

WOODCOTE CORRESPONDENT

December 2023 Vol 35 No. 12



We wish you all a Very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year

COMMENT FROM ST. LEONARD'S

Christmas is coming along very fast now, and I am sure each and every one of us is very busy getting everything ready for the celebration. Buying presents and preparing for to host or visit family. Looking at recipes and getting food in for the Christmas dinner.

With these short days and long evenings, we can really feel the effects of the dark and cold, and we need this time of celebration to help us through. This is where Christmas can help, a time to stop together with friends and family; a time to sing to share stories. All of this helps us in these dark and cold times.

Singing can really help us when we are feeling down, and something like carols and nine lessons lift our souls, which is sometimes what we need at this time of year.

Isaiah 9.2-7

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light' (v.2)

These verses are well known from Christmas carol services. They are read as a promise, looking forward to the coming of Christ and God's kingdom.

These verses that speak of great encourage and hope from the resources of faith.

Another great reading from Christmas carol service is from Luke 2.1-14

'... to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour' (v.11)

Luke tells the nativity story with great warmth, and I very much encourage you all to just sit with this wonderful text before Christmas.

In just seven verses, history is made. Christians believe that the true Saviour of the world is set against the Roman Emperor, a self-proclaimed god.

Jesus' origins are humble, and the story human and earthy. However, there are amazing elements within the everyday. Labourers meet with angels. The baby is called 'Saviour ... Messiah ... Lord' (v.11), and the story of his birth brings together the whole of creation.

Angels, shepherds, straw, animals and stars are represented. Everyone and everything are here.

Heaven comes together with earth; past, present and future are held in tension. Prophecy, which has been dormant for centuries, bursts forth from both angels and people. The good news that the shepherds bring causes amazement.

Mary treasures the words about her new son.

She ponders them, taking them out and turning them over – thinking things through.

Jesus, born in the city of David, is the chosen one whom all have been waiting for to come and make all things new. Treasuring Jesus and the words about him make Mary a new person, also. Mary's obedience to God's calling has led her on an extraordinary adventure, which is far from over.

There will be many more words about Jesus for her to treasure and ponder in the years ahead. Vocation is never a one-off event, but a lifelong journey of challenge and discovery. As we celebrate Christ's birth let's remember there is always more of Jesus to ponder and treasure.

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;

May you have a wonderful blessed Christmas,

Reverend David Benskin
Team vicar for the Langtree Team

December Services at St. Leonard's

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

Every Wednesday in December there is a time of silence, prayer and reflection at 7:30pm in St Leonard's Church (it is a wonderful time to just sit quietly with God in this very busy time of year).

Sunday 3rd December

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Parish Communion

Sunday 10th December

8.00 am Holy Communion

9:45 am Worshipping together

Sunday 17th December

8.00 am Holy Communion

3:30pm Christingle in Village Hall

Wednesday 20th December

7pm Carol service

Sunday 24th December

11pm Midnight communion

Monday 25th December

10am Christmas communion

Sunday 31st December

10:30 Team service carols

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.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



I'm very happy to hear that the Woodcote Volunteers have found more volunteer drivers following their appeal in the previous issue.

I'd like to thank the Woodcote Charitable Association for their generous donations, both to the Correspondent and to other organisations around the village. I look forward to receiving articles over the coming year showing how much the rally benefits our community. It was great to hear at their Donations Evening that the rally has found a new site for 2024. Put the weekend of the 13th/14th of July in your calendars now (or when Santa delivers them).

We're wrapping up the year with a bit of an animal theme. David provided his reflections on the local red kites while Ava drew us a red kite snowman for our cover image. Not long after I noticed this coincidence, articles about Humphrey the parrot and our local roe deer population arrived.

I hope you all have a merry Christmas,

Nick

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

Advertising:	Claire Jones	07789 190463
Treasurer:	Helen Baker	07047 097787
Production:	Dan Oldfield	01491 681962
Distribution:	Trevor Back	01491 680617
Printer:	C Z Services	07860 630865
Cover Design:	Rob Spencer	

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

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

24 hours service | Private client parking | Private chapel of rest
Free home visits | Pre-paid funeral plans | Full written estimate
Woodland funerals | Religious & non-religious services | Competitive prices

Call Bruce Jones or Claire Jones
01491 573370
www.tomalins.co.uk office@tomalins.co.uk
 Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-On-Thames, RG9 1AG

A Family Run Independent Funeral Service

U-Connect Electrical

ALL ASPECTS OF ELECTRICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

EMERGENCY CALL-OUTS
 INSTALLATIONS & MAINTENANCE
 NEW BUILDS, EXTENSIONS & GARDEN ROOMS
 EXTRA LIGHTING & SOCKETS
 INSPECTION & TESTING
 CONSUMER UNIT UPGRADES
 CENTRAL HEATING & BOILER WIRING

FAMILY RUN SINCE 2008 WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

FREE OF CHARGE - NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS

07933 366 866
www.u-connectelectrical.co.uk

November Financial Services
 INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS

We offer a comprehensive range of financial services

To arrange a FREE consultation please call
01491 683777 or email jp@novfin.co.uk

November Financial Services Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Investments • Life Assurance • Pensions

LOCKSMITH

Locks changed, fitted, repaired & opened.
 Yale locks, five lever mortice locks, digital locks,
 UPVC door locks & handles, UPVC window locks.

Emergency callout service

Over thirty years of experience. Free quotations
 Tel: **01491 682050** or **07710 409216**
www.acgservices.co.uk

Office: 3 Wayside Green, Woodcote, Oxon RG8 0PR. Proprietor Richard Hornden

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.

J & L LANDSCAPING

FENCING, PATIOS and DRIVES, ROOF REPAIRS
GENERAL BUILDING, TURFING. REPLACEMENT
OF FACIA BOARDS, SOFFITS and GUTTERING

PHONE: 01491-681367 or 07961-882281

Email: jimmyhearn69@hotmail.com



Free Quotations
FAST and FRIENDLY SERVICE

J Roxborough Services

Providing Commercial & Residential Maintenance Services

All building maintenance & small building works undertaken

- Full property renovations
- All aspects of plastering & rendering undertaken
- Floor & wall tiling
- Painting & decorating
- Brickwork repointing
- Flat roof renewal & roof repairs
- Bathroom & kitchen installations
- Fascia & gutter replacement

Free quotes, fully insured, recommendations freely available

Tel: 07909 931601 or 01491 682955

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Project Cool: Tree Planting Phase Two

There have been, and will continue to be, additional new trees being planted around the village by the Parish Council. This includes small orchards with fruit trees in two locations.

The Parish Council are also happy to supply trees to any residents wishing for a tree to be planted at the very front of their gardens. If you are interested, please do contact the Parish Clerk on the details below.

Activities on Greenmore

The Parish Council wish to reassure residents that the activities on the site along Greenmore, known as the old reservoir site, have been reported to the District and County Councils and the matter is being investigated regarding this site.

Any relevant updates will be noted in minutes of future Parish Council meetings, which can be found on the Parish Council website.

If residents wish to express their concerns, you can email directly to District or County Councillors:

- Jo.Robb@southoxon.gov.uk,
- James.Norman@southoxon.gov.uk, or
- Kevin.Bulmer@Oxfordshire.gov.uk.

The Parish Council would also like to take this opportunity to wish all its residents a merry and happy festive period.

You can find information about the Parish Council on their website: www.woodcote-parish-council.org.uk. Alternatively, you can contact the Parish Clerk on 01491 681861, clerk@woodcote-parish-council.org.uk.

The Parish Council Facebook page also has current information & announcements.

Lastly, the Parish Office is open on Monday's 9am to 12 noon, to visit in person.

WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

Boost to volunteer driver numbers

A big thank you to the Correspondent for putting us front page last month. We have had a tremendous response and have reached our goal of having a minimum of 40 volunteer drivers. In fact, when all are in place, we should have about 45 drivers, which is absolutely brilliant and a credit to the residents of Woodcote and surrounding villages who give so much – kindness, time and talent. A huge thank you again, to all our drivers, office team and others who support us.

Are you available to do a regular, local drive?

We are looking for one or two people to help us on a Tuesday morning each week. Two of our lovely clients would like to go to Goring Day Centre, to enable them to get out to socialise, which they would not be able to do without our assistance. They both live in Woodcote and need to be collected about

The Boathouse
Dental Surgery

Tel: 01491 872394
www.boathousedental.co.uk

Are you someone
that hides your smile?

Let us reveal your smile.

"Never thought I'd smile again...
...but now I can."
Martin

High Street, Goring on Thames,
Oxfordshire RG8 9AB

Call 01491 872394
to book a consultation
Email reception@boathousedental.co.uk

D J SCOTT ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Your Local Electrician

- All aspects of Electrical work undertaken
- Free no obligation quotes
- NICEIC Part P Registered

Call Daniel on – 07834365331

www.djscottelectrical.com

Email: info@djscottelectrical.com



9.15am and taken to Goring, then picked up and returned home at 1pm. Whether you can do one of the journeys or both, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our secretary by email on info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk and leave your phone number. Thank you.

Rally donation

We are also very fortunate to have been the recipient of a very generous donation from Woodcote Rally. Thank you – we are very grateful. We asked for funds to help us purchase hardware and set up an electronic booking system, which will automatically send out emails to our drivers when help is needed. It will improve our efficiency and help us to provide an even better service to our clients. The system should be up and running in December.

Co-op Fund

The good news keeps on coming.... The Co-op have chosen Woodcote Volunteers to benefit from their Community Fund. If you are a Co-op member, please select us as your nominated charity by logging in to your account and searching for Community Fund or Choose a Local Cause. Then, if you purchase any Co-op branded product, we receive a percentage of that price from the Co-op. If you are not a Co-op member but would like to support us, you could become a Co-op member! If you would like to make a donation some other way, please see our website for more information.

Message to clients

We would be very grateful if you could try to give as much notice to us as possible if you need a driver. We do get very booked up and don't want to let you down. At least three days' notice if you could, please. Thank you.

Christmas Social

We are meeting at the Red Lion in Woodcote on Wednesday, 13th December at 7pm for an informal pre-Christmas drink. If anyone interested in joining us as a volunteer driver would like to come along to join us and find out more, you are very welcome.

To finish....

We are sorry to say goodbye to Chris Bergmann, a valued volunteer driver for several years who is moving out of the area. We say thank you and wish him well for the future.

We extend a warm welcome to our new volunteer drivers, Brian, Camilla, Alison, Frances and Angela. Thank you for offering to help and we know you will find driving our clients an interesting and enjoyable experience.

Whether or not you are currently one of our clients, if you aren't able to get yourself out, please don't hesitate to call our office on 01491 681171. We collect from Woodcote and immediately surrounding villages.

Please give us as much notice as possible before the date you need us. One of our friendly office workers will answer the phone between 9.30 and 11am on

weekdays (excluding public holidays) and you can leave a message on the answerphone at other times.

Find out more about us by looking at our website: www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk

Or visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers

WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Football in October was somewhat restricted by weather conditions, with several matches falling victim to waterlogged pitches.

However, with one exception, the first team goal machine has continued to thrive. On 14th October we reached double figures in the match against Garsington in the Oxon Intermediate Cup, with a 10-2 win. Toby Nowell hit five goals, Rhys Gray scored his first hat-trick for the club and Joe Webber and Dan Wallace got one apiece. Two weeks later the team made the one-hundred-mile round trip to Cropredy in the Oxford Charity Cup and, after a great performance, won 8-2 with goals from Joe Webber 2, Toby Nowell, Sam Green, James Stewart, Alec Curtis, Dan Wallace and an own goal. After over a month without a league game, the team travelled to Dorchester on 4th November for what should have been a regulation win. Unfortunately, the outcome was a 1-0 defeat in a match where the team had all the possession but couldn't break down a packed defence.

The Development team meanwhile has struggled for results in the past month. Defeats in the League by 3-2 at home to Kingston Colts, with goals by Tommy Brownlow and Ben Morgan and Burghclere away by 4-3 at Burghclere, with goals by Ben Morgan, Sully Akers and Archie Clark have left the team near the bottom of North Berks Division 2. The one bright spot was progress into the second round of the North Berks War Memorial Cup with a 4-2 win at Sutton Courtenay. Joe Webber scored a hat-trick and George Scoffham got the other goal. We would like to place on record our thanks to the Oratory School for the use of a minibus to travel to Cropredy.

SP



The team on the way to Cropredy

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

Remembrance Day

At Woodcote library children visited and coloured in poppies for our Remembrance Day book display.

If you would like to visit to have a look at our many books to commemorate this important day and to see the wonderful artwork on display, please do pop in.

Harry Potter Fun

To celebrate Harry Potter Day, Woodcote library held a craft event for children and families of all ages.

Children had lots of creative fun making their very own Harry Potter wand and 'Hedwig' owl!

Our next Saturday craft event is on 9th December, with the theme *A Winter Wonderland*.

We hope you can come along and join us!

Lisa Trood
Library Manager



WOODCOTE CONSERVATION GROUP

Lower Greenmoor Pond – an update

Members of our Lower Pond Restoration Working Group continue to monitor the inflow and underground hydrology to inform the most appropriate actions needed to restore the Lower Pond. We are keeping the Parish Council (custodian of the site) informed and will hold a public meeting next year to keep you updated. In the meantime, volunteers turned out in force at two work parties held in October and cleared semi-aquatic vegetation from the Upper Pond to create more open water for wildlife next spring. Our thanks to everyone who lent a hand.

The winter solstice

With 1st December marking the start of meteorological winter, this month we conclude our series about the key dates in the astronomical calendar.

December is our darkest, gloomiest month, a time when early humans must have retreated into caves to wait out the darkness until spring. These days, we come to glittering, sparkling life just as nature reaches its most complete hibernation. We light up our homes with twinkling lights, candles and log fires and fight the dark by feasting and celebrating, revelling in the fact that from the end of the month onwards our world will get incrementally lighter and brighter, and remarkably quickly too.

This year the winter solstice will be on 22nd December at 0327 hours. The word solstice comes from the Latin *solstitium*, which means 'sun stopping', as the position on the horizon at which the sun rises and sets stops and reverses direction. On 22nd December we will again reach the point when the axial tilt of the earth is aligned with the sun, only this time the north pole is tipped away from it and the south pole is tipped towards it. This is the shortest day in northern latitudes, when the Arctic Circle and all within it will experience 24 hours of darkness. At solar noon on 22nd December, the sun will reach 15 degrees in the London sky, sunrise will be 0804 and sunset at 1553.

It is wonderful to catch the sunrise on the winter solstice, even if only from your window, so do it if you can. As you greet the sun, think about how it will make its lowest arc in the sky, but how soon it will start to rise higher, lengthen our days and bring spring.

This month the full moon will be on 27th December. The full moon rises near sunset, opposite the sun, so in the east as the sun sets in the west – let's hope the sky is clear so we can enjoy it. December's full moon is known as the Oak Moon, or Full Cold Moon and, this year, it is also the Moon After Yule.

By now, most wildlife will have hunkered down for winter, but look out for redwings. These members of the thrush family migrate here in midwinter to avoid the winter weather in Russia and Scandinavia. They often arrive in large flocks, mixing with fieldfares, another member of the thrush family. After completing a journey of up to 800 km across the

North Sea, they feast first on leftover fruits in orchards and hedgerow, and then move to open farmland to dig for worms among the stubble. In midwinter they can be seen in villages and towns which are warmer than the open countryside, with gardens offering an opportunity to find crucial food before they return to their breeding grounds in the spring.

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

Woodcote Conservation Group

WOODCOTE RALLY 2023 DONATIONS EVENING

On behalf of the Woodcote Charitable Association, following a break of three years due to covid and no available field last year, the Woodcote Rally Committee is pleased to announce that, following an extremely successful year, we have donated the amazing sum of £25,000 to local charities and good causes within Woodcote and the neighbouring villages. This brings the total donations since the first Rally in 1964 to an enormous £532,000.

The Donations Evening was held in Woodcote Village Hall on Friday 10th November 2023. This event makes it all worthwhile for the Rally Committee and Association members as they see how all their voluntary efforts and hard work have paid off.

The evening began with the presentation of trophies to the best in class exhibits at the Rally. Trophies were awarded to a range of vintage vehicles including cars, motor bikes, commercial vehicles, and, of course, steam engines.

Here are some examples of the awards: the full list is available on our website www.woodcoterally.org.uk.

- The Ran Hawthorne Memorial Shield for large steam was awarded to Ewen Davis for his 1889 Ransome, Simms and Jefferies 4 bhp Portable.
- The Castrol Research Cup was awarded to Stephen Mitchell for his 1982 Ford Cortina MK5.
- The Dick Vernon Memorial Award for tractors went to Bob and Amy Carter for their 1957 Nuffield Universal 4.

Other awards presented included the George Ballard Memorial Award for Historic Cars over 40 years old which went to Gareth Wright and the Albert Goldsmith Award for historic motorbikes over 40 years old which went to Sean Brennan. George and Albert, both sadly departed, were long standing members of the Woodcote Charitable Association. Albert's trophy was presented by his widow Sylvia.

Following a short interlude for refreshments, kindly provided by the Woodcote Village Hall Committee, members of the Woodcote Charitable Association Trustees went on to conduct the all-important part of the evening by presenting cheques to the local charities and organisations. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Woodcote Village Hall will use their donation to improve their kitchen equipment.

- The Woodcote Conservation Group are working on the restoration of the lower Greenmore pond.
- Woodcote Volunteers would like to introduce an on-line booking system.
- Woodcote Community Centre would like to update their booking system and include keyless access.
- St Leonard's Church aim to install a toilet.
- Christ the King Church are working on stabilising their roof.

The full donations list will be on our website shortly - www.woodcoterally.org.uk.

This is how some of the donations have totalled up over the years. Out of the £532,000 donated since 1964 these are some of the beneficiaries:

- £45,770 for Woodcote Village Hall
- £18,465 for Woodcote Village Green
- £15,540 for Langtree School
- £12,925 for Woodcote Youth Club
- £12,145 for St Leonard's Church

The 2024 Woodcote Rally will be held over the weekend of 13th and 14th of July. We look forward to seeing you there. Watch out for news of exciting developments that will ensure the ongoing success of the Rally. We thank you for your continued support.

Andy Crockett
Publicity Officer, Woodcote Rally Committee



PICTURES FROM THE CEREMONY AT WOODCOTE'S WAR MEMORIAL
on Remembrance Sunday, at which the village came to celebrate peace and commemorates all the lives
lost in, and since, the First World War



ST. LEONARD'S FAIR



St. Leonard's at night. By Chris Rickards

This year's Fair made a fantastic profit over £1740. Everyone was absolutely delighted, and we send a massive "thank you" to all who came and hope that you enjoyed yourselves and were pleased with your bargains and prizes.

Lots of people help to put on an event like this so many, many thanks to everyone who made or donated items; those who helped to set up and staff the stalls; those who provided essential cups of tea; and those who helped with the clearing up. We also thank the Karate Club who moved rooms on Saturday morning so that we could set-up in the main hall. There is a fantastic community spirit in Woodcote which is expressed in so many ways in the support for the Fair.

Stalls were decorated with banners and flashing lights and many stall holders sported hats, jumpers and earrings with a Christmas theme. Aside from the bustle of the main halls, the refreshment room provided an alternative oasis of floral calm along with the opportunity to catch-up with friends over tea and biscuits.

Visitors seemed delighted with the fantastic variety of goods available: gifts, crafts, jewellery, cakes, chutneys, bric-a-brac, and books, and there were many winners on the various raffles and tombolas.

The money raised will, as usual, be used for the general running costs and maintenance of St Leonard's Church and thank you again for your amazingly generous support.

The St Leonard's Fair Committee

THE CASE OF THE RED RAPTORS

I saw my first red kite in 1982, above the village of Tregaron in mid-Wales. These were native Welsh kites, not the Spanish imports we get round here. At the time there were barely half a dozen in the whole country, all in this one small area. The bird seemed to me incredibly beautiful, its russet mantle gleaming as it floated effortlessly overhead, its pale wing edges

translucent in the morning light, and to this beauty was added the thrill of rarity. Well, now I can look out of my window and see at least a couple any day, so the rarity thrill may be gone, but the beauty remains, still giving me that first lift of the heart.

I see, however, from recent posts on *Wonderful Woodcote* that not everyone shares my enthusiasm and that the birds are coming to be regarded by some as a positive nuisance. It's a pity, but I suppose I can see their point. My wife and I were sitting out in the garden this summer enjoying a lunchtime sandwich, and immediately, as if summoned by some bush telegraph, several kites appeared overhead and began circling. 'Do they attack humans', asked my wife nervously. I was very tempted to reply 'Why, yes, only last week a woman in the next road was carried off and all they ever found of her was one shoe – of course the authorities are hushing it up to avoid spreading 'panic', but I decided it would be unkind. True, my wife has never trusted anything I have said about the natural world ever since an unfortunate incident on holiday one year involving a misreading of the tide tables, but this might be the one occasion she believed me. So, instead, 'Not yet', I reassure her, 'Of course, they're getting bigger and bolder each year where people will keep feeding them, so it's probably just a matter of time. And of course, you can never trust birds. The collective noun for a number of crows isn't "a murder" for nothing...'.

I tell her about the mighty Haast's eagle, weighing up to fifteen kilograms and with four-inch talons, that inhabited New Zealand's South Island well into historical times. On Maori legend it was capable of killing human beings as well as its normal prey, the giant moa – given its size and strength, scientists think this is actually quite possible. 'Of course,' I say, 'red kites have a long way to go to catch up with Haast's eagle, but at the rate they're evolving who knows...' Finally, I remind her of Daphne Du Maurier's short story *The Birds*, which was made into a film by Alfred Hitchcock, in which the birds decide enough is enough and get together to rid the earth of the pesty human species that is so conspicuously ruining it. My wife finishes her sandwich rather quickly and goes indoors.

On a serious note, I am all in favour of learning to live with nature and if the price of granting some space to these magnificent creatures is the odd bit of harassment, so be it. I am even in favour of some cautious rewilding. Wolves in the Long Toll woods, anyone? At least they might keep down the muntjac deer that, with their habit of dashing across the road in front of cars, have caused more than one serious accident round here; I've had two near misses myself.

So, red kites, nick the odd sandwich if you must. Leave me the wife though – it's in both our interests. I mean, who do you think makes the sandwiches?

David Sutton



WALTERS TURKEYS

TRADITIONAL HIGH QUALITY LOCAL CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

FREE RANGE BRONZE ORGANIC | LOCALLY REARED

ORDER ONLINE TO RESERVE YOUR AWARD WINNING TURKEY

www.waltersturkeys.co.uk 01635 578251

Bower Farm, Ashwellth, Reading, Berkshire, RG9 6TH

COVER IMAGE

The Correspondent would like to thank Ava for her cover image *Red Kite at Night*. Ava is currently studying A Level Art, Criminology and Psychology as well as working on her Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. Her GCSE art portfolio focussed on digital art, similar to the cover image that she drew for us. She hopes to study something like Forensic Psychology at university.

NCK

ROE DEER

Despite a serious decline in biodiversity generally throughout Britain, the local area is still quite rich in wildlife. One reason for this can be found in the structure of Chiltern soils, which often have a thin topsoil overlying chalk. This creates a demanding and selective environment (often nutrient poor) and very well drained, favouring beech forest and biodiverse chalk grassland. These habitats are a perfect home for most deer species found in Britain.

I love Woodcote and the wider Chilterns, with their dry valleys and wooded hills. Since retiring some years ago, I enjoy long walks most days and have become very familiar with the local wildlife. I spend hours watching the birds and deer. The appearance of red kites and buzzards over the last forty years has transformed many a walk with their aerial displays and playful antics. I know where to go to see deer and, as I don't own a dog, I can see them close up. Ten years ago, I regularly visited five different family groups of roe deer within five miles of my home, and I could also visit a large herd of fallow deer, or seek out the usually solitary muntjac. Roe deer are surely the most handsome of them all, with their long, slender neck, long ears, black nose and white rump, often the only thing you see as they disappear. At dusk I could visit Dean Wood to hear the familiar bark of muntjac females calling for a mate.

Although deer do eat young trees, they do little damage in a carefully managed woodland where young trees are protected. Roe deer, being browsers of the herb layer, prefer a wide range of plants. In fact, browsing is essential to prevent the herb layer of woodland becoming too thick and shading out the rarer species like green hellebore (which occurs in Dean Wood and is struggling to cope with excessive bramble growth). Roe deer are now absent from virtually all their previous haunts, and I see only very occasional visiting families, usually far from Woodcote. They do not herd together in large numbers, as do red and fallow deer, but prefer to move in small family groups of two to four individuals.

Most local crop damage is due to rabbits and most tree damage is due to grey squirrels, which have reached plague proportions (despite the local presence of self-professed pest controllers). Maybe the key point here is that grey squirrels are not considered a delicacy at the local butchers, so there is no payback.



Fireplace Magic

Fires, Stoves & Fireplaces

- Installation
- HETAS registered
- Woodburner servicing
- Chimney sweeping

10% DISCOUNT ON CHIMNEY SWEEPING IF QUOTE "CORRESPONDENT"

Showroom at: 45 Prospect Street, Caversham RG4 8JB
Telephone: 0118 9463060

www.fireplacemagic.co.uk

BONNER LOCKSMITHS

**INSURANCE APPROVED
DOOR & WINDOW LOCKS
SUPPLIED & FITTED (BS3621)**

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PREMISES
DIGITAL LOCKS GRILLES BARS
ALL AREAS COVERED

CALL OUT SERVICE

01491 680216

Crestwell House, Beech Lane
WOODCOTE, READING

FULL MEMBER OF BRITISH LOCKSMITH INSTITUTE

Computer Problems?

PC misbehaving?

Fault diagnosis, Maintenance & Upgrades, Networking, Data Recovery, Virus Cleaning, Broadband, Telephone Cabling & Extensions, TV, Mobiles, Website Design, Development & Hosting, and much more. Home and Business Support. Windows and Mac.

01491 680036 or 07961 476864
mail@influentialcomputers.com
www.influentialcomputers.com
Robin, Henry and Angus Piercey
Influential Computers Ltd - A Family Run Business Since 1984

Roe deer were eliminated from England shortly after the widespread appearance of accurate rifles. Their choice of browsing in open areas makes them a very easy target. In the twentieth century they made a comeback, increasing and moving out of their stronghold in northern Scotland to cover most of their former haunts in mainland Britain. What a pity then that the local population has once again been almost eradicated by targeted hunting. Those of us who like to watch them must instead depend on fading memories and photographs. If you like to eat wild venison, spare a thought for a beautiful and vanishing part of our lives. Should you be a dog owner, please keep it under control during the breeding season (and around livestock). Roe deer give birth between mid-May and mid-June and the young are unable to outrun a determined dog until they are at least six months old.

Phil Lea



HUMPHREY'S HAPPY AT HOME AND AWAY

Humphrey the parrot, long-time companion and soulmate of the late and much-loved John Gant, is alive and well. The Correspondent understands he's both keen to travel and to greet old friends from Woodcote in his new environment.

He made a surprise appearance at the Red Lion at the end of September with new owners Kate and Ian, when, we understand, he was in pretty good voice and got a great welcome from Chris and Jay and their regulars. Humphrey likes a pub and is perfectly at ease in that environment, we wonder why?!

And, if you think his drinking days are done, think again. On a recent holiday in Poole, Martin Higley and his partner, Karen, made a point of calling-in at the Lambs Green pub in Corfe Mullen, which they had heard was Humphrey's new hostelry of choice. On enquiring with the bar staff, they discovered that Kate, John's niece, and Humphrey's new owner, was indeed in the pub. Introductions followed and Kate was delighted to know Martin and Karen had made a special journey, so much so that she went home and collected Humphrey. The meeting took place in the

garden, and it made Martin and Karen's day to see him.

Martin says, 'What lovely parents Humphrey has, and John can rest in peace knowing that Kate and Ian are making sure he is looked after in the way John looked after him.' By the way, they thoroughly recommend the Lambs Green pub to anyone who happens to be in that neck of the woods. Though Humphrey didn't say much on the day, Kate says he normally talks non-stop and sounds just like John. Well, he would, wouldn't he?

SP



Shaun Guard
TV & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied, repaired & poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installation
- Internet / WiFi - blackspots cured, internal & external data cabling
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up and tuned

OXFORD AERIALS
www.oxfordaerials.co.uk
shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk
 Call Wallingford 01491 833282

NEW TRUSTEES/GOVERNORS REQUIRED FOR LANGTREE SCHOOL

Langtree Academy Trust has just achieved its best ever GCSE results after a very positive Ofsted inspection earlier this year. We are now looking for new trustees to join our Finance committee and our dedicated, inclusive and enthusiastic Trust Board.

Potential trustees should have financial or legal experience and be willing to actively help the Finance committee in overseeing school-budget expenditure, contributing to major spending decisions and legal obligations.

Langtree School believes that every one of our students deserves the best possible opportunities and support required to achieve their full potential. We aim to provide not just a fantastic academic, social, and cultural education, but also abundant pastoral support for our whole Langtree community.

New trustees are offered free, online training in the first few months after appointment to better understand and fulfil their role. We encourage trustees to become involved with the educational aims and priorities of this small, but highly popular local secondary school, and expect them to attend as many of the regular committee and board meetings as possible, either in person or remotely (a total of 12 meetings per academic year).

The Trust Board would be glad to hear from interested parents but would particularly welcome applications from members of the wider community. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this opportunity to make a very real difference at a local level should contact me at adunstan@langtreeschool.com. Thank you!

Alan Dunstan
 Chair of Trustees, Langtree School

CHRISTMAS IN WOODCOTE



In the beautiful village of Woodcote, preparations for the festive season are well underway. In his first Christmas message to the village, the Revd David Benskin offers a warm welcome as he invites the community to begin their celebrations at a family carol service in the iconic St. Leonard's Church.

The video can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKse_7oGRQU or by following the QR code.

Chris Rickards

J & R Collier
 **BUILDERS** 

- Building & Property Maintenance
- Listed Building Work
- Extensions
- Roofing
- Plastering
- Decorating
- Plumbing

01491 680779 or 0118 9451518

THE BLACK LION
Freehold Public House

 John & Maggie
 welcome you
 Tel: 01491 680625

  **secure**
 pest management

- WASPS & ALL INSECTS
- RATS, MICE, MOLES & SQUIRRELS
- **PROMPT SERVICE**

MARK DEARLOVE
 (01491) 833282
 07446 377816



WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

November brings fireworks and darker nights. It also brings Remembrance Day. This year, despite the rainy weather, we took years 1-6 to the war memorial whilst Reception and Cabin stayed in school to watch a video explaining what happens in London every year. At the Woodcote memorial our year 6 children recited *In Flander's Fields* by John McCrae. They also read the names of each of the fallen soldiers ensuring their names are not forgotten. We laid our wreaths and Reverend Benskin led our period of silence and prayers.

Year 4 have been out and about; they spent an afternoon visiting St Leonard's Church as part of their Local history project. The following recount is by Ada:

"Do you know what features are in St Leonard's Church? Have you ever been there for yourself? If not, read on to find what features are in the church. It is full of stained glass windows, a crucifix and much more. It was built in Norman times and rebuilt in 1846 in Victorian times.

When you walk into the church you will see the font. It is where babies get baptised. It is near the entrance, so it makes the beginning of your Christian journey. It is made of stone and is a bowl shape.

If you keep walking, you will get to the nave which is where you sit. You sit on benches called pews. On all sides you will see stained glass windows. They show the story of the bible."

They have also been on a trip to Reading Museum to see what a school and home would have been like in Victorian times.

In amongst the wet and cold weather, 2 teams of boys from years 3 and 4, went to Langtree to play in their first Partnership Football Tournament this year. Both teams were spectacular in their positive outlook, teamwork and determination. They represented Woodcote with pride, and we are very proud of them. Both teams came 4th and a medal for Determination was awarded to Cairo, Dylan R, Will N and Alfie T. Well done teams!

Our school council are currently preparing for Children in Need. They have requested that everyone wear yellow in return for a donation, and we are also holding a cake sale. We have recently also raised money selling poppies for the British Legion. Our children are very thoughtful and are keen to help charities where we can.

Our recent open days were extremely well attended. If you missed one or know anyone who may have, please do get in touch with the office. We are always very happy to show you around our fabulous school.

Christmas is coming and we are preparing for our Nativities. This year, for the first time, we are joined by Cabin children. This will be a very

exciting and magical time. All of us at Woodcote Primary wish the Woodcote community a very happy Christmas and a pleasant and peaceful New Year!

Mrs L. Hunt



Football tournament year 3 and 4



Reading museum trip year 4

Licenced Waste Carrier

CB/TM3389SD
Not just a man with a van!
 I'm Brian, call for a free quote!



01491 682346
 07729 968753

I recycle as much as I can!
also offered!

Local collection/delivery of large items including
 eBay purchases, fridges, cookers, motorcycles etc

email **bft.services@yahoo.com**

mb mortimer burnett
 Chartered Accountants & Business Consultants



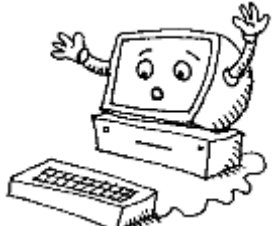
New business? We can help you grow!

01491 874332
 admin@mortimerburnett.co.uk
 www.mortimerburnett.co.uk
 The White House, Mill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 9DD

Computer Problems?
Free quote – No fix no fee

Michael Harper

Over 500 happy customers
 in Sonning Common
 and Woodcote.



www.MiloTechnicalSupport.com **0118 972 4905**

Woodcote Pre-School

01491 682300
 woodcotepreschool.co.uk
 fb: @woodcotepreschoolcio



Located in Woodcote Village Hall
 overlooking the Green, we offer a relaxed
 and happy environment for playful and creative
 learning for children 18 months to 5 years.

- Varied curriculum of activities
- Large indoor and outdoor area
- Fresh homecooked meals
- Holiday Clubs for children 2-8 years
- Flexible choice of sessions

Open Mon-Fri,
 8:30am-3:30pm



Arrange a free trial session for your child now
 Registered charity number: 1180657 • Ofsted URN: 2558022

GARAGE

LONG ESTABLISHED QUALITY

Family Run Garage in Woodcote Since 1979

All Makes of Cars & Small Vans:

- Serviced
- Repaired,
- Painted
- MOT-Tested.
- Including JAGUAR Cars.

LOAN CAR AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED

Contact Terry * Lee or Janet. on 01491-680286
 Email tscars@live.co.uk
 Web Address tscars-woodcote.co.uk

LITHO & DIGITAL PRINTING

- STATIONERY
- LEAFLETS
- POSTERS
- BROCHURES
- FLYERS
- NEWSLETTERS
- MULTI-PART INVOICE SETS
- COMPLETE FINISHING SERVICE

CZ SERVICES

Call: 07860 630 865
 cz.services3@outlook.com

WOODCOTE PRE-SCHOOL

Welcome to Charlie and his family, who joined us this half term!

We hope everyone enjoyed the pumpkin soup that the children made. They loved cutting up the vegetables and were very proud of making soup.

We celebrated Halloween by dressing up and enjoying lots of Halloween songs and spooky lunch. Everyone looked fantastic and had a great time playing in the Witch's Kitchen, making potions and stews.

We ran with a week's theme of *People Who Help Us* as we had noticed that the children had taken an interest in playing "police". We turned the interactive cube into a police car and the children enjoyed dressing up as firefighters, police officers and paramedics.

You will see our display boards showing off some of the crafts we have been making. We have been making sparkly firework pictures and rockets to celebrate Bonfire Night and talking about the fireworks displays that we went to see.

We also made poppy handprints and turned them into wreaths for Remembrance Day and spoke with the children about the significance of the day.

The children were very excited to return to the library for Rhymetime and they all joined in and had a fun time listening to the stories and singing along to the songs.

For Diwali, we read the story of Sita and Rama and coloured pictures. The children enjoyed sampling some Indian food and making their own Indian restaurant in the roleplay area.

Please join us at our Quiz Night on November 25th! Please get in touch to book tickets, we look forward to seeing you there!

Our Christmas Raffle draw will be held on December 6th at 8pm on Facebook live. Tickets are on sale now! We have over 40 amazing prizes, please contact us to buy tickets and be in with a chance to win.

If you would like to book a visit, please phone us on 01491 682300, or email us on woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk



CABIN PRESCHOOL

A glittery greeting to you all!

The glitter has been out to help us make fun crafts for Bonfire Night, Diwali and African tribal necklaces.

However, before I let you know what has happened, we are all so proud and excited to have received a letter from the palace. You probably remember the card we sent off back in June to congratulate King Charles on his coronation. The children were in awe that we received such a beautiful letter and card from the King and Queen. We shared our news with the reception class since several of the children helped to make it. I am so pleased I was able to pop across the playground to continue this amazing learning opportunity. We talked about how nice it made us feel to be thanked. We have been learning about British values. Thinking about others, expressing our feelings, sharing, and waiting our turn.

Halloween was fun with many activities using pumpkins. We used markers to colour, made a pumpkin into a shape sorter, and put a tea light into our Jack O'Lantern to eat our afternoon snacks. We made Pumpkin soup focusing on using our senses and fine motor skills- cutting, chopping, scooping, smelling and tasting.

We've posted lots of photos on our Facebook page, *Friends of the Cabin Preschool*, so do have a look.

We made firework art using forks and paint to create amazing glittery pictures. We thought about the sounds that fireworks make and made the sounds as we painted, bang, crackle, whizz and pop. Carla found a great bonfire night song on YouTube which has been a hit with all the children.

The children played musical fireworks to create a group picture. We used lots of bright coloured paints and glitter, expressing the sounds and noises they'd heard on their bonfire night celebrations, or at home, looking out at the dark November skies.

As part of our learning to understand different cultures and how they celebrate we found out about Diwali, the Hindu festival of Light, and made Rangoli designs on the tuff tray with special powder paints. It was lovely to see how much fun they had making interesting designs. We also read a story about Dipal's Diwali and made beautiful Diyas (lanterns) out of empty jam jars, cellophane squares and lots of glue. They look pretty with a tealight flickering inside!

After learning about the soldiers who fought in the wars, we made some commemorative red poppy wreaths using card and paper circles. Joining the reception class at Woodcote Primary, we found out about the soldiers from Woodcote who had died, listened to their names being read out and stood very quietly and still for two minutes of silence. We listened to the Last Post being played and watched a lovely two-minute animated film called *Poppies*.

During December we will be looking forward to our Christmas Play, Christmas Party and special lunch, a visit from Santa and singing Christmas songs while making lots of lovely Christmas crafts and gifts.

If you are looking for a fun, caring and educational setting for your child, please get in touch via email: info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk or call on +44 1491 680854 to book a visit.



Celebrating Diwali



Celebrating Diwali



Remembrance Day



Pumpkin fun



Dressing up and opening our letter from the Palace



Pumpkin fun

THAMES

Building Solutions Limited.

- ▼ Extensions
- ▼ Alterations
- ▼ Refurbishment
- ▼ Patios
- ▼ Brickwork
- ▼ Carpentry
- ▼ Floor & wall finishes

The complete building service

TEL. 01491 680 389 / 07956 966 089

BOUCHIER
BOUCHIER FENCING LIMITED
www.bouchierfencing.co.uk

Bouchier Fencing Ltd
Goring Road
Woodcote
Reading
RG8 0QD



- Quality Fencing
- Handcrafted Gates
- Landscaping Timbers
- Oak Framed Buildings
- Garden Structures
- Porches & Trusses
- Timber Cladding
- Fencing Panels
- Pergolas
- Decking & Sleepers

Tel: 01491 681265 Email: sales@bouchierfencing.co.uk



R Hazell Recycling Waste

Licence Waste Carrier - CB/QP3698MJ
Waste Management Licence No. WML86315

4yd skip - £170 + VAT

6yd skip - £240 + VAT

8yd skip - £290 + VAT

12yd skip - £390 + VAT

Roll On/Roll Off Skips Also Available

Ring 01491 699101

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

The CABIN Pre-School

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.

- Safe and Secure Environment.
- Sensory Outdoor Play Area including a Mud Kitchen, Wildlife garden, Water Play, and a sit-in Sandpit.
- Hot Lunch available to order.
- Play-Based Learning with Enrichment Activities.
- Monster Phonics Foundation for EYFS.
- Makaton trained staff.
- Grant funded 2 and 3 year old places available.

01491 680 854
www.thecabinpreschool.co.uk
info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk
@friendsofthecabinpreschool

FREE settling in sessions

The Cabin Pre-School is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in England and Wales - 1164375.

MADE TO MEASURE
Curtains, Blinds, Cushion Covers etc.
at Competitive Prices
Call CAROLINE on 07815 610007

Local Professional Cleaner

Come home to a **CLEAN HOUSE!**

Call Carol: 07782-373-434
Email: infocarol@mail.com

Honest, Reliable, Trustworthy, Competitive & Friendly
Fixed Weekly Hourly Rates.

Caversham Heights Dental Practice

15% off new patient examinations with this advert

We provide the highest quality private dental work for all the family in a relaxed, friendly environment, ideal for nervous and anxious patients.

FREE DENPLAN TRANSFERS

Children can join our 'kids club' and gain rewards and prizes for healthy teeth.

Telephone: 01189 474848
www.cavershamheightsdentalpractice.co.uk

a1sovereign

YOUR LOCAL DESIGN & PRINT SERVICE
WHILE-YOU-WAIT COPYING / PRINT FROM USB

5 mins from Goring centre + we can deliver

Copying - Printing - Laminating - Binding - Stationery
Booklets - Brochures - Cards - Flyers - Leaflets - Pads
Manuals - Conference & Training Materials - Theses
Bespoke Ring Binders - Tabbed Divider Sets + more...

>Design >Print >Finishing >Fulfilment >Mailing

01491 871555 a1sovereign.co.uk

CHECKENDON PRE-SCHOOL

We are all looking forward to celebrating Christmas this year.

This week the children were very excited as they had the arrival of their Christmas post box. This came by Special Delivery Airmail from no other than Rudolf the reindeer! The children have written their letters to Father Christmas and were delighted to post them in their post box and were very pleased when Rudolf took these letters straight to the North Pole.

We have also been decorating Christmas crackers, which may have a little treat inside for the children. The children have also been enjoying the role play area, Fathers Christmas's Grotto, where the children can wrap presents at the wrapping station, write and send Christmas cards and dress up in lots of festive outfits. We will be celebrating and enjoying many fun activities such as singing, Christmas jumper days and our Christmas party, which the children look forward to every year, and we will be expecting a visit from Jester Giggles and Father Christmas!

The children will also be performing their Traditional Nativity play to all our friends and family. The tickets for Christmas Hamper Raffle are on sale now! If you would like to get your tickets, please visit the ladies at the village hall. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 8th December. Thank you all for your continued support and Merry Christmas!

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

WOODCOTE WI

Sally Lambert welcomed the members to our Bring and Share lunch.

Celebrating their birthdays this month were Sally Lambert, Kathy Brewer, Gill Woods, Connie Vickery, Kerry Jones and Barbara George; we hope they had a good time.

The lunch group this month went to the Bell at Crowmarsh, thank you to all the staff.

Our Christmas celebrations will take place at the Highwayman in Exlade Street.

We had a collection for the local foodbank, thank you to everyone who contributed.

The tables looked lovely, they were decorated with the last of the flowers in our gardens, hydrangeas, roses and fuchsias amongst them. The variety of food was amazing, and we finished with so many delicious puddings!

In December we will have Christmas entertainment and tea.

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

This month we've tackled two activity badges. First was the Emergency Aid badge. Thank you to our guests: Arthur's mum (a nurse) and William's mum (a GP). With their help we ran three activities: bandaging (imagine Curse of the Mummy, but louder); putting a casualty into the recovery position (the glee!) and practising making a 999 call.

On 19th October Kingfisher masterminded the Global Issues badge with her customary flare, ably assisted by Dipper and Tadpole. We tested various improvised water filters; they are not an easy thing to make (simplicity is key). Certainly, Dipper said she would not have drunk the end product, no matter how hard it was boiled. No doubt the murky results brought home to just how important clean water is: they have decided to raise some money for Water Aid. They also played a fair-trade game in which each lodge became a different link in the food chain and considered the problems at each level (e.g., a picker not earning enough to educate her children; farmers becoming ill from pesticides; wholesalers' margins being squeezed by supermarkets etc.). Sounds heavy, but they got stuck in.

Bonfire Night, which was to have been our first fundraiser for Water Aid, was on Windy Thursday. With the Met Office issuing dire warnings and 24 hours needed for prep, we felt safety and logistics demanded cancellation of the bonfire. Instead, we had a fire in the grate (an event in itself), played firework-themed games and made 'sparkler shields' (paper cups wrapped in foil which fitted onto the hand and through which a sparkler was fitted). Okay! But it was something to do, with the unforeseen bonus that sparklers transformed into white-hot rapiers to be flourished Zorro-style. They loved it!

9th November was, as usual, devoted to Armistice Day. We met at the Community Centre so the Beavers could visit the war memorial and practice with the flag and wreath for Sunday. Various Beavers stood up and told us about their grandfathers and great grandfathers. Leo showed-and-told his grandfather's medals and Albie showed us photos of his visit to the war graves. Rosaline, a keen horsewoman, stood up and, without so much as a flicker, enthusiastically explained about the purple poppy, which remembers the animals who die in wars. It's a big ask for the Beavers to do so much sitting and listening they did well!

REGISTERED OSTEOPATH

KAREN L. PHILLIPS D.O.

WOODCOTE PRACTICE 01491 684060

Flexible appointment times

Private Health Insurance Provider

The Landscape Group Oxford

GARDEN, GROUNDS & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

We have maintained the village for the Parish Council and also provide the following for local residents:

- Garden and Grounds Maintenance
- Fencing and Turfing
- Hedge Cutting and Tree Work
- Drives, Patios and Landscaping
- House and Garden Clearance

£10 million Public Liability Insurance. Trading Standards Approved.
Safecontractor Accredited. NPTC & Lantra Qualified.

Tel: 01865 341750 | e: lee@tlgo.co.uk
w: www.tlgo.co.uk

Vehicle Air Conditioning

Re-Gas and Repairs



N.J Car Services
Crays Pond Garage

☎ **01491 681975**
☎ **07989 983381**

ADVANCED PEST CONTROL

of Ewelme
Established 1970



HOUSEHOLD, GARDEN & FARM PESTS
wasps, rats, mice, rabbits, cluster flies
and all other insects
dealt with promptly

Lee Carrington
Field View, 97 The Street
Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford

Tel: 01491 835610
Mobile: 07970 010214



We Create Websites That Engage & Inspire

We design fast, flexible, scalable, secure, SEO optimised custom WordPress business websites.
Let us help you make your business shine online!

info@wordpressadminister.co.uk

Woodcote Village Hall

Private Hire

Flexible spaces & facilities suitable for events, parties, meetings, film, music, education, workshops, sports, exercise, regular classes...

Regular Events

Spring Fair, Food Fair, Music, Film...

Woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com
Woodcotevillagehall.com





Heating, Plumbing and Bathroom Installations

Neil McDougall



- ◁ Local plumber
- ◁ Over 30 years experience
- ◁ Gas Safe Registered
- ◁ Free estimates

Phone 01491 680141
mcdougallneil@yahoo.com



Rosie Care

TEL: 01491 682437 MOB. 07966509908.
PUBLIC LIABILITY, OWN CAR, TRAINED, DBS,
EXPERIENCED, DEMENTIA, PALLIATIVE.



Beacon Flooring

A Family Run Business

Carpet Wood Karndean Vinyl

Free fitting on carpet orders over £150

16 High Street, Goring. 01491 454095
beaconflooring@aol.co.uk
www.beaconflooring.co.uk

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 and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm.

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

Tickets £10 for adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

Cinema

Love Actually (15)

Friday 1st December, 7:30pm

Saturday 2nd December, 7:30pm

Sunday 3rd December, 7:30pm

The Royal Hotel (18)

Monday 4th December, 7:30pm

Tuesday 5th December, 7:30pm

Dance First (12A)

Wednesday 6th December, 7:30pm

Thursday 7th December, 7:30pm

Journey to Bethlehem (PG)

Friday 8th December, 7:30pm

Saturday 9th December, 2:30pm

Saturday 9th December, 7:30pm

Sunday 10th December, 7:30pm

The Red Shoes (PG)

Monday 11th December, 7:30pm

Wednesday 13th December, 2:30pm

Wednesday 13th December, 7:30pm

Thursday 14th December, 7:30pm

Napoleon (15 TBC)

Friday 15th December, 7:30pm

Sunday 17th December, 7:30pm

Tuesday 19th December, 7:30pm

Wednesday 20th December, 7:30pm

Thursday 21st December, 7:30pm

Friday 22nd December, 7:30pm

Saturday 23rd December, 7:30pm

Wish (PG)

Friday 22nd December, 2:30pm

Friday 22nd December, 7:30pm

Saturday 23rd December, 2:30pm

Saturday 23rd December, 7:30pm

Live on Stage

Punchbowl 2023

Saturday 16th December: 7:30pm

All tickets £12

The Sinodun Players present an evening of seasonal readings, sketches and songs, with a second half of music from their own talented band, Outliers. The

evening will be rounded up with a singalong of some Christmas carols. All funds raised will be donated to charities.

St Agnes Fountain

Monday 18th December, 7:30pm

All tickets £22

Since their first get together, to record the eponymous *St Agnes Fountain* album in 2001, the quartet; David Hughes, Fairport Convention's Chris Leslie and multi award winning duo Chris While and Julie Matthews, have brought musical invention and laughter to the star-dust atmosphere of the season. Sadly, David died earlier this year. He was simply a one off. His vision to create traditional Christmas carols with a curve led to the creation of St Agnes Fountain. He was our founding father, but he was so much more than that. His unique style of rhythm, of hearing and playing a groove, his satirical wit and sartorial style, his dead pan presence on stage, his beautiful turn of a lyrical phrase, all these things are the window dressing for what lay beneath.

Chris, Chris and Julie will be keeping the Christmas Aggie spirit alive and working as a trio celebrating 22 years together again this year. The Aggie's 10th album, *Night Of A Million Stars*, was released in time for the December 2021 tour with 9 brand new songs from the band.

Although the albums accompany the putting up of a thousand Christmas trees throughout Britain and around the globe as their reputation reaches further afield, it is, without question, their magical live performances that have endeared them to an ever-growing audience (tickets were again being sold for this year's tour as the curtain fell last year).

Tickets bookable from Nettlebed Folk Club on 01628 636620 or 01628 603670.

Live Screening

The Royal Ballet, *Nutcracker*, live from the Royal Opera House

Tuesday 12th December, 7:15pm

Adults £18, Seniors £15, Under 18s £10

QUIZ ANSWERS (Page 23 Quiz)

1. 364
2. The Nutcracker
3. Sixteen
4. d) 1843
5. Jacob Marley
6. George V
7. Canada
8. C.S. Lewis (in The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe)
9. Christmas cards
10. Norway

WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

WPC (wallingfordphoto.club) continues our new season with a weekly programme of talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions. We discuss a wide range of topics, not just technical, including getting feedback on your photos if you're keen to show them. We meet on Thursdays from 730pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion, and we'll have a handful of sessions online where we make the most of speakers from far away.

In December we start with an online session with Paul Mitchell who presents his *Woodland ways* (via Zoom/Google Meet) on the 7th. Then we have a members' evening at the Pavilion on 14th where Bernard Novell will present his adventure in Western Australia, with particular focus on wildflowers and other wildlife he encountered. We break for Christmas/New Year and reconvene on 11th January with another members' evening, '8x10' where eight members present for ten minutes on a topic of their choice. Then on the 18th it's really one not to miss: likely to be a season highlight, we have Tom Way join us again at the Pavilion (on 18th), with an updated presentation on his stunning work, including big game in Africa. January closes with the third 'no set subject' competition on 25th (also at the Pavilion).

HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB



We are now coming up to the festive season of Christmas and New Year and trying to think what we can give to Auntie Ethel and what to do with the children to keep them away from where you have hidden the presents. If you would like to have a break from all that, we can suggest coming to one of our meetings; the one we have for December is a display of interesting postcards.

One of the subjects within stamp collecting and postal history is postcards and this month we are highlighting postcards at our meeting.

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?

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. Wednesday 13th of December is a Members Evening

for presenting interesting Postcards. Wednesday 28th of December we have do not have a meeting. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Further details can be obtained by phoning Steve on 07767 251670 or at www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk.

JESTER GIGGLES MAGICAL CHRISTMAS SHOW



It's time once again for my Silly Magical Christmas show. I've been doing these on and off for what seems like donkeys' years. I just love seeing the smiling faces and hearing the wonderful giggles that engulf the room. It's priceless!

My 1-hour show, which will be full of Christmas Magic and musical games is suitable for 3-8 yrs.

Sunday 17th December, 11am (1 hour show)

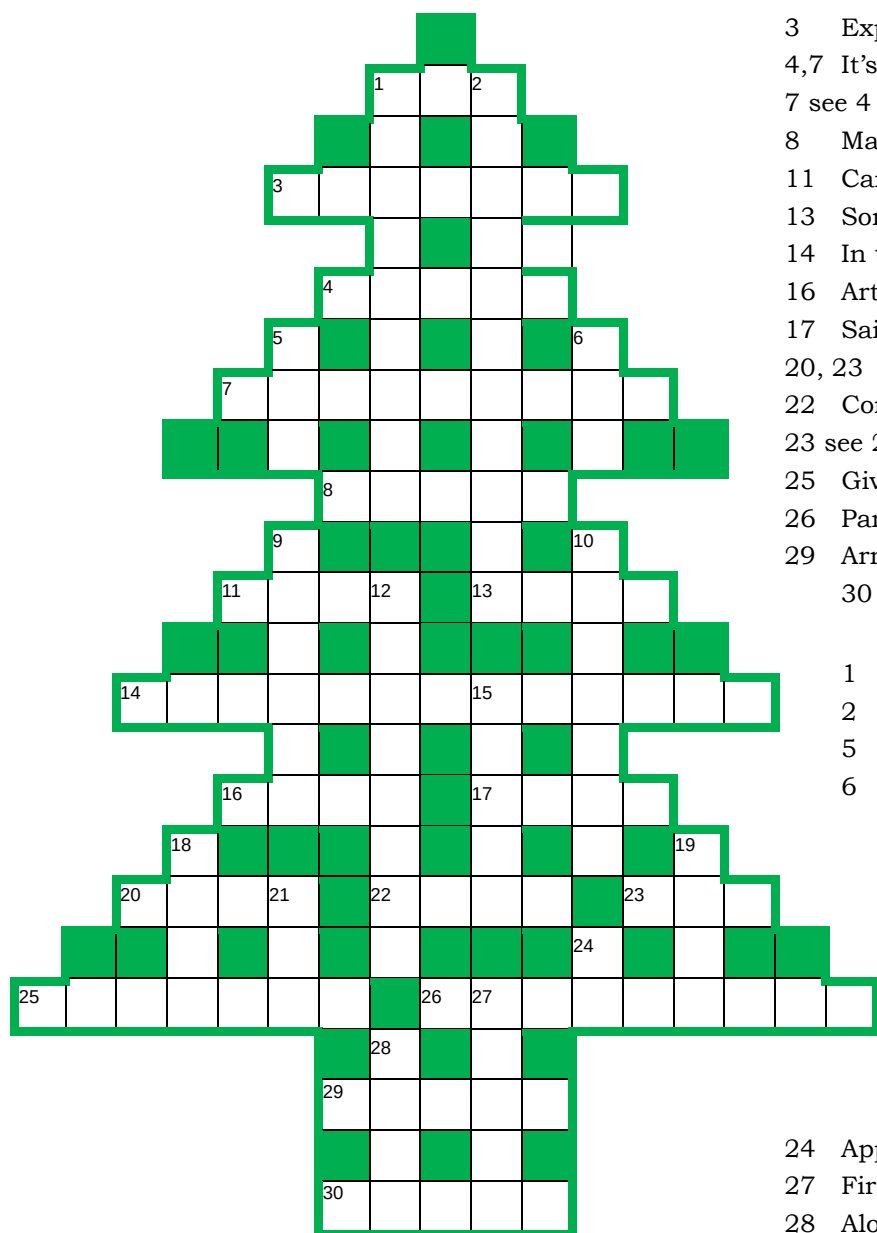
Woodcote Village Hall Pavilion

Tickets £6.50

Grown-ups and 2's and under FREE!

To book, please ring or message me on 07854045640, terrysopp@hotmail.com or visit jestergiggles.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 A little bit of a bad turn (3)
- 3 Explosive Christmas biscuit (7)
- 4,7 It's myrrh! Scream out a timely greeting (5,9)
- 7 see 4 ac
- 8 Mature round about assent (5)
- 11 Can't keep first couples' Christmas delicacy (4)
- 13 Sort petty upheaval after losing time (4)
- 14 In the clear from the drivers (3,2,3,5)
- 16 Article is about a landmass (4)
- 17 Sailor returns to central northern city (4)
- 20, 23 Short period after small frail lad (4,3)
- 22 Comic rotter taking early revenge (4)
- 23 see 20 ac
- 25 Give it here! (7)
- 26 Parasite stole time off (9)
- 29 Arrive on time with Cupid (5)
- 30 Totally losing foremost seasonal plant (5)

Down

- 1 Too loud dealing around bog loses 50 (9)
- 2 Heard cooks negotiate here (5, 6)
- 5 Silence on final play cast (3)
- 6 Recall early March memory (3)
- 9 About, or back, 50's songs (6)
- 10 Afterthoughts about crushing of bud (7)
- 12 Transport portal (8)
- 15 Coal miner originally employed in brewing beer (5)
- 18 Pinches shorts (4)
- 19 Moan heard about rose (4)
- 21 Longing for cash (3)
- 24 Appeal of Italian domain (2)
- 27 First person to share conviction (5)
- 28 Alone in spoilt city (4)

NOVEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

C	A	P	R	I	C	O	R	N		L	E	O
O		R		N		R		O		I		B
E	R	U	P	T		I	G	N	O	B	L	E
R		S		R		O		E		R		Y
C	I	S	T	E	R	N	S		G	A	M	E
E		I		P				P				D
	S	A	G	I	T	T	A	R	I	U	S	
D				D				E		N		A
E	N	V	Y		C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R
C		I		M		L		M		E		C
A	I	R	P	O	R	T		P	A	R	K	A
D		G		T		E		T		G		N
E	G	O		H	O	R	O	S	C	O	P	E

DECEMBER QUIZ

1. How many presents in total we were given in the 12 Days of Christmas?
2. Name the famous Christmas ballet?
3. How many Scrabble points for the word 'Christmas'?
4. In what year was 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickson published? a) 1799 b) 1801 c) 1837 d) 1843
5. What is the name of Scrooge's dead business partner?
6. Which UK monarch delivered the first Christmas Broadcast to the BBC in 1932?
7. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
8. In which author's novel is it 'always winter but never Christmas'?
9. Which Christmas product did Sir Henry Cole produce in 1843?
10. Which country donates the Christmas tree for London's Trafalgar Square?

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Regular Weekly Events

Every Monday

** Youth Club – Juniors (year 7's). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm — **Not 25th**

** Woodcote Baby and Toddler Group (term time only). Woodcote Village Hall. 9.30am-11am

Every Tuesday until 19th December

** 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.

Community Centre Lion's Den 2.30pm-4pm

DECEMBER DATES

Sat 2nd	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Community Centre (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Goring Repair Café. Goring Village Hall. 11am-1.30pm
Sun 3rd	*	Christmas Market. Woodcote Village Hall. 11am-3pm
Tues 5th	*	BMMHS Zoom talk: 'Montgomery'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org . 7.30pm
Wed 6th	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: 'My Kind of People & Not a Pretty Picture'. 8pm
Thur 7th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club Zoom talk: 'Woodland Ways'. 7.30pm-10pm
Fri 8th	*	Film Night: Mission Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
Sat 9th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of OWL - Woodcote Library (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Saturday Crafts: A Winter Wonderland. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am
Tues 12th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3.30pm-4.30pm
	*	Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration: 'Christmas'. Centre 70, The Kincroft, Wallingford. 7.30pm
Wed 13th	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	BMMHS Talk: 'Cuban Missile Crisis'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society meeting. Digital Audio Visual Competition & Christmas Buffet. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 14th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club member's evening. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm

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

DECEMBER DATES *(Continued)*

Sat 16th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of MSA Trust charity (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
Sun 17th	*	Jester Giggles Magical Christmas Show. Woodcote Village Hall Pavilion. 11am-noon.
Wed 20th	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm

FORTHCOMING DATES IN JANUARY

Wed 3rd	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society meeting. Digital Competition 2. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Tues 9th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3.30pm-4.30pm
Wed 10th	*	BMMHS Talk: 'Stalingrad'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: 'The Dragon beside the Seaside'. 8pm



CLOSING THOUGHT

"And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

Fred, in *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens