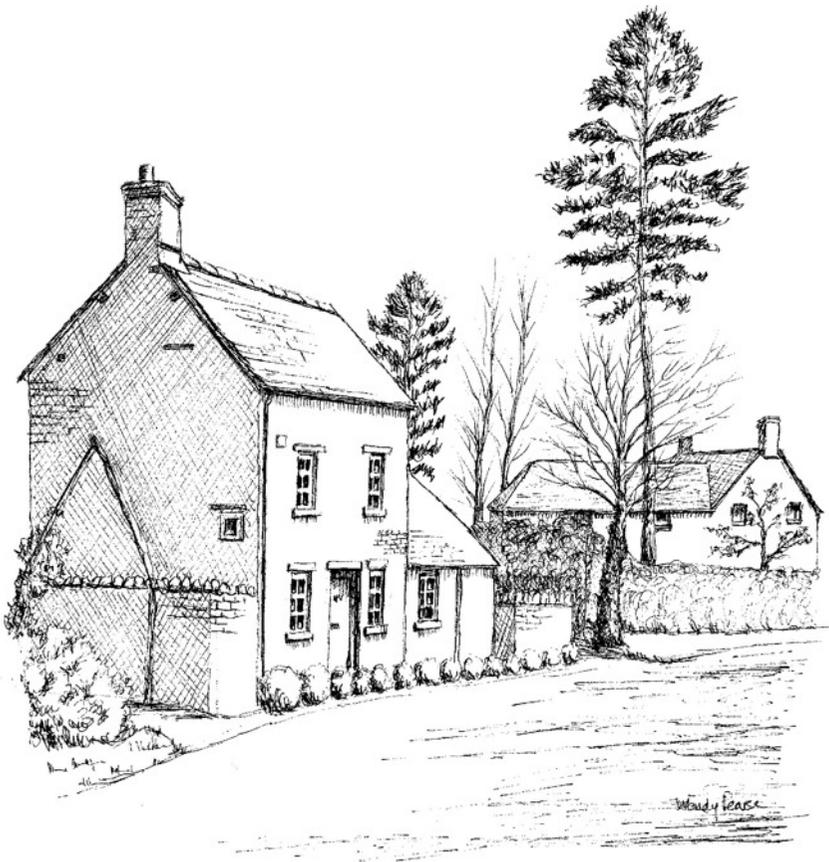


# The Ascott Grapevine



## 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 and the PCC, 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 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

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

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,  
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

## Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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## SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2014

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1000 Holy Communion

**Sunday 22 June**  
0800 Holy Communion

**Sunday 13 July**  
1000 Holy Communion

**Sunday 27 July**  
0800 Holy Communion

**Sunday 10 August**  
1000 Holy Communion

**Sunday 24 August**  
0800 Holy Communion

**Sunday 14 September**  
1000 Holy Communion

**Sunday 28 September**  
0800 Holy Communion

On Sundays when there is not a service in Ascott, there are others across the Benefice, normally 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 0800 Enstone & 1000 Spelsbury; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 0800 Spelsbury & 1000 Enstone. For full details please see the church notice boards.

You will receive a warm welcome in any of our Churches.

**Ascott** is part of The Chase Benefice and the Rector is Revd. Mark Abrey  
Tel: 01608 676572

## Local Churches

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Rev'd Kate Stacey Tel: 01993  
832514

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Churchwarden James Walmsley  
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**SS Simon & Jude, Milton**  
Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993  
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**St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury**  
Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993  
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**Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford**  
Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

**Wychwood Baptist, Milton**  
Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

**Burford Methodist**  
Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993  
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**Westcote Methodist**  
Tony Gibson 01993 830699  
Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

**Roman Catholic**  
SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford  
Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton  
Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-on-the-Wold  
St Teresa, Charlbury

# News from the Church

Dear Friends

As I write this preparations are being made across the Benefice for the annual Oxfordshire Artweeks - a week when local artists open their studios for the public to go and see their work. I never cease to be amazed at the talent and skill of people who live in our villages and it is a joy to see their work.

Art can of course be controversial. In February, the Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz produced a life-sized sculpture entitled Homeless Jesus that portrays Jesus as a man asleep on a bench. Although his body is almost completely obscured by a blanket his feet stick out and carry the marks of crucifixion (you can find images of it through your search engine). The sculpture was placed outside a church in a smart suburb in North Carolina.

People have reacted to it in a variety of ways that seem to tell us quite a lot about that person's priorities. When Pope Francis saw a model of it he was moved to pray and then bless it.

One local resident is reported to have said, "Jesus is not a helpless person who needs our help. We need someone who is capable of meeting our needs, not someone who is also needy". In response a local minister, referring to a passage in the Bible, commented, "Where it says the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head, that means he's homeless".

Another neighbour wrote honestly but perhaps naïvely to the local paper, "My complaint is not about the art-worthiness or the meaning behind the sculpture. It is about people driving into our beautiful, reasonably upscale neighbourhood and seeing an ugly homeless person sleeping on a park bench".

If Schmalz were to provide an image of Jesus for our village that served as a mirror, what would we discover about ourselves?

With every blessing

**Mark Abrey**



# Afternoon Tea dates in the Village Church

**From 3:00 to 5:00 pm**  
**June 8th**

**July 6th**

**August 3rd - Summer Fruits**

**September 7th Remembering WW1 and WW2**

**October 5th Harvest**

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# Recipes

## MARZIPAN & PLUM TART

A delicious way to use up those surplus plums to make an interesting pudding that can also be eaten cold as a cake. It also freezes well.

### Ingredients:

450 g	Ripe plums
175 g	Self raising flour
125 g	Unsalted butter
1	Egg
50 g	Muscovado sugar
50 g	Ground almonds
1 tsp	Vanilla essence (optional)
175 g	Marzipan
	Icing sugar to dust



### Method:

- Stone the plums.
- Make the pastry by rubbing the butter into the flour until the mix resembles bread crumbs.
- Stir in the sugar, ground almonds and vanilla essence.
- Remove a couple of heaped tablespoons of this crumble mix and set to one side.
- Beat the egg and add gradually to the remaining pastry mix to create a moist paste and allow to chill for 30 minutes. Avoid making the mixture too wet.
- Once the paste is cool and therefore easier to handle, carefully roll out the pastry on a floured surface to fit a rectangular tart tin or a 9 inch round tin.
- Roll the marzipan to the same shape and place on top of the pastry in the tin.
- Now arrange the plums on top of the pastry and marzipan and finish the whole thing by scattering the reserved crumble pastry mix over the top, so that it falls into the space between each plum.

- Place in the oven, which has been pre-heated to 180/190°C or gas mark 4/5, and bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until the pastry is golden and the plums are juicy and soft.
- Serve hot or cold with cream.

---

## Omelette with herbs for one person

Fresh eggs and young herbs make a lovely omelette with their beautiful colour combination of yellow and bright green, and to paraphrase Elizabeth David in her 1950's book – what could be better than an omelette, a glass of wine and a hunk of bread. Especially at the end of a long and tiring day in the garden?

2 to 3 eggs

Butter for frying

2 tablespoons chopped fresh herbs, Parsley, chives, Marjoram Chervil - anything that takes your fancy

Salt and pepper

Lightly beat the eggs and immediately tilt the pan to spread the eggs. Use a fork to move the cooked egg to one side and allow the uncooked mixture to get to the base of the pan. Do not over-cook! Scatter over herbs and turn one side to the middle and the other side over that. This folding and serving process is considered a bit of an art by some, but if you are like me, just getting it onto the plate looking like an omelette is a triumph!

We all have busy lives, and I find that even when I am gardening, it is all too easy to rush about without truly seeing all that is around you. Had it not been for a kind neighbour giving me a timely cup of tea and a homemade cake, this very afternoon may have passed in a blur of planting and weeding. Sitting with my tea in the sunshine, I noticed the first butterflies of the year, and the bees busy in the apple blossom, and because I was sitting still and silent, a robin came to share my cake! Take time to smell the flowers.

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# NATURE NOTES

The plant world is full of wonders; often it is the most common organisms that make you think 'how did evolution arrange this?'

A prime requirement of any plant is how to reproduce and pass on genetic information to future generations. The way this happens can sometimes seem bizarre and sometimes be so successful that the plant becomes a pernicious weed.

The Arum Lily (*Arum Maculatum*),



also known as Lords and Ladies, Wake Robin, Starchwort, Cuckoo Pint or Jack-in-the-Pulpit, is one of

the bizarre plants when it comes to reproduction and the Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus Ficaria*), is one of the most persistent and prolific garden weeds!

The Arum Lily is commonly found in woodlands, hedgerows and waste places across northern Europe. The purple spotted leaves appear in April and May followed by the spathe, a leaf-like hood, that surrounds a purple, poker-shaped spadix. The flowers are hidden in the base of the spathe (see cut-away view). The fe-



male flowers are at the bottom, with the male flowers above. Over both of these is a ring of downward pointing hairs, which act as an insect trap.

The purple spadix attracts small flying insects, such as midges, by producing a fetid smell and becoming considerably warmer than the surrounding air temperature. The insects, attracted by the smell and warmth, enter the lower chamber and are trapped by the ring of hairs.

## Ascott Grapevine

They become dusted with pollen shed by the male flowers and when they eventually make their escape repeat the process, this time entering another plant fertilising the female flowers. In the autumn the spathe and leaves will have withered away leaving a cluster of bright red berries on a single stem.

The berries are poisonous, containing



oxalate crystals that are needle sharp. If swallowed these will irritate the mouth, tongue and throat resulting in swelling, difficulty in breathing and an upset stomach. The whole plant, if handled, may cause allergic reactions.

The plant grows each year from an oblong underground tuber resembling a potato, brownish in colour, white inside and when cut exuding a milky

sap. The tubers are a rich source of starch; historically they were collected and processed to produce a substitute for arrowroot and to provide starch to stiffen the cuffs and ruffs of Elizabethan Ladies. In France, they were processed to produce a face powder.

The Arum has over 100 common names in English alone, more than any other native plant. Many of the names are linked to the passing likeness of the spathe and spadix to male and female sexual organs, two of the more polite are Stallions and Mares and Dog's Dibble.

The Lesser Celandine is one of the



first plants to flower in late winter and early spring, its bright yellow flowers shining though the winter gloom a few inches above a thick mat of glossy leaves. The flowers open in the morning and close before rain or at dusk. Celandines will grow anywhere, but favour hedgerows, damp and shady areas and will even colonise lawns. The dense mat of leaves can smother other more delicate spring plants.

## Ascott Grapevine

There are two common native species of Celandine; *Ranunculus Ficaria*, which spreads by producing seeds and has small underground tubers attached to its roots and *Ranunculus Bulbifera* that rarely sets seeds, but spreads by means of bulbils formed in the leaf axils.

In the case of *Ranunculus Ficaria* the presence of underground tubers earned it the common names of Figwort and Pilewort. These tubers make this plant so difficult to eradicate. Try digging it up and many of the small brown tubers will be left in the soil ready to produce many new plants next year. *Ranunculus Bulbifera* is just as difficult to eradicate. When its leaves wither and die down in May the bulbils in the leaf axils are shed and will be washed into the surrounding soil by the summer rains

only to produce new plants the following spring.

Based on the old apothecaries 'doctrine of signatures' which believed that if part of a plant looked like part of a human anatomy this indicated that the plant would cure problems with that part of the body. The tubers hanging from the roots of *Ficaria* were thought to resemble human piles and so were used to produce an ointment to treat that problem.

How do you rid your garden of Celandines when digging out the plants often assists their spread? Spreading a thick mulch of organic material may smother the weed, lawn weed killers are ineffective, but glyphosate products will work.

*Stuart Fox*



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# *Know your Neighbour*

## **Bob Chilcot-Musician**



Kate, Becky and I have lived in Ascott for three years. It is a wonderful place to be both for our family life together and for me in my work as a composer. I have been very fortunate to have worked in music all my life. I started off, as many similar musicians to me, as a boy chorister, firstly in the Parish Church choir in Watford and shortly after in the choir of King's College, Cambridge. I returned to King's some years later as a student and choral scholar in the choir where my Director of Music was Sir Philip Ledger. Philip remained a close friend all through my working life and eventually I did the right thing and in 2005 married his daughter, Kate.

My parents were not especially musical and I think my late mother would have loved me to have left university and become a lawyer or a civil servant. When I would tell my mum about some piece I was writing or some trip I was doing, she always asked me, to the day she died, if I was getting paid! I was consequent-

ly so very proud with my mum in mind, when I was asked last year to write the anthem for the service in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Coronation of The Queen. She stated, quite firmly that she had always wanted me to follow a career in music!

Anyway, I started my working life as a singer and a freelance commercial composer and arranger, mainly writing orchestral arrangements for BBC Radio 2. I eventually changed course and became a member of the vocal group, The King's Singers, with whom I sang for twelve years. It was not until 1997, at the age of forty-two that I began my work as a full-time composer. It was a great moment in my life, when I suddenly realised that this was what I always wanted to do, but things just hadn't worked out that way.

So this is what I have done for the past seventeen years, and I have combined this with a certain amount of conducting which takes me away from home for about ninety days of

the year. Every day when I am at home I start work at around 9am and work till 6pm in my little office at the side of the house. Rather like a furniture maker or a dressmaker I have an order book for pieces and every day I sit down to try and keep to the deadlines. My speciality is music for choirs. This is the world that I have known all my life and I love writing for voices and I love words. I have written all sorts of pieces – music for children's choirs, symphonic choirs, chamber choirs, and my music, which for twenty years now has been published by Oxford University Press, just down the road, is performed all over the world. Amongst the pieces I have to do this year is a work for Magdalen School Choir in Oxford, which I have all but finished and a work to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the John Lewis store in Oxford Street, which will be performed in the Royal Albert Hall in December. I have a piece to write for another locally based musician, Brian Kay. Brian will celebrate fifteen years as Musical Director of the Festival that the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams started, The Leith Hill Festival in Dorking and I will write a work to celebrate this. I will also write a piece for the choir of the United States Military Academy in Westpoint, New York, and a work for Choralis, a large choral foundation in Washington DC. Towards the end of the year I will start on a large-scale piece for Age UK on the theme of loneliness.

I don't have a choir of my own, but I have been Principal Guest Conductor of The BBC Singers for twelve years now and for seven years I was con-

ductor of the choir at The Royal College of Music in London. My conducting work takes me far and wide. This year I will go to Fukushima in Japan to work at a choir competition that has been set up to rejuvenate that stricken area and I will also work with a number of other choirs in different parts of that country. I will conduct my Requiem in the Lincoln Center in New York and then the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in one of their weekly national television broadcasts. I will work at three large children's choir festivals in the United States, in Logan, Utah, in Chicago and in Eugene, Oregon. I will also make two trips to Korea, where they have thirty-five professional choirs and more church choirs than you could count!

As a musician I have travelled regularly and for a significant part of the year for nearly 30 years now. The travel bug disappeared very quickly for me – travel for me has meant work, the constant flow of meeting people and cajoling them into making music come to life together. If I think about the places that I love it is normally because I have such good friends and colleagues there. That makes a place for me. So you can imagine how it feels when after a trip I turn into London Lane for home. It is the best feeling, knowing that the family becomes whole again and that we live in a place that gives us so much, from the beauty of the surrounding countryside to the good friends and the warmth of those around who like us, are so very lucky to live in such a wonderful place.

**Bob**



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# The Ascott Village Charity



The Charity Trustees are looking for ways in which they can help financially with local projects to improve the environment of our village, for the enjoyment of Ascott residents. One recent example of what can be done is the award of cash earlier this year for plants and bulbs in chosen places around the village.

The charity has also allocated the money raised at the Charity run last December to the Multi Use Games Area at the recreation ground.

The trustees thank the villagers for the very generous donation of £203.56 in the village shop collection box.

If you have an idea that you would like to be considered by the trustees you can write down your idea, put it in an envelope, address it to Stuart Fox and post it in the shop or email any of the people listed below:

[johncull@wowmatters.com](mailto:johncull@wowmatters.com);  
[keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net](mailto:keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net)  
[mark@dawbarn.co.uk](mailto:mark@dawbarn.co.uk)

[elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk)  
[stuart.john.fox@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.john.fox@gmail.com)

---

## Brenda



It was great to see so many people from the Village come along to the Afternoon Teas to wish our Post Lady, Brenda, good luck in her retirement. She was joined by her Husband Tony and was presented with a card and cheque from the Village. She will be missed!



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**June 7<sup>th</sup> Hatful of Rain** £8.00 advance £10.00 on the door

**June 21<sup>st</sup> Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston** £10.00

July 5<sup>th</sup> **Cider & Ale Festival** – @The Swan Mark Pidgeon, Linda Watkins, Scarecrow, Toots & Fraser, Josh Chandler Morris, David Menday & Braham Levy, Chalice and Colin Greenway.

July 19<sup>th</sup> **Valerie Vale and her Aylesbury Aylevators** + support from David Menday & Braham Levy **£3.00**

August 2<sup>nd</sup> **Blondes with Beards** + support from Claire Johnson & Jenny

August 16<sup>th</sup> **Red Shoes**

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> **David Menday & Braham Levy** + support from Damian Clarke

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> **Chalice**

**See website for venue. All events in The Swan from the 1<sup>st</sup> August are £4.00 unless otherwise stated**

If you would like to be added to our mailing list or want any further information then visit [www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com), or call **01993831427** or **07870563299** or e-mail: [wychwoodfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:wychwoodfolkclub@gmail.com)

# ***Wychwood Folk Club***



## **What's in a name?**

Don't be put off by the name. What do you call an acoustic music club that encompasses a diverse range of musical genres, all forms of roots - folk (rock, modern and traditional), country, blues, bluegrass and rock and roll (and in our case, a touch of ragtime), collectively known as Americana or Alternative Country?

After countless and frequently heated discussions (or more accurately, arguments), the club was called Wychwood Folk Club. Those in the know, know that most present day Folk Clubs embrace a wide variety of music, those not in the know, the uninitiated, need to be enlightened. The definition of 'folk' is "a broad term used to refer to the traditional music of an ethnic group, usually that performed by the working class", however, a modern-day folk club is much more than this.

Wychwood Folk Club uses two excellent venues, The Swan function room, intimate, with lovely acoustics and the Tiddy Hall for larger events. We are delighted to be able to use Tiddy Hall for one of the many

purposes for which it was originally intended, music and song.

For our launch in The Swan on February 1<sup>st</sup> we had a full house, and all of our events since have been very well supported. Performances to date have been well received and varied, with performers travelling from far and wide. A lot of folk clubs do sing-a-rounds but Wychwood Folk Club prefers to have some control over the quality of the performers and it's preferable for performers who have travelled sometimes quite a distance, to perform more than one or two songs in an evening. To this end, our events in The Swan comprise of three approximately half hour sets, the support act taking the first set and the main act the remaining two.

To date, in the Tiddy Hall we have hosted Peter Knight's Gigspanner and Richard Digance. Peter Knight is well known as a member of Steeleye Span and Feast of Fiddles. Richard Digance is a rare performer in that he's respected by comedians for his original material and by musicians for being an accomplished performer/guitarist. He is also an au-

thor, an artist and a world-acclaimed poet

At the time of going to print, we are looking forward to hosting The Carrivick Sisters, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Hatful of Rain, June 7<sup>th</sup> and Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Carrivick Sisters are one of the UK's top young bluegrass and folk acts, were finalists in the prestigious BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards 2010 and were named Band/Duo of the Year in the 2011 FATEA Awards. As well as touring extensively in the UK, they have performed at major festivals in Canada and mainland Europe.

Hatful of Rain are a Bluegrass/Old time influenced British folk/roots band based in East Sussex. They strive to combine powerful song-writing with musical virtuosity whilst retaining a strong traditional feel.

Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston, a rare fusion of double bass & mandolin, have emerged to become one of the most sought after duos on the English folk & roots scene. Well known for the last 8 years as a central component of Show of Hands, Miranda has an exquisite and spine-tingling voice, whilst Rex, with his exuberant and flamboyant playing style, has built a reputation as one of the finest mandolin players in the UK.

Later in the year we have the Sam Kelly Trio and Sunjay Brayne. Sam Kelly is a twenty-one year old singer, song-writer and multi-instrumentalist hailing from the depths of Norfolk. He has one of the best young male voices in British acoustic roots music and is touring with his band, comprising Jamie Francis on banjo and Evan Carson on bodhran. Sunjay Brayne was winner of the Wath Festival Young Performers Award 2012, BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award Nominee 2012 and New Roots Competition Finalist 2012. Sunjay's accolades are formidable. He is currently supporting Steeleye Span on their 'Wintersmith' tour.

Sincere thanks go to Michiel and Richard for the use of The Swan function room (our spiritual home in more ways than one) and the Tiddy Hall committee for organising the bar, food and raffle for the 'Tiddy gigs'.

We run Wychwood Folk Club in the hope that people will enjoy the performances, support our village pub and village hall and have a convivial evening.

If you wish to get involved with Wychwood Folk Club, sign-up for the newsletter, or find out more, please e. mail [wychwoodfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:wychwoodfolkclub@gmail.com) or phone 01993831427

If you are an avid user of Facebook and Twitter and could help with pro-

## Ascott Grapevine

moting Wychwood Folk Club through these media, we would love to hear from you.

*Don't be put-off by the word 'folk'. If you haven't already been to a Wychwood Folk Club event, come along to the festival at The Swan on Saturday*

*July 5<sup>th</sup> and get a taste of not only the ales and ciders available, but also of what Wychwood Folk Club has to offer, you might be pleasantly surprised.*

Cheers.



[www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com)

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# **Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council**

Firstly, Elections 2014 – some of you will already know that the result of an Uncontested Election means that Councillors Laurence Mellor, Philippa Carter and Sandy Timms will continue to represent Ascott-under-Wychwood. That said, the Parish Council need your support and most **urgently** Co-opt more members if it is to continue to function and represent the Village. If the Parish Council does not have 5 councillors then the responsibility will be given to West Oxfordshire District Council.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and helping the Village make their own decisions then please do not hesitate to come along to one of the meetings, the sooner the better, or contact one of the existing councillors to have a chat about what is involved. It can be a very rewarding position. The meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, with the exception of August.

There will be two meetings in June, the first being the Annual General Meeting to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman and will be held on Monday

9 June at 7.30pm in the Tiddy Hall room. The second meeting will be the Annual Village Meeting which will be held on Monday 23 June at 7.30pm and will be held in the Tiddy Hall – everyone is welcome.

One issue that has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council is obtaining a Defibrillator for the Village. Dick Tracey from South Central Ambulance Service kindly attended the April meeting and gave a very informative presentation. With the help of West Oxfordshire District Council funding and fundraising from the Ascott Songsters the Parish Council should be in a position to purchase a Defibrillator for the Village very soon.

Planning still remains quiet, with only a handful of applications having been presented to the Council for comment.

Please remember to support your Parish Council and, again, should you wish to become a Parish Councillor yourself please do not hesitate to contact either myself as Parish Clerk or indeed any of the Parish Councillors noted below.

## **Parish Council:**

Rob Morgan (Chairman)	831958
Laurence Mellor	831182
Philippa Carter	830344
Sandy Timms	831870
Angela Barnes (Parish Clerk)	01608 641045

## ***Did you Know?***

there are three women listed on the Roll of Honour for the First World War, which was stored in the Tiddy Hall? Their names are Catherine Claridge, Annie Vautier and Ethel Smith. They were all nurses and the medal of the Red Cross, RRC, is recorded beside their names. Little is known about the first two.

Catherine Claridge was born at Taston and she was a hospital nurse at Folkestone in 1911. Sometime after the War she came to live with her brothers John and Richard at Smallstones Farm above Chilson and she died there in 1960 aged 92. Her brother Richard also served in the War.

Annie Vautier was remembered by Mary Barnes's late aunt, Emma Acton, as a nurse in the village when Emma was a young child.

A little more is known about Ethel Smith. She came to Ascott when Lord and Lady Furness who then rented Ascott Earl House, set up a May Home there. The Home provided rest and recuperation for poor women and girls in need of help. Lady Furness recruited her friend Ethel Smith from the famous London Hospital to run the Home. When the Tiddy Hall was established and a proper committee formed, Ethel was asked in August 1914 to become the first Honorary Secretary. This she undertook but by June 1915, the Minutes record that there was need to appoint a temporary secretary in the absence of Miss Smith. Ethel had joined Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps and was on her way to Malta. By the middle of July it was recorded in the Tiddy Hall Minutes that Ethel had been appointed Assistant Matron at the Valletta Hospital, the largest Military Hospital on the island. It seems that Ethel was still serving in Malta in the spring of 1919 but whether she ever returned to Ascott is unknown. The May Home continued until 1922 when the Furness's stopped renting Ascott Earl House.

**Wendy Pearse**

## Ascott Grapevine

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## **Ascott Pantomime**

The Pantomime team say a great big thank you for your continued support of the pantomime and especially for your generosity at the door. You raised the huge sum of £388 (£63 more than last year), £194 each has been passed on to the Tiddy Hall funds and the Grapevine fund.

A big thank you and we look forward to your support this year.

Some of our regular players, who have put a lot of time and effort in the past, have decided to step down. Our thanks to them for their time and effort over the last few years.

As a consequence of this we now like to ask for recruits, especially from the younger village folk as they are our future. A chance to show your talents. Please email [keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net](mailto:keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net) or phone 831498 or drop a note through the door of 4a Heritage Lane.

All applications welcome - there is no audition, if you volunteer, you're in!

# *How to become a self made man*

When I came to the end of my working life, I realised I had achieved very little. But dreaming one day I could gain some respect within the community. A man of substance through enterprise and endeavour. I thought the opportunity had passed me by when it suddenly came to my mind; why not open my garden for cream teas.

I am fortunate I bought my old council house in the 1980's. My old home was built in the 1930's. In those days council houses were built with a large garden at the back. Families were expected to be self-sufficient in growing their own vegetables.

My garden is about 70 yards by 15 yards, which I no longer cultivate. My plan is to turn this into a site for afternoon teas. Of course like all council property, mine is no exception. It will require hard work to clear it up. I have several old bike frames and a number of rusting pushchairs. At the top of the garden there are two rotting sofas which I tried to burn. But they gave off acrid smoke. Also I may have to get in touch with the pest control officer to get rid of the rats. Once this is done, I have big plans for my land. Around the borders of the lawn I shall plant quick growing leylandi. In each corner I shall place hardwearing white plastic plinths. On these I shall place naked plastic

nymphs. At dusk their erogenous zones will glow in a green fluorescence colour, powered by a solar panel. From the plinths I shall pipe music suitable for an English country garden in the Cotswolds.

I would like to assure my neighbours there will be no rock or pop played. I took a dislike of rock and roll with Bill Haley and the Comets. I have heard nothing over the years to make me change my mind.

If I get the go-ahead for this venture from the council, then I shall feel I am someone of importance in the village. I can at last hold my head high; well dressed with self-assurance. I can hear now what people will say. 'There he goes', they will say. 'A self-made man, a pillar of the community. He sits on the bench you know. He always reads the lesson in church on high days and holidays. He's been asked to join the local golf club.'

Alleluia! Free at last. I will no longer have to sing 'The Red Flag.'

Alleluia! Free at last. I am becoming a working class capitalist.

**Beware of the self-made man!**

**I have the sincerity of a slithering snake!**

My original idea was to apply for permission to turn my garden into a Garden of Rest. But friends and associates persuaded me against.

They thought it in bad taste. But it would have brought much quicker recognition.

**Fred Russell**

---

## ***There's a long, long trail a-winding***

With the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, this year 2014.

For most families in this country there is still some connection with those days although it happened a long time ago.

I am old enough to have known people who lived through that dark period, 1914-1918 and the heartache and bitterness which remained with them.

My grandmother lost her only brother, Ernest Hanks. My great grandmother Hanks, until the end of her long life, would often sit and cry when she looked at his photograph.

My grandfather served in the Sussex Regiment in South Africa and France. He survived the War and christened my mother Mary Verdun, after the battle he took part in. Sadly I never knew Fred Shirley, my grandfather. He died before I was born. I am sure, up and down this land, families could tell similar stories.

I was greatly influenced by the generation who lived through the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, especially in my taste in music. I much prefer songs such as 'Tipperary', 'Pack up your Troubles', 'Dolly Grey', 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' and many more than the whining popular music I cannot escape from today. Perhaps I could go somewhere to be reprogrammed.

Now I am old I have many ideas about War and Peace. For example the railways must share some of the guilt for the slaughter of the trenches in 1914-1918. Without the railways getting reinforcements and supplies to the front line much quicker than in a previous age, neither army could have held out as long as they did. The tactic of attrition would have proved useless much sooner.

When I think of peace I do wonder if there will ever be peace until there is a ban on people wearing hats, except to protect the head in bad weather. When I have seen Kaiser Bill and all his cohorts on faded film, all strutting about wearing steel helmets with great spikes sticking out of the top, I

## Ascott Grapevine

wonder did they charge head first into battle shouting, 'They don't like it up 'em', or similar in German?

If I were a god looking down on the mighty and powerful and the hats they wear to put them above the rest, I would laugh and think, 'You wear tall hats, spiked hats, large fur hats, hats with feathers sticking out of them, all to create pomp and pride. You fools! You too will surely come to dust.'

Women I think are the worse when it comes to wearing hats. The biggest culprits are future mother-in-laws and the hats they wear at weddings. Most are so large it must be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a mother-in-law with a large hat, to pass through the door in the church porch.

**Fred Russell**

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# Open Gardens

## CAKES, BOTTLES, PLANTS AND CANS PLEASE!

Arrangements are all in place for a major "invasion" of garden lovers expected to support the joint Rotary and Air Ambulance Open Gardens from 2pm to 5pm in Ascott Under Wychwood on Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Entrance is £4 each for all the gardens and there is free parking, compliments of Phil Pratley and the Wychwood Manor. Villager buses will shuttle around the village.



**AIR AMBULANCE**  
BERKS | OXON | BUCKS

Air Ambulance runs over 60 similar events throughout Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire and has distributed 40,000 brochures of their 2014 catalogue. There will be lots of local publicity and signs so as long as it is a sunny day (!) it is hoped that £3K to £4K will be raised for such a good cause, especially to all of us who live in such a beautiful but remote area.

What we need please is cake contributions and any bottles/cans you feel able to give for the Tombola. Call Iain Lyon (01993 830 599) for the tombola or bring along before 1pm on

the day or leave at the Village Shop...thank you. There have been many offers for plants to be sold and this is much appreciated. Please could you label them (and price?) and deliver on the day to any of the gardens open. Thank you.

# Rotary



If you can bake a cake then please call Paul Jackson 01993 83 1967 (41 High Street) .....it will be much appreciated.

If you have time to help especially with serving the teas etc. which will now be at Wychwood Manor then please call Paul Jackson.

Picture is Wychwood Manor House Gardens not normally open to the public.



# **Lawrence House Nursing Team (LHNT)**

In May 1999 an open meeting was held with a view to setting up a home nursing service for terminally ill patients in Chipping Norton and the surrounding area. In May this year the team celebrates its fifteenth birthday! The LHNT is now well established and has provided care to over 560 patients enabling many of them to die at home. This has involved over 3000 visits covering 16,000 hours of nursing. The LHNT has a team of 18 experienced registered nurses.

We receive very positive feedback:

*"We would not have been able to keep him at home if you were not able to find the wonderfully calm and helpful band of nurses"*

*"Thank you for the loving care you gave to Mum in her last few days. For me you were a godsend, enabling me to not have to worry through the nights"*

*"Dr Lawrence has left a wonderful gift for everyone in the area".*

We were deeply saddened earlier this year by the death of Mike Howes a founder Trustee. Mike was nursed at home by his family with the support of the LHNT.

As we embark on the next fifteen years it is important that the future of LHNT is secure; please support the work of the LHNT at the following events:

8th June - Classic car show, Churchill

20th June 2014. Danny Phillips is holding the 'Jane Phillips MBE Memorial Golf Day' at Chipping Norton Golf Club. Jane was a driving force in setting up LHNT.

28th June - LHNT volunteers will be providing tea and cakes at Charlbury Beer festival.

So many people have done so much to contribute to the success of LHNT.

Thank you to you all.\*

Jenny Nolan, Registered Manager,  
[lhntoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lhntoffice@gmail.com), 01608  
641549.



# Windrush Valley School

We have enjoyed a wealth of competitive sport this term, culminating in our U9 girls cross country squad, coming in runners up at the Hatherop Cross Country event. Well

ment after the Easter break, along with lots of rounder's and cricket matches for our U11 and U9 squads.

SNOW WHITE brings the house



done to all those who took part: Jake & Charlie Maudsley, Geronimo Neate-James, Max Guest, Ethan Calvert, Ben Hughes, Finley Pemberton, Cameron Cutmore and Galileo Neate-James. With an exceptional well done to the U9 girls; Felicity Jones, Lily Taylor and Emilia Belardo.

We are very much looking forward to our annual 6-a-side football tourna-



down! All the hard work and effort put in to their rehearsals, paid off for the children of Windrush Valley School. Performing to a fun and willing audience, they acted and sang amazingly throughout the evening! Congratulations to all the cast, you definitely deserve a well-earned Easter break.

Thank you to the parents of Forms 3 and 4, for providing the refreshments at half time.

Jake Maudsley and Albertine Wheeler as the Prince and Snow White

## Ascott Grapevine

Thank you to Wychwood Estate Agency who came in to judge their annual Easter Colouring Competition\*. There were many great entries, so well done to all those who entered:

The winners in the 2 categories were:

Ella Hughes receiving her 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize from Wychwoods.



Age 4-7: First Prize, Catherine Thompson. Second Prize, Millie Johnston. Third Prize, James Douglas

Age 8-12: First Prize, Emilia Belardo. Second Prize, Ella Hughes. Third Prize, Benjamin Lewis-Ing

\* See for more details of the Wychwood Estate Agency Easter Colouring Competition.

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# Photograph Competition



Wychwoods Estate Agents have once again had a hugely successful response to their annual Easter Art Competition. The art competition was first launched 4 years ago with Burford primary school, and now Shipton-under-Wychwood, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Charlbury and Chadlington primary schools all participate.

This year's competition was based on the participants designing an Easter Bunny Mask. Over 200 entries were received and Wychwoods found that the children are getting more creative every year. Some of the creative

masks even included sweet wrappers and real rabbit's hair!

Alex Holmes, had the enjoyable task of handing out the prizes and certificates to the winning entries at the schools.

"Wychwoods thoroughly enjoy organising this completion along with the local primary schools. Every year we always have a very enthusiastic response which we are delighted to see. Although we sell and rent many homes in the area, it is fantastic to be involved in the community in other ways"

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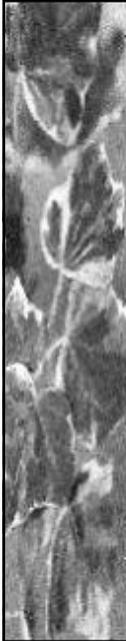
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# ***WODC Broadband Plan***

The District Council's Cabinet has agreed to back an independent service provider in a bid to secure superfast broadband for as many residents and businesses as possible across rural West Oxfordshire.

Cabinet Members have decided that the Council should work with locally based Cotswolds , Broadband to try to deliver full high-speed broadband coverage in the District.

A countywide project is already under way to provide 90% coverage in Oxfordshire and the Cabinet had a choice as to whether to invest in this to achieve 95% coverage, or to use its funds to strive towards gaining 100% coverage.

Members agreed that the Council should work independently and invest, subject to appropriate safeguards, £ 1.6m as a loan to support Cotswolds Broadband in delivering the final 10% not covered by the county project.

William Barton, West Oxfordshire District Council's economic development officer, said: "Our Members have been very clear in their aspiration to secure full coverage in West Oxfordshire and it was agreed that working with Cotswolds Broadband was the best opportunity to do this".

"Investing in the countywide scheme would still have left around 2,000 properties in West Oxfordshire without a high-speed service. Members felt that they owe it to the District and everyone who lives, works and visits here, to try to maximise the potential chance of achieving as close to 100% coverage".

"Although things are still in the very early stages and there is a lot of work to be done to progress the project, this is exciting news for West Oxfordshire".

The countywide project is being led by Oxfordshire County Council, with it as its commercial partner.

Work to secure high-speed broadband is part of the Government's Rural Broadband Programme, overseen by BDUK.

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# ASCOTT IN 1914

In the Spring of 1914 despite rumours of an impending war with Germany which had permeated the country, the villagers of Ascott would have had little idea of the impact that a war would have on their village. Generally an agricultural village, the round of farm work on land and amongst the animals would have continued in the time honoured way, with many of the young farm workers totally unaware of how their environs were about to change. More than 70 men from Ascott, about one third of the males in the village, were about to become embroiled in a world shattering event which would have a devastating effect, not only on their lives, but also on their families left behind. In this era of instant communication, we must find it difficult to imagine the tremendous uncertainty with which their daily lives must have been shadowed.

The following is mostly a list of names but hopefully may give some impression of how the Germans invasion of Belgium on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, would have impacted on the village.

Beginning at the far end of High Street, then called Mill Lane, the Maling family who lived opposite Yew Tree Farm saw two of their sons leave to fight. The 1911 Census lists Henry aged 14 and William aged 12 yet both of these young men served and their sister Margaret who married Thomas Albert

Longshaw would become one of Ascott's war widows.

Around the site of Priory Lane junction with High Street several young men were to serve. John Charles and Henry Cook, only 15 in 1911. Leonard Long and John Young who served in the RAF, from The Priory. George Longshaw and Reginald Tidley, one of the war dead, from Priory Lane, whilst the Thorntons from Yew Tree Cottage saw two of their sons leave. Fred came back but Frank became one of the names on the War Memorial. Ernest Moss and Frederick Walker also lived in High Street and Stanley Busby at Corner House Farm, only 15 in 1911, was to return severely wounded.

Moving into London Lane, Charles White from Centuries House, only 13 in 1911, became a member of the Armed Services.

Around The Green Frederick Chandler, Thomas Alden from the Forge and David Edgington were all to leave for War Service. Also Ernest Hanks, another of the war dead, Philip Kinvigg from the School House, son of the village schoolmaster and Francis Morris from Crown Cottage.

From the area of Church Close, Arthur Sherbourne, aged 15 in 1911, and his brothers Charles and Tom were joined by V. Harry Honeybone, another of the war dead who left a young widow and daughter, and his brothers Ralph and Peter, and Walter Moss, a veteran of the Boer War.

## Ascott Grapevine

From Heritage House Sydney Cox left for the Front whilst from Church View, then called The Row, several young men joined them, a number of whom are listed on the War Memorial. From the Longshaw family, George, Leonard and Thomas Albert, listed on the Memorial, left the village, along with John and William Claridge who were both killed in the fighting. Also Frank Ernest Jackson, only 14 in 1911, is another name on the Memorial. From the lower end of The Row, the Pratleys saw three sons leave. Elisha, the first Ascott casualty, died during the sinking of the Good Hope on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1914 whilst his brother Elijah served in the Royal Navy throughout the War, and Alfred like many other Ascott men served in an Oxford and Bucks Regiment. John Rose and George Rose, another sailor, also left from The Row.

William Attwood from the Station House (now demolished) joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and Harry Parsons, a platelayer, left his wife and young daughter to serve in the Royal Engineers. Victor Jessop from the Churchill Arms served in the Army Ordnance Corps.

Moving into Shipton Road, Arthur Bryan from Chapel Yard joined the RAF. Philip Perkins who lived on the Church path was another soldier. Charles Castle joined the Army Veterinary Corps and Harry Collett became a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. Denis Smith who is listed on the Memorial, was a groom and may have worked at the Grange. The Shirley family saw several sons leave

for the War where it is believed two died but only Fred is listed on the Roll of Honour. Charles Farmer and Raymond Farmer in his forties, a Royal Engineer from Holly Cottage, was probably the oldest man from Ascott to serve. He left along with William Weston and Cecil Beck, another of the war dead, who lived next door. From College Farm, now Meadowbank House, went James Walton. William Shepherd and Ernest Winfield also went from Shipton Road. As did a number of the Moss families. Henry, Samuel, Alfred, Alfred George, David who served on HMS Iron Duke, and Reuben who was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. Percy Faulkner from Andrews Yard was a trooper in the Cavalry whilst his brother William, another name on the War Memorial, went down with his ship off the north coast of Ireland. Three members of the Smith family who lived opposite Coldstone, all served. Charles and Wallace returned but Fred died in Mesopotamia and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Arthur Ashby from Coldstone Farm was another member of an Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry Regiment. Brothers Frank and David Simmonds whose family lived at the Tollhouse by Shipton Station also served throughout the War. David had joined the Royal Garrison Artillery as a 16 year old and was still a corporal with the force in the autumn of 1919. Richard Claridge whose sister Catherine was a Red Cross nurse, and whose family later lived at Smallstones Farm above Chilson, is listed on the Roll of Honour along with Charles Cook, William Gribble, Harry Grace RIP, Clarence

## Ascott Grapevine

Potter and Albert Wheeler but the sites of their homes are unknown.

After 100 years this cannot be a comprehensive list. Like today, families moved and did not keep in touch. It seems that Denis Smith and Harry Grace were the two other men along with Thomas Longshaw and Harry

Honeybone who left a young widow to bear their tragic loss. But in a small village like Ascott where close knit extended families existed, the heart-break, uncertainty and tragedy of War must have had a tremendous impact on the lives of the inhabitants.

**Wendy Pearse**



## Solution to crossword in Edition 81

# ***Wychwood Library***

Are you looking to encourage your child to read over the long school holidays? Be “AMAZED” by what’s happening here at Wychwood Library this summer! From 12<sup>th</sup> July until 13<sup>th</sup> September, children across Oxfordshire can join the “Mythical Maze”, this year’s summer reading challenge.

This annual challenge encourages children to read at least six books over the summer holiday collecting amazing rewards on the way. On completion the children also receive a wristband, a medal and a certificate. Visit us here at Wychwood Library three times to complete the challenge. It’s fun and it’s FREE.

Look out for fantastic new books, exciting puzzles and fun activities at the library as well.

There is also a separate challenge for adults!

**JOIN IN THE FUN!**

We are also getting ready for the Milton Fete on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July with our annual sale of donated books, DVDs etc so if your bookshelves are piled

high now is the time to sort out and recycle. We will be taking in donations from the middle of June. This is always such a successful event with many thanks to all our wonderful customers.

You may have noticed that the price of hiring DVDs at the library has gone down. The most expensive, newly released DVDs are now just £3 decreasing to £2 then just £1 for the older items. Have an inexpensive night in or you could just read a book. We have all the latest Richard and Judy summer reading titles for you.

Can you help support Wychwood library? We are asking people to volunteer to help support staff in the day-to-day running of the library, and also to be part of a “Friends Group” that will work with the Library Service to also support the library.

If you are interested, or for more information, please email [james.hazlewood@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.hazlewood@oxfordshire.gov.uk), or ask a member of the Library team.

Come in and visit us at Wychwood Library.

# ***Wychwood Investors Club***

## **Wychwood Investors Club to be formed.**

A new investors club is being formed in the Wychwoods aimed at those regularly trading stocks and shares or wish to understand more how the stock market works.

The idea is to meet over dinner once a month in a local pub/restaurant (which has Wi-Fi access) to exchange ideas, tips and recommendations.

Each meeting a member will present a subject of interest be it a particular group of shares or an industry overview from their particular background. There will be occasional invited speakers on relevant subjects like spread betting or even IHT and tax issues.

The group may also decide to collectively invest. If you are interested please call 01993 831967.

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# *Can you play a musical instrument?*

Did you play a musical instrument at school? Do you remember all the fun you had being part of the school or county orchestra? Is your old violin, trumpet or cello gathering dust somewhere in your loft? Do you fancy seeing if you can still hold a tune?

Burford Orchestra gets together every Monday evening (7.30-9.30) at Witney Community Primary School (followed by a pint at a local pub) to rehearse various popular orchestral classics, and we put on a concert, usually at Burford School, three times a year.

We'd love to see some new members. We are all amateurs, many of us having picked up our instruments again

after decades without playing. The fingers and the embouchure might be a little stiff, the range not quite so extensive, but the fun and sense of joy is just as intense as it ever was!

Come and watch our big summer concert on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at Burford School – we'll be playing Holst's The Planets suite, and Vaughan Williams' English Folk Songs so it should be lovely.

Find out more at:  
[www.burfordorchestra.org.uk](http://www.burfordorchestra.org.uk) or, if you need a bit of reassurance or encouragement, call Helen (French horn) on 01993 830559/07880 908760.

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# **ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP**

Owned by the village, run by the village, there for the village

## **News**

**Debbie Dingley**, one of our valued paid staff in the shop, sadly made the decision to hang up her apron in March. As you can see, a presentation was made to her, along with our good wishes for her future.



Our 2 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, Emma and Annabel also completed their 6 months with us. We hope they found the experience useful and enjoyable, and thank you for choosing the Village Shop to do part of your award.

## ***We're selling our own brand!***

The Shop now has its own name on some biscuits, fudge and wine, so if you're thinking of what to get someone for a present, or you fancy trying some of it yourself, look no further!

The **AGM is June 17<sup>th</sup>** at 19.00 in the Function Room, at The Swan. There will be several positions to fill this year, so if anyone is interested in joining what's going to be an exciting year ahead for our Village Shop, then please contact Richard Squires, Rosemary Dawbarn, Bridgette Crundwell or John Cull.

## **BOOK SWAP SHELF**

Have you noticed the book swap shelf above the ice-cream freezer? Bring a book that you have read and enjoyed to the shop and swap it for one on the shelf.

Yes our shop is 10 year's old, to keep going for another 10 years it needs your support...as regular customers....and yes as volunteers too....PLEASE make the effort.

# HIP ! HIP !! HOORAY !!!

## THREE CHEERS FOR YOUR VILLAGE SHOP



### 1 Newspapers/ Magazines for sale

No longer pre-orders only ... Choose from a range of daily papers plus a selection of magazines. Tell us what you want and we will try to stock it.

### 2 Bridgette's Budget Buys .... great wines from £4.99

Our wine buyer Bridgette has found a great range of award-winning wines with your budget in mind. *Cotes du Rhone; Montepulciano d'Abruzzo; Toro Loco Tempranillo; Toro Loco Rose; Baron St Jean Blanc* all at £4.99 plus *Bordeaux White Wine* at £5.25 and *Bordeaux Sauvignon Blanc* at £6.25. Save even more with 5% discount when you buy any six bottles.

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# Charity Darts Fundraiser at the Swan

In March, Michiel and Richard welcomed 26 staff and partners from The Rooflight Company in hosting the second charity fundraiser in support of UNICEF.

This was a repeat of an event that was originally inaugurated by Adam Bennett in 2011 and whilst Adam has since moved on to First Sight Media, he kindly offered his support again, this time alongside Tony Hill and myself, in repeating an event that we hope will become an annual fixture at the Swan.

The evening began with the darts player's choice of meal – an individually presented seasoned chicken and chips, served in the main restaurant – before players and their partners made their way through to the darts boards for a pre-tournament practice in the newly opened function room.

The main competition paired together players and novices for a straight knockout tournament for the trophy (and bragging rights at work); alongside a fundraising 'break the polo' game that at one point had up to twenty players all vying for an accumulating jackpot.

After several tense rounds, with the jackpot rising each time, the prize was eventually won by Kevin Hill – breaking the polo with no others achieving this feat in the same round.

As such, he shared the spoils of the jackpot – split equally between prize and charity.

The focus then moved onto the main tournament, with the winning pair of Dave Warr and Craig Cornett lifting the tournament shield in checking out ahead of Phil Young and Shirley

Herbert in a thrilling grand final match.

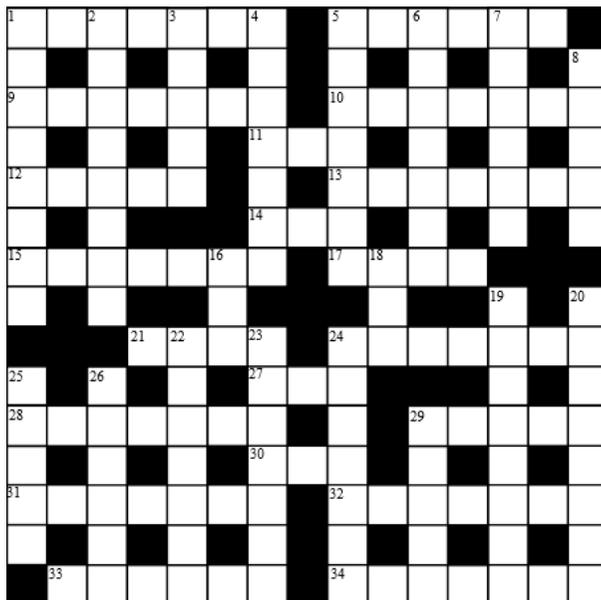
Congratulations to all that took part, and thanks also to our kind hosts – Michiel and Richard – for their fine food and hospitality. I am also grateful to Tony Hill and Adam Bennett for their meticulous planning, to Kevin Hill for his support on the night with the match scoring, and to Rachael O'Malley and Sarah Clarke for updating the results throughout the evening on the tournament white-board.

I am delighted to report that we raised £200 for UNICEF – thanks to the very generous support of those who kindly contributed on the night.



**Kester Harvey**

## Ascott Grapevine



### Across

- 1 Substance in tonic water (7)
- 5 Methodical, ceremonious (6)
- 9 Strong quality (7)
- 10 1940s trio of singing sisters (7)
- 11 Shaft of light (3)
- 12 Style of poem(5)
- 13 North Atlantic country (7)
- 14 Beard of barley (3)
- 15 Air passage near the septum (7)
- 17 Meaning, nub (4)
- 21 Albert - - - - , London building (4)
- 24 Costly ornamental buildings (7)
- 27 Time past (3)
- 28 Fish with both eyes on the same side of its head (7)
- 29 West Indian republic, capital Port-au-Prince
- 30 2012 Mark Wahlberg comedy film (3)
- 31 Red wine produced in Tuscany (7)
- 32 Establishment (7)
- 33 Deduction from a bill (6)
- 34 Harlech's Welsh county (7)

### Down

- 1 Person who helps the enemy (8)
- 2 Premium paid on borrowed money (8)
- 3 Greek architectural style (5)
- 4 Immortal (7)
- 5 Stripping the skin from (7)
- 6 Set right (7)
- 7 Number of years between people (3,3)
- 8 Words spoken by an actor directly to the audience (5)
- 16 Under the weather (3)
- 18 Bride's pledge (1,2)
- 19 Be a powerful or conclusive factor (against) (8)
- 20 Aided (8)
- 22 Country on the Balkan peninsula (7)
- 23 Criss-cross pattern (7)
- 24 Pleating, creasing (7)
- 25 One of the Marx Brothers (5)
- 26 Gate for regulating water flow (6)
- 29 Glad (5)

## ***Free Speech***

The Grapevine is your magazine and as such you can contribute by writing an article about anything you feel will be of general interest or a subject that you feel should be aired. For example:

- Do you subscribe to a charity that you think more of us need to know about?
- Have you a rant about the way we are governed at national and/or local level?
- Do you want to praise or thank the work carried out on your behalf?
- Is there a group of villagers striving to improve the village that we are not all aware of?

You can contribute in the form of an article or as a letter to the editor for village related subjects.

### **Please Note:**

The editorial staff reserve the right to correct or remove any inappropriate words or phrases.

**Editor**

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# Tiddy Hall News

Tiddy Hall has been a focal point of **The Wychwood Folk Club**, and along with gigs at The Swan, we in Ascott are very fortunate to have such talented musicians coming from near and far to entertain us! **Gigspanner** was the inaugural band at Tiddy Hall and this trio showed off their musicianship to delight us with their innovative music encompassing a variety of influences. On a completely different note, our second, a sold out evening, saw the accomplished performer/guitarist, **Richard Digance**, take centre stage. He made us all laugh with his treasure chest of stories and funny songs collected over many years in the music and entertainment business.

At the time of writing, I am eagerly awaiting the next gig in a couple of weeks' time, **The Carrivick Sisters**. Again, completely different to our first two evenings, this sister duo is an upcoming act on the British Folk scene. On 21<sup>st</sup> June, **Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston** will take stage. This unusual pairing of double bass and mandolin has a repertoire of contemporary and narrative songs giving a timeless feel and universal appeal. Just *google* Miranda Sykes and listen to her beautiful voice!

Doors for all evenings open at 7.30pm, performance starts at 8pm. Bar and light snacks are available. For more information, visit [www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com) or ring Mark and Elaine on 01993 831427.

The 3rd May saw another performance of **The Ascott Songsters** singing a variety of songs from the musicals, amongst others. Daphne has nurtured this group of local amateurs from humble beginnings which has grown from strength to strength. Thank you to all the cooks for your delicious nibbles! Money raised went to help fund the defibrillator for Ascott!

**The Roseneath School of Music** are holding their Annual Summer Concert at Tiddy Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June whilst the Parish Council and Tiddy Hall Trustees will hold their AGMs on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 7.30pm and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 8pm respectively. On Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tiddy Hall will be a **Polling Station** for European Parliament and Local Government Elections.

Jan Holah would like to run a **Summer Yoga School** during the month of August on Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm – 9pm. If you are interested, please could you get in touch as this will only run if there are sufficient numbers - 01608 810620.

## ***Kitchen Update***

There has been a slight delay in receiving funds for the replacement of the kitchen. However, monies are now all in place and work is scheduled to start on July 21<sup>st</sup> and will take approximately 2 weeks. Tiddy Hall will not be available for any catering activities during this time.

Tiddy Hall is a wonderful space to hold a children's party. Our rates are very competitive – please give me a ring on 01993 830612 for more information.

### ***Regular Activities:***

Monday – Friday Mornings                      Pre-school  
Contact: Mrs Pauline Plant 07968006451

Wednesday Night 6pm – 6.45pm              Circuits  
Contact: Simon Gidman 01993 831479

Friday Afternoons                                  Piano Lessons  
Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Post Office runs every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

### ***Special Events:***

Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>                      Polling Station European Parliament and Local Government Elections

Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>                      Roseneath School of Music Annual Concert

Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup>                      Folk Night – Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston

Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup>                      Ascott Parish Council AGM 7.30pm

Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>                      Tiddy Hall Trustees AGM 8pm

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## ***Deaths***

Sadly we report deaths that occurred in the village but were not reported in earlier issues for which we apologize to their families.

On the 29th January 2014, Kathleen Esme Cook aged 89 years

On the 19th February 2014, Hazel Margaret Ann Tustian aged 90 years.

On the 6th April 2014, The Hon. Elisabeth Joan Campbell aged 94 years.

# A COUNTRY CALENDAR

## The Colours of Spring

There are a percentage of people, who, sadly due to colour blindness, never really know the true range of colours that most of us see every day. My father was one of these. "I don't see the need for a colour television," he said "It is all in colour as it is." Red, green and brown were all the same to him. In our view from Honeydale Farm he was unable to distinguish between dark brown ploughing and the rich green of a crop recently dressed with fertiliser.

Once the leaf buds start waking up after the dull dormancy of the winter months nothing stays the same for very long. The succession of subtle colours gives way to the fresh glowing green leaves which dominate the scene until mid-May. The mild and very wet winter seems to have been favourable to all the spring bulbs. The snowdrops came very strongly this year and were eye-catching for about three weeks before giving way to the crocus.

Warm weather brought out most of the daffodils almost simultaneously, then, a cooler spell helped them to stay at their best for quite a while. Truly, a dominating display through every village. Flowering shrubs and trees are very pleasing at this time of year with colours

ranging from the snow white of the plum to deep pink. Even the ugly old blackthorn in the hedgerows was suddenly covered in pure white blossom. This is the only time we realise how many blackthorn bushes there are. *[When the hedges are out white, plant the barley day and night.]* There is almost always a 'blackthorn winter', a cold spell just as the blackthorn buds are opening. This year it was restricted to one sharp frost.

Having moved to Blenheim Cottage in Shipton Road, in November, along with a very untended garden, we acquired a short length of overgrown hedge about ten metres long and three and a half metres tall. It seems to be a type of flowering plum but it was so thick and choked up that some of the individual tree plants had died off. In fact, it was 'crying out' to be laid, so this I did with the help of some heathers from Bruern, to bind it along the top. We were rewarded with a line of pink blossom in the spring. It should now thicken up with renewed vigour and produce a good covering of blossom next springtime.

The very wet winter was a bad time for farmers with all the land too soft to carry a tractor but as usual a drier spell came in early March and lasted just long enough to get the spring corn planted. *[Seed time and harvest shall not fail.]* This was followed by a damp mild spell to get it all growing. Land work is done quickly with the large machines but I wonder about the compaction of lower layers of soil with

## Ascott Grapevine

heavy equipment running over the heavier types of soil causing possible future drainage problems.

Late February to early March is the ideal time for planting spring barley but when the cuckoo used to call, barley which was planted at that time, late April – early May was called 'cuckoo barley' and it only produced thin, poor quality grain.

Summer weather can be forecast by the old saying *[If the oak is out before the ash there will only be a splash but if the ash is out before the oak there will sure to be a soak.]* In fact the ash is usually a mile be-

hind the rest and paradoxically is one of the first to shed its leaves in the autumn.

The creamy white may blossom on the hawthorn comes after its leaves open and brings a late flourish to the spring season.

In addition to all those colours we can also expect to enjoy some warm sunshine and hear the birdsong.

What a delightful countryside we have and it is all free!!!

**Jim Pearse**



# WELL DID YOU EVAH!

No not the wonderful choral rendition by our very own Ascott Songsters....read on.

Tuesday 29 April had been a lovely morning and Carol and I had been in the garden finishing off our latest project. In the afternoon, the skies suddenly clouded over and a very heavy shower struck. I suggested Carol go and put the kettle on while I stacked up the last few unused pieces of Cotswold stone. I was just about to pick up what must have been the last lump, when I had to look again!...there was a hole opening up in the ground about three feet away right before my eyes!!

I had a look down and could see nothing, so I stuck a handy 6 foot cane down to prod around, nothing! I tried the line prop, the longest object I could find, again nothing! The rain

was still hammering down so I parked the wheel barrow over the site and adjourned inside. Once it stopped, I managed to enlarge the hole a little and gradually I could see more. It looked like I had uncovered a well, about 4 foot diameter, apparently lined with Cotswold stone. I made up a plumb line and found the depth – about 12 feet. What to do now?

We decided to ask around and see if anyone knew anything. Wendy Pearse suggested we wrote this article to see what information anyone could find. We live at 14 Shipton Rd, next to the Grange. If you happen to know anything or have any suggestions, please let us know on [r\\_csquires@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:r_csquires@yahoo.co.uk) or 830970.

**Richard and Carol Squires**



What a surprise for Richard!! It made me aware of just how important wells must have been to the village. Prior to the installation of the taps, the date of which is unknown, most likely late 19<sup>th</sup> century, wells must have been so necessary and yet we know virtually nothing about them through Ascott's history. It would be really interesting to establish a map of the location of the village wells. I should be really pleased to hear about any wells on your property and so gain some idea of how many would have existed in Ascott.

In the meantime, watch your step!

**Wendy Pearse 831023 wendypearse@btinternet.com**

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# ***Gardening in Ascott***

High summer. Even if we could not see the abundance of growth in the garden at this time of the year, I think the scent of new grass, the warm smell of the soil, and the perfume of the flowers and herbs would be enough to let us know that summer had arrived. Roses, hardy geraniums, sweet peas, philadelphus or mock orange, and the big blowsy flag iris, all join to paint the picture that we gardeners have so long held in our minds. All the planning, seed sowing, digging and dreaming in the winter has finally come to fruition. It is all too easy to see the minor imperfections: the black spot on the roses and those carefully selected colours which now clash awfully! But look again and take time to marvel at the beauty at this time of year. Know that life is enhanced by the coming of summer, and it will always be miraculous no matter how little we have done in our gardens, and no matter how many unwelcome weeds have gate-crashed our little paradise.

## **A Herb Garden**

Herbs are beautiful plants, usually with aromatic foliage and invaluable to the keen cook. In previous centuries herbs would have been used not only for the pot but also for medicinal purposes. They would have been grown around the house, and in the times before modern medicines and ready access to a doctor, most people would have been famil-

iar with the various health giving properties of herbs. They would have been able to prepare various simple lotions and potions to treat their family's ailments. But medicinal herbs are a specialist field and I restrict my interest to culinary herbs, with the addition of a few which I use for cosmetic purposes, such as Calendula and Lemon Balm.

## **My favourite herbs**

Mint - Moroccan which is great for making tea, and the Apple variety which is highly fragrant and makes the best mint sauce. Keep in a large pot or bucket to avoid their vigorous spreading habit.

Parsley - both types, the curly and the flat leaf. Curly is wonderfully decorative in the garden and on the plate, and the flat leaf has excellent flavour and is good for chopping.

Rosemary - an attractive perennial shrub with delicate blue flowers and invaluable in roast lamb dishes and many Italian pasta dishes.

Sage - both the purple, variegated, and plain green are all excellent and so useful when cooking pork. They are also reputed to have ant repellent properties!

Thyme - I grow Common Thyme, but there are various other varieties available scented with lemon and orange. The flowers are loved by bees.

Marjoram (*Origanum onites*) - an attractive low-growing herb, invaluable in Italian cooking and lovely in tomato sauces.

Chives - so easy to grow and gives a lovely tangy onion flavour to omelettes and sprinkled on new potatoes. Attractive purple globe flowers which the bees enjoy.

Summer savoury - difficult to find in garden centres, but easy to grow from seed in the spring.

With a taste reminiscent of Thyme and Sage, it is particularly good with the first new broad beans to accompany a dish of pasta with a creamy sauce.

Dill - wonderful with fish. It can be used to produce lovely, home-cured salmon with the addition of a mustardy, dill sauce.

Chervil - an underused herb which is particularly hardy through the British winters. It is delightful with fish, chicken and in omelettes. Sometimes difficult to find in garden centres, it is easy to produce from seed.

Basil - who could be without it! It is the archetypal Mediterranean herb, conjuring memories of warm summer holidays and sunny skies. It needs a very sheltered warm position to grow successfully out of doors. But in the greenhouse or on a sunny window-sill it grows very well and can be produced easily from seed. There are many different types of basil and not only the Mediterranean type that we're all familiar with. Thai Basil is particularly useful if you're a fan of

curry, adding that certain authentic taste when finely shredded over the top of your finished dish.

Bay - we all think of a carefully clipped standard bay tree as an essential part of any herb garden or even as a specimen pot plant beside our front door, but how often does anyone use a fresh bay leaf? I do use them occasionally but cannot tell the difference in a finished dish between a fresh or dried leaf. This alone would not deter me from growing them - and I do - but in our cold valley and with their tender nature, they might not be considered an essential component of the herb garden. The risk is yours!

Tarragon - just so good with chicken, and lovely in a mixture of herbs in an omelette. It is well worth the trouble of protecting it over the winter from the cold.

Lemon Verbena - a tender plant so it will need to be put in the greenhouse or brought into a heated porch for the winter. It makes the most wonderful tea or cordial.

A much overlooked herb is Lovage. It is a tough perennial with has great stature and makes an interesting tall addition to the herb garden, or indeed any border. Faintly reminiscent of celery, it makes a tasty canapé when mixed with soft cheese and spread on crackers. Easy and reliable to grow.

Scented leaf pelargoniums are a great addition to summer pots and window boxes. The leaves can be dried and used to make scented muslin bags for the cupboards and drawers. There are

## Ascott Grapevine

a number of varieties each with a different scent. A few small leaves of the rose-scented one, make a good addition to a cake or in a egg custard. Also to infuse a sugar syrup to pour over sponge cake.

I grow a few other herbs for cosmetic purpose such as Calendula, to make a hand-cream and Lemon Balm for scenting bath water.

## Creating a Small Herb Garden



If you are still full of gardening enthusiasm and want a garden project for the early summer this one might be the one for you!

Herbs should now be growing strongly, and it is a good time to make a small herb patch. If possible it should be placed outside or very near the kitchen door providing it gets sun for half the day. My experience has shown that most herbs can survive fairly well in less than full sun. True, their aromatic potential may be less-

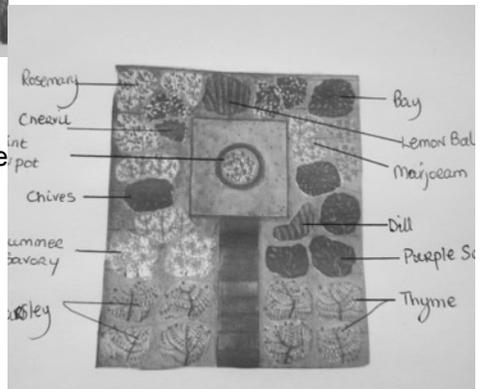
ened, but if that is the only space you have, then it is worth trying.

Choose your site and mark out a 5' x 6' plot with string and pegs. Remove the grass if necessary and dig over the whole plot incorporating some grit if the soil is very heavy, and some organic matter such as garden compost if the soil is in really poor condition.

Lay nine frost proof bricks as shown in the plan, and at the end of this mini path lay a 24 inch square paving slab. Both the slabs and the bricks could be laid on a bed of mortar, but if you ensure the soil is level and well compacted by treading, this should not be strictly necessary.

Place a large pot or bucket on the paving slab and fill this with compost to plant your mint.

Buy your herbs in four or six inch pots and plant out as shown on the plan, water well and stand back to admire your hard work.



Lastly, pick a few sprigs of lemon balm, place in a bath of warm water and lie in it and relax!

## Ascott Grapevine

Keep trimming back the herbs to keep them from swamping each other and to use in the kitchen.

### **Calendula And Oat Body Scrub**

Makes enough for 1 treatment

45g oats  
20g bran  
15g calendula flowers

Put the oats, bran and flowers into a piece of muslin and tie the top with string, using a long length so you have enough string to tie to the bath taps to allow the bath water to run through it.

When you are in the bath use the bag to rub the skin, particularly dry skin areas.

**Madeline Galistan**



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# Defibrillator

The Parish Clerk reported that she had written to Bill Wragge and Mark Booty, both from WODC and responsible for providing Defibrillators to the rural communities inviting them to attend either the March or April meeting. She reported that she had not received a response, but had managed to speak with Dick Tracey from South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). Dick has agreed to attend the April meeting and present a report on the 50% funding and will bring along an example Defibrillator. Funding was discussed and £900 would

need to be funded by Ascott-under-Wychwood. It was reported that the Village Charity had pledged £500 and that the Village Choir were going to donate the proceeds from their next event, which was scheduled to be held in May. Cllr Mellor proposed that in light of the above the Parish Council accept WODC's offer of a Defibrillator with 50% funding. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan. The Clerk was asked to advise Dick Tracey of SCAS accordingly and confirm his attendance at the April meeting.

Big thanks to the Ascott Songsters who raised £400 at their recent concert, which has been donated to Ascott Parish Council defibrillator fund.

The village charity has also pledged funds towards the costs of installing this life saving machine and the Parish Council is in the process obtaining a subsidy from West Oxfordshire and investigating suitable sites for the equipment to be housed.

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Page 27

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Page 23

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Page 32

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Page 55

**THE SWAN INN** 01993832332 www.swanatascott.com  
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Page 14

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Page 45

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Page 50

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Page 30

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Page 54

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Page 55

# ***Events Calendar - 2014***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Music For a Summer Evening (Church)
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm. Hatful of Rain (Tiddy Hall)
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 - 5.00pm Chyrch Teas
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Roseneath Annual Concert (Tiddy Hall)
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.00 pm. Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston (TiddyHall)
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Open garden day
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm Annual Village Meeting
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm – 9.00. pm Ale, cider & music Festival (The Swan)
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 pm – 11.00 pm Darwins Wish (The Swan)
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 - 5.00pm Church Teas
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm. Valerie Vale & her Aylesbury Aylevators (The Swan)
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00 pm. Blondes with Beards (The Swan)
August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.00 - 5.00pm Church Teas Summer Fruits
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm. Red Shoes (The Swan)
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00. pm David Menday & Braham Levy (The Swan)
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 - 5.00pm Church Teas Remembering WW1 & WW2
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm. Chalice (The Swan)
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 - 5.00pm Church Teas Harvest