



Woodcote

Vol 33 No 9
November 2021

CORRESPONDENT

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS RETURN!



Cabin Preschool



Woodcote Preschool

Thankfully this year, the children of Cabin and Woodcote preschools were able to mark and celebrate Harvest Festival just as they did before the pandemic. Their impeccable behaviour did not go unnoticed as Reverend Linda led the service by reading them stories and inviting them to join in with song (they all spent ages learning the songs beforehand).

Not only did many of our locals benefit from receiving harvest boxes, but the children learned the importance of giving to others (they even baked bread!). And it goes without saying that the children relished the opportunity for a good day out – even if it was just within the village!

Woodcote Primary School
delivering Harvest Boxes



COMMENT FROM THE VICARAGE

Plans are afoot for the return of St. Leonard's Fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th November. You will find information elsewhere of all the good things that will be on offer. It goes without saying how pleased we are to be able to hold the Fair once again, and we are grateful to the karate club who use the hall in the morning for helping us to access the spaces we need to prepare for the afternoon. I wonder if you know why we have what is quite a lot like a Christmas Fair in early November? Well, the clue is in the name! St. Leonard is a saint of the church, and his Festival Day is celebrated on November 6th. This year the Fair falls on the actual day but usually it is held on the Saturday nearest that date.

St. Leonard is depicted in one of our stained-glass windows. The biography of saints tells us that he was born near the town of Orleans, towards the end of the fifth century, the son of a French nobleman, a high-ranking soldier in the court of King Clovis I. At the age of fourteen, Leonard entered a monastery and after undertaking his studies entered Holy Orders. Leonard was a truly holy man and he was known to be able to heal people and bring them to spiritual enlightenment. The king heard of this and wanted Leonard to become chaplain to his court, but Leonard chose instead to move into the forest and live as a hermit, devoting himself to a life of prayer and solitude. However, he was known for his kindness and compassion and in time befriended prisoners and war captives. In our window he is pictured holding the manacles and chains of a prisoner and it is thought he was chosen as the patron saint of our church because of its location in what would have once been a very wooded area.

I'm always encouraged by his story as I like the idea that he was such a kind and caring person who offered hospitality and friendship to those in need. At St. Leonard's we hope to do the same, and our annual Fair is never just about raising fund but rather one way of offering friendship and hospitality. I do hope that we will see lots of you there.

Coming along very soon after will be Remembrance Sunday on 14th November. This year I anticipate that we will be able to gather at the War Memorial as we have been accustomed to in previous years. If your group wishes to lay a wreath at the memorial, do let me know and I will include you in the proceedings. It will be a joy and a privilege to come together to remember those who gave so much for the sake of future generations.

And then – dare I mention the C word?

We are excited to have some different things planned for our village celebrations, but you will have to wait a little longer until all is revealed!

With all blessings and prayers for your safekeeping,
Linda

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

Services at St. Leonard's in November:

Sunday 7th November

8.00 am Holy Communion in church

9.45 am Holy Communion in church

Sunday 14th November

8.00 am Holy Communion in church

10.45 am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed by a Service of Remembrance in church.

Sunday 21st November

8.00 am Holy Communion in church

9.45 am 'The Open Door' in church

Sunday 28th November

8.00 am Holy Communion in church

10.00 am 'Morning Praise' online

Online Services

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

We'd love people to feel that they can join us at any time – we are a very friendly and relaxed bunch! So please do email me if you would like details of how to join an online service.

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

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Though a little belated, a very big thank you to all who supported our Table Top Sale in September. Thanks to your help and generosity - we raised just over £600 in aid of St Leonard's Church flower fund!

So now, as congregation and visitors are once more permitted and welcomed back to St Leonard's, we are looking to expand the Flower Team who provide and maintain our floral arrangements. Working as a team, members pre-select mutually convenient date(s) which are slotted into a rota. Generally, flowers are arranged on either a Friday or Saturday allowing some flexibility to fit in with family or work commitments. Occasionally, arrangements are sponsored to celebrate, or in memory of, a personal event or anniversary. At Easter, Harvest and Christmas festivals, the Flower Team collectively create the many beautiful floral arrangements which decorate the Church.

Would you like to join our team? Arranging church flowers is both satisfying and relaxing and new members are always welcome - with or without experience. You do not need to be an expert – just keen to learn and share. Why not give us a call, we look forward to hearing from you.

(Sandra: 01491 680205 or Sue: 01491 681510)

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Remember, remember...it's nearly the 5th November already! We have listed a few firework events in this issue but we have also included some useful tips on how to keep your pets calm and happy during

the build up to this exciting time of year. Plus, we have some fun firework facts for you; can November really get any better?!

Also in this issue, we are seeing even more local groups/events starting up again; some cheer to look forward to as we head towards the colder, darker months of the year. So do show your support if you can. All the details are in this issue.

Until next month

Yvette

PUBLISHER INFORMATION

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear All,

I am very sorry to inform you all that after organising various live music events in the area for over 60 years, including over 20 years in Goring whilst retired, I am regretfully giving up, heading, as I am for my 82nd year, HELP!

Up to the last few days I was hoping to tell you that David Cheeseman would continue the live music but various people who were to help him have, for justifiable reasons, backed out. David was happy running the bar and could get front of house help but a general dog's body like me could not be found. I booked the bands, organised hiring, insurance, publicity, tickets, posters etc. I was desperate that live music continued in Goring but it seems not possible. Still, we had the pleasure in Goring to hear and see dozens of great talents including Acker Bilk, Kenny Ball, George Melly, Jamie Cullum, the 26-piece band of the R.A.F. The Squadronairs and of course our President for many years and playing for 11 Christmas gigs, the greatest of them all, Chris Barber. Moving as we did to some 70's and 80's music; the extraordinary talent of the Album Experience and their Pink Floyd and Dire Straits nights were memorable and our last a huge success. We also raised several thousands of pounds for Help for Heroes over the years.

So it's thanks folks for your great music; thanks to our supporters for coming over the years and thanks to all our helpers.

Best wishes and it was great fun.

Bill Jackson

ST LEONARD'S FAIR RETURNS

Come to our fair on Saturday 6th November in the Woodcote village hall from 2pm to 4pm; admission is free! It is our major fundraising event and we can guarantee that you will find plenty of bargains. After its enforced closure last year, please come and support your parish church as generously as you have done previously.

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We aim to make the fair as Covid secure for everyone and will therefore provide hand sanitiser in the various rooms and will encourage all those who can to wear face coverings.

We ask you kindly to bring cash for the various stalls, raffles and tombola as an event of this the nature does not lend itself easily to card payments.

The fair will give you opportunities to meet and chat with friends albeit socially distanced. The many, varied stalls and attractions will provide entertainment and the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts, homemade cakes, jams and preserves, craft items, bric-a-brac, bath and beauty, books and jewellery. Tombolas and raffles will be there as usual.

We welcome any donations for the fair; we'll find good homes for all those unwanted presents.

If anyone has any donations or questions, please contact Janet Casson (681483), Sue Udell (681618), Rosemary Humphris (681511), Peggy Allum (680576), or Sandy Worsfold (680574).

WOODCOTE WI MEETINGS RESUME

Woodcote WI are meeting up again on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Woodcote Village Hall at 2.30pm. It is lovely to catch up with people again. Come and join us!

Judy Williams

IT'S TIME TO BOOK YOUR COFFEE SLOTS!

As you will appreciate, the *Saturday Coffee Shops* have not operated since the start of the Covid restrictions. However, this was an excellent fundraiser for various groups wanting to book a session and a facility that is missed by the village.

In future any group can now book a Saturday morning slot via email at:

mail@enquirieswoodcotecc.org.uk.

The hourly rate is a very reasonable £10 which includes full use of the kitchen. Hirers set their own

prices. Each group will be responsible for running their session and supplying their own tea, coffee, milk, sugar, soft drinks, serviettes, cakes and serving knives. Any advertising would be the responsibility of the hirer. We look forward to welcoming you back!

ON THE ART OF COOKING (PART 1)

Recently my poor wife was laid up for two weeks with a bad back, placing me in the unprecedented position of having to provide the sustenance for both of us. To be honest this mainly meant getting chicken burgers from the local takeaway, but I also decided that there was absolutely no reason why an intelligent man working, of course, under the guidance of a good woman should not master this cooking lark, and indeed it was perhaps about time I did so.

I began with stewed apple. In retrospect this may have been a bit ambitious. I don't know if stewed apple falls within the range of your own culinary competence, dear reader – possibly not, since it's a fairly complex procedure. First you have to peel and slice the apples, removing any bad bits, and put them in a saucepan. So far so good, now comes the tricky bit. It seems you need to add water.

Me: 'How much water do I add?'

Wife from her bed of pain: 'Oh, I don't know, just enough'.

Me: 'What's enough?'

Wife: 'Oh, you know, not too much'.

I give up and add what may or may not be the correct amount of water. Next it is the turn of the sugar.

Me: 'How much sugar do I add?'

Wife: 'Oh, just a good sprinkle'

Me: 'Ah, that's one of the new SI units, is it, a good sprinkle?'

Wife: 'Well, I don't know how to tell you. I just do it'.

I add what I construe to be 'a good sprinkle'. Now it is the turn of the sultanas.

Me: 'How many sultanas do I add?'

Wife: 'Quite a few, but not too many...'

I begin to suspect that this vagueness is deliberate: that wives guard the mysteries of their domestic craft jealously, much as ancient Japanese swordsmiths never revealed precisely what went into the forging of their samurai blades, and that this is partly to ensure their own indispensability and partly for the sheer pleasure of making their husbands feel ignorant. But I triumphed anyway: the stewed apple was actually very palatable. I was elated: it seems possible that I am one of those natural cooks who do the right thing by instinct. Riding the crest of this new wave of confidence, I decided that next, under supervision, I would attempt to boil an egg. Or possibly even two eggs. Watch this space.

David Sutton



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A GRAND DAY OUT!

We had a fantastic turnout to the Woodcote fete this year – it seemed that the whole village was anticipating its return with much excitement. And the sun shone for us all, making it a grand day out.

This year of course has been a challenging one. And organising the Fete wasn't without its hurdles. But it all came together in the end.

It was wonderful to see so many of our residents getting involved, whether entering prize winning crafts, running a stall, serving tea, partaking in silly races or simply enjoying drinking beer and eating food. Many refreshments were indeed consumed, as the bar was drunk dry and the pizza van ran out of cheese!

Several stalls had to pack up early, as they had sold all their stock. The 1st Goring Heath Scout & Guide Group also sold all their cakes. And whilst that was going on, Jester Giggles performed his legendary magic show in a packed-out village hall. Sadly for us, this was Jester's final performance. He will be enjoying a well-earned retirement. The organisers would like to give enormous thanks to Terry Sopp aka Jester Giggles for his involvement in the Woodcote Fete over the years and for all the entertainment he has provided.

It really does take a village to hold a fete. We'd like to thank all those who helped and to everyone for coming along and participating so enthusiastically. We are also very grateful to our sponsors, as without them, we couldn't run the event – Soha, Bouchier Fencing, Black Lion, Red Lion, Butler & Proctor, Davis Tate, Hazel & Jefferies and Woodcote Garden Centre.

We would very much welcome anyone who wants to help next year, to ensure its continuation and provide a wonderful community event.

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CHECKENDON PRESCHOOL

This month we have been celebrating bonfire night, Diwali and lots more. Celebrating is a great way to help children build friendships, encouraging the children to work together and enjoy playing together as a group.

Bonfire night celebrations is a perfect opportunity for us to create exciting pictures and express ourselves through bright colours and fun activities. The children have been mark-making, creating their very own firework pictures, using their imagination to make their own shapes and swirls with craft roll to make a firework effect. We also talked about all the different words we could use to describe firework sounds such as fizz, crackle, pop and bang.

We have been enjoying singing number songs and action rhymes encouraging the children to use their fingers to represent the numbers. We have also been talking about different ways to keep healthy by trying a variety of different fruits and vegetables at snack time, encouraging and promoting good eating habits.

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

Kelly Mullins

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WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Autumn weather has certainly arrived. Whilst it is damp all around us, the children at Woodcote Primary School are not letting this dampen their spirits. We are overflowing with enthusiastic children willing to take on new challenges each day.

The children really enjoyed meeting many of you when delivering their harvest boxes. Thank you for all the wonderful letters the children have received. They are delighted with each one as it arrives and everyone enjoys hearing from you. Thank you for keeping in touch with the children.

Year 1 enjoyed a great walk around the village earlier this month. It was lovely to hear their chatter as they left, full of excitement, carrying their clipboards. They were out in relatively dry weather! They enjoyed using a map to track their route and practised using 'left' and 'right'. They talked about how hands can help with this! Whilst out they spotted signs that autumn is here, such as leaves beginning to change colour, and they also watched a red kite flying in the park. They correlated with their map some features of Woodcote, such as the war memorial and the Woodcote sign, and discussed how to cross roads safely. The children all behaved beautifully and were very excited to tell us all about it when they returned.

We have recently been taking part in the Partnership Sports fixtures that are gradually returning. At this point they are all outdoor and not open to spectators but we do hope both indoor tournaments and spectators will return soon. This month we have had some great successes from our Cross-Country runners. KS2 entered a Woodcote Schools event and all of them ran extremely well. We came away with some individual medals and the team scoring 3rd overall. At the weekends a group of dedicated runners have been taking part in the Children Edge events running at Greys Court amongst other venues. Once again, a number of individual medals were awarded, 5 in total and the year 5 boys were placed 1st! Well done everyone who ran, wherever they came.

Once again, we are able to begin singing in school so our year 5 and 6 pupils have begun their rehearsals for their concert in the O2 Arena in London. We are all very excited to be planning this event. Fingers crossed it will happen this year. We are currently tackling a Muppet Medley and to the other extreme, O Fortuna from Carmina Burana! Listen as you walk past – you may be able to hear us!

Wishing you an enjoyable November.

Mrs L. Hunt

Join us - make a difference

Woodcote Primary School is looking for an enthusiastic and committed individual to join our governing body as a Community Governor.

The governing board of our school is made up of parent, staff and co-opted governors. The Board operates at a strategic level and is not involved in the

day-to-day running of the school. Governing bodies have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and direction.

Holding the headteacher and senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

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

We don't expect you to be an expert in education and welcome governors from all walks of life to bring different perspectives and views. In fact, the strength of a governing body lies in its ability to attract and rely upon members from a wide variety of backgrounds. You just need to be committed to supporting our school community and the educational outcomes of our pupils.

We are however particularly interested in hearing from anyone with an interest, skills, experience or understanding in any of the following areas:

Local community/business links

Media/Marketing/Communications

Finance and budgeting

Experience of procurement/purchasing

Being a school governor is a very interesting and rewarding role in which you make a vital contribution to the success of the school and its pupils and have the opportunity to give something back to the community.

Governors will need to be available to:

Attend 3 full governing body meetings over the year.

Be a member of a committee which typically meets 3-6 times a year.

Visit the school (on a rotation basis) to see the day to day running of the school.

If you are interested in learning more or know someone in our community who would be interested, please contact the Chair of Governors, Helen Pearce Harvey, on chairofgovernors@woodcote.oxon.sch.uk for more information.

Deadline for expressions of interest: Friday 5th November 2021



The CABIN
Pre-School

www.thecabinpreschool.co.uk

01491 680854
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Cabin is a friendly pre-school in a great location within Woodcote Primary School.

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CABIN PRESCHOOL

The children have settled nicely into a new routine and established new friendships. Early years reforms are bedding in, and we have found we have more time to spend with our little ones. This term is a little quieter too which is lovely to be able to spend lots of good, quality time listening to the children talk, negotiating differences and learning to share. I can honestly say we believe in a good structure here at Cabin and our recent visit to St Leonard's for Harvest Festival proved this (see us on the front page!)

We have returned to cooking so far this term; we have made piggy biscuits, flapjack, lemon biscuits and orange jelly set in an orange. All very yummy, and yet another step back toward normal life.

We have read lots of favourite traditional stories such as The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Three Billy Goats Gruff, and the Scarecrows' Wedding.

Outdoors we have of course continued to make the most of the mud kitchen using herbs, old flowers, out of date cereals, pasta, and rice - the children make the most disgusting mess, and the staff of course enthuse over how lovely it all tastes(!)

We have visited the library to borrow some books, including a book on wildlife to identify leaves and bugs when we went up to the wildlife area in the school - we were so excited when a huge frog jumped out at us! We also found a nest and lots of grubs, then the children made nature sticks using rubber bands to attach items they found inside. This is such a great resource, and we will be visiting weekly to look at changes over the seasons. Thank you, Woodcote Primary, for allowing us to make use of it.

The autumnal sun is low, and it is a great time to try and chase your shadow; nothing better than trying to lose it whilst going sailing on the pirate ship. The guinea pigs have helped some of the younger children settle in quickly, a good cuddle is all it takes.

We have space available, so please do come and see for yourselves. Just book an appointment; you can start at any time of the year. Call Jayne on 01491680854 or email us on info@thecabinprechool.co.uk

Jayne Cole

Manager of the Cabin Preschool CIO

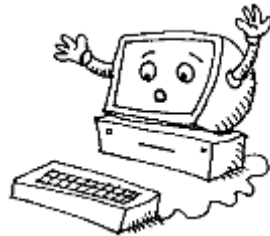


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WOODCOTE PRESCHOOL

This term we have been focusing on our topic – All About Me. The children have made mirrors, drawn pictures of their families, tried new foods and recreated their home environment in the roleplay area. The children made wonderful posters about themselves, which included hand and footprints, drawings, their favourite colours and even their height! We have been experimenting with various different types of investigation this term. There has been shaving foam, cereals, foam soap, spaghetti, rice play, jelly play, soil and sand. The children have been using tweezers, pipettes, various other tools and their fingers and hands to explore with. We have built houses and castles with the community bricks and one of our children explained to us 'This is my castle where I live as my mummy says I'm her princess.'

We were absolutely delighted to be able to visit St Leonard's Church again this year for the Harvest Festival! The children worked hard learning their songs and they brought in donations of food and baked a loaf of bread to bring to church with us. Some of the parents were able to come along and watch, which was lovely. Thank you to Reverend Linda Smith for having us and leading the service. It was really great to celebrate it with our friends from the Cabin Preschool. Plus we made the front page this month!

One Autumn activity that we all look forward to is collecting our pumpkins from the allotment. The children are very proud of the wonderful pumpkins we have grown. They enjoy scooping out all the seeds and getting very messy! After scooping out the seeds, the pumpkins were roasted and turned into soup for us all to enjoy with some homemade bread rolls.

Our annual Halloween Parade which we held just before half-term, was a lot of fun, as always. After learning all the Harvest songs, our clever children then moved on to learning all the Halloween songs! We all dressed up, even the staff and the children put on a fantastic show and enjoyed a little Halloween treat afterwards. We are always impressed by their fantastic Halloween costumes and how well they all sing the songs.

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Sarah one of our staff members who has completed her Level 3 Diploma in Child Development!

Quiz night is back! On 19th November we will be hosting a quiz night. Tickets cost £5 and nibbles will be provided, and there will be a licensed bar for you to purchase drinks. Please do drop into Pre-School, phone 01491 682300 or email woodcote-preschool@hotmail.co.uk to book tickets. It is an entertaining evening and we would appreciate your support!

We do have spaces available for children aged 18 months to school age. If you are interested in your child coming to Pre-School, please contact Wendy Powell on 01491 682300 or email woodcote-preschool@hotmail.co.uk. You can also download our forms from our website – www.woodcotepreschool.co.uk



Rhymetime

Back with a BANG!



Woodcote Library

Thursday 4th November 10.15-10.45am

Rhymetime is back at Woodcote library from Thursday 4th November!
Join us every Thursday 10.15-10.45 (term time only)

We look forward to seeing you soon!

COVID: Hand sanitiser is available.
During our sessions we aim to maintain social distancing between family groups and limit the sharing of toys and instruments.

WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB.

With six matches of the 2021-22 season played, Woodcote are still leaders in the Hellenic League Division 2 (East), although they have tasted defeat for the first time. The three wins at the start of the season were followed-up with two more high-scoring victories, first an incredible 9-7 win away at Beaconsfield in which Toby Nowell hit the target on six occasions, the other goals coming from Mike Mattimore 2 and Alec Curtis. The second win was by 7-1 at home to Taplow in which the goals were scored by Toby Nowell, Tommy Chapman, Alec Curtis, Andy Taylor, Joe Webber, Fred Wilkinson and Will Thomas. In the home match against Watlington we suffered our first defeat, losing by 3-1 against the side in second place. It was a disappointing performance with a number of key players missing. 2-0 down at half-time we made it 2-1 with a goal by Ben Rusher, but a red card for a high-tackle reduced us to ten-men and Watlington used the extra man to good effect to score a third goal.

SP



WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

A triumphant season for the club was brought to a close with a friendly match on Sunday 19th September with BBC Caversham who share our ground. Woodcote posted a total of 168 for 7 in 30 overs. Archie Clark (34) batted well at the top of the innings, but it needed an unbeaten half-century (51) from Jez Mayo aided by skipper, Neil McDougall (26) to accelerate the score at the end of the innings. In reply, BBC finished on 155 for 8 to give victory to Woodcote by 13 runs.

The weekend before this saw the Cricket Club set out on tour to the Cotswolds where they played matches against Charlton Kings and Apperley. Unsurprisingly, they were defeated in both matches, losing narrowly to Charlton Kings and by 7 wickets against Apperley. However, socially it was voted a resounding success and plans are afoot for a repeat event in September 2022.

Following-on from the successes of 2021 we have already made the decision to run an additional team in 2022. The Saturday 2nd XI will be entering the Berkshire League and we will be looking to recruit new players locally to supplement our growing membership.

SP



RG8 BADMINTON - BACK IN BUSINESS!



We're all delighted to be back in business after 18 months away from court. There was a lot of badminton played on our first night back - balanced by a lot of chat catching up with members' lives during the eventful 'rest period'.

We welcome new members. If you've played before and are looking for some competitive exercise in a friendly setting, why not get in contact now? Ring Julie Drury on 07980 413026 or visit our club website for more information: www.rg8badminton.co.uk

We take all necessary precautions to be Covid compliant in strict adherence to Badminton England recommendations. We play on Thursday evenings at the Langtree Community Hall and welcome both seniors and juniors from 14 years old. We keep our fees to a minimum equivalent to around £3 per evening with half price for juniors.

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NEED A GOOD READ?

The Wallingford bookshop team is on hand to help!

The nights are drawing in and the winter solstice is only a few weeks away - so November is the perfect month to curl up with a cup of something warming and a good book (or two!). This month we're focussing on short stories and poetry - perfect gifts for those long winter nights.

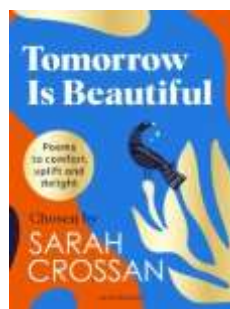
The Haunting Season - Ghostly Tales for Long Winter Nights



The Haunting Season is just perfect for anyone who loves losing themselves in a gothic tale of a winter's evening. Eight best-selling authors, including Laura Purcell, Andrew Michael Hurley, Kiran Millwood-Hargrave, and Bridget Collins, have written eight ghostly tales to haunt your dreams. Haunted wheelchairs, houses, and benign spirits all feature, and Natasha Pulley's story *The Eel*

Singers offers an opportunity to catch up with the characters from *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street* and *The Lost Future of Pepperharrow*.

Tomorrow is Beautiful — Poems to Comfort, Uplift and Delight, chosen by Sarah Crossan



We have a bijou poetry selection in the shop, but it's growing, thanks to lovely bookseller and poetry fan, Nicky, and this book was a wonderful addition in late September. Published with teens in mind but suitable for all, this beautiful anthology has been curated to lift the spirits. With poems from an array of classic and contemporary poets including Robert Frost, Audre

Lorde, Max Porter and Kae Tempest, this is perfect for fans of *The Poetry Pharmacy* and *The Book of Hopes*.

Finally, a quick reminder that you can browse the Indie bookseller Christmas catalogue on our website at www.wallingfordbookshop.co.uk/christmas-catalogue or pick one up in store. Our bookshop elves will be delighted to offer recommendations for that awkward auntie or friend who has everything - just call, email or pop in to see us. We're here to help!

LOCAL FIREWORKS DISPLAYS



Checkendon Primary school, 5th November, 6pm

South Stoke Primary school, 12th November, 6pm

The Sun Inn, Whitchurch Hill, 6th November, 5pm

Pangbourne Primary school, 6th November, 5.30pm

Wallingford on the Kinicroft, 6th November, 6pm

Abingdon airfield, 13th November, 5pm



Take the fireworks quiz

- 1) Guy Fawkes Night celebrates the attempted blowing up of parliament in the infamous *Gunpowder Plot*. What year did this take place?
- 2) Which king did Fawkes attempt to kill?
- 3) For what special occasion were fireworks first used in England?
- 4) Where do fireworks originate?
- 5) What were the first two colours used to produce fireworks?
- 6) How many barrels of gunpowder were stored under the House of Lords for the attempted plot?

Answers on page 23



TOP TIPS TO KEEP YOUR PETS CALM



This year, we really want to make up for the fireworks we missed during lockdown. But it's also important to consider our beloved pets, many of whom become very stressed at all the bangs and whistles.

The good news is that there are plenty of things you can do.

- 1) First speak to your vet. Vets can recommend and prescribe a wide range of suitable treatments, many of which target noise sensitivity.
- 2) Walk and feed your dog before dark. Full tummies will help your pet relax and an earlier walk makes it less likely that they will be spooked by fireworks.
- 3) Offer your pet a safe spot in the house to rest. Alternatively, let them choose a place to retreat to and add blankets, their favourite toys and covers, if possible, to create a cosy den.
- 4) Practise closing the windows/curtains as soon as it gets dark and well before firework night so your pet doesn't associate closing curtains with scary noises.
- 5) Play classical music...although some dogs prefer reggae apparently! Music offers a soothing beat which can aid relaxation.
- 6) Research calming coats that act like acupressure and can help pets feel secure.
- 7) Stay calm and quiet but don't over-fuss as pets will pick up your anxiety.

Do you have any further tips that work for your pet? Email them to us at wood-co@runbox.com and we'll share them with our readers. (*Tips sourced from local charity Forever Hounds Trust*).

HELPING WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN THIS AUTUMN

Autumn is an especially busy and important time for wildlife in our gardens, giving us the opportunity to help them to get through the winter. Some species like hedgehogs and amphibians hibernate, but for garden birds, it's largely about getting enough food and shelter to ensure they maintain their body weight and survive to breed in the spring.



So, get your bird feeders ready and, if you haven't done so for a while, give the feeders a good clean. Keeping feeders clean is super-important for the health and survival of garden birds. And treat yourself to five minutes of peace watching the birds enjoy the food you've put out – be they common species of garden birds like robins and blackbirds, or winter migrants like black caps and redwings.

And now is the perfect time to put up nest boxes. Whilst their main purpose is for birds to nest in, nest boxes provide a safe and relatively warm place for small birds like sparrows and tits to spend the long cold nights. This leads to a greater survival rate, and therefore more birds are able to breed in the spring.



If you've got the space, don't be too tidy and let an area in your garden go wild. Leave the seed heads on plants like poppies, sedum and sunflowers – they will add sculptural interest to your flowerbeds in the winter, be food for the birds and provide insects with a home. A pile of twigs and branches

makes a great 'bug hotel' and a haven for other creatures like frogs, toads and wood mice.

Next time you're at the garden centre, consider buying plants which are good for pollinating insects like bumblebees and butterflies – look out for a bee printed on the plant label.

It's no secret that bees and other pollinators are facing significant threats from habitat loss, disease and pesticides. Growing plants which provide a succession of flowers for as long as possible during the year gives insects a source of pollen and nectar – bees need nectar from very early spring until early winter.

To find out more about pollinators and the simple things we can all do to help them, *bumblebee expert Roselle Chapman will be the guest speaker at the Woodcote Conservation Group's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 11th November at 7.30pm.* The talk will be held virtually, is free and everyone is welcome. If you email info@woodcotecg.org.uk in advance, the Conservation Group will send you details of the Zoom link.

Woodcote Conservation Group

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BRITISH MODERN MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Our afternoon Zoom meeting on Tuesday 2nd November at 2pm will be a talk by Professor Gary Sheffield on the role of NCOs in the armies of the British Empire 1914-1945. Field Marshal Lord Montgomery of Alamein described Non-Commissioned Officers as 'the backbone of the army'. While there are few who would disagree with 'Monty's' description, curiously, the NCO in the two world wars have received little attention from serious historians. In this talk, Professor Sheffield looks at NCOs in the period 1914 to 1945, examining their role as leaders on the battlefield, enforcers of discipline, and as managers – in effect as 'works foremen', acting as the vital link between the 'workforce' of privates and the 'higher managers' or officers. He will be drawing on a wide range of examples from the British army (Regular, Territorial and New Army); and also from the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian armies, which were closely modelled on the British.

On Wednesday 13 November at 7.30pm Paul Beaver will give a talk on Suez.

It is planned that this meeting will take place in Woodcote Village Hall. Due to COVID please note that we are likely to have a reduced number of places and also that the meeting may change to a Zoom talk at short notice.

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

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A FILM?



The Goring and Streatley GAP Festival team is excited to announce the opening of entries to a brand-new Children's Film Festival competition, which will take place as part of the biennial cultural festival in June next year.

We are inviting youngsters of all school ages from Berkshire and Oxfordshire to get digitally creative and make their own short films.

With free video editing software now readily accessible on mobile devices, we hope this exciting new competition will receive entries from media studies students, budding young filmmakers and those that may have never clicked record before.

The films will be shortlisted by a group of industry professionals and shown on screen at a special red carpet premier event on the last night of the main GAP Festival on Sunday 12 June.

With categories for primary, secondary and sixth form school ages, entries can be created by groups or individuals, on any subject matter, under a 'Universal' rating.

Prizes have been generously donated by The Arts Society Goring and Film Oxford. Each category winner will receive a voucher for a two-day film course run by local arts and creative media charity *Film Oxford*, to continue building their filmmaking skills and knowledge.

Registration for entries is now open at www.thegapfestival.org/film-festival and closes on 10th December 2021.

Final film submissions will be due in late April 2022. Further details about entering the Film Festival competition and the wider GAP Festival can be found on The GAP Festival website.

The GAP Festival team

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WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB (WADAC)



Our demonstration on Tuesday 16th November 2021 is an online live demonstration entitled "Landscape in Ink" by Kim Whitby



Kim will explain her approaches, interests, and some practical techniques. You will consider aspects of the key visual elements in this lively introductory demo. The session has a strong focus on drawing but using this wet medium. This is a remote live demonstration experience via Zoom. Kim is an experienced and qualified teacher. You will see many practical explorations with ink, which will develop your own personal artistic vocabulary and Kim will inspire you to become a more experienced artist.

Our demonstrations are held at 7.30pm online. To join, please email:

admin@wallingfordfordartclub.org.uk or davidbooth7@outlook.com for zoom link etc. 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:

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

2-4pm with Grant Waters– a structured class on all techniques of drawing and painting in all mediums. A new theme every second week.

Held at Centre 70, Wallingford, a 6-week term £80, drop in for a taster £15.

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



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WALLINGFORD COUNTRY MARKET



We are open each Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church, (Market Place), between 9.30 and 12 noon. With Christmas on the horizon, why not let Wallingford Market help take the strain?

Orders can be placed for seasonal and other home baked goods from November onwards. In addition, as well as our regular seasonal plants and produce items,

fresh Christmas decorations and wreaths will be available from December. Our Crafters are busy making small hand-crafted gifts and cards. Our last market for 2021 will be *Friday, 17th December*, but orders can be placed for delivery the following week by arrangement with the producer.

We return after the Christmas break on *Friday, 14th January 2022*.

We are currently looking for new producers. Can you bake, craft or grow things? If you have any of these skills and feel that you may like to join our team, we would love to hear from you. For further enquiries, please contact Alison Broadbridge,

(email: alison.broadbridge@gmail.com), or come in and speak with her, or any of us, one Friday morning.



THE CORN EXCHANGE, WALLINGFORD – NOVEMBER

Cinema

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

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

We have decided to have full seating from the end of November including the two live shows in November. This is in line with the practices and guidelines elsewhere. We are asking patrons to still sanitise their hands, and wear a face covering especially when moving around the building. We're grateful for patrons for their observation of all the Covid rules that we have implemented in the theatre. Please look

out for new updates for the programme on the website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Eating our Way to Extinction:

Monday, 1st November, 7:30pm

Tuesday, 2nd November, 7:30pm

Sunday, 7th November, 7:30pm

The Rescue 12A:

Monday, 8th November, 7:30pm

The Last Duel 15:

Tuesday, 9th November, 7:30pm

Wednesday, 10th November, 7:30pm

Thursday, 11th November, 7:30pm

The French Dispatch 15:

Friday, 12th November, 7:30pm

Saturday, 13th November, 7:30pm

Sunday, 14th November, 7:30pm

Monday, 15th November, 7:30pm

Quant PG:

Tuesday, 16th November, 7:30pm

Wednesday, 17th November, 7:30pm

Live Theatre

Under Milk Wood

Saturday, 20th November, 7:45pm

Performed solo by Guy Masterson, celebrating a day in the life of 'Llareggub' – a small sea town somewhere in Wales – all 69 ebullient inhabitants in Dylan Thomas' timeless masterpiece are assiduously recreated in an amazing feat of memory and virtuosity. Complemented by a stunning original soundscape, it's bawdy and beautiful, sad and sensual and, through the music of language, leaves indelible, unforgettable images of humanity. All Tickets £15

This is Jess:

Thursday, 25th to Saturday 27th November, 2:30pm (Saturday) and 7:30pm (all evenings)

This is Jess is a new musical - with a twist... Billing itself as 'half gig, half musical theatre, and half stand-up comedy' (Jess is better at geography than maths!), the one-woman, two-act show follows a year in the life of local girl, Jess. But it isn't just any year: this is the year she meets Gino Corsetti, and a roller-coaster romance ensues. You're certain to fall in love with the hapless Jess (think Bridget Jones, without the celebrity glamour and fake snow!) and leave the theatre singing any of the 16 plus strong numbers from this whimsical, uplifting and touching musical.

Tickets £14 (Adults) £12 (Under 18s)

COPING WITH UNIVERSAL CREDIT SHORTFALL



This year, the month of September ushered in more ominous portents than chilly winds and dark nights: the Government reduced Universal Credit payments by £20 a week. This move could put many floundering people in a critical situation. Rising prices and the coming end of the pandemic furlough have joined other negative trends to put millions in serious debt, unable to pay vital bills and about to see life get even worse.

But, if you are in this position, remember that support and help are available and you need not suffer alone.

Take charge of your situation. Start by making a list of what you owe and add up what you need to pay out each month. This list puts your financial position clearly in front of you in black and white. Next, prioritise your debts. There is advice on the Citizens Advice website to help you do this: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money> Some bills are more urgent than others. Rent or mortgage arrears, gas and electricity bills and Council Tax count as priority debts as there could be serious consequences if you don't pay them.

Get in touch with the companies to whom you owe money. Not everybody feels confident about doing this but the organisations expect such calls and they might be able to help by letting you pay smaller amounts over a longer period or even take a temporary payment break.

The government-backed Breathing Space scheme could also give you extra time to pay. See our website for details or www.gov.uk If you are eligible, you could get 60 days during which your creditors can't contact you, take any action against you or add interest and charges to your debt. A Citizens Advice adviser can check your debts to see if they are covered by the scheme.

If you need more specific support or don't feel able to manage your situation alone, call the Citizens Advice debt helpline on 0800 240 4420. It really helps to make personal contact with somebody who understands. You can also call our Adviceline free on 0808 278 7907 (Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm) or try our webchat (click on "chat with us online about debt").

HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Philately (stamp collecting) is fun if you do it with other collectors and will certainly increase your knowledge of all kinds of things such as art, history, geography, design etc. If you collect on a theme or postcards, your interest in the subject will widen considerably, as you research into it, to write up your collection.

Do come and visit us one Wednesday evening at Bix and see for yourself the wide scope that this hobby has. Our programme is still in progress but we will be meeting on *November 10th and 24th* and the subjects will be on our website very soon.

Meetings are held on 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.henleyphilatellic.org.uk

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meets every Wednesday evening from 8pm at Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road, Whitchurch. RG8 7EU. As of this season, we also have a monthly Zoom meeting on a Thursday.

We are a very friendly club and everyone is welcome, regardless of age or experience. Not only do we have top level speakers from the world of photography but also our own members giving talks on a wide range of subjects. Have a look at our website- www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk

During the season, we have battles against other clubs as well as internal competitions where there are trophies to be won. Come and visit us to see what we have to offer.

A few events from our November programme:

Wednesday 3rd: *"I shoot animals (camera-style)...and sometimes cut their heads off"* Steven Galvin shares his portfolio depicting many branches of natural history from around the world, above and below sea level, wild and otherwise. Steven recounts stories and anecdotes, imparts information and advice plus discusses shooting and post-processing techniques.

Wednesday 10th: *Rosebowl competition, round 1.* We are the hosts for the first round this season when we welcome members from the Croxley, Hemel Hempstead and Stoke Poges Camera Clubs.

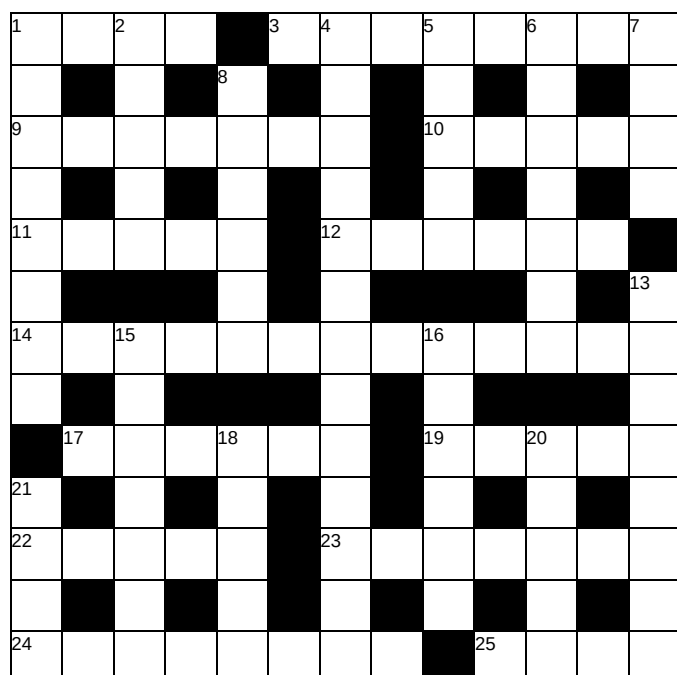
Wednesday 17th: *A year in Japan.* Ric Gillams shows images taken four years ago when he was working in Tokyo and exploring Japan. The contrasts in geography, architecture, technology, culture and climate never cease to surprise.

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

CHOLSEY REPAIR CAFE

Cholsey Repair Café is back in action and the next session will be at the Cholsey Pavilion between 11.00 and 13.45 on Saturday 20th November. Many types of repair can be considered and volunteers aim to teach their fixing skills to customers. Textiles and bicycles, cracked china, electrical faults, computers, blunt gardening tools, broken toys and many other household items can often be repaired for cost of parts and a donation towards operating costs. Basic Covid precautions will be in place. See www.cholseyrepaircafe.com for our house rules and more information.

NOVEMBER CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Leading couples lead godson's toy (4)
- 3 Windies game? (8)
- 9 Approaching Tyneside with a hoop (7)
- 10 Island in Brighton gardens? (5)
- 11 Caught! She's out in this game (5)
- 12 Craven Cottage finally fills lowly ground (6)
- 14 An error to lose shift sometime (6,2,5)
- 17 Old laptop no longer usable (4,2)
- 19 Taxi ride around state for native American (5)
- 22 This verse has always interested Kyoto University leaders (5)
- 23 Girl follows mother back to country (7)
- 24 One college game (8)
- 25 Only me going to religious education (4)

Down

- 1 Timer tiring jurors (8)
- 2 Head girl refined a very English accent (5)
- 4 But all go by for crazy game (5,7)
- 5 Up to when peacemakers fired back (5)
- 6 Location of small hand illness (7)
- 7 Break when critic slams back (4)
- 8 Paper tiger's first concern (7)
- 13 Cheat to get point in game (8)
- 15 Nothing to allot in presentation (7)
- 16 Case of silly clot eating kale tips (6)
- 18 Outdo a little less than honest politician (5)
- 20 Increase when artist is initially enrolled (5)
- 21 Imposter's endless disgrace (4)

OCTOBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION



ANSWERS TO THE FIREWORKS QUIZ

- 1) 1605
- 2) King James I
- 3) 1486 for the wedding of Henry V11
- 4) China
- 5) Yellow and orange
- 6) 36

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



The 10th October marked World Mental Health Day but shouldn't every day be Mental Health Day? Research has shown that people who were already facing mental health challenges before Covid were likely to struggle the most. But we all have a duty to look after ourselves and our loved ones each and every day.

In Oxfordshire, we are very lucky to have access to FREE psychological therapy through *Talking Space*. You can refer yourself today. For more details, go to: www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/talkingspaceplus/

(Details provided by the Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice)

SMALL ADS

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY – NOVEMBER

Tues 2nd	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'The role of NCOs in the British and Dominion Armies'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org . 2.00pm
Wed 3rd	*	St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church.
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'I shoot animals...and sometimes I cut their heads off'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
	*	St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com . 8.30pm
Thur 4th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Walking About In The Dark'. The Pavillion & online www.wallingfordphoto.club . 7.30pm
Fri 5th	*	Wallingford Country Market. St. Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford. 9.30am-12.00pm
Sat 6th	*	St. Leonard's Fair. Woodcote Village Hall. 1.30pm-4pm
Sun 7th	*	St. Leonard's service of Holy Communion. St. Leonard's Church. 8.00am and 9.45am
Wed 10th	*	St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church.
	*	BMMHS Talk: 'Suez'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Rosebowl Competition - Round One. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
	*	St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com . 8.30pm
Thur 11th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Garden Club talk: 'Gloucestershire & The Cotswolds'. Ridgeway Community Centre, OX10 0BD. 7.30pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club meeting - details TBC. 7.30pm
	*	Woodcote Conservation Group AGM and bumblebee talk. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
	*	WADS presents: 'An Evening of Comedy and Song'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.45pm
Fri 12th	*	Wallingford Country Market. St. Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford. 9.30am-12.00pm
	*	WADS presents: 'An Evening of Comedy and Song'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.45pm
Sat 13th	*	WADS presents: 'An Evening of Comedy and Song'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.45pm
Sun 14th	*	St. Leonard's service of Holy Communion. St. Leonard's Church. 8.00am
	*	Act of Remembrance. Woodcote War Memorial. 10.45am

Sun 14th	*	St. Leonard's Service of Remembrance. St. Leonard's Church. Follows Act of Remembrance.
Tues 16th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club on-line demonstration: 'Landscapes in Ink'. Email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk . 7.30pm
	*	Goring Gap Photo Club competition. Goring Free Church Hall. 8pm
Wed 17th	*	St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church.
	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'A Year In Japan'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
	*	St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com . 8.30pm
Thur 18th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club competition: 'No Set Subject 2 (NSS2)'. Venue TBC. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club Zoom meeting. 8pm www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk .
Fri 19th	*	Wallingford Country Market. St. Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford. 9.30am-12.00pm
Sat 20th	*	Cholsey Repair Café. Cholsey Pavillion. 11am-1.45pm
Sun 21st	*	St. Leonard's service of Holy Communion. St. Leonard's Church. 8.00am
	*	St. Leonard's service 'The Open Door'. St. Leonard's Church. 9.45am
Wed 24th	*	St. Leonard's open for private prayer. St. Leonard's Church.
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: 'The Journey After ABPE'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
	*	St. Leonard's online Night Prayer. Email woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com . 8.30pm
Thur 25th	*	Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Multiple Images Exposed'. Venue TBC. 7.30pm
Fri 26th	*	Wallingford Country Market. St. Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford. 9.30am-12.00pm
Sun 28th	*	St. Leonard's service of Holy Communion. St. Leonard's Church. 8.00am
	*	St. Leonard's service 'Morning Praise' online. 10.00am Email: woodcotevicarage@btinternet.com .

CLOSING THOUGHT

Never put off 'til tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow just as well.

Mark Twain