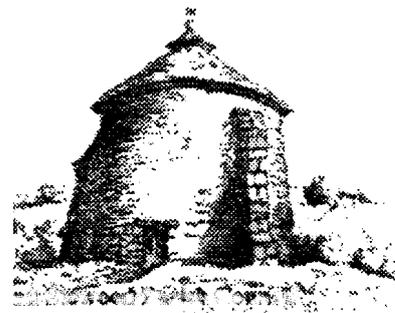


# The Beckley and Stowood Newsletter

News Views and Comment from  
around the Parish Autumn 2017



Produced under the auspices of the Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

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## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

### THE VILLAGE HALL

Remedial work on snagging is nearing completion and the opportunity is being taken to enhance the original plans where needed. A patio extension is planned to provide more room for events extending outside. CCTV, WiFi, and a projector will be added. New counters, lockable cupboards and additional work surfaces have been installed in the storage room. The toilets will have mirrors and hand dryers.

Outside, six bike racks have been installed, including two very generously donated by Simon Tiensa and Louisa Cohn, for which we thank them. The PC is getting quotes to renovate and resurface the tennis court. The car park and outside of the building will be replanted with more suitable plants in the autumn and a watering system installed.

### ANNUAL PARISH OPEN MEETING - Monday 26 June 2017 at 7pm

Presentations were made by David Scott on the Parish Council activity for the last year and the village hall. There were also reports on the Neighbourhood Plan from Ginette Camps-Walsh, SODC from Cllr John Walsh and OCC from Cllr Kirsten Johnson. It was disappointing that more parishioners did not attend.

### OXFORD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTION 2036

This was out to consultation, which closed on 25 August and we hope as many people as possible submitted their views. There will be

another opportunity to feedback your views when the next version is put out for consultation in June and July 2018.

Our concerns about this consultation are :-

- \* Development land within Oxford City is being designated for employment and student accommodation in preference to housing, as councillors believe that business rates will generate more income for them in the future than housing. This is despite the fact that the unemployment rate in Oxford is very low and there is already a problem recruiting staff. 46,000 people commute into Oxford to work and this would increase if more jobs were created, but the traffic problems have not been addressed.

- \* Oxford City Council expects surrounding councils to take its 'unmet housing needs' of 15,000 new homes by carrying out a Green Belt review and 'for the integration of potential future sustainable urban extensions to the city, located in adjacent local authorities' administrative areas'. Wick Farm and Lower Elsfield are at risk.

- \* The Plan gives no acreages of proposed development sites or numbers of employment units or houses.

- \* This Plan threatens our parish and others nearby. In an earlier consultation, many Oxford residents suggested that Oxford's housing crisis needed to be addressed before more jobs were created. If all the land were designated for housing and housing density increased, Oxford could meet its own housing needs and new employment could be developed outside Oxford City.

**(P. C. news continued page 2)**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Steering Group is progressing well with the Neighbourhood Plan and hopes to be in a position to present the Plan at the October Parish Council meeting. The Steering Group would still welcome further feedback from local businesses and organisations. The survey link is here - [https://](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BSNDPorganisations)

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BSNDPorganisations)

**BSNDPorganisations** If you have any queries or input please contact **Ginette Camps-Walsh** [camps.walsh@btinternet.com](mailto:camps.walsh@btinternet.com) 351762

## **ROLLING ROAD CLOSURES – HORTON ROAD AND B4027 SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER FOR THE OVO ENERGY TOUR OF BRITAIN – CYCLING -**

Oxfordshire County Council will be carrying out rolling road closures for this national cycling event, which will affect the following local roads - Horton-cum-Studley Oakley Road, Horton Hill, Church Lane, Straight Mile Road. Woodperry B4027, Woodperry Hill, Horton Road, Wheatley Road through to Islip; Islip B4027, Wheatley Road, Kings Head Lane, High Street, Bletchingdon Road; Bletchingdon B4027, Islip Road, Station Road.

**The roads around Beckley and Stowood will be closed from approximately 11.50 to 12.50 on Saturday 9 September, so please plan accordingly and note that these times are approximate.**

This leg of the tour is from Hemel Hempstead to Cheltenham, so after Islip there will be road closures along Enslow A4095, B4027, A4260, Wootton A44, B4437, Charlbury B4437 Shipton-under-Wychwood A361, Milton-under-Wychwood A424 and Shipton.

More details about the tour can be found on their web site - [https://](https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/road/article/20170425-road-2017-OVO-Energy-Tour-of-Britain-route-revealed-0)

[www.britishcycling.org.uk/road/article/20170425-road-2017-OVO-Energy-Tour-of-Britain-route-revealed-0](https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/road/article/20170425-road-2017-OVO-Energy-Tour-of-Britain-route-revealed-0) The race will be broadcast around the world “live” on ITV4 and British Euro Sport and the cyclists would

greatly appreciate our support as they pass through.

## **INVITATION: RURAL OXFORDSHIRE NETWORK (RON)**

You are invited to the 2nd event of the Rural Oxfordshire Network (RON). This event, which will focus on rural isolation and mental health and is organised by OCVA for those living and working in rural Oxfordshire, is on Wednesday 20th September, at Beckley Village Hall, Woodperry Road, Beckley, Cost: £5.00 to cover expenses. Pre-registration is vital - **Please email [Gillian.warson@ocva.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.warson@ocva.org.uk) or telephone 01865 251946 (please leave a message for Gillian)** further information - <https://ocva.org.uk/ron-2nd-event-20th-september-2017/>

**Ginette Camps-Walsh**

**Beckley and Stowood Parish Council**

**Web site - <http://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/>**

**Parish Council contact :-**

**Sue Cox Parish Clerk -**

**[clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk)  
or 01865 351415**

## **SAVE THE DATE - FIREWORK NIGHT ON SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2017**

Venue – Beckley Village Hall Gates open at 6.00 pm and fireworks at 7.00 pm. Parking on the playing field – not on the road. There will be refreshments and food and the entry fee is £4.00 for adults and children over 4 years.

## NEW TENANTS AT ABINGDON ARMS

The Abingdon Arms, now owned by Beckley Area Community Benefit Society (BACBS)'s 230 shareholders, has been officially open for business since the middle of June. New tenants Aimee, Tom, and Joe (and their team of friends, relatives, and staff) have been at work around the clock to put their, and the community's, dreams and aspirations for the pub, into practice.

The close to 200 people who attended the open house on 21 June were met by fresh and refurbished decor and furnishings, plus extended and attractive patio areas. The bar's four hand-pumps dispense cask ales, (largely) local, and the bar stocks local cider and gin, plus an extended choice of wines.

The food menu offers locally sourced meat and produce. Local young people, along with experienced locals and others from the greater Oxford community, serve in the many aspects of the pub's staff.



Tenants Aimee and Tom Bronock grew up in Goring on Thames, first discovered Beckley on a cycle trip nine years ago, and were impressed by the pub and community's lovely views and proximity to Oxford.

Tom was involved with another pub in Oxford as well as with an events management

company, and Amy was in the midst of selling the family nursing home she had managed for the past ten years, when they saw the notice about the community's desire to "Save the Abingdon Arms". In January they had their first interview with the BACBS committee, which was followed by a second interview along with Chef Joe Walton, and their tenancy proposal was accepted.



Aimee "loves entertaining", Tom is an organiser, and Joe, who has worked as a chef in Woodstock and Summertown, loves to cook.

"I like people", says Aimee. "My mother and I were always able to talk to anybody. I have always wanted to run a pub that I would like to hang out in. " When asked if hanging out in the pub might include doing crossword puzzles or reading the paper, Aimee replied "Oh, yes."

Immediate plans include Friday cafe mornings for people dropping their children at school; Pub Quizzes on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm beginning 6 September; wine tasting with expert on Wednesday 20 September; and gin tasting with variety of gins and nibbles on Wednesday 18 October.

On Saturday 9 September, the pub will hold BeckFest 17 to coincide with the Tour of Britain professional cycle race as it travels from Horton cum Studley on the Straight Mile and B4027 to Islip. Donations from the proceeds will be made to Beckley School and Beckley Church.

Future plans will be worked out as time and resources allow. Feed back and suggestions are always welcome. **01 865 655 667**  
**info@theabingdonarms.co.uk**

## **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

I have enjoyed my first months as your new County Councillor. I have attended County Council meetings, Parish Council meetings throughout the division, and many training events laid on by County Council. I am sitting on the Planning & Regulation Committee, and on the Corporate Parenting Committee.

At the full County Council meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> I spoke twice. I was pleased to speak in support of the motion for the County Council to move to a committee system of governance rather than the existing cabinet system. The motion, with amendment to investigate the options available and to change the structure as soon as practicable, was carried.

I also spoke in favour of a motion to invite all Oxfordshire MPs to come to a meeting of County Council to discuss how we can work together to better serve our local residents. When this happens, I plan on asking questions about school funding, local bus services and protecting the Green Belt, amongst other issues.

Many residents have contacted me with road concerns. I have met Mr Keith Stenning, the county officer who oversees highways in this area, and he has noted down these issues. Mr Stenning has advised local residents to report all problems with bollards, potholes, pavements, drains, etc., firstly on Fix My Street: [fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk). If they are not dealt with, please let me know and I will chase.

On other matters, I have supported a local family in SEN provision for their child; I have been advising the Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley how to seek further County grant funding; and I have been attending community transport meetings in regards to improving the transport options in villages throughout the Division.

Please do let me know if you have any concerns and I will do my best to represent your views to County Council.

**Dr. Kirsten Johnson**  
**Councillor, Wheatley Division**  
**Oxfordshire County Council**  
**07341271344**

## **BECKLEY ART BOX**

Currently displayed is "The Box in the Box", artwork created by James Gemmill for the Beckley Pantomime which was performed in the new village hall in March. Some people have reported an initial 'double take' before realising that there really are two phone boxes! And of course there is also James' novel Abingdon Arms sign, which vividly represents our new community pub's role in promoting social engagement and friendship.

Beckley Primary School will create another display next term, but would any reader like to display their work in the Art Box in the meantime? Please contact **Mike Hobbs:** [mike.jd.hobbs@gmail.com](mailto:mike.jd.hobbs@gmail.com)

## **BECKLEY SCHOOL**

School terms for the coming year are 6 September to 19 December (half term 23-27 October); 4 January to 29 March (half term 12-16 February); and 17 April to 25 July (half term 28 May- 5 June).

Beckley Primary School are looking for a Lunchtime Supervisor to work 6.25 hours a week, term time only. Please contact the school on 01865 351416 for more information.

**Judith Brown Administrator**  
**Beckley C of E Primary School**  
**01865 351416    [www.beckleyschool.com](http://www.beckleyschool.com)**

## **DAVID TALBOT MEMORIAL**

A memorial service was held at Beckley Church 1 September for long time resident and local farmer David Talbot. The retiring collection was divided between Beckley Church and Prostate Cancer UK.

## **BECKLEY BELLS - New Hall - Newly Tuned Bells - New Members**

The Bells Group are now safely back in their original venue, namely the new Beckley Village Hall. Warm, well lit and with plenty of space, we're looking forward to rehearsing again on Tuesday afternoons during term time. Our first meeting will be on 12 September.

Thanks to a recent bequest, over the summer recess a set of Bells donated some seventeen years ago by Jessie Ponting, has been retuned and renovated, leading us to expect an improved sound from the instruments.

Whilst we've already enrolled some new players, we would like to welcome still more members from our community. This will enable us to take advantage of the refurbished bells and help expand our repertoire. It's fun, can be both rewarding and challenging and it probably helps if recruits can read music. So, if you've harboured a desire to make music in a traditional fashion, here's the opportunity.

Further information from **Celia Crowley, Chairman 01865 358 515**  
**Celiacrowley67@hotmail.com**

## **YOGA AND WELLBEING**

Yoga and Wellbeing will be held at Beckley Village Hall on 7 October from 10am to 2pm. The event is being organised by local yoga teacher Clare Dodwell, and will include flowing yoga sequences, grounding, stabilising and calming; restorative yoga practice focusing on breathing and relaxation, and a freshly made vegan lunch using ayurvedic principles. 10 per cent of profits will go to local mental health charity Restore. Cost is £35 including lunch. Concessions are available. To book contact **Clare dodwell2@btinternet.com**

## **YOGA MONDAYS VILLAGE HALL**

Weekly Yoga Classes with Hayley  
Mondays 19.30-21.00  
Beckley's New Village Hall  
Breath, move and restore from a beautiful place watching the sun set over the moor.  
£10 drop in or buy a block of 6  
Contact: **hayley\_lennard@hotmail.com**  
**Tel: 07506098835**

## **BARN DANCE 20 OCTOBER**

The Village Hall will be the site of a barn dance for all villagers on Friday 20 October. Organisers are Ann and Geoff Henman. Cost will be £10 per adult, children under the age of 18 can attend for £5. A light meal will be served at intermission and beverages will be available to purchase on a cash basis. Caller is Ted Morse who will also provide the live band.

No experience or expertise are needed. Just come prepared to enjoy! **Call or email for tickets as early as possible to ensure a place in what will be a night to remember!**

**Ann and Geoff Henman 01865 351 492**  
**annhenman@gmail.com**

## **VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

There has been a formal complaint on noise and the committee have proposed changes for a trial period. We will review the effectiveness of our proposals as time passes and would expect to adjust the hire terms from that experience. We appreciate receiving feedback and will seek to move forward to beneficial solutions. Please address your comments to the Trust (**geoffrey.mills@sipgroup.com**). The full details of the measures being taken will be in the 3 August Minutes of Meeting on the Village Hall website once these are approved at the next Trust meeting. All our minutes are posted on [http://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/?q=community/village\\_hall](http://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/?q=community/village_hall).

**Geoff Mills, Trust Chair**

## **TALK BY LOCAL RESIDENT**

The community is invited to hear Jose Ramon Portillo share insights from his new book *The Great Transition*, which describes changes that will need to be addressed by governments and society as a result of technology and the effects it is producing. The book is a result of his experience serving on international and government committees, as well as his a recent speech at the United Nations in New York. Date and time in early November TBA.

**Ann and Geoff Henman**

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – August 2017**

### **Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS)**

The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy is an Oxfordshire Growth Board commissioned project involving all six Oxfordshire Local Authorities. Its purpose is to identify, map and rank Oxfordshire's infrastructure requirements to 2040 and beyond. Stage 1 is now published on the Oxfordshire County Council website and is out for public consultation until 10<sup>th</sup> September. The current stage concerns what the priorities are for infrastructure up to 2031 and potential in the pipeline up to 2050 (stage 2). This is an evidence document to all our Local Plans.

### **Refuse Collection Changes**

#### **New Waste Vehicles to Improve Collections**

SODC has started to introduce a new fleet of waste collection vehicles from the end of August which will further improve our refuse collection service. There will be new refuse lorries and the food waste will be collected separately by a smaller vehicle, but on the same day as the normal waste collection.

#### **Plastic bags can now be used to line food waste bins**

Residents in South Oxfordshire can now use plastic bags to line their food waste bins and caddies instead of bio-degradable ones. Food waste is collected every week and taken to Agrivert's anaerobic digestion plant near Wallingford to be recycled into gas for electricity and fertiliser for local farmland.

The processing plant is now able to accept thin plastic bags, such as carrier bags, bread bags, paper wrappings, or normal pedal bin liners. Residents can also continue to use compostable bags or newspapers to line their caddies and bins, or put food straight in without any liner. Any bags used as liners will be removed at the processing plant and sent to an Energy Recovery Facility to be turned into energy.

All cooked and uncooked food must be put into food waste bins. Residents are advised that plastic retail packaging, or anything other than food waste, should not be put in. For example, bacon should be removed from its plastic packet and fruit taken out of punnets.

During 2016/17, 10,024 tonnes of food waste was collected and sent for recycling in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

### **Grants Scheme Awards**

Five play areas are set to receive a facelift as part of a £423,000 boost for community facilities across South Oxfordshire. South Oxfordshire District Council has awarded grants to 13 projects to benefit local residents with play areas in Benson, Berinsfield, Hagbourne, Long Wittenham and Little Milton.

The next round of grant funding is now open for applications - we've still got more than £105,000 available so groups with a project that will benefit the local community can contact our grants team on 01235 422644. - Community groups have until 6 September to apply for a minimum of £1,000 – for more information visit [southoxon.gov.uk/grants](http://southoxon.gov.uk/grants).

### **Grants for Rural Community Projects**

The LEADER Programme for farmers, foresters, businesses and community groups in rural Oxfordshire provides grant funding for projects which support the local economy.

Individual projects can now apply for up to £100,000 funding from Oxfordshire LEADER and, under exceptional circumstances, they may qualify for even more money. The scheme aims to support a wide range of rural activities including: farm productivity and diversification, forestry productivity, tourism, community services, heritage and culture and small business development. Oxfordshire LEADER would particularly welcome applications that will revive local waterways, support local food markets, create vibrant villages, or unlock the potential of woodlands.

**(continued page 7)**

To find out if your project could qualify for this funding visit

[www.oxfordshireleader.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshireleader.org.uk). All grants must be allocated by March 2019, so don't delay in finding out more.

### **Information Leaflet on Rats and Mice**

SODC's Environmental Protection Team can help residents by investigating properties and gardens where there are signs of rodent infestation. The team has produced a handy booklet that explains what signs to look out for and tips for preventing any problems., which can be downloaded from the SODC web site.

**Cllr John Walsh South Oxfordshire**

**District Council 07860 786470**

**[John.Walsh@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:John.Walsh@southoxon.gov.uk)**

### **MOB**

Men of Beckley (MOB) meet informally for lunch at the Abingdon Arms at 12.30am on the first Wednesday of each month. Whether you are retired, a home-worker or just need an excuse to visit the pub please do join us. If you have the technology please email **Steve Smith ([barkbeetles@gmail.com](mailto:barkbeetles@gmail.com))** so that he can let Aimee know roughly how many to expect but otherwise just turn up on the day.

Maybe someone could organise a Ladies of Beckley (LOB) lunch on a different day in the month?

### **BECKLEY BOOK GROUP**

The Beckley Book Group will next meet at 8.00 pm on Friday 8 September at our usual venue of the Weinstains' (Old Manor House, High Street, Beckley - near the corner of Otmoor Lane). We will be discussing two books: *Mothering Sunday* ('a Romance') by Graham Swift (winner of the Booker Prize), and a piece of non-fiction: *The Running Hare* by John Lewis-Stempel, who has written much about nature and history. This book is about his efforts, as a farmer, to return a field to a natural 'organic' state in which the endangered hare can thrive. We may also have some preliminary discussion of a future read for the next meeting after 8th September: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by the French writer

Muriel Barbery, which caused a sensation when it appeared in France in 2006. This was a strong contender for our next meeting and marks a welcome return in our group to engaging with non-anglophone writers. Beckley Book Group meets about every 6 weeks and welcomes new members, not necessarily from Beckley! We like to keep our meetings informal and convivial and certainly don't require interviews or evidence of literary knowledge from new members. Please contact me for details. **Chris Britton**

**[christop.britton@btopenworld.com](mailto:christop.britton@btopenworld.com)**

### **RIDE AND STRIDE 9 SEPTEMBER**

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride is a sponsored annual event which raises much of the money that the OHCT can use to help with repairs and improvement of all church buildings in Oxfordshire. There are similar events in other counties all over the country.

Participants find sponsors, and visit as many churches as they can on foot, bicycle, or perhaps horseback, and the money raised is split between the church of your choice, and the OHCT itself. If you are unable to take part on September 9th, you can do it on a different day.

Beckley church received a generous grant from OHCT in 2009 when extensive stonework repairs were carried out, and so we have special reason to be grateful to them.

### **PLEASE DO CONSIDER TAKING PART!**

There are sponsorship forms in the church, or from me. **Gina Robson (01865 351637, [gina.robson@virgin.net](mailto:gina.robson@virgin.net)) for more details, or visit [ohct.org.uk](http://ohct.org.uk)**

### **BECKLEY BRAINSTORMING**

People concerned for the future of Beckley's church (building and/or congregation) are invited to attend a time of brain storming (not to last more than an hour) at **2pm Sunday September 3**. For more formation, or to offer ideas, contact **Betty Dye, Suzy Jepson, or Gina Robson**

## **WALK FOR PARKINSON'S**

A sponsored Walk for Parkinson's around Oxford is scheduled for **Sunday 10 September**.

The Walk for Parkinson's – Oxford is now in its seventh year and gives participants the opportunity to see some of Oxford's beautiful, historic buildings as well as its wonderful green spaces. With a walk to suit everyone, walkers can choose from 1.5 miles, 4.5 miles or 8 miles. Experience the Radcliffe Camera in its full glory, marvel in the wonderful architecture of the Bodleian Library and the Sheldonian Theatre, spot hidden Colleges, walk under the famous Bridge of Sighs and stroll across the Oxford University Parks. Entry fee is £10 for adults and £5 for under 16s and all walkers will receive a Parkinson's UK t-shirt, plus a medal on completing the walk.

You can find out more and register at **[www.parkinsons.org.uk/walkoxford](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/walkoxford)** or **contact the Regional Fundraising Team on 020 7963 3912 or email [fundraising@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@parkinsons.org.uk)**

**Jenni Green Regional Fundraiser –  
South Central Parkinson's UK  
Direct Dial: 0344 225 3750  
Mobile: 07964 850436  
[jgreen@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:jgreen@parkinsons.org.uk)**

## **CONCERNS FROM LONG TIME RESIDENTS**

For some time now the speed of traffic around Beckley has been a cause of concern; we recently emailed all three Parish Councils (Beckley, Horton and Stanton St. John) in the hope that they could help. Week after week we read in the Oxford Times about different villages asking, under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, that unrestricted 60pmh be replaced by varying degrees and that 30mph through villages be reduced to 20mph.

Having lived on the Horton Road for some 39 years now, we have seen a quadruple increase in the traffic using this road. Between the White House at the T-junction and the bottom

of the Woodperry Hill there are a Brownies/ Girl Guides centre, 16 private dwellings, a small industrial estate and a very busy turning leading to Beckley. We can see no logic whereby there is a road sign on the Horton Road (an unrestricted road) a quarter of a mile from the Beckley turn, that states 'Caution - vehicles in centre of the road' ! Surely, if there are vehicles in the centre of the road - which there are - there should be some speed restriction.

Day after day as cars from Beckley try to access the Horton Road there's the screeching of brakes, the hooting of horns and sometimes exchanges of verbal abuse when drivers are sufficiently enraged to get out of their cars and proclaim. Every day people walk/cycle/drive with young children to Beckley School, to the Stanton St. John shop and to the PYO and the speed at which cars travel along this road makes this a hazardous pursuit.

Please would all three Parish Councils consider applying for a speed limit on this unrestricted road - or at least for part of the road - that leading from the T junction to the bottom of Woodperry Hill, before there is a fatal accident. We are aware that this road borders on three Parish Councils - and we have, in the past, spoken at Beckley & Stowood and Stanton St. John Parish Councils and recently, at Horton Parish Council. We appeal to all three councils to apply/support an application to OCC to impose a speed restriction on the Horton Road and to consider lowering the speed along Woodperry Road. Should you wish to agree/support these proposals, all three Parish Councils email addresses can be found on their web-sites. Many thanks.

**Pat and Neil Moss-Durrant  
2 Lodge Cottages Woodperry  
Oxford OX33 1AQ  
email: [mossdurrant@totalise.co.uk](mailto:mossdurrant@totalise.co.uk)**

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Please contact **Judy Bushrod 01865 358506** [judybushrod@gmail.com](mailto:judybushrod@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining in the annual Christmas luncheon to be held early in December. Time and place TBA.

## **BECKLEY COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

A note for your diaries...The Beckley Community Orchard AGM will be held on **Monday 11 September at 7.00pm** in the Abingdon Arms.

As this is an all inclusive Community thing all are welcome, of course, not just Trustees and Friends.

Aimee has very generously offered to make a once-off exception to the rule and open the "barn" part of the pub for this event on that Monday evening. Many thanks Aimee!

So....we look forward to a good turnout. See you there! **Nick Crowley**  
[crowleynick.crowley@outlook.com](mailto:crowleynick.crowley@outlook.com)

## **CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Our Harvest Festival service will be held on Sunday 8 October at 9.30am. We shall be decorating the church on Saturday 7th October from about 9.30am - anyone who would like to help will be very welcome, and donations of flowers, fruit etc. would be hugely appreciated! Gifts of non-perishable food with a use-by date of at least 6 months ahead given at the Sunday service, and at the School services on 12th October, will be taken to the Oxford Food Bank. **Contact Gina Robson 351 637** if you have any questions.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

There are eight bells high up in the church, one of which is used for the clock which was installed moe recently (?), and which Chris Britton and now Geoff Henman climb up into the rafters to wind several times a week. More on the bells to follow.... plus other church facts as they emerge.

## **JOHN BAKER RETIREMENT**

John Baker has lived in Beckley with his wife Jennifer for 31 years and for half of that time has acted as our pro-bono Village Hall booking clerk. He will be 80 on the 8<sup>th</sup> October and would like to go into semi-retirement from his Village Hall duties. I say semi-retirement since he is happy to continue to support us where some direct face-to-face contact is required with hirers and potential hirers but he wants to give up the chore of the background administration associated with keeping the Hall's commercial operations running.

The Trustees and I'm sure the whole village will wish to thank John for his work over these many years and for his continuing interest in keeping the new Hall running smoothly.

Personally, John, you have been a pleasure to deal with and we could not have had a more committed team member during my time at the helm.

So, moving forward, we are looking for a successor for the administrative duties from which John wishes to step back. Of course we would welcome a volunteer but we are prepared to consider procuring this service on a commercial basis if no volunteer steps forward. It is a duty that could be shared between two volunteers if no-one wished to take on the full burden.

Would anyone who may be interested, either on a voluntary or commercial basis, please get in touch with me. John has been keeping a time record of his own commitments over the past couple of months to help any possible successor to understand the task.

If we are not able to find voluntary support then we would be inviting proposals from anyone in the village who may be interested on a commercial basis and a couple of external suppliers in order to have a robust assurance that John can indeed (semi) retire on the 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Geoff Mills Trust Chair**  
[Geoffrey.mills@sipgroup.com](mailto:Geoffrey.mills@sipgroup.com) 351 17

## LOCAL STUDENT CHOSEN FOR INTERNSHIP IN NORTHWEST INDIA

In June, Jacob Drewitt, who lives on Otmoor Lane, was just finishing his first year in civil engineering at Birmingham City University when he received an email from the university asking if he would be interested in applying for a scholarship to study in Dehradun, India, for five weeks this summer. Jacob sent in his CV, plus a paper saying why he wanted to go and why he thought it would be a good opportunity, and a paper with his thoughts on India's rich culture.

Jacob was called in for an interview, and after a short time of waiting, was told he was the accepted for the program and a scholarship to cover plane fare and classes, board, and accommodation at Graphic Era University in Dehradun.



Jacob's experiences in this northwest part of India bordering the Himalayas enabled him to see design and engineering from a perspective that broadened what he was learning in England, particularly in building vibration and structural analysis due to the constant threat of earthquakes.

In addition to his engineering studies, Jacob was able to take part in some sightseeing experiences, including Agra, Rishikesh, and Delhi.

Interaction with other students who were part of the program has whetted his appetite for

further travel and exploration. He was particularly impressed with his roommate's, and several of the other students', pride in their native Brazil, high on Jacob's list for further study and exploration.

In the meantime, Jacob is back home with mother Lynn, brothers Harry and Ben, and grandparents Jan and Fred Weller, and working evenings and week ends at The King's Arms in Oxford until his return to Birmingham in September.



## WING WALK

On 6 September Elizabeth Wheeler will be doing a Wing Walk for Oxford Radcliff Hospital's Charitable Funds Endocrinology Department as a "Thank You" for caring for Peter so well. Those who who like to help sponsor Elizabeth in this walk can do so through [www.justgiving.com/E-WHEELER2](http://www.justgiving.com/E-WHEELER2).





## **APPOINTMENT BUDDIES - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

'Getting Heard' (formerly Oxfordshire Advocacy) is a local charity and is based in Barton Neighbourhood Centre. They have 25 years experience supporting Oxfordshire residents to get their voices heard – and they offer free, independent and confidential support.

'Getting Heard' is looking for volunteers to become 'Appointment Buddies' for people living in Barton. Appointment Buddies help support people with making and remembering appointments, preparing what to say, supporting people to say what they need and what questions they need to ask. They also assist with collecting prescriptions and reflecting on what was said and what needs to be done next.

They work with Barton residents, of 50 years of age or older, who need support with NHS Health Centre appointments – people without friends or family to assist with such things.

A three day training course is offered to anyone wishing to volunteer. If you are interested in becoming an Appointment Buddy for people living in Barton – please contact **Bec Hoare on 07554 928291** or email her:

**rebecca.hoare@gettingheard.org** Their website is: **www.gettingheard.org**

## **BECKLEY VILLAGE HALL 150 CLUB - THE PRIZES WILL BE DOUBLED IN DECEMBER!**

Belying its name, 160 people were entered into the Summer quarter draw and the prizewinners are listed below .

The next draw will take place in late November with the December winners being rewarded with a doubled prize - £60 for first place etc. You too could also anticipate the thrill of this bountiful reward if you join up for next year. Call me for further information.

**Ted Cloke 01865 358 881**

**EDITOR'S NOTES:** The Beckley-Stowood Parish Newsletter is published four times a year, with the next issue due to come out 1 December. Please submit news, articles, and pictures by 21 November. Thanks to all who contribute to the writing, publishing, and distribution. **Ann Henman 351 492**  
**annhenman@gmail.com**

<b>150 Club Winners</b>	<b>1st Prize - £30</b>	<b>2nd Prize - £20</b>	<b>3rd Prize - £15</b>	<b>4th Prize - £10</b>
<b>July 2017</b>	Hilary Darrah	Sarah Smith	Susan Hunter Pease	Kerstin Bowsher
<b>August 2017</b>	Jan Weller	Tom Carruthers	Chris Britton	Celia Crowley
<b>September 2017</b>	Liz Reis	Pat Moss	Sue Cox	Pia Key