

THE DRAGON

March 2025



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

Assistance Dog and School Therapy Dog, Susi, Finalist at 2025 Animal Star Awards

Manager, Felicity, from our local Dukesmead Boarding Kennels & Cattery shares some exciting news: “I am thrilled to announce that Susi, my incredible Assistance Dog, is a finalist in the 2025 Animal Star Awards in both the Assistance Dog and Animal Hero categories! This recognition is a testament to the amazing impact Susi has had on so many lives.



Susi isn't just an extraordinary medical alert dog – she's also an empathetic and versatile companion. Beyond her vital role in assisting me with my medical needs, Susi has become a beacon of comfort and support for others. As the Therapy Dog at Ogbourne St George Primary School, she patiently listens as children practice their reading and offers comforting cuddles to those who need a little extra emotional support. Her intuitive nature allows her to sense when someone needs her the most, and her presence has left a lasting positive impact on many young students. But Susi's work doesn't stop there – she

is also the first-ever Wellbeing Support Dog for Wiltshire Search and Rescue, where she brings comfort and emotional support to the dedicated volunteers. Her compassionate heart and healing energy seem endless, and I'm beyond proud to witness her making a difference in so many ways.

I may be biased, but I truly believe that Susi is one of the most remarkable, kind souls to grace this world. She was brought into my life to assist me, but she has gone on to touch countless others with her love and empathy. Her spirit is something truly special, and I am so grateful to have her by my side.”

I am sure that we all join Felicity and Susi in keeping fingers and paws crossed for her success!

Installation of new Village Gates

The Parish Council is delighted to have completed the installation of new gates at the Aldbourne and Chiseldon ends of the village and to have smartened up the Marlborough entrance by painting the existing gates and planter. Hopefully you will agree this is a huge improvement. The work is part of a wider traffic plan on which your Parish Council has been working hard on to make our village safer.

Parking, Parking and yes Parking again

Unfortunately access through our village is again being ruined by thoughtless and illegal parking especially on the Main Road out of the village. Ongoing issues are:

- cars parked on or too close to the T-junction with the High Street
- cars parked on pavements
- cars parked on the incorrect side of the road thereby facing the wrong way at nighttime and therefore impossible to see in the dark.

We are blessed with a good bus service which needs room to thread its vital way through the village. Let's help it do so without any of the above.

Friends of the Railway Path – 18 March

On 18 March, our friendly local charity “Friends of the Railway Path” will be having a workday, helping to maintain and improve a part of the Railway Path. Mostly cutting back weeds and overhanging branches to make it safer. This is for the benefit of all of us who walk, run or cycle on the path.

We already have a few volunteers from a local business for their Charity Day. For all parishioners who would like to join in, and spend a few hours outside, getting a little light exercise, please contact Keith Macdonald, preferably by text message to 07875 677760, or call at The Sanctuary.

Future Village Events – Save the Date

- Thursday 13 March – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- Saturday 10 May – Plants, Cakes and Coffee Shop Event
- Saturday 21 June – Summer Quiz at the Village Hall
- Saturday 13 September – Village Fete. This year will include a photo competition and the categories will be local scenes then and now, weather and local wildlife.

Don't let your Dragon go Puff!

At the time of writing there is still an opening for a local resident[s] to become the next Editor of The Dragon from May 2025 onwards.

It's a fun, fulfilling and worthwhile and puts you right at the heart of Ogbourne St George giving you a unique opportunity to shape the voice of our village and celebrate local talent and initiatives. If you care about your community, its residents, its present and its future, then be the person[s] to step forward.

For a chat about what is involved, then please contact current Editor Claire Heald on 07493 110248 or email osgdragon22@gmail.com

Village Jumble Sale – 29 March

A reminder that the Village Jumble Sale takes place this month in Ogbourne School on Saturday 29 March from 10am-12pm.

Donations: We need good quality jumble please! Clothes, accessories, jewellery, homeware, crafts, games, etc. – anything in a good, saleable condition that you don't need anymore. Drop donations off:

- anytime in the right-hand garage @ 8 Jubbs Lane
- from 5pm on Fri 28 March at the school
- or call Lesley Ayres on 07775 517138 to arrange collection

Volunteers: We would love volunteers to help as follows:

- anyone with social media skills to help advertise the event
- to set up from 5-7pm on Friday 28 March. This involves bringing tables across from the Village Hall and sorting out the donations.
- help on stalls selling clothes, bric-a-brac, etc, from 9.30am - noon on Saturday 29 March. It's fun and any bartering skills are useful on the bric-a-brac!
- to serve tea, coffee and cakes
- to clear up from 12-2pm on Saturday 29 March. This involves bagging up the clothes for Bags to Schools and sorting leftovers into charity shop donations, recycling or rubbish.

Please contact Lesley Ayres to confirm what you can do to help and/or to be added to the Jumble WhatsApp Group if you wish.

March Church Services

- 2 March, Sunday next before Lent, 10.00am, Cafe Church
- 5 March, Ash Wednesday, 7.00pm, Benefice Communion
- 9 March, Lent 1, 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP)
- 16 March, Lent 2, 10.30am, Zoom Service
- 23 March, Lent 3, 6.00pm, Evensong (BCP)
- 30 March, Mothering Sunday, service at 10.00am

100 Club

Congratulations to the February winners: Winner – R Green.
Runner Up – S Gale

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library Route S will stop at Liddiards Green / High Street from 10.00-10.30am on 20 March, 17 April, 15 May.

Little Dragons

Little Dragons continues to flourish, as numbers increase. The children have been learning about winter weather and have had many opportunities to explore rain, wind, ice and even snow, bringing the ice and snow inside, to observe it more closely and to see what would happen to it all.

We have also been learning about Chinese New Year, watching dragon dances and even doing our own dance. We have made our own dragon and celebrated this year's animal, the snake.

We are all looking forward to the new term and to spring and will be celebrating traditions such as pancake day. As usual, we will be led by the children's interests, and follow their lead, if they want to talk about and learn more about the topics we introduce.

Chiseldon Local History Group

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19 March 2025 in the Church Hall, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN at 7.30 pm on "Nightmare at Scapa Flow" by Bob Rogers.

Contact The Dragon

To include your village news in The Dragon, please write to the Editor, Claire Heald, on osgdragon22@gmail.com