

THE DRAGON

June 2024



Welcome to your monthly round up of news/events in Ogbourne St George.

Parish Council News

The Annual Village Meeting took place in May followed by the first Parish Council meeting of the 2024/25 Council year, at which annual reports on the activities and achievements of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee were provided. There were no questions from the public in the Public Participation section. Sam Frost was re-elected Chair, and all existing members of the Working Groups agreed to continue for another year.

James Sheppard of Wiltshire Council provided an update on the past year which covered balancing of the council budgets, ringfencing of adult care and children's services and more money for highway maintenance. In a similar vein the village Transport Working Group has been investigating improved signage following the recent traffic congestion in the village in an attempt to divert drivers during such incidents.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Bob Tanner has stepped down from the Parish Council and was thanked for his contribution. This means a vacancy has arisen. If you would like more information on the role, you can speak to a current Parish Councillor and read all about them in the June to August 2023 editions of the Dragon.

Back copies and contact details are on the PC website here:

www.ogbournestgeorge.org.uk/community/ogbourne-st-george-parish-council-20256/home/

To apply for the role please contact the Parish Clerk on:

parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 11 July.

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning Review

A sunny May Saturday morning encouraged lots of residents and friends to join us for the annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. There was an impressive and healthy array of indoor and outdoor plants, succulents and vegetables to choose from, ranging from aloes and Alicanti tomatoes, to bearded irises and coleus, to foxgloves, geums and geraniums, to ready-to-hang baskets containing petchoas, a hybrid between petunias and calibrachoas, and last but by no means least, Hilary's special everlasting wallflowers.

There was much swapping of horticultural tips and advice by the plant experts running the stalls, and a big thank you goes to this team and everyone who supplied plants. Thank you also to the refreshments team who kept everyone fed and watered on the day, and to those of you who baked and donated an array of goodies including chocolate brownies, lemon drizzle cake and oat flapjacks, to name but a few. Thank you also to our friends who helped us set up and clear away. We couldn't do this without all of you, and we really appreciate your help, support and time.

Congratulations to raffle winners Isabelle, John, Megan, Nicky, Sally and Sarah. And in a close competition, our village Hedgehog has been named 'Spike', with 'Henrietta' coming a close second.

Thanks to all your donations, we raised £440 for the Village Hall. We hope you are all enjoying nurturing your new plants in your homes and gardens, and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Jumble Sale Report

Thank you to everyone who helped with or donated to the April Jumble Sale. It raised over £900, with £200 being donated to the Prospect Hospice and the rest split between the village hall and the church. A large pile of bags was donated to the school for a 'Bags to School' collection, and the unsold books, CDs, etc went to Africaya – a local charity supporting a school in The Gambia.

It was very busy on the day with the usual regulars queuing outside from 9am! A special thank you must go to those brave people who helped to tidy up and redistribute the left-over goods to charity shops, online sales or the recycling centre. Also thank you to our village school for again allowing us to use the school hall.

Midsummer Quiz – 22 June

Join us for an evening of fun intellectual stimulation and friendly general knowledge rivalry at our Midsummer Quiz and Pimm's Evening in the Village Hall on Saturday 22 June from 7.30pm.

- Will June 2023 winners 'Ayr Head' win back the top spot?
- Will November 2023 winners 'Oggy Bottom' retain their crown?
- Or will YOUR team make it to the top this time?

You'll have to be in it to win it! Either organise your team of six or come along and join others and meet old friends and make new ones and stake your claim to be crowned June 2024 Quiz Winners. At the same time, you'll be contributing to your community and helping us raise much-needed funds to support the running costs of the Village Hall.

Doors open 7pm, quiz starts 7.30pm. Quiz entry is £5 per person in advance, £6 on the night. Beer, wine, Pimms and soft drinks plus savoury nibbles will be available for donations on the night.

To reserve your place[s] please ring Colin on 01672 841485 or email Claire on osgvhall@gmail.com We hope that as many of you come along as possible.

The Inn with the Well Events

Opening Hours

- Monday to Thursday open 5-10pm
- Friday and Saturday open 4-10pm
- Closed Sundays and Monday 3 June
- Closed Friday 28 June to Monday 1 July for private party.

What's On

- Friday 7 June: Pizza Fridays start

UEFA Euro 2024 Matches

- Friday 14 June Germany v Scotland 8pm
- Thursday 20 June Denmark v England 5pm
- Tuesday 25 June England v Slovenia 8pm

Meet Your Church

Completing the series of interviews with residents who dedicate their spare time to running our local institutions as volunteers, this month we meet the rest of the Church team.

Meet Nicky Irwin - Churchwarden

Nicky Irwin has lived in this area all her life, having been born at Savernake hospital and attended school in Ogbourne St George. After moving to Leicestershire, she and husband Richard moved back to the area just before the birth of their second child Betsy; Conrad, their eldest, started his school life at Ogbourne St George & St Andrew primary. After three years in Wiltshire, they moved to Edinburgh with Richard's work and after many years in Edinburgh they settled back here 16 years ago.

Nicky is a Churchwarden, and her role is to ensure the smooth running of the Church. She says she's lucky to share it with Brian Utton, Deputy Churchwarden. The role is wide ranging and the 'visible' aspects of it include preparing the church for services, handing out books and running the music player, as well as fundraising, which whilst not specifically a Churchwarden job, is one that she enjoys. It includes various activities from door-to-door campaigns to organising and supporting events. The fete is the biggest annual event, and while the preparation can be arduous, sharing it with Lesley Ayres means the results and appreciation by all involved make it rewarding.

There are also the 'invisible' tasks such as form filling and compiling statistics for the diocesan records, plus identifying maintenance requirements, the urgency for repair and how best to resolve them. Nicky says that they are lucky to have a willing group of local volunteers and supporters, so many of the jobs can be completed at the biannual maintenance days, and quite often small tasks are completed quietly by fantastic people.

She describes herself as pretty extrovert and says she most enjoys meeting people and making things better. Christmas time is particularly rewarding as it is incredibly busy with many services, lots of people and great excitement. She's proud of the fact that when she first joined the Parochial Church Council (PCC), there was a need to raise funds which were in decline; and after a couple of fundraising campaigns and a series of events, they succeeded in reversing this trend.

During her tenure she would like to find ways to make Church more accessible and relevant to more people, by involving more people in what it does, through joining in maintenance days, becoming members of the PCC and/or helping with events.

What she likes most about this part of the country are the Marlborough Downs and the serenity of the area. She loves being able to walk out of the house onto circular routes for miles mainly on tracks, to the west to Barbury Castle, and to the East to Liddington Castle. Her parents both have strong ties with the area, and with both parents and other family nearby, she says *'it really is home'*.

Meet Olly Iliffe - Secretary

Olly Iliffe grew up in Ogbourne St George and, after a brief career in law in the City, he returned to the village in 2012 to start farming.

From about 2015 he has been part of the PCC, as secretary, taking minutes of meetings and attempting to be of use generally with services, events and church maintenance and improvement. [He has also been a foundation governor of the village school for about the same length of time, a role which involves preserving and developing the Church of England ethos of the school.]

Despite the exhaustion of lambing, Easter is his favourite church festival reminding him of both the personal challenge and appeal of Jesus' crucifixion and the hope of his empty tomb. Otherwise, it is hard for a farmer not to enjoy harvest – except for the inevitable combine breakdown – feeling, as the Psalmist does, that we “sow in tears and reap with joy”, this year being no exception to the former part of that rule!

Nonetheless, he also values the rhythm of church life and particularly enjoys the regular 8.30am Book of Common Prayer communion service – sharing in the words of Thomas Cranmer which remain such a powerful expression of English Christianity today – and the much more informal Café Church, which, *'allows us to discuss the Bible reading for the day and much else besides over cake and a cup of coffee. Do please come and join us!'*

He's married to Caroline, and they have a daughter, Isabelle, at the local primary school and a son, Johnny, at Little Dragons Pre-School.

Meet Your Church con'd

Olly enjoys gardening and reading – mainly novels, biographies and history. He was particularly influenced by Dostoevsky's novels and the writings of C.S. Lewis, to whom he probably owes his conversion to Christianity – or, at least, the decision to start reading the Bible again with a fresh pair of eyes about 14 years ago.

Little Dragons Family Fun Day – 29 June

We are proud to announce that our 'Outstanding' preschool has now been supporting parents and nurturing children for 40 years. Our Family Fun Day on Saturday 29 June will be celebrating the wonderful work that they do. We hope to see you all at the Village Hall to share in our success.

An example of the wonderful work our staff does is illustrated by their outstanding ability to handle complex issues with such young children. Last week was Mental Health Awareness week, and the staff have been promoting positive wellbeing in the children and themselves. They help the children to talk about their feelings and to understand their own emotions. Talking about, caring for and supporting each other encourages kind and considerate behaviour. Helping children to cope with their own and each other's emotions at such a young age enables children to transition to primary school with more confidence, to make friends, to explore, to play freely and ultimately to learn. Please come along and support this wonderful preschool on the 29 June.

Ogbourne Motor Group Treasure Hunt – 19 July

Rishi has messed up our original plan, so the OMG Treasure Hunt will now be on Friday 19 July. This will be about one hour starting from the *Inn with the Well* with questions and tasks for all the family. Entry will be £2 per car – however many people you can legally get into it – with prizes for:

- First and second based on answering the questions not the speed of completion.
- Best presented car

This is open to everyone – it's not about classic cars, it's about a bit of fun. We do need to know numbers for planning purposes, so please register your car with drkevinrh@gmail.com. There will pizzas available from Mike's oven after the Hunt. Any spare funds will go to the Prospect Hospice.

80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings – 8 June

Sunflower Events run by Sinead Poynter and Anna Burch are putting on a commemorative fun day at Ogbourne Primary School on Saturday 8 June from 12-4pm. We'll have the below for all to enjoy:

- Bouncy Castle
- Bar
- Pizza Van
- Ice-cream Van
- 20+ local businesses selling their handmade crafts/products
- Live Music
- Tombola
- Face Painting
- World War II Memorabilia.

If anyone has any World War II Memorabilia that they'd be happy to exhibit at our event, please get in touch with us at sunflowerevents1@outlook.com - they will be looked after as the stall will be staffed at all times.

Afternoon Tea – 13 July

The Director Club at Badbury is hosting an Ogbourne PSA Afternoon Tea on Saturday 13 July from 2-4pm to raise funds to bring 'Drawing and Talking Therapy' to the school.

Drawing and Talking Therapy is an alternative to CBT and other direct talking therapies, that can often be too confronting for children or limiting in the processing of pain or trauma. It is an attachment based therapeutic intervention that will complement our school approach to building the children's resilience and support them to be mentally healthy.

Afternoon tea is £25 and with a glass of sparkles is £35. A minibus is available to book to and from the venue for a small additional charge.

For tickets and more information please email: ogbournepsa@yahoo.com

Church Services

2 June, Trinity 1, Café Church, 10.00am

9 June, Trinity 2, Holy Communion (BCP), 8.30am

16 June, Trinity 3, Zoom Service, 10.30am

23 June, Trinity 4, Evensong (BCP), 6.00pm

30 June, Trinity 5, Benefice Communion, 11.00am in Ogbourne St Andrew

100 Club Winners

Congratulations to the May winners: 1st M Shaw, 2nd J Hall

Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday 19 June in the Church Hall, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN at 7.30pm on, “Ticket to Ride – Victorian Railways” presented by Judy Rouse. Details and tickets from Elaine Jones (01793 740784)

Keith Parsons (01793 741346) Email: info@chiseldonlhg.org.uk

Nature News

Rachel Stannard updates us on recent duckling developments in the village:

Megan's eagle eyes spotted the first duckling outside the Inn with the Well. We thought mum might be out there, but we soon realised he was on his own. It was a challenge to collect him up, and whilst trying to do so we met a man who had seen the disaster that led to them being abandoned by their mum. Mum and nine of her ducklings had been scared by a cat. I took the duckling home as I have a headlamp and some means of helping it through the night before it went to a rescue. Anna Burch then spotted the remaining eight ducklings crossing her road to hide under a parked car. I quickly joined her with a box, and along with our children, we scooped them up from under the car and put them in the box. The lonely one at home perked right up once he was reunited with his siblings. A friend with a farm on the outskirts of Mildenhall then said he would be able to take them, and he has been caring for them since and sends regular updates. They are currently growing in adult feathers! All's well that ends well!

Contact The Dragon

To include your village news in The Dragon, please write to the Editor, Claire Heald, on osgdragon22@gmail.com