



CHURCH DIARY FOR August 2008

Sunday, August 3rd - Trinity 11

10.00 am **Pets Service** An outdoors service at which pets of all shapes and sizes are welcome (and their owners ditto!!)

Sunday, August 10th - Trinity 12

8.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, August 17th - Trinity 13

9.30 am Parish Communion

Sunday, August 24th - Trinity 14

9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday, August 31st - Trinity 15

10.00 am Parish Communion - Team Service at Holy Cross

RIDE AND STRIDE : Saturday 13th September

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Ride and Stride, an event that raises funds for your own church and for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. Over those years it has raised £915,000, so the target this year is to get to the magic £1 million mark. It's not impossible as it's amazing what riding and striding achieves – last year the income from sponsors and gift aid reached £60,000. If only 70 more parishes than last year join in and if each one of these raises the average amount of £350 there would be much rejoicing across the county as the £1 million is passed. Anyone may take part, whether a church member or not. Most people ride bikes, but others ride horses or walk. Participants should look for supporters who will sponsor them for each church visited. Half the money raised will be given to any church selected by the participant and the other half will go to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants for repairs and restoration to many of the beautiful old places of worship we are fortunate to have in our county.

For all the details and sponsorship forms, contact Charlotte Frost on 01672 841361.

Village Hall 100 Club. Numbers drawn by Little Dragons
1st 94 Jordan Allen, 2nd 59 Max Gater, 3rd 91 Alexander Crawshaw

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE The Revd Roger Powell (01793 740369)

CHURCHWARDENS Charlotte Frost (841361)
Gordon Mudge (841338)

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Contributions for the next issue by 20th August please



The Dragon

The Village Newsletter for
Ogbourne St George

August 2008

Successful Summer Lunch

On a rather overcast but, thankfully, dry day well over 70 villagers and almost as many children made their way to Sheppards Farm, and thoroughly enjoyed the Village Summer Lunch and Garden Party.

It was hugely successful with everyone making the most of the excellent food and wine on offer rather than cooking Sunday lunch. Homemade cakes and jams sold particularly quickly and children were the big spenders as they competed on a selection of fun games. Adults weren't far behind in the spending stakes as they tried time and again on the tombola to win a bottle of wine rather than the tin of baked beans! To enhance the event and to get everyone in the mood there was also a superb musical accompaniment as Ian Beer from Pentico Cottage played a medley of jazz tunes on his saxophone.

The outcome of the day was a boost to the church funds of around £1300 which was a wonderful effort from a small village. Special thanks go to the Ormonds for hosting the lunch, and to the organisers, Charlotte Frost, Nicky Irwin, Sarah Smith, Tina West and also their families who joined in. There were others too numerous to mention who were much appreciated for running the stalls, cooking and helping on the day and also a big thank you to all who contributed and supported the day.

Proposed New School Hall - The Parish Council wants to hear your views

There is a proposal for a new School Hall to be built adjacent to the existing school buildings. Under Government legislation the new School Hall, as well as other school facilities, can be made available for community use outside of normal school hours where there is a demand from the local community. The Parish Council will be considering a Planning Application for the Hall and needs to establish whether residents will wish to use the Hall facilities and whether restrictions as to the type of use and opening/closing hours should be recommended to Wiltshire County Council. The Parish Council would also like to establish whether there is sufficient support for a Village Meeting in early September to discuss this issue. This can be done by contacting me on 841405 or by making your thoughts known to a member of the Parish Council or by registering your comments through August on the new village website <http://www.ogbournestgeorge.org.uk>. Contact details for Parish Council members can be found on the website.

Keith Wallace. Chairman, Ogbourne St George Parish Council

Queen's Award Winner visits the Palace

Kevin Burch who lives in Jubbs Lane has had the honour of being presented to the Queen at Buckingham Palace as a winner of the Queen's Award for Innovation. Kevin has invented a Time-lapse DVD recorder which is aimed at the security market. It is used by most of the UK police forces and by MI5, the FBI, and several other foreign police and secret service agencies. Although the product was designed entirely by Kevin the award is given to the company. It is officially presented by the Lord Lieutenant and then two people are invited to visit the palace to meet the Queen.

Kevin takes up the story. "My product was entered for the Queen's Award for Innovation in October 2007. Much to our surprise, in March 2008, we were advised that we had won but were sworn to secrecy, and told not to tell anyone until the Queen's Birthday in June 2008. I did however tell my mum!"

"The Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Sir Hugh Brunner attended a celebration in a marquee at our offices and presented the award which was an engraved lead crystal bowl, along with a certificate signed by Elizabeth and somebody named Gordon Brown! Following this I and a colleague went to Buckingham Palace in July for an evening reception. Whilst walking across the front courtyard several foreign tourists waved at us through the bars at the entrance gates – obviously thinking we were important!!"

"Upon entering the Palace we were plied with champagne and canapés. The room where everybody mixed was a large central hallway/room of about 120 feet long by 40 feet wide. The walls were covered in paintings including several Rembrandt's. The paintings were almost entirely of people and were hung using chains from large metal studs near the ceiling. The studs and chains were all painted pink matching the thick wall covering. Every other chain also had an alarm cable running down it. Each pair of chains supported up to three paintings ranging from about 4 feet by 6 feet to 9 feet by 12 feet. A painting which particularly stood out was of two nuns dressed in black habits - their faces seemed to glow and extend out of the canvas! One curious room we passed through contained a set of large advertising banners showing the Queen meeting various foreign leaders."

"Having gazed around the room and taken everything in we were eventually given 'the nod' that it was our turn to be presented to the Queen and Prince Philip. They appeared to be enjoying the occasion, and mingled freely with the guests following the introductions. There were other members of the Royal Family present including the Duke of Kent and the Duke of Gloucester. The dress code was lounge suits or day dresses. The royals were dressed likewise and the Queen was wearing a lime green two piece suit. The lesser royals also had title badges which were oval in shape, coloured navy blue with gold lettering showing their title.

We took our leave after 3 hours having been privileged to take part in a wonderful occasion and feeling as if it wasn't real. It now almost seems that it didn't happen! Was it all a dream.....of course not! "

Villagers Consulted over proposed School Hall

Over 50 villagers attended 3 consultation meetings to discuss the proposed building of a new hall for the village school. The meetings were chaired by Debbie Sandison, the Chair of the School subcommittee and Arthur Williams, of Wiltshire County Council and Andrew Bumphrey, the architect were available to respond to questions. If the project proceeds as planned it is anticipated that the hall will be ready for use by September 2009. However, if there are justifiable objections, the application will be put before the Regulatory Committee and this is likely to delay completion of the project. The building will be funded by Wiltshire County Council but the School will need to use its reserves and raise money to fit out the hall with items such as gym equipment, window blinds, kitchen equipment, dining tables and chairs etc. As part of the Government's agenda for "Extended Schools" there is an obligation to make new halls available for community use and the school will therefore need to formulate a policy for external bookings. It is, at present, an unknown as to how much desire there will be by the community to use the hall, but the School needs to be in a position to respond to any requests.

The main concerns were from neighbours to the school regarding the levels of community use, the impact of the building on their properties visually and the effect it will have on their views. This anxiety about community use was shared by residents attending the meetings. They raised the issues of parking, traffic flow, excessive noise and the hours of use. The School heard the concerns and gave assurances that they could not envisage that the hall would be used for any purposes that would not be currently allowed in the Village Hall, therefore the noise and the parking - the school actually has 8 parking spaces not including the lay-bys so is as well equipped as the Village Hall - should be no more of an issue than it is at present. Arthur Williams of Wiltshire County Council suggested that conditions could be set on the planning permission to specify the opening hours and activities that can take place. There were also queries about the future of the Village Hall when a new modern hall becomes available as an alternative. This is an issue that the Parish Council will be looking at carefully.

As part of the proposed alterations to the school a covered walkway has been included to be used during playtime as a protection from rain and as shade from the sun and also as a place for parents to wait when they are collecting their children. Several residents expressed concern about this as it is considered it will attract teenagers and encourage them to "hang out" in the evenings. One resident queried whether there were steps in place to mitigate this perceived problem. The School had not seen the walkway as a problem, more as an asset. There is currently a covered area between the back of the school and the mobile classroom which has not attracted unfavourable use since it was erected a year or so ago. The plans are now to be amended to take in some of the comments of the immediate neighbours and the wider community and will be re-presented to the governors before being submitted for planning permission.

Parish Council Meeting - because of lack of space the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 10th are not included this month. The minutes are displayed on the village notice board and can also be found on the new Village website at <http://www.ogbournestgeorge.org.uk>