



Newsletter No 84  
Summer 2024  
[www.osa.org.uk](http://www.osa.org.uk)

# SUMMER

## OGBOURNE ST ANDREW, MAIZEY AND ROCKLEY NEWSLETTER

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

- ◆ **Village news**
- ◆ **Antiques Valuation Day and Riley Car Rally**
- ◆ **Miracle Theatre 'Love Riot' on 4<sup>th</sup> July in Maizey**
- ◆ **Outing to Ramsbury Brewery & Distillery**
- ◆ **Village picnic and football, rounders & tug of war**
- ◆ **Dog agility demonstration and fun afternoon**
- ◆ **Silks on the Downs update**
- ◆ **History Group Update**
- ◆ **Marlborough Open Studios in July**
- ◆ **Project Andrew – church fundraising update**
- ◆ **100 club winners**



Please send contributions and ideas for articles to [alexandra.hegarty@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alexandra.hegarty@hotmail.co.uk)



## VILLAGE NEWS

### Pub lunch and outing to Ramsbury Brewery and Distillery – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Do you fancy a guided tour around the Ramsbury Brewery and Distillery – with product sampling on the way round? If so, here's your opportunity!

The tour includes a welcome drink on arrival followed by a guided tour with samples of the Distillery and Brewery products en route. The visit concludes with a G & T and time in the shop.

We have a minibus arranged to transport us, leaving from Silks on the Downs at 2.30pm. As there will be plenty of time for lunch at the Silks beforehand, Thomas will be offering a special two-course set-price menu for us, which you will need to book direct, and pay for, with Silks.

The inclusive price of the Ramsbury tour and transport is £43. Places are limited so make sure you book very soon. Payment is required at time of booking. Bookings will close on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

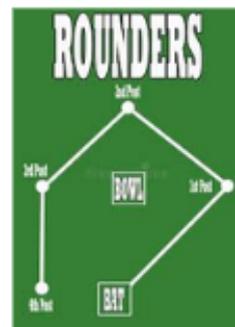
Contact Carolyn Davis on 07734053147 or [davisian51@btinternet.com](mailto:davisian51@btinternet.com)

### PICNIC AND FUN IN THE SUN FOOTBALL, ROUNDERS & TUG OF WAR

**SATURDAY 22ND JUNE**

**12.30**

**IN THE LEACH'S FIELD  
OGBOURNE ST ANDREW**



**ALL WELCOME, NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED, PLAY OR  
HAVE FUN WATCHING**

**BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC**

**FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT NICKY PLACE**



# ANTIQUES VALUATION DAY



## and classic Riley car rally



**1pm to 5pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

at Maizey Lodge, Ogbourne Maizey, Marlborough SN8 1RY

We have been generously offered the expert services of **Patrick Toynbee** and **Alex Tonkinson**, both of **Bonhams**, and **David Dudley**, our local jewellery specialist.

Bring along anything (including modern jewellery) that you hope may be valuable and see what the experts think.

**£10 for up to 3 items.**

**ALSO:** Weather permitting, there will be a rally of classic Rileys. Come and admire these beautiful old cars.

**Refreshments Cakes and plants for sale Picnics welcome Free entrance and parking**

In aid of Project Andrew – the renovation of Ogbourne St Andrew Church

*Please note The PCC does not accept liability for the security of items brought in for valuation.*

## Could you be a School Governor for our local primary school?



Ogbourne Church of England Primary in Ogbourne St George (part of the Excalibur family of schools) is where many of the children from our villages attend primary school. The school has a team of extremely committed governors (our Academy Committee) who do a huge amount to support the staff team and school as a whole. However, we are keen to recruit some new members, as some of our long-standing governors may be stepping down once their terms come to an end and their children leave us for pastures new.

The role of governor is focused on looking at the school through the eyes of the children who attend and seeking to make sure their outcomes are as good as they can be. Governors attend four evening meetings during each academic year, as well as occasionally visiting during the school day to chat to the children themselves about their experience.

If being a governor of this small but wonderful school is something you think you would be interested in, or you have any questions, please do get in touch with us to find out more.

Our contact details are as follows:

**Lucy Crump**, Head of School – 01672 841318 or [letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk)

**Abbie Holmes**, Chair of Governors – 07801 866525 or [abbie.j.holmes@gmail.com](mailto:abbie.j.holmes@gmail.com)

**Find out more about the school at:** [ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk](http://ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk)



## SAVE THE DATE of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September for a dog agility demonstration and fun afternoon!

I'd like to start this article by introducing you to a lady many of you will have seen in the field next to Ogbourne St Andrew church, loudly encouraging dogs on seesaws! Her name is Jilly Holness and if you enter her name onto YouTube, you will see films of her instructing and competing with her dogs at championship events for dog agility. She started her training in the village 13 years ago and has enjoyed it so much, she wants to give something back – as a thank you.

That something is an event in the field, on the afternoon of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Jilly and some colleagues will demonstrate to you how clever their dogs are and you will be able to try your hand with your own dog over jumps and a tunnel or maybe one of Jilly's dogs – if you would like to try a little bit of training! Further details nearer the time. There will be stalls offering drinks, food, ice cream, items to buy and exciting things to do for all the family.

I'll finish with a few more details of Jilly's very full life with animals.

Jilly turned 70 in May. She is married to Brian, has three adult girls and three grandchildren. She lives today with ten dogs (three Border Papillons, one Mini American Shepherd and six Border Collies).



Jilly started training her grandparents' dog, a Golden Retriever, when she was just 10 years old and took it to dog classes. She also enjoyed the company of many neighbourhood dogs and one even learnt to use the door knocker to see if she was in! At the age of 19/20 Jilly started Obedience Training and became an instructor. In Obedience, she competed and judged at championship level and also competed at Crufts. At the age of 55 she changed her passion from Obedience to Agility. She competed in championship classes throughout the country with her dogs and many have qualified to compete at the Horse of the Year Show at Olympia. It takes several years to reach championship judging level, which Jilly has really enjoyed, and it allows her to give a little back to the sport she so loves.

**So please note the date and plan to bring your family and a picnic to the field next to Ogbourne St Andrew Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September for a wonderful afternoon of fun.**

*Roger Swan*



## MIRACLE THEATRE

Step into a world of etiquette, scandal and matchmaking, with this fresh new take on an 18<sup>th</sup> century rom-com from Cornwall's Miracle Theatre

In the garden at Maizey Lodge,  
Ogbourne Maizey, Marlborough SN8 1RY

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Performance starts 7.30pm  
(whatever the weather!)

One interval of 20 mins

Gates open from 6.00pm for picnics  
Bring your own chairs

Bar / coffee / ice creams / W.C. / parking



**TICKETS (in advance only):**

Adults £16.00 | Children (under 16) £8.00 |  
Family £42.00 (2A 2C)

Contact: 01672 512125 / [maizey50@gmail.com](mailto:maizey50@gmail.com)

Performance in aid of Project Andrew,  
Ogbourne St Andrew Church

## Marlborough Open Studios are back...



### July Weekends 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 (11am - 5pm)

Open Studios is an annual opportunity to meet amateur and professional artists in the beautiful North Wessex Chalk Downs (AONB) and visit their studios, workshops or pop-up galleries over the first four full weekends in July. There is no charge or obligation to buy, just drop in when the artist's studio is open.

To find out more about the artists, please look at the MOS website [www.marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk), pick up a brochure from venues around Marlborough, from the Silks on The Downs, or from local artist, Jane Fox.

Jane will be opening her studio (20) in the garden at Bramley, Main Road, Ogbourne St Andrew. Look for the MOS sign, come to studio 20 and have a go at simple mono printing.

Glass artist Jeanette Therrien will also be opening her studio in Ogbourne St George.

[www.marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk)



# OGBOURNE ST ANDREW CHURCH NEWS

## The 100 Club and how it works

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) set up the 100 Club a few years ago in order to provide a modest stream of monthly income for the upkeep of the church in Ogbourne St Andrew whilst at the same time providing some interest for contributors in the form of regular cash prizes.

With a potential maximum of one hundred members (as the name suggests) we have currently sold 89 shares, leaving 11 numbers available to current and future members. Each share costs £2 per month (payable by Standing Order), and, whilst most members have just a single share, some own five or even ten shares. Obviously the more shares you own the greater the chances of winning, which of course is the reason that some names come up as winners more often than others; it is not fixed! However, you cannot win more than one prize per month.

In the monthly draw 50% of receipts is distributed as prizes, currently amounting to £67 as first prize and £22 as second prize – not a bad return if you are lucky.

If you wish to participate in the 100 Club or you wish to increase the number of shares you already have, just contact Ian Gordon-Finlayson, PCC Treasurer, on [iangf@f2s.com](mailto:iangf@f2s.com).

## Polling day – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July

The general election is taking place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, and the polls will be open from 7am - 10pm.

- You have until 18<sup>th</sup> June to **register to vote** if you're not registered already
- You have until 5pm on 19<sup>th</sup> June to **apply for a postal vote** (postal vote packs sent out around 10 days before polling day)
- You have until 5pm on 26<sup>th</sup> June to **apply for a proxy vote** (for someone to vote on your behalf)
- You have until 5pm on 26<sup>th</sup> June if you want to **apply for a Voter Authority Certificate** (if you don't have photo ID)

## Remember your photo ID!

You now need to show **photo ID** to vote at polling stations for the general election. Accepted forms of photo ID include passports, photographic driving licences, biometric immigration documents, and certain concessionary travel passes.

### 100 CLUB WINNERS

#### *March 2024*

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize Roger Swan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Jenni Clarke

#### *April 2024*

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize Richard Purchase
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Charlie Usher

#### *May 2024*

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize Ann Gay
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Cathy Fuller



## Project Andrew: revitalising our church



The small Norman church that has stood for 900 years in this place is a historic landmark in the village of Ogbourne St. Andrew. After many years of tireless work the PCC has been given the go-ahead for a major refit to bring the building into line with modern requirements.

We are raising funds towards significant enhancements of the church's facilities by a reorganisation which will include a connection to mains water supply, the installation

of an accessible toilet, a kitchenette and a larger free space for much needed community use at the west end of the building. We believe that this project will provide a greatly improved experience for visitors to the church and a better use of its space. In addition the church will be revitalised with unobtrusive, bright modern lighting and a fresh coat of paint.

The aim is to provide a community space fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, both for those who worship in our church and also for the wider community for a range of new activities.

### Fundraising update

Our fundraising consultant, Paul Baird, is working hard on submitting applications on the PCC's behalf for grants towards the cost of the planned reorganisation. However, there is little in the way of positive results to report so far.

Paul tells me he has applied to 24 trusts, with a further five applications in preparation. Only one has so far responded (with a £500 donation). Our own direct application to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust resulted in a very welcome £4,000 grant from them.

We presume that the trustees of all these organisations will meet over the coming months, and we very much hope that we shall have positive results to report. Meanwhile, patience seems to be the order of the day.

Please support our local fundraising events this summer. If you would like to make a donation, please contact me directly at [iangf@f2s.com](mailto:iangf@f2s.com).

*Ian Gordon-Finlayson*

*Treasurer, Ogbourne St Andrew PCC*

**PLEASE HELP US TO GIVE THIS CHURCH A FUTURE!**



## Silks on the Downs News

At the beginning of April, we welcomed Thomas Frake, Masterchef Champion 2020 and owner of Master Inns Ltd, as the new tenant landlord of The Silks. Two months on, the pub thrives and remains central to our community. We wish Thomas every success as he continues his path to evolve the pub to his vision – honest, authentic, classic Great British pub grub, local beers, and good quality wines; well-cooked and accessible food, somewhere to eat and drink with friends or family, without the need for any sense of occasion. Thomas is working hard and making incremental improvements to put plans in place to create his vision. I'm sure he will provide further updates in future editions of this magazine.

With the pub in safe hands, the CBS committee once again wants to express our deepest gratitude to everyone in the community who stepped up to help the pub, whether by volunteering their time, enjoying a meal, or simply dropping in for a pint. Your solidarity, determination, and unwavering community spirit have been genuinely inspiring. Together, we have saved our beloved pub (again!) and ensured its success in the foreseeable future.

Our volunteering continues. Thomas has embraced the volunteer bar and waiting staff in the pub. Outside, our gardening team looks after the gardens, and the maintenance crew is refurbishing the upstairs flats. The first room is on track to be ready as you read this article. As always, thank you to all the volunteers. If you wish to join in, please contact the committee at [info@octypus.org](mailto:info@octypus.org).

The committee's community plan is now foremost. Our flourishing community events and clubs will continue to thrive going forward. Our pub quiz on the last Wednesday of every month remains as popular as ever, as are the book and bridge clubs. By the time you read this article, the Annual Members' Meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> may have been held, and those who attended would have heard more about the committee's community plan and its focus on supporting the community through causes and activities rather than running the pub. We see our current committee being supported by several sub-committees, which will need non-committee member support and contribution to succeed. We will continue communicating the plan across the community as it develops over the coming weeks.

The Annual Members' Meeting is when the committee says goodbye to retiring members and welcomes new ones. At this year's meeting, Mark Colbourne and I will step down. Mark has served four years on the committee, latterly as vice chair. His contribution has been immense and unwavering, and on behalf of the committee, I thank him very much for his time, effort, and good humour. When it comes to me, I've lasted just over a year – and what an exciting year it has been! Having chaired the committee through the transition of the pub from manager to community to landlord-led, and with the pub trading well and the committee's sights firmly set on delivering the community plan, now is the time to step aside. It is hard to express just how dedicated and hardworking every committee member has been, giving up so much personal time to ensure the success of our pub. It's been a privilege working with them.



Mark and I have enjoyed serving you and will continue to be eager pub patrons. The committee is in good hands, and if you are interested in joining them, want to learn more, or want to help in another capacity, please contact [info@octypus.org](mailto:info@octypus.org).

*Nick Gregory, Chair, Ogbourne Community Pub Society*

To book contact [hello@silksonthedowns.co.uk](mailto:hello@silksonthedowns.co.uk), visit our website [www.silksonthedowns.co.uk](http://www.silksonthedowns.co.uk) or call 01672 705064.

## History Group Update

On **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June** we will be running a History Group tent at the **Valuation Day at Ogbourne Maizey**. We will present a view of the parish through time with posters, old photographs and a range of our researches. The event is detailed elsewhere in the newsletter but your support on the day would be welcome – drop in for a chat or to browse, once you've had your valuations done!

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2pm onwards – another date for your diaries: “Barrow Day”

Come and learn about the Bronze Age barrow in Ogbourne St Andrew churchyard:

- ◆ The barrow and its interior
- ◆ Its historic importance
- ◆ Guided tours over the barrow
- ◆ Video & poster displays in the Church
- ◆ Tea and cakes on offer

Do come along to this family event!

### Newspaper reports

Finally, to continue the selection of various newspaper reports through the years:

#### ‘Visitation of God’ 1855

An Inquest was held on William Porton (70), agricultural labourer at Barbury Farm who apparently in his usual health, went to bed and died in his sleep. Verdict: Visitation of God.

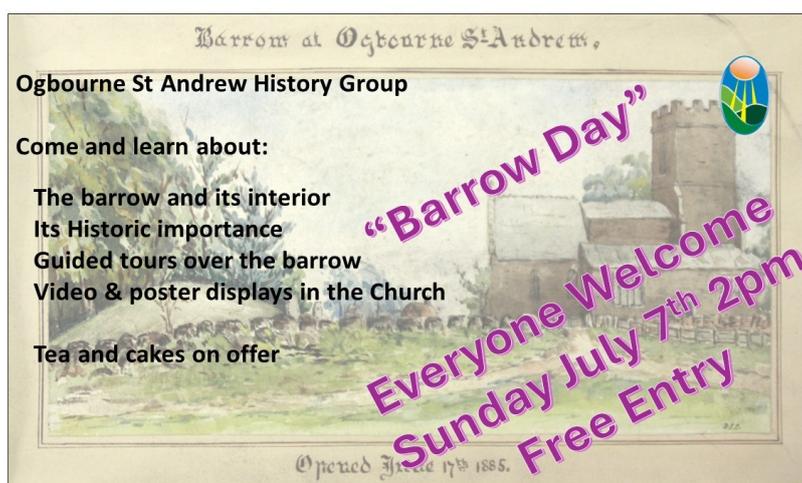
#### Rick Fire 1865

Mr Pinniger of Ogbourne St Andrew suffered a second rick fire in four years. A large quantity of wheat and farm implements were destroyed. It occurred at

half past one when the men were at lunch. The cause remained a mystery. He was insured.

#### Sheep Stealing 1870

John Whitbread of Ogbourne St Andrew was committed for stealing a sheep from William Grant of Port Fields. Blood was traced on the road to Whitbread's cottage and on searching the remains of the animal were found.





## How The Olympia got its name

*Over the years, several newcomers to the village have asked about the derivation of the name of the cul-de-sac named "The Olympia" in Ogbourne St Andrew. In response to the same question asked in the 20th anniversary edition of this newsletter recently, Ian Davis has shared the following piece of history. This is an abridged version of a piece written by a member of the Swanton family just before the Olympia was built in the early 1990s, who, when he retired from farming, formed the small building company Kennet Valley Homes, which built a number of houses locally on mainly small disused farmyards.*

Frank Swanton, the proprietor of Kennet Valley Homes, commenced farming on his own account in 1910 at South Farm Chiseldon as a tenant of the Calley Estate. In 1914, Ogbourne Camp construction started and Frank Swanton moved to North Farm, West Overton. Eventually, the freehold of North Farm was purchased by the Hon Joseph Watson, a soap magnate from Warrington. Frank Swanton was retained as farms manager.

During the next three years an estate of some 9,000 acres was built stretching from Hackpen Hill to Bayardo near Clench Common, and from West Kennet to Ogbourne St Andrew, where Ogbourne Farm was purchased in 1920. As it included the Manton Down Training Establishment, the whole estate was known as the Manton Estate and owned through 'The Olympia Agricultural Company Ltd', known locally as 'The Olympia'.

In the 1922 New Year's Honours List Joseph Watson was made a Baron and took the title Lord Manton. In March of the same year, while hunting with the Warwickshire Hounds, Lord Manton fell from his horse and died from heart failure. The contemporary obituary states, "Lord Manton never did anything by halves. Immensely wealthy, as everyone knows, he purchased the best that could be had as foundations for his agricultural enterprises." Hence probably the name of the farming company and the pedigree prefix of all the stock bred being Olympia. A prefix retained within the BOCM division of Unilever, of which Joseph Watson & Sons Ltd later became part.

By 1928 the estate (one of three built up by Watson, the others being near Leamington in Warwickshire and Selby in Yorkshire) had been dismantled. The land was sold off by Lord Manton's trustees, a task none too easy at the nadir of the agricultural depression. The upper part of Ogbourne Farm was sold to Tattersalls with Manton Down after Manton Down's famous trainer Alec Taylor, the Wizard of Manton, retired. The remaining portion of the estate was sold at auction in March 1928. This included the lower 467 acres of Ogbourne Farm (including this site) and 1,009 acres of West Woods and surrounding land.

Naming this site "The Olympia" is an attempt to recollect a small part of near forgotten history, and a coincidence.

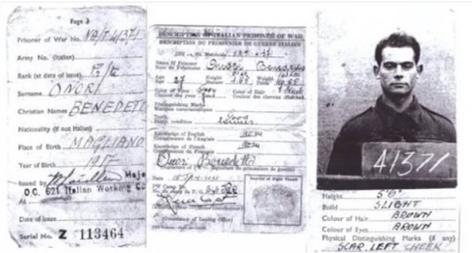


## Search for a long-lost half-brother

As you may have seen on Facebook, a Devizes-based amateur genealogist and researcher, is working with an Italian lady, Anna Onori, who is searching for her half-brother. Shortly before her father, Benedetto Onori, passed away, he revealed that he'd been a prisoner of war in the Marlborough area between 1944-46.



*Benedetto in England during his internment*



Benedetto was taken prisoner in North Africa by the British in 1943 and transferred to England in 1944. He was detained as a Prisoner of War at Camp 621, located at Bonita Stables near Ogbourne Maizey. The camp was a satellite camp to

the larger POW camp at Wanborough. Benedetto remained in the Wiltshire area as a prisoner worker until April 1946. During this time, he was sent to work on a farm where we believe he developed a relationship with a local lady. The result of this relationship was a son named Edward, who must have been born around 1945-46.

We have very little to go on, but from what we know, Edward knew the truth about his father and visited Italy with his wife/girlfriend in the 1970s to meet Benedetto.

Unfortunately, Benedetto's Italian wife (Anna's mother) forbade him to tell his Italian children about their English half-brother. Anna very much regrets her parents' decision and would love to find out more about Edward. Following her father's death Anna discovered a set of photographs with the name 'Edward 1976' written on the back.



*Benedetto with his son Edward*



*Anna Onori with her family*

Anna is now in her 70s and knows that time is of the essence if she is going to find any answers. She only has the best of intentions and would love to meet her half-brother.

If you have any information to share, please contact [elainebarker1968@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elainebarker1968@hotmail.co.uk).



# For your Diary

More information on planned events can be found inside this issue, or see the village website: [www.osa.org.uk](http://www.osa.org.uk)

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm: Annual Members Meeting**, Ogbourne Community Pub Society, The Silks on the Downs

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1pm-5pm: Antiques Valuation Day and Riley Car Rally**, Maizey Lodge, with history group tent, plant & cake stall, ice creams, refreshments

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 12:30pm:** Picnic and fun in the sun (football, rounders, tug of war), in the Leaches' field (near the church), Ogbourne St Andrew

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July:** General election

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

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm onwards: 'Barrow Day'** family event at the Bronze Age barrow in Ogbourne St Andrew churchyard

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July:** outing to **Ramsbury Brewery and Distillery**

**6-7<sup>th</sup>, 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 20-21<sup>st</sup>, 27-28<sup>th</sup> July (11am - 5pm): Marlborough Open Studios** including local artist **Jane Fox** in Ogbourne St Andrew

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August: August bank holiday**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**, next to Ogbourne St Andrew Church: **Dog Agility demonstration and fun afternoon**

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



Join the Facebook Community page to stay connected.  
Look for 'Ogbourne St Andrew, Maizey and Rockley Community'.

This newsletter is printed by **Print Image Marlborough** with vegetable inks on EU Ecolabel paper, sourced from paper merchants certified within the FSC Group Chain of Custody Scheme.

Please send contributions and ideas for articles to [alexandra.hegarty@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alexandra.hegarty@hotmail.co.uk)