



Newsletter No 67
Spring 2020
www.osa.org.uk


SPRING

OGBOURNE ST ANDREW, MAIZEY AND ROCKLEY NEWSLETTER

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

- ◆ **Village news**
- ◆ **Together in the face of COVID-19**
- ◆ **New village community Facebook page**
- ◆ **Update from the Silks – takeaways available!**
- ◆ **Church News: public worship suspended**
- ◆ **100 Club winners**
- ◆ **Proposed upgrade of track to bridleway**
- ◆ **The Mighty Og**
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- ◆ **History Group Update – field walking the barrow**
- ◆ **Open Gardens day**

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



VILLAGE NEWS

Together in the face of COVID-19

Neighbourhood Watch exists to look out for communities across England and Wales, and at times like this we encourage you to consider ways to keep yourself, your loved ones and those in your community safe, particularly the isolated and vulnerable.

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.

No need to be shy – we are all in this together!

More information:

Government advice is at: www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response.

Visit [NHSUK/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) for information about the virus and how to protect yourself.

If you have symptoms, or someone in your household does, **do not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to call NHS 111 to tell them you are staying at home. If you feel you can't cope with your symptoms at home, your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service.

Should I self-isolate?

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.

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.



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'.

Wiltshire Council advice on what you can you do as a community

Your communities are strong and resilient and there are simple things you can do to help them continue to thrive:

- Check in on any vulnerable family, friends and neighbours. Sometimes just helping them with their shopping and checking they have everything they need can make a big difference.
- If you know someone who is self-isolating, contact them via phone and text and check that they're OK. By its very nature, self-isolation is a solitary experience and their wellbeing will likely be improved by talking to someone.
- Appoint someone in your community/neighbourhood as the main gatherer of information so that everyone in your area gets access to the same and most accurate information.
- Please be mindful with your comments and actions, so as not to cause undue concern or anxiety within your community. If you hear mis-information that may cause issues, respectfully challenge if you're able to.
- Please be respectful of anyone you know who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, as it's likely to be an anxious time for them. Due to patient confidentiality their details will not be publicly confirmed, so please do what you can to respect and protect their privacy, and do not speculate with the local media or on social media.
- Public Health England has advised people who are self-isolating to do what they can to avoid visitors to their home and any deliveries of groceries, medications or other shopping to be left at the door, so please ensure that when you are providing support this advice is followed.



OGBOURNE ST ANDREW CHURCH NEWS

St Andrew's Church Annual Report and Accounts

For environmental and cost reasons it has been decided not to print and distribute a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts to every home in the parish as has been done in previous years. Copies will be available for collection from the Church for anyone interested in seeing a copy, or contact Sue Parry, PCC Secretary on 841952.

St Andrew's Church PCC

Renewing your Home Insurance policy?

Consider Ecclesiastical, who will donate £130 to our church every time someone from the parish takes out a new home insurance policy with them before 31st December 2020.

Find out more at www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

or call them on 0800 783 0130 and quote "Trust 130".

Please support our church if you can.

100 CLUB WINNERS

Dec 2019 Liz Barnes

Jan 2020

1st prize Cheryl Swan

2nd prize Cathy Fuller

Feb 2020

1st Yvonne Parsons

2nd Bruce Fox

March 2020

1st Lady Amanda Weldon

2nd Yvonne Parsons

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.

The prize allocations changed in January: first prize is now 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.

ARE YOU
IN THE
100 CLUB?



Easter Church Services:

Public worship suspended until further notice

Ogbourne St Andrew Church will be open on Sunday mornings from 10.00-11.30 am for prayer.

Reverend Roger will visit his three churches during that time each Sunday.

On Palm Sunday 5th April, palm crosses that have been blessed will be available for those who would like to take one.

Rev Roger is available to offer pastoral care and support and/or practical support to members of the community. You can contact him on tel. 01793 740369, or email: revd.rpowell@btinternet.com

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling for Church of England churches to put public worship on hold and become a "different sort of church" in the coming months to face the challenge of coronavirus. It comes after the Government announced unprecedented peacetime measures to try to control the spread of the virus, with restrictions on public gatherings, transport and working.

Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu expressed the desire that church buildings may, where practical, remain open as places of prayer for the community, observing social distancing recommendations.

They also invited clergy to maintain the ancient pattern of daily prayer and, where possible, the eucharist – live streaming their worship if they have the resources to do so.

And they urged congregations to be in the forefront of providing practical care and support for the most poor and the most vulnerable during the crisis.





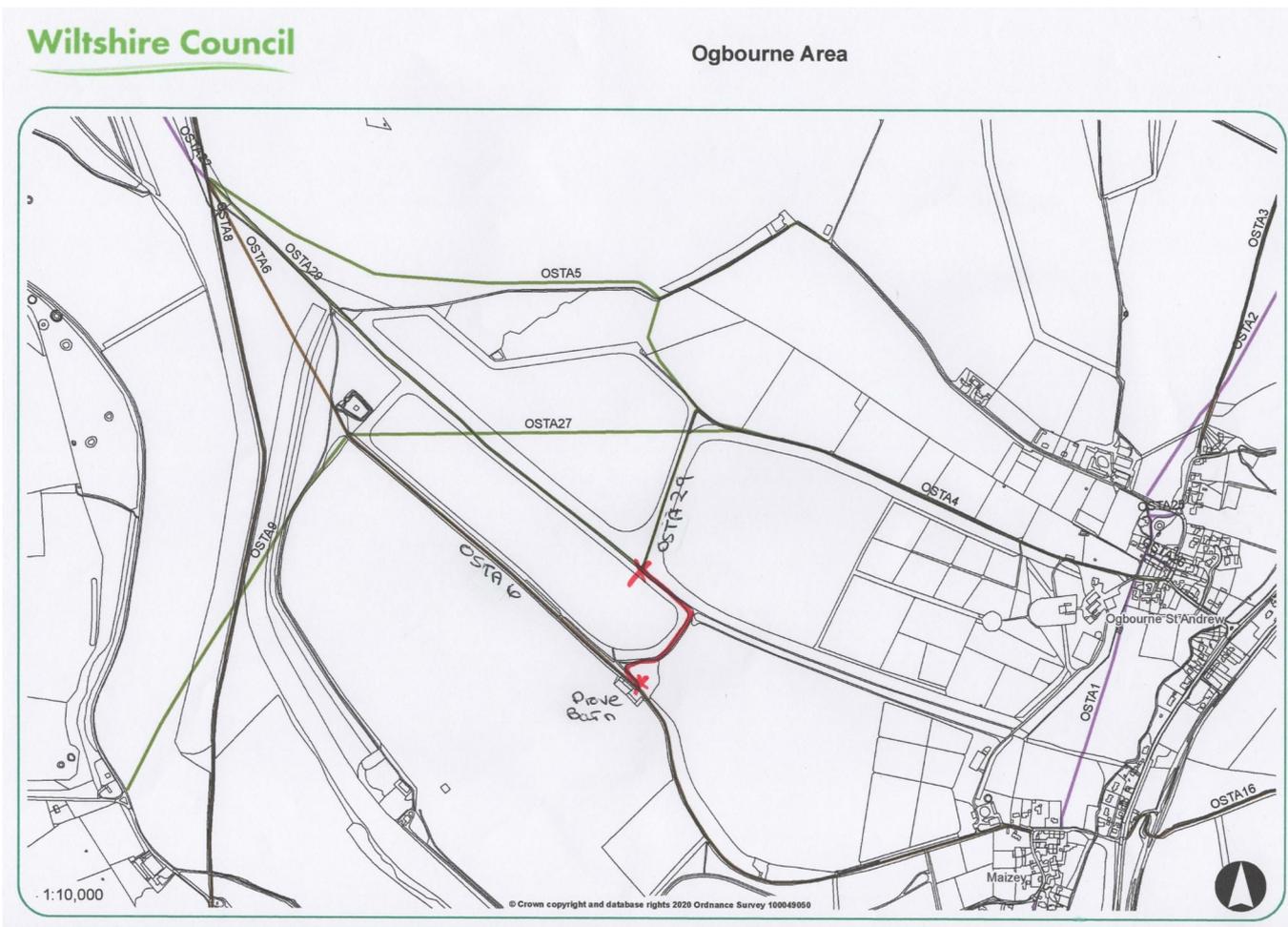
Proposed Upgrade of Track to Bridleway

Help support our application

For many years (at least since the early 1960s and probably before), a large number of us have been using the track which links the Green Lane byway at Drove Barn to the bridleway which comes up from Ogbourne St Andrew, before heading up alongside the round gallop towards the Horseman's Grave.

This link that we have been enjoying is not a right of way, and although the current landowners are happy for it to be used, this may not always be the case. The introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) determined that any historic footpath or bridleway in England that existed before 1949 needs to be recorded on the Definitive Map by 2026, or it could be extinguished forever.

So, conscious of this deadline, I am proposing, on behalf of the Parish Council, to apply for the link between the two existing rights of way to be upgraded to a bridleway.





I am confident of achieving the upgrade, but in order to substantiate the application, Public Rights of Way User Evidence Statements need to be completed. To this end, I have already started to distribute this document, together with a map of the area in question, to people whom I know use or have used the link. The plan is to get as many User Evidence Statements completed as possible for me to present to Wiltshire Council along with the application.

If you haven't already received a User Evidence Statement for completion, and would like to support my application, please email me on davisian51@btinternet.com and I will forward one to you.

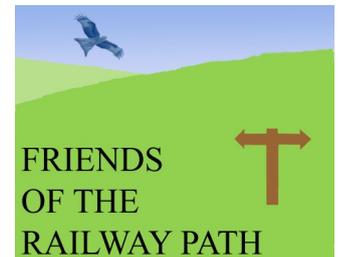
Carolyn Davis

Friends of the Railway Path

The Friends of the Railway Path had a productive day's work on Thursday 5th March. Sustrans has installed a new bench near the lineside hut between Ogbourne St Andrew and Ogbourne St George. We've cleared an area round it (and removed lots of nettle roots) and now planted it with local wildflower seeds. We're not sure how the area is going to develop, and it may need help to avoid the nettles re-growing...but it's a start.

And a lovely team from Network Rail cleared scrub from the slope leading up to the spot from the Ridgeway crossing, which is just to the north.

My thanks to everyone who helped: this helps turn the spot into a destination point.



Dick Millard



OGBOURNE ST ANDREW HISTORY GROUP UPDATE

“Field walking the Barrow”

Saturday March 14th saw the next stage in the restoration of the barrow next to the church, an archaeological “field walk”. Volunteers from our History Group were joined by members of the Wiltshire Archaeological Field Group, Gloucester Archaeology and Dr. Sophie Beckett, an archaeological osteologist.

A fingertip search of the barrow surface was carried out followed by raking to remove dead vegetation and stones. The few finds that were made were identified by Dr. Beckett and duly recorded. A report is being prepared to submit to Historic England, who called for this exercise. The next step is a final weed-killing followed by re-seeding at Easter with grass. Once this has established itself the barrow should be restored to its former glory!



Further photographs are available on our website: www.osahg.org.uk



Update from Silks on the Downs

Dear Customers

We have made the decision that the Silks will remain open as long as we can, given the extra measures we have put in place.



We have introduced even higher standards of hygiene across the entire bar and restaurant through an even more robust cleaning regime than normal. Staff and customers alike are encouraged to clean their hands regularly and comprehensively. All contact points are sanitised regularly throughout the day and our staff are hand washing before serving each customer. We have reduced the maximum number of guests we will serve in order to increase the distance between the tables. Where card limits allow, we would like to accept contactless payments only. Regardless, our payment machine will be regularly cleaned during service.

Finally, we have set up a takeaway menu, with food available to order Monday to Saturday, staffing and produce availability permitting. You can find the menu on our facebook page and on our website, or email or ring us on the details below. We would also like to offer a delivery service for elderly and vulnerable people living in the Ogbourne villages, but may need some assistance from the community to make this happen.

But most of all stay safe and well, we're all in this together.

From Fraser and all the Staff at the Silks

FOOD AVAILABLE TO ORDER

Monday-Saturday, 12pm-2pm and 5pm-8pm

Please telephone the restaurant on 01672 841229 to place your order and arrange a pick-up time. We can also take card payments. If you are unable to collect your food because of self-isolation, we may be able to arrange delivery.



The Mighty Og

The little river Og is experiencing quite a resurgence and it has been amazing to see it flowing so well and so early this winter. The Og, like all chalk streams, is powered by groundwater, i.e. water that emerges from underground springs as the water table rises. The 2019 autumn was very wet, which resulted in the fastest groundwater recharge we have seen for decades, and the groundwater has stayed high through New Year and towards Easter. It's a good year for the Og to have winter flow because, thanks to a new fish pass linking the Kennet and the Og, trout and grayling have been able to swim from the Kennet to reach the spawning grounds in the river Og for the first time since the 1970s.

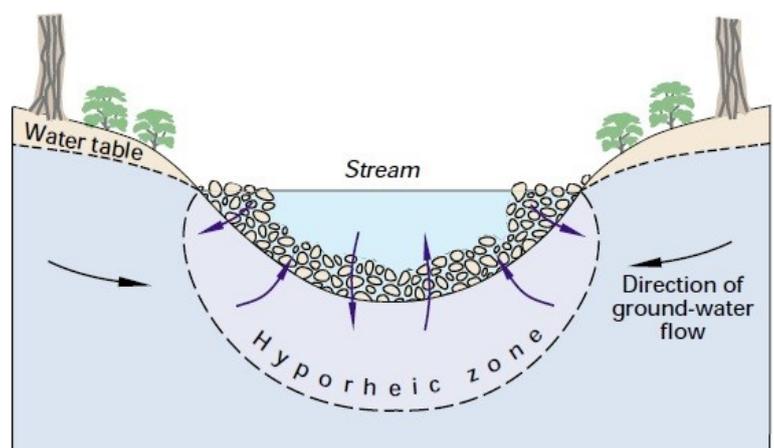
Why doesn't the Og flow all the time?

When there is high rainfall in autumn and winter, the rainfall soaks down through the chalk into aquifers providing enough natural water reserves to keep the river flowing for months. Conversely in dry years the aquifer levels never get high enough for the river to flow at all. Recent research has shown that winterbournes are one of the most productive river ecosystems in the world because they are adapted to support both aquatic and terrestrial life. You can check the ground water levels in real time on the Shoothill Gauge website (www.gaugemap.co.uk); search for Rockley and Draycot Foliat to see the levels that affect the River Og. On the same website you can see the river level at the gauging station, which is right at the bottom of the Og by Poulton House.

What happens to the wildlife when the river isn't there?

The chalkstream sections of winterbournes are, surprisingly, teeming with life only hours after water returns.

Invertebrates, river flies and plant seeds all lie dormant just below the river bed, waiting for the next wet season. The zone immediately below the river bed is called the hyporheic zone and it plays a crucial role in sustaining life, even when the river is dry. If you dig it up, everything dies.





What can I do to reduce flood risk?

Flooding in anyone's house is a miserable experience, so it's really important that everyone understands where their flood risk comes from. In Ogbourne the risk is predominantly from groundwater and heavy rainfall, rather than from an overflowing river. ARK run community workshops to help villages to understand and map their flood risk so they can manage it appropriately. If you are interested in finding out more please get in touch. Climate change means that it's likely that floods and droughts become more regular features of our lives, so having a good strategy to minimise their impact now is a wise investment of time and resources. The rules about dredging rivers are very clear and very strict. The Og is classified as main river and it is illegal to dredge it without an Environment Agency Exemption or Flood Defence Consent. If you secure consent you must abide by the conditions.

How has the Og changed over time?

In the 1800s all the way up to the mid-1960s the river Og was split across several channels in the fields around the village, and the fields would have been operated as water meadows. Flooding the fields would have been deliberate and controlled to get the land ready for spring grazing of sheep. As agriculture has modernised the channels have been filled, and today the river Og around Ogbourne St Andrew is squeezed into just one channel. An old pond by Wetpits is clearly visible on old maps, yet today has been filled in. You can see the old river routes by looking at old maps – or at the moment you can see the river trying to find its old course through the wet fields. These changes to the river have created more space for farming, but reduced the space for floodwater and the habitat for wildlife.

Ogbourne children get involved

Children attending Ogbourne Primary School have been working with Action for the River Kennet (ARK) this winter, raising brown trout from eggs into baby fish. Along the way they learned all about the Og and the Kennet and we are looking forward to a generation of children who enthusiastically care for their river.

Summer river project

ARK would love to work with the residents of Ogbourne St Andrew on a river habitat restoration project. If you'd like to get involved please contact:

charlotte@riverkennet.org.



Ogbourne St Andrew — Down Memory Lane

Following on the theme of the last newsletter's photographs, which sparked some interest, we have four more photographs of people.

We are always interested in feedback and putting names to faces, so please contact us if you have any information. We'll return to old views of the villages in the next issue.

**Ogbourne
St Andrew
School 1934**



**Ogbourne
St Andrew
School 1947**



Ogbourne
St Andrew
School 1959



Mrs. Margaret Welch, headmistress of Ogbourne St. Andrew Primary School, helps the pupils to make their own Christmas crackers.

MARY CLARIDGE
PAULINE JACKSON

Margaret Moylan

John Bull

Carolyn Potter

Roger Bull or Roger Harris

* Gail Goss

D..

ALAN



Ogbourne
St Andrew
football team

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION OR PHOTOS YOU CAN ADD?

Please contact us at: history@osahg.org.uk, or tel. 01672 512867

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



WHO LIVES IN OGBOURNE ST ANDREW, MAIZEY AND ROCKLEY?

The Place family, Ogbourne St Andrew

Who is in your family?

Nicky and Mike;

Toby, 7 - loves rugby, football and practical jokes;

Benji, 9 - loves rugby, football and building dens;

Isobel, 10 - loves dance, hockey and writing stories.

We also have a pet pheasant called Bob who comes to visit every few days to be hand-fed some raisins, we haven't started soaking the raisins in whiskey quite yet!!



Where do you live?

We live at the end of Church Lane in Ogbourne St Andrew.

How long have you lived in the village?

We lived in Draycot Foliat since 2011 and have been looking to buy in the villages since then. We moved into Meadowside on July 4th 2019. Although we purchased the bungalow in August 2016, it took a few years to get through planning and find a builder that would turn up to do the job!

What do you do for work?

Nicky works as a PE Teacher at a secondary school in Chippenham.

Mike is in the Royal Air Force and currently stationed at RAF Brize Norton.

Izzy, Benji and Toby are all at School in Ogbourne St George, Izzy is excited to be starting St John's in September.



What's your favourite part of living in the village?

The beautiful location, we are so lucky to be able to walk out of our front door and explore the countryside. We love exploring new places to walk or run. Everyone in the village has been very welcoming and friendly.

Anything you would change about living here?

A community area for the kids to play.

Favourite quote or motto

Let's give it a try!

Favourite season and why

Any season when it doesn't rain! It seems to have rained non stop since October! We also love the winter when we get snow, but it has to be enough to go sledging. We're looking forward to finding out where the best sledging slopes are to be found in Ogbourne St Andrew. The summer is also in our top four, love the thought of sipping gin in the garden when it's not full of mud!!

What's your favourite spot in the local area?

We love walking to the top of the hill past the stables and looking back down at the village in the valley.

Do you have any great memories of living here that you'd like to share?

We haven't been here a year yet but already we have plenty to look back on; the Og in full flow, floods on the high street, an epic lightning storm, clearing the churchyard and carols on the mound.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Recycling Services have changed.

You can now put more materials into your blue-lidded bin, including plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, cartons, cans, aerosols, foil, paper and cardboard. To make more space, empty, rinse and squash your recycling where possible and flatten cardboard boxes.

Note that in some cases, recycling collection days have changed so please check the letter sent by Wiltshire Council.

Find out more at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling





OGBOURNES IN BLOOM

Open Gardens Day



A celebration of gardens in
Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne Maizey
Sunday 28th June 2-6 pm

WE NEED YOUR GARDEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER

Contributions welcomed for the plant stall

This is a community event and not a competition – weeds are permitted!

Contact Marion on 01672-513125 maizey50@gmail.com

Miracle Theatre 2020 update:

The annual Miracle Theatre open air performance in Ogbourne Maizey, hosted by Marion and Ian Gordon-Finlayson, has become a much-loved tradition.



Sadly, like so many other organisations, Miracle Theatre has taken the difficult decision to cancel forthcoming events, and will therefore postpone their planned summer 2020 tour of King Lear until 2021. They intend to make the best use of the 'empty' hours by planning and developing new ideas, taking inspiration from William Shakespeare himself, who used his weeks of self-isolation from the plague to dash off King Lear! We very much look forward to welcoming them next year.

Marion and Ian Gordon-Finlayson

