

# Ewelme News



June/July 2024

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# Parish Directory

## PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	David Solomon	01491598437
Vice Chairman	Barry Tindall	07973702410
Councillors:	Roger Moore	01491 838001
	Nigel Layton	07785244331
	Sally Stockings	01491 839287
	Rebecca Lanigan	lanigan@ewelme.org.uk
	Parish Clerk (Mon-Fri)	Jo Brock
	clerk@ewelmepc.org.uk	

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Freddie van Mierlo [freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## SODC COUNCILLORS

Sue Cooper 01491 835631  
Andrea Powell [Andrea.Powell@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.Powell@southoxon.gov.uk)  
Twitter: [GreenAndrea\(@AndreaJPowell2\)](#)

## EWELME CHURCH

Rector	The Rev. Dr. Patrick Gilday	01491 838535
Churchwarden	Sally Fehr	<a href="mailto:sally_fehr@hotmail.co.uk">sally_fehr@hotmail.co.uk</a>
	Martin Spence	<a href="mailto:martinhjspence@gmail.com">martinhjspence@gmail.com</a>
Visits Co-ordinator	Sally Fehr	01491 824822
Flower Co-ordinator	Angela Smailes	01491 836964

## EWELME SCHOOL

Headteacher	Joe Ottaway	01491 839240
Joint Chair of Governors	Sam Masters	<a href="mailto:smasters@its.jnj.com">smasters@its.jnj.com</a>
	Peter Ryding	<a href="mailto:Peter@peterryding.com">Peter@peterryding.com</a>

## EWELME SOCIETY

Carol Sawbridge 01491 833154

## EWELME STORE

[manager@ewelmevillagestore.co.uk](mailto:manager@ewelmevillagestore.co.uk)

01491 834467

## EWELME VILLAGE HALL

Anne Critchley 01491 834403

## EWELME VILLAGE PRESCHOOL

Jo Hoskin 01491 281266

Admissions 01491 613143

## LARKMEAD VETERINARY SURGERY

01491 651379

## MILLSTREAM SURGERY

Dr Lucy Jenkins 01491 838286

## MILLSTREAM CENTRE

Lindsay Jenkins 01491 834889

## NEWELME CLUB

Peter Lemaire 01491 835660

## WATERCRESS PAINTERS

Trisha Scott 01491 834734 or 07884330453

# The Village Diary

## 9th June, Sunday from 2.00 pm

Ewelme Open Gardens Event. Parking will be provided. (Page22)

## 22nd June, Saturday

Horticultural Society visit to RHS Wisley (Page 22)

## 30th June, Sunday 3.00 pm

Friends of the Church. St Mary's Church. Concert (Page 17)

## 3rd and 4th August

Nettlebed Art & Craft Show. Details Page 24

## 15th August, Thursday

Children's Activity Day at the Watercress Beds (Page 6)

## 26th August 2024, Bank Holiday Monday 2-5pm

Ewelme Horticultural Society Village Show

**Please complete the Ewelme News feedback form on Page 25**

## Regular Events

### 2nd Friday in month

Newelme Club 2.30 pm. Village Hall.

### Every Wednesday

MUGS 10.20- 11:45 a.m. coffee at the Shepherd's Hut. Everyone welcome.

### 1st Saturday & 3rd Wednesday in month

Watercress Beds & Nature Reserve  
Volunteer work mornings 9.30-12.30

### 1st Sunday in month May - September

Watercress Beds & Nature Reserve

Open Afternoons from 2 - 4.30 p.m.

The Ewelme News is published by the Ewelme Parish Council. The copy date for the next issue is the **19th July 2024**. Please send your contributions to the editor: [sayerann863@gmail.com](mailto:sayerann863@gmail.com)

## EWELME VILLAGE HALL YOU CAN HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL.

Main Hall maximum of 120 seated, 96 with tables.

Multimedia projector and sound system available.

Full stage with lighting. Free Wi-Fi

Kitchen: Double cooker, microwave, hot water dispenser, dish washer and fridge.

**BOOKINGS & INFORMATION : ANNE CRITCHLEY ON 01491 834403**

# Ewelme Parish Council

## GEMMA BENOLIEL

The Parish Council was very sorry to say goodbye recently to our retiring Chair, Gemma Benoliel.

Gemma has been a councillor for many years and chaired the Parish Council for the last five. She has done a tremendous job, bringing wisdom, judgement, commitment, kindness and very hard work to the role. She commanded great respect and loyalty from the other councillors and had a knack of drawing on their best qualities. She will be a very hard act to follow.

We have recently welcomed **Rebecca Lanigan** to the council, filling a casual vacancy left by the retirement of Roger Moore. Roger was another long-term server on the council and his experience, knowledge and thoroughness will be sorely missed.

Barry Tindall has been elected Vice-Chair.

*David Solomon*

Chair, Ewelme Parish Council.

**YOUR COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!**



**There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor in Ewelme**

**Would you like to become more involved in decision making in Ewelme?**

**You could make a real difference in your local area**

**No previous experience necessary**

**Email the Clerk for more details: [clerk@ewelmepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ewelmepc.org.uk)**



*Our cover girl in the last issue, Esme the lamb, is now the proud mother of Esmerelda.*

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# Friends of Ewelme Watercress Beds

## Children's Activity Day August 15th

The Friends are collaborating with the Cress Beds Management Team to host the Children's Activity Day at the Cress Beds on Thursday August 15. Previously known as the Doctor Anne Day, this event has been running for many years.

The day and its activities are aimed at children aged 5 to 10 years, but slightly younger and older siblings will be welcome too. All children must be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them at all times. Spaces are limited so do contact us soon if you are interested. Proposed activities include:-

**Moth trap processing (always a great favourite);**

**Water bug hunting and identification;**

**Toy boat construction and racing;**

**Photography competition (cameras provided);**

**Explanation of watercress growing;**

**Treasure hunt;**

**Art; Craft;**

**Ice cream and refreshments (bring your own lunch);**

**Prizes and gifts.**



There will be a small charge to book a place – we reluctantly do this to discourage no-shows and the blocking of one or more of the limited spaces. If you are interested in booking places for one or more children please contact Margaret Connolly ([b.e.connolly@live.co.uk](mailto:b.e.connolly@live.co.uk)).

More information to follow via the Ewelme News, posters around the village and the Friends of Ewelme watercress Beds – if you are not a member do join, just £5 a year, contact Andrea Powell ([andreaipowell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andreaipowell@yahoo.co.uk)). *David Solomon*



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## Does Thames Travel really mean to take away the direct bus 136/139 route from Ewelme to Benson?

I could not believe my eyes when viewing the new timetable with the splitting of the 136 service. I had to check again and again. If so, they have not taken on board that here in Ewelme we are very dependent on the shops and other facilities in Benson. The current bus allows residents to nip down to the Co-op, doctors' surgery, pharmacy, butcher, library (etc. etc.) with a five minute journey each way. The new timetable will add significant journey time from Ewelme to Benson. As I read the new timetable, if I get on the 139 at 10.35am at the Green Lane stop, this will get me to Wallingford for 10.47am and then I will need to wait until 11.20 to get the next bus heading to Benson, arriving there at 11.30 am. Residents of Benson who live some distance from the shops are also being discriminated against.

So far very few residents know about the proposed changes. This decision seems to have been taken without adequate consultation. How can we persuade more people to use public transport when arbitrary decisions such as this one are taken. I urge Thames Travel to re-consider and bring back the 136 service between Ewelme and Benson, without having to travel the long way round via Wallingford. It was also much appreciated that this bus route continued to Cholsey. *Ann Truesdale*

## Roses in Memory



This seven strong team got the roses in St Mary's churchyard off to a flying start this year - pruning, mulching and feeding.

*(l-r) Donna Mitchell, Pat Jordan Evans, Peter Mitchell, Jackie Reed, Sally Stockings and George (Jackie's grandson).*

# WASTE NOT, WANT NOT .....

## How the contents of your food caddy is helping to save the planet

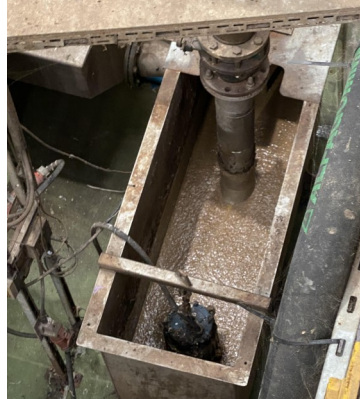
The Wallingford Anaerobic Digestion plant treats 50,000 tons of food waste each year. It produces two valuable commodities:

**Biogas** which is converted to renewable electricity and is fed into the national grid to power 4,800 homes, plus the needs of the Digestion Plant itself. And...

**Digestate**, a nutrient-rich organic fertiliser which is spread on local farms reducing the need for fossil-fuel derived chemical fertilisers.



*1. The receiving bunker*



*3. .... the liquid food soup is fed into a tank prior to being pumped into the big green digesters where it is digested at body temperature.*



*2. The food bags are fed into a macerator (via the big green pipe) which minces them finely. The result is sieved - the plastic waste goes up the little green pipe and .....*



*4. Meanwhile the plastic waste (above) is spewed out and sent to be incinerated.*



5. (Above) Using excess heat from the gas engines, the digestate is pasteurised at 70 degrees for one hour to eradicate harmful bacteria.

(Right) One of five green digesters behind two engines which burn the methane produced in the digesters to generate 2.4MW of electricity.

This digestion process takes about 90 days. As we strive for net zero, it is important to recycle wherever possible. If we don't use the food caddy, the waste food goes with the general rubbish to be burnt in a power station and will add to the carbon dioxide problem. By recycling, everyone wins - you, me, the farmers and the Planet.

*Ann Sayer*



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# The Ewelme Society

## Jenny Lee - a life remembered

**The Church was packed on April 19th for a service of thanksgiving for the life of Jenny Lee, who died in March aged 87.**

Jenny and her husband Brian moved to High House in the High Street in Ewelme in January 1969, finally selling up in 2015 and retiring to a cottage in Dorchester. For 46 years Jenny was a prominent character in the village, known for her ever cheerful smile and 'can do' attitude. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the Ewelme Society, Elm Club, Friends of the Church, Horse Show, NEW (New Ewelme Women) and other now defunct village institutions existing in past decades. A keen horsewoman in her younger days, she rode the bridleways on her bay mare Bramble, often accompanied by her Alsatian, Harry.

### **A Reflexology Pioneer**

From the mid-1970's Jenny ran the physiotherapy department at Watlington Hospital and later expanded into reflexology. As a passionate reflexologist, she set up a nationwide pilot project to prove that reflexology treatment was beneficial



for asthmatic children - the control group receiving plain massage. Jenny successfully proved that reflexology did help asthmatic children and, in recognition, was invited to a reception at Highgrove House by the then Prince Charles, also an alternative medicine enthusiast. She went on to found 'Baby Reflex' to support and train parents and health practitioners to improve baby and toddler wellbeing through reflexology.

### **And a Proud Mother**

Jenny and Brian already had three daughters when they arrived at High House, and their son James was born in Ewelme in 1972. All the children attended Ewelme School and James the pre-school also. The Lee's were very proud when James was dubbed 'Ewelme's Memory Man' in the local press. In 1994, at the age of 22, and at his first attempt, James achieved the remarkable feat of coming third in the World Memory Championships held at Simpsons in the Strand in London. A report in the 12th August 1994 Henley Standard stated he had to remember –

*a 3,000-digit number in half an hour,  
a 40-line poem in 15 minutes, and  
a pack of playing cards in random order!*

Competitors also had to memorise a 'Round the World in 80 Days' trip, including flight numbers, times, destinations, and hotels. 'I made it to Miami and then got on the wrong plane.' James told the Standard reporter.

James had started mental gymnastics when faced with just 9 months to do all his GCSE work after an illness. He read books on how to improve his memory and got seven A's and three B's in his exams.

He added. 'As I did so well, I called the author of one of the books and he got me really interested in the competitions. There's no real value at all in memorising packs of cards and long digits, but it's a bit like Mount Everest – you do it because it is there and it's a challenge. It is often based on imagery. Say you want to remember ten cards; you associate them with ten people you meet on a walk you do every day.'

Did his initial introduction to education at the Ewelme pre-school and Primary School contribute in some small measure to training his retentive memory? We would like to think so. *Carol Sawbridge* - Ewelme Village Archive



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## Le Weekend ..... with our Nolay friends

You may have noticed a lot of activity around the village during the last weekend of April. We were delighted to welcome our friends from Nolay, our French twinned town in Burgundy, on the Thursday evening with a short reception at the Watercress Beds Centre before directing them to their host families.

**FRIDAY** - First on their Friday itinerary was a trip to the Cheese Shed in Nettlebed. This proved a great success. Patrick Amery gave a short tour and a well-informed talk and tasting of their cheeses – a subject close to the hearts of many of the guests!

The coach then dropped some at the Maker Space for a leisurely walk through the fields (and bluebells) back to Ewelme, others direct to Wallingford. We then unfortunately discovered their coach had broken down (!) A few frantic 'phone calls later and all were accounted for, and the coach fixed.

The evening was a Safari Supper, a novel notion to many of the French who thoroughly enjoyed the event. Many commented that it was at first an odd notion but one that worked so well they will adopt it back home. We returned to the village hall where we enjoyed wine brought by Sylvain Changarnier.



**SATURDAY** was mostly taken up with a trip to the Cotswolds Open Air Museum (left) – a re-creation of buildings throughout the ages.

It was soon time for their final evening – an Anglo-French musical collaboration. Around 100 people were thoroughly entertained by acts from Nolay and Ewelme.

Some had been rehearsing, long distance to perform together – Tatiana and Ayakoi treating us to world class opera, our six-part harmony group blended seamlessly with the Nolay six-piece. Our good friend Laurianne enchanted the hall with renditions of French classics before the House Band concluded the evening with 45 minutes of dance songs. The Village Plaice of Benson did not disappoint and delivered 100 portions of Fish and Chops bang on 8.00pm.

Before we knew if the trip was over. Many of us got up at 4.30 am to take our friends to the Coach and we were wishing our friends Bon Voyage et à Bientôt.

It was a wonderful weekend, with so much laughter, fun, entertainment, dancing and singing. Everyone played a part and together we packed in so much on such a short period. I have had many mails of congratulations, from both French and British expressing their thanks for such a wonderful long weekend. If you are interested in travelling to Nolay in 2025, please get in touch. *Geoff Watts*



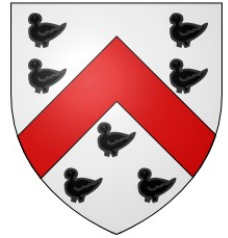
**Volley**

**ole!**



# A Letter From the Mayor of Nolay

*A translation of a letter thanking us for our hospitality and inviting us to Nolay for a special celebration in July 2025.*



Nolay, 6 May 2024

Dear Geoff, dear Ewelme friends,

On behalf of the entire delegation from Nolay, including myself, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your warm welcome during our recent stay in Ewelme. We all very much enjoyed and shall never forget the moments we shared together – whether on the excursions, during the time spent with host families, or at the evening events in honour of our twinning.

A big BRAVO to you for your hospitality, generosity and dedication! Such moments of sharing and discovery are very important and give added value to the twinning.

We look forward to welcoming you to Nolay next year for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the major celebrations we held on 14 July 2000. Jean Yves Chevalier – who, incidentally, has already done great service in charge of the planning at our end for our visit to Ewelme – will be in touch with you about plans for next year's event, which will take place from 11 to 14 July 2025, and to which friends from our other two twin towns, Pfeddersheim in Germany and Jalhay in Belgium, are also invited.

With all our gratitude and sincere friendship,

Jean Pascal MONIN  
Mayor of Nolay



*If you are interested in travelling to Nolay in 2025, please get in touch with Geoff Watts:*

[planewelme@gmail.com](mailto:planewelme@gmail.com)

## Tom's Cress Beds Diary

It seems that spring has finally arrived and, occasionally, you can feel some warmth on your back. Growing conditions are ideal with all the water and the bit of warmth and we have at last, managed to persuade some cress to grow. We still have no idea what the problem was.

Although the pigeons are doing their best to eat as much as they can they are not keeping up with the growth. The problem is that they seem to favour newly planted cress which inhibits it getting established. We have a new volunteer

(right) who works 24/7 trying to keep the birds off. If you see him, he would appreciate you

passing the time of day with him! The next problem is to keep channels open through the rampant cress as well as caring for the dry(ish) areas of the site.



### THE SPOTTED ORCHID ..... SPOTTED!

We have increased the number of volunteers on the path mowing rota who are doing a great job looking after that side of the work, though some of the lower paths through the meadow are still underwater and unusable. If you haven't been round in a while why not come to one of the open days on the first Sunday of the month between 2 and 4:30 pm and see what we have been doing? I noticed the first of the common spotted orchids today so come and see if you can spot any.

The first early orchids have just gone over, and the numbers of green-winged orchids were down on recent years – possibly the very wet conditions? It will be interesting to see if there is the same effect on the later orchids, though if conditions are like last year, it might not be possible to count them.



If you have visited the lower site recently you will have noticed the new path through what was a very muddy area. For that we thank Grundons for donating the gravel, Chiltern Society for funding the transport of it and Sonning GG for laying it. I know it is very knobbly (technical term) but please keep to the path and avoid the grass beside it where some rare plants grow.

*The beautiful spotted orchid*

## BIRD NEWS

Most of the summer visiting birds have arrived and busy setting up territories for their first broods. As yet I have not seen many swallows or house martins, but it has been a very strange spring and more might still come. Blue and great tits are well into their one and only brood and, I read that generally brood sizes are low this year, yet another effect of the weather. Conditions do not seem to have affected the mallards with young all over the place and remarkably there is a family of 13 almost fully grown young. This is most unusual as, normally, you can see the reduction in family size day by day as the various predators help themselves. A very special mum!

Benson area Nature Group together some members of the South Stoke group visited the site recently and were lucky enough to see a barn owl hunting over the Manor Ground field. As it was hunting during daylight it seem very likely that it had mouths to feed. Very good news for the proposed nest box siting on the nature reserve.

*Tom Stevenson*



*What a mother!*

*Historic display of the Northern  
Lights in Roke*



## SOLAR FLARES HIT EARTH

*There was a bad storm on the sun recently, and when the resulting solar wind hit the earth's magnetic field on 10th May the results were a spectacular display of the Northern Lights (if you were awake). Normally seen in more northerly latitudes, it was a first for South Oxfordshire.*

# Summer Serenade concert



St. Mary's Church, Ewelme, OX10 6HP  
Sunday 30th June at 3pm

Concert to include works by Elgar, Debussy, Vaughan Williams

Performed by

**Minerva**

Polly Armitage – Flute

Heather Birt – Viola

Jennifer Hill – Harp

Ticket costs: £15 (£5 for U16s) to include a refreshment afterwards

Tickets available now from:

[ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-ewelme-church](http://ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-ewelme-church)

or the Ewelme Village Store

[friends.of.ewelme.church@gmail.com](mailto:friends.of.ewelme.church@gmail.com)

Friends of Ewelme Church Charity No.: 1138727

## A blue plaque commemorating the pioneering and distinguished aviatrix, Freydis Sharland, is unveiled in Benson



On 18<sup>th</sup> May a large crowd including family, friends, invited dignitaries and Benson villagers gathered in front of Chalkstone Cottage, Benson, the former home of Tim and Freydis Sharland. The event was to witness the unveiling of a blue plaque to honour the wartime service of Freydis as an Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) pilot. A member of the Blue Plaque organisation gave the opening address, followed by the British Women's Pilots Association (BWPA) President who related Freydis' wartime and post-war achievements. After the speeches the Sharlands' son and daughter unveiled the plaque together and it can be seen on entering Benson from Ewelme, slightly set back on the left-hand side past Passey Crescent facing the stream. Its wording – ***'Freydis Sharland 1920-2014. Air Transport Auxiliary WWII. Pioneering Woman Pilot. Founder Chairwoman BWPA. Lived here 1981-2014'***.

Freydis was one of a small band of keen female pilots (numbering 168 throughout the war) who volunteered to join the ATA's male civilian pilots to ferry different types of aeroplanes to Royal Air Force and Royal Navy stations around the country, thus freeing serving pilots for combat. These women already held private pilot's licences, and Freydis who learned to fly at 17, also had an aviation pedigree being the granddaughter of Lord Shuttleworth—a famous name in aviation then and now.

From the fourteen ATA bases around the country (White Waltham Aerodrome was the HQ) the pilots were assigned by RAF Central Ferry Control to fly aircraft of all types, ranging from Spitfires to Lancasters. (From 1942 only 11 women flew

Lancasters accompanied by a flight engineer, often another woman. Freydis did not fly four-engine aircraft but had over 100 single and twin-engine types in her logbooks including the legendary Spitfire, Hurricane and Mosquito). They were issued with only the basic Ferry Pilots notes and flew solo, unarmed, with no radio communication, navigating by landmarks so essentially avoiding cloud and the vagaries of the British weather. There were crashes, resulting in 173 ATA casualties, but the ladies considered themselves fortunate to have a smart uniform, equal pay (after 1943) with their male colleagues and the opportunity to continue their expensive pre-war pastime by flying the King's aeroplanes.

In 1949 Freydis joined the WRAFVR (Volunteer Reserve) on a 5-year commission and was one of the first ex-ATA women to qualify as an RAF pilot. In 1953 as a Flying Officer she flew a Hawker Tempest to Karachi, Pakistan, but on arrival was not allowed in the Officers Mess as she was a woman! (A member of the ATA Association told me of another rigid rule for the few lady flyers visiting RAF Officers Messes. Apparently, an order was posted stating *'Female pilots will remove their trousers before entering the Mess.'* Forgetting to pack a uniform skirt was not recommended!)

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008 Freydis (and Tim) were interviewed by a representative from the World War II Experience Centre, and the voice recording, and text of her wartime reminiscences can be accessed on their website under Archive Collections, War in the Air and scrolling down. Freydis is also featured in several books covering the ATA such as *'Spitfire Women'*. The ATA archive ([www.atamuseum.org](http://www.atamuseum.org)) was moved from White Waltham aerodrome to the Maidenhead Heritage Centre and an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia is open to visitors there.

*Carol Sawbridge*



***Freydis Sharland was the founder chairwoman of the British Women's Pilots Association. In 1954, after being the first woman to win the British Air Racing Championships, Freydis was voted the Best British Woman Pilot.***

## Working to Restore Ewelme's Nature. (WREN)

### OWL CONSERVATION PROJECT

**Some of you will have seen The Owl Conservation Project (OCP) stall at the recent nature event in Benson.**

Following this event, they held an owl-box workshop in the Watercress Centre which was fascinating and inspired us to try to find suitable locations for boxes around Ewelme. We arranged a village survey date and I posted a Ewelme Facebook page request for people willing to host or sponsor boxes to gauge support. This post got a huge response so we were able to carry out a village survey

with Lu and Lucy of the OCP with possible sites already in mind. Three British owls nest in holes and may therefore use an owl box, but they all have different requirements.

**Barn owls** need a box that is visible and ideally facing open field hunting territory whereas **Tawny owls** nest in running canopy rather than a single tree as they are “perch and pounce” hunters. **Little owls** are somewhat enigmatic but like to be near horse manure as they eat dung beetles and are very faithful to nest sites which are often in old fruit trees. In all cases it helps to have evidence of the owls being present before locating the boxes. We have plenty of evidence of Tawny owls, not least their twit-twoo calls around the village plus some tawny owlet sightings this spring. There have also been good sightings of Barn owls, including some by a group from Benson area Nature Group having a tour of the Watercress Bed Centre meadow, who were treated to a Barn owl hunting and being attacked by a Kestrel, in the grounds of the manor. Barn owls feed predominantly on voles that live in un-mown grass and we are lucky to have much of this habitat in and around Ewelme. Barn owl pellets have also been found at the Grundon site.



**THE VILLAGE SURVEY** Lu and Lucy confirmed that there are a number of suitable sites but also that more surveys are needed. Next steps are to do detailed surveys of each site in readiness for the installation of the boxes and to arrange further surveys of outer Ewelme and individual farms who have shown an interest. The OCP are very busy and are all volunteers so we will have to be patient but all being well we will have some boxes installed ready for next year's breeding season.

**OTHER NEWS** we have mulched the newly planted hedge around the Common thanks to a supply of soggy bales kindly donated by Sarah and Nigel Layton. More mulching material would be welcome, just give me a ring.

*Andrew Walker 07766 707666*

## Ewelme pays a farewell tribute to Fr. Stephen and Marion Cousins

**Stephen's last morning service in Ewelme was very well attended and all the parishes in the benefice were represented.**



Stephen gave a sermon followed by a speech in which he explained his concern for the homeless and how he feels he has a calling to help them. He will be following his vocation at St Giles Church in Reading and he and Marion are looking forward to this next chapter in their lives.



Michael Jay gave a lovely speech thanking him and Marion for all they have done and how they would be greatly missed. He wished them well in the future, to great applause!

Stephen and Marion were presented with several gifts by the children at the service purchased with donations collected by Sally Fehr in previous weeks.



From the baptismal steps, Rev. Patrick

Gilday thanked Stephen and Marion for their service to the people of Ewelme and the parishes and asked the congregation to rise their glasses to them both. This was followed by a rousing rendering of 'For he's a jolly good fellow' and cheers.

*Sue Gell*

EWELME  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY



**VISIT TO WISLEY RHS GARDEN**

**EWELME OPEN GARDENS - 9th JUNE**

OPEN GARDENS will be held on SUNDAY, 9 JUNE 2024 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. We are very fortunate in that we have some amazing gardens in the village, some small and at the other end of the scale, some not so small. All are interesting in their own right.

Tea and cake will be served from both the Village Hall and the Watercress Centre. Tickets costs £5, with accompanied children going free. Tickets and maps will be available from any participating garden. Free parking at The Manor. For further details call (01491 834111).

**SATURDAY 22nd JUNE**

The coach will leave the Village Hall at 9.30 am and return at 5 - 5.30 pm.

The cost including the coach and cream tea will be £27. We have been asked why we are going to Wisley once again this year. It is because the Horticultural Society is affiliated to the RHS and therefore we qualify for entry free of charge. It is a special day out at a bargain price.

**If you would like to reserve a place, please contact :**

**Angela Harrison on 01491 834111**

**EWELME PAVILION**

**available for private  
hire**



**Please contact the  
Clerk for more  
information:**

**clerk@ewelmepc.org.uk**

**or 07510 250508**



# Benson Garden Club

In line with our usual annual programme, Benson Garden Club has now finished its series of speakers.

**We will re-start our talks in October with Toby Buckland on 'Abundance'. Toby is a gardener, garden tipster, TV presenter and author and this should be an excellent talk to open our speaker programme. Visitors are very welcome to attend and tickets will cost £12 each. Please email us to purchase (contact details below) or buy them in person from Derry's Den (26 High Street, Benson). A reduced price is available for members.**



## DID YOU MISS THIS?

Our last talk of the season was given by **David Domoney**, the well known garden and nature television presenter, on '**Confessions of a TV Gardener**'. Throughout his talk, David shared with us some stunning garden makeovers along with the realities of creating such transformations for TV viewing.

Much of David's advice centred around using what is already there. This could be as simple as transforming an existing shed by painting it creatively (e.g. using a different colour round the window frames) or creating a beautiful courtyard in a small space. At the same time, enhancing existing space by letting in the light, trimming hedges to give them character, using walls as an effective backdrop (paint dark if you want your plants to pop, paint light to create the illusion of more space), and effectively incorporating your borrowed landscape into your own garden designs were further tips to reinvigorate tired gardens.

## SOME HANDY TIPS

David gave us some handy gardening tips. More unusual ones included grating soap over bulbs when planting to stop squirrels finding them to eat, and when going away on holiday put a wet, heavy towel in the bath (not soaking wet though) and add your houseplants to keep them from drying out. David was also passionate about cress and recommended that we should all grow cress on our windowsills – it has unrecognised qualities including having more vitamin C than an orange and more calcium than milk!

It's now the club's season for being out and about visiting gardens, and details are available on our website, <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> Further information about the club and how to join as a member can also be found there, or please feel free to email [bensongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:bensongardeningclub@gmail.com) *Liz Harrison*

*Letter to the Editor:*

Dear Editor,

**Ewelme Horticultural Society 2024**

Don't get too excited about the coming Show: this year there will be no trophies to be won. I have never, nor likely to, win a trophy, but I am very sorry they will no longer be part of the Show.

I have enjoyed seeing the pleasure they have brought to the Show, especially to the children. I am told 'times change'. I hope this change will be for the better and the Show will continue to be a great success.

*Cynthia Winfield*



*Andrew Clements of 2 Kings Pool watched two otters cavorting in the Pool at 08.00 on 29th March. The video, although slightly blurred, shows one of them departing.*

**Nettlebed Art & Craft Show 2024**

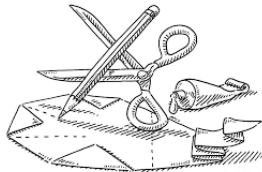
**Saturday 3rd August 12 noon – 6 pm**

**and**

**Sunday 4th August 10 am – 5 pm**

For Entry Forms to show paintings or to have a craft table:

email: [nettlebedas@gmail.com](mailto:nettlebedas@gmail.com)



All proceeds go to local charities.

Free entry and parking. Tea and cakes available all day.

Disabled access.

## EWELME NEWS FEEDBACK FORM

We are all used to being badgered for our feedback every time a parcel is delivered or any other service is provided. I have to admit that usually I fail to respond to these requests, but now the tables are turned and I must humbly ask you to please let me have some feedback on the Ewelme News.

I've been the Editor now for nearly four years and I think it's time to evaluate the magazine and assess whether it is on the right track or whether we need to look other alternatives.

### THE PROS & CONS

Bearing in mind that most activities in the village have their own website and the Ewelme Facebook page caters for the social side of things, perhaps you feel there is little need for a magazine.

The other consideration is printing cost and the number of people (eight) needed for distribution. (We are currently in need of one more volunteer). This could be offset by advertising, but with the Benson Bulletin covering so many villages, including Ewelme, advertisers don't have much incentive to take advertising space in the Ewelme News. At the moment the costs are borne by the Parish Council - is there a case for making a small cover price?

So, those are the cons. On the plus side the magazine aims to raise awareness on a range of local environmental issues; inform people about the village's amazing history and archive and acknowledge the effort that so many people put in to village activities on a voluntary basis. Without them, I think the village would be a far less lively and interesting place to live in.

With these considerations in mind, please spare a few minutes to complete the short questionnaire on the back of this page, detach it and drop it in to the Ewelme Store together with any further comments or suggestions you would like to make. There is no need to add your name unless you want to.

Thank you for your cooperation. *Ann Sayer, Editor*

# Ewelme News

## FEEDBACK FORM

When the Ewelme News arrives, do you:

- (a) read it all
- (b) dip into it and look at particular sections - if so, which ones?
- (c) hardly glance at it
- (d) do not look at it at all

If it was available only on line, would you:

- (a) Look at it more
- (b) No difference
- (c) Look at it less

Would you miss it if we discontinued the printed version with full free distribution?

- (a) A lot
- (b) A little
- (c) Not at all

Would you be prepared to become involved in its production or distribution?      Yes      No

Would you be in favour of a small cover price/subscription?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please detach this page and hand it in at the Village Store. Thank you for your cooperation.

**OXFORDSHIRE**  
**art**  
**WEEKS**

Ewelme saw an influx of visitors over the Artweeks weekends at the end of May. There were two centres of interest - The Pottery where several artists were exhibiting and St Mary's where Trisha Scott had a one-woman show.



*Bruce Garside's beautiful Acorn creation on display in the lovely setting of Harriet Coleridge's Pottery garden.*



*Stained glass was another skill on show at the Pottery.*



*Trisha Scott brightened the Church with her colourful paintings, many of them of local scenes including a mug with a view of Ewelme.*



*Harriet's distinctive pottery attracted much attention from the many visitors.*



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