

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Saying farewell to our vicar, July 2018

September 2018

The editor writes:



The deadline for the September magazine has come round all too quickly and by the time it is published, our thoughts will be turning towards Autumn. There are plenty of events to celebrate the Harvest Festivals during the next couple of months, both inside our beautiful old churches and elsewhere.

In this issue I would like to draw your attention to our loyal advertisers, without whom we would not be able to have the magazine printed. Please support these local businesses as much as you can and, if you are in business yourself, please consider advertising with us.

The observant among you will have noticed that, at the moment, I manage the advertising as well as editing the magazine; if any of you would like to volunteer to look after our advertising, I would love to hear from you!

Julia Stutfield

Our cover photo ...

is of our out-going vicar, Rev'd Andrew Pritchard-Keens, together with the Church Wardens of our Four Parishes, on the occasion of his farewell lunch at the Millenium Hall, Horton-cum-Studley in July 2018. We are now embarking on the process of finding and appointing a replacement for him. We hope very much that this will not take too long, and that we shall have a new vicar in the New Year. Meanwhile we have the support of a wonderful team of volunteer ministers who are enabling all our services to continue as usual.

If you have taken a photo which you think might be suitable for the cover of the next magazine, please email it to 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

We welcome contributions or notices for future issues.
Please send them to:

Beckley

John Baker Tel: 07401 550537 johnbaker245@btinternet.com

Forest Hill

Linda Goffey Tel: 01865 873078 linda@goffey.co.uk

Horton-cum-Studley

Carol Welch Tel: 01865 358122 carol_welch20@hotmail.com

Stanton St John

Sue Baker Tel: 01865 351449 susanjbaker24@gmail.com

The closing date for the next issue is 15 September 2018

The Four Parishes News Magazine is produced under the auspices of our four village churches for the benefit of the whole community. It is funded by advertising revenue, which is used to cover the printing costs.

We are entirely dependent on unpaid volunteers to assemble the content, book and invoice the advertisers, compile and edit the magazine, collect it from the printers and distribute it throughout the four parishes. If you are interested in getting involved with any of these activities, please email Julia Stutfield 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

The Four Parishes News Magazine has 10 issues per year and is distributed free of charge to approximately 850 addresses in Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley, Stanton St. John and Beckley.

**To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA
adverts.4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com**

Church Services in the Four Parishes, September 2018

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St. John the Baptist, Stanton St. John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St. Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
2 Sep	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Family Service	11am Morning Prayer
		6pm Taizé		
9 Sep	9.30am Family Service at Stanton St John		9.30am Parish Communion	11am Parish Communion
	6pm Choral Evensong with St Nicolas Choir			
16 Sep	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	11am Family Service (HARVEST)
			6pm Iona Service	
23 Sep	10am Joint Benefice Service at Beckley			
		6pm Church Without Walls (Village Hall)		
30 Sep	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Parish Communion

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

There is no Letter from the Vicarage this month because we are currently in the process of appointing a new vicar. Until further notice, please contact the Church Wardens with any enquiries (details on p.6).

Saying Goodbye to Andrew Pritchard-Keynes

The Millennium Village Hall at Horton-cum-Studley provided the venue on Sunday 29 July for all Four Parishes to say goodbye to Andrew, Fenella, Emily and Sebastian as they set off to start their new life in Olney.



We enjoyed a 'Bring and Share' lunch after the Joint Benefice service at Stanton St John and then we all listened and joined in with Andrew and Fenella's very own version of "I'm Gonna leave old Durham Town" – "God has plans, we're in His hands."

Andrew's service of installation at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney, is on Sunday 9 September at 6pm.

Goodbye to our Curate

On Sunday 8 July we also said goodbye to our Curate, Rev'd David Bendor-Samuel, at a confirmation service with Bishop Colin in Horton-cum-Studley. David will continue to visit us once a month to run the 'Church Without Walls' in Stanton St John Village Hall.

Special Services

Harvest Festival dates for the Four Parishes are as follows:

16 Sep - Horton-cum-Studley

7 Oct - Beckley, Forest Hill and Stanton St John

Sunday afternoon Family Services in Stanton St John and Beckley village halls will resume in October (see page 7 for more information).

Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John

Ministry Team

We are extremely grateful to all of our volunteer clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers for their generous support during the vacancy. Please contact the Church Wardens in the first instance with any enquiries.

Rev'd Hugh Lee	hugh.lee@btinternet.com Tel: 01865 316245
Rev'd Canon Beau Stevenson	beaumont.stevenson@btinternet.com
Rev'd Stephanie Bullock	
Rev'd Dr. Elizabeth Hoare	liz.hoare@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk
Betty Dye LLM	betty.dye10@gmail.com Mob: 07910 356343
Canon Prof. Nicholas Orme LLM	N.I.Orme@exeter.ac.uk Tel: 01865 512676
Joanna Allen (Ordinand)	jo.ordinand@gmail.com

Church Wardens

Beckley

Georgina Robson Tel: 01865 351637 gina.robson@virgin.net

Forest Hill

Jane Walker Tel: 01865 872399 lyttleton@btinternet.com

Pat Fraser Tel: 01865 875679 triciaann49@gmail.com

Horton-cum-Studley

Andrew Payne Tel: 01865 351018 andrewrobertsonpayne@gmail.com

Lynn Whitaker Tel: 01865 358838 lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com

Stanton St John

Sheila Pullen Tel: 01865 351210 dave.sheila53@gmail.com

Deirdre Young Tel: 01865 351745 youngdee@live.co.uk

90th Birthday Celebration

Edgar Litt would like to thank everyone who joined him for a "bring and share" lunch in Stanton St. John Village Hall, on 24 June, to celebrate his 90th Birthday. He sends special thanks for all your good wishes, wonderful Birthday cake and the beautiful rose bush.

Ride and Stride for Churches, Saturday 8 September

See the back cover of the magazine for more information. All of our churches participate in this worthwhile event, which provides a fun and interesting day out for all the family while raising money to help preserve historic church buildings throughout Oxfordshire.

- **Do you want to deepen your faith?**
- **Are you curious to ask questions about Jesus?**
- **Do you want to worship in an informal environment?**



Family Church

If you answered yes to any of these questions Family Church is for you!

Come along to **Beckley Village Hall** for an informal service for all four villages. We worship, hear some teaching, pray together, have space for discussion, and enjoy a meal together.

Children are most welcome: we have groups for 2-5yrs and 6-16yrs.

Beckley Village Hall

Sunday 14 October
4 November
2 December
4 - 5.30pm

Stanton St John Village Hall

Sunday 21 October
18 November
16 December
4 - 5.30pm

We also run a service for **pre-school and primary aged children in Stanton St John Village Hall.**

Activities, a bible story and food for the children.
Please Come along with the whole family.

Led by our local Ordinand - please contact her for further information
jo.ordinand@gmail.com

GENERAL NOTICES

Expressway Group

The Horton-cum-Studley Expressway Team, with members from Beckley too, have continued to be very active in their campaign to raise awareness of the potential Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and encourage people to sign the SaveOtmoor petition and stay in touch with the group and its activities.

The group's Walk the Moor event was a great success with around 100 people enjoying the walk and the views, as well as the music of the Riot of Gollins at the lunch stop. The group has also run SaveOtmoor stands at Boarstall and Arncott fetes, Beckley Open Day, Forest Hill Feast and at Rectory Farm. There has been a lot of interest and concern expressed at all events.



The group have been reported in the local media following a meeting with Keith Taylor our Green MEP as well as the Walk the Moor event.

The HcS Expressway Team are now planning to **re-enact the Otmoor Riots at the St Giles Fair on 3 September**, permissions and Shire Horse permitting, and are arranging a **Peggy Seger concert to be held in Beckley Church on 13 October at 7.30pm!** More information on both to follow.

The decision on the Expressway corridor is now expected late summer. It has also been leaked that the new Housing Minister, Kit Malthouse, has asked all Councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) along the proposed corridor as well as the Universities to submit **ideas by 14 Sep** of where the additional 1 million new homes should be built (300,000 + in Oxfordshire). So the campaign to object to the Expressway and any associated development, particularly on Green Belt is all the more important.

If you live in Horton-cum-Studley, please can you write to object to this timescale and undemocratic approach by writing to David Hughes, Barry Wood, Dan Sames, Ian Hudspeth, and Martin Tipple.

If you want to get involved or have useful contacts / exciting ideas to contribute, please contact Olivia Field on olivia_field@hotmail.com

If you live in the SODC area please write to Jane Murphy Leader of SODC, and senior officers at SODC and OCC. A full list of suggested contacts and their e-mail addresses is on the Beckley and Stowood web site. Any queries please contact

Ginette Camps-Walsh camps-walsh@btinternet.com or
Cllr John Walsh john.walsh@southoxon.gov.uk

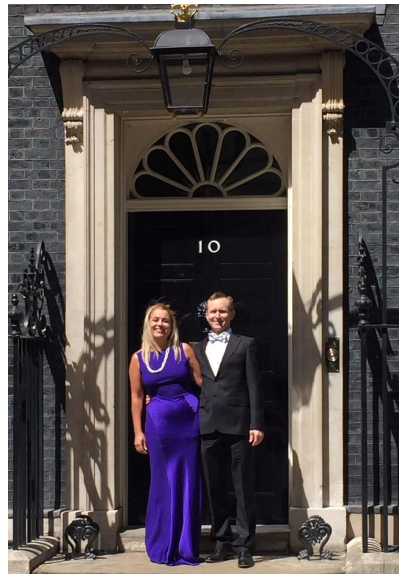
The SaveOtmoor petition has reached over 9,400 signatures – only another 600 to go to provoke a Government response, so please do ask anyone who has not already signed to do so; and a huge thanks to Adrian Pennink and Tony Strong for starting the petition and all who have already signed.

‘Spirit of Fire’ Award

Shaun Scott, from Forest Hill, was nominated for a 'Spirit of Fire' award from the FireFighters Charity at 10 Downing Street, in recognition for his fundraising achievements during 2017/18

Shaun has raised nearly £7,000 of his target of £10,000, by running carrying a bicycle, having completed London Marathon, Gloucester Marathon, Oxford Half and other long runs, with his bike, symbolising the burden borne by Firefighters traumatised in the line of duty.

To donate to this worthy cause, please visit www.justgiving.com/giveitupforfirefighters



STANTON ST JOHN

St. John the Baptist Church Chancel Ceiling

In October last year, while planned repair work was underway in the church, a sudden fall of plaster occurred in the Chancel. The lime plaster forming the ceiling had cracked and broken away from the wooden laths which possibly date from the Victorian rebuilding of the east wall.

The PCC decided to postpone the planned second phase of interior work to address this dangerous development. Specialist contract works are planned and they are due to be tendered imminently. The PCC's budget for the work is £60,000 and it is hoped that the works will complete early in 2019.

The need to sustain this important focal building in the village requires our involvement as a community so all help is welcome, particularly in raising funds. At this stage we need **volunteers to help apply for grants** by filling out and tracking all the applications. The initial work is done, and sources for grants are identified. For more information, contact Jamie Brown mobile: 07517 095501 email: jamie@redsquare.tv

Computer Event at The Star

We are planning a one-off one-day-only event at The Star in Stanton St John where people can make an appointment with a junior or senior highly qualified expert in either Apple or P.C. computers. All profits will go to church funds.

Don't know how to start that computer? How to send an email? We can help!

Or, for the more experienced, how do you store and safely manipulate terabytes of information? Or retrieve that vital lost document or programme? Have one of the Star's coffees or a sandwich while you wait your turn for a consultation.

Initial work is done, and a plan is set to make this happen.

Volunteers are needed to help coordinate this event.

Contact Jamie Brown mobile: 07517 095501 email: jamie@redsquare.tv

Four Parishes Film Club

We are planning to establish a film club to raise money on an ongoing basis for St. John the Baptist Church. The intention is to present monthly, major contemporary films - sometimes running at the same time as they are shown in Oxford and London Cinemas - with all profits going to the church funds. The Film Club idea is quite well advanced at this point, and might become a joint effort with the planned new Film Club in Beckley - but we need your help!

Volunteers are needed in all areas, from organizing, choosing films, setting up equipment, arranging refreshments, ticket-taking etc. If enough people show interest in helping, we will take this idea forward.

Contact Jamie Brown mobile: 07517 095501 email: jamie@redsquare.tv

Stanton St John Parish Council

Could we remind all parishioners and their visitors to avoid parking on the pavements in and around the parish. This will enable both wheel chair users and people with pushchairs to keep to the pavement, making their journey safer and manageable

Stanton St John W I

Please note there has been a change to the published programme. We are pleased that Lyn Ebbs will be giving an illustrated talk about her travels in Panama and the varied wildlife there. Our meeting is on **Tuesday 18 September at 7.30pm** in the village hall. We look forward to seeing a good turnout for what will be a fascinating subject.

MUMS AND LITTLE ONES! PLAYGROUP - STANTON VILLAGE HALL

Come and join a friendly, relaxed group of mums, for coffee and cake in Stanton Village Hall every other Thursday at 10.30am, starting back September 13th, 2018.

We love to meet mums from all villages, so please come along with your little ones (no age restrictions) for play, activities, cake and good chats!

For more information, message Cai Hall on 07826514843 or Emma Cullum on 07989074141.



FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

Details of all services and events are on our website

www.stnicolasforesthill.org

Cream Teas

Sunday 30 September 3 - 5pm in the garden at St. Nicolas Church (inside if wet). This will be the last cream tea of the season until we start again in June 2019. If you have never been to visit our lovely historic church, this is a perfect opportunity to see it in an informal setting and to meet old and new friends from the village and elsewhere.

Decorating the Church for Harvest Festival

Saturday 6 October 10.30am. If you are interested in helping and have never been before, just turn up and we shall make you most welcome. If you would like to bring some flowers, fruits, vegetables, greenery, that would also be helpful.

Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall

Sunday 7 October 12.30pm for 1pm start. This is a bring and share lunch, following our Harvest Festival service at 11am. If you intend to come to the lunch, please contact Jane Walker 01865 872399.

Forest Hill Feast

A big thank you to everyone who helped and supported the 2018 Forest Hill Village Feast. Although we had to take the difficult decision to cancel the Dog show due to the incredibly hot weather, we felt we had done the right thing. Many dog shows, big and small, were cancelled that weekend so we weren't the only ones. Although we missed one of our biggest attractions, we had many positive comments about the other activities, not least the children's games (Thank you Nik and Kath), the water balloon fight (thank you James) and the Tombola (thank you Sue). The event generated a great feel of village togetherness and the final amount raised after expenses was £1061.30 so £353.77 each to the Church Fund, the Village Hall Committee and Forest Hill Sports & Social Club. A brilliant result I'm sure you will agree.

The organising committee of the Feast feel now is the time to have a change of personnel to inject some new ideas into this popular event and several key members have taken the difficult decision to stand down. If you would like to get involved, not necessarily in organising another feast but perhaps an inclusive village event, please don't hesitate to contact Jane Walker or Julia Stutfield.

Found one red tartan rug, left in the Recreation Ground after the Feast, collect from Jane Walker 872399, Lyttleton, Main Street, Forest Hill.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

Although the summer months are quieter in the village, the Parish Council continues to pursue current and ongoing issues within the parish. All residents are asked to be mindful of other road users when parking on the village roads, particularly the access needs of mobility scooters and pushchairs.

Do you cycle into the city?

At the last Council meeting Kirsten Johnson, our OCC Councillor, highlighted a report on the needs of a cycling infrastructure in Oxford. The full report can be found at: <https://www.nic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Running-out-of-Road-June-2018.pdf> Cllr. Johnson is encouraging cyclists to write to the County Council urging that safety is improved for cyclists who cycle into the city from outlying villages. The person to write to is Ian Hudspeth, Leader of the County Council.

The date of the **next meeting is Thursday 27 September at 7pm** in the Village Hall. Meetings are open to the public and have an open session where residents can bring attention to any village issues. Current Agendas and Minutes are posted on the two notice boards: outside the Village Hall and at the end of Mickle Way. Archive Agendas and Minutes can be found at www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/

You can contact Helen Cross, the Parish Council Clerk, tel: 0844 884 3328 or via the new email address: theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

Harvest Festival, Sunday 16 September 11am

Mark up your diaries and join us to give thanks for all that comes from the earth and those that tend it on our behalf. The church will be decorated the day before (contact Annie Payne 01865 351018 for offers of help). Non-perishable items can be brought along, which will then be taken to Thame food bank.

Michaelmas Fayre Saturday 22 September 12 – 2pm

At Manor Farm by kind invitation of the Badger family. Do come and support this wonderfully traditional event for all the family. Soup lunches, raffle, produce, cakes, books and the famous, fought-over, '**giant pumpkin weigh-in' and more will be supplied for your enjoyment. If you are available to help us / donate then please contact Lynn Whitaker 01865 358838 or Lisa Mynheer 01865 351340.

**Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in 2018

This will take place at the Michaelmas Fayre. Please bring your beauties to Manor Farm for display and weighing from 12:00 onwards. Big weigh-in at 1pm for the POTY (Pumpkin Of The Year) Trophy.

Harvest Supper Saturday 13 October 7pm -10pm

Just to let you know in advance that there will be a Harvest Supper again this year in the Millennium Village Hall. All offers of help on the night or beforehand very welcome. Please contact lisamynheer@gmail.com

Women's Institute

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 September at 7.45pm in the Millennium Hall. It will take the form of a craft session, led by Christine Green, on Paper Cutting. We hope as many of you as possible will attend and we do offer an invitation to any lady in the village who is interested.

Coffee Morning

The September Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 8 September at 10.30 am in the Millennium Village hall. All are welcome, more details from Rachel Hawes 01865 351540.

Gardening Club

Gardens and gardeners are suffering in the heat and prolonged drought but perhaps it will be over by the time you read this. Some plants are coping remarkably well. The Merton borders in the Botanic Garden, which are never watered, look spectacular and are well worth a visit.

Our autumn programme starts on Tuesday 16 October at 8pm with a talk on "The Shaded Garden". I am sure there will be lots of practical tips so come and join us in the Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome.

For more information about our programme see the website:

www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/

Gardens open for the National Garden Scheme charities and the British Skin Foundation Sun 2 Sept Upper Green (2 – 5.30pm). Home-made teas will be served in aid of St Barnabas Church.

If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please contact the chairman, Susan Burge 01865 351310.

Parish Council

Speed signs are now in place (and hopefully slowing the traffic coming into the village). The portable sign will now be moved onto Horton Hill, to slow traffic coming down the hill.

The installation of the defibrillator had been delayed, due to issues with the Power supply. This has now been resolved and the defibrillator will be installed within the next few weeks.

Horton Hill is being resurfaced week commencing 24 September and will be closed (accept for access) for two weeks.

A date for your diary

The village will be celebrating Basil Lyster receiving the Legion D'Honneur (France's top military honour), on 11 November. Following the Armistice Day service in St Barnabas Church, there will be a soup lunch in the village hall. More details to follow.

Parish Council meetings are on the second Thursday each month in the village hall, please come and join us, we like to have your input.

(Continued on next page)

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Following the Water outage, if Parishioners are registered as vulnerable, (this could be due to old age or illness and or having no means of transport) they are delivered water.

The PC urge any Parishioners who feel they would benefit from this to contact Thames Water. The same is also true for Electricity.

BECKLEY

The Open Day

The Open Day on 17 June was not quite as successful as usual this year, but not a disaster either! Visitor numbers were much lower, but people running events in other villages in June reported the same thing. We were not helped by the weather which, perversely, was chilly and overcast, and made the atmosphere rather 'downbeat'.

However, the gardens were as usual wonderful, teas were delicious, plants and ice creams were popular, and everything on the cake stall was sold. People are not so keen on buying books! The art exhibition in the church looked amazing.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who opened their gardens, organised the art exhibition, ran stalls, made ice cream and cakes, donated plants and books, sold raffle tickets, helped put up signs and bunting, and manned the car park. We hope that this year was just a 'blip', and that the day will be livelier next time.

Celebrate Harvest Festival with Colour and Fragrance: Beckley Church, Sunday 7 October 9.30am

Perhaps we no longer have to labour away in the fields all summer but even so we can all celebrate food and farming, all rejoice in the coffee the workers in Brazil produce, the lamb that ranchers in New Zealand send us, the wheat from our own fields here in Oxfordshire to make bread.

We want to celebrate the seeds, the soil, the seasons, the growth of the crops and the bounty of fruits; we want to say thank you to the people who work long hard hours to produce our food.

LETS DECORATE BECKLEY CHURCH! On Saturday 6 October go out to the hedge rows and pick seed heads, berries, grasses, coloured leaves, nuts and then bring a jam jar full of your finds into Beckley church to decorate it with what you have found. We are not using fancy flowers from foreign lands, no, we are using what is here on our doorstep.

COME TO CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING on 7 October and bring with you something you have made from fruits. Using up to 6 fruits try and create an animal, perhaps a lemon body, apple slice legs, blueberry eyes and an orange peel tail. Lets have the church FULL OF FUN FRUIT ANIMALS.

'OPEN THE BOOK' ACTORS Yes, I will need at least 6 BECKLEY SCHOOL PUPILS to help me with a Harvest Festival drama, so come to church ready to volunteer because I do not want to have to use adults(I'll have the costumes and the words all ready for you).

So remember that date **SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER** at 9.30am.

P.S. If you have lots of apples pears, Michaelmas daisies etc. please bring those to church on the Saturday as well so we can have a church full of fragrance and colour.

Betty Dye

A Tale of Tithes and Takeovers: The Story Behind Beckley's Medieval Stained Glass

In the last issue of the 'Four Parishes News Magazine' a riddle was posed about why Horton was part of Beckley parish until 1880. But actually it wasn't Horton that was the 'poor relation': it was Beckley, which was subjected to a medieval version of a hostile takeover by Studley Priory in 1352. Then as now, it was all about money: a tale of tithes and takeovers.

Edmond de Lodewyck, the priest at Beckley from 1318, launched a lawsuit against the vicar of Oakley, claiming the right to tithes from Bernwood forest. What happened next is a wonderfully modern and intriguing story, which I will tell in an illustrated talk on **Sunday 7 October at 4pm in Beckley church** to raise funds for the wall paintings restoration. The cost will be £8 per person and refreshments will be offered.

Donna Dickenson

Beckley Village Hall

The use of the new Hall is continuing to develop and, with professional management of the bookings system, we have improved and regular feedback, as well as key financial data. In the ten months since the appointment of our new Booking Secretary we have hired the Hall over three hundred times and for a total of around 1200 hours. The Trustees have been able to offer discounted rates for activities benefitting the community, which are subsidised by a limited number of purely commercial hires. The Hiring Policy can be seen on the village hall web site: www.beckleyvillagehall.org/Documents.php.

We have also given the Booking Secretary the discretionary right to refuse bookings that present a risk of disturbance to the near neighbours of the Hall and this discretion has already been used. We are due to have our first AGM this autumn which will provide the Trustees with the opportunity to brief the Village on the operation of the Hall since its opening. As always we welcome expressions of interest from potential new Trustees. Please contact Geoff Mills or any other current Trustee if you would like to discuss this. Trustee contact details are on the web site.

Activities at Beckley Village Hall in September

Table Tennis Mondays 10.30 - 11.30am, £2 per person. All welcome but under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult (or call Ann Henman 01865 351492 and she will work on providing one).

Yoga Mondays 7.30 - 9pm - hayley-lennard@hotmail.com

Pilates Tues 9.30 - 10.30am (term time only) - Kim Barresi 07918 180392

Bells Tuesdays 2 - 4.15pm

Senior Circuits Wednesdays 8.30 - 9.30am - Carl Davis 01865 920460

Art Group Fridays 9.30am - 12.30pm

Next Ceilidh Saturday 6 October with doors opening at 7pm.

Please note: the Peggy Seeger benefit evening for SaveOtmoor is now on Saturday 13 October 7.30pm at Beckley Church.

The Abingdon Arms, High Street, Beckley OX3 9UU Literary Programme, Autumn 2018

'Authors and poets of Beckley and the surrounding area' - plus!

All talks start at 7pm

02 September: Tony Strong - 'Psychological thrillers: J P Delaney (aka Tony Strong) discusses his most recent books'

07 October: Stanza 2 Poetry Group - 'Change'. Local poets invited to read their own or others' poems on the theme of change.

28 October: Ursula Buchan - 'John Buchan'

11 November: Vahni Capildeo, Jalina Mhyana & others - 'Peace Poets'. Armistice Day poetry – poets read World War 1 poems and poems on the theme of peace; curated by Louise Larchborne.

25 November: Dr Franziska Kohlt, Oxford University / Editor of The Lewis Carroll Review - 'Lewis Carroll'

Further information on these and other community events from BACBS website: bacbs.org/events or info@bacbs.org

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 6 September at 8pm** in Beckley Village Hall. Minutes and agendas are available on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk along with other Beckley news and information.

Oxford Cambridge Expressway – for updates see www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk and www.saveotmoor.org

Information on the village mini-bus service – The Otmoor Flyer – can be found at www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/parishcouncil. The mini-bus comes to Beckley on Tuesdays and Fridays and picks up at 10.40 am from the bus stops. Tickets available from Stanton St John Village Shop and must be purchased in advance.

For information on Beckley Village Hall, please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to make a booking please contact Stuart Marshall, Booking Secretary at booking@beckleyvillage.org

Beckley Community Orchard

We are nearing the end of one of the hottest summers we have experienced for many a year. It has been a challenge to ensure that all of our trees survive, but a number of us have spent many 'happy' hours labouring in the sun and I am pleased to share with you that all have survived and continue to thrive.

One of our major aims has been to increase the number of wild flowers and to this end we did not mow much of the grass until the flowers had seeded. In early August John Ovens 'topped' the grass and the following Saturday a number of Friends joined us in raking as soon as the grass had dried.

It is so pleasing to hear from a number of villagers that they regularly visit our community orchard to enjoy the quiet. One lady told me that she enjoys sitting on a bench and reading.

Apart from the trees we have our 'bug hotel' and there has been a proliferation of butterflies and dragonflies. To date we have not seen an occupation of the bird boxes, but hopefully next year will encourage some birds to use them for breeding. Last, but not least, we have our own bee hives.



For those who have not been able to visit recently we have two new boards to highlight where each of the apple trees are positioned. One is near the entrance and the other is in the shelter. The excellent carpentry has been produced by John Fisher and the coloured illustrations by Julie Ross. We are considering a number of proposals to use the illustration on postcards or tea towels which could be used as Christmas gifts. If you have any other ideas please let me know.

Our annual subscription to become a Friend of Beckley Orchard is £10 per household, please take the time to visit our orchard in Otmoor Lane and hopefully you will wish to join us. This offer is open to all households, not just Beckley.

Colin Day (Chairman) beckleyday@btinternet.com

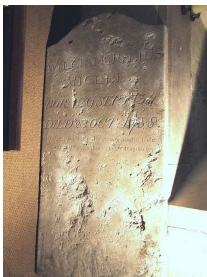
POSTSCRIPT: Curiouser and Curiouser!

Do you know?

Forest Hill seems to have a thing about poets. Did you know there is a connection between the village and the Scottish ballade 'There's nae luck about the Hoose' ? [1] It is the poet William Julius Mickle [1735 - 1788] [2].

William lodged at the Manor House from 1771 until 1775, tenant of Robert Tomkins. He was working at the Clarendon Press in Oxford at the time, as a corrector. While there he accomplished his greatest success, the translation of the Portuguese epic, Camoen's 'Lusiad'.

You will recall that the manor had another literary association, John Milton, who married the daughter of the house. By strange coincidence, so did William. In 1781 he married Robert Tomkin's daughter Mary and they settled in Wheatley. He died in 1788 while on a visit to Forest Hill and was buried there. Mary was buried there too in 1811.



Their tomb stone is to be found in the north aisle of St Nicholas Church, leaning against the wall, where it was deposited when the new vestry was constructed.

Anthony Wood, the younger

PS: For those of you who don't know Forest Hill, I should have pointed out earlier that the two poets feature in the street names, Mickle Way and Milton Crescent. As you will have guessed these are fairly recent additions to the village fabric. Most of our older streets have descriptive names such as Mill Street, Church Street or Pound Lane. A very curious anomaly is Middle Road in Stanton. Where were Upper Road and Lower Road? Any suggestions?
AW

[1] It is the general view that the lyrics are his work.

[2] As usual - you can find more about Mickle and his works via 'Google'.



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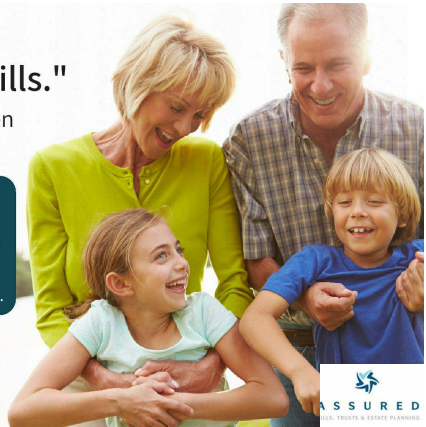
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