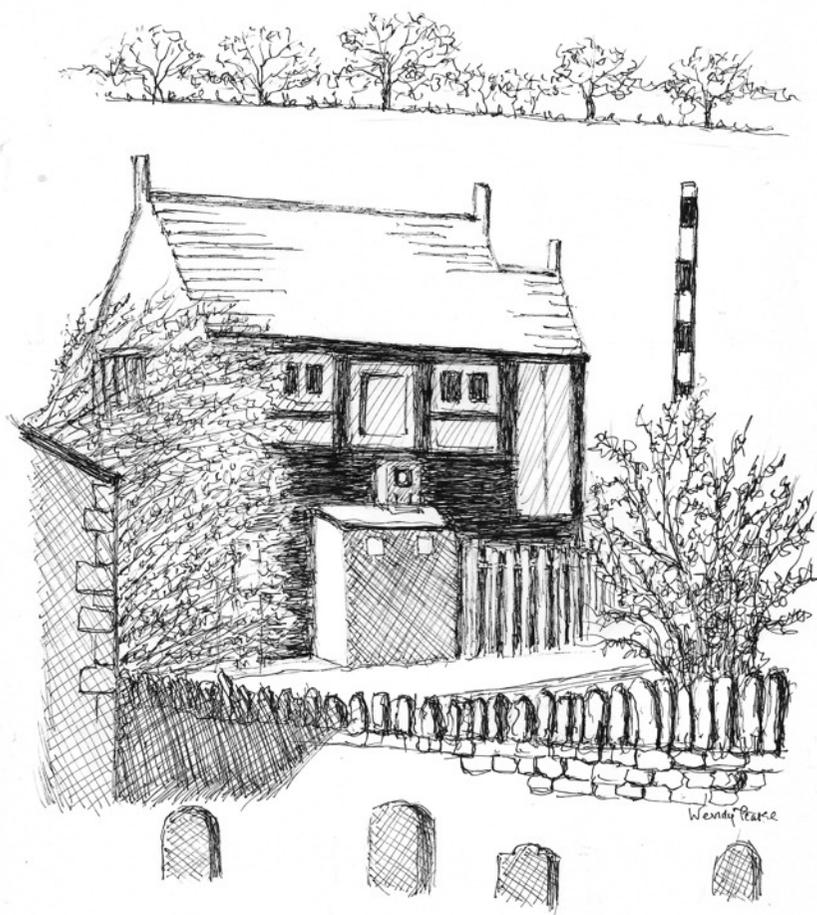


# The Ascott Grapevine



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 832004 or email: [stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com)

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,  
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

## Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Advertising Rates

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## Front Cover by Wendy Pearse

To advertise in our Local Business Directory (see [Page 48](#)), please contact Wendy Pearse 01993 831023 or [wendypearse@btinternet.com](mailto:wendypearse@btinternet.com). The cost is £5 per year but inclusion is free for our existing advertisers.

## Local Churches

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Mass at Charlbury 09:15

Mass at Holy Trinity 11:00

## Services at the Chase Benefice 2026

All the Church buildings of the Benefice are open for personal prayer and reflection daily from dawn until dusk. We worship as a benefice week by week, moving around the four churches of the benefice. Our normal pattern of services is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday:	0800 Enstone	1000 Spelsbury
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday:	0800 Chadlington	1000 Ascott
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday:	0800 Spelsbury	1000 Enstone
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday:	0800 Ascott	1000 Chadlington

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

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

## *From the Rector*

Dear Friends

As a new year unfolds, many of us find ourselves pausing to take stock. We think about the year just gone, the habits we'd like to loosen their grip on us, and the hopes we carry for the months ahead. Some of us make resolutions with enthusiasm; others approach them more cautiously, having learned how life has a habit of surprising us.

These moments of reflection matter, not because they magically change everything overnight, but because they help us notice the direction we're travelling in. Change is part of being human. Each year brings fresh possibilities alongside its fair share of uncertainty, and we do our best to navigate both.

For Christians, this changing landscape is held within something steady and dependable. The Bible speaks of a love that does not wear out or run dry: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."* (Lamentations 3:22-23) Those words have comforted people for centuries, especially in times when life feels fragile or unsettled.

While our circumstances shift – some days lifting us up, others knocking the wind out of us – God's faithfulness remains constant. That's not a sentimental idea, but a grounding one. It reminds us that our worth isn't measured by how well we keep our resolutions or how productive we manage to be. We are valued simply because we are loved.

And because that love is dependable, we don't have to pretend everything is fine. We can be honest about where we are and hopeful about where we might be heading. We can take thoughtful, even courageous steps without fearing that failure will have the final word.

For some, that might mean beginning a conversation long put off, trying something new, or gently refocusing on what really matters. Hope, in this sense, isn't wishful thinking. It's a quiet confidence that we are not facing the future alone, but accompanied by God's presence and strength.

So as you look ahead – whether with excitement, uncertainty, or a mixture of both – may you do so knowing you are held by a love that does not change. And in that steadiness, may you find the freedom to live well, choose wisely, and move into the year ahead with realistic and lasting hope.

With every good wish for the year ahead,

**Mark Abrey**



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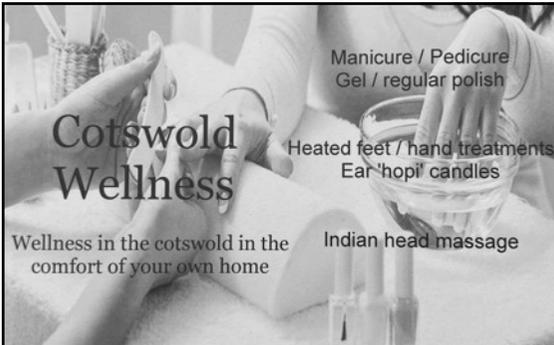
Musical Activities

A dark advertisement for Johnson's Chauffeur Cars. The background is a close-up of a car's steering wheel and dashboard. In the center, there is a white geometric logo consisting of a circle with internal lines forming a complex pattern. Below the logo, the text "JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS" is written in a large, serif font. At the bottom, there is a white banner with contact information and a smaller version of the geometric logo on the left.

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## ***Let There Be Peace***

When I was much younger, I was once told “you don’t seem to have any ambition in life”. I don’t think I will ever see them again to tell them they were right in their judgement, but now in old age, I do have what seems a small ambition. I want to live long enough to see self-appointed, self-anointed Prince of Peas in the USA be humiliated and ridiculed. I want to see him become a decrepit old fool like I am becoming, will he know then, is it Donald Trump or Donald Duck? Quack, quack.

Today, he still keeps demanding the Peas Prize and is prepared to kill for it. I didn’t know Nobel gave a prize for peas.

If there doesn’t seem any sign of him winning, maybe he should change vegetables, what about a marrow, he could enter it in his local horticultural show and if he won, all the nations could lavish praise on him by singing an old music hall song, the first two lines go something like this:

Oh, What A Beauty, I’ve never seen one as big as that before.

Oh, What A Beauty, it must be two foot long, or even more.

When I was young, I wanted to become an artist and devote my art to peace. But when I looked around, there were more than enough peace artists throughout the world.

**Fred Russell.**

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# NATURE NOTES

The 2025 Big Butterfly Count, which ran from 18 July to 10 August last year, provided a cautiously hopeful recovery story for butterflies in England after the disastrous decline following the cold, wet summer of 2024. However, the long-term decline in butterfly numbers is still a major concern.

The long, hot, sunny summer of 2025 provided ideal weather conditions for butterflies to thrive; although individual species showed modest improvements over 2024, it could only be considered a below-average season overall. This year, because of the hot weather, some species, such as the Meadow Brown, may have emerged earlier than usual and may not have been captured fully during the official count window. This could account for the 40% decline compared with 2024.

This year, 125,000 people took part in the survey, and a total of 1.7 million butterflies and day-flying moths were recorded in the UK, of which England accounted for 1.46 million. During each 15-minute count, participants recorded an average of 10.3 butterflies and day-flying moths. This compares to an average of 7 in 2024.

Two species that did well in 2025 were the Large and Small Whites, with 715,272 in total recorded. Both showed over a 100% improvement from 2024 and over a 15 year period, a continued upward trend. Locally, it was noticeable that throughout the summer and into the autumn, these two species were always present, often in large numbers. In early spring, the Brimstone and Orange Tip butterflies, both members of the white family, were seen in large numbers, but as they are not summer butterflies were not recorded in the count.



Another butterfly, the Gatekeeper, was recorded 236,425 times, but this only showed a 1% improvement from 2024, and over 15 years, it has shown a 21% decline. This brown butterfly is often found in large numbers on patches of Bramble when they are in flower. I noticed that this year, they appeared later in the season and on some patches of Bramble were in low numbers or missing altogether.



The Red Admiral, a migrant species, showed a 185% recovery from 2024 and over the 15 year trend has increased by 51%. This butterfly does breed in England in late summer, but does not over winter, relying each year on immigrants to boost its population. In 2024, our local area experienced a major arrival of immigrants, late in the season, with large numbers observed feeding on Ivy flowers, but in 2025, this was not happening.

## Ascott Grapevine



The Small Tortoiseshell, a close relative of the Red Admiral, is struggling with only 37,186 recorded, with virtually no increase from its low point in 2024. Over the last 15 years, it has declined by 59%. This butterfly was once one of our most common species, found everywhere in large numbers. Its larval food plant is the nettle, so its decline cannot be due to the lack of food plants for its larva. In 2025, I rarely saw a Small Tortoiseshell. Could this once common butterfly disappear from England?

Other butterfly species that are struggling are the Common Blue, which over 15 years has declined by 57%, the Speckled Wood, down 35% and the Ringlet, down 42%. These last two species are associated with woodland and woodland edges. The Marbled White didn't recover from 2024 with a fall in numbers this year of 90%. This grassland species is very territorial, and if its local habitat is lost, because of bad weather or some other adverse event they may disappear permanently from an area. In a recent year, in the field behind



Ascott's allotments, there was a booming population of Marbled Whites, but this year only a few were seen, mainly along the footpath and the field edge.

2025's results for butterflies in England generally showed that there was a general recovery from 2024's very poor results, but the 15-year trends still show that twice as many widespread species have significantly declined than have increased. Particularly adversely affected are those species with specialised habitat requirements or restricted larval food sources.

If you would like to take part in the 2026 count, please note that it will take place from 18 July to 10 August. Full details and guidance will be published online.

Butterflies need two things to thrive: good weather and a healthy environment. Many of our common butterfly species are facing significant pressure from habitat loss, pesticide use and possible climate change.

*Stuart Fox*

## **CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

The princely sum of £202.31 was gathered on the Carols on the Green evening, a big thank you to all who contributed. The funds will allow the village Ascott Grapevine Magazine to continue.

# WODC

West Oxfordshire District Council is continuing to take strong, proactive steps to tackle long-standing pressures on the district's sewage network, using planning powers to make sure that any new homes built have the right infrastructure upgrades secured before they are occupied.

In response to serious capacity issues and rising concerns about sewage pollution, the Council made arrangements to include Grampian planning conditions for housing developments in areas where the existing sewage infrastructure is unable to cope. These conditions mean that new homes cannot be lived in until vital infrastructure upgrades have been completed and are operational. In each case, Thames Water has been consulted on the proposed developments and is aware of what upgrades are required.

This approach is a direct response to delays and under investment in local wastewater infrastructure. The Council continues to press Thames Water to prioritise and deliver upgrades, while also working with national regulators Ofwat and the Environment Agency as well as local interest groups, to encourage more robust oversight and long-term investment.

**Cllr Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for Environment, said:**

*“Our sewage network is under serious strain. Across West Oxfordshire, we have 20 sewage treatment works, and most of them are already operating beyond capacity, releasing raw sewage from their storm overflow tanks for thousands of hours each year, as well as untreated effluent during dry weather conditions, thus polluting our rivers and streams.*

*“Additionally, the neglected sewer network is under performing, many pumping stations are overloaded, while leaky pipes allow groundwater infiltration and surface water ingress, leading to notorious sewage spills into people's gardens, streets, communal spaces and fields and backing up residents' toilets in many areas.*

*“That is unacceptable. By introducing Grampian conditions, we're putting pressure on Thames Water to act to ensure failing systems are invested in, so that they can supply our residents with the necessary infrastructure. Everyone has a role to play in getting this right, and we're doing everything we can to lead the way. Our priority is protecting the environment, standing up for our communities, and making sure new housing is delivered to the standard residents rightly expect.*

*“That's why we're using every tool we have to encourage progress. We continue to work constructively with Thames Water, national regulators and local interest groups to push for the upgrades our communities need and deserve.”*

There are currently just under 1,000 homes across West Oxfordshire with planning permission or under construction that are not able to be occupied until the necessary infrastructure improvements have been secured. In each case, the necessary upgrades have been identified in liaison with Thames Water and a Grampian condition imposed to ensure these are secured prior to occupation.

**Cllr Hugo Ashton, Executive Member for Planning, added:**

*“Our job is to make sure that new developments happen in a way that genuinely works for residents by ensuring they’re backed by the infrastructure and services people need to thrive. Communities rightly expect that new homes will come with proper sewage provision, and we agree.”*

*“These conditions are not about blocking housing, they’re about making sure new homes are liveable, sustainable, and properly connected. The delays we’re seeing are not caused by the Council, but by decades of under investment in wastewater infrastructure, an issue now holding back growth not just in West Oxfordshire, but across the country.”*

To support residents, developers, and local stakeholders, the Council has launched a [dedicated webpage](#) showing which developments are currently affected by Grampian conditions. The page also outlines how the Council is working to drive forward infrastructure delivery and ensure development is supported by the right services.



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19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 'In Steam' Themed event 'Military Vehicles'. All types of Military Vehicles and Home Guard display will be invited, come along and enjoy the day. Gift Shop, Tombola, BBQ and Tea Room also open. Accompanied by Market Stalls.

10<sup>th</sup> May. 2026 'In Steam' Themed event 'National Mills Weekend' come along, bring the family and enjoy the day. Gift Shop, Tombola, BBQ and Tea Room all open

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

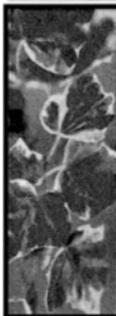
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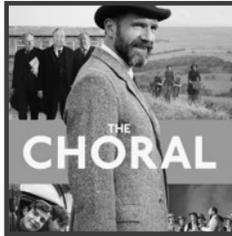
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## ***Flix-in-the-Stix***

*Returns to The Wychwoods*



***Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March***

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Doors & Bar open 6.30pm; Meal served 7pm; Film starts 8pm

Tickets £15.00 including a 2 course meal

Simon Gidman: 07768 600102

Rachel Stratford: 07964 235106

## ***SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE***

SUMMER MUSIC EVENT

In aid of Katharine House Hospice

Look out for further information soon.

# A CORNER OF AN ENGLISH FIELD

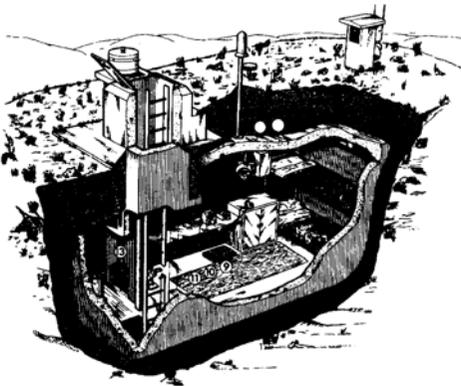
The Observation Post, Chipping Norton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood.



## Preparations for war.

In the 1930's a sturdily built wooden hut was erected in the corner of the field where the communications mast now stands beside the A361 and Farm Ed. It was used by the Royal Observer Corps and was manned continuously through World War Two by a team of people from the Wychwoods. Also in the 1930's new war-time aerodromes were constructed at Little Rissington, Moreton in Marsh, Enstone, Chipping Norton, Witney, Bradwell Grove, Brize Norton and Windrush.

The Observer Corps were able to watch the stick of six German bombs fall on Ascott and I was a young observer when the sixth and last one fell just outside our



garden at Coldstone Farm (now Coldstone House). We often heard the thud, thud, thud of anti-aircraft guns practise firing at Little Rissington.

Then in the 1950's our jet fighters, Meteors and Vampires, were screaming around the Evenlode Valley each a mile in front of the roar which followed them and the sky could also be half covered by black smoke from American B52 nuclear bombers from Brize Norton. The Soviet Union was believed to have a vast stock of intercontinental nuclear missiles. A Fordson tractor with a hydraulically operated digger came to what was then Honeydale Farm now Farm Ed, and dug a very large hole about 25 metres by 10 metres, 5 metres deep. This was before J C B Diggers came into existence. A strongly reinforced concrete box was built in the middle of the hole: about 10 metres by 4 metres. This was coated by a brick wall which in turn was coated by a thick layer of molten pitch. There was a strongly covered entrance at one end and a ventilation shaft at the other end. It would have been manned by a number of people if nuclear war had broken out and they would have monitored the density of the radio-active dust. If the atmosphere had cleared one would have emerged and looked for survivors.

Time passed. War became less likely and mobile phones came into being. Four phone companies and the BBC Television Corporation needed a relay mast and the exact location for it was just where the hidden and almost forgotten construction was underground. The contractors for the mast told me that they would not risk having the underground structure ever being brought into use so they would demolish it completely. Chairs, tables, bunks and eating utensils all emerged into daylight before demolition and the mast stands on that spot today.

In the 1980's at a Wychwoods Local History Society meeting Mr Terry Hartley told us of a 'Silent Army' which would have been activated in the event of a German invasion in the 1940's. A small group of men would go underground and carry on resisting. Terry's father Ernest was the leader in the Wychwoods and as with the Bletchley codebreakers he and his team were all sworn to absolute secrecy. Ernest's wife and family like everybody else knew nothing about it. They were highly trained in guerrilla warfare and their aim was to slow the advance of the enemy by assassination and sabotage.

A few years later Mr Bill King also spoke to us on this subject and told us that the main headquarters had been underground in Coleshill Park in Gloucestershire. He also said that these groups of men would be issued with guns, knives and explosives with higher performance than those issued to the regular army. In preparation, river bridges on the Upper Thames were mined with explosives ready for detonation should the enemy invade. A large stock of food was not considered necessary as all the men were expected to be dead within two weeks.

At the time of Bill's talk the explosives under the Upper Thames bridges were still in place. I wonder if they still are today?

**Jim Pearse**



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*Cooked ham, black olives, artichokes, mushrooms, basil .*

## Serrano

*Tomato, mozzarella, Serrano ham, rocket, parmesan, extra virgin olive oil*

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*Tomato, mozzarella, basil, mushroom, red onions, goats cheese, white truffle oil*

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

## Garlic Bread | 8

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- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February** - Valentine's specials - including Surf & Turf to share with your better half!
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** - we will be serving up savoury and sweet pancake specials all day!
- **10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March - Cheltenham Festival** - book a special Swan racing breakfast or dinner.

Keep an eye on our website and Instagram @swan\_inn\_ascott for future dates.

### CURRY NIGHT, EVERY TUESDAY

Looking for something a little different to brighten your week? Every Tuesday at The Swan, we bring the bold, warming flavours of world curries to the Cotswolds.

**£16 per person** includes freshly made curry, naan, poppadoms, chutneys and rice.

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#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

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Book Here



### AFTER SCHOOL PIZZA CLUB

From **Wednesday to Friday** during term time, make teatime a treat! Join us between 3–6pm for our delicious After School Kids' Pizzas, available for just **£7.50 each**.

It's the perfect midweek pick-me-up - fun For the kids, easy for you, and a tasty way to end the school day.

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Drop by The Hatch at the front of The Swan to grab a hot drink on the go. Open daily from 7.30am.

Bring your copy of The Grapevine and we'll give you a **free hot drink to go** on us.

Valid 1<sup>st</sup> Feb to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026.  
One hot drink per customer. Takeaway only.  
Bring The Grapevine to stamp and redeem



# ***Remembering Roger Shepherd 1948-2026***



It is with much sadness that we bid farewell to a cherished friend who left us at the end of January. He had a remarkable ability to enliven any gathering with his presence and infectious smile. He truly was a big man with a big heart.

Roger and Ros came to Ascott in 1986 and lived at Grange Cottage before settling at Ascott Hill Farm at the turn of the Millenium.

Roger was born in Headington, Oxford and attended Headington Boys School. He discovered the print industry and having learned his craft, became the owner of Information Press based in Eynsham with a staff headcount of around 100. He even found the time to sponsor the print of our very own Grapevine, because he could.

His skills of getting things done was evident here in Ascott, and over the years together with Ros, their great friend Tony Collins and members of the Tiddy Hall Committee, these servants to the village helped raise the funds for the 'new' Tiddy Hall and Sports pavilion. Legacies we all benefit from today.

## ***Roger loved life and people.***

Many of us in the community will never forget the "sixty, sixty, sixty" party in summer 2008 when around 200 villagers walked the hill for a grand birthday celebration: two bands, much fun and a beautiful moon!

Roger had a wonderful way with words and his speeches were legendary. He was always inclusive and generous, making everyone feel special. I can honestly say, I never heard him say a bad word or hold a grudge.

Roger was chair of Tiddy Hall and it was fitting that he was asked to lay a wreath in Northern France at the 100th anniversary of the passing of Reginald Tiddy killed at the battle of the Somme in 2016.

A regular feature at Tiddy Hall was the Folk Club with his friend Tony and that is why we are so fortunate to have the Wychwood Folk Club with us today led by Mark and Elaine.

### ***Then there was sport.***

Roger was a good medium pacer and contributed hugely to the village Cricket Club which continues to thrive today thanks to Stu and his team. He also enjoyed his golf getting down to a single figure handicap, which he liked!

Roger was a great supporter of the annual 10k Charity Fun Run where the runners would take on the challenge of 'That Hill'! And when they made it to the top, who would be there at the water station, shouting encouragement, of course it would be Roger!

Roger and Ros loved their horses, and they would often be seen riding through the village, and it was a treat each Christmas Day when they would walk round the Village stopping at various houses (including ours) to partake in the stirrup cup!

His passion for horses extended to the English Civil War Society where he was kitted out as a Roundhead. He dabbled in part ownership of a racehorse/s although he always said, "A great way to lose your money!"

As the years progressed, participation was switched to spectator sport and his love for football (the U's at the Manor Ground, Oxford dovetailed nicely with trips to Birmingham B6 for Villa matches). Come the summer, it would be cricket at Lords or Edgbaston.

One of Roger's print jobs was for CAMRA, the real ale magazine. This was significant as the Rose and Crown is renowned as a centre for real ale enthusiasts, like Roger. Maybe this is why he was so influential in ensuring that the Swan pub here in the village was not converted to housing and many of us enjoy a pint of Hooky there today!

There are so many stories and many of us will have our own personal memories of a dear friend. It's comforting to know, he will always be there at Ascott Hill, a place he loved very much.

So, whenever you're walking the Oxfordshire Way, pause for a moment and give him a wave. And you know what, you will get a wave back!

**John Cull**



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*I'm also highly skilled in arranging and booking group travel, whether it's a small, intimate group of 6–8 people or a much larger party. One of my favourite group travel projects was organising a fly-drive holiday through California for 20 classic cars and their owners. It was a complex itinerary involving detailed planning and logistics, but it was a huge success and a trip everyone still talks about. I am no novice when it comes to creating wonderful or intricate itineraries, and I thrive on making even the most challenging travel plans run seamlessly.*

*If you're looking for a classic beach holiday, a family getaway, or excellent-value packages, I can arrange those too. I regularly book trusted favourites such as Jet2holidays, easyJet holidays, and TUI. I also book all the world's ocean and river cruise lines, helping you choose the right cruise, ship, and itinerary to suit your travel style perfectly.*

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*Everything booked with me is 100% financially protected through ATOL and the TTA Trust Account, giving you complete peace of mind.*

*You can also support my business by referring me to your family and friends—even if you haven't booked with me yourself. A personal recommendation means the world to an independent travel advisor, and there may be someone you know who would love a little expert help planning their next holiday.*

*A heartfelt thank you to everyone who booked with me in January 2026—it's been incredibly busy. If you haven't booked with me before, please give me a try and support a local Wychwood's independent business that truly puts its customers first.*

## ***Ascott Village Shop***

To celebrate Spring the shop has a new awning. The former one, as old as the shop itself, was showing too many signs of wear, and we took advantage of an offer by West Oxfordshire District Council to contribute up to half the cost of improving shop fronts – within limits, of course, but luckily the awning came well below their upper threshold. We raised the other half of the costs by a crowd-funding appeal and received so many generous contributions that within three days we had more than enough money to pay the bill. Two particularly generous donations came from the Folk Group and an anonymous source, but we are immensely grateful to everyone who helped. Rest assured, we will not fritter away your kind support on running costs. The surplus has been ring-fenced to be put towards some tangible object that the shop may need in the future. We can think of several already.

Writing this in late January, I can observe that, owing to the incessant rain, the new awning has been almost continuously open since it was installed early in the month, because we were advised not to close it until it was dry. That day may never come.

Also in early January we did the annual stocktake, which takes several helpers a minimum of four hours to complete, counting every single item in the shop. This year it was supervised for the second time by Jack Morgan, who with his son Peter set up the technology, counted everything in the stockroom, dispensed calm and rescued everyone else when they got into muddles. Peter was very tolerant of confused older persons as he tapped away on keyboards and restored order. Special thanks to them, Sara Arkle, Nick Paines, Sarah Witheridge and Sue Boyer for giving up a Saturday afternoon in support of Claire and me.

Christmas now being out of the way, and Lent well in hand by the time the *Grapevine* comes out, we can look forward to the joys of Easter. Some of the festive fare has arrived in the shop, as you can see in the picture, so instead of buying your Easter goodies in the competitive horror of a supermarket, ending at a selfservice till that barks out instructions, come into cheerful surroundings and be served personally by a kindly human being,

The stocktake followed a Christmas season in which the volunteers worked tirelessly to make it a big success and to cover for sickness and absence. Their commitment makes the shop what it is. Yet the shop belongs, literally, to the whole village, and if you have suggestions of what it might stock or a direction in which you think it should go, please have a word with our friendly manager, Claire. Or, as a sign of your support, even buy a £10 share, which pays no dividend but allows you to attend and speak at the Annual General Meeting.

## Ascott Grapevine

On a more sober note, owing to work commitments and family illness I will cease to be Chairman at the AGM in the Summer. Without a Committee and a full complement of officers, the shop cannot legally continue to trade. The shop provides services beyond simply supplying essentials, and is famous beyond this village. We shall miss it if it goes, so if you can help to steer its future please step forward.

**Nicky Coldstream**  
**Chairman**



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<b>TOWITNEY</b>	<b>Evenlode</b> Village 0900	<b>TOEVENLODE</b>	<b>Witney Buttercross Stop 'C</b> Northbound 1140
	<b>Lower Oddington</b> Village Hall 0905		<b>South Leigh</b> Village 1152
	<b>Upper Oddington</b> Horse & Groom 0907		<b>Witney Sainsbury's</b> 1204
	<b>Bledington</b> The Green 0912		<b>Witney Buttercross Stop 'C</b> Northbound 1205
	<b>Lyneham</b> Village 0920		<b>Witney Hospital</b> 1207
	<b>Sipton-under-Wychwood</b> Shaven Crown 0925		<b>Crawley</b> The Lamb 1212
	<b>Ascott-under-Wychwood</b> Village 0930		<b>Leaffield</b> Witney Lane 1219
	<b>Leaffield</b> The Green 0936		<b>Leaffield</b> Lower End 1222
	<b>Leaffield</b> Lower End 0938		<b>Leaffield</b> The Green 1225
	<b>Leaffield</b> Witney Lane 0942		<b>Ascott-under-Wychwood</b> Village 1231
	<b>Crawley</b> The Lamb 0948		<b>Sipton-under-Wychwood</b> Shaven Crown 1236
	<b>Witney Hospital</b> 0953		<b>Lyneham</b> Village 1241
	<b>Witney Buttercross Stop 'A</b> Southbound 0955		<b>Bledington</b> The Green 1249
	<b>Witney Sainsbury's</b> 0957		<b>Lower Oddington</b> Village Hall 1254
	<b>Witney Buttercross Stop 'C</b> Northbound 1002		<b>Upper Oddington</b> Horse & Groom 1256
	<b>South Leigh</b> Village 1014		<b>Evenlode</b> Village 1305
<b>Witney Buttercross Stop 'A</b> 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 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.**



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# **WODC**

## **Booking for household waste recycling centres**

We are introducing a new booking system at our Household Waste Recycling Centres to make visits quicker and easier.

From Wednesday 14 January 2026 everyone will need to book a time slot to visit one of our sites. **[oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking)**

Unable to book online? Call 01865 519800 Monday to Friday.

You can book up to two weeks in advance or 30 minutes\* before you visit.

\*Subject to availability

The booking system will help manage demand and make your visit quicker and easier

People can book 30 minutes before their visit (subject to availability) or up to two weeks in advance.

To help Oxfordshire recycle even more we are also asking people to sort their recyclable items from their waste either before they arrive, which will speed up their visit or they can use the sorting area on site.

## WYCHWOOD FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



**Sat 7th March. Martin Simpson**

**Tiddy Hall**

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

One of England's most revered folk performers, widely acknowledged as one of the finest acoustic & slide guitar players in the world, Martin's interpretations of traditional songs are masterpieces of storytelling. His remarkable solo shows are intense, eclectic, spellbinding & deeply moving.

**Sat 21st March. Boo Hewerdine**

**Tiddy Hall**

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

For over 30 years Boo Hewerdine has been considered one of the UK's finest singer-songwriters. As lead singer of seminal band, The Bible through to his subsequent solo work & long-time collaboration with the incredible Eddi Reader he has become something of a national treasure.

**Sat 11th April. Gilmore & Roberts**

**Tiddy Hall**

**Tickets £14 in Advance £17 on Door**

Contemporary folk/acoustic duo Gilmore & Roberts combine award-winning songwriting with astounding musicianship & their trademark harmonies to create a powerful wall of sound. Nominated three times at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

**Sat 2nd May. Magpie Lane**

**Tiddy Hall**

**Tickets £12 in Advance £15 on Door**

Magpie Lane are a five-piece band from Oxford, specialising in traditional English songs & dance tunes, playing lesser-known material from the archives alongside well-worn favourites. The band's front man, Ian Giles, is blessed with one of the finest voices on the folk scene: warm & mellow, but with great power when required.

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> May. SilverBlues**

**Tiddy Hall**

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

Fairport meets Lindisfarne. Amongst the interpretations of traditional material taken from their combined experience, they play some of the earlier Lindisfarne favourites alongside some of the newer ones which feature Ray's astonishing blues harmonica.

**All events start at 7.30pm**

**Doors 6.45pm**

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

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

# ***Parish Council***

Just a short report from the Parish Council for this issue, as we take stock, await the next stage of the Local Plan and deal with one of the wettest Januarys on record.

## **Parish Council Elections**

Four years has rolled by quickly and the Parish Council seats are all up for election.

If you are interested in standing as a councillor or wish to learn more about life on the PC, then please reach out to our clerk or speak to any of us. As chair, I have always counted myself extremely fortunate to be surrounded by a good team, and I am sure that will continue whoever is in charge. Parish councils are apolitical and there to represent the residents and their concerns, and most of our activities in a small rural parish are entirely practical. Any parish council needs a good mix of people to reflect their community.

Details of the elections will be posted on the noticeboards and the usual channels.

## **Carols**

Thank you to everyone who came out on a perfect Winter's evening to enjoy the Carols around the Tree. It was lovely to see so many villagers and their families there. In addition to the singing, we raised over £200 for the Grapevine. A big thank you once again to Mark, Elaine and Alan for providing the accompaniment: there is something very special and traditional about singing carols with a silver band. Special thanks to Shane, Robin and Gareth for helping with the tree and the lights. It was also lovely to see the churchyard illuminated once again.

## **Litter Pick**

As I write this, the first spring bulbs are showing their shoots, the weather is raining and miserable – which means it's fast approaching that time of year when we need to think about sprucing up our village before the grass and the hedgerows start growing.

There is, as always, a lot of litter left lying around after the long winter, and we will be looking for volunteers to join the annual Litter Pick. We make this as sociable as we can, you can decide how much you want to do, and many hands make for light work. Litter pickers, bags and high visibility vests will be provided.

Please watch for posters and village Facebook page for details once we have decided on the dates.

## Potholes and Roads

Yes, we are all fed up with all the potholes! Driving around the Wychwoods is especially dangerous with the sheer number of gaping chasms lying in wait to wreck your tyres and suspension: most people have adapted and are driving slowly, allowing space for others to get past without forcing them into the broken edges of the road. If you can, please allow more time and be patient. We do keep reporting them to the County Council but have no more say than any other users.

We are still very much in flood season, so please be particularly careful where roads are covered in water: you can't see what is lying below the surface and at present that could well be a car-eating pothole. No doubt we will have occasion to close the roads again before the spring is over: we don't do this lightly or for fun.

## New Website

Over the next months the Parish Council will be rehosting to a new provider and transferring our domain to a new gov.uk address. This will assist in remaining compliant with the ever-increasing list of requirements being placed on us by central government. As part of this we have the mind-numbing but necessary tasks of reviewing various of our policies and procedures and will aim to get those in place before the new Parish Council is elected. To follow the motto, leave the campsite better than when you found it.

We will of course try to handle the domain and website switch with the minimum of disruption but please note that our contact email addresses will also need to change.

Take care, everyone.

**Brian Leach**

**Chair, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council**

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

# *The Tiddy Hall*

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

ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

Tiddy Hall is going from strength to strength! After some challenging times, we are now seeing the benefits of all of the hard work by our band of volunteers

The recent fundraiser featuring Three Piece Sweet and the Wychcraft Rock and Pop Choir was a great success, taking around £1000 in tickets sales, bar sales and raffle ticket sales. The feedback from attendees was very positive and everyone had a great time. The gourmet burger van was also very popular! We are planning another dinner dance for the summer and possibly a New Year's Eve event. Please do get in touch and let us have your thoughts regarding events such as these. We want to ensure that we are organising events that appeal to the broader community in Ascott under Wychwood and the neighbouring villages.

Other upcoming events include the return of Flix in the Stix, featuring 'The Choral', which will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Simon Gidman and Rachel Stratford are organising this event so many thanks to them for taking the initiative. It just goes to show that you don't need to be a trustee to be a volunteer! This will be the first Flix in the Stix since before Covid. They used to be regular events and were very popular especially as the ticket price includes dinner. Full details of the event can be found elsewhere in this edition of The Grapevine.

As mentioned in previous articles, there will be a Craft Fair on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Any potential exhibitors that are not already booked to attend should contact Mary Barnes.

Finally, with regard to events, Ian Drainer has volunteered to organise a Burns Night event in January 2027. I know this is a year away but events such as this do take a lot of planning and organising.

I mentioned in previous editions that we were short of trustees and the response has been quite positive. In addition to Cathy Ferrier and Andrew Weaver who joined a few months ago, we have now been joined by Kathy Gale, bringing the membership up to six. Kathy brings a wealth of experience with regard to health and safety matters which will be invaluable in the coming months.

Fundraising is always a priority for Tiddy Hall. Energy prices continue to increase and, though income from hall hire is looking stronger following a noticeable increase in bookings, we do need to supplement this with fundraising. In addition to the events that we organise ourselves, we will also be tapping into other sources of income such as grants and crowdfunding under the direction of Cathy Ferrier who has vast experience in this area. We have ambitious plans to

return Tiddy Hall to its rightful position as the hub of village life in terms of social engagement, inclusion and creativity. These are some of the initiatives that Cathy has kicked off:

- Tiddy Hall has been registered for Village Halls Week (16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March) with Community First Oxfordshire. This is a county-wide initiative aimed at promoting the use and development of village halls and encouraging donations. You can expect to see bunting!
- We will be applying for funding under the ‘National Lottery Awards for All’ scheme which closes on 24<sup>th</sup> March and also for funding for capital projects from the ‘Burnard Sunley Charitable Foundation’ which also closes on 24<sup>th</sup> March. The list of capital projects is long but the most urgent and important is the replacement of the three patio doors, which are essential fire-exit doors. The current units are more than 30 years old and have become somewhat insecure and energy inefficient.
- We have initiated a crowdfunding project on WODC’s ‘Westhive’ platform. The aim is to raise funding to enhance Tiddy Hall as a performance space in order to enable us to host more drama and musical events. We already have professional stage lighting and audio visual capabilities but need to upgrade the stage itself and add curtains that open and close. If the crowdfunding project is successful, we plan to re-introduce the annual village panto. This used to be very popular with local performers showing off their talents to enthusiastic audiences.

We will provide more news as our funding efforts and plans develop over the next few months.

If anyone reading this is able to offer support (practical or financial) for these projects, please do get in touch.

We are also delighted to welcome The Cotswold Stage School who have made Tiddy Hall their new base. They teach up to 40 children aged from 4 to 16 and use the hall every Saturday during term time. They also hold workshops and stage productions during term breaks.

I hope you agree that Tiddy Hall’s prospects are looking much more positive, but we still need the active support and involvement of more village residents. You don’t necessarily have to become a trustee and join the management committee, though you would be more than welcome, as you can get involved as a volunteer to support specific initiatives or to provide much needed expertise to help us to optimise Tiddy Hall for the benefit of the whole community.

**John Bugeja**

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## ***Winter Wonders at Ascott Pre-School***

The highlight of our Winter term was the much-anticipated Christmas concert - The Story of the Enormous Christmas Pudding. There was a lovely turnout of family and friends, it is always wonderful to see so many familiar faces gathered to support this event. The children did incredibly well and the staff are all so proud of them.

In late November we introduced a new fundraising event: an evening wreath making workshop. Staff, parents, friends and villagers joined in to make beautiful wreaths from the large array of foliage, berries, feathers and ribbons on offer. The evening was a great success and a lovely start to the festive season. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event – your generosity helps us to make Ascott Pre-School the special place that it is. A huge thank you must also go to Sue Smith, whose expert advice and guidance helped make the event run so smoothly. The staff are very grateful for her support.

As we step into the New Year the children have been exploring wintry themes in their learning. We have been reading snow-themed books, experimenting with ice and talking about the different types of birds that visit our gardens during the colder months. We have made bird feeders from recycled materials, filling them with fat and seeds to help birds find food when it is scarce. We've viewed through binoculars, robins, blue-tits, sparrows and pigeons visiting our feeders and a cheeky squirrel who stole some food, which the children named Chase!

There are signs of new life at our Forest School sessions in Bruern. The children have been exploring the woodland, noticing the first green shoots pushing through the leaf litter. A reminder that even though it's wintry now, nature is preparing for Spring!

# ***The Wychwoods Local History Society***

Do you remember when Ascott had not one but two pubs, and annual wheelbarrow races drew a large and enthusiastic crowd? What about the donkey races, country dancing, parades of decorated floats (remember 'It's a Knockout'?) or fundraising for a swimming pool at the school? These are amongst some of the events recorded for future generations through the scanning of photographs recently loaned or donated to the Wychwoods Archive.

Volunteers working at the Wychwoods Local History Society Archive (in the office above Groves DIY shop in Milton) are busy cataloguing these and other photographs that provide glimpses of Ascott and those who have lived, worked and played here in the past. Some of these recent additions will soon be available on the Society's website at <https://wychwoodshistory.uk/photographic-archive/> and others will be posted on Facebook so you can share your memories and stories of these and other events.

The Society also organises changing exhibitions of photographs in the Wychwoods Library, with *Pubs in the Wychwoods* running until early March followed by *Wychwood Women*. If you can't get to the library, you can see these and other virtual exhibitions on the Society's website.

Our monthly lecture programme continues, with a change to the previously advertised programme.

11<sup>th</sup> March *A profile of Thomas Fairfax* Geoff Bailey

8<sup>th</sup> April *Who do you think they were? Tips and hints on Family History Research* Sue Honore (Oxfordshire Family History Society)

13<sup>th</sup> May *AGM and 'Stories from the Wychwoods Archive'*  
(Archive volunteers)

All talks take place in Milton-under-Wychwood Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments are available from 7.15pm. Talks are free to members. Non-members are always welcome, admission £5.

To discover more about the history of the Wychwoods or membership of the Society visit [www.wychwoodshistory.uk](http://www.wychwoodshistory.uk)

## **Wheelbarrow Racing in Ascott**

[See on next page](#)



## ***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](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com).

# **ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB**

Our 2026 season commenced on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January when we started a 10 week programme of indoor net practice at Charlbury Community Centre, taking us through to mid April when we will start matches and outdoor practice at the playing field.

In March, work on rolling, cutting and tending pitches starts again. Oh how we look forward to spring, sunshine, and playing sport with our friends of all ages.

At our recent AGM Steve Russell was again elected our chairman, with Andrew Peters as new club secretary.

This season we are running both a 1st and 2nd XI in The Cherwell League on Saturdays (but playing a lot fewer Sunday friendlies). After finishing as runaway Division 8C champions in 2025, the 1st XI has been promoted to Division 7A - and Stephen Appleyard has again been elected as captain.

Our new 2nd XI will play in Division 9A, under the captaincy of Edmund Matthews. Part of this team's purpose is to develop players, particularly our home-grown youngsters, with boys and girls as young as 13 getting crucial experience.

We are really pleased that The Swan Inn has agreed to continue as our shirt sponsor for this year. We really appreciate this support, as the club continues to save up towards a new replacement permanent practice net. The lack of such a facility does somewhat hold the club back, since the old net built by Don Barnes and others in the 1980s reached the end of its useful life and fell into disrepair.

One of the club's main expenses each year, on top of maintaining our roller and mowers and contributing to the pavilion costs, is cricket balls. Two brand new cricket balls, made from cork and a stitched leather casing, are obligatory for every match (each team supplies one for their innings). Our total cricket ball costs this season will be around £900.

If anyone would be so kind as to sponsor a ball for a match this season, it costs £20 - please get in touch via the details below, or with Andrew Weaver, or anyone on the club committee. We'll credit you in the match preview, and invite you to present the Ascott player-of-the-match award at the end of the particular game.

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, secretary. 07866 278685**

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

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

**Facebook: [Ascott UnderWychwood Cricket Club](#)**



*AUWCC President (and formerly a most distinguished all-rounder for many years) Don Barnes presents William Harvey with one of several club awards, for his exploits last season. Will, now 17, made his debut for Ascott at the age of 12 and has developed into one of our star players - one of many able to win games with bat, ball or in the field.*

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

# ***ASCOTT TIMES PAST AND NOW***

Two pictures of Church View. Although there have been small changes, the street is still recognisable. Some chimneys have been removed, and dormer windows added. Windows have been bricked up, and a front door created. The grass verge has been reduced and the edge straightened. In today's photograph, motor cars are parked, and the road is wider.



# ***Oxfordshire County Council***

2026 looks like being a busy year with a decision due from government by the middle of the year regarding the creation of a unitary authority for Oxfordshire. Three proposals have been submitted, for one, two and three councils. In each case, West Oxfordshire District Council will cease to exist in 2028. There will be a consultation that will be conducted by the government, to start in February, when residents can give their views about the three proposals and their preferred option. The County Council is proposing a single unitary authority for Oxfordshire. This has the benefit of ensuring continuity of critical service, such as adult social care. It is also the proposal that will save most money, allowing the council to invest in better services, road maintenance etc. The government will be conducting a statutory consultation on all three proposals in February/March

Residents who regularly travel to Witney will be pleased to know that the library there has been completely refurbished. The building has been renovated to improve its carbon footprint, and the interior decorations make it a lovely place to sit and read, or to take children to for an afternoon of storytelling. There is a new community space, and more computers for general use. I am very proud of our libraries – unlike many areas, we managed to keep many of our libraries open, and we are now making them into warm and welcoming places, with lots of activities for people of all ages.

Please be aware that if you want to take your refuse to a Household Waste Recycling Centre – our nearest one is Dix Pit – you will now need to make an appointment. You can do this online at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/book-recycling-centre-visit>. You will need to take evidence of where you live when you go to the site, so that you can use it without charge. You can use a driving license, a utility bill, or a council tax bill.

Booking systems are not unusual, in fact Oxfordshire is unusual in NOT having a booking system. Unlike many other parts of the country, including neighbouring areas, Oxfordshire does not currently limit the use of HWRCs to county residents only. Oxfordshire residents are prevented from using neighbouring authority facilities, while residents from nearby counties are currently able to use those in Oxfordshire – leading to increased service costs for Oxfordshire County Council.

The introduction of a reasonable fee for residents from outside Oxfordshire will help the council to meet those extra costs and makes it fairer for our residents who can book and then use the sites for free.

**Liz Leffman**

# ***What's On @ FarmED***

## **Spring 2026 (March - May)**

### ***Friday Farm Walk - Most Fridays***

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

### ***Soil Health is Human Health (Lunchtime Talk) - 3rd March***

Join the team from microbz to discuss the link between regenerated soils, nutrient dense food and gut health.

### ***All Things Honey (Lunchtime Talk) - 10th March***

Honey isn't as simple as it seems, and FarmED beekeeper Tony Yarrow is here to reveal its secrets and surprises

### ***Holistic Planned Grazing - 11th March***

Join us for a day with holistic planned grazing expert Rob Havard.

### ***Herbal Ley Establishment & Management - 18th March***

Discover the benefits of introducing herbal leys into your rotation with this one day course, and leave feeling confident in your abilities to plan and manage your own system.

### ***Introduction to Regenerative Agriculture - 19th March & 6th May***

Designed for people who are working in agriculture, including livestock and arable farmers, who are looking to gain a basic understanding of how to farm regeneratively.

### ***Landscape Design for Animal Health - 9th April***

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

### ***Beekeeping for Beginners - 14th April***

This one-day interactive workshop has been designed for anyone considering keeping bees, or on the verge of starting, and for those existing beekeepers interested in refreshing their knowledge.

***Spring Foraging Walk & Workshop - 15th April***

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.

***Working with Wool (Lunchtime Talk) - 28th April***

How buying a fleece in a Swindon parking lot led to inheriting a flock of sheep and moving to the country!

***Dawn Chorus - 5th May***

Celebrate the Dawn Chorus with a torchlit farm walk, led by conservationist Nick Patel, followed by hot drinks and a light breakfast.

***Introduction to Permaculture: Two Day Course 13th - 14th May***

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

***Agroforestry Farm Walk - 18th May***

Visit FarmED as part of Agroforestry Open Weekend 2026 for a brief taster of this system of growing food and trees together.

***Plan Bee - Problem Solving for Beekeepers - 19th May***

A day of ideas, inspiration and problem-solving for beekeepers.

***Dry Stone Walling - Two Day Course - 20th- 21st May***

Combining theory and plenty of practice, this two day course introducing Cotswold dry stone walling will give participants with little or no experience of the craft the opportunity to dismantle and rebuild a field wall using traditional techniques.

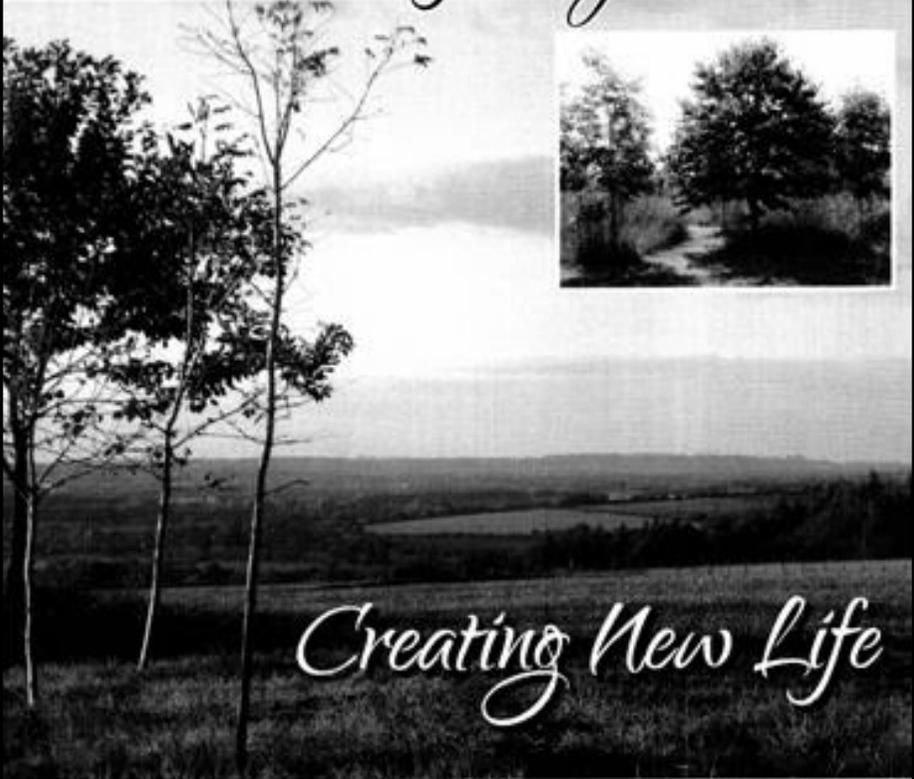
***More info & booking:***

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

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by e-mail at [helenpearson\\_fairspearbg@gmail.com](mailto:helenpearson_fairspearbg@gmail.com)  
or visit our website at [www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk)



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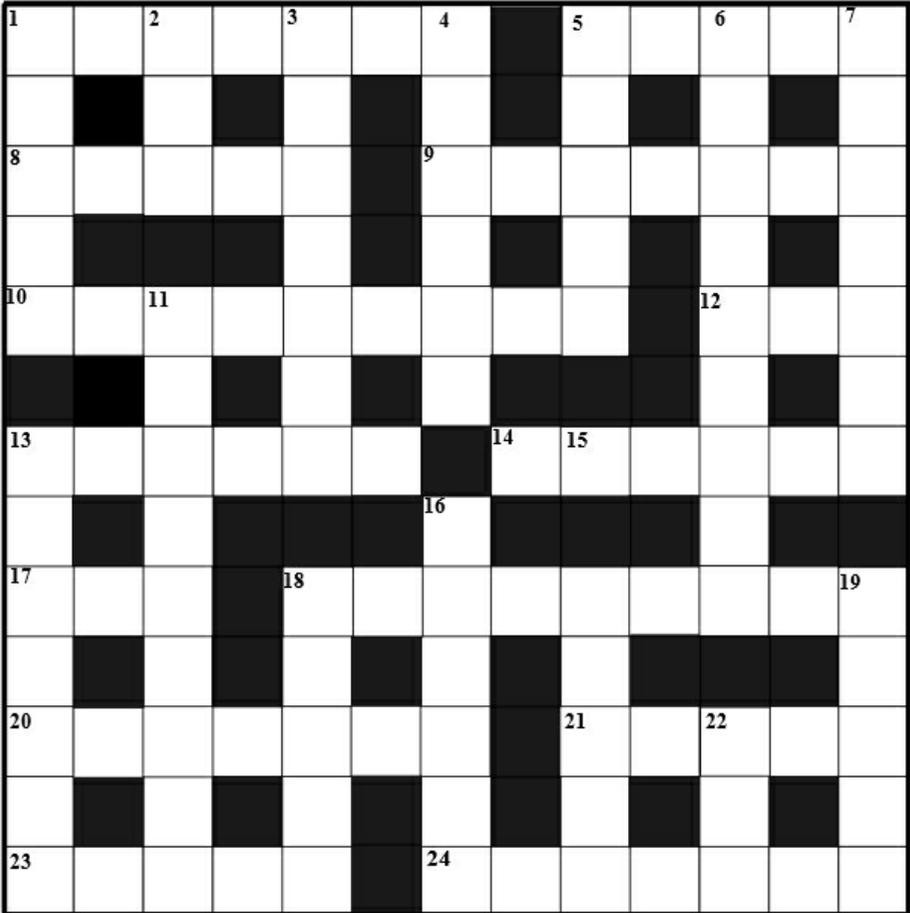
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# Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Park (7)
- 5 Break in (5)
- 8 Possessed (5)
- 9 Side by side(7)
- 10 Loathsome (9)
- 12 View (3)
- 13 Young hen (6)
- 14 Unconventional; exit (3,3)
- 17 Information (3)
- 18 Gold tiara (anag.) (9)
- 20 Outstanding (7)
- 21 Intellect (5)
- 23 Negotiate (5)
- 24 Ugly sight (7)

**Down**

- 1 Sphere (5)
- 2 Manage (3)
- 3 Sanction (7)
- 4 Dilapidated (6)
- 5 Uncanny (5)
- 6 Convey; enrapture (9)
- 7 Strategic withdrawal (7)
- 11 Inelegant (anag.) (9)
- 13 Colouring matter (7)
- 15 Good-natured (7)
- 16 Cows (6)
- 18 Grand (5)
- 19 Scope (5)
- 22 Fuss (3)

**Solutions to  
Crossword in  
Edition 128**

**Across**

- 1 Regions
- 5 Treat
- 8 Pilot
- 9 Impasse
- 10 Resembled
- 12 Eft
- 13 Ceding
- 14 Blonde
- 17 Orb
- 18 Billiards
- 20 Swallow
- 21 Usual
- 23 Sedge
- 24 Precept

**Down**

- 1 Riper
- 2 Gel
- 3 Ottoman
- 4 Shield
- 5 Tepid
- 6 Easterner
- 7 Theatre
- 11 Sideboard
- 13 Croesus
- 15 Leisure
- 16 Blow Up
- 18 Bulge
- 19 Split
- 22 Use

# ***Local Business Directory***

**ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS** 01993830687 07989497253  
www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk Page 11

**ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP** 01993831240 shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk  
www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk Page 7

**BURFORD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE** 01993 831282, 01993 822114 Page 3

**COMBE MILL**  
BLENHEIM PALACE SAWMILLS, COMBE, OXON, OX29 8ET Page 12

**COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006  
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk Page 32

**ENLIGHTENED WINDOWS** 01608 684607 www.enlightenedwindows.co.uk Page 4

**FAIRSPEAR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND** 01993 878387  
helenpearson248@btinternet.com www.naturalburialoxfordshire.co.uk Page 42

**COTSWOLD WELLNESS** 07525 411 658 fingersandtoes244@gmail.com  
www.fingersandtoes.info Page 4

**FLIX IN THE STIX** Simon Gidman: 07768 600102  
Rachel Stratford: 07964 235106 Page 13

**FOLK CLUB** 01993831427 07870563299  
wychwoodfolkclub@zoho.com www.wychwoodfolkclub.com Page 27

**GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425  
info@alfredgroves.co.uk www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk Page 44

**THE HAIR SALON AT THE PADDOCKS** Ladies' and Gentlemen's Hair dressing  
The Paddocks, Shipton Road, Milton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6GF  
Alison 07980645995; Joy 07867585053 Page 4

## Ascott Grapevine

<b>IVY'S FLORIST</b> 01993830268 Instagram@Ivy's Florist	Page 12
<b>JENNA SAUNDERS</b> 01993831338 saundersjenna@hotmail.com	Page 4
<b>JOHNSON'S CHAUFFEUR CARS</b> 01993 830249 07768507100/07971236020 info@johnsonscars.com www.johnsons.com	Page 3
<b>PAW PALS</b> 07917 391520 paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon <a href="mailto:westoxon@paw-pals.co.uk">westoxon@paw-pals.co.uk</a>	Page 43
<b>PUDDLE DUCKS</b> Scan the QR or phone 01666 577377	Page 45
<b>ROBERT GRIPPER</b> 01993831960 robgripper@btinternet.com	Page 5
<b>THE SWAN</b> 01993 832332 reservations@swanascott.com cath@lionhearth.co.uk	Page 16
<b>TRAVEL WITH MERV BATES</b> 01993 240001 merv.bates@travelcounsellors.com www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/merv.bates	Page 20

# ***Events Calendar - 2026***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Martin Simpson	Tiddy Hall
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Fix in the Stix The CHORAL	Tiddy Hall
March 21 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Boo Hewerdine	Tiddy Hall
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mid-day	Craft Fair	Tiddy Hall
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Gilmore & Roberts	Tiddy Hall
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Magpie Lane	Tiddy Hall
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am	Local Council Elections TBC	Tiddy Hall
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee at the Mill	The Mill OX7 6AP
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Tea Dance	Tiddy Hall
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Tiddy Hall
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.20pm	SilverBlues	Tiddy Hall

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