



# THE BIG PHOTO FINISH

**It's the final month of our photo competition.** With no entries last month we are keeping the topic open for another month so there are prizes available (a £15 gift voucher for both under and over 16 winners courtesy of P Bruno Car Repairs) for the final three topics ...

## **CASSINGTON AT PLAY CASSINGTON CHARACTERS ST PETER'S CHURCH**

We're sure many of you will have captured moments of fun and games during the year - how about the Christians v Lions Aunt Sally or the Ladies Darts Marathon? - other events or simply fun with friends and family. And if you haven't caught one already, keep your eye and camera out to spot a Cassington Character.

Entries for St Peter's Church have been coming in through the year, thank you, but if you haven't sent in yours now is the time. In addition to the December prizes, one of the pictures will be chosen for this year's St Peter's Church Christmas Card and win **an extra special prize!**

Send in your entries **for all topics** by **15th November** please, to **chinton260@outlook.com** with your name, picture title or caption, and age category.

**Thank you for all your entries,  
but don't stop now!**

Please keep taking pictures through November and December and send them and any others you think would help to capture a snapshot of life in Cassington in 2023 for possible inclusion in the commemorative book.

## **2023, A Year in Cassington**

### **PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

*With grateful thanks to our competition sponsor*

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### **Cassington Advent Windows 2023**

During Advent many windows in Cassington will become brightly decorated for others to walk around and enjoy. The aim is to have one new window each day of advent and by the 24th of December have a lovely walk around the village.

If you would like to take part this Christmas please email me [humphris4es@btinternet.com](mailto:humphris4es@btinternet.com) for more information and to pick a date that is convenient.

The dates and addresses of the advent windows will be in December's issue of CAWN.

Many thanks Kathryn.



### **PUB QUIZ ?????**

When? Saturday 11th Nov 7.30pm start.  
Where? The Red Lion Cassington.  
£5 per person, maximum 6 in a team.  
Prize draw for all participants and prize for the winning team.  
All money raised will go to the playground appeal.

### **Inside This Edition**

Fireworks in the Red Lion	3
Obituary for Mike Linnell	6
Cassington's new Little Libraries	9
Village Hall Solar Panels	12
From your Solar Action Group	16

# welcome Anne's CAWNer

Welcome to the 557th edition of CAWN. Thank you to all those who sent in articles. In particular thanks to Ellen O'Donnell and Ninon Linnell for Mike Linnell's obituary.

I am delighted to report we have some new advertisers, which is always helpful to pay for the cost of printing. Please do support them if you can. I must apologise because one of our new advertisers, Zaphir, sent me their advert last month and I managed to mess up when copying it into the draft, so it did not come out clearly. However that has been resolved this month - so do look out for it! A quirky handmade jewellery business, based in the village - perfect for those Christmas gifts!

Talking of Christmas - it is that time again. Next month is the December edition when traditionally people send in Christmas wishes for their fellow villagers. If anyone would like a Christmas message printed please send it to me by 20th November.

in this edition you will find various adverts for events that are taking place in Cassington and Eynsham over the next two months. I do hope you will be able to support them and maybe do your Christmas shopping - an added bonus!

Finally I should also take this opportunity to remind you that the deadline for the January edition is always earlier than normal, to enable the copy to be printed before the Christmas break. So next month my deadline will be 15th December, rather than the usual 20th.

Happy reading!

Anne x

## CONTENTS

Photo Competition/Advent windows/Pub Quiz . . . . .	1
Poppy appeal/November stargazing . . . . .	2
Aunt Sally/Forever Fields/Fireworks/Elf party/SPSA. . . . .	3
Christ Church Singers/Food Bank/Tinies/Catholic Church. . . . .	4
St Peter's Church Services/Harvest Supper and Barn Dance . . . . .	5
Mike Linnell Obituary . . . . .	6
Bereavement Support/Little Libraries/Eynsham Art and Craft Fair . . . . .	9
Churchfields News/Recipe of the Month. . . . .	11
Parish Council/Village Hall Solar Panels/Garage sale . . . . .	12
Volunteer Link-Up/Speedwatch . . . . .	15
From your Solar Action Group/Engineering works . . . . .	16
Observation . . . . .	17
Tea Time Teaser/Film/Widflowers/Gardening. . . . .	19
What's On/Village Notices/Advertising Rates . . . . .	20

## With special thanks to...

Lorna Mills, Fineprint Witney, Emily Lemaire and her team and to everyone who actively participates in the production of Cassington & Worton News.

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2023



This year Remembrance Sunday falls on 12th November. The Poppy Appeal House to House Collection will take place once again.

During the period running up to Remembrance Day authorised collectors, who are well known to most of you, will be calling. Last year the Appeal raised £1033.90 in Cassington and Worton – again exceeding £1000, most commendable for a village the size of Cassington. May I, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, thank all of you who so generously supported the Appeal then, and those who contributed to the collection tins we put out last year. May we once again rely on your generosity.

Today the Legion is still being called upon to give support to bereaved families, and to others who have been severely injured in wars and more recent conflicts. Costs to do this are continually escalating. The Royal British Legion does not advocate war or glorify it, but attempts to relieve the suffering caused by it.

### SUNDAY 12th November

The usual non-denominational Remembrance Service will be held at Cassington War Memorial commencing at 10.45am. Everyone is invited to this short service which follows immediately after the Service at St.Peter's Church. Please do not leave cars near the Memorial at this time.

Mike Randle  
Hon. Secretary, R.B.L. Cassington

## November stargazing highlights

### November 3 - Jupiter at Opposition.

Jupiter will be at its closest to Earth and it will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. A good pair of binoculars should let you see Jupiter's four largest moons, appearing as bright dots on either side of the planet.

### November 4, 5 - Taurids Meteor Shower.

The Taurids is a long-running minor meteor shower producing only about 5-10 meteors per hour. The moon will block most of the dim meteors this year. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Taurus, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

### November 13 - New Moon.

The Moon will not be visible in the night sky.

### November 13 - Uranus at Opposition.

Uranus will be at its closest to Earth and it will be fully illuminated by the Sun. Due to its distance, it will only appear as a tiny dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

### November 17, 18 - Leonids Meteor Shower.

The Leonids is an average shower, producing up to 15 meteors per hour at its peak. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Leo, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

### November 27 - Full Moon.

The Moon will be fully illuminated.

## Lions devoured the Christians - again!

Saturday 7th of October saw the annual Aunt Sally match between the Red Lion and St Peters Church. This year the fixture took on more significance with St Peters Church celebrating 900 years. We were looked on favourably with the weather, T-shirts in the garden in October. There was also a great crowd for this village sporting spectacle, who cheered and barracked in equal measure.

The first leg was drawn and went to 3 sticks with the Lion just edging it. The next two legs did prove to be a bit simpler for the Lion who emerged victorious 3-0. Thank you to Jan and Bill for hosting us all and special thanks to Mark Finch and Roger Aston for being the driving force to get this fixture on this year. Perhaps next year we should not chance our luck so much with the weather and have this event in the summer.



## **FIREWORKS IN THE RED LION**

Cassington Sports and Social Club, in conjunction with The Red Lion, proudly present an evening of food and fireworks. In aid of Cassington Playground

**Sunday 5th November 2023**

Burgers, Hotdogs and Chips will be served in the Red Lion from 4pm to raise money for the Cassington Playground Project.

**Followed at 7pm by The Red Lion's firework spectacular.**



## **Christmas Elf Party**

**Saturday 9 December 2.00 – 4.00pm**

Cassington Village Hall are pleased to host a Christmas Elf party for children aged 3-11 with an Elf Entertainer, Fun Games, Mini-Disco, Inflatable Santa, Bubbles, Snow, Stickers etc. There will also be a simple party tea.

Tickets are £6.50 per child from Emily at St Peter's school or from Carolyn on 07747621597. Each child must have a named adult responsible for them at the event. Numbers are limited so make sure you get your ticket soon.

## **FOREVER** **FIELDS**

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St Peter's Primary School and SPSA warmly welcome you to our annual Christmas Fair.



Friday 8th December 2023 5.30pm-7.30pm

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## A BIG THANK YOU from the Food Banks.



Your generous donations, either given at the St Peter's Church Harvest service or left at church, were divided equally between the Eynsham Food Bank and the North Oxfordshire Food Bank where they were most gratefully received. Both food banks have asked that we **thank all of you** who have given generously this harvest time as well as those who donate on a regular basis.

Please continue to support **via the box outside St Peter's Church** (or if full place inside the porch) and/or via single financial donations or regular standing order.

**Sadly we cannot pass on fresh produce but please give tinned and dried foods and other groceries which need to be well within their "Best Before" date.**

We support:

**Eynsham Food bank (07450 328530) Which supports Cassington and the Hanborough residents as well as Eynsham.**

**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.

**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 you neighbourhood watch rep. **Thank you.**

On 30th September 2023 the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church gave a concert in St Peter's Church as part of the 900 years celebrations.

The Cathedral Singers is the mixed-voice choir of Christ Church Cathedral, and one of the most active choirs of its type in the country. Directed by Hilary Punnett and accompanied by organist Simon Hogan, the choir comprises talented volunteer musicians from the local area. Its repertoire spans from early Renaissance to new music.

Their performance at St Peter's commenced with a piece from the 12th Century ranging up to the current day. The concert was then followed by drinks and nibbles which were enjoyed by all.

Further details of the choir can be found on their website:  
<https://cathedralsingers.org.uk>



## CALLING ALL ST PETER'S SCHOOL PARENTS!

The Tinies and Toddlers group (who meet in the village hall on Tuesdays in term time) would like to invite you on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 for tea/coffee and an opportunity to chat in the warm, with friends, before you pick up your children from school. Starting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.



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

A Parent/Carer & Toddler group

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

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>,

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> (Last session for 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

Charlotte Metcalf at [candmetcalf@gmail.com](mailto:candmetcalf@gmail.com) Tel:07814550878

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNSHAM

Serving the Hanboroughs, Freeland, Cassington, South Leigh, Stanton Harcourt, Sutton and Northmoor.

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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

<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

**NOVEMBER 2023**

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.

## Services this month

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

**9.30am Holy Communion**



**Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**9.30am Morning Worship**

**10.45 am at the War Memorial**

**Sunday 19th November - 9.30am Holy Communion**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**5pm Evening Prayer**

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

If you have particular spiritual needs feel free to contact:

*The Vicar: Revd Duncan Fraser Tel: 07810 324088*

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

## HARVEST BARN DANCE AND SUPPER

Much fun was had by all at the Harvest Supper and Barn Dance on Saturday 7th October 2023.

The Larkrise Ranters Ceilidh band played some toe-tapping tunes, which got everyone up and dancing.



Thank you to all those who helped make the evening such a success.

## MICHAEL JOHN LINNELL

28th November 1938 - 31st August 2023

Michael John Linnell died on 31 August 2023 peacefully at home. Michael John was always known as Mike and was born 28th November 1938. He was always destined (albeit reluctantly) to be a lawyer at Linnells Solicitors, a firm started by his grandfather in early 1900s, and where his father also worked. Whilst Mike was managing partner there he over saw the merger with Blake Laphorn to create a seventy nine partner firm, and so securing the future into the next century.

The family lived on Talbot Road Oxford and he was educated at The Dragon School and then St Edwards before going to Law School in Guilford. It was during his formative years at school in Oxford that he forged life long friendships, and where he developed his love of the outdoors, and found constant companionship with his pet dogs. His preference was to work in the countryside farming, rather than the dusty offices of law. His compromise to office life was that when not working he could enjoy his other great love, gardening, with his greatest love Ninon, but often with very different views on what should go where.

His loyalty to school was to be present all his life, with Mike chairing various school committees helping both current and past students. His booming voice was used by the Clarendon Club to MC their annual dinners. Mike was always available to help anyone whenever he could.

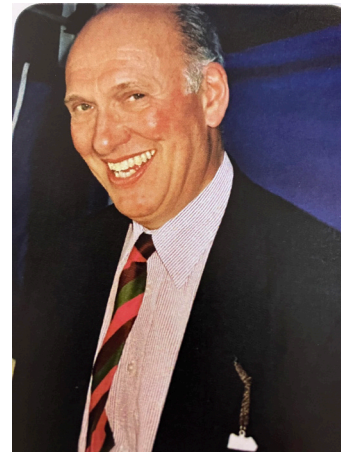
He married Ninon in 1964, then soon after moved to the village of Cassington. At that time his dog was a Gordon Setter. Ninon was to soon realize that she played second fiddle to Mike's beloved dogs and always would. Sharing a house with a dog was very new to Ninon, not realizing that dogs love cake. When she baked her first cake in her new oven in her new house she put the cake to cool on a low shelf. This was not a good idea as the dog soon demolished it. Ninon and Mike's dogs were never going to be the best of friends after this.

Mike's devotion to friends and family was more than apparent in his life. The friends he made at school were constant companions and he always had time to spend with them and help them. In his early life he was the first to volunteer to help Peter Bridges with Wolvercote youth theatre, even making a film one summer that involved one of them jumping into the lake.

Cassington soon became another love of Mike's, and he was considered the elder statesman of the village. He was a pillar of the village committees held in high regard by everyone. Someone who unabashedly stood by his beliefs, and who could articulate his views on what he thought the village should be doing (whether or not everyone agreed was another matter...)

When the young couple arrived in Cassington the then village elders wasted no time in co-opting this new, legal mind on to the Parish Council; which Mike went on to lead for more than 20 years. But one council wasn't enough for a man of Mike's talents.

Reverend Peter Williams then asked him to join the Parochial Charity that looks after the almshouses. This was sold to Mike under the slightly pressuring stance of what a great honour it is to be asked to be a part of, and as ever Mike took up the mantle willingly and with all his good intent. So much so that after joining in 1969 he was leading it right up until the day he died.



He chaired all the parochial charity meetings and graciously hosted them (with Ninon's help). The most recent project was the new roof which fell to Mike to project manage. He visited the houses everyday, and took great care of all the administration and details, with the residents' needs at the core of all his time. At almost every meeting Mike would say to the committee "this is my last meeting I think" only to be met with choruses of "no, just another year Mike..." Here we are fifty four years later.

Mike's involvement permeated throughout all pockets and generations of village life: he was hugely supportive of the school and St Peter's church. Another committee he was part of was the Village Hall Committee. One of the members of that committee said "Mike wasn't just "on" committees (like so many can be), he was active, engaged and truly believed in making a difference in the community we are all part of.

Mike was not all work. Throughout their time in Cassington Mike and Ninon started enjoying Saturdays in the Red Lion when Paul Smith was landlord, and continued to do so through the Lions different terms of office. Like all good public houses this was a setting where his role as legal advisor was often tested. The finest professional advice is supposedly given in pubs over a pint. This quest for advice transcended beyond the pub doors once with someone knocking at Mike's door after midnight in the pitch black with the quandary of having been asked to work bank holidays at the factory and did Mike think this was right? To which Mike politely answered "my office hours are 9-5pm so this is actually against my union rules." And eventually, after numerous occasions of "Mike what do you think about...", the final straw came when asked for more advice in the pub (after documents being dropped off at his house on Christmas day). Mike once again politely answered but the next day drew up and delivered an invoice for his time, and we all know what a solicitor's time can look like! Word soon spread and questions of advice soon died down to an acceptable level.

Mike and the Linnells are a fundamental part of our village. He was a pillar of our committees and, in construction terms, a load bearing wall of Cassington, whose actions will forever hold it up and will forever be remembered by those of us lucky enough to have known him and to live here. We are all thankful to Mike and will all miss him terribly.

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## COULD YOU VOLUNTEER?

### Deborah Ginns is the New Bereavement Support Manager at Sobell and Katharine House Hospices.

When we moved to Cassington, during the pandemic, neighbours left cards, tea, wine! and notes on the front step. We felt we were in the right place.

That's how I feel every time I speak to a bereaved client. They are so glad to speak to someone outside their family or circle of friends. They may be putting on a 'face', not wanting to upset others or 'burden' them, while inside a mountain of grief is building, and they may feel unable to talk to others about the person who has died. Our amazing volunteers provide a release valve and help the bereaved understand, that although grief is different for everyone, what they are experiencing is 'normal'. You can almost feel their shoulders sag with relief. Someone understands what they are going through.

When I first started, the number of volunteers astonished me. Especially when the foundation training is 56 hours, and the commitment is 16 hours a month. Then I started to meet them. I discovered they are a group of exceptional individuals, warm, empathetic, good listeners who can support other people's expression of grief and distress. Their reward is seeing their clients progressing through bereavement, coming to terms with it, and visualising a future. So they stay.

Do you have these qualities? Would you like to join our team? If so, you might like to know:

You need your own transport.

You get phone and travel expenses.

You must be available to attend every session of the face-to-face foundation training.

We can keep your name for the following course if you can't make all the dates.

We don't recommend doing bereavement support work if you have had a close bereavement in the last two years. But: For anyone interested in helping our hospices, there are alternatives. Sobell House are looking for ward volunteers to support our in-patient team and volunteer drivers to help transport patients and equipment. We also need Volunteer Companions to support patients and families, in the community and in-patient units, at both hospices.

Interested? Find out more:

email: [pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk)



**KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE**

## CASSINGTON LITTLE LIBRARIES

Congratulations and thank you to all those involved in building and erecting the two little libraries that have recently appeared in the village. If you have not spotted them yet you will find one at the top of Conce Walk, by the entrance to the school, and the other is on Bell Lane by the stile into the field just before the Little Green.



Little Library on Conce Walk



Little Library on Bell Lane

You are welcome to take any book from the library and perhaps put one of yours in its place. In that way the available books will be regularly refreshed. Children's books are welcome - the libraries are for all to use!

**EYNESHAM'S SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS ARTS & Craft FAIR** Free Entry

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WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
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## CHURCHFIELDS NEWS



As the leaves changed colour and the air got crisper, residents at Churchfields Care Home stepped into Autumn with lots of fun activities, pampering sessions, and cosy evenings. We took in the last of the sun

in the beautiful outdoor spaces; relaxing on the patio and enjoying each other's company.

Some of the ladies had a pamper session as they got their nails done. It was a lovely, calming session and left them with smiles and freshly manicured hands.

October has been a fun month. One of the residents at the home had the opportunity to relive their past as a pilot through the flight simulator on their activity table which was a truly 'exhilarating' experience. Another resident had a fun time golfing on the home's putting green.

Our residents celebrated the harvest festival with a lovely service, joined by Roger and Duncan. That week's



quiz was centred around the harvest festival, and it brought out the competitive spirit in all of the residents who then attempted to make as many words out of HARVEST as they could, and the result was an impressive 27 words! It was a fun way to exercise our minds and learn more about this tradition.

At Churchfields, we are getting into the Halloween spirit. Some of our residents had a fun arts and crafts session where they made handcrafted ghosts and paper mache witches which are now hanging all around the home, bringing a spooky feel.

October was a great month at Churchfields and we had the best time welcoming the colder months. We shared some incredible moments of love, laughter and camaraderie and are looking forward to more exciting adventures in the months to come.

If you'd like to be part of our amazing community, drop by for a cuppa and a chat! In the meantime, please follow us on Facebook to find out more about life at Churchfields.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Italian Pasta sauce

This sauce is the vegetarian version. There are as many versions of this sauce as there are regions in Italy, and everyone will tell you their sauce is the authentic Italian version. This one is from the Provence of Avellino from a small village called Montoro, where I was born. Later I will share more recipes from my home village, but first you must master the art of making the base ingredient of:

"La Cucina Povera" - The kitchen of the poor

"la salsa di pomodoro per la pasta" - Tomato sauce for Pasta.

### Ingredients

3 to 4 cloves of garlic.

Half a medium size onion.

2 to 3 tablespoons of olive oil

4 (400g) tins of chopped tomatoes. Use the best: Ciro or Napolina or you will need extra puree to thicken the sauce.

Half a tablespoon of tomato puree

Half a tablespoon of each dried Oregano & Parsley. If using fresh Parsley, it must be flatleaf.

### Method

Chop the Garlic and onion to roughly the same size. Put the olive oil into a suitable size saucepan (that will hold the 4 tins of tomatoes + the extra water) and add the onion. Heat slowly until the onion starts to soften then add the garlic and continue cooking until golden brown. Add the tomatoes (have the tins ready opened) and bring to the boil. Fill one

of empty tins with water and rinse out the other three and add to the pan, then add the tomato puree. Continue to boil for a further 3 to 4 minutes, then add the Oregano and Parsley. Let the sauce simmer on the lowest heat for 2½ to 3 hours, stirring occasionally or it will stick to the bottom of the saucepan.

If you like it spicy hot (Arrabbiata) add some chilli flakes. I prefer to use fresh chillies, chopped and cooked in the sauce, not so fierce tasting. Be mindful of any children as the sauce will be spicy hot. Why not add the Chillies before you freeze the sauce, you could do 50/50 then.

Don't deviate from the recipe or you will not experience the true taste of my region of Italy.

There is also the meaty version, sear a piece of seasoned, stuffed and rolled shin of beef (Bracirole) with the garlic and onions, and then cook it in the sauce, slightly more involved but lifts the sauce to a completely different level.

It's that easy! "And you don't put sugar, bicarbonate of soda or vinegar in the sauce". My Grandmother would turn in her grave if I did.

As I usually use the sauce in many of my dishes, I make it with 5 or 6 tins of tomatoes and freeze it when it's cooled down in individual containers so I can take out as much or as little as I need.

Buon Appetito  
Pasquale Bruno



# Parish Council News

# October 2023

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

No report has been received on the October Parish Council Meeting, however the Minutes will be available on the Village website at:

<https://cassington-pc.gov.uk/document-category/minutes/>

## Parish Councillors

To contact the Parish Council, please email them on: -

Barbara King – [bking1@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:bking1@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Chris Metcalf – [cmetcalf@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cmetcalf@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Alex Rogers – [arogers@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:arogers@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Graham Mills – [gmills@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:gmills@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Stewart Thompson – [sthompson@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sthompson@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 2nd November 2023 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Clerk contact details: Mrs Tracey Cameron

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

## Parish Council Meetings for 2023

7th December 2023

## Parish Council Meetings for 2024

4th January 2024

1st February 2024

7th March 2024

## CONGRATULATIONS

and thanks to all those who took part in the Safari Garage Sale on Sunday 1st October. Contributions from the stall holders, raised £442.90 towards new equipment for the children's playground.

## Village Hall Solar Panels

With the generally held view in the village that the best place for solar panels is on our roof-tops, coupled to the findings of a study which indicated that the annual solar energy hitting rooftops in Oxfordshire is equivalent to 57% of the County's total electricity requirements, we thought it was high time that we (on your behalf) installed solar panels on the village hall. Of course, we will also benefit from reduced electricity bills and although the pay-back time on the investment is fairly significant, they will ultimately make a significant contribution to the village hall energy requirements, and all from a renewable resource.

We have opted to future-proof the system we will install in terms of being able to link up electric car charging points as and when we are required to put them in place.

Whilst the panels are a considerable cost to the village, paid for from the many events and bookings which take place annually, we have had strong support from individuals in the village for the proposal. Installation of the panels, which is still subject to planning permission at the time of writing, will hopefully begin towards the end of this year.

Thanks again for your support and good to know that Cassie is doing its little bit to nudge us along the path to net-zero!

The Village Hall Committee.

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by Sandi Toksvig

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# **BLENHEIM**

## **COMMUNITY**

**David Green, Head of Innovation here at Blenheim, loves nothing more than to measure everything from air quality, water quality, lichen growth on the Palace as well as measure energy usage, heat loss, CO<sub>2</sub> levels and footfall across the Palace and Estate.**

This data is sent back to an open-source database which can be viewed by anyone; part of this is shown on this website. David recently added some little black boxes to some of the paths across the Estate. This measures how many people are walking them and at what times. This allows the Estate Team to manage these paths better and allow Blenheim to see the uptake of these walkways, which in turn helps Estates to plan to open more paths for public use. So, if you see a little black box on your walks, that's what it is doing!

You can find out more about what David does, on our new Community Website, Blenheim Community ([blenheimcommunities.org](http://blenheimcommunities.org)) or on my Facebook page **Merilyn Davies – Community Lead at Blenheim.**

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**[blenheimcommunities.org](http://blenheimcommunities.org)**



## Making a difference in your community

Volunteer Link-Up is the Volunteer Centre for West Oxfordshire. Their aim is to connect volunteers with people and organisations that need help. They have three main areas of work:

### SERVICES

They help people live independently in their own homes by providing:

- Transport to medical appointments
- A befriending service, offering companionship and help with errands.
- Help with practical tasks, such as simple DIY and gardening.

### GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEMES

They support the Good Neighbour Scheme Network across Oxfordshire.

### VOLUNTEERS

They are currently looking for volunteers across all their services. You can volunteer with them as a driver, befriender or to help out with practical tasks. Please get in touch with them if you think you can help.

There are people in this village who could benefit from the services that Volunteer Link-Up provides. Could you be a volunteer and help?

If you volunteer for the transport service you will receive 45p per mile, which is paid to you in cash by the person using the service. You would need to inform your insurance company but it should not affect your insurance premium, as it is a voluntary service you are providing.

Volunteer Link-Up deal with all the practicalities such as the DBS checks for the drivers.

If you want help with any of these issues or you are interested in volunteering then please contact them:

Email: [office@vlu.org.uk](mailto:office@vlu.org.uk)

Phone: 01993 776277.

## SPEEDWATCH

The Cassington Speedwatch group held 9 sessions in September and reported the following to the Police.

No. of sessions:	9
Total number of vehicles:	1,617
No. of offending vehicles:	249
Between 25mph & 30mph:	152
Between 31mph & 40 mph:	92
Over 40 mph:	5
Highest offender:	56 mph



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# From your Solar Action Group



## STOP BOTLEY WEST



\* \* \* \* \*

### UPDATE

\* \* \* \* \*

## ON BOTLEY WEST DEVELOPER'S CONSULTATION

Following Merton College's withdrawal  
from the Botley West Project the  
Community Consultations have been

## DELAYED !

December will now be the earliest the  
Developers are likely to hold their events.

**To find out more REGISTER for weekly  
updates at [stopbotleywest.com](http://stopbotleywest.com)**

**Visit [stopbotleywest.com](http://stopbotleywest.com)**



You have probably heard that Merton has withdrawn its land from the solar proposals by PVDP. This land is approximately 5% of the whole project, so is this significant? It certainly is! For one thing, Merton has on reflection seen the damage that the project as a whole will do to key fragile meadows, the Swinford Water Meadows whose flagship biodiversity was featured in a UK government film for COP. Secondly, PVDP now have to rethink some of their underground cables and this means going back to the drawing boards. Hence delayed village consultations.

Please do join SBW if you have not already done so at [www.stopbotleywest.com](http://www.stopbotleywest.com). This means you'll get regular updates on what's happening and can prepare for the village consultation. It is vital that as many of us as possible attend the consultation and prepare beforehand, with the knowledge you now have, to ask searching questions about details of the plan and what mitigations are in place for bird and animal life, food production, soil quality preservation, flood prevention, and much more, as well as to provide life-enhancing country walks for the people who live here.

Also we ask you to feed back to us, most importantly, not your views on the project, but your views on how thoroughly you were consulted. Were your questions taken seriously and were the answers thoughtful and respectful? Were you given all the information you needed?

Thank you to all of you making your voices heard. The part you play is invaluable.

There was a great turnout in the Village Hall for an excellent talk by Alex Rogers, one of our parish councillors, on the proposed solar project: the reality of its size and structure and of 76% of it being on greenbelt; the ways it is likely to impact the bird and animal life and the quality of the land and natural vegetation in our fields; and the loss for us all of our life-nurturing surroundings.

Whilst acknowledging that we are all aware of the need for green energy solutions, Alex raised the question of whether this really is the right kind of solution and is being proposed for the right reasons.

He spoke of the complexities of the different Blenheim companies and PVDP's background and the questions those raise, whilst also looking at the hidden carbon cost of such a project.

The audience was fully engaged and there were many questions and contributions from the floor. Thank you everyone for your part.



## Massive Engineering Works

The final episode in the Cassington railway bridge incident reported in a previous CAWN has been reached. Our reporter re-visited the scene and photographed the major works that have been undertaken to prevent further similar incidents.



## Churchfields Christmas Market

Village hall, Cassington

Saturday 25th November 2-4pm.

Lots of different stalls - homemade cards, decoration, scarfs, sweets, cakes.

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## OBSERVATION

by Stephen Wright

Honestly, I leave Cassington alone for five minutes and things start blowing up. What is it with these lightnings and all their striking action? Of course, an explosion in Oxfordshire often warrants the response from James May: "CLARKSOON!"

But on this occasion, Jeremy wasn't responsible, as far as we're aware.

Unfortunately, me being new to my now three-month relationship with my girlfriend, I didn't know that an explosive mistake to make would be to watch the third episode of Netflix's Beckham documentary without her, after we'd watched the first two together.

She told me that it was relationship sacrilege to do that, but I assured her that I wasn't as bad as David himself, who told the media, in front of Victoria, that 'I love my family but football is everything to me.'

I can see why kids wanted to look like David, especially during his golden locks Real Madrid days, but Steven Gerrard was my idol growing up and his hair care routine easier to maintain.

However, I've stopped wanting to be like him since he nearly got Aston Villa relegated and became a sellout to Saudi Arabia.



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## TEA TIME TEASER

This month, to celebrate our new libraries, we have opening lines from some books for children and young people. Do you know which books they are from and who wrote them? Answers next month

1. "My father got the dog drunk on cherry brandy at the party last night. If the RSPCA hear about it he could get done."
2. "It's a funny thing about mothers and fathers. Even when their own child is the most disgusting little blister you could ever imagine, they still think that he or she is wonderful."
3. "A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood."
4. "What a funny sight it is to see a brood of ducklings with a hen!"
5. "The sun did not shine, it was too wet to play, so we sat in the house all that cold, cold wet day."
6. "The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home."
7. "The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way towards the lagoon."
8. "If you went too near the edge of the chalk-pit the ground would give way. Barney had been told this often enough."

Answers to last month's song lyrics

1. We had joy we had fun we had seasons in the sun – Terry Jacks
2. 'Cause nothin' last forever, even cold November rain – Guns 'n' Roses
3. But I set fire to the rain - Adele
4. Here comes the sun and I say it's all right – The Beatles
5. I'm going to rain on your parade - Duffy
6. Ain't no sunshine when she's gone – Bill Withers
7. I only want to see you laughing in the purple rain – Prince
8. Oh did you hear the rain – George Ezra

### Chimney Sweep

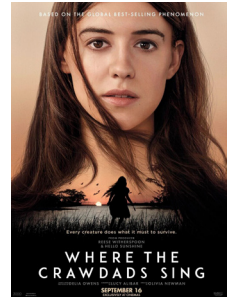
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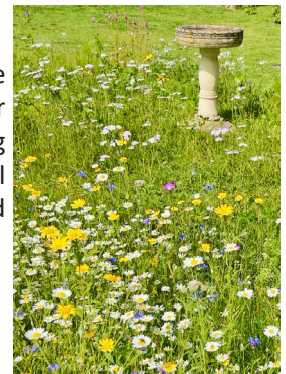
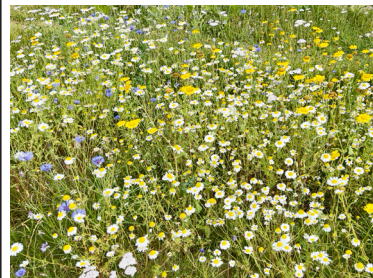
## FILM

The next Cassington film night will be on 10th November. The film is "Where the Crawdads sing" (15). Abandoned by her family, Kya Clark, otherwise known to the townspeople of Barkley Cove as the Marsh Girl, is mysterious and wild. "Where the Crawdads Sing" is a coming-of-age story of a young girl raised by the marshlands of the south in the 1950s. When the town hotshot is found dead, and inexplicably linked to Kya, the Marsh Girl is the prime suspect in his murder case.. As a general rule the Cinema Nights will be the second Friday of each month, unless the hall is required for other projects. See [www.countryscreens.co.uk](http://www.countryscreens.co.uk) for more info.



## WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Thanks to Pas Bruno for these lovely pictures of his wild flower meadow that he planted last spring in Manor Close. The flowers will self-seed so next year there should be a very impressive display.



The meadow attracted an array of wildlife, including many species of butterflies and bees which in turn attracted many different birds and reptiles.

## Gardening Tips for October



- Clear up fallen leaves
- Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
- Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
- Plant out winter bedding
- Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well for this
- Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem

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# 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.

## Christmas cards, prints and more at [planetkev.co.uk](http://planetkev.co.uk)

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# what's on?

## Dates for your diary

### November 2023

Thurs 3rd 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 3rd 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 5th 4 - 7.30pm	Fireworks in the Red Lion
Fri 10th 7.30pm	Film "Where the Crawdads Sing" VH
Sat 11th 7.30pm	Pub Quiz Red Lion
Wed 15th	Photography competition deadline
Mon 20th	December CAWN deadline
Fri 24th - Sun 26th	Forever Fields, Worton
Sat 25th 2-4pm	Churchfields Christmas Fair VH
29th - 2nd Dec 7.30pm	Silver Lining, Eynsham VH

### December 2023

Sat 2nd - Sun 3rd 10am-4.30pm	Eynsham Arts Fair
Thurs 7th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 7th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Fri 8th 5.30 - 7.30pm	St Peter's School Christmas Fair
Sat 9th 2 - 4pm	Christmas Elf Party VH
Fri 15th	Photography competition deadline
Fri 15th	January CAWN deadline

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



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Thanks xx



## BABYSITTING

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

## 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.

## Do you have children or pets?

I live in Cassington and I'm available for babysitting or petsitting. I am 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)

## GARDENING

*Do you need help with gardening?  
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