

CONGRATULATIONS



to the Church's 900 years committee for the celebrations on Sunday 19 March 2023. The service on Mothering Sunday was followed by a splendid tea in the village hall and a wonderful display of weddings and baptisms that have taken place in the church over the years.



Bell End it is...

As many residents of Bell Lane will be aware, the forthcoming closure of Horsemere Lane will result in Bell Lane having no 'through route', and therefore, under current legislation, will become unable to use the descriptor 'Lane' in its name. Over recent months the Bell Lane Renaming Committee have discussed various options with West Oxfordshire District Council and are delighted to announce that, with effect from 1st April 2023, Bell Lane will formally be renamed Bell End.

Thank you to the renaming team for your dedicated work, I am confident that we've come up with a name that everyone can be proud of.

Lee Vitoff
Bell End (nee Lane) Renaming Committee

Whose weddings are these?



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Stop Botley West Solar Campaign

On 3rd April at 7.30pm in the village hall, Prof David Rogers, an environmentalist, will be giving a talk on the implications of the Botley West Solar Farm proposed development.

welcome Anne's CAWNer

Welcome to the 550th edition of CAWN.

For the avoidance of doubt I should start by saying that Bell Lane will NOT be changing its name! You might want to check the date of this issue. My grateful thanks go to Mr Lee Vitoff who sent me this article!

I hope you enjoy looking at the photos on the front page of weddings that have taken place over the years, and perhaps you can spot people you know looking considerably younger then! Thanks to all the team from the church who collected up these photos from around the village. If you missed the event on 19th March there will be another opportunity to see them later in the year.

There are a number of events planned over the next two months celebrating the church's anniversary and of course our new King's coronation. Please do put the dates in your diary and come along and enjoy the celebrations.

Also in this edition are a number of requests for volunteers and in the case of the Village Hall administrator a paid role. If you have time to help out with any of these tasks please do get in touch. The more volunteers we have the less onerous the burden on everyone.

As ever please keep sending me your news, so I can keep this publication interesting and relevant.

Finally 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.

Volunteer needed to run CAWN distribution.

After many years of service to CAWN Clare Want is stepping back from her role organising the distribution of CAWN each month. We are seeking a volunteer to receive the printed copies each month, and distribute them to the delivery team. If you think this is something you could take on please contact Anne at cawneditor@gmail.com
Thank you



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

The Family of the late PHILIP DELAFIELD would like to thank all who attended his funeral and for the support and kindness shown to us all. Also for the generous donations to the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research given in his memory. Thank you to Reverend Roger Aston who led the service.

Sandra, James, Henry and Jessica

April stargazing highlights

April 6 - Full Moon.

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

April 11 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation.

This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset

April 20 - 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 22, 23 - Lyrids Meteor Shower.

The Lyrids is an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at its peak. These meteors can sometimes produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The thin crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Lyra, but can appear anywhere in the sky.



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Cassington Village Hall Booking Administrator

'Not just a building, but building a community'

Cassington Village Hall Management Committee are looking to recruit a friendly outgoing person to help with the management of the popular Village Hall including all the associated bookings and activities. This is a paid role.

No previous experience or specific skills are needed other than a willingness to be welcoming and helpful and a desire to promote the use of the Village Hall as a great asset for the community. The work can partly be fitted around existing commitments but there is a need to be flexible particularly around locking/unlocking the hall. The role would be best suited to someone living within the village who has internet access, is able to use a computer and has some time to spare.

The hours involved are dependent on the number of bookings for the Hall but are usually about 5-8 hours a week with additional support being provided by a dedicated cleaner.

This is a fantastic way to get to know the people of Cassington and the successful applicant will receive full training and continued support from the volunteer members of the Village Hall Committee.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Carolyn, Village Hall Secretary for an informal chat and job description/pay details.
Email: carolynhinton@btconnect.com

Applications will be by notes of interest to the Chair, John Hemingway, art@hemingwayart.co.uk by 14 April 2023

Bartholomew Players present

Laugh-along
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A BUNCH OF AMATEURS



by Ian Hislop & Nick Newman

£10 7.30pm

He's handled Hollywood.... But can he master the Bard?

Wed 17th – Sat 20th May

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bart.players@gmail.com | Evenlode DIY

EYNHAM VILLAGE HALL OX29 4QW

EYNHAM VILLAGE HALL | BACK LANE | EYNHAM | OX29 4QW | WWW.BARTHOLOMEWPLAYERS.CO.UK

PLANT SALE

Calling all gardeners!

- We are thrilled to announce a Plant Sale in celebration of 900 Years of St Peter's Church, Cassington:
Saturday 13th May,
on The Green at 11am – 1pm.
- This is a joint venture between St. Peter's Church and the Cassington Allotments Association and proceeds will be shared between both groups.
- We have a small team of growers and would welcome a donation of plants/seedlings that we can sell on the day.
- Please label your plants and bring along by 11am on the day of the sale.
- Any queries please email
Jaime jaime.johnson@outlook.com or
Ninon Ninonlinnell@gmail.com
- **Coming up:**
Look out for more details of the Flower Festival this June, with arrangements being on display in the church.



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From Winter... Spring

I love this time of year. There is the whiff of hope in the air. Yesterday it was sunny and warm enough to simply sit outside for the simple pleasure of it, amidst the quiet busyness of nature reawakening.

As we continue to reflect on the passing of 900 years this is one thing that has not changed in that time. Every March, without fail, the natural world has sprung back to life. And for the church it has provided the perfect context to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and the hope he offers all humanity. And yet as eager as I am for brighter days, I have to acknowledge that winter has an important role to play within the natural cycle. There are significant things happening, unseen and unnoticed, to ensure that the life of Spring emerges.

Jesus, referring to his death, told his disciples, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John's Gospel chapter 12 verse 24). The 'winter' of his suffering and death paved the way for a bursting forth of extraordinary life and hope on Easter morning. Winter does have a place and a purpose, but I for one, am glad that Spring is here!

Rev 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.



CASSINGTON TINIES & TODDLERS (Tinies Café) Summer 2023 **A Parent/Carer & Toddler group**

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

April 18th, 25th,

May 2nd, 9th, No session 16th (ARTS WEEK), 23rd, No session 30th (Half Term)

June 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th,

July 4th, 11th (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 Tel: 01865 880757

Charlotte Metcalf at candmetcalf@gmail.com Tel:07814550878

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 increasingly rely on financial donations. Please phone the food banks direct if you can support in this way. If you need some food support or know someone in need 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.



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

April 2023

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.

Services this month

Palm Sunday 2nd April

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

Maundy Thursday 6th April – 11am Holy Communion (BCP)

Good Friday 7th April – the church will be open for personal prayer and meditation.
2pm - Hour at the Cross at **St Leonard's in Eynsham**

Saturday 8th April – 10am to noon Easter Families Morning with cafe at
St Leonard's in Eynsham



Easter Sunday 9th April – 9.30am Easter Celebration

Sunday 16th April – 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd April – 9.30am Morning Worship
- 6pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 30th April – 9.30am Holy Communion (to be followed by
the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Meeting)

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:

Vicar – Revd Duncan Fraser 07810 324088 / vicarslp@gmail.com
Enquiries: Church Office 01865 883325 / stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNHAM

Serving the Hanboroughs, Freeland, Cassington, South Leigh, Stanton Harcourt, Sutton and Northmoor.
Masses at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Eynsham

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
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>

Stop Botley West Solar Campaign

www.stopbotleywest.com

By the time you open this CAWN we hope the Stop Botley West campaign will be more visibly active around you:

- Banners, road signs and footpath signs should be appearing in Cassington and in all the villages affected, and posters should be appearing on noticeboards and in public buildings. We have a number of A4 window posters available. If you want to put one in a window where it will be seen by those passing by, please pick one up from 9 The Tennis.
- You should also have received two leaflets. The first encouraged you to go online, both to join the campaign and sign the petition. We hope you have been able to do so.
- On the home page of the website there is a DONATE button. Please donate to the cause as all our materials and access to experts cost money. Thank you for your generosity.
- Also, since receiving the previous CAWN, we hope you have written to Robert Courts, our MP, and expressed to him why you are concerned about the solar proposals. If not, please can we encourage you to do so. The more letters he receives, the more likely he is to raise his concerns in Parliament.
- We also hope you wrote before the 25th March to at least some of the West Oxfordshire District Councillors listed on the second leaflet, to express your views on the consultation

process. It is important that the Council know whether you felt properly consulted, you understood the implications of the project and thought your views were taken into account.

- And finally, it would be excellent to hear that many of you had come to the WODC full Council Meeting on 22nd March in Woodgreen, to let your councillors hear your opposition. Every thing you can do to make your opinion heard is important. The more we make our opposition known the better chance we have of stopping our fields from being covered with solar panels.



Kathy Thomson with her grandchildren, distributing Stop Botley West flyers,

Thank you so much for all you are doing

If you have had difficulty in accessing any of the online material, do let us know at 9 The Tennis and someone can come to help you. Also, do let us know if you have not received the leaflets and we will make sure you get them in future.

STATEMENT FROM WODC

The “Botley West” Solar Farm is in my view a real threat to the wellbeing of residents of Cassington and other villages, and to farmers, and to people who enjoy the countryside. So people have been asking why WODC isn’t taking a position of outright opposition to it.

The application by PhotoVolt Development Partners, working with Blenheim and Merton College, has yet to be made. They have gone through an initial public consultation, but are yet to submit an outline scope to the planning inspectorate. The planning process is a marathon and not a sprint, and the timetable has already slipped.

The application, when it is made, will be determined by central government. This was going to be by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, but that department was abolished a few weeks ago. It isn’t yet entirely clear who will be making the decision. But it will certainly not be WODC – the scale of the project is so huge that it has been taken out of the normal planning process.

As part of the process, WODC will be producing an Impact Statement. This is a statutory part of the planning process. This will be a thorough and evidence-based document, which will detail the effects of the proposal on the people, businesses, landscape and ecology of the area. This is where your views of the scheme will have impact. In order to be effective, this report needs to be seen to be impartial and based on evidence, so that it can’t be attacked by the developers for bias. We have a senior officer working full-time on this project.

So it would be counterproductive for WODC, as a council, to take a position at this point, before we have gathered the evidence and indeed before there is even a firm application. Councillors who sit on the WODC cabinet, like me, are committed to not undermining the effectiveness of WODC’s report by actively taking a side. If WODC acts as opposition at this stage it will lose its voice. And WODC’s voice is a key one in trying to make sure that you get what you want.

All political parties are committed to WODC playing its part in combatting climate change. And I hope we all want the best for residents, and won’t use the Solar Farm as a political bandwagon. There are real problems with the planning system that the government has forced on us but we will all work within the constraints which hold us back.

The LibDem, Green and Labour alliance which makes up the administration at WODC is completely supportive of residents campaigning. That was true when we were in opposition and opposing the over-development of the area under the direction of the previous Tory administration, and it is true now. You may have seen my colleague Andy Goodwin at Stop Botley West campaign meetings along with other backbench councillors and candidates. And we have been supporting Parish Councils, including Cassington, to understand the process, work together to be most effective in getting your case across, and make sure that Cassington and Worton are heard.

Do keep lobbying us, Blenheim, PVDP and your MP. The Alliance team at WODC really does listen to residents.

If you have any questions, you can always get hold of me. dan.levy@westoxon.gov.uk

**CASSINGTON ... let's get together
to celebrate the Coronation**



SATURDAY 6th MAY

**Family-friendly party
in the VILLAGE HALL**

7.30pm to Midnight

GAMES

DANCING

MUSIC

PAY BAR

Courtesy of the Red Lion

SUNDAY 7th MAY

**Street Party in
CONCE WALK ***

2pm to 5pm

**BRING YOUR
OWN PICNIC**

**FREE TEA
COFFEE AND
SQUASH**

**STREET
GAMES**

**DONATE A
CAKE FOR THE
CAKE TABLE**

CASH TOMBOLA

* The lane down to the Church
In the Village Hall if it's wet

WEAR YOUR RED WHITE AND BLUE

Fancy dress for children plus a **prize** for the best fancy dress outfit on Sunday



Celebrating Creativity in Cassington

Cassington Village Hall
Monday 15th to Sunday 21st May 2023
11am to 5pm daily

A diverse exhibition bringing together the art and creativity of members of the community, young and old, as Cassington Celebrates 900 years of St Peter's Church

It's happening, and it's not too late to join in ...

As part of the 900 years Celebrations we are putting on a show of the diversity of creativity in the village. It would be great to include as many people and as broad a mix of styles as possible. You don't have to be 'an artist' ... Do you have something you have made? Are your children doing art at school? If you paint, draw, sculpt, model, make jewellery, take photographs, turn, whittle, knit, or craft and create in any way please get in touch and help us create a celebration of creativity.

To join in, please email kevinhinton@btconnect.com by **Monday 24th April**
Thank you!

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with Oxfordshire
Artweeks in our area



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BLenheim PALACE

Clementine's on the Lawn

Opening April 2023 until Autumn 2023

Our brand new dining experience Clementine's on the Lawn is opening this month on the South Lawn of the Palace, providing magnificent views of the Palace whilst you dine for the very first time due to its conservatory glass structure. A range of delicious choices will be available from roast dinners and seafood platters to afternoon tea, making the perfect place for a special treat with friends and family. The citrus name pays homage to The Orangery restaurant, which is currently undergoing vital restoration work, as well as Clementine Churchill, wife of Sir Winston Churchill. After lunch why not take a stroll to the nearby Formal Gardens and discover where the wartime leader proposed to his wife at the Temple of Diana.

BLenheim

You may have noticed that our Lake Dredge has now been resumed after being paused for the past few months due to weather conditions. The dredging of Queen Pool first started back in April 2022, having not been carried out in over 100 years. Upon completion it will have removed 300,000 cubic metres of silt from our 'Capability' Brown designed lake – enough to fill Wembley Stadium. The dredge will return our lake to its original depth of two metres from its current shallows of 30cm. The walking loop around Queen Pool has once again been closed whilst the project is completed.



BLenheim ESTATE

As the new season unfolds, you will soon begin to see signs of spring appear in the Parkland and surrounding areas. We have already seen a sprinkling of snowdrops, a blossoming of bluebells and drifts of daffodils with a whole host of other seasonal flowers still to come. To add to the Easter picture we will also see lambs arriving on the Estate this month. As we exclusively lamb outdoors, we ask all visitors to please be mindful of walking their dogs in the Parkland. 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.

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

blenheimpalace.com

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Cassington

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live job roles*



CHURCHFIELDS NEWS



March has been a lovely month at Churchfields. We were joined by the company of friends and took advantage of the warmer days in Cassington.

This month we started spending more time outdoors, enjoying walks and visiting friends. We spent more time in our lovely garden to pick some daffodils for our loved ones, just in time for St. David's Day. On St. David's Day, we were surprised with a fun visit from Miss. Daffodil, there were smiles on everyone's faces and we had a wonderful time taking silly photos with her. We also made our own paper daffodils and put them up on the wall to bring a touch of Spring to Churchfields.

We have been enjoying our weekly quiz nights at the pub - be it rain or shine! We love going in for a pint or two and get very competitive at the pub quiz. During the month, we visited our favourite Cassington cafe for fresh coffee and homemade cake. We had a great time getting our caffeine fix and chatting away to the locals.

This month, we also visited our lovely friends at Wytham House for a bingo morning. We all love our bingo and bonded over that. It was nice to make new friends and share our love for bingo, coffee, and cake with them.



We have really stuck to our new year's goals this year and are still going strong with our exercise and wellness routines. We practise yoga regularly for our mind and body and keep our hearts healthy with Jo's fitness sessions. We love practising self-care and doing it as a community.



Self-care also includes indulging in our favourite hobbies. We have been enjoying our arts and crafts sessions that produced some brilliant pieces of artwork that we are all very proud of. We have also been playing with our decade quiz mat and challenging each other's knowledge.



Life has been great at Churchfields this month and we are looking forward to warmer days in the sun, as we welcome Spring at the end of the month.

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 881440, 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.

CRICKET



West Bladon Cricket Club is a very social cricket club that plays friendly matches most Sundays in the summer against other teams in Oxfordshire. We play our home games in Cassington, and frequent the Red Lion Pub next to the ground post-match. As a social side, ability and fitness is more of a luxury rather than a necessity and we are a mix of young and old alike. If you are looking to play some cricket then please do get in touch, or just pop along to one of our home games and come and say hello. Our contact details along with our fixture list for the upcoming season can be found on our website at westbladoncc.wixsite.com/cricket.

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Parish Council News

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

Unfortunately there are no Parish Council Minutes this month.

Parish Councillors

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 6th April 2023 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Clerk contact details: Mrs Tracey Cameron:
Email: cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum



An 'Unconventional Warrior' - online talk to explore who T. E. Lawrence really was. Online Talk and live Q&A available on the museum website from 7pm, Tuesday, 18th April 2023 exploring the real story of behind the Oxford-educated 'Lawrence of Arabia'. Free to view, on the Museum's website, this is a fundraising event with donations encouraged in support of Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust
Video Link:
<https://www.sof.org.uk/whats-on/telwarencetalk/>

Botley Road Closure

Oxford's Botley Road will be closed to through traffic for seven months from Tuesday 11 April to allow Network Rail to begin work on its £161 million redevelopment of Oxford Station and rail upgrade.

Network Rail has issued an update about its plans to replace the rail bridge over Botley Road in Oxford, as part of its wider project to expand the station on the western side. It will involve full closures of Botley Road to through traffic for several months at a time in 2023 and 2024.

The project timeline is as follows:

April to Oct 2023 – Botley Road part closure until end of October for utility diversion work

29 July to 6 Aug 2023 – Track work and prep work for new platform – rail services impacted. Alternative travel arrangements and advice will be publicised in advance

March to Oct 2024 – Botley Road closed for highway work

Aug 2024 – Four-day rail closure for bridge replacement.

Between 11 April and October 2023 while the first closure is in place motorists who usually use Botley Road to get into the city are advised to use the Seacourt Park and Ride or take an alternative route.

Buses will turn around just before the rail bridge allowing passengers to continue their journey into the city centre on foot.

Pedestrians and cyclists will have access throughout the work.

Network Rail is working with emergency services on access arrangements.

ST PETER'S SCHOOL



This year marks the 50th anniversary of St Peter's School on its present site and we will be having celebrations in the summer term to mark this.

As part of this, we need your help! We want to produce a 50th anniversary book with photos and memories from past pupils, families, teachers and the community. In essence we are asking for you to dig through your photo albums, take a trip down memory lane and provide us with one photo and 50 words about an experience that was particularly memorable. We will then use these to produce a souvenir book which we hope will be a lovely keepsake for the village. Please email them to Emily in the office:-
office.3651@st-peters.oxon.sch.uk or drop them into school.

As part of the 50 year celebrations, we would like to dig up several time capsules that we know are buried around the school site. We have some information about the potential location of these but if anyone has particular memories as to the exact location, we would VERY much like to hear from you!

For the King's coronation, we are planning an event which we would love the community to join us for on Friday 5th

May in the afternoon. More details to follow but expect the likes of a tea party and country dancing.

Many of you will know that we keep chickens (eggs available to buy from the office!) and at the end of last term, several of our children organised a fundraiser with funds being split between their upkeep and our official charity, 'Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue'. A spectacular £348 was raised and the children can be rightly proud of themselves. The chicken leaders are looking to buy a new shed to keep all the equipment and some treats for the chickens.

In other news, our 'Cool Climateers' Pupil Leadership Group, with the help and guidance of Stew Thompson, have planted an orchard in our forest school area. This is a fantastic legacy for the children to leave where hopefully the fruits of their labour (pun intended!) will be enjoyed for many years to come. The school kitchen will be able to use what we grow to help further reduce our carbon footprint.

As we head toward the Easter, we wish you all a happy holiday and hopefully some sunshine!

Jon Jeffries
Headteacher

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Village Hall AGM 28 February 2023

Chair's Review of the Year - John Hemingway
"Not just a building, but building a community".

Are we there yet? Back to normality? Let's hope so, and in 2022 we finally saw the signs. It was a slow start to the year as anticipated, but then many of our daytime and regular customers began to drift back and we also welcomed the return of live events from the regular Friday Night Cinema screenings to the Harvest barn dance, and of course to finish the year the sublime panto with sell-out audiences for Oz - The Panto. We might finally be at the end of the pandemic brick road.

Our income from lettings was certainly back to the good old days at £14,678, compared to only £5,858 last year and even less in 2020 at £3,168. Our gross revenue from events and fundraising was well up too at £3,721 compared to £720 last year and nothing at all in 2020. We also received donations of £675, mostly from bike night, some £340 from investments and Gift Aid, plus a post-pandemic support grant of £3,953. All in, that gave us total income of £23,365.

That's slightly less than the year before (total income £25,629) but 2021 was a very abnormal year when we received substantial one-off Government support grants worth £18,675 through WODC, in line with other village halls around the country. Special thanks again to our treasurer Lorna Mills who is always on top of grant availability and submitting successful applications.

Our expenditure last year was up too; we spent some £17,278 (£7,823 the year before). As well as all the usual everyday running costs, that includes £3,007 on repairs, maintenance and equipment, with replacement commercial dishwasher, fridge and hot water boiler for drinks, plus a

new wine fridge and the installation of a microwave oven. So our finances are still in very good shape. After allowing for annual depreciation of £3,266 (£3,720 in 2021), we had a net surplus of £2,821 (£14,086 in 2021) and our cash position is as strong as ever.

We owe huge thanks to Dave Butlin who has decided to retire from the committee after several years great service and commitment as Building Officer. We will miss Dave's professional expertise and good humoured approach to fixing the problems that crop up every year. Many thanks also to Malcolm Teal who helps sort out smaller repairs and our website, and to Cassington residents Paul Woolford and Matt Terry who support our plumbing and electrical maintenance.

Special thanks also to our hall manager Kathryn Teal and cleaner Pam Coates for their continuing great service and commitment, and to the other hard-working trustee volunteers on the committee: Penny Burroughs (Secretary), Adie Gregory (Events), Sheila Nelson and Bridget Sherlock. We also gave sincere thanks during the year to Bryan Partridge who decided to retire from the committee, and as the new trustee for the Parish Council we were delighted to welcome Stewart Thompson who is already leading our assessment of options for solar panels.

We always welcome new volunteers to join our team, so if you're interested please get in touch. Also please consider joining the Patrons of Cassington Village Hall for as little as £10 a year, and you can Gift Aid your donation to make it tax efficient. The village hall is a registered charity and relies on generating its own income to keep the place going. If you value the hall at the heart of our community, making a small regular donation is a good way to support a great asset that's effectively owned by the village for the benefit of the village.

CASSINGTON BAFTA'S EVENING

On February 25th The Cassington BAFTA night took place in the village hall, celebrating the acting/comedic talents of those who took part in OZ - the panto.



The main awards went to:

Best Actress
Sara Miller

Best Actor
Paul Fletcher

Star's Star
Seren Lemaire



BRIDEWELL GARDENS

Bridewell Events for 2023
Bridewell Gardens, The Walled Garden,
Wilcote, OX7 3DT



Saturday 29th April – Plant Sale 10am to 1pm: plants for sale in Bridewell's vineyard (the walled garden will not be open during the plant sale)
Open Days 11am - 4pm: Sunday 21st May, 18th June, 16th July, 10th September

Visit Bridewell's walled garden and organic vineyard. Learn about Bridewell's work, gardening and working with nature to support people who have experienced serious mental ill health.

Entrance: suggested donation £5

A pop-up café, plants, produce, organic sparkling wine from our vineyard for sale.

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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Join us to hear about our Community Action Plan to reach Zero Carbon Energy, at an open meeting at Eynsham Village Hall, Wednesday 26 April, 7:30pm.



Join local community group Green TEA, members of Low Carbon Hub and Project LEO (Local energy Oxfordshire), to find out about the Community Action Plan for Zero Carbon Energy. Hear about the opportunities, how to get involved and the support available, at an open meeting on Wednesday 26 th April 7.30 pm at Eynsham Village Hall (small hall), Back Lane. Refreshments from 7pm. Parking and EV chargers nearby.

Climate change, with the linked biodiversity crisis, is the most serious challenge we face. We hear a lot about reducing carbon emissions to 'net zero' by 2050 but we need to take radical action now and over the next few years if we are to keep a habitable planet.

Green TEA has been working with Low Carbon Hub, representatives of West Oxfordshire District Council and some of the local parish councils, on Project LEO Smart and Fair Futures, to demonstrate how a smart, locally balanced energy system can bring social, economic, and environmental benefits for everyone. Project LEO is a national innovation project seeking to accelerate the UK's transition to a zero-carbon energy system. It is the first project of its kind and will help other communities to develop their own energy action plans.

Over the last few years, we have been developing a Community Action Plan for a clean, green future with zero carbon emissions and we are ready to tell you what we have found. If we make changes now - from saving energy, changing the way we travel and heat our buildings to producing our share of renewable energy - we can have an energy system for the future that will be fairer to people and to the planet we rely on.

Who is the Community Action Plan for?

The *Smart and Fair Futures* project has developed a Community Action Plan for Zero Carbon Energy for the communities served by our local electricity substation. This includes all of Freeland parish, most of Eynsham parish and parts of Hanborough, North Leigh, South Leigh, Cassington, Stanton Harcourt and Cumnor parishes.

Watch the *Smart and Fair Futures* video here or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwaEOyS2Us>

Find out more on the *Smart and Fair Futures* project:

<https://project-leo.co.uk/case-studies/eynsham-smart-and-fair-futures>

Watch a video about the wider Project LEO:

<https://project-leo.co.uk/about/>

For more information contact: Green TEA energy group:

<https://eynsham.org.uk/org.aspx?n=GreenTEA>

Low Carbon Hub catherine.ryan@lowcarbonhub.org or info@lowcarbonhub.org

See you on 26 April at Eynsham Village Hall.

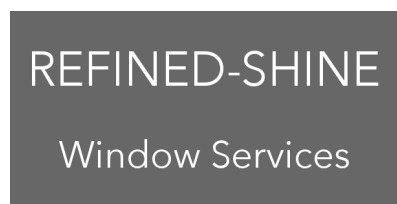
GreenTEA energy group and the Low Carbon Hub and The *Smart and Fair Futures* team.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Mascarpone ice cream

Ingredients

225g mascarpone
Juice of one orange and zest of two
125g condensed milk
450g whipping cream

Method

Not a true ice cream but simple, refreshing and quick. So easy this is hardly a recipe!

Mix the first three ingredients together in a shallow tub big enough to take the cream and which will happily go into the freezer covered. Whip the cream until you have stiffish white mountain peaks. Fold the cream into the orange flavoured mixture and put into the freezer. After about two hours or so take it out and give it a good stir to prevent too many icy crystals forming. Do this a couple of times (if you remember).

Serve with poached rhubarb for a very pretty spring pudding. The ice cream is also lovely made with lemon instead of orange or you can flavour it with some of your favourite honey. If you make it honey flavoured it is delicious served with poached (dried) apricots with a curl or two of orange zest.

2023, A Year in Cassington

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

With grateful thanks to our competition sponsor

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Monkeys in the Tree (by Ruth Bakewell)



Pig at Worton (by Phoebe Dunne, 14)

Thank you for all of your entries to the March Competition – **Cassington Goes Wild** – we received an interesting mix of nature, wildlife and village activities many of which may again make it into the commemorative book.

Our winner this month is Ruth Bakewell for her picture 'Monkeys in the Tree', who you may recognise as the

Panto's Flying Monkey's, with Phoebe Dunne's captivating image 'Pig at Worton' picking up the junior prize.

Please send in your entries for this month's competition and help us to capture a snapshot of life in Cassington during 2023, and maybe keep your eye out and snap something to enter later in the year.

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

Cassington Community

Cassington is pretty good at getting people together - have you caught a moment to share?

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

Future topics and submission windows

Cassington ROUND AND ABOUT
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

TEA TIME TEASER

Last month we celebrated weddings and baptisms. The following are children of celebrities but do you know who the famous parents are?

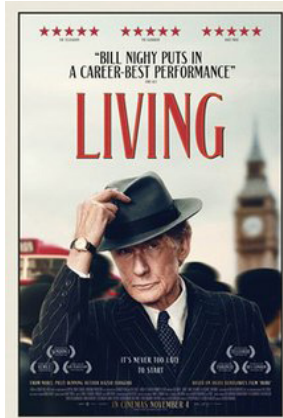
Answers next month

1. Apple and Moses
2. Silas and Phineas
3. Poppy Honey, Daisy Boo, Petal Blossom, Buddy Bear and River Rocket
4. Rumer Glenn, Scout LaRue and Tallulah Belle
5. Blue Ivy, Rumi and Sir
6. Lyra Antartica and Jupiter
7. North, Saint, Chicago and Psalm
8. Moon Unit, Dweezil, Ahmet and Diva Thin Muffin

Answers to last month's classic films:

1. The Sixth Sense 1999
2. Pulp Fiction 1994
3. Back To The Future 1985
4. Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon 2000
5. Thelma And Louise 1991
6. When Harry Met Sally 1989
7. Apolalypse Now 1979
8. Les Misérables 2012

FILM



The next film will be "The Living" on Friday 14th April at 7.30pm. Overwhelmed at work and lonely at home, a civil servant's life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation.

Woodstock Outdoor Pool

WODC is changing the opening dates of Woodstock Outdoor Pool to coincide with the school holidays for 2023, with additional activities during the holidays. The pool will open from Saturday 22 July to Sunday 3rd September with full opening times and information to be made available on the Better website closer to the pool opening date. This will include information on the new activities being introduced.

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OBSERVATION

by Stephen Wright

At 25 years of age, you might think I should be finding a partner to settle down with. Well, allow me to tell you about a recent speed dating experience in my new hometown of St Albans.

After arriving at The Crown, drenched in rain and trying to dry my hair in a Dyson Airblade, I locate the Function Room only to realise there is no-one else there apart from a bloke called Alan, who is in a similar predicament. We naturally start talking and it suddenly occurs to me that I've spent £20 for a night out watching Arsenal in the Europa League on the TV with Alan when the intention was to be meeting women. Another man, whose name I've forgotten, told me he has delivered university lectures all around the world. 'It must be cool to know that what you have to offer has such a global appeal,' I say, realising I am now flattering the fellas and not the females.

Eventually, the women, who had been gathered around the corner, are unleashed to the Function Room like a pack of hungry wolves. I don't really click with anyone for the first half of the night, and I find it particularly difficult to relate to the older women with children.

So it was goalless at half time but the second half began well for me as I met three nice women before being relegated to the substitutes bench when there was no-one left to talk to except Alan.

Afterwards, on my way out, I asked a woman called Rachel for her number. She begrudgingly gave me her digits, after pointing out that her name is Lauren. I haven't had a reply to my message, and that is why I remain single.

Gardening Tips for April



- Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses
- Feed hungry shrubs and roses
- Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- Keep weeds under control

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Please text/call Seren on 07740 184757 or email on lemaireseren@gmail.com

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Please call/text Amelia on 07732 069003 .

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what's on?

Dates for your diary

April 2023

Tues 3rd 7.30pm	Talk by Prof David Rogers
Thurs 6th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 6th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 9th	Easter Sunday
Fri 14th 7.30pm	Film: "Living"
Sat 15th	Photography competition deadline
Thurs 20th	May CAWN deadline

May 2023

Thurs 4th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 4th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat 6th 7.30pm	Coronation Party
Sun 7th 2-5pm	Coronation Street Party along Conce Walk
Sat 13th 11-1pm	Plant Sale on The Green
Mon 15th	Photography competition deadline
Mon 15th - Sat 21st 11am-5pm	Art display for Arts Week
Sat 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

Neighbourhood Watch

This a reminder to residents to re-join our Village Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group. We had to close down the previous WhatsApp group due to spam. Here are the details if you wish to join and keep alert to issues affecting our community.

Please contact admin for the group Sara on 07930 307298 or Nav 07989 527835.

More to follow on creating a community coordinator role for Neighbourhood Watch in due course.

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.