

# The Ascott Grapevine



## Grapevine Appeal

The Ascott Grapevine is provided **FREE** to every household in Ascott and we wish this to continue for a long time to come.

**Although 'The Grapevine' does receive support from the Parish Council and the PCC, it only raises a limited amount of revenue from advertising. The Ascott Grapevine survives mainly on donations. If you would like to help The Ascott Grapevine continue, any donation large or small would be appreciated. You can give a donation to any member of the editorial team.**

If there is an aspect of village life not already covered in The Ascott Grapevine please contact a member of the team to discuss your ideas.

Articles for the next issue of The Ascott Grapevine should be submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

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

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,  
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

## Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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# Open Gardens

Last Month's Open Gardens was an outstanding success helped very much by one of the best days of the summer and the opening of Wychwood Manor gardens by Mr and Mrs Wilmot-Sitwell.



It all started with the Chairman of the local Air Ambulance coming to a Rotary meeting to collect a cheque and remarking that their successful Open Gardens scheme didn't seem to operate in this area...the rest as they say is history!

Organised by the Rotary Club of Kingham and the Wychwoods for the local Air Ambulance (Berks, Oxon and Bucks) the gardens of Philippa and Nick Carter; Ingrid Ridley; Rowley Harpwood (with his tractors);



Rosemary and Mark Dawbarn; Geoff and Gaynor Taylor; Pauline Tam and

finally our garden at Yew Tree Farmhouse were all open. It was probably the right amount and all had volunteered following the many requests via the Grapevine.

Plants sold very well at the Manor, Philippa's and Ingrid's and the tombola with many contributions via the village shop also did very well. Phil Pratley had kindly loaned his field for one of the much needed car parks for the over 400 visitors...his shop was also very busy. The Wychwood Scouts organised the car parking which meant very few cars were parked around the village. The Swan also had some fun raising money by an Aunt Sally with coconuts instead of the dolly.

Geoff Taylor at Long Barn even offered a wall building demonstration and local botanical artist Celia Crampton showed her wonderful pictures on the terrace at the Manor. Google "Celia Crampton Illustrator" for a full profile of her pictures.



This was the first time that Air Ambulance had worked with any other organisation and they now see it as a pattern for the future i.e. a local or-



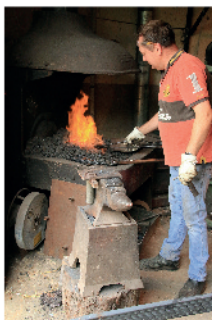
ganisation can find the gardens and organise the teas etc. leaving Air Ambulance to promote via their annual guide as well as provide the road signs and Volunteers selling the admission tickets. It was also the first in this part of Oxfordshire, the nearest being Wantage!

It was estimated that a third of visitors came via Air Ambulance, another third were local and the final third were local tourists.

The goodwill towards our local Air Ambulance was amazing. They have an annual bill of nearly

£5million which all comes from charitable contributions. They have recently placed an expensive doctor on board their average of 3 flights a day which is saving even more lives.

The Club's thanks go out to those who made cakes and the many in the village who contributed to the tombola and of course the garden owners, the Scouts, The Swan and the Villager Community Bus who ferried visitors around the village. The final icing on the cakes as it were was an anonymous donation of £2,500 from a grateful beneficiary. The plan is to repeat the event in 2016 and be in Kingham next year.





## Ascott Grapevine



## NATURE NOTES

Spiders; do you flinch when you find one sitting in the bath, can you pick it up to remove it or do you call on assistance. If so you are in good company as a survey by a German university found that 30% of women and 20% of men suffered from some level of arachnophobia, a morbid fear of spiders.



Why should this be? Yes, some tropical spiders can bite and inject poison, but even the most dangerous of these would only be fatal to the very young, the elderly or those who suffered an anaphylactic shock. The bite of a tarantula would be no worse than a bee or wasp sting. In Britain of our 550 native species only one, the False Black Widow, might inflict a painful bite and then only if provoked. Their normal inclination would be to scuttle away and hide. When questioned about their fear respondents to the survey were concerned about the poisonous bite, but it also seemed to be the alien appearance, the many long legs (eight in all) and the rapid and erratic movement that caused them concern.

Spiders actually perform a very useful function by keeping many of our insect pests under control, without themselves being any threat to us, our crops or our property, so we should learn to love and respect them! Spiders are hunters and carnivores there are no vegetarian species. Some trap their prey in aerial webs, others spin their webs at ground level or on walls and tree trunks, whilst others stalk their prey or lie in wait pouncing when an insect passes by. Crab spiders are the most devious; pale in colour they hide within a flower capturing an insect that alights to feed on the nectar.

All spiders spin silk produced from silk glands which is extruded through several spinners in the rear of their abdomen. Four to six different kinds of silk can be produced. In the Orb web spiders all six types of silk are used. Two types are extruded to secure and produce a drag line allowing the spider to climb from the web to a hiding place; a special silk is used to wrap prey; two different silks are produced for the inner and outer walls of the egg sack; finally two different types of silk are used to construct the web, one of which is coated with a sticky fluid to trap prey.

Why do spiders have a poisonous bite? Unlike insects they cannot chew and ingest solid food so the initial part of the digestive process is external. The poison injected immo-

## Ascott Grapevine

bilises the prey, which is then injected or bathed in digestive juices, which turns the unfortunate insect's internal organs into a soup which the spider consumes, leaving an empty dry husk.

The life cycle of all spiders is complex and fascinating. The male spider has no external sex organs; instead he deposits a drop of sperm on a specially constructed patch of silk. This is then transferred to a small organ called a palp. Both male and females have a pair of these organs that look like small legs one on each side of the head. There then follows a mating ritual which may take the form of a courtship dance designed to reduce the females predatory instincts or in the case of web spinners rapid vibration of the web to entice the female from her resting place. Once the female is receptive the male approaches, crawls over or under her and introduces his sperm into an opening in the side of her abdomen. Mating can be brief or last for several hours, depending on the species. The male may mate with the same female again or look for a new mate. There is no truth in the belief that the female always eats the male after copulation this may only happen occasionally. Males do not live long after mating.



The spider's eggs, between two and five hundred, are laid in a specially constructed egg sac designed to protect them. The mother will usually stay with the egg sac keeping guard, often carrying it around. The eggs develop and hatch within the sac. The first stage is a tiny, hairless and blind creature. After a few days they moult. In this more advanced stage they develop eyes (spiders have up to eight simple eyes) but are still without the ability to feed, being nourished on the yolk within the egg. There is then a third moult and the spiderling is now a perfect miniature of the adult. At this stage some cannibalism may occur.



The young spiders now emerge from the sac; in some species the mother will assist by tearing open the layers of silk. The mother still continues to provide a caring role. In some species the spiderlings are carried around on the mothers back and she will catch and provide food for them and in others she will feed her young with a regurgitated liquid.

There comes a time when the youngsters can feed and care for themselves and they then disperse. Web makers will move a short dis-



tance and spin their own small webs to catch food. Others seek to disperse over a much wider area by ballooning. The young spider climbs to a suitable take-off point and spins several lines of silk, which allows the slightest breeze to carry them aloft allowing them to travel considerable distances.

As the young spider feeds and grows a point is reached where no further enlargement is possible. The spider then moults, shedding its old skin (exoskeleton). Youngsters may moult every few days, adults less often. During their lives small species may moult five times, but larger and long-lived spiders may moult up to ten times. During the moult the spider may lose one or more of its legs if these cannot be extricated from the old skin, but these will be replaced during a subsequent moult.

Spiders are not long-lived, smaller species will complete their life cycle in nine to twelve months, perhaps overwintering if the eggs were produced late in the year. Larger species may take several seasons to reach maturity and reproduce, depending on the availability of food.

On a different subject, it seems to have been a very good season for some of our song birds. Many young Blue Tits, Robins and Blackbirds have been visiting our feeders this summer. Even the greedy Starlings have bred locally. Conversely the numbers of Swallows and House Martins seem to be well down. Some butterflies too seem to have done rather well, especially Speckled Woods, Ringlets, Gatekeepers and Small Tortoiseshells. Sadly Peacocks, Red Admirals and immigrant butterflies such as Painted Ladies have not been so abundant.

Stuart Fox

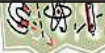



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## SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2014

**Sunday 28 September**

0800 Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sunday 12th October**

10.00 am Harvest, Holy Communion  
[CW]

**Sunday 26th October**

8.00 am Holy Communion [BCP]

**Sunday 9th November**

10.15 am Remembrance Service

**Sunday 23rd November**

8.00 am Holy Communion [BCP]

On Sundays when there is not a service in Ascott, there are others across the Benefice, normally:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 0800 Enstone & 1000 Spelsbury;

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 0800 Spelsbury & 1000 Enstone. For full details please see the church notice boards.

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

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

## Local Churches

**Wychwood Benefice**

Rev'd Kate Stacey Tel: 01993 832514

**St Mary's Shipton**

Churchwarden James Walmsley  
01993 830842

**SS Simon & Jude, Milton**

Churchwarden Mike Hartley 01993 830160

**St John the Baptist Fifield, St Nicholas, Idbury**

Churchwarden Pat Yaxley 01993 831385

**Society of Friends (Quakers), Burford**

Nigel Braithwaite 01993 831282

**Wychwood Baptist, Milton**

Pastor John Witts 01993 832865

**Burford Methodist**

Minister Rev'd Peter Goodhall 01993 845322

**Westcote Methodist**

Tony Gibson 01993 830699  
Mairi Radcliffe 01993831472

**Roman Catholic**

SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford

Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton

Our Lady and St Kenelm, Stow-on-the-Wold

St Teresa, Charlbury

# ***News from the Church***

## **Pastoral Re-organisation**

After 18 months of discussion and consultations about the future shape of ministry in the Deanery and, in particular, what it means for the parishes of the Benefice, the PCCs of the Benefice met in May to discuss the final proposals from the Bishop and Deanery. These were different from ones that we had been working towards in the past and they were unanimously rejected by the meeting. This means there will be no merger with Charlbury - nor working towards a future one - and things will remain as they are now. However, Heythrop has already begun the process of moving

from the Chase to join with the Tews and it was with sadness that Heythrop PCC felt this process should continue. This will probably come into place when the new Vicar of The Tews and Heythrop is Licensed at the end of September 2014. This whole process has been deeply unsettling for us all and I am glad that we have been able to come to a final decision. I have stepped down as Assistant Area Dean and will be concentrating all my energies to build up the remaining parishes of the Benefice.

**Mark Abrey.**

## **Afternoon Tea dates in the Village Church**

Sept. 7th commemorating WW1/2 3-5pm

Oct. 5th Harvest. 3-5pm

Nov. 29th Xmas Fair at Wychwood Wrought Iron. 10am to 3pm

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## ***Marriage***

On the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014, at  
Holy Trinity Church,  
Nicholas Aaron Forrester  
to Andrea Marie Pratley.





## Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO)

Did you know that current plans for the county include 80,000 new jobs, 90,000 more residents and 100,000 more houses – all within the next 17 years? This proposed growth in housing is the equivalent of every town and village increasing in size by 40%.

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is concerned about how the speed and scale of this development could cause irretrievable damage to our landscape and local communities, and the impact it will have on already over-stretched services and infrastructure particularly in rural areas.

It has launched a campaign – Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO) - to fight for a more sustainable vision for the future of the county.

To find out more see our website ([www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire](http://www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire)) or: Twitter (@CPREOxfordshire) and sign up to our monthly e-news bulletin (E: [administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk) / T: 01865 874780).

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# Recipe

## Meg's Gingerbread

A quick, easy and economical gingerbread.

### Ingredients:

350g/12ozs	Self raising flour and a pinch of salt
60g/2½ozs	Vegetable fat/Lard
60g/2½ozs	Hard margarine
125g/4ozs	Sugar
1½ - 2 teaspoons	Ground ginger (adjust to taste)
1 teaspoon	Mixed spice (if liked)
3 tablespoons	Golden syrup
1½ tablespoons	Black treacle
2 teaspoons	Bicarbonate of soda - in a small bowl
250mls (approx.)	Cold water
175g/6ozs	Chopped dates (if liked)

### Method:

Line a small roasting tin (10in x 6in – 25cm x 15cm approx.) with non-stick baking paper. Heat oven Gas 3/170°C.

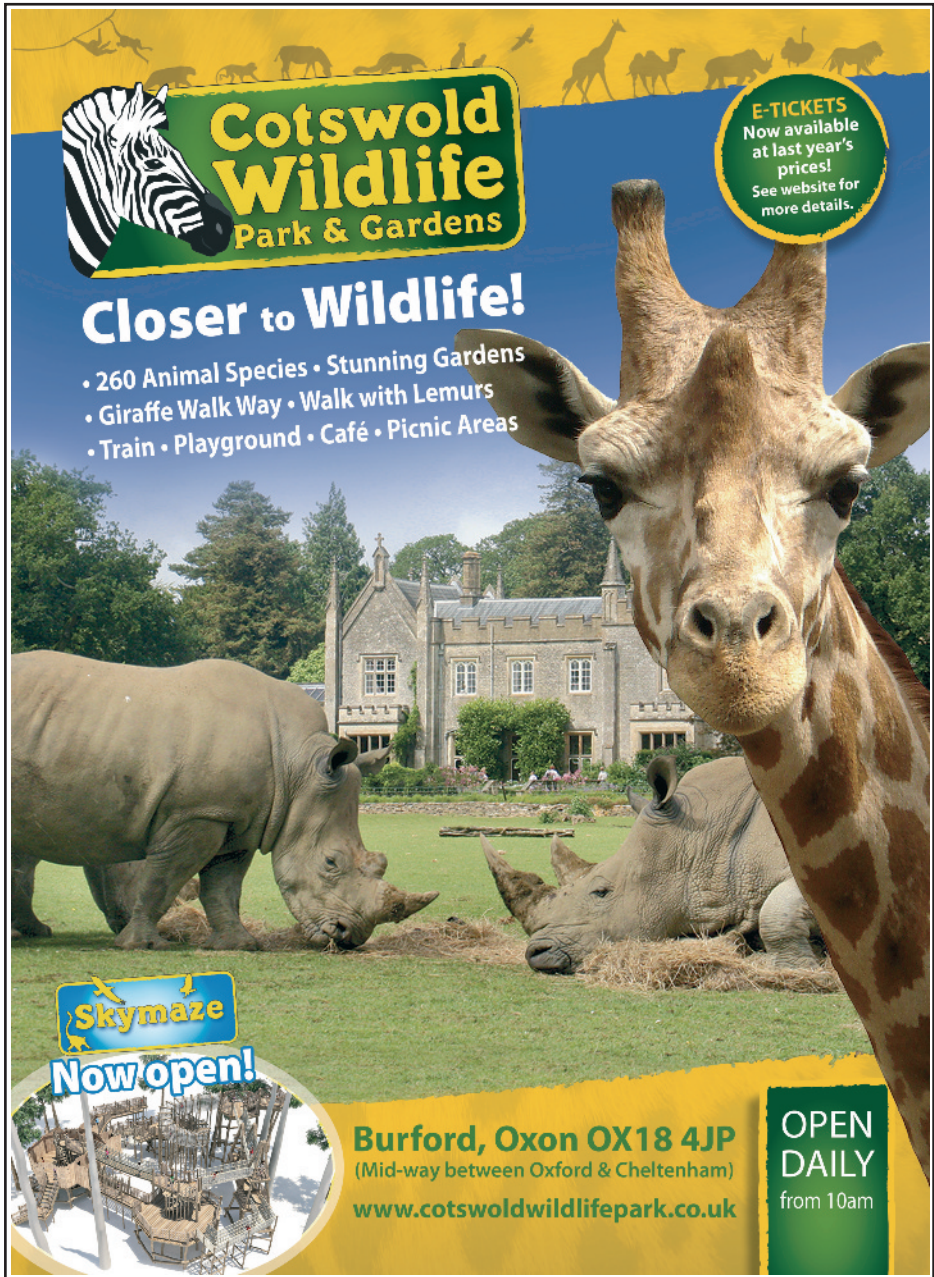
Put water, fats, syrup and treacle into a medium saucepan on a low heat to melt.

Mix flour, salt, sugar, ginger, spice and dates in a large bowl. When the contents of the saucepan have melted and warmed, stir well and hold pan over bowl while adding bicarbonate of soda to liquid. This will froth up! Pour into contents of bowl stirring quickly, continue stirring until well mixed and smooth. Pour mixture into roasting tin. Level mixture, put on middle shelf of oven and cook for about 45 minutes- 1 hour until firm to touch.

**Good Luck!**

My mother Margaret, affectionately known as Megs, sadly passed away some years ago, regularly made gingerbread for my sisters and me, It was something to look forward to with delight and I was always fascinated by the frothing of the mixture when bicarbonate of soda was added.

**Keith Ravenhill**



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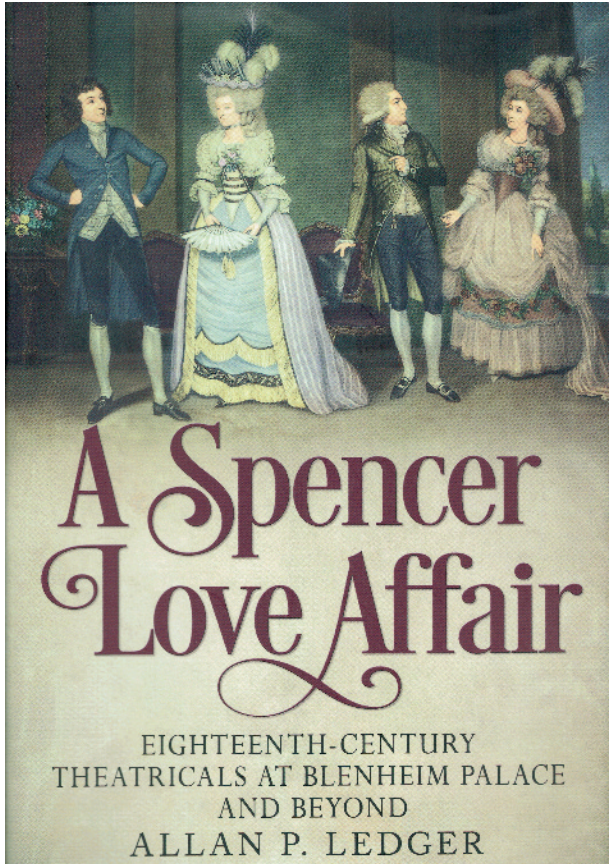
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# *A Spencer Love Affair*



In Chris Koenig's article in Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June, in the Oxford Times, he highlights extracts from the book by Allan P. Ledger, who lives in the village, about the love affair between Charlotte Spencer and the Reverend Edward Nares. Chris Koenig writes "Lady Charlotte Spencer, 28 years old, turns up at the Red Lion Hotel in Henley-on-Thames on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1797, hot-foot from Blenheim, to meet her lover against the will of her parents the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke

and Duchess of Marlborough. She walked the seven miles from Blenheim to Oxford and then caught the chaise to Henley. The man she loved was the historian and Fellow of Merton College, the Rev. Edward Nares, son of the former Oxford Town Clerk and MP for Woodstock, Sir George Nares."

Allan Ledger was asked if he would write an article for *The Grapevine* about what inspired him to write this interesting book, he kindly agreed.

## Allan P. Ledger

I have often been asked how it was that I came to write *A Spencer Love Affair*. It began in the archivist's office at Blenheim Palace quite accidentally when I was shown parts of an 19th transcribed journal relating to the diaries of the Revd. Edward Nares. This had been forwarded from Canada by the Parson Woodforde Society, who specialised in clerical diaries. After reading it I had a gut feeling that here was a story that needed to be told to a wider audience, even though it seemed to primarily relate to Blenheim's 18th private theatricals. Fortunately for me, the Revd. Edward Nares was closely connected to Merton College, which was my brother's Oxford College.

Not long after a family discussion, my brother received an interesting reply from the archivist at Merton, suggesting that it would be worthwhile visiting Merton. To my great astonishment I was shown an oil painting of Edward Nares, Nares family silver, 18th hand drawn silhouettes of the Spencer family, letters and two leather bound hand written journals by Nares, concerning his life and his marriage to the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Marlborough's daughter.

After reading through the journals, I decided that I would follow up my researches by following in the footsteps of Edward Nares and Lady Charlotte Spencer, whose face I was already familiar with, for working as a guide at Blenheim Place. She is a central figure, aged nine, in the famous Reynolds painting of the Spencer family

C.1778. Further discoveries were to follow when in Herefordshire Library I was astounded to discover an unpublished diary written by a Lady Bateman, whose husband was closely related to the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Marlborough and how Edward and Charlotte had stayed at her home in Shobdon during their honeymoon, following their marriage in Henley-on-Thames. Also how Edward Nares was presented with the ecclesiastical living of Bidenden in Kent, where they brought up their children, only one of whom was to survive into adulthood.

To complete my story and to understand the importance of the world of 18th private theatricals, led me to the British Library, where to my great delight I found playbills and newspaper reports relating to the 1780s private theatricals at Blenheim Palace, as well as diaries of those who had been invited to watch them, including the diary of Caroline Powys, whose family were related to Jane Austen. It was Jane Austen's famous novel *Mansfield Park*, which is known for the inclusion of the world of private theatricals, that decided me to include Jane Austen's childhood experiences of private theatricals, which features in *Mansfield Park*, especially as her novel was first published exactly two hundred years ago in 1814.

The final piece of the jigsaw was again discovered accidentally in Stow Library, with the diaries of Agnes Witts, who also attended Blenheim's 18th private theatricals. Other highlights of my researches have included

the discovery of Duchess Caroline's ivory theatre box key fobs, which led me to conclude that she was the prime mover behind Blenheim's private theatricals in Vanbrugh's Orangerie at the Palace and in watching a performance of Sheridan's play, *The Critic*, which had first been performed at Blenheim Palace in 1786.

During my researches I have been very fortunate to meet many wonderful people and to visit some of England's finest aristocratic houses, connected to the Spencer family of Blenheim Palace and its world of C18th private theatricals.

## ***The Ascott Village Charity***



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

The charity has also allocated the money raised at the Charity run last December to the fund to have a defibrillator in the village.

The trustees thank the villagers for the very generous donation of £113.69 in the village shop collection box.

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

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

[elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk)  
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Unit D**



## ***Reader's Survey***

Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete and return our reader's survey. Many of you were pleased with the magazines content and didn't desire any major changes. One suggestion was to include regular contributions about local sporting activities that might include tennis, football, cross country running, cycling and fishing.

If you are keen at any sport or have an interesting or unusual hobby, please tell us about it by contributing an article to *The Grapevine*.

We would particularly like to receive contributions from our younger readers. We will consider any subject!

The winner of our reader's survey prize draw is Alice Wren (93) of Chestnut Drive. Alice wins a bottle of Champagne.

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

Did you know that the Evenlode Valley contributed in a small way towards D-Day? For several weeks beforehand, bombs and other equipment under corrugated iron and camouflage nets, were stacked all along the verges of the Chipping Norton to Burford Road and the Charlbury to Burford Road on the hillsides above Ascott. The verges were wider at that time with narrower strips of tarmac road between them. The equipment all disappeared virtually overnight, shortly before D-Day 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944.

**Wendy Pearce**



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## WYCHWOOD FOLK CLUB

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Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Chalice</b>	(Swan)
Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Sam Kelly Trio</b>	(Tiddy Hall)
Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pete Joshua + support</b>	(Swan)
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Sunjay Brayne</b>	(Tiddy Hall)
Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mark Pidgeon + support</b>	(Swan)
Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Stark</b>	(Swan)

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

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



# *Cloud Computing*

Cloud computing relies on sharing of resources to achieve coherence and economies of scale similar to a utility (like the electricity grid) over a network. At the foundation of cloud computing is the broader concept of converged infrastructure and shared services.

Cloud computing, or in simpler shorthand just "the cloud", also focuses on maximizing the effectiveness of the shared resources. Cloud resources are usually not only shared by multiple users but are also dynamically reallocated per demand. This can work for allocating resources to users. For example, a cloud computer facility that serves European users during European business hours with a specific application (e.g., email) may reallocate the same resources to serve North American users during North America's business hours with a different application (e.g., a web server). This approach should maximize the use of computing power thus reducing environmental damage as well since less power, air conditioning, rack-space, etc. are required for a variety of functions. With cloud computing, multiple users can access a single server to retrieve and update their data without purchasing licenses for different applications.

The term "moving to cloud" also refers to an organization moving away from a traditional buy the dedicated hardware and depreciate it over a period of time to using a shared cloud infrastructure and pay as one uses it.

Proponents claim that cloud computing allows companies to avoid up-front infrastructure costs, and focus on projects that differentiate their businesses instead of on infrastructure. Proponents also claim that cloud computing allows enterprises to get their applications up and running faster, with improved manageability and less maintenance, and enables IT to more rapidly adjust resources to meet fluctuating and unpredictable business demand. Cloud providers typically use a "pay as you go" model. This can lead to unexpectedly high charges if administrators do not adapt to the cloud pricing model.

The present availability of high-capacity networks, low-cost computers and storage devices as well as the widespread adoption of utility computing have led to a growth in cloud computing.

Cloud vendors are experiencing growth rates of 50% per annum.

Thanks to Wikipedia for the information in this article

# Hardworking

With the General Election less than a year away, my guess, one of the key-words used by politicians will be “hardworking”, as in hardworking people or hardworking families. But the question is what does hardworking mean? Does it mean we must put our shoulder to the wheel, our noses to the grindstone, use more elbow grease, put our best foot forward, with our backs against the wall. So long as we’re on a level playing field and no-one moves the goal-posts, we cannot only become more hardworking, but blinking contortionists.

Once upon a time, before texts and emails and twitters (whatever they are) there were these three cavemen who lived in the Stone Age. There was Tom, the father and his two sons Dick and Harry. Their mother was no longer with them. She had gone to clean and scrub the stones at Stonehenge. She was known as the best scrubber in Wessex.

Dick was a hardworking son, who worked from morning to night, never asking questions, hunting for mammoth and wild boar, with the reluctant help from his brother Harry, who would help him drag the carcass home.

Tom would often shout at Harry, “Stop sitting about daydreaming you lazy boulder. Go and help your brother Dick drag the wild boar home for breakfast.”

I should have mentioned that these were Anglo Saxon cavemen who enjoyed bacon for breakfast. They were not from the Middle East.

One day Harry was lazily sat day-dreaming when he saw a tree fall and roll down the bank. He suddenly thought that it would be easier to roll the mammoth home on logs. Soon after, the wheel was invented.

The question is this. Is there any virtue in hard work? Is there an easier way?

There is only one thing in life that cannot be questioned. That is mathematics. Two and two makes four in whatever civilisation we have known. Everything else in life is open to challenge. Therefore whatever I write can only be subjective. It is my observation that for every hardworking man or woman, there are at least two other people sat watching them, telling them they must work harder.

For most of us we are like cats caught in a slippery barrel. Some manage to claw their way out to brighter horizons. For the rest of us, whether it be through lack of intelligence, talent or drive, we spend our time at the bottom of the barrel, slipping and sliding and scratching each other in jealousy, less one of us gets more of the crumbs from the table.

Thank God for Christianity, the only religion for losers.

**Fred Russell**



# ***One Year On***

## ***Nigel Wild reflects on his move to the Aveyron in south-west France***

They say that time passing ever faster is a sign of advancing years and the 14 months since we bid a fond farewell to Ascott for a new life in France has passed in the blink of an eye.

'Nuff said.

Spring in the Aveyron is usually a warm and sunny awakening, but the piercingly cold season that gripped Europe had this area firmly in its grasp too. Day after day, we awoke to teeming rain and temperatures in single figures.

Initially, we rented our house to see if it really was the one for us. Barely a week later, we made an offer. First, it truly felt like home and that was vital. Second, a British car cruising up and down led us to discover that it was in the hands of two other agents besides ours and he had no idea what they were doing. We swiftly worked out an offer that took into account a new fosse septique (septic tank); the offer was accepted by the owners and a meeting arranged for the following Tuesday for all to sign a written acceptance.

The house had been left by maman to her three daughters Marie-Rose, Nicole and Francoise. Marie-Rose lives mere yards away, Francoise in the next village and Nicole in Paris.

We sat around Marie-Rose's dining table with the family and Steven our estate agent. A bottle of dessert wine and some miniature brioche appeared, then we fell to serious matters such as fosses septiques and a completion date. It was a really jolly affair with much laughter and jokes. Everyone duly signed and Steven beetled off to the notaire to arrange the compromis de vente or exchange of contracts before Nicole and husband returned to the capital.

Maman had died two or three years ago in poor health and the family had kept the house ticking over to minimise disturbance. As we were renting, all bar the double bed had been left in place, so we had two sets of furniture and enough cartons to fill an Amazon warehouse. All we could do was create narrow corridors to shimmy through while trying to unpack sufficient clothes and other essentials. Every carton had a brief contents label, but we were forever looking for things and making a mental note of useful items for later. Only, of course, to forget where we had found them.

To our surprise – nay, delight – our two pensioner moggies took instantly to Le Roumegas and the garden, having emerged unscathed from a flight from Heathrow to Toulouse via Amsterdam.

Marie-Rose was happy for us to paint and decorate if we wished, but we could do nothing major until the acte de vente or completion in early July. So we began Operation Cleanup. The house is a stone barn over 100 years old, converted to a dwelling in the 1970s by papa and maman. The ground floor is a garage and caves, the first floor contains the main bedroom, bathroom and toilet and the kitchen. On the second floor lie three more bedrooms, a bathroom and an attic. Our attack commenced on ground and first floors.

Life and Cleanup became easier in the days following the signing of the compromis, as a squadron of the family led by Marie-Rose cleared out all maman's things. The day spent removing the furniture was hilarious, not least when we had to dismantle the staircase twice to shift heavy beds et al from the second floor. Mr Bricolage seemed to become our second home as we bought more and more vital kit for the task in hand. The layers of stone dust would have banjaxed our domestic cleaner, so a Karcher industrial model was swiftly followed by a pressure washer.

The worst area was the caves or cellars. Untouched for aeons, they had inches of dust on the stone walls and floors. Papa had been an electrician, inventor and tinkerer, accumulating more junk than Albert Steptoe en route. So frequent were our forays to the local waste site that we were almost at the Aveyron three kisses on both cheeks greeting with the site manager. Almost, but not quite. Something like 200 kilos of scrap

metal were taken for recycling, much of it from the spikes and pins papa hammered into the wall as hooks and shelf supports. Hour upon hour, the angle grinder screamed as it cut away these lethal outcrops. Curtains of webs gradually fell away as we ousted the arachnids. Now with space to unpack and store, the carton mountain diminished and our indoor camping turned more towards normal living.

The kitchen was quite good, with work surfaces, an electric hob and a combi oven, but as maman was very petite, all the units were low and gave us backache if used for any length of time!

The major reason for our move to France was for the calmer, more relaxed lifestyle and despite very physical working days, we found time to make friends and enjoy what the locality had to offer. What really makes the Aveyron is the people, warm, friendly, ever welcoming and so proud that we have chosen to live in their country. The stereotype of the French being rude is a myth. Unfailingly polite, the minimum greeting is a handshake, with the local three kisses on both cheeks between males and females expected and welcomed. In all our dealings with both public bodies and private enterprise, we have met only two who were obstructive or rude. Indeed, they bend over backwards to help us rosbifs and forgive our trespasses with their language. Our nearest neighbours are farmers Jean-Claude, his wife Marie-Lou and their son Bertrand, who have been kindness itself. Marie-Rose and husband Jacky live just down the hill.

They think we are *très courageux* to renovate the old family home and are regular visitors to see how we are getting on. They always bring a jar of their honey, eggs or a home-baked loaf and Jacky carts away garden waste on his tractor. Our estate agent Steven's charming and English speaking secretary Graziella has been wonderful in dealing with Orange to arrange our phone and internet. Brit neighbours Pat and Finlay live five minutes' walk away and have been towers of strength in looking after the cats and giving advice on the French systems.

It has taken a while to adapt to the cultural change. A major hurdle for us rosbifs is often the language. Unlike our Dutch and Belgian cousins, we are not a nation of linguists and language teaching in Britain seems to slide further and further down the academic agenda. Thus many come here with nary a word of French and struggle. I speak good French, but good is not fluent and new situations throw up new words and phrases that you just have to learn. Add to that strong accents, patois and high speed French, plus the southern habit of adding a 'g' to words like 'matin' or 'bien' and a discussion can be tricky. English is more widely spoken than when we first came here in the 90s, so that conversations can be a mix of French, English and Franglais. If you try, the French will meet you half way. We watch French TV every day and it has improved our French no end. My wife Cathy speaks only a little of the language but has a go. After over a year searching, we think we have found French classes for her.

Business hours are worlds apart from our homeland's 24/7 culture. Generally, shops etc open around 8.30, shutting for a two hour lunch break. Only major supermarkets stay open. Then work restarts until 6 or even 7pm. This includes Saturdays and big DIY stores run continuously from 9 until 7, reflecting the new French love of DIY. Banks run the same system, so you can visit the bank until early evening. Bar small shops and patisseries, shops remain firmly closed on Sundays, but there is a groundswell for Sunday opening, especially DIY stores. So far resisted by the powerful trade unions, Sunday opening will come. To us, that will be a shame, part of the reason we came was to escape shopping mania.

We joke that France is closed on Mondays, but most small businesses and banks, even some post offices, are shut to give staff a two day break. You simply gear yourself to the culture and go with the flow.

Local restaurants and cafes do a roaring trade at lunchtimes. For most customers, it is their main meal of the day and for 12 or 13 euros, you can eat good, honest fare with a little carafe of wine thrown in. Lunch is a social occasion, to meet your friends and business colleagues. And, thank God, firebell ringtones and inane loud mobile conversations are likely to get you excommunicated – it is just not done.

Overall, living in France is cheaper. Food, bar meat and fish, is usually cheaper or about the same as UK. Markets offer a plethora of food and produce at excellent prices and there are markets everywhere, including

evenings in summer. Wine is cheap! A decent bottle costs no more than four euros. DIY supplies, tools and hardware such as white goods are expensive, you have to trawl the discount stores for bargains. The trick is to seek out shed operations with minimal overheads. Forget the seedy building, it is the contents that matter. We bought two beds this way for the price of one on offer at a French furniture chain.

Road tax is included in the price of fuel; petrol costs about the same as Britain, diesel is £1 per litre. Council tax is way cheaper, as are utilities and there is no TV licence for French taxpayers.

The French health care service, called the Couverture Maladie Universelle, is as good as its reputation and the thoroughness of the care and treatment exemplary. The downside is that it is very costly and the reimbursement system labyrinthine. The oncosts to an employer are something like 40-50% on top of salary, which makes firms reluctant to take on staff. Getting healthcare cards, *cartes vitales*, took six months of blood sweat and tears; as a diabetic who needs regular medication, it became stressful and worrying. The system reimburses only about 70% of doctors' visits and medication, so you have to take out a top-up called a *mutuelle*. These range from cheap'n cheerful to policies that even reimburse part of the cost of spectacles.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, we completed the purchase and began serious work. The biggest storm in

living memory swept over in late July, felling one of our ancient oaks and putting lots of little dents in the cars from hailstones, but barely touched the house. Jean-Claude and Bertrand cleared away the fallen tree and the local bodyshop sorted the dents to perfection.

Finding good tradesmen is as in Britain. Word of mouth is the best advert, the good ones are always busy and there is a French version of the book of excuses for not coming to site as agreed. After several false starts, we thought we had struck lucky in finding a Brit carpenter and builder and his partner, a very sharp British electrician educated in France and bilingual. Their reasonable estimates to demolish walls to create and fit out an ensuite bathroom and rewire the house were accepted. Work commenced in August and the first part went well. Then we fell out big time with the builder, who threw his toys out the pram and flounced off, leaving electrician Keith to do the lot with my help.

Wiring in France is totally different to UK, using single wires of various colours rather than the grey twin and earth of Britain. Ring mains and daisy-chain lighting systems are verboten and as we had to live and work in the house during the rewire, we had to retain much of the existing system. All the cables and pipes run on the ceiling of the cave below, a real boon, but Keith had to cut new boxes, channels and holes for conduit and sockets. Day after day, the house reverberated to the sounds of a diamond saw and Kango drill, accompanied by Saharan dust storms. It was a tough job for one



guy, but he did splendidly. Luckily for him, I have a considerable armoury of tools, so that compensated for the things his builder mate would have supplied.

Whoever had wired the house back in the 70s had done a truly diabolical job. The more Keith progressed, the more horrors he uncovered. French wiring circuits are divided into sectors, each with its own junction box. These had been formed by cutting boxes into the stone walls and leading the various conduits into the boxes. All the wires were jointed by twisting together, then taping each joint. Finally, all the cables were jammed into the box and a wooden lid screwed on top to prevent movement. How there had never been an electrical fire was truly a miracle. All in all, it took four months to complete the works and that is a long time to have someone creating mayhem in your house. Barely a fortnight before

Christmas, it was all over bar the shouting.

So, what is the verdict? It has been a mixed year of highs and lows and the stresses of the restoration took more out of us than we expected. It has taught us to pace ourselves better, realise that Rome was not built in a day and have some fun time away from the overalls. The first floor and caves require a few finishing touches, but we have achieved much in a matter of months. Now we can enjoy our lovely home and the warm climate. The area and the people have more than met our expectations and we have many friends both French and British. Some of the local towns and villages are just breathtaking and all of our visitors have echoed our love and enthusiasm for the locale.

Vive la France!

**Nigel Wild**

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

## **Parish Council:**

Philippa Carter (Chairman)	830344
Laurence Mellor	831182
Peter Rance	831113
Sandy Timms	831870
Mark Tribe	359769
Angela Barnes (Parish Clerk)	01608 641045

Elections took place in June when Sandy Timms, Philippa Carter and Laurence Mellor were re-elected uncontested. At the June PC meeting Mark Tribe and Peter Rance were co-opted. We are very grateful to all for volunteering and believe that this will be a strong and active team.

Another change that took place at election time is that Hilary Hibbert Biles retired as our District Councillor. All Ascott Parish Councillors will know how much time and effort Hilary has put into representing the village over many years. The village is indebted to her hard work, tenacity, advice and many intercessions on our behalf. Hilary will remain as County Councillor for Chipping Norton and we send her our best wishes for a relaxing semi-retirement. She has been replaced by Tom Simcox and we look forward to working with him.

Ascott's County Councillor, Rodney Rose, has remained in post and he is particularly involved with Highways and Transport. A recent concern of his has been the re-organisation of Wychwood Library. Oxfordshire County Council has reduced funding

to many local libraries and the Wychwood library will be managed by 1 paid librarian with support from volunteers. All 3 Wychwood Parish Councils have agreed to contribute funds to this arrangement in proportion to the number of users from each village. While a lot of volunteers have come forward there is no one from Ascott, so if anyone can spare some time please contact the librarian or one of us. We also need to appoint someone to a steering committee which will manage the volunteers, so would appreciate the help of an Ascott resident who uses the Wychwood library.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. This is an opportunity for Councillors to present annual reports and to hear reports from a range of organisations in the village as well as our local community police officer. All reports will be posted on the village website as are the minutes of all PC monthly meetings.

Planning applications have been quiet this past quarter but the Parish Council was approached in June by the Cornbury Estate regarding the possi-

ble development of the land where Yew Tree Barns currently stand on both sides at the end of High St. Cornbury suggested a consultation presentation to the whole village in July but no such meeting has been arranged and we have asked for news on the latest thinking.

We have recently had a lot of complaints about fly-posting and would like to remind everyone that this is an offence and anyone is entitled to remove the offending poster at any time. Please feel free to post notices on the 3 village notice boards.

After lengthy discussions with WODC a final decision has been made about the play equipment in the playground and work should begin by late August. We hope to celebrate a new-look playground by the end of September. There will also be refurbished cricket nets, junior football

goals, a more robust volleyball net and a basketball post.

A large grant has been awarded from the Sport England branch of the Lottery for improved drainage to the Memorial Playing Field. The SE consultants will shortly survey the field and draw up plans. A drier pitch is the next best thing to an all-weather court and we hope that it will allow much more play throughout the year. The football club has plans to expand and we are excited by the prospect of some family cricket being played this summer.

Parish Council Meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, except August, at 7.30pm in the upstairs meeting room of Tiddy Hall and anyone is welcome. We always welcome feedback from residents and thank all those who have supported us in our work.

## Philippa Carter - Parish Council Chairman



I was born and brought up in South Wales where family and community were very strong. Singing, amateur dramatics, crafts, tennis and rugby were our pastimes. I studied modern languages at university where I met

my husband, Nick. I chose languages because I have always been fascinated by human nature, language and culture. I travelled and worked in several European countries from age 16; after graduating, I worked as a PA in Cardiff, London and Bahrain and taught English as a Foreign Language in Brazil. Back in London Nick travelled extensively for work and I stayed home to look after our 2 sons. Belonging to a community is important to me – it can be very rewarding to get involved and you make good friends along the way.

**Philippa Carter**

## Peter Rance – new Parish Councillor



wolds, but my reason was also due to wishing to be closer to the Great Western Railway Museum at Didcot where I was a founding Trustee 30 years ago, and am now Chairman of the Registered Charity (Great Western Trust) which owns and displays artefacts in its Museum & Archive there. No wonder we chose a cottage looking over the Oxford to Worcester railway line!

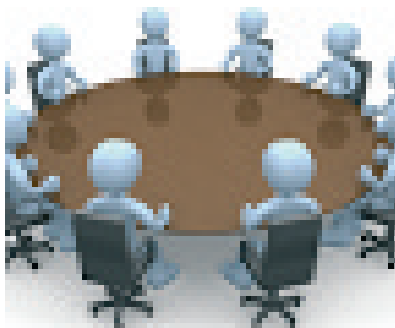
My wife and I are very recent newcomers to this wonderful Cotswold village, having now lived here for only 10 months. She had previously lived not far away in Stonesfield until we moved to Bristol over 20 years ago. Why? Well my entire career was with the Ministry of Defence as a project manager and having worked in London, I was delighted to be part of the team creating the new HQ at Abbey Wood, Filton.

We were both very keen to return in our retirement to the beautiful Cots-

I have never been a Parish Councillor and I know I have a great deal to learn, especially about what can and cannot be done. I answered the call for new councillors because I know only too well that it's so easy to expect "others" to take on community duties and moan when "things" aren't done.

I want to help the council maintain its fine contribution despite further Government funding cutbacks which means finding ways of doing more with less, which during my last years in MOD was my daily lot!

**Peter Rance**





## Sandy Timms - Parish Councillor



Having lived in the village for 18 years I have always believed in the idea of the 'Bigger Society' and have been

involved with the Village Shop project since its conception.

I believe if we don't take part in steering the village to be the place we want it to be then it won't happen, or even worse, things will happen that the village doesn't want, so 16 months ago I was co-opted onto the Parish Council to bring the number of Councillors to the minimum of 5. With the recent election being uncontested I now sit on the Parish Council as Vice Chair.

**Sandy Timms**

## Mark Tribe – new Parish Councillor



I moved to Ascott-under-Wychwood in May 2013 having lived in Windsor for the previous 20 years. Since moving to the village my wife, Sarah, and I have made a conscious effort to engage in village life as much as possible.

As a keen fisherman, I have joined the Coldstone Angling Club and, as a result, have spent many a happy hour on the banks of the river Evenlode. I am also a member of the Ascott Songsters and work as a volunteer in the village community shop as well as playing a role in its management

committee. With such beautiful countryside surrounding the village, it made sense to get a dog to explore the rolling hills together. We acquired a black Labrador, Ben, and tabby cat, Boris, who have become the best of friends.

I have three children, two boys who live in London, and a daughter who has just finished university.

I have been working in the City of London for many years involved in the development and financing of major infrastructure projects both in the UK and overseas.

Recently, I was awarded the Freedom of the City of London so I can now herd my sheep over London Bridge! I look forward to many more years of living in Ascott-under-Wychwood.

**Mark Tribe**

## Laurence Mellor, Parish Councillor.



ing, walking, keeping fit and the inevitable DIY.

I became a parish councillor in 2010 and have specific responsibility for Allotments, Winter Resilience and I am also Chairman of the Sports Club. Recently, I have been working closely with Cllr Philippa Carter to obtain funds for the refurbishment of the playground and to improve drainage on the sports field. Cllr Carter deserves a great deal of credit for all the hard work she has done on numerous applications for funding and I have done my best to support her.

Born and lived in Cheshire until 2002 when we moved to Easter Cottage, High Street. Became a police officer in 1967, serving in both uniform and as a detective, dealing mainly with major crime investigations. Retired in 2001 having reached the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent.

I was then appointed Contract Director, Prisoner Custody and Escort Services, with Serco responsible for the transport and safe custody of prisoners to courts and prisons throughout the Midlands and South East regions. I retired for a second time in 2006.

Married to Susan for 45 years, 2 grown up children and 4 grandchildren ranging in age from 3 years to 17 years old. Interests include sail-

For my part I am particularly proud of the way we are now able to combat disruption to local roads caused by snow and ice through the use of our snow plough, road gritter and pavement plough. All of this would not be possible without the fantastic help provided by our team of volunteers. I know that surrounding villages envy not only our equipment but the way we come together as a community across so much of village life.

I shall be standing down in 2015 so if you want to get involved now is your opportunity.

**Laurence Mellor**

## Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness

Have you always wanted to paint in watercolours but thought it was too difficult or just lacked confidence in your ability to make the colours sing on the page or to control the paint?

If so, why not come along to my watercolour workshop in September. I plan to run a one-day fun day in September for Beginners to Intermediate painters.

No-one will be expected to go home with a beautiful finished painting at the end of the day. That's far too intimidating. Instead we will learn how the paints behave on the paper and practise lots of exercises to help you build a painting of your own.

The title "Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness" means that we will be painting hedgerows, teasels, berries, flowers and fruit.

I do hope you will dig out those paints and brushes and come along and see what transpires.

### Course details:

- Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> September , 2014 @ Milton-under-Wychwood Baptist Church Hall
- Time: 10 am – 4 pm
- Tea and coffee will be available all day but please bring your own lunch
- Cost £60 – deposit £20



### Contact details:

margaret.gibbs2@btopenworld.com Tel: 01993 832440

My CV – after a life-time teaching drama, I retired to the Cotswolds in 2000 and was soon looking for a new adventure. I started attending Art Classes and found that I really enjoyed them. I enrolled at Oxford & Cherwell Valley College and did a 2 year Foundation Art Course and part of the Fine Art degree. I also discovered the work of Ann Blockley, a wonder talented local artist, and began to study with her, culminating in 6months Master classes. I also study with Jean Haines in Hampshire, another world class international teacher, who has encouraged me to start my own classes.

## Ascott Pantomime

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

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

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

Due to other events in and around the village, this year's pantomime will be on a Sunday at a slightly earlier start time to allow the children in the cast to get home to prepare for school on the Monday.

The 2014 pantomime will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, doors open at 6:30 pm for the programme to start at 7:00 pm.

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## ***Bee Orchid-A First for Ascott?***

Whilst out walking late in June Mike Pearce spotted a Bee Orchid flowering in a grassy bank. This attractive small orchid is widespread across Europe and is regularly found on calcareous (chalk and limestone) soils, but as far as we know has not previously been seen in Ascott Parish.

The lower lip of the orchid resembles the rear of a female bee. The orchid

also produces a scent that attracts male bees who then try and mate with the flower thus collecting pollen, which is then transferred to other plants. In England the bee orchid is self-pollinating as the bee species needed is not present.

Why did it appear this year in the village? Possibly because the grassy area where it is growing has not been cut for a couple of years. Will it reappear or spread next year? This cannot be guaranteed. As a species it is very variable, even in areas where it is well established it will appear in large numbers one year only to disappear in the following seasons.

**Stuart Fox**



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## ***Why The Wirral?***

First of all Maggie & I would like to start by saying that we absolutely loved the sixteen years that we spent living in Ascott. When we first arrived in Church Close back in 1998 I don't think that we realised just how special a place Ascott is or that we would be living amongst such lovely people. To be honest, I think we both expect-

ed to take up permanent residence in the churchyard in due course!

However, circumstances change and when we decided to combine households with my Mum, we realised that we needed a larger home and, sadly, that would mean moving away. Mum has been living in Sidmouth for some



30 years and we all thought that it would be nice to live by the sea. The coastal towns of Devon and Cornwall are very appealing but they tend to be deserted in winter and horribly crowded in summer when transport becomes a nightmare. We decided to look elsewhere and since I grew up in Meols, which is a town of some 5,000 people on the end of the Wirral Peninsular, looking out into Liverpool Bay and the Irish Sea, we came up to check it out. Our initial impressions were very positive and so the decision was made. It took a while to find the right house but eventually we found just what we were looking for. A great bonus is that my brother lives just 30 minutes away and for the first time in 40 years we are within 'drop in' range.

Why the Wirral? It actually ticks a lot of boxes. We are 5 minutes' walk from the sea front with a mile and a half of promenade and a beach which Cookie and I visit every morning for ball throwing sessions. It is a great novelty to need to know the state of the tide! Maggie and Dolly prefer walks through the sand dunes. Within easy distance through Meols and the adjoining Hoylake and West Kirby we have full range of shops, doctors, dentists and vets, all very handy for those of us who are not getting any younger! Then within 7 or 8 miles there is every type of superstore that you could wish for. Road links are excellent with the M53 just 8 minutes drive away. There is also a railway line, with a station 5 minutes from the

house, that runs to Liverpool every 20 minutes and which could get us to Euston in 3 hours.

There are loads of places to walk including the, as yet to be explored, Wirral Way which is a walking/cycle way that runs 12 miles down the estuary of the River Dee towards Chester. Once we run out of places to go locally, the Lake District and Snowdonia are within day trip range.

So far painting and decorating are keeping us busy but I have joined The Friends of Queens Park (I am not sure if they will let me mow!) but there is a pavilion to be refurbished and Maggie hopes to help out serving 'vintage' teas in the summer. There are lots of other voluntary organisations that we will investigate in due course. I intend to indulge myself and join the Hoylake Model Boat Club and sail boats on the same lake that I used 50 years ago!

We do miss you all very much and we thank you for all the kindness and friendship that we enjoyed in Ascott. Our life here is very different but the natives are friendly and, whilst it is strange to not stop and talk to everyone that we pass on the pavement, we are getting to know people, especially our fellow dog walkers.

We shall be keeping up to date with Ascott news thanks to the most excellent Ascott Grapevine.

**Tim and Maggie Lyon**



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The Editor, Grapevine  
c/o Paul Jackson  
Yew Tree Farm House  
41 High Street  
Ascott-Under-Wychwood  
OX7 6AW

25 June 2014

*Dave Editor*

I am writing to you to pass on to the village of Ascott-Under-Wychwood and the surrounding district my thanks for the outstanding support you were able to give to the Rotary Club of Kingham and the Wychwoods in raising the extraordinarily large sum of £2700 for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance. We also received an anonymous local donation of £2500, which really was the icing on the cake!

I was lucky enough to attend the event, and was most impressed by the lovely village and, of course, the gardens on show. I also would like to thank those who provided cakes and items for the tombola, and everyone for attending in such large numbers. Finally, thanks to the Rotary Club, The Swan, Celia Crampton, Phil Pratley the Blacksmith, and the Scouts; it all added up to a very successful day.

I understand a similar event is already planned for 2016, and we will be in Kingham next year – perhaps we will see you there?

*Yours sincerely*  
*Tim Jenner*

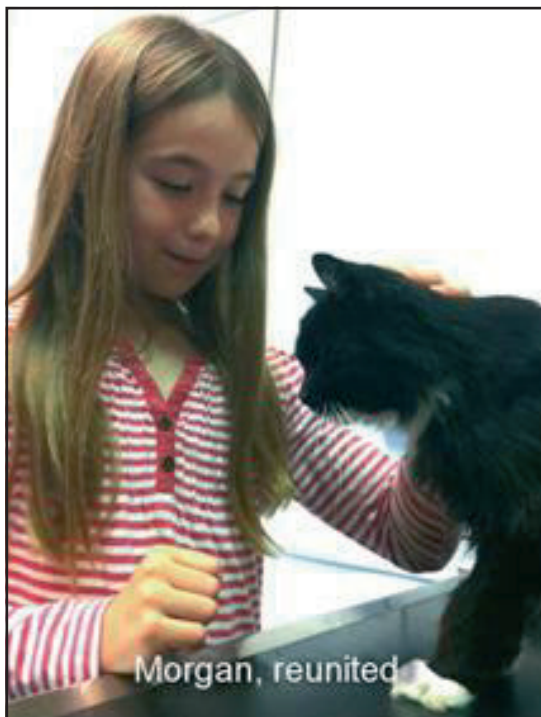
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## Microchips

A few weeks ago an elderly, under-weight cat was brought in to our practice by volunteers for the Sunshine Cat Rescue. He had been roaming around the area of Cogges church for a while. As is usual with all stray animals we scanned the cat to see if he had a chip - and hey presto! Morgan, the cat,



had been registered at our veterinary practice and had gone missing in 2004. We contacted his owner who was very happy to see her long lost boy again. He is now enjoying his old age back home. We would love to know what he has been up to in the past 10 years!

traced. It is hoped that once the micro-chipping of dogs has become compulsory we will be able to tackle puppy farming in a more effective manner and increase responsible dog ownership.

Microchipping of dogs will be compulsory in Wales in 2015 and England from April 2016. Currently a number of vets have joined the

Dog's Trust in offering free microchipping for dogs. The procedure is quick and involves inserting a chip slightly larger than a rice grain under the skin of the animal. The chip has a unique number which is entered onto a central database with the details of your pet and your contact information. It is essential that these details are kept up to date. Once a stray is found, the animal is scanned giving us the animal's unique number and the owner can be contacted using the details found in the database.

This is just one example of the value of having pets microchipped. It is the most effective way of getting lost or stolen pets returned to their owners, easing the burden on rehoming centres and reducing the number of dogs and cats that are needlessly put to sleep when their owners cannot be

**Karen Kappen**

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# *A Story of Magic Realism*

Almost forty years ago I began writing stories for my nephew - a new tale each Christmas. They were often loosely based on something we had done or seen during the year. The family lived in Charlbury and being interested in the history of the town, I was (then) able to borrow from the library the extraordinary volume on the history of Cornbury by Vernon Watney who had once lived there, managing the whole estate. We liked to walk in the woodland and by the lake and I was fascinated in all I discovered about the distant past, right up to more recent times.

I tried to imagine how the forest once had been. While doing so, I conjured up a story about a little boy who confronted some of the characters who had known the forest. I called this 'Walter in Wychwood'.

The stories ceased once my nephew was older. But with his permission, a

friend of mine took the stories to a literary agent in London in the hope that my writing might be considered professionally. The agent agreed to take me on. So began my varied career of writing books and seeing them published.

Last April I moved into the village and I could hardly wait to show my family the house that had become mine. They had always visited me when I lived for 30 years in France, and more recently again in Charlbury, but they were very excited about my latest choice and enthused noisily as I showed them round.

My nephew was quiet, but he had a grin across his face.

"Well", he said. "I suppose you just had to end up 'under Wychwood'..."

**Juliet Craig**

---

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## ***Cotswold Investment Club***

### **Inaugural Meeting September 24<sup>th</sup>**

The first meeting of a proposed investors club is scheduled for 7pm for 7.30 pm at the Wychwood Inn on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>. Meeting for discussion and dinner on the last Wednesday of the month, the aim is to share investor experience of stocks and shares. The numbers of membership will be restricted to a maximum of 20. There are a few spaces still available.

Call Paul Jackson 01993 83 1967 for further information.



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## ***Bloxham's Harmonix***

Ascott villagers were treated to a first-class evening of musical entertainment by the students of Bloxham's Harmonix choir in June. They were joined by students from the Royal Academy of Music, including Ascott's own William Diggle.



During the two hour concert the audience was entertained by renditions of popular classics like Moon River and A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square, along with more traditional pieces by John Rutter and Charles Hubert Parry. Meanwhile, the Royal Academy students demonstrated what a year at the elite musical institution can achieve, impressing us all with performances from Verdi and Donizetti operas.

Ascott resident Debra Cull said: "Wow, what a fantastic evening! The standard of the choir was incredible and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening, while also helping to raise money for our beautiful church. We'd love to welcome Bloxham back again next year."

Proud mum of William, Jacquie Bugeja said: "It was great to hear Bloxham's Harmonix Choir again and William was delighted to be able to perform with his colleagues from the Royal Academy of Music alongside his old pals from Bloxham in support of this event. Bloxham has a wonderful music tradition and the support they gave him while he was there was brilliant; helping fulfil his dream of becoming a professional singer and attending the Royal Academy of Music."

Bloxham's Harmonix was formed in January 2012 by William, fellow pupil Christopher Price and Sebastian Thomson, the school's Assistant Director of Music. It was their second performance at Holy Trinity and raised an impressive £850 for the church.

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# Wychwood Library

This year's Summer Reading Scheme, Mythical Maze, for our younger readers, is underway so come in and join up.

This is a great way to keep up your reading skills during the summer holidays and we have lots of new books to try. Last year we had a record number of children joining the scheme so please help us to reach our target again this summer.

There are stickers, puzzles and gifts to collect along the way and remember if we don't have the book you want, we can order it in for you for free until you are 18!

## A Reading Challenge for Adults

This summer Oxfordshire Libraries are challenging everyone to try something new with the Summer Reading Challenge for Adults. Pick up a postcard here at Wychwood Library and tell us what your personal Reading Challenge is, and also recommend books to other readers or tell us about a book you've read. All returned postcards will be entered into a countrywide prize draw. Postcards need to be returned by the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

## Ebooks and eAudio

We can't deny that ebooks are a fact of life and we can help you with this.

Access to

<http://oxfordshire.lib.overdrive.com>

enables free downloads from the eBooks and audiobooks library.



The eBook and eAudio library is a partnership with OverDrive, offering free eBooks and audio downloads to Oxfordshire library members. You can borrow up to three items for 7, 14 or

21 days using your library card number and PIN. If a title is on loan you can add it to your wish list and be notified when it is available.

Loans automatically expire at the end of the loan period so there are no fines!

You will need to download free software to your computer or device – full help and information is available in the 'Help' section of the eBook and eAudio Library.

Wychwood Library is asking people to volunteer to help support staff in the day-to-day running of the library, and also to be part of a "Friends Group" that will work with the Library Service to support the library. If you are interested, or for more information, please email [james.hazlewood@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.hazlewood@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or ask a member of the Library team.

Have a great summer and come along and visit us at Wychwood Library.

## Opening Hours

Monday	2.00pm to 7pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9.30am to 1.00pm 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	2.00pm to 7.00pm
Saturday	9.30am to 1.00pm
Phone:	01993 830281

## ***First World War Remembrance***

The bells of Holy Trinity Church Ascott were rung on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> August in remembrance and commemoration of the start of the First World War, during which many families from across the Wychwoods lost friends, relatives and loved ones.

**' At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'**

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# ***The British 10K London Run 2014***

Pancreatic cancer is hard to detect, and, as a consequence, difficult to survive.

The Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund ([www.pcrf.org.uk](http://www.pcrf.org.uk)) states on its website: *'Our mission is to defeat pancreatic cancer by funding and promoting innovative, world-class research into the disease - research that will lead to the development of more effective detection, diagnosis and treatment.'*

I chose to support the PCRF this year by running the 'British 10 k London Run' in July and asking people to sponsor me. My target was to raise £500.

Whilst visiting Vietnam several years ago, we were told that it is customary there (and in some other Asian countries) to observe death anniversaries. Like a birthday, it is celebrated every year to commemorate the death of a loved one.

I like that idea. An official reminder gives you the kind of nudge that makes you reflect on the person who died, what kind of a life he or she led, and how things have changed since. The world moves on, but you throw out some lines, anchors into the past, and it's good to occasionally think about people you knew, people who 'passed away' - something about that term, 'passed away', almost encour-

ages you to forget whoever it was you cared for.

When Wendy Butler died in February 2012, I made a note in my diary. This February, when the reminder of her second anniversary popped up on my phone, it made me think about Wendy, and I remembered that at her funeral the congregation was asked the following question: 'How will Wendy's death affect your life?'

Well, you go away and you think about that, you consider how precious life is, and how fragile. And many of us then decide that we will put the rest of our time on earth to good use, to better use. This feeling rapidly fades as your day-to-day existence falls into its natural groove, and your good intensions are gradually buried beneath the concerns of daily life. The reminder made me decide to do something and so I entered the aforementioned 10 k run.

It was an overcast day in London on the 13th of July, but the temperature was pleasant and the 20,000 or so people preparing for the run were in good cheer. The run also commemorated the beginning of WW1. There was a parade of mounted cavalry of-ficers and current servicemen, fol-lowed by Sir Mike Jackson reading some war poems. The Military Wives Choir sang some songs and finished with the national anthem.

The route of the run is fabulous. The start was on Piccadilly, then via Pall Mall to Trafalgar Square (where Karen and Jacquie stood to cheer me on, but never spotted me!), and from there to Victoria Embankment, on to pass St Paul's and Tate Modern before going back along the Embankment to Westminster Bridge, where we did a u-turn, circled Parliament Square to finish on Whitehall, having passed, appropriately, the Cenotaph.

After running for an hour and eight minutes (hey, I'm 66!), I collected my medal and managed to be found by Karen and Jacquie.

In my vision of the world there is no life after life, and when people die they are gone. But they can live on in your memory, and by running that 10 k 'for Wendy', I re-ignited my own awareness of Wendy and her remarkable courage and dignity. In addition, I

had quite a few conversations in the village about Wendy, and so many of us contributed to evoking something of her spirit.

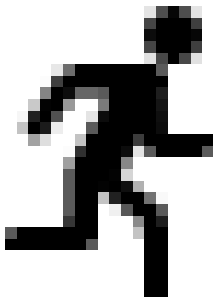
My enduring memory of Wendy is when she came walking across the Green, early Autumn, radiant in white, with a wide-rimmed hat to protect her against the sun. She'd received treatment recently, and she wore a pair of wonderful white gloves. She looked stunning and she almost brought tears to my eyes.

'Nice gloves,' I said.

'They protect me against the world,' she replied, and smiled.

At the time of writing we've raised £1,435.80 for the PRCF. Thank you.

**Harry Kappen**



# **WYCHWOOD FOREST FOOTBALL CLUB**

We are the Wychwood Forest Football Club and we play at the Ascott under Wychwood Recreation Ground. We are in the Witney and District League Division 4 and are sponsored by Windrush Footballs. We kick-off on Saturdays at 2 o'clock and train on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30 pm at Ascott recreation ground.

We have two teams, one friendly team just started and one league team, which just missed out on promotion last season. We are currently looking for new players, 16 years plus and also, if there is anybody "too far over the hill" but still would like to get involved in Wychwood Forest FC, you would all be made very welcome. To get in touch, please ring Mick Ody, manager and sponsor, on 01608659709 or 07928722367.

During the season we held the Wychwood Charity festival, it was Wychwood Forest Youth vs Witney and District past and present Legends in aid of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The game ended at 6 all

and went into a penalty shoot-out and the youngsters won the day and took the charity cup raising a total of £600.

Sponsors involved:

- Peak Performance Massage
- Leo Haines Builders
- Windrush Footballs
- Cool Cuisine Food Supplies
- Witney Trophy Centre

Many thanks to the sponsors and to all the players and officials that took part.

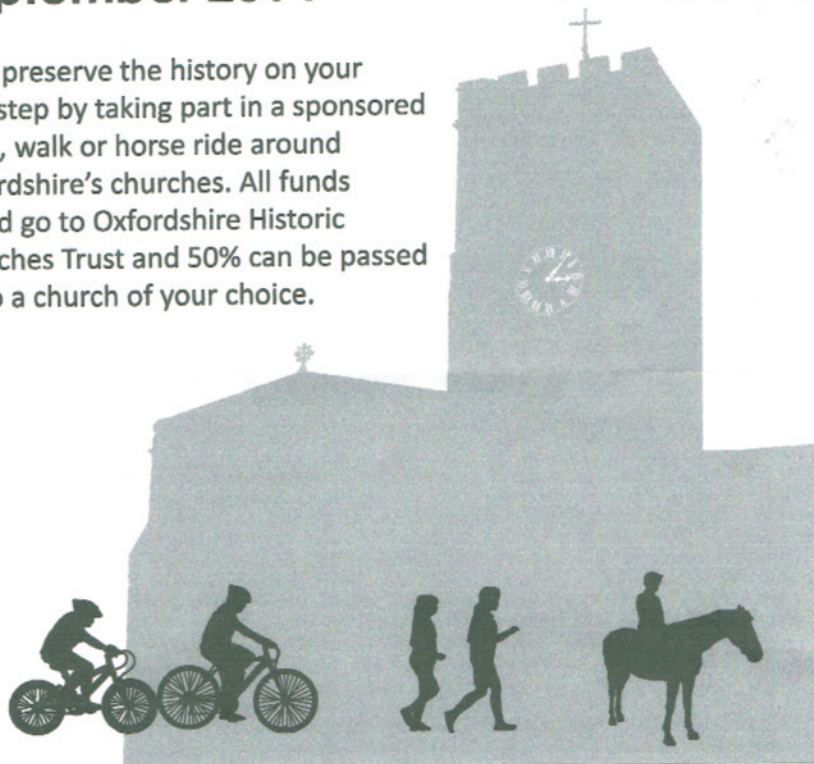
On the 29th of June Wychwood Forest held their annual 7-a-side football competition when 16 teams battled it out, it was a great sunny day and the BBQ and Bar flowed well. At the end of the day Milton under Wychwood were crowned champions with a 3-1 win over Corinthians from Lechlade, there was a great array of trophies handed out on the day. It was a brilliant day all round, many thanks to everybody involved.

# RIDE+STRIDE

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>  
September 2014**



Help preserve the history on your doorstep by taking part in a sponsored cycle, walk or horse ride around Oxfordshire's churches. All funds raised go to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and 50% can be passed on to a church of your choice.



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# ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP

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## News

### ***Ascott Village Shop welcomes a new member of staff***

Jane young has recently joined our shop sales team, taking over the Friday and Saturday shifts from Mathew Timms. Why not visit our community shop, sample the wide range of goods on offer and introduce yourself to Jane.



Jane moved to this area from Strathaven in South Lanarkshire. Remembering happy childhood memories of family holidays in Burford she decided Oxfordshire was the place for her to settle. She left Scotland with two dogs and two ponies and moved into Tom Thumb cottage, staying for a year, before moving to Milton. She is now back in Ascott having moved on the hottest day of the year, carrying furniture up two flights of stairs; an experience that she doesn't want to repeat for some time.

Apart from her hours at the shop she also works for the Bodleian Library in Osney two days each week, initially as a receptionist and now as an Administrative Assistant.

Jane says, "I am very pleased to become part of the team at Ascott Village Shop, it is great to be involved in such a lovely shop in a friendly and welcoming village."

She thanks everyone for their help and support during her first few weeks and is looking forward to many happy hours behind the counter.



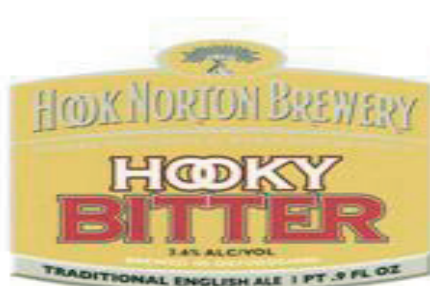
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Kingsmill Bread	£1.68	£1.43
Matthews Flour (8 Grain)	£2.65	£2.87
Matthews Flour (Cotswold Crunch)	£2.20	£2.20
Andrex (4)	£1.99	£1.99
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Birds Eye Cod Fish Fingers (12)	£2.50	£2.50
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## "All the Fun of a Rural Fair"

WYCHWOOD FOREST FAIR, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Forest Fair will return to CORNBURY PARK, Charlbury on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Over 160 stands promoting local products and services, local suppliers of food and drink, entertainers and a Rural Craft area .

**All the profit from the event will go towards the on-going work of the Project.**

For further details please contact 01865 815423 or e-mail [wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or visit the Wychwood Project website at [www.wychwoodproject.org](http://www.wychwoodproject.org).

## Solution to crossword in Edition 82

### Across

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Quinine  | 24. Follies |
| 5. Formal   | 27. Ago     |
| 9. Intense  | 28. Halibut |
| 10. Andrews | 29. Haiti   |
| 11. Ray     | 30. Ted     |
| 12. Lyric   | 31. Chianti |
| 13. Iceland | 32. Implant |
| 14. Awn     | 33. Rebate  |
| 15. Nostril | 34. Gwynedd |
| 17. Gist    |             |
| 21. Hall    |             |

### Down

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Quisling | 19. Militate |
| 2. Interest | 20. Assisted |
| 3. Ionic    | 22. Albania  |
| 4. Eternal  | 23. Lattice  |
| 5. Flaying  | 24. Folding  |
| 6. Redress  | 25. Chico    |
| 7. Age Gap  | 26. Sluice   |
| 8. Aside    | 29. Happy    |
| 16. Ill     |              |
| 18. I Do    |              |

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Steve Olympic rower (8)</p> <p>6 Overlook (4,2)</p> <p>9 Edible underground seed pod (6)</p> <p>10 Stovepipe, topper (5,3)</p> <p>11 Lines held by tent pegs (3,5)</p> <p>12 Informed hint (3,3)</p> <p>13 Dumbarton's river (5)</p> <p>14 Largest city in the US (3,4)</p> <p>17 Advertise in unauthorised places (3,4)</p>		<p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>2 Make last (3,3)</p> <p>3 Army rank (7)</p> <p>4 Down Under (9)</p> <p>5 Self-obsessed person (6)</p> <p>6 Kilt fold (5)</p> <p>7 Cuttingly (7)</p> <p>8 City near Leeds (8)</p>	<p>15 Going over (9)</p> <p>16 Person who makes arrows (8)</p> <p>18 Swooped (7)</p> <p>20 Quell (an uprising) (3,4)</p> <p>21 More moderate (6)</p> <p>22 Beauty treatment (6)</p> <p>24 New York harbour isle (5)</p>
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## ***Free Speech***

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

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

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

### **Please Note:**

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

**Editor**

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## Rotary in Action!



Picture shows club members joining a group at the Burford Contented Dementia Trust in Burford for a "clean up" week end. The trust is unique in the UK in that it spurns medical treatment (no drugs) for Dementia in favour of a "don't ask or challenge, go with the flow " strategy which therefore tends to attract criticism but the members found many relations of patients (past and present) who were very happy with their parents treatment and came back to do some decorating? See

<http://www.contenteddementiastrust.org/>

Animal welfare comes first second and third at local Wildlife Park. The club recently had a presentation on "behind the scenes" at the Cotswold Wildlife Park and it is clear that the Zoo industry has certainly improved animal welfare and breeding over the last 20 years or so. The self-administered regulations that cover animal welfare seem more onerous than the Nation Health Service! Conservation is key now a days and the park generously supports many charities locally and in Africa.

There are 1500 animals and 258 different species in the park with one of

the recent highlights being a newly born white rhino as number one attraction for the half million visitors a year. The gardens are often forgotten but there are 11 gardeners on site and there is a RHS plant sales scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Other snippets of interest are the keeper tours they run for adults as well as children , makes a change from a birthday party at McDonalds? [www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk)<<http://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk>>

### ***New year, new President***

For some reason, I have yet to find out why, the Rotary year starts in July when the positions around the world of 34,000 clubs change their officers.



Picture shows centre new President Mary Whitehead and immediate Past President Jacqui Marti and the man (yes we do have men in Rotary!) is Regional Director Keith Crawford.

Find out more:

[www.kinghamrotary.org.uk](http://www.kinghamrotary.org.uk)  
<<http://www.kinghamrotary.org.uk>>  
[www.ribi.org.uk](http://www.ribi.org.uk)  
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<<http://www.rotary.org>>

# ***Tiddy Hall News***

At the time of writing, the kitchen at **Tiddy Hall** is having its makeover at last! After numerous delays due to terms and conditions of various funding bodies, we were finally awarded the full extent of our grant and this means we can refurbish the kitchen completely, incorporating a new cooker, fridge, industrial dishwasher, a boiling water system plus of course, new cupboards and floor. We will also be replacing the cutlery, crockery and pots and pans. The past year has been busy with lots of form filling, many discussions and meetings and it's great to see the kitchen upgrade in progress! During the summer we have also been having a major clear out, trying to organise all the clutter and files which seem to have amassed over the years.

The **Tiddy Hall Trustees** held their Annual General Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and Chairman, Simon Gidman, thanked all the regular users - **Ascott Pre School, Roseneath School of Music, The Post Office, Windrush Valley School** for their continued support. They and other occasional users all help in keeping the Tiddy Hall finances ticking over. Two members decided to step down from the committee, Tony Gillings and Carol Squires, and Simon thanked them for their contributions during their time with us. The Committee welcomes Graham Bell and Jane Young who will be joining us!

Apart from the installation of the new kitchen, we have a number of other projects which will keep the committee busy! Plans are being made for Tiddy Hall to have its own website, new chairs to be purchased and we are hoping to make some improvements to the staging area.

Our newest regular user has been the **Wychwood Folk Club** and so far we have had 4 very well attended evenings and the committee would like to thank Elaine Byles and Mark Pidgeon for all their hard work in getting the folk nights established. The next function at Tiddy Hall will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> when we will welcome The **Sam Kelly Trio**. Sam is a 21 year old singer, song-writer and multi-instrumentalist who hails from the depths of Norfolk. His musical journey ranges from being a finalist in ITV's Britain's Got Talent, to being selected for the first ever EFDSS Artist Development Scheme. He comes to Tiddy Hall with his band, comprising Jamie Francis on banjo and Evan Carson on bodhran, and the trio are receiving glowing reviews at every gig they play! On November 1<sup>st</sup> another major young talent and BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award nominee, **Sunjay Brayne** comes to Ascott. Sunjay's an extremely talented blues, folk singer, song-writer and guitarist. While remaining true to his musical roots, he creates a new path with his 'new generation' blues/folk.

## Ascott Grapevine

The Fishing Club will be having their annual Race Night on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Please contact Pete Moss for further details – 01993 830758.

There will be a Brass Band concert on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. The Jubilee Brass Band from Oxford is an excellent brass band and one of the best in the South of England. Tickets available from Pauline Carter – 01993 774568, £8 and £6 for under 16's.

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

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

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

Friday Afternoons                                  Piano Lessons  
Contact: Pauline Carter 01993 774568

Post Office runs every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

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

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October                              Wychwood Folk Club  
The Sam Kelly Trio – doors open 7.30pm  
Tickets £6 (£8 on the door)

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November                          Wychwood Folk Club  
Sunjay Brayne – doors open 7.30pm  
Tickets £8 (£10 on the door)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November                      Race Night  
Tickets from Pete Moss

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November                      Brass Band Concert, 7.30pm  
Tickets £8 and £6 for under 16's  
Pauline Carter 01993 774568

# ***A COUNTRY CALENDAR***

## **Are the swallows flying high?**

“Cast ne’er a clout ‘till May is out.”

“When the May comes out be it early or late, it will make the old cow quake.”

The old hawthorn bushes really did us proud this year; most of them were almost covered with delicious soft white blossoms. It always feels cold when the May buds are opening and then this year, right on cue, the bright, warm weather came with the full blossom and we were all able to discard our winter woollies, with an early spell of summer weather. Then in typical British fashion we had to wrap up warm again for a cold, damp week at the end of the month.

It is always pleasing to see the return of the swallows and to marvel at the long, hazardous journey through which these small beings find their way from South Africa, especially as they also have to avoid all the lead fired at them by uncaring marksmen in the Mediterranean islands and Europe.

Swallows feed by flying with open beaks through layers of very small insects suspended in the air, and the level at which these are is controlled by the pressure in the atmosphere. With a lot of moisture in the air the atmosphere becomes less dense with lower pressure,

and so the insects and flies are not carried so high, but dry air gives high pressure and drier weather, and carries the insects to a higher level.

When the weather is damp with drizzle or rain at times, the swallows are sometimes seen almost skimming the surface of the grass fields.

Young chap, “Good morning sir. It looks like being a nice day.”

Old chap, “NO, my old leg tells me there’s rain about.”

Young chap, “The swallows are flying high though. That’s a good sign isn’t it?”

Old chap, “Ah, they be young ‘uns as don’t know no different.”

In times past this valley was also regularly treated to the call of the cuckoo, from the third week of April until the end of June, sometimes with two or more calling at a time. They have now, unfortunately, nearly all been shot out of the sky, although I did hear six calls from one in May this year.

A distinctive scent or smell is very effective in stimulating a memory, and when the elder flowers open after the may blossom, a strong scent of these will take me back to the top of a wagon load of loose hay, swaying past elder bushes on its journey from the hay field to the rickyard, on a warm sunny evening in June in the 1950s.

The last of the early summer wild flowers is the dog-rose, my favourite.

It is amazing how a nasty thing like this strong briar, so aggressive in a hedgerow and covered with talon like spikes, can bear a flower so delicate in colour and form, as pleasant to see as any cultivated roses in gardens.

An old saying which has been very much supported by the weather this year is "If the sun shines bright on Easter Day, there will be plenty of grass but little good hay." Meaning lots of rain to make the grass grow but not much sun to dry it into hay. In fact Easter Sunday was very dull and gloomy throughout with no brightness at all, and until now, early August, we have had a most pleasant summer, dry, warm and sunny.

It was always a joy to me making hay in the sunshine with no sign of rain in the offing, and this year all the crops of silage and hay must have been gathered very easily. The arable crops have looked very

promising this year and the winter barley and oilseed rape were harvested quickly with no costs for drying.

The winter wheat and spring barley harvest is now underway in some areas, and early reports tell of very good yields and good quality. The bad news is that the U.S.A. and European countries have also had large yields of grain which have sent the prices tumbling and likely to go even lower.

I now feel well qualified to give some advice to all working farmers. Don't retire before it becomes really necessary. I was quite reasonably fit in October last year but although we sold the farm I now possess two big achers, one halfway down each leg and that's only part of the story. In the words of the old local dialect, "I byent na more ner a blooming old 'obbler become."

**Jim Pearse**

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## ***What is acupuncture?***



It is an effective aid in the reduction of stress.

*"Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are"*

This old Chinese proverb encapsulates the philosophical basis of the ancient art of acupuncture. Chinese medicine incorporates a broad range of practices that share common theoretical concepts that have their origin in a tradition stretching back more



than 2,000 years. This tradition includes, acupuncture, herbal medicine, acupressure, *qi gong* exercise and dietary therapy.

New evidence indicates that acupuncture activates distinct brain regions in different kinds of diseases caused by an imbalance between the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems. Stress activates the sympathetic nervous system, responsible for our “fight or flight” response, whereas acupuncture can activate the parasympathetic nervous system which initiates the relaxation response.

Acupuncture supports the deactivation of the “analytical brain,” responsible for anxiety and worry, and reduces sensitivity to pain and the promotion of relaxation. (Hui 2010)

## ***Life, Its Stresses and Strains***

Stress has been recognised as one of the major causes of illness. Stress creates tension in the body. Tension creates an interruption in the flow of energy, known by the Chinese as Qi.

If these tensions are not fully released they build up in the muscles of your body and create toxins. Holding on to your emotions; to fear, worry or anger creates memories in your body that are reflected in your body language and posture. We defend ourselves by further tightening our bodies and minds.

*“Don’t let your mind bully your body into believing it must carry the burden of its worries.”* Astrid Alauda

## ***How can acupuncture help***

Although, we live in a state of tension, the body’s natural state is one of relaxation. The body craves ease, free expression and well-being, but so often we can’t remember how to access this state and how to let go and surrender.

Acupuncture provides a gateway to activating the body/mind’s self-healing abilities.

## ***Self Help Points for Stress Relief***

There are a number of acupuncture points that can help you calm down in stressful situations. Acupuncture points are organised along meridians which are named after the major organs that they influence.

You can do on the spot self-acupressure to alleviate your symptoms. The two that I have chosen to share with you can be massaged by using your thumb or fingers and applying firm but gentle pressure for up to a minute on each point. They can be used in social situations without drawing undue attention to yourself.

**Kidney 27** is located on the lower edge of the collar bone (please see photo)



It frees and opens the chest and promotes deeper breathing which activates the release of endorphins - the feel good neurochemicals that help you to relax.

**Pericardium 8** is located on the palm of the hand, where the tip of the middle finger lands when a fist is made (please see photo)



It supports mental clarity and calms the emotions.

There are many other points that can be used to help alleviate stress and traditionally trained acupuncturists will always produce a personalised plan tailored to your specific needs.

If you wish to learn more I am based at the Chipping Norton Therapy Rooms in New Street. I offer, Acupuncture, Shiatsu, Herbal Medicine, Healing and InterX pain relief therapy.

Please do come to our Open Day on September 27th between 10am and 4pm.

We will have free 15 minute taster sessions offering a selection of our therapies including Shiatsu and Massage.

I can be contacted on:

Email: [pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk](mailto:pam@wychwoodhealing.co.uk)

Tel: 07780 572283

Website:

[www.wychwoodhealing.co.uk](http://www.wychwoodhealing.co.uk)

Pam Quirke: Lic Ac, MRCHM, MRSS, MNFSH

or at:

Chipping Norton Therapy Rooms

Email: [nick@kneadatherapy.com](mailto:nick@kneadatherapy.com)

Tel: 01608 646647

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## ***Villager Charity Bus***

The Villager Charity Bus network is reviewing its schedules and could reinstate ( if there is a demand) a regular connection from Ascott to/from Witney on Thursday afternoon or mornings. The route would go via the village green and Shipton Road. If you have an interest in using such a service please call Paul Jackson 01993 83 1967

# Children's Page

## Monster Puzzle Sheet

O	Y	M	M	U	M	P	Z
B	A	B	T	H	R	S	O
D	R	A	C	U	L	A	M
E	B	T	Y	M	D	M	B
O	I	T	E	Y	R	P	I
W	N	R	S	L	W	O	E
P	M	O	N	S	T	E	R
Y	M	A	F	O	O	N	Z

### Word Search

BAT  
 DRACULA  
 MONSTER  
 MUMMY

WITCH  
 YETI  
 ZOMBIE



### Werewolf Words

How many words can you make from the letters in WEREWOLF?

.....

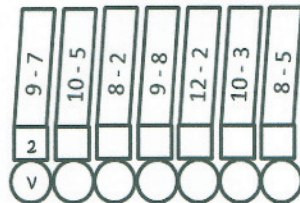
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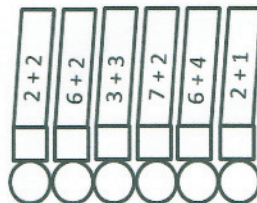
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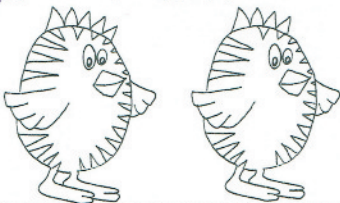
### Monster Math



P	V	E	Z	A	M	R	O	B	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



### Spot the Difference



[www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk](http://www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk)

Apologies for the American spelling - it should be "Maths"

Ed.

## Ascott 10k Multi- Terrain Run & 5k Fun Run/Walk

The Ascott Village Charity is organising our annual Charity Run on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Join us at the recreation ground for the run or walk that will start at 10.30am.

The first 100 10k runners will each receive a technical T-shirt. These have been sponsored by the Roof Light Company from Shipton.

The first 50 5k runners/walkers will receive a commemorative medal.

Refreshments will be provided and prizes awarded.

Entry forms are available at the village shop or may be downloaded from the village web site [www.ascott-under-wychwood.org](http://www.ascott-under-wychwood.org)

Proceeds will be used by the Village Charity to support local causes. This year we have provided funds for a village defibrillator and have committed finance towards the upgrade of play equipment in the recreation ground.

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# ***Hannah Turner's Great War***

In the previous Grapevine I listed, as far as possible, the number of young men in Ascott and their families who were directly affected by the outbreak of the First World War. With most of the Ascott villagers connected by marriages few escaped this situation.

Now I want to concentrate on one young woman to whom the War dealt a particularly severe blow. She had been brought up in Ascott and by 1914 she was living in a cottage on the Green with her husband of ten years, Albert Turner. Her maiden name was Hannah Claridge and she is Sue Hickman's great grandmother.

In 1880 Rev Yorke of Ascott noted in the Ascott and Leafield Parish Magazine, the marriage of 22 year old Sarah Kilby of Ascott to 25 year old James Claridge of Chilson, described as a roadman. James and Sarah's first child, Fanny Maria, was baptised in 1881 and they then went on to have four more girls and two boys, Hannah, Jane, Mary Ann, Charlotte, John and William. They lived in Church View which was listed on the 1891 Census as Feoffees Cottages, part of the property belonging to the centuries old Ascott Charity.

By 1901 Fanny was working as a cook at the vicarage for the Rev. Charles Walford and family, Hannah not listed in the Ascott 1901 Census was probably working elsewhere

whilst the remainder of the children were at home with their parents in Church View, in the second house up of the row of four.

Sadly Mary Ann died in 1905 aged 16 whilst the 1911 Census indicates that at some stage Sarah lost another child. The 1911 Census also shows Hannah married to Albert Turner who was a cowman, living in Ascott with their six year old son Alfred, their address given as The Green.

When War broke out Hannah's two brothers, John and William, joined an Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry Regiment, as did Hannah's husband Albert.

Two years into the War 1916 was to prove a very sad year for Hannah. Both her parents James and Sarah died within six weeks of each other, Sarah in February and James in March. So suddenly this stable family background disintegrated. With her husband and two young brothers, with whose upbringing Hannah must have been very much involved, away in France, life must have seemed very lonely. But worse was to come, for on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 22 year old William died of wounds near to the battlefield on the Somme. Even more sad news when Hannah's 83 year old grandmother Charlotte Kilby, died in November.

Into 1917 with Hannah surely living with fear, day by day. The worst news came almost exactly one year after



William's death. On 28<sup>th</sup> September 1917 Hannah's husband Albert was killed. How harsh life must have seemed to Hannah and her son Alfred.

September must have been a difficult month to face and sure enough September 1918 brought the death in action of Hannah's other brother, John.

A husband and two brothers were not the only family that the War snatched from Hannah. Her mother Sarah had a twin sister Mary Ann who also lived in Church View with her family. Married to Thomas Jackson, they too were to lose one of their sons, Frank, in September 1917 when he was killed in action near Ypres, shortly before Albert's death. Another of Sarah's siblings, Hannah's Aunt Han-

nah had married William Maling from the far end of High Street and whilst two of their sons fought but survived the War, their daughter Margaret's husband, Thomas Longshaw, whose family also lived in Church View, died of wounds in April 1918.

Hannah's husband, Albert Turner is not listed on the Ascott Memorial Plaque. He had been brought up in Shipton and his name is included on the Shipton War Memorial.

We can barely imagine how women like Hannah coped with all these tragedies, and carried on. And with what dread those many who survived through to the outbreak of World War Two, must have faced that second catastrophe.

**Wendy Pearse**



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# ***Get out Quick!***

## **Before the National anthem, I got a bus to catch!**

Can music inspire great deeds?

Whenever I hear the Dambusters' March my patriotism is raised by at least 5%.

Those who watched the World Cup Football on T.V. will know they watched in despair a second rate English team quickly eliminated from the competition.

The French must be inspired when they hear the La Marseillaise. I like the tune of the Italian anthem. Some Latin American countries, the introduction to theirs is like the overture to a grand opera, but at least they are sung with some zeal.

When I hear our own national anthem, it's more like a dirge. I am no great royalist, but if we are going to have a sovereign, then let's have an anthem we can all enjoy singing. Our present one is 200 years out of date. Whenever I hear it, it conjures in my mind eighteenth century landed gentry strutting about in their tight white trousers, without flies, constipated with their own importance; being watched over by Jane Austen to make sure they use the correct grammar.

I have no wish to see our national anthem become a pop or rock song. Britain cannot write a winning song for Europe with all our cat-a-walling. I suggest the English anthem be The Standard of St. George by Kenneth Alford. If not that, then what about another of his marches, Colonel Bogey. Most of the older generation already know the words to that.

Now that football is becoming popular in the U.S.A. we shall soon all be calling it soccer. There is nothing new under the sun. I have a book Soccer Book for Boys 1951. What's in a name?

A train station by any other name will always be a railway station for me.

A Limerick for the hazy days of Summer.

The fly I don't envy a bit  
Though over hedgerow and field it may flit  
For who could respect  
Such an insect  
That always gets in the.....?

**Fred Russell**

## ***TNR for AWD in Dahab***

I recently received this photo of Tripod from AWD ( Animal Welfare Dahab) in Egypt.



At the beginning of this year Lisa, our head nurse, and I took part in a TNR (Trap, Neuter and Release) campaign in Dahab where we neutered 126 animals, mostly street dogs and cats.

Tripod was the inspiration for this trip as Lisa had met her previously on a diving trip. She had a badly fractured front leg and was a pitiful sight. Lisa came home and asked if we could go out and give some aid to the organizers of AWD. A little while later we left for Dahab with our suitcases loaded

with as much equipment and drugs as we could carry.

We managed to amputate Tripod's leg, neuter her, and fix a hernia in her flank. A very generous couple took care of her for a few months while she recovered. She is now back to her old haunt outside the local bakery and seems to be very happy.

On our return from Dahab, Judith and Brian Mitchell very kindly held a coffee morning during which we raised over £450 for the charity - an amazing achievement. Our thanks to them and all the kind people who have donated funds to the charity. The local vet in Dahab, Amira, has continued neutering animals for the charity at a greatly reduced cost.

We plan to continue the work in Dahab but at present the Foreign Office has advised against all travel to the area. Hopefully the situation will change soon.

**Karen Kappen**



## Have your say on West Oxfordshire's Local Plan housing proposals

West Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan consultation will start on **Friday 8 August** for a six-week period, ending on **Friday 19 September**.

During this time residents are being asked to give their views on how housing should develop in West Oxfordshire over the next 15 years, including a new overall target and strategy for meeting this.

The draft Plan, which will replace a former strategy that ended in 2011, has been refined to take account of the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) published earlier this year.

Once consultation has finished, all comments will be taken into consideration and a final version of the plan will be published and submitted to an independent Inspector for examination in spring 2015.

Further information about the Local Plan consultation is available from Friday 8 August at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/draftlocalplan](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/draftlocalplan).

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# Swanfest

## 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014 by The Swan Inn & Wychwood Folk Club

The very first Swanfest kicked off on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014. A joint venture between The Swan Inn & Wychwood Folk Club it combined the best Ales & Ciders with the best Artistes from the local Folk scene.

The event took months to plan and thankfully it all went very smoothly. Alongside the music, ales and ciders we had some lovely fish & chips, Cotswolds Ice Cream and good weather. Apart from some silly flyers put on cars (somebody must be a closet traffic warden in their spare time) I don't think we had one complaint. Well there shouldn't be because the music was pretty good and a big thank you must go out to all the Artistes who gave their time for free (although it will cost me a few free gigs in return)

Colin Greenway who runs the Acoustic Room over in Witney (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month in the church)) kicked us off with some cool Bob Dylan songs amongst other things. He was followed by a trio called Scarecrow who I tapped from the Banbury Folk Club, unfortunately one of their number was poorly so they performed as a duo called Ecrow and did a grand job. Scarecrow are booked to play at the club in March 2015. Next up was Toots & Fraser, now these two hold a

special place in our affections, they've played for us at one of our Tiddy Gigs a few years back and headlined at the grand opening of the Wychwood Folk Club back on the 1<sup>st</sup> February and donated their fee to the club (what stars). They were followed by the delightful welsh songstress Linda Watkins. If you were there you may have noticed a local wannabe sneak up and join her for a rendition of 'Summertime'. Linda has also played for us at Tiddy Hall and along with her band put on a great show at the club back in April.

By this time the fish & chip van was doing a roaring trade and the drink was flowing freely, the landlords were working their socks off along with their staff as the place was getting busier, after a steady start to the day the place was starting to fill up. The Skeptics were up next. These lads sing acapella and did a fantastic job especially as they were a last minute stand in and plenty of folks came up to me and asked when they were playing at the club (don't worry it's in hand). Josh Chandler Morris made the trip from Milton Keynes to entertain us and did a grand job with his partner Carly. He is another we are planning to get back to play the club one day as he went through his repertoire of his own numbers.

They were followed by the camera shy duo of David Munday & Braham Ley who put a rockin' set together. These pair have a history of playing in the village as part of the Acousticana



shows we've put on in Tiddy Hall over the last few years. Look out for them again as they're headlining at the club on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. The last artiste of the evening outside was your truly who thoroughly enjoyed himself it must be said. I played a mixture of my own compositions and some sing-along stuff to get everyone fired up ready for the evening session inside the pub.

To finish off the night we had invited Darwins Wish to perform. These are the professionals, Nick being Barbra Dickson's keyboard player and his wife Kate (who has gold records to her name) have played at Tiddy Hall for the dinner/dance a few years ago. They rocked the night to an end to a packed Swan.

Many thanks to all the artistes who played and to our landlords Richard and Michiel and to all the bar staff and doorman who worked extremely hard during the course of the day, Hook Norton Brewery, the good folks of Ascott -u- Wychwood and the rest of the public who turned out to support this venture.

This was the first one and we believe the first of many. It will bet bigger and better with your support

- Did it take an age to organise? – Yep
- Was it tiring? – Very
- Was it worth it? – Oh yes
- Will we do it again? – Definitely

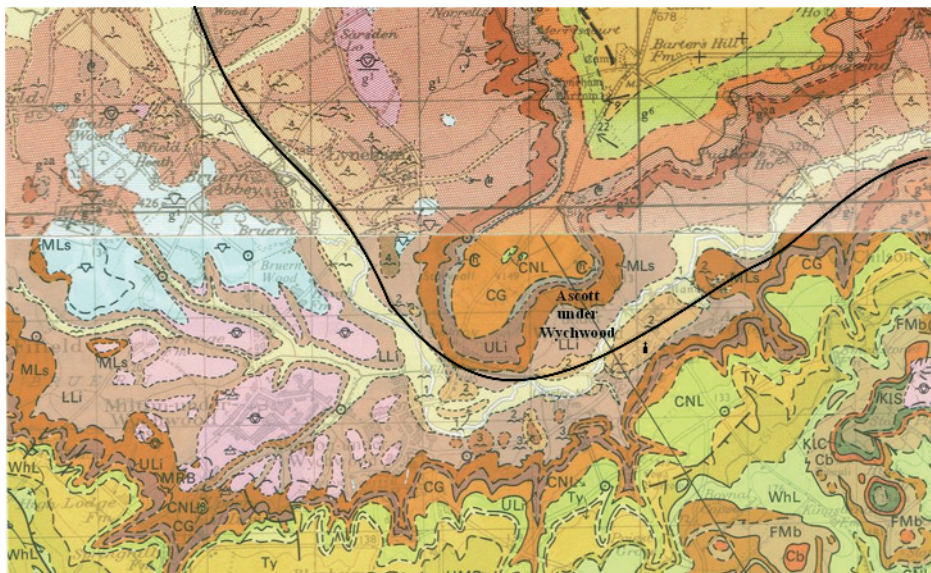
### ***Stop Press:***

Plans are already underway for next year's Swanfest 2 (July 11<sup>th</sup>) to bring one of the **biggest names** not just in the folk world but in the music world in general to play at our humble little festival. Keep watching this space and if you get bored of that try logging onto [www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com) for updates

Love & Peace (even to traffic wardens)

**Mark**





## Key

ULi - Upper Lias  
MLi - Middle Lias  
LLi - Lower Lias  
Ty - Taynton Stone

CNL - Chipping Norton Limestone  
CG - Clypeus Grit  
SHB - Stonesfield Slate  
▽ - Boulder Clay

 - Glacial Sand and Gravel

All kinds of rock to be found in the neighbourhood of Ascott are sedimentary, i.e. they were delivered to their resting place by ice or water. The youngest rocks, being at the top of the pile, are placed at the top of the list shown on the right. The oldest rocks, being at the bottom of the pile, are placed at the bottom of the list.

Glacial Drift or Till or Boulder Clay

## Oxford Clay

## Great Oolite

Inferior Oolite

## Upper Lias

## Middle Lias

## Lower Lias

## ***Glacial Deposits***

The Pleistocene period is defined as running from 1.8 million until 11,700 years ago. This was the time when Britain was most recently covered by ice sheets like those covering present day Greenland and Antarctica. The moving ice scraped rock and soil off the underlying ground and the scrapings got mixed into the bulk of the ice by turbulent motion. Melting of the ice left solids, dubbed "Glacial Drift", spread over areas remote from their original source. Other names for such solids are Till or Boulder Clay. Locally, Glacial Drift is best preserved on the hilltop under Bruern Woods. Here we find a mixture of sand with clay and pebbles of all sizes. Some drift pebbles in Southern England have been recognised as coming from as far away as Scotland or Scandinavia. Incongruous pebbles in and on the soil at Ascott appear to be relics of Glacial Drift that, for the most part, has been washed away since the ice age.

## ***The Solid Geology***

The term "Jurassic" was coined with reference to the Jura mountains. It is defined as the period from 201.3 until 145.4 million years ago. On land, rocks of Jurassic age outcrop along a belt stretching from North Yorkshire to Dorset, i.e., within this belt, those rocks are covered by nothing more than soil. To the South-East of this belt, Jurassic rocks are concealed under younger rocks.

For Geological purposes, the word "dip" refers to the direction and steepness of the slope of a rockbed.

In the Ascott area, the direction of dip is South-East and the steepness of dip is slight in comparison with the steepness of hillsides. Hence rock outcropping at the bottom of a hillside will be older than rock outcropping at the top of the hillside irrespective of the direction of the topographic slope. However, the dip is steeper than the Evenlode riverbed. The oldest bedrock under the river is found at Moreton-in-Marsh and the youngest at the Thames-Evenlode confluence.

## ***Oxford Clay***

The youngest Jurassic rock in the vicinity of Ascott is the Oxford Clay that caps the hill at Leafield.

## ***Oolites***

In the Cotswold area, oolitic limestone or "oolite" forms the hilltops (Leafield excepted). It is of middle Jurassic age. The term "oolite" was coined from Greek to mean "egg stone" because its appearance is reminiscent of the hard roe of a fish. Individual eggs are described as "ooliths". Under the microscope, an oolith is seen to be layered in the style of an onion showing that it formed by accretion in the same way as the limescale that coats kettles and plumbing. The Bahama Islands are remote from any rivers so their sea is free of all detrital sediment. Shallow water under the hot sun gets hot enough for limescale to precipitate. Wave motion causes the precipitate to take the form of ooliths rolling around on the bottom. So, in middle Jurassic time, shallow sea covered Ascott under Wychwood and, perhaps, the climate was like that of the Bahama Islands in AD 2014.

## ***Cotswold Building Stones***

"Great Oolite" is the term used to describe the younger of the Cotswold oolites. This group includes the freestones of Taynton and Milton under Wychwood and the tilestone of Stonesfield. The Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford displays an exhibit relating to a beach combing dinosaur who left footprints at Stonesfield.

## ***A Conspicuous Fossil***

In the Ascott area, the most conspicuous part of the "Inferior Oolite" is a rubbly limestone known as Clypeous Grit. The ooliths of the Clypeous Grit are large enough to be seen with the naked eye. The name refers to a conspicuous fossil sea urchin named *Clypeus ploti*. This sea urchin is flatter than others the thickness being perhaps one fifth of the horizontal diameter. "Clypeus" is Latin for "Shield". "Ploti" recognises the interest in this fossil shown by Prof. Robert Plot (13th. December, 1640 - 30th. April, 1696). Perhaps the best place to search for *Clypeus ploti* might be the rubble over which the issuing water flows at springs of the principal spring line described below. Adult specimens are four or five inches in diameter.



## ***The Principal Spring Line***

All Cotswold limestones are permeable. Wells formerly provided an inexhaustible water supply from these limestones. By contrast, very little water gets through the Upper Lias clay lying immediately below the Inferior Oolite. Where the junction comes to the surface we find springs. The Rectory hosts the spring closest to the Green. From a good hillside vantage point, we can locate springs on the opposite hillside. In some cases, the stream issuing from the spring and then running down a steep slope on Upper Lias clay, has eroded a small ravine marked by a strip of trees and bushes.

## ***Lias***

Where does the word "Lias" come from? It has been suggested that it might be one way of pronouncing "layers". Layering in cliffs on the Dorset coast and Aust Cliff beside the Severn estuary is very conspicuous. In these places the Lias consists of alternating layers of limestone and clay. When Lias clays were being deposited, Ascott under Wychwood was covered by a shallow sea. But it was an estuarine or deltaic sea more like those of Southend or New Orleans than the Bahama Islands!

## ***Ores and stones***

The Middle Lias is best known for its iron ore formerly quarried in the vicinity of Banbury. It has the lowest iron content of any ore ever used for commercial production of iron metal. "Ore" is used to describe a source of metal. When used for building houses, the same material must be described as



"stone" in compliance with the pedestrian of these matters. Many of the houses in Kingham village are built from a piebald mixture of "regular" Cotswold stone and rusty brown weathered Banbury ironstone. Thus Kingham village is a good place for observing the difference between these two building materials. If we visit one of the previously mentioned "ravines", then perhaps 50 yards or so away from the spring, we may hear a small waterfall under the bushes where Banbury ironstone stands proud of the clay above and below.

## ***In Our Gardens***

Lower Lias clay is the oldest rock outcropping in the Ascott area. It underlies all parts of the village except the environs of the Rectory. However, our garden soil contains various rock fragments that were not provided by the Lower Lias Clay. Glacial pebbles and fragments of oolite and Banbury ironstone are found. This situation illustrates what is called "solifluction" i.e. soil slowly creeps downhill. It is formed not only from the underlying rock but also from rocks that outcrop up the slope above the site of observation.

## ***Below Local Valley Bottoms***

Oxfordshire boreholes pass through rocks that outcrop to the North and West of Oxfordshire. The Upton borehole, North of Burford, reached down to Coal Measures the age of which is much older than Jurassic. We must travel at least as far as the Forest of

Dean or the Black Country to see coal measures exposed at the surface.

## ***Local Pioneer***

A visit to Churchill can provide awareness of local fame in the field of Geology. On the Green on the other side of the road from the church, there is a monument to William Smith, (23rd. March, 1769 to 28th. August, 1839). He was a canal engineer and "the father of English Geology". He produced the first geological map of England. Was it the first geological map in the World?

Acknowledgements (both obligatory and suggested)

- British Geological Survey (obligatory for copying maps)
- Bella Hewes acknowledgement or co-authorship
  1. for tidying up grammar and
  2. for pointing out need to explain technical terms

**Bill Prewett**

## ***Editor's Note***

The map had to be constructed from two separate geological maps as Ascott was on the edge of them both. Unfortunately the maps were of different editions and the colouring and graphics had changed between them.

# ***Local Business Directory***

**ANNIE'S CURTAINS AND BLINDS** 01993830687 07989497253

[www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk](http://www.anniescurtainsandblinds.co.uk)

[Page 24](#)

**ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP** 01993831240

[shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@ascottvillageshop.co.uk) [www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.ascottvillageshop.co.uk)

[Page 49](#)

**BERTIE THE SWEEP** 01993899143/07954180371

[Page 31](#)

**COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK** 01993823006

[www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk)

[Page 11](#)

**BESPOKE VINTAGE TEA PARTIES** 07967833979

[www.chippingnortontease.co.uk](http://www.chippingnortontease.co.uk), [hello@chippingnortontease.co.uk](mailto:hello@chippingnortontease.co.uk)

[Page 15](#)

**DRY STONE WALLING** 01993881476/07980564508

[drystonewalling@tomhazzledine.co.uk](mailto:drystonewalling@tomhazzledine.co.uk) [www.tomhazzledine.co.uk](http://www.tomhazzledine.co.uk)

[Page 40](#)

**FARMHOUSE B&B** 01993831900 [sally@college-farm.com](mailto:sally@college-farm.com)

[Page 52](#)

**GROVES SHOP** 01993830302 Shop mobile 07970262425

[info@alfredgroves.co.uk](mailto:info@alfredgroves.co.uk) [www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk](http://www.grovesdiyshop.co.uk)

[Page 39](#)

**HOME TUTOR** 01993830970

[Page 6](#)

**IN2PETS** 01993773111 [www.in2pets.co.uk](http://www.in2pets.co.uk)

[Page 42](#)

**INGRID RIDLEY B&B** 01993830612/07952657906

[ingrid@meadowbank--ascott.co.uk](mailto:ingrid@meadowbank--ascott.co.uk)

[www.meadowbank--ascott.co.uk](http://www.meadowbank--ascott.co.uk)

[Page 9](#)

**IVY'S FLORIST** 01993830268

[Page 40](#)

**LEAFIELD PICTURE FRAMING** 01993878357

[Page 24](#)

**MEADEN CREATIVE** 01993831383

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

[Page 37](#)

**MILTON POST OFFICE** 01993832243

[Page 61](#)

**PUPPY SCHOOL** 01993832343/07759210337

[puppyschoolwitney@yahoo.com](mailto:puppyschoolwitney@yahoo.com)

[Page 6](#)

**ROBERT GRIPPER** 01993831960 [robgripper@btinternet.com](mailto:robgripper@btinternet.com)

[Page 36](#)

**ROSENEATH** 01993774568 [www.roseneathmusicschool.com](http://www.roseneathmusicschool.com)

[Page 47](#)

**Seasons of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness** 01993 832440

[Margaret.gibbs2@btopenworld.com](mailto:Margaret.gibbs2@btopenworld.com)

[Page 30](#)

**THE LOFT GALLERY** 07941503519 [www.lovethetree.co.uk](http://www.lovethetree.co.uk)

[Page 66](#)

**THE SWAN INN** 01993832332 [www.swanatascott.com](http://www.swanatascott.com)

[theswan@swanatascott.com](mailto:theswan@swanatascott.com)

[Page 17](#)

**TIDDY HALL** 01993830612

[Page 54](#)

**WITNEY SHUTTLE** 08000434633 (01993705993)

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

[Page 61](#)

**WYCHWOODS ESTATE AGENTS** 01993824800

[burford@wychwoods.com](mailto:burford@wychwoods.com) [www.wychwoods.com](http://www.wychwoods.com)

[Page 40](#)

**WYCHWOOD FUNERAL SERVICES** 01993831557

[info@wychwoodfuneralservices.co.uk](mailto:info@wychwoodfuneralservices.co.uk)

[Page 63](#)

**WYCHWOOD WROUGHT IRON** 01993832850

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

[Page 66](#)

**Wychwood Folk Club** 01993831427/07870563299

[www.wychwoodfolkclub.com](http://www.wychwoodfolkclub.com) [wychwoodfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:wychwoodfolkclub@gmail.com)

[Page 17](#)



# ***Events Calendar - 2014***

## **Date      Event**

September 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00. pm	David Menday & Braham Levy (The Swan)
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 - 5.00 pm	Church Teas Remembering WW1 & WW2
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm.	Chalice (The Swan)
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm.	Sam Kelly Trio (Tiddy Hall)
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 - 5.00 pm	Church Teas Harvest
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm.	Pete Joshua (The Swan)
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Charity Run (Recreation Ground)
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	8.00 pm.	Sunjay Brayne (Tiddy Hall)
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm.	Mark Pidgeon (The Swan)
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Fishing Club Race Night (Tiddy Hall)
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am - 3.00 pm	Xmas Fair @ Wychwood Wrought Iron
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Brass Band Concert (Tiddy Hall)
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm.	Stark (The Swan)
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Ascott Pantomime
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm.	Wychwood Folk Club (The Swan)

Contact the editors if you wish to add to the Ascott activities or events