

# The Ascott Grapevine



*A Merry Christmas to all our readers*

## Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email:  
[wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com)

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,  
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

## Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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## Advertising Rates

£17.50 full page

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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 52](#)), please contact Stuart Fox 01993 832004 or [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com). The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.**

## Local Churches

### **Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood**

Rev'd Mark Abrey Tel: 01608 676572

### **Wychwood Baptist, Milton**

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

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

Churchwarden James Walmsley  
01993 830842

### **Westcote Methodist**

Tony Gibson 01993 830699

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

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

### **Roman Catholic**

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

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

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

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

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

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and  
St Teresa, Charlbury

Priest: Fr Clive Dytor 07484158642

Mass at Charlbury 09:15

## Services at the Chase Benefice 2024/25

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

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

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

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

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
ASCOTT - UNDER - WYCHWOOD

# *Carols By Candlelight*

**Sunday 15th  
December  
At 4pm**

**A FAMILY  
SERVICE**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



**Children's Play Area, Christmas Biscuits, Mince Pies &  
Mulled Wine.**

**With A Special Appearances By**

**THE WYCHCRAFT ROCK CHOIR &  
FATHER CHRISTMAS**

## ***Ascott Pre-school***

With the start of a new school year, we were pleased to welcome back our existing children with new friends to join them too. We started the year with more children on roll than we have ever had before! Our topics are quite fluid and we tend to plan around whatever the children are interested in ensuring that we are also following our curriculum which covers what we would like the children to have learnt before they leave us for Primary school.

We started with 'All About Me' where the children bring photos of their families, people and pets who are important to them. They created 'Me Dolls' which are decorated to look like themselves. These are all displayed, the children go back to them often and love to show others their work and their families, recognising other families too. It's a great opportunity to discuss similarities and differences - an important part of our community.

The next topic we chose was 'Harvest' where we talked about harvesting crops, different types of foods and where they come from. Of course, we also had lots of play and talk around BIG farm machinery, which interested many of our children! We have enjoyed reading stories on a Harvest theme, two particular favourites are 'The Little Red Hen' and 'Scarecrow's Secret'. We made bread rolls and apple and blackberry crumble with the blackberries we picked on a walk. We also collected and delivered items to the Life Larder in Milton-Under-Wychwood which is available to all Milton-, Ascott- & Shipton-under-Wychwood, Bruern, Fifield, Idbury & Lyneham residents.

Moving on towards the end of term we read different versions of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. We made and shared porridge and the children enjoyed making bear puppets, and had a discussion about good manners too! We made pasta and bean stew with a herby cobbler topping - what the pigs were cooking in their cauldron when the wolf fell down the chimney!

We all have a busy time practising every day for our Christmas concert. The staff always wonder how it will all come together on the night but somehow it works out and we hope it will be the same this year! Throughout December it is glitter-city at Tiddy Hall (it gets everywhere!) as we get busy decorating baubles, stars and Christmas trees for the screens and all the other Christmas crafts and cooking the children take home. What a happy, busy time we've had and we are only three months into the school year!



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## **WHEN FOOTBALL IS GOD**

While watching the European Championship football I thought to myself, should association football be recognised as a world religion? I think it ticks all the right boxes. The game itself should be the main deity. The Premiership clubs would be the demigods, to be worshipped and like all religions, the fans (short for fanatics) are prepared to use violence, even to kill to prove their team or god is superior.

What should the new god be called, Association Football or soccer like they call it in the USA? By the way, they didn't invent the name, I had a Christmas present, Soccer Book for Boys in 1951. The name soccer was used by the upper classes and universities, it was named Football Association by working class supporters, so when asked on a Saturday in the pub how many goals did your team score today they could reply, 'sweet F A'. Today being a supporter of a Premiership club you need to earn a big wage if you want to worship football as a new religion. You can get a better and cheaper deal going to church or chapel where you can always put a shirt button in the collection if you are short of small change, although I think you can make your offering of money by debit card in some churches, but you can't get any cash back.

Watching recent games on the television, shirts were tried to be ripped off opponents backs and at corner kicks there were times when they tried to throttle each other. I have two suggestions to stop this nonsense. Firstly, all shirts could be electrified to give a sharp, painful shock when touched, the power would come from a battery worn at the back of the shorts. The second remedy would be more entertaining, why not have players play naked? They could paint their bodies with the colours of the team they play for, goose grease could then be daubed over their body to stop being firmly grabbed. A cricket box could be used to prevent foul play.

The railway took a large part in the momentum and development of football, without the railways we may not have football being the world's favourite game.

By the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the railway companies were opening a network of lines throughout the British Isles in the big cities and towns. Famous football clubs were being founded which we still know today. No other time in history had travel become so much quicker, teams from big cities could play each other on a Saturday afternoon and could get back home on the same day.

The history of the railways has a dark side to its story. By 1914 armies could be more quickly reinforced with men and ammunition. A sad truth and proof of this is the many military cemeteries in the countryside of France. Football had its first martyrs in the first world war. It is well known one or two British regiments, when they went over the top, kicked a football in front of them into 'No Man's Land'. I believe some of these footballs still exist.

Fred Russell

## **West Oxfordshire District Council responds to government's consultation on planning**

West Oxfordshire District Council has submitted a detailed response to the Government's consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system. Whilst welcoming many aspects of the proposals, the Council has raised significant concerns over certain proposals, particularly those relating accelerated rate of delivery of new homes, without resolving outstanding issues relating to land assembly, developer build-out, and securing funding for essential infrastructure.

Councillor Hugo Ashton, Executive Member for Planning, said:

“Whilst we support many of the proposed changes to the planning system, we do have some significant concerns which we have fed back to government, especially around the rapid proposed increase in the number of new homes to be built.

“Whilst we fully acknowledge the need to deliver new, high-quality homes, particularly social rented housing, this needs to happen in a plan-led, sustainable way with homes coming forward in the right places and with the proper infrastructure to support them.

“We also believe that more needs to be done to get homes built once they are agreed in Local Plans. We are currently reliant on landowners and developers to build the homes we have approved, and in some cases, they are not delivering. We can't do anything about this, and it is leaving us open to speculative, unplanned development that the community often doesn't want.

“We are not the only district in this position, and it needs to change to protect communities, make sure homes are properly planned for and we have the right infrastructure in place.”

### ***Supporting Key Reforms***

The Council welcomes several key reforms proposed in the consultation, including:

- Increased provision of social rented homes.
- Greater emphasis on community-led housing initiatives.
- Improved focus on the use of previously developed land.

Adoption of a vision-led approach to transport planning, a direction already embraced by Oxfordshire County Council in its latest transport strategy.

The council also supports proposals to enhance educational infrastructure and encourage the use of renewable energy.

## ***Concerns About Housing Delivery***

Despite this positive outlook, West Oxfordshire District Council has expressed major reservations about certain housing-related proposals.

Up until recently, rates of housing delivery in West Oxfordshire have been very strong and in line with the local plan, however slow delivery on some larger sites means that looking forward, the council is just falling short of showing it has a 5-year land supply, a requirement to demonstrate that enough new homes will be built over the next five years. This is leading to more and more speculative developments getting approval from the government's Planning Inspectorate, against local wishes. Sites with over 6000 new homes have been approved but construction has not yet started.

Many of the reasons for slow delivery are beyond the control of local planning authorities such as developers not bringing forward planning applications and land ownership difficulties. The council feels that now is an opportunity to change this approach and either provide more powers to bring forward the delivery of homes or change the way a 5-year land supply is judged. The goal of this would be to make sure that any new development is in line with the Local Plan. This would mean infrastructure is better considered and communities have a say on where building takes place.

The council is concerned that the proposed changes will inevitably lead to more speculative planning applications, indeed the consultation itself acknowledges that this is likely to happen.

## ***Urgent Need to Address Climate and Infrastructure Concerns***

West Oxfordshire District Council has also raised concerns that the proposed changes do not adequately address climate and ecological emergencies. The council advocates for stronger national support for Local Nature Recovery Strategies and more ambitious targets for biodiversity net gain.

The council also calls for greater flexibility for local authorities to achieve net-zero carbon in new buildings and urges the government to address the issue of embodied carbon in construction. Furthermore, the council highlights the need for a more robust approach to ensuring that housing development is supported by appropriate infrastructure, particularly in relation to highway and public transport provision, energy supply, and foul water sewage and treatment capacity.

***An opportunity to do more for food security and green industries***

The council also believes that the consultation falls short in addressing important issues such as food security, healthy place-shaping, and support for green industries. As West Oxfordshire continues to tackle the challenges posed by the climate crisis, the Council is keen to see stronger national policies in these areas.

**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](mailto:jmjbugeja@aol.com)

# **REMEMBRANCE**

One hundred and ten years ago some sturdy Ascott lads  
Looked forward to a future; a life of good not bad.  
But in the east a gathering cloud was set to seal their fate.  
Within short years only names survived beside the churchyard gate.  
To foreign shores they all set out to fight in unknown lands.  
But in time none would return to touch their loved ones hands.  
Thirteen lost men. Now they lie amongst the 'glorious dead'.  
Their village mourned their loss, each year their names are read.

Elisha was the first to go, despite his ship Good Hope.  
Off Coronel through enemy fire she sank midst flames and smoke.  
Young Cecil just nineteen faced Britain's dreadful day.  
Killed on the Somme, First of July, a truly awful way.  
Frank from High Street soon followed, in the fighting that ensued.  
His parents left bereft and lost. Where was the son they knew?  
Reggie next, an Ascott man whose name was not forgotten.  
His legacy the Tiddy Hall, his death shocking and sudden.

Fred died far, far away, Mesopotamia's Campaign.  
Today's Iraq. In Baghdad's fields amongst his comrades lain.  
William just 22, his family home Church View,  
Again the Somme, as time passed by, the bloody days renewed.  
Harry just 21, left home, his wife and child.  
Died shortly before Christmas, France's slaughter cruel and wild.  
Ernest killed in action, his mother's pride and joy.  
For all her days she mourned his loss, her precious, precious boy.

Another Frank, just twenty years, in Belgium's long Campaign  
To Passchendaele he fought his way, Tyne Cot records his name.  
Another Will, his ship was lost off Ireland's rocky shore.  
In a snowstorm so severe, more casualties of war.

## Ascott Grapevine

Tommy died of wounds. In Etaples now he rests.  
His wife, an Ascott girl, of life with him bereft.  
John, brother of William, the family in Church View  
After four long years Belgium's Campaign garnered his life too.  
And Denis an Ascott groom. Did he know of his daughter's birth?  
His date of death is lost to time. How great is a father worth.

A few years back. Remembrance Day, silent, still, serene.  
But as the names were read once more, across the churchyard green  
A tiny rustling wind blew up, made hairs stand on my neck.  
Did all those lads peep through the veil, saw Ascott does not forget.

In Remembrance of

Elisha Pratley, Cecil Beck, Frank Thornton, Reginald Tiddy, Fred Smith, William Claridge, Harry Honeybone, Ernest Hanks, Frank Jackson, William Faulkner, Tommy Longshaw, John Claridge and Denis Smith.

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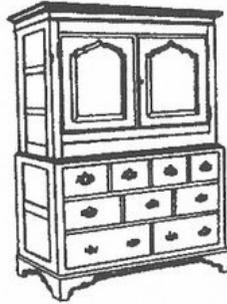
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Don't Forget!

Christmas Eve means



Carols round the Tree

The Green, Ascott. See posters for details.

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# CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH  
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- Get in the holiday spirit!
- Discover local artisan crafts & gifts,
- Enter our gift raffle,
- Have a drink and a piece of cake
- Bring your wish list to Santa Claus!

FOR MORE INFO GO TO  
[www.tiddyhall.com](http://www.tiddyhall.com)

## ***Ascott Village Shop***

Gill Kenny, our former Shop Manager, unexpectedly resigned in September owing to family illness. This came as a shock to everyone. During her time as Manager Gill made an enormous contribution, making up imaginative displays and revising the stock so that some new exciting items replaced ones that were not selling so well. Amid her routine work she always had a friendly welcome to customers and volunteers alike.

We had hoped that by now we would have appointed a successor to Gill, and indeed we had found someone who would have been very good, but she resigned just before she was due to start the job. So we have to begin the search for a new Manager all over again.

In the interim the volunteers have staunchly gone out of their way to give extra help where it was needed. Bridgette Crundwell made a welcome return to train Lawton Holden in the back-office work. The Committee cannot thank them enough.

However, the seasons go remorselessly on. Early in September the volunteers enjoyed their annual *al fresco* lunch (luckily the forecast thunderstorms went elsewhere and the sun shone). Sue Boyer and Sarah Witheridge provided a delicious buffet, and Nicky's shrub roses kindly bloomed as requested. Her thanks in particular to the Tiddy Hall team who supplied glasses, plates and cutlery, and to the stalwarts who lent gazebos, erected them, and transported tables and chairs from the church store: village generosity and kindness at their very best.



In early October we had a visit at very short notice from our new LibDem MP, Charlie Maynard, who spent an afternoon walking round the village and included the Shop on his round. Margaret Ismail was volunteering at the time and was able to give him a complete history of the Shop, how it began and its current needs. He was a brisk, sympathetic listener, and very approachable, but it remains to be

seen whether, as a member of the Opposition, he can achieve anything to ease the plight of community shops through Parliament.

And now the Christmas season is almost here. Remember to fill in the order form enclosed with this *Grapevine* for your Christmas Day bird and trimmings from Patrick Strainge butchers, and look out for the Christmas delights that Gill ordered before she left. The shop will be well stocked. Come and buy!

**Nicky Coldstream**  
**Chairman, Ascott-under-Wychwood Village Shop**

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

*Sun 1<sup>st</sup> December Christmas Fayre 'NOT IN STEAM'*

Annual Christmas Fayre 11.00am to 4.00pm.

Don't miss out, come along and bring the children 'Listen to a story with Santa' get a present, (book a slot from Combe Mill Web Site) Browse the Christmas Market Stalls for a Christmas gift, enjoy a BBQ, Mulled Wine & Chestnuts, Tea Room Open, Raffle with fantastic prizes, Tombola and Gift Shop.. Combemill's blacksmiths will be in the Forge to make pokers, with VIEWING ONLY in the Mill, no machinery operating.

Blacksmiths items on sale, made by our very own blacksmiths, make a very popular gift for Christmas.

Combe Mill a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode. Come along and see the Blacksmiths in the forge you might just be able to make a poker.

Dog on Leads most welcome. FREE ENTRY & CAR PARKING

*Combe Mill cannot be held responsible for attractions that cancel.*



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**Ascott Village Shop has EXTENDED  
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*Heart of the Community*



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# ***HOLY TRINITY CHURCH AND MARRIAGE 2***

Following the article in the last Grapevine many more marriages have taken place at Holy Trinity Church over the past fifty years and photographs of some of them are shown below. Wendy Pearse

Both the daughter and son of Tony and Carol Hawtin of Shipton Road were married at the church.



**Tracey married Stephen Clarke in 1994**



**Alan married Louise Ashton in 1995.**



**Mandy the daughter of Kenny and Marilyn Baker of Shipton Road married Jeff Grove in 1993**



**Darren the son of Pete and Judy Moss of Shipton Road married Janet Chapman in 1996.**



**Susan Moss married Nick Hawtin in 1995. Susan is the cousin of Marilyn Baker and Pete Moss of Shipton Road.**



**Shona married Ron in 2010. Shona is the daughter of Nigel and Anne Braithwaite of Ascott Mill**



**Jessica Smith married Luke Browning in 2020. Jessica is the daughter of Richard and Sue Smith of High Street.**



**Alice married Jamie in 2021. Alice is the daughter of Mark and Sarah Tribe of The Green.**

## Hedgehog House in the Wychwoods

### ***Hedgehog Houses To Let in The Wychwoods!***

You may have noticed this new sign in the churchyard alerting us to the fact that there's a hedgehog house nearby.

Thanks partly to lovable characters like Mrs Tiggywinkle, these iconic little animals have a cute image, but they face very serious problems. Since 2000, their numbers have declined by as much as 75% in rural areas such as the Wychwoods and, rather shockingly, they are now classified as vulnerable to extinction in Britain.

One of the things we can do to help is provide them with a warm and secure place to hibernate, giving them a better chance of surviving the winter. Wild About The Wychwoods (see below) have installed 6 community hedgehog houses across the Wychwood villages (there's another one on the playing field in Ascott), generously sponsored by Ted George, our local estate agent. You can even see the little To Let sign on the house!



Wild About The Wychwoods is a parish council backed initiative, active across all the Wychwood villages, which aims to inspire everybody to do something to help nature on their doorstep.



Stuart Fox with Nicola Hindle of Wild About The Wychwoods

So what can you do to help hedgehogs?

- The number one most important thing is to make sure your gardens are connected by making hedgehog holes in your fences or walls. Hedgehogs need to roam across a very wide area (up to 2km a night!) to get

enough food to survive, particularly with the decline in insects and grubs - their main food. Do check with your neighbours first and keep them away from roads.

- Leave out water and food (hedgehog food or meat based cat food, **not** bread and milk or mealworms). Remember this is supplementary to their natural diet so just a small handful per night.
- You can buy a hedgehog feeding station or a hedgehog house (they won't feed and sleep in the same place) but do make sure it's good quality and suitable for purpose. You could also make one!
- Make a wild area in your garden - big or small, this will provide a refuge for hedgehogs. Plant wildflower seeds too - great for bees and other insects.
- Take care when strimming and mowing in long grass and always check garden bonfires before lighting.
- Please don't poison our hedgehogs by using pesticides in the garden, particularly slug pellets.
- Road fatalities are a big factor in our hedgehog population's decline so do watch out for them at night - they can travel at up to 6mph! Wild About The Wychwoods are organising 6 proper hedgehog road signs, donated by a friendly highways signage contractor, 2 of which will be installed in Ascott soon.
- These are just some very simple things we can all do in our own back gardens to help increase the hedgehog population and ensure our children and grandchildren grow up seeing hedgehogs.



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The

**Library**

**Bulletin**

Wychwood

**Well done to all the children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge! It's been fantastic to see so many children read their six books and proudly receive their certificates and medals.**

**Here's an update of what's going on at Wychwood this Autumn:**

- **WARM WELCOME-** Free tea and coffee is available every afternoon at the library- and on a Saturday morning. Pop along for a hot drink and a catch up!
- **COFFEE MORNING-** Coffee Morning runs on Wednesdays from 10-12 with a suggested donation of £1.50 for tea/coffee and cake.
- **JIGSAW SWAP-** We have a free jigsaw swap. Borrow for as long as you need. Donations welcome.
- **ADULT ACTIVITIES-** We have a wide range of evening Craft activities- advertised on our Facebook page and in the library. We also have two reading groups.
- **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES-** Lego continues to run on Mondays 3.30-4.30. Rhyme-time runs on term-time Wednesdays from 9.30 with Stay and Play on holiday Wednesdays from 10-12. Craft and colouring is available at all times.
- **SUSTAINABLE WYCHWOODS-** Sustainable Wychwoods Action Group now meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 7.30-9pm at the library. Find out more at [www.sustainablewychwoods.org.uk](http://www.sustainablewychwoods.org.uk)
- **FAMILY HISTORY SESSIONS-** Diane Melvin is still offering free hour-long family history sessions- now on Wednesday afternoons from 2-3 and 3-4. Email the library to find out what dates are available.
- **WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY-** We are lucky enough to have a changing exhibition by the Wychwoods Local History Society. Pop in and take a look.
- **DIGITAL HELP-** We can arrange a free digital help session in a local library or in your home. Help is provided with desktops, laptops, tablets and laptops.
- **HOME LIBRARY SERVICE-** If you can't get into the library, we have volunteers who can deliver books of your choice every three weeks.
- **LIBRARY USE-** Community Groups are welcome to use the library for free during closed hours.

**For more information, please email [wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wychwood.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk), call 01993 830281 or drop in during opening hours. We're open Monday 2-7, Wednesday 9.30-1/2-5, Friday 2-7 and Saturday 9.30-1. Our Facebook page is Wychwood Library.**

# **BUTTERFLIES AND BUMBLEBEES**

## **A TALE OF DESTRUCTION.**

The time has come, this old man says, to think of other things. Of express lorries, aeroplanes, of wind turbines and trains.

### ***What has happened to all the butterflies we ask?***

The adverse weather is the main problem; wet and cold when we need it warm and dry. Early this springtime we had high numbers of large bumblebees but they were all gone within ten days. Probably their food source was ready at the wrong time for them.

The farmers too of course! They use pesticide sprays don't they? So those are the answers then.

### ***Or are they?***

We moved up to Honeydale Farm in 1952 and we took our milk churns up to the A361 every morning for collection. We often said 'Good morning.' to a middle aged man cycling to work. He lived in Lyneham and worked for a wood working company situated about 100 metres beyond the bridge over the railway in Ship-ton. One day he was unhappy. 'The farmers have been spraying the bees,' he said 'There's dead un's there all up the side of the road. Have you sin um? Dozens of um.'

Also in the 1950's windscreen washers were not so efficient as today and after several hours driving in the spring, it was necessary to scrub the windscreen to remove a layer of gum and insect fragments. With all due respect to our old friend with the aching, cycling knees I chose to think that the dead bumblebees fell to the side of the road after being hit by a road vehicle.

This was happening 70 years ago. In 1950 there were no more than ten cars owned by the people of Ascott. Now the village, like many others, is on the way to resembling a car park. The overall numbers of road vehicles must have increased at a similar percentage countrywide; all about twice the size and going at twice the speed. Fortunately better design means road vehicles are more streamlined and aerodynamic so that insects are thrown aside instead of being hit by a near vertical windscreen but this still leaves the number plate and fenders etc. of every vehicle, taking its toll of flying insects.

A question! How does the butterfly cross the motorway?

## ***Answer. It doesn't.***

A typical goods transporter is a long vehicle with high sides or six axles and weighs about 43 tonnes and waits for no butterfly. On a motorway with three busy lanes of traffic travelling in both directions there is no chance. This is only the tip of the iceberg. Each lorry creates a wind storm as a large bank of dense air is pushed along in front. This air is squeezed off over the top and round the sides in swirling air currents and the vehicle drags a large vacuum behind it which sucks along more swirling currents. With large volumes of air moving with the traffic at 70 mph in opposing directions there must be a Himalayan type event where the currents collide with an up thrust of air at speeds in excess of hurricane force. This would create a large atmospheric envelope full of high speed cross currents, cyclones and vortexes. For any winged insect swept up into this maelstrom it would definitely be the end.

A busy railway would be a similar danger to flying insects but on a smaller scale.

Wind farms are less drastic but a butterfly would have to take care when crossing a large one on a breezy day. The tip of every arm on every revolving turbine slices through the atmosphere at faster than 100 mph like a giant insect slicer.

I believe that every busy road and motorway is continuously reaping a broad track through our curtain of flying insects as effectively as a large combine clearing a crop from a cornfield. The worst part is that there is no cure and this situation will return each year with the flying insects in their season.

Regarding the butterfly's problems I have heard no comments on this aspect of the situation from the knowledgeable naturalists or expert lepidopterists. I wonder if anyone has calculated how high a butterfly would have to climb in order to safely cross a motorway.

Perhaps I have it all wrong!

**Jim Pearse**



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# County Councillor Notes

I write this following the Chancellor's budget statement on October 31<sup>st</sup>. What will this mean for us in Oxfordshire? It isn't entirely clear at the moment and we will not know for certain what the effect will be on council services but there was some good news.

The extra £500 million for potholes is welcome (though it won't go very far, unfortunately, as we need an extra £45 million a year to properly manage our roads in Oxfordshire alone), and the news that the government is investing in East West Rail is also very encouraging. But we have no news on what might be available to support our North Cotswold Line and I am still lobbying, along with councillors from along the line, to get the investment that we need to make this a frequent and reliable service. An event was held by the North Cotswold Line Task Force on September 4<sup>th</sup> to show the business case to our new MPs. The MPs along the line are setting up an all-party group to lobby for improvements to the line in support of NCLTF.

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 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. However, we are not yet sure how long this work will take and anticipate that the filters will probably not be introduced until this time next year.

Work is also progressing on the Windrush HGV study – this is one of two studies, the other being in the Henley area, and covers the Wychwood villages. 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.

Oxfordshire takes great pride in being a leader in tackling the climate emergency and looking after our environment, and during the past year the county was named twice as the best county for tackling the climate emergency, by Climate Emergency UK, and through the Carbon Disclosure Project framework.

Across Oxfordshire, we have 112 Community Action Groups (CAGs), whose mission is working across Oxfordshire to make our county a safer, fairer, greener, more sustainable place to live, work and visit. I am particularly pleased that OCC and the CAGs recently won a national award in the partnership category at the 2024 Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee awards. Our partnership with local action groups has been going strong for over 20 years, and in 2023/24 diverted around 2,000 tonnes of material from being thrown away in landfill.

All councils that have responsibility for social care have been under a lot of pressure recently as demand has increased in both adult's and children's services. In our children's service area, a new Improvement Board for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has been set up and we now have a Cabinet member for SEND improvement. This follows a poor report from Ofsted back in October 2023, but we have recently been told in a letter from the department for Education that the work we are doing to improve services is on track. The recent Ofsted inspection of our services for looked after children gave us Good across the board.

I wish everyone in Ascott a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Liz Leffman**

**Councillor Liz Leffman, Charlbury and Wychwood**

## ***Wedding***

**Emily Moxom & James Thayrer**



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**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December - 9am** *Breakfast with Santa. Come and say hello to Santa and join us for a magical morning the whole family will enjoy.*

**Sunday 22nd December 8pm (After dinner)** – *Annual Christmas Quiz with lots of different topics and mystery rounds that will really put your general knowledge to the test. The top prize is a £100 bar tab! **£3 pp** proceeds go to the Holy Trinity Church. Maximum teams of 6, register your team in advance to guarantee a table.*

**Christmas Day Lunch** – *Escape the hustle and bustle of Christmas at home, we're pulling out all the stops to make sure Christmas day 2024 is one to remember. **£150 pp** (Children under 12 **£75**, children in highchairs free).*

**New Years Eve, Black & White Swan Ball** – *Ring in the New Year with us, an evening full of fabulous food, fun and celebrations. Dinner & DJ in the Nest. **£85***

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

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

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

# Ascott Grapevine



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

**Timetable valid from 03 April 2023**

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

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

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

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



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# Cost of Living Crisis



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

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

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

## ***This is where we can help***

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the Charity Trustees – THANK YOU!

John Cull

*The Village Charity*

Registered Number: 1099078

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

# Wild Oxfordshire

## January News – Hedgerow Highways

Hedges are a vital part of our local nature, providing shelter and resources for many species of mammals, insects, and birds (from hibernating hedgehogs to the smallest of beetles). They're crucial wildlife corridors that allow safe travel between isolated habitats.



**Hedgerow in Milton-under Wychwood July**

The benefits that hedgerows provide for biodiversity are endless. In a heavily fragmented landscape, hedgerows link up valuable habitats for wildlife such as woodland, grassland and ponds. This connects populations that would otherwise be isolated and vulnerable and allows relocation to better habitat. Over 100 priority species utilise hedgerows for a variety of reasons such as for shelter, food, or navigation. Birds and small mammals nest in hedges, bats use hedgerows as foraging grounds and navigational markers, and reptiles hide in the long tussocky margins associated with hedgerows.

November through to March is the best time of year to plant new hedges. The first step is to acquire your roots. In Oxfordshire we recommend planting Blackthorn, Spindle, Buckthorn, Guelder Rose,

Hawthorn, Wild Privet, Cherry Plum, or Hazel. Plant 4 or 5 plants per metre, about 25cm apart using the slit planting method, ensuring all fibrous roots are completely buried in the soil. To see a detailed tutorial of this planting method, head to our website where you can watch a demonstration from expert Nigel Adams.

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/hedgerows-guidance>

Aftercare for hedgerows is crucial. Keep weeds and grass away from the hedge plants for the first 2-3 years to give them plenty of space to absorb moisture and light. Thoroughly water the plants during dry spells. Compost can be very helpful to maintain vigour due to the competition for nutrients between such closely situated plants. Try to trim your hedge annually in the first three to five years to encourage bushy growth. Once your hedgerow is fully established (approximately 5 years) you can trim every year or every two or three years but make sure you don't trim your hedge to the same place every cut. More detailed aftercare information is also available on our website. Good luck with your new hedges!



**Laid hedge in Dorchester Oxfordshire**

## New Year – New Nature!

Why not make some **green themed resolutions** this new year! Perhaps yours is to cultivate new hedge life. Maybe you're going to reduce your meat intake, find eco-friendly cleaning products, or make your garden more wildlife friendly using native plants. There are endless ways to make a difference!

Why not sign up to our monthly email Bulletin, visit our website, and follow us on social media for the latest nature news and ways you can join others in helping nature in Oxfordshire

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news>

*Jess Bower – Wild Oxfordshire Hedgerows & Partnerships Officer*

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk>



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# ***The Tiddy Hall***

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Two steps forward and one step back....

The capital projects that I talked about in my previous article for Grapevine have been successfully completed!

The solar panels and battery were installed in August as planned. At the same time, the old sodium and fluorescent lights were replaced with energy efficient LED units. In combination, these two projects will improve our energy efficiency and reduce our running costs significantly. Early indications are that we are running at around 70% self-sufficiency though this will reduce somewhat as we move further into winter when the daylight hours will shrink and the consumption will increase. One slight irritation is that we are not yet getting paid for the energy which we return to the grid. This will be even more of an issue in the summer months when production is higher and consumption is lower. The reason for this is that our current energy supplier, Corona Energy, is not licensed under the Smart Export Guarantee Scheme (which succeeded the previous 'Feed in Tariff'). We will be moving to a new supplier at the earliest opportunity and will then start the lengthy process of applying to join the scheme. The cost of these projects was largely covered by a grant from The National Lottery.

The flooding problem has also be resolved. We managed to obtain a grant from Oxfordshire County Council under their flood relief fund which covered the cost in full. It is no longer necessary for hirers to wear Wellington boots to access the hall whenever it rains!

Having completed these projects, which were essential to ensure the continued viability of Tiddy Hall, we were looking forward to a period of stability with just 'business as usual' to focus on. Sadly, our optimism was misplaced when we discovered on 30 September that the underfloor heating would not work. An urgent visit from our electrical contractors confirmed that, at 30 years old, the heating system had reached the end of its working life. We had planned to investigate possible alternative heating solutions next summer but recognised that we had to act immediately in order for Tiddy Hall to remain open during the winter months. We immediately contacted several heating suppliers and obtained competitive quotes. We have now selected a supplier and are working with them to get the new system installed as soon as possible. In the meantime, we still have the overhead heaters which are very expensive to run but are actually quite effective at heating the hall.

## Ascott Grapevine

Given time, we would have preferred to have applied for a grant to cover the cost of the new heating system, but experience has taught us that the application process takes several months with no certainty of success and we did not feel that we could take the risk of Tiddy Hall being unusable during the winter. We have, therefore, committed to paying for the new heating system from our cash reserves. This will leave us in a somewhat precarious financial position so further fundraising events will need to be scheduled to help rebuild our reserves. As always, the success of these events is dependent on the active support of the village residents. We will, at the same time, explore the availability of grants to cover some of the cost but many will not approve applications retrospectively so our options will be limited.

Despite the exceptional challenges faced in recent months, Tiddy Hall has continued to host successful events. The regular folk nights continue to be well-supported, with people coming from far and wide to attend these hugely enjoyable events. We also added a jazz night to the roster recently, which was also well attended.

In September we hosted a Music Festival organised by Bob Chilcott and Simon Gidman. This was another great success with tickets selling out well in advance of the event itself.

Despite the heating problem, Tiddy Hall recently hosted a very enjoyable Line Dancing night and a Race Night. The latter was a fundraiser for the fishing club organised by Pete Moss and his fellow committee members, supported by volunteers who prepared and served an excellent dinner.

We have a number of fundraising events planned for the coming months. These include a Christmas Craft Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Other events planned but not yet scheduled include a dinner dance featuring Three Piece Sweet and, if possible, The Wychcraft Rock and Pop Choir. This is likely to take place in January 2025, subject to availability. We are also considering running our own Race Night, with help and guidance from Pete Moss. This is likely to be in Spring 2025.

We are still looking for additional trustees to join the management committee, particularly a new treasurer. So far, we have had one volunteer to join the management committee but no-one to take on the treasurer's role. If anyone would like to support Tiddy Hall, a longstanding village resource dating back to 1912, by becoming a trustee please get in touch. The continued operation of Tiddy Hall is dependent on there being sufficient willing volunteers to run the facility and to organise fundraising events.

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**

# ***Parish Council News Winter 2024***

## ***Road Flooding***

Once again, we have had to deal with heavy rain and the inevitable closure of roads into and out of Ascott. I would like to thank drivers for their patience and for being sensible. We have ordered some new Road Closed signs to make sure we can more easily cover off all the hot (or rather wet) spots. Please remember that we only put these out when we believe the roads are not passable by the majority of vehicles, which unfortunately all too often happens when a vehicle is stuck and blocking the way, and they are no substitute for common sense.

It is also the season of falling leaves, and that means gutters and drains getting blocked. We also have a lot of vegetation growing in the cracks between paving and edging stones around the village, which in time can cause a lot of damage, so if you can clear just a small area outside your home it all helps. As a village our resilience is in our own hands and we are quite good at that: so if you see something that needs clearing, please don't wait for someone else to do it.

## ***Playing Fields***

I have been asked to remind everyone that dogs are not allowed on the playing fields.

There are good reasons for this, especially in an area where children are playing and cricketers do not want their whites and their flesh to end up covered in poo. This applies to everyone. We are fortunate to live amongst beautiful countryside and do not lack for green space in which we can safely exercise our waggy-tailed friends.

## ***Fireworks***

On a similar subject, as I write this in October a number of places are now advertising silent firework events for Bonfire Night. These are of course far more family and pet friendly. If you are planning on including fireworks in a celebration, please think about that and let friends, neighbours and local stables know. Ascott has a page on Facebook for just this type of news, so it only takes a moment and can save a lot of trouble.

## ***Railway Garden***

The railway garden has been given its winter trim and Network Rail have now agreed to let us install some compost boxes (and you would not believe the bureaucracy involved!). Dealing with all the stuff we have to cut back and down is

always the biggest challenge which is why there are occasional piles of greenery left behind, and we look forward to being able to usefully compost much of it for next year.

## ***Village Fete***

Last Grapevine I asked for volunteers to help with the planning and overall running of the village fete next year. Sadly, nobody has come forward and so we have no option but to take the decision to postpone and try again next year.

## ***Wild about the Wychwoods***

This month we were treated to an excellent talk by Ian Wilkinson, the inspirational owner of FarmED. In this he contrasted the need for agriculture to support the population with the loss of wildflower meadows and the accompanying loss of biodiversity.

One way to mitigate this, is for us all do to more to encourage wildflowers: in verges, shared spaces and in our gardens. As I reported earlier, this year we have tried to make the less visible part of the railway garden into a ‘curated wild area’ – which still means lots of work pulling out bind weed and keeping brambles and thistles under control – but which rewarded us with a spectacular if short lived display. If you have an area of garden or a verge outside your house that you can adopt and plant up, please contact us.

The first of the hedgehog homes have now been installed and hopefully will soon be playing host to our prickly friends. Look out for hedgehog crossing signs that will be appearing in the village, courtesy of some kind donations.

The next talk will be about stargazing! We all value and need to protect our dark skies, and this promises to be another absorbing evening. See noticeboards and Facebook for more details.

## ***Remembering***

This month I was privileged to be part of a group touring D-Day sites for the eightieth anniversary year, singing at a number of memorials and culminating in a concert of remembrance and wreath laying at the local Abbey of Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte. It was a poignant and powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by all, both soldiers and civilians, during the Normandy landings and in the months following.

Our own village Remembrance Service will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November, and I hope to see many of you there. As always please see the village noticeboards for details on this and other Parish events.

## ***Carols on the Green***

Weather permitting there will be Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve. Everyone is welcome to sing along.

Brian Leach

Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council

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

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

The 2024 season ended with our Saturday XI finishing a slightly disappointing 8th out of the 10 teams in Cherwell League Division 7B. Sadly we lost form in the final third of the season, although this was partly due to a couple of controversial defeats where opposition sides used players against us of dubious eligibility. We face an anxious wait until December for confirmation that we've retained our place in tier 7.

At the end of August, 18 members of the club travelled down to Devon for our summer tour. Our oldest player was 64, the youngest 14 and as ever it was terrific fun. In the first fixture we played some sensational cricket to beat Ottery St Mary by just 4 runs. Mark Read scored a crucial 54 runs, including 3x big 6s out of the ground and into the neighbouring caravan park! Rowan Moss then shone with the ball, taking 5 Ottery wickets for 14 runs in an exciting climax. A team meal at an Indian Restaurant followed.

The next day we were equally brilliant at Honiton CC! Ascott set 168 and despite a serious shin injury to young Josh Beasant, we held Honiton to 164/9 with Rahul Raj SR taking a spectacular 6 wickets for 13 runs! All six victims were clean bowled, the stumps 'cart-wheeling' several times.

After a late night socialising in Honiton, several members of the squad were a bit jaded for the final match at Tipton St John on the Tuesday. Some fabulous Gin & Lemon Drizzle cake served by the home team at tea, greedily consumed by us, maybe didn't help. This led to a 'disappointing' fielding performance that saw several dropped catches and misfields, as Tipton ran out winners by 8 wickets. But 2 wins from 3 was a good outcome and the tour, our 4th year on the trot, was a huge success.

In mid-November we are holding our end-of-season awards night, with hot food and a general knowledge quiz, to conclude our 2024 season.

## Ascott Grapevine

We will likely hold our AGM in January to elect captains and officers for the 2025 season. Indoor Winter nets are likely to start at the end of February, do get in touch if you are interested in joining the club and taking part.

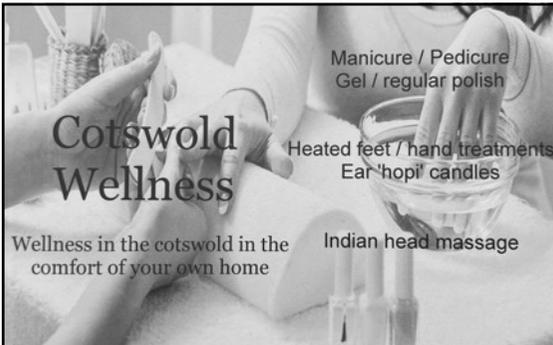
**Stewart Moss, secretary.**

**07866 278685**

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

**Instagram: [ascott\\_u\\_wychwood\\_cricket](#)**

**Facebook: Ascott UnderWychwood Cricket Club**



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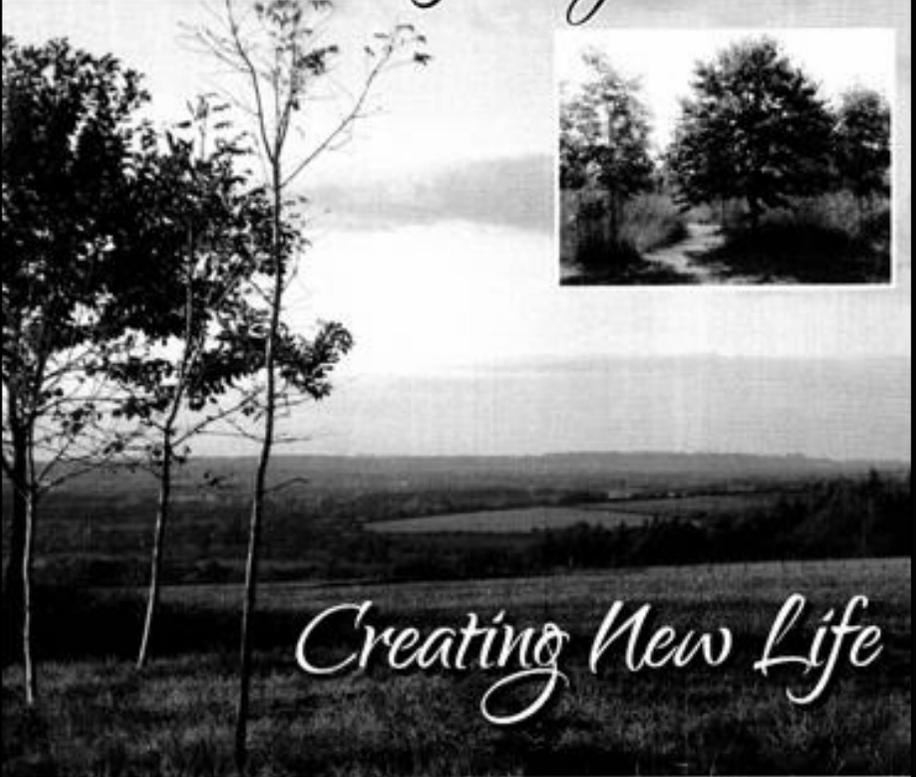


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Helen Pearson by phone on 01993 878387,  
by e-mail at [helenpearson@fairspearbg@gmail.com](mailto:helenpearson@fairspearbg@gmail.com)  
or visit our website at [www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk)



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

## WYCHWOOD FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



**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.

**Sat 11th Jan. Simply Dylan**

**Tiddy Hall**

**Tickets £15.00 in advance £18.00 on the door**

Simply Dylan is as straightforward as the title suggests: no frills, no gimmicks and no pretence. Led by front man John O'Connell, the band delivers a tribute to Bob Dylan celebrating the rich and diverse work of the award-winning artist.

It is their interpretations, precise playing and high energy renditions of some of Dylan's back catalogue that has caught the attention of many Bobcats.

**Sat 25th Jan. Paul McClure**

**Bruern Farms Café**

**Tickets £12.00 in advance £15.00 on the door**

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

**Sat 8th Feb. Gordon Giltrap + support from Katie Grace Harris**

**Tiddy Hall**

**Tickets £20.00 in advance £23.00 on the door**

Awarded an MBE in the 2019 New Year's Honour List for services to Music and Charity, legendary British Guitarist Gordon Giltrap will be performing a select series of shows across the UK.

Over five decades, Gordon Giltrap has graced the music business with his dedication to his craft and his affection for his audience. As one of the UK's most respected guitarists, he has consistently proved the adage that respect cannot be bought. It must be earned. Expect to hear classics such as Heartsong and Lucifer's Cage alongside new material from his latest album 'Scattered Chapters'.

**All events start at 7.30pm**

**Doors 6.45pm**

**SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - [www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com)**

**Or call on 01993831427 / 07870563299 - E-mail: [wychwoodfolkclub@outlook.com](mailto:wychwoodfolkclub@outlook.com)**

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**01993 830302 email: [info@alfredgroves.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:john@greenascott.co.uk)

#### **Trustees**

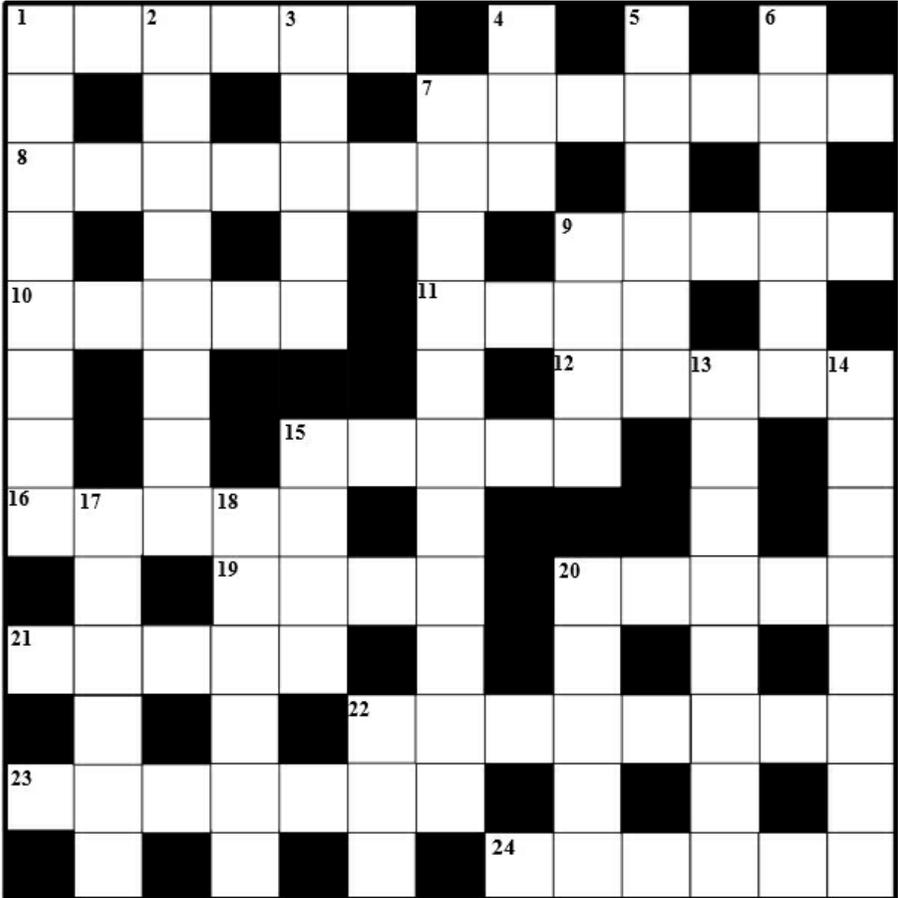
Elaine Byles [elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk) Keith Ravenhill [keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net](mailto:keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net)

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

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

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

# Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Vale (6)
- 7 Enunciation (7)
- 8 Undo Clothing (8)
- 9 Upper room (5)
- 10 Dog-like animal (5)
- 11 Cab (4)
- 12 Freezing (5)
- 15 Pseudonym (5)
- 16 Broil (5)
- 19 Seaweed (4)
- 20 Adhere (5)
- 21 Excitable (5)
- 22 Greenhouse (8)
- 23 Collapse (7)
- 24 — *Spirit* (Noel Coward) (6)

**Down**

- 1 Testifying (8)
- 2 Opera texts (8)
- 3 Supplementary (5)
- 4 Succeed (3)
- 5 Unmoving (6)
- 6 Balm (6)
- 7 Dogmatic (11)
- 9 Straight line (4)
- 13 About to happen (8)
- 14 Carved spout (8)
- 15 Friend (4)
- 17 Rushes (anag.) (6)
- 18 Prodigal (6)
- 20 Waterway (5)
- 22 Unusual (3)

**Solutions to  
Crossword in  
Edition 123**

**Across**

- 1 Plain
- 3 Nasar
- 7 Pikestaff
- 9 Nous
- 10 Tale
- 11 Onion
- 13 Oblong
- 14 Niece
- 15 Acrid
- 17 Setter
- 20 Tiber
- 21 Sean
- 23 Easy
- 24 Rembrandt
- 25 Ranker
- 26 Tense

**Down**

- 1 Pronto
- 2 Iris
- 3 Notion
- 4 Soft
- 5 Roger
- 6 Being
- 7 Public bar
- 8 Fancy that
- 11 On dit
- 12 Nicer
- 16 Dibber
- 17 Sedan
- 18 Royale
- 19 Aster
- 22 Neck
- 23 Edge

# ***Local Business Directory***

**ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS** 01993830687 07989497253  
www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk Page 10

**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 29

**COTSWOLD WELLNESS** 07525 411 658  
fingersandtoes244@gmail.com www.fingersandtoes.info Page 44

**COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006  
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 38

**ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS** 01608 684607  
www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 37

**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 Page 46

**GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425  
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**THE HAIR SALON AT THE PADDOCKS** Ladies' and  
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Alison 07980645995; Joy 07867585053 Page 44

**IVY'S FLORIST** 01993830268 Page 27  
Instagram@Ivy's Florist

**JENNA SAUNDERS** 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com Page 37

**JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS** 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020  
info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com Page 11

**PUDDLE DUCKS** Scan the QR or phone 01666 577377 Page 47

**ROOFIX** 08009555063 07817792194 Page 24

**ROBERT GRIPPER** 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com Page 11

**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 17

# Events Calendar - 2024/25

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Tree light switch on and carols	The Swan
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
	10.00am	Christmas Market	Tiddy Hall
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Christmas wreath making workshop	The Swan
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Jackie Oates & John Spiers Xmas Show	Tiddy Hall
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Christmas wreath making workshop	The Swan
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Breakfast with Santa	The Swan
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Holy Trinity Church
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00pm	annual Christmas Quiz	The Swan
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Carols on the Green	The Green
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	TBC	New Years Eve, Black & White Swan Ball	The Swan
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Simply Dylan	Tiddy Hall
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Gordon Giltrap	Tiddy Hall
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Megson	Tiddy Hall
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Bob Fox	Tiddy Hall

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