



Woodcote CORRESPONDENT

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Delivered free to homes in Woodcote, Exlade Street and Crays Pond

OUR REFLECTION ON THE PANDEMIC

By the Goring and Woodcote Medical Practice

Where do we begin?

The COVID 19 pandemic has been the biggest challenge of all our lives so far. At the start of 2020, we had no idea what was about to happen and the scale of the challenges we would all soon face.

Towards the end of February, it became clear to our profession that COVID 19 posed a major threat to our population and that there was imminent risk to our community.

Everything seemed to change overnight. The waiting room was no longer a safe space. Staff and patients alike were fearful and anxious. As a practice, we rapidly implemented measures to protect our patients and staff.

As advised by NHS England, we introduced remote consulting very early on. This was a significant change for both patients and staff; both having to adapt from a more traditional consulting style. At the start, all patients were offered an initial GP consultation on the phone and then invited in to the

surgery for a clinical examination where required. The vast majority of our nursing and HCA appointments have been face to face throughout due to nature of the work - for example dressings, blood tests and injections.

We redesigned our appointment system to stagger footfall through the surgery to reduce infection risk - for example, GPs and nurses seeing patients at different times of the day.

We increased the duration of appointments to allow sufficient time for our staff to clean the consulting rooms in between patients. We purchased laptops so our team members who were shielding or isolating could work remotely and minimise disruption to service provision.

PPE supply was a real issue to begin with - this was a very worrying time for us all. *Thanks to our wonderful community*, we had donations of scrubs, visors and face masks - for which we were truly thankful.

We divided the Goring and Woodcote Surgeries in to "hot and cold" sites (one of the benefits of being a split site practice). All patients with suspected COVID 19 were assessed by clinicians at the "hot site" and those without symptoms were seen at the cold end. This ensured that those with suspected COVID19 were not coming into direct contact with those who were extremely clinically vulnerable.

(continued on page 2)



REFLECTION ON THE PANDEMIC (cont.)

As we passed the first peak, things started to feel more positive as we entered the summer months. We thought the worst was over. Our workload steadily increased as patients started to feel more confident in attending the surgeries with problems they had been holding onto for months.

Understandably, secondary care waiting times were also increasing during this time. Significant delays in hospital appointments meant that we were (and still are) looking after patients in the community for longer, as best we can.

As we entered the second wave, with numbers exceeding those in the first wave, the NHS was once again in crisis. However, this time around, there was one significant difference - the prospect of a vaccine on the horizon. The rapid development of a safe and effective vaccine is a phenomenal achievement and a real testament to the skill and knowledge of our scientists. As a practice, we were thrilled to sign up to the vaccination programme (this is not mandatory for general practice).

On the 23rd of December 2020, less than a year after the WHO declared COVID 19 a global pandemic, we administered our first Pfizer BioNTech vaccination at Wallingford Community Hospital. This was an emotional moment for all involved. Since then, our team has worked tirelessly to vaccinate as many people as fast as vaccine supply allows. This has been a huge team effort - from our reception/admin team arranging the appointments to the clinicians delivering the jabs (and everything else in between!)

We have been incredibly lucky to have had unwavering support from Nicky Swan and her wonderful team of volunteers who have helped at every vaccination clinic to date. We could not have executed the vaccination programme so efficiently without you - thank you.

We have also welcomed back some familiar faces and are very grateful to Dr. Stephen Richards, Dr Rhys Hamilton and Dr Vicky Hamilton for their help with the vaccination programme.

We have now offered all 18-year-olds a first dose and only have four 2nd dose vaccination clinics remaining - we are very proud of this achievement!

From the 23rd December to the 18th June, our team has carried out:

10,907 COVID 19 vaccinations

2,994 e-consults

7,077 urgent (on the day) triage calls

7,505 face-to-face appointments

6,458 telephone appointments

717 home visits (including care homes)

A total of 24,751 appointments!

Despite the challenges we have faced, we have identified some positives from the pandemic and ideas that we can take forwards to improve patient access and the care that we provide.

New technologies, such as video consults, are well liked by many due to their flexibility in timing and ease of use.

We will continue to offer a variety of consulting methods and are in the process of reviewing how our appointments may look in the future. We'd be keen to hear any constructive feedback about our accessibility and what type of appointment may suit your needs in the future.

And finally, we would encourage anyone eligible for a flu jab to attend - dates will be announced towards the end of the summer. We thank you for your support, understanding, patience and for being kind to our team.

WOODCOTE YOUTH CLUB UPDATE

It seems so strange that we have had no Youth Club for over 18 months. The Youth Workers have all missed the kids and I'm sure the young people of the village have missed their weekly opportunity to catch up with friends and have some fun. We had made plans to open in July, but with the Covid "Freedom Day" delay this became impossible. It is so sad that we will not be able to say goodbye to the Senior Club members who will all be moving on to further education or apprenticeships. We wish them all well in their exciting new endeavours.

We will be starting from scratch in September with two new clubs. Junior Club will be on Mondays for school years 7 and 8, and Senior Club will be every Tuesday for years 9, 10 and 11. Next term we have several activities planned including mural artwork, enjoying the last of the summer with outdoor sports plus our regular activities (pool, Xbox, Wii, table tennis, music and dancing). Depending on numbers there may also be a trampoline or tenpin bowling trip.

The start dates for the two clubs will be:

Tuesday 7th Sept: Senior club - £1 per session attended

Monday 13th Sept: Junior Club - free taster session on the 13th and then £1 per session attended

Both Clubs run from 7.15pm to 8.45pm, but kids can be picked up earlier if needed. The Year 7's are normally quite tired when they first start secondary school!

If you have a child who may be interested in coming to Youth Club, we will be running a fun activity at the Village Fete on *Saturday 11th September*. Several Youth Workers will be on hand to tell you more about the club and give you a tour of the facilities.

We regularly have 20+ attendees, and although we have two experienced youth workers attending each session and a team of volunteers, we do need additional support. The volunteers have a rota system, so if you are interested in working with young people and can spare one evening a month, please email: Woodcoteyouthclub@outlook.com

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



I nearly threw my laptop out of the window this month. I managed to lose some work which of course I hadn't backed up. So I gave up and went outside to enjoy the sunshine instead...except it was TOO hot (I know, I'm typically British).

So I came back inside and you know what cheered me up? Reading this month's anecdote by David Sutton. It's all about the stuff we hoard and hang on to. We all do it, don't we? Some more than others, perhaps...

This month's front page is devoted to our local GP surgery. I'm sure you will agree that they have done an incredible job vaccinating us all as well as trying to treat patients for other conditions. We are all very lucky indeed to have such a service on our doorstep.

Inside this issue, we have also included some ideas for summer days out and of course, lots of local clubs and societies are up and running again which is good to see.

And finally, the Woodcote fete organisers are bursting with excitement as the 11th September is fast approaching. Get in touch with them if you can offer help in any way!

Until next month,
Yvette

PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Editor: Yvette Decmar *[via email]*

Articles for inclusion: to the editor by email to: wood-co@runbox.com, or letters may be handed in at the library. To be received by the 12th of the preceding month.

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COMMENT FROM THE VICARAGE

Oh my – it's all change again, isn't it? Here at St. Leonard's, we are endeavouring to make coming to church as safe and enjoyable as possible and so, at the time of writing this, we will have to ask you to bear with us a little longer as we await further guidance from the National Church and our own Bishops in the Diocese of Oxford. As you might have gathered, we do have some particular issues because of the size of our building which will mean that people are perhaps in closer contact than they might wish. You can keep an eye on our noticeboard and there is also a website; www.achurchnearyou.org where you can find us and see all our service times and up to date arrangements.

I have reservations about the whole 'Freedom Day' approach to managing the presence of the virus in our communities. Freedom for some is not always freedom for all; we only have to think of those who may not be able to have the vaccine for medical reasons who are still extremely vulnerable to serious illness. Their experience of 'freedom' will be very different to others.

Of course, we are nonetheless very much looking forward to being able to hold all our services in church and the prospect of being able to have our Remembrance Day services, our carol service and the school children back in church for Harvest Festival is very exciting.

We will also plan again our SLOW Church café-style services in the Village Hall. There is much to look forward to, and lots to be thinking about in the coming weeks and months. I also hope that we can all enjoy some rest and relaxation in these last days of summer. Let's hope for some sunshine, so that we can all be refreshed and renewed after all that we have endured. I hope you will agree with me that we have much to be thankful for here in Woodcote and the surrounding area; for the friendship and care that has been shown and the willingness to do the best we can for one another and for the sake of our community. We are very blessed.

With all blessings and prayers for your safekeeping,

Linda. Revd. Linda Smith, Tel. 01491 680979

Email: woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com

Weekly Services at St. Leonard's

There is a short service of Holy Communion every Sunday at 8.30 am.

However, please note that the next service will be on 15th August as there is no service on either 1st or 8th August.

Please come prepared to wear a face masks and to observe whatever social distancing rules are in place.

We are also open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm – 4pm.

Online Services

We continue with our online services every Sunday at 10am and Night Prayer every Wednesday at 8.30pm.

We'd love people to feel that they can join us at any time – we are a very friendly and relaxed bunch! So

please do email me if you would like details of how to join an online service.

We use the Zoom app for our services which is free for you to use. If you are not on the internet, it is possible to phone into a service. We are happy to advise you on how to access this.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report

The old bus shelter on Goring Road has now been demolished and we are arranging for the replacement, more open, shelter to be installed soon.

The County Council are introducing a scheme to make it easier to reduce the speed limits in Oxfordshire villages to 20mph. This is normally a slow and expensive process, but the new scheme will make it much easier. The Parish Council has expressed an interest in participating in the scheme to make all the roads in Woodcote 20mph. This won't, on its own, prevent drivers exceeding the speed limit, but the evidence is that drivers do reduce speed – eg: doing 28mph in a 20mph zone instead of 38mph in a 30mph zone. We will also be considering other traffic calming measures to make our roads safer.

Malcolm Smith

Planning Applications Granted by SODC

P21/S0768/HH Application proposal, including any amendments: Erection of a greenhouse in rear garden Site Location: Weevil Cottage Oxford Road Woodcote RG8 0PG.

P21/S1329/HH Application proposal, including any amendments: Proposed erection of ancillary outbuilding for use in connection with outdoor swimming pool. Site Location: Chambers Place Goring Road Woodcote RG8 7SJ.

P21/S1091/HH Application proposal, including any amendments: New pitched roof above original bungalow with attic space for habitable rooms. Internal alterations. Replacement porch and replacement roof above sitting room to match. Conservatory changed to an Orangery with insulated low pitch roof & lantern. Site Location: Beech Cottage Beech Lane Woodcote RG8 0PY.

P21/S1990/LB Application proposal, including any amendments: Structural repairs to the existing stair in the faber house including masonry repairs; carpentry repairs and repairs to plasterwork. Removal of existing security doorway. Site Location: The Oratory School, Faber House The Oratory Drive Woodcote.

P21/S1586/FUL Application proposal, including any amendments: Retrospective application for the permanent retention of three cross country jump areas and an earth bund surrounding the previously approved parking facilities. 7th June 2021 - amended site plan submitted amending access position to match the previous approval. Site Location: Land North of Woodcote Oxford Road Woodcote.

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MARTYN JORDAN

Dear Editor,



With great sadness, I write to let you know that my husband, Martyn, lost his battle with a brain tumour and died at the end of June.

He had been diagnosed in February 2020 and we spent the pandemic months with operations, radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

He very much enjoyed his time as clerk to Woodcote Parish, serving twelve years in the post, retiring in 2009. He will be missed by many.

Vicky Jordan

WOODCOTE VILLAGE HALL MEETING

Join us on the 9th August!

Although the Hall has been shut to most during the last year or so, the Trustees and the Parish Council have been working behind the scenes and have both improved the Main Hall, with new lighting and audio-visual features, and been thinking about future improvements – some of them substantial.

We'd very much like to hear the views of the community on the way forward with the Hall so on Monday 9th August, we will be hosting a meeting at 7.30pm in the Hall at which the Trustees of the Hall and the Parish Council can present their thoughts and hear from the community. The Hall is very much for the Woodcote community, and this is a good opportunity for everyone in the village who has a view or an idea to let us know about it.

WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

As we enter the second-half of an extremely busy season, results continue to be very encouraging. In the Berkshire League we have kept our place at the top of the Premier Division thanks to away wins against Goring and Farley Hill, although our unbeaten run did come to an end with a defeat at home to Mortimer West End.

In the Goring match we avenged a defeat in the Midweek League with a comprehensive 7-wicket win. Goring struggled against our accurate bowling and were 83 for 7 at the close of the innings. In response our 90 for 3 in 25 overs gave us the victory. Ryan Van Heerden was the star man that day, taking 2 for 11 and scoring 35 runs.

The Farley Hill game was a real thriller, a first v second encounter which we won by 17 runs. Batting first, we scored 150 for 9, before bowling-out our opponents for 133. On this occasion, Mark Pearson put in a great performance with 33 runs and taking 3 for 34. The defeat at the hands of Mortimer West End was a minor setback. Batting first, we scored 184 for 7 and they replied with 186 for 5 to win by five wickets. Jez Mayo was top-scorer with 46 not out.

In the South Oxon Midweek League, we have won 3 out of the four games played. Victories came at Cholsey and RAF Benson, plus a home win over

Dorchester. The defeat came at home in the local derby with Goring.

The Cholsey game ended in a 12-run win. We scored 139 for 6, with Jonny Clark scoring 58. Cholsey replied with 127 all-out. There was some great bowling from Mark Pearson (4 for 25) and Jonny Aldridge (3 for 20). In the Goring match, they scored 151 for 3 but we fell short by 11 runs with 140 for 5. Mike Higley was our star performer with 52. The match at RAF Benson was won by only 5 runs, the home side finishing on 96 for 6 chasing 101 for 6. Mike Higley (21) and Scott Gore (23) both batted well in difficult conditions.

The home match with Dorchester was a very one-sided affair as we scored 147 for 6 before dismissing the visitors for only 46. Scott Gore scored 40 and Rakesh Patel took 3 for 17. Our youngest player, Archie Clark, also performed very well to take 2 wickets for 12 runs. The Dorchester match brought the midweek League season to a close with a respectable finishing position of second equal with Goring and Dorchester. We now look forward to the start of the cup competition.

Unfortunately, we had to postpone our Picnic Sunday event due to the extension of the Covid regulations to 19th July. We are hoping to play the Pete Aldridge Memorial Match, Woodcote v The Red Lion, to include the Picnic event, on Sunday 5th September.

Home Fixtures in August

Sat 31st July Purley v Peppard Stoke Row 1.00
Sun 1st August BBC v Richmond Nomads 1.30
Sat 7th August Woodcote v Twyford 1.00
Sat 14th August Purley v Falkland 1.00
Sun 15th August BBC v Theale & Tilehurst 1.30
Sat 21st August Woodcote v Goring 1.00
Sun 22nd August BBC v Crown Wood 1.30
Sat 28th August Purley v West Reading 1.00
Sun 29th August BBC v Holton & Wheatley 1.30.

SP

WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have really enjoyed the Summer Term. We have ended the year with many of the things that were looking impossible as we began the year back in September.

Year 6 have had an incredibly busy few weeks! They have, along with year 5, completed their end of year play. They put on a marvellous performance of 'Olivia' and, since we could not have an audience, they have made a DVD, which will also be a wonderful thing to keep for future years.

Year 6 also did get away to PGL, Barton Hall in Torquay for their Residential Trip. We thought this might not happen, so to see the coach leaving on the Monday morning, was absolutely wonderful! They had a blast! They canoed, climbed, became archers, watched the football semi-final and swung about on extremely high ropes and swings. We are delighted that they were able to get away together before

leaving school just two weeks later! Please have a look at the Willow class page on our website to see how much fun they had: www.woodcote-primary.co.uk.

Staff renewed their First Aid training in July. Following on from this, we booked the year 6s in for CPR training. This is now something we will be doing every year in school. It is such an important skill to have. We sincerely hope that none of them ever has cause to use it but they are now equipped with the knowledge that they could, if they needed to.

Across the whole school, each bubble has enjoyed their own Sports Day. It is great to see the children running and racing, be it on foot, in a sack or carrying a baton. We missed being able to invite all the parents but the children had a wonderful time supporting each other.

FOWPS held a summer fair for us in our bubbles. Great fun was had during one afternoon with hook a duck, tombolas, jolly jars and even throwing sponges at the Headteacher! Again, we were disappointed not to be able to share this with parents but the children had a wonderful time.

It has been the most challenging of years but the staff, parents and children of Woodcote Primary School have continued on their journey together working as a team, as always. We have made things work and, at all times, kept the children at the heart of every decision. We are now looking forward to September when we hope to back to a more usual state of normal. Enjoy the summer break everyone.

Woodcote Primary School – Co-opted Governor Vacancy

Woodcote Primary School are looking for a new member to join our Governing Body as a Co-opted Governor. The role of a Governor is to hold the school to account, to shape the vision of the school and to set the strategic direction of the school, working closely with the schools' Senior Leadership Team.

Although governors are volunteers, excellent support and development opportunities are provided through an induction process and full programme of training both face-to-face and online to suit individual needs.

Co-opted Governors are appointed on the basis of the skills they can offer, and we are particularly interested in hearing from anyone with an interest, skills, experience or understanding in Media, Marketing or Communications.

Governors will need to be available to attend 3 full governing body meetings over the year; be a member of a committee which meets up to 6 times over the year and visit the school (on a rotation basis) to see the day to day running of the school.

An expression of interest form is available from Woodcote Primary School. Please download a copy from the Governing body page on the school website or email chairofgovernors@woodcote.oxon.sch.uk requesting a copy. Please submit your forms by Monday 6th September.

For any further information, please contact the Chair of Governors Helen Pearce Harvey. Please email your query to chairofgovernors@woodcote.oxon.sch.uk

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WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Pre-season training started on the Green on Tuesday 13th July at 7.00 pm. Training sessions will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays in pre-season, and will switch to Wednesday once the season starts. A number of pre-season friendlies have been arranged:

Tuesday, 27th July RAF Benson Home

Thursday, 29th July Hartley Wintney u23s Away

Saturday 31st July Reading City u23s Away

Saturday, 7th August Henley Town Away

Tuesday, 10th August Burghfield Away

Saturday, 14th August Cholsey Away.

New players are welcome to attend. For further information email sampeates@gmail.com.

CABIN PRESCHOOL

What a rollercoaster year! It's just like the Hokey Cokey here, some children are in, some are not – no wait they are fine just another cough and cold! I am pleased to say, at the time of writing just before the end of the summer term, we have managed to stay open for the year! Let's hope I haven't just jinxed it. *(Editorial update: Jayne did just jinx it and the preschool had to shut early after all!)*

Huge thank you to all our parents, committee and staff for negotiating through so much and helping to keep us all safe. Ultimately, without them (and a good dose of good luck), that is how we have managed.

But there's no rest for the wicked, just when we think we are out of the woods, we get the call for our OSTED inspection. More of that when we get our report in of course.

The Little Acorns managed a trip to school to meet the teacher, Miss Beesley. They loved it and can't wait for their next big steps. We were really pleased with the school's feedback on how well our children behaved. We are all so proud of them all and what they have achieved this year and wish them all the luck for their next adventure.

We will be saying a tearful goodbye to 16 children: 13 to Woodcote, 2 to Stoke Row and 1 to Wallingford.

Well done to Alex, Beau, Daisy, Ellie, Fergus, Finlay, Freddie, Ivy, Joey, Lula, Maddie, Matthew, Otto, Rufus, Tyler and Zoe. Some of these children have been with us for nearly three years, and they have all built up some lovely bonds with all the ladies. We will miss them all.

We are all looking forward to our Leavers Party, fingers crossed we have the go ahead and the weather to be outdoors. We shall have a small celebration this year where all the leavers will be presented with a certificate and receive a small present from their Keyworkers.



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So, what have the children been up to this month?

Following from our Growing topic last term, we moved onto a Minibeasts Topic.

The children helped build a Wormery. We layered sand and soil, then added old leaves to watch the worms take the decaying matter down into the soil, we saw the trail they left, and we kept one in the dark and another open to see the difference. It was a bit slow to see things happening, but it was a lovely thing to do.

We also grew a set of butterflies from caterpillars, paid for by one of our families so a big thank you to them. We watched, as they grew from tiny caterpillars to big fat caterpillars, then they climbed to the top of the jar and hung like a 'J'. Once they had hung there for 2 days we transferred them into the nets, then we counted the days down using a calendar until they changed into butterflies. We used lots of interesting language – cocoons, chrysalis, emerge, release, chrysalids, habitat and transformation.

Another activity we loved was building a bug using a dice to get different body parts, recognising numbers and counting the dots on a huge dice. The children also made a bug hotel, using building bricks, ivy and plastic bugs. The Hungry Caterpillar's Tea Party was amazing, the children all made head bands, then they tried all the foods from the story, all laid out in the shape of a caterpillar. We laced leaves to include a tiny caterpillar.

Activities relating to Moody Monsters gave the children the opportunity to be able to reflect on their feelings, so important to get children from a young age to be able to express how they are feeling. Lots of junk model bugs have been sent home too.

Plus, all the everyday fun as usual. Playing outdoors, sitting in the sandpit, and playdough is back, which we have missed. Playing in The Home Corner, imitating their parents, taking care of the babies and cooking meals. The mud kitchen has had a lot of use, with lots of different food to explore, using cutlery to chop, slice and grate vegetables.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please email us on info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk. Please note that after 23rd July, email responses may be delayed due to holidays. Alternatively call 01491 680854. You can enrol your child at any time of the year.

1ST GORING HEATH BEAVERS

As I write this article, we have just had our Beaver Activity weekend – usually our Beaver Family Camp – at our fantastic facilities at Goring Heath scout site.

We have been very lucky to run face to face (f2f) meetings since Easter (all outside I might hasten to add! But been very lucky with the weather!). We had a few f2f meetings last September but the lockdown at the end of October put us into online meetings all the way through until March! The Beavers did really well and we had many, many wonderful online sessions, where (on most occasions) Dormouse

prepped up packs of activities for the beavers to do. But being given the go ahead to go back to the hut was very exciting – especially as it was now our best time of year for outdoor activities.

We have therefore enjoyed foot golf (they LOVE foot golf – a variation of playing golf but with footballs), fire lighting and toasting marshmallows (of course), backwoods cooking, knots & tarps (shelter making), two walks (can't beat our countryside – those bluebells were lovely), celebrated Canada Day, had a health & fitness session which incorporated an obstacle race, and then a bit of gardening (not the same week!) which involved potting up lettuce and sunflower seeds (this was the only week it rained but everyone still came and got wet!) We must thank Mike at Woodcote Garden Centre for helping out with that soil etc.

And finally, our one week online, was to do the Emergency Aid badge. We were lucky enough to have Martha's mummy, Helen, join us as an A&E Doctor, explaining what she does, and help explain to the beavers how to call the emergency services, as well as other first aid skills. Being at home meant they could practice putting bandages and plasters on their siblings and parents! So thank you Helen for a super session.

But the most exciting bit of the whole term was being able to hold our Beaver Activity weekend. Hooray! Not quite our usual full on Family Beaver camp but it was great to be able to run the weekend.

We ran activities over the Saturday afternoon getting the beavers to do a treasure hunt, set a trail with trekking signs for the other team to follow, foot golf (again, I know - but they love it) plus make a poster to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Beavers. We finished with a camp fire, a socially distanced sing song and the toasting of marshmallows (again of course!). Then everyone back home to camp in their garden, or under their table, or glamp in a different room; but basically, not sleep in their own bed! There were some fantastic and creative sleeping arrangements! The following morning, we were back together for the traditional hike around our lovely countryside with additional parental help, finished off with birthday cake back at the hut! The Schoolhouse Café did fantastic cupcakes – thank you ladies.

By the time you read this we will have finished term and said goodbye to the following beavers – Max, Morgan and Thomas. They will be swimming up to cubs – you will all be missed but we wish you lots of fun at cubs.

Have a wonderful summer everyone. We look forward to another fun filled term in September!

Yours, in scouting, Dragonfly





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Being worms and relaxing



Our youngest role modeling



Caterpillars and releasing the butterflies



Stalls at last year's Fete



Some pi





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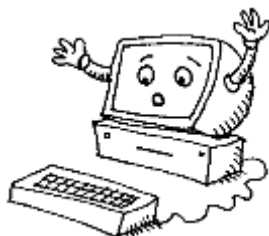
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WOODCOTE VILLAGE FETE

It's nearly time...

Not long to go now before our wonderful Fete on the 11th September. This is a much-loved event that the village is particularly looking forward to this year. Competitions, food and fun galore!

Hopefully you kept your pull-out Competition Guide & Entry Form from last month's Correspondent. But if not, you will be able to collect one from local venues - Woodcote Garden Centre, Library etc. or, print one from the Woodcote Village Fete Facebook group. *You will need to bring your completed entry form with your exhibits to the Village Hall on the Saturday morning.*

We are very grateful again to Woodcote Pet Services. They are running their ever-popular fun dog show and the categories have been announced: Waggiest Tail, Gorgeous Golden Oldie (7+), Best Child Handler, Handsomest Hound, Loveliest Lady and Best Rescue Dog. You can sign up to enter on the day.

We are still looking for helpers on the day itself - there is always plenty to do to get set-up and ensure the day runs smoothly. If you can spare an hour or so, please email woodcotefete@gmail.com or call Linda on 07956 136750.

We look forward to seeing you between 12-5pm on the day!

Joanne Lillywhite

WOODCOTE CONSERVATION GROUP

Regular readers of the Woodcote Correspondent will know that this summer, the Conservation Group has focused on encouraging people to link their gardens to help increase foraging habitat for hedgehogs. But helping hedgehogs is just one of many things the Conservation Group does to champion wildlife in the village.

Established in 2000, the Woodcote Conservation Group now has nearly 150 members. We are involved in maintaining and protecting the characteristic features of the village, and in promoting awareness and appreciation of our local plants, wildlife and habitats. We have regular working parties and natural history walks, help out

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with national and local surveys, get involved with planning matters, and hold public talks on topics of local environmental interest.

New members are always welcome: whether you want to help at toad patrol in March or get involved in pond maintenance later in the year, come along for our quarterly bird walks, or our annual walks to see woodcock and bats in May, butterflies in July, fungi in the autumn or simply show your support for our activities, do join us! *We would love to meet you so come to our stand at the Woodcote Fete on 11th September.*

The best entries to our Hedgehog Competition will be on display at the Fete for everyone to enjoy and we will be making homes for garden wildlife. There is still time to enter our Competition, so if seeing a hedgehog in the last few months has inspired you to paint a picture, take a photo, spy on nocturnal activity in your garden with a trail camera, or write a story or poem, do enter to win a prickly prize! The competition closing date is Monday 30th August - send your entry to info@woodcotecg.org.uk

In the meantime, this month's top tip is to provide water for the wildlife in your garden - birds, insects and hedgehogs - by putting a shallow plant saucer of water on the ground. Everything gets thirsty during the summer, so remember to top up the water every day.

ON GETTING RID OF STUFF

By David Sutton

Following the death of my elder sister I have recently been much involved with helping my niece clear a load of stuff from her mother's flat. A rather sad activity, and one can't help feeling a little intrusive while doing it, especially when it comes to personal stuff like letters - I was reminded of a passage in Thomas Hardy's novel 'The Mayor of Casterbridge', just after the death of Susan Henchard: 'Well, poor soul; she's helpless to hinder that or anything now,' answered Mother Cuxsom. 'And all her shining keys will be took from her, and her cupboards opened; and little things a' didn't wish seen, anybody will see; and her wishes and ways will all be as nothing!'

And boy, did my sister manage to cram a lot of stuff into one small flat. We had to laugh at some of her purchases. At the age of ninety she had just bought a posh new lamp with a bulb guaranteed to last for at least ten years. Along with it she had purchased a spare bulb. Now that's what I call positive thinking. But the whole exercise has caused my wife and I to reflect on our own affairs, and to make a resolution that henceforth, we will get rid of one article a day from our possessions, so that our own children don't feel as overwhelmed as my niece has been when it comes to sorting out our stuff.

Which is all very well until you actually start deciding what you want to get rid of. My wife, of course, has no problems with suggesting things I can dispense with, starting with most of my books which in her eyes have long been taking up valuable shelf space that could be devoted to tasteful ornaments. 'You're never going to read that again, are you', she says,

seizing on some prized volume. 'I might, when I'm old', I say defensively. 'You are old!' she says. 'Anyway, why does it have to be my stuff?' I say, 'What about your clothes? Haven't you got wardrobes full of stuff you never wear?' Uh-oh. Big mistake. Never suggest to a woman that she has a surplus of clothes. In fact, play it safe and never suggest that she has any clothes at all. For the next half hour, I am treated to a rundown of every item in her apparently minimalist wardrobe. Husbands may be familiar with the kind of diatribe. '...one decent outfit and I got that for your mother's funeral twenty-five years ago and I've scarcely bought a thing since and have you any idea how much some women spend on clothes...'

OK, OK. To restore the peace and in a spirit of cooperation I offer a holey sock. 'That doesn't count!'. I don't see why not. Get rid of a holey sock and that's one holey sock the fewer for one's descendants to engage with. But I have long stopped trying to understand, let alone make, the rules of engagement on the domestic battlefield. My wife has another idea. 'You know that set of drawers you've got in the shed, neatly labelled with things like 'Screws long', 'Screws short' and 'Screws other'? Well, as you haven't done any DIY for forty years and aren't likely to start now, what about sorting that lot out for a start?'

I concede that there is something in this and go down to the shed. I open the screw drawers. Hm. They are really very nice screws. Seems a shame to throw away perfectly good screws. Ah, but wait, what's this. Three rusty nails seem to have found their way into the drawer labelled 'Screws other'. Of course, they're still quite usable as nails... But no, let's be strong here. It gives me a slight pang, but out they go. Right, that's today's discard mission accomplished. And now that I have set such a sterling example, perhaps tomorrow we could just have a look at those wardrobes...

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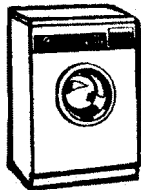
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FUN DAYS OUT THIS SUMMER

Now that the summer holidays have officially begun, here are a few ideas to keep the family occupied. Check out their websites for opening times and events etc.

Millets Farm – this popular place near Abingdon has fruit picking, a maze, children's workshops, animals, garden centre, a café, basically something for everyone.

Beale Park – a wildlife park in Lower Basildon which now has a *bouncing pillow* apparently. A great place for the kids to let off steam. Visit the website for their summer program.

Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary – this charity in Brightwell is now open again between 11 and 4pm daily. They have a country show coming up soon and they do fantastic work for the donkeys in their care. Don't forget to pre-book before going.

Wallingford Castle Gardens – this place is steeped in history and is a beautiful place to visit for a peaceful stroll. Their flower displays have won awards and their wildflower areas are definitely worth a visit.

Bucklebury Farm – this farm and deer park (favoured by Prince George!) is only a short trip from Woodcote. There are also plenty of goats, rabbits, guinea pigs and for the more adventurous: a go-kart track and zip wire! Don't forget to stop by the café for a tasty snack.

Cholsey Railway – always worth a visit and you can even join up as a member (especially as they have cheese and wine evenings...)

Didcot Wave – who can resist a splash on a hot summer's day? Definitely a place for children to burn off energy!

Oxford Castle – another one for history lovers! There are outside productions, guided tours, murder mystery evenings and a jailbreak escape room!

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ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

August 2016

NEW PLAN FOR SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE? This headline and the question-mark seems to have pretty well summed up the state of things in August 2016. The article pointed out that having our own 'Neighbourhood Plan' was at least some defence against planning excesses, 'but it will need to be updated to reflect the requirements that emerge from the revised Core Strategy.' Yet more consultations in the locality were promised for September.

August 2011

In spite of indifferent weather in the week leading up to the Rally in 2011, the organisers were able to report: 'What a fantastic weekend we had with record crowds turning up, which we estimate to be up by about 25% on last year's numbers. Hopefully, this should mean we can beat last year's donations of £20,000 to local charities and worthy good causes, by a significant amount.'

The refurbishment of the changing rooms in the Village Hall had been completed in time for the start of the football season. This was a joint project between the Village Hall and the Football and Cricket Clubs.

'A Most Unusual Party' was held by Goring Heath Scouts & Guides to perform the opening ceremony for the new Toilet and Shower Block. 'Fundraising proved to be a widespread effort. Grants were obtained from 18 organisations; 17 local businesses gave support in cash or kind, and 110 individuals made donations or sponsored bricks. Young people in the Group and their parents participated in many fundraising events.'

August 2006

The lead article, written by Ruth Hubbard was an advert for the 'Woodcote Village Fun Day,' to be held on the Saturday of the Bank Holiday weekend on the Green. It was billed as an opportunity for village organisations to raise money as well as a day of fun events with a bar and live music. I think this may have been the event which triggered our annual Fete due to take place this year on Saturday, 11th September. The fete seems to get bigger and better every year, so try not to miss it!

There was a quite brilliant satirical piece by our very own David Sutton regarding the loss of our weekly village skip for garden waste – remember those halcyon days?

AR Chive

THE WINDMILL SALES — END OF AN ERA

The Woodcote Windmill Sales have finally ceased turning after thirty-one years. It was a very different time in 1990 – no charity shops, no NCT sales and anyone under 30 won't believe this, there was no internet, Facebook or eBay – in fact if you had a surplus of outgrown baby goods, you either gave

them to a jumble sale or donated them to someone you knew.

The first sale in June 1990, attracted 18 sellers and raised the grand sum of £41.50 representing 25% of the money retained after expenses which seemed a fortune at that time. Delighted with the success of this first event, we decided to give the money raised to the NSPCC.

Word was going round and sellers wanted to take part, realising what an easy way it was to recycle outgrown or unwanted children's clothes, toys, books and equipment whilst buying new ones for their children.

It became evident that there was a need for this type of service, both for the buyer and seller and it was agreed that as it was run by Woodcote mothers and held in Woodcote Village Hall, every penny raised through these sales should be given back to Woodcote to benefit organisations or causes in our own village.

Over the years, the Windmill has given back to Woodcote nearly £64,000, supporting most of the village amenities, clubs and societies. Over the years, friends who came to help as young mothers now return as grandparents.

The Windmill could not have run without the very kind support of the village hall management committee, the clubs and societies that adjusted their commitments to accommodate the Thursday nights and Fridays for the Windmill Sales, the volunteers who set up on the Thursday evenings, staffed the Friday sales and the subsequent aftermath.

The end of an era? Yes, and we are delighted that we raised so much for the village over the years but we have to accept that society has moved on and times have changed from those early days in 1990. So thank you Woodcote for so many years of support, for the friendships made and the fun and laughter we shared.

Finally, why Woodcote Windmill? It's a pun on a windmill's sails going round, which reflected the recycling nature of our own 'Windmill Sales'.

Barbara Penniall

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BRITISH MODERN MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY

We have two talks planned: the first will be at the Woodcote Village Hall. The second talk will be on Zoom.

Our meeting on Wednesday 8th September 7.30pm will be a talk by Dr Helen Fry on *MI9 Escape and Evasion*. When Allied fighters were trapped behind enemy lines, one branch of military intelligence helped them escape: MI9. The organisation set up clandestine routes that zig-zagged across Nazi-occupied Europe, enabling soldiers and airmen to make their way home. Secret agents and resistance fighters risked their lives and those of their families to hide the men. Central to its success were figures such as Airey Neave, Jimmy Langley, Sam Derry, and Mary Lindell - one of only a few women parachuted into enemy territory for MI9. This astonishing account combines escape and evasion tales with the previously untold stories behind the establishment of MI9-and reveals how the organisation saved thousands of lives.

On Tuesday 14 September 2pm Ian Binnie will give a talk on The Second Mounted Division at Gallipoli. This is the story of the 2nd Mounted Division in the August offensive, during the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign of World War One. A newly formed division of volunteers was decimated in a version of the "Charge of the Light Brigade" without horses. A classic case of "Lions led by Donkeys".

Please check out our website on www.bmmhs.org for details of all our talks, *including any changes*. To register for talks, email us on zoom@bmmhs.org Thank you to everyone who has supported us and made donations to help keep us going.

GORING & ALMSHOUSES BOWLS CLUB

Since last year, our two local bowls clubs in Goring and in Goring Heath have merged to form a new super-club, Goring and Almshouses Bowls Club. We use the Goring bowling green for league matches and the Goring Heath Almshouses green for friendlies and internal competitions.

We are now half way through our 2021 season, though without the usual indoor socialising after matches. With the combined membership of the two clubs, we have been able to field stronger and more varied teams, so feel we are holding our own, though would always like to do better! Our members are also enjoying our informal roll-ups, both at the Goring Heath Almshouses and at Goring. We have welcomed a number of new people to those roll-ups and some have already joined the club.

The long-term plan is to expand and re-lay the green at the Goring Heath Almshouses and make that our home. To that end, we are currently fundraising: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/almshouses-bowling-green. If you'd like to give bowls a try, contact David Watson, our secretary, at gabowlsclub@gmail.com or call him on 07989 402190.

NEED A GOOD READ?



Our Wallingford bookshop ladies are on hand to help.

It's well known that we can't resist a good history book. The shop's history section is always overflowing and in recent months, publishers have provided a cornucopia for history buffs. Robert Peal's *Meet the Georgians* illuminates life in Georgian England through the lives of twelve characters including Anne Bonny and Mary Wollstonecraft. *Mission France* by Kate Vigurs charts the stories of the 39 women of Churchill's Special Operations Executive. Andrew Marr's *Elizabethans* looks at the activists and heroes of the last 70 years and considers how history will view us. So, this month we thought we'd introduce a wonderful new local history book and a fabulous new series for our younger history fans.

Landmark in Time by Peter Adamson



Wittenham Clumps, so-called because of the clumps of beech trees that crown each chalk hill, are steeped in history. In *Landmark in Time*, Peter Adamson looks at not only the long history of Clumps themselves, but also at the stories that began within their view. Local characters are illuminated as Peter explores their connections with

key national and international events of the past, including Scott's Antarctic expedition and the American Revolution.

Landmark in Time is a remarkable read. Pop by the shop to pick up your copy before heading to the Clumps to soak up their atmosphere and delve into antiquity.

Adventures in Time by Dominic Sandbrook



Adventures in Time is a new non-fiction series that brings popular history alive in an enticing way for tweens and teens. There is little on the market for this age group and so these books are a really welcome addition. The first two

books in the series are out now and *The First World War* and *Alexander the Great* will be published in November.

COME TO THE WALLINGFORD COUNTRY MARKET!

Every Friday, St Mary-le-More Church, Market Place, 9.30 – 12pm.

Friday 13th August is *Fruity Friday!*

Come and buy bread, preserves and chutneys made with summer fruits and vegetables.

THE CORN EXCHANGE, WALLINGFORD – AUGUST

Cinema

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Tickets £8 for adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

The social distancing algorithm currently in place at the Box Office with only groups of up to 6 from allowed groups able to book seats together will be lifted from the beginning of August if government rules allow. The Box Office system automatically spaces out any new bookings. In the interests of safety for existing patrons who have booked seats with this spacing, we won't implement this change until the beginning of the month after any relaxation. We're grateful for patrons for their observation of all the Covid rules that we have implemented in the theatre.

Sunday, 1st August, 2:30pm Raya and the last Dragon (PG)

Sunday, 1st August, 7:30pm Raya and the last Dragon (PG)

Monday, 2nd August, 7:30pm The Surrogate

Tuesday, 3rd August, 7:30pm The Surrogate

Wednesday, 4th August, 7:30pm French Exit (15)

Thursday, 5th August, 7:30pm French Exit (15)

Friday, 6th August, 7:30pm Another Round (12A)

Saturday, 7th August, 7:30pm Another Round (12A)

Sunday, 8th August, 7:30pm Space Jam: A New Legacy (PG)

Monday, 9th August, 7:30pm Space Jam: A New Legacy (PG)

Tuesday, 10th August, 7:30pm Black Widow (12A)

Wednesday, 11th August, 7:30pm Black Widow (12A)

Thursday, 12th August, 7:30pm Black Widow (12A)

Friday, 13th August, 7:30pm Spirit Untamed

Saturday, 13th August, 7:30pm Spirit Untamed

Sunday, 13th August, 2:30pm Spirit Untamed

Sunday, 15th August, 7:30pm Moonlight

Wednesday, 18th August, 7:30pm Off the Rails

Thursday, 19th August, 7:30pm Off the Rails

Friday, 20th August, 7:30pm Off the Rails

The Corn Exchange will be closed from Saturday 21st August to Sunday 29th August inclusive for Annual Maintenance and Deep Cleaning.

Live Theatre

Saturday, 31st July, 3:30pm Spoken Word Poet Jill Battson

Double JUNO Award Nominee and spoken word artist, Jill Battson, presents an afternoon poetry reading. Heralded as "one of the great voices in contemporary poetry" and "poetry's 'agent provocateur'" Jill will also participate in a Q&A with Adrian Brooks, Artistic Director of the Henge21 Festival.

Tickets £7.50

Henge21 is a community art project, and local poets are invited to participate by creating poems that relate to the theme "circle of life". There is a day-long workshop at Dorchester on Thames Village Hall, Queen Street on Sunday, 1st August, led by Jill Battson as resident poet. A morning visit to the site of the Dyke Hills for inspiration and an insight into the history of Dorchester at the museum will be followed by an afternoon of crafting and critiquing poems with publication on the Henge21 website. Sunday, 01 August 10am – 5pm, £25,

Register at: jillbattson@gmail.com

Wednesday, 22nd September to Saturday, 25th September, 7:45pm

Sinodun Players present A Daughter's a Daughter is an intense family drama published by Agatha Christie under the name Mary Westmacott, and directed by Lucy Pitman-Wallace.

Tickets £12 (adults) and £8 (under 16s)



www.thecabinpreschool.co.uk

01491 680854

info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk

Cabin is a friendly pre-school in a great location within Woodcote Primary School.

- children from 2 years old through to start of school
- dedicated outdoor space plus access to the playground, field and climbing frames.
- offer an exciting range of activities including: French and sports
- flexible choice of sessions
- Term time, 9am - 3pm, early drop off and late stay available



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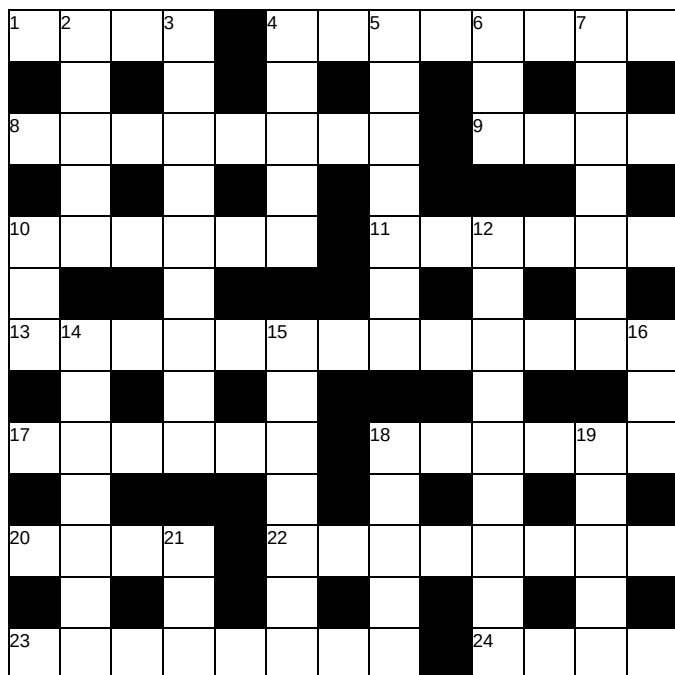
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AUGUST CROSSWORD



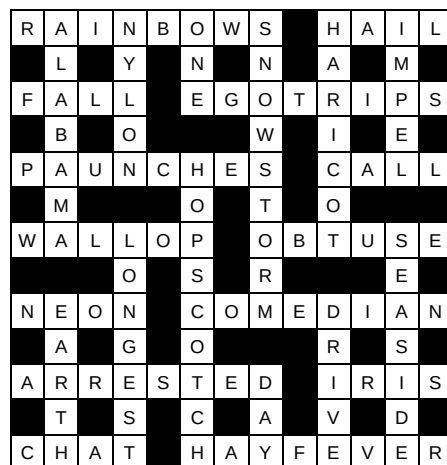
Across

- 1 Light entertainment (4)
- 4 Army calculation (7)
- 8 Expand breed (8)
- 9 Children start taking others too seriously (4)
- 10 Rude man denies holding request (6)
- 11 State, very loudly, Queen is the boss (6)
- 13 Contagious? Miss let brains go to pieces (13)
- 17 Gossip about centrally bordered country (6)
- 18 A French type is cruel (6)
- 20 Back to front Channel Island crafts (4)
- 22 Take away secondary brochure (8)
- 23 Extra charge after a theologian gets it (8)
- 24 Whatever way it's done (4)

Down

- 2 Old President gets us poor treatment (5)
- 3 Kept about right and lined up again (9)
- 4 Fooled around puddle when left out (5)
- 5 Five? Zero? Unknown get old on travels
- 6 Harden position (3)
- 7 This is nothing at dinner for breakfast (7)
- 10 Jot a coded e (3)
- 12 Vibrated deck. Rifle shattered (9)
- 14 Reconnected leftie pockets telegram (7)
- 15 Singular alpine runner (7)
- 16 Terminal friend (3)
- 18 Timeless headgear for city area (5)
- 19 Pigeonhole for six counties revolutionary (5)
- 21 Go downhill fast from short take-off (3)

JULY CROSSWORD SOLUTION



RBL POPPY APPEAL – GORING HEATH & WOODCOTE AREA

This year is a VERY important year for the Royal British Legion. It was founded on 15th May 1921, so this is our Centenary year. And although it has come a long way in those 100 years, it has also remained pure to its original goals - supporting serving and ex-serving personnel of the Armed forces. The Poppy Appeal - in the two weeks up to Remembrance Day - has been the main way for the RBL to raise much needed donations.

Locally, your donations last year were fantastic. But not being able to do the house-to-house (h2h) collections did have an impact across the country. So QR codes, online donations and text mobile numbers were used in place of cash. This made a huge difference (especially as week 2 we were back into a lockdown!). You were all very generous.

This year, fingers crossed, we are hoping to run h2h collections again, and have collecting tins in all businesses that can have them! We have also merged the Goring Heath and Woodcote areas together for better efficiency!

Could you spare an hour to help man our stand at the Woodcote Village Fete on Saturday 11th September? Or if you are interested in volunteering to be a h2h collector in the run up to Remembrance Sunday, then do please contact one of us. I will also contact everyone nearer the time who has expressed an interest in volunteering in previous years, to see if you are still interested in helping.

Thank you.

David Jennings (681162) and Linda Burton (07956 136750 / 680750)

Email: dla.burton@btinternet.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY – AUGUST

- Sun 1st * St. Leonard's online church service. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 10.00am
- Wed 4th * St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church. 2pm-4pm.
- * St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 8.30pm
- Sun 8th * St. Leonard's online church service. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 10.00am
- Mon 9th * Woodcote Village Hall Meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
- Wed 11th * St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church. 2pm-4pm.
- * St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 8.30pm
- Sun 15th * St. Leonard's open for service of Holy Communion. St. Leonard's Church. 8.30am
- * St. Leonard's online church service. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 10.00am
- Tues 17th * Wallingford & District Art Club on-line demonstration: 'Streams/rivers in Watercolour'. Email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk. 7.30pm
- Wed 18th * St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church. 2pm-4pm.
- * St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 8.30pm
- Sun 22nd * St. Leonard's open for service of Holy Communion. St. Leonard's Church. 8.30am
- * St. Leonard's online church service. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 10.00am
- Wed 25th * St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church. 2pm-4pm.
- * St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 8.30pm
- Sun 29th * St. Leonard's open for service of Holy Communion. St. Leonard's Church. 8.30am
- * St. Leonard's online church service. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 10.00am

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this paper, the Editor and Committee cannot accept responsibility for the contents of advertisements or any errors that may occur. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or Committee.

SMALL ADS

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FORTHCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER

- Sun 5th * St. Leonard's open for service of Holy Communion. St. Leonard's Church. 8.30am
- * St. Leonard's online church service. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 10.00am
- Wed 8th * St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church. 2pm-4pm.
- * BMMHS Talk: 'MI9 Escape and Evasion'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
- * St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com. 8.30pm
- Fri 10th * Wallingford Photographic Club Zoom talk: 'Photographing Babies, Infants & Families'. www.wallingfordphoto.club. 7.30pm

WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB (WADAC)



Our demonstration on Tuesday 17 August 2021 is an online live demonstration entitled "Streams/rivers in Watercolour" by Barry Herniman

"Barry has been painting full time for many years and has held workshops, demos and seminars in numerous locations both home and abroad. He works in a variety of mediums, but his first love is watercolour.

Our demonstrations are held at 7.30pm online. To join, email: admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk or davidbooth7@outlook.com for the zoom link. All viewing is free to members, friends of the club and local artists/clubs, as part of our "Art into the Community" project.

Tuesday Tutored morning and evening classes have restarted, 10-1pm and 7-9pm sessions. A 6-week term £80 or drop in for a taster £15

Venue: Centre 70, Kincroft, off Goldsmith Lane, Wallingford, OX10 0DT.

For more details, please check on our website: www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk

If you are interested in joining, please contact davidbooth7@outlook.com or Tel: 01491 681400

CLOSING THOUGHT

You will never find time for anything. You must make it.

Charles Buxton