



SEPTEMBER 2021 (#531)

CASSINGTON AND WORTON NEWS

Previous editions can be found at www.cassington-pc.gov.uk



WELCOME TO IVY JOAN HORNER

Hannah and Iain Horner are pleased to announce the arrival of Ivy Joan Horner, their first child, who was born on 8th May 2021 at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Her first name reflects their love of nature and the outdoors, whilst also being the name of Iain's grandparents' farm,

whereas Joan was chosen after Iain's grandmother (who lived at Ivy Farm) and would have been an inspiration to her Great Granddaughter.

Ivy is now just over three months old and growing up fast. She enjoys reading (chewing!) her books, bath times, visits from and to her grandparents, and nodding off (eventually!) on walks in the sling or the pram. Everyone comments on her prodigious amount of hair, a feature that she was born with and never lost! She is currently learning to roll around her play mat, but is frustrated that she can't get anywhere!



Iain and Hannah moved from Botley to Hollow Furlong, Cassington in December 2016, in search of a quieter, village life to start a family.

Cassington, with its local school and other amenities, fitted the bill perfectly. They enjoy being surrounded by countryside, but also remaining close enough to enjoy easy trips to the city. Whilst it wasn't quite 'new house, new baby', Ivy was certainly worth the wait.

Hannah and Iain are both primary school teachers - Hannah, a Year 1 teacher and Iain is Headteacher at Chesterton, near

Bicester. For the last two years, Iain has also been a governor at St. Peter's Primary School. They believe that a thriving school plays a very important part in village life and hope to contribute in whatever way they can.



CASSINGTON PICNIC

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 4th September
3pm - 6pm
Cassington Playing Fields



HAVE YOUR SAY

Over the last few months a group of villagers have been working on a neighbourhood plan, which sets out how the village sees its future development. This document could be vital, if we do not want to see overdevelopment of the village along the lines we are currently witnessing in places like Long Hanbrough, Woodstock and Eynsham.

The group drew up a questionnaire, which many of you, filled out. However, in order to be a representative sample we need more completed questionnaires. You will find it as a tear off on the back page of this edition of CAWN. If you have not already completed it please can you do so and either post it through the letterbox of one of the committee – see details below – or bring it to the Cassington Picnic on Saturday 4th September.

In each household any teenage or adult member can complete a questionnaire, so if only one of your household completed it last time then please ask any other members of your household to fill one in. You are welcome to photocopy the questionnaire if you need more than one copy, or it can be downloaded from the village website.

Committee Members collecting questionnaires:

Ian Finlay – 52 Eynsham Road

Barbara King – 9 St Peter's Close

Anne Luttmann-Johnson – 3 Foxwell Court

Alex Rogers – 8 Orchard Close

Your Village needs you!

Contributions should be provided by 20th of the month. Email submissions (in the body or as a Word attachment) to: cawnceditor@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 531st edition of CAWN, and my twelfth edition, as I have now been editing this newsletter for one year!

It has been a steep learning curve, both in terms of getting to grips with the software, but also finding the right content. I hope I am doing a reasonable job - and I am extremely grateful to all the people who have let me feature their stories each month - and their babies!

As I type this the sun is actually shining and maybe we are going to get a summer, albeit rather belatedly. I do hope Saturday 4th September is a nice day, as it will be fun to all meet up on the playing fields for some fun and games and socialising!

Thank you, as always, to all those who have contributed this month. I hope you enjoy reading about Lorna Petty's amazing experiences volunteering in Ghana. If anyone else has an interesting story to tell about working or travelling abroad please do get in touch.

It is wonderful that the lockdown restrictions have eased to the extent that we have some entertainment returning to the village hall. I do hope people will support the various events taking place over the next 2 months - you will find them all set out in the diary on the back page.

Finally, as one of the neighbourhood plan committee members, I do urge you all to complete and return the questionnaire on the back of this edition.

Anne x

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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.

Have your say on Oxfordshire's future



The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is a long-term plan that will set a framework for future planning decisions.

We want your views on the policies we've suggested to help Oxfordshire:

- Address climate change
- Improve environmental quality
- Create strong and healthy communities
- Plan for sustainable travel and connectivity
- Create jobs and provide homes

The consultation is open until **Friday 8 October**

www.oxfordshireopenthought.org

Printed copies are available from your local library or one of the following:

- Banbury Town Council,
- Bicester Town Council,
- Cherwell District Council – Bodicote House,
- Oxfordshire County Council – County Hall,
- South Oxfordshire District Council,
- Vale of White Horse District Council – Milton Park,
- West Oxfordshire District Council – Woodgreen and Elmfield offices,
- Witney Town Council,
- Carterton Town Council,
- Chipping Norton Town Council.

Please confirm with the location before visiting.



September stargazing highlights

Sept 7 - 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.

Sept 14 - Neptune at Opposition.

Neptune will be at its closest approach to Earth, its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun and it will be visible all night long. Due to its extreme distance from Earth, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

Sept 14 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation.

This is the best time to view Mercury. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

Sept 20 - Full Moon.

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 Corn Moon or the Harvest Moon.

Sept 22 - September Equinox.

There will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world.

Great Big Green Week

September 18-26 2021

Eynsham area's Great Big Green Week is a collaboration between local community groups, businesses, individuals, families and friends, which aims to showcase and celebrate the great green endeavours to tackle climate change and protect the environment in our village and beyond, and inspire people to show the world we want to do better.

Great Big Green Week runs from 18-26 September, and forms part of a massive national event in the lead up to the 2021 United Nations Summit on Climate Change (COP26).

During the week you will be able to test drive an electric bike or car; visit a zero carbon house; try a vegan/vegetarian barbecue; have a go at green woodworking or make something out of willow. Plus there will be a regular swap shop and repair café.

There will also be plenty of activities for children including a science trail on Saturday 25th and the chance to make and race a model Formula E car from a kit.

More information is available on: <https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/org.aspx?n=The-Great-Big-Green-Week&id=1267>



Entertainment is Back!

Live entertainment returns to Cassington Village Hall on Saturday September 25th.

SHEP WOOLEY is a musical entertainer with more than 45 years experience of delighting audiences with a variety of songs, instrumental pieces and witty commentaries. Shep will be accompanied by Tim Walker who has a reputation for being a wizard "on the fiddle"!



Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. There will be an interval at approx. 8.15pm when the bar will be open. The bar will also be open at 7.00pm.

Tickets are available at £10.00 each from members of The Village Hall Committee, or from Bryan Partridge (01865 731253) or pay on the evening on arrival.

October sees the return of Cassington Film Night with a film called "Dream Horse", on Friday the 8th October. It will be



the usual 7.00pm doors open for 7.30pm start.

PLEASE do support these events, as we really do need to get "up and running" again with income to cover our running costs and fixed expenses.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

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VOLUNTEERING IN GHANA

Hello everybody! If you haven't met me before my name is Lorna, I live in Cassington but am currently studying at Durham University. Over this summer I have had the pleasure of being able to travel (I know! Very 2019 of me!) to Ghana, and Anne has kindly asked me if I would like to share some of the experience in this issue of the CAWN.

I went to Ghana as a voluntary intern working with an NGO called GVI Ghana. Amongst the abundance of volunteering opportunities I chose GVI because of their rigorous training requirements ensuring that the work done by volunteers is community-guided, non-patronising, and genuinely creates long-lasting change. I travelled to a small fishing town called Kokrobite, around an hour from the capital Accra, and settled in as a teacher and mentor.

My daily routine saw me heading to school at around 8:30 to begin one-to-one mentoring with students who struggled with basic reading, writing, and maths. This could range anywhere from an 11-year-old who struggled reading beyond 3 letter words, to a 15-year-old who could only get to C in the alphabet. The national business language of Ghana is English, but many speak local dialects such as Ga and Twi; whilst these languages are beautiful and fascinating, an inability to use English will be detrimental to a child's prospects of decent earnings in the job market.

The students were so full of joy and eager to learn, and whilst they had initially been embarrassed at having to leave their classes to come for extra support lessons, they soon decided that being selected to hang out with the volunteers for an hour was very cool, and we struggled to get them to leave at the end of their lesson!

In the afternoons I moved to another school which was far less developed than the previous one, and here I took the role of class teacher. This school was one big room, with just blackboards separating the classrooms from each other, you can imagine the chaos!



The children at this school were just amazing, many of them worked alongside their studies, and they showed an incredible determination in their education, despite the very act of learning being new and alien to them. They were utterly uncontrollable, but I enjoyed my time teaching them immensely, and to see them make progress in all areas of the national curriculum was hugely rewarding.

When school finished I would head back to base and focus on my project. Volunteers undertook various projects based on their skillset and on what the community most needed at the time. My own project was running an English Language course for adult women in the community; this involved planning and creating a set of lessons and resources which could be used both by myself and future volunteers to teach basic English proficiency to women in Kokrobite and the surrounding areas, hopefully improving their career opportunities and therefore allowing them to pursue a life beyond the home.

I was also able to travel around Ghana a small amount in my time off and cannot recommend it enough if you are considering a trip, it is a beautiful country full of life and joy. That being said, I have given a very positive account here to reflect the wonderful time I had this summer; but I will briefly add that working in Ghana was an extremely emotionally challenging experience, and the scale of poverty and destitution was something I could never describe. Sometimes our work felt like an impossibly uphill battle, but the total lack of provision in so many areas



meant that whatever we could offer was a positive addition. For some children, just giving them one-to-one attention and telling them how brilliant they are was enough to make their day.

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Contact details:-Parish Priest: Fr Mark Lagorio 01865 881613 Email : stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com
Parish Safeguarding Representative:

Eric White 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](https://www.churchservices.tv)
<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/Godzdogz>

SEPTEMBER 2021

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.
Please continue to observe any ongoing instructions that may be in church
regarding the use of face masks, hand sanitizer and distancing.

Services this month

Sunday 5th September – 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 12th September – 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 19th September - 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 26th September – 9.30am Holy Communion



The Harvest Festival will be held at 9.30am on Sunday 3rd October

On-line streamed services are available every Sunday from 10.30 am at
www.stpeterschurhcassington.org or 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:
Associate Curate – Revd Roger Aston Tel: 01865 880757
Enquiries: Church Office: email stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

3rd or 4th (or last) - what's important?

By the time that you read this the Tokyo Olympics may be a distant memory. However, were GB 3rd or 4th in the medal table? USA had the highest total number of medals counting all colours and the highest number of golds. China had the second highest number of medals and second highest golds.

However:

Japan had 27 gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze – total medals 58
GB had 22 gold, 21 silver and 22 bronze – total medals 65
So if you go by the total number of medals we were 3rd but if you go by the number of Golds (as many published tables did) then we were 4th.

Many athletes who got silvers like Keely Hodgkinson in the women's 800m were delighted, and others delighted to be 4th, or just delighted to be in the final of their event, or delighted just to qualify to take part in the Olympics at all. Sadly one of our boxers was so disappointed with his silver that he wouldn't even put it on, which was a shame.

However, maybe the national Olympics tables should be on a points basis more like the F1 drivers championship where

points are given even for lower places. Yes, we all want our athletes to aim for the highest prize. But, in the end, if they have done their best then we can ask no more, and we should reward and respect them whether they come first or even last.

The strangest thing about the Tokyo Olympics was the lack of supporters. This is in contrast to the image of running the race used in the book of Hebrews in the bible. The writer is talking about the Christian life and says in Hebrews 12:1-3 (page 256 in your Jubilee New Testament):

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

The “cloud of witnesses” are our supporters the Christians who have gone before us – the “saints” (great and small) encouraging us as we fix our eyes not on others in the race or our “position” but on Christ in the individual race marked out for us.

Revd Roger Aston

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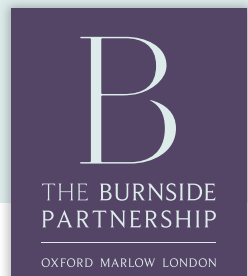
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Jacqui Birks TAX DIRECTOR
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Recollections of Cassington

By Sandra Baughan

Plant a tree in '73

This was a Government campaign to encourage the UK to participate in planting new trees during the 1973 Tree Planting Year. At this time a new virulent strain of Dutch Elm disease was sweeping through the country killing millions of trees. Once again Cassington responded to the call, and planted a variety of many saplings around the village.

As I have said in a previous newsletter, we moved into the village in 1968 when there were many large magnificent Elm trees in and around the village. We actually had one in our back garden on the side of the ditch. It had already been reduced in height but it was still a very good specimen.

Over the next few years it started to show signs of this disease. Mr MacRae, who lived at number 16 The Tennis, tried to save it by drilling holes into the trunk and injecting it with the recommended substance, hoping to kill off the fungus that was attacking the tree, which the bark beetles were spreading. Unfortunately this did not work, and the tree eventually succumbed to the disease.

We left the Elm tree as long as we felt it was safe to do so, but eventually we asked Alfie Elger and his sons to halve the height of the tree again. Alfie lived in one of the bungalows at the top of Elms Road near the Playing field. After Alfie had reduced the tree again we left what remained for a number of years, albeit a poor specimen of its original self!

We let ivy grow over the trunk, letting birds nest and feast on the insects that made it their home. We had many bats flying around during the summer evenings and they too used it for shelter. One year we had a family of hedgehogs living amongst the leaves at the base of the tree. They were behind the little stone seat that my husband had built, when the tree had been a much grander Elm.

As the years went by it was obvious the trunk was decaying as we watched the wasps, who had built their nest inside, flying into cracks carrying dead flies to feed their young. It was at the turn of the century that my husband put a ladder up the side of the old trunk, to trim some of the ivy, when I saw the whole trunk moving; it reminded me of the children's Weeble Wobble toys in the 1970's. Sadly this once magnificent Elm's life had come to an end. We had it cut down, and all the powdery dry rotten logs were taken away.

This is where our summerhouse stands today!

EPITAPH TO A TREE

1973 was the year of "Plant a tree in 73". 'Mac' McRae organised mass planting of trees around the village and along the Yarnton Road, although it took until 1974 to arrange. National funds were available for this purpose and Mac successfully applied for the maximum grants.

'Mac' was a energetic figure in the village. He started the Cassington History Group, arranging many eminent speakers in the old village hall.

The now mature trees are a permanent memorial to him.

With my children I planted three trees on the green. They were carefully chosen to be the same species as the existing row. Two of them extended the row at the Chequers end and one was on the little grass triangle opposite.

The one opposite was soon vandalised. The one next in line with the existing row was, as I was promptly informed by old



Bert Jones, planted on top of the old forge and did not survive. But I feel a glow of satisfaction every time I pass the sole survivor, now it is mature enough to match the older trees on the green. It had to be a stipulated distance from the road, so is out of line with the others and near the boundary of the allotments there at the time.

Now I see that there are plans to fell or severely lop it because of the proximity of the house subsequently built next to it. It is suggested that a replacement could be planted but it is difficult to see where, in view of the distance requirement from the road and the above-mentioned forge foundations. In any case 47 years growth can't be replaced just like that. I hope that a little judicious pruning will meet the case and allow the tree to survive in its full glory.

Mike Randle

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Note from the Parish Council

It is intended to reduce the size of this tree by one third to prevent damage to the neighbouring house and the village hall. This work needs planning permission, so this will not be happening until that has been obtained.

A decision has also been made to pollard the other trees on the green to prevent them from growing bigger, which would make them more costly and harder to manage, and could threaten local properties in high winds. However this is unlikely to happen for another five years or so.

BLLENHEIM



BLLENHEIM PALACE



BLLENHEIM ESTATE

Our recent dry stone wall repairs have revealed interesting finds

The Estate Maintenance and Conservation team have been busy repairing sections of our nine-mile park perimeter stone wall, using traditional methods handed down for centuries. The team have uncovered several interesting finds which give us an insight into our past, including coins, clay pipes and even a pocket watch.

Local candlemaker wins our start-up business award

We're pleased to announce Littlemore Candle Company are our 2021 start-up competition winners. Molly Stevenson from Long Wittenham started out making candles as gifts for friends and family but, with the support of her mum Yvonne, Molly decided to switch from hobbyist to entrepreneur and has gone on to forge a successful brand from a favourite pastime. We remain committed to providing local start-up businesses with support and a busy marketplace to showcase their products. Shop online at littlemorecandleco.co.uk

We recently uncovered an original guide to North Leigh's Roman Villa

Deep within our archives, amongst uncatalogued papers from the 1950s, Palace Archivist Dr Alexa Frost recently uncovered an original guide to North Leigh Roman Villa, believed to have been the Duke of Marlborough's personal copy, written by architect Henry Hakewill who excavated the villa in 1813. The guide reveals details of the luxurious villa that have been lost in the 200 years since its excavation, including a beautifully ornate mosaic floor.

Read more at blenheimestate.com/news

Keep up-to-date with our news and latest events by signing up to our newsletter at blenheimpalace.com

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Churchfields News

Over the last couple of weeks, residents and staff have been very busy at Churchfields Care Home immersing themselves into the Olympics and bringing home gold! The Cassington Olympics was enjoyed by all, with lots of dart throwing, basketball games, and egg and spoon races; it's safe to say plenty of laughter was had.



If that wasn't enough, residents had a taste of the Winter Olympics, when they were treated to an afternoon of ice skating in Oxford, which they thoroughly enjoyed. They are already planning their next trip.

Residents were overjoyed to receive a card from children at St Peter's CE Primary School during July. The children drew pictures of themselves doing the things they enjoy the most at school, which brought plenty of smiles to residents' faces. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, residents had started to develop a fantastic relationship with the children, with visits to the school, and children attending the care home on a weekly basis. We hope to continue with these visits in September.



Meanwhile, Churchfields are proud to be supporting the school's 'Covid bounce back' campaign, making a £500 donation to the school to support their development projects.

July also marked a huge milestone for Churchfields resident, Claire, who celebrated her 100th birthday. Claire received a card from the Queen, and had a fabulous day with family and friends, and eating lots of cake.



Pub lunches have been back on the schedule at Churchfields for the last few months, and residents are back into the swing of things, with regular pub lunches and cold shandies enjoyed at their local, the Chequers.

Life at Churchfields remains vibrant, with residents remaining happy, and living an active life. Residents are already looking forward to their next outing, and are busy enjoying the summer sunshine. Churchfields is open and taking new residents. We have clear policies and procedures in place to do this safely, and most importantly a highly competent, well trained, and well supported care team.



In the meantime, please keep following us on Facebook to see how daily life continues at Churchfields.

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Parish Council News

August 2021

Previous Parish Council Minutes can be found online at <http://www.cassington-pc.gov.uk>

Annual Parish Meeting/Parish Council Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 2nd September at 7.30pm in The Village Hall. The Parish Council Meeting will follow on at 9pm

Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan is well under way and hopefully later in the year the plan can be submitted to WODC for comment. You are encouraged to read the document produced online at the village website Cassington-pc.gov.uk

Horsemere Lane and Cassington Lights.

The Parish Council continue to have meetings with OCC on the design of the junction and are presently waiting a modelling of traffic flow at peak times. Once received it will be put on the website for general comment.

Website.

The site is up and running. Please log in and contact the clerk if you have comments or content to add.

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. We will get the reduced speed limit of 20 mph which is now being rolled out throughout Oxfordshire. Our new County Councillor is chasing.

Tree Planting Recreation field

The clerk is receiving requests from other residents, and it hoped in the autumn a further planting can take place along the northern boundary of the recreation field. Please let the clerk know as soon as you can, as it is likely we will only have space for 6 trees this time.

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. Work in progress.

Speed watch

There has been one volunteer come forward. We will need more volunteers for this to start.

Walls both dry stone and pointed

The Parish Council intends to produce a register of all the walls in the village. Almost all are protected by planning however a register will offer further protection of this important aspect of our village.

Grant by A40 contractors

The contractors have offered help with community projects The Parish Council have suggested help with the proposed well on the allotments. If you have other suggestions, please let the clerk know.

Youth Club

Our County Councillor has received an initiative to set up clubs in the area. Any parent interested in this please contact the clerk who will give further information

N.B Clerk contact details

Tracey Cameron

Email 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



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✉ membership@retrofitworks.co.uk

☎ 0300 303 1269 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

*Committee on Climate Change, February 2019

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in Bampton and Cassington offer a happy and homely environment for our residents.



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Hopefully many people will be continuing their family walks as autumn approaches, and if you do perhaps forage some blackberries from the hedgerows, then this recipe will not disappoint. It will even keep 'summer' alive for a bit longer, albeit in your freezer!

Although I've typed up this recipe, credit must go to Hazel Petty who introduced us to this after one of her legendary suppers. Thank you Hazel and I hope the village approves!

Blackberry Spoom (no that is not a typo)

160 g golden granulated sugar (normal is fine though)
250g blackberries
2 tbsp of lemon juice
2 large egg whites (or vegan alternative)
75 g caster sugar

Method

Put the granulated sugar into a pan with 160ml water, heat gently, stirring until dissolved. Add the blackberries, bring to a simmer and cook for 2-3 minutes then remove from the heat and cool for 10-15 minutes.

Put the cooled berry mixture and the lemon juice in a blender, whizz until blended and pass the purée through a sieve pressing the seeds to extract as much purée as possible. Discard the seeds and chill the purée.

In a large clean bowl whisk the egg whites until they form soft peaks, sprinkle in the caster sugar and continue to whisk until the sugar dissolves and you have glossy meringue (5 minutes ish).

Fold the meringue into the purée to completely incorporate then transfer to a lidded container, (that fits in your freezer), about 1 litre, top with baking parchment and freeze overnight.

Soften out of the freezer for 15 minutes before serving alone or as an accompaniment to desserts.

Enjoy...

Sara Bolton

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Observation

by Stephen Wright

When I was covering the AFC Bournemouth Academy at Newport Under-18s away back in 2017, little did I think I'd be writing the September 2021 issue of my CAWN column from a market square in Toledo, Spain, in 44 degrees heat, but somehow writing football match reports has led me here.

Norwich City recently partnered with the Spanish company Joma, who now make the club's kits, hence I'm here on a work trip to interview staff at the company and produce a video. That means I've also been learning about the lifestyle in this neck of the woods, which is very different to Cassington.

Firstly, I haven't put that much effort into learning the language, so a trip to a coffee shop five minutes ago went like this: 'can I have a short latte and a chocolate glaseado please'. 'Sorry?' 'A chocolate donut please'. It turns out glaseado is in fact icing, so I asked for chocolate icing. Anyway, one 'gracias' later and I was refuelled. It reminded me of Liam Gallagher's iteration of Wonderwall when he sung 'there are many things that I would like to say to you but I don't speak Spanish.'

As for the food, over here it is perfectly normal to have a slab of ham and/or cheese for breakfast, then avoid eating until 2pm when you fill yourself up with squid and pigs ears. I'm trying to embrace the local culture but I've just looked down at my pasty white legs and remembered how out of place I must look.

Unfortunately I have not had the luxury of a siesta (slacking off work to go to sleep for a bit), but I have experienced the late night dinner which consists of about ten starters rather than the traditional setup we're used to on the British Isles. For some reason I was surprised when the cod I ordered turned up with Mediterranean vegetables and wasn't beer battered.

Anyway, just because it's very different does not mean it's bad. It hasn't rained here for months, I'm told, and the heat is not bad if you can find a shady bit. Soon, I will be back in Norwich and eating Morrison's meal deals, but for now I can tell you that Toledo is a very pretty place to visit. And my tour guide Miguel told me the people here have the best asses in the world.

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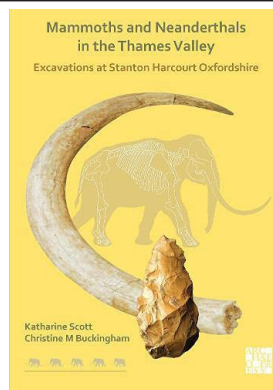
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Congratulations to Kate Cropper aka Katharine Scott on the publication of her book "Mammoths and Neanderthals in the Thames Valley"

Today the Upper Thames Valley is a region of green pastures and well-managed farmland, interspersed with pretty villages and intersected by a meandering river. The discovery in 1989 of a mammoth tusk in river gravels at Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire, revealed the very different ancient past of this landscape. Here some 200 thousand years ago mammoths, straight-tusked elephants, lions and other animals roamed across grasslands with scattered trees, occasionally disturbed by small bands of Neanderthals. The pit where the tusk was discovered, destined to become a waste disposal site, provided a rare opportunity to conduct intensive excavations that extended over a period of 10 years. This work resulted in the recording and recovery of more than 1500 vertebrate fossils, and an abundance of other biological material including insects, molluscs, and plant remains, together with 36 stone artefacts attributable to Neanderthals. The well-preserved plant remains include leaves, nuts, twigs and large oak logs. Vertebrate remains notably include the most comprehensive known assemblage of a distinctive small form of the steppe mammoth *Mammuthus trogontherii* that is characteristic of an interglacial period equated with marine isotope stage 7 (MIS 7). This richly-illustrated book gives a detailed account of all these finds, and will be of interest to Quaternary specialists and students alike.



Kate is internationally recognised for her work on Middle and Upper Pleistocene vertebrate fossils. Her field work at various Upper Thames Quaternary sites concentrated especially on the 10-year excavation of 200,000-year-old fossiliferous deposits at Stanton Harcourt. This is the largest collection of excavated mammoths in Britain. Kate graduated from the University of Cape Town with a BA in Fine Art.

Between 1970 and 1974 she was Research Assistant in the Departments of Archaeology and Palaeontology at the South African Museum, Cape Town, where she published the first evidence of the arrival of domestic animals in sub-Saharan Africa 2,000 years ago. She completed a BA Hons and PhD at the University of Cambridge. Her PhD dissertation was on British fossil mammals. As Research Assistant to Prof. Charles McBurney from 1976-1979, she conserved and analysed the exceptional assemblages of mammoths from his excavations at La Cotte de St Brelade, Jersey. She is an Emeritus Fellow of St Cross College Oxford and an Honorary Associate of the Oxford University Museum.

Christine Buckingham was born and educated in Oxford. Between 1989 and 1999 Christine was co-director of the excavations at Stanton Harcourt with overall responsibility for recording the geology and stratigraphy. Christine is an Honorary Associate of the Oxford University Museum.

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TEA TIME TEASER

This month, with the return to schools, colleges and Universities I have found some quotes about education. But do you know who said them?

1. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
2. Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.
3. The true aim of female education should be, not a development of one or two, but all the faculties of the human soul, because no perfect womanhood is developed by imperfect culture.
4. The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth.
5. Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.
6. Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.

Answers next month

Answers to last month's summer song lyrics:

1. We're all Going On A Summer Holiday - 'Summer Holiday' by Cliff Richard
2. I Got The Sunshine In My pocket, Got The Good Soul In My Feet - 'Can't Stop The Feeling' by Justin Timberlake
3. In The Summertime when The Weather Is Hot, You Can Stretch right Up And Touch The Sky — 'In The Summertime' by Mungo Jerry
4. Summertime And The livin' Is Easy — 'Summertime' by Gershwin
5. Oh Island In The sun, Willed To Me by My Father's Hand — 'Island in the Sun' by Harry Belafonte
6. If We took A Holiday, Took Some Time To Celebrate — 'Holiday' by Madonna
7. Summer dreams Ripped At The Seams But Oh Those Summer Nights — 'Summer Nights' from 'Grease'

Woodstock & District u3a



Speaker meetings start up again on 7th September with a presentation on the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Details of all Branch activities, can be found at: www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock.

WI NEWS

Our members travelled to the home of Jean Bailey to enjoy an afternoon garden party. Unfortunately due to the wet weather, we had to transfer to the dining room. Jean has a very large table and all of us were able to sit down together. Summer dresses and suitable hats were befitting such a special occasion.

It was so lovely to be able to meet "in the flesh" and there was a lot of happy chatter as we caught up with each other's news. With a glass of bubbly in hand, our President Sheila Nelson, proposed a toast and then we tucked into a veritable feast.

Margaret Partridge

Gardening Tips for September



- Keep picking your fruit and veg to prolong the harvest.
- Cut back all herbaceous plants to get a second flowering.
- Dead head your roses.
- Cut seed heads off lillies for better flowers next season.
- Start looking out for next season's bulbs.

By Piers Lewis, Garden Consultant.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

The Great War story of E. H. Shepard

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) will hold an online talk and live Q&A session through their website with speaker James Campbell at 7pm, on Tuesday 14th September 2021.

Ernest Shepard is best known for his charming illustrations for A. A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh and later editions of Kenneth Grahame's Wind in the Willows in the 1930s. Before he found the height of his fame, bringing Pooh, Piglet and Tigger to life, he used his artistic talent to document his time in the trenches during the First World War through a series of humorous caricatures and detailed sketches.

James Campbell explores the life and Great War experiences of E. H. Shepard in this talk, illustrated with sketches and drawings from the artist's early career as a cartoonist right through his military service as an artillery officer on the Western and Italian Fronts. Discover how Shepard was recruited by the Intelligence Corps because of skills, and how he would be awarded the Military Cross and a mention in dispatches for gallantry in the field.

No pre-registration or digital tickets are needed to watch the talk - but viewers are encouraged to donate to support Oxfordshire's only dedicated military museum preserving and presenting the county's military heritage and the history of all those affected by conflict

Watch the talk at: www.sofa.org.uk/whats-on/



Yarnton Blues FC U9s (September 2021)

Yarnton Blues Football Club - U9s are looking for players for next season (starting September 2021). If your child will still be aged 8 on August 31st 2021 and would be interested in joining the team, we have spaces available at the moment.

Training sessions take place on **Wednesdays at 17:30** at Yarnton Park, off Rutten lane.


****Note:** Football boots or astros, and shin pads required.

If you would like more information please contact the club secretary James Finnigan via email (secretary@yarnton-blues.co.uk).

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what's on?

Dates for your diary

September 2021

Thursday 2nd 7:30pm	Annual Parish Meeting
Saturday 4th 3pm-6pm	Cassington Picnic (playing fields)
Sunday 12th 11am-4pm	Bridewell Open Day
Sat 18th - Sun 26th	Eynsham Great Big Green week
Monday 20th	October CAWN deadline
Saturday 25th 7pm	Shep Wooley

October 2021

Saturday 2nd 7pm	Harvest Supper
Thursday 7th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 8th 7pm	Film 'Dream Horse'
Saturday 9th 7.45pm	Film Midnight Traveller
Friday 20th	November CAWN deadline
Sunday 22nd 11am-5pm	Wychwood Forest Fair

MIDNIGHT TRAVELLER A film by Hassan FAZILI
Saturday October 9th Doors open: 7.45pm. Film: 8pm.
Tickets are £10.00 and should be purchased directly from
refugeecompassion.org/midnight-traveller (over 15's only)
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Questionnaire on the Cassington Village Neighbourhood Plan

This questionnaire is being undertaken to provide input into the Cassington Neighbourhood Plan and Green Infrastructure Report. All data will be used only for the purposes of this consultation and raw data will be destroyed following this use. By filling out this questionnaire you consent to its use for the purposes above.

1. Are you a resident of Cassington village? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

2. If you are a resident of Cassington village how long have you lived here?

3. How old are you?

4. How many people live in your household (Adults Children)?

5. What are the most important elements of Cassington's Green infrastructure (Score 1 – 5 where 5 is very important and 1 is not important; all categories can be given any score)

Flood protection.....

Reducing impacts from traffic.....

Maintaining the character of the village (e.g. Conservation area)...

Places to walk and enjoy the outdoors.....

Protection of biodiversity.....

Mitigation of climate change.....

6. What are the most important amenities for Cassington (Score 1 – 5 where 5 is very important and 1 is not important)

The village school.....

The church.....

The Village Hall.....

Local green spaces (village greens, pathways, sports field, allotment).....

The allotment.....

The Sports Pavillion and Sports Field.....

The MUGA pitch and outdoor exercise machines.....

The children's playground and Zip Wire.....

The public houses (The Red Lion and The Chequers).....

The forest school.....

Worton Farm Café and other facilities.....

7. What amenities, if any, are missing from Cassington?

8. Do you regard the roads and footways in Cassington as safe Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

Comment:

9. Is the provision of sustainable transport options in Cassington Village adequate (e.g. buses, pedestrian routes, cycle paths)?

Comment:

10. What is an acceptable level of housing development in Cassington in your view in the next 10 years (pick one category)?

0 houses.....

5 houses.....

10 houses.....

20 houses.....

50 houses.....

More than 50 houses.....

11. What types of houses are required? (Score 1 – 5 where 5 has a high need and 1 is not important)

Rental accommodation.....

Affordable small homes / flats (1-2 bedrooms; up to £250,000).....

Affordable family homes (up to 3 bedroom; up to £350,000).....

Mid-range homes (up to 4 bedrooms; £400,000+).....

High-value properties (£750,000+).....

12. What sort of land is suitable for building on? (Score 1 – 5 where 5 is very suitable and 1 is not suitable)

Brown-field sites.....

Infill building.....

Building on Local Green Spaces (e.g. allotments; greens; sports field)..

Building on surrounding land (largely agricultural land).....

Do you have any further comments or ideas for the Green Infrastructure Plan or the Neighbourhood Plan?