



Woodcote

Vol 35 No 7

July 2023

CORRESPONDENT

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

RECORD BREAKING TOAD PATROL

A record number of amphibians were helped across Woodcote's roads during February and March. A big thank you to everyone who helped out, from our pre-school patrollers to older hands; those who joined in for the first time and those who've helped before; whether you could help often or just a few times. Thank you for helping us help local wildlife.

Those involved would also like to thank everyone who stopped to chat as they went by and also the drivers who slowed down giving us a chance to get out of your way.

Having spent the winter hibernating under logs, the warmer days of spring encourage amphibians (frogs, newts and toads) to find a pond where they can mate and spawn, i.e. lay their eggs. The unseasonably mild weather in February meant Woodcote's annual amphibian migration started about two weeks earlier than normal.

Amphibians move between dusk and dawn when the weather is mild and damp and, as it is peak rush hour when they start to move, many never make it safely across the road. This year we counted cars and were staggered to find that the number of cars driving by Greenmoor Ponds dropped from about 70 between 6pm and 6.30pm to less than 20 between 8.30pm and 9pm.

From the 6th of February until the 30th of March when the clocks went forward, we went along with torches and buckets on damp, warm nights to help toads, frogs, common newts and palmate newts across the road safely. As well as our usual site at Greenmoor Ponds, this year, for the first-

time patrollers were also out on Shirvell's Hill and the South Stoke Road.

As the amphibians moved to the ponds earlier than usual, they returned to the woods earlier which meant we helped many in both directions. We hope to see them again next year!

Very little is known about when the young 'froglets and toadlets' leave ponds, but scientists presume this is in the summer. The juveniles spend two or three years growing into adults in their woodland habitat, before migrating to water to breed. While frogs and newts will breed successfully in any good quality ponds, scientists know that toads are 'tied' to the water in the pond where they were born.

Is it worth it? Definitely! We can't help every amphibian, but the toad patrollers made a significant difference. At Greenmoor Ponds, we helped 1,600 amphibians, a 50% increase on last year. On Shirvell's Hill the total was 325, and about 500, mainly toads, were helped on the South Stoke Road.

The objective of the Woodcote Conservation Group is to try to maintain the population that has bred in the ponds for many decades. The number of frogs, toads and newts in England has significantly declined so it's important we all do our bit so that our children and grandchildren can share a world with these remarkable animals. We'll be back next February and will let you know nearer the time in case you'd like to lend a hand.

Woodcote Conservation Group

COMMENT FROM ST. LEONARD'S

Within the church, we have just celebrated Easter, and now the church is on its journey to celebrating Pentecost.

Pentecost is a celebration that marks the birth of the church. This is the day when God sent down his Holy Spirit upon those first few members of the church, who had gathered in Jerusalem just after Jesus ascended into Heaven.

Here we mark the church's birthday over 2,000 years old.

At the ordination of priests, the bishop says as part of the service:

"You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged, and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit."

You cannot bear the weight of this calling without the power of the Holy Spirit, we believe, that we can only minister, here within the church. For me here within Woodcote, without the power and the support of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us, encourages us, I would not be able to minister.

After the Gospels, in Acts, we reach the astonishing story of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them".

The Church is born from the wind and fire of the Spirit. The wind represents God's power but is also a reference to God's breath: God's still small voice that spoke to Elijah in his need (1 Kings 19.12), and the very breath that brought humankind into existence, when God created Adam and Eve (Genesis 2.7).

The fire of the Spirit that illuminates but does not consume reminds us of the burning bush out of which God spoke to Moses (Exodus 3), and the burning fiery furnace that could not overwhelm the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when they were refused to worship a statue made from human hands (Daniel 3).

The remarkable ability of the disciples to speak in different languages reverses the confusion that was brought into the world at Babel, when human vanity and greed created warring faction from harmonious diversity (Genesis 11.1-9). Joel's prophecy that one day all God's people will receive God's spirit is dramatically fulfilled (Joel 2.28-29). All these Old Testament stories and prophecies are consummated as the disciples – thought to be drunk with wine – pour onto the streets of Jerusalem telling of God's love in Christ, drunk on the intoxicating joy of the Spirit. A new age begins, where everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved. This spirit is available to everyone who asks.

If you would like to learn more about Pentecost, please join us on Sunday 19th of May at 9:45am at St Leonard's.

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.

May Services:

Sunday 5th May

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.45 am Parish Communion

Sunday 12th May

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9:45 am Worshipping Together

Sunday 19th May (Pentecost)

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9:45 Open doors

Sunday 26th May (Trinity Sunday)

- 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.

All services above held at St. Leonard's Church, Woodcote.

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 for the contact details.

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.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



This month's issue came together as a testament to community members volunteering to help others. The toad patrol and litter

pickers helped to keep our village's environment safer for all the local wildlife. Terry's 18th anniversary of receiving a kidney donation from his brother shows how such a generous act can have a lasting impact for the recipient, their family and friends.

As we head towards summer the village's social calendar starts getting busy. The football teams will be wrapping up their season with cup finals. Hopefully they will be well attended, and I wish them good luck. WADS will be putting on three single act plays, let's hope WADS (and not the football team) break a leg. Many local organisations are hard at work, preparing a number of events for us in May and over the summer, we thank you all for these efforts.

Nick

PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Editor: Nick Kolpin *[via email]*

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Small Ads and Announcements: £5 for three lines.

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



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WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish council has recently added a number of councillors and is now has all ten seats filled. For this month's Correspondent, Tim and David introduce themselves.

Cllr Tim Over

I moved from Reading to Woodcote in 2016 with my wife Louise and our daughter Sophia, with our son Harry being born the following year. We immediately loved the community spirit of Woodcote and felt welcomed and included. I joined the Parish Council in November 2023.

In my day job I work in IT for an insurance company, with many years of experience of working on projects of various sizes and complexity, so I hope to be able to use this experience to contribute to Parish Council projects going forward.

My decision to join the Parish Council was driven by a desire to actively support our community's well-being. I am committed to delivering both small-scale and ambitious projects that enhance the village as a whole. As a parent, I am particularly passionate about initiatives that foster youth engagement, education, sports and those that provide wholesome entertainment.

While this marks my inaugural venture into local politics, I approach it with enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. I recognize that understanding the intricacies of council procedures will take time, but I am dedicated to serving our community to the best of my abilities. Already, I have encountered a wide array of issues falling under the council's remit; some expected, and others surprising!

If anyone wants to speak with me regarding any issue that they believe affects the village or that needs the Parish Council's attention, then please feel free to connect with me either in person or via email.

Cllr Tim Over

tim.over@woodparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr David Ellis

I'm 72 years old, my wife Angela and I relocated from Southport to Woodcote in September 2022, to be closer to our daughter and family who reside in Henley. I'm a father to a daughter and son and grandfather to five boys. I spent my working life as a marine engineer on container ships. Finally retiring as a Chief Engineer, having travelled in excess of 2 million miles at sea over a period of 50 years. I applied to join the Parish Council to further my knowledge of the workings of the local community and assist in progressing projects to benefit the welfare of Woodcote and its residents.



Cllr David Ellis

david.ellis@woodcoteparishcouncil.org.uk

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Changes to council car parking fees

New fees for car parks in South Oxfordshire were introduced from the 1st of April.

The car park fees are being simplified and rounded to the nearest whole pound while all car parks will continue to have a period of free parking. This means some of the fees are being reduced by up to 16 percent while others will see modest increases. Parking permits rates have also been frozen.

The additional parking income from the rises means we can match the cost of managing and running our car parks, otherwise we'd have to divert funding from other council services to subsidise car parking.

All funds from car parking fees and permits are invested back into providing the service and making improvements to car parks, highways, public conveniences and public open spaces, as well as developing infrastructure to encourage active travel such as cycle paths and bike storage.

Parking for the first hour remains free in all Didcot, Thame and Henley public car parks.

There is a growing body of evidence that shows that while business owners believe that as cost increases, footfall decreases, in fact, the towns/cities with the highest footfall generally have higher than average parking charges. Furthermore, fair car park charges can help ensure that parking spaces frequently turn over, increasing overall footfall.

You can see the full fees on our parking policy webpage:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/parking-roads-and-streets/parking/parking-policy/

Empty Homes Policy

The council's commitment to tackling our social housing waiting list and to making sure local families have somewhere to live has led to the approval of a new Empty Homes Policy.

The focus will be on working positively with the owners of empty homes to bring homes back into occupation, in particular for those in most need.

There are reasons why a property might be empty in the short-term but long-term empty properties are not a good use of a valuable resource and may have a negative impact on their local area.

The empty homes policy sets out the incentives available to homeowners to bring homes back into use to the benefit of the owner, potential tenants, and the wider community.

Enforcement action will normally only be considered as a last resort when owners of empty homes are unwilling to engage, and the property is causing problems for the community.

If you are the owner of an empty property and would like to discuss the incentives available to bring your

property back into use, please email our private sector housing team at psh@southandvale.gov.uk.

You can also email our private sector housing team at the address above to report any issues concerning empty homes in your area. Please provide us with both your details and the details of the property.

You can read the new policy here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/03/Empty-Homes-Policy.pdf>

Police and Crime Commissioner election

Many people don't realise the Police and Crime Commissioner even exists; others believe it shouldn't. The post is democratically elected and pays £86,700 a year. The job of the PCC is to make sure Thames Valley Police is an effective police force that delivers on the priorities of local residents.

A large chunk of your council tax goes to Thames Valley Police so do have your say in the PCC elections!

The election takes place on 2 May, full details are available on the SODC elections webpage.

To vote in this election, you must have registered at your current address by the 16th of April. To vote at a polling station you must bring a suitable photo ID.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/current-and-upcoming-elections/pcc-election-2024/>

Service Changes at Oxford Bus Company

Oxford Bus Company has announced that they made some changes to services in Oxford City and South Oxfordshire from the 14th of April 2024. Find out more and view the changes services on the Oxford Bus Company website. The changes to the X40 River Rapids service may affect you so do check before you set off.

Innovative engagement helps hundreds of new voices to shape our districts' future

Well over a thousand individuals and organisations have shared their thoughts on an emerging plan for the future of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. Their comments will contribute to the development of a new Joint Local Plan, which will guide planning decisions in the districts until 2041.

You can see details on our website: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/planning/innovative-engagement-helps-hundreds-of-new-voices-to-shape-our-districts-future/>

Fly Tipping

I have noticed a significant increase in the amount of fly tipped waste on our country lanes and B roads. If you see fly tipped waste, please report it to Biffa as FixMyStreet no longer accepts reports of fly tipping.

Please call Biffa on 03000 610610 or email: admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk with details of where

you saw the waste, the type of waste and when you spotted it. There is a form you can fill in (if you like forms) on the fly tipping pages on the council's website.

Our Envirocrime team can then be dispatched to investigate. The council has a successful track record of prosecuting fly tippers so please do report!

Help us set 'The Way Ahead' for South Oxfordshire

We are excited to invite you to take part in our consultation all about our future plans for South Oxfordshire. The consultation is running until Tuesday 14 May 2024. We are setting a new council plan for the next four years, and we are encouraging everyone within the district to join in the conversation on 'The Way Ahead'.

It's very important to us that it reflects the priorities and aspirations of local residents, businesses and community groups. We really want to discuss these plans with the communities we serve to make sure we understand what you value and what areas you want us to focus on.

Our current four-year plan began in 2020 and runs until October this year, so we're now setting our priorities for 2024-2028.

Have your say at <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/policy-and-programmes/south-corporate-plan/>

Jo Robb and James Norman

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

On Sunday 7th April, a group of volunteers from Woodcote took part in the Great British Spring Clean. We had a good turn out and managed to clear the Oxford Road, Reading Road, Greenmore, Pot kiln Lane, Shirvells Hill and the Goring Road. We collected 21 bags of rubbish between us. Most of the rubbish consisted of discarded food wrappers, cans, bottles, fast food containers, possibly thrown out from car windows and random car parts (possibly from minor collisions).

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to help.

Lesley Crockett
Village Litter Picker for Woodcote Parish Council





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WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Should it ever stop raining for long enough, we will hope to get a cricket season underway in May. The weather is making pitch preparation difficult, but we have managed to start cutting the square and hope to be able to get the heavy roller out to flatten the pitch.

Net practices at the Oratory Sports Centre have had unprecedented attendances which we hope will mean plenty of availability for matches.

New Sponsor: Sean Bell Auto Services

We are very grateful to Sean, who is providing very generous sponsorship which will enable our teams to play in brand new kit this season. Sean has recently set-up his business, having taken over the premises on Church Farm from SB Engineering.

Home matches in May

1st XI v Silchester, Berkshire Premier

- Saturday 4th, 1 pm

1st XI v Sandhurst, Berkshire Premier

- Saturday 11th, 1 pm

Midweek XI v Clifton Hampden 6, South Oxon League

- Wednesday 15th, 6 pm

2nd XI v Wargrave V, Berkshire Division 4

- Saturday 18th, 1 pm

1st XI v Checkendon, Berkshire Premier

- Saturday 25th, 1 pm

1st XI v Peppard Stoke Row, Berkshire Premier

- Saturday 1st of June, 1 pm

Also note that the 2nd XI starts their season with a local derby at Goring on 4th May. This game starts at 1 pm.

SP

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WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Four Cup Finals

What an end to the season it is going to be as we have qualified for four cup finals!

The first team will take their place in the Oxfordshire Charity Cup Final against Adderbury Park (Banbury) on Saturday 27th April. This match is being played at Thame United. The team will contest the final of the North Berks Charity Shield on Saturday 4th May against Drayton and on Saturday 11th May in the North Berks Cup Final, they will play Berinsfield. Both North Berks Finals are at Abingdon United and kick-off times are 6.30 for both. Abingdon United play at Northcourt Road, Abingdon, postcode OX14 1PL.

Our development team has also qualified for a final, The North Berks War Memorial Cup. In the final on Friday 19th April, they will play Letcombe FC at Wantage Town.

In the Oxfordshire semi-final the first team had a comfortable 4-0 win over Garsington. Our goal scorers were Alec Curtis 2, including one with a shot from fifty yards, Joe Webber and Toby Nowell. In the North Berks Charity Shield a 2-1 win against Frilsham & Yattendon saw them through with goals coming from Toby Nowell and George Scoffham. In the North Berks Cup semi-final, the team handed out a real drubbing to Drayton, winning by 8-1 with Joe Webber helping himself to 5 goals, with Toby Nowell 2 and Sam Green the other scorers.

The development team qualified for their final in some style by beating Lambourn 7-1, goals were scored by Toby Nowell 3, Andy Taylor 2, Ben Morgan and Archie Clark.

With all these cup games going on, very few league games have taken place. The first team have played one, defeating Long Wittenham by 6-0, goals coming from Lucas Taplin 4, Joe Webber and George Clark. The development team drew 1-1 with Benson Lions, goal by Tommy Brownlow and defeated Grove 4-0 with goals by Sully Akers 2 and Jack Wilkinson 2.

It would be marvellous to see a lot of Woodcote support at these finals which would certainly enhance our chances of putting four cups in the trophy cabinet.

SP



Joe Webber - five goals in semi-final



Goal Celebration in Development Team semi final



George Scoffham goal celebration against Frilsham



Joe Webber on the attack against Frilsham



Tommy Chapman in the match against Frilsham

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WOODCOTE CONSERVATION GROUP

Local company to restore the Lower Greenmoor Pond

Woodcote Parish Council has appointed WJ Hatt to undertake the first phase of work to restore the Lower Pond. This will involve excavating the silt from the centre of the pond once the amphibian breeding season has finished and conditions are suitable. While the pond is holding water it is unsafe for this work to start, but we hope the work may be carried out in June or July.

The wonder of trees: Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

Sometimes called **may**, this month's choice of tree was easy!

Hawthorn, which belongs to the family Rosaceae, is very common throughout England as it is most commonly used as a hedging plant as its branching spines make it an excellent stock-proof barrier. Left uncut, hawthorn can grow into a small tree up to 14 m. It will thrive on all but the poorest acid soils but is not shade tolerant.

Whereas trees in the Prunus family (mentioned last month) flower and then come into leaf, hawthorn's bright green leaves unfurl in late March and early April before dense clusters of five-petalled white or pink flowers appear in May. In hard times, country people would supplement their diet with young hawthorn leaves, ironically known as 'bread and cheese'. Having a nutty taste, they were added to other dishes, such as suet pudding, to give flavour. Each flower has one style and one ovary (hence monogyna) and so produces a one seeded fruit or haw which appears in August. The haws ripen to a deep red or orange by September and remain on the shrub until picked for making into jellies, wines, liqueurs and ketchups or stripped by the birds.

The country saying 'cast not a clout till may is out' is thought by many to refer to emergence of hawthorn blossom and reminds us all the nights might still be chilly so we should not to put away our winter coats until later in the month.

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

P.S. If you have a lawn, please take part in *No Mow May* by leaving your mower in the shed and letting your lawn grow this month. It is a win-win, you save yourself a job and spring-flowering plants will provide bees and insects with a nectar and pollen banquet.

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VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE



Please Pick Up Your Dog Poo

After a number of years when dog poo on the Green has been reduced to a minimum, there has been a recent upsurge in owners not clearing up after their dogs. Who are these irresponsible dog owners? Let's be charitable and suggest that it's more a question of owners not concentrating on their dogs, making mobile calls or chatting to their friends. Whoever you are, your actions are anti-social and create a considerable health risk, especially to the many children who enjoy using the Green. In the past, the Parish Council has considered a ban on dogs on the Green and also the lesser sanction of issuing an order that dogs must be kept on leads. Let's hope it doesn't have to come to that. Please can all dog owners be extremely vigilant when exercising their dogs on our very special Village Green.

SP

OUR VILLAGE HALL

Putting Woodcote on the Map!

As our flurry of spring activities draw to a close and our autumn plans begin to take shape, we have been taking stock. It is safe to say the hall has never been busier as it has this spring. We've hosted a run of sold-out gigs including stand-up comedy, live music and film, in addition to fundraising events including quiz and bingo nights hosted by customers hiring the hall, and of course numerous private parties.

During the season we've continued to invest in sound and lighting equipment to give customers and performers the best experience possible, quietly developing our ability to host and produce a variety of great quality events. This is really putting Woodcote Village Hall on the map as a sought-after venue with good capacity, great functionality and plenty of capability. This combined with our drive to develop our online presence has meant we are attracting more new customers and top-quality performers from the village and beyond!

The hall now boasts a comprehensive collection of audio-visual kit including an amplifier system, coloured LED stage and hall lighting, glitter ball, surround sound speakers, ceiling mounted projector,

big screen, radio microphones, monitors and more. A detailed list can be found on the hall website (woodcotevillagehall.com) and all this kit can be hired alongside use of the main hall. Hire of the AV cabinet provides access to the amplifier system (enabling you to stream music via the hall speakers), the coloured stage lighting, glitter ball and the projector and is available for a one-off fee of £10. Microphones can be hired for a one-off fee of £15.

We also recently completed revamping the main kitchen, the bar and kitchenette in the bar area. We have also updated a lot of the hall furniture over the past year providing over 100 padded chairs and a range of clean, modern light weight tables. Combined with a license to sell and consume alcohol, there should be everything you need should you wish to make use of the hall.

With the coming months in mind, the diary is filling up quickly. So, if you are thinking about using any of the spaces at the hall, please check the online calendar via the website, or just get in touch. You can keep an eye on all the forthcoming events via the 'News and Events' page on the website, and/or by following us on social media, @woodcotevillagehall. You can also contact us by email at woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com or by calling 07929 203096.

We hope to see you soon.

www.woodcotevillagehall.com

SUMMERTIME TO SKYFALL

Music from Great Movies

This is Goring Chamber Choir as you've never heard it before, singing wonderful hits from the world of movies. There are old screen favourites such as *Singin' in the rain*, *Moon river*, *Over the rainbow*, and *Tonight from West Side Story*, leading up to songs from *Cats*. Later classics from films such as *Shrek* and *Toy Story* point the way to the irresistible *Dancing Queen* from ABBA's *Mamma Mia!* which will have you all dancing in your seats. A new arrangement of *The Bare Necessities* is matched by Dolly Parton's exhilarating *Nine To Five*, and there is plenty more. Steve Bowey will be playing music from *Star Wars* on the organ. After all, this is May 4th! This is a concert not to be missed.

- Music director: Frances Brewitt-Taylor
- Accompanist: Steve Bowey
- St Thomas' Church, Goring
- Saturday 4th May, at 3pm

Tickets: £15, free for under 18's

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WOODCOTE AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY

It's been advertised in previous issues as a double bill. We've upgraded the evening to a triple bill. Three one act plays for the price of one. You certainly get your money's worth at WADS!

The Attic by Robert Scott

This little chiller ghost story is set in the attic of the home of Demi and Callum. What are the strange noises that Demi keeps hearing? Is there a connection to the half-written letter that appears to be a terrible confession! There's only one way to find out!

Carrot by David Tristram

A short, fast paced comedy. The manager of an engineering firm tries desperately to negotiate new terms with the staunch, no-nonsense leader of the workers' union. Can he succeed without pulling all his hair out in frustration!

White Lies by Richard James

Four best friends from their university days decide to have a reunion. It's been 30 years. Is it a good idea though? Do you think some of the old rivalries and ill feelings are going to resurface? You bet they are! This award-winning comedy will certainly tickle your funny bones!

- May 16/17/18 at the Woodcote Village Hall
- 8 pm (Doors open 7.15)
- Tickets £12
- Box Office 07956 136750
- Book online: woodcotedrama.co.uk

WOODCOTE VILLAGE FETE



Just a little update about our Village Fete, which will be held on Saturday 14th September 12-5pm.

The fete team are busy planning for a range of different activities and entertainment, including live music, food and drink, children's entertainment, stalls and competitions. We are hoping the weather conditions will be sufficient this year for the much-loved dog show to make a comeback.

We are pleased to announce we have set up a website for the Village Fete! Please go to: www.woodcotefete.com. The website contains lots of information about the fete as well as this year's competition guide. There is a photo gallery with pictures of the Fete over the years, so villagers can indulge in some nostalgia! The website will be a great resource and particularly helpful for those with access to the internet who aren't on social media.



Picture from last year's fete

Now the constant rain has ceased somewhat, and conditions are a bit dryer, it's the perfect opportunity for those with green fingers to start planting for our competitions. As well as the much loved, traditional competitions, such as tallest sunflower which now has an award in memory of Dot Tyler, there will be a few new classes including lemon curd and brassicas.

As always, anyone who wants to get involved with the fete, either with the planning in advance or helping on the day, is very welcome. Call 07773 447504 or email woodcotefete@gmail.com or message us via our Facebook page [@WoodcoteVillageFete](https://www.facebook.com/WoodcoteVillageFete).

The Fete Team

WOULD YOU WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE CORRESPONDENT?

If you'd be interested in writing an article for the Correspondent, please email wood-co@runbox.com. We're always looking for content that Woodcote residents would find interesting. If you would like to help but don't have a topic in mind, let us know and we'll help. With the busier calendar over the summer, we'd love to hear from anyone who would like to write reviews of the plays or music going on in the village.

NCK

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE HISTORY SOCIETY

The British Modern Military History Society based in Woodcote will celebrate its 5th Anniversary in May 2024.

The society was formed following a chance meeting of brothers Andy and Jerry Cockeram with Nigel and Linda Parker in late 2018 at a history talk in Sonning. Of like mind with a deep interest in military history, BMMHS was formed, and a schedule of talks was created with speakers being writers, historians and former military personnel. The span of our talk topics is the last 200 years with a strong emphasis on the events of the 20th century.

The first talk in May 2019 was by historian Bill King on The Upper Thames Patrol: The Real Dad's Army; British Auxiliary units in WW2 and the defences in place had the Germans invaded in 1940. About 25 people were crammed into Nigel and Linda's living room and from the point the society was born and has flourished.

Quickly moving to the excellent facilities at Woodcote village hall with the capacity of up to 100 people, the monthly talks attracted full houses with interesting talks, a raffle and free beer, wine and snacks included within the entry price. From each talk a donation is made to a military charity of the speaker's choice.

The arrival of COVID put a hold on the live talks, but presented other opportunities, and monthly talks by Zoom were soon started allowing both a wider audience and a greater choice of speakers. In addition, Operation Bookworm was launched, with our members and others requested to send in their own memories or family members of wartime experiences. The first volume of *Glimpses of War* was born and published on Amazon April 2021. The charity Blind Veterans UK (formerly St Dunstan's) was selected as the charity to benefit from book sales. The response for articles and memories was overwhelming and volume 2 of *Glimpses of War* was published a few months later.

Perhaps being gluttons for punishment, a third book in the series was published 6 months later in June 2022, *Glimpses of the Falklands War* to mark the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War. All three books have been very well received and considerable funds have been raised from book sales for Blind Veterans UK. Another highlight for BMMHS has been that *Glimpses of the Falklands War* is available for sale at the Falkland Islands Museum in Stanley.

Today, with things largely back to normal post COVID, BMMHS has recommenced its monthly live talks in Woodcote and on top has continued its monthly Zoom talks too.

BMMHS is a not-for-profit society and does not require a joining or membership fee. All talks are open to everyone to attend or join. All we ask is a small contribution to help us cover our costs and to enable us to keep making our charitable contributions.

We also run two active and interesting Facebook pages: *British Modern Military History Society* and *Glimpses of the Falklands War*, each with well over 1000 members, so do have a look.

In 5 years, the society, from a standing start, has organised over 75 live and Zoom talks, published 3 books, raised thousands of pounds for military charities and entertained and informed audiences across the globe with high quality history talks in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

An exciting and varied programme of talks for 2024 is now in place, ranging from the Peninsular Wars, the Eastern Front in WW2, the Battle of Britain, the Dieppe raid, D Day, the Falklands War and the first Gulf War. The first half a dozen talks for 2025 have also already been booked.

For more details of our talks and what we do visit our website on www.bmmhs.org and to join our talks email us on info@bmmhs.org

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us in the last five years, and we look forward to seeing you all again and many new faces in 2024 and beyond.

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LANGTREE SCHOOL

Learning

Our Year 10s are busy preparing for the exams and the Year 11s are in the final stage of preparing for their upcoming exams. We wish them well and hope that their hard work is rewarded.

However, it is not just in lessons where learning is taking place. The February ski trip was a huge success, the year 10s improved their skills on the slopes. As importantly, they also developed their independence and resilience. Our two Duke of Edinburgh groups are working hard towards completing the programme.

Ms Maunder-Hand continues to coordinate a brilliant Reading Buddies Scheme. It is phenomenal to see our older students supporting the year 7s and 8s to embrace the joy of books. With thanks to Chris Arnold from the Oratory and our own Fiona Hoff we have started a Latin Club every Tuesday lunchtime.

Sue Pemberton, a brilliant, creative and inspirational member of our maths department, has sourced a grant and has been delivering functional maths skills to a group of adults on Monday evenings. The sessions have been so popular we may repeat them next term, see [MultiplxLangtree](#) on instagram for more details and contact the school if you are interested in joining the next group.

Love Our Langtree Day

Also huge thanks to the wonderful parents, grandparents, students and staff who attended the Love Our Langtree day which is so integral to keeping the gardens blooming and school grounds looking as tidy as possible. Keep an eye on our weekly bulletin for more details on how you can participate and contribute to the next event.

Charity Days

Events such as Comic Relief and World Book Day provided a little light in the recent gloomy weather. As always students and staff entered into the fun by dressing up, getting involved in events such as staff vs students Ready, Steady, Cook and raising significant amounts of money for worthy causes.

PTA Quiz Night

Our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) organised another fabulous event for our school community, the annual PTA Quiz Night! Teams came together for an evening of friendly competition, brain-teasing questions, and plenty of laughter.

Talent Show Success

A huge thank you to all the students, and staff, who made this week's talent show such a resounding success. It was heartwarming to see our students showcase their diverse talents with such confidence and enthusiasm. From musical performances and comedy acts to poetry recitals, every participant truly shone on stage. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them.

Drama Studio Construction Project

You may have seen the Henley Standard article about our drama studio construction project. If we

are able to raise the money to build this incredible, environmentally regenerative, beautifully designed new facility, it promises to provide our students with a dedicated space to explore their creativity, develop their performance skills, and bring their imaginations to life. Please contact the school if you feel you can join the team as we work towards the completion of this important and exciting addition to our school.

Social Media

We have moved away from Twitter/X as our main Social Media platform. We are now using Instagram and our page can be found at [#Langtree_Oxfordshire](#).

MY KIDNEY'S 18TH BIRTHDAY



Thank you to all of my lovely family and friends from WADS for helping my 18th 'kidneyversary' go with a bang. What a memorable evening it turned out to be! The highlight of the evening was a concert by my brother Alan and The Phoenix Ukulele Band. They had everyone singing and clapping along to classic songs,

Rocking All Over the World, Hi Ho Silver Lining and Delilah to name but a few. They were fantastic!



The Phoenix Ukulele Band

Alan donated one of his kidneys to me exactly to the day (6th April) 18 years ago. It's been keeping me going ever since!

It was also an extra special evening due to the fact my nephew Sam was there. With this particular disease being hereditary, he's recently had a transplant too, from his dad.

We also raised over £800 for The Six Counties Kidney Patients Association. This was achieved by having a tombola. We also had and a raffle for a flight in a vintage aeroplane.

The rest of the evening was spent dancing the night away, playing everyone's favourite party tracks that they listened to when they were 18.

I was overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone and can't thank you all enough. I'm already planning Sidney the Kidney's 20th.

A big thanks to Christopher Richards and his lovely short film of the event. You can view the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cMjvizCbYE, or using the QR code below.

Terry Sopp



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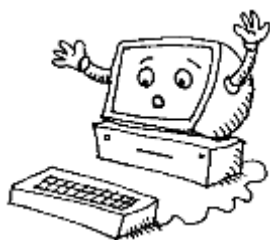
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WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are pleased to let you know that our Ofsted report has now been published. The report opens with "The curriculum is very ambitious. The school aims for all pupils to achieve highly and support each other with their well-being. Pupils' wider development is developed exceptionally well. The school offers many inspirational extra-curricular activities and opportunities... pupils are helped to develop confidence, independence and readiness for their next stage of education and life." We are delighted that the Inspector got to know our school so quickly and thoroughly and saw it for the lovely place it is. The report concludes with "One parent captured the sentiments of many, saying that the school 'gives me faith that my children can achieve the future they dream of.'"

If you would like to come and look around our terrific school, please do get in touch.

At the end of the Spring term, we were treated to a wonderful performance of *Jonah: A Fishy Tale* by the actors and actresses in year 3 and 4. They sang beautifully and performed everything with such enthusiasm. I am sure we have some budding West End stars amongst them!

As part of STEM week, we had a visit from a horologist. The children learnt how a clock mechanism works and how delicate and precise they need to be. They were fascinated by the engineering involved and the history of clockmaking.

In Geography, year 6 have been studying restless Earth. They have researched volcanoes, tsunamis, tectonic plates, ice flows, earthquakes, and forest fires, a wealth of different things.

They picked the one thing that fascinated them the most and had to make a model and present their findings to the class. This included fact sheets, handouts, working models and PowerPoint presentations. The parents were then treated to an Open Afternoon to come and see all the work the pupils had put into this project. It was a fabulous week.

Below Finlay is demonstrating pyroclastic flow! (It should be noted that all risk assessments were undertaken, and the safety of the school and the children was never in doubt!)

Meggan researched rubbish and where clothing goes when we throw it away. We have all learnt which retailers are those we should be encouraging and which to avoid. Shopping will never be the same again!

This has been a truly tremendous project with a great deal of thought taken by every pupil.

Next term, we welcome Ms Kate Hawker to our teaching team. Ms Hawker will take up the position of teaching 2 days a week in year 2 with Mrs Morris teaching the other 3 days. Ms Hawker has had a lot of experience teaching, and we are looking forward to working with her.

As summer approaches we will be welcoming our new children for September to come and look

around, get to know the school and ask lots of questions. We are really looking forward to meeting them all.

Remember, if you would like to come and help at school, we would love to welcome you too.

Mrs L. Hunt



Jonah: A Fishy Tale



Meggan with her display

CABIN PRESCHOOL

As we step into the vibrant season of Spring here at Cabin, our enthusiasm is soaring high with an array of engaging activities aimed at igniting the curiosity of our young ones to explore and discover signs of new life around them.

Firstly, let's extend a warm welcome to Elizabeth, Layla, Leo, and Rowan, who have recently joined our preschool family. We're thrilled to have them with us!

Our recent annual bingo night was a tremendous success, and it wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support from our community. Special thanks go to Brian, our entertaining bingo caller, and his number checker, Jess. Thanks also to Helen and the committee for their dedicated efforts in organizing the event and helping to set up and clear away afterwards. Thanks go to Caroline and Karina for organising the raffle. We're grateful to companies like Chandlers Farm equipment, Bucklebury Park farm, Cotswold wildlife park, The Perch and Pike, SOX Brewery, Bouchiers fencing, Kimberley's hairdressers, Jessie's coffee truck, The Shellfish cow, Monday's moon, Co-op, The Black Lion and others for their generous contributions to our raffle. With everyone's participation, we managed to raise an astounding £1200 in profit!

In support of World Oral Health Day on March 20th, we've encouraged each child to embrace healthy dental habits by completing their brushing chart. Upon completion, they'll receive a well-deserved Healthy Smile certificate and little gift.

On World book day and after reading a lot of books, including *Winnie the Witch*, one of the ladies was prompting the children to use their manners and asked, "What is the magic word?" A child responded "Abracadabra!!!" This demonstrated great recall from the story. Very funny even if not quite what we wanted. After some discussion, thank you was remembered.

During the weekly guinea pig hutch cleaning for our lovely guinea pigs, one of the boys shouts out – my grandad reads those things (newspapers) – a sign of the times.

Excitement filled the air during our recent visit to the Primary school's dress rehearsal of *Jonah: A Fishy Tail*. Witnessing the children's captivation and joy was truly heartwarming. They particularly relished the performance of the jellyfish, crabs, pirates, and the enchanting songs and dances. Kudos to years 3 and 4 for their outstanding performance!

Our Easter Bonnet event was a delightful affair filled with creativity and fun. From homemade bonnets to an Easter egg hunt for eggs hidden by the Easter Bunny in our playground, the children revelled in the festivities, enjoying a variety of tasty treats and games with a delightful array of snacks, watermelon, special cookies, cakes and bananas at the request of the children.

In our pursuit of preparing our little ones for school, our PE sessions focus on fostering not only physical development but also essential life skills like listening, following instructions, and taking turns.

All this before we have even balanced, skipped, jumped, run or walked over the equipment. It's inspiring to witness their growth and enthusiasm!

Amidst the daily hustle and bustle, we often encounter moments of pure hilarity and wisdom from our young ones. From heartwarming gestures on Mother's Day to comical anecdotes during snack time, every day brings its own share of joy and surprises.

After Mother's Day we had a bit of a chat to allow the children to recall their Mother's Day. We asked them how they had spoiled their Mums. One of the children was so excited to tell us she had been so good and picked up her Mum's toenail clippings; what love!

Another child said, "when my dad was old, he had long hair, now he is younger he has short hair." Maybe I should not listen in to their conversations!

You never know what is going to happen on any one day here, it's such a fun place to work.

If you're considering joining our preschool community, we still have a few spots available for two-year-olds. Feel free to reach out to us to schedule a visit and register for September 2024 or any time throughout the year. We'd love to welcome you into our warm and inclusive environment.

For inquiries, please contact Jayne at 01491 680854 or email us at info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk.



WOODCOTE PRE-SCHOOL

We would like to welcome Luca and Callie-Ann who have joined us this term.

The children finished last term with a very busy week making Easter Cards for their families, enjoying lots of roleplay with the farm shop and café. They made chocolate nests which they enjoyed eating with their afternoon snack. They have also been painting and sticking flowers, rainbows, the sun and butterflies on the display board. We had our traditional Easter Bonnet Parade where the children made their own bonnets to bring into Pre-School and they beautifully sang all the easter songs they've been learning this term.

We have enjoyed various physical activities like riding the bikes and scooters, making our own assault courses with the stepping stones, balance beam and climbing frame, practising our yoga and lots of dancing to sticky kids.

The older children who are transitioning to school have been practising their handwriting skills, their dressing and undressing skills and various maths activities. We shall be continuing preparing them for school next term with P.E sessions and lots of more exiting activities.

Easter Holiday Club was a fantastic success again this year! The first couple of days were spent playing inside and out whilst trying to dodge the rain. The children enjoyed painting, baking cakes, making things with the Lego and playing football. For the last two days of holiday with an improvement in the weather, we were able to go out for a long walk around the village. We took our clipboards with a scavenger hunt checklist on them, along with our magnifying glasses and spent an hour and a half finding all the items on the list. The children were very tired in the afternoon and enjoyed making models with Lego and the magnets, roleplaying camping with all the camping gear and our teepee tents, colouring and listening to stories. The last day was much quieter, so we all went on an adventure! We took the bus to Wallingford, then walked over the bridge to Crowmarsh Park where we spent a few hours playing and having our picnic lunch before walking to the bus stop to catch the bus home. The children absolutely loved it even though a couple were a little bit nervous as they had never been on a bus before.

We are now taking bookings for our Summer Holiday Club which will be running for the first three weeks of the summer holidays, Monday 29th July to Friday 16th August, 9am-4pm with the option of early drop off from 8.30am at an extra charge. Early Bird booking is available to secure your place at a discounted price of £40 per day, we also offer a 10% discount for siblings. Please contact us to book your place.

We still have spaces available so if you would like to join us please contact Wendy Powell on 01491 682300 or email: woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk.

We offer all funding including the new two-year-old funding. If you would like to find out if you are

eligible, you can find more information on www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.



WOODCOTE WI

Sally Lambert welcomed the members and our Group Advisor Jane Finnerty to our Annual Meeting. We welcomed a new member, Jenny Cotter.

Birthday cards were given to Ann Rossiter and Debbie Black, who was celebrating a special birthday!

Bloom of the Month winner for this year was Shirley Bryant and Competition winner was Barbara George, who were given vouchers.

We had a great time playing skittles at Hithercroft Sports Centre in Wallingford. We were joined by members of South Stoke WI. We enjoyed a lovely lunch and then it was back to skittles. The winner was Ann Rossiter and wooden spoon prize went to Patricia Solomons. The knockout round was won by Doreen Knox.

The lunch club this month went to the Red Lion at Peppard Common, where we had a delicious lunch, thank you to Sally for organising this event.

Sally Lambert was re-elected as President, Carole Shelley-Allen is stepping down from the committee, thank you to her for all her hard work organising the trips and writing the birthday cards with her beautiful handwriting! Kerry Jones will be our new committee member.

This was followed by a Beetle Drive, thank you to Gill Woods and Betty Thomas for keeping us in order! Penny Edwards won the Easter egg and Gillian Seymour won the egg for the lowest points. This was followed by a delicious tea thank you to Kathy Brewer and Pat Hunt. Penny Edwards won the Bloom of the Month.

In May we will have our Resolutions meeting and will be followed by a quiz. Come and join us for a 2.30pm start on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall.

Judy Williams

GORING HEATH BEAVERS

Once again, "HUSSAR!" for The 'Eef. On 16th March the Beavers (plus one Cub and a Scout) represented Goring Heath by tackling the North Leigh Challenge, a gruelling long-distance hike open to Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from across the county. Whilst the older sections hike further, the Beavers walked an eight-mile course, plus two miles to and from the car park!

It was incredibly challenging: if last year was soggy, unsurprisingly, this year's course was muddy on an epic scale, which of course effectively 'doubled' the distance walked (or slathered). Ex-Scouts will doubtless shudder when they recall how exhausted they were after a sunny 18-mile Winter Challenge, then quietly weep when they recall the same Ridgeway course tackled the following year whilst up to their hocks in freezing mud. Conditions make all the difference.

The Beavers left home at 6am (I repeat, 6am) to defend their 2023 title. There were more than twice

as many Beaver colonies represented this year, so much more competition. Nevertheless, we managed to come a stonking third and, best of all, beat our personal best by a remarkable ten minutes (4 hours 53 minutes): an outstanding achievement! All were utterly exhausted and filthy by the end. Otter had fuelled them with a big box of flapjack and, at one point, had them all attached to a rope like huskies; she had no sledge, though there was a lot of mush (boom boom!). We are incredibly proud of all of them.



Our last meeting of the Easter term was another of Kingfisher's Easter eggstravaganzas. As has become traditional, the Beavers used junk to make a boat capable of floating several small eggs across a pool (any eggs-overboard had to be eaten, of course). The Crème Egg zip-wire made a glorious comeback, as did 'hook-an-Easter-duckling'. There was also an egg hunt, each egg containing a piece of a jigsaw. Sophia and Isaac both swam up to Cubs: they will be much missed, and we wish them luck with the next stage of their Scouting.

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.

Cinema

Vindication Swim (PG)

- Wednesday, 1st May, 2:30pm
- Thursday, 2nd May, 7:30pm

Quintessentially Irish (U)

- Friday, 3rd May, 7:30pm

Barbie (12A)

- Saturday, 4th May, 10:30am

Baltimore (15)

- Saturday, 4th May, 7:30pm
- Sunday, 5th May, 7:30pm

Fantastic Machine (15)

- Monday, 6th May, 7:30pm
- Tuesday, 7th May, 7:30pm

That They Face the Rising Sun (12A)

- Wednesday, 8th May, 2:30pm
The Trouble with Jessica (15)
- Wednesday, 8th May, 7:30pm
That They Face the Rising Sun (12A)
- Thursday, 9th May, 7:30pm
Back to Black (15)
- Friday, 10th May, 7:30pm
- Saturday, 11th May, 7:30pm
Love Lies Bleeding (15)
- Sunday, 26th May, 7:30pm
- Tuesday, 28th May, 7:30pm

Live on Stage

Sinodun Players present *The Invisible Man*

- Tuesday 21st May to Saturday 25th May, 7:30pm
- Saturday 25th May, 2:30pm
- Tickets £12 on Tuesday
- £15 all other performances

Illusion, Magic or Science? ...

Come and see *The Invisible Man* as you've never seen him before!

The Sinodun Players present *The Invisible Man* from the Father of Science Fiction, H. G. Wells. This timeless, classic story involving five actors performing fifteen roles is warm, witty and fast-paced. Derek Webb's adaptation remains faithful to the original novel: A warning of the dangers of modern science and technology, which in the wrong hands is sadly still relevant today!

Live Screening

42nd Street, The Musical

- Wednesday, 29th May, 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- From the Theatre Royal, London
- £18 adults, £15 seniors, £10 under 18s

42nd Street, the legendary Broadway musical theatre classic, is a "glorious" (Express) and "utterly moreish extravaganza of glitz" (Times). Telling the story of Peggy Sawyer, a talented young performer with stars in her eyes who gets her big break on Broadway, this is the largest ever staging of the Tony Award-winning musical and it was filmed live at the magnificent Theatre Royal in the heart of London's West End.

Starring national treasure Bonnie Langford as Dorothy Brock and featuring iconic songs *42nd Street*, *We're In The Money* and *Lullaby of Broadway*, this is pure magic on the big screen.

Message in a Bottle

- Thursday, 30th May, 7:20pm
- Sadler's Wells and Universal Music UK
- £18 adults, £15 seniors, £10 under 18s

Message In A Bottle is a spectacular new dance-theatre show from five-time Olivier Award nominee, Kate Prince, inspired by and set to the iconic hits of 17-time Grammy Award-winning artist Sting, including *Every Breath You Take*, *Roxanne*, *Walking*

On The Moon and more. With a mix of exhilarating dance styles, high-energy footwork and breath-taking athleticism, *Message In A Bottle* tells a unifying and uplifting story of humanity and hope. *Message In A Bottle* is the latest masterpiece from the ground-breaking creator behind West End hits *Some Like it Hip Hop*, *Into the Hoods*, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (choreography) and *SYLVIA* (Old Vic), and features the astonishing talents of dance storytelling powerhouse, ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company.

WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB (WADAC)

More than 400 art lovers will enjoy Wallingford & District Art Club's Exhibition on 25 and 26 May at Centre 70 (venue 419) in central Wallingford.

Families and visitors to Wallingford will find plenty to delight in among our members' still-life, landscape, animal, flora, figurative and abstract artwork. As well as the paintings, there are limited edition prints and cards for sale, all produced by 25 club members who range in ability from commercial artists to skilled amateurs.

"Our last three shows have attracted just under 500 visitors each time and we hope the tie-in with ArtWeeks will boost attendance," said Nick Shanagher, chairman of the friendly local art group. "The variety of styles afforded by a group show means there is something for everyone. Twenty of our artists sold works at our last exhibition."

Mark Wood specialises in colourful local landmarks, still lives and birds. He will be painting live throughout the weekend. Gavin Peacock specialises in whimsical storytelling in oil or acrylic. He is the SAA's Amateur Artist of the Year. Carole Kettle's paintings capture people at play or rest and evoke a sunny outlook. Geoff Johnson specialises in flowers and landscapes to capture the changing seasons.

The show is a destination on Wallingford Town Council's Art Walk, a new initiative to promote the visual arts in the locality. Art club members are also supporting an artistic showcase in the Town Hall, taking place over the same weekend, and curated by local artist Jason Atomic.

Centre 70 (Artweeks venue 419) is just off the Kinicroft and in easy walking distance of both Waitrose and Goldsmith Lane car parks. The venue is large, light and airy - giving ample scope for unpressured browsing of some delightful art.

Visit www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk for more details of our activities, including tutored classes, artist demo evenings, all-day workshops and sketch days.

WADAC's exhibition runs on the 25th May (10.00am-5.00pm) and 26th May (10.00am-4.00pm) at Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane, near Kinicroft, Wallingford OX10 0DT.

Pick up an Art Walks Trail Map from Wallingford's tourist information office or library, online at www.wallingfordtowncouncil.gov.uk/council_events/oxfordshire-artweeks or from participating venues.

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FLORAL DISPLAYS AT EASTER

As part of St Leonard's Church Easter celebrations, the congregation sponsored lilies in memory of loved ones. The lilies formed the basis of beautiful floral displays which were created by the Flower Team and used to decorate the church.



HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

The Henley Stamp Club is a friendly group, and we would be delighted to see new visitors or members. If you are interested in facts concerning stamps or postal history, why not come along and explore how you can promote your interest?

We are trying to widen the age span of our membership as a lot of us are in the grey hair era.

I only started stamp collecting when I was approaching retirement, as I needed a hobby to get my teeth into. I now regret leaving it so late. It has given me an opportunity to investigate periods of history and to tie them to a picture on a stamp or to find out what may have caused a variation.

To learn more about stamps and postal history why not visit us at Bix one Wednesday evening? You can then meet other people who find postal history and the story of stamps fascinating too.

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. On Wednesday 8th. May the members will be displaying material that relates to the subject *Lands of the Pacific Ocean*. On Wednesday 22nd May we are having our AGM.

Visitors and new members are very welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning Steve on 07767 251670 or on our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk.

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Our last meeting before the summer will be at Goring Heath Parish Hall on Thursday 16th May, when we want to look at the last seventy years in the area covered by the history society. It was in 1952 that the new parish of Goring Heath was formed from parts of Whitchurch and Goring parishes. How have the villages changed? What do we remember of how life was when we first came here? An informal evening, coffee from 7pm, discussion from 7.30pm. No charge for non-members.

In June and July, we go on members-only outings and re-convene in September.

GORING VILLAGE GREEN FINGERS

We are finalising our program of speakers for the coming year. On Wednesday 1st May, Valeria Flores Enriquez, a representative of DEFRA, will speak to us on plant health. On Wednesday 5th June, Alan Goolde from Henry Street Garden Centre will speak on roses. This is an independent garden centre that specialises in rose growing.

We meet at Storton Lodge, Icknield road, Goring. RG8 0DH, 7.30pm - 9.30pm on the first Wednesday of most months. We also run a raffle, plant and gardening goods sales and refreshments. All are welcome to visit or join our club. The charge for visitors is £5.

CHOLSEY REPAIR CAFÉ

There's an important change at Cholsey Repair Cafe on Saturday 18th May: opening time has been brought forward to 10.00 a.m. and closing time will be 12.45. This allows users even more time to visit the Community Cafe in the foyer of the Cholsey Pavilion.

As always, a team of volunteers will offer help and advice on repairs to domestic equipment and gadgets. Electrical repairs are regularly in demand and there is PAT testing equipment. Bicycle repairs are gaining in popularity, while sharpening of gardening tools and knives is always popular. All repairs are done free of charge but donations towards running costs are much appreciated.

More information can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com.

GAP FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES HEADLINE EVENTS

From the 7th to the 16th of June, the picturesque villages of Goring & Streatley will become a hive of activity with over 50 cultural events taking place in local venues.

An exciting programme of events, put together by local volunteers, is set to take Festival goers beyond the realms of creativity, artistry and possibility, through the power of culture. Tickets are on sale now at www.thegapfestival.org.

Find out more about the Festival charity on our website www.thegapfestival.org and sign up to the mailing list or follow @TheGapFestival on Facebook and X (Twitter), @TheGAPFestival24 on Instagram to be the first to hear further news about the Festival.

Here are just some of the headline events that you can look forward to this June:

Simon Mayor and Friends, Friday 7th June

An evening of humorous anecdotes and dazzling musicianship from one of the world's leading mandolin players Simon Mayor and Friends.

Out of This World: Space Day, Saturday 8th June

An intergalactic space day, with out of this world activities including crafty space creations, evening with space scientists, stargazing, and planetarium experience in partnership with local space technology company OrbAstro.

Children's Film Festival, Sunday 9th June

The return of The Children's Film Festival, where shortlisted short films produced by young people in Berkshire and Oxfordshire will be screened at a red carpet premiere. Entries are still open. Full details on how to create, produce and submit a shortfilm are available at <https://filmfreeway.com/TheGAPChildrensFilmFestival>.

Papagena, Sunday 9th June

The UK's flagship female voice ensemble Papagena presents a diverse programme ranging from sacred works and contemporary madrigals to lilting ballads, folk legends and lullabies.

An Audience with True Crime Author Helen Saxton, Monday 10th June

Uncover the controversial story of Amanda Knox surrounding the murder of British student Meredith Kercher with true crime author and murder mystery specialist Helen Saxton.

400 Years of Garden Design with Timony Walker, Tuesday 11th June

Botanist and horticultural expert Timothy Walker will give a lively illustrated talk on 400 years of garden design in Oxfordshire and how the art of gardening has changed.

Where is Mrs Christie?, Wednesday 12th June

One-woman show *Where is Mrs Christie?* looks at the mystery of Agatha Christie's very own disappearance in 1926 with a unique Q&A after the show.

Illyria presents The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle, Thursday 13th June

Back by popular demand, Illyria presents a much-loved family favourite of The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle outdoors, in a beautiful private garden overlooking the river Thames.

Helen Arney The Voice of An Angle, Friday 14th June

Geek songstress Helen Arney performs a family show of songs about science, maths and the wonders of the world.

GAP Opera: The Marriage of Figaro, Friday 14th June - Sunday 16th June

Performers drawn from the country's finest opera houses present three bespoke performances of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Produced once again exclusively for the Festival by Goring based Soprano, Stephanie Bosworth.

The full extensive programme will also include a wide variety of music performances, a range of special interest talks, art workshops, free children's activities, and morning wellbeing sessions.

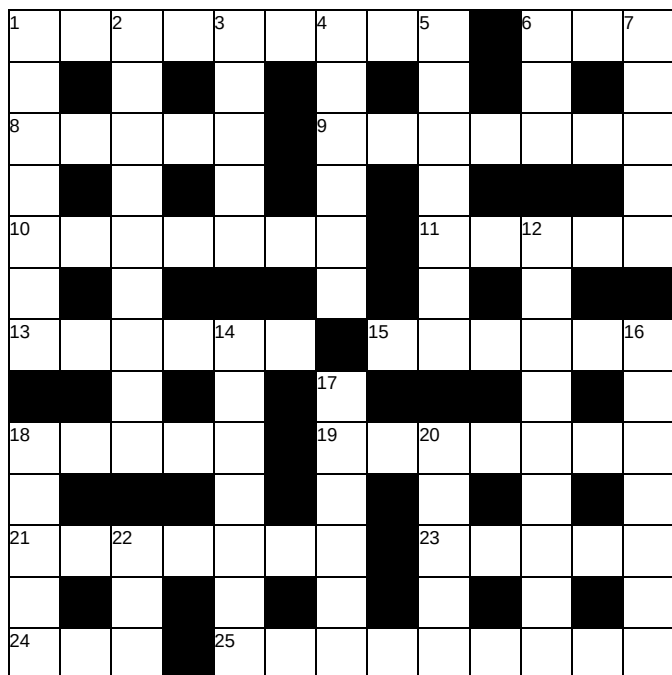
We can only make all this happen with your help! Could you give a few hours during the festival to be a marshal? Help behind the bar? Set up events? Or check tickets? We are looking for volunteers to help us at events. Get in touch here: www.thegapfestival.org/get-involved/volunteer.

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MAY CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Roger and I recreated American flower (3,6)
- 6 Fool has no time for joker (3)
- 8 Merrier king admits an affirmative vote (5)
- 9 State found in Wendover, Montana (7)
- 10 Back to front bureaucracy gradually reduced (7)
- 11 Row about good cat (5)
- 13 Unfortunately Korea evacuated state (6)
- 15 Saint and alien officer back groups (6)
- 18 Enjoyment of zest (5)
- 19 Decay said to be below building (7)
- 21 Sing about trouble when travelling at sea (7)
- 23 Groom quiet about final pair of children (5)
- 24 Woman returned to find ox (3)
- 25 Mobile rat gene or dynamo (9)

Down

- 1 Wrongly target a craft-based occasion (7)
- 2 Major deities who go for gold (9)
- 3 Less common when back around about year-end (5)
- 4 State secret deal covers dictator's wife (6)
- 5 Unpredictable man eats rat (7)
- 6 Doctor from the World Health Organisation (3)
- 7 Race around university or get coach (5)
- 12 Naïve strike to protect countryside (9)
- 14 Well-informed king has won back (7)
- 16 Searcher for girl in senior common room (7)
- 17 Some forego nanny state (6)
- 18 Bubbly atmosphere – extremely sweaty (5)
- 20 Gently touch one right animal (5)
- 22 Discovered decapitated weasel's cousin in pen (3)

APRIL CROSSWORD SOLUTION



MAY QUIZ

1. Which British King was the last to lead his troops into Battle?
2. What country's coast guards started the war of Jenkins ear ?
3. What is the outermost layer of the skin called?
4. What substance gives hair and skin its colour?
5. Who is the most famous ancient Greek female poet?
6. Who was Odysseus's wife?
7. Which couple lived at 24 Oil Drum Lane in Shepherd's Bush?
8. Which couple lives at 62 West Wallaby Street in Wigan?
9. Which river carved out the Grand Canyon?
10. Who wrote Moll Flanders?

QUIZ ANSWERS



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Regular Weekly Events

Every Monday

** Youth Club – Juniors (year 7's).
Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm.

Every Tuesday

** Youth Club – Seniors (years 8, 9 & 10).
Woodcote Village Hall 7.15pm-8.45pm.

Every Thursday

** Rhymetime for pre-schoolers.
Woodcote Library 10.15am-10.45am

** Chance To Chat.
Mowforth House 2.30pm-4pm

MAY DATES

Wed 1st	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Goring Green Fingers Gardening Club talk: 'Plant Health'. Storton Lodge, Icknield Rd, Goring. 7.30pm-9.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: '30 Years of Club Photography'. 8pm
Thur 2nd	*	Wallingford Photographic Club meeting: End of Year Wrap Up. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm
Sat 4th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Sue Ryder (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Goring Chamber Choir presents: 'Summertime to Skyfall - music from great movies'. St Thomas' Church, Goring. 3pm
Sat 6th	*	South Stoke May Fayre. South Stoke. 12pm-4pm
Tues 7th	*	BMMHS Zoom talk: 'Forbidden Art of the Third Reich'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 8th	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society meeting: Picture of the Year competition. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Sat 11th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of St. Leonard's Church (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
Tues 14th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3.30pm-4.45pm
Wed 15th	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm
	*	BMMHS Talk: 'Disaster & Bravery at Dieppe'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: 'Power and Poise'. 8pm
Thur 16th	*	Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society meeting. Goring Heath Parish Hall. 7.30pm

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Thur 16th	*	WADS presents: The Attic / Carrot / White Lies. Woodcote Village Hall. 8pm
Fri 17th	*	WADS presents: The Attic / Carrot / White Lies. Woodcote Village Hall. 8pm
Sat 18th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Community Centre (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Cholsey Repair Café. Cholsey Pavilion. 10am-12.45pm
	*	WADS presents: The Attic / Carrot / White Lies. Woodcote Village Hall. 8pm
Tues 21st	*	Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration: 'Coastal scenes in acrylics'. Centre 70, The Kincroft, Wallingford. 7.30pm
Wed 22nd	*	Henley & District Stamp Club AGM. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society meeting: Monochrome Digital Image competition. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Sat 25th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club Exhibition. Centre 70, The Kincroft, Wallingford. 10am-5pm
	*	Whitchurch Hill Village Fete. Whitchurch Hill Village Green. 2pm-5pm
Sun 26th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club Exhibition. Centre 70, The Kincroft, Wallingford. 10am-4pm
	*	Withymead Nature Reserve Open Day. 2pm-5pm
Tues 28th	*	Chatterbox. Woodcote Community Centre. 2pm-3.30pm
Wed 29th	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: 'Landscape with Steam'. 8pm

FORTHCOMING DATES IN JUNE

Sat 1st	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Library (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Goring Repair Café. Goring Village Hall. 10am-12.30pm
Tues 4th	*	BMMHS Zoom talk: 'D-Day Through German Eyes'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 5th	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Goring Green Fingers Gardening Club talk: 'Roses'. Storton Lodge, Icknield Rd, Goring. 7.30pm-9.30pm