



Woodcote

Vol 35 No 6
June 2023

CORRESPONDENT

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

WADS SPRING PRODUCTION REVEALS HIDDEN TALENTS!

For more years than most of us care to remember, the Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society (WADS) has entertained us on a regular basis, but seldom, if ever, have they exceeded the entertainment value they provided in bringing to the stage, 'Checkout Girls,' a comedy by Louise Roche.



singles night, the girls and odd job man divulge their tangled relationships, which are, of course, resolved to everyone's perfect satisfaction in the end.

Shelly, the timid checkout girl was played with real sensitivity by Gillian Fowmes and it was an added bonus that the part enabled her to reveal her undoubted singing talents. Shelly's mum, whose agoraphobia stemmed from the depth of her mourning for a husband, lost early without the opportunity for a final farewell. This was the perfect part for Elizabeth Thomas. Her duet with Gillian was one of the evening's highlights.



It was an inspired choice of play for the society by producers Patrick Thomas and John Worsfold, which enabled some accomplished actors to show the range of their talents and, most significantly, provided the audience with endless opportunities for laughter. Read more on the story inside this issue.

The play tells the story of a group of women who work in a supermarket in a northern town of England. As the supermarket prepares to host a

Continued on page 8

COMMENT FROM THE VICARAGE

Well May has certainly been a busy month both in and out of the church. The month of course started with the build-up culminating in the Coronation of King Charles III when we were able to watch the service and enjoy the pageantry from the comfort of our own homes while the rain poured down outside. It was a great shame that the day previous to Coronation Day was so good, but it didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the watching crowds that were interviewed. Not only the crowd but we had to sympathise with the soldiers, sailors, airmen and police who had to be on duty for several hours. It also meant that unfortunately the fascinating RAF flypast, which we have seen on previous occasions, had to be dramatically cut.

The following day was dry and we were able to enjoy a service in church that had been prepared for us by the national Church of England, and I must pay tribute to the team that decorated the church with flowers that added so much to the service.

As a result of the Coronation, we have had three bank holidays in May; congratulations if you got the bin collection days sorted out!

Moving to late May we held the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is actually two meetings. The first is for the election of two church wardens and they are elected by everyone, not only those on the church electoral roll but also those on the register of local government electors of the civil parish of Woodcote. This is then followed by the second meeting which is for those on the church electoral roll only, when we choose our Parochial Church Council and receive reports of our activities during the year and exchange thoughts on what has happened and what might happen in the following year.

With all this going on, with sun and rain, our lawns here are becoming quite a wildflower reserve. Cowslips I enjoy but daisies and dandelions not so much. I did have ideas of following 'no-mow May' but unfortunately the weather and lack of time prevented me from mowing at the end of April. So it's going to have to be 'no-mow mid-April to mid-May'. Hopefully the birds and insects will gain something from that as will the wild flowers that have started shedding their seeds. Also, great tits are back in the nest box.

That's all in the present as I write this, but by the time you read it, we will be into June and the long-term weather forecast is looking warm and sunny. Hopefully it won't be as hot as last year. During June we will be preparing for the arrival of our new vicar here in Woodcote in early July. It will be nine months since Linda retired and although the process seems to take a long time, it is done that way to ensure that the right person will be appointed. The average time without a vicar seems to be about a year, and I have heard of a case in another diocese of one appointment taking two years. So, we must be thankful and we look forward to working with the Revd David Benskin and hope that he and his family will be happy here.

Looking at June, the services will all be the normal ones during the month and are listed below. In the Church's calendar we have moved from the Easter Season to what is called 'Ordinary Time'. This doesn't mean that nothing is happening, but it does contrast with the great events of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Easter.

Brian Turner
Licensed Lay Minister and
PCC Vice Chairman

Services at St. Leonard's in June

Sunday 4th

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.45 am Parish Communion

Sunday 11th

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Worshipping Together

Sunday 18th

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30am Open Door

Sunday 25th

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.45 am Parish Communion

Woodcote church is usually open for private prayer each day between 10am and 4pm.

Online Services

We continue with our online service of Night Prayer every Tuesday at 8.30 pm on Zoom.

This follows the ancient monastic pattern of Compline and lasts for about 20 minutes.

If you would like to join us, please email me rbrianturner@yahoo.co.uk for the contact details.



Woodcote Ponds
Photograph courtesy of Jackie Comrie

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



We are now officially halfway through the year. It's time to start enjoying the longer, lighter evenings and take advantage of the many village activities, ranging from Zumba and football to Fizz Friday in

the Village Hall. Plus of course, preparations have already started for the annual Village Fete. So, start growing those sunflowers and giant vegetables (remember the marrow that was longer than baby Casey?).

We have plenty of Coronation celebration photos to share with you courtesy of local school children and you're in for a treat when you read David Sutton's anecdote this month; it's sure to make you chuckle.

Have a great month!

Yvette

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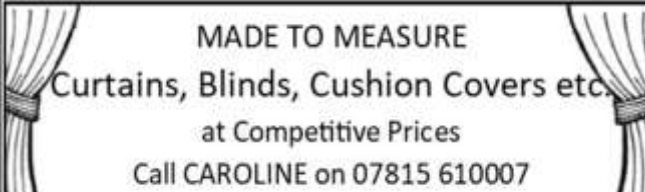
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As someone who uses the X40 both towards Reading and Oxford, I would like to congratulate Thames Travel and their parent company Oxford bus for their revision of the bus schedules which they implemented in mid-April. This has resulted in the X39 disappearing and the X40 now every 30 minutes in both directions covering Woodcote. At the same time they introduced a new route into Reading and now go via Market Place, Minister Street (for the Oracle), St Mary's Butts and Friar St on the way to the station. Whilst the maintenance of the buses could be improved, I feel it's a great opportunity for Woodcote residents to support this change by increased usage, especially as the government £2 single fare initiative has been extended until the end of June.

The online X40 timetable can be found here <https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/oxfordbus/THTR/X40-timetable-20230416-330195e9.pdf>

I would also recommend the Oxford Bus Company app <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/app> as this gives live timings and one can also track vehicles to see where the bus is.

Regards

Tim Sugar

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At the time of publishing this report, Woodcote Parish Council will only have six Councillors. This makes the WPC short of four councillors. This means the current councillors are stretched thin and there isn't the capacity to be more proactive or as projective as we would like on issues that are important to residents.

Councillors from different backgrounds better represent the whole community and possess different enthusiasm, skills and interests. It is therefore sincerely hoped that more residents will come forward to get involved to make a difference to the community to improve our village.

In the meantime, you may ask: what has the Parish Council been doing over the past 12 months and what could you take part in?

Village Improvements

Following the project consultation with village residents, which was held during June 2022 in order to get feedback and ideas from residents on areas they wanted improved or new projects, WPC have made progress on the following:

2nd Zebra Crossing on Goring Road close to the crossroads with Beech Lane and Bridle Path. The project is under way and at preliminary design stage with Oxfordshire County Council. This was the top ranked project in the 2022 project consultation.

20mph limit in the village has now been approved by OCC and should be implemented July 2023. This was ranked 4th in the list of suggested projects during the 2022 project consultation.

A new speed indicator sign has been purchased by the council to be moved to three different places around the village, Oxford Road incoming, Goring Road incoming from Crays Pond and Long Toll incoming. This is due to be installed in May and was ranked 3rd in the suggested projects during the project consultation.

In addition to putting together and running the project consultation, and making progress with the projects consulted upon, WPC have also carried out work on the following:

The Basketball Court on Folly Field, has received planning permission to be extended and permeable tarmac put down to allow for basketball games to be played, netball, walking football etc.

A new double swing set has been installed on Folly Field.

Working with a local resident and County Councillor to plant more trees around the village, in what has been dubbed Project Cool, to provide Woodcote with more natural beauty, and to reduce heat build-up in summer.

Installation of additional picnic benches of the village green, including wheelchair accessible benches.

Research into viable options for vital maintenance required on the village hall, in particular the flat roof, with the hope to implement in 2023.

This is in addition to annual grants that have been given to Woodcote Youth Club, Woodcote Conservation Group, Woodcote Volunteers and OWL – to allow for a Librarian to be present on Saturday mornings to enable opening to the public.

We would like to do more, but are now short of Councillors and volunteers, which will limit what WPC are able to do in the next 12 months.

Village Maintenance

WPC ensure that the village is kept in good repair in areas they own or have the power to influence. This includes:

Grass cutting on the village green and other areas in and around the village.

WPC make sure litter bins are all fit for purpose and replace when required.

WPC also employ litter pickers that help keep areas of the village clean and free of litter.

WPC contract for dog waste bins to be emptied weekly.

Trees owned by WPC are kept in good repair by a qualified tree surgeon and hedges owned by WPC are cut and maintained around the village.

Play Areas are regularly checked by a subcommittee of the Parish Council, the Village Green committee, who are all volunteers and who check the equipment

for safety and organise necessary repairs or come to WPC for items that need greater attention.

It should be noted that repairs to pavements, highways, and street lighting are outside of WPC control. These are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council but WPC will liaise with Oxfordshire County Council to escalate any major problems.

Allotments

WPC provide and maintain allotments for residents of Woodcote to rent. The allotment area is kept in good repair.

Planning

During 2022 WPC looked at 54 planning applications within Woodcote, and so far for 2023 there have been 22 planning applications to be considered. Although WPC do not have the deciding say on applications, each review of an application involves visiting site, talking to close neighbours, checking plans, making sure any development is following Woodcote's Neighbourhood Plan policies, District and National planning policies. Comments are then submitted to the deciding body, South Oxfordshire District Council. WPC comments aims to help keep the village from being overdeveloped or having development that is not in keeping with a village in the AONB.

So, if you think you could help the Parish Council make a difference to residents and the village, or bring some new ideas to the table, please come, and join us.

Contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@woodcoteparishcouncil.org.uk or contact one of your councillors directly for an informal chat.

The Parish Office is open Monday mornings 9.00 to 12 noon. Tel 01491 681861.

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

The six candidates for the Woodcote Parish Council were elected without contest as there are ten seats available. Any members of the community who would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Parish Clerk or one of the Parish Councillors for more information.

(clerk@woodcoteparishcouncil.org.uk)

The Woodcote and Rotherfield ward elects two members of the South Oxfordshire District Council. Between 2019 and 2023 we were represented by Lorraine Hillier (Conservative) and Jo Robb (Green). Lorraine Hillier did not seek re-election in 2023. Jo Robb was re-elected and James Norman (Green) was newly elected to represent the ward, with a turnout of 40%.

The Liberal Democrats took control of the SODC, winning 21 of the 36 seats. They were followed by the Greens (8), Henley Residents Group (3), Labour (3) and Conservatives (1). The SODC had been controlled by Conservative majorities from 2003 to 2019. No party held overall control in the 2019 election, but the Liberal Democrats won the most seats. At the time of writing, the SODC councillors had not yet been assigned to committees or panels.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Despite Spring struggling to make it off the starting blocks, we ploughed ahead with the Spring Fair regardless. Sadly, the sun failed to make an appearance, but the rain stayed away and plenty of people came along. The Shinfield Shambles Morris dancers put on a good show and kept the crowds warm with a bit of audience participation! We had a fabulous range of top-quality producers of arts and crafts, artisan food and drink as well as a good selection of plant sellers. Some of our traders were regulars at village events and for others, it was their first-time trading in the village. They all enjoyed the day and were pleased to see so much support at what is a difficult time for many businesses. So, a huge thank you to everybody who came along, we hope you enjoyed a few hours of fun and relaxation. The Spring Fair is a Village Hall Charity event and the proceeds raised contribute towards the running costs of the Hall.

Spring has also seen the arrival of some new classes and activities in the Village Hall.

Zumba, is a new weekly fitness class. It's loud, high energy and instructor Charlotte ensures every class feels like a party. Zumba is a great opportunity to get fit AND have fun! But, don't forget we also have weekly yoga, seated yoga, pilates and pure-stretch classes at the Hall if you're looking for something a little different or gentler.

At the end of May, Fizz Friday's Crafting sessions begin at the hall. Running one Friday evening per month through to the end of the year. Fizz Friday's will be a chance to pop along for a few hours in the evening, have a chat, learn and practise some new crafting skills whilst you make something beautiful to take home, and of course enjoy a glass of fizz while you do. Karen from Mumadora Crafts has plenty planned over the coming months including lampshade making, decoupage, beginners beading, wreathmaking and fabric pumpkin making.



You can find out more about what's happening at the hall and/or book the Village Hall at www.woodcotevillagehall.com. Alternatively, you can email woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com or telephone 07929 203096.

The Landscape Group Oxford

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WOODCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The 30th Anniversary of the opening of this lovely old building has just passed with little ceremony. The committee held a Coffee Shop on the 8th April and we put up a display board showing lots of photos of members and activities of the original WASP Committee, who organised dozens of fundraising events over 2 years to raise money to restore the building.

For those who don't know, WASP stood for Woodcote Area Schoolhouse Project. And what a project it was! Every age group, and every club or group in the village was involved in the raising of funds to convert this disused, and crumbling old schoolmaster's house, into a facility for the whole community. It even won a national award, The Community Enterprise Awards, supported by the Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture. Out of 837 entries from all over the UK, the WASP Project won first place and we were presented with our award by the then, Prince Charles, at an unforgettable ceremony in Manchester.

So why am I telling you all this? Well, looking at all those photographs made many of us committee members realise that we have been closely involved with this building for over 30 years; two of us since the project's inception! In 1990, we all regarded it as an ambitious and exciting opportunity for a community facility for our generation. It's probably about time that it is seen as a community facility for your generation!

The Community Centre is in excellent condition, due to a rolling programme of re-decorating and general improvements. We have several regular hirers, which has ensured a steady income, so the finances are good. It is used by groups, young and not-so-young, during the day, the evening and at weekends. It's used for small meetings and larger meetings, children's parties and even band practices! Then there are the Saturday Coffee Shops which we are in the process of building up again after they were shelved during the Pandemic. In short, things are running extremely smoothly and can continue to go on in the same vein.

BUT maybe it is about time for others to develop its facilities and create something for your generation? To bring in new ideas, and new energy. It could certainly be used more, but for what, how and when? Might you be interested in becoming involved, either on your own or with friends?

We have had enormous fun and a great deal of satisfaction from our involvement in this building, and we would be delighted to see others step forward and help take it on to the next level.

Do get in touch, or give me a call for an informal chat.

Karen Woolley

Chair

Woodcote Community Centre

Tel: 01491 681571

e-mail: karen.woolley@the-farthings.com



Lightning Over Woodcote

Photograph courtesy of Jackie Comrie

CELEBRATING CORONATION DAY AT WOODCOTE LIBRARY

On Saturday 29th April Woodcote library celebrated the King's Coronation with a very royal craft event

The children (and adults!) had a lovely time producing some wonderful Coronation-themed artwork which is currently displayed at Woodcote library.

Children also had fun finding the hidden Coronation Day items dotted around the library as part of our Royal Treasure Hunt



We also had an Art and Craft event on Saturday 27th May (10.30-11.30am). Why not join us for the next one? Contact me for more details.

Lisa Trood- Woodcote Library Manager
Tel: 01491 682323

WADS SPRING PRODUCTION

(continued from front page)

Natalia Ruiz-Moreno and Helen Coyne were born to play the sassy, irreverent Shaz and Maz and they played it for all they were worth and with excellent timing. Tammy was the frumpy, addicted to eating, fourth checkout girl, and the fragility of her character, beneath a bold exterior, was well observed by Susan Clark.

Marcia Spiers gave an energetic performance as Sylvia, the shop supervisor, a nagging, but motherly character, who harboured secret desires for Malcolm, the maintenance man, an avuncular character, whose influence exceeded his status. This part was a good vehicle for the versatile Terry Sopp.

Throughout the play, the interventions of Mr Worley the shop manager, over the tannoy, provided some of the best comedy moments. James Peedell had this character off to a tee and was particularly funny depicting Worley the worse for drink.

Comedy is often enhanced when contrasted with images of real pathos and one such was the scene in which Pam is, at last, reunited with the ghost of her long-lost husband. The slow dance with John Worsfold, in the walk on part of the ghost, brought spontaneous applause from the audience. This was central to the plot as it enabled Pam to overcome her agoraphobia to attend the singles night to hear Shelly sing.

It was good to see a well designed and constructed supermarket set designed by Sandra Evans and the producers did really well to create the side sets on the apron stage and the floor. The costumes added to the credibility of the whole piece. The lighting (Dan Scott) and sound (James Peedell) were both very effective.

It is important for a dramatic society to know their audience and the WADS are highly accomplished in this. Give the audience some good, well-known musical content, which they did with the choral numbers, and then send them home happy with a singalong at the end, which they also did! The WADS are a local treasure and the three full houses pay full testament to that!

Are you a budding actor? Or perhaps you might enjoy helping backstage with prop or costume making. Why not contact Terry at terrysopp@hotmail.com to find out how to get involved in the next production.

SP

Saturday Crafts!

Woodcote Library
10.30-11.30am



27th May – Elmer Day Colourful Crafts
24th June – Bugs, Bees and Ladybirds
8th July – Explore Under the Sea
5th August – Summer Reading Challenge
(sign up for the Challenge and join us for Storytime craft fun!)

We look forward to welcoming you at our family friendly drop in sessions!

Craft sessions are free, however donations are gratefully accepted to fund further library events.
Thank you for supporting your local library.

Please contact the Library Manager – Lisa Trood if you have any queries about Saturday crafts. Lisa.Trood@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

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WOODCOTE VILLAGE FETE

LOTS OF FUN - OLD AND NEW!

Plans are under way for this year's village fete on Saturday 9th September 12pm to 5pm. There will be some new attractions to enjoy as well as the much-loved familiar ones.



Helen and Anna were at the Spring Fair, handing out sunflower seeds and competition guides for the fete and were delighted to see so many people! Hopefully they have motivated lots of you to plant seeds and to think about the other competitions you might also enter. There are some new competition categories this year. If you haven't got one already, pick up a competition guide at Woodcote Library, Woodcote Primary School (in the foyer) or at Cray's Pond bus stop.

Jester Giggles will make a welcome return to put on his popular show for the younger children and Woodcote Youth Club have arranged for the return of last year's popular giant inflatable hungry hippo game. We are also pleased to announce that there will be a bubble entertainer this year who is sure to amaze and delight. Who doesn't love bubbles?!

We are also delighted to announce that Smelly Wellies, who are based in Woodcote, will have a pitch at the fete for the first time and will be bringing along some of its lovely animals.

All this plus many other attractions - too many to mention them all here - such as live music, hog roast, a bar, tea and cake stand, a variety of stalls and the always entertaining dog show!

Of course, putting on an event like this wouldn't be possible without the support of local organisations and businesses. We are delighted to have secured a new sponsor for the 2023 fete - The Oratory Prep School! The school are making a generous donation towards children's entertainment at the fete and I am sure the local community is appreciative of their kindness and support. Other amazing sponsors will be announced once they have been confirmed.

If you have a question or want to get involved, please call 0777 3447504 or email woodcotefete@gmail.com

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WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

DISAPPOINTING END TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON

An incredibly busy end to the season with ten matches due to be played in April, ultimately ended with a couple of disappointments, though overall, the season must be judged a successful one. Chasing second place in Division 2 (East) of the Hellenic League, the first team played and won their final three fixtures to confirm themselves as runners-up. An away fixture at Taplow United saw us win 9-3, with Dan Wallace playing a starring role by scoring five goals. The other goals were by Charlie Wagstaff, Marvin Hinds, Toby Nowell and Chris Downes. This was followed by home and away wins over Chalfont Wasps. The home win by 5-0 saw goals scored by Frank Dillon, Dan Wallace 2 and Toby Nowell 2. The away win over Chalfont was by 4-1 with Toby Nowell 2 and Marvin Hinds 2 the scorers. Other league matches due to take place against Taplow, Newbury and Didcot Town were cancelled.

The first team reserved perhaps their best performance of the season for the semi-final of the Hellenic Chairman's Cup away to Letcombe from Division 2 (South). Letcombe were enjoying a great season and were topping the table in their division, having scored a hat-full of goals. Woodcote went into the match with a squad depleted by injuries, but after conceding an early goal, we were 3-1 ahead before the home side scored two late goals to take the match to penalties. Our goals were scored by Toby Nowell 2 and Frank Dillon. At this stage we had already lost our goalkeeper to a serious injury, but stand-in keeper, Charlie Wagstaff saved two penalties and we went through to the final, 5-4 on penalties. Disappointingly, in the final, played at Wantage Town FC, we were below par and lost 1-0 against New Dales Vale (Worcester), the winner coming from the penalty spot.

The Development team's season also ended in disappointment as they just missed-out on being runners-up in Division 2 of the North Berks League. A final day 6-3 defeat at home to Sutton Courtenay dashed their hopes as they needed to win the game to pip Compton for promotion. Woodcote's goals were scored by Archie Clark 2 and Will Thomas. On the previous Saturday the 'Devs' had an impressive 2-1 win over Burghclere with player-manager, Andy Taylor, scoring two cracking goals. The other 'Devs' game was a home defeat, 2-0, to champions, Dorchester.

Though the final day of the season was a disappointing one for the club, Woodcote FC continues to thrive and has much to celebrate. The 2021-22 season saw us win the league and the Oxfordshire Cup, while two runners-up finishes this season is a pretty good follow-up. We never expected the newly-formed Development side to challenge for honours in their first season, but it is a tribute to the commitment of a largely young side that they only just missed out on promotion. Another cause for celebration is the phenomenal goal-scoring record of Toby Nowell in the first team. He scored an amazing 42 goals in 25 matches. Especially deserving of

thanks are our management team, Andy Silver and Rob Wytchard with the first team and Andy Taylor with the Development team.

Next season sees the club take on a new challenge as the first team leaves the Hellenic League to join the Development team in the North Berks League. We have had a highly successful time in the Hellenic, but have become increasingly disenchanted with some organisational issues in the league which seem unlikely to be resolved to our satisfaction in the short-term.

SP

THE CASE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION

The local elections have just been held as I write, and for the first time the good inhabitants of Woodcote have been required to provide photographic identification of themselves before being allowed to cast their votes. This is evidently to prevent voter fraud, though given the usual minuscule turnout and general level of apathy about these things one would have thought the authorities might be quite glad of a few squads of impostors marching along to the booth on voting day, if only to make the exercise seem worthwhile.

Still, it did provide some fun moments in our household. The problem is, you see, that as far as visual identification goes my wife is a non-person. She has no passport, she has never driven so does not hold a driving licence, and it appeared to us that there was simply no official photographic evidence of her existence. Yes, I know we were told that such evidence can be applied for, but having been a law-abiding subject all her life and lived in this community for over fifty years she really did not see why she should have to do this, and she can be a very stubborn woman (yeah, yeah, I know, is there any other kind?). 'Surely there'll be someone on the door who knows me and will let me in without one', was her first thought. 'More than their job's worth', I say. 'How would they know it's not someone disguised as you? The Tories are going to be pretty desperate this time round...'. 'Well, you're all right, you've got your driving licence, so we'll go together, and you can vouch for me' was her next thought. I loved this idea. It seemed to restore so much of the patriarchal element so sadly lost from our society over the past hundred and fifty years. 'Yes', I imagined myself saying, 'I can confirm that I have owned this woman for fifty-seven years - got a receipt somewhere to prove it...' (waving a marriage certificate)... 'yes, I know, you can get these new electric models but they don't come cheap and this one's still pretty reliable on the whole - they really don't make them like that anymore'.

Alternatively, I thought, I could say when appealed to at the critical moment, 'I have never seen this woman before in my life!' and see her handcuffed and marched off for deportation, though that would be a bit inconvenient come lunch time.

In the event we remembered that she did have a bus pass and looking up the detailed regulations it

appeared that this would do the job. But it does all raise the question of why we Brits, once renowned for our sturdy independence and intolerance of jumped-up authority, have become so cowed and compliant in these matters. Covid and the lockdown may be a lot to blame, I guess. I do feel we need to rekindle some of the spirit of the old chap in the parody of that splendid poem *Christmas Day in The Workhouse*. Something on the lines of 'Up spoke the aged pensioner, with face as bold as brass/You can take your photographic identification and shove it up your....'. Sadly, I don't think it's going to happen.

David Sutton



WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

What an incredible few weeks we have had! We have been planting out seeds and plants of tomatoes, beans, sunflowers and herbs. They are growing on various windowsills around the school until they are robust enough to be planted out. Late spring and early summer seem to have properly arrived.

We welcomed Mrs Katie Proctor to our teaching team this term. Mrs Proctor is teaching Reception Class alongside Mrs Goyder. We have recently expanded the outdoor area for this class and added a new mud kitchen to replace the old one. Mrs Proctor will, no doubt, continue to redesign this area creating exciting challenges for our youngest children.

Earlier this month we were treated to a fly past from the RAF crews from Benson. The Puma Helicopter spent a few minutes over the school waving to the children and then photographing us. They are putting together a book of photos from local primary schools to send to The King to commemorate his Coronation. Each school taking part was asked to make a relevant shape for the camera. We think we did quite well!



We were very excited to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. We had a fabulous afternoon playing all sorts of old-fashioned party games whilst dressed in red, white and blue. The hall was adorned with bunting and flags. We all sang the National Anthem and gave three cheers to The King. Much cake was consumed and the children all went home with a mug commemorating this special day in history.



We are very grateful to the SOX Brewery for supporting FOWPS with a family fun day of celebrations and games on Coronation Day. Lots of fun for the young, the old and anyone in between!

At the time of writing, our incredible Year 6 children have just completed their SATs. We are very proud of them all. They remained calm, collected and smiled throughout the week. Whatever the outcome, they can be pleased that they have worked hard and tried their best. Well done everyone. Next week they are off to Torquay for their week-long residential. We hope the weather is great and that they have a fantastic time. Follow their progress throughout the week on our school website.



Many of you will know by now that we have spent an exciting couple of months working with ITV's Britain's Got Talent. Our amazing dance teacher, Mr Felix Clements, auditioned a few months ago and received 4 "yeses" from the judges. We were lucky enough to take a handful of children down to London to watch this audition which aired on Sunday 14th of May. In the hope that he gets through to the live semi-finals, the crew then came to our school to meet more children and record some fun and games with them here. It was a terrific opportunity for the children to see how television works and understand the processes behind the reality and the final show that aired on TV.

We wish Felix the very best of luck and hope he goes all the way to being the winner. He is certainly very talented. Please watch and vote for Felix!

Have a wonderful Whitsun Bank Holiday everyone.

Mrs L. Hunt

CABIN PRESCHOOL

This term we will, as always, be focusing on the transition of our little Acorns to big school. We have 11 children moving to Oak class and are already excited to see Mrs Proctor and Mrs Somerville in the playground. There will be lots of transition activities during the summer term to help prepare the children.

The seeds we planted are growing well, helping the children to learn all about growing plants and where food comes from. We planted them in used milk bottles so the children are also learning to reuse items. We have lots of carrots (a firm favourite), basil, mint, flowers to attract the bees, dill, and mixed daisies.



This term we have been learning all about kings and queens. We found out about where they live, read a few fantasy story books that include royalty, had lots of prince and princesses' activities, and celebrated the King's coronation. We thought it would be fun for each child to be king or queen for the day. We sound the trumpet fanfare first thing each morning and decide upon our King or Queen. The chosen child is crowned, robed, and gets to order the other children to tidy up whilst they sit on their throne. The Monarch will be encouraged to make good choices throughout the day, help count the children at register, choose where they sit, and make announcements. It is lots of fun.

On Wednesday we also joined in with the school to make an enormous version of the King's cypher on the field. Many schools in the area were invited by the RAF to participate. They flew over us in a big helicopter. It was so exciting to see the soldiers waving down at us as they photographed us from above. The photographs will be collected and sent to the King.

The Friday of the coronation weekend, we were invited to join the Primary school and asked to wear red, white, and blue. They played fun traditional games. These included Musical Chairs (including a huge throne), Pin the Crown on the King, and Hoopla around crowns, sceptres, and orbs. To end the celebration, we shared a huge cake with all the children of Woodcote Primary. Thank you.

We have also been busy making a card which will be posted to the palace to congratulate King Charles on his coronation.

The children have enjoyed reading Zog, The King's Pants, The Princess and The Frog, Princess and The Pea and will finish the term with Sleeping Beauty.

We do have a few spaces available for September and we are taking enrolments ready for the new term. If you are interested in joining us, then please do get in touch. Email info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk or phone us 01491 680854.

CHECKENDON PRESCHOOL

The children have been very excited, learning all about the King's coronation. We have been preparing for celebrations for the King's coronation. We have been enjoying making our very own crowns, decorating them with a variety of different materials and gems to make them sparkle. Little chefs have baked a fantastic cake to enjoy for our coronation picnic lunch and another to enter into the Checkendon Village coronation cake competition. We also enjoyed playing a variety of traditional party games such as the parachute, hop scotch, snakes and ladders to name a few.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, 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 to Checkendon Pre-School.

WOODCOTE PRESCHOOL

Firstly, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Jaxon and his family!

This half term has been all about preparing for the coronation of King Charles! We have enjoyed reading our new books about Peppa Pig and Winnie the Pooh meeting the new king and learning about the royal family. We have decorated our display board with some coronation themed crafts and bunting.

On Tuesday 9th May we celebrated all day long. We had a street party style lunch in the main hall, with the children enjoying sandwiches, crisps, fruit and cakes. We played pass the parcel, waved our flags and listened to the national anthem. In the afternoon we opened our doors to the children's families, who came and enjoyed tea and scones with us for our final coronation celebration.

The children were so excited to see the flyover for the coronation too!



We have been very happy to resume our visits to the library for Rhymetime. The children love the singing and stories and have been a joy to take along.

Now that we have seen some glimpses of warmer weather, we have been able to spend an increasing amount of time outside. The children have been enjoying practising their gross motor skills by using the slide, climbing, jumping, running and scooting. Soon we will have some new outdoor equipment which we are all looking forward to.

We are very busy preparing our leavers for 'Big School' with lots of PE sessions, turn taking games, writing and recognising our names and role-playing schools.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at the community coffee shop, if you made cakes or bought them, we appreciate the support.

We had a lovely day at the Woodcote Spring Fair, making wormeries, painting faces and doing glitter tattoos. Thank you to everyone who visited our stall and supported the Pre-school! We made £322 which is fantastic.

We have an exciting new fundraising event coming up on 1st July. We will be hosting a Race Night! Please keep an eye out for tickets going on sale, we would love to see you all there.

Summer holiday club will be running for 3 weeks again this year. Dates are from Monday 24th July until Friday 11th August - 9am to 4pm with the option of an early drop off at 8:30am. We offer an early bird rate of £40 per day if you book before 1st July. Please phone us on 01491 682300 or email on woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk for further details or visit our website www.woodcotepreschool.co.uk to download a booking form.

Preschool is becoming very busy with lots of new children recently starting and more booked in for September but we do have some spaces left. If you are interested in your child starting with us please contact us at woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01491 682300.





WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

Our plans for the coming year

We had a very interesting and well attended Annual General Meeting in April. Thank you to our two guest speakers, Nicky Paris and Louise Haylett who both talked about their roles, which were, respectively, as the Oxfordshire Good Neighbour Scheme co-ordinator and our local Wellbeing Worker who is attached to the Goring and Woodcote Medical Practice. Both speakers identified the need for more social opportunities for our local residents who are housebound, isolated or have difficulty getting out. Nicky Paris identified a need for a befriending service in Woodcote.

The chair of the trustee board, Helena McBride, set out our achievements in the past year and our goals for the upcoming year, which include some exciting new developments.

Our goals for this year include, but are not limited to:

Change our constitution to broaden the scope of services we are allowed to offer to our local community, to further assist in alleviating isolation, such as a befriending service.

Increase the number of jobs we undertake.

Recruit more drivers – we need at least 40 (currently have 38)

Establish what the barriers are to people using our service(s) and work out what we can do to break these down

Measure our (anticipated) success in reaching those in need who are not currently using our service

We were pleased to appoint two new members to our committee, Tim, who will advise us on all things technical and Janet, who will lead on organising our events. We are in the process of inviting another member to our committee who will be a much-needed liaison between us and our clients. More information to come on this too!

Financial Hardship

We do not charge clients who need a driver; however, a client is asked to pay a driver's expenses at the rate of 45p per mile (there is a flat rate of £1.50 for drives within Woodcote). This is considerably cheaper than using a taxi but can add up, especially if a client needs to be taken further afield. Our office helpers will always tell you in advance what the approximate expenses cost will be. Please let us know if this would place you in financial difficulty.

Drivers needed

Since 1983, our charity has been helping hundreds of people in Woodcote and surrounding villages who are unable to get about as before. They have mobility problems such that they are unable to use public transport or drive. You and I may take it for granted that we can pop to the shops, doctors, hospital appointments, the opticians, go out to meet a friend and the like. Volunteer Drivers change the lives of

people who otherwise would find it difficult to do those simple things.

There is no minimum time commitment. You simply advise us from the outset what days and times that you are usually free. We do not expect you to be waiting by the phone for your jobs; we try to give at least 3 days' notice of a job. Occasionally we have an urgent request.

Our drivers find this type of volunteering very rewarding and you will meet some fascinating people. If you would like to know more, please either look at our website – www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk, or call our Secretary, Jane Forde, on 01750 158274.

Fundraising Coffee Morning

On Saturday, 24th June we are holding a coffee morning at the Community Centre, Woodcote between 10am and 12.30pm. We would like to be able to purchase some more mobility aids to help our clients get into and out of our cars and potentially, another wheelchair. Lots of lovely hot and cold drinks will be on offer along with delicious homemade cakes! We hope you can join us. If you are one of our clients and would like to come, please ask us for a lift. We will try our best to provide a driver for anyone who would like to go.

To finish, we would like to say thank you to Philip who is joining us from June as a volunteer driver. We welcome you to our team and are sure you will enjoy your interesting and satisfying role.

We are losing one volunteer, Dawn, who has been with us for a year and thank her so much for her time with us.

As usual, if you need a driver, please don't hesitate to call our office on 01491 681171. We collect from Woodcote and immediately surrounding villages.

Please give us as much notice as possible before the date you need us. One of our friendly office workers will answer the phone between 9.30 and 11am on weekdays (excluding public holidays) and you can leave a message on the answerphone at other times. Find out more about us by looking at our website: www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk

Or visit our Facebook page:

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DOROTHY WYNNE TYLER

25.08.1938 – 30.03.2023

Yet another of Woodcote's longstanding community members has unfortunately passed away peacefully at the Rush Court Care Home, where she spent her last few months comfortable and surrounded by great care and compassion from the staff there. Thank you to them from me.

Dot, my mum, started life in the small rural Derbyshire village of Bakewell during the Second World War; an idyllic setting to grow up in as a small child, able to run freely and get up to mischief.



After leaving school, Dot worked in a few roles – within a sweet shop, a bakery and even as a nanny for a short while prior to meeting and dating my dad. I can recount many stories of adventures they both enjoyed together before settling down and starting married life in Sheffield.

In the early 1960's they relocated down south to Wokingham, Berkshire in conjunction with my dad's work, now with three kids in tow. This proved to be a great move for us all and soon my parents were heavily involved with all aspects of community life.

Mum became a cub scout leader and youth volunteer; many a jumble sale was organised - not only to raise funds for good causes, but we needed new clothes as well! As for everyone, money was in short supply, but they always managed to have fun with local events and hilarious parties with neighbours.

A local youth club was started by mum mostly to keep an eye on us kids, just to make sure we were safe as well as our friends. Health and Safety wasn't yet invented so we could enjoy fun without too many limits and mostly without disastrous consequences!

In the late 1980's they further relocated to Woodcote and continued with their involvement in local activities namely the Woodcote Rally, Beavers, and WI.

Following my dad's death in 2012, mum suffered with depression, sadly exacerbated in the last few years, with further losses in our family. But my mum had a long and mostly joyful life, bringing happiness to others. I am sad to see her go but I'm glad to have had her as my mum.

Neil Tyler

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THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

June has long been thought of as an enchanted time. Perhaps it's the quality of the light that encourages fairies, filtering and pooling through the bright or deep green foliage. Maybe it's the long, languorous evenings, barely turning into true night, that make us want to stay out late and feel the magic of the year. Little wonder we celebrate the joy of light and warmth at midsummer.

Midsummer Day, the 21st June, is the summer solstice. The word 'solstice' is derived from the Latin solstitium – from sol (sun) and sto (stand), roughly meaning 'the sun stands still'. It refers to the fact that the sun reaches its most northerly position in the sky as seen from earth, pauses there, and then begins its journey back in the opposite direction.



The 21st June is the point when the axial tilt of the earth is aligned with the sun, with the north pole tipped towards it and the south pole tipped away. Day is much longer than night in the northern hemisphere – in fact, at this time of year, the sun is above the horizon for 24 hours in all places north of the Arctic Circle, sometimes referred to as the Land of the Midnight Sun.

Traditionally, herbs were gathered at midsummer, when they are at their best. To mark the summer solstice, why not cut sprigs of herbs that dry well, such as oregano, thyme, mint, rosemary and bay, and hang them up in bunches somewhere airy to dry, for using throughout winter.



Sadly, we can't capture midsummer, or hold winter back – it is as fleeting as all of the other moments of the year, so make sure you soak it in. Take time out to sit in the garden or on one of the benches around the village, listen to the birds, feel the warm breeze against your skin and make yourself a picture of your surroundings – the blue of the sky, green of the leaves – and hold this midsummer feeling within you for as long as you can.

And, if you were one of the many people who locked up your lawnmower for No Mow May this year, we invite you to continue to be lazy in the name of helping struggling pollinating insects. Continue to ease off mowing and strimming and let the wild flowers in your garden bloom in June.

Woodcote Conservation Group

GORING HEATH BEAVERS

We would like to start this month by thanking district councillor Peter Dragonetti (whose ward includes Goring Heath) for his support which enabled us to secure £2,500 from SODC's Councillor Community Grants Scheme for essential Hut repairs. Thanks also to Dan Oldfield who pulled our original public thank you, so we didn't breach the election purdah rules, literally as the April edition was about to go to the printers. The grant almost entirely covers the cost of replacing our huge, and extremely dilapidated, west window which gives wonderful views over the fields to Flint House. For over a decade it's been held in place by fairy spit and a prayer, so we are extremely grateful.

The Skills Challenge has been supplemented by the Outdoor Challenge, as is traditional during the summer term. Our first session back taught the Beavers what to do in an emergency by means of a surprisingly tricky quiz reinforced with a tearing-back-and-forth game (obviously!).

The following week was Wren's first session as leader in charge. She ran a 'poly-printing session'. In theory the Beavers scored designs onto foam sheets which were then used to print St George's Day-themed designs; in reality the heavy-handed enthusiasm of many resulted in a lot of stencils and sweeping up, with the saint's red rose being the most popular design. Did St George come from Lancashire? Or perhaps, when wooing damsels, a bunch of red roses is the modern equivalent of a gift-wrapped slain dragon. Who can say? Paint and mess ensured a great time was had by all.

The following week we went on a beautiful bluebell walk around Checkendon, though without a visit to the Black Horse for chips. Shocking! Beavers like to eat. Dodging the tractor, which was mowing the green on the walk out, and an end of hike adventure on the excellent playground (with tractor!) compensated for the lack of food.



WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ARTCLUB (WADAC)

This month's demonstration on Tuesday 20th June is entitled "Landscape in oil" and will be given by Jan Gaska live at Centre 70.



Printmaking had been Jan's main concern throughout his undergraduate and post-graduate study. In 2010 he became interested in the immediacy of oil paint, finding it an accommodating medium to work with. A catastrophe struck just before Christmas in 2012, when Jan's studio burnt down. Without a studio, Jan started to paint 'en plein air' in the countryside around his home.

Jan found direct observation an organic approach to painting which displayed the honesty and freshness he was seeking. He has continually built on his understanding of observational painting and drawing to include portraiture.

Tuesday 20th June at 7.30 – 9.30pm. Entry is free to members, £3 for visitors.

Tuesday morning and afternoon art classes: the June/July Term (6 weeks) will start on 6 June. A few places are still available so please contact us if you are interested.

Tuesday social evening and non-tutored workshops at 7-9pm is open every Tuesday; drop in and have a chat with fellow artists at all levels. Great chance to get back to painting or starting out. All club members are willing to help new artists.

The Annual Summer Exhibition was held, and enjoyed by many, on the last days of South Oxfordshire's Artweek, 13/14 May. Club members exhibited over 100 original paintings.

"En plein air" Sketch Saturday is planned to be at Wallingford Railway Station on 24th June. For final details please check our website www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk

If you are interested in joining us on any of our events or the club, please contact davidbooth7@outlook.com, or admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk or tel. 01491 681400

The club meets at Centre 70, Kinecroft, off Goldsmith's Lane, Wallingford, OX10 0DN.

Please note Goldsmiths Lane entrance off the High Street is closed until September. The only access to Goldsmith Lane by car is by a road off the roundabout in front of the Methodist Church in St. Leonard's Square. Traffic lights are operating as this road is usually a one-way road.

TALES OF HUMPHREY



The late John Gant's parrot, Humphrey has taken up residence with John's niece, Kate, and her partner Ian near Poole in Dorset. Locals will recall that Humphrey was as much of a character as John himself and the Correspondent has received the good news that Humphrey continues to thrive.

Kate writes: "How lovely that the Woodcote villagers are very keen to know that Humphrey is being taken care of, doing well and what he has been up to. This week he asked for a chocolate biscuit for the first time in six months even though we don't eat them! He continues to tell me, daily, that John's a great drummer and loves to whistle *half a pound of tuppenny rice* and *Polly put the kettle on*. He asks at every opportunity: are we going to the pub? are we going in the car? and is it supper time? He keeps us on our toes and is teaching us how to be good parrot parents, telling us that he is 'a happy parrot, hurrah' for which we are very grateful. He has a local following already in the form of our lovely neighbours and friends who visit to see him.

We will bring Humphrey up to Woodcote soon for a road trip so that he can say 'hello' and he'll soon have his own pub when his adoptive daddy (Ian) takes on his new pub locally, 'The Lambs Green Inn,' Humphrey will be a regular!!"

WOODCOTE WI UPDATE

Sally Lambert welcomed the members, visitors and our speaker John Kinory.

Celebrating their birthdays this month are Margaret Carter and Pat Hunt, we hope they enjoyed their celebrations.

Bloom of the month and competition winner for this year was Carole Shelley-Allen who was presented with vouchers. We have a new bulb catalogue with plenty of inspiration for next year!

Shirley Bryant has printed the programmes for the next year of events and speakers which we hope our members will enjoy. Shirley who is our Group Convenor, told us about the next group meeting which will be at South Stoke on Wednesday 28th June. The speakers' will tell of 'Our life on the Canals', which will be followed by a Ploughman's Lunch.

Our speaker, John Kinory, told us of his times as a film extra, with photographs of the films he had taken part in, the long hours involved and location where filming had taken place.

We had a delicious tea thank you to Sandra Dickson and Doreen Knox.

The bloom of the month was a wallflower and the theatre programme winner was the 50th Anniversary Souvenir of the Mousetrap.

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent coffee shop in the Community Shop.

In June our speaker will be Jeff Rozelaar, whose talk will be 'Princess Margaret, A Controversial Life'. The competition will be for a Royal Commemorative Mug.

Come and join us for a 2.30pm start in the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, we look forward to seeing you.

Judy Williams



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READING RSPB UPDATE

On 16th June there will be an evening walk on Farnham Heath to look for Nightjars and Woodcock with a second opportunity to find these special birds at Hazeley Heath on 20th June.

All indoor meetings are held in Pangbourne Village Hall starting at 8pm. Visitors are very welcome. There is an entrance fee of £5 for non-members, juniors half price. New members are always welcome with annual membership set at a modest £15 (£10 for juniors).

For more information visit
<https://group.rspb.org.uk/reading>

WALLINGFORD CORN EXCHANGE

All regular performances start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. The bar and auditorium will open from 7pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand.

Tickets £10 for adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

Cinema

Saturday, 3rd June, 2:30pm
Book Club: The Next Chapter (12A)

Saturday, 3rd June, 7:30pm
Book Club: The Next Chapter (12A)

Sunday, 4th June, 7:30pm
Book Club: The Next Chapter (12A)

Monday, 5th June, 7:30pm
Book Club: The Next Chapter (12A)

Wednesday, 7th June, 2:30pm
One Fine Morning (15)

Wednesday, 7th June, 7:30pm
One Fine Morning (15)

Friday, 9th June, 7:30pm
My Fairy Troublemaker (U)

Saturday, 10th June, 2:30pm
My Fairy Troublemaker (U)

Sunday, 11th June, 7:30pm
Are you there God, it's me Margaret (12A)

Monday, 12th June, 7:30pm
Are you there God, it's me Margaret (12A)

Wednesday, 14th June, 2:30pm
Are you there God, it's me Margaret (12A)

Friday, 16th June, 7:30pm
Vermeer, the Greatest Exhibition

Saturday, 24th June, 7:30pm
Mad about the Boy: The Noel Coward Story (12A)

Sunday, 25th June, 2:30pm
Mad about the Boy: The Noel Coward Story (12A)

Sunday, 25th June, 7:30pm
Mad about the Boy: The Noel Coward Story (12A)

Live Screenings

Thursday, 1st June, 7pm
Best of Enemies (15) filmed live at the Noel Coward Theatre, London

David Harewood (Homeland) and Zachary Quinto (Star Trek) play feuding political rivals in James Graham's (Sherwood) multiple award-winning new drama. In 1968 America, as two men fight to become the next president, all eyes are on the battle between two others: the cunningly conservative William F. Buckley Jr., and the unruly liberal Gore Vidal. During a new nightly television format, they debate the moral landscape of a shattered nation. As beliefs are challenged and slurs slung, a new frontier in American politics is opening and television news is about to be transformed forever. Jeremy Herrin (All My Sons) directs this blistering political thriller.

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

Tuesday, 13th June, 7:15pm

Il Trovatore Live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

A co-production with Opernhaus Zurich. Passions run high as Manrico and the Count di Luna compete for the affections of Leonora. Little do they know, Manrico's mother Azucena has been keeping a terrible secret for decades. Soon a curse from the past will rise up from the ashes with devastating implications for them all. Antonio Pappano conducts Verdi's dramatic score, which features the famous 'Anvil' chorus. Sung in Italian with English subtitles.

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

Live on Stage

Friday 2nd June, 7:30pm, doors open at 6:30pm, last entry 7:15pm

Recording of BBC's Any Questions

Tickets are free and can be reserved online at www.cornexchange.org.uk The reservations can be exchanged at the box office for tickets any time after 10am on Friday 2nd June and the box office will stay open until the start of the recording. The BBC paper tickets will have space to write and submit a question to the panel. The seating is unreserved and will be on a first come first served basis, apart from row A which is unavailable. No admittance after 7.15pm. The finish time is expected to be by 9pm.

Tuesday 6th June, 6pm, doors open at 5pm, last entry at 5:45pm

Recording of BBC's Gardener's Question Time

Tickets can be booked online at www.cornexchange.org.uk. All children between 10 and 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No admission under 10. The box office will be open all day from 10am on Tuesday 6th June for ticket holders who wish to come in to write a question for submission to the panel. There are to be 2 recordings. No admittance after 5.45pm. The finish time is expected to be by 8pm.

All tickets: £4.50

Monday 19th June to Friday 23rd June, 7:30pm
32nd Corn Exchange Drama Festival

This festival is back again. Ten plays from eight groups (Branching Out Drama Society, Compton Players, Didcot Phoenix Drama Group, Drayton Players, HAODS, Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group, Newbury Dramatic Society and Sinodun Players) have been entered, making for a full week of performances.

Each group has one hour to build their set, run the play and remove everything, leaving a clear stage. So it's not just a judgement of the play, its actors, but the set and the expertise of the back-stage crew. And the direction as well of course. All this will be adjudicated by Cherry Stephenson, a member of GoDA (Guild of Drama Adjudicators) and a verdict delivered on the night. And the winners declared on the Friday night. There is an opportunity for audience members to make an award if they have seen every performance.

It's an excellent way to learn about drama and see how different ideas are put into practice. And see different styles of plays. It's a common

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misunderstanding that the only way to enjoy plays is to visit a professional theatre in London. They're very good of course but there's a wealth of drama available in the shires and this is a way of experiencing many of these local groups.

Tickets: £6 each night, £20 for all four nights

HENLEY STAMP CLUB

As we head for summer we wish for warmer and longer days and to be able to get outside in the fresh air, but for the rainy days you may wish to have a good and interesting hobby. Why not go back to your youth and collect stamps?



The Henley stamp club is a friendly group and we would be delighted to see new visitors or members. If you are interested in fact concerning stamps or postal history, why not come along and find out how you can promote your interest.

To learn more about stamps and postal history why not visit us at Bix one Wednesday evening?

Wednesday 14th. June - we have guest speakers from Camberwell Philatelic Society

Wednesday 28th June - we have a guest speaker, Julian Bagwell on the subject 'British Levant'. meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Further details can be obtained by phoning Brian on 01491 681739 or on our website: -

www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

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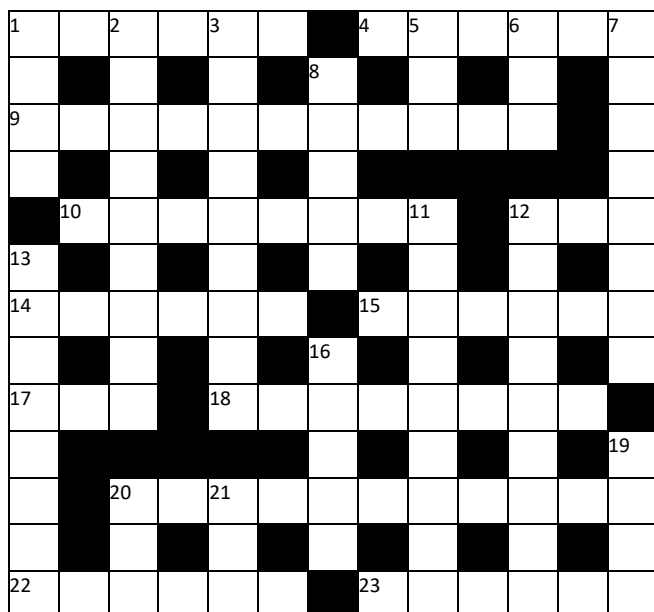
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JUNE CROSSWORD



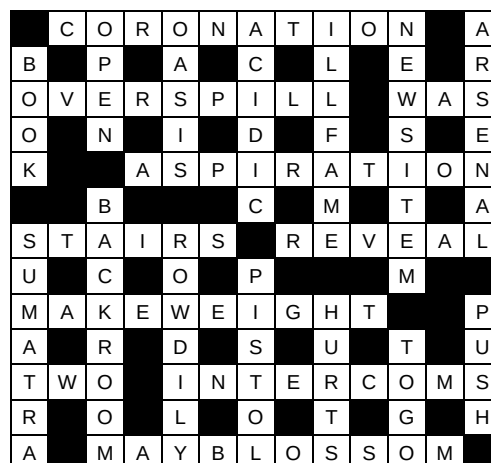
Across

- 1 Friend sent back best computer (6)
- 4 Medication fit to appear in race (6)
- 9 Let glad crew broadcast recovery message (3,4,4,)
- 10 Getting together about working for giving (8)
- 12 Criticise kitchen item (3)
- 14 Fixed the interference (6)
- 15 Vegetable found in bog when initially going north to the Spanish (6)
- 17 Anger from cockney recruit (3)
- 18 Handle identity theft (8)
- 20 Red's joint friendship (9)
- 22 Thin little girl with instrument
- 23 Troubled in duet together (6)

Down

- 1 Fuel records (3)
- 2 Sponsorship from Mrs Nixon and Mr Reagan having time (4)
- 3 Cutting theatre performance (9)
- 5 Chief of central Niagara (3)
- 6 TV Type went ahead (3)
- 7 Altering new instrument (8)
- 8 It's obvious - the map has one! (5)
- 11 Rene began cooking vegetable (5,4)
- 12 A path a man builds for protection from sun (6,3)
- 13 Supported as relative almost died (9)
- 16 Fool takes credit for rubbish (5)
- 19 Copied first couples appointment edit (4)
- 20 Top three of college pass (3)
- 21 A thousand and one first timers at college (3)

MAY CROSSWORD SOLUTION



JUNE QUIZ

1. Marilyn Monroe was born on the 1st June of what year?
2. On what date was Queen Elizabeth II crowned?
3. Where does the Trooping of the Colour take place?
4. What historic event took place on 6th June 1944?
5. On 8th June 1949 what dystopian novel by George Orwell was first published?
6. What was signed at Runnymede on 15th June 1215?
7. The Lady and the Tramp film was released on 22nd June of what year?
8. In which city was Hitler photographed on 23rd June 1940?
9. What festival takes place in Pilton in the last week of June?
10. Gone with the wind was first published on 30th June 1936. Who was the author?

ANSWERS

1. 1926
2. 2nd June 1953
3. Horse Guards Parade
4. D-Day - the invasion of Normandy
5. 1984
6. The Magna Carta
7. 1955
8. Paris
9. Glastonbury
10. Margaret Mitchell

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Regular Weekly Events

Every Sunday

** Holy Communion 8.00am

** For other church services see page 2

Every Monday

** Youth Club – Juniors (year 7's).

Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm

Every Tuesday

** Youth Club – Seniors (years 8, 9 & 10)

Woodcote Village Hall 7.15pm-8.45pm

Every Thursday

** Rhymetime for pre-schoolers.

Woodcote Library 10.15am-10.45am

** Chance To Chat.

Community Centre Lion's Den 2.30pm-4pm

JUNE DATES

Tues 6th	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'They Shoot Spies - the untold story of a remarkable female agent'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 7th	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society AGM. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Sat 10th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of St. Leonard's Flower Team (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Goring Primary Summer Fete. Goring Primary School. 12pm-3pm
	*	Stoke Row Steam Rally. Hill Bottom, Whitchurch Hill.
Sun 11th	*	Stoke Row Steam Rally. Hill Bottom, Whitchurch Hill.
Tues 13th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3pm-4.30pm
Wed 14th	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	BMMHS Talk: 'Hunting Evil'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: 'Themes and Journeys'. 8pm
Sat 17th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Community Centre (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
Tues 20th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration: 'Landscape in oil'. Centre 70, Wallingford. 7.30pm

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JUNE DATES *(Continued)*

Wed 21st	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society: The Winners Enclosure & Trophy Presentation Evening. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Sat 24th		Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Volunteers (cash and card). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
		Saturday Crafts: Bugs, Bees and Ladybirds. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am
Wed 28th		Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm

FORTHCOMING DATES IN JULY

Sat 1st		Coffee Shop in aid of Tommy's Baby Charity (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
Tues 4th		BMMHS Zoom Talk: '1942: Britain at the Brink'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 5th		Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
Sat 8th		Woodcote Rally.
		Saturday Crafts: Explore Under the Sea. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am
Sun 9th		Woodcote Rally.
Tues 11th		Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3pm-4.30pm
		Community Centre Management Committee AGM. Woodcote Community Centre. 7.30pm

CLOSING THOUGHT

Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no-one is watching.

(C.S. Lewis)