

THE DRAGON

April 2024



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

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

With Spring upon us, it's time to turn our attention to the popular Plant Sale and Coffee Morning which will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 11 May from 10am to 12.30pm. This is a chance to acquire some plants which may well have started life in this village, catch up on news with friends over a drink and a slice of something homemade, as well as help raise vital funds for our Village Hall. As ever we'd like the village to get involved.

Plants: We'd like villagers to start having a look in your gardens and/or popping into garden centres to donate plants. It's that time of year to sow a few extra seeds, separate some of your garden perennials and divide those houseplants to generate new ones and give a good home to any excess seedlings from your greenhouse.

Cakes: This is a shout out to the bakers in the village to donate any cakes, traybakes, cookies and other treats, for us to enjoy on the day or take home. All kinds are welcome, plain or fancy, large or small, sweet or savoury, whatever you enjoy making, something for everybody.

Hedgehog Naming Competition: See page 5 for details on this!

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

Donations: Can be dropped off on Friday 10 May at the Village Hall between 4-6pm or during the week starting 6 May to 8 Jubbs Lane or 1 Church Lane.

Please come along and support your Village Hall.

Parish Council Update

The Parish Council was delighted at the number of residents who attended the March meeting, which resulted in a lively, good-natured, and stimulating discussion about many local issues of importance. High on the agenda was the considerable traffic congestion that brought the village to a standstill on 12 March, the ongoing problem with parked vehicles blocking the junction of the High Street and the Old Marlborough Road, and the overflowing dog waste bins, which the PC is aware of and is being investigated to find a solution. Residents are reminded and encouraged to report issues such as traffic congestion on the My Wilts App here www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting. It can also be used for abandoned vehicles, fraud, weather emergencies, fly tipping, dog mess and graffiti. The more reports they receive, the greater the likelihood they will act on them.

Parking appears to be getting worse in our village, so residents are kindly reminded of the following traffic regulations and asked to ensure that all their visitors comply with them as well:

- You MUST NOT park on a road at night facing against the direction of the traffic flow unless in a recognised parking space.
- Avoid parking on pavements where possible.
- Avoid parking opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 9 May in the Village Hall and will be followed immediately after by the usual PC meeting.

Right of Way near Barbury Castle

The Parish Council has been contacted about the following matter. Since about 2017, landowners have fenced off a section of byway which used to lead from Gypsy Lane, across the top of Burderop Down above the Barbury Shooting School and end on the road opposite the entrance to the Barbury Hill car park. The landowners now want to close this byway and create a new one slightly downslope to the north. This would formally re-open a route for walkers, equestrians and cyclists, with landowner agreement. However, there is a risk that Wiltshire Council may not be able to agree legally to the proposed change if there is no evidence that people have used this slightly more northerly route. The Parish Council Clerk would be interested to hear from anyone who can remember using this route before it was blocked off. Responses can be sent to parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk by the end of April 2024.

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 rest of the Village Hall Committee.

Meet Caroline Iliffe

Caroline Iliffe has lived in Ogbourne St George for seven years and has sat on the Village Hall Committee for the last three. She's also involved in our village Church and holds the post of Treasurer on the Management Committee for Little Dragons Pre-School. She joined the Village Hall Committee as the Little Dragons representative, which is the main user of the Village Hall and saw it as a good opportunity to get more involved in village life.

She says that we are so fortunate to have such a great pre-school on our doorstep, and as the link between the two bodies is keen to secure a sustainable relationship between them. She would also like to hold some events for new people to come along to who have never been inside the Village Hall!

Having grown up in inner London she loves having the space and nice views all around us, plus easy access to footpaths for walks and bike rides. She thinks we have the best of both worlds being in the countryside as well as within easy reach of shops and amenities in Marlborough and Swindon.

In her professional life she used to work in disaster management with international aid charities, mainly in West and Central Africa and Haiti. Now with two young children she '...manages disasters of a different kind!'

Meet Claire Heald

Claire Heald is in her third year on the Committee and is the Secretary. She joined in order to get to know people locally as well as curiosity about what the role involves. She finds that curiosity well rewarded given the broad range of issues and subject matters that Committee members must familiarise themselves with to be effective guardians of such a vital community resource as a Village Hall.

Meet Your Village Hall Committee

She is most proud and appreciative of the great enthusiasm with which many residents support our fundraising events, and during her tenure would like even more people to see the Hall as their resource and join in with its events especially those who haven't done so yet. A warm welcome awaits you at all our events!

What she values about the village is having such a great local pub on our doorstep, a vital hub in which to meet locals and make friends, as well sharing knowledge and connecting with visitors passing through on their travels along the Ridgeway. Having recently taken up gardening, she also likes observing the changes in the seasons in everyone's gardens, as well as the teddy bear topiary in Hallam and the vineyard views.

She married Kevin in 2022 and works in Human Resources which she has combined with her interest in football through senior roles at Norwich City and Nottingham Forest Football Clubs. She still follows both clubs through thick and thin, sadly more of the latter than the former, which no doubt many football fans will identify with!

Meet Ashley McIntyre

Newest member of the Committee, Ashley McIntyre moved to Ogbourne St George three years ago from Devizes and is enjoying the friendly village life. Almost completely retired having sold his accounting software company last year, he now enjoys helping with the community activities such as the village fete, church maintenance days, and of course supporting the village hall.

While walking locally with the family dogs 3 legged Otto, Bailey and Millie, he has developed a keen interest in keeping local footpaths in good order - you may have come across him with his mower or secateurs! He is also hoping to take up golf again.

Also on the Committee are **Sam Frost**, in his capacity as Chair of the Parish Council, who you can read about in the August 2023 Dragon, and **The Reverend Canon Roger Powell**, who joins us on behalf of the Church and about whom you can read in the next Dragon.

The Inn with the Well News

Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday open 5-10pm, we will close earlier if there is no one in the Inn at 9pm. Friday and Saturday open 4-10pm. Closed Sundays

Closed on the following dates

4-9 April. 27 April to 9 May. All dates inclusive

What's On

Thursday - Darts Night

12 April - Karaoke Friday

11 May - Eurovision Night

17 May - Return of Pizza Fridays

18 May - Trip to Ramsbury Beer and Cocktail Festival on Chantelle.

Please book early as tickets are included in the price of £25.00.

Quiz night and Continuation of the Ridgeway walk TBA

We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to **Jane Fisher** who through all seasons has managed and looked after the three planters at the entrances to the village. She has kept them neat and tidy for us all to enjoy over many years and is now retiring. So thank you Jane from us all. We are now looking for a volunteer to take over. Any takers please contact Megan.

Ogbourne Motor Group

Ogbourne Motor Group is planning some automotive treasure hunts during the summer months. We currently have three route options, all just under 20 miles on benign roads that should take about 90 minutes to complete.

We plan to run them in the summer evenings starting and ending at the Inn with the Well. If you have any other ideas on the subject then contact

Kevin Howard and/or come along to the OMG. Our next meetings are 4 April and 2 May at 7pm at the Inn with the Well.

Hedgehog Corner

The little lady is making slow but steady progress, putting on a little weight. Thank you to everyone who has suggested names for her. So far we have Spike from Carol, Holly from Hilary and Hedgie, Hermione and Henrietta from the Stannard family. So that we can make this important decision, we will share some photos and hold a Naming Competition at the Village Hall Plant Sale on 11 May. Come along and cast your vote!

Want to Make a Difference? Become a School Governor

At Ogbourne C of E Primary School, which is part of the Excalibur Academies Trust family of schools, we have a team of extremely committed School Governors (our Academy Committee) who do a huge amount to support the staff team and the school. We are keen to recruit new members to this team, as some of our long-standing Governors may be stepping down once their terms come to an end and their children leave us for pastures new.

The role of Governor is focused on looking at the school through the eyes of the children who attend to make sure their outcomes are as good as they can be. Governors attend four evening meetings during each academic year and undertake visits during the school day from time to time to chat to the children about their experience.

Please consider becoming a Governor if you would like to:

- Support Principals and the Trust Board
- Provide crucial input by looking at the school through the lens of the child
- Engage in school activities & visits
- Help shape & nurture the lives of young people.

To find out more please contact:

- Lucy Crump, Head of School – 01672 841318 or letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk
- Abbie Holmes, Chair of Governors – 07801 866525 or abbie.j.holmes@gmail.com

Excalibur Academies Trust is on an exciting journey, having recently grown to a 20 school MAT, providing high quality education to 10,000 children along the M4 corridor from Bristol to Reading. You can read more at www.excalibur.org.uk

School Report

Poplars (Years 5/6) visit to Pewsey Church

On 5 March Poplars attended Pewsey church and toured the exhibition stations of Jesus's life. They used interactive devices to explore some of the stories of the bible and to discuss some of the teachings of His life. There was live voting about the class's understanding and a poll about what they thought Jesus's life was about and the lessons we could learn from it.

Whole School Drumming Workshop

We secured a grant from Wiltshire Music to fund a musical activity, so in March we welcomed Alex from Kaya Drumming with his huge collection of hand drums and percussion. Each class explored making, following and layering rhythms, starting and stopping music and adding song and dance to rhythm. Children took turns on different instruments and explored each sound. These rhythms and instruments form an important part of many cultures, so this musical day enriched our learning about different parts of the world. We were glad that so many parents could join us for our school community drumming circle and no one was left empty handed - drums, bells, shakers or boomwackers aplenty! It was an impressive sound.

World Book Day

‘Glamorous, Clatter, Clumsy, Carnivore, Discombobulated, Curious and Creative’. Not a reworking of the Seven Dwarves, rather some of the imaginative characters to walk through the gates on World Book Day. What a joy to see all the teachers and children make so much effort. Ogbourne well and truly wowed with their wow words! We had a fun workshop where the children shared their ingenious costumes with each other and then did some writing based on a story from another culture. We also tucked into some beautiful and delicious cakes, so thank you to all the bakers who sent them in.

Little Dragons Update

Some of the children will be transitioning to Ogbourne School in September, and they began this process with a visit to the school and Acorns, the reception class. They watched a play and listened to a story, which they thoroughly enjoyed. They also met their new teacher Mrs. Procter and the children who left last year. The warmer, sunnier weather (at last) has enabled the children to be outside much more, and they recently enjoyed a lovely morning painting pictures of the daffodils and violas in the garden. We are looking forward to our annual Easter party at the end of term, which will include an Easter egg hunt (weather permitting), lots of fun games and an Easter Raffle. This year is Little Dragons’ 40th Anniversary, and we will be arranging fundraising activities to enable the preschool to continue to serve parents and children in an ‘outstanding’ way for a long time to come.

Upcoming Church Services

7 April (Easter 2), Café Church, 10.00am

14 April (Easter 3), Holy Communion (BCP), 8.30am

21 April (Easter 4), St George's Day Service, 4.00pm

28 April (Easter 5), Evensong (BCP) 6.00pm

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

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

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.

Spring Jumble Sale

This will take place at 10am on Saturday 27 April in Ogbourne School Hall 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, such as clothes, handbags, jewellery, bric-a-brac, anything in a good, saleable condition that you don't need anymore. 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 to arrange collection.

National Garden Scheme at Ogbourne Manor

Something to look forward to as we battle through this relentless cold, wet and dreary weather is that Ogbourne Manor has been asked to open its garden as part of the National Garden Scheme on 24 August, with an emphasis on dahlias. Home-made teas will be served, and all proceeds will go to charity. Find out more on the NGS website: <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/46997/ogbourne-manor>

Message from the Editor

Due to holidays, the May edition will be published in the second week of May. 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