

THE DRAGON

September 2024



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

Thank you, Megan, Mike, Natalie & The Inn Team

Many of you will know by now that Megan and Mike have made the very difficult decision to close The Inn with the Well in its current format and to run it as The Well Guesthouse on a B&B basis from October onwards. This is very sad news, and those of us on the outside can only sympathise with how tough it must have been to have made this call in their personal and professional lives. Their huge contribution to building our community and long-standing presence as hosts of such a warm welcoming place will be sorely missed. Quite simply the Inn has been crucial in enabling many of us to form firm friendships, make treasured memories and enjoy the best of times on our doorstep.

Like many rural pubs, the Inn has been adversely affected by the cost-of-living crisis, coming quickly on the back of a pandemic, and we have been lucky that Megan and Mike and their team have worked so hard to keep it going as long as they have, through increasingly difficult economic conditions beyond their control. Suffice to say that no one could have done more to sustain the Inn as a vital viable business and community hub than Mike and Megan over the years.

No doubt you will all have your own favourite memories of evenings and events that they have hosted over their 33 year-long tenure including birthday parties, weddings and anniversaries, live music, Karaoke and open mic nights, bake-offs, brunches and lunches, tea parties, fancy dress competitions and quizzes, bike rides, sausage and glass-making (presumably not at the same time!), all manner of local, national and international sporting occasions, as well as considerable fundraising for local charities.

They say that it has been a pleasure serving so many of us, past and present over the bar. We say in reply that it has been an equal pleasure and privilege to have been served by you. Thank you from your community.

Ogbourne Motor Group (OMG)

After the success of the trial run at DECAID, the first OMG Treasure Hunt took place on 19 July. We had four teams taking part. Everyone enjoyed the leisurely drive in the July evening sunshine, and after 18 miles there were only four points separating the teams. When the points were added up, the winners were Team Utton with 39 points from 40.

Thank you to everyone that took part and to Mike and Megan for letting us use their facilities at The Inn with the Well and for the very tasty pizzas. A special thank you goes to Claire for taking over when I had to leave; your organisational skills are far superior to mine.

The next OMG will be on Thursday 5 September at 7pm. This will be the last meeting at the Inn with the Well, so I hope to see many of you there. Thank you to Mike and Megan for hosting us as we established the Group over the past year. The group will continue to meet after the pub closes and we will consider what we do next.

PS: Look out for the walking Treasure Hunt at the Village Fete in September.

Little Dragons Update

The staff at Little Dragons were sad to say goodbye to their older children, who are leaving to go to school. The academic year ended with a farewell party, enjoyed by all. After a short leaving ceremony, all the children were entertained by 'Lucy Lost It' who really does know how to make little ones laugh. It was a wonderful end to the year.

Little Dragons had their family fun day at the end of June and that was also a huge success. The Management Committee were blown away by the support that they received from the village and families present and past. Their generosity was quite exceptional, and not only did they spend a lot of money with us, but they stayed and enjoyed the fun and games. We'd like to thank everyone who supported us in any way.

Little Dragons will start the new academic year with lots of children on roll and the staff are looking forward to these numbers increasing throughout the year. We are always looking for visitors to come and talk to the children or to spend time with them and if you'd like to give up a few hours to come and meet us, we would love to speak to you.

Village Fete and Dog Show – 21 September

The annual Village Fete will be held on Saturday 21 September from 2-4.30pm in the gardens of the Manor House.

We will have the usual favourite stalls, as well as be serving refreshments, teas, and drinks at the bar all to the sound of local live music.

Lots is still at the planning stage, so if you have an idea or suggestion for something new, then please contact the organisers (details at the end). New this year is a walking Treasure Hunt that will run from the Inn with the Well through the village ending at the Fete. More details on all this are to follow.

The Dog Show will start at 4pm and previous years' classes have included Handsome Dog, Perfect Puppy, Golden Oldie, Waggiest Tail, Most Appealing Eyes and Musical Sit! Entries on the day.

Over the last few years several of our long-term helpers have left the village, so this year the organising team is very short of help. They are appealing for volunteers to lend a hand in several ways to make this popular much-loved event happen.

You can help in the following ways:

- Donate cakes and home baked goodies for the tea stalls, plants for the plant sale table, unwanted gifts for the raffle and gift stall, fiction, memoir and children's books for the book stall, and teddies and soft toys seeking a good home. These can be dropped off on Friday evening or Saturday morning, left in the church the week before, or contact Lesley who will arrange to collect
- Set up on the Friday evening, help run stalls on the Saturday and clear up on Saturday from 5pm. It's fun and you'll be amongst friends.

If you would like to join in, meet new people and ensure that our annual fete continues, then please contact Nicky on 07973 210048 or Lesley on 07775 517138, laayres@talk21.com See you there!

Ogbourne Locals Conquer the Race to the Stones

Two intrepid Ogbourne St George residents took on and conquered the 2024 Race to the Stones, a gruelling 100km cross-country race across Britain's oldest path, the Ridgeway, from Lewknor to Avebury, in what is the UK's biggest Ultramarathon event and was held from 13-14 July.

Completing the challenge first was Jess White, starting at Lewknor at 6:30 in the morning, passing her own house after 81km at 3:10pm (ouch!), scorching through our village at 3:18pm, and then storming up Smeathes Ridge to Barbury.

Finally, she reached Avebury in the incredible time of 11 hours and 14 minutes, averaging seven minutes per kilometre for the whole event, which includes food and rest stops.

Next Phil Luker tackled the route raising money for the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, which has supported his niece for the last 12 years following a leukaemia diagnosis when she was just five years old.

Ahead of his massive challenge, Phil said: *"I'm 52 and not as fit as I was when I last did it six or seven years ago. BUT compared to what those battling childhood cancer and the impact it has on their longer-term future have to go through, it will be a walk in the park, albeit a long one with blisters no doubt!"*

Phil crossed the finish line after an amazing 22 hours and 17 minutes having run past the Inn at 2.26am (sadly closed!). At the time of writing his achievement has raised over £2,250. If anyone would like to add to this, you can find his fundraising page at [justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) or use this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/phil-luker-1718805099176>

Huge congratulations to Jess and Phil from all of us, and we hope the blisters have subsided!

2024 Marlborough LitFest

Marlborough LitFest celebrates its 15th year with a packed programme of more than 40 events for all ages across the festival weekend from 26-29 September 2024.

With a mix of debut authors and established writers in fiction and non-fiction, as well as poetry, children's authors and free schools' events, workshops and LitFest's annual Big Town Read, there's something for everyone at this year's festival.

LitFest has expanded its free activities for younger children and their families, with many ways to join and share everyone's love of stories. The children's festival programme features a bumper crop of events – many free – to keep all ages entertained both before and during the festival weekend.

The 2024 line-up includes LitFest Patron Sir Simon Russell Beale, 2024 Golding Speaker Linda Grant, Celia Imrie, Robert Hardman, Kate Mosse, William Dalrymple, Zeinab Badawi, Robert Peston, Martin Sixsmith, Jonathan Dimbleby, Felix Francis and children's author and illustrator duo Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre.

TICKETS

- Online: www.marlboroughlitfest.org
- By telephone: 0333 666 3366
- In person: The White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough, and from the Box Office in the Town Hall over the festival weekend.

Mobile Library

If you have been inspired to read any of the authors above, then the Mobile Library Route S will stop at Liddiards Green / High Street from 10.00-10.30am on the following dates for the rest of 2024:

5 September, 3 October, 31 October, 28 November, 26 December

Village Hall Maintenance News

The Village Hall Committee has, in recent weeks, noticed some blistering of the new exterior paintwork in patches along the whole length of the eastern wall of the Village Hall.

Discussions with the contractors concluded that simply repainting the patches would be unsatisfactory. Instead, all parties have agreed that the correct solution is to repaint the whole section, which will also permit the contractors to incorporate an improved undercoating layer. We were always aware that the eastern elevation was the more difficult one to tackle, but this solution should avoid such issues recurring. The repainting is covered under the contractors' warranty and will be done urgently (depending on weather), with the minimum of disruption to the pre-school when it returns in September.

Autumn Quiz - 5 October 2024

Entertaining intellectual stimulation and good-natured general knowledge rivalry beckons at our next Quiz Night in the Village Hall on Saturday 5 October from 7.30pm.

Team 'Oggy Bottom' will no doubt be defending their twice-won crown, but can your team do better? You'll have to be in it to win it! Either organise your team of six or come along and join others and meet old friends and make new ones and stake your claim to win the Autumn 2024 Quiz Crown.

As ever you'll be contributing to your community and helping us raise those ongoing and much-needed funds to support the running costs of the Village Hall.

Doors open 7pm, quiz starts 7.30pm. Quiz entry is £5 per person in advance, £6 on the night. Beer, wine, alcohol-free and soft drinks plus savoury nibbles will be available for donations on the night.

To reserve your place[s] please ring Colin on 01672 841485 or email Claire on osgvhall@gmail.com We hope that as many of you come along as possible.

Village Hall Committee Vacancy

- Would you like to get to know more people in the village?
- Do you have a little spare time to attend 3-4 meetings a year?
- Would you like to join in with some local social events?

If so, then please join our friendly Village Hall Committee. It's an ideal way to make friends locally and contribute to your community.

The Committee is also seeking someone to take over as Secretary. This is an interesting role involving drafting agendas, taking minutes and generally getting involved with the Hall. It is not onerous and will suit you if you have good communication and organisation skills.

If you would like further information and/or to join us, contact Chair Colin Jeffrey on 01672 841485 or email the current Secretary Claire on osgvhall@gmail.com

School Governor Vacancy

Our local Ogbourne Primary School is seeking one more School Governor. The school is part of the Excalibur Academies Trust family of schools and has a team of extremely committed School Governors who do a huge amount to support the staff team and the school.

Governors focus on looking at the school through the eyes of the children to make sure their outcomes are as good as they can be. They attend four evening meetings during each academic year and undertake visits during the school day from time to time to talk 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 and visits
- Help shape and nurture the lives of young people.

To find out more please contact: Lucy Crump, Head of School on 01672 841318 or letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk or Abbie Holmes, Chair of Governors on 07801 866525 or abbie.j.holmes@gmail.com

The Inn with the Well

It's been a busy month at the pub. On 15 August Megan organised afternoon tea in aid of Breast Cancer Now which raised just under £600. Thank you to all who made cakes, offered prizes for the draw, the hand massage expert and Natalie for her chair yoga.

Friday saw Tony and co run an open mic night- great to see so many old faces and we now have a new star in Dylan, who works on Friday making pizzas etc and who we sponsor at Marlborough Rugby club - great guitar work.

By the time you read this, the annual Bank Holiday Monday Rounders Match will have taken place. More information on events in September will follow on the usual social media channels.

September Church Services

- 1 September, Trinity 14, Cafe Church, 10.00am
- 8 September, Trinity 15, Holy Communion (BCP), 8.30am
- 15 September, Trinity 16, Zoom Service, 10.30am
- 22 September, Trinity 17, Evensong (BCP), 6.00pm
- 29 September, Trinity 18, Benefice Communion, 10.00am

100 Club Winners

Congratulations to the latest winners:

- July winner L. Hawnt, runner up N. Holmes
- August winner J. Moffat, runner up E. Green

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 September in the Village Hall.

Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday 18 September 2024 in the Church Hall, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN at 7.30pm on “Wiltshire – a journey through time” presented by Nick Baxter. Nick is a regular speaker on local topics and always gives an entertaining talk with excellent photographs and illustrations. He will take us through our remarkable county’s history from extensive iron age structures to Saxon settlement by the Wilsaetan people, to the importance of Salisbury in the Middle Ages, to the opening of the M4. Everyone attending will certainly learn something new about Wiltshire!

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 and 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