

THE DRAGON

March 2024



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

It's the Year of the Dragon!

Those of you who keep any eye on the international calendar will be aware that Lunar New Year is being celebrated, notably throughout East Asia and China, and 2024 ushers in the Year of the Dragon. We could not miss this opportunity to look into our namesake!

The Dragon is the only mythical creature among the twelve animals of the zodiac which represent the Chinese calendar, and its image comes from elements of other animals, including the body of a snake and the scales of a fish. The Dragon is an auspicious being in Chinese culture, and Chinese people traditionally consider themselves to be its descendants. It is therefore more respected than the often fire-breathing villain prevalent in Western fairy tales.

The Dragon represents luck, power and success, and people born in the Dragon years of 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012 and 2024 share these qualities. It is particularly significant at this time of year as it is the guardian spirit of the Eastern direction, so it looks towards the rising sun, the new year and springtime.

As the Dragon is such an important creature in Chinese culture, the Year of the Dragon is regarded as very special. Those born this year are expected to be strong and successful, but for everyone it is a symbol of good fortune and a time of visionary leaders, innovators and problem solvers. We could do with some of those this year!

Ogbourne Motor Group

Ogbourne Motor Group continues to welcome new members – the more of us that meet, the more varied the conversation. We are not all about old cars as we have some knowledgeable members that have worked in the industry and share some valuable perspective and insight.

Our February gathering saw our conversation range from the benefits of EV ownership, the joys of small cars and the future of automotive power. It makes for some interesting discussion and some practical advice, so if you are curious about motoring of any style then you are very welcome to join us for a drink and a chat at the Inn with the Well each month. The next meeting will be on Thursday 7 March from 7pm. See you there.

The Inn with the Well

- March: Open from Wednesday to Saturday
- 1 March: St David's Day celebration
- 2 March: Inn closed as we are doing a Pub trip to Devizes. Leave the Inn at 6pm return 11pm. Fare £5 per person. Jenny will be our consultant!
- 7 March: Ogbourne Motor Group from 7pm
- 9 March: Open from 2pm for Six Nations rugby: 2.15pm Italy v Scotland.4.45pm England v Ireland
- 10 March: Mothering Sunday lunch. Mains £18. 2 courses £23. Booking essential.
- 16 March: Six Nations Super Saturday. Open from 2pm when all 3 matches to be shown. Bring your flags!
- Easter Sunday and 4-9 April: Closed

Spring Jumble Sale

On Saturday 27 April there will be a jumble sale in Ogbourne School Hall from 10am in aid of the Village Hall, the Church and Prospect Hospice. We need volunteers to help, so if you can spare some time either on the Friday from 5pm or on the Saturday, please contact Lesley on 07775 517138 or Colin on 01672 841485. We need good quality jumble please! Clothes, handbags, jewellery, bric-a-brac - anything in a good, saleable condition that you don't need anymore. So start having a clear out. Your jumble can be left at:

- 8 Jubbs Lane (right hand garage)
- Inside the Church from 23 April onwards
- At the school from 5pm on Friday 26 April

Or call Lesley on the number above and we can arrange collection.

Meet Your Village Hall Committee

Continuing the series of interviews with residents who dedicate their spare time to running our local institutions as volunteers, this month we introduce you to the members of the Village Hall Committee.

Meet Colin Jeffery

Chair of the Village Hall Committee, Colin Jeffery has lived in OSG for 22 years and served on the Committee for over five years, since retiring from a career at Nationwide Building Society.

He particularly values the opportunity being on the Committee gives him to be part of a team, and he is most proud of what that team has achieved in recent years. That includes devising and agreeing a renovation programme that resulted in a substantial £10,000 grant from the Lottery Fund to complete the first phase. This was followed by pushing hard to win a second commercial grant to enable the much-needed repainting of the Hall exterior in 40 years. This was despite the trials and tribulations of the pandemic severely limiting what funds were available for such projects.

He also cites ‘the amazing work put in by the Trustees to put on some great events and the support from many people in our village to ensure their success, because without this effort, we wouldn’t have a Village Hall in Ogbourne St George and that would be very sad news for the community’.

Looking ahead, his priority is keeping the Hall accounts in a stable condition to ensure it meets its outgoings, and so it can continue to provide our village with a community base.

What he likes most about living here is the friendly people, who are always up for a chat, and the enjoyable walks and bike rides our location offers.

Outside his Hall commitments, he enjoys watching sport, especially Tottenham Hotspur, reading books on historical subjects and murder mysteries, a little woodworking when time permits, as well as spending time with his wife Hilary, who many of us also have the pleasure of knowing, their three children and six grandchildren spread over the country.

Meet Your Village Hall Committee

Meet Tim Frost

Bookings Secretary and Premises Manager, Tim Frost has lived in the village for as long as he can remember, and, in a neat test of all our maths skills has sat on the Village Hall Committee 'for about the same length of time in this century as in the last'.

During that time, he is most proud of the project which achieved the inside and outside refurbishment and enlargement of the hall 'and new cladding' in the late 1970s to early 1980s under his tenure as Committee Chair. As far as his future hopes for the Hall are concerned, he looks forward to a return to financial stability, with more of its income derived from facilities provided for the whole village.

After attending Marlborough College, Tim's choice to study at King's College at Cambridge University was partially influenced by the college having owned much of Ogbourne St George from 1441, as well as slightly because an uncle was educated there in the 1920s.

Apart from it being the place with which he is most familiar, what he likes about living here is the balance and variety of the community and the surrounding areas. Tim was married to Charlotte for 53 years, whose presence in the village is missed by many residents, and their family of three sons and seven grandsons extends as far afield as Argentina, taking Tim there on his travels from time to time.

His professional life has drawn him into the field of computer software, which he describes as, 'making it useful, useable, and well documented,' and his other interests include history and archaeology, photography, typography and document design, science in general and listening to classical music.

Meet Louise Procter

Committee Member Louise Procter moved to the village with her husband in May 2001 at the height of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. She says they moved here for the glorious country walks on the doorstep but at that difficult time couldn't access many at all. She has been on the Committee for eight years and was motivated to join so that she could give something back to the local community.

At the time, she was supply teaching after working at Preshute School for 17 years, so had some spare time. Many of you will know Louise in her professional capacity as a teacher at our village school.

As a member of the Committee, the achievements she is proud of are the fundraising efforts which supported a refurbishment of the kitchen, replacing a very tired old one, and the installation of the beautiful wooden floor, making the Hall more appealing for people to hire. Her future hopes include insulation of the Hall.

What Louise likes about living in our village is its great community spirit and the friendly people who are willing to help, as well as the beautiful surrounding countryside which she says is perfect for short walks or long rambles. In addition to those country walks, she spends her leisure time 'caddying for my golf mad husband' and trying to improve her gardening skills. She is also a fan of the Lionesses, who she describes as fantastic role models for girls.

Little Dragons Update

The children at Little Dragons have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year this month. With the help of a kind parent, who has given us a lot of support and resources, we have had lots to talk about and have been learning to count and say Happy New Year in Cantonese. We also looked at Chinese numerals and had a go at forming the symbols on our whiteboards. Celebrating the Year of the Dragon has been fun. The children made masks, watched Dragon dances, dressed up and enjoyed lots of books about dragons. We have also explored rice, pompoms, chopsticks and glitter.

Pancake day also had to be celebrated! The children enjoyed making pancakes with play dough.

As the days lengthen and the sun shines occasionally, we have lots of opportunities to talk about what we see around us, like spring flowers and how winter is fading into spring. We are always led by the children's interests, and we follow their lead if they want to talk about and learn more about the topics we introduce.

100 Club Winners

Congratulations to the February winners: 1st J Inglefield. 2nd K. Howard

School Report

Mrs Crump, Head of School writes: Term 4 has ended with everyone dressing up in red and completing various craft activities to celebrate Chinese New Year, and with Oaks Class battling the horrible weather to win the multi-skills festival! Ogbourne St George House won the praise points competition, and I thoroughly enjoyed their company for hot chocolate and biscuits.

NSPCC Number Day saw all Key Stage 2 children take part in a countrywide competition on TT Rockstars. The school came 644th out of 3793 schools. The winning year group in Ogbourne were the year 5s. Laptops and iPads were set up in KS2 classrooms and all children participated in the competition which is fantastic. We were so proud of all the children for their contribution and for doing so well against so many other schools. The continued emphasis on tables throughout the school is reflected in greatly improved times tables recall, accuracy and speed, as demonstrated in latest test scores.

Mrs Cates, Teaching Assistant, took some Year 2 children to a Multiskills Tournament and reports: The forecast looked grim at best, rainy at worst. The weather did not deter them though, and they threw themselves into a morning of running relays, long jump, ball skills and catching, with gusto and enthusiasm. After a break for lunch, we went back for another eight activities, but unfortunately the weather was not so kind, and the heavens opened, and the wind blew. This did not deter the Oaks, who continued to tackle balancing, jumping and running with great enthusiasm.

I was so impressed with their team attitude, cheering on their teammates, helping each other, offering advice, keeping spirits high and having smiles on their faces for the entire time. They were an absolute pleasure to spend the day with, and I was proud to be with such well-behaved children. Even when the rain came, they didn't grumble or moan and were just as determined, and it paid off, as they won the tournament!

A huge thank you to Layla and Benjamin who attended the tournament as sports leaders, and had responsibility for four activities, advising all the schools attending on the rules and collating the points scored at each station, they did a tremendous job.

Hedgehog Corner

Many of you will be unaware that OSG is an important centre for hedgehogs, and we have a dedicated band of hedgehog carers in our midst feeding and looking after them. With that in mind there is some news about the little one that was found by Susan Iliffe in Jubbs Lane a couple of weeks ago.

Weighing just under 400g, she was terribly underweight, so hedgehog hero, Colin Jeffery, took her to be checked out by the Wildlife Rescue team at RSPCA Oak and Furrows. They thought it best to keep her there for observation and reassurance, and Colin is glad to report that she is progressing slowly, putting on the weight needed to send her back to us, where a warm and cosy house is ready for when this happens.

Colin asks if the village would like to name this new addition to our community. Please send your suggestions to the Editor at osgdragon22@gmail.com or mention them to Colin when you see him around the village enjoying a walk.

Pewsey Carer Café

The Pewsey carer café takes place monthly and is a friendly and welcoming space for people who are caring for someone to meet, offer one another support and/or speak to a trained volunteer who can signpost local services and information. Attendance at the café is currently quite low, and Carer Support Wiltshire would love to welcome new people who may benefit from the opportunity to speak to others who may be in a similar situation to their own and enjoy a little time for themselves.

If you are supporting someone who could not otherwise manage without that support, then you're welcome at our café. Stay for the whole session or pop in and enjoy a hot drink and slice of cake.

The café takes place on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10.30am-12.00pm at The Wesley Hall, Pewsey Methodist Church, 35 North Street, Pewsey. Contact Carer Support Wiltshire on 0800 181 4118 or admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

- Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 14 March
- Spring Church Maintenance Morning – Saturday 13 April
- Village Jumble Sale – Saturday 27 April
- Plant Sale and Coffee Morning – Saturday 11 May
- Village Hall Midsummer Quiz – Saturday 22 June

March Church Services

3 March (Lent 3), Café Church, 10.00am

10 March, Mothering Sunday Service, 10.00am

17 March (Lent 5), Zoom Service, 10.30am

24 March, Palm Sunday, Evensong (BCP) 6.00pm

28 March (Maundy Thursday), Benefice Communion, 7.30pm - in Chiseldon

29 March (Good Friday), Good Friday Service, 2pm - in Ogbourne St Andrew

31 March (Easter Day), Easter Communion, 10.00am

Spring Church Maintenance Morning

Volunteers are sought for the annual Church Spring Maintenance Morning on Saturday 13 April from 9.30am-12.30pm, or whatever time you can spare, to tackle indoor & outdoor jobs. Refreshments will be provided.

Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on 20 March in the Church Hall at 7.30pm and the subject is 'Rex Warneford VC – first man to down a Zeppelin' presented by Alan Smith. Reginald 'Rex' Warneford was a British aviator and Royal Naval Air Service officer who received the Victoria Cross for air-bombing a Zeppelin during the First World War. It was the first victory of a heavier-than-air aircraft over a lighter-than-air dirigible. Come along and hear the remarkable story of how Rex accomplished this, alongside evading capture by the Germans, together with his other exploits which led him to be awarded both the VC and the French "Legion d'Honneur".

Message from the Editor

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