

# THE DRAGON

February 2025



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

## Parish Council Update

The Parish Council wishes all Ogbourne St George good health and happiness for 2025 and hopes that this year has started well for everyone.

**Parish Council Meetings:** The first Parish Council meeting of 2025 has already taken place at which there was much debate about village interests and plans for this year. Meetings take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, and the next meetings are on 13 March and 8 May. Minutes for each meeting can be found on [www.ogbournestgeorge.org.uk](http://www.ogbournestgeorge.org.uk) under 'Council Minutes'.

**Annual Budget:** The Council discussed the budget as presented. The annual running costs are similar to the previous year with some inflationary increases. A further £2,000 will be requested to increase the Earmark provision for Special Projects in 2025/26, as the Council anticipates projects involving the Bell Field and the Playground, along with inflation in the operating budget. The Council agreed to the precept request for 2025/26, which includes the increased amount of £2,000. This will be £69.56 For a Band D House, an increase of £8.66 per year (14.22%).

**Parish Council Elections:** Parish Council elections are due in May 2025, and villagers are invited to apply to join and become a voice for your village. There is an existing vacancy and no guarantee that current members will apply for re-election.

Your involvement ensures improving local services, preservation of our environment and a thriving community for all. Make a real difference by representing your neighbours, tackling local issues and supporting local initiatives. Step forward today and help shape the future of Ogbourne St George with fresh ideas. Please apply to [parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk) or speak to any of the current team. Contact details are on the above website under 'The Parish Council' / 'Your Parish Councillors'.

## **Road Concerns**

In light of recent traffic issues in the village due to road closures on the A346, we are once again raising our concerns to Wiltshire Council as well as looking at other avenues. We would also like to ask residents who park on the High Street, especially past the school where the road narrows, to kindly alleviate the congestion by moving their cars to the Church car park temporarily wherever possible to facilitate the traffic. It is a stressful situation for all involved and your help and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## **Installation of the new Speed Indicator Device (“SID”)**

The Parish Council would like to thank those residents who installed the new SID. It provides background as to why it has located the second SID there.

Back in December 2020 Wiltshire Council conducted a traffic survey in four areas of the village to ascertain whether the speed limit should/could be reduced. These were Lower High Street, Upper High Street, Marlborough Road North and Marlborough Road South. In each of these areas, results showed that no speed limit reduction was warranted, as the traffic speeds sat within the accepted threshold. So, as a Parish Council we looked at other ways to make our roads safer. Given the traffic speed results of the survey, the only one of the four areas where we could put a SID was Marlborough Road South. Over the 7 days, 41.5% of vehicles travelling down this stretch of road were over the posted speed limit - which warranted our intervention.

## **Village Jumble Sale – 29 March 2025**

Our first event of 2025 is the Jumble Sale, where pre-loved treasures and bargains await. Whether you're hunting for knick-knacks to refresh your home, clothing to brighten up your wardrobe or activities to pass the colder days, there's something for everyone at this perennial favourite.

**Volunteers:** If you would like to get involved then please contact Lesley Ayres on 07775 517138 to be added to the Jumble WhatsApp Group to receive all the vital up to date information.

**Donations:** We need good quality jumble please, so start having a clear out. Clothes, accessories, handbags, jewellery, homeware, crafts, games, etc - anything in a good, saleable condition that you don't need anymore. Further details including on where to take your jumble will be in the March Dragon.

## Will you be the next Editor of The Dragon?

Are you passionate about your local community? Do you enjoy writing? Would you like to get to know and make many friends in the village? If so, then consider becoming the next Editor of our Village Newsletter as I am stepping down in Spring 2025 after three years of service.

This is a unique opportunity to become a vital part of Ogbourne St George's story and to be at the heart of our village. As Editor, you'll have the chance to:

- **Shape the Voice of our Village:** Your words will keep everyone connected, informed and engaged. From local news and updates to village celebrations and events, you'll be at the forefront of what makes Ogbourne St George thrive.
- **Celebrate Local Talent:** Showcase the achievements of villagers, share stories of everyday heroes, and bring attention to the amazing groups, individuals and volunteers who make our village special.
- **Create a Lasting Legacy:** The Dragon is more than a newsletter – it's a vital piece of our history. Your work will be treasured for years to come, providing a snapshot of life in our village for future generations.
- **Be Part of a Close-Knit Team:** Work alongside local volunteers, community leaders and passionate residents who all share the same goal of keeping village spirit alive and well.

If you have good writing skills, a sense of curiosity, care about your local community and are keen to contribute to strengthening our village bonds, we want to hear from you. For more information and a chat about what this enjoyable and rewarding role involves, then please contact the current Editor, Claire Heald, on 07493 110248 or [osgdragon22@gmail.com](mailto:osgdragon22@gmail.com)

## 100 Club

Congratulations to the latest winners:

December: Winner - R Barratt. Runner Up - C Manos

January: Winner - V Merritt. Runner Up - D Moxon

## **February Church Services**

2 Feb, Candlemas, 10.00am, Café Church

9 Feb, Epiphany 5, 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)

16 Feb, 3rd before Lent, 10.30am, Zoom Service

23 Feb, 2nd before Lent, 5.00pm, Evensong (BCP)

## **Little Dragons**

Little Dragons has had a very busy time over the last few months. Our numbers continue to grow, and we have been recruiting new staff.

As some in the village may know, one of our members of staff, Kate Crocker, went on maternity leave at the end of November, and we have been busy finding a replacement. Kyra joined Little Dragons last week, working with Kate's children, and we hope she will settle in well. We would also like to welcome Charis and Victoria, who will be taking up part-time roles.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the birth of Kate's son Oscar who was born on 21 January. Mother and baby are doing well.

## **Chiseldon Local History Group**

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19 February in the Church Hall, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN at 7.30 pm on 'The River at War' in which Bill King will talk about the River Thames' strategic role in World War II.

Between 1940 and 1945 London suffered 253 night-time raids and 101 daytime raids by the German Luftwaffe, with 80,000 casualties. Even during night-time blackouts, the bomber navigators could easily identify their target due to the distinctive shape of the Thames, and the enemy knew how important the Port of London was to Britain's economy which made London's docks a key target. What is almost forgotten, and was almost unknown at the time, was the work of the Thames-Flood Prevention Emergency Repairs service, the London County Council's rapid response unit whose work proved essential in keeping the capital functional.

## **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)