




Woodcote CORRESPONDENT

Vol 36 No 10
October 2024

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

A WONDERFUL WOODCOTE FETE

This year's village fete proved to be one of the best yet! So many of you turned out to enjoy the event and the weather couldn't have been more perfect. We had so many amazing entries in our Produce and Craft Show and they all looked great on display in the village hall. The dog show made its triumphant return and was a very popular attraction. Berkshire Reptile Encounters was kept busy by a constant stream of visitors and the tug of war brought out the competitive side of those who entered and put a smile on the faces of those who watched!



Jester Giggles worked his magic with the younger children with his popular show and there were also rides, inflatables, silly races and giant lego which the children enjoyed. DJ Jacko also got everyone on their feet learning some interesting dance routines!

We had not one, but two, live bands performing outside on the green and live music inside the village hall also. There were so many stalls to visit; everyone ate, drank and was merry. There was a high demand for refreshments and also for raffle tickets, which so many of you generously purchased. Congratulations to the lucky winners of the raffle and also to those who won awards for their entries in the Produce and Craft show. Dave Lane deserves a special mention for his abundance of beautiful vegetables. He won the overall best in show award (Church Farm trophy in memory of Yvonne Sopp) for his pumpkin (grown in a mould) in the shape of Frankenstein's monster, which got everyone talking! Rowan and Alex Howell also deserve a mention for their tallest sunflower entry, it was a whopping 3.6 metres tall!

A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the fete. It was a lovely, happy day and it was great to bring our community together for some fun. Woodcote is a wonderful place to live. Funds raised from the fete will be put to good use benefitting our village. Thank you also to our sponsors: The Booker family at Church Farm, The Oratory School and Soha Housing, plus all the local businesses and organisations who donated raffle prizes.

We will put all the photos and videos of the fete on our website www.woodcotefete.com/ in due course. Please also look at our Facebook page @WoodcoteVillageFete for a selection of photos and videos.

If you enjoyed the fete and are able to assist with organising the next one, please do get in touch by emailing woodcotefete@gmail.com or calling 0777 3447504.

Until next year!

The Fete Team

COMMENT FROM ST. LEONARD'S

As we approach October, in the church we are preparing to celebrate the memory of a loved one, in our services of loving memory. This is a wonderful chance to stop, especially as we approach Christmas, and remember our loved ones who have passed away.

The loss of a loved one is a profound experience that can leave a lasting impact on our lives. It is especially as we approach family events like Christmas, that we seek solace, comfort, and a way to honour the memory of those we have lost.

Grief is a natural response to loss, tears are a natural response, missing your loved one is also a natural response, and it is important to allow yourself to mourn in your own way. There is no right or wrong way to grieve, and it is essential to be patient with yourself as you navigate this difficult moment in your life.

One way to honour the memory of a loved one is to create a memorial. This could be a physical memorial, such as a plaque, a garden, or a piece of art. The church yard can be a place where you can honour that loved one. Placing flowers, cards, or just talking to them about the things going on in your life. The garden of remembrance is a great place to sit and remember and share memories.

Sharing and talking, telling the story of your loved one is very important, as it can help keep the memory alive. It can be hard to talk but it is important to seek support during times of grief. Talking to friends, family, or a therapist can provide comfort and guidance. There are also many support groups available for people who have lost loved ones, like our bereavement café that meets once a month. If you would like more information on this, please let me know. There are also charities like Cruse which offer peer support for free online: www.cruse.org.uk .

Honouring the memory of a loved one is a personal journey that can be a challenging one. By creating memorials, sharing memories, and seeking support, we can keep their spirit alive and continue to cherish their love.

Please do come along to our in loving memory service on 3rd Nov at 4pm. This is a wonderful way to cherish and remember your loved one.

Or if you would like a chat with me, I am always here to talk.

God bless,

Reverend David Benskin
Team vicar for the Langtree Team

October services at St. Leonard's

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

Sunday 6th October

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.45 am Harvest Festival Holy Communion

Sunday 13th October

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9:45 am SLOW church in the Village Hall

Sunday 20th October

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9:45 Open doors

Sunday 27th October

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.45 am Parish Communion

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

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

Online Services

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

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

Contact details

Rev'd David Benskin

E: revdbenskin@gmail.com

T: 01491 550367

WOODCOTE WI

We held our garden meeting at the Maker Space, Nuffield where we had a wonderful afternoon tea. The sandwiches, scones and cakes were delicious. A big thanks to everyone at the Maker Space for making it such a successful afternoon.

Celebrating their birthdays were Ann Larden, Jenny Cotter and Judy Williams.

In October we will have our Harvest Bring and Share and quiz which is always enjoyed.

We meet in the village hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for a 2.30pm start, please come and join us, new members always welcome.

Judy Williams

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



The Dr Griffith Higgs Charity gives books to the village's children as they transition to secondary school. They also provide bursaries for those going into tertiary education. They can't find the older students as easily as the primary school leavers, so please read their article in this issue and tell anyone you know who might be eligible to apply.

There has been a lot of interest this month in the changing of the guard at the Red Lion. The recent pub vs village team cricket match was a great summer event. I'm sure many of us join the cricket team in wishing Chris and Jay a happy retirement. We'd also like to welcome Dan and Natalie to Woodcote, who will have become the new landlords just before you receive this issue. You may know them from the Cherry Tree in Stoke Row.

The village fete seemed to kick off a second period of summer weather. It was well attended on a glorious summer's day. I enjoyed seeing all the village's crafts and produce, particularly all the children's hedgehogs.

There was a good attendance at the September Community Speedwatch meeting as it is an important problem the village needs to tackle. Woodcote plans to set up a Speedwatch group in the coming weeks. I'd like to encourage anyone who wants safer roads in the village to attend the next meeting on the 9th of October to find out how you can help the group.

See the graphic below for details.

Nick



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.

PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Editor: Nick Kolpin *[via email]*

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

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

Small Ads and Announcements: £5 for three lines.

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

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

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

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

ARE YOU INTERESTED in helping to provide a valuable and much appreciated resource to the residents of our village?

The Woodcote Correspondent team welcomes applications from anyone, regardless of experience or knowledge of magazine processes.

If you would like to join us, or just like know more, please contact any member of the Woodcote Correspondent committee at one of the above numbers or email wood-co@runbox.com

Fireplace Magic
Fires, Stoves & Fireplaces
- Installation
- HETAS registered
- Woodburner servicing
- Chimney sweeping



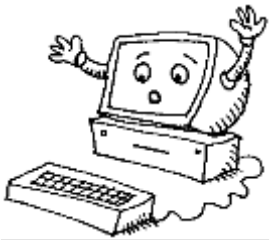
10% DISCOUNT
ON CHIMNEY SWEEPING
IF QUOTE "CORRESPONDENT"
Showroom at: 45 Prospect Street, Caversham RG4 8JB
Telephone: 0118 9463060
www.fireplacemagic.co.uk

The Boathouse
Dental Surgery
Tel: 01491 872394
www.boathousedental.co.uk
Show off your smile with straighter teeth!
Enhance your appearance, ask us about Invisalign® clear braces.
"Amazing service and care from start to finish"
Brenda Butcher
High Street, Goring on Thames, Oxfordshire RG8 9AB
Call 01491 872394 to book a consultation
Email reception@boathousedental.co.uk

Computer Problems?
Free quote – No fix no fee

Michael Harper

Over 500 happy customers in Sonning Common and Woodcote.



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

J Roxborough Services
Tel: 01235 203881 Mob: 07909931601
Providing Commercial & Residential Maintenance Services
All building maintenance & small building works undertaken.

} Full property renovations
} All aspects of plastering & rendering undertaken
} Floor & wall tiling
} Painting & decorating
} Brickwork repointing
} Roof repairs
} Bathroom& kitchen fitment
} Fascia & gutter replacement
} Free quotes, fully insured, recommendations freely available.
johnroxborough@hotmail.co.uk

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

PICTURES FROM THE FETE











WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met for its September meeting on the evening of the 4th, with 9 councillors in attendance. It was a comparatively short agenda compared to the last 6 months, but with some 130 pages of accompanying reports and supporting documentation the Clerk was very grateful the Councillors had dedicated some significant voluntary time over the weekend to come to the meeting well prepared to enable a swift meeting.

After the standard fare of approving the previous minutes and discussing the planning applications, the council approved a new Terms of Reference for the brand-new Public Spaces Working Group. Officially, the remit of the working group is to: "… consider all aspects of the management of the public spaces in the civil parish of Woodcote, South Oxfordshire, as assets of the Parish, to maximise the use and benefit to residents." In real world terms, it is a group of people who care about how the Parish Council managed public spaces are looked after. They will develop projects and ideas on behalf of the community, for the PC to consider implementing, keep an eye on the general condition of the spaces, and propose appropriate new policies on how those spaces are managed.

If you think you could dedicate some time to the Public Spaces Working Group (PSWG), please send an expression of interest to the Parish Council. All members will have to abide by the PC Code of Conduct and the group will have to follow our normal Standing Orders, but as Working Group there is no need for public meetings with formally published agendas. This is a great opportunity if you have considered becoming a Councillor, but are worried about the formalities of local government, to have an informal try and gentle introduction to Parish Councils.

For more information and to read the Terms of Reference of the PSWG:



The Council went on to approve training for the Clerk and Councillors; approve to adopt the new Oxfordshire Councils Charter which outlines how councils at all levels agree to interact with each other; and approve supporting, as a member, Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) increase in membership fees for next year.

The Council then considered how to ensure the Village Fete is appropriately insured for all to enjoy safely. At the advice of our, and other, insurers it was agreed that the Fete is not covered under the Parish Council general parish insurance. The Parish Council subsequently approved to grant the monies to cover the event specific insurance for the Fete, which will be paid directly to the Fete Committee. The Parish Council will still need to support the insurance efforts by completing a risk assessment of our land which the Fete is held on; the Village Green.

Speed surveys on Reading Road, South Stoke Road and Greenmore were then approved, with a maximum budget of £750. This is to give supporting evidence for more Speed Indicator Devices / Vehicle Activated Signs (SID/VAS) in the village and to inform which sort of device would be appropriate to each location.

After approving some new governing documents, the PC then discussed the possibility of adding 3x3 basketball court marking to the existing court at the Folly Field. At a cost of £1000 it isn't a cheap endeavour though. The PC is seeking your views on whether you would like these marking added? Some of you may have seen 3x3 Basketball played at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Both teams have 3 players, and both teams play toward the same hoop. Contact the Clerk directly if you are supportive of adding these markings to the court and would consider £1000 to install them an appropriate use of Parish Council funds. Equally, if you do not support their installation at all, we would also welcome that feedback.

After discussing Parish Insurance in a closed session of the Council, where the PC re-appointed Zurich as our insurers on a 3-year Long Term Agreement (LTA), the final item of business was then Finance, approving payments for September, noting receipts for August and noting the August 31st bank reconciliation. The Chair closed the September meeting having confirmed the next meeting will be held on the 2nd October. As ever, all are welcome to attend to observe all Council meetings.

October and November is Budgeting Season for the Parish Council. We consider all the upcoming projects, reserves we hold, and anticipated granting we will do in the following financial year. For this reason, if your organisation is planning to submit a grant request for our 2025-2026 financial period (from 1st April 2025), please can you give the Clerk an indication of how much your organisation will be asking for, so we can include it in the budget? Please submit an outline, including figure, by the 18th of October 2024 to feed into the budget. The Clerk is very happy to receive full formal grant requests, as per our policy, later in the year.

Finally, please update your address books for our new email address and visit the new website. To contact the Council email Clerk@WoodcoteParish.gov.uk or call 07594 210389. The new website, www.WoodcoteParish.gov.uk, has a mailing list feature, where you can sign up for free to receive Parish Council updates. You can unsubscribe easily anytime if you don't enjoy them.

November Financial Services
INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS
We offer a comprehensive range of financial services
To arrange a **FREE consultation** please call
01491 683777 or email **jp@novfin.co.uk**
November Financial Services Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Investments • Life Assurance • Pensions

Woodcote Village Hall
Private Hire
Flexible spaces & facilities suitable for events, parties, meetings, film, music, education, workshops, sports, exercise, regular classes...
Regular Events
Spring Fair, Food Fair, Music, Film...
Woodcotevillagehall@outlook.com
Woodcotevillagehall.com
Woodcote Village Hall

Licenced Waste Carrier
CB/TM3389SD
Not just a man with a van!
I'm Brian, call for a free quote!
01491 682346
07729 968753
I recycle as much as I can!
also offered!
Local collection/delivery of large items including eBay purchases, fridges, cookers, motorcycles etc
email bft.services@yahoo.com

J & L LANDSCAPING
FENCING, PATIOS and DRIVES, ROOF REPAIRS
GENERAL BUILDING, TURFING. REPLACEMENT
OF FACIA BOARDS, SOFITS and GUTTERING
PHONE: 01491-681367 or 07961-882281
Email: jimmyhearn69@hotmail.com
Free Quotations
FAST and FRIENDLY SERVICE

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Over £600k available to help support communities in South Oxfordshire

A new round of the Revenue grant scheme is now open. The Revenue Grant Scheme, run by South Oxfordshire District Council, aims to help voluntary and community organisations build and support thriving communities and improve the quality of life of people across South Oxfordshire.

The council offers in principle funding for two years and has a provisional budget of £667,992 to allocate. This is subject to annual approval by the council when setting its budget.

As well as covering essential operational costs, this funding can also be used to help voluntary sector organisations become more financially sustainable and have a long-lasting impact in the communities they support. For example, organisations may consider using this funding to support training staff in new skills or to invest in new income streams to help diversify their fundraising.

Previous recipients include Didcot Train and River Thame Conservation Trust who are two of twenty-one organisations who were awarded grant funding last year and have used the funds to make a difference in their community and to the lives of people living in the district.

Ben Drabble from Didcot Train said: "Thanks to the grant, we can continue to meet the needs of young people in our community. This funding allows us to provide a safe, supportive environment where young people can build confidence, foster positive relationships, and make informed choices."

Chelsea Hothem from River Thame Conservation Trust said: "Funding is allowing us to continue to engage a vibrant community of volunteers through activities like water quality monitoring, habitat improvement and invasive species removal. This extra funding allows us to train, encourage and support the fantastic people who generously donate their time to work towards a healthy river catchment with clean water and thriving wildlife, valued and enjoyed by local people."

Cllr Georgina Heritage, Cabinet Member for Communities at South Oxfordshire District Council said: "The revenue grant is a helping hand to local organisations, allowing them to continue their vital work supporting our communities. It's inspiring to see how the grant is impacting the lives of young people and contributing to our drive to help sustain our natural environment. We as a council recognise the invaluable work that community and voluntary organisations do across the district and the importance of being able to support them in providing key services to our residents.

"By helping organisations cover fundamental operational costs, they are able to focus on those that need their support and carry out the important day to day work that makes such a difference in our local community."

Organisations can apply for a minimum grant of £10,000 and a maximum grant of £125,000 per annum over the two-year period. The closing date for applications is midday 1 November 2024.

The services and activities must be able to demonstrate direct benefits to meet a clearly identified need for South Oxfordshire residents. They must contribute towards at least one of the council's externally focussed emerging Corporate Plan priorities:

- Action on climate change and nature recovery
- Inclusion, accessibility and accountability
- Thriving and healthy communities
- Homes and infrastructure that meet local need

More information about the grant scheme can be found on our website southoxon.gov.uk/grants or organisations can contact the council's Community Enablement team on 01235 422405 or grants@southandvale.gov.uk.

Report states continuing air quality improvement in the district

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils recently published their joint Air Quality Annual Status Report, which shows a continuing trend in air quality improvement across both districts.

Nitrogen dioxide levels decreased across most of the 133 monitoring sites. In addition, all six Air Quality Management Areas (Abingdon, Botley, Henley, Marcham, Wallingford and Watlington) reported levels well below the national nitrogen dioxide limits.

The 7th of September was International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, which aims for stronger partnerships to combat air pollution and this year the two councils unified their efforts by adopting a new joint Air Quality Action Plan, which includes proposals for a feasibility study of green infrastructure to enhance air quality, guidance for developers to consider air quality when it comes to planning and continuing the campaign against the practice of vehicle idling.

The councils are also working with other local authorities in Oxfordshire including on the launch of the new oxonair.uk website which provides easily accessible and up-to-date Air Quality information for the public. The website boasts a forecast system as well as monitoring data.

Cllr Mark Coleman, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Waste at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "While our areas have seen a decrease in Nitrogen Oxide levels which is to be welcomed, the councils remain vigilant and the monitoring will continue to ensure the levels stay down.

"Breathing in polluted air affects people's health and is a contributory factor for a number of illnesses including heart disease, cancer and asthma. The majority of the pollution in our areas comes from emissions from traffic so that's where we must focus our efforts.'

Cllr Sam James-Lawrie, Cabinet Member for the Environment at South Oxfordshire District Council, said "There are many ways the public can get involved in helping to improve air quality by thinking about how they use their vehicles whether it's using them less, driving more efficiently or considering a cleaner vehicle when the time comes to replace it.

"Additionally, cleaner air has a direct positive affect on mental and physical health, so it is important that we look at alternative travel options."

The full Air Quality Annual Status Report can be found on our local air quality management page: https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/air-quality-2/air-quality/.

Help us to ensure voting is accessible for everyone

Residents are being asked what they think of proposed changes to polling stations in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

As part of a statutory review, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are looking at changing the locations of a number of the polling stations they use, to ensure they are accessible for everyone in future elections. The councils are particularly interested to hear from anyone who faced challenges in accessing a polling station during the 2024 General Election or Police and Crime Commissioner Election.

To find out more and to have your say, go to southoxon.gov.uk/southpolling. Comments are open until 25 October 2024. You can also send a written response to Electoral Services, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE.

Steven Corrigan, Returning Officer for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils said: "Everyone should be able to go and vote without having to worry about whether they will have problems getting in and out of the building. It's vital that all our polling stations are fully accessible, so please let us know what you think of the proposed changes, or if there's another polling station that you have concerns about."

ST LEONARD'S FAIR

Saturday 9th November

Our annual Fair is on Saturday 9th November in the Village Hall at 2 pm.

We shall be delighted to receive donations including cakes, jams and preserves, jewellery, bric–a-brac, and books, plus items for the bath and beauty and the gift stalls. There will be many attractions and Christmas bargains. Please, put the date in your diary now. If anyone is able to help, please contact Janet Casson (681483), Sue Udell (681618), Peggy Allum, Rosemary Humphris (681511) or Sandy Worsfold (680574)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I write to inform your readers of the disbandment of the Woodcote Village Green Committee.

This entirely voluntary group has, for many years, looked after the Green and the Folly Field, carrying out minor works, such as installing and maintaining seats and litter bins, applying bark chippings at the entrances and exits, mending the car park fence and removing low branches from trees to keep pathways clear. One very important role has been to make regular safety checks of the play equipment and carry out minor maintenance.

The committee has also had a key role in supporting and initiating improvements to the recreational areas, such as the installation of the basketball court and practice wall on Folly Field and has been very successful in accessing grants for improvements from the Woodcote Co-op and the Woodcote Rally.

On behalf of the people of Woodcote, I want to thank the committee members Ken Ison (Secretary), Ron Hows (Treasurer and Play Equipment Inspector), David Booth, Andy Crockett, and Rob McDowell for their many hours of voluntary work, the results of which are very apparent on our glorious Green.

The Parish Council is in the process of deciding how best to manage the recreational areas of the Green within the legal parameters by which they are bound.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Peates
Village Green Committee Chairman

Dear Editor,

I would like to ask the person who keeps leaving their bags of dog poo outside our driveways in Greenmore to please stop doing it. They are also putting the bags into any available bin, including the food waste bin. Please put your dog waste into the bin at the top of the road.

Yours sincerely,

Name and address withheld

WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payment

You may have read in the news that Winter Fuel Payments worth up to £300 will be removed from pensioners unless they are in receipt of Pension Credit.

It is worth anyone who has reached retirement age to make a claim for Pension Credit if your *weekly* income is less than about £218 per week for a single person or £332 per week joint income if a couple. Your weekly income can be more than that if you are disabled, a carer and in some other circumstances, so it is always worth checking. Savings up to £10,000 are disregarded.

Another benefit of getting Pension Credit is that you could get help with your rent and council tax as well.

It is easy to check, you can either phone the Pension Credit claim line directly or call someone like Age UK or Citizens Advice as they can do a full benefit check for you. If you are unable to make the call yourself, a friend or family member can call for you as long as you are with them when they make the call. You will need details of all your income and savings to hand, along with your NI number, Council Tax charge and rent (if applicable).

The phone numbers are:

- Pension Credit Claim line: 0800 99 1234
- Age UK helpline: 03454 501276
- Citizens Advice: 0800 144 8848

Tea Party for our clients

Our next session is on 2nd October, 2.30pm – 4pm. We are putting on a light-hearted bingo game (with small prizes!) and look forward to seeing you there. In November, we hope to have a speaker for our tea party on the 6th November.

Tea Parties are held at the Community Centre in Woodcote. We provide tea and home-made cakes and there is no charge. You can enjoy a new activity each month and will have time for a chat to other clients and volunteers.

Please let us know several days in advance if you need a lift.

Retiring Volunteers

We would like to say a huge thank you to Stella and Philip who are leaving us to have a well-earned rest. Whilst Philip was a relatively new recruit, Stella has been with us for 19 years and will be very much missed. We wish you well.

Committee roles becoming vacant April 2025

It is some way ahead, but not too soon for us to start the process of advertising for a new Chair and Secretary for Woodcote Volunteers as both positions will be vacant as of our AGM in April 2025. If anyone is interested is finding out more, please email the Secretary Jane Forde now, using the address below. She can call you for an informal chat in the first instance. It would be very helpful to start the process of integration and familiarisation before April. A brief description of the roles is available on our website.

Date for your diary

Some advance notice of our fundraising coffee morning being held at Woodcote Community Centre on Saturday, 5th October from 10 am to 12.30 pm. Please come along and support us! We have a number of volunteer drivers who can bring you to the coffee morning if you need a lift. However, we do need at least a week's notice, please.

To Finish...

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

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

To book a driver, call 01491 681171 giving as much notice as possible. To volunteer, email: info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk. Find out more about us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers or at www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk. For general enquiries call 01491 681171.

WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Bouchier Sponsor an Incredible Start

The continued very generous sponsorship provided by well-known local company, Bouchier Fencing, has enabled us to purchase another new kit so that our shirts will be carrying our sponsors name in all matches for both teams, home and away.

After returning to the Thames Valley Premier League, Premier Division, the first team has exceeded all expectation with a terrific start to the season in which we scored twenty goals and conceded none in the first three matches. Naturally, this has put us right at the top of the league. In the first match we took on Reading City under 23s and recorded a 5-0 win; Leon Mannion scored a hat-trick and the other goals came from Joe Webber and Jay Herbert. On the Saturday following the midweek win we travelled to play last season's runners-up and won 10-0; Toby Nowell scored 5 goals, Leon Mannion 2, Locke Harper 2 and Joe Webber. Next up was Henley Town away in an evening match under floodlights and again we recorded a 5-0 win; Joe Webber scored 4 and the other goal came from Toby Nowell. On the following Saturday we travelled to play Slough Laurencians, bottom of the table, and were brought down to earth with a bump as we lost 4-1, our goal coming from a Locke Harper penalty. Nevertheless, the boys have made a great start and have put themselves in the position of favourites to take the title, but it's a long season.

The Development team started their season two weeks later, but they too have made a good start with an opening day 4-2 win at home to Watlington Reserves in the North Berks League Division 2. Their goals came from Sam Primmer 2, Ben Morgan and Zak Fanstone.

SP



Leon Mannion

Team Photo below





J & R Collier

BUILDERS

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

01491 680779 or 0118 9451518





WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

2nd XI Finish Third

The Cricket Club is having a very busy end to the season. The first team in the Berkshire League Premier Division has suffered defeats against Shinfield, Crowthorne & Crown Wood and Goring. The closest match was against Shinfield at home where we lost by six runs in a nail-biting finish. At Crowthorne we had a heavy 82 run defeat and at Goring we lost by 11 runs.

It has been an altogether different story for the 2nd XI who have roared back after their mid-season slump to beat Emmbrook & Bearwood twice, the first time by 5 wickets (that game was played at the Oratory School) and the second time by a very narrow one-wicket. Those two wins have seen the 2s finish in third place in Division 4B, a considerable achievement for the team and for the youngsters, and not so 'young-sters' who play for them.

On 1st September we held our annual end-of-summer event, the Pete Aldridge Memorial match, Woodcote v The Red Lion. The Red Lion won in a close finish, but the winners were the village and the game of cricket.

Another really enjoyable event was the friendly match we played against the Astons CC at Aston Tirrold. We won the match by 4 wickets, and we were treated with great hospitality by the home side. Finally, there was the annual club tour to the Cheltenham area on 6th-8th September. The tour party of 18 players played two matches, recording a win on the Friday evening by 43 runs at Redmarley and a defeat by 28 runs at Apperley on the Saturday. The Apperley match was as usual very high scoring with the home side making 277 and Woodcote replying with 249.

Batting performances:

- 77 – Seamus Lindsay v Emmbrook
- 70 – Matt Webber v Goring
- 67 – Jonny Clark v Apperley
- 61 not out – James Worsfold v Redmarley
- 52 – Matt Webber v Crowthorne
- 50 – Joel Pridmore v Apperley
- 46 – Jonny Clark v Goring
- 46 not out - Archie Clark v Astons
- 45 – Joel Pridmore v Emmbrook
- 41 – Rakesh Patel v Emmbrook
- 38 – Jez Mayo v Shinfield
- 38 – Keegan Sheppard v Astons
- 37 – Ryan Van Heerden v Astons
- 33 – Tommy Brownlow v Apperley.

Bowling performances:

- 5 for 39 – Archie Clark v Shinfield
- 4 for 25 – Rakesh Patel v Emmbrook
- 3 for 17 – Alec Curtis v Redmarley
- 3 for 35 – Alec Curtis v Apperley
- 3 for 49 – Archie Clark c Crowthorne

Red Lion's Perfect Day in Annual Match

The annual Pete Aldridge Memorial Match on Sunday between Woodcote and the Red Lion was played in glorious sunshine throughout. It was probably the best cricket weather of the whole summer. In keeping with tradition, the teams lined up before the match for a minute's applause which was given additional poignancy as it was also dedicated to Vice-President, Terry McDougall who died recently and whose son, Neil, captained the Red Lion team.

As usual, a good-sized crowd gathered to enjoy the match. In a nail-biting finish the Red Lion snatched victory from the jaws of defeat to take revenge for the previous year. There were good performances by a number of individuals, but what was more important was the large number of young players, one of whom was only nine years old, who took part and performed well. One of the young players, Ethan Shuttleworth, gave a great all-round performance with bat and ball and was justifiably named Player-of-the-Match. Jonny Aldridge presented the Pete Aldridge Shield to the winning captain, Neil McDougall.

As ever, it was a great day for the cricket club, which continues to thrive and enjoy so much support in the village. The BBQ, ably presided over by Ryan Van Heerden and Jonny Clark, also went down very well with the supporters. Also, in keeping with tradition the teams adjourned to the Red Lion to discuss the match over several pints. It was the last such occasion for Chris and Jay at the Red Lion who are due to retire at the end of September. Everyone in the Cricket Club wishes them well for their future.



Teams line up before the start to honour Pete Aldridge and Terry McDougall



Members of the Aldridge family enjoying the sun and the cricket



Player of the match, Ethan Shuttleworth with Jonny Aldridge and Neil McDougall



Red Lion and Woodcote players after the match.

Computer Problems?
PC misbehaving?
Fault diagnosis, Maintenance & Upgrades, Networking,
Data Recovery, Virus Cleaning, Broadband,
Telephone Cabling & Extensions, TV, Mobiles,
Website Design, Development & Hosting, and much more.
Home and Business Support.
Windows and Mac.
01491 680036 or 07961 476664
mail@influentialcomputers.com
www.InfluentialComputers.com
Robin, Henry and Angus Piercey
Influential Computers Ltd - A Family Run Business Since 1984

T&S Tomalin & Son Funeral Directors
24 hours service | Private client parking | Private chapel of rest
Free home visits | Pre-paid funeral plans | Full written estimate
Woodland funerals | Religious & non-religious services | Competitive prices
Call Bruce Jones or Claire Jones
01491 573370
www.tomalins.co.uk office@tomalins.co.uk
Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-On-Thames, RG9 1AG
A Family Run Independent Funeral Service

250 varieties and colours of basket & patio plants all grown on the nursery
Busy Baskets Nursery trading as:
Purely Plants
HANGING BASKET SPECIALISTS
BEDDING & CONTAINER PLANTS
VEGETABLES & HERBS
PERENNIALS, CLIMBERS & SHRUBS
Seasonal Opening: April-July & September-November
7 days a week - See website for details
e: andy@purelyplants.co.uk 01491 833 831 w: www.purelyplants.co.uk
Purely Plants Nursery, 142a Wantage Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0LU

Beacon Flooring
A Family Run Business
Carpet Wood
Karndean Vinyl
Free fitting on carpet orders over £150
16 High Street, Goring. 01491 454095
beaconflooring@aol.co.uk
www.beaconflooring.co.uk

WOODCOTE AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY

Pantomime Returns to Woodcote

After an absence of 5 years Panto finally returns to Woodcote… Oh yes it does!

WADS are right now busy rehearsing the Wonderfully colourful and hilarious *Aladdin*!

Cheer on Wishy Washy, Aladdin, Widow Twanky and a host of other characters as they try to out manoeuvre the dastardly Abanazar (Boo!). With lots of audience participation, slapstick and songs galore this is a show for the young and old alike and not to be missed!

- Friday 29th November, 7.30pm
- Saturday 30th November, 2.30pm and 7.30pm
- Sunday 1st December, 2.30pm

Tickets:

- Adults: £12,
- Children: £6,
- Family (2 adults, 2 children): £32,
- Under 4s: free,
- Group discounts available.

With only 4 performances this is guaranteed to sell out! The Box Office opens 1st OCTOBER. Call 07956 136750 or book online woodcotedrama.co.uk.

WOODCOTE CONSERVATION GROUP

Update on the restoration of the Lower Greenmoor Pond

In just six weeks between May and June 2023, the Lower Pond lost all its water. As an invaluable resource for wildlife, particularly amphibians, we are acting on behalf of Woodcote Parish Council, the site guardian, to restore the pond.

Last autumn we sunk a network of boreholes around the pond to monitor the groundwater levels. Results have shown how groundwater moves across the site and have provided assurance that the Lower Pond will refill when restored.

Local company W J Hatt has been appointed to investigate the cause of the major breach in the base of the Lower Pond which caused the water to drain away. At the time of writing, we are expecting them to be on site in mid-September. We all hope the recent rain won't further delay this critical next step which will involve a small digger moving the dead branches and silt which have accumulated in the pond to reveal the pond's natural clay lining and, hopefully, the cause of the breach.

With this knowledge, we will develop a restoration plan and obtain quotes for the work required to restore the Lower Pond. A public meeting will be held to present the proposal to the village. If approved, fund raising will then get underway to raise the money required for the restoration and grants will be applied for from a range of sources. We will keep you informed.

AGM Thursday 7 November at 7.30pm

2024 has been a busy year for Woodcote Conservation Group. In addition to our work on the Lower Pond, the annual toad patrol, our monthly work parties and programme of events about the wildlife around the village, we've been learning more about bats. During the 2024 survey season, one of our members has undertaken nocturnal bat surveys at several locations on Greenmoor Hill and the results were unexpected.

Everyone is welcome to come to our AGM at the Community Centre at 7.30pm on Thursday 7 November to hear Andy present his findings about these fascinating species.

Join our committee

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place which we share with so much wildlife from bats, butterflies and hedgehogs to ancient woods and trees. Our committee meets every two months to plan events which connect people to the wildlife on their doorstep. As well as our events and species surveys, we review planning applications, administer our membership and website, and write articles like this. Some of our long-standing committee members will be stepping down at our AGM so if you would like to help us run the Woodcote Conservation Group, we'd love to hear from you.

The wonder of trees

With nuts maturing, this month we turn the spotlight on horse chestnuts with their mahogany-bright conkers, the very essence of autumn.

Horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) is native to the Balkan Peninsula. It was first introduced to the UK from Turkey in the late 16th century and is widely planted. Though rarely found in woodland, it is a common sight in parks, gardens, streets and on the village greens around Woodcote.

Mature horse chestnut trees grow to a height of around 40 m and can live for up to 300 years. Each spring these magnificent trees are covered with flower spikes, or candles. The abundant white flowers have a large purple-red or yellow blotch at the base, a hybrid horse chestnut produces red flowers. Once pollinated by insects, each flower develops into a glossy red-brown conker inside a spiky green husk.

Did you know that the first recorded game of conkers using horse chestnuts was on the Isle of Wight in 1848? Until then, children had played a similar game using hazelnuts or snail shells. The derivation of the word conker is disputed but some say it is derived from a dialect word for a snail shell. In 1965 the World Conker Championships were set up on the village green at Ashton in Northamptonshire, and still take place on the second Sunday of October each year.

Conkers are a rich source of acetone, an essential ingredient in the manufacture of cordite. During WWI, when the normal supply from the US became erratic, the conker became the principal source. Linked to its cordite manufacture, it is possible that the conker may be harvested commercially to provide the chemical aescin which is widely used in Europe for the alleviation of muscle damage, sprains, bruises etc. Some say putting conkers around your house will deter spiders… but they've never worked for me!

At a time of changing climate, horse chestnuts are a good deciduous shade tree though leaves can be affected by a leaf miner which burrows through the leaf cells turning them brown and making them fall early. There is no evidence to suggest that this harms the tree, as most of the damage occurs late in the season, but it does affect its appearance.

We hope you enjoy our articles in the Correspondent. For more information about our activities and how to become a member, join us at our AGM on 7 November, or see our website https://woodcotecg.org.uk/.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE RED LION

Last year alone over 500 pubs in the UK closed their doors for good. It is a sad fact that, over the last ten years, 7,000 pubs have gone the same way. This trend is unlikely to change with the impact of rising costs for publicans, the cost of living challenge for all of us and the ongoing change in drinking habits, with more people choosing to drink at home than visiting their local. We have also seen more pubs being converted to private houses, two examples of that being less than two miles from the centre of Woodcote. Indeed, a recent survey showed that more than half of all pubs sold out of the trade are turned into housing.

These pubs are far more than places to eat and drink. They are genuine cultural assets that can sit at the heart of community life with their rich history and longstanding role as a meeting place for all. Places to catch up with friends, relax after work, have a well-deserved drink after a long walk, a meal with your family and the list goes on. When we came to Woodcote 30 years ago it was the pub where we made many new friends and where we always took friends who came to visit us and enjoy a classic 'local'. Village pubs feel an integral part of village life. They need to evolve like everything, but there is a certain security that comes with sitting in a pub that offers a warm welcome, a friendly atmosphere, good food and a range of drinks for all.

We are very fortunate to have two pubs in Woodcote, two Lions that we should support. One of them has a really important new chapter just starting. The Red Lion has sat on the edge of Woodcote village green for not far off 200 years, right at the centre of the village. I would guess most of us pass it every day. In the last couple of weeks Dan and Natalie from the highly successful Cherry Tree at Stoke Row have decided to make the move to Woodcote with their family and become the proud new landlords of the Red Lion with a mission to make it a great village local, with the best of food and drink, at the heart of our community. Do please support them, give them ideas as to what you want to see and help them to build a pub back at the heart of village life. There are 1000s of 'publess' villages and I don't think any of us want Woodcote to become another one. Welcome Natalie and Dan…we raise a glass to your success and ours!

Matthew Heath

BONNER LOCKSMITHS

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

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PREMISES
DIGITAL LOCKS GRILLES BARS
ALL AREAS COVERED

CALL OUT SERVICE

01491 680216

FULL MEMBER OF BRITISH LOCKSMITH INSTITUTE

Crestwell House, Beech Lane
WOODCOTE, READING

Carol´s Cleaning Services

Professional Local Cleaner

Now Offering:

End of Tenancy, Builders, One off,
Moving In / Moving Out Cleans

Call Carol: 07782373434

Email: vaiseycarol@gmail.com



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

ADVANCED PEST CONTROL

of Ewelme
Established 1970



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

Lee Carrington
Field View, 97 The Street
Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford

Tel: 01491 835610
Mobile: 07970 010214

mortimer burnett

Chartered Accountants & Business Consultants



New business? We can help you grow!

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

D J SCOTT ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Your Local Electrician

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

Call Daniel on – 07834365331

www.djscottelectrical.com

Email- info@djscottelectrical.com

NICEIC DOMESTIC INSTALLER



WOODCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

AFFORDABLE VENUE HIRE - FROM £7/HOUR
PRIVATE, SECURE GARDEN
COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP
ONLINE BOOKING
KEY-LESS ACCESS
AVAILABLE 7 DAYS

FIND OUT MORE

GREAT FOR PARTIES, MEETINGS, REHEARSALS, CRAFTING ETC...

WOODCOTECC.ORG.UK

bookings@woodcotecc.org.uk

LITHO & DIGITAL PRINTING

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

CZ SERVICES

Call: 07860 630 865

cz.services3@outlook.com

COMING UP AT THE VILLAGE HALL

It's October already and we have plenty happening at the hall this month. We'll be kicking off with our first Film Night of the season.

Our regular Film Nights have become a firm favourite with audiences. Surround sound speakers combined with the big screen, comfortable chairs, a cosy atmosphere, reasonably priced bar and a very reasonable ticket price of £6/per head mean the Village Hall Cinema experience is not to missed. It's a great opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours and all within walking distance!

So come and join us on Saturday 5th October when we will be showing *The Fall Guy* (2024). The doors and bar will be open from 7pm ready for a 7.30pm start. Hot drinks will also be available, please feel free to bring your own snacks/picnic!

Film Night will be closely followed by another night of top-quality Gypsy Jazz with Italian guitarist, composer and bandleader, Filippo Dall'Asta. Filippo will be joined by Ducato Piotrowski (Woodcote's favourite) on rhythm guitar and Nick Lenner-Webster on double bass for his album release tour *The Hot Club of Tenerife*. With its roots in Gypsy Jazz, this album mixes influences from Bebop and classical music. Gypsy Jazz enthusiasts will come from far and wide for this gig so why not come along and enjoy some of the very best Gypsy Jazz right here in the Village Hall! Tickets cost £20 per head. The doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Bar and hot drinks will be available.

We'll be seeing out the month with the return of the annual Woodcote Food Fair on Sunday 27th October, between 10.30am and 2.30pm. Once again, the hall will be packed to the rafters with a huge array of gastronomic delights! Many of Woodcote's favourite producers will be back as well as some new ones. We'll have everything from locally produced meat, mushrooms, vegetables and honey to Indian sauces, baked goods, chilli sauces, pies, tarts, cheeses, liqueurs and spirits. This is the perfect opportunity to try something new, pick up some treats and maybe even start your Christmas shopping! Entry is free.

	Film night Saturday 5th October
	Gypsy Jazz Saturday 19th October

	Woodcote Food Fair Sunday 27th October

THE DR GRIFFITH HIGGS CHARITY

Anyone beginning university, further education or training for a formal qualification this year, after leaving secondary education, may be eligible for a small bursary from the Dr Griffith Higgs Charity

If you live in the parish of Woodcote or South Stoke and are beginning the first year of university, or another programme leading to a recognised qualification, and would like to apply for a bursary then please e-mail secretary@dr-griffith-higgs.org.uk with your name and address and details of your course. These will only be used to contact you and will not be passed to any other organisation or communicated beyond the Trustees.

The Dr Griffith Higgs charity has been supporting the education of children who live in the ancient ecclesiastical parish of South Stoke cum Woodcote since the seventeenth century.

Dr Higgs, who was born in South Stoke, left various sums of money to the ancient parish when he died in 1659. From these bequests the education charity was formed and land purchased in Woodcote, the rent from which with, in recent years, the generous support of the Woodcote Charitable Association has enabled the charity to continue its mission to encourage reading and learning.

WOODCOTE LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

New Time, new timetable

We are going to meet earlier from now on. This is partly because of a change in library opening hours, but also to avoid the challenge of cold and dark evenings. We will meet at 4.15pm (the library closes at 5.30pm) and hope the afternoons aren't also too cold and dark. There could be tea.

Would you like to join us? We have a couple of vacancies, and autumn is a good time to take up new activities. We read all sorts of writing and have discovered authors new to us and read books we would not normally have picked up.

We will now meet on the fourth Monday of the month at the library. We discuss the book, supplied by Oxfordshire library service (so no cost involved), and related issues. It's a friendly group, though we do not always agree!

Ask at the library, or phone 01491 682323 to express your interest.



GARAGE

LONG ESTABLISHED QUALITY

Family Run Garage in Woodcote Since 1979

All Makes of Cars & Small Vans:

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

LOAN CAR AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED

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

THAMES
Building Solutions Limited

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

The complete building service

TEL. 01491 680 389 / 07956 966 089

CABIN PRESCHOOL

We are thrilled to kick off a new chapter at The Cabin Preschool as we welcome back familiar faces and greet our newest members: Toby, Alfonso, Micah, Isaiah, George and Oakley. It's going to be a fantastic term filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit!

This term, we're diving right into preparations for the Woodcote Fete. We're looking forward to seeing everyone there, especially for the children's woodland creature creations will be on display for the tuff tray competition. Come and see if you can spot the squirrels, foxes, hedgehogs, mice and the birds we have made. Don't forget to stop by for a bounce on the bouncy castle as all proceeds from this will be used for our annual family trip, caring for our pet guinea pigs and purchasing resources.

Our learning theme for the term is "Who is Who?" The children will explore their family ties, their sense of belonging, and the important people and pets in their lives. We'll also focus on our local community, Woodcote. If anyone has an aerial photo of the village, we'd love to borrow it! The children will also be exploring their own unique characteristics, such as hair colour, eye colour, and height, as we help them get to know themselves and each other. The children enjoyed being measured and lining up from shortest to tallest and were fascinated to realise that the tallest child is not the oldest.

As the season changes, we'll celebrate Harvest and Autumn with a series of beloved stories like *Marvelous Me*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks*, *The Little Red Hen*, *Oliver's Vegetables*, *Don't Wake the Bear, Hare!*, and *The Gruffalo*. These tales will inspire creative displays, character reenactments, and colourful setups to reinforce shapes and colours. We'll also be introducing the children to the "Monster Phonics" programme, where each monster character teaches a different phonetic sound. It is a fun and engaging way to start learning phonics and this same programme is continued throughout their time at Woodcote Primary.

Join us for our Harvest celebration at St. Leonard's Church on October 2nd. It's a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and share in this special time. We'll also commemorate Armistice Day on November 11th with a walk to the war memorial; a moment to teach the children about remembrance and respect.

We're excited to announce that The Cabin Preschool has applied for the Healthy Smile Accreditation. This is a cause we're deeply passionate about, and we're eager to involve parents in this initiative. Alongside our daily after lunch toothbrushing routine, we'll be creating tooth-brushing charts, practicing with large model teeth, hosting a visit from a dentist, and making a "Smiles" poster.

As part of this initiative, we'll also be promoting healthier snack options like fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, breadsticks, pitta fingers, tortilla wraps, plain rice cakes, crumpets with butter, crackers, cheese strips, soft cheese, and oatcakes. Reducing sugar

consumption is key to maintaining those bright, healthy smiles!

We look forward to a wonderful term filled with learning, growth, and community spirit. Here's to making memories that will last a lifetime.

We are filling up quickly, but we do have limited availability for full-time spaces for all ages and a few morning or afternoon sessions. If you are interested in starting preschool or would like to know more about what we offer at The Cabin, please email info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk or call Jayne on 01491 680654 and we'll happily answer your questions or arrange a visit.













STUARTS HOME DECORATING

PAINTER & DECORATOR

FULLY INSURED & RELIABLE



INTERIOR & EXTERIOR HOME DECORATION

Woodcote

South Oxfordshire

Tel. 07976431697

nozeyparker5@gmail.com



R Hazell Recycling Waste

Licence Waste Carrier – CB/QP3698MJ

Waste Management Licence No. WML86315

4yd skip - £170 + VAT

6yd skip - £240 + VAT

8yd skip - £290 + VAT

12yd skip - £390 + VAT

Roll On/Roll Off Skips Also Available

Ring 01491 699101

Shaun Guard

TV & WIFI SERVICES

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

OXFORD AERIALS

www.oxfordaerials.co.uk

shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk

Call Wallingford 01491 833282

Heating, Plumbing and Bathroom Installations

Neil McDougall

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

Phone 01491 680141

mcdougallneil@yahoo.com

Woodcote Pre-School

01491 682300

woodcotepreschool.co.uk

fb: @woodcotepreschoolcio

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

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

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

Arrange a free trial session for your child now

Registered charity number: 1180657 • Ofsted URN: 2558022

THE GORING GROCER

Open for coffee, cakes, lunches

& meals to take away

Catering menu for parties and business events

Picnic Hampers available to order

Birch Bakery Bread Wednesday to Saturday

Fresh Flowers Thursday to Saturday

Doughnut selection every Saturday

Open Monday to Saturday 9am - 4pm



www.goringgrocer.co.uk t: 01491 875 609

e: hello@goringgrocer.co.uk

Vehicle Air Conditioning

Re-Gas and Repairs



N.J Car Services

Crays Pond Garage

01491 681975

07989 983381

MADE TO MEASURE

Curtains, Blinds, Cushion Covers etc.

at Competitive Prices

Call CAROLINE on 07815 610007

WOODCOTE PRE-SCHOOL



It's so great to be back after the summer holidays and seeing all the children, old and new. We have been hearing about all the fun and exciting things they have been up to over the summer. We would like to say a big welcome to Finn and his family who have joined us this term. It's wonderful to see all the children settle in so quickly and smoothly especially after having 6 weeks off.

It's been a very busy first couple of weeks back. The children have really enjoyed making their crafts ready for Woodcote Fete. We have made some beautiful sparkly pasta necklaces, leaf wreaths, vegetable animals and decorated biscuits. The children designed a face on a plate for the competition which was an amazing opportunity to discuss our feelings and emotions. We have been on a nature walk listening to all the different sounds we can hear outside and collecting various natural items for our 'Woodland' themed tuff tray. We've also been over to visit our allotment to collect our runner beans, sweetcorn and courgettes to enter into the competition.

The children have been practising their singing every day as we learnt all the songs for our Harvest Festival service at St Leonards Church, which we attended with our friends from the Cabin. The children brought lots of tins and packets of food to donate for harvest and they baked their traditional loaf of bread and some small rolls to take home with them.



We have been enjoying the nice weather and making the most of playing in our outdoor area on the bikes and scooters following the road signs and taking turns. The children have begun decorating our big display board which this term is all about autumn. Making their own hedgehogs, decorating leaves, leaf painting and printing and exploring autumn colours.

Our Toddler Group has now resumed and is on Monday mornings (term time only) in the main hall from 9.30-11am. Please come and join us for lots of play, crafts and singing and an opportunity for you to meet other mums, carers and grandparents.

We would love everyone to come and join us for our Pre-School Quiz Night on Friday 18th October, maximum of 6 per team. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets are £6 each, raffle and fully licensed bar. Cash or card. Tickets to be purchased in advance. Please ring or email Preschool for tickets.

We still have spaces available but are filling up really fast so if you would like your children to join us, please contact us and arrange a visit. We take children from 18 months to school age and accept all types of funding including the new funding. For forms or to arrange a visit please contact Wendy Powell on 01491 682300 or email woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk.

CHECKENDON PRE-SCHOOL

We are delighted to be back after the summer holidays and are looking forward to a fun packed term full of enthusiasm, creativity, and learning.

Checkendon Pre-School have had a wonderful start to the new term, settling into our new routines, exploring, learning, having fun; meeting new friends and reuniting with old ones.

We would like to welcome our new children Posie, Primrose, Victoria, and Asa to Checkendon Pre-School.

This term we will be focusing on children's "Interests", which we hope will inspire and engage children's learning through play. This is an excellent way for the children to get to know each other and encourage a variety of different activities and learning.

Checkendon Pre-School will be encouraging the children to be independent, helping and encouraging them to learn skills through their everyday routines such as making decisions and taking on responsibility.

We have been making the most of our wonderful outdoors and surrounding areas exploring the woods, field, and local area, den building and collecting lots of interesting items we have found on our walks, using these materials to make collages. We will also be learning about Harvest, how crops go, machinery used and making bread plaits in Little Chefs. We are also very excited to see that the Pumpkins in our garden are growing really well and the children are excited to harvest these.

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



PENSION CREDIT

The Vital Benefit Millions are Missing Out On.

In the UK, millions of people of State Pension Age are unknowingly missing out on a crucial benefit, Pension Credit, a means-tested benefit for people over State Pension age (currently 66 for men & women) who have a low income. It comes in 2 parts: Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit.

By claiming Pension Credit, you could become eligible for other benefits, such as help with health and housing costs. Pension Credit gives you access to other benefits too: you'll be eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, Cold Weather Payment, free TV licences for those aged 75 and over and you probably won't have to pay Council Tax if you live alone.

Pension credit tops up weekly income to a minimum level of -£218.15 if you are single, or -£332.95 if you are a couple.

Savings Credit is extra money if you've got some savings or if your income is higher than the basic State Pension. It's available to people who reached the State Pension Age before 6th April, 2016. You could get up to -£17.01 extra per week if you're single or -£19.04 extra per week if you're a couple.

The government has emphasised that even if someone only qualifies for a small amount of Pension Credit, it's still crucial to claim.

The reasons for not claiming vary. Some pensioners mistakenly believe their savings or small pensions make them ineligible, while others are simply unaware of Pension Credit's existence. Others feel that the application process is too complicated or intrusive. However, the process has been simplified, and support is available to help people through it.

Around 50% Oxfordshire residents have not claimed what they are entitled to. The Department of Work and Pensions has launched a campaign along with Age UK and Citizens Advice to raise awareness, but local communities and family members can play a crucial role in ensuring eligible pensioners receive this support. Checking eligibility is straightforward and can be done online, over the phone, or through local advisory services.

Checking Pension Credit could make a significant difference, not just in terms of immediate financial support, but by unlocking a range of other benefits that can alleviate the cost-of-living pressures many pensioners face. It's vital that eligible individuals check their entitlement and apply without delay.

You can claim Pension Credit online at www.gov.uk/pension-credit if you already have a State Pension. Or call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 991 234, and they can complete the application for you over the phone (lines open Mon-Fri 8a.m. to 6p.m.).

Citizens Advice can guide you through your Pension Credit application. Visit our website at citizensadviceosav.org.uk, visit our local offices or call our Adviceline on 0808 278 7907 (Mon-Fri 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.).

Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2024

It seems incredible that we are into another autumn, and in turn it means Remembrance Day is nearly upon us.

Remembrance Sunday is the national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms, and protected our way of life. And will be recognised on Sunday 10th November this year.

The RBL, via the Poppy Appeal, which runs for the two weeks up to Remembrance Sunday, continues to raise millions of pounds. Last year donations came to £50m! This helps fund support for the armed forces and their families. We therefore hope you can all continue to support the Poppy Appeal.

Poppy boxes and collecting tins will be displayed around Woodcote, in as many outlets as possible. As well as in Whitchurch Hill. Door to door collecting may still take place in Crays Pond (we are very grateful to Margaret and Doreen for having done this for so many years).

So please take a poppy and make a donation, be it by cash or on your card. There will be a QR code to link into if paying by card. You will be given the option to gift aid as well, so please say yes if you can. Thank you.

Metal dated pins will also be available, along with a special 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Contact me should you want one, but they will be in the poppy appeal boxes as well.

All the schools will be offered the school packs as normal. So we look toward to seeing what the children raise!

With permission, we are hoping to have a stand during the collecting period, so keep an eye out for us. Starting from Saturday 26th October.

Wreaths and the small wooden crosses are also available. Please contact me should you like one or many! The usual recipients have had their wreaths ordered already.

We look forward to your fantastic support again. Please give generously. Thank you

Kind regards

Linda Burton
07956 136750, dla.burton@btinternet.com
and David Jennings

WALLINGFORD CORN EXCHANGE

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. The bar and auditorium will open from 7pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand. Films with subtitles will be shown on Wednesday and Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm.

Please look at the website (www.cornexchange.org.uk) for updates. Tickets £10 for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

Cinema

The Goldman Case (12A)

- Tuesday, 1 Oct, 7:30pm
- Thursday, 3 Oct, 7:30pm

The Critic (15)

- Friday, 4 Oct, 7:30pm
- Saturday, 5 Oct, 7:30pm

Lee (15)

- Sunday, 20 Oct, 7:30pm
- Monday, 21 Oct, 7:30pm

The Count of Monte Christo (12A)

- Tuesday, 22 Oct, 7:30pm

Lee (15)

- Wednesday, 23 Oct, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, 23 Oct, 7:30pm

Megalopolis (15)

Friday, 25 Oct, 7:30pm

Sunday, 27 Oct, 7:30pm

Monday, 28 Oct, 7:30pm

The Outrun (15)

- Tuesday, 29 Oct, 7:30pm
- Wednesday, 30 Oct, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, 30 Oct, 7:30pm
- Thursday, 31 Oct, 7:30pm

Live on Stage

Breath of Spring

- Tuesday 15 to Saturday 19 Oct, 7:30pm
- Written by Peter Coke
- Directed by Dorothy Hirsch
- presented by the Sinodun Players
- Tickets £15 (£12 on Tuesday 15th)

It is the late 1950's London and times are hard! The Sinodun Players present a new production of this witty action-packed comedy, which invites you into a world where you can leave your troubles behind for a few hours and just spend some quality time laughing. How can such a sweet hopeful title lead to such carnage? Dame Beatrice has taken in a disparate group of lodgers; Hattie who has trouble sharing space, Nan a force to be reckoned with and the Brigadier who sets the schedule for the house endlessly ruffling feathers. Imagine the dismay of her ex-con maid Lily? Then add in frequent visitor Lady Alice who loves to gamble…

Dyad Productions present *Lady Susan* with Rebecca Vaughan

- Saturday 26 Oct, 7:30pm
- Tickets £18

The award-winning creators of *Austen's Women*, *A Christmas Carol*, *I, Elizabeth*, *Female Gothic*, *Christmas Gothic*, and *A Room of One's Own* are back with a brand-new solo comedy show: Jane Austen's magnificently crafted tale of manipulation and manners. Meet devil-may-care black widow, Lady Susan ("the most accomplished coquette in England"), hunting down not one, but two, fortunes;

oppressed, rebellious daughter Frederica; long-suffering sister-in-law Catherine; family matriarch Mrs De Courcy; and insouciant best friend, Alicia. Return to the Regency (or rather, Georgian) in this wickedly funny tale of society and the women trapped within it; their struggles, their desires, their temptations and manipulations – and at the vanguard, Lady Susan: charming, scheming, witty, and powerful; taking on society and making it her own. But has she met her match? Based on Jane Austen's first full-length work from 1794, the piece is performed by Rebecca Vaughan and directed by Andrew Margerison. This is Austen as you've never seen her before!

Live Screening

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (12A)

- Thursday, 24 Oct, 7:15pm
- The Royal Ballet,
- Tickets £18 adults, £15 seniors, £10 under 18s

Tumble down the rabbit hole in this ballet adaptation of Lewis Carroll's famous family story. Journey through Wonderland with Alice and encounter a host of curious characters in Christopher Wheeldon's unique theatrical interpretation. At a garden party on a sunny afternoon, Alice is surprised to see her parents' friend Lewis Carroll transform into a white rabbit. When she follows him down a rabbit hole, events become curiouser and curiouser… As Alice journeys through Wonderland, she encounters countless strange creatures. She's swept off her feet by the charming Knave of Hearts, who's on the run for stealing the tarts. Confusion piles upon confusion. Then Alice wakes with a start. Was it all a daydream?

WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB

Join our friendly Wallingford and District Art club for a live demonstration as professional artist, Steven Hall, paints an industrial scene in watercolours. Steven originally taught architecture and construction. He has been painting full-time since 1994 and is influenced by famous watercolourists including Edward Wesson and Edward Seago. The demo will be held at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) from 7.30pm-9.30pm on Tuesday 22nd October and is free for club members or £5 for visitors. If you would like further information about this event or other club activities, please visit the club website at www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk or email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk.

HENLEY AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Like many clubs and societies, we are looking for new members. You would be surprised how wide the range of interest there is in stamp collecting. It is not just collecting little pieces of paper but looking at how they are designed, manufactured or used. There is a wide range of subjects that come under the umbrella of philately.

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

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Our next meetings are 9th. October and 23rd. October. On the 9th we have exciting visiting speakers Janet and Nick Nelson presenting *An evening in Brazil: the history and culture of Brazil*, with a power point display, illustrated using stamps of the country from the first issue to the present day. There will be plenty to interest both philatelists and non-collectors alike all are welcome. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

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

WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

After a summer of history outings, we return to indoor meetings. On Thursday October 17th we welcome back Marie-Louise Kerr (curator without museum) to tell us of *The Woman Who would be Queen: Empress Matilda*. Her escape from Oxford in the snow, her defence of Wallingford castle and her negotiations to end the anarchy make a fine story.

The meeting will be at Goring Heath Parish Hall at 7.30pm, with coffee served from 7pm, and will be the last evening meeting for a while, as it will be more comfortable to meet earlier during the winter months.

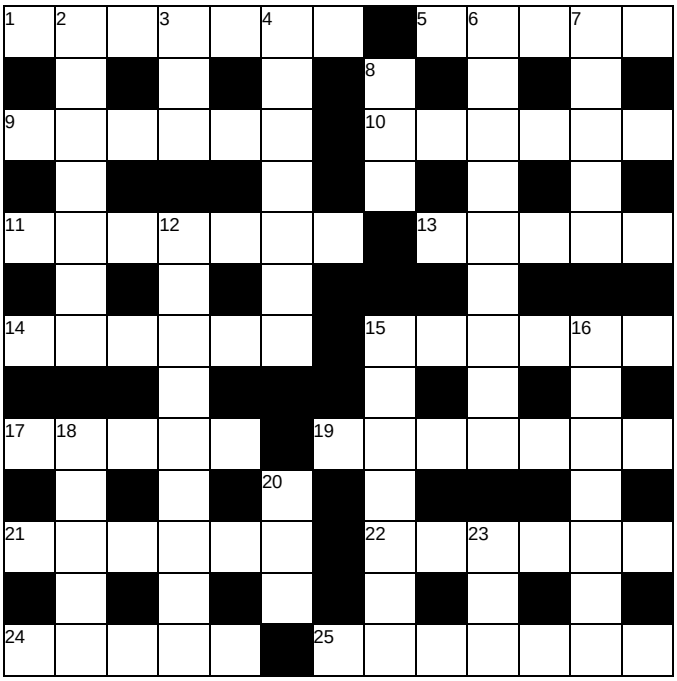
On Thursday November 21st we will be welcoming Jim Donahue to talk to us about his newly published book *The Thames Valley: Past, Present, and Future*: *A Snapshot of British Life*. The title covers a wide range of information in a long timeframe, and I'm sure we'll have lots of questions for him. Note, the meeting will be at 2.30pm in Goring Heath Parish Hall, followed by tea.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, with non-members paying £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

October brings our first practical evening- on 3rd- when we will be having a walkabout in Wallingford, plus practical sessions including a camera settings surgery. The following Thursday our own resident retired photography judge will give pointers and helpful critique on your photos in time for the first competition of the year. On 17th Darrell Godliman joins us to present his take on Architecture, including much local work but also further afield. The first competition of the season takes place on 24th (with 'No Set Subject'), then October closes with a practical evening on 31st (topic/plan to be confirmed). See https:// wallingfordphoto.club for details.

OCTOBER CROSSWORD



Across

1 May be a term wrongly applied to coaster (7)
5 Ring route reconstructed (5)
9 Cockney saw female web user (6)
10 Smart uncle very secretive (6)
11 Kolkata resident changes to European (7)
13 Time to pity the facts (5)
14 Key to take-off (6)
15 Programme plot 6)
17 Second squad's fastening (5)
19 Parched Dartmoor has a gorge (7)
21 To gratify Phil drop greeting to rest (6)
22 Yob has turn to sign off (6)
24 Wine initially tastes satisfactory (5)
25 Squealed when asphyxiated around mid-March (7)

Down

2 Paper train (7)
3 Chap stick (3)
4 Cost of highflyer's menu (7)
6 Dug up dangerous circuit (9)
7 Strive to have ace lose pressure (5)
8 Perform deed (3)
12 University team upset in carnival in Central America (9)
15 Academic when Mark takes a short break (7)
16 Weigh test (7)
18 The parcel lost in transit contains instrument (5)
20 Solidify group (3)
23 Chatter oddly in Gdansk (3)

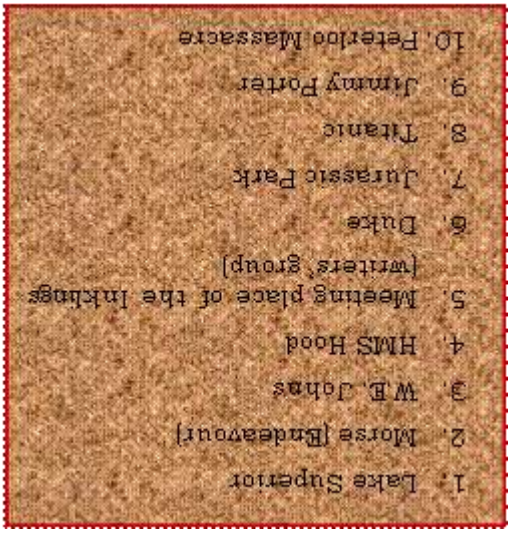
SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

OCTOBER QUIZ

1. What is the largest lake in North America?
2. Which TV character shares his name with an Antarctic exploration vessel?
3. Who was the creator of Biggles?
4. Which major British warship was sunk by the Bismarck?
5. What is the Eagle and Child Pub in Oxford most famous for?
6. What rank in the British peerage is above a Marquess
7. Which fictional amusement park is situated on the Isla Nublar off the coast of Costa Rica?
8. Which ship was the first to send an SOS signal?
9. Who is the main protagonist in John Osborne's play "Look Back in Anger"?
10. What infamous event occurred in Manchester on Aug 16, 1819?

QUIZ ANSWERS



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Regular Weekly Events

Every Thursday

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

**** Coffee and Browse**
Woodcote Library 9.30am-12.30pm

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

OCTOBER DATES

Tues 1st	*	BMMHS Zoom talk: 'The March East 1945'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm
	*	WADS Box Office opens. Phone: 07956 136750
Wed 2nd	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Woodcote Volunteers Client Tea Party. Woodcote Community Centre. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Woodcote Parish Council meeting. Function Room, Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Goring Green Fingers Gardening Club. Storton Lodge, Icknield Rd, Goring. 7.30pm-9.30pm
Thur 3rd	*	Wallingford Photographic Club - Practical Evening. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm
Sat 5th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Volunteers. Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Goring Repair Café. Goring Village Hall. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Film Night: The Fall Guy. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
Tues 8th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3.30pm-4.45pm
	*	Seniors Youth Club (years 8, 9 & 10). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
Wed 9th	*	BMMHS Talk: 'To War with the Walkers'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Community SpeedWatch meeting; Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
Thur 10th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club - Critique Evening. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm
Sat 12th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Pre-School. Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Pangbourne Art Group annual exhibition. Pangbourne Village Hall. 10am-5pm
Sun 13th	*	Pangbourne Art Group annual exhibition. Pangbourne Village Hall. 10am-5pm

SMALL ADS

CARPENTRY and JOINERY :: Bespoke Windows — Doors – Architrave – Skirting – Picture Rails — Matching Mouldings. Call Mark: 07815963750

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

AVON CALLING :: I'm your local AVON representative, would you like a brochure?
Kerry 01491 682437/07966 509908

OCTOBER DATES *Continued*

Mon 14th	*	Juniors Youth Club (year 7). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
Wed 16th	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm
Thur 17th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Architecture'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm
	*	Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society meeting. Goring Heath Parish Hall. 7.30pm
Sat 19th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of WADS. Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Gypsy Jazz - Filippo Dall'Asta. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
Tues 22nd	*	Chatterbox. Woodcote Community Centre. 2pm-3.30pm
	*	Seniors Youth Club (years 8, 9 & 10). Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
	*	Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration: 'Trains/industrial scenes in acrylics/watercolour'. Centre 70, The Kinecroft, Wallingford. 7.30pm
Wed 23rd	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
Thur 24th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club Competition - No Set Subject 1. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm
Sat 26th	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote WI (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
Sun 27th	*	Woodcote Food Fair. Woodcote Village Hall. 10.30am-2.30pm
Mon 28th	*	Woodcote Library Book Club. Woodcote Library. 4.15pm-5.30pm
Thur 31st	*	Wallingford Photographic Club - Practical Evening. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm

FORTHCOMING DATES IN NOVEMBER

Wed 6th	*	Woodcote Volunteers Client Tea Party. Woodcote Community Centre. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Woodcote Parish Council meeting. Function Room, Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm