



Woodcote CORRESPONDENT

Vol 34 No 1
January 2022

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

WOODCOTE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2 – HAVE YOUR SAY

The updated Neighbour Plan (NP) has now been submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) for examination. Before the examination there will be another six-week consultation run by SODC — yes, I know, yet another consultation! The results of this consultation are sent directly to the examiner, so this is an important consultation stage. The examiner will then decide whether the NP meets the requirements to proceed to referendum.

Many of the policies in the first NP have been retained. The updated NP allocates sites for 53 more houses, in addition to the 76 allocated in the first NP. SODC had allocated a 15% increase in housing to Woodcote, which, when windfall development had been taken into account, left a requirement for 115 additional houses. Having carefully assessed all the potential sites, the Parish Council believe that we can only accommodate 53 houses without causing harm to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) that surrounds and encloses Woodcote. National Planning Policy and the SODC

Local Plan place great emphasis on protection of AONBs.



Other policies in the updated NP define a settlement boundary, protected views, protected green spaces and take action on climate change.

Because of the importance of this consultation, the Parish Council encourages everyone to respond. The NP and associated documents can be found on the Parish Council website at www.woodcoteparishcouncil.org.uk/Neighbourhood-Plan and on the SODC website www.southoxon.gov.uk/woodcote where you can enter your comments online. Alternatively, you can send your comments to: Planning Policy, South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4SB, marked Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS – no stamp is needed. A hard copy of the NP and paper forms are also available from the Woodcote library.

Malcolm Smith,
Chairman Woodcote Parish Council

COMMENT FROM THE VICARAGE

I read a very interesting piece recently about the actor Michael Sheen, I expect many of you saw it too. Apparently, he has decided that he will, from now on, invest his earnings in social projects and in supporting good causes, since he feels that he has more than enough wealth for his own needs. This, it seems to me, is remarkable. This man is a mega-star actor and must command large sums for his various film and television work. None of us question this and we all quite happily go along with the fact that this is so. Indeed, it's why so many younger people aspire to become actors or celebrities – as much for the fortune as the fame. We expect to see celebrities living in mansions and driving flash cars. We read of them holidaying in exotic locations and partying in lavish style. Good luck to them we seem to say. And yet, in recent weeks we have been very cross about MPs' salaries. Not to confuse this with another argument about having two occupations, but simply that our MPs seem to get paid a very generous wage and it seems that we expect to see and know that they are working hard in our interests. And then, in a time when we have been made aware of our utter dependence on nurses, healthcare assistants, hospital porters and many more associated roles, we still seem to think it is ok that their wages should be kept at what are, in comparison with others, low levels. Now, I remember enough of my 'A' level economics to know that it's all to do with scarcity and supply. We have lots of nurses and not so many people able to be MPs or whatever. But it seems to me that what Michael Sheen is doing is challenging some of our long-held assumptions about how our contribution to the labour force and public services are rewarded. It exposes how confused our values can be; after all who would I most want to be available when I'm sick, a nurse or an actor? That is of course an oversimplification. I know that we need the whole range of professions and expertise. We need people who are able to fulfil the jobs that really do need doing in order to maintain a stable society. But, if the economics means that some are paid far more than others, what is to stop the highly paid saying, you know what, I've got enough for my needs, so I will pay the excess back into the system. Yes, I can hear you saying that we all do that in taxes and the highly paid do indeed pay higher taxes, and yes, many people do give regularly to charities. But what Michael Sheen has caused me to consider is how do I decide what I really need? How do I judge what standard of living is sufficient for me and my family? It does seem to me that this is something that somehow, as a society we would do well to consider. We cannot go on just aspiring and striving to earn more, have more, save more whilst the rest of the world (and maybe even our neighbour) is living with scarcity, insecurity, and health injustice. It pertains to all areas of our lives, economics, climate concerns, pollution and waste management, population and global relations and world peace. As we begin a new year, beset as we are with many challenges and uncertainties, maybe we could resolve to reconsider our aspirations and plans for the coming year. Maybe we can think about how we can live more generously

and equitably. How much is enough? How much do we really need?

With all blessings and prayers for your safekeeping,

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

Services at St. Leonard's

January

Sunday 2nd January

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Holy Communion

Sunday 9th January

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am 'Worshipping Together'

Sunday 16th January

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am SLOW Church in the Village Hall

Sunday 23rd January

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th January

10.30 am Team Service at Stoke Row. All Welcome

We are also open for private prayer on Wednesdays during the day.

Online Services

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

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 online 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My family and I would like to thank everyone who sent cards of sympathy and kind messages of support after the passing of my husband, Ron, on the 20th September. He will be greatly missed.

We also wish to thank all who donated to the RNLI in Ron's Memory.

Many thanks
Margaret Webb.

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



Welcome to our first issue of 2022! As you know, we don't believe in New Year's resolutions so instead, why don't we all just congratulate ourselves on getting this far?

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over again for another year. Hopefully you will have managed to enjoy some quality time with family and friends. Do you still have any mince pies left over? If my husband had his way, he would be eating them all year round. I tackle this by reminding him that Easter is just around the corner (sorry for the reminder).

Anyway in this issue, Jackie Comrie has spoilt us with some more of her seasonal photos. Plus our regular contributor, David Sutton, treats us to a suitably reflective piece to start the New Year.

You will also notice in this issue that our local children have been very busy both in school and within our community helping others. Fingers crossed, this trend can continue as we move into the last two months of winter.

Take care everyone and see you 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.

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.

Slimming World
taste the freedom
We are back in group!

Wallingford & Cholsey

New Group Opening January 2022

 Monday evenings with Claire 6pm & 7.30pm Centre 70, Kinecroft Wallingford 07900988199	 Wednesday mornings with Bev 9am & 10.30am Centre 70, Kinecroft Wallingford 07895059079	 Wednesday evenings with Nicola 4pm, 5.30pm & 7pm Centre 70, Kinecroft Wallingford 07861672320	 Saturday Mornings With Louise 9am Cholsey Pavilion Cholsey 07368650463
---	--	---	--

A warm welcome awaits at all of the Slimming World groups, no booking required, but please do feel free to contact us, we look forward to welcoming you soon!

#SWtastethefreedom
slimmingworld.co.uk

Slimming World
transforming health, changing lives

THE BLACK LION
Freehold Public House

John & Maggie
welcome you
Tel: 01491 680625

BOUCHIER
BOUCHIER FENCING LIMITED
www.bouchierfencing.co.uk

Bouchier Fencing Ltd
Goring Road
Woodcote
Reading
RG8 0QD

- Quality Fencing
- Handcrafted Gates
- Landscaping Timbers
- Oak Framed Buildings
- Garden Structures
- Porches & Trusses
- Timber Cladding
- Fencing Panels
- Pergolas
- Decking & Sleepers

Tel: 01491 681265 Email: sales@bouchierfencing.co.uk

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



TEL: 01491 682437 MOB. 07966509908.

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

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I would like to draw attention to the fact that in the winter months, walking along or crossing many of the roads in Woodcote can be potentially dangerous at night when visibility is poor and street lighting is not always present.

I have had a few close encounters with pedestrians whilst driving my car and they were all distracted by their mobile phones at the time and were in dark clothing.

Remember to wear reflective clothing if walking at night as dark clothing is harder to spot for motorists. Also remember to look up from your phones!

(Name and address supplied)

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW ROLE IN 2022?

The OWL (Our Woodcote Library) team is looking for new people!

At the last OWL Annual General Meeting in February 2020, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer intimated that after ten years in their roles, they would not be standing at the next meeting. The Covid pandemic prevented a meeting being held in 2021 and during this year the work has continued, albeit in a reduced fashion, and in spite of health and other age-related concerns. However, this cannot continue and a new team is needed to fulfil the committee roles for the future.

The duties are not onerous, involving just two meetings (at the library or online) a year with Oxfordshire County Council library staff; liaising with village organisations; and overseeing the volunteer rota. We need to fill the three posts at our next AGM, which will be held in the library at the end of February. There are also vacancies for committee members.

The library recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Could you be part of its future?

Contact Vicky Jordan on 01189 843260 or vickyjordan5@hotmail.com or Lisa Trood on 01491 682323 or by e-mail at woodcote.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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

THE WADS ARE BACK!

'O yes they are!' and are we glad? 'O yes we are!' After a gap of nearly two years when we all could have done with something to lighten our existence, the WADS arrived with perfect timing, stage left and right, to provide us with a bit of fun involving comic sketches, audience participation, and a one-act play. In addition, we had the best warm-up man in the business, Terry Sopp, to provide the continuity as the evening progressed. The first item, 'All by Myself' gave a good insight to rehearsal techniques as the actors used scripts most of the time. This in no way detracted from audience enjoyment and the farcical situation of thinking yourself the only person marooned on a desert island, only to discover others were there, saw a shift in the main character from one of great loneliness to a desire to be left alone and a desperation to escape replaced by a desire to stay put when the others left. The sketch proved a good opportunity for the actors, Geoff Brown, Kathy Baldwin, Natalia Ruiz-Moreno, Elizabeth Thomas and Helen Coyne, to improve their stagecraft.

Next came the old faithful singalong and what better at the time of remembrance than a few songs which the troops sang in the trenches. Terry gave us the lead and Carol Wylie was, as usual, in top-form on the piano. All we had to do was join in and enjoy it, which we did.

Two more sketches followed, 'Bletchley Park,' featuring Marcia Spiers, Helen Coyne and Natalia Ruiz-Moreno, and 'Evacuees,' with Helen Coyne and Terry Sopp. The first-half was completed with a moving rendition of 'In Flanders Field' by Chris Chant.

After the interval we were entertained with a one-act play, 'I Don't Think I'll Be Here Next Christmas,' by Dawn Cairns. This was the perfect vehicle for WADS stalwarts, John Worsfold and Heather Simpson, but also gave a good opportunity for Gillian Fowmes to illustrate her ability in her debut. John Worsfold was very well cast as the long-suffering husband, John, trying to keep the Christmas peace between his overbearing mother and his wife, Jean, while suffering from piles. Heather Simpson was the star of the piece as the cantankerous and divisive mother, constantly needling Jean, Gillian Fowmes. We also heard the voice of Elizabeth Thomas as the daughter

on the phone who inadvertently added to John's perplexity.

Finally, having introduced the theme of Christmas, with the audience relaxed and amused, who could question singing Christmas Carols in early November? Nobody cared! We enjoyed it and, as usual, went home with smiles on our faces.

SP

WOODCOTE WI NEWS NOVEMBER 2021

Ann Larden, our Vice President, welcomed the members to our November Meeting and thank you to Carole Shelley – Allen for taking the minutes.

Betty Thomas is celebrating her birthday this month.

We recently enjoyed a Christmas Craft afternoon making a patchwork Christmas tree which was led by Ann Sharman. Even those that claimed to be unable to sew a button on enjoyed themselves amid buttons, baubles and sparkles! We finished the afternoon with a table filled with a colourful array of Christmas trees.

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

Judy Williams.



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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A very large crowd estimated at around 200 people gathered at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday to honour 'The Fallen' of the parish. The traditional fly-past by helicopters from RAF Benson added to the spectacle. The two-minutes' silence was observed impeccably and wreaths were laid by Goring Heath Scouts, pupils of Langtree School, St Leonards Church, The Oratory School Cadet Force, the Royal British Legion, The Oratory School, the Parish Council, Goring Heath Brownies and Guides, and the Cabin and Woodcote Pre-Schools. As usual, the most poignant moment came with the reading aloud of the names by the Rev Linda Smith. The Last Post was played beautifully by music students from the Oratory School and, for the first time, The Oratory Combined Cadet force numbered girls as well as boys among its contingent.

SP



David Jennings laid a wreath on behalf of the British Legion



Two Minutes Silence



Langtree School laying a wreath



Orastory School trumpets played the Last Post



Goring Heath Scouts laid a wreath



Andrew Jarvis laid a wreath on behalf of Woodcote Parish Council



Oratory School Headmaster, Joe Smith laid a wreath



Martin Fowmes laid a wreath on behalf of St Leonard's Church

WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

Who are we and what do we do?

Woodcote Volunteers is a 'Good Neighbour' Scheme which has been established for over 30 years. It is run by local volunteers for the benefit of the village communities. We are very lucky to have a fabulous team of friendly and reliable drivers, office workers and committee, some of whom have been contributing their time and skills for 30 years!

We offer help to the elderly, disabled and residents with a health condition.

We offer help to those who are without a car and cannot use public transport and need to access a hospital, Health Centre, dentist, optician, bank, shop or a health and wellbeing service. We can also collect prescriptions, pensions or do shopping.

We serve Woodcote, Whitchurch Hill, Checkendon, Ipsden, South Stoke, Goring Heath and Crays Pond and drive to many locations, such as the Health Centre in Woodcote, Royal Berkshire Hospital (and other Reading hospitals) as well as the Oxford Hospitals. We will always try to take a client where they need to go as long as it is within a reasonable distance of our area.

If you would like help, please contact our new office at Woodcote Community Centre on 01491 681171 between 9.30am and 11.00am Monday to Friday, when you can speak directly to one of our volunteer office workers. Outside of these hours you can leave a message on our answerphone and someone will call you back the next working day. If you are new to using our service, we will need ask a few questions and then sign you up. Please be assured that all the information you provide is confidential and secure.

There is a flat rate charge of £1.50 to drive to a location within Woodcote. For longer journeys, there is a charge of 45p per mile.

Covid Safety

We are committed to keeping clients and drivers as safe as possible. Our drivers make sure that their car is cleaned with disinfectant wipes in all the areas our clients could touch. We ask that they and our clients wear masks in line with good practice and keep the car well ventilated whilst driving.

How can I volunteer?

The pool of volunteers is ever-changing as people move in and out of the area so we are always keen to receive new offers of assistance, both as a driver or a helper in the office. If you would like to know more about volunteering with us, please contact Jane Forde directly on 07850 158274 or email her at janeforde32@hotmail.com. Alternatively, call the office on 01491 681171 during their office hours or leave a message on the answerphone. We would love to hear from you!

Latest News....

We sadly said goodbye to Ken Groom who has been an invaluable member of the committee this year, taking on the role of Secretary/Organiser when Woodcote Volunteers restarted after lockdown. We send a big thank you to Ken.

Woodcote Volunteers welcome a new, interim secretary and organiser, Jane Forde, who has had work experience in the voluntary sector for many years. Jane says, "I am very excited by this opportunity to contribute to the success of this brilliant community asset. I have already met some of the volunteers who are a lovely, friendly bunch and I am looking forward to meeting all the other volunteers in the next few weeks." If you have any questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jane using the contact details above.

We wish everyone a very happy, safe and healthy 2022!!



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



Caversham Heights
Dental Practice

15% off
new patient
examinations
with this advert

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

**FREE DENPLAN
TRANSFERS**

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



Telephone: 01189 474848

www.cavershamheightsdentalpractice.co.uk

THAMES

•Building Solutions Limited•

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

**The complete
building service**

TEL. 01491 680 389 / 07956 966 089

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



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



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

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

Woodcote Village Hall HIRE

Overlooking the Village Green, offering a wide-
range of rooms and facilities including kitchen,
changing rooms, rigged stage, large screen and
plenty of parking.

Suitable for parties & functions, sporting events,
workshops, meetings, film, theatre, education & more..

woodcotevillagehall.com
woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com

Woodcote Village Hall
Reading Road
Woodcote
RG8 0QY



DID YOU SAY DRUNKEN BOTTOM?

The following piece is a shortened version of one that first appeared in the Woodcote Conservation



Group column in the Correspondent of September 2010. We thought it might be time to remind people of

this mysterious local phenomenon: if climate change gives us a wet winter, the Drincan might well show itself again!

We have some intriguing place names around here. One of the oddest has to be 'Drunken Bottom', which you'll find on the Ordnance Survey map beside the lane that runs from Ipsden to Crowmarsh. 'Bottom' is simply a term for 'valley', and there are plenty of 'Bottoms' on the local map. But how can a valley be 'drunken'? The Oxford English Dictionary gives a clue by listing an earlier meaning of the word as 'soaked or saturated with moisture', citing a seventeenth-century reference to 'the drunken field'. So, our 'Drunken Bottom' was once a wet valley, and the modern map still marks a spring a few hundred yards away. It also shows a watercourse labelled 'Trunk Ditch', starting near this spring but then mysteriously stopping when it reaches the A4074, just beyond the Ipsden turning.

Our local 'bottoms' were certainly once a lot more 'drunken': the Chiltern valleys are nearly all dry now, but many formerly contained streams, which, in our part of the world, flowed into the Thames. The 'Trunk Ditch' was one of these. In 1871, Edward Anderton Reade of Ipsden House referred to this watercourse as 'the Drincan', adding 'the Drincan is now called Drinking, Drunken, and Trunk ditch in different parts of its course', and claiming that it was 'formerly a stream of sufficient volume to serve a mill at Little Stoke'.

So why does the Trunk Ditch now stop at the A4074? Well, the answer is that it doesn't. Like a number of local streams, it has gone underground, and in dry summers traces of its course across the fields between Ipsden and Little Stoke and onwards to the Thames still mark the surface soil.

But you don't have to wait for a drought to see evidence of these 'lost' Chiltern streams: a particularly wet winter can produce far more



Traces of the Trunk Ditch on fields near Ipsden (top right)

dramatic results. This happened in the winter of 2000-2001, when villagers north of Henley found the 'Assendon Brook' – which had for decades flowed unnoticed beneath the Stonor valley – gurgling past their houses. That same winter the Drincan also reappeared, creating a large lake each side of the main road just beyond the Ipsden turning. This was nothing new. Reade said that the Drincan 'resumes its activity once in about 10 or so years', and in 1959, in his book 'The Ipsden Country', J.H. Baker wrote: 'This spring, after a lapse of 21 years, the Trunk Ditch runs again', adding 'According to tradition, this tiny stream . . . usually flows every seven years.'

Do you have any recollections (or photographs), or have you heard tales of hidden local watercourses making these sudden reappearances? It is sometimes said, for instance, that within Woodcote itself, one such runs alongside Greenmore, from the top of the hill down to Reading Road, and then onwards towards Tidmore

Pool.

RBL POPPY APPEAL 2021 – (WOODCOTE & GORING HEATH)

After a delay with the count and then finding out there were additional funds, we have our final figure for this year's Poppy Appeal collection.

This year we raised an amazing £2,656 for the joint Woodcote and Goring Heath areas. This compares to £1,918 last year. For both these years, the donations have been without house-to-house collections. Back in 2019 you donated £3,164 but that included £1,232 of house-to-house donations.

Technology has improved and many donations, we know, have been made directly through the RBL website or dedicated text numbers. So the above cash donations are not the whole picture. So a huge thank you whichever way you made a donation.

David was in the Red Lion for the first two Saturdays manning a stand – so thank you to Chris and Jay for that. And on the third Saturday we had a presence at Bozedom Alpaca Farm for their Open Day – so many thanks to Mary-Jo and Iain for their Remembrance themed Open Day.

Well done to everyone for donating to any of the many collecting tins around the village and many thanks to all the support that all our local businesses and schools give toward this worthy cause.

Until next year

Linda Burton, and David Jennings
Poppy Appeal Organisers for the joint Woodcote and Goring Heath Area

General Maintenance Gardener

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

Some delightful wintry Woodcote scenes by Correspondent photographer, Jackie Comrie



And — a stunning double rainbow over Woodcote captured recently by Gillian Sykes



A RESIDENT REFLECTS

I am writing this on September 3rd, 2021, which means it is exactly fifty years since my wife and I moved to our new house in Woodcote, with a fifteen-month-old baby in tow and another about to arrive literally at any minute (as the Duke of Wellington remarked about the battle of Waterloo, it was a damn close-run thing).

What I chiefly remember about that frantically busy time was walking across the rec to get a daily paper on the first morning after we moved in – it was a beautiful September day with dewdrops sparkling on every blade of grass, and I had an overwhelming sense of having come home, a sense which indeed has never really left me. We had moved from Wokingham, and while there is nothing particularly wrong with Wokingham, the rather nondescript heath-and-conifer countryside of that area never appealed to me: I am a creature of the chalk, in love with beechwoods, cornfields, country lanes, bluebells and cherry blossom, sudden turns in the road that open up views of hazy distances.

It pleases me to note, to judge from frequent references in 'Wonderful Woodcote', that others share my affection for our village. And indeed, it seems to me that we have a lot to be thankful for. We are not, of course, a 'thankful village' in the strict sense of a village that lost none of its inhabitants in the First World War – the roll of names on the memorial round which we gather each November bears ample witness to the fact that far too many young men of that era never came back to their quiet homes among the trees. What I mean is that we have the fortune to live in what is, by and large, one of the good places of the world, an enclave of decency and tolerance, a place where anyone irrespective of creed or ethnicity will find a ready welcome, a place where, as the recent pandemic has proven, people are always ready to lend a helping hand to those who need it. It is, of course, good people who make a good place, yet I sometime think it works both ways: that a good place makes good people, that there is some spirit abroad here, working its subtle magic on those who come here.

It has to be admitted that Woodcote has changed a great deal even in my tenure here, and will no doubt continue to do so. Go back not so far in time and it can look like a very different place: mentally erase, for example, all that swathe of buildings between the rec and the Greenmoor ponds and replace it with a single great common, full of enough wild flowers to attract eighteenth-century botanists, or replace West Chiltern by an apple orchard, the Bridle Path by a mere track. Some of those changes may be lamented by those who feel that the village identity is threatened by increasing development, and I can understand that, though at the same time it is development that has brought us our brilliant Health Centre, our thriving schools, our library.

For my part, I confess that I would now like to keep Woodcote exactly as it is, but such is not the way of things. At least, then, may there always be woods to walk in, lanes to run or cycle down, and above all that spirit of decency and neighbourly helpfulness that has been so evident here during these past two strange years.

David Sutton

1ST GORING HEATH SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

We would like to thank the Woodcote Co-op and their customers for their support this past year through the Co-op's Local Community Fund, helping to raise a donation to us of £2336.60 which was presented to us last month.

The money is being used to improve the hard standing areas between the hut and toilet block and replace some of the fencing around our site in Crays Pond.

1ST GORING HEATH BEAVERS

Well what a term – one minute we were starting in glorious outdoor sessions at the hut in September to our final session this year held in the rain singing to those lucky enough to be picked (or should that be victims) to our carol singing!

So back at the beginning of term we made fires, cooked marshmallows (of course), discovered what trees and nature we have at the hut, used recycling items in a scrapheap challenge, and celebrated Canadian Thanksgiving. And that was just until half term – that and making Guys in readiness for Guy Fawkes night.

We welcomed back Heather as a leader, but at the same time knew we wouldn't be seeing much of Chris or Mike so having extra help and parents helping was the key to get through the term. So thank you all for your help!

After keeping our numbers down to 12 due to restricted face-to-face protocols, we extended our Colony to 16 members this term so we welcomed Reuben, Alex, Emily, Hector, Felix, Cara and Ernie.

After half term we were able to have a lovely family evening on Bonfire Night with clear skies, a large camp fire, sparklers, hot dogs, pumpkin soup and hot chocolate. Great fun was had by all – and one of the three Guys were chosen to be burnt on the camp fire!

We were able to visit the Woodcote Memorial on the 11th November, so had an evening discussing all things WW1, WW2 and everything since! With a lovely turn out on the Sunday for Remembrance Sunday.

Our final two weeks was back to our usual programme of Carol Singing around Woodcote. We thank all the lovely ladies and gents for letting us sing to you and for all the donations and especially for the chocolate (the Beavers LOVED the chocolate!)

Finally after all that singing, we had a happy and sad event to perform. Sadly, Harry was leaving to go to cubs but happily, we had one important badge-giving to perform beforehand as Harry had achieved his Chief Scout Bronze Award, the highest award in Beavers! Well done Harry – very well deserved. You will be missed but enjoy cubs.

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Healthy 2022.

Yours in scouting,
Dragonfly

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

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**

**FULL MEMBER
OF BRITISH
LOCKSMITH
INSTITUTE**

Crestwell House, Beech Lane
WOODCOTE, READING

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



WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Incredibly we are at the end of another term! Where did the time go?

We had a wonderful end to the term with Christmas nativities and carols on the playground. Due to some Covid cases we did not have parents in for the Nativity but, not to be stopped entirely, we instead filmed it and shared it on a secure platform which, it turns out, enables more of the family to see it than the restricted number of tickets we would have had to offer otherwise! A silver lining after all!



**Reception Class:
I Spy Christmas**



**Years 1 and 2:
Born in a Barn**

The children shared some songs and carols with parents outside on the playground in the final week of term. Outdoors and socially distanced, we felt this was a safer option and it made a great start to the Christmas period.

Also this term we had a wonderful Christmas Fair for the children. The terrific parents who make up the committee for FOWPS put together a fair on a school afternoon for the children to attend. There was a real buzz and the children were full of smiles. We had a visit from two donkeys, Monty and Poppy from Smelly Wellies and, of course, Father Christmas himself. The children were able to chat with him about their Christmas dreams and year 1 children went on to write him letters and post them in the post box to his address at the North pole. Christmas is such a lovely time to be working with children.

The Boathouse
Dental Surgery

Tel: 01491 872394
www.boathousedental.co.uk

Show off **your** smile
with straighter teeth!

Enhance your appearance,
ask us about Invisalign®
clear braces.

"Amazing service and care from start to finish"
Brenda Butcher

High Street, Goring on Thames,
Oxfordshire RG8 9AB

Call 01491 872394
to book a consultation
Email reception@boathousedental.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



CHECKENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Firstly, a big welcome to Checkendon Primary School's new headteacher, Sarah Hillier! Sarah has been busy ensuring that this busy, festive time of year could go ahead as 'normally' as possible for the children despite the necessary restrictions needed to ensure everyone's safety.



Our Reception Children joined Bobcat Class from Moultsford Prep for their taster session at Forest School – they had a great time, learned all about the rules of the boundary, the signal for returning to camp and enjoyed a

hot chocolate! Thank you Moultsford for the ride in the minibus too! In January, they will be attending Forest on a weekly basis. There are so many benefits to a forest school experience; it helps children develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually. Qualities I am sure you agree we want to foster in all our young people. It creates a safe, non-judgemental nurturing environment for learners to experiment and take risks. Forest School helps participants to become, healthy, resilient, creative and independent learners. The rest of the school will get their opportunities later on in the academic year.



Our Year 5 and 6 children have been on a journey to Didcot Railway Centre to enrich their learning about World War Two. They were able to experience sheltering from a bombing raid in the Didcot air raid shelter and crawled out through the emergency exit tunnel – everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

It was fantastic to see so many people at our PTA's Christmas Fair, we enjoyed splendid weather. Although the hot chocolate was just what you needed to keep warm on the bright, crisp day. Please remember us next year, we will have Christmas trees available to order and collect. Your support is always warmly welcomed.

Our open morning is *Friday 7th January* – we can't wait to welcome you to view our wonderful school.

A note from our Governors:

The admissions policy of Checkendon C of E Primary School for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 has been modified, partly in response to statutory requirements and partly by the Governing Board. The revised policies are available on the school website checkendon.oxon.sch.uk. We invite comments on the admissions policies from all interested parties before 31 January 2022 to ss.mm@waitrose.com.



Year 5 had their Bike ability instruction in the last few weeks. They have learnt how to cycle on the road, be aware of the traffic and how to handle a variety of different situations. You may have seen them out and about with their instructors. We are very proud of their achievements and the fact that they are now safer and more informed when out on their bikes.



Thank you for the knitted toys..... Mrs Buckland and Mrs Townsend heard our plea in our weekly school newsletter and kindly knitted us some wonderful toys to assist with counting rhymes. Here are just a few of them gathered together. We are extremely grateful. If you feel like knitting some too, we would love to receive them. How many rhyming songs can you see in the basket?

We are looking forward to the New Year and new term, perhaps also to getting out and about on a few more school trips and enjoying the beautiful village in which we live.

Stay safe everyone,
Mrs L. Hunt

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: 1884570 GOSTED Registered: 07543084

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

HATE CLEANING?

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

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

CABIN PRE-SCHOOL

Firstly we have to say a huge thank you to the Coop community fund. We were delighted to go and pick up a very generous cheque. This money will be used to upgrade our technology within Cabin, and will be put toward an interactive screen. Never ones to miss an opportunity to maximise a day out, after picking up the cheque, we dropped into Church farm to see one of our children's cows. We met Billy, and the cows were very friendly and came to have a look at us.

Of course, the snow was great fun, we could not wait to get outside, we made a snow mouse and lots of tracks, making shapes and identifying them in the snow.

One of our favourite days of the year is the official Cabin start to all Christmas activities and a surprise to everyone on the 1st of December. We stayed up late decorating Cabin, then pretended to lose the keys in the morning so all the children got to enter together and see the surprise (sorry to the parents who thought we really had forgotten all the keys!). Then we had lots of activities for the children to do and Christmas dressing up in our Nativity costume set kindly given as a leaver present last year - thank you the Clark family. The children also loved wearing them at Church on the 7th December for carols. Hopefully next year we shall have a nativity play, we really do miss it. Thank you to the staff for giving up their time to make this year a bit more magical.

Harry the Elf arrived on the 1st December. The children were fascinated and totally focused as we read the rules of the Elf. His name is Harry and appeared each morning in a different place, and watches for kindness and good behaviour. Each day he awarded the kindest child with one chocolate coin to bring home. I can say that the children have been so kind to each other and very helpful - amazing what a chocolate coin can produce.

At St Leonard's we sang Jingle Bells, Mary Mary, Mary, When Santa Got Stuck, Away in A Manger and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. We practiced our songs at Cabin and the children sang brilliantly. Thank you to Rev Linda Smith for letting us take over church and allowing this to happen. To top off a fantastic morning we then were accompanied by two amazing Donkeys from Smelly Wellies back to Cabin.

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



The children were able to stroke them and learn about them and how to take care of them. Monty and Poppy were delightful and enjoyed a couple of carrots the children gave them at Cabin.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy new year, keep safe everyone.

We are getting busier and as the school year goes on, many of the Cabin children will be increasing their time with us, which means we will be filling up. If you want to enrol your child in preparation for big school, then you will need to register your interest soon in order to get sessions you might need. We take children from aged 2 years to school age. Please call for a tour or look round. We are still reducing the number of visitors during the day but are happy to show you around at the end of the school day. Call 01491 680854 or email us on info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk.



Gruffalo Crumble




www.woodcotepreschool.co.uk
 01491 682300
 @woodcotepreschoolcic 



Located in Woodcote 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.

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

- Regular trips to our own allotment and around the village
- Fresh homecooked meals prepared on the premises daily
- Large indoor and outdoor area
- A separate room for school readiness sessions
- Flexible sessions
- Easter and Summer Holiday Club

WOODCOTE PRE-SCHOOL

We are firmly in the Christmas spirit here at Woodcote Pre-School and by the time you read this issue of the magazine we will have broken up for our Christmas holidays.

Our nativity play was a huge success. The children performed Born in Bethlehem for their families and they did it very well! We had Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Wise Men, angels, and a star. We were so proud of how well the children sang and joined in with the actions. It was lovely to still be able to allow two parents per child to attend the production whilst adhering to Covid guidelines.

We would like to thank Reverend Linda Smith for welcoming us into St Leonard's church for our Christingle and carol service. In preparation the children made a Christingle from an orange and took them to the church service. The children sang some carols and hymns and the Reverend Linda played them a special nativity film. We were very pleased to be able to allow parents to join us on this occasion.

On the last day of term we had a brilliant Christmas party. Everyone enjoyed games, tattoos, nail painting and music. The highlight of the party was a visit from Father Christmas and his elf. The children were very excited to see them and receive a gift.

The FOWPS Jog was another great morning and we had a stall with a lucky dip and the opportunity for the children to visit Santa in his Grotto.

Our Christmas raffle was a great success and we would like to extend a huge thank you to the following for their generous donations: Toby Carvery, Kimberley's, Virgo Beauty, The Plaice, Smelly Wellies, The Giggling Squid, The Packhorse, Escape The Chop, Virtue Gymnastics, Baxter's Café, Pizza Express, Oven Clean, Sophie's Teepees and Parties, The Springs golf club, Goring Butchers, Albert Fields, Barking Mad, Cozze, The Bull, Checkendon Equestrian, Red Kangaroo, Sprouts Play Barn, La'De Kitchen, Jessie's Coffee Truck, Beale Park, Hazell and Jeffries, The Corn Exchange, Plush Cutz, Penelope's Doggy Boutique, Londis, Johnny Aldridge, Woodcote Garden Centre, Masooms, Ally Cat Candy, Inspirations, Stan Rods, The Black Lion, The Bull and many more.

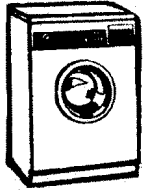
We would also like to thank J.L Landscaping for donating our beautiful Christmas tree!

Our Woodcote Baby & Toddler Group is continuing to be a great success with lots of parents, carers & childminders attending. Please feel free to pop in on a Monday morning.

Exciting news! The local Health Visiting Team will now be attending Woodcote Baby & Toddler Group.

So now you can have your child weighed and ask for advice and support as well as meet other local families on alternate Mondays, between 10 and 11am at the Woodcote Village Hall. It is free to see the Health Visitor, but if you'd like to stay for Baby and Toddler Group, it's £2 for the first child and 50p for any additional children

Chiltern Domestic Appliances
 Est 1985
 Repairs, Servicing and Sales
 Washing Machines, Tumble Dryers, Dishwashers, Cookers



* Low call-out fee * Prompt Attention
Tel: 01491 638146

J & R Collier

BUILDERS

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

01491 680779 or 0118 9451518

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


We still have spaces available for January 2022 so if you are interested in your child joining Woodcote Pre-School, please take a look at our website or Facebook Page. You can 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.



WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

The senior team played three matches in November and recorded three wins. A close-fought 2-1 home league win over Holmer Green saw goals scored by Joe Webber and Sam Tucker. This was followed by a home victory in the Oxfordshire Intermediate Cup, round 2, over Chinnor. In a pulsating cup tie, which ebbed and flowed for much of the game, Woodcote eventually won by 6-4. Joe Webber was the star man, scoring a hat-trick, the other goals coming from Alec Curtis, Mike Mattimore and Frank Dillon. On 27th November the team played Procision at home and won by 3-0, goals coming from Frank Dillon 2 and Toby Nowell. Toby is currently the leading goal scorer with 15 goals to his credit in nine games.

After a slow start to the season the youth team have been making good progress in the East Berks League. Their first home game saw them gain a 2-1 win over Caversham and this was followed by a 5-1 win at Finchampstead. The following week the fixture was reversed and a depleted Woodcote team lost to Finchampstead by 2-0. On 27th November the team completed a double with a 4-2 away win against Caversham. Currently, the team stands in third place in the league.

The Football Club has been very pleased to donate a sizeable amount of team kit to CEDA, a charity whose mission is to provide as many children in Uganda as possible with sustainable, quality education opportunities; giving them the necessary tools to break the cycle of poverty in their family once and for all. A young lady, Rosa Maitland from North Stoke made an appeal for kit, which the club was pleased to provide.

SP.

WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Record-breaking season celebrated at club dinner!

Around fifty members of the club gathered at the Highwayman Inn on Saturday 20th November to celebrate the Cricket Club's best-ever season. The event was presided over by the Chairman, Sam Peates, with President, Ken Groom making the presentations to the individual winners. The Chairman welcomed the guests and said the club's success in winning the Premier Division of the Berkshire League was probably unique in that all the players lived locally to Woodcote or came from Woodcote families. He added that Woodcote must be one of very few clubs to win the League whilst running only one team.

Individual presentations were then made as follows:

Ryan Lennard picked-up four trophies: best batter and wicketkeeper, most half-centuries and highest individual score.

James Worsfold was Bowler of the Year, won the Ron King Cup for his 6 for 29 against Crowthorne and was awarded the Christopher Quinton Memorial Cup for long and active service to the club.

Mark Pearson was All-rounder of the Year and Midweek Player of the Year

Olly Nicholson was Fielder of the Year

Jez Mayo was Saturday Player of the Year and won the Jim Pearson Cup for the best Sunday player

Jonny Aldridge was awarded the President's Trophy by Ken Groom for his work in preparing the pitches for all the home matches

Archie Clark was awarded the Martin Smith Cup as Young Player of the Year

Sam Peates was presented with a bat signed by all the players

James Worsfold, the Captain of the title-winning team was presented with a club shirt signed by all the players

James Worsfold, Mark Pearson and Sam Peates were each awarded with a commemorative canvas on which was recorded match reports from every game in the title-winning season.

At the club's AGM held on 25th November it was agreed that there will be two Woodcote teams playing on Saturdays in the Berkshire League in 2022. We are building on our success of last season when we had more than enough players for one Saturday team. However, we are very keen to recruit new players for our new team and ask anyone interested to contact Sam Peates, sampeates@gmail.com, 07710 858366.

SP

RG8 BADMINTON



The club was pleased to hold its fun Christmas tournament again this year after last year's cancellation. This involved a number of novelty rounds. The woman's champion was Helen Kennard with Merete Hawkins as a very close runner up. Peter Baker and Paul Evans finished on the same number of points and were subject to a playoff featuring play with a plastic ball whilst wearing a pirate eyepatch! Peter emerged as the winner and retained his title of two years ago.

We welcome both junior and adult members and will be back on court early in the New Year. We play at Langtree Community Sports Hall in Woodcote on Thursday evenings. We are fully compliant with Badminton England guidance concerning Covid safety precautions.

If you want to know more visit our website www.rg8badminton.co.uk or ring Julie on 07980 413026.

HOW ARE YOUR NETBALL SKILLS?

It doesn't matter how rusty they are, come and join us for some fun, informal sessions at the Langtree School sports hall from just £5 a session.

We meet on Mondays between 8pm and 9pm and we cater for all abilities.

Have fun, get fit and make some new friends! Email Liz Gupta at: woodcotenetball@googlegroups.com to find out more.

Cricket Club Trophies



Action from the match against Holmer Green



Archie Clark with Club President, Ken Groom



Above: Playng against Chinnor



James Worsfold



Jez Mayo



Above: Action from the match against Precision



Mark Pearson



Ryan Lennard with Club President, Ken Groom

Right: Rosa Maitland with a Woodcote shirt; part of a consignment to be sent to Uganda



RG8 Badminton Club: Christmas Tournament

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

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

KINGS FLOORING

**CARPETS, VINYL, 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

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

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

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

We meet every Wednesday evening 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.

Upcoming events:

5th January – Improving your photography

Martin Patten DPAGB LRPS AFIAP BPE4 presents a talk designed for beginners and intermediate workers and of course does work for advanced workers as well who are looking to improve or broaden their photography into different genres.

19th January – Japan and Brazil

One of the club's finest Natural History photographers, Nigel Glover-Wright LRPS, shares his images taken in the winter snows in Japan and a talk entitled In Search of Jaguars in the Pantanal area of Brazil.

Come and pay us a visit, you will receive a warm welcome.

BMMHS UPDATE



Please note we will not be recording or streaming any of our live meetings or Zoom talks.

It is planned that the first of these two talks will be on Zoom, and the second in Woodcote Village Hall. This may change – please check www.bmmhs.org for the latest information.

Our afternoon Zoom meeting on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 7.30pm will be a talk by Jo Hook on Arnhem.

On Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm, Guy Walters will give a talk on The Real Great Escape. In early 1942 the Germans opened a top-security prisoner-of-war camp in occupied Poland for captured Allied airmen. Called Stalag Luft III, the camp soon came to contain some of the most inventive escapers ever known.

They were led by Squadron Leader Roger Bushell, code-named 'Big X', who masterminded an attempt to smuggle hundreds of POWs down a tunnel built right under the noses of their guards. The escape would come to be immortalised in the famous film, "The Great Escape", in which the ingenuity and bravery of the men was rightly celebrated. The plan involved multiple tunnels, hundreds of forged documents, as well as specially made German uniforms and civilian clothing.

In this talk Guy Walters takes a fresh look at this remarkable event and asks the question, what was the true story, not the movie version? He also examines what the escape really achieved, and the nature of the man who led it. The Real Great Escape is the first account to draw on a newly-released cache of documents from Roger Bushell's family, including letters from Bushell, that reveals much about this remarkable man, his life and experiences during the war, and the planning of the escape attempt that was to make him famous.

The result is a compelling and authoritative re-evaluation of the most iconic escape story of the Second World War.

Check out our website on www.bmmhs.org for details of all our talks, and 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.

WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB (WADAC)



Our demonstration on Tuesday 18th January 2022 is an online live demonstration entitled "Sunset" in pastel by Lec Darlow.



Les loves painting skies and thinks they are the key to a great landscape. He has a fascination for storms and extreme weather, whether that is a sunrise at -20 degrees in winter, a snowstorm, a stunning sunset or a growing supercell in the height of summer, these are the key elements to his painting. He is really intrigued by skies and has studied them in some detail, having gone to great lengths studying a little meteorology and taking to the sky in a light aircraft to get even more information about their three-dimensional depth. Clouds are constantly growing, dissipating, moving and changing colour and this understanding helps him.

Our demonstrations are held at 7.30pm online. To join, for zoom link etc., please email: admin@wallingfordfordartclub.org.uk or davidbooth7@outlook.com. 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 art classes: new term starts 4th January 2022.

Morning 10-1pm, with tutor Claire Cross, starts with a demo followed by working on your own project or drawing and/or painting based on the demo theme.

Afternoon 2-4.30pm with Grant Waters – a structured class on all techniques of drawing and

painting in all mediums. A new theme every second week.

Classes are held at Centre 70, Wallingford. If you are interested in joining, please contact davidbooth7@outlook.com or tel. 01491 681400.

GORING GAP PHOTO CLUB

Join us on the 18th January for a talk by Simon Booker on wildlife photography and techniques.

Simon Booker, expert photographer and wildlife enthusiast, lives just down the road at South Stoke and most of his wildlife pictures are taken locally. You can see some of his amazing and beautiful images on his website – just Google Stokerpix.

He will be telling us how he manages to photograph these images, explaining his techniques and giving tips on good local venues for wildlife. Also, hopefully, he will be showing us some of his inspiring audio-visual sequences too. This is a talk not to be missed by anyone interested in our local wildlife or photography!

The event will be at the Free Church Hall at Goring at 8pm – all are welcome!

Visit our website for more details: www.goringgapphoto.co.uk/

HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

We send our best wishes for a good (better) New Year to all our readers. This is the time when everyone thinks about doing something new or different. Why not give a new hobby a go? Come and see what can be done with a Stamp or Postcard collection, both can cover any subject and can increase your knowledge of art, history, geography, science etc.

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning 01491 681739 or on our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

CITIZENS ADVICE AVAILABILITY OVER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



At the darkest time of the year, it's good to know that Citizens Advice is there to support you. If you're in difficulties and need help or advice going into the New Year, you can call us on 0808 278 7907 (Adviceline). After Christmas, we re-open on the 4th January.

If you normally pick up supplies at a Food Bank, remember that the opening hours could change over the holidays. It's a good idea to check with the Food Bank before you set out.

Also bear in mind that if you have a pre-payment meter for your energy supplies and can't afford to top up, you can get temporary credit. Your supplier might add this credit automatically, but if they don't, ask for it. Check the supplier's website and go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy for more information.

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

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.

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



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

REGISTERED OSTEOPATH

KAREN L. PHILLIPS D.O.

WOODCOTE PRACTICE 01491 684060

Flexible appointment times

Private Health Insurance Provider

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

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

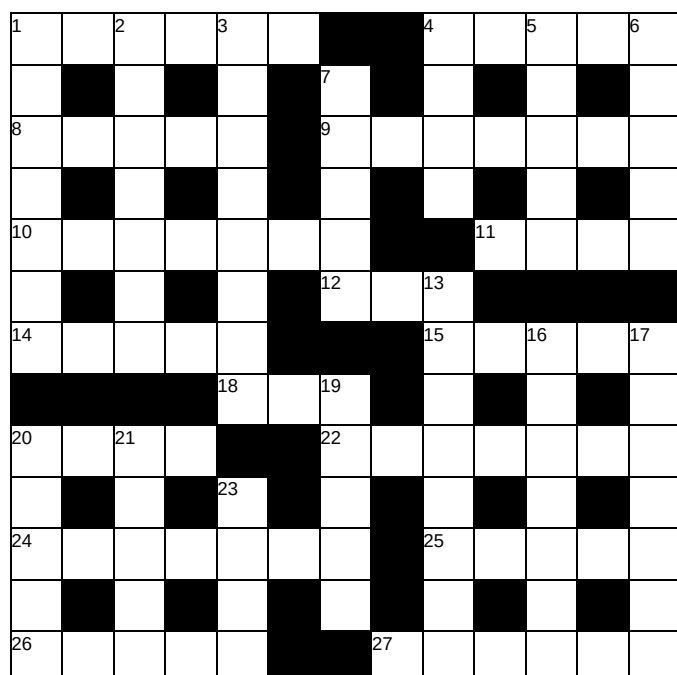
MADE TO MEASURE

Curtains, Blinds, Cushion Covers etc.

at Competitive Prices

Call CAROLINE on 07815 610007

JANUARY CROSSWORD



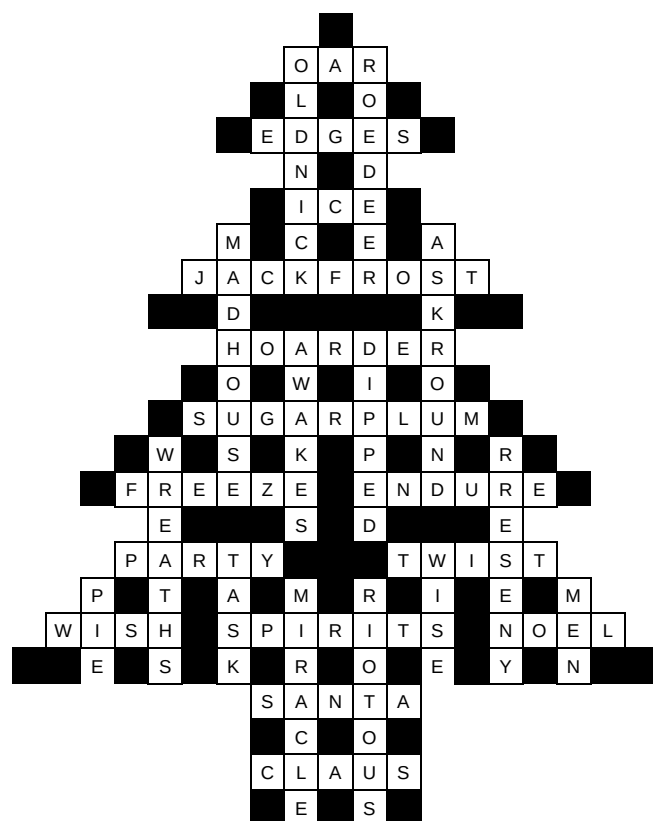
Across

- 1 Rules about crooked sign (6)
- 4 Bird endlessly dressing (5)
- 8 Peaceniks love birds (5)
- 9 Winged marine rook (7)
- 10 Endorse first letter? (7)
- 11 Before long unattributed (4)
- 12 Mafia contribute to Oldsmobile (3)
- 14 Surmise short visitor will need time (5)
- 15 Flyers left on boats (5)
- 18 Beginning to outgrow the child (3)
- 20 Brag about giving credit to timeless pull (4)
- 22 Notes about strings (7)
- 24 The odds on a pointer finding bird (7)
- 25 Motive in legal action involving University (5)
- 26 Plant is found in South American lake (5)
- 27 Topples superior groups (6)

Down

- 1 Marxist to annex bird (7)
- 2 Bill at home with very old diamond (7)
- 3 Worst ties Stan makes? (8)
- 4 Some share a ride back (4)
- 5 Early backwoodsmen wreck bear (5)
- 6 Fibre linking two cities (5)
- 7 Afterthought left in morning song (5)
- 13 Raven to outdo another flyer (8)
- 16 Change course after breaking down our tree (7)
- 17 Resists awfully ugly panto pair (7)
- 19 Look for middling metric tool (5)
- 20 Question in empty calvados barrels (5)
- 21 Old mates are gems (5)
- 23 By mouth or even mail (4)

DECEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION



SOHA – PLAYING WITH WORDS



Soha Housing Association's creative writing sessions have got off to a great start with artist, Kevin Campbell Davidson encouraging participants to get creative through writing poetry (a line each!) and song lyrics. Kevin even played several instruments during the first session to enhance the creative experience further. Participants are apparently enjoying exchanging ideas with each other without the pressure to 'perform' unless they want to!

Would you like to find out more about joining the next workshop? Then why not call Andrea or Liz in Soha's Resident Engagement team for free on 0800 014 15 45 or email ri@soha.co.uk.



DATES FOR THE DIARY – JANUARY

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

Tues 4th	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'Arnhem'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
	*	Goring Gap Photo Club talk: 'Arabian Gulf Revisited' by Derrick Lello. Goring Free Church Hall. 8pm
Wed 5th	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'Improving Your Photography'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 6th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	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
Thur 13th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Smartphone Photography'. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Fri 14th	*	Wallingford Country Market. St. Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford. 9.30am-12.00pm
Tues 18th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club on-line demonstration: 'Sunset' in pastel by Lec Darlow. Email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk. 7.30pm
	*	Goring Gap Photo Club talk: 'Wildlife Photography and Techniques' by Simon Booker. Goring Free Church Hall. 8pm
Wed 19th	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club talk: 'Japan and Brazil'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 20th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Madagascar: The Eighth Continent'. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Wed 26th	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'An Evening with Nigel Fenner and Ray Lewis'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 27th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club competition: NSS3 (No Set Subject). Via Zoom. 7.30pm

SMALL ADS

ADVERTISE HERE :: Small ads cost just £5.50 for up to three lines of text. Please email the Woodcote Correspondent at wood-co@runbox.com.

FORTHCOMING DATES IN FEBRUARY

Tues 1st	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'Cold War Royal Navy Submarine Operations'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 2nd	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Natural History Competition. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 3rd	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club Members / Practical evening - TBC. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club Zoom meeting. 8pm
Wed 9th	*	BMMHS Talk: 'SOE Jedburgh'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'An Evening with Richard and Claire Tilson'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm

GORING GAP PHOTO CLUB

Join us on the 18th January for a talk by Simon Booker on wildlife photography and techniques.

Simon Booker, expert photographer and wildlife enthusiast, lives just down the road at South Stoke and most of his wildlife pictures are taken locally. You can see some of his amazing and beautiful images on his website – just Google Stokerpix.

He will be telling us how he manages to photograph these images, explaining his techniques and giving tips on good local venues for wildlife. Also, hopefully, he will be showing us some of his inspiring audio-visual sequences too. This is a talk not to be missed by anyone interested in our local wildlife or photography!

The event will be at the Free Church Hall at Goring at 8pm – all are welcome!

Visit our website for more details: www.goringgapphoto.co.uk

CLOSING THOUGHT

There is only one way to achieve happiness on this terrestrial ball, and that is to have either a clear conscience or none at all.

Ogden Nash, poet (19 Aug 1902-1971)