

THE DRAGON

May 2024



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

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

A reminder that the Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 11 May from 10am to 12.30pm in the Village Hall.

Please drop off your donations of plants, seedlings, cakes and other sweet or savoury goodies from 6 May onwards to 8 Jubbs Lane or 1 Church Lane, or on Friday 10 May at the Village Hall between 4-6pm.

If you can spare a couple of hours on Saturday, then please come and help us. For newcomers to the village, it's a great way to make friends with other residents. Contact Colin on 01672 841485 or Claire: osgyhall@gmail.com

And remember to come along and take part in our Hedgehog Naming Competition!

Next Parish Council Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 15 May in the Village Hall and will be followed immediately by the usual Parish Council meeting. Please note this is a date change.

Little Dragons 40th Anniversary

40th Anniversary Family Fun Day - Saturday 29 June 11.00-2.00pm

**** Please Save the Date! ****

This year Little Dragons is celebrating. The preschool has been serving parents and children from the village and surrounding areas for 40 years. We will be arranging fun activities for families and children of all ages. Barbecue and drinks will also be available. If you or your children remember attending Little Dragons with happy memories, please come along and support us on this very special day. All the proceeds will go to Little Dragons.

Midsummer Quiz and Pimm's Night

A placeholder for your June diary is the Midsummer Quiz which will be in the Village Hall on Saturday 22 June at 7:30pm. Details to follow in the June Dragon.

The Inn with the Well News

Opening Hours

- Monday to Thursday open 5-10pm
- Friday and Saturday open 4-10pm
- Closed Sundays
- Closed until 9 May

What's On

- Saturday 11 May - Eurovision Night
- Friday 17 May - Return of Pizza Fridays
- Saturday 18 May - Trip to Ramsfest - Ramsbury Estate Beer and Cocktail Festival 2024. Chantelle will be leaving the Inn at 12.30pm and returning at 5pm. Enjoy a wide range of Ramsbury and local ales, delicious food, and great cocktails. As the sun sets, live music will take you into the night.
- Friday 24 May - Open Mic Night
- Saturday 25 May- Bottomless Brunch £30 per person 11.30am-1.30pm

Ogbourne Motor Group (OMG)

Planning for the OMG treasure hunt continues. We are aiming to run an evening event around the local roads, looking for clues, taking pictures, and collecting easily found items to prove you've done the course... The event will be an early evening run in July lasting about 90 minutes with prizes. More details in the next Dragon or at the Inn with the Well.

If you want to know more or want to help, then join the OMG at the next meeting on Thursday 16 May at 7pm in the Inn with the Well. Join us

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will stop at Liddiards Green / High Street from 10-10.30am on the following dates: 16 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 5 September, 3 October, 31 October.

Meet Your Church

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 Church.

Meet The Reverend Canon Roger Powell

The Reverend Canon Roger Powell is Rector of the Ridgeway Benefice, which covers Chiseldon with Draycot Foliat (including the new Badbury Park development), Ogbourne St George, Ogbourne St Andrew, Ogbourne Maizey and Rockley. He is also Rural Dean of the Marlborough Deanery and a member of the College of Canons of Salisbury Cathedral.

He has been in the parish for nineteen years and was drawn to our area having been vicar of three inner city parishes in Leicester and wanting a different experience of parish ministry, hence opting for a rural community.

What he most enjoys about his role is the interaction with the community, his work with the three schools, and pastoral visiting. He is proud of staying put for such a long time, and during his time would like the Church's work with children and young people to be more fruitful.

What he values about our community is its people who engage so readily with him and support the Church, and he particularly enjoys the Christmas season because people are generally more upbeat, also it means that his congregation increases exponentially!

He is married to Heather who helps a lot in the parishes, and spends his free time running, going to the gym, reading, theatre, and watching snooker. He describes his taste in music as '*eclectic ranging from Stormzy to Dolly Parton and everything in-between*'. So that's what he might be listening to next time you see him out on a run!

Meet Your Church con'd

Meet Lesley Ayres - Treasurer

Lesley Ayres moved to Ogbourne St. George in 2000 and initially lived in Jubbs Lane. She loved the community spirit in the village and quickly got involved running the toddler group, as Chair of Little Dragons and then working in the school. She was asked to help with the finances for a couple of weeks and ended up leaving nine years later! She now works as Finance Manager at St John's School in Marlborough.

Playing to her financial strengths, Lesley is Treasurer of the Church which involves financial control, recording income and paying the bills.

Describing herself as '*a financial nerd*' she likes it when her accounts balance! (And so do we!) She also gets involved in organising fundraising events, such as the village fete, jumble sales and the 100 Club, and says enjoying a Pimm's at a sunny village fete is an annual highlight for her.

She finds Christmas a particularly special time of year when the church is full, and the children are tunefully singing 'Away in a Manger', whilst holding their candlelit Christingle oranges at the Christingle service. She's proud of her contribution to keeping our village church open and able to hold regular services.

What she most likes about our village are the friends she has locally, the long walks in quiet, beautiful countryside and the friendliness of our local village pub. In her spare time, she loves walking and riding and helps at Lambourn Riding for the Disabled.

She's married to Clive and has two daughters, Amy and Connie, who loved growing up here and the freedom it gave them to play in the village, safe in the knowledge that there were so many doors they could knock on to ask for help if needed.

Meet Rebecca Macdonald - Churchwarden

Rebecca Macdonald moved to Ogbourne St. George in 1996, having returned to this area a few years earlier. She is a Church Warden and particularly enjoys getting involved in the fundraising side of things. She says that the summer fete is always a lovely village event. Over the years there have also been events to mark Burns Night, and probably the most successful ones were the years they had a cake stall at the 3-day Barbury Horse Trials event.

Meet Your Church con'd

All three local churches worked together making and baking a vast range cakes, biscuits and savouries and running the stall, and in the most successful year they raised over £2,000, which she describes as '*a lot of cake baking!*'

Many of you will know and have seen Rebecca in and around our village with her two Golden Retriever girls, which now number three, thanks to lovely Nellie whom she bred earlier this year.

Meet Brian Utton – Deputy Churchwarden

Brian Utton has lived in the village since 2005, when he moved here with family Sally, Char and Robin because of his job with BP.

He is Deputy Churchwarden, which means he assists the Churchwardens with maintenance-related activities, including dealing with suppliers and trades that are fundamental to the upkeep of the church. Day-to-day activities include locking and unlocking the church so people can enjoy it, making sure everything's where it should be, and flag duties.

He finds it very satisfying helping to keep the church accessible and well-presented, and contributing to the success of its fundraising efforts. He says that '*accessing the bell tower is always an interesting experience and very rewarding due to the great views*'. His preferred time of the year is summer because many of the challenges of looking after the church are related to water falling out of the sky!

He was particularly pleased to support the PCC (Parochial Church Council) with some significant projects, notably the new heating system provided by Earthline and the new church path. The church used to be locked when it wasn't in use, but it's now open every Wednesday and Sunday and a ny other days he can manage. He would like to see more people making use of and enjoying our church, not just for religious festivals.

What he likes about Ogbourne St George includes: the low levels of traffic through the village (normally!); the multitude of walks; easy access to Marlborough (it's a great place to meet friends) and Swindon (good range of suppliers) and the local Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum in Calne, of which he's currently Chair (and invites us to visit if you get a chance!). He's also a regular attendee of the Ogbourne Motor Group.

Dukesmead Named as Finalists in National Awards 2024

Our locally based Dukesmead Boarding Kennels & Cattery has been recognised as a Finalist in the national Animal Star Awards, in the highly competitive category of Dog Services of The Year. This acknowledgment underscores the commitment of the Dukesmead Team to providing exceptional care and services to beloved pets. The Animal Star Awards celebrate excellence and innovation in the animal industry, highlighting organisations and individuals who go above and beyond in their dedication to the welfare and happiness of animals.

Being named as a Finalist in the Dog Services of The Year category reflects The Dukesmead Team's unwavering dedication to ensuring dogs and cats receive the highest quality care and attention. *“We are thrilled and honoured to be recognised as Finalists in the Animal Star Awards,”* said Felicity, Manager at Dukesmead Boarding Kennels & Cattery. *“This achievement is a testament to the hard-work and dedication of our small team, who strive every day to ensure the happiness and well-being of the pets in our care.”*

The winner will be announced at a prestigious ceremony later this year. This nomination serves as motivation to continue providing exceptional services and to further enhance the experience for all furry guests. For more information about Dukesmead Boarding Kennels & Cattery and the services offered, visit: www.dukesmeadkennels.com

North Wessex Downs Walking Festival 2024

The fourth annual walking festival, organised by the team at the North Wessex Downs National Landscape, takes place from 31 May to 9 June. The festival provides the perfect way to get out into the countryside with a varied programmed of 29 events, including opportunities to visit farms, seek out wildlife, discover history, picnic with the family, take part in a self-guided sponsored walk, or simply soak up the views from the top of the downs. Many of the walks are free. Full programme details and booking information are on the website: www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking/walking-festival

Friends of the Railway Path

Some people already know of Dick Millard and the great work he does as coordinator for the charity and maintenance of the old railway path between Coate Water and Marlborough. Read more here:

www.friendsofthepath.org.uk

He very much needs the goodwill and effort of volunteers to help with the maintenance - which is for our benefit! For example, Keith Macdonald recently organised a Charity Day team, with colleagues from his day job, to help Dick with maintenance of the section between the Kennels and Whitefield Farm. This usually involves pruning trees and bushes that have overgrown and could injure or annoy unwary cyclists, runners and walkers.

If you are aware of any sections within our parish that need some care and attention, please let us know. Even better, let us know if you'd to be involved in the action, not just the talk! All you need is a few hours spare and a good pair of gardening gloves - Dick is usually able to provide all the necessary tools.

Castles Bike Ride 2024

The annual Castles Bike Ride in support of Macmillan Cancer Charity will be coming through our parishes on Sunday 2 June. The event starts and finishes at Coate Water Country Park, Swindon, SN3 6AA, and there will be 120-150 riders coming though in small groups spread out over one to two hours from 9.30am-1.30pm. The event will be well signed and marshalled, so come and cheer the riders on. For information on the event visit www.castlesbikeride.co.uk

Race to the Stones 2024

The UK's biggest Ultra will come through our village on 13-14 July as 2,500 runners and walkers attempt to conquer the 100km route from Lewknor to Avebury or the 50km route from Lewknor to Wantage. For information on the event visit:

www.thresholdtrailseries.com/events/race-to-the-stones

May Church Services

5 May (Easter 6), Café Church, 10.00am

9 May, Ascension Day Service at Holy Cross Ramsbury. Time TBC

12 May (Easter 7), Holy Communion (BCP), 8.30am

19 May (Pentecost), Morning Worship, 10.00am

26 May (Trinity Sunday), Evensong (BCP) 6.00pm

Spring Church Maintenance Morning

Thank you to the volunteers who turned out for the annual Church Spring Maintenance Morning in April.

100 Club Winners

Congratulations to the latest winners: March: P. Leader and N Burnet.

April: E. Merritt and S. Iliffe

Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday 15 May in the Church Hall, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN at 7.30pm on “The Hugely Huggable History of the Teddy Bear” presented by Dr. Gillian White. While many toys have come and gone, the teddy bear has captured the hearts of children and adults for over a century and has remained a beloved companion and symbol of love and affection. Dr White will explore its rich history, highlighting its connection to notable figures such as King Edward VII, President Teddy Roosevelt and Gyles Brandreth, the renowned author and entertainer.

Membership subscriptions are £20 per year, starting in October. Visitor fees for non-members are £5 per meeting. The schedule is published on the website www.chiseldonlhg.org.uk

Chiseldon Museum is open for the 2024 season every Saturday until 28 September from 2-4pm. It is a special year for the museum as it is our 20th anniversary. New displays feature anniversary photos, a section devoted to the early 20th Century landscape artist Kate Tryon (who lived and worked locally on several occasions) and a tribute to Chiseldon sportsmen and women of yesteryear. The museum is in the Old Chapel, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN.

Contact The Dragon

To include your village news in The Dragon, please write to the Editor, Claire Heald, on osgdragon22@gmail.com