



APRIL 2022 (#538)

## CASSINGTON AND WORTON NEWS

Previous editions can be found at [www.cassington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cassington-pc.gov.uk)

# HAPPY EASTER

## Evidence that Neolithic man hunted Easter Eggs is found in Cassington

While excavating to create a new fire circle Kath Humphris and her team at Forest School Fun Under the Trees found some strange egg shaped stones. They called in the experts from Oxford University who concluded that these are fossilised Easter eggs from Neolithic times.

A full scale excavation of the site is now being planned. When asked about the discovery Kath said it was very exciting to find evidence of how our ancestors lived, although this does mean she has to find an alternative location for her Forest School.



In the meantime people are being asked to look out for the elusive Easter Bunny, as it has been suggested this might have been one of its original warrens, and it may still inhabit the area.



DO YOU REMEMBER THE CORONATION?  
HAVE YOU MET THE QUEEN?  
OR BEEN TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE?  
OR STOOD IN THE STREET TO BE AT A ROYAL EVENT?

In June the Queen will be celebrating 70 years on the throne and in honour of Her Majesty's long years of dedicated service we are planning a special issue. We are hoping that villagers will let us have their memories of the coronation or other events during her reign, or even meeting the queen – anything you think will be interesting, or means a lot to you – photos would be great too.

We are organising some events over the long bank holiday weekend and looking for volunteers to help plan and arrange them. See page 3 for further details.

**PLANT SALE**  
SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 12-3pm  
CASSINGTON ALLOTMENTS  
Plants, 2nd hand tools and cake!  
Proceeds to the Allotment Association

**CASSINGTON GOOD FRIDAY GIVEAWAY**

Spring is a good time to think of clearing out all that 'stuff' that we no longer need but someone else might find useful – like books or children's toys. Giving it away means less going to the Ardley incinerator so it also helps the planet.

It might also be a way to demonstrate our solidarity with the people of Ukraine, by asking for voluntary donations. I suggest that anyone interested puts items outside their house on Good Friday 15th April between 2 and 4 pm. They will then take responsibility for any items that are not taken.

Money collected will be sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee – Ukraine Appeal. Please bring donations to me at 17 St Peter's Close, phone number 880685. I will give you a receipt and then ask the DEC to send me a receipt for the total raised.

Helena Nielsen ([helenasamthar@gmail.com](mailto:helenasamthar@gmail.com))

Contributions should be provided by 20th of the month. Email submissions (in the body or as a Word attachment) to: [cawnceditor@gmail.com](mailto: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 538th edition of CAWN. I hope you all enjoyed the first article on the front page! For the avoidance of doubt I should make it clear that Forest School Fun under the Trees will not be moving - you might like to check the date of this edition! April Fool! Many thanks to Kath Humphris for her assistance with this article.

The rest of the articles on the front page are genuine and I do hope some of you will come forward with your memories of the coronation and/or meeting the Queen. I also hope you will get involved in the plans for the Jubilee celebrations - see further details on the opposite page.

Thank you to all those who came forward with articles for this edition. Again another bumper issue, so hopefully you will find items of interest. It is lovely to finally have some events taking place - see the diary on the back page for a handy reference.

Have you thought about getting more involved with the village and volunteering some time to one of the groups that help to keep our community going. As you will see we have vacancies for Parish Councillors and for the Neighbourhood Watch team. Please do contact any of the existing members to find out what is involved, if you might be interested. It is always good to have new people and important to have a diverse range of views and experiences.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

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.



## Cassington Parish Council

**Parish Council Elections take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**



If you would like to help be part of the future of Cassington Parish Council why not put yourself as an elected member?

To apply for a nomination pack or for a chat about what is involved in being a Councillor please contact Tracey at [cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk) or call 07496761398


Nomination Packs must be returned in person to WODC, Woodgreen by no later than 4pm Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### The Chequers Inn

We are now open with new lunch and dinner menus.

Lunch 12 - 3pm  
Dinner 5 - 9pm

Friday night is gin and fizz night.  
Function room available for hen nights, birthdays, corporate meals and funerals.



## Art Exhibition

2 APRIL - 2 MAY

The Garden Gallery  
The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock OX20 1SN

Open Tue - Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 2 - 5pm

01865 897519 | [Oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums](http://Oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums)





## April stargazing highlights

### April 1 - New Moon.

The Moon 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.

### April 16 - Full Moon.

The Moon will be fully illuminated. It was known by Native Americans as the Pink Moon because it marked the appearance of the moss pink, or wild ground phlox, one of the first spring flowers. This moon has also been known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Growing Moon, and the Egg Moon. Coastal tribes called it the Fish Moon because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn.

### April 22/23 - Lyrids Meteor Shower.

The Lyrids is an average shower, at its peak producing about 20 meteors per hour. It peaks on the night of the 22nd and morning of the 23rd. These meteors can sometimes produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. Best viewing is from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Lyra, but can be anywhere in the sky.

### April 29 - 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.

### April 30 - New Moon.

The Moon will not be visible in the night sky.

## The Platinum Jubilee Plans

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is fast approaching and the Sports and Social Club met to discuss how the village might like to celebrate this historic event. We have various thoughts, which we hope will appeal to you, however we need some volunteers to bring these to fruition.

Platinum Jubilee Mural  
Platinum Jubilee Evening party  
Platinum Jubilee Tea Party

We have applied to Oxfordshire Community Fund for a grant to paint a mural on the large white expanse of garage wall that is seen from the Playing Fields car park. A resident of the village, Stephen Matthews, has been working on a design which incorporates the Jubilee tree logo with various images that together represent aspects of this village. See below for the draft image:



We should know by 1st April if we have been successful. We shall need some volunteers over a number of weekends in April and May to make good the wall, paint the design and then paint a coat of anti-graffiti protection over the whole thing. Look out on Facebook, or keep your ear to the ground, for details of when you will be needed.

Over the Jubilee weekend, the 4th/5th June Sports and Social are proposing to hold a Jubilee party for over 16s at the Pavilion on Saturday night. This will include music, dancing, snacks and a pay bar. Tickets for the event will cost £5 each and will be available to purchase from 1st May.

On Sunday 5th June every town and village is being encouraged to hold a tea party/street party. Would anyone like to volunteer to help organise this? We have arranged for the cricket team to play their match elsewhere, so this can be held on the Playing Fields, which is probably safer than the village green for young children. It also gives access to the Pavilion kitchen and the toilets. The Pavilion has a number of tables and chairs, which can be set up outside if the weather permits and it might be possible to use the ones from the village hall as well if desired.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help organise this please let Anne Luttmann-Johnson know at [cawneditor@gmail.com](mailto:cawneditor@gmail.com)

### Weekend Bell ringing

Dear Cassington, we are hoping to do an extra practice one weekend for our new ringers. It will be really useful for them, but wanted to warn you in advance that there will be so odd sounds. Hopefully it won't be too annoying. Thank you all.

### Neighbourhood Watch Members needed!

After many years loyal service to the village Vicky Thomas-Clarke, Julie Perrin and Sally Britton are all stepping down from the NHW team. We are all immensely grateful to them for their hard work over the years, especially at the start of the lockdown two years ago, when they arranged for fresh fruit and vegetables along with other staple items to be brought to the village each week, and distributed to those who were shielding and feeling vulnerable.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved in being a member of the team, or you want to volunteer, please contact one of the remaining members who are:

Sara Bolton 07930 307298  
Nav Dey 07989 527835  
Della Thompson 07498 646192  
Nicola Jeeves 07930 888664  
Carol Conway 07789 534456  
Cate Sirkett 07968 720241  
Kathryn Teal 07964 726843  
Stacey Noton 07717 874552

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by Amanda Whittington

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[bart.players@gmail.com](mailto:bart.players@gmail.com) | Evenlode DIY

**Eynsham Village Hall OX29 4QW**

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## The Highway Code, neighbours, refugees and those in need,

You are probably aware that some new rules have been included in the highway code. In general the new rules are aimed at those driving or riding motorised vehicles giving greater consideration to (and in some cases priority to) all cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians. All of the 300 plus rules in the highway code are there to keep us safe and to help us to protect others – protect all “our neighbours” on the road.

One day a scholarly man comes up to Jesus and asks what he must do to obtain eternal life. Jesus says to him, “How do you read it in the scriptures – what do you think?”

The man answers, “To love God with all that you are and to love your neighbour as yourself”.

Jesus says, “That’s great – just do it.”

However, the man says, “but who is my neighbour?”

Jesus then tells one of his most famous parables to get the man (and us) to figure out for ourselves who the neighbour might be who we are called to love. – The parable of “The Good Samaritan”.

In Jesus’ imaginary story a traveller is beaten-up and robbed and left for dead and two of his fellow countrymen “pass by on the other side” and give no help. However, a hated and despised foreigner - “a Samaritan” - goes to the man’s aid.

Jesus asks his questioner, “Who was the neighbour to the beaten-up and robbed man?”

The questioner cannot say “the Samaritan” because they were a hated race but just says “the one who helped him”.

Jesus says, “Go and do likewise”.

With so many refugees fleeing Ukraine at the moment it is refreshing and amazing to see and hear of so many people in other counties, including our own, (and many from our village) ready to give money, clothes, food and even space in their own homes to these people in desperate need.

However, it is natural for us to respond more sympathetically to those who are ‘close to home’. Those we see on our televisions who are ‘like us’, European, living lives similar to our own who we can identify with. Please don’t get me wrong, these Ukrainian ‘neighbours’ do desperately need our help so please do continue to give in whatever way that you can to help these Ukrainian neighbours in their dire situation...

BUT, the real challenge of Jesus’ parable is that the robbed man and the helper were not of the same race, culture or creed. In fact they were bitter enemies, and yet the Samaritan still helped the robbed and beaten man even though he had been left for dead by his own people. So, the question for myself is, “Who is my neighbour, and do I have limits to whom I consider my neighbour to be?”

Like the Highway Code the rules apply for all those “neighbours” in need of protection or who are vulnerable.

Revd Roger Aston

You can read the full account of Jesus telling the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke chapter 10 verse 25-37 page 79 in the Jubilee New Testament.



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## EASTER FLOWERS

We shall be decorating St Peter’s Church for Easter on Saturday 16th April from 10am.

If anyone would like to help, give spring flowers, foliage or even a donation towards the Lilies it would be very much appreciated.

Please contact Liz Henman on 881303

## Food Bank Appeal

With higher inflation and rising energy bills more people are in food poverty and using our local food banks. Please contribute (regularly if you can). The collection box 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 (that are at least 6 months before their “best before date”).

Donated items can be placed in the box by the church door where a full list of appropriate items can be found along with some hand steriliser for your safety.

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 you neighbourhood watch rep.

Thank you.

**April 2022**

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.  
Please continue to observe any ongoing instructions that may be in church.

**Services this month**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** – 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April** – Palm Sunday

Benefice service at **10.30am at St Leonard's, Eynsham**



**Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April** - 9.30am Holy Communion

**Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April** - 2pm Last Hour of the Cross

**Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April** – 9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April** – 9.30am Holy Communion  
- 6pm Evening Prayer

**On-line streamed services are available every Sunday from 10.30 am at**  
[www.stpeterschurhcassington.org](http://www.stpeterschurhcassington.org) or [www.stleonardseyنشam.org.uk](http://www.stleonardseyنشam.org.uk)

If you have particular spiritual needs feel free to contact:

**Vicar** – Revd Duncan Fraser 07810 324088 / [vicarslp@gmail.com](mailto:vicarslp@gmail.com)

**Associate Curate** – Revd Roger Aston 01865 880757/ [rogera52@aol.com](mailto:rogera52@aol.com)

**Enquiries:** Church Office 01865 883325 / [stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)

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Saturday (For Sunday) 5pm. Sunday 10am.  
Face coverings required with social distancing.  
For details of weekday Masses please visit the parish web  
page <https://stpeterseyنشam.org.uk/>  
Contact details:-Parish Priest: Fr Mark Lagorio  
Tel: 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](https://www.churchservices.tv)  
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# Village Hall AGM

22 February 2022

## Chair's Review of the Year

"Not just a building, but building a community".

How do we begin to sum up 2021? Another year we'll never forget? A year we'd rather forget? A year when the 'new normal' continued to mean 'abnormal'? Take your pick, and there are countless other options. For the Village Hall, 'valiant' seems appropriate. Our management team valiantly did its best to keep the place open and organise events; our dedicated manager valiantly succeeded in keeping on top of endlessly changing Covid requirements; and potential customers valiantly made occasional bookings even though their intentions often turned out to be frustrated.

Fortunately our income from lettings turned out better than first expected, with a total of £5,858 compared to £3,168 in 2020. That's nearly double, but still less than half our 'normal' which should be double again at around £12,000 a year to cover our core costs. Our events team Bryan and Adie did succeed with one live evening with comedian Shep Woolley, which was fairly well attended; and we re-started the cinema nights with three films but smaller audiences. The usual touring theatre companies abandoned their planned productions for 2021, and many people still seem cautious about indoor events. Our gross revenue from events and fundraising was £720 compared to zero in 2020. We also received donations of £125, plus around £250 investment income and Gift Aid.

But our overall income for the year came to a final total of £25,629, which is actually the most we've ever achieved! In the last 'normal' year of 2019 for example, our income was £16,075. That's because once again our super-efficient treasurer Lorna Mills made sure that we applied for all the grants we were eligible to claim from the Government through WODC. As a result we received total grants of £18,675 to help cover the loss of income. Massive thanks to Lorna for sorting out all the paperwork so quickly and effectively.

Whether closed or open, the hall does cost money every day. Our expenditure last year was £7,823 before depreciation, well down on the previous year's costs of £12,605, but we had no major maintenance expenditure or new items last year. This was simply for our everyday running costs and the incidental maintenance issues that crop up. Many thanks to Dave and Malcolm who make sure that any problems get sorted out quickly and cost-effectively, often doing jobs themselves, and to Cassington residents Paul Woolford and Matt Terry who go over-and-above in support with plumbing and electrical problems.

So our finances are in still very good shape. After allowing for annual depreciation of £3,720, we had a surplus of £14,086 for 2021 (£2,284 net outgoing in 2020) and our cash position is stronger than ever. The new year 2022 has already begun and it's looking as though we may have fewer bookings this year too, and sooner or later the Government support schemes will presumably come to an end. So our cash balance will be vital to help us weather any storms ahead.

We're determined to press on with more live entertainment and our next event is Elephant Rock planned for Sunday 8 May 2022 at 6.30pm and particularly suitable for families. Past productions by this theatre company, The Bad Apple Theatre Group, have been extremely popular and successful. We're also investing in new equipment for the benefit of our customers, such as a replacement commercial dishwasher and the installation of a microwave oven. Let's all keep everything crossed!

Many thanks are due to all our hard-working volunteers on the committee: Penny Burroughs (Secretary), Dave Butlin (Buildings), Adie Gregory (Events), Lorna Mills (Treasurer), Bryan Partridge (Events and Vice-Chair), Sheila Nelson, Bridget Sherlock and Malcolm Teal. We owe especially huge thanks to our hall manager Kathryn Teal and our cleaner Pam Coates for their dedication and commitment. Our committee discussions were mostly about Covid risk.

John Hemingway

## Woodstock and District u3a



March's monthly meeting at St. Hugh's Hall in Woodstock – also available to members via Zoom - went ahead as planned. It featured the self-styled 'performance poet' Andy Smith reading and talking about his work, how it may be read as exemplifying 'our wonderful national sense of humour' and how poetry can mirror our relationships with each other.

Starting with a nicely irreverent treatment of his grandfather's first meeting with his grandmother – 'With outstretched palms/He fell into her loving arms' – Andy whistled through similar snippets of his verse featuring the Thirties, the Blitz, Dunkirk, north Africa - with young men opening mail from home - and the Far East. More serious aspects from his own experience included the racism encountered by Commonwealth troops serving in Europe and the Middle East. The poems can be found in Andy's 'Mysteries & Conundrums', £12 from [ajsmith.uk/ntlworld.com](http://ajsmith.uk/ntlworld.com); proceeds help Andy's charitable work in Sierra Leone.

Forthcoming meetings include 'Great Gardens of Britain' (7 April) and 'Traditionalism and Modernity in Japanese Society' (12 May). Full details on our website ([www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock)); visitors always welcome.

## Chimney Sweep

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**BLENHEIM**



**BLENHEIM PALACE**



**BLENHEIM ESTATE**

## Blenheim Palace

Join us from the 15th-18th of April for a fun packed Easter, take part in our Easter Egg hunt and win a Hotel Chocolat Treat. We also have a whole host of fun activities for the kids including circus skills, balloon modelling, bubble performances, Punch and Judy, bungee trampolines and special appearances from the Easter Bunny throughout the weekend.

In association with Hotel Chocolat.

## Blenheim

Our Lake Dredge project is expected to take up to two years to complete and will restore the lakes to their original 18th century condition. Decades of silt have meant the Queen Pool, which is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, at the Blenheim Estate site has become so shallow that it is at risk of drying out completely. This project forms part of wider restoration works at Blenheim and will contribute to achieving one of our Ten Goals.

## Blenheim Estate

As lambing season begins we want to remind everyone when visiting the Estate to please keep your dog on the lead. Being chased by dogs can do serious damage to our flock even if the dog doesn't catch them, as it may still cause the sheep distress. Please be respectful and mindful when visiting to ensure everyone (including our sheep) have a nice time.

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

**[blenheimpalace.com](http://blenheimpalace.com)**



## CHURCHFIELDS NEWS

As the spring sunshine begins to pop out and the flowers start to bloom, staff and residents at Churchfields Care Home have been involved in lots of fun activities this March.

On March 8th, staff and residents celebrated International Women's Day within the home. We celebrated our fabulous women residents, and the incredible lives they have lived, as well as acknowledging our wonderful female work force, and celebrating the amazing work they do each day, in our wonderful home.



The recent sunshine, and hint of spring in the air, has enthused our intrepid gardeners. We have ventured down to our greenhouse and have been busy potting sweet peas, geraniums and strawberries, ready for summertime.



Barry is also hard at work preparing the allotment for the residents' favourite vegetables and summer fruits. For others time has been spent outdoors, enjoying our beautiful garden, while enjoying a sociable Gin and a chat with friends.

On Pancake Day, everyone in the home was very busy making pancakes and flipping them too. Churchfields have some experts in the home, much to Benji's dismay, as he was hoping to collect any that fell to the floor!



We have been keeping fit too, with our fabulous Keep Fit sessions with Joanne, as well as enjoying a recent game of balloon tennis. Hand and eye coordination were impressive, with some very competitive players too. We may have to set up our own mini-Olympics!

Don't forget that Churchfields are currently recruiting for new care assistants and are looking for individuals who share the commitment and enthusiasm for care. Join the professional, friendly, fun and supportive team, and in return you will receive a fulfilling career. All enquiries of interest welcome at the home.

Successful candidates will benefit from excellent training opportunities, high staff to resident ratio, strong leadership, and supportive management. Contact Steph Eley on 01865 881440 or email [manager@churchfieldscarehome.co.uk](mailto:manager@churchfieldscarehome.co.uk) to find out more about these exciting job opportunities. In the meantime, please keep following us on Facebook to see how daily life continues at Churchfields!



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

### Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th April 2022 in the village hall with full Covid precautions in place. Everyone is welcome to attend

### Neighbourhood Plan.

The Regulation 14 has ended. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee are arranging a meeting to discuss the next steps.

### Horsmere Lane and Cassington Lights.

The Parish Council are still awaiting a reply from OCC with regards to the Bio-Diversity meeting. The Clerk has photographed some of the trees and shrubs along the A40.

### School crossing/20mph zone.

The Parish Council had a reply with regards to the 20mph campaign and has been advised that it is with officers who will decide shortly. No decision has been made yet.

### Speed watch

Mr Ron MacDonald has now created a speed watch group with Thames Valley Police. They have been out a few times. If you would like to join, please contact the clerk who will pass on your details.

### 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. The Parish Council have had a volunteer and will hopefully start soon.

### Play Area

The order for the new toddler swing has been placed and we are now waiting for Proludic to advise when it will be delivered and fitted. They are hoping for it to be fitted mid to late March.

### Trees on the Recreation Ground

The Clerk has now put in the order for the trees. They will be delivered on 31st March.

### Parish Council Elections

Parish Council Elections will take place on Thursday 5th May 2022. Anyone who wishes to become a Parish Councillor needs to contact the Clerk for a Nomination Pack. These must be returned to WODC at Woodgreen no later than 4pm Tuesday 4th April.

Clerk contact details

Tracey Cameron

Email: [cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Tel: 07496 761398

Monday 08:15 – 11:15

Tuesday 11:00 – 14:30

Wednesday 09:00 – 12:00

Thursday 10:45 – 14:15

Friday 11:30 – 12:30

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

## Witney Rail project, February 2022 update

Witney Oxford Transport Group is a cross-party, voluntary organisation seeking to develop fast, reliable, sustainable transport solutions along the A40 corridor. Our primary focus is on restoring the rail link between Oxford, Eynsham, Witney and Carterton. This rail line would revolutionise travel in West Oxfordshire, with Oxford reachable from Carterton in 22 minutes, from Witney in 16 and from Eynsham in just 9.

Most of the proposed route follows the A40 very closely. It would run along the north side of the A40 as it passes Eynsham and then at the Eynsham roundabout it would leave the A40, and cross the fields to skirt around the western and northern perimeters of the village until it ultimately joins up with the existing railway line that passes under the road between Cassington and Yarnton. The nearest station for residents of Cassington would be the station at the new Eynsham Park and Ride site. There is no proposal to build a Cassington station. Whilst this may be disappointing for some people, it does mean that Cassington is less likely to have any large scale housing developments imposed.

Economically, it would encourage highly skilled employers to locate here, delivering high paying jobs. Environmentally, it would materially reduce West Oxfordshire's greenhouse gas emissions, roughly a third of which are generated from road transport. Socially, well, I don't need to tell anyone reading this of the frustrations and unreliability of the A40.

Our near-term goal has been to get the feasibility study done, so we all have hard data to review. To achieve this, we proposed a route; won support for the study from many parties including RAF Brize Norton, Oxford University, GWR, Carterton and Witney Town Councils and Eynsham Parish Council; and commissioned two projects. The outcomes of these projects gave the County Council sufficient comfort to fund the feasibility study. We hope the feasibility study will be conducted quickly and that the results of the feasibility study will be available in the summer.

For further information on the project, please see [www.witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk](http://www.witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk) and the Google Earth presentation which is accessible via the homepage. I'm available via [cmaynard@witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk](mailto:cmaynard@witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk) and 07487 708 681.

Charlie Maynard, Chair, Witney Oxford Transport Group



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## ST PETER'S SCHOOL



Spring really feels like it is on the way, and it has been glorious to see the increasing amounts of sunshine. The children have picked up where they left off last summer and are back to making their bug houses and insect hospitals around the trees on the field. This combined with the fantastic job our play leaders do in organising games at lunchtimes, encapsulates the spirit of the children at St Peter's.

We have already had a number of trips this term. Apple Tree class (nursery and reception) went to Farmer Gow's, near Faringdon, where they were able to have a very hands-on experience with many different farm animals. They thoroughly enjoyed their time and were a credit to the school with their exemplary behaviour. Oak class (year 1 and 2) went on a trip to Cadbury's world to support their current Africa and Fair Trade topic; as you can imagine, the children thoroughly enjoyed the visit! Willow class (year 5 and 6) have been to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford to learn more about their Mayans topic. We are so lucky to have such a great resource on our doorstep; the children certainly made the most of the trip and came back with beaming smiles.

Thank you to the teachers for organising these trips – a huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes to make these trips so successful. Maple class (year 3 and 4) will be going to Chedworth Roman Villa later in the term – I hope the weather stays fine for them! After being constrained for so long in being able to get out for trips, it is wonderful that we can be doing this again.

On Friday 18th March at 9.30am (precisely!) we took part in a Guinness World Record attempt for the most number of people doing musical bumps at the same time. This was done in conjunction with Radio Oxford and many schools across Oxfordshire took part. We will await to see if our combined efforts were enough to be a part of a new world record.

Please click on the links on the website for our class pages and newsletters to see pictures of what the children have been doing.

Warmest wishes,  
Jon Jeffries  
Headteacher

Minds that learn      Unlocking...      Faith that gives  
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## INFORMATION FROM SSEN

The following information was provided by SSEN as a result of Storm Eunice, but is relevant whenever power is lost for an extended period.

Compensation for loss of power is governed by Guaranteed Standards of Service set by the regulator, Ofgem. Customers are eligible for £70 compensation under Guaranteed Standards if they have been without power for over 48hrs. A further £70 is due for each additional period of 12 hours in which supply is not restored, up to a cap of £700. Customers do not need to contact SSEN to receive this compensation. We will automatically issue a cheque to the address that was impacted by the storms based on the data we hold.

Where a customer has been without power since Friday and their Estimated Time of Restoration is later than Sunday evening, SSEN are offering to reimburse all reasonable costs for arranging alternative accommodation. Similarly, for these customers who have been without power since Friday, if you need to remain in your home due to circumstances such as mobility or COVID-19, SSEN are offering to reimburse reasonable costs for an evening meal or takeaway, up to the value of £15 per person and up to a maximum of £60 per household.

Eligible customers should book the accommodation and meals directly and retain all receipts which should then be sent to SSEN for reimbursement via the following link - <https://tinyurl.com/EuniceClaim>. All claims will be processed for reimbursement promptly once full restoration has taken place. We ask any customer in a vulnerable situation who may find it difficult to organise this for themselves to contact us so that we can look to support them on a case by case basis.

## Bridewell Events for 2022



Bridewell Gardens, The Walled Garden,  
Wilcote, OX7 3DT

Saturday 30th April – Plant Sale: plants for sale in Bridewell's vineyard (the walled garden will not be open during the plant sale)  
Open Days: Sunday 15th May, Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June, Sunday 11th September

Visit the gardens on one of our open days, and learn more about Bridewell's work, gardening and working with nature to support people who have experienced serious mental ill health.



Entrance: suggested donation £5  
There will be a pop-up café, plants and produce for sale. Dogs on leads are welcome

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## Cassington Allotments Get Planting (and spawning)!

The days are getting longer, the weather warmer and less wet and the chaff chaffs have arrived on the allotment, which can mean only one thing, spring is here. Many of the allotment plots are looking very smart, with raised beds and new sheds. Luckily for the wildlife there are still areas of wilderness and bush, particularly at the ends of the plots and on the northern side of the plot. This is a haven for birds, attracting last year a range of birds including white throat, reed buntings, linnets, sedge warbler, willow warbler, garden warbler, black caps and others. Spring is when the migratory species arrive and establish territories and get on with the business of feeding and nesting in preparation for chicks. Several of the birds that use the allotments are RSPB Red Category birds meaning their numbers have drastically declined in the UK in recent years.

As with last year Sam Serra's ponds have attracted frogs leaving behind great gelatinous masses of black-eyed spawn. These are great predators of allotment pests, so we welcome them with open arms. The garlic is looking good, the onions coming through and the rhubarb is bursting forth and within



a few months will be producing in abundance. Potatoes and seeds are being planted or sown and allotmenters are growing seedlings in their houses, cold frames or glasshouses. It is a busy time of year.



It is also a time of year to reflect on what has passed. Just 18 months ago our allotments were threatened with development. As a result of quick action amongst

members of the Allotment Association the initial plan was rebuffed and now things have gone quiet. The allotments were also declared an Asset of Community Value by West Oxfordshire District Council.

Members of the village have got together with the Parish Council and developed and submitted a Green Infrastructure Plan and Local Village Plan for Cassington. This has been out for comment on the Parish Council Website for several months and shortly we will revise the plan on the basis of comments received and then it will be put to the vote in the village. Keep an eye out in CAWN because this will be your opportunity to have a say in the future of the village.

The allotment has been in Cassington for over 100 years. Let's hope it is there for another 100 and continues to provide healthy food, greenspace and a place for wildlife to thrive for another 100.

Alex Rogers  
Chair Cassington Allotment Association.

The Allotment Association would like to thank Mrs C J Dore of Elms Road, for her generous donation and Christmas card

## Roman Mosaic's Spring Clean – Open To All

Wednesday April 13, 2022 10am - 3pm

North Leigh Roman Villa's beautiful 4th century AD mosaic will be open to the public for a day in the Easter holidays – Wednesday 13 April, 10:00am to 3:00pm – as it undergoes cleaning and conservation supervised by specialist English Heritage staff.

In a new venture for this site there will be an Easter holiday weekday opening of the mosaic which once graced the villa's impressive winter dining room. The site is free to enter and everyone is welcome to come along. There is no need to book.



For more details about openings and access to the site please visit: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/>  
Follow us on Twitter: @villa\_north  
To join Friends of North Leigh Roman Villa or arrange a special opening email: [nlrvoles@gmail.com](mailto:nlrvoles@gmail.com)

## OBSERVATION

by Stephen Wright

Well ladies and gents, I have finally done it... I've been speed dating.

It was Wednesday, March 9th at Be At One cocktail bar in Norwich and my nerves were telling me that it wasn't a good idea to spend actual money on meeting strangers.

At first, they were right. I turned up, was given the number 13 sticker to wear, and spent the first ten minutes staring out a window as the fellas around me cracked on, because the man to woman ratio was unfortunately in favour of the former.

Thankfully, when I sat down with number 4. Flo, I knew she was the one with which I should go. Not only did she gasp with excitement when I told her my favourite band (Sea Girls, by the way), it was her pickup line of 'are you a Jedi master because Yoda-licious,' that really won me over.

Let me address the elephant in the newsletter. I am fully aware that each month I seem to pipe up in here telling you about someone I have been dating, then you never hear about them ever again, and I end up playing for Cassington Singles on Boxing Day.

With that in mind, look forward to next month's issue in which I really lose the plot by going on Naked Attraction or something.

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## Recipe of the Month

### Flourless Chocolate Orange Cake

#### Ingredients

2 small seedless oranges (such as navels)  
 6 large eggs  
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
 200g granulated white sugar  
 200g ground almonds  
 50g unsweetened cocoa powder  
 50g chocolate chips  
 1 teaspoon baking powder  
 1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
 Powdered sugar, for garnish

#### Method

Put the oranges in a large pot and cover with water by at least 2 inches. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 1 1/2 hours, or until the oranges are soft. Remove from water, chop into quarters and place in a food processor or blender. If you can't get seedless oranges then you'll first have to remove the seeds. Everything else—skin, pith, pulp, etc. will go into the recipe.

Add the eggs, vanilla, sugar, ground almonds, cocoa powder and chocolate chips to the food processor or blender, and puree until very smooth (about 1-2 minutes). Add the baking powder and bicarbonate of soda, and mix again for 20 seconds or until evenly distributed.

Pour the mixture into a 20cm springform cake tin that you have greased and lined and bake 50 minutes to 1 hour, or until cake is set and a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean.

Let it cool in the pan for 15 minutes, then run a knife around the edges and remove the sides. Let cake cool completely before transferring to a serving dish.

Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving, if desired

This is the most delicious chocolate orange cake I have ever tasted!

Lorna Mills

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## TREASURE HOUNDS 3

by Helen Barr

There was no sun today; the drizzle had returned. And there'd been another power cut, so the bigger humans were a bit annoyed. What if it still wasn't on by the time they got back? They had all made plans for tea. To make matters worse, there had been bad news about the FIND.

'How could the envelope have been empty?'

'I really don't know. I'm sure I sealed it. But they said there was only a note.'

'Maybe you should have sent it registered.'

'It still might turn up. The Post Office said they would check in the delivery room.'

'Not much chance. It would be like looking for a needle in a haystack.'

A slight gloom descended, rather like in the old days when you put the cover back on the Bakelite wireless when the broadcast had finished.

Nothing dampened the dogs' spirits though. There was a birthday celebration in the thicket. Nobody was entirely sure whose birthday it was, but they were going to have fun anyway. The theme was fancy dress. They were all wearing animal onesies. There was a duck and a rabbit, a fox and a goose, a cat and a mouse, and a sheep and a squirrel. Freddie had wanted to come as a fish, but it made jumping difficult. So, he was a frog instead. The smaller humans hadn't dressed up, but my word, they certainly joined in the fun. All the dogs were doing a conga round and round the bushes. The squirrel kept falling over and the mouse found it hard to remember the steps. None of that mattered though. The smaller humans had their own dancing. There was disco, hip-hop, and two of them (keen Strictly fans) were attempting an Argentinian tango. They spun so hard that they crashed into Bobbie the duck who fell in the ditch with a high-pitched quack. The other dogs went to help. All except Angus. He didn't like wearing clothes. He remembered how Freddie's tail had got stuck on the branch in their last game. He rubbed himself against the same tree. It worked! Thank goodness! Everyone was having far too much of a good time to notice that there was now a dog in their dance.

There was a ping. 'Power back on'. A huge sigh of relief, and a lifting of spirits. 'Let's turn back'. 'I wonder what stories the children have today'.

The smaller humans were full of it: all the animals together; the dancing; the mud when they kept falling over. And then, as ever, out of the thicket the dogs emerged like naughty children who've been hiding from a winter's cross-country run. And not one of them was still in fancy dress.

'But it was true', the smaller humans protested. 'Yes, it was. There was a duck, and a rabbit'. 'A fox and a goose'. 'Cat, mouse, sheep, squirrel'. 'And a frog!'. The mud was certainly true.

'Well, that all sounds such fun. But home time now'.

One of the bigger humans noticed that a child had left a coat on the tree. She was about to fetch it when one of the smaller humans shouted, 'Poo!' Green bag at the ready, she went to collect. Phew, there was a little bit of silver glinting. Vet's bill avoided. She dropped it in the bin which was nearly full. 'Don't worry, bin night tonight – don't forget to put

them out'. They all laughed; she always had to be reminded and always got muddled between blue and grey.

Back home, she was just about to start tea when she remembered the coat. Better fetch it; it looked like rain and it was getting dark. Tea could wait five minutes.

She reached out through the brambles and tugged hard. The cloth was stubborn. Eventually it came away and she nearly lost her footing in all the mud. She could scarcely believe what she had in her hands.

Back home, the children were watching Waffle the Wonder Dog. She raced in with her FIND. 'Look what I found in the thicket'.

'Is it more treasure?' the children were excited and ran over. (They didn't know about envelope-gate).

'Yes', she said.

There was a rattle of keys in the door. Dad was back.

'What's for tea?'

'Tea will have to wait'.

You could have heard a pin drop as she showed them all the sheep onesie.



Picture by Isabella Butler

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## TEA TIME TEASER

This month we have lines from songs. Do you know what the songs are and who sang them?

Answers next month

1. I have seen the writing on the wall
2. Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew you.
3. There she stood in the doorway
4. That the fire in your heart is out
5. Sitting on a cornflake
6. And I think somebody somewhere must be tolling a bell
7. Racing around to come up behind you again
8. The scars of your love remind me of us

Answers to last month's expressions:

1. As Pure as The Driven Snow
2. It never Rains But It Pours
3. Red Sky at Night, Shepherds Delight
4. Storm in A Teacup
5. Make Hay while The Sun Shines
6. A Bolt from The Blue
7. To Have One's head In The Clouds
8. To Throw Caution to The Wind

## FILM

On Friday 1st April the film will be West Side Story. Set in Manhattan, Upper West Side, 1957. Against the backdrop of the decaying tenements in the San Juan Hill neighbourhood and the constant threat of the wrecking ball, two warring gangs - tough Riff's Jets and swaggering Bernardo's Puerto Rican Sharks - fight for supremacy. Now, with a once-and-for-all, winner-takes-all rumble on the cards, an unexpected whirlwind romance at the high-school dance between former Jet brawler Tony and Bernardo's delicate little sister María sets the stage for an all-out turf war.



## A & B Ents

We are working on a plan to host a musical and songs evening in June hosted by The Wooden Tops (instrumental and witty humour) supported by guitar, percussion and female vocals.

In the meantime PLEASE put the date of Sunday May 8th in your diaries (NB: 6.30pm start) to come along and see The Bad Apple Theatre Group production of Elephant Rock (see poster opposite). This is a Seaside Resort theme based production from the sixties, and is particularly suitable for Families.

Roll up, roll up to your Village Hall  
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If anyone has any suggestions as to what they might like to see on in the Village Hall please email them to:  
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Please message to order

Tel Ruth 07768 450095

[Ruth.bakewell@googlemail.com](mailto:Ruth.bakewell@googlemail.com)

Thanks xx



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.

## BABYSITTING

Do you need a (Cassington) babysitter with good references?

Please call/text Amelia on 07732 069003 .

## DOG WALKER

Do you have a dog? Do you want it walked by a responsible 16yr old dog-owner? I am free to walk your dog from 3:30pm – 6pm on weekdays and 10am-6pm on weekends. Very reasonable prices! If you are interested please contact Seren on 07740184757 or email me at [17bowersser@bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:17bowersser@bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk) for more information

# what's on?

## Dates for your diary

### April 2022

Friday 1st 7pm	Film "West Side Story"
Thursday 7th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 15th 2-4pm	Odds and Ends sale for Ukraine
Sunday 17th	Easter Day
Wednesday 20th	May CAWN deadline
Saturday 23rd	Eynsham Swap shop
Saturday 30th 12-2pm	Plant Sale (allotments)

### May 2022

Thursday 5th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 8th	Elephant Rock
Wed 18th - Sat 21st	Bartholomew Players "Ladies Day"
Friday 20th	June CAWN deadline

For details of Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, County and District Councillors, Village Hall, Pavilion, and MUGA booking fees please see the village website:  
[www.cassington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cassington-pc.gov.uk)

## Gardening Tips for April



by Piers Lewis

- Weed and feed your lawn,
- Rake out any unwanted moss.
- Finish any rose pruning wall or flower bed planted.
- Clean patios of leaf and slime with a good broom.
- Keep feeding the birds.
- Apply bone meal to shrubs and roses.
- Feed your indoor plants and give the leaves a wash with warm soapy water.

## 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.