

THE DRAGON

December 2023



Welcome to your monthly round up of news/events in Ogbourne St George.

Village Hall Update

Grant Helps Ogbourne St George Village Hall

At last, the fantastic community of Ogbourne St George can be celebrating the news that the Village Hall has received a £4,800 funding boost from the Hills Group Ltd. The money has been made available through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), which is administered for Hills by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire.

You have all been helping the Trustees to raise enough money by supporting various events over the last five years. This grant means that after 40 years the Village Hall has been repainted and has had double-glazed windows fitted to improve heat retention.

The Chair of Trustees, Colin Jeffery, thanked both Hills and Community First for this grant and looks forward to welcoming representatives to the Village Hall soon.

Halloween Quiz Review

We were delighted to welcome such a strong turnout for our rearranged Halloween Quiz last month. Congratulations to winning team 'Oggy Bottom' whose Parish Council knowledge may well have tipped the balance in their favour. And who knew that chocolate bar wrappers could cause such heated debate! We raised a much needed £450 which will be crucial in keeping the Hall going, so a big thank you to everyone who came to join in the fun on the night and for your generosity. Thank you also to those villagers who could not attend on the evening but still made donations.

The Village Hall Committee wishes you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year, unless you are at one of our functions when you can let your hair down and make as much noise as you like!!

Parish Council News

The Parish Council thanks everyone who sent in their feedback to last month's dual requests for ideas for leisure and recreation facilities for the teenagers and young people of the village, as well as usage of the two bus stops on the A346 by Whitefield Farm. It's not too late to get in touch with your ideas and suggestions, which you can do by contacting the Parish Council on parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

By the time you read this, our Christmas Tree Lights Switch on will have happened at the Inn with the Well. The Parish Council thanks everyone who helped to make this popular seasonal event happen, as well as Megan and Mike Shaw for hosting the event at the pub.

The next Parish Council Meeting is at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Thursday 11 January 2024.

Ogbourne Motor Group

Kevin Howard updates us on the Ogbourne Motor Group. The group continues to grow, and it was good to welcome Nick Parsons from Ogbourne St Andrew with his Hotchkiss Jeep. We're always happy to welcome more people with even a passing interest in the joys of classic cars, so feel free to pass on the word to anyone with such an interest.

A few of us went to the Classic Car Show in November, though personal commitments meant we travelled separately. This is the biggest show dedicated to running and maintaining old classic cars, and it did not disappoint. Sam was on the Bristol stand, Brian on the Atwell-Wilson stand, and I met old friends on the Jensen stand. It was a busy show with a lot going on – even on the Friday. There was something for everyone from Trabants to Triumphs, Austins to Aston Martins. Even a Morris Minor Traveller for £30k! Old cars seem to be back in fashion.

We meet on Thursdays from 7pm at the Inn with the Well, and our next get together is on 7 December, and the first meeting in the New Year will be on 11 January 2024.

In the meantime, I wish you all a merry Christmas and happy motoring into 2024.

The Inn with the Well

Food & Drink Update

- Fish Fridays are back with fish and chips on sale every Friday from 4.30-8.30pm. Eat in or take away. Small portion £7.00, medium portion £9.50.
- Christmas beers this year will be Rosey Nosey and Christmoose.
- Real ale will be paused in January, February and March as the lack of demand means that sadly we are throwing away over half a barrel a week.

Upcoming Events

- Friday 15 Dec: Children's Christmas Supper and Santa party from 4.30-6.30pm. £10 per child including a gift. Please book with name and age of child and advise if they have any allergies.
- Sun 24 Dec: Christmas Eve Sing-Along from 6pm

Opening Hours

- Dec, Jan & Feb: Wednesday to Saturday 4-10pm unless stated below.
- Mon 25 & Tues 26 Dec: Closed for Christmas
- Sat 10 Feb: Closed for Private Party
- Sun 11-20 Feb: Closed for Celtic Capers

Please visit www.theinnwiththewell.co.uk for up-to-date events and deals.

The Inn with the Well wishes all villagers and supporters a happy Christmas.

Old Wellonians

The Old Wellonians completed the next phase of their Ridgeway Walk by tackling the Uffington to Ogbourne leg. Listening to the walkers they braved some gale force winds and horizontal rain, but all pronounced the aches and pains worth it!

The next leg will be Letcombe Regis, details to follow in the New Year.

School Report

Oaks Reading

Mrs Nicholson writes about Oaks (Year 1/2) who have started to read the book, 'The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark' by Jill Tomlinson. We are using this as a stimulus for our writing each day. Plop is a barn owl who is the same as every barn owl that has ever been, except for one thing - he is afraid of the dark!

We have reached the part where Plop visits a boy at a campfire to ask his opinion of the dark. In preparation for writing the campfire scene, Oaks enjoyed a campfire in our classroom with hot cocoa, songs, stories and games. A lovely way to finish a busy, busy week.

Willows and Poplars Cricket Festival

Two teams of Willows (Year 3/4) and Poplars (Year 5/6) attended the Wiltshire Cricket 'Dynamos Cricket Competition' at Marlborough Leisure Centre. Mrs Sharland accompanied them and was extremely proud of how well the teams played, as well as their excellent sportsmanship.

Poplars won all three of their games, making them the overall winners of the competition. Well done to all the players. We would like to thank Mrs Futchter, Mr Sharland, Mr Tapper and Mr Ward who supported at this event.

Acorns Celebrations

Throughout this term Acorns (our class of 4-5 yr olds) have been looking at all kinds of different celebrations. During their work on Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, they studied and created some beautiful Rangoli patterns with coloured rice and made some precious Diva lamps, using salt dough.

Fun Club

Mrs Allen writes that over the last couple of weeks Fun Club have enjoyed some outdoor play during the first hour after school before it gets too dark. Pupils have also been using their creative skills to make items including loom band bracelets, pom poms, paper cup creations and other junk modelling ideas ready for the Christmas display we are creating over the next few weeks. We also had a selection of colouring activities for 'Odd Sock Day' and 'Children in Need'.

Little Dragons

Our Autumn party was a huge success. Delayed due to the repainting of the Village Hall, we finally celebrated on Bonfire Night! There were lots of games, singing and dancing, and the children loved getting dressed up in their favourite costumes.

They have also enjoyed learning about 'Children in Need', and a week was dedicated to raising money for this very worthwhile charity. The children wore their pyjamas, enjoyed more dressing up and did lots of baking. We even had a shout out on local radio. Kate Crocker did a great job of raising the profile of the Little Dragons and supporting 'Children in Need'.

Christmas is coming, and the children are starting to prepare the hall, decorating the tree, and enjoying lots of glitter. There will be a parents' lunch soon, and the term will end with a Christmas party and raffle. The staff and children of Little Dragon would like to wish our local community a very Happy Christmas!

Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on 17 January 2024 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm when the subject is "The Home Front in World War 2". Bill King will talk about what was happening at home with campaigns like 'Dig for Victory', the activities of the Home Guard, Air Raid Wardens, and the Land Army in which many women took up manufacturing jobs and farm work in place of men who had been called up for the armed services.

Ogbourne Downs Golf Club

Sat 9 Dec: Children's Christmas Party. Tickets must be booked in advance over the bar.

Sun 17 Dec: Christmas Lunch. Table bookings are being taken by the clubhouse team.

Looking ahead to 2024, there will be a Mexican themed quiz night on Sat 20 January, with great Mexican food and fancy dress, so dig out your Sombreros and test your knowledge.

December & January Church Services

10 Dec, Advent 2, 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)

17 Dec, Advent 3, 4.00pm, Carol Service

24 Dec, Christmas Eve, 4pm, Christingle; 9pm, Communion by Candlelight

25 Dec, Christmas Day, 10.00am, Christmas Service

31 Dec, Christmas 1, 10.30am, Benefice Communion in Chiseldon

7 Jan, Epiphany, 10.00am, Cafe Church

14 Jan, Epiphany 2, 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)

21 Jan, Epiphany 3, 10.30am, Zoom Service

28 Jan, Candlemas, 6.00pm, Evensong (BCP)

100 Club Winners

Congratulations to the latest 100 Club winners:

October: 1st J Homes. 2nd G Crawshaw.

November: 1st P Frost. 2nd J Thierren.

Autumn Church Maintenance Morning

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Autumn Church Maintenance Morning in November. Despite the miserable weather twelve volunteers turned up. We worked inside and out, and the church is looking better for some TLC. We will meet again in the Spring.

Messages from the Village

Thank you to Frank who has cleared the straight footpath out of the village, down to the A346, of brambles and stinging nettles allowing it to be used again. Prior to that, the clear lack of maintenance was forcing people to walk on the road and take their chances with navigating buses and other vehicles. Very dangerous!

Message from the Editor

The Dragon will take a short break in January 2024 and return from February onwards. As Editor I would like to thank everyone who has sent in news and contributions during 2023 and for all the feedback. Thank you to the Parish Council for its continuing support, to Tim for the excellent printing, and to the team of reliable local volunteers who deliver it to your homes throughout the year, come rain or shine. I couldn't do it without you all!

To include your village news in The Dragon and/or to receive a copy by email, please write to the Editor, Claire Heald, on osgdragon22@gmail.com