

THE DRAGON

April 2025



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

Plant Sale & Coffee Morning – Saturday 10 May

With Spring finally upon us, it's time to turn our attention to the popular Plant Sale and Coffee Morning which will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 10 May from 10am to 12.30pm. This is a chance to acquire some plants which may well have started life in this village, catch up on news with friends over a drink and a slice of cake, as well as help raise vital funds for our Village Hall. Read on for how you can get involved.

Plants: Gardeners, please peruse your gardens and/or pop into garden centres for plants you can donate. It's that time of year to sow a few extra seeds, separate some of your garden perennials, divide those houseplants to generate new ones, and give a good home to any excess seedlings from your greenhouse.

Cakes: This is a shout out to the bakers in the village to donate any cakes, tray bakes, cookies and other treats, for us to enjoy on the day or take home. All kinds are welcome, plain or fancy, large or small, sweet or savoury, whatever you enjoy making, something for everybody, so please start planning your selection.

Volunteers: If you can spare a couple of hours on Saturday, then please help us out. For newcomers to the village, it's a great way to make friends with other residents. Contact Colin on 01672 841485.

Donations: Can be dropped off on Friday 9 May at the Village Hall between 4-6pm or during the week starting 5 May to 8 Jubbs Lane or 1 Church Lane.

Please come along and support your Village Hall to raise funds to replace some older parts of the Hall so that we can do our bit to keep the building up to standard and contribute to the move to Net Zero.

Ogbourne School Report

Head of School, Mrs Crump, updates us on news from our local school:

What a fantastic week we had celebrating World Book Day! We would like to extend a huge thanks to you all for your support with this event. It was wonderful to see so many imaginative outfits that brought 'wow words' to life and all the fabulous book- themed cakes for our cake sale and reading cafe. Thank you to you all for the contributions!

Reading continues to be one of the most important things to support children's learning, so we hope our World Book Day events sparked more enthusiasm to curl up with a good book! Our celebrations continued as we welcomed author Richard E Evans and illustrator Alex Crump into school - along with a surprise visit from the Niki Naki Noo himself.

Alex spoke to the children about how an illustrator turns the author's imaginings into a design, and how this is a long process that takes many many attempts and close collaboration with the author. It is literally 'back to the drawing board' many times until the final picture is achieved.

Richard read the story to the children, and they all joined in the rhyming chorus before meeting Niki Naki Noo. We are grateful to Richard for coming and sharing his book with the school free of charge. If you would like to purchase a copy of Niki Naki Noo then it is available from Amazon.

In other news, Acorns, our youngest class, enjoyed visits from Mr Iliffe, the local farmer, and Father Roger, who talked about their respective jobs.

Little Dragons

It has been a busy month at Little Dragons. The children celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making play dough pancakes and enjoying real pancakes at snack time. World Book Day was also celebrated with enthusiasm. They shared their favourite books and dressed up as their favourite characters: Peter Rabbit, The Hungry Caterpillar, Tiger, The Farmer and Princesses.

The sunshine has provided an opportunity for the children to play in the sandpit and observe the plants and flowers growing in the garden. They have had fun painting daffodils. We are looking forward to Easter when we will join Ogbourne Primary School for an egg hunt. We will also be enjoying our own Easter party.

Ogbourne St George Parish Council

Local elections are fast approaching and Ogbourne St George Parish Council currently has two vacancies among our seven seats (one seat is already vacant and one of the current councillors will not be seeking re-election). We really need new councillors to fill these places. We are looking for people with a little time to help out in our community. We meet every two months to look at areas of the village we can help improve, be it roads and signage, infrastructure, community events, planning applications, and so on.

It really doesn't take up much time (it's one of those things that can take as much or as little time as you want!), but can have a real impact on the village.

No experience or particular knowledge is needed, just a willingness to get involved and some enthusiasm to help make the village an even better place for us all.

The deadline for submission of nomination papers is 2nd April 2025, so time is short. For more details please contact the parish clerk on parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk. Note that if there are seven or fewer nominations, there will be no parish election held and all eligible nominees will be considered elected.

To find out more about what is involved, please contact any of the current councillors who would be happy to talk about what the council is doing for the village.

Sam Frost (chairman) sam.frost@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

Abi Barrett abigail.barratt@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

Nicholas Burnet nicholas.burnet@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

Nathalie Collister Nathalie.collister@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

Rob Green rob.green@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

Rachel Inglefield rachel.inglefield@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

New Village Noticeboard

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm the installation of the new Village Noticeboard. The left door is left open for all villagers to use. The right-hand doors are locked and will be used by the Parish Council to post agendas, minutes, and other items of village interest.

Get Out of your Head and Into your Body ... Monday evening Yoga with Natalie in Ogbourne School

An invitation to leave the world behind as you dedicate an hour of time to yourself and enjoy some yoga in our village. Slowly flowing with the breath, exploring the mind and reconnecting to self. An opportunity to work in, as well as work out - building strength, mobility and presence. This Hatha-vinyasa style practice incorporates breathwork, dynamic movement and static poses, bringing balance to the body and energetic system.

Create time for you and join our lovely community. These yoga classes are inclusive and accessible for all levels - flowing at a pace to involve everyone.

Time: Monday evenings from 6.30-7.30pm

Location: Ogbourne St George Primary School, SN8 1SU

Cost: £12 per session

Kit: Please bring your own mat (if you're stuck, I have a couple spare), Blocks and straps are provided.

Contact: If you would like to learn more and/or to book a session, please get in touch via:

- WhatsApp/mobile: 07795 473553
- Email: yoga_with_natalie@hotmail.com



Yoga with Natalie

April Church Services

6 Apr, Lent 5, 10.00am, Cafe Church

13 Apr, Palm Sunday, 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)

17 Apr, Maundy Thursday, 7.00pm service in Chiseldon

18 Apr, Good Friday, 2.00pm service in Ogbourne St Andrew

20 Apr, Easter Day, 10.00am, Easter Communion

27 Apr, St George's Day Service at 4.00pm

Spring Church Maintenance Morning

Volunteers are sought for the annual Church Spring Maintenance Morning on Saturday 12 April from 9.30am-12.30pm, or whatever time you can spare. Lots of jobs to do inside the church and in the churchyard. Please bring gardening tools if you plan to work outside. Refreshments provided.

Chiseldon Local History Group

Our next meeting is on 16 April in the Church Hall, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN at 7.30pm on 'Made in Swindon' by Philip Garrahan, an illustrated talk covering society and the arts in Swindon in the interwar years. Philip has edited, 'Made in Swindon: a social history 1840s-1940s' to be published in 2025, in which he argues that the town's history of social engineering deserves more attention than the dominance of its mechanical engineering.

Goodbye from your Editor

This is my last issue of The Dragon, and I sign off by saying what a pleasure it has been to produce it over the last three years. Thank you to all the contributors during that time, as without you there wouldn't be anything to write about! Thank you to the stalwart delivery team who generously find time to ensure that you all receive your copies through your doors, whatever the weather. Thank you to Tim for the excellent and invaluable production, printing and IT support. And finally thank you to our hardworking Parish Council volunteers for its backing as well as for everything you do to enhance our village for the benefit of all residents.

At the time of writing there is still an opening for a local resident[s] to become the next Editor. For what is involved, then please contact me on osgdragon22@gmail.com --- Best wishes Claire x



The Dragon

All at Ogbourne St George Parish Council wish to thank Claire for her amazing work on The Dragon over the last three years. Her enthusiasm and dedication has been inspiring. The Dragon under Claire's editorship has become an important and cherished part of Ogbourne life. As well as all the regular diary announcements, she has an uncanny ability to find and share interesting tidbits of information from myriad corners of the village, with series of articles and interviews with the great and the good of village life. Her great respect for deadlines and schedules has meant that each new issue has arrived on time and full of facts. Thank you Claire for all you have brought to the village and The Dragon.

I hope however that the above does not deter a new volunteer from stepping forward to fill Claire's admittedly large shoes! Tim has said he is still happy to continue the work of typesetting and printing each issue, but we need someone to take on the editor's job. You will have the full support of the parish council. For more details of what is involved, please contact Claire on osgdragon22@gmail.com.

Sam Frost, chairman, OSG Parish Council