

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO TURNED OUT TO THE STOP BOTLEY WEST EVENT ON FRIDAY 17th FEBRUARY.

Over 110 people from the villages which will be affected by Botley West Solar proposals met together to walk part of our important village footpaths in Church Hanborough, Cassington and Bladon. Our MP Robert Courts joined the first of these walks and made his opposition to the project clear, as did District Councillor Liam Walker, who did all three walks to show his solidarity with our communities.

See page 14 for more pictures from the 3 walks and details of the campaign. Keep your eyes out for future events and be part of the ground swell against this huge industrial project proposed for our countryside."



WHO'S WHO?

On Mothering Sunday 19th March all will be revealed.

See inside this issue for more information.



SAVE THE SWIMMING POOL

See the questionnaire on the Back Page for details of the potential future for the school swimming pool.

Please complete this as requested!

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welcome Anne's CAWNer

Welcome to the 549th edition of CAWN, which I hope you find interesting. I am so grateful to all those who send in articles or make suggestions of things that might be of interest to the village.

Since I took over as editor I have maintained a policy of keeping away from political issues, and only putting good news on the front page! This month it could be said I have broken both of these conditions, by featuring the opposition to the proposed Botley West Solar Farm as my headline article. However in this instance I think it is fair to assume that there are not many in favour of this proposal, and it is heartening to see how the community has come together to fight for the preservation of our beautiful countryside. Many thanks to Ruth Atherstone for sending me the photos, and for her excellent article on page 14 outlining ways we can all help oppose this scheme.

This edition contains appeals for assistance from a number of different groups in the village who are organising events, or need more volunteers. If you do have time to get involved please do contact the relevant person, or if in doubt email cawneditor@gmail.com and I'll put you in touch.

Finally I have an apology to make. In the February edition of CAWN, and in previous editions, Margaret Bonfiglioli's name was spelt incorrectly. My sincere apologies to Margaret for this error, which will not happen again!

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.

THE CORONATION WEEKEND



On Saturday 6th May 2023 King Charles III will be crowned. On Sunday 19th February a small group of villagers got together to think about ways in which the village might celebrate this event. We hope to hang bunting on the Village Hall and the Green. We would like to ask everyone to decorate their houses and there will be a prize for the best dressed house front.

On Saturday evening it is suggested we should have a free party in the Village Hall with a pay bar, some games followed by music and dancing. On Sunday we would like to organise a street party, possibly all the way down Conce Walk - from the Village Hall to the Church. Tea and soft drinks would be provided; bring your own sandwiches and a cake to share.

Further suggestions include games for the children and a fancy dress competition with the theme Kings and Queens. We would love to hear from anyone who is willing to do Face Painting?

Our next planning meeting is at 7.30pm on Sunday 12th March in the Chequers. Please do come along if you want to get involved and help organise this.

It would be helpful to have a rough idea of numbers for these 2 events. If you are going to be in the village over the Coronation weekend and would like to come to either the party on Saturday night or the Tea party on Sunday please can you email cawneditor@gmail.com



March stargazing highlights

March 7 - Full Moon.

The Moon will be on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun so its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Worm Moon because this was the time of year when the ground would begin to soften and the earthworms would reappear. This moon has also been known as the Crow Moon, the Crust Moon, the Sap Moon, and the Lenten Moon.

March 20 - March Equinox.

The March equinox is when the Sun shines directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere.

March 21 - New Moon.

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



Mothering Sunday Celebration

Sunday 19 March 2023 at 3pm in the Church followed by afternoon tea in the Village Hall with photo display.

Everyone welcome

We're planning a celebration display of photos of weddings and baptisms held in St Peter's Church. If you have any photos you would like included, please forward them to Jan Macdonald 22 St Peter's Close, Cassington, OX29 4DX janmacdonald78@aol.com 01865 880006 no later than 5 March.

Mothering Sunday at Churchfields Care Home Sunday 19 March 2023 at 2.15pm

Celebrating the creativity of Cassington – update

In last November's edition of CAWN I said that we were hoping to include a celebration of art and craft in Cassington to coincide with Oxfordshire Artweeks, as part of the Cassington 900 years activities. I'm pleased to say we received enough positive responses to make it worthwhile, and we have registered for the event. It will be a mixed, non-selling community show in the Village Hall, from Monday 15th to Sunday 21st May

The object is to show the diversity of creativity in the village, so ideally we will feature just a few pieces from a number of people in a wide variety of disciplines and styles. It would be great to include as many people as possible, so don't worry if you didn't respond before, now's your chance. You don't need to be an Artweeks exhibitor and you don't need to have a lot of work to show, just an interest in taking part. So, if you paint, draw, sculpt, model, make jewellery, take photographs, turn, whittle, knit, or craft and create in any way and would like to be part of the celebrations, please drop me an email and I'll respond with a few more details. Thanks!

Kevin
kevinhinton@btconnect.com

ADRIAN THORNTON

1940-2023

For 40 years Adrian & Eithne lived at Phoenix Cottage, opposite The Chequers, and were active in the life of the village. Adrian worked in Oxford as probation officer and solicitor, and later for Worcestershire County Council. Adrian chaired the Bartholomew School parent-teacher association, took part in various local choral groups and played an important role in the campaign to save Combe Steam Mill.

He would often be seen supporting Eithne's various horsey and community activities. Eithne and Adrian moved to West Wales in 2012 to live in the same town as their daughter Judith. Eithne died in 2020, and in January 2023 Adrian had a massive stroke and died peacefully with his two children by his side.

He survived by Judith who lives in West Wales, and Alan plus two grandchildren who live in Leeds .

Solar Panels on the Village Hall?

The Village Hall Management Committee is exploring the opportunity to apply for part-funding to install solar panels on the village hall via a recently announced initiative. As part of the application process (should we progress with it) we require evidence that we have consulted with the villagers in order to gauge support/opposition in relation to installation of the panels. With that in mind can you please provide your views either via the Cassington Village Facebook page or direct to me on: sthompson@cassington-pc.gov.uk

Please note that the application submission date is the 31st of March, so we will need to hear from you in advance of that date.

BIKE NIGHT 2023!

Bike night is on the 26th June 2023.

There will be a meeting on the 8th March at 7.30pm in the Chequers.

If anyone wants to help or discuss please come along



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Food Bank News.

THANK YOU for your continued support of our local food banks via the box at St Peter's Church and/or via single financial donations or regular standing order.



We 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. Please phone the food banks direct if you can support in this way. (Numbers above)

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.



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)

March 7th, 14, 21st (last session this term)

We start again for the summer term Tuesday April 18th

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 Tel: 01865 880757

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For details of weekday Masses please visit the parish web page <https://stpeterseynsham.org.uk/>

Contact details:-Parish Priest: Fr Mark Lagorio

Tel: 01865 881613

Email : stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative:

Eric White ericj_white@yahoo.co.uk

For details on Covid-safe worship, other news, and links for live screening, please visit the parish web page.

You can also watch Mass from many other Churches live or recorded online.

Churchservices.tv

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

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



St Peter's Church

PARISH OF CASSINGTON

The Church of St Peter's is here as a fellowship to worship God,
build people up in Christ and share his love with others

MARCH 2023

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.

Services this month

Sunday 5th March – 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 12th March–9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 19th March– 3pm Mothering Sunday Service

**Sunday 26th March - 9.30am Morning Worship
- 6pm Evening Prayer**

**On-line streamed services are available every Sunday from 10.30 am at
www.stpeterschurchcassington.org or www.stleonardseynsham.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*

Giving Thanks

Firstly, a huge thank you for supporting St.Peter's as we celebrated 900 years of church and village. There will be many opportunities to celebrate throughout the year and the next one is coming up: Mothering Sunday. Mothering Sunday is all about beginnings. In our culture the focus is on our Mums - and no wonder, they are so precious to us with a critical task within our community. They have *"blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love,"* as we sing in the hymn for the day.

Originally, the focus of motherhood was much broader. Many would visit the church where they were baptised, celebrating their spiritual birth into the family of God. Cathedrals also played an important part: local churches would gather in their Cathedral and give thanks to God for their common life and origin.

Our various beginnings in life are precious, as are those who nurtured us through those times. And it's good to take the time to stop and say 'thank you.' In the words of the psalmist (Psalm 139): *"You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*

Revd. Duncan Fraser

Bell Ringing

Church bells will usually be rung between 9.00 and 9.30am before the services each Sunday, and each Thursday between 7.00 and 8.00pm for our weekly practice.

Thank you!

Retirement gift for Roger Aston

I have been overwhelmed by the number of friends and neighbours in the village who have sent me good wishes on my retirement as Associate Curate at St Peter's church where it has been my privilege to serve for the last 23 years. I was also overwhelmed by contributions towards the generous gift which I received. With part of the gift that you have given Jane and I have been presented with a subscription to The National Trust and we intend to use the surplus towards a holiday, utilizing the National Trust membership.

Although stepping back from the Sunday by Sunday ministering at St Peter's church I have been given the Bishop's continued "Permission To Officiate" and as such I am continuing to visit and minister to our friends and neighbours at Churchfields Care Home and also taking occasional services where requested or needed.

With my thanks

Roger

2023, A Year in Cassington

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

With grateful thanks to our competition sponsor

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Wayne the Postman (by Margaret Partridge)

Thank you for all of your entries to the February Photography Competition. There were several that we're sure will make it into the commemorative book, but after much deliberation by the judges, the over 16 winner of our February competition – **Cassington at Work** – is Margaret Partridge who managed to capture an image of this familiar man at work, Wayne the Postman.

We're delighted to say we had some great entries in the under 16 category this month too ... please see the next page. Hopefully there will be many more to come.

Please send in your entries for this month's competition, maybe snap something for future months, and don't forget that pictures of St Peter's Church for the December competition can be sent in at any time.

It's time to send in your entries for the **March** competition. This month's topic is ...

Cassington Goes Wild

Maybe nature and wildlife in and around the village, but how you interpret 'going wild' is up to you.

Entries by 15th March please, to chinton260@outlook.com with your name, picture title or caption, and age category

Future topics and submission windows

Cassington COMMUNITY
1st to 15th **APRIL**

Cassington ROUND AND ABOUT
1st to 15th **MAY**

1st to 15th **MAY**

Cassington CREATES
1st to 15th **JUNE**

Cassington BIKE NIGHT
1st to 15th **JULY**

Cassington CULTIVATES
1st to 15th **AUGUST**

Cassington CARES
1st to 15th **SEPTEMBER**

Cassington AT PLAY
1st to 15th **OCTOBER**

Cassington CHARACTERS
1st to 15th **NOVEMBER**

ST PETER'S CHURCH
Any time up to
15th November

Pictures can be taken at any time, but please send them in the submission window for the topic you are entering. Pictures for the December competition, St Peter's Church, can be sent at any time before the 15th November.

Don't forget, there is a prize of a £15 gift voucher each month for both under and over 16 categories, courtesy of P Bruno Car Repairs



Ready for the potatoes (by Abi Want, age 13)

The quality was particularly high in the under 16 section of this month's Photo Competition and the judges were split on the decision for the winner. They were impressed with the unusual composition of Abi's picture 'Ready for the Potatoes', and with the quality of the light in Oliver's 'Stacking Granny's Woodpile'.

As there was no winner last month, the judges took the easy way out and have awarded them both joint winners! Each will be receiving a gift voucher for £15 courtesy of P Bruno Car Repairs.



Stacking Granny's Woodpile (by Oliver Peasley)

Eynsham Firefighters' Pen Y Fan Trek

Eynsham Firefighters and friends will trek Pen Y Fan Horseshoe route in fire kit on Sunday 12th March to raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity and Breast Cancer Now.



The highest peak in South Wales provides a challenging climb to the summit standing at 886m. The horseshoe route is just over 9 miles long and we aim to complete it in 6 hours.

Please donate generously!

peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/firefighters-trek-penyfan



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Application deadline is 30 March 2023 in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Director, Helen Marshall.

E: director@cpreoxon.org.uk

T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information:

www.cpreoxon.org.uk

CHURCHFIELDS NEWS

It has been a cold start to the year, but spring is just around the corner and we can definitely feel it in the air! This month, we have been spending some time outside, soaking up the last of the lovely winter sun. We are overjoyed that we can finally start enjoying walks around the village again, and have loved going out to witness the life that has started to bloom, giving us the first signs of spring.

On one crisp February morning, we went to the village hall and enjoyed a cuppa with some delicious homemade cakes and treats as we chatted away all morning. We also visited the greenhouse and the local church to look at the lovely flower display decorated by the wonderful children.



We also went down to the local school's bake sale and brought back delightful treats for all our friends back at the home.

At Churchfields, our days are always filled with fun activities that we look forward to. We have regular church services and communions that are always well-attended. Our friend Roger occasionally joins us for a singalong and plays his guitar for us - we always look forward to his visits.



Our lovely fitness instructor Jo, comes in regularly for fun and energetic 'Keep Fit' sessions. It is a lot of hard work, but we always feel great after! Speaking of exercise, we also enjoy the occasional game day. This time, we tried our hand at seated hockey, which was great fun!

For some quiet time, we finished a puzzle that we have been doing for a while now and were very pleased with our work. As a reward, we had our nails painted and relaxed.

We get to enjoy all these fun activities because of the brilliant efforts and hard work of Faye, our wonderful activities coordinator. She deserves all our thanks and was recently interviewed for a national newspaper!



We are proud to announce that we were featured in The Sun. The article highlighted the life changing experiences that working in care can bring to both residents and care workers. It featured our lovely resident Sheila and everyone's favourite, Faye.

We are always happy to welcome people into our loving home for a cuppa and a chat. If you are looking to work at our care home or are looking for a new home for yourself or a loved one, please call us on 01865 638398 or drop us a quick email to manager@churchfieldscarehome.co.uk. In the meantime, please follow us on Facebook to find out more about life at Churchfields.



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BLENHEIM PALACE

Easter Eggstravaganza

Friday 7th - Monday 10th April 2023

Visit Blenheim Palace for a perfect family day out during the Easter weekend. Hop along to the Walled Garden to enjoy a whole host of egg-citing activities including circus skills, balloon modelling, bubble performances, bungee trampolines and a travelling vintage variety show, not to mention appearances from none other than the Easter Bunny throughout the weekend too. Keep little ones busy with our Easter egg hunt around the grounds to win a tasty chocolate treat. After working up an appetite, why not visit the Walled Garden Pizzeria to refuel with drinks and pizza by the slice.

BLENHEIM

Our social prescribing scheme in partnership with Oxfordshire charity Aspire is now in its 3rd phase, with sessions having started in February. The scheme utilises the Parkland to provide guided wellbeing walks and activities for vulnerable people, and to date more than 130 people have benefited from the project. Aspire provides support to improve wellbeing for people facing disadvantage, mental health difficulties, long-term health conditions or affected by homelessness and poverty. We are committed to facilitating social prescribing as part of our wider strategy which includes helping the local community to thrive and prosper.



BLENHEIM ESTATE

We welcome dogs to join you on a walk around the Estate and love seeing our four-legged visitors, but we would like to kindly remind dog owners that dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. The safety of our livestock, resident wildlife, guests and staff is our priority. Areas of the park are sectioned off by electric fencing to ensure our livestock stay grazing in these parts of the park. As we approach lambing season, keeping your dog on a lead is particularly important to ensure that our sheep are not attacked or chased in a way that may cause injury, suffering or miscarriage.

Please abide by the Countryside Code and keep your dog on a lead, to create a safe, respectful environment for everyone. Thank you.

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

blenheimpalace.com

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Near disaster on the Railway Line!

On discovering on the morning of 11th February that the road to Yarnton was closed, CAWN dispatched their intrepid reporter by bicycle to investigate. He photographed the scene and gathered the following story from a member of the works gang there.

The previous evening a northbound HS125 train struck debris in the dark as it was passing under the Cassington – Yarnton road bridge. The driver brought it to a halt but not before the rear power car had passed the obstruction. The train was damaged and could not proceed further, so the passengers had to be rescued by another train sent to the scene. The damaged train was removed next day.

A retaining wall had collapsed, spreading debris on the track. The man your reporter interviewed was of the opinion that repairs could be lengthy and more of the bridge could be in bad condition. The amount and depth of the debris close to the track showed very plainly that there could have been a disaster had it spread just a little further onto the rail line.

Mike Randle
11 February 2023



communityspeedwatch

The Speedwatch team consistently catch drivers exceeding not only the new 20 mph speed but considerably more. There are many complaints on the Village Facebook regarding the speed of vehicles coming through the village so please help by volunteering for the Speedwatch Team.

Even if you can only do a few sessions a month which can be timed around your availability, it would be great to hear from you.

Contact Ron Macdonald at cassington.speedwatch@gmail.com



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

Neighbourhood Plan

The External Examiner has supplied his report. WODC are in the process of sorting out the next stage which is Regulation 18 which will then proceed to the referendum which will be run solely by WODC.

20mph zone

OCC made the decision to approve Cassington for the 20mph zone. All new signs have been placed in the village. The Parish Council are now looking at some sort of traffic calming. This will take some time.

Speed watch

This has been going very well with plenty of people being caught by the Speed Watch Group with letters going out and a few with visits from the Local Police.

Dog Waste

A new general/dog waste bin is going to be installed at the bottom on the track by Williams Court. The Parish Council are going to ask WODC to move the general waste/dog waste bin that is by the small green at the end of Little Lane on Bell Lane to be moved to a better position.

Botley West Solar Farm

Please look at the Parish Council website for any new update and any links to other action groups. <https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/planning/botley-west-solar-farm/>

Fix My Street

If you see anything that you think needs reporting, please report it to the following address: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Parish Councillors

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

Barbara King – bking1@cassington-pc.gov.uk

Chris Metcalf – cmetcalf@cassington-pc.gov.uk

Alex Rogers – arogers@cassington-pc.gov.uk

Graham Mills – gmills@cassington-pc.gov.uk

Stewart Thompson – sthompson@cassington-pc.gov.uk

Next Parish Council Meeting will be on 2nd February 2023 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Clerk contact details: Mrs Tracey Cameron:

Email: cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings for 2023

2nd February 2023

2nd March 2023

6th April 2023

4th May 2023 – Please note that it will take place in St Peters School

1st June 2023 – Annual Parish Meeting followed by The Parish Council Meeting (planning & finance only)

6th July 2023

There are no Parish Council Meetings for August

7th September 2023

5th October 2023

2nd November 2023

7th December 2023

Photo ID Required

From 4 May 2023 you'll need to show photographic ID when voting in person in some UK elections or referendums, including this year's local elections which are being held on 4 May. Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo and the name on the ID should be the same name as appears on the Electoral Register.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate> or by completing a paper form which is available at WODC Woodgreen office or by calling 01993 861410.

More information is available on the WODC website, including details of how to apply for the free ID. Anyone not able to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online, should contact the Council as soon as possible and no later than the 5pm deadline on Wednesday 25 April



Gardening Tips for March



- Prune bush and climbing roses
- Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- Plant summer flowering bulbs
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- Top dress containers with fresh compost

Chimney Sweep

Bertie the Sweep

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WORTON HALL

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BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM

While most of us probably believe that the UK needs to move to green energy to achieve net zero, we believe that the huge Botley West Solar Farm proposed in our countryside is ill-conceived. It is not part of a carefully thought-through strategy for reducing our carbon footprint, but rather a project designed by a private company, taking advantage of the country's need for green energy. It does not benefit local communities in any way.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Join the campaign at stopbotleywest.com. Sign up to receive updates on the progress of the campaign and to make your voice heard.
2. Add your name to the Downing Street petition. The more signatures the greater the impact.
3. Write letters voicing your views. We need multiple letters from as many as possible to make our voices heard. Go to TAKE ACTION and then HAVE YOUR SAY on the website and use your own opinions and any of the key facts below in your own words.
Write to:
 - Robert Courts MP House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk
 - Dan Levy, County and District Councillor, Carl Rylett and Andy Goodwin, District Councillors.
Find out how on stopbotleywest.com.
 - Any Oxfordshire members of the House of Lords.
4. Donate on the website if you can. Leaflets, banners, posters and expertise all need funding.



BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM KEY FACTS

- **SIZE:** Biggest in Europe; 10th largest in world; 3,459 acres (=2000 football pitches=larger than the entire Heathrow airport complex); near two UNESCO World Heritage sites (Oxford and Blenheim Palace); on the border of Area of Outstanding National Beauty (the Cotswolds); near Ancient Woodlands and a world class Site of Special Scientific Interest (Wytham Woods) Impacts 15 villages and Kidlington.
- **SOLAR VS OTHER GREEN ENERGY:** solar not efficient in UK...3 hours a day average. Offshore wind energy 4 times better.
- **FOOD SECURITY:** removes land from food production. (UK not producing enough food/ imports more than half)
- **SOIL DEGRADED:** shaded by solar panels for forty years/toxic chemical leakage pollutes soil.
- **75% ON GREEN BELT:** should be on brownfield sites, new-build homes and unused south-facing roofs of commercial buildings (617,763 acres in UK available!)
- **FLOODING:** rainfall run-off from panels = gully soil erosion and therefore flood risk.
- **PROPERTY VALUES:** biggest solar site ever so close to major human settlements. Property values decrease by up to 30% when large solar farms nearby. (The larger the solar farm, the greater the impact.)
- **BIODIVERSITY RISK:** large industrial blot on rural landscape/ loss of access= threat to fauna and flora and human communities.
- **NATIONAL GRID:** told will benefit Oxford directly. No! Energy into National Grid.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Cabbage Soup with Dumplings

Okay, I realise this doesn't sound inspiring but made with care this is delicious, nourishing and pretty cheap to make. Yes, you can cut out the meat parts of this meal but it has to be said the bacon/chicken stock combo with cabbage does work rather well.

Soup Ingredients

- 1 savoy cabbage, sliced
- 3 potatoes, peeled and cubed (not too small or they will disappear)
- 3 carrots cleaned and diced
- 1 small turnip, peeled and diced
- 1 small celeriac, peeled and diced (save the leaves for the dumplings if you have them)
- 2 onions, sliced
- 4 or 5 cloves of garlic, chopped
- 250g smoked bacon chunks
- Good home-made (if possible) stock – chicken or vegetable at least 1 litre
- 50g butter and a couple of tablespoons of oil

Dumplings

- 150g self-raising flour
- 70g suet – veggie or meat based
- Lots of chopped herbs especially thyme (a bit of sage, not too much as it packs a punch) parsley, the chopped celeriac leaves if you have them, and if possible some chives.

- Water
- Salt and pepper

Method

To make the dumplings all you need to do is put all the ingredients in a bowl and add enough water to create a firm, but not too solid, dough. Let it rest for at least 15 minutes, having said that I have left it overnight in a container and the dumplings were fine.

Method for soup

In a large pan (you need to accommodate the dumplings later) gently fry the chopped vegetables except for the cabbage. After about five minutes pop in the bacon and continue to fry until everything has taken on a bit of colour and the bacon has released its fat. Pour in the stock and bring to a gentle simmer. Add the cabbage and cook until soft. Taste and adjust the seasoning (the bacon will be salty so watch out but lots of pepper is good here).

When you are nearly ready to eat roll out smallish dumplings (a bit smaller than a ping pong ball) and lower them into the simmering soup. They will take about 10 to 15 minutes to cook.

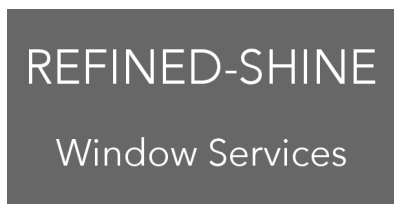
That's it! Although it won't freeze it does re-heat well so you can make generous quantities.

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OBSERVATION

by Stephen Wright

If you think that something is an underwhelming, lower quality version of something, you might refer to it as 'Poundland' or 'BTEC'. Don't get me wrong, there's value to be found in Poundland and without a pointless BTEC in Business Studies I wouldn't have somehow gotten into uni to study journalism because of my 'transferable skills' and you might not be reading this today. But I don't make the rules.

For example, if you thought my writing was naff, firstly I'm sorry for being part of your newsletter every month, and secondly you could refer to me as a Poundland Oscar Wilde or a BTEC William Shakespeare, although perhaps that is still too flattering.

So when I went to work at Aston Villa Women v Spurs at Walsall's Poundland Bescot Stadium, a Twitter user pointed out: "Truly thought this name was insulting a venue thought to be a poor imitation of a more authentic Bescot Stadium," which tickled me.

'big zam allardyce' didn't know that their Tweet would appear in CAWN, but I thank them for it, and for their Twitter bio, which reads: "just rubbing my face and sighing constantly like everyone else (they/them)."

With cutting edge journalism like this, maybe that BTEC was worth it after all.

TEA TIME TEASER

The BAFTAs have just been announced. So this month we have some classic films that were nominated for the best film award, but just missed out. Instead of help with the words I am giving you the year they were nominated. Can you work them out?

Answers next month

1. T S S 1999
2. P F 1994
3. B T T F 1985
4. C T H D 2000
5. T A L 1991
6. W H M S 1989
7. A N 1979
8. L M 2012

Answers to last month's anagrams:

1. Cleanliness Is next To Godliness
2. Abandon Hope all Ye Who Enter Here
3. No rest For The Wicked
4. A Dish Fit for The Gods
5. The Devil take The Hindmost
6. Ask Not For Whom The bell Tolls
7. On A Wing And A Prayer
8. Pride Comes before A Fall

FILM



The next film will be "The Lost King" on Friday 3rd March 2023.

In 2012, having been lost for over 500 years, the remains of King Richard III were discovered beneath a carpark in Leicester. The search had been orchestrated by an amateur historian, Philippa Langley, whose unrelenting research had

been met with incomprehension by her friends and family and with scepticism by experts and academics.

THE LOST KING is the life-affirming true story of a woman who refused to be ignored and who took on the country's most eminent historians, forcing them to think again about one of the most controversial kings in England's history.

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MUSIC AND SINGING



Cassington Singers

We meet every Monday from 7.30pm -9pm in Cassington Village Hall to sing a mix of traditional and contemporary music. All are welcome. For further details contact kevinhinton@btconnect.com or elspethferriday@hotmail.com or call 01865 880100

Eynsham Choral Society (ECS)

We are rehearsing The Creation by Haydn for a concert in June 2023. We welcome anyone who enjoys singing and would like to perform a variety of great choral music. The choir has a 'no auditions' policy, and members range from accomplished amateur singers who can take on solo roles, to beginners who sometimes cannot read music.

We rehearse at Eynsham Primary School on Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm.

<https://www.eynshamchoral.org/>

Harmony InSpires

Harmony InSpires is a female cappella (unaccompanied) chorus singing four-part harmony. Our repertoire ranges from traditional barbershop style to modern arrangements including beautiful ballads and fun, up-beat numbers.

We meet on Wednesday evenings, 7:15-10:00pm at the Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY.

Please drop us a note first so we know to expect you.

Email: membership@harmonyinspires.org

Burford Singers

Perform Fauré's Requiem and Haydn's Nelson Mass Sunday 2nd April 2023 at 7.30pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Church Green, Burford OX18 4RY.

Burford Singers with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra
Leader: Kate Bailey, Conductor: Brian Kay.

Soprano: Sarah Power, Mezzo: Emily Gray, Tenor: Peter Martin, Bass: Alex Ashworth

Tickets reserved at £20, £15, unreserved £10

Online booking to 31st March (Booking fee applies)

at <https://www.burfordingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/>

Booking in person (unreserved tickets) to 31st March at:
The Madhatter Bookshop, 122 High St, Burford OX18 4QJ
and on the door

Details on our website

<https://www.burfordingers.org.uk/events/>

Witney Music Society

2022-23 season final concert on Friday 10 March 7.30pm.
High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Ensemble Mirage, a sextet comprising string quartet plus clarinet and piano. The programme includes Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and also features works by Prokofiev, Copland and Fibich.

Tickets (£15, £1 for under 19s) are available in advance online or at the door from 7pm.

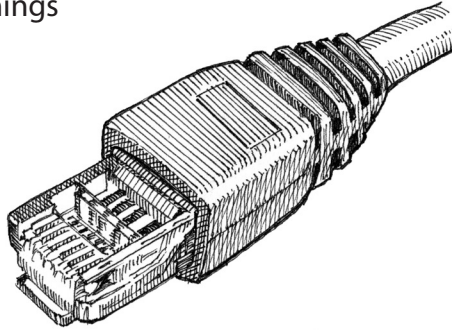
For more information, please telephone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website

www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

Village Notices

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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

Cassington Cafe

Welcome to Cassington Cafe on the first Thursday of each month between 10 and 12. For more information or to offer help, please contact Hugh or Ruth on 01865 880475

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what's on?

Dates for your diary

March 2023

Wed 1st 7.30pm	Swimming pool meeting, Red Lion
Thurs 2nd 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 2nd 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Fri 3rd 7.30pm	Film: "The Lost King"
Wed 8th 7.30	Bike Night meeting, The Chequers
Sun 12th 7.30pm	Coronation events meeting, The Chequers
Wed 15th	Photography competition deadline
Sun 19th 3pm	Mothering Day celebration
Mon 20th	April CAWN deadline

April 2023

Thurs 6th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 6th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat 15th	Photography competition deadline
Thurs 20th	May 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

BABYSITTING

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

Please call/text Amelia on 07732 069003 .

GARDENING

*Do you need help with gardening?
I am available weekends and school holidays.*

*For more details call Henry on
07496 606993*

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.

SAVE OUR SWIMMING!

While at this time of year it might be difficult to imagine the pleasures of outdoor swimming (with a few brave/mad exceptions, you know who you are!) there are many in the village who will readily recall the joy of a sunny after school dip in St Peter's School Pool. At a meeting held at The Red Lion on January 31st it was clear there was a great deal of support for getting the pool, sadly closed throughout the lockdowns and now in need of some TLC, back up and running, with the aim of giving local children the opportunity to learn to swim.

The meeting began with a brief history lesson, reminding us of the tragic drowning of a local boy some 50 years ago which led to door-to-door fundraising and the building of the pool. Since then the running of the pool passed to the school and then on to the PTA (St Peters School Association) who, alongside the day to day maintenance, have historically funded many improvements to the pool and its surroundings. Now, to bring the pool out of its extended hibernation and to safeguard its use for future generations, a number of options are being explored including community management.

Whether you have been lucky enough to enjoy the use of the pool in the past, your children/grandchildren have missed out on gaining confidence in the water over lockdowns or you just want to support this amazing village asset before it is lost forever PLEASE SPARE 5 MINUTES to fill out the questionnaire below and help save St Peter's Pool!

With thanks to Garry Peasley for organising the meeting.

Next meeting Wednesday 1st March 7.30pm at The Red Lion, all warmly welcome.



QUESTIONNAIRE - (tick all that apply)

What would you like to see St Peter's pool used for?

- 1) Formal swimming lessons
- 2) Fun family sessions
- 3) Private hire
- 4) Other

Would you/your family most likely use the pool for:

- 1) Formal swimming lessons
- 2) Fun family sessions
- 3) Private hire
- 4) Other (please specify) _____

How often would you/your family likely use the pool?

- 1) on a very regular basis eg most days in summer
- 2) on a regular basis eg once a week in summer
- 3) only occasionally a few times over the summer
- 4) unlikely to use the pool

If you were using the pool how would you prefer to make a contribution towards running costs?

- 1) Pay a fee per session
- 2) Pay an annual 'membership' fee (similar to the Sports & Social MUGA pitch/tennis courts)
- 3) A smaller annual fee + pay per session
- 4) Other (please specify) _____

If you were not planning on using the pool yourself would you still consider making a financial contribution to improve the facilities/help keep the pool open?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) Don't know

Would you be interested in supporting the pool with practical help?

- 1) Joining a group of volunteers to get the pool and facilities up and running
- 2) Ongoing regular maintenance
- 3) Fundraising
- 4) Other (please specify) _____

Any other comments/ideas:

THANK YOU! Please scan/photograph your completed questionnaire and email to: hutton.julie@yahoo.com or post to:

Julie Hutton 40 Eynsham Road, Cassington, OX29 4DH

Next meeting Wednesday March 1st 7.30pm at The Red Lion.

All welcome!