

THE DRAGON

May 2023



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

The Coronation of the King and Queen

It's Coronation Month, so see below for a summary of what's happening in and around our village to mark it.

Fri 5 May - Coronation Eve

Primary School - Sponsored Walk and Coronation Picnic

A special non-uniform day will be held, and children are invited to wear red, white and blue. See inside for more details.

The Inn with the Well - Dress like a Royal Competition.

Dress like a Royal from any era and of any nationality. Let your imagination go wild. Prize for best Queen! Children's entries from 4pm. Adults from 7.30pm. The Pizza Oven will be lit as usual, and there will be a special Coronation Pizza on the menu for one night only.

Sat 6 May – Coronation Day

The Inn with the Well – Coronation on the Big Screen

If you didn't receive an invitation to join their Majesties at Westminster Abbey, then never fear, as all the pomp and circumstance will be shown on the Big Screen at the pub from 11am. Food will be served all day.

The Inn with the Well – Karaoke Night

Continue the Royal theme by sending your regal song requests to the pub and join in a hearty singalong from 9pm to all your favourites.



Coronation Weekend (continued)

Sun 7 May - Coronation Family Fun Day

Ogbourne Primary School – S&A Crafters Market

Over 30 local business & crafters will be selling local treats and goodies from 12-4pm. There'll be plant and craft stalls, face painting and a bouncy castle, plus Royal fancy dress and colouring competitions. Stone-baked pizza will be served by Soleluna Pizza, and there'll be a BBQ, bar and pic'n'mix. Entry is free.

This event means that traffic will be higher than normal in our village. Visitors will be encouraged to park at the church rather than the school and to be mindful of residents. The organisers apologise for any inconvenience caused during this event.

Mon 8 May – Ramsbury Street Fair

Further afield Ramsbury Silver Band will be playing between 10am-2pm.

The Inn with the Well will be open from midday and serving food all day.

Village Hall News

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

The Village Hall marked the start of the growing season with its popular Plant Sale and Coffee Morning. In Tomato Corner we had Richard's Golden Surprise, Burlesque and Super Marmande varieties. On the floral front, there were colourful pansies and peonies, resplendent hostas, the unique Dunwich Rose (aka Jo's Rose!), the quirkily named Miss Wilmott's Ghost and Rabbit Foot Fern, and our late Queen's favourite, Lily of the Valley.

On sale at the cake stall were delicious home-baked sticky gingerbread, spiced banana loaf, pink grapefruit drizzle cake and jam doughnut muffins.

The VH Committee would like to thank all those who came along and supported us on the day, as well as our hidden army of green-fingered plant growers and cake bakers who provided all the goodies bought and sold which raised a welcome £400 for our Village Hall.

Midsummer Quiz

Our next date for your diary is our Midsummer Quiz which will be held on Saturday 17 June from 7.30pm. Start organizing your teams of six and sharpening your general knowledge to see if you can steal the crown from last year's winners. Further details will be circulated nearer the time. In the meantime, any enquiries can be sent to *osgvhall@gmail.com*

Parish Council News

Parish Councillors in the Pub

A sunny spring evening saw our Parish Councillors gather at The Inn with the Well for a voluntary evening of informal conversation and networking with village friends and residents. This was an additional opportunity for villagers to chat about any areas of life here, alongside the established Parish Council (PC) communication channels, and the PC was delighted to have the chance to spend time with those who came along in such a convivial setting as our local pub.

There was plenty of lively, productive, valuable debate about matters of concern including speeding, the state of our roads, public transport amenities, housing, sport and recreation facilities, to name but a few. The mix of long-standing residents and more recent arrivals present resulted in some nostalgic anecdotes of past village life and residents, fond reminiscences of previous social events, as well as some innovative ideas for the future. The conversation also extended to our other village institutions, including the Church, Little Dragons, the School, and the Village Hall.

The PC would like to thank Megan and Mike Shaw for being such congenial hosts and to everyone who came along and participated with such vigour and enthusiasm.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 11 May. It will be preceded by the Annual Village Meeting which will start at 7pm. Please note the corrected time of the latter.

Little Dragons News

Little Dragons have enjoyed the recent sunny days, spending a lot of their day in the garden playing with sand, on the bikes, using the tools, climbing and exploring and hunting for bugs! We have lots of fun activities planned for celebrating the King's Coronation, including making decorations, dressing up, cooking, planting flowers in the garden for the summer months and a parents' lunch.

As always if anyone is interested in enrolling their child please come and meet us. Give us a ring to arrange a visit- you can find all our details on our website www.littledragons.org or just pop in.

Village Fete and Dog Show

Our annual Village Fete will take place on Saturday 10 June from 2-4.30pm in the Manor Gardens with the Dog Show at 3.30pm. Volunteers are sought to help with the following:

- fresh ideas for new stalls and entertaining activities
- running or helping to run stalls
- donating prizes for the raffle and tombola, bottle and plant stalls
- good condition books /unwanted gifts (no white elephant this year)
- baking homemade cakes
- setting up on Friday early evening and Saturday morning
- clearing up afterwards on Sunday afternoon

The fete is always a warm welcoming event and a great chance to connect with old friends and residents in our village as well as a valuable opportunity to make new friends. If you haven't been involved with it before, then make 2023 the year you do so. We look forward to meeting you too! Please contact Lesley on 07775 517138 laayres@talk21.com or Nicky on 07973 210048.

May Church Services

7 May (Easter 5), 11.00am, Coronation Celebration Service at Ogbourne St Andrew

14 May (Easter 6), 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 18 May (Ascension Day), 7.30pm, Service at St Mary's Marlborough with The Bishop of Salisbury

21 May (Easter 7), 10.30am, Zoom Service

28 May (Day of Pentecost), 6.00pm, Evensong (BCP)

Summer Church Maintenance Morning

After the success of the Spring clean-up, a summer event is planned for Saturday 17 June. Details to follow next month.

Primary School News

Our children, teachers and other school colleagues have settled back into the routine of school after enjoying the Easter holiday break. With spring well and truly upon us, Acorns, the Reception class, took the opportunity to visit the new flocks of lambs which can be seen gamboling around the Iliffes' farmlands, grazing the fields, and making a welcome and familiar arrival at this time of year.

The school is also getting ready to mark the Coronation with events planned for Friday 5 May. A sponsored walk will take place along the cycle path, and children are invited to collect donations from friends and family in support of this. Acorns are also getting ready to welcome those Little Dragons who will be moving up to the school in September, with a joint Coronation celebration at which they will make crowns and flags, enjoy a parade around the playground and take part in an all-school picnic.

From September there is a plan to extend the hours of wraparound care provision from 4.15pm to 5.15pm. As a result, there's a vacancy for an After School Club Assistant as well as a Breakfast Club Assistant. For further details, see here:

www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/wraparound-care-assistant-wiltshire-1795574

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will be stopping in the village for you to borrow and renew your library books on Liddiards Green/High Street from 10-10.30am on the following Thursdays:

18 May,	7 September,
15 June,	5 October,
13 July,	2 November
10 August,	

North Wessex Downs Walking Festival 2023

For something different, the third North Wessex Downs Walking Festival takes place from 2-11 June. It will include over 25 walks taking place across the North Wessex Downs, in celebration of this stunning landscape. The varied programme will include family-friendly, evening and weekday walks with opportunities to seek out wildlife, history and culture, visit a farm or simply soak up the views from the top of the downs.

Welcoming and knowledgeable guides will bring alive some of their favourite places as you explore the landscape. Sign up to receive the North Wessex Downs email newsletter and/or to book festival events at www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking

The Inn with the Well News

The Coronation is not the only milestone we're marking this year, but also the fact that our pub hosts Mike & Megan are now the longest serving publicans in the Marlborough area. Join them for:

- 5-8 May – Coronation Weekend – see pages 1 and 2
- Sat 13 May – Eurovision Night on the Big Screen

The pub will be closed from 24 May – 1 June inclusive.

From May onwards the pub will be open from 4pm on Mondays to Fridays and from midday on Saturdays & Sundays. The pizza oven is fired up on Friday nights, and for the rest of the week, you can choose from the wide range of home-cooked dishes on the chalkboard inside.

Call 01672 841445 to book for any of their events or check for the latest information at www.theinnwiththewell.co.uk.

Great People Great Things

The refreshed Inn with the Well logo reminds us that we have been fortunate enough to have a pub in our village since 1685. That's 365 years! Each generation has done its bit to ensure this vital community hub keeps going for the benefit of all of us, and it has never been more important to support our local pubs as it is now.

With this in mind, some spirited residents have seized the initiative and set up a registered charity in the community interest. Taking the pub as its inspiration, and with the blessing and support of Mike & Megan, it has been named the 'Old Wellonians', and its aim is to facilitate and support activities, events and excursions associated with the pub.

Its first deed has been to purchase a 17-seater minibus, affectionately christened 'Chantelle'. To find out the story behind this you'll have to go to the pub and ask an Old Wellonian! The bus is an asset of the charity, and both are intended to support both the village and the pub.

Living in a rural area as we do, many residents report that transport can be the barrier to getting out and about to events in numbers, so these intrepid Old Wellonians are resolving this by procuring this group transport from a business in the village. And it has truly been a collaborative village initiative so far, as not only has the bus been sourced and purchased by villagers, but the logo has been designed by a resident graphic designer, and the charity will be run and governed by villagers in line with proper procedures.



Chantelle's maiden outing was in early April to take members and some village rugby fans to sunny St Austell to watch Marlborough Rugby Club play an away fixture. Day trippers met at the pub starting the day with a hearty breakfast, then enjoyed a scenic drive to and from the Cornish coast and watched a nail-biting game of rugby. It was the purchase of the minibus that made this group outing possible.

Plans for future excursions include a day trip to the Dorset Coast, visits to fairs and festivals, and more locally, shuttling walkers along the Ridgeway.

The charity is in its very early stages, so is accepting applications for membership and welcomes suggestions for events and outings that members and residents would like to attend. So, if you have an idea and are involved with a group of people who could benefit from this transport, then find out more by popping into the pub and asking for an Old Wellonian!

The 100 Club

Congratulations to the March winners, C Manos & H Leader.

Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on 17 May in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. Nick Baxter will present “Swindon’s Other Railway”. The Midland and South Western Junction Railway ran from Andoversford (near Cheltenham) through Cirencester and Swindon to Andover. The Swindon to Marlborough section, which ran through Chiseldon, was opened in 1881 and Chiseldon station closed in 1961. This talk will bring back memories for some residents and give a taste of the past for others. Annual membership is £20. Non-members fees are £5 per meeting.

Chiseldon Museum is now open for the summer on Saturdays until 30 September from 2-4pm (closed 6 May). New displays include the Chiseldon Windmill, a display of 20th Century technology, local maps through the ages and a special feature on past Coronations.

Race to the Stones 2023

Looking ahead to the summer, this annual ultra marathon will be coming through the village on 8-9 July, as valiant runners and walkers cover the gruelling 100km along the Ridgeway from Lewknor to Avebury. Details can be found here: www.thresholdtrailseries.com/events/race-to-the-stones/

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

