

THE DRAGON

July 2023



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

Village Fete and Dog Show

The Village Fete Organising Team would like to thank everyone who came to last month's fete, donated items, helped with setting up and clearing away, or on the day. It was a glorious sunny day with everyone enjoying the tea and cakes, and for some, a Pimm's, whilst enjoying live music from some very talented locals.

Thank you to Angie for organising the Open Mic, which we hope will be repeated next year, as it was enjoyed by all those who took part or listened. The afternoon was cut short by a thunderstorm rolling in, and everyone ran for cover, except Ian, who steadfastly continued to play his sax under the cover of a very small tree. Thank you, Ian!

The dog walkers and owners of the village are obviously made of tougher stuff, as the Dog Show continued once the worst of the storm had passed. There was an amazing variety of dogs. and Lucy, from Dognannies, had a very hard time awarding the rosettes. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the participants. The most entertaining class of the day for dogs and spectators alike was the Musical Sit! You really had to be there!

The stalls were busy in the sun, and we're pleased to say that we raised £1,600. The money will be used to maintain the Church, and a small donation was also made to the Village Hall for the help they provided. Thank you also to Little Dragons who ran some stalls to keep the children entertained and raised £80 for their pre-school resources. Finally, we'd like to thank Mr Tuckey for allowing us to use his garden which provided the perfect backdrop to the afternoon.

If anyone in the village has a need for marquees, perhaps for your own summer social, then there are three available for use, in return for a discretionary donation. They are small, medium and large as seen at the fete. For specific details on size, etc, please contact the Editor who will gladly pass on expressions of interest.

Village Hall Midsummer Quiz

The Village Hall Committee was delighted to welcome so many friends and villagers to the Midsummer Quiz last month for an evening of friendly general knowledge rivalry. This is one of our key fundraising events and has never been as crucial as this year when we face a doubling of our utility bills.

Quiz Host Colin tested everyone's knowledge of subjects as diverse and random as London Underground Emojis (no to Bow Street!), Hallmark versus Harrods logos, and tunes connected by colour, with wry apologies from the Editor for 'In The Navy'!

It was a close-run thing in the end, and congratulations go to Team 'Ayr Heads' who were crowned worthy Quiz Winners. We can't miss giving a shout out to Team 'Boris Is Innocent' who brought up the rear. Readers can decide for themselves the appropriateness of this placing! Congratulations also to Charlie for securing the top raffle prize, and we hope you enjoy your complimentary tour of Ramsbury Brewery. Thank you also to the mystery donor of the pork scratchings, which along with some fruity iced Pimm's were the refreshments du soir.

Your donations raised a very welcome £470 for the Village Hall, for which your Quiz Organising Team of Colin, Caroline, Claire, Louise and Tim offer many thanks. The Team would also like to thank the invaluable help from Hilary and Kevin and to everyone who joined us on the night. See you in the autumn for the next one and where the winners' crown ends up next!

Treasurer Sought for the Village Hall Committee

The Committee has a vacancy for someone with a background in Finance to join us as Treasurer. It's a light-touch commitment as we meet about 4 times a year and organise a similar number of fundraising events. You'll join a friendly team of volunteers who will welcome your expertise, and this is an opportunity to make a valued and vital contribution to your community. If you are interested, then please contact Colin, Chair or Claire, Secretary, on osgvhall@gmail.com

The 100 Club

Congratulations to Don Howard (winner) & Jenny Hall (runner up).

Parish Council News

This month we meet some more members of our Parish Council (PC).

Next Parish Council Meeting

This will take place on Thursday 13 July at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. All village residents welcome.

Meet Abi Barratt

Abi Barratt has lived in the village for about 18 years. During that time, she moved in and renovated her home, got married, grew her family and therefore the house to fit everyone into! She describes the village as a brilliant place to start a family as there is so much support, as well as a great preschool and primary school on the doorstep. She has collected many friends along the way and loves being part of the village community, and this is why she decided to join the PC a couple of years ago, as she wanted to give something back.

Having lived here a while she feels that she has a good insight into what people want and need. She describes herself as approachable and despite being very busy, wants to play her part to keep our village thriving.

She sits on the Communication and Community Spirit Working Groups which play to her strengths. Having been a primary school teacher for over 20 years, she is very used to planning and organising things. To her it's important that everyone feels they have a voice and can access information they need. The Comms Group is keen to improve communications and help people make connections or ask for help if they need it.

The Community Spirit Group also wants to strengthen our community and is proud to have played its part in bringing the community together over the last couple of years through events such as the Christmas Tree Light Up and last year's Jubilee celebrations. The Group would love to see more locals getting involved with the gritty stuff too like the Autumn and Spring village clean ups.

In her spare time, her family keeps her busy, and they love to be out exploring our wonderful surroundings. She'd love to say she's a keen gardener but hasn't quite found the time for this yet, but maybe one day ... Well Abi, there's plenty of green-fingered experts to help you achieve this aspiration when you do!

Meet Rob Green

Rob Green moved to the village eight years ago and has been on the PC for four years.

He was asked to join the team and saw it as a good thing to be part of, not only to enable him to connect with village life, but also an opportunity to serve and create a community for residents that makes OSG a great place in which to live.

He says what he most likes about living here is the people and the chance to build community spirit and cohesion through fun events which bring everyone together and get people involved.

Rob sits on the Community Spirit Working Group, and he's particularly proud of the Jubilee event in 2022 at which many villagers came together, enjoyed a fantastic picnic, making for a very happy day, and representing the best of what village life is all about. Most recently he was to be seen with Nick heroically transporting the new Coronation Bench to its place in Jubilee Gardens. And last year, his contribution to village life extended to making it a true family event, as his family all joined him in undertaking the Village Spring Clean. They enjoyed it so much that they highly recommend it to everyone next time! Villagers, take note!

During his tenure he's looking forward to getting involved in more fun events. As a keen sportsperson, he'd like to see more sports activities for residents of all ages to enjoy and more use of the Bell Field.

He says that the informal football matches amongst the village children and parents have been fun, and he hopes there are more of these in the future, not least because his daughters are keen on them. Perhaps they want to beat their Dad in some good old-fashioned family rivalry?!

In his spare time, he loves sport and coaches Ramsbury football and Marlborough rugby teams. He's a keen squash player and plays locally at Marlborough. After 28 years working in London, he's now a fly-fishing instructor and guide, which takes him onto the rivers Test, Avon, Nadder and Kennett. He teaches all year round, mainly at Lechlade, so if you've ever wanted to explore his angle on angling, you know who to talk to!

Meet Rachel Inglefield

Rachel Inglefield and her family moved to the village back in 2014 when her children were tiny. They immediately joined Little Dragons, where they met some wonderful friends. She joined the Parish Council in 2018, having initially approached it about the speed of the vehicles by the Hallam junction on the A346, to ascertain if they could lobby Wiltshire Council to extend the 50mph speed limit. At the time, the PC was happy to support the campaign, rather than lead it themselves, so Rachel set about lobbying Wiltshire Council herself. She was subsequently asked to become a Parish Councillor.

She is Chair of the Transport Working Group and sits on the Communications Working Group, and being a Communications Consultant, with a 20-year career in corporate and crisis public relations, this is clearly an ideal match for her skills and interests.

Rachel describes the current Parish Council as proactive, having achieved a great deal in a short amount of time, all fitted in around Committee Members' busy lives. They have loved bringing the village together through events such as the Christmas Tree Light Up, and the 2022 Jubilee celebrations. They are slowly working to improve the ambiance of the village through installing new notice boards, village signs and white gates, picnic tables, benches, and dog poo bins. They are all united in their desire to make residents safe, and to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the village through initiatives such as the new Speed Indicator Device.

During her term she's keen to introduce some new events such as Beating the Bounds in 2024, and to improve the facilities for older children in the village. The Transport Working Group will continue to work with Wiltshire Council on new traffic calming measures.

When it comes to what she most likes about living here, she cites the beauty of the countryside around us, and how it never ceases to amaze her how beautiful this part of Wiltshire is. In her leisure times she loves exploring the countryside with her two dogs, and her garden gives her huge joy, alongside her menagerie of chickens, ducks, dogs, and cats. She describes herself as a lucky mother of two and says she admires her children for their never-ending optimism and the pure delight they see in life.

Little Dragons

We have had a busy time recently at Little Dragons. We raised over £80 on our stall at the Village Fete. Thank you for all your support. This money will be put to good use, replenishing our resources. We will also be helping at the School Fair on 15 July and continue to benefit from the school's support.

In June, we had an Ofsted Inspection, and we hope we have continued to impress them! Our Inspector spent a day with us, and she took great interest in the activities of the children and the considerable skills and care of our lovely staff. We now wait to hear whether we will maintain the Ofsted status of 'Outstanding'.

This final term is also a time when the preschool children will be getting ready to go on to their primary schools. The staff and Committee will be wishing them well for September.

We would like to remind everyone that we still have spaces for our September intake and would be happy to hear from anyone who is planning to join us in September, or in the coming academic year. Tel: 07855 026083. Alternatively, there is an application form on our website.

A Personal Message from Maggie Tanner

I have lived in the Village for nearly 10 years and have been on the Management Committee of Little Dragons for most of that time. When I can, I spend an hour or so in preschool, playing with the children. It is a very enjoyable time for me, and the children seem to love visitors.

If you have a couple of hours free during the week, would you like to help us? Just watching the children or sitting reading to them would be such a help. It helps support both the staff and children, at this time of increasing pressure on the staff. If you would like to learn more, then please contact me on 07881 377268. Thank you.

Neighbourhood Policing

In line with Wiltshire Police's review and plan for enhancing community policing links, they have announced a realignment of Neighbourhood Police resources and shared contact details for local officers. Our village comes under Marlborough Rural NPT, and our local officers are:

PC 2811 Jason Steele Jason.Steele@wiltshire.police.uk

PCSO 6188 Melissa Camilleri Melissa.Camilleri@wiltshire.police.uk

Whilst they can be emailed direct, the best address on which to contact the Neighbourhood Policing Team is: devizesareapt@wiltshire.police.uk This is monitored daily and can assure a reply, unlike emailing officers direct, where replies can be delayed if they are on leave/training/away.

Launch of the second Solar Together scheme

Solar Together offers cost-effective solar panel and battery storage installation for households and businesses across Wiltshire and Swindon to save on energy bills and to generate their own electricity by purchasing high-quality solar panels and battery storage at a competitive price. Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council are working with iChoosr, independent experts in group-buying, to launch a second Solar Together scheme, following the success of the first scheme launched in May 2022.

Over 1,500 homeowners across Wiltshire and Swindon have so far installed over 8,500 solar panels and 720 storage batteries to benefit from generating their own renewable energy. This is estimated to shrink the carbon footprint of these households by more than 650,000kg of carbon dioxide.

The prospect of choosing an installer and making the change to renewable energy can be daunting, but Solar Together makes the switch to clean energy as hassle-free as possible.

The scheme supports people every step of the way, providing clear and objective information that people can trust, so that they can make a well-informed decision and receive expert guidance throughout the process. For more information go to: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/second-solar-together-scheme-launch>

July Church Services

2 July, Trinity 4, 10.00am, Cafe Church

9 July, Trinity 5, 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)

16 July, Trinity 6, 10.30am, Zoom Service

23 July, Trinity 7, 6.00pm, Evensong (BCP)

30 July, Trinity 8, 10.30am, Benefice Communion in Chiseldon

Summer Church Maintenance Morning

Thank you to everyone who joined is at the Church on a sunny Saturday morning. Between them lots of necessary tasks were completed.

School Summer Family Fun Day

Join the PSA for this event on Saturday 15 July from 12-3pm. There'll be lots of craft stalls hosted by local businesses, as well as face painting, a Bouncy Castle, lots of games, an inflatable Fun run, and a bar and BBQ to feed and water you. Entry is free of charge and all funds raised will support the school. Raffle tickets for the cash prize raffle are available to buy from the pub or contact Anna Burch 07718 217270. Raffle prizes are: 1st prize £200 cash, 2nd prize £100 cash, 3rd prize £50 cash. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please also contact Anna.

Chiseldon Local History Group

There's no hall meeting in July. Members will instead take a historical walk around Aldbourne on Sunday 23rd July, including a visit to the Aldbourne Heritage Centre. Hall meetings resume in September with "Cellars, Towers and Tunnels" by John Ratcliffe. In the meantime, why not visit the museum and catch up on the new displays? It's open on Saturdays from 2-4pm until 30 September. New displays include the Chiseldon Windmill, a display of 20th Century technology, local maps through the ages and a special feature on past Coronations.

Contact the Dragon

To include your Village news in The Dragon and/or to receive a copy by email, please write to the Editor, Claire Heald, on osgdragon22@gmail.com