

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE NEWS

KEEPING YOU INFORMED OF EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONS IN YOUR VILLAGE

ISSUE 252

June – July 2021



The Pond, Bletchington Park

Reports from village organisations

Green Bletchington – Love where you live

Quincotts – A personal memoir

The village-wide table top sale

Learning through Lambs

SPRINGTIME GALLERY



EDITORIAL

Football's new European Super League lasted for the whole of two days before the entire project collapsed making it what must be the shortest lived tournament in history. Well, not really a tournament at all, as the whole unwelcome idea was quickly nipped in the bud, in a triumph for fans and communities over the power of mega-rich investors, purely driven by profit. Football, at all levels, belongs to the players, supporters and the communities in which they exist. We should never forget the importance of communities, which come together to support each other at times of crisis, such as during the Covid pandemic. Bletchington is no exception and we are fortunate to live in a great community which does just that.

If you are like me, you will no doubt be looking forward to 21st June, the date set by the Government's roadmap out of lockdown as 'back to normal', subject to various statistics moving the right way. Freedom at last! In the meantime, please follow all the rules to ensure that date is achieved and enjoy the summer.

This is **your** Village News and we are reliant upon your articles, news stories and photographs, so please keep them coming. We always love to hear from any new contributors and it would also be fantastic to be able to include more articles from younger villagers. Please e-mail your contributions to bletchington@aol.com. The deadline for articles is always the **20th of the month** prior to publication – so articles for inclusion in the August/September magazine must be with us by **20th July, 2021**.

petebaker99@gmail.com

Pete Baker

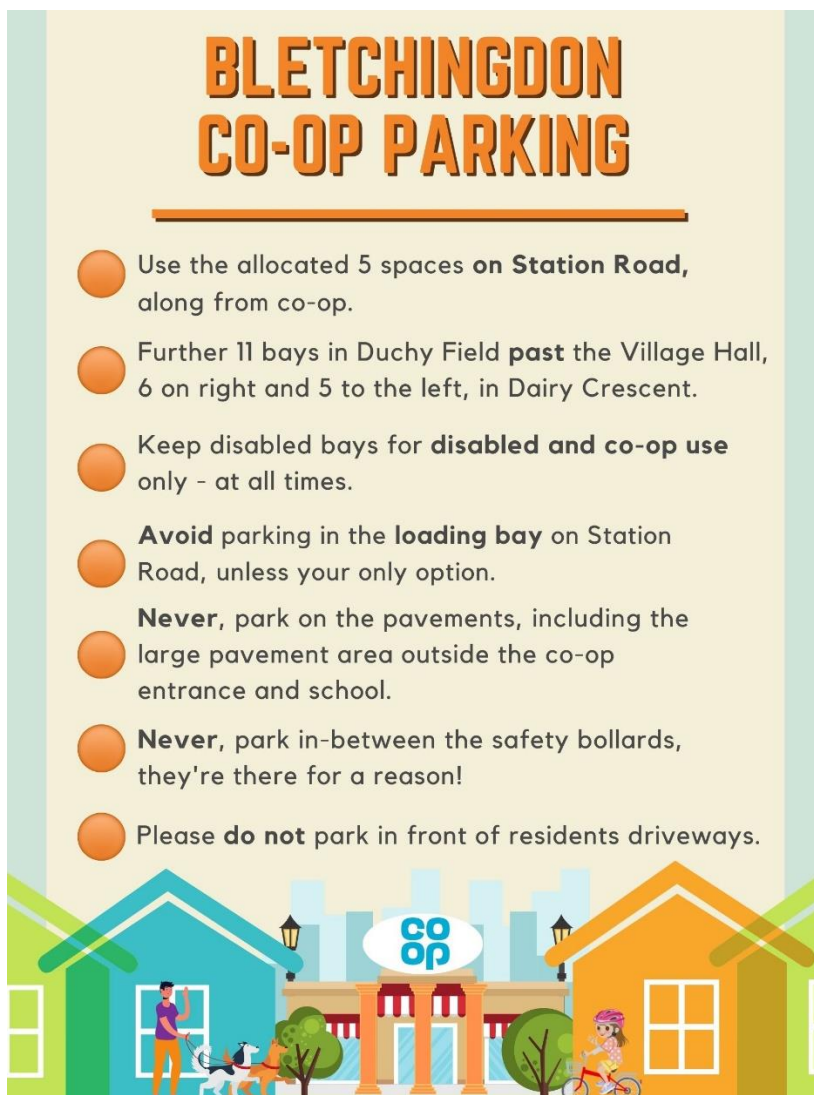
CO-OP PARKING

You have probably noticed the bollards which have recently been installed on the pavement near the Co-op to control parking in the area. If possible, please walk or cycle to the shop, but if you must drive, please sensibly and do show consideration for fellow residents.

The poster opposite sets out some simple rules to follow if parking in the vicinity of the Co-op for your own safety and for the safety of others - *many thanks to Diane Montrose for designing this.*

SPRINGTIME GALLERY

Our springtime photo gallery on the facing page highlights a selection of the beautiful spring flowers and blossoms to be found around the village at this time of the year – and the snow! Yes, the final two photographs were taken on the morning of 12th April. The daffodils, somewhat past their best, in the corner of one of the photographs are the giveaway. The snow was all gone by lunchtime!



ST. GILES' CHURCH NEWS AND SERVICES

We are part of the AKEMAN BENEFICE (Bletchington, Kirtlington, Weston-on-the-Green, Chesterton, Middleton Stoney, Wendlebury and Hampton Gay). The benefice is named after Akeman Street, the Roman road which runs through it.

Ministry Team

Rector: The Rev'd Gareth Miller	01869 350224	akemanbenefice@gmail.com
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Nick Ktorides	01869 324191	nickktorides.akeman@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: The Very Rev'd Robert Wilkes	01869 350159	bobwilkes.akeman@gmail.com
Licensed Lay Minister: Paul Clifford	01869 351652	paulclifford.akeman@gmail.com
Children and Families' Co-Ordinator:	Joanna Clifford	01869 351652 joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer: Nicky Donne	01869 351748	safeguarding.akeman@gmail.com
Benefice Website	www.akemanbenefice.org.uk	

Churchwarden:	Judith Ledger	Treasurer:	Kate Ehrman
Assistant Churchwarden:	Fiona Teddy	Members of the PCC:	Natasha Pitts
Secretary:	Patricia Hampson		Sally Cross

We are very pleased to welcome Kate Ehrman as our new treasurer.

If you or anyone you know would like to talk to a member of the ministry team please do not hesitate to phone or email.

A small prayer group meets remotely each Wednesday morning. If you would like to join or if you have a request for prayer please phone 351542.

The church remains open each day for private prayer.

We are gradually resuming a normal pattern of services but the "zoom" service will continue for the time being. In the present circumstances times of services may need to be changed at short notice, please check if you plan to attend.

Details of services and an introduction to the ministry team together with information about the benefice churches can be found on our new website at www.akemanbenefice.org.uk

Church Services in June and July

You are most welcome to attend our church services, as long as you are not experiencing Covid symptoms. We must ask you to wear a face covering and to observe good social distancing. We hope that over the coming months we will be able to be more sociable, and perhaps in nice weather to enjoy a glass of something in the churchyard after the service!

6 June			13 June		
0930	Wendlebury	Holy Communion	0930	Middleton Stoney	Holy Communion
1100	Hampton Gay	Matins	1100	Bletchington	Morning Worship
1100	Chesterton	Young Families' Service	1100	Weston o/t Green	Holy Communion
1600	Kirtlington	Family Service	Zoom Service at 1800		
Zoom Service at 1800					

20 June			27 June		
0930	Wendlebury	Morning Worship	0930	Bletchington	Holy Communion
1100	Chesterton	Holy Communion	1100	Weston o/t Green	Family Service
1800	Kirtlington	Evensong	1800	Middleton Stoney	Evensong
Zoom Service at 1000			Zoom Service at 1000		
4 July			11 July		
0800	Kirtlington	Holy Communion	0930	Wendlebury	Holy Communion
1100	Hampton Gay	Matins	1100	Bletchington	Service on the Green (with band)
1100	Chesterton	Young Families' Service			
1600	Kirtlington	Family Service	1800	Weston o/t Green	Evensong
Zoom Service at 1800			Zoom Service at 1000		
18 July			25 July		
0930	Middleton Stoney	Holy Communion	0930	Wendlebury	Morning Worship
1100	Chesterton	Morning Worship	1100	Bletchington	Holy Communion
1800	Kirtlington	Evensong	1100	Weston o/t Green	Holy Communion
Zoom Service at 1000			Zoom Service at 1800		

From the Rector

Do you listen to *Last Word*, the obituary programme on Radio 4? I really like it, and - a bit like *Desert Island Discs* - sometimes the most interesting profiles are of people you've never heard of.

We've just celebrated Ascension Day, and those who were present at our Zoom service heard Canon Richard Peers from Christ Church speak very movingly about two recent losses in his own life, that of his father and a beloved aunt. He had to deal with these while carrying on with a very demanding job, and he noticed that it was hard to find time to mourn.

We have all been mourning over the past year – perhaps the loss of a loved one from Covid or from natural causes – but in either case we will not have been able to hold a normal funeral. We've been mourning the loss of freedoms we used to take for granted – freedom of movement and association, freedom to enjoy a holiday, freedom to manage our own lives.

This afternoon, being desperately in need of shoes, I went into Oxford for the first time in over a year. I was taken aback to see both Boswells and Debenhams closed for good - familiar landmarks no longer there. I mourned.

Human beings are remarkably robust and resilient, by and large. Most of us adjust to change quite rapidly after an initial grumble. But some changes can make us feel that we have lost the agency we once had, that we are not being listened to, that impersonal forces have more control over us than seems right or reasonable. The recent decision about the Great Wolf resort is a case in point.

The disciples of Christ wanted to hold on to him. They found it hard to let go of one who had been so much part of their lives, so fully present, so entirely reliable. But he told them not to cling – “for I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” (John 20.17). Richard Peers reminded us of an important truth, a truth that has been known by the saints and mystics across the centuries – that the only thing that matters is abandonment – letting go. It is only when we abandon the need to control everything that we can allow ourselves to open up – open to the promised Spirit, open to the future, open to each other.

It's natural to cling on to what we know and like. But Jesus Christ is always ahead of us, always calling us to follow into new and better ways. With him as our guide and friend we can abandon our fear of loss and place our hand in his to lead us to a fuller, deeper life.

Gareth



BLETCHINGTON SILVER BAND

2020 was looking to be a very exciting year for the band and one we had been planning and working towards for a very long time. We had just received third place in the Oxfordshire and District Brass Band Association (ODBBA) contest, completing against 8 other local bands in which we were very pleased and proud of our performance. From this, we were weeks away from competing at the regional competition in Stevenage and felt the band was performing at the best of our abilities. Later in the year we were set to host a music festival to celebrate our centenary birthday. However, like everything, all this stopped on Friday 13th March 2020. Very disappointing during a year which promised excitement for the band.

It has been 14 months since our last rehearsal, and we can finally announce that the Band are able to return. There are risk assessments set out by the hall and Brass Band England (BBE) to make the environment as safe as possible for players, but it is fantastic news we are able to get back together to make music. We even have our first fete engagement of the year booked, Kirtlington Village Fete on Saturday 17th July which is very exciting for the band and another step back into "normality".

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the last year, we have lost players to university and relocation. If you play any brass band instrument of any standard, and you are looking for a friendly band to play with, we would love to hear from you. We have very exciting plans with concerts and our postponed centenary festival to look forward to within the next year. Please contact our Secretary Mik for more information, secretary@bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk.

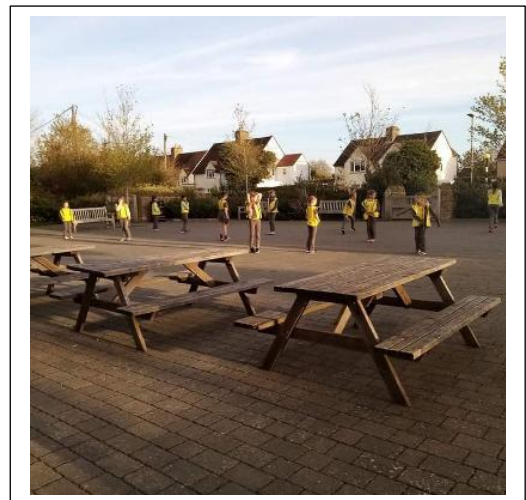
We are looking forward to being able to perform to you all again. Keep an eye out on our website: [Bletchington Silver Band](https://bletchingtonsilverband.co.uk) and social media pages (Facebook: Bletchington Silver Band /Instagram: @bletchband/ Twitter: @BletchBand) for updates on the band.

1st Bletchington Brownies

We're back! Brownies have returned to face to face meetings indoors at the village hall. It's great to see everyone again and to welcome those who joined during our zoom time. We have 19 Brownies currently so may have to start a waiting list. If you are interested in joining us in the future please register at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

We've been working on the Grow Your Own badge after having squash seeds donated. We all have 2 to try and grow. We have also planted sunflowers and our leaders are having a pea growing competition.

So far 962 miles have been walked between us completing our marathon challenge badges. Well done everybody, let's get to 1000 miles. We've walked in rain, wind and sunshine, through fields, along paths and crossing stiles. It's been a great challenge to do.



As summer approaches, we're looking forward to being outside a bit more and fun activities towards our Have Adventures theme award. We will join Brownies across the country at a virtual Magic and Mayhem event.

Our sister units are also back face to face. 1st Woodstock Rainbows for girls age 5-7 on Wednesdays and 2nd Woodstock Guides age 10-14 on Thursdays. Contact us for more details Girlguidingwoodstock@hotmail.co.uk

Community event

Volunteers needed

You may recall the Bletch Bakers donated a proportion of the profits from their 'Bletch Bakes for the NHS' cookbook to the village to be used towards a post lockdown celebration. It is hoped we will be able to run the event in late summer/early autumn, subject to easing of lockdown restrictions going ahead as planned. We now need to form a committee of volunteers from all age groups to plan and organise the event. If you would like to join the committee, please drop an e-mail to helenjwebber65@gmail.com or reply to Helen's message in BletchNet.

THE VILLAGE-WIDE TABLE TOP SALE

Many people have used lockdown as an opportunity to have a good clear-out, but what do you do with your unwanted goods? There is often a reluctance to throw things away – one person's junk may have the potential of a future life with a new owner. There have been instances when villagers have left articles outside their homes on an ad-hoc basis, but it was an innovative idea that the whole village should get together and offer their unwanted items together on a single day. And so the concept of a village-wide table top sale came about. Residents could choose whether to sell their goods or give them away or accept charitable donations.

With the date set for Saturday 10th April, a helpful map was created showing the locations of houses taking part and displayed around the village and on Facebook. In total about thirty locations throughout the village were offering goods on the day.



On a cold and damp morning, the weather was more akin to February than April, but people's spirits were not dampened and villagers were out in force in the hope of bagging a bargain. It was also a great excuse for some socially distanced mingling.



Thanks very much to the organisers for putting this event together and thanks also to all those who took part, both buyers and sellers. We hope you all enjoyed the morning.

QUINCOTTS

In 1952 the houses called 'Cottage row' were in disrepair and due for demolition. My parents, Harry and Penny Marsden, expecting their second child (me) were looking for somewhere to buy that was larger than their small flat in Oxford to accommodate their growing family. They came across the row of cottages and fell in love with them.

Cottage Row, consisted of five separate cottages. The three front doors opened onto a passageway through to the long back gardens with separate doors off the passage to each cottage. The downstairs room would have been kitchen/dining and living room with a door to a broad staircase, which led up to a small landing bedroom with a door opening on to a second more private bedroom with fireplace at the front of the house. The 'earth closet' toilets were 200 feet away at the end of the garden. The first cottage in the row was larger than the others. It had its own front door and an extra room upstairs, but I understand that the second downstairs room housed the communal coal bunker. There was and still is, a well in the garden, although that was not in use as the cottages boasted a water pump on the path outside. I don't know the names of the families that lived in The Cottage Row before it fell into disrepair, but several of my friends at the village school told me that their grandparents had lived there.

My father had qualified as an engineer and town planner and my mother's mother worked in architecture, so with the madness of youth, romance and a little building knowledge, they got the property listed to prevent demolition and bought it. The five cottages cost them £350! They then set about turning the 'Cottage Row' as it was known, into one lovely family home.

It took over six months to complete the first stage of the renovation. The thatch was removed and so I'm told, the burning of it smoked the village out for a week!



Finally, Quincotts was ready for us to move in. I had my first birthday there. By knocking two downstairs rooms together we had a lovely large living room, with an original inglenook fire place at each end. Having young children, the budget was tight, so the builders left before the main stairs were built. My parents had kept one original staircase, but there was a ladder where the main stairs would eventually be when we moved in. My parents loved the country features that the house offered, so kept the ceiling beams. The ceiling between the beams was not plastered and I remember my father plastering it himself. We spent many an hour sitting with a dustbin lid over our heads as the plaster repeatedly fell off until he finally mastered the technique. Sadly, the flag stones from the floors had to be taken up for damp proofing, but they came in handy later for terracing the patio.

My parents inherited a mature orchard and a soft fruit area with the house. I used to help mum store the apples over winter and make jars of lovely plum and raspberry jam in the summer. We older children were trusted to go next door to Manor Farm with two big jugs to collect milk every other day from Doris Rogers. We also got our eggs from the farm and as the regular sized eggs went to market, we got the odd sized ones. We children had a competition to have the eggs with the most yolks for breakfast. A three yolker was first prize! Of course, there were very few cars passing through the village when we were very small, so it was no surprise that my brother and I survived when we were caught wandering hand in hand up the centre of the road towards the village green.

Over the years the garden grew into a wonderful burst of colour due to my mother's love of flowers. My father was not a flower grower, he preferred a veg patch that he could use a rotavator on. Bill Rogers would pour cart loads of manure over the farm wall, which my Dad duly dug into his veg patch under the strict tutelage of Frank Green who then owned Rose Cottage (or no 2 Islip road as it was then) on the other side of the house. It was a wonderful place to grow up in and the 'famous five' garden provided for numerous childhood games and lovely memories for David, Robert and Nicholas and me. It also hosted mine and Nick's wedding receptions plus Christenings and many family parties.

The wonderful Wisteria that graces the front of the cottage was my father's third attempt at planting. When that flourished, he fancied trying something more exotic and planted a grape vine. This produced many bottles of wine over the years and was even served up a communion wine during my father's time as church warden.

After my Father's death in 1997, my Mum continued to keep the garden looking beautiful. Obviously needing more help as time went on, but now after 68 years, Quincotts has become too hard for my mum to look after and she has moved into a lovely care home. It is a sad day for us handing over Quincotts to a new owner, but it is time for someone new to continue its story.

Sally Popplewell (nee Marsden)

THURSDAY CLUB

Hello everyone,

We hope all our members are keeping well and have all received both injections now.

We hope to be able to return to club later this year if government guidelines do not change again.

Learning through Lambs

The Bletch Park flock of sheep was due to lamb on 1st April. Last year they all had triplets so in preparation the shepherdess asked Jamie if he might be interested in hand-rearing any. This would be a full-time commitment for a few weeks, so he needed to consult the whole family, but the resounding answer was 'yes'. Preparations were made; the log shed cleared out and filled with straw, a pen was constructed, but the 1st April came and went and still no lambs. The first born were twins, then some singles - it was beginning to look like our lovely sheep motel would not be needed, but then on 8th April quads were born! On the morning of the village table-top sale two 2-day old lambs arrived, turning our house upside down. They started on 5 feeds a day, sleeping in the utility room. Every day they increased their milk and gradually reduced their number of feeds. For me, it was like having a baby again, but this time I had willing helpers, and with so many feeds a day, everyone in the family got a turn.

After a week we let them sleep outside, but it was so cold and they were waking early for a feed – I actually slept with the bedroom window open for the first week, so I could hear them!



Would I do it again? - definitely. What an amazing thing for the children to be part of, and what a reminder of how dependent babies of any species are at first. All the care and attention required to rear animals makes me think that meat should be worth more than it is. If it was, would people appreciate it more and not take it for granted? We could eat less meat, and when we do it should be quality, locally produced meat. I think we should consider it a celebration food, and not an everyday default commodity.

This amazing opportunity to raise the lambs has helped me and my family see meat in a different way. I think it will make us stop and consider what we are buying even more than we did before.



By Rebecca McNaught



The Bletchingdon Community Foundation

Village Hall

We are pleased to report that the Village Hall is now open once again, following lockdown, currently with restrictions in place but we hope to be fully operational from 21st June. The hall lost around £15,000 in revenue as a result of lockdown but this was partially offset by a grant from Cherwell District Council. Things are now looking up and we have a strong take-up of bookings for the rest of the year.

Abba to play Bletchingdon?

Well, not quite. Bjorn, Benny, Agnetha and Anni-Frid have not reformed and included Bletchingdon in their comeback tour. But we can offer you the next best thing! Tribute act Abbaholics will be playing at the Village Hall on 9th October. Tickets are available to order on-line for what promises to be a great evening – visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/cotswoldevents then find 'ABBAHOLICS – Bletchingdon' to order your ticket. See poster opposite.



Car park

Please note the vehicular access route into the Village Hall car park has changed. Access is no longer via the road adjacent to the Co-op; instead the original route into the car park via the Kirtlington Road has now been reinstated. From the B4027, turn into the Kirtlington Road then take the second left turning and follow the road into the car park.

We would also like to remind you that the car park is a **private** car park for Village Hall users and School staff and visitors.

The lighting posts in the Village Hall car park are not very robust and it has now become a regular occurrence to find them knocked over. Lighting arrangements are currently under review but in the meantime, please drive carefully to avoid knocking these posts over. As well as the extra work and expense required to fix them, this must be causing damage to vehicles.



Co-op vouchers scheme

Lockdown is coming to an end but the Co-op vouchers scheme is continuing for the time being, offering shopping vouchers to anyone in the village suffering hardship as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions. If you or someone you know is in need of financial assistance, complete an application form and e-mail it to charity.secretary@thebcf.net or deliver it to the Charity secretary at 14 Lenthal. Copies of the form can be obtained from the village website: www.bletchingdon-pc.org.uk. There is no limit to the number of applications for vouchers that an individual can make, so you can make further applications if your circumstances of hardship are ongoing.

The trustees of the BCF would once again like to say a big thank you to Midcounties Co-op for providing further financial support for this scheme and also to store manager Mike Seaton for his help in securing this support.



COTSWOLD EVENTS PRESENTS

THE ABBA HOLICS

SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2021

BLETCHINGTON VILLAGE HALL, WHITEMARSH WAY, BLETCHINGTON, KIDLINGTON, OX5 3FD

Doors open 7.30pm - Carriages 11.00pm



Event details:

Tickets £12

DRESS: SMART CASUAL, NO JEANS OR TRAINERS

RSVP online

www.ticketsource.co.uk/cotswoldevents

Contact: 07855 454904

History Corner

Edward Jenner – Father of vaccination

As we've all been getting our Covid jabs, History Corner takes a look at the life and career of Edward Jenner, whose pioneering work paved the way for modern vaccination. His home and surgery in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, now a museum, is open to the public in non-Covid times and is well worth a visit.

Born in Berkeley in 1749, Jenner trained as a surgeon in London. As well as medicine, his early interests included the natural world and horticulture and he conducted various experiments around these themes. One of his earliest pieces of research was into the nesting behaviour of the cuckoo. He disproved the previously held belief that the adult cuckoo ejected the host bird's eggs when laying her own, identifying that it was actually the newly hatched cuckoo chick which ejected any other chicks or eggs from the nest, a depression in the baby cuckoo's back enabling it to perform this task.

Returning to Berkeley in 1773, Jenner opened his medical practice at the age of 24. Smallpox was a common and often lethal disease that Jenner encountered regularly in his surgery. At the time it killed around 10% of the population. Observations noted that milkmaids did not fall victim to smallpox and it was suggested the reason was due to them having previously caught cowpox from cattle, a similar but far less lethal disease. Some attempts at vaccinating people with cowpox directly from cattle had been undertaken, to varying degrees of success. Jenner conducted a series of experiments, beginning with inoculating an eight year old boy, James Phipps, with material from the blisters of a milkmaid infected with cowpox, rather than directly from a cow, then demonstrating that the boy did not develop smallpox, even when directly exposed to the disease. He successfully repeated the experiment on a further 23 people, including his own son.

In 1980, the World Health Organisation declared smallpox an eradicated disease. This was due, in part, to Jenner's research, although general improvements in public health were also a factor. His work laid the foundations for more contemporary developments in immunology; the speed at which vaccinations for Covid have been developed is testament to his legacy. Considering the number of lives saved as a result of the work of Edward Jenner, his ranking of number 78 in the 2002 BBC poll of the 100 Greatest Britons, below the likes of David Beckham. Boy George and Robbie Williams, does seem somewhat understated.

From the School

The staff and children of the school would like to thank the Parish Council - Containing Outbreak Management Fund for their incredibly generous donation to our new learning space. We are so close to our target we just need a final big effort in this last term! We can do it!

During Lockdown, through the BCF donation and a grant from Oxfordshire Community Foundation we helped children access remote learning by providing laptops. Laptops were a crucial part of helping and supporting children at a very difficult time. Thank you very much.

You may have noticed the school colours are changing! Due to Brexit, our suppliers were not able to source the jade-coloured dye used in our school jumpers. We shopped around and while some suppliers had stock left, once it was gone – it was gone. So, we took the (quite tricky) decision to change the colour of the uniform before the start of the new academic year. All stakeholders (staff, Governors, and parents) were given a vote and purple came out as the favourite colour. Our new school uniform is white polo shirt, grey trousers or skirt and the purple jumper/cardigan. It looks very smart and the children are very excited! We are collecting the old school uniform to send to children in Africa who need clothing.

Look out for KS2 litter picking in the village at the end of May – give us a socially distanced wave!

Mrs Walker

Finally, please take the time to read some of the wonderful poems written by the children of Owl class. The inspiration for the poems is the White Cliffs of Dover, the children are studying 'Coasts' as a geography topic and these linked in nicely.

The White Cliffs

by Olivia Moss

The crown that stands strong, of a proud protector,
Underneath the brave healer,
A camouflaged golden flower sleeps on the edge of
the cliff,
A giant explosion of slender bedstraw,
The hard-workers pulling heavy carts;
A prison that vanished in the blink of an eye,
Caesar the first to admire these breath-taking cliffs,
Inspired others to discover the traumatised
rockface,
Stained red,
From the years of bloodshed and chaos,
Bluebirds will fly over the White Cliffs of Dover.

The White Cliffs of Dover

by Katie Baker

While watching the ponies wander and graze,
Across in the distance are snowlike daisies
underneath,
I hide a honeycomb maze,
Squiggles and scrambles here, there, everywhere I
go; they never end,
Diamond, sapphire the blue butterfly pirouettes
While gulls scream and give a shout,
The delicate flutter in the breeze,
Oh look a symbol of peace!
In 1066 was placed a conquer key to England,
Strong-hold, stone mixed and rubble,
Placed upon Dover's chalk,
Underground hospitals cure the sickness,
A powerful protector,
A key place to welcome long peace,
The melting of Dover Castle,
War happens and I feel a tremble,
I shake and awake,
Life to death,
The hidden guard is where I hide,
Crashing waves try to overtake,
I only hear a whistle,
Crumbling crumbs swallowed by the sapphire sea,
Emerald grass sprouting snowdrop daisies.

Dover's Wonderous White Cliffs

by Imogen Preece

Crowned cliffs stand strong,
Holding history while Dover's gardener flutters
from flowers to skies,
A place where a blind man's ghost haunts,
Ships collided with the shield of England,
Arnold sparkling verse,
Noel's shimmering water-painting,
Shines in the sizzling fireball,
The sweetheart's songs secret,
Army's angel reminded brave warriors of kind-
hearted times,
Times when graceful blue bird filled the skies,
Cliff collapses to time,
History hollows,
Echoes of time,
Hollows of hate fills the broken shoelace,
Fighting invaders who wanted more,
Maybe they wanted a little too much,
So much that it led to a pile of:
Time, history, geology;
A pile of inspiration;
Inspiration,
To those in need of it,
Now you just need to take it ...

The Key To England

by Krystian Noga

The key to England,
War standing menacingly in everyone's way,
With the secret slithering passage to escape: death,
Bullets rapidly splitting through lives,
Rifles accelerating,
Fast like the blink of an eye,
Echoes of a machine gun racing,
With each and every bullet,
Claiming earthquakes,
Soft, warm, white chalk, pastel, luminesce,
A flutter of powdery blue is snatched,
Viciously wild plants with sapphire in its sparkle,
The roots of the samphire help hide the cliff,
A falcon swooping like a Spitfire,
Air-dasher, sky-skimmer, life-stunner,
The old cliff standing pleased,
White Cliffs!

BLETCHINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA UPDATE

A massive thank you to local builder Derek Bickley for helping the school to kickstart their garden project. He installed some fantastic star shaped paving to link in with the new school vision "Shine like stars and become light in our world" and an arch – he was amazing to work with creating a great finished product and so patient, kind and flexible. This is the start of a wonderful development project to be led by the teachers and children over time.

Following highlighting the fundraising project for the new learning area in the last edition of the Village News huge thanks must go to the wonderful and generous residents who have donated towards this project – all donations really make such a difference and we are truly grateful! We are edging towards our goal and just need a big push during the summer months to enable the project to become reality for the next academic year.

The PTA also has a new fundraising page so please do take a look to find out details on the key items the PTA are working towards for the school:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/bletchingdon-primary-school-pta>



SUMMER RAFFLE

The PTA will be holding their annual summer raffle again this year with some great prizes to be won. If anyone or business has anything they wish to donate, all items are gratefully received and make such a difference – please either drop items off in the entrance at school (please note you do not need to enter the school premises, just the foyer) or message the PTA for collection on 07775 994198 / bletchingdonpta@outlook.com / FB group 'Bletchingdon Parents & PTA'

Please look out for raffle tickets which will be delivered through your door with all the details on prizes and how to purchase them should you wish to.

Thank you to everyone who helps us out in so many different ways and for all the ongoing support.

Best wishes

Bletchingdon PTA

Harmony Inspires

Love to Sing Course - June 2021

Do you love to sing? Would you like to try something new this year?

Harmony InSpires, the all-female a Cappella chorus based in Marcham, (near Abingdon, Oxfordshire) invites women of all ages and all levels of experience to join a FREE online 'Love to Sing' course over three evenings on 2nd, 9th and 16th June.

No need to read music as we provide teach tracks to help you learn as you sing along!

For more details email lovetosing@harmonyinspires.org

or visit www.harmonyinspires.org

Meriel Lewis, PRO for Harmony InSpires (Registered Charity Number 1157497)

www.harmonyinspires.org

pro@harmonyinspires.org / meriel@2m.org.uk

01865 391725 / 078900 32725

Green Bletchingdon - Love where you live

Following on from the invitation in the last Village News to create a group to raise awareness and support our community and individuals to become more sustainable, we have now formed the **Green Bletchingdon** group.

We are planning to focus on a specific theme every other month; to write about the theme in the Village News and on the Village Website and Facebook pages; and, when possible, hold an event in which villagers can participate and find out more.

We have called our first theme 'Love where you live' to encourage residents to appreciate nature around us during the month of June. We are preparing information about three circular footpaths to encourage as many people as possible to participate by walking one or more of these footpaths during June, observing nature around them and noting what you see on your route. A sketch map and details of three different walks will be available from 1 June as printed copies from the Co-op, and on the village Facebook and BletchNet groups, with places of interest marked and ideas of what to look out for.

There'll be two four mile options (Hampton Poyle and Kirtlington) and a less than one mile easy access option round the village. Do try all three during the month!

Please respect wild places, farmland and animals on your walk by sticking to the footpaths, and follow the request from farmers to keep your dogs on leads around livestock and not to walk on field margins that are wildlife corridors, especially with lots of ground nesting birds right now. Thank you.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Anne at annemaclachlan@hotmail.com or 07967 045591.

Amy, Anne, Caroline, John, Matt, Rebecca, Sophie and Vikki

Kirtlington and Bletchingdon Historical Society

The sixth and final talk of our 20-21 programme (all successfully delivered by Zoom) was given by Professor James McDougall of Trinity College, Oxford on the history of the Middle East 1914-48. Ranging from Morocco to Iraq, Professor McDougall analysed the very different histories of the various states, showing how the meddling of European powers after the First World War and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire contributed to much of the subsequent instability. Then as now, oil as well as strategic interests played a key part in the interference by the west. But there were also local ethnic problems to add to the mix and a struggle between a desire on the part of some Arab leaders to establish their own power locally and a vision of pan-Arabism on the part of others. Professor McDougall drew attention to the wording of the Balfour Declaration of 1917, a crucial document in the subsequent founding of the state of Israel. He pointed out that two key



prepositions were easily misinterpreted. Balfour's letter said that the British government favoured the creation "in" Palestine of a home "for" the Jewish people, not the creation "of" Palestine "as" a home for the Jewish people. Somehow one meaning in practice appears to have been substituted for another. On such tiny but critical pivots does so much sometimes depend.

King Faisal I of Iraq (behind him, fourth from left, is TE Lawrence)
Paul Clifford

BLETCHINGTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Please be assured that we will reopen the bar as soon as we feel it's safe and manageable for our volunteer bar staff and customers. If the roadmap for lifting COVID 19 restrictions goes as planned then we hope to reopen the bar on Friday 25th June, but this will be confirmed nearer the time. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Quiz League: The Online quiz leagues winter season finished well for us, and we finished in a safe 9th place. We lost both our games in the cup campaign but both were close and very enjoyable. The summer season has just started and we have had another 2 close defeats. The Oxfordshire league continues with fun games every Thursday. It is hoped to start normal face to face quizzing later in the year. If anyone wants more information let me know.

Football: Mens football has now finished although some of the Youth football continues.

Cricket: The 2021 outdoor season has now started although the weather seems to be the real winner at present. Net practise is every Wednesday evening at the Sports Ground
Full details can be found on the Cricket section web site.

If you use the Sportsground, we would be grateful if you could refrain from playing ball games against the Clubhouse as we have experienced some damage to the building.

Could you also refrain from playing in the goalmouths as this wears the grass out prematurely.

PLEASE DO NOT EXERCISE YOUR DOG IN THE SPORTS GROUND

BLETCHINGDON YOUTH FOOTBALL PLAYING AGAIN

It's great news for youth football as the under-14s team resumed playing again in April, following lockdown. Completion of the interrupted season got off to a great start with the team achieving five wins, one draw and one defeat in their first seven matches. With two games remaining the side were placed third in the league table. The new kit as worn in the team photograph below has been sponsored, once again, by Dan's Action Vehicles of Souldern, who supply a wide range of vehicles for film and TV productions.



Back row (L to R): Lorenzo Meta, Adam Riseley, Josh Garnon, Lincoln Day, Luca Buy, Fillip Stojkovski, Riaz Slavik-Ali, Louis Tweddle, Harry Barrett, Jordan Okwesa; **Front row (L to R):** Murray Elliott, Luca Jordan, Kaizen Vardy, Bailey Hilsdon, Darren Richmond, Riley Chester, Alfie Shaw

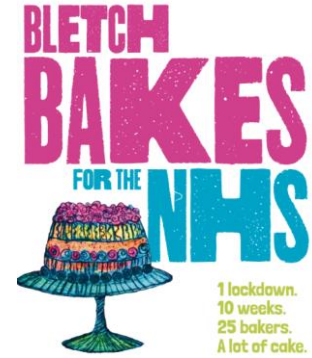
We are delighted to announce we have 2nd Edition of 100 books.

Such was the demand of the last cookbook – it sold like well...hotcakes!

Thanks to the Bletchington Charity, we have been able to do another print run. The profits will be split once more between the Oxford Hospitals Charity and a Bletchingdon Community event (later this year).

We have around 60 copies pre-ordered, but there are another 40 up for grabs at £10 each.

If you wish to order, please follow the steps below. If you have already pre-ordered, we will be in contact with you via email.



As we are a team of volunteers, we are keen to keep the process as simple as possible and your help to do this is really appreciated.

- 1- Decide the number of copies you require
- 2- Decide your delivery option
 - a. if you wish to pick up from one of the hospitals (free)
 - b. by hand, or via a friend in Bletchingdon (free)
 - c. have your order posted to you (see below)
- 3- Work out the cost of your order
 - a. £10 per book excluding postage
 - b. £4 postage per book

Note: for orders of more than 2 books, please contact bletchplan@gmail.com for a postage quote
- 4- Pay for your order
 - a. **Please ensure you add your name and the number of books you require as your reference.**
E.g Mary Marshall x 4 (Mary Marshall ordering 4 books)
 - b. **Payment to**
 - i. **V Robins – Monzo bank**
 - ii. **Sort code 04-00-04**
 - iii. **Account 22424313**
- 5- Email us at bletchplan@gmail.com to let us know you have ordered and include your name and order reference.

This process ensures we can match your order to your name and address.

If others you know wish to place an order, please ask them to fill in the pre-order form on www.bletchbakers.co.uk and we will do the rest!

Thank you so much for your support
Best wishes The Bletch Bakers team!

Share your life, change a life

Could you give someone the opportunity to live the fullest life they can live? Help them grow in confidence? Encourage them to become more independent and do things they never thought they would be able to do?

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. The opportunity to share a family's life, as part of their household, gives them a valuable alternative to staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers.

Becoming a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council will make a big difference to someone's life. If you love people, and are looking for something that is rewarding, paid and home-based - share your life, change a life - oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers

WESTON ON THE GREEN WI



Due to continuing Corona Virus restrictions the WI are still holding meetings via Zoom. Our secretary Lyn keeps us updated with all the latest Denman courses and a lot of our ladies are really enjoying them.

At our April Zoom meeting our new president Kath welcomed all Weston WI members and also members from other WI institutes. This month's meeting was a talk by British historian Jane Robinson. She is an acclaimed author and public

speaker. Her talk was on her book "Ladies Can't Climb Ladders". This title derived from the first women who wanted to become architects. They were told they would not be able to as they could not climb ladders!!! Jane specialises in the study of female pioneers in various fields and looks at social history through women's eyes. "Ladies Can't Climb Ladders" focuses on the lives of six women – six pioneers – forging paths in the fields of medicine, law, academia, architecture and the church. This was always going to be difficult as the authorities were more inclined to fill these positions with men returning from WW1, but these women courageously battled on. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919 was one of the most significant pieces of legislation in modern Britain. It was a social revolution and women of 21 and over were recognised in law as being as competent as men. But were they? Jane told us the story of what happened next. Jane's study into the public and private lives of these women sheds light not on the desires and ambitions of her subjects but how family and society responded to the working woman and what their legacy looks like today. A very interesting and enlightening talk which was enjoyed by all members.

Monday the 17th May was a special day for Weston on the Green WI ladies. One of our members, Helen Price, opened her garden for a coffee morning held to raise awareness of mental health issues. This past year has been a most testing and trying time for a lot of people due to isolation or shielding and there is no doubt that being able to get together as a group raised our spirits as there was a lot of laughter, which has been sorely missed. All the ladies that attended really enjoyed the event. Well done to Helen for highlighting this problem and also for raising £300 for Mental Awareness Week.

Shelswell WI invited us to their Zoom WI meeting in May. Some of our members joined them for a talk by Mildred Freeman on the History of Gin.

Our May Zoom meeting was our resolutions meeting and was attended by 17 members.

This year's resolution is "A Call To Increase Awareness Of The Subtle Signs Of Ovarian Cancer" and was unanimously passed by all members. In 1999 the NFWI passed a resolution calling for further research into a test for ovarian cancer. This resolution would therefore offer an opportunity to build on the WI's earlier work on this issue.

We also had a talk from Paula Hessian, local historian and WI member on "The Women Of Weston Manor" starting with Edith Forne (1090 – 1152) who was a mistress of Henry 1. Paula took us through history from Edith to Rose Bertie who sold the manor by auction in 1918 after the death of her only son in action in Palestine in the previous year. Paula's talk gave us an interesting insight into the remarkable lives of the women of Weston Manor over ten centuries.

Weston WI normally meets every third Wednesday in the month at 7-30pm in the Village Hall. Not only do we have excellent speakers at every meeting we also have various other activities going on. To find out more about us please contact our secretary Lyn on: wotg.wi@gmail.com. SAS

Bletchington PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors:

<u>Mr C E Lane (Chairman)</u>	<u>Village Farm</u>	<u>Tel: 350257</u>
<u>Mr M E Taylor</u>	<u>Stoneacre, Oxford Road</u>	<u>Tel: 350609</u>
<u>Mr D M Ledger</u>	<u>3, Islip Road</u>	<u>Tel: 351542</u>
<u>Mr A Jordan</u>	<u>The Malt House, Weston Road</u>	<u>Tel: 226500</u>
<u>Ms R Pirie</u>	<u>12 Valentia Close</u>	<u>Tel: 350856</u>
<u>Mr M Whitehead</u>	<u>Rogers Cottage, Station Road</u>	<u>Tel: 350991</u>
<u>Mr D Robins</u>	<u>Four View, Oxford Road</u>	<u>Tel: 350007</u>

Clerk: Fiona Mason **Email:** bletchpc@gmail.com **Tel:** 351967

The Clerk works on a flexible basis from the Village Hall. If you have any concerns, ideas or would just like a chat please email or leave an answerphone message and she will get back to you.

District Councillors: Simon Holland (simon.holland@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)
David Hughes (cllr.david.hughes@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)
Tim Hallchurch (tim.hallchurch@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

County Councillor: Nigel Simpson (nigel.simpson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Meetings: Normally held on the last Thursday of the Month, except December when no meeting is held, and in January we meet earlier in the month in order to discuss the precept request. Notice of meetings are always displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board, which is on the Bus Shelter wall facing the Green. Members of the Public are welcome at Meetings, but must seek prior permission if they wish to join in the discussion of any matter.

Agendas and minutes of meetings can be viewed on the Parish Council website once they have been approved.

The next meetings will take place on the 24th June 2021 followed by the 22nd July 2021 and will be held in the Village Hall.

New Councillor

The Parish Council would like to introduce your new Councillor, Dan Robins. Dan has lived in the Village for 17 years and has a good knowledge of all the different groups and organisations within it. He is passionate about Bletchington and maintaining the community spirit we all share. Please join us in welcoming Dan to the Council.

We are very fortunate in Bletchington to have so many residents willing to come forward and do their part for our Community.

Each of the candidates that came forward for the recent vacancy were very strong and we hope to work with them in another capacity. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their time.

Virtual Annual Meeting of the Parish

There was good attendance again this year at our Annual Meeting of the Parish (APM) with many points of interest raised. The biggest topic of conversation was around what we can do to assist with the road safety issues around parking at the Co-op, the Duchy development and Station Road. Please know that your Councillors are working very hard to resolve these issues as soon as possible. All issues raised at the APM were added to the agenda of the May Parish Council meeting.

Spring Clean and Sign Cleaning Weekend

This year's Spring Clean event will be hosted on the weekend of the 5th & 6th June 2021, starting at 2:30pm on each day.

We are combining this with our sign cleaning event. Cherwell District Council will provide us with a number of litter pickers, high visibility jackets and gloves, in addition to those owned by the Parish Council. If you would like to volunteer for either or both events, please meet the Clerk on the Green at 2:30pm to pick up some equipment.

Bus Shelter

The Parish Council received a very kind offer from Tiffany Haynes and her daughter with regards to the bus shelter. They offered to clean it out, wash the walls and repaint them and the bench. I am sure you will all agree it is looking much better. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for all of their hard work.

Planning Matters

The following applications were approved in March & April 2021:

- 21/00340/TCA – The Old Rectory, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T9 x Laburnum – Fell due to poor form and overcrowding. G1 x 4 nos Conifers – Fell due to poor form and overcrowding of feature Oak tree. T5 x Field Maple – Fell due to poor form and close to proximity wall. CG x Conifer group x 19 nos stems approx. – Fell due to overcrowding and poor collapsing specimens.
- 20/02870/F – Land South of Springwell Close Adj to Station Road, Bletchingdon – Application for the erection of a two storey dwelling with associated works and access.
- 21/00489/TCA – St Giles Church, Church End, Bletchingdon. T1 x Acer negundo box Elder – Reduce canopy by removing the regrowth back to previous pruning points. Deadwood and rubbing branches. Keeping a similarly shared canopy.
- 20/02581/F – OS Parcel 9521 Underdowns, Lince Lane, Kirtlington – Erection of agricultural workers dwelling and new agricultural building. Approved.
- 21/00912/TCA – Home Farm House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – T1 x Birch tree: Front garden. This tree has decay at the base and dieback at the top. Fell in sections to ground level and grind out the stump.

The following applications were refused in March & April 2021:

- 21/00300/F – 24 St Giles, Bletchingdon OX5 3BX – Part two storey, part single storey extension and addition of porch to the front elevation.

The following applications were put before Bletchingdon Parish Council in March & April 2021:

- 21/00912/TCA – Mrs Cook, Home Farmhouse, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – T1 x Birch tree: Front garden. This tree has decay at the base and dieback at the top. Fell in sections to ground level and grind out the stump.
- 21/00972/F – Mr Rajesh Gupta – Heathfield House Nursing Home, Heathfield OX5 3DX – Erection of staff accommodation building (alternative scheme to that refused permission under application 20/00861/F).
- 21/00894/F – Mr R Brannan and Ms C Bartlett – 2 Home Farm Cottages, Station Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DD – Variation of condition 2 (plans) of 20/03350/F – sun tunnels to the South Face of the existing roof omitted. 2 no. small conservation roof lights proposed to the North Face of the existing roof and 1 no flat roof light proposed to the existing flat roof over Bed 1.
- 21/01076/TCA – Mr Daniel Parrott – Quincotts, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – T1: Birch. Cut this tree down, it is dangerously close to the house and our insurers have advised us to monitor it carefully. Additionally, it is causing damp in the area marked in red and depriving sunlight from the house. T2: Large Holly Bush (under silver birch canopy, so not visible in google map view). Same reasons as T1. T3: Coniferous low-lying shrub. Cut it down because it is depriving light and encouraging damp in this part of the garden. It blocks light and view across the gardens. T4: Blue Spruce. Cut it down. Same reasons as T3.
- 21/00586/CLUE & 21/00587/CLUE – Mr Cooper-Barney – Greenhill Leisure Park, Greenhill Farm, Station Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3BQ – Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing use of land as a caravan and camping site (re-submission of 20/01343/CLUE and 20/01344/CLUE).
- 21/00692/F – Investfront Limited – The Oxfordshire Inn, Meadow Walk, Heathfield, OX5 3DX – Conversion of building to provide 6 No. Apartments.

Adverts

N.B. If you contact any of our advertisers would you please mention that you saw their advert in Bletchington Village News



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HOW TO CONTACT US

Jo Scurr Tel: 07900 492787 / Email: joanne.scurr@thetraveldirectors.co.uk
thetraveldirectors.co.uk/joannescurr

Linda Morris Tel: 07956 015011 / Email: linda.morris@thetraveldirectors.co.uk
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*Committee on Climate Change, February 2019



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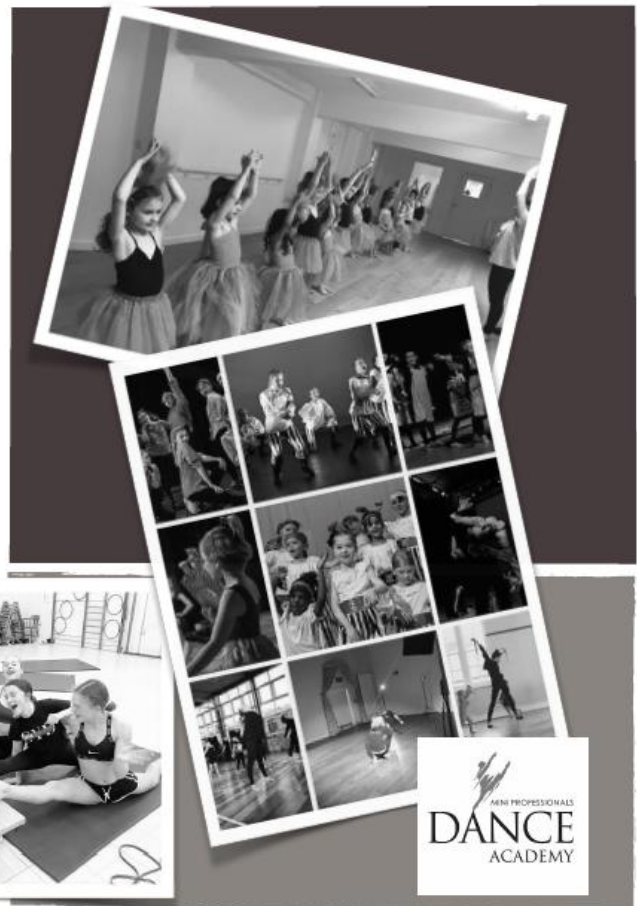
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Anna Burnside PARTNER
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Jacqui Birks TAX DIRECTOR
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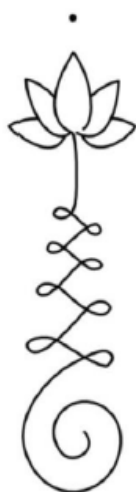
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Hatha

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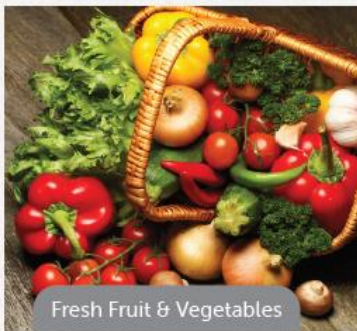
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