

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 May 2025.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 832004 or email: stuart.john.fox@gmail.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

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Front Cover by Wendy Pearse

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Services at the Chase Benefice 2025

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.

From the Rector

Dear Friends

Two conversations have stuck with me recently.

The first was with someone who said they just couldn't wish people a Happy New Year. "There are so many awful things happening in the world," they said. And I get it. But I found myself saying, "We don't hear enough about the good things." (That's the vicar in me speaking!)

The second happened on a dog walk. I went out one afternoon, not because I wanted to, but because I felt I ought to. I was trudging along, not particularly enjoying myself, when I bumped into a neighbour. We had a lovely little chat, and as we parted, she said, "Enjoy your walk!" I realised I hadn't even considered enjoying it. So, I decided to take notice of what was around me. It was four o'clock, and the first thing that struck me was that it was still light. And just like that, my walk felt different. It was beautiful.

With February stretching our days, I want to remind myself—and you—to look around and greet the blessings of the light.

For me, there's the delight of abandoning the New Year's diet in favour of Seville oranges. Marmalade season—yes, please! There's the sound of robins singing boldly in the cold and the first brave snowdrops pushing through the frost. There's the return of a little more vitamin D—maybe even fewer colds? And the simple joy of washing drying on the line again!

It's so easy to take these things for granted, but they matter. Light has always symbolised hope, goodness, and renewal. And that got me thinking about other things.

We hear so much about the struggles of the NHS, but what about its daily miracles? The babies born safely, the operations that go well, the broken bones that get mended, the medicines our grandparents could never have imagined? What about our politicians? They may not always get things right, but most of them genuinely want to serve.

And then there's the Church. I won't pretend that the recent failings of those in authority haven't caused deep shame and anger—I feel it too. The national Church, like any human institution, is flawed. But at the grassroots, in parishes like ours, it remains a place of welcome, where people care for one another and gather in the hope of seeking what is good. That, at its heart, is what the Church is meant to be.

This time of year, the Church celebrates Candlemas, when we remember Simeon and Anna recognising Jesus as the Light of the World. It's a festival of hope, of seeing light even in the depths of winter, and trusting that brighter days are coming.

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The light is always there, even when we forget to look for it. So let's open our eyes to the good around us, however small, and let it lift our hearts.

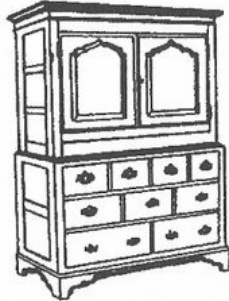
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towards reducing climate change.**

Heart of the Community

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Every year this event seems to become increasingly popular with a large proportion of the village attending. We were blessed with fine weather this year despite December being generally wet.

Thanks to the Parish Council for organising this annual event and the excellent brass band that kept our singing in tune.

The collection raised £338.27 and this was divided equally between Holy Trinity Church and the Ascott Grape Vine.





The Ascott Grapevine – a look back

Anne Braithwaite started The Grape Vine in January 1994 as a replacement for the Chipping Norton Deanery magazine. The first issue was fifteen pages and included contributions from many village organisations, some of which no longer exist. The current issue usually contains sixty pages. The following were regular contributors.

The Women's Institute was active, meeting at the Tiddy Hall on the third Monday of each month. They had eighteen members; the organisers were Monica Badger and Kathy Pearce. On 21st January 2002, after 70 years, the W.I. in Ascott decided to close following a fall in membership.

A Wychwood Handicraft Society was meeting in Milton Village Hall with speakers demonstrating a wide variety of crafts.

For members over 50 years of age, the Acorn Club met at the Tiddy Hall every two weeks. Lunches, events, speakers and outings were available for the members.

Ascott Young Farmers, described in the magazine as a group of young people out to have an enjoyable time, met every Tuesday in the upstairs room at the Swan. They did arrange talks and charity fundraising activities joining other Young Farmers Clubs to take part in regional and National events.

We had a village police officer, Bob Salmon, who lived on Shipton Road on the outskirts of the village. In the first issue of the magazine, the main topic of his article was dog fouling, something that has caused problems in more recent times. In later issues, Bob's contributions were headed 'A Lighter Shade of Blue' where he recounted amusing stories about life in the police service.

There were regular reports from Coldstone Angling written by Pete Moss. Thirty years later Pete is still writing about the Angling Club. According to the magazine Pete formed the club in July 1971, which is 53 years ago.

Other regular contributions that are still included include the Parish Council, the Playgroup and the Tiddy Hall. We have lost contributions for Leafield C of E Primary School, although I do not know how many children from Ascott still attend.

Sport was well represented with items from the Cricket Club, Ascott United Football Club, and the occasional mention of the Badminton club.

The Ascott tapestry that now hangs in the church was being made by a group of villagers. In January it was reported that thirty tapestry squares had been produced, illustrating different aspects of village life, and a meeting was arranged to

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decide how many more squares were required. The final tapestry was to be assembled in March/April 1995, ready for hanging in the archway leading to the tower. The tapestry was finally installed and consecrated in September.

In 1994 the Rev. Timothy Thornton was our vicar with responsibility for Ascott, Spelsbury and Chadlington. Today, in addition, the Rev Mark Abrey also looks after Enstone. In 1994 there were two 10.30 am and two 8.15 am communion services monthly, plus a matins (morning service) at once each month and an occasional family service at 4 pm. Today Ascott has one 10.00 am and one 8.00 am service each month. In May 1994, the magazine told of Timothy Thornton's fall from the roof of Spelsbury Church, hurting his leg and confining him to a wheelchair until June or July.

By the end of the first year's production of the magazine, a decision had to be taken whether or not to continue. It all came down to the costs of production and how it could be funded. Each quarterly issue cost £50-£60 to produce, today each issue of the magazine costs £400 and funding is still a regular consideration. In 1994 Advertising space was being offered for £40 for a half page to be included in three issues. Today the same size advert in four issues costs £37.50. making it excellent value for money.

The Grape Vine still continues today and we are about to publish issue number 125. If you would like to contribute an article, write a letter about something in the village that concerns you or feel able to produce articles about gardening or provide us with your favourite recipes please contact us. We will value your contributions.

Stuart Fox



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Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

New E. H. Shepard exhibition to open at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, including original Winnie-the-Pooh illustrations

From 18th January to 31st August 2025, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock will host a brand-new exhibition of artwork by E. H. Shepard, best known as the original illustrator for A. A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* and the 1931 edition of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*.

The collection of Shepard's work, including some of his beloved children's illustrations alongside a wealth of his Great War sketches and comic art, come to the museum on loan from the University of Surrey Archives and The Shepard Trust - on show for the first time in Oxfordshire.

By the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Ernest H. Shepard had already become a regular contributor to the popular *Punch* magazine, often drawing cartoons about the war for them among other publications. By 1915 Shepard had enlisted, going on to serve as an officer in the Royal Garrison Artillery, first in France's Western Front, and later Italy. From the start of his officer training in 1915, he began to document the war as he saw it, in pencil sketches, pen and ink drawings, and even watercolours. These ranged from humorous caricatures to detailed studies, capturing life in the trenches with his own unique style.

Alongside examples of his art, the exhibition will include some of Shepard's kit from his war service, such as his Royal Garrison Artillery officer's forage cap and identification tags.

Post-war, it was through his regular work for *Punch* that he would be commissioned to illustrate poems by A. A. Milne first published in the magazine, then for the collection *When We Were Very Young*. These were the first appearances of the bear that would become Winnie-the-Pooh. Shepard would develop a close working relationship with Milne, and illustrate *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *When We Were Six* and *The House at Pooh Corner*. The series was so popular that they would never fall out of print, and today can be found translated into over 50 languages.

Alongside Shepard's war work and famous children's illustrations, his drawings beyond the bear will also feature in the exhibition. He continued his regular work for *Punch* magazine into the 1950s, as their leading weekly political cartoonist for twenty years, and produced cartoons covering the rise of Hitler and the Nazis in Germany, appeasement, the Second World War itself, through to the Labour government that followed and the radical changes they brought with them.

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E. H. Shepard's later work featured in the exhibition will include original sketches for children's books *Betsy and Joe* (1966), which he wrote as well as illustrated, and the Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*

In later life, E. H. Shepard donated the collections of his work he still possessed to a number of museums and archives, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, the National Army Museum, and to Guildford's University of Surrey, the home of the collection going on display at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum.

Supporting the exhibition itself, the museum will be running a full programme of family events and activities, including a new Winnie-the-Pooh themed visitor trail 'Up in the Air' challenging younger visitors to find items lost around the museum by residents of Hundred Acre Wood. The museum's Under 5s play area has been given a Winnie-the-Pooh-style makeover, so kids get the chance to sit and play with the beloved bear and his friends.

Other family activities, including regular tea parties and craft workshops, such as kite and puppet making, will take place throughout the Half Term, Easter and Summer Holidays. Full dates and details will be made available on the museum's website.

For grown-up visitors, author of *Shepard's War* and the upcoming *Art of Winnie-the-Pooh*, Chairman of The Shepard Trust James Campbell will give a series of talk on the life of E. H. Shepard and his art. Dates for these talks will be also announced in the near future.

The museum looks forward to welcoming visitors to the new exhibition from 18th January to 31st August 2025.



Pen and ink illustration depicting a British officer reading a letter to a soldier with a bandaged head. Published in 'London Opinion and Today' magazine on 22 May 1915.

© The Shepard Trust, 1915, from The Shepard Trust Archive, University of Surrey.

COMBE MILL, BLENHEIM PALACE SAWMILLS, COMBE, OXON, OX29 8ET

Our First 'IN STEAM EVENT' at Combe Mill is on 16th March 2025 Themed 'STEM' 'Change & Adapt'

16th March 2025, enjoy our 'In Steam' Themed event 'STEM' - Change & Adapt ' browse Gift Shop, Tombola, and Tea Room also open. Accompanied by *Spring Market Stalls*.

21st April 2024 'In Steam' Themed event '*Military Vehicles*'. All types of Military Vehicles and Home Guard display will be invited, come along and enjoy the day. Gift Shop, Tombola, and Tea Room also open. Accompanied by Market Stalls.

19th May. 2024 'In Steam' Themed event '*Classic Wheels*' Cars Clubs will be invited , come along, bring the family and enjoy the day. Gift Shop, Tombola, and Tea Room also open. Accompanied by Market Stalls.

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A Snapshot of Wychwood Library!

More than books!

Good quality provision of books is still, of course, fundamental to all libraries. Wychwood is no exception. However, we also offer many other services including free family history and IT support, free tea and coffee all year round (in the afternoons) and events! Adults can enjoy wellbeing, environmental, craft and reading group sessions while children can enjoy rhyme-time, lego and crafts. Wychwood Library is for our community- whether they read e-books, e-audiobooks, print books or e-magazines, use our computers and printers or engage with the library through our activities and events.

When's our busiest time?

Our busiest times of the week are always during Lego Club on a Monday (3.30-4.30) and Rhyme-time on a Wednesday (9.30-10). Parents and children to catch up over an activity and a cup of tea, as well as using the session to change library books! On a Monday and a Friday, immediately after opening at 2.00, we often have quite a flurry of keen adult readers, eager to collect reservation and have a fresh selection of books for the week or weekend ahead. The busiest time of the year is during the Summer Reading Challenge, especially after the launch assembly at Wychwood Primary School. We often have queues of keen readers eager to read their six books to earn their medal- as well as new joiners, borrowing books for the first time!

Who uses the library?

Babies, toddlers, primary age children are regular visitors to the library- enjoying the books, the crafts, the colouring and the Lego alongside their carers! We do have keen readers of secondary school age as well as our committed Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers, who spend an hour a week helping in the library. However, we would love to have more young people in the library; perhaps in the holidays when they have more time to read for pleasure! Reservations are free right up to 18, so they can order whatever we'd like; they can even take charge of their own account through the website or the mobile app. Inevitably, we have more adults of retirement age as it can be challenging to find time to read while working, especially if that's combined with raising a family!

Which authors are the most popular?

For a peace-loving community, our borrowers really enjoy a hefty dose of crime! Popular crime writers include Anne Cleeves, Robert Galbraith, Peter May and Ri-

chard Osman. The younger children still absolutely adore Julia Donaldson, while the older ones particularly enjoy graphic novels like Bunny vs Monkey by Jamie Smart or Dav Pilkey's Dog Man. In non-fiction, cookery and craft always fare well for adults, while any books about Lego are exceptionally popular amongst the children!

Who volunteers and how do they help?

We have a wide range of volunteers in the library. We have stock helpers who give up 3 hours a month to help shelve and search for books, pack up books for our deliveries and support customers in using the library, especially the self-service. We have home library service volunteers who visit customers who can't get to the library; they select books with the customer's help and then deliver them free of charge on a three-weekly basis. We are also very lucky to have coffee morning volunteers who help serve coffee and cake on Wednesdays. Without all these wonderful volunteers, we wouldn't be able to provide the service we do! Alongside the volunteers, we have our friends group who help run the library in partnership with the library service. Once a year they raise money at the Milton fete, which provides the library with valuable funds to purchase additional books for our customers.

To conclude!

Wychwood Library is a truly special place. From day one, everyone has been incredibly welcoming. Our friends' group, volunteers and customers are hugely committed to the library and to the service it provides- giving up both time and energy to make it a warm and welcoming place. Beryl, Ruth and Barbara, who all played a major role in the life of the library, are still actively involved while every month, new community groups and customers join our ranks. If you've not yet visited the library, do come along and see for yourself.



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A TALE OF TWO FURNITURE FIGHTS.

It was on a fine fresh feeling Friday morning 6th December 2024 the first fight took place. The contest was not held on a level playing field. The 400 year old cottage floor has a slope similar to that of the Lords Cricket Ground and in fact this was really the cause of the dispute. With a wriggle now and then the recalcitrant mattress was able to slide downhill. Jim regularly pulled it back to its allotted position to maintain the status quo. This time however the mattress was stubborn, it dug in its heels. Jim gave it a harder pull using weight and strength.

‘I am NOT having this.’ decides the mattress and with a wriggle and a snatch frees itself from Jim’s fingertips. Jim is now out of his own control, off balance and propelled by his own original pull he now hurtles across the floor to where the chest of drawers is waiting to land a bone cracking blow just below the top of the hip joint.

‘This looks like fun,’ decides the wardrobe and lands a brain pulverising blow above Jim’s right ear. Jim feels his brain swing from left to right and back again. This is followed up by a bone battering body slam. Jim’s now flat on his back on the floor. The fight is over and he loses by a score of 3 falls and a submission.

But wait! What’s this?

The room has stopped spinning and Jim is reviewing the situation. His right leg is at an unusual angle and the thigh muscles a bit painful but he straightens the leg and amazingly it works as do all the other limbs. So Jim turns over onto his hands and knees and crawls over to the head of the bed, pulls himself up by the headboard then with a push down with the hands and with a push up with the left leg hey presto Jim is upright. No harm! So he straightens the bed, goes downstairs and goes out to feed the birds. He then suddenly feels groggy and retires to his armchair. Perhaps the pain in the thigh muscle would reduce. No such luck! It was worse on Saturday and worse still

on Sunday. The return fight clause had been implemented and the second fight took place on Monday 9th December.

Jim got out of bed to find that his right leg would bear no weight. He used a nearby walking frame to stand upright and turned towards the bathroom. Big mistake! His right leg just folded up. Jim was able to hit the bedroom door with all his weight and managed to knock it clean off one hinge but he was on the floor and unable to rise. He loses the fight by count out!

An ambulance has been summoned to take Jim to the Horton Hospital where doctors will be checking him over for injuries. So Jim is twice a loser with only a broken hip to show for his pains but his efforts have been rewarded. A higher authority has decreed that the meandering mattress will be disqualified, dismissed with ignominy and cast into outer darkness and replaced with something more deserving of the position.

P.S. Happily Jim is making relatively rapid progress for an old 'un! 'The sooner you start exercising and the more you do,' said the physio man, the stronger will be the joint and the sooner you will get home.' Sweet music to Jim's ears! Seizing every opportunity he exercises with relish and keen enthusiasm and is soon able to use a walking frame with dexterity and confidence. He is by 21st December hell bent for home. Rumour has it that may even be before Christmas. He is perhaps fortunate to be here to tell the tale and for this he thanks heaven. He also begs leave to tender his most profound thanks and heartfelt gratitude to the surgeons and doctors who mended him so well! The joint feels good and strong and free from pain Thank you. He overflows with admiration for all the nurses on F Ward both for their kindness and for the skilled way they cope with their heavy load of duties. Some of the tasks are difficult and unpleasant and made more arduous by some who deserve more to be pitied than blamed.

P.P.S. Please handle your furniture with care and please be sympathetic to anyone who has some form of delirium. I was embroiled in it for over a week following my operation. I was in a dozen strange

places, mobs of people were attacking the hospital and small spherical drones were shooting minute bullets into my mobile phone. All fantasy but it was very real to me at the time. It was to me by far the very worst experience during my life of over 86 years.

Jim Pearse

I am greatly indebted to many people who have aided me in my recovery doctors, nurses, physios, clerical staff, caterers and especially carers. I thank them all. J.P.

Goodbye Father Christmas

Sadly, after over eighty years, I have got to admit Father Christmas is no longer wanted.

Why have I reached this conclusion, have you noticed houses being built today do not have a chimney?

Over the years, Father Christmas has always visited me because my old house was built with a chimney he can get down. In recent years I have been a bit disappointed with his gifts, he only leaves handkerchiefs and socks which makes me think he must think I have always got a dewdrop at the end of my big nose and I've got more legs than a centipede.

Sainsburys, Waitrose and Amazon seem to deliver at all times of day or night. If Father Christmas is to be just a figure of history, then these companies could take over delivering presents at Christmas. I hope if they were to take over, the drivers would wear the traditional cloak of red with white trimmings. A coat of rainbow colours seems all the fashion in recent times, could someone explain why this is as I am just a simple country yokel who seems to be losing touch with modern times. Richard of York gave battle in vain, that's about the only thing I can remember being told at school.

The biggest concern for me is what will happen to the reindeer if Father Christmas finds it difficult to make ends meet if he becomes an O.A.P., will he put his reindeer into the food chain? Would the general public buy the meat? I've been told venison can be very dear.

Do you think it's been worth it, me writing all these words just to get the punch line 'venison being dear'?

Like the Marx brothers' said in a film, 'there ain't no sanity clause'.

Fred Russell

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Next Step

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Call 01608 641549 or email sam.dulley@lawrencenurses.org

Country Dancing

Through the 19th and early 20th centuries Ascott was renowned for its dancers both in Country and Morris dancing. The dancers performed all around the area. This was further promoted by Reginald Tiddy who arrived in Ascott a few years before the First World War. Dancing was his passion and he had the original Tiddy Hall built for this purpose. Sadly he lost his life in the War but his legacy continues on. The following article covers one person's memories of the time.

Country Dancing in Ascott.

My childhood lasted through the 1940s. At the time my family lived at Coldstone Farm right at the Ascott Earl end of the village. Then the children attended their own village school, not like today. When I started school there was only one teacher. There were less than thirty children in the whole school. The teacher then was Mrs Lewis. When she retired Mrs Clements became our teacher. By then there were more children so Mrs Green came from Chilson to teach the infant class.

Then we started an activity which I liked very much. It was country dancing. At least one afternoon a week we would push all the desks right up together at one end of the room to make as much space as possible for dancing. Mrs Clements would play the piano so we had music to dance to. I can still remember the names of some of the dances and how to do a few of the simple ones. With some of the dances you would stand opposite your partner before the dance started. The names of some of these were Galopede, Brighton Camp, The Butterfly Dance, The Ribbon Dance, Flowers of Edinburgh, Bonnets so Blue and Cumberland Long Eight. Other dances were done in a circle and you stood next to your partner to begin. Two of these were Circassian Circle and Cumberland Square Eight.

Ronnie Edginton lived in Ascott with his wife and daughter Frances. Ronnie knew all the dances and played his accordion to provide the music. He was very talented. One evening a week Ronnie and his wife would have a country dance session at the Tiddy Hall. The origi-

nal Tiddy Hall had a sprung floor which was ideal for country dancing. First there was a session for children. There was only one boy who used to go. That was Ossie Shayler but his mother was one of the adults who took part. Ossie always danced with Frances Edginton. At the end of the children's session we would go home and there was a session for adults.

When I was twelve years old Ronnie said he would like me to join the adult session. My mother said I could but I had to go home at about 8.30 p.m. But then everything changed for me on 29th September 1952. My family had to leave Coldstone. My parents bought some of the fields which had been part of Coldstone Farm. The new farm was called Honeydale Farm. It is now Farm Ed. The only place we had to live in was a caravan.

By then it was autumn, so it was dark in the evenings. I could not ride my bike down to Ascott to take part in the country dancing. I was very sad about this.



There used to be an annual country dancing festival at the Albert Hall in London which some of the ladies from Ascott attended. Princess Margaret was the patron.

Country dancing came to an end in Ascott in the mid 1950s when Ronnie Edginton moved to Leicestershire.

The photo I have was taken in about 1950. The dresses we wore were just for special occasions when we danced at fetes to entertain people. The names from left to right are

Ronnie, Mrs Weston, Pat Honeybone, Joan Pilcher, Margaret Webb. I can't recognise the next person and lastly Mrs Russell. The two girls at the front are Frances Edginton and me.

Gertrude Pearse.

Treasurer for Ascott shop

Ascott Shop needs a new Treasurer now!

If you have experience in retail and accountancy and would like to help to run our community shop, please consider becoming its Treasurer.

On the retirement of our Former Treasurer, Stuart Fox, who has dedicated himself to the role for over twenty years, and the arrival of our new Manager, Clare Beasant, now is the moment to take the shop forward to a new era.

The work involves looking after the cash, paying the invoices and drawing up the accounts. All procedures are now supported by the Lightspeed program, and we have the opportunity to install a new accounts system that is compatible with Lightspeed and its formidable capabilities.

If you are minded to help support the village community and take the shop forward to be a success for the next generation of villagers, for more information please get in touch with:

Stuart Fox stuart.john.fox@gmail.com

Or

Nicola Coldstream ncoldstream@gmail.com



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Ascott Village Shop

The Shop is delighted to announce that we have a new Manager, Claire Beasant, who will start on Monday 17th February. You may see her in the shop on the odd Saturday morning before then, and please introduce yourselves.



Claire is a villager! She moved here in August 2021, with her husband, Dominic, her two children and their dog, Teddy the cavapoo. Dominic is Head of Academics at Kingham Hill School, where Claire has also been working; but now she would like to become much more involved in serving the village community. Their daughter Rebekah is about to graduate from Lancaster University and their son Joshua is training as a mechanical engineer. He is already known in village circles, playing cricket for Ascott in the League (see *Grapevine* Issue 124, p. 43, for his adventures there).

Claire and Dominic lived for over ten years in Cairo, Egypt, where they learned Arabic and Claire started a baby-food business using delicious local ingredients. She has all sorts of ideas for the shop, and is much looking forward to meeting everyone, as we are looking forward to welcoming her.

In the meantime the volunteers have been magnificent, helping to keep the show on the road without a manager and I would particularly like to thank all those who stepped in to fill vacant shifts at very short notice; Lawton Holden and Bridgette Crundwell for mastering the back office technology; Kathy Pearce and Debra Cull for their enticing Christmas displays (and their Christmas mouse headdresses, which appeared on Facebook); Mike Pearce for the beautiful Christmas wreath he made for the shop door; Jack Morgan for flawlessly managing the annual stock-take; and the volunteer members of the Committee who have been working exceptionally hard non-stop. Much gratitude to all of them.

But we still need volunteers! Even one shift a month, particularly on a weekend morning, would be an enormous help.

Finally, and most wholeheartedly, our thanks to the Folk Club for generously sponsoring the new refrigerator for the store room, enabling us to replace the one that was presented, second-hand, when the shop first opened and was causing problems. This sleek new one will use much less electricity, which is itself a bonus.

Diary note for shareholders: the AGM is planned for Monday 9th June.

Nicky Coldstream

Chairman, Ascott-under-Wychwood Village Shop



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NATURE NOTES

'and a partridge in a pear tree'

We sing this at the start of the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," but it is unlikely to be true. Partridges are ground-dwelling birds, and even in flight, they usually stay close to the ground, occasionally taking off to clear a hedgerow so they will not be roosting in nearby Pear trees.

Two species of Partridge are found in Britain, the Grey and the Red-Legged. They belong to the same family as Pheasants, Grouse and Quail and like them are game birds and widely hunted.

Red Legged Partridge

Not a native species, but was introduced into Britain in the 18th century, from Southern France and Spain, specifically for sport. The earliest introductions were made by the Duke of Hertford in 1770 on his Suffolk estate. They have spread throughout southern Britain, and it is estimated that there are now 175,000 pairs in the UK although this number is supported by captive-bred birds that are released for the shooting season.

The Red Legged is the larger of the two UK Partridges and is recognisable by their white and chestnut markings, white face, black eye stripe and of course their red legs. They are reluctant to fly when disturbed preferring to escape by running. In England they are found in the south and east, preferring dry, open, scrubby country, including heaths, chalk downs, farmland, and waste ground. They have not spread far to the north of the country. Locally it is the Red Legged Partridge that you will encounter when walking in areas adjacent to



open farmland, particularly in the upland areas. They are usually found in groups of 20 to 30 birds called a covey only splitting up during the breeding season in April & May into mated pairs. If you disturb the group, they will flee as a group and if take flight, a very noisy affair.

Nests are a scrape in the ground, thinly lined with grass or leaves and 10 to 16 eggs are laid. The nest is usually made under the cover of ground vegetation or a hedgerow. Occasionally there will be two nests with the female laying eggs in both simultaneously, in which case each parent will incubate and tend their own nest and broods. The young can fly in 10 days after hatching and are fully mature at 60 days.

The normal food for the Red Legged Partridge is leaves, seeds, roots, and insects. Unlike the Greys they will dig for a tasty morsel. The chicks will tend to be fed with insects only.

Grey Partridge

The Grey Partridge is a native bird.



This is a small plump bird of an overall grey colour with an orange face and a distinctive chestnut marking on their chest, most prominent in the male. They are ground-dwelling, their grey colour blending in with their surroundings. If disturbed they will run from danger rather than fly, they prefer open ground, especially agricultural land, but can also be found on heaths, moors, and even coastal dunes. Although concentrated in central and eastern England, unlike the Red Legged they have spread further north. They

are best seen in Wiltshire, Hampshire, Sussex, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and East Anglia. There are populations in Eastern Scotland as far north as Aberdeen, but here they are scarce.

There are thought to be 70,000 pairs in England a decline of 80% since the 1990's. Loss of field margins and hedgerows, autumn sowing of cereal crops leading to loss of stubble and increased use of pesticides and insecticides are thought to be responsible for the decline.

Greys pair for life, they nest in the base of a hedge or in dense cover. The nest is a shallow depression lined with grass. the eggs are laid in April and May. Of all British birds the Grey Partridge is known to be one of the most prolific egg layers with up to fifteen eggs produced in a single clutch. For the first three weeks after the eggs hatch the chicks are fed on an insect diet. They are cared for by both parents and the male can be very protective even flying at Weasels and Stoats if the young are threatened. After 15 days the young can fly away from danger. The adult's diet consists of leaves, seeds, berries and grain, supplemented with spiders, insects, worms, and slugs.

Like the Red Legged Partridge adult birds congregate in groups of 6 to 15 individuals that only split up in the breeding season. This will often include the current season's chicks. In the wild their life expectancy is 2 to 3 years

Even though there has been a significant decline in overall numbers Grey Partridges are still treated as game birds and hunted. However, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust suggests that Greys should not be hunted in areas where there are less than 20 birds per 250 acres and breeding pairs should not be shot.

Stuart Fox

WYCHWOOD FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



Sat 1st March MEGSON

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £14.00 in advance £17.00 on the door

Four times nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and double winners of the Spiral Earth Awards Megson, aka Stu & Debbie Hanna, draw heavily on their Teesside heritage to create a truly unique brand of folk music.

Sat 29th March Bob Fox

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £15.00 in advance £18.00 on the door

For almost 50 years BOB FOX has been regarded as one of “the iconic voices” of British folk song. His career began during the vibrant “folk revival” of the 60s and 70s and he has become one of the most highly rated and best loved singer/guitarists both in the UK and beyond.

Sat 19th April Ashley Hutchings & Becky Mills

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £20.00 in advance £23.00 on the door

Ashley Hutchings, the Guv'nor of Folk-Rock, has a brand-new show - 100 Not Out. Celebrating and drawing heavily from his 100th album release 'More Songs from the Shows'. Ashley is joined once again by one of the country's finest singers & accompanists, Becky Mills.

Sat 3rd May Harbottle & Jonas

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £12.00 in advance £15.00 on the door

Partners in life and music, dynamic Devon based folk duo Harbottle & Jonas are one of the most exciting acts on the UK circuit today, combining a love of the richness of traditional folk with their own original and powerful songwriting.

Sat 17th May The Twangtown Paramours

Bruern Farms Café,

Tickets £12.00 in advance £15.00 on the door

The Twangtown Paramours are an award-winning husband and wife Americana duo from Nashville. They are three-time Kerrville finalists and winners of Texas's Wildflower Contest.

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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v23

Thursdays only

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

Times shown in a green box are request stops only

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

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Management Committee Contacts

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

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

Ascott Grapevine



Service Supported by Oxfordshire County Council



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

Timetable valid from 03 April 2023

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

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

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

This Timetable is valid from 03rd April 2023.



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Parish Council January 2025

Carols around the Tree

A big thank you to everyone who turned up to enjoy the Carols around the Tree this Christmas. It always makes for a lovely start to the festivities to see so many people there drowning out my bad singing. A big hand of applause to Mark and Elaine for organizing the band, and to The Swan for once again providing the mulled wine. This year's collection is split between the Grapevine and the Church, and I am pleased to say that we raised over £300.

Parish Precept and Local Government

Unfortunately, we have had to request a small rise in the precept, which is the amount of Council Tax that finds its way to the Parish Council. As in all walks of life, our costs have increased especially in regard to the playing fields and pavilion. We do try to keep our costs to a minimum whilst making sure we are in a good position financially to deal with any emergencies, regular maintenance or legislative changes. As a reminder, Parish Councillors are unpaid and do not benefit financially from our work.

Late in December, the Government released a white paper that proposes to abolish second tier authorities. Should this go ahead, our County and District Council structure, along with other District Councils, will be replaced by large mayor-led unitary authorities. The number and size of these will be dictated by a minimum population size. The Parish Council is not political, but we find the fact that they chose to run the consultation over such a groundbreaking change in local government over Christmas and the New Year speaks volumes.

Whilst the Government cites potential opportunities for cost savings through consolidating resources and argues that centralizing power is good for local democracy, there are also costs involved in restructuring, exiting and renegotiating contracts, legal services and rebranding, coordinating and migrating systems and all the upheavals that accompany organizational changes and merges. It also raises many questions, not least the validity of existing local and neighbourhood plans once an authority has been dissolved. It will, at the very least, throw the planning system into turmoil.

Closer to home there is also a concern amongst many that the focus on population size rather than geography as the determining factor in the establishment of these super-authorities, will inevitably lead to a further erosion in the voice of less densely populated rural communities.

Parish Councils are, in so far as we are aware, unaffected – there is exactly one passing mention in the white paper – but we continue to watch this space. Please let us, and your MP, know your thoughts on the matter.

Litter

The village has survived another winter but is looking sad around the edges. This time of year is the perfect opportunity to undertake our seasonal litter pick, before the verges grow long and once the winds have died down. Many hands make light work, and we will be leafleting and postering with dates with an eye on the weather forecasts.

Dog Owners

Finally, once again it is my sad duty to report that we still have a small number of antisocial dog owners who are allowing their dogs to mess the roads, pavements and outside people's properties. **This is completely unacceptable.**

Nor is it acceptable to bag up your dog poo and leave the bags in hedgerows or beside the path. We have an abundance of poo bins in the village, and I cannot understand the mentality of people who do this. The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and community aware residents who take a pride in the village. Kindly remember that dog poo is not only unsightly, but it can also harbour and spread disease.

And finally

We will at some point be transitioning to a new website and email addresses. There is a desire on behalf of Government that all authorities, including Parish Councils, should adopt gov.uk addresses, which are only released to a small number of regulated providers that can demonstrate enhanced levels of security and management. We will announce this with suitable fanfare.

Keep warm and well, and we look forward to the Spring.

Brian Leach
Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council.
contact@ascottpc.org.uk



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Wild Oxfordshire

March News – Spring Hedgerows and Gardens

Hedgerows in Spring

Spring is the season of growth, and our local hedgerows are no exception. This season you can expect to see hedge species beginning to flower. Blackthorn will begin to flower from early spring, blossoming before it's leaves even begin to show, into beautiful five petal white flowers strikingly similar to Hawthorn. Hawthorn, however, (like Buckthorn, Guelder Rose, Dogwood, Wayfaring, and Spindle) blossoms later in mid spring. Cherry Plum (which began to blossom in winter) will only continue flowering into early spring, preparing to bear berries in early summer.

All of these species are extremely beneficial to pollinators as well as other insects that feed on hedges (i.e., Chestnut moths and Brown hairstreak butterflies). Observe the wildlife benefits mature hedges offer this Spring and get ready to see it in your own local spaces once your newly planted hedgerows reach maturity!

Happy Earth Hour! (8:30 – 9:30pm on the 22nd March)

Join people around the globe in switching off all your lights for an hour, and while you're at it, why not check out whether your local nature group has organised any celebrations like an evening nature walk, or hot chocolate round a fire pit! Who needs TV?! Local nature groups are on our map here <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/community-groups>

Great British Spring Clean

In the spirit of renewal and growth, get involved in the Great British Spring Clean organised by Keep Britain Tidy. Organise a clean-up in your local parish to allow wildlife to thrive free of litter. Report your results to become a 'Litter Hero' and consider joining the Big Bag Challenge! Come together to bring new life to your local green spaces.

A selection of Garden jobs to Help Wildlife this March

Put out bird food with high fat content to give extra energy when food is hard to come by. Suet treats like fat balls are ideal and sunflower hearts.

- **Feed hedgehogs** – more info below
- **Put in at least one hedgehog gap** – more info below
- **Have plants in your garden that offer winter/early spring nectar** – e.g. mahonia, ivy, willow, hellebores, crocuses and snowdrops to provide a boost for our pollinators after the dormant months. You can also start

to think about sowing seeds. Have a look at the packets as many are now marked with a 'pollinator-friendly' symbol. Why not grow your own bird food this year and grow sunflowers?

- **Create a pond or improve yours for amphibians**
- **Leave perennials and herbaceous, hollow-stemmed plants unpruned until early April or late this month.** These will still be providing homes for overwintering invertebrates like ladybirds.
- **On freezing days, break the ice on bird baths and water bowls.** Refresh the water supply weekly.
- **Build a bug hotel**
- **Leave piles of leaves and logs undisturbed.** In mild weather, it can be tempting to get going in the garden but avoid the urge to tidy away leaf and log piles just yet. Wait until late this month or early April.
- **Avoid turning the compost heap until April,** even if conditions are mild. Frogs, small mammals, and insects may be hibernating, and any disturbance could harm them.
- **Check bonfires before they are lit** for sheltering and hibernating animals, such as hedgehogs, toads, frogs, and newts.

Ponds, amphibians and the garden ecosystem

March is the key month for breeding amphibians - first frogs, then toads and later, newts. Toads tend to use big ponds to breed in, laying their ribbons of spawn near stems of submerged plants. Newts use their back legs to wrap their eggs in the leaves of marginal plants like the water-forget-me-not and brooklime. You may be able to see these folded leaves in June. This month, you can shine a torch into the water at night to see returning newts and you may even witness the male's courtship dance as they wiggle to show off their fabulous tails!

Ponds with fish aren't so good for our native wildlife as the fish will eat the eggs and young of amphibians as well as the invertebrates that the amphibians need to eat.

How to help:

Create a pond! Ponds sustain two thirds of all of our freshwater life and improve the health of the entire garden ecosystem. If you don't have room for a big pond, why not put in a bucket pond? Go to the Wildlife Trust website for an easy how to guide.

Plant marginal plants in the shallows and at the edge of your pond. PlantLife and Freshwater Habitats Trust have suggestions. Water-forget-me-not and brooklime are great for newts to lay their eggs and water mint is brilliant for insects. Brooklime is also used by dragonflies to lay their eggs on.

- **Make sure there is a way out** for amphibians and even hedgehogs that can end up drowned in ponds when they fall in after using it to drink from. You can use planks of wood, piles of stones or make your pond have a shallow and gradual gradient.

Hedgehogs

Our hedgehogs will be waking up this month. With the unpredictable weather, their hibernation patterns are less certain but usually they won't go back into hibernation now until the winter. This means they will be hungry and thirsty after a long dormant period and will need to build their fat reserves and energy ready for the breeding season.

Feeding

- You can put out meat-based cat food for hedgehogs (with meat not fish). Go Cat dried cat biscuits are recommended as an easy option by the Kirtlington Hedgehog Highway group.
- Put out the food at dusk and remove any that's left the following morning so it doesn't go bad
- You can use a hedgehog feeding station to prevent cats from eating all the food. These include a right angle that the hedgehog has to use as they can bend at this angle easily whereas a cat cannot.
- Put out shallow water dishes or accessible ponds for hedgehogs to drink from
- Natural food sources come from our slugs, snails and other invertebrates. Do not use slug pellets or insecticides as these will also harm hedgehogs that eat the infected 'pests'.
- Rats? I had rats come into my garden, so I didn't put out hedgehog food. I had to rely on the invertebrates to feed the hedgehogs. Fortunately, I had a hedgehog forage in my lettuce patch most nights and I ended up with very healthy, pest-free lettuce!

Breeding

- Not only will our hedgehogs be hungry, but they will also need to start roaming around to catch up with other hedgehogs and go to other foraging spots. Some hedgehogs roam up to a mile every night! We need to help them stay safe in their wanderings, off roads, and in gardens. This means we need to link our gardens together to make safe passageways!

Rhiannon Young – Wild Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Engagement Officer

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

Pre-School

YOGA

At first traditionally quiet yoga sessions at our very busy Pre-School setting seemed like an odd pairing. Even though it's a physical activity, we use it as a relaxing exercise method and are amazed at how all the children enjoy and participate in each lesson. It doesn't have to be complicated, some of the poses we use are animals and bugs – butterflies, caterpillars, spiders, foxes, bears, raccoons and we often chat about the characteristics of the bugs and animals. The children learn about exercise, stretching, taking deep breaths, listening and being calm. In a busy session, it gives them all a brief time to relax.

Achieving balance is very important, and even though children sometimes take longer to perfect their poses, we have found that they are patient and really persevere. There is a big boost to their self-esteem when they finally achieve their goal. It turns out that yoga is not only a fun activity for our children but also plays an important role in their development!

René Bloomfield

FarmED 2025

Friday Farm Walks

Most Fridays 10:30 - 14:30. Explore Honeydale Farm on an inspiring and informative guided farm walk, led by Founder Ian Wilkinson or FarmED team member.

Lunchtime Talks:- 11:45 - 14:00

Tuesday 04 March. **Farming Through the Ages.** How has the British countryside changed over the centuries and what we can learn from our ancestors to improve our management

Thursday 13 March. **Will Weeds Always Win?** Can discovering which genetic pathways keep weeds strong reveal strategies to enhance crop resilience and advance sustainable farming.

Wednesday 19 March. **Circular Waste Systems.** Recover, rotate, regenerate: discover circular solutions for organic waste with Sylvie from Tumblebug.

Beekeeping for Beginners

Wednesday 02 April - 09:45 - 16:00. Are you interested in becoming a Beekeeper? Do you want to discover the fascinating world of pollinating insects?

Spring Foraging Farm Walk

Monday 07 April. Would you like to discover the edible and ecological secrets hiding in the hedgerows, trees and fields around you? Join us for a foraging walk, connect with nature and nibble on our wild larder.

Dawn Chorus

Tuesday 06 May - 4:am - 7:00am. Celebrate the Dawn Chorus with a torch lit farm walk, led by conservationist Nick Patel, followed by hot drinks and a light breakfast. This event has sold out for the past three years so book your ticket soon to avoid disappointment.



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at

10 o'clock to mid-day

on

Saturday 8th March

Saturday 5th April

Saturday 3rd May

Saturday 14th June

Saturday 12th July

Saturday 9th August

Saturday 6th September

Saturday 4th October

Saturday 1st November

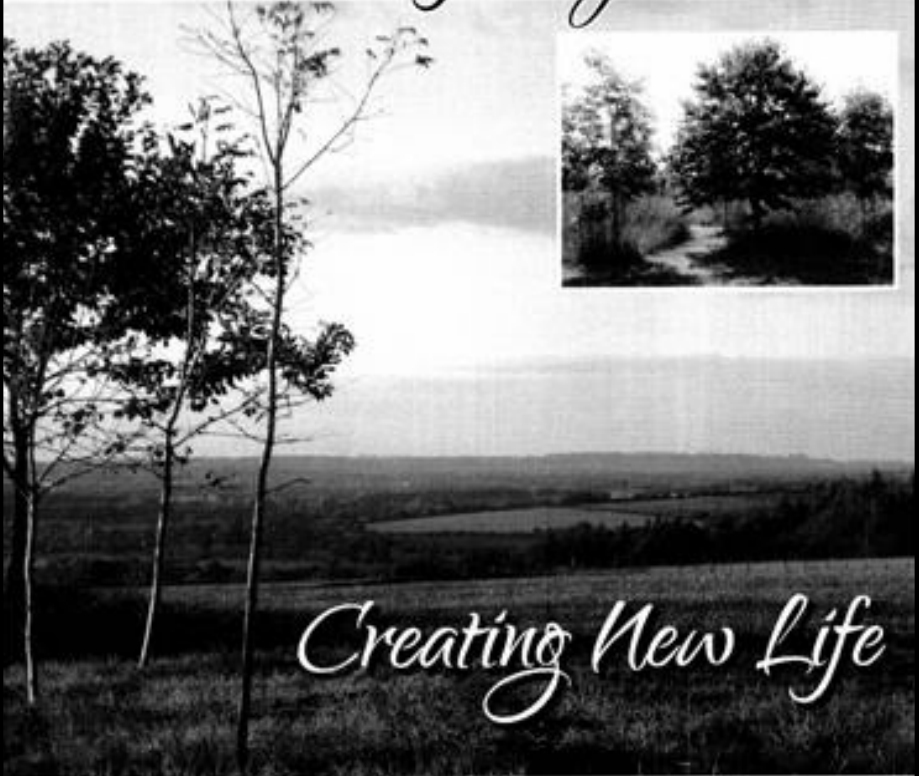
Saturday 6th December

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Fairspear Natural Burial Ground

Member of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds

In the heart of Wyckwoods



Creating New Life

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



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

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB

After a tough winter riddled with gale force winds, monsoon-like rain, flooding and periods of -6 degree frosts we are readier than ever for some sunshine. Bring on those blue skies, green grass, the reassuring sound of leather on willow and the cries of 'Owzat'?....

At our recent AGM Stephen Appleyard was elected as our Saturday League XI Captain for 2025. Stephen (AKA "The Apple") joined us in 2022 and lives in Witney, he's a popular, calm & laid back character who keeps wicket and is a quality middle order batsman. His mandate is to lead the team to promotion from Division 8C this season. We all wish him well - it's a demanding job!

Our dashing young blonde batsman Edmund Matthews continues as our Sunday / Friendlies captain. Mundo finished his degree at Lancaster Uni last summer and spent much of the winter travelling in New Zealand and Fiji - so we're expecting him to return in late February tanned, fully refreshed and 'full of runs'.

The 2025 season commences on Sunday Feb 9th when we start a 10-week programme of 1 hour indoor net practice sessions at Charlbury Community Centre. All get to bat and bowl and if you're thinking of joining - it's the perfect time to get started, in readiness for matches from mid April. No equipment is necessary, it's all provided.

We've also done a deal with Kingham Hill School to use their super outdoor net facilities on Tuesday evenings starting in April, running right through the season until late August.

From May, we're looking to provide some junior cricket at the playing field - probably on Wednesday evenings (TBC). It's primarily aimed at boys and girls aged 10 to 13 as a stepping stone towards starting to play in friendly matches. It's entirely free, and no kit is needed, but parents do have to complete a membership form for insurance purposes.

We already have some supremely talented AUWCC 'youth products' forming a youthful backbone of the squad. The likes of teenagers William Harvey, Edward Russell, Andrew Taylor, Sam Hollier, Josh Beasant and others, will all do special things for AUWCC in the seasons to come. Please do get in touch if your child is interested in joining in the fun and making long lasting friendships.

Finally, we're always looking for players from the village to join and play some cricket! If you're fit and competitive then Saturday league cricket is probably for you. Or if you're looking more for a fun, social sporting activity (which really gets you fit) then our Sunday friendly XI is ideal - populated with players from 12 years old to almost 65!

Ascott Grapevine

The club is one of the cheapest around to play for, has weekly net practice, a fabulous annual tour to Devon, and is privileged to play on a beautiful ground at The Playing Field. Don't be shy, you won't regret it...

Stewart Moss, secretary. 07866 278685

Auwcricquetclub@hotmail.com

Instagram: [ascott_u_wychwood_cricket](#)

Facebook: Ascott UnderWychwood Cricket Club



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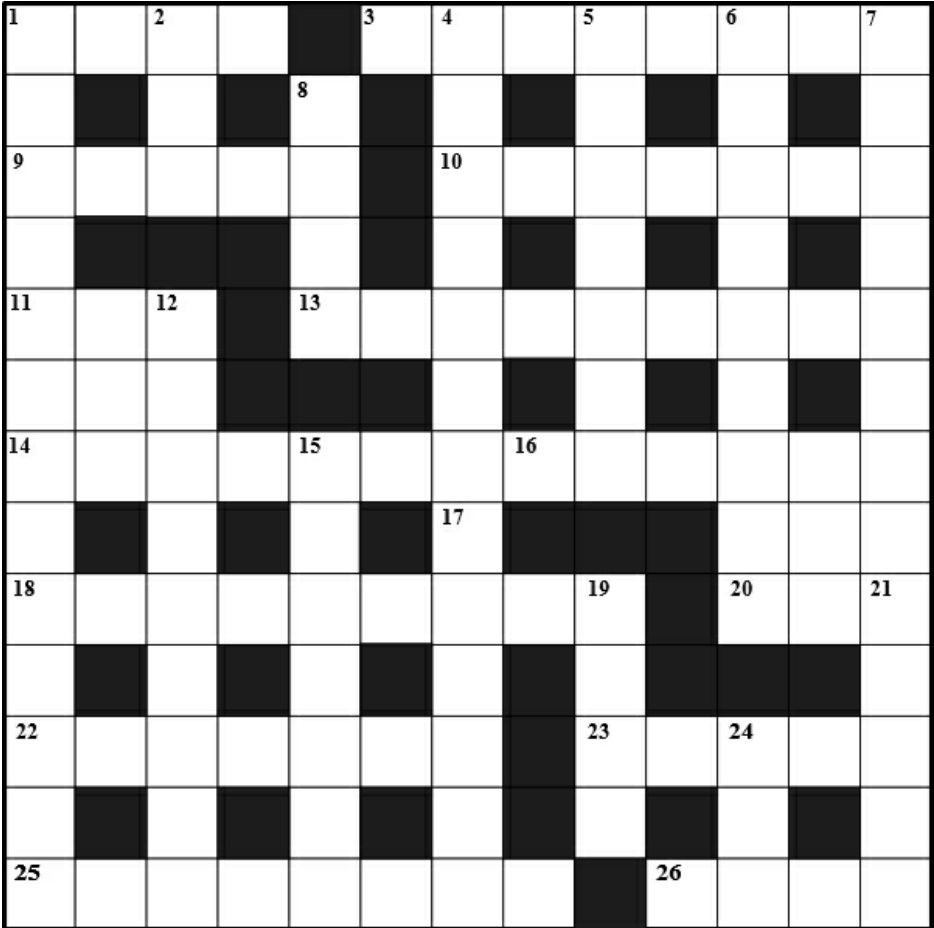
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Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Seabird (4)
- 3 This, that and — (3,5)
- 9 Lip (5)
- 10 Munster (anag.) (7)
- 11 Flap (3)
- 13 Travelled on a wheeled bed (9)
- 14 Naturism (6)
- 16 Pollute (6)
- 18 Moneybox (5,4)
- 20 Disease germ (3)
- 22 Towed vehicle (7)
- 23 Broad and slow (mus.) (5)
- 25 Spectators (8)
- 26 Ringer (4)

Down

- 1 Unspoken (5)
- 2 Feel sorry (3)
- 4 Aromatic herb (6)
- 5 Relievo (anag.) (7)
- 6 Bewildering maze (9)
- 7 Reshape (7)
- 8 Burlesque (4)
- 12 One protecting another (9)
- 14 Rock oil (7)
- 15 Azure (3,4)
- 17 Cloth (6)
- 19 Part of Highland dress (4)
- 21 Gruesome fiend (5)
- 24 E.g. Caviare (3)

**Solutions to
Crossword in
Edition 124**

Across

- 1 Valley
- 7 Diction
- 8 Unbutton
- 9 Attic
- 10 Hyena
- 11 Taxi
- 12 Icing
- 15 Alias
- 16 Grill
- 19 Alga
- 20 Cling
- 21 Nervy
- 22 Orangery
- 23 Subside
- 24 Blythe

Down

- 1 Vouching
- 2 Libretti
- 3 Extra
- 4 Win
- 5 Static
- 6 Lotion
- 7 Doctrinaire
- 9 Axis
- 13 Imminent
- 14 Gargoyle
- 15 Ally
- 17 Rheus
- 18 Lavish
- 20 Canal
- 22 Odd

Local Business Directory

- ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS** 01993830687 07989497253
www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk Page 9
- ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP** 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk Page 5
- BURFORD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE** 01993 831282, 01993 822114 Page 13
- COMBE MILL**
BLENHEIM PALACE SAWMILLS, COMBE, OXON, OX29 8ET Page 12
- COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 32
- ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS** 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 4
- FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND** 01993 878387
helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk Page 41
- FINGERS AND TOES** 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com
www.fingersandtoes.info Page 4
- FOLK CLUB** 01993831427 07870563299
wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Page 28
- GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425
info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk Page 44
- THE HAIR SALON AT THE PADDOCKS** Ladies' and Gentlemen's Hair dressing
The Paddocks, Shipton Road, Milton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6GF
Alison 07980645995; Joy 07867585053 Page 4

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

JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com Page 4

JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020
info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com Page 3

PUDDLE DUCKS Scan the QR or phone 01666 577377 Page 45

ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com Page 3

ROOFIX 08009555063 07817 792194 Page 35

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Events Calendar - 2025

Date	Time	Event	Venue
February 27 th	7.00pm	Sound Bath	Tiddy Hall
March 1 st	7.30pm	Megson	Tiddy Hall
March 8 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
March 11 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
March 29 th	7.30pm	Bob Fox	Tiddy Hall
April 5 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
April 6 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
April 8 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
April 19 th	7.30pm	Ashley Hutchings & Becky Mills	Tiddy Hall
May 1 st	7.00am	OCC Elections	Tiddy Hall
May 3 rd	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
May 3 rd	7.30pm	Harbottle & Jonas	Tiddy Hall
May 11 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
May 13 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
June 7 th	7.30pm	Pete Morton	Tiddy Hall
June 8 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
June 10 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
June 14 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
June 21 st	7.30pm	Mark and Friends	Tiddy Hall
July 12 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP

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