



# Woodcote

Vol 34 No 10  
October 2022

# CORRESPONDENT

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

## REV. LINDA SMITH — A FOND FAREWELL AND THANKS

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September was a sad day for the village and parish of Woodcote. On that day Linda Smith our parish Vicar for thirteen years preached her last sermon before going into a well-earned retirement. With her husband, Bill, a great support in her vocation, Linda will be moving on 28<sup>th</sup> September to Plympton, near Plymouth. Linda's ministry here in Woodcote has been inspirational and she has been highly successful in putting St Leonard's at the heart of the community, viewing her role as pastor and friend to the whole village, not just the church-going community.

Linda arrived in Woodcote as Vicar in November 2009 and recalls that at her interview for the post, 'everything felt right' and she has seen no reason to change that view. Previously, she had been in charge of a number of small parishes near Polperro and was attracted by the prospect of a 'one parish' role in a highly-active community. Having trained for the priesthood in the Oxford Diocese, returning to Oxfordshire felt like a return to her spiritual home.

There have been many highlights for Linda during her time here. It has been a joy to visit all the local schools and nurseries and to welcome and introduce local children to St Leonard's. The annual Christingle service, again involving children, has been a pleasure to lead and Linda unashamedly admits she 'loves a wedding' and she loves to inject some humour into

her services and to make people laugh. Baptisms are also significant events as Linda has seen many parents who were brought up in the village, but no longer living here, who wish to have their children baptised in St Leonard's.



**Linda and Bill Smith**

Linda has also seen a great upturn in attendances at the annual Remembrance Day services at the War Memorial. She recalls proudly leading the service in June 2010, not long after her arrival, to commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War Memorial and the publication of the book of remembrance, 'Not Just Names', about the men who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Needless to say, the lowest point for Linda came with the Covid pandemic and the lockdowns which followed. This period proved a particular challenge removing as it did, that all-important face-to-face contact with parishioners and necessitating funerals where few people were able to pay their last respects to friends and loved ones. Though funerals are always sad occasions, Linda has succeeded in creating an atmosphere of celebration for the life of the departed, which is greatly appreciated by the bereaved. Linda says, 'It is a huge privilege to be invited into the life of the bereaved family and to support them through their most difficult times.'

*(continued on page 3)*

## COMMENT FROM ST LEONARD'S

Well, what a time of change we have seen over the last month or so. By the time you read this edition of the Correspondent, there will have been so many changes, changes in the village, changes nationally and changes internationally.

The first thing that hit me was when Linda came to see me and tell me that she was retiring as our vicar and that she and Bill would be leaving Woodcote. This is something we just hadn't wanted to think about because we didn't know how we would survive not having Linda to lead us.

Just like any job you have to be certain that the person you are appointing is going to be successful in the role. After the interviews we were in no doubt as to who we should offer the post to. Elsewhere in this edition of the Correspondent you will find a write-up far better than I could have done, so please do read it. Suffice it to say that when we offered Linda the position, it turned out that we made the right decision for Woodcote.

And then there was that week last month when we had a change of Prime Minister resulting in a change of government ministers. Two days later we had the change that we hadn't wanted to think would ever happen, but deep down we knew that we would have to accept the day when Queen Elizabeth II's work in this life would come to an end. There was much outpouring of emotion over this.

I was 7 years old when King George VI died and at the subsequent coronation I can remember my grandfather proudly telling me that he had now lived through 6 reigns (starting with Queen Victoria). It's going to be a long time, if ever, for someone to say that again. The majority of people today have experienced only one monarch. Times changed on the day that Queen Elizabeth died.

How many unexpected changes in so short a time. The search for a new vicar for Woodcote has started. Our Prime Minister was replaced and our Head of State, (and head of the Church of England), has passed to her successor.

But in many ways things don't change. Autumn will always follow summer and we are now seeing those signs of autumn. We have had a summer of exceptional heat. Is this something in our climate that might be changing? We'll have to see what next year brings. The rains of September brought colour back to the garden, after not very much rain my grass began to show the colour it should, but of course the down side of that was that the weeds also started to grow. But there were good signs, shrubs which I thought had given in to the heat have started back into life, so there is hope.

As the seasons change so does the church's year. Our Harvest is on October 4th, the Pre-schools and Junior School will be coming into church for their services. November will see our Remembrance Service at the war memorial and in church; then there will be our In Loving Memory Service when we remember our friends and relations who are no longer with us. Then we will be into the services we all look forward to at Christmas.

I am pleased to say that we have an able and keen set of lay people who, with the help of the Team Clergy, will keep all these services going. For the last two years covid has caused us to make changes, but this year we hope to get back to the more normal situation as far as is possible. Rest assured that Linda has encouraged us and given us the experience to tide us over this period without a priest who has special responsibility for Woodcote, but also rest assured that things will change again when a new person is appointed.

Thank you Linda

Brian Turner

Licensed Lay Minister and PCC Vice-chairman.

### Services at St. Leonard's in October

#### Sunday 2nd October

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Harvest Festival Service

#### Sunday 9th October

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am SLOW church in the Village Hall

#### Sunday 16th October

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am The Open Door Service

#### Sunday 23rd October

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Parish Communion

#### October 30th October at Checkendon Church

10.30 am Team Songs of Praise

St. Leonards is usually open for private prayer each day between 10am and 4pm.

### Online Services

We will continue with our online service of Night Prayer now moved to every Tuesday at 8.30 pm.

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

## ST LEONARD'S FAIR: SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

Our annual Fair is on Saturday 5th November in the Village Hall at 2 pm.

We shall be delighted to receive donations including cakes, jams and preserves, jewellery, bric-a-brac, and books, plus items for the bath and beauty and the gift stalls. There will be many attractions and Christmas bargains. Please, put the date in your diary now. If anyone is able to help, please contact Janet Casson (681483), Sue Udell (681618), Peggy Allum or Sandy Worsfold (680574).

## THE FUTURE OF THE CORRESPONDENT

How much do you value the Woodcote Correspondent? Would you miss it if it no longer arrived through your letterbox each month? The Correspondent Committee regrets that this is now a real prospect. The advertising revenues no longer provide sufficient funds to meet printing costs on a monthly basis. We are currently seeking other sources of revenue and we are able to guarantee that the November and December issues will be published. Looking ahead to 2023, as things stand, publication looks uncertain.

If you care about the Correspondent, as we believe most people do, we would love to hear from you, particularly if you have suggestions about future funding, [wood-co@runbox.com](mailto:wood-co@runbox.com).

### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Sometimes change occurs at a bewildering speed as the last month illustrates. We knew her Majesty the Queen was in ailing health, but it came as a great shock to everyone when she passed away only two days after another change of Prime Minister. Her seventy-year reign has been remarkable in so many ways! More locally, readers of the Correspondent will be sad that our Vicar, Linda Smith is retiring to Devon. She will be sorely missed, but leaves with our very best wishes for the future. Last month we were in the midst of a heatwave, this month it seems to have rained every day, but there's no sign of an end to the hosepipe ban!

Who says there's nothing for youngsters to do in this village? On Saturday 3rd September two cricket teams took to the field, which means 22 people were playing cricket. On the same day, two teams took to the field to represent the village at football, in that case 32 players were involved. Grand total = 64. The following day, for the Pete Aldridge Memorial Match over 30 players took part in the game. We are blessed to be part of an active community and nowhere is this more apparent than in our Village Fete, which was once again a huge success. Thank you to the organisers from the whole village!

Regrettably, in the midst of all this positivity, we are now forced to consider the future of the Correspondent — see above.

*The Editor is on holiday so this month's edition has been edited by members of the committee.*

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Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this paper, the Editor and Committee cannot accept responsibility for the contents of advertisements or any errors that may occur. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or Committee.

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## PUBLISHER INFORMATION

**Editor:** Yvette Decmar *[via email]*

**Articles for inclusion:** to the editor by email to: [wood-co@runbox.com](mailto:wood-co@runbox.com), or letters may be handed in at the library. To be received by the 12th of the preceding month.

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**The Woodcote Correspondent** is on the Village website at [tinyurl.com/Woodcote-Correspondent](http://tinyurl.com/Woodcote-Correspondent)

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

### REV. LINDA SMITH — A FOND FAREWELL AND THANKS *(continued)*

The life of a parish Vicar is a busy one at the best of times, but somehow, Linda has managed to find time for other duties and commitments. She served as Area Dean for the Henley area for nearly four years, which involved supporting the clergy in some 21 parishes. She is also a trained 'Spiritual Director' which involves providing spiritual guidance on a one-to-one basis to anyone clergy or lay people who request it. Linda hopes to continue this work when she moves to Devon and is also considering volunteering as a hospital chaplain.

Linda feels fortunate to have been given the opportunity to serve our community and pays fulsome tribute to the support she has received from the whole community and particularly from her churchwardens, Barbara Penniall and Martin Fowmes, as well as Licensed Lay Reader, Brian Turner.

Linda leaves on an optimistic note, buoyed by the news that plans are moving in a positive direction regarding the long-running 'toilet for St Leonard's saga' and she says, 'We are more hopeful than ever.'

Linda and Bill will be sorely missed in the caring community they have done so much to help create. I'm sure everyone in Woodcote will want to wish them well in their new life and to thank them for the loving kindness they have extended to us all.

SP.



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## VILLAGE FETE 2022

A great time was had by all who attended the village fete on Saturday 10 September! We were blessed with blue sky and sunshine for much of the time and it was lovely to bring the local community together and see everyone enjoying themselves.

The event also gave us the opportunity to pause together and reflect on the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Reverend Linda Smith led a one minute's silence in memory of the Queen at 1pm and spoke movingly before and afterwards. Thank you for doing this Linda and for such a fitting tribute.

Thank you to everyone who attended and enjoyed food and drink, live music, various stalls, inflatables and a magic show. Thank you also to those who submitted competition entries, purchased raffle tickets, bid at the auction, entered the dog show and participated in the silly races and tug-of-war etc. You all helped to make the event the success that it was.

There are so many who supported the fete to whom we owe our appreciation and thanks. We have a long list of people and organisations who contributed, in fact the list is so long it is impossible to make reference to everyone in this article! This is testament to the amount of work and generosity that goes into putting on such an event.

We do appreciate everyone's help and support. There is a lot of planning and preparation that goes on in advance of the Fete, so if anyone would like to join our Fete Team and help make next year's fete a big success we'd love to hear from you! It is fun to be involved and fresh ideas are always welcomed. We would appreciate any amount of assistance, large or small. Please contact Helen on [woodcotefete@gmail.com](mailto:woodcotefete@gmail.com) or 0777 3447504.

### Thanks to:

- Our lovely sponsors with special thanks to SOHA, Bouchier Fencing Ltd, Nigel & Craig Building Services and Butler & Proctor Trace Architects, in particular Giles Lovegrove, for the boards and printing the posters and to local artist Suzannah Lovegrove for designing the boards
- Woodcote Correspondent for printing the exhibitor guides
- Hazel & Jefferies for the use of the skip
- Woodcote Charitable Association (aka the rally) including Rob Butler, Geoff Capes and Martin and Pat Alwright, for storing, transporting and cleaning the chairs and tables
- The businesses and people who donated raffle prizes with special thanks to Rectory Homes, Church Farm (the Booker Family), The Highwayman Inn, Kimberley's Hair & Beauty, Woodcote Garden Centre, the Black and Red Lion pubs in the village and Eye Imagine Photograph (Neil Horne)
- St. Leonard's church for ringing the church bells at noon
- The entertainers; Simon "Jacko" Jackson, our compere for guiding us through the day's events, Only Ukes for performing live and Sub Zero for the use of all their equipment. Clare Mayo for playing the piano and Jester Giggles for his magic show

- 1st Goring Heath Scouts & Girl Guide Group for the tea tent and delicious cakes.
- Sonning Common 1st Responders especially Adam Negus
- Jayne Cole from the Cabin Pre-school for organising the silly races
- Alex Dowman from Groom on the Green for managing the dog show
- Woodcote Pre-school for the face-painting
- Woodcote Youth Club for organising the Hungry Hippos giant inflatable
- Ruth Hubbard from Bear Dog for the Catapult competition
- All of the stall holders and food / drink providers
- James Tomlinson from South Oxfordshire Brewery for running the bar, and to Steve West assisting alongside him
- All those who judged the competition entries
- Lucy and Glen McGuire for selling the raffle tickets
- All of those who helped to set up in advance and clear away at the end of the day!
- Last but not least by any means (!) -the Woodcote Village Hall Management Committee for all their help, especially Louisa and Geoff

#### **Here are the 2022 prize and award winners:**

- Davis Tate Award for Best Homegrown Produce  
Linda Booth
- Bert Wilcox Award for most Outstanding entry in Veg or Fruit  
Dave Lane – for his giant marrow!
- Croft Way Award for Floral Class Champion  
Anna Bartlett
- Preserves winner (no award)  
Sandra Reed Jennings – the judge said her Jelly was an outstanding entry
- Doug Burton Memorial Plate for Baking  
Georgina Bickerton
- Wallingford & District Art Club Award (Vouchers)  
Ana Allen
- The Woodcote Correspondent Award for Photography  
Charlotte Mansfield
- Isobel Morton Memorial Award for Handicrafts  
Anna Bartlett
- Writing winner (no award)  
Connie Hubbard
- Tallest Sunflower (no award)  
Steve Turner – 3.4 metres
- The Windmill Award for Pre School Achievement  
Edward Henderson
- James Hawley Memorial Junior Challenge Award for KS1  
Albie Henderson
- The Oratory Junior Challenge Award for KS2  
Emily Hawley
- The Woodcote Parish Council Junior Challenge Award for 11 plus  
Samuel Bartlett

The Fete Team



**Edward Henderson**



**Albie Henderson**



**Emily Hawley**



**Samuel Bartlett**



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## RBL POPPY APPEAL



### Woodcote & Goring Heath Area

Thank you to everyone that came to the Village Fete back on Saturday 10th September and frequented our stand. Thank you for your donations.

**Poppy Appeal 2022.** This year's Poppy Appeal will run for the first two weeks of November, culminating with Remembrance Sunday on 13th November.

**House-to-house Collections:** If you would like to help as a house-to-house collector (you can choose a road or number of roads whatever works for you), please get in touch with one of us. And we will ensure you have a tray of poppies and a collecting tin. We will give you guidance if you haven't done it before. You can collect any time in the two weeks running up to Remembrance Sunday, and at any time of day. Thank you to those of you that have offered to help already.

We will have access to a couple of contactless machines – so we should be able to work out a rota if you want to have access to this as well. Does save on being given lots of cash!

Remember – all help is very welcome – and you can do as much or as little as you like. Every penny collected goes toward supporting members of the Armed forces and their families.

All local businesses that have had collection tins and poppy boxes in previous years will be contacted to see if you will be happy to have one again this year. Thank you as ever for all your previous support we really appreciate your support. Any other businesses who would like one please just let us know.

**Wreaths:** Should you like a wreath – either for a local remembrance service, or for taking elsewhere, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will get one to you. I do have some available already.

**School Packs:** School packs will be available for our local schools and will be with you for Monday 31st October latest. You will get a full 2 weeks again this year – no half term to clash with collecting dates! Please contact Linda to arrange delivery. These can be delivered before half term in readiness for the two week collecting period – just let Linda know.

**Collectable Pins:** For those that like getting the collectable poppy pins, and don't want to miss out of getting one (or even want to find a previous year one that you have missing from your collection), then please get in contact with us and we can ensure you get one (stocks still being available of course).

**Area:** Our area covers Woodcote, Crays Pond, Penny Royal, Hardwick, Goring Heath, Hill Bottom, Whitchurch Hill.

Thank you; Linda Burton and David Jennings  
Poppy Appeal Organisers for the joint Woodcote and Goring Heath Area. On behalf of The Royal British Legion

David Jennings - 07804 433989 or 01491 681162

Linda Burton - 07956 136750 or 01491 680680

Email: [dla.burton@btinternet.com](mailto:dla.burton@btinternet.com)

## ULTRA-MARATHON CHALLENGE

A Woodcote woman, Emily s, took part in the Chiltern 50 Challenge on 24th September. This event sees hundreds of walkers come together to complete a 50km looped route through the Chilterns countryside. Emily decided to take-on this epic hike to raise funds for Sue Ryder, which provided wonderful palliative care and support to her mum, Sue, before she passed away from cancer in 2018.



**Emily Jennings with her late mum, Sue**

Emily said, 'The care, kindness and understanding we were shown by the staff during mum's final days was amazing - from the moment she was referred to Sue Ryder, to the care and arrangements when she left us.'

As a way of giving back and saying thank you for the support her family received, Emily sought fundraising challenges she could sign up for. The Chiltern 50 Challenge seemed particularly appropriate as the event was scheduled for the fourth anniversary of Sue's death. The Challenge began at 8.00 am on 24th September from the Henley Show Ground and Emily was hoping to complete the 50 kilometres in under twelve hours.

Emily is hoping to raise £750 having already surpassed her original target of £500. She says, 'Sue Ryder made the worst time in our lives that little bit easier and even when I find the walk challenging, I know that will give me the motivation to keep going. If anyone has any spare pennies for this lovely charity I would be so appreciative.'

Georgia Thornton, Community Fundraiser at Sue Ryder, said: "Walking more than a marathon distance in one day is an incredible feat and we're all wishing Emily the very best of luck. As a charity, we're reliant on generous supporters like Emily donating and fundraising for us, which means we can continue to provide the specialist and compassionate care we are so well known for, and fill last days with love."

To donate to Emily's fundraising page, visit: [justgiving.com/fundraising/emily-jennings10/](https://justgiving.com/fundraising/emily-jennings10/)

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## GREENMOOR PONDS UPDATE

Further to the update following the pollution incident at the Lower Greenmoor Pond published in July's edition, we have received a brief update from the Environment Agency (EA) via our District Councillor Jo Robb. The EA have confirmed that the incident is still under investigation and therefore they cannot share further information at this stage.

As reported in July, Thames Water have concluded their own analysis, and sent the results to the EA who have confirmed that the adjacent Thames Water assets were not responsible for the incident.

The temporary notices warning about the pollution incident will remain around the site to ensure walkers understand the potential risks and we recommend children are prevented from touching the water and dogs do not drink or swim in it.

The green appearance of the Lower Pond during the summer is the result of duckweed, which is part of the annual cycle of a pond. Duckweed is a healthy nutrient for wildfowl and other aquatic wildlife and may contribute to removing pollutants from the water and reduce algal growth.

### ***Next spring's toad patrol***

The sudden mass deaths of different pond species this March will undoubtedly have hit their populations hard with spawn as well as mature adults killed in the Lower Pond preventing recruitment into the population this year. However, frogs and toads are remarkably long-lived for such small animals and not all individuals breed every year. Next spring, individuals which had already mated and left the pond before the pollution incident are expected to migrate, together with animals breeding for the first time.

The annual toad patrol will therefore go ahead as usual between mid-February and the end of March. The task of helping to prevent the road deaths of individuals migrating to breed will be all the more important. Analysis of the data collected by toad patrollers next spring against the existing dataset will also provide a clearer picture of the true impact of the pollution incident on the important amphibian populations at Greenmoor Ponds.

### ***The Upper Pond***

It might surprise anyone who has taken a walk recently to learn that, despite the prolonged drought, water remains in the Upper Pond supporting wildlife. Members of the Conservation Group have observed pond species throughout the summer including dragonflies, juvenile frogs and newts.

The lack of visible water is a result of the yellow flag iris plants spreading from the edges across the pond, and the presence of New Zealand Pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*, a non-native, fast-growing and invasive plant. Introduced into England in 1911 as an oxygenating plant for fish tanks, it has got into the countryside where it forms dense mats in ponds, displacing other aquatic plant species and impeding drainage.

To provide more open water for wildlife, we have started to clear out some of the vegetation, carefully by hand. This work will continue in the coming months and will be the focus of our next work party on Saturday 22 October. Everyone is welcome to join us to lend a hand – see the notice board at Greenmoor Ponds for more information.

### ***Path improvements***

Over the summer months we have taken full advantage of the very dry conditions to improve the footpath linking the Greenmoor Ponds site to Green Lane. The original rudimentary steps have been replaced with a completely new flight of steps and the section of the footpath leading to the top of steps, that was always very muddy in wet weather and over the winter months, has also been improved with better drainage and gravel laid over this section of the path.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to help on this project, and also cleared other sections of path which had become overgrown during the summer.

For more information about the activities of the Woodcote Conservation Group and how to become a member, see our website  
<https://woodcotecg.org.uk/>

Woodcote Conservation Group  
[info@woodcotecg.org.uk](mailto:info@woodcotecg.org.uk)

## WADS

### **Autumn Production 17/18/19th November**

#### **'The W.I. Blues,' by John Peel**

After our successful sell-out production of our recent Murder Mystery, WADS will be once more treading the boards with our latest offering. 'The W.I. Blues' is a comedy that follows the trials and tribulations of five women as they meet up to discuss the forthcoming AGM at the home of the current Chairwoman, Grace. Feeling threatened by the newcomers in the village and one of the fellow members, Grace is determined to hold on to her position even if it means bending the rules slightly!

The evening doesn't go quite as planned as secrets are revealed, too much wine is consumed and chaos ensues. Just a normal get together really!

This delightful comedy will be performed in Woodcote Village Hall on 17/18/19 October, starting at 7.45pm. Enjoy the evening in a relaxed atmosphere sitting around tables with the all-important nibbles, bar and the good old raffle!

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## VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE



The village owes a debt of gratitude to all the volunteers who turned-up regularly to water the young trees on the Green during the hot dry weather. Without their help we would have needed to replace quite a few trees this Autumn. Thanks, in particular go to Parish Councillor, Helen Booker, who put out the call for volunteers and with her mother, Pat, did a lot of the watering personally.

We are also grateful to the Parish Council who are funding a number of new picnic benches. One has been installed already near the Village Hall and it should be noted that the latest one has a different layout and design which will enable a wheel-chair user to sit at the table.

The Council will soon be in the process of getting quotes for the tarmac area on the Folly Field to complete work on the all-weather pitch between the two basketball goals. We will inform readers of progress on this project.

SP.

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

It's been a busy couple of weeks at the hall. The Woodcote Volunteers were rewarded for all their hard work with a social gathering in the Pavilion complete with food, music and a quiz. The WADS performances of 'An Ill Wind' were sold out both nights and the Village Jazz night was a huge success. The hall was transformed into an intimate, atmospheric venue the music was enjoyed by all (as was the cider which apparently was a little on the strong side)!

The Village Hall Charity are currently working on some new events for the autumn: Sunday 30th October will be the first Woodcote Food Fair (11am-3pm) so do save the date. And, if you are a food business who would like to get involved, now's the time to get in touch!

We are also planning the launch of the Woodcote Cinema. As soon as the early release dates of the films we would like to show become available, we will be able to publish further details.

It's always worth keeping an eye on the Village Hall website to keep up to date with what's happening, [www.woodcotevillagehall.com](http://www.woodcotevillagehall.com) You can also check availability of the hall's various spaces from the 'Book Now' page, and check the details of the different rooms and their rates if you are looking for a venue to hire. Alternatively, just drop an email to [woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com) or call Louisa on 07929 203096.

## WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

### ***Fundraising coffee morning***



We would like to welcome you to our coffee morning on Saturday 22nd October 10am – 12 noon, at the Woodcote Community Centre.

The aim of the event is to bring people together, raise awareness of our service and we will be donating all proceeds to Woodcote surgery. They would like to purchase a much-needed Kardia ECG machine which will provide them with instant heart traces for patients who may be in an irregular rhythm. I am sure you will agree this is a very worthwhile cause.

As usual with these coffee mornings, there will be hot drinks, squash for children, plenty of delicious home-made cakes and a raffle. so please do come along to support us, alone or with family and friends, enjoy a treat and get to know some of your fellow residents.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### ***Help with the cost of transport to hospital***

We thought we should reiterate, at a time when budgets are so stretched, that we have put information on our website about NHS support for people on a low income. There are two sources of help, 1. free transport to hospital provided by the Patient Transport team at South and East Ambulance service and 2. a refund on the cost of transport to hospital if taking other means of transport. The latter is known as the "NHS help with health costs scheme". Both services have qualifying conditions but could be just the help that is needed, so to find out more, see our website (Driver Service page) and follow the links provided there.

### ***Volunteer Drivers needed!***

We are recruiting new volunteers so if you have three or more hours per month to spare, we would love to hear from you! There is lots of information on our website about being a volunteer driver and you can also find out how to apply. Alternatively, just phone our office number 01491 681171 and our friendly office helper will take your details.

### ***To Finish...***

As usual, if you need a driver, please don't hesitate to give us a call on 01491 681171. One of our office volunteers will answer the phone between 9.30 and 11am on weekdays (excluding public holidays) and you can leave a message on the answerphone at other times.

Find out more about us by looking at our website: [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk) or see our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers)

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## SPORTS PAGES

### WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

#### Season Ends on a High Note

The cricket season has once again ended on a high-note with the 1st team finishing Runners-Up in the Berkshire League Premier Division. On the penultimate Saturday they had a very satisfying win against Mortimer West End, the team which just pipped them to the title which Woodcote won in 2021. The second-place finish saw Woodcote come close to a hat-trick in 2022 after they had won the Berkshire League T20 Cup and the South Oxfordshire T20 Cup. This represents a major achievement for a small, locally-based club and first team captain, James Worsfold deserves massive praise for the job he has done in making sure that the club was able to field competitive teams for the eighteen weeks of the season.

Another tremendous success has been the introduction of a 2nd team playing in Division 3 of the Berkshire League. Captained by Jonny Aldridge, the 'seconds' has often included as many as six teenagers, including Archie Clark, William Gordon, Calum Ahmed, Finn Walker, Sully Akers, Ted Akers and Paddy Mainwaring. The experience in the team has been provided by Stefan Gordon, playing alongside his son, Gary de Pinchart, Rakesh Patel, Martin Paige, Neil McDougall, Paul Clark and Rakesh Nair. The team finished sixth in the Division, winning eight matches, which exceeded expectation.

At the other end of the age-scale it is pleasing to report that three of our players, Olly Nicholson, Stefan Gordon and Jez Mayo have been playing regularly for the Oxfordshire Over-50s team which qualified for a prestigious final in which they are due to play against Wales Over-50s. Olly, in particular, has had been in fine form taking his first ever hat-trick against Shinfield on 30th July and repeating the feat for Oxfordshire against Warwickshire a couple of weeks later.

#### Youth to the fore in annual memorial match.

The annual Pete Aldridge Memorial match which took place on Sunday (4th September), between Woodcote and the Red Lion, proved once again a great success, involving some thirty players with ages ranging from 11 to 70 and family and friendship groups coming to support. The youngest players, Stanley Clark and Luke Preece, both showed they have a bright future in the game, batting and bowling well and outstanding in the field. Teenagers, William Gordon, Calum Ahmed, Finn Walker and Sully Akers, fresh from their first season of league cricket, also made good contributions to the match, as did Aiden Griggs, playing his first organised game of cricket. Overall, the weather was kind and the T20 format worked so well that the game ended in a tie, the Red Lion winning it in a bowl-off. Pete's son, Jonny, who played in the Red Lion team presented the trophy to the winning captain, Neil McDougall.

## Two wins on tour

On the second weekend in September, the Cricket Club undertook a mini-tour to the Cheltenham area in Gloucestershire. The strength of the club was illustrated by the fact that 18 members made the trip and, in spite of the traditional tour capers, the two matches were won (an unheard-of tour feat). The T20 match against Redmarley was won by 6 wickets. Chasing a total of 131, Woodcote scored 134 for 4, teenager, Archie Clark, scoring a terrific 51 not out and James Worsfold hitting a quick-fire 28.

In the T40 match on the Saturday we came up against old adversaries, Apperley. The home team batted first and were all out for 173, Chris Clark, a late addition to the team, taking the bowling honours with 4 for 26. Ryan Van Heerden also distinguished himself with two very sharp run-outs. Woodcote replied with 176 for 7 in 30 overs to win by 3 wickets. Stefan Gordon scored a very good half-century (52) and Jonny Clark's 28 was also a good innings. The hospitality afforded to us by Redmarley and Apperley was enjoyed and greatly appreciated by the Woodcote players, who did their best to return the compliment by contributing handsomely to the bar takings at both grounds.

SP



**Olly's Oxon Hat-trick L to R - Stefan Gordon - Olly Nicholson and Jez Mayo in their Oxfordshire kit**



**Hats Off to Pete Aldridge**



**Dad's Match - Jonny Aldridge with captains Mark Pearson and Neil McDougall**



**Team Photo - The Woodcote team that defeated Welford Park**



**Sully Akers batting**

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## WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

### Cherry Red Records Sponsor the Football Club

The new season has started on a good note with news that we have a new kit sponsor. Ian McNay, the Chairman of Cherry Red Records, who lives in Woodcote, read in the Woodcote Correspondent, about the successes of the Football Club last season and got in touch with us to offer to be our sponsors for 2022-23 season. Cherry Red Records is in its 45th year as an independent record label and has a long history of football sponsorship. Ian himself is a longstanding fan of AFC Wimbledon and the new Plough Lane Stadium in Wimbledon is now called the Cherry Red Records Stadium. The company is also one of the shirt sponsors for Wycombe Wanderers FC. In addition to this, Ian sponsors the non-league Cherry Red Combined Counties League of which local club, Wallingford & Crowmarsh FC are members. We would like to thank Ian for his generosity and his interest in the club and we hope to make sure the partnership is a successful one.

The season itself has started well and we are delighted that we have been able to build-on last season's success by starting a second team, in which we will be able to introduce young players, some of whom were playing for the under-18 team last year. This team is titled Woodcote Development and is playing in the North Berks League Division 2, with Andy Taylor, a long-serving Woodcote player, at the helm.

After playing a number of pre-season friendlies, the defence of the Hellenic Division 2 (East) title began for the first team with an away win at Chinnor by 3-2. Toby Nowell continued where he left off last season with a brilliant hat-trick to help us to an impressive win over a very good team. Unfortunately, this feat could not be repeated in the second match as we lost 4-2 away at Beaconsfield, the home side scoring two injury-time goals. Toby Nowell was again on the scoresheet with Matt Plozsynski scoring the other goal. We are very pleased that the first team continues under the leadership of Andy Silver and Rob Witchard, who led the club to its most successful season ever in 2021-22.

The Development side got off to a great start in the North Berks League with a 5-1 away win over Lambourn Sports. Goals were scored by Fasem Ferjani (2), Dudley Powell, Jay Russell and Charlie Wagstaff.

The death of Her Majesty, The Queen, has caused a pause in the season, but prospects for the club look really good for this season and beyond.



**Woodcote wearing the new sponsored kit for the first time**



**Ian McNay -left- Chairman of Cherry Red Records presents sponsored kit to Pete McAlister, Chairman of the Football**

### RG8 BADMINTON



After an early start this Autumn club nights are well under way at the Langtree Community Sports Hall in Woodcote on Thursday evenings.

We welcome both junior (14 years +) and adult members. All that we ask is that you are not totally new to badminton – that you know the rules and basic shots (even if they don't always work!). Juniors should have received some form of coaching Fees are the equivalent to £3 per session – half for juniors. We are fully compliant with Badminton England guidance concerning Covid safety precautions.

If you want to know more and would welcome some fitness, fun and friendship then visit our website [www.rg8badminton.co.uk](http://www.rg8badminton.co.uk) or ring Julie on 07980 413026.

SP

# SCHOOL REPORTS

## LANGTREE SCHOOL

### 2022 Results Information

Langtree School is thrilled to report outstanding achievements by our students in their qualifications this summer.

Despite the huge challenges the students have faced, they have collectively achieved the highest results in the school's history! Our attainment 8 score of 56.6 is Langtree's best result from examinations since this measure was introduced in 2016. 83% of students achieved 5 or more GCSEs including English and maths at grade 4 or above and 67% achieved 5 or more GCSEs including English and maths at grade 5 or above.

It can be invidious to name students who did extremely well as so many of our students achieved, or even exceeded, the extremely high targets we set for them. Nevertheless, students such as Thomas (eight 9s, one 8, two 7s), Louis (six 9s, three 8s, two 7s), Ivy (seven 9s, three 8s, one 7), Sydney (five 9s, five 8s), Lloyd (eight 9s, three 7s) deserve a special mention. Also, to be especially commended are Ben, Lydia, Ella, Louise, Ollie, Ella and Rebecca all of whom achieved 10 or more GCSEs at grade 7 and above. The staff at Langtree are so proud of so many students, and it is impossible to list them all individually, however, particular recognition is much deserved by the many students who worked extremely hard and exceeded their targets and predictions, including:

Angus, Lilly, Frank, Toby, Charlie, Ben, Ella, Lucas, Betsy, Saskia, Floss, Izzy and Ed

All of these students achieved high grades, and generally exceeded even the highly aspirational targets their teachers set them - and in all cases they significantly surpassed the progress expected of them based on their prior attainment.

Simon Bamford, the head teacher of Langtree School, said: "We are immensely proud of all the work and achievements of our students, especially after such a difficult and disrupted time. They have shown such resilience, creativity and integrity to achieve these outstanding results. Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that our students achieved the very best grades they were capable of and are all able to progress onto further education and study. We look forward to hearing about all their future successes."

## WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

September is always a wonderful time of year. We welcome our new children in various year groups across the school. We all hope they will be very happy here with us as part of the Woodcote Primary family. All children returned to school having had a fabulous break and told us of their adventures with their families. They are ready to return to their learning and are looking forward to a new year.

The exciting start to our term has been halted by the saddest of news that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II has died. In the same week, only two days earlier, we received a letter from The Queen, dated 2<sup>nd</sup>

September, thanking us for the cards and wishes we sent for her Jubilee celebrations. In June, the children of Woodcote Primary School sent a parcel of cards and letters to The Queen and they were so delighted with the personal letter that we received in return. It seems unreal that, only six days later, she is no longer with us. We will be creating a celebration wall in school to remember her spirit, her smile and all the truly amazing things she did for us all. We will also look to the future to the reign of our new King, Charles III.

Looking forward this term, we have lots planned both in the classroom and outdoors. Our cross-country runners begin again for the season from Saturday this week. We will begin our daily runs in class groups and are looking forward to gymnastics, swimming, rugby, hockey and dance lessons. Music lessons have begun again, guitarists, pianists and violinists are all back to their lessons. Our 'i-rock' bands have begun rehearsing for their next performance later this term and we are learning our songs ready to go to London to sing at the O2 Arena.



**Ready to Learn**

We have two Open Mornings coming up, although you are welcome any time. If you would like to come for a tour of our school or know anyone who does, each of the two mornings have a 9.30 and 11.00 tour. To book in to either the 12<sup>th</sup> of October or the 9<sup>th</sup> of November please call the office on 01491 680454 or email [office.2510@woodcote.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2510@woodcote.oxon.sch.uk). We look forward to welcoming you to our delightful school.

See you soon, I hope. Mrs L. Hunt

## WOODCOTE PRESCHOOL.

Welcome back! We would like to say a big hello to all of our families and a new starter, Rosie and her family.

Over the summer we held our holiday club for 3 weeks. It was a huge success! We enjoyed some beautiful weather and became inventive in ways to keep cool. We visited the allotment, the park and the football goal. There was baking, crafts, dressing up and dancing. All the children and the staff enjoyed their time at holiday club, thank you to everyone who attended. Hopefully we will see you again at Easter.

The village fete was also very successful. We had a jolly jar and bottle tombola stall and they were very popular. Lots of children, teens and adults were spotted around the fete sporting face paint and glitter tattoos done by Pre-School. We raised £674.90 which was amazing! We will use the money to buy

some sensory toys. It was such an honour to be awarded Best Pre-School Group overall for our entries into the children's competitions.

To start off the term we have been settling back in and focussing on "getting to know us". It has been so lovely to be back and see how everyone has changed and grown. We are very excited to start celebrating Harvest and we have been to the allotment to check on our pumpkins. The children are beginning to learn their Harvest songs in preparation for the Harvest service at the church. We will also be

making our traditional Harvest loaf of bread and collecting donations for the food bank.

We have talked to the children about the sad passing of our Queen and we will be taking them to sign the book of condolence at the church.

We have spaces available for children age 18 months to school. If you would like to arrange a visit please call Wendy Powell on 01491 682300 or email on [woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk)



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## THE CABIN PRE-SCHOOL

What a sad start to the academic year. All the staff and committee are deeply saddened over the loss of our dear Queen. Of course, our children are too young to understand the consequences of forever, this is something we have learned over the past years of dealing with bereavement with young children. We will help the children that need support, when helping young children deal with sadness especially death, we often say that some people live for a very long time and other people for a short time. We try to relate to insects like butterflies and bees and talk about the hard work they do but their lives are very short, encourage them to think about the nice things and the happy times and they can always still talk to them, that they will always be around to talk to but you can't see them anymore. Let's hope our children are not too saddened by her passing, they certainly enjoyed celebrating her 70 years' Platinum jubilee celebrations and a few have commented on 'that nice queen she's gone now, hasn't she?'

We have loved seeing our Little Acorns that have moved on up to big school, we are so lucky to be able to still support them with a smile, a little cuddle when asked, and a wave. I was very honoured this week to be able to go and pay a little visit into the classroom, which of course they loved showing me around their new room. The new teacher was full of admiration and support in how we had prepared the cabin children for the transition to big school. She commented on their behaviour, their attention, the ability to carry out instructions, the way in which they played and interacted with each other was very visible. Myself and the staff are so proud of each and every one of them.

I can also say the same about our new children. I can't believe what beautiful well behaved young children have come into cabin this year. We're still settling in and being so brave but are settling in well, skipping into Cabin each morning. The smiles on their faces tells a huge story, well done to all the families starting with us this term.

Woodcote festival has been our main topic for the first week back this term, and each of the children helped in the construction of our tuff tray, which hopefully you will see photographed within the correspondent article. They made lots of creatures from clay mice, stones, bones and items that you could find on a harvest field. A magnificent combined harvester and a barn made from junk modelling completed the tray and we then added individual scarecrows to protect our harvest field. Thank you to everyone that helped support us at the festival with the bouncy castle, I am sure you all either enjoyed taking part or watching the silly races and for all the bouncers that just bounced all day. I would like to say a special thankyou to Theo Scott, Tilly Scott, Ethan Baker, Isabell Smith and Joshua Sudbury for their help on the day, so good to see the youngsters doing their bit, they were a delight and so kind to some of the younger children struggling to climb the ladder. They made it such fun.

This term we have enjoyed The Gruffalo which is a firm favourite, Little Red Hen and will also be reading

the Scarecrow's Wedding, Super Worm, Owl Babies and Percy the park keeper.

We will also be focusing on the numbers 1 to 5, basic 2D shapes circle triangle etc and basic colours red, green, yellow, blue, pink, purple. When talking to the children we really exaggerate these points of education pointing out the physical numbers, trying to find the shape of the week within the environment and through arts and crafts and song. We love traditional nursery rhymes as much as other funky appropriate music that the children love to listen to.

Outside we continue with our amazing mud kitchen which is a firm favourite, sandpit, a quiet reading area onto a lovely tented area with lots of cushions.

We still have some spaces available; you can join us at any time of the year, you just need to be 2 years old. Call Jayne for a show round and come see us at play on 01491 680854 or email us on [info@thecabinpreschool.com](mailto:info@thecabinpreschool.com) You will find us having fun in the Primary school playground.



**First Prize winner - the finished Tuff Tray**



**Painting the combine harvester for the Tuff Tray**



**Fundraising at the Festival**



**Getting ready for Crazy Races at the Festival**



**More pre festival preparations**

# THE BLACK LION

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## THE CASE OF THE HUMOROUS CHILD

I have always been fascinated by the way the minds of small children develop, especially when it comes to language, and especially in the matter of verbal humour. When do children first get the idea of jokes, for example? When my daughter was four I decided to carry out a little experiment in this area by introducing her to that comic staple, the 'Knock knock' joke. Ah well, we all make mistakes.

'Do you want to hear a joke, Beth?' 'All right'. 'Knock knock. Now you say Knock knock who?'. 'Knock knock who?' 'Kanga. Now you say Kanga who'. 'Kanga who?' she obliged, to which I replied 'Ha, shouldn't you be in Australia?'

She looked very thoughtful, then went off, to return a few minutes later. 'Knock knock', she said. 'Who's there?'. 'Elephant'. 'Elephant who?', I said, intrigued as to where this one was going. 'Ha ha you should be in Africal'.

It seemed a little clarification was in order, but thinking about it the principle was quite difficult to explain. What could I say – something on the lines of 'Well, good try, but really the humour in these cases turns on the potential of the noun, sometimes but not always taken in conjunction with the enclitic interrogative "who", to create by virtue of its ambiguity the opportunity for a paronomasia or play on words.' I'm all for not talking down to children, but this seemed to be asking a bit much. So, I just said 'Let's try another one. Knock knock. Who's there? Ivan. Ivan who? Ivan awful headache, do you have to make so much noise?'

She went off very thoughtful again, but again quickly returned. 'Knock knock'. 'Who's there?' 'Jonathan'. This being the name of her elder brother, I had a bad feeling about this. 'Jonathan who?' 'Jonathan I've got a headache, stop making that silly noise'.

I decided the time was not yet ripe for the required level of linguistic sophistication on her part and left it at that. However, the next day as I was walking behind her and her small friend, having collected them from their dancing class, I heard the following exchange. 'Knock knock.' 'Who's there?' 'France.' 'France who?' 'France is where we go on our holidays!' And the two little girls then fell about laughing uproariously.

What, I thought, have I unleashed upon the world? And do you know what the most annoying thing was? My wife, from whom my jokes over the years have never elicited so much as the glimmer of a smile, not even such masterpieces as 'Atish' 'Atish who?' 'Here, use my handkerchief', found my daughter's efforts hilarious. Ah well, I guess it's the way you tell 'em...

David Sutton

## WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB (WADAC)

This month's Demonstration, on Tuesday 18 October 2022, is an online live demonstration entitled 'Sunset in Pastels' by Les Darlow.



**Sunset in Pastels, by Les Darlow**

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

Our demonstrations are held at 7.30pm online. To join, email: [admin@wallingfordfordartclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@wallingfordfordartclub.org.uk) or [davidbooth7@outlook.com](mailto: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.

At the Wallingford BunkFest on the first weekend in September, the Club's stand was a success, encouraging people to draw/paint and join the Club to enjoy the benefits as a member.

Tuesday morning and afternoon art classes recommenced on 13 September and also on

Tuesdays we hold social evening and non-tutored workshops from 7.00 – 9.00 pm. Why not drop-in and have a chat with fellow artists at all levels. It's a great chance to get back to painting or starting out. All club members are willing to help new artists.

There is a visit to Stanley Spencer Gallery at Cookham, on 12 October, to see the exhibition 'Delight in Nature'. Transport is available from Centre 70, Wallingford at 10am, please contact us if you are interested.

Stanley Spencer was born in Cookham, a truly distinctive student at the Slade, studying alongside such luminaries as Paul Nash, and Dora and Christopher Carrington. His study of nature informed and became a part of his figurative work. He delighted in the detail of each leaf and blade – for him everything had meaning.

If you are interested in joining us on any of our events or the Club, please contact [davidbooth7@outlook.com](mailto:davidbooth7@outlook.com) or [admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk) or tel. 01491 681400.

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

## WOODCOTE WI NEWS

Patricia Solomons welcomed the members to our garden meeting. This took place at the Maker Space, The Crown at Nuffield. We had a wonderful afternoon tea, amazing sandwiches, scones and cakes all served on wonderful retro china and tablecloths. We thank everyone for their hard work. We had a competition for a Jubilee Crown, which was won by Shirley Bryant and judged by Kay.

Celebrating her birthday was Ann Larden.

In November, our speaker will be Chris Caddy, 'the Lake District- World Heritage Site' and a competition for a photograph or memento of a National Park.

Come and join us you need never be bored, we meet in the village hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm.

Judy Williams.

## WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB.

Wallingford Photographic Club is now back at Crowmarsh Pavilion for the season. Our inclusive club allows people of all ages and levels of experience to meet like-minded individuals and learn how to improve their photography through conversations with other members, presentations by visiting speakers, practical evenings and regular competitions. The club meets every Thursday at 7.30pm for an 8pm start (7.45 start on competition evenings) and we'll have a few Zoom-only sessions later in the season. Our sessions at the Pavilion in October will take us to Japan on the 6th (with Ric Gillams), before our resident (retired) judge Gordon Roberts takes us through a critique of our own images on the 13th. On 20th October we'll have Helen Webb take us 'from humble beginnings – a journey from "a bird on a stick" to 'high key'. Finally, on 27th Neil Cave joins us from Timeline Events with a talk entitled "Inspire, Capture, Print!"

## GORING CHAMBER CHOIR

Goring Chamber Choir's autumn concert, to be performed at St Thomas' Church, Goring on Saturday 15th October at 3.00 pm, is entitled *Amor de mi alma* after Randall Stroope's choral setting of a text by the Spanish Renaissance poet Garcilaso de la Vega. The choir follows this powerful theme through the 16th and 17th centuries with canzonets by Morley, and madrigals by Lassus and Monteverdi, whose dramatic setting *Non havea Febo ancor* pictures the lament of a young maiden abandoned by her beloved. Many aspects of love feature in Irish and Maori folk songs and in the contemporary Argentinian Alberto Favero's, *Te Quiero* (I love you) and are given a new dimension in Rossini's *La Carità* (Charity). The Music director is Frances Brewitt-Taylor and the accompanist, Steve Bowey.

Tickets for the concert are priced £10, £5 for students in full time education, free for under 18's and are obtainable from Inspiration, Goring, or from a choir member, or on the door.

[www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk/](http://www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk/).

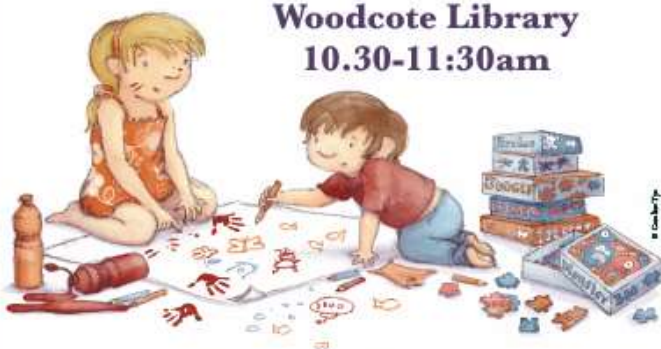
## TRAINING BAND

Pangbourne Allcomers Band meets every Wednesday 6.30-7.45 at Pangbourne Hall.

If you play an instrument and would like to play in a band, we provide excellent tuition. All ages welcome (8 to 80s) and we can accommodate any musical instrument. Just come along with your instrument and a stand. See Pangbourne Band website.

# Saturday Crafts!

**Woodcote Library**  
**10.30-11:30am**



**Sessions will run:**  
**Saturday 8th October – Space, Stars and Planets**  
**Saturday 5th November – Bonfire Night Fun!**  
**Saturday 3rd December- Christmas Tree Decorations**

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

Craft sessions are free, however donations are gratefully accepted to fund further library events.  
 Thank you for supporting your local library.  
 Please contact the Library Manager – Lisa Trood if you have any queries about Saturday crafts.  
[Lisa.Trood@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Trood@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)  
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## ART EXHIBITION

Pangbourne Art Club will hold its annual exhibition at Pangbourne Village Hall on the weekend of 15-16 October, from 10am to 5pm each day. Meet the artists, watch demonstrations and buy original artwork, prints, and greetings cards. Refreshments available each day.

## WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

A rather overlooked feature of the landscape is the subject of our October talk – Milestones. In an age of google maps and satnavs it is easy to forget how important it was to have some guidance on the road when travelling. Find out from our speaker, Derek Turner, where our local ones are and how they have been preserved on Thursday 20th October. The meeting takes place at 7.30pm at Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill. Coffee and biscuits will be available from 7pm, and non-members are welcome - £3 to include refreshments.

November 17th is the date for Alastair Lack (ex BBC journalist) to come to talk about the Oxford of Inspector Morse. Goring Heath Village Hall, 7.30pm. Non-members welcome, as above.

## CITIZENS ADVICE

### Warm Home Discount rules updated for 2022-23



As winter approaches, many people will be nervously anticipating the cold weather and its inevitable effect on their heating bills. The Warm Home Discount (WHD) was introduced by the government in 2011 to offset some of this burden.

For 2022-2023 there have been a couple of significant changes to the WHD: the number of energy suppliers participating in the scheme will increase, and those on disability benefits who don't have low incomes nor high energy costs will not receive the WHD.

The value of the WHD payment is currently £150. Nobody needs to apply in order to receive it, with the exception of those living in mobile homes on a park home site (see below). The payment is credited automatically to the consumer's electricity supply account (or credit is directly applied to a pre-payment meter), and energy suppliers have to make this payment by 31 March each year at the latest.

Eligibility for the WHD is ascertained by means of data-matching between energy suppliers and government departments. There are three eligible groups of consumers: low-income pensioner households; low-income people on some means-tested benefits; and households with high energy costs. This last criterion is determined by the type of property you live in, especially its age and its floor area (based on information supplied by the Valuation Office Agency or the Land Registry).

There is an alternative form of WHD for those living in mobile homes on park home sites. For more information about this, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search for "Warm Home Discount". Also see the information under "Check if you'll get the Warm Home Discount in 2022" on <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>. The Citizens Advice consumer helpline is 0808 223 1133 and our Adviceline is 0808 278 7907 if you have other concerns about energy costs.

## HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

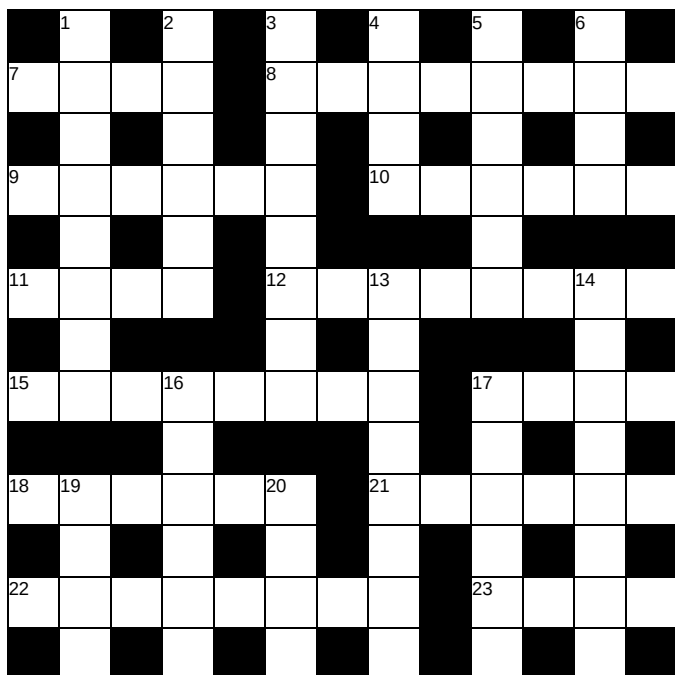
The evenings are rapidly drawing in so time to think of a new hobby. If you are interested in anything to do with the post, stamps, old letters, postcards or would like to know more come to Bix one Wednesday evening. You will find an absorbing hobby, covering many subjects and the opportunity to do research into different aspects of 'philately'. Help and advice to start or to increase your knowledge is willingly given.

Wednesday 12th October - An experimental evening trying out Power Point for our displays.

Wednesday 26th October -Members evening – Telling a story in 2 x A4 pages or 1 x A3 illustrated with different philatelic items. Any topic you like.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday 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](http://www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk)

## OCTOBER CROSSWORD



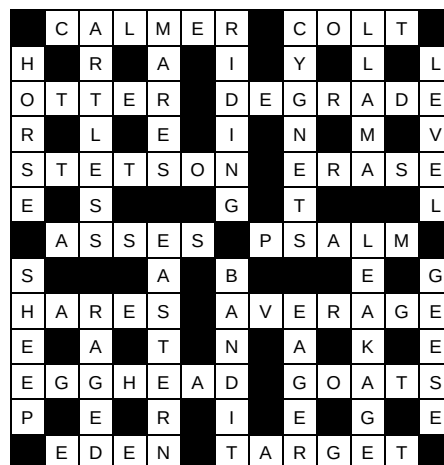
### Across

- 7 Fed-up lumberjack has fruit (4)
- 8 Clearance given by boss to decapitate stable lad (8)
- 9 Fruit drinks imbibed very softly (6)
- 10 Sailor takes granny back for fruit (6)
- 11 One in the dark missing light initially (4)
- 12 French refusal to feel rubbish (8)
- 15 Laws about artworks having time (8)
- 17 Mature with scripture before gym (4)
- 18 River plant? (6)
- 21 Pay attention to fifty-one early pairs of steam engines (6)
- 22 Uncle Sam – a man who grips another (8)
- 23 Angry about mythical archer (4)

### Down

- 1 Damaged pink lots easily undone (8)
- 2 Heartless ageism until effect charm (6)
- 3 Old joke about revolutionary reforming trick (8)
- 4 Boast about outfit (4)
- 5 Narrow fruit (6)
- 6 Miserable county (4)
- 13 Chick nets confused fish (8)
- 14 Poseurs scramble around male leaders (8)
- 16 Looms over tugs (6)
- 17 The surest fashion colour (6)
- 19 Englishman drops unknown fruit (4)
- 20 Cut cost food (4)

## SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION



## ROYAL QUIZ

1. Which King ruled England from 871 to 899?
2. Which King is buried in Reading Abbey?
3. From which castle did Empress Matilda escape in 1141?
4. Which King lost the crown jewels whilst warring with rebellious barons?
5. Which King was known as Longshanks and the Hammer of the Scots?
6. Which King founded the order of chivalry, the Order of the Garter?
7. Which King married the widow of his elder brother Arthur?
8. Who was the last Tudor monarch?
9. Name the most famous mistress of King Charles II?
10. Which king was known as the Prince of Wales because of his size 54 inch waistline?

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Alfred the Great
2. Henry I (1135)
3. Oxford Castle
4. John (1216)
5. Edward I
6. Edward III (1348)
7. Henry VIII (Catherine of Aragon)
8. Elizabeth I
9. Nell Gwynn
10. George IV

## DATES FOR THE DIARY – OCTOBER

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

|                  |   |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat 1st</b>   | * | Coffee Shop in aid of FOWPS. Woodcote Community Centre. 9.30am-12.30pm                                                                                                          |
| <b>Mon 3rd</b>   | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Juniors (year 7's). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                                                                                                  |
| <b>Tues 4th</b>  | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Seniors (years 8, 9 & 10). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                                                                                           |
|                  | * | BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'Army Aviation in Northern Ireland'. Email <a href="mailto:info@bmmhs.org">info@bmmhs.org</a> . 7.30pm                                                         |
| <b>Wed 5th</b>   | * | Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Digital Competition No.1. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm                                                                                     |
| <b>Thur 6th</b>  | * | Rhymetime for pre-schoolers. Woodcote Library. 10.15am-10.45am                                                                                                                  |
|                  | * | Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm                                                                                                                |
|                  | * | Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'A Year In Japan'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm                                                                                               |
| <b>Sat 8th</b>   | * | Woodcote Craft Fair. Langtree School Hall. 10am-3pm                                                                                                                             |
|                  | * | Saturday Crafts: Space, Stars and Planets. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am                                                                                                    |
| <b>Mon 10th</b>  | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Juniors (year 7's). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                                                                                                  |
| <b>Tues 11th</b> | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Seniors (years 8, 9 & 10). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                                                                                           |
| <b>Wed 12th</b>  | * | Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm                                                                                                                  |
|                  | * | BMMHS Talk: 'White Ship - Red Crosses'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm                                                                                                           |
|                  | * | Whitchurch Hill Camera Club Zoom meeting: A to Z of Imaging. 8pm                                                                                                                |
| <b>Thur 13th</b> | * | Rhymetime for pre-schoolers. Woodcote Library. 10.15am-10.45am                                                                                                                  |
|                  | * | Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm                                                                                                                |
|                  | * | Wallingford Photographic Club meeting: Critique Evening with Gordon Roberts. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm                                                                         |
| <b>Sat 15th</b>  | * | Pangbourne Art Club Exhibition. Pangbourne Village Hall. 10am-5pm                                                                                                               |
|                  | * | Goring Chamber Choir concert - 500 years of love songs for choirs. St. Thomas' Church, Goring. 3pm                                                                              |
| <b>Sun 16th</b>  | * | Pangbourne Art Club Exhibition. Pangbourne Village Hall. 10am-5pm                                                                                                               |
| <b>Mon 17th</b>  | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Juniors (year 7's). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                                                                                                  |
| <b>Tues 18th</b> | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Seniors (years 8, 9 & 10). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                                                                                           |
|                  | * | Wallingford & District Art Club on-line demonstration: 'Sunset in Pastels'. Email <a href="mailto:admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk">admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk</a> . 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

## OCTOBER DATES (cont.)

|                  |   |                                                                                                                    |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wed 19th</b>  | * | Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm                                                                 |
|                  | * | Whitchurch Hill Camera Club meeting: Practical Photography Meeting No.1. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm              |
| <b>Thur 20th</b> | * | Rhymetime for pre-schoolers. Woodcote Library. 10.15am-10.45am                                                     |
|                  | * | Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm                                                   |
|                  | * | Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'A Journey from "a bird on a stick" to "high key"'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm |
|                  | * | Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society talk: 'Milestones'. Goring Heath Parish Hall. 7.30pm                     |
| <b>Sat 22nd</b>  | * | Coffee Shop in aid of Goring and Woodcote Medical Practice. Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12pm                   |
| <b>Mon 24th</b>  | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Juniors (year 7's). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                                     |
| <b>Tues 25th</b> | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Seniors (years 8, 9 & 10). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                              |
| <b>Wed 26th</b>  | * | Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm                                                     |
|                  | * | Whitchurch Hill Camera Club Zoom meeting: The Pacific North-West. 8pm                                              |
| <b>Thur 27th</b> | * | Rhymetime for pre-schoolers. Woodcote Library. 10.15am-10.45am                                                     |
|                  | * | Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm                                                   |
|                  | * | Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Inspire, Capture, Print'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm                          |
| <b>Sun 30th</b>  | * | Woodcote Food Fair. Woodcote Village Hall. 11am-3pm                                                                |
| <b>Mon 31st</b>  | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Juniors (year 7's). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                                     |

## FORTHCOMING DATES IN NOVEMBER

|                 |   |                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tues 1st</b> | * | Woodcote Youth Club - Seniors (years 8, 9 & 10). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm                  |
|                 | * | BMMHS Zoom Talk: '273 Squadron RAF'. Email <a href="mailto:info@bmmhs.org">info@bmmhs.org</a> . 7.30pm |
| <b>Thur 3rd</b> | * | Rhymetime for pre-schoolers. Woodcote Library. 10.15am-10.45am                                         |
|                 | * | Chance to Chat. Woodcote Community Centre Lion's Den. 2.30pm-4pm                                       |
| <b>Sat 5th</b>  | * | Saturday Crafts: Bonfire Night Fun! Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am                                  |
|                 | * | St. Leonard's Fair. Woodcote Village Hall. 2pm-4pm                                                     |