

THE DRAGON

July 2022



Welcome to your July 2022 round up of news and events in Ogbourne St George

Message from your Parish Council

Thank you to all who attended to helped the village mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee last month, across the Spring Clean, the lighting of our Beacon, and the picnic on the village green. It was lovely to see so many people from the village celebrating together, and thankfully the rain held off for long enough on Sunday.

There were too many people involved in the preparations to thank everyone individually, but we do want to particularly thank the Iliffe family for their invaluable help with the Beacon, Colin Jeffery for pulling it all together, Mike and Megan Shaw at the Inn with the Well for donating the cask of Ramsbury Gold ale (who in turn would like to thank Ramsbury Brewery) that kept us lubricated at the picnic, Mike Clark and his team of church bell ringers, whose rich peal started off Sunday's picnic, the Bathe family for donating the Jubilee medals, and of course the residents of Pooles Meadow.

Thanks also go to all those who entered the cake and crown competitions, and congratulations to winners Georgie Bevan, Lily Cannon and Wilbur Frost. Thanks also to Astrid Haydon for her carefully considered judging and to Valentiner Cook Shop in Marlborough for the prize donations.

Thanks to the volunteers who turned out for the Spring Clean the week before to get our village ready for the festivities, namely Michelle Ashby, Paul Rouse, Edward Inglefield, Jess, Jake, Rosie and Emmy Green, who together with Parish Councillors Rob Green, Nathalie Collister and Nick Burnet donated their precious time on a Saturday morning clearing the bus stop and overgrown ivy on Marlborough Road, much of the designated footpath up the slip road to the Golf Club pedestrian gate and bus stop, as well as litter picking all around the village.

All in all it was great to be part of a shared celebration that extended across the country and Commonwealth to commemorate this unique occasion.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 7 July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

July Church Services

- 3 July (Trinity 3), 10.00am, Café Church
- 10 July (Trinity 4), 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)
- 17 July (Trinity 5), 10.30am, Zoom Service
- 24 July (Trinity 6), 6.00pm, Evensong (BCP)
- 31 July (Trinity 7), 10.50am, Benefice Communion at Ogbourne St. Andrew

Church Roof Repairs

Ecclesiastical, the insurance company has authorised the repairs for the storm damage on the Church roof, including a number of slipped slates. The repairers will need to use scaffolding, but have given assurances that they will be respectful of the graves nearby. It will be magnificent to get this work completed. No date is confirmed yet; however the main damage has a temporary repair, with many thanks to Eldi Merritt for getting this in place immediately after the storm.

Little Dragons' Jubilee Fun

Little Dragons' children had great fun celebrating the Platinum Jubilee in the week leading up to half term. They made cakes, crowns, Union Jack flags and enjoyed books linked to the Royal Family, 'Peppa Pig meets the Queen' being a firm favourite! They finished the week with a fantastic picnic in the Pre-school garden with the parents, where they played games, had a lucky dip, enjoyed bubbles, singing and much eating of cake!

Your Village Hall Committee needs YOU

- 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 village events?

If so, then join our friendly fun vibrant Village Hall Committee. It's an ideal way to make friends locally and get involved in village life now that pandemic restrictions have eased, and much missed social events are underway again.

You need to be aged 18 or over, live in OSG or the surrounding area, be free to attend a few evening (c.3-4) meetings over the year, help organise village and fundraising events and attend a couple of work parties to keep our Hall up to scratch.

If you would like further information and/or to join us, ring Colin Jeffrey on 01672 841485 or email Claire Heald on osgvhall@gmail.com

Primary School News

Ogbourne School has recently welcomed two new volunteers to its Local Governing Board: Parent Governor Kayleigh Basford and Community Governor Louise McIntyre. The Principal, Mr Richard Smith, writes regular updates about school activities, and we have chosen a few highlights to share in this month's Dragon.

PSA Sponsored Read: A big thank you to all friends and family who supported the PSA sponsored read which has meant that we have been able to purchase over £1,000 worth of beautiful Usborne books. They are now ready to go into our reading scheme, on our class library shelves, and we can't wait to be putting them into book bags! A special thanks to Claire Cates for her huge input and organisation at every stage of this project.

Farewell to Year 6: Our Year 6 pupils have recently returned from a residential trip to PGL Osmington Bay. Throughout the week they climbed, abseiled, and zip-wired; shot with rifles and bows; they fenced; jumped off a trapeze and had great fun on a giant swing. We wish them well on their move to secondary school in September.

Jubilee Thanks: We would like to thank everyone who brought in scones, jam, cream, squash and picnic blankets for our Jubilee picnic. We were quite blown away by your generosity! The children looked fabulous in their costumes and everyone had a great time.

Cricket Tournament Win: We had a great time at the Cricket Tournament at St Katharine's. The team worked really hard and demonstrated great cricketing skills, winning the tournament!

Fantastic Reading Achievement: Two pupils in Year 2 have completed reading the Numbots story and achieved Diamond level. These are our first readers to achieve this at the school. We have contacted the Numbots site and they confirmed that only a tiny fraction of children complete the whole story by Yr.2 Well done!

Defibrillator in the Village

Did you know that there is a defibrillator at the primary school, which not only paid for it but also its ongoing maintenance? It is fitted by the front door and available at all times for the use in the village, so take a look next time you pass the school. You never know when you might need to know how to use it.

The Inn with the Well – 2022 Travelers’ Choice Best of the Best Award

The Dragon is delighted to share the news that our local pub has been awarded the ‘2022 Travelers’ Choice Best of the Best Award’ by Tripadvisor. This award is given for hospitality businesses that provide such exemplary service, customer satisfaction and stand out guest experiences that visitors have felt compelled to write about it on Tripadvisor. This puts our Inn among a very exclusive group of the top 1% of Tripadvisor’s global business listings for 2022.

Saturday 16 July sees Mike and Megan celebrate their 31st anniversary as hosts at our local pub. The Dragon researched what symbolic gifts might be suitable to mark this milestone and suggests fruit for year 4, silk & fine linen for year 12, and crystal for year 15, all of which converts to a fresh fruit flavoured drink, poured into a shimmering crystal glass and served on a crisp linen tablecloth to accompany their delicious Friday night pizzas! Happy anniversary from all your friends in the village.

The pub will be closed from Sunday 24 to Tuesday 26 July as Mike and Megan take a well deserved break.

Are you or is someone you know looking for a summer job? Then consider joining the Inn team for this season. Full training will be given, and you only need to be over 18 to meet licensing laws. It’s an ideal opportunity to learn some valuable skills in the hospitality industry which are transferable to many other walks of life, and to gain experience in an establishment which Tripadvisor puts in the top 1% of global business listings. Please contact the Inn for further information.

Moonrakers Concert

On Saturday 2 July The Moonrakers will be in concert at our Parish Church at 7.30pm. Oxford's much-toured 4-piece band, comprising Celtic harp, cello, stringed instruments, whistles and female/male vocals, bring to life Celtic traditional and contemporary songs. Tickets are £12pp, payable in cash or by card on the door, or reserve in advance by calling 0797 3210048. Visit www.moonrakers.net to learn more.

Race to the Stones

Over the weekend of 9-10 July, look out for c. 2.500 intrepid people taking on the ultimate endurance challenge, for any number of good causes, of walking and/or running the 53-mile Ridgeway Ultra-Marathon, from Lewknor to Avebury, which passes through the village.

Most entrants do it without stopping, taking from 7 to 38 hours to complete, and you won't have to go far to find participants here in OSG who have tottered past their own front door at 2am, with just 10 miles to go, resisting the temptation to take a well-deserved nocturnal nap in the comfort of their own home! Give them a morale-boosting cheer as they trickle past.

Green Fingers Triumph Again

The May Coffee Morning and Plant Sale in the Village Hall raised a welcome £525, and the organisers send thanks to all the plant growers and donors, stall holders, cake bakers, tea and coffee makers and to everyone who came along to satisfy their green fingers, dabble in the raffle and catch up with local friends and residents over a home-made treat or two.

The Plant Sale Table is up and running outside the Old Forge on the High Street and raises funds for our Parish Church through contributions of home grown plants and garden-related merchandise in return for donations. The emphasis is on garden-related produce, so fewer ironing boards and CD racks, more pots and plants please.

Marlborough Open Studios returns

Marlborough Open Studios provides an opportunity for local artists across our region to welcome you to their studios throughout July and showcase their creative talent. Our very own Jeannette Therrien and Michelle Smith will represent OSG by displaying and selling their colourful glass and beautiful textiles. Jeannette has been working with glass for nearly a quarter of a century and says she is 'fascinated by the endless possibilities that glass offers, giving it a life of its own'.

Visit them at the Clay and Glass Studio, Grey Gables, Liddiards Green from 11am - 5pm on 9/10/16/17/23/24 July to see demonstrations of their work and for the chance to own one of their unique creations

The 100 Club Winners

Month	Winner	Runner up
June	A Workman	R Burrowbridge

Chiseldon Local History Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday 20 July in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. Mike Pringle will talk on “Richard Jefferies – a relationship with the land”. Richard Jefferies was a 19th Century nature writer, noted for his depiction of English rural life in essays, books of natural history, and novels. He was born at Coate and spent much of his childhood and early adult life wandering the local countryside and capturing his thoughts on paper. He was a journalist for the North Wiltshire Herald and published 19 books, many drawing on his experiences of the local area. His childhood home is now a museum, and he is also commemorated with a Chiseldon street name and a memorial stone near Barbury Castle.

Meetings are now open to all at a cost of £1 per attendee. A schedule of meetings for 2022 is in place, with speakers confirmed each month through to November.

Chiseldon Museum is open for the 2022 season, on every Saturday from 2-4 p.m. until the end of September, at The Old Chapel, Butts Road, SN4 0NW. There are new displays on the History of the Burderop Estate, famous entertainers who appeared at Chiseldon Camp, and on local Churches and Chapels. They also celebrate HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with a look at royal links to the parish through the years. Email: info@chiseldonlhg.org.uk

Mobile Library

If you’re looking for your summer read, then the Mobile Library will be on Liddiards Green from 10:00-10.30am on 14 July, 11 August and 8 September.

Messages from the Village

So that our village continues to look its best, please ensure you continue to trim back hedges and overgrowth, especially where these abut footpaths and access areas, so that we can all use the paths as much as possible and that vital road signs are visible to drivers.

Contact The Dragon

If you would like your village news to be included in future editions of The Dragon, please write to the Editor, Claire Heald, on osgdragon22@gmail.com