

WOODCOTE CORRESPONDENT

December 2021

Vol 33 No. 10



**We wish all our readers, advertisers and
contributors a very Happy Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year**

COMMENT FROM THE VICARAGE

'So, here it is 'Merry Christmas' as someone once sang!

I can't begin to tell you how much I am looking forward to being able to celebrate Christmas this year as we will be able to be together once again. You all turned out magnificently last year for the few things that we were able to do like 'Doorstep Carols' and decorating our windows, but to be back in church will be wonderful. I promised you last month that I would give you details of our slightly different range of services for this Christmas.

The Christingle service this year will be in the Village Hall with a workshop feel as we all make our own Christingles in the Christingle Factory! We will have a lovely interactive service as well as hopefully sharing a few mince pies and Christmas treats. Do come along and help us raise some much-needed funds for 'The Children's Society' as we enjoy a fun afternoon. Oh, and you don't have to be a child or bring a child – everyone is welcome.

The Carol Service will be back in church this year at a slightly earlier time of 4pm. The church will be decorated and candle-lit to help add atmosphere to the programme of readings and carols.

Then on Christmas Eve we are breaking with tradition and having 'Carols on the Green' at 4pm. Dress up warm and bring your torches and lanterns and all the family for a traditional Christmas singalong. We tried this a couple of years ago and it got a great response so we hope it might become a new event for the whole village. There will be fairy lights and glow sticks as well as some seasonal refreshments. Shepherds, kings and angels are all welcome and we hope they might even help us retell the Christmas story.

Later, on Christmas Eve there is the traditional 'Midnight Mass' and a Holy Communion for all the family on Christmas morning. Boxing Day falls on the Sunday so there is also a short, quiet and reflective service of Holy Communion at 9am on the 26th.

I do hope that I will see you at one or more of our services, and that you, and those whom you love, will be blessed with all the joys of Christmas.

With all blessings and prayers for your safekeeping,

Linda
Rev. Linda Smith, Tel. 01491 680979
Email: woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com

Services at St. Leonard's in December

Sunday 5th December

9.45 am Confirmation Service with Bishop Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester.

Sunday 12th December

8.00am Holy Communion

3.00pm Christingle Workshop & Service in the Village Hall. All Welcome.

Sunday 19th December

8.00 am Holy Communion

4.00 pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Carols on the Green

11.00 pm Holy Communion for Christmas

Christmas Day

10.00 am Family Christmas Communion

Sunday 26th December

9.00am Holy Communion

Please note that all our Sunday services now take place in church. We are also open for private prayer on Wednesdays during the day.

Online Night Prayer

We will continue with our online service of Night Prayer every Wednesday at 8.30 pm. Please 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.

ST. LEONARD'S FAIR

This year's Fair made a profit of £1614 and a further £123 was made from the sale of the church notelets etc. Everyone was absolutely delighted, both with the result and for the opportunity to return to a more normal existence after a year off.

The Village Hall was brightly decorated with banners and flashing lights and many of the stall holders sported hats and pullovers with a Christmas theme. Visitors delighted in the variety of goods available: gifts, crafts, jewellery, cakes, chutneys, bric-a-brac and books. Many people were winners on the raffles, tombola and lucky-dip. They also took the opportunity to relax with tea and biscuits in the floral calm of the refreshment room.

Many, many thanks to everyone who made or donated items, to those who helped to set up and staff the stalls, to those who cleared away at the end, and to those who came to buy. We also thank our artistic sporting friends from Karate who moved rooms on Saturday morning so that we could set up in the main hall. There is a fantastic community spirit in Woodcote and the support for the Fair, which is expressed in so many ways, reflects it.

The money raised will, as usual, be used for the general running costs and maintenance of St Leonard's Church. We hope that you were pleased with your bargains and prizes and thank you again for your amazingly generous support.

The St. Leonard's Fair Committee

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.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Well, we've nearly made it to the end of the year and what a hybrid of a year it's been. Many of us have gone away on holiday, gone abroad even. Schools have reopened, along with restaurants, bars etc.

However, the undercurrent of caution and the advice to wear masks in crowded places reminds us that we are not out of the woods yet. Whatever your plans this Christmas, remember to *eat, drink and be merry* (you all know the drill!)

To help you along the way, we have compiled a list of Christmas markets you can visit to get you into the festive spirit!

In this issue, we are also treating you to some incredible photos courtesy of local nature photographer, Jackie Comrie. Many of you will be familiar with her photos on *Wonderful Woodcote* but we now get the chance to learn a little more about the weird and wonderful fungi that live in our woods.

Merry Christmas everyone!

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.

Advertisers: To place an advertisement, please email wood-co@runbox.com for details of prices and how to produce your ad in our house style. The deadline for payment and your finished advertisement is the 12th of the preceding month.

Small Ads and Announcements: £5 for three lines.

Photographs: Photos should be unedited and as high a resolution as possible (at least 500kB). Please email them as attachments to wood-co@runbox.com

Advertising:	Claire Jones	07789 190463
Treasurer:	Helen Baker	01491 682240
Production:	Dan Oldfield	01491 681962
Distribution:	Trevor Back	01491 680617
Printer:	C Z Services	07860 630865
Cover Design:	Rob Spencer	

The Woodcote Correspondent is on the Village website at tinyurl.com/Woodcote-Correspondent

Note: The Woodcote Correspondent is edited, produced and distributed by volunteers.

Aldridge's est 1879

For Samsonite spares and repairs and "off the shelf" leather wallets and purses visit
www.aldridges.co.uk



For handmade and bespoke leather goods all manufactured in my Woodcote workshop please visit

www.englishmadebelts.co.uk
and use promo code **Woodcote10**

- Belts; ► Wallets; ► Card holders; ► Key fobs;
- Pen holders; ► Conference folders; ► Dog collars and leads; ► and other bespoke items.

And a comprehensive leather repair service



Jonny Aldridge: info@aldridges.co.uk/07980253841
Unit 7 Church Farm Woodcote RG8 0QX

Would you like an honest, reliable and **AFFORDABLE police checked* cleaner to clean your home?**

Typically

£15.00

per hour
fully
inclusive

FREE!
First clean with
this advert*

Then contact us at



TIME FOR YOU™
DOMESTIC CLEANING

As Featured on BBC 2's Working Lunch, Ch4's 'House Swap' & preferred cleaning supplier to CH5's Cowboy Builders!

Call Time for You **TODAY!**
01491 523269

thamesvalley@uk.timeforyou.cleaning
www.timeforyou.cleaning

*Police checked cleaner on request.
All offers & promotions are subject to terms
available on our website.



mb mortimer burnett

Chartered Accountants & Business Consultants

We can help with:

Saving Money

Ensuring value for every £ spent

Saving Time

Automate processes using cloud based accounting

Contact Us For A Free Consultation

01491 874332

Lisa@mortimerburnett.co.uk

www.mortimerburnett.co.uk

Licenced Waste Carrier

CB/TM3389SD

Not just a man with a van!

I'm Brian, call for a free quote!



01491 682346

07729 968753



I recycle as much as I can!
also offered!

Local collection/delivery of large items including
eBay purchases, fridges, cookers, motorcycles etc

email bft.services@yahoo.com

Christmas Art Sale

Original paintings
from local artists
at affordable
prices

Fri 3rd to

Sun 5th Dec,
10am to 5pm

21 St. Martins St.
Wallingford

**Wallingford
& District
Art Club**

STORAGE

DRY SECURE STORAGE UNITS

ON GATED PREMISES IN WOODCOTE

FROM £70 PER MONTH

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE PHONE

01491 680919 / 07763 101393

D J SCOTT ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Your Local Electrician

- All aspects of Electrical work undertaken
- Free no obligation quotes
- NICEIC Part P Registered

Call Daniel on – 07834365331

www.djscottelectrical.com

Email- info@djscottelectrical.com



KINGS FLOORING

**CARPETS, VINYLs, LAMINATES,
ENGINEERED WOOD AND KARNDEN
FOR A FREE QUOTE AND SAMPLES DIRECT
TO YOUR DOOR CALL**

01491 681489 07799471648

Proud members of

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

BONNER LOCKSMITHS

**INSURANCE APPROVED
DOOR & WINDOW LOCKS
SUPPLIED & FITTED (BS3621)**

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PREMISES
DIGITAL LOCKS GRILLES BARS
ALL AREAS COVERED

CALL OUT
SERVICE

**01491
680216**

Crestwell House, Beech Lane
WOODCOTE, READING

**FULL MEMBER
OF BRITISH
LOCKSMITH
INSTITUTE**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Through the pages of our wonderful magazine, I would like to thank all my lovely friends and neighbours for their love and support following the loss of my Mum, Olive? Olive would have been astounded at the outpouring of love and tributes to her, and I am so very grateful. We are so blessed to live in such a supportive village. Special thanks to Nita and Linda for their help in caring for Mum in her last illness, to Michelle for being Michelle, to Rev Linda Smith for her support and all the team at St Leonard's for a lovely funeral service. Finally, thanks to Bruce Jones, with his team at Tomalin's, who helped me so much. You find your friends in a crisis and Woodcote en-masse were just brilliant.

Many thanks

Sue Udell

THE FELLOWSHIP OF ST BIRINUS



In May 2009, the then Bishop of Dorchester, Bishop Colin, founded the Fellowship of St Birinus to acknowledge people who had given exceptional service in some way to their church and community over several years. St Birinus was the first Bishop of Dorchester from the year 634 to 649 A.D.

On Sunday the 24th of October, in the beautiful setting of Dorchester Abbey, a special service of Evensong was held for the Fellowship at which the newest members were admitted by the current Bishop of Dorchester, Bishop Gavin. We were delighted that this year, Woodcote's own Barbara Penniall, representing St Leonard's Church, was invited to receive this award in recognition of her service to St Leonard's, the wider church, and the community. She joins Woodcote's and St Leonard's Janet Casson and Brian Turner, who had received the award a few years previously.

We send Barbara our warmest congratulations and thank her for all that she does.

IN MEMORY OF RON WEBB



My friend, Ron Webb, who passed away on 20th September, at the age of 77, will be fondly remembered by many in Woodcote. Whether it was in the Cricket Club where he was a member and committee member for around fifty years and played for thirty of those years, or as a very knowledgeable motor engineer and mechanic, working for many years at Stoke Row

Garage, running his own business in Checkendon, or latterly at Stanrod Motors on Wards Farm. Ron was brought up in Checkendon and moved to Woodcote

after his marriage to Margaret in 1968. For the whole 53 years of their married life together, Ron and Margaret lived in Behoes Lane, most of the time in Field Cottages, and there they brought-up their three children, Darren, Elaine and Dan. Darren, the eldest, followed his father into the Cricket Club and into the family business, but was tragically killed in a motor accident in 1990. Apart from cricket, Ron had a huge number of other leisure interests ranging from Rock 'n' Roll to sailing; from fast cars to golf. In earlier times, he raced stock cars and go-karts and, when he took up sailing in later life, he gained his navigation qualifications so that he could sail across to the Isle of Wight from Poole. He never gave less than his full-commitment to all his activities and he thoroughly enjoyed the company of his mates for the inevitable after-match drinks. Ron enjoyed a pint and was very well-known in most of the local hostelrys. As his health began to fail, Ron was able to rely even more on the strong bond with Margaret, who cared for him lovingly as she had done for over fifty years. It was this bond which, thirty years ago, had seen them through their tragic loss.

SP

SEAT DEDICATED TO WILLIAM O'NEIL



On Friday, October 29th, a ceremony was held on the Village Green to dedicate a new seat in memory of William O'Neil (1927-2020) on the first anniversary of his death. The seat was donated to the Village Green by William's widow, Olga. The O'Neil's have lived in South Stoke Road for over 20 years. Around twenty people attended the event and Olga gave a short and moving speech before hosting a reception in the Village Hall. Village Green Chairman, Sam Peates thanked Olga for generously presenting a very high-quality seat and he also thanked Robert McDowell for installing the seat. Olga was very pleased with the spot chosen for the seat as she said that William loved to watch the cricket and this was a perfect spot from which to do so.

William O'Neil was a very distinguished engineer of world renown, with a professional career spanning 70 years from 1949 – 2019. He was involved in a number of canal-building projects in his native Canada and rose to become Chief Executive Officer of the St Lawrence Seaway. He was instrumental in the creation of the Canadian Coastguard Service and became its first Commissioner. After this he was elected Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation, a branch of the United Nations based in London. In 1995, he was awarded the Order of Canada. He was also elected Chairman of the Panama Canal Advisory Board. In 2004 he received the Order of St Michael and St George at Buckingham Palace.

SP

CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION

A big thank you to everyone who entered our winter photo competition for this month's cover. We are delighted to announce that the winner is Sarah Mirtaamadja and we think you will all agree that her photo on the front page is both wintry and festive. Congratulations Sarah!

Congratulation also to the three runners-up in the competition. In no particular order, they are:



Jackie Comrie



Julie Edgington



Oliver Nowell

VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT

The Parish Council are looking at re-developing the Village Hall, and wish to ask the residents for their feedback. There will be a consultation beginning 15th December online so residents can give comments. The link is:

wwa-studios.com/woodcote-village-hall

Remember this link is not open before 15th December!

Planning applications granted by SODC

P21/S3419/HH Application proposal, including any amendments: A proposed single storey rear extension, a single storey side extension (partially over footprint of existing garage footprint) and internal alterations. Site Location: 6 Bensgrove Close Woodcote RG8 0SJ.

P21/S2819/HH Application proposal, including any amendments: Extension to roof and loft conversion. Internal alterations & new roof to the garage roof. Site Location: 45 Bridle Path Woodcote RG8 0SE.

P21/S3321/HH Application proposal, including any amendments: New swimming pool, timber pergola and associated hard landscaping. Site Location: Kites Barn Goring Heath RG8 7SJ.

P21/S3580/HH Application proposal, including any amendments: Redesign of the floor layout of the property with various connecting extensions to form a unified layout. Removal of a flat roof over the dining area to be replaced with a fully glazed cut roof. Site Location: 59 West Chiltern Woodcote RG8 0SG

P21/S3710/FUL Application proposal, including any amendments: Installation of an automated prescription dispenser machine. Site Location: Health Centre Wayside Green Woodcote RG8 0QL

Withdrawn by applicant

P21/S2147/FUL Land at 69 West Chiltern Woodcote RG8 0SG Proposal: Proposed new dwelling (Amended plans received 29th July 2021, including: changes to position of the building, reconfiguration of internal layout, reduction in part of roof height and change to parking arrangement)

P21/S2932/FUL 3 Beckley Close Woodcote RG8 0SZ Proposal: Erection of detached two bed dwelling together with associated parking and amenity areas (As amended by plans 2021-08-31 to re-arrange the internal layout and move dwelling away from boundary).

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Thanks to a generous offer from the County Council to pay half the cost plus the installation cost, the bus stop by the Village Green will shortly have a new bus stop pole with a digital display giving information about the timing of the buses which should be particularly helpful when the bus is running late or is dropped from the schedule. The display will be powered by a solar cell at the top of the pole.

You may have heard about an initiative from the County Council to introduce 20 mph speed limits in many villages across the county. This is the result of a decision to simplify and reduce the cost of the process of changing speed limits. Unfortunately, there won't be any additional measures to enforce the speed limits as the police don't have the resources for this. However, the evidence is that reducing the speed limit does result in reduced speeds – typically, those who exceed the 30-mph limit by 5-10 mph will then exceed the 20-mph limit by the same amount so reducing the overall speeds. It may still be necessary to introduce traffic calming measures on some roads to keep the speeds down.

The Parish Council are considering pursuing this initiative from the County Council and would like to hear your views about reducing the limit. If you have not already responded to our Facebook post, send your comment by email or telephone to the Parish Clerk.

Malcolm Smith
Chairman Woodcote Parish Council

WOODCOTE CORRESPONDENT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

I am pleased to report that during the current year we have managed to return pretty much to normal, with the Correspondent back in full print after the necessity to move online during the lockdown periods. Our printer, Colin Jacobs, is also back to normal and he has once again displayed his generosity and commitment to us with the amount of colour printing, often not charged for.

On behalf of the whole Woodcote community, I want to thank our committee for their conscientious commitment over the past twelve months. First, I want to mention the Editor, Yvette Decmar. Yvette has now completed a full two years as our Editor and I think she has brought a new energy and vibrancy to our publication, broadening its scope to meet the needs and interests of a wider cross-section of our community.

Crucially, Yvette has also developed a very good working relationship with Dan Oldfield, our Production Manager. Dan, as I mentioned last year, is by far our longest-serving member and without him I doubt we could continue. His quiet, efficient work, largely in the background, is the rock on which the Correspondent is built month after month.

It has been another difficult year for Claire Jones as Advertising Manager. The trend away from advertising in the Correspondent has continued even after the end of lockdown, but the whole Committee is now involved in a campaign to increase advertising revenue to save the Correspondent. Recently, Claire has written to a large number of businesses in the area to invite new or returning advertisers. We intend to follow up the letters with telephone calls which we hope will have the desired effect.

Helen Baker, our Treasurer, continues to keep a watchful eye on our finances and to express concerns about our financial position. Helen is, of course, best-placed to advise about the possible implications.

Trevor Back our Distribution Manager has the perfect skill-set for the job. He sees what needs doing and just gets on with it, but he is also very much a part of the Committee and dedicated to the task of ensuring that the Correspondent continues to thrive. I know that his interaction with our dedicated distributors is another of his strengths.

Jayne Cole, our Secretary, is another member who carries out her duties with quiet efficiency and plays a full part in efforts to bring continued success to our publication. The same could be said of Tim Huelin our Diary Manager. He too shows a willingness to involve himself in our efforts to increase revenue and continue to publish.

In my view, there has never been a better time for me to emphasise the fact that the Correspondent Committee is made up of volunteers, who give willingly many hours of their time. Most members have busy professional lives or, if retired, are heavily committed to a wide range of village organisations and activities. I hope that our readership and contributors will remain mindful of this when, as an independent publication, we print articles with which individuals may be at variance or we make edits and amendments necessitated by available copy space.

Fortunately, such events are extremely rare and vastly outweighed by the many, many expressions of thanks and praise we receive for our much-valued publication. We will continue to do our best to secure the future of the Woodcote Correspondent.

SP (November 2021)

WOODCOTE WI UPDATE

Patricia Solomons welcomed the members to our Harvest Meeting with a difference back in October - with our own packed lunches! We collected contributions for the local foodbank. Patricia read some favourite autumn poems; this was followed by tales of memorable meals from Patricia Solomons, Ann Larden, Debbie Black and Judy Williams for all different reasons!

Birthday brooches were presented to Gill Woods, Patricia Jessup, Barbara George, Sally Lambert and Connie Vickery.

We were lucky enough to be included in the Round and About Magazine this month with an article written by Sally Lambert and Ann Larden. It also featured photographs of a trip to Bournemouth, 2 members' special birthdays and our treasurer Debbie Black at an outside committee meeting!

Several members have booked to make wreaths at the 5-a-side Market Garden in Engelfield in December, along with some mulled wine.

The lunch club went to the Highwayman in Exlade Street and had a lovely meal and plenty of chatter, thanks to Sally Lambert for organising.

Bloom of the Month was won by Carole Shelley-Allen.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, come and join us.

Judy Williams.

WOODLAND TREASURES

By Jackie Comrie

Woodcote is brimming with beautiful, fascinating mushrooms and fungi, many of which you may pass on a walk in the woods and spare a passing thought to *What is that?* The world of fungi is amazing and I have photographed some from the local woods with descriptions so you too can enjoy the wonder of the networks of mycelium under the trees, together with beautiful fruiting bodies we see on our walks. But before I begin, a word of warning: **never pick and eat fungi that you cannot positively identify!**

1) Amethyst Deceiver - *Laccaria Amethystina*



Found in leaf litter, bright purple in colour. It has lilac flesh and the gills are attached to the hairy stem. These are technically edible, rather tasteless but very similar to the poisonous Lilac Fibrecap. Abundant in woodland around Woodcote.

2) Fly Agaric - *Amanita Muscaria*



This mushroom is enchanting, and highly toxic. It frequents mainly Birch woodland, late summer to early winter and fruits around Woodcote in the autumn/early winter months. It has a bright red cap with white spots and white gills. Very poisonous. It was traditionally used as an insecticide. It was common on Christmas cards in the Victorian era as a sign of good luck and thought to be the inspiration for Santa's red and white costume.

3) Winter Chanterelle-*Craterellus Tubaeformis* found



mainly November to December in the woods locally. Flimsy appearance and common but easy to identify and great earthy taste. Most obvious is the bright orange/yellow stem which gives the common name - Yellow Leg. Spotting them in leafy woodland can be difficult, but are one of our finest edible wild mushrooms.

4) Magpie Inkcaps - *Coprinopsis Picacea*



Amazing black or grey and white bell-shaped caps and a white narrow hollow stem with a skirt, but is said to have alarming poisonous effects. A striking sight in the woods around Woodcote mainly during September and October. Eventually, they melt, dripping and black. The resulting mess can even be used as viable ink.

5) Candlesnuff Fungus - *Xylaria Hypoxylon*



Black base and white finger like tip. Grows on rotting and dead wood. Also known as Carbon Antlers and Candlestick fungus. Fruits all year but particularly autumn. This fungus has medicinal properties; it is

both anti-viral and active against tumours. Although it is not poisonous, it is too small and tough to eat.

6) *Helvella Crispa* - White Saddle/Elfin Saddle



Identified by its irregularly-shaped whitish cap, fluted stem, and fuzzy under surfaces. Slightly toxic and very unusual, found in leaf litter of beech and oak usually. Creamy and astonishing in appearance, debatably edible.

7) Penny Bun - *Boletus Edulis* - Porcini. cep.



Fat, delicious and resembling a beautifully baked bun, the cep, or Penny Bun are a prized mushroom for their taste and can be found locally in the woods around Woodcote. They are chunky, edible and highly sought after. In mythology, it's best to seek the Penny Bun in a full moon. In Italy, they are called Porcini - little pig and are highly prized in the food industry.

This example I found was already being enjoyed by local insects.

8) Turkeytail Fungus - *Trametes Versicolor*



A common polypore, with striking colours used throughout the world to treat various conditions. It's a bracket fungus that grows throughout the year but particularly in autumn. Its circular caps can be found around Woodcote growing on trees and dead wood. Colours are variable mixes of brown, yellow, grey, purple, green and black, but the outer margin is always pale - either cream or white. Science is discovering that this holds an arsenal of cancer blasting compounds!

9) Yellow Stagshorn - *Calocera Viscosa*



These are a jelly fungus that resemble tiny yellow/orange tuning forks, which grows on decaying conifer stumps. Whilst not poisonous, they have little taste and poor texture but may be used as a bright garnish.

10).Chicken of the Woods - *Laetiporus Sulphureus*



What mushroom and fungi guide wouldn't be complete without mentioning this one! Great in stews and casseroles in place of chicken, stir fries or marinated in a satay sauce and skewered, if you're lucky enough to spot it. It's a bright yellow, sometimes orange mushroom that loves to grow on Oaks. Chicken of the Woods is edible and as its name suggests. The one pictured I found at Hampton Court but neighbours have found it locally. It is so delicious when young, tender and soft **but as with all mushrooms mentioned in this article, do not eat anything unless you are trained or competent about fungi.** It can be fatal if you make a mistake.

**FREE QUICK
ONLINE QUOTE**

**specialist
floor sanding**

floor2restore.co.uk

- ◆ Wood Floor Restoration
- ◆ Gap Filling & Sealing
- ◆ Staining & Varnishing
- ◆ No dust, mess or odours
- ◆ FREE site survey and quotation
- ◆ Professional, reliable service

01491 682 550



Computer Problems?

PC misbehaving?

Fault diagnosis, Maintenance & Upgrades, Networking,
Data Recovery, Virus Cleaning, Broadband,
Telephone Cabling & Extensions, TV, Mobiles,
Website Design, Development & Hosting, and much more.
Home and Business Support.
Windows and Mac.

01491 680036 or 07961 476664
mail@influentialcomputers.com
www.InfluentialComputers.com
Robin, Henry and Angus Piercey
Influential Computers Ltd - A Family Run Business Since 1984

The CABIN
Pre-School

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



Registered Incorporated Charitable Organisation: 1184578 OFSTED Registered: CP542884

J Roxborough Services

Providing Commercial & Residential Maintenance Services

All building maintenance & small building works undertaken

- Full property renovations
- All aspects of plastering & rendering undertaken
- Floor & wall tiling
- Painting & decorating
- Brickwork repointing
- Flat roof renewal & roof repairs
- Bathroom & kitchen installations
- Fascia & gutter replacement

Free quotes, fully insured, recommendations freely available

Tel: 07909 931601 or 01491 682955

HAMPERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Sadly this year Langtree school will once again be unable to hold their Senior Citizens Christmas Tea Party. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has severely affected what they are able to do in school safely. They are very sorry not to be able to invite the local community to join them as they have in the past.

They will however be making hampers for delivery to those senior members of the local community who would benefit. They have a list in school of those who have received one in past years. If you or someone you know would benefit from receiving a hamper, please email Mrs Belcher: **bbelcher@langtreeschool.com** or contact the school office who will be able to take the details from you and pass on to Mrs Belcher.

JINGLE JOG AND BACON ROLLS!

On Sunday the 12th of December between 9.45 and 11am, the Friends of Woodcote Primary School (FOWPS) will be holding a Jingle Jog (fun run/walk) on the rec and in the hall. We will be serving hot food and drinks, cakes, have a selection of Christmas games and stalls and we'll be joined by the Smelly Welly donkeys!

Runners will be awarded finisher medals on completion of the run. Show your medal to receive a drink and butty!

This is not a timed event and is open to everyone - not just Woodcote Primary school families. Christmas Dress up is optional but hoped for! A prize will be awarded to best festive fancy dress.

To sign up visit: www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events

WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

In the past month four matches have been played resulting in three wins and one defeat, leaving the team in third place in the Hellenic League Division 2 (East), but with games in-hand on the two teams above. On 9th October a 2-1 win away at Kidlington took us through to the second round of the Oxfordshire Intermediate Cup. Two penalties from Daniel Boateng secured the win after Kidlington had taken the lead. Three league matches followed, a 6-0 away win at Chalvey Sports, where Joe Webber, Toby Nowell 2, Jake Dillon, Mike Mattimore and Andy Taylor were on the scoresheet, a disappointing 2-0 away defeat at Thame United and a home win over Holmer Green by 2-1 with goals by Joe Webber and Sam Tucker. The Football Club would like to thank the local businesses who have sponsored their new playing strip, club tracksuits and warm-up shirts. They are Stanrod Motors, The Witches Kitchen, Howard Nowell Garden Design, DJ Scott Electrical Services, Healthy Buildings International, MD Read Groundworks, The Black Lion and Neil McDougall Heating and Plumbing.

SP



The Woodcote team wearing their new kit sponsored by Stanrod Motors



Woodcote on the attack against Thame United



Woodcote's Mike Mattimore in action against Thame



Woodcote defend against Holmer Green

CHECKENDON PRESCHOOL

We have been celebrating Fireworks Night, Diwali, and soon the glitter will be making an appearance when we start to celebrate Christmas. Our Christmas Tree will be going up, in anticipation of decorating it with all the glittery loveliness that the children will make.

Celebrating enables the children to have a good time and demonstrate what is important to them and their culture. Celebrating help children to have a good understanding of the meaning, characteristics and purpose of celebration. Celebrations are a great way to help children build friendships, encouraging the children to work together and enjoy playing together, working together as a team and learn about what similarities we share and what makes us unique.

Bonfire night is a perfect opportunity for the children to create exciting pictures, expressing themselves through bright colours and fun activities. We have been creating wonderful art work with paint to create fireworks, talking about all the different words we could use to describe firework sounds such as fizz, crackle pop and bang, encouraging vocabulary. It is also a great time to teach the children about how to keep themselves safe around fireworks.

We are all looking forward to celebrating Christmas this year. We will be celebrating and enjoying many fun activities such as singing, Christmas jumper days and our Christmas party, which the children look forward to every year, and we will be expecting a visit from a certain VIP!

We would like to thank the Cherry Tree Inn at Stoke Row for kindly donating the children's Christmas dinner for this year's Christmas party. We are planning a few fundraising events including our Christmas hamper raffle. Tickets are on sale now at £1 a ticket. Tickets can be purchased from the lovely ladies at Checkendon preschool and the raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 3rd December 2021.

To find out more about Checkendon preschool, do visit our website www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk, call us on 01491 682589, e-mail preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com or just pop in – we always look forward to welcoming you!

Kelly Mullins

The Landscape Group Oxford

GARDEN, GROUNDS & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

We have maintained the village for the Parish Council and also provide the following for local residents:

- Garden and Grounds Maintenance
- Fencing and Turfing
- Hedge Cutting and Tree Work
- Drives, Patios and Landscaping
- House and Garden Clearance

£10 million Public Liability Insurance. Trading Standards Approved. Safecontractor Accredited. NPTC & Lantra Qualified.

Tel: 01865 341750

**e: lee@tlgo.co.uk
w: www.tlgo.co.uk**

WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children have been very busy this last part of term. We have had so much fun, and we very much appreciate being able to do a few more things together than we could at this time last year.

Early in November, Year 3 had a great day learning all about pumpkins. They spent some time studying them for art, looking at the shape, texture and shades of orange required to draw a really good pumpkin. Once they had finished their artwork, they cut them open, scooped out all the seeds and chopped them up. Mixed with a few simple ingredients and cooked for half an hour, their pumpkins made excellent soup. Not a drop was left by home time!

Our Key Stage 1 children, the youngest in the school, had a wonderful assembly together where they shared poems and stories about bonfire night. They had all produced some lovely artwork about fireworks. Each class had taken a different method – Reception children had used paint and had splatted their paint at their piece of black paper. Year 1 had used pipe cleaners to create a shape and printed their painted fireworks. Year 2 had used oil pastels to produce an array of bright colours lighting up their dark sky background. The progression in skills is a delight to see. They made a fabulous display in our hall.



Wreaths made by the children

Remembrance Day was marked by the children once again. They made their wreaths and thought through their prayers with extreme seriousness and respect. We would usually take the whole school to the war memorial but this year a large gathering in a tight space seemed the wrong thing to do, so the school council came down to the war memorial on the green and represented their classmates. They said their prayers, read the names of the fallen soldiers of Woodcote, recited “In

Flanders Fields” and laid wreaths made by everyone. The exact same act of remembrance was held by the rest of the school, safely distanced from each other around the perimeter of the playground. Everyone observed their 2 minutes of silence together from our 2 venues. The children were beautifully respectful and everyone was very moved by the occasion.

We are very much looking forward to our Nativity performances this year. Reception class will be performing “It’s a Baby!” This is a new musical number for us, so we are all waiting eagerly to see it. Years 1 and 2 will be performing “Born in a Barn” which has some wonderful favourite, rock-like tunes that I am sure we will all be singing before long! We are hoping that we will be able to report that we had a live audience and invited all parents to come and see their children perform. If we cannot, they will be

able to watch it on screen, as we did last year. We are busy making costumes, practising songs and learning lines. Fingers all crossed that we remain safe – wouldn’t it be wonderful to be together in our ‘school theatre’ once again.



School Council at the War Memorial

By the time you read this, we will be close to Christmas. This is such an exciting time for the children at school and we always feel very privileged to be able to share this magical time with the children. We look forward to the Spring term and will keep you informed of all the things the children are doing.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas with your friends and families and a very happy New Year.

Mrs L. Hunt

WOODCOTE PRESCHOOL

This half term we have a lot to celebrate. We started off with Diwali and Bonfire night. The children made rockets out of bricks, chalk firework pictures and sparkly Diwali candle holders. We talked about Diwali and Bonfire Night and read some stories. We all tried different Indian foods like samosas, pakoras and chapatis. Everyone thought they were very yummy!

The children made a beautiful poppy wreath to lay on the war memorial on Remembrance Day. We talked about Remembrance with the children. We observed the silence and watched the school children lay their wreath on the memorial.

We have begun learning the songs for our Christmas nativity play. The children are very fast learners and are already singing the songs and doing the actions like experts! The Christmas play is always such a joy to be part of and we are delighted to be able to welcome parents and families in this year, in a Covid safe way.

We will be visiting St Leonard’s Church in December for our Christmas Carol Service. We invite parents and carers to come along and join us. This is such a lovely opportunity for the children to be out in the community and visit the church. We are hoping to receive a visit from the Donkey’s at Smelly Wellies.

We will also be looking forward to our traditional Christmas lunch when we all sit together to enjoy a delicious Christmas Dinner cooked by Tanya our cook. We will then be celebrating the last day of term

with our Christmas Party, there will be lots of dancing, party games and a very special surprise visit from Santa and Freddy the Elf!

On 19th November we held our Quiz Night which proved to be very popular! Thank you to Nik Elsome our Quizmaster and to everyone who attended to make it a success.

Our amazing Christmas Raffle will be on the evening of the play on Wednesday 8th December. We have got some fantastic prizes available to win, such as vouchers for The Giggling Squid, Pizza Express, Red Kangaroo, Marks & Spencer Vouchers, an Oven Clean, Beauty Vouchers, Cheese & Wine Hamper, Children's Hampers, Champagne, Wine, Chocolates and many more. A massive thank you to everyone who has donated prizes - we are very grateful. Some of the children have helped with collecting prizes. They visited Woodcote Garden Centre, Londis and Johnny Aldridge to collect some prizes. We will add a list of other donations in January's Correspondent.

Tickets will be on sale soon and the raffle will be held via Facebook Live at 8pm.

Our Woodcote Baby & Toddler Group is continuing to be a great success with lots of parents, carers & childminders attending. The local Health Visiting Team is now attending Woodcote Baby & Toddler Group so on alternate Mondays (which started from 8th November) you can have your child weighed and ask for advice and support as well as meet other local families. So pop along to the Woodcote Village Hall between 10am and 11am. It is free to see the Health Visitor and only £2 for the Baby and Toddler Group (50p for additional siblings).

We still have spaces available for January 2022 so if you are interested in your child joining Woodcote preschool, please contact Wendy Powell by email: woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk, phone: 01491 682300 or pop by for a visit. We take children from 18 months to school age.

Merry Christmas!



J & R Collier



BUILDERS



- Building & Property Maintenance
- Listed Building Work
- Extensions
- Roofing
- Plastering
- Decorating
- Plumbing

01491 680779 or 0118 9451518



Beacon Flooring

A Family Run Business

Carpet Wood Karndean Vinyl

Free fitting on carpet orders over £150

16 High Street, Goring. 01491 454095

beaconflooring@aol.co.uk

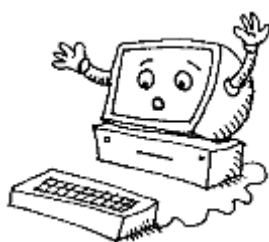
www.beaconflooring.co.uk

Computer Problems?

Free quote – No fix no fee

Michael Harper

Over 500 happy customers
in Sonning Common
and Woodcote.



www.MiloTechnicalSupport.com

0118 972 4905

VARIOUS ROOM
OPTIONS AVAILABLE

SCAN TO VIEW
AVAILABILITY AND TO
BOOK



CONSIDER US FOR
YOUR NEXT EVENT,
PARTY OR CLASSES

WOODCOTEVILLAGEHALL.COM

Woodcote
Village
Hall

CABIN PRESCHOOL

This term we welcome Tommy, Oliver and Lucy.

I must say it's beginning to feel a bit like Christmas as I sit here planning and writing songs for our show. Santa has been invited and the staff are getting excited about the activities, crafts and decorations they are planning. However, there's still lots to do before we can start the celebrations.

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who attended our Bingo Night last month. It was so good to see so many familiar faces having fun. The committee did an amazing job and we all enjoyed planning and organising again. For some reason the choice of the prizes caused the most discussion on our WhatsApp chat! We would also like to thank The Plaice for the wonderful fish and chips and for Brian for being our Caller.

A big shout out to the companies who donated. In such tough times, it's wonderful that businesses can still give back to the community. Thank you to:

Woodcote Garden Centre, Hog's Haven, Vincent Fencing, Viking Services, The Highwayman Inn – Checkendon, Jessie's Coffee Truck, Sportswize Wallingford, Blue Tin Produce, Millets Farm, Kimberley's Hair and Beauty Studio, Mr Mem's Barbers Wallingford, Goring Logs, Britwell Salome Farm Shop, Non-Plastic Beach, Black Lion Woodcote, Chandlers Farm Equipment, Bouchier Fencing, Farols John Deere Dealership, The Ferryboat. Lister Wilder, Eugene the Handy Man, Keep Up with The Joneses. The Cherry Tree Inn, Stoke Row, Hampers.com and The Handmade Baking Company.

Tomalin & Son donated the bottle of gin for our gin roll, which was also very popular.

The staff and committee are so grateful for everyone who worked hard, donated or attended to make the event a great success. Look out next year, we'll be back again!

This term we had lots of fun making firework pictures!

Making pumpkin soup was also a hit, the children loved it and enjoyed eating it. We also used old pumpkins to make potions in the mud kitchen, and if the children did not fancy that then they found some *interesting* ingredients to make pancakes in the home corner.

The rest of the term we will be learning about nocturnal animals before we get glittery and festive. We will be reading Owl Babies, A Bat Loves the Night then Stick man, The Gruffalo's Child, and The Night Before Christmas.

REGISTERED OSTEOPATH

KAREN L. PHILLIPS D.O.

WOODCOTE PRACTICE 01491 684060

Flexible appointment times

Private Health Insurance Provider

We are hoping for an Elf again, though we hope he is well behaved – we aren't really the place for naughty elves here at Cabin. We like to use the elf to engage with kind, polite behaviour as we encourage from the children. If you want to follow the elf Harry, he will be on our Facebook page, Friends of the Cabin Preschool. I will post his adventures from the 1st December.

We shall be running a stall at the FOWPS Jingle Jog, which is promising to be a fun morning. Come and see us for a tombola and games, whether you are running or supporting!

We have space available for all children from 2 years, you can start at any time of the year, book now to avoid disappointment. Please call Jayne on 01491 680854 or email info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk for any advice or to arrange a visit. We are still booking initial visits after school to keep us safe, plus settling in visits where parents are encouraged to come and see us in action.



Cabin Bingo Evening

TRADITIONAL HIGH QUALITY LOCAL CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

- Free Range Bronze
- Traditional White
- Organic
- Locally Reared

Call or order online to reserve your award winning turkey!

www.waltersturkeys.co.uk | 01635 578251

Bower Farm Aldworth RG8 9TR




2017 Great Taste Award for Turkey Crown

The Boathouse
Dental Surgery

Tel: 01491 872394
www.boathousedental.co.uk

Are you someone that hides **your** smile?

Let us **reveal** your smile.

"Never thought I'd smile again...
...but now I can."
Alvin

High Street, Goring on Thames,
Oxfordshire RG8 9AB

Call 01491 872394
to book your **FREE** consultation
Email reception@boathousedental.co.uk




R Hazell Recycling Waste

Licence Waste Carrier - CB/QP3698MJ
Waste Management Licence No. WML86315

4yd skip - £155 + VAT
6yd skip - £215 + VAT
8yd skip - £255 + VAT
12yd skip - £340 + VAT

Roll On/Roll Off Skips Also Available

Ring 01491 699101

THAMES
Building Solutions Limited.

- ▼ Extensions
- ▼ Alterations
- ▼ Refurbishment
- ▼ Patios
- ▼ Brickwork
- ▼ Carpentry
- ▼ Floor & wall finishes

The complete building service

TEL. 01491 680 389 / 07956 966 089

LOCKSMITH **ACG SERVICES**

Locks changed, fitted, repaired & opened.
Yale locks, five lever mortice locks, digital locks,
UPVC door locks & handles, UPVC window locks.

Emergency callout service

Over thirty years of experience. Free quotations

Tel: **01491 682050** or **07710 409216**

www.acgservices.co.uk

Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

Which? Trusted Traders

WISA

Office: 3 Wayside Green, Woodcote, Oxon RG8 0PR. Proprietor Richard Hornden

1st CLASS
TREE SURGEONS

07889 881 525

quote@firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk

www.firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk

Tree Surgery **Tree Thinning**

Tree Reductions **Hedge Trimming**

Tree Removal **Tree Felling**

Landscaping **Stump Grinding**

**City & Guilds NPTC
Qualified and Insured**



Rosie Care

TEL: 01491 682437 MOB. 07966509908.

PUBLIC LIABILITY, OWN CAR, TRAINED, DBS,
EXPERIENCED, DEMENTIA, PALLIATIVE.

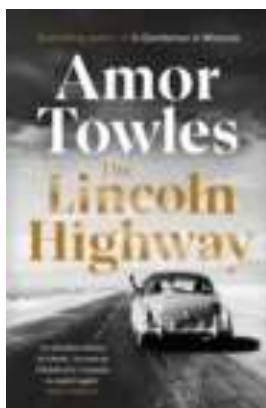


NEED A GOOD READ?

The Wallingford bookshop team is on hand to help!

We're gearing up for Christmas and the bookshop elves have been busy ordering books, packing subscriptions and planning our Christmas Eve boxes to ensure all our customers find the perfect presents for their loved ones this year. So this month we thought we'd share some of the books that are top of our Christmas lists!

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles



When our wonderful Penguin rep brought in proofs of this book last August, it was a bookselling rugby scrum to be the first to read it! We all adore *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *The Lincoln Highway*, whilst very different in both subject and form, does not disappoint. This is an American 1950's odyssey (with its very own Ulysses) with the trans-continental highway replacing the Homer's Trojan 'wine-dark seas'. It's funny, poetic and thought-provoking and Emmet, Billy, Duchess and Woolly will stay with you long after you've finished the last page.

Green Rising by Lauren James



This is Lauren James' fourth standalone novel. Set in a near future devastated by climate change, this is a witty, gripping sci-fi read for teens. Gabrielle has the supernatural ability to grow plants through her skin. She and her fellow 'greenfingers' have the potential to save the world, but do those in positions of power want the world to be saved?

National Trust 2022 Nature Month by Month - A Children's Almanac



This fully illustrated guide to 2022 is packed with birds and animals to spot, indoor and outdoor craft activities (make a nature notebook), seasonal recipes, special days and anniversaries for every month of the year. It's the perfect stocking filler for inquisitive kids!

ON THE ART OF COOKING (PART 2)

By David Sutton

You may remember that in the last issue we left our hero riding the crest of a new wave of culinary confidence and about to tackle the boiling of an egg. I received from my wife a great deal of preliminary instruction in this matter. Far too much, in fact, for the human brain to retain all at one go, so I had the idea of starting my personal recipe book. Here is the first page, which I make free of all copyright for the benefit of husbands everywhere.

To boil an egg.

First find your egg. No, eggs are not kept in the cupboard. They need to be kept fresh. No, not the freezer. One does not freeze eggs. Try the fridge.

Yes, they definitely are in the fridge. They are in a cardboady sort of thing called a carton. Take one out and leave it on the work surface for a while, because it should be at room temperature before cooking. Remember to put it in something to stop it rolling about, otherwise it might fall off the work surface.

No, it is absolutely NOT a good idea to put it in the microwave to speed up the warming up process.

Take the saucepan with the black handle. No, it is not essential that the saucepan's handle be black, it is just that ours happens to be.

Fill it two-thirds with water.

Put it on the burner ring.

Turn the burner ring on.

Check that you have turned on the right burner ring. You can tell because it will be glowing a red colour.

Wait until the water boils.

Put the egg in a spoon and gently lower the egg into the water.

Leave for six minutes.

Take egg out and run it under cold water.

Place in eggcup. The eggcups are in the cupboard. Yes, they are in the cupboard. Open your eyes. Bottom shelf. Picture of a chicken on the front.

Serve with bread-and-butter. The butter is in the fridge. Yes, it is in the fridge. Second shelf down. It won't spread properly? Give it ten in the microwave. No, no, ten seconds not minutes.

So have we forgotten something? Yes, we have. Aha, turn off burner ring.

And the egg was perfect. Phew! And that's another step completed on my way to master chefdom.

Shaun Guard
TV & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied, repaired & poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installation also foreign TV
- Internet - blackspots cured; data cables to your TVs / computer
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up and tuned
- CCTV & Door Entry - domestic installations

OXFORD AERIALS
www.oxfordaerials.co.uk
Call Wallingford 01491 833282

General Maintenance Gardener

Grass cutting, Hedge cutting,
Edging, Weeding, General tidy-up.
For a one-off or regular maintenance
Call: Jason 07775564275

T&S Tomalin & Son
Funeral Directors

24 hours service | Private client parking | Private chapel of rest
Free home visits | Pre-paid funeral plans | Full written estimate
Woodland funerals | Religious & non-religious services | Competitive prices

Call Bruce Jones or Claire Jones
01491 573370
www.tomalins.co.uk tomalin@btconnect.com
Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-On-Thames, RG9 1AG

A Family Run Independent Funeral Service

MADE TO MEASURE
Curtains, Blinds, Cushion Covers etc.
at Competitive Prices
Call CAROLINE on 07815 610007

November Financial Services Ltd
Independent Financial Advisers

We offer a comprehensive range of financial services.

To arrange a FREE initial consultation please call
01491 683777 or email jp@novfin.co.uk.

November Financial Services Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

For many of us, visiting a Christmas market in the run-up to the festive period is almost as enjoyable as the big day itself. Not only does it provide the opportunity to purchase original gifts for family and friends but we also get to soak up the atmosphere, enjoy the music as well as a mulled wine or three! European Christmas markets are very popular of course but this year, we have compiled a list of markets located just an hour or two from Woodcote so you can enjoy the experience without having to pack your bags and dig out your passport! (For details on how to get there, search online)



1) Winter Wonderland – Hyde Park London

19th November – 3rd January

At this time of year, Hyde Park transforms into a festive delight of food, fairground rides and even an ice rink! Why not visit by train and also visit the Christmas window displays of Selfridges, Libertys, Harrods and Hamleys at the same time!

2) Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas market

4th November – 23rd December

This is the largest authentic German market in the UK which offers Bratwursts, Gluhwein, German Beer as well as plenty of shopping opportunities!



3) Winchester Christmas market

19th November – 22nd December

This market is uniquely positioned next to Winchester Cathedral which holds many services

over the festive period. The market is inspired by traditional German markets and is known for selling exclusive Christmas gifts.

4) Stratford-upon-Avon Victorian Christmas market

9th – 12th December

This is a relatively new market and this year will be its third year. There are typically over 300 stalls and tradespeople famously dress in Victorian costume to swiftly transport you back in time while you shop for festive goodies. There is also plenty of children's entertainment including a funfair.

5) The North Pole, Cambridge

19th November – 3rd January

Visit this one to enjoy an ice slide, ice bar and ice rink alongside festive rides and plenty of Christmas stalls. There is also a new Big Wheel to take in the Cambridge sights above the park.



Housing association Soha has launched a large-scale creative writing project for its residents and anyone who lives anywhere where it has homes – and that includes Woodcote.

'Playing with Words' is a series of professionally-led free workshops to encourage creativity on the theme of 'community' in poetry, prose or music.

For six months, free in-person and online sessions with Kevin Campbell of [The KCD Collective](#) will take place across Soha's area and culminate in a gala evening in July 2022 at Didcot's [Cornerstone Arts Centre](#) to celebrate Soha's 25th anniversary.

The invitation to get involved with 'Playing with Words' is offered in eight languages to encourage as many people as possible from all cultures and backgrounds to participate. Soha says the most important aspect of 'Playing with Words' is getting Soha residents and their community together to learn new creative skills and inspire each other. Just attending a workshop doesn't mean signing up to present your work next summer – but if you would like to, all the better!

Find out more and where to catch a workshop by calling Andrea or Liz in Soha's Resident Engagement team on Freephone 0800 014 15 45 or emailing ri@soha.co.uk.

WE'RE BACK IN ACTION!

After 18 months away, the British Modern Military History Society (BMMHS) has resumed its programme of live meetings and talks in the Woodcote Village Hall. To ensure everyone's safety, a restricted capacity with socially distanced seating will be introduced for the time being.

In addition, BMMHS will also run a programme of monthly talks via Zoom.

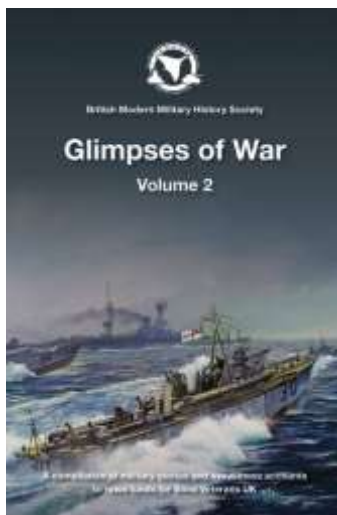
A full programme of all events is already in place until the end of 2022, with diverse topics, from the Boer War, Arnhem, the Cold War, Suez Crisis, the Indian Mutiny, the Battle of Britain and two talks on the Falklands War to mark the 40th anniversary next year.

One of our Zoom talks will be on 7th December at 2pm by Peter Caddick-Adams on Battle of the Bulge. This is the name given to the battle for the Ardennes 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945. This was an utterly fascinating five weeks when for a time it looked like Hitler had outflanked the allied armies pushing toward the Rhine and might just throw them back to the Normandy beaches. It is also the context for the catastrophic events at Bastogne depicted so graphically in *Band of Brothers*.

Full details of all talks can be found on www.bmmhs.org

Everyone is welcome, but please book in advance by emailing info@bmmhs.org. A donation is made to a military charity from every talk and over £2000 has been donated in the last two years.

Glimpses of War



BMMHS has also published two books in the last 6 months of personal memories of wartime. With all profits going to the charity *Blind Veterans UK*, the books tell of stories, military and civilian, of great heroism, tragedy, fortitude and ordinary people just 'doing their bit' in times of war. Both books are available on Amazon.

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB



We meet every Wednesday from 8pm at Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road, Whitchurch. RG8 7EU. We are a very friendly club and everyone is welcome regardless of age or experience. Not only do we have top level speakers from the world of photography but also our own members giving talks on a wide range of subjects. Have a look at our website: www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk

During the season we have battles against other clubs, and internal competitions where there are trophies to be won in the four rounds of ladder competitions for both prints and digital images which consist of both open and set subjects, also there are the Natural History and Monochrome trophies up for grabs! Come and visit us to see what we have to offer.



Located in the Village Hall overlooking the Village Green, we offer a relaxed and happy environment for playful and creative learning for children from 18 months to 5 years.

OFSTED RATING 'GOOD' JULY 2016

As well as a varied curriculum of activities, children will also benefit from:

- Trips to our own allotment & around the village
- Large indoor and outdoor play area
- Flexible sessions
- Fresh homecooked meals prepared on the premises
- Easter & Summer Holiday Club

www.woodcotepreschool.co.uk 01491 682300

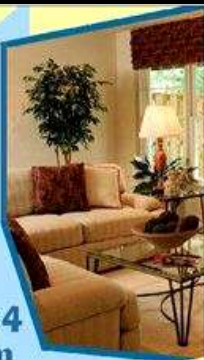
Find us on Facebook 'Woodcote Pre School'

Local Professional Cleaner



Come home to a
**CLEAN
HOUSE!**

Call Carol: 07782-373-434
Email: infocarol@mail.com



Honest, Reliable, Trustworthy, Competitive & Friendly
Fixed Weekly Hourly Rates.

ADVANCED PEST CONTROL

of Ewelme
Established 1970



HOUSEHOLD, GARDEN & FARM PESTS
wasps, rats, mice, rabbits, cluster flies
and all other insects
dealt with promptly

Lee Carrington

Field View, 97 The Street
Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford

Tel: 01491 835610
Mobile: 07970 010214

J & L LANDSCAPING

FENCING, PATIOS and DRIVES, ROOF REPAIRS
GENERAL BUILDING, TURFING. REPLACEMENT
OF FACIA BOARDS, SOFITS and GUTTERING

PHONE: 01491-681367 or 07961-882281

Email: jimmyhearn69@hotmail.com

Free Quotations

FAST and FRIENDLY SERVICE



THE CORN EXCHANGE, WALLINGFORD - DECEMBER 2021

Cinema

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise.

Tickets £8 for adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

We have decided to have full seating for all events from the end of November. This is in line with the practices and guidelines elsewhere. We are asking patrons to still sanitise their hands, and wear a face covering especially when moving around the building. We're grateful for patrons for their observation of all the Covid rules that we have implemented in the theatre. Please look out for new updates for the programme on the website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Anything Goes

Wednesday 1st December, 7.30pm

The Power of the Dog (15)

Thursday, 2nd December, 7:30pm

Friday, 3rd December, 7:30pm

Saturday 4th December, 7.30pm

Sunday 5th December, 2.30pm

Ron's Gone Wrong (PG)

Saturday, 4th December, 10:30am

Saturday, 4th December, 2:30pm

Dune (12A)

Monday, 6th December, 7:30pm

Tuesday, 7th December, 7:30pm

Wednesday, 8th December, 7:30pm

Spencer (12A)

Friday, 10th December, 7:30pm

Saturday, 11th December, 7:30pm

Sunday, 12th December, 7:30pm

House of Gucci (15)

Friday, 17th December, 7:30pm

Sunday, 19th December, 7:30pm

Monday, 20th December, 7:30pm

Wednesday, 22nd December, 7:30pm

Thursday, 23rd December, 7:30pm

Live Screenings

Nutcracker from the Royal Opera House

Thursday, 9th December, 7:15pm

Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

A Live Streaming from the Royal Opera House to launch its new international Cinema Season after 16 months of closure, with Peter Wright's spectacular production of The Nutcracker. A festive favourite for the whole family, it was created for The Royal Ballet in 1984, and has delighted audiences ever since.

Loosely based on the story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, the ballet begins in the 19th-century German home of the Stahlbaums, where they are hosting a lively Christmas party. The period setting is captured in opulent detail by

Julia Trevelyan Oman's designs, which include authentic Christmas tree decorations that are magically brought to life. Wright's choreography ingeniously incorporates surviving fragments of the ballet's original material, including the sublime pas de deux for the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince. But in emphasizing the relationship between Clara and the Nutcracker, the production also gains a touching subtext of first love.

Tosca from the Royal Opera House

Wednesday, 15th December, 7:15pm

Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Live Streaming from the Royal Opera to open their Cinema Season Puccini's Tosca. Sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Into the romantic world of an idealistic painter, Cavaradossi, and his sensuous lover Tosca comes the malevolence of Baron Scarpia, Chief of Police, with fatal results. Jonathan Kent's taut and intense production with Paul Brown's historically charged designs wonderfully evokes the dangerous atmosphere of Rome in 1800, where love and evil come – thrillingly – face to face.

Live Music

Punchbowl from the Sinodun Players

Saturday, 18th December, 7:30pm

Tickets £10 (adults), £5 (under 16s)

With music from the Outriders and other local talent. Come and start Christmas with some good fun.

Coming Soon

Sleeping Beauty from the Sinodun Players

From 14th to 29th January,

WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

The Club meets via Zoom every Thursday evening starting at 7.30 pm, with Zoom access from 7.15pm.

We are hoping in the near future to combine the Zoom meetings with actual meetings at the Pavilion, 2 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford. Please check the website when these face-to-face meetings actually start.

BE THERE WHEN IT MATTERS

A palliative care hub based in Wallingford is appealing to people across South Oxfordshire to become befrienders and make a positive difference to the lives of others in their community.

Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire provides expert and compassionate palliative care to people at home in the local community who are living with life-limiting conditions, as well as supporting their families.

The hub is looking for people to become volunteer befrienders and support patients living in their local area by providing companionship, helping them to shop or visit favourite places, or offering respite for their family.

The hub launched its good-neighbour style befriending service in 2015 and since then it has provided approximately 9,000 hours of care and support to local people. It also runs a befriender-led café for anyone in the community living with a terminal diagnosis, their family and friends, and those who are bereaved.

Befrienders are often paired with patients who share personal interests and hobbies and the role usually involves volunteering for an hour or two each week. No formal skills or qualifications are needed, but a warm and understanding nature and the ability to listen are essential qualities. Comprehensive training and ongoing support through individual and group meetings are always available.

For more information about becoming a volunteer befriender for Sue Ryder, email alison.clements@sueryder.org or call 079105 17274.

JOIN US!

We want your views – and we've launched *Let's talk Oxfordshire* to collect them.

The way Oxfordshire County Council gets people's views, ideas, and opinions on proposals and strategies for all the services we provide has changed — and we'd love you to come and join us.

Let's talk Oxfordshire is a new, and improved way for you to find out and feed back on what's planned for the county.

You will need to register to use this new service, so just follow the link below. You'll then be able to access all the surveys and consultations that are live now – with more being added regularly.

Register at: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



Can you find these words?

Festive, Pudding, Crackers, Hogmanay, Christmas, Eve, Balloons, Mistletoe, Family, Ivy, Holly, Boxing, Turkey, Bank, Holiday, Yuletide, Mincepies, Cake



**Caversham Heights
Dental Practice**

We provide the highest quality private dental work for all the family in a relaxed, friendly environment, ideal for nervous and anxious patients.

Telephone: 01189 474848

www.cavershamheightsdentalpractice.co.uk

15% off
new patient
examinations
with this advert

**FREE DENPLAN
TRANSFERS**

Children can join our 'kids club' and gain rewards and prizes for healthy teeth.



Heating, Plumbing and Bathroom Installations

Neil McDougall



- ◁ Local plumber
- ◁ Over 20 years experience
- ◁ Gas Safe Registered
- ◁ Free estimates

Phone 01491 680141

neilandkathmcdougall@tiscali.co.uk

**Fireplace
Magic**

Fires, Stoves & Fireplaces

- Installation
- HETAS registered
- Woodburner servicing
- Chimney sweeping



**10% DISCOUNT
ON CHIMNEY SWEEPING
IF QUOTE "CORRESPONDENT"**

Showroom at: 45 Prospect Street, Caversham RG4 8JB

Telephone: 0118 9463060

www.fireplacemagic.co.uk

TS.CARS & SON WOODCOTE GARAGE

Reading Road Woodcote (Next To Shop & Garden Centre)

We Service & Repair All Types of Cars & Vans.

Family Run Quality Garage. Established Here 40 Years.

We offer a Free Loan Car,

Or will Pick up & Deliver back to your Home.

We are also a Jaguar Repair Centre.

Phone: [01491 680286](tel:01491680286) Email: tscars@live.co.uk

Web site: tscars-woodcote.co.uk

Kitty Kare

**Going on Holiday - Away on Business
Have Your Cat(s) Looked After in Your Own
Home**

Fully Insured * References Available

Competitive Rates

Call Val on 01491 681235 or 07768 732439

email: val.ogilvie878@gmail.com

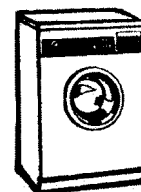


Chiltern Domestic Appliances

Est 1985

Repairs, Servicing and Sales

Washing Machines, Tumble Dryers, Dishwashers,
Cookers



* Low call-out fee * Prompt Attention

Tel: 01491 638146

LITHO & DIGITAL PRINTING

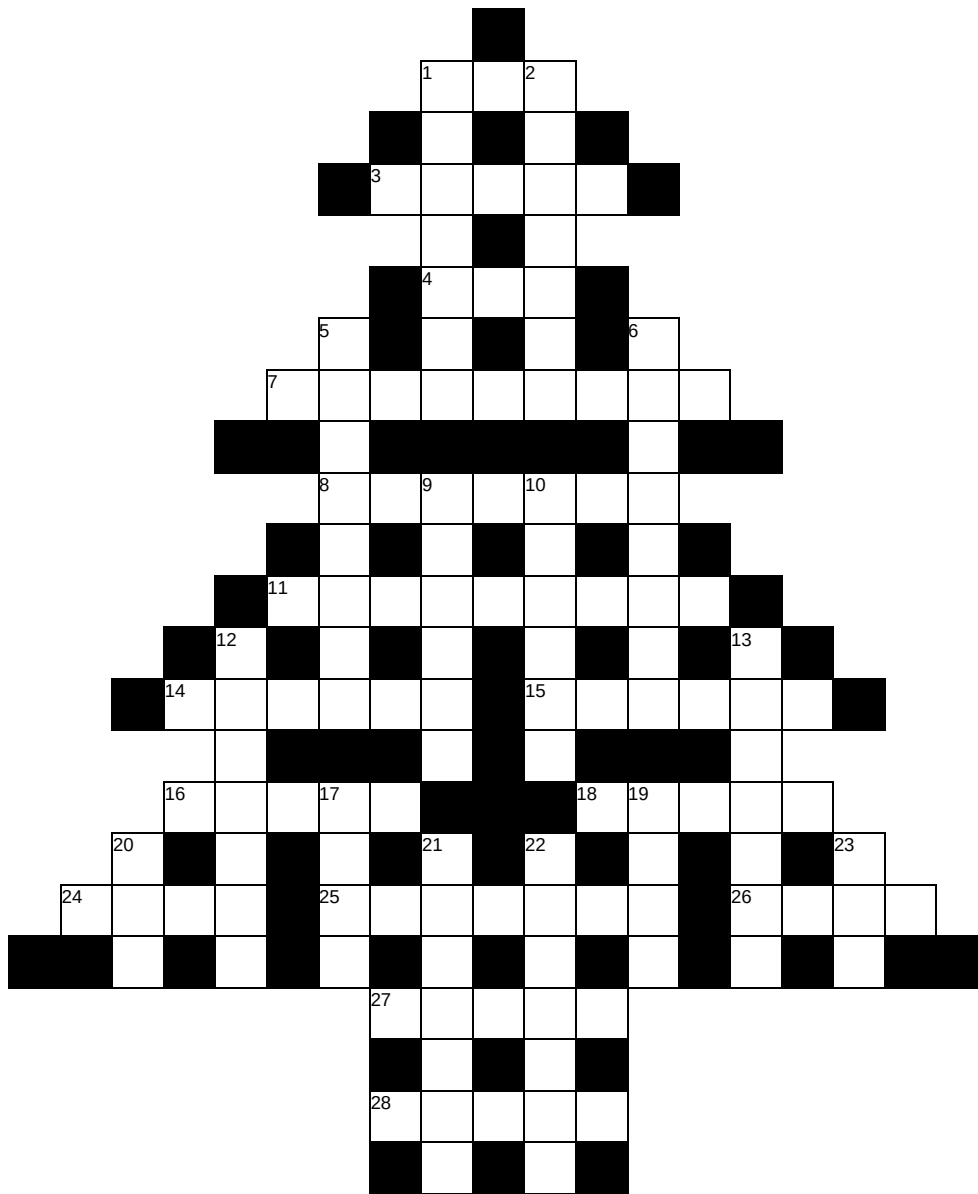
- STATIONERY
- FLYERS
- LEAFLETS
- NEWSLETTERS
- POSTERS
- MULTI-PART INVOICE SETS
- BROCHURES
- COMPLETE FINISHING SERVICE

CZ SERVICES

Call: 07860 630 865

cz.services3@outlook.com

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



Down

- 1 Ex-police station for Newgate prison (3, 4)
- 2 Animal eggs said to be expensive (3, 4)
- 5 Bedlam when Spooner ate rodent (9)
- 6 Survey about sunk road (3,5)
- 9 Becomes aware when starting accepting whiskey and keeping everybody sober (7)
- 10 Dunked girl very quietly goes to middle of aqueduct (6)
- 12 The war's sort of tributes (7)
- 13 Current offer (7)
- 13 Quietly umbrage now (7)
- 17 Time to request job (4)
- 19 & 23d Christmas threesome (4,3)
- 20 Mathematician's dessert? (3)
- 21 Phenomenon of car reversing in the distance (7)
- 22 Wild Mexican river flows to America (7)
- 23d See 19 down)

Across

- 1, Paddle back from Riviera outing (3)
- 3 Creeps towards verges (5)
- 4 Carbon in, that is, polished form (3)
- 7 Winter visitor destroys tracks of Juliet (4,5)
- 8 Squirrel finding it tougher to keep nothing (7)
- 11 Fairy plugs a rum cocktail (5,4)
- 14 Suspend band sound (6)
- 15 Tolerate first couple of endless dull repeats (6)
- 16 Labour skill in fringe policy (5)
- 18 Fool grabs leading singer to dance (5)
- 24 Want the bone (4)
- 25 Rum sort of Christmas visitors (7)
- 26 Five leave book at Christmas (4)
- 27 & 28a Criminal can assault present carrier (5, 5)
- 28 See 27 ac

NOVEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY – DECEMBER

Details of the St. Leonard's Church services for December can be found on page 2.

Wed 1st	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Digital Competition No.2. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 2nd	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'South West USA – An Alternative Grand Circle'. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Fri 3rd	*	Wallingford Country Market. St. Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford. 9.30am-12.00pm
Tues 7th	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'Battle of The Bulge'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 2.00pm
	*	Wallingford & District Art Club on-line demonstration: 'Wildlife in Oils'. Email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk. 7.30pm
Wed 8th	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'An Eye on The Hebrides'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 9th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Garden Club Christmas Social. Ridgeway Community Centre, OX10 0BD. 7.30pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club Members Online Voting Competition - 'Autumn' Theme. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Fri 10th	*	Wallingford Country Market. St. Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford. 9.30am-12.00pm
Sun 12th	*	Friends of Woodcote Primary School Jingle Jog. Woodcote Village Green. 9.45am-11.00am
Wed 15th	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm
	*	BMMHS Talk: 'A Bomber Command Navigator and POW'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'An Evening of Poetry Reading'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 16th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club Christmas Social. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Fri 17th	*	Wallingford Country Market. St. Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford. 9.30am-12.00pm
Thur 23rd	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm

SMALL ADS

CLEANER WANTED :: for local private home. Transport and experience preferred. £12 per hour
Call 07503 975756

LOCAL HANDYMAN :: No job too small. DIY jobs in and around the home. Kitchen and bathroom renovations undertaken. Call James 07961 882281

FORTHCOMING DATES IN JANUARY

Tues 4th	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'Arnhem'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 5th	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'Improving Your Photography'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 6th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club Members Practical Evening - 8 x10. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Wed 12th	*	BMMHS Talk: 'The Real Great Escape'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Print Competition No.2. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm

CHANCE TO CHAT

Come along on Thursdays...

There is a small group meeting in the Lion's Den of the Community Centre every Thursday afternoon 2.30 – 4pm to which everyone is welcome. It has evolved from the Knit and Natter group which used to meet at Mowforth, but it has grown and now needs larger premises.

I promise that knitting is definitely not essential but nattering is, as it is a very friendly bunch open to discussing all manner of topics, whether it is something in the news, a book or tv programme to be recommended or sometimes something remembered about Woodcote's past.

The hire of the room works out at about £2 a week each, payable a month at a time and two cups of coffee, tea and biscuits costs just 50p so it is an inexpensive afternoon in very friendly company!

Why not come for a couple of weeks to see if it's your 'thing'. You can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome and an afternoon in good company.

Barbara Penniall
01491 681449

CLOSING THOUGHT

Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood.

Bill Murray (American actor/comedian)