

The ABC November 2023



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Compassion & Care

Front cover picture - Burnehyll Community Woodland.

Photo - courtesy of Danny Williams - Visual Aspect Aerial Photography

Following a very informative presentation by David Jones on October 10th in Chesterton Community Centre we thought it would be interesting to relay some of the information.

The photograph shows the woodland stretching from the junction of the A4095 with Vendee Drive all the way down to the Park and Ride in the far distance. Apart from the three fields on the immediate right of the photograph this is land totalling 108 acres which was sold by the developers to Cherwell District Council for £1 to become an area of community woodland and nature.

A 'Friends of Burnehyll Community Woodland' volunteer group was formed to plant and maintain the trees. So far 2,683 native trees have been planted—supplied free of charge under a carbon offset arrangement. More trees have now been ordered for 2023 / 24 planting.

A community orchard is also planned. A hedge, gates and the first 11 apple trees were planted this year. The trees were sourced from Bernwode Fruit Trees in Ludgershall who are specialists in Oxfordshire fruit trees. A grant is being sought to pay for more fruit trees.

Volunteers, often including members of Bicester Green Gym, plant and maintain the trees and working parties are planned to take place monthly, usually on a Saturday and Tuesday. Maintenance work is currently focused on removal of dead trees from an old hedgerow before replanting with new native trees and shrubs. Planting of the next 500 trees will take place in December.

If you are interested in helping with the maintenance or planting working parties please email Paul Simpson on:

paul.simpson963@gmail.com



November 1788 – the Madness of King George III

In the summer of 1788 that King George III had what he called “*a pretty smart bilious attack*” which found him staying in bed as the only comfortable posture he could endure. He ignored his doctors’ advice, having no great opinion of their worth. He went to Cheltenham to partake of the waters.

In August, when George returned to Windsor, he suffered violent stomach attacks, cramps in his legs and a rash on his arms. Sir George Baker, a medic in attendance on the king, believed this was due to the king

“Having walked on the grass for several hours; and, without having changed his stockings.”

By October the king’s condition had worsened. On 24th he attended a levée with his clothes in disorder such that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Thurlow, advised George to retire to adjust it. The king replied in anger, although he showed no signs of awareness of his dishabille. The end of the month found the king unable to sleep. Queen Charlotte was becoming more and more disturbed by her husband’s behaviour. When he was lucid the king had no doubt that he was losing his reason.

On 5th November the Prince of Wales dined with his parents and, when the conversation turned to murder, in a rage, the king grabbed his son by the collar, pulled him out of his chair and threw him against the wall. The Prince of Wales burst into tears and had to be soothed by his sisters.

Over the next few days, the king’s condition worsened and the queen was removed from their shared bedroom. There was talk of a regency to be headed by the Prince of Wales. The Whigs assumed that the prince would bring them into power, casting out William Pitt the younger, the Prime Minister, and his cabinet. The Regency bill was brought forward in parliament.

The prince’s doctor, Doctor Warren, whom the king detested, prescribed that blisters be applied to the king’s shaved scalp to draw out the poisons in his brain. At the same time his legs were blistered with cantharides and mustard.

Leeches were applied to his forehead and he was given emetics and purges, none of which, unsurprisingly, worked to return the king's sanity. At the end of November the king was moved to the palace at Kew where it was thought he would benefit from the quieter surroundings.

Rumours of the king's death spread across the country and the Morning Chronicle felt obliged to deny the tales. But by the end of January 1789 the king was beginning to recover. By mid-February his doctors were agreed that the worst was over and the government postponed the third reading of the Regency Bill.

After it was clear that George had recovered his mental health, the country celebrated, and George was more popular than at any time during his reign since he was first crowned. Alas, the madness returned in 1810 and George was to spend the rest of his life incarcerated in the care of his eldest son and his estranged wife.

Helen Lashbrook

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November Sudoku

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			9			7	6	
1				2				
9	3	6		4			1	2
2		8		5	9			3
	9		4					
3	8	5		1		9		
		7	3	9				



The winner of the Chesterton St Mary's 200 club this month is Sheila Carter with ticket 19. Her charity is Katharine House Hospice.

Answers on page 17

Wendlebury Gardening Club

After a summer of trips to gardens near and far, we are now resuming our monthly meetings.

In September Maria Ellis from Milton Keynes gave us a talk on "Lightening the load". Maria designs gardens for people with a wide variety of wishes and needs from those who want no plants to those who want beautiful gardens with minimal maintenance. She advised on plants and shrubs that need little tending but with visual impact through the seasons. A very enlightening talk and we will definitely be asking her again. In November there will be a talk on Kiftsgate Court Gardens near Chipping Campden. It is the creation of three generations of women gardeners and should be very interesting. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month in Wendlebury Village Hall at 7.15 for tea and biscuits before the talk at 7.45. New members and visitors are always welcome so come and join us on November 21st. Any questions please contact:

June Pearce june@imazed.co.uk or Joyce Leach on 01869 240297

Harvest-time at Middleton Stoney

Tradition dictates that Harvest Supper celebrates the time of year when crops have been gathered from the field and villagers can show gratitude for the food that they have. Well, the good people of Middleton Stoney were firmly in the gratitude camp after feasting on a delicious selection of meats, vegetables and desserts. The evening kicked-off with Rev. Gareth Miller leading prayers for this year's crop and England's Rugby World Cup campaign (or possibly just the former).

After supper, local agriculturalist Peter Brown reported back on this year's harvest. As is also tradition, a raffle was hosted by the Ant 'n Dec of West Oxfordshire who paraded the usual assorted mix of prizes. This year's offerings included Vladimir Putin toilet paper, rather fortuitously won by a Ukrainian (I was reassured it would be put to good use). There was also King Jon Ung's calendar which generated as much interest as an UN weapons inspection. To close this particular circle, a variety of Donald Trump memorabilia was raffled (though the winners were met with unsubstantiated rigging allegations). Finally, though not making the axis of evil, Liz Truss returned with a book detailing her achievements as PM.



The revelries raised £830 which we sensibly ploughed into Wilko shares (at such a low price, what could go wrong). As always, many thanks for all those who contributed to such a delightful evening, especially those responsible for the cooking.

CHESTERTON PARISH COUNCIL – OCTOBER REPORT

Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 – CDC have now published the draft plan. As discussed in last month's ABC, the draft plan allocates an additional 500 houses on land running south of Chesterton down to the A41. The Parish Council believe this is simply the wrong place for such a settlement. It would inevitably lead to coalescence with Chesterton which undoubtedly would be swamped. By now you should have received a leaflet inviting you to a Parish meeting at 2pm on Saturday 28th October where we can outline the proposed plan and take your comments for inclusion into the Parish Council's response (this meeting may have passed by the time you receive the ABC, and we hope you were able to attend). This does not preclude individuals from commenting directly to CDC, so please do so.

East-West Railway – Quoting from EWR's website: *'We recognise that London Road level crossing provides a vital route for people to get into the town centre on foot, by bicycle, public transport and car. Once all EWR services are introduced on the line, the barriers are expected to be down for a significant portion in every hour.'* For the past couple of years EWR have been exploring potential solutions to dealing with the crossing. While they seem to have narrowed the options down they are still no nearer making a decision. Further information can be found here:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/proposed-route/oxford-to-bicester/overview> .

It is worth considering that while the EWR provides benefits in making it much easier to travel to towns such as Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge there are inevitable downsides. Quoting from STOP THE ARC (<https://stopthearc.org/>), 'Those [ARC] supporters living at either end of the Arc may have seen major coverage in local papers about the threats posed by the East West Railway (EWR). Briefly the Catch 22 is 'for the railway to make any economic sense it needs massive housing growth, but the unnecessary housing is only logical if there is railway'. Bicester, being part of the 'ARC' will continue to have pressure to build housing – and by virtue of our location some of that pressure is likely to be felt by Chesterton.

Chesterton Free Library – We are delighted that the Free Library is so well used and that a huge range of books are being donated. There is a small army of volunteers who manage the Library on a monthly basis. They clear out all the non-book donations that are made, including clothes, toys (often broken), dvd's, CDs and general detritus, all of which goes into the bin. So please only donate books – it isn't a dumping ground for unwanted items. .

The volunteers also cull any damaged books and where there is an excess of books these are stored separately

A huge thank you to the Free Library Volunteers as you do a great job. When using the Free Library, please leave it tidy and in good condition, with books stacked properly on the shelves as you would expect in a library and not on the floor as they will inevitably get wet and damaged.

Full-Fibre Broadband FTTP – Currently most dwellings in Chesterton have relatively slow broadband, with speeds generally getting slower with increasing distance from the ‘green box’ opposite Bruerne Abbey School. If you are lucky your broadband speed might be 30Mb/s, but likely to be somewhat slower as it runs through BT’s copper cable infrastructure. The Parish Council have been pursuing much faster broadband through what is known as FTTP (Fibre To The Premises) in order to future-proof the village as the internet becomes more and more important in everyday life. However, BT’s roll-out of FTTP stalled sometime ago. Last month Gigaclear got in touch with us and indicated that Chesterton was one of their next villages to receive FTTP. Kirtlington has been using Gigaclear for some time now and Weston-on-the-Green has recently come on stream. Gigaclear Ltd is principally owned by Infracapital, a leading European infrastructure investor. The network is developed through commercial investment and the Government-subsidized Broadband Delivery UK programme. They are focusing on bringing ultrafast broadband (an average of 900 Mb/s upload and download speed) to rural locations and to date have implemented FTTP in 700+ communities (approximately 83,000+ customers). An initial discussion with Gigaclear indicated that they would be mainly using existing underground infrastructure with the build likely to start in November this year and might take up to a year to complete. When they are ready to start the build the village will be invited to a presentation by Gigaclear who will outline the works to be completed. You may have already seen some fibre cables being pulled through the existing underground trunking – this is the fibre backbone to which individual properties will be connected. Just to note though, there is no obligation for individuals to take FTTP broadband if they do not want it. Equally, if you agree to a fibre cable at your home there is no obligation for you to take Gigaclear’s services as you can remain with your existing copper-based internet services.

Finally, a thank you to our Chesterton Litter Collection team who cleared a further 9 black bags of rubbish from our village last month.

Next Parish Council Meeting: 7th November, 7pm Community Centre. All welcome.

Sailing to St Kilda

Although few get there, many cruising types have St Kilda on their “Bucket List”, partly the attraction is the landscape and the wildlife including unique species, one of the world’s largest Gannet colonies and the largest colonies of Fulmars and Puffins in Great Britain, all sadly now depleted by Bird Flu.

But mainly it is the challenge of getting there. First, it is a long way, especially for those of us sailing small boats solo from the south coast; then there is the weather and the rough seas.

The Sounds of Barra and Harris are the only way through the islands. Both are torturous with strong unpredictable tides and get dangerous in stronger winds that are frequent in the area, and in such conditions the ways round to the north or south don’t bare thinking about so, with few places of shelter on the west coast, a rare period of settled weather is needed to get to St Kilda.

Then there is the island itself, 40 miles further out in the Atlantic at 57° 50’ North, it is subject to swell that can come from the Arctic or Canada or both at the same time. This can quickly make Village Bay, the only serious anchorage, untenable as can any easterly wind. To get there you therefore need an extended period of good weather over a wide area as did the original inhabitants of St Kilda who were frequently cut off for many months at a time.

In 2021 I hoped to include St Kilda in my second solo circumnavigation of GB but reaching Stornoway under time pressure to get to a sailing event in Wales, I skipped St Kilda and still missed the event. In 2022 I made a more determined effort, it took 39 days, to reach South Uist but weather systems developing in the Atlantic could have trapped me there for weeks, so I went to Plockton on the mainland (where the TV series Hamish Macbeth was filmed) and after 3 weeks, with no prospect of improvement I gave up and got home after 89 days.



In 2023 I set off again and made better time getting to Tobermory on Mull in 32 days. Prospects looked good so on the 19th May I crossed the Sea of the Hebrides to Vatersay at the southern end of the Western Isles.

Scottish waters are always good for seeing marine mammals, but this leg was exceptional; in 58 nautical miles I had 3 sightings of Minke Whales, more than in the previous 5 years together, there were Dolphins most of the way over and at least 200 in one super pod northwest of Coll, a pod of Killer Whales, a Basking Shark and Seals as I arrived in Vatersay Bay.



With a weather window possibly opening the next week I headed north to The Sound of Harris via Barra, South and North Uist. Then I was off.

Hirta (aka St Kilda) is the largest of four islands and several stacks in the dual World Heritage Site and the only one to be inhabited. It is around 1,300 acres, about 78% of the total area of the archipelago. Initially Inhabited at least 4,000 years ago, at the peak there were up to 180 people there, by 1851 it was down to 112 and the last 36 left in 1930 largely because of repeated illnesses brought on by increased external contact. Ironically, they were resettled to work with the Scottish Forestry Commission when some would never have seen a tree.

Life was extremely hard, fishing was limited by the lack of a harbour, rough seas and deep water locally also farming could produce little, so the main foods were sea birds and their eggs gathered swinging from ropes on sheer sea cliffs up to 1,400ft the highest in UK. Food was stored in over a 1,300 “cleitean” unique small stone storage structures that litter the steep hill sides.

The trip took 76 days and covered 1,885 nautical miles (2,173 statute) and although it was generally cold until day 58, I only lost 11 days to the weather.

For a day by day account of this trip with many photographs check out www.sv-sancerre.net and click on “2023 Barra & St Kilda”. John Lashbrook

Chesterton St Mary's Harvest Supper

On the last Friday in September, John Floyd, the Head of Bruern Abbey School, hosted our Harvest Supper. His marvellous chef, Neil, cooked very tasty jacket potatoes with a good choice of toppings, followed by chocolate brownies and fruit crumble with custard, accompanied by a 'welcome' glass of wine.

This treat in the atmospheric setting of the lovely old building was a joy for nearly 60 locals and a very welcome boost to the church finances.

Hearty thanks, John!

(Note: an earring was found after the event and can be collected from the school office)



MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Sarah Kearney, Parish Clerk

22 Exeter Road, KIDLINGTON, Oxfordshire OX5 2DY

07831 119533

clerkmiddletonstoneypc1@gmail.com

<https://middletonstoney.com>

Your village needs you!

Would you like to be involved in the decision-making in the village?

Following the resignation of Middleton Stoney Councillor, the Parish Council currently has a vacancy.

If you are interested and want to find out more, speak to one of the Councillors or contact the Clerk@middletonstoneypc1@gmail.com

No experience is necessary, and training is available.

Any person wishing to serve as a Councillor should write to the Council at the above address (either by post or email) using the form on the website at

<https://middletonstoney.com/councillors-for-2023-2027/>

by **Sunday 31st December 2023**.

The Parish Council will consider applications at the meeting on **18th January 2024**.

To qualify, a person must be a Commonwealth or EU citizen, over 18 years old and an elector; must reside within Middleton Stoney or within three miles of it or occupy as owner or tenant any land or premises therein or have their principal or only place of work there, and must not be disqualified from holding office as a Councillor (further details available from the Clerk).

Middleton Stoney Parish Council – October 2023 Report

Parish Council update: HAVE YOUR SAY

Village Meeting: 28 November

The Parish Council is holding a meeting on Tuesday 28th November at 19.00 in the Village Hall to update you on our plans for the village and give an opportunity for you to have your say. We hope to see as many people as possible and will be providing tea and coffee.

There are 3 key areas for discussion:

The draft Village Plan setting out our key priorities for the next few years.

Our plans to tackle traffic issues affecting the village.

The draft Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan which sets our approach to new development over the next decade.

We will put up key documents on the website in advance (www.middletonstoney.com) so if you cannot come on the evening, let us have your views in advance. Look forward to seeing you there.

Improving Village Life: lots underway. The most visible to residents include refreshing the planters at the entrances to the village and at the crossroads and improving the surrounds of the Village Hall with new brickwork by the entrance and repainting/repairing the windows and doors. We are also overhauling the electrics inside. Good progress is also being made on updating the Playground as we get in quotes for the work although the go-ahead depends on whether we can successfully secure external funding.

Planning: the Parish Council will respond to the draft Cherwell Local Plan for 2040, stressing that the proposed developments at Heyford Park and North West Bicester need to be accompanied by the necessary supporting infrastructure so that villages like ours are not squeezed in the middle. The good news is that Middleton Stoney is listed in the draft Plan as a “smaller village” meaning new development here would be limited.

Soup Lunch: we are delighted that Juliet Cornford is starting again the very popular soup lunches in the Village Hall. The date planned is Friday 17 November so watch this space.

Next Meeting: Our next formal Parish Council meeting will take place on 2 November in the Village Hall. As always villagers are welcome to attend. If you want to know more, and get involved, please email us at

clerkmiddletonstoneypc1@gmail.com, or just turn up on the night.

Jonathan Rees (Chair, Middleton Stoney Parish Council)

(Re-)Join the Middleton Stoney Lotto Club!

Autumn is well and truly with us and it's not that long until Christmas. But before your mind turns to festivities, it's time to join in with the Middleton Stoney Lotto Club for 2024.

If you're already a member, you'll know the score: in January, you buy your monthly tickets for the year and then wait with bated breath each month for the prize winners to be announced.

Whether you're a member already or just joining for the first time, you'll need to enrol for a chance of winning in 2024 by 31 January. So, here's how it works:

Half the money that comes from the Lotto Club tickets goes towards prizes and the other half towards maintaining Middleton Stoney's unique and historic All Saints' Church. There are two prizes of £25 each, drawn at the end of every month, with more and larger prizes in the Grand Christmas draw. (The total in December depends on how many tickets have been sold.)

We're keeping the price the same this year as it has been for decades – just £1 per ticket per month! So only £12 for the year. But it's costing more and more these days to keep on top of church maintenance, so we're hoping you'll all buy numerous tickets. Which will also multiply your chances of scooping a prize. You can hold as many tickets as you like – for you, for friends and family, and even the dog. (Cats, hamsters and goldfish are not exempt).

We're so grateful to everyone who's taken part so far. The money you've contributed has been the cherry on the cake when it's come to the challenge of roof repairs and other maintenance. There's been an All Saints' Church in Middleton Stoney for some 900 years, an enduring place of serenity in surroundings of calm and beauty. If you haven't visited it yet, please do. We're all lucky to have such an extraordinary ancient building, whether we use it as a place of worship or a haven for contemplation, enjoying the open air and appreciating the environment around us.

Watch out for a leaflet coming through your letterbox in the next few weeks. And for more information email msslottoclub@gmail.com.



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Wendlebury WI

At our October meeting, members enjoyed a social evening, tucking into a variety of puddings whilst simultaneously tackling three quizzes. The committee members had made a selection of delicious desserts and decorated the tables beautifully with Autumn flowers and foliage. There

are several interesting Oxfordshire Federation events coming up and members were encouraged to sign up for them. On 14 November there will be a 'hands on' demonstration of how to make a Book Angel. All materials and detailed Instructions will be provided, with one-to-one help, to enable everyone to make one of these beautiful decorations.

Guests and new members are always welcome. For further information, please contact Julie Giles on 07917 696047.

Jill Peck



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7	6	3	5	8	1	4	2	9
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2	7	8	1	5	9	6	4	3
6	9	2	4	7	5	1	3	8
3	8	5	2	1	6	9	7	4
4	1	7	3	9	8	2	5	6

Puzzle
provided by
Gabriel

Finding Nirmata

by Charlie Barker



British director Gareth Edwards came to the attention of the cinema-going public with his first film, a little independent gem called *Monsters* (2010), on which he also served as writer, cinematographer and visual effects artist. In addition to the two actors, the crew consisted of merely five people. Following the success of his debut feature, he went on to make *Godzilla* (2014) and *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016). Now, as director and co-writer he has brought to our screens *The Creator*, a truly original and thought-provoking sci-fi spectacular, which deals with one of the great issues of our time, Artificial Intelligence. Whilst Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*, the *Terminator* franchise and even *Ex Machina* come to mind, Edwards treads a different path, one that is arguably more sympathetic to AI.

The year is 2065 and Artificial Intelligence has developed apace. Following the detonation of a nuclear bomb over Los Angeles, supposedly by AI, the US finds itself at war to prevent the extinction of humanity. In New Asia, however, the people embrace and live in harmony with AI which takes the form not only of robots but also sentient simulants, only distinguishable from humans thanks to the hole in the base of their skull in which moving metal parts can be seen. We first meet Sergeant Joshua Taylor (a persuasive John David Washington) living undercover in New Asia and initially tasked with tracking down and assassinating "Nirmata", the elusive creator of advanced AI. Later it is discovered that AI has developed a super-weapon which could turn the tide of the war and which Joshua must find and destroy. When the weapon turns out to be a simulant child (winningly played by Madeleine Yuna Voyles), who can also help Joshua to find his missing wife, he refuses to kill her. It is the growing relationship between Joshua and Alpha-O (get it?) or Alphie, as he calls her, that lies at the heart of the film and adds a strong emotional element to the movie.

In *The Creator* Edwards has constructed an immersive world on a massive scale that succeeds on many levels. Complemented by a Hans Zimmer score, the visual effects are simply stunning, particularly if one considers that the budget was a mere \$80 million. (*Avengers: Endgame* (2019) cost over \$350m and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) over £400m, for example.) Particularly striking is the shiny NOMAD, a US military space station that hovers over New Asia like "a bird of prey and an all-seeing eye in the sky" as Edwards describes it.

Using a laser-guided targeting system that bathes the terrain in a beautiful, eerie blue light, it rains death and destruction on those below. Elsewhere machines remind one of the grunge of the spaceship that hangs over Johannesburg in *District 9* (2009). Beautifully shot in widescreen, *The Creator* leaves the audience with memorable vistas of paddy fields, temples and villages that form the backdrop to spectacular action set pieces.

Though not entirely successful – the final action climax, for example, is perhaps disappointing – there can be no doubting the boldness of Edwards’ vision. With *The Creator* he has produced an exciting, stimulating and indeed touching film which makes the audience challenge their assumptions, whilst posing interesting questions about AI and the very meaning of being human.



Bruern Abbey School

Fireworks Night Private Function

Dear Fellow Chesterton Residents

It’s that time of year again when the boys at Bruern Abbey will be celebrating Guy Fawkes Night.

This year we will be celebrating the event on Friday 10th November, for those of you who have pets of a nervous disposition please note that the firework display will start at approximately 5:30pm. I do apologise! With best regards,

John Floyd

Headmaster Bruern Abbey School

Victoria Prentis KC MP
Member of Parliament for Banbury

As your local MP, I'm here to help you and your family with any local or national issues.

Victoria

to get in touch...

No matter what the issue, I'd be very happy to hear from you.

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- ☎ 01869 233 685
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AHOJ



"Hello everyone from Alexandra House of Joy Charity. We hope you are enjoying the wonderful autumnal sunshine. We are continuing to work hard raising the funds to build, and each day we constantly look for ways in which we can build up the account which at times can be very challenging! Our total at present now stands at £873k which is so encouraging, and we have only been able to do this through and with the incredible support of very faithful friends and followers of our project. Ian and I are really humbled. The Banbury Market Stall continues to do very well and over the past seven months (thanks to the marvellous donors and customers) the fantastic sum of £11,575 has been raised. We love to receive donations for the stall so if anyone reading this would like to contribute we would be extremely grateful. We live in Chesterton! Dr Darragh Ennis (from The Chase and Beat the Chasers) has very kindly offered to run another Celebrity Quiz Evening on

Friday November 10th '23

arrival 7pm for prompt 7.30pm start. Teams of eight to a table and the entrance fee is £10. The bar will be open and there will be a raffle. If anyone can spare a raffle prize it would be really appreciated! Tickets are selling fast already and you can book by visiting our Facebook Page where you will see a link to Eventbrite to book. Following this event we have another very exciting evening lined up in December (date to be confirmed), when Pavers Store will be hosting a fundraising evening for AHOJ.! More info to follow in the next ABC magazine. Finally, we would like to share that Cllr Les Sibley was re-elected as Chair of Cherwell District Council for another year, and during his time of office he has once again chosen AHOJ as his charity to fundraise for. We are enormously grateful to him. He is a real champion of our Charity in so many ways, and it is wonderful to have him on board supporting us to reach our target. Hoping to see you at one of our next events. God bless, Ian & Rachael Scott-Hunter - (alexandrahouseofjoy@gmail.com)



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Chesterton History Cricket at Bignell Park

The cricket pitch at Bignell was situated to the right of the entrance driveway and the pavilion is now the gatehouse garage. The quality of the of the cricket pitch at Bignell was perfect compared to the village one. There were frequent games played against the Tubb's from Chesterton Lodge, but Bignell apparently always outshone them, probably because the Squire was such a good cricketer himself.

The Cricket Team picture 1930 (left to right)



The Cricket Team 1930 (left to right)

Back row: George Kerwood (umpire), Ernie Hopcraft, Fred Kirby, Dumbleton, George Hughes, George Lapper, Jack Emberlin

Middle row: Phillip Tanner, man sat in the bowler hat may have been Squire Hoare, Billie Buckle, Charles Shouler, unknown.

Front row: Alfred Stratford, Leslie White.

The Squire was a the owner of Bignell House and Estate, also a J.P., a D.C. and M.P. for Oxford for some years, 1894-1906. Also High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1893 and 1903.

He also had the wall surrounding the park at Bignell House built in 1928-31, the quarrying of the stone and wall construction, provided good employment for the men during the recession.

Some information is taken from Diane Gordon's book on the History of Bignell House. Jane Stead.

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

2 nd	Middleton Stoney	Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm in the Village Hall
3 rd	The Red Cow	Chesterton Coffee Morning every Friday at 11am
4 th	Langford Village Bicester	Christmas Market 11am – 3pm in Langford Community Hall, Nightingale Place OX26 6XX
5 th	Chesterton	Young Families Service at 11am in St. Mary's Church
6 th	Evergreens	Monthly Meeting 1pm in Chesterton Community Centre. We welcome new members, Tel: 01869 252806
7 th	Short Mat Bowls	Chesterton Community Centre 2.30 pm every Tuesday Contact Tony Thompson on 01869 243330
7 th	Chesterton	Ballet Classes every Tuesday 11-12pm in Chesterton Community Centre. £8
7 th	Chesterton	Parish Council Meeting 7pm in the Community Centre, Colin Board room.
8 th – 17 th	Bicester	Garth House Illuminated Christmas Trail See Bicester.gov.uk for ticket information
10 th	Chesterton	Alexandra House of Joy Celebrity Quiz Evening See advert on page 21
14 th	Wendlebury WI	Wendlebury Village Hall at 7.30pm. 'Hands On Demo' How to make a Book Angel Further information contact Julie Giles on 07917 696047
16 – 19th	Oxford	Victorian Christmas Market on Broad Street from 11am.
24 th – 26th	Banbury	Victorian Christmas Market 10am – 8pm
21 st	Wendlebury	Gardening Club in Wendlebury Village Hall 7.15 for 7.45
25 th	Bicester	Christmas Lights Switch On in Town Centre 1pm-7pm. Festive stalls with craft, gifts, food and entertainment. Lantern parade after dark followed by Lights switch on by Town Mayor

29 th	Lunch@CC	In Chesterton Community Centre 1pm Come and join us and enjoy a two course meal for £6 which includes tea/coffee. Wine also available. Booking ESSENTIAL on 01869 243477
30 th	Wendlebury	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm in the Village Hall
30th Nov – 23 Dec	Oxford	Oxford City Christmas Market until 23 rd Dec 10am – 6pm

VUE CINEMA Bicester – Programme for NOVEMBER		Date	Time
National Theatre Live	Skylight	16 November	19.00
The Royal Opera	23/24 Don Quixote	7 November	19.00
	Encore	12 November	14.00
Kevin Bridges	The Overdue Catch-Up	17 November	19.30

Lunch@ CC



Join us for lunch on
Wednesday 29th November
at 1.00pm
in Chesterton Community
Centre

Come along and enjoy a two course meal for £6.00,
which includes tea/coffee

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Chesterton Football Club

Throughout the summer the Football Club has been running training sessions for girls ages 5-11. These sessions were aimed at girls who weren't currently playing football and wanted to try out the sport.

It has been a Football Association initiative called Wildcats and ran for 16 weeks. We had 40 girls take part. At the end we presented them with an engraved medal in recognition of their achievement. As you can see the girls went home happy and proud.

We now move on to forming some teams and playing games against other similar sides.

Steve Honey

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What is a Weed? – David Jones

The exam schedule for my first Degree was morning and afternoon Thursday, morning and afternoon Friday, morning and afternoon Saturday - DONE. The last 'paper' was a general one with a scientific slant. There were 32 questions, in 8 sets of four, Chemistry, Physics Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Biochemistry, Psychology and Physiology. My subject, Genetics, was include in Botany and Zoology. You were expected to answer two. One question was: ***What is a weed?***

This same simple question can be asked of a three-year-old as of an undergraduate, a research biologist and of a gardener. It does, however, require thought to answer. The youngest may think of Bill and Ben, the Flowerpot Men and Little Weed. Teenagers+ might think cannabis. Gardeners may think of plants growing where they are not wanted.

Clearly a full answer to the question is not straight-forward. Bill and Ben were not around when I wrote my Finals and there was little smoking of cannabis. It was also a couple of years before the British Ecological Society held a symposium in Oxford which produced a book '*The Biology of Weeds*'. For the purposes of the symposium weeds were defined as 'higher plants which are nuisance'. Now we have the definition by the biologist.

Plants which the gardener would recognise as weedy species were known, by their pollen, to have been growing in Britain 57,000 years ago: docks, clovers, parsnips, flax and plantains. Gardens, allotments and crop fields are ideal places for weeds to grow, because of the way we grow the plants we want. Many crops are grown in rows, leaving open ground between the rows. We try to leave spaces between the plants in our gardens to give them space. But spaces are exactly what weeds enjoy. Weeds are very quick colonisers of open spaces. Almost all the plants in an herbaceous border or are climbers are alien in origin. For example, almost all roses were originally bred outside the UK. There is now a multitude of British varieties, but their ancestors are not British. Similarly, all our crop plants have an alien source. Admittedly, while the cereals wheat, barley, rice and oats have been here for a long time (they are classed as archaeophytes) they have not been here as long as their weeds.

Even animals can be weedy in the sense defined by the symposium I mentioned above. I was horrified to see that Blue Diamond is encouraging one of the most nuisance alien mammals. They are selling a Craftsman Squirrel Feeder. Perhaps we should boycott the place until they cease selling this item.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH AT ST EDBURG'S CHURCH, BICESTER

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So the audience is engaged not only with Handel's music, but also with the characters played by the singers themselves, together on a spiritual journey.

At St Edburg's Church, Friday 17th November at 7.30pm

Tickets are £14 (students and under 18's £10)

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NOVEMBER 2023	05-Nov All Souls	12-Nov Remembrance	19-Nov 2 before Advent	26-Nov 1 before Advent
Bletchington	1100 All Souls' Service	1045 Remembrance Service	930 Holy Communion	
Chesterton	1100 Family Service 1600 All Souls' Service	1045 Remembrance Service	1100 Morning Worship	1800 Stir-Up Service
Hampton Gay				
Kirtlington	1800 All Souls' Service	1045 Remembrance Service 1800 Holy Communion	1100 Morning Worship	930 Holy Communion* (said)
Middleton Stoney	930 All Souls' Service	945 Remembrance Service	930 Breakfast Church	
Wendlebury	1600 All Souls' Service		930 Morning Worship	
Weston-on- the-Green	1800 All Souls'	1045 Remembrance Service	1100 Holy Communion	

Chesterton Community centre

2 Geminus Road, Chesterton,
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For information and enquiries on booking the Community Centre, please contact

Sarah Muddiman.

bookings@chestertonparishcouncil.org.uk

[g.uk](http://www.chestertonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Tel: 07526 732115

Discounted fees apply to village parishioners.

Welcome to Chesterton Community Centre.

Our beautiful hall is the perfect place to host anything from special celebrations to general meetings.

The Frank Shouler hall is 134 Sq m and will accommodate 100 people. The hall benefits from underfloor heating and access to the outdoor play area, as well as a projector and screen. Kitchen facilities are available directly off the hall with full access to cooker, fridge, freezer, microwave and dish washer.

Our smaller Colin Board room is perfect for meetings. It is 33 Sq m and is suitable for 25 people. Again, access to the kitchen is directly off the room.