



Newsletter No 83
Spring 2024
www.osa.org.uk



OGBOURNE ST ANDREW, MAIZEY AND ROCKLEY NEWSLETTER

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

- ◆ Village news
- ◆ Silks on the Downs update
- ◆ Project Andrew – church fundraising update
- ◆ 100 club winners
- ◆ Church pews and more for sale!
- ◆ Easter Church Services
- ◆ Miracle Theatre returns to Maizey
- ◆ Antiques Valuation Day and Riley Car Rally
- ◆ History Group Update
- ◆ Repair and reuse service



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



VILLAGE NEWS

SAVE THE DATE...it's "theatre-time" again in Ogbourne Maizey!

Miracle Theatre are touring again – hurrah! – and will be with us on **Thursday 4th July** at 7.30pm here at Maizey Lodge. Put the date in your diary NOW!

This year they are performing 'Love Riot', and invite us to "embark on a whirlwind of love and laughter" with their latest production.

"This vibrant re-imagining of Hannah Cowley's revolutionary play, The Belle's Stratagem (which first took London's West End by storm 250 years ago!) promises an exhilarating journey through a world obsessed with status, etiquette and scandal."

Perfect for a summer's evening...

We are hoping for a drier evening this year!!

Box Office opens in April. Contact maizey50@gmail.com

Ian & Marion Gordon-Finlayson

Cygnets Consortium for Heating Oil



Ford Fuels operate a scheme whereby the Parish Council can claim an annual rebate based on the amount of oil ordered from them by parishioners under the "Cygnets Consortium", while users get a preferential oil rate. To ensure your order qualifies, please quote "Cygnets Consortium" when contacting Ford Fuels to place an order. Their contact details are: 01761 452222 or admin@fordfuels.co.uk

Application to record a Bridleway

Further to the Planning Inspectorate Inquiry at The Silks on October 31st, notification was received on December 15th that the Definitive Map Modification order had been confirmed.

Bridleway number OSTA38 will link Byway OSTA6 (known locally as Green Lane) from Drove Barn to Bridleway OSTA29 (which comes up from St Andrew).

Carolyn Davis

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ed.,

Congratulations to you and all your contributors on the superb anniversary edition of the Newsletter. Fascinating stories and recollections of times past, and interesting updates of current activities. Loved Bruce's notes about St Andrew miscreants – any more?

Many thanks to you and all involved with the Newsletter over the years. Keep up the good work.

In appreciation,

A Maizey resident



Silkworms Book Event

Silkworms Book Club celebrated its first anniversary in January with a meal, at The Silks, of course. We also discussed, at the planning stage, a book event. Not on the scale of the Marlborough Literature Festival, but our own Community Happening. Open to all.

So, on Tuesday the 13th of February we welcomed an extended group of book enthusiasts to a very laid-back talk by Angus MacLennan, manager of the wonderful, independent, White Horse Book Shop.

A frustrated actor, the delivery of his talk 'My Life in Books' was extremely entertaining, funny, and enlightening. He brought along a selection of books to illustrate the development of his taste in books as he 'matured'. Plenty of food for thought and discussion at our next meeting. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Ruth Fleming at jonandruthfleming@gmail.com

Jane Fox (on behalf of The Silkworms)

'Ask Gareth': Repairs to broken household items

I am offering a community service to repair broken household items at little or no cost that would otherwise be binned or sent for recycling. The only cost is for any spare parts needed; I don't charge for my labour. This is similar to the Repair Shop on TV, but I am not looking to repair 'treasured possessions', rather reduce the amount being recycled or sent to landfill. So many items that are broken or not working are being thrown away that often only require a minor repair to make them useable again.

The service I offer covers the following:

- ◆ **Home appliances**, such as toasters, vacuum cleaners, lamps, etc.
- ◆ **Garden appliances**, such as lawnmowers, leaf blowers, etc.
- ◆ **Chairs, tables and other small furniture**, both indoor and outdoor.

Unfortunately I can't take on white goods such as fridges, stoves, washing machines etc., computers, televisions, mobile phones or microwaves.

If you have something that needs fixing, give me a call or send me an email and I will be happy to take a look.

Tel: 07767 274506

Email: ogbourneparatech@gmail.com

Gareth Clarke

Items I have fixed recently include:

- A leaf blower that would not switch on. I removed clogged up dust and restored it to full working condition.
- A dining room chair with a collapsed seat base, one of a valuable set. I made up a new contoured base using layers of plywood and replaced the original cover. Cost was £16 for the materials used.
- A set of Bose noise-cancelling headphones with perished padding on ear pieces and headband. I replaced the padding for £25.
- A small wooden box used in the church for communion services, that had been dropped. I glued it back together and polished it up so it is fully useable again.



OGBOURNE ST ANDREW CHURCH NEWS

Church fundraising update

As you know the PCC is working on raising funds to finance the cost of the major reorganisation and improvement of the west end of the church. We are working on several events for the summer, the first of which will be the Antiques Valuation Day on 14th June; save the date and watch out for further details.

Meanwhile our fundraising consultant reports that he has recently submitted grant applications to twelve smaller and regional trusts, identified a further ten trusts for proposals shortly, and has in view a similar number of larger trusts to whom we can apply only when we have secured 50% of our target. The results of these applications will be known over the coming months, as and when the relevant trustees meet and make their decisions.

The PCC will be contributing a significant sum from its reserves, and we are pleased to confirm that a few cash donations and pledges have so far been received from parishioners. Please contact me if you wish to add to these kind gestures.

I will report on progress in coming newsletters.

Ian Gordon-Finlayson. Treasurer, Ogbourne St Andrew PCC (iangf@f2s.com)

For Sale: Church pews and more!

As part of the clearance of the west end of the church before work starts on Project Andrew, we have pews and other pieces available for sale!

Pews £150 each (ONO), 10 available

Large decorative Butchers Board £70

Light oak lectern £50

Please contact Roger Swan 01672 841322

Celebration of Christmas

A Celebration of Christmas service was held on Sunday 17th December. An evening of traditional carols, Christmas readings and music by the Phoenix Brass Band was enjoyed by all who came. Wine and mince pies were offered at the end of the evening, together with the draw for Christmas Hampers.

For information the raffle made £365.00, collection/donations amounted to £129 and the sale of hyacinths £25.00.

Hampers were won by: Liz Turner, Simon Meyer, Margaret Matthews, Suzie Wray and Rachael Murray. Thank you to all who helped make this evening such a success – we might repeat it next year!

Marion Gordon-Finlayson – Churchwarden



Revd Canon Roger to preach at Salisbury Cathedral

On Monday 8 April at 5:30pm, Revd Canon Roger is preaching for the first time at Salisbury Cathedral, for the Feast of the Annunciation. Car shares will be organised. Contact the Churchwardens.

Key dates for Ogbourne St Andrew Church

21 March – 10.00am: Churchyard Spring tidy. All welcome to come and help.

Easter Services:

24 March – Palm Sunday, 10.30am: Cafe Church

29 March – Good Friday, 2.00pm: Service with Ogbourne St. George

30 March – Easter Egg Hunt with coffee & cake, from 11.00am in the churchyard.

31 March – Easter Day, 11.00am: Parish Communion



Fundraising events planned in aid of St Andrews Church this year:

Various events are planned to raise funds of £7,500 towards the upgrade of the church.

14 June, 1.00-5.00pm: Antiques Valuation Day and Riley Car Rally with plant & cake stall, ice creams, refreshments at Maizey Lodge

4 July, 7.30pm: Miracle Theatre at Ogbourne Maizey, "Love Riot"
(in aid of Project Andrew)

14 September, 10.00am-6.00pm: Ride & Stride community cycle tour of local churches

September: Event in planning

100 CLUB WINNERS Why not join the 100 club?

January 2024

1st prize Jane Fox

2nd prize Chris Barnes

February 2024

1st prize Tatjana Jimenez-
Aldridge

2nd prize Margaret
Fitzpatrick

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, to join the 100 Club or to increase your holding.



Silks on the Downs News

Once again, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support for our local pub. Whether you've been a guest, a volunteer, or a member, your unwavering support has been instrumental in helping the pub navigate through these challenging times.

Pub tenancy progress

Since the special meeting in January, the pub committee has set about finding a tenant to take the pub forward. We have interviewed applicants and reviewed their business plans. I'm pleased to say we are currently negotiating contract terms and conditions with a prospective tenant for the Silks, who we believe is a great fit to run the pub successfully and achieve our local community vision. There is much work to do, and it is not a done deal until we have a signed contract. We are hopeful we can complete the agreement in April. We will inform you once we have completed the process – successfully or unsuccessfully! The committee will hold an in-person community meeting soon after.

In the meantime, we can't stress enough how much we value your support. We continue to rely on your volunteering to keep the pub running through March and into April. February trading has been challenging, so we urge you to keep using the pub throughout March. Your continued patronage is crucial to our success.

Trading

At the January meeting, we briefly outlined the improvements in our trading in November and December. For the first time, the Silks generated a much-needed profit due to the efforts of the community, volunteers, and committee.

January and February are traditionally very challenging months for the hospitality sector. The Silks is not immune to this, but we again traded profitably in January. February was different; footfall and covers declined, and volunteer support dipped. The last four months have been tough, but we have generated a net profit of £9,000 over that period. Well done, and thank you to you all. Please be conscious that it only takes a few poor weeks of trading – such as those in February – to deplete our reserves.

March is vital for us, and we would like to build our reserves further by trading profitably. We encourage you to use the pub this month, ideally dining.

Events

We have a full community events programme in March and April, which can be seen on the pub website. Our monthly quiz is frequently a sell-out, and the bridge club goes from strength to strength. Look out for a new Spring menu and more community events in April.

First-floor refurbishment

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed that we have cleared the rooms above the pub, and the maintenance crew has been banging away upstairs! We quickly figured out



that tenant applicants saw the potential for the rooms to boost revenue or be used as staff accommodation. In April, we will be looking to raise funds for the refurb and will call on your building and decorating skills to help with the refurbishment work.

Nick Gregory, Chair, Ogbourne Community Pub Society

For bookings contact hello@savethesilks.co.uk, visit our website www.silksonthedowns.co.uk or call 01672 205604.

History Group Update

The reaction to the 20th anniversary of the Group in the last newsletter was positive, with a call for more newspaper reports from over the years. Always willing to oblige our readers, here are a few choice extracts:

No bicycle lights 1937

Bicycles without front lights cost **Sidney Morgan**, Rose Cottage, Ogbourne St. Andrew and **Arthur Day**, Ogbourne St. Andrew. Each fined 5s.

Rose Cottage was next to the Wheatsheaf and was merged with Wheatsheaf Cottage (confusingly further away from the pub) in the 1960s.

Various Coroner's bills:

(Random selection from Coroners' invoices)

1754. Ogbourne St Andrew. **Thomas Mott**, aged about 2: fell into a well and was drowned.

1765. Ogbourne St Andrew. **John Wise**, late of Lambourne: found dead in a field; lack of sustenance

1774. Ogbourne St Andrew. **Mary Moore**: found dead in the snow; inclement weather.

Bricklayer death 1907

OGBOURNE ST. ANDREW. FATAL ACCIDENT. An inquest was held in the Savernake Cottage Hospital, into the death of a bricklayer named **Martin** of Marlborough. The deceased was demolishing the disused

Baptist chapel at St. Andrew when a large portion wall collapsed without warning, and fell on his legs, one of which was fractured. Moved to Savernake Hospital he appeared to be recovering, when complications supervened, and he died. The Coroner returned a verdict of "Accidental death." *This was the "Zion Chapel" sited behind Crowlynch and Eastview.*

Evidence of a 'Reading Room' in Maisey 1897

In a sale by **R. P. Tanner** (Maisey Manor) of 14 estate cottages, this intriguing description:

Lot 2.—All those TWO COTTAGES (one of which was formerly used as a reading room), in the occupation of **Mr. Wm. Pricor**, with garden and two woodhouses, the whole being let at the low rental of £7 10s. per annum.

These cottages were probably those which stood on what is now the parking area for Keeper's Cottage. Any comments on the presence of a Reading Room in Maisey?

Bruce Fox 01672 512867



For your Diary

More information on planned events can be found inside this issue, or see the village website: www.osa.org.uk

Saturday 16th March: Rugby 6 Nations Final Weekend at The Silks on The Downs

Wednesday 20th March: Easter Wreath Workshop at The Silks on The Downs

Thursday 21st March, 10am: Churchyard Spring tidy. All welcome to come and help

Sunday 24th March, 10:30am: Palm Sunday, Cafe Church, Ogbourne St Andrew Church

Monday 25th March, 8pm: Community Meeting at The Silks on The Downs

Wednesday 27th March: Quiz Night at The Silks on The Downs (book tables in advance)

Friday 29th March, 2pm: Good Friday Service (joint with Ogbourne St George), Ogbourne St Andrew Church

Friday 29th March: Public Holiday (Good Friday)

Saturday 30th March, from 11am: Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard, coffee & cake



Sunday 31st March, 11am: Easter Day Parish Communion, Ogbourne St Andrew Church

Monday 1st April: Public Holiday (Easter Monday)

Monday 8th April, 5:30pm: Revd Canon Roger preaching at Salisbury Cathedral

Monday 6th May: Public Holiday (Early May Bank Holiday)

Monday 27th May: Public Holiday (Spring Bank Holiday)

Friday 14th June, 1pm-5pm: Antiques Valuation Day and Riley Car Rally with plant & cake stall, ice creams, refreshments, Maizey Lodge

Thursday 4th July, 7:30pm: Miracle Theatre 'Love Riot' Open Air Performance, Maizey Lodge, Ogbourne Maizey

Saturday 14th September, 10am-6pm: Ride & Stride community cycle tour of local churches



Join the Facebook Community page to stay connected, offer help, ask for help or simply to chat.

Look for 'Ogbourne St Andrew, Maizey and Rockley Community'.

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