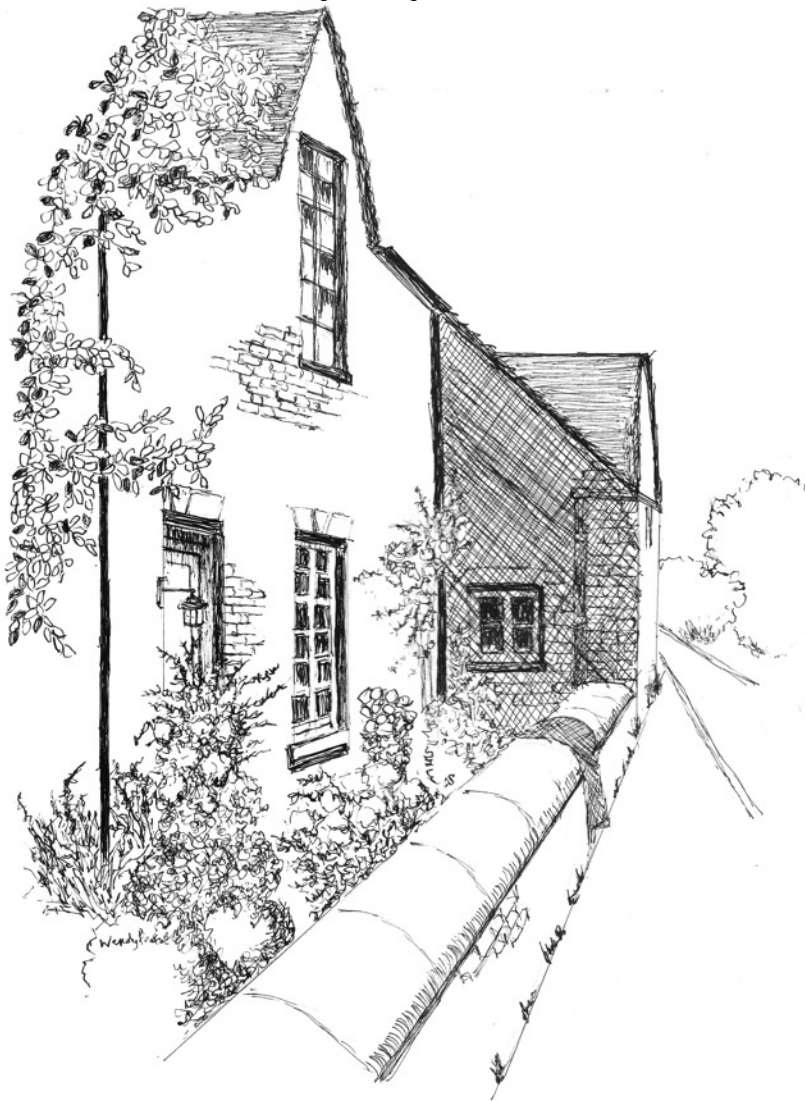


The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

The Ascott Grapevine is provided **FREE** to every household in Ascott and we wish this to continue for a long time to come.

Although 'The Grapevine' does receive support from the Parish Council, it only raises a limited amount of revenue from advertising. The Ascott Grapevine survives mainly on donations. If you would like to help The Ascott Grapevine continue, any donation large or small would be appreciated. You can give a donation to any member of the editorial team.

If there is an aspect of village life not already covered in The Ascott Grapevine please contact a member of the team to discuss your ideas.

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1st November 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

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Advertising Discount:

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

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

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see Page 56), please contact Stuart Fox 01993 832004 or stuart.john.fox@gmail.com. The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

Local Churches

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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:

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

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

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

There will be a Benefice Harvest Festival at Ascott Church at 10am on 29th September.

Ascott Pre-school

We have been blessed with such glorious weather over the last few weeks of term and have really made the most of being outside. We have invested in a new outdoor surface which has made the play area look much more inviting. We have had great fun in the sandpit, on the obstacle course and mud kitchen. There have been lots of elaborate water play activities too using lengths of guttering, water-wheels, whisks, pots and pans. The weather also presents challenges with keeping the children cool as the sun moves around the site and we have been breaking up the day with lots of extra drinks and stories in shaded areas as well as breaks to come inside. Sometimes the children lie down with their eyes closed and listen to music or a story CD, or do some yoga (a rare peaceful moment in the life at Tiddy Hall!) We often find that this time of year brings lots of role play and the children have been acting out Paw Patrol rescue missions as well as Dogs and Cats and Dragons and Princesses. On the last day of term we took the children who are leaving Pre-School on a train trip from Charlbury to Moreton-in-Marsh play area. We brought a picnic, played in the park on the brand new exciting play equipment and returned back to Charlbury very happy and excited. We wish a fond farewell to all of the children who are moving onto their new primary schools. We will miss you all, but know that you leave us ready and excited for your new adventure.



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Westhive



West Oxfordshire District Council is pleased to announce that the next funding round for Westhive is now open! This is the perfect time to start planning your project, gather your supporting information and explore the resources available on the Westhive platform.

Cllr Rizvana Poole, Executive Member for Stronger Healthy Communities, said, “I am incredibly proud of what our community has accomplished since Westhive launched. The funded projects showcase the creativity and innovation at the core of West Oxfordshire. But there are still many more ideas waiting to be brought to life.

“We are calling on all residents and community groups to come forward with their innovative ideas. Westhive welcomes a wide range of project ideas, no matter how big or small.

“And to our young people: your ideas matter too. We have funding set aside for projects brought forward by or specifically designed for young people, so they can also experience positive change in their local areas.

“Your ideas could be the start of something fantastic for your community, so let's get creative and start making West Oxfordshire an even better place to live, work, and thrive.”

Celebrating its success since launching in September 2023, Westhive is continuing to inspire creativity within West Oxfordshire and has raised significant funds for outstanding community driven projects, such as Cycles of Good, Cotswolds Arts Through Schools, Get Set Gagingwell – The MAP Project, and Food Surplus Redistribution in Witney.

The Westhive crowdfunding initiative enables communities to drive the changes they want to see in their local areas. Recognising that residents best understand their community needs—whether for a play park, wellbeing group, energy project, or sports club—the Council is supporting local businesses and organisations to back projects they believe in, contributing up to £10,000 per project themselves.

Westhive is further strengthened through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund via the Community Infrastructure Fund, introduced as part of the government's Levelling Up scheme. This fund aims to revitalise and grow local infrastructure, backing projects that align with the Council's core values and create a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of people in the district.

On 22 July, Spacehive will be hosting a Project Creator Workshop from 12:30 1:30pm. This workshop aims to guide potential project creators through the process of turning their ideas into reality, providing insights into available funding opportunities and offering valuable advice on creating compelling crowdfunding campaigns.

The online workshop is free to attend for anyone with ideas to improve their local area. [Sign up for the virtual workshop](#). Remember, you can also contact our Funding Officer for advice and to talk through your plans: wodc.grants@westoxon.gov.uk / 01993 861572.

What type of projects can Westhive support?

Projects need to be local and serve a community purpose. Westhive projects can be simple and creative, like a street mural or community garden, or more ambitious, like hosting large community events or support groups.

Looking for inspiration? The Westhive platform showcases the projects that have successfully crowdfunded with us.

Join Westhive today by submitting your project idea to us. For more information and to send your project proposal, please visit <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/westhive>.

RIP

Susan Hitchman (née Jefferies) 1957 - 2024

Friday 21st June

Roland (known as Roly) Harpwood

Tuesday July 23rd 2024



TIDDY HALL

presents

An evening of musical canapés



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Bob Chilcott

Wychwood Ensemble

Agate Grinhofa

Bernard & Reuben West

8 in a bar

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Bar available & nibbles in the interval.

Tiddy Hall, Ascott-under-Wychwood, OX7 6AG

Sat 14 September 2024 | 7:30pm (doors at 7pm)

Tickets: £15 pp - Ring Simon Gidman (07768 600102 / 01993 831479)

Tiddy Hall Charitable Trust

Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon

Founded and given to the village by

R. Tiddy, Esq., in 1912

ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

The last few months have been quite active once again. Our AGM took place on Thursday 13th of June and, as usual, this was open to the public. Regrettably, despite the inducement of free wine and nibbles, very few village residents actually attended. The meeting did, nevertheless, generate some good ideas for improving engagement with the village which we will take forward in the coming months.

The Three Piece Sweet fundraiser on 13th July was a great success, generating around £1,000 (gross) for Tiddy Hall. Costs were around £150 so a net contribution of around £850 was made, which is an excellent result. To put that into context, that is the equivalent of some 56 hours of hiring fees from one evening of activity. Of course, events such as this are only possible with the support of our trustees and other volunteers. All band members, the sound engineer, bar staff and door managers gave their time for free. In total, we had more than 60 attendees and feedback was excellent. Everyone enjoyed the evening with some very enthusiastic dancing in evidence! A pig roast was provided by Great Rollright Farm and this proved to be very popular. Videos of some of the songs are on the Tiddy Hall YouTube channel.

We hosted another fundraiser, Mark and Friends, on Saturday 27th July, this was organised by the Wychwood Folk and Acoustic Club with all proceeds going to Life Larder (the food bank in Milton under Wychwood serving neighbouring villages). This was also successful generating £500 for Life Larder. In light of the charitable purpose of the event, we waived our hall hiring fee. We did, however, take £140 in bar sales. Once again, this event was made possible by trustees volunteering their time free of charge.

The next folk night will be on Saturday 7th September and will feature a return of a band, Track Dogs based in Madrid, who were incredibly popular last time they came. This will be a sell-out so please book your tickets early!

Another exciting event is scheduled for Saturday 14th September. This will be a Music Festival organised by Simon Gidman and Bob Chilcott. Again, we expect this event to sell-out very quickly so please book your tickets early.

Onto administration matters, our Treasurer, Paula Lewis, will be standing down by the end of this year, so we are searching for a replacement. Anyone that might be interested, please contact me for an initial chat. You don't need to be an accountant, but a basic understanding of book-keeping would be helpful. Essentially, the role involves reconciling invoices issued to hirers with credit entries on the bank account, paying utility bills (direct debits have already been set-up) and other suppliers as appropriate and maintaining a cashbook on Excel. The Treasurer is a trustee and member of the management committee.

In addition to a new Treasurer, we also need additional trustees to join the management committee to help ensure the long term viability of Tiddy Hall. Please contact me if you are interested in joining.

As I have mentioned in previous articles, we have a couple of major projects in progress. The installation of solar panels and the replacement of the existing sodium and fluorescent lights with much more efficient LED systems is scheduled to start on Monday 5th August. These two initiatives will greatly improve our energy efficiency and reduce our costs. These projects have been funded by The National Lottery.

We are also seeking funding to address the flooding problem that arises whenever it rains. We have had one quote and await another before submitting our final application to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). OCC have already indicated that this project qualifies under their flood relief fund so I am reasonably confident that funding will be available. We aim to get this project completed before the onset of winter this year.

The long term viability of Tiddy Hall depends on active support by village residents. Please take every opportunity to book the hall for your own events and to attend events that have been organised. It really is important that this community resource is actively supported by the local community.

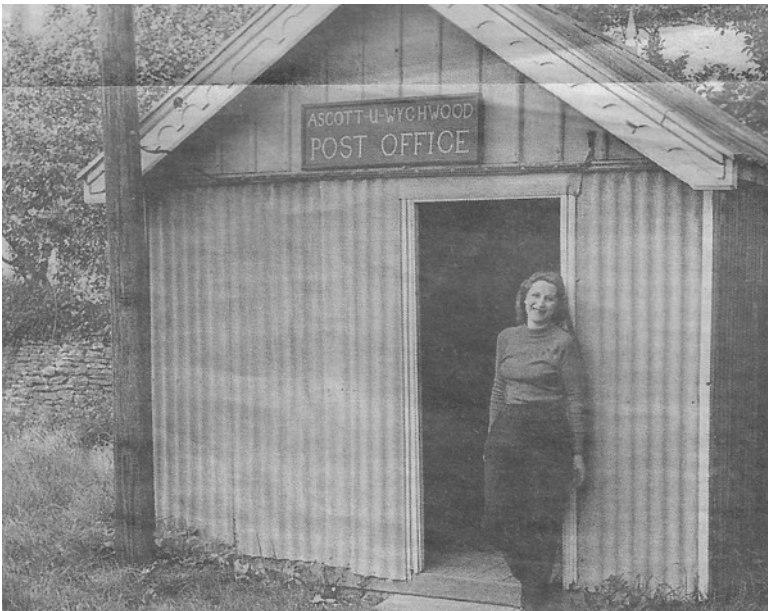
John Bugeja

Village Fete News

We are in the throes of planning the Village Fete for 2025. Ascott has not had a regular village fete for many a year, and we want to create an event that will be open for the whole village and for those of all ages to enjoy. The intention is to hold this on Father's Day, with a theme of 'My Favourite Book Character' and to build on the success of the Coronation event with some silly games (not to mention Pimms, beer and cake!).

Many hands make light work and so we are looking for ideas and volunteers willing to take on just one part of the event to spread the load.

Please reach out to us at contact@ascottpc.org.uk if you are willing or have any suggestions.



This photo shows the Post Office in Ascott which was erected just after the Second World War but where was it?
See Page 11

Marriage Blessing

Richard Hamilton & Eric Stark 20th July 2024.



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The Tiddy Hall Trustees need you!



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

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

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

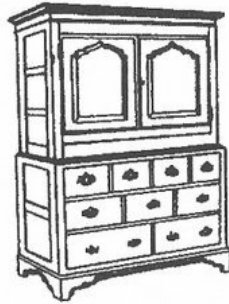
The Trustees are a friendly bunch, meet once every 5-6 weeks and would welcome any residents, new or old, to help with this wonderful asset in our beautiful village.

Any further questions? Please contact the Chairman, John Bugeja jmjbugeja@aol.com

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Ascott's Post Office

The post mistress in the photo is Hazel Tustian and the building was erected in the Pound. It was partially constructed from materials taken from a demolished stable in the Grange stables and was very tiny. Hazel later bought the plot of land where Hazel Cottage in Shipton Road now stands and had a wooden building erected there. This was used until the last permanent Post Office vanished from Ascott after around a century of establishment in the village.

Wendy Pearse



June 20th, Cambridge Travelling Morrisce Centenary Tour (1924 - 2024), celebrating the life of Cecil Sharp who died 100 years ago on June 23rd 1924. The Travelling Morrisce performed some of the Ascott morris dances.

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

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

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



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Email: ascottmill@aol.com

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COLDSTONE ANGLING CLUB

Back in November last year we were informed that the new owner of Manor Farm, Rupert Williams, did not want the Club fishing the lake and the river, obviously this was devastating news for the club and also would mean the end of the club which was formed in 1971.

We were given until June 16th to clear the site which entailed the taking down of the otter fencing and removal of sheds and machinery.

A meeting was fixed at The Swan Inn for members to decide what to do with trophies, machinery and money left in the Club. Leading up to this meeting we were unaware that Mr. J. Pratt, a member of the club had approached the father and son Izod at Lyneham to see if the club could lease their lake, they agreed to an arranged meeting on Saturday morning prior to the meeting at The Swan.

Along with the Izods, J. Pratt, S. Russel and myself, we attended the meeting at Priory Farm. The outcome was very positive for the club, the Izods couldn't have been more helpful which now meant the club had been saved, for which we are extremely grateful.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have supported the club at Manor Farm whether it be our fundraising events, donating of plants, shrubs and trees or sponsoring plaques around the lake, many thanks.

The new lake will mean a new chapter for the club, hopefully once again, many of you will support the club.

Since having to give up the waters at Manor Farm we hear the property has been put up for sale again!

P. Moss

Coldstone A. C.

Ascott Village Shop

This is Ascott shop's twenty-first year. Have you called in there recently? Ascott is one of the few remaining villages that *has* a shop. Like most of them, it is community owned and run, and relies for its continuation on a part-time paid manager, Gill Kenny, and the help of the thirty or so volunteers who work the till, stock the shelves and keep up the welcoming friendliness that is the shop's hallmark.

The more volunteers we have, the longer the shop can remain open each day and the more it can sell. It makes a modest weekly profit but this is not enough to cover the overheads, which have soared owing to inflation and the steep rise in electricity prices. **If you don't already volunteer** could you think of doing so? There is no minimum commitment. Several volunteers do one two-hour shift a month and that makes a difference to the overall work load. You will be trained in the shop by a fellow-volunteer. The benefit to you would be a share in the community life of the village and in getting to know fellow villagers whom you might otherwise not meet. You could do your own shopping at the same time and avoid a journey by car or waiting for a delivery van.

Likewise, one additional purchase a week would make a difference. Among the services the shop offers is the collection of newspapers and repeat prescriptions. We would appreciate it if those who use these services would take the opportunity to buy something. The shop willingly offers both these services as a contribution to village life, but they depend entirely on its survival: imagine having to drive to the pharmacy every month instead of being able to collect your medicine from the shop.

Do come into the shop and have a proper look round. It is full of enticing products sourced by Gill: the range of Field Goods in the freezer; the cheeses from Somerset and Gloucestershire; the delicious yogurt from Tim's Dairy. The Hackney Gelato comes all the way from East London, but looking further afield the Crosta and Mollica range of Gelato and Pizza brings you Italian food without the horrors of air travel. Some items are expensive, others are not: we regularly compare our everyday goods to supermarket prices to make sure we are not out of line. We welcome feedback on items that you can't find and would like to see stocked.

The Committee helps with policy and other matters, and we would like more members. At present it comprises Nick Paines (Secretary), Merv Bates (Acting Treasurer), Sue Boyer and Sarah Witheridge, with me as Chairman. Jacquie Bugeja recently stood down, but still volunteers in the shop, and we are very grateful to her. We are also immensely grateful to Stuart Fox, who has tried to retire as Treasurer after more than twenty years of dedicated and meticulous service to the shop. He is continuing in a reduced capacity until we can find a replacement, and our debt to him remains incalculable. If you feel you can help with book-keeping or accountancy, please get in touch with a Committee member.

And, finally, if you cannot give your time, could you help financially? Thanks to the generous sponsorship of villagers, we have a new chest freezer in the store room to replace the ancient electricity guzzler and smart new aprons are on order to replace the old blue ones that have lasted twenty years. Other needs will arise, be they for maintenance or replacement of machinery, and sponsorship helps us to meet the overheads.

The new Committee members have been struck by the energy and enthusiasm of the manager and volunteers and the affection that many villagers have for the shop. We would like to see it provide an even better service to the village - longer opening and providing even more of the things the village wants. For that we need more Committee members, a Treasurer, more volunteers and customers.

Looking ahead, Gill has the special Christmas orders well in hand.

Nicky Coldstream
Chairman

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

15th September 'In Steam' 'Crafts & Skills'

We have invited crafters from the local area including *Oxford Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers*.

20th October 'In Steam' Wood craft + Autumn market.

We have invited Wood Turners Clubs along with vintage demonstrations.

1st December 'Christmas Fayre'

We will have Market Stalls for your Christmas gifts. Santa will be in his Grotto, Chestnuts & Mulled Wine, Tea Room, Gift Shop, Tombola and Grand Raffle.

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

Dog on Leads most welcome.

Adults £9.00, Seniors £7.00, accompanied children FREE open 10.30am to 5.00pm.



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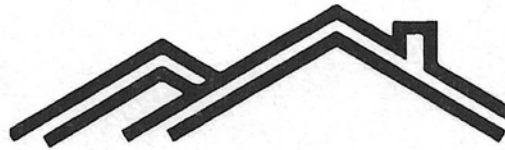
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Celia Crampton



Celia Crampton lived in Ascott for almost thirty years. She loved the village and I think the village loved her, not least because of her open, friendly, and bubbling personality. She was a long-time member of the Burford Singers and, in the earlier years of its existence, there were few Ascott pantos that did not feature her as the witch.

She was born in November 1941 in what was then Nyasaland and is now Malawi. Her father was Chief Civil Engineer for Nyasaland Railways but before Celia was two he was killed in a railway accident. Her mother had to vacate the company house and take her three children back to Ireland. They boarded ship in Durban and were taken to Port Said where they joined a convoy bound for Gibraltar. It was still wartime and the convoy was attacked by German bombers south-east of Malta. Only one ship was sunk, but it was the ship Celia was on. The story has been told in more detail in a previous edition of The Grapevine.

The family made their way to Dublin where Celia grew up. She attended Glengara Park School and then entered Trinity College, Dublin to read natural science. She never lost her interest in science but wanted to develop her artistic talents so she left Trinity to enter the National College of Art in Dublin. In November 1960, as a member of the committee organising the Art College annual ball she came to Trinity to book the College Jazz band. At that time, I played the bass in the band, and that was the beginning of a romance which led to our wedding in July 1965 and to over fifty-eight years of marriage, and to the birth and raising of our two beloved sons, Will and Ben.

Whilst she was a student at the College of Art the professor of design asked Celia if she would come and work in his stained glass studio as a glass painter and designer. She did so, leaving the College of Art before she completed her degree course. There are still churches in many parts of Ireland which have windows designed and painted by her.

Celia was proud of the fact that, except when the children were very young, she was never unemployed, her work continuing to fluctuate between science and art. Immediately after our wedding we lived in London. There was no demand for stained glass painters so she reverted to science, getting a job in Imperial College where she operated an electron microscope. We left London in 1967 and moved to Canterbury, where I had been fortunate enough to get a job as a lecturer at the University of Kent. Celia applied for work in the stained glass workshop at the Cathedral but for some years the then Director refused to contemplate employing a woman. Celia improvised and found a job processing photographs for a local newspaper and then joined the staff of the University library to help catalogue the collection of Art History slides. Eventually the director of the Cathedral Stained Glass Workshop moved with the times and Celia began almost a decade working in the Cathedral, restoring the medieval windows there and in other historic buildings, including St George's Chapel, Windsor. There was a constant stream of famous figures visiting the workshop, as the accompanying photograph attests.



Celia's association with the Cathedral ended when I got a job in Oxford. Then she reverted to science, working for a number of years as a medical rep.. For a time, she also worked as a clinical coder at the JR and then at the Horton.

Once again it was my career which forced a change in Celia's. From September 1998 to June 1999, I had a fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC. Celia's visa did not allow her to work so after a month or so in Washington she enrolled in the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design. Her original intention had been to take a course in trompe l'oeil but there were not enough applicants to make the course viable. Instead, she enrolled in the course on botanical illustration. It was the beginning of a brilliant career. Many villagers have paintings by her, and others were bought by, among others, Kew Gardens, Hampton Court Palace, and the immensely prestigious Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh. Her painting of a cowslip was acquired by the King. She also had time to design a memorial window for Little Barrington church; after seeing a picture of the window the late Queen wrote to the church and expressed her admiration for the design.

Ascott Grapevine

Celia's last paintings were done four or five years ago. Sadly, she had fallen victim to Alzheimer's disease and was no longer able to draw or paint. The last eleven months of her life were spent in Southerndown Care Home in Chipping Norton where she was wonderfully looked after and where she died on October 9, 2023.



Celia at work



One of Celia's works

Dick Crampton

Don't go to Oxford if you're a village oik

Which was best, Morse or Grantchester? They were detective series on TV. Morse was based in Oxford, Grantchester in Cambridge. If I compare them to the boat race, then I think Morse is at least a length clear, completely opposite to what happens in the actual race.

In the early post war years after 1945, my grandmother Rhoda Shirley always had a 6d (2.5p) wager on who would win the boat race with her eldest son Arthur, who was living in the Black Country in Staffordshire with his wife Ethel and young family. Rhoda always chose Cambridge, she said, because they trained on beer. Where she got this information from I don't know. Did she get it while 'in service' in Oxford at the end of the Victorian era? There is of course, a large brewery on the bank of the Thames where the boat race takes place. The owners of the brewery in my early years were the Watney family. There is a connection with Ascott, many of the cottages in the village were owned by the Watney family who owned Cornbury Park and the Estate, much of Ascott was part of the Estate. Joan and Eric Pratley had a number of photographs of Mr. Oliver Watney opening the church fete on Empire Day on the vicarage lawn, most from the years between the wars, 1920s and 1930s.

My grandmother must have been well in credit with her wager with Arthur, Cambridge seem to win every year. When I was a boy uncle Arthur always let his heart rule his head, he indoctrinated me to follow The Villa. All my life they have always been inconsistent, like the Oxford boat race crew.

I always felt uneasy when I walked around Oxford. I felt sooner or later a group of undergraduates would shout 'hey you, yes you, you village idiot, you country oik, you are walking on the wrong side of the road, so we are going to frogmarch to the college common room and give you a damn good slipping'. They then would talk in Greek or Latin making fun at my expense.

This never happened of course, but it could have done. Now I'm left to ponder, am I a hypocrite? If I would have had the intelligence, education and drive to have gone up to Oxford (I think they call it), It's quite possible I would have behaved the same way I thought undergraduates would treat me.

It seems to me it's part of human nature to want to feel superior to our fellow man, I know I do. In the United Kingdom, more than elsewhere, the society is based on class. From Hancock's Half Hour, Steptoe and Son, Dad's Army right through to Only Fools and Horses, all have been about class and status and produced the greatest comedy ever written.

The wanting to feel superior causes me another problem. Supposing I was swimming in the sea just off shore when I started to flounder in the water, when I spotted on the beach someone who could help me, but then I realised I felt they were inferior to me. Would I swallow my pride and shout for help or swallow the water and drown, what would you do?

Sometimes I feel self-righteousness so deeply that someday I will drown in my own goodness. People will sometimes shout 'you've got a large chip on your shoulder mate'. I quickly reply, 'I've got no chip on my shoulder I've got the whole bloody fish shop'.

My final words of wisdom, everyone should get blind drunk once in their life to make them realise death can be no worse.



Oliver Watney opening the 1939 fete

Fred Russell

Nature Notes

Where are all our butterflies? This year has seen a dramatic decline in many common species made even more noticeable following 2023's relative abundance. Over the past years, I've developed many country walks, to exercise both me and my dog. Most of these walks have been within a 10-mile radius of Ascott. This gives me the ideal opportunity to monitor local butterfly activity.

The current season started well with the appearance of the Yellow Brimstone butterfly in mid-March. During March and April, there were numerous adults on the wing particularly on the warmer sunny days. The Brimstone hibernates as an adult butterfly, hidden in thick Ivy or ever-green shrubs, venturing out on warm days, and returning to hibernation if the weather cools. Their peak activity usually occurs when the Bluebells are flowering, and this is when they mate and lay their eggs on Buckthorn. These develop and the adults are seen feeding on Knapweed, Scabious, Clover and Brambles from August until the weather cools.



In a normal season, the Brimstones would be followed by the Orange Tips, a small white butterfly where the males are easily identified by the bright orange patches on their forewings. In previous years they were abundant from May to July and at their most prolific when their larva's main foodplant, the Garlick Mustard was starting to flower. This year, although individuals appeared at the beginning of April overall numbers were lower than previously and were absent from their usual roadside haunts.



As the season progresses, I look forward to seeing two of our most colourful butterflies, the Peacock and the Small Tortoiseshell, both of these species overwinter and hibernate as adults in buildings, rotten trees, etc. emerging in April and May. Eggs are laid in May & June on the larva's foodplant the Stinging Nettle. The Peacock produces a single brood, but the Tortoise has two broods each year. The adults from these broods are on the wing from July to October. In 2023 there were Peacocks in abundance wherever we walked, this year sightings of both species were a



rare treat. It should be noted that the Small Tortoiseshell, once our commonest butterfly, has been in decline for many years with numbers falling by 30% over the last 13 years. Normally when the Buddleia flowers in my garden it attracts these butterflies in large numbers, but this year nothing!





In the same butterfly family as the previous species, the Red Admiral and the Painted Lady are welcome visitors to both our gardens and the wider countryside. The Painted Lady is not a native, it may breed here during the summer but doesn't overwinter. Our population relies on immigrants from



Southern Europe arriving in early summer onwards. In good years they can appear in large numbers, but this year up to the beginning of August hardly any have been seen locally. Has our wet cool summer been caused by the misplaced jet stream preventing their usual northwards migration? Last year the Red Admiral enjoyed an exceptional population boom in this area, with both local and immigrant adults being abundant throughout the summer. So far this year numbers have been scarce. Again, like the Painted Lady, the weather conditions have discouraged immigration.

One of my favourite butterflies is the Marbled White a grassland butterfly of roadsides, field edges, flower-rich meadows and downland. This species can be abundant in a small area in one year, only to disappear and reappear elsewhere in subsequent years. However, when it is found it usually forms a large colony. They are on the wing in July and August when the hedgerows bloom. This year wherever I walk I've only seen a few isolated individuals. Unusually this butterfly does not lay its eggs in the usual way attached to their larva's food plant, but the female scatters her eggs amongst the grasses whilst in flight.



One butterfly that gardeners with a vegetable plot don't want to see is the Large White, often called the Cabbage White as its larva can quickly devastate a brassica crop. Although this is a true native its numbers are boosted by the arrival of immigrants from across the channel. The native population overwinters as a pupa with the adults emerging in May and June, with the immigrants arriving in early summer. This year their numbers are much reduced, possibly we have been left with a relatively small native population, but few immigrants.



From mid-July our verges and wild places are full of nectar-rich flowers, especially Greater and Lesser Knapweed, Scabious, Thistles and Pink Clover. All of these plants would normally act as a magnet to large numbers of adult butterflies. This year the plants have flowered well, but the butterflies and day-flying moths are noticeably absent.

It's not all bad news, some of the brown butterflies (the Satyridae) seem to have kept their numbers up. I've seen lots of Meadow Browns, Ringlets and at the end of July large numbers of Gate Keepers feeding on Brambles. The warm weather at the

Ascott Grapevine

end of July and the beginning of August has seen more butterflies on the wing, but the number and species are still much reduced.



I hope that this year, with its cold, wet spring will be a one-off event and that with more typical weather in future years, our butterfly populations will recover. However, with a reduced breeding population this year recovery of our native species may be slow.

Stuart Fox



Thank you.

Wychwood Folk and Acoustic Club would like to thank everyone who has supported the Club so far this year and say a special thank you to those who have donated raffle prizes and bought raffle tickets.

We have raised £896 for The Ascott Grapevine and thanks to Pete Joshua, Colin Pitts, Lefty Wright, Mark Pidgeon and Mark Harrison performing for free on July 27th, £500 for the Life Larder.

For anyone unfamiliar with the Life Larder, instead of providing foodbank parcels to people's doors, it offers a combined 'Foodbank/Larder/Community Fridge'. The Life Larder is available to residents of Ascott, Milton and Shipton-u-Wychwood, Bruern, Fifield, Idbury and Lyneham. Food is provided on a 'take what you need, give what you can' basis. If you are in a position to give a donation (however small) to cover costs - great. However, it's recognised that some may need it free of charge.

Website: wychwoodlife.org

Email: office@wychwoodlife.org

Phone: 07973 473605

Address: 83 High Street, Milton under Wychwood.

Cost of Living Crisis



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

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

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

This is where we can help

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the Charity Trustees – THANK YOU!

John Cull

The Village Charity

Registered Number: 1099078

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



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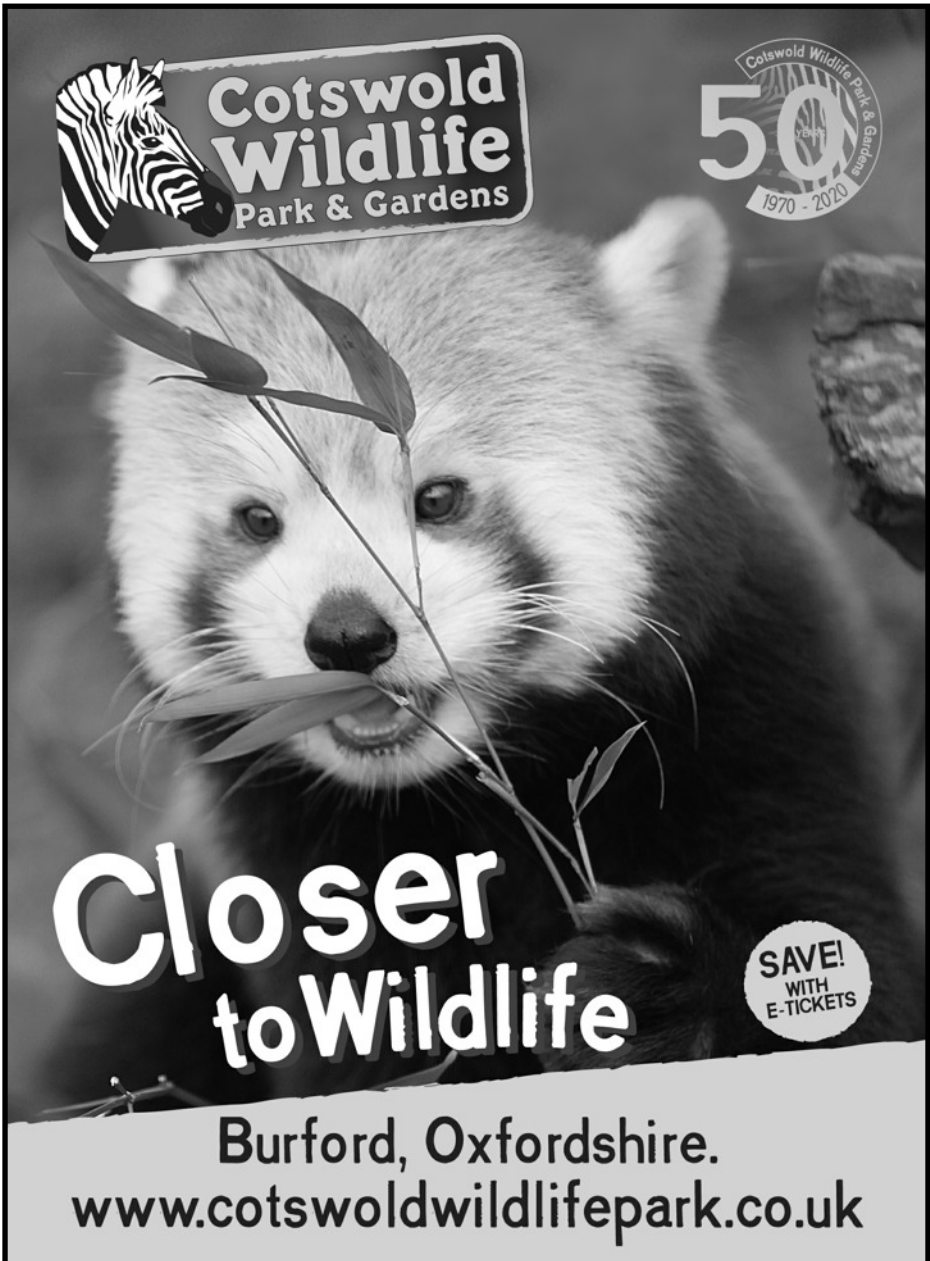
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v23

Thurs days only

TOWNEY	Evenlode Village 0900	TO EVENLode	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 Gown 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 Gown 1236
	Witney Hospital 0953		Lyneham Village 1241
	Witney Buttercross Stop 'A' Southbound 0955		Bledington The Green 1249
	Witney Sainsbury's 0957		Lower Oddington Village Hall 1254
	Witney Buttercross Stop 'C' Northbound 1002		Upper Oddington Horse & Groom 1256
	South Leigh Village 1014		Evenlode Village 1305
	Witney Buttercross Stop 'A' Southbound 1026		

Times shown in a green box are request stops only

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

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Management Committee Contacts

Chairman and Operations	Keith Gowing	01608 811617
Operations	Paul Branch	07771 624578
Routes/Request Stops	Ken Ingamelis	01451 832114
Hiring	Pauline Jackson	01608 811370
	Keith Gowing	01608 811617
New Drivers	Roger Formby	01451 830439
Secretary (and Donations)	Richard Anning	01386 430129

For queries in the event of bad weather, any of the above contacts will be able to provide advice on possible cancellations or delays to services. Alternatively look on our homepage for news/weather updates, or tune to Radio Gloucester or Radio Oxford



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

Retirement & The Villager Bus Service

When I retired from the prison service a few months before my 60th birthday, I thought I'd be living a fairly easy life from that moment on, however; it's funny how things suddenly became busier. Nobody warned me about that on my retirement course

I already knew I'd probably be doing some extra shifts in the village shop and Elaine and I had already decided to cut the number of folk club events down to one a month (mostly), but a certain Mr Gidman somehow coerced, persuaded, conned me into having ago at driving for the Villager Bus Service. One afternoon or morning once a fortnight didn't seem too bad and I would be doing my bit for the local wider community so I somehow found myself agreeing to give it a try.

Now you don't need a PSV licence to drive the villager bus as they are 16 seaters so if you have a D1 category on your licence then you are fine to drive one (most of us oldies will already have D1 on our licences). The buses are no longer than your average motor home so they are not difficult to drive and after an initial test run where I managed not to hit anything or anyone I was cleared to begin work. I was assigned to a Friday afternoon route on V9 which took me from Lower Oddington to Chipping Norton passing through some gorgeous countryside via Icomb, Lower & Upper Westcote, Fifield, Idbury, Foscott, Bledington & Kingham (soon to be known as Bamfordsville). I drove the route in my car a few times to make sure I knew where I was going and where all the stops were etc. Then lockdown struck. All that practice for nothing as I'd forgotten most of it by the time lockdown was lifted and had to start over again.

When we were cleared to drive after lockdown I started properly and although recently, I've switched routes to a Friday morning on the V8, I sometimes do a double shift and still see my old friends on the V9 now and then. I drive some of the other routes from time to time when we're short of drivers (we are always looking for more) and driven around some countryside I wouldn't have seen before. Always stunning and sometimes some of the narrow roads are challenging but all good fun. Most of the routes are picturesque, regardless of the weather, which adds to the sense of satisfaction at the end of a drive.

The villager has been going since 1982, In 2004 The Villager received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service: "For providing extensive, reliable and economical transport for 65 villages in the North Cotswolds."

Without the Villager a lot of elderly folk in the villages we serve wouldn't be able to get to Chipping Norton, Witney, Stow, Moreton-in-Marsh etc to do any shopping at all. So overall I do get a real sense of satisfaction at the end of each short shift and of course I get to do some shopping myself or sit and have coffee and cake.

Oh yeah... Retirement you can't beat it

Mark Pidgeon

PS

If you'd like to come and join us then contact Keith Gowing (Tel: 01608 811617).
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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH AND MARRIAGE

Holy Trinity Church has stood between the two Manors of Ascott Earl and Ascott Doyley for over eight hundred years. In all those centuries many couples have made their vows within its walls.

Today we usually connect love and marriage with the ancient ceremony but in past centuries love was not a necessary part of the commitment. The notion of a relative or close friend giving away the bride to her future husband that we recognise today was not the original meaning of this phrase. In many marriages the giving away meant the handing over of money or property, especially in the wealthier ones, and was similar to a business agreement.

A marriage settlement dated to 6th February 1724/5 illustrates this point and evidence of this settlement can be seen in the two table tombs just west of the church door. The families concerned were the Perrys of Ascott and the Hackers of Kingham. The names on one tomb are those of Nicholas and Hannah Perry whilst the other records the names of Thomas and Mary Hacker and their two children Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker and Catherine Hacker. We do not know whether love was involved in this agreement but Nicholas and Hannah Perry parents of Mary, signed a settlement with their future son-in-law Thomas Hacker to hand over a large amount of land including some in Ascott which formed the basis of Coldstone Farm, later Honeydale Farm, now Farm Ed. The couple were married at Holy Trinity the following day.

The earliest marriage recorded in the Register was that of James Washington and Alles Dines in 1570. Since then as far as we know all marriages performed in Holy Trinity Church up to the present day have been recorded in the Registers.

But as the song says 'Love and Marriage go together' is the connection we acknowledge today and the following photographs illustrate some of the marriages that have taken place at the church up to fifty years ago and since photographs of the occasion became a tradition.

In our next edition we hope to include photographs of weddings which have taken place at Holy Trinity in the last fifty years. If you are willing to share any of these please contact me. Grateful thanks to Mary, Joy, Marilyn, Anne, Richard, Jill, Carole, Jean and Elaine for supplying the photographs.

Wendy Pearse



Harriet Cooper married James Parkes in 1911. Harriet was one of the daughters of James Cooper who was the miller at Ascott Mill for well over 30 years.



Edith Pearse was married to Fred Rench in 1938. Edith was the daughter of Henry John Pearse of Coldstone Farm, later Honeydale Farm, now Farm Ed.



Cyril Moss married Marie Taylor in 1945. They were the parents of Marilyn Baker and Pete Moss of Shipton Road.



Dorothy Simmonds married Albert Harrison in 1947. Dorothy was the sister of Carol Hawtin of Shipton Road.



Eric Pratley married Joan Souch in 1952. Eric and Joan were very staunch supporters of the church all through their lives, working for its welfare and upkeep. Elaine Byles of Heritage Lane is their niece.



Emma Cook married Fred Acton in 1954. She was a member of the Cook family who ran the earlier village shop at Corner House. Mary Barnes is the bridesmaid on the left.



Jill Storey married Bill Greenaway in 1958. They live in Sipton Road.



Carole Simmonds married Anthony Hawtin in 1964. They live in Sipton Road



Anne Storey married Richard Franks in 1962. They live in High Street.



Jean Keep married Peter Byron in 1974. Jean lives in High Street.

Thankfully not a reflection of Ascott Village Shop

Open most days from about 8 - 10, occasionally as early as 7, but sometimes as late as 12 or 1.

We close about 5.30 or 6, occasionally about 4 or 5, but sometimes as late as 11 or 12.

Some days or afternoons we aren't here at all and lately I've been here just about all the time, except if I'm some place else, but I should be here then too.

Don't know about 2 - 3, ha, must be at lunch.

Anon.

Parish Council News Autumn 2024

Writing today at the end of July, it seems that an oh-too-brief summer has finally arrived. It's been a mixed bag with the weather and that has led to challenges for plant and wildlife of all kinds. It is appropriate therefore that our current area of focus is very much all about biodiversity.

The Environment Act placed a new obligation on councils to consider biodiversity in their policies and deliberations, and whilst Parish Councils are spared some of the more onerous tasks, it still needs to inform our thinking.

With that in mind we have created and approved our Biodiversity Policy, which can be found on our website at <https://ascottpc.org.uk>. This strikes, we feel, a sensible balance between the needs of the environment, concerns over safety and the limited resources of a small parish council. Key to the policy is working together with the other Wychwood parishes, something we have been endeavouring to do all the more over the last couple of years, but most notably for this since nature cares nothing for parish boundaries.

Going Wild

The vehicle for our joint efforts is Wild about the Wychwoods, organized by the magnificent Jan Lund of Shipton, to try to make sense of all the noise surrounding ecological matters and to bring forward sensible, practical things that we can all do to assist. This weekend I was joined by several gallant Ascott residents on a Citizen Scientist event organized in combination with Earthwatch and the Evenlode Catchment Partnership, learning how we can monitor the pollution levels in the Evenlode and its tributaries.

It is easy to get overwhelmed and disheartened by the many voices all clamouring for our attention and personally I find it hard to keep up with all the oh-so-many groups that occupy this field – it seems that every village has half a dozen green initiatives and charities – and so part of the work will be to distil this down into clear topic areas where we can all focus. The irony that we need yet another organization to do so, is not lost.

We are also on the lookout for someone who could take the lead in representing Ascott. This does not need to be a Parish Council role, but we are searching for that special someone who can bring a passionate love of nature along with the practical skills to help out. If that sounds like you, or someone you know, please let us know.

Hedgehogs

Whilst the Evenlode constantly demands our attention, and we have a window with a new government and councillors to bring this once again to the agenda, other topics have been chosen with a more seasonal view. For this season, we are inviting people to become Hedgehog Heros. More about that in this issue, and please watch the usual places and social media for information.

Verges

On a related subject, I have been asked several times when OCC are going to trim the verges. As a reminder the decision was taken (by them) to only cut verges once a year. Naturally, we also need to balance that with the needs of safety – being able to view traffic over the bridge, for example. We (the PC) will continue to do what we can to tackle those areas.

Defibrillators

The defibrillators will soon be out of warranty, and so new ones have been purchased and will be installed as soon as possible. In the meantime, the current units are still operational and have supplies to last. As always, we buy these in the hope they will never be needed.

Finally

The Parish Council takes a short break over August, and on our behalf may I wish everyone a bright and enjoyable summer.

Brian Leach

Chair

contact@ascottpc.org.uk



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Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

As I write this at the end of July, our league XI sit comfortably mid-table in the Cherwell League Division 7B. Of our 12 games to date, we've recorded 5 wins, 1 tie, 1 draw, 1 abandoned and 4 defeats. As one of the smallest village clubs at this level, we continue to "punch above our weight". To stay in the same division next season (two of its 10 competing teams will be relegated to tier 8 in September) will be a more than satisfactory result.

Incidentally the tied game was a tremendous effort by the team when we dismissed Witney Mills 2nd XI's (who are top dogs in the division) last batsman with the scores level on 135 runs each, to avoid defeat. Mills had expected to come to The Playing Field and win, as they had every other game this season to that point.

Our best batter to date thus far in 2024 has been new signing Rahul Raj SR - a more pleasant and humble young man you could not wish to meet! Rahul grew up in India and moved to the UK last year, he's currently staying and working in Stow-on-the-Wold.

Our most successful bowler has again been Rowan Moss, who is aged 20. In July he produced a very special performance indeed, when he took *ALL 10* opposition wickets as we beat Charlbury 3rd XI by 55 runs, in a match played at Free-land's ground. Ascott had set a modest 130 all out, and Charlbury were cruising to victory at 39 without loss when our captain Mark Read threw Rowan, our fastest bowler, the ball. He then bowled 9 overs unchanged and dismissed the entire opposition team whilst conceding only 8 runs!!! On a hard and bouncy pitch which really suited Rowan, 4 batters were clean bowled, 1 LBW (first ball) and 5 were caught. He also broke one bail, which snapped when one victim was clean bowled!

An incredible match we'll all never forget, as Charlbury were 75 all out. Rowan was less enamoured at having to buy an expensive round in The Oxford Yeoman pub opposite the ground in celebration afterwards! He's currently the leading wicket taker in Division 7B with 27 victims, and has been chosen to play for the Cherwell League 3rd XI representative team vs a team from the Thames Valley league at Cokethorpe in early August. It's the first time AUWCC has had a player selected, quite an honour for the club.

This season we seem to be particularly strong bowling club, with Alex Mitchell and Richard Parker both also taking first '5 wicket' hauls for AUWCC.

Ascott Grapevine

The AUWCC Martyrs vs Village Establishment match in early July was again won by the Martyrs team, who retain the trophy. We had set a daunting score of 187 for 9, but after a fine tea (thanks for the wonderful cakes Carol!), the Establishment put up quite a fight before eventually being subdued for 153, Kester Harvey hitting 61 runs. Young Rory Benfield (aged 12) took his first senior wicket for Ascott when his Dad Graham took a catch! The first of many we hope.

At the end of August an AUWCC tour party will again embark on a 3-match tour of Devon, with fixtures at Ottery St Mary, Honiton, and Tipton St John. This is always one of the highlights of the season!

Finally, if you, or your son/daughter is interested in playing or getting involved with the cricket club - do please get in touch! We play league games on Saturdays, and friendlies on Sundays until late September, with net practice at the field mid-week.

Stewart Moss, Club Secretary
07866 278685

Auwricketclub@hotmail.com

Instagram: [ascott_u_wychwood_cricket](#)

Facebook: Ascott UnderWychwood Cricket Club

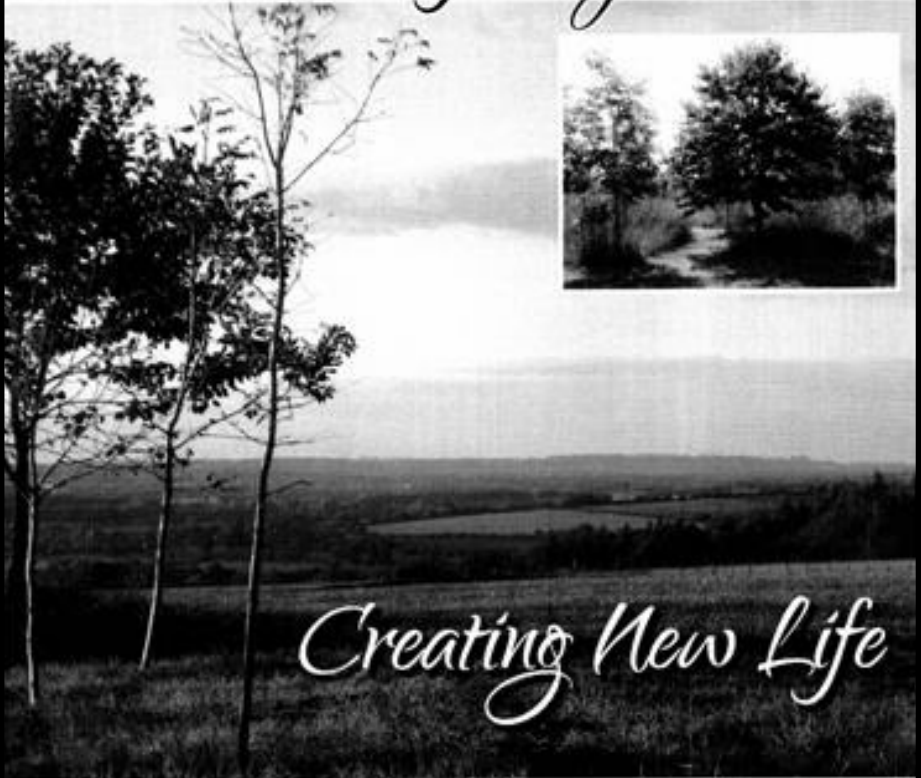


Rowan Moss

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or visit our website at www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk



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



Wild About The Wychwoods is a new nature initiative covering all of the Wychwoods villages and surrounds. We don't just want to raise awareness of where nature needs our help (and it most certainly does), we want to highlight things that all of us, from the very old to the very young, can do to help. Often these will be simple actions or changes we can make without even leaving the comfort of our own homes and gardens! We believe that if everyone of us does at least '*just one thing*', then collectively we can start to make a difference.

We're focussing in on 4 projects to start with:

Be a Hedgehog Hero - find out what you can do to help our declining hedgehogs, from putting out food and water, to creating Hedgehog Highways connecting gardens in your community.

Be a Swift Boxer - help our declining swift population by installing a swift box (or two) on a suitable wall of your home/school/office.

Adopt-a-Verge - if you have a suitable verge outside your home, plant wildflower seeds to help bees and other pollinators. Or just leave a patch un-mown in May and June and see what comes up!

Be a Citizen Scientist - our River Evenlode is designated 'poor ecological status'. Citizen Scientists learn how to monitor the river water and feed back scientific data, but there's also a lot we can all do to help by making small changes at home.

We don't have a membership and we don't charge anything, but we'll be having talks and events throughout the year which we want to be inspiring and fun, as well as informative. Everybody's welcome and we'd particularly love to get younger people coming along. We'll also be taking our projects into local schools to encourage the next generation to learn to love nature and want to care for it.

Get on our mailing list by emailing us at info@wildaboutthewychwoods.co.uk and we'll keep you up to date with what's happening. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and look out for our posters advertising upcoming talks. See us next at Shipton under Wychwood Village Fair on Bank Holiday Monday, 23rd August. We'll also have a website coming soon.

Wild About The Wychwoods is asking **you** to **BE A HEDGEHOG HERO!**

What?

We're asking everyone to do what they can to provide for the needs of this iconic little animal. We particularly want to create a network of Hedgehog Highways in the Wychwoods, connecting our gardens so that they can move around more easily.

Why?

Hedgehog numbers have declined by about 30% in urban areas and 50% in rural areas, just since 2000! This is due to many factors such as habitat loss (building houses and removing hedges), road casualties, garden casualties (always check before you strim or light a bonfire), a lack of food because of pesticides and poisoning, and particularly habitat fragmentation - hedgehogs can travel 2-3 km a night to forage or breed, but enclosing our gardens with fences and walls prevents them from doing this.

How?

Easy:

Put out a water bowl in the garden, all the time but especially on hot nights.

Put out food in a bowl, either hedgehog food or cat/kitten food - they need a lot of protein, but not milk!

Keep an area of the garden a little bit wild for hedgehogs.

Slightly more effort:

Make a 13cm square hole in your fence or wall to help create a Hedgehog Highway - always check with your neighbour first!

Record it on the Big Hedgehog Map. <https://bighedgehogmap.org>

Buy or make a sign for it (just for fun, hedgehogs can't read!). This is a great activity for kids.

Go the whole hog:

Build a hedgehog feeding station - there are lots of simple designs on the internet.

Build or buy a hedgehog house. Do check to make sure it's a sturdy weatherproof one if buying as quality varies enormously.

Look out for our hedgehog talk in September/October and check out <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org> for lots more hedgehog information.

Let's help hedgehogs make a comeback in the Wychwoods!

WYCHWOOD FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



Sat 7th Sept. Track Dogs

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £17.00 in advance £19.00 on the door

Track Dogs are two Irishmen, an Englishman and an American, (Garrett Wall, Dave Mooney, Howard Brown & Robbie K. Jones), whose artistic name derives from the dark subterranean world of New York's subway system. If they are still new to you, check out recent releases *Fire on The Rails* (2020) and *Where to Now?* (2022) and see why they are so hard to pigeonhole.

Sat 19th Oct. While & Matthews

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £16.00 in advance £18.00 on the door

In case **Chris While** and **Julie Matthews** have so far passed you by, they are the longest-lasting female duo in Britain and have played more than 3,000 gigs, appeared on over 100 albums, written hundreds of original songs and reached millions of people around the world. Now, 29 years after their debut, they sound as fresh and vital as ever.

Sat 9th Nov. Sunjay

Finstock Village Hall

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Sunjay's style has that natural drift between folk and blues and both camps have recognised his obvious flair. There have been a clutch of award nominations, including winning the Wath Festival Young Performers Award.

Sat 16th Nov. Chris Leslie + support by Sheena & Kim

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £12.00 in advance £14.00 on the door

Chris Leslie hardly needs an introduction! Chris is known primarily as the multi-instrumentalist and songwriter with the legendary Fairport Convention

Sat 7th Dec. Jackie Oates & John Spiers

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £16.00 in advance £18.00 on the door



Multi award-winning contemporary folk artists Jackie Oates and John Spiers meld together their shared love of English traditional folk tunes and songs with their fine voices and expertly played acoustic instruments.

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



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Wychwood Library Bulletin!

Regular Events at Wychwood Library

Afternoon Reading Group

2nd Thursday of the Month 1.45-2.45

Evening Reading Group

1st Monday of the Month 7.00-8.15

Contact the library to book a free place.



Craft Night

1st Tuesday of the Month 7.30-9.30

Ask in the library to find out more.

Book a place. Charge to cover costs.



Lego Club

Every Monday

3.30-4.30

Just drop in.

Free



Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday

10-11.30

Just drop in. All welcome.

£1.50 for coffee and cake



Rhymetime & Stay and Play

Rhyme-time every term-time Weds 9.30-10.00

Stay and Play every holiday Weds 10.00-11.30

Just drop in.

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



Family History Sessions

Wednesdays 10.30-11.30 & 11.30-12.30

Free bookable sessions with our local history volunteer.



For more information, drop in, call 01993 830281 or

email us at Wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Follow us on Facebook @ Wychwood Library.



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

The Ascott Village Charity



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

Further Education

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

Financial Aid

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

Chairman

John Cull john@greenascott.co.uk

Trustees

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

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

Sandy Timms se.timms@btinternet.com Andrew Smith

Mark Abrey rector@thechasebenefice.org.uk



Former Soho Farmhouse Executive Chef to Lead FarmED Cafe

Gareth Rhodes, former Executive Chef at Soho Farmhouse and Head Chef at COYA in London has taken charge of the kitchen at the FarmED Cafe, a farm to fork eatery based at the regenerative demonstration farm and conference barns near Chipping Norton in the Cotswolds.

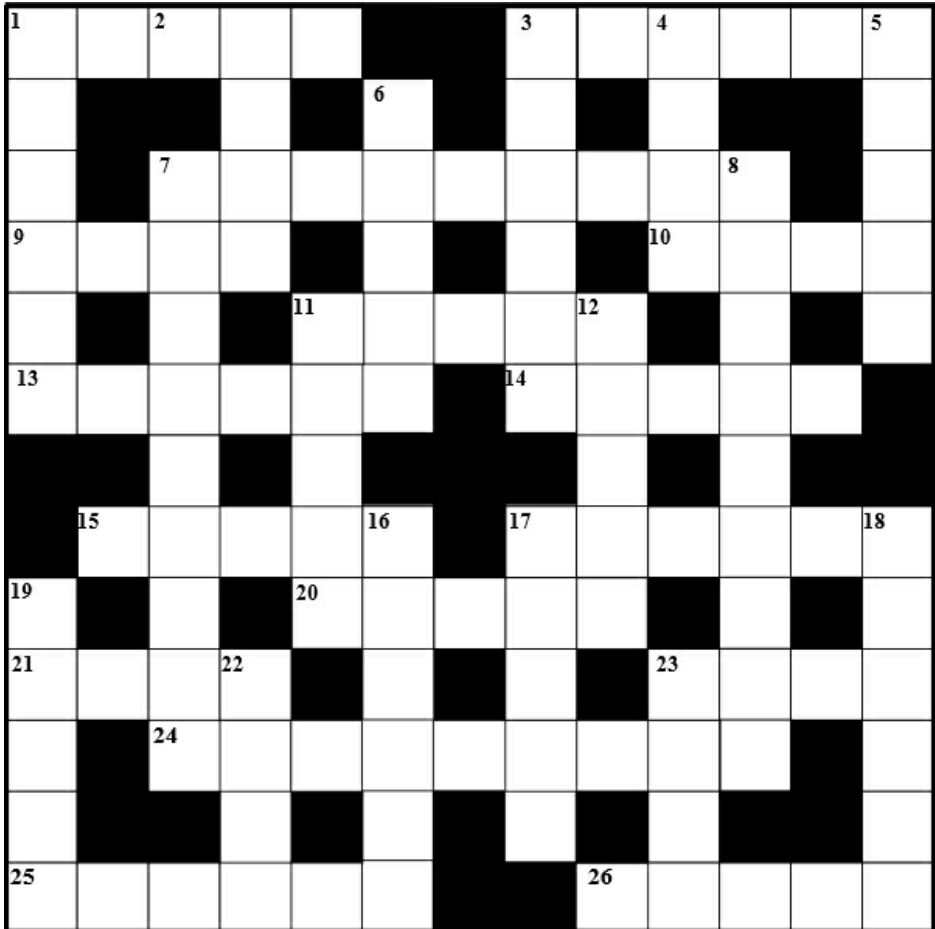
Gareth, hails from Norfolk, and his love and passion for food and cooking started when he watched his Nan cook in her kitchen. London was always going to be the place to go and develop his passion and that is exactly what he did. His CV includes well known London Restaurants such as the iconic Rib Room & Oyster Bar, Mju by Tetsuya Wakuda at the Millenium Hotel, Zuma London, Michelin-starred Italian restaurant Zafferano's, Tom's Kitchen with Tom Aikens (Chelsea), La Petite Maison and more recently, Head Chef at COYA, London.

Gareth's next move was to Soho Farmhouse as Executive Chef, where he had over-all responsibility for all food outlets, including all day dining restaurant, the Main Barn, serving up to 1000 covers per day, the Pen Yen Japanese Restaurant and overseeing Feasts, functions and events.

A stint in Consultancy followed, involving menu design and research for high end restaurant operators, plus assisting clients with bespoke supplier research and advising on kitchen design, layout and equipment specifications.

The FarmED centre was opened by HM King Charles, then HRH Prince of Wales, in June 2021 and has since won numerous awards for its eco-architectural design and work in promoting regenerative agriculture and sustainable, seasonal food to mitigate climate change. The FarmED Cafe is open to the public for breakfast, lunch, tea, coffee and cakes and also caters for visitors attending a range of courses and events as well as delegates from organisations hiring the venue for their bespoke team away days.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Clear, candid (5)
- 3 UAR president (6)
- 7 Medieval lance (9)
- 9 Intellect (4)
- 10 Story (4)
- 11 Edible bulb (5)
- 13 Log on B (anag.) (6)
- 14 Brother's girl (5)
- 15 Pungent (5)
- 17 Red —, dog (6)
- 20 Rome's river (5)
- 20 Scold; horse (3)
- 21 ——— Connery (007) (4)
- 23 Not difficult (4)
- 24 *Night Watch* painter (9)
- 25 Private soldier (6)
- 26 Rigid (5)

Down

- 1 Quickly (slang) (6)
- 2 Mrs Osiris (4)
- 3 Idea (6)
- 4 Not hard (4)
- 5 ——— Moore (007) (5)
- 6 Existing (5)
- 7 Inn room (6,3)
- 8 Imagine (5,4)
- 11 They say (2,3)
- 12 Kinder (5)
- 16 Plant tool (6)
- 17 Andes (anag.) (5)
- 18 Bond's *Casino* — (6)
- 19 Michaelmas daisy (5)
- 22 Ishmus (4)
- 23 Rim (4)

Solutions to Crossword in Edition 122

Across

- 1 Awesome
- 5 Wells
- 8 Tithe
- 9 Citizen
- 10 Pretender
- 12 Bet
- 13 Hearst
- 14 Magnum
- 17 Two
- 18 Deputises
- 20 Porcine
- 21 Quads
- 23 Ruder
- 24 Die down

Down

- 1 Act up
- 2 Eat
- 3 Oneness
- 4 Encode
- 5 Water
- 6 Lazibones
- 7 Sanctum
- 11 Enamoured
- 13 Hotspur
- 15 Antique
- 16 Append
- 18 Drier
- 19 Susan
- 22 Ado

Local Business Directory

ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253

www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk

Page 2

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk

www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk

Page 16

COMBE MILL Blenheim Palace Saw Mills OX2 8ET

Page 15

BURFORD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE 01993 831 282, 01993 822114

Page 12

COTSWOLD WELLNESS 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com

www.fingersandtoes.info

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COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Page 29

ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk

Page 33

FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND 01993 878387

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

Page 45

FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299

wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

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

Page 51

THE HAIR SALON AT THE PADDOCKS Ladies' and Gentlemen's Hair dressing

The Paddocks, Shipton Road, Milton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6GF

Alison 07980645995; Joy 07867585053

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IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268 Instagram@Ivy's Florist	Page 8
JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	Page 33
JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020 info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com	Page 10
PUDDLE DUCKS Scan the QR or phone 01666 577377	Page 49
ROOFIX 08009555063 07817792194	Page 18
ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	Page 10
THE SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascott.com www.countrycreatures.com	Page 28
TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates	Page 17

Events Calendar - 2024

Date	Time	Event	Venue
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 11 th	7.00pm	Global Warming Fact or Fiction Talk	Tiddy Hall
September 14 th	7.30pm	An evening of musical canapés	Tiddy Hall
September 21 st	10.00am	Car Boot Sale	Playing Field
September 24 th	7.00pm	Sound Bath	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 12 th	7.30pm	Line Dancing	Tiddy Hall
October 19 th	7.30pm	While & Matthews	Tiddy Hall
October 22 nd	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
October 26 th	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
October 26 th	7.30pm	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
November 23 rd	7.00pm	Quiz Night	Tiddy Hall
November 26 th	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
November 30 th	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
December 7 th	7.30pm	Jackie Oates & John Spiers Xmas Show	Tiddy Hall
December 8 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
December 10 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
December 15 th	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Holy Trinity Church
December 24 th	6.00pm	Carols on the Green	The Green
January 11 th	7.30pm	Simply Dylan	Tiddy Hall

There is a Post Office at Tiddy Hall every Friday between 2.00 and 3.45pm