## The Link July 2021

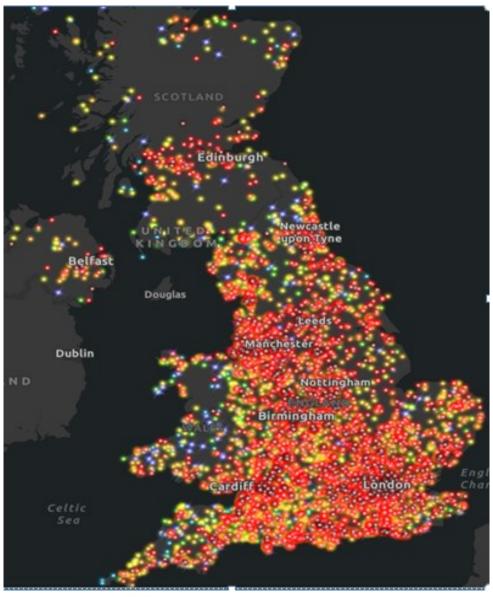
News and information covering Tadmarton and Swalcliffe



On the 14th June we said goodbye to our beautiful boy, thanks to him and all the dogs before him, we have met many lovely people and enjoyed the countryside to its full extend. We are very lucky to live where we do and it is important we realise it and make the most of it. Oh and before you go to bed tonight don't forget to have that extra cuddle.

Tadmarton Village Website www.tadmartonvillage.co.uk

Swalcliffe Village Website www.swalcliffevillage.co.uk



This picture shows how many stars people counted during the night in 2019, there are very little areas not affected by light pollution.

- Over 30 Truly dark skies
- 26 30 Dark skies
- 21 25 Fairly dark skies
  - 16 20 Some light pollution
  - 11 15 Light pollution
    - 6 10 Severe light pollution
- 0 5 Very severe light pollution

#### The Wildlife Page: Light Pollution

Light pollution is excessive, misdirected, or obtrusive artificial (usually outdoor) light. Too much light pollution has consequences: it disrupts ecosystems, has adverse health effects and wastes energy. It washes out starlight in the night sky and interferes with astronomical research.

The excess light we dump into our environments is endangering ecosystems by harming those whose life cycles depend on dark.

Humans, Plants and Animals depend on Earth's daily cycle of light and dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviours such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators.

Our bodies produce the hormone melatonin in response to circadian rhythm. Melatonin helps keep us healthy. It has antioxidant properties, induces sleep, boosts the immune system, lowers cholesterol, and helps the functioning of the thyroid, pancreas, ovaries, testes and adrenal glands. Night time exposure to artificial light suppresses melatonin production.

Nocturnal animals sleep during the day and are active at night. Light pollution radically alters their night time environment by turning night into day. Glare from artificial lights can also impact wetland habitats that are home to amphibians such as frogs and toads, whose night time croaking is part of the breeding ritual thus interfering with reproduction and reducing populations.

Birds that migrate or hunt at night navigate by moonlight and starlight. Artificial light can cause them to wander off course and toward the dangerous night time landscapes of cities. Every year millions of birds die colliding with needlessly illuminated buildings and towers. Migratory birds depend on cues from properly timed seasonal schedules. Artificial lights can cause them to migrate too early or too late and miss ideal climate conditions for nesting, foraging and other behaviours. Bats rely on darkness at their maternity sites (Mostly Churches and old barns) and are finding themselves continuously highlighted.

Many insects are drawn to light, but artificial lights can create a fatal attraction. Declining insect populations negatively impact all species that rely on insects for food or pollination. Some predators exploit this attraction to their advantage, affecting food webs in unanticipated ways.

Photoperiodism (The length of artificial light within a 24 hour period) can also influence leaf shape; surface hairiness (pubescence); pigment formation; autumn drop time; and root development, as well as onset and breaking of bud dormancy. Night lighting alters the natural photoperiod and so, upsets the plant's development.

Enough light pollution can cause photosynthesis, and can affect trees that are sensitive to day length. Artificial lighting, especially from a source that emits in the red to infrared range of the spectrum, extends the day length and can change flowering patterns, and most importantly, promote continued growth long after it is safe for the trees to do so.

Do you want to help to reduce light pollution? Although LED lights are better for the purse, they emit a lot of Blue Light and this is the light we want to reduce. Turn lights of when not needed, close curtains to keep light in. Don't light up your garden whilst you are inside. Use bulbs with a low light emission and make sure they are angled to light up only that what you need / want to see. Turn off computer and phone screens when not in use.

For more information check the following websites: https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/wildlife/ https://www.cpre.org.uk/

#### **Editorial and Advertising**

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#### **IMPORTANT!**

Last copy date for the Aug/Sept issue is the 17th of July Articles received LATE will NOT be included in the next issue.

#### **Swalcliffe contributions:**

Charlotte Watkins Holly Cottage, Bakers Lane, Swalcliffe. Tel: 01295 788045 chirpie34@hotmail.com

### **Advertising Rates**

The Link is delivered to 370 homes in (Lower) Tadmarton, Swalcliffe and The Highlands The Price for 1 year (10 issues)

Full page 125mm x 185mm £ 110 ½ page 125mm x 90mm £ 66 ¼ page 60mm x 90mm £ 33 60mm x 40mm £ 18

Price for a single issue on application.

#### **Tadmarton Parish Councillors**

Steve Kingsford,	780716
Jane Fitzpatrick	780451
Tim Turner Chair	780764
Kevin Tomblin Vice Chair	788342
Paul Higley	788447
Oliver Perera	597805
Christine Coles, Parish Clerk	276229

#### **Swalcliffe Parish Councillors**

Neil Urquhart Chairperson	07867 695550
Victoria Taylor Vice Chair	780206
Christine Coles, Parish Cle	rk 276229
Ken Hodkinson	07535 701632
Lee McCallum	07779 400421
Ryan Smith	01295 788537
Steve Gandy	07860 397420
Karen Riordan	07850 403958

#### The Link is Sponsored by

Christopher Dean & Co Horticultural Society Swalcliffe Church Swalcliffe Parish Council

Tadmarton Village Hall Tadmarton Church Tadmarton Parish Council

#### 2022 SWALCLIFFE CALENDAR

We hope lots of photographers captured the spring blossom and bluebells for next year's 'must have' calendar. Do keep clicking through the summer, anything that represents the village but they don't all have to be pretty pictures - something unexpected, sporty (cricket?), pub events ... whatever!. More information in the next Link.

#### WANTED.

A small storage space to house my Petrol Golf Buggy. (W) 5' x (L) 8' x (H) 7' or even part of a garage.

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The Golf Club have said they do not have anywhere on site for me.

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Thank You,

Michael Ricketts.

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**Swalcliffe Church** 

Services for Swalcliffe Church in July are as follows:

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July – 9.30am Holy Communion (Rev'd Neil Bowler)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July – 9.30am Morning Worship (lay led)

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July – 9.30am Holy Communion (Rev'd Dr David Pym)

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August – 10.00am Benefice Eucharist (Rev'd John Tattersall)

In addition there will be a Benefice Eucharist at Broughton Church at 10.00am on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July, led by the Rev'd Neil Bowler



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We have prepared the pub and are Covid compliant.

Stay Safe!! And we look forward to seeing you soon.



Swalcliffe Park Equestrian

Riding Club Championships 2021

6-8 August 2021

The Riding Club will be running their championships here at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian, they will be run under the necessary Covid rules in place.

Unfortunately we will be unable to run our usual Sunday afternoon tea for villagers, but hope that we will be able to welcome you again in 2022

We all struggle with life's challenges from time to time.

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# St. Nicholas Church, Tadmarton, Church Services Subject to Change RE: Covid Regulations

#### <u>July</u>

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Benefice Eucharist at Broughton (NB)

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Holy Communion (JT) Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Holy Communion (JT) Sunday25th 11.00am Village Service (NB)

#### <u>August</u>

Sunday1st 10.00am Benefice Eucharist at Swalcliffe (JT)

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Holy Communion (JT) Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Holy Communion (NB)

Zoom Services until further notice, for joining instructions please refer to the Benefice web site <a href="www.wykehambenefice.org.uk">www.wykehambenefice.org.uk</a> and The Rector or The Rev'd John Tattersall

Sundays (ZOOM) 6.00pm New look Benefice Evening Worship (NB) Wednesdays (ZOOM) 6.00pm Benefice Evening prayer service (NB)

Thursdays in Tadmarton Church9.00am Morning Prayers (NB)

Please note that there will not be any refreshments after services. Covid 19 protection systems are in place in all Benefice churches

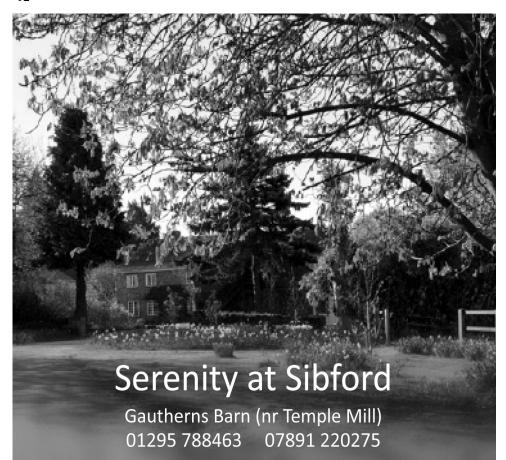
Rector: The Rev'd Neil Bowler (NB) Tel: 01295788005 The Rev'd John Tattersall (JT) Tel: 01295780283

# Assisting Priests The Reverend Dr David Pym (DP) The Reverend Canon Glynn Evans (GE) The Reverend Hazel Scarr (HS)

The Reverend Canon John Whitwell (JW)
The Reverend Michael Campling (MC)

The Ven. Keith Smalldon (KS)





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## St. Nicholas Church, Tadmarton July 2021

The Church Council has now held their meeting via zoom, the first time for several months to discuss matters that need urgent attention.

The new kitchen area pews have been removed and will be used as part of the redesigned area.

The finances of our parish church have been approved by the council and will be presented at the AGM. The meeting of the Church members will take place, in the church after the 11.00am service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

All our meetings will be subject to covid regulations, but it will be great to meet soon in person. Zoom is OK but not quite the same.

The Benefice service held in St. Nicholas church on Sunday  $6^{th}$  June was attended by people from all six of the churches in our Benefice. Under the current regulations we could not have accommodated more attendees in our church.

There has been a change in the format of the Sunday 6pm Zoom service and it will be a new look benefice evening worship service.

The Scarecrow Festival starts on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July and will end on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. There will be a free tea on Friday to be served in The Village Hall from 2.30pm until 5.30pm. After this a fun service will be held in the church at 6pm.

There are prizes to be won and they will be presented by <u>The</u> Rector Neil Bowler.

JHW 16.06.21

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#### THE SCARECROWS ARE BACKIII

Good luck to all of those who have made the effort and we look forward to seeing all your crows out.

The festival will go ahead - **but** without the concert - starting on Friday the 9th of July ending on the 23rd.

So let your imagination run wild, make it crazy, floral, brelp, current affairs, sporty,

professional or **SCARY** 

Don't forget to let us know if you take part so the judges don't miss out. (Especially important for those tucked away from the main road) Judging will take place on the evening of July the 23rd.

On Sunday the 25th of July the Tadmarton Village Hall will be open from 3.30pm to 5.30pm: Afternoon Tea will be available free of charge (No donations).

At 5.30pm the Festival's results will be announced. Following the announcement, there will be a very light hearted evensong service in St Nicholas Church, starting at 6pm.

Government Guide lines must be followed and the event is subject to regulations.

Good luck everyone let's have some fun.

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#### Dear friends,

There have been many things beginning to happen across our villages since some of the restrictions have been lifted, which has been wonderful to see and experience.

One of the things I've done over the past month is that I've been able to visit one of our local primary schools and meet the children, on different days and times, across all of the year groups. We sat outside on the grass, under one of the large trees, and I asked them if they wanted to ask me anything, maybe what I enjoyed or what it was like being a 'vicar'? I've done this at the beginning of my ministries in each of the parishes where I've been and although it is such great fun, I also am never quite sure what I'm going to be asked next!

As some of you may be aware I worked in a primary school for almost four years before moving to be your Rector, so I'm very much used to being in a school environment. The children were brilliant and we had a great discussion, especially when I got to ask them some questions about what they liked about being at the school and about living in the local villages. A number of the children who I met live in Tadmarton and Swalcliffe. What was really lovely to hear and see was how much they enjoyed being together, an aspect that many of us have missed over the past year. My time working in a school last year really did show to me the huge impact that being away from their friends had on the children in the school where I worked.

I'm looking forward hopefully to being able to go into the school again in the coming weeks and months, because as many of you may also already know, I've also become one of the school governors at both of the primary schools in our benefice. A role which I take very seriously and I've been a school governor in all of the parishes where I've been the incumbent in the past. Schools, I do believe, reflect very much the community in which the children live.

As we go forward through the Summer, if you or someone you know, might like to arrange a thanksgiving for the birth of a child, a Christening or a wedding, at the church, then please do be in touch, as these important life events are once again able to happen, hopefully with less restrictions as time goes on.

May I wish you all a joy filled summer and times when you can be together and have fun, with your families and your friends.

Love & prayers Revd Neil Rector, Wykeham Benefice Tel: 788005

## **REMINDER!!**

Don't forget Folk, on July the 25th, at the end of the Scarecrow Festival we have Afternoon Tea with the compliments of Tadmarton P.C.C.

This will take place in the Tadmarton Village Hall: prizes ( which are

very kindly are being donated by the Village Hall Committee) will be presented

by our FUN loving Rev Neil; in his own words "I Luv a bit of Fun"

This also gives everybody a chance to have a glimpse at the updated facilities in the hall. The Committee have not waisted a second of the Lockdown and have done a great job.

Following prize giving there will be a very light hearted service with The Scarecrows in the Church led by Rev Neil.



#### **Tadmarton Charities**

As in the past I thought it would be helpful to give a little background to the charity especially for new people to the village

Tadmarton Charities is an amalgamation of the Poor's Land Charity, the Macdermot Charity and the Macdermot's Educational Charity. The Poor's Land Charity arose from the Inclosures Act of 1775 when a small area of land, which is now part of Tadmarton Golf Course, was made available to help the poor and needy of the parish. Subsequently this land was swapped for the 16 acres which the charities now own. This comprises of 2 fields which run down from the golf course road and up to a field owned by the Banbury Ornithological Society.

The 16 acres of land provide a rental income which makes up the majority of the income distributed to recipients in the parish. The other main investment is a holding in M & G Charifund originally of £12,500 which were monies received for granting a right of access to the Banbury Ornithological Society land back in 2005. This holding does not distribute income and with the addition of £3,000 from our Building Society account was worth £29,971 at the date of the last accounts (Dec 2020). We have in the last few years withdrawn £4,000 to help top up the recent distributions.

The Trustees are strictly bound by the trust deed which allows us to 'relieve either generally, or individually, those residents of the Parish who are considered to be in genuine need, or suffering hardship, or distress'. It is interesting to look back and see that in 1867 the charity delivered coal to 70 families who were deemed to qualify.

However there are still people and families who are in genuine need and it is the trustees job to allocate funds to them.

They do of course rely on people applying for themselves or nominating others.

We would normally publish this piece in November but last year due to COVID we were not able to visit applicants to assess need. As a stop gap we made distributions to previous applicants.

The Trustees would now like to hear from any person who feels that they, a neighbour, friend, or family member, might qualify for consideration for the 2021 distribution.

The name, address and brief details should be provided to the Clerk to the Trustees at the address given below. Those who have always received help from the Charity will automatically be considered and need not reapply.

C Dean Clerk to Tadmarton Charities Ivy Cottage, Bakers Lane Tadmarton Tel 788104 (788470 Evenings)

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# NEWS FROM TADMARTON VILLAGE HALL

With Step 4 of the Lockdown Roadmap delayed until the 19<sup>th</sup> July, we have had to put on hold the reopening of the village hall, but we are sure you will agree it will well worth the wait...

We have updated the décor of the Main Hall, completely refurbished the cloakrooms and much more besides.

We are now busy planning a programme of events and drop-in sessions to welcome you back so look out for information on Tadmarton Village Facebook page, village notice boards and on <a href="https://www.tadmartonvillage/news">www.tadmartonvillage/news</a> and of course, in The Link! We hope to see you all at the Scarecrow Festival Afternoon Teas on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July.

If you wish to make a booking or would like to join our happy band of volunteers, please contact us.

#### Please contact:

Alex Silverman <u>alex@alexsilverman.co.uk</u>

Tel: 788776

Helen Yeomans <u>helen@barncroftbook-keeping.co.uk</u>

Tel: 780426



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There is no need to book, just show up with £5 in your pocket and have some fun.



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right, signposted
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We are on the left
about half a mile on
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The Puzzle Pages	. Answers car	be found	on Page:
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#### CODEWORDS

are like crossword puzzles - but have no clues! Instead. every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle. All vou have to do is decide which letter is represented by which number! To start you off, we reveal the codes for two or three letters. When you've filled in these letters throughout the puzzle, you'll have enough clues to start guessing words and discovering other letters.

#### A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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#### DEAR BRIGADIER BAMFORD

Brigadier Bamford was, for many years, chairman of Swalcliffe Parish Council. The Swalcliffe Archive contains a letter transcribed as written below which he received from a member of the Dix family. It contains a fascinating glimpse into social strata, the history of a local family and some of the houses they owned which include Lime Tree House and Holly Cottage.

.........

Dear Brigadier Bamford

15 Bishopsgate, E. C. 2. 4 March 1964

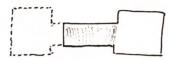
I hope you will forgive me for writing to you but I was most interested to read in the Banbury Guardian of 23 January last of your efforts to invigorate Swalcliffe & I hope you will be successful in your aims. It is a village I know well & for which I have a great affection. I was particularly interested to see that you are the present occupant of Lime Tree House. I am the male representative of the Dix family, formerly of Dix's Park in Charlbury.

A younger branch owned a moiety [1] of the Manor of Epwell for over 100 years & lie buried in a vault in the church there. Some of the Epwell Dixes owned Lime Tree House for a considerable time. It was then called "Cleavers" – Cleaver was a local surname – & I believe its present name is comparatively modern.

The first Dix to own it was Edward Dix (1764-1839) of Sibford Ferris, Oxon. & Harbury House, Warwicks, Lord of a moiety of Epwell Manor. His family home at Little Sibford was destroyed by fire in 1776 & his parents moved to Harbury. On his father's death in 1801 he succeeded to Harbury, also to lands in Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower, Harbury & Epwell, including a moiety of that manor. Known in his family as "The Spend Thrift", he greatly impoverished his branch by "unfortunate speculations in the Funds". Harbury had to be sold & he bought Cleavers.

He was succeeded there by his 8th son, George Dix (1808-1887) who apparently had just enough to live on & never did a stroke of work! However he was greatly respected & did a lot of charitable work in the district. Cassey's "Directory of Berkshire and Oxfordshire" for 1868 lists the principle private residents in Swalcliffe as "George Dix, esq., and Henry Norris, esq., J.P. of Swalcliffe Park". As "George Dix of Swalcliffe in

the County of Oxford Gentleman" he was party to a family deed of release dated 13 Aug 1869. About 1880 Cleavers was more than half burnt down. According to the late Miss A. S. Marshall (1874-1961), a later owner of the house, herself maternally descended from



the Dixes, & the youngest of a large family, the house when George Dix lived there was approximately the whole of the above sketch [2], viz the green, red & blue portions. The fire consumed the green & red portions, leaving only the blue portion.

George Dix leased the house at Burdrop now occupied by Dr. Agnew & died there unmarried in 1887. There are many references to him in the diary of the Rev. E. T. Stevens, Vicar of Sibford & Rector of Epwell about a century ago. One amusing entry records that the parlourmaid of Mrs Shelswell at Burdrop House informed the Vicar's son that the Vicar was only half a gentleman, as he received a stipend. The only 2 real gentlemen in the village, she added, were Mr George Dix and Mr Robert Turner – they did no work at all! I owned a silhouette of George Dix unfortunately destroyed in the "Blitz". On his death Cleavers was inherited by his 3 nieces the Misses Elizabeth, Maria & Sarah Louisa Dix [3]. They were great characters & many stories are still told of them. When the survivor, Sarah Louisa, died in 1912 there was a long & glowing obituary in the Banbury Guardian of which I have a copy, with many interesting details about her & the family.

It recounts that one of her last acts was to build the Hornton stone steps that lead up to Swalcliffe church – no doubt she had a personal interest in the "Godly Race" as they start opposite her house. The Misses Dix lived at Sibford Gower & for many years Cleavers lay empty & derelict. They then did it up a little & it was let for many years to a family of Savage from Northants. Finally the Misses Dix rebuilt the portion covered red alone, & Miss Maria Dix occupied it from about 1899 till her death in 1905, after which it was occupied by Sarah Louisa Dix, who also owned & chiefly lived at Woodfields, Sibford Gower. Sarah left it between her two nieces Miss A. S. Marshall, & Miss Mary Helen Thame of Malvern House, Sibford Ferris. Miss Marshall sold the property, having first bought out her cousin's interest. I thought perhaps these details might interest you!

Yours sincerely Michael Dix Hamilton (M. L. DIX HAMILTON)

The writer concludes by asking if there are deeds or other property documents for Lime Tree House that might confirm or supplement the above story and this is a good example of how documents still in the village can help us to record and understand its history. Do you have any such document, letters, deeds etc that contain such information and, if so, would you permit the Swalcliffe Society to see them?

Transcription by: Cathy Stoertz
Edited by: Colin Hill

Collected by: the Swalcliffe Society from Brigadier Bamford

Archive Reference SDA-2003-1

#### **FOOTNOTES**

- [1] "moiety": each of two parts into which a thing is or can be divided, in the case of a property it indicates joint ownership or tenancy often arising from inheritance.
- [2] Unfortunately our archive copy of the letter is black and white so it does not explain which coloured sections of the house burnt down.
- [3] Sarah Louisa Dix also owned for some time Holly Cottage in Bakers Lane and her name appears in several of the documents relating to the cottage recently contributed to the Swalcliffe Archive

If you have or find anything of local interest the Swalcliffe Society would love to see it and have an opportunity to copy and digitize it. If you would like to contribute or find out more please feel free to phone 01295 788127 or mail swalcliffe.society@gmail.com, or visit Swalcliffe Barn when it is open.

Colin Hill, Barn Well Cottage, Swalcliffe.



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#### Please can you help?

I am trying to find Rachel Bunn.

She lived opposite Swalcliffe church (In the house that burned down after a chimney fire).

Towards the end of 2020 Rachel sold up and went to life in the South of France.

I received a postcard from her telling me she had arrived.

Since then I have written letters, but they have been returned with "not known".

Emails appear to have gone fine originally, but this week it was rejected.

I am concerned, Covid was very prevalent in the South of France when she went, and she seemed very much alone.

She has lived on the continent but not in France when she was called to play with the Bournemouth Symphony orchestra.

She used to leave her dog Ralphie at a nearby farm.

Thank you for any help.

Kathleen Winter. Sibford Gower. 01295-780461



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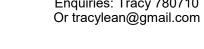
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#### Notes from the Editor:

☆ Dear All.

I hope you are enjoying The Link and all the articles you find in there.

If you do, you might know of someone who looks forward to taking over my role as editor.

I am sorry to announce that unless I have found a follow up, the Link will cease to exist in its current format and that would be a great shame.

★ The December/January link will be the last one I will edit.

I look forward to hearing from a volunteer, I am happy to answer any questions someone might have.

Enjoy the summer everyone and we will speak in august again.

Mery Wolke



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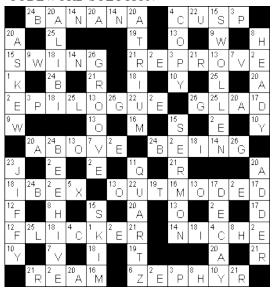
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Stratford upon Avon (adj Nat West Bank)	0615	9060	1105	1305	1605
Stratford upon Avon (opp Mc Donalds)	0617	0907	1107	1307	1607
Ettington	_	0350	1120	1320	_
Halford	_	0860	1130	1330	_
Ilmington	_	_	_	_	1624
Tredington	0632	0932	1132	1332	_
Shipston on Stour (Beecham Rd)	0637	0937	1137	1337	1632
Shipston on Stour (opp Garage)	0640	0940	1140	1340	1635
Lower Brailes	0650	0360	1150	1350	1645
Sibford Ferris (School E-Bound)	0702	1002	1202	1402	1657
Lower Tadmarton (Fourways E-Bpund)	0712	1012	1212	1412	1707
Banbury town Centre (Bus Station Bay 8)	0725	1025	1225	1425	1720
50A	Sat and Hols	Mon-Sat	Mon-Sat	Sat and Hols	Mon-Sat
Banbury Town centre (Bus Station Bay 8)	0730	1030	1230	1430	1730
Lower Tadmarton (Fourways W- Bound)	0743	1043	1243	1443	1743
Sibford Ferris (School W-Bound)	_	1053	1253	1453	1753
Lower Brailles	0756	1106	1306	1506	1806
Shipston on Stour (opp Garage)	9080	1116	1316	1516	1816
Shipston on Stour (Badger Valley )	6080	1119	1319	1519	1819
Tredington	_	1124	1324	1524	1824
Ilmington	0817	_	_	_	_
Halford	_	1126	1326	1526	1826
Ettington	_	1136	1336	1536	1836
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#### **Their Cup Runneth Over**

And so it was. And so it did.

Their cup was the 'Swalford' cricket cup. They were the Swalcliffe and Sibford village cricket teams.

Together they combine regularly to play twenty/twenty overs evening matches during the week against local village teams. Very popular they are too. But annually they meet on the wicket of dreams at Sibford School and lock horns and knock junks out of each other in a supposedly friendly Derby cricket match.

The players are a hardy bunch. And so they should be as the event is normally played in weather that supports the view of 'The Donald' that global warming is fake news. The best exercise is gained by dodging showers with regular runs to the pavilion. But on this occasion the weather was sublime; wall to wall blue sky, no wind and temperatures in the high 20's. A rare metrological event, that even brought out a few spectators.

Cricket skills were evenly matched; there were even one or two excellent players! Sibford lost a couple of regulars who had preferred to spend the afternoon at Wembley watching England/Croatia match. But to be fair, we are all guilty of poor judgement at some time in our lives. However, the Swalcliffe captain, 'Captain Marvel' Perran Moon, offered the 'Facilitator' Richard Jones to the opposition during a moment of grace. He didn't disappoint.

Swalcliffe fielded a few players who had managed to achieve Swalcliffe nationality earlier in the day to bolster the two who actually live in the village

There is no point in discussing the technical ins and outs of the game. Suffice to know it was a 30 over match. Swalcliffe won with 2 overs and 2 batsman to spare. So quite close according to Simon George, the Sibford captain.

Not even Covid spoilt the day. In every cloud there is a golden lining; social distancing was in force and we had to bring our own tea. So, no sharing at the festive board. The consequence of that was; that one could take a large pork pie and devour it oneself in perfect solitude under a shady tree. And much pork products were devoured. Even by the large presence of local health professionals whose hampers seemed to be devoid of anything resembling 'your 5-a-day'.

A good time was had by all. And the Swalford cup now resides in the Stag's Head for the next 12 months!







#### NEW NURSERY PROVISION PLANNED FOR SIBEORD GOWER

We are very excited about our plan to extend our educational provision to include nursery-aged children within an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) class. Our recent consultation regarding this provision was overwhelmingly positive and, at time of writing, we are only awaiting approval from the Department for Education before we 'get the ball rolling', hopefully for a September start.

The provision will be available for children from the beginning of the school term after their third birthday. For more information about this facility and how to apply for a place, please look on our school website at <a href="http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/nursery-provision.html">http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/nursery-provision.html</a>.

Sadly, the delay in moving to Level 4 of the government's road map means that we will not be able to welcome parents back into school to share in many traditional summer term events in the way that we had hoped. However, we are still doing all sorts of lovely things in school with the children, including a Summer Sports Day and a Year 5 & 6 production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

As mentioned back in the April edition, if you live near the school you may well have seen the year 5 & 6 children in hi-viz jackets completing the Bikeability cycling proficiency scheme funded by OCC. The lead tutor commented on how exceptionally well-behaved & courteous our children are, how well they cycled and how attentive they are in listening and learning. We are very proud of all of them.









Our younger children have been exploring the topic 'Wriggle & Crawl'. We were very impressed with the careful detail some of our Year 2 pupils put into their line drawings of various minibeasts.

The beautiful dragonflies were created by Aura T and Liam W, the stripy, spotty scorpion by Harry S, and the fat and furry bumblebee by Cecily G.

Very well done!

To find out more about our wonderful, welcoming village school, please take some time to visit our school website at http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/