

The ABC December 2023



Thanks to the support of advertisers and an army of volunteers, a free hard copy or e-mail version goes into every house in Chesterton, Little Chesterton, Middleton Stoney and Wendlebury, and by e-mail to many others.

Copy deadline is the 15th of each month for the following month's magazine.

To send correspondence, articles, or just get in touch with us, please email:
chestertonmag@gmail.com

Trust Bicester Vets

... to care
for your
pets



BICESTER'S ONLY INDEPENDENT VETERINARY PRACTICE

Why choose Bicester Vets?

- Compassionate & caring at all times.
- Healthcare Plans for Dogs, Cats & Rabbits.
- Long opening hours for your convenience.
- Free Vet checks for new puppies, kittens and young rabbits.
- Bicester Vets' 24 hour emergency service and 24 hour nursing care

Call today on **01869 252077**

Bicester Vets • Victoria Road • Bicester • OX26 6PJ



Follow us on twitter @bicester vets and Like us
on facebook at www.facebook.com/bicester vets

www.bicester vets.co.uk


bicester vets
Compassion & Care

The front cover picture of a robin is with kind permission of Bethanne Brummell, our local artist in Chesterton

Stephen Pryor

Those of you who remember Stephen Pryor, the former editor of the ABC, will be pleased to see this photograph of him (taken by the Revd Gareth Miller during a recent visit) and to hear that he is doing well at Fewcott House.



The ABC team wishes all its readers and advertisers a very happy Christmas and New Year!

A & P Blake Forestry Services

LOGS FOR SALE

Quality seasoned hardwood split logs
Various sized logs and loads available

Kindling / Coal / Log Bags

Tree Felling / Pond Excavation



Full Load



Half Load



Large Bag



Kindling bag



House Coal



Smokeless Coal

logs@apblakeforestry.co.uk

www.apblakeforestry.co.uk



01869 277 815 / 07970 258 165

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 st | The Red Cow | Chesterton Coffee Morning every Friday at 10.30am |
| 2 nd | Bicester | Kingsmere Comm Centre Christmas Craft Market 2-6pm |
| 2 nd & 3 rd | Bicester | Victorian Christmas Market , Sheep Street 10am–5pm |
| 3 rd | Chester-ton | Young Families Service at 11am in St Mary's Church |
| 4 th | Ever-greens | Monthly Meeting 1pm in Chesterton Community Centre. We welcome new members, Tel: 01869 252806 |
| 5 th | Short Mat Bowls | Chesterton Community Centre 2.30 pm every Tuesday Contact Tony Thompson on 01869 243330 |
| 5 th | Chester-ton | Ballet Classes every Tuesday 11-12pm in Chesterton Community Centre. £8 |
| 5 th | Wendle-bury | Gardening Club in Wendlebury Village Hall at 7.15 for 7.45pm 'Christmas Social Evening' with raffle and quiz. Members to bring a plate of food to share. |
| 8 th & 9 th | Wendle-bury | Wendlebury Community Choir 'Christmas Concert' 7.30pm in St Giles Church. Adults £10 Children £5 Tickets contact wendleburycommunitychoir@gmail.com |
| 8 th – 17 th | Bicester | Garth House Illuminated Christmas Trail with Santa's Grotto. Grotto Tickets: https://shorturl.at/blmJY |
| 12 th | Chester-ton | Parish Council Meeting 7pm in the Community Centre, Colin Board room. |
| 12 th | Wendle-bury WI | Wendlebury Village Hall at 7.30pm. 'Christmas Social' with entertainment and a quiz. Members to bring a plate of food to share. Further info Julie Giles on 07917 696047 |
| 15 th | Chester-ton | Alexandra House of Joy are hosting a Pavers Shoes Christmas Fashion Show. See Advert Page 20 |
| Until 17 th | Wood-stock | Blenheim Palace Christmas Market 10am – 4pm Free entry on foot. Car park book and pay in advance. |
| 21 st | Chester-ton | Winter Wonderland at Bignell Garden House OX26 1UF 6pm – 8pm. Entrance £6 adults/ £12.50 per family, See Advert Page 5 |
| | Lunch@ CC | NO COMMUNITY LUNCH THIS MONTH |
| Until 23 rd | Oxford | Oxford City Christmas Market in Broad Street 10am – 6pm |



**It's Winter Wonderland Time
in Chesterton
Thursday 21st December, 6-8pm**

**Join Russell Jones Jr (X Factor) from 6.30-7.30pm
for Christmas songs and carols in this magical
illuminated garden**

Location: Bignell Garden House, Chesterton OX26 1UF

**NO PARKING AVAILABLE ON SITE—please park in the village
(with consideration for residents) and follow signs to the venue**

**Entrance: £6 per person or £12.50 per family—includes
festive drinks, mince pies and Christmas cookies**

Tickets available in advance from:

Jill Peck (jill@chesterton1.plus.com; 07926 497300)

Hilary Walbank (01869 242109; 07808 249549)

or on the night - cash or card accepted

**Our hosts, Maggie and Stephen Webster, wish all proceeds to
go towards the modernisation of St Mary's Church, Chesterton,
for the 21st century**

Wendlebury WI

There was unanimous agreement that November's 'hands-on' evening was a great success, when two of our members, Julie Giles and Janet Witney, showed us how to make a book angel. We were able to chat whilst folding the pages, so it was a sociable occasion as well as a creative one. Once the angels had been sprayed with gold paint, the results were very pleasing, and the method can also be adapted to make a Christmas tree.



In response to the Oxfordshire Federation's Christmas Appeal 2023, members brought along a selection of gift-wrapped items which will be donated to Homeless Oxfordshire and The Gatehouse – charities that have been assisting Oxford's homeless since 1988. In the new year, we will be putting together boxes of toiletries to support vulnerable and homeless women.

12th December is the date for our Christmas meeting (7.30pm in Wendlebury Village Hall), when there will be entertainment and a quiz. Members are asked to bring a plate of food to share – we always find that this produces a lovely assortment of delicious things to eat.

Guests and new members are always welcome – for more information, please contact Julie Giles on 07917 696047.

Jill Peck

December 2023 ~ Hysterical Quiz

- 1) Which famous author's brother became Chief Receiver of Taxes for Oxfordshire?
a) Anthony Trollope b) Daniel Defoe c) Jane Austen
- 2) How many judges were there in the country in 1875?
a) 30 b) 124 c) 360
- 3) In 1814 Admiral Lord Cochrane was imprisoned for
a) Insider trading b) Failure to follow orders
c) Enriching himself at the country's expense?
- 4) Which of the following did the Prince of Wales, later Prince Regent and George IV, marry?
a) Maria Fitzherbert b) Caroline of Brunswick c) Mary of Modena
- 5) Doctor Addington, physician to George III and father of Lord Sidmouth, Prime Minister from 1801 to 1804, lived for a time in which local village?
a) Stoke Lyne b) Fringford c) Wendlebury
- 6) In the early 19th century Almacks was known as the Marriage Mart for the nobility. The ambassadors of which countries could boast of their wives being one of the highly influential Patronesses?
a) Russia b) Prussia c) Austria
- 7) The quip that the battle of Waterloo was "won on the playing fields of Eton" was made by;
a) the Duke of Wellington b) his brother Marquis Wellesley
c) a French journalist
- 8) Bridges on teeth were pioneered by;
a) the Etruscans b) the Romans c) Victorian dentists
- 9) Edward Marshall-Hall KC, the best-known barrister of his era, acted for the defendant in which cases?
a) the Brides in the Bath murders
b) Dr Crippen
c) the Camden Town murder
- 10) Which poet accepted the sinecure of local Distributor of Stamps in his local area to bolster his income?
a) George, Lord Byron
b) Samuel Taylor Coleridge
c) William Wordsworth

Henry Tubb, the Bicester Banker

Henry Tubb was one of the third generation of Tubb's bankers in Bicester; the bank was established in 1793. It was the first bank in Bicester, known as 'the bank'.

Henry started working with his Uncle George in 1880 and after George's death in 1885, Henry became the sole proprietor of the bank, which continued to issue its own bank notes and cheques until 1918.



Henry's father, Henry Michael (1800-1857), became a banker with his brother George; they managed to negotiate a level crossing in Bicester near the Launton Road, still called 'Tubb's Crossing', when the railway first came to Bicester in 1850. Bullion would come by rail from London, once a week, with a detective sitting on the box of gold for the whole journey from Euston. A bank employee went to meet him with a handcart, with a detective at his shoulder while he pushed it to the bank.

Henry continued with all the charitable work that his family had set up, giving coal to the poor at the reduced price of sixpence a hundredweight bag. They owned six almshouses in Water Lane, now Chapel Street, charging a peppercorn rent, and financed a soup kitchen in St Edburg's Hall in London Road for the poor.

Henry's early residences were at Bucknell Manor and Bicester House. In 1890 the family went to live at Chesterton Lodge which had been built especially for them, and in 1898 they gave Chesterton Church its pipe organ.

Henry sold the bank to Barclays in 1920 for £20,000. Now Barclays has closed after 103 years of ownership.

Henry Tubb died in 1924 and is buried in the Western section of Chesterton churchyard, in a double plot with a decorative cross and curbstone, his wife Margaret beside him, who died in 1938.

When Henry died in 1924, most of the shops closed in Bicester, and Chesterton Church and churchyard were full of mourners, a very sad occasion for the people of Bicester and the end of the Tubb family.

Jane Stead

Middleton Stoney Parish Council

The Parish Council held its regular bimonthly meeting on 2 November. Here are a few highlights:

Improving Village Life: the Parish Council welcomed the work done to improve the appearance of the Village Hall, with new stones laid to replace the broken-down tarmac and weeds at the front. It expressed its appreciation of the very generous contribution to the costs from Smiths of Bletchington which had enabled this work to go ahead. We will begin painting the outside windows and doors soon. We have also tidied up the planters throughout the village with winter plants.

Planning: a lot is going on. The Parish Council agreed its response to Cherwell District Council's draft 2040 Plan which sets out its vision for future development. In our response we welcomed the commitments to maintain Cherwell's rural character but expressed our concerns that the Plan did not set out how the necessary infrastructure would accompany such development, highlighting the already negative traffic consequences of Heyford Park and nearby housing and warehousing. We agreed to continue to oppose the application by Smiths to extend operations of the quarry north of the village. Finally, the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan embracing us and 12 other adjoining Parishes will now take place in January 2024.

Playground: the Council thanked Juliet Cornford for all her hard work in seeking funding to enable us to replace the playground. We are also grateful to all villagers who put in letters of support. We have passed the first stage of the process and should learn whether we have been successful early in the New Year. Thanks too to those villagers who offered to help with monthly inspections of the existing playground.

People: we appointed Juliet Cornford and Al Grenfell as our new vice-chairs. Thanks to them both for all they already do.

Next Meeting: Our next formal Parish Council meeting will take place on 18 January 2024 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)

Chesterton 200 Club

The winner this month is Jill Peck with ticket number 114.
Her chosen charity is Animals Asia.

From the Rector

Dear friends

A friend of mine, a cleric, is about to release himself from duties on this sceptred isle in order to undertake a continental chaplaincy, on the Mediterranean. I teased him with words from the Bidding Prayer at the service of nine lessons and carols: “Ah, you’re going to ‘rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light!’ ”

Yet I am hardly one to speak enviously, as I am about to embark upon a sabbatical, with perhaps a little sunshine thrown in for good measure. I do not suffer from seasonal affective disorder, but the winter months are not my favourite, and I plan to spend at least a portion of my time away abroad. The rest of it will be given to study, prayer, writing, and time with the family.

For many, of course, there is no sabbatical, no break from the daily grind. For those in Israel/Palestine/Gaza, not to mention Ukraine, no rest from the attrition of relentless bombardment, offensive followed by counter-offensive, death, destruction, homelessness and humiliation.

Yet in the pages of scripture a rest is promised, a sabbath for the people of God, a rest from labour but also an opportunity for refreshment and reconciliation. Rest is not intended as a way of squandering time, but rather a chance to re-group, to reflect, to repent, to grow in faith and grace. Is it just possible that the peoples of what we call the Holy Land might at last begin to feel after and find the things that make for peace?

I hope that in the approach to Christmas, as well as in the time afterwards, you will find time for your self, for your family, your neighbours, both local and worldwide. And spare a thought and a prayer for those whose lives are so much less secure than our own, for whom talk of holidays and sabbaticals sounds like a very considerable indulgence.

I am grateful to the bishop and to the ministry team for permitting me to have some time apart after seven years here. My prayer is that I may use the time creatively and well, and come back reinvigorated – mentally, physically, and spiritually – to serve for a few more years, should I be spared [and if you will have me].

I wish you all the most blessed Christmas and a creative and Spirit-filled new year.

Gareth

Cantores Consort in Concert

A splendid evening of a cappella music, old and new, polyphony and jazz.
Kirtlington Church, Saturday 2 December at 1930.
Suggested donation £10. Proceeds to church repair funds.
All welcome.

Sing with Joy

A fun musical service for children of primary school age 9 (and adults!)
Kirtlington Church, Sunday 3 December at 1600.
Practice the day before (2 December 1600-1700)
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Big Breakfasts

Two of our churches will be holding Big Breakfasts during December:
Middleton Stony: Sunday 3 December in the Village Hall from 0930
preceded by a short informal Advent Service at 0900
Weston-on-the-Green: Saturday 9 December in the Village Hall 0900-1200

Winter Wonderland...

comes to Chesterton on Thursday 21 December from 1800-2000. Join
Russell Jones of The X Factor from 1830 for Christmas carols and songs in this
magical illuminated garden. Bignell Garden House, Chesterton, OX26 1UF
(almost opposite Chesterton Hotel). No parking on site – please park in
village and walk up. Entrance: £6 per adult, or £12.50 per family. Includes
festive drinks, mince pies, and Christmas cookies. Proceeds to St Mary's
Church for the modernisation programme.

Keeping your village church open

We hope that everyone has by now received a copy of the leaflet 'Keeping
your village church open'. Do please respond as you are able. We are very
grateful to those who have already done so. If you have not yet received the
leaflet, please let your churchwardens know or email
enquiries.akeman@gmail.com

Rector's sabbatical

Gareth will be on sabbatical from early January to early April. During this
time he will not be responding to emails or telephone messages. All
enquiries should be directed to other members of the ministry team or the
churchwardens, if appropriate. If you are unsure whom to ask, please
contact our administrator, Julie Andrews, at enquiries.akeman@gmail.com

Wendlebury Gardening Club

Our October meeting was a slide show and tour of Costa Rica, showing its wide range of birds, plants and trees. A few members had visited this beautiful small country, so hopefully it brought back happy memories and encouraged others to visit.

As the year comes to a close, our last meeting on December 5th will be a social meeting with refreshments. Wine and nibbles will be served and we ask members to bring along a small sharing plate, either savoury or sweet, for the buffet table. It's time for us to reflect on the speakers and trips we have had during the year.

On January 16th we start the New Year with a slide show of the last two years of activities, and a glass of wine to toast the New Year.

We will also be collecting the annual subscriptions of £15 per person and the programme for 2024 will be shared. We have an all-day coach trip in June and an afternoon trip in July, as well as varied speakers and a plant sale in May, which raised much needed funds this year.

New members are always welcome in Wendlebury Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.15-7.30pm, for tea, coffee and a biscuit, just before our speakers. Please come along and see what we are all about.

For information, email: june@imazed.co.uk or Joyce Leach on 01869 240297.

Chesterton Film Night

Monday 18th December in Chesterton Community Centre. £5.
Doors open at 7pm; film starts at 7.30pm. There will be a bar.

Answers to the Hysterical Quiz on page 7

- 1 c) 2 a) * and that included the Lord Chancellor. 3 a) 4 a) & b)
5 b) 6 a) & c) 7 c) 8 a) 9) all of them; he did however return the Crippen brief as he was not comfortable with the instructions of his client.
10 c)



Friday 8th Dec
&
Saturday 9th Dec
7:30PM

Wendlebury Community Choir's



Merry
Christmas
Concert

**ST GILES CHURCH
WENDLEBURY**

TICKETS : **ADULTS** **CHILDREN**
 £10 **£5**

AVAILABLE FROM:
WENDLEBURYCOMMUNITYCHOIR@GMAIL.COM

All profits will be donated to Opendoors Cafe - Bicester





'Improving the lives of pets and their owners'

- Friendly, caring, local independent vets
- Experts in treating dogs, cats and family pets
- Open 7 days a week
- Modern premises with excellent facilities
- Dedicated night nurses
- 24/7 emergency care provided by our own vets



Bicester 01869 323223
Waddesdon 01296 651000



www.hartvets.co.uk



Bicester Wills & Probate

- Standard Single Will - £225
- Standard Mirror Wills - £325
- Bloodline Wills - £625
- Lasting Power of Attorney
Property & Financial Affairs - £325
- Lasting Power of Attorney
Health & Welfare - £325
- Both Lasting Powers of Attorney - £500
- Probate Assistance from - £1,800

Gail and the Team offer a friendly estate planning service



Come in and see us
3-5 Causeway, Bicester
Oxon OX26 6AN
or phone

01869 226760

gail@bicesterwills.co.uk

www.bicesterwills.co.uk

Chesterton Gardening and Painting Services

- General Garden Maintenance
- Grass and Hedge Cutting
- Scrub Cutting
- Weeding
- Interior and Exterior Painting
- Fence Painting
- Pressure Wash / Patio Cleaning
- Snow Clearing / Driveway Salting
- No Job Too Small
- Fully Insured
- Free Quotes
- References Available

Call Tom Batten: 07834685806
(01869 247879)

(NOT) EVERYONE'S A WINNER!

A select few have been lucky enough to have their numbers drawn in October's and November's Middleton Stoney Lotto! They are:

October Sheridan C Mitchell G

November Max L Colin W

Watch out for the results of the massive Christmas draw in January's ABC!

And don't forget to (re)join the Lotto Club for 2024. A leaflet should have come through your door a couple of weeks ago. Otherwise, contact the Middleton Stoney Lotto Club at msslottoclub@gmail.com

or ring Emma Dandy on 07801 478105 or Val Foster on 07889 830392.

Brainteasers by Gabriel

1) What property do these words share?

BAD, BALL, DAN, MASS, PAT, TAN

2) If $R + B = P$ and $R + Y = O$, then $B + Y = ?$

3) Fill in the gaps

___LI_

___LA

___LO

____LE ____

Answer on page 25

Racing bike for sale (Chesterton)

Suitable for age 8-12

Little used. £100.

Mobile: 07900 143030



Free 3'6" divan bed base. Buyer collects/Chesterton
Please call Sheena Thompson on 01869 243330

Reign of Terror

by Charlie Barker



So you thought that Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer* was long. Well, try Martin Scorsese's latest magnum opus *Killers of the Flower Moon* which weighs in at a hefty 206 minutes. Any film by Scorsese is of course much anticipated and his most recent has been hailed by many as a masterpiece.

Adapted from David Grann's true-crime book, the film focuses on the abuse and mass murder of the Osage Indians by white Oklahomans in the 1920s during what was known as the Reign of Terror. When oil was discovered on the Osage Indian Reservation in the early twentieth century, the Osage Indians became some of the richest people in the world and inevitably the oil boom attracted many white opportunists. Foremost amongst these was one William Hale (played by regular Scorsese heavy weight Robert De Niro), who sought wealth and power through bribery, corruption and ultimately murder, all the while pretending to be a supporter of the Osage. At the beginning of the film he is joined by his dim and gullible nephew Ernest Burkhart (a fine performance by Leonardo DiCaprio appearing in his sixth Scorsese film), who has recently returned from World War I. Easily manipulated by his uncle, he is persuaded to marry an Osage Indian, Mollie Kyle (Lily Gladstone) with a view to gaining the head rights to her oil fields on her death. At the heart of the film lies this unusual marriage and the undoubtedly moving relationship between Burkhart and Mollie Kyle (beautifully underplayed by Lily Gladstone) who is the calm at the centre of the storm.

The first half of this modern day western, which is concerned with scene setting and the actual murders, was for me surprisingly uninvolved, despite Scorsese's trademark violence. However, the film becomes more interesting as it develops and leads to the arrival of Tom White – the role initially intended for DiCaprio but now played by Jesse Plemons - an agent of the Bureau of Investigation (later the FBI) who is assigned to ascertain the truth behind the multiple deaths.

In this day and age it would not be surprising if Scorsese was accused of cultural appropriation, but this could hardly be further from the truth. For the director and his team worked closely with the Osage community, many of whom rediscovered their culture during the making of the film. The movie is bookended with Osage rituals and interspersed with details such as the placing of apples on a coffin and a young child walking over the coffin of her ancestor. For their roles De Niro and DiCaprio even learned the Osage language and it is significant that little of the Osage dialogue used in the film is subtitled. Scorsese's evident interest in the Osage culture, the production design and the stunning cinematography with fluid tracking shots and wide vistas, all help to make *Killers of the Flower Moon* a powerful, if flawed tale of the destruction of a people.

A message from Victoria Prentis KC MP

A key part of my role as your local Member of Parliament is answering correspondence from constituents, whether that be emails, letters or telephone calls. Over the past



year, more than 50 parents and carers have got in touch with me about their experience with Children's Services at Oxfordshire County Council and I have met many more at local community groups. It has been clear to me for some time now that Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision across the county is not where it should be. Constituents tell me of the difficulties they have faced to have their voices heard. Missed deadlines, non-attendance at statutory meetings and exclusion from important decisions about their child's future regularly feature in parents' complaints.

When I met the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing in March, I was told that the Department for Education knew that Oxfordshire parents were concerned about the retention of specialists, compliance with Education and Health Care Plans and the lack of school places for children with additional needs across the county. Three months later, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission carried out an inspection into the provision. Over 2,000 parents and carers took the time to share their experiences with Ofsted - well above the average for an inspection. The final report was published in September and highlighted "widespread and systemic failings". This evidenced my long-held concerns and those of my fellow Oxfordshire MPs.

For too many children, when they can't manage in a mainstream school, they end up missing key parts of their education as they have to adjust to school on a part-time basis or rely on home learning. I know of some children who have been without educational provision for more than six years. The County Council needs to do much better. It is now time for them to right their wrongs, overhaul their processes and restore confidence in the system. I am having regular meetings with some of the Council leadership, including Chief Executive Martin Reeves. He has given me his personal assurances that SEND is his top priority and has explained how things are changing.

I am hopeful that they have been given a long-overdue wake-up call. The promises that have been made must deliver the improvements we need to see. These are some of the most vulnerable children and their parents are at their wits' end. Anyone with concerns should contact me via victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk.



Chesterton Playgroup

Playgroup is lucky enough to be in the current round of voting for Tesco Community Grants, along with two other schools. At Tesco stores, the public votes by putting those little blue tokens in the box near the exit. At the end of the voting period, the school with the most votes receives the most money. Playgroup currently has the fewest votes, so we need your help. If, every time you go to Tesco over the next month or two, you vote for Chesterton Playgroup, it could double or even triple the amount that the Playgroup receives. We are fundraising primarily to make major improvements to the play area at the back of the building. Any donations are gratefully received.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ChestertonPlaygroup2023>

Chesterton Playgroup is a valuable asset to the village and it couldn't run without its team of Trustees who do much behind-the-scenes work. Our Secretary, Ben, will be leaving us at Christmas, so we will be needing new



trustees. We are looking to recruit for the roles of Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Vice Chair and Fundraising Officer. Please email and the office will pass your details on to the current trustees.

Lastly, if being a trustee isn't for you, but you can

spare some time, we are looking to build a community of volunteers who can help with jobs like pressure washing, tip runs, weeding, fundraising and our summer clearout. Or perhaps you would like to help to run an activity for the children or share a skill you have with them. Do get in touch.

Many thanks

Juliet Neal, Chris Hawes, Charlotte Massey & Ben Lanham,

Chesterton Playgroup Trustees admin@chestertonplaygroup.org.uk

LOVE LIFE WITH A LUSH LAWN

Lawns do wonders for our wellbeing. That's why we've devised three programmes of year-round treatments to keep your grass a cut above.

From controlling weeds to bringing out the green, we'll help you to look after the lawn that looks after you.



GreenThumb
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

Discover more at
greenthumb.co.uk

Banbury branch - 01869 345333
banbury@greenthumb.co.uk



Scan
here

LEGENDS

Podiatry and Foot Care Clinic

L10 Telford Road, Bicester, OX26 4LD

Adrian Parfitt BSc (Hons), MChS

Sarah Norton BSc (Hons) MChS

01869 360555

www.legendsplus.co.uk

info@legendsplus.co.uk

"Hello again from Alexandra House of Joy. Here's hoping and praying that you are keeping well as the usual bugs and viruses begin their rounds! All is well with the AHJ Team, and we are especially 'buzzing' after a very successful evening in the Chesterton Community Centre on Nov 10th. The Celebrity Quiz was a sell-out with 100 quizzers attending, and Darragh Ennis (of The Chase), Chris Curtis and Vince O'Connor produced yet another wonderfully challenging and fun-filled evening. We are so grateful to them and feel very appreciative that they are so supportive of AHJ. Enormous thanks too to all our incredibly generous donors, and The Chesterton Hotel, The Chequers in Weston on the Green, and Mirch Masala Indian Restaurant, Bicester, for their very generous gifts for the Raffle. As always, it was a team effort, and profuse thanks from Ian and me go to Andrew and Lou, Harriet and Richard, Bronagh and Connor, and Corinne and Nikki for helping to get the show on the road. As a result of the wonderful evening, we are absolutely delighted to announce that the amazing sum of £2,074 was raised for AHJ. As promised in the last ABC report, I can now announce that our next very exciting event will be held on December 15th '23 @ 7pm and again it will be held in the lovely setting of Chesterton Community Centre. PAVERS SHOES of Bicester Avenue are putting on a CHRISTMAS FASHION SHOW and it is going to be another great evening. Shoes and accessories for men, women and teens will be modelled by their staff members, there will be musical entertainment to liven the show at the start, then there is an hour Show, a great Christmas themed Raffle with wonderful prizes, the bar will be open, and there will be a chance for any orders to be taken, or why not take the great opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts on the night. Entrance tickets £8 and you will need to book as soon as you can, as the places will be limited. To book, either contact me (Rachael) on 01869 325135, or go to the Facebook page of Alexandra House of Joy where you will see a link to Eventbrite, or go to the Pavers Shop, Bicester Avenue where you will find a QR code displayed in the store. Please do not hesitate to call the above number if I can be of any further help. I'd like to take this opportunity now to thank all of you who support AHJ so wonderfully, by donations and attendance at events. We are immensely grateful and hugely encouraged by your willingness and devotion for a section of adults living in our society who are enormously disadvantaged and discriminated against. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. A very blessed and peaceful Christmas to each one of you. May you know and feel Christ's love and blessings as we celebrate His birth. Much gratitude"



Rachael & Ian Scott-Hunter

Middleton Stoney – Lest We Forget



Over 40 villagers braved the elements for the annual Remembrance Service. Due to the church refurbishment, the whole service was held outside. The congregation were duly rewarded with warm mulled wine and hot chocolate. Proceeds from the collection went to the Royal British Legion. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

O Come All Ye Faithful – Carol Service, 17 December

Ding Dong! It wouldn't be the season of goodwill without a hearty dose of carols to lift the spirits. It certainly won't be a silent night on Sunday 17 December (4pm). As there was no room at the inn, we're away in the Village Hall. Mulled wine will be served to loosen the vocal cords and generate some fa la la la la la la la.

Christmas Eve – “Midnight Mass”

This year there's a twist, the service is not at midnight, nor at church (if you were truly dogmatic, it's also not a mass). With that inducement, Middleton Stoney residents are warmly welcomed to the Village Hall on Sunday 24 December at 9pm for a short service to celebrate the Nativity. This will be followed by piping hot mulled wine – bit of a recurring theme here.

Simon Dancer

Some good news for the Burnehyll Community Woodland - David Jones

In 2018 Sarah Bond, then Finance Manager of the Danish Company 'Rational Windows Bicester Ltd', learnt about the Burnehyll Community Woodland (BCW). She thought that the Employee Foundation of the VKR Group, of which Rational is part, might support the woodland with a grant. She and I worked up an application seeking funds to help with the installation of wooden gates, as part of deer fencing, around an orchard planned for the woodland.

The application was successful. In December 2018, we were awarded a grant of 2,500€ to be paid after the work was complete. There were several delays, but detailed plans for the woodland were being fine-tuned. A perimeter hedge was planted round the site for the orchard last spring. In the meantime, Rational had closed the Bicester office. I wrote to the VKR Group who were gracious enough to honour the grant, but requested that the work should be completed before the end of 2023.

Some weeks ago, Cherwell District Council arranged the installation of the three sets of wooden gates including a kissing gate designed to take wheelchairs. Rational windows are wooden. It is singularly appropriate, therefore, that we have installed wooden gates.

Gates supplied and fitted by Buryhook Countryside Management. Photo by David A Jones



Following the planting of the hedge round the orchard area earlier this year (by the Friends of the Burnehyll Community Woodland), we planted eleven locally grown apple trees of Oxfordshire origin – varieties including names such as Beauty of Fringford, Otmoor Reserve, Wolvercote Pippin and Greasy Jack. These were donated by Bicester U3A, Bicester Round Table, Bicester 41 Club, the (now defunct) Bicester Rotary Club and Chesterton Parish Council. Louise Abbs has posted a photo she took of an apple on one of these trees on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chestertoncommunity> There is some more good news about the woodland, but publicity has to wait until next month. Although we know, there is a moratorium re shouting about it because the ABC will be published before the official announcement date.

(Error correction: In last month's ABC, credit was given to Visual Aspect Aerial Photography for the photo on the front cover. It should have been Visible Aspect Aerial Photography. My apologies for the error. David Jones)

YOUNG FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE SERVICE NOVEMBER 2023



A good crowd gathered in church for our annual Young Families Remembrance Service. I started by telling the children why we have a special day every year to remember those who died in the 1st and 2nd World Wars. They lost their lives fighting for our freedom and therefore allowing us to live in a democracy as we do today.

I also explained why we wear poppies. The Battle of the Somme in France, where so many soldiers in the 1st WW died, left the ground completely churned up. Poppy seeds can lay dormant for many years until they are disturbed and then they grow. This is what happened on that battlefield. A sea of red must have been a beautiful sight after such tragedy. I like to think, like many, that the poppies came to represent the spilt blood of those brave soldiers. The poppy has become a symbol of Remembrance for all of us to wear proudly every year in their memory.

We prayed that the governments of the world will never allow such terrible wars as the 1st and 2nd WW to happen again and we also prayed for Ciriad's Great Granddad, who was in the armed forces and had recently died. We also remembered the innocent victims in the present conflicts of Ukraine & Russia and of Palestine & Israel.

Each year I choose a subject related to war. In the past we have explored animals in war, the canary girls, Bletchley Park, the Royal Air Force and many more. This year, inspired by a recent trip to France, I chose 'The Flame of the Unknown Soldier'. Situated under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris lies the tomb of the unknown soldier, and since 1923 a flame has been kept alight in memory. This grave serves as a symbolic grave for all war dead whose remains have not been found or identified. Every evening at 6.30pm there is a gathering of soldiers, government officials and local groups such as schools, scouts, etc. In a short ceremony they pay their respects every single night of the year. In America the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with zero exception. In Britain we have our own in Westminster Abbey. This grave contains the body of an unknown British soldier from the 1st WW. The body was brought from France to be buried in the Abbey on 11th November 1920.

Young families Remembrance Service continued:

All over the world we remember them.

Our service continued with the parade. With Teddy at the helm carrying the British Legion flag, we slowly walked to the Lych gate, our war memorial, and Hilary read out the inscription:

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Returning to church, we gathered around the List of the Fallen and the children and I read the names. As always, I was very impressed by how all the children seem to take on board the sense of occasion and remain quiet. This continued as Juliet Neal sounded the last post and we all observed a period of silence. The church rang out again with Reveille and David Attwood read ***They shall not grow old.***

We returned to our seats for the National Anthem, played on the organ by David Neal. The Lord's Prayer and a Final Thought finished our service of remembrance.





At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Sue Ashdown

| VUE CINEMA Bicester – Programme for DECEMBER | | Date | Time |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| National Theatre Live | The Book of Dust – La Belle Sauvage | 14 December | 19.00 |
| | Yerma (Re-Release) | 7 December | 19.00 |
| | | | |
| The Royal Opera | 23/24 Season The Nutcracker | 12 December | 19.15 |
| | Encore | 17 December | 14.00 |
| Simon Callow | A Christmas Carol (Encore) | 14 December | TBC |
| André Rieu’s | White Christmas | 2 December | 19.00 |
| | | 3 December | 15.00 |

Answer to Brainteaser on page 15

Answer 1: The ‘A’ can be replaced by any other vowel and still form a legitimate English word.

Answer 2: ‘G’ -they are colours.

Red plus Blue makes Purple, Red plus Yellow makes Orange, Blue plus Yellow makes Green

Answer 3: VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, DOUBLE BASS

Akeman Benefice Services: December 2023

| DECEMBER 2023 | 3 December Advent 1 | 10 December Advent 2 | 17 December Advent 3 | 24 December Christmas Eve | 25 December Christmas Day |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| Bletchington | 0930 Morning Worship | | 0930 Holy Communion 1600 Carol Service | 2200 Midnight Mass | |
| Chesterton | 0800 Holy Communion* (said) 1100 Family Service | 1100 Holy Communion | 1800 Carol Service | 1600 Crib Service 2300 Midnight Mass | |
| Hampton Gay | | 1515 Carol Service | | | |
| Kirtlington | 1600 Advent Children's Service | 0930 Holy Communion* (said) 1600 Evensong* | 1800 Carol Service | 1600 Crib Service | 1030 Holy Communion |
| Middleton Stoney Village Hall | 0900 Breakfast Church | | 1600 Carol Service | 2100 Midnight Mass | |
| Wendlebury | 0930 Holy Communion | | | 1700 Crib Service | 0900 Holy Communion |
| Weston-on-the-Green | | 1100 Morning Worship | 1800 Carol Service | 2200 Midnight Mass | 1030 Morning Worship |
| | | | | | 31 December |
| Weston-on-the-Green cont... | | | | | 1000 Holy Communion |

LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILLS

WITH THE

HOME UPGRADE GRANT



Government funded insulation and heating improvements, at no cost to you.

If your home **is not** heated by mains gas and your income is below average, apply now.

www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk/register-your-interest
or call **0800 038 6775**



scan me



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**



YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED HEATING OIL DISTRIBUTOR

Tel: 01869 342111 info@nolanoils.co.uk
www.nolanoils.co.uk

Your reliable local family firm

Why shiver...

... when we can deliver!

For more information or to place an order call us today on **01869 342111**

- Supplier of oils to homes, farms & industry
- Payment plans & Top up service available



NOLAN GROUP
01869 343477
info@nolangroup.co.uk
www.nolangroup.co.uk

SODBURY FUELS
01454 315050
info@sodburyfuels.co.uk
www.sodburyfuels.co.uk

NOLAN GAS & FUELS
01869 241414
info@nolangasandfuels.co.uk
www.nolangasandfuels.co.uk

ABILITY

01327 604123

Connecting people with places!

TRAVEL FREE with a valid bus pass

(per standard fare applies)

Weekly services into Bicester Town Centre

Please call 01327 604123 to REGISTER
or visit www.abilitycic.org.uk



ALL ROOFS, GUTTERS & CHIMNEYS

- House maintenance
- Repointing
- Internal & external decorations
- Patios
- Decking
- Fencing

For a personal service, call Peter N. Southam:

- 01869 278333 • 07721 633220
- peterofoer@aol.com

INSURANCE APPROVED

Croft Tree Services

Professional, fully qualified arborists



All aspects of tree and hedge maintenance undertaken:
Felling and stump grinding
Pruning
Planting schemes
Tree surveys and inspection reports
Logs and woodchip supplied

For a free quotation call James Hanford
(Nat Dip Arb, Nat Cert Hort)

- 01869 278441
- 01296 730365
- 07971 569697

D L HANCOCK LTD

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Established 21 years and still independent

BICESTER'S ONLY INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTOR

A caring traditional **24 hour service**
provided by Mr. Hancock and his team personally

~~~~~

Serving Bicester and all Surrounding Areas

~~~~~

Private Chapel Of Rest

~~~~~

Jaguar Fleet of Funeral Cars

~~~~~

Perfect Choice
Funeral Plans



Member of
The National Association
of Funeral Directors



D L HANCOCK LTD



Tel: 01869 244200 (24 Hrs)
Chapel House, 13 North Street,
Bicester, OX26 6NA.

CHESTERTON PARISH COUNCIL – NOVEMBER REPORT

Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040

We were delighted with the turn-out for the village meeting on Saturday 28th October, especially as it was quite short notice. We found the discussion following the presentation and Q&A session really helpful and have incorporated the themes that emerged into our submission to Cherwell District Council. We hope that you found the session useful and were able to make your individual comments to CDC on their rather unwieldy form.

We met with Victoria Prentis MP who clearly shares the same view about the draft Local Plan and will also be making representations to CDC about the wisdom of dumping 500 houses in Chesterton.

CDC will review all the comments that they receive from all over the District and, hopefully, revise the draft plan. As a Parish Council we will continue to make representations to CDC at every opportunity. We understand that the draft plan is not likely to be finalized until sometime in 2025.

Public Right of Way

The public right of way across the golf course has had to be moved with the Great Wolf development. Oxfordshire County Council have informed us that the diverted footpath (PROW) is now open and due to be waymarked and signed off by the 16th November (after this has gone to press). The remainder of the Public Right of Way that used to cross the golf course has been moved and is now a tarmac path alongside the A4095.

Village walk-about

Our District Councillor Nigel Simpson recently spent a couple of hours with members of the Parish Council walking around the village. He was made aware of the many issues that face our small rural village and was very receptive to taking these issues to the District and County Councils on our behalf. We thank Nigel for the very productive time he spent with us, given his exceptionally heavy workload.

Chesterton Parish Council continued

Wates application

Subsequent to the refusal of Cherwell District Council to grant permission to Wates to build 147 houses on the land adjacent to Vespasian Way (technically called 'land south of Green Lane'), Wates have decided to appeal the decision, which should be heard in January 2024. The Parish Council will of course be strongly arguing against this speculative development as it will result in increased traffic through Chesterton village. It clearly does not meet the statement in the current Local Plan that Category A villages, which includes Chesterton, should only be subject to *minor development, infilling and conversions*.

Oxfordshire Councils Charter

Oxfordshire County Council is working with The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils, District and City Councils, and Town and Parish Councils and Parish meetings to develop a shared charter. The charter will be a commitment of principles to support successful partnership working. As a precursor to this, there is a survey element which may be found here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ox-councils-charter> . Closing date for comments is 10th December 2023.

The Chesterton Litter

Collection team continue to do a wonderful job of keeping our village clean and tidy. The rubbish shown in the photograph represents just



two weeks of litter picking. It really is astounding how much rubbish people dump in our village. A huge thank you to the team.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 12th December, 7pm, Community Centre. All welcome.

Chesterton Community centre

2 Geminus Road, Chesterton,
Bicester, Oxon,
OX26 1BJ



For information and enquiries on booking the Community Centre, please contact

Sarah Muddiman.

bookings@chestertonparishcouncil.org.uk

g.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.