



Woodcote

Vol 36 No 7

July 2024

CORRESPONDENT

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

TRIPLE TRIUMPH FOR WADS

For their 2024 Spring production, the Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society chose a triple bill of three one-act plays, which turned out to be an inspired decision, with the choice of three plays tailor-made for the acting talent on show.

The first offering, *The Attic* by Robert Scott, is a ghost story which develops from a page of a letter found as Demi and Callum clear out the attic of their house as they prepare to move. The letter reflects a tragedy which becomes an obsession for the fragile and neurotic Demi, while the rather unimaginative Callum appears confused by his wife's preoccupation. Chloe Spiers, as the paranoid Demi, increasingly losing her grip on reality, was the undoubted star of the whole show, giving a mature and completely credible performance in a demanding part, while James Peedell revealed an authentic diffidence and helplessness in the face of his wife's deterioration. The other characters, which may have led to the original tragedy, 'Mister,' 'Missus,' and Helen, the blackmailing 'other' woman, were parts played effectively by society stalwarts, Patrick Thomas, Elizabeth Thomas and Heather Simpson. The dramatic tension was increased by the quality of the acting and the skilful split-stage lighting. Then there was the twist at the end...

The second play, *Carrot* by David Tristram, lightened the mood considerably and provided the perfect vehicle for 'old-stagers', Terry Sopp and John Worsfold. Terry was the 'new broom' Managing Director, Peter, of a nut and bolt manufacturer. John was the 'dyed in the wool' union rep, Brian, refusing tea at their meeting because teatime was 11.00 am and taken with the fellow workers. Change in working practices was unthinkable to Brian even

with the same product being made for much less in China. Peter dangled the carrot; just how strong were the principles of the workers' champion? The dialogue between the actors was slick and perfectly timed.



The final play, *White Lies* by Richard James, depicts a reunion between four women who were friends at university some thirty years previously and who had not met up in the intervening period. Helen Coyne stole the show as Bea, glamorous, wealthy, self-centred and amoral, who had treated her friends like dirt at university and immediately took up where she had left off. While Bea had continued to pursue the high-life, 'the only bike without a saddle', the other characters had led humdrum lives and embraced comfortable middle-age. As the play develops the

Continued on page 3.

COMMENT FROM ST. LEONARD'S

Music has been a cornerstone of human experience for millennia. From the rhythmic drumming of ancient rituals to the soaring melodies of modern worship, it has the power to stir our emotions, to uplift us when we are sad, to give expression to rejoicing when we are celebrating at a wedding or other special occasion.

Music is everywhere we go. If you watched Dr Who a few weeks ago, in episode 2, we saw what the world could look like without music. The episode had a powerful message, which conveyed how, as human beings, we need music because it can help us to express those deep feelings that are beyond words and bring people together.

The Bible is filled with references to music. King David, a man after God's own heart, was a skilled musician whose songs expressed both praise and lament. Psalms, a book entirely dedicated to divinely inspired songs, showcases the power of music to connect us with God. Music can be in the form of prayer, a way to express gratitude and a channel for spiritual growth.

For me personally, the Psalms has been a book that has deeply helped me with my spiritual growth. If I am feeling down, there is generally a Psalm to help. Psalm 23 is a powerful Psalm that reminds us that God is always with us:

"Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me."

Science backs up what we naturally feel; music has a profound impact on our brains and emotions. Listening to music can trigger the release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and reward. Uplifting music can lift our mood, reduce stress, and even boost our immune system.

Music plays a central role in church services. Hymns and choirs create a sense of community and shared devotion. Instrumental music can evoke a sense of awe and wonder, preparing our hearts for prayer and reflection. Singing together allows us to express our faith in a unified voice, transcending individual differences and fostering a sense of belonging.

In the Covid pandemic we saw and felt what it was to have church services without music. I took many funerals without music, and we could feel something was missing. Music helps us when we are feeling things deeply. It can give us time just to look deeply inside us and reflect on those feelings.

The uplifting power of music extends beyond the walls of the church. Uplifting music can inspire us throughout our day, whether we are facing challenges or simply seeking a moment of peace. Creating playlists for specific moods or activities can elevate our daily routines and bring joy to ordinary tasks.

Here are some ways to incorporate the uplifting power of music into your life:

- *Join the choir that we have in the church (we have a choir for this like Christmas and Easter).*
- *Start your day with uplifting music.*
- *Create playlists for different moods and activities.*
- *Learn a new musical instrument.*
- *Come along to our praise on the 6th July at 4pm, where we will sing some of those well know hymns, and up life our hearts.*

By embracing the power of music, we can enrich our faith, uplift our spirits, and create a more harmonious world. So, let the music play on – a testament to the divine spark within us all!

In the porch of the church right now we have we have a small book stall with some puzzles for sale. Please do come in and have a look, sometimes we have jams etc. Come in and have a little look.

God bless,

Reverend David Benskin

Team vicar for the Langtree Team

Services at St. Leonard's

We are delighted to offer the following services offer this month. You are most welcome to attend any or all of them. Please know you are welcome also to bring people with you.

July Services:

Saturday 6th July

- *4pm Songs of praise*

Sunday 7th July

- *8.00 am Holy Communion*
- *9.45 am Parish Communion*

Sunday 14th July

- *8.00 am Holy Communion*
- *9:45 am worshipping together*

Sunday 21st July

- *8.00 am Holy Communion*
- *9:45 Open doors*

Sunday 28th July

- *8.00 am Holy Communion*
- *9.45 am Parish Communion*

On each 4th Sunday of the month, we will be having some space within the service, for children to have some special crafts and activities to learn more about God and the Bible.

Online Services

We continue with our online service of Night Prayer every Tuesday at 8.30 pm on Zoom. This follows the ancient monastic pattern of Compline and lasts for about 20 minutes. Join us from the comfort of your home with a hot drink as we finish the day with prayer. A warm welcome awaits.

If you would like to join us, please email me:

Rev'd David Benskin, revdbenskin@gmail.com or
01491 550367.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Unfortunately, I missed the latest WADS production, which sounds great from Sam's review. In July the village hall will be hosting another jazz night and also some kids cooking classes that sound like they will be fun. The library will also be starting a summer reading challenge for kids.

By the time this issue is delivered we will have endured most of the election campaign and be ready to vote. Please remember to bring your photo ID, which will be required for the first time to vote in a general election.

The Rally will take place over the weekend of the 12th-14th of July. It is based over in Ipsden this year, with the usual mix of steam engines, vintage vehicles, crafts, food, music and drinks. As usual, the Rally is open on Friday evening for us locals.

Nick

WADS TRIUMPH *(Continued from front page)*

friends develop a strategy for revenge on the obnoxious Bea, her obsession with wealth and her ambition to win the Lottery. Cathy Braben, (Ruth), Sue Clark, (Judith), and Heather Simpson, (Pam), provided a good under-stated contrast to the obnoxiously flamboyant Bea, while displaying their intellectual capacity for the devious to wreak a long-awaited revenge. The cameo role of the waitress with attitude, enabled Alice Benskin to make a promising WADS debut.

The rapturous applause received by all three offerings was particularly well-deserved, befitting a high-quality all-round performance.

WADS Panto is back! The WADS will be performing *Aladdin*, their first panto since Covid on 29th, and 30th November and 1st December.



SP

PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Editor: Nick Kolpin *[via email]*

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

Advertisers: To place an advertisement, please email wood-co@runbox.com for details of prices and how to produce your ad in our house style. The deadline for payment and your finished advertisement is the 12th of the preceding month.

Small Ads and Announcements: £5 for three lines.

Photographs: Photos should be unedited and as high a resolution as possible (at least 500kB). Please email them as attachments to wood-co@runbox.com

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The Woodcote Correspondent is on the Village website at tinyurl.com/Woodcote-Correspondent

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

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WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

The June meeting of the Parish Council was preceded by a very informative talk by Malcolm Smith, former parish councillor, Woodcote village hall trustee and key member of the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plan Alliance. He spent about 25 minutes delivering a summary of important things to remember over the coming years with regard the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan (NP), potential updates to national planning policy and how it will affect our NP, and when we need to put our heads together and do a formal update. The summary being, all things remaining equal in the intervening period, we need to start to update the Woodcote neighbourhood plan in late 2025, or at the latest, early 2026.

Our June meeting then started at 7:44pm, much like the annual meeting in May, we had a quite a few statutory things to consider including signing off all the 2023-2024 accounts and associated documents to send to the External Auditor to meet the 30th June deadline. Our electors can exercise their right to inspect these accounts between the period 7th June and 18th July. If you wish to make an appointment to inspect the accounts, please contact the Clerk on the normal channels. For more details on your rights regarding this inspection and how to contact the External Auditor with any concerns about the accounts, please see our noticeboards or the finance page of our website.

Other items of business included a significant increase in the grant awarded to the Our Woodcote Library (OWL) to pay for a librarian so it can be open on a Saturday morning. Oxfordshire County Council has increased their charges to the library for the librarian, resulting in the Parish Council needing to increase the annual grant from £2100 to £2680, to ensure this vital parish amenity remains open on a Saturday.

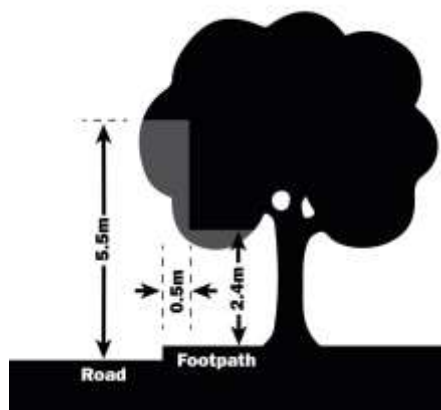
We continue to receive many complaints in the village about speeding, anti-social parking and overgrown hedges, which whilst they are all highways issues, the Parish Council decided to raise awareness, try to affect improvement in these issues and encourage all villagers to support rectifying these issues. To that end the following was approved:

To hold a public meeting, for people to come and find out about setting up a community speed watch, and for the parish council to better understand the speeding issues our villagers are contending with. We will invite speakers to come to discuss how the community speed watch scheme works and next steps. Please watch our website, noticeboards and social media for information on the date and time of this meeting, which will be dependent on the availability of our hoped-for speakers.

To arrange a meeting with the OCC Highways team to discuss parking issues and complete a village yellow line and parking restrictions review. Any changes to the current scheme will need to be considered by the parish council before OCC conducts a formal public consultation. Please be assured there will be no changes by stealth, and

everyone will have a chance to comment on any proposals.

Regarding the overgrown hedges, if you don't feel you can speak with the owner of the hedge/tree directly, please submit Fix My Street reports for overgrown hedges/trees over a highway (pavement or road). OCC can take action. If you are a hedge or tree owner though, please can we encourage you to ensure your hedges and trees are not impeding the highway, by cutting them back to your boundary, and maintaining the head heights as shown in the diagram below. If your hedges and trees need attention, please follow the law with regard to nesting birds, planning requirements and tree preservation orders.



Finally, we have a lot of immature trees in the village after a couple of years of parish council and OCC planting in and around the village. We hope for everyone there will be a long and sunny summer, unfortunately this is not optimal for the trees. There are different levels of how you can help us, please consider wearing one of the following titles with pride this summer.

- *Bonus Waterer: please can everyone carry this title with them this summer, particularly if we have a dry spell? Any time you are passing, even if you only have a dribble of water in a water bottle please give a tree a drink. Any bonus water will help the trees survive.*
- *Adopt-a-Tree Waterer: please consider adopting a tree near your home, if you have a hose or other watering facility that will reach, if you can make a regular commitment to some new trees near where you live please let us know, so we don't have everyone committing to one tree!*
- *Champion Waterer: if you would be able to dedicate time or have a way to move water to some of our harder to reach trees please do get in touch and we can put you to work.*

As ever, the normal way to contact the Council is Clerk@WoodcoteParishCouncil.org.uk, 07594 210389 or drop in to the office on a Wednesday morning, (or if you see the office door open!). Our July meeting has been moved from the 3rd July to the 17th July, so it is unlikely there will be a full update in the Correspondent next month, but if the community speed watch meeting has a date and time, we will get it put in the diary.

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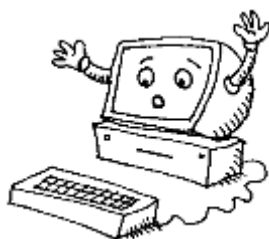
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SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

‘Everyone Active’ grant scheme now open to help people get fit

A new round of the Everyone Active grant scheme has launched today. The grant scheme, run by South Oxfordshire District Council, aims to help fund projects that help communities become more active and sustain activity.

Previous recipients include Oxford Conservation Volunteers and Benson United Football Club, who were both awarded grant funding last year and are using the grant to improve health and wellbeing in local communities with the offer of new fitness activities and opportunities for local people.

Thomas Bulford at Oxford Conservation Volunteers said: “We’ve been able to replace various worn tools and also buy two ‘Lazy Dogs’ – these tools are essential to our nature conservation work in South Oxfordshire. We’ve seen excellent participation from our long list of volunteers. Nature conservation work is of undoubted benefit to the physical and mental health of our volunteers, with the latter gaining increasing recognition.”

Trevor Simpson from Benson United Football Club said: “The new equipment has allowed over 25 under six-year-old children from Benson and the surrounding villages to improve their overall fitness and football skills. They’ve bonded as a team and enjoy training with each other and playing other Oxfordshire teams in friendly matches. Thanks to the grant, they’re ready for summer football tournaments and in a great position to enter the Oxfordshire U7 football league in September.”

South Oxfordshire District Council is providing £50,000 in funding for community organisations to apply for, with a maximum grant of £1,000. Applicants will need to show that their projects will help communities to become more active or sustain activity. More information about the grant scheme can be found on our website southoxon.gov.uk/grants or organisations can contact the council’s Community Enablement team on 01235 422405 or grants@southandvale.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is midday 22 July 2024.

We held a funding advice session at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on Thursday 20 Jun. If you have a project you’d like to discuss, have any questions about eligibility or the application process for this scheme or our other upcoming grant schemes, and you were unable to attend in person, we can arrange a phone call, or Teams chat on an alternative day. Email us at grants@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422405.

New capital grant funding round opens to applications in July

Voluntary and community organisations in South Oxfordshire will shortly be able to apply for up to £75,000 in funding for projects that help improve people’s quality of life. The new 2024/25 round of

the council's Capital Grant Scheme launches on 8 July 2024. The council has a total budget of £320,000, 15 per cent of which will be reserved for smaller projects.

Organisations can request a minimum of £5,000 and a maximum of £75,000 but no more than 50 per cent of their total project costs. The minimum overall cost of the project must be at least £10,000.

The grant gives organisations a financial boost towards capital expenditure such as making improvements to buildings or play areas.

Applicants must show how their projects will help improve the quality of life for people in South Oxfordshire through projects that; improve economic and community well-being, provide infrastructure that meets local need, that protect and restore our natural world; and take action on the climate emergency.

Organisations eligible to apply are:

- *Town and parish councils*
- *Non-profit businesses and Community Interest Companies*
- *Community-based organisations*

The Capital Grant Scheme will be open for applications from 8 July until midday 2 September. Applicants apply online through the council's website, southoxon.gov.uk/grants where the full guidance is available to help the applicant submit the best possible application.

GENERAL ELECTION

The government has called a general election to take place on the 4th of July. Woodcote forms part of the Henley and Thame constituency, which has a slightly changed area compared to the previous Henley constituency.

John Howell, who has been our MP since 2008, is not running for re-election. Our candidates to replace him are:

- *David Carpin (Independent)*
- *Nanda Manley-Browne (Labour Party)*
- *Freddie Van Mierlo (Liberal Democrats)*
- *Caroline Newton (Conservative and Unionist Party)*
- *Maryse Pomlett (Social Democratic Party)*
- *Jo Robb (Green Party)*
- *Peter Shields (Reform UK)*

This is the first general election where an approved photo ID such as a driving licence or passport is required. A full list of valid forms of ID can be found at www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need.

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COMING UP AT YOUR VILLAGE HALL

As many of the regular groups who use the hall start to think about their summer break, there are still plenty of comings and goings and a lot to look forward to...

We have two more great evenings of Jazz lined up. The Goring Community Jazz Club will be breaking our traditional spring and autumn jazz programme to bring you an evening with the Fleur Stevenson Quartet on Saturday 6th July. Jazz singer Fleur Stevenson, a familiar face on the London jazz scene will be supported by Stuart Henderson on trumpet, Hugh Turner on guitar and Howard King on double bass. Fleur has been described as having a honey-toned voice, an off-beat sense of humour and a charismatic stage presence so it promises to be a great night.

On Saturday 13th of July, Frugal Cakey will be offering 3 trial sessions for the new Woodcote Kids Kitchen. Open to children aged 6 – 11 years old, this new Saturday morning cooking club is for children who are interested in cooking and nutrition. Run by a fully qualified Food and Nutrition teacher and DBS checked staff, the sessions will give kids the opportunity to develop their skills and learn more about food and nutrition in a fun, safe and supportive environment.

There will be 3 Saturday morning sessions to choose from:

- *9.00am - 10.00am: Healthy, Allergen Friendly Baking - this is for children with allergies, or those that prefer healthier treats.*
- *10.30am - 11.30am: The Lunch Club, children will be independently learning to make a healthy lunch bag, for them to takeaway and enjoy.*
- *12.00pm - 1.00pm: Treat Baking, children will be preparing a treat to pop in the oven when they get home. This will contain ingredients which should be eaten in moderation!*

Each session is £15 per child and if they prove to be popular and successful, dates for a regular Saturday morning club will be launched to start in September 2024. If you would like to find out more about the Woodcote Kid's Kitchen, or book for Saturday 13th July, please go to www.frugalcakey.com/woodcote-kids-kitchen.

On Friday 12th July from 10am – 12.30pm there will be a free sleep and parenting session in the Function Room. Faye from Blissful Bambino will be running an informative session where you can get all your burning questions about sleep and parenting answered, whilst enjoying a coffee and delicious treat from Jessie's Coffee Truck. To book your place email blissfulbambino@ymail.com or find us on Instagram @blissfulbambinosleep or find out more about Blissful Bambino at www.blissfulbambino.co.uk.

Don't forget, you can find out what's happening at the hall, check availability and book online at woodcotevillagehall.com drop an email to woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com or call 07929 203096.

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WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

Tea Party for our clients - change of time

The new Tea Parties are proving very popular with our clients. They are held on the first Wednesday of each month from the new time of 2.30pm – 4.00pm at the Community Centre in Woodcote. We do need new drivers to assist us with the running of this initiative and would appreciate any help you can provide.

Woodcote Rally

We have a team of twelve helping on Sunday 14th July at the entrance to the Rally. Please say hello!

We are very grateful to the rally for funding our new computerised booking system. It is proving an absolute godsend, both to the office team and drivers.

New Volunteers

We would like to say a huge thank you and welcome to another new volunteer to our team, Ruth Knox, who is helping us in the office on a Tuesday morning and is also going to be a driver.

We would also like to thank four other people who expressed interest at Whitchurch Hill fete in becoming volunteer drivers, they should be available from July or August.

To Finish...

If you could help in any way, we would love to hear from you! Please go to our website to find out more about the various roles and how to contact us.

If you need a driver, please give us at least three days' notice as it can be hard to find someone at the last minute, but we will always try!

To book a driver, call 01491 681171 giving as much notice as possible.

To volunteer, email: info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk. Find out more about us at www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers or www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk,

WOODCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Saturday Coffee Shop

Thank you to everyone who supports this valuable village asset. Whether organizing a coffee shop, coming along to enjoy amazingly good value cake and coffee/tea, good company or to support the raffle, tombola, bookstall etc. All of course to help with the fundraising efforts of so many groups. An average of £250 is being raised each week for many good causes.

During August, the Coffee Shop will be closed. We reopen on Saturday September 7 with the St Leonard's Flower Team.

There are still some Coffee Shop slots available in November and December. Please visit the website to see the Room Diary or contact bookings@woodcotecc.co.uk if you have any queries.

Garden

A big thank you to Mike Hill and his team at Woodcote Garden Centre for keeping the garden looking neat and tidy. Mike has recently installed new fencing and a side gate to make the garden secure for anyone wanting to hire the Centre for children's parties etc.

Annual General Meeting

The Community Centre is a Registered Charity, and the Management Committee will be holding their AGM this year on Wednesday July 3 in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. Light refreshments will be provided from 7pm. Please come along and let us know what you think about the Centre or whether you would like to be more involved.

FMC

www.woodcotecc.org.uk

WOODCOTE VILLAGE FETE

Sat 14th Sep 12-5pm

Our produce and craft show is a traditional feature of our fete and showcases local talent. The entry guide for this year's fete is included with this issue of the Correspondent so please have a look and start planning your entries!

There is no need to pre-book, just bring along your entries (along with the entry form) to the village hall between 9am and 11am on the morning of the fete. There is a small charge for adult entries but entries from children are free. All entries are judged and are on display in the village hall during the fete for everyone to enjoy. We also get treated to piano and guitar performances from local musicians while we peruse the exhibits! Another tradition is the awards ceremony towards the end of the fete.

We couldn't put on such a wonderful display without all your entries, you are the stars of the show, so please do enter. There are separate categories for children, and it is a proud moment for them to see their work on display. We hope you enjoy producing your handiwork.

Another traditional feature of our fete is the raffle. This is very popular and for good reason, we have some great prizes up for grabs! A number of local businesses kindly donate prizes so make sure you come along and buy some tickets! The fete is a charity event, and any profit is spent on improving our village hall. We'll start to let you know about some of the raffle prizes for this year soon. We'll also be letting you know about our generous sponsors, whose support we rely on.

If you are able to help us run the raffle at the fete, even if just for an hour, please do get in touch! We are in need of volunteers for this. If you would like to help at the fete in any other way, we'd also love to hear from you. Call 07773 447504, email woodcotebite@gmail.com or message us via our Facebook page @WoodcoteVillageFete.

The Fete Team

WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Improved Results

After a losing start to the Berkshire League season, the past month has seen a considerable improvement.

For the first team there has been a defeat and two wins in the Premier Division. The defeat at Stratfield Turgis on May 18th was followed by two local derby wins at home to Checkendon and Peppard Stoke Row. A narrow defeat by four runs at Stratfield on May 18th saw an outstanding performance by Rakesh Nair who followed up a brilliant bowling performance by scoring 51 not out with the bat. On 25th May we entertained Checkendon and won the match by 132 runs. Batting first we scored 231 for 8 with Jez Mayo scoring a brilliant 91, Paul Knox 55 and James Worsfold 32. Checkendon were then bowled out for only 99 thanks to excellent bowling from Mark Pearson (4 for 18) and Jonny Aldridge (3 for 8). The most exciting win came against Peppard Stoke Row on 1st June when we won by 1 wicket with one ball to spare. Peppard batted first and scored 146 for 8 with the bowling honours going to Rakesh Nair (3 for 16). The low total gave hope for an easy win, but at 72 for 7 Peppard looked the most likely winners. Fortunately, a really good knock by Paul Knox (66) and late heroics from the last pair, Rakesh Nair (16 not out) and Jonny Aldridge (6 not out) saw the winning run coming on the penultimate ball of the match.



Jez Mayo

The Saturday 2nd XI who play in Division 4B have performed well so far to record two wins and a loss. On 18th May they won by 8 wickets against Wargrave V at home. Wargrave scored 146 and with Rakesh Patel (60 not out) scoring his first half-century, Gary de

Pinchart (35) and Simon Fuller (28) only

two wickets were lost. Earlier, in the Wargrave innings, Pete Roberts bowled well to take 4 for 18 and wicketkeeper, Neil McDougall also had a good day with three stumpings. On 25th May, the 2nds won at Woodley by 6 wickets. Woodley were bowled out for 108 with Pete Roberts taking 5 for 18 and Ollie Offwood 2 for 8. Ollie Offwood then top-scored with the bat (26 not out) and useful runs were added by Gary de Pinchart (25), Stefan Gordon (23 not out) and Archie Clark (20). The first defeat for the 2s came against Bracknell United VI by 92 runs. Chasing 212, Woodcote never looked likely to win and the defeat might have been heavier but for a half-century by Stefan Gordon (59 not out).

In the South Oxon Midweek League, the Wednesday XI has recorded two wins and a defeat. The loss came against Clifton Hampden on 15th May was by 29 runs. The team did well to dismiss Clifton for 87,

Mark Pearson 4 for 15 and James Worsfold 3 for 10, but then proceeded to lose all their wickets for 58, of which James Worsfold scored 37. It was different story at Watlington on 29th May when Woodcote won by 85 runs. Woodcote scored 126 for 3 with Archie Clark (54 retired not out) and Stefan Gordon (53 retired not out) putting on 118 together. Watlington could only manage 41 all out (Tommy Brownlow 3 for 8). On 5th June, playing last year's champions, Moreton, away there was a really good team performance which saw us win by 90 runs. Woodcote scored 153 for 7, Alec Curtis 39 not out, Scott Gore 34 and Jack Potter 27. Moreton reached 93 for 7, with Mark Pearson 3 for 6, James Worsfold 2 for 17 and Connor Mattimore 2 for 25.

Home Fixtures in July

- *Saturday 6th: 2nd XI v Woodley*
- *Saturday 13th: 1st XI v Goring*
- *Thursday 18th: Old Merchant Taylors Tour XI (2.00 pm)*
- *Saturday 20th: 1st XI v Stratfield Turgis*
- *Saturday 27th: 2nd XI v Crowthorne*
- *Sunday 28th: Friendly XI v Letcombe*

There may be some additional midweek matches in the South Oxon Cup.

SP

WOODCOTE CONSERVATION GROUP

The wonder of trees

In this series of articles, we are highlighting a different native species each month, sharing some facts and discussing trees' value for wildlife. Trees also provide a range of benefits to society, known as ecosystem services. Sadly, these benefits are often not recognised or valued so we thought we would take this opportunity to mention a few.

The most obvious benefit of trees for the planet is often identified by their photosynthesising character. As trees breathe in carbon dioxide, they produce fresh oxygen and convert the captured CO₂ to glucose and use it to grow. In doing so, they sequester carbon and, as a by-product, water is released into the atmosphere.

However, next to their oxygen producing capacity, trees make life on Earth liveable and therefore, the ecosystem services, i.e. the services they provide us that enable and make our life on this earth possible and enjoyable, might more accurately be called "life supporting services". The key ecosystem services provided by trees can be summarised as:

- *Regulating temperatures through evapotranspiration*
- *Providing shade and forming a wind break*
- *Mitigating the effects of air pollution, primarily by intercepting airborne particulate matter on their leaves, but also by absorbing ozone, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and ammonia*
- *Sequestering carbon from the air to use for tree growth, especially large, older trees*

- *Managing and filtering rainwater, reducing surface run-off and assisting groundwater recharge*
- *Stabilising the soil and maintaining good soil health through soil aeration and cycling nutrients*
- *Providing food and shelter for wildlife*

Trees are good for us too. As well as providing aesthetic pleasure, there is strong and growing evidence linking exposure to trees with enhancements in both our physical and mental health and wellbeing. Short-term physical benefits of trees have been measured simply through sitting in a room with tree views. Other benefits include speeding recovery from surgery and illness, enhancing attention and cognitive function, improving mental health and wellbeing, improving pregnancy and birth outcomes, reducing mortality rates (especially related to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases), and encouraging physical activity. In addition, evidence suggests that the presence of trees can be used to deter crime and anti-social behaviour. Roadside trees also have an impact on road safety, reducing the frequency and severity of crashes, reducing traffic speed and enhancing pedestrian safety.

As the trees planted around the village through Woodcote Parish Council's initiative 'Project Cool' grow and mature, they will benefit us all in so many ways for decades to come.

This month's tree is the Lime (*Tilia* species). The name of the British lime tree is a derivation of the Germanic word *lind*, which became *linde* or *linne* in Anglo Saxon, meaning 'flexible', a reference to the tree's properties as a timber favoured by carvers and used for all sorts of things from agricultural implements to piano keys. Neither the name nor the tree is in any way related to the lime citrus fruit (*Citrus aurantiifolia*).

There are two native species of lime in Britain, Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) and Large-leaved Lime (*T. platyphyllos*). Common Lime (*T. x europaea*) is a hybrid of the other two and occurs naturally as well as being widely planted. Limes grow to very tall trees, height varying between 35-45m depending on species. With the exception of yew, they live longer than any other native tree. Lime is hardy in winter, tolerant of droughts, is shade tolerant and itself casts a heavy shade – all ideal qualities for our changing climate.

While their size varies between species, leaves are dark green, heart-shaped and narrow to a pointed tip; they are eaten by many species of caterpillar. Lime is monoecious, producing clusters of yellow-white five-petalled flowers in summer from a long leaf-like bract (which then acts as a wing as the cluster of fruit falls from the tree). All flowers are heavily scented and produce abundant nectar and pollen for insects, particularly bees. Did you know that the sticky stuff which drips like fine rain from lime trees in summer is honeydew? It is excreted by sap-sucking insects such as aphids and scale insects. Ants 'farm' the aphids to supplement their diet by collecting the honeydew from them like milk from a cow. Black mould rapidly invades the sticky

coated leaves and stems – although unsightly, it is harmless.

We hope you enjoy our articles in the Correspondent. Woodcote Conservation Group run events throughout the year about the wildlife and green spaces around the village including guided walks. We also meet on the third Saturday of most months to care for Greenmoor Ponds and Tidmore Pool. Do come and join us to lend a hand at one of these 'green gym' sessions. For more information about our activities and how to become a member, see our website <https://woodcotecg.org.uk/>.

Woodcote Conservation Group

UPCOMING EVENTS AT WOODCOTE LIBRARY



July will be a busy month at Woodcote library with the start of the Summer Reading Challenge 2024. This year the theme is 'Marvellous Makers'.

Children across Oxfordshire can take part in the Challenge at their local Oxfordshire Library from 6th July to 7th September 2024. This year's Challenge is all about creativity, from dance to drawing and junk modelling to music.



The challenge is open to children of all ages. Children will be encouraged to read at least six library books of their choice over the summer holidays. As they read, they collect stickers (some smelly) and rewards. If they complete the challenge, they will be rewarded with a Marvellous Makers medal and certificate.

It's fun! It's free! It's local!



We will also be running an exciting Summer Reading Challenge craft event on Saturday 27th July (10.30-11.30am).

We hope you can join us for our craft event and please do pop in to Woodcote library to find out more about the Summer Reading Challenge. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Lisa Trood
Woodcote Library Manager

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COMPETITION GUIDE

Saturday 14th September 2024

The hall will be open to drop your exhibits off from 9am until 11 am.

Fill in the entry form which you will find opposite. Please note 'one entry form per person' (if more forms are required please copy the form).

ENTRY FEES: Adults 50p per entry (capped at £5) / Children (15 or under) - FREE

Rules

- You may only show **ONE** exhibit in each category.
- The hall will be closed for judging and will only reopen once finished.
- All exhibits **MUST NOT** be removed before 16.00. All exhibits are to be removed from the hall by 17.00; if they are not removed, they will be sold or disposed of.
- A table top exhibit sale will commence at 17.00 for non collected exhibits or those offered for sale as noted on the exhibitors card.
- Please label clearly any baking entries that may contain nuts.
- The Sunflower competition is open to all age groups. Send entries by email to the Fete Committee: woodcotefete@gmail.com. Winners to be announced at the Fete where your photos will be on display. **Closing date is 2 days prior to the day of the Fete.**
- Any exhibits entered in this fete must not have been entered in any other show.
- **All exhibits are left at the owner's risk.**
- The judge's decision must be accepted as final.

Thank you for entering your exhibits. We hope that you enjoy the experience and will continue to support the Woodcote Fete in future years. Good Luck.

Competition Categories

Vegetables

VG1	3 Onions under 250g - single variety
VG2	5 Potatoes – single variety
VG3	3 Carrots - single variety
VG4	6 Runner Beans with stalks - single variety
VG5	Longest Runner Bean with stalk - any variety
VG6	6 French Beans with stalks - single variety
VG7	5 Tomatoes - single variety
VG8	3 Beetroot - single variety
VG9	3 Courgettes - maximum 20cm - single variety
VG10	1 Cucumber - any variety
VG11	1 Brassica – trimmed
VG12	3 Chillies – single variety
VG13	2 Peppers – single variety
VG14	4 Different Vegetables as gathered (unwashed & untrimmed) in a basket
VG15	1 Pumpkins/Squash - any variety
VG16	2 Marrows - single variety
VG17	Heaviest Pumpkin
VG18	Heaviest Marrow

Fruit

FRI	3 Apples – single variety
FR2	3 Pears – single variety
FR3	Mixture of any soft fruits

Flowers

FA1	Open floral display - a single arrangement of homegrown flowers and foliage
FA2	An arrangement using only foraged foliage
FA3	A miniature floral arrangement – to measure no more than 15cm high in total
FA4	An arrangement in a shoe!
FA5	3 Dahlia stems- single variety
FA6	1 Specimen flower - Dahlia
FA7	1 Specimen flower – non Dahlia
FA8	An Autumn wreath – can feature fresh and/or dried flowers – to measure no more than 45cm in diameter
FA9	House plant

Home Grown Other

HG1	A bunch of herbs – 3 different varieties
HG2	Longest nettle
HG3	3 eggs – one breed of hen or duck
HG4	Any amusingly shaped vegetable or fruit

Preserves

PR1	Lemon curd
PR2	Soft fruit jam
PR3	Chutney
PR4	Jelly
PR5	Ketchup
PR6	Flavoured alcoholic beverage

Home Baking

BA1	Victoria sponge
BA2	Lemon drizzle cake

BA3	Apple based cake
BA4	A small basket of sweet biscuits
BA5	Gingerbread – made to set recipe – 4 identical squares. Recipe found on our website – www.woodcotefete.com
BA6	4 identical savoury muffins
BA7	4 Bread rolls
BA8	4 Fruit scones

Art

AR1	Landscapes
AR2	Still Life
AR3	Portrait – human or animal

Photography

PH1	Local Landscape
PH2	'A sporting event'
PH3	Portrait (human or animal)
PH4	Amusing with a caption

Handicrafts

HC1	Knitting
HC2	Crochet
HC3	Cross Stitch
HC4	A Sewn apron
HC5	Pottery
HC6	Miniature model – woodwork non kit
HC7	Jewellery – an item that is handmade and wearable
HC8	A small mosaic

Writing

AWI	Limerick – 5 lines – to include the words ‘I went for a walk’
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Sunflower Competition

CHSU1	Tallest Sunflower Photos and measurements to be emailed to the Fete Committee: woodcotefete@gmail.com 2 days prior to the Fete or bring along your own photo on the day. For authenticity you will need to take a photo of yourself standing next to your sunflower. The winning entry will be judged on the overall height of stem (ground or top of earth if in pot) to top of flower head.
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Children’s Competitions

Pre School – Individual entries

PS1	A vegetable animal
PS2	Decorated digestive biscuit
PS3	A face on a plate
PS4	Pasta necklace

Pre School – Group Entries

PSGI	Tuff tray display with the theme ‘Woodland’
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Key Stage 1

CHL1	A colourful collage with the theme ‘woodland’
CHL2	Homemade decorated fairy cakes
CHL3	Biscuit tin fairy garden
CHL4	Design and build a Lego model – non kit
CHL5	Junk model of a space rocket
CHL6	Colour in one of the set pictures – ‘Birds’ These will be available at the primary school and on our website - www.woodcotefete.com

Key Stage 2

CHU1	A selection of homegrown vegetables
CHU2	A posy of flowers in a recycled tin
CHU3	Homemade decorated fairy cakes
CHU4	Design and build a Lego model – non kit – with the theme ‘something that flies!’
CHU5	How many different things in a matchbox (measuring 55mmx35mmx15mm)
CHU6	A piece of jewellery using beads
CHU7	Make a greeting card for a Birthday celebration and feature your handwriting
CHU8	Photograph – featuring an animal

11 Plus (Under 15)

SSI	Homemade chocolate cake
SS2	A posy of flowers in a recycled tin
SS3	Miniature model – i.e. made using clay or wood or other material
SS4	How many different things in a matchbox (measuring 55mmx35mmx15mm)
SS5	A piece of artwork – drawing or painting
SS6	Photograph – featuring an animal

Entry Form

Name	
Age (if 15 or under)	
Address	
Phone / Email	
Exhibitors Number	

	Class Entered Please use code i.e. VG I		Class Entered		Class Entered
1		11		21	
2		12		22	
3		13		23	
4		14		24	
5		15		25	
6		16		26	
7		17		27	
8		18		28	
9		19		29	
10		20		30	
Number of Classes entered					
TOTAL Fees due Adults @ 50p per entry (capped @ £5) / Children - Free					

Keep this form safe: Bring it with you and you will be allocated an exhibitor's number. You can use this number to complete your exhibitor's card when you display your entries at the fete. **Entries must be in place for judging before 11:00am**

WOODCOTE RALLY



The Woodcote Rally is a festival of steam, vintage and veteran transport with entertainment for all the family. We have a wide range of exhibits including large and miniature steam engines, stationary

engines, cars, motor bikes, tractors, military, models and commercial vehicles. During both days, the exhibits will display in the main arena and there will be a separate tractor working area.

We have a large craft marquee with a range of hand-crafted goods and an enticing food area. Outside the marquee is the country area where you can watch demonstrations of traditional country skills including wood turning, stick making, hedge laying and willow weaving. We also have a wonderful birds of prey display and a children's petting farm. There's a range of trade stands including jewellery, metal artwork, garden furniture, tools, clothing and accessories, die cast models and food products including gluten free.

In the children's entertainment area there's a face painter, entertainer and circus skills workshops. The funfair is a great attraction for all ages.

During both days live bands will play on the main stage and continue long into the evening. By the stage you'll find our famous Woodcote Festival of Real Ale including a range of alternative drinks to real ale such as lagers, craft beers, spirits, wines and soft drinks. This year it's being run by Bootleg. In this area you'll also find a range of food stalls to satisfy all tastes.

All of these attractions combine to make the Rally South Oxfordshire's premier event of its kind. Since 1964, the Rally Committee has donated a total of £532,000 to local charities and other deserving organisations.

This year's event will be held over the weekend of 13th and 14th July 2024. The Rally is located about 10 miles north-west of Reading on the A4074 Reading to Oxford Road. We are in a new field off Church Lane, Ipsden, OX10 6BZ. The What 3 Words location is "less.hoped.pens". The car parks & entrances will be well sign posted from all directions.

Public transport is available to the site on the X40 Thames Travel Bus Service between Oxford and Reading which runs about every 30 minutes. There are bus stops (both ways) just by Church Lane with a short walk to the Rally site from there. (Check the bus sites website for actual bus times.)

Please visit us at www.woodcoterally.org.uk for further details.

Please note that on Friday 12th July the Rally opens its doors at 18:00 for the benefit of all the local villagers. There will be free entrance and free, excellent entertainment. The bar and food areas will be open. The fun fair will be open, and they will be providing cut price rides all evening.

Entry Prices

	Advance (online)	On the day
Family (2 adults + 3 children)	£25	£30
Adults	£10	£12
Children	£5	£6
OAPs	£9	£10

The Advance (online) prices mean a saving of up to 16% on the on the day prices.

Marshals Required

This year's Woodcote Rally will be held off Church Lane, Ipsden, OX10 6BZ. Arrangements are now well underway, but we need lots of volunteers to act as marshals over the weekend of 13/14 July 2024.

You can volunteer for as long or as little as you like over one day or the whole weekend! Marshals get free entry to the Rally plus light refreshments throughout the day. You also get a nice bright "day glow" orange, fluorescent jacket!

Main duties involve guiding exhibitors into and out of the ring, ensuring the public are kept safe, whilst helping to deal with any general enquires. Rally Officials will be on hand to help where necessary.

If you are volunteering and representing a particular organisation, please let us know which organisation, as this may make you eligible for a working donation.

If you would like to make yourself or your organisation available for being a marshal, please contact Bruce Jones at marshals@woodcoterally.org.uk.

WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Preparing for the New Season 24-255

After a record-breaking season in 2023-24, the Football Club is making preparations for 24-25 season when the First Team will be competing in the Thames Valley Premier League. Pre-season training will commence in early July and a programme of pre-season friendlies have been agreed as follows.

- *Saturday July 6th: Burghfield (away)*
- *Saturday July 13th: Henley Town (away) – Henley Cup*
- *Saturday July 20th : Woodley United (away)*
- *Wednesday July 24th: Kintbury Rangers Development (away)*
- *Saturday July 27th : Binfield U23s (away)*
- *Tuesday July 30th: Wallingford & Crowmarsh (home)*
- *Saturday August 3rd: Burghclere (away)*

Anyone interested in joining the club or attending pre-season training should contact Chris Bark (Head Coach) on 07414 458318.

SP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

There are youngsters smoking weed on a daily basis at Wood Green Park and are not making any attempts to hide the fact.

They no longer just sit on the bench at the bottom of the park backing onto the Goring Road, they sit on the bench in full daylight as you walk through the park.

Walking past on the Goring Road, you can smell it from some distance. Surely this is not something that can be ignored. Children use this park and should not be subjected to this. It's time this issue is addressed.

Name and address withheld.

GORING AND WOODCOTE MEDICAL PRACTICE UPDATE

There have been a lot of changes at the medical practice recently, so we want to update you on some of these.

Total triage

Since November 2023, we have implemented a total triage process for GP appointments. This involves the completion of a simple online form via our website www.goringwoodcotemedicalpractice.nhs.uk, available Monday to Friday between 8am to 4pm, though we will occasionally temporarily pause in situations of overwhelming demand. For those unable to access the form online, you can speak to our care navigator team who will complete this on your behalf. The information we get when patients complete the form themselves is usually much better and enables successful triage first time, particularly for skin conditions and submitting a photo alongside the information. If you are able to use the internet and shop online, you will be able to use this simple

form. Family members and carers can complete the form on behalf of the patient too.

We have adopted this approach alongside a large number of other GP practices across the country in an attempt to manage increasing patient requests for appointments, and in response to NHS England recovering access to primary care, launched in May 2023. We are trying to improve continuity for our patients, whilst also booking patients in with the most appropriate member of the clinical team.

There are also other services commissioned and funded separately which we might signpost patients to instead, including pharmacy for minor ailments (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/>), opticians for minor eye conditions, minor injury units, community services (e.g. district nurses) as well as the hospital for more serious conditions, such as symptoms of heart attack, stroke and significant injury. This is to ensure we have the capacity to see the patients that need to see a GP, or one of the practice team.

We cover a population of over 10,500 patients, and in the 6.5 months of launching total triage, we have managed 16,777 triage requests for appointments, delivering 6799 face to face GP appointments, 1523 routine telephone consultations and 1854 minor illness appointments with our nursing / paramedic team. Conversion rate from triage requests to any appointment is 60.7%. Of those who need an appointment, 85% are face to face and of those that are face to face 78.6% are with a GP.

Feedback from patients has been overwhelmingly positive, but where problems have been raised, we have investigated and learnt from this.

Nursing and health care assistant or blood test appointments are bookable directly through care navigator teams either by telephone or in person.

Staffing

We have had significant changes to our administrator, care navigator and clinical teams in the last year. One of the GPs is on long term sick leave, 2 salaried GPs have left, so we are having to employ GP locums, which we have not had to do for a number of years. This means that the regular GPs are doing more of the triage sessions, which can impact on their routine availability. We have advertised for salaried GPs and Dr Akhil Kanzaria, one of our previous registrars, is joining the practice in November.

We are fortunate to have an experienced paramedic as part of the practice team, Kate Moss, who can confidently assess patients with symptoms of suspected chest infection, upper respiratory infections, urinary tract infection, abdominal pain, MSK are just examples of her range of practice. She is also performing home visits for patients unable to attend the practice for acute conditions and can do palliative care sign posting and signpost to additional support in the home to keep you in your own home.

We have a first contact physiotherapist, Liz Ratcliffe, who is a very experienced physiotherapist working in an acute trust in London for part of the week,



Open Monday to Friday 8:30am-3:30pm

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Situated within Woodcote Primary School, The Cabin is a caring preschool that encourages a passion for education, artistic expression, and discovery in a warm and secure setting designed for children aged 2 to 5 years.

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FREE settling in sessions

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teaching trainee physiotherapists and working for us. This role involves the initial assessment of musculoskeletal conditions that you might have initially seen a GP for, but it is not for regular ongoing physiotherapy, you will be directed to the community provider for this, which is currently Connect Health, and accepts self-referral via their website www.connecthealth.co.uk/services/oxfordshire/.

Mitali Bhatt is our clinical pharmacist, who will perform in depth medication reviews for patients, support the GPs with reconcile medication changes following hospital discharge and has a specialist interest in cardiovascular medicine, in particular managing hypertension (raised blood pressure) and hypercholesterolaemia (raised cholesterol).

Sophia Cleverly has just joined the team as a social prescriber, and you may be offered appointments with Sophia for conditions related to social isolation, loneliness, low level anxiety. Sophia lives locally and is an experienced professional coach and mentor.

Our nursing team now comprises of Stella Mitchell who is a longstanding member of the practice team who retired last year but has returned to support with ad hoc clinics for asthma / COPD and general practice nursing care; Lynn Pucill, who has just joined the practice team this May, and is a very experienced diabetes nurse specialist; Joanna Venegas, a very experienced A&E and acute nurse who is supporting the practice with some minor illness appointments as well as learning the role of a practice nurse including immunisation and smear taking; Jess Westell, a very experienced nurse with an interest in all aspects of practice nursing (dressings, immunisations, smear taking) as well as in asthma and diabetes.

We have Health Care Assistant Parris O'Donnell, who worked in the stroke services in the RBH and is undertaking further training to perform the whole HCA role in primary care (blood tests, ECGs, NHS health checks, minor dressings / injections); Lesley Cole, a very experienced phlebotomist who is extremely skilled with blood taking; 2 GP Assistants Tamsin Ashworth and Louise Jones who perform a variety of tasks including phlebotomy, ECGs, minor dressings, certain injections, as well as some of the administration tasks and follow up of patients for certain conditions and their health reviews.

Other services

We have health kiosks in both of our waiting rooms where you can record blood pressure, height and weight as well as completing certain health questionnaires that link in directly with your medical record. This helps support your health care, keeping your records up to date and can help identify if you need a medical review. Members of the PPG have been shown how the machines work and our care navigators, time-allowing, can also support patients if they want help with using the machines.

Our dispensing machines are well used and a good option for patients who are eligible (live over 1 mile from a pharmacy) to be dispensed their medications by the practice to collect their prescriptions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please look at the online

registration form for this or ask at reception if you would like to know more.

Our practice website is kept up to date with information and links to other services, with important announcements and health information also being announced on our social media platforms on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).

What you can do to help yourselves and in turn help us provide better health care to you

Make sure your details are up to date, including mobile phone numbers and email addresses.

Using the NHS app and other applications for ordering prescriptions, reviewing your medical record and any investigations and blood results that have been requested by the practice (investigations ordered by hospital specialists are not available through this at present).

Give time for your repeat medication requests, we do try and turn these around quickly, but national supply issues of certain medications are out of our control, and we will do what we can to support you obtaining your medicines in a timely way.

Consider joining the PPG as a virtual member to stay up to date and have your views heard.

If you have a child, then have a look at the Healthier Together Oxfordshire website, www.oxfordshire-healthiertgether.nhs.uk/, an excellent source of information about common childhood conditions.

Make use of community pharmacy for minor conditions and ailments as per www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/.

Be kind to our staff, we are all one team, our patient facing reception team and dispensers are doing their best in challenging circumstances (increasing patient demand with limited resources for increasing capacity, national medicine supply issues), being polite and courteous will go a long way.

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WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are hugely excited this Summer Term here at the Primary School, because our new Canopy is being built outside our reception classroom. This will provide our youngest children with a structure to keep them dry in the rain and sheltered from the sun in the summer warmth. Our last canopy was damaged beyond repair in the storms this March and so a whole new canopy has been designed. We are really grateful to The Parish Council and to FOWPS for helping us to fund this project.

These pictures show the project so far, not bad progress for just one week!

Our year 6 pupils have recently returned from their residential trip. They so deserved a break after doing their SATs. They worked so hard. Whilst in Devon, they experienced raft building, a giant swing, a loooong zip wire, rifle shooting, climbing and paddle boarding. They learnt more about their own strengths and challenged themselves to achieve things they thought previously out of their reach. Always a highlight of the final year at school, everyone who went had a fabulous time.

As part of their WW2 topic, year 5 stepped back in time to the 1940s and experienced a day in the past. They have also been learning all about the anniversary of the D-Day landings. They have found the whole thing fascinating, and I am sure they will reflect more deeply on all they have learnt when we visit the village war memorial in November again this year.

In sport this month, we sent two teams from year 4 along to a tennis match. This was their first tennis tournament they had played, and while not placed, they played extremely well and improved their game whilst there. They showed huge tenacity and sportsmanship.

Year 5 and 6 also entered a tennis tournament. Year 5 played well and are looking forward to their next match. Year 6 qualified for the finals and were placed third in the overall tournament. Well done to them all.

We are looking for more volunteers to come in and help with reading in school. If you can spare an hour

and would like to hear the children read, please let our office know. We would love to welcome you. We also need Lunchtime Supervisors. Anyone who has time to spare in the middle of the day could find this a very rewarding job. If you are interested, please give the office a call. We look forward to welcoming you to our team.

Mrs L. Hunt



WW2 dressing up in Maple class



Year 5 and 6 tennis tournament at the Oratory



Willow Class paddle boarding



Willow Class climbing wall

CHECKENDON PRE-SCHOOL

We have been making the most of the lovely weather enjoying lots of time outdoors, exploring the world around us. We have been planting lots of exciting things for our flower beds, such as pumpkins, sunflowers and dahlias. Learning about how things grow and what they need. We have also been planting our very own sunflowers for our dads for Father's Day. We have been weeding and preparing our flower beds ready to plant what we have grown. Thank you to Richard for building our new flower box and Lorna who has very kindly filled it with soil so we can plant our pumpkins.

We have lots to look forward to in the coming term with one of our children's favourite, Sports Day followed by a family picnic in the field, Leavers Celebrations and end of term party.

Through fundraising we have raised over £500. We are pleased to say we have been able to buy some wonderful new resources to support the children's play. Thank you for your continued support.

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

WOODCOTE WI

Sally Lambert welcomed the members and the President of South Stoke WI, who will be our delegate at the National meeting at the Royal Albert Hall in June.

Hazel Tagg was given a card for her birthday, and we hope she had a good day.

There will be a trip to Waterperry Gardens with our Homes and Gardens Group, so an opportunity to see the lovely gardens and a tour around the house.

We also had details of the Group meeting this time at North Moreton, this will include a Ploughman's lunch and a glass of wine! The speaker will be Deborah Ellis, a Poet 'but not as you know it'. This was followed by a delicious tea, thank you to Shirley Bryant and Louise Heathcote.

Sally then gave us an outline of the Resolution, 'Dental Health Matters', this was followed by a debate from the members. They voted unanimously to vote for the Resolution.

Ann Larden then gave us a quiz which was won by Sally Lambert. The Bloom of the Month winner was Carole Shelley – Allen with her beautiful red Peony.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall for a 2.30pm start; we would love you to join us.

Judy Williams

WOODCOTE PRE-SCHOOL

Welcome back from a lovely half term! We were very much looking forward to seeing everyone again and hearing all about their half term holiday adventures.

We released our butterflies before half term on the recreation ground. We hatched five Painted Lady butterflies and watched them grow from tiny little caterpillars. The children were fascinated throughout the whole experience and can't wait to do it again next year.

This half term we have been enjoying a lot more outside play, visiting the park and the allotment together. It's nearly time to harvest our peas, the children love picking and shelling them and passing them to Tanya to cook for their lunch. Our strawberries will also be ready in the next couple of weeks or two. We are keeping an eye on all our potatoes, sweetcorn, green beans and all the other produce we are growing. It is such an amazing opportunity for us to have our very own allotment so the children can learn all about growing and nurturing their fruit and vegetables.

We have been making Father's Day Cards and drawing pictures of our Daddies ready for Father's Day. There has been lots of play with many requests for the hairdresser's role-play, cars and tools so we can be mechanics, babies and doctors are also very firm favourites.

We read the *Handa's Surprise* story with the children, and they sampled some different fruits from around the world. They tried guava, coconut, pineapple, lychees and various other fruits.

Preparations for Sport's Day are underway, picking teams, sorting equipment and practicing our races. We are excited to welcome all of our families to watch and join in the fun on Sport's Day, followed by a picnic lunch.

Our school leavers have been enjoying trying on uniforms and practicing dressing themselves, recognising and writing their names, and learning all about their new schools. The children have been to their new schools for transition visits, some have enjoyed a teddy bear's picnic, and receiving visits from their new teachers. We are excited for them to make this huge step into the world and will miss them very much, but we can send them off with confidence knowing that their time with us has helped shape them into the fantastic little people that they are.

We have our school trip coming up to Beale Park. We are looking forward to a wonderful, fun filled day with all the children and their families. Every year we feel very lucky to offer such an enriching experience that we get to share together.

Thank you to everyone who supported us at coffee shop once again either by making a cake, helping out or visiting and buying cakes and drinks. We really value your support, and the children reap the benefits of these fundraising events through new equipment and experiences.

Summer Holiday Club is running again this year from Monday 29th July until Friday 16th August, we

still have spaces available. Bookings before 1st July will receive the Early Bird Discount. Please contact Wendy or Sophie for a booking form.

We still have spaces available for September and take children from 18 months to school age. We offer all government funding including the new Working Parents Funding for children aged from 9 months. If you are interested in your child joining us, please contact Wendy Powell on 01491 682300 or email woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk.



READING OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB

The area's best kept secret!

Reading Offshore Sailing Club (ROSC) is a local club for sailors and anyone interested in offshore sailing.

We sail predominantly in the Solent, sometimes on the east coast and we occasionally charter abroad. We are a social club, with meetings usually taking place on the first Monday evening of the month, excluding July & August. We also have many local social activities throughout the year.

We are now at the time of year when our venue comes into its own. We are lucky to be able to use the Upper Thames Motor Yacht Club premises right on the waterside in Sonning. It's a great place, with a well-stocked bar, in which to socialise with friends, share sailing experiences and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Of our talks so far this year, some have been about historic boats and their interesting histories. Our May meeting was about 'Sailing Mishaps'. The June talk will be our 'ROSCARS' event with reviews of sailing films, presented by members of the club, together with a quiz. We have a talk on the Marine Conservation Society in October and two of our members talking about sailing in the Netherlands in November, together with our AGM.

In addition to the monthly gatherings and talks, our spring rally was in East Cowes on 18th and 19th May (see photo), the summer BBQ is on 2nd September, an autumn rally on the south coast is planned for 7th and 8th September, and a trip to Portsmouth dockyard is planned for 28th September. The final event before Christmas is our December social. Last year it was slot car racing; this year it will be go-karting.

Some members have a boat. Most don't, and either charter with other members or go on members' boats. If you're interested in joining us, we're to be found at www.readingoffshore.org.uk. You're welcome to join our next club night to meet us and find out what we're about.

WQ



WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB



Join our friendly Wallingford and District Art club for July's demo on Zoom. Artist Rebecca de Mendonca creates a portrait of children in pastels. Rebecca's work has become widely known over recent years for its energy, life and movement. The Zoom demo will be viewable at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) or by link at home, from 7.30pm-9.30pm on Tuesday, 16th July and is free for club members or £5 for visitors. If you would like further information about this event or other club activities, please visit the club website at www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk or email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk

CABIN PRESCHOOL

Term 6 is upon us! We welcome Seth to Cabin this term.

As we embark on this exciting transition term, we have a lot to prepare for the changes ahead. Our little Acorns are getting ready for the big move to primary school, with visits and playtimes already booked to help them settle in.

We're keeping our fingers crossed for a bit more sunshine to enjoy the various events lined up for this term.

First, a Father's Day and grown-ups' special lunch, to celebrate all the wonderful parents in our community, followed by The Woodcote Primary School the Big Summer Bounce formerly known as the Summer Fair, this event promises lots of fun and activities for everyone.

Then we'll take our annual trip to Bucklebury Park Farm which is a favourite tradition and is always a highlight of the year, and lastly, our special Leavers' Party where we extend a heartfelt farewell to our leavers, marking the end of the term and a well-earned rest for all our hardworking staff.

This term, our focus has been on the delightful tales of *Oliver's Vegetables*, *Handa's Surprise*, *Jack and*

the Beanstalk, *Monkey Puzzle*, and *The Growing Story*. These stories have been the perfect springboard for our Growing theme, where we've explored the fascinating worlds of plants, animals, and human growth.

Our activities have included healthy eating discussions where we've talked about the importance of a balanced diet and how different foods help us grow strong and healthy. Exploring vegetables and fruits where the children had a hands-on experience with a variety of vegetables and fruits, learning about their benefits and enjoying a taste test. Each child planted their own vegetable or flower seeds, learning about the lifecycle of plants and the care they need to grow. We've had a lot of fun learning new songs and rhymes about food, making our lessons both educational and entertaining.

These activities have not only enriched our understanding of growth but also brought a lot of joy and excitement into our learning environment. We're thrilled with the progress the children have made!

In our recent activities centred around *Monkey Puzzle*, we have been learning about animals at different stages of their lives. The children have been exploring the similarities and differences between baby animals and their grown-up counterparts and learning the vocabulary to describe these characteristics.

In addition to this, we had engaging discussions about their future aspirations where the children shared what they want to be when they grow up, sparking their imagination and ambition. We talked about the ages of different family members, helping the children understand the concept of aging and development. And we categorized people into different age groups: infants, toddlers, children, teenagers, adults, and the elderly, to better understand the stages of human life.

These activities have provided a comprehensive understanding of growth and development, making our learning journey both informative and enjoyable.

Our focus colours have been gold, green, pink, and blue. In phonics, we have been working on blending and segmenting sounds, exploring alliteration, and practicing different voice sounds. The older children have also been learning the initial sound of their names and practicing reading and writing them.

Every day, we learn about numbers, counting, and measurements. The children have been exploring volume, weight, colours, and shapes, with our math area changing each week to cover a new and exciting topic. Our dynamic approach ensures that learning is always fresh and engaging, helping the children develop a strong foundation in both literacy and numeracy skills.

We've been nurturing a variety of plants in recycled milk cartons, and our efforts are paying off! Along our fence, you can see carrots, sweet peas, mint, mesembryanthemums, and mangetout thriving. Some of these plants have even found new homes in pots and our school's front garden.

In another exciting project, the children observed tiny caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies.

This incredible journey culminated in a joyful release during the last week of May. It has been a truly amazing learning experience for everyone involved.

These activities have not only taught the children about growth and transformation but have also fostered a deeper connection with nature.

Our recent culinary project had us working together to make delicious lemonade, which we enjoyed with our afternoon snack. The children showed bravery and curiosity as they tried a variety of different fruits and vegetables, broadening their taste horizons and learning about healthy eating.

In PE, we geared up for Sports Day by learning about games with rules, using different types of equipment, and practicing athletics.

Each session starts with a warmup and ends with a cool down. The children are taught to notice the changes in their bodies, such as an increased heart rate, feeling out of breath, and warming up after exercise. These lessons are not only fun but also help them understand the importance of physical activity and how it affects their bodies.

Our Sports Day took place on the Primary School field during the last week of Term 5, and it was wonderful to see so many families come out to support the little ones. The children absolutely loved the event! The children competed in two groups. Little Acorns, those leaving us to move on to big school and Sprouts, the younger ones who will be with us again next year.

The races included playing a colour-matching game with hoops and bean bags, racing with wheelies, and running forwards and backwards as fast as they can, a hoop race, and a ribbon race to finish off the day.

Seeing the joy and excitement on the children's faces as they participated was truly heartwarming. Thank you to all the families who came to cheer them on!

We are eagerly anticipating our annual trip to Bucklebury Park Farm! This much-loved event is always a highlight of our year. Here's what we have planned for the day: enjoying the soft play area, the outdoor park, and slides. Experiencing feeding the animals and having a picnic to feed ourselves and taking a scenic tractor ride to see the deer.

This trip is always such a fun day, filled with laughter and joy. We all enjoy spending quality time with our families and friends. We can't wait to share this wonderful experience with you!

We are now accepting applications for September 2024. We welcome applications for all types of funding, including the new two-year funding (subject to eligibility).

Prospective parents are encouraged to visit us. Call in or make an appointment, we'd love to show you around. Contact us via an Email to Jayne at info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk or call us at 01491 682854.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our preschool community!



GORING HEATH BEAVERS

With the Olympics in reserve for June and July, we continued our focus on the environment in the run-up to half-term. On 16th May we paid a visit to Skylark's allotment where we helped (really) with the weeding. The Beavers had enormous fun lifting potatoes, something even adults find exciting. Having finished 'digging for treasure', the Beavers planted sunflower and tomato seeds in pots; hopefully some will be entered into the village fete. The evening culminated in the Beavers exploring the allotments to fill in quiz sheets. No-one fell in the trough.

The following week we made a bug hotel for the Hut. The Beavers had spent a couple of weeks collecting fragments of terracotta, moss, dead grass, sticks and hollow canes. Green Broom kindly donated five pallets, which the Beavers filled with debris, stacking as they went. Then, partly because Beavers crave instant results, they set about using paint to turn pebbles into beetles, which they arranged on their new hotel by way of an enticement to less flashy invertebrates. Unusually, we had started the evening by investing four new Beavers (Freyja, Jake, Inigo and Jack), as we didn't want promises to be made whilst covered in filth; of course, this meant a badge had been lost by home-time.

On 6th June the Beavers were delighted to tick off the first item from their 'must do' wish list: marshmallows. They learned how to use a fire-steel (building a fire and cooking actual food, as opposed to fluff, will be taught at camp). Children of all ages find fire-steels tricky, though many claim to be 'expert', and, if you have tiny hands, it's even harder, especially if one is wary of fire. Properly taught, with all the trade-secrets quietly insisted upon, it becomes surprisingly easy. It's always great to see the jaws of both self-professed maestros and reluctant worriers drop when they succeed. The Beavers know one must always have a reason to light a fire and were delighted when the reason turned out to be marshmallows.

As this is being written, the leaders are deep in preparation for camp, this year themed on the Olympics. There is a rhythm to it, honed over the years: consent forms, menus, the hike recce, thorough risk assessments, a rough order of march, a locust-like Costco run, hours of setting up, kick-off, then relaxing into serendipitous changes of plan and having the most enormous fun.

WALLINGFORD CORN EXCHANGE

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

Films with subtitles will be shown on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30pm. As an experiment we are moving some of the Saturday matinees to the morning at 10:30 and depending on audience take up we will continue that.

Please look at the website (www.cornexchange.org.uk) for updates. Tickets £10

for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

Cinema

Horizon – An American Saga: Chapter 1 (15)

- Sunday, 14 July, 7:30pm
- Monday, 15 July, 7:30pm

Wilding (PG)

- Tuesday, 16 July, 7:30pm

Treasure (15)

- Wednesday 17 July, 2:30pm
- Wednesday 17 July, 7:30pm

The Bikeriders (15)

- Friday 19 July, 7:30pm
- Saturday 20 July, 7:30pm
- Sunday 21 July, 7:30pm

Frida Kahlo: Exhibition on Screen (U)

- Wednesday 24 July, 2:30pm
- Wednesday 24 July, 7:30pm

Forrest Gump (12A)

- 30th Anniversary re-release)
- Friday 26 July, 7:30pm

Live on Stage

Measure for Measure

- Tuesday 8th July to Saturday 13th July, 7:30pm
- Saturday 13th July, 2:30pm
- £12 (Tuesday), £15 (Wednesday to Saturday)

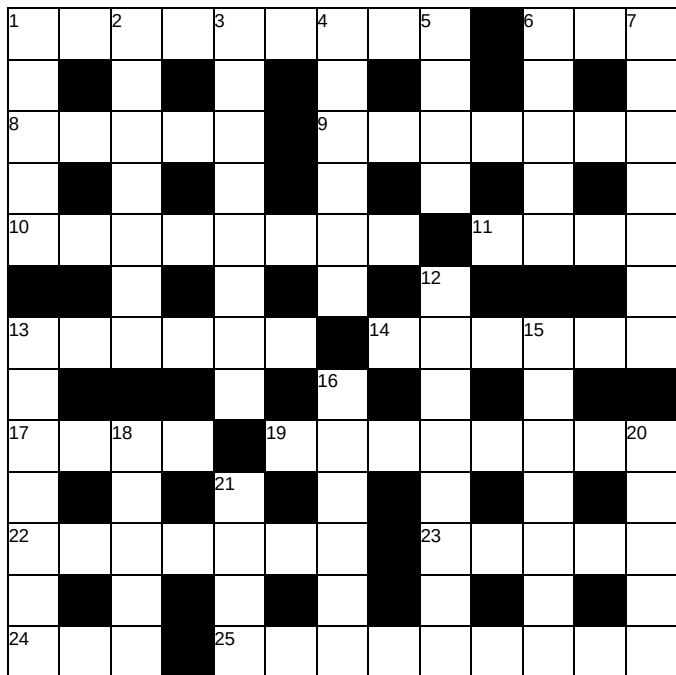
The Sinodun Players present a new production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, set in 1938's Vienna at the height of the Nazi Anschluss of Austria. It explores the complex tensions between law and justice, and forgiveness and mercy. A new leader is in charge. How far will they go to get what they want? A young man faces death at the hands of the regime. How far will his sister go to save his life? Shakespeare's darkly comic exploration of power and corruption is given a bold new direction that brings together rich characters, evocative cabaret music and powerful drama to shed fresh light on a turbulent period in history.

Present Laughter

- Thursday 18th July, 7pm
- NT Live
- Tickets £18 adults, £15 seniors, £10 under 18s

The multi award-winning production of Noël Coward's provocative comedy featuring Andrew Scott (*Vanya, Fleabag*) returns to the big screen. As he prepares to embark on an overseas tour, star actor Garry Essendine's colourful life is in danger of spiralling out of control. Engulfed by an escalating identity crisis as his many and various relationships compete for his attention, Garry's few remaining days at home are a chaotic whirlwind of love, sex, panic and soul-searching. Filmed live from The Old Vic in London during a sold out run in 2019, Matthew Warchus (*Matilda The Musical*) directs this giddy and surprisingly modern reflection on fame, desire and loneliness.

JULY CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Move across to left (9)
- 6 Search first half of the Med (3)
- 8 Revive mass meeting (5)
- 9 Against odds-on show (7)
- 10 Concrete spread no good, I admitted (8)
- 11 Sign of no inhabitants (4)
- 13 Tea for two dance (3,3)
- 14 Jockeys back knight over the German (6)
- 17 Cross archer sent back (4)
- 19 Alien killer leaves second clue (8)
- 22 Layman in team at Euros. (7)
- 23 Irritate girl to even go by (5)
- 24 Crazy about mother (3)
- 25 Judges taking part in proper practice (9)

Down

- 1 Cards returned to cad (5)
2 Fictional island is missing a state capital (7)
3 Opening of moon or sun (8)
4 Mystic commanding officer returns to sect (6)
5 A number has time for camping (4)
6 South side gas (5)
7 Turns up when an abstainer finishes (7)
12 Mountain system is top half of high country (8)
13 Sauce for coppers and volunteers on heartless
road (7)
15 Gin seen around motors (7)
16 Stiffener to repair charts (6)
18 Territory of proper men (5)
20 Majestic, devoted leader changes sides (5)
21 Maybe Ernest has a drink (4)

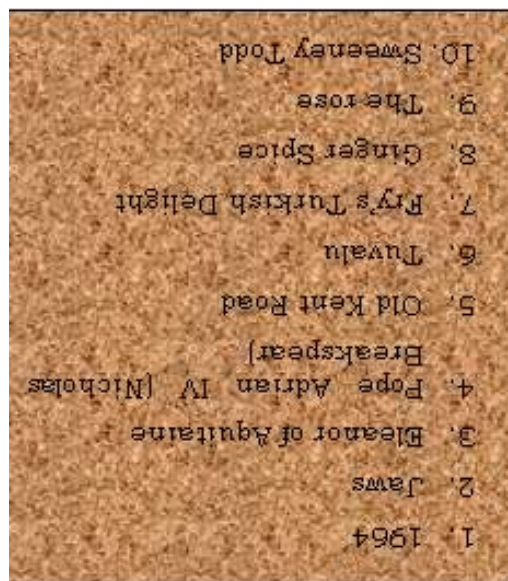
JUNE CROSSWORD SOLUTION



JULY QUIZ

1. In what year was the first Woodcote Rally held?
2. What was the first film to make \$100 million?
3. Who was King John's mother?
4. Who was the only English Pope?
5. What is the only Monopoly property south of the Thames?
6. What island has the .tv domain?
7. What chocolate product was 'full of eastern promise'?
8. Who was Geri Halliwell?
9. To what plant family does the apple belong?
10. Who cut hair at 186 Fleet Street?

QUIZ ANSWERS



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Regular Weekly Events

Every Second Monday (see below)

**** Youth Club – Juniors (year 7's).**

Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm.

Every Second Tuesday (see below)

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

Woodcote Village Hall 7.15pm-8.45pm.

Every Thursday

**** Rhymetime for pre-schoolers.**

Woodcote Library 10.15am-10.45am

**** Chance To Chat.**

Mowforth House 2.30pm-4pm

JUNE DATES

Mon 1st	*	Juniors Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
Tues 2nd	*	BMMHS Zoom talk: 'The Eyes of the Few'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 3rd	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Woodcote Volunteers Client Tea Party. Woodcote Community Centre. 2.30pm-4pm
Wed 3rd	*	Goring Green Fingers Gardening Club talk: 'The Garden Through the Year'. Storton Lodge, Icknield Rd, Goring. 7.30pm-9.30pm
	*	Community Centre Management Committee AGM. Woodcote Community Centre. 7.30pm
Sat 6th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Community Centre (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Fleur Stevenson Jazz Quartet. Woodcote Village Hall. 8pm
Tues 9th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3.30pm-4.45pm
	*	Seniors Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
Wed 10th	*	BMMHS Talk: 'The Battle for South Georgia'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
Fri 12th	*	Sleep & Parenting session. Woodcote Village Hall Function Room. 10am-12.30pm
Sat 13th	*	Woodcote Kids Kitchen. Woodcote Village Hall (see website for details). 9am-1pm
	*	Woodcote Rally. Off Church Lane, Ipsden, OX10 6BZ. 10am-11pm
Sun 14th	*	Woodcote Rally. Off Church Lane, Ipsden, OX10 6BZ. 10am-6pm
Mon 15th	*	Juniors Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
Tues 16th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration: 'Children in Pastels'. Centre 70, The Kincroft, Wallingford. 7.30pm

SMALL ADS

AVON CALLING :: I'm your local AVON representative, would you like a brochure?

Kerry 01491 682437/07966 509908

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

JUNE DATES *Continued*

Wed 17th	*	Woodcote Parish Council meeting. Function Room, Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
Sat 20th	*	Cholsey Repair Café. Cholsey Pavilion. 10am-12.45pm
Tues 23rd	*	Chatterbox. Woodcote Community Centre. 2pm-3.30pm
	*	Seniors Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
Sat 27th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of the Bernese Rescue and Rehoming charity (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Saturday Crafts: Summer Reading Challenge. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am
Sun 28th	*	Withymead Nature Reserve Open Day. 2pm-5pm

FORTHCOMING DATES IN JULY

Sat 3rd	*	Goring Repair Café. Goring Village Hall. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Nettlebed Art & Craft Show. Nettlebed Community School Hall. 12pm-6pm
Sun 4th	*	Nettlebed Art & Craft Show. Nettlebed Community School Hall. 10am-5pm
Wed 7th	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Woodcote Volunteers Client Tea Party. Woodcote Community Centre. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Goring Green Fingers Gardening Club. Storton Lodge, Icknield Rd, Goring. 7.30pm-9.30pm
	*	Woodcote Parish Council meeting. Function Room, Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm

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