



JUNE 2021 (#528)

## CASSINGTON AND WORTON NEWS

Previous editions can be found at [www.wospweb.com/site/cassington-online](http://www.wospweb.com/site/cassington-online)

# THE CASSINGTON WEBSITE IS LIVE!

Our web address is: [www.cassington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cassington-pc.gov.uk)

## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW TREES?

As many of you will hopefully have noticed – we have a new row of standard trees planted along the periphery of the football pitch. Many thanks to all the villagers who bought these, in some cases in memory of a loved one. We hope to have a dedication event this summer.

For more information on the trees that have been planted please see the article by Stewart Thompson on page 10.



## The Cassington Allotment Plant Sale - Saturday 15th May 2021



After one of the driest (and coldest!) Apriils in memory, there was a deluge of rain for the first ever Allotment Association plant sale. This didn't hold us back however, and our wonderful plot-holders provided a beautiful array of young plants and

delicious treats for the many visitors attending. By the time we officially opened the sale we already had a queue and four hours later, after a steady stream of visiting local gardeners, we finally packed up for the day with only a small selection of seedlings remaining. Thank you Matt Britton for lending a gazebo to keep us all a bit drier!

The stall offered a range of beans, tasty tomatoes, pot-luck peppers, salad plants, a whole host of flowers (well done Cate!) and even some perennial plants and fruit bushes. There were a few squash and courgette plants hiding (though it is still a little chilly for cucurbits really) and some beautiful little aubergine plants, with a handy reminder from plot-holder Marcus: 'grow me in a greenhouse!'

If you were really lucky you managed to nab a slice of Jaime's famous vegan rhubarb cake (we sold three whole cakes - it really is delicious!) and if not, you had the chance to pick up some of Julie's whopping rhubarb stalks, so you could of course bake your own. Please see page 14 for the recipe.

The Allotment Association would like to extend a huge thank you to the wonderful community of Cassington (and beyond!) for showing up to our first event, despite such awful weather! We raised an incredible £290.86, which will go into our 'campaign fund' and hopefully help us to preserve this historic and fruitful green site for the village.

We are going to be planning lots more events to bring the community up to our plots, so do keep your eyes peeled for any notices. You can click 'like' on our public Facebook Page (search for Cassington Allotments) and our website can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/site/cassingtonallotments/>



Contributions should be provided by 20th of the month. Email submissions (in the body or as a Word attachment) to: [cawweditor@gmail.com](mailto:cawweditor@gmail.com). Photographs should be supplied as separate attachments, not placed in the Word file. Typed or clearly handwritten submissions may be posted to: Anne Luttmann-Johnson, 3 Foxwell Court, Cassington, OX29 4DW. We look forward to hearing from you.

# welcome

Anne's CAWNeR

Welcome to the 528th bumper edition of CAWN. There is so much news this month that we have stretched to an extra page!

As you will have seen from the Headline on the front page our village website is now up and running (or should be by the time you read this). Please do take a look and let us know what you think. Maybe next month we can include some of your comments on it.

Some of the information that is regularly printed in CAWN, such as the list of useful phone numbers and Neighbourhood watch co-ordinators, will now be moved to the website and will no longer feature in this publication each month. This will give space for more articles of interest. So if you do not have access to the internet please keep the back page for reference.

This month I must thank Jaime Johnson for her article on the plant sale and her rhubarb cake recipe. Thanks also to Stewart Thompson for his article on the new trees, to Jon Jeffries for the school news, to Allie Deeley for Churchfields Care Home news and to Garry Peasley and the Waters family for the lovely obituary to Derek Waters.

Hopefully the easing of lockdown will continue as intended and by the end of this month we might all be able to get together again. Until then take care and happy reading.

Anne x

## Cassington Bike Night Update

As you may have seen from recent adverts in the CAWN, we do not plan to organise the June Cassington Bike Night again this year. The event would have fallen on 28th June and with the mix of lockdown rules and the continued risk of COVID, it was agreed earlier in the year that it was wise to avoid a large organised event in the village. We reviewed this decision again and, in light of continued uncertainty, we still feel this is absolutely the right decision.

We will use social media and local signage to let the biking clubs and groups know that there will be no organised event and we continue to inform the local authorities (that would typically need to give approval of the event) of our decisions.

However, if the government roadmap continues as planned and it is a sunny day, we fully expect that bikes will still come and enjoy an evening in the sunshine, in the same way they have done for 35 years. As a courtesy to the village, we will place additional rubbish bins around the green and be on hand the following morning to tidy up if required.

As always, we thank the village for their support and we all hope to see Bike Night back next year, as it is the biggest annual fund-raiser for many of the village charities.

Sincerely  
Bike Night Committee

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### With special thanks to...

Lorna Mills, Fineprint Witney, Clare Want and her team and to everyone who actively participates in the production of Cassington & Worton News.

## June stargazing highlights

### June 10 - New Moon.

The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

### June 10 - Annular Solar Eclipse.

An annular solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is too far away from the Earth to completely cover the Sun. This results in a ring of light around the darkened Moon. The Sun's corona is not visible during an annular eclipse. A partial eclipse will be visible in Europe.

### June 21 - June Solstice.

This is the first day of summer (summer solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere.

### June 24 - Full Moon, Supermoon.

The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Strawberry Moon because it signaled the time of year to gather ripening fruit. It also coincides with the peak of the strawberry harvesting season. This moon has also been known as the Rose Moon and the Honey Moon. This is also the last of three supermoons for 2021. The Moon will be near its closest approach to the Earth and may look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

# Village Notices

FOR LOCAL SERVICES, 'FOR SALE' OR SIMILAR NOTICES, PLEASE SEND COPY (BY EMAIL IDEALLY) TO THE USUAL ADDRESS. APPROPRIATE NOTICES ARE FREE, AND ARE PLACED AT OUR DISCRETION.

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**Stewart Clifton**  
**November 1937 - April 2021**

Doris, Nick and Tina warmly thank friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, offers of support and donations to Cancer Research UK on Stewart's passing in early April.



Stewart lived in Cassington for over 50 years. He was a quiet, gentle man, but always ready to help out and take part in village affairs. He helped to establish Neighbourhood Watch and was a member of 'NAG'.

In later years, as his physical health was declining more and more, he kept track of local affairs on the net from his armchair, never giving up completely until the end.

We miss him very much.

Hello! My name is Julie Perrin and I am Cassington's Avon Lady. If you would like a friendly door to door service for all your toiletries, make-up and luxuries, please contact me any weekday afternoon on 07599 371930 for your free catalogue.

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Cassington Village Hall Wednesdays 6.45pm till 7.45pm £5 per session commences 26th May 2021

# St Peter's School News



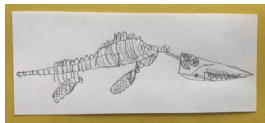
It is hard to believe that we are nearly halfway through the summer term. In a year of such disruption, it has been especially hard to keep a track of time (staff are normally so attuned to the metronomic rhythm of the school year!) But with this being the first full half term that we have all been together since the autumn, we have been making the most of it!



One of the most exciting things to happen this term has been the installation of our story throne and story circle. The inspiration for this was school wanting to have a lasting memorial to Bob Butler who helped us and contributed to school life in so

many ways. The children have especially fond memories of Bob from forest school and from him listening to countless children read. We hope that over the coming weeks, terms and years, the children will enjoy this area and continue to develop a love of reading and story telling and that this will be a fitting tribute to Bob.

There has been much anticipation and excitement this term in Apple Tree (nursery and reception) in watching the class chrysalis' hatch into butterflies. The children learned about metamorphosis and the cycle of life. As part of their forest school session, they released the butterflies to start the next stage of their life.



Oak class (year 1/2) continue to enjoy their dinosaur topic. The children have been so engaged and even bringing in their own

examples of fossils from home! Building on making salt dough fossils earlier in the term, the children have been using their utmost concentration and analytical skills to produce some very professional scientific drawings of fossils. The attention to detail has been really impressive – well done Oak class!

For Maple's (year 3/4) homework project this term, the children have been bringing their topic to life by creating awe-inspiring rainforest shoeboxes for homework. The effort that has gone into them is clear to see and it is wonderful to hear the children talking about them so knowledgably. There are plenty of pictures on the website for you to enjoy <https://www.st-petersoxon.co.uk/maple-class-years-3-4/>



Willow (year 5/6) have been doing an amazing job with their observational art lessons. It is fantastic to see our values of patience, creativity and aspiration coming together! The topic started with mark-making and studying Van Gogh's pencil sketches. This developed to learning the grid method where the children drew their own Van Gogh's. This then led to drawing fruits and plants which as you can see, the children have taken so much care and attention over. To create this level of detail in the texture, tone, interest and emotion took a phenomenal amount of concentration from the children.



Finally, due to covid, the SPSA (St Peter's School Association) have been unable to raise the sums of money they normally do to help support school projects. With events like Bike Night cancelled and the opportunities to raise money reduced, we now need to think creatively to raise some much-needed funds. Along with raising money for school trips and experiences for the children, we also need financial support for specific projects, including a new outdoor activity area for Apple Tree. We would welcome any ideas on how we can achieve this but please do keep your eyes open for upcoming initiatives.

Jon Jeffries  
Headteacher

Unlocking.....  
Minds that learn, Hearts that love, Faith that gives

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For details of weekday Masses please visit the parish web page <https://stpeterseynsham.org.uk/>  
Contact details:-Parish Priest: Fr Mark Lagorio 01865 881613 Email : [stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com)  
Parish Safeguarding Representative:  
Eric White [ericj\\_white@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ericj_white@yahoo.co.uk)  
For details on Covid-safe worship, other news, and links for live screening, please visit the parish web page.  
You can also watch Mass from many other Churches live or recorded online.  
[Churchservices.tv](http://Churchservices.tv)  
<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/Godzdogz>

## Please remember to support our local Food Banks

The virus may be going away but the need for the food banks is not. Many thanks to all of you who are continuing to donate food and money.



Our collection box for food donations is at the entrance of St Peter's Church Cassington - We are supporting:  
Eynsham Food bank (07738063083)  
North Oxfordshire Food Bank (07929721172)

Please donate tins and dried foods (with 6 months "best before date"). If you would like to support these food banks financially, or if you need some food support or know someone in need of food support please phone the food banks directly at the numbers above or contact our clergy Duncan Fraser (vicar) 07810324088 or Roger Aston (curate) 01865 880757 or your Neighbourhood Watch rep. Thank you.

### JUNE 2021

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.  
There are clear instructions regarding the use of the church including permitted areas, and hand sanitizer is provided for everyone using the church.  
**Social distancing is being observed for services, which means that numbers are limited.** Places at services should be booked via the Church Office.

#### Services this month

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June – 9.30am Morning Worship**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June - 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June – 9.30am Morning Worship**

**27<sup>th</sup> June - 9.30am Holy Communion**

**On-line streamed services are available every Sunday from 11 am at**  
[www.stpeterschurhcassington.org](http://www.stpeterschurhcassington.org) or [www.stleonardseysham.org.uk](http://www.stleonardseysham.org.uk)

A phone line where anyone can phone in at any time to listen to our latest services is available on **01865 965018**. There are no additional charges for phoning in.

If you have particular spiritual needs feel free to contact:  
*The Vicar – Revd Duncan Fraser Tel: 07810 324088 or*  
*Associate Curate – Revd Roger Aston Tel: 01865 880757*  
*Enquiries: Church Office: email [stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)*

#### **Where the rubber hits the road**

Replacing the tyres on your car can seem expensive but when you consider that they are a vital piece of safety equipment that keeps you secure when braking, cornering and, in the event of an emergency, keeping you in control, then having good tyres with adequate tread, at the correct pressure, can be life-saving.

You may know of the hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus" written by Joseph Scriven (1819-1886). The hymn may sound sentimental, trite, simplistic and even childish. It's about taking our troubles and cares to Jesus in prayer to find comfort and solace.

However, Scrivens didn't write the hymn for children or from a life of comfort but from a life of bitter experience. In fact Scrivens never intended this to be a hymn at all but was a poem written for his desperately ill mother.

Joseph Scrivens was an Irish immigrant to Canada. He suffered with poor health and had to give up his hope of an army career. His first fiancée died in a drowning accident on the eve of their wedding. 11 years later a second fiancée fell ill and also died of pneumonia before they could marry.

Scrivens suffered terribly with depression. Scriven's instruction to us, to seek comfort in prayer in times of difficulty, discouragement and pain gives to us encouragement to continue even when the chips are down. In times of difficulty and despair Scriven tells us that Christ is still there for us, with us in the trials, sharing the pain.

As we continue to come out of lockdown we may each have fears and concerns about the effect of the "Indian variant" and whether we may yet have another wave of infections. Fears for ourselves and our families. This is "where the rubber hits the road" for most of us now.

One of the last things that Jesus said to his disciples before returning to his Father was: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28 verse 20 (page 37 in your Jubilee New Testament)

Like tyres, prayer can often be neglected or undervalued but, at this point - where the rubber hits the road – prayer can be life-saving, life restoring, and keeping us "on track". Our burdens may not always be removed but this is where they can be shared, and in doing so lightened.

Revd Roger Aston

# Derek Waters

18th November 1923 ~ 18th April 2021

James 'Derek' was born on November 18th 1923 at Keeble College Oxford to James Henry and Susan. He grew up in Acrey View with his brother Ian who was born three years later. As you can imagine they were always up to mischief! Along with their cousin, Stan Waters and some other lads, if they weren't messing around on a motorbike in the dry part of the pit, they were tying up people's door latches, knocking and running away – Ian being the youngest was always the one who got caught and told off! Derek attended the village school which back then was the Old School House and then went on to attend Gosford.

His father used to sell produce in Oxford and one day Derek took a load on the horse and cart. On the way back it poured with rain so he stopped at Dukes Cut along what is now the A40 and sheltered under the bridge. When the rain stopped he came back up and Captain (his horse) had gone so he had to walk home. When he arrived back, Captain was stood in the yard looking pleased with himself for coming home alone.



Helping with the harvest

Derek was in the home guard in the village before he was old enough to sign up. He said Dad's Army was very true to life, bumbling around looking out for the enemy – often, when on night duty, stopping off at someone's house, having a few drinks and a chat for a couple of hours and then reporting back that all was fine. In June 1942 he joined the Navy and was based in Portsmouth sailing on several ships including HMS Birmingham. He visited various countries; Kenya, Ceylon and Denmark to name but a few. On VE Day he was on board HMS Birmingham sailing to Copenhagen to accept the surrender of the German fleet in that area. This meant he and his crew mates

couldn't celebrate with a double tot of rum until the day after. It was during his time in the Navy that he married Kay on the 27th October 1945 in Romford having been pen pals for a number of years and before his release in 1946, he was on a minesweeper clearing mines left from the war.

After finishing in the Navy he worked on his father's farm and then drove a bulldozer for Smiths of Bletchingdon. In 1953 Derek became the first employee at R Partridge as it was known then, as a Commercial Vehicle Technician fixing anything with an engine – he and Roy were friends before working together and he remained there until retiring in 1988 to look after Kay when she fell ill.

In January 1954 Marianne was born and before long she would be going to the garage with him. Three years later, Derek and Kay started fostering. They would take in babies from birth up until around 3 months old and over the course of approximately six years they fostered 13 babies. Carmella (Mella) came to them at 8 days old and, after deciding to switch to long-term fostering, she stayed with them. When she was 11 they adopted her making their family complete.

Derek would have a go at anything. One weekend in Ladram Bay, Devon, Marianne and Mella recall when he was taught to water-ski by Connie and Norman Cripps. He didn't rush out to buy his own pair of skis! They also note his ability to pass on life skills by supervising jobs saying 'if I were you...' and proceeding to tell you how he would do it – frustratingly usually the better way!

Derek and Kay enjoyed caravanning as well as being members of South Oxford Bowls Club where Derek bowled (Kay went along for the social side) and they enjoyed many bowling holidays and tours. After 44 years of marriage, Kay sadly passed away and Derek went back to work with Roy as a part-time driver to keep himself occupied and out of mischief.

In June 1991 he married Dorothy whom he had known from childhood. They both shared the love of bowling and also enjoyed visiting day centres, with Dorothy on the organ and Derek either singing or telling an old tale or two. In 2008 Dorothy passed away but Derek continued to keep busy with bowling, working on his allotment and cycling around the village stopping to chat with many a villager.

He was a Mason, member of Probus and had a long involvement with the Royal British Legion (RBL) for whom he carried the standard for more than 50 years as well as being heavily involved with the Poppy Appeal. One of his greatest honours was carrying the standard at the Festival



With his great-grandchildren on Remembrance Day 2013

of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. He also got involved with many activities in the village including pig roasts for the village fetes, the upkeep of the burial ground on behalf of the RBL and a trustee of the village Parochial Charities.

In 2012 he married Pam who he had known for many years. They shared eight happy years together with many memories – most notable returning to Copenhagen and to where his ship had been moored on VE Day.

Derek also took his role as a grandparent very seriously albeit not so much responsibly. One year when the pit was frozen he decided to ride his bike on the ice with Gareth (only 2 years old) on the front. Kay was not impressed but Gareth thought it was great! He arrived at Hannah's 21st in his brown overalls tied with a piece of baler twine as a joke and made them march with him when taking out Marianne's dogs. He became a Great Grandad to Thomas, Abi, Oliver and Freddie who definitely kept him on his toes but he loved winding them up and was also known to be one of the oldest babysitters in the village!

Derek's passing has not only left a hole in his family but also in the village community. Some that have paid tribute to him said; "a privilege to have known him", "he will be sadly missed", "a great sense of humour", "a very special man", "a good friend too many" and "a Cassington Legend". He would have been touched by the turnout on the morning of his funeral and the family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages. A collection on behalf of RBL has raised nearly £600 so far: [jameswaters.muchloved.com](http://jameswaters.muchloved.com)

He had many important roles in his life – husband, Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad, brother, uncle and friend to so many. He leaves a huge gap in all our lives and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace.

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## Life at Churchfields Care Home

Over the last couple of weeks, residents and staff have been very busy at Churchfields Care Home, as life slowly returns to normal. Last week, we celebrated 76 years of Victory in Europe Day with a fabulous party. There was much singing, laughter and fun! Staff and residents took time together to decorate the living area with Union Jack bunting, and flowers.



We have all missed the chance to get together over recent months, so VE Day proved the ideal opportunity to dress up for the celebratory event. Glamorous hats and fascinators being the order of the day.



Our wonderful chefs laid on a feast of beautifully homemade delights, for a champagne High Tea. This included Smoked salmon and prawn vol au vents, homemade Scotch quail's eggs, a selection of finger sandwiches, all finished off with mini meringues topped with summer fruits, and mini banoffee pies.

Keeping with the theme of our love of food, the following week we took the opportunity to celebrate National Doughnut Day. Staff and residents loved taking part in a 'doughnut tasting' activity. It has been confirmed, after much deliberation, that the classic raspberry filled doughnut takes top spot at the home.



As lockdown has started to ease we have relished the opportunity to reconnect with our local community. Our first stop this week was Millets Farm, to buy some new plants and herbs for our beautiful garden. When staff and



residents arrived, they took a stroll around the grounds and made sure to smell the beautiful, scented flowers. The Farm shop was open, so the ladies purchased an assortment of cakes to take back home to their friends.

Life at Churchfields remains vibrant, with our resident's remaining happy and living an active lifestyle. Staff and residents are already looking forward to their next trip out, and are busy making summer plans. In the meantime, please keep following us on Facebook to see how daily life continues at Churchfields Care Home.

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## New Trees on The Playing Fields

We have a new row of standard trees planted along the periphery of the football pitch. They all have their own stories to tell in terms of their importance in folk lore and for wildlife. With that in mind I thought it would be nice to say a little more about each of them.

Beech trees make up nearly half of the trees planted. In Celtic mythology the Beech is known as the Queen tree, being the partner of the King - the English oak. They are also associated with ancient wisdom, the association derived from thin cuts of their wood being used to write on – hence their Anglo-Saxon name “bok” (book). Beech nuts were a food source in times gone by, particularly for the poorer members of rural communities, the collection of the nut harvest being an important aspect of community life.

“Bodgers” among you will know that the Beech is special to the Chilterns landscape, with many of the woodlands planted there specifically to meet the needs of the British furniture industry, which centred around High Wycombe. Many of these woodlands were managed to provide charcoal and firewood and although today demand for these has all but disappeared, these coppice woodlands remain an important wildlife habitat. Visit any Beech wood in spring and you will be treated to an amazing bluebell display and depending on how old the wood is you may even see some of our national plant rarities such as box coralroot, bittercress or even the illusive ghost orchid.

The hornbeam gets its name from the old English which translates to “hardwood”. The Romans capitalised on this attribute by incorporating it into the design of their chariots. Historically their wood in the UK was used to make coach wheels, gear pegs in windmills, and it was extensively used in furniture production and flooring. The species is steeped in mythology and symbolism. Historically, hornbeam was used in medicine. The bark was boiled up and bathed in to treat aching muscles, and its leaves were used to stop bleeding and for healing wounds. The hornbeam is very valuable to wildlife, both because it adds structural diversity in woodlands due to its relatively short stature and because many species rely on its seeds as a food source. Like beech, the hornbeam keeps its leaves all year-round providing shelter, roosting, and foraging opportunities to a host of wildlife. We will need to keep a firm eye on our hornbeams as they are very prone to bark stripping by squirrels.

The wild cherry gets its Latin name, *Prunus avium*, from its association with birds which help distribute the seeds after consuming the fruit. The spring flowers provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bees as well as mammals, while the foliage is the main food plant for caterpillars of many species of moth. It is claimed that the cuckoo only stops calling once it has eaten its fill of cherries three times over. While this sounds a bit far-fetched, the cherries are eaten right through the summer, until the cuckoo departs for warmer climes.

Historically the tree was planted to provide both fruit and wood. The hoops that are placed around casks were traditionally made from cherry but today the wood is used primarily as a veneer as it is strong and polishes well. Like so many of our native trees, the cherry has been used in herbal medicine for centuries. The resin which leaks from the bark was used by children as chewing gum. It was used as a treatment for coughs and dissolved in wine to treat gall and kidney stones. Henry VIII was said to believe that the fruit relieved his gout!

While the sweet chestnut is not native to Britain, (it was introduced by the Romans), it is well known to many of us as the provider of the spiky-coated nuts which we roast throughout the autumn. Sweet chestnuts were once a staple food across southern Europe, being ground into flour or coarse meal, and they were an important food supply for stock, especially pigs. Today it is more of a delicacy, making speciality bread and cakes. Interestingly, sweet chestnuts are a rich source of vitamins C (the only nut that is) and a variety of minerals.

The flowers provide an important source of nectar and pollen for bees and other insects, while squirrels eat the nuts. Many moths also feed on the leaves and nuts. Research has shown that sweet chestnut has allelopathic effects on other plant species growing nearby. Chemicals in the leaves are released into the leaf litter which inhibit the germination and the growth of other tree species’ seedlings nearby. A great survival strategy! There is very little mythology surrounding the sweet chestnut in the UK, probably because it was introduced. It was however important in construction. Due to its high tannin levels, chestnut wood is rot-resistant and was traditionally used to make posts and fencing. It was also prized for making furniture, roof beams and barrels.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Parish Council and all the donors who so generously gave their support to this project. Planting these trees helps maintain and enhance local biodiversity and allows us to do our little bit in the fight against the ever-growing climate crisis in which we find ourselves. Perhaps most importantly, once again, our little village has come up trumps in the delivery of a great community-based initiative, in this instance it is one that will benefit many generations to come.

Stay safe.  
Stew Thompson

From this ↓      To this →





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## We've opened our new exhibitions and Stables Café

New for 2021 and with thanks to the government's Culture Recovery Fund, we have opened two major new exhibitions: 'Churchill' and 'The Stables' which both use interactive displays, never-seen-before artefacts and fascinating stories of the life of our most famous wartime leader and the history of the vital role horses have played across the estate. In addition to the two new exhibitions, we have also opened the Stables Café in the West Courtyard featuring 'Expressions of Nature', an exhibition by Zuleika Gallery.

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## We've piloted a new Social Prescription Programme

We have been working closely with Aspire, an Oxfordshire-based charity supporting disadvantaged individuals, to trial a programme of walks and mindfulness activities on the Estate. The project is aimed at addressing the mental distress, social isolation and physical inactivity caused by lockdown and increasing the participants' wellbeing and through social activities connected to nature and the great outdoors.

Find out more about our latest projects at [blenheimestate.com/land](https://blenheimestate.com/land)

---

## Growing Natural Capital with Morgan Sindall

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\*Terms and conditions apply. Registered charity number 1166164

# Parish Council News

May 2021

Previous Parish Council Minutes can be found online at <http://www.wospweb.com/site/Cassington-Online/Parish-Council.htm>

## Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday June 3rd at 7.30 pm in the village hall with full Covid precautions in place. Please contact the clerk if you want to attend.

## Blenheim proposal for allotment site development.

The Parish Council have received revised plans and are considering options. Once those options are formulated by the Parish Council these will be forwarded to the Neighbourhood plan team who will incorporate these preferred options into the Neighbourhood plan. As Blenheim do not have a monopoly on land in Cassington other proposals may be considered. The item will be discussed fully at the next Parish Council meeting.

## Horsemere Lane and Cassington Lights

The Parish Council had another zoom meeting with representatives for OCC where plans were shown for the scheme. There is a web site which shows the full scheme. You are encouraged to look at this. Technical issues are yet to be resolved not least the Cassington Lights proposals.

## School crossing/ 20mph zone. (as last month)

The clerk has been in touch with OCC regarding the rollout of this initiative and is awaiting further information.

## War Memorial.

The clerk is currently talking to both English Heritage and the War Graves commission about the repairs needed to the column. We will need their support and permission to continue with the works.

## Tree Planting Recreation field

The ten trees are now in place and watering routines have been established. Each tree will have a brass plaque noting the sponsor.

## Website.

This should be live by the time this publication is delivered.

## Neighbourhood Plan.

Work in progress. A scoping document has been forwarded to the clerk. Links to the document can be obtained from the clerk.

## Speed Watch

The Parish Council are looking to set up Speed Watch again but need volunteers to cover all parts of the village. If you wish to add your name to the list please contact the Clerk.

N.B Clerk contact details

Tracey Cameron

Email [cassingtonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:cassingtonclerk@gmail.com)

Tel 01993 622750.

Chairman: Cllr. Hugh Thomas, 20 The Green

Cllr. Julie Perrin, Triwood, 44 Eynsham Rd

Cllr. Barbara King, 9 St Peter's Close

Cllr. Dave Butlin, The Squirrels, Bell Lane

Cllr. Chris Metcalf, 2 The Tennis

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 3rd June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We ask that people only attend if they feel it absolutely necessary. People must wear masks into the Village Hall and may remove them once seated. Chairs will be set out 2m apart. Please also remember to scan the track and trace when you enter the hall.



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\*Committee on Climate Change, February 2019

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Jaime's Upside-Down Rhubarb Cake

#### Ingredients:

- 1 -2 rhubarb stalks, peeled and chopped into small chunks (1-2 cm pieces)
- 1 tbsp dairy-free butter
- 1 -2 tbsps. brown sugar
- 2/3 cup of caster sugar
- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp of ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp of ground ginger
- Pinch of salt
- 1 cup of any plant-based milk (I used soya)
- 1/2 cup rapeseed oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 flax egg (1 tbsp ground flaxseed mixed with 3 tbsps. water)



#### Method:

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180c (fan). As this is an upside-down cake, begin by preparing the silicone ring mould or tin. Spread the butter all over the bottom of the tin and up the sides a little, and then sprinkle over 1-2 tbsp of brown sugar. Then add the chopped rhubarb. Set aside.
2. Make your 'flax egg' (or use 1 free range egg) in a jug and set aside.

3. In a large bowl, tip the flour, baking powder, salt, spices and sugar and mix well.

4. Meanwhile, whisk together the flax egg, oil, vanilla extract and milk, and then pour into the dry ingredients. Mix until \*just\* combined – this is a muffin batter essentially, so don't over-mix!

5. Pour/scrape into prepared tin, making sure than all the rhubarb is well covered. Bake at 180c (fan) for around 35 mins. It may need 5-10 minutes more if using a deep tin, as my ring mould is shallow.

Delicious warm and fresh out of the oven! Serve with ice cream or custard for a scrummy dessert. Will last a few days in a cake tin I imagine - though it never lasts long here!

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## **Cassington Website and Logo**

Please do take a look at our new website, which should be live by the time this newsletter is distributed!  
[www.cassington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cassington-pc.gov.uk)

The Parish Council wants it to be a community website, to have information available for all the community groups. There are sections for all the different village groups and organisations. If you want to add a group or contribute some information to a group, please email the Clerk.

We would also like to have pictures from the village past and present. If anyone has any pictures of the village from times gone by please could you email them to the Clerk so that they can be added to the website for everyone to see?

We have an events page to advertise any activities that the village is doing.

There will be bios and contact details for the Parish Councillors and also the County and District Councillors.

We also have a village logo



## **WI NEWS**

Yet another zoom meeting this month when we voted for this year's resolution which is to support the research into and support for the women suffering from ovarian cancer, which is known to be difficult to detect. I feel sure all agree it's a worthy choice.

After the serious business we got down to the fun part. We had been asked to wear the hat we will be wearing at our garden party in July. We had a wide range, one bought in Figi, one from Lake Tahoe in California and a spectacular one made to represent a cup and saucer with tea bags adorning it. There were some really beautiful wedding ones and we spent a lovely fun evening.

Our next meeting will be held on the 30th June when we hope to go to Sezincote near Morton in Marsh (restrictions allowing). We will be notified nearer to the time.

## **Calling all Knitters, Quilters, Craft Enthusiasts!**

Are any of you interested in taking part in a national project to create panels for a 1.5 mile scarf to take to Glasgow for COP26, the International Climate Conference in November? The 1.5 miles represents the degree of warming that the world needs to maintain in order to avoid the worst effects of the climate and ecological emergency. But you don't need to be politically committed to take part or even a competent crafter.

If you are interested to find out more or have any blue or green wool to donate please phone Helena Nielsen on 880685 or email [helenasamthar@gmail.com](mailto:helenasamthar@gmail.com)



## Woodstock & District u3a

Woodstock u3a's May Speaker Meeting carried the snappy title 'All you might ever need to know about slugs'. Retired entomologist Dr Ian Bedford urged us not to write off all these creatures as pestiferous foes: 'Killer slugs hit Norwich', was indeed recently voted newspapers' 'Headline of the Decade', but, as Ian pointed out, only around 15% of some 5,000 slug species are gardeners' enemies. Nor should we be put off by the slug's less than cuddly appearance: 'not just a slimy stick', the speaker informed us, illustrating the variety of shape, size and colour of these gastropods (like Napoleon's troops, he might have added, they march on their stomachs). As this column does not own a garden it cannot take sides in the debate, but the fact that there can be up to 250,000 slugs per acre of farmland (Ian Bedford's figure), causing around £200 million worth of damage to crops annually, may make my gardening neighbours think less than kindly of slugs, however photogenic they may appear.

Forthcoming on-line talks move to a different region of the animal world on 1st June, with a description of a Banbury-based charity that trains dogs to partner people with disabilities, before switching on 6 July to Art – specifically, the Art of World War II. Details of all Branch activities can be found at [www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock).

Chris Sladen



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## Observation

By Stephen Wright

I'm not someone who watches that much TV. Occasionally I'll stick the news on while I'm making/having dinner if I want to feel depressed, or flick over to Rick Stein's India if I want to feel inspired by dishes I will never be able to cook, but for the most part it's Match of the Day or nothing, and I'm now of an age where I prefer to catch up on iPlayer during normal daylight hours when I should be working instead of watching it live at the exhausting late hours of 10:30pm. The university student iteration of Steve would be ashamed of what he's grown to become.

So I took myself by surprise when, having seen lots of hype about it on social media, I decided to binge all six series of Line of Duty within the space of one week. Regardless of whether the ending was underwhelming, I enjoyed the majority of it and now get excited about seeing policeman in real life, unless of course they're nicking me for doing 35 in a 30, in which case my newfound acronym knowledge of OCGs (organised crime groups), UCOs (undercover officers) and DIRs (digital interview recording) won't get me far.

Fear not, villagers of Cassington, it's all hypothetical - I didn't actually get pulled over for doing 35 in a 30. I got caught by a speed camera instead.

Alas, there are lots of nasty places on the internet, but The Guardian's Line of Duty comments section is not one of them. I found myself reading recaps of what went on after every episode to try to understand why the SIO sent the AFO to investigate the CHIS.

Before I run out of words, I am begrudgingly selling a Truck Festival ticket, so get in touch if you're interested!

### Share your life, change a life

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The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. Become a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council in a rewarding home-based, paid role - [oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers)

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## SPORTS AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AGM

The Sports and Social Committee held their AGM by zoom on 25th April 2021. The current committee members are: Mandy Constance (Chair), Amanda Fancourt, Suzi Lewis, Anne Luttmann-Johnson (Secretary), Graham Mills, Caroline Morton (Treasurer), Kate Rogers and Bridget Sherlock.

The Chairman gave her report. The key points from this are set out below. If anyone would like a copy of the full report please see the website or email the secretary at [anne.luttmannjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:anne.luttmannjohnson@gmail.com)

At the start of the Charities year the whole country was in lockdown. The playing fields were available to individuals for exercise, and were much used. During the summer months the tennis courts were also well used.

The cricket and football teams managed to play some games during the year. We bought freestanding football goals for the football teams, but also for anyone who wanted to have a kick about or practise scoring goals. At the end of the year we bought some 9 aside football goals, which are smaller and easier for the young when having a kickabout.

During the year we renewed our lease of the playing fields and pavilion with the Parish Council. Many thanks to Amanda Fancourt who went through the document, liaised with the PC's lawyers to make sure it was appropriate for our purposes, and ensured it was signed correctly!

We are very fortunate in that a number of people in the village donate their time, particularly for mowing the playing fields and also erecting and removing the tennis nets according to the season. The Committee recorded grateful thanks to all those people who have helped, especially Graham Mills.

The Treasurer gave her report. We were unable to run any events this year due to the pandemic and social distancing guidelines. We received a grant of £10,000 from WODC during the first lockdown, and a grant of £9,431 to cover the second and third lockdowns. We had 14 families take out membership at a cost of £25 per family.

The Treasurer said that we need at least £100 in donations in order to be able to claim the gift aid on small donations from bucket shaking etc on Bike Night. This is a valuable source of income for us, so if anyone wants to make a donation to Sports and Social, and they can gift aid it, then please contact the Treasurer at [caz.morton@gmail.com](mailto:caz.morton@gmail.com) The Treasurer wanted to record her thanks to Lorna Mills for her help in claiming the Gift Aid.

To view the Treasurer's statement and the financial report and accounts please see the Sports and Social page on the village website or email the Treasurer as above.

Graham Mills reported that both the football team and the cricket team seem to be happy with the set up and facilities. The football team were very helpful when the wheel fell off the mower and fixed it at no charge to us.

The Sports and Social Committee are hoping to be able to hold an event at the playing fields this summer, Covid guidelines permitting. Various suggestions were made including a picnic and sports day/mini Olympics and also the idea of an open air cinema was put forward. If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions please contact one of the committee.

Finally if anyone would like to join the committee, or help out with maintaining the facilities, and/or mowing the playing fields, please do get in touch with anyone on the committee or email [cassingtonsport@millsclan.force9.co.uk](mailto:cassingtonsport@millsclan.force9.co.uk)

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### Skeleton Science 18 May – 18 July

The Oxfordshire Museum re-opens with the intriguing 'Skeleton Science' exhibition, bringing to life the work of bioarchaeologists as they unlock the secrets of our long dead ancestors, using clues found in their bones. It traces the journey of a skeleton from excavation to the laboratory; exploring evidence for disease, injury, family relationships and for the incredible journeys they made.

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We are an independent family business, based in the historical Covered Market Oxford since 1952. As well as supplying local businesses, we also have our online shop for home deliveries of fruit and vegetables, and other products from local businesses in the Covered Market and Oxford, to Oxfordshire – bringing your local, market experience to your doorstep.

We stock a very wide variety of fruit and vegetables, as well as fresh herbs and nuts. We are passionate about supporting local farmers and reducing the carbon fruit print across the food chain; reducing plastic packaging and keeping food miles low. We stock seasonal produce from our local suppliers (when available) and source the more exotic in-demand goods such as avocados and mangos via the London markets. To do our part, we sell fruit and veg loose when possible or bag produce in brown paper bags.

To order from Bonners, go to our website [www.bonnersoxford.shop](http://www.bonnersoxford.shop) and start shopping. Alternatively, if you feel more comfortable ordering over the phone, we would be glad to hear from you.

We have a large range of stock on our website, which is constantly updated as the seasons change and the produce changes with them. We also offer to deliver produce from some of our friends in the Covered Market and elsewhere in Oxfordshire alongside your Bonners order. These include products such as bread, pies and quiches, meat, cheese, flowers, fresh fish, and much more!

Especially for our friends in Cassington, we have a special code which when entered at the checkout on our online shop gets you 10% off your order. Deliveries for Cassington will be on Thursdays to the Village Hall.

Coupon code: CASS601



### Come and Have your say on the Neighbourhood Plan Proposal.

On Saturday 26th June the Neighbourhood planning group will be presenting our draft plan to the village in the village hall.

There will be 3 presentations at 11am, 2pm and 4pm. Numbers may be restricted depending on the Covid guidelines in force on that date, so entry will be on a first come basis. Tea/coffee and cake will be provided!

### THANK YOU FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously to this year's e-envelope fundraiser for Christian Aid Week. It was a new kind of online campaign, as once again we weren't able to hold the usual house-to-house envelope collection. But online giving looks here to stay.

Cassington raised a total of £633.75 including Gift Aid and offline donations, which is a great result. The funds will be used to help people in other countries who have no access to running water.

Massive thanks to everyone who supported.  
[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)  
John Hemingway  
Christian Aid Organiser for Cassington

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## TEA TIME TEASER

This is the month when students should be sitting their exams. So, in an attempt to be educational, this month's teaser is phrases from Shakespeare's plays. Can you work out what they are, and which plays they come from?

1. T C O true L N D R S
2. T B, O N T B: T I T Q
3. N I T W O our D
4. I T A D which I S B M
5. A that G I N G
6. U L T H T wears T C
7. S A B G, S A G, A some H G T U T
8. W I A N? A R B any O N W S A S

Answers next month

Answers to last month's catch phrases from classic films:

1. Do I Feel Lucky? Well Do Ya Punk?  
From Dirty Harry
2. With Some Fava Beans And A nice Chianti  
From Silence of the Lambs
3. You Talkin' to Me?  
From Taxi Driver
4. Here's Looking at You Kid  
From Casablanca
5. I'm Going To make Him An Offer he Can't Refuse  
From The Godfather
6. Where We're Going We don't Need Roads  
From Back to the Future
7. I Love The Smell Of Napalm in The Morning  
From Apocalypse Now
8. May The Force be With You!  
From Star Wars

### Gardening Tips for June



- Stake tall plants
- Hoe borders to keep down weeds
- Plant out summer bedding
- Prune Spring flowering shrubs
- Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes
- Keep plants well watered

By Piers Lewis, Garden Consultant.

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## A welcome to the newly elected councillors to represent Cassington and the local area

Dan Levy has been elected to be our County Councillor. He lives in Eynsham and brought up his family there. He has been a District Councillor since 2019, and is WODC's cycling champion.



Dan says "Thank you for electing me as your County Councillor. It's a great honour to represent Cassington and surrounding villages, particularly when there is so much happening in our area. Please do get in touch if there are any issues you need help with from the County Council, if you want to share an opinion or express your concerns."



Andy Goodwin has been elected our District Councillor for Cassington, Eynsham and South Leigh alongside Dan and Carl Rylett. Andy lives in Eynsham, with four daughters at Eynsham schools. He's active in the community, organising RunWythamWoods as a school fundraiser, volunteering at Hill End education centre, helping to setup community tennis and girls' football.

Andy says "Thank you for your support to elect me. I am determined to make a difference. Please contact me if you have any questions or issues related to West Oxfordshire District Council."

Dan, Andy and Carl have set out 8 key areas to focus on:

1. Ensuring the significant new housing to be built, is to high environmental and quality standards, with a good provision of affordable housing.
2. Protection of the environment and promote opportunities for nature recovery.
3. Advocate better solutions to fundamentally address A40 traffic issues. Keep campaigning for a rail line from Carterton-Witney-Eynsham into Oxford
4. Push for safe cycling routes, for example Eynsham to Botley, Eynsham to Long Hanborough, South Leigh to Witney and of course along the A40 all the way from Witney to Wolvercote
5. Slowing traffic in Cassington and making sure that it is safe for pedestrians to cross Eynsham Road and the A40
6. Protecting allotments from inappropriate development.
7. Address flooding issues in the area and put pressure on Thames Water and the Environmental Agency to stop pumping sewage into our rivers. A key message is that we should stop building on floodplains.
8. Stopping development of gravel pits between Cassington and Eynsham
9. Providing better community facilities
10. Encouraging community integration and welcoming newcomers.

Their aims are high. the County Council has moved from Conservative control and will now be run by a joint administration of the Liberal Democrats, Labour and Greens. The District Council remains under a Conservative majority control.

# what's on?

Dates for your diary

## June 2021

Thursday 3rd 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting  
 Thursday 17th 7.30pm (by zoom) WI Meeting  
 Sunday 20th July CAWN deadline  
 Saturday 26th Neighbourhood Plan meeting

## July 2021

Thursday 1st 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting  
 Thursday 15th 7.30pm (by zoom) WI Meeting  
 Tuesday 20th August CAWN deadline

### Sports & Social Club

Please do get in touch if you would like to hire the Pavilion, the playing field or the MUGA, or know of other sports teams that need a place to train or play.

Cassington Sports and Social club pavilion hire prices.

	Weekdays per hour	Weekends per hour
Village rate	£10	£14
Non-village rate	£12	£16
Commercial hire	£18	£20

- Muga hire £22 per hour
- Adults grass football pitch and pavilion £35 per game
- Cricket pitch and pavilion £50 per game
- Tennis court £10 an hour or free if you have a Muga annual pass (June-September)

Please email Graham for all enquiries and bookings  
 cassingtonsport@millsclan.force9.co.uk

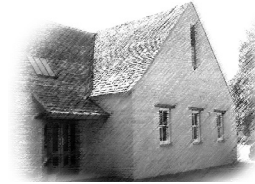
### Village contact list

Allotments, Cassington	01993 882590
Bartholomew School, Eynsham	01865 881430
St Peter's Church Cassington	01865 883325
Chemist, Eynsham	01865 881283
Dentist, Eynsham	01865 880047
Fire Station, Eynsham	01865 881337
Flooding, WODC	01993 861000
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999
Library, Eynsham	01865 880525
Medical Centre, Eynsham	01865 881206
Pest Control, WODC	01993 861060
Play Area Repairs, Parish Council, cassingtonclerk@gmail.com	
Red Lion, Cassington	01865 881371
Sports Pavilion bookings (Graham Mills), Cassington, cassingtonsport@millsclan.force9.co.uk	
St Peters School, Cassington	01865 880443
The Chequers	01865 882620
Waste Collection, WODC	01993 861020
W I Secretary (Di Williams)	01865 881680
Village Hall bookings cassingtonvillagehall@gmail.com	

## PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE

THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND PHONE NUMBERS ON THIS PAGE WILL BE MOVING ON LINE. PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.

### VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS



For information, and to book the Village Hall, contact:  
 Kathryn Teal, 07964 726843 or email  
 cassingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Don't forget ... When you book the Village Hall you can make use of our wireless broadband connection – ask Kathryn for details when you make your booking

cassingtonvillagehall.org.uk

### CAWN Advertising rates

Village events and fund-raising stuff is free. Simple local services, 'for sales' etc., are also free on the "noticeboard" page/section. However donations towards printing costs welcomed. Suitable commercial businesses are invited to support our community by buying advertising space at the following rates:

- 1/8 page, £6 (£60 per year) (landscape)
- 1/4 page, £10 (£100 per year) (portrait)
- 1/2 page, £15 (£150 per year) (landscape)
- Full page, £25 (£250 per year) (portrait)

Technical details for artwork are available on request.  
 All material included at the discretion of CAWN.  
 Any surplus will be passed to the Cassington Parochial Charities to support our community.

### Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

The aim of Neighbourhood Watch in our village is to look out for one another, keep everyone safe and bring all sections of our community together. Please find below contact details for the NHW co-ordinators:

Eynsham Rd	Julie Perrin	07599 371930
Hollow Frlg & Manor Cl-	Julie Perrin	07599 371930
Mill Ln & Pound Ln	Sara Bolton	07930 307298
Church Lane	Nav Dey	07989 527835
Green & Williams Ct	Della Thompson	07498 646192
Elms Rd & Foxwell Ct	Sally Britton	07962 177221
Barrow Ct	Nicola Jeeves	07930 888664
The Tennis & Bell Ln	Vicky Thomas-Clarke	07917 403976
Bell Cl & Orchard Cl	Carol Conway	07789 534456
St. Peter Cl	Cate Sirkett	07968 720241
Lynton Ln & Bell Ln	Kathryn Teal	07964 726843
Horsemere Lane	Stacey Noton	07717 874552