

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 5th February 2015.

Articles submitted after this date may not be included.

Call 01993 831023 or email:
wendypearse@btinternet.com

The Editorial Team:

Stuart Fox, Elaine Byles,
Wendy Pearse, Keith Ravenhill

Content & Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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SERVICES AT ASCOTT CHURCH 2014

14th December	10.00 am	Holy Communion [CW]
21st December	4.00 pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Crib Service
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Holy Communion [BCP]
11th January	10.00 am	Holy Communion [CW]
25th January	8.00 am	Holy Communion [BCP]
8th February	10.00 am	Holy Communion [CW]
22nd February	8.00 am	Holy Communion [BCP]
8th March	10.00 am	Holy Communion [CW]
22nd March	8.00 am	Holy Communion [BCP]

On Sundays when there is not a service in Ascott there are services across the Benefice, normally 1st Sunday 0800 Enstone & 1000 Spelsbury; 3rd Sunday 0800 Spelsbury & 1000 Enstone. For full details see the Church notice boards. You will receive a warm welcome at any of our services.

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

November contains one of the most memorable dates of our calendar year. That is, of course, Remembrance Sunday, when we stop to remember all those who have died in the fight for freedom during the First and Second World Wars as well as the numerous conflicts since. This year Remembrance takes on a special significance as we remember the centenary of the commencement of the Great War. We held our own commemoration of this at the September Afternoon Tea at the Church: thank you to all those who decorated the Church with their own family heirlooms from that conflict. It brought home in a very real sense how the long shadow of that conflict touched our village and families.

I am a great admirer of the World War I Chaplain Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy, known fondly by his contemporaries as 'Woodbine Willie' for the cigarettes he used to dole out to the soldiers on the front line. The outbreak of the First World War saw a dramatic theological shift in the popular perception of God and the Christian faith. The traditional Victorian teaching that the cross had been necessary to save humankind from

a sentencing to the depths of hell struggled to survive as soldiers encountered the reality of a living hell within the trenches of Flanders and France. Understandably, a new belief in God who instead suffered alongside his children in the trenches and the horrors of war flourished and grew in popularity. It was this new theological perspective that Studdert-Kennedy encapsulated throughout much of his writings and poetry; particularly in the poem, simply titled, 'The Sorrow of God'. He wrote:

*The sorrows of God must be hard to bear,
if He really has love in His heart,
and the hardest part in the world to play
must surely be God's part.*

Whilst it is difficult to be anything but empathetic to this view, firmly held by many struggling to keep the faith as they experienced the horrors of mass-warfare on a scale we can only imagine, it is for a number of reasons problematic to think of God as suffering in his infinite being throughout eternity. But this does not mean that we worship a distant God who has no knowledge or understanding of the highs and lows that we all face

throughout our lives, for one simple reason — Christ.

The great beauty and comfort of the incarnation -the coming of Christ to earth which we celebrate at Christmas - is that God is not a distant faraway figure with no care for or understanding of his people. The Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, chose to take on flesh and to make himself vulnerable In human form. God knows the pain of suffering just as he knows loneliness, grief, fear, hurt as well as joy and happiness and all the feelings — good and bad — that life can bring. There is then no reason to ever feel alone or abandoned in our feelings, because God

has felt them too in the person of Jesus Christ — God made flesh. The shortest verse of the Bible simply reads "Jesus wept". As we remember those fallen soldiers of the First and Second World Wars this Remembrance Day, and as we despair at the sights of conflict within our world today through our television screens, let us also reflect upon the coming season of Advent - which begins at the very end of this month — and our anticipation of the incarnation. For God is with us. He is with us in our deepest despair and our greatest joys, and that is a reason to rejoice.

Mark Abrey

Marriages

On the 25th July Nicholas Forrester and Andrea Pratley

On the 23rd August Adrian Underhill and Helen Day



Afternoon Teas in the Village Church

With the end of 2014 almost upon us, it's a good time to reflect on the Afternoon Teas and I'm delighted to report that it's been another successful year. With just one more to go, The Christmas Fair at Wychwood Wrought Iron, we are well and truly on target of achieving £5,000 plus, which goes towards the upkeep of our Church.

For those who haven't experienced one of the afternoons, each month has been themed differently whilst still serving refreshments and homemade cakes. We've had plant sales, local produce, cream teas and World War memorabilia to name a few and each one has been organised and run by different people.

We were also treated to another excellent musical evening in the Church from students of Bloxham Harmonix, who were joined by 3 students from The Royal Academy of Music, including Ascott's very own William Diggle.

So what next? Well, as mentioned we have the Christmas Fair on November 29th, 10.00am-4.00pm, kindly hosted by Phil and

Helen Pratley at Wychwood Wrought Iron. This year, there's going to be 12 stall holders selling Christmas gifts, a Christmas Children's area, mulled wine and other refreshments, and a bumper raffle! Money raised from the refreshments, raffle and one of the tables organised by Sue Boyer will all be going to the Church.

We've already started thinking about next year as well, and I'm delighted to announce that we have been invited to open the gardens at The Wychwood Manor, owned by Mrs and Mrs Wilmott-Sitwell. Previously, the gardens have been opened in Summer but we've chosen Spring to coincide with Kathy and Madeline's lovely plants and it will also give a different concept of the beautiful gardens, so pencil in May 10th and more will follow early next year. In addition we are planning a Wimbledon Finals themed tea including a screen to watch the game, and a Harvest Festival. There will also be a further 4 afternoon teas including the Christmas Fair, so much more to follow.

The success of these teas are down to all the wonderful people who volunteer to organise or help at these afternoons, and everyone who supports them, so on behalf of

Mark Abrey and the PCC, I would like to thank each and every one of you.

Debra Cull

WW Teas



Recipe

Apple Cake

For an 8" cake:

12 oz (340g) Self-raising flour

8 oz (227g) Butter

A pinch of salt

6 oz (170g) Caster sugar

4 oz (114g) Sultanas

3 Eggs

1 lb (454g) Cooking apples (after peeling and coring)

Some cinnamon

1. Grease and flour 8" tin
2. Sift flour, salt and cinnamon
3. Rub in fat
4. Stir in sugar and sultanas
5. Peel, core and cube apples
6. Mix into dry ingredients
7. Lightly beat eggs
8. Stir in with metal spoon
9. Cook at medium heat – Gas Mark 4, 180°C (160°C if fan assisted) for 1-1¼ hours
10. Optional: Dredge with additional sugar while hot

Photo Competition

Show your skills as a photographer, capture a stunning photo of “Ascott in Winter”. Entries must be by non-professionals and will be judged in two groups, over 12 and under 12. Submit your photo either by attaching to an email to keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net or hard copy in an envelope with “For attention of Stuart Fox - Photo Competition” and drop it into the shop. Please ensure you provide your name and age. There will be a prize of a £5 voucher to spend in the village shop. Winners photos will be shown in the Spring Issue.

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Ascott Pantomime

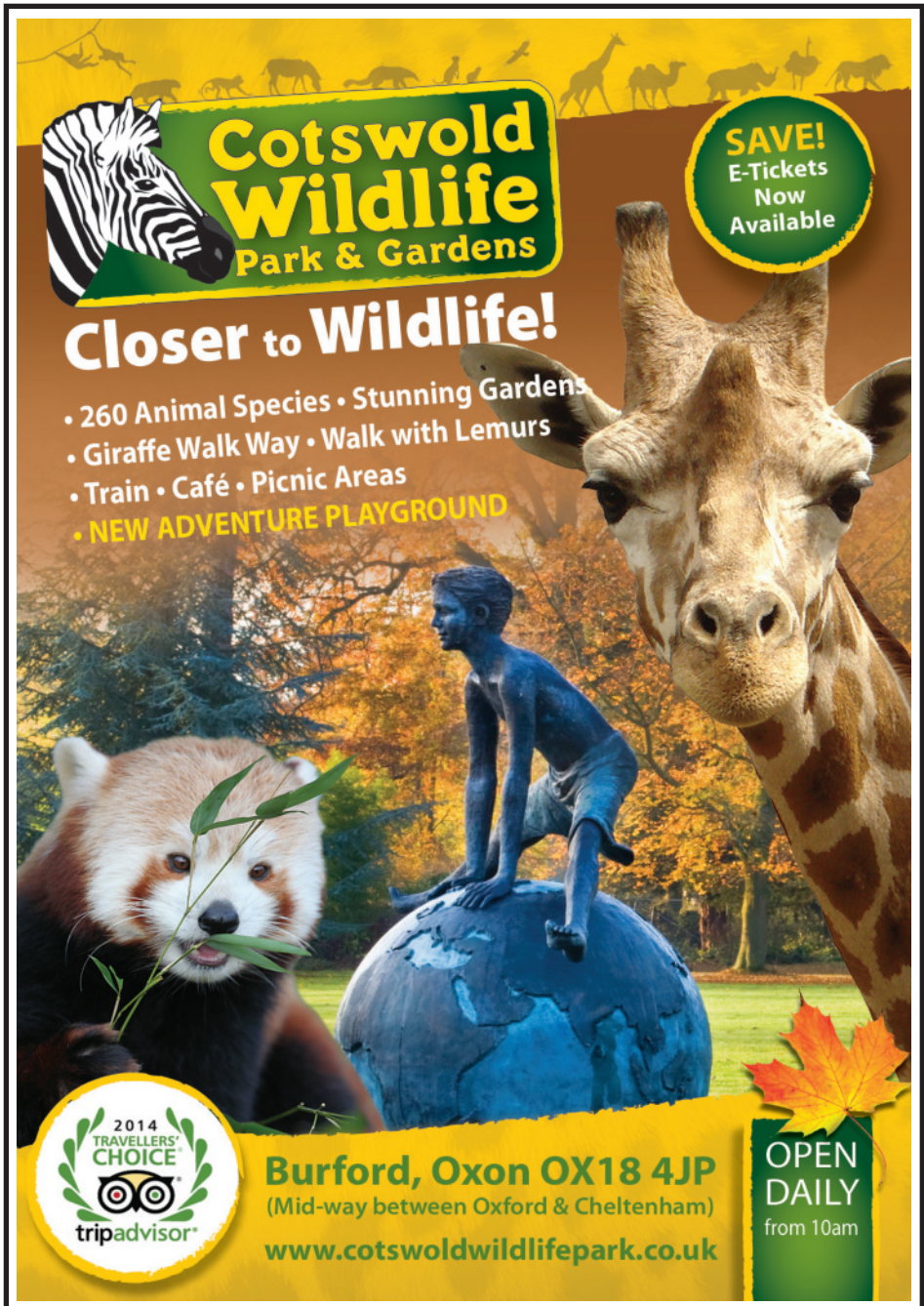
The Pantomime team say a great big thank you for your continued support of the pantomime and especially for your generosity at the door. Last year you raised the huge sum of £388 (£63 more than last year), £194 each has been passed on to the Tiddy Hall funds and the Grapevine fund. Lets break the record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

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

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

As a consequence of this we now like to ask for recruits, especially from the younger village folk as they are our future. A chance to show your talents. Please email keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net 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!



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NATURE NOTES

It grows on our roofs, covers dry stone walls, clothes tree trunks and fallen logs and even colonises the gaps between paving stones. Yet, for the most part, it is ignored forming the unnoticed green background to our environment. Moss, one of nature's most successful inventions can trace its history back to the earliest plants that colonised the land 350 million years ago. Because of their nature, with no hard parts, mosses have left very little in the way of fossil records, but moss- like impressions have been found in rocks dating from the Permian Era, between 252 and 298 million years ago.

The British Isles, with its damp cool climate can boast the presence of seventy percent of European species, with up to 900 varieties growing here. Mosses thrive in damp conditions. Unlike flowering plants they have no vascular (water transmission) system, nor do they have roots which can draw moisture and nutrients from the soil. Instead their leaves, which are only one cell thick, absorb water directly from their surroundings and their general shape and structure allows them to retain moisture much like a sponge. Our

garden peat comes from the decayed remains of sphagnum moss that over the millennia has accumulated in areas of high rainfall forming peat bogs.

Of course, even in Britain, it's not always raining and during the summer months the mosses found in exposed situations dry out and appear lifeless, but as soon as the rains return moisture is absorbed, the plant becomes green again and life is miraculously restored. Unlike flowering plants mosses don't produce seeds, but reproduce from dust-like spores which form in capsules held on thin



stems. When mature the spores are shaken from their capsules by the wind or knocked out by raindrops. Because they are so light they may be carried for some considerable distance before falling to earth. Unlike seeds the

spores don't carry much sustenance to give the young plant a head start in life. The spores have to land in an ideal habitat in order to grow. Because there may be a low chance of this happening spores are produced in vast numbers.

Moss reproduction is a complex two-stage process and can only occur in damp situations. When the spore germinates it either produces a mass of thread-like filaments or in some species a flat solid structure. If many spores land together in a suitable environment, such as damp soil or a rotten log, this initial structure may appear as a thin green felt. From this mat grow the stems and leaves which contain the male and female sex organs. In some varieties of moss both sexes appear on the same plant, but in others plants may be either male or female. The male sperm must swim to the female therefore fertilisation cannot occur without water. Once fertilised the spore containing capsules (see illustration) are produced.



These mature over three to six months before starting the whole process again.

Some moss species are able to reproduce asexually, shedding green vegetative structures called gemmae that will grow and form new plants, eventually forming extensive clumps of the same species.

Moss colonies provide the ideal moist habitats for a variety of insects and other invertebrates. One notable resident is the water bear also known as the moss piglet a microscopic creature up to 0.5mm long, belonging to a group of micro animals called Tardigrades (see illustration), of which there are over 1,000 species. They are known as extremophiles, because they can survive conditions that would destroy most living things. They can survive freezing, boiling, and the vacuum of outer space, lethal radiation and desiccation. They can even survive for up to ten years without food or water and then when conditions are suitable rehydrate, eat and reproduce.

Moss is also widely used by many birds, such as blue tits, as nesting material. Commercially mosses have very limited value. They are gathered from the wild for use in the florist trade and more recently

sphagnum moss has been harvested and dried to be used as a potential growing medium to replace peat. It has also been used to create green roofs rather than using turf or other plants that require a heavy planting medium.

In Victorian England there was a brief interest in creating moss gardens and even today moss is used in Japanese style gardens and to enhance the appearance of bonsai.

During the first World War Sphagnum Moss was used as a temporary wound dressing as it is more absorbent than cotton, having the ability of holding up to twenty times its own weight in liquid.

Our environment is full of strange and wonderful life; hopefully mankind can safeguard and retain this diversity.

Stuart Fox

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A New Saint for Ascott

It could be said that those of us who attend church are a dying breed, a load of gullible old fogies who become poefaced and sanctimonious every time the bell rings on a Sunday. But I have some jolly good news for you all.

On the 21st of September at Dorchester Abbey I was made a saint and can I honestly say it is not before time.

If you were to ask any of my few friends they would tell you I am a humble, generous, most charming of men who would never say a bad word of anyone, someone who never loses their temper, so my award is richly deserved.

Unfortunately my sainthood is only recognised within the Church of England. It is not accepted by other denominations. I fear if we were living in the middle ages they would have me burnt at the stake. I am not surprised by their attitude. When I have gone round doing good all over the place, I have been called frightfully, beastly, horrible names, and told to go away by using a word which begins with

‘f’ and finishes with ‘off’. But I forgive them all.

It won’t change me now I am a saint. I won’t be wearing a halo. But if you wish to slightly bow your head when you approach me, I will not be offended.

After the ceremony at Dorchester Abbey I met several other saints, most of a mature age. I suggested to them we form a group of travelling players who could go around the diocese at Christmas Time performing an adult version of the Nativity. They all suggested I was the ideal person to play a big fat ass. I am now busy with paper mache making the head.

With the advent season not far away, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. If you wish to send me a Christmas card, address the envelope St. Frederick of Ascott. It should find me.

P.S. I don’t expect many cards. It now costs 53p for a second class stamp. What a rip off! How can a privatised company still use the name Royal?

I must stop, my saintly veneer wears thin.

St. Frederick of Ascott

Christmas Eve

On the hills the shepherds guiding
Their flock to the safety of the fold,
For every lost sheep continue searching
To bring them home from winter's cold.
Angels appear in their splendour,
Order the men their watch to leave,
Go seek the Messiah in a manger,
A helpless child in this rough world.
For on this night there will be no grieving.
The lion in peace will greet the lamb
And man to man in true forgiving
Will go in love to meet their King.
There is a stillness on this evening
Though millenniums have gone,
Yet still we hope with child's excitement
To hear again the angels' song.
Listen the Christmas bells are ringing,
Re-echo again the angels' call
While choirs in chancels joyful singing
Welcomes in the glorious dawn.

Fred Russell

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The Ascott Village Charity



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

The charity has also allocated the money raised at the Charity run last December to the improvement of the playground equipment at the recreation ground. The £1,000 raised at this year's Charity Run will be allocated to help the purchase of new chairs for Tiddy Hall. The trustees thank the villagers for very generous donations totalling £233.56 in the village shop collection box. The charity also thanks Richard and Michiel of the Swan Inn for their very generous donation of £500 from the Summer show at the Swan.

Contributions to the charity has allowed the trustees to provide a cooker for Tiddy Hall to fit into the refurbished kitchen

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;

keith.ravenhill@talktalk.net

mark@dawbarn.co.uk

pollymarshall@gmail.com

elaine.byles@bioch.ox.ac.uk

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April 18 th	Three Pressed Men	The Swan
May 16 th	James Bell	The Swan
June 20 th	The Jigantics	The Swan

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GHOSTLY HAPPENINGS

A couple of months ago we met Fred and Rosalie Ryley who were visiting Ascott to find out about the village where Fred's grandfather, Harry Honeybone, was brought up in the 1880s and 1890s. They brought with them Fred's autobiography which in great detail gives an amazing description of life here at the time. They later sent me a copy which I hope to serialise in the Grapevine next year. However, as Christmas is associated with long dark evenings and tales of the supernatural, I will begin with Harry's tale of an Ascott ghost followed by a few other myths and legends which have grown up around Ascott. Harry's story follows: "There was a large house, mostly unoccupied, this house was supposed to be haunted, everybody was nervous of passing this after dark especially when alone. Scores of people have witnessed seeing the ghost but I never saw anything. But for that I, like the others, thought at the time it was a real ghost and it was near the churchyard too."

"This house was a rather large one and stood back from the road with a carriage entrance east and west of the house and a large wooden fancy carved gate at either en-

trance to the carriage drive. The place was surrounded with trees and shrubbery, there were stables for the carriage horses and hunters, gardens and orchard attached. The front door was partially plain glass about thirty yards from the highway. The staircase (a rather broad one) was situated just behind the front door and could plainly be seen from the road. The history of the ghost story was handed down from one Hettie Boyce. I do not know the past history of the affair only as this Hettie Boyce had been seen many times by several people sitting on the staircase when the house was supposed to be occupied. Some villagers could swear to seeing her, it was no made-up story, but I passed there many times, early morning and late at night, but I never saw anything worse myself. There were lots of people who would run past there at night-time as fast as their legs could carry them. Will 'o the Wisp or Jenny Buntail was another bogey in vogue at that time."

"I suppose many ghosts and different eerie spirits have been encountered from the Imp World in those old barns and lofts connected with the farmsteads. One man

told me himself that he struck at one with his fork, but there was nothing to hit at, there was nothing there when he looked. My candid opinion about these ghosts is that owls, which are nocturnal in their habit, frequent those places belonging to the farmsteads, their eyes would glare in the darkness and they also make an uncanny noise at night-time which would cause the hair to stand on end.

Cats too who are noiseless in their actions when seeking their prey during the dark hours, could easily be mistaken for something out of the Spirit World, their eyes glisten in the darkness. You could quite imagine a man striking at a cat, the cat would see him and realise his intention, therefore before the blow reached its objective, there would be nothing there. These people who believe in ghosts are innocent in a way, they are like so many who do not think for themselves.”

Another past member of the village, in her memoirs, remembered a ghost connected with the vicarage. The ghost was reputed to be the sister of Rev. Tweed, a 19c vicar of this parish and it was reported that she opened a cupboard in an upstairs room, then disappeared.

Ascott Manor which must be the oldest house in Ascott, has a long association with unusual happenings. These are connected with various presences in the house, and certainly over the centuries of its existence it must have been host to a vast collection of all classes of people, some of whom might well have had reason to remain attached to the building.

Other houses in the village have associations with the supernatural. A very distraught servant is said to walk the corridor in one house whilst another cottage is subject to nightly revels of loud laughter and giggling.

The streets of the village are not exempt from unusual happenings. There are tales of a headless coachman who drives his team along Shipton Road whilst the late Eric Pratley told me about his two encounters with the past. He once saw a ghostly coach and horses being driven down Chippy Hill and whilst walking along the Charlbury Road, he met two men dressed in old fashion working clothes carrying bundles of faggots on their backs.

Perhaps the strangest tale of all was recounted some decades ago by a Chippy man who frequently walked to Milton to visit his intended, returning to Chippy in the

late dark evening. Walking near the Churchill pillars on the A361 he suddenly felt the presence of another being trotting along beside him. This happened on more than one occasion without him actually turning to look at his companion.

But when finally he did turn his head towards the other presence, he was stunned to see a man dressed in Elizabethan clothes, carrying his head under his arm.

Wendy Pearse



Guess who erected this and on what occasion?

Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

It has been a busy few months with the new Council getting used to our different roles. I must thank all my colleagues for their commitment to trying to absorb everything in a short time. Our individual roles and responsibilities are listed in this Grapevine. We are very pleased to say that several long-running projects have recently been completed. Some were started during the previous Parish Council and we are grateful to everyone involved for their time and hard work.

Defibrillator

The most important project now complete is the installation of a village defibrillator just outside the entrance to the Swan pub. Early assistance when someone is having a heart attack improves their chances of survival enormously. Please read our separate article for full information.

Project SAFEPLAY

After the disappointment of not raising enough grants for a MUGA, we re-negotiated grant funding to improve the playground and sports ground facilities, according

to the wishes of residents during our consultation process. We were thrilled that some family cricket was played on the recreation ground for the first time for 4 years and there is hope that the football club will develop a second/youth team. The play-ground improvement started in September and should by now be complete. Completion is later than planned but we hope that everyone will explore the new equipment and make good use of the beautiful space we are so lucky to have on our doorstep.

Community Emergency Plan

This has been updated with new contact details. A resume is printed in this Grapevine and the full plan will be posted on the Village Website shortly. Mainly our plan is needed when there is flooding and snow in the village but we have been asked to be prepared for any possible emergency such as an epidemic, serious fire or rail accident – you never know!

Library

We had been warned by County and District Councillors that, in cutting their expenditure, Parish Councils would probably be expected to pick up some costs. This has happened with the Wychwood Library and the 3 Wychwood Parishes are now contributing to the running of our local library, in proportion to the number of users per parish.

Road Drainage

Over recent years the village has suffered from many problems due to blocked road drains or gulleys. Our previous Chairman, Rob Morgan, worked hard to persuade OCC Highways to give priority to these problems and I am pleased to say that (they say) all gulleys on London Lane, the Green and the Chipping Norton Hill have been cleared. These days anyone noticing soggy leaves blocking a road gully would help enormously with a strong nudge with the foot! And if you do see a badly blocked gully, please report it to OCC Highways on their website as well as let us know. The more complaints the higher the priority.

Planning

We have not had further contact with Cornbury Estate regarding

proposals for new housing at Yew Tree Farm at the end of the High St.

Dog Poo Bin

There is a new bin installed at the entrance to the allotments on London Lane. Please can all dogs and their owners be careful to use the bins provided throughout the village and not soil the pavements and grass verges, some of which are lovingly tended.

GoRide Buses

GoRide has informed us that the X10 service will be withdrawn after Sunday 30 November due to operating problems. OCC are trying to identify a replacement service. The C1 service will continue to be operated by GoRide and revert to its previous format of morning and evening journeys to/from Charlbury station.

A New Dean Pit????

Chadlington PC has lost patience with the lack of progress in replacing Dean Pit. They called a meeting of local Parish Councils to discuss possible joint action which we attended. Watch this space.

And Finally

Christmas is coming and we have started planning the Carols on the Green. As usual it will be on

Christmas Eve at 6pm on the Green around the tree. Wear warm clothes, bring a torch and a loud voice. There will be a collection for the Wychwood Day Centre. Residents of all ages and their guests will be welcomed with seasonal refreshments. Don't forget that if you want to keep an eye on our activities, the

Parish Council Agenda and Minutes are posted on the website and village notice boards. Any member of the public is welcome to attend our meetings which are held upstairs in the Tiddy Hall meeting room at 7.30pm on the second Monday of each month, except in August.

Philippa Carter

Parish Council:

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

Defibrillator

Many of you will have noticed the glowing box in front of the Swan pub door. This is our village defibrillator which can be used to help a person who is experiencing chest pains and suspects a heart attack.

IF YOU ARE SUFFERING CHEST PAINS FIRST DIAL 999.

If you are on your own at home, leave the front door ajar.

Call or phone someone to help you.

Sit down and remain as calm as possible (try not to lie down, do not prepare for hospital or tidy up!)

If possible chew an aspirin (300mg is best) but do not drink anything.

Ask your helper to speak to 999.

The 999 operator will tell him/her where the nearest defibrillator is and what the code is to open the box.

Continued on Page 23

The person with the chest pains must not move. The helper must go to collect the defibrillator and bring it to the patient. The 999 operator can talk the helper through all the steps over the phone. There is also a recorded voice in the defibrillator which gives all instructions. You only need to press the ON button.

The first action is to place pads on the chest. If these do not detect a heart problem then they will not administer a shock. Whatever the problem, you will have dialled 999 and so an ambulance is on the way.

We are extremely grateful to Richard and Michiel at the Swan pub for allowing the defibrillator to be installed in such a prominent position. They have been more than accommodating over the complications of installation and are keen to be fully briefed on the use of the defibrillator. It is reassuring to know that anyone in need will be seeking help near a well-lit building which will be occupied most of the time.

We would also like to thank those who have contributed funds towards the defibrillator – West Oxfordshire District Council, Ascott Village Charity and the Ascott Songsters.

A training session will be held in the Swan pub function room on Saturday, 13 December at 10am. If anyone would like to attend this session you should book a place by contacting Philippa Carter (tel. 01993 830344 or e-mail – pippa.carter2@gmail.com). If there is enough interest a second session can be arranged in the New Year.

But remember, 999 or the recorded instructions are very clear so do not hesitate to use a defibrillator, with or without personal training. A quick response to a heart attack can save a life.

Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

Ascott's Memorial Playing Field

I am delighted to say that in August we were notified that an application to Sport England by members of the Parish Council had resulted in the award of a grant of £44,000 to improve drainage on the village playing field. Since that time there has been 2 site visits from specialist sports surface consultants who have undertaken topographical surveys, soil sampling and trial pit profiles (holes in the ground).

The Parish Council has now received a Feasibility Study report which contains details of the findings and 4 costed Development Solutions. Taken together these solutions would cost in excess of £100,000 and unless someone can find the extra £60,000 this is not affordable!! Even if we had the money an investment of that magnitude would be very difficult to justify. Taken separately, 2 of the options, although not providing a total solution, are within budget.

That leaves us with some difficult decisions to make in order to ensure that we derive maximum benefit from the money we do have. Whichever solution(s) we choose work will not commence until May or June 2015 which leaves plenty of time for all aspects to be fully considered. Due to confidentiality issues and restrictions placed on us it is not possible at this time to circulate copies of the report but we will do all we can to keep you informed of progress.

Laurence Mellor
Parish Councillor
November 2014

Community Emergency Plan

Oxfordshire County Council and the Emergency Services have asked all Parish Councils to provide a **voluntary** self-help response during a Major Emergency. Community Emergency Plans are being developed all over the country and they would only be used if the Emergency Services needed local support and information, if they are delayed or if the village is cut off. Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council developed its original Contingency Plan into a Community Emergency Plan in 2011 and this has been updated this autumn. This Plan has been lodged with the Emergency Services, OCC and WODC. It will also be posted on the village website. The Parish Emergency Team is the Parish Council:

Name	Home Phone	Mobile
Philippa Carter (Chairman)	830344	7711696678
Sandy Timms (Vice Chairman)	831870	7770934963
Laurence Mellor	831182	7879223273
Mark Tribe	359769	78766441211
Peter Rance	831113	7986490287

Many residents have volunteered to help if necessary and we hold a confidential list.

We are prepared to provide support in a major emergency by receiving warnings and information and putting into action an early response. Depending on the situation, our actions would include:

- Informing the relevant Councils and/or Emergency Services and following their instructions
- Installing warning road signs and providing sandbags (*sand bunker in Tiddy Hall car park*)
- Gritting and snow clearance
- Keeping local residents informed
- Contacting and assisting vulnerable residents
- Sending out volunteer helpers, before, during and after the emergency
- Establishing a coordinating/refuge point at Tiddy Hall (*or alternatively the Pavilion*) if necessary.

Continued over page

The success of our response will depend upon the number of volunteers available. Please contact any member of the PC if you and your family members can help in any capacity.

If you feel that you would need priority help, please contact us to put your details on our 'Extra Care Register'.

A Major Emergency is one which threatens a number of people and properties and/or which could threaten lives. The Parish Council is not 'officially' required to provide assistance in an individual or localised emergency. We do however have contact information and would be happy to give advice on where to find help. We can also access a water pump if anyone has a serious leak.

REMEMBER

- **In a major emergency always dial 999 first and make sure that everyone is safe.**
- **Next phone a Parish Councillor so that we can start to put our Emergency Plan into action.**

Ascott-under-Wychwood Parish Council

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Bertie the Sweep

Open Fires / Wood burners / Flue Sweeping

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Nests Removal - Bird Guards / Cows Fitted

Chimney Pots Supplied and Fitted - Fully Insured

ICS Member 411 - Certificates Issued

Tel: 01993 899143 Mob: 07954 180371



Ascott-under-Wychwood

Parish Councillors' Individual Roles and Responsibilities

September 2014

Allotments

Mark Tribe

Charity

Sandy Timms

Community Emergency Plan

Philippa Carter (leads flooding).
Laurence Mellor (leads winter resilience, passing to Mark Tribe and Peter Rance in New Year 2015).
All councillors in support as Emergency Team.

Helpers of A-u-W

Philippa Carter

Library

Sandy Timms

Planning (inc. Parish Plan and WODC Local Plan)

Mark Tribe
Councillors must comment on planning applications.

Playing Field Drainage

Laurence Mellor

Project SafePlay

Philippa Carter

Recreation Ground

Laurence Mellor

Risk Assessment

(inc. RoSPA report)

All councillors on walkabout
Amendments made by councillors on rotating basis.

Roads

Philippa Carter

Sports Club

Laurence Mellor (Sports Club Chairman)

Transport

Peter Rance

Did you Know?

When Coldstone Farm at the west end of the village was sold in 1952, the house and immediate buildings were bought by Mr Harries and it was there that he established Coldstone Pottery. One of the first priorities was to build a kiln and below are photographs of this building being constructed. It was built by Eric Moss, a builder, born in Ascott, who had built and lived in what is now the house belonging to Windrush School.



Coldstone Pottery

Small slipware studio pottery dish, with wheatear design, from Coldstone Pottery. Coldstone pottery was started by Chris Harries and was in existence from 1953-69. Impressed Coldstone Pottery mark. Dieter Kunzemann was born near Leipzig, East Germany in 1928. He trained and worked with his father-in-law, country potter Chris Harries, at Coldstone Pottery from 1953-1967. In 1967 he started Evenlode Pottery in Gloucestershire. He is known for producing domestic and decorative slipware, mostly with wheatear decoration and using green, yellow and black glazes. [Died in 2011].

From John Harlow's blog <http://www.john-harlow.co.uk/history.htm>

1967-1968 The Coldstone Pottery, Ascott-under-Wychwood near Woodstock, is where I really learned to make pots in production sequences. The clay was 2 parts St Thomas's and one part local yellow clay which gave the fired pieces a mellow pink body colour rather than the stark terracotta of Stoke red clays. It was all slipware so there was a high attrition rate through collapse of greenware. Coldstone was characterised by crossed-wheatear decoration and what Chris Harries used to call "matchstick" as on this bowl. Both difficult to do well. The glazes were lead-bisilicate transparent and Chris kept his recipes in a safe!! Coldstone was an idyllic place and something to which I aspired. It was watching the thrower, Dieter Kunzemann, who preceded my time there which turned me on to wanting to be a potter.



Charles Moss the Ascott born Olympian

The name: Moss, in the village of Ascott – Under – Wychwood can be traced back to the early to mid-1600's and started with: John Moss Senior, who was: 7 times my Great Grand Father. John had a son also called John (Junior) whose birth is unknown but he did marry to Anne née Brookes of Ascott on: 29/12/1683. They went on to have fifteen children.

The fifth child of John Junior, was: William Moss baptised:

24/10/1690. William married and was Father to five children. His third child also called William was baptised on: 18/03/1736 or 7?

Twice married, William and his second Wife:

Sarah Lea had three children, the third being another William baptised on: 19/01/1772 at Ascott. William and his Wife Susannah née Scarsebrook (from Witney)

had Eleven Children. William was: 3 times my Great Grand Father. My family line was through the eldest child of William, who was Thomas Moss baptised on: 28/05/1798 at: Ascott, but my story starts from the Sixth Child of William and Susannah, who was: George Moss, baptised on: 07/08/1808 at Ascott.

George Moss and his second Wife:

Ann née Kilby (born Ascott) had Twelve children and their Eighth Child was: Leonard Moss born: 1845. (Ascott) Leonard and his Wife: Shiphrah née Edginton (born Ascott) lived for a while at: **2, Church Close**, in the village. Leonard and Shiphrah, had eleven children and on the: **16th March**



1882, their Ninth child was born in the room at the top right hand side, as you look at the Cottage from the gate. The child was a boy and his name was: **Charles Moss.**

Leonard worked at Grove's wood yard at Milton – Under – Wychwood and some years later, he and Shiphrah moved to a Cottage there. Prior to this, at some point they moved to **Corner house in Ascott** (We knew this as 'Cooks' house) Shiphrah ran the shop there and Leonard is shown on the 1892 issue of **"Kelly's Directory"** as Shop keeper in the village.

As for their Son Charles Moss, not much is known of his childhood in the village but he was an Ascott boy until the age of 15 or 16. He left the village to move to Birmingham and while there, took up an apprenticeship in engineering and had a passion for road race Cycling and joined the; Midland Cycling & Athletic Club. (Midland C & AC)

If you look at bicycles of the early 1900's, they were completely different to the racing bikes of today and while gears were invented, I'm not aware of bikes with more than 3 gears during that period? Some bicycles even had solid rubber tyres. And what were the roads like in that time? (Some might argue, better than today?) So road race cycling in those days, was a bit different from today and some would say a lot harder sport!

The Ascott boy had many triumphs with his Club and a writer of a character sketch in the "Robin Hood" magazine of the time said: **"Thank goodness this is not a biography, or I should be delving in the most appalling mass of figures that ever bewildered a poor mortal"**

Another writer of the time said: **"I do not think we have yet seen the high water mark of the Midland Marvel. He may have touched the limit of his 50 and 100 mile races, but he has only given a glimpse of his power at longer distances and there is no living rider who is more likely to cover 400 miles in 24 hours for the first time since un-paced cycling became an established sport, than Charles Moss"**

Charles achievements in 50 & 100 mile road race cycling included: fastest time in the : Midland 100. He won the Anfield 100 and the Speedwell 100 and the Bath Road 100, making three fastest times from four races in one year. He won the Bath Road race, three years running in: 1907, 1908 & 1909, this achievement allowed him to keep the vast size cup awarded for this event. On the 20th July 1907, he won the Midland open day 100 in the fastest time of that period in: 5 hours 4 minutes

and 38 seconds and in an article of that time, was deemed: **“The most consistent road race rider at 100 miles”**

Further fame was to come for Charles Moss, when he was chosen for the (GBR) English riders team at the **1912, Stockholm Olympics** in Sweden. (For reasons unknown to me, the Countries of UK were separated under the GBR heading)

On Sunday July 7th racing round: Lake Mälaren, while his individual place was 18th, the **English team came 2nd** and they won the **Silver medal** for that event.

Charles Moss continued to add to his successes over the years and in 1922 at the age of: 40 he cycled his last race. In retirement from Cycling, he took over as licensee of the: ‘Horse & Jockey’ at Inkford Brook and continued to have visitors from his cycling pals and also when he was later licensee of the: ‘Reservoir Hotel’

‘Val Tonks’ wrote during the London 2012 Olympics: **“ The unassuming man with a boyish figure, not very tall but powerfully built, was described as being full of grit and determination, belonging to a never-say-die order of speed**

men who seldom failed to finish a race. Crouched low over the handle bars after the manner of a sprinter he thrust at his pedals with all the concentrated might of his muscular limbs, yet his energy never seemed to exhaust him. Sadly his Olympic Silver Medal was stolen and never recovered. Charles Moss died 25th July 1963 at the age of 81, but he would have loved to have been there watching the Olympic Flame pass the ‘Reservoir Hotel’ on the 1st July 2012.

The information on Charles Moss supplied to me, came from Christopher Moss of Solihull, who was Grand Son of Charles and I know that Charles last visited 2, Church Close, his house of birth in 1957 and have photographs of him and family members stood outside the house.

I only found out about Charles Moss in the past 10 years and after speaking with Wendy Pearse, was pleased to be able to write a contribution for the Ascott Grapevine about the achievements of a Moss relative and Ascott boy with a distinguished career in Road Race Cycling, that is little known in his birth place of Ascott - Under – Wychwood.

Bernard Moss 2014

PERILS OF THE FESTIVE SEASON.

Chocolate can kill.

Every year around Christmas we have a number of casualties resulting from the ingestion of chocolate. Chocolate contains a substance called theobromine which has no negative effect on humans but can cause agitation, hyper-excitability, convulsions, heart problems and even death in dogs. Cats are apparently affected in the same way, but I have yet to meet a chocoholic cat. Dogs can tolerate very little theobromine. The darker the chocolate the more severe the symptoms. Occasionally the owner has simply fed the chocolate to the animal, but more commonly the chocolate has been stolen from under the Christmas tree or from the table. If the problem is detected in time, and the animal is brought in to us as an emergency, we induce vomiting and treat all the negative symptoms and the animal can be saved. Waiting too long to visit the vet makes treatment much more difficult. Doggy choc drops do not contain chocolate, so stick to these if you feel that your dog cannot live without chocolate.



Raisins, sultanas and grapes can kill.

As yet, the mechanism of the toxicity in these products is unknown. The poisoning is not dependent on how much the dog eats but can be caused by just one 'wrong' raisin or grape. Dogs develop kidney failure over a few days and this often leads to death despite treatment. So, no Christmas pudding for Rover!

Eating can kill.

Well, it also keeps one alive, but excessive eating can lead to a number of ills - very much the same as in humans. Twenty years ago diabetes was rarely found in our pets, but now every vet will have quite a number of these patients, both dogs and cats and even the occasional guinea pig. Joint and heart problems may also be added to the list of problems caused by obesity.



Karen Kappen

Utility Failure

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GUIDE TO EXTRA CARE PRIORITY

If you are elderly, disabled, have a child under the age of 5 or use specialist medical equipment, then you may benefit from joining the utility company priority care registers.

THAMES WATER (Water and sewerage services) Extra Care and Special Assistance Register

In the event of a disruption to water supply and if you would have difficulty getting water from a standpipe or tanker or would need extra help, then register with Thames Water for extra care services and special assistance.

If you have access to a computer you can do this at – www.thameswater.co.uk/help-and-advice/555.htm or phone 0845 641 0068 (0845 7200 899 for hard of hearing). Lines 8am-8pm weekdays, 8am – 1pm Sats, closed Suns and bank holidays.

Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSE) (Electricity supply) Priority Services Register.

If you register with the Priority Services Register your local network operator is aware that you rely on your electricity supply. They'll do their utmost to prevent your supply from going off and, if it does, they'll make sure that you get your power back on as a matter of urgency. They will add you to the Priority Services Register if you rely on one or more of the following:-

- Home dialysis machine
- Oxygen concentrator
- Artificial ventilator
- Stair lift
- Adjustable bed

Tel: 0800 622 838 (free) Text phone: 0800 622 839

Ask to be added to the Priority Services Register. You can also receive advice on special devices and adaptors available to make it easier for you to use controls, plugs and switches in your home.

Improvements to Council's Online Planning Services

West Oxfordshire District Council is improving the planning section of its website www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning to give better access to information.

The changes will make it simpler for people to find information about planning, building control and Local Land Charges quickly and easily online, including 'live' information about planning applications and associated documents.

Improvements include:

- Better access to planning documents
- Online submission and viewing of planning consultation responses
- Tracking of specific applications
- The opportunity to register for email alerts and get the latest information about planning applications within a chosen area.

Cllr Warwick Robinson, Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning, said: "There is a lot of complex work involved in upgrading the system to allow these changes to be made, but the end result will lead to greatly improved services for anyone wanting to access planning or building control information. This will make the planning process more transparent for everyone involved, providing the opportunity for people to track planning applications and get updates as they happen."

As well as improving online services for members of the public, planning professionals and partner agencies, the Council hopes the changes will enable town and parish councils to view more information online, giving them more timely information.

The Council's current online planning services may be affected while improvements are made behind the scenes for a short period from the end September.

Anyone with queries can contact planning services via planning@westoxon.gov.uk or 01993 861420 during this time.

Marie's 90th Birthday Flight Experience

On the 10th of July my Mum (Marie Moss) celebrated her 90th Birthday. She had a lovely day at the Mill with her Day Centre friends, many thanks to Katherine, followed by a family celebration at the Swan on the Saturday.

After some cloudy cold days, the sun shone on the morning of the 27th. We telephoned the airfield early that morning and were given the all clear for the flight to take place at 2 pm.

On arrival at Enstone we were in-



Among the beautiful gifts she received was a Motorized Glider Flight from my brother Dennis. As Dennis lives in Ireland he would not be here for the flight so asked Ken and myself to take Mum to Enstone Airfield to record her flight.

The flight was arranged for the 27th August weather permitting.

roduced to two pilots, one would stay with us and the other, Derek, would pilot Mum's glider. Derek chatted with Mum about the flight and where they would go. Whilst Derek was checking the flight information we helped Mum into the glider, this was a little difficult but she was soon sitting comfortably and eager for the flight to begin. She wore a helmet and

headphones so that she could talk to Derek throughout the flight. After a short taxi they were down the runway and off into the air. Mum flew over Ascott and circled round three times, picking out her bungalow and then followed the railway track heading off to Stratford upon Avon. Unfortunately the visibility was not great heading that way, so they changed direction and headed for Banbury. She passed over many villages and really enjoyed seeing them from such a great height. Eventually we saw the glider heading back to us but Mum

did not do your normal landing arrive, oh no she arrived doing a 140mph fly past above the runway! waving to us as she circled round. Eventually we got her down onto solid ground again. Derek said she was the oldest person he had taken up before and it was a privilege, she was fearless. Mum thoroughly enjoyed the experience which she said was totally different from a passenger plane. She loved to see her home from the air.

Marilyn Baker



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2014 Ascott Charity Run

Our annual multi-terrain Charity Run successfully raised over £1,000, which will be used to assist in the purchase of new chairs for the Tiddy Hall.

Conditions on the day were dry, cool and breezy, ideal for the runners and despite light rain in the days leading up to the event conditions underfoot were firm with no major muddy sections.

63 runners competed in the 10k race and 41 in the 5k. These numbers were slightly down on previous years.

The men's 10k results were:
First, Paul Fernandez 35m 40s
beating the previous course record, also set by Paul, by 11 seconds.

Second, Gary Crone 38m 27s and
Third, Dan Blake 38m 31s.

The Ladies 10k results were:
First, Michelle Bartlett 46m 32s.
Second, Emma Chapple 48m 31s
and Third, Jessica Ward 52m 42s.
No course record was broken by the ladies.

The 5k race results were:
First, George Meyer 21m 19s,
Second, Jessica O'Connor 21m 35s,
Third, Sarah Barber 22m 17s.

George and Jessica were both under 15.

The organising committee wishes to thank all the volunteers, who acted as course marshals, time keepers, collected entry fees, car parkers and provided and served refreshments. Without their help and support the race couldn't go ahead.

An organiser of a local running club complimented us on our organisation and excellent marshalling.

We also appreciate the financial and practical support received from our sponsors;

The Swan Inn,
The Rooflight Company,
Pennington Manches,
Cotswold Wildlife Park,
The Ascott Village Shop,
Meadowbank House and the
Wychwood Folk Club. The sponsors provided us with tee shirts, medals and prizes and the cash they contributed covered our running costs.

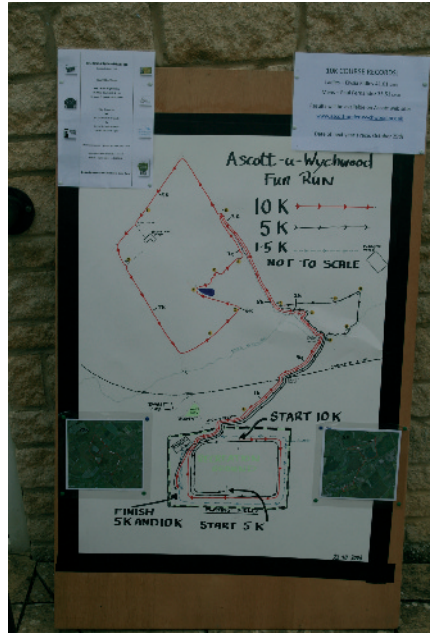
Full details of the participants and their running times are available on the village web site

Stuart Fox

Ascott Grapevine



1st 10k Male Paul Fernandez



2nd 10k Male Gary Crone



3rd 10k Male Dan Blake



1st 10k Ladies Michelle Bartlett



3rd 10k Ladies Jessica Ward



2nd 10k Ladies Emma Chapple

Ascott Grapevine



1st 5k George Meyer



3rd 5k Sarah Barber



2nd 5k Jessica O'Connor



4th 5k Dougla Boston

Ascott Grapevine



TIDDY HALL

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Pauline Carter

BA A Mus LCM CTABRSM MISM



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A lively old boy!

It was in the mid nineteen forties that our well liked and hardworking vicar Mr Bartlett, who had thundered out his sermons through all the years of World War Two, decided to take his wife and family away from Ascott and move to pastures new. Mr Bartlett had lived in the vicarage up London Lane on the right hand side, and his replacement the Rev. Carey Cooper, a single man of 50 or so, also lived there with his nice young housekeeper. Tall and good looking with black shiny hair, she looked very nice to me anyway and I was only nine years old. Mr Cooper held a Sunday School class at church every week and it was attended regularly by fifteen or more of us children. Our collection of pennies and three penny bits was accumulated for a year and then presented at a special Whitsun Farthings service at Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford. The service must have been held in May or early June and was attended by the vicar and two children from each parish.

The time came when it was the turn of Fred Russell and I to attend this service and the vicar took us in his car which he said

was a Morris 8. At home we had a 1936 Morris 8 but his looked a poor little old thing in comparison, two narrow seats in the front and a space in the back. Fred was happy/willing to squeeze into the space and I was able to sit in the front. Thanks Fred! Amazingly now, there were only about half a dozen cars in the village at that time.

I remember little now of the service. I know we walked across an area of nicely mown grass and I was fascinated by the height of the walls in the Cathedral which seemed to be full of young people. The sermon was preached by a boy and the money was handed over to the bishop. Afterwards the vicar treated us to buttered buns and I think we walked by the river. I remember coming home, the car was sloping towards my side and just outside the entrance to Coldstone Farm where I lived, as soon as I pressed the door fastening, I fell out. Good thing our milking cows had left a clean patch there at the time!

The vicar used to come to school for an hour or so every Friday morning and talk to the older children whilst Mrs Clements, the teacher, used to join Mrs Green

who taught the infants in the small room.

I remember on one occasion Mrs Clements was vehemently criticising the heads of the choir stalls in the church. She thought they were hideous, they blocked the view of the altar from where she sat and she wanted them removed. Anyway they are still there so the vicar must have overruled her. Good for him!

There was one time when the vicar was explaining to us the various ways in which the devil was depicted and he was saying that in stained glass windows etc. the devil was often shown with a tail, but how did we know that there are not some people with tails? He went on to say, "Mr Clements. He's quite bulgy round the middle, isn't he? Perhaps he has a tail round there." And to make sure we understood he drew a picture with the chalk on the blackboard of what Mr Clements might look like. When his back was turned a quick witted girl hid the duster which cleaned the blackboard.

The poor old boy was going frantic looking for it but it re-appeared in time to clean the board before disaster struck.

Mrs Clements let it be well known that she could not stand the smell of incense smoke, so the vicar in

his wisdom, thought it would be good for us to learn all about incense. He came one morning with a case and when Mrs Clements was out of the room, he showed us some incense and the various pieces of the burner, and to make sure we understood how the draught went in one side and the smoke came out the other side, he gave us a demonstration, swinging it on the chain, up and down the room and giving it a good doing. All was safely back in the case before Mrs Clements re-appeared. I don't remember hearing her comments but she certainly had a disapproving look on her face.

I think perhaps the vicar's housekeeper did her job very well, looking after him and providing fully for his every need. My mother was the regular organist for five years at this time and I remember her saying that the vicar was so much in love that he couldn't keep his mind on the job. He made mistakes such as announcing the hymns in the wrong order.

There could have been 25 years or so between him and his housekeeper but soon after this they were married and it seemed no time at all before their marriage was blessed with the birth of a son.

Truly, a lively old boy!

Jim Pearse



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***** 20% off first order in store for Ascott Grapevine readers. Bring in your magazine with this offer. Valid until end November 2014 *****

Wychwood Library

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all and very many thanks for your continuing support to Wychwood Library during 2014.

This year has seen the start of a new way of working in Oxfordshire Libraries with the introduction of volunteers being trained to help in many of the smaller facilities around the county. Here at Wychwood Library the local Parish Councils of Milton, Shipton and Ascott have topped up the reduced staffing budget to enable a library manager to be at work during the hours that the library is open. Any further staff hours are now covered by our wonderful, keen volunteers. Volunteer training will be complete by the end of the year when we will sadly say goodbye to Liz Newport who has worked at Wychwood Library for ten years. We will certainly miss Liz and her special enthusiasm for historic fiction, her knowledge of everything Shakespeare and children's literature as well as her welcoming and helpful presence. Best wishes to you Liz.

Wychwood Library will close for the Christmas break on Wednes-

day 24th at 1pm. We will reopen on Friday 2nd January at 2pm.

One of the services that we offer at the library are computers for the public to use. We have four terminals, two for adult usage and two aimed at our younger customers with filtered access and the good news is that the BT line into the library has recently been upgraded to now provide an even speedier supply. Customers are able to book a computer for an hour each day and print or scan documents as needed.

We still have spaces available for computer lessons over the winter months. Make it your New Year resolution to finally get to grips with modern technology and join the computer using public. You won't regret it and we are here to help you.

This is a forward notice for February half term when we will have a special IKNIT celebration morning for our young customers. Learn to knit or crochet or just have fun with wool and material but you will need to book a place as space is limited so look for the notices in the new year.

Regular events to look out for at Wychwood Library include:
Evening Reading Group on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

Afternoon Reading Group on the second Thursday of the month at 1.30pm.

Poetry Group on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm.

The Wychwood Circle, a discussion forum open to all to explore what we believe and what we believe in, on the first Sunday of the month from 7 – 9.

IKNIT, fortnightly on Thursday mornings from 10 – 12am

The weekly Wednesday Coffee Mornings from 10 – 12am.

You are all welcome at Wychwood Library.

Ruth Gillingham

Opening Times

Monday	2.00 to 7.00 pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9.30 am to 1.00 pm
	2.00 to 5.00 pm

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Closed

2.00 to 7.00 pm

9.30 am to 1.00 pm

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Chipping Norton Choral Society

Chipping Norton and District Choral Society (*Chippy Choir* to its friends) exists to provide amateur singers the chance to sing varied choral works together in a friendly environment. Members of the Society will testify that striving to improve musical ability does not have to temper the enjoyment of the music being sung. Many will additionally testify that a post-rehearsal pint at the local hostelry nicely soothes the vocal chords, especially after one of those fiendish pieces with high notes in.

The choir comprises singers with a good voice but unsure of their ability to read music but can learn the notes, up to very good singers who can read music. There is no audition to join and anyone can try themselves with the choir and if they are happy to sing, they are made welcome. The society is a charity and relies on members' subscriptions and ticket sales for the yearly two big concerts and a smaller Summer concert. The two big concerts are just before Christmas and in May. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights at Chipping Norton School during school terms only. Further details can be found on the society's website www.cncs.org.uk. The choir is very friendly and welcoming (particularly to tenors) and singing with a choir is in many ways easier than singing alone.

The concert for this Christmas is performed at St. Mary's church

Chipping Norton on December 20th singing Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' and Bob Chilcott's 'On Christmas Night', yes it is the same Bob Chilcott who lives amongst us here in Ascott. Details of the performance will be posted in the village soon for you to put it into your diaries so that you can enjoy a wonderful evening of singing.

ASCOTT VILLAGE SHOP



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

A huge thank you to all our regular and loyal customers – where would we be without you! As a reminder; we are run on commercial lines, we are sustainable and yet we survive because we have a small army of

village volunteers who turn up rain or shine to serve the community. We salute you!

During the summer, the new shop committee started work with a focus on three priorities: improved financial performance, a shopping experience based on consistent quality of products and service and more effective communication between the village, customers and volunteers.

Who are we and what do we do? We are; Rosemary Dawbarn, Secretary and training, Stuart Fox (accounts and contracts), Matt Timms (marketing & communication), Mark Tribe (people & premises) and John Cull (chairman)

The final member of the committee is Bridgette Crundwell, our shop manager. This is a major step forward for the shop, which will ensure we keep the shelves well stocked, prices competitive and the shop team motivated. No pressure, Bridgette!

What do we do well? We serve all the regular stock items you would expect, some at prices that would delight you. We love it when we ‘undershoot’ the supermarkets and still make a profit. Recently, we had our “three Hooky beers for a fiver offer” which was well supported and during October to end November we are offering a 10% discount on all fruit & veg over a fiver. At the time of writing, onions are 39p a kilo, carrots, 79p a kilo and vine tomatoes at £1.70 a kilo – can you beat that?? Well, Aldi might, but you have to get in your car to get there.

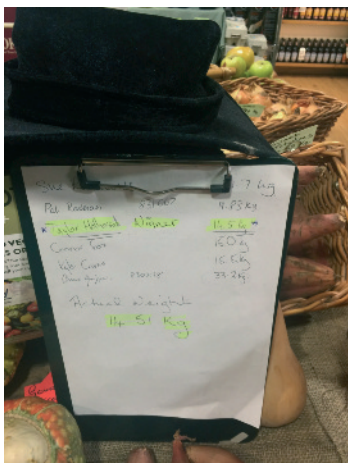
Can we do better – of course we can. We have to find ways to get more people through the door, we have to get the average spend up from £4 to £5, hence our ‘spend a fiver campaign’ which we will run through these 12 months. We need to understand the retail market

more, know the impact of competition and improve two-way communication with customers and volunteers. We cannot improve if we don't know what the problems are!

We remain positive as we look towards Christmas and in this edition of the Grapevine you will find an order form for fresh meats and other goodies for the festive table. Yes the turkeys are back!! And to end 2014 on a high, we will enter every shopper who spends a fiver into our FREE grand Xmas draw. So, in conclusion, do come and shop with us, be delighted with what we offer and please remember that we need you as much as you need us!

From us all at the village shop, we wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a healthy new year

John Cull
Chairman of the Village Shop



Guess the Weight

The Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin competition was won by Taylor Hathersall. Taylor guessed 14.5kg, the actual weight was 14.51kg.

The pumpkin was presented to Taylor by Mark Tribe, a shop volunteer.

Congratulations Taylor!



AFRICAN SAFARI

Crossing the Namib Desert

(with the Namibian Horse Safari Company)

It is the oldest desert in the world; the black-red basalt that covers much of the surface today spilled out of the earth 130 million years ago and was walked on by the dinosaurs. Namibia is the driest country south of the Sahara and the desert gets less than 15mm of rain each year but when it rains it pours, in places washing calcium out of the limestone rock and mixing it with desert sand before drying in very thin layers of rock, known locally as calcrete. Because it is laid down in layers, it sounds hollow under a horse's hooves and breaks up into very hard, razor sharp, pieces. The Namib is a merciless environment where daytime temperatures can reach a staggering 70°C - during my short visit the temperatures were more moderate at between 13°C (55°F) at night and 26°C (80°F) in the day.

Part of the desert is now the largest game reserve in Africa. The Namib-Naukluft Park covers 23,000 km²; it stretches from the Atlantic coastal dunes, across the

vast dry pan scored by dry river gorges and undulating apricot-coloured sand dunes, that stretch for hundreds of miles south from the Kuiseb river, to the central region's Naukluft mountains. Large mammals appear in small herds and the general animal population is low but diverse including: ostrich, giraffe, zebra, oryx, aardwolf, hyena and jackals as well as the SA endemics like gemsbok and springbok. The desert is home to more than 50 species of snake, most of which are venomous, and a huge number of lizards and spiders, though the arid conditions means there are very few flying insects. There are few birds, though the small weaver bird is in numbers, building huge funnel-shaped nests that can be hundreds of years old, and there are vultures, eagles and the enormous bustard. Plant life is scarce but the *Welwitschia Mirabilis* is a slow growing, ground-hugging conifer, which has two tattered leaves and lives for up to 2,000 years – the Afrikaners name

“tweeblaarkanniedood” means “two leaf can’t die”.

I was dropped into this wonderful, challenging environment in August to join a party of experienced riders; we planned to cross the 400km of desert from Solitaire, SW of the capital Windhoek, to Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast. There were 17 of us, including three licensed Southern African guides, but only one knew the desert. We took 21 horses, allowing four to be rested at any one time – they were simply let loose and had to be rounded up frequently, which was good fun.

We spent the first day driving to our start point and getting a first view of the Naukluft mountains and the great desert “sand-sea” to the west. In the evening we met up with the horses and our logistics support of two 4x4 vehicles with kitchen and general trailers and an enormous truck and trailer carrying all the feed and water for the horses and their tack. Importantly, we also met the two grooms Charle and Jean who would help us care for our horses and our brilliant campsite cook, Tilanni. We were issued with a sleeping roll and camp bed and had the use of bucket showers and a couple of long-drop loos. The night sky as I lay

on my bed was one of the most stunning sights I have ever seen, every one of the millions of stars was in perfect focus and brilliant.

The next morning we were up and breakfasted by 0800 hours and then we spent a whole hour learning how to fit the endurance saddles to our mounts – a process involving two twice-folded wool blankets, a sheepskin and two canvas-covered pads to be fitted precisely under the saddle. It took a time consuming 10 minutes every time we tacked-up but was worth it, with no saddle sores after eight days of hard riding. The first day was an easy ride to get to know the horses. Mine was the smallest Hannoverian Cross I have ever known – standing at just under 15hh I thought I would be too big for him but he proved me wrong, though by the end of the ride he had nothing left in the energy tank and had lost 50kg in weight (the horses get six weeks off afterwards). The going was good through a wide valley, flanked on the west by the distant Namib sand-sea, and we saw herds of mountain zebra, ostriches and oryx, but none let us get closer than two hundred metres. In the afternoon we entered the foothills of the Naukluft mountains and crossed into the national park. Arriving in camp just after dusk meant a fun hour of blundering

around to untack, water and feed and finally groom the horses before setting up our own beds and finally getting a cold beer before a shower. We had a terrific stew and apple pie for supper, seated around the campfire. We had ridden about 30km.

We rode out of the foothills and into amazing coloured ramp-like dunes the next morning. We rode across them looking towards far distant hills and empty unspoiled wilderness. In the afternoon we increased the pace as we entered a valley that became a sandy dry river bed before climbing a hill to our camp where the late afternoon view to the north and the great Gaub Canyon was spectacular. That night I slept better than I have done for years.

My horse, whose name “Red” described him perfectly, and I were now working together after a tricky first two days when, as a “lead horse” he was always pulling to be in front of the rest and with his short legs, his short stride was all bounce and quick-step. Now he was extending his stride and was happy to go where I asked – more comfortable all round for both of us. The terrain, on the other hand, was much worse with lots of calcrete. It was hard going and slow as the horses picked their way

through the masses of dolorite, quartz and basalt rocks littering the ground. We dismounted at the Gaub and led our horses down into the 250 ft canyon where there were surface pools of water to refresh them. After lunch we rode through the twisting sandy canyon (very spaghetti western) and finally out onto a wide plain where we rode fast to our next hilltop camp close to caves inhabited by hyenas that supposedly used a trail right past our camp; despite staying awake until midnight I didn’t see any, though a lone zebra appeared at one point, saw me at a range of less



Gravel Plain

than 30m and let out a loud strangled cry before running off.

The following day we rode to the deepest canyon. The Kuiseb River flows just often enough to stop the sand dunes crossing to the northern side of the canyon and marks

the north edge of the Namib Sand Sea. The dismounted descent was technically challenging and long but not as hard as the 400ft climb out on the other side after a brief sandwich lunch. This canyon also had surface pools for the horses and, with water here all year round it was home to two celebrated German geologists who hid there for three years to sit out WW2. On reaching the plain above, we rode on to our next camp but not before a 4x4 appeared with some much needed water – we had gone 6 hours in desert sun with only two litres each.

In spite of cooling myself during lunch by soaking my shirt in the pools and letting it dry on me, I suffered mild heat stroke on the climb out of the canyon – that wa-

ter at the top was better than the best wine.

Over the next four days we covered 250km of sandy canyons, calcrete pans, gravel and sand plains and coastal dunes. The pace was either fast to catch up on time or slow to navigate the calcrete and loose rocks that could bruise the horses and make them lame – in fact we had no lameness at all, which was pretty amazing.

We were sustained by the excellent food we had three times a day, the landscape and the animals, the courage and strength of our horses and that first beer in the evening when the horses were settled.

On the last day we rode through the Swakop river canyon towards the Atlantic coast 30km to the west. On the way our spare horses

went walkabout and, while our lead guide went to round them up, we rested in the shade of the canyon side and watched a family of baboons scramble up the rock face. They got themselves organised and then, on what sounded like a shouted command, they all hurled rocks down on us. They were probably about 200 ft



The Kuiseb Canyon

above us and 400ft away laterally so nothing came close but they were very well organised and kept up the fire until our guide returned a few minutes later and we mounted up again – on leaving, the baboons all jumped up and down,



yelling loudly – success in moving us on.

The Atlantic Dunes

It was really very funny.

We reached the coastal dunes by about 1130 hours but this was still 5km short of the sea. It is a rather eerie experience, to ride across these dunes that seem endless and to hear the sound of the sea, gradually increasing to that of crashing waves.

One hour later we were riding north on the beach towards Tilanni, Charle and Jean who had a large cold box filled with bottles of champagne to toast the end of what was a really tremendous adventure.

We sorted out the horses and let them into a large corral to rest before their trip home the following

morning. The hotel was the next stop; I don't think I have ever stayed under a shower for longer.

Nick Leadbetter

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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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Tiddy Hall News

The Tiddy Hall Trustees would like to welcome back all their regular users to the start of another school year – **The Ascott Pre School, Windrush Valley School, Roseneath School of Music, John Naish's Post Office, Wychwood Folk Club** and **Ascott Parish Council**. Finally, after some of years of planning, filling out forms and fund raising, on September 26th our new kitchen was officially opened by Ros Shepherd and Mary Barnes. The Trustees would like to thank **West Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, The Big Lottery, The Doris Field Charitable Trust, Ascott Parish Council** and **The Ascott Charity** for their generous grants to help us bring together the funds to achieve our goal. Also, a big thank you to Howdens who designed the layout of the kitchen and supplied us with the units and to villager Joe Gomm who project managed the job and supplied the labour. A great job done! We have also managed to purchase new crockery and cutlery and are in the process of buying new pots and pans. So, please consider **Tiddy Hall** for your next function – it now has an excellent working

kitchen with industrial dishwasher! Or, should you need crockery and cutlery for a party at home, we have a supply which we are happy to hire out.

The Tiddy Hall Trustees would also like to thank the **Ascott Charity** once again for their generous donation, funds raised at this year's Charity 5k & 10k multi terrain run, to help us purchase new chairs. A grant was also given from **The Big Society Fund**. So, you can sit comfortably during your evenings at our village hall!

At the time of writing, we are working on our own website. You will be able to access all information about what is happening at the hall every week throughout the year, hiring availability and hiring charges, forthcoming special events, contact details, etc. We hope to have this up and running in the very near future.

The Wychwood Folk Club has already seen two successful evenings since the summer break. On October 4th, the **Sam Kelly Trio** came to Ascott. These vibrant young musicians entertained the audience at **Tiddy Hall** with their captivating style of music and we wish them well with their careers, which look very promising, as they

tour the country. Another great evening on November 1st - **Sunjay Brayne**, a young, talented blues/folk singer-song writer, award nominee came to Ascott. If you haven't come to one of these gigs, please give it a try – you'll be pleasantly surprised at the quality of the talent that comes to our village! The next **Wychwood Folk Club** gig at **Tiddy Hall** will be next year on **Saturday 7th February** – **The Will Pound Band** and again on **Saturday 7th March** – **Winter-Wilson**.

Our annual **Anniversary Dinner Dance** will be slightly later than

usual next year, on **Saturday February 28th**. Music will be provided by **Ragged Edge**, who together with the **Tiddy Hall Trustees** will be donating all proceeds to **Pancreatic Cancer Research** in honour of Ken Smith, a member of our committee, who sadly passed away in August this year from this disease. Please look out for notices around the village in the New Year.

And don't miss – the Annual Village Panto - Sunday December 14th – doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm start!!!

See in the next page for photos of opening of the new kitchen.

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:

Sunday 14th December

Village Pantomime

Doors open at 6.30 for 7pm start

Saturday 7th February

Folk Night

The Will Pound Band

Saturday 28th February

Annual Dinner Dance

Supper with music by Ragged Edge

Saturday 7th March

Folk Night

Winter-Wilson

Ascott Grapevine



A COUNTRY CALENDAR

Through the summer this year there has been vigorous leafy growth on all trees, hedges and roadside verges. There seems to be a policy to allow the vegetation to flourish which obviously saves public money but as every farmer knows if they leave an area of grass to look after itself, it will quickly succumb to the law of the jungle, domination by the strongest plants and elimination of the weakest. We are beginning to lose the tender, leafy grasses, clovers and flowering plants like daisies, bird's foot trefoil and cowslips whilst increasing areas are taken over by coarse grasses, cow parsley, rosebay willow herb, thistles and hogweed and which if left, will be invaded by briars and bushes. This can be seen in what was a grass field between Shipton Railway Station and the river, and is now nature at its most natural. It might be better for all roadside verges to be cut back to within half a metre of the hedgerows at the end of July each year. This would enable the strong plants to be seen at their best and also give the weaker plants a chance, to become re-established in time to

flower in the following spring before the strong plants bloom once again.

The abundance of springtime blossoms combined with the nice summer have produced a good quantity of most fruits especially apples and hawthorn berries. Some lengths of roadside hedges have been almost enveloped by the traveller's joy/old man's beard vine and this if left will no doubt be covered all over with fluffy white heads, later on.

At the time of writing, early October, we have a colourful countryside especially when the sunshine catches the variations of greens, golds and russets. A few leaves are falling but it looks as if there will be a lot to sweep up at some time. After the very easy start to harvest the later crops were delayed by a damp spell in August and it was quite a while before the last black fields of beans were cleared. Many farmers live through a rush and tear phase in September trying to defeat a modern menace. In times past most arable crops were grown in rotation and included crops like spring barley, temporary leys of grass and clover or a crop of swedes for sheep feed in the winter. In today's farming scene it

is more profitable and convenient to grow autumn sown cereals such as winter wheat, winter barley and oil seed rape, year after year. This brings ideal conditions for invasion by black grass (not really black but green like other grasses). This can produce seed a thousand fold and if left unchecked, it can quickly produce a green layer all over the ground thick enough to choke a crop of wheat and reduce the yield by up to fifty percent.

Our lords and masters in Europe have banned the chemicals which give the best control so in the short time between harvest and the emergence of the next crop the fields are often cultivated to produce a seed bed to encourage these grass seeds to grow so that they can be killed off by chemicals or cultivation. There are usu-

ally many seeds which survive to grow another day and the nice settled weather which we have enjoyed in September has unfortunately left the ground too dry for seeds to germinate.

This year farmers also have to face a new bundle of bureaucracy from Brussels which tells them what type of crops to grow and to introduce 'greening measures' which means giving up a percentage of their arable land to plants and herbs which will help to promote wildlife. A good scheme in principle but one which I feel needs to be tailored to the individual farm according to size, soil type and amount of land adjacent to a water course. Ah well, perhaps last year was a good time for me to retire after all.

Jim Pearse

Deaths

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

On the 9th August 2014 Martin Allsop.

On the 14th August 2014, Kenneth Martin Smith aged 67 years.

On the 6th September 2014, Sydney Ryan aged 83 years.

On the 29th September 2014 Freda Wearing.

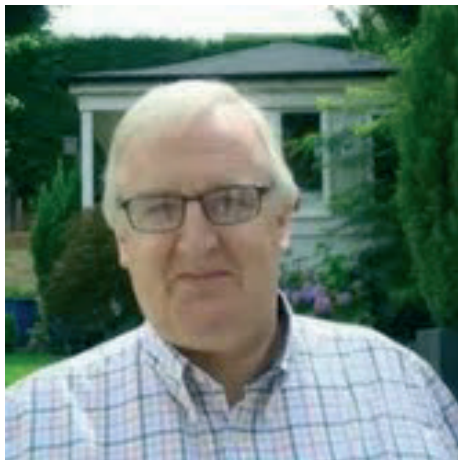
On the 29th October Andrew David William Timms aged 53 years.

Wychwood Rotary Club

Tickets Please!

Chiltern Rail Stakeholder Liaison Manager John Horsman, addressed our October meeting on various aspects of changes in progress for rail travel in our region. Massive investment in tracks, stations, and rolling stock should make rail services better and more accessible within the next 5 years. The final sections of double tracks should soon be completed on the Cotswolds Line, together with increased parking and lifts at Kingham. Passengers wishing to join rail services at Oxford will soon be able to use the new Oxford Parkway station at Water Eaton and take advantage of the upgraded fast service to London Marylebone and the Varsity Line to Milton Keynes and Bedford through Bicester. Electrification, noise, vibration, the preservation of bats in tunnels and newts in ponds were all aspects of these developments that have been considered by the franchise holders and Network Rail in their drive to improve rail communications that will be carried on regardless of the government in power at the time.

What do Mayors do?



The club is delighted to host Mike Tysoe, Mayor of Chipping Norton, on Monday evening November 10th at The Shaven Crown, Ship-ton Under Wychwood who will explain that the Mayor's role is more than wearing a chain and opening events. What responsibilities does a Mayor have? What are his objectives? How is success measured? What are Mike's personal goals? Public are welcome but space is limited. Call Paul Jackson 01993 83 1967. You can stay for dinner if you wish.

More Ladies... Membership Drive is working!

We are a new Rotary Club that really welcomes women so a recent recruitment drive was recently launched. It is already producing results with new members (both young mums) Abbie Cooke from Shipton Under Wychwood and Jane Coombs from Churchill recently joined.- more are on their way - and more are welcome. Call Mike Clark 01451 830 684

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Gardening in Ascott

The time has arrived to review the 'growing year'. Now there is less to admire in the garden, time is well spent reviewing one's garden notebook for those of us who found time during this year to record the unfolding of the spring into summer and the slower changes of the autumn. Referring to books and catalogues to inspire improvements to this year's display is a fine way to pass a cold afternoon, snuggled up in a blanket by the fire. No matter how busy I have been during the summer, and despite all my promises to myself to do less and to simplify the garden, the new seed and plant publications which pour through the letterbox inevitably lure me into making more ambitious plans for next year.

One of last year's more ambitious plans, which due to a creaky back was nearly lost, was to create a small area of garden devoted to the production of cut flowers for the house. With the help of a stronger, if not too willing back, it was created and has been one of this year's major successes. In terms of length of flowering, the number of blooms

and vase life, and its lovely deep pinkish-red colour, the Scabious, which I think is called Black Knight, has been the star performer. From only three plants purchased from the plant stall at the church teas in May, I have picked a bunch every week from June to October. They have been a permanent feature on the kitchen table all summer, arranged in a cream and pink pottery jug.

Among the other stars were the white Cosmos, Purity, and the bright pink Dazzler; Antirrhinums - white Royal Bride and a lovely deep red one called Red Beauty; Calendula - Indian Prince; White Larkspur, and the cow-parsley look-a-like, Ammi majus. They all gave rich pickings and flowered for long periods. Sweet peas provided a constant supply of perfumed little posies and looked very pretty simply arranged with a few frothy sprigs of lime green Alchemilla mollis. I never did get around to sowing the small sunflowers, but overall it was a success and for about £20 worth of seed and a bit of sowing compost, I cut two to three big bunches of flowers every week between late June until the end of October. This is one project that will be repeated

in 2015, and I have the remaining seeds from this year's packets, in addition to seed collected from this year's flowers, so it will be even better value next summer.

Penstemons.

Although there have always been penstemons in the garden, I have not given them my full appreciation until this year. They have shone in the border giving a stunning display for very little effort. They require no staking, being generally strong upright characters, and come in a wide array of colours. They just need cutting back in spring, with occasional dead-heading during their long flowing period which can be from June to late October, or even later if we have a mild autumn! They are good companions to the lower, more rounded habit of many perennials such as hardy geraniums and early flowering Geums. They also work well with some of the dark leaved Heuchera like Plum Pudding. Penstemons also make good partners for shrub roses, providing them with a cover around their 'skirts' and providing colour around the roses' quieter period in August when the penstemons are at their very best. With this new found appreciation for Penstemons I have purchased

some different varieties to add to my existing Garnet, a strong grower with flowers worthy of their name, and Hidcote Pink, a lovely pretty shade of pink. My new varieties include Purple Bedder with its large two-tone purple flowers, and Raven, a deep reddish/black which looks great alongside the dark coloured foliage and orange flowers of Dahlia David Howard. I am also very fond of the large flowered white variety aptly called Snowstorm.

The Star in the Garden this Summer

I treated myself this summer to some 'instant' gardening. When I spotted Salvia 'Amistad' at a nursery I just had to have it - well actually I purchased three plants. After all, a big group always makes an impact doesn't it? It is a tall-growing perennial, but has stiff stems which seem to withstand the wind without the need for staking. Its deep purple flowers are showy and last well. Mine are still flowering well towards the end of October. It combines well with the rust/orange flowers of Helenium Moerheim Beauty.

Lead by the nose!

This year I have tried to look at the garden more. I don't mean just

looking at the overall display, or seeing what work needs doing, but really looking. Lifting a bloom to closely observe its colour, markings and form. Watching as a bud develops and unfurls. Looking at the fronds of ferns as they grow and extend like a clenched hand opening. This close observation has lead me to think more about our other senses and use my nose more! Have I ever really smelt and registered all the interesting smells there are in the garden. We all instinctively cup a rose in our hand to see if it has a perfume, but do we notice the smell of yew hedges or the autumnal aroma of leaf mould? The apples safely stored in their dark trays awaiting their turn in our winter fruit bowls bring back the earlier memory of their pink blossom and remind us, in the dark days, that spring will come again. Apples lead me to think about Quinces which of course they partner so well in a pie, and bring out the more intense perfume of apple. A strange alchemy. Even freshly spread manure or compost has a good associated smell, making me think about the new shoots it will help to grow in the spring. The cedar greenhouse has an unmistakable resinous odour which combines with the tobacco-like scent of over wintering pelargo-

niums. I love the peppermint aroma of the scented leaf pelargonium Islington Peppermint, which I rub between my fingers on every winter visit to the greenhouse.

Christmas Preparations

With Christmas fast approaching I shall be keeping any long twiggy prunings to spray-paint silver or white to make a magical mini winter grove of trees, hung with white or silver baubles and perhaps a string of battery operated little lights weaved around the twigs. If you have the space, the scale of this display could be quite large, and would look spectacular lining a path to the front door, but even a



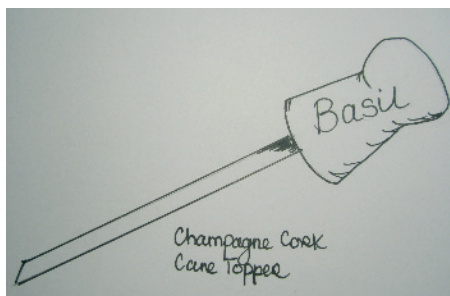
tall vase filled with twigs could look impressive. An attractive flat log with holes drilled into it and the painted twigs/branches inserted

into them could also make an interesting mantle shelf display for the winter.

I am always on the look-out for hips, berries, seed heads and the like to use in festive table arrangements or to make a door wreath. A length of florists wire about 8-12 inches can be twisted around the stems of hips, berries, or chillies, and these can then be inserted easily into Oasis, along with some evergreens and flowers for the table decorations. They are also useful to push into a moss-covered door wreath to add a dash of colour.

Last year I received an excellent present. It was a small parcel of gardeners' hand scrub, hand lotion, and a barrier cream to use before starting to garden. I placed my goodies in an old terracotta flowerpot and have kept them by the sink all year. They looked very much like a photo from Country Living magazine, and having them ready to hand, both mine have greatly improved! With this in mind, it would make an excellent gift idea for a gardener,

perhaps with the addition of some gardening gloves or a good strong nail brush, all wrapped in cellophane or hessian, and tied with raffia or garden twine.



If you by chance open a bottle or two of celebratory wine over the Christmas period, remember to save the corks (champagne corks are particularly good!) Make a hole in the end of them using an old screwdriver or a bradawl large enough to fit a garden cane. The corks make excellent if somewhat quirky cane toppers, and using a permanent marker pen you can write on them and they act as plant labels for herbs or row-markers in the kitchen garden.

Madeline Galistan

Bank holiday dates for waste calendars - 2014 /15

Christmas & New Year

Normal date:

Thursday 25 December
Friday 26 December
Monday 29 December
Tuesday 30 December
Wednesday 31 December
Thursday 1 January
Friday 2 January

Revised date:

Monday 29 December
Tuesday 30 December
No change to date
No change to date
No change to date
Friday 2 January
Saturday 3 January

No garden waste collections 20 December – 4 January

Normal collections resume Monday 5 January 2015.

Easter 2015

Normal date:

Friday 3 April
Monday 6 April
Tuesday 7 April
Wednesday 8 April
Thursday 9 April
Friday 10 April

Revised date:

As normal
Tuesday 7 April
Wednesday 8 April
Thursday 9 April
Friday 10 April
Saturday 11 April
Normal collections resume Monday 13 April 2015.

May Bank Holiday 2015

Normal date:

Monday 4 May
Tuesday 5 May
Wednesday 6 May
Thursday 7 May
Friday 8 May

Revised date:

Tuesday 5 May
Wednesday 6 May
Thursday 7 May
Friday 8 May
Saturday 9 May

Normal collections resume Monday 11 May.

Spring Bank Holiday 2015

Normal Date:

Revised Date:

Monday	25 May	Tuesday	26 May
Tuesday	26 May	Wednesday	27 May
Wednesday	27 May	Thursday	28 May
Thursday	28 May	Friday	29 May
Friday	29 May	Saturday	30 May
Normal collections resume Monday		1 June.	

August Bank Holiday 2015

Normal Date:

Revised Date:

Monday	31 August	Tuesday	1 September
Tuesday	1 September	Wednesday	2 September
Wednesday	2 September	Thursday	3 September
Thursday	3 September	Friday	4 September
Friday	4 September	Saturday	5 September
Normal collections resume Monday		7 September	



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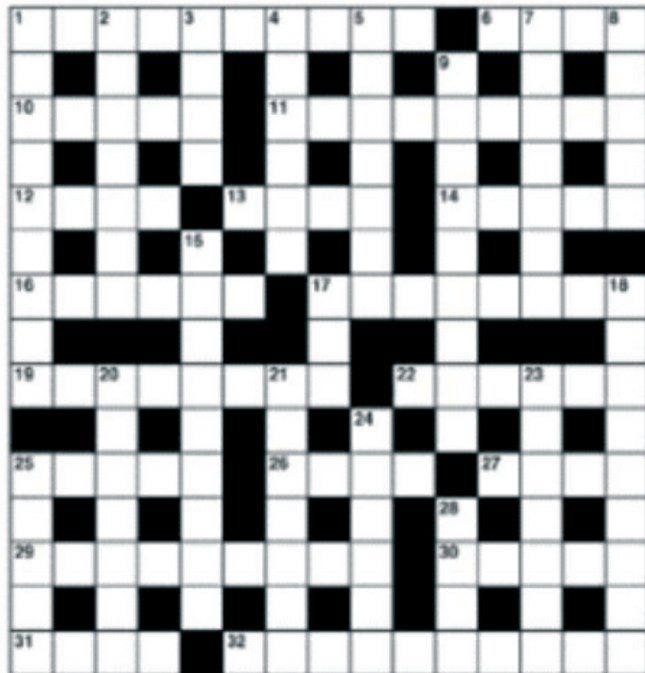
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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Type of mail given priority (5,5)
- 6 Floating waste matter (4)
- 10 Royal house of Henry VIII (5)
- 11 Whereabouts of Meadowhall shopping centre (9)
- 12 Rich, fertile mud or soil (4)
- 13 Brenda Blethyn's TV detective (4)
- 14 Premium Bonds selector (5)
- 16 In profile, obliquely (4,2)
- 17 Hong Kong financial index (4,4)
- 19 Resembling a phantom (8)
- 22 Piece of music written for a solo instrument (6)
- 25 Artist's upright tripod (5)
- 26 Involving bloodshed (4)
- 27 Jazz style (4)
- 29 Pleasant to eat (9)
- 30 Surname of *Pirates of the Caribbean* actor Orlando (5)
- 31 River in North Shields (4)
- 32 Softening and breaking up (of food) (10)



DOWN

- 1 Believers in predetermination (9)
- 2 First name of writer Kipling (7)
- 3 Slab of peat (4)
- 4 Went on, endured (6)
- 5 Czech composer of *The Bartered Bride* (7)
- 7 Purify, wash thoroughly (7)
- 8 Tiny winged insect (5)
- 9 Post-sunset radiance (9)
- 15 Loss of life (9)
- 17 Computer's name in 2001: *A Space Odyssey* (3)
- 18 Grenadier (9)
- 20 Fifth Greek character (7)
- 21 Mathematical subject (7)
- 23 Theoretical (1,6)
- 24 Gentle wind or easy thing (6)
- 25 Person living abroad (5)
- 28 Swedish pop group (4)

Solution to Crossword in Edition 83

Across

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1: Redgrave | 17: Fly post |
| 6: Pass By | 19: Scope |
| 9: Peanut | 23: Attune |
| 10: Opera hat | 25: Inert gas |
| 11: Guy ropes | 26: Chuckled |
| 12: Tip off | 27: Ironic |
| 13: Clyde | 28: Erodes |
| 14: New York | 29: Reginald |

Down

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 2: Eke out | 15: Exceeding |
| 3: General | 16: Fletcher |
| 4: Antipodes | 18: Pounced |
| 5: Egoist | 20: Put down |
| 6: Pleat | 21: Milder |
| 7: Sharply | 22: Facial |
| 8: Bradford | 24: Ellis |

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Events Calendar - 2014/2015

[illegible]

2014

November 29th 10 am to 4 pm Xmas Fair at Wychwood Wrought Iron

December 14th 6.30 pm Pantomime Tiddy hall

December 20th 8.00 pm Folk in the bar - Singaround The Swan

December 24th 6.00 pm Carols on the Green

2015

February 7th	8.00 pm	The Will Pound Band	Tiddy Hall
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February 21st 8.00 pm Jeff Warner The Swan

February 28th Annual Dinner/Dance Tiddy Hall

March 7th 8.00 pm Winter-Wilson Tiddy Hall

March 21st	8.00 pm	Scarecrow	The Swan
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April 4th 8.00 pm Red Moon Road Tiddy Hall

May 10th Open Garden at Wychwood Manor