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Sweet Peas and leaf variegation - From David Jones

Hazel took a photo of a wild Sicilian *Lathyrus odoratus* (wild sweet pea). The flowers are obviously attractive and the smell very pleasant. It is surprising, therefore, that the introduction to British horticulture was so slow after seed had arrived in England.



Sicilian *Lathyrus odoratus*

(wild sweet pea). The flowers can be an inch across.



Variegated alpine strawberry

Variegation of leaves often make plants of minor attraction more interesting. Many variegations arose spontaneously and have several different causes, including viruses and errors in cell division. Some are unstable, reverting to an all green foliage over time. Acers have an unusual type, showing pink parts to their leaves in addition to the usual white and green. The cause of this is unknown.

Other shrubs can have green parts in the middle of their leaves and a yellow border. White clover leaflets have white patterns that are inherited, and so the variegation is stable. The same is true of the leaf patterns of many varieties of *Pelargonium*. Other types have arisen following grafting. Variegated horse chestnuts are of this type. A spectacular example is an avenue of horse chestnut trees beside a road near Beverley in East Yorkshire.

The photo of the variegation in the alpine strawberry is of a plant in our garden. The most likely immediate cause of this variegation is an error in the distribution of chloroplasts* during cell division. When, however, the variegation is repeated, apparently independently in different leaves, it is often a virus that is upsetting the normal distribution of chloroplasts between the two new cells. Viruses can also inhibit the self-reproduction of chloroplasts leading to too few to be shared out. Some cells get none. All the cells in subsequent cell divisions will not have chloroplasts and this part of the leaf will be white. The time during the development of the leaf at which the loss of chloroplasts occurs determines the extent of the variegation. In the photo there are some leaflets that are totally white, others where there multiple sectoring and another with only minor sectors.

In some plants there can be four types of variegation in the same leaflet. Parts of the leaflet will be white, other parts a pale green, other parts a grey green, with the rest the normal green. The answer next time – if I can find my photo!.

* Chloroplasts are the site of photosynthesis in plant cells. Chloroplasts are green because they reflect green light while absorbing the energy of the other colours.

From our Veterinary correspondent Jason Williams

Veterinary Nurses

We are currently in the process of recruiting new members for our Veterinary Nursing team. We aim to have 2 new Student Veterinary Nurses (SVNs) by the end of the summer. They will work alongside our Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) as they gradually build up the knowledge and skills to do the job. They will also spend a day a week during term time at College doing the 2 year VN course.

Qualified Veterinary Nurses have been in short supply for many years; partly from not enough being trained but primarily because too many were leaving the profession. Rates of pay, unsociable hours and poor ongoing professional development are some of the reasons given for the drain of talent from the profession. There is also the stress of working in a high-pressure job with life and death situations, often with very high expectations from both clients and yourself – a real emotional roller coaster when not everything goes the way you expect it to.



At Bicester Vets we are trying to create a work environment where VNs can put their training and skills to full use. Not only are they involved in the critical jobs of nursing patients back to health and monitoring animals under general anaesthesia; they also are increasingly performing consultations with clients, performing health checks, weight loss clinics and young pet development checks. More recently we have started to use a therapeutic laser to treat a range of conditions and it is the VNs who are leading this exciting new development.

If you've been in to the practice recently you may have seen some building works in progress and we are very excited to soon have two extra consulting rooms which will ensure that we have sufficient space for nurses to perform these procedures at times that are convenient to our clients. So, by September the new consulting rooms will be ready, the student nurses will be training and the dust will settle briefly. I trust that through all of this, you will see your pets having excellent veterinary care with people who are highly trained and skilled but who also really care about your pet. Enjoy the glorious summer and enjoy your pets

Jason Williams Bicester Vets

August 778 - the Battle of Roncesvalles

Charlemagne, king of Francia and lower Germany, sent an expedition into Islamic Spain in 778. He had been encouraged to do so by Pope Hadrian who wanted to expand Christian influence throughout the peninsula and eliminate the Muslim presence.

The Muslims in the western Mediterranean were in disarray following the overthrow of the Umayyad Caliphate, that had at one time stretched from southern Spain across to the Middle East. In Spain Abd al-Rahman I headed an independent caliphate with a capital in Córdoba. Those opposing Al-Rahman sent envoys to Charlemagne at his capital at Paderborn, calling on Charlemagne for assistance to rid them of this interloper.

Charlemagne led an army into Islamic Spain where he was able to take Pamplona, a city damaged by earlier internecine wars. He then marched on to Zaragoza while a second army travelled to Barcelona. The garrisons of both cities refused to admit their nominal allies. Al-Rahman marched northwards sweeping the rebels before him and Charlemagne had no option but to retreat homewards. The chronicler Einhard tells a different story. According to him;

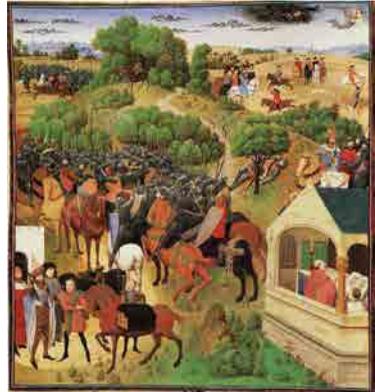
‘Charlemagne attacked Spain with the largest military expedition that he could collect. He crossed the Pyrenees, received the surrender of all the towns and fortresses that he attacked.’

Charlemagne may have felt pressured into accepting the rebels’ invitation in order to match the reputation of his grandfather Charles Martel who, in 721, pushed the Muslims out of Aquitaine and back over the Pyrenees.

It was at the end of this Spanish campaign that Charlemagne suffered his greatest defeat, glorified in the Chanson du Rolande written in the 11th century. The original crossing into al-Andalus over the Pyrenees had made enemies of the Gascons living in the mountains, they objected to the taking of Pamplona.

On the Frankish army’s return to Francia, circa 15th August, the Gascons attacked at Roncesvalles. Einhard records that the dastardly Gascons attacked the Frankish army marching enfilade through the narrow valleys, at the battle of Roncevaux Pass.

‘For while his army was marching in a long line....the Gascons placed an ambush on the top of the mountain....and then rushing down into the valley beneath threw into disorder the last part of the baggage train and also the rearguard which acted as a protection to those in advance. In the battle which followed the Gascons slew their opponents to the last man.’



Battle of Roncesvalles - continued

One of Charlemagne's captains, Roland died during the battle, along with a number of Charlemagne's friends and leading nobles. The humiliation of this defeat did not lower Charlemagne's standing in Francia.

Charlemagne's southern frontier was safe from attack as successive caliphs were too involved in internal problems to worry about expanding the caliphate northwards. The Christian kingdoms of Asturias, Navarre, Leon, Castile and Aragon acted as a buffer zone between Charlemagne's lands and al-Andalus.

Helen Lashbrook; see my blog Eclectic Potted Histories

www.wolfgang20.blogspot.co.uk

From Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Be Water Aware this summer

With the weather warming up, long sunny days and the summer holidays in sight, there is a temptation to cool off in one of Oxfordshire's many rivers and inland waterways. And while there may not be any river monsters waiting down there, unfortunately rivers and waterways can be very dangerous places - 255 people accidentally drowned in 2017 in the UK.



That's why, at this time of year, Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service is reminding all residents to Be Water Aware to help everyone stay safe this summer.

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Chesterton First World War Memorials - part four

These eleven young men with Chesterton village connections are commemorated on the Chesterton Church Memorial situated on the north wall inside the church.

Walter George Hathaway – Pte. Worcestershire Regiment 2nd/8th Battalion
183 Brigade 61st Division

Bapt. August 13th 1899 Walter George Hathaway son of Frederick and Ellen of Wendlebury. Sadly both his parents died before him, Ellen aged 44 years in 1916 and Frederick Hathaway aged 46 years in 1917, both residents of Little Chesterton. Walter was also grandson of Joseph Hathaway of Bicester. Walter died from his wounds aged 19 years on 28th August, 1918. He is buried in a grave at Aire Communal Cemetery.

George Frederick Thomas Austin – Pte. 6th (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Battalion

Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) 42nd Brigade 14th Division, he was formerly with the Hampshire Regiment.

Born in Blackthorn and baptised at Ambrosden Church on 5th March, 1899. His mother Amelia, was a single woman. He died on 14th September 1918 age 19, and was the nephew of S. J. Pitts of Bucknell.

“They Gave Their Today”

Chesterton Church Lych Gate

This is a fine memorial to those who died in the 1st World War. Erected in November 1919, made with an Oak frame and gates, it has Stonesfield slate roof tiles.

The timber frame is inscribed: “
1914-1919 TO THE GLORY OF
GOD A THANK OFFERING FOR
VICTORY AND PEACE. IN
MEMORY OF THOSE FROM THIS
VILLAGE WHO FELL IN THE WAR “



Inside the gate is inscribed: “ GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS THAT A
MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.“

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Parish Registers.

Further information from Jane Stead, tel. 01869 243908

Next month Wendlebury's WW1 fallen by Jeff Hewitt, followed by Middleton Stoney's in October.

Charlie Barker on Film - Fade to Black



The past few months have seen a number of powerhouse performances from leading actresses, notably Frances McDormand's Oscar-winning turn in Martin McDonagh's *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, Margot Robbie's excellent portrayal of disgraced figure skater Tonya Harding in Craig Gillespie's *I, Tonya* and more recently Toni Collette as the haunted mother in Ari Aster's over-hyped *Hereditary*. Now we have another superb lead performance, this time from Diane Kruger in Fatih Akin's German thriller *In the Fade*. Having played Helen in *Troy* (2004), a movie star in Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds* (2009) and even the equivalent of Saga Noren in an American version of *The Bridge*, Kruger gives a barn-storming performance in her first German language film as bereaved mother and wife, Katja Sekerci.

As the film opens Katja is happily married to ex-convict Nuri, a Kurdish man who has given up drug trafficking and works in a translation and tax office in Hamburg. They have a five year old son, Rocco. One day Katja drops Rocco off at Nuri's office on her way to meet a friend. On her return that evening she finds the road blocked off as a nail bomb has exploded outside Nuri's workplace. Her worst fears are realised when she learns that her husband and son have been killed in the blast. At this point she goes into meltdown and the remainder of the film sees her run the gamut of emotions following bereavement from inconsolable grief, guilt and incomprehension to seething rage and hatred. In examining her inner torment Akin and Kruger avoid melodramatic cliché and it is no surprise that her heart-wrenching and powerful performance won her the Cannes Film Festival Award for Best Actress.

In the Fade is structured in three acts. Firstly we see the crime and police investigation. While the police seem to think that the perpetrators of the crime come from within the immigrant community, Katja is convinced that it is the work of Neo-Nazis, and so it proves to be. The second act sees the bombers, a good-looking young German couple, in court where their defence lawyer, a wonderfully creepy Johannes Krisch, uses all his legal wiles to bring doubt into what is clearly an open and shut case. This is a powerful scene, for not only must Katja face those who have destroyed her family, but she must also hear the harrowing details of the physical effects of the nail bomb attack on her child. In the final act Katja's blistering desire for revenge comes to the fore, but it has to be said that this is the weakest section of the film.

While Akin has crafted a gripping political and legal thriller, *In the Fade* is ultimately flawed. However, there is no doubt that Kruger's stunning performance carries the film, a film which, in dealing with the rise of the far right and racist violence, could hardly be more timely.

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Middleton Stoney village cricket and BBQ

On Sunday 1st July we were all relieved that the sun was shining for our annual cricket match and BBQ, in fact it was HOT. Ninety four villagers including many children, settled under the magnificent trees in Middleton Park (thanks to the Davenports) with their picnic chairs and tables. The BBQ was cooked by three men who were also cooked in the sun, whilst there was a large selection of lovely salads for us to eat.

Grateful thanks to the Cricket Club and the Village Hall Committee and volunteers, lead by Debbie Pay for organising the event and particularly the delicious BBQ

Catherine Fulljames

The match report by the Club Captain, Simon Lee

Middleton Stoney won the toss yet again in this hot, dry summer and decided to bat first against Blue Lion, the Yorkshire touring side. Six of our best opening batsmen dropped down the order to allow a father and son combination, Nick and Joe Moorman, to open the innings together three days after the latter's 18th birthday. To give them every chance of success, an older Moorman generation went out to umpire. Thank you, David. The umpiring stint turned out to be for just a couple of overs, much like Joe's innings. This did include a handsome drive for 4 but then he played a late cut into safe hands behind the stumps. Richard Simpson came in at number three and hit 89 in no time at all. Richard batted superbly, striking four 6s but was not surprisingly caught in the deep.

After such a long wait, Tim Riley's innings took no time either, as he popped his first ball into the hands of short extra cover. Mark Ford-Langstaff, Tim House and Howard Lancaster each contributed an impressive boundary before being out, respectively, caught, bowled and run out by a fine piece of fielding. Mike Simpson was not out. Nick Moorman would have carried his bat for 112 if I had declared a ball earlier but he was caught in the last over before tea. Nick had concentrated against tight bowling for 149 minutes, playing shots when the occasional bad ball deserved it and hitting a good ball for a colossal 6, his impressive century taking us to a record score in recent times of 252 for 7 off 41.5 overs, against traditionally our strongest opponents in Blue Lion. Both Nick and Richard had entertained a record crowd of over one hundred, drawn also by the annual lunch-time village barbecue.

A big enough tea for the whole village was provided by Team Mumtaz. Innovations included the diversity of the food, the sign-posting of what it was, and the need to commander the entire length of one of the tables where we normally sit. Players and spectators alike were happy to take the food outside, some struggling to fit their generous portions of Jay's show-stopper ice cream cake through the pavilion's doors.

Tim Cranston and Mike Simpson opened the bowling. Joe Moorman and Tim House took over, then Richard Simpson and Nick Moorman began the last twenty overs. I had an over which brought Blue Lion back into the game.



I had intended to round off the day with Tim Cranston and Mike Simpson returning for their second spells. Even though these changes had their successes, however, I thought that a second spell from Richard Simpson and a third spell from Tim Cranston, switching ends, might break through the lower middle order. Tim Cranston, Nick Moorman and Richard Simpson duly took two wickets each.

In the recent T20, the Australian quick bowler Marcus Stoinis took a remarkable catch off his own bowling from a full-blooded swat to dismiss Alex Hales. Nick's caught and bowled was similar but much lower, testing for any player, let alone one who had just scored a century on one of the hottest days of the year. The victim was Blue Lion's top scorer, one of two Yorkshire batsmen to get into the 60s.

Continued.

Middleton Stoney cricket continued

He dismissed the next batsman LBW next ball to be on a hat-trick. Joe Moorman also took a good catch, off the bowling of Tim Cranston. Richard trapped the other high scorer LBW. Tim and Richard each clean bowled a batsman. Nick had the best figures of 5 overs, 2 for 14, to go with the game's century, and half of the exclusively Moorman haul of catches for Middleton Stoney.

What of those who did not bowl? Tim Riley was keeping wicket tidily, Howard Lancaster was scampering around saving singles and boundaries, while Jim Watson was nursing a back injury yet still patrolling the far boundary with his customary sure touch on the ground, albeit with a slight wobble when one ball came at drone level, and Mark Ford-Langstaff was at long on and third man. In the latter capacity, he adopted a tactic sometimes seen deployed by his fellow slip fielder, Mike Simpson, when reminding the captain that he would like to bowl. This weapon had been neutralised in the case of Mike by the simple device of asking him to open the bowling, before he could whirl his arms and while he was still tucking into Jay's Ice cream cake. Mark has been bowling more and more this season but not in this match. So he just bowled his faster ball in from that third man boundary instead and hit the stumps to run out their number six. I was still expecting Tim or Richard to complete a victory by taking a hat-trick in the last two of our 39 overs but Blue Lion batted out for the draw, closing on 194 for 7.

Simon Pettit and Jon O'Neill had run the bar through a busy day, with a sideline in providing frequent drinks intervals for the players (a task which involves yet more washing up). Chris Greer kept score throughout the whole game. Jon slipped out on to the square to brush the dust away from the pitch between innings. Simon was still there at the end of a long evening, serving a thirsty mix of players, spectators and those watching World Cup football on the pavilion television. Countless families just about kept their children safe on the boundary as Richard and Nick hit the ball hard into the crowd. Blue Lion fielders bravely strode into the long grass and bushes to retrieve balls which had been despatched in other directions. Spoilt for choice for a champagne moment, I opted for Nick Moorman's caught and bowled as the highlight of his sparkling performance.

Our visitors from Yorkshire stayed long into the evening.

Simon Lee

Middleton Stoney Cricket Club Fixtures

Date	<u>Opposition</u>	<u>Venue and time</u>
AUGUST		
5	Didcot	Away 2.00pm
Wed. 8	Isis	Home 6.00pmT20
12	Pelicans	Home 2.00pm
19	Jesters	Home 1.30pm
26	Simmons	Home 2.00pm
SEPTEMBER		
2	Invalids	Home 1.30pm
9	Turville Park	Away 1.00pm
16	The Law Society	Home 1.00pm
23	Glos. Gipsies	Home 1.00pm

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This month's puzzle—Find the 16 football teams in the knockout stage of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Answers on page 19

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

Puzzle set by Gabriel

Interruption to electricity supply in Middleton Stoney and Chesterton areas

The electricity supply will be temporarily disrupted on WEDNESDAY 01 AUGUST 2018 at 8.00 am and returning at 17.00.

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CHESTERTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL – SUMMER 2018

As we reach the end of this academic year, it is time to reflect on our pupils' many successes and achievements over the Summer Term, and the year as a whole. The school community has been extremely busy in a variety of areas; from stage to sport, music to May Day, Summer Fayres to SATs! The pupils and staff have clearly been working hard and putting in plenty of extra effort to ensure that we have ended this academic year in style.

Leavers 2018

Over the last two weeks of term, the pupils in Year 6 will celebrate and reflect on their time at Chesterton in the annual Leavers' Service and Collective Worship, along with their parents and the Year 6 staff. Along with the rest of Upper School, they are also preparing for their World War Two themed production, Archibald's War. I have recently written comments on the Year 6 pupils' end of year reports and I certainly wasn't short of things to say! I have been fortunate to be able to witness their final three years at Chesterton and have certainly been impressed with the wide range of ways in which they have contributed to the school. Whether it is through performing arts, effort in the classroom, or sporting achievement, the Year 6 cohort have thrown themselves into every opportunity with enthusiasm, and no shortage of talent. We wish them well for secondary school and on into the adult world. We certainly hope that they will keep in touch and we look forward to hearing about how they are getting on.

Extra-Curricular Activities

It's not just our Year 6s who have been involved in exciting activities beyond the classroom. This term always provides many opportunities for pupils across the school and the scorching summer of 2018 has been no exception. Back in June, our talented singers took part in a wonderful massed-choir extravaganza at the Festival of Voices, held at Dorchester Abbey. They also performed a short set at the Summer Fayre, organised by our dedicated School Association. The Fayre made an incredible profit of over £1800, funds which support us in purchasing those added extras that our ever-shrinking budget can't quite stretch to. Our performing arts exploits don't just extend to the vocal talent of our choir, as Chesterton pupils have also recently been involved in May Day, a modern dance showcase at Cooper School, and a musical instrument assembly that included performances from pianists, guitarists, woodwind and brass.

Continued .

As always, we have been active in the sporting sphere too, aiming to out-do our larger neighbouring schools in events arranged by the local sports partnership. This term, we have taken part in football, cricket, athletics, tennis, swimming, to name but a few. There has even been Quidditch taking place on the school field! Our most recent highlight was our swimming team regaining the Village Schools Swimming Gala title that we last won in 2016.

Prospective Parents

If you are new to the area or have younger children due to start primary school in September 2019 or beyond, I would encourage you to contact the school office (office.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk) to arrange a visit. It would be our pleasure to show you around the school. There are currently a limited number of spaces in certain year groups. Our catchment area includes Weston-On-The-Green, Wendlebury, Middleton Stoney and Chesterton itself, although we have a number of families from further afield.



Victoria Prentis MP

Member of Parliament for North Oxfordshire

Contact Victoria

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Sandra Homewood



Darren Jeffs



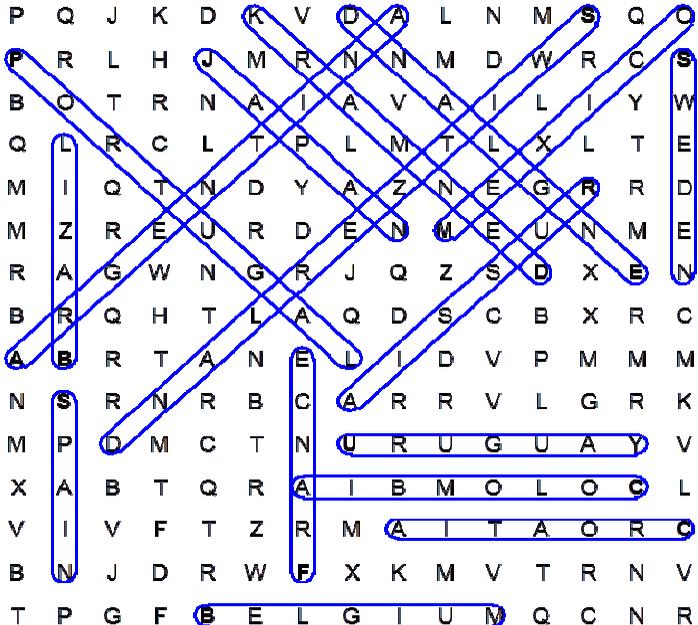
Clare Hunter

Headington: 01865 570 700 Marston: 01865 570 000 Bicester: 01869 208 000

www.homewoodfunerals.co.uk

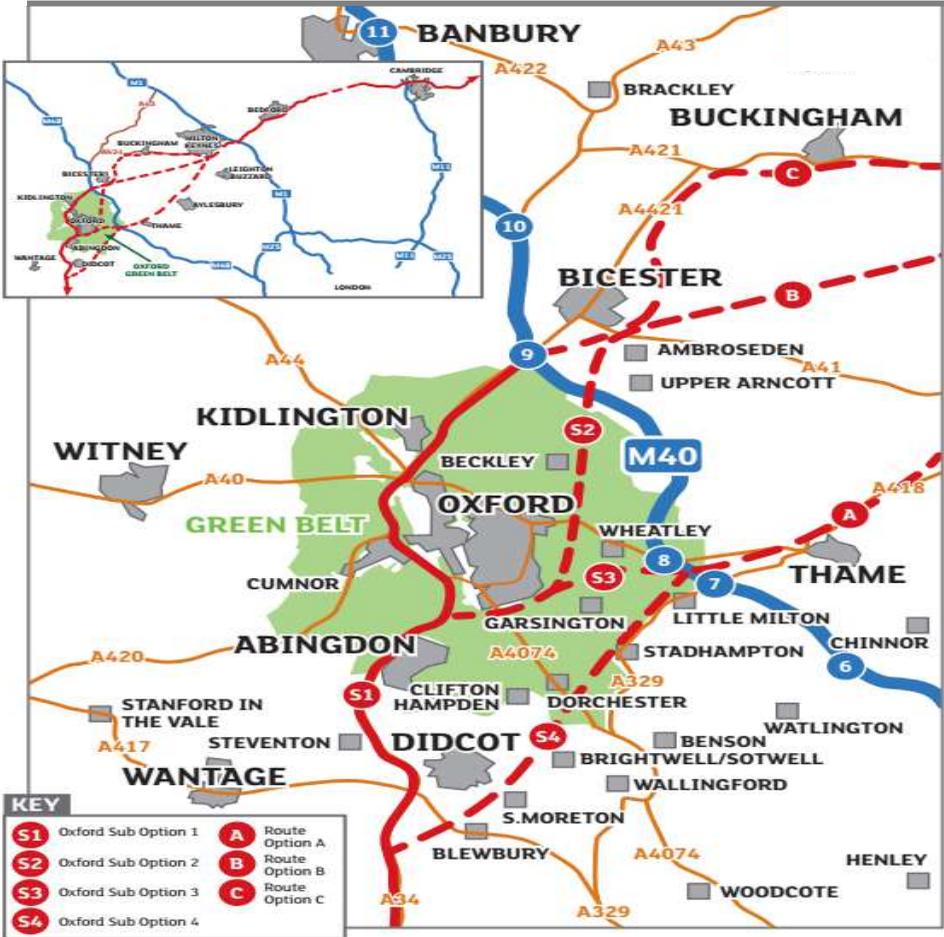


Answers
 to this
 month's
 puzzle



Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

Options B and C both appear to cross the M40 in the vicinity of junction 9 and pass between Wendlebury and Ambroseden which will have a significant impact on the Bicester area. (A protest walk was organised against the proposed route across Otmoor on Sunday July 8th (Option A).



SPANISH TUITION

and conversation for adults by native Spanish speaker. Contact 07968 950556

HORSE MANURE available to gardeners.

Bagged for collection or for wheelbarrows. Contact Katy Hobbs on 01869 243993. Any donations appreciated.

CHESTERTON PARISH COUNCIL JULY REPORT

The Parish Council met on Tuesday, July 3rd – unfortunately FIFA arranged the England v Colombia on the same night!

The following issues were discussed:

Road closures & road works

Despite constant requests the Parish Council is not being informed of the timings of road closures as with The Hale or the likely duration for the laying of gas and water mains along the A4095. We are really sorry for the upset and inconvenience caused by these works as part of the Audley Gardens development which we strongly opposed in the first place. It seems that the last people to be considered are those directly affected by these ongoing roadworks. ‘The Hale’ appears to be narrower now the footpath has been done and we are checking this with OCC Highways. We have already contacted AWH Utility Services, the contractors for the gas & water mains, over their desecration of the Top Green. We were not asked for any permission to store equipment or vehicles on the site.

Footpaths

Residents have commented on the improvements done to the footpath on The Ginnel by OCC Highways. This was financed by Section 106 money from Hill Residential directly to OCC. Initially the plan was to complete the footpath from Audley Gardens via the Allotments, crossing Fortescue Drive and then down The Ginnel to Alchester Road but the sum agreed was inadequate for the whole footpath so we are now reliant on the developers to finance the remaining section of the footpath to the site.

Chesterton Community Woodland

The timescale for the handover is now set in January/February of 2019 – this will then generate the creation of some grassed paths across the site but it will take some time to progress all the infrastructure being planned. Cherwell District Council are now planning to set up a ‘Development Committee’ to manage and plan the development of the Community Woodland/Country Park. This will consist of 2 Parish Councillors, a representative from the Burnehyll Woodland Working Group, with representatives from Bicester Town Council, CDC and OCC.

Comet Bus Update

This is now operating with two journeys on Monday mornings with afternoon returns. This is for a 20 week trial period after which the Parish Council will review the usage made by Chesterton residents. For the journeys to continue after this time a monthly charge of £60 will be made to the Parish Council. Users will pay a small sum to join the scheme and buy tickets to use the service. Clearly the more users the more likely it is for this service to continue! We have yet to be informed of the likely cost of tickets.

CHESTERTON PARISH COUNCIL JUNE REPORT - continued

Summer Activities Programme

This will run on Thursday mornings for an hour from 10.00am on August 2nd and these sessions will be free – Cllr Jo Martin is coordinating this programme and publicity is going through the school and on websites

Use of the Playing Fields

Just to clarify the position over business & charity use of the Playing Fields – the Parish Council own the freehold of the Playing Fields & delegate the management to the Playing Fields Committee who control any lettings (not to be confused with general use by residents) for organised activity, both commercial and for charity events. In all cases of lettings there is an insistence on Public Liability Insurance, DBS checks and First Aid qualifications. The Chair of the Playing Fields Committee is Steve Honey and it is down to him and his Committee that the playing fields are maintained in such a good condition despite intensive use for most of the year.

Allotments

We are continuing to release uncultivated plots and are well aware of the waiting list. We apologise that this has taken such a long time but our aim now is to have all the allotments cultivated and in good order by the end of March 2019.

Other areas

We are about to launch the start of the Neighbourhood Planning process in September and will meet with other local Parish Councils to go through the final recommendations of the Highways Agency over the Oxford-Cambridge expressway which, if the Option C Corridor is the recommendation, could have a marked effect on the Chesterton-Bicester area.

Chestertots

Chestertots has run very successfully over the past three years with the hall full of mums, carers and lots of toddlers. Unfortunately the leaders now have children moving on to Play Group or Chesterton Primary School and we need more support if the group is to continue. If you feel that you can give some time on a Monday morning please contact Alex Brennan on 01869 572260 or Fiona Rowe on 07889 385100 either of whom will be really pleased to hear from you. Age is no barrier to helping. Do offer to help if you can.

Next meeting – Tuesday September 4th at 7.30pm in the Colin Board Room. Residents, as always, are welcome to attend and raise issues of concern.

Philip Clarke (on behalf of the Parish Council)

NEWS FROM MIDDLETON STONEY:

Middleton Stoney Parish Council held their latest meeting on Monday 2nd July.

Some of the key highlights included:

- A comprehensive debate over the hybrid planning application at Heyford Park - especially no details over traffic mitigation for the village.
- The options for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.
- The parish council's supporting of nearby parish councils potentially affected by the proposed Expressway.
- Middleton Stoney Parish Council's participation in the forthcoming Code of Conduct Training.
- The pending RoSPA playground inspection this month.
- The success of the Spring Clean in May 2018
- Recent investments in the Village Hall – including new chairs and a new water heater.
- The outstanding success of the Village Barbeque at the cricket club on July 1st.
- For further details on any of these issues, please visit our website.
www.middletonstoney.com

Please can you help to distribute the ABC?

With the first occupants due to move into Audley Gardens in late August / early September, is there someone who would volunteer to deliver the ABC to them?

If you are willing to help, please contact Chris Boyer on 01869 244849 or email cboyer3229@aol.com.

Maths tutor with some availability from September 2018 - KS2, KS3 and KS4.

Please call Sam on 07786436033 for further discussion



Wendlebury Community Choir



Wendlebury Community Choir entertained audiences on the 15th and 16th June with their Summer Concert. The programme included music by Brahms, a 'Les Miserables' favourite, some Disney classics and a selection from 'West Side Story'. We enjoyed solo performances from Beth Dodson-Wells, Amanda Davies, Kim Burdett, Paul Walker and Trish Lee. We were treated to a wonderful performance on the harp by Orlando Rivière playing 'Some of My Favourite Things' and the 'Theme from the Pink Panther' and Mark Burden, our musical director, 'wowed' us playing a selection of Chopin studies.



Profits from the evening were donated to Bridewell Therapeutic Gardens and the choir are truly pleased to be able to contribute £878.89 to this local worthy cause.



Thanks to all for your support – look out for our Christmas Concerts in December and if anyone is interested in joining us for our next term of rehearsals we kick off again in September! Please email: wendleburycommunitychoir@gmail.com



Men, as always, are very desirable!





YOUNG FAMILIES SERVICE

1st Sunday of every month – St. Mary's, Chesterton at 11am.

SUNDAY AUGUST 5TH 2018

YOUNG FAMILIES PICNIC

COME AND JOIN US FOR A SHORT OUTDOOR SERVICE FOLLOWED BY A BYO PICNIC IN THE CHURCH PADDOCK.

ALL WELCOME

ANY QUERIES – PLEASE CONTACT SUE ASHDOWN ON 07780997518

Please note that there will be no monthly lunch at the JPII centre in August. They will continue from September. See What's On.

Chesterton S Mary's 200 club

The winner was Janet Attwood with ticket number 1. Her charity is ME research.

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

1 st	Chesterton	1-2 pm Silver Swans ballet class for the over-50s in the Community Centre every Wednesday . £20 for a 4 week course. Contact Emma on 07834195180
	Bell Ringing	All Saints Church, Middleton Stoney every Wednesday 7.30 – 8.30pm. Beginners welcome Tel: Jen 343225
3 rd	Bicester	Coffee and Chat at Hanover Gardens every Friday 10am All welcome telephone 246388 for further information
	Table Tennis	Chesterton Community Centre 7pm every Friday all welcome (Tel 243993 for further information)
6 th	Chestertots	10 – 11.30am in Chesterton Community Centre for children up to 5 years old. (Every Monday excluding Bank Holidays)
	Evergreens	1.30 Chesterton Community Centre Talk by Fiona Rowe on 'Sign Language' We welcome new members – for more info tel: 252806
	Community Choir	St. Giles Church, Wendlebury every Monday evening 8 – 9.15pm Contact Catie Williams (catiefwilliams@yahoo.co.uk) for further information
9 th	Farmers Mkt	Bicester 8.30am – 2pm
10 th	Bicester	Coffee Morning at St John Paul II Centre, The Causeway 10 – 11.45. £2 coffee & cake. All Welcome
18 th	Bicester	Local group 'The Ramps' in Garth Park 7.30 – 10pm. www.bicester.gov.uk for ticket prices and information
19 th	Bicester	Car Show in Garth Park 12 – 4pm
25 th	Bicester	'Just 80's' Live music in Garth Park 7.30 – 10pm www.bicester.gov.uk for ticket prices and information
25-26-27	Chesterton	Red Cow 3 day Beer and Cider Festival and family fun
28 th	Bicester	There will be NO monthly lunch at the St John Paul II Centre
29 th	Community Lunch	NO CHESTERTON COMMUNITY LUNCH THIS MONTH

VUE CINEMA Bicester – Programme for August

NO EVENTS THIS MONTH

A note for your diary **Middleton Stoney Harvest Supper** will be on Friday 28 September 2018 in the Village Hall. Full details to follow

"Ride and Stride Oxfordshire : All Saints Middleton Stoney

Here is the opportunity to get out your bikes or walking boots to take part in the annual Ride and Stride to raise money for Oxfordshire churches. It will take place on Saturday 8 September and we will be raising money for All Saints' Church in Middleton Stoney. Last year we raised an increased amount and it would be great to have even more people involved this year. If you want to take part or help by sitting in the church on the day to welcome visitors, please contact the Rees family on 01869 343418. We have done it as a family for 10 years now and always find it great fun.

Jonathan Rees

Educational Grants - Countess of Jersey's Educational Foundation

Each year, the Countess of Jersey's Foundation provides a number of modest grants to young people resident in the nominal catchment areas of the Bicester Secondary Schools, who are leaving secondary education. The foundation provides non-repayable funds for the provision of financial assistance.

In terms of the Foundation grants are made by the Trustees to young people who, in the opinion of the Trustees, are in need of financial assistance and are resident in the prescribed area, with first preference to those who are resident in the parish of Middleton Stoney and the second preference for those who are female.

Application for Financial Assistance – Application forms can be obtained from: The Clerk, Countess of Jersey's Foundation, Rectory Farmhouse, Bicester Road, Middleton Stoney, OX25 4TD (01869 343 284) and must be completed and returned by **Monday 18th September 2017**.

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*Based on a lawn size of 40m²

Letter from Gareth Miller , Rector of The Akeman Benefice

Dear friends

In the middle of my bookshelves sits, appropriately, a book entitled 'A Life at the Centre' by the late Roy Jenkins. Those who are of riper years will recall 'Woy' and the other members of the Gang of Four who founded the short-lived SDP in 1981.

But is the centre a good place to be? Most mainstream politicians in this country and elsewhere tend to gravitate towards it and believe that elections are most likely to be won by appealing to the electorate's moderate instincts. Or so it used to be. Latterly we have seen an alarming rise in the number of politicians seeking to arouse our baser reflexes.

"Things fall apart. The centre cannot hold." So wrote William Butler Yeats in his much-quoted poem 'Second Coming.' Yeats was writing in 1919, after WW1 but before fascism had reared its ugly head.

The referendum of 2016 tore the country in two. These devices, rather like first-past-the-post elections, encourage polarisation by simplifying complex issues and demanding Yes/No answers or a Tory/Labour vote. Exacerbated by the ease of access to the social media, public discourse becomes characterised by a coarse and hectoring tone.

Continued over.

Yeats went on: Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

When I was growing up our cabinets were populated by men such as Roy Jenkins, Denis Healey, Ted Heath and the much-respected Lord Carrington, recently deceased. These men, along with churchmen such as Robert Runcie, had seen service in the Second World War and had experienced at first hand the havoc caused when demagoguery goes unchecked. They were consequently committed to such projects as the setting up of the United Nations and the European Community.

The virtues of trying to find the centre ground should not be underestimated, whether in politics, in church affairs, or in our family lives and relationships. It is easy to caricature it as wishy-washy. Runcie was once accused of nailing his colours firmly to the fence! I am proud that the Church of England has, for the most part, attempted to be the voice of reason and moderation. This ethos was built into its founding documents. The Preface to The Book of Common Prayer of 1662, written by Bishop Sanderson of Lincoln, states that the liturgy contained therein tries "to keep the mean between the two extremes, of too much stiffness in refusing, and of too much easiness in admitting any variation."

The importance of moderation, sober reflection and the avoidance of extremes has been advocated by all the great philosophers, notably Aristotle and Socrates. In the mythological Cretan tale Daedalus built feathered wings for himself and his son so that they might escape the clutches of King Minos. Daedalus warns his beloved son to "*fly the middle course*", between the sea spray and the sun's heat. Icarus did not heed his father; he flew up and up until the sun melted the wax off his wings. For not heeding the middle course, he fell into the sea and drowned.

In our often raucous and intemperate world it was really heartening to see the exemplary behaviour of Gareth Southgate at the World Cup, setting a very fine standard for his team, their supporters and the rest of us. As our country faces difficult challenges in the months ahead I hope and pray that all of us will be quick to listen, slow to speak, and hear those who disagree with us with respect and generosity.

Gareth

SERVICES IN THE AKEMAN BENEFICE

August 2018

Book of Common Prayer

+ Preacher

August 5

Trinity 10

Chesterton	0800	Holy Communion #
Wendlebury	0915	Holy Communion
Bletchington	1100	Holy Communion
Chesterton	1100	Young Families followed by picnic
Middleton St	1100	Morning Worship
Hampton Gay	1515	Evensong #
Kirtlington	1600	Family Service

August 12

Trinity 11

Bletchington	0800	Holy Communion #
Kirtlington	0915	Holy Communion
Chesterton	1100	Holy Communion
Weston o/t G	1100	Family Service

August 19

Trinity 12

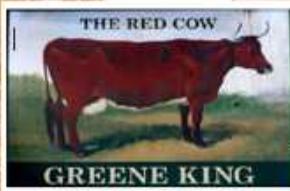
Kirtlington	0800	Holy Communion #
Middleton St	0915	Holy Communion
Bletchington	1000	Family Service
Chesterton	1100	Chesterton Praise
Weston o/t G	1100	Holy Communion
Kirtlington	1800	Evensong #

August 26

Trinity 13

Middleton St	1030	UB Holy Communion
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Thursday Communion at Kirtlington at 0930: Aug 2nd; 9th; 16th; 23rd; 30th



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