The Link
February 2021

News and information covering
Tadmarton and Swalcliffe

"A works train loaded with ballast on Swalcliffe's Barn Well Hill Railway, featured in an article in this issue"

Over time, most of you will have noticed the appearance of a railway when you drive into Swalcliffe, if you ever wanted to know the full story, now is your chance.

The train is a beloved project by Colin Hill and you can read up all about this on pages: 4 and 5

Tadmarton Village Website	Swalcliffe Village Website
www.tadmartonvillage.co.uk	www.swalcliffevillage.co.uk

The Snowdrop Fairy

Deep sleeps the Winter,
Cold, wet, and grey;
Surely all the world is dead;
Spring is far away.
Wait! the world shall waken;
It is not dead, for lo,
The Fair Maids of February
Stand in the snow!

250 Club Update

Just a note about the remaining draws in the 2020/21 Tadmarton 250 Club. Sadly, due to the current lock-down, we have been unable to hold the October, November, December and January draws. We will endeavour to run these as soon as possible. There could be a prize dropping through your letterbox soon!!

Editorial and Advertising

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IMPORTANT!
Last copy date for the March issue is the 17th of February
Articles received LATE will NOT be included in the next issue.

Advertising Rates

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

Full page	125mm x 185mm	£ 110
½ page	125mm x 90mm	£ 66
¼ page	60mm x 90mm	£ 33
1/8 page	60mm x 40mm	£ 18

Price for a single issue on application.

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Kevin Tomblin *Vice Chair*	788342
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THE BARN WELL HILL RAILWAY

Some of you may have noticed that there appears to be a railway in our garden, and I thought you might like to know what's going on here, especially as so little of the railway can be seen from the road. The most commonly asked questions include what are we doing? why are we doing it? and is it finished yet? so I will try to answer these.

Firstly why? Railways have always been part of my life from my first "train set" at the age of three (early indoctrination?), family holidays visiting miniature and narrow gauge railways (grooming?) and involvement in restoring a full size historic steam locomotive (obsession!). Having a working railway of my own always seemed impossible but eventually became reality after finding our house and garden in Swalcliffe. We moved in 21years ago and took over a garden that had been village allotments for 200 years until abandonment around the 1970s after which trees and scrub began to grow. These were mostly self-set but some of the better trees had been planted by previous owners and villagers. The woodland part was a mess of fallen trees, it was head high in nettles and rampant brambles climbed to the top of the trees. There were no useable routes up and down the steep slopes for the movement of barrows or mowers other than a flight of thirty concrete steps and so a network of paths began to evolve.

There was no specific moment when the idea of a railway began, it was more a matter of gradual realisation that the paths I had been making were starting to look a bit like the potential route for a railway. A railway of some sort might solve our "internal transport" needs but also provide a bit of fun. But what sort of railway, and what size? Plainly it would be a rather unusual and somewhat challenging railway due to the steep slopes of our garden. Steep gradients were unavoidable which posed some interesting engineering challenges and I quickly realized that to carry loads of a useful size on the steep bits would probably require adoption of "cog railway" (or rack and pinion) techniques used in mountainous places like Switzerland.

Design and planning work began and continued for a few years and the acquisition of equipment began. We decided that the railway should be narrow gauge in principle and we chose a track gauge (distance between the rails) of 10-1/4 inches which is one of the rarer but recognised standards. The first rails went down in early 2012 in the form of a simple more or less level "temporary" tramway that linked the roadside to a central storage area. This was used initially to transport successive arrivals of rail, several tons at a time, to the storage area, and eventually we had enough rail to compete the project. Planning consent was necessary because we are in a conservation area. This took two attempts, the first application failed because the planners were unable to advise us what information to provide, but the second sailed through without adverse comment after another year of detailed topographical, arboreal and environmental surveys.

Initial construction progress was slow, taking place mostly at weekends and summer evenings, but it accelerated significantly after retirement removed the distraction of work. Perhaps the most significant acceleration followed the arrival, in May 2018, of a working locomotive capable of hauling serious loads, enabling heavy equipment and materials to be moved around a growing railway with much greater speed and ease.

The original concept of the railway was to link all parts of the garden from top to bottom and from end to end. The original tramway became the "main line" linking one end to the other, and we began extending it in 2019 with a steep incline to the bottom lawn and three new sidings at Taddy End where the railway can be seen from the road. This completed the main line.

The next logical phase was to extend the track to the bottom and top of the garden and we began an extension to the lowest part of the garden in 2020. This required another even steeper gradient to take the railway down into the woodland. The first train to run down to the very bottom was in August 2020 (seen in the photo on the cover of this issue) and this carried nearly a ton of the crushed granite which we use to ballast the track. We have so far moved nearly twenty five tons of ballast in this way and we will need more yet. It is delivered by lorry in one-ton bags to "Taddy End" where the railway is closest to the road and, logically, is taken by train from there to wherever it is needed as construction proceeds.

In this form the railway has so far served mainly as a freight railway with little opportunity to give rides to visitors. The arrival of the locomotive enabled rides one at a time in the cab of the loco which was fun for the visitors but offered limited capacity. Planning limitations prevent us from running the railway in any commercial way; we cannot "run a service" or sell tickets, and use is limited to enjoyment of the garden. But we can invite friends and visitors to come and enjoy the garden by train with us. Plainly we needed some passenger carriages to do this.

The first two carriages arrived 4 years ago but needed restoration work to make them usable, and that work is still awaited. However in August 2020 we were lucky to acquire two nice little carriages from the Audley End Railway. One of these could immediately go into service, and carried its first passengers on 7th September 2020. The other carriage was occupied by Santa over Christmas, to the amusement of many.

Meanwhile progress has continued and this year's lockdown project has been the digging of a cutting in the woodland nearest the stream. This will enable the construction of the railway's only loop on the only flat (ish) bit of the garden nearest the stream. This is not without its challenges since the railway has to cross what can only be described as a bog, hence the name "Bog End" for this part of the railway. We hope to lay track for the loop in the coming summer and that will give us a total track length approaching half a kilometre.

The next phase after that will be to build the branch line up another steep gradient to the cottage, and that will finally fulfil our original intention of linking all parts of the garden by rail which, with sidings and passing loops, will result in nearly a kilometre of railway.

So to answer the last question "is it finished yet?".....well plainly no, not yet, there is still plenty to do and, in reality, I doubt it will ever be truly finished. There will always be something more to do or improve and, as I keep explaining to people, "a chap needs a hobby".

This is, of course, a private railway in a private garden though we are happy to welcome visitors by arrangement. If you would like to know more, or to visit, or even lend a hand, please don't be afraid to contact us. The railway has its own Facebook Group page with an international membership of approaching 400 members (if you have a Facebook account you can request access to "The Barn Well Hill Railway" group) and we have our own Youtube channel called Swalcliffe Films on which we post occasional newsreel movies. There is already one showing track developments and the arrival of the new loco (Google for "BWHR Newsreel" and you will find us on Youtube).

Finally I would like to thank heartily the many who have helped so far and to say that, COVID permitting, help of all sorts will always be welcome. No previous experience is necessary and you will be rewarded liberally with tea and cake. And soon, we hope, we will once again be able to give rides to "children" of all ages in our new little green carriages.

Colin Hill, Barn Well Cottage, Swalcliffe 01295 788127 barnwellcottage@gmail.com

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TADMARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Due to other commitments and priorities there will be one or two vacancies coming up on Tadmarton Parish Council. Would you like to join and make a difference to your community? The Parish Council meet about eight times a year on a Monday evening. Meetings are currently remote.

Please contact Christine Coles, Parish Clerk on 01295 276229 or email tadmartonpc@btinternet.com if you would like any more information.

LINK Financial Statement as at 31 December 2020

		2020		2019
b/f 1 January 2020				
Current Account	**£5,350.39**	**£5,350.39**	£5,107.39	£5,107.39
RECEIPTS				
Advertisers	**£1,927.00**		£1,903.00	
Leaflets inserted in Link	**£0.00**		£0.00	
Sponsors	**£725.00**	**£2,652.00**	£725.00	£2,628.00
PAYMENTS				
Printing costs	**-£3,650.00**		-£2,385.00	
Admin Purchases	**£0.00**	**-£3,650.00**	£0.00	-£2,385.00
		£4,352.39		£5,350.39
Advertisers prepaid		**-£1,239.80**		-£669.70
Surplus to c/f 31 Dec 2020		**£3,112.59**		£4,680.69

The printing cost for 2020 is distorted because of a change in accounting, the amount of £3650 covers 18 months .

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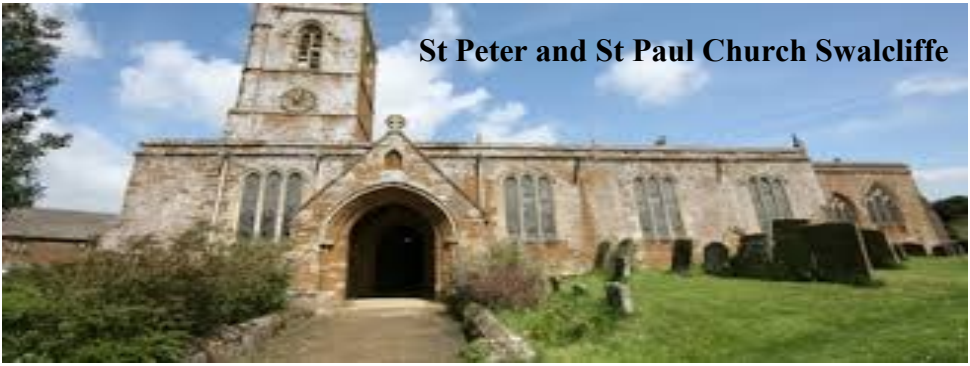
St Peter and St Paul Church Swalcliffe

February 2021 Services

Sunday 7th February – 10.00am Benefice Eucharist
(Rev'd Neil Bowler)

Sunday 14th February – 9.30am Holy Communion
(Rev'd John Tattersall)

Sunday 21st February – 9.30am Morning Praise (lay led)

Sunday 28th February – 9.30am Holy Communion
(Rev'd Canon Glyn Evans)

There will be a Benefice Service of Holy Communion and imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, 17th February at 7pm in Sibford, and a Benefice Eucharist on Sunday 7th March at 10am at Broughton (both led by the Rector, the Rev'd Neil Bowler).

There will also be Zoom services as an alternative to physical services each Sunday – for details please see the Wykeham benefice website: www.wykeham benefice.org.uk

FAIRFAX INTERIORS

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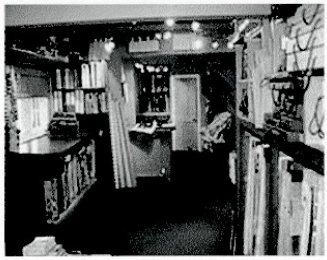

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VALENTINE'S DAY BALLOON RACE – MARCH 2021
Join our environmentally friendly virtual balloon race this March. Send your love someone's way with a heart shaped balloon they can find on Google Maps! Head to www.khh.org.uk/Balloon to find out more.

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Are you looking for something to work towards this year? Have you always wanted to run a marathon? Why not take on the challenge and sign up today and take one of our two places to run in this year's London Marathon. Katharine House will be with you every step of the way… just head to www.khh.org.uk/london-marathon-2021 to find out more

OXFORD HALF MARATHON – 10 OCTOBER 2021
The Oxford Half Marathon is a flat 13.1 mile route that winds around Oxford's most iconic landmarks. Secure your place on Team Katharine House (a team of 20) by registering at www.khh.org.uk/oxford-half-marathon

DOG FIRST AID COURSE – APRIL 2021
We're aiming to put on another Dog First Aid course in 2021. Dates are yet to be confirmed and places will be limited, so to ensure you are on our waiting list and top of the list to book a space head to www.khh.org.uk/dog to register your interest.

KATHARINE HOUSE DIGITAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – KEEP UP TO DATE WITH YOUR HOSPICE
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Please note that there will not be any refreshments after services. Covid 19 protection systems are in place in all Benefice churches

February 2021

Sunday 7th 10.00am Benefice Eucharist at Swalcliffe (NB)

Sunday 14th 11.00am Holy Communion (JT)

Sunday 21st 11.00am Holy Communion (NB)

Sunday 28th 11.00am Village service (JT)

March

Sunday 7th 10.00am Benefice Eucharist at Broughton (NB)

Sunday 14th 11.00am Family Service (NB)

Zoom Services until further notice, for joining instructions please contact www.wykehambenefice.org.uk and The Rector or the Associate Minister

Wednesdays 10.00am BCP Holy Communion Epwell (NB)

Wednesdays 6.00pm Benefice Evening prayer service (NB)

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

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

Assisting Priests
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The Reverend Canon Glynn Evans (GE)
The Reverend Hazel Scarr (HS)
The Reverend Canon John Whitwell (JW)
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FROM the ARCHIVES

What's in a Name? We are often asked about the origins of Swalcliffe's name; what it means, where it comes from and how old it is, and that is the subject of this month's column.

To answer these questions, we can call on evidence from a wide range of documents, including wills, inventories, deeds, historic maps, religious and parliamentary rolls and parish records to name a few. The major archives (National Archives, Public Record Office, Bodleian Library etc) host a treasure trove of ancient documents from which we can draw information, much of which has already been summarized in detailed essays on Oxfordshire placenames by Henry Alexander (1912) and Margaret Gelling (1954). Recent researches by the Swalcliffe Society, particularly into maps and wills (of which we have over sixty), have added further information.

Swalcliffe was well established as an Anglo-Saxon settlement by the 10th century, evidenced by the nave of our church which is the original Saxon church built between 950 and 1050 AD. The parish was probably created following the 10th century breakup of an Anglo Saxon royal manor or *regia villa* at *Hocneratun* (Hook Norton). The name of Swalcliffe would therefore have been well established by that time, and we can look to the Anglo-Saxon or Old English language for its origins. The earliest documents we know of that contain the name were written in the 12th Century when Old English was still in use but was evolving into Middle English through adoption of elements of Latin, French and other languages under the Norman influence.

Placenames were originally mostly descriptive, containing elements that typify the location. The first element ***Swal*** almost certainly originates from the Old English noun ***swealwe*** for ***swallow*** (the bird). The second element ***cliffe*** points to the Old English noun ***cliof*** meaning rock, crag or steep slope often leading down to a stream. We still have swallows visiting each summer and our topography is typified by slopes leading down to streams to both the north and the south, so "Swallowcliffe" seems an accurate toponymic descriptor of our village.

Spelling was a different matter altogether. The English language has only recently settled on standardised spellings. Until well into the 18th century even the most literate officials recorded names as they were pronounced using whatever spelling seemed closest, often using different spellings in the same document. This is obvious in the list of spellings on the opposite page.

The original Old English pronunciation ***Swallow-cliff*** is explicit in the earliest spellings such as ***Sualeclive***, ***Swalewelyve*** etc seen in 12th and 13th century documents. Spellings in the 14th century suggest evolution in pronunciation when forms such as ***Swaltclyve*** and ***Swalclyve*** appear, making the ***Swallow*** element of the name less clear, and contracting to ***Swal***. The temporary substitution of ***ley*** for ***clif*** mostly in some 16th and 17th century wills is clearly another example of local pronunciation. The original Old English forms are gradually forgotten and by the 1520s forms such as ***Swaclyffe*** and ***Swacliffe*** suggest that the now familiar pronunciation ***Sway-cliff*** had become common. After 1725 it is the only form used, though sometimes omitting the final ***e***. In the 18th Century the spelling regains the first ***l*** present in the original, though it is no longer pronounced locally.

Copies of this article may be requested via the email address on the next page.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? The spellings of Swalcliffe's name through the ages

1166	Sualewclive	*Formulare Anglicanum*,
1189-91	Sualewecliue	*Cartulary of Osney Abbey*
1190	Swaleclive	Personal name in *Sandford Cartulary*
1194	Swaleueclive	Personal name in *Curia Regis Rolls*
c1200	Swaleweclif	Personal name in *Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*
1200	Suaneclive	*Pipe Rolls*
C13th	Swaleweclive	"Robert, Clerk of Sw…", *Calendar of Charters and Rolls*
1216-1307	Sualeclive	Testa de Nevil sive Liber Feodorum, 1216-1307
1272	Swalewelyve	*Calendarium Rotulorum Chartarum* 1199-1483
1208-13	Sualecliue	*The Book of Fees*
1217	Swaweclive	personal name in *Cartulary of Osney Abbey*
1240	Sualecliue	personal name in *Cartulary of Osney Abbey*
1240-1	Swaulecliue	Assize Rolls
1252	Swalweclyue	*Feet of Fines for Oxfordshire 1195-1291*
1266	Swalclyf	ditto
	Swalclive, Swalcleve, Swalclyve, Swalcliff are also found in the above	
1275-6	Suthelewеclive	Personal name in *Rotuli Hundredorum* 1812-18
1278-9	Sualeclive	Personal name in *Rotuli Hundredorum* 1812-18
ditto	Swaweclive	ditto
1285	Swalocliue	*Feet of Fines*
1316	Swaltclyve	Parliamentary Writs: *Nomina Villarum* of 1316
1327	Swaleweclyve	*Calendar of Charter Rolls*
1359	Swaltelyff	Will of Richard de Whitewell, rector
1382	Swaleclyve	*Calendar of Close Rolls*
1385	Swalclyve	*Cartulary of Abbey of Eynsham, 1005-1539*
1428	Swaltclyve	*Feudal Aids*
1483	Swallecleffe	*Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*
1526	Swacliff	A subsidy collected at the Diocese of Lincoln
1535	Swacliff	Map in Valor Ecclesiasticus, Vol ii, Diocese of Oxford
1543	Swakley	Will of Robert Hawtin
1546	Swakeley	*Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*
1558	Swaclyff	Will of Edward Wickham
1574	Swaclyve	Map, Oxfordshire, by Christopher Saxton
1579	Swalclive	Map, Oxfordshire, by Christopher Saxton
1586	Swacklyffe	Will of Humfrey Wickham
c1590	Swatclive	Map, Ralph Sheldon's tapestry
1589	Swakliffe	*Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*
1628	Swake Cliffe	Will of Edward Hawtaine of the Cittie of Westminster
1629	Swackelieffe	Will of John Austen of the Lea
1695	Swacliff	Map in Camden's Britannia
1731	Swalcliffe	Will of John Loggin
1755	Swacliff	Map of Oxfordshire by Bowen
1766	Swacliff	Map of Oxfordshire by Thomas Jeffreys
1797	Swacliff	*A New Map of the County of Oxford*, R. Davis of Lewknor
1841	Swalcliffe	Map, Ordnance Survey, first edition 1841

If you have or find anything of local interest the Swalcliffe Society would love to see it and have an opportunity to copy and digitize it. If you would like to contribute or find out more please feel free to phone **01295 788127** or mail **swalcliffe.society@gmail.com**, or visit Swalcliffe Barn when (we hope) it reopens in 2021.

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Swalcliffe Lea Weather Report. 2020 by Jeff Demmar

In many ways the weather in 2020 was similar to the previous year, with little demonstration of the classical seasonal pattern. Nevertheless, as perhaps expected some records were broken.
I record temperature in degrees Fahrenheit and rainfall in inches .
Where appropriate last year's figures are given in parentheses.

Temperature
The temperature given for each quarter is the average of thirteen weekly readings.

Quarter 1.	Minimum.	29.33. (26.76).	Maximum	48.80. (51.23)
Quarter 2.		38.38. (37.53).		75.60 (71.30)
Quarter 3.		44.30. (45.30).		76.70. (76.90)
Quarter 4.		35.70. (31.85).		55.87. (52.85)

The minimum readings for the first and fourth quarters were much higher than the same quarters in 2019. The same is true for the second quarter's maximum reading. Looking at the individual weekly figures show some of the reasons for this year's results. There were 14 weeks at or below 32 degrees, last year there were 26. The actual minimum temperature recorded for 2020 was 14 (17) degrees.
This year there were 6 weeks at 80 degrees or higher with 93 degrees being the highest. Last year's figures at 5 weeks and the same 93 maximum were very similar.
The all time records alluded to above were a) The warmest ever Spring and b) The sunniest month ever recorded, when May sunshine hours bettered even the best of July or August figures since these records began in 1929!

Rainfall
The total rainfall for the year at 34.31 inches was similar to 2019 when we had 33.30. The year ended with a very similar heavy downpour in the final quarter giving us a wet ending to 2020

Quarter. 1.	7.39.	(4.42)
Quarter. 2.	4.66.	(8.85)
Quarter. 3.	7.73.	(5.37)
Quarter. 4.	14.53.	(14.68)

The wettest week of the year was week 40 - week ending October 3 - when we had a record 4.21 inches. This particular week not surprisingly was the major part of the wettest four week period of 5.97 inches . Despite the high overall figure there were nine weeks when no rain was recorded, six of which were in April and May (a contributory factor in the record sunshine hours in May)

NB The economic downturn has been quoted as ' the worst for three hundred years ' Checking on when and what was the cause I discovered it was due to the Great Frost of 1709 . The weather gets involved every where !

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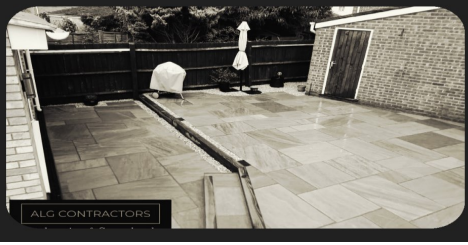


The new variant of Covid-19 means that we have not had the start to the New Year we had all hoped for here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School. However, we had all of our contingency plans for a move to remote learning in place, just in case, and so were ready to make the switch when the latest national lockdown was announced.

We have a number of parents who are critical workers, including 'front line' NHS staff, and nearly a third of our children still attending school and happily working in their bubbles. The rest of our children are learning at home and the feedback from parents of those children is that this is working well, with school staff on hand to support with any issues or concerns they may have.

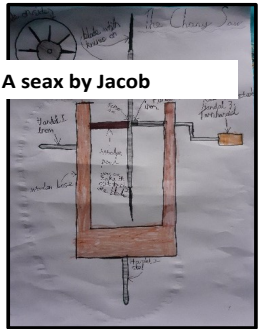
Despite the inevitable challenges and stress of this time, staff are coping well and our parents have been wonderfully supportive. This is a very challenging time for all of the adults in school and the messages of encouragement and thanks from our parents have made all the difference. Even though our school community is currently spread across a number of local villages, there is still a strong sense of that community.

We are still organising much of the learning through topics, Bright Lights, Big City (with a focus on London) for our younger children and Traders & Raiders (The Anglo Saxons) for our older children.

Families have been sending in some amazing photos of topic work they have completed at home, including a wonderful model of Tower Bridge by Eleanor.

The older children have been collating Anglo-Saxon timelines and fact files, designing and making their own Anglo-Saxon weapons and then writing an advert (persuasive text) in an attempt to sell their weapon to another Anglo-Saxon.

Tower Bridge by Eleanor



A seax by Jacob

A design for a very scary weapon by Amelia

The older children have also been conducting science experiments including …can you build a boat which can float with a 2lb bag of sugar as cargo? (yes we can!) and ….. can you create an indoor volcano?

To find out more about our wonderful village school please take a look at our website at

http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/

Indoor volcano, created by Henry

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We are closed for the winter but please come and see us when we re-open in Spring 2021
As usual I will be growing a number of filled 14" and 16" hanging baskets in several arrangements. These can be reserved and will be ready for collection at the beginning of spring (DTBC)

HOW TO FIND US

After leaving Wroxton, on the A422, Banbury to Stratford road - Drive past the turning to Alkerton Shennington Recycle Centre on your left and take the next turning on the right, signposted Hornton and Horley. We are on the left about half a mile on Quarry Road

St.Nicholas Church, Tadmarton February 2021

We wish all members of the Benefice greetings and a Happy New Year from Tadmarton Parish and trust that we shall all be able to meet again soon.

The rector met our Church Wardens on Saturday 9th January, at noon to help Neil familiarise himself with Tadmarton and our church. The three were joined by a little robin which sat on the organ top to observe the meeting. The robin then left through the open door after making its presence felt, a sign?

Those members of our congregation who have not yet had the opportunity to meet Neil, due to self isolating and other reasons, look forward to the day when it will be possible.

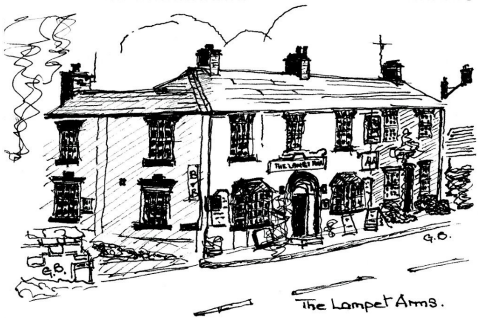
The Christmas day service was attended by few parishioners and the church was beautifully decorated thanks to our ladies. We joined in the zoom induction service for our Rector and it was a great opportunity to join with members of our Benefice in this lovely service.

The Tuesday morning services at 10pm in Tadmarton have been cancelled for the time being. There will be a BCP service at 9.45am on Wednesday at Epwell.

I hope next month to be able to provide more positive news of services and events in our church.

J.H.W.

Covid update;



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Phyllis & Des want to let you know that during those difficult times we are here for you.

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Why don't you give us a call to find out what is on offer?

Please rest assured that we will be opening as soon as we have been given the go ahead.
We have prepared the pub and are Covid compliant.

Help us to be here for you when we all go back to "the new" normal.

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

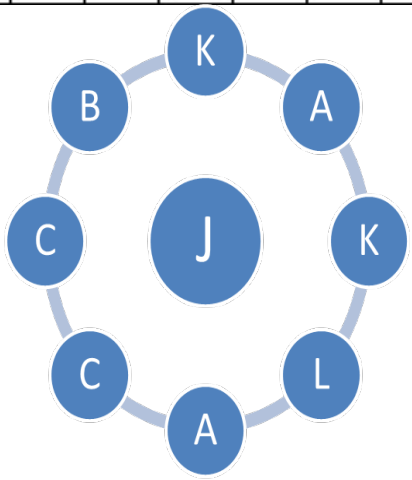
The Puzzle Pages. Answers can be found on Page: 31

11	16	4	4 Z	26	■	18	2	3	21	8	6	■
19	■	23	■	23	■	8	■	21	■	13	■	18
23	3	23	2	16	22	13	■	7	16	1	21	2
3	■	17	■	3	■	13	■	16	■	21	■	3
13	3	23	18	18	■	17	21	1	18	16	3	21
■	■	10	■	■	■	21	■	3	■	■	■	8
19	23	26	23	16	18	■	3	21	6	8	3	20 K
1	■	■	■	12	■	12	■	■	■	17	■	■
10	21	22	21	18	1	18	■	21	14	24	21	17
18	■	8	■	15	■	26	■	3	■	9	■	1
8	17	1	5	1	■	24	16	3	3	21	22	2
15	■	25	■	22	■	9	■	23	■	6	■	9
■	17	21	8	10	16	21	■	3	9 H	26	6	21

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



Find as many words of three or more letters as you can in the wheel.

Words must only use letters in the wheel.

Every word must use the central letter.
Plurals or proper nouns are not allowed.
There is always at least one word that uses all the letters in the wheel.

Good luck !

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TADMARTON 250 CLUB

It's that time of year again, Taddy folk! But this year, due to Covid, we are having to do things a bit differently. If you had tickets this current year, one of our sellers will contact you to see if you wish to buy a ticket again for 2021/22.

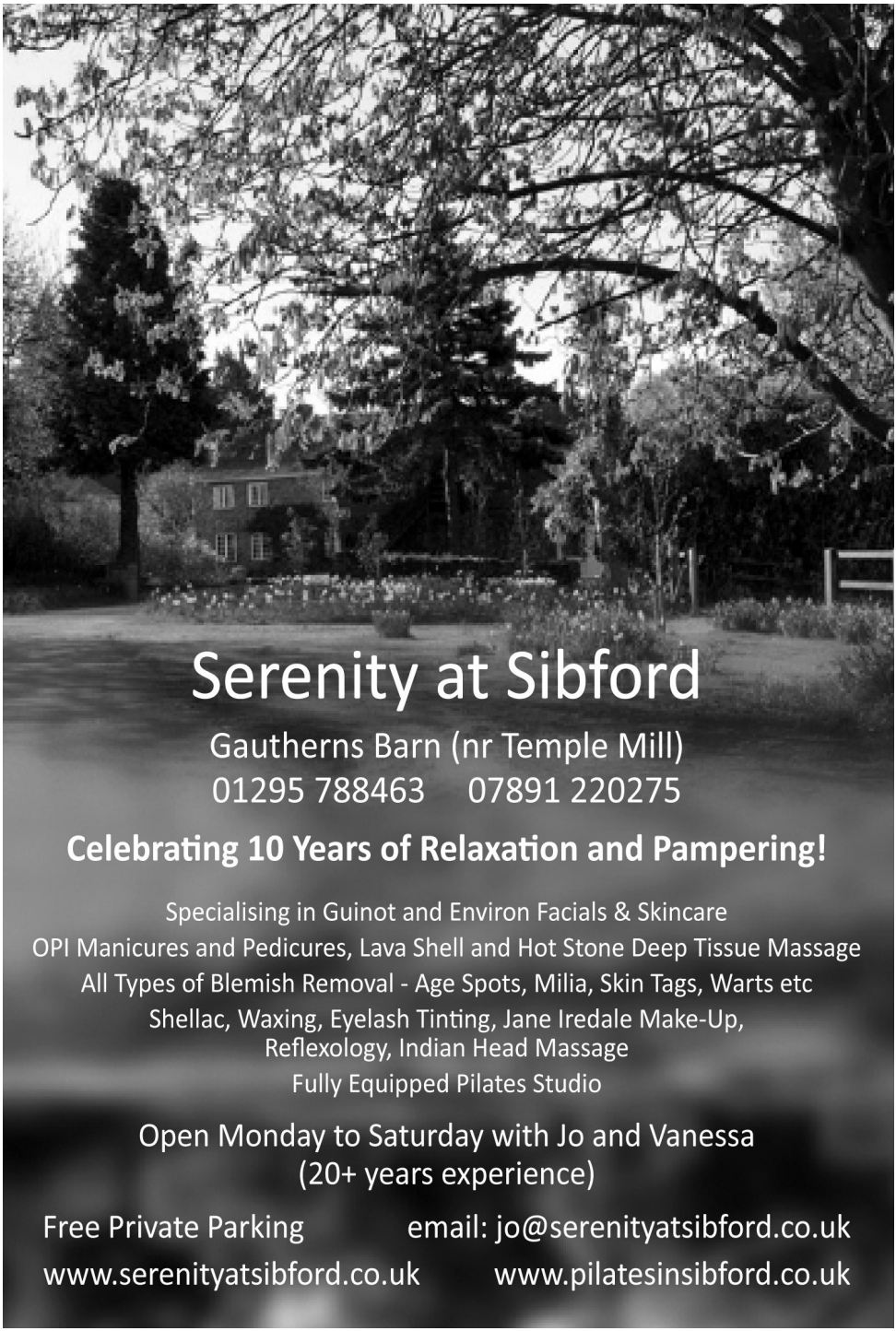
If you do not want to buy a ticket again, or if you missed out last year, give either Jane (780451) or Helen (780426) a call to be put on the cancellation/reservation list. This is our only fund-raiser since the start of the pandemic, so please join in.

Tickets cost £6.00 per year

Total Prize Money to be Distributed Each Month	
February 2021	£35.00
March 2021	£65.00
April 2021	£35.00
May 2021	£35.00
June 2021	£105.00
July 2021	£35.00
August 2021	£35.00
September 2021	£65.00
October 2021	£35.00
November 2021	£35.00
December 2021	£165.00
January 2022	£35.00
	£680.00

All Proceeds in aid of Tadmarton Village Hall Trust

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!!!!!!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Tadmarton Village Website www.tadmartonvillage.co.uk	**Cherwell council** Gen Enq: 01295 227001 Environment: 01295 227007	**Red wings Horse Sanctuary** 0870 040 0033
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Artweeks May Festival 2021

OXFORDSHIRE ART WEEKS
www.artweeks.org

To register for ARTWEEKS 2021 visit www.artweeks.org

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS is open to ALL - amateur and professional artists/craft makers alike, galleries, community and charity groups that live or work in Oxfordshire.

Deadline for registering exhibition entries: 31st January 2021
(this is an extended deadline for 2021 only)

- May exhibitions will be required to be COVID-SECURE.
- If circumstances cause last minute wholescale changes as they did this year, venues will then be able to choose to mark themselves as Open/Open by Appointment only (as well as postponed/closed).
- Alongside the physical festival, Oxfordshire Artweeks will host a virtual festival over the same period.
- As it is unlikely the festival guide can be distributed in print in the normal way in 2021, it will be produced in digital versions only.

DATES for the 2021 festival are 1st–23rd May

North Oxfordshire May 1st -9th [3rd Bank Holiday Monday]
Oxford City May 8th - 16th
South Oxfordshire May 15th – 23rd

CODEWORD SOLUTION

11 F	16 U	4 Z	4 Z	26 Y	■	18 S	2 T	3 R	21 E	8 A	6 M	■
19 J	■	23 O	■	23 O	■	8 A	■	21 E	■	13 D	■	18 S
23 O	3 R	23 O	2 T	16 U	22 N	13 D	■	7 Q	16 U	1 I	21 E	2 T
3 R	■	17 L	■	3 R	■	13 D	■	16 U	■	21 E	■	3 R
13 D	3 R	23 O	18 S	18 S	■	17 L	21 E	1 I	18 S	16 U	3 R	21 E
■	■	10 G	■	■	■	21 E	■	3 R	■	■	■	8 A
19 J	23 O	26 Y	23 O	16 U	18 S	■	3 R	21 E	6 M	8 A	3 R	20 K
1 I	■	■	■	12 P	■	12 P	■	■	■	17 L	■	■
10 G	21 E	22 N	21 E	18 S	1 I	18 S	■	21 E	14 X	24 C	21 E	17 L
18 S	■	8 A	■	15 W	■	26 Y	■	3 R	■	9 H	■	1 I
8 A	17 L	1 I	5 B	1 I	■	24 C	16 U	3 R	3 R	21 E	22 N	2 T
15 W	■	25 V	■	22 N	■	9 H	■	23 O	■	6 M	■	9 H
■	17 L	21 E	8 A	10 G	16 U	21 E	■	3 R	9 H	26 Y	6 M	21 E

Letter Wheel solution: Blackjack

Answers Christmas Quiz:

1 Away in a Manger
2 3 French hens
3 God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
4 Home Alone
5 It's a Wonderful Life
6 C) KFC
7 Yule Log
8 Cranberry
9 Wizzard
10 Boney M
11 George V
12 Boxing Day
13 His watch
14 Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen
15 England

WELCOME TO TADMARTON

Please contact Tim Turner on 01295 780764 if you have recently moved into Tadmarton or if you know someone who is a new arrival.

He will be delighted to call with one of the "Welcome to Tadmarton" leaflets.

Notes from the Editor:

Welcome to the February edition of 2021, I for one am looking forward to the spring and hope you all are too.

We are watching the birds chasing each other already thanks to the beautiful sunshine at the moment.
We have had what feels like 20 years of rain in the last few weeks but I am sure Jeff Demmar will put us right next year with the true numbers.

We have quiet a few nice articles in this issue, have a read.
I am sorry about the font size on some. If you can, you can read the articles online. Go to the Tadmarton village website and look for the link you want to read.

I hope you have all made that difference to your lonely neighbours, or family member, but if you have not had the chance yet, maybe you can incorporate it in your weekly routine moving forward.

We all want to be loved and respected and to be thought of kindly and often. So close the social media pages and pick up the phone.

Volunteering:

Stay Safe all and remember the volunteers are still out there happy to do your shopping, picking up prescriptions, and transporting you to hospital appointments or wherever you need to go.

You are most welcome to give us a call just to chat too.

Give Jane or Mery a ring on 01295-780451.

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from Banbury Cake and Cockhorse Magazine, Banbury Historical Society. Summer 1985

SARAH'S SECRET, or NO STONE UNTURNED

A recent discovery at Delapre Abbey had led to the addition of the name MEAKINS to my surname interests. I had intended to send a simple note to this effect to "Footprints", but reflecting on how that discovery came about made me realise how important it is in family history research to examine as many sources of information as possible and to look for other evidence besides that contained in parish registers. Had I relied solely on the details they could offer, my 3-greats-grandmother's secret would never have come to light.

It was a folded piece of thick, yellowing paper brought out from my father's tin box that caused the Family History Bug to bite me. When he told me that this was a copy taken from a church's marriage register and that the John Bodfish and Mary Ann Turner named on it were my great-great-grandparents, I determined to see what more could be discovered about John and his origins. The quest I embarked on then was to take me through 15 years and across 3 counties before an accurate picture could be put together.

John and Mary Ann were married on St George's Day, 1838, at an Oxfordshire village called Tadmarton, situated about 5 miles south-west of Banbury. Naturally, my first enquiries were made of Tadmarton's parish registers, with the extraction of every Bodfish entry they contained. Evidently, the first to arrive was William, with his marriage there to Hannah Grantham in 1791 and the subsequent baptisms of their 11 children. All the later entries clearly related to William's descendants, but there was no baptism for a John who could have then married in 1838. Could it have been omitted in error - or, more likely, was he illegitimate?

This suspicion was confirmed on receipt from the General Register Office of a copy of John's marriage certificate. The sections for his father's name and occupation were neatly ruled across, and, annoyingly, as he was simply stated to have been "over age", it was impossible to calculate the year of his birth. A closer appraisal of the Tadmarton register entries began to point towards William's eldest daughter, Sarah Bodfish, as a possible candidate for John's mother. Baptised in 1797, banns were called for her marriage at Marston St Lawrence in Northamptonshire to a Robert Austin in 1817: from the recesses of his memory my father drew the recollection of his own father having said "My grandfather had a half-brother, name of Austin, who went to America"; John's marriage certificate showed one of the witnesses to have been William Austin.

But a mere indication that a family story is true is very insubstantial ground in which to plant a family tree. The puzzle of John's parentage nagged away at me for years, and although the discovery of his name on the 1861 census for Birmingham did at least enable me to calculate the year of his birth as 1816, it seemed to hold out no hope of getting at the truth, as it read:

John Bodfish head married 45 sawyer Oxon, not known
In 1871 John told the census enumerator that he had been born at Tadmarton, but this was untrue, to judge by his previous statement. This raised several questions. Why the difference? Did he know, or not know, the truth about his origins? If he knew, did he ever tell? Suddenly it occurred to me that the one time it might have been surprised out of him was at the 1851 census, when for the first time he would have been asked to give his birthplace. Knowing that he was still at Tadmarton then, I headed for Oxford and there in the Central Library unrolled the appropriate microfilm until I read:

John Bodfish head married 35 labourer N'hants, Dunsanger

So he did know something, and had kept quiet about it in later years. Searching the British Isles gazeteer in vain for a place called Dunsanger, on reaching home my large scale map of Northamptonshire was spread out on the hearthrug and every place name on it scrutinised. Tucked away in a southern corner, close to the Buckinghamshire border was a place called "Deanshanger" - could that be it?

The next day I telephoned Delapre Abbey to ask if the baptism registers for Deanshanger were deposited. "Yes," was the reply. "Please, could you look at the 1816 entries, to see if there is one in the name of John Bodfish?" I entreated, and was requested to call back in half-an-hour. And when, in great eagerness and a little trepidation, I did so, the following entry was read out to me:

7th April 1816 John son of Sarah Bodfish of Passenham servant.

Now I was certain about one of John's parents. But was this Sarah the same girl as the daughter of William Bodfish of Tadmarton? And who was the father? Perhaps, as Sarah was a servant, it could have been the master of the household - or the master's son. Was her downfall tragic and undeserved, like that of Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles"? Hoping to find some more clues, I examined the Poor Law Accounts for Passenham, and they yielded details of several payments made on Sarah's behalf, including

26th April 1816 paid expense of fetching Sarah Bodfish and taking her to Northampton Assizes as per bill £4 10s 8d.

This expensive trip must surely have been to fix the obligation for maintenance onto the baby's father, and thus release Passenham from the responsibility. I wrote to the Public Record Office in great hopes, but they were to be sadly dashed; the 1816 Northampton Circuit records do not survive.

And there the matter stood for several years. I continued to work on the ancestry of William Bodfish and traced it back into Northamptonshire through 4 generations as far as 1677, when Lawrence Boatfish of Chelveston-cum-Caldecott married Elizabeth Sparke of Stanwick. Additional evidence was found to indicate the family's origins in southern Leicestershire, established there as early as 1534. From the mass of

details gathered, it gradually became clear that every bearer of the surname was related, and from the linking together of almost all the family groups scattered over Leicestershire and Northamptonshire between the 16th and 18th centuries grew a One Name Study.

This undertaking sent me in pursuit of every scrap of information relating to every Bodfish that could be found. Returning then to the Tadmarton records, I began to work through the Poor Law Account books, extracting every Bodfish entry: fascinating personal snippets appeared, such as the payment to William of 10s 6d for the loss of his fat pig, a blow which would otherwise have been overwhelming to a family so poor and numerous. But the entry which really made me sit up was

> Expenses for removen Sarah Bodfish from Tadmarton up to Dunsanger with a order £2 12s 6d; 12th December 1815

This proved beyond doubt that John's mother was William's daughter Sarah and no other. Poor girl; she must have left (or been thrown out of) her place, and somehow made her way across the 30 miles from Passenham back to her parents. The prospect to them of yet another mouth to feed must have been dismaying enough, but evidently the parish of Tadmarton was not prepared to help out, as the baby had not been conceived there. So now Sarah, about 6 months pregnant, was to be shunted back again so that responsibility could fall on Passenham. There was no sign of the Removal Order surviving at either place, nor of her examination by the Oxfordshire magistrates, and once more the search for the identity of John's father was at a standstill.

Again, it was work on the One Name Study that nudged me in the direction of a possible answer. Having previously picked up a reference to a Bodfish being involved in the "Captain Swing" riots (machine breaking and arson by agricultural labourers) in 1830, I identified him as James, one of Sarah's younger brothers, from the Calendar of Prisoners in Oxford Jail. Next, the Quarter Sessions records were examined in an attempt to find out more about James's case. Although unsuccessful, I read through many cases relating to the paternity of illegitimate babies and the thought occurred that even if the Assize records for Northampton in 1816 did not survive, maybe those for the contemporary Quarter Sessions did. Another call to Delapre Abbey proved this to be so, and on my next visit there I was provided with several boxes containing bundles of documents, each wrapped in very dusty paper and looking as though it had been quite untouched since 1816 when the clerk threaded a string through the papers, parcelled them up and dated them. I began to unwrap and unroll the bundles, scanning each document carefully. Then - Eureka! In the middle of the bundle for the Epiphany Session I found a printed form, duly completed with the information that revealed Sarah's secret:

> "Wheras Sarah Bodfish of Passenham in the said County of Northampton single woman, did by her voluntary Examination taken in Writing upon Oath before John Christopher Mansel

Esquire One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, on the 21st Day of December last past, declare herself to be then with Child; and that the said Child was likely to be born a Bastard, and to be chargeable to the said Parish of Passenham and the said Sarah Bodfish did then charge John Meakins of Potterspury in the said County Labourer with having gotten her with Child....."

But what was this, further down the document?

"apprehending the said John Meakins ... who was afterwards brought before ... for idemnifying the said parish of Passenham or securities to enter into a Recognizance ... which he refused to do and was therefore committed to the Common Gaol of the said County of Northampton until such security is given ...

Had I really discovered the answer, or another mystery? Why did he refuse? Could Sarah have accused him out of spite? Or did he say "Why me - it could have been one of half-a-dozen others!" - this began to sound more like "Moll Flanders" than "Tess of the D'Urbervilles"!

Most likely John Meakins was young, scared and desperate to avoid the financial obligation being fastened on him. A quick glance at the Potterspury Bishop's Transcripts indicated only one likely John Meakins; baptised in 1798, he would have been aged about 18 at the time. What actually happened when the case came up at the Assizes in April 1816 we shall never know, but it must have been sufficiently conclusive for Passenham to be released from responsibility for Sarah and her baby, as two days after her trip to the Assizes the Poor Law Overseer paid "5s to bear her expenses going home".

At home in Tadmarton in March 1817, Sarah witnessed a marriage, then re-crossed the county boundary later that year for her own marriage to Robert Austin, at Marston St Lawrence on 26th November. On turning up the register entry I was surprised to see, clearly and confidently written, Sarah's signature. Not usual, I felt, for a poor servant girl and the daughter of a labourer.

Robert and Sarah set up their home at Tadmarton, for it was Robert's native village too, and there she bore him 10 children. Baby John may have been brought up by his grandparents, William and Hannah Bodfish, for it was their name that he retained. When in his early forties, together with his wife Mary Ann and five sons, John left Oxfordshire for Birmingham. And there it was that in 1862, my great-grandparents, James Bodfish, Sarah's grandson by John Meakins, married his cousin Emma Austin, Sarah's granddaughter by Robert Austin. This may have brought pleasure to Sarah in her old age: she probably did know all about it as someone, likely John, came back to obtain proof of his marriage, as that yellowing paper in my possession is annotated "Given by T. Lea, Rector of Tadmarton, 2nd September 1864". I like to think that John did see his mother then, for she died, aged 68, less than a year later, in

June 1865 and less than two months afterwards her husband Robert, too, was laid to rest.

It was quite a challenge that came down to me, after 150 years, to fill in the blank spaces on great-great-grandfather's marriage certificate. More than once I felt that it was hopeless, and the trail was completely cold. But if the experience I gained in searching for what lay behind Sarah's Secret has taught me anything, it is that both luck, and perseverance, are needed in the fascinating, maddening, self-imposed task of family history research.

Mary Bodfish

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The Wildlife Page: Owls.

If like me you lie awake at night listening to the noises of the dark, trying to establish what owl you can hear. Or if you are rudely awoken by a spinechilling scream that is the call of the little owl. You will agree that the ability to distinguish the owl (or any bird) by its call is something most bird watchers would love to learn.

We are blessed living in an area where we can spot a variety of owl species. Every single one as beautiful and interesting as another.
You will be surprised to learn that there are over 200 owl species in the world of which there are only 6 species in the UK.
The Barn Owl, The Tawny Owl, The Short Eared and Long Eared Owl, and the little owl. No 6 is The European Eagle Owl which is on the amber list.

Owls are predators and extremely good at it due to some physical characteristics. Their ears are asymmetrical, this combined with the 'bobbing' of the head allows them to pinpoint scuffling noises made by their prey to within 0.0003 milliseconds. Although most owls are Nocturnal, some do hunt during daylight hours and with a bit of luck you can see the little owl and the barn owl fat first light in the morning, and last thing at night whilst it is still light.
They eat on average 4 mice or 2 rats a night (A Whopping 1460/ 730 a year). This would explain the reason behind mice and rats producing on such a huge scale. (After all nature without human intervention is well balanced) . Knowing this you probably recognise the negative impact if poison is used to deal with mice or rats.

Owls lay eggs, depending on the species they either breed in winter or early spring. On average they lay 3-5 eggs in a staggered timescale. They take approximately 30-35 days to hatch. The biggest owlet gets fed first and the smaller ones will only get fed if food is plentiful. They initially will get fed pieces of meat, until they are able to devour complete animals. Owls will bring up undigested food particles in a pellet to make space for new food. Once the owlets are the same size as their parentals (between 7-12 weeks species dependent) they will start to hunt for themselves. When fully independent, they get booted out of their parents territory.

Should you want to read up more about Owls, check out the following websites:
www.theowlstrust.org
Www.barnowltrust.org.uk/owl-facts-for-kids
www.bto.org

Happy Wildlife watching everyone and let us know what you have spotted!

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	NS				S
	3A	3A	3A	3A	3A
Stratford upon Avon, Rother Street	0617	0902	--	--	1607
Preston on Stour, Turn	0623	0908	--	--	1613
Alderminster, Church	0628	0913	--	--	--
Ilmington, Red Lion	--	--	--	--	1625
Armscote, Fuzzy Duck	--	--	--	--	--
Halford, Bridge Inn	--	--	--	--	--
Tredington, White Horse	0634	--	--	--	--
Shipston on Stour, Tilemans Lane	0637	0919	--	--	1632
Shipston on Stour, opp Pettiphers	0640	0922	--	--	1635
Guaranteed connections shown by	↓	↓			↓
Shipston on Stour, opp Pettiphers	0640	0922	1150	1340	1635
Lower Brailes, The Park	0650	0930	1200	1350	1645
Sibford Ferris, School	0702	0942	1212	1402	1657
Lower Tadmarton	0712	0950	1222	1412	1707
Banbury, Bus Station	0725	1010	1235	1425	1720

			SSH	Sch	
	3A	3A	3A	3A	3A
Banbury, Bus Station	1100	1240	1430	1430	1730
Lower Tadmarton	1113	1253	1443	1443	1743
Sibford Ferris, School	1123	1303	1453	1453	1753
Lower Brailes, The Park	1136	1316	1506	1506	1806
Shipston on Stour, opp Pettiphers	1146	1326	1516	1516	1816
Guaranteed connections shown by			↓	↓	↓
Shipston on Stour, opp Pettiphers	--	--	1516	1519	1816
Shipston on Stour, Tilemans Lane	--	--	1519	1519	1819
Shipston on Stour, School	--	--	--	1521	--
Tredington, White Horse	--	--	--	--	1823
Halford, Bridge Inn	--	--	--	--	--
Armscote, Fuzzy Duck	--	--	--	--	--
Ilmington, Red Lion	--	--	1526	1531	--
Alderminster, Church	--	--	--	LQ	1828
Preston on Stour, Church	--	--	1538	--	1833
Stratford upon Avon, Guild Street	--	--	1546	1600	1841
Stratford upon Avon, Rother Street	--	--	1548	1602	1845

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