

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 August 2026.

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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Advertising Discount:

Book and pay in advance for four issues and receive one advert FREE.

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.

Front Cover by Wendy Pearse

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 52](#)), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or wendypearse@btinternet.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

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and
St Teresa, Charlbury

Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

Priest: Fr Clive Dytor 07484158642

Sunday Mass at Charlbury 09:15

Services at the Chase Benefice 2026

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,

Sitting here in our little corner of the Cotswolds, I'm very aware that the world feels an uncertain place right now. There's a lot going on, isn't there? And sometimes it can be hard to hold onto our sense of hope and 'okay-ness' amid it all.

Like so many, I've been captivated by NASA's Artemis II mission. There's something extraordinary that happens to astronauts when they look back at our Earth from the vastness of space. It's been called the "*overview effect*" — a phrase first coined by space philosopher Frank White back in 1987. Astronaut after astronaut has described the same breathtaking realisation: from up there, there are no borders, no dividing lines. Just one beautiful, fragile home, shared by all of us.

Artemis II pilot Victor Glover put it so beautifully, speaking from the edge of the moon: "*As we continue to unlock the mysteries of the cosmos, I would like to remind you of one of the most important mysteries there on Earth — and that's love.*" He went on to reflect on Christ's words about the two greatest commandments — to love God with everything we have, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Profound words, spoken from space! And yet they feel just as relevant right here in our village.

We don't need to travel to space to catch a glimpse of that bigger picture. We just need to look at the person next door — the neighbour we know well, and the one we haven't yet met. The world out there may be uncertain and fearful, but here we can choose to be different — a community that chooses love, reaches across our differences, and reminds one another that we have far more in common than what divides us.

With every blessing,

Mark Abrey

RIP

David Chandler March 24th 2026



VOLUNTEER AT

Ascott Village Shop

A friendly face. A familiar place. So many ways to be involved.

Ascott Village Shop is run by people just like you – neighbours who come together to keep something special going.

There are lots of ways to get involved. You might enjoy serving customers and having a chat, or helping behind the scenes – from stock and organising to maintenance and upkeep.

Whatever suits you, you'll be part of a warm, welcoming team at the heart of village life.

Join the team and let us know how you'd like to be involved



Scan the QR code or visit the link to fill in our volunteer form, or pop in for a chat – we'd love to hear from you.

bit.ly/AVS_volunteer

Ascott Village Shop Update

Following a very well attended shop AGM on April 29th, a new committee has been elected, and we would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves.



From left to right: Peter Ablett, Jack Morgan, Claire Beasant (Shop Manager), Sarah Witheridge, Matt Forsyth, Susie Boyer, Kathy Pearce, Simon Whitaker.

Peter: Hello, I'm Peter Ablett, and I moved into the village 2 years ago with my wife Cathy, and our two large labradoodles. We soon found how friendly and welcoming Ascott is, and our neighbours encouraged me to volunteer in the shop. This is a wonderful way of meeting people and having fun at the same time. I retired a few years ago after many years in Financial Services and marketing, spent a couple of years sailing, and now I hope that I can contribute to keeping the shop successful.

Jack: Hello I'm Jack Morgan and I have lived in Ascott since 2014 with my wife Susie and our two children. I started volunteering at the shop not long after we moved here and I have been involved on and off since. The shop is far more than a convenient place to pick up essentials; it is our community hub and one of the things that makes Ascott the village that it is. Our job as the committee is to ensure the shop remains here for the community for years to come. I would love to hear your ideas, your feedback, and your thoughts on what the shop means to you and that you would like it to be. Please do say hello if you see me around the village.

Sarah: I have lived in the village for three years and joined the volunteers in the shop after six months. I thoroughly enjoy my morning shift and have got to know so many people. I joined the committee two years ago and look forward to being a part of the team going forward.

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Matt: My name is Matt Forsyth, and I've lived in Ascott for nearly ten years. It was only when I started volunteering at the shop, though, that I really got to know the people here. That's when I realised the Ascott Village Shop isn't just a shop, it's the centre of the community. With a background in marketing, I'm looking forward to supporting the shop's efforts over the coming year and helping it to thrive. I'm really pleased to be joining the committee and to give something back to a place I genuinely believe is important to the village. If you see me around, feel free to say hello – I'm always happy to talk shop.

Susie: I am Susie Boyer and have had a house in Ascott Under Wychwood since 1977 although living and working in London and being a 'weekender' but now here permanently. I have been associated with the shop from the start, helping to raise the funds for the building and the opening and have been on the Committee in the past. I am looking forward to joining the new Committee and have great hopes for the progress and success of a wonderful project.

Kathy: I'm Kathy Pearce and I have lived in the village with my husband Mike for many years. I was one of a group of volunteers responsible for setting the shop up and running it 23 years ago, so the shop is very close to my heart. I believe the shop to be a great asset to the village and working in the shop is fun with the opportunity to make new friends. I am really looking forward to working with the committee to continue to make it a good shopping experience.

Simon: I'm Simon Whitaker and I moved into Ascott 10 years ago with my wife Simi, and we now also have an 8 year old daughter, Ruby. I've not previously been involved with the village shop before now but I'm looking forward to joining the committee and helping out where I can, to ensure its continued success for current and future generations and to help shape how the shop can best serve the needs of the whole village community.

Additionally, **Stuart Fox** continues as Treasurer.



Nicola Coldstream is being presented with flowers and champagne at our A.G.M. on her retirement as Ascott Village Shop's chair



Burford Festival 2026: A Celebration of Arts, Ideas and Community

From 11 to 23 June 2026, Burford Festival returns as one of the Cotswolds' most anticipated cultural highlights. For nearly two weeks, the historic town of Burford is transformed into a vibrant hub of creativity, welcoming an inspiring programme of arts, music, drama, literature and gardens together in one festival.

Renowned for its inclusive and eclectic spirit, the festival offers something for everyone. History enthusiasts can immerse themselves in Burford's past at the Historical Evening, while music lovers will enjoy Burt Bacharach Re-imagined — a fresh take on a catalogue of timeless songs. Other musical highlights include the Penderius Male Voice Choir's 'Voices from the Valleys' on 20 June, and the Burford Singers Festival Concert on 21 June. Trumpet virtuoso Crispian Steele-Perkins will also share his expertise and passion in his engaging talk, 'The Trumpet Shall Sound'.

One of the festival's most popular attractions, Open Gardens, takes place on 13 and 14 June. Around 20 private gardens — most rarely open to the public — invite visitors to explore imaginative horticultural design.

The talks programme brings thought-provoking perspectives on art, nature and social history. Highlights include 'A "Live Aid" Moment for Wildlife' with wildlife photographer, Margot Raggett MBE, and Paul Atterbury, popular antiques specialist, who will be sharing his adventures with the Antiques Roadshow in his talk, 'Tales from the Antiques Roadshow'.

Acclaimed art historian, Andrew Graham-Dixon, will present 'Vermeer – A Life Lost and Found', offering new insights into one of history's most enigmatic painters.

Further exploration awaits with 'Historic Walking Tours of Burford', while wine enthusiasts can look forward to 'An Evening with Mr Vinosaurus', local wine writer, judge and broadcaster, David Kermod.

The festival culminates on 23 June with a grand final concert featuring the premiere of 'Five Acts of Human Kindness', a newly commissioned choral work by Bob Chilcott, with text by Charles Bennett, performed by the Burford School Community Choir comprising pupils, staff, parents and community members.

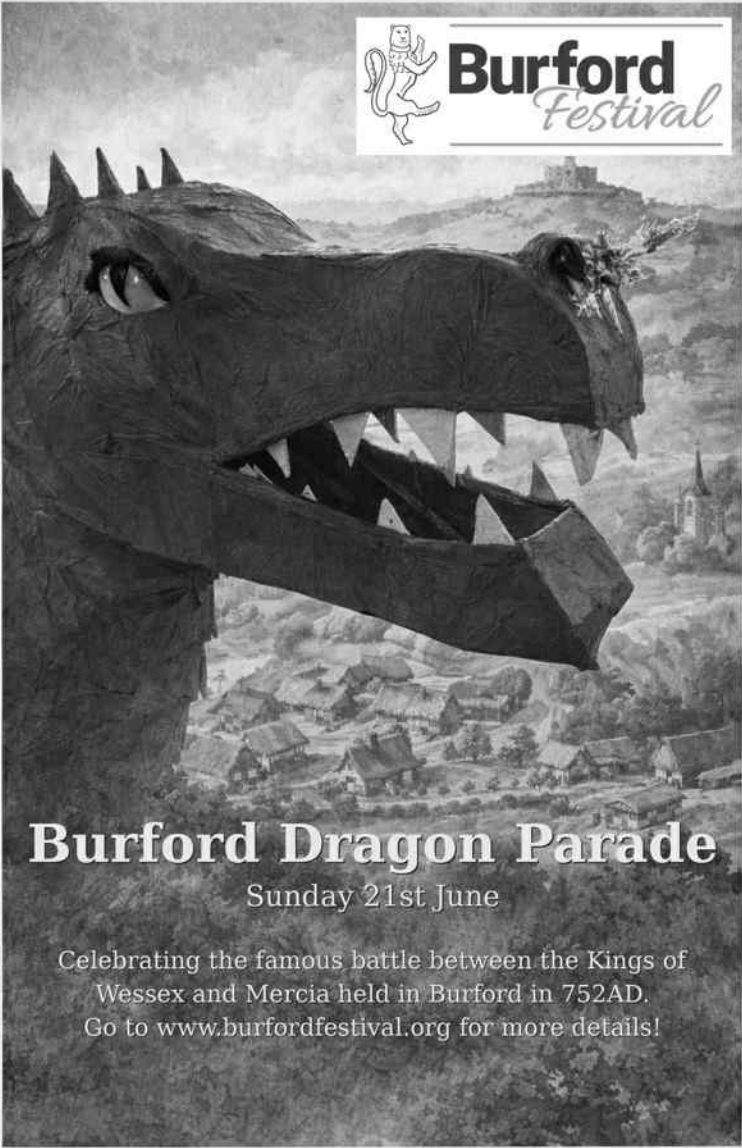
Community spirit is central to the festival, celebrated through events such as the Festival Lunch, a community production of BBC Radio 4's 'Carnival of Animals' by successful children's author, Katherine Rundell, and the return of the famous, historic Dragon Parade on 21 June.

The Dragon Parade celebrates the battle held at Burford in 752AD, when the triumphant King of Mercia marched his army down the hill, bearing the dragon emblem of the defeated King of Wessex. The annual traditional of a dragon parade continued sporadically over the centuries, the last one being in the late 1970s.

This year, the Primary School children will once more march down the hill carrying their newly made, splendid, red dragon head and forming the 'tail' themselves beneath some 45m of decorated fabric. There will also be members of the Hwit-mearum re-enactment group's combat warriors re-enacting battle scenes, as well as setting up a Living History Village demonstrating crafts from the period; throughout the day, Morris dancers, jazz performed by secondary school pupils, a herald trumpeter and a town crier will also be adding to the fun!

With Festival tickets on sale from 1 May, Burford Festival 2026 promises a memorable celebration of culture, heritage and shared experience.





Burford Dragon Parade
Sunday 21st June

Celebrating the famous battle between the Kings of
Wessex and Mercia held in Burford in 752AD.
Go to www.burfordfestival.org for more details!



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

***Lee Miller: A Woman at War* exhibition to go on display at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, this summer.**

- Exhibition of war photographs by renowned photojournalist, photographer and surrealist, Lee Miller from 23 May – 13 September 2026.
- Follows a major exhibition of her photographs at London's Tate Gallery.
- Includes photos taken of nurses at Churchill Hospital Oxford, her first wartime assignment for *Vogue*.
- Alongside many iconic photographs taken in wartime Britain, Miller accompanied US troops into Europe, a correspondent on battles and the liberation of concentration camps.
- Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, the county's military museum based in Woodstock, opens a new exhibition of *Vogue* model, surrealist photographer and war correspondent Lee Miller's wartime work in *Lee Miller: A Woman at War*, from 23 May to 13 September 2026.

During the Second World War Lee worked as a combat photographer with the US Army, creating a unique historical record.

The new exhibition will showcase her experiences of the time, covering her war correspondence work for *Vogue* from 1942 where she highlighted women's roles in the war effort, as well as the reality of life for women caught up in conflict across Europe. Her first wartime assignment for *Vogue* captured nurses at work at a then-US Army hospital in Oxford – Headington's Churchill Hospital. A number of these photos will feature in the exhibition, returning to the county in which they were taken, a look back at the earliest days of her war photojournalism.

Miller would become one of the few female photojournalists on the front line covering the Normandy invasion and the liberation of Paris. Her work in the newly-liberated concentration camps of Buchenwald and Dachau was sent to *Vogue* in 1945, accompanied by the caption 'I IMPLORE YOU TO BELIEVE THIS IS TRUE.'

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Her background in surrealism often came to the fore especially with her photographs of the Blitz, and the iconic photograph of her bathing in Hitler's bathtub in Munich on the same day he died was heavy in symbolism, she wrote 'I washed off the dirt of Dachau in his tub'.

Her 60,000+ negatives and documents were discovered in her attic by her son, Antony Penrose, after her death, leading to her recognition as a pivotal 20th-century artist and photographer.

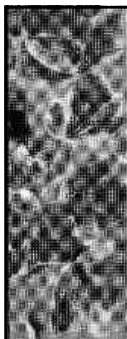
Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is thrilled to be exhibiting her groundbreaking work and are grateful to the Lee Miller Archives and Farleys House & Gallery Ltd for allowing us to bring you this exhibition.

Lee Miller: A Woman at War continues the development of the museum's ongoing work to highlight creative responses to conflict alongside more traditional narratives, examine the role of popular culture in how we see conflict, as well as the role of women as not just witnesses of war but in shaping the course and history of it too.

Alongside the exhibition, the museum will host a 1940s photography 'Pro Am' with Oxford Photographic Society on Sunday 7 June 2026, offering the chance for professional and amateur photographers alike to capture photos inspired by Lee's photojournalism. Living historians in wartime fashions and uniforms will provide models at the museum, around Woodstock, and at Blenheim Palace. Ami Bouhasane, Lee Miller's granddaughter and author of several books on her grandmother's life and work, will also visit the museum for an evening talk at 7pm, 3 September 2026. Check the museum's website for further details and tickets for these events, when available.

Lee Miller: A Woman at War opens on the Cloister Gallery at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock from 23 May to 13 September 2026. Admission prices apply, please see www.soho.org.uk for up-to-date admissions and visitor information, including prices, offers and opening times.

Please note: Our free entry offer for Blenheim Annual Pass holders does not include entry to the Lee Miller exhibition, but all other galleries are included.



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DEAN AND CHADLINGTON SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

THURS 2 – SUN 5 JULY 2026



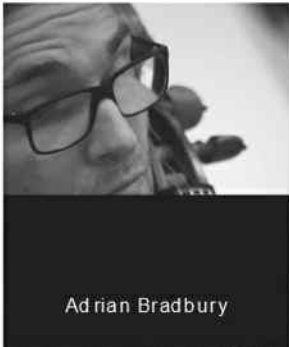
Craig Ogden and the
Aquarelle Guitar Quartet



Gala Picnic Concert



Desert Island Discs with
Amol Rajan



Adrian Bradbury

PLUS

Dinner & Opera Arias

Classical Singing
Competition

Junior Royal Birmingham
Conservatoire

Academy of Barmy
Composers



Afternoon Tea Concert
Isbourne Trio



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Dean & Chadlington Summer Music Festival

7 April 2026

The Dean and Chadlington Summer Music Festival returns from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 July 2026, offering an inspiring long weekend of exceptional live music set against the intimate and picturesque backdrop of the Cotswolds.

Since its founding in 2007, the festival has earned a reputation for bringing world-class performers into unique, characterful venues, creating a rare opportunity for audiences to experience outstanding musicianship at close quarters. This year's programme spans a rich variety of performances, hosted in locations including Heythrop Park, Chipping Norton Theatre, Chadlington Church, Kingham Lodge, Bruern Farm Café, and Dean Manor Barn.

Highlights for 2026 include appearances from the internationally acclaimed Aquarelle Guitar Quartet with Craig Ogden, distinguished cellist Adrian Bradbury, the Festival Orchestra under the direction of violinist David Juritz, along with a plethora of other instruments and voices, established artists and stars of the future.

Artistic Directors Craig Ogden and Richard Coxon comment:

“Our festival captures the spirit of an English summer at its very best—relaxed, welcoming, and filled with wonderful music in some of Oxfordshire’s most beautiful settings. We aim to offer something for everyone, whether you are a lifelong classical music lover or discovering it for the first time.”

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES!

On Saturday June 27th,

Summer Music Event 2026, will be taking place at Priory Farm, Lyneham. Live music, BBQ, Bar will all be available from 3pm-10pm

Pete Moss has successfully held these events over several years raising incredible amounts of money for **KATHERINE HOUSE HOSPICE** and will be doing the same this year.

Tickets £20.00 under 16 years £10.00 and under 5 FREE!

These can be purchased at **The Swan** or via **Pete Moss or Debra Cull**.

Look forward to seeing you there and raising money for a very worthwhile cause.



SUMMER MUSIC EVENT

IN AID OF KATHERINE HOUSE HOSPICE

**B.Y.O
CHAIRS**

**JUN 27, 3PM-10PM, PRIORY FARM,
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LIVE MUSIC, BAR, BEER, BARBEQUE

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HARTLEY**

**SNAKES
DON'T
BARK**

BARNEY

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THE BLUE
FLAMES**

**ADULTS £20, JUNIOR (UNDER 16) £10,
CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE**

PLEASE NOTE - CASH ONLY AT EVENT

DOGS ALLOWED IF ON LEADS

TICKETS CAN BE BOUGHT FROM THE GARAGE S.U.W
AND THE SWAN A.U.W OR CONTACT:

**P. MOSS 07932369794
D. CULL 07827813422**

Local Property Market Update & Community Commitment

The local housing market, along with the wider regional picture, is currently experiencing a more challenging phase. At the start of the spring, there were clear signs that activity was set to pick up pace. Falling mortgage rates had begun to ease affordability pressures, and a backlog of pent-up demand from the past few years meant that many buyers were preparing to re-enter the market with renewed confidence.



However, the recent crisis in the Middle East has introduced an element of uncertainty that has tempered that optimism. As is often the case, geopolitical events can have a wider psychological impact and this has translated into some hesitation among buyers. Even those who are in a strong financial position are taking more time to make decisions, resulting in a slower and more cautious market overall.

That said, it is important to keep a balanced perspective. While conditions are undoubtedly more testing, opportunities still exist. In every housing market—especially during more uncertain periods—there remains a core group of serious, motivated buyers. These individuals are proactive, well-informed, and ready to act when the right property comes along. For sellers, this reinforces the importance of accurate pricing, effective presentation, and strategic marketing.

As residents of Ascott-under-Wychwood, Maria and I never take for granted how fortunate we are to live in such a picturesque and vibrant community. The village and its surrounding areas continue to attract interest thanks to their unique character, strong sense of community and outstanding countryside setting.

It is precisely because of this that we feel a strong responsibility to give back wherever possible. Supporting the local community is something we see not just as a gesture, but as an essential part of who we are as a business.

Over the past few months and years, we have been proud to contribute to a range of local initiatives that play an important role in sustaining community life:

- **Save the Hedgehog Scheme** – supporting wildlife conservation and helping to protect a much-loved local species.
- **Shipton Bowling Club** – contributing to a valued community facility.
- **Shipton Cricket Club** – sponsoring grassroots sport and encouraging local participation.

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- **Local Events** – including sponsorship of the amateur dramatics society and the Women's Institute, both of which bring people together and enrich village life.

These organisations and events are at the heart of the community, and we are delighted to play a small role in helping them continue to thrive.

Our commitment goes beyond sponsorship. We have introduced a simple but meaningful initiative to ensure that every successful transaction contributes directly to the village.

- For every property sale completed by Ted George in Ascott-under-Wychwood, we donate £400 to Tiddy Hall, a much-loved village venue that serves as a hub for social and community activities.
- We also make a donation for every new lettings property we take on and let in the village.

This approach allows our business success to directly benefit the community, helping to support facilities that are used and enjoyed by residents throughout the year.

At Ted George, we pride ourselves on taking a pragmatic, honest, and results-driven approach to estate agency. While the current market presents its challenges, our focus remains firmly on guiding our clients through these conditions with clarity and confidence.

Our in-depth knowledge of the local market, combined with tailored marketing strategies and realistic pricing advice, has enabled us to continue delivering strong results. Even in a more cautious environment, we are proud to report that we are outperforming much of the competition in both new instructions and completed sales.

Over the past 12 years, we have built Ted George organically into one of the leading agencies in the area. This has been achieved through dedication, consistency, and a genuine commitment to our clients and community.

As a small, independent, family-run business, this is something we are especially proud of. Our growth has been driven not by volume alone, but by trust, reputation, and long-standing relationships with the people we serve.

Whether you are considering selling, letting, or simply exploring your options, we are always happy to offer advice.

And as always, we remain committed not only to our clients, but to supporting and strengthening the wonderful community we are proud to be part of in Ascott-under-Wychwood.

James Withey
Owner/Director
Ted George Estate Agents

MORE TRACTORS I HAVE DRIVEN

The new style Fordson Major which dad bought in 1961 gave good reliable service for many years but by 1975 there were signs which I took as warnings of trouble ahead. If the cooling water in the cylinder block was not drained out after work, then oil in the sump changed from black to white, though it did go black again after a spell of work.

It had always been normal to get a rattling noise from the gear box when turning corners while the power take-off shaft was driving the pick-up baler but these rattles increased to levels which were disquieting. So I looked for another tractor and bought one from John Wilder at Wallingford. This was a Ford 4000. It had been used for two and a half years by Grassland Research at Hurley and showed 2500 hours on the clock. It had a three cylinder engine but it ran at fifty percent faster so it still produced fifty horsepower as our old one did. It also had a cab which was an improvement for us.

The start was disappointing. I connected it to a three furrow plough and half way up a slope it spluttered and stopped. I examined the fuel filter and I was disgusted to find it clogged up solid. The first law for diesel engines is to keep the fuel clean! I changed the filter and cleaned it up and bled the fuel system. The engine ran OK but not at full power. I checked the air intake and the air cleaner. The oil bath was also half full of sludge. I glanced at the radiator grill and guess what? It was blocked solid. I used a power hose on it and just about cleared it enough for the cooling system to work. After this I was very pleased at the way the tractor performed although Wendy did a large part of the tractor driving whilst I looked after the cattle and the rest of the farm work.

I recall some interesting occurrences. I was cultivating one evening with the lights on and two half grown leverets (young hares) were running around and having a lovely time in the light beam and suddenly an adult hare came charging in and like a lasso circled around them and rushed them off to the edge of the field. On another occasion I was ploughing in a coat of manure with the lights on and suddenly thousands of flies came up into the light beam. They were soon spotted by some bats who helped themselves to a feast. Lucky bats I thought. Then a couple of owls joined in the fun and the bats started to disappear. I didn't want to feed bats to owls so I switched off the lights and went home and finished the ploughing in the daylight.

I milked a herd of cows for thirty five years and on many occasions we had severe snowstorms which blocked our farm road and prevented the milk tanker from coming down to the dairy. So we had to transfer the milk from our bulk tank into a portable tank on a trailer, then take it the quarter mile up to the main road by seven o'clock the next morning and leave it where the tanker driver would be able to reach it with the hose on his vehicle. For these occasions I always made a point of

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mixing a gallon of blue paraffin into the diesel tank to stop it from freezing to jelly and blocking the filters and fuel pipes on the tractor.

On one occasion half way up the road the engine stopped.(X X X). I had forgotten to mix in the paraffin! My mother still had half a dozen hot water bottles so we filled them up with hot water and I packed them around the fuel pipes and under the fuel tank and covered it all over with hessian sacks to keep the warmth in. I remembered I still had an aerosol of Spectre from the 1960's when we sometimes used Easystart to start the diesel powered generator. When I used the Spectre the power of it was quite ferocious. So after a few hours I aimed the Spectre into the air intake and pressed the starter button. After a while it started firing and ran normally. The saints be praised! And then the weather got warmer!!

On the next day Wendy and I went down to the shop in Shipton. A little way down the road the left hand rear wheel began to jump up and down like a crazy kangaroo. That Hurley lot had filled the tyre with water to obtain more grip and never included a salt solution or antifreeze and the water broke into lumps of ice inside the tyre. The inner tube was badly punctured and I had to buy a new one.

In 2004 this Ford 4000 and I had a co-incidence. I had been feeling a bit groggy for a few days and then one morning the tractor spluttered and coughed and spewed out oil from the air intake. P. A. Turney diagnosed a blown out cylinder head gasket. The next day I felt too weak to feed the cats and a few hours later I was on the way to Banbury Hospital where I had heart treatment over two to three weeks. When I returned home the tractor was expertly mended and ran like new. I could only walk about 100 metres and it was six months before I could carry a bale.

In the early 1990's we had purchased a new 80 horsepower tractor with a fore-end loader and also a new Cook Flat Eight bale system, sledge and bale grab. The tractor was a New Holland 6635 and ran alright for a few days until one day I switched on the starter and nothing happened. P.A.Turney had to get a new starter motor from Fiat in Italy. After that it was all O.K. This tractor made many jobs so much easier that I was able to extend my farming life by ten years. It had 12 gears in both forward and reverse, also a heater and air fan, a radio and a socket to hold a can of shandy. After thirty years of loading, unloading and stacking bales by hand it was a joy to see the bales going up eight at a time and then carried and stacked up to nine bales high. At the same time Wendy did the baling with the old Ford 4000.

Time passed far too quickly and we retired in 2013. The New Holland and Cook Flat Eight machinery went to my very good farmer friend and is still doing farm work and log splitting work. The Ford 4000 and hay making machinery went to Joe Gomm another friend and the last time I saw the tractor it had a new cab, all the bent body work was straightened out and it was all original gleaming blue paintwork with orange wheels, and it looked brand spanking new.

Jim Pearse

Limerick of sorts

I feel sorry for poor old Trump
He combs his hair from the back to the front
There can be no doubt
He's like a sad bandicoot
And as bald as an elephant's rump

Vanity, vanity, vanity
Humanity must know we're all flawed
We know we have entrance and exit
Or so it was writ by The Bard

Voices of spring when song birds do sing
Make haste to make nests and lay eggs
When young men's decisions
Should always be questioned
For they're influenced by what hangs between their two legs

Did you spot I used one of my favourite tunes? I think I may have misquoted Shakespeare. I think I can only remember two quotations, "Friends, Romans, Countrymen lend me your ear, my glasses keep falling off". Or this one, "All the world's a stage and we are merely Woodbines". Us from the lower classes couldn't afford Players fags, they were too expensive.

When I was a young man my grandmother would often say to me 'you wants to remember love ull draw you further than gun powder ull blow ya'.

Dear old Jimmy Bridge who I played football with, would repeat this old ditty, 'love is a funny thing, it makes a man a fool, it takes away his appetite and wears away' I will leave you to think of the rest. Jimmy was a very good footballer. When I watch England play on television I become very patriotic, I stick a book under one end of the TV set so England are always kicking downhill. With all that help, it still doesn't do much good.

Now a poem to help me become a pretentious old man.
Scholars now claim Einstein's brain
Was only average, it's all a question of relativity
To be or not to be, that is the question,
But don't ask, I don't know or explain relativity
If we could run fast enough around a track
We might meet ourselves coming back
Perhaps to stop and ask the question

What is the purpose of your mission
We might reply, take my advice
Don't become a genius
Or they will still pick your brains
Even when you're dead.

Fred Russell



Coffee at

The Mill

OX7 6AP

at

10 o'clock to mid-day

on

Saturday 6th June

Saturday 4th July

Saturday 15th August

Saturday 12th September

Saturday 10th October

Saturday 7th November

Saturday 12th December

Everybody Welcome

The Tiddy Hall

Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon

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

ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

Our fundraising initiatives continue to make excellent progress. As hopefully all village residents will be aware, we launched a crowdfunding campaign in February this year under the direction of the indefatigable Cathy Ferrier, with a target of £11,127 to pay for a new stage and theatre curtains. I am delighted to advise that we have raised £7,964 (71% of the target) with 30 days left to go. We have a number of 'promises' in the pipeline that will take us even closer to our target. We are also arranging for Tiddy Hall to be registered for Gift Aid which will mean that, once individual donors have signed the required form, their contributions will be grossed up by 20%.

We are massively grateful for the donations received to-date which include several sizable sums from village residents, the Village Charity, the Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council (courtesy of Liz Leffman). There is also a very significant pledge from WODC (£2,819) though this is conditional upon our reaching the overall target so we definitely need a final big push to get us over the line.

As you know, the crowdfunding initiative is intended to pay for a much-needed new stage and new theatre curtains. In addition to this initiative Cathy is progressing a number of other potential funding avenues including the National Lottery, the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, the Cottsway Community Fund and Bernard Sunley. We aim to generate enough cash to pay for new patio/fire-exit doors, though this might take several months.

Back to 'business as usual' – the recent Flix in the Stix event was a great success. The event was very well attended, the film was great and the food went down extremely well – and the technology worked perfectly! With absolutely no arm-twisting whatsoever, Simon Gidman has 'volunteered' to organise another Flix in the Stix in autumn.

Bookings are continuing at a very good level with activities virtually every day during term time. There is, of course, lots of availability on weekdays whenever Pre School is not in session. Folk Nights are always well attended and we shall be hosting another Jazz Night on 11th July featuring the Eddie Gripper Trio. In addition 'Mark and Friends' will be performing on 6th June with all proceeds going to charity. Finally, there will be a Dinner Dance on Saturday 22nd August, featuring local super-group, Three Piece Sweet! As always, all proceeds from the dinner dance will go to Tiddy Hall, complementing the other fundraising initiatives already mentioned.

Ascott Grapevine

And then there is the Panto! I won't go into any detail on this as Cathy has written another short article on the Panto which you will find elsewhere in this edition.

The Tiddy Hall Management Committee would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to those village residents that have already donated via the crowdfunding website. We would, of course, welcome additional donations from village residents. Any amount, no matter how small, will help us to achieve our target. Full details of how to donate can be found here.

John Bugeja

<https://www.spacehive.com/reviving-tiddy-hall-community-stage>.

ARE YOU A KEEN GARDENER?

The Ascott Grapevine is seeking a keen and knowledgeable gardener who would like to write a series of articles for our village magazine.

You would be able to choose the subject for each issue, although ideally it should be relevant to the season when each magazine is published.

We are not seeking a lifetime commitment, but it would be good if you could cover at least one gardening or allotment season.

If you would like further information, please contact Stuart by email stuart.john.fox@gmail.com.

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THE CHANGING VILLAGE

Do any of you villagers perhaps when walking your dogs around Ascott, ever wonder what the village would have looked like in the past? Perhaps comparatively recently, like the turn of the 20th century. In 1901 the Census records that there were 84 households in the village. This is in comparison to the over 230 recorded today. 84 equates approximately to the number of old stone houses and cottages existing from the past. So we should remove any built after that time to imagine a possible image of the village.

Between Church View and Simon and Kate Gidman's house east of the Tiddy Hall there were no houses on the south side of Shipton Road and open spaces existed on the north side as they did in High Street. No Tiddy Hall, just a small field.

No electricity, no gas, phones or mains water or all the appliances like washing machines, fridges etc. Smaller items like television, computers and mobile phones were non-existent. It must have been a very dark village through the autumn and winter with no street lights and even in the dwellings much dimmer lighting with only oil lamps, lanterns and candles. No convenient clothing like today, just heavier woollen, linen and cotton clothes for the main of the population, so much more difficult to keep clean and dry.

No tarmac roads, just natural soil or stoned surfaces. Imagine the scene after a day of heavy rain! No cars. The only transport horses and various kinds of carts and wagons. At times various farm livestock would have been much more noticeable in the village.

To us it seems a bleak scene but not I'm certain to those people of the past who had no idea how life would change in the next 125 years. How fortunate in comparison is the world we take for granted today.

Of course the centuries old church with its churchyard, lime avenue and nearby pound would have been there. Also the school though much smaller and the railway with its station master's house, sidings and many more stopping trains.

Ascott Grapevine

The allotments were very much in demand and rose much higher up London Lane than today. Wages in a village of mainly agricultural workers were very low and to be able to grow their own vegetables was a great asset.

On the opposite side of the road was the vicarage, newly established in the middle of the 19th century following the decline of the old one in High Street.

At the end of High Street the track led to Ascott Mill. A mill was mentioned in the Domesday Book. At the west end despite Coldstone Farm (now House) being technically in Shipton Parish the other side of the boundary Caudell Brook, together with Langley Mill beyond, it was looked on as part of the village for certain purposes.

There were a number of farms and their accompanying buildings and paddocks which at the time filled some of the empty spaces along Shipton Road and High Street. Along Shipton Road as well as Coldstone Farm were College Farm and the Grange, the house then divided from its previous farmland which had been adsorbed into College Farm. In High Street (then known as Mill Lane) were Yew Tree Farm, Longhouse Farm and Corner House Farm and Crown Farm was next to the Green. Manor Farm had been separated from the vil-



lage following the construction of the railway. Previously it must have seemed rather more part of the village.

The Green would have borne no resemblance to the neat and tidy appearance which Shane Barnes maintains for us today. The Green was allowed to grow wild as were the verges and parts of the churchyard. The chestnut tree was only planted in 1973. On the west side of the Green was the blacksmith's house and forge now Richard and Pauline Plant's house with the forge extending to the right. The house had previously been thatched but a disastrous fire around the turn of the century caused a complete reconstruction.

The blacksmiths before the fire.

Two pubs served the village, The Swan which had existed for a while and the Churchill Arms, built following the construction of the railway to replace the previous pub at Corner House. This has been developed into Sunset House and its adjoining building.

The Census only mentions one shop although there were likely smaller traders listed under other occupations. Probably one of these was the Post Office which was then situated at 4 High Street. The shop named was a Grocers and its owners name still survives as 'Andrews' Yard.

No playing field existed but cricket was played in the Manor field to the north of the railway.

Surprisingly there was a cottage listed as part of the village along Gypsy Lane, on the far side of the point where the railway crosses the bridle track. The crossing keeper was a woman and until recently remains of her garden existed in the form of a pink rose which bloomed every summer and true to its name an everlasting sweet pea.

Next time we will meet some of the villagers from 1901.

Wendy Pearse

Village Picnic

Sunday June 14th

2 - 4 pm

Memorial Playing Field

Everybody Welcome

COMBE MILL, BLENHEIM PLACE SAWMILS, COMBE, OXON, OX29 8ET

Combe Mill in its day was the workshop for the Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evanlode.

It is a late 19th Century Grade II listed Watermill with Steam Beam Engine, Restored Waterwheel, Line Shafting, Collection of Towers Clocks, with all machinery running as used in it's day. Make a poker in our Dual Blacksmiths' Forge, Tinkering Area for the children and much more....

Admission: -Adults £9.50, Concessions &8.50, CHILDREN u 16 FREE with paying adult.... Dogs most welcomed.... Free Parking....

Ask about Gift AID. Open: 10.30am to 4.30pm

ASCOTT TIMES PAST AND NOW

The Tiddy Hall was donated to the village by Reginald Tiddy in 1912. Originally a wooden structure sited on the same land as the present Hall, but on the opposite side of the car park. The present Hall was built in 1954.



The Ascott Pickleball Club



Having started as a new club in September, we now have 20 members playing Pickleball in Tiddy Hall every Monday evening.

What is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a fast-paced racquet sport that blends elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. It is played on a badminton-sized court using solid paddles and a perforated plastic ball. Since its invention in 1965, it has become one of the fastest-growing sports globally due to its low-impact nature and it's certainly a great way to keep fit and socialise with friends in the village. The majority of our members had never picked up a 'paddle' before and it's been really pleasing to see how everyone has strived and thrived!

Interested?

We are now ready to expand the club, and we would welcome new members. The founders are John Cull and Sue Smith

If you would like to find out more, please drop John a note john@greenascott.co.uk or message 07831 852846. Alternatively, message Sue 07922 000489.

When we have enough interest, we will run a taster session at Tiddy. We will explain the rules and give you some coaching tips (if you are new to the game). We have club paddles and all you need is comfortable gym style clothing and suitable indoor sports shoes. If you want to join, there is no club membership cost, just a fee of £5 every time you play.

The times are flexible; you select a 90 minute slot (either 6pm to 7.30 or 7.30 to 9pm). We operate a WhatsApp group where you tick your preference and turn up, pay and play. It's as simple as that!

Hopefully, we have whetted your appetite and if so, we look forward to hearing from you and to show you the magic that is Pickleball!

John & Sue



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Email: westoxon@paw-pals.co.uk

Wychwood Folk & Acoustic Club

Elaine & I started Wychwood Folk & Acoustic Club back in 2014 using the function room of The Swan Inn, in Ascott as our main venue, with the aim of giving the best local talent a platform to perform. It seated 47 comfortably and as word spread, we were soon selling out. The second aim was to put the bigger names of the folk world into the village hall which seats 150 comfortably, this was enough to attract some of the biggest names of the folk world to our small village.

Another aim was to rival Nettlebed Folk Club (which has been going over 40 years) as an alternative venue for said big names. It also saved an hour's drive from west to east to catch the best acts around. Although we will never quite reach the heights of Nettlebed as they seat 250 and have a very strong support base however; I reckon we give them a run for their money.

We had to learn the job as we went along but being musicians ourselves helped, especially around setting up a PA system & learning the intricacies of a sound desk. We tried to get the best gear we could afford as in our minds, paying guests deserve to hear the best sound we could give them. We had plenty of advice from a friend who is a professional sound engineer & eventually replaced the second hand equipment with brand new gear.

It can all be a bit hit and miss running a music club of any description and booking artistes will always be a gamble. We learned to strike the best deals with the artistes themselves or their agents so we wouldn't end up losing money on any of our events and twelve years later we can honestly say we've succeeded on that front. We believe the risk has to work both ways and not only on the promoter. (which some agents happily believe)

We have a decent mailing list (but could always use more folk to come along and add their names) and have attracted people from all over the country who make a weekend of it, staying locally and enjoying some time in the Cotswolds.

I'm not sure how much longer we can continue running the club as we're not getting any younger and it can be very tiring even though we only put on one or two shows a month. So, if anybody would be interested in continuing what we started one day, drop us a line.

Keep Music Live
Mark & Elaine

Wild Oxfordshire

Insect Week: Tiny Creatures, Big Impact

They may be small, but insects make a BIG difference to nature recovery.

From 22 June to 28 June, the Royal Entomological Society's spotlight week is a celebration of all things insect.

And these small critters really do make all the difference... there are more than 24,000 species in the UK alone, and they can be found in almost every habitat. Their jack-of-all-trades role spans pollinators, predators, pests, parasites, and prey, and the study of insects has long been central to conservation, food production, medicine, and ecology.

At Wild Oxfordshire, insects are essential to our Yellow Wagtail Partnership project. Established in 2020 by patron Dr Robin Buxton, the Partnership works with the Earth Trust Church Farm Partnership and Lower Farm, to "learn and communicate as much as possible about the impact of different land management techniques both on this species and the wider environment".

As a migrant species, insects are a vital part of Yellow Wagtail diets. However, recent changes in farming practice and other human impacts on the landscape have led to habitat and insect declines, harming Yellow Wagtail populations. They now find themselves on the conservation red list.



How You Can Help

Volunteer.

We occasionally ask for volunteers to carry out small projects to help with the Yellow Wagtail Partnership; this can range from helping out with fieldwork and managing data to creating visual aids for our work.

Our partner, Earth Trust, regularly recruits volunteers. Whether you are out counting insects or sitting at a desk, volunteering your time (with the Earth Trust) will

help them carry out the vital work they do for the Yellow Wagtail Partnership, as well as their other projects.

Have an idea for a research project?

We are keen to hear from students and researchers about their research ideas and would be happy to discuss the possibility of using our site to support your research. Please get in touch to discuss what might be possible.

Record your Yellow Wagtail sightings.

Help us learn more about Yellow Wagtails in Oxfordshire by reporting your sightings to TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre).

Help to look after our grasslands.

- Stick to the path and avoid wandering into the fields as this may disturb nesting birds or lead to nest abandonment.
- Be respectful of the livestock, keep dogs on leads when there are calves in the fields.
- Remember to take your and your dog's rubbish home with you.
- Don't have BBQs on the grasslands, as you may cause a fire.

Gardening tips for June

1. Want to help garden birds? Don't feed them in warmer months.
The RSPB have released guidance on feeding birds, stating that putting up bird feeders in your garden could be putting some species at risk of disease. Stop filling bird feeders with seeds and peanuts from **1 May to 31 October** as this will prevent too many birds gathering in one place. Instead, still put out small amounts of mealworms, fat balls or suet all year round.
2. Let the grass grow
June is peak time for insects like butterflies, bees, and beetles. Leaving even a small patch of lawn uncut creates shelter and food for the likes of Meadow Browns, Large Blue butterflies, and Thick-legged flower beetles.
3. Go chemical-free
Gardening organically is a good way to ensure that the food and plants you grow are free of pesticides or chemicals, and the wildlife will thank you for it too.
By stopping the use of chemicals, slugs, snails, and insects such as aphids will return, but don't worry! In time, so will their natural predators, such as hedgehogs and slowworms to help keep pest numbers down.
4. Keep Bird Baths Topped Up
Fresh water is essential for birds in warm weather. Keep a shallow dish with a few pebbles and help insects drink safely. However, only put out a bird bath if you can replace the water **daily** and clean the bird bath **weekly** to prevent the spread of diseases, especially in the warmer months.

Ascott-under-Wychwood Cricket Club

We began friendly matches this year in mid-April and our first Cherwell League fixtures are on Saturday May 9th when the 1st XI host Bicester 4th XI in Division 7A, and our 2nd XI travel to Stanton Harcourt 2nd XI in Division 9A.

In the few games played in April, Mark Read and Rowan Moss have already hit a 'half century' each. Rowan, Ben Cooper, 14 year old Patch Orrock, and Jon Fowler are our leading wicket takers so far.

Thank you to all those very kind souls that sponsored some of our cricket balls this season, and the lovely couple in the High Street that helped us with a contribution towards a major service & repair bill on our roller. It really is massively appreciated by everyone in the club, young and old.

As ever, if you're interested in getting involved with the club as a player, umpire, official or supporter - don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd also like to see even more youngsters join up to start training to represent the village!

Stewart Moss, club committee
07866 278685

Email: Auwcricketclub@hotmail.com

Instagram: [ascott_u_wychwood_cricket](https://www.instagram.com/ascott_u_wychwood_cricket)

Facebook: Ascott UnderWychwood Cricket Club





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ENJOY OUR PIZZAS AT HOME

Margherita | 12.5

Tomato, mozzarella, parmesan, basil, extra virgin olive oil

Hot Pig | 12.5

Tomato, mozzarella, basil, pepperoni, nduja, fresh chilli, extra virgin olive oil

Vegetariana | 12.5

Tomato, mozzarella, basil, black olives, mushrooms, red onion, extra virgin olive oil

Kids Margherita Pizza | 10

Tomato, mozzarella, parmesan, basil, extra virgin olive oil

Garlic Bread | 10

Garlic, extra virgin olive oil, fresh thyme

Al Funghi | 12.5

Tomato, mozzarella, basil, mushrooms, extra virgin olive oil

Rustica | 12.5

Tomato, mozzarella, basil, black olives, mushrooms, smoked pancetta, extra virgin olive oil

Pepperoni | 12.5

Tomato, mozzarella, basil, pepperoni, extra virgin olive oil

Kids Pepperoni Pizza | 10

Tomato, mozzarella, basil, pepperoni, extra virgin olive oil

Dough Sticks & Garlic Butter | 6

Six delicious dough sticks to dip

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Collection only.*



JOIN US AT

THE SWAN



THIS SUMMER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Live Music in the bar on the first Friday of the month - 5th June, 3rd July and 7th August. 7-9pm.

Swan Pub Quiz - we're bringing back our popular pub quiz nights. First up **Wednesday May 20th** - join us for quiz fun and prizes.

Swan Summer Party & Dog Show - our annual party on **Saturday 25th July**. Join us for a day of live music, specials on the Garden Grill and our much-loved Dog Show.

Keep an eye on our website and Instagram @swan_inn_ascott for future dates and details on what's going on at The Swan.



GARDEN GRILL

Our Garden Grill menu is back for the summer. A delicious selection of quality meats and wood-baked fish from our grill served with a selection of seasonal salads and sides. Thursday to Sunday each week.

Sunday Grill specials will include our Mediterranean Summer Roast - think rolled stuffed porchetta joints, grilled chicken, wood-fired new potatoes... with our traditional roasts also served.

Book A Table Here



FATHER'S DAY

Sunday 21st June

Celebrate Father's Day with a special lunch at The Swan. We'll be giving each Dad a pint on us.

We will also have live music in the garden during the afternoon.

GUSBOURNE WINES SUMMER TASTING EVENING

Join us on **Thursday 11th June** from 7.30pm.

Enjoy a five-course menu with each dish paired with Gusbourne wines. The evening will be hosted by Gusbourne's brand ambassador, Steve Kirkham, who'll also guide you through each pairing.

If you love great wine, good food and a sparkling atmosphere, this one's for you. **Tickets are £95**

Tickets Here



COFFEE TO GO

Swing by The Hatch for coffee on the go - perfect if you're passing through, heading to work, or breaking up your WFH day with a quick reset.

Grab a freshly brewed cup to take away, or treat yourself to a refreshing iced coffee when you need a pick-me-up. In the afternoon, there's also homemade cake on offer.



Ascott Under Wychwood Pantomime 2026

The village Pantomime is back! Oh yes it is!

Cinderella: A Cotswolds Story

After more than a decade, we're bringing the village pantomime back!

On **4th and 5th December 2026**, at **Tiddy Hall**, we will be presenting our own version of the classic Cinderella.

Expect all the usual pantomime favourites—witty puns, jokes, audience participation, and a fairy tale brought right up to date with a very local Cotswolds twist.

Kick-off meeting 30th June 7pm— everyone welcome

To get things started, we're holding a kick-off meeting at Tiddy Hall on 30th June at 7pm. Everyone is welcome—whether you'd like to be involved in acting, singing, dancing, costumes, scenery, or you simply want to be part of the fun and find out more, please come along.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will begin in September, with a final Dress Rehearsal on 1st December.

Help support Tiddy Hall

As many of you will know, we've been actively crowdfunding to fund a new stage and theatre curtains for Tiddy Hall, to help revitalise the space for everyone who uses it—including pre-school, Cotswold Stage School, the Folk Club, and now the

Panto!

We're getting close to our target, with support from the parish council, district council, and county council—but most of all from generous villagers. We still need a few more donations, so please scan the QR code, or visit the Tiddy Hall website and give what you can.

Cathy Ferrier



**POST OFFICE
TIDDY HALL
EVERY FRIDAY 2 PM TO 3:45 PM**

An advertisement for 'Annie's Curtains and Blinds'. The background is a photograph of a patterned curtain hanging from a rod. The text is overlaid on the image in a light, sans-serif font.

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Fauré
Pelléas et Mélisande

Williams
Flight to Neverland

Ravel
Mother Goose Suite

Tchaikovsky
Swan Lake Suite

Conductor: Joshua Ballance

7.30pm, Saturday 4th July 2026

Venue: Burford School, Cheltenham Road, Burford

Tickets: £10, U16s £1, available in advance

from TicketSource and www.burfordorchestra.org.uk

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



Our village parish church has occupied a prominent position in the centre of our village for up to 900 years, and with the surrounding churchyard, is a focal point for the community.

We may all be guilty of taking it for granted, except for events such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms, as well as special celebrations at Easter and Christmas.

Keeping the church open and available and the churchyard tidy doesn't happen by chance. It requires many helping hands and regular fundraising.

Unlike many ancient buildings, we do not receive any government support but rely on our congregation and kind donors from the parish to help fund the church, maintain and repair the building and pay for a vicar.

Unfortunately, there is still a funding gap. It costs £25,000 each year to run the church and churchyard, and that is without any major repairs. There is a shortfall that is covered by organising fundraising events such as coffee mornings, open gardens and quiz nights.

We are looking for someone or a group of people who enjoy arranging events and are willing to form a fundraising team. Many people in the village are willing to bake cakes, man a stall and help at an event. What we need is a person or a group willing to come up with ideas, plan events, and recruit helpers. Maybe you would like to suggest and organise a one-off event, such as a coffee morning or plant sale. We would love to hear from you.

Could this be you?

If you would like to discuss this idea, please get in touch with Sarah at Sarahtribe@hotmail.co.uk or Stuart at stuart.john.fox@gmail.com.

Thanks

Ascott-under-Wychwood PCC



Cottsway Housing marks 25 years with extra £25,000 for Community Fund

Cottsway Housing Association is marking its 25th anniversary by adding an extra £25,000 to its Community Fund, bringing this year's total to £55,000.

The fund helps local charities, voluntary groups, and residents bring projects to life, with grants of up to £5,000. Cottsway customers can also apply for up to £250 to support learning, training, or qualifications, helping people build skills and boost job prospects.

Richard Reynolds, Chief Executive at Cottsway, said: "It's great that we can mark our silver anniversary with a boost to our Community Fund. This year we'll be able to help even more people bring their ideas to life and make a real difference in their neighbourhood. We look forward to receiving applications – whether from customers working to improve their own prospects or local groups or charities, helping to build a stronger community."

From sports clubs and youth adventure activities to family wellbeing sessions, school uniform projects, lunch clubs for older residents, community festivals, hall upgrades, and skills programmes for people with learning disabilities, the Community Fund has recently made a tangible difference for people of all ages.

Funding is available for community events, local projects, training, environmental initiatives, and more. Projects should encourage local engagement, tackle isolation, support learning, reduce poverty, or improve digital access.

Cottsway customers are encouraged to have their say by voting on Community Fund applications and funding amounts via social media.

Applications are now open for 2026-27. For more information, including the Community Fund Annual Report which includes all the causes supported last year, see: www.cottsway.co.uk/fund or call 01993 890000.

About Cottsway

Together we are turning houses into homes, growing and building stronger communities and making a positive difference to people's lives.

Cottsway own and manage nearly 6,000 homes and provides services to diverse communities across West Oxfordshire and beyond. We house more than 13,000 people and support the wider community by adding social value.

WYCHWOOD FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



Sat 6th June. Mark & Friends

Tiddy Hall

***** FREE ENTRY *****

Our annual fund raiser with appearances from the following.

Taylor & Girish are a husband-and-wife indie folk duo who make music on their own terms, free from outside expectations. They've been making music together for over five years, though both have been writing and performing since their teenage years.

Pete Joshua is an Oxfordshire-based folk musician and songwriter known for his intricate guitar playing and collaborative work. He is a prominent figure in local folk sessions, recognized for songwriting, banjo, and guitar performances.

Upon release of his debut album in November 2022, **Greg Brice** received 3 nominations in the 2023 UK Blues Awards, becoming a finalist in the 'Emerging Act of the Year' category. He has also been nominated for the 4th year in a row this year - Best Acoustic Act 2026

Mark is an Oxfordshire based singer/songwriter. He has been performing at events both locally and nationally since the early 90's. He plays an eclectic mix of Americana & Modern Folk music.

Sat 5th Sept. Mike Silver with guests

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £15.00 in advance £18.00 on the door

Mike is among the finest singers and songwriters this island has ever produced. The lyrics of his well-crafted songs, delivered with a voice that will raise the hairs on the back of your neck, conjure up emotions from deep inside. He has been compared to many other artists but in fact he is simply an original, no compromises, what you see is what you get. Gordon Giltrap MBE

Sat 24th Oct. Simply Dylan

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £15.00 in advance £18.00 on the door

No frills, no gimmicks, no pretence **SIMPLY DYLAN** is John O'Connell's personal exploration and celebration of the rich and diverse work of Bob Dylan. John O'Connell, a rare talent who has had his name indelibly written in to the tapestry of Liverpool's music scene, has collaborated with other highly reputable musicians from the city to form his Dylan Band.

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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Evenlode - Witney
 via Lower Oddington, Upper Oddington, Bledington, Lyneham,
 Sipton-under-Wychwood, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Leaffield, Crawley, South Leigh

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

Times shown in a green box are request stops only
 If you wish to join or alight at these stops, please speak to the driver or call 01451 832 114

The Villager is proudly sponsored by...



Management Committee Contacts

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

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

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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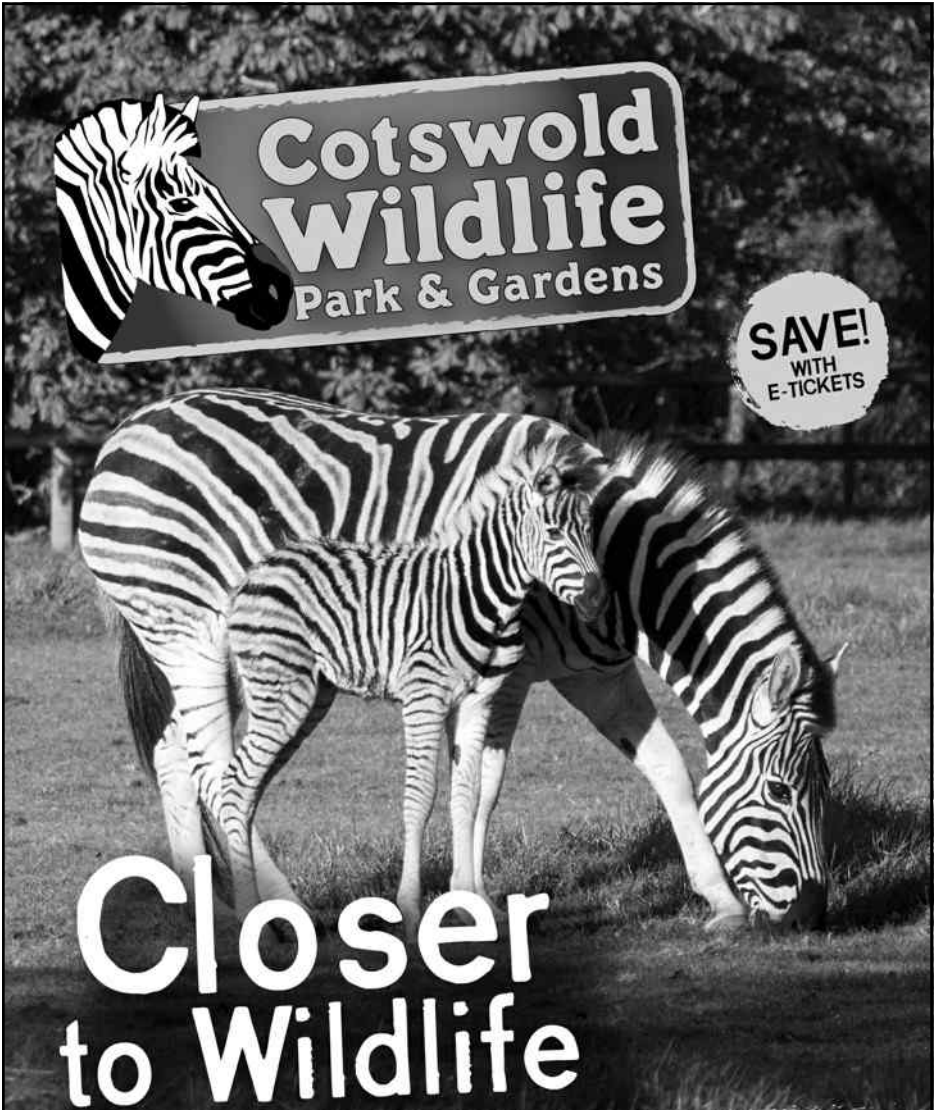
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Joy 07867585053

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Ascott Pre-school

What we've been doing

At present we are enjoying some lovely sunny weather, and the children have been exploring outdoors in the back garden and doing lots of planting. Finally, the sandpit has been opened too!

One of our topics this term was 'Baby Animals' and children have been learning the unique names for animal babies, we were all so surprised at how many end in '-let'. We've chatted about piglets, owlets, froglets, snakelets and even wormlets, sparking lots of questions and giggles. We have noticed that lots of animals have baby calves, not just cows! We have also been trying to remember trickier names e.g. cygnet, gosling and leveret! Through circle times, stories and play, the children are beginning to use these names more confidently.

We also explored this topic further during our yoga sessions where we were doing various animals poses and used the internet to look up more obscure animals e.g. skunks who have baby kits!

Parcels!

We've taken delivery of some exciting new equipment for the children and staff to enjoy (the children loved opening the parcels), these included a new climbing frame and some toy cameras, a complete overhaul of our farm equipment saw us receiving a new farm barn and cattle market, a John Deere Gator, a Land Rover Defender with horse trailer, some silage bales and lots more accessories too. The children did enjoy the bubble wrap the most though!

Fund-raising

We did a fund-raising event at Chastleton Church at the end of March and 'took over' the running of the Church teas. We raised over £300 and thanked them for allowing us to do this event. Our next take-over at Chastleton will be on Thursday 22nd October 2026. Do come along if you are able.

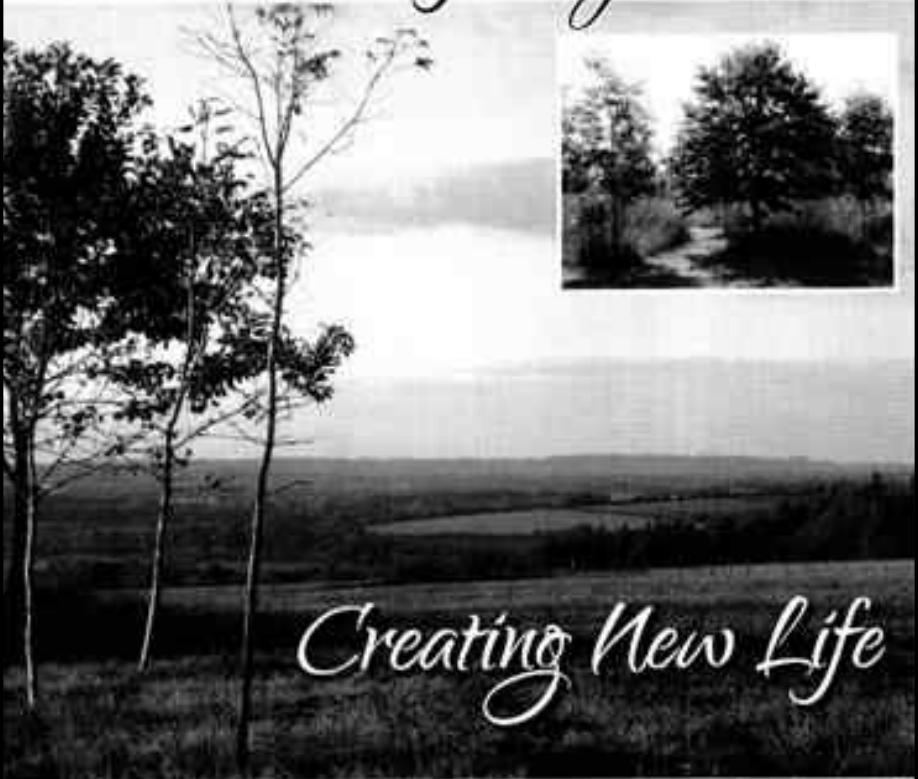
Spending the fund-raising money!

We have invested in a programme called 'Speech Club', it is designed and delivered by experienced speech therapists and can be used with all of our children to support speech, language and communication both in our setting and at home. The number of children needing help has increased so much that there are not enough therapists to cope with the demand, the waiting list is at least two years. Early intervention is very important, and we hope that by using this service we will be able to improve speech, language and communication for all of our children and give additional help to children with particular needs.

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



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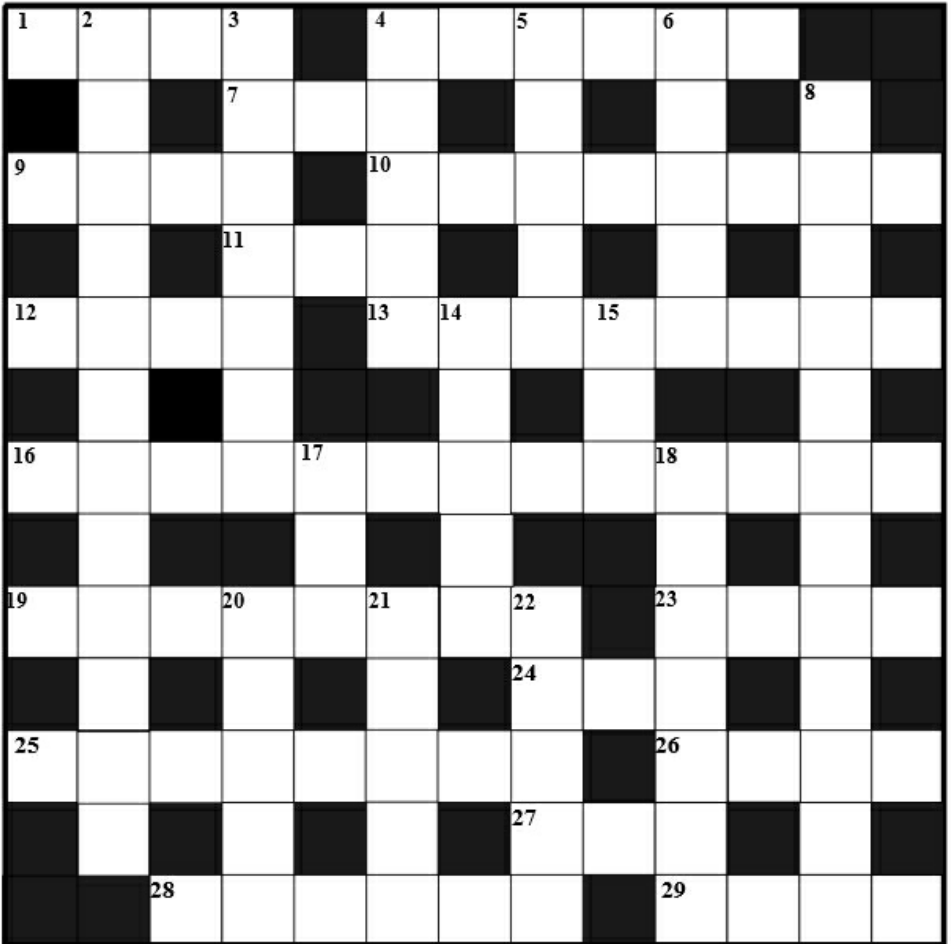
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Crossword Puzzle



Ascott Grapevine

Across

- 1 Bird's mouth (4)
- 4 Husky (6)
- 7 Anger (3)
- 9 Norse god (4)
- 10 Woke up (8)
- 11 Leg (anag.)
- 12 Lacking hair (4)
- 13 Guards (8)
- 16 Act of remembrance (13)
- 19 Comes before (8)
- 23 Mute (4)
- 24 Hat (3)
- 25 Of a lower standard (8)
- 26 Possesses (4)
- 27 Trouble (7)
- 28 Value highly (6)
- 29 Relaxation (4)

Down

- 2 Striving (12)
- 3 Realm (7)
- 4 Cures (5)
- 5 Anew (5)
- 6 Very steep (5)
- 6 Oriental (9)
- 8 Move Len's dept (anag.) (12)
- 14 Wear away (5)
- 15 Hot drink (3)
- 17 Female sheep (3)
- 18 Laval frog (7)
- 20 Board game (5)
- 21 Impel (5)
- 22 Go away! (5)

Solutions to Crossword in Edition 129

Across

- 1 Gardens
- 5 Enter
- 8 Owned
- 9 Abreast
- 10 Execrable
- 12 See
- 13 Pullet
- 14 Way out
- 17 Gen
- 18 Gladiator
- 20 Eminent
- 21 Brain
- 23 Treat
- 24 Eyesore

Down

- 1 Globe
- 2 Run
- 3 Endorse
- 4 Shabby
- 5 Eerie
- 6 Transport
- 7 Retreat
- 11 Eglantine
- 13 Pigment
- 15 Amiable
- 16 Cattle
- 18 Great
- 19 Range
- 22 Ado

Local Business Directory

ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253
www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk Page 37

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk Page 3

BURFORD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE 01993 831282, 01993 822114 Page 33

COMBE MILL
BLENHEIM PALACE SAWMILLS, COMBE, OXON, OX29 8ET Page 25

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 46

COTSWOLD WELLNESS 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com
www.fingersandtoes.info Page 45

ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 45

FAIRSPPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND 01993 878387
helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk Page 48

FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299
wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Page 41

GROVES SHOP 01993830302 info@alfredgroves.co.uk Page 49

THE HAIR SALON AT THE PADDOCKS Ladies' and Gentlemen's Hair dressing
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Alison 07980645995; Joy 07867585053 Page 45

IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268 Page 10
Instgram@Ivy's Florist

JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com Page 45

JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020
info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com Page 33

PAW PALS 07917 391520 paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon westoxon@paw-pals.co.uk Page 28

ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com Page 21

THE SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascott.com
www.lionhearth.co.uk cath@lionhearth.co.uk Page 35

TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com
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Events Calendar - 2025

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 23 rd	7.30pm	Silver Blues	Tidy Hall
June 6 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
June 6 th	7.30pm	Mark & Friends British Heart Foundation	Tiddy Hall
June 7 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
June 9 th	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Tiddy Hall
June 14 th	2-4pm	Village Picnic	Memorial Playing Field
June 27 th	3.00pm	Charity music event Katherine House Hospice	Lyneham OX7 6QN
June 30 th	7.00pm	Village Panto - Kick-off meeting	Tiddy Hall
July 4 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
July 5 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
July 11 th	7.30pm	The Eddie Gripper Trio (Jazz)	Tiddy Hall
July 14 th	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Tiddy Hall
August 15 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
August 15 th	2.00pm	Milton-u-Wychwood Allotment & Gardens Assoc. Annual Show	Milton Village Hall
August 22 nd	7.00pm	Three Piece Sweet Summer Dance	Tiddy Hall
September 5 th	7.30pm	Mike Silver with guests	Tiddy Hall
September 8 th	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Tiddy Hall
September 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