




Woodcote CORRESPONDENT

Vol 35 No 4
April 2023

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

DOGS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

As our readers know, Woodcote is a rural village in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) where many people enjoy walking their dogs. The Village Green is a particularly popular location for dog walkers but it is also a preferred spot for residents who do not own dogs. Children and adults often play sports on the Green and in the warmer months, many enjoy strolls, chats, picnics and many other social events.

Unfortunately, there have been some recent occasions on the Green of dogs off-lead bothering children and adults, chasing bikes and circling people in an aggressive manner.

Either the dogs in question have not listened to their owner/walker when called, or equally worryingly, the owner/walker has been too far away to notice the situation.

We would therefore like to remind all dog owners/walkers that they have a responsibility to ALWAYS keep their dog(s) under control and any incident between a dog and person that results in an injury is a criminal offence and can be reported to the police.

If your dog is poor at recall and cannot be caught when loose on the Green, it is advised to keep the dog on a lead, especially at busy times when children are going to school and leaving school later in the day.

The Parish Council has received several complaints recently and would like this to be a reminder that the Green is for everyone's enjoyment. We respectfully ask all dog owners to carefully consider whether they would be able to confidently recall their dogs in the event of a potentially dangerous situation. If not, please keep them on a lead.

Woodcote Parish Council.



A recent picture of Woodcote Village Green
(by Jackie Comrie)

COMMENT FROM ST LEONARD'S

How often do we worry about some new venture or task that we must do. Maybe it's a month away so we have no immediate need to worry, then it's a week away and then two days and panic sets in.

I've recently read a book called 'If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat' written by John Ortberg, an American pastor. In it he invites his readers to consider the incredible potential that awaits us when we step outside our comfort zone.

This is clearly a reference to the story in the Bible of Jesus walking on the water and the book is generally about stepping out in faith, taking risks and being able to achieve so much. In today's world we might think not of walking on water but maybe experiencing a bungee jump or a sky dive where we would have to get over our fears when we jump off that bridge or out of that aeroplane. If well prepared there should be no risk, but in reality, there will still be fear no matter how much preparation is done for it.

So often in our daily lives we are confronted by fear of having to do something unfamiliar to us, meeting someone unknown to us or maybe someone we don't get on well with and we end up worrying. Maybe we have an appointment with the boss and we think this isn't going to go well, or there is some new task that we are confronted with. The US President Franklin D Roosevelt quoted an old saying: *We have nothing to fear but fear itself.*

It seems to me that maybe the most important word we should be thinking about is *preparation*. Going into a meeting without preparation is not good. Whatever it is that we feel frightened about, it's preparation that matters.

Lately, since Linda retired, I have found myself doing things that are new to me, such as writing these articles. Maybe it's taking church services that I'm not used to, or taking responsibility for services at special times such as Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

We are now in the season of Lent, and Lent is a time of preparation, a preparation for the momentous event that happened at Easter. By the time you read this we will be getting ready for our Easter services. Those, and the services for the rest of April, you will find detailed in the table below. We start on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter Day, when we will have the blessing of the palms as we remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem. At 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday there will be a Team Communion of the Last Supper at Ipsden Church led by the Revd John Blair. This will be followed on Good Friday with a service of reflection in our church at 3.00pm. Then on Sunday we will have communion services at 8.00am (led by Revd James Leach) and 9.45am (led by Revd Angela Linton) welcoming the risen Christ.

Brian Turner,
Licensed Lay Minister and PCC Vice-chairman.

Services at St. Leonard's in April

Sunday 2nd - Palm Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Parish Communion

Friday 7th - Good Friday
3.00 pm Service of reflection for Good Friday

Sunday 9th - Easter Day

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Easter Holy Communion

Sunday 16th

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am The Open-Door service

Sunday 23rd

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.45 am Parish Communion

Sunday 30th

10.30 am Team service of Holy Communion at Woodcote. Woodcote church is usually open for private prayer each day between 10am and 4pm.

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.

If you would like to join us, please email me rbrianturner@yahoo.co.uk for the contact details.

WOODCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRE



30th Anniversary Coffee Shop

Saturday 8th April, 10 - 12.30

Woodcote Community Centre opened on 23rd April 1993 after an amazing 18 months of fundraising and village effort to restore and refurbish the old Schoolmaster's House that had been boarded up and unused for several years.

The Community Centre management committee is running a celebratory Coffee Shop on Easter Saturday, April 8th, to mark the occasion. There will be an Easter-themed raffle and the usual mouth-watering cakes and Rombouts coffee.

We hope you can join us! All proceeds go towards the running costs of the Community Centre.

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

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



April always feels like an optimistic month. The worst of the winter is behind us and the evenings are getting lighter again. It also seems to be the month that many of us start planning holidays. But before we get ahead of ourselves, we have Easter chocolate to enjoy, especially as it is the only time of year that we can indulge guilt-free.

Moving on, we have a lot of club updates in this issue and the local children have all been busy enjoying World Book Day and going outdoors to spot the early signs of spring. Hopefully in this issue, you might find a new idea or activity to get involved in. If you are starting up a new club, why not get in touch to let us know.

Have a good Easter!

Yvette

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ONE OR TWO PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR EDITORIAL TEAM

If you have an eye for detail, and might be interested in some proof-reading and/or light editorial work, then for just a few hours a month, you could be part of the Woodcote Correspondent team. The role, which is voluntary but hugely rewarding, could be split between two people.

For more details, email wood-co@runbox.com.



PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Editor: Yvette Decmar *[via email]*

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

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

Woodcote Village Hall is looking for help.

Can you can spare up to 10 hours a week to help us run the Village Hall?

We need help to administer the bookings, do a little bookkeeping, and keep the Hall fit for our users.

Much of the help can be provided from home and support will be available.

If this might be of interest then contact us for details of help and payment.

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OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK



Thanks to National Lottery funding, Oxfordshire Family Network Support (OxFSN) are able to help support older family carers who have a relative with a learning disability and/or autism to plan ahead for the future.

OxFSN who are based in Oxfordshire were awarded £148,000 over three years in funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK.

They are using this funding to deliver Embolden 2 - a project to support older family carers who have a family member with a learning disability and/or autism to help them plan ahead for when they are no longer able to care for their relative. The project aims to provide older Carers with the information and knowledge needed to find a provision that will support their family member's needs.

OxFSN especially want to reach out to older family carers (60+) and siblings who may be sharing the caring with their parents so they can help guide them through the process. If you or someone you know would benefit from knowing more about the Embolden 2 project, please get in contact with Kathy Liddell either via email Kathy.liddell@oxfsn.org.uk or Tel: 07821 987080.

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE ON PROJECT CONSULTATION — RESULTS UPDATE

While it has been some time since the Project Consultation in the summer of last year, WPC wanted to provide more of an update about the results now the responses have been looked at and Christmas and start of the year are over. There was a lot of information to go through so thank you for your patience.

General subject matters — importance to you

Before residents were asked their opinion on individual projects, we asked people to give their thoughts on general subject matters - Recreation, Climate Change, Traffic & Highways & Village Hall Future.

For every vote on these general subject matters, a vote as Very Important was given 2 points, every vote for Important was given 1 point, Neutral was given 0 points, Not Important got -1 and Really Not Important votes received -2 points. This total was then added together to get one score for each topic, which takes into account all votes of importance.

The votes indicated that the most important topic for respondents is Traffic and Highways (score of 254). This was followed by Climate Change (score of 227) and Recreation (score of 226), with just a single point

between these two. Last, is the future of the village hall (score of 198). While the future of the village hall had the most people mark it as important, it had the least number of people rank it as very important out of all the topics.

Individual Projects — support, indifferent or against

In terms of the scoring for each of the individual projects noted, the same scoring system was also applied to each vote to each individual project so that it was easier to compare the projects side by side.

Every vote of support for a project counted as 5 points, every vote for indifferent was given 0 points and every vote as against was give -5. This total was then added together to get one score for each project, which considers all votes – whether for, against or indifferent.

The benefit of giving a score for each type of vote allows all the projects under the different topics to be compared together. The results of this scoring system can be seen below.

Woodcote Parish Council Project Consultation 2022 — Results		
Ranking	Project	Score
1	Zebra crossing on Goring Road - at Co-op crossroads	580
2	Zebra crossing on Reading Road - located near shop and garden centre to schools and library	499
3	Speed Indicator Signs – signs that show speed of vehicles passing	490
4	20mph limit on major roads in village	350
5	A Pump Track	335
6	Village Green path extension	330
7	Electric Vehicle fast charging points in village hall car park	195
8	Outdoor public fitness equipment	175
9	Speed Cushions & increased lighting on Goring Road	30
10	Speed cushions & increased lighting on Greenmore	– 80

From this, it is possible to see that in addition to Traffic and Highways being the general topic that achieved the highest score, the first 4 most supported individual projects are projects that were under the Traffic and Highways topic.

This is followed by the pump track proposal and just 2 points behind is the Village Green path extension. Although the climate change subject did place slightly ahead of recreation as a general topic.

It is clear that the speed cushion and associated necessary lighting proposals on Goring Road and especially Greenmore were not popular.

While there are comments about each project that are worth reading and made WPC consider the projects again in the context of each comment, given the project rankings, WPC have got a clear picture of projects to move forward with and with what priority.

It was decided that given the low scores, both proposals of the speed cushions and the outdoor public fitness equipment would be put on hold and looked at again when another consultation is carried out.

Given comments and scoring, further research will be carried out the EV charging points proposal, village green path extension and the pump track proposal.

Progress update

Progress has already been made on 3 of the top 4 scoring proposals.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways have carried out the speed surveys necessary to establish the feasibility of a zebra crossing in the location identified on Goring Road. Results were positive and WPC have now engaged a specialist to carry out the topographical and safety surveys to produce a highway standard compliant Zebra crossing layout for public consultation.

A Speed Indicator Sign has been ordered by Woodcote Parish Council and OCC have placed 4 metal poles at points chosen by WPC to move the speed indicator sign around. These are located at appropriate locations close to the entrances to the village on Oxford Road, Goring Road and Long Toll. It is hoped that a pole along the Reading Road entrance will be able to be installed at a later date, once the white gates are relocated due to the Chiltern Rise Development.

Lastly, by the time this update is published and available for you to view, OCC will have carried out a consultation on the introduction of a 20mph zone in the village. The proposal is proposed that all roads currently with a speed limit of 30mph would be changed to 20mph. The responses will then have gone to an OCC cabinet meeting on 23rd March where any objections would have been considered. Assuming agreement is reached, then we anticipate the limits being in place by around the end of July.

For general information on the Parish Council, individual councillors, how to report potholes, minutes of meetings, village information, visit:

www.woodcoteparishcouncil.org.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk, call: 01491 681861 Or you can email: clerk@woodcoteparishcuncil.org.uk

Parish Council Facebook page for current information & announcement.

Parish Office is open Monday 9.00 to 12 noon to visit in person.

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SAVE THE DATE!

The Woodcote fete is on Saturday 9th September. Please keep the date clear and pop it in your calendars. With the reported shortages of tomatoes and cucumbers, we are hoping for renewed interest in growing your own and hopefully this will lead to a few more entries. We love seeing people coming with their full baskets of exhibits on the Saturday morning. We will be attending the Spring Fair on Saturday 30th April to give away sunflower seeds and will have the 2023 Competition Guide available too. We have already kicked off our first meeting but if you would like to get involved, please do get in touch on woodcotefete@gmail.com. To follow updates, we have a new Facebook page - please look it up.

THE KITE AND THE COLLARED DOVE: WOODCOTE'S 'NEW' RESIDENTS





Do you remember the time when there were no noisy Kites in the skies over Woodcote? No croaking Ravens passing overhead, or mewing Buzzards nesting in the local woods, Collared Doves pottering in our gardens, or – a bit further afield – Egrets on the marshes by the Thames, and even Cranes breeding near the M40 at Otmoor? Sad though it is to have seen such a collapse in the numbers of some of our most iconic local species – the Swallows and Martins that used to swoop and flit around our houses, for instance, or the screaming Swifts hurtling madcap down the lanes – there are other

species that have come back and rebuilt their populations after a long absence, or simply arrived here as total newcomers.

The Red Kite and the Collared Dove are two striking, and very different, examples of this. Kites were a familiar presence in this country in the Middle Ages and right through to the eighteenth century, especially in the towns and villages, where they scavenged the offal and other food waste that they found on the streets. But that food source was diminishing fast with the coming of modern sanitation in the nineteenth century. At the same time, the growth and commercialisation of shooting estates, where keeping practices were focused on the perceived need to destroy anything that might threaten the gamebird chicks, meant that by the mid-twentieth century Britain's Red Kites were on the verge of extinction, with only a handful of pairs hanging on in a remote part of mid-Wales.

This desperate situation was to change with the development of more enlightened countryside management practices in the latter part of the century, and – more dramatically – with the Red Kite reintroduction projects undertaken by the RSPB and the Nature Conservancy Council at the end of the 1980s and into the 1990s. These involved the release of young birds brought from Spain and Scandinavia at various carefully guarded sites across the country, including the Chilterns, in what was to turn out to be one of the most successful wild bird re-introduction projects ever. After nearly three hundred years' absence, Red Kites began appearing again over Woodcote in the mid-1990s – initially in ones or twos, but very slowly the numbers grew as the birds became the familiar sight they are here, and indeed over large areas of the country, today.

The return of the Kite is a result of human intervention. But with the Collared Dove things are very different. For a start, they did not 'return' to us, as they had never been here before; and nor did we deliberately bring them here. In fact, they are an 'invasive' species that originated in central and tropical Asia and then, for unclear reasons, began to spread more and more rapidly westwards in the nineteenth century. By the early 1900s they were in the Balkans, and, continuing onwards through Europe, they had reached the Netherlands by the late 1940s, whence it was a short flight to Norfolk, where they were seen in 1953, with the first eggs being laid at a secret and carefully-guarded location near Cromer in 1956.

As on the Continent, the Collared Dove spread rapidly in the British Isles, and by the mid-seventies it was breeding in every county in Great Britain and Ireland. It has, in effect, become a truly global species, having spread itself across Europe and Asia, and – though due to an accidental release of captive birds – across much of North America. And yet: have you seen one in Woodcote? You probably have – some people see them every day, but for no obvious reason there are parts of our village that are distinctly 'Collared Dove-less'. The bird does feature on the list of the 69 species that we have recorded over the past 14 years on the WCG's quarterly 'Bird Walks', but at the same time on the great bulk of these local walks we never see one. It would be fascinating to draw up a 'Collared Dove map' of Woodcote, so why not let us know how often, if at all, you see them in your part of the village by emailing info@woodcotecg.org.uk ? And why not join us on our bird walk on Saturday 8th April to find out about some of the other 68 species that we have already recorded? You'll find us at **woodcotecg.org.uk**, with details of our Bird Walks in the section called 'Archive & Resources'.

Woodcote Conservation Group

GORING HEATH BEAVERS

This half term the Beavers have been pursuing the Skills Challenge, in traditionally sticky, muddy and slightly haphazard fashion. To off-set this, 9th February was an oral hygiene session, run by Jane (a dental therapist) who came with a giant set of teeth and an enormous molar (models, not her own). Big Ernie and Yaroslav were then stunned to be awarded 'Goring Heath Beavers of the Year'. We are not quite sure why they were so surprised: it was richly deserved. Their smiles said it all and doubtless will have brought equal joy and pride, to relatives back home in Ukraine.

Having scrubbed our teeth clean, we then undid all the good work on 23rd February, which was Shrove *Thursday*; predictably many sugary pancakes were consumed with gusto. This year, rather than racing a couple of stunt pancakes to grey, floor-grit extinction, Otter made wooden pancakes for Tadpole's stacking game; she loves her power tools. The Beavers made 'happy pancake day/get well cards' for Dot Tyler who many in the village cherish, but who has a special place in hearts at Beavers. Dot (known as 'Tilly' Tyler) was our camp cooking goddess for many years. Dot was delighted with them, especially the card in which her name had been spelled "●" followed by, "PS is that really how you spell your name?"

The following week was newspaper engineering, with engineer Dormouse under strict instructions to supervise her group, not take charge. Using only newspaper, scissors and tape, the Beavers had to make a tower (tallest won) and a bridge between two chairs (least wobbly won, unlike the tendering process for the Millennium Bridge). Then they made various things from the Wind in the Willows (a tree, a rat, a toad hall gateway plus several boats and rivers).

On 9th March, in thoroughly unpleasant weather, the Beavers went on a night hike that did not involve a pub, which might be a first. With little legs the route, over tricky terrain, took slightly longer than anticipated. It wasn't quite the *Long March*: no-one ate their boot laces and everyone made it back in one piece, but it was cold, wet, muddy, DARK and a real challenge to which the Beavers rose magnificently (and enjoyed!). Great training for the forthcoming North Leigh Hike: nine mile for Beavers.

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INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE

Well, what a success our first event was in January! With a queue of bargain buyers waiting to get in as far as the eye could see, it was a buzzing Sunday morning around the village.

We are excited to announce the next Indoor Car Boot scheduled for Sunday 23rd April 9:30-12:30.

Do pop along to browse a whole host of bargains from home and garden wares to ladies and baby clothing, or just stop by for a fresh coffee and cake!

If you would like to book a pitch, please email woodcotecraft_bookings@hotmail.com. Spaces are limited and must be pre booked.

We look forward to seeing you!

The Woodcote Craft Team

WOODCOTE WI NEWS

Ann Larden welcomed the members to our 79th Birthday Celebrations and gave a very warm welcome to new members Penny Edwards and Maxine Wilde. The tables looked lovely adorned with yellow spring flowers and catkins, thank you to Margaret Carter.

Celebrating their own birthdays this month are Shirley Bryant and Debbie Emmett.

Lunch club this month was at the Bell at Crowmarsh, thank you to Sally Lambert for organising this, twelve members had a lovely time and grateful thanks to the lovely waitress.

Our speaker was Jane Abbott, who accompanied with all her beautiful handmade felted puppets, they really were a work of art, told us tales and read poems of dragons, fairies, witches, gnomes, mermaids and the recycling pixie (who knew).

The finale was a scrumptious birthday tea which was cooked and baked by many of our members!

Please come and join us in the Village Hall, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm, in May we will discuss the Resolutions for this year and this will be followed by a quiz.

Judy Williams.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS APRIL 2023

The Spring Fair will take place in the Village Hall and on the Village Green on Sunday 30th April from 11am to 3pm. Entry is free.

After what feels like a very long, dark winter Spring is finally here (at least it will be when the April Correspondent arrives with you, currently it's snowing)!

Spring deserves a celebration and that is what this year's Spring Fair promises to be. We have a lot planned, here are some of the highlights…

We have a great variety of exhibitors booked, these include a selection of authentic arts and crafts, local artisan food and drink producers, and local growers who will be selling a selection of plants and seedlings including shrubs, perennials, annuals and vegetables. The Stick Smith will be demonstrating his willow weaving, Busby's Bees will be bringing along a (closed) transparent hive so that you can watch the bees at work and the British Owl Project will be coming along to show off their owls.

The Marlow Cheese company will be bringing their new Cheese Toastie truck (I've heard they're very tasty!) The Butterfly Community Café will be running the Tea Room which will be in the Function Room. Jessie's Coffee Truck will be on hand with artisan coffee and James from South Oxfordshire Brewery will be ready with the beer. The Henley Distillery will be offering Gin tastings which should smooth the way nicely into the Morris Dancing. The Shinfield Shambles Border Morris Folk will be joining us, and they will be encouraging audience participation! It seems there is quite a shortage of Morris Dancers following the pandemic, so this will be no time to be shy.

We have two workshops taking place if you fancy getting involved. These include a Macrame workshop (11am – 1pm) and a Floral Workshop (1pm – 3pm). To find out more about the Spring Fair and/or book a workshop place, visit the Village Hall website at woodcotevillagehall.com/woodcote-spring-fair/

Meanwhile, it is business as usual. Keep an eye on the website for the hall diary, news and events. You can get in touch via email woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com or by calling 07929 203096

WORLD BOOK DAY FUN AT WOODCOTE LIBRARY

On Saturday 4th March Woodcote library celebrated World Book Day with the help of Where's Wally?, The Gruffalo and the BFG.

It was a busy Saturday with over forty adults and children joining us to celebrate the day. Children enjoyed making their very own mini story books and pop-up bookmarks

Our next Art and Craft event will be on Saturday 29th April. We hope you can join us!

Lisa Trood- Woodcote Library Manager
Tel: 01491 682323





The BFG and Gruffalo at the Library for World Book Day

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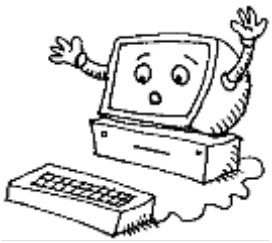
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JERRY GREEN
SEPTEMBER 1944 – JANUARY 2023

On a sunny 8th February the church of St Peter and St Paul in Checkendon overflowed as the many friends of Jerry Green came to say a final farewell to a man who made so many contributions to life in Woodcote since he and his family came here nearly 50 years ago. It was a fitting place for the ceremony as for many years Jerry was a sidesman at the church, a bell ringer with Isobel, and it was where his daughters were married. Jerry, who passed away in late January this year, was well known in the community and his death, at the relatively early age of 78, was both a shock and a cause of significant sadness. The packed church was testimony to the community's affection, respect and wish to pay tribute to him.

Jeremy Neil Green was born in Guildford during the latter stages of the Second World War. He grew up in Barnes, Ickenham, and then Pinner. After early education at Breakspear Primary and St Nicholas Grammar schools he gained a place at Loughborough University to study chemistry. The first application of his chemistry degree was in papermaking in Edinburgh and it was here that he met, at a St Andrew's night party, and later married, Isobel to begin a marriage that lasted the next 53 years.

In 1975 papermaking was replaced by brewing when he moved south to join Courage, then in Reading but shortly to move to Worton Grange. Initially living in Wayside Green, Jerry and Isobel soon moved to their house in Beech Lane where, alongside a new role as a financial adviser for Allied Dunbar (Zurich), he helped Isobel to set up her dental practice first in Beech Lane and then at the surgery in Checkendon.

Jerry was interested in local affairs. Not only was he Chair of the Parish Council but also helped establish the Community Centre and preserve the library. He worked on the early Village Appraisals and then helped produce the Parish Plan. This, perhaps inevitably, made him eminently qualified as, and a very welcome member of, the team that faced the then unknown challenge of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Woodcote. Following an application in 2011 for over 100 homes on what is now known as Hilltop Field, it was Jerry's idea to contact the Chiltern Conservation Board for advice on resisting a development that few in the village wanted. During a conversation with the Board's then Planning Officer, the topic of Neighbourhood Planning arose albeit that the legislation was not yet in place. Jerry and I met with John Howell and the Parish Council and with their support, Woodcote became a pioneer and leader in Neighbourhood Planning. Jerry can therefore be seen as the man who started a project that, more than anything else in the last 50 years, will shape the future of the village.

Jerry enjoyed all sport. As a young man he loved and played both cricket and rugby and, although not playing since graduating, continued to follow both closely. Fortunately, England rarely play Scotland at cricket but the same cannot be said for rugby and in, perhaps the only area where family loyalties were

divided, recent results were not entirely to his liking. Running was another of his pleasures, so much so that he ran the London marathon in his 40's and again in his 60's.

He loved old cars. His true love was his 1949 MG YB saloon that he took with him to Loughborough. Later, in 2003 he bought himself a 1952 MG TD and many will remember the beam on his face as he took it round the arena at the Rally.

In the words of his daughters, 'He was a great Dad' and no one in the church could have missed the very obvious affection that they and his ten grandchildren had for him. An affection felt by all who knew him.

GPB

READING RSPB UPDATE



Lapwing by Marilyn Hockey

On 14 February Colin Butcher gave us a fascinating tour of the smaller islands off the UK coast in a talk entitled UK Islands, Wildlife and Volunteering. He and his wife Pauline have spent many years volunteering on island reserves and bird observatories managed by the RSPB, local wildlife groups and the National Trust. Although all these reserves have some permanent staff, it would not be possible for them to carry out all the vital conservation work they do without the help of willing volunteers. As Colin pointed out it is surprising how much a small group of people can achieve in a relatively short period of time. Projects include rebuilding collapsed stone walls, repairing worn paths and steps, clearing unwanted vegetation, painting buildings, and constructing hides. In addition to these vital infrastructure projects, they have also been involved in citizen science with moth trapping, bird surveys and rodent monitoring to test the success of a rat eradication project on Ailsa Craig.

The islands covered in the talk provided a round tour of the UK from the Channel Islands to Noss in Shetland and North Ronaldsay, by way of Llanddury off Anglesey, Lighthouse Island off Belfast, RSPB managed Rathlin Island off the northeast coast of Northern Ireland, then down the East coast including St Mary's Island off Whitley Bay, Spurn point in Yorkshire, Northay off Maldon in Essex, and Holt Island in the Great Ouse river.

As well as providing much needed help, the volunteers can visit islands and sections of reserves which are not open to the general public and benefit greatly from the knowledge and expertise of resident wardens and other permanent staff.

On Tuesday 21st February 2023 we had a very enjoyable morning walk round Virginia Water taking in the lake and surrounding areas of woodland and shrub. The lake held many Great Crested Grebes and Mallards plus a few Tufted Ducks. The woods contained many tit species with lots of Nuthatches and Treecreepers. At the far end of the lake a flock of Siskins were feeding in the Alder trees. Numbers have been much lower than normal this winter, so the good close views we had were very welcome. Two sightings of Kingfishers flying along the edges of the lake made up for not seeing them on Sunday. A total of 34 species made for a very satisfying morning.

Outdoor trips for your diary in April include a minibus trip to the RSPB's Arne reserve near Poole harbour on 16th April and a midweek walk on the chalk downland at Combe Gibbet on 18th April.

All indoor meetings are held in Pangbourne Village Hall starting at 8pm. Visitors are very welcome. There is an entrance fee of £5 for non-members, juniors half price. New members are always welcome with annual membership set at a modest £15 (£10 for juniors).

For more information visit https://group.rspb.org.uk/reading

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WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Our indoor net practices at the Oratory Sports Centre are now underway and we are pleased with the attendances as we look forward to another season, our 143rd. We are pleased that several teenagers are coming forward to show an interest and we hope that they will become regular players in our 2nd XI.

From the beginning of April, we hope to be holding outdoor nets. We have a brand new mobile net which will be in regular use on the Green and we also hope to hold weekly sessions at the Oratory Prep School as we did last season. We still hope to attract new players to the club and I would like to hear from anyone who might be interested. When you read this report, the season will be less than a month away. We have two away pre-season friendlies: on Sunday 23rd April v Peppard (a) 1.00pm; on Sunday 30th April v Ewelme (a) 1.00pm.

Home Fixtures May

Saturday 6th May – 2nd XI v Twyford 2nd XI 1.00pm

Saturday 13th May – 1st XI v Peppard 2nd XI, 1.00pm

Wednesday 17th May – Midweek XI v Dorchester, 6.00pm

Saturday 20th May – 2nd XI v Reading United 4th XI, 1.00pm

Wednesday 24th May – Midweek XI v Watlington, 6.00pm

Saturday 27th May – 1st XI v Crowthorne & Crown Wood 2nd XI, 1.00pm.

To find out more or express interest in playing please contact sampeates@gmail.com, 07710 858366.

Our Saturday morning 'Fun Cricket' sessions for Primary age children will begin on Saturday May 13th at 9.00 am. All are welcome. Parents are asked to bring their children along and stay to watch or help with the session. Cost is £10 per session

SP

WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

As the season draws to a close at the end of April, both teams have plenty to play for. Numerous matches need to be fitted in and inevitably there will be some midweek fixtures in April. The first-team has had mixed results, with players out injured and some unavailabilities. On 11th February, the firsts took on Chipping Sodbury (two divisions above us) at home in a cup tie and were unlucky to lose 2-1, with Toby Nowell our goal scorer. On the same day, the Development team travelled to East Hendred to secure a 4-1 league win with goals by Jack Ploszinski, George Scoffham, Tommy Brownlow and Archie Clark. On 18th February, the first team lost 2-1 at home in the League to Holmer Green, a day to forget against opponents who have been struggling all season. Our goal that day was scored by the inevitable Toby Nowell.

Meanwhile, the Development team also had a home game in the League and played their match up the road at the Oratory School, defeating Lambourn by 1-0, with George Scoffham on the scoresheet. On 25th February, the first team played a home cup match in the Hellenic Chairman's Cup and defeated Beaconsfield 4-1, with goals by Toby Nowell 2, Alec Curtis and Joe Webber. The Development team, again playing at the Oratory School, went berserk hitting a club record twenty (yes 20 goals) in a 20-0 league win over Long Wittenham. There were three hat-trick heroes, teenagers Archie Clark and Sully Akers, while long-serving Tommy Brownlow notched his first ever hat-trick.

On 4th March, the first team drew 2-2 away in the League against Watlington, with goals scored by defenders Alec Curtis and Jamie Thurston. The Development team were in action that day in the semi-final of the North Berks War Memorial Cup against Benson Lions. Unfortunately, they lost 3-1, but the score was 1-1 after 90 minutes and Benson scored twice in extra-time to progress to the final. Tommy Brownlow scored our goal. On Tuesday 7th April, the first team travelled to Chinnor to play a floodlit match, the quarter-final of the Chairman's Cup. They defeated the home side by 2-1 with Joe Webber scoring both goals.

The first team still has a realistic chance of coming runners-up in the League and reaching a cup final, while the Development team can secure runners-up in the North Berks Division 2.

Fixtures in April

Saturday 1st – 1st v Didcot Town Development (h) 3.00pm

Saturday 8th - 1st v Beaconsfield (h) 3.00pm

Tuesday 11th - 1st v Taplow (a) 6.30pm

Saturday 15th - 1st v Chalfont Wasps (h) 3.00pm

Tuesday 18th - 1st v Newbury (a) 6.30

Saturday 22nd - 1st v Chalfont Wasps (a) 3.00pm

Tuesday 25th – 1st v Taplow (h) 6.30pm

There are still two League matches for the Development team to be scheduled and the semi-final of the Hellenic Chairman's Cup.

SP



Team photo Development team for semi-final v Benson Lions



Action from semi-final Woodcote Development v Benson Lions



First team v Chipping Sodbury

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CABIN PRESCHOOL

This term, we have enjoyed welcoming Felicity. Also Jess Wernham has stepped down as Chair to be a general helper, working two mornings a week and Natalie Heath as a bank staff. We are really looking forward to working with you. We had a lovely evening out where we presented Jess with a gift to say thank you for the last 10 years as Chair. Thank you to Caroline Gibson for stepping into the role of Chairperson until we merge with the primary school.

We started the term enjoying World Book Day; we had lots of lovely characters: Tigers, Zogg, witches, unicorns, a carrot, pirates, a rainbow fish that gave away her scales, the Queen of Hearts and a Rabbit. So good to see the staff getting into the spirit. They had an enjoyable day with lots of reading throughout.

Cooking Fridays have been a hit. We have made jelly – watching the cubes dissolve is a terrific way to introduce science and unfamiliar words. We have also made bread, banana cakes and fresh fruit salad to go with Oliver's fruit salad story. It was a wonderful way to get children to try new foods; they were all happy to take a pot home with them.

Pancake Tuesday was such a busy day. We started the morning with pancakes, the children chose honey or lemon and sugar to top the pancakes. We then read the story: Mr Wolf's Pancakes. Outside we took our home-made pans with attached pancakes and had a race, no winners just lots of fun.

On St David's day we went and looked at some daffodils within the school grounds, then we came inside and drew still life pictures which we have displayed on the notice boards around Cabin.

The Woodcote Garden centre have created an amazing sandpit for us. I asked Mike if he could build us something to fit our space and the children can fully lie down in it! We could do with a few more buckets and spades. If anyone has any sitting in their garage that are no longer loved, we would love them, especially the smaller type.

We are also so *eggcited* to receive our little eggs which we will hopefully hatch into little chicks this week. Follow their progress on our Facebook page. So much more to follow next month.



Just playing!

We do have some spaces still available, pop over to see us if you are interested in enrolling your child. We take children at any time of the year. Call us on 01491 680854 or email us on info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk and ask for Jayne.





World Book Day



Pancake Tuesday





Sink or Float?



Just playing!







Outdoor and Indoor Snow

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ONE OR TWO PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR EDITORIAL TEAM

If you have an eye for detail, and might be interested in some proof-reading and/or light editorial work, then for just a few hours a month, you could be part of the Woodcote Correspondent team. The role, which is voluntary but hugely rewarding, could be split between two people. For more details, email wood-co@runbox.com.





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WOODCOTE PRESCHOOL

We have been extra busy during the last few weeks, celebrating different special dates and celebrations. The children really enjoyed Shrove Tuesday with lots of yummy pancakes at the pancake station. They all chose their own toppings and made some fantastic creations.

We celebrated World Book Day all week. The children came in most days dressed up as their favourite characters and shared their favourite stories with everyone. They all looked fantastic! The children baked cakes like Red Riding Hood brings for her grandma and tried porridge like Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

In honour of St David's Day, we went for a walk to our allotment looking for Daffodils along our way and picked some of our leeks that we have grown. Tanya made them into Welsh Rarebit and the children sampled it for their morning snack. Not all of them were impressed and just preferred plain old toast but the ones who did eat it said it was delicious!

We celebrated the Hindu festival of Holi and discussed the meaning of the festival to the children. The room was very colourful with lots of fun activities. The children made Holi cards and painted some very creative and colourful pictures.

As part of her Level 3 training, Gina engaged the children in a fun tasting activity based on the book 'Handa's Surprise'. She read them the story and encouraged them to feel, smell and taste various exotic fruits. They all enjoyed smelling, tasting, and feeling the different flavours and textures. Pomegranate seemed to be the favourite. The children were so disappointed when it was finished, they even asked for more!

We donned our all-in-one suits, our wellies and our coats and went out on the recreation ground to have some fun in the snow! The children listened to the noises their feet made in the snow, rolled around on the ground and made snow angels.

Easter Holiday Club is running again this Easter. Monday 3rd – Thursday 6th April for children aged 2 to 8 years. Please call 01491 682300 or email woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk to book your place.

We are getting very busy at Preschool with lots of new children starting but do have spaces still available. If you are interested in your child joining us and would like to come for a visit, please contact Wendy Powell on 01491 682300 or email woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk


CATCH IT









WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In primary schools, March always means World Book Day! The children and staff dress up as characters from their favourite books. This year was no exception. The children also spent time in their 'house teams' reading each other books and recommending them to others. The teams are mixed across all 7 years and it is wonderful to see them all working together regardless of age. Many books were discussed and we are sure it will lead to more being read by everyone.

It has been lovely to welcome so many parents and friends into school recently. There has been a coffee morning for any parent interested in a variety of topics to be discussed or who just fancies a coffee and a chat.

We have held three phonics Open Afternoons for parents who would like to learn more about phonics and the 'Monster Phonics Scheme' we use in school. One workshop and two class Open Afternoons have meant that more parents have had a chance to see how things are taught. The children at Woodcote love to read, so phonics knowledge is key to an early start for every child.

Willow Class (year 6) held their project presentation afternoon. Their projects on "Restless Earth" have been amazing. Each child made a presentation and created a model representing their chosen research area. We had models of all sorts of exciting things including earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. Parents who came along to the event were extremely impressed by the standard of work and the presentation skills of the children.

Rehearsals for Peter Pan are well underway by year 3 and 4. Their Easter performance is always a highlight of this term. Every year, every child here at Woodcote has a chance to perform in a school play. This is not only fun but encourages skills such as public speaking, performance and group presentation. We are very much looking forward to it and will share some pictures with you all next month.

Year 1 and year 6 held a very colourful and informative assembly about the Hindu celebration of Holi. Holi, also known as the Festival of Colours, Love or Spring, is one of the most popular and significant festivals in Hinduism. It celebrates the eternal and divine love of the god Radha and Krishna. Everyone in the whole school was taught to dance and was treated to sweet treats made especially for them.

Our Cross-Country runners go from strength to strength. Congratulations to our team for their wins in the Chiltern Edge Series. The team also had a series of wins at the South Oxfordshire Schools Races in December which has qualified them for the Oxfordshire Finals at the end of March. Good luck and have fun team!

Plans for school celebrations for King Charles' Coronation are coming together and we are looking forward to Spring warming up a little over the next few weeks! Easter will soon be upon us and I therefore wish you all a happy and gentle Easter together with your families.

If any of you would like to visit to look around, volunteer at the school even if you only have an hour to spare, or perhaps become a Governor, we would love to hear from you.

Take care and Happy Easter.

Mrs L. Hunt





WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

We are well into spring now and busier than ever, so if you would like to join our team of drivers, we would love to hear from you! All the necessary details about us and how to get in touch are at the bottom of this article.

We are very fortunate to have two new volunteers joining us, Ruth and Neil, who will be a great addition to our service in the months and years to come. If you use our service and come across them, please give them a warm welcome!

Annual General Meeting

We are holding our AGM on Wednesday 19th April at 7pm in the Pavillion Room at Woodcote Village Hall. This is open to our members and the public, so please, if you are interested in what we do and would like to join us, you are very welcome. We are serving light refreshments and in addition to our normal business of the meeting, we have two speakers lined up. They are Louise Haylett, our wellbeing worker attached to the Woodcote Medical Practice and Nicky Paris, the Oxfordshire Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinator. They will be giving extremely informative and interesting accounts of what they do and how they, and we, can help our local communities. It would be very helpful for the purposes of catering, to know how many people will be attending, so please call our office on 01491 681171 if you are planning to join us.

Useful information for our clients

From April, Woodcote Volunteers will be providing all our drivers with information that will be of particular use to the residents we serve in Woodcote and surrounding villages, who are typically quite isolated and not necessarily connected to the internet. Our clients sometimes don't know what help or services are available to them, so drivers will be able to disseminate this information as and when it is needed. For example, Age UK offer a free tablet on loan to anyone elderly who is not connected to the internet and they also provide a dongle, which will allow internet access. Additionally, they can find a "tech buddy" to help that person learn how to use the device.

And finally, if you need a driver, please don't hesitate to give us a call on 01491 681171. Our drivers are available to take you to health related, social or recreational appointments, a local shop and we can collect prescriptions. Just give us a call if you are not sure if we can take you somewhere!

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

WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB (WADAC)



This month's demonstration on Tuesday 18th April is entitled "Seascape in Acrylic" and will be given by Susan Gray; it is online via Zoom but will also be showing in Centre 70.

Susan is a land and seascape artist who takes her inspiration from the West Country, Cumbria and the Chilterns. Her paintings are worked up from small sketches or studies made in situ or she paints directly on large boards on the beach or in the landscape. Often painting at high tide, the wild weather and windy conditions add to the excitement of working outside.



The online demonstration, that will also be showing on a screen in Centre 70, is on Tuesday 18th April from 7.30 – 9.30pm. Entry is free to members, £3 for visitors.

For the zoom login link contact: info@wallingfordartclub.org.uk

Tuesday morning and afternoon art classes: the April Term (6 weeks) will start on 18th April. A few places are available so please contact us if you are interested.

Tuesday social evening and non-tutored workshops are from 7-9pm; drop in and have a chat with fellow artists at all levels. Great chance to get back to painting or starting out. All club members are willing to help new artists.

If you are interested in joining us on any of our events or the club, please contact davidbooth7@outlook.com or admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk or tel. 01491 681400. The club meets at Centre 70, Kinecroft, off Goldsmith's Lane, Wallingford, OX10 0DN.

Please note Goldsmiths Lane entrance off the High Street is closed until September. The only access to Goldsmith Lane by car is by a road off the roundabout in front of the Methodist Church in St. Leonard's Square. Traffic lights are operating as this road is usually a one-way road.

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WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

We continue into spring with a programme of events and talks on Thursdays at 7:30pm. From April we meet in person, with the 6th taking us on a journey around Namibia (with Eddy and Pam Lane). We then get more interactive on 13th with our annual combined portfolio competition, where members arrange four photos on a theme, and architecture competition. We will have a members' evening on 20th (guests welcome though). The month closes with Mark and Judy Buckley-Sharp's Journey in Printing. The season closes in May with our End of Season Competition on 4th and AGM on 11th. Then we're excited about meeting regularly in person again at Crowmarsh Pavilion from September and look forward to announcing our plans and programme for Autumn. We are also pleased to announce that we will be holding an exhibition in Wallingford in early September over Bunkfest weekend! Watch this space …

WALLINGFORD CORN EXCHANGE: APRIL

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.

We are also showing films on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please look at the website for updates.

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

Cinema

Pearl (15)

Saturday, 1st April, 7:30pm

Allelujah (12A)

Sunday, 2nd April, 7:30pm

Monday, 3rd April, 7:30pm

Tuesday, 4th April, 7:30pm

Wednesday, 5th April, 2:30pm

Everything, Everywhere at once (15)

Wednesday, 5th April, 7:30pm

Thursday, 6th April, 7:30pm

My Sailor, My Love

Friday, 7th April, 7:30pm

Sunday, 9th April, 7:30pm

Elvis (12A)

Saturday, 8th April, 2:30pm

Saturday, 8th April, 7:30pm

Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman (U)

Monday, 10th April, 7:30pm

Tuesday, 11th April, 7:30pm

Dreambuilders (U)

Wednesday, 12th April, 2:30pm

80 for Brady (PG)

Friday, 14th April, 7:30pm

Saturday, 15th April, 2:30pm

Saturday, 15th April, 7:30pm

Sunday, 16th April, 7:30pm

God's Creatures (15)

Monday, 17th April, 7:30pm

Vermeer, the Greatest Exhibition

Tuesday, 18th April, 7:30pm

Wednesday, 19th April, 2:30pm

God's Creatures (15)

Wednesday, 19th April, 7:30pm

Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Amongst Thieve

Friday, 21st April, 7:30pm

Sunday, 23rd April, 7:30pm

Monday, 24th April, 7:30pm

Tuesday, 25th April, 7:30pm

Wednesday, 26th April, 7:30pm

Live Screenings

Cinderella Live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

Wednesday, 12th April, 7:15pm

A co-production between The Royal Ballet and National Ballet of Canada. A new production of the much-loved fairy-tale classic. Royal Ballet Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton's Cinderella celebrates its 75th anniversary this Season. After over a decade away from the Royal Opera House stage, Ashton's timeless reworking of Charles Perrault's rags-to-riches story returns, showcasing the choreographer's deft musicality and the beauty of Prokofiev's transcendent score.

Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Good (15) filmed live at the Harold Pinter Theatre, London

Thursday, 20th April, 7pm

David Tennant (Doctor Who) makes a blistering return to the West End in one of Britain's most powerful political plays, as an ordinary man who is swept into the Nazi regime. As the world faces its Second World War, John Halder, a good, intelligent German professor, finds himself pulled into a movement with unthinkable consequences. Olivier Award-winner Dominic Cooke (Follies) directs C.P. Taylor's timely tale, with a cast that features David Tenant (Doctor Who, Broadchurch), Elliot Levey (Coriolanus) and Sharon Small (The Bay). Filmed live from the Harold Pinter Theatre in London.

Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Marriage of Figaro from the Royal Opera House Covent Garden

Thursday, 27th April, 6:45pm

Director David McVicar brings out the revolutionary elements in Mozart's great comic opera of intrigue, misunderstanding and forgiveness. Servants Figaro and Susanna are filled with excitement on their wedding day but there's a hitch: their employer, Count Almaviva, has dishonourable intentions of his own towards the bride-to-be. Sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Tickets: £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Live on Stage

Launch of the New Corn Exchange Space

We are pleased to announce that the Club Room in the Corn Exchange is to become a second space in the theatre where we will host some theatre, music, open mic nights, talks, poetry readings and cinema. Watch this space in the months to come for announcements of events. The space is accessible via the stage door in Mousey Lane. The space is on the first floor via a staircase and unfortunately, we are unable to provide access for those with limited mobility.

Abba Sensation Tribute Band

Saturday, 22nd April, 7:45pm

Widely considered to be one of the best ever Abba Tribute Acts, they play to packed theatres and festivals throughout Europe. A stunning stage show, which combines costume changes, lighting effects and a faithful reproduction of the Abba sound. A great evening's entertainment is guaranteed for all age ranges. The band love audience participation, so you can sing along, clap or even get up and dance.

Tickets £18

A Room of One's Own

Saturday, 29th April, 7:45pm

Live on stage, Virginia Woolf's trip through the history of literature, creativity and sexual politics. Adapted and performed by Rebecca Vaughan. The award-winning Dyad Productions (Female Gothic, I, Elizabeth, Christmas Gothic, and Austen's Women) return with a twenty-first century take on Virginia Woolf's celebrated talk. Take a wry, amusing, and incisive trip through the history of literature, feminism, and gender. Meet Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, Aphra Behn, and Shakespeare's sister – Judith! Travel to the far-flung future of… 2028. But whatever you do, Keep Off the Grass. Tickets £18

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

We are familiar with the Lion statue in Reading's Forbury Gardens, wondering if the legs are as they should be, and vaguely aware that it commemorates the Battle of Maiwand – but when and where was that? Dan Allen of the Victorian Military Society will give us the answers, and explain the heroic deeds of the "Berkshire Eleven" celebrated in literature, art, and poetry.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm (coffee from 7pm) in Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road, Whitchurch. All are welcome. Non-members £3 to include coffee/tea and biscuits.







WALLINGFORD U3A

We meet every first Wednesday of the month at Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2 pm where there is plenty of parking. Speakers cover many topics of interest and members are encouraged to ask questions at the end of the talk before enjoying tea and biscuits. There are group activities, outings, theatre trips and lunches organised on a regular basis. The annual subscription is £18 and all the information is available on our website: u3asites.org.uk/wallingford. Why not come along to a meeting as a visitor (£2) and see for yourself.

Patricia Fish
U3A Committee

WALLINGFORD COUNTRY MARKET

Have you visited us yet? We are open each Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church, (situated just behind the Town Hall), between 9.30a.m. and 12 noon. Fresh delicious home-baked cakes and savouries, local honey and seasonal preserves, plants, flowering bulbs and hand-crafted items are all available each week.

Our Easter Market will take place on Maundy Thursday, 6th April, which replaces our usual Friday market, when Easter bakes and treats will be available. Orders taken for most items we sell. New producers always welcome – if interested, please visit us one Friday morning and speak with our Market Manager, Alison Broadbridge, or phone her on 01491-681596.

HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Snowdrops have been out, and we are changing the clocks to enjoy more daylight. The Henley Stamp Club is a friendly group and we would be delighted to see new visitors or members. If you are interested in stamps or postal history, why not come along and find out how you can develop your interest.

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Further details can be obtained by phoning Brian on 01491 681739 or on our website: -

www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

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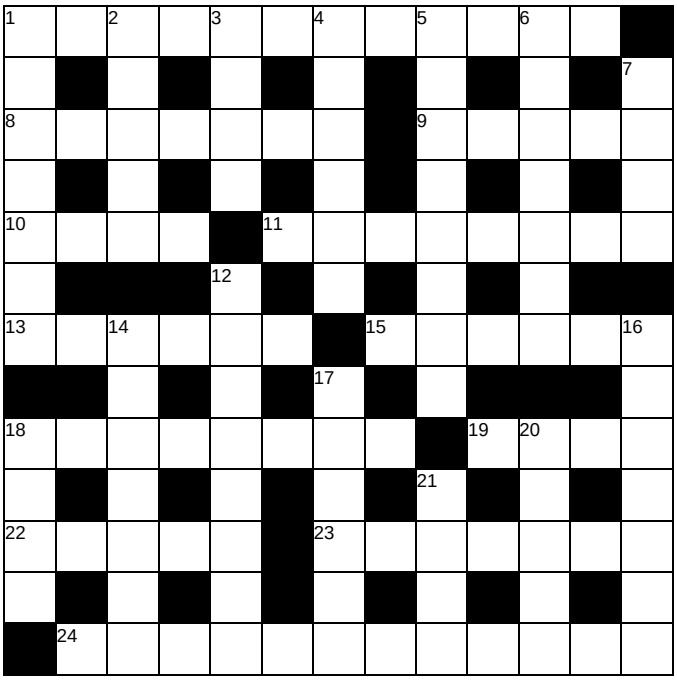


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APRIL CROSSWORD



Across

1 Broken egg destroys a dragon killer's festival (2, 7,3).
8 Pariah rejected actors (8).
9 Remove queen as first empress (5).
10 Choose a syllabus that's a bit simple (4).
11 Stands for presentations (8).
13 Free from vault (6).
15 Weirder glass (6).
18 None sure about 'the little grey cells' (8).
19 Self-satisfied southern twit (4).
22 A politician I excuse (5).
23 Same suit (7).
24 Ban may bury speech (12).

Down

1 Marksmen change two ends back for middle between downpours (8).
2 Bill for windows work (5).
3 Stone used in crop allocations (4).
4 Get article in red top written up (6).
5 Scramble up crest on top of mountain range (8).
6 Cats are cast? (7).
7 Workers exist! Finally getting last couple of places (4).
12 Never immediate (2,2,4).
14 Meeting about marriage (7).
16 Treatment for reduced soldiers (7).
17 Pay back for socialist having a good time (6).
18 Tidy old cow (4).
20 People I roam about (5).
21 Bend fashionable, initially cheap, metal (4).

MARCH CROSSWORD SOLUTION

M	O	P	E	D	■	F	I	E	S	T	A	■
I	■	I	■	O	■	E	■	A	■	R	■	A
N	A	V	I	G	A	T	O	R	■	A	S	S
I	■	O	■	S	■	I	■	■	■	I	■	T
■	S	T	O	L	E	N	■	M	I	N	O	R
T	■	A	■	E	■	G	■	O	■	■	■	I
R	E	L	A	I	D	■	S	N	A	R	E	D
A	■	■	■	G	■	C	■	O	■	E	■	E
C	O	A	C	H	■	H	A	R	A	S	S	■
T	■	P	■	■	■	A	■	A	■	P	■	O
O	A	R	■	C	A	P	R	I	C	O	R	N
R	■	I	■	A	■	E	■	L	■	N	■	U
■	P	L	U	R	A	L	■	S	I	D	E	S

APRIL QUIZ

1. Who, on 3rd April 1721, became the first prime Minister of Britain?
2. What failed Apollo mission launched in 11th April 1970?
3. Who, on 12 April 1961, became the first human in space?
4. Which US President was assassinated on 14th April 1865?
5. What famous ship sank on the 15th April 1912?
6. What notorious housepainter was born in Austria on 20 April 1889?
7. What playwright and poet died on 23 April 1616?
8. Whose feast day is the 23rd April?
9. What countries celebrate ANZAC day on 25th April?
10. Which nuclear plant exploded on 26th April 1986

ANSWERS

1. Robert Walpole
2. Apollo 13
3. Yuri Gargarin
4. Abraham Lincoln
5. The Titanic
6. Adolf Hitler
7. William Shakespeare
8. St George
9. Australia and New Zealand
10. Chernobyl

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Regular Weekly Events

Every Sunday

** Holy Communion 8.00am

** For other church services see page 2

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

Every Thursday

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

** Chance To Chat. Community Centre Lion's Den 2.30pm-4pm

APRIL DATES

Sat 1st	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Pre-School. Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
Tues 4th	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'The War in Ukraine'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 5th	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: '177 Years of Photoshopping'. 8pm
Thur 6th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'A Journey around Namibia'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm
Sat 8th	*	30th Anniversary Coffee Shop. Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
Tues 11th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3pm-4.30pm
Wed 12th	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	BMMHS Talk: 'History of the Glider Pilot Regiment'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society: Digital Competition No 6. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 13th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club annual combined portfolio competition. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm
Sat 15th	*	Pangbourne and District Bowls Club Open Day. Pangbourne Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue. 2pm
Tues 18th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration: 'Seascape in Acrylic'. Centre 70, Wallingford. 7.30pm
Wed 19th	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm

SMALL ADS

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

APRIL DATES *(continued)*

	*	Woodcote Volunteers AGM. Pavillion Room, Woodcote Village Hall. 7pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: 'Bhutan – The Land of the Thunder Dragon'. 8pm
Thur 20th	*	Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society talk: 'The Second Anglo-Afghan War'. Whitchurch Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Wallingford Photographic Club members' evening. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm
Sat 22nd	*	Coffee Shop in aid of FOWPS. Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Goring Chamber Choir presents: 'Christ Is Risen! - Sacred Music for Easter'. St. Thomas' Church, Goring. 3pm
Sun 23rd	*	Indoor Car Boot Sale. Woodcote Village Hall. 9.30am-12.30pm
Wed 26th	*	Henley & District Stamp Club talk: 'The Pigeon Post of New Zealand'. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society studio evening. Whitchurch Village Hall. 8pm
Thur 27th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Journey in Printing'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm
Sat 29th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote WI. Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Saturday Crafts: King Charles III Coronation. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am
Sun 30th	*	Woodcote Spring Fair. Woodcote Village Hall & Green. 11am-3pm

FORTHCOMING DATES IN MAY

Tues 2nd	*	BMMHS Zoom Talk: 'Battle of the Bulge'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
Wed 3rd	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Whitchurch Photographic Society Zoom meeting: 'Judges and Composition'. 8pm
Thur 4th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club end of season competition. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm
Tues 9th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3pm-4.30pm

CLOSING THOUGHT

Slowing down is sometimes the best way to speed up.
(Mike Vance, Author 1929-2013)