

# THE DRAGON

November 2023



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

## Parish Council News

Thank you to ...



The Parish Council would like to thank **Isabelle Collister** and **Izzy Thrift** for transforming the entrance to the village with their colourful mural. They both attend St John's School in Marlborough and completed this project as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award in Year 10 for the volunteering section. They went the extra mile going beyond the required number of hours to complete the mural to their satisfaction. A heartfelt thank you from all of us for covering

the age-old graffiti and brightening up the bridge. We have received a lot of positive feedback. Well done!



Thank you also to **Olive Barratt** and **Kitty Bevan** for doing litter picking around the village for their DofE volunteering too.

## Parish Council News

### Youth Leisure Facilities

The Parish Council has received several requests to investigate providing leisure and recreation facilities for the teenagers and young people of the village. So far, a basketball hoop and a seating area have been proposed, and the Parish Councillors would like to hear from older children in the village about what recreation facilities would appeal to them, so that they can assess what is viable and what could be supported by internal funding and/or external grants.

Please send your ideas, thoughts and suggestions to Parish Councillor, Nathalie Collister on [nathalie.collister@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk](mailto:nathalie.collister@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk)

### Bus Stops by Whitefield Farm on the A346

The Parish Council has been liaising with Wiltshire Council regarding the accessibility for residents of the two bus stops on the A346 by Whitefield Farm. The southbound bus stop is situated on the A346 itself, with no lay by, so there is no safe place for passengers to wait or alight from the bus. The northbound bus stop has a lay by for buses to pull into, but residents have no safe passage to access it, meaning they are forced to walk along the A346 itself. Wiltshire Council has asked us to establish:

- a) how many residents use the bus stops and
- b) how many residents would like to use them (if they were made safer).

Interested residents in that area of the parish are invited to get in touch with the Clerk on [parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk) and share their views.

Please send your replies to both topics above by the end of November 2023.

### Facebook Group Update

To ensure that the village Facebook group operates in the best interests of village friends and residents, some Group Rules have been introduced. Members are respectfully requested to comply with the spirit of these rules which cover membership, behaviour, posting items for sale, business promotions, etc.

The group can be found at [www.facebook.com/groups/OggySG](https://www.facebook.com/groups/OggySG).

## Village Hall News

### Rearranged Halloween Quiz – Saturday 11 November

The Halloween Quiz will now take place on Saturday 11 November in the Village Hall. The Committee sincerely appreciates the kindness and support we receive from village friends and residents, and we look forward to welcoming lots of you for some friendly competition! Doors open 7pm, quiz starts 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 in advance, £6 on the night. Drinks and snacks available. To reserve your place contact Colin on 01672 841485 or Claire on [osgvhall@gmail.com](mailto:osgvhall@gmail.com)

### Renovations Update

Chair, Colin Jeffery updates us on the renovations to the Village Hall:

It has been around 40 years since the Village Hall has been repainted, so it hasn't done too badly! It has taken us over 5 years to raise enough money to carry out the work.

We have had some major challenges along the way; the latest was when, after planning everything with us for over two years, the firm we'd chosen suddenly decided they didn't want our business. With a time-limit on Hill's Community Landfill Trust grant we had secured, we were in a race against time. Coming to our rescue was 'USP Coatings' in Bradford, Yorkshire. The next challenge was to schedule the work we wanted at a time that they could manage, to fit in with the school term break.

A last-minute call gave us the opportunity at least to remove the old paint from the building. At this point I must apologise to the residents of Liddiards Green and beyond for the noise caused by the machinery used to do this. Also, to Little Dragons, who had to move out at short notice to ensure the work could be completed. Thank you to everyone for their forbearance.

The week starting 23 October we hope was going to be dry, so the team could return to paint the Village Hall. It doesn't look as if the weather will be with us, so yet again we may have to reschedule at short notice. I sincerely hope we can finish the project before our deadline expires or it could well be another 40 years before we have another crack at having a Village Hall that does justice to our beautiful village!

## Ogbourne Motor Group Update

It's wonderful to see the Ogbourne Motor Group finding such support from the village and surrounding area. At our second meeting we had two new members, and we look forward to seeing more. We had some interesting discussions about the place EVs have in our automotive future, and about the issues raised, both good and not so good, by London's ULEZ scheme.

### Upcoming Events

We are organising a couple of events in the next few weeks. On 1 November Stephen Sowerby has invited us to his workshop in Aldbourne. Stephen has a growing reputation for reproducing the woodwork for old cars, both structural and trim. He has a couple of interesting vehicles in his workshop dating back to the 1920s.

On 10 November we will take a trip to the Classic Car Show at the NEC. This is probably the biggest event of its kind in the world and will have some 3,000 cars on show on more than 300 club stands.

### Next Meeting

If you're interested in either of these events, have ideas for other things automotive we might do, and/or wish to join the group, then contact Kevin Howard on 07534 679944 or come along to our next get together. That will be at the Inn with the Well on Thursday 2 November when we will finalise plans for the NEC trip. Remember our Group is open to anyone in the area, not just the village, so we hope to see you there.

### The Inn with the Well

From November 2023 to March 2024 the pub will be open from Wednesday to Saturday from 4-10pm.

### Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 9 November - Closed for a private party.
- Saturday 18 November - Karaoke from 8pm

### Coming soon - Dates to be Confirmed

- Keep an eye out for Friday Mussels Night and Sunday Walk the Ridgeway from Uffington Castle to the Inn via Chantelle.

### Keeping in Touch

- If you would like to join 'Well in at the Inn' WhatsApp group, then please text 07900 925919 or even better, drop in!

## Christmas Events

Our village is the place to be during the first weekend in December for the start of your Christmas festivities.

### Locarno Beat – Fri 1 December

Local band Locarno Beat will be in concert at The Inn with the Well on Friday 1 December from 9pm.

### Christmas Grotto – Sat 2 December

Bring the children along to the Village Hall for our Christmas Grotto event from 3-5pm on Saturday 2 December to meet Santa Claus, eat mince pies and do some Christmas shopping!

Activities include Christmas card making, letter writing to Santa, Raffle, Christmas Market and festive fun and games. Visits to Santa include a gift. Tickets at the door. Take the opportunity to do your Christmas shopping from the stalls selling jewellery, crafts and gifts.

If you would like to run your own stall, then tables are available to hire for just £5. Set up is from 1pm. Please contact [osgvhall@gmail.com](mailto:osgvhall@gmail.com) by 27 November to secure your pitch.

We'd also welcome home-baked Christmas treats such as mince pies, cakes, or any of your seasonal favourites to serve on the day from residents. Please drop off baked donations to the Village Hall from 1pm on the day.

### Christmas Lights Switch On – Sun 3 December

The annual switch on of our Christmas Lights will take place at the Inn with the Well from 5pm on Sunday 3 December. There will be free mulled wine and mince pies, a Christmas carol or two, as well as the unmissable Christmas jumper competition for both adults and children. The pub will be open from 4-8pm.

This event has quickly become a firm favourite in our festive calendar, so come along and make this year's equally as good.

## School Report

**Mrs Ramsden** shares her thoughts on Willows (Years 3 & 4) class trip to Avebury in October.

The trip was part of our History topic, looking at the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages. The children went on a walk around the stone circle at Avebury, guided by a local archaeologist who brought the whole thing to life. I was really impressed with their questions, knowledge and their enthusiasm. They looked in the museum, examining artefacts including a skeleton. We spent time sketching the stones in the sunshine before lunch and a run-around. We drove past Silbury Hill to West Kennet Long Barrow, where they raced up the hill and loved exploring the Neolithic burial chambers, which were dark and deliciously creepy. Everyone had a great day, and it brought our learning to life. I'm grateful to the parent volunteers who came with us, and a special thank you to Mrs Sharland, my trip co-leader. The children's behaviour was exemplary, and I was genuinely proud to be their teacher today!

Head of School, **Mrs Crump** writes that she has had the pleasure of spending time in different classes throughout October, where she has been impressed with the standard of work from the children and their learning recall. She says, *'It's wonderful to see the pride the children take in their work and their attitudes to their learning, as well as the care they show to one another as learning partners'*.

## Little Dragons

The children have loved learning about the fruits of autumn. They have been drawing and painting apples, pumpkin and conkers, cutting them up and looking inside. They have also explored all kinds of natural materials, inside and out, giving us an opportunity to talk about hibernation. They loved hiding their toy hedgehogs and other animals in leaves and sawdust.

We welcomed Danny Kruger MP last month. He thanked Linda Crawshaw for her service, and congratulated our staff on their 'Outstanding' achievement, posting on Facebook, *'Delighted to visit the wonderful Little Dragons Preschool, Ogbourne St. George this morning. The staff do brilliant work with the children - a great community institution.'*

We are pleased that the Village Hall is getting a new coat of paint. The early start to the work meant that we had to vacate the village hall for a

morning, and we would like to thank Lucy Crump and her team for welcoming the children. We have a great relationship with the school which aids the transition for our older children. Our thanks especially go to Lou Proctor for all her help.

Our numbers on roll are rising again, so we are even more in need of a new member of staff. If you, or someone you know, is interested in working at Little Dragons then the post is 20 hours a week, and a level 2 qualification is preferred. Please contact either [helen@littledragons.org](mailto:helen@littledragons.org) or [kate@littledragons.org](mailto:kate@littledragons.org) for more details.

## Carer Support Wiltshire

Carer Support Wiltshire is a registered charity that supports all unpaid carers, from 5 years upwards, in Wiltshire. Their aim is to create a society which understands and supports unpaid carers.

They help carers access services, information, education and training, respite, and breaks from their caring role. They ensure carers have a voice and work with health and social care professionals and employers to raise carer awareness and develop best practice.

The Bereavement Help Point is a community based drop-in service where all people who are bereaved are welcome. It's a space to meet and talk with others who may be experiencing similar thoughts and feelings, in an informal and supportive setting. All sessions are free of charge and there's no need to book, just come along. This group is a partnership between Prospect Hospice and Carer Support Wiltshire.

Their next Bereavement Help Point takes place on 30 November from 2 to 3.30pm at the Castle & Ball Pub on Marlborough High Street. For more information about what they do, visit [www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk)

## Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday 15 November in the Church Hall at 7.30pm when Geoff King will talk about, "Who did discover Australia?" Indigenous peoples have lived in Australia for tens of thousands of years. There are, however, competing claims for "discovery" from the western perspective. Was it Captain Cook? Was it Abel Tasman? Or other Dutch explorers such as Willem Janszoon or Francisco Pelseart? Come along and listen to the stories about each claimant.

## **November & December Church Services**

5 Nov, All Saints' Day, 10.00am, Cafe Church  
12 Nov, Remembrance Sunday, 10.45am, Remembrance Service  
19 Nov, 2nd Sunday before Advent, 10.30am, Zoom Service  
26 Nov, Sunday next before Advent, 6.00pm, Evensong

3 Dec, Advent Sunday, 10.00am, Cafe Church  
10 Dec, Advent 2, 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)  
17 Dec, Advent 3, 4.00pm, Carol Service  
24 Dec, Christmas Eve, 4.00pm, Christingle Service; 9.00pm,  
Communion by Candlelight  
25 Dec, Christmas Day, 10.00am, Christmas Service  
31 Dec, Christmas 1, 10.30am, Benefice Communion in Chiseldon

## **Autumn Church Maintenance Morning**

This will take place at the Church on Saturday 18 November from 9am-12pm. Volunteers and helpers are kindly requested to tackle the usual maintenance jobs both inside and out. Please bring outdoor tools, such as rakes, loppers etc as these will be useful, and there will be refreshments to say thank you to everyone.

## **Ogbourne Downs Golf Club**

The Golf Club is holding a Clubhouse Christmas Market on 30 November from 1-8pm. There will be a wreath making workshop from 6-8pm, £20 per person. Please contact a member of staff for more details by popping in, calling 01672 841327 or messaging via the Facebook page.

## **Contact the Dragon**

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](mailto:osgdragon22@gmail.com). The deadline for content is 21st of the month.