



HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE



CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS WATTS



Fiona Macdonald and Ollie Watts were married on 11th November 2023 at the beautiful venue, Caswell House - some of the buildings dating back to the 15th century. After days of constant rain, the sun shone on a perfect day.

Guests were welcomed to the occasion with a Bagpiper in full regalia. The marriage ceremony was conducted in Wenmans Barn, which was later transformed in readiness for the wedding breakfast. The day ended with dancing to a live band and a playlist chosen by the bride and groom.

May the future of Mr and Mrs Watts be as beautiful, happy and joyous as their wedding day.
Ron & Jan Macdonald

Cassington Advent Windows 2023

We hope you enjoyed last year's windows, and will enjoy a walk around the village either each day as a new window appears, or in one go to walk off Christmas dinner! We hope you have fun spotting the windows and enjoying the displays – thank you to those taking part again this year.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy new year.

Kathryn x

Friday 1st December	3 Foxwell Court
Saturday 2nd	8 Bell Close
Sunday 3rd	The Chalet, Bell Lane
Monday 4th	The Red Lion
Tuesday 5th	Village Hall, courtesy of Tinies & Tots
Wednesday 6th	3 Barrow Court
Thursday 7th	7 Hollow Furlong (from Williams Court)
Friday 8th	Glebe Cottage, Horsemere Lane
Saturday 9th	68 Eynsham Road
Sunday 10th	Stork Cottage (opp the War Memorial)
Monday 11th	6 St Peter's Close
Tuesday 12th	2 The Tennis
Wednesday 13th	9 Orchard Close
Thursday 14th	St Peter's School
Friday 15th	3 The Green
Saturday 16th	Ivy Dene, 12 Lynton Lane
Sunday 17th	8 Orchard Close
Monday 18th	Phoenix Cottage, Mill Lane
Tuesday 19th	13 Elms Road
Wednesday 20th	Churchfields Care Home, Pound Lane
Thursday 21st	5 Barrow Court
Friday 22nd	72 Eynsham Road
Saturday 23rd	7 Bell Lane
Sunday 24th December	St Peter's Church

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welcome Anne's CAWNer

Welcome to the 558th edition of CAWN - the Christmas Edition, complete with lots of Christmas messages from your fellow villagers. I hope you enjoy reading them.

As ever we have lots of events happening both before and after Christmas, so I hope you enjoy going along to them and supporting your fellow villagers. On page 9 you will find an advert for the village calendar featuring all the winning entries from the photo competition that has been running this year. Get your requests in early if you want a copy in time for Christmas and the start of the New Year.

Don't forget the copy date for the January edition of CAWN is early so that it can be printed before Christmas. So I need your articles and adverts by Friday 15th December please.

If anyone has any ideas for regular or one-off articles you would like to see next year please do get in touch with me. I am always open to suggestions and ideas that might be of interest (or amusement) to your fellow villagers.

Thank you to all those who have provided feedback over the course of the year, and encouraged and supported me in the compiling of each month's edition. An especial thanks to all the contributors, both regular and one-off - I couldn't do it without you!

Finally, very best wishes for a truly festive season. May your Christmas be full of fun and laughter.

Happy reading!

Anne x

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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.

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL MATCH

The traditional Boxing Day football match will be taking place with a kick-off time of 10:30. If you want to play for the marrieds (and we need the players believe me) or the singles then please come along with boots and shin pads ready to play. All are welcome as long as you are over 16 (football ability is optional)

Christmas Walk and Leftovers Lunch

Friday 29th December, meet on The Green at 10am we will depart at 10.10am and aim to be back for lunch at the Red Lion for 1pm (5-6 mile walk, weather dependant)

Please bring leftovers for a bring and share lunch.

For more information or to let me know you'd like to join please email Kathryn on humphris4es@btinternet.com

We wish everyone in Cassington and Worton
"A very Happy Christmas and New Year"
Best wishes and good health to you all



Dawn and Pete Bowerman
Elsie and Colin Floyd
Celia and Ken Dore

December stargazing highlights

December 4 - 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.

December 12 - New Moon.
The Moon will not be visible in the night sky.

December 13, 14 - Geminids Meteor Shower.
The Geminids is the king of the meteor showers; considered to be the best shower in the heavens. It peaks this year on the night of the 13th and morning of the 14th. The nearly new moon means dark skies for what should be an excellent show. Best viewing will be from after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Gemini, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

December 21, 22 - Ursids Meteor Shower.
The Ursids is a minor meteor shower. It peaks on the the night of the 21st and morning of the 22nd. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Ursa Minor, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

December 22 - December Solstice.
This is the first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

December 27 - Full Moon.
The Moon's face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Cold Moon because it's the time of year when the cold winter air settles in and the nights become long and dark. It's also been known as the Long Nights Moon and the Moon Before Yule.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2023



The Poppy Appeal collection in Cassington and Worton this year realised £1059.01 thus again exceeding £1000. This is the amount contributed by cash, still a commendable total and the Legion is extremely grateful to the many people who gave so generously. Several much appreciated donations by card went direct to Royal British Legion, thus not appearing in our Branch total.

Again this year our Poppy Appeal Organiser Clare Want undertook the donkey work involved in making the Appeal such a success. We thank all the volunteers who made it possible by visiting every house or for having collecting boxes on their premises. They are (in no particular order): St Peters church, The Chequers, The Red Lion, Churchfields, St Peters School, The paper shop, Bosworth Clinic, Dawn Bowerman, Carmella Waters, Rygor, Janet Bushnell, Ellen O'Donnell and Worton Kitchen Garden, Thomas and Abi Want, Debbie Hatwell, Jane Cook and VW Kidlington.

Clare says she could do with more helpers. If anyone would like to help with next year's collection please get in touch with Clare on garethandclarewant@yahoo.co.uk.

The service at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday was well attended in spite of the threat of rain which fortunately held off for the duration of the service. As usual Janet Bushnell provided the accompaniment and Alan Aston the traditional stirring trumpet calls.

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

St.Peters Primary School, Cassington

Christmas Fair

*Friday 8th December 2023 5.30-7.30pm
The Green, Cassington, Witney
Raffle to be drawn on the night.*

The School Fair is a cash preferred event although some stall holders will take card payments. If anyone would like to make a regular or one-off donation to SPSA you can do so using these details:
St Peter's School Association (Fund)
Sort code: 20-65-18 Account Number: 30829889
Please use Ref: CAWN

GRAHAM ALFRED MAPSON 15.8.31 - 16.11.23



It is with great sadness that we have to inform his many friends in the village of Graham's death at the JR Hospital on 16th November 2023. He was 92 years old.

He had lived in Cassington since 1974 and was a well respected and popular member of the village. His funeral will take place at St Peter's Church, Cassington at 11am on Monday 11th December with burial in the churchyard.



The Chequers News



Babu and Santok are staying!

The Chequers will be open for



Christmas Lunch



3 course meal plus a glass of fizz

£40 per person pre-booking required

01865 882620

www.thechequersinn-cassington.com



Bill, Ann Humphris and family wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the best in 2024.

Cassington Village Hall committee are pleased to invite you to a ...

CHRISTMAS ELF PARTY for children aged 3-11

CASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 9 December 2.00 - 4.00



The Christmas Elf Party will include an awesome Elf Entertainer, Fun Games, Mini-Disco, Inflatable Santa, Bubbles, Snow, Stickers & Medals and more. There will also be a simple party tea.

Tickets are **£6.50 per child** and are available from Emily in the school office and from Carolyn on 07747 621597.

Each child must have a named adult responsible for them at the event.

Numbers are limited so make sure you get your ticket soon.



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CASSINGTON TINIES & TODDLERS (Tinies Café) Winter 2023

A Parent/Carer & Toddler group

Cassington Village Hall 1.30 –3.00 on Tuesday
(other than where stated, term-time only)
Dec. 5th, 12th (Last session for this term)
After Christmas – new start Tuesday 9th Jan.

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 candcmetcalf@gmail.com
Tel:07814550878

Peace on Earth

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to renew our commitment to peace and goodwill. Last year it was a privilege to hear Christmas carols from Ukraine, but it was a reminder of the tragedy their country endured in 2022. This year that conflict has continued and has been joined by others. Across the world outbreaks of violence and war have devastated so many places. We yearn for lasting peace and yet it seems ever more elusive and the issues increasingly complex. Where do we begin?

One place to begin is at home, in our own hearts and lives. Every Christmas we light a candle in the darkness together amidst life affirming celebrations with family, friends and our community. We are also invited to welcome into our lives the Christ-child, born to be the Prince of Peace, who brings peace in heaven and will bring peace on earth. On the first Christmas night an angel choir proclaimed "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward humankind." and everyone is welcome to St.Peter's this Christmas to join the song.

Rev Duncan Fraser

Food Bank News

Christmas is a time for giving. So please support those families in need locally this Christmas via the food bank.



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) Cassington and the Hanborough residents as well as Eynsham.

North Oxfordshire Food Bank (07929721172)

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.



Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.
I am not sending village Christmas cards this year but I am sending the money to charity.

Ninon

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNSHAM

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>



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.

DECEMBER 2023

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.



Sunday 3rd December
9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th December
9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 17th December
2.30pm Carol Service at
Churchfields Care Home

Carol Service
Sunday 17th December 5pm
Celebrate the birth of Jesus with carols
and bible readings.

Christmas Eve 24th December
9.30am Holy Communion
3pm 'Crib' Service
A short child-friendly service.

Churchfields Christmas Eve
Holy Communion at 11.15am

Christmas Day Celebration
25th December 9.00am
A traditional Christmas service
with Holy Communion

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

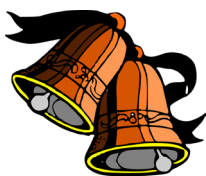
*We wish everyone a very Happy
Christmas and a wonderful 2024.
Thank you all for continuing to
make Cassington such a fun and
lovely place to live in!
Love and good wishes,
Hazel, Stephen, Lorna and Richard
Petty*



*Wishing you all
Joy and Peace this Christmas and in the New Year.
Ron & Jan Macdonald*

NEW YEAR'S EVE BELLS

A team of local visiting bellringers will be in the church tower on the afternoon of 31st December to ring a quarter peal to mark the end of 2023. This will last for approximately one hour.'



Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2023

Many thanks to all those who kindly donated filled Christmas shoeboxes to send to Ukraine this year. Your generosity is much appreciated and will bring some happiness to those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you again Jane Aston



Mistletoe

At Christmas time we traditionally decorate our houses in a variety of ways. For me, one of the most interesting traditions are the origins of hanging mistletoe.



Mistletoe is an evergreen hemi-parasitic plant, without obvious roots and therefore a source of food. It also has a mysterious method of reproduction and collectively these unusual traits have led to the plant being thought of as magical and credited with extraordinary powers - giving rise to its rich history in folklore. The plant does actually have roots which have become adapted to penetrating through the bark of its host tree to obtain water and nutrients, and the green leaves indicate that it does photosynthesise (hence "hemi" parasite). It is also dioecious, meaning that there are both male and female plants and it is only the female which has the characteristic white berries, inside which are the sticky seeds which are eaten by birds. Eventually the seeds are attached to the branches of the host tree via the bird's droppings. Indeed, the mistle thrush is so named because of its strong preference for the white mistletoe berries when they are in season – the association reflected in its latin name *viscivorus* which means "sticky".

Some of us will already know that mistletoe has a strong connection to the ancient druids who used it in some of their rituals and that it also features in Norse mythology. The association with the Druids is a persistent one as mistletoe was worshipped by them when it was found on their sacred tree, the oak. When the Druid priests found mistletoe on oak they waited until after the winter solstice and climbed the tree to harvest it, cutting the plant with a golden sickle and allowing it to fall onto a special cloak, as if the plant touched the ground it would lose its medicinal and ritualistic powers. Interestingly (ecologically), the mistletoe is rarely found in association with oak, and so it perhaps makes sense that on the rare occasions the pairing was found, the individual tree would have been elevated to a special status.

Norse mythology tells of a goddess, who was plagued by dreams foretelling of her son's murder. To confer protection upon him she made every element of the natural world swear never to harm him – except the mistletoe (no idea why!). The son became very popular among the gods and this angered the evil god Loki who fashioned a weapon from mistletoe which was used to slay him. The goddess grieved for him, crying pearl white tears which are symbolised by the white berries of the mistletoe and she decreed that rather than being punished, mistletoe should become a symbol of peace and friendship – the reason why it adorns our houses at Christmas time – a time of peace and friendship.

And then of course there is the kissing thing. There are a host of suggestions as to why we get a peck on the cheek under a sprig of mistletoe, but sadly there is a degree of uncertainty as to their origins. That said, there are definite links to the plant being considered a symbol of fertility. In medieval times women wishing to conceive would wrap mistletoe around their wrists and waists in order to increase their chances of becoming pregnant.

A plausible origin of the custom of kissing under the mistletoe stems from Scandinavian antiquity where it was recognised as the plant of peace. Folklore has it that when Scandinavian enemies met in a forest with mistletoe present, they laid down their weapons and maintained a truce until the next day, signified by an embrace. This was adapted in Victorian times, first catching on among servants in stately homes and spreading throughout society, to what we now observe as the British tradition of kissing under the mistletoe.

Like so many of the inhabitants of our countryside, there is much more folklore surrounding the mystical mistletoe and its influence upon the traditions of past and present society. So, as you bedeck your house to welcome family and friends over the festive period you might ask yourself why you are putting up holly and ivy or why we choose an evergreen rather than a deciduous Christmas tree?

Have a happy Christmas folks.
Stew Thompson



*Wishing you all a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Love from Kate & Neil xx*



*To all the wonderful residents of
Cassington and your families. Have
the best Christmas and we hope
2024 is all you wish.
Love all the Bishops xx*

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2023, A Year in Cassington

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

With grateful thanks to our competition sponsor
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Our final competition winners ...



Cassington at Play – the Red Lion ladies darts team complete their 24 hour darts marathon (Scott Morgan)



Cassington Characters – Jan, festive cheer in the Red Lion (Mike Thomas)



St Peter's Church ...



Rainbow over St Peter's (Karys Taylor, 11)

A frosty morning in Cassington (Kate Rogers)

Thank you for all of your entries throughout the year, and congratulations to all of our winners. A selection of the winning pictures will feature in a **2024 calendar** – see elsewhere in this issue for details.

We have had many wonderful pictures, which has often made the judging a challenge, but we hope that many of those which weren't competition winners will still feature in the commemorative book – **2023, a Year in Cassington** – to mark the year the village celebrated 900 years of St Peter's Church.

The year isn't over ...

... so please continue to take and send in pictures through the Christmas celebrations to the end of the year, together with any other pictures you may have taken of the people, surroundings and events which you think will help us to capture a snapshot of life in Cassington in 2023.

Please send your pictures, with your details and the title or caption for your pictures to the competition email address ... chinton260@outlook.com

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Pre-order your 'A Year in Cassington' calendars now for just £7.00

Email cawneditor@gmail.com to reserve your copies by **Friday 8th December** to get them in time for Christmas.

Calendar pages approx A4, wire-o bound with hole for hanging

ST PETER'S SCHOOL



December is always the start of a very exciting month at school, and our children are already practising Christmas songs and nativity plays! By the time you read this, our Christmas Challenges will be in full swing and there will be a Christmas Tree and decorations up. The SPSA (St Peter's School Association) has once again kindly agreed to fund a panto trip into Oxford for all the children. Key stage 1 and 2 will be going to see 'Jack & the Beanstalk' and nursery and reception will be seeing 'Dear Father Christmas'.

Our Christmas Fair is on Friday 8th December from 5:30 - 7:30pm. Please see the advert elsewhere in the CAWN! Everyone is welcome. There will be food and drink, Christmas stalls and of course, Father Christmas will be paying a visit to find out what presents the children would like! Please pop along if you are able to - it is always lovely to see everyone, and especially members of the community who don't have an immediate connection with the school.

This leads us on nicely to saying a huge thank you to everyone in the village (and beyond) for all your help and support that you have given us throughout the year. Merry Christmas!

Jon Jeffries
Headteacher

Unlocking...

Minds that learn

Hearts that love

Faith that gives

YOU'RE IN LUCK... WE'RE RECRUITING!

The incredible team at Churchfields is expanding.



Churchfields Care Home

Cassington

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- **Child-friendly hours**



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL



For more information please don't hesitate to email our brilliant care home manager: manager@churchfieldscarehome.co.uk or call our friendly team on 01865 881440

Follow us on facebook for live job roles



CHURCHFIELDS NEWS

Happy November everyone! As the days get shorter and temperatures drop, all of us at Churchfields Care Home are getting into the festive spirit. This month has been full of celebrations, cosy evenings, and Christmas preparations at our lovely home.



One of our residents turned 100 years old and celebrated her milestone birthday with us at Churchfields. We had a big celebration with cake, balloons, gifts and the company of friends and family. We wish her health and happiness this year and in the years to come!

At Churchfields, we celebrated Bonfire Night on 4th November and were joined by lots of friends and family. We enjoyed sparkles on the patio before watching the fantastic fireworks display and finished the evening with some delicious hotdogs and indulgent hot chocolate.



We also hosted our annual Christmas market on 25th November in the village hall. We made some pretty Christmas baubles and other handmade goodies for the market. Thank you to everyone that joined us, we hope you all had as much of a magical time as we did.

November has been yet another great month at Churchfields and we've had the best time preparing for the holiday season. We've had some really special moments this month and are looking forward to many more 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..



Jim and Kathy & Family would like to wish their friends in the village a very Happy Christmas and healthy new year With our best wishes



*Jane Cook
would like to wish all her friends in Cassington, a Christmas full of joy and happiness!*



*Festive greetings to our friends old and new in Cassington. We wish you all a happy healthy New Year 2024, with love
Lionel, Sara, Elliot and Amelia x
This year our donation in lieu of cards will go to Diabetes UK.*

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Parish Council News

November 2023

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

No report has been received on the November 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
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

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 7th December 2023 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Parish Council Meetings for 2024

- 4th January 2024
- 1st February 2024
- 7th March 2024
- 4th April 2024
- 2nd May 2024
- 6th June 2024
- 4th July 2024



EYNSHAM'S SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS ARTS & Craft FAIR Free Entry

DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS!
Cakes & mince pies & hot chocolate & more

CELEBRATING THE HAND-MADE
WITH A HOST OF TALENTED ARTISTS AND MAKERS

Hosted by Eynsham's newest Arts Venue
MILL STREET ARTS
Dec 2nd & 3rd
10am-4.30pm
66 Mill Street, OX29 4JU



Worton Park

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- On-site farm shop and café*
- Rural business park*
- Tennis court and seasonal outdoor pool for holiday let and business park tenants*

ENQUIRIES@WORTONPARK.CO.UK
01865 882644

Burns Night

Village Hall, Cassington

Cost £25 per person

7:30 for 8 pm


Saturday 27th January

Menu

Guid Scotch Broth

*Haggis wi' bashit neeps
an' champit tatties*
(Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten free option available)

Cranachan
(Mixture of Oats in Whisky with Raspberries, Honey and Whipped Cream)



Proceedings

Welcome to Burns Night

Address to the Haggis

Live Music sing-a-long

The Immortal Memory

Burns Poetry Reading

Toast to the Lassies

Live Music Interlude

Reply to the Toast to the Lassies

Auld Lang Syne

A good sing along and more

Seats limited – book by 13th Jan

Please book and pay for your seat by 13th January
Contact Ron Macdonald 07766 993724

**All proceeds raised in aid of the Cassington
Playground Appeal**

Wishing all our lovely friends and neighbours in the village a wonderful Christmas and happy & healthy New Year.

Love Tina, Rob, Angie, Holly, Louise & Darryl x x

Donating to prostate cancer in lieu of local cards



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

We are truly grateful to everyone for their help and friendship throughout the year.

Here's to a fantastic 2024!

Lots of love,
Emily, Zach, Seren & Indi

XX

Donation made to Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue






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BLenheim PALACE

50% off adult Adventure Play tickets

Until Friday 9th February, make the most of our new offer and join us at Blenheim Palace

Adventure Play to create lasting memories with your family. There's no better time to book your next adventure...join us for a day of family fun for all ages, where everyone can enjoy the excitement of our Adventure Play. Whether you're zooming along the zip-lines, exploring the twisting tunnels or splashing down our water course in your winter wellies, we want you to have fun and create memories with your children. Don't forget to refuel afterwards with a fresh wood-fired pizza in our Walled Garden Pizzeria.

Head to blenheimpalace.com/adventure-play/

to start planning your perfect family day out this festive season.



BLenheim ESTATE

With Christmas only a few short weeks away now, don't forget that our Forestry team are now selling Estate-grown Christmas trees, including Norway Spruces and Nordman Firs, in a range of sizes alongside stands as well. Trees are available on a first-come, first-served basis from our sales hut located in the Estate Office car park in Woodstock, OX20 1PP from 1st - 17th December every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4pm. No pre-booking is required and our team will be accepting contactless payments only.

BLenheim

As 2023 draws to a close, we have been reflecting on the many important restoration and construction projects that have been successfully completed this year thanks to the support of our visitors. These include our new 2 acre Adventure Play down at the Walled Garden, the final decorative phase of our £1 million Chapel project to increase environmental stability and our Lake Dredge (which removed 30,000 cubic metres of silt from the Queen Pool). Most recently we replaced the roof of our Orangery as well as Flagstaff Tower, which temporarily had an enormous, colourful wrap created by designs from Oxfordshire Youth. As we set our sights on the future, we are already gearing up for our biggest project yet of restoring the Palace roof in 2025 / 26 – keep updated at blenheimpalace.com/restoration/

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

blenheimpalace.com

Hallowe'en at the Red Lion

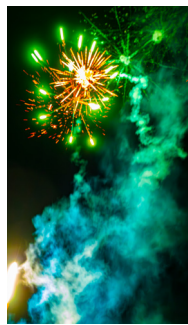


Well done to all those who decorated their houses for Hallowe'en. In particular did you catch the very impressive display at the Red Lion.

To all our friends and neighbours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hope you enjoy all your festivities! lots of love from Caroline, Neil, Abbie & Tom (donation made to Rennie Grove Hospice Care)



Fireworks at the Red Lion



On Sunday 5th November the Red Lion laid on a spectacular display of fireworks which were enjoyed by many, along with the burgers, hot dogs and chips sold by the Sports and Social club raising money for the playground equipment.



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We are located at Bell Lane, Cassington, just off the A40 between Oxford and Witney.

A Traditional Christmas menu from Montoro Southern Italy.



I want to take you on a culinary visual journey to show you some of the many Christmas recipes that my family prepared from the area of Montoro. Unfortunately many of the ingredients are difficult if not impossible to obtain in and around Oxfordshire, and furthermore very expensive online in the UK; so it must be a descriptive essay. I hope you enjoy reading my 'Italian Christmas' lunch.

Christmas Eve

For as long as I can remember 3 or 4 days before Christmas, dad would come home with a bucket of live Eels (Anguille), which he would dispatch and prepare ready for mum to cook on Christmas Eve. She would dust in plain flour and then shallow fry them.

Primo would consist of Spaghetti with capers cooked in a tomato sauce which gave it a salty flavour. Secondo consisted of several different types of fish dishes, one being salted dried codfish (Bacalao) (after being rehydrated in cold water for at least 24 hours) and then, for the grandchildren and my English wife she would prepare battered Cod and chips and a selection of vegetables.

Also, on the menu chicory and an array of olive salads. To finish, fresh fruits nuts and the obligatory chestnuts, not forgetting the usual assortment of sweet desserts. Soft drinks for the younger children, while the older ones would be allowed to enjoy a drop of wine with the adults.

Christmas Day

Antipasti

Dinner often commenced with a variety of appetizers (antipasti) including cured meats (prosciutto, salami), cheeses (formaggi), olives (olive), vegetables (marinated in sweet vinegar & oil) and toasted Italian bread (bruschetta) drizzled with olive oil, topped with chopped garlic and tomatoes. There are numerous salami & cheeses available in Italy, but here in Britain we only see two or three in the local supermarkets.

Primo Piatti

Then into the first course (Primo Piatti), typically consists of a pasta dish. Popular choices included our version of Lasagne Napolitano, (not the lasagne everyone has come to know in Britain), cannelloni filled with seasoned minced beef and tortellini served in a broth, (which we hardly ever had).

Secondo Piatto

Main course, (Secondo Piatto) includes roasted or braised meats - roast lamb, roast pork and stuffed capon or turkey which is very popular now in Italy. These are served with contorni (side dishes) roasted vegetables, sautéed greens, and a variety of salads. My father's and my favourite roasted potatoes seasoned with rosemary and garlic are a must, and all washed down with an abundant quantity of red & white wines.

Dolce

Desserts (Dolce) play a central role in Italian Christmas dinners. Traditional cakes like Panettone, Panforte and Pandoro are often served, along with a variety of homemade treats. Plates of dried fruits, candied fruit and nuts, these are served with Vin Santo (Holy wine), which I find difficult to come across in England - a sweet dessert wine that pairs beautifully with many Italian Christmas sweet desserts.

Frutta fresca

And not forgetting the fresh fruit and nuts, which at this time in Italy usually consists of many of the citrus family of fruits, oranges (arance), mandarins (mandarini), walnuts (noci), hazelnuts (nocciole) and the obligatory roasted chestnuts (castagne arrostate sul fuoco) which are all locally grown. Consumed over a long leisurely afternoon and into the evening at the table.

After the meal Espresso is a must for many Italians. It's often followed by a selection of liqueurs, including Grappa (Grappa a grape-based pomace brandy and of Italian origin that contains 35 to 60% alcohol), Limoncello, and Amaro (Italian for bitter) is an Italian Herbal liqueur that is commonly consumed as an after-dinner digestive (digestivo). It usually has a bitter-sweet flavour, sometimes syrupy, and usually has a low alcohol content of 16%, and is commercially produced. 40 to 100% is not uncommon, and normally made by Monks in a variety of different flavours and colours depending what herbs are available in their regions of Italy.

That was Christmas with the Bruno family in Montoro. Quello era il Natale con la famiglia Bruno a Montoro.



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Wishing all our friends in Cassington a Merry Christmas and lots of love and wishes for a Happy New Year Janine Horgan and all the family x



OBSERVATION

by Stephen Wright

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Cassington. This year I moved house, got a new job and somehow convinced a beautiful woman to be my girlfriend, which of course begs the question, which team should I play for on Boxing Day at Elms Road Arena, given that I am no longer single and not yet married?

Is this how we decide the referee? Probably not, given that a lot of the recent referees have been married, which perhaps goes some way to explaining why that team always wins...

A friendly reminder to the lads and dads to get your Christmas shopping done early. A recent trip to Oxford saw me pick up ABBA Gold - the Greatest Hits CD for Jenna. The thing is, when I then got in my car with an ABBA CD, I couldn't resist unwrapping it and playing it myself, so I'll pretend that I was just removing the price tag and checking that it wasn't a faulty product. No-one needs to know apart from all of Cassington and the newsletter readers why I had Super Trouper stuck in my head for days on end.

Like at Elms Road Arena on Boxing Day, The Winner Takes It All.

Kids quiz

For ages 5-11

Red Lion Cassington

Saturday 6th January

4pm

£3 per child (must be accompanied by an adult)

Teams of 6

All proceeds to the play area



Merry Christmas Cassingtonians from Sally, kids, Lottie etc in Eynsham - yule be seeing some of us over the Season I'm sure. May your sprouts be as you like them and jingles jolly and bright

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TEA TIME TEASER

In this edition Pasquale Bruno tells us about a traditional Italian Christmas menu. So our teaser this month is dishes from around the world that are consumed on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Which country enjoys these menus? Answers next month

1. Pan de Jamón — a sweet-savoury bread is traditionally served on Christmas Eve
2. Christmas lunch begins with sopa de galets, a meaty soup bobbing with pasta shells.
3. This country has its largest festive meal on Christmas Eve, which includes roast ham, smoked fish, pickled beetroot salad and vegetable casseroles such as lanttulaatikko, a spiced swede bake.
4. Eaten for breakfast after Misa de Gallo (Midnight Mass) on Christmas Eve, bibingka is a doughy rice-flour cake incorporating coconut milk, butter and eggs.
5. This country celebrates Christmas with a variety of meat-filled dishes, from pernil (slow-roasted pork) to arroz con gandules (rice with pigeon peas).
6. Some of the residents of this country celebrate Christmas, or Ganna, on 7 January. Their 43-day fast, which begins on 25 November, is broken with their national dish, rooster doru wat, a fiery chicken stew with hard-boiled eggs.
7. Malva pudding, a sponge cake containing apricot jam, is one of this countries most decadent desserts. It's reserved for special occasions throughout the year, but Christmas sees variations incorporating brandy or Amarula, a cream liqueur made from marula fruit.
8. In this country eating KFC for Christmas Eve dinner has become a treasured tradition.

Answers to last month's first lines from children's books.

1. The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾ by Sue Townsend
2. Matilda by Roald Dahl
3. The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
4. The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck by Beatrix Potter
5. The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
6. The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
7. Lord of the Flies by William Golding
8. Stig of the Dump by Clive King

SPEEDWATCH

The Cassington Speedwatch group held 8 sessions in October and reported the following to the Police.

No. of sessions:	8
Total number of vehicles:	1,017
No. of offending vehicles:	177
Between 25mph & 30mph:	113
Between 31mph & 40 mph:	59
Over 40 mph:	5
Highest offender:	58 mph

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The Mills Family hope everyone has a lovely Xmas and a snowy new year
Luv Lorna, Graham,
Aaron and Aiden

Gardening Tips for December



- Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place
- Check that greenhouse heaters are working
- Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing
- Take hardwood cuttings

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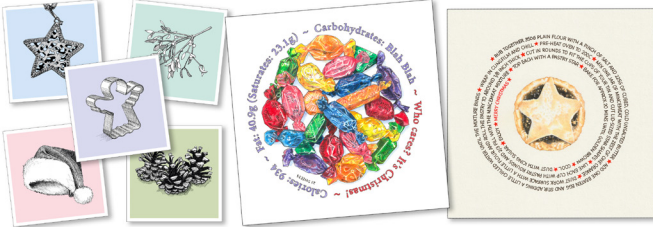
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Also at Eynsham's Christmas Arts & Craft Fair

Mill Street Arts, 66 Mill Street ~ December 2nd and 3rd from 10am to 4.30pm



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what's on?

Dates for your diary

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	January CAWN deadline
Mon 25th	Christmas Day
Tues 26th 10.30am	Boxing Day Football Match
Fri 29th 10am	Christmas Walk and Leftovers lunch

January 2024

Thurs 4th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 4th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat 6th 4pm	Kids Quiz, Red Lion
Fri 12th 3pm-7.30pm	Solar Farm Consultation VH
Sat 20th	February 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

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

GARDENING

*Do you need help with gardening?
I am available weekends and school holidays.
For more details call Henry on 07496 606993*

SAVE THE DATE!!

The Cassington Village Consultation with PVDP on their Solar Proposals is on **Friday 12th January from 3 - 7.30pm**

In the Village Hall

Please do come, look in detail at the proposals and ask all the questions you have about the project.

Your input is really important.

Look out for lots of pre-consultation information in your next edition of CAWN

If you have received a leaflet through your door please can you display it in a window to inform others?

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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.