

# THE DRAGON

August 2023



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

## Parish Council News

### SID Success!

The new Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been in place on Copse Drove now for a couple of months. Initial data is encouraging and shows that it is having a real impact on lowering the speed of vehicles entering the village. Statistics are being shared with Wiltshire Police as part of an aggregated scheme of c. 90 devices installed in over 60 parishes in the county.

A working party is about to build and install new white gates and ‘Thank you for driving carefully’ signs at the three entrances to the village, as well as to paint the existing gates at the Marlborough Road entrance.

Coupled with the beautifully blooming floral mural under the bridge, the Parish Council is hoping all these measures will have a lasting impact on traffic speeds.

Residents are reminded that at this time of year, it is crucial to maintain hedges and verges, especially around junctions, village signs and pavements where overgrowth adversely impacts visibility and access, creating hazards for pedestrians, drivers as well as all road and path users. The PC has received complaints about overgrown public pathways and is taking this opportunity during the ‘growing season’ to kindly remind residents that it is their responsibility to maintain public access to roads, pavements and pathways.

If there are any areas unkempt and causing problems, and if any landowners need any help dealing with this, then please email the Parish Clerk on [parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk)

## **Meet your Parish Council**

This month we meet the last, but by no means least members of our Parish Council.

### **Meet Nathalie Collister**

Nathalie Collister moved to Ogbourne St George eight years ago and has been a Parish Councillor for the last two years. Originally from France, she was teaching French at the primary school in Aldbourne on a voluntary basis, and when that came to an end, joining our Parish Council gave her her next opportunity to continue her contribution to her local community, something that matters to her.

She is particularly keen to organise local events as a way of bringing residents together, and so she leads the Community Spirit Working Group. She was instrumental in organising the first Christmas Tree Light Up and is proud that this is fast becoming an annual fixture of our village life, bringing villagers and friends of all ages together, to mark the start of the festive season in Ogbourne. During her tenure she also wants to explore opportunities to create facilities for the village children and teenagers so that they have somewhere suitable and worthwhile in which to spend their leisure time.

What she likes most about living in Ogbourne St George is the number of friends she's made, which has created a vibrant and welcoming social network, our location with its spectacular views and scenery, and all the walks on the Downs, as well as being a stone's throw from Marlborough with all its great facilities and access.

Outside of being a Parish Councillor, she is a Parent Governor for St John's School, mum to three children about to embark on their important GCSE and A Level years, and is a Training Consultant in Project Management as well as a Project Manager for another company. And even then, she still manages to find time to go running, enjoy socialising with friends, and does a fabulous tribute to Vanessa Paradis on Karaoke nights at the Inn with the Well!

# **Meet your Parish Council**

## **Meet Sam Frost**

Sam Frost's family have lived in Ogbourne St George since the 1930s, and he has been here since he was a toddler and attended the village school.

He joined the Parish Council in 2018 and became Chair two years later. Having grown up here and now raising his own family here with his two sons attending Little Dragons and the primary school, he was keen to get more involved with his community and to do his bit to ensure that the Council represents local people.

In terms of achievements, he's proud of the playground equipment, which was installed behind the Village Hall, and fondly recalls (as other residents may well do too) the previous Chair being photographed as he had the 'honour' of having the first swing! He also cites recent traffic management improvements, such as the speed indicator device on the Aldbourne Road, and the ongoing initiatives to tidy up our village such as the dog poo bins, which although a small issue to some, are in response to villagers' requests, and as Sam says, the Council wants residents to tell them what they want it to do. In terms of future plans, he is keen to replace the village and PC noticeboards on the High Street to create more space for notices for the Council and general use.

What he likes about our village is its friendliness, atmosphere, decent pub, and location in a beautiful part of the world, with good walks in the surrounding countryside, yet with great access to everywhere. And that access is important for Sam, as he is a professional photographer, which involves much UK travel, as he specialises in newspaper and press photography for corporate and private events. This takes him to many exhibitions and trade shows, and in addition, for the last ten years he's worked with various health charities on their marketing pictures. So next time you pick up a newspaper or a charity pamphlet, check the photo credit ... it might be a name you recognise!

## **The Inn with the Well**

July saw Mike and Megan reach another milestone of 32 years at the Inn with the Well. Congratulations from all your friends in the village!

Current opening hours are every day from 4-10pm.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Louise will finally get her wings as she undertakes a life's ambition to complete a Wing Walk on Wed 9 August. She's taking to the skies in aid of The Prospect, in what is a truly hair-raising act, so if anyone would like to support her by sponsoring her, then you can find her sponsorship form at the Inn.

**Fri 4 August** - Rachel is also fundraising for Louise by hosting a **Quiz** starting at 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome, entry is £5 per person, teams of up to 6, snacks supplied by the Inn.

Please support these worthy fundraising events, and Louise, good luck from us all, and don't look down!

**Mon 28 August** - Rounders Match.

This fixture in the village calendar, held every August Bank holiday for 15 years is being reinstated, by popular demand. The match will start at 3pm at a venue to be announced. Bring a picnic and join your fellow residents to showcase those batting, bowling and sprinting skills from yesteryear! Details to follow.

World Cup matches will unfortunately not be shown as they are taking place outside opening hours.

## **Old Wellonians**

In June the picturesque coastal town of Weymouth played host to a great day trip for the Old Wellonians. The impeccably maintained sandy beach offered a welcoming base for sunworshippers and sandcastle builders. Adventurous souls couldn't resist the temptation of the clear blue sea and the exhilarating beach funfair rides. Tentative attempts were made towards a donkey ride on what must be the cutest herd of four-legged friends on the Dorset coast! And as the day progressed, day-trippers' hunger was satiated with what else but traditional fish and chips. It was a day to leave everyone with cherished memories.

## **Old Wellonians con'd**

A wet Saturday night in July saw Karaoke Go Digital at the Inn as Malachi hosted a Karaoke night on behalf of the Old Wellonians.

The vocal talent in Ogbourne St George was truly out in force, as village residents and friends competed for the microphones. And at times it was hard to believe that we didn't in fact have Billy, Bonnie, Carly, Elton, Sam, Tom, Vanessa and Wilson in the room with us, the similarities were so uncanny! Of course nothing could stop Ben making a Hue and Cry about it as the Bevans took rapping to new heights, almost Totally Eclipsed by the Irish Rover hailing Joe le Taxi for a lift home to Our House ...

### **Sun 10 September - Avebury Ridgeway Walk**

Have you ever wanted to undertake this iconic walk along 'the oldest road', the Ridgeway, through our stunning landscape? Then join the Old Wellonians as their minibus takes willing walkers to Avebury from where you can enjoy the c. 10 mile walk back to the Inn.

The Inn will be open from 10.30am for coffee and bacon or sausage baps to start you off on your walk. The bus will leave at 11.30am. Then to nourish you upon your return, the Inn will be serving meat & vegetarian chilli with jacket potato or rice from 4-6pm as you reflect on your ambulatory achievement! For a seat on the bus, put your name down at the Inn.

### **Sun 24 September - Ben's End of Season Everlasting Quiz**

Settle in for an afternoon of quiztastic entertainment accompanied by the Inn's legendary roast beef and roast pork baps from the pizza oven. Details to follow.

The Pub and the Old Wellonians hope to see you at an event near you soon!

## **Primary School News**

The end of the summer term marks the end of another school year, and we reflect on two major final term events from Head of School, Mrs Lucy Crump.

### **Sports Day**

The children had a wonderful Sports Day. The morning was full of sporting fun with archery, parachute games, tennis and basketball, all run by Poplars children. They were so organised and encouraging, thank you for all your hard work. This was followed with field events, jumps and long distance runs for KS2 and throws for KS1. Thank you to the spectators for joining us for the afternoon and cheering on your children. They couldn't have tried harder and having you all there made all the difference. Thank you to everyone who joined in with the parents' races and what great sports you all were!

### **Year 6 Residential Trip**

Year 6 enjoyed their residential trip to Redridge, in Wales, and the school is incredibly proud of them for the way they conducted themselves during the week. They were a credit to themselves and fabulous ambassadors for our school. The instructors commented on their excellent behaviours, 'have a go' attitude and the care they showed for one another.

The activities included archery, a night hike, kayaking, zipwire, steeple climbing, orienteering, climbing and abseiling in an old quarry, as well as caving in an old Roman copper mine.

It was a great week, lots of fun and the organisers were very impressed with them for pushing themselves out of their comfort zones. Well done Year 6. A huge thank you too to Mr Ashbee-Dobbins for giving up his time to accompany Year 6 on the trip and for being such an excellent sport, joining in with all the activities.

Here are some of Mr A-D's memories *'squeezing on my hands and knees to the soundtrack of Georgia's caving screams ... posing for a sensible and rather lovely hike photo with everyone ... waking up sleeping year 6s to an eclectic music choice ... singing end of year production songs whilst paddling on the canal and even answering the countless, 'Are we there yet?' questions on the long way home.*

It sounds like a lot of fun was had by everyone and many treasured memories were created. Good luck to all Year 6 as they move up to secondary school and start their next chapters. And to everyone else, enjoy a much-needed summer break.

## Little Dragons

The Staff and Management Committee are proud to announce that Ofsted have rated us OUTSTANDING again. Our committed staff impressed the inspector in so many ways; she was full of praise for their work. I'm sure the parents will join the Management Committee in expressing their appreciation for this outstanding achievement. In fact, they did! At our wonderful end of year party, the staff were showered with gifts and cards from all the children.

The end of year is a sad time for the staff, as they have to say goodbye to the children who are going on to school. After a formal leaving ceremony where the children were presented with keepsake books, the staff wished them every success in the future.

The party was also an opportunity to thank Linda Crawshaw for 16 years of devotion to the children and to wish her well as she enters a new career. Parents and children alike will miss her, and we all hope that she will enjoy her new venture. The party ended with a picnic lunch, after fun and laughter from our wonderful guest magician Lucy Lost-it.

Our busy month began with our sports day, which was only rained off once, and a trip to Farmer Gows: a definite favourite with the children, parents and siblings alike. There were also visits to their new schools for our older children.

As a result of Linda's retirement and our increased hours, we will be recruiting a new member of staff. Parents have told us that they would like their 2-year-olds to stay for a full day sometimes, so we are extending their hours to 3.00 pm.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in working at Little Dragons please let us know. The post is a part time one, and we would love to hear from anyone who is interested. Preferably applicants will need a level 2 qualification. Please contact us for further details at

[helen@littledragons.org](mailto:helen@littledragons.org) or [kate@littledragons.org](mailto:kate@littledragons.org)

## **August Church Services**

6 August, Trinity 9, 11.00am, Parish Communion in Ogbourne St Andrew  
13 August, Trinity 10, 10.30am, Parish Communion in Chiseldon  
20 August, Trinity 11, 10.00am Parish Communion  
27 August, Trinity 12, 6.00pm, Evensong (BCP)

## **The 100 Club**

Congratulations to Louise Stewart (winner) & R White (runner up).

## **Plant Sale Table**

The organisers of the Plant Sale Table outside The Old Forge kindly request that visitors no longer drop off empty plant pots and trays as these are no longer required.

## **Solar Together Update**

Following last month's inclusion of the second Solar Together scheme in Wiltshire, a resident has raised concerns after hearing an episode of the Radio 4 consumer programme 'You and Yours' which focused on customers impacted by an installer's failure to deliver.

Wiltshire Council report on their website that these are customers of Green Energy Together (GET UK), are in London, Cambridgeshire, and Warwickshire only, and importantly this is not a company used in Wiltshire as part of the Solar Together scheme.

*They go on to say, 'With regards to the Solar Together Scheme in Wiltshire (2022-2023) ..., both installers used Infinity Renewables and EE Renewables, had great success and satisfaction levels ... with over 80% of customers saying that they would recommend Solar Together ... Only 3.6% of customers contacted iChoosr with a complaint and we are satisfied that they have worked to keep in touch with customers to understand and resolve the issues.'*

For more information on this, please visit

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/second-solar-together-scheme-launch>

## **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).