

Please send contributions for publication in the next issue by email to: ascottgrapevine@dial.pipex.com by Friday, 2nd January 2004.

The new production team consists of Stuart Fox, Kingsley, Wendy Pearse and Karen Purvis. If you have ideas for future contributions which you would like to discuss please contact any of the above or telephone 01993 832163.

The Rector saw the following article in the parish magazine of the Church of Norton St. Philip, a village near Bath. He thought it was well worth repeating.

Stepping Out of the Picture

In a recent sermon, Canon Peter Hardman referred to the Archbishop of Canterbury's enthronement sermon. The Archbishop told a story of being taken into a small chapel in an orthodox monastery, a place full of the memory and reality of prayer. The monk showing him around pulled the curtain from in front of the sanctuary to reveal an altar and a simple picture of Jesus.

The Archbishop then described an intense spiritual experience, as if the veil of the temple was torn in two. He saw, in a completely new way, what Jesus brings to our life and faith.

When this story was retold in Laverton Church by Canon Peter Hardman, again something extraordinary happened. So extraordinary that Peter decided to write to the Archbishop. This is what he wrote:

Dear Archbishop,

Yesterday, as a retired priest, I was conducting a service at the lovely old church in the small hamlet of Laverton in Somerset. I had a congregation of six, three adults from the local farming community and a young mother with her two children aged six and three.

I had prepared a sermon based around your enthronement but decided simply to stand at the chancel step and talk to them about it, telling them that in your sermon you had said that the Church exists to guard and pass on the world's greatest secret. Then I read them your account of your experience in the orthodox monastery. As I looked up, I saw that young Jack, aged six, had his hand up.

"What do you want to say," I asked him.

"I know what the secret is," he said.

"Then you tell us what it is," I said, a little apprehensively.

He said, "Jesus sometimes comes out of the picture to help people."

For me it was a veil of the temple-tearing moment, particularly as I

remembered the next sentence of your address. "And he says to us, 'If you don't know why this matters, look for someone who does – the child...'"

Later, as they all knelt at the communion rail, I gave the two boys a blessing. As I passed by with the wine, Jack said to his three year old brother, "I wish I could have some – it's so awesome."

I promised Jack I would write and tell you, and how proud you would be of him.

As I drove home from that little church, with its handful of worshippers, I felt that I had truly been, that morning, at the very gate of Heaven.

With all good wishes,

Peter Hardman.

Here is the Archbishop's reply, which was received by return of post!

Dear Canon Hardman,

I can't say how much your letter moved me. Thank you so much, and thanks to Jack, who is a better theologian than you or I will ever be by the sound of it! Thank God for children who see these things. Will you pass on the enclosed to Jack as a little token of appreciation for his wisdom?"

Very best wishes,

+Rowan C.

The Archbishop enclosed a note for Jack on the back of a card showing an icon of Jesus.

SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Full details of times of services in Ascott and the rest of the Chase Benefice can be found on the notice board in the Church porch and on the various boards around the village. Our normal pattern of worship is:

Sunday	Time	Service
1st	11.00 a.m.	Matins
	4.00 p.m.	Family Service
2nd	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
3rd	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
4th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

Morning and Evening Prayer are said in Church every Friday at 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

For further details, or to book a Christening or Wedding, please telephone Nigel Hawkes on 01608 676572.

Worship during December will be as follows:-

Sunday 7th December 11.00 a.m. Matins
4.00 p.m. Christingle Service
Sunday 14th December 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
6.30 p.m. Carol Service
Sunday 21st December 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Christmas Eve 3.00 p.m. Crib Service
[Children are invited to dress as nativity characters!]
11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion Service
Christmas Day 11.00 a.m. Christmas day Service
Sunday 28th December 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion
New Year's Day 12.00 noon Holy Communion at Chadlington

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council matters have been rather quiet since the last report as there was no meeting in August. The report from Thames Water on the survey of the drains is still awaited. At the September meeting Darrell Penning from the Village Shop Management Committee reported on progress and the Parish Council are very pleased that building and fund raising are going so well and we all look forward to the grand opening planned for 29th November. Both the District and County Councillors have been busy with the ongoing fight to save Langston House in Milton. The decision about its future has been deferred until December and the situation is still unsure but many people are working hard to find a long-term solution to save the home.

Margaret Ismail, Parish Clerk (832829)

POLICE REPORT

Fortunately not too much to report of a major nature but I will break down into groups a few things I would like to say

BOGUS CALLERS have been doing there rounds again and I'm glad to say I have not heard of anyone getting caught out. I hope it is that the message is getting out there. Never let anyone into your house without an appointment. The type of caller that has been going around are those saying they are collecting for charitable causes they say they are not collecting money and all they ask is you make a contribution via your bank account. They ask for your bank details. It has been said that they are quite persuasive and forceful. Please, please, please do not give a

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stranger your bank details. If anyone knows of any incidents I would like to know.

FIREWORKS Yes it will be coming to a back garden near you soon. Last year I had some complaints where residents were letting off fireworks from their gardens towards fields where they must have known [because they had been there for the last twelve months] where livestock were kept. I would ask everyone this year to please check before you use fireworks that livestock nearby have been housed out of the way. I will try this year to put a reminder note through the doors at those locations adjacent to livestock

DRUGS Unfortunately our youth do experiment. I have had some complaints and areas have been identified to where drugs may be being used. Evidence has been found [syringes]. This is getting dangerous not just for those that are using but for any person especially young children who may find this stuff. Please help me with this. If you have any suspicions let me know.

RAILWAY STATION It has been reported that a car was broken in to and the stereo stolen. This is an isolated position with no CCTV. Please put your valuables out of sight or if you are local and using the train how about getting dropped off? If anyone has any information let me know.

e.mail: jon.badrack@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Tel. No: 01993 893951; Control room Tel. No: 01865 266000

Fax No: 01993 840251

PC. JON BADRICK

ASCOTT'S STORY

PROPERTY OF THE PRIORY

The field east and south of D'Oyley House and the Priory House was known in 1838 as Morris's Ground. All the cottages, houses and land from London Lane along High Street except for the rectangle of Morris's Ground and the dwellings it surrounded bordered by High Street and Priory Lane, belonged to the Manor of Ascott D'Oyley. In 1838 Lord Churchill of Cornbury Estate, son of the Duke of Marlborough was the Lord and the ownership of the Manor by Cornbury continued well into the twentieth century. However the Morris's Ground rectangle was an anomaly and like the mill with its closes the ownership goes far back through the centuries to the land donated to St.

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Frideswides in Oxford in early mediaeval times by Roger D'Oyley, a descendent of the builders of Oxford Castle. The seventeenth century arguments about tithe ownership concern this property as well as the mill and it seems likely that the steward of the Priory lands and tithes lived in D'Oyley House whilst today's numbers 16 and 18 were definitely once the Priory barn. From the time of the Bond family who owned the property about 1600, the property must have been sold on to various owners and in 1838 William Morris owned all of it except that known as Priory Barn with its attached gardens. The barn had been converted into three cottages and belonged to Leonard Warrington. The tenants of the barn cottages probably always changed frequently as was the pattern up until the middle of the twentieth century, the owner at one time being Mr. Viner, a draper from Witney. Eventually the three cottages were bought by Mrs. Tate and converted into two cottages.

No. 20 D'Oyley House and no. 22 the Priory House have been much changed from their probable origins as the steward's house for the Priory. At the time of the Enclosure in 1838 Richard Lardner aged 55 occupied the west end of the property. He lived there with his daughter Eliza and he pursued the trade of maltster, a malthouse forming part of the building. By 1851 Eliza was a dressmaker and Richard, then retired, was the enumerator of the 1851 Census for Ascott traveling all over the parish to collate the details for each family. Richard Morris, a woodward aged 60 occupied the east side with his family, presumably inheriting from William Morris. It seems likely that over the next few decades the part of the property fronting the road was improved and leased or sold. In 1901 a Caroline Wahab from Ilfracombe who was living on her own means, occupied the property with her mother and daughter. Later the Galloways another fairly wealthy family were the occupiers. They owned the Hartwells Hardware Store which many people will remember in Chipping Norton High Street.

In 1881 John Young, carpenter and joiner aged 27 was living in the Priory House with his wife Mary and four month old daughter Alice. John's mother was Belinda daughter of David Chaundy of Yew Tree Farm, so John must have known many people in Ascott. By 1891 another daughter Edith had been born and a son John Junior who was two. John Senior was then classed as a wheelwright and farrier and this wheelwright and carpentry business was to be carried on by John Junior through a good part of the twentieth century. John Senior became the first Parish Clerk when Ascott Parish Council was established in 1894 and continued in that post for many years. John Junior or Jack, an apt

name since he was known as a jack of all trades was great village character and involved in all aspects of Ascott. In the First World War Jack had been a member of the early air force stationed at Witney and this interest in aircraft probably explains his recruitment into the Royal Observer Corps when Observation Post Y1 was set up on the site of the present television relay mast at the entrance to Honeydale Farm. Described as "one of the few with any money in Ascott" he was also the buyer of several cottages in the village when they were offered for sale by Cornbury and the Poors' Estate Charity. He was a man renowned for helping anyone in need and was known for being very slow in sending out bills. He employed four men including Les Barnes, Mike Shayler and Rob Storey thus giving work to Ascott villagers. Up until the 1960s four signalmen and four lengthsmen would also have been employed on the railway and four to five men on each of the farms thus ensuring local work for a percentage of the Ascott workforce. Jack's wife is remembered for her involvement with the third Ascott bomb. This fell beside their property and destroyed an outhouse and all the sugar which she had been carefully hoarding to make jam.

No.1 Priory Lane was included in the Priory property and was occupied in 1901 by Harriet Cooper, sister of James at the mill. Sometime before the First World War the Tiddy family took over. William, a former headmaster, wife Ellen and two sons, Reggy Tiddy will long be remembered in Ascott. Born in Margate and a fellow of both Trinity and University Colleges in Oxford, his great love was English Folk Dance and Song. He was the inspiration for the great revival of Folk and Morris Dancing in Ascott and the Ascott Dancers performed all over the area in the periods before and after the First World War. In 1912 Reggy Tiddy had the first Tiddy Hall built with the specially sprung floor for dancing. Determined to do his bit for his country, despite obstacles he finally became a lieutenant in the 2nd/4th Battalion Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry and was sadly killed in action at Laventie in France on 10th August 1916, aged 36. Later Mr. Carter, an egg dealer occupied the property until it was taken over by Ian Campbell's family.

With grateful thanks to Cyril Edginton, Sonia Edginton, Dorothy Harrison and Eric Pratley.

Wendy Pearse

WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The new season began with a most enjoyable evening for the members when Russell Cherry entertained us with a beautiful collection of slides illustrating a walk along the Thames Path from the source of the river to Oxford.

In November Ralph Mann will talk on Murder, Mystery and Mayhem in Kingham. Milton Village Hall will be the venue on Thursday 20th November 2003 at 7.30 p.m. No meeting will be held in December. On 15th January 2004 at 7.30 p.m., again in Milton Village Hall, Alan Watkins will present a slide show about the railway which used to run from Chipping Norton to Chipping Norton Junction. On Thursday, 19th February 2004 at 7.30 p.m. at Shipton Village Hall Sir Frederic Bolton from Pudlicote House will talk about Pudlicote 1154 – 2004.

Old and new members are welcome. Subscriptions are £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 head. Further details from Wendy Pearse on 831023.

TIDDY HALL

We shall be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening of the New Tiddy Hall in January 2004 and would like you all to help us celebrate the occasion by joining in the activities on the 31st January 2004.

Some of the members of the Tiddy Hall Management Committee will be standing down at the next AGM in June 2004. We would be grateful to hear from anyone interested in helping to run Tiddy. It involves attending a monthly meeting, usually on a Wednesday evening from 8.00 p.m. [summer months excluded]. We would like at least three new members. Please contact Ros Shepherd [830227] or Lyn Collins [830114].

Booking enquiries: Rosemary Dawbarn 831632.

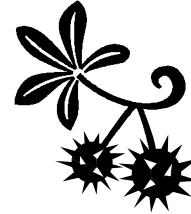
The very first edition of The Ascott Grapevine had a picture of the old and the new Tiddy Hall on the cover. During the last ten years Anne Braithwaite has produced 40 issues of the 'Grapevine' and the Tiddy Hall Committee would like to express our thanks to her for helping us all keep in touch with what is going on in the village. Thank you Anne it has been much appreciated.

Ros Shepherd

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NATURE NOTES

You may not agree but after the long hot days of summer I look forward to and enjoy the cool crisp mornings and warm, but not burning, sunshine of autumn. True, the dark evenings, cold winds and sleet of winter will soon follow but this is made up for by the shining fruits in the hedgerows, crisp colourful leaves underfoot and the golden light of the sun, low on the horizon, skimming the fields.



This was certainly an exceptional year. There were no hard frosts after the first week in April to damage apple, plum and sloe blossom, hence the abundance of autumn fruit. Apart from mid-May and the last week of July rainfall has been well below average and this, combined with several mini-heat waves, has put our trees under stress, leading to some premature leaf-fall,

particularly in well drained areas.

Every year has winners and losers in the natural world and at the end of the season it's pleasant to look back and think what these were.

A definite winner has been the buzzard. Not only have we had a young and noisy buzzard in residence in the trees around the recreation ground but also many have been seen on summer days lazily spiralling upwards on warm air thermals rising over the valley.

Buzzards are not the only raptors seen in Ascott this year; Red Kites have visited the village for a second time. The Red Kite is one of our most impressive birds of prey with a five to six foot wingspan enabling them to glide effortlessly over the hills and open countryside. They can



be recognised by their distinctive forked tails and russet plumage. This magnificent bird was hunted to extinction in England by the end of the 19th century. Gamekeepers believed that it killed pheasants and other game birds and farmers thought that it carried off newborn lambs. It was even accused of being a threat to domestic pets. None of these stories are true; the Kite lacks the powerful talons that would be required to grapple and kill a large animal. Despite their size they are not vicious predators, preferring to scavenge on carrion or eat insects and earthworms from newly ploughed fields.

The Kites seen in Ascott were probably visitors from the Chilterns where a breeding colony was established in 1989 with the introduction of birds from Spain. There are now 139 breeding pairs and 19 pairs

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attempting to breed; 219 chicks were raised in the last season. As the population grows there will be more pressure to create new breeding and hunting territories. Hopefully the Wychwood Forest and the Evenlode Valley will see the return of these stunning birds.

Butterflies too, have revelled in the warm dry weather and the numbers of Peacocks, Red Admirals, Commas and Tortoiseshells seen in late summer was exceptional. In the hedgerows Speckled Woods, Gatekeepers and Ringlets abounded, particularly whilst the brambles were flowering. After a number of poor years for butterfly numbers, in part because of cool damp summers, I hope that this increase will continue. Many of the butterflies that visit our gardens in late summer are the offspring of migrants that arrived from Southern Europe in May, sometimes raising two broods in a good year. These youngsters will often make the return journey south in September.

Another migrant that has enjoyed our summer has been the Swallow. Their arrival was rather late and for a while numbers seemed low but as

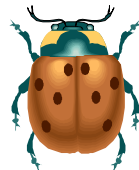


the weather improved numbers rose quickly and they seemed to have bred very successfully this year. Normally only two broods are raised but this year there were reports of a late third brood. Indeed when

most Swallows had departed there were still a small number of juveniles being fed and tended by their parents. I hope that these youngsters were fully fledged in time to follow the adults on their long migration to Africa.

Not everything did so well this year. Think back and ask yourself, “how many ladybirds did I see this summer?” I suspect that like me the answer will be not many. Where have they gone? I remember summers where they could be seen on every shrub; indeed I remember one year when they reached plague proportions and the following winter every hollow stem, window frame, nook and cranny was filled with hibernating ladybirds. The suggestion is that their numbers have declined because of a fall in the aphid population. This may be borne out by a similar fall in the numbers of lacewings and hoverflies as their larva feed on aphids too. Also, when food is scarce, ladybird larva become cannibalistic feeding on the eggs of their siblings that have not yet hatched.

Ladybirds are voracious predators of aphids both in their adult and larval form. During the larval stage, which lasts 3 to 4 weeks up to 500 aphids will be



consumed, truly the gardener’s friend!

Not all ladybirds are red; some are yellow, some brown and some black, but all have the same distinctive rounded shape. They were first named in the middle ages after the Virgin Mary, as she was often depicted wearing a red cloak, and this common name has been extended to all members of the “*Coccinellidae*” whatever their colour.

In nature bright colours serve as a warning to potential predators, saying “I’m poisonous” or “I taste unpleasant” In the ladybird’s case, it’s the latter. If you pick up an adult Ladybird, it will release a pungent yellow fluid. This is actually blood, which comes out of its body through its leg joints. It has a very bad taste and any bird will only try and eat a Ladybird once! To finish let me leave you with this unpleasant fact; in the past people used to eat Ladybirds to cure the pain of toothache, believing that the oily yellow fluid in their bodies was a good pain killer. Thank heaven that we now buy our painkillers from the chemist foil wrapped.

Reminder

If you would like some exercise and can help to plant a small area of woodland in Ascott on November 15th or 16th, please contact Stuart on 832004 or email stuart@wychwood.me.uk

Stuart Fox



Things are moving so fast that we will be close to opening by the time you read this. Contracts have been signed and the shop finally belongs to Ascott. Opening is scheduled for week beginning 24th November with the official opening day on Saturday 29th November when we are planning a bit of a party. Details of the opening of the shop will be publicized locally nearer the time when plans have been finalized.

There is still a huge amount to be done before then. When you first visit the shop you will be pleasantly surprised how spacious and light it is. There is a large stock room [with sink] at the back which is separated from the shop by a security door. Between the two is a cloakroom suitable for wheelchair users and an alcove where we hope eventually to have a computer. The electrics are in, heating and plumbing are well on their way, the concrete floor ready for the wood laminate strip flooring.

LEAFIELD SCHOOL NEWS

News from the Neighbours

New Building:- Our Planning Application has been put before Committee and the new classroom and play area for the foundation year look like a reality at last! However, these things do take time, and we hope to have the plans available for inspection at our Annual Parents Meeting which will be held in School on Wednesday 12th November at 7.30 pm. We all look forward to this much needed addition of space.

DfES Achievement Award:- We are pleased to say that the School received an achievement award from the Department for Education and Skills for substantially improving our results. Thanks to Mrs. Ryde and all the teaching and support staff who, through their hard work and dedication have made this school a real success.

Last Term Update – Excellent SATS:- Following a trip to the Swindon STEAM museum Class 4 had a Victorian afternoon looking at the life of a child in the Victorian classroom, using artefacts and role play. Thanks to Mrs. Kenyon for organising this. We welcomed after Easter 5 new children who have settled in very well, and the older children worked very hard with their SATS and progress tests exceeding all targets. Science 100% with 11 children achieving level 5, Maths 93% with 6 children achieving level 5 and English 77% with 4 children achieving level 5. Many thanks to Mrs. Kenyon for all her hard work enthusing the children to succeed.

After working hard with their tests the children enjoyed the last few weeks of term and for Year 6 their last few weeks before they moved on. Years 5 and 6 trained for their Cycling Proficiency and passed with much praise from the police who tested them. It is essential that the children learn to ride bikes safely so thanks to all the parents who kindly ran this for the school. Mrs. Cain and Mrs. Flear took the younger children to the Green Roadshow in Witney which was much enjoyed and very informative, and Mrs. Cain had an interesting trip when she took the Years 4 and 5 to Kids on the Web at Brookes University.

We had a splendid Leavers Service in Leafield Church with the Year 6 children showing many talents and confidence in their individual and group performances. Unfortunately our head, Mrs. Ryde, was unable to be there as she had been in hospital with an infection which impaired her eyesight, but she would have been very proud of the children.

Events:- The Friends of Leafield School held a very successful Fair with specialist plants, hand made cards, dolls house pieces, decorative glass, locally produced soaps and bath bombs, pashamana knitwear and

The walls await their final finish and then there is painting to be done and the shelving, ‘fridges, freezers and general fitting out to be done. A signwriter and furniture maker who live in Ascott are using their skills to provide the sign to go above the shop - the shop logo plus The Village Shop - and a sales counter where you will take your basket of shopping to the volunteer on the till.

Meanwhile we are busy making decisions about what to stock, who will supply it and how to display it, plus getting to grips with the hundred and one other things that we need to learn.

The rota for the team of volunteers is being drawn up as I write. We have a good list of people, a mixture of those who can work a regular 4 hour shift or more each week to those who can only help out during certain periods or just occasionally. As we are planning to open early and close late every week day with a shorter day at week-ends, at least to being with, we really do need your help if you can possibly commit to a few hours a week at a time that suits you. The more volunteers there are the less each person has to do and the more hours the shop can be open to serve you. The till will be simple to operate, basic training provided and usually two people will be working together so you should find it a sociable and enjoyable few hours. Contact Debra Harvey [831621] at 1 The Green or any committee member if you want to volunteer and we don’t already know about you. Are there any more men out there to help equality of the sexes???

Sue Richards, Secretary
[830122]

HOME COOKING

Would you like to make some pocket money?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOME COOKING?

Please contact Sue Boyer on 830142 for a preliminary chat



lots of children's activities and stalls to name but a few. There was something for everyone including lunches, strawberries and cream and for those keen on football the "FA Cup Room". We held a super sports afternoon on The Green in glorious sunshine and then the year 6 children, together with Mrs. Flear and Mrs. Kenyon organised a fun games and sporty morning for the younger children which they thoroughly enjoyed. A successful Fashion Show was held in the Village Hall one evening when valuable funds were raised to go towards some new desks for one of the classrooms.

New Term:- Class 2 and 3 visited the New Theatre, Oxford to see a production of 'The Twits' which they all thoroughly enjoyed. We held a splendid Harvest Festival in Church and the Friends of Leafield School organised a great Family Quiz Night where there was much rivalry amongst teams culminating in a fun evening enjoyed by all and most importantly funds were raised towards new equipment for the new classroom.

Staff Update:- Sadly, David Staines left the school at the end of last term. He had worked at Leafield for four years and had become a valued member of the team. We were all sorry to lose David and saddened that he decided to leave the teaching profession. However, we are pleased to say that after seeing a number of excellent applicants for the post we appointed a new teacher, Miss. Reeves, who started in September and has settled in very well.

We also welcomed Mrs. Blackman who has stepped in as our acting head due to Mrs. Ryde's eye trouble which unfortunately meant she is still unable to drive and therefore unable to come into school. However, she hopes to be back as soon as possible and in the meantime the Governors wish to thank Mrs. Ryde, Mrs. Blackman and all the staff, together with all the parents and volunteers who come into school, and of course our enthusiastic Revd. Jane Knowles, all of whom help Leafield School to provide the thriving, happy environment where all the children learn to achieve their full potential and more whatever it may be. We all look forward to another rewarding and enjoyable school year.

For further information contact the School Secretary, Mrs. Brown on 878273.

Vicky Greves, Governor

GOLF-SIERRA-CHARLIE-BRAVO-INDIA

G-SCBI A day we shall not forget

It all started at a barbeque held at Rosemary and Mark Dawbarn's in aid of the village shop. I had heard that a flight to Le Touquet was to be auctioned and the bidding commenced. Our neighbour Conor won the bid and promptly asked me to accompany Caroline - did I have to be asked twice? We were introduced to Alan Markwell, the donator of the flight and our pilot. He informed us that weather permitting we could be on our way the following week.

Caroline phoned me on the Monday to say we were to take to the skies on Wednesday, 1000hrs, 10 a.m., for those who are not aviators on the 20th of August 2003!

I woke that morning to good weather, but with a little low cloud. I must admit to feeling a little nervous and decided to skip the All-Bran that day. Alan collected us as promised at 9.15 a.m. and drove us to Enstone. We crossed to the plane - a Stocata four seater.



My word they are tiny! We were soon all aboard, Caroline and I both deciding to sit at the back (whimps). Alan ran through the safety checks, (there wasn't quite enough room for a stewardess to wave her arms about!), gave us a resume of what to expect and kitted us out with earphones and mike so we could communicate.

At 10.15 we were airbourne and soaring above the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

Our maximum height was to be 3,500 ft. and we reached a speed of 180 - 200 m.p.h. the strange thing was it just didn't seem that fast.

The land below was one big patchwork quilt of golds, browns and greens, with rivers, like ribbons, running through it. What surprised me

was how much countryside there actually is and how insignificant are the roads. Even the M25 looked nothing from 3,500ft. As we

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approached London Alan pointed out the landmarks. Canary Wharf, the Dome and the London Eye were all so clear. In no time we were over the incredible sight of Canterbury cathedral and soon after we were over the sea. The English Channel, or La Manche as preferred by the French. The day was so clear we could see the French coast from England. The water was like a mill pond, only disturbed by the wash of the ferries and small boats. The sea was a bright blue, a reflection of the sky that we were a part of.



At 11.15a.m. Alan made a very smooth landing at Le Touquet. He signed in and we were off to the airport restaurant for lunch. What a lunch! You have to give it to the French, they do know how to give a slap up do. Alan and I had lamb and Caroline had beef with foie gras. The foie gras was quietly left to one side when we told her how the poor geese were force fed. But the meal was a triumph even though Jamie Oliver was nowhere to be seen.

After lunch we were able to walk into Le Touquet and the 'SHOPS'. Unfortunately personal luggage was limited to handbags or we would have cleaned up. Then on to the beach, where children were so well supervised and having a great time. I was so struck by how clean everything was. Even the sand looked scrubbed.

We were soon back at the airport for take-off and return flight to Enstone. It was equally breath taking and at 1800hrs/ 6p.m. we were back in the High Street being welcomed home.

Never in my wildest dreams had I thought such an experience could be mine – now, thanks to Alan, Conor, and the Village Shop, it is.

Marilyn Lewis

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FARMERS' MARKETS

WITNEY - 20th November, 18th December
CHIPPING NORTON - 28th November, 19th December
CHARLBURY - 13th December
WOODSTOCK - 1st November, 6th December

RE-CYCLING COLLECTIONS INCREASE

West Oxfordshire's re-cycling service will really take off from the 1st April 2004. This is good news for our residents who have been pressing for an increased service for many years. The main changes will be:-

- the current fortnightly kerbside re-cycling collection service will become weekly
- each household will receive an additional re-cycling box
- it will now be possible to re-cycle plastics, cardboard, aerosols and batteries. This is in addition to the existing re-cycling collection materials, which are paper, glass, cans, aluminium foil and textiles

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2003

Disco, Tiddy Hall

**Due to popular demand we are back;
Same venue, same date, different day!**

**Doors open at 8.00 p.m. [no admittance after 11.00 p.m.
and no tickets available on the door]
Bring your own drink and food; we provide disco, decorations
and raffle [50p a strip]**

Adults £4.00; Children £3.00

**We will be selling tickets 'door to door' during the first week of
December or if you want to reserve tickets please call Adam Scully
on 830221 or speak to Lucy Bull as she faces the elements delivering
the Oxford Mail around the village**

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Anne Braithwaite



It can't be ten years?

I can't remember who approached who about a cover for a new village magazine. Anyway we talked and Anne agreed it might be a nice idea to have a new illustration every quarter within the basic design.

Since that time there have been minor changes – to the layout of the cover – to better printers and scanners and improved PCs. I now whince when viewing the early covers. Through all of this time

what hasn't changed is Anne, who it appears has now had a higher calling to which we have to accede?? I jest.

Over ten years, each quarter, the Grapevine has dropped through our letterboxes, without fail, due to Anne's hard work. I shall miss those quarterly calls when she would pick up the cover for the next issue. She was always cheerful and showed real concern for me when times were not so good. Thank goodness Anne is not leaving the village.



Marilyn and I have lived in the village for twenty years. In that time we have been pleased to be able to call Anne and Nigel good friends. Through wonderful evenings in the pub, many glasses of wine at the Mill and other peoples houses. So many stories, so many laughs. One day, when the book is written and the film is made, Anne will star.



Thank you Anne.

Viv Lewis

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For further information, contact Nigel Braithwaite on 01993 831282

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

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASSES

Burford - Church of SS. John Fisher and Thomas Moore
Sundays at 9.15 a.m. & 11 a.m.; Holy Days 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Chipping Norton - Holy Trinity Church
Sundays at 10.30 a.m.; Holy Days 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Charlbury - St. Teresa's
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Dates for your Diary

<i>24th November</i>	<i>Opening of The Village Shop</i>
<i>29th November</i>	<i>Official Opening of Shop</i>
<i>7th December</i>	<i>4.00 p.m. Christingle Service</i>
<i>14th December</i>	<i>6.30 p.m. Carol Service</i>
<i>24th December</i>	<i>3.00 p.m. Crib Service</i>
	<i>11.30 p.m. Communion Service</i>
<i>25th December</i>	<i>11.00 a.m. Christmas Day Service</i>
<i>31st December</i>	<i>New Year's Eve Disco, Tiddy Hall</i>
<i>1st January 2004</i>	<i>12 noon Holy Communion at</i>
	<i>Chadlington</i>
<i>31st January</i>	<i>10th Anniversary, Tiddy Hall</i>

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