times of crisis in their lives she had been there for them. Her Uncle Robin described her as "a meteorite which burns brightly but briefly during its earthly passage". We have all been privileged to be part of her life, she will be sorely missed by many and the world is much the poorer for her passing.

Anne & Nigel Braithwaite

Parish Council News Autumn 2023

What a busy time this has been for the Parish Council! We are delighted that we can now officially announce that we been joined by Harriet O'Brien who will make a very positive contribution to the Council alongside our other members. As I am happy to keep telling everyone, I am very fortunate to have such a team around me.

Obsidian - 40 Houses off London Lane

I am certain that West Oxford District Council can have been left in no doubt as to the strength of feeling amongst all of those who wrote in to express the legitimate concerns of the village in regard to what would amount to a new housing estate on green field land in the AONB.

Certainly, all those who attended the Extraordinary Public Meeting on 1st July made their feelings known to the Parish Council and gave us a clear mandate: our role is to represent you. Thank you to all of those who attended and to those who also took the time to write in to WODC and give your personal views.

The position of the Parish Council, as I have often reiterated, is that of course we fully recognize that the country has a need for housing, and for that housing to be genuinely affordable; but before we can allow new homes to be built, we must have the infrastructure to support them. That means not only the physical infrastructure in terms of upgrading our roads, drainage, flood defences and critically sewerage; it also means having sufficient spaces in our local state schools, health-care provision and access to local services. In policy terms, from the national to the local level, the focus of development is (or should be) sustainability, and that translates into building the right homes in the right places. This is not nimbyism, however the media and politicians may like to portray it: rather it is a recognition of the fragile state of our services after years of under investment from all sides, and the ever increasing pressures that have been put upon them.

So it was with dismay that we noted that once again, Thames Water wrote to the effect that they have the capacity to accept the sewerage from the proposed development. We all know that they cannot, and even with the planned upgrade to Milton Sewerage Treatment Works for 2025 we are told that they will not meet the Environment Agency guidelines for treatment capacity; nor will they meet standards for reducing the levels of phosphate going into the river.

Phosphates cause excessive growth of algae, which in turn reduces the oxygen levels in the river: this can kill fish and harm other aquatic life. Unfortunately, the remedy is not neutral - the chemical process to strip phosphates out of the water is also environmentally damaging. One thing that everyone can do is to be careful what is flushed down the loo or poured down the plughole. Many bathroom and beauty products contain phosphates, but equally there are many that do not, so if we can all help to reduce this at source that will go some way to restoring the life in our rivers.

The three Wychwood parish councils have met to discuss this together and with Thames Water, and we speak with one voice. Both Milton and Shipton Parish Councils wrote in to WODC in support of our objections to the Obsidian scheme on the grounds of the lack of sewerage capacity, and we are thankful to them: these things affect us all.

Traffic on London Lane

One of the personal goals I set myself when I agreed to take over as Chair was to see a speed reduction for traffic coming down London Lane. The current switch over point between the 60 mph hill and the start of the 30 mph section is too sudden, sometimes obscured by the bend in the road, and too close to the High Street, Windrush Valley School and now Foresters Court. Changing that to a graded reduction from 60 to 40 mph would signal to drivers that they are about to enter a residential area and make it safer for pedestrians and dog walkers when using the footpaths across the allotments.

After a certain amount of petitioning, and with help from our County Councillor Liz Leffman, Oxfordshire County Council has (with some reluctance) come around to the idea that this can be combined with the current and funded roll out of 20 mph zones across Oxfordshire. The cost involved in changing a speed limit is significant and this is, quite simply, the only way that the Parish Council can afford to make this happen. By the time you read this, the consultation will probably be over, and we hope that sufficient numbers of residents will have completed the form to support this proposal.

Happy Holidays

The Parish Council does not meet in August, so may I wish you all, and most especially my fellow councillors, a well-deserved summer break.

Brian Leach

Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council

contact@ascottpc.org.uk

Pavements are for people!

Pedestrians of all ages and abilities should be able to move safely around our village.

The Highway Code advises that we should NOT park partially or wholly on footways and that: "Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs."

In all circumstances it is essential that adequate width of pavement is retained to allow for someone who is visually or mobility impaired to have access. It is crucial that no child or adult is forced to walk in the road as a result of inconsiderate parking.

This applies to *all* footways throughout the village: from Mill Lane/High Street in the east, across Shipton Road to the west, and all pavements and verges in between. It applies to villagers as well as visitors.

If there is an exceptional circumstance requiring your vehicle to be parked "partially or wholly on the pavement" (e.g. for unloading, or to avoid causing disruption to moving traffic) it is important that a clear and substantial width of footway (1.5m/5ft) is left unobstructed so that all pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs or mobility aids, have safe passage.

Sarah Russell
Parish councillor



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Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

As I write this at the end of July, our league XI finds itself under a different kind of pressure to that of a year ago; when we finished as Division 8B champions. For various reasons, we've been sucked into a relegation battle. Heavy defeats to Great Tew 2nd, Swinbrook and Witney Mills 2nd saw a terrible run of form. But, Tom Gidman & young Will Harvey defended their wickets 'like their lives depended on it' to gain us a gutsy draw at Hook Norton 2nd's. Our last game on July 29th saw Hanborough 2nd XI visit us, with Ascott languishing second-bottom in Division 7B - thus a 'must win' match. Happily, we thrashed the visitors by 10 wickets as Graham Benfield (5 wickets for 23 runs) and Rowan Moss (3 for 17) saw the opposition 'skittled' for just 77. Steve Russell and yours truly between us then got all the 78 runs needed for victory without troubling our additional 9 batters! 2 more wins from our remaining 5 league fixtures should (hopefully) see us safe.

June saw a fun afternoon as the Cricket Club 'Ascott Martyrs' XI played the Ascott 'Establishment' XI. On a beautiful sunny afternoon Establishment captain Andrew Weaver won the toss and elected to bat. His vastly experienced opener Simon Gidman was the foundation of their innings. When he was run-out by Phoebe Dundass for a fine 46, our two very youthful but talented bowlers Andrew Taylor (aged 11) and Eddie Russell (12) 'mopped up' the lower order! Simon declared afterwards "there's still a few runs in the old man yet!" But they'd set a rather disappointing 104 all out.

In the second innings, Martyrs opener Steve 'Run-Machine' Russell displayed all his patience as he defied all the bowlers Mr Weaver could call upon. Though the Martyrs lost a few batters at 63/3 (Mr Pidgeon singing with delight when he clean-bowled the Martyrs no 3 Josh Beasant) - Steve remained undaunted and broke Establishment hearts. Our veteran Clive Jowett rolled back the years with some big hits, and Steve reached his '50' as the Martyrs sauntered to victory. The beautiful glass trophy was lifted by the Martyrs, looking resplendent with blue ribbons on their shirts!

As the sun set, players and spectators alike feasted on BBQ, cake and cider - rounding off a memorable occasion. Thanks to all involved.

Also in June, an extraordinary friendly match transpired when we hosted Banbury Sunday XI. Ascott were disappointed to set a meagre 67 all out on a good pitch. BUT, the over confident young Banbury team came unstuck! One young fellow was overheard laughing to a team-mate "have you seen their bowlers warming up? They all look sh*t!".

Ascott Grapevine

Unsurprisingly, this unsporting comment rather upset the Ascott team, who then used it as extra motivation. So, the Ascott players and supporters were feeling rather proud of themselves a short time after when the stunned visitors were bowled out for just 57!! Phoebe Dundass took 4 wickets for 11, Edward Lock 4 for 16, and 12 year old Ben Chapple claimed his first senior wicket.

Some readers will have met our accomplished bowler Phoebe, who came to Ascott from New Zealand. She's made a positive impact on the club - and has taken 20 wickets this season to date! That's some achievement, well done Phoebe. Next target is 30 wickets.

August sees some crucial matches, and then at the end of the month we're again off on tour to Devon - with matches at Sidmouth, Honiton, and Tipton St John. We round the season off with friendly matches all the way through to the end of September.

Once again, if you're interested in playing or getting involved, do please make contact - we are one of the friendliest clubs around, and always need players, of all standards!



Stewart Moss, secretary.

07866 278685

Auwcricetclub@hotmail.com

Twitter: @AUWCricetClub

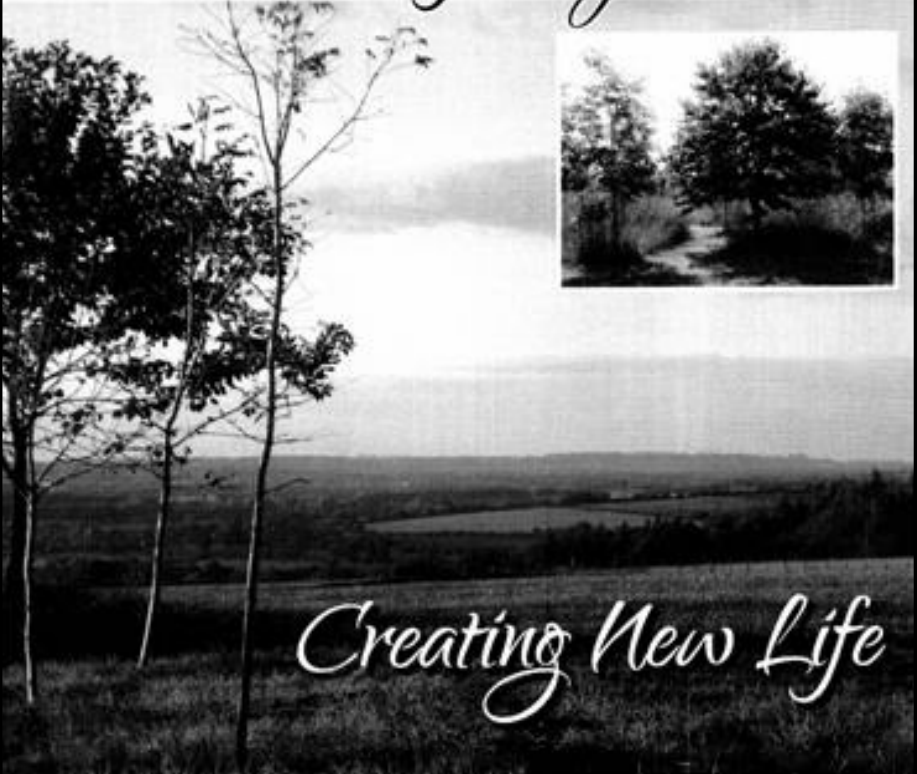
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Combe Mill

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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 st	Barn Engines & Horticultural
June	18 th	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 th	Wildlife by the Evenlode - We have invited exhibitors to bring along and show wildlife as it is on the River Evenlode.
August	20 th	Models & Collections
September	17 th	Crafts & Skills
October	15 th	Wood craft
December	3 rd	Christmas Fair Not in SYEAM

Combe Mill a late 19th 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 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.

Also open every Wednesday for 'self-guided tours' with volunteer around.

Adults £5.00 Seniors £4.00 Accompanied children FREE

We Turned Back the Clock



At Farm Ed on July 20th a man with a fagging hook and a stick could be seen cutting some wheat and tying it into sheaves. A number of onlookers were keenly interested. A similar scene would not have looked out of place in Biblical times or beyond. Historians tell us that five thousand years ago the human race changed from being hunter-gatherers with a diet of leaves, berries, beetles, insects and other animals which they could catch (rats and mice spring to mind) and became farmers growing crops and controlling animals until they were at their most favourable stage to be killed and eaten.

I think they may have collected a lot of grasses with fat seeds, then with a long process of selection and plant breeding produced a variety with fatter seeds and a higher yield which they were able to harvest then grind into flour to eat. Since then crops have had to be harvested and stored safely.

They used cutting tools like sickles, scythes and fagging hooks. In the nineteenth century a man named J.S. Calvert occupied Fairspeare Farm on the Leafield Road. He kept a detailed diary where he recorded in 1880 that a dozen men with scythes were mowing his corn. But around 1870 a horse drawn reaping machine had been invented. A line of corn was cut by a moving knife. It then fell in a heap

onto a platform and was swept off in bundles by revolving rakes. The bundles had to be tied by hand into sheaves. A reaper binder was invented about 1880. This was a great step forward. A knife about two metres long, moved and cut the crop with a scissor action, the crop was tipped forward onto a moving canvas and conveyed through the machine to a knoter which tied regulated armfuls into tidy sheaves all left in rows along the field. Controlling the binder was my favourite job on the farm for 13 years. Six sheaves at a time were then stood up together by hand to form stooks, the stooks were built in rows across the field. When the crop had dried out it was collected on a horse drawn wagon which went between the rows of stooks. A man each side pitched the sheaves up to the load builder. With both stooks on the wagon a shout of, 'Hold tight.' The horse moved forward and stopped just right for the next stooks. The builder does have to hold tight or be thrown over by the movement. The full load is taken to the rickyard and built into a rick. About 12 loads built a rick. The empty wagon revealed a living layer of creatures running in all directions, all shapes and sizes of beetles and spiders, earwigs and one or two devil coachhorse beetles. The rick was thatched as soon as possible and thrashed later at the most favourable time. These scenes would have been visible all over the country where corn was grown. My family farmed Honeydale Farm now Farm Ed, for over eighty years, and dad and I took turns to build the ricks and I built about three dozen over the years.

With a good number of ricks in the yard it seemed very fitting to go to the Harvest Festival in the church and sing 'Now thank we all our God' and 'All be safely gathered in'. In those days it was a genuine Thanksgiving Service. Many people contributed home grown fruit, vegetables and flowers. The church was well stacked with the produce. The farmers all brought a couple of good sheaves. The church was full for a service on a Friday evening and another service on the Sunday. The goods were all taken to the school and sold by auction on the Monday evening.

In the early 1960s all the binders had been replaced by combine harvesters. There were no more sheaves so for fifty years I cut two or three each year to help make the service look more like a Harvest Festival.

We sold our farm in 2013 so I am pleased that after a 10 year break I can still do it.

The first combines came round here about 1950, on them the corn ran into 4 bushell sacks holding two hundredweight (100 kgs) and the sacks were left on the ground all over the field. It was hard work loading them onto a trailer. In the 1950s most farmers used a combine but few had grain stores so it was sold to merchants and the price dropped by 20%. It payed to keep it in ricks and thrash it six months later and sell it for a better price. The combines were soon made with bulk grain tanks so the corn could be taken on trailers to a grain store. Over the last 70 years combines have grown bigger and faster and more efficient. The grain handling and storing facilities have kept pace and now harvest is done very quickly. Interestingly grain yields in the 1950s averaged less than one tonne per acre; the average has now risen to four tonnes per acre. The older binder and sheaf system could not have coped

Ascott Grapevine

with this amount so the new machinery has kept pace with the higher yield of new varieties produced by plant breeders and boosted by chemical fertilisers.

Harvest would have been a major event in all villages every year for centuries whereas now you may notice a dust cloud in a field or be annoyed by a large tractor and trailer on a road hurrying between a corn field and grain store, otherwise hardly noticing it happening. The Harvest Festival is only a shadow of what it was in former years and the harvest work I knew so well as a young man remains only in the dwindling memories of a very, very few old people.

Jim Pearse





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Wychwood Library Bulletin!

Regular Events at Wychwood Library

Afternoon Reading Group

2nd Thursday of the Month 1.45-2.45

Evening Reading Group

1st Monday of the Month 7.00-8.15

Contact the library to book a free place.



Craft Night

1st Tuesday of the Month 7.30-9.30

Ask in the library to find out more.

Book a place. Charge to cover costs.



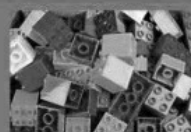
Lego Club

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.

Follow us on Facebook @ Wychwood Library.



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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 Andrew Smith

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk



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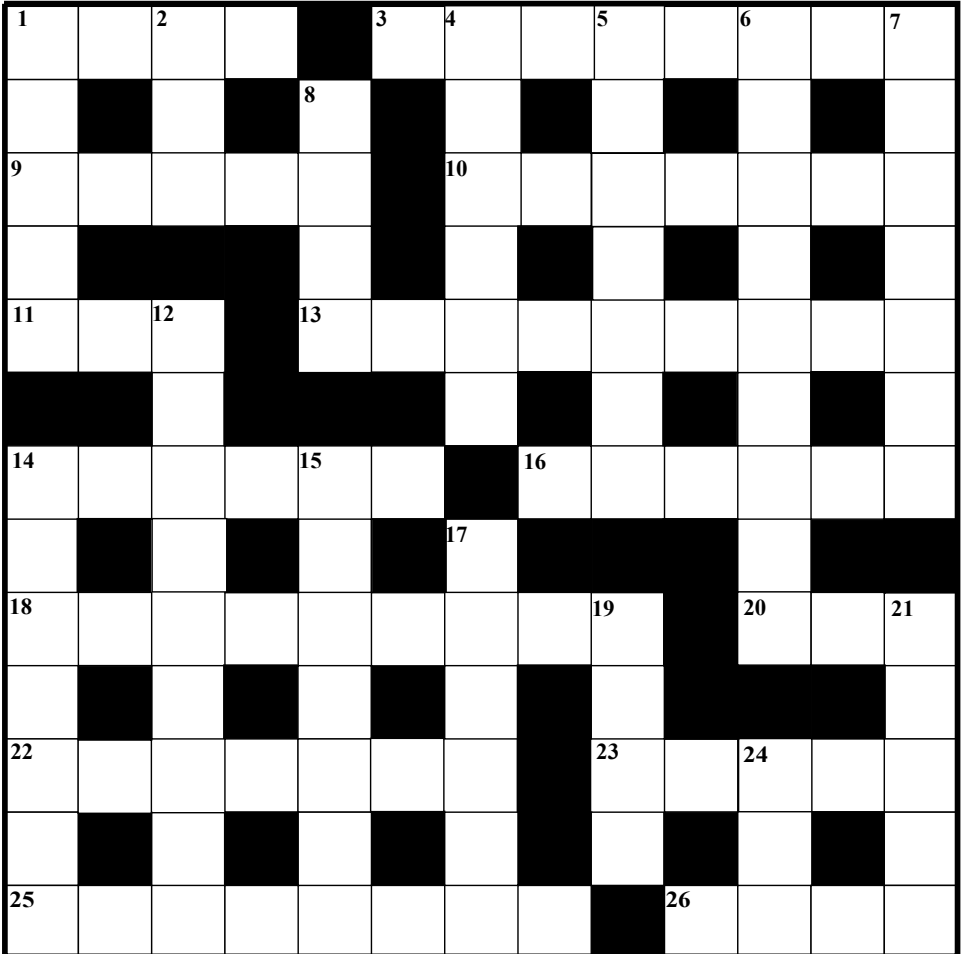
saving 90% off your lighting electricity bill

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Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Clear of deductions (4)
- 3 Seers (8)
- 9 Cross (5)
- 10 Ram tail (anag.) (7)
- 11 Mat, carpet (3)
- 13 Idiosyncratic, odd (9)
- 14 Root vegetable (6)
- 16 Caught sight of (6)
- 18 Ungraceful (9)
- 20 Scold; horse (3)
- 22 Libyan capital (7)
- 23 Apart (5)
- 25 Record book (8)
- 26 Lost blood (4)

Down

- 1 — *Say — Again*: Bond film (5)
- 2 Duty (3)
- 4 Lee —: Film actress (6)
- 5 Mother and Father (7)
- 6 Blackmail (9)
- 7 Comforted (7)
- 8 Rim (4)
- 12 Assembly (9)
- 14 E.g. typesetter (7)
- 15 Err most (anag.) (7)
- 17 Spite (6)
- 19 Group working together (4)
- 21 Avarice (5)
- 24 Unwell (3)

**Solutions to
Crossword in
Edition 118**

Across

- 1 Carrion
- 5 Films
- 8 Nimmo
- 9 Million
- 10 Aldwych
- 11 Ingot
- 12 Single
- 14 Bypass
- 17 Crane
- 19 Andiron
- 22 Estella
- 23 Mover
- 24 Strew
- 25 Amnesia

Down

- 1 Conga
- 2 Ramadan
- 3 Ivory
- 4 Nymphs
- 5 Falsify
- 6 Lying
- 7 Sonatas
- 12 Secrets
- 13 Lies low
- 15 Arrives
- 16 Panama
- 18 Actor
- 20 Demon
- 21 Norma

Local Business Directory

ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253
www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk Page 25

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www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk Page 14

COTSWOLD WELLNESS 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com
www.fingersandtoes.info Page 40

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 30

ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 10

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helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk Page 43

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wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Page 23

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Instagram@Ivy's Florist

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TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates	Page 15

Events Calendar - 2023

Date	Time	Event	Venue
September TBC	10.30am - 12.00	Coffee Morning	TBC
October 7 th	7.30pm	Phil Beer	Tiddy Hall
November 18 th	TBC	Quiz Night	Tiddy Hall
November 25 th	7.30pm	Martyn Joseph	Tiddy Hall
December 10 th	TBC	Carol Service	Holy Trinity Church
December 16 th	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