

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 1st August 2024.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email:
wendypearse@btinternet.com

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

Advertising Rates

£17.50 full page

£12.50 half page

£7.50 quarter page

Advertising Discount:

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

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

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see Page 52), please contact Stuart Fox 01993 832004 or stuart.john.fox@gmail.com. The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

Local Churches

Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572

Wychwood Baptist, Milton

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

St Mary's Shipton

Churchwarden James Walmsley

01993 830842

Westcote Methodist

Tony Gibson 01993 830699

SS Simon & Jude, Milton

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

Roman Catholic

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

St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

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

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and
St Teresa, Charlbury

Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Priest: Fr Clive Dytor 07484158642

Mass at Charlbury 09:15

Services at the Chase Benefice 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chase Benefice

Open to God – Open to All

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.**



**May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.**



The Revd Timothy Thornton

Vicar of Chadlington, Spelsbury and Ascott-under-Wychwood

1984 - 2000

Soldiers of Oxfordshire

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum appeals for county D-Day stories ahead of 80th Anniversary events and exhibitions

- Museum now appealing for a wider range of Oxfordshire D-Day stories, calls for families to share their stories and childhood memories from 1944.
- A new D-Day 80th Anniversary exhibition, exploring the stories of Oxfordshire people involved in the Normandy invasion, will open from 18 May to 24 September 2024.
- Commemorative talk Pegasus Bridge: In Their Own Words will be held online on 22 May 2024 and Sappers in the D-Day Gliders in-person on 30 May 2024.
- Commemorative talk Sappers in the D-Day Gliders will be held at the museum on 30 May 2024 with Ingram Murray.

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 1944, the county's military museum in Woodstock, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, will expand on its permanent displays with a special exhibition aiming to tell even more local people's stories of the build-up, D-Day invasion, and Normandy campaign that followed.

In the run up to the Anniversary, the museum is keen to hear from local people with their own memories or family stories of D-Day, soldier or civilian. With Oxfordshire airbases utilised for all kinds of war work, and soldiers billeted across the county while training or preparing for Operation Overlord, many will have childhood memories of 1944, seeing planes flying overhead or speaking to some of the allied forces. Others will have stories of local people serving in other regiments or branches of the armed forces - the museum urges anyone to get in touch with more information.

David Shouesmith, Chairman of the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust, explains that the anniversary 'is an opportunity to restate and refresh some of the compelling stories of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and the Pegasus Bridge operation in particular, but there will also be many other less dramatic stories of how the county was involved in the run-up to D-Day which we are keen to bring to light, and which may resonate with wider audiences.'

Visitors to the museum can already sit inside a recreated section of an Airspeed Horsa Glider, the type used to carry men of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire

Light Infantry to Normandy. One of the museum's permanent interactive displays, audio headsets allow you to hear Major John Howard recount his memories of the historic Pegasus Bridge operation, while cases display a range of weapons and equipment used by these soldiers and the opposition they faced.

This will be expanded with a new temporary D-Day 80th Anniversary exhibition - opening on 18 May and running to 24 September 2024 - which will provide a wide range of other county stories and perspectives, such as the contribution of many RAF stations and other sites across Oxfordshire.

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary, the museum also has plans for a range of other supporting events. A new online talk will be streamed at 7pm, Wednesday 22 May 2024 titled *The Pegasus Story: In Their Own Words*. A follow up to the museum's first ever online event (available on the museum website now), the talk will make use of recorded interviews from veterans of the Pegasus Bridge operation, including John Howard DSO, to provide an unprecedented insight into the events of D-Day. Free to view, the museum will encourage viewers to donate in support of the museum and its archives.

On Thursday 30 May 2024 the museum will also host Ingram Murray for a talk on the Sappers in the Gliders - the contingent of Royal Engineers who accompanied the soldiers of the Oxfordshire regiment on board the gliders bound for Pegasus Bridge. Proceeds from tickets will support the museum and ABF: The Soldiers' Charity. Ingram Murray, formerly an officer in the Royal Engineers' Independent Parachute Engineers squadron, is the father of Al Murray, known for his Pub Landlord stand-up persona and Second World War podcast, history festivals, and books.

Those with an Oxfordshire D-Day story they would like to share with the museum can get in touch using the details below:

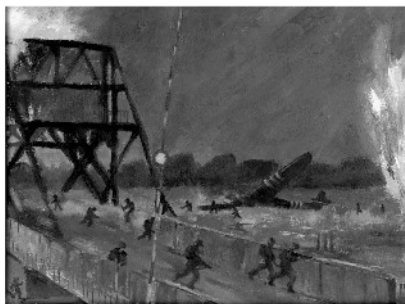
Website (Contact Form): www.sofa.org.uk/oxfordshire-d-day-stories/

Phone: 01993 810 210

Email: museumdirector@sofa.org.uk



These binoculars were gifted by Serjeant R. J. Ollis from the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire



Painting depicting the capture of Pegasus Bridge (SOFA Museum Collection)



The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry are famed for their role at Pegasus Bridge on D-Day. This drawing depicts the Mk 1 Horsa G



Major John Howard with soldiers of 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry during Oxford 'Salute the Soldier'

Ascott Parish was Enclosed in 1838 but what did this mean?

When we were at school as part of our 19th century history lessons we would have covered the subject of Enclosure. But how many of us would have really understood what it meant? And few would have realised what a significant change it meant for the farming history of this country. Basically most thought it meant that the wealthier classes gained ownership of the land and the lower classes were left with nothing.

But what did Enclosure really mean? Initially it started when hunter gatherers began to set down roots in one place and to grow their own crops and domesticate animals. Growing crops had to be protected by a hedge, fence or wall from marauding animals and domestic animals had to be prevented from straying. This is what an enclosure, an enclosed piece of land, set out to achieve.

As the settlements grew small enclosed paddocks began to appear close to the settlement but especially here in the Midlands of England large open fields covering hundreds of acres within a parish, surrounded the settlements. These open fields were divided into furlongs and the furlongs into individual strips worked by individual people. No permanent hedges, fences or walls existed in the open fields for hundreds of years. Over time some of these strips were amalgamated but by the early 1800s Ascott Parish, like many others, still retained a farming system that had existed for centuries, possibly from Saxon times.

Every Enclosure Settlement was different mainly depending on how many individuals owned land within a parish and how much power those owners could bring to bear. This is just one example, the Enclosure of Ascott under Wychwood Parish.

The Ascott Manor Court controlled the system and every Easter the arrangements for the forthcoming farming year were agreed by the Bailiff and a jury of village farmers. For example – which crop was to be grown on all the strips in each furlong. The strips worked well where the soil was deep enough to ridge up but on the higher slopes of the valley the stonier land had to be defined by what were termed ‘meerstones’ marking the boundary of each individual strip. In the Courts the movement of the ‘meerstones’ was a bone of contention and so each year the farmers would arrange a day to meet, walk the open fields, and make sure no-one was encroaching on his neighbour’s land. The lower pastures in the valley were hay meadows and the strips in these were drawn by lot each year which ensured that everyone had a chance of hay from the richest pastures as opposed to the poorer ones.

As the population grew more land would have been taken into cultivation, each new furlong divided in strips like its predecessors.

But basically this system of farming meant that no-one could experiment with new farming innovations that began to circulate in the country, or protect their animals from diseases which arrived where village livestock were herded together in temporarily fenced parts of the open fields after harvest. An Enclosure would also remove the necessity of walking all over the parish from one small strip to another to perform the various agricultural tasks and in the process valuable time would be saved especially in inclement weather which all through time has been the farmer's major opponent.

Enclosure Settlements of various kinds had been activated all over the country over the past centuries but this meant that an Act had to be passed through Parliament for each individual Enclosure. However in 1836 an Act was passed which enabled a parish to be enclosed without resource to Parliament, if two thirds of the landowners in the parish agreed. In the early 1800s two thirds of Ascott Parish was owned by Lord Churchill of Cornbury.

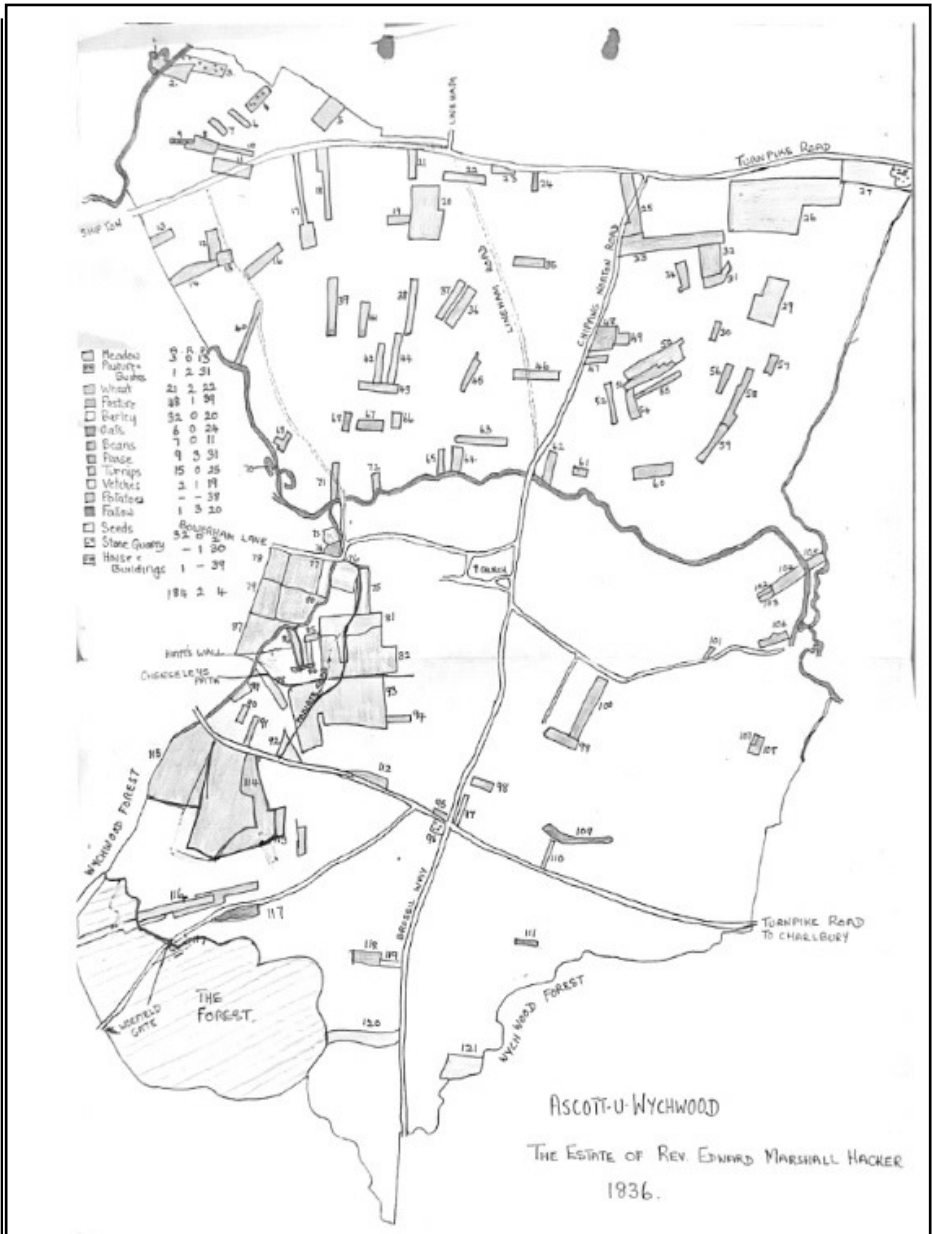
Nearly all the major farmers of the village were tenant farmers, leasing their land from Lord Churchill, Brasenose College or the Vicar of Iffley whilst just a few others owned a very small area of land. Proposed by Lord Churchill a Settlement was agreed and Ascott's Enclosure took place in 1838.

The Reverend Edward Marshall Hacker of Iffley in Oxford owned Coldstone Farm, now Coldstone House, and although the house and buildings lay over the boundary in Shipton Parish, practically all the attached land was in Ascott Parish. To ensure the Vicar was allocated his exact proportion of land he employed a surveyor to make a detailed map of his strips and comparing the before and after maps, over page, we can see how his allotment together with others changed the appearance of Ascott's farming landscape.

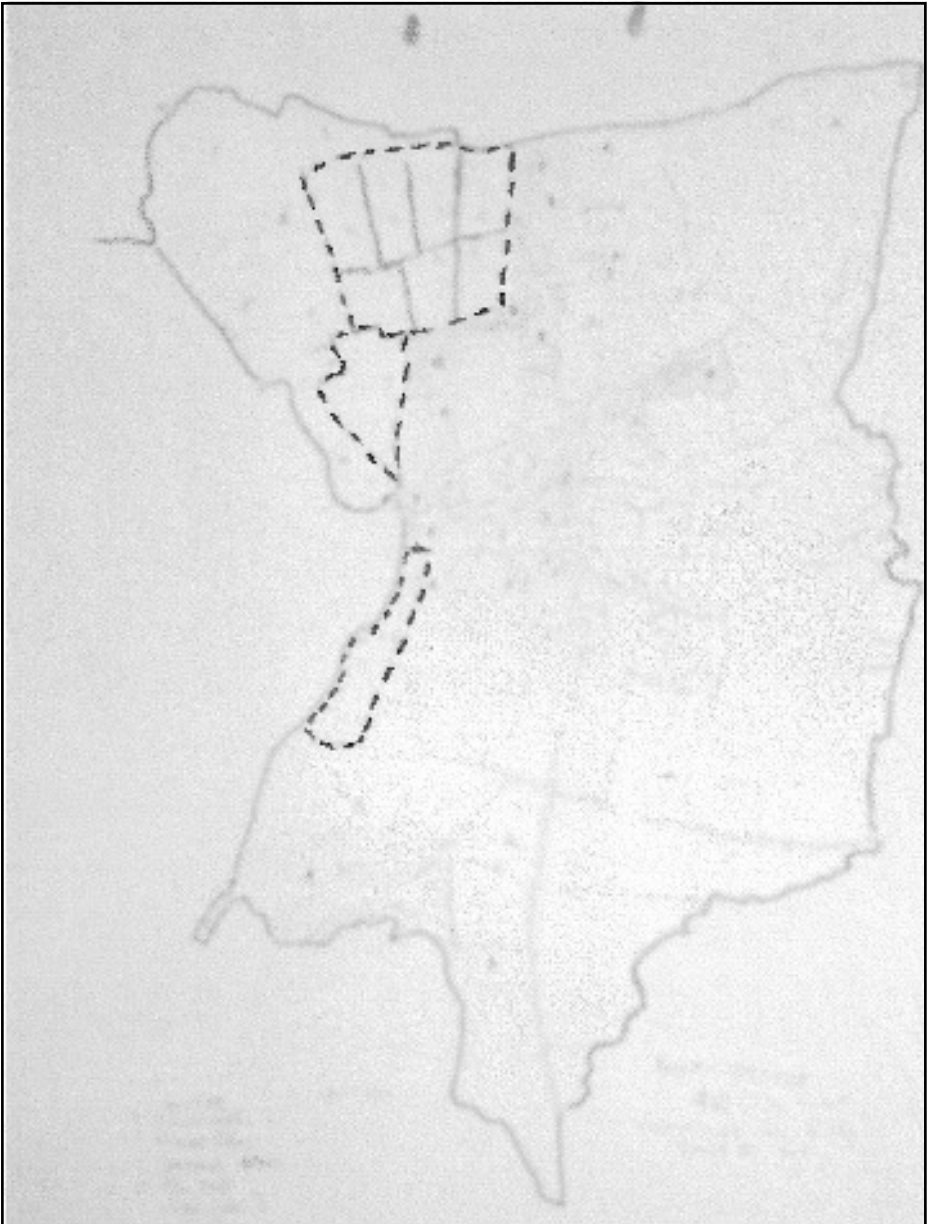
Although there were very few actual owners of land in the parish the major problem for many labourers and their families who worked for the tenant farmers, was a sudden denial of rights to walk anywhere in the parish which they had enjoyed from times immemorial. This was because the landowners were ordered to hedge, fence or wall their exterior boundaries within eighteen months of the Enclosure Award. See Map 1 pre-enclosure and Map 2 post-enclosure.

Although this was the main expense for the landowners and forced some of those with small areas of land to sell out, the poor lost their access to firing and foraging and especially the loss of fuel was a major obstacle for them.

So Enclosure of Ascott Parish did go ahead. Outside boundaries were erected and new access roads and paths to the fields were laid out especially at the west end of Ascott where a new bridge was constructed in Gypsy Lane. Life must have become tougher for the many landless labourers in the village as land became private property and new rules of access came into force. The allotted areas of land



Map 1 Ascott Parish. 1836. The Turnpike Road at the top is today's A 361 Shipton to Chipping Norton Road. The various rectangles all over the parish were strips belonging to Rev Edward Marshall Hacker before the Enclosure.



Map 2. Ascott Parish 1841. Rev Edward Marshall Hacker's land after Enclosure. (Dotted) The seven fields belonging to Farm Ed today are shown just below the Turnpike Road.

were then divided into fields which are normally identified by straight line boundaries.

Any pattern of fields with straight line boundaries anywhere in the country can usually be associated with Enclosure. Reverend Marshall Hacker had some of his land north of the river divided into seven fields which are those that exist at Farm Ed today. The lower ones were divided by hedges whilst those on the higher slopes were walled.

In the rest of the parish several small fields created at Enclosure were later amalgamated into one as changes in farming in the years following 1838 came into existence. But the view of the landscape that surrounds Ascott today is basically the legacy of the 1838 Enclosure Settlement.

Wendy Pearse

ASCOTT'S ENCLOSURE – THE PROCESS

It is likely that well before the change from Open Field Farming to Enclosure teams of people with wooden marker pegs, measuring chains and writing materials would have been at work all over the parish.

The traditional date for the changeover of ownership of farms was Michaelmas the 29th of September. This was so that the outgoing farmer could harvest his crops and the incoming farmer would have time to cultivate his land and sow seeds before winter. The same situation would have applied with the Enclosure. The new farms were made up of dozens or often hundreds of rectangular strips of all shapes and sizes which had been mixed amongst thousands of other similar strips owned by other farmers and scattered anywhere and everywhere all over the parish. The farmstead, house, yard and buildings, were situated along the village with their entrance onto the village street. These did not change with Enclosure but as with Coldstone all the strips making up their farm were measured and the total area of the farm was allocated into a single parcel of land and brought as close as possible to the farmstead. Where ever possible this newly allocated land would join the farmstead and reach right out to the parish boundary. In this way each farm would have a share of valley land for grazing and hay production and also an area of lighter land more suitable for growing wheat and barley etc.

Land areas were recorded in acres, roods and perches. This had been the case since probably Saxon times or before and lasted until the metric system was brought in in the 1970's.

The imperial measurement table was as follows.

1 inch = length of first finger digit.

12 inches = 1 foot.

3 feet = 1 yard.

22 yards = 1 chain.

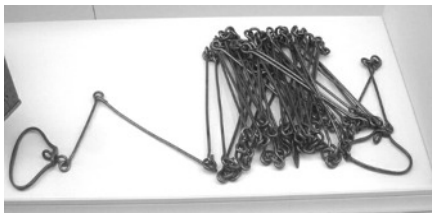
Ascott Grapevine

10 chains = 1 furlong (1 furrow long) 8 furlongs = 1 mile.

$\frac{1}{4}$ chain = 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards = 1 rod, pole or perch.

40 square perches = 1 rood. 4 roods = 1 acre. 640 acres = 1 square mile.

(Modern measurements at the bottom of the page)



A chain measure.

All measurements were calculated in multiples of the chain measure of 100 links, each one 8 inches in length.

They must have used a method of some sort to convert each farmer's strips into the total number of acres. They may have divided them into units of square chain or 484 square yards. As they proceeded they could have recorded 1 acre for every 10 square chains an alternative to dividing hundreds of thousands of square yards by 4840 to calculate the number of acres.

The summer months would likely have been very busy with measuring, planning and map drawing ready for the switchover. After this whole process was finished the newly allotted farms would have had to be carefully measured again and adjusted so that the acreage matched up with the total they had had under the old system.

It must have been a colossal job and there could have been some very angry disputes. I hope the Commissioner, John Davis of Banbury, was well paid.

Just for interest I recently measured a 6 foot long garden cane and used it to measure the area of the house, garden and buildings where we live. It came to 20 square perches which is $\frac{1}{2}$ a rood or 1 eighth of an acre. It only took a few minutes. You could have a go!

Jim Pearse

Imperial to Metric measurements

1 inch = length of first finger digit. **2.54cm**

12 inches = 1 foot. **30.480cm** 3 feet = 1 yard. **91.440cm** 22 yards = 1 chain **20.117m**

10 chains = 1 furlong (1 furrow long) **201.17m** 8 furlongs = 1 mile. **1.6093m**

$\frac{1}{4}$ chain = 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards = 1 rod, pole or perch. **5.0292m**

40 square perches = 1 rood. **1011.71411sq m** 4 roods = 1 acre. **4046.85642sq m**

640 acres = 1 square mile. **2.58998811sq km**



Swim with us on
Tuesdays & Fridays at
Goldstone House in
Ascott - Under-Wychwood



Our Baby & Pre-school swimming
programme teaches independent
swimming from birth to four years old,
helping children to be happy and safe
in the water whilst having lots of fun!

Book your
FREE Trial Lesson today!
Scan the QR or call
us on: 01666 577 377

Oxfordshire's military museum

Oxfordshire's military museum celebrates 10th Anniversary with new exhibitions, events and objects

- **Many objects from the museum collection to go on display for the first time, never seen before outside of the museum's archive**
- **New objects on loan to the museum include Bond memorabilia and film props - such as a pair of Sean Connery's shoes worn in *Never Say Never Again* - while recently acquired SOE weapons and equipment illustrate the work of real WW2 spies.**
- **A new trail, *We Need To Talk About War*, asks visitors for their answers to the difficult questions that war poses**
- **A new audio guide will be voiced by comedian Al Murray, also a serious military historian with particular interest in the Second World War**

Throughout 2024 Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum will be celebrating its 10th anniversary with the addition of new and updated permanent displays, new exhibitions and events. A special 10th anniversary display will also open from 1 June to 1 October, a look back at some of the museum's most significant moments and stories, as well as a showcase of the museum's favourite objects from past displays and a few objects that have never been on public display before.

Since opening on Park Street, Woodstock in 2014, at the time the only museum of its kind in the county, SOFO has aimed to tell the stories of the county and its people, and the impact historic, global conflicts have had on them. This includes preserving the history of two renowned county regiments, the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and Winston Churchill's regiment, the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars.

With the assistance of OxLEP Grant funding, the independent museum has embarked on an update to its permanent exhibition space over the past few months, which includes both brand new displays and expansions to existing key stories ahead of the anniversary.

Visitors will also find themselves guided by a familiar voice. A new audio tour of the museum has been narrated by comedian and keen historian Al Murray. Known

for his Pub Landlord persona, Murray also hosts the popular Second World War podcast *We Have Ways of Making You Talk* alongside historian James Holland, as well as a growing annual history festival, We Have Ways Fest. Also providing voiceover for the new audio tour will be his father, 'The Colonel' Ingram Murray. The audio guide is available now.

The museum will also offer a special 10th Anniversary ale brewed by historic Oxfordshire beer-makers Hook Norton Brewery, who celebrate their own 175th anniversary in 2024. The D-Day-inspired 'Horsa Hop' will be sold from the museum shop and during museum events, proceeds from the celebratory golden ale will support the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust's continued work collecting and preserving the county's military stories and artefacts.

Hook Norton will further support the museum, providing a bar for a celebratory Garden Party in the grounds of SOFO and The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock on 22 June 2024, from 12pm - 8.30pm. Marking the museum's anniversary but also Armed Forces Day 2024, the party will feature living history displays, activities for all ages, opportunities for tours of the museum and object handling, as well as a performance by the Waterloo Band & Bugles of the Rifles in the evening.

The first of the museum's updated permanent displays, *Bloody Battles and Dangerous Diseases*, presents a *Horrible Histories*-inspired look at wartime medical advances and the ways in which these, combined with new equipment, helped soldiers' survival on the front lines. Like so many of the museum's displays, the new exhibition pod is packed with engaging interactives especially for children, and opportunities for younger visitors to handle and try on real survival equipment, such as helmets, body armour and pilot's lifejackets.

A revamped 'Secret War' display builds on the popularity of its recent *Spy Oxfordshire* exhibition and explore county connections to the real world of secret agents and espionage through the lens of Ian Fleming and James Bond. Visitors will be able to see Bond film props, such as a pair of shoes worn by Sean Connery in *Never Say Never Again*, alongside Fleming artefacts like his golden typewriter. A collection of real spy kit from the Second World War has also now been acquired by the museum, including rare equipment like concealed daggers and radio sets. A ladies hairpin is revealed to be a potentially lethal weapon in the hands of one of Special Operations Executive's female agents.

Building on SOFO's 2023 *Women & War* temporary exhibition, a brand-new permanent display, *A Woman's War*, looks at the story of women in the Armed Forces, from Auxiliary services of the First and Second World Wars right up to conflicts as recent as Bosnia. Highlights of the display include a Women's Royal Naval Service

(WRNS or 'Wrens') hat which belonged to Enid Innes who served as a Cypher Officer during the Second World War, and worked on planning for Operation HUSKY - the Allied landings in Sicily - in 1943.

SOFO's modern take on the classic military museum extends to how it approaches the difficult topics the museum's many exhibits naturally touch upon. The *We Need To Talk About War* project sees visitors faced with 'Big Questions' tied to each exhibition pod, with responses from local students, schools, and academics, as well as an opportunity for visitors to submit their own. 'What makes a hero?' and 'When is it right to fight your own rulers?' are just two of the thought-provoking questions to encourage visitors' reflection and discussion on the ethics of war and the dilemmas of conflict.

Global Army: From the Age of Empire to the Modern Day, another new permanent exhibition pod at the museum, offers visitors insight into the global impact and scope of deployments of the many members of the Armed Forces that have called the county home. Drawing on recent donations and objects that have never been on display outside of the museum's extensive archive - such as a Japanese 'woodpecker' machine gun, captured by a soldier of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry serving in the Second World War's 'forgotten army' in Burma.

One of the museum's most acclaimed displays is *The Liberation of Bergen-Belsen* which brings together raw, personal accounts of both the liberating soldiers of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry and the liberated camp survivors. On Holocaust memorial day 2024, a new addition was opened focusing on one particular story. When the Oxfordshire Yeomanry liberated the camp on 15th April 1945, Naomi Kaplan was one of the survivors they found, having endured years in the Nazi camp system. She approached soldier Arthur Tyler and asked him to write to her family to tell them she was alive. The letters he exchanged with her family are now on public display alongside panels detailing the incredible story of a simple act of kindness with an impact that lasted generations.

A year of major anniversaries, 2024 also sees both the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the 110th anniversary of the start of the First World War. Both of these will be commemorated at the museum with new exhibitions. Highlighting Oxfordshire people's stories from the Normandy invasion, and open from 18th May to 24th September 2024, *Oxfordshire to the Orne* will take in home front memories of the build up to the Normandy invasion to famous stories from D-Day itself, such as the county regiment's capture of Pegasus Bridge. The Great War anniversary will be marked with an exhibition of collector John Noott's *The Art of WWI* from 25th

June to 29th September, featuring a collection of original pieces produced during, and depicting scenes from, the conflict. This will be followed in December with an exhibition of Winnie-the-Pooh illustrator E.H. Shepard's sketches, including work he produced during his own Great War service as an artillery officer.

Often referred to as a 'hidden gem' in Woodstock, the independent museum can be found across the garden from Oxfordshire County Council's Oxfordshire Museum and Woodstock Library. The 10th anniversary updates make it the perfect time to visit, for both regulars and newcomers alike. Holding the collections for both Churchill's old regiment, The Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars and the famous Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, SOFO not only tells the story of



Winston Churchill, Monty and Bradley present the new audio guide with Al Murray



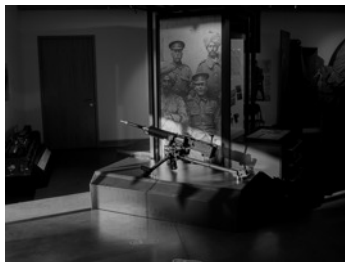
A Woman's War Permanent Display



Winston Churchill in the museum garden, soldier displays from Standing with Giants



Secret Agents, Secret Armies Permanent Display at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum - Ian Fleming and Bond



Global Army - From the Age of Empire to the Modern Day



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.

Robert Gripper
Antique Furniture Restorer

Repairs & rebuilds, veneering, carving & turning, colouring, French polishing, finishing, upholstery, desk leathers, gilding mirrors & picture frames, insurance work & valuations, clock repairs, and much more.....

Manor Farm
Ascott under Wychwood
Oxfordshire, OX7 6AL
01993 831960
01993 830395 fax



robgripper@btinternet.com

Give us Trump, give us Trump

Christ you must be weeping now
A dark shadow of evil falls across the world
Grand speeches are made by wicked men
And I in my spiteful thoughts have a mind to follow them
Saved by my cynical nature of not being sucked in

The glory of the Lilies of the Field are fewer now
While blood red poppies thrive on the waste lands of the earth
The flower of remembrance, of innocence and youth now dead
Who will never know a life well lived
Is there a god that can forgive

When a small boy, I remember a staggering Europe came exhausted from the second world war seeking security and peace
Some beacon of hope, a torch of liberty
We looked to the west across the sea, we look to the U.S.A.
But not now, not any more
It is a land where political thugs exist
Who would persecute and destroy those who would resist

Many centuries ago
A baying crowd were given a choice
They, with one united voice shouted
Give us Barabbas give us Barabbas
Then mocked an innocent man who was sent to a Roman cross

Back in the land of the free
Christian fundamentalists now shout
Give us Trump, give us Trump
We do not care about the truth
Given time, history will repeat itself

When I look at the world leaders, they belong in a Rogues gallery. Lies spew out of their mouths every time they open them. The only thing they love are themselves, they are deeply in love with their own ego. Someday I hope they will be like the ouzel bird that flies around in ever decreasing circles until it finally disappears up its own posterior. I should like to have used the four-letter word used by us lower classes, but that wouldn't be nice or proper for the Grapevine.

Fred Russell



Reduce, Reuse, Refill, Repeat

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

Now includes:

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

Bring your own containers and buy just what you need.

(It's cheaper than the packaged equivalent)

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

Heart of the Community

TIDDY HALL FUNDRAISER

Saturday 13TH July



THREE PIECE SWEET

Dance, Drink & Eat

***BBQ provided by
Little Rollright Farm***

Doors 7pm Start 8pm

Tickets £10

Tickets available from

John - 07958 568804

Kev - 07889 034683

Mark - 07870 563299





JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS

AIRPORT & CITY TRANSFERS | CORPORATE & EXECUTIVE TRAVEL | PRIVATE HIRE



01993 830249
07768 507100 / 07971 236020
info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsonscars.com
Station Road Garage, Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire OX7 6BQ



Timber-composite windows



**ENLIGHTENED
WINDOWS**

Truly the next generation of products

01608 684607
enlightenedwindows.co.uk

Jenna Saunders
Seamstress and Dressmaker

**Alterations
Dressmaking
Soft Furnishings**



01993 831338
saundersjenna@hotmail.com

CHIPPING NORTON CHORAL SOCIETY



Masters of Music

A programme celebrating composers who have held the title "Master of the King's/Queen's music".

Conductor: Benedict Goodall

Piano: Rowena Gibbons

Saturday 15th June 2024

St. Mary's Church, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NT

Picnics from 6:30pm; Concert 7:30pm

Tickets: www.cncs.org.uk

£12 in advance/£15 on door/under 16s free.

**making
music**

Chipping Norton Choral Society-Registered
Charity No.1005363 Affiliated to The National Federation of
Music Societies. <https://www.cncs.org.uk>



Travel with Merv Bates

travel counsellors



Based here in Ascott Under Wychwood

- Cruise Specialist
- Tailor Made Itineraries
- Holidays UK & Overseas
- Ski Holidays
- Weddings & Honeymoons Abroad
- Flight Only
- Group Travel
- Single Holidays
- Adventure Travel

"I am an agent for most UK tour operators"



Call: 01993 240001

Email: merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com Info:
www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates



Merv's Travel

I very recently travelled on French cruise line Ponant's new Ice breaker ship, the Le Commandant Charcot (named after the great French explorer himself). Le Commandant Charcot is the only passenger ship in the world to have visited both the geographic North Pole and the most southerly point on the planet, the edge of the Antarctic. Le Commandant Charcot has been designed to take you in the footsteps of the great polar explorers but in an elegant setting with luxury amenities which until now have never been offered in the furthestmost areas of the northern and southern hemispheres. More than just conventional cruises, these are true polar odysseys that they are offering with this new electric hybrid vessel powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The ship is an icebreaker ship which is purposefully designed to move and navigate through ice-covered waters and so, travels to some of the most beautiful parts of the world. With most guests very well-travelled and wanting to try something different, choosing this ship takes them to Greenland, Iceland, Arctic, and the Antarctic. Here they can see wildlife including penguins or polar bears, whales, and amazing birdlife in their real habitat. It's a small ship and when travelling in the arctic regions, it only carries 199 guests in a relaxed French style.

My trip was a repositioning sailing from Brest to Reykjavik for 4 nights. All at sea, there were some great talks by naturalists and expedition leaders. Ponant also included some amazing "Ponant moments" on our trip including a fly pass by some French aircraft as we left Brest. They were friends of Mr. Etienne Garcia, a hands-on captain who was passionate about ensuring his passengers had a great experience. My other highlight of this trip was the Northern Lights. We were sitting in the bar listening to a band when Captain Garcia announced that the Northern Lights were alive above the ship. We made our way to the deck and watched them dance across the pitch-black night sky. The captain then slowed the ship to a near enough stand still, so we had a better view and although it was cold there was hardly any wind. We must have been on the deck for nearly 2 hours. It's very rare to see the Northern Lights in April so, we were incredibly lucky.

Le Commandant Charcot is doing a 5-night sailing from Iceland to Tromso in Norway in October. This is a great and not so expensive way to experience this beautiful ship. You could add on a few days in Iceland before the sailing and in Tromso at the end. It's a great way to see the Northern lights too. If you are looking for a special trip, I'm considering this trip myself.

Ponant also have sister ships which are of a similar size or smaller, they sail all over the world including Europe, Alaska, Japan, USA, Canada, and Australasia.

If you would like to visit and sail around some of the most scenic parts of the world and have a true once in a lifetime experience, then this is the way to do it. If you would like more information on my trip please get in touch and over the next week or so I will have published my blog for you to read via my webpage.

Best Wishes,



Ivy's
*Flowers for all Occasions
and helium balloons*

Tel: 01993 830 268

Deliveries available
Instagram @Ivy's Florist

family businesses on this site for over 120 years

8 Church Street, Shipton under Wychwood, Oxon OX7 6BP

Closed on Mondays

The Villager Bus

The VILLAGER

Your community bus service for
Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire
and Warwickshire

01451832 114 • villagerbus.co.uk • t @villagerbus

Evenlode - Witney

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

v23

Thursdays only

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

Times shown in a green box are request stops only

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

The Villager is proudly sponsored by...



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



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 Cntre			1212	1524	1729
Crawley Lamb		0924	1216	1527	1735
Leaffield 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		
Leaffield Lower End	0819	1021	1312		
Burford				1617	1815
Crawley Lamb	0828	1031	1322		
Deer Pk Med Cntre	0835	1038	1329		
Witney Mkt Sq (A)	0842	1044	1336	1646	1828
Sainsburys	0845	1047	1340		
Range Road	0850			1713	
Fernleigh (*Request only)	0907	1100*			

This Timetable is valid from 03rd April 2023.



Buy Tickets from the App

Wychwood Library

Please donate your
second hand books
to the library
for our stall at
Milton Village Fete
on Saturday 13th July

Any books in good, saleable
condition are very
welcome.

*Thank
you!*

Email wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk
or call 01993 830281 if you have any queries.

Wychwood Library

**Get a free
blood
pressure
check here**

Do you
have high
blood pressure?
How would
you know?

NHS

Often there are no obvious
signs until it's too late.

High blood pressure increases your
risk of heart attack, kidney disease,
vascular dementia and stroke

Take your blood pressure at the library
anytime during opening hours.

ASCOTT SUPPORT FUND

.....here to help Ascott residents.

If you, or an Ascott resident you know, is struggling to make ends meet, **ASCOTT SUPPORT FUND** might be able to help. Students needing help to buy educational books or equipment might also be eligible for support.

To explore what support may be available, contact a villager whose details are listed below. They can let you know about eligibility for accessing the **ASCOTT SUPPORT FUND**, and guide you through the application process.

Applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

To access **ASCOTT SUPPORT FUND** contact.....

John Cull (Chairman): john@greenascott.co.uk. Elaine Byles:
elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk Mark Dawbarn (Secretary):
MarkDawbarn@outlook.com. 01993 831632.
Sandy Timms:setimms123@gmail.com.

**ASCOTT SUPPORT FUND IS FUNDED AND
ADMINISTERED BY ASCOTT VILLAGE CHARITY**

Charity Trustees.

John Cull, Mark Abrey, Nicola Coldstream, Stuart Fox, Keith Ravenhill, Sandy Timms, Mark Dawbarn,
Elaine Byles, Andrew Smith





THE · SWAN ASCOTT · UNDER WYCHWOOD



JOIN US FOR LUNCH OR DINNER IN OUR
RESTAURANT OR BEAUTIFUL GARDEN OR IF YOU
DON'T FANCY LEAVING YOUR HOUSE, WE OFFER
TAKE-AWAY PIZZA - WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

01993 832 332

reservations@swanascott.com

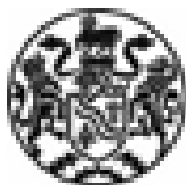
lionhearth.co.uk



[@swan_inn_ascott](https://www.instagram.com/swan_inn_ascott)



LIONHEARTH
1872



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The administration in Oxfordshire is now in its fourth year. In October 2023, the Fair Deal Alliance between the Lib Dem/Green group and the Labour group broke down. The break followed a very poor report from Ofsted regarding the services provided by the council for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). As Leader of the Council, I believed that we needed a complete change in the way that we managed this, but Labour did not agree, hence their decision to break up the Alliance. The County Council now has a minority Lib Dem/Green administration, and we continue to work closely with officers to deliver the priorities that we agreed at the beginning of the administration, with tackling the climate emergency at the heart of all that we do. The budget was agreed in February and we included in that budget a number of amendments that were proposed by the Labour group. This includes a Citizens Assembly which will be brought together to look at how we can improve public transport across the county and reduce our carbon footprint.

During this year Oxfordshire was named twice as the best county for tackling the climate emergency, by Climate Emergency UK, and through the Carbon Disclosure Project framework.

The introduction of the 20mph speed limit around the county is almost complete, and while there are some people who have objected, the majority of people, especially in Charlbury and the surrounding villages, are really pleased with the new lower speed limits. We are progressing work on the traffic filters in Oxford and these are scheduled to come into operation as soon as the work at the station in Oxford is completed. I was recently present at the launch of the 150 electric buses which are coming on to operation in Oxford and nearby. We are also progressing Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) including one in Charlbury.

Work is also progressing on the Windrush HGV study – this is one of two studies, the other being in the Henley area, and covers Wychwood villages as well as Witney and Burford. This is being conducted following the plan to remove the HGV ban on Burford bridge, so we can find out more about the routes HGVs are taking in the area before creating a new strategy for the county.

In March, together with other members of the North Cotswold Line Task Force, I met the Rail Minister, Huw Merriman. We told him how important the line is to the local economy, and how important it is to get the line doubled so that trains can run more frequently and on time. I have also recently had a meeting with

Network Rail, GWR and the Department for Transport on the same subject, and the Rail Minister has invited us back for another meeting in June, to discuss an outline business case.

Councillor Liz Leffman, Charlbury and Wychwood
Leader, Oxfordshire County Council

**The Hair Salon
at The Paddocks**

Ladies' and Gentlemen's
Hairdressing

Alison 07980645995

Joy 07867585053

We are a wheelchair friendly salon.



The Paddocks
Shipton Road
Milton-Under-Wychwood
OX7 6GF

Annie's Curtains and Blinds

Beautiful, hand-made soft furnishings.
Alterations, relining, recovering.

Friendly, local service

For a no obligation quote, please call
us on

Telephone: 01993 830687

Mobile: 07989 497253

www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

WYCHWOOD FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



Sat 1st June Tyburn Road / Oakstone Trio

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Ian Giles & Dave Townsend have been singing and playing together for more years than either will readily admit to. They are two of the most recognizable (and hairy) faces on the Oxfordshire folk scene, who bring to the stage a wealth of experience performing, touring and researching traditional songs & music. With voices, concertina and melodeon, they offer a delightful repertoire of unusual songs and tunes.

The Oakstone Trio

"After years of playing together on the Oxford session scene and in the folk clubs, the boys came together in 2022 for a gig at Oxford Folk Weekend. They have played sold-out gigs at festivals in Oxford, Kent, and at the Green Note in London

Sat 22nd June Over the Moon

Bruern Farms Café

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Canadian roots/swing duo **Over the Moon** are award winning multi-instrumentalists/vocalists. Their music is a wild ride from 40's sounding western swing and Appalachian old-time, to cowboy blues. Simple and sweet, all of their material has a common thread that speaks of the Canadian west and on their UK release, reviews were glowing.

Sat 27th July Mark & Friends

Tiddy Hall

***** Free Entry *****

A free event yes **FREE** event with a bucket collection. All monies raised going to a local Food Bank. **Mark Pidgeon** being your host with friends **Pete Joshua, Katie Grace Harris & Mark Harrison**. An evening of Folk, Americana & Blues...what's not to like ☐

All events start at 7.30pm

Doors 6.45pm

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: wychwoodfolkclub@outlook.com



*All aspects of roofing and
guttering work undertaken*

Slates • Tiles • Flat Roofs
Chimneys • Valleys • Leadwork
Moss Clearance
General Repointing
uPVC Fascias • Soffits • Gutters

Advice and estimates free

Freephone: Mobile:
0800 955 5063 07817 792194

Parish Council News

Summer 2024

Rain, rain, go away...

Working Together

This month the three Parish Councils of the Wychwoods have met again for our periodic discussions on topics of mutual interest. This is an opportunity for us to share thoughts and ideas, and to consider those subjects that cross the parish boundaries: notably of course, water, sewerage and wildlife.

In the Government's Environment Act, specific focus was placed on increasing biodiversity and Parish Councils are encouraged to agree a plan to further the general biodiversity objective. This is of course aimed as much at urban as rural authorities, but we will be adding this as a fixed agenda item in the forthcoming months, and working alongside Shipton and Milton PCs with various groups and individuals who can help us to move forward in this area.

Thames Water continue to insist that they will meet their planned upgrade to Milton under Wychwood Sewerage Treatment Works by 2025. This is to increase capacity to 43l/s based on a projected population figure of 4,176 for 2031. That upgrade is, of course, far short of the work needed to meet the Government's storm resilience targets that they hope to address in 2040 to 2050. Once again, the three PCs have joined forces to keep the pressure on Thames Water and on our representatives.

On a positive note, we have been informed that Thames Water has submitted a very tightly timed proposal to spend £500,000 on identification, planning and implementation of one or more phosphate removal projects. Whilst we await decisions over where and how this will be spent, there is the potential for this to make a substantial difference to the water quality of the Evenlode. Excessive phosphate causes explosive growth of plants and algae in rivers, which in turn starves the river of oxygen leading to fish death.

Annual Parish Meeting

We continue to experiment with the format of our Annual Parish Meeting. It will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd June at Tiddy Hall and we hope to see as many of you present as possible. Please see posters and flyers for details.

We have decided to focus on a major topic of concern as a form of village summit, and this year the topic will be parking throughout the village. This has been a par-

ticularly bad winter for parking problems caused by the utility works that have plagued the village over the past few months taking out vital kerbside space; but it remains a perennial issue, with the obvious difficulty of finding solutions that will work for everyone and not simply pushing the problem around the village or setting up a 'them and us' situation that helps nobody. Whilst our options in this area are limited in the extreme, we are looking for practical and workable suggestions that can be put forward to the county and other authorities.

Cricket Nets

The Cricket Club have proposed to build new permanent nets on the unused scrub area at the top right corner of the playing field. This will replace the existing temporary nets that can only be used for a few weeks in the year, and so provide a better experience for players as the club grows, especially targeting younger members of the community. There is a typically bureaucratic process to work through before this can be given the go ahead.

Roads

We are happy to finally see the introduction of the 40 mph limit down London Lane. Whilst we had hoped this would start at the junction and run the length of the hill, it is still a reminder to drivers that they are entering a built-up area before the allotments, High Street and of course the school. The 20 mph limits through the village were the price we had to pay to make this a reality.

The verges, and the cow parsley in particular, are starting to grow apace. This causes dangers in terms of visibility, so please all take extra care. Oxfordshire County Council now fund only one cut per year of the verges in rural areas to protect wildlife.

Artweeks

Finally, you will hopefully have seen and enjoyed the mini art gallery that has been set up by Asha Pearce. As I write this, we are about to be visited by this year's Artweeks, and we wish the best to all participants.

As always, residents can contact us at: contact@ascottpc.org.uk or come along to a Parish Council meeting on the second Tuesday of the month.

Brian Leach

Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council.



**Looking for
a quiet space?**

BURFORD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE
5 Pytts Lane, Burford, OX18 4SJ

ROOMS AVAILABLE TO HIRE
Peaceful period premises with kitchen
and garden in quiet central location

IDEALLY SUITED FOR:-

FOR BOOKINGS
Contact:
Nigel Braithwaite Tel. 01993 831282
Sue Ashton Tel. 01993 822114
Email: ascottmill@aol.com

Group Meetings
Art / Writing Studio
Personal Consultations
Study Circles
Musical Activities

**Cotswold
Wellness**

Wellness in the cotswold in the
comfort of your own home

Manicure / Pedicure
Gel / regular polish

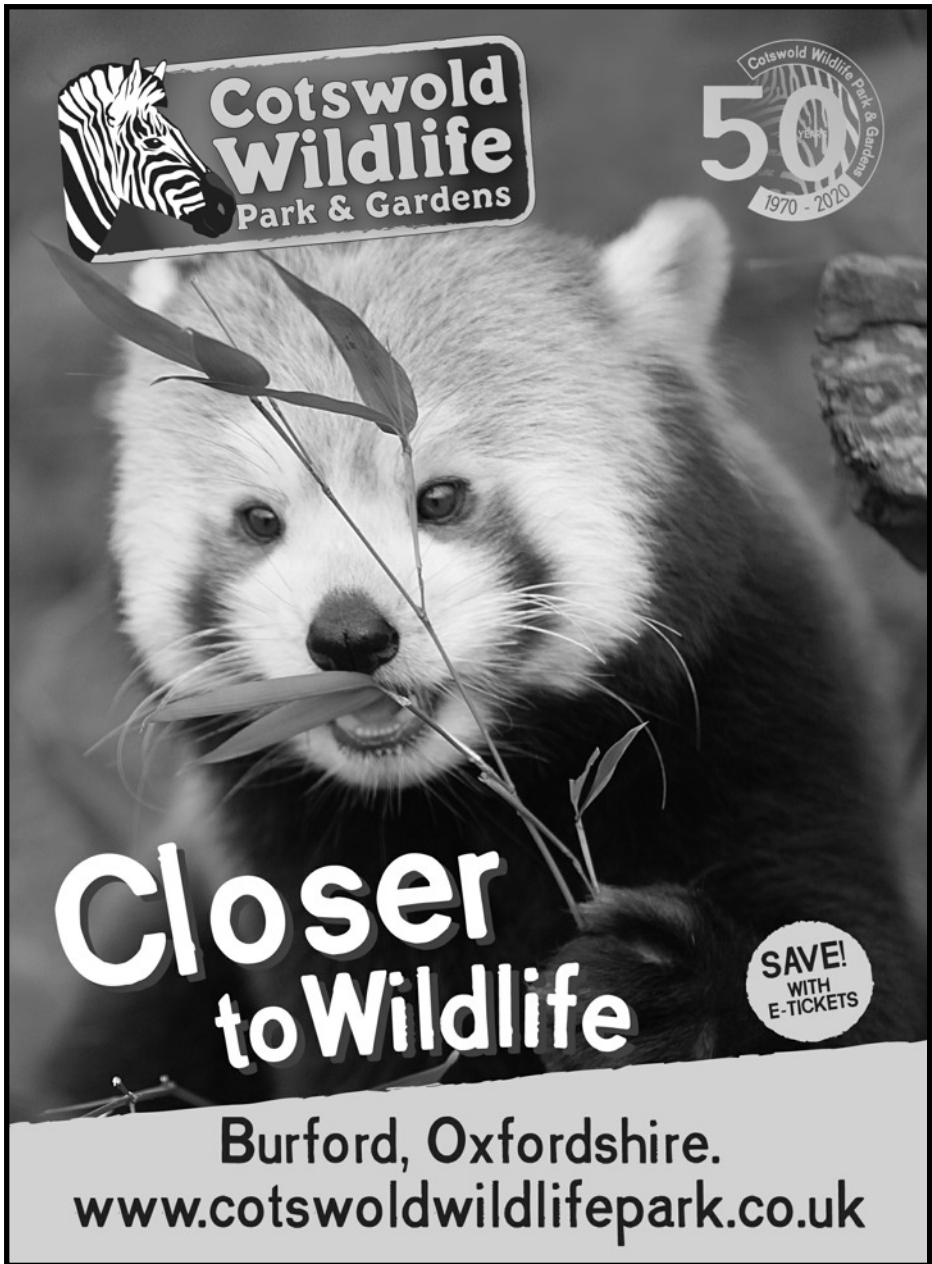
Heated feet / hand treatments
Ear 'hopi' candles


Indian head massage


07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com
www.fingersandtoes.info

STOP PRESS

The Obsidian planning application appeal regarding the building of 40 houses on land west of London Lane London has been **REFUSED**



 **Cotswold
Wildlife**
Park & Gardens

 **50**
years
1970 - 2020

**Closer
to Wildlife**

**SAVE!
WITH
E-TICKETS**

Burford, Oxfordshire.
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Combe Mill

Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe. OX29 8ET

16th June 'In Steam', themed event 'Environmental Day'

21st July 'In Steam' Themed event Wildlife by the Evenlode'

18th August 'In Steam' Themed event 'Models & Collections'

Combe Mill a late 19th Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, Blacksmiths in the forge to make a poker.

Tea room, BBQ, Gift Shop, Tombola & Raffle. Also Market Stalls.
Dog on Leads most welcome.

Marriage

Sarah St Clair and Matthew Tomlinson

Saturday March 23rd 2024

Open Gardens

Langley Mill

Sunday 23rd June pm

In aid of Ascott Church

Ample Parking provided

Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

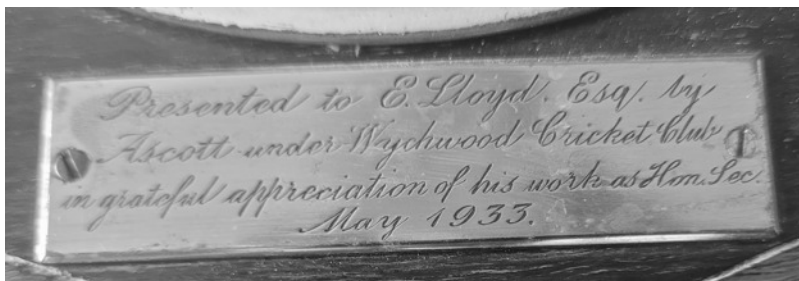
Since our last article we endured one of the wettest periods known in late winter / early Spring. It had a huge impact on the ability of all cricket clubs to be able to prepare grounds and pitches, and in our case, to be able to practice. In the past we have started net practice at the field in late March, but as I write this it's May in a few days and we haven't been able to start outdoor practice at all! The solution is an artificial practice net surface, we are working hard at fundraising towards this.

Hopefully this Summer will be considerably better than the last one, when trying to keep pitches dry was a really onerous undertaking.

Fortunately, we have been able to play 4 friendly matches in April, with narrow defeats vs Oxford University Club and Bodicote, but wins over Kingham Hill School and Swinbrook. We've already had some standout performances, spin bowler Iain Bryce taking his first 5 wicket haul on a 'sticky wicket' and Raj Rahul SR scoring 62 not out. Three of our young starlets, Eddie Russell (13), Andrew Taylor (12), and Charlie Brooks (12) have also caught the eye - they are simply brilliant young players.

Cricket Teas are back! We are truly grateful to Mr & Mrs Suter, who have been providing these for our home friendly fixtures - they hugely enhance the experience!





A lady from Reading called Stephanie Lees wrote to us recently, to tell us the story of an engraved mantle-piece clock that the cricket club had presented to her grandfather Mr Edwin Lloyd in May 1933. He had been the AUW station-master and a longstanding officer of the club, until he was promoted to station master at Chipping Norton - and had to sadly leave the village and club. Mrs Lees had inherited the lovely old clock and decided to incredibly generously gift it back to the cricket club!

It is now on display in the sports pavilion - overlooking matches that Edwin would have enjoyed 91 years ago at the old Manor Farm ground by the station.

The Cricket Club is really appreciative of all the support we receive in the village, if you hear the sounds of leather on Willow and the cries of 'HOWZAT?' one afternoon, do stroll up and watch for a bit and say 'hello'.

Finally, a date for the diary is Sunday 14th July, when a youthful Cricket Club 'Martyrs XI' will again take on an Ascott-Under-Wychwood Establishment XI, representing the old 1873 workers dispute! The Established XI will comprise an assortment of village alumni assembled by Andrew Weaver; the trophy currently being held by the Martyrs. This promises to be a really good fun day, hopefully the sun will shine.

Stewart Moss, Club Secretary

07866 278685

Auwcrickeclub@hotmail.com

Twitter: @AUWCrickeClub

Instagram: ascott_u_wychwood_cricket

The Tiddy Hall

Founded and given to the village by

R. Tiddy, Esq., in 1912

ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

As we approach the end of our financial year (31st May), it is worth looking back at some of the notable Tiddy Hall events and activities over the last year or so and looking forward to the next year.

We started the year facing a challenging financial situation and, as a management committee, we recognised the need to take remedial action to protect the long term viability of Tiddy Hall. In recent years, Tiddy Hall has generally seen a net deficit, with expenditure exceeding income. In 2020/21 we just about broke even (having received government grants totalling some £26,000) but in 2021/22 and 2022/23 we lost £3,000 and £8,000 respectively. At the 10 month point this year (2023/24) we are running at a modest surplus. The full year figures will be inflated following the receipt of a grant from The National Lottery (of which more later) to fund two major projects which will not be executed until the next financial year.

The improved financial performance this year was due largely to a modest increase in pricing coupled with some very successful fundraising events. On Friday 26 April, for example, we hosted the third in a series of 'art talks'; this one delivered by John Bennett focusing on food in art. Along with first two events, delivered by Juliet Heslewood and Nicola Coldstream respectively, the latest event was successful and generated a very good return. Once again, we are indebted to the art experts and their band of helpers who donated their time and expertise free of charge in order to support Tiddy Hall. Of course, we are also grateful for the support provided by the villagers who attended these talks.

The occasional dinner dances and musical concerts that we also run as fundraisers continue to be well supported. Another fundraiser featuring Three Piece Sweet is scheduled for Saturday 13th July. Tickets are now on sale (£10 per person) and, as usual, there will be food and drink available to buy on the night. You will appreciate that a huge amount of work goes into the production of these events and we are reliant on volunteers to get involved and help ensure that everything runs smoothly. Not only are these events crucial to the financial health of Tiddy Hall, but they are also highly enjoyable! We would love to see more people from the village attending the next event in July so please get your tickets nice and early. You can obtain tickets from me, Mark Pidgeon and Kevin Bishop.

The increase in Tiddy Hall expenditure in recent years has been driven by much higher energy prices. With this in mind, the management committee decided to take action to reduce energy consumption and improve sustainability. We applied

for and obtained funding from The National Lottery to cover the capital expenditure in respect of two projects. The first project involves the installation of solar panels which will reduce our energy consumption significantly. The payback period on this investment, if we were funding the project from our own resources, would be around 8 years. The second project involves the replacement of all fluorescent and sodium lights, which are no longer compliant with regulations due to the use of hazardous materials as well as being highly inefficient, with much more energy-efficient LED units. These projects will be completed this summer during the school holidays to avoid disrupting the pre-school.

The remaining major concern regarding energy efficiency concerns the use of the underfloor heating system. As you may know, this type of underfloor heating uses off-peak electricity and behaves very much like a giant storage heater. As a result, it is somewhat uncontrollable taking a couple of days to warm up and a couple of days to cool down. In practice, therefore, during the colder months it is on permanently. In addition to the system's inherent inflexibility, a recent EICR revealed that a number of the heating circuits were faulty and have had to be switched off. We are contemplating an alternative heating solution (electric radiators?) but haven't come to any conclusions yet. If there are any heating engineers out there who have any bright ideas, please let me know!

As many of you will be aware, we have a serious flooding problem at Tiddy Hall. Surface water from the car park and patio is supposed to drain into a soakaway but, instead, the patio becomes a swimming pool whenever we have a heavy downpour. This is obviously less than ideal for users of the hall but, more worryingly, the water enters the building through the patio doors and damages the wooden floor. Left unchecked, this will ruin the floor resulting in another expensive repair bill. I suspect that water penetrating the floor is probably not good for the underfloor heating either.

We have just obtained a quote for the drainage system to be rebuilt (£12,000) and have also applied to Oxfordshire County Council for funding. If we are able to get the funding, our aim will be to get the work done during August at the same time as the solar panels and LED lights.

Despite the great progress made in the last year or so, I still harbour concerns regarding the commitment shown by the village in general to the ongoing viability of Tiddy Hall. Alongside all of the fundraising events and capital expenditure, I strongly believe that the long term viability of the Tiddy Hall can only be assured if we have much greater engagement with villagers. The old saying 'use it or lose it' springs to mind! Most events actually attract more attendees from outside the village than from inside the village. There are the usual familiar faces that do actively support Tiddy Hall and we are very grateful for their commitment. There are, however, a great many more Ascott under Wychwood residents who I don't believe have ever set foot in Tiddy Hall.

Sticking with the local engagement theme, we have scheduled the next AGM for Thursday 13 June 2024. Once again, this will be open to all villagers to attend. I

would hope that we do a little better than last year when just three villagers turned up, one of whom was a former trustee and another the partner of an existing trustee. In an effort to encourage more villagers to attend the AGM, we will invite regular hirers personally and will also provide wine and soft drinks to all attendees. Hopefully this shameless inducement will have the desired effect!

John Bugeja

NATURE NOTES

Ask any keen gardener who has just planted their tender bedding plants or the allotment holder who has sown a row of lettuce what is top of your list as a garden pest and the answer will be the Slug. They can quickly destroy a row of tender vegetables, leave your bedding plants looking threadbare, and turn your Hosta leaves into lace. Slugs do not have teeth or a tongue, instead, they have a special organ called a radula that has thousands of tiny protrusions that enable them to rasp and grind up their food.

Do they deserve their poor reputation or have they some redeeming characteristics that should be celebrated? Slugs have an evolutionary history that goes back millions of years, during that time they have evolved and adapted various survival strategies allowing them to thrive in a wide variety of environments from lush tropical rainforests to an English farmer's potato fields. They have evolved from snails gradually losing their shells apart from a small vestigial internal shell that can usually be found behind the head. Because they have no shell to retreat into for protection when the weather is hot and dry, they spend the daylight hours underground or hidden in plant debris coming out to feed at dusk or in cool wet conditions.

Do Slugs occupy a useful environmental niche? Yes, they do!

First, they act as a clean-up crew feeding on decaying plant matter releasing nutrients back into the soil and making it easier for bacteria and fungi to complete the decomposition process. Secondly, they provide a rich food source for some birds, Frogs, Toads, Foxes, Badgers, Ground Beetles, and Hedgehogs. During the nesting season, small slugs provide a valuable source of protein for the chicks of Thrushes, Blackbirds, and Starlings. Finally, not all Slugs are vegetarian some are carnivorous, eating dead specimens of their own kind and other soft-bodied creatures.

Apart from their effect on our crops do Slugs pose any other threat to humans? Fortunately, the answer is no, but they can host a parasite called Rat Lungworm which can cause problems for other animals that eat them. Slugs can contract the parasite if they eat infected rodent faeces.

Slugs are hermaphrodites, possessing both male and female reproductive organs, when mating sperm is exchanged and both partners can then lay up to thirty eggs in moist soil or deep leaf litter. Providing the eggs do not dry out they can remain dormant for a considerable time until conditions are right for them to hatch. Slugs can be long-lived with some species having a potential lifespan of up to six years, the main threats being predators and desiccation as their bodies consist of 80 to 90% water. Being exposed in bright sunshine can be fatal.

Slugs have a complex nervous system that allows them to navigate their environment and react to external stimuli. They have two pairs of tentacles on their head. The upper pair is light-sensitive, and the lower pair provides a sense of smell, taste, and touch. Both pairs are retractable. Some species of Slug have the remarkable ability to regenerate if part of their body is lost following a predator attack.

The evidence of previous Slug activity is the tell-tale silver trail. This is the dried mucus that is produced from the Slug's foot. This mucus helps prevent damage to the Slug's foot as it moves and because it is rich in fibre helps the Slug to climb vertical surfaces without slipping. They also produce a thick mucus that coats their whole body which may make them unpleasant to potential predators.

Of course, the main question gardeners ask is how can I discourage them from damaging my plants?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Selective planting. Not all plants are attacked by Slugs. The list is extensive but includes, Lavender, Rosemary, Atrantia, Hellebores, Hardy Geraniums, Hydrangea, Aquilegia, Foxglove, Geum, Scabious, Poppies, Fuchsia, Euphorbia, Acanthus, and many others.
- Surround precious plants with barriers, such as copper tape, broken eggshells, sharp grit, bark mulch or wool pellets. Sadly, recent testing of these methods by the R.H.S. proved that they were mostly ineffective.
- Physical removal. It is suggested that Slugs are collected by torchlight and removed to another area away from your tender plants. Given the number of Slugs in the environment, this would be a never-ending task.
- Encourage predators by providing suitable habitats. A garden pond might attract Frogs and a few waste places, and a log pile might provide a home for Toads. If Hedgehogs visit your garden, encourage them by leaving saucers of cat food. Do not leave bread and milk!
- Traps can be effective. Try half an orange skin or jars sunk in the soil and part filled with beer.

- There are biological controls available based on a solution that is watered onto the soil and contains nematodes that will infect and kill Slugs but are harmless to other creatures.
- Avoid slug pellets. Even the ones advertised as safe may contain chemicals that could harm Slug predators.

You may not love them, but perhaps you can learn to live with them.

STUART FOX





ALFRED GROVES & SONS LTD

YOUR LOCAL DIY SHOP

Retail & Trade Sale

Serving the community for over 100 years

**Homeware, gardening, ironmongery, electrical, plumbing,
Tools, decorating, heavy building materials,
Try us first we try and oblige if possible**

Trading Hours

Monday – Friday 7.30am – 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am – 2.00pm

Sunday & Bank Holidays 10.00 – 2.00pm

GROVES YARD

**French Antiques
Homeware
Furniture
Interiors
Café
Health**

**Craft Beers
Pizzeria
Heavy vehicle/plant repairs
Bespoke Joinery
DIY
Sustainable fashion**

**Metal Machining
Motor Mechanics
Builders
Offices
Gallery
Stone Masonry**

**Shipton Road, Milton-U-Wychwood, Oxon OX7 6JP
01993 830302 email: info@alfredgroves.co.uk**



Family and Local History Day

Tiddy Hall, Saturday 22nd June 2 – 4.30pm

Last year's celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Ascott Martyrs included an afternoon of family history, focussing on their story. We all had a great time with, amongst other attractions, local Morris sides performing traditional Ascott dances.

We've been asked to repeat the experience and to widen the focus to include more aspects of the history of Ascott, and a bit about our neighbours Milton and Shipton. For anyone who missed last summer's event the Martyrs Family Tree will be on display again. So, if you are a local you might find that missing great great second cousin twice removed! Historic photographs, not just from the 19th and early 20th century, but more recent ones may make you smile as you remember buffon hair styles or boys in short trousers did we really look like that! Free adult and family trails to help you explore the past on the ground. If you've got anything about the history of Ascott you'd like to share, photographs, objects or stories, please bring it along.

Do come and join us for this free event. Tea, coffee and biscuits etc. for sale (cash please) with proceeds going to the Tiddy Hall.

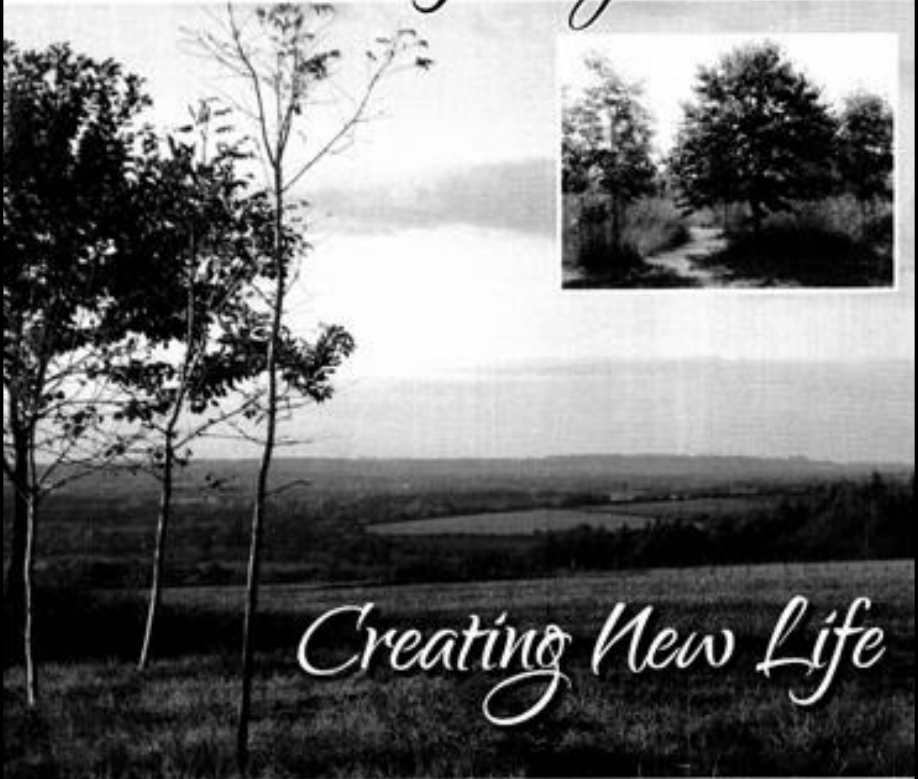
Follow us on Facebook to learn more as we confirm details and keep an eye on the village noticeboards.

Carol Anderson:
Chair Ascott Martyrs Trust

Fairspear Natural Burial Ground

Member of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds

In the heart of Wychwoods



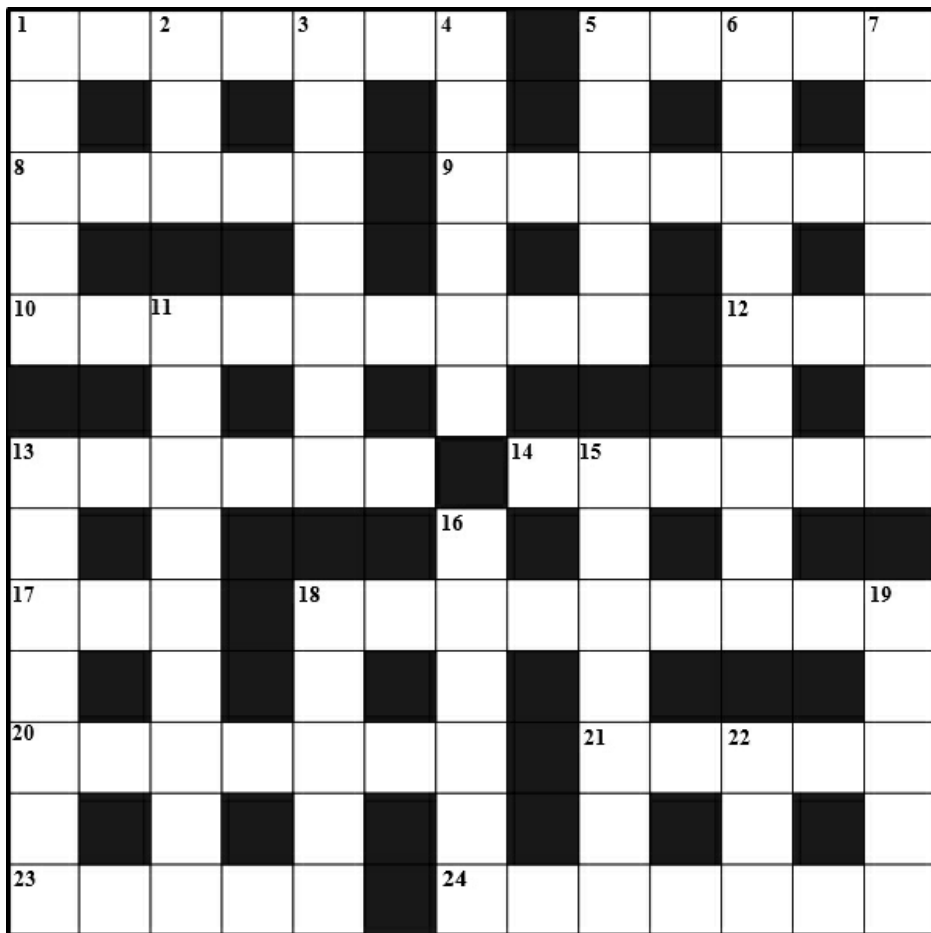
Creating New Life

For further information please contact
Helen Pearson by phone on 01993 878387,
by e-mail at fairspearmbg@gmail.com
or visit our website at www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk



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

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Amazing (slang) (7)
- 5 Oil sources (5)
- 8 Tenth part (5)
- 9 — *Kane* (film) (7)
- 10 Claimant (9)
- 12 Wager (3)
- 13 William Randolph — (tycoon) (6)
- 14 Double bubbly (6)
- 17 E.g. twins (3)
- 18 Stands in (9)
- 20 Swinish (7)
- 21 Double 17 across (5)
- 23 Coarser (5)
- 24 Subside (3,4)

Down

- 1 Misbehave (3,2)
- 2 Chew (3)
- 3 Uniqueness (7)
- 4 Put into cipher (6)
- 5 H₂O (5)
- 6 Idler (colloq.) (9)
- 7 Private room (7)
- 11 Our mean Ed (anag.) (9)
- 13 Tottenham — (soccer) (7)
- 15 Ancient (7)
- 16 Add (6)
- 18 Less wet (5)
- 19 — Sarandon (firms) (5)
- 22 Fuss (3)

Solutions to Crossword in Edition 121

Across

- 1 Amman
- 4 Feral
- 10 Seasons
- 11 Henry
- 12 Haydn
- 13 Airmail
- 15 Ears
- 17 Heidi
- 19 Irish
- 22 Rose
- 25 Protest
- 27 Tiger
- 29 Carat
- 30 Evident
- 31 Appal
- 32 Islay

Down

- 2 Meaty
- 3 Adorned
- 5 Ether
- 5 Parents
- 6 Annuals
- 7 As the
- 8 Oscar
- 9 Cycle
- 14 Isis
- 16 Airs
- 18 Ego Trip
- 20 Retails
- 21 Speck
- 23 Other
- 24 Broth
- 26 Extra
- 28 Greta

Local Business Directory

ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253

www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

Page 32

ASCOTT PRE-SCHOOL René Bloomfield - rene.bloomfield@gmail.com

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

Page 19

BURFORD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282 or

Susan Ashton 01993 822114 ascottmill@aol.com

Page 37

COMBE MILL Blenheim Palace Saw Mills OX2 8ET

Page 39

COTSWOLD WELLNESS 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com

www.fingersandtoes.info

Page 37

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Page 38

ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk

Page 21

FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND 01993 878387

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

Page 49

FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299

wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

Page 33

GROVES SHOP 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425

info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk

Page 47

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 32

IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268

Page 25

Instagram@Ivy's Florist

JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com

Page 21

JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020

info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com

Page 21

PUDDLE DUCKS Scan the QR or phone 01666 577377

Page 12

ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com

Page 17

ROOFIX 0800 955 5063 07817 792194

Page 34

THE SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascott.com

www.countrycreatures.com

Page 30

TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES 01993 240001

merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com

www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates

Page 23

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

Events Calendar - 2024

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 1 st	7:30pm	Tyburn Road/Oakstone Trio	Tiddy Hall
June 2 nd	3.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Tiddy Hall
June 9 th	2:00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
June 11 th	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
June 13 th	7.30pm	Tiddy Hall AGM	Tiddy Hall
June 15 th	12.00pm	Ascott pre-school fun day	Memorial Playing Field
June 18 th	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
June 22 nd	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
June 22 nd	2.00pm	AMET Local & Family History Day	Tiddy Hall
June 23 rd	pm	Open Gardens	Langley Mill
June 24 th	7.00pm	Ascott Shop AGM	The Swan Inn
June 25 th	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
July 7 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
July 9 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
July 13 th	8.00pm	Three Piece Sweet (fund raising event)	Tiddy Hall
July 14 th	1.30pm	Martyrs vs Establishment cricket	Memorial Playing Field
July 16 th	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
July 20 th	7.30pm	Jazz trio - Eric Gripper	Tiddy Hall
July 23 rd	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
July 27 th	7.30pm	Mark & Friends (Chippy Larder fundraising)	Tiddy Hall
August 31 st	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
September 7 th	7.30pm	Track Dogs	Tiddy Hall
September 8 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
September 10 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
September 28 th	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
October 6 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
October 8 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
October 19 th	7.30pm	While & Matthews	Tiddy Hall
October 26 th	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
October 26 th	TBC	Race Night (Fishing Club)	Tiddy Hall
November 3 rd	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
November 12 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
November 16 th	7.30pm	Chris Leslie	Tiddy Hall