



Vol 27 No 2
February 2016

Woodcote CORRESPONDENT

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

WOODCOTE 10K CONTROVERSY

The Woodcote 10K has been a fixture in the running calendar for the last 33 years. The run was started by the Goring and Woodcote Lions, who sadly are no more. The Lions bequeathed the organisation to Pangbourne Rotary. Last year they ran it jointly with the Lions but this year the Rotarians ran it themselves though some former Lions helped.

All the races proceeds are donated to charities. This year the event raised £4,750 which will go to a range of causes including the Prostate Cancer Research Centre at University College London.

There were 429 runners. If you include Reading, 85% of the runners live within 8 miles of Woodcote.

First to finish was Scott Forbes, 39, from Wokingham, who came home in 35 minutes and 20 seconds, while the first woman home was Joanna Zmyslona with a time of 39 minutes and 32 seconds.

The consensus of everyone connected with the race was that it was well marshalled and enjoyable. The Scouts and Guides manned the water stations and Langtree and the Primary school provided the parking. All of them received donations from the proceeds of the run. Organiser Dick Hoskins said: "I think it was hugely successful. Numbers were up on last year, the sun shone, and we've had lots of praise from those who took part."

It was not all smiles, however. Woodcote locals have raised complaints ranging from inconsiderate parking to 'rude competitors'. An incident between runners and a car attempting to make its way through a crowd has also been reported.

Dick Hoskins said, "Given the circuit, it has always been recognised that we had to accommodate



Church Services. About ten years ago a meeting was held between the Lions and the then RC Priest Father Tom, resulting in the start time of the Woodcote 10K being altered to 10.30 am rather than 11 am. This agreement has been adhered to ever since."

When asked why there may have been a problem this year, Dick Hoskins

said, "Following this year's race we have discovered that the timing of the RC service has been changed. We were never informed of this change."

He said, "This explains why there is now a conflict between the timing of the race and the Church Service. We have sought a meeting with the Church to address this, but they have yet to reply."

Dick Hoskins went on to say, "In order to continue the run next year, we recognise we need the support of the village. We are your guests. It is one January Sunday morning in the year."

Continued on page 7

COMMENT FROM THE VICARAGE

This year Easter is early, the 26th of March, and so Lent is quickly upon us too. St. Leonard's is hosting the Ash Wednesday service this year on behalf of the whole Langtree Team, which comprises seven parishes. If you want to know more about the Team we can be found on our newly updated website, www.langtreechurches.org. Lent, in church terms, is about penitence and recognising our need for God in our lives. If kept well Lent helps us to appreciate fully the joy of Easter Sunday when Jesus is seen to triumph over death and evil, giving us all a very real hope in our lives. While it is a sombre season it is not meant to make us feel miserable. Quite the contrary actually, as the teachings of Lent help us to see that we are not trapped in our own misdoings or lost in lives without meaning. Lent engenders within us a deep sense of gratitude for all of life and an appreciation of the giftedness of all that we have.

If you have Facebook and Twitter, you will no doubt have come across all sorts of posts headed '#gratitude'. It does seem to be a bit of a buzzword at the moment. The impact of mindfulness, awareness and positive psychology has brought the practice of gratitude to the fore as a means of improving well-being. The idea being that if we focus on all that we have to be grateful for, on all the positive aspects of our daily lives, then we will feel better, happier and less stressed. Like many of these 'new' approaches to modern living, most of the theory has been borrowed from or at least inspired by, ancient traditions, amongst them Christianity. Thankfulness and gratitude are what every Christian church service begins with. The Lord's Prayer, familiar to most of us, is essentially a prayer of profound gratitude.

Perhaps what characterises a Christian prayer of gratitude and a '#gratitude' is that it does not stop with feeling better about oneself, with being self-focused, rather it leads to a recognition that I must do something to show my gratitude and that results in acts of goodwill and service to others.

If you are thinking of 'doing something' for Lent, maybe practising gratitude could be a good place to start, a daily discipline of noticing all the good things that come your way. However, do not stop there, give someone else an opportunity to experience gratitude by lending a hand or giving some time to a good cause. It is good for your stress levels and good for the soul too!

Blessings,
Linda

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

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SERVICES AT ST LEONARD'S IN FEBRUARY

7th February (Sunday next before Lent)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.45 a.m. Parish Communion

10th February Ash Wednesday

7.30 p.m. Langtree Team Communion Service
All Welcome

14th February (1st of Lent)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.45 a.m. Worshipping Together

21st February (Second of Lent)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.45 a.m. The Open Door

28th February (Third of Lent)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.45 a.m. Parish Communion

The Christmas collections at St. Leonard's:

- The Children's Society £255
- The Porch £320
- Anglican Churches working with refugees in Europe (Us) £350

Sunday 28th February

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Quiz Night

Come and join us for a fun evening on Friday the 26th of February 7:45pm at the Pavilion, Woodcote Village Hall on behalf of St. Leonard's.

Prizes for the winners and there are raffle prizes too.

Ticket price £5 per person which includes light refreshments. Bring your own drinks.

Interested contact Gillian Fowmes 681711

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Readers

The front page for February this year shares mixed emotions. I'm sure that the village is happy to support the Woodcote 10K. It brings so much pleasure to people (also pain, especially on the long South Stoke Road hill) that a few minor incidents should not hasten its demise. Please let us know about your thoughts.

I've been able to include an item celebrating the South Oxfordshire girls becoming world champions yet again! Well done girls, let us hope we can include an article from them about the achievement shortly. I am sure I speak for all our readers when I say well done to all the girls but especially Woodcote's own Astrid and Lily.

Now about the possible change of colour for the Correspondent. I received one reader asking for us to keep the green colour, thank you Mary; no one else seems to mind. Mary was in favour of changing the images though. Is that a compromise?

Finally, a big thank you to all at the Red Lion for accommodating us for the Correspondent Christmas party. Even though it was the second week in January, the Christmas spirit was still flowing, and so was the wine! I just hope we were not too rowdy!

Till next month,
Martin

PUBLISHER INFORMATION

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Articles for inclusion: to the editor by **email** to: **wood-co@runbox.com** — to be received by 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 advert is the 12th of the preceding month.

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The Woodcote Correspondent is on the Village web site at www.woodcote-online.co.uk/facilities

Advertiser's note: please note Shaun Guard's corrected telephone number:

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Shaun Guard

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LETTERS



Dear Sir,

A thank you to Langtree School staff and pupils for putting on the lovely Christmas tea and entertainment for us Senior Citizens.

The Primary School were good with songs and actions, the older pupils' orchestra, solo singers and musicians a real treat!

Then to top it all, a few days later we received a box of goodies – wonderful and very much appreciated.

Pat Jessup

Dear Sir,

While I am not one for complaining when it comes to events in the local village, I feel I need to express my views on the Woodcote 10K run which happened on the 10th of January 2016.

Whilst trying to take my dog for his normal daily walk, I found myself verbally abused for getting in 'Their way'. I was told that I should have got up earlier to walk my dog so as not to be using the pavements as they need to train before the run. I think that it is disgusting that I should be told to move out of their way and when you try and walk along the road, this highlights another problem as our small local village has been swamped with a multitude of cars parked along the side of the road making it impossible to walk anywhere in the village on a Sunday Morning.

After living in the village for eight years and walking my dog at the same time every Sunday, I feel that being told to "Get up earlier so as not to get in their way" is a disgrace. I am not saying that a 10K race is not a good thing, I think getting fit is as important as everything else in life. However, I just think that as we are such a small village the organisers need to think about how many people are taking part before swamping our small village.

Ian Brakspear
(19-Year-Old Resident)

Dear Sir,

The weekend of the 11th and 12th of June 2016 is going to be one of national celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday. There will be a national service of thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral that weekend and we are planning a special civic service in Christ Church Cathedral for the 11th of June. The Queen's grandson, Peter Phillips, is organising a massive street party in The Mall to which representatives of all the voluntary sector organisations of which The Queen or the Duke of Edinburgh are patrons, will be invited. As part of that, councils and parishes around the country are being encouraged in their turn to encourage and support celebrations, particularly in the form of street parties as happened for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee three years ago. My task is to ask you to do the same. In thinking about this and in supporting

local activity, please could you bear in mind that through the channels of the Church of England, support has already been given for the arrangement of similar sorts of celebration. It is important that there not be overlapping (and probably confusing!) activity. If anyone is thinking of organising an event or street party, co-ordination with local parish councils would be the best course of action.

Tim Stevenson
Office of Her Majesty's
Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

CABIN PRESCHOOL QUIZ NIGHT



A fundraising quiz night is taking place at the Red Lion on Wednesday the 17th of February at 8:30pm to raise funds for The Cabin Pre-School. Quiz teams need to book tables in advance with the Red Lion on 01491 680483.

A Super Prize Draw will be drawn on the night with amazing prizes like a course or family visit to Bozedown Alpaca Farm, vouchers valid for any of 2Wild's outdoor adventures for families and children, a horse ride through Checkendon Equestrian centre's woodland and lots, lots more!

Tickets can be purchased directly from the Cabin, from the Red Lion Pub in Woodcote or Cabin Parents.

WOODCOTE VILLAGE HALL



It is all available in your Village Hall, below are the regular events but there are many ad hoc events so please keep an eye on the Hall's notice board.

Mondays: Pre-School, Children's Dance, Zumba, Badminton, Youth Club

Tuesdays: Pre-school, Stay & Play, bowls, Yoga, WI table tennis, Youth Club

Wednesdays: Pre-school, Children's Dance, Zumba Gold, Yoga, WI (3rd Wed only), Beekeeping, Post-Natal Clinic (see below for dates)

Thursdays: Pre-school, Pilates, Bowls, WADS, Pilates/Yoga

Fridays: Pre-school, Bowls, Keep Fit, Children's Dance, Tai-Chi.

Weekends: Changing Rooms available for Football and other sporting events.

(Post Natal Clinic: Wednesdays on March 2, 9, 16 and 23.)

The Village Hall has four main rooms, a well-equipped kitchen and bar so is suitable for all types of functions.

To book, contact Jenny on 01491 681861 or email pc@woodcote-online.co.uk. Booking forms are available online from www.woodcote-online.co.uk. As the Committee is a charity it can claim Gift Aid, so it would be greatly appreciated if you could please tick the Gift Aid box on the booking form (if you are a taxpayer).



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CABIN PRE-SCHOOL



It seems a long time since Christmas but the end of last term at Cabin was so much fun, the children worked really hard at their show. We had lots of singing and some of the children had lines. The parents were impressed, as were all the Cabin Staff. Thanks to all the children for such an end of year treat.

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the beautiful cards and calendars the children created and brought home for Christmas.

Thank you to Rev Linda Smith, who came and read the Nativity story, we were very proud that the children were able to recall the story to her and had a lovely discussion about the story of baby Jesus.

Finally, at the end of term we indulged in making some gingerbread trees which were decorated in a delightfully fun and messy way. Plus, we got to use their Maths skills as they weighed and measured each ingredient. Learning as fun, as always.

This term we will be getting ready for Valentine's Day with the children getting involved in some more craft activities and still getting out and about making the most of the large play area we have outside. The children adore football every week and it helps teach them healthy co-ordination skills and teamwork.

We still have a few places available; you can find out more about our Pre-School on our website: www.thecabinpreschool.co.uk, and please call Jayne on 01491 680854 to come and look around our lovely school.

Fees are £3.95 per hour, with additional early start and late stay options. We accept all childcare vouchers and government funding is available for eligible two-year-olds and all three and four-year-olds.

HENLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY



If you are thinking of taking up, or returning to a hobby, how about doing Philately? February the 10th is a good opportunity to see the many facets of this pastime and to have a chat about it. Do come and visit us.

February the 10th – Annual Competitions either 9 or 16 pages and all classes may be entered – stamps, postal history, aero-philately, Thematics, Social or Open class and Postcards.

February the 24th – Auction Viewing, for our very popular Open Auction on March the 9th, non-members are welcome. Alternatively, you can see the catalogue online, where you may also bid! There are over 600 lots.

Meetings are usually held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.45 p.m. from September to June inclusive. Visitors and new members are welcome. Details 01491 681739 or on our website: - www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

WOODCOTE 10K CONTROVERSY

Continued from front page

It gives pleasure and enjoyment to 430 runners. The residents of South Stoke Road at the finish have always been very supportive and it raises money for worthy causes."

Dick told me that the future of the race was "very much in the balance" due to the Reading Chronicle, publishing an incorrect description of the altercation. Dick said, "I emphasise there were warning signs all around Woodcote and the race circuit. Every major road junction had three marshals in hi-vis jackets and minor crossings had two." Dick also added, "Marshalls were universally polite. There was access to the Church via Behoes Lane, which the priest had taken last year. There was a real atmosphere."

It is now up to the people of Woodcote whether they allow the race to continue.

PRINCIPLES OF GARDEN DESIGN



At the February meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Duncan Grosart will talk about 'Principles of Garden Design'.

Duncan trained at the Pershore College of Horticulture and has been teaching and judging landscape design for the past 35 years.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th February. Visitors very welcome £2.

Isabelle Darby - 01491-836867

Notice of future talks:-

10th March 2016- A Diet Plan for Plants (Paul Patton)

WOODCOTE/STOKE ROW FOOTBALL CLUB



In December the first team played three matches winning one, drawing one and losing one. The Reserve team played two, drawing one and losing one. The Youth team played one and won.

The win for the first team came in the local derby at Rotherfield United by 4-1, with Toby Nowell 2, Jonny Summers and Jake Dillon on target. A 3-3 home draw against Newbury was remarkable for a hat-trick by Toby Nowell. On the Saturday before Christmas, a below-par performance saw the team lose by 2-0. The team is now sixth in the League

The Reserves achieved a very creditable draw away to high-flying Marlow United Reserves, with Paul Knox the goal scorer. Goals by Andy Taylor and Paul Knox were not enough to get Woodcote Reserves a point against Barkham, the visitors securing a 3-2 win in spite of the home side enjoying periods of domination. The team now stands seventh in the League.

The Youth team had an excellent 3-1 win away against Oxford Blackbirds. This result lifts the team to fourth in the table and they will go into 2016 with real confidence of achieving success. They have already qualified for the semi-final of the Oxfordshire Cup, a match which will be played at Woodcote in February.

WALLINGFORD DETACHMENT ARMY CADET FORCE.



The last few months have been busy ones for us. In December we had the privilege of a visit from the medics from RAF Benson. They instructed the whole Platoon in First Aid, demonstrating the different types of equipment they use during operations. Cadets had a great evening, and we would like to thank the medics wholeheartedly.

We finished the old year with an excellent Military Christmas Dinner; our guest was Company Sgt Major Quigley who handed out the Annual Trophies. Trophies were given to the Best Cadet, Best Recruit, Best Drill and turn out and best NCO. It was hard to choose between the many committed cadets but after hours of debate, we managed to pick our winners.

This year we have started by increasing our numbers, both in Staff & Cadets, and we welcome AUO Mundy to the team. AUO Mundy specialises in archery and the DOE Scheme and also has a good knowledge of other subjects. This means we can offer a more balanced training program.

Despite the river flooding, we still managed to get on our training area and our cadets really enjoyed the outdoor training we have been covering. Basics cadets learnt about moving with a weapon and then did a stalking exercise. They really enjoyed crawling about on their bellies. There is a company weekend (Exercise Blue Fire Team) at the beginning of February and a Battalion shoot at the end of that month. March will see the start of our Clay Shooting.

For more details contact AUO Hupe, Detachment Commander on wallingford@armymail.mod.uk

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CLIVE GEORGE RIP

Clive, who died on the 20th of November, aged 81, lived in Croft Way for over fifty years and will be remembered with affection by very many people in the village, especially the dog-walkers, as the cheery little Welshman with the dog, who always had time to stop for a chat on his daily walks. He married Barbara, also well-known locally as a Dance and Keep-fit teacher, in 1958 and they moved to Woodcote soon afterwards.

Born in Cefn Coed y Cymer, near Merthyr, on leaving school he was apprenticed as a coachbuilder in Merthyr and also worked for Rolls-Royce in Crewe. He accepted an invitation to spend Christmas with some friends in the Reading area and never returned to the valleys to live though he always referred to it as 'down home'.

He worked with various companies in the motor trade but it was while he was a bus-driver with Smith's Coaches that he met Barbara, who happened to be a passenger on one of his routes. It was while Clive was working for the Chiltern Queens Bus Company in Long Toll that the couple moved to Croft Way.



Clive's varied talents are illustrated by the fact that in the 1960's he joined the Post Office as an engineer, a career which enabled him and Barbara to spend two years living and working in the Cayman Islands. On his return, Clive first set-up his own upholstery business and then went to work as an

upholsterer for British Airways for 23 years, where his meticulous craftsmanship was much admired and valued.

When Clive retired from BA he employed his wide-range of skills to undertake all manner of projects in his well-equipped shed. Soon an opportunity presented itself for him to become Workshop Technician at Langtree School. Alan Griffiths, who for many years was Head of Design Technology, recalls the time when Clive, whom he had never previously met, came for an interview.

'I arranged for Clive to meet me after school and thought that 30 minutes would be sufficient time for the interview. One and a half hours later, Clive was still only half-way through his life history!'

There was an immediate rapport between the two boys from the Valleys. Clive got the job and a great friendship was born. Alan recalls:

'If the school did not have the necessary components, materials, or tools for a pupil's project, Clive would search in his workshop and the next day would arrive with what was needed in a carrier bag. He refused all payment; he was just delighted to help and nothing pleased him more than when a pupil sought his advice about some difficult part of a project.'

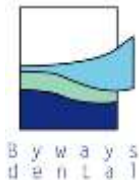
Clive absolutely adored the job and all the pupils loved him too. He was very sad to leave Langtree and was always being invited back for events.

Clive was a master-craftsman with terrific attention to detail and nowhere was this better illustrated than in the doll's houses he built and furnished. Apart from the pleasure he got from the hours he spent on these projects he wanted to contribute to the community. He was grateful to the Woodcote Health Centre and he donated his first doll's house to raise funds for it. The doll's house he was working on, but sadly could not finish, was to be donated to the Royal Berks Hospital in the same way.

Apart from his love for Barbara, Clive had two great loves, dogs and people, probably in equal measure. Clive was devoted to each of his dogs and they had to be rescue dogs so that they could be shown the care they had missed in earlier life. Clive's life could have ended a few years ago when he fell in the woods late one winter's afternoon. He was unable to get up and he lay there for four or five hours in the dark until he was found by Mike and Matthew Todd, with a police helicopter hovering above. All that time his dog, Trudi, stayed with Clive, lying next to him, keeping him warm. She probably saved his life.

For Clive, a short walk with the dog might have meant a short distance, but it did not necessarily mean a short time would be taken. That would depend on how many people he met, particularly, though not necessarily, other dog-walkers. He was delightfully gregarious, a 'once met never forgotten' character. He would talk to anyone and befriend everyone. He became a village institution, not by belonging to clubs or societies, but by being Clive.

It was Clive's custom to take his leave with the words, 'So long!' It's our turn now to say, 'So long Clive!'



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GORING HEATH BEAVERS



Our last half term for 2015, after our very successful Bonfire Night with the indelible Pete, saw us on a night hike through the woods starting at the Black Lion (we usually end at a pub but for a change started at one this time) and ending up in Midge's wood, off Deadman's Lane. The Beavers had excellent fun, especially as it culminated in them warming, or should I say burning, marshmallows over an open fire! Moreover, they still ate them!

The following week we followed up on our Friendship & Creative Challenges by embracing USA Thanksgiving and UK Harvest Festival, having done Canadian Thanksgiving earlier in the term. This included a visit from the Rev Linda (thank you) who chatted to the Beavers about giving thanks and helping other people, which brought us nicely onto the topic of giving and helping. Our final two weeks of this term involved carol singing and hamper giving.



Before our singing and hamper giving though, we had a week of Lego – we called it our Lego Challenge. We have done Scrapheap Challenges before using recycling materials (like cereal boxes and yoghurt pots etc) but decided to do this one with Lego. We borrowed the HUGE box of Lego from Woodcote After-School Club (thank you ladies), Rattie then read them a story about cops and robbers, which involved a haunted castle, a boat and goodness knows what else for them to interpret by building something from the story. You will see from the photo that they had a great time! There were boats, boatsheds, castles, a jail, they were fantastic!

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And then finally, we finished off the term with two weeks of singing and hamper giving. The first week always starts at Mowforth House, thank you Mr McKinney for organising, and then a few selected individuals get our Beavers 'singing' a couple of songs – including some excellent versions about a snowman (thank you girls) – culminating in a hamper of goodies for Christmas being handed out. The second week tends to finish at Badgers house which is always a welcome end to the term as the leaders (and parents) get something a tad stronger than squash to drink! Thank you Badger and Mrs Badger for inviting in a group of very wet beavers, leaders and parents and letting them eat and drink you out of house and home! So another term ended, as does an era as Dragonfly has decided to hang up her Beaver uniform for good, as this final week of carolling was her final Thursday stint.

Beavers will be well into their Spring term programme by the time you read this, having had a Greek evening and a Fairtrade evening, as well as a trip to WADS Panto (which they always love, oh no they don't... oh yes they do!)

On a personal note I (Dragonfly) would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone for all the wonderful times I have had at Beavers over the last EIGHT – yes EIGHT – years. Midge instigated the Beaver camps and between us we have done them all altogether (with lots of other help of course), and they have been the most fun (hard work, but fun). Camp was always the highlight of my Beaver calendar.

I want to thank Kingfisher and Midge for the superb album of memories that was presented to me on my final evening. It is an absolute gem of a book, so many things I have been involved with, that bring back such wonderful memories. It was so weird looking back and seeing children who are now 13, 14 and 15 years old and comparing how they looked back then – such angels! GH ExecGroup gave me a lovely leaving memento of a black porcelain cat with the Goring Heath colours of red and yellow ribbon around its neck. (Dick Whittington's cat is our logo on the back of our neckers – due to the Scout Hut being gifted to us from a descendant of Dick Whittington – hope I have got that right, eight years and I should have!)

I will sorely miss being at Beavers, but personal circumstances have meant something had to give and I am afraid it was Beavers that lost out! So my love and thanks to everyone over the last eight years – you know who you all are – I had a great time. Au revoir!

With much love, Dragonfly

PS. New leaders are desperately needed to replace me, as well as other imminent leavers, such as Midge and Hawk. Please contact Goring Heath Beavers for details.

WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB (WADAC)



"Flowers, Bold and Beautiful, in Watercolour" is this month's Demonstration by Keith Hornblower.

Keith's approach to watercolour is lively and entertaining, de-mystifying the medium and dispelling the fear of white paper. He will talk at length about colour theory and how to simplify it, perspective, composition etc., but most importantly tone, or value, to make a painting burst with light. (more on www.keithhornblower.blogspot.co.uk)

The demonstration is on the 16th of February at 7.30pm in Centre 70, Wallingford. (Demonstration is free to members, £3 for visitors)

Also, don't forget the Club invitation to artists of all levels and those interested in starting, to join them at Centre 70 on Tuesday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm at our members' self-tutorial workshops; bring your work and materials and enjoy the mutual support of the members. If you are thinking of starting just come along and have a chat about the best way to begin. We have all been there and are happy to help newcomers to the relaxing art of drawing and painting.

The Art Club meets at the Centre 70, Goldsmith Lane, Wallingford, OX10 0DT.

Contact - David 07803 263320,

www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk, and visit us on Facebook.

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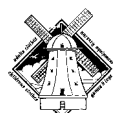
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WINDMILL SALE – FRIDAY 4TH MARCH



Spring is here, so it must be time for a Windmill Sale. The first Sale of 2016 is on FRIDAY, the 4th of MARCH and the Village Hall is the place to come to find toys, games, children's clothes and nursery equipment. Very popular with grandparents, we can provide everything necessary for visiting grandchildren at extremely reasonable prices.

The Sale will take place on the Friday between 8am and noon, but we would ask vendors to bring in items for sale the previous evening, Thursday the 3rd between 8 and 10.00 pm. Lists for completion to sell items may be obtained about three weeks before the sale from Woodcote Post Office, Woodcote and Goring Libraries or H & R Stores, or of course by email at the address below. You will receive 75% of your asking price and 25% will be donated to a cause within Woodcote.

As always, any problems or queries do contact me

Barbara Penniall 01491 681449

Email: bpenniall@globalnet.co.uk

WOODCOTE LIBRARY



Well January has been and gone and we are now further into the New Year.

It must be time to come into the Library and gain a little inspiration with some new travel, exercise or healthy eating cookery books. We have a large selection for you all ready to go!

We are having a **spell binding** time in the Library with Harry Potter Book night on February the 4th from 5.30pm-6.30pm.

There will be lots of fun and games for children aged 7-11.

Dress up as your favourite Harry Potter character and be prepared for a wizardly good time!

This is a ticket only event with places limited to 30, so please come in to the library for tickets. There will be NO admission on the night without a ticket under any circumstances.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and we can help on the romance front too with poems and quotes for those extra special cards. Do not forget that Leap Year Day is just around the corner and ladies everywhere can exercise their right to 'pop' the question on this special day.

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Leap Year day will also be extra special here in the Library. We are having a celebration tea party for some of the local community who are celebrating their birthday on this special day. We know of five people currently (including our own Library Manager!) but do you know of anyone locally that would like to join in if the 29th of February is their birthday? Please ask them to get in contact with us on 01491 682323 or by email on woodcote.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Rhyme time will continue in term time on Thursday mornings at 10am – 11am. Come along with your under 5s for stories, rhymes, songs and fun.

Every Friday morning from 10 – 11am come and warm up with a cup of coffee or tea while choosing a book.

The next meeting of our adult book club is Monday the 15th of February at 6pm.

New members are always most welcome.

OUR WOODCOTE LIBRARY



Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday the 29th of February at 6pm in the library.

We are very grateful for the money donated by Woodcote Rally, which will help to keep the library up to date, provide volunteer comforts and pay expenses of events. Volunteers have now been helping in the library for a year – we shall celebrate with a cup of tea!

TAP DANCING CHAMPIONS, AGAIN



FOUR young tap dancers from South Oxfordshire have been crowned world champions for the second year running.

Astrid Tozer, 12, and Lily Clifton, 15, both from Woodcote, Freya

Leyland, 15, from Goring, and Kia Lawrence, 15, from Whitchurch, represented England at

the International Dance Organizations' world tap championships. The girls were part of a 40-strong national team that competed in the event at Riesa, Germany. They won gold in the junior formation section with a routine choreographed to 'Ease On Down The Road' from the musical The Wiz, based on The Wizard of Oz.

All four were dressed as residents of the Emerald City and wore green and black tights, skirts and tops with green decorations in their hair. Each was presented with a gold medal at the end, and the group won a trophy.

Lily and Kia, who are cousins, also danced in the junior small group section, which won for the third time in the past five years with an American diner-themed routine called Heartbreaker.

The four began learning with dance school Dance Connection, which Lily's mother Sam runs at Woodcote village hall, when they were three. Lily, Astrid and Freya are still pupils while Kia now studies with TPAI in Reading. The girls are also members of the national tap school Tap Attack, of Swindon, which submits candidates for the England squad, and were part of a 20-strong team that won gold in the junior formation section last year.

Astrid and Kia partly funded their trip with the £250 they each received at South Oxfordshire District Council's annual Young Achiever Awards, which celebrate excellence in sport, the arts and citizenship.

Mrs. Clifton was in the audience with Leah Davies, who teaches for Dance Connection and choreographed the routine for Tap Attack. She said, "They announce the winners by slowly revealing them on a screen and in reverse order, which is pretty nail-biting.

When the children found out they'd won, you could just hear loads of screaming and see crying faces. They all got up on stage and sang the national anthem from a podium, which was a very special moment.

There were loads of supporters in the audience who were all on their feet waving flags. It was quite amazing and I felt very proud as we've trained them from such a young age."



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Cabin Pre-School Reverend Lind Smith came to tell the nativity story.



Cabin Pre-School Nativity show.



Woodcote Pre-School— Making shapes/patterns with the Tap Tap game And Building a castle with the bricks.



Toby Nowell in action - scorer of 5 goals in December.



Views near Russell's Water recorded during The Big Pathwatch in September



Scott Forbes collecting the overall winners trophy, and celebrating as he crosses the line.



Joanna Zmyslona collects the first lady trophy.



372 Nicole Rickett 274 Sebastian Nice 371 Daniel Rickett



531 Vit Javorik 349 David Broadbent 338 Darren Readman



302 Walter Thorpe



229 Phil Roberts 335 Helen Walkington 539 Brian Pyle



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Did you know that Action for Children has regular professional support available to give advice and guidance on childcare, parenting, returning to work or education, budgeting, housing benefits and family support?

For further information, please call Action for Children's Rainbow Children's Centre in Sonning Common on 01189 724 024, or speak to a member of staff at one of our play sessions.

There will be lots of fun activities taking place at our Stay and Play sessions during February, including during half term, so come along and join in.

WOODCOTE HOLIDAY CLUB

Fun and games return to the popular Woodcote Holiday Club this Easter.

Open weekdays between Tuesday the 29th of March and Friday the 8th of April from 9am to 3pm.

Open to all families with children aged 2½ to 8 years.

For more information and booking form contact Wendy 01491 682300 Or Jayne 01491 680854.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN WOODCOTE

Back in early 2013, I wrote an article in the Correspondent informing residents that our local telephone exchange in Woodcote (officially called Checkendon) had been upgraded enabling fast broadband speeds of up to 20 megabytes per second (mbps). I asked residents to test their speeds and report them back to me. Some of you did this and I published those results later in 2013. The results were somewhat mixed with some speeds being obtained around this level, whilst others were a lot less (the results were very much dependent on which Internet Service Provider (ISP) you were subscribed to).

I am pleased to say that things have now moved on: The Checkendon Exchange has now been upgraded



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to enable Superfast Broadband (SFB) speeds to be obtained – up to 80 mbps download speeds and 5 mbps upload speeds. Whilst, initially, BT could not justify installing SFB in Woodcote on a commercially viable basis, thanks to funding from Central Government, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire (BBFO) organisation was able to provide this funding for BT to proceed with the rolling out of SFB in Woodcote and surrounding areas.

Over the last six to nine months, BT have installed the necessary equipment in the telephone exchange as well as four new SFB cabinets in the village. These new cabinets are connected to the telephone exchange using newly installed fibre optic cables with the final connection from the cabinets to your premises using existing standard copper cables – this technology is known as Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC).

The details of the four new cabinets are given below, showing their location and which postcodes they serve. (Note: all data below is provided by BBFO.)

Checkendon Cabinet 1: Serves 22 postcodes and is located on Goring Road/Village Green, opposite Woody Nook. The postcodes are:

RG8 0QG	RG8 0RN	RG8 0SB
RG8 0QN	RG8 0RQ	RG8 0SD
RG8 0QQ	RG8 0RR	RG8 0SE
RG8 0QZ	RG8 0RS	RG8 0SF
RG8 0RB	RG8 0RW	RG8 0SG
RG8 0RD	RG8 0RY	RG8 0UF
RG8 0RH	RG8 0SA	RG8 0UZ
RG8 0RJ		

Checkendon Cabinet 2: Serves 12 postcodes and is located outside Shamba at the top of Beech Lane.

RG8 0ND	RG8 0PY	RG8 0QJ
RG8 0PP	RG8 0QA	RG8 7SJ
RG8 0PU	RG8 0QD	RG8 7SL
RG8 0PX	RG8 0QE	RG8 7SN

Between them Checkendon Cabinets 1 and 2 serve 636 premises.

Checkendon Cabinet 3: Serves 25 postcodes (266 premises) and is located at the junction of Greenmore and Reading Road. The postcodes are:

RG8 0NZ	RG8 0PH	RG8 0QW	RG8 0RG	RG8 0SN
RG8 0PA	RG8 0PJ	RG8 0QX	RG8 0RZ	RG8 0SQ
RG8 0PB	RG8 0PL	RG8 0QY	RG8 0SH	RG8 0SW
RG8 0PD	RG8 0QR	RG8 0RA	RG8 0SJ	RG8 0SZ
RG8 0PG	RG8 0QU	RG8 0RE	RG8 0SL	RG8 0UX

Checkendon Cabinet 7: Serves seven postcodes (73 premises) and is located at the junction of Wayside Green and Behoes Lane. The postcodes are:

RG8 0PN	RG8 0PS	RG8 0PW	RG8 0QL
RG8 0PR	RG8 0PT	RG8 0QH	

In total, 975 premises are now served by SFB which covers most, if not all, of the village. I am not aware of any further plans for additional SFB cabinets in the village. If you are wondering where cabinets 4, 5 and 6 are, two are in Checkendon, and the other is in Ipsden.

If you wish to upgrade to SFB and haven't already done so, you should contact your current ISP to see what service, if any, they are providing. Alternatively, you may wish to shop around to see what service best fits your needs. The BBFB website <http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/broadband-providers> gives further information on available ISPs.

So, I would now like to repeat the exercise I carried out three years ago by asking you to check your broadband speeds and report them to me. If you are willing to participate, please check and record both your download and upload speeds. There are numerous free APPs available on the internet to enable you to do this.

Please send these details to me including your name (which will be kept confidential); address including postcode; ISP and whether you have taken up the SFB option or not. I will then compile the information and publish it in a future edition of the Correspondent.

My email address is:
andy_crockett@btopenworld.com.

Many thanks for your help and co-operation.

Andy Crockett
Woodcote Parish Council

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WOODCOTE WI NEWS



We met for our Christmas meeting on a very mild winter's day. Shirley Bryant welcomed the members and our visitor Pat Laver. Shirley wished everyone a Happy Christmas. The hall looked lovely with festive table decorations with candles aglow. There was a basket of presents and a sherry or two to put us in the festive mood!

A birthday buttonhole was presented to Joan Snook and a plant to Audrey Hawthorne for all her work in organising the Monthly Lunch Club.

Our speaker was Dave Self who told us about 'The History of Jazz'. This was followed by tea by the committee and then the secret Santa!!

The competition for a handmade Christmas card was won by Dot Tyler.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday in the Month in the Village Hall. New members welcome.

GARDENING IN JANUARY

Continuing the series of articles on gardening, month by month, that were written by the late Cyril Baldwin and appeared in the Correspondent over a period of several years under the name B Troot.

Thanks go to Cyril's family for allowing us to reproduce these articles.

Flowers

Winter-flowering shrubs should be pruned as soon as they finish flowering. The winter-flowering Jasmine is one shrub that benefits from such pruning, thus preventing it from becoming straggly. Train in as many of the growths that have just finished flowering as are needed to cover the wall or fence, and then cut the remainder back to three or four buds. This is a splendid shrub for a north-facing wall, and the flowers can be cut for room decoration at a time of year when blooms are scarce.

Trim back winter-flowering heathers as the blooms fade to prevent them becoming too straggly. Shears can be used for this job. This helps to keep the heathers tight and bushy. Take care not to cut back into older wood.

The purple flowered buddleia Davidii and its numerous varieties in other colours should be pruned at this time of year. This is a shrub which it pays to prune severely, and the branches can be cut back to within 1½ to 2 ft. of ground level.

If you did not get round to sowing sweet peas back in October, sow your seeds now in the greenhouse, for flowering in late summer.

Fuchsia stock plants can be started into growth to encourage the production of shoots which will serve as cuttings in March.

If dahlias are to be raised from cuttings, the tubers should be boxed up now and covered with moist pulverised bark, perlite or vermiculite. If they are

placed in a warm greenhouse, they soon produce plenty of young shoots.

Cut back old pelargonium (geranium) plants, shortening the growths to a joint or bud 6 to 9 ins. above the pot. The plants can then be re-potted, shaking off all the soil from the roots first, and potting them into the smallest pots which will take the roots comfortably. If cuttings of pelargoniums taken last autumn were not potted up in November, these should be potted up individually into 3½ in. pots.

Prune hydrangeas by removing the old flower heads which were left on during winter to give some protection against frost. Cut back to two plump buds below the old head.

With spring just around the corner, it is a busy time in the greenhouse if you want to have a good supply of bedding plants. There is nothing more satisfying than growing your own from seed and watching them mature. Antirrhinum, cosmea, ageratum, begonia, petunia, impatiens, lobelia, salvia - the list is as long as your own personal taste, but all can be sown now, under glass with heating.

Cuttings of chrysanthemums taken last month should be well-rooted and ready for potting up separately. Use 4 in. pots and encourage sturdy growth by maintaining a temperature of 7°C (45°F).

Crocus (montbretias) are often neglected and left to form such large clumps that they cannot give a good display of flowers. The newer and better varieties deteriorate very quickly under such conditions. Flowers will be of better quality and more numerous if the plants are lifted and divided into small clumps every second year. This job should be done now.

Fruit

Autumn-fruiting raspberries must be pruned now, all canes being cut back to ground level. Lloyd George can be treated as an autumn-fruiting variety if so desired, or it can be grown for a summer crop. If this is the case, the canes made last year should not be cut back.

If gooseberries were not pruned earlier for fear of bird damage to the buds, this should be done now before growth is too advanced.

Vegetables

Continue to plant shallots as soil and weather conditions permit. The site should be an open, sunny position. Much the same kind of site is needed for garlic. The bulbs should be planted 2 ins. deep and 6 ins. apart in rows 9 ins. apart.

Onion seedlings raised under glass should now be pricked out into 3 in. pots filled with potting compost.

Chives make a useful substitute for spring onions in the salad bowl, and now is a good time to divide and replant them. They will grow well in a sunny position.

Round seeded peas can be sown under fleece.



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WOODCOTE PRE-SCHOOL



We would like to welcome four new children and their families who have joined us this term. Alexis, Millie, Jayden and Declan, we hope you enjoy your time with us.

Big congratulations to Nick, Maz, Ned and Hector on the birth of their new baby girl Maud!

We would like to thank all the parents and staff for their efforts to sell raffle tickets for our Christmas Raffle. We raised a massive £350 which will be used to buy new equipment.

We would also like to say a big thank you to John & Maggie McCarthy from The Black Lion who raised £130 for us over the Christmas holidays so we could buy a new printer and shredder!

We have now purchased our new book case which looks lovely in our book corner; the children are fascinated by it and can see the books a lot more clearly.

We also have a new craft/art trolley which is also a great success; it is much more accessible than our previous one. If anyone has any old stationary items they no longer need like staplers, hole punches, clipboards etc and would like to donate them to us they would be greatly appreciated.

It is good to be back after the Christmas break and the children have been very excited telling us all about their holiday and what Santa brought them.

This term's topic is Shape, Pattern & Colour where we will be learning about all different types of shapes and patterns. We will be exploring inside in our daily activities for example: shape games, threading and beads, peg boards, messy play and investigation with various media. We will also be going out and about in the village to see what different shapes and patterns we can find. There will be a different colour each week and the children will be exploring different shades and mixing lots of paints and other media.

We will be celebrating Burns Night where the children will be trying a Highland Beef Stew with 'Neeps & Tatties' for their lunch. They will learn all about Burns Night enjoy some Scottish dancing and make various crafty items.

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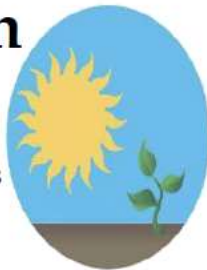
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The last week of this term will be an exceptionally busy one as we will be celebrating Chinese New Year, the year of the Monkey, by sampling some Chinese food; Pancake Day where we will be having pancakes with a choice of toppings for snacks and we will be making some crafts ready for Valentine's Day which falls in the half-term holiday.

This year we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary at the end of the Summer Term. If anyone has any photos of their child's time at Woodcote Pre-school over the last 50 years they would be greatly appreciated. We will be keeping you informed of the celebrations nearer the time.

We will be running Holiday Club again this Easter alongside The Cabin Preschool. If you would like a booking form you can collect them from Woodcote Pre-school or The Cabin Preschool or email the holiday club manager, Wendy Powell, at holidayclub@woodcotepreschool.co.uk

We still have some spaces available so if you are interested in starting your child at Woodcote Pre-school please contact Wendy Powell on

01491 682300 or

preschoolmangager@woodcotepreschool.co.uk
www.woodcotepreschool.co.uk

THAMES CROSSINGS - FERRIES, FORDS AND BRIDGES



February's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Steve Capel-Davies. He will present 'Thames Crossings - Ferries, Fords and Bridges'.

Steve has had an extensive career involving rivers, and will draw on his personal experiences and knowledge of the River Thames.

The River Thames has been very important as a key route for trade but it has also been a major barrier to those wanting to cross it! This talk on Ferries, Fords and Bridges will look at how these have evolved over the years including local examples, such as at

Wallingford where the bridge has at times had drawbridges installed, been destroyed by a flood, rebuilt and widened.

The talk will be preceded by a short (as usual!) AGM.

This talk will be held on Friday the 12th of February, 8 pm at the Methodist Church Centre, St Leonard's Square, Wallingford.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Photographers, gourmets, Francophiles, artists, explorers

Come and join us on our visit to La Bouille, near Rouen, this spring. We go from Whitchurch by coach on Friday the 29th of April and return

on Monday the 2nd of May.

The long weekend promises great hospitality in a delightful village by the Seine. An added attraction is Nick Brazil's exhibition of photographs at the village gallery.

Our full day excursion will be to Honfleur with its beautiful harbour, art galleries, Eric Satie museum and waterside cafes and gardens.

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Contact Vicky and Martyn Jordan 01189 843260

Vickyjordan5@hotmail.com

Find out more at our AGM (all residents welcome) on Wednesday, February the 3rd at 7.30pm

At the Art Coffee Shop on Saturday the 13th of February 10 – 12.30, where there will be displays of previous visits

Both are at the Old Rectory Stables

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LOCAL RAMBLERS BEAT THE BIG PATHWATCH DEADLINE!

Earlier this year Ramblers, the national organisation for walkers, announced an ambitious project: the biggest campaign ever to protect and improve our glorious paths in England and Wales.

The idea was to get volunteers to walk every footpath in the country and report on their state. Volunteers were asked to adopt a grid square on the Ordnance Survey map and, wherever they walked, to use a handy app to report what they found. It could be a wonky bridge, a locked gate, a flooded path or a fallen tree.



*Fallen tree blocking a path near Sonning,
recorded on the 19 December.*

Ramblers, working in conjunction with other interested parties (in our case Oxfordshire Council and the Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers) would then try to fix it. They would also celebrate the wonderful things seen, like a beautiful view or amazing wildlife. The aim is to keep our paths open for everyone to enjoy. A target was set to complete the survey by the end of December.

All Ramblers were asked to contribute. Henley and Goring Ramblers were allocated 259 grid squares to walk and report on. The last grid square in the Henley and Goring area was completed before Christmas!

485 features were reported in our area. Some were things needing improvement such as fallen trees, poor signage and muddy paths. Many more related to beautiful views, benches, places to eat and interesting flora. Henley and Goring Ramblers found that their paths are generally well maintained. They are certainly well loved both by local walkers and by many others who come from far and wide to enjoy them.

We are lucky in our area to have wonderful scenery and a rich network of paths which are generally well maintained and signposted. This is largely thanks to volunteer path wardens and the Chiltern Society path maintenance volunteers, who work hard all year round to clear paths, replace wonky stiles with kissing gates and hence enhance access to our lovely countryside.

Henley and Goring Ramblers regularly lead free local walks which are listed in the Henley Standard.

No need to book, just turn up. We are a friendly group and new walkers are always welcome!

TWO EXCITING NEW SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS AT WALLINGFORD MUSEUM



It is 950 years since England was last successfully invaded by a foreign army. Most of us know there was a great battle in 1066 at Hastings where the English (Saxon)

King Harold was killed by an arrow in his eye (probably), and some may even know that William the Conqueror came to Wallingford after the battle to cross the River Thames with his army! However, why did he choose Wallingford? What was happening here at the time to make him come? What effect did it all have on the people living here? There is certainly an intriguing story to tell and in this new exhibition - **'1066: William Comes to Wallingford'** - all will be revealed, based on the very latest research and evidence. Not to be missed!

You will also be able to see some of the latest discoveries from our recent archaeology, including the smallest medieval chess piece ever found in England, a beautiful little object made of antler, discovered behind the Museum in the dig last summer.

But this is not all...!

There is also a brand new special exhibition presenting **'300 Years of Cartoons!'** This spectacular private collection has been brought together by Dr Steve Head to show wonderful examples of the development of the use of cartoons in the last three centuries. Featuring about a hundred cartoons of all kinds, the exhibition allows you to look at the cartoons and enjoy them for themselves, or to take time to read a little about each one and learn a great deal, a very special experience.

If you come early in the season, your £5 entry ticket will give you terrific value, as you will be able to return as many times as you like for no extra cost. The Museum is open from the 1st of March. Children under 16 are free, and there are lots for the family to enjoy throughout the rest of the Museum too. Look out for special events this year including Town and Castle history walks (2 April), A Night at the Museum (13 May and 28 Oct), Family Archaeology Day (23 July), a William the Conqueror event (20 August), BunkFest offers, and the Agatha Christie Weekend (9-11 Sept).

Full details at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

WALLINGFORD DEBT COUNSELLING CENTRE CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR WITH FIRST CLIENTS GOING DEBT-FREE!

In January, a month when many are coming to terms with having stretched their finances that bit too far over Christmas, the Wallingford CAP Debt Centre celebrated a year of helping local residents escape the misery of personal debt.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) launched the debt centre in January 2015, in partnership with St Mary's Church in Cholsey, Ridgeway Community Church and Wallingford Baptist Church. Since opening, the centre has helped numbers of individuals and families in the local community and celebrated its first clients going completely debt free just before Christmas last year.

Centre manager, Sue Bright and her team of support workers from the local churches have been giving a free, face-to-face service in clients homes, backed up by financial experts at CAP's head office. The debt counselling delivered is award-winning and comes highly recommended by Money Saving Expert's Martin Lewis who says 'CAP are unsurpassed when it comes to the debt help they give people across the country'. Research shows around a third of clients are feeling suicidal when they first call for debt help – so this service is saving lives. It is a great privilege to be able to help people to see a way forward when they thought there was none. Residents of Wallingford, OX10 and the surrounding villages are visited in their homes often when they are at their very lowest, but there is always hope, and clients discover that there is a way out, however bad it looks to them. It is a great joy to start people off on the road to getting debt-free and then to support them through until the day they make it!

The Wallingford debt centre is part of a growing UK-wide network of 290 similar centres, run by churches trained to help tackle debt problems in partnership with CAP.

The service is free and available to all regardless of age, gender, faith or background.

Anyone struggling with personal debt is urged not to struggle on alone but to get help from a free debt counselling agency like Christians Against Poverty. (Other free agencies include Stepchange, National Debtline, Citizens Advice, Payplan or the Money Advice Service or if you are self-employed, help is available through Business Debtline.)

To find out more about CAP see www.capuk.org or call 0800 328 0006

Sue Bright
Wallingford CAP Debt Centre Manager

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WHAT'S ON AT THE CORN EXCHANGE, WALLINGFORD IN FEBRUARY

CINEMA

All screenings start at 7.30 unless stated otherwise

Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd: Bridge of Spies (12A)

Wednesday 3rd: Carol (15)

Thursday 4th: NT Live Les Liaison Dangereuses (15)
at 7pm

Friday 5th, Saturday 6th: Star Wars (12A)

Sunday 7th: Sunset Song (15)

Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th: Joy (12A)

Wednesday 10th: Grandma(15)

Thursday 11th: Janis: Little Girl Blue (15)

Friday 12th, Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th: Monday
15th, Tuesday 16th:

Dad's Army (PG)

Wednesday 17th at 2.30pm: Dad's Army (PG)

Wednesday 17th: Dad's Army (PG)

Thursday 18th: Dad's Army (PG)

Saturday 20th: Room (15)

Sunday 21st, Monday 22nd: The Danish Girl (15)

Tuesday 23rd: TBA

Wednesday 24th: TBA

Thursday 25th: NT Live As You Like It at 7pm

Friday 26th, Saturday 27th: Youth (15)

Sunday 28th: TBA

Monday 29th: TBA

LIVE

Friday 19th. Stand-Up Comedy Night with Ellie Taylor, Luisa Omielan, Alistair Williams and David Morgan. A night of hilarity is guaranteed with this feisty set of comedians well-known on the comedy circuit and TV. Tickets £10. At 8pm

Saturday 20th. The Little Match Girl. A magical and mischievous twist on a classic tale, complete with puppetry, story-telling, live music, and audience interaction. The Moon On A Stick company will transform the stage into a stunning snowy spectacle. Suitable for three years and upwards. £10 (under 16s £5). At 3pm

COMING SOON

March 15th-19th: Come and enjoy the well-loved songs from Mary Poppins and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in this Spectacular Evening Celebrating the Music of Richard and Robert Sherman. Directed by Marilyn Johnstone, this show is a joint venture between the Corn Exchange and internationally acclaimed Crescendo Music. Singing, dancing and much more, including the appearance on stage of the Chitty Chitty car. Fun-packed memorable evening for

all the family. Tickets, adults £15, children under-14 £12. At 7.30 plus Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

DATES FOR THE DIARY

April 2nd. Johnny Cash Revisited, two-hour tribute evening to C&W rock legend Johnny Cash and his wife June Carter.

April 29. Croft and Pearce Comedy Sketch show brought to you by two amusing ladies, Hannah Croft and Fiona Pearce.

May 28. Merry Opera return with new show Around the World in 32 Arias.

Tickets and further information, including any last minute additions to cinema programme, available from www.cornexchange.org.uk or box office (01491 825000).

SWAP SHOP



The next Swap Shop will be at the Village Hall on Saturday the 5th of March 2016 from 10.00 until 11.00 a.m.

Please do not arrive before the opening time, as the Swap Shop team need to set up all the tables before then.

Anyone may bring and swap: useable electrical items, new and used tools, children's toys, garden equipment, bicycles and push-chairs, books, tapes and CDs and recycling items. If you have nothing to swap come along anyway and take whatever you find to be useful to you.

You can leave items for proper recycling: batteries – hearing-aids, clocks, AAA, AA, C, D, PP3 batteries; light bulbs and fluorescent tubes, spectacles, ink-jet and toner cartridges and mobile phones. Please DO NOT bring paint, jumble, junk or car batteries. If you do you will be asked to take them away.

KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

Why not join the thriving Knit and Natter Group for good company and to make new friends?

It meets every Tuesday between 2.30pm and 4pm at Mowforth House and is a great opportunity to get to know fellow villagers and to strengthen bonds in the community. For more information please ring Barbara Penniall on 01491 681449.

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RIDDLE ME THIS!

Question 1: What is a word made up of 4 letters, yet is also made up of 3. Sometimes is written with 9 letters, and then with 4. Rarely consists of 6, and never is written with 5.

Question 2: What heavy seven letter word can you take two away from and be left with eight?

Question 3: What tastes better than it smells?

Question 4: When the answer I give is yes, it is no, and when the answer I give is no, it is yes. What is the question?

Question 5: What two things can you never eat for breakfast?

Question 6: Nathan swims 4 times a week. If he swims at 8:00 Monday, 9:20 on Tuesday, 10:40 on Wednesday, and 1:20 on Friday, when does Nathan swim on Thursday?

(Answers on bottom of page 26)

SUDOKU N°12

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NEW YEAR – NEW OPPORTUNITY



January is the perfect time for a fresh start and environmental learning charity Earth Trust is aiming to help you stick to your New Year's resolution to get fit or get out more with the launch of its new volunteer group. Taking place every Thursday, the work party will carry out practical conservation tasks on the Trust's community nature reserves in Abingdon.

Earth Trust has been managing Thrupp Lake since 2009 and was recently awarded a one year management contract to look after some of the land that is now grassland and developing woodland within the complex of former lakes at Radley. This addition, along with the management of nearby Abbey Fishponds, has led to the need for more volunteers to help improve the sites for wildlife and visitors.

"We've been running monthly work parties at our Abingdon reserves for years but taking on the extra land at Radley means there's more work to do and we need more people power. Our volunteers are incredible and these greenspaces wouldn't be as well looked after without people volunteering their skills and time. The work parties are really friendly and enthusiastic, and everyone enjoys getting out in the fresh air and getting stuck in. Volunteering can be a great way to meet like-minded people, pick up new skills and get some exercise," said Lucy Tomkinson, Community Reserves Warden at the Earth Trust.

Winter work is already underway on the nature reserves and the existing volunteer group at Radley has made an excellent start by clearing willow to create open feeding areas for wading birds and orchid glades. But we need more help!

"It's fantastic to have new projects to tackle at Radley and we have already been rewarded with some great wildlife sightings, including snipe, woodcock and a barn owl. There's still a lot to do so we're looking forward to welcoming some new members to the group to help out," added Lucy.

For more information about volunteering with the Earth Trust see www.earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer

SATURDAY COFFEE SHOP AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE



As you know, every Saturday from 10am until 12.30pm there is a Coffee Shop running at the Community Centre, next to the Library.

Each session is run by a different organisation. The coffee is provided by the Community Centre and is reimbursed at the wholesale cost price. The group running the morning supplies the cakes and keeps the profits made, which

is usually over £100. Often more is raised, if a raffle or tombola is organised.

We aim to keep the Coffee Shop open for fifty weeks of the year, closing only for Christmas and New Year.

If you are not already a regular user and would like to book a session for next year, please contact Jacqueline Lawrence on 680058 or email JacquelineLawrence58@gmail.com and indicate your interest in booking a space.

If you would like further information about how the Coffee Shop is run, please contact Barbara Penniall on 681449 or email: bpenniall@globalnet.co.uk

COMMUNITY CENTRE BOOKINGS



The Community Centre in the Old School House, Reading Road, is administered as a village facility by a team of volunteers. There are two rooms available for hire. Upstairs, there is the Rally Room, which can seat up to sixteen around a conference-style table,

for meetings, training sessions, or workshops.

Downstairs for meetings and larger gatherings is the Lions' Den with an adjoining kitchen. The Lions' Den is also ideal for parties, talks, AGMs and similar events. Both rooms can be booked for a nominal fee.

On Saturday mornings, the downstairs room is used by local charitable groups and fundraisers as a coffee shop, for fifty weeks of the year.

For more information on the Coffee Shop or bookings, please email mail@enquirieswoodcotecc.org.uk or call into Woodcote Garden Centre to collect a booking form.

WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS



We provide volunteers to drive those in need to medical appointments, day centres, or to local shops in Woodcote, Goring and Pangbourne.

Our area includes Woodcote, Goring Heath, Whitchurch Hill, Checkendon and Ipsden.

We are not a taxi, nor a bus service but if you have a genuine need we will always do our best to help.

There is a constant need for more volunteer drivers. If you would like to help please ring the office on 681171 between 9.30am and 11am on weekdays. The more volunteers we have the more the work can be spread.

JOIN HENLEY & GORING RAMBLERS FOR A HEALTHY GUIDED WINTER WALK!

Thursday, 4 February, start 10:30am from the church at Nuffield, RG9 5SR

Moderate 8 miles / 12.9 km

Circular Walk via Hailey. Lunch or drink at King William at Hailey en route

Contact: Jean Smith 01491 575637 / 07773 503868

Sunday, 7 February 10am from Fingest, near the church, RG9 6RD

Moderate 8 miles

With tea/coffee at Fingest Roman church at the end, especially for walkers.

Bring packed lunch, or eat at Chequers pub opposite church

Contact: Margie Barrass: 01491 412472 / 07748 013003

Snowdrop Walk

Wednesday, 10 February, 10:30am Nuffield, Park in little car park by the Church, RG9 5SR

To Swyncombe Church, partly on the Ridgeway. Tea at Nuffield church on finish. Bring a packed lunch to eat at Swyncombe.

Leisurely 6.5 miles

Contact: Tilley Smith 01491 680711

Saturday, 13 February, 14:00 Start Henley-on-Thames Town hall, RG9 2AG

Leisurely circular, 4 miles Oxfordshire Way, back via Fairies Hole.

Contact Alie: 07894 580413

Sunday, 14 February 10:00 from Middle Assendon, layby, RG9 6AT

Strenuous 11 miles, undulating circular walk

Contact Inge Mikkelsen: 01491 575842 / 07505 733732

Wednesday, 17 February, 10:00 from Nettlebed, Nr The Kiln, RG9 5AX

Moderate 6.5 miles, undulating circular walk via Stoke Row

Contact: Graham Cross 01491 641567 / 07748 662184

Wednesday, 24 February, 10:00 from Christmas Common, Cowleaze car park (park south end), HP14 3YL

Moderate 9.5 miles Wormsley, Northend, Fox & Hounds PH. Down to Ridgeway, return via Shirburn Hill. Hilly but stunning views. Pub stop en route.

Contact Marilyn Payne: 01491 200364 / 07758 865538

No need to book, just turn up and join us. we are a friendly group and new walkers are always welcome!

PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Clerk, Woodcote Parish Council, Parish Office, Village Hall, Reading Road, Woodcote, RG8 0QY
Tel: 0141 681861 pc@woodcote-online.co.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY SODC

P15/S3629/HH

Application proposal, including any amendments:

Single storey front, side and rear extensions and dropped kerb.

Site Location: 68 Whitehouse Road Woodcote RG8 0SA

P15/S3157/HH

Application proposal, including any amendments:

Erection of summer house (retrospective). (As amended by drawings received 29 October 2015)

Site Location: 13 Hagbourne Close Woodcote RG8 0RZ

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Tuesday 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Thurs/Friday/Saturday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Books may be renewed by telephone. Please ring 682323.

RIDDLE ME THIS ANSWERS

Answer 1: Correct, the word 'what' has 4 letters in it,
'yet' has three, 'sometimes' has 9, 'then' has 4, 'rarely'
has 6, and 'never' has 5.
Answer 2: Weights.
Answer 3: A tongue.
Answer 4: Do you mind?
Answer 5: Lunch and dinner!
Answer 6: He does not swim on a Thursday!

DIARY FEBRUARY

- Tues 2nd * Drop-In Stay & Play for Under 5s. Village Hall 10-11.30am. Also, Baby Clinic 11-12noon.
- Wed 3rd * Mobile Play Bus, 1-2.30pm, Medhill Close.
- Fri 5th * P.C. Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
* Go Active Gold Taster Day, Village Hall, 9.30am-12.30pm. See Article.
* WADS Panto 'The Snow Queen' 7.30pm.
- Sat 6th * Coffee Shop, in aid of FOWPS, Woodcote Community Centre, 10am-12.30pm.
* WADS Panto 'The Snow Queen' 2.15pm & 7.30pm.
- Tues 9th * Drop-In Stay & Play for Under 5s. Village Hall 10-11.30am. Also, Baby Clinic 11-12noon.
- Wed 10th * Mobile Play Bus, 1-2.30pm, Medhill Close.
- Thur 11th * Woodcote Youth Club AGM. 7.30pm in the Youth Centre.
- Fri 12th Table Top Sale of pre-loved items, Woodcote Village Hall, 9.30-noon
- Sat 13th * Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Community Centre, 10am-12.30pm.
* Woodcote Conservation Group working party.
- Tues 16th * Drop-In Stay & Play for Under 5s. Village Hall 10-11.30am. Also, Baby Clinic 11-12noon.
- Wed 17th Mobile Play Bus, 1-2.30pm, Medhill Close.
* Woodcote W.I. Village Hall, 2.30pm.
* P.C. Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- Thur 18th * Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society AGM. Whitchurch Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- Sat 20th * Coffee Shop in aid of St Leonard's Church, Woodcote Community Centre, 10am-12.30pm.
- Tues 23rd * Drop-In Stay & Play for Under 5s. Village Hall 10-11.30am. Also, Baby Clinic 11-12noon.
- Wed 24th * Mobile Play Bus, 1-2.30pm, Medhill Close.
- Thur 25th * South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group Lecture, Goring Heath Parish Hall, 7.30pm.
- Sat 27th * Coffee Shop in aid of MSA/Crohns and Colitis, Woodcote Community Centre, 10am-12.30pm.
- Mon 29th * OWL AGM, Woodcote Library, 6pm.

Forthcoming Dates:-

- Mar 4th * Windmill Sale
- Mar 5th * Swap Shop, Village Hall, 10-11am.
- May 8th * Hairy Legs, Little Legs & Teenage Kicks Challenges, Sheepcote Farm, Goring. Register at www.hairylegs.net

Diary entries for March by 12th February to Jan Coleman by 'phone on 01491 682955 or by e-mail at jancoleman1@hotmail.com

SMALL ADS

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

STOVE INSTALLATION :: Woodburner/Multifuel stove installation – fully insured – great rates. Call 07883976698 ask for David

MOBILE DJ :: www.expressdjs.co.uk all occasions catered for. PLI insured; please call 07883976698 or email davidgriggs@live.com

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT :: Admin, secretarial or PA assistance locally & beyond. No job too small. email: claire@clairejury.co.uk or call: 07799766463

HAVE A PROBLEM?



If so, there is a Citizens' Advice Bureau on Fridays, from 10am until 1pm. It is held in the Community Centre (Old School House), Woodcote. Clients wishing to make an appointment should ring 01491

578267 and ask for one in Woodcote. Appointments can be made for 11am and 12 noon. No appointment is necessary, between 10am and 11am.

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Jenny on 01491 681861 up to 6pm. Or please email pc@woodcote-online.co.uk.

Booking request forms can be found here; www.woodcote-online.co.uk/villagehall

WOODCOTE WELCOME PACK

Have you recently moved into the Village? Would you like to know more about Woodcote in the past and what's going on now, such as where to find a babysitter, useful important telephone numbers, details of the Coffee Shop, the Windmill Sales, Citizen's Advice Bureau, the local dentist, Lions' Club, Volunteers, St Leonard's Church and more?

'Welcome to Woodcote' is a free information pack and has been organised by members of St Leonard's Church for those moving into the Village. We think Woodcote is a wonderful, friendly place to live and would like to offer newcomers the opportunity to find out what is going on and provide useful information in a handy format.

Copies are kept in St Leonard's Church, the Health Centre and Woodcote Library or you can contact me on 01491 681449, email bpenniall@globalnet.co.uk

Barbara Penniall, 150 Wayside Green

THIS MONTH'S CLOSING THOUGHT

As you get older, the questions come down to about two or three. How long? And what do I do with the time I've got left? David Bowie