

# PLAYGROUND APPEAL



The large wooden play equipment at the Elms Road playing field is no longer there. It had become unsafe and unrepairable so was removed. A huge amount of money is needed to put something back in its place, along with a safe and more robust flooring to go over the whole playground area. It looks like this might be in the region of £85,000 in total.

Cassington Parish Council have been looking after the fenced in playground but do not have the funds or reserves to replace this equipment. Cassington Sports & Social Club (registered Charity 1182076) have offered to help spearhead village fundraising to build a pot of money in order to support future match funding grant applications.

How the new playground might look ↓



Fundraising has already begun, with the Garage Sale, Pub Quizzes, Firework Night food at the Red Lion, and the Burns Night dinner expertly hosted by Ron Macdonald. So far our fundraising total is £3,028 - this is fantastic, but also a long way to go to reach our target.

We are asking for help on two fronts:

Cassington Sports & Social Club (CSSC) has a very small committee and we need to continue working towards the upkeep of the other facilities at the playing fields, in addition to this new fundraising project. Please could we ask if anyone is able to organise some fundraising activities for the playground, or would like to join our committee, we would be extremely grateful for this much needed help.

We have also set up a JustGiving fundraising campaign page called the 'Cassington Playground Appeal'. If anyone feels able to make a donation please use this link <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cassingtonplayground> or contact Caroline Morton for banking details to make a direct donation. With either method, if you are able to Gift Aid your donation please message Caroline for a declaration form so that it can be included on the annual Gift Aid submission to HMRC. This enables us to receive a top up to your donation by 25p for every £1 donated.

[caz.morton@gmail.com](mailto:caz.morton@gmail.com) (Treasurer of CSSC)



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# welcome Anne's CAWNer

Welcome to the 561st edition of CAWN.

This month features two appeals: one for donations towards the cost of buying and fitting solar panels to the roof of the village hall, which should make it cheaper to run, as well as obviously helping to reduce the carbon footprint of the village.

The second appeal, you will have seen on the front page, is to raise enough money to replace the surface area of the children's playground, and buy some new equipment to replace the old wooden climbing and play frame. This is being led by the Sports and Social committee who would welcome ideas for events and also extra members to help lay on and run events. If you have a little spare time, and want to help out please do get in touch with the committee either by contacting Caroline Morton, details on the front page, or by emailing [cawneditor@gmail.com](mailto:cawneditor@gmail.com)

As always I am very grateful to all those who have written articles for this edition and to our advertisers who enable us to continue producing it in printed format. Please do contact me if you would like to advertise with us or know of a business that might be interested?

Finally it just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Easter at the end of the month

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.

## SOLAR PANELS ON THE VILLAGE HALL ROOF YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

Please support our appeal to raise £6,000 to help us fit solar panels on the village hall roof this spring. We've committed £20,000 from existing funds and aim to raise the balance we need through the appeal. It means the hall will be able to generate its own green electricity supply virtually all year, every year. We'll save money on our running costs and do our bit as a village to help save the planet by moving away from fossil fuels, with a potential communal power supply whatever happens. You'll always have somewhere to make a cup of tea! We believe that if anyone can do it Cassington can.

### ALL DONATIONS WELCOME

Cassington Village Hall is Registered Charity 304279

For full details please contact:

Lorna Mills - Treasurer,  
[lorna@millsclan.f9.co.uk](mailto:lorna@millsclan.f9.co.uk) - 07711 489463 or  
John Hemingway - Chair,  
[art@hemingwayart.co.uk](mailto:art@hemingwayart.co.uk) - 01865 883991

Thank you so much for your support.



Bike Night is confirmed for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

There will be a meeting at 7:30pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March in The Chequers. If anyone wants to help or find out more information please just come along.

Cassington Bike Night Committee  
[CassingtonBikeNight@hotmail.com](mailto:CassingtonBikeNight@hotmail.com)

## March stargazing highlights

### March 10 - New Moon.

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

### March 20 - March Equinox.

The Sun is shining directly on the equator so there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night. This is the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere.

### March 24 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation.

This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest above the horizon in the evening sky.

### March 25 - Full Moon.

The Moon will be on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun so its face will be fully illuminated.

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## CAROL SANDERS



Many readers of CAWN will have known Carol Sanders who, with her late husband Colin, served this village, its church, its school, its toddler group and many of its families with great humility and affection since retirement from teaching. It is with great sorrow that I must give the sad news of Carol's death on the 12th February, at her home, in Long Hanborough.

Carol had a rock-solid Christian faith and so, in our sadness at her passing we can give thanks for, and rejoice in, her dedicated life of service, as well as the sure and certain hope of her reunion with Colin in the company of Christ her Saviour.

Carol's funeral will be in Cassington at St Peter's Church – details of which are unavailable as CAWN goes to print but will be available from the church office 883325.  
Revd Roger Aston

## THE CHEQUERS INN

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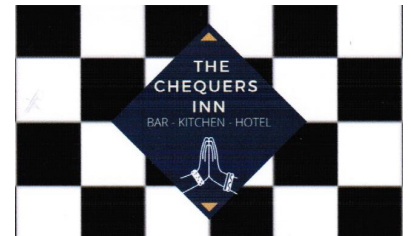
All ages welcome

Saturday 9th March 2024

7pm till Midnight

## QUIZ NIGHT AT THE CHEQUERS

Wednesday 6th  
March  
at 7.30pm



Join us for a just for fun quiz evening at the  
Red Lion Cassington on:

**Saturday 2nd March, 7:30 pm start**

Teams of up to 6 people are welcome,  
entry is only £2 per person,  
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**FUNERAL PLANS FROM**  
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**CALLING ALL ST PETER'S SCHOOL PARENTS!**  
The Tinies and Toddlers group (who meet in the village hall on Tuesdays in term time) invite you on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 for tea/coffee and an opportunity to chat before you pick up your children from school.



**CASSINGTON TINIES & TODDLERS  
(Tinies Café) Spring 2024  
A Parent/Carer & Toddler group**

Cassington Village Hall 1.30 –3.00 on Tuesday (other than where stated, term-time only)  
Mar 5th, 12th (last session this term)  
(we will meet again on Tuesday 16th April)  
Toys, crafts, songs & refreshments for under-fives and their carers

This group is run by St Peter's Church 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

**Witney Music Society present Marmen Quartet  
playing works by Haydn, Debussy, Mozart & Ravel.**  
Friday 8 March 7.30pm  
High Street Methodist Church, Witney.  
Tickets (£15, £1 for under 19s) available at the door from 7pm or in advance online.  
For more information telephone 01993 898020 or visit the website [www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

**Burford Singers present Haydn's Creation**  
Sunday 24th March 2024, 7.30pm  
Church of St John the Baptist, Church Green, Burford.  
Tickets reserved at £25, £20, £15, unreserved £10  
Online booking (Booking fee applies)  
at <https://www.burfordingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/>  
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Further details <https://www.burfordingers.org.uk/events/>

*Invitation*  
**ST PETER'S CHURCH CASSINGTON**



**Mothers Day**

**10th March 2024 at 3.30pm**  
**with afternoon tea.**  
*Come and join the celebration.*  
*Suitable for all ages. Everyone welcome.*

**Church Spring Clean**

Could you give an hour of your time to help spring clean the church 10 o'clock on Saturday March 23rd ready for Easter the following week. Please let me know - many hands make light work

Ninon  
Tel 01865881330 Mob 07884181895  
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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

## MARCH 2024

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.

### Services this month

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – 9.30am Holy Communion**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March – 3.30pm Mothering Sunday Service**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March – 9.30am Morning Worship**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday  
10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St Leonard's in Eynsham  
No service at St Peter's**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday  
2pm – Prayer at the Cross**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Sunday  
9.30am – Holy Communion**

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

If you have particular spiritual needs feel free to contact:

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

### **Snowdrops and more...**

So we made it through January and February, the gloomy months! Snowdrops have defiantly pushed through the very damp soil and have given us a whiff of forthcoming Spring - a yearly flowering of anticipation, built into the rhythm of nature, a living metaphor of hope. Snowdrops will be joined by daffodils, then bluebells and pansies and then away we go. Snowdrops are also a very helpful way to understand the nature of Christian hope, particularly the hope inspired by the Easter story (Can you believe that we will have passed Easter Day by the end of this month!). It is not the kind of hope we associate with wishful thinking, but the kind of hope we associate with snowdrops - spring is not a possibility but is assuredly on the way. Every funeral at St Peter's includes the words, "In sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead". That is the Easter Hope - it is an extraordinary hope and a bold claim. It's worth a bit of deeper thought next time you see a snowdrop, or a bluebell, or a daffodil....

every blessing,  
Duncan

### **Food Bank News**



Thank you for continuing 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.

Recently with heavy rains some days we have had to put the collecting box inside the church porch but, if so, the porch should be open during daylight hours for your donations. 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)

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.

# CHARITY FOCUS

## Bridewell Gardens



This year Bridewell's recovery service celebrates 30 years of creating a garden with and for people recovering from serious mental ill health. The beautiful walled garden and vineyard in Wilcote, West Oxfordshire have become an oasis, a place of recovery, of calm and hope. Working in the gardens, people find the time and space to rebuild confidence and hope for the future and to work towards next steps in our local communities.

Using social and therapeutic horticulture, the gardens provide structure, routine, opportunities for learning and trying new things, and most importantly a community of people with shared experiences, where you can be yourself.



Bridewell's team of staff and volunteers bring a wealth of experience from the NHS, social services, other charity backgrounds, a wide set of horticultural skills. The team help create a place that is supportive, non-judgemental, a haven for recovery. Literally seeing the fruits of your labour, in the annual grape harvest, in homemade jams and chutneys, with roasted veg and soups, working in the garden connects people with growing, with nature and the beautiful green spaces in our local environment.

Typically people access the recovery service for over a year, seeing and contributing to a full growing season in

the gardens, with time to find confidence and build strong connections with others. "This is the only place I've felt able to share my diagnosis. I don't feel judged."

The walled garden and vineyard are open to the public for our Open Days between 11am and 4pm on: Sunday 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 15th September. Pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake. High quality plants for sale, home produced jams and chutneys and our acclaimed organic sparkling wine. Make a day of it, bring a picnic blanket and relax in the vineyard with friends and family.



Speak to Bridewell staff about the recovery service and the support provided at the gardens. Dogs on leads are very welcome. Families and children are encouraged to explore the site. No booking required. Suggested donation £5 per person.

Thurs April 25th to Sat April 27th – Plant Sale 10am to 1pm: plants for sale in Bridewell's vineyard (the walled garden will not be open during the plant sale)



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## A timely dialogue between two generations



Having been fortunate enough to catch a previous performance from the “Oxford Platforms” at the fabulous Old Fire Station in Oxford, we were thrilled to be invited to see this staged reading of *Came with the Frame* by Mandy Constance. Oxford Platforms is a collaboration between the OFS and the Oxford Playwriting Course, run by the director of this performance, John Retallack. Constance has been

part of the course for three years and has already written two other full length plays, aside from tonight’s offering. She came to the course with a wealth of teaching, writing, and directing experience and her talent and heart is certainly evident in *Came with the Frame*.

The play is a two-hander focusing on the very unlikely pairing of 15-year old Kam and 70-year old Ruth. Somewhat thrown together due to a school project Kam has been assigned, the play delves into how two seemingly disparate people can learn from each other and ultimately forge an unusual yet hugely rewarding relationship from a situation that neither would ever have imagined would unfold as it does.

Renata Allen shines as Ruth, and after seeing her for the first time in Human Story Theatre’s *Lizzie on the Fence* a few weeks ago, I had already declared that I would happily watch her reading the Terms and Conditions on my mobile contract, and probably be completely emotionally invested. Her portrayal of the stubborn 70-year old living alone in her sparse retirement-home flat is witty, wholesome and quite frankly, brilliant.

Holding her own against Allen’s polished performance, Bella Vickers plays Kam with pitch-perfect accuracy; that arrogance and spunk that hides a childlike fragility of a lost 15-year old trying to figure out who they are and where they fit into the world. The two together are so absorbing to watch, the fact that this was a staged reading was irrelevant – the combination of Constance’s acerbic, witty but ultimately authentic (and hugely relevant) writing united with these two stand-out performances made the scripts inconspicuous.

Add into the mix the subtle music, with the use of classical covers of modern pop songs (notably Robyn’s 2010 song *Dancing on my Own*) for scene changes and intro/outro music and *Came with the Frame* is a tale of our times, proving that while young people may not have all the answers, neither do the older generation, but somewhere in the middle perhaps we can all learn something from each other.

Thank you to Sophie Francis and the Daily Information <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/> for letting us use their review.

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# Burns Night

Cassington Village Hall 27 January 2024

Cassington threw off the winter blues last month to celebrate Burn's Night. Much tartan was worn, haggis consumed, whisky drank and Scottish accents heard (some more authentic than others!)

Laid out for a feast, the hall was decorated with flags and saltires, and the evening led in true Scottish fashion by a kilted Ron Macdonald who began the night with a welcome and the Selkirk Grace. Ron and Adie Gregory, who ably provided the musical accompaniment for the evening, then led us in a rousing rendition of 'Wild Rover' before we enjoyed a hot Scotch broth.



The Haggis, that "great chieftain o' the puddin' race" was duly piped in and the 'Address to the Haggis' recited. Written by Burns to celebrate his appreciation of the haggis, he would certainly have been impressed with this one, accompanied with the customary 'bashit neeps an' champit tatties', it was absolutely delicious. The

meal ended with a delicious Cranachan (a mixture of oats in whisky with raspberries, honey and whipped cream - recipe please Sara!)

The meal was punctuated by more singing, regular visits to the bar, and followed by the traditional speeches and toasts. Ron gave us the 'Immortal Memory' reminding us of the origins of Burns Night, a celebration of the life and legacy of Rabbe Burns (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796) whose short life was packed with incident and adventure, of his poems on everyday life, women and drink in 18th century Scotland, and that his impressive legacy included a massive family (12 children!) including a child who was born on the day of his funeral.



We were then treated to Steve Dey's impressive recitation from memory of Burns' poem 'Tam O'Shanter', one of



the world's longest narrative poems at 228 lines, including many choice phrases worth remembering such as 'She tauld thee weel thou was a skellum, A bletherin, blusterin, drunken blellum'

and 'Whare sits our sulky, sullen dame, Gathering her brows like gathering storm, Nursing her wrath to keep it warm.'

Tony Foley was nominated to deliver the 'Toast to the Lassies' and, keeping true to his mantra of 'why use 5 words when 25 will do', entertained us with his tributes to some of the wonderful 'Cassy Lassies' and the vital role women play in relationships, families and communities. As Rabbe himself said "A woman can make an average man great, and a great man average."

The Reply to the 'Toast to the Lassies' was given by Nav Dey. I'm sure her hilarious description of a typical morning in a family resonated with a lot of us and sensitively reminded us that although accolades are appreciated there is still work to be done. As Rabbe said: 'While Europe's eye is fix'd on mighty things, The fate of empires and the fall of kings; While quacks of State must each produce his plan, And even children lisp the Rights of Man; Amid this mighty fuss just let me mention, The Rights of Woman merit some attention.'

The evening ended with 'Auld Lang Syne' derived from a poem penned by Burns in 1788. It felt so good to be in our village hall, surrounded by our neighbours and friends sharing a fun time together reminding us of the importance of community. On behalf of the village, a huge 'thank you' to all involved: to Ron, our master of ceremonies; Adie, our minstrel; Stew, Graham, Jan and Sara, our chefs; and to all those behind the scenes who helped make the event such a success ... kitchen helpers, bar keepers, servers, hall decorators, shoppers, clearer-uppers, promoters, money counters ... When is the next one please?

Donations for the Playground Equipment are appreciated . Please see the article on the front page for details of how to donate. As Burns said ' Now's the day and now's the hour'.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Cranachan

#### Ingredients

570ml/1 pint double cream

85g/3oz porridge oats

7 tbsp whisky

3 tbsp honey

450g/1lb raspberries - (fresh or frozen are cheaper)

fresh mint, to garnish

#### Method

Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them. Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries. Serve in dessert glasses garnished with raspberries and mint. Do not make it too far in advance or the oats will go soggy!

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## **CHURCHFIELDS NEWS**

February was a month filled with fun, laughter and creativity, here at Churchfields care home.



The month kicked off with some lively music, as residents enjoyed learning to play the kazoo. We may not be professional musicians, but we certainly had a lot of fun trying! And what better way to follow up a musical session than with some delicious homemade rice crispy cakes? They were so

good, they didn't last long!

We were thrilled to be able to head back to the pub for a social afternoon of coffee, drinks, and a quiz. It was a great opportunity to catch up with friends, new and old, and test out our quiz skills. For those who preferred a quieter afternoon, a trip to Cassington Cafe for a cup of tea and cake was the perfect way to spend their time.



February also saw us unleash our inner artists, getting creative with clay to make adorable hedgehog ornaments. These little hedgehogs are sure to bring a smile to everyone's face. Our furry friend Lucy came to visit us at Churchfields and put a smile on everyone's faces!



pampering. And to top it all off, we spent an afternoon filling the home with pops of colour by arranging beautiful flowers.

At Churchfields, we believe that every day is an opportunity to create new memories and experiences. February has been a month filled with laughter, creativity, and social connection, and we're already looking forward to seeing what March has in store!



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.



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

Cassington Parish Council met on 1st February 2024.  
The Clerk gave her report.

**Elms Road Ditch** – Awaiting to hear back from Blenheim with regards to the ditch and the balance pond.

**VAS Machines** – Still waiting to hear back from Highways with regards to the removal of the VAS machine along Elms Road and also Yarnton Road. The Parish Council are looking at purchasing a moveable VAS to be put in the village.

**Resignation of Adrian Tyler** – The Parish Council have asked the Clerk to contact the other tenders that submitted before to see if they would like to retender. The Clerk to contact Ubico to see if their tender still stood.

Reports from County and District & Parish Councillors  
County Councillor - Dan Levy

Key activity at County Hall has been handling the floods, preparing the budget and continuing the transformation of services for children with special educational needs.

**Flooding:** Although the Eynsham Division was mostly unscathed by the recent floods, with the exception of a few areas, other parts of the county were less fortunate. There will be a cross-agency process to improve on flood preparedness and responses.

**A40 update:** Homes England, who are the source or the bulk of the funding for the A40 scheme, are still in discussions with the County Council about the level and timing of that funding, and hence the project appearing to be making no progress.

**Botley Road:** We are in continual discussion with Network Rail who say the works are still on schedule to permit the reopening of Botley Road to motor vehicles in October.

**Fix my Street:** It is likely that the recent wet weather and the current cold spell will lead to an increase in the number and size of holes. Please use Fix my Street to report these.

**Botley West Solar Farm:** The current phase of consultation is reaching its conclusion. The County Council will be providing comments to the developer, as required. This will focus on those areas for which the County Council has primary responsibility, including highways and flooding. I think it safe to say that, among other things, it was noticeable that the consultation evidence provided by PVDP was inadequate. I was particularly unimpressed by the vagueness of cable routing options.

It was disappointing to read in the local media untruths about the position of my party with regards to the Solar Farm. It is not supported by me or my party, and I know that other members of the party, including the MP for the place where the substation might be and our candidate for the new parliamentary constituency, have also made this clear. I don't normally include party politics in my reports as councillor, and hope this will continue to be possible. As ever, please contact me on [dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

District Councillors – Dan Levy

No response from the High Court judicial review for Salt Cross. The Inspectorate advised that they couldn't use zero net carbon, but this was taken on by an action group.

Parish Councillors – Cllr Metcalf asked about the Defib location number that was brought up by a member of the public – The Clerk will contact Circuit and SCAS to see if they have the location code or know where we might find it.

Cllr King & Cllr Mills received an email from a resident with regards to the Speedwatch Signs as they feel that there are too many in the village. Cllr Mills will respond

Cllr King went to the Kidlington Airport meeting – Glare, electromagnetic issues and they would like a corridor in the solar farm for take off and landing in the case of an accident. They have also asked for evidence from the solar farm that it would not be an issue.

**Ditches, Drainage and Flooding** – Cllr Rogers advised that there had been a team of volunteers that had cleared the ditch behind the Pavilion. He would like to thank everyone who helped out.

### Traffic

- Speed Watch - Replacement of Speed Watch sign – Ron is going to look for a replacement and will advise the clerk.
- Speed Indicators – The Parish Council are looking at purchasing a new VAS Machine after April and are working with the Speed Watch Group as to where it would need to be put.
- Traffic Calming – The Parish Council would like this on the agenda and are working with the Speedwatch Group so that we have the correct information when we go to OCC.

### Play Area & Recreation Ground

Replacement Playground Equipment

Fund Raiser last week raised £1500 – Blenheim have agreed to make donation. A member of the public has advised that we contact the contractor for the A40 as before they offered help and also a donation. Cllr Levy will email the Clerk contact details.

**Church Yard and Burial Grounds** – Clerk to check with Land Registry who owns the land for the Burial Ground. The Parish Council will discuss before the meeting between the Parish Council and The PCC.

### Questions from the Public

Member of the public asked about the stile on Bell Lane.

Dan asked Clerk to email him, and he will chase.

A Member of the public has advised that there are suckers growing round the trees. Could these be cleared.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th March 2024 @7.30pm in the Village Hall

### 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)

Clerk contact details: Mrs Tracey Cameron

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

## New Parliamentary Boundaries

The Boundary Commission for England has completed a review of Parliamentary constituencies which will impact communities in the West Oxfordshire District at the next General Election. Changes to the Parliamentary boundaries mean that West Oxfordshire District will now form part of three parliamentary constituencies, rather than the one it currently does.

Approximately 17,800 voters from West Oxfordshire will form part of the Bicester and Woodstock Constituency and will be led by the Acting Returning Officer for Cherwell District Council in conjunction with the Electoral Registration Officer for West Oxfordshire District Council. The District wards affected within West Oxfordshire are: Eynsham and Cassington, Freeland and Hanborough, North Leigh, Stonesfield and Tackley, Woodstock and Bladon.

The Boundary Commission started their review in 2021 and the changes were approved at the end of 2023 so they will come into effect for the next General Election. The changes do not affect the boundaries for any wards for council elections or National Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and will have no impact on council services.

The full report from the Boundary Commission including the final recommendations can be found here <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>



## Begbroke Bowls Club

The Bowls playing year will begin again in Begbroke in May with Friday evening practice a time to welcome in new players. And so thinking over your own activity levels – is Bowls a game that could attract you this summer? The club is needing to bring in more players and we would very much welcome fresh interest from the local area, including Cassington residents. There is no age or any other discriminatory barrier.



The social club on Fridays at the Begbroke Village Hall is an integral part of Bowls Club activity and members enjoy appropriate pricing on all refreshment. Please turn up and talk through the possibilities; we have members who would be only too pleased to assist you in learning or improving participation of the game.

Continuing throughout the spring months is the annual maintenance regime which sees the green-keepers cut, feed and scarify the grass and also maintain equipment; thanks go to all those who give their time so freely. The club ethos is friendly enjoyment of time together outdoors, sharing and developing skills – we look forward to welcoming you there.

Our pre-season players' meeting is March 22nd – please check out the website for further information. <http://begbrokebowlsclub.co.uk>

  
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# Updates on 'Botley West'



## Re-run demanded! PVDP Community Consultation: 'shamefully inadequate'

PVDP's Community Consultation for the Botley West Utility-Scale Solar Power Station **ended on 8th February.**

**Stop Botley West is demanding a re-run of the consultation because of the inadequacies** of the developer's latest attempt - which critics have branded as 'shamefully inadequate' - saying the in-person meetings consisted of "generalised claims", a lack of "objective, independently verified answers", "misleading visuals" and "a complete lack of experts" to answer technical questions.

Our local MP, Conservative Witney and West Oxfordshire MP Robert Courts said residents were **"quite rightly furious"** about the consultation and "the lack of objectivity, and detailed independent answers to questions on land use and special circumstances".

He said: **"In my view, this consultation must be restarted**, with the appropriate level of detail and objectivity included – and with a real readiness to listen to and act on the well-founded concerns that residents rightly have." CPRE have added their voice to the demands that the community consultation be repeated.

**In Hanborough it was particularly difficult and highly unlikely for working people and families to attend the community consultation event which was held on a Wednesday afternoon by the developer (at 1-5pm on 13th December).**

Despite requests from our MP, West Oxfordshire District Council and Stop Botley West amongst others to delay until the new year, the event went ahead during the busy Christmas run-in, alongside events in three other villages. Astonishingly, residents in Combe **didn't even get any consultation leaflets delivered** despite being less than 2km from the site.

**A big "thank you" for completing the Stop Botley West questionnaire**

Thank you to the 1,300+ local people who completed the Stop Botley West questionnaire about whether the consultation has been adequate and useful for you. Stop Botley West will give the results of their questionnaire to both Parish and District Councils so that this can form part of the Adequacy of Consultation Statement provided to the Planning Inspectorate by our District Councils. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

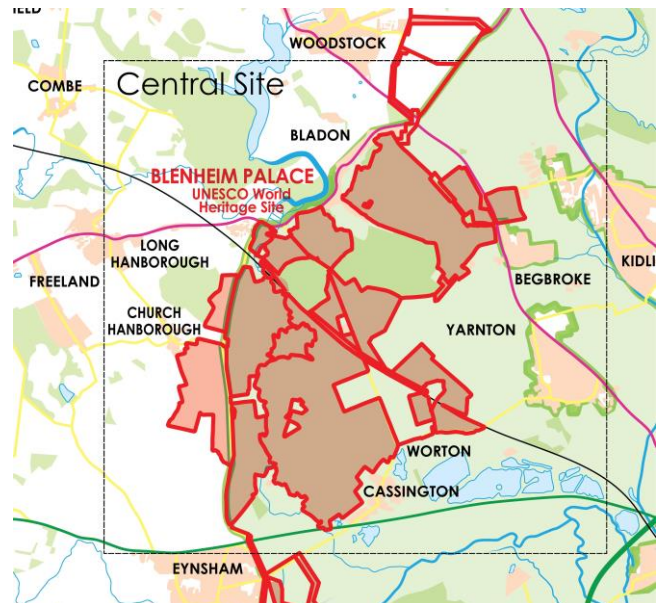
## IT'S NOT TOO LATE - JOIN THE CALL FOR THE DEVELOPER TO REPEAT THE CONSULTATION:

**Please write a letter/email requesting that the consultation is re-run** to correct the errors and omissions in this one. Don't send this letter/email to PVDP but to your MP, District Councillors, Council leader Andy Graham, Principal Planning Officer Andrew Thomson and the Inspectorate themselves:

- Your MP [robert@robertcourts.co.uk](mailto:robert@robertcourts.co.uk)
- Leader of WODC [andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk)
- WODC Principal Planning Officer [andrew.thomson@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.thomson@westoxon.gov.uk)
- The Planning Inspectorate [botleywestsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:botleywestsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

These are the most important. For others, go to SBW website [stopbotleywest.com](http://stopbotleywest.com) where there's a full list of other councillors as well as ideas of what to say and a sample pro forma letter. Visit [stopbotleywest.com](http://stopbotleywest.com) and register for updates.

(Map used by kind permission © [elaine.m.leggett@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.m.leggett@gmail.com))





## Circular Walk: Eynsham No. 3 – South Leigh

Approximately 6 miles (9.6km)



TL= Turn Left FL = Fork Left BL = Bear Left  
TR = Turn Right FR = Fork Right BR = Bear Right

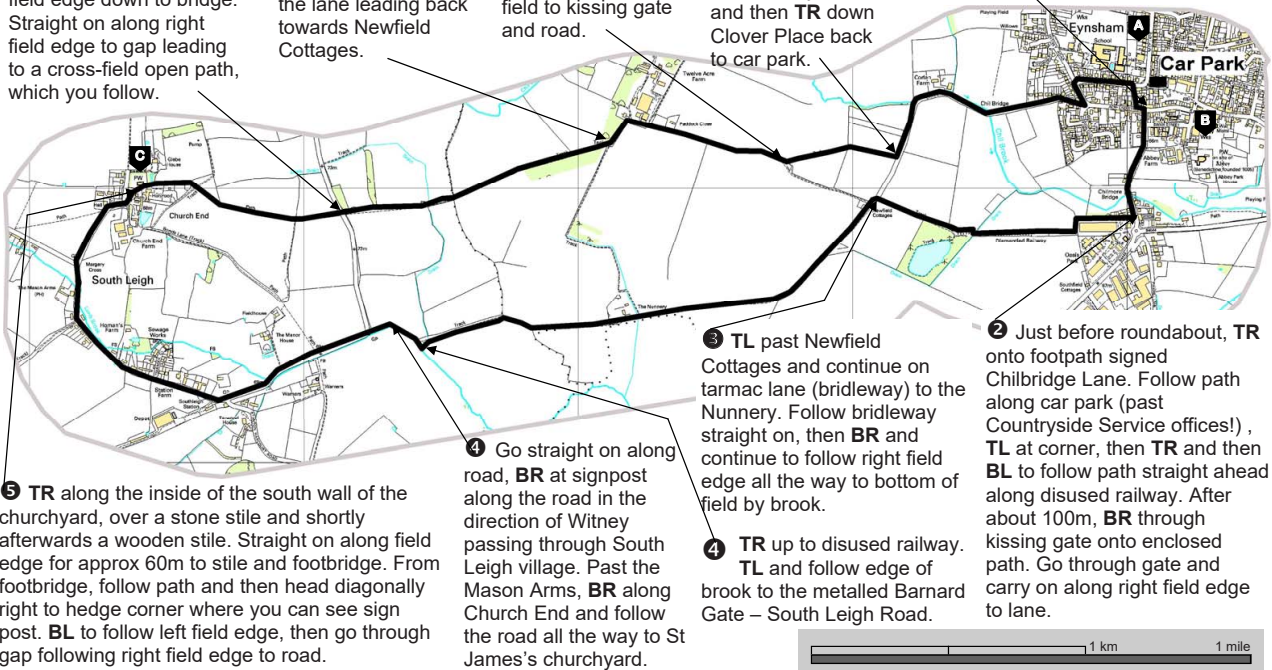
6 Cross road to footpath opposite, following left field edge down to bridge. Straight on along right field edge to gap leading to a cross-field open path, which you follow.

7 TL onto farm track and then TR passing barn on your left to the lane leading back towards Newfield Cottages.

8 BL 100m before cottages and cross field to gap in hedge. Cross diagonally over next field to kissing gate and road.

9 TL along Chilbridge Road. At roundabout, TL onto Witney Road and then TR down Clover Place back to car park.

1 Leave car park by car exit and go straight on along Clover Place. TL very soon down a narrow walled footpath to Acre End Street. TL, then TR into Station Rd.



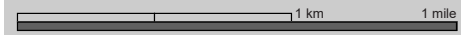
5 TR along the inside of the south wall of the churchyard, over a stone stile and shortly afterwards a wooden stile. Straight on along field edge for approx 60m to stile and footbridge. From footbridge, follow path and then head diagonally right to hedge corner where you can see sign post. BL to follow left field edge, then go through gap following right field edge to road.

4 Go straight on along road, BR at signpost along the road in the direction of Witney passing through South Leigh village. Past the Mason Arms, BR along Church End and follow the road all the way to St James's churchyard.

3 TL past Newfield Cottages and continue on tarmac lane (bridleway) to the Nunnery. Follow bridleway straight on, then BR and continue to follow right field edge all the way to bottom of field by brook.

4 TR up to disused railway. TL and follow edge of brook to the metalled Barnard Gate – South Leigh Road.

2 Just before roundabout, TR onto footpath signed Chilbridge Lane. Follow path along car park (past Countryside Service offices!), TL at corner, then TR and then BL to follow path straight ahead along disused railway. After about 100m, BR through kissing gate onto enclosed path. Go through gate and carry on along right field edge to lane.



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### Woodstock and District u3a

Having enjoyed an in-depth appreciation of Royal Art and the Treasures from the Kings Collection, which was the February speaker meeting, we look forward to Unnatural Selection; Evolution at the hand of man on Thursday 7th March.



U3a is aimed at folk no longer in full time employment with daytime hours available to participate in community based activity or interest groups. Membership fee is moderate and gives access to the monthly speaker meeting as well as the interest groups which develop around demand and members' willingness to share their expertise and learning. We have new groups commencing – photography, Mahjong, and theatre – do check out the website for further information. [www.woodstocku3a.uk](http://www.woodstocku3a.uk)

The financial year commences on 1 April meanwhile visitors are welcome to the members' speaker meetings charged at £2 to include light refreshment. Doors open at 1.45 for 2pm speaker at St Hugh's Church Hall, Hensington Road, Woodstock; we look forward to welcoming you here. Sue Blackshaw – Chair Woodstock & District u3a

### Cassington Cafe

The Cassington Cafe will take place in the village hall on the first Thursday mornings in the month at 10am. The dates for 2024 are: March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, NOT August, Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7 and December 5.

### Oxfordshire's Fix My Street app



The Fix My Street app, which allows residents to report potholes, faulty streetlights and a host of other street defects and queries, has been updated. The number of categories has been streamlined and split into sub-categories to make it easier for people to find the section they are looking for. The Fix My Street app can be found on Oxfordshire County Council's website.

The changes are aimed at reducing the number of reports sent to the wrong department or council, which can delay the problem being resolved. More than 1,000 reports are made to Fix My Street every week, with users encouraged to include photographs of the defect to help the inspectors.



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## BLenheim PALACE

### **Easter Eggstravaganza at Blenheim Palace - 29th March - 1st April**

Visit Blenheim Palace for a perfect family day out during the 2024 Easter weekend (Friday 29th March - 1st April). Hop along to the Walled Garden to enjoy a whole host of egg-citing activities including circus skills, balloon modelling, bubble performances and a travelling vintage variety show, not to mention appearances from none other than the Easter Bunny throughout the weekend too. Keep little ones busy with our giant wicker Easter egg hunt around the grounds, complete with a Hotel Chocolat treat at the end.

Visit the Walled Garden Pizzeria to refuel with a delicious wood-fired pizza, and if you're after even more indulgence don't forget to stop off at the Hotel Chocolat Chocmobile for some sweet treats!



## BLenheim ESTATE

As the evenings gradually turn lighter and the weather a little milder, you may have noticed the first signs of spring appearing in the Parkland and surrounding areas. Sprinklings of snowdrops have already begun to spring and it won't be long until blossoming of bluebells and drifts of daffodils are on the way. We kindly ask that during your visit you refrain from picking the wildflowers so that we can ensure their continued growth and reproduction, allowing future generations of visitors to enjoy them and to support the biodiversity of the Parkland. In other news, our Butterfly House will soon be re-opening for spring. The Gardening Team have been busy making improvements over the past few months such as replacing the stonework as well as adding benches and more butterfly-friendly foliage.

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

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

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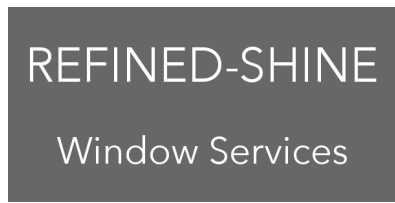


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## TEA TIME TEASER

This month we have expressions and sayings to do with music. Answers next month

1. P I again S
2. T blow Y O T
3. T F while R B
4. T H are A W T S O M
5. T H O about S
6. T face T M
7. S P L H club B
8. T L N O the P

Answers to last month's partners of famous lovers

1. Juliet
2. Mark Anthony
3. Rhett Butler
4. Elizabeth Bennett ( also Bridget Jones!)
5. Adolf Hitler
6. Abraham Lincoln
7. Clyde Barrow
8. Eloise

## SPEEDWATCH

The Cassington Speedwatch group held 3 sessions in January (2 sessions were cancelled due to bad weather or holiday). They reported the following to the Police.

No. of sessions:	3
Total number of vehicles:	411
No. of offending vehicles:	43
Between 25mph & 30mph:	29
Between 31mph & 40 mph	14
Over 40 mph:	0
Highest offender:	38 mph

The Cassington Speedwatch group try to meet at least twice a week to record speeding vehicles, in an attempt to make the road through this village safer for pedestrians, especially the young and the old. If you would like to help with this task, even if you can only do a few sessions each month, timed round your availability, then please contact Ron Macdonald at [cassington.speedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cassington.speedwatch@gmail.com)

## OBSERVATION

by Stephen Wright

A recent trip back home to Cassington saw me visit the John Radcliffe Hospital for a Crohn's Disease check up. I went for a blood test where the trainee nurse taped me up like a Christmas present, before collecting the items needed for a stool sample.

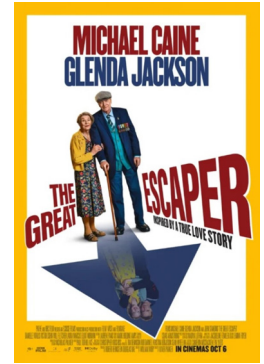
Mum decided that an empty Flora butter box would be sufficient to assist with the sampling, but that really put me off having Nutella on toast.

Curry isn't supposed to help these concerns, but I was recently reminded that St Albans boasts 'Tom Cruise's favourite Indian.' Jenna is my favourite Indian, but perhaps a takeaway from Deer Vhaha could be my second favourite.

Sadly, as nice as it was, it didn't enable me to drive a motorcycle off of a cliff before parachuting through a train window.

## FILM

The film on Friday 8th March is the Great Escaper. It follows the adventures of D-Day veteran, former Royal Navy Lieutenant Bernie Jordan (Michael Caine), who in 2014 sneaked out of his East Sussex care home to travel to Normandy to pay his respects on the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. He told his carers he was "popping to the shops" but instead walked to Brighton railway station, travelled to Portsmouth and bought a one-way ferry ticket to Caen, sparking a police search for him.



Back in 2014, Bernie said, "In the months leading up to the anniversary I was trying to get an official trip to Normandy but I didn't have the necessary passes. Then, the day before D-Day I saw all the TV coverage and thought, "I have to go and be part of it." I was naughty and secretive." He died a year later, aged 90, and his wife Irene, or Rene (Glenda Jackson) died just a week later.

## Oxfordshire military museum celebrates



## International Women's Day 2024

A new permanent display at the museum tells the story of women in the armed forces, from the Great War to more recent conflicts in Bosnia and Afghanistan. Living historians Tastes Through Time will visit the museum with displays that provide insight into the lives of women on the home front and in auxiliary forces during the Second World War.

A talk from Blenheim Palace's archivist, Antonia Keaney, will tell the stories of the Ladies of Blenheim - often overlooked in favour of the men - on Saturday 9 March 2024. A talk from Richard Poad MBE, of the Air Transport Auxiliary Museum, will tell the stories of the inspiring women of the ATA on Sunday 10 March 2024.

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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# what's on?

## Dates for your diary

### March 2024

Sat 2nd 7.30pm	Red Lion Quiz
Wed 6th 7.30pm	Quiz night at the Chequers
Thurs 7th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 7th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Fri 8th 7.30pm	Film "The Great Escaper"
Sat 9th 7pm - midnight	Sound Hog disco - the Chequers
Sun 10th 3.30pm	Mothering Sunday Service with tea
Thurs 12th 7.30pm	Bike Night meet in the Chequers
Wed 20th	April CAWN deadline
Sat 23rd 10am	Spring cleaning the church
Sun 31st	Easter Day
Sun 31st 1am	Clocks go forward - start of summer time!

### April 2024

Thurs 4th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 4th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat 20th	May CAWN deadline



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[Ruth.bakewell@googlemail.com](mailto:Ruth.bakewell@googlemail.com)

Thanks xx



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)

## 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.

## Gardening Tips for March



- Prune bush and climbing roses
- Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control
- Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- Start feeding fish and using pond fountains



The Village Hall has had a change of Booking Clerk so if you need to book the hall please email [Cassingtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:Cassingtonvillagehall@gmail.com) or contact Carolyn Hinton on 07747 621597