

ENSTONE ENSIGN

Number 426 July 2020

Newsletter for Enstone Parish

THE CHASE BENEFICE - JULY

The Church buildings are now open for personal prayer and reflection on Sundays between 10 am – 4.00 pm. We hope to be able to start public worship again sometime in July: look out for posters around the village and details on our website.

Until then, you can worship using our recorded weekly service of reflection and prayer on our website: www.thechasebenefice.org.uk or you can listen by phone on 01608 998955.

You are also invited to a virtual coffee and chat on Sundays 11-11.30 am and on Tuesdays 10.30 - 11 am - details also on our website.

If you would like to talk to a member of the clergy please contact Mark on 01608 676572 or Ilona on 07305 355809. They will be delighted to hear from you!

ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, FISHERS LANE, CHARLBURY

St. Teresa's should be ready to open from Wednesday 1st July. Hand sanitiser will be available for entry and exit but people should bring their own face-mask, please!

Sorry for the rather prescriptive information but the diocese have laid down clear guidelines.

We are waiting for the green light on public Masses and they may well start in a low-key manner, without any singing, a bit like a Low Mass. Currently there is still a freeze on Confessions but as soon as this is permitted Father Tony will be available.

The Parish Priest is Fr Tony Joyce, at Holy Trinity Rectory, London Rd, Chipping Norton OX7 5AX. holytrinityrchippy@gmail.com 01608 642703

All items for the August Ensign in by 1st August (or sooner, if you have it ready) please, to Hillside (blue door opposite Artyard Cafe) or ring 677231 for shorter items. You can also email me at info@andreabates.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – JUNE 2020

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

- **Stoney Bridge House, Bicester Road, Enstone – 20/01373/HHD** – Erection of timber-framed conservatory – No objection
- **Stable Cottage, Church Enstone, Chipping Norton – 20/01277/HHD** – Insertion of 2. No rooflights on rear elevation – No objection
- **Glyme Bank, Lidstone, 20/01278/FUL** – Erection of dwelling and garages ancillary to Glyme Bank – No objection but Parish Council has requested that WODC undertakes a site visit
- **Appeal notification, Barnmead, Church Enstone, APP/D3125/W/20/3249734** – Outline planning application for retirement dwellings, community building and communal recreational facilities; access roads and pedestrian/cycle links; hard and soft landscaping; foul and surface water drainage systems; and other works

Decisions Received:-

- **Church Cottage, Church Enstone, 20/00930/HHD** – Erection of pergola and creation of pond. Approved
- **Marshall's Barn, Church Enstone** – Repair and alteration of walls and rebuilding of roof to existing outbuilding to form ancillary dwelling. Approved
- **Cotswolds Hotel & Spa, Southcombe, Chipping Norton, 19/03504/OUT** – Erection of up to 73 holiday homes and associated infrastructural in connection with existing facilities - Refused

TRAFFIC CALMING:-

The speed of traffic around the parish has increased following lockdown. At the Parish Council Meeting, it was agreed that County Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles will take this forward with the County Council with regards to carrying out feasibility studies around the parish, with the possibility of 20 mph signs being erected around the parish.

VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT AT GAGINGWELL

The Parish Council has organised for a VDU to be placed at Gagingwell and Oxfordshire County Council will be installing this in the coming weeks.

THE PLANKS – UPDATE

The Parish Council is continuing its talks with the County Council with regards

to the replacement of the planks.

JOINING THE PARISH COUNCIL'S VIRTUAL MEETINGS:-

Although the Parish Council is now holding meetings “virtually”, residents are able to participate in these. In order to do this, I would need your email address to send you an invitation. The agenda for the meeting is placed on the noticeboards and website a week before the meeting is held so please contact me should you wish to speak at the meeting.

Dates of next meetings:-

- Thursday 30th July 7.15 pm via Zoom
- Thursday 27th August 7.15 pm via Zoom

Mrs Beth Sinclair, Enstone Parish Clerk, Briery Cottage, 9 Alexandra Square, Chipping Norton, OX7 5HL. Tel: 01608 641051: Email:-
enstoneparishclerk@gmail.com

Website address for the Parish = enstoneparish.org which includes all agendas and minutes from Parish Council meetings.

Website address for the Parish Hall = enstoneparishhall.org

Facebook Page = Enstone Parish

ENSTONE WI

Last month we again held our monthly meeting via Zoom, a short quiz was followed by members telling us about some of the more surprising presents they have received.

We hope to host a socially distanced barbecue in July and will organise a walk in August but we will have to wait for the latest Government guidelines before confirming details.

ENSTONE HISTORY SOCIETY

The Committee has decided not to hold either the picnic at St. Kenelm's next month or to arrange a visit in September as planned. It will be difficult to practice social distancing which we believe will still be necessary. However, Government guidelines permitting, we hope to hold our October meeting when Frank Prochaska will be speaking to us on the subject of "The Feminisation of

the Monarchy." We will of course keep you informed.

Kind regards,

John Pritchard, Chairman.

ENSTONE OIL ORDERS

Enstone oil will be taking orders in July. Email enstoneoil@gmail.com for information. Order forms will be available from Adams Stores and online on the Parish website. Delivery will be arranged w/c 20th July. A free service for the Parish.

ENSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The return to school of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils has been a tremendous success so far. We were delighted to welcome back almost all eligible pupils on 3rd June and the children were very excited to return. I suspect they didn't realise how much they actually enjoyed school until they weren't able to come! With the return of these groups and the maintenance of the existing "Key Worker" provision, we now have half of our pupils safely back in school. We have certainly bucked the trend nationally for the percentage of pupils we have managed to accommodate – not bad for a little village school! The enthusiasm of the pupils and the dedication of the staff to making this strange situation work are commendable. Children don't easily remember to "socially distance" but with a few simple rules in place (e.g. always leave room next to you for "Invisibod" – our social distancing superhero) we are managing to maintain our "bubbles". When we closed so suddenly in June we felt great sadness for some of the things the children would be missing out on at the end of this school year – particularly our Year 6 group – so I am delighted that we are now able to put back into place some of the key activities that form part of the transition process for these children and mark the end of their primary education. Cycling Proficiency is now going full steam ahead and we are even planning for a Leavers' Celebration – albeit in a slightly scaled down version. All in all, there is a happy vibe in school, despite these difficult times.

Sarah Mann

Headteacher

A few weeks ago, when lockdown was at its most stringent and before the advent of the “support bubble”, I was sitting in the shade of the apple tree on a beautiful hot day wondering what I was going to do all alone for the rest of the day. But then I had a sort of mindfulness moment like the ones shown by Chris Packham and his co-presenters on Springwatch recently, and became aware that I was not really alone. Because there was so little traffic, the birdsong was more prominent – I could hear a chaffinch singing its heart out in the birch tree, a blackbird, a distant wren: the smallest bird with the loudest song that cheerfully dominates the whole garden. I began to relax and let my senses drift. Oh look – here’s company! The little robin just flew over and hopped all around, cocked his head to see if I was getting him any worms and then left again.

Down there in the rough grass that no longer gets cut so short or sprayed with “lawn builder” (which usually involves a weedkiller) I notice a beautiful red and black cinnabar moth fluttering from one flower to another. He just landed on the ground ivy growing near the fence where the mower doesn’t reach – an insignificant wild flower with pale blue flowers, despised as a weed and pulled up by most people. And then a bee came along and landed on another pretty wildflower called herb Robert with pink flowers. Usually pulled up as a weed, it still attracts pollinators, which ultimately provide crops.

The grass that doesn’t get cut so short is a picture with its daisies and buttercups, which also attract bees. And where I left a big patch under the lime tree to grow wild for a while, the cow parsley and rose campion were rampant – Monty Don would approve! I read once that cow parsley attracts the sort of insects that wrens feed on. As we’ve had wrens nesting here every year, it seems like a good idea not to cut it all down too soon. And when it flowers, especially after a shower when the sun comes out, it looks like lace with little pearly drops.

I also noticed the most beautiful dragonflies and damselflies in vivid iridescent blues and greens, with transparent wings. And where the grass is allowed to grow uncut to its full height, I noticed how many different types there are, some flowering with tiny dusky pink flowers – with names like meadow fescue, cocksfoot, timothy grass, etc. And as I bent down to study them more closely, I noticed the whole area was alive with tiny baby grasshoppers leaping

from one blade to the next. No longer than a centimetre and a cream colour, they were very sweet. I'd never seen a whole congregation of them before. On reading up about it (in a 50-year old book) I learned that they usually hatch around the beginning of July. But now with climate change and the hottest May on record, I suppose everything happens much earlier.

And I was reminded of the comment on Springwatch that we are obsessively tidy as a nation and too much tidiness is not good for wildlife. And that it's good not to cut the grass too short, but to leave a patch – if your garden is big enough – uncut and see the moon daisies (oxeye daisies), the rose campion, the white clover, the prunella, and the insects and the butterflies that thrive on them. There is so much life out there in the garden one can never feel completely alone! (Dana St. Beare)

1ST ENSTONE GUIDES

We have been fully utilising Zoom for our meetings; sharing screens, using the whiteboard and breakout room facilities to try and carry on with the Guide Programme. Some activities are obviously easier to carry out on Zoom than others. The Guides enjoy doing crafty, hands on activities and ones where we are active collecting items for scavenger hunts. We recently learnt to finger spell in British sign language. We have been busy making bionic hands, cooking mug cakes in the microwave (a great success!) and fishing nets to name but a few.

The Guides all took part in the Girlguiding Oxfordshire virtual camp challenge in May, either sleeping in tents or shelters in the garden or making dens inside. We had a virtual campfire, where we discovered telling stories was easier than singing! Some of us also took part in Anglia Region's Midsummer sleepover. We wait to hear when we can resume face to face meetings and look forward to enjoying all the activities that we can do together such as team games and activities, water sports and camping. In the meantime, we shall continue to adapt and make the best of it and enjoy meeting up from the comfort of our houses.

We welcome any girls aged 10 to 14 years old, if you would like to join us please express your interest at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for->

parents/register-your-daughter or contact Kathy Slark 07879630655,
kathy@slark.com.

ENSTONE RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY

The Enstone Relief in Need Charity aims where possible to help relieve individual situations of hardship within the Parish of Enstone.

In the past grants have been made available to help those who live with a disability; help parents provide the cost of extra curricula studies for their children and help towards solving many everyday domestic emergencies and related problems that can occur when sickness, a reduction in income or death affects a family.

Grants cannot be made to cover the payment of outstanding liabilities and no commitment can be made to repeat or renew the relief granted. However, if you are in need of some extra help and live in the parish then the Trust may be able to help you.

For further details please contact Susanne Hamilton on 01608 677156 or Richard Parker on 01608 677220.

Registered Charity No. 264476

ENSTONE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB FACILITIES FOR HIRE GROUND AND CLUB



ENSTONE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

New members welcome

Barclays Premier League Live on Sky ,plus other sports too.

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01608 677823

At the time of constructing this ensign we don't know of the government guidelines regarding the re-opening of pubs and clubs so please check out our Facebook page for updates and we will hopefully be able to give more news in the August ensign.

As before any future events when the club is allowed to open again will be updated on the club's Facebook page and in future Ensigns.

Thank you all for your support and we look forward to seeing you when we can welcome old faces and hopefully some new ones too!

EVERYONE TAKE CARE AND BE SAFE.

TAILPIECE

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's Heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth. (D.F. Gurney)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 7 Proposed date for W.I barbeque
30 Parish Council 7.15 via Zoom
August 1 FINAL DATE FOR COPY

Litchfield Arms



Enstone Footbridge

