

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION - FRIDAY 5th JANUARY 2001 TO ANNE BRAITHWAITE AT THE MILL, Tel. No: 831282 [e-mail Mill@auwoxon32.freemove.co.uk].

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

On 17th September The Revd. Timothy Thornton officiated at his last service in the church. At the end of the service Margaret was presented with a basket of flowers and an album of photographs and Timothy received a cheque for £1,000 donated by the people of Ascott. We are sorry to say good bye to Timothy and Margaret after thirteen years of dedicated service to the village and we wish them a long, happy and peaceful retirement in their cottage in Cumbria.

During the interregnum the P.C.C. will endeavour to maintain the regular pattern of Sunday worship, although there may be some changes to the times of the services as we still have to co-ordinate our services with those in Chadlington and Spelsbury. Details of services and other church activities will be posted on the church notice board and in the porch. Further information can be obtained from the church wardens:-

Anthony Wood, 37 High Street, Tel. 831214

Jim Beveridge, 18 London Lane, Tel. 830421

The proposed new benefice will consist of the parishes of Ascott, Chadlington, Spelsbury, Enstone and Heythrop. We do not know yet when the new vicar will be appointed or who it will be - the appointment process may take several months. In the meantime, a book will be available in the church and all those interested are invited to express their views on the appointment of the future incumbent.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th 10.30 a.m. Matins
 [Trinity 20] 4.00 p.m. Family Service
 Sunday, 12th 10.30 a.m. Remembrance Sunday
 [Trinity 21]
 Sunday, 19th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion [Canon Shaw]
 [Trinity 22]
 Sunday 26th 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion [Canon Shaw]
 [Sunday before Advent]

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd 10.30 a.m. Matins
 [Advent 1] 4.00 p.m. Family Service and Christingle
 Sunday 10th 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion [Canon Shaw]
 [Advent 2]
 Sunday 17th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion [Revd. D. Ashburner]
 [Advent 3]

Sunday 24th 5.00 p.m. Carol Service followed by mulled wine
 [Christmas Eve] and mince pies
 Monday 25th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion [Canon Pyburn]
 [Christmas Day]
 Sunday 31st 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 [Christmas 1]

From the Parish Registers

Holy Baptism	1 st October	Tabitha Sophie Boyd
Holy Matrimony	23 rd September	Shane Derek Peedle and Caroline Louise Salmon
Burials	24 th August	William Wearing
	24 th August	Jack Robert Dexter Acaster

Chadlington Vicarage

THANK YOU - ASCOTT

I want to thank you for your great generosity in the cheque given to me on Sunday, September 17th. Margaret and I are most grateful for this, which will help with our many expenses as we set up our new home in Cumbria.

We are enjoying the flowers you gave Margaret. The album of photos. will provide us with memories of people whom we have loved and enjoyed.

Thank you very much Ascott. You will be in our prayers.

Timothy Thornton

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting in July was attended by Mr. Drummond Hay, then Cornbury Agent, and Mr. Houghton from John Phillips Planning Services, when the status of the shop at Corner House Farm was considered. The Parish Council pointed out its existence as a village shop over numerous decades, and shortly afterwards, the application to change the property to a dwelling was withdrawn. As most of you are probably aware a notice of sale for renovation has been placed on the building. It appears we must await the outcome. In July there seemed to be no decisions regarding the rest of Cornbury's property in the village.

The river footbridge near the Mill has been repaired to a fine standard and the notices regarding closure of the bridge near Manor Farm have been removed since it is considered safe for pedestrians.

Mr. Rex Boyd has offered to put on an evening of entertainment at the Tiddy Hall, probably in February, to help raise funds for the children's play equipment. The Parish Council are most grateful for his offer and are willing to back him as necessary. A quotation regarding the new equipment is under consideration and a decision should be made in the near future when we hope to qualify for a grant from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Wendy Pearse, Parish Clerk

A RURAL BUS SERVICE TO CHARLBURY - UPDATE

The July edition of the Grapevine included an advance notice that the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council [ORCC] is leading a pilot scheme to introduce a local bus link to Charlbury station. The project has had its problems with the number and cost of the tenders submitted and negotiations are taking much longer than had been expected. This is unfortunate but it is hoped the outstanding issues can be resolved and the service will begin early in 2001.

The aim has not changed. That is to establish a bus route linking Charlbury railway station with Ascott, Leafield, Finstock and Charlbury town.

A lack of adequate public transport has long caused difficulties for members of this parish and it is hoped that there will be sufficient use of this new service to guarantee its future. The journey time from Ascott to the station will be about 25 minutes [20 minutes to Charlbury town] and the return journey about 10 minutes. The bus specification is for a modern 15-seater with wheel chair provision.

Your Parish Council will keep you informed of developments.

WYCHWOOD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The new season began well with a very entertaining talk by Tim Porter on Cotswold Churches in the Landscape. Tim is a fine speaker with so much knowledge at his fingertips and he always accompanies his talks with beautiful slides. He discussed the siting of many churches in a sheltered position on the hillsides between the junction of pasture and arable land, their locations established and maintained through numerous centuries. The little church at Farmcote is a prime example.

In November on Thursday 16th at 7.30 p.m. at Milton Village Hall Bill King, The Upper Thames Patrol.

There will be no meeting in December.

On Thursday, 18th January 2001 at Milton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m., David Eddershaw will present the film Twentyfour Square Miles, the 1947 Film of North Oxfordshire.

Old and new members are welcome. Subscriptions remain at £4 for an individual and £6 for a couple which includes a copy of "Wychwoods History" when published. Visitors welcome at any meeting at £2 per person. Further details from Wendy Pearse on 831023.

FROM PUB TO PUB

There can be few villages with such a wandering Post Office as Ascott. Over the last 120 years it has meandered its way around the church from property to property.

It is first mentioned in the 1881 Census when the Post Office was established at the Churchill Arms near the railway, the publican's wife was the postmistress. By 1891 the publican and his wife had both left the Churchill Arms and were employed by the Post Office living in Sonia Edginton's house in High Street. Indeed it remains there until 1926, latterly in the hands of Sonia's mother-in-law.

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Charles White of Centuries House then took over as postmaster followed by his daughter Doris who remained in the position until she married Ivor Warner in 1945. For a short time the Post Office was held in the bottom house of the top row in Church View run by Mrs. Morris, before becoming established in the late 1940's in a specially constructed building in the Pound, re-constructed from the materials of the Grange Stables when they were demolished. Eventually a purpose built property was erected on the site of Tony Collins' present house and it was run for many years by Mrs. Tustian.

Latterly it has returned to its roots, now in the Swan, where services are available on Monday mornings run by John and Edna Naish. Future unknown.

Several of you will remember some of these Post Offices. Perhaps in a future Grapevine we can fill in more details of this important feature of Ascott village life. Reminiscences gratefully received.

Wendy Pearse

THE WYCHWOODS DAY CENTRE LIMITED

The Day Centre for elderly folk in the Wychwoods area has now been running for nearly two and a half years and is thriving. We now have 16 clients, and a waiting list! This is ample evidence, should we need it, of the popularity of the Centre and how it is meeting a real need in the Wychwoods.

A recent development has been the appointment of Gill Williams as the new co-ordinator. As a nurse with experience working with the elderly, and living just across the road at The Vicarage, we could not have found anyone better!

Gill is assisted by a loyal group of local volunteers without whom the Centre could not run. With its success we are finding ourselves in urgent need of additional helpers and appeal to readers for any help you can offer.

Drivers - We regularly need to call upon 6 car drivers each week. If you, or anyone you know, would be able to help in this way then please let us know. It involves about 30 minutes around 10 a.m. and another 30 minutes at 3.30 p.m. on a Thursday to fetch and take home however many your car can comfortably hold. Insurance arrangements will need to be made and your expenses will be met. If you are only able to drive once a month, it all helps.

Helpers - Also if you know of anyone who would be prepared to come along on a Thursday, for the whole or part of the day, to help with the running of the Day Centre, by talking to the elderly folk, helping serve and clear up the lunch and generally being on hand to help, then we would be extremely pleased to hear from you or them.

Cooks - In addition we are trying to expand the cook's rota and are looking for more people to help cook the midday meal, either single handed or to help with someone else.

Activities - Also we are always looking for new ideas for activities, talks and interests to entertain our clients. If you have any ideas please let us know.

The Day Centre is a registered charitable company.

If you have any queries, suggestions or comments please contact either Caroline Beaumont, Chairman on 831891, Elizabeth Watts, Secretary on 831759 or Gill Williams Co-ordinator on 830257.

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TIDDY HALL

In recent weeks the inside of the hall has been re-painted and the car park re-surfaced. The next planned improvement is to install a secondary/stage lighting system which we hope will give added atmosphere to dances and social events.

The Craft Fair is one of our main fund raising events. In the past this has been well supported and we look forward to seeing you all on Saturday, 11th November. There will be approximately twenty stalls selling a wide variety of local handicrafts. Refreshments are available.

At the A.G.M. after serving on the Committee for the last ten years, Janet Evans stood down. We would like to thank her very much for all her hard work as Secretary, W.I. Representative and exceptionally hardworking fundraiser - we wish her all the best for the future.

CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER

10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

20 + STALLS

TOMBOLA - RAFFLE - REFRESHMENTS

START YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HERE!

Entrance: 25p

Contact: Ros Harbour 830227

A Date for your Diary:

ANNIVERSARY DANCE SATURDAY 27th JANUARY 2001

THE NORMAN & LYON SHOW

You may remember that Ken Norman and I rather rashly decided to produce, write and perform a comedy review at Her Majesty's in The Haymarket. You may even have helped us by coming along to the Tiddy Hall for the preview.

Well the show happened and what a night it was! Lots of people have been asking how we got on and so here is an extract from the article that I have written describing the whole extraordinary year. This picks up the story on Monday 7th August.

We will be eternally grateful to my friends and neighbours in Ascott-under-Wychwood. It is probably better if we do not know exactly what they thought of our antics but from Richard Plant, who used his van to bring all the props and costumes up to the theatre on the Sunday morning and to take them all back Sunday night (bless him), to the cricket club who let us use their pavilion as a rehearsal room, the support was brilliant.

Six days to go and the tension is mounting. We are rehearsing everyday, refining and changing. The phones seem to ring constantly as press interest mounts. The BBC want to send a crew round. Can Channel 5 film in the theatre? The Carlton Documentary crew are with us almost every day. Can we do an interview for this and that Radio Station? It was hectic.

On Saturday 12th August we took Richard's van up to the pavilion and loaded all our props and costumes. I then reversed the van into a hole by the pavilion and Shane had to pull me out with a tractor. Who dug that hole! We missed the train we wanted but it will make great TV! At last Ken and Kate, Maggie and I collapsed onto the train for London and the hotel where we were staying over night. We had a stroll around the West End, a visit to Anne Summers to get a posing pouch for Ken (don't ask) and an early night.

This was the day. The sun burned down and Ken, Kate, Maggie and I swept off to the theatre, as usual briefing our taxi driver on where to pull up in relation to the waiting camera crew. With nine hours before curtain up we all walked out onto that huge black box of a stage and gazed out over the auditorium.

From then on the day seemed to become a blur of frantic activity. The giant banners that were to form the backdrop to the stage had to be hung, all the costumes and props had to be unloaded, checked, ironed, hung up and arranged in a logical sequence. Because of the quick costume changes Ken and I were using a small dark and very hot room just off the stage rather than the well appointed but distant dressing room. It really was very hot. Mark Whitehead, an old pal, had very kindly offered to stage-manage and call the show. He needed to work right through the script with the lighting and sound team, marking cues etc. The stage had to be marked for the position of props. All of this is a long process which has to be right. Bear in mind that normally it would have been done and rehearsed long before show day.

Chipping Norton School arrived, all thirty-five of them, and needed to rehearse their routine on the big stage. Tony Winn and Melanie Marshall arrived and needed to rehearse. There was a puncture on the bike needed for one of the sketches. It was very hot. Everyone had a question for us. Journalists wanted a 'quick' interview. Film crews wanted our reactions to the day. We have not eaten for hours. Sorry Tim and Ken, but there is no time for your rehearsal. You'll just have to get on with it.

7.00pm, Sunday August 13, a moment in time that I have been imagining for eight months. In seconds I will have to walk out onto that stage and open the show. It will be my fifth theatrical experience. I had wondered so often how it would feel. Would I be nervous? Would I be shaking? Would I forget everything that we rehearsed? Would I be frozen to the spot? Mike Rowbottom from Carlton pointed the camera at me and asked that very question. I suddenly felt terribly emotional and could feel tears welling up. Oh great, I am just about to open a comedy show with tears rolling down my face! Thankfully the moment passed, a great calm descended and I looked at my hands. Ask me to thread a needle somebody, no problem. The music started and out I went, hit by a wall of heat and light and noise. Fantastic. "Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Norman and Lyon Show"

Then followed the most amazing two hours. A blur of entrances and exits, of changing in and out of ever more sweaty clothes and costumes, of remembering the lines, of getting the laughs, of covering the gaffs, of sparking off each other, of working the audience, of reacting to them, of experiencing something never experienced before. Time to take a bow, out go the school to great applause, out go Tony and Mel and the applause swells again, out go Ken and I and the clapping and cheering and stamping starts, and bloody hell, what a feeling.

And then it's all over.

Pack the costumes away, load the van, tidy the dressing rooms and say goodbye to theatre and the crew. Off to a local pub and meet the friends and family who had supported us. Even sign some autographs!

When I got out of bed on that Sunday morning I had wondered how I would be feeling when I returned to it. Would I be elated with a success or devastated by a disaster? Well, in all humility I think we can claim the former. The show could have been tighter, of course it could. We never had the opportunity to even rehearse it in its entirety! The point is that an amazing number of people went to the trouble to write or phone or email to tell us how much they had enjoyed the evening and how much they are looking forward to the next one.

Come 15th August we were sitting at my dining room table with a blank sheet of life before us and in something of a dilemma. What to do next? Well we've done the West End, so I said to Ken "What about Broadway?"

Well, maybe not! We are continuing to write sketches and to develop our 'showbiz' careers but at the same time we are starting to build a training business. Our first course will be my much beloved Presentation Skills Course which we hope to run at Heythrop Park. What goes around, comes around!

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD W.I.

On 17 July Ralph Elsley came to talk to us about "Moving Experiences". He told us about some of the stresses and strains he had experienced in some of the 19 moves he had made during his lifetime as his job as a school teacher obliged him to move from one part of the country to another in search of promotion and fulfilment.

He brought three Swiss visitors with him to give them an inkling of a typical English institution. One of them was asked to judge the Competition which was Flower of the Month and which was won by Julia Dowler for her Hypericum Calycinum (Rose of Sharon).

We were very lucky with the weather for our barbecue on 21 August, which was held at the home of Mark and Rosemary Dawbarn. Rain had been forecast but once again the weathermen were wrong and 27 of us were able to sit outside but sheltered from any wind or rain. Mike and Kathy Pearce and Sue Boyer slaved over the hot barbecues and produced some beautifully cooked sausages, beef burgers and chicken pieces to go with the assortment of salads which were provided by the members. There were some delicious puddings to choose from afterwards and all in all, we had a very good evening.

To quote our guest speaker, we had "a real cracker of an evening" in September when Graham Soden came to speak to us and to show us his wonderful slides of wild flowers, butterflies, moths and birds. We saw the most beautiful flowers, scarlet and blue pimpernels, orchids and snowdrops to name just a few. His butterfly slides were so detailed that a few of us were amazed at how hairy a butterfly can be and the patience it must have taken to get them! We also saw a series of slides showing a dragonfly

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emerging from the water, discard its casing and slowly change into a gorgeous black and white dragonfly. I could go on about his amazing bird slides too which illustrated a variety of rare and common birds but I've probably enthused enough. Suffice to say, it was a really good evening.

LEAFIELD C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Many physical changes have taken place in Leaffield School over the summer holidays. The children have come back to find a newly sited and decorated cloakroom, the office where the staff room was and a cosy, brightly decorated area just for the Foundation Stage children [rising 5's and reception]. Mrs. Richards is now teaching Years 1 and 2, Mrs. Flear has the rising 5's, Mr. Staines is with Years 3 and 4 and Mrs. Kenyon and I are setting the pace in Years 5 and 6.

Our class sizes are still all under 30, with the largest class at 28 and our smallest with just 5 at the moment! On the few occasions that I have to sit and think, it often occurs to me just how fortunate our children are to have such a dedicated and skilled team of teachers and such small and secure classes in which to learn.

Our computer suite is almost complete, with just decoration of the room and a delivery of computers [fairly essential!] to arrive and be installed. The children and staff are waiting in anticipation and we all feel so enthusiastic about the opportunities that our new resource will bring.

While writing this, my thoughts are almost across the Atlantic as on 14th October I am fortunate enough to be flying out to America as a county delegate to represent the school and share good practice with other Oxfordshire colleagues on the International Head Teacher's Conference. We will be the guests of Statesborough University and will have opportunities to visit schools in America and take part in various lectures and debates on educational issues. Not only will I be flying to America, but I will be accompanied by Barnaby Bear, who I know will be so eager to share his experiences with the children after half term.

One of the high points of this half term at school has been the opening of the Millennium Wood at Leaffield. Two years ago the children planted seeds which they had the opportunity to plant actually as part of the Woodland opening. The opening ceremony was held at midday on 6th October. Five children from Year 6 were asked to unveil the notice board, which is sited at the entrance to the woodland. The notice board was designed by Children at Leaffield School with every child having a piece of their artwork on the board. This will serve as a permanent reminder to the children of their contribution to the project, as well as the many trees that the children have planted. They will be able to visit the wood as they grow older and hopefully it will be a place of beauty, contemplation and for nature study, of course. We are so very grateful to the Millennium Woodland Committee for all of their enthusiasm and time given so generously to the children. Special thanks go to Victoria Morris, John Brannon and Belinda Flitter. The children will not forget your involvement.

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We have many future events to look forward to, including the PTA Christmas Fair, 200 Club family disco, trip to the pantomime in Oxford, Christingle service, carol singing and lastly our musical celebration "New Millennium Heroes".

Many of these events will be open to the community, so I look forward to seeing you soon.

Liz Davies, Head Teacher

VILLAGE PHOTOGRAPH

The Village Photographs are now available and we need everybody's initial and surname.

The photographs will be at Tiddy Hall on:-

Saturday, 11th November from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Monday, 13th November from 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 14th November from 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Thursday, 16th November from 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Could everybody please come to the Tiddy Hall on one of these days and print their name.

Many thanks.

Please ring Simon Gidman on 830441 or 831479 if you require transport.

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASSES

Burford - Church of SS. John Fisher and Thomas Moore
Sundays at 9.15 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.;

Holy Days 10.00 a.m. & 7.00 p.m.

Chipping Norton -Holy Trinity Church

Sundays at 10.30 a.m.; Holy Days 9.00 a.m. & 7.00 p.m.

Charlbury - St. Teresa's

Sundays at 11.00 a.m.; Holy Days 9.30 a.m. & 7.30 p.m.

Accommodation available in friendly BED AND BREAKFAST

THE MILL,

MILL LANE, ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

Please contact: Anne and Nigel Braithwaite [01993 831282]

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Burford - Friends Meeting House, Pytts Lane
(off Witney Street) Sundays at 11.00 a.m.

For further information, contact Nigel Braithwaite
on 01993 831282

Charlbury - Friends Meeting House, Market Street
Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

For further information, contact Andrew or Patricia Pymmer
on 01993 882848

Do you need a BABYSITTER?

If so, ring Leisha Braithwaite on

01993 831282

A.D.W. TIMMS Gardening Services

5 Chestnut Drive, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon.

Tel. No: (01993) 831179

Lawn Mowing, Hedge Cutting, Fencing Work, Patios

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WORKERS CO-OPERATIVE

Is anybody interested in joining forces to share office equipment?

In my practice I have a photocopier, e-mail and fax, etc.

Does anybody have auto cad or similar computer skills?

If anybody has special computer skills or auto cad equipment and would be prepared to share for a small financial agreement would they please let me know.

If two or three people are interested in the same thing would it be worthwhile purchasing the appropriate equipment and sharing the costs?

Please ring Simon Gidman on 830441.

Holy Trinity Church, Ascott-under-Wychwood

CAROL SERVICE

on Sunday, 24th December

at

5 p.m.

Everybody welcome

**Come and join us for carols,
a Christmas drink and goodies**

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