



Woodcote

**Vol 34 No 3
March 2022**

CORRESPONDENT

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

JOY ALDRIDGE MBE, A SHINING LIGHT

St Leonard's Church was packed to the rafters on Friday 21st January as the people of Woodcote came to say a fond farewell and to pay tribute to Joy Aldridge who, for close to 50 years, served the village in so many roles and made a huge contribution to community spirit. Joy passed away on Christmas Eve 2021, aged 84, at the Abbey Crest Nursing Home in Sonning Common, where she had been a resident, and in failing health, for the past six years.

Joy may have been small in stature, but she punched well above her weight, and was a veritable force of nature. Her remarkable dedication to this village and its institutions was recognised with the award of an MBE in 1997 for services to the community. It was a very proud day for Joy, her family and the whole village when she went to Buckingham Palace to receive the award from Her Majesty the Queen.

Joy and Pete moved into Beech Lane in the mid-60s and Joy was soon getting involved in village life. She joined the WADs in 1967 and was a prominent member, fulfilling just about every role, though not often on stage, for almost fifty years. However, her major contributions to village life came through her membership of the Parish Council, the Recreation Ground Committee (now known as the Village Green Committee) and most notably as the long-serving Chair of the Village Hall Committee. Alongside these activities, Joy found time to raise a family. She was never one for half-measures as she showed with the birth of two sets of twins, Chris and Sue in 1966 and Jonny and Sarah in 1970.



Though Joy's dedication was to the whole village, her first love was the Village Hall and over the many years she served as Chair of the Hall Committee. She threw herself with boundless energy into making the Hall the focal point of village life. She built around her a fiercely loyal committee, all of whom knew Joy's high expectations of them, and were equally loyal to her. Joy believed passionately that the Hall should be a venue for the widest possible range of activities, a flexible and welcoming environment for everyone. In this aim, she was demonstrably successful and the breadth of activities, many started in Joy's time, continues to the

present day. Joy always found ways to get things done often by calling in favours and on a shoestring budget.

The list of Joy's involvements in the village is almost endless, including the Volunteers, The Correspondent, the Rally, The War Memorial project - 'Not Just Names', the Laurels Club of which she was President, the creation of the Garden of Remembrance at St Leonards, the Skateboard Committee and almost certainly many more. In many of these she was the leading light.

Then there was fundraising, certainly one of her major talents. Joy somehow found time to raise money not only for the Village Hall, but for many other worthy causes. One such cause was Maggie Beeson who, approaching her 100th birthday, confessed she had always wanted to fly on Concorde. Joy used all her fundraising skills, and Maggie got to fly on Concorde!

Continued on page 6

COMMENT FROM THE VICARAGE

I don't know about you, but it seems to me that the world seems to be in a rather grim place at the moment. As I thought about what I might say in this column, the one thing that came to mind was the regrettable fall in standards in public life. We have some real issues in our own government and politics generally, and we can see similar issues arising in other countries as well. Public figures at the highest levels appear to have allowed themselves to become embroiled in difficulties mostly of their own making and seem unable to, as we used to say, 'do the right thing.' It is as if the 'right thing' no longer exists or matters and if it does it can simply be ignored. Even more worryingly to me is that there seems always to be a way of avoiding the truth being told, often because of the support of powerful bodies and wealthy individuals. Maybe you feel differently and see it all as the cut and thrust of a tough world and believe that wealthy people have always been able to oil the wheels of power to suit their own interests. I think that is also true, but it does seem to me that when this behaviour and sense of entitlement is seen in those who are in those positions which are designed to further the common good, then we are in a perilous place. How then are we to respond? How might we push back against these failings in our common life?

I would suggest that in all our dealings we keep in mind the adage 'do unto others as you would have done unto you'. A well-known saying that of course originates from the Bible, Matthew 7 verse 12 to be precise. It is also known as the Golden Rule and is not exclusive to Christianity, being found in Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and earlier ancient ethical teachings. It is fundamentally about respect for others and for oneself. This comes from knowing that God creates and treats us all equally and from these basic premises much of the law and morality of the Western world is founded. If these laws and the protection they afford us were ever to be eroded, then we would have reason to fear for our liberty and our safety. We simply must continue to live by these principles and to teach them to our children and young people. Maybe too, there is a little more that we should do. I came across a prayer recently that speaks to these concerns and issues a very personal challenge. I've shortened it as it is quite lengthy;

'Sometimes, Lord, it just seems too much: too much violence, too much fear; too much of demands and problems; too much of war and slums and dying; too much of darkness, Lord, too much of cruelty and selfishness and indifference. Too much, Lord, too much, too bloody, bruising, brain-washing much.

Or is it too little, too little of compassion, too little courage of daring, of persistence, of sacrifice; too little of music, and laughter and celebration?

O God, make of me some nourishment for these starved times, some food for my brothers and sisters who are hungry for gladness and hope, that, being bread for them, I may also be fed and be full.'

With all blessings and prayers for your safekeeping,

Linda

Rev. Linda Smith, Tel. 01491 680979

Services at St. Leonard's in MARCH

Ash Wednesday Service 2nd March

7.30 pm Whitchurch Hill

Sunday 6th March

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th March

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am 'Worshipping Together'

Sunday 20th March

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am The Open Door Service

Sunday 27th March

Mothering Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Holy Communion

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 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.

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Applications Granted by SODC

P21/S5197/HH Application proposal, including any amendments : Proposed upwards extension to existing ancillary outbuilding to facilitate the provision of first floor annex/guest accommodation and replacement external staircase with store below. Site Location : Chambers Place Goring Road Woodcote RG8 7SJ.

Planning Applications Refused by SODC

P21/S3994/FUL Application proposal, including any amendments : Change of land use to site up to four log cabins for holiday accommodation, with associated drainage, access and landscaping. (Revised Transport Statement submitted 2021-09-11) (Revised Block Plan received 2021-09-11). Site Location : Land adjacent to Masseys Pightle Chilterns Way Tidmore Lane near Woodcote RG8 0PH.

Chairman's report

The consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan closed on 1st February. There were 69 responses with many from residents mostly with positive comments about the plan. Thank you to those who responded.

The next step is the formal examination. The examiner Andrew Ashcroft has been appointed and he expects to complete the examination by late March. Examiners usually insist on some changes to the Neighbourhood Plans, mainly to clarify wording and ensure that policies are consistent with National and local planning policies. We hope he will accept our argument that the village cannot accommodate more houses without causing harm to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Malcolm Smith

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



The clocks go forward this month and we all know what that means: lighter, brighter evenings (I won't mention the earlier morning start). As I write this, I believe we have officially entered *Fool's Spring*; the birds are singing, bulbs are emerging. But no doubt winter is not over just yet!

In this month's issue, we are delighted to see that some new people have joined the *Woodcote Volunteers* team. We also discover the significance of oranges during Chinese New Year, thanks to Cabin Preschool.

We have included a lot of upcoming events which you can add to your diaries; hopefully there is something for everyone. And finally, who is interested in becoming a lollipop person? Get in touch with the Woodcote Conservation Group to find out more.

Until next month.

Yvette

PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Editor: Yvette Decmar *[via email]*

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

WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Berkshire League Champions 2021

Come and Play Cricket

Woodcote Cricket Club is looking for new players of all ages and abilities to play for the club on Saturdays this season. Why?

- We have two teams in the Berkshire Cricket League – Premier Division and Division 3.
- **The 2nd XI is a brand new team.**
- We intend the 2nd XI to be made-up principally of young 'developing' players (age 14+) mentored by some experienced players and the majority of teams in our Division will be similar.
- We will arrange regular weekly practices on the Village Green with coaching to help players develop their skills.
- We already have some young players who attend Langtree or have recently left school.

Please don't be put-off because you think you aren't good enough. All standards are warmly welcomed.

Please contact one of the following, providing your details, and we will contact you to invite you to join us when practices start.

Sam Peates
sampeates@gmail.com 07710 858366

James Worsfold
jamesworsfold@hotmail.co.uk 07921 974663

Jonny Aldridge
info@aldridges.co.uk 07980 253841

Jez Mayo
jezgh@tiscali.co.uk 07442 175461

Stefan Gordon
stefangordon@btinternet.com 07912 464097

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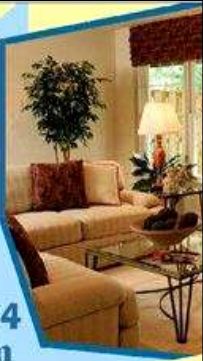
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WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF WOODCOTE VILLAGE HALL?

While the Woodcote Parish Council (WPC) owns the village hall, the building is leased to The Woodcote Village Hall Charity for them to run the 'business' of letting out of rooms to the public.

However, WPC is responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the building and some parts are not in good condition.

A full building survey was carried out and while the Parish Council has now made the repairs to make it watertight, there are a lot of other works that will soon require attention. This includes complete re-roofing of the whole flat roof structure – kitchen, pavilion, toilets and changing rooms/committee room, in the next couple of years.

There is an estimated £400,000 worth of work required over the next 17 years, just to maintain the hall. This does not take into account any additional costs from repairs / replacement equipment that may come up in that time.

WPC wish to always spend money effectively, therefore we are considering different options for the village hall and will want to know what the residents think.

There will, in the next couple of months, be a public consultation to help determine what the priorities of Woodcote residents are. This could be additional village amenities, such as gym equipment or a pump track; traffic calming measures (additional crossings, speed humps or speed indicator signs); and whether minimum repairs should be made to the village hall - or partial or complete re-development.

This article is to give you some background to the situation with the village hall. Further information on the village hall and other possible projects will follow with the consultation.

Option 1 is to just carry out the works set out in the structural survey and that will be required to maintain the building as it is. This will not allow for any works that would improve the functionality of the hall or its facilities, such as additional kitchen facilities for other users when the preschool is using the existing kitchen; improved toilet facilities; improved changing room facilities; or incorporation of renewable energy technologies to help towards hall running costs and climate change.

Option 2 would be removal of the existing flat roof structure part of the building and rebuild. This



would allow for an element of re-design to improve some aspects of layout and facilities. It would also allow us to improve the insulation and possible provision of renewable energy technologies.

Option 3 would be as option 2, but with some possible internal rearrangement to try and address

other functionality issues in other parts of the hall.

Option 4 would be a complete rebuild of the village hall. This would include demolition and rebuild of the village hall on the same footprint it is on. This would allow for a complete re-think on the design, how the hall is used and its facilities. It would also mean a building with modern building materials and to modern standards (for the whole building) in terms of insulation, renewable energy, plumbing, electrics, heating and ventilation.

Option 5 would be a complete rebuild of the village hall, but on the car park and some playground area. This would allow for the existing village hall to continue to be used alongside for as much of the work as possible. Once the new hall would be ready for use, the old hall would be demolished and a new car park area created on its footprint.

Unfortunately, there is no option to do nothing. The main hall was built in approx. 1922, with extensions in the 1950's (function room area) and the 1970's (pavilion and changing room/committee room area). While there was a minor extension and changes to the internal layout of the function room area and upstairs in 2000 (due to lottery funding for improvement of facilities for a dedicated Youth Centre), there have not been any major works.

Consequently, there are obviously issues that require attention with buildings of such an age. As stated, WPC wishes to spend money effectively that will bring the greatest benefit to villagers and users for many years to come. This is especially relevant at the current time when prices all around us, particularly energy, are increasing.

That is why, in the coming months, WPC will be asking you the residents, what you think. So please do look out for the upcoming consultation, when there will be more information on the different options for our village hall as well as the other projects being considered.

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JOY ALDRIDGE MBE

continued from front page



Joy with her MBE at Buckingham Palace

Joy (who knows how she found the time?) loved gardening and held an annual plant sale in her garden. Every year she grew literally thousands of plants from seed which were duly sold for charity. Joy Aldridge's plant sales were legendary and people from far and wide flocked to her garden. Over the years, thousands of pounds were raised for a host of charities.

As news of Joy's death spread, her family was inundated with messages of sympathy and glowing tributes, many recalling friendships and acts of kindness.

One such tribute referred to Joy as 'a tower of strength and shining light in the village of Woodcote'. Another said, 'Since she retired from public life, I have missed her wise counsel in local issues. Joy knew the values which exemplify a village community and played a big part in creating the community spirit we enjoy so much. Joy is irreplaceable in the life of this village.'

Sam Peates

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WOODCOTE FETE 2022

The Village Fete will be on Saturday 10th September this year. We are due to have our 'KICK OFF' meeting on **Wednesday 9th March in the Village Hall at 8pm**. If you are interested in joining our friendly team, please do get in touch with Helen on 07773 447504 or by email at woodcotefete@gmail.com. We are looking for people with various skills and ideas. You don't need to be computer literate to get involved.

FRIENDS OF ST LEONARD'S



AGM Notice

Our Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us, please email us for details: diana.c.davies@btinternet.com

Chairman's Report

I would like to thank everyone who has generously supported the Friends of St Leonard's (FOSLs) during the last year.

St Leonard's is a grade II listed building, rebuilt in 1846, with some of its features dating back to Norman times. It is built on the site of a 12th century church and the bowl, just outside the porch, is thought to be a 12th century Norman pillar piscina. The church has been an integral part of the history of the village of Woodcote for over 900 years

with memorial windows in the nave and tombs in the churchyard commemorating local families over many centuries. The cost of maintaining St Leonard's and the churchyard is extremely expensive. FOSL's purpose is to raise money via regular subscriptions and donations to assist in maintaining the church and the churchyard to ensure St Leonard's remains an attractive feature of the village. The funds are not used to support the religious activities of the church.

The subscriptions and donations we receive make a huge difference and during 2021, FOSLs were able to contribute towards essential repairs to the roof and the lightening conductor and ongoing maintenance of the churchyard and the Garden of Remembrance.

In the autumn FOSLs asked again for spring bulb donations from Woodcote villagers which resulted in another good response from the village. We also bought 750 narcissi bulbs from Mike Hill at the Woodcote Garden Centre. In total the FOSLs committee have planted 1500 narcissi this autumn which we hope will provide a lovely display this spring and for many springs to come. We also planted 1000 snowdrops in February which should flower next January 2023.

If you would like to know more about FOSLs, the committee of volunteers who run FOSLs, or would like to make a donation or regular subscription, please contact Marcia Spiers on 07776 298754 or Julie Turner on 07980 520039.

Diana Davies
FOSLs Chairman

SAVE THE DATE!

The Woodcote Village Hall will be hosting the Woodcote Spring Fair on **Sunday 24th April between 11am and 3pm**. Join us to celebrate the start of the gardening season and the best of all things Spring!

There will be stalls selling plants, crafts and produce and workshops offering hands-on planting and making opportunities.

You can keep up to date with developments and book workshops at woodcotevillagehall.com/spring-fair/ or simply call Louisa on 07929 20309. Likewise, if you would like to be involved or have a stall/plant table, please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you. Email woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com

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ARE YOU READY TO VENTURE OUT MORE?



In March 2022, Healthwatch Oxfordshire are publishing the results of their survey into rural social isolation, having gathered evidence from a number of sources throughout the earlier part of this year. Woodcote Volunteers took part in this survey.

It is generally recognised that isolation and loneliness adversely impact on a person's health and sense of wellbeing and at Woodcote Volunteers, we try to play a part in helping to alleviate this.

Woodcote Volunteers' aim has always been to remove the disadvantage people face due to not having access to transport. While we had been focussed on providing transport to health-related appointments, day centres and shopping, the committee has decided to increase the scope of our service and will now also provide transport to a wider range of social settings, such as lunch clubs, WI, the library, clubs and coffee mornings to name a few – please ask us if you are not sure – there are lots of opportunities to socialise out there! If we can reduce one of the barriers to getting out to meet others, we will have played a part in helping to alleviate isolation.

In order to use our service, the only condition is that you are without the means of transport, for whatever reason. We do not charge but ask that you pay the driver's expenses of 45p per mile or a flat rate of £1.50 if the journey is within Woodcote.

To request a driver, please call our offices on 01491 681171. If you call during office hours, 9.30-11am Monday to Friday, you will speak to one of our friendly office helpers. You can leave a message outside of these hours and someone will call you back the next working day.

If you would like to find out more about joining us as a volunteer driver, please contact our secretary Jane Forde, either through the office number above, or 07850 158274 or email janeforde32@hotmail.com. We would love you to be part of our team!

We have our own Facebook page – search for the name *Woodcote Volunteers* to find out all about us and follow us.

We are sad to say goodbye to Doreen Pragnall, Michael Mattimore and Daphne Walker who have helped local residents with driving over many years. We thank them and wish them well.

We are pleased to welcome some new volunteers to our team – Tim and Chrissy in the office, drivers Debbie, Henry and David; Also, Nikki who will collect prescriptions and shopping for people in Woodcote, Dan who created our logo and Phil who is helping us to set up a web page. Thank you all so much for the generous giving of your time.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 6th April at 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be refreshments, talks by two speakers and an opportunity to find out more about us.



CABIN PRESCHOOL

This term we are continuing with learning different traditional rhymes as well as celebrating the Chinese New Year. We have learnt lots of facts about why we do certain activities during the Chinese or Lunar New year.

We decorated Cabin as a Chinese restaurant, using lanterns, fans and dragons. Using real food, the children could explore noodles and rice. They dressed in traditional costumes and used chop sticks in play and for a Chinese snack of rice and sweetcorn. We have looked at fortune cookies, read their fortunes, and decorated them.



Chop stick snack

We also learned about the tradition of giving a red envelope or Hong Bao. Giving Hong Bao is a custom at Chinese New Year and the red envelopes always contain money in China. The red colour stands for good fortune and prosperity for the new year and it is supposed to ward off evil spirits. Cabin children received a golden chocolate coin in their Hong Bao. They wrote their age in Mandarin numbers and had a go at writing their names.

In the morning, we answered the register in Mandarin by saying 'nihao'. The children enjoy this and often repeat it for a few months. We also tried counting 1, 2, and 3 in Mandarin.



English and Chinese number writing

Another fun activity was to wrap and give oranges. Oranges are considered symbols of good luck and are often given as gifts during Chinese New Year. Tangerines, mandarins, and most other fruits also make great gifts. During the celebrations, tangerines and oranges are displayed as house decorations and exchanged as gifts. Oranges symbolize happiness, good fortune and a way to ward off evil spirits. Having mandarin oranges around the home at New Year is said to bring riches into your life.

The children wrapped some oranges in red tissue paper. When giving a gift at Chinese New Year you should pay close attention to the colour of the gift as well as the wrapping paper or bag in which it is delivered. The best choices are red, yellow and gold as they all symbolize wealth and prosperity. While the children wrapped their oranges, we practiced saying Happy New Year.



We asked the children what they want to learn about, so next term we are going to go with the children's interests, each group will do a review of the resources we have in Cabin. We will also be busy celebrating Mother's Day, St Patrick's day, Easter and World book day. We are looking forward to and are grateful for the Red Lion who are starting up their quiz nights which are a great chance to get together whilst raising some much-needed funds for Cabin on March 16th. We are also hoping to be able to hold our annual Easter bonnet parade this year.

If you're thinking of joining us, call Jayne on 01491 680854 or email info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk for more information.

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CHECKENDON PRESCHOOL



At Checkendon Preschool we have been working hard on getting the flower bed ready for the new bulbs to grow in the spring. We have been really excited to see that some of our bulbs have now started to shoot. The children have been outside looking every day to see if the flowers have appeared yet.

Work out Wednesday has been a great success with the children learning new routines, rhythms and dance moves to a variety of different music. Work out Wednesday includes a warm up and warm down, with the children observing the effects on their bodies when doing exercise.

We are also looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, where the children can bring in their favourite stories and come to preschool dressed up as their favourite story book characters. This is a great way to encourage a lifelong love of stories and reading.

preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com
Tel: 01491 682589
www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk

WOODCOTE PRESCHOOL

We are very much enjoying some brighter weather here at Preschool and we have been visiting the park and spending lots of time playing outside. We are very much looking forward to visiting our allotment and planting vegetables. The children love this experience and enjoy planting, watering, growing and eating the produce!

For Burn's Night our wonderful cook, Tanya, whipped up Scottish lunch of meatballs in gravy, neeps and tatties. The children took part in Scottish dancing, coloured in the Scottish flag and read rhyming books in honour of the poet, Robert Burns.



We celebrated Chinese New Year with a full week of fun. We purchased a new book to read, called The Great Race, which tells the story of how each Chinese Year is named after an animal. We coloured tiger pictures, listened to traditional Chinese music and sampled some Chinese foods. The prawn toast was an unexpected hit amongst the children! They all loved playing in the Chinese Restaurant roleplay area and finding coins hidden in a tray of rice. The children practised using chopsticks by picking up and sorting pom poms. They loved getting messy in a big tray of noodles, using scissors to cut them up. Crafts were a big part of the week, we made paper plate tiger faces, handprint dragons, shakers and Chinese lantern cakes.

Next, we learned all about different forms of transport. The children enjoyed making tracks on paper with cars dipped in paint. They loved pretending to be mechanics and fixing the cars with tools. We will be playing with trains, boats and planes too and pretending to work at the airport and fly the plane.



Following on from transport, we will be enjoying a week of celebrating Valentine's Day and love! We can't wait to get glittery and make some fantastic crafts. We will also be making some Valentine's biscuits and enjoying visiting an Italian restaurant.

We have spaces available and if you are interested in your child joining us, please contact Wendy Powell on 01491 682300 or email woodcote.preschool@hotmail.co.uk

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WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Woodcote 2 Berinsfield 1

Woodcote reach the Oxfordshire Cup Final!

In a tense and full-blooded encounter as was to be expected in a match which was both a local derby and a semi-final, Woodcote won by the narrowest of margins to go through to the final of the Oxfordshire Intermediate Cup. A crowd of nearly 120 spectators on the Village Green helped to create an electric atmosphere. The windy conditions and the occasion meant that throughout the match good football was at a premium and the excellent referee was forced to use his whistle regularly to signal fouls. Berinsfield were marginally quicker out of the blocks and might have taken the lead after 8 minutes, but somehow a forward managed to shoot over from close-range with the goal at his mercy.

Shortly afterwards, Mike Mattimore had the ball in the net for Woodcote but was ruled offside. The next clear chance fell to Berinsfield from a free-kick and Woodcote were fortunate that keeper Steve McMullen was in top form as he dived to save the shot and then managed to block the follow-up. Eventually it was first-blood to Woodcote after 35 minutes. Mike Mattimore was the provider as he left defenders sprawling in his wake only to see his shot blocked, but the ball rebounded to Matt Ploszynski who fired home an unstoppable shot. The second half was less than a minute old when Berinsfield levelled the score with a close-range shot and soon afterwards, Steve McMullen was again called-upon to make an excellent save to deny the visitors the lead.

On 55 minutes, the tie appeared to have turned in Woodcote's favour as Berinsfield were reduced to ten men. Joe Webber was clean through and bearing down on goal when he was brought down and the offender was shown a red card. Webber soon found himself in a good position again, but he was thwarted by a brilliant save. Berinsfield refused to lie down in spite of the numerical disadvantage and on the hour mark they were awarded a penalty for a foul by Ryan Corbett. The penalty was a good one, but Steve McMullen's save was outstanding. With 10 minutes remaining, Woodcote scored the decisive goal and it owed everything to long-serving twins Frank and Jake Dillon. Frank's inch-perfect free-kick found Jake whose back-header found the net, the keeper having rushed from goal and failing to make contact. The home side then found themselves reduced to ten men as Ofari Boateng was shown a second yellow card for a foul.

The last ten minutes were nervous ones, and it took yet another great save from man-of-the-match Steve McMullen to see Woodcote through to the final, where they will play Easington Sports on a date and at a venue yet to be decided. An interesting historical coincidence is that the last time Woodcote played in this final (and won the cup) was in 1976 when they played Easington Sports with club President, Sam Peates and club Groundsman, Stuart Higley, in the team.

Our locally-based team remain on course for achieving a 'double.' Three emphatic league wins in



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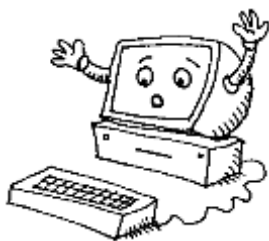
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January have raised us to the top of the Hellenic League Division 2 (East) table. A narrow 3-2 win over Penn & Tylers Green at home saw goals scored by Frank Dillon, Toby Nowell and Matt Ploszynski. The next Saturday we crushed Aldermaston by 8-0 away with goals coming from Sam Green 2, Joe Webber 2, Frank Dillon, Toby Nowell, James Worsfold, and Archie Clark. Next to be put to the sword were Eversley who lost at Woodcote by 6-1 with Ryan Corbett 2, Toby Nowell 2, Alec Curtis and Mike Mattimore the scorers. We enter February 2 points clear of our nearest rivals with two games in-hand and an incredible goal difference of 48.

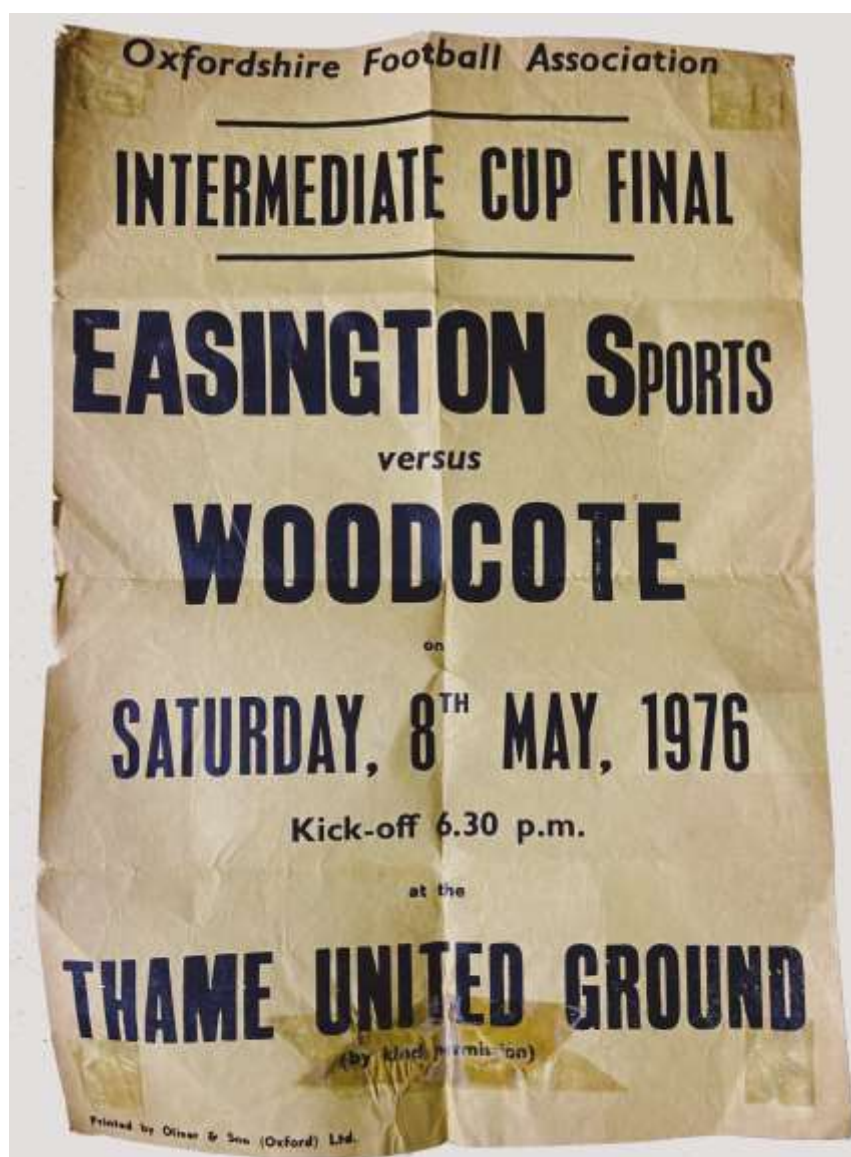
And, finally, we are holding a Football & Cricket Clubs Race Night at the Village Hall on Saturday, April 2nd. Look out for further details on Facebook.

SP.



The Woodcote team that defeated Berinsfield in the County Cup semi-final

Pictures from the match below.



Poster advertising the last time Woodcote played in this final



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WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season is edging closer and the opening game on Sunday 24th April is an away friendly game against Peppard Stoke Row. The Berkshire League matches begin on Saturday 7th May with our newly-formed 2nd XI at home in the local derby against Checkendon 2nd XI. On that day, the 1st XI travel to Farley Hill as they start their campaign to regain the Berkshire League title they won in 2021.

The South Oxon Midweek League gets underway with a home match against Clifton Hampden on Wednesday 11th May. Once again, we will be hosting BBC Caversham for their Sunday home matches. Net practices will be held in late March and through April and we are anticipating that lots of new players will be attending. We are very keen to recruit as many new players as possible to enable our new 2nd XI to thrive. Also, in the April edition I will provide details of the Saturday morning coaching sessions which we are helping to run on the Green. Sessions will start in May and take place between 9.00 and 10.00 am. Finally, you will see from the football report that we are holding a Race Night in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd April and we hope to sell as many tickets as possible. Please do contact me if you wish to know more about any or all the opportunities we are offering – sampeates@gmail.com, 07710858366.

SP

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BOWLING IN PANGBOURNE



Pangbourne and District Bowls Club is celebrating its centenary year this season. It was in 1922 that our founder members decided to create a brand-new bowling green on the banks of the River Thames. 100 years later, the Club continues to provide excellent facilities at our home next to the tennis courts at the Recreation Ground in Thames Avenue although our membership, like many other clubs, has seen a steady decline over the years.

We are now actively looking to recruit new adult members, with or without experience of bowls, to join us. We would appreciate hearing from individuals and local businesses who may be able to offer any support.

Why don't you come along to our Open Day on Saturday 9th April from 2pm to 5pm and have a go? All you need is a pair of flat shoes (to protect the



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green). We will provide a set of bowls and someone to show you what to do.

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OXFORDSHIRE ART WEEKS



Oxfordshire Art weeks is the UK's biggest artist open studios and pop-up exhibition event and they are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year.

Jayne Ford, a local artist based in Crays Pond, will be exhibiting from her garden studio during May. Visitors are welcome to pop along and take a look at some of her works varying from

landscapes to portraits in both oil paint and soft pastel. All work will be available for sale but Jayne is more than happy for people to just to come and take a look! Refreshments will be available. Please email mail@jayneford.com for more information if needed. The studio is at Summit, Goffs Hill, Crays Pond. RG87QD and will be open 12pm-4pm on May 14th/15th/16th/18th/20th/21st/22nd.



Walk from Goring to South Stoke



Spring flowers (using oil paint)

THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR OF THE CLOCKS

'Boris Johnson always keeps his clocks ten minutes fast', read my wife triumphantly. 'See!'. Now it must be said that my wife would not normally take Boris Johnson as a role model for her behaviour, but since on this occasion he was in accord with her she was prepared to waive a point. Yes, my wife too keeps our dining-room clock ten minutes fast. As did her father before her, and so, I understand, King George V. What is it with these people? Do they get some perverse pleasure out of tricking Father Time? Do they just like doing clock arithmetic? And why is it always ten minutes? Is this a tradition somehow deeply rooted in history, perhaps going back to an edict of King Alfred after he lost track of the time and burnt the cakes?

It wouldn't be so bad if she was consistent, but all the other clocks and watches in the house are set to the right time, so one has to constantly remind oneself that that particular clock is wrong. This is quite a challenge for one like myself who despite having lived in the house for fifty years can still never remember which light switch puts on the hall light and which puts on the porch light. And it wouldn't be so bad if the clock itself were consistent, but it is a very ornamental clock, and in accordance with the general rule pertaining to household objects, that the more ornamental they are, the more useless they are; its hands are constantly slipping and it is just as likely to be fifteen minutes fast as ten. 'That's all right', says my wife, 'that means we've got even more time'. But to do what with? Basically, to wait out the ten or fifteen minutes before doing what we were going to do at the right time anyway. I don't get it.

And on the subject of useless ornamental objects, what about the beautiful pottery soap dispenser in the cloakroom that stubbornly refuses to dispense any liquid soap, so has to be accompanied by a common-or-garden squeeze bottle that does the job with unpretentious efficiency. Or the posh wooden pepper-mill that reluctantly dispenses a grain or two of pepper after five minutes of hard grinding? Not to mention the case of the arty lampshades that curled up and charred when actually exposed to the heat of a light bulb.

But to return to clocks. I have an idea. I shall write to Boris. 'Sir, I do not ask you to explain your foreign policy, your economic policy or any other policy, accepting that your wisdom in these matters is likely to be so much greater than mine, but please, please can you explain the thing about the clocks. Just if you happen to have a spare ten minutes...'

David Sutton



SPRINGING INTO ACTION

Snowdrops might have finished, but the days are getting noticeably longer and the early daffs remind us spring is on its way. Having survived winter, wildlife is now springing into action and preparing to breed.

After spending the last few months 'tucked up' under logs, the warmer days of spring encourage amphibians (frogs, newts and toads) to find a pond where they can mate and spawn. Amphibians migrate to breeding ponds between dawn and dusk when the weather is mild and damp. As dusk coincides with rush hour, unfortunately quite a number get killed on roads so Woodcote's toad patrollers are once again out near Greenmoor Ponds. Armed with torches, these 'lollipop people' collect the amphibians in buckets and take them across the road to the safety of the ponds. Between now and when the clocks go forward, if you would like to lend a hand, then we would love to hear from you. Just turn up with a torch and a clean bucket on a damp evening, or ring Rachel on 07980 556473 for more information.



Birds are busily singing as they establish territories and build their nests. Those which have been here all winter are being joined by others arriving from warmer places, be it further south in England, elsewhere in Europe, or even Africa. If you feed the birds, remember to keep the feeders topped up and put out fresh water every day. Naturally occurring live food like beetles, worms, aphids and larvae have all declined massively in our countryside which has created a major problem for many birds that feed their chicks and fledglings on live food. Providing mealworms makes a huge difference to chick and fledgling survival numbers and the adults benefit from live food at any time of year. Just place the live food in a smooth sided container (so they can't wriggle out!) and watch the fun start.

And March is when hedgehogs usually stir after their hibernation and start to be seen. Spring is a critical time for providing hedgehogs with water and supplementary food, available from the Woodcote Garden Centre.

Hedgehogs love visiting gardens to forage for the slugs, caterpillars and beetles they like to eat, or to find a mate. If your garden is enclosed, you might be getting in the way of their plans. To make hedgehogs' lives easier, a CD case-sized hole (13 x 13cm) at the base of your garden fence will let

hedgehogs through but be too small for most pets. If you'd like some help making a hole, the Woodcote Conservation Group is here to assist you so email info@woodcotecg.org.uk

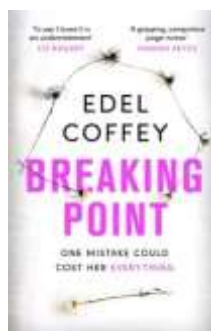


Thank you
Woodcote Conservation Group

BOOKS TO READ IN SPRING

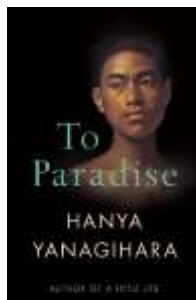
January and February tend to be relatively quiet months for bookshops after the hubbub of Christmas. So we thought this month we'd showcase a few of the books published in January that you may otherwise have missed.

Breaking Point by Edel Coffey



Sure to be a book club choice, Coffey's debut is a captivating and thought-provoking emotional thriller that raises some challenging questions about the pressures society places on all of us, and particularly on working mothers. Dr Sue is a successful paediatrician and celebrity parenting expert with a handsome husband and two beautiful children. Until she makes a heart-breaking mistake. Adelaide Gold is a successful reporter assigned to Susannah's story, but her own traumatic past threatens to overwhelm her.

To Paradise by Hanya Yanagihara



It's seven years since *A Little Life* made the Booker shortlist, and Yanagihara is back with another beguiling novel. *To Paradise* is set in three alternative visions of America in 1893, 1993 and 2093, and through these parallel worlds, Yanagihara explores issues pertinent to today including race relations, sexual identity and climate change. This is an immersive read - don't be put off by the book's size (700 pages). Yanagihara's skilful prose immediately transports you into her worlds. A stunning novel.

Two Storm Wood by Philip Gray

Set in 1919, this vivid historical thriller follows three British people whose lives have been irrevocably changed by the war. Amy Vanneck travels to France to find her fiancé, Edward Hallam, who is missing in action. Captain Mackenzie runs an operation to exhume and identify the fallen soldiers on the



battlefields surrounding Two Storm Wood in France. Whilst sifting through obfuscating army paperwork to find Edward, Amy seemingly uncovers an atrocity involving 13 murders at Two Storm Wood, and Edward appears to be implicated. This is a wonderful debut by an author who is one to watch.

Call the Wallingford Bookshop team on 01491 834383 to place an order or pop in to see them to browse and chat about books.

THE GAP FESTIVAL RETURNS THIS JUNE!



Photo by Bernard Novell

As the days start to grow longer, we all start to look forward to what the warmer months will bring: fun-filled days, summer events and celebrations of coming together again.

This year's GAP Festival will turn those musings into reality for us all this June, turning Goring and Streatley into a colourful, vibrant and festive atmosphere across its streets and through the doors of its local venues. This year's festival will be a chance to come together again and celebrate all that makes our local communities so special.

With a 4-day Jubilee Bank Holiday to kick it all off, you'll have severe FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) if you've not got the festival dates in your diary yet. The 2nd – 12th June, in case you are now reaching for your calendar!

The full 10-day programme of music, theatre, comedy, talks, arts and family events for all ages is almost there! And you can be first to hear when it's released this spring by heading over to www.thegapfestival.org and subscribing to our e-newsletter.

On Sunday 5 June, we are planning another amazing Jubilee Street party to celebrate this historic occasion. We hope that it will be every bit as joyful and memorable as the one in 2012 during our Diamond Jubilee celebrations, which was widely reported as the *longest Jubilee Street party in Britain*, as 4,000 people joined a continuous 1km line of tables stretching from Goring railway bridge to Streatley traffic lights.

The aim is that this spectacular event will be fully inclusive and free to attend as it was in 2012. So the festival team is calling out to any local businesses,

community funds or individuals who might be able to support the event, to get in touch, so that we can recreate this magical occasion. Find out more details here: www.thegapfestival.org



We have announced an extension to registrations for this year's *Children's Film Festival*. A smartphone is all that's needed to get started. All school ages can enter their own simple short-film to be part of the red-carpet premiere screening taking place on Sunday 12 June. So if you have some avid TikTokers, media studies students or simply want to inspire the young ones in your household, sign up at www.thegapfestival.org and join those already registered in shining a spotlight on the local creative young talent we have living locally. Who knows perhaps the Oscar winners of the future are right under our noses!

Finally, contact us if you might be able to help with our event planning, marshalling or bars during the festival itself. We also want to hear from any local groups and businesses that would like to support, sponsor or get involved in the programme in some way. Find out how at www.thegapfestival.org/support-us

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Some March dates for your diary:

Wed 2nd: NEW DIGITAL ADVENTURE. This new talk by Colin Harrison shows the creative side of his photography and includes some of his digital "secrets." He will be covering many different genres of work including images used in international panels and exhibitions, "believe it or not" images, how to replace a sky in an image and how he uses lesser-known imaging software.

Wed 9th: DIGITAL COMPETITION No 3 Yet again there is no set subject for Round 3 this season - our images will be judged by Mark Buckley-Sharp making his second visit this season.

Wed 16th: DIGITAL AUDIO-VISUAL COMPETITION. Our annual delve in to the world of audio visual and, as usual, we will be viewing a good selection of digital sequences when you will be the judge tonight to determine who will be the winner.

Wed 23rd: ALL BAR ONE – Part 1. Micki Aston makes a welcome return visit to take us on the first half of a photographic journey to every single state in the USA except Hawaii. This is literally a journey around all 50 states (including Washington DC as a state). Part Two to follow next season.

BRITISH MODERN MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY



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

The first of our two March talks will be a Zoom talk on *The Boer War* by Dr Spencer Jones on 1st March at 7.30pm. The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) was a bitter and controversial conflict that marked a watershed in the history of the British Empire. Britain had gone to war in 1899 confident of a swift victory against the outnumbered Boer irregulars. But the conflict confounded these expectations.

The opening battles saw the British Army suffer a series of humiliating defeats before reinforcements turned the tide in 1900. Yet even after the British had conquered the Boer republics, the war raged on in the form of a bloody guerrilla conflict that left swathes of South Africa devastated.

This period of savage fighting would come to be characterised by what Liberal Party leader Henry Campbell-Bannerman condemned as 'methods of barbarism', including scorched earth, summary executions and, most notoriously of all, concentration camps.

Dr Spencer Jones will explore the course and conduct of the Boer War and consider its legacy for both Britain and her army.

Dr Spencer Jones is an award-winning historian and author. He is Senior Lecturer in Armed Forces and War Studies at the University of Wolverhampton and serves as the Regimental Historian for the Royal Regiment of Artillery. His works include 'From Boer War to World War: Tactical Reform of the British Army, 1902-1914' and 'Stemming the Tide: Officers and Leadership in the British Expeditionary Force, 1914'. His most recent work is 'At All Costs: The British Army on the Western Front, 1916'.

The second BMMHS talk in March will be by John Cotterill on *From Wellington's Army to Kitchener's Army - The Crimean War and its Consequences* on Wednesday 9 March at 7.30pm in Woodcote Village Hall. John Cotterill is a self-employed battlefield guide for military groups, veterans, civilian clubs, families, individuals and schools. He was a founder member of the Guild of Battlefield Guides in 2003, was badged in 2004 (Badge 10) and was a Guild validator for 15 years.

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.

Calling all Falklands War veterans - To mark the 40th anniversary in 2022, the British Modern Military History Society is compiling a book of memories and stories of those who served in the Falklands. The stories can be of any role, any of the services, civilians, Falkland Islanders, those based in UK or the families of those who served. We would also be interested in any stories from the Argentine perspective too.

All profits will go to the charity Blind Veterans UK

If you have a story to tell - whether a short anecdote or a longer piece - then please get in touch andy.cockeram@bmmhs.org

CALLING ALL BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Are you interested in learning more about photography or getting creative with your smartphone or camera? Come along to Wallingford Photographic Club in 2022: we are an informal and inclusive group of photographers with a weekly programme of talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions. We are meeting online still, but we are offering a full programme and coming up in March, we have talks on a range of interesting subjects: on 17th we welcome James Kerwin to show us his adventures with "Abandoned Architecture". Then on 24th we wrap up warm as Eddy & Pam Lane take us on a voyage "In the footsteps of Shackleton".

From the technical side, we'll learn all about photo editing on 31st March, with Joe Houghton's "I didn't know Lightroom could do that!"; an entertaining and comprehensive session showing hidden tools in Lightroom from an Adobe certified expert.

The club meets via Zoom every Thursday from 7.30pm until around 9.30pm. Please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club to find out more, or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

CHOLSEY CONCERTS

Concerts@Cholsey is pleased to announce a concert by popular five-piece folk band Magpie Lane, at the Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 12th March. Doors open at 7.00 pm for 7.45 start. Tickets are £10 from 01491 652295 or concerts@cholsey.com



Magpie Lane Folk Band

There will be a moderately priced real ale bar and support act. Anti-Covid measures will be in place, including spaced seating.

Send an email request if you would like to receive updates on the Concerts@Cholsey series and other local, live music.

WHAT TO DO WITH USED STAMPS

You may remember that there used to be a tin in the library for the collection of used stamps.

This has now been reinstated with the agreement of the Library Manager, so please use the used stamps box in the library. The stamps will be passed on for the benefit of local charities.

VC

Light in Woodcote – by Jackie Comrie



DING DONG BELL!

Did you know that bell ringing is good for you! It provides moderate and measured exercise, it suggests a little intellectual stimulation, it increases your social activity and it can even give opportunity for controlled refreshment. All these benefits for an hour or two a week spent in convivial company in the bell chamber of Checkendon church.

It is an ancient and (mostly) honourable profession, dating in its present form from the seventeenth century, when a certain Richard Duckworth and a certain Fabian Steadman wrote *Tintinologia* and *Campanologia*, more or less inventing the form of ringing called “method”, now practised throughout the country. Its proponents are, for the most part, upright and sober citizens – not always true of their eighteenth and seventeenth century forbears who obtained a slight reputation for unruliness – who are regarded favourably by their peers. They are useful at social gatherings, if only for their ability to speak an undecipherable language known only to themselves.

The local followers of this craft perform at Checkendon, practising for an hour and a half on Wednesdays and making public appearances at services on Sundays. There is at present a national shortage of these valuable people, which we should like to repair, at least locally, by having you – man, woman or child (over twelve) – come and join us. You can then astound your friends by telling them you are a bellringer. It costs nothing – you are even paid for ringing at weddings!

So come and see us on any Wednesday at the church and we will show you what we do and welcome you into an organisation which has branches with unlikely names such as “The Ancient Society of College Youths”. Or, if you must be technical, telephone our captain, David, on 01491 681741.

WALLINGFORD COUNTRY MARKET – COME AND VISIT US!

We are open each Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church, (behind the Town Hall), between 9.30 am – 12 noon.

Our Easter Market will be held on ‘Maundy Thursday’, 14th April, instead of ‘Good Friday’. Orders can be placed for most items we sell, including Easter Cakes, (please place orders for Simnel Cakes a little in advance), and other baked goods. Also on sale are handcrafted items. Colourful pots of spring bulbs, primroses and polyanthus can be found on the Gardening Table. These will give way to the ever-popular plants for bedding, baskets and borders during May/June. A lot of what we sell changes with the seasons – you never know what you may find! For further information please contact: Alison Broadbridge (01491-681596), Sandra Halstead (01491-836527) or come and visit us one Friday morning.

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WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB (WADAC)

Our demonstration on Tuesday 15 March 2022 is an online live demonstration entitled "Landscape in watercolour" by Paul Talbot-Greaves



Paul is a professional artist and he works with watercolour, oil and acrylic. His work reflects the rugged scenery of the landscape either in the context of wild places or in the nature of the Yorkshire hills where John lives.

He draws his inspiration from historical connections using layers of colour, texture, shapes and patterns applied with energy and feeling. His main inspiration is light and the effects created by the contrasts of shadows.

Paul writes many articles for The Artist magazine (UK) and he has four practical art books published. He is represented by numerous galleries based around the North of England.

Our demonstrations are held at 7.30pm online. 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 are still running 10am-1pm for developing your own work with the tutor. Also at 2 - 4.30pm, a structured class on all techniques of drawing and painting.

Workshop on Saturday 26 March with Paul Oakley Landscapes in oils/acrylics. To be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, 10am -4pm £40.

If you are interested in joining, please contact davidbooth7@outlook.com or tel. 01491 681400 or admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk

THE CORN EXCHANGE, WALLINGFORD UPDATE

Cinema

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

Tickets £8 for adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated. Please look out for updates for the programme on www.cornexchange.org.uk.

The Eyes of Tammy Faye (12A)

Tuesday, 1st March, 7:30pm

Moonfall (12A)

Wednesday, 2nd March, 7:30pm

Thursday, 3rd March, 7:30pm

Friday, 4th March, 7:30pm

Saturday, 5th March, 7:30pm

Death on the Nile (12A)

Sunday, 13th March, 7:30pm

Monday, 14th March, 7:30pm

Tuesday, 15th March, 7:30pm

Wednesday, 16th March, 7:30pm

Thursday, 17th March, 7:30pm

Friday, 18th March, 7:30pm

Saturday, 19th March, 7:30pm

Live Screenings

Rigoletto

Sunday, 13th March, 2pm

(filmed screening from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden). Sung in Italian with English subtitles.

A new production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, directed by Oliver Mears – his first as Director of The Royal Opera. This production sees Verdi's masterpiece as a modern morality play that pits power against innocence, beauty against ugliness, in a pitiless world of luxurious decadence, corruption and social decay. The Duke of Mantua is a serial womaniser. At a palace party, not content with the married Countess Ceprano, the Duke reveals he is also infatuated with a mysterious woman he has seen in church. The hunchbacked jester Rigoletto jokes that the Duke should have the Countess's husband murdered. Count Ceprano vows to kidnap Rigoletto's lover as punishment. Chaos descends when the elderly Count Monterone arrives and confronts the Duke for seducing his daughter – a third woman! Rigoletto takes his jesting too far, and the old man curses him. Rigoletto's so-called 'lover' is in fact his daughter, Gilda, whom he keeps under lock and key at home. She has secretly fallen in love with the Duke of Mantua, who came to her church in disguise. Gilda is kidnapped by Count Ceprano and delivered into the Duke's clutches. Rigoletto engages an assassin to exact his revenge. But before the day is out, the old man's curse will exert its deadly power.

Live on Stage

Showtime 2

From 9th to 12th March

The Showtime team are back!

Featuring the very best of what modern musical theatre has to offer, Showtime 2 (actually the fifth Showtime since 1991) includes music from shows like *Mary Poppins*, *Miss Saigon*, *Cats*, *Les Misérables* and more...

This quality of production is second-to-none, as anyone who's been in previous Showtime audiences will testify! Don't miss this chance to see the best of local singing talent alongside musical direction and expertise from London's glittering West End.

The Constant Wife by Somerset Maugham

From 29th March to 2nd April

This is a production by the Sinodun Players.

Coming Soon

La Traviata

Wednesday, 13th April, 6:45pm

(live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden)

Richard Eyre's time-honoured production of Verdi's most popular opera. The beautiful score contains some of Verdi's most inspired arias and duets, including Violetta's joyous 'Sempre libera', and her poignant and passionate encounters with Alfredo and Germont. The superficial glamour of 19th-century Paris contrasts with scenes of great intimacy, culminating in the memorable, heart-breaking final act. Alfredo Germont and the courtesan Violetta Valéry fall in love at a party in Violetta's Paris salon. Alfredo is determined to cure Violetta of her tuberculosis, and the couple leave Paris and begin a contented life in the country. But Violetta's happiness is destroyed when Alfredo's father Giorgio Germont pays her a visit.

The Bootleg Shadows

Saturday, 23rd April, 7:45pm

With their immaculate appearance, synchronised dance movements and clean, pure melodic sound, the Shadows chalked up 35 hits of their own (not counting another 33 hits with Cliff Richard), giving them more hits than any other British group and securing them a unique place in the annals of popular music. Today the Shadows make few live appearances but the Bootleg Shadows keep their 'live' sound alive by performing a fantasy concert that encompasses the Shadows amazing career from 1960 up until the early 80s. Concert audiences are invited to relive fantastic hits such as: *Foot Tapper*, *Man of Mystery*, *Atlantis*, *Wonderful Land*, *Kon Tiki*, *Don't Cry for Me Argentina*, *FBI* plus many, many more. For anyone who loves the sounds of the 60's – and enjoys a few laughs on the way – Bootleg Shadows perform a unique tribute that has audiences humming the tunes and doing the Shadows famous 'walk' long after they have left the theatre.

GORING CHAMBER CHOIR CELEBRATES IN STYLE ...

On Saturday 23rd April, Goring Chamber Choir revisits the impressive sonority of Douai Abbey for its 70th anniversary concert, postponed from last year. Celebrating the occasion with professional soloists and orchestra, the Choir will be performing Handel's brilliant and virtuosic psalm setting *Dixit Dominus* and Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis* (Mass in a time of anxiety) known as the 'Nelson' Mass. The concert will be conducted by Frances Brewitt-Taylor, who recently celebrated her 30th year as musical director of Goring Chamber Choir.

Audiences at the three most recent concerts have been full of praise for the Choir's tone quality, blend, control and sheer joy.

Oxford's distinguished period-instrument orchestra *Charivari Agréable Simfonie*, directed by Kah-Ming Ng, will bring their blazing vitality to the performance, as will the superb soloists Hilary Cronin (soprano), Samantha Price (mezzo-soprano), Guy Withers (tenor) and John Savournin (bass-baritone). Hilary won the First Prize and Audience Prize at the 2021 London Handel International Singing Competition. Samantha Price is a former Harewood Young Artist at English National Opera. Guy Withers was a 2021 Young Artist at Opera Holland Park and John Savournin is described as "an effortlessly physical performer, who carries himself as gracefully, and as engagingly, as he sings."

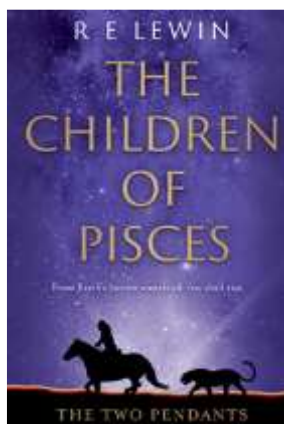
The concert takes place at Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, RG7 5TQ, and starts at 7.30pm. Tickets (£20; free for under-18s) are available from:

Inspiration, Goring,

Garlands Organic and Natural, Pangbourne

or email: tickets@goringchamberchoir.co.uk

YOUNG WRITERS' COMPETITION FOR BERKS AND OXON; AGE 11-18



Would you like to win a young adult book and vouchers? Then this competition is for you!

Competition rules: for ages 11-18, write on any theme of your choice. Email entries to info@rachaelruthholistic.co.uk Deadline 20th March. Winners announced 23rd March. 2 age group entries

Age 11-14 should write between 500-1000 words

Age 15-18 should write between 1500-2000 words

Keep an eye on my social media for where I will be available to meet you in person and for an advanced reading of my young adult sci-fi 'The Children of Pisces,' ahead of publication in March. My twin son and daughter helped me edit the series during

lockdown (aged 12 now) and they will help me select the final 6 winners.

Write without fear, young authors.

1st prize: Hard copy of *The Children of Pisces* – The Two Pendants & £20 book voucher

2nd prize: Hardcopy of *The Children of Pisces* – The Two Pendants & £10 book voucher

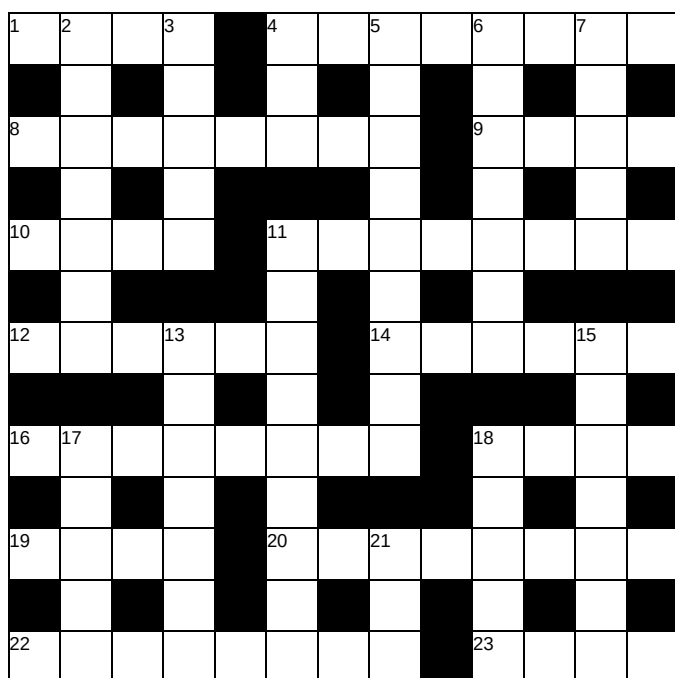
3rd prize: Hardcopy of *The Children of Pisces* – The Two Pendants & £5 book voucher

<https://rachaelruthholistic.co.uk/my-writing>

Woodcote Snowdrops by Jackie Comrie



MARCH CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 For first place go to odd lady (4)
- 4 Also left before turning north African into machine shop (8)
- 8 Demobs or breaks up Sinbad's last squad (8)
- 9 Tries to make tracks (4)
- 10 Agreement to quietly perform (4)
- 11 Marx brother puts nothing on last knight's lance (8)
- 12 Metal shard I moved up (6)
- 14 Bobby's coin (6)
- 16 Clears off after press car crashes (8)
- 18 Some of minority upset club (4)
- 19 Threesome take first trip to capital (4)
- 20 Way to higher authority (8)
- 22 Quiet Spaniard has middling crummy metal (8)
- 23 Spot last little mole (4)

Down

- 2 Partly go to rig a military craft (7)
- 3 Take from a girl with sex appeal (5)
- 4 Half boy detective can? (3)
- 5 Old boy swaggers around 100 blocks (9)
- 6 Reform soldiers band (7)
- 7 Theatre unveils episode on screen (5)
- 11 Chequered entertainer juggles hen, quail and the tail of eider (9)
- 13 Vicar goes back to doctor New Testament in US (7)
- 15 Vanity jaunt say? Back to death wish (7)
- 17 Carol about an anniversary (5)
- 18 Angry about single score (5)
- 21 Dosimeter's internal id circuit (3)

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD SOLUTION



TRUSTEES WANTED – CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND — OXFORDSHIRE



Do you care about your local countryside? Want to make a difference?

CPRE Oxfordshire is the voice of the countryside in Oxfordshire. Due to retirement of current members, we are looking for new

trustees to join our team.

This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside.

Application deadline is 31st March 2022 in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Secretary Dorian Grier by Email: dorian.cpre@gmail.com or Tel: 01491 612079

See our website for more information: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Our ever increasingly popular Auction will take place on Wednesday 9th March commencing at 7.45 (Viewing from 6.45 p.m.) Non-Members are welcome. The Catalogue is on our website. Do have a look, you may find just what you have been searching for to fill that gap.

March 9th Open Auction 7.45 pm.

March 23rd Guest Speaker TBA

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th week 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

DATES FOR THE DIARY — MARCH

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

Tues 1st	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'The Boer War'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 2nd	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club talk: 'New Digital Adventure'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 3rd	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club Competition - Abingdon Battle. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Sat 5th	*	FOWPS Coffee Morning. Community Centre coffee shop. 10am-12.30pm
Wed 9th	*	BMMHS Talk: 'From Wellington's Army towards Kitchener's Army: The Crimean War and its Consequences'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting - Open Auction. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Digital Competition No.3. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 10th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club member's evening. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club Zoom meeting. 8pm
Sat 12th	*	Woodcote Craft & Produce Fair. Langtree School Main Hall. 10am-1.30pm
	*	Saturday Crafts - Spring Flower Crafts. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am
	*	Concerts@Cholsey present Magpie Lane in concert. Cholsey Pavilion. 7.45pm
Mon 14th	*	Friends of St. Leonard's AGM. Via Zoom - email diana.c.davies@btinternet.com. 7.30pm
Tues 15th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club on-line demonstration: 'Landscape in watercolour' by Paul Talbot-Greaves. Email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk. 7.30pm
	*	Goring Gap Photo Club: Competition - Barry Michael Trophy Part 2. Goring Free Church Hall. 8pm
Wed 16th	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Digital Audio Visual Competition. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 17th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Abandoned Architecture'. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Wed 23rd	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm

SMALL ADS

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

MARCH DATES *Continued*

Wed 23rd	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club talk: 'All Bar One - Part 1'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 24th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'In The Footsteps of Shackleton'. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Tues 29th	*	Goring Gap Photo Club talk: 'London and Marrakech'. Goring Free Church Hall. 8pm
Wed 30th	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 6x4 Competition & discussion evening. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 31st	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'I didn't know Lightroom could do that!'. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: JPCR 6-Club Competition. Via Zoom. 8pm

FORTHCOMING DATES IN APRIL

Tues 5th	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'The Indian Mutiny'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 6th	*	Woodcote Volunteers AGM. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Digital Competition No.4. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 7th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club Competition: Portfolio and Travel. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
Wed 6th	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
Sat 9th	*	Saturday Crafts - Easter Decorations. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am
	*	Pangbourne and District Bowls Club Open Day. Pangbourne Recreation Ground. 2pm-5pm.

CLOSING THOUGHT

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else. -

Charles Dickens, novelist (7 Feb 1812-1870)