

Oddington Newsletter

Special Edition

July 2020



FROM THE ARCHIVES

This newsletter replaces "The Village Newsletter" which is not being printed in the current situation. Please feel free to forward this to any residents for whom you have contact details.

For further updates please sign up to the Upper and Lower Oddington Facebook page or visit <https://www.oddingtononline.net>

It is hoped that the August edition will be published in the normal format and printed in hard copy. The deadline for submission will therefore revert to the 20th of the month, namely July 20th. Please send news contributions to the editor, Sue Watkin, by email to susanwatkin@msn.com or by post to the Old Plough, Upper Oddington, GL56 0XG in the normal way. If you have any queries please contact me on 01451 830738, or by email.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Elizabeth Hall, Advice Services Manager

Your local Citizens Advice is still here for you.

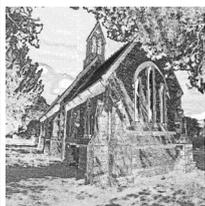
Our Advisers continue to work, just from home and are waiting to help you by phone and email.

Please call us on 0808 500 0511 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm (free from landlines and most mobiles) or visit:

<https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php> to email your enquiry to us.

ODDINGTON POST OFFICE

**THE POST OFFICE IS OPEN ON MONDAY AND
FRIDAYS IN THE VILLAGE HALL FROM
10.30 AM TO 12 NOON**



ODDINGTON

Holy Ascension & St Nicholas



Dear Friends,

These have been extraordinary times – unprecedented in the life of our nation. Some have lost loved ones or jobs, and many have had to endure the loneliness and isolation of shielding. But in the darkness, there have still been shafts of light as community has been strengthened and people have cared for each other, despite the restrictions.

As a group of churches, we have been able to take the opportunities afforded by modern technology to reach people in their homes with the message of God's love – and in such far flung places as New York, Australia and Chile.

As I write we have just heard that services in church buildings can resume in July. It will be a great joy to be able to meet in worship again in our beautiful parish churches. But as we plan for that return we are mindful that it may be too early for those who are shielding and that there are others further afield who have come to rely on the resources we have provided online, this past three months.

We are planning therefore, for a transitional period in July and August with some church services being held and some streamed services being broadcast together with the provision of other online resources.

It is too early to say what that pattern will look like but as soon as we have details they will be published on the website. For those who do not have internet access they can be obtained from your Church warden.

The services due on June 28th and July 6th, recorded in Icomb and Broadwell respectively, will be streamed and can be watched from the Benefice Website: www.evenlodevalechurches.org. Reflections, Daily Readings and other resources will continue to be available on the spiritual resources page of our website: www.evenlodevalechurches.org/spiritual-resources

May we use this next stage in the exit from lockdown to draw near to God – the one who said, "Let light shine out darkness" and made his glory known in the face of Christ.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Rendall

CHURCH NEWS

JULY 2020

Churches Open for Private Prayer

We are pleased to say that our Parish Churches are now open for Private Prayer with only Holy Ascension Oddington remaining closed for the time being. There are leaflets in our churches to help guide us in private prayer. Please keep the leaflet after use and bring it back with you if you wish to return. Please use the hand sanitiser provided when you enter and leave the church and avoid using the church if you currently have symptoms of Corona-virus infection.

Please see the letter from the Rector about our plans to resume public worship.

Daily Readings

Introduced during the last three months to encourage one another, our daily readings have proved popular. They are designed to be deliberately short and thought-provoking to help us through these challenging times. You can access them from the Spiritual Resources page of the Benefice website (www.evenlodevalechurches.org/spiritual-resources) or follow our Facebook page (@evenlodevalechurches) and receive them each day in your news feed. The readings can be read online or printed off to give to those who don't have internet access. Please do help your neighbours who find it hard to access online resources.

Youth Work

As lockdown begins to ease our youth team comprising Mark and Lydia are managing to meet up with youth in the area for socially distanced outside activities, such as bike rides or walks. Mark and Lydia also continue to provide online games nights and online group bible studies. If you know of anyone who would like to join in their activities please contact Mark on 07584 561378 or Lydia on 07852 329193.

DVD's of our Services

We are now producing DVD's of our Sunday Services for those who can't access them online. These are available in advance so that those who wish to can join in with our Sunday worship. If you would like to take advantage of this please contact your church warden or Kirsten in the church office by email: office@evenlodevalchurches.org or telephone: 01451 831424.

It's never too late! – A series of talks by David Cook

We have a new resource available written and presented by David Cook. 'It's Never Too Late . . .' is a series of talks that were given on behalf of the Steward's Trust and in collaboration with Evenlode Vale Benefice. This series will speak to you whatever your situation, whether you're about to retire, or planning a life change, or simply want to assess your priorities.

You can watch a video of each talk or listen to audio files from a link on the Spiritual Resources page of the Benefice website – see link above.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Oddington Good Neighbour Scheme

If you are still isolating and need any help during the coming weeks remember this scheme is in place. There are a number of willing volunteers in the village who can help with collecting shopping and medication, post mail or just provide reassurance. Please contact Janet Eustace on 01451 830 594 or email janet.eustace@yahoo.co.uk to register.

Oddington Parish Council Meeting

This will be held , via Zoom, at 6.30 pm on Thursday 2nd July. If you would like to attend, please contact Janet for the Zoom link.

Oddington and Adlestrop United Charities

The Oddington and Adlestrop United Charities can to provide short term support for anyone who may be struggling as a result of loss of income. Please contact Janet (details as above) for further details.

VILLAGE NEWS

The re-opening of the Village Playground will be discussed on 2 July at the PC meeting. We hope to re-open on July 4. Many thanks to Bob for repainting the slide and securing the fences. Playgrounds don't lend themselves to social distancing but please take such precautions as you can and wash or disinfect hands as soon as possible on leaving.

The '**Men Only Bake a Victorian Cake**' competition on 12 June resulted in a narrow win by Jeremy for his 'Surprise Cutlet' cakes. They didn't look much like cutlets but were quite surprising. The Horse and Groom came in a respectable last with a 'Mountain Cake' which was as flat as a pancake and almost, but not completely, inedible. All the entrants took the event very seriously and most are reported as having left the kitchen clean and tidy.

The last Virtual Quiz took place on 25 June with the Yates family winning the overall virtual trophy. A very big thank you to Alan for organizing the fortnightly quiz for the last three months. **The next quiz will be held on the back terrace of the Horse and Groom on Thursday 9 July.** Technology permitting it will be zoomed to allow those still in isolation to join in.

Oddington Garden Tours take place on Friday and Saturday 3rd and 4th July. Entry is by ticket only and you must book in advance. There are a small number of spaces left. Please contact Janet for further details.

UPDATE FROM THE HORSE & GROOM INN

Warren Turner and Norman Liu

As we begin a new period with easing of restrictions and a planned re-opening of the pub on Saturday 4th July, we would like to thank the village for the incredible support and generosity you have shown to the pub during the period of lockdown. We had no idea at the start of lockdown whether we would be able to get the pub through to the other side! However, we took strength from the great support of our friends and neighbours in Oddington and decided to 'just keep going'. On the day that the government closed the pubs Norman stayed up all night and deployed his IT skills to get our takeaway and delivery service online. That enabled us to keep the pub open, at least virtually behind its closed doors. Sincere thanks to everyone for supporting us through these last three months. Your wise words, feedback, encouragement and custom has helped us to keep the pub alive. We have also been able to support the most vulnerable members of our community with hot food deliveries and groceries.

Even though our doors have been closed for these past three months, we've been busy inside preparing for our eventual reopening. We've caught up with a backlog of routine maintenance tasks (most of which are behind the scenes), but we've also upgraded, re-carpeted and redecorated our seven guest bedrooms and converted the old and under-used Still Room (the small room at the back of the snug where we used to make coffee behind the big green dresser) into a small shop space. When we re-open we will use this to provide basic essentials (milk, bread, tinned goods), luxury deli items and gifts etc. We hope you will like what we have done! Please let us know if there is anything you think we should consider stocking. We have also invested in a new coffee machine and grinder and by re-opening day all our team will be 'Barista trained'. Takeaway coffees available.

We've decided to call the shop 'Henbrook's Coffee & Deli'. In researching the local history of Oddington, Warren came across Oddington's entry in www.british-history.ac.uk which describes two brooks running through the village around 1584 (the year the pub dates back to). One of the brooks was called Henbrook, the other Jail Brook. Henbrook joined the Evenlode near Bledington village. Henbrook's therefore seemed a fitting name for the shop/ deli (we didn't think 'Jailbrook's' had quite the same ring to it!).

Over the past couple of weeks we have also been busy in making the pub safe for staff and customers to return to post-lockdown. While it is relatively easy for us to maintain social distancing in the garden and on the terrace, we've had to make bigger changes inside. We've made sure that our tables inside are spaced at least 2 metres apart and we will have glass screens between tables closer than this. We will have a 'one way' system through the building, and will be offering table service only (therefore no standing, seating or ordering at the bar for now). We will have hand sanitiser available at all entrances to the building, are re-training our entire team to include Covid risk management, our new enhanced cleaning routines, and of course the art of great coffee making!

Continued on facing page

We've also made the news! Norman has appeared on BBC Radio 4's 'Farming Today' and we've both had our audio diary broadcast on BBC Radio Gloucestershire as well as been interviewed by The Sun newspaper about the steps we are taking to keep staff and customers safe as we reopen (including some truly embarrassing photos of us both in full PPE!).

So, I think we are now about as well prepared as we can be. Whether we welcome you back to us in the garden or on the terrace, on the front of the pub or inside, it will be wonderful to see the pub busy with people again! It may be some time before we are safe to welcome you with a hearty embrace, but please accept our virtual hugs!

MICK BARNES

An obituary by Richard Philips

Sadly, Mick Barnes died on the 6th June at home in Oddington aged 84. 'Barnsy' was an unforgettable character in the village for many years.

Born in Adlestrop, he could not wait to leave school and begin a career as one of the Cotswolds finest stone masons.

He was also an excellent cricketer for Adlestrop Cricket Club and was a very fine bowler. In his retirement he followed his love of horseracing to a greater degree, owning shares in many horses at Adlestrop Stables.

Bertie Barnes in particular gave him great pleasure carrying his racing colours to victory at Kempton and Towcester in 2018.

Mick was a very popular figure in the racing community, ever present on race-courses and always up for doing anyone a favour if needed.

He also loved animals and among those he kept at his home in Oddington, were Larry the sheep, Margaret the goose, Sam the dog and cats Muffin and Mandy.

Barnsy was also a major presence in both Oddington pubs - the Fox and the Horse and Groom, the former is where he met his much-loved wife Dorothy, who was the landlady's daughter.



Many turned out to walk behind his funeral car from his house to St Nicholas, where Reverend Richard Rendall held a wonderful service. Due to government guidelines, only a few were allowed into the graveyard but many others socially distanced outside to pay their respects to someone who was a true local legend.

RIP Michael Roy Barnes. You will never be forgotten.

FUNDRAISING

KATE'S HOME NURSING AND ADLESTROP CRICKET CLUB

My name is Sam Keen and I am hoping to attempt a Double Brutal Ironman in September (subject to cancellation)
This involves a 4.8 mile swim, 232 mile hilly cycle around Snowdonia National Park, a scale and descent of Snowdon and a hilly 42 mile run

Alongside this I am doing a 12 hour session on my static bike trainer on the 31st May and a sponsored "Train the Trainer" challenge on the 7th June where people can pay £10 for a 5 minute training session where I have to do as instructed by them!

The link for the fundraising is
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/maniacmulegoesdoublebrutal>

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Ted Miles

On behalf of the Committee I would like to say "hello" again to all villagers and hope you are all well and staying safe.

We have just received the latest government guidelines and are studying them to determine how and when we can re-open the Village Hall once again. We will have an update in the next edition of the newsletter.

We are all looking forward to welcoming you to our monthly Coffee Shop and Flix in the Stix. Hopefully normal service will be resumed shortly.



HOME DELIVERIES & TAKE AWAYS

The Cotswold Game and Meat Company

We have recently launched a retail delivery service to some of our local village halls. Their refrigerated van will be outside Oddington Village Hall on Wednesday and Friday between 11.30 and 12.15. You will need to pre-order. Call Chris on **07714 765571** for further details.

R &D Walker, Butchers, Moreton in Marsh

Please call **01608 651002** to place your order for meat and fresh vegetables and we will endeavour to have your delivery within 48-hrs. Where possible, it would be beneficial to everyone for you to place a weekly, bulk order to allow us to streamline our service and again reduce additional person to person contact. We understand there will be a number of smaller orders which we of course, are more than happy to deliver.

The Old Butchers, Stow

Take out available Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 5pm to 8pm. Please email order to louise@theoldbutchers.com or message her on 07564 178017. New menu available each week. Pre - orders only, cut off 3pm on day of collection. **The restaurant will be re-opening on July 4th but the take-out service will continue.**

Daylesford Organic Farm Shop

If you are self-isolating, at high risk or vulnerable and would like to place a grocery order, please call our team on **01608 731680** between the hours of 9am to 11am only.

The Fox Inn, Lower Oddington

Call 01451 870555 for details. Menu on Upper & Lower Oddington Facebook page.

Grimsby Fish Near You

A mobile fishmonger 'Grimsby Fish Near You' is in the car park of the community shop in Bledington on Tuesdays between 1.30 and 2.30. You can pre-order by phone 07811 254325 or buy on the day while stocks last.

PLEASE CHECK WITH INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES FOR THEIR UPDATED SERVICES