

The Ascott Grapevine



Grapevine Appeal

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

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

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

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

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

Advertising Rates

£17.50 full page

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Advertising Discount:

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 Pearce

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 52](#)), please contact Wendy Pearce 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,

I am not sure the village has ever been quite so grateful for the shade of a church porch. By the time this reaches you I hope the heat will have relented a little, but as I write, the garden looks distinctly Mediterranean and the flower-arrangers deserve a special mention for turning up at all. Faithfulness in thirty degrees is faithfulness indeed, and I do not think it goes unnoticed, even by the Almighty.

It has also, of course, been a summer of sport. Wimbledon gave us the usual mixture of strawberries, rain-that-never-quite-came, and players fanning themselves between points as though auditioning for the same heat-wave documentary. The football, meanwhile, brought us the great debate of the mandatory hydration breaks — too disruptive, some said, ruining the flow of the game — though it struck me as very sound theology by accident. Even the fittest players and finest serves in the world cannot simply push on through the heat under their own steam. They need to stop, and drink, and be refreshed, before they can continue.

It is not a bad picture for the rest of us. We tend to treat our own breaks as an inconvenience too, something that interrupts the flow of a busy day, rather than the very thing that lets us keep going. Jesus spoke of living water that truly satisfies, water that does not run dry however parched the season. A pause for prayer, however brief, can be exactly that kind of hydration break — not a stoppage in the game of life, but the thing that keeps us in it.

So as the heat continues, the rallies run on, and the matches roll by, might I suggest a little living water alongside your own bottled variety. As we head towards autumn, the church door is open, for a service or simply a cool, quiet moment. I promise not to mention the football or the tennis unless you raise it first!

Every blessing,

Mark Abrey

RIP

Wendy Weston

Alec Weston

Tony Hawtin May 29th

Theresa Pratley June 21st

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



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

Chairman's Update – Ascott Village Shop

Big news: our village shop is now open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday!

As we move through another busy year, I wanted to take the opportunity to share some of the exciting developments taking place at Ascott Village Shop and to thank everyone who has helped us continue to grow and improve.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank our fantastic team of volunteers. The shop simply could not operate without the time, enthusiasm and commitment that our volunteers give so generously. Whether you cover a regular shift, step in at short notice, help behind the scenes or support us in countless other ways, every contribution makes a real difference to our community.

One of the biggest changes this year has been the introduction of a new volunteer rota. This has transformed the way we organise staffing and has given us much greater flexibility. Thanks to the willingness of our volunteers and staff to embrace the new system, we have been able to extend our opening hours significantly, making the shop more convenient for everyone.

Our new opening hours are:

Monday to Friday: 8.00am – 5.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am – 1.00pm

Sunday: 10.00am – 12.00pm

These longer opening hours have already been very well received, providing greater access for commuters, families and anyone needing to pop in throughout the day.

Alongside these operational improvements, we've also been working hard to improve what we offer on the shelves. We are delighted to now receive **fresh bread deliveries every day from Mark's Cotswolds Bakery**, giving customers a wonderful selection of freshly baked loaves and other bakery favourites each morning.

Our fresh produce offering has also expanded, with **fruit and vegetable deliveries arriving three times each week**. This means we can provide a wider range of fresh fruit and vegetables with better availability and quality throughout the week, while continuing to support local suppliers wherever possible.

This is only the beginning of what is a thorough review of our suppliers and the product range we offer. Please bear with us if some areas of the shop feel a little emptier than normal, this is partly deliberate as we try and make space to introduce new product ranges alongside the ever-present popular goods that we sell week-in-week-out. The committee is always keen to hear from our community about what

Ascott Grapevine

they would like to see available in the shop. Please speak to any of us or email us at shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk with any input you may have.

As always, we are incredibly grateful to everyone who chooses to shop locally. Every purchase helps support a valuable community asset that is run by local people for local people.

Finally, while we are fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer team, we are **always looking for new volunteers**. You don't need previous retail experience, just a friendly attitude and a little spare time. Even a few hours every month can make a significant difference and helps us maintain our extended opening hours for the whole village. Volunteering is also a wonderful way to meet people and become more involved in the community.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please pop into the shop and speak to one of the volunteers, we'd be happy to tell you more.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Together, we're ensuring that Ascott Village Shop continues to thrive as a valued part of our village for many years to come.

With best wishes,
Jack Morgan
Chairman
Ascott Village Shop



Coffee at The Mill OX7 6AP

at
10 o'clock to mid-day
on
Saturday 12th September
Saturday 10th October
Saturday 7th November
Saturday 12th December

Everybody Welcome

What's On @ FarmED

Late Summer & Autumn

HIGHLIGHT

Friday Farm Walk - Most Fridays: 10.30 - 14.30

Explore Honeydale Farm on an inspiring and informative guided farm walk, led by Founder, Ian Wilkinson or a member of the FarmED team.

Mini Beast Safari - Several Dates: 10.45 - 12.00

Join us during the school holidays for a fun-filled bug hunt around the different habitats here on the farm. Find bugs and minibests of all shapes and sizes with our FarmED insect expert Alex and discover your inner bug hunter as you sweep, scoop, and identify all of your favourite colourful critters in a perfect summer activity for the whole family.

More info & booking:

<https://www.farm-ed.co.uk/whats-on>

Also Booking...

Autumn Foraging Walk & Workshop: 9th Sep 9:45 - 13:00

Uncover the edible and ecological secrets hiding in the hedgerows, trees and fields around you and create a nourishing and delicious brew from nature's larder.

People's Emergency Briefing Screening: 9th Sep 11:15 - 14:00

Join us for a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing documentary, with a facilitated discussion with local MPs and members of the FarmED team.

Introduction to Permaculture (Two Day Course): 30 September 9:45 - 16:30

Learn how to grow, work, and live regeneratively through permaculture principles on this two-day certified course.

Apple Day: 6 October 9:45 - 14:00

Join us in our heritage orchard to celebrate the 11 year anniversary of our heritage orchard being planted. A wonderful day to enjoy all things apple including apple refreshments and a delicious lunch.

Landscape Design for Animal Health: 7 October 10:30 - 15:30

Regenerative vet Claire Whittle explores how physical changes on your farm can help improve livestock welfare, in this one day workshop.

Composting Workshop: 15 October 9:45 - 16:00

From farm-scale to the back garden, there is a compost method to suit everyone. Join us for an interactive workshop led by Compost Club expert Michael Kennard to learn what defines healthy soil, how it functions, how to improve it into a

healthy growing medium and how to create our own effective and efficient composting system for differently scaled operations.

Introduction to Agriculture: 20 October 9:45 - 16:30

For people with little or no agricultural experience who are either entering a career in the rural sector or would like a basic knowledge of farming and food production.

Introduction to Regenerative Agriculture: 5 November 9:45 - 16:30

For people who are working within the wider food system or directly in agriculture, who are looking to gain a basic understanding of how to farm regeneratively.

AUW Pantomime 2026 - Update

Cinderella: A Cotswold Story

Performance 7pm on 4th and 5th December 2026 at Tiddy Hall

THANK YOU to all those who came to our kickoff meeting in June, it was great to see so many willing to act, help out with costumes, scenery and generally support this years Panto!

Our first rehearsal meeting, with details of roles and full script will be Tuesday 15th September at Tiddy Hall, 7pm to 9pm.

We will also make sure there are other times available for those that wish to be involved, particularly parents and children where this time is not suitable.

If you would like to get involved but missed the first kickoff meeting please email me on Cathymferrier@gmail.com or call 07095011195 and we can arrange a time to meet.

Tickets will be available later in the year.

Cathy Ferrier

Making Room for Nature: Micro-Habitats in Urban Areas



You may think nature only thrives in big reserves. But it also squeezes into the cracks and corners of our urban environments.

So, whether that's a garden, a balcony, a windowsill, or just the wall of your home, there's always room for a splash of green amongst the urban landscapes.

Mini habitats - what's in the name?

In ecology, a "microhabitat" is a small area with its own unique environment that differs from the surrounding habitat. But you may know them by a different name.

Mini ponds, bee hotels, and even bird boxes, each creating a quiet refuge for the creatures sharing our built landscape (just remember that bird feeders in warmer months increase the risk of disease in birds). These small sanctuaries carry real ecological weight.

Never underestimate the power of cumulative effect: each species, no matter how small, has a part to play in all ecosystems.

The key benefits of micro habitats include:

- Attracting insects that play a role in pollination.
- Storing moisture and regulating temperature
- Breaking down organic matter

Walls

Urban walls can host a surprising range of ecological functions.

Living walls are particularly beneficial to local wildlife. These vertical green sites, formed of flowering climbers and wall mounted planters, can attract bees, hoverflies and other pollinators.

Micro planters and crevice habitats, which are small pockets of soil, stacked tiles, logs with holes, stone crevices or even swift bricks attached or built into walls, create nesting and overwintering sites for solitary bees and beetles.

Water

Water sources such as ponds or streams with natural features are ideal, but rare in highly urban areas. But artificial water sources such as birdbaths or rainwater pools/ponds can still support amphibians, insects, birds, and mammals while contributing to local microclimate regulation.

For example, a recent study in the Journal of Urban Ecology found that urbanised aquatic microhabitats, such as water-filled tree holes and other small standing waters in cities, create “unique but inconspicuous” breeding habitats for a range of insects.

Gardens

Gardens are probably the first green space that comes to mind when discussing microhabitats. And that’s because even small spaces can support many microhabitats due to the varying environments and features which can be created within them. Gardens are a mosaic of interconnected micro-ecosystems within one space.

But when discussing our urban environments, rewilding towns and cities might sound like something left to greater powers, such as your local council, but in fact, urbanisation doesn’t need to mean a loss of biodiversity.

You don’t need a large rural garden to support nature – urban gardens are becoming ever increasingly vital passages in our increasingly fragmented country.

These small patches of green can become a wildlife sanctuary surprisingly easily: try growing as many different types of plants as you can, including native species, and provide natural food sources. And importantly, let nature do its work! Sometimes, the best thing you can do is simply step back and leave a corner (or two!) undisturbed. For example, fallen or stacked logs and retaining piles of leaves and wood chip can serve as habitat for insects, fungi, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals.

Gardening tips for August

Put up bat boxes

Create a home for bats in your garden over the summer and put up bat boxes in large trees or buildings. Place them high up (at least 3 to 4 meters), sheltered from the wind, and exposed to the sun for most of the day. See the guidance on the [Bat Conservation website](#).

Bat boxes can be bought from various stores and websites, or if you're feeling crafty, you can make them yourself.

Leave food and water for hedgehogs.

Continue to leave out dishes of water and meat-based (not fish!) dog or cat for hedgehogs, before they go into hibernation in early Autumn.



Feeding hedgehog, Rachel Bosley

Ascott Village Church

Volunteer Key Roster

Dear Villagers, a wonderful group of residents, volunteer to undertake only four duties annually, involving them securing the Church each Sunday, opening and closing each following day, until handing over to the next person having re-opened on the following Sunday morning.

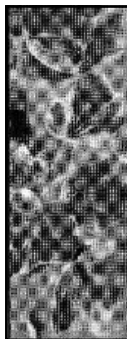
Each annual Roster begins in mid October.

For a number of years, we have been very fortunate to have sufficient numbers of volunteers to maintain that modest four weeks per year commitment from each person, but recent retirements cause us to make this request in the Grapevine for new volunteers.

Peter Rance is the current Roster compiler and both he and Stuart Fox can happily explain the details of the duty itself, which is best conducted of course at the Church.

Please do consider volunteering as the more persons in our team, the fewer duties each one has, but beyond that, our beautiful Church at the very heart of the Village, deserves our small individual efforts to keep it safe and sound.

If this sparks an interest, please contact Peter Rance by email rance414@btinternet.com or phone 07986 490 287



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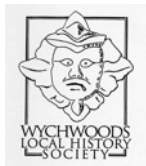
Thursdays & Fridays 10:30 to 16:00

Saturdays 10:30 to 14:00

Shop closed on Mondays and Tuesdays

Messages can be left at other times between 09:00 and 16:00

The Wychwoods Local History Society



Founded more than 40 years ago the Society has *a thriving membership, but we would like to welcome more people from Ascott to join us.*

The Society organises a varied programme of lectures which take place on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May in Milton-under-Wychwood Village Hall, Shipton Road, from 7.30 - 9pm. Refreshments are available from 7.15pm. Lectures are free to members. Non-members are always welcome, admission £5.

2026 – 2027 Programme

Wed. 9th Sep. Andrew Meller: Tolkien and the Cotswolds

When not researching the past, historian Andrew has worked as a head teacher, actor and storyteller and has just retired as a bookseller with Waterstones. From Stow's Tolkien Door to the enchanting Puzzlewood, the Cotswolds profoundly shaped JRR Tolkien's imagination. We can expect an intriguing, illustrated talk uncovering Tolkien's life-long passion for archaeology, myth and the landscapes that brought Middle Earth to life.

Wed. 14th Oct. Julia Phillips: Witches of the Cotswolds

Dr Julia Phillips is Hons Senior Research Associate and lecturer at the University of Bristol. She received her PhD for her research examining how witches and witchcraft were featured in newspapers in Victorian Britain. Her work has been published in books, academic journals, and popular magazines, and she is a regular presenter at conferences and events. Her primary research interests are the study of witchcraft in the 19th century and the development of modern Pagan Witchcraft in the 20th/21st centuries.

Wed. 11th Nov. Stephen Barker: Armistice 1918 and After

Some Local Perspectives

Stephen's interest lies in promoting people's understanding of their military heritage, specialising in work relating to the First World War and British Civil Wars. He is a writer, makes over fifty presentations per year to a range of different audiences in the South Midlands area and operate a number of British Civil Wars tours.

Wed. 9th Dec. Tim Healey: A 17th Century Christmas

Tim Healey is a popular Oxford-based freelance writer, broadcaster, and historian who speaks on local history, folklore, and Victorian and 17th-century life. He presents to local history societies, U3A groups, and libraries using visual Powerpoint presentations and often appears in period costume as part of the 17th-century band, The Oxford Waits

2027

More detailed information about next year's lectures is available on our website <https://wychwoodshistory.uk/events-evening-talks-this-season>

**Wed. 13th Jan Liz Woolley: From Axtell to Zacharias:
The men who built Oxford**

Wed. 10th Feb Douglas Butler: Mutiny on the Bounty

Wed. 10th Mar Bill King: WW1 Australian Flying Corps in the Cotswolds

Wed. 14th Apr Mark Davies: James Sadler- Oxford pastry cook and first English aeronaut

Wed. 12th May AGM and 'From the Archive'

In addition to a programme of monthly lectures the Society also keeps an archive of material about various aspects of the history of the Wychwoods. This is housed in an office above Groves DIY Shop in Milton and visitors, by appointment, are always very welcome. A major part of the archive is a large and growing collection of photographs of people, places and events that have taken place in the Wychwoods over the past century and a half. Some of these can be seen on the Society's website, but there are still many more for our volunteers to digitise. The Society also mounts an on-going programme of small exhibitions of photographs from the Archive in the Wychwood Library in Milton. Members of the Society also research and publish articles on our website, and occasionally in print, on various aspects of local and family history.

To discover more about the history of the Wychwoods or membership of the Society visit www.wychwoodshistory.uk

Equine Harmony in Nature – A Place to feel, heal and grow in our Community.

Everyone is subjected to loss and bereavement at some point in their lives. Whenever, and however it happens, it can turn our lives upside down and inside out. This hits particularly hard and has lasting effects on our mental health if we experience it at a young age. I know only too well, from my own lived experience. This has shaped me but also inspired me to offer support to young people who are experiencing a tragic loss and don't know where to turn.

My initiative, *Equine Harmony in Nature*, aims to support bereaved children and young people on their healing journey, through guided, nature-based experiences. Both equine-assisted interaction and horticultural therapy are widely recognised for their ability to calm the nervous system, reduce stress, build self-esteem, and foster a sense of purpose and empowerment.

A staggering 1 in 29 children is bereaved of a parent or sibling (Child Bereavement UK, 2022). And there is little if any help or support. I have lived experience of both the loss of a parent at an early age, and the loss of a sibling, as well as loss of motherhood. This is invaluable in helping others to understand the overwhelming situation grief throws us into. I am also skilled in equine intuition, horsemanship, groundwork with horses, counselling and am trained in social and therapeutic horticulture.

The vision is to create a wellbeing garden to host these activities, alongside pasture for two or more horses, kept in as natural and welfare-focused an environment as possible.

But to deliver this invaluable support, I need the right site to set this up.

Do you have what I need to support youngsters who are not getting enough help and guidance?

I am looking for a few acres of pasture and a corner to establish the therapy garden, plus an outbuilding or office pod to work from, to host indoor sessions, and to offer the required facilities and storage. The intention is to provide a safe and nurturing space where individuals can feel, heal, and grow. It will also become a charity to fund children from low income families.

Nature-based interventions not only benefit individuals but also contribute positively to the wider community. Unaddressed grief and trauma in childhood can have long-term impacts on mental and physical health. Early support can help mitigate these effects, improving wellbeing and reducing future pressures on health services.

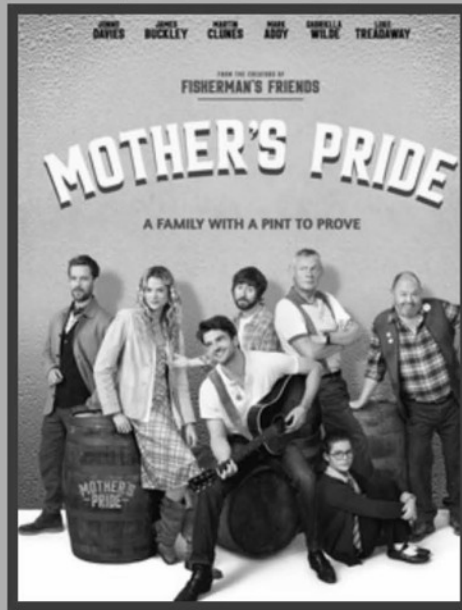
This work is also deeply personal to me. Having experienced multiple bereavements myself, I understand the lasting effects of unresolved grief. Through my own healing journey - supported by gardening and connection with horses, which was transformative - I have developed a strong commitment to helping others access similar pathways to recovery.

Do get in touch by email if this resonates with you and we can discuss the details: styleurope@hotmail.com

And follow on Instagram @equineharmonyinnature

By Susi Cheshire





Saturday 16th September

Tiddy Hall, Ascott-under-Wychwood

Doors & Bar open at 6.30p.m.

Meal served - 7p.m. Film starts - 8p.m.

Tickets £15.00 including a 2 course meal

Simon Gidman: 07768 600102

Rachel Stratford: 07964 235106

All proceeds will be donated to the Life Centre who offer support within the community

Parish Council

Local Government Reorganization

As I write this, the government has decided on the plan for abolishing district and county councils in Oxfordshire and replacing them with three unitary authorities, covering Oxford city and its surroundings, southern Oxfordshire and parts of West Berkshire, and for us the northern part of Oxfordshire. The only ones who seem happy with this proposal are Oxford city who get to absorb more of the green belt around them as far as Kidlington, and it is being challenged.

If this does go ahead, it will mean that previously county-wide services such as adult social care will be split into three, whilst district level services will be consolidated to some extent. There may be long term savings, but the short term will inevitably be one of distraction and chaos and the costs of restructuring, terminating or renegotiating contracts and no doubt rebranding.

The new unitary authorities are due to commence in 2028. We will keep you informed when and as details emerge.

Local Plan

Hot on the summer holidays, WODC has released their ‘final draft’ of the Local Plan 2043 for consultation. This will, in theory, shape the housing delivery for the next 15+ years, and we urge everyone to take the time to read it and make any comments. This is the version that is going forward to be examined before it is made into law, and the Parish Council has fed back at every stage in the process and hopefully avoided some of the worst potential outcomes.

The truth is, these homes have been mandated by the government, and so they need to be built somewhere. Trying to find places to put around 20,000 homes in a rural county with limited infrastructure is always going to be very painful. There have been various hysterical claims in relation to housing in sections of the media and politics, so please as always check any facts with reputable sources before making your voices known. The Parish Council, as I’m sure you are all aware, is strictly neutral and here to represent our residents, not to take or respond to any political stances.

We need a plan, and without one that is suitably robust and achievable everything is open to the free-for-all of speculative development. That serves nobody other than the more mendacious developers and landowners.

What will happen in practice following the local government reorganization when WODC will cease to exist, is still an open question. The working assumption is that any local plans will continue to be honoured, but the proof will be in the eating. One thing that is inevitable is that the voices of parishes such as ours will carry even less weight, so we need to act whilst we can.

One of the many questions this does raise, is why the other districts should contin-

ue to accept increased housing targets based on Oxford's unmet needs. In the WODC Local Plan 2043, that accounts for 2000 out of the 18000 planned homes. How are they going to get into Oxford?

Roads

The good news: the new A40 slip road is now open. The bad news: Botley Road continues to fail to deliver. The continuing news: we still have major potholes and failing road surfaces throughout our area, especially the car-devouring turning to Leafield from the Charlbury Road. We continue to raise these, but our remit does not cover the main highways.

We have been informed that there have been trials of new pothole fillers, including one that can set under wet conditions. The huge backlog in getting potholes fixed this year was caused, we are told, by weather conditions and the long, wet spring so we will hope this signals a major step forward.

We have no plans to recommend any 'Quiet Lanes' around the village, and certainly not (as was suggested to the PC in a recent meeting) Shipton Road. We do not need all that traffic trying to negotiate The Green, especially during the school drop off and pick up; and we need access to every entrance and exit to the village to be able to re-route vehicles whenever it floods.

OCC have provided some bright new Flood warning signs, so no doubt they will be appearing on a road near you as the year progresses. We have tidied the sand store and constructed a replacement shed to hold these.

Sports Ground and Pavilion

The Parish Council has taken back control over the Memorial Sports Ground and Pavilion. The sports ground has always been a major expense and work on the pavilion and site have been far and away our biggest expenditure over the past year, amounting to almost the entirety of our precept. Under advice, it was made clear that the running expenses needed to be brought under the same auditing and public oversight as the rest of our budget.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the members of now dissolved Sports Club Committee under the chairmanship of Andrew Weaver, for all the past work they have done in promoting and managing the facilities.

We look forward to continued working with the clubs and organizations using the building and sports fields, and to welcoming new users. It is important that whilst we continue to invest in making this a safe and welcoming space for all, it is open to as wide a section of our community as possible. We are evaluating various booking systems, but in the meantime please send any enquiries to the usual con- Some photos of the pleasant afternoon at the Village Picnic.

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

Village Picnic.





The Tiddy Hall

Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon

Founded and given to the village by

R. Tiddy, Esq., in 1912

ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

The redevelopment of Tiddy Hall is about to start! Having raised enough money from our various initiatives, we can now proceed with the improvements and remedial work that I mentioned in previous articles.

Starting with the remedial work, we have contracted with Oak Windows and Doors of Milton under Wychwood to replace the three patio fire-exit doors and the front door with new, hard-wood items. The old doors have served the hall well for more than 30 years but are no longer fit-for-purpose in terms of energy efficiency and security. This work will be completed before the end of this year. Funds permitting, we will also get the rest of the woodwork repainted to match the new doors. This work has been funded primarily by the National Lottery and the Bernard Sunley Foundation.

In terms of improvements to the hall's functionality as a community performance space, we have contractors engaged to build the stage extension and make new theatre curtains. Our original intention was to replace the stage completely with a bespoke solution incorporating under-stage storage but the costs were unfortunately too high. Instead, we will be adding modules to the front of the stage. There will still be some under-stage storage incorporated in the design, but it will be more limited than we would have liked.

Speaking of storage space, we intend to add one and possibly two 'wings' to the stage to increase the overall space and enable performers to enter and exit the stage without having to step down into the audience area. This is, however, dependent on our finding a better solution for storing our chairs and tables which currently occupy the space either side of the stage (more of which later). The funding for the stage and curtains comes from our successful crowdfunding project.

Cathy has also made great progress, with help from John Cull and other volunteers, in organising the village pantomime. This is scheduled for 4th and 5th December. Casting discussions are in progress and the script is being refined.

We have the Tiddy Hall Summer Dance, featuring Three Piece Sweet and the ever-popular fish 'n' chip van, coming up soon on 22nd August. This is again a fundraiser with all proceeds going to Tiddy Hall. Previous events have been well attended and have raised a good amount of money to help keep Tiddy Hall solvent.

Coming back to storage; this has been a difficult subject for several years. We have reached an agreement with the Ascott under Wychwood Preschool whereby they will fund a new storage unit which we will use for our chairs and tables allowing them to continue to use our storeroom. We are grateful for their cooperation in this regard.

We continue to make good progress and Tiddy Hall's future is now a lot more secure than it was a couple of years ago. We shouldn't be complacent, however, as unforeseen events do happen from time to time (e.g. the heating system failing) and, when they do, there is invariably a large cost involved. We need to build back our reserves so that we can withstand these financial shocks. We also need more volunteers to get involved in running the hall and supporting events. Anyone interested in supporting Tiddy Hall should let me know – you don't need to become a trustee to be a volunteer.

Finally, our AGM will be scheduled shortly. We are looking at late September/early October. The date will be announced shortly.

JOHN BUGEJA

POST OFFICE

Due to staffing issues and low footfall, the Post Office will no longer operate from The Tiddy Hall.

Hello from Jan Lund – your new District Councillor

I'm delighted to introduce myself as your new District Councillor for Ascott-under-Wychwood, Shipton-under-Wychwood and Lyneham.

It was a pleasure meeting so many of you while I was out canvassing earlier this year. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote, whether you voted for me or not! With a turnout of 54.7%, our ward had the highest turnout in West Oxfordshire – a fantastic achievement and a real sign of how much people care about our local communities.

While I stood as a Liberal Democrat, now that I'm your District Councillor I'm here to represent everyone. Whether you voted for me, voted for someone else or didn't vote at all, I'll always do my best to listen, help where I can and be a strong voice for our communities.

For those who don't know me, I've lived in Shipton for around 18 years and have been a parish councillor here for the past four. One of the things I value most about living in The Wychwoods is our strong community spirit and the willingness of so many people to volunteer and make our villages even better places to live.

The environment has always been a passion of mine, which is why I founded **Wild About The Wychwoods** in 2024. We encourage people to help nature recovery through simple changes in their gardens and around their homes - small actions really do add up! Find out about us and our free talks and events at www.wildaboutthewychwoods.co.uk.

Cleaning up the River Evenlode is another priority. Like many of you, I'm deeply concerned by Thames Water's shocking record of sewage discharges from the Milton sewage treatment works. I'll be monitoring the current upgrade works to see whether they improve water quality and can cope with any future housing growth. I'm also helping organise WODC's **Waterways Day** this autumn, where residents can meet organisations including Thames Water, ask questions and find out more. Flooding, particularly in Ascott and Shipton, is another issue I'm keen to work on with residents and the relevant authorities.

People often ask what a District Councillor does. I represent residents on matters handled by West Oxfordshire District Council, including planning, waste and recycling, housing, environmental health and licensing. Roads (including pot holes!), education and social care are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council.

However, local government is changing. In April 2028, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell district will be replaced by the new 'Northern Oxfordshire' authority, bringing all local services together under one council. Elections for a shadow au-

thority take place next May, and work at WODC is already underway to ensure a smooth transition.

Another important WODC project is the new Local Plan 2043, which will guide where homes, jobs, infrastructure and green spaces are provided while protecting West Oxfordshire's character and environment. The final six-week consultation begins at the end of August, and I encourage everyone to take part.

Above all, I want to be an approachable councillor who listens. If you have an issue that falls within the District Council's responsibilities, or simply want to discuss something affecting our community, please do get in touch.

Whether it's at a village event, a parish council meeting or simply out and about, do come and say hello, or email me at jan.lund@wodc.gov.uk. I look forward to working with you all to help keep The Wychwoods a wonderful place to live.

Jan Lund



Guilty - I was there

In the early winter of 1944, I started my school days at the C. of E. primary school in Ascott. One morning a few years after the second world war, workmen arrived at the school and started to cover the playground with a black asphalt. Until then, the play area had been a surface similar to Heritage Lane today, but without the pot-holes. The flat surface of asphalt became too tempting for older village boys, the playground was ideal for football with an old tennis ball, so in the early evening after school, many boys got in the playground to kick a tennis ball around. I stood outside the school wall watching and longing to join in, but was frightened of getting into trouble, there was a strict father with a belt if I did. This went on for a week or so, then one morning before school started at nine, I was taken before the headteacher and a police Sergeant and questioned about who had been playing on the playground in the evenings. Being very frightened, I gave the names of my school mates, I have carried the guilt and shame all my life. My only defence, I had the fear of being bundled into a police car and driven away into the unknown. This had happened to me only a few years earlier. Coming out of the hospital with my mother, I was snatched from her and bundled into a car. My mum called she would follow in another car, she didn't. I was taken to a children's convalescent hospital near Thame. There for only four weeks, it was the longest four weeks of my life, it did seem like years. I cannot begin to understand the pain and heart break the children from the Holocaust or orphan from Gaza strip must have felt or feel, man can be more evil than other animals.

I have always felt guilty for betraying my school mates, although I didn't take part in the football. I was there, so I have always thought I was just as guilty. This makes me think of an infamous person who denies being involved in a cesspit of corruption and procuring young females for prostitution, but they were there because they were captured on film for the world to see. They were there, so they are guilty. Guess who that was!

No charges were ever brought against the Ascott boys playing football on school property, but it stopped football after school in the playground. Police had an easy time of enforcing the law in rural villages, no fear of knives being used, no fear of used syringes or drugs.

When boys and some girls reached their early teens, we would hide somewhere to have a drag on a fag. By the time I reached middle age, cigarettes were being called coffin nails, by the time I retired smoking was being called a legal, lethal addiction.

While you've a lucifer to light your fag,
Smile boys, that's the style.

Fred Russell

ASCOTT-UNDER- WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB

This cricket season will probably be remembered as the year of the great drought! As I write this it's been over 2 months without any significant rain whatsoever. It has positive and negative impacts upon cricket. The positives are we don't have to contend with rain disruption and outfields are 'fast' leading to more runs being scored. The negative is that it becomes exceptionally difficult and labour intensive to prepare a safe fair cricket pitch without water & humidity - because the surface dries and crumbles and cracks, and without live grass (and it's buried root system) this gets much worse, and it leads to erratic bounce. Some other clubs in the league have already had to abandon matches due to unsafe dried out cracked pitches! It's been a huge challenge at Ascott as the field is very soft yet dry.

On the field, as I write this the 1st XI sit a very creditable 3rd place in Division 7A, with an outside chance of promotion. The 2nd XI sit 8th in Division 9A.

Stand out individual performances include Maple Way's Will Harvey taking 6 wickets for 5 runs vs Great & Little Tew. Dawls Close finest, young Andrew Taylor scoring 51 vs Witney Mills 4th - aged just 14! Similarly, 14 year old Charlie Brooks hit 52 vs Eynsham. And Chestnut Drive's ace fielder Josh Beasant has pouched 8 catches this season already!

The season completes again at the end of September, but first the club is sending a squad to Devon at the end of August for a 3 match tour.

Stewart Moss

Email: Auwcriccletclub@hotmail.com

Instagram: [ascott_u_wychwood_cricket](#)

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Theresa Anne Pratley

January 12th 1951 – June 21st 2026

We are all shocked and saddened by mum's sudden death.

Mum had lived in Ascott all her life and she loved the village. She would have been married to her husband Bill for fifty years this September.

They had two daughters, Bernadette and Andrea, along with four granddaughters, Bethany, Emily-Mae, Agnes and Elsie.

Mum was good fun and cheeky, enjoyed all of her family, spending precious time with them.

Mum always put others first, before herself and often made little gestures of kindness to all.

She will be missed very much by all of her friends and family, she was very much loved by all.

Bill, Bernadette and Andrea.



A TALE OF THE WARTIME BLACKOUT

In my earliest memories the Blackout was in force so it seemed just part of life in wartime. To a German pilot a light was a target for his bombs so it was essential that all lights were covered. The blackout lasted from 1939-1945.

Family living rooms all had the outside of their windows covered from the onset of twilight until dawn. These window blackouts were constructed of a lightweight timber frame covered on one side by a type of strong black roofing felt. They were shaped to fit tightly against the window. We only had one candle to light the bedroom and there was a thick black sheet inside the curtains. I remember a severe thunderstorm with frequent lightning which flashed in one small corner of the window. Even hand torches and cycle lamps had a shade over the top half of them so that no light- beam showed uphill.

I know of only five cars in Ascott at that time and they all had their headlight on the driver's side completely covered and the one on the left side fitted with a black mask with three narrow slots in it which just allowed a glimmer of light to reach the road surface. The train carriages had a 10 cm wide clear strip down the centre glass panel of each compartment and the rest was black.

The last people who lived at the Crossing Cottage which was on the north side of the present crossing along Gypsy Lane, were Peter Carter, his wife and their young son. At about 5 o'clock in December or January during the blackout we were sitting at the table having our teatime meal at Coldstone Farm (now Coldstone House) when a knock came at the door with the information that Mrs Carter was ill and Doctor Scott Snr. had got his car stuck in the mud somewhere along Gypsy Lane when he was going to see her. Dad had to harness up a workhorse in the stable and perform the rescue taking two trace chains, a swivel and a thicker chain to fasten to the axle of the car. Doctor Scott must have breathed a sigh of relief when the rescue party arrived. But imagine the situation on that narrow trackway of having to hitch a horse to a car in the pitch black with hardly any light, on a cold muddy winter's night.

I don't know what time dad got back but I was only three or four at the time so I was probably in bed asleep. This was all well before the time of the NHS. Patients paid the doctor for his services. I wonder how much Doctor Scott charged Peter Carter for this visit.

Jim Pearse

PS A likely method of rescue over page.

A swivel was about a metre long and was used crossways behind the horse. A trace chain was used each side of the horse reaching from a hook on the front of the collar to a hook on one end of the swivel. The other chain was connected to a hook midway across the back of the swivel with the other end fastened around the car axel.

JP

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, Re-stored 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....

September 20th Crafts and Skills (Mill is in steam)

October 18th Wood Crafts and Autumn Market (Mill is in steam)

December 6th Christmas Fayre opening hours 11 am to 4 pm

Streaming events are open from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm

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

Ascott Pre-school

Children at its heart and a community cornerstone.

For more than three decades, Ascott-under-Wychwood Pre-School has been at the centre of village life, nurturing generations of children and supporting local families. I am lucky enough to have attended and have lovely memories of walking with my Nan (Joyce Barrett) down the lane to the old wooden hall, and our daughter has just, sadly, completed her final day.

Each child is welcomed at the door, with what feels like a warm hug, a genuine smile and a joyful "good morning". From her first settling in session, to her final day, our daughter has been excited to attend and felt at home with the pre-school team (the abundance of toys, activities and "babies" (dolls) have definitely helped!). She's been encouraged to develop and expand her friendships and supported to widen her interests. The team's creativity is astounding, from educating the children about rubbish, recycling and looking after the world; collective, giant art projects, science activities involving the creation of lava lamps, to shaving foam rain and dancing raisins. The updates we've received have given us a wonderful insight into her progress and the subjects she's been taught - allowing us to continue themes at home and talk about the new things she's learned. We've really valued the team's encouragement of outside play - whether tandem-cycling in the playground at the hall, exploring Bruern woods (swinging in the trees, climbing, listening to birds and undertaking leaf identification) or venturing to Aleesha's field to see the lambs and feed the chickens! The variety of activities has been wonderful. Alongside all this, her understanding of numbers, and writing have greatly improved (pre-school aligns to the school curriculum, which, we hope, will make the transition to BIG school easier).

But their support goes beyond the children in their care. Without pre-school, parents and carers like us would not be able to live or work in the local community. They provide an essential service, and not just in a basic, ad hoc way, but through high quality, reliable, Ofsted accredited "outstanding" educational provision. They help boost the local economy (through job provision and ensuring families can live, work and spend locally), provide a reliable income to the village hall, and is one of the core reasons young families, essential for a successful village future, come and/or can remain in the Wychwoods and surrounding villages.

I've worked for Plunkett UK for nearly 15 years, a charity based in Woodstock, that supports rural communities to thrive through the saving and running of community-owned assets and services. I've seen, and heard, impassioned stories of rural communities in decline due to losing their shops, pubs, halls, schools, pre-schools, and as such, every time I drop our daughter off to pre-school I have been grateful to the staff, committee and volunteers who work so hard to ensure the pre-school, a charity, is available for all and ensures our local area thrives.

Thank you!

Emilia Bartoli-Edwards

THE CHANGING VILLAGE

Part 2

In the last Grapevine we could see how Ascott has changed since 1901. But that was only the physical side of the story. The people listed on the 1901 Census were a different breed to the villagers today. Ascott had always been a fiercely independent village much more closely aligned throughout its history to Cornbury than to Shipton and Milton as it is often linked with today and this attitude continued well into the latter part of the 20th century.

By 1200 Ascott had its own church unlike the surrounding villages from Finstock around to Lyneham who all owed their allegiance to the Minster Church at Shipton. Ascott Courts were overseen by the Ascott Doyley Manor which later became Cornbury and it was a village who oversaw its own affairs. This made for a very independent people.

The names of all the villagers who were home the day of the 1901 Census are listed and we can learn a little more about the story of some of them. Many of them were interrelated as is seen in the history of the Ascott Martyrs and as far as a 19th century vicar of Shipton was concerned, were a rough, unruly lot. But this was not the case of the family at the Mill and I am really grateful that their descendent, Joy Timms is able to provide us with so much information about them.

Wendy Pearse

THE COOPER FAMILY OF ASCOTT MILL

James Cooper aged nine on the 1851c., had come with his farming family from East Grimstead in Wiltshire to Rangers Lodge in the 1840's. His father Richard had taken the position of Steward/Bailiff for Lord Francis Spencer Churchill of Cornbury. Richard and his wife Eliza, nee Marten from St. Giles in Dorset, had four children, Emma bap.1834 in Twyford Berks., Ellen bap.1838, Richard bap.1839 and James bap 1841 all bap in East Grimstead Wilts.

James married Ann Woolliams of Pudlicote and with their growing family moved to Ascott Mill in 1880. When young James was an accomplished artist but probably his busy later life was too hectic to pursue such talents.

The 1901 census for Ascott Mill records James Cooper aged 59, Corn Miller and Farmer, his wife Ann aged 61 and daughter Eliza 27 born Sandford Oxon, Martin 26 born Sandford and working at home, Charlotte 15, born Ascott Mill. Presumably the rent in 1901 was more or less the same as James had been paying to the

Cornbury Estate in the 1890's of £60 for the Mill and 27 acres of arable and pasture.

The Mill at this time consisted of a three storey cotswold stone and slate building adjacent to an older stone and slate cottage.

Martin followed his father as Miller having been trained to the job from an early age. In his younger days he was a well known horse Breaker. One day whilst riding a newly broken young horse around the deep dip on the Charlbury road, he encountered a pair of High Flyers being recklessly driven by Edward The Prince Of Wales! Martin's horse took fright, threw him and he sustained a broken leg. The Prince was justly concerned and for many years after the family at the Mill received a Hamper of goodies from the Palace.

His nephew Robert Griffin said that his uncle was bent double from the relentless carrying sacks of corn up ladders to the top of the Mill. After Martin Cooper's death in 1940, the Mill ceased to operate and was used as a store. The land was farmed by Jack Craft's family through the rest of the decade. Martin Cooper's son James was not interested in a life of toil and pursued a more academic life.

The Cooper family of 9 children were ,Eliza Woolliams (married Henry Carpenter a farmer of Southhampton), Ada Letitia (married Joseph Griffin farmer of Bruern Grange) Frank Robert (went to Canada but sadly Frank, baptised Francis, died in 1912 . He left a wife and son in Canada where the family still flourish today.), Martin James (married Agnes Meadows of Lower Leamington Glos.), Charles (went to Canada), Annie Maria, Daniel Richard, Harriet Ellen (married James Parkes farmer and they went to Canada), Charlotte Elizabeth (married Henry Robert Bull farmer of Bould in Idbury Oxon)

In the mid 1950's, Nell (Harriet Ellen Parkes nee Cooper), came back from Canada to visit her sisters, Ada and Tot (Charlotte) and visit old haunts here in west Oxon.

Joy Timms July 2026



Drawings by my great grandfather, James Cooper (born 1801 Feb.)



**Ada, Charlotte and
Ellen in the 1950s**



**Cooper Parke's 1911 Wedding at the Old Mill
Ascott-Wychwood**
Ellen is the bride. Her parents Harriet and
James are to the right of her.
Charlotte on the left and Ada on the right

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ASCOTT TIMES PAST AND NOW

The first Ascott Sports Pavilion was built shortly after the Parish Council acquired the land for the playing field. I do not have the actual date of construction, but it would have been early in the 1950's. Today's pavilion was opened on 23 July 1999. It was financed with grants from the District and Parish councils, Sport England, the Football Association, the local sports club and donations from the Ascott community.





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WYCHWOOD FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



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.

Sat 21st Nov. Track Dogs

Tiddy Hall

Tickets £21.00 in advance £25.00 on the door

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

Their sound is best described as "sunshine-y songs thriving on dark themes behind irresistible rhythms". Those familiar with the band will know that Track Dogs have always dabbled in different styles from Americana and bluegrass to folk and even blues. With over 11 albums, and performances from Glastonbury to the Royal Albert Hall, Track Dogs continue make a name for themselves.

All events start at 7.30pm

Doors 6.45pm

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - www.wychwoodfolkclub.com

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ENJOY OUR PIZZAS AT HOME

Margherita | 12.5

*Tomato, mozzarella, basil,
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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 Pizza - Margherita or
Pepperoni | 10

*Tomato, mozzarella, basil, extra
virgin olive oil - add pepperoni*

Garlic Bread | 10

*Garlic, extra virgin olive oil,
fresh thyme*

Green salad | 6

Fries | 6

Al Funghi | 12.5

*Tomato, mozzarella, basil,
mushrooms, truffle 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*

Spicy Salsiccia | 12.5

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Live Music in the bar on the first Friday of the month
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Thanksgiving at The Swan - Join us on Thursday 26th
November for our annual Thanksgiving celebration. Gather with
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Come hungry, leave thankful!

Book your table and celebrate Thanksgiving with us.

The Art of Flower Pressing - On Thursday 8th October -join
botanical artists Pressto Flowers for a creative evening celebrating
the beauty of nature. In this relaxed yet hands-on workshop,
you'll learn the timeless craft of flower pressing, design and
create your very own piece of botanical artwork to treasure.

Tickets £85 and include canapés and fizz.

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details on what's
going on at
The Swan.

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to pick up for take-away



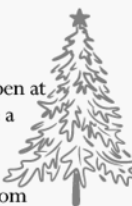
MUSSELS MONTH IS BACK

Join us throughout October for
favourites like classic moules-
frites and mussel specials to
discover each week. Nom!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES AT THE SWAN

Christmas party bookings are now open at
The Swan! Round up the team, raise a
glass and celebrate with our festive
feasting-style menu. Enquire to
book an area or our private dining room
The Nest which seats up to 22.

Book early to secure your date!



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the afternoon treat yourself to a slice
of our homemade cake. All available to
take away - just ring the bell!



 THE SWAN
ASCOTT-UNDER-
WYCHWOOD

Little readers, big hearts, free books

A few years ago, walking along a residential street in Oxford, I saw an unusual object in a front garden that would turn out to be surprisingly influential in my life.

A box. With a roof. On a stand. Brightly coloured. Full of free books.

Anyone who knows me will know how much I love reading. One of my favourite pastimes is to “rescue book orphans” - spending unaccounted time in a bookshop, acquiring a new stack of tomes, and growing my increasingly extensive personal library. A personal delight. My own children have grown up in a home full of books and are avid readers, with growing libraries of their own. So, what if we shared what we have with our community?

This is how we came to build the Wychwood Free Little Library, specialising in books for children and young readers.

There are many children in our village, and many more who pass through every day. Some of them spend their mornings just up the road at Ascott Pre-School, which holds an Ofsted Outstanding rating. You have to go a very long way to find another with such an incredibly high commendation. I know, I’ve looked. It’s not unusual to see cars pulling up in the mornings that have come from well beyond the village. The children are nurtured by exceptional staff, who read, sing and play with them. The craft they bring home is wonderfully imaginative and creative.

The Little Library sees its own version of that enthusiasm. Two recent brand-new board books about starting nursery were snapped up in less than 24 hours. We try to keep a broad range of books for children, covering chapter books down to picture books, and the ones for our youngest readers seem to fly out quickest.

Our books are free. You can bring them back, you can keep them, you can give them to friends, you can exchange books, you can leave your own donations.

It has been extraordinarily popular, and we’ve received such kind words and warmth from the community.

A village can have many components, but it’s our youngest friends who are the next generation, and what a privilege it is to support them.

Siobhán Daly



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

v23

Thursdays only

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

Times shown in a green box are request stops only

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

The Villager is proudly sponsored by...



Management Committee Contacts

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

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



Service Supported by Oxfordshire County Council



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

Timetable valid from 03 April 2023

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

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

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

This Timetable is valid from 03rd April 2023.



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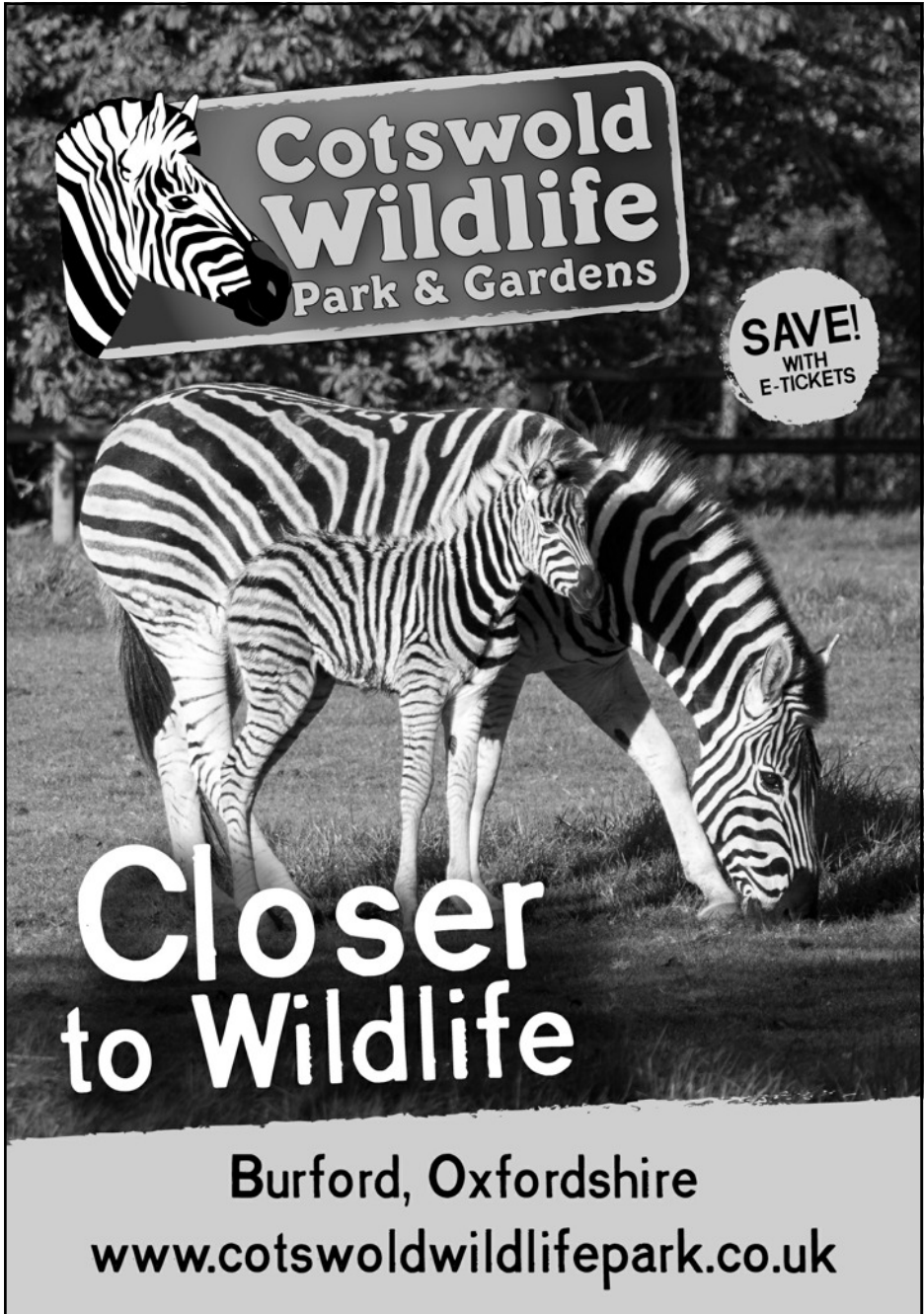
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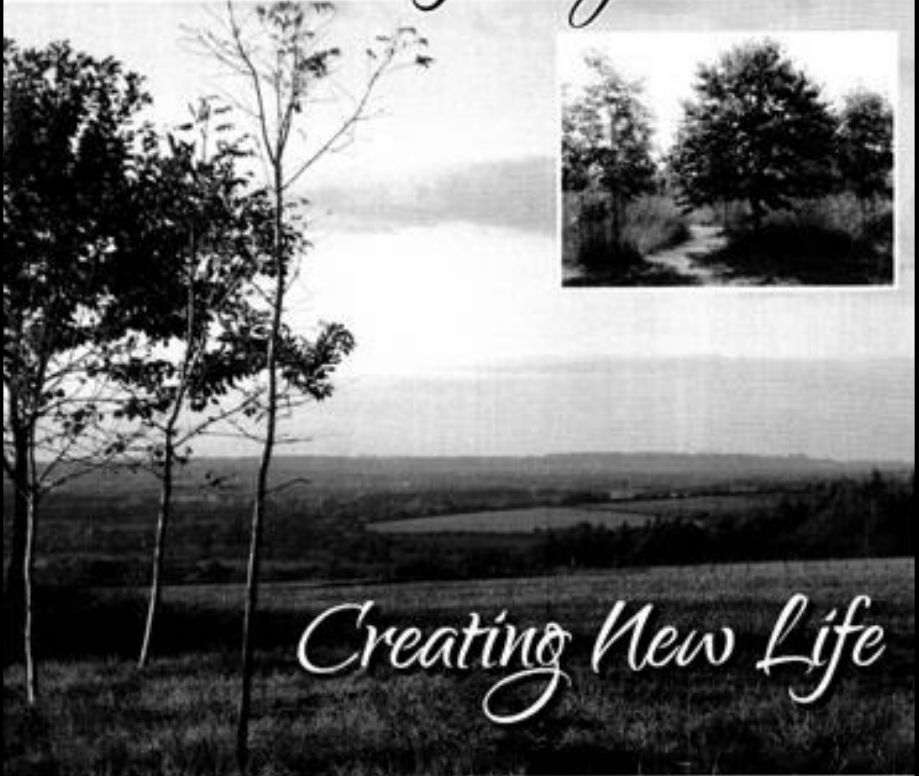
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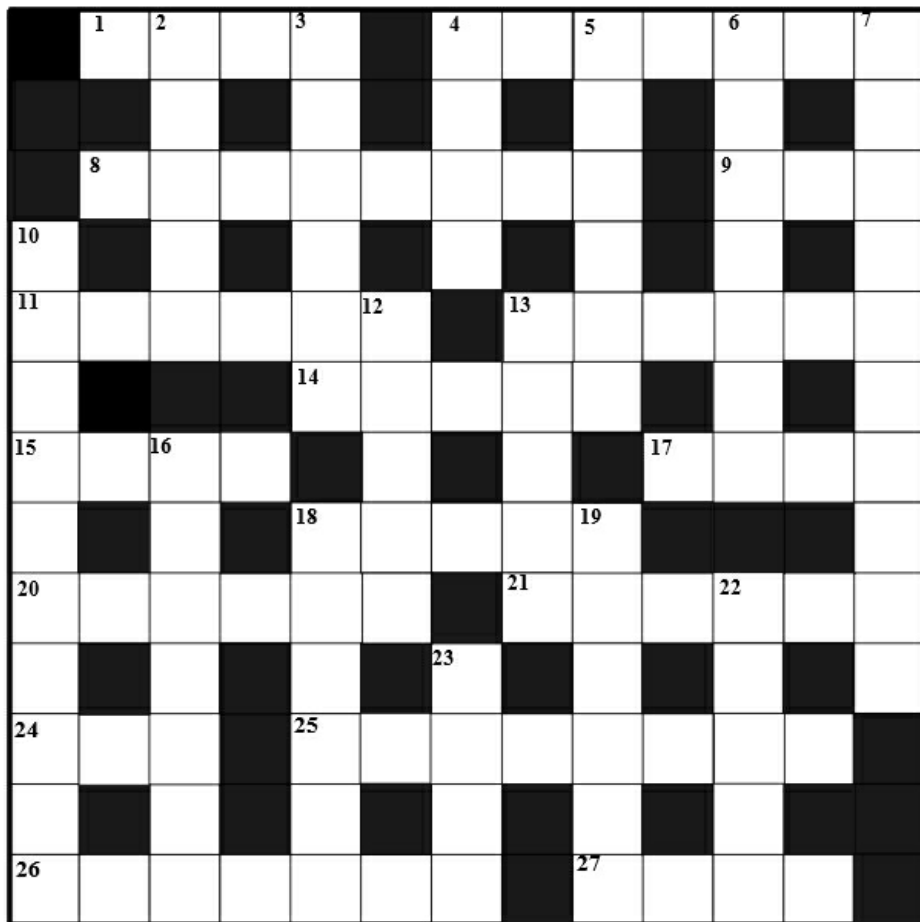
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Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Roman god of war (4)
- 4 Deluded (7)
- 8 mythical undersea city (8)
- 9 Sweet potato (3)
- 11 Fearful (6)
- 13 Church officer (6)
- 14 Managed (5)
- 15 Catch sight of (4)
- 17 Nautical speed (4)
- 18 Unexpected extra (5)
- 20 Poor person (6)
- 21 Mediterranean principality (6)
- 24 Poem (3)
- 25 Stubborn (8)
- 26 Weariness (7)
- 27 Twist (4)

Down

- 2 Change (5)
- 3 Radio interference (6)
- 4 London gallery (4)
- 5 Placed in circulation (5)
- 6 Inert gas (symbol Kr) (5)
- 7 Absolute authority (10)
- 10 Impervious to rain (12)
- 12 Giver (5)
- 13 Part of the blood (5)
- 16 Careful (7)
- 18 Pertain (6)
- 19 Sadness (6)
- 22 Thespian (5)
- 23 Unoccupied (4)

Solutions to Crossword in Edition 130

Across

- 1 Beak
- 4 Hoarse
- 7 Ire
- 9 Odin
- 10 Awakened
- 11 Gel
- 12 Bald
- 13 Sentries
- 16 Commemoration
- 19 Precedes
- 23 Dumb
- 24 Cap
- 25 Inferior
- 26 Owns
- 27 Ail
- 28 Esteem
- 29 Ease

Down

- 2 Endeavouring
- 3 Kingdom
- 4 Heals
- 5 Again
- 6 Sheer
- 8 Developments
- 14 Erode
- 15 Tea
- 17 Ewe
- 18 Tadpole
- 20 Chess
- 21 Drive
- 22 Scram

Local Business Directory

ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS 01993830687 07989497253
www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk Page 28

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk Page 4

BURFORD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE 01993 831282, 01993 822114 Page 39

COMBE MILL
BLENHEIM PALACE SAWMILLS, COMBE, OXON, OX29 8ET Page 31

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK 01993823006
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 47

COTSWOLD WELLNESS 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com
www.fingersandtoes.info Page 43

ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 43

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

FOLK CLUB 01993831427 07870563299
wychwoodfolkclub@outlook.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Page 38

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

IVY'S FLORIST 01993830268 Page 12
Instagram@Ivy's Florist

JENNA SAUNDERS 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com Page 28

JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020
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ROBERT GRIPPER 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com Page 35

THE SWAN 01993 832332 reservations@swanascott.com
www.lionhearth.co.uk cath@lionhearth.co.uk Page 41

TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com
www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates Page 46

Events Calendar - 2026

Date	Time	Event	Venue
August 22 nd	7.30pm	Three Piece Sweet Summer Dance	Tiddy Hall
September 5 th	7.30pm	Mike Silver with guests	Tiddy Hall
September 6 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
September 8 th	7.00pm	Parish Council meeting	Tiddy Hall
September 12 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
September 26 th	7.00pm	Flix in the Stix, Mother's Pride	Tiddy Hall
October 4 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
October 10 th	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
October 13 th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
October 24 th	7.30pm	Simply Dylan	Tiddy Hall
November 7 th	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
November 8 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
November 10 th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
November 13 th	7.00pm	Live music with food - fund raiser	Tiddy Hall
November 21 st	7.30pm	Track dogs	Tiddy Hall
December 4 th	7.00pm	Village Panto	Tiddy Hall
December 5 th	7.00pm	Village Panto	Tiddy Hall
December 12 th	10.00am	Coffee at The Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
December 13 th	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
December 19 th	7.30pm	All in a Winter's Night with Jonny Coppin	Tiddy Hall
December 24 th	6.00pm	Carols on The Green	Village Green