

# THE DRAGON

November/December 2022



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

## **Congratulations to our Village Unsung Hero**

Thank you to all of you who took part in our summer competition to find our Ogbourne St George Unsung Hero.

We received some heartwarming nominations about all the worthwhile good deeds that our fellow villagers carry out behind the scenes. This was your opportunity to celebrate and thank this army of hidden volunteers who take the initiative and the time to do beneficial things for our village and its' residents without any expectation of thanks or recognition. Those of you who attended the Harvest Fair had the chance to vote for your favourite, and The Dragon is delighted to announce that the winner is:

### **DAVE CHILD**

Here's a snapshot of what you said about Dave:

*'Every week without fail, and whatever the weather, Dave walks around the Village picking up litter of his own accord. It is an unnoticed and sometimes unpleasant task, but it's why our roads and footpaths look so nice. He is a keen helper whenever there is a volunteer morning to clean up the church and graveyard, and delivers our monthly Dragon Newsletter. He also quietly goes around the Village Hall putting the bins out every week and generally tidying up the front area. Always willing to help at a drop of a hat he is my nomination.'*

Congratulation Dave, and a big thank you from all of us for all you do for us. We hope this shows you how much we appreciate you

All the nominations can be found in the centre pages of this edition.

## **October Round Up**

October was a busy month in our village for fundraising events and general opportunities for us all to get together.

### **Harvest Fair**

The month started with the Harvest Fair, held in the Church in place of the cancelled Village Fete. A total of £700 was raised from your bets on the bottle and tombola stalls, perusing the plant, book and bric-a-brac stalls, adopting some seriously cute teddies, as well as sitting down with friends over a cup of tea and a slice of delicious home-made cake. What better way to spend a Saturday afternoon! The organisers thank everyone who helped behind the scenes and on the day.

### **Church Autumn Tidy Up**

A thank you to all the volunteers who helped tidy up inside and outside the Church. There was a good turnout, which was much enhanced by the perfect weather. They will meet again in the spring.

### **Village Hall Quiz**

Plenty of you joined us on an autumnal Saturday evening to test your grey matter against your friends and residents at the Village Hall Quiz. Thanks to you we raised a much-needed £412 for our Village Hall. Congratulations to the winning Utton Team who were worthy winners. See you next year for a rematch!

Thank you to the Village Hall Committee who worked tirelessly before, during and after the event to make it a success. And to the 'winner' of the last remaining raffle prize, that set of candles, we hope they are burning brightly in your home!

### **Wear It Pink Coffee Morning**

We rounded off October by turning our village pink, well our local pub at least, in support of Breast Cancer Now. By donning pink, baking an array of pink cakes and goodies, and buying tickets for pink raffle prizes, the event raised £719. Huge thanks to Roz, Mike & Megan for hosting the event and to everyone who took part.

## **Christmas Grotto**

Start your Christmas festivities by bringing the children along to the Village Hall after school on Friday 2 December from 3-6pm, to meet Santa Claus, eat mince pies and drink hot chocolate (mulled wine will be available for the over 18s!).

Take the opportunity to start your Christmas shopping as there will be a range of stalls selling gifts for children and adults including handmade Victorian Christmas decorations and toys, ceramics, crafts and preserves.

If you would like to run your own stall and showcase your wares, then tables are available to hire for £7.50. Contact [osgvhall@gmail.com](mailto:osgvhall@gmail.com) for further details and to express your interest.

## **Christmas Lights Switch On**

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm the return of our village Christmas Lights event, on Sunday 4 December from 5pm in The Inn With the Well.

There will be free mulled wine and mince pies from 5pm. The lights will be switched on at 5.30pm, and the pub will be open until 9pm so you can stay for chat and conviviality with local friends and neighbours. It was a very popular event last year, so come along and make this event equally as good.

## **School Christmas Fair**

The Parent Staff Association (“PSA”) is very excited to announce that the Christmas Fair is back after a long break due to Covid. On Sunday 11 December from 11-2pm, our fair will be held at the school as normal, with lots going on to get you into the festive spirit! Our classic Santa's Grotto is back, as well as lots of games including Water into Wine, Elf off the Shelf, Snowman Alley, Decorate a Bauble, plus many more. There will be homemade mince pies, mulled wine and hot dogs to satisfy those hunger pangs too.

Little Dragons are also holding a Silent Auction, so come & support them at the same time.

# **Your Nominations for our Unsung Heroes**

Thank you to all of who put forward nominations which are listed below. An even bigger thank you to all of you who received nominations for your contribution to Village Life.

## **1 Lesley Ayres & Nicky Irwin**

A great team who quietly go about organising Village fetes and other events for years.

## **2 Mike Clark**

For the bell ringing, most recently to mark The Queen's Jubilee in June and poignantly joining the national tolling to mark her death.

## **3 Helen Fisher**

For running the plant and bric a brac stall which raise money for the Church.

## **4 Jane Fisher**

For planting up and maintaining the floral containers every season that welcome people as they drive into and out of our Village.

## **5 Charlotte Frost**

Posthumously nominated for her huge and unrivalled contribution to Village life over many years who is sorely missed.

## **6 Tim Frost**

For printing The Dragon every month, a vital role in keeping everyone informed with what's going on in our Village. He's also an enthusiastic thoughtful member of the Village Hall Committee and willingly shares decades of invaluable Village knowledge.

## **7 Louise McIntyre**

For clearing the path beyond Jubb's Lane so that we can all enjoy a pleasant walk along it.

## **8. Colin Jeffery**

Not only does he keep the Village Hall running, but at every Village event from coffee mornings, fetes, Jubilee bonfire - there he is, always providing a helping hand. With his cheerful smile and possibly a refusal to take 'no' for an answer he is a fantastic recruiter for involving others in helping out! He is an absolute treasure and definitely deserves Hero recognition.

## **9 Carol Manos**

She has supported the Village for longer than I know. She always has a smile and friendly help for anyone without any expectation. And her stall must have raised thousands of pounds for the Church. For all the strange and wonderful items, she manages to sell for the Church.

## **10 Megan & Mike Shaw**

Not least for sustaining the heart of the Village for 31 years, they also sustained us all through lockdown, supported me through difficult times and have become great friends since we came to the Village 15 years ago. They do us a great service and always support the Village, provide a central hub for residents, as well as a warm welcome for visitors who leave with a great impression of our Village.

## **11 Richard Whiteway**

He is always busy keeping the Village tidy, and the effort he put into the incredible signs during lockdowns and beyond was lovely. It kept spirits up and encouraged us to still feel the Village love. Richard has always been happy to help and is always kind to the children.

## **The Inn with the Well News**

During September and October all the events and activities that our local pub has hosted have raised £856 for The Prospect Hospice. This is a truly fantastic achievement, and many thanks go to Megan and Mike Shaw for their unstinting commitment to this worthy local organisation. And cheers to all of you who have loyally drunk your way through the shots and special cocktails created in honour of this.

### **FIFA Men's World Cup Games**

- Fri 25 Nov 10am - Wales v Iran. Breakfast served from 9.30am
- Fri 25 Nov 7pm - England v USA
- Tues 29 Nov 7pm – Wales v England

After that ... who knows what emotional journey the England team will take us all on this year ... stay tuned.

### **Christmas 2022 Events**

- Sun 4 Dec 5pm - Christmas Lights Switch On
- Fri 16 Dec 8.30pm - Christmas Quiz. No children after 8pm please.
- Sat 17 Dec 9pm - Locarno Beat in concert. Pub opens at 8pm
- Fri 23 Dec 5pm – Pizza and Christmas Singalong
- Sun 25 Dec 12pm – Open for Pre-Booked Christmas Guests. Bubbles & canapés from 12pm, dinner served 1.30pm.

Takeaway pizzas continue to be served on Fridays. Apart from the above dates, the pub is closed on Saturdays & Sundays in Nov & Dec, as well as from 31 Oct until 9 Nov. Please text Mike on 07900 925919 to be added to the Inn WhatsApp group. Up to date information can be found at [www.theinnwiththewell.co.uk](http://www.theinnwiththewell.co.uk)

## **Little Dragons**

Little Dragons are really enjoying looking at and playing with natural Autumn materials at the moment. If anyone has any interesting materials to share that the children would enjoy exploring, such as conkers, pumpkins, apples, interesting leaves etc., then we would really appreciate any donations.

We also really enjoy using 'scrap' materials such as smooth (splinter free) planks of wood, pallets, drain pipes etc. in our play. If you have anything that may interest us, please give us a call on 07855 026083 or drop us an email to [linda@littledragons.org](mailto:linda@littledragons.org) Thank you.

## **Parish Council News**

Our Parish Council Transport Working Group is working extensively to improve all aspects of road usage for all our benefit.

Residents are kindly requested to consider other road users, especially buses when parking near the T-junction from the High Street onto the Marlborough Road. Parked cars block the sight of oncoming motorists as well as severely restricting the available space for large vehicles, especially buses, to navigate this crucial junction.

## **Church Services and News**

- 6 Nov (3rd before Advent), 10.00am, Cafe Church
- 13 Nov (Remembrance Sunday), 10.45am, Remembrance Service
- 20 Nov (Christ the King), 10.30am, Zoom Service
- 27 Nov (Advent Sunday), 4.00pm, Advent Lights Service, Chiseldon
  
- 4 Dec (Advent 2), 10.00am, Cafe Church
- 11 Dec (Advent 3), 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)
- 18 Dec (Advent 4), 4.00pm, Carol Service
- 24 Dec (Christmas Eve), 4.00pm, Christingle Service; 9.30pm, Communion by Candlelight
- 25 Dec (Christmas Day), 10.00am, Christmas Service
  
- 1 Jan (Christmas 2), 10.30am, Benefice Communion in Chiseldon

During the autumn the wooden benches in the churchyard will be removed in rotation, for maintenance and repair. During this period the benches may not be in their usual positions in order to ensure that there is seating by the church gate and en route to the Ridgeway.

Volunteers are sought to join the team which looks after the Church flowers and cleaning. If you would like to join then they would love to hear from you. Please contact Roz on 01672 841538. If you were on the original rota and have lost contact with the organisers then please also contact Roz.

## **Chiseldon Local History Group**

The next meeting is on Wednesday 16 November in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. Peter Petrie will talk on “Gloucester Cathedral Through the Ages”. Gloucester Cathedral, formally the Cathedral Church of St Peter and the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, stands in the north of the city near the River Severn.

Membership subscriptions are £20 per year. Visitor fees for non-members are £5 per meeting. Please also note that our 2023 calendar “Chiseldon: Gone but not Forgotten” will be available shortly in all good local outlets. Just in time for Christmas!

## **Learn a Musical Instrument - Ramsbury Silver Band**

There is no question that playing a musical instrument is good for you. Whatever your age, it's never too late. Ramsbury Silver Band is looking for new players. If you heard us playing in the village on Friday evenings, in summer 2020 as we came out of lockdown and would like to join us, then we offer both instruments and teaching, whether you can read music or not. And age really is no limit – our lead horn player didn't pick up an instrument until he retired; now he is teaching school children to play. The main thing is that it's fun making music in a group.

If you'd like to know more, then contact Kevin Howard on 07534 679944.

## **The Merchant's House Event – Hallowed Ground**

Our very own Jon Cannon, presenter and author, and Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury will be in conversation on Wednesday 30 November at 7pm at St John the Baptist, Minal. Spend an evening with two local authors who share a deep love for the English parish church. Andrew and Jon will explore what it means to them, having reached this shared love via different paths. Expect a fascinating talk as they explore the emotions and ideas such buildings trigger. The parish church is a gateway to many things including history, spirituality and the wider landscape. Tickets and details here: [www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events/details/92](http://www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events/details/92)

## **Contact the Dragon**

To include your Village news in The Dragon, please write to the Editor, Claire Heald, on [osgdragon22@gmail.com](mailto:osgdragon22@gmail.com) If you would like to receive a copy of The Dragon by email, then please contact the Editor.