



**Happy New Year. It's 2023!**

**CASSINGTON CELEBRATES 900 YEARS**

**Come and join the launch  
8th January 2023**

with Special Guests from 900 years ago,  
some on horses!  
(weather permitting)

11.00 am - Celebration service at St Peter's Church  
with Bishop Gavin and St Peter's School choir

2.00 pm - Unveiling the art spectacular in the  
Church by the children of St Peter's School

2.00 - 4.30 pm - Open house refreshments in the  
Village Hall and Church - Cakes, cream teas, buns,  
nibbles, drinks

**ALL WELCOME**

### **DON'T FORGET**

To submit your entries for  
the Photography Competition  
before 15th January.  
See page 7 for full details



## **Cassington Players whip up a storm**

(well, a tornado actually)



## **Oz – The Panto**

Please see pages 8 and 9 for the full  
review and pictures!



# welcome Anne's CAWNer

Welcome to the 547th edition of CAWN and a very Happy New Year to you all.

As I write this I am still buzzing from the excitement and entertainment that came from the Village Hall with the 4 performances of Oz - The Panto. It was a total sellout, very deservedly, and I do hope you enjoy the write up and pictures in this newsletter.

I also hope you take the time to read Alex Rogers excellent summary of the solar farm proposal and how you can still ensure that your views are heard in the consultation process. The Parish Council have prepared an extremely detailed response, which will be uploaded to the Village website in due course.

On the front page you will have seen an invitation to the start of a year long celebration of 900 years since St Peter's Church was consecrated. Throughout the year events are being planned to commemorate this, and the fact there has been a thriving community living here for more than 900 years.

As part of those celebrations we are running a photography competition with a different theme each month. I encourage you all to get snapping and send in your photos, and my grateful thanks to P Bruno Car Repairs for their sponsorship.

As always my thanks to all the contributors and if there is anything you would like me to include in future editions please do email me.

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.



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## January stargazing highlights

### January 3, 4 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower.

The Quadrantids is an above average shower, with up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. It is thought to be produced by dust grains left behind by an extinct comet known as 2003 EH1, which was discovered in 2003. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Bootes, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

### January 6 - Full Moon.

The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps. This moon has also been know as the Old Moon and the Moon After Yule.

### January 21 - New Moon.

The Moon will located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky.

### January 30 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation.

The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 25 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

## CASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL AGM

Tuesday 21st February 2023

The Cassington Village Hall Committee invites you to the AGM on Tuesday 21st February 2023 @ 7.15pm in the Village Hall. Join us and find out what has been happening in the Village Hall during the past year and our plans for the hall in the future. All Village groups and societies are encouraged to send a representative for election onto the Committee and any interested individuals will be warmly welcomed.

For further information please contact [cassingtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:cassingtonvillagehall@gmail.com)

## SPSA News



We hope you have all had a nice Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who attended or helped with our Christmas Fayre in early December – or if you donated to or bought tickets for the raffle. It was nice to be back after the pandemic and we had a great evening that was enjoyed by all. It was lovely to see so many people – old and new! Results are looking good and we will publish the figure raised soon.

Alongside our usual support for class trips and in-school visits, our next fundraising target will be to get the playground repainted – something that hasn't been done for many years!

Lastly as a correction to the funds we raised for Bike Night, we had the cash from our 100 challenge (that we ran again last year) in the same pot. Bike Night raised £3683 and 100 Challenge £1133 – still both fantastic results.

Wishing you all a wonderful 2023!

SPSA Team

**Swimming Pool Meeting – Tuesday 31 January,  
7.30pm – The Red Lion**  
Please come along to discuss the future of  
St Peter's School Pool.  
All welcome.

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## BRIAN MILLER HAWES

27.8.43 - 3.12.22

It is with sadness that we announce the sudden death of Brian. He lived in Cassington for over forty years and will be sadly missed by his family and his good neighbours in the village. Brian worked at Oxford University and it was there he met his wife, Sarah. He had an allotment in the village for several years and they both spent many happy hours there. Brian was a great fan of 'Bike Night' held yearly on the village green.

Funeral date to be arranged



## A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

A bright spring morning, the bright swathes of yellow rape seed, not so popular with all. Livestock can look forward to early Kale or "Horse Nuts" I've been told is often grown.

The Hares can be seen jumping and boxing, enjoying the early sunshine lying in shallow scrapes. Grouse and Partridge mutter in the field. A stray Pheasant might appear escaping from the shoot. Overhead the Kestrel hovers.

Early evening at dusk a Leveret (young hare) came closer and closer to our motionless figures sniffed the air and thought better of the encounter, bounded-away over the field towards the trees where Buzzard and now Red Kites nest.

Hedgerows alive with the song of Yellow Hammers "a little bit of bread and no cheese" settling and nesting alongside Dunnock, Wren, Blue Tit and Chaffinch. Not to forget the Robin, Willow warbler and a Chiff Chaff that do not have to compete for seed and bud, there's plenty for all.

All of these we can see and hear. You may also see Muntjac deer or glimpse a Roe deer. A Badgers' den on verge of the top right-hand field. A young badger made our acquaintance one evening.

Autumn brings bright berries on hedges where Fieldfare flock with Redwing and flocks of Lapwing flounder in wet fields.

Where will these creature great and small find their feed in the future?

Anna

## A Fresh Start

Every New Year our natural disposition comes to the fore - the 'glass half full or glass half empty' factor. Either we eagerly anticipate the opportunities afforded us by a brand new year, or we drag ourselves to the first square on the calendar with a sense of horror and disbelief that we've got to do it all again! But whatever our tendency, the New Year offers us one of the most precious things we can be given - a fresh start - and God knows we need fresh starts every so often. I mean, he really does!

The first pages of the Bible speak of the ordering of time in night and day and seasons (read about this in the song of Creation in Genesis chapter 1). This is a gift, enabling us to awaken afresh each morning with the mistakes and mishaps of yesterday firmly in the past. Each day, and year, is like a brand new, unmarked exercise book, full of possibility and promise. Even amidst a personal and national crisis, one writer from scripture was still able to exclaim to God: "your mercies are new every morning, great is your faithfulness!"

This faithfulness has been proved time after time in the life of Cassington and St Peter's church. This year we celebrate 900 New Years since the church was consecrated for the people of Cassington. Whatever our outlook on life, there is plenty to give thanks for in our community over the years, and we hope many will be able to join in the various things happening throughout 2023. But for now, as we venture into the first days of the year, knowing that we face many challenges, I end with a phrase I remember each New year: "may the new squares of our calendars be meadows for dancing".

Rev. Duncan Fraser



### CASSINGTON TINIES & TODDLERS (Tinies Café) Spring 2023

#### A Parent/Carer & Toddler group

Cassington Village Hall 1.30 –3.00 on Tuesday (other than where stated, term-time only)

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, no session 31<sup>st</sup>

February 7<sup>th</sup>, no session 14<sup>th</sup> (half term) 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14, 21st (last session this term)

#### Toys, crafts, songs & refreshments for under-fives and their carers.

This group is being run by St Peter's church Cassington with local parents

For more information please contact: Jane Aston at [janeaston53@aol.com](mailto:janeaston53@aol.com) Tel: 01865 880757



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## Food Bank News.

Thank you for continuing to support the local food banks via the box at St Peter's Church. We continue to support: Eynsham Food bank (07450 328530)

North Oxfordshire Food Bank (07929721172)

As well as food donations the food banks are increasingly relying on financial donations to "top up" the food boxes with essential items. Please see the news article from Eynsham Food Bank alongside this notice, whom you might like to support with a single donation or regular standing order. (Unfortunately, at the moment this cannot be Gift Aided).

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 01865 880757 or your neighbourhood watch rep.

Thank you.

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNHAM

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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://stpeterseynsham.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](http://Churchservices.tv)

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Godzdogz>

**JANUARY 2023**

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.

**Services this month**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January – No service at St Peter's**  
10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St Leonard's in Eynsham

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January – 11am 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Service**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January – 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January - 9.30am Morning Worship  
- 6pm Evening Prayer**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January – 9.30am Morning Worship**

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

If you have particular spiritual needs feel free to contact:

*The Vicar – Revd Duncan Fraser Tel: 07810 324088 or*  
*Enquiries: Church Office: email [stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)*

**West Oxfordshire District  
Council Support**



WODC has announced a wide range of support to help local community groups and individuals who may be struggling during the cost of living crisis.

Councillor Joy Aitman, Cabinet Member for Stronger Healthy Communities, said "We will be providing £40,000 in funding and the use of council storage facilities to our local food network, as well as recently offering a further £50,000 to support local groups who are running schemes tackling isolation, health and wellbeing. The Council will also be providing dedicated support to help these groups.

Councillor Andrew Prosser, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, said, "To help people who can't pay their bills we are extending the criteria for our fuel poverty grants so more people are eligible. We are also working closely with partners to deliver the Sustainable Warmth and Home Upgrade Scheme, which provides people on low incomes advice and support with making their homes more energy efficient."

The Council has agreed a total fund of £200,000 to help with the cost of living crisis. The Council has opened up a grants scheme to financially support local groups helping their community through the cost of living crisis. 18 groups have been given funding following applications earlier in the Autumn.

The Council is running a campaign to help people know what support is available to them both nationally and locally. Residents can visit [www.westoxon.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport) to find out more. The site also includes a link to the Better Housing Better Health service which provides proactive advice for people seeking to reduce their energy usage and energy bills.

The Council are supporting the national Warm Welcome scheme which helps local groups set up warm spaces. The Council is encouraging groups to register their warm spaces on the site [www.warmwelcome.uk/](http://www.warmwelcome.uk/)

Councillor Aitman added, "I would like to encourage anyone who is struggling to reach out, whether that's to a local group, your council or an organisation like Citizens Advice. There are people there who genuinely want to help and will do so sensitively and confidentially."



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# 2023, A Year in Cassington

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



It's time to send in your entries for January

## Cassington CELEBRATES

Whatever you celebrate, if it's a snapshot of life in our village take a picture and send it in.

**Entries to: [chinton260@outlook.com](mailto:chinton260@outlook.com)  
between 1st and 15th January**

With your name, picture title or caption, and age category please

**See the winning entries in next month's CAWN**

The next topic, for the February competition, is ...

### **Cassington at WORK**

Homework? Housework? Running a business? Working from home?  
Keeping the wheels of the village turning? It's all work ...

**Don't forget - you can send in your pictures of the Church at any time**

See the November and December issues of CAWN for all the  
competition details ... **there are prizes!**

## Help us to capture a year in Cassington

*With grateful thanks to our competition sponsor*

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# Oz - The Panto



A tornado swept through Cassington in late 2021 and so it seemed only right and proper that it should inspire the Cassington Players to whip up a storm in their latest interpretation of a childhood favourite of us all – the wizard of Oz. With their usual aplomb, the Players served up their own take on all of our favourite characters, with every scene beautifully stitched together by the show-stopping Glinda and her poetic prowess. A wisecracking terrier, a less than ferocious lion, the wicked witch of the west (Oxford District Council), the wonderfully costumed tin man and scarecrow and of course Dorothy, were all on view.



For those of us who attend the Panto every time the Players put on a production (i.e. all of the village), you will know that there are always “surprises” to be served up! The inclusion of “The Minions” probably topped the list of surprises – what a joy to see your fellow villagers conversing in gobbledygook, performing their own version of the Haka in blue dungarees, banana yellow onesies and giant flying goggles. That said, their presence was rivalled by all of the other entourages.



Only in Cassington are we treated to our own “Bananarama” in the guise of the acerbic beauticians “Mascararara”, fawning unashamedly over the biker gang the “Flying Monkeys”, whose rendition of “you can keep your hat on” left the audience feeling all unnecessary! Throw in a bunch of gin and fever tree/essential oil swigging hippy yummy mummies, the brilliantly portrayed WI (Witches Institute), an eco-warrior hell bent on



sending Thames Water plummeting and a perfectly typecast Brummie (sort of!) rock band manager and you begin to get the feel of the “diversity” of the production.



Songs make a panto special and we had them by the bucketful – you all did Elspeth and Tim proud. We take our hats off to all those who step up to the plate and sing their hearts out for us – it cannot be easy –

thank you. There were so many crowd favourites if the level of participation was anything to go by - an Elvis impersonating “All Shook Up” lion, Toto and Coco performing “Thank you for being a friend” and let’s not forget the Oz classic “We’re off to see the Wizard” We have to give Seren a special mention, who, despite struggling with a loss of voice, admirably led the audience through everyone’s favourite – “Over the Rainbow”- we loved it Seren - thanks. Of course, songs require music and we are lucky to be able to draw upon the talents of Dave and Dan Wright, Lionel Bolton, Sally Price and Tim Herdon – a new acquisition to the “band” – who we hope to see a lot more of. Not only did they play, but in most cases, they were part of the performance – multi-tasking of the highest order – well done!



As is always the case, the Players give the event a benevolent focus, this time round choosing to raise funds for the Witney & West Oxfordshire Foodbank. With the amazing support of all those who attended, the Players raised over £1k for this much needed cause, with a sizeable amount of food also collected as well. Thanks for making such a positive difference in yet another way!







In a big production like this a great deal goes on behind the scenes and without the "Crew" we simply would not have panto – thanks to you all for your tireless efforts, both in the lead up to the delivery of the event and obviously throughout each show. So, whether you designed the set, served drinks, ran raffles, printed programmes or endeavoured to keep Adie on script - the village massively appreciates what you do.

And finally – the glue of the whole event – Mandy and Rich. Down the years we reap the benefit of your expertise and passion for live performance and this year was no exception.



How on earth you manage an event of this scale is beyond us.

But know that we are eternally grateful – our calendars look all the more rosy when we have the village panto pencilled in! You dedicated the show to one of your first panto cast, Johnny Perrin. He would have loved this production – just as we did. Thank you.



Thank you to Stewart Thompson for the review, and to David Stewart, Pasquale Bruno and Jerry Butson for the photographs.

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# Recipe of the Month

No turkey leftovers here I promise! Time perhaps for something soothing but not too heavy to make up for all that eating during the Christmas and New Year party season.

Shellfish are particularly good at this time of year and mussels are quick and easy to prepare for a lovely light supper. If you want to go for it cook up some really good home-made chips but this dish is pretty good with an excellent baguette or two.

This is my version of a French mussel dish called Mouclade for 4 people.

## Mouclade

### Ingredients:

6 shallots  
3 cloves garlic  
Butter for frying  
1 Kg Mussels – buy them ready cleaned or if not remove the 'beards' and tap any open ones – if they remain open discard them.  
1 bottle of dry cider  
Crème fraiche – to taste but around 3 tablespoons  
2 teaspoons of curry powder – generic, the kind you might be rather snobbish about, it works here I promise!  
Chopped Coriander

### Method:

Cut up the shallots and crush the garlic. Cook the shallots gently in a generous amount of butter until soft before adding the garlic and curry powder. Add the cider and bring to a simmer – have the saucepan lid ready – gently pour in the mussels and slap on the lid. Cook for only a couple of minutes until the mussels have all opened. Drain saving the juices for the sauce.

Now, you can take off the shells of the mussels or leave them on, up to you, but make sure you only serve ones which have opened. Keep the mussels to one side while you finish the sauce.

Bring the sauce up to a simmer, add the crème fraiche and adjust seasoning. Throw in some chopped coriander and the mussels. Gently heat through and serve immediately.

For a vegetarian version in place of the mussels use firm tofu which you have pressed for an hour, rolled in cornflour fried in batches then drained. Make the sauce and then add the tofu at the end to warm through. The tofu version might be rather good with rice.

If you have a recipe you would like to share please email it to [cawnceditor@gmail.com](mailto:cawnceditor@gmail.com)

## OBSERVATION

by Stephen Wright

In November a film crew turned up at 3 Lynton Lane, Cassington, to shoot a scene for Mandy's fantastic Wizard of Oz production. They wanted to meet famous author Stephen Wright and for me to sign a copy of my book, *Observation: Injuring Friends & Sliding Into DMs*. Of course, I'm used to the fame and fortune by now so I didn't let it go to my head.

It may have only been a brief cameo, but I look forward to displaying the BAFTA alongside my Pulitzer Prize.

My Hinge date Catherine said, "maybe it will be like Anne Hathaway where she won the Oscar for being in the film for 11 minutes." I tried to impress Catherine by telling her that I played Baby Face in *Bugsy Malone* at the Cassington Village Hall in 2003. She said, "that is a big flex in my book, I love *Bugsy Malone*!"

I did let that go to my head. Thank you again Mandy.

### Cassington Sports and Social Club

#### AGM

Sunday 8th January 2023 8pm @ the Chequers

All Welcome - come and hear what the sports and social club has been doing and plans for 2023 and beyond.

## MUSIC

### Eynsham Choral Society

The Choral Society will be singing Dvorak's Mass in D major on Saturday 28th January at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church, Eynsham.

Tickets £15 from Evenlode DIY or [info@eynshamchoral.org](mailto:info@eynshamchoral.org)

### Witney Music Society

On Friday 13th January at 7.30pm the cellist Leo Popplewell and pianist Antonina Suhanova will be playing works by Bach, Brahms, Janáček and Shostakovich. The concert is at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Tickets (£15, £1 for under 19s) are available online or at the door from 7pm.

[www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

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

The Minutes from the last Parish Council meeting were not available in time this month, however the main issue at the last meeting was the proposed solar farm. Alex Rogers has kindly prepared a report on this.

## A Utility-Scale Solar Power Station in West Oxfordshire

Alex Rogers Parish Councillor

As many of you will now be aware a company called Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP) have proposed a scheme called the West Botley Solar Farm on land in three areas to the west of Oxford including to the north of Cassington. This proposal is actually for a utility-scale solar power station, in other words a development so large it counts as national infrastructure. Covering an estimated 1,400 hectares (3,460 acres) of farmland this 840-megawatt power station will be in the top 20 globally. The proposal aims to cover most of the land between Cassington, Bladon and Oxford Airport in solar panels, running up to the northern boundary of the village and sport fields. It will convert the farmland over which many homes look, and which also surround the main footpaths used by Cassington residents to an industrial landscape.

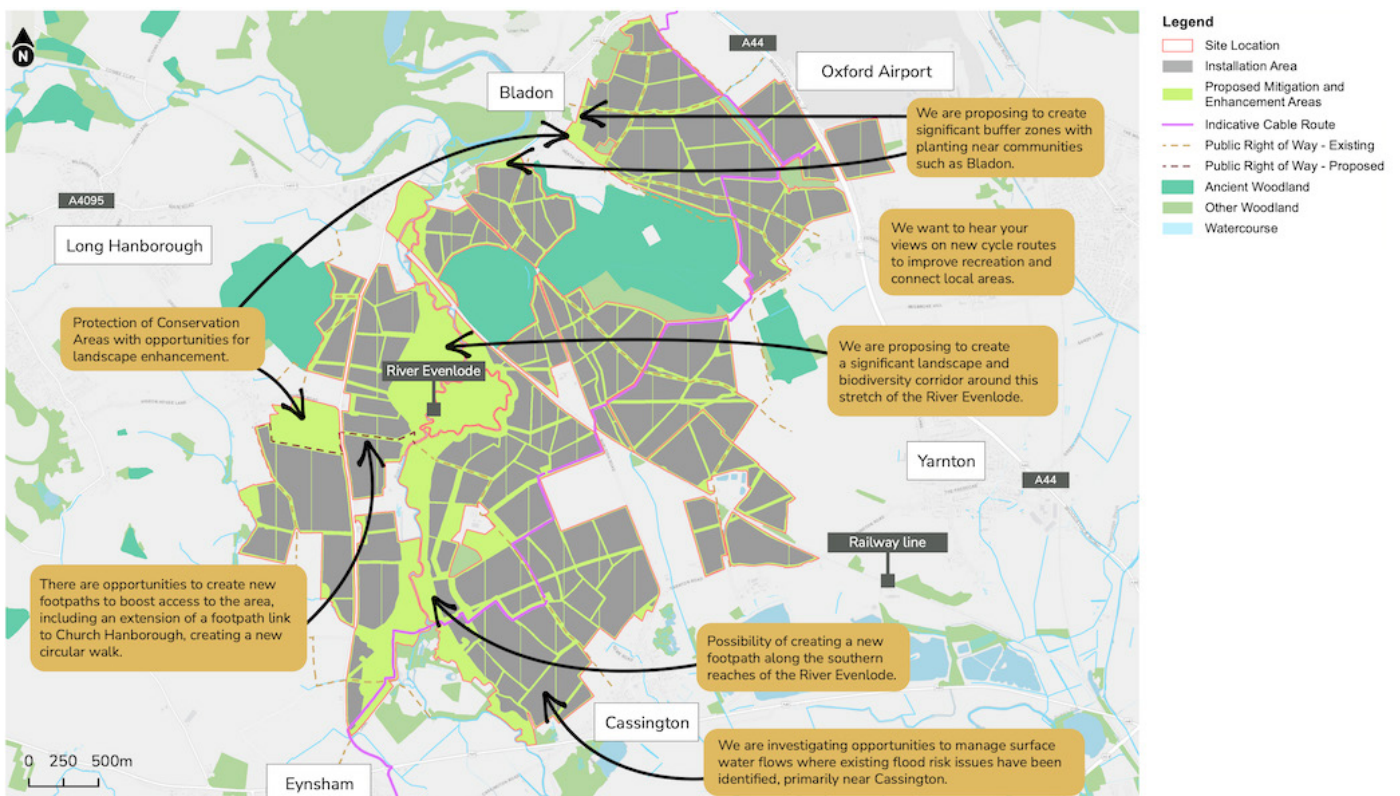
Utility-scale renewable energy schemes are needed by the UK and other countries to cut CO 2 emissions which are driving dangerous climate change. Renewable energy comes in different forms including wind energy, predominantly being developed offshore in the UK, hydroelectric power, tidal and wave energy and solar. Of these forms of renewable energy solar is the least efficient and also, as we are realising with the West Botley development, has a very large footprint in

terms of the land it takes up. All but one other utility-scale solar power stations in the top 20 globally are located in deserts, arid land or degraded land because there are few people, few other human activities and they have a lot of sunlight and little rain.

We have now gone through the Phase 1 Community Consultation Process with PVDP which comprised the circulation of a leaflet, information events, one of which was held in Cassington and several questions and answers sessions with Dominic Hare, a representative from Blenheim Estates (Bladon Parish Council event on the 28 th November and Cassington Parish Council Meeting 1st December). Following these consultations there will be several further steps before a formal application is made to the Secretary of State. Because this is counted as national infrastructure it avoids the usual local planning process.

During the consultation some misconceptions may have arisen as a result of statements made in the Community Consultation Leaflet and by representatives of PVDP and Blenheim Estates. I thought I would take this opportunity to clarify some of these areas of confusion.

Discussions with representatives indicate that this proposal arose as a result of PVDP sending out land agents to find landowners with large tracts of land which they might make available for large-scale solar schemes. Blenheim Estates and Merton College are two landowners who have stepped forward to offer their land. Much of the land to the north of Cassington is Grade 3B, land which has moderate productivity for cereals, and which offers good quality grassland for grazing or cutting (this is why Yarnton meadows were famous in the past for the quality of hay). The government has, after lobbying by the solar industry, allowed development on Grade 3B land.



What this has meant for our local farmers who have had tenure over Blenheim Estate's farmland (land historically seized from Cassington farmers during the 1801 Enclosure) is they have been excluded from farming to allow for this development. Farming is still an important aspect of life in Cassington, not just as employment but also in terms of the rural setting and changes in the landscape with the seasons. For the residents of Cassington important space for running and walking will no longer be surrounded by farmland but will be surrounded by arrays of solar panels which are also likely to be fenced in because of the need to hold sheep for cropping of grass. People who live on the north side of the village will have views of fields turned to a sea of glass. Exposure to nature and outdoor exercise have positive benefits for physical and mental health so this will negatively impact on the wellbeing of Cassington villagers. This whole development has significant implications in terms of social justice for our villagers in Cassington, Jericho Farm, Worton and also our tenured farmers.

Understanding the environmental impacts of this development is difficult because so little research has been done in the UK and elsewhere on utility-scale solar power stations and their effects on drainage and wildlife. Evidence suggests that solar panels increase runoff from the land, a very concerning prospect for Cassington, Jericho Farm and Worton because of their recent history of flooding resulting from runoff from the hills to the north of Cassington. For wildlife solar arrays appear to pose a specific risk to birds and bats. This is because some birds (especially waterbirds) mistake solar arrays for water and collide with them. Bats are attracted to solar arrays because insects are attracted to them. Given Cassington's proximity to the filled gravel pits along the A40 which are home to resident and migratory waterbirds this is a concern. Declining farmland birds such as yellow hammers and linnets, frequently seen in the fields around Purwell Farm are also likely to be negatively impacted by this development. Fencing will also restrict the movement of mammals such as deer, foxes and hedgehogs, thus fragmenting habitat.

As with previous development proposals in Cassington this one very much follows the "decide-announce-defend" approach seen in elsewhere in the race to develop solar energy. This is not a consultative process in the true sense involving input from the local community which is given strong weight in deciding on whether the solar power station will go ahead and if it does, what form it will take. This typifies the democratic deficit experienced in planning in the UK where there is an absence of policy or planning for strategic development of solar energy at a national and regional level. Many of the "facts and figures" presented in the Consultation Leaflet are questionable and many details of the development unclear. The contention that the solar power station must be sited in Oxfordshire to supply local needs when we have a national grid capable of transmitting power almost anywhere in the country is nonsense.

Cassington Parish Council has responded to the Phase One Consultation in full, with a number of questions for the developer which will soon be posted on the Cassington Parish Council website (<https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/>). We will be watching this development closely, working collaboratively with other Parish Councils affected and responding to the proposal at appropriate stages of the planning process. We very much encourage Cassington residents to monitor this development and to also respond when possible. For those of you wishing to contribute to efforts to stop this proposal or to amend it so it is more balanced to reflect societal and environmental needs in the area please contact Diane at: [Notobotleywestpowerstation@gmail.com](mailto:Notobotleywestpowerstation@gmail.com)

**Parish Councillors**

If you wish to contact the Parish Council please email them on:

Barbara King	<a href="mailto:bking1@cassington-pc.gov.uk">bking1@cassington-pc.gov.uk</a>
Chris Metcalf	<a href="mailto:cmetcalf@cassington-pc.gov.uk">cmetcalf@cassington-pc.gov.uk</a>
Alex Rogers	<a href="mailto:arogers@cassington-pc.gov.uk">arogers@cassington-pc.gov.uk</a>
Graham Mills	<a href="mailto:gmills@cassington-pc.gov.uk">gmills@cassington-pc.gov.uk</a>
Stewart Thompson	<a href="mailto:sthompson@cassington-pc.gov.uk">sthompson@cassington-pc.gov.uk</a>

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If you see anything you think needs reporting please report

it to the following address:  
<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Clerk contact details:  
 Mrs Tracey Cameron  
 Email: [cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 07496 761398

Next Parish Council Meeting will be on the 5th January 2023 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



The Track, known to many Cassington runners, walkers and pet dogs. This is the main amenity footpath in Cassington and will be entirely surrounded by solar arrays if the plan is accepted.



## BLenheim PALACE

### The Lost Garden – opening spring 2023

We can't wait to open our new Lost Garden Adventure Play, a place to discover and enjoy. This mini Blenheim Palace is the place where adventures can start, where kids can climb the Grand

Bridge, whizz down slides, discover the boat house and zip across the Palace gates. They can even climb to the top of giant carrots and paddle through the great lake. It's going to be the place where they can make their own Palace adventures. To be one of the first to find out about our Lost Garden sign up to our newsletter today. [blenheimpalace.com/the-lost-garden](https://blenheimpalace.com/the-lost-garden)

# BLenheim

## News from Merilyn, the Community Lead at Blenheim.

I have been developing a community website to support the interconnectivity of The Big Eight villages surrounding Blenheim, so we can all share ideas; such as how we can help make our water cleaner, looking at air quality, as well as highlighting local walks and sharing news we would like others to hear. As part of this I have one page dedicated to local business and one dedicated to community groups. I thought we would be able to use our local businesses more easily if we know what's out there across all villages, as well as support community groups in their work.

If you would like to be part of the website and advertise your community group or business, please email me at [community@blenheim.org](mailto:community@blenheim.org) and I will get you up on the site.



## BLenheim ESTATE

We are trialling the use of robots to gather data on the health and biodiversity of our estate.

The grounds are being used by Oxford Robotics Institute and Oxford Biology to test an autonomous ecosystem monitoring programme that uses robots to gather information about species diversity via imaging sensors. Founded in 2010, the Oxford Robotics Institute is an independent interdisciplinary institute within the Department of Engineering Science at University of Oxford. The trial forms part of our ongoing innovation partnership with the University of Oxford which is celebrating its three-year anniversary in 2022.

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

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

## West Oxfordshire District Council Budget



WODC has launched a consultation on the plans for its budget for the next financial year.

Councillor Dan Levy, Cabinet Member for Finance, said; "The District Council is facing a number of financial challenges as a result of increased costs due to inflation, over a decade of funding cuts and the expectation that Government will further reduce funding for local services. This year we have announced £750,000 of one-off money to invest in local projects including £200,000 to support communities through the cost of living crisis, £100,000 for Youth Initiatives, £100,000 for Environment and Community Projects and £75,000 additional funding to replace two street sweepers with electric vehicles instead of diesel."

The District Council only receives around 10% of a council tax bill, with the rest going to the County Council, fire service, police and parish councils. With that money the council delivers over 50 services including waste collections, planning services, help for homeless people, leisure centres and many others.

Cllr Levy continued, "I encourage all residents of the district to give their views on our budget before we set out a final budget in February 2023."

Residents can take part in the consultation by visiting the Council's website at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/budget](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/budget) Physical copies of the consultation questions will also be available in the council offices in Witney.

## Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

The next in Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum's series of online talks, Arnhem and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry will be streamed on the museum website from 7pm, 19 January 2023. The talk will be given by Brigadier (Retired) David Innes, museum trustee.

Video Link:  
<https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/oxnbucksarnhem/>

"A tale you will tell your grandchildren.....", this talk will tell the story of the men of the county regiment who fought and died at Arnhem in September 1944.

The online event will also salute the skill and daring of the men of the Glider Pilot Regiment, and the outstanding bravery of the local Dutch population who found themselves caught up in the aftermath of this infamous battle.

Those that miss the live talk and Q&A on 19th January will still be able to 'catch up' as an archived feed will remain available using the same link, shortly after the live event ends.

Free to view, like all the museum's online events, donations will be encouraged from those that wish to support SOFO Museum's work in preserving the county's military heritage and collections. The museum aims to keep stories like these alive, and can only continue to do so with your support.



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## CHURCHFIELDS NEWS

The days are getting shorter and the nights colder but that hasn't dampened our spirits. This November and December were all about self-love, indulging in our favourite hobbies and enjoying the festivities. We spent most of our days indoors, but staying indoors didn't mean we dialled down the fun. We had a wonderful time, chatting away, playing games, and watching Christmas films.

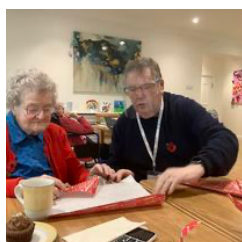


Our residents were treated to weekly visits from our amazing hairdresser Mandy who gave them fabulous hairdos. To complete the makeovers, some of our lovely ladies had their nails done. Who doesn't feel great after a bit of pampering?

Our fitness instructor Jo made sure we stayed active with weekly workouts. We also mixed it up with some fun dancing sessions and relaxing yoga sessions. Balance is key!

Kate and Roger hosted some lovely sing-alongs where we were reminded of some amazing Churchfields talent. Our residents didn't hold back and had a great time singing and grooving to their own tunes.

We invited the residents of Whytham house to join in on the fun. Together with them we made some pomanders and filled the house with a festive scent.



We've had a number of events and occasions to celebrate and commemorate throughout the winter too...

Our residents were surprised with a special visit from Gemini Fashion last month. They brought in a beautiful range of clothes for our residents to choose from. Everyone had an amazing time trying out the clothes and even treating themselves to some new outfits for the festive season.



This Remembrance Day, we remembered the sacrifices of our brave soldiers. Our residents wore their poppies proudly and spent the day doing some origami with Roger to relax. They made lovely origami cranes as a symbol of peace.



To keep the festive spirit alive, we hosted a fireworks show. Our friends from Rosebank Care Home joined us to experience the brilliant show. The evening was lit up with fireworks, laughs, and of course some tipples.

Our Christmas Fayre was a huge success this year. The afternoon was filled with traditional Christmas entertainment, delicious food and drink, and some fun games. We would like to thank everyone who came and contributed.

We hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and we wish you all the best for 2023. As always, our door is always open.

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### **Gardening Tips for January**



- Prune apple and pear trees
- Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
- Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already.
- Disperse worm casts in lawns.
- Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
- Start forcing rhubarb
- Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
- Plan vegetable crop rotations for the coming year.
- Make a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines to protect against peach leaf curl.

### **Chimney Sweep**

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## TEA TIME TEASER

This month we have anagrams of well known pantomime characters. Can you work out who they are and the Pantomime they come from?

Answers next month

1. Cheda Wis Toy
2. Gylit Lire
3. Stut Shey Reglis
4. Nafray Dim
5. Tapock Ahoim
6. Shisha Weewee
7. Mincer Gaprinch
8. Prabor Haund

Answers to last month's sayings:

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night
2. Angels from the realms of glory
3. God rest you merry gentlemen
4. Ding dong merrily on high
5. I saw three ships come sailing in
6. It came upon the midnight clear
7. See amid the winter's snow
8. The first Nowell the angel did say

## Woodstock & District u3a

u3a

Our December meetings suffered a last minute set-back when our external speaker telephoned to say his transport had failed him. In best u3a fashion, however, those members who had already arrived at the meeting put the kettle on, and, led by Chairman David Duthie, enjoyed a wide-ranging examination of the upcoming programme of the Branch and its core of Working Groups.

There are now 18 such Groups, their interests and activities ranging from 'Art' to 'Walking'; the former meet weekly, the latter twice monthly. Reflecting the growth in membership, there are now two Groups each for 'Board Games', 'Needlework', 'Recorders' (one specifically for Beginners & Improvers) and 'Discussion': one of the latter promises monthly Zoomed examination of 'Everyday Dilemmas'.

The programme of Speaker Meetings for 2023 is in print (try local libraries) and on the Group website (see below). Our first scheduled speaker is Terry Adams on 'Glass Blowing' (Thursday 5 January) and following months' topics range from 'Hedgehogs' (6 April) to 'Vineyards & Wine Tasting' (3 August). Guests are most welcome at each speaker meeting. Detail of Branch and Group activities at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/woodstock>.

## FILM

The next film will be Fisherman's Friends: One and All on Friday 13th January at 7.30pm in the village hall. The film tells the story of the world's most unlikely 'buoy' band! When a group of Cornish fisherman came together to sing the traditional working songs they'd sung for generations, they hoped to raise a few quid for charity. Nobody, least of all the fisherman, expected the story to end on the Pyramid stage of Glastonbury..



## Cassington Cafe returns!

After a long break, we are beginning again with a new team, a new menu and on a new day of the week. The time remains the same: 10 til 12.

We will meet on the first Thursday of each month, except in May when the hall is already booked, when we will meet on the second Thursday.

**Help!** We could do with folk to help us put tables and chairs out and away again. And while we will supply tea, coffee and biscuits, if you can bring some home baking on occasion it would be very welcome. Thank you.

If you want any more information or can offer help, please contact Hugh or Ruth on 01865 880475

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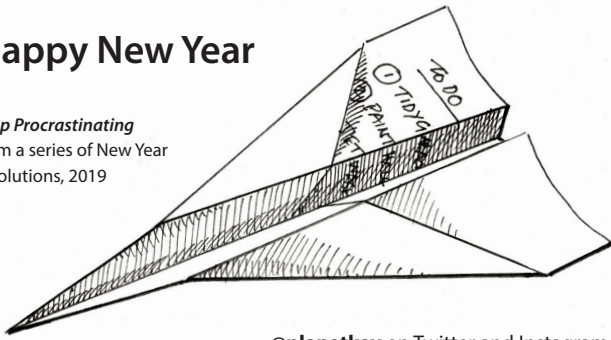
**07412385008**

# Village Notices

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

## Happy New Year

*Stop Procrastinating*  
from a series of New Year  
resolutions, 2019



@planetkev on Twitter and Instagram  
Always open to requests ... kevinhinton@btconnect.com  
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See more, and other artists, in the Eynsham Art Window – 66 Mill Street, Eynsham

### BABYSITTING

Do you need a (Cassington) babysitter  
with good references?  
Please call/text Amelia on 07732 069003 .

### GARDENING

*Do you need help with gardening?  
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# what's on?

## Dates for your diary

### January 2023

Thurs 5th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 5th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 8th 11am	900 yr Celebration Service, St Peter's
Sun 8th 2pm	Unveiling of artwork, St Peter's Church
Sun 8th 8pm	Sports and Social AGM @ the Chequers
Fri 13th 7.30pm	Film "Fisherman's Friends"
Sun 15th	Photography competition deadline
Fri 20th	February CAWN deadline
Tues 31st 7.30pm	Swimming pool meeting @ Red Lion

### February 2023

Thurs 2nd 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 2nd 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Wed 15th	Photography competition deadline
Mon 20th	March CAWN deadline
Tues 21st 7.15pm	Village Hall AGM

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)

### Do you have children or pets?

I live in Cassington and I'm available for babysitting or petsitting. I am 16, studying childcare and education at college, have a paediatric first aid certificate and can show references if required.

Please text/call Seren on 07740 184757 or email on [lemaireseren@gmail.com](mailto:lemaireseren@gmail.com)

### 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.