

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION - FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2002 TO ANNE BRAITHWAITE AT THE MILL, TEL. No: 831282; [e-mail: [Mill@auwoxon32.freemove.co.uk](mailto:Mill@auwoxon32.freemove.co.uk) ].**

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**NEW BEGINNINGS ...**

There is something in the air! September has seemed to be all about new beginnings. Some children and young people have started school and university for the first time. It was the month of my Licensing as Priest-in-Charge of Ascott-under-Wychwood as well as my Induction as Vicar of the newly created Chase Benefice, which includes both Chadlington and Spelsbury as well as Enstone and Heythrop: a new beginning for the family and myself as we settle into our new home and I settle into my new role. It is also the month that the England Football team broke the 35 years of defeat by the Germans with that amazing 5-1 score – dare we hope that it will be a new start for our national team?

Being a vicar I'm glad to say is not like football! It is not about winning or losing but about sharing the good times and the bad times with people and I hope that over time it will be my privilege to share those times with many of you. Some people think that the vicar is only for people who go to Church: that is not the case! I am here for everyone in the benefice and hope that I can be of help to you should you ever need me. I think that it is also assumed that vicars have a sixth sense and know when people need a visit without having been told – for instance when they are ill or have had bad news. That too is not true! If you want me to visit give me a ring [01608 676572] or ask the Churchwardens or a Church member to tell me to get in touch. I am your vicar and look forward to meeting you!

We have had a quiet few months settling into our new home and this part of the country. It is very different to Anfield and the city of Liverpool which we loved. So far we are enjoying life here and hope that we will spend many happy years in the Benefice. New beginnings for us all: let us hope and pray that it will be a good one!

With all good wishes



Rev. Mark Abrey

**From the Parish Registers:**

Holy Matrimony:	1 <sup>st</sup> September	Philip Desmond Pratley & Claire Helen Williams
	15 <sup>th</sup> September	Lloyd Ashley Kimber & Angela Mary Hicks

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**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD**

<b>Sunday 7th October</b>	– 17th Sunday after Trinity [Proper 22] 1600 Harvest Festival Family Service
<b>Sunday 14th October</b>	– 18th Sunday after Trinity [Proper 23] 0800 Holy Communion [BCP] 1100 Matins [BCP]
<b>Sunday 21st October</b>	– 19th Sunday after Trinity [Proper 24] 1100 Holy Communion [BCP]
<b>Sunday 28th October</b>	– <i>Simon and Jude, Apostles</i> 1100 Holy Communion [BCP]
<b>Sunday 4th November</b>	– <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 1100 Matins [BCP] 1600 Family Service
<b>Sunday 11th November</b>	– 3rd before Advent – <i>Remembrance Sunday</i> 0800 Holy Communion [BCP] 1030 Remembrance Day Service
<b>Sunday 18th November</b>	– 2nd before Advent 1100 Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 25th November</b>	– <i>Christ the King</i> 1100 Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 2nd December</b>	– 1st Sunday of Advent 1100 Matins 1600 Christingle Service
<b>Sunday 9th December</b>	– 2nd Sunday of Advent 0800 Holy Communion [BCP] 1100 Matins [BCP]
<b>Sunday 16th December</b>	– 3rd Sunday of Advent 1100 Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 23rd December</b>	– 4th Sunday of Advent 1100 Holy Communion 1700 Carol Service
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	2330 Midnight Communion
<b>Christmas Day</b>	0930 Family Communion Service
<b>Sunday 30th December</b>	– 1st Sunday of Christmas 1100 Holy Communion

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**Wanted:** someone to provide secretarial assistance to the new vicar and help with the administration of the parish. Duties to include: audio typing, word processing (Microsoft WORD), desk-top publishing (Microsoft Publisher) database maintenance and filing. Confidentiality and sense of humour essential. Hours: initially 4 per week – flexible as to when and where: either working from home or Chadlington Vicarage. Interested? If so, contact Mark on 01608 676572.

### ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Most of you are probably now aware of the change in timing of the evening train from Oxford. I can assure you that the Parish Council are doing their utmost to contest the situation with the very ardent support of local MP David Cameron and indeed West Oxfordshire District Council and the other villages of Combe and Finstock which are affected. We shall continue to put pressure on the matter in the future.

Despite repairs being carried out to the Maple Way – Heritage lane footpath in July, the situation does not seem to be resolved as well as we wished and this is another matter we shall be pursuing.

The question of the new gates for the Church is still under discussion. Hopefully this matter will be agreed before long and we shall be able to place an order for the gates.

David Cameron has now sent me a poster listing his Constituent Advice Surgeries up until January 2002 which I shall place on the notice board by the Church in Shipton Road, should anyone wish to contact him.

**Wendy Pearse, Parish Clerk**

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### POLICE REPORT

Oxfordshire seems to have had its fair share of bogus callers recently. The latest spate has included men claiming to be from the Water Board. They are often equipped with pen and clipboard and sometimes even appear to know details of water pipes and stop taps etc. Other tricks used by these criminals have included the need to check gas supplies, telephone lines, electricity supply, and even men from the Council who ask to check trees and roof tiles that may have been made unsafe by high winds.

Please do not invite them in. Don't be afraid to close the door on these people. Genuine officials are used to being questioned over their identity. If you are unsure, leave the callers outside whilst you ring to check their authenticity. At the end of the report are a list of numbers that you may wish to keep by the telephone for easy reference - just in case.

Also, during September, churches in surrounding villages, Fifield, Spelsbury, Eynsham, have been targeted by thieves. Various items have been stolen from the churches and outbuildings. Knowing that the church in Ascott has previously suffered thefts, I would ask that any suspicious persons or vehicles seen in the vicinity of the church be reported at the time.

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Finally, just a reminder, many local speed limits have been reduced in the area. Please be aware of the new restrictions in the villages which you drive through.

**PC. Ray Hamilton**

<b>Thames Valley Police [24 hour]</b>	<b>01993 703913</b>
<b>Thames Valley Police [Carterton]</b>	<b>01993 893951</b>
<b>S.E.B. [Electricity]</b>	<b>0845 770 80 90</b>
<b>British Gas</b>	<b>0800 393 499</b>
<b>Thames Water</b>	<b>0845 9200 800</b>

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### WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

As usual with popular speaker John Rawlins' talk we all enjoyed a very knowledgeable description of the journeys which could be undertaken from Chipping Norton to the Wychwoods in the 1930s. One bus ran directly along the A361 whilst another wended its way around Churchill and Sarsden taking in the other villages on its route. Or then again there was the train which ran from Chipping Norton to Kingham for connection with the line along the Evenlode valley. It seems the villages were very well served in those days.

The next talk will be at Milton Village Hall on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, when Bill King will talk about "Dad's Other Army, The British Resistance Movement 1940-1945".

There will not be a meeting in December but on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> January again at Milton Village Hall, David Wilson will speak on "Riding the Tiger, Twentieth Century Agriculture". Both meetings begin at 7.30 p.m.

Old and new members are welcome, but due to escalating costs, subscriptions are now £5 for an individual and £8 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.

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### "HIS NAME BE NOT FORGOTTEN"

#### Part IV

At the end of 1916 French Marshal Joffre retired and handed over command to General Nivelle, the hero of Verdun. In Britain David Lloyd George recently appointed Prime Minister was determined to curb the excessive loss of life which had occurred through Douglas Haig's strategies throughout 1916. Lloyd George totally mistrusted Haig and secretly agreed that the British Army should be placed under French command to the utter consternation of Haig and the Army. Nivelle planned a major offensive on the Aisne for April which unfortunately allowed the German Commander Ludendorff ample time to complete and retreat behind his massive newly constructed defence zone on the Siegfried or Hindenberg Line, some twenty miles to his rear. On 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April as a preliminary to the "Nivelle Offensive" the British made

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good progress in the Battle of Arras, a diversion to the coming attack on the Aisne, and a strong Canadian force swept up the slope and over the crest to capture Vimy Ridge despite the loss of 11,000 casualties in the process. But the French offensive was a total failure with immense casualties and no gain, and this resulted in mutiny by the French troops which spread rapidly throughout their whole army except fortunately for those manning the front line trenches. Came the hour, came the man, and with the French command placed in the hands of General Petain, a man of firmness and understanding, the disastrous situation in the French Army was gradually mastered.

In March the outbreak of the Russian Revolution was to be one major impact on the War whilst the United States declaration of war on Germany on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, following the German proclamation of unrestricted U-boat warfare resulting in the sinking of U.S. vessels, was an even more decisive factor.

With May came the next Ascott death, that of ERNEST HANKS, the uncle of the late Owen Shirley and great uncle of Fred Russell. Ernest was born in Ascott and baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1891. His parents were Thomas a farrier and Sarah and he was the only son. At Ascott school he was commended by the Inspector in 1897 and in 1904, along with John Claridge of whom more later, he was one of the children who entered for the Charlbury Flower Show, using plants donated by Lady Margaret Watney of Cornbury Park. The family lived in John Cull's house, no. 1 The Green, and in later records, his father is listed as a cattle dealer renting Cutts Close and as a cattle doctor. Perhaps a chip off the old block this explains why Ernest was known as Doc and why he was a member of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, a troop of Yeomanry Cavalry highly regarded by its eminent members the Duke of Marlborough and Winston Churchill. In fact through Winston Churchill's influence as First Lord of the Admiralty, the Q.O.O.H. was the first Territorial Regiment to mobilise on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and embark on active service. However the use of cavalry in the Great War was rapidly becoming outdated and in fact the men of the Q.O.O.H. spent a great deal of time fighting alongside the infantry throughout the War.

It seems very likely that Ernest must have been in the War from the onset with the Q.O.O.H. and the reason why he is recorded under the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry when he died could have been secondment into a badly depleted regiment after returning to the front following an injury. Strangely, the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Record states that a 17 man reinforcement joined the regiment on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. Could this have included Ernest? By the 18<sup>th</sup> May the Battalion had graduated forward to the outpost line at Hermies not very far from the Hindenberg Line where German defences included a canal and three colossal belts of barbed wire. No man's land varied greatly in distance there, from merely each end of a demolished bridge to nearly a mile in width. On 21<sup>st</sup> May a fighting patrol of 28 went out in two waves to establish a post astride the east bridgehead. The darkness made it difficult to keep in touch and the enemy had laid booby traps into which several men fell. They eventually located an enemy trench but were met with very heavy rifle fire. However they charged in with bayonets and killed many of the enemy before retiring under cover of the Lewis Gun Section. Casualties were 3 killed, 2 wounded and 1 missing.

One of those who died was Ernest. PRIVATE ERNEST HANKS 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> BATTALION OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY 203371. KILLED IN ACTION MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 1917 GE 26. He is buried in Hermies British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France B.2. Fred Russell remembers his mother recalling her grandmother's continuing grief over Ernest's death. She would sit and cry whilst she held Ernest's photograph on her lap.

Through May and June Haig was full of ardent enthusiasm for his long sought campaign in Flanders. Lloyd George's response was almost total opposition. He foresaw casualties on the same scale as the Somme. But he was unable in the end to assert Cabinet responsibilities over British strategy and Haig's proposals were allowed to go ahead allowing the Army of the Empire to embark on the bloodiest battle campaign in history, sited in the Ypres Salient and forever after known as "Passchendaele". A salient is a piece of land pushed forward into hostile territory so that the enemy is ranged around it on three sides, a place where soldiers are shot, from the front, the sides and from behind and at Ypres, the enemy held the high ground on the three sides. Early on the 7<sup>th</sup> June following the detonation of nineteen huge mines which had been placed under the German positions after two years of secret tunnelling, the infantry advanced behind an immense creeping barrage and achieved a tremendous victory by taking Messines Ridge at the south of the Salient. All boded well. But the bad weather which dominated on the 31<sup>st</sup> July at the beginning of the Passchendaele campaign was the true omen.

For three months the fighting continued and each time the Allies attempted a fresh advance, the weather turned foul. The terrain in Flanders had bedevilled commanders all through history and 1917 was no different. Water stood up to men's knees and many were smothered. If they managed to struggle out of the trenches, they were caked from head to foot. The smell was awful, not just from the mud but from the bodies or body parts which lay beneath their feet. Fresh water was virtually unobtainable and the difficulty of bringing up supplies can only be imagined. The landscape was a bog of rubble, shattered houses and occasional tree stumps. All this amongst continual bombing, shelling, machine gunning and sniping by the enemy forces, focussed on any movement.

FRANK JACKSON was one Ascott man who endured some of these conditions until he died in action on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1917. Frank Ernest Jackson was the son of Thomas and Mary Ann and they lived in Church View in the seventh cottage up the row of eight. Serving in the same Regiment as Lieutenant Tiddy, Frank's battalion had moved up from reserve camp at Ypres on the 7<sup>th</sup> September and reached the front line at St. Julien on the 9<sup>th</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup> they assembled at dawn in shell holes about 400 yards forward of the front line and remained there until zero hour - 4 p.m. Advancing under artillery barrage, they were within 30 yards of their objective when held up by machine gun fire from both sides. Despite reinforcements there was no chance of further advance and the survivors remained in position until it was possible to withdraw under cover of darkness. Sixteen men were killed, one of whom was Frank. Unfortunately Frank's body was never recovered but his name is engraved on

the Tyne Cot Memorial which stands amongst the greatest number of graves in any Commonwealth War Cemetery. At the end of the War, 11,500 dead were brought to Tyne Cot from the surrounding battlefield. Many of the 34,888 missing listed on the memorial panels will be amongst them, their remains like Frank's, unidentified. PRIVATE FRANK ERNEST JACKSON 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> BATTALION OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY 201983. KILLED IN ACTION 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1017 AGE 20. HE IS COMMEMORATED AT THE TYNE COT MEMORIAL, ZONNEBEKE, WEST VLAANDEREN, BELGIUM, PANEL 96-98.

All through October the Empire troops battled on, hundreds of thousands of them echoing Seigrfried Sassoon's words "I died in hell. They called it Passchendaele". Australians, New Zealanders strove relentlessly until the village on Passchendaele Ridge, a brick coloured smear in cratered mud, finally fell to the Canadians. The campaign was closed on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1917 with no real strategic gain.

The day of the tank arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> November when three hundred and eighty one machines drove into the first major tank operation in history at Cambrai. The first phase was a tremendous success, no preliminary bombardment announced their arrival and their sudden appearance sent the Germans into total confusion. Unfortunately misunderstanding and lack of co-operation followed and despite magnificent efforts by certain divisions, the initial achievement of the tanks was not followed up and on 4<sup>th</sup> December, Haig ordered the withdrawal to the old British lines.

And so into 1918 and a critical military situation for both Allied and Central powers. So far despite the declaration of war in April 1917, very few Americans had arrived on the scene. Hindenberg and Ludendorff, the German commanders realised that their greatest chance of success lay in a massive attack before the limitless Americans put in an appearance. On 21<sup>st</sup> March, three German armies attacked on a sixty mile front aiming at breaking the British force and separating it from the French. The attack enjoyed spectacular success, General Petain was concerned with protecting Paris and only with the appointment of Marshal Ferdinand Foch on 26<sup>th</sup> March was the supreme command over all forces, including the Americans, achieved. This co-ordination of Allied effort was one reason for halting the advance but the other was the terrain, an endless sea of mud after three years of war, and the inability of the German supports to keep pace with the drive. On 5<sup>th</sup> April, Ludendorff called a halt after establishing a salient of 40 miles. On 9<sup>th</sup> April he initiated another breakthrough further to the north, but again despite substantial gains, the British held on "backs to the wall" and prevented the German breakthrough to the Channel ports.

ALBERT THOMAS LONGSHAW died of wounds on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1918 and is buried at Etaples near the site of the huge complex of base hospitals. Obviously he was a casualty of this determined German offensive. Born in 1889 "Tommy" Longshaw was the eldest son of Albert from Langley and Jane nee Moss of Ascott. At the time of his birth, they lived in Shipton Road, probably in Mrs. Tustian's house, no. 34. However they soon moved to the bottom house of the top four in Church View, next door to the Claridges. Tommy's brothers George and Leonard also served in the

Great War. Tommy was admitted to Ascott school on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1896 and by January 1897 was the despair of his teacher due to his inability to draw. Perhaps he had improved by 1900 when he was commended by the Inspector. In 1912 at Ascott church, Tommy married Margaret Ellen Maling whose family lived in High Street, then called Mill Lane. The young couple also moved to a house near Margaret's parents. Two of Margaret's brothers also served and in March 1918 she signed as a witness at her brother's marriage in Ascott, a few short weeks before the tragic news of her husband's death became know. After the War, Margaret was living at Merris Court Farm near Sarsden.

Originally enlisting in The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, at the time of his death Tommy was serving in the Hampshire Regiment. The most likely explanation for the change seems to be that on his return to the Western Front after illness or injury, he was drafted into the Hampshires who had taken heavy casualties and needed reinforcements following the Germans' lightning advance. The base town of the British sector in France was Albert, only one and a half miles from the Front. In 1897 a huge new red brick church had been built, its massive tower capped with a gilded statue of the Virgin and Child, the child held high above his mother's head. A German shell in 1915 had dislodged the statue and from then on it hung weirdly over the square below in an attitude of a frozen fall. The Golden Hanging Virgin became a mascot for the multiple thousands of British "Tommies" who marched past it. It was believed that when the statue fell, the War would come to an end. In the German offensive, the town of Albert fell into their hands and the British were not inclined to allow them the excellent observation view point from the tower. A 3.30 p.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> April, the day of Tommy Longshaw's death, the 35<sup>th</sup> Divisional Artillery, with pinpoint accuracy demolished the tower and the Madonna fell. Perhaps an omen. The turning point was near and before the end of the year, the War would be over.

It is possible that Tommy lingered a while before dying and that Margaret may have been able to visit him in hospital. The army was prepared to pay for relatives to visit via the public purse, if they could not afford the expense themselves. A "Dangerously Ill" telegram would be sent which advised the relative to take the telegram to the nearest police station for help. Margaret may have been amongst the anxious groups who crossed the Channel and travelled to the Normandy coast hospitals to take their last leave of their loved ones. Funerals could be delayed if relatives were coming and arrived too late, and the poignant notes of the "Last Post" sounded very frequently in the wind. PRIVATE ALBERT THOMAS LONGSHAW 2<sup>nd</sup> BATTALION HAMPSHIRE 42079. DIED OF WOUNDS 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1918 AGE 28. He is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France XXIX D 8A.

Ludendorff mounted more offensives along the Front but the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Division arrived to fight alongside the British on the Somme on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and two more U.S. Divisions fought with the French on the Marne in June and July. On 18<sup>th</sup> July the pendulum swung against the Germans and by early September they had retreated back to the Hindenberg Line once more.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 1918 JOHN CLARIDGE was killed in action at Laventie near the same place as Lieutenant Tiddy two years earlier, and like Frank Jackson he has no

known grave. His name is engraved on the Ploegsteert Memorial. John was probably the brother of William Claridge who had died in 1916 and he certainly attended Ascott school where as a little infant boy in 1896 unfortunately he had a fit but soon recovered and was sent home. He was also one of the Charlbury Flower Show entrants sponsored by Lady Margaret Watney. A Lance/Corporal in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, the battalion had been in the front line in August enduring gas attacks before moving south across the French frontier. Their advance continued and they reached Laventie on 11<sup>th</sup> September. During that month eight men died including John. LANCE/CORPORAL JOHN CLARIDGE 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> BATTALION OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY 11852. DIED IN ACTION 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1918. He is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 7. The Memorial commemorates 11,368 men who have no known grave and the sounding of the Last Post takes place on the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the Great War ceased and the tragic deaths of young men from all over the world came stutteringly to a halt. Cecil Beck's cousin Mrs. Lily Quinnell, although only six at the time, remembers that following rumours of a cease fire, a large number of the villagers gathered at the station waiting for the train. With no telephone or radio, the driver and fireman spread the news at the stations, as they hung out of the windows shouting "It's all over".

Sadly I have to confess failure over the remaining Ascott man DENIS SMITH from an entry in the Ascott Banns Register announcing his forthcoming marriage to Gertrude of Crawley, I can find no trace. He may have been a victim of the disastrous flu' epidemic that decimated the fighting forces as well as the rest of the population in 1918, or he may have totally disappeared like many other prisoners of war in the confusion of the last months of the War. Unfortunately, we may never know. In February 1920, Captain Lionel Ferguson who served throughout the War and was twice wounded, wrote in the diary which he kept from August 1914 – March 1919, the following words "To those who in the years to come may ever read these notes, please remember none of us regret our experience, but we have had our bad times. We have formed never to be forgotten friendships but for the first time in our lives, we have known the meaning of "hunger, thirst, dirt, death" and other privations. We I think have all known the meaning of "fear" as we had never before seen it. Those who talk of "The Next War" are people who never "suffered" in a front line trench; for never again will those who have come back, advocate another War".

I am most grateful to all those people who helped me with my research on the First World War, but especial thanks to Linda St. Clair, Debbie Shirley and Dino Lemonofides at the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Museum at Headington.

**Wendy Pearse**

**TIDDY HALL - ANNUAL FOLK NIGHT  
FLAKY PASTRY  
Supported by  
Paul Weaving and "The Last Straw"  
Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
7.15 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. start  
Beer & Wine Bar Tickets £8.00  
01993 830114/830227**

**THE GATEWAY CLUB, CHIPPING NORTON**

Have you heard of us? Did you know we exist? Like all charities, we are always short of helpers ..... let me tell you .....

This club was started in the early 1980's by a concerned parent [Joan Worsley] and an occupational therapist [Jennifer Line] then working in the field of Learning Disability [or "mental handicap" it was called at that time]. The idea was to form a social club for adults with learning disabilities - those living at Cotshill Hospital in Chipping Norton and any living at home with their families in the surrounding area. The club has really gone forward from that point.

Thinking, in the field of care of people with learning disabilities, has developed over the last two decades, and former residents of Cotshill have dispersed and live in small "family" groups in houses all around Chipping Norton, with 24 hour care staff, or with calling staff. This is a happy development, and enables all clients to live a much more acceptable and "normal" life, having received teaching to help them forward to this end. It is very evident to us all who have been around for some time that clients now relate and make friendships, mix and enjoy life, are exposed to all the fun and the chores of every day living, and have learned to use and exploit their talents and interests in ways that were not possible before.

Gateway is a social club [from 18 to 80+ years] with learning disabilities. Meetings are held at the London Road Centre Pavilion, Chipping Norton on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 7 – 9 p.m. Apart from conversation and mutual help, our activities include music and dancing [including line dancing], snooker, barbecues, sewing, drawing, jigsaws, skittles, various entertainments and parties, occasional videos and outings. It is hoped that social skills and confidence will be enhanced, and friendships forged. Our membership varies from year to year, from 45-55, and we are in constant need of more helpers. The range of ability of clients is enormous; in communication, socialisation, aptitude and attitude; some having language, some communicate with signs [some with a mixture of both], some are profoundly physically handicapped in addition. Conversely, many are fluent in language and ability and it takes time and experience to pick up the problems. Many, in an ideal world, need one-to-one attention all the time. Clients come from far afield: Chipping Norton, Moreton-in-Marsh, Salford, Great Rollright, Charlbury, Stonesfield, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Milton-under-Wychwood, Chadlington,

Kingham, Finstock, Witney and Over Norton, and they must be fetched and returned - quite a feat of organisation and responsibility! Our volunteers are generous with their time and with their cars, and get great rewards in their friendships and contact with the clients. If needed, the club can pay for petrol and other expenses incurred. The atmosphere is always cheerful and friendly; members are easy to please and full of fun, concerned with each other and willing to help. They always welcome new helpers. The club is run by a hard working committee of six, and there are other helpers as well, of course, and we remain ever grateful to them for their loyalty and constancy. We do know that we may not be everyone's cup of tea - but you can know only by trying us out and then deciding - there is no shame in deciding the club is not for you - we shall understand absolutely! If you are interested in helping in any way, or would like to talk about it, please ring 01608 683334 or 01993 831895 - we would love to hear from you!

**Sara McCrea**

**Accommodation available in friendly BED AND BREAKFAST  
THE MILL, MILL LANE, ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD  
Please contact: Anne and Nigel Braithwaite [01993 831282]**

#### **ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD W.I.**

We had a cookery evening in June. Mrs Barbara Gray came to demonstrate some "Posh Puds" and our mouths watered as we watched her putting the finishing touches to a variety of puddings using lots of double cream and crème fraise. These were then raffled at the end of the evening and several of us went home with some delicious looking puddings.

Mrs Meg Carter won the competition, Flower of the Month, having brought along a delicate purple clematis.

We were really lucky with the weather for our barbeque in August, which was held at the home of Mark and Rosemary Dawbarn, as we had a fine dry evening. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as we sat in the back garden eating chicken, sausages and a variety of salads followed by some scrumptious puddings and coffee to finish. I think the farmer who was ploughing the field behind the garden as we ate would have been watching us enviously as he tracked to and fro!

In September Mrs Bridgett Tubb gave us a fascinating talk about "Yesterday's Rubbish, Today's Collectables, Tomorrow's Antiques". She brought with her a collection of objects from the 1950s to the present day, for example, a Woolworth's plate from the 50s, a Mary Quant plastic duffel bag, a mobile phone encased in a high heeled silver shoe and a variety of toys, to name but a few things. She made us think that some of the items we have in our own homes may be worth quite a bit of money - if we know the right place to go to sell them! It was a most entertaining evening.

#### **ASCOTT CRICKET CLUB**

The 2001 season saw the cricket club represent Ascott in the National Village Knockout competition for the first time in its history. Thank you to the villagers who turned out on the day to cheer on their local side. Those that did see us lose narrowly, in an entertaining match, to Buscott Park from the Wiltshire leagues.

As a point of interest, we managed to get further than local rivals Shipton, although this was mainly due to being given a bye in the first round! Thank you to Roger Shepherd for his work in getting us entered in this competition.

At this year's AGM most of the residing officers were returned to their positions with the exception that Derek Bennett was voted vice-captain. Clive Jowett graciously stood down having decided that, after a few years in the post it was time for someone else to have a go. Thanks to Clive for his efforts over the past few years in this role.

We again started the season with a sponsored darts marathon, which raised some much-needed funds. Thank you to those who took part or sponsored a club member. Again, thanks go to Gary and Sharon Doggett for their organization of this event.

Unfortunately this year's fixtures were decimated, some were lost to the weather but most were cancelled because the opposition could not raise a team. We like to feel this was because they were scared of being thrashed! In all, we played just nine games out of a planned twenty-one. Two of which we managed to win, two we lost and the rest were drawn. Thank you to John Cull for his hard work in arranging all those fixtures. Hopefully next year we will get to play more of them!

Looking forward to next season, we have arranged a deal with Shipton cricket club whereby their thirds will make use of our ground for their home fixtures on Saturdays. In return, we can make use of their nets and the club will receive some more much-needed funds. I believe Shipton are keen on welcoming new players for these matches.

If you're interested in watching or playing for Ascott, please come along next season. We'll be posting the fixtures up on the notice boards. Alternatively, please phone our skipper (Gary Doggett) on 01993 843603 for details.

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***CRAFT FAIR***  
**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.**  
**at Tiddy Hall**  
**Refreshments Tombola Raffle**  
**20 plus stalls - Wide variety of local handicrafts**  
**Start your Christmas shopping here!**  
**Contact: 01993 830227**

**Do you need a BABYSITTER?  
If so, ring Leisha Braithwaite on 01993 831282**

## NEWS FROM LEAFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children from Ascott, after the summer holidays, have recommenced their daily routine of catching the school bus to Leaffield and have begun yet another busy school term.

The pupils in Class 3 and 4 are excited about an imminent trip to Sulgrave Manor, planned to tie in with their study of the Tudors as part of their History curriculum. At the Manor which dates back to the 1560's, they will experience for themselves life as it was in Tudor times – their dress, customs, living conditions and food – even their packed lunches will be customised to suit the era!

Preparations are also underway for the school Harvest Festival Service, to be held at Leaffield Church on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm to which everyone is invited.

For those of you unable to make our Harvest Festival Service, some of the children in Class 2 (ages 5 to 6) would like you to read their Harvest prayers, which they have written specially for the service:

Dear God,  
Thank you for all the  
Wonderful foods for  
Everyone

**Victoria, Age 6**

Dear God,  
Thank you for the farmers working hard in the fields and the food that  
they make. Thank you for the corn that they pick - Amen

Dear God  
Thank you for all  
of the fruit and vegetables  
like carrots, bananas, kiwi and  
Beetroot - Amen  
**Edmund, Age 6**

**Louisa, Age 6**

Leaffield School is pleased to welcome our new Head Teacher, Mrs Lesley Ryde, who has joined us following the promotion of our previous Head, Elizabeth Davies, to a larger school in the North of England. Mrs Ryde comes to us from another local school, Charlbury Primary, where she held the deputy headship and was highly respected and valued. She brings with her a wealth of teaching experience and an enthusiasm to see the school continue to flourish.

For information on Leaffield C of E Primary School, please contact the school on 878273, or e-mail [office@leaffield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@leaffield.oxon.sch.uk)

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### 'COULD YOU BE A CITIZEN ADVOCATE ...?'

The West Oxfordshire Citizen Advocacy (CITAD for short) is nearly five years old and seeking to recruit volunteers of **all** ages - who are independent of care providers - to make one-to-one relationships with another person who has difficulty in expressing

themselves as clearly **as** they might want. A citizen advocate does not have to be an expert in any field, neither is a citizen advocate anything to do with the **legal** profession.

A citizen advocate is a Person who is prepared to visit their partner regularly, to share a fortnightly cup of tea together, and get to know one another. As the relationship develops, the advocate gradually becomes able to be a voice for their partner on any matter that the partner may want to have raised. Citizen advocacy is not a befriending scheme. Citizen advocacy is not a sympathy lobby. Citizen advocates are not paid by anybody at any time. Citizen advocacy is arguably one of the most rewording forms of volunteering available where personal fulfilment can be very high indeed.

Sometimes a partner wants a voice for only a short period of time in respect, perhaps, of some specific issue - we can help that person. At other times a person would welcome a long-term advocate - we can help that person. If you know of a person who can't speak effectively then please tell him or her about us and put them in touch with us. If you or a friend - or both of you! - would like to volunteer to become a citizen advocate with this registered charity then please contact us at 33a High Street, Witney OX28 6HP: on telephone 01993 704826; or e-mail on [info@CITAD33a.freemove.co.uk](mailto:info@CITAD33a.freemove.co.uk). Why not check us out at our Web site [www.MAD33a.freemove.co.uk](http://www.MAD33a.freemove.co.uk) and contact us. A person who struggles to get their point of view across, or who is not able to speak up when they are being abused, is looking forward very much to meeting with you. Thanks for considering.

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### MRS. DOROTHY SMITH

Mrs. Dorothy Smith most people knew her as Dolly died on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2001. She lived in the village all her married life; she was in the W.I. and always in the background, making the tea and washing up, taking round the tin collecting the money when it was carol singing.

Dolly was a night watcher with Evelyn her sister-in-law which lasted quite a few years, and she always helped at the village fêtes. She liked walking and loved car boot sales.

**Isabel Moss**

#### **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

**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. & 7.00p.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.

**THE "POST OFFICE" STORES**

Milton-under-Wychwood

Open: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. (Closed 1-2 for lunch)

Open Saturday 7 a.m.-1.00 p.m. & Sunday 8 a.m.-12 noon

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**LOCAL SHOE REPAIRS;**

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Tel. No: Shipton-under-Wychwood 830213

***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:***

<i>3<sup>rd</sup> November</i>	<i>Folk Night, Tiddy Hall – 7.15 for 8.00 p.m.</i>
<i>10<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>Craft Fair, Tiddy Hall – 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> December</i>	<i>Christingle Service - 4.00 p.m.</i>
<i>23<sup>rd</sup> December</i>	<i>Carol Service - 5.00 p.m.</i>
<i>24<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>Midnight Communion - 11.30 p.m.</i>
<i>25<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>Family Communion - 9.30 a.m.</i>

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