



Newsletter No 68
Summer 2020
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SUMMER

OGBOURNE ST ANDREW, MAIZEY AND ROCKLEY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Parish Newsletter! Inside you'll find:

- ◆ **Village news**
- ◆ **Church News**
- ◆ **Coronavirus and reflections on Lockdown**
- ◆ **100 Club winners for April, May and June**
- ◆ **History Group Update**
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- ◆ **Down Memory Lane**



Please send contributions and ideas for articles to alexandra.hegarty@hotmail.co.uk



VILLAGE NEWS

Coronavirus

As we get to this stage in the Covid-19 pandemic, there are many thank yous to be said.

We know there are many people who deserve to be singled out for particular gratitude, but equally there are a great many 'quiet heroes' whose contributions may have been less visible. So rather than naming individuals, we would like to say a collective thanks to everyone who contributed to looking after each other during these strange times.

The **NHS workers**, the **key workers** and **educators**, the **carers**, the **volunteers**, the **shoppers** waiting patiently in queues for other peoples' shopping and essential prescriptions and the **staff** keeping those shops running smoothly and delivering supplies; the **farmers** making sure there was still food on the table; the **people putting notes through others' doors** so that they knew they had someone to turn to; the **teachers** and **TAs** going into schools to look after **key workers' children**; the **children** (and their parents!) coming to grips with home schooling and facing disruption to exams. Those who were out on the frontlines fighting the virus or keeping the community going, and those who followed the regulations and stayed at home to keep others safe.

An enormous thank you to absolutely every one of you. We can be proud of how our community responded to this pandemic.

Thank You



A Facebook Community page has been set up to help people in our community stay connected, offer help, ask for help or to simply chat. Look for 'Ogbourne St Andrew, Maizey and Rockley Community'.



Latest coronavirus news (correct at time of going to press!)

Social distancing rules

From 4 July, **2 households at a time can meet** indoors or outdoors. However, they should **stay 2m apart** if they can (1m plus if not possible). It is permissible to stay the night with others.

Single adults living alone, or single parents with children under 18, can form an **exclusive support bubble** with another household. They don't have to observe social distancing and can stay overnight. But if anyone develops coronavirus symptoms, everyone in the bubble must self-isolate.

Self-isolation rules

If you **live alone** and you have symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started. Symptoms include a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

If you **live with others** and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all other household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

If the **NHS Test and Trace team** contact you because you've been close to someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, you must self-isolate for up to 14 days – even if you feel fine. The people you live with don't have to self-isolate, but must take extra care regarding social distancing and hand washing.

Check the NHS website for more information:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Support if self-isolating

If you need to self-isolate at home, we recommend that you tell your local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (Chris & Liz Wright, Nick Parsons, Margaret Matthews, Ron Turner, Jenni Clarke, Ian Gordon-Finlayson, Chris Gay) or the Area Coordinator, Andy Curtis, in confidence if you wish, so that we can get vital supplies etc. to you.

Contact them directly or via Ian G-F on 512125 or iangf@f2s.com.



Reflections on Lockdown in Ogbourne St Andrew

Lockdown in Ogbourne St Andrew has not stifled everything in the Parish and creativity/innovation has kept things moving.

Marion Gordon-Finlayson held a snap cake & plant sale, raising over £200 for church funds in an hour or two.

A ghostly presence has been pollarding all the lime trees in the churchyard (a succession of silent snippers chose their own tree(s) and simply got on with it). Coincidentally, the Parish Council provided a community skip parked outside the church which helped with the disposal of our clippings and much else besides!

Sue Parry's family scattered the good seed on the ground (the Mound in the churchyard) and despite continual sun created a green mountain.

The residents of The Olympia have a 'Bring & Swap' stand running most Fridays, so if you have too much broccoli why not swap it for dahlias or...you choose, it's all free even if you have nothing to swap! Other families are putting excess toys outside for passers by to help themselves.

Finally Liz Turner has created her 'window on the world'. This emerged from a VE night chat with neighbours when Liz said, "I've often thought how nice it would be to put a window in my fence so I could see what's happening in the Courtyard". It was under way the next day, courtesy of her friendly neighbours.

All these activities, together with the Thursday night clapping sessions, have helped to bring people together. These snippets are just from the last few weeks and there will be many more. Life continues as we adapt and accept new challenges to find new ways to move on.

Roger Swan

Ogournes in Bloom

The planned Ogournes in Bloom open gardens day was to be held on June 28th this year but sadly had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus (along with many other pleasurable events). Rest assured that this event will happen next year.



However, we did manage a very low-key plant & cakes sale on Bank Holiday Saturday, May 23rd which raised £210 towards Ogbourne St. Andrew church funds. Grateful thanks to all who contributed cakes & plants and who came along to buy on the day.



RIP

Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families of **Peter Woods, Graham Parsons, Nora Curnick, Diana Sharpe** and **Chris Gay**, who have all passed away this year. We are thankful to them all for being part of our community and enriching our lives.

Bonfire Ban



Wiltshire Council has imposed a ban on bonfires while lockdown measures are in place. This is to protect the health of people of all ages who have breathing-related conditions and illnesses which may make them more susceptible to Covid-19.

The parish council has received numerous complaints regarding bonfires in the village. They are becoming more and more frequent and people's lives are being disturbed by them. Please try and be considerate of your neighbours and avoid lighting bonfires. Waste can be disposed of at a Wiltshire recycling centre.

Lines penned in Lockdown

Low times

Outdoors in our gardens

Community NHS Claps (with a glass of wine!)

Kindness of neighbours

Dog walks

Online Zoom with family

Waitrose deliveries

Naughty treats to lift the spirits

Marion Gordon-Finlayson

100 CLUB WINNERS

April 2020

1st Bruce Fox

2nd Suzie Wray

May 2020

1st Angela Hughes

2nd Elfriede Graham

June 2020

1st John Hooper

2nd Karen Heaven

Why not join the 100 club?

A 100 Club is a form of lottery. Subscribers pay £2 per month and are entered into a monthly draw. All profits go to Ogbourne St Andrew Church.

First prize is 75% of the available pot, while second prize is 25%. There is no limit to the number of shares held by any one person, but no individual can win more than one prize per month. The more shares you own, the greater your chances of winning!

Apply to Ian Gordon-Finlayson, Treasurer, at iangf@f2s.com, if you wish to join the 100 Club or to increase your holding.



Update: proposed upgrade of track at Drove Barn

Thank you to all of you who completed the User Evidence Statements in support of the application to upgrade the track leading off the Green Lane at Drove Barn. Having waited for several weeks, I was at last able to deliver the application and supporting documents to County Hall at the end of May, when the Council Mapping Department reopened. Apparently there is currently a register of over 180 similar applications in Wiltshire. So it may be some time before there is any further news, but once it is on the register (which it is now) it will not be removed.

Carolyn Davis

Pick your own!

You will have seen in this edition a piece about Lockdown, a ghostly presence and a green mountain in the Ogbourne St Andrew churchyard.

The green mountain (aka The Barrow) has not only sprouted grass but also an excellent variety of weeds – just the right length for pulling out (and it is easy at the moment!). We would like to encourage our ghostly supporters and their friends to help remove these tiresome weeds. If you can spare a few minutes to ‘pull and bag’ we would be delighted. Just leave the bag by the bin near the gate and we will do the rest. Digging or cutting is not allowed as the Barrow is an ancient monument. So, just turn up when you feel like it and help yourself!



OGBOURNE ST ANDREW HISTORY GROUP UPDATE

Obviously with the lockdown there has been no chance to hold any meetings, but a small group has been beavering away to complete a report to Historic England on the geophysical survey over the barrow. This has proved to be particularly demanding given the amount of data, which has required processing and interpreting. We had a chance visit from the County Archaeologist recently, who was very complimentary about the information board and barrow clearance. Thanks again to everyone who has had a hand in the project!

A little known feature of WW2 has come to light – there was a small Prisoner of War “camp” at the Bonita racing stables which housed Italian PoWs. They worked on the farms around, planted trees and even laid in water pipes to the cottages in Maizey from the estate supply. More details are on our website.

See you all when the lockdown is lifted!

Bruce Fox 01672 512867 www.osahg.org.uk



ST ANDREW FOOTBALL CLUB MEMORIES – Roger Harris

The photo shows the Ogbourne St Andrew Football Club team just before their first match of the season 1949/50 against “Even Swindon”. The photo was taken in Maizey, below the curving track which then led to the bridge that crossed over the railway line. The changing room was just opposite, across the road in the Village Hall. The pitch was located in the long meadow on the west side of the Og, opposite Marphet Cottage – the only piece of flat ground in the village large enough to take a full size football pitch. Visiting teams, particularly from the neighbouring towns, would sometimes be a bit ‘sniffy’ when they realised they were going to play on a cow field! Ogbourne won that match 6-1.

As a 9 year-old, my memory from this time was the job given to me by my Uncle Horace to run with the half-time score up the field to my home at The Wheatsheaf Inn, where one of my parents would phone the score over to the ‘Football Pink’ office in Swindon. Every Saturday through the football season that paper would carry just the half-time scores from the local leagues. The bundle of Pinks (together with the Evening Advertisers) would be rushed by van from Swindon and dropped outside the pub early evening for delivery around the village. Yes folks, this really was how people found out what was going on before the internet and 24 hour news feeds!

By the early 1960s Ogbourne St Andrew had lost its football club, sadly along with its village hall. But young lads of the village continued to play football and by the late 60s a new club would be formed that would go on to successfully compete in the local league – but that should be a story for another newsletter.

Question: does anyone know the colours in the shirts of team shown in the picture?





OGBOURNE ST ANDREW CHURCH NEWS

Church Finances

We are extremely grateful to those who have continued to support the church financially with monthly donations by standing orders. However, we should point out that during this lockdown period the church has been unable to benefit from any service collections. At the same time we still have to pay for our insurance cover, maintenance of the graveyard and the significant sum that is the Diocese Share.

If you feel you would like to offset this lack of income and support our church further, please contact me for details of how to make regular contributions (if you are not already doing so), or how to make a donation, however modest, directly into our bank account.

Thank you most sincerely for your much appreciated support.

Ian Gordon-Finlayson, Treasurer, Ogbourne St Andrew PCC

01672 512125 iangf@f2s.com

Please support our church if you can.



A letter from Revd. Roger Powell

What a strange time we are living through at present. The way we live our lives has been completely turned on its head and at the time of writing no one is quite sure when life will return to what we previously thought of as 'normal'.

We are of course saddened by the number of deaths attributed to the virus both in this country and around the world and have great sympathy for the families whose loved ones have died and the difficult circumstances in which the funerals have had to be held. None of this is easy; in fact it is all very hard.

We are also aware of the many people whose livelihoods have taken a huge knock and the great difficulty they will face in re-building their lives once again.

I have been heartened by the many acts of kindness and support that our community has given to each other. We have truly behaved as good neighbours and I hope that this care for each other continues long after we have seen the back of all that is happening now.



Our churches have been closed for many months and the bells have been silent. It has been so encouraging as I walk around the parishes hearing from people how much they miss the bells. It is a reminder to all of us of the presence of the church and what it represents in each community up and down the country. The church which is here not just for those who come Sunday by Sunday but for everyone regardless of faith or not.

I fear it will be quite some time before we are able to have any sort of service that resembles what we would have been used to and indeed to hear the bells ring out across our villages again. I will be working with members of the congregations to make the church building as safe as possible once we are able to be open once again. Despite the church building being closed, the church is still continuing and has done so over the past few months. You have all been in my prayers and I have found the many conversations I have had, both inspiring and heartening.

Following the government's advice that places of worship can now open for supervised private/individual prayer, we are hoping to be able to do this soon. There are strict guidelines on how this can be done safely, and the PCCs will need to have prepared each church for the reopening. We are planning for a date in July, which will be posted on our website once confirmed. Of course, your safety is paramount, which is why any reopening will be done cautiously and carefully.

Our Zoom service on a Sunday morning has been well supported and if you would like to join, please be in touch so that I can send you the joining details.

Otherwise, live services can be found on the CofE website and there is the 'Daily Hope' phone line (0800 804 8044), a CofE initiative to provide access to worship, prayer and reflections. The line runs twenty-four hours a day and is free to call.

I also want to mention the Black Lives Matter Movement, to remind us all of the importance of not judging by appearance. As you know, I am black. I am not just a 'black vicar', but your vicar who happens to be black. I have been very disturbed by the recent events in the USA and hope and pray that we all work together to rid our world, including our own country, of racism in any shape or form.

We work together as a community of people, some of faith and many not; a people of every possible combination.

We do this because of our common humanity and our common purpose to always live the best lives that we can.

Every blessing,

Revd. Roger



Ogbourne St Andrew — Down Memory Lane

This postcard claims to show the street through St Andrew in 1910, although the postcard is dated 1923.



The houses shown on the right are: 'Meadow View'; 'Southview' (originally two cottages); then a cottage which was pulled down in the 1960s where Miss Gee (the church organist) lived. Just visible is the open gate to the Zion Chapel; followed by another cottage (now merged into 'Crowlynych'); and lastly 'The Forge'. In the distance is a shed belonging to 'Sunrise' and on the left are the 'Downsway' cottages. The two men and dog are almost certainly the Brangwyns, who ran the shop on the main road and published a series of postcards of the village.



'Little Thatch' and
'Snail Cottage' in
the 1960s.



This shows George Long on his milk cart outside 'Sunrise'. In the background is the farm on which now stands Olympia. See the History Group website for details of George – a farmer, author of several books and avid letter writer in the local newspaper.



'Poughcombe' and 'Eastholme' in the 1920s. Yet another Brangwyn post-card.

We are always interested in obtaining more photographs of the parish and would welcome any reminiscences or anecdotes that you have. Please contact us at: www.osahg.org.uk or 01672 512867.



MIRACLE MONDAYS



Gather up your posse, it's time to head out to the Wild Frontier with award-winning Miracle Theatre for a rootin'-tootin', side-splittin', finger-clickin', toe-tappin', saloon-door-swingin', double-cross-dressin', Hoe-down dancin', quick-draw slinging, Spaghetti Western adventure.... YEEHAW!

The Miracle Theatre group is screening recordings of its plays via YouTube for the foreseeable future, with premiers on the first Monday of the month. All of them have been performed in our garden at Ogbourne Maizey, some of which you will remember. We are missing our lovely band of actors coming here but hope very much they will be with us next year. Hot on the heels of June's cracking 'The Importance of Being Earnest' is 'The Magnificent Three', available for 30 days from **7pm on Monday 6th July**. Just go to YouTube and search for 'Miracle Theatre'.

Plays are available for free, but the theatre company would very much welcome a donation as they try to navigate through the huge and challenging impact of Covid-19. www.miracletheatre.co.uk/support-miracle



Energetic dog?



I can help!

Ciara Bailey, a local teenager, is here to make sure your dog gets the exercise and socialization they need to be happy, fit and healthy. I am experienced and very reliable, just ask my dog!

£3.50 for an hour-long walk (any time)

I also do **Dog Sitting 9am-5pm for just £15** (weekends and holidays only)

So, If you live in Ogbourne St Andrew or Ogbourne Maizey and are in need of a dog walker text me today at:

07901 392100