

THE DRAGON

June 2023



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

The Coronation of the King and Queen

The bunting fluttered, the corks popped, and all around there was a sea of red, white and blue as our village celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Coronation Weekend began with Coronation Eve Fancy Dress hosted by Megan, Queen of Hearts, who popped in from Wonderland, and from the History books, Mike the Lionheart. Our children looked wonderful as they were transformed into Queen Bee and the Ice Queen, Scots and Bearskin Guards, King Wakanda and Queen of the Cats. Not to be outdone, in the evening we had Charles and Camilla turn up in their Country Best, along with Royal Flushers the King and Queen of Hearts, as a smiling Beefeater and striking Britannia kept guard, all serenaded by Freddie Mercury breaking free.

Coronation Day saw locals and walkers enjoy a welcome pause from their Ridgeway ramblings to watch the ceremony on the Big Screen at the pub, before DJ Malachi got the evening party underway spinning the disks for Karaoke Night. Notable performances came from Rachel and Sinead with the ABBA mega mix, with everyone joining in for a 'right royal singalong'.

Coronation Sunday saw plenty of people enjoy the Family Fun Day at the School, with the ice cream and pizzas being a big hit, before the final event, the unveiling of the Coronation Bench, purchased for the village by the Parish Council, valiantly transported by Nick and Rob to its final resting place in Jubilee Gardens and immediately enjoyed by all those present.

Thank you to everyone who organised and participated in the weekend's fun.

Parish Council News

The Annual Village Meeting took place in May, at which Sam Frost and Colin Jeffery, respective Chairs of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, provided informative reports on each of their organisation's activities and achievements throughout the last year. There were no questions from the public in the Public Participation section. The Parish Council (PC) meeting followed, at which Sam was re-elected to Chair and Nick Burnet to Vice-Chair. All existing members of the Working Groups also agreed to continue for another year.

Since the pandemic lockdown restrictions were lifted, the proactivity of the PC has been crucial in making improvements and implementing initiatives to benefit the village. These Working Groups act as sub-committees and provide a vital means of making the most of Committee members' skills, passion, and strengths to look deeper into matters of concern to the village, research options and solutions, and present proposals for discussion and agreement at PC meetings. Essentially, they represent the space in which Parish Councillors make things happen. Over the next editions of *The Dragon*, we will share more insight into these Working Groups and the Parish Councillors who work on them, to highlight what they are doing behind the scenes to improve village life for all of us.

Below you can read about the **Transport Working Group** achievements.

Traffic calming measures in the village

Over the last few years, the Parish Council has been conducting a review of transport issues in the village. This started in 2020 with a traffic survey in four areas of the village, to ascertain if we could ask Wiltshire Council to intervene and reduce the speed limit.

The next initiative on the agenda is to smarten up the entrances to the village, to indicate that the village is being looked after and has a real sense of community, therefore encouraging motorists to travel more carefully within the village.

White gates and ‘thank you for driving carefully’ signs will be installed at the Aldbourne and Chiseldon entrances to the village over the summer, and the gates at the Marlborough Road entrance are to be repainted. You will also have noticed the fabulous mural coming into bloom under the bridge, just as plants and flowers do at this time of year, courtesy of some talented local artists.

In addition, we have reviewed all the signage in the village with Wiltshire Council and are waiting for various improvements to be made including new and better locations for the School signs and the repainting of the white lines.

At this time of year, it is very important to keep hedges and verges maintained, especially around junctions, village signs and pavements. If there are any areas unkempt and causing problems, and if any landowners NEED ANY HELP with dealing with this, then please email the Parish Clerk on the address at the end of this section.

We look forward to keeping you abreast of developments. Please email any comments or suggestions to your Parish Clerk on [*parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk*](mailto:parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk)

Bus Shelter on the A346

Thank you to everyone who responded to the request for comments on the proposal to demolish and replace the existing bus shelter. All responses received were in full support, so the PC can move forward with investigating replacement options.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 13 July.

Meet your Parish Councillors

Meet Nick Burnet

Re-elected Vice Chair and member of both the Transport and Communications Working Groups, Nick Burnet moved to OSG in 2019, and within a year had joined the PC, having had eight years’ experience in previous parishes. For him being on the PC represents a genuine way of actively supporting and giving something back to his community.

With prior experience of both Transport and Communications, Nick is passionate about keeping the village and its residents safe through effective road and route maintenance, ensuring access to transport, and fighting for it when it is at risk. He is particularly proud of the achievements of the Transport Working Group so far, notably the traffic speed analysis and the new Speed Indicator Device, as well as its more subtle efforts including dealing with graffiti and the new mural under the bridge. On the Communications Group side, he is looking forward to increasing avenues of village messaging via The Dragon and the village website.

He says the success of the PC lies in its collective energy and enthusiasm and its combination of more recent recruits alongside those with prior experience such as he has from previous parishes, and Bob Tanner who has recently rejoined the PC (see later). All of this means that the PC can take advantage of the different yet complementary strengths of its committee members to listen to residents' concerns, identify what is realistic to achieve, make progress, and influence and implement change.

On a personal level what Nick likes most about living here is the village life, space and rural life it offers him and his family, spending time with friends, old and new, being surrounded by a picturesque location on the edge of the Ridgeway, where he can often be seen out running and walking his dog, having a great local pub and golf club on the doorstep, and being 'rural but not' due to the proximity of attractive towns like Marlborough as well as other useful infrastructure.

Meet Bob Tanner

Recent recruit to the PC, Bob Tanner has lived here for ten years, and last year, rejoined the Parish Council for a second time following a previous spell from 2015-2018. For Bob, the PC is a means to get to know people within your community and to help your village by moving things forward.

During his first tenure he came up with the suggestion of setting up sub-committees (Working Groups) to investigate matters in depth, make recommendations and report back to the PC for decisions to be made. He previously sat on the Transport Working Group and was involved in arranging safer speed limits on the A346.

Since returning to this Group, he's been looking at other ways of controlling speed, and is about to be part of the team who will be building and installing the new village gates to smarten up our entrances and increase motorists' awareness of the fact that they are entering a village and need to drive appropriately.

He describes the current PC members as 'proactive, supportive, with a real sense of camaraderie'. He is looking forward to continuing the contact and relationship with the village, increasing awareness of the PC and what it does, and nurturing its sense of community.

When he is not on the PC, he keeps fit by swimming, and likes to spend time with family and extended family both at home and abroad, as well as enjoying the countryside views in and around our village. Before retiring, Bob was a structural consulting engineer, and says he relishes the combination of practical tasks and cerebral activity which a career in engineering gave him. That's why you'll shortly find him installing those new village gates!

Village Fete and Dog Show

The annual Village Fete is on Saturday 10 June from 2-4.30pm in the Manor Gardens. In addition to the regular stalls, this year there will be an Open Mic from 2.15-3.30pm, so if you sing or play an instrument and want to showcase your talents, contact Angie on 07500 968161 to book your slot.

The Dog Show will be from 3.30pm with classes to include Handsome Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Perfect Puppy, Golden Oldie, Waggiest Tail, Most Appealing Eyes and, new this year, Musical Sit! Entries on the day.

The team really needs your help to make this happen, so donations of cakes, plants, unwanted gifts, teddies, and soft toys can be dropped off on Friday evening or Saturday morning, left in the church the week before or contact Lesley who will arrange to collect. Bottles can go to Colin at 8 Jubbs Lane.

In addition, volunteers are sought to set up on Friday evening and clear up on Saturday from 5pm, and/or to help with a stall on the day. It's fun and you'll be amongst new friends. So, if you haven't been involved before or you're a returning regular, then please contact Nicky on 07973 210048 or Lesley on 07775 517138, laayres@talk21.com See you there!

The Inn with the Well News

It's been another busy month at our local pub, not only with all the Coronation events, but also hosting Eurovision Night, and congratulations to Wendy who won the sweepstake with Sweden. The Back2School Quiz night in aid of the school was a great success with a full house, raising £165. Congratulations to Tom's Winning Team. Thanks go to Ramsbury Brewery and the Inn with the Well who supplied prizes for the Raffle.

Old Wellonians

The newly formed Old Wellonians are venturing on their next day out with a trip to the lovely seaside town of Weymouth in June. A reminder that they have a bus (Chantal) which seats 16 and is available for hire to members on a first come, first served basis.

The 2023 Orienteering Course will launch in June until September. Cards and maps will be available from the pub. See if you can improve on your efforts last year and be in to win a prize.

The next event is planned for July and if you have ever wanted to walk along the Ridgeway but couldn't make the logistics work, then Chantal will take you to the start of the Ridgeway at Overton from where you can walk or run this pleasant 10-mile stretch back to the pub for celebratory food and drinks afterwards. For more details, ask for an Old Wellonian in the pub.

The OWs are open to suggestions for days out both locally and further afield and there is a chalkboard in the pub for ideas.

Primary School News

Tuesday 6 June marks the first day of the last term this academic year, and there are still plenty of events to look forward to in this final stretch. On 21 June Poplars (Years 5 & 6) will take a trip to the River Kennett (ARK) Centre, and the Year 6 residential trip to Redridge Outdoor Centre will be w/c 26 June. The PSA is hosting a Summer Family Fun Day on Saturday 8 July from 12-3pm. More details to follow.

Village Hall Midsummer Quiz

Join us for our Midsummer Quiz in the Village Hall on Saturday 17 June from 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

This is one of our key fundraising events, so we ask that as many of you come along as possible, for a night of fun intellectual stimulation, to tackle some new subjects including famous Fathers (check the calendar!), and Midsummer, as well as our local area.

Either organise your team of six or come along in whatever numbers you like and meet old friends and/or make new ones and stake your claim to be crowned 2023 Quiz Winners and help us raise much needed funds.

Quiz Entry is £5 per person in advance, or £6 on the door. Drinks and bar snacks can be purchased on the night, and you can also take your chances on our Midsummer Raffle with an array of must-win prizes! Cash is preferred to keep our costs down.

To secure your advance tickets and seats, please ring Colin on 01672 841485 or email Claire on osgvhall@gmail.com by 5pm on Thursday 15 June. Your Committee looks forward to seeing you there.

June Church Services

4 June (Trinity Sunday), Cafe Church, 10.00am

11 June (Trinity 1), Holy Communion (BCP), 8.30am

18 June (Trinity 2), Zoom Service, 10.30am

25 June (Trinity 3), Evensong (BCP), 6.00pm

Summer Church Maintenance Morning

This will take place at the Church on Saturday 17 June from 9.30am-12.30pm. Please bring gardening tools so we can concentrate on the Churchyard.

The 100 Club

Congratulations to Louise McIntyre (winner) & Tony Hawnt (runner up).

Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on 21 June in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. Jenny Pope will talk on “Reading old documents – a practical guide”. If you have ever been bamboozled by arcane language and historical documents, then learn how to navigate these pitfalls from Jenny’s time transcribing records at the Wiltshire Family History Society.

Membership is £20pa or £5 per meeting for non-members. Email: info@chiseldonlhg.org.uk

Chiseldon museum is open for the summer season, on Saturdays until 30 September from 2-4pm. New displays include the Chiseldon Windmill, a display of 20th Century technology, local maps through the ages and a special feature on past Coronations.

In Memoriam

The Village was sad to learn of the deaths of residents Jon Cannon, Annie Davis & Sally Pierce, and condolences are sent to their families and friends.

Many of you will know that Jon Cannon was the author of the informative and informed ‘A History of Ogbourne St George Church’, copies of which are on sale in the Church. Jon was a free spirit, husband, father, and friend who enriched the world. He was a thinker, writer, and educator with a passion for medieval architecture. Jon was a self-described ‘extolleguer’ - someone of learning who shares insights and understandings with powerful enthusiasm. That was Jon to a T.

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, osgdragon22@gmail.com