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Challow News

- May 2021 -



'Challow News' is the Community Newsletter of St. Nicholas Church, East Challow

St. Nicholas Church, East Challow.

OX12 9SH

(Vale Benefice)

Parish Eucharist

Sundays: 11.15am

Family Service

Temporarily Suspended

2nd Sunday 9.30am (Monthly)

Weekday Eucharist

Thursdays 10am



Vicar: Rev John Durant

The Vicarage, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ

01235 766484

Email: vicar@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar: Rev Alec Gill

07739 563894

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Curate: Rev Chris Ashton

Email: curatechris@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch

Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ

Open: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 12.00

Tel: 01235 771479

Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk

Churchwardens

Mrs Ruth Pepler: 01235 762197

Mrs Linda Hopkins: 01235 767121

Pastoral Support

To help our Vicars Revd John Durant and Revd Alec Gill in the pastoral support of the village, Liz Belcher will be acting as the local contact within the village for those who are in need of a home visit, home communion or other support that we as a church may be able to provide.

If we can help, please contact Liz on 01235 763966

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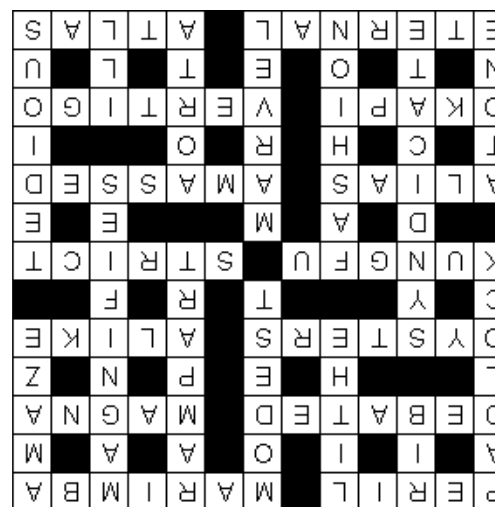
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PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting takes place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

DEFIBRILLATOR

East Challow Parish Council would like to thank R&S Construction Ltd for making adjustments to the telephone kiosk door so that it can be opened and closed properly. Over the winter the door had swollen and was jammed shut. The defibrillator is located in the old red telephone kiosk on the village green. If you need a defibrillator in an emergency, the 999 call handler will tell you where it is and give you the code to access it. By performing CPR and using a defibrillator, you'll give someone having a cardiac arrest the best possible chance of survival.

MAY BANK HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Which Bin
Monday 3rd May	Tuesday 4th May	Black & Food
Monday 31st May	Tuesday 1st June	Black & Food

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next parish council meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 6 May. This will also be the annual meeting of the parish council. All villagers are invited to attend parish council meetings as observers and there is a 10 minute public discussion time early in the meeting when you can raise any matter you wish with the council. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the meeting will be held virtually online.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Vanessa Bosley: (Chair) 01235 764068
Frances Webb: (Vice Chair) 01235 765176
Sarah Parker: 01235 762565
Iris Game: 01235 770412

Trevor Hayes: trevorhayes805@btinternet.com
Paul Barrow: Paul.Barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Wende Blowfield:

Clerk to East Challow Parish Council

Sheryl Sanders: 01235 760394
e-mail: eastchallowpc@gmail.com.

VICAR'S LETTER - A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"...as the dragon, poised to devour its helpless pray, looms over the stranded Princess, the gallant St George charges the crest of the hill, dealing a fatal blow to the scaly beast, freeing the young maiden and bringing peace to the traumatised countryside."

It's not a bad story, many a film has been inspired by the fairy-tale trope of the helpless princess being saved by the dashing knight, which is so perfectly captured in the tale of St George and the dragon.

April 23rd was St Georges day and for some this either conjures up a childish story of monsters and hero's, or an uncomfortable reminder of the Cross of St George's flag and its previous connection with football hooliganism.

But, St George has so much more to offer us.

The real St George is understood to have been born in current-day Turkey, before re-locating to Palestine, where he served in the Roman army, rising in the ranks until he was martyred for not renouncing his Christian faith. Over the years, his example of faithful obedience and courageous dedication to God, become entwined with the legend of coming to the help of others (while fighting a great big dragon). St George has continued to inspire people over the years and across the world, as this Mediterranean refugee soldier and martyr, is the patron Saint of a long list of countries including England, Greece, Russia and Ethiopia.

It is only in the last few years, as I have been asked to preach about St George, that I began to look at him in greater detail. Where at one time, I only saw a story-book character, I am now beginning to see why this combination of a dedicated and determined man alongside the narrative of a heroic stranger coming to meet the needs of others, has inspired so many.

Our patron Saint is a reminder to me of Jesus' dual command to put our faith at the centre of our lives and to continually look to help and care for others. It is this mixture of God first and putting others before ourselves, captured in the life and legend of St George, that has fuelled the spread of the Christian gospel across the world and inspired the church to care for others, from setting up; schools, hospitals, charities and hospices to inspiring legal structures and supporting human rights.

Whenever we face "monsters", when the wants and desires of some threaten to limit and damage the lives of others. All of us can be reminded of the importance of integrity and holding on to our beliefs in the face of oppressive opposition and the continuing priority to fight for the needs and freedom of others. Even if we don't wear a suit of armour and wave around a great big spear!

God bless,

Alec

- NEWS FROM THE PEWS -

Here we are May already, and we have started to have some services back in the Church, for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

it was so good to see everyone who was able to attend.

Thank you to all who attended our Easter Sunday Service and those who brought a potted plant, flowers, an arrangement /display to make our Church look so beautiful, plus all those of you who cleaned, maintained and prepared the Church to be ready.

Also not forgetting our Holy Mowers who made the Churchyard a picture.

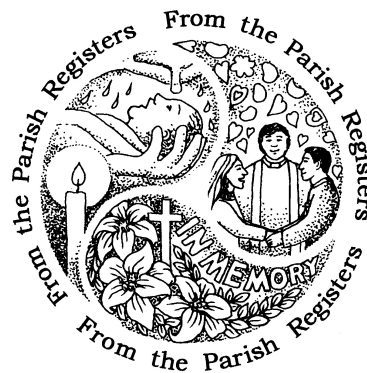
You may have noticed the new Notice board near the Lych gate. This was refurbished by Les Belcher and we have had lots of lovely comments on what a good job he made of it .

Thank you Les it was blessed by Curate: Rev Chris Ashton on Easter Sunday after we sung our final hymn outside in the Church yard .

As the restrictions are lifted further we will be holding more services following the Government Guidelines and being mindful of keeping everyone safe.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us or the office.

Linda Hopkins
Church Warden



All Information / details are held as Public
Records within the Vale Benefice

Become a Governor at St Nicholas C. of E. Primary School

Do you believe that every child, regardless of background and circumstances, deserves an excellent education?
Do you want to help make this happen, and be part of an inclusive and committed team of governors?
Our Local Governing Body shares a common purpose of continually improving the educational experience for all children at our school, and we believe we make the strongest contribution when our team is comprised of governors with a diverse range of experiences and backgrounds.

Why become a governor – 2 minute video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i06ESSQCMv4>

About the school

St Nicholas Primary School is a member of the Vale Academy Trust, a family of state-funded primary and secondary schools, all located in south Oxfordshire. The Trust is a 'Multi-Academy Trust', or MAT, and as such provides non-selective education for children in the catchment areas served by its schools. You can find out more on the school website.

St Nicholas Primary website: <https://www.st-nicholas-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>

The Local Governing Body

The Local Governing Body (LGB) of St Nics is comprised of 1 staff governor, 2 parent governors, and 2 foundation governors and 3 director-appointed governors. The current vacancy is 'director-appointed' and refers to governors that are officially appointed by the Board of the Trust, rather than through parent or staff elections.

What does the LGB do?

The LGB has three core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for both the educational performance of the school and the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Our aim is to become a top-performing governing body, able to support the vision to become a top-performing school. It is an exciting time to join us. A governor must be age 18 or over, but aside from this legal requirement we welcome applications from all persons and we will not discriminate on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Do I need education sector experience or have children at the school to be a governor?

Absolutely not. Most of our governors don't have children at the school and have no background in education. You do need to be committed to the school, willing to ask questions and offer appropriate support and challenge to the Headteacher. As well as the support you'll get from fellow governors, the Trust runs a full programme of induction training and tools, and provides ongoing assistance from our dedicated governance team, all designed to help make being a governor a rewarding experience.

How much time would I have to commit?

Governors are expected to attend 6 evening meetings of the LGB each year – these typically last around 2 hours each. We also encourage every governor to take a lead role in some areas of school activity, which can be arranged at a time to suit you and the school. In addition, the Trust runs governance development sessions on about 4 evenings each year and encourages all governors to attend as many as possible.

During Covid-19 restrictions all meetings are held remotely via the Internet.

Did You Know?

If you're an employee, you may have the right to ask for time off to fulfil some of your school governor activities. We can help if you want guidance on this

I'm interested. What next?

In the first instance, please make contact with Vicky Roberts, our Head of Governance, for an informal chat on the phone or in person. Vicky will connect you with the Chair of St Nicholas LGB to move things forward.

Contact Vicky: vroberts@vale-academy.org or 07387 019 785

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Day of Pentecost



Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest.

It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

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It is with great sadness that after nearly 90 years East Challow WI is to be suspended as from 1st April 2021, following the Special Meeting held by Zoom on Friday 26th March at 07.30 2021, and this is a members decision following a ballot.

We are still unable to fulfil the requirements for a Committee to run a WI, therefore by suspending it means that our current bank balance is frozen for three years so that the WI can be restarted at anytime within that period by contacting the Oxfordshire Federation WI (OFWI).

It is sad that East Challow has lost this valuable asset for local women. The WI is an organisation that empowers women and much to belief it is for women of all ages.

Take up the challenge restart East Challow WI.

DATE	READER	READINGS
May 2nd Easter 5 [White]	G. Parker	Genesis 22: 1 - 18 Acts 8: 26 - 40
May 9th No Service in Church		Isaiah 55: 1 - 11 Acts 10: 44 - 48
May 16th [White]	J. Penfold	Ezekiel 36: 24 - 28 1 John 5: 9 - 13
May 23rd Pentecost [Red]	M. Mann	Acts 2: 1 - 21 Romans 8: 22 - 27
May 30th Trinity [White]	A. Tranter	Isaiah 6: 1 - 8 Romans 8: 12 - 17

All Readers must bring their own Bible to read from

Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Organist	Cleaning
02-May	P. Pepler	F. Webb N. Langford	R. Pepler	L. Belcher L. Hopkins
09-May	M. Mann	P. Rumsey V. Brewster	R. Pepler	
16-May	J. Penfold	J. Penfold L. Belcher	G. Parker	J. Penfold M. Perkins
23-May	N. Langford	T. Shand S. Giles	G. Parker	
30-May	P. Pepler	F. Webb N. Langford	R. Pepler	L. Belcher L. Hopkins

Face coverings must be worn or an exemption badge worn & clearly visible

Date	Intercessions	Flowers	Thursday	Sacristan
02-May	P. Pepler	Heather	06-May	M. Mann
09-May	M. Mann	Mary	13-May	J. Penfold
16-May	J. Penfold	Jenny	20-May	J. Teare
23-May	J. Teare	Mandy	27-May	M. Perkins
30-May	P. Pepler	Juliet	03-Jun	M. Mann



CRICKET IS BACK!!!!

We're really pleased to be able to restart Cricket, both training and matches, and also to be able to welcome you all back to our scenic ground to meet with friends and enjoy a beverage or two.

Bar opening times will be as displayed on our website

www.challowcricket.co.uk

and we will of course be adhering to Government guidelines on Covid secure premises

There is a league match each Saturday, with the bar open from noon
Other matches can be found on our website, including
Oxfordshire vs Berkshire on Sunday 9th May

Youth Cricket training takes place on Friday evenings, see our website www.challowcricket.co.uk for more info

Membership is just £20 per person, and gives you all year round access to the Club

www.challowcricket.co.uk

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All entries for the June

Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by 15th May 2021

Email: nigel.langford@me.com

St. Nicholas Church 200 Club - Monthly Draw

February Results

£50 - N° 16 - Mrs A. Parker
£20 - N° 7 - Mr Mawdesley
£10 - N° 53 - Mrs Webb

March Results

£50 - N° 165 - Mr & Mrs McGill
£20 - N° 68 - Mrs D Kay
£10 - N° 5 - Mr P. Rumsey

April Results

£50 - N° 59 - Mr K. Moss
£20 - N° 14 - Mr W Oakes
£10 - N° 69 - Mr & Mrs Ilott

We are looking for more members ~ Would you like to join?

Subscriptions to the 200 Club contribute towards the £20,000 which is required annually to keep our village Church open, in good repair and available for all who wish to use it.

**The 200 Club is a monthly draw with 3 prizes each month - £50, £20 and £10
There is an additional prize of £100 in December.**

The draw takes place on the first Sunday of every month, during coffee after morning service. The cost is £2 per number per month, which can be paid monthly, 6 monthly or annually, and can be paid for by Cash or Standing Order.

**If you would like to join the 200 Club, please contact Tricia Shand
Email: the.shandies@btinternet.com
Telephone: 01235 764222**



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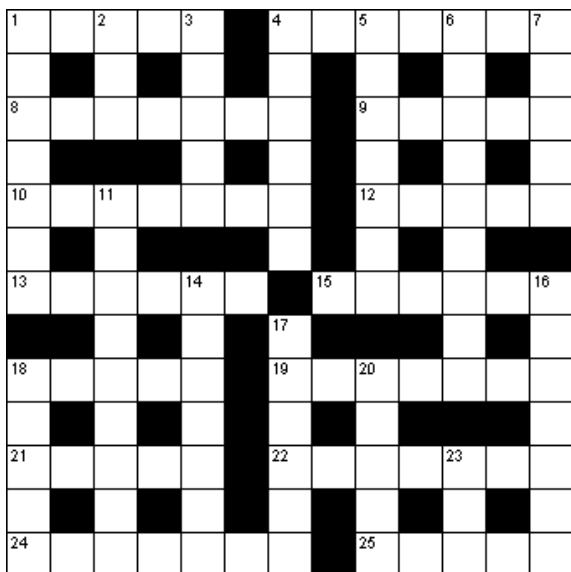
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www.challownews.org

Crossword Puzzle



Solutions on Page 22

Across

1. Danger (5)
4. Percussion instrument (7)
8. Deliberated (7)
9. Molten rock (5)
10. Marine mollusks (7)
12. Similar (5)
13. Martial art (4,2)
15. Rigorous (6)
18. Assumed name (5)
19. Accumulated (7)
21. Similar to a giraffe (5)
22. Dizziness (7)
24. Perpetual (7)
25. Book of maps (5)

Down

1. Security device (7)
2. Bone (3)
3. Supple (5)
4. Plain (6)
5. Fortification (7)
6. Enlarges (9)
7. Astound (5)
11. Consortium (9)
14. Mode (7)
16. Irksome (7)
17. Wonder (6)
18. Repent (5)
20. Artery (5)
23. Unwell (3)

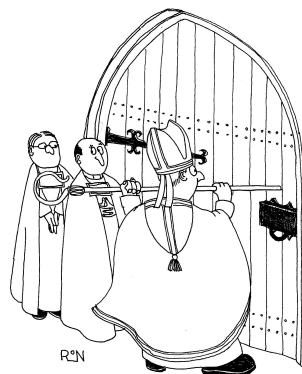
Cartoons



"After a year of working from home, Anthony will seize any opportunity to put on a suit"



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden



There didn't seem to be anyone in

TOPICAL TALK

What will happen to our offices in the future

There will be less of them – a lot less.

In fact, one recent study warns that the pandemic will mean office space in the UK shrinks by a fifth, which is 18 million square ft.

Certainly, the current flexibility of working from home, brought on by the pandemic, seems set to bring in permanent changes, according to the risk management and insurance broker Gallagher.

In the future, office will be mainly for collaborating or attending meetings, or for storing vital equipment and IT. Working in an office five days a week will become a thing of the past. And of course, that, in turn, will have a profound impact on the look and shape of our cities.

100 years of the British Legion

One hundred years ago, on 15th May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who've given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

Do you love a bargain?

Some people adore bargains, promotions, and cut-price items. They are the ones who always forage out reduced clothing and food, collect coupons and loyalty points with great care, and are at the front of the queue to bag items on Black Friday.

Now a new study has found that such deal-prone bargain-hunting may be more than a preference – it may even run in your genes. It could be a tendency which is passed on genetically as well as learned.

The study was published in the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research.

Could an open-plan house damage your marriage?

Think twice before you knock down internal walls in your house and move over to open-plan living. If you are married, it does not lead to happiness.

So says Sarah Beeney, the TV property presenter. She points out that open-plan living means that “you cannot shut a door” after rowing with your partner.

The star, who is married with four children, admits she has no plans to knock down walls in their new house. Speaking recently to Prima magazine, she said that people are too often “fooled into thinking that open-plan living is the solution to happiness.”

She went on: “I’m not convinced that taking down every wall and living in an aircraft hangar is actually that great. Sometimes it’s nice to not have to see the other’s face or hear them.”

Beware the use-by date

Nobody likes to throw food away, but if you ignore the use by dates and go by smell alone, you can risk serious illness.

So warns the Food Standards Agency. In a recent study, the regulator found that half of us do not always check use-by dates.

Many of us still smell the milk to see if it is still okay, and even Theresa May, the former Prime Minister, has admitted to scraping the mould off jam in order to cut waste.

The agency has warned that some Britons who actively ignore use-by dates could risk being hospitalised. Use-by dates are carefully calculated by assessing bacteria on food which could multiply to make them ill.

A spokesman for the agency said: “It’s great that consumers are trying to minimise food waste, but there are lots of ways to do that without gambling with your health, such as planning your meals ahead of time, checking what you have in the fridge that is close to its use-by date, and freezing food right up until the use-by dates.”

Sadly, there are around 2.4million cases of food poisoning each year, and 180 deaths.

How to keep ground coffee fresh

The battle rages: just where IS the best place to store your ground coffee?

Sainsburys, Morrisons, Asda, Marks & Spencer and Ocado are among the supermarkets that advise you keep fresh ground coffee in a fridge or freezer after opening.

But Tesco, Waitrose and Harrods advise that you store ground coffee and beans in a cool, dry place such a kitchen cupboard.

Many coffee experts warn that storing your coffee in the fridge is wrong because coffee easily absorbs aroma, moisture and flavours, and can be tainted by fish, meat and cheese.

Martin Isark, founder of the Can I Eat It website, laments: “So much coffee is spoilt by poor storage, which makes the coffee producers want to weep...”

Paul Rooke of the British Coffee Association adds: “Coffee, like many food and drink products when exposed to air, will deteriorate. Cool and dry are the key words; the ideal storage is in an inert, airtight container stored in a cool place.”

pads will be opened for the summer season, subject to the necessary progress being made on the government’s roadmap out of lockdown.

Guide for Pubs, Restaurants and Cafes

As lockdown restrictions are being eased and pubs, cafes and restaurants are preparing to re-open in addition to take-aways. Rules for pubs and restaurants from 12 April are:

- Outdoor seating only – you cannot sit inside
- Table service only – no ordering at the bar
- The Rule of Six
- Everyone to use the NHS Covid app or provide contact details
- Wear a face covering when going inside to use the loo, unless exempt.
- There is no requirement to order food alongside an alcoholic drink.

I think we have been here before so should be manageable!

Garden Waste

The Vale is aiming to accept new customers in early May but they can now register their interest at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/.

Elections 2021

We have elections for county council and the police crime commissioner on Thursday 6 May 2021. For further info see:

- [Thames Valley area Police and Crime Commissioner election](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/current-and-upcoming-elections/thames-valley-area-police-and-crime-commissioner-election/) - www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/current-and-upcoming-elections/thames-valley-area-police-and-crime-commissioner-election/
- [Oxfordshire County Council elections](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/current-and-upcoming-elections/oxfordshire-county-council-elections/) - <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/current-and-upcoming-elections/oxfordshire-county-council-elections/>

The Vale will put in place measures to help keep our polling stations Covid-safe.

>>>> Road Closure <<<<

Re: B4507 Ickleton Road, East Challow- carriageway resurfacing

I am writing to inform you that Oxfordshire County Council will be undertaking carriageway maintenance work on B4507 Ickleton Road in East Challow between west of Vicarage Hill junction and Kirklands.

The works are programmed for **10th to 18th May 2021**, subject to any bad weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances during construction.

The works will include resurfacing of the existing carriageway, improve signing and replenishing the road markings.

Traffic Management

In order to keep traffic disruption to a minimum, the works will be carried out under 24-hour road closures with working hours 0700 to 1900 A signed diversion route will be put in place.

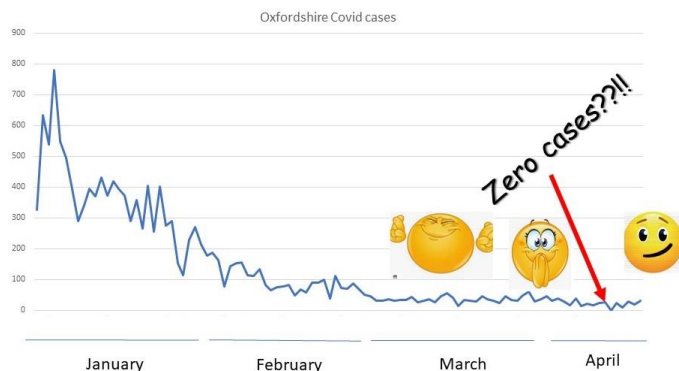
Councillor for Ridgeway Ward

Vale of White Horse District Council - Dr. Paul Barrow

Vaccinations in Oxfordshire latest

The vaccine is now being offered to priority groups 1-9 – this includes everyone aged 50 and over along with carers and all clinically vulnerable adults.

I noticed that on Friday 9th April there were no record new Covid cases in Oxfordshire! This might be a blip of course, but as it was a Friday it can't have been the weekend effect! The trend continues to be down a little but fluctuating. As of 19th March, 275,000 people in Oxfordshire have been vaccinated – well over a third of the population. This is likely to have a greater effect on the number of cases hospitalised rather than overall infection rate.



Speeding

This is a constant pain, both from drivers coming into the village from Wantage on the A417 and coming towards Wantage on the B4507. We have been in touch with OCC and (i) we will set up temporary speed reminder boards on the A417 and (ii) we will also, in the not-too-distant future, set up further SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) on the A417 (still discussing these with OCC). Road markings are going to put in place on the B4507 to slow traffic down (OCC tell me we can't have SIDs there but I'm not happy with that).

Joint Local Plan

The Vale and South Oxfordshire DC (SODC) have agreed to develop a joint Local Plan to cover the area which will reduce costs considerably. Both have similar aims for housing, planning and energy efficiency of developments. The timetable will involve key public consultation stages in summer 2022 and summer 2023, followed by independent examination, and then adoption in autumn 2024.

Leisure Centres

The Vale and SODC are offering financial support to GLL, that manages our leisure facilities to enable them to survive until they open fully again. The leisure industry has been hit really hard by the pandemic having spent much of the last year closed or running to a limited capacity as they followed the Covid-19 guidelines to ensure the safety of customers and staff. There will be a phased approach to re-opening from April 12 just as they did last year. More details on this as will be published and when it becomes available. Outdoor pools and splash

C of E to provide National Professional Qualification for school leadership in partnership with Catholic Church

The Department for Education has recently announced that a partnership between The Church of England and the Catholic Church will provide part of the Government's reformed National Professional Qualification training for teachers from September 2021.

The new National Professional Qualifications will provide training for teachers in different areas of school leadership, including senior leadership, headship and executive leadership as well as specialist areas of teaching.

The Church of England NPQs will support up to 2,500 teachers each year across the whole country.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England's lead bishop for Education, said: "I'm delighted that the Government has demonstrated its confidence in our track record of leadership training. Through the Church of England's Foundation for Educational Leadership, we have a first class and innovative team."

Have you ever laughed at a joke you did not understand?

Then you are not alone. It seems that two thirds of us have laughed at jokes we did not 'get', simply because we wanted to fit in with our friends at the time.

And more than half of us have actually gone on to repeat jokes with punchlines which we don't ourselves understand. More than half of us have even researched a joke in order to try and figure out what was supposed to be so funny about it.

In research done by a British neuroscientist, it was found that humour that relies on puns or more obscure concepts is the most likely to confuse audiences. While laughter is universal, humour is very subjective. People all over the world laugh, but what they find to be funny varies widely, depending on culture, context and language.

During the research, it was found that two of the most misunderstood jokes are:

Some Omega-3 vitamins fell on my head when I opened the cupboard. I got super fish oil injuries.

What does a dyslexic, agnostic insomniac do at night? He stays up wondering if there really is a dog.

Beware of the dog

Be careful if you are looking to buy a puppy. Make sure you know where it *really* came from. A spokesman for the RSPCA warns of a spike in the number illicit dog breeders and dealers who are conning the public.

The number of dogs imported from the EU increased by 52% from 2019 to 2020 until last year it stood at over 60,000. More than half of these puppies came from Romania and were brought in by criminal gangs. Dogs that were worth £50 in Romania have been sold for 10 times that amount in the UK, according to the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

Fuller's Grove and Childrey Park

The land these housing estates are built on has quite a history. There has been a "Mansion" on this site from at least the early to mid 16 hundreds . Lived in first by several generations of the Bance family all called John. The last was a very wealthy man a billionaire in today's money. From 1731 he was a director of The Bank of England and between 1734 and March 1748 he was the member of Parliament for Westbury and Wallingford. We think he was responsible for the building a more modern house. He died in 1755 and the house was sold to a Bartholomew Price. Some years after his death his son another Bartholomew, left the area in 1786 and sold the house and contents.

Here are extracts from the sale information in the Reading Mercury & Oxford Gazette 1786 September 11.

The furniture comprises.....an elegant drawing room suite of blue damask.....a double keyed Harpsichord by Harrison. (the very latest version).....No record has been found of who lived in the house from 1786 to 1792, when an Exuperius Turnor purchased it. An interesting "Gentleman". he made a fortune breeding white rabbits for the London fur trade. In September 1810 his "Freehold Mansion and Land" was up for sale. It failed to find a buyer.

Another extract from the sale information in the Reading Mercury & Oxford Gazette Oct 28 1811

"A very Eligible Estate comprising a Mansion House with offices suited to the accommodation of a

gentleman's family: lawn, garden, greenhouse, and fishponds situated in a paddock of very superior Meadow and Pasture Land, containing 26 Acres, surrounded by a pleasure walk, inclosed and and planted with choice and thriving shrubs, ornamental and timber trees., with a gravel coach road,-A large and excellent kitchen garden, inclosed with lofty brick walls, well stocked with various fruit trees, hot house , pinery *, a grapery,..... Coach House and Stables.....The Barn ,Park Farm ,and the other houses in this area are built on the site of the coach house, stables and farm buildings belonging to the "modern house ",John Bance had built in around the mid 17 hundreds.

Exuperius does not seem to have been very good at paying his debts as in 1811 there was a writ for his arrest for not honouring them. He and his family moved away, The estate was still unsold. The contents were sold in December 1812 by his creditors. The house was still marked on maps up until about 1840. It is not on the Tithe map for 1848 and is reputed to have burnt down. Mary Mann.

*For growing pineapples a must have for any aspiring gentlemen.

Sources

My own files,

"Caewa's Burial Mound "a celebration of East Challow by Hazel and Clive Brown. This was a limited edition Published by them. The Vale and Downland Museum Wantage have a Copy.

The History of Parliament, Members Biographies.