

# 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 and adverts for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

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

£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 64), 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

### **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

### **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 2023/24

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.

 *Merry Christmas* 



*A big thank you to all the villagers who have  
contributed with donations, articles and  
photographs*

*And a Happy New Year*



# ***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.



# ***Growing Peas***

*“ The Sower may mistake and sow his peas crookedly, the peas make no mistake but come up and show his line ”*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

This year I struggled with my peas, the first sowing was eaten by Rabbits, the second by Pigeons. Determination to succeed directed me to try a third time, Could I be diagnosed as suffering from R.P.R.P Rabbit and Pidgeon Resilience on Peas. We shall see.

The variety of choice although I have tried a good few has always been Kelvedon Wonder AGM, described as a marrowfat tasty variety, it was first introduced in 1925 by the great W. Hurst seedsmen of Kelvedon Essex. Achieving RHS AGM awards on multiple occasions proves it being a tip top garden variety. The peas were bought cheaply loose, the best way to buy in whatever weight required from the local Appleyard Nursery. A quarter pound is enough for two rows each six yards long, years ago you could buy them by the pint or half pint measures. Some lists give it as an first early others say a second early, this is not to do with when to sow but how long to achieve average overall picking dates from sowing. First Earlies are 11 to 12 weeks, Second are 13 to 14 weeks and Maincrop are 15 to 16 weeks.

A dwarf pea, it can be sown from March to July in succession up to early August, pushing it perhaps but with the climate now changing for warm Autumns you may be lucky. However this Autumn we had a frost in mid October The descriptions invariably indicate it grows to eighteen inches but I have always with feeding managed to push them up to two maybe two and a half foot tall. It is also very usefully, especially if sowing later with the warm wet spells of weather we now have relatively mildew and wilt resistant, anyone who has had a mildew attack on pea leaves will understand the benefit of this, I may be lucky but have only ever read about pea wilt in books. Having tried others including the old tall one Telephone, nice tasting, a good cropper introduced just a few years after the invention and use of the Telephone at the latter end of the nineteenth century. It grows over six feet tall but the first three foot in my experience is all leaves, the pudding proof shows in the first image of my trial on dwarf and tall types in 2021. I can no longer see the point of providing strong wind support and pigeon protection for what is arguably the same crop weight. I do however find it intriguing that although the short and long types were sown on the same day, the flowers were just out on both of them at the same time but the growth on the tall ones was easily double. The resulting pods where picked around the same time proving them being in the same picking category in this case First Earlies.

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Back to my third attempt this year 2023 to overcome the rabbit problem short wire chicken netting made a compound surrounding the two pea rows as in the next photo. It was more of a deterrent than a fortress and worked. To overcome the pigeons, netting was clamped over the stakes to cover the rows, giving the appearance of a trap, as in the next photo. Of course the birds could easily have landed, walked in under the netting and would have done so if they were starving, being Summer it was a time of plenty on other more easily got at crops on the neighbouring allotments.



This sowing on Mid Summers Day was directly into four inch wide drills an inch deep, the seeds being briefly swilled in paraffin to deter mice prior to sowing and watered in after sowing. The very first signs of movement showed a week later, at ten days a satisfying number of shoots had emerged. If sown at around two inches apart there is no need to thin. Else sow thicker and munch the excess sweet tasty shoots.

A half dose of Chicken Manure Pellets, for the pedantic that's two ounces a square yard, for myself it's three handfuls over each of the rows. A half dose of Tomorite liquid feed two weeks later to bring them on before the nitrogen making bacteria bring their magic to the roots.

Until that time the growth in spite of what I call growing weather with watering every day in the hot spell was there but on the slow side. Once the Nitrogen fix-

ing bacteria kicked in a month post sowing rapid growth momentum was evident. A promise of a good crop appeared through the appearance of embryonic flower buds and eventually the opening of the white flowers brought a smile to my face and I imagined to the faces of the visiting bumblebees. It's true the internet pundits say that peas are self-pollinating but bumbles don't have online access.

The first week in September the pods were picked for the freezer, eleven weeks post sowing. A quarter pound of seed gave me six and a half pounds of peas, not counting the numerous pods which with childlike pleasure I previously impatiently opened, the ones that didn't make it home. When shelling them it occurred to me that by sowing later than usual I had missed the dreaded pea moth and the worst of the pea weevil leaf damage.

Cost wise the netting, stakes and clamps were acquired cheaply, they have been used in the past and will be reused again. It can no doubt be argued that it's cheaper to buy frozen peas from Sainsburys but it's not the same is it, hand-picked, naturally grown, taste approved on site and at the table, who can resist besides I do like to see the contrasting warm green of home grown peas against the cold stainless steel of the colander in the sink. Growing and processing peas always blows the dust off childhood memories I didn't realise were hidden away for decades.

*The scent of a bunch of sweet peas can travel across time and space quicker than the TARDIS*

Keeping on the subject of peas and hidden memories, this year as usual I had my Sweet Peas as I always do up eight foot bamboo canes, a half forgotten memory, which looking back appears to be a full lifetime ago, of growing a dwarf variety came back to me, in its wake yet another memory I had forgotten years ago emerged of a school friend of mine sowing edible peas which turned out to be sweet peas. He misread the packet, a school boy error if ever there was one.

So for old times sake this year 2023, along with a couple of rows of the taller normal height ones, I sowed and planted a row of Jet Set, a good one I had grown before. A so called half height type up to three feet tall with odd stragglers up to four feet. After disappearing from general sale for a few years this mixture appears to have made a bit of a comeback with some seedsmen. What the catalogues call a vibrant mix of colours could be ambitious, mine came out as pastel shades. To more than make up for the lack of dark colours they were all to a flower very strongly scented. Currently at the time of writing it is an online special from Suttons at 89p a packet.

Apart from being sown three or four to a pot in mid-March, later transplanting them they were grown the same way as the edible ones, other than a narrow band of wide mesh netting to tent the germinating seedlings from blackbirds who take great delight in the wanton pulling up of the young pea plants leaving them to dry out but there is no need to keep the rabbits and pigeons off, I have never had trouble with these pests on sweet peas, lucky or what, shouldn't have said that now



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should I. Arguably although being shorthouses these plants similar to the edible peas, gave as good a show over as long a period as their taller cousins.

Next year I shall be delving back into my memory again. Just like the good old days I am planning to sow a couple or three rows directly into the ground, same as the edible ones, negating the usual shock of transplanting. Staggering their sowing in half rows by two or three weeks appears to be another sensible strategy to try, giving me time enough for thorough picking of the flowers, thus not allowing them to set seed will I hope also extend their flowering season.



Wishing you all good growing weather in the future. I read somewhere that a garden is never so good as it will be next year.


**Non Nom**

## ***Recreation Ground***

Villagers are kindly reminded that dogs are not allowed on the Recreation Ground, which includes the sports field and the children's playground. Thank you

**Parish Council.**

A TALK BY JULIET HESLEWOOD



THE LOOK OF  
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## RIP

Heather Harpwood, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Vera Cox, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Gaynor Irving (known as Red), 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Celia Crampton 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## **VERA COX.**



Vera was born in Charlbury on the 28th August 1932, (nee. Lewis) she moved to Coventry with her family (one sister and four brothers), returning at the age of eight to escape the impact of World War Two and particularly the Blitz upon the city of Coventry, when she recounted how the Anderson shelter they were taking refuge in, would seem to lift from the earth, so close were the exploding bombs.

At the end of the war she returned to Coventry, where she worked at Courtaulds lingerie factory and formed lifelong friendships with Brenda and Jean.

During this time her mother became terminally ill, and despite Vera's valiant effort to nurse her mother, care for her five younger siblings and contend with a violent father, on her mother's death the family was split up.

Vera was separated from her siblings and returned to live with her aunt and uncle in Charlbury, Oxfordshire. She became a gloving apprentice, at a glover's in Charlbury and she mastered her craft and took great pride in the quality of her work. She was so proficient that she was offered, and took a new position in which she trained others in the craft of gloving.

This is where she met and fell in love on the steps of Charlbury Library with Ken Cox who was to become her future husband. Her first date was on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November and after a long courtship they married at Charlbury Church on New Year's Day 1955. They started married life in a little cottage close to the church,

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later moving to Ascott under Wychwood where their first daughter was born and life was idyllic. In 1956 they moved into Wychwood Farm so as to be closer to Ken's family.

On one occasion, Ken's father Sydney asked Vera to help milk the cows. Remember this was before mains electricity was connected to the farm, so milking was by hand, by the light of a tilley lamp and Vera succeeded in serving her apprenticeship! During this time Ken's mother Peggy became ill and it fell to Vera to care for her, as well as look after her own child, provide for her husband and father in law, and assist in the day today running of the farm.

This is what they would call home for 67 years, waking every morning to the glory of the Oxfordshire countryside. English farming was a hard life, mains electricity only arrived at the farm, after the birth of their second daughter! But they created a glorious home in which to bring up their large and loving family.

Which now consists of their 5 children, Jennifer Rosemary, Caroline, Michael and Veronica, 19 Grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren with more on the way.

She was a very kind and gentle natured lady with a twinkle in her eyes and was always there to help others, often even before herself. She loved to be creative and enjoyed her many crafts, which she would use to help, and also share, with her family and friends. She was a stickler for doing it right, a genetic trait that she has left for all her family! She loved dress-making and also sewing the most wonderful wedding -gowns and dresses for bridesmaids and in addition often made, iced and decorated the most marvellous wedding cakes as well making the flower arrangements, as these also came easily to her.

She was always knitting or sewing when the weather prevented her from being outside helping Ken with the farm, or creating a wonderful garden from a yard through which the cows once passed, on their way to the old milking parlour. This garden was her 'raison d'etre' from simply nothing; she created the most glorious garden layout and found space for all the rockery stones Ken found whilst ploughing the fields. Even in their eighties it was not unusual to see them both manoeuvring a large rock, on a sack truck into the 'right space'.

When she was 73 she fell in love with miniatures and doll's houses, a passion she could share with her daughters and granddaughters and which for years to come will be one of her legacies. She derived great pleasure in showing off her various houses to visitors and even towards the end the health workers who attended her. The skills she possessed of sewing, flower arranging and painting and many others could all now be reproduced in miniature.

She also loved to attend Andre Reui concerts and ballets with her friends and family and enjoyed her daily 'soaps', oh and watching the Tour de France (especially for the bums in Lycra!! she once told me). She loved watching quiz shows and always had a crossword puzzle or Sudoku close by. Also, as a member of WI, where she could catch up with friends and her love for crafts and cooking, when numerous jars of jam would be made.

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She adored her animals and pets, consisting of dogs, cats, ducks, budgies and all the birds in the garden.

Her life was one of simple dedication in bringing up her family and helping to run the farm they lived on. She would always help others and this was typified by her dedication in doing the rounds in Chilson, on behalf of the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal for many years.

She was a loving Wife, Mother, Granny, Great-Granny, and friend, and will be very very missed by all.

JH



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

## ***My Mum's Gone Tatterin***

The supermarkets are being accused that their food prices are continuing to rise, especially fruit and vegetables. This made me think why should this be, even in the war years of the early forties and into the post war years of the early nineteen fifties everyone in Ascott seemed to have enough fresh vegetables.

In these years, in the late days of autumn many of the farmers in the Wychwoods would employ local people for potato picking. Many of these were young married women including my mother, who I think went to earn a little extra money for Christmas. For about a fortnight during weekdays, a group of mostly women would go from farm to farm around Ascott and Chilson. The Crown Farm, Yew Tree Farm and College Farm all grew potatoes. In those muddy fields and grey days of late autumn it would be fair to say their spirits were kept alive by the language and humour of Phyllis Weston who was one of the pickers.

Although more broad-minded than my father, who would often say 'turn that filth off on that wireless' especially if it was Max Miller the comedian, my mother never used ripe language. Phyllis did and I would be embarrassed to use some of the phrases she did in mixed company.

In the dusk of a late autumn afternoon, I would see a group of mud plastered young women dropped off a tractor and trailer after being in the fields all day at the top of London Lane or Chilson. To my knowledge, there wasn't a large amount of stealing of potatoes or other vegetables went on. If someone wanted a swede they would jump over the gate and pinch one.

Maybe you have guessed by what I have written, the life of a young married woman was still made up of hard physical work as well as looking after children. It wasn't until the 1960's life became easier, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, fridges and televisions became affordable to most. Many young women from the Wychwoods went to Witney to work for Smiths Industries, this gave them better wages and more independence.

Over 20 years ago I was set the task of writing a poem from the point of view of a woman. I found it again, after 20 years, here it is:

<i>Don't call me pretty</i>	<i>My true name is woman</i>
<i>And don't call me sweet</i>	<i>The proud daughter of Eve</i>
<i>They are treacly sticky</i>	<i>Through me and my sisters</i>
<i>They just make me retch</i>	<i>All mankind is conceived</i>
<i>Don't call me angel</i>	<i>Though doors may be opened</i>
<i>I have never had wings,</i>	<i>By well-mannered men</i>
<i>And don't call me baby</i>	<i>I still feel subservient</i>
<i>Which I hear in pop songs</i>	<i>When they won't let me in.</i>

**Fred Russell**

## WYCHWOOD FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan Reg Meuross + support by *Mandolirium* Tiddy Hall**

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

Reg Meuross, Fatea Best Male Vocalist 2013, FolkWords Best Album 2014, Song of 2017 (Faraway People), Soloist of the Year 2019 *Folking.com*

Somerset singer-songwriter Reg Meuross is now touring with new album 12 Silk Handkerchiefs and about to release his 14th solo album.

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb Kiki Dee & Carmelo Luggeri - The Long Ride Home Tour Tiddy Hall**

**Tickets £24.00 in advance £26.00 on the door**

For over 25 years now Kiki and Carmelo have been touring their spellbinding acoustic live show across the UK and Europe. Performing in this stripped back fashion allows each of their exceptional talents to shine through and create a wonderful and warm sense of intimacy for the audience.

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Feb Show of Hands 'Full Circle' tour \*\*\* Sold Out \*\*\* Tiddy Hall**

**Tickets £28.00 in advance £30.00 on the door**

After thirty remarkable years of non-stop touring Show of Hands, comprising Steve Knightley and Phil Beer, have announced that they will no longer tour together as Show of Hands for the foreseeable future

All events start at 7.30pm

Doors 6.30pm

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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finite resources and take a small step  
towards reducing climate change.**

*Heart of the Community*



# ***Ascott Village Shop***

## **Reflections on the shop committee**

Having been a volunteer in the shop since 2019 at the beginning of this year, it was with some trepidation I was persuaded to join the committee. What had I let myself in for? Would I ever have any free time again?

In the end I found the experience quite enjoyable and not as scary as I initially feared, so I thought I'd share my experiences, in the hope it will encourage some others to step forward and take a turn.

The time commitment was my biggest fear and to be honest it can be as much or as little as you're prepared to give. The monthly meetings last for between 1 and 2 hours, there's a little bit of reading of the treasurers and managers reports to be done beforehand, and checking of the minutes afterwards, that's the bare minimum, 3 hours maximum per month. Everything else is optional, though there are certain things that need doing, so I took on the role of secretary, and would spend an hour or so after the meeting writing up the minutes and distributing them, somebody else is responsible for writing a volunteer update, which again took an hour or so after the meeting.

What's most needed from a committee member is an active curiosity into how the shop runs and a desire to maximise its potential. By asking the right sort of questions, not necessarily accepting the status quo or having an opinion on a particular matter, you can make a huge difference, if you've got a bit more time to help investigate or implement any suggestions even better!

Many people choose to move to a village such as Ascott because of its active community, but these things only keep going if people are prepared to volunteer a bit of their time. We should all remember, the shop can't function without a committee!

**Sandra Staples**



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## **Ascott Pre-school**

The Autumn term is flying by. We have been enjoying walks out and about in Ascott, seeing the changes in nature, with leaves falling to the ground and some beautiful colours. Some of the children walked to the Church, where we admired the beautiful tapestries and sang some of our songs whilst sitting in the pews. We stopped for a snack on the Village Green, collected conkers and looked at the horses over the gate. We went back down Heritage Lane and said hello to someone building a wall. It's lovely for the children to have positive interactions whilst out and about, encouraging them to feel part of their community. This term the children contributed donations to the Life Larder and these were dropped off at the Life Centre. Our topics began with 'All About Me' and then moved on to 'Harvest' and 'Autumn'. Forest School sessions have started with the children embracing the environment and quickly bonding as a group. They have loved the opportunity to explore a wild setting, manage their own risk and learn about the changes in nature. There was much excitement when we had a campfire where the children were all very sensible and good at listening and following instructions. In Term 2, amongst other things, we will be celebrating Diwali and enjoying practising for our Christmas concert in December.



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## **PALLIATIVE CARE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE**

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](mailto:pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk)

☎ 01865 225994 or

☎ 01865 225868

[www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk)

[www.sobellhouse.org](http://www.sobellhouse.org)

# ***Katharine House Hospice***

The event held at the Tiddy Hall raised £2,361 for the hospice.

I would like to thank those who came to the event, those who made donations, gave raffle prizes and also to the artist who gave their time and to the many helpers that made the event a big success.

Many thanks to you all.

**P.Moss**





Soldiers of  
Oxfordshire  
Museum

## ***New Oxfordshire Gallantry Board to commemorate the county's military and civilian heroes***

- New permanent exhibition opening 22 October 2023
- Commemorates people of Oxfordshire awarded the country's highest awards for gallantry
- Stories of heroism from the Victorian era to the last decade told

On 22 October 2023 Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) in Woodstock will unveil a new display to celebrate some of the county's most remarkable heroes - the 31 men who have been awarded the Victoria Cross, the George Cross, or the Edward and Albert medals that preceded its institution.

The county's military museum aims to excite the curiosity of visitors through the diverse stories of the county and its people, and those told in the new display are among the most impactful.

SOFO Museum is most grateful to 6 county-based charities which have supported the new display, and the VC & GC Association which worked closely with museum on the content of the new exhibit. The museum would like to thank the Annabel Arbib Foundation, Barnsbury Charitable Trust, C L Lloyd Charitable Trust, Greening Lamborn, HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust, and Tom Hall Charitable Trust.



Victoria Cross



George Cross

## Ascott Grapevine

The Victoria Cross was instituted by the Queen in 1856 to recognise exceptional acts of valour in the presence of the enemy, and was open to all ranks of the military. Previously, acts like this would have only been recognised with a 'Mention in Dispatches' by a senior officer.

All those recognised on the museum's board are individuals who have close and enduring links to Oxfordshire. Many were born in the county, or were residents for much of their life. Others served in one of the county regiments, or in one of the permanently-based Royal Air Force stations, such as Bicester or units like the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) regiment based in Didcot.

10 Oxfordshire men were awarded the VC prior to 1914, in campaigns ranging from the Crimean War to the Boer War. James Langley Dalton, assistant commissary in Lord Chelmsford's force during the Zulu War, was one of the 11 men who were honoured with the award of the VC following the January 1879 action at Rorke's Drift. Today, he gives his name to Dalton Barracks in Abingdon.



James Langley Dalton

Six more VCs were awarded to county men during the Great War. Famously these include the double VC Noel Godfrey Chavasse of the Royal Army Medical Corps who was born in Oxford, lived in Banbury Road during his early life, and attended Magdalen College School. Both of Chavasse's VCs were awarded for service in France, the second in 1917 posthumously. Also included are the VCs awarded to Edward Brooks and Alfred Wilcox, both serving on the Western Front in the same Territorial battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

The George Cross and the George Medal were both instituted in September 1940 by King George VI for "acts of the greatest heroism or of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of the most extreme danger". It would supersede the Empire Gallantry Medal, and by 1971, replace the Albert and Edward Medals. The Albert Medal was instituted in 1866, awarded for saving lives at sea, while the Edward Medal was instituted in 1907. Originally awarded solely for bravery amongst miners and quarrymen, it was extended to farm and industrial workers.

Dr Andrea Angel, an Oxford lecturer in chemistry, received a posthumous Edward Medal after he was tragically killed whilst supervising the evacuation of staff when the Brunner-Mond munitions factory in East London caught fire and exploded in January 1917.

The county's Second World War Victoria Cross and George Cross recipients cover both civilian acts of bravery and all branches of the armed forces, with three GCs awarded to men in the Royal Navy. Henry James Miller, of Hanborough, died whilst helping to evacuate the crew from his submarine HMS Unity in April 1940 after a night collision with a freighter in the North Sea.

Lawrence Frank Sinclair, a Shipton-under-Wychwood resident, was awarded the GC in September 1940 for saving a severely injured airman from a crashed and burning aircraft.

Leonard Cheshire VC, of Oxford and Abingdon, earned his prestigious gallantry award whilst serving in Bomber Command. He became one of the most decorated officers in the RAF and founded Cheshire Homes after the war.

Robert Llewellyn Jephson Jones, of Oddington, was a Royal Army Ordnance Corps officer serving on the island of Malta, and was awarded for his part in defusing around 275 unexploded munitions over just 6 months in 1940.

Commissioned as an officer with the Oxf. & Bucks Light Infantry and attached to the Parachute Regiment at the time, John Hollington Grayburn was killed at Arnhem in September 1944, and posthumously awarded the VC. Every account indicates he was a brave and inspirational leader. Wounded multiple times, he refused evacuation, instead staying to lead his men.



John Hollington Grayburn

Since the end of the war, five more GCs have been awarded to Oxfordshire men - four of these were based at different times at Vauxhall Barracks in Didcot, the home of the Army's EOD regiment. The most recent of these were in 2009. Kim



Spencer Hughes and, posthumously, Olaf Sean Schmid, both served with the Royal Logistic Corps in Helmand province, Afghanistan, where the threat of ambush by improvised explosive devices was ever present during the British army's deployment there.

This new board in the SOFO museum tells of those Oxfordshire people whose valour on the battlefield, and gallantry in action were formally recognised by their awards - civilians and soldiers alike.

## ***Shared Lives Carers***

**Mary Clarke, a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council, shares her inspirational journey of providing care from the comfort of her own home.**



*Mary Clarke from Yarnton, offers care and crucial short breaks for those who need support living independently in Oxfordshire. Her story is a testament to the positive impact of the exceptional people who become Shared Lives Carers for Oxfordshire County Council, and join the scheme, designed to provide care in a natural and familiar setting of a carer's home.*

Mary's journey into the world of Shared Lives began after her retirement from the NHS, where she had a successful career as a dementia care nurse. Looking to continue using her nursing skills and engage in caring work. Mary was introduced to the Shared Lives scheme by a colleague. The structure and support offered by Shared Lives were exactly what she needed to continue making a difference in people's lives.

"I wanted to be able to work from home and care for people in the natural and familiar setting of my home. I wanted it to be flexible and to fit in with my own life, and so providing short breaks (what some may know as respite) seemed ideal," Mary shared.

## Ascott Grapevine

Mary has been a dedicated Shared Lives Carer for six years, during which she has witnessed the scheme's transformative power first-hand. When asked about the best thing about being a Shared Lives Carer, Mary emphasised, "It allows me to help others and feel useful and earn money without having to 'go out to work' to do it. The support and training I get is fantastic, and all the Shared Lives Social Workers are understanding and professional and never put any pressure on me."

Mary also highlighted the importance of carefully matching individuals with Shared Lives Carers and the swift response to any problems that arise. She expressed her joy in meeting interesting people and having fun while making a real difference in their lives. Mary also pointed out that prior experience in caring work is not necessary, as Shared Lives is about sharing life experiences and making a meaningful impact on someone else's life.

To anyone considering joining the scheme, Mary offered this advice, "If you are at all interested, find out more. You will never be pressured into taking on more than you are able to and will be supported well. You will be providing the best possible care for someone in the best possible setting - your own home. You will be making a real difference to people's lives and enriching your own."

Mary's journey as a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council serves as an inspiring example of how individuals can make a meaningful impact on the lives of others while enriching their own. We hope her story encourages more people to explore the opportunities provided by Shared Lives.

For more information about the Shared Lives scheme, please visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives)

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# ***Village Shop, Update 2023***

## **20th Anniversary**

The shop is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. A party to celebrate the event is being held at Tiddy Hall that Friday evening. We are expecting a big turnout and we look forward to celebrating and reminiscing about what has been an exciting journey.

## **Financial Update**

We have seen a strong financial performance over the Summer with customer footfall and items sold up 10% year-on-year. Following the customer survey we carried out back in the Spring, we have listened and expanded our product range to include not only more local produce and specialty products but also a greater range of affordable products.

Financially we are in a much stronger position now than we expected back in January when we prepared our budget for 2023.

## **Shop Manager**

Our new manager, Gill Kenny, joined us in mid July and we are pleased to say that Gill has settled into her role incredibly well. Most of you will have met Gill by now but if you haven't and there is something you would like us to source then please do pop into the shop and Gill will be happy to assist.

## **Volunteers**

Whilst the shop's financial performance has grown stronger this year we have unfortunately seen a significant decline in our pool of volunteers. Some volunteers have retired or taken on other tasks in the village whilst others have either started new or grown their families. We are grateful to them for the time they have given the shop over the years and completely understand that they now have new priorities.

However, this means we are now beyond desperate for new volunteers to join the shop.

## **Shop Committee**

We saw two of our committee members, Sandra Staples and Jon Wells, stepping back at the end of September. This was per plan and we thank them for their input

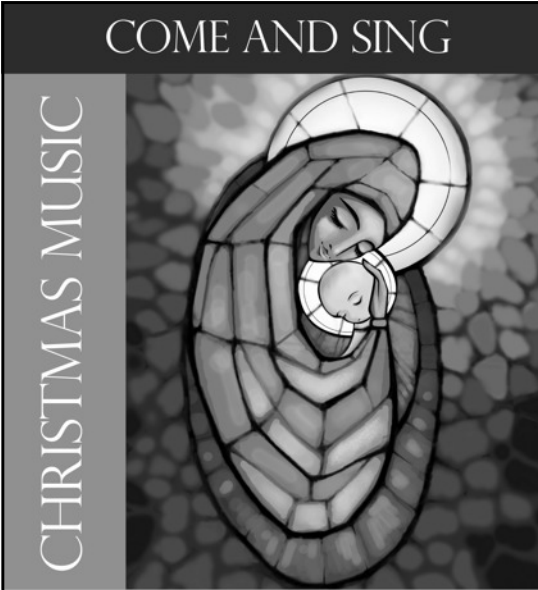
## Ascott Grapevine

and work on the committee during the first nine months of the year. However, this leaves us with just three committee members, namely myself, Jacquie Bugeja and Stuart Fox. All of us will be stepping down at next year's AGM in early June and henceforth we are on the search for new members who can afford the shop some of their spare time in order to keep the shop running. Ideally we would like to get new committee members on board early next year in order to arrange for a smooth handover.

I can not stress it enough, the shop can not run without a relatively large pool of volunteers, be it people working in the shop, sitting on the committee or both. If we do not see new volunteers stepping forward in the very near future then we will have no other option but to close the shop - permanently! This would be a great shame given not only the financial momentum we have built these past 16 months but also all the huge effort volunteers have put into the shop over the past 20 years.

Therefore, if you would like to volunteer and can spare us a few hours, either once a week or once a month, please contact us by leaving your details in the shop or by sending us an email on: [shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk)

**Per Henriksen**  
Shop Committee



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# POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Linda Shirley is a cousin of mine. She rang one Sunday morning to say that she had found some postcards on ebay. The postcards were from my Granddad Cook to my Granny living at 4 Church Close. It was called Church Gate back then. There were four postcards which were all in colour with a song on them. Wendy Pearse found the song on the internet- 'Little Grey Home in the West'.

Granddad Cook was down in Plymouth at the time in the First World War, when he sent the cards. All ask if Granny and the children were alright. In one he said he will write again on Sunday. At the bottom of the card he said, 'Keep this card.' In one, 'The sea is beautiful.' The next he had not heard from anyone at home. The last one 'Remember me to George,' which was Granny's brother. They were all posted in July and August.

Granddad Cook came back from the War. He then farmed at Corner House Farm. But the postcards somehow disappeared until modern technology brought them to light once more.

Mary Barnes



When the golden sun sinks in the hills,  
And the toil of a long day is o'er—  
Though the road may be long, in the lilt of a song  
I forget I was weary before.



Far ahead, where the blue shadows fall,  
I shall come to contentment and rest ;  
And the toils of the day will be all charmed away  
In my little grey home of the west.



There are hands that will welcome me in,  
There are lips I am burning to kiss—  
There are two eyes that shine just because  
they are mine,  
And a thousand things other men miss.



It's a corner of heaven itself,  
Though it's only a tumble-down nest—  
But with love brooding there, why, no place  
can compare  
With my little grey home in the west.

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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](mailto: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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**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

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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 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.**



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# ***Wychwood Library Bulletin***

## **Home Library Service:**

Did you know that the home library service brings library services to you at home? Our volunteers can deliver and collect books and audiobooks to you every three weeks. The service is available to people of any age who can't get to the library. Please call 01865810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## ***Digital Help:***

Free digital help is also available in Oxfordshire libraries. You can get help with desktops, phones, tablets and laptops. All sessions are 1 to 1 & free.

Please contact the libraries directly to book. Some libraries have a waiting list. You will need to bring your own portable device (unless you want help on a public desktop computer).

<b>Burford</b>	Third Tuesday 1-3 30min or 1hr sessions
<b>Chipping Norton</b>	Wednesday 1-2 or 2-3 6 x 1 hr sessions (course)
<b>Carterton</b>	Tuesday 1.30-3.30 1hr sessions
<b>Witney</b>	Tuesday & Thursday 10-12 Available sessions displayed on their website.

## ***Family History Sessions:***

We are lucky enough to have our own family history volunteer at Wychwood Library. Sessions are 1 to 1. We welcome anyone interested in starting research into their family tree or needing help to break down a brick wall in their research. Sessions are on Wednesdays from 10.30-11.30 and from 11.30-12.30. Please contact the library to book a session on 01993 830281 or by email at [wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

# ***Wychwoods Local History Society***



The Wychwoods Local History Society have kindly agreed to providing a rotating display of archival photos for the library. This photo is of early advertising in the Wychwoods!

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## **ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP**

Ascott Village Shop is sending you a warm welcome and looking forward to the festive season of goodwill to all. It's that time of year when thoughts turn to Christmas. The time when we all come together with family and friends to celebrate.

Whatever celebration you are planning we can help you with your festive feast and treats with our Christmas food order service. Why queue for parking when you can place a stress free order with us and collect from our community shop at a time to suit you?

We can supply an extensive range of locally sourced meat, including free-range turkeys, and everything you need to make the perfect Christmas roast. You can pre-order a whole turkey that will feed 7-9 people or if you prefer, we can supply a rolled & boned bird, or a turkey crown. To accompany your turkey, we can supply a sumptuous range of stuffings, including sage & onion, roast chestnut, apple & cranberry, apricot, and honey. We can also provide sausage meat, pigs in blankets and devils on horseback.

We offer gammon, beef and pork, prices available on request, and always have a good selection of fresh fruit & vegetables, no order is too small.

To complete your Christmas meal how about a cheese Board? We can help you choose some delicious cheese to accompany crackers and savoury biscuits as well as locally made chutney. If you prefer something sweet try our Christmas puddings, mince pies and Stollen. We stock a wide range of wines, beers, and spirits to add to your Christmas cheer.

Let us help you have a wonderful Christmas.

You can visit us in store, call us on 01993 831240 or send us an email at [shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk).

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas from us all at Ascott Village Shop, High Street, Ascott-under-Wychwood

# **FOOTSTEPS FROM ASCOTT PAST**

The emergence of Ascott cricket under the leadership of Stuart Moss has been remarkable. Based in the playing field in High Street, the teams have gone from strength to strength.

But the playing field has only been used since 1953. Before that you may be surprised to know that the cricket ground was in the field between the railway and the drive to Manor Farm. Despite the uneven nature of the field a nice level patch was maintained in the middle for the actual cricket pitch.

Although a form of cricket was played in this country from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century the advent of the railways in the 1840s and 1850s gave greater access for the touring teams.

No one knows when cricket was first played in Ascott but between 1878 and 1881 the Reverend York, then vicar of Ascott noted various incidents about the Ascott team, in the Parish Magazine.

In 1878 the Cricket Committee expressed their thanks to Mr Lardner for the use of his field. The Lardner family had been tenants at Manor Farm for several generations.

From the names that are mentioned it would seem that the cricketers of the time were not from the labouring classes but rather from the farming and craftsmen families. A Junior team also existed, presumably from the same class.

In October 1878 the cricketers played their last match of the season followed by a dinner at the Churchill Arms (now Sunset House in London Lane).

April 4<sup>th</sup> 1879 saw the season's first meeting of the Cricket Committee. Rev York presided. The committee comprised Edwin Eayrs the Captain and William Sherwood the Station Master who was the Secretary, along with Robert Hambidge a farmer, Charles Weaver a shoemaker, and Charles Holyfield a miller. They were later joined by Charles Townsend a farmer's son from Long House Farm. Edwin Eayrs was a 27 year old Inland Revenue Excise Branch Ride Officer who appears to have been stationed in this area since he later married Harriet the daughter of Robert Howse the blacksmith from Leafield. The Howse family continued their trade at Leafield into the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Edwin Eayrs must have been a very enthusiastic cricketer since Rev York noted that the cricketers practised very vigorously under his leadership. Unfortunately that did not help in June when Ascott lost to Chadlington but Rev York feeling rather annoyed noted ' by calling two bowlers to their side who were not from the



## Ascott Grapevine

parish or members of their club'. However in August Ascott beat Churchill by 34 runs.

In 1880 Rev York mentioned a slight alteration to the rules. It seems the older members who were proposed for the committee were not elected. Instead mainly younger members were elected. William Perkins 39, Robert Hambidge 20, George White 22, Richard Young 25 and Francis Gomm 23. William Sherwood 35 remained as Secretary.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> Ascott was beaten by Chadlington when Edwin Eayrs and Albert Weaver achieved the best scores for the Ascott Club. However on June 11<sup>th</sup> Ascott Juniors beat Shipton Juniors.

In August 1881 a significant match took place when Ascott beat Chadlington at Chadlington 90 runs to 68. It was probably the idea of the Honourable V, A Spencer the 16 year old heir to Lord Churchill of Cornbury. Amongst those playing with him were Captain Edwin Eayrs, Robert Hambidge 20, John Gomm 27, George Johnson 23, Charles Holyfield 27 and Albert Weaver 18. The remainder were most likely friends of the young heir. Rev York was later to comment that George White and Francis Gomm had emigrated to Australia followed later by Albert Weaver their best cricketer.

You may be surprised to know that women's cricket also flourished in Ascott before the First World War. It is not known when it began but the photograph shows the women playing on the field below the railway embankment. The Great War seems to have spelt the end of the women's cricket perhaps in the same way that women's football teams were discouraged after the conflict.

**Wendy Pearse**



# **MY LIFE ON THE RIVER EVENLODE**

I have lived in the village of Ascott-u-Wychwood all my life.

In my childhood along with my brother Dennis we were taught how to fish by our father on the river Evenlode which flowed through the village, in those days the Evenlode was deeper, cleaner and better maintained.

In the river by the bridges in the shallower faster water Ranunculus weed grew with its long flowing strands wavering in the current. This weed was a big favourite of the swans which could be seen regularly going up and down the river, some even nesting on the river.

The river also had two water mills on it, one at the Shipton end of the village and one at the Chilson end of the village, the one at the Shipton end was still in use when I was a child whilst the one at the other end was no longer in use, the cill and the beam for the sluice gates remained but the water no longer flowed under the house.

The river itself contained quite a few species of fish, chub, roach, dace and gudgeon being the most prominent species. There were also pike, perch, bream and wild brown trout in the Shipton and Lyneham stretches of water also big eels were in the river weighing as much as three pounds in weight.

The tackle we used then was quite crude by modern day standards with heavy split and whole cane rods and wooden centre pin reels, floats were made of different types of quill, cork and also some were made of celluloid. Back then water voles were quite common on the river and could be seen regularly especially on a summer's evening chomping away at the reeds in the river.

The years around the mid eighties to two thousand were the best years fishing wise I have experienced on the river with big numbers of fish being caught, in fact our local club Coldstone's, the club record stands at a catch by one angler weighing in on a club competition 91 lbs of mainly chub in a 5 hour competition, also there were many specimen fish caught, roach over the magic two pounds in weight barrier of which I was fortunate to catch my share, there was also a pike of over 20 lbs caught, myself also catching a bream of over 8 lbs a big bream for a small river.

By this time I was noticing changes to tackle and wildlife, we now had fibre glass taking place of cane and fixed spool reels replacing centre pins.

Due to the lack of maintenance on the river, silt beds were now forming and branches and other obstructions could be seen in the river with willow trees even growing in the river itself on the beds of silt.

## Ascott Grapevine

From 2000 onward we were seeing quite a decline in the fish population, the river itself becoming more and more overgrown due to no maintenance being done and now we were having sightings of otters on the river yet another nail in the coffin for the fish.

On the tackle front carbon fibre was replacing fibre glass with poles in many cases replacing rods.

Poles were now essential pieces of equipment, also very expensive with top of the range poles going 16 metres in length costing up to and above £3,000 and beyond.

As many of you will know we now have the problem of raw sewage being pumped into the river. I can only imagine to what effect this is having on the river including the effect on the wildlife but what I do know is the river I once knew and loved is no longer and unless we as citizens put more pressures on the powers that be our river will no longer support fish, wildlife, and aquatic life it will just become a drain for carrying sewage.

Just to back up some of my findings I will give you some examples, Cray fish netted in our local lake for the year 2022 the total caught in a 7 month period was 1,200.

In the year 2,000 on the Coldstone Christmas competition, the top five anglers weighed in a total of 128lbs 14 ozs. On a Christmas competition in the year 2022 in the same stretch of water, the top five weighed in a total of 91b 7ozs.

I hope this will have been of some interest to you if it only shows the decline of what once was a lovely river.

**P.MOSS**

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# **Parish Council News Winter 2023/24**

## **Local Plan**

As many of you know, top of the agenda for the PC this month has been responding to the proposals for a new West Oxfordshire Local Plan.

A Local Plan sets out the planning policy for the District: where housing should be built, how many, and what the focus should be. It cannot diverge from national policy but there is a great deal of leeway in how it is delivered. In October, WODC launched their latest consultation over a new Local Plan running to 2041 (LP41) that will replace the existing, broken plan (LP31). A number of residents have written in with comments: thank you. Additionally, WODC held a number of public events and hosted a workshop for Parish and Town Councils.

In which we left the planners in no doubt as to what we thought of some of their ideas.

For those who have not read the consultation document, WODC put forward a number of potential development scenarios, ranging from retaining the *status quo* or concentrating on Chippy, Witney and Carterton, through more dispersed development in the villages, including a very worrying concept of 'Village Clusters'. That would treat the Wychwoods as one settlement, which is something we constantly find ourselves having to fight. Once again, we had to remind them that Ascott is not the same as Shipton and Milton and lacks the services needed for major development. And, once again, that having a station does not mean you have a train service.

It all comes down to infrastructure.

The only scenario that makes sense in the long term is to build a new settlement. That will eat into green space, but so does cramming ever more piecemeal development onto lots of green spaces in villages where the infrastructure cannot cope. Only a new settlement can attract the necessary funding and opportunity to build in new infrastructure and services from the ground up so that it is safe and affordable for people to live there. That is difficult and unpopular but the only viable solution to the housing need. Such ideas take a long time to deliver, and until then, concentrating development in regional centres that have services and amenities remains the next best option.

## **Flooding**

The first bout of rain this Autumn, and 48 hours later we were out closing the road due to flooding. We urgently need evidence of what we all know: that the

village is on a constant knife edge when it comes to managing flood risk. Right now, we are less interested in hearing about previous flooding to dwellings than in proving those that would become at risk in the event of a new development displacing large volumes of water currently being soaked up by the fields. Near misses, local knowledge and photographic evidence are crucially important.

## Roads

Whilst we all look forward to the time when the village is no longer also submerged under road works, OCC have finally agreed to a 40mph restriction heading down London Lane towards the village. This is something for which I have campaigned as going from 60 down to 20 on that hill and close to the school and junction with High Street is just too sudden and dangerous. All that nice paintwork on the road signalling the 20 signs won't last an Ascott winter! The 40mph was strongly supported by residents in the OCC consultation. However, there is a sting in the tail - the PC has to contribute towards the cost, which will eat into our reserves.

## Finally

Two of the choirs to which PC members belong are holding Remembrance Concerts this year. Our thoughts go out to all those in areas of conflict and who are suffering under the burden of war.

Here, the seasons are definitely changing, and the nights are drawing in. Stay warm and safe.

**Brian Leach**

**Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council**

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

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## ***Liz Leffman October 2023***

For the past two and a half years, the administration at Oxfordshire County Council has been an alliance between the Lib Dems, Green Party and Labour. However, at the end of September that changed, when the Labour group at the County Council decided to terminate the Alliance. This followed a very poor report from Ofsted on the Council's services for children with special educational needs and disabilities and demands from parents for the Cabinet member for Children's Services, who is also the Labour group leader, to resign. Sadly, the Labour Group decided that they preferred to end the Alliance rather than re-shuffle Cabinet roles. The new administration is an alliance between the Lib Dems and the Green party.

This gives us an opportunity to review our priorities as we work on the budget for the next year and beyond. We know that we have to significantly improve our children's services, but we also have to make savings as, like all councils, we have to cope with increased costs and demand for our services. We have to improve our roads, even though we are unlikely to get any more money from government to do this. How we do this over the eighteen months is the challenge that we face.

To this end we have been working to find more permanent and less expensive solutions to filling potholes. Results from a trial in South Oxfordshire suggest that using recycled materials reduces carbon by 71% and speeds up the scheme by 60%, as well as providing a longer lasting filling. We have also been experimenting with using recycled materials on a road near Curbridge and this has proven to be a much more resistant surface which will last for a lot longer, as well as saving hundreds of tonnes of carbon.

Oxfordshire is already doing well in that respect. We were recently rated by the organisation Climate Emergency UK as the best performing county in the country for taking measures to tackle the climate emergency. We scored highly in supporting waste reduction and sustainable food production, through organisations like FarmEd, and also for our collaboration with other councils, suppliers, and businesses and partner organisations in order to achieve carbon reduction.

I am very pleased that the 20mph speed limit for Ascott was approved in July and is now installed. This will make a big difference to safety in the village and I know will be very much welcomed by Ascott residents.

Wishing everyone in Ascott a merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

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



# ***Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club***

Another enjoyable (albeit often wet) cricket season has concluded and Memorial Playing Field is much quieter for the next few months (save for Windrush Valley School PE and of course the play area). This is important as players, umpires, the grass, and our neighbours all benefit from a rest!

Despite some concern in July, our Saturday league XI quite comfortably retained their place in Cherwell League Div 7B, following emphatic wins over Hanborough 2nd and Freeland. This was quite an achievement for one of the 'smallest' clubs in the massive Cherwell League - which is made up of 184 teams mainly from across Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire. We'll find out how our division is compromised for 2024 and our new fixtures, at the end of this year.

The Sunday friendly XI finished the last few months of the season with several heavy defeats, but did record wins over both Bohemian Wanderers, and Honiton CC. The latter match was during our tour of Devon at the end of August, another memorable 3 days of fun enjoyed by a mixed squad of 16 (youngest 13, oldest approaching 60!). We were fortunate to also again play at scenic Sidmouth and finally Tipton St John clubs too, though we were defeated in both those games. We plan to return to Devon in 2024.

In October our club President Don Barnes presented the 2023 Awards to those who'd starred this season with bat, ball, in the field, and off the field! The chairman Kester Harvey compèred and the big winners were Steve Russell, Stewart Moss and Mark Read for their batting, and Rowan Moss & Phoebe Dundass for their bowling. William Harvey (14) was announced young player of the season, and Andrew Weaver our 'Clubman' for his services to AUWCC this year.

Our beautiful new club batting & bowling 'Honours Boards' were then unveiled in the pavilion.

Thanks were also given to our superb umpires Simon Gidman and John Cull - two more affable, honest & impartial officials you'd struggle to find!

Looking forward to 2024 - we'd love for some more players to come forward from the village to play, be it on Saturdays or Sundays. We've again lost a couple of players in the local 'transfer market' - and a few more have moved away, or are closer to the dreaded retirement! We aim to field 22 different players every week-end so there are always opportunities to play. Your age, sex and ability is not important - you just need to be enthusiastic! We can supply kit, and offer weekly practice and coaching. During the 2023 season astonishingly talented youngsters Eddie Russell, Ben Chapple and Andrew Taylor (who all live in the village, all aged 11 to 13) made great progress with the club, and we hope all will be 'leading lights' for decades to come. We also fielded two lady cricketers in matches in

## Ascott Grapevine

2023, with a couple more 'in training'. But they all need some help from the adults and experienced players - cricket is a social, team game.

We will commence indoor practice at the Community Centre Sports Hall in Charlbury on Sunday January 21st with a 1 hour net session, which is good fun with everyone batting and bowling in roughly ability graded nets. This is the ideal time to start - do get in touch if interested in joining the club, you won't regret it!

**Stewart Moss, secretary.**

**07866 278685**

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

**Twitter: @AUWCricetClub**

**Instagram: ascott\_u\_wychwood\_cricket**



# ***The Tiddy Hall***

## ***Founded and given to the village by R. Tiddy, Esq., in 1912***

The last few months have once again been interesting!

On a positive note, we have three new trustees: Paula Lewis, Chris Lewis and Anne Smith. Paula has taken over from Howard Morris as Treasurer and has immediately had to deal with our very own banking crisis, of which more later!

Following the great success of recent fundraisers, we have two more events on the agenda. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December we will be hosting another evening of music, food and drink. On this occasion we have two acts performing and once again they will be foregoing a fee to allow all proceeds to go to The Tiddy Hall charitable trust.

Opening the show will be The Wychcraft Rock and Pop Choir featuring a number of familiar faces from the village and from neighbouring villages. On guitar will be none other than our very own Charles Marshall of Three Piece Sweet fame.

In the second half of the show, Three Piece Sweet (Unplugged) will perform an entirely new acoustic set. On this occasion the band will actually comprise 5 members with Kev 'The Bass' Bishop taking over low-end duties, allowing Charles to continue on acoustic guitar. We will be joined by Steve White, a well know performer, producer and instructor based in Witney, on drums. Mark Pidgeon will play guitar, mandolin and harmonica as well as providing lead vocals. To complete the line up, I will play guitar.

Tickets are now on sale at £20 per head, including a 'fish & chip' supper.

On 15<sup>th</sup> December, we have another fundraiser. This one will be a talk by Juliet Heslewood on a suitably religious subject. I won't steal Juliet's thunder by trying to describe this event as she will be providing full details elsewhere in this edition of Grapevine. I will just say that tickets will cost £10 per head with all proceeds once again going to The Tiddy Hall charitable trust.

I should add that these events, along with our regular activities, would not be possible without the help of the trustees and of a broader group of helpers. I am sure everyone in the village will join me in thanking them for their tireless support.

Now, let's discuss the banking crisis! As an ex-banker myself, albeit in a wholly different field (trade and supply chain finance) I am truly appalled by Barclays' actions. I won't go into the gory details but the end result is that they unilaterally closed our account. This has left The Tiddy Hall with no bank account! We currently cannot pay our bills (energy, water, council tax etc), cannot use the card machine and cannot accept bank transfers for bookings etc. They issued a cheque for the closing balance which, of course, we cannot do anything with until we have a new bank account.

We will be complaining to the ombudsman in due course, but our priority is to get a new bank account opened. Those that have tried to open a new bank account for a business or a charity in recent years will know that this is not a straightforward process. We have started the process with NatWest who, I have to say, have been quite helpful but it still takes time and we have had to provide a certified copy of the original Trust Declaration (dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 1930) and extensive details of all trustees so they can complete their due diligence. Paula is doing a fantastic job liaising with NatWest and we are hopeful that the account will be in place soon.

On a lighter note, those readers paying close attention will have noticed that I keep referring to 'The Tiddy Hall' rather than just 'Tiddy Hall'. Once I was able to retrieve a copy of the original Trust Declaration, I noticed that the correct name of our village hall is indeed 'The Tiddy Hall' so I decided to use its full title in future!

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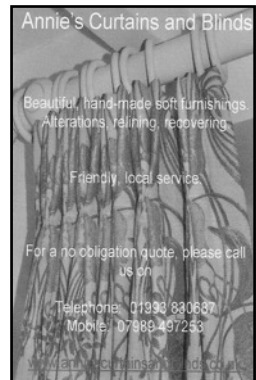
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STEAMING EVENTS for 2023 WWW.Combemill.org

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

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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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Gayle Pilkington

Retrofit Project Manager, Oxfordshire County Council

County Hall | New Road | Oxford | OX1 1ND

Email: [gayle.pilkington@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:gayle.pilkington@oxfordshire.gov.uk) | Telephone: 07927 589233

# The Good Old Days!

A topical item to remind those of us of a certain age and perhaps surprise our younger residents, just how engaged the nationalised railways were once, long ago, in providing local villagers a seasonal special train service.

The Handbill illustrated dating from November 1958 provided villagers the chance to plan a trip into Oxford for Cinderella Pantomime on Thursday January 22nd 1959.

It is an amazingly rare survivor and shows on its scarred surface that it was once creased and uncared for, but we should be grateful that somehow and somewhere it wasn't destroyed. I have chosen it as it proves that in 1958 BR Western Region would oblige all the so called "Halt" station villagers including Ascott, in such a special offer.

The reverse side, usefully adds details of the Pantomime itself, boldly calling it the greatest of all pantomimes. Who remembers David Nixon, once a TV celebrity, or The Tiller Girls, even more famed as regular performers on TV's Sunday Night at the London Palladium hosted by Brice Forsyth? I can't recall the Moonbeam Babes however!

Well, I don't recommend asking our current rail service provider for a similar train this year!

Maybe occasionally, we can justify the well worn lament "The Good Old Days" after all.

Peter Rance

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**CHRISTINE TAYLOR**  
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ASCOTT AND WYCHWOOD	OXFORD	2.55	3.25
CHINGLEY	OXFORD	3.15	3.35
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## ***NATURE NOTES***

When orchids are mentioned first thoughts are often of tropical beauties from exotic locations and yet orchids are to be found in every continent, except Antarctica, and in every climatic zone. Even in the UK, there are 18 orchid families to be found, comprising a total of over 30 species. Some are common, others rare and some so endangered that their sites are kept secret and closely monitored. Many of our rare species are at the extreme northern end of their geographical range. Perhaps with global warming more orchid species will flourish here.

Whilst many tropical orchids are epiphytes, growing clinging to the trunks and branches of trees, our local species are all geophytes growing in the earth. Many of our native species prefer chalk or limestone soils, often growing best on land that is low in nutrients such as waste tips, motorway verges and roundabouts. The name Orchid is derived from the Latin *orchis* for testicle which refers to the two root tubers found under some species. One tuber expands during the growing season ready to produce next year's plant whilst the other withers as it supplies the current season's plant.

Unlike most plants, orchids have fleshy or tuberous roots that do not have root hairs, so they rely, in part, on forming a partnership with a fungus. Orchids and fungi have a complex symbiotic relationship, where each stage of the orchid's life is dependent on specific fungi. This results in a dual organism known as mycorrhiza. The fungus lives inside the root cells of the orchid. The roots provide an ideal growing environment for the fungus as it is devoid of competition. The fungus sends out a network of filaments (mycelium) that absorb nutrients from the soil that are passed on to the orchid through its roots. In return, the fungi receive moisture and possibly some vitamins that the orchid generates through photosynthesis.

Orchids produce vast quantities of seed, but it is as fine as dust, is very light and buoyant and is capable of wide dispersal on air currents. Unlike most plant seeds they do not contain a supply of fat and protein which serves as a food source for the growing plant. Even the embryo does not contain the usual differentiation between root, shoot and leaf that is usually found. When the seed lands: it will not germinate unless the right species of fungi is in the soil to create a symbiotic relationship that will provide nutrients to the growing seedling.

Within our area of West Oxfordshire, four orchid species can commonly be found:

## The Pyramidal Orchid



This pretty, crimson-flowered orchid can occur in great abundance, particularly on chalk or limestone soils in the south of England. When the flowers first open the spike has a pyramidal outline, hence its name. Their flowering period is from June to August and is pollinated by butterflies and moths. It has a scent that some find pleasant, but Darwin described it as Foxy. Locally it can be found growing on the wide verge of the B4437 close to the old pumping station. I also found over 50 plants flowering on a piece of waste ground off the unclassified road between Fordwells and Asthall.

## Early Purple Orchid



These orchids are the first to flower in the spring, they have large dark green shiny leaves marked with purple spots. The flowers appear in late April and May and are a rich purple/pink colour. Their usual habitat is old woodlands and scrub, often scattered amongst bluebells. Locally they can occasionally be found by the side of the official footpath through Cornbury Woods. They may have a pleasing scent.



## Bee Orchid



Bee Orchids are mostly found on chalk and limestone hills, particularly in the south of England but sometimes in pastures on limestone soils. Of all our common local orchids they have the most spectacular flowers. Bright pink sepals with a brown and yellow patterned velvet-textured lip that mimics the rear of a female bee. This is intended to attract males who fly in to try and mate thus collecting the pollen from two sticky yellow pollinia that hang over the pretend female bee. Sadly, the right species of bee doesn't live in the UK so the Orchids growing here have become self-fertile. The flower spike can grow up to 18 inches and there are usually 4 to 6 flowers, but only 2 or three open at any one time. The flowers appear in June or July. I've only found 2 Bee Orchids in Ascott; both were in the field behind the allotments.

## Common Spotted Orchid



This orchid is found in damp places, meadows, pastures roadside verges and open woodland rides and is probably our most widespread orchid. It has a slender straight stem of 6 to 12 inches ending in a dense spike of purple flowers that appear from June to August. It is fertilised by bees and flies with long tongues that are powerful enough to pierce the membrane of the flower's spur to obtain the nectar that it contains. Its leaves are sharply pointed and usually spotted dark purple. I'm sorry that I haven't seen this orchid around Ascott, but I have found it in Cornbury Woods.

*Stuart Fox*

# ***BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT***

For the last 13 years, the Butterfly Conservation organisation has organised a butterfly count in July and early August during which the public is asked to record the numbers and species of butterflies seen in gardens, parks and the countryside. The information is collated and provides a year-by-year comparison of butterfly numbers by species and also the long-term trend.

After very disappointing results in 2022 this year's figures proved to be the best for many species since 2019. Last year's poor totals were probably influenced by the heatwave and drought. This year's mixed weather conditions have provided ideal conditions with an abundance of green plants for caterpillars' food and later nectar-rich flowers for the adult butterflies.

<b>Big Butterfly Survey 2023</b>	<b>Abundance</b>	<b>% change from 2022</b>	<b>Trend since 2013</b>
1 Red Admiral	248,077	338	77.7
2 Gate Keeper	222,896	12	<b>-28.01</b>
3 Large White	216,666	11	26.86
4 Small White	202,029	15	2.46
5 Meadow Brown	162,396	6	<b>-16.52</b>
6 Peacock	149,179	172	<b>-7.24</b>
7 Comma	49,173	26	5.22
8 Small Tortoiseshell	45,364	11	<b>-29.82</b>
9 Holly Blue	34,655	68	41.37
10 Common Blue	30,009	-13	<b>-43.8</b>
11 Speckled Wood	29,708	-11	<b>-37.88</b>
12 Green-veined White	24,093	0	<b>-60.87</b>
13 Ringlet	23,048	-37	<b>-40.88</b>
14 Small Copper	19,367	11	66.2
15 Brimstone	17,694	73	<b>-9.53</b>
16 Painted Lady	11,893	3	113.08

During the survey 1.5 million butterflies and day-flying moths were reported by 95,000 volunteers who completed 136,719 fifteen-minute surveys.

The above report looks at the 16 most common species found in the UK and shows the changes since the 2022 survey and most importantly the 13-year trend. The Red

## Ascott Grapevine

Admiral showed a huge increase in numbers since last year and an encouraging 77% increase over the last 13 years. Also showing an increase in the long-term trend are the Large White, Holly Blue, Small Copper and Painted Lady. What is concerning is the other 9 species that are in decline, including the Green Veined White, Ringlet, Common Blue, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper and Small Tortoiseshell that are showing very significant long-term falls. This is of concern as these are all common widespread butterflies. Loss of habitat and changes in land management methods are in part responsible for the decline.

It's interesting to note that the two species showing the best long-term upward trend, the Red Admiral and the Painted Lady, are both immigrants arriving in the late spring and early summer producing one or two broods with adults on the wing from August to October. Unlike their near relatives, the Small Tortoiseshell and the Peacock, they rarely overwinter as adults dying out as the weather deteriorates and nectar supplies disappear. In late September and Early October, I observed large numbers of Red Admirals feeding on banks of flowering Ivy. My last sight of a single butterfly on Ivy was on 25<sup>th</sup> October.



If you would like to take part in next year's Big Butterfly Count it will take place between 12<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

*Stuart Fox*

TIDDY HALL

# Piano Lessons

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**Pauline Carter**

BA A Mus LCM CTABRSM MISM



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# ***The Ascott Village Charity***



## ***Your Village Charity- What does it do, and who does it help?***

### ***Further Education***

The village charity is in the position to offer help to any person in the village who is embarking on further education and is in need of books or equipment for the course. They can apply to the charity to assist with the cost. All applications are dealt with in strict confidence.

### ***Financial Aid***

If any villager feels that the Charity could help anyone in the village with financial aid then please contact one of the trustees to discuss the application procedure. The trustees will review all applications in full confidence to determine if they are within the Charity's power to assist.

#### **Chairman**

John Cull [john@greenascott.co.uk](mailto:john@greenascott.co.uk)

#### **Trustees**

Elaine Byles [elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk) Keith Ravenhill [keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net](mailto:keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net)

Stuart Fox [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com) Mark Dawbarn [markdawbarn@outlook.com](mailto:markdawbarn@outlook.com)

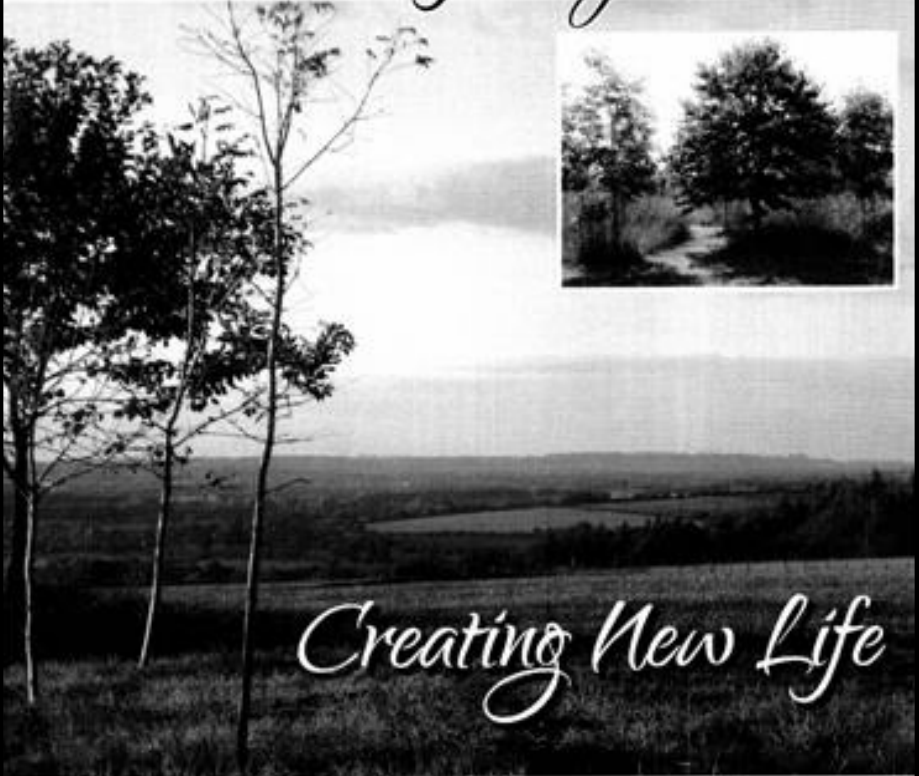
Sandy Timms [se.timms@btinternet.com](mailto:se.timms@btinternet.com) Andrew Smith

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

# Fairspear Natural Burial Ground

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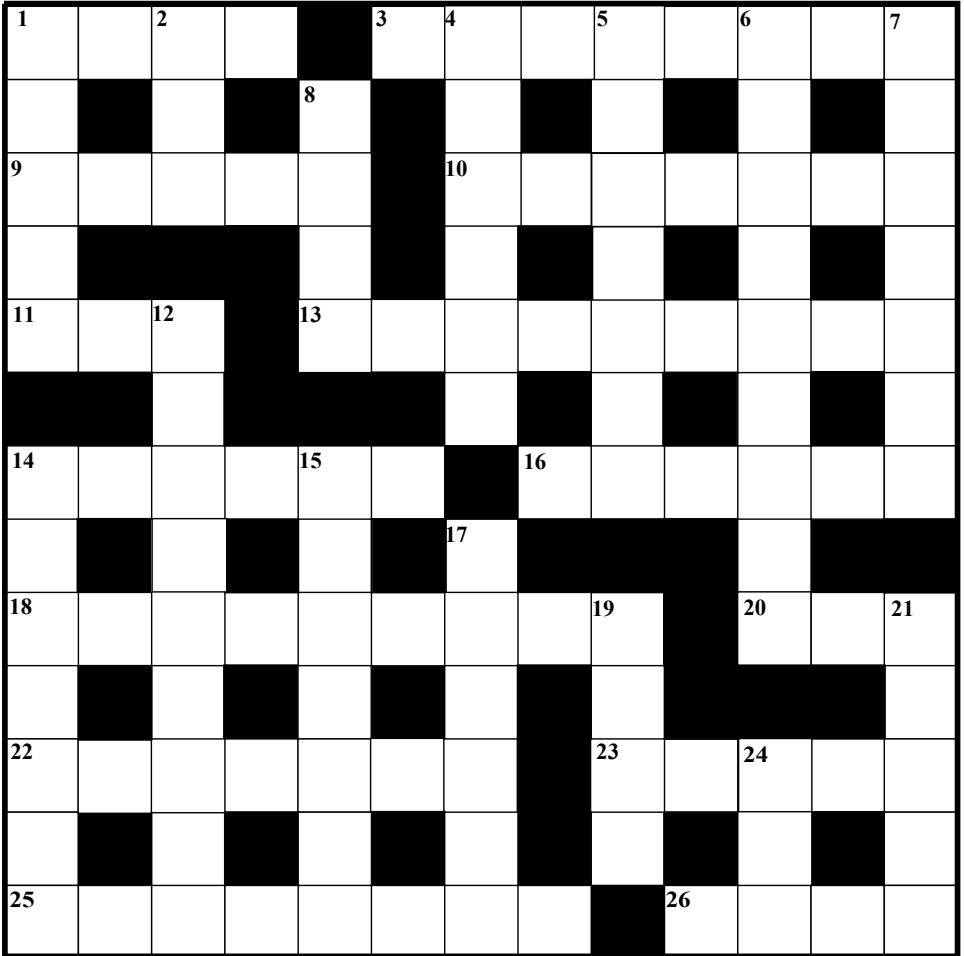
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For further information please contact  
Helen Pearson by phone on 01993 878387,  
by e-mail at [helenpearson@fairspearnbg@gmail.com](mailto:helenpearson@fairspearnbg@gmail.com)  
or visit our website at [www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk)



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

# 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 50

**ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP** 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk  
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk Page 14

**COTSWOLD WELLNESS** 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com  
www.fingersandtoes.info Page 29

**COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006  
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 45

**ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS** 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 17

**FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND** 01993 878387  
helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk Page 61

**FOLK CLUB** 01993831427 07870563299  
wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Page 13

**GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425  
info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk Page 59

**THE HAIR SALON AT THE PADDOCKS** Ladies' and Gentlemen's Hair dressing  
The Paddocks, Shipton Road, Milton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6GF  
Alison 07980645995; Joy 07867585053 Page 50

**IVY'S FLORIST** 01993830268 Page 15  
Instagram@Ivy's Florist

**JENNA SAUNDERS** 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com Page 17

**JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS** 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020  
info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com Page 8

## Ascott Grapevine

<b>OXFORDSHIRE PEST CONTROL</b> 07481553551 sales@oxfordshirepestcontrol.uk Www.oxfordshirepestcontrol.uk	Page 42
<b>ROBERT GRIPPER</b> 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	Page 24
<b>ROSENEATH</b> 01993774568 www.roseneathmusicschool.com	Page 58
<b>THE SWAN</b> 01993 832332 reservations@swanascott.com www.countrycreatures.com	Page 31
<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 50
<b>TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES</b> 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates	Page 16

# ***Events Calendar - 2023/24***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:30pm	Three Piece Sweet (Unplugged) The Wychwood Rock & Pop Choir	Tiddy Hall
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Talk - The look of God	Tiddy Hall
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	All on a Winter's Night	Tiddy Hall
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Carol Service	Holy Trinity Church
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	7:30pm	Qigong	Tiddy Hall
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Carols on the Green	Village Green
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Reg Meuross	Tiddy Hall
February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30pm	Kiki Dee & Carmelo Luggeri	Tiddy Hall
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Show of Hands	Tiddy Hall
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1:00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Silverblues	Tiddy Hall

There is a Post Office at Tiddy Hall every Friday between 2.00 and 3:45pm