





# Woodcote CORRESPONDENT

Vol 36 No 11
November 2024

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


# RALLY RAISES £18K FOR LOCAL CAUSES

The Woodcote Charitable Association is pleased to announce that, following a successful 2024 Woodcote Rally, that it can give away £18,000 to local charities and worthy good causes. This brings the total amount of money given away to £550,000 since the first Rally in 1964.

This year's Rally was held on the 13th and 14th July in its new location in Ipsden, and, with good weather, a large crowd turned out to enjoy this annual festival of veteran transport.

The Trustees of the Woodcote Charitable Association have said that this £18,000 is to be donated to local charities, clubs, societies, and other worthy good causes for the benefit of local villagers and their surrounds. Many groups have applied for a donation and the successful organisations will have been notified by the end of October and invited to a presentation evening on the 22nd of November in the Woodcote Village Hall to receive their donations. (Please note we would like to send the donations by BACS transfer so if you are a lucky recipient, please let us have your bank details).

The Rally is a hugely popular event, and we are determined to ensure that it continues to support clubs and societies around Woodcote.

We are always looking for new volunteers to take on the various roles needed to make the Rally happen, so please get in touch if you would be willing to help. This can be as a Committee Member or simply a willing volunteer.

Next year's Rally will be on 12th and 13th July 2025. So make a note of it now!

Andy Crockett
Publicity Officer, Woodcote Rally







## COMMENT FROM ST. LEONARD'S

The long evening nights are drawing in, and it is getting so dark in the evenings, but also in the morning as well, the light and warmth, that we have enjoyed in the summer, has now gone and winter is here.

And in the distance of this winter, we have the hope and light of the birth of Christ that is coming fast. The shops are full of Christmas, but before we get to Christmas, we have the enjoyment of 4 weeks of Advent.

Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ, a season marked by hope, joy, and reflection. As we journey through the darkness of winter, we look forward to the light that will dispel the shadows and bring new life.

Advent is a season of anticipation of the coming of Christ, and the new life that he will bring. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and is a time of reflection, preparation, and hope.

Advent is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas. We do this through prayer, meditation, Scripture, and acts of service.

As I have said, Advent is a season of hope, a time to look forward to the fulfilment of God's promises. We anticipate the coming of Christ, the Savior who will bring peace, justice, and reconciliation to the world.

As we approach Christmas, we are called to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. This involves examining our lives, seeking forgiveness, and turning towards to God with renewed commitment.

Despite the challenges and uncertainties of life, Advent is a season of joy. We rejoice in the anticipation of Christ's birth and the hope that it brings.

As we approach Christmas in the church you will find an Advent wreath. The Advent wreath, with its five candles representing the patriarchs, prophets, John the Baptist, Mary the mother of Jesus and the love of Jesus, is a tangible symbol of the season. Each week, a candle is lit, leading us closer to Christmas.

The readings appointed for Advent focus on themes of hope, prophecy, and the coming of the Messiah. These readings can help us deepen our understanding of the season and its significance. In the church throughout Advent on the font you will find reflections on the art of Advent. Please do come in and pick one up to help you in this time of reflection and prayer.

Advent is a time for reflection and prayer. Spending time in quiet contemplation can help us connect with God and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

As we prepare for the birth of Christ, we are also called to serve others. Acts of kindness and compassion can help us to live more fully into the spirit of Advent.

As we journey through Advent, let us embrace the hope, joy, and preparation that this season offers. May we be filled with the anticipation of Christ's coming and be inspired to live more fully into the love of God.

God bless,

Reverend David Benskin
Team vicar for the Langtree Team

### Services at St. Leonard's

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

November Services:

Sunday 3rd November

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.45 am Holy Communion
- 4:00 pm in Loving Memory

Sunday 10th November

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 10:55 am Remembrance service

Sunday 17th November

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9:45 Open doors

Sunday 24th November

- 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.

Rev'd David Benskin
E: revdbenskin@gmail.com
T: 01491 550367

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



A rather wet autumn has arrived. It has brought with it an abundance of fungi, as I found out when I recently joined the Conservation Group and the Fugus Survey of Oxfordshire for a fantastic walk through College Wood recording the different species we found. Despite regularly walking there, I hadn't previously taken the time to slowly hunt for some of the amazing mushrooms there. My favourite find of the day was probably the Saffrondrop Bonnets, with a bright skinny stem and a cap with orange splotches.

If you'd like to help make the village a safer place, please see the Community Speedwatch article and consider volunteering to help.

It sounds like WADS are going to put on a great panto for us at the end of the month. See their article for ticket information, and book some while you still can.

Nick

## CORRESPONDENT AGM

We'll be holding our annual general meeting at the Woodcote Community Centre on Wednesday the 20th of November, from 1900. All readers are welcome to attend and provide feedback and suggestions for topics they'd like to see covered in The Correspondent.

Woodcote
PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF ANNUAL AUDIT

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

1 The audit of accounts for Woodcote Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2024 has been completed and the accounts have been published.

2 The Annual Return is available for inspection by any local government elector in the area of Woodcote, South Oxfordshire on application to:

Clerk to the Council, L White

Parish Office, Village Hall
Reading Road, Woodcote
RG8 0QY

Clerk@WoodcoteParish.gov.uk, 07594210389

Appointments during Sept, Oct & Nov 2024, by arrangement.

3 Copies will be provided to any person on payment of £1 for each copy of the Annual Return

Announcement made by Mrs L White

Clerk to the Council
L White

Date of Announcement

16th September 2024

## 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

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|---|---|---|
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| 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 bit.ly/WoodcoteCorrespondent

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








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## WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Six members of the Parish Council were present on a surprisingly dry Wednesday evening on the 2nd of October for the regular monthly meeting of the Council. As ever we received apologies, considered if there needed to be an declarations of interest, approved the minutes of the last meeting and approved responses to any planning applications. Then launched in the more varied items on the agenda.

In recognition of the repeated requests for action regarding speeding in the village, and after a very well attended Community Speed Watch information evening on the 18th of September, the Council approved that there be a Woodcote Community Speed Watch group, and this be a Parish Council led activity, with dedicated funding for the various miscellaneous items required. Steve Necchi has kindly agreed to be the first member of the group and do the administration to at least get the group up and running. What we do need is at least 8 more volunteers to receive the training and go out to do the speed watch surveys. By the time to read this, the inaugural meeting shall have already been held. But if you want to know more, or join the group, please get in contact with the Clerk, or Steve on CSW@WoodcoteParish.gov.uk, the more volunteers we have the better, to give us greater capacity to run sessions.

The Council also received the External Audit Report for 2023-2024. Other than a small rounding error, as our accounting software works to the penny but the audit requires all figures to be rounded to a pound, our external auditor, Moore, had no other comments to make. In the meeting, the Council thanked the Clerk for their efforts in preparing the accounts, noting it was difficult to pick up a whole year of other people's work so close the end of a financial year. The Clerk would like to pass on their thanks to you, the readers and parishioners of Woodcote, for your patience. When the Clerk joined the Council the end of year accounts took a lot of preparation, those efforts have paid off with essentially a clean sweep on the Audit, but we acknowledge this had a knock-on effect on some other areas of the administration, so thank you for your understanding.

On the matter of the Audit, as electors of the parish you have the right to come to inspect the accounts

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which have been audited. You can do this by making an appointment with the Clerk.

The Public Spaces working group is still looking for members. If you have a passion for how our spaces managed and want to be involved in our future plans for them. Please do get in contact with the Clerk. The Council decided not to progress a resident's request for outdoor gym equipment on the Folly Field at this time, having reviewed the consultation responses. The Council did however agree that this would be reconsulted on in the future, when more research into this project, including feasibility; success stories from other parishes; long term maintenance cost etc, has been completed to support the proposal.

The eagle-eyed amongst you, will have noted that agenda had an item titled "To note further legal advice on the Village Hall management and update on actions from the 1st Nov 2023 meeting regarding the Village Hall." As you read this article, it marks 1 year since Cllrs Urbick and Booker presented legal advice on the "Village Hall Ownership" and responsibility for the building to the Parish Council for consideration. This raised further questions regarding who should insure the hall: the Village Hall Management Trustees; or the Parish Council – the Custodian Trustees. Very simply, many believe the question which should be answered to identify insuring responsibility is "who owns the hall?" Dear Readers, after receiving advice from both a solicitor specialising in this area of law and advice from Community First Oxfordshire we are very pleased to confirm it is you, the community, who own the hall.

The Parish Council is the Custodian Trustee for the hall. Our name is on the title deeds for the building, but we don't own it. We are holding it in trust for the community. The Village Hall Management Trustees deal with all the day-to-day running of the hall, looking after the building, keeping the lights on, insuring it and all aspects of managing a building for use by the community. Again, they don't own it, but they have physical responsibility of the Village Hall.

Whilst the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Trustees are completely separate entities, what we both agree on is that the Village Hall is a valuable community asset. This value to the community is why to date this financial year, the Parish Council as allocated £32,000 to the management of Village Hall. £6,000 of this is renting the Parish Office from them; £5,000 in a direct grant; £15,000 to cover general maintenance throughout the year; £6,000 to fund a maintenance person to help monitor the condition of the building and arrange repairs, etc.

The £32,000 is approximately 25% of the total money the Parish Council receives from the residents through your Council Tax bill. This is not new though, and over the last few years, the Parish Council has given, granted or spent the following on the Village Hall. It should be noted though, for a number of years, until last year, the Parish Council had been paying the Clerk to also manage the building maintenance and bookings alongside being the Clerk to the Council. The roles have once again been split with the maintenance and bookings being managed by the Management Trustees as it should be, as per the legal advice received.

**PC funding of the Village Hall** *(for a more detailed breakdown see the Parish Council website)***.**

| Year | Funding (£) | % of precept |
|---|---|---|
| 2023/24 | 27,551 | 22 |
| 2022/23 | 23,791 | 21 |
| 2021/22 | 31,095 | 29 |
| 2020/21 | 17,781 | 20 |

We would like to hear from you, the villagers about this, should the Parish Council be giving more to the Village Hall? Less? Contributing only to Capital Projects? As ever, we welcome your thoughts on all aspects of how the Parish Council is run. Please drop in to see the Clerk on a Wednesday morning, make an appointment for another time, or e-mail the Clerk directly on Clerk@WoodcoteParish.gov.uk.

## WOODCOTE COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

A second meeting about speeding in the village was held at the village hall on the 9th of October. Several villagers volunteered to start a Community Speedwatch group for the village. They are in the process of getting trained and hope to start a speed measurement campaign soon. Initially this will focus on the Goring and Reading roads.

Community Speedwatch campaigns aim to improve safety by reducing vehicle speeds. They have an impact by educating drivers and by collecting data that can be used by the police and the local highway agency to speed enforcement efforts and improve road designs.

The volunteers can choose when to run data collection sessions, during which they record data about vehicles travelling over the speed threshold which is the speed limit, plus 10%, plus 2 mph. In the 20 mph limit covering most of the village, the threshold is therefore 24 mph.

Drivers recorded travelling at speeds above the threshold do not receive any fine but are contacted by the police about their speeding. Those that are going at dangerous speeds or are persistently speeding can expect to be targeted by the police and to be visited by the police for in-person education about their driving.

Many of the volunteers hope to see improvements to the village's road design to reduce vehicle speeds. Oxfordshire County Council's Highways Team is responsible for changing or installing any road infrastructure. The data collected by the Community Speedwatch team will be used to demonstrate the need for road improvements to the Highways Team.

Since at least three volunteers must be present for each data collection session, it would help to get as many volunteers trained as possible. If you would like to see vehicle speeds in the village reduced to a safe level, please get involved by contacting CSW@WoodcoteParish.gov.uk.

## SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### "Innovative" and "ground-breaking" plan published

Later this year, two district councils will be submitting a plan to the government that aims to help meet their local communities' need for housing, jobs and infrastructure – and they have now made it publicly available for a six-week period.

In September, Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils unanimously gave the go ahead for their draft Joint Local Plan to be published for comment for six weeks.

If successfully adopted, the plan would replace the existing Local Plans for both councils.

In the new draft joint plan, the councils have shown that there are enough new homes in the pipeline already. This means that there is no need to build on any extra new greenfield sites over the next 15 years, beyond what has already been allocated. Only one area of expansion has been earmarked, which is on the brownfield land owned by the Ministry of Defence at Dalton Barracks near Abingdon.

Crucially, the plan also sets out new firmer environment policies so that development is net zero carbon and delivers twice the national level of biodiversity net gain to help with the recovery of nature.

People can read through the plan and say whether they believe it meets all the relevant requirements to ensure it is sound and legally compliant.

Councillor David Rouane, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We're one step closer to adopting this ground-breaking plan. I'd again like to thank all our hard-working staff for getting us to this stage and the public for their comments so far that have helped shape the plan into one that reflects the needs of our communities."

Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson, South Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet Member for Planning, said: "This is an ambitious and innovative plan with policies such as increasing the proportion of affordable housing on large sites from 40% to 50% across South Oxfordshire, without increasing the total number of homes being built."

Councillor Andy Foulsham, Vale of White Horse District Council Cabinet Member for Policy and Programmes, added: "I'm proud of this plan and how it looks to tackle the climate emergency and protect what's important to our residents such as identifying parts of the districts which are valued landscapes or have dark skies or are especially prized for their tranquillity."

After the six-week publication period has come to an end, the plan and the comments received will be submitted to the government to be examined by a planning inspector.

The Joint Local Plan is available for review and comment on its soundness and legal compliance and whether it meets the duty to cooperate until 12th of November at www.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp.

### Councils prevent rise in local homelessness despite an increase in demand on services

As global attention turned to World Homeless Day, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils have managed to keep local homeless levels low despite an increase in demand on services.

Whilst national homeless figures rose by 8 per cent in 2023/24, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse experienced an increased demand on their homeless services this year. There was a 34 per cent rise in homeless assessments carried out in the Vale and a 12 per cent rise in South Oxfordshire.

Despite this, the councils' continued focus on early homelessness prevention, working closely with every individual at risk of homelessness to help them find sustainable accommodation has yielded high prevention rates.

The number of households in emergency hotel accommodation in South Oxfordshire fell by 18 per







cent from last year and in the Vale of White Horse there was no increase from last year:

- South Oxfordshire: 17 (reduced to 14) households needing emergency hotel accommodation in 2023/24, an overall reduction of 18 per cent since 2022/23
- Vale of White Horse: 15 households needing emergency hotel accommodation in 2023/24, no increase from 2022/23

Looking at the complex reasons for homelessness, which helps the councils' housing team plan where to target their work, stats show the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the districts. Eviction by family and friends no longer willing or able to accommodate someone is again the main reason for homelessness this year. Landlords ending a private rented tenancy is the second reason for homelessness in both, and escaping the threat of domestic abuse is the third highest cause.

Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Cabinet Member for Housing, South Oxfordshire District Council said: "Whilst the causes of someone becoming homeless are consistently the same over the last year, aligned with what's happening nationally, we've experienced an increased demand on our homeless services. It's an ongoing challenge and we continue to do all we can to help people have somewhere they feel safe and secure that they can call home.

"Our housing needs team identifies individuals who are at risk of homelessness and then works closely with them to ensure they can either stay safely in their current home or find appropriate alternative accommodation. As well as continuing our proactive homelessness prevention work, our recent purchase and renovation of properties and close partnership working with registered housing providers all contribute to our plan to meet the current and future housing needs of local people."

Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless in 2023/24:

- South Oxfordshire: 357 households including 291 children
- Vale of White Horse: 343 households including 253 children

To help support residents at risk of homelessness, the councils recently purchased 45 homes for those in the highest level of housing need in South and Vale. This will help tackle the immediate and urgent need to find homes for people fleeing conflict, and the long-term need to provide members of our local communities with a supply of good quality, genuinely affordable homes.

See our housing delivery strategy and action plan on our website for details on how we are bringing more genuinely affordable, energy efficient homes to the districts.

Anyone in need of help with housing, who is homeless or is at risk of being homeless can call our housing team on 01235 422452.

Our Community Hub can also provide wider support or advice for people, call 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk.

**Local young actors to join professional cast of *Cinderella*!**

Sixteen local budding young actors have been selected to be part of the cast of *Cinderella* coming to Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot this Christmas.

The auditions for the young ensemble took place on Saturday 14 September, with the directors of KD Theatre Productions who are producing the professional pantomime.

Fifty young people from across Oxfordshire signed up for the auditions, with two categories: juniors ages 9 to 11 and seniors 12- to 16-year-olds, who will create two groups called Team Cinders and Team Buttons.

Daniel Bell, Producer at KD Theatre Productions, said: "We were blown away by the talent that attended our open audition day. A huge thankyou and well done to everyone who came!

"Being a part of the pantomime is a fantastic opportunity for young people to appear in a professional production, where they will gain experience and make memories for life!"

The sixteen successful young cast members all live in Oxfordshire and will meet with the professional cast for the first time in December when they start the dress rehearsals.

Cllr Georgina Heritage, Cabinet Member for Communities at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "I was so pleased that we had such a great response to our auditions in September.

"It's wonderful that so many local young people can have this experience alongside a professional cast on the Cornerstone stage this Christmas. I'll be coming along on the Preview Night and can't wait to see the show."

The most magical pantomime of them all, Cinderella, will be on stage delighting people of all ages from Wednesday 18 to Tuesday 31 December.

If families want to be first to see this fabulous production, the preview evening is at 7pm on Wednesday 18 December where there is also a special discount on tickets.

On Sunday 21 December at 1pm there is a signed and relaxed performance for families and there will be a free Touch Tour available on Saturday 28 December at 1pm, prior to the matinee performance at 2.30pm.

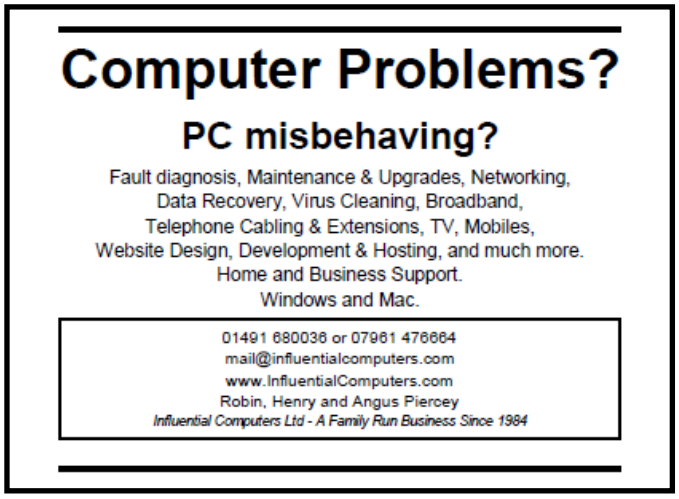
This is to enable those with visual impairments the opportunity to go on-stage and meet members of the cast and help understand what the characters look like and feel their costumes and props. Anyone interested in this performance is asked to call the Box Office on 01235 515144 to book their place.

More details can be found on the Cornerstone website, https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/whats/cinderella, or by popping into the centre and speaking to the Box Office team.













## WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

### We have been busy!

This September and October have been very busy times for us at Woodcote Volunteers – in a good way!

Our events team have been working hard to put on the stall at the Woodcote Fete, run our tea parties and put on another successful fundraising coffee morning at the Community Centre. On top of that, we have been helping clients apply for their own Blue Badges, recruiting new volunteers and advertising for some exciting new roles within our charity.

### Tea Parties for our clients

We had a very good turnout for our tea Party in September and thanks go to Ian Adams for running the bingo session, which went down well. Our next session is on Wednesday 6th November 2.30pm – 4pm when we will be treated to a talk by Age UK about how to avoid scams, a very important issue. The Christmas Party is on Wednesday 4th December, when we will have a singer and maybe some carols!

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

Please give us plenty of notice if you need a lift.

### Blue Badges

Just a reminder that we can help our clients to apply for a Blue Badge if they think they may be eligible. Please call our office phone number if you would like to be passed on to someone who can advise.

### New Volunteers

We would like to say a huge thank you to Malcolm, Maya and Alan who have joined us as volunteer drivers. They will have a great time getting to know our clients and some of their fellow volunteers. We would also like to thank Ann who has joined our Wednesday morning office crew, so if you call on a Wednesday you may well be speaking to her. It is so gratifying to know that people want to help others and are providing such an essential service to our local community.

### Roles becoming vacant April 2025

We are looking for a new Chair and Secretary for Woodcote Volunteers as both positions will be vacant as of our AGM in April 2025. We are also looking for someone to help take notes at our meetings. If anyone is interested is finding out more, please email the Secretary Jane Forde, using the address below and 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 are available on our website.

### Some interesting services and activities....

We are always looking out for services and activities that may be of interest to our clients. Here are three

more based in Libraries, and bear in mind, we can take you to all:

Goring Library run a digital inclusion programme, aimed at helping people to get online, use computers, smart phones or tablets, use email, online safety and so on. It is free and both one to one and group sessions are available. Although Goring Library is currently closed for refurbishment, it will be opening again in November, so call the Library to find out more when it has re-opened, on 01491 873028.

Woodcote Library run a Books from Home scheme. If you are unable to get out but would like books delivered to you, please contact the library on 01491 682323.

Sonning Common Library run a Scrabble Club on Fridays at 10am to 12 noon. Just turn up!

**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 at www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk or www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers. For general enquiries, please call 01491 681171.

## WOODCOTE CONSERVATION GROUP

**Annual General Meeting, Thurs 7th 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 the nights getting longer, this month we're featuring a tree sometimes known as 'candlewood' as its logs produce the brightest flame and burn for a long time so it was used to provide artificial lighting to enable cottage crafts to be practised on winter evenings.

Gnarled and mighty, the hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is as tough as they come. It is beautiful, useful, and its year-round leaf cover makes it a winter haven for wildlife providing shelter, roosting, nesting and foraging opportunities for birds and small mammals. Although common in the hedges and woods around Woodcote, including Greenmoor Ponds, it's often overlooked.

Common hornbeam is a deciduous, broadleaf tree with pale silvery-grey bark with finely striped vertical markings. The bark of old trees has a raised network of flat ridges. The twigs are brown-grey and slightly hairy. The leaf buds are similar to beech, only shorter and slightly curved at the tips. Mature trees can reach a height of 30 m and live for more than 300 years.

Hornbeam leaves are a similar shape to beech leaves, oval with pointed tips. Hornbeam leaves, however, are smaller and more deeply furrowed than beech leaves and have finely toothed edges, whereas beech leaves have wavy edges. They become yellow then old gold in colour in autumn and most stay on through the winter.

Native only to south-east England, it is widely planted elsewhere. It is naturally found in oak woodland and is often coppiced or pollarded and it's not unusual for the girth of old pollards to measure 8 m.

Hornbeam timber is a pale, creamy white with a flecked grain. It is extremely hard; in fact it has the hardest wood of any tree in Europe. Nowadays, it's mainly used for furniture, flooring and wood turning (e.g. to make skittles and golf club heads), but traditionally the wood was used where hardness was required. For example, the teeth of mill cogs, piano hammers and for ox yokes which were used to join a team of ploughing oxen together. The wooden 'beam' would have been attached to their horns which may have contributed to the tree's name. It's more likely, however, that the hornbeam is so named due to the hardness of its timber as 'horn' means 'hard' and 'beam' was the name for a tree in old English.

A yellow dye can be obtained from the bark and used to colour woollen yarns and other materials, and a tonic made from hornbeam was said to relieve tiredness and exhaustion.

Did you know that the Romans used hornbeam to make their chariots because of the strength of the wood? Also, hornbeam is the tree of choice if you want to grow a hedge on the 'stilts' of its trunks, so the foliage starts several feet above the ground, a feature once seen in the gardens of country estates.

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/

# WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

## Development Team Named Team of the Month

I think it was Brian Clough who adapted Harold Wilson's saying 'a week is a long time in politics,' to refer to football. Nothing is ever guaranteed and a whirlwind start for the first team has been followed by a pretty disappointing month of results. Fortunately, our young Development side has made the best possible start to the season, so let's hope that continues.

The first team has lost three of the past four games in the Thames Valley League Premier Division. A narrow defeat at Burghfield by 2-1 (Andy Taylor scored), was followed by a very good win away to League Champions, Westwood, by 4-1 (Joe Webber 2, Ollie Bourne and Jay Herbert). Defeat in the first home match against Tadley by 4-0 was followed by a second home defeat against Wargrave by 3-0, this being all the more surprising as we had beaten them 10-0 only six weeks earlier.

The Development team are flying in Division 2 of the North Berks League, top of the table with a 100% record. They beat Marcham away 6-3 (Sam Primmer 2, Zak Fanstone 2 and Kartel Barlow 2); Stanford-in-the-Vale were beaten at home 12-0 (Fraser Sharples 4, Sam Primmer 3, Matt Webber 3, Zak Fanstone and Kartel Barlow); Burghclere were beaten away 6-3 (Zak Fanstone 2, Sam Primmer, James Andrews, Fraser Sharples and Jack Wilkinson); and Drayton away was 3-2 (Archie Clark, Sam Primmer and Ben Morgan). Every goal so far has been scored by a teenager. Not surprisingly, the Development Team has been named Team of the Month for September in the North Berks League.

SP



**Fraser Sharples**



**Klay Fisher**




**Will Thomas**



**Kartel Barlow**




## THE ORATORY CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Monday 2 December, 6.00pm – 8.30pm**

The Oratory is delighted to be hosting a Christmas Fair in The Oratory Sports Centre on Monday 2nd December 6.00pm – 8.30pm. Everyone in the local community is invited to attend for a festive night of Christmas shopping, games and delicious treats!

This wonderful event will support many of our local businesses and will raise money for Special Kidz International, a Henley based charity that helps special needs and disabled children and young people to unlock their abilities and achieve through education, technology, creativity and employment. We hope to see you all there!

## THE CASE OF THE COIN SPOTTER

I have a slightly embarrassing confession to make: I am an inveterate picker upper of lost or discarded coins, of which there are more about than you might think. My wife does not approve. 'Ugh, germs!' she cries, as I fish yet another 5p out of the gutter. She is also exasperated by my eccentric powers of eyesight, which more than once has let me walk straight past her in the street without seeing her yet lets me detect a small coin lying on the pavement ten yards away on a dark night by the merest glint of silver or copper.

I feel my practice is defensible, because not only I am contributing in a small way to my own economy but also to the nation's, since every lost coin I put back into circulation is one less that the Royal Mint has to replace. And the fact is that old habits die hard. Back in my rather impoverished and hungry childhood, it was a real event to find a penny in the street. You could exchange it for a penny chew at the sweetshop, or even for a penny bun at the local bakery.

Of course, inflation has taken its toll of this. I am not aware of anything now that can be bought for 5p, still less for 1p. In 1950, the time I am talking about, a daily newspaper cost 3d (three old pence), or a little over 1p in modern money. Now it costs around £1, so you are looking at an eightyfold inflation. Meaning that a 5p now is equal to around half of a farthing back then, the lowest denomination of coin at the time. Anyone remember the old farthing, of which there were four to an old penny? It had a robin on the front, and when I started primary school in 1949, I used to take one knotted in my handkerchief, to be used after school to purchase one of the previous day's stale buns from the shop next to the school.

So, what do I do now with these numismatic windfalls? At one point, when my children were small, we used to save up all the family's 1ps, however acquired, and every so often take them along to the supermarket where there was charity thing for coins with a chute and you could see how many you could get whizzing down the chute at one time. Great fun, and the children thought so too. Sadly, this disappeared, so now I just amass them and every so often present them rather apologetically in part payment for a daily paper.

Frankly it is a bit of mystery to me why the government still bothers with coins of such low value, but as long as they do, I am happy to go on picking them up. Don't tell anyone, but the bit outside the Co-op in the Bridle Path is a good hunting ground…

David Sutton

## WOODCOTE LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Our book for September was *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis. Sinclair Lewis was America's first recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Written in 1935, the story is set in the USA around the election and rise of a new President. An appropriately timed book for the Book Club with the actual USA elections in November. Having been written in the 1930s it had undertones of the rise of Hitler and Mussolini. The book was challenging, received mixed reviews from the readers and encouraged a lot of discussion.

Our book for October was *Get Well Soon* by Marie-Sabine Roger.

Book Club meet on the fourth Monday of the month at the library at the revised time of 3.30pm (the date and time may vary around Christmas/Easter). If you are interested in joining us, just ask at the library or phone 01491 682323 to express your interest.

## 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 are selling fast, don't miss out.

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

The Box Office is open now. Call 07956 136750 or book online at woodcotedrama.co.uk.

## ST LEONARD'S FAIR

**Saturday 9th 2 - 4 pm at Woodcote Village Hall**

We are holding our annual fair from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 9th and admission is free! It is our major fund-raising event, and we can guarantee that you will find plenty of bargains.

The fair will give you opportunities to meet and chat with friends. The many, varied stalls and attractions will provide entertainment and the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts, home-made cakes, jams and preserves, craft items, bric-a-brac, bath and beauty, books and jewellery. Tombolas and raffles will be there as usual.

We welcome any donations for the Fair, relying on the generosity of Woodcote people to support the maintenance of the parish church. We'll find good homes for those unwanted presents. We would also appreciate it if you would use cash to make payments at the various stalls, raffles and tombolas as card payments are not easy to take at this kind of traditional event.

If anyone has any donations or questions, please contact Janet Casson (681483), Sue Udell (681618), Peggy Allum, Rosemary Humphris (681511) or Sandy Worsfold (680574).

## WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Back for a new season, Wallingford Photographic Club (www.wallingfordphoto.club) meets on Thursdays (from 7:30pm) at Crowmarsh Pavilion (with a few online sessions). Come along and join our informal and inclusive group of enthusiasts and amateurs as we continue into autumn/winter: We discuss a wide range of topics through talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions, including getting feedback on your photos if you're keen to show them.

In early November (9th) we'll be out and about for a day trip to Bath followed by a members' evening on 14th to share the results and stories from the day out. This was a success with all attendees last year (the trip was to Didcot Railway Centre) so we look forward to venturing further afield. 21st Nov sees our second 'No Set Subject' competition of the year, after which we have an online evening on 28th, with Roger Hance presenting online *Capturing the decisive moment, sport and action.* On 4th December we have a speaker, Peter Crane, presenting 'Street photography my way', then close the calendar year with a Christmas Social on 12th.

## WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Autumn term has, so far, been quite a wet one. However, spirits have not dampened here at the Primary School!

We have taken part in our first Cross Country Tournament of the year against our partnership schools. This took place at Stoke Row recreation ground with 26 children in our teams. The course is very challenging with a strong finish for the year 3 / 4 boys and girls. They gave it everything they had which made for a delightful contest. Ivy was given the Olympic Value for determination in the year 3 / 4 races. The children in year 5 and 6 had to run their race to the finish in the opposite direction, which meant uphill instead of down! Will came 3rd in the boys' race and Martha was 1st for the girls. Alex was awarded the year 5 / 6 Olympic Value for determination; she really gave it everything she had. The children showed true Woodcote grit and were fabulous ambassadors for the school. Well done - we are proud of them all.

We were delighted to meet Reverend Benskin in St Leonard's Church for our annual Harvest Festival. The children shared ideas and research about Harvest across the ages and across the world. Reverend Benskin taught us how to make bread and the importance of remembering how many people are involved in getting food to our tables.

Year 4 have written some super harvest Poems:

*Harvest Recipe* by Lucy

A house full of kindness,

A giant feast of foo,

A town full of harvest songs

A mansion full of children laughing

*Harvest Recipe* by Sophie

Bellyful of kindness

10 buckets of food

15 children singing harvest songs

1 church

1 bowlful of lovely warming soup

Add your bellyful of kindness to the buckets of food. Add one church, one bowl of lovely soup and then add 15 children singing harvest songs.



Year 6 were pleased to meet everyone when delivering our Harvest boxes this year. Thank you so much to those of you able to write back to the children. They read every one of your letters over and over.

We are pleased to welcome back Jess Wernham and welcome Tamson Sherlock to our Lunchtime Supervisory Team and we have had a wonderful response to our requests for help from the village. We have a number of volunteers coming in to school to help with reading and other bits and pieces. If you have a spare couple of hours a week and would like to come and work with the children, please do let us know! We would love to welcome you too.

Mrs L. Hunt









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# CABIN PRESCHOOL

### A Busy and Fun-Filled Month at Cabin

This month at Cabin has been full of fun and learning for our little ones!

We've been busy engaging in a variety of activities to develop fine motor skills, such as playing with playdough, pinching fingers to stretch elastics over wooden dowels, and balancing pom-poms on golf tees. The children have been learning about colours through our weekly focus, exploring different shapes, and continuing their phonics journey with Monster Phonics. We've also been working on listening carefully to identify sounds in our environment, especially farm animals and musical instruments.

In addition to this, we've enjoyed reading lots of wonderful storybooks, which inspired some exciting activities. Some of our favourites this month included:

Goldilocks and the Three Bears: The children brought in their teddies for a picnic, and some parents even joined in with their teddies! We enjoyed porridge for breakfast, and our doll's house was transformed into a house for bears with matching-coloured bears to help reinforce colour learning.

*The Little Red Hen*: We talked about the importance of helping others, wrote letters, and reinforced phonics by writing in flour. The children made handprint hens and attached shapes to complement their pictures.

*Oliver's Vegetables*: We had fun printing with paint using vegetables, tasting different kinds, and even made vegetable soup. The children enjoyed real vegetables in the mud kitchen as part of the experience.

*The Leaf Thief*: A new favourite, this book introduces the seasons and features a very cheeky squirrel, which the children loved.

Monster Phonics has continued to play a big role in our learning. We've read stories about each of the Monster characters, learning which sounds they make, their interests, and their friends.

We are proud to have received positive feedback from primary schools, highlighting that Cabin children are eager to learn, good listeners, and keen to participate. Their familiarity with the Monster Phonics reading scheme has also eased their transition to primary school.

We also encourage everyone to make use of our little Cabin library, where you can borrow books each time you visit.

On the creative side, the children created an autumn tree using finger painting and enjoyed participating in lots of counting activities. We baked bread, made red jelly, and celebrated Harvest at St Leonard's Church with our families and friends. A big thank you to everyone who donated food for the Reading Foodbank. The children loved singing our special Harvest songs for you!

We also joined Oak Class for our Monday Mingle, where we shared our outdoor play areas and enjoyed riding bikes, scooters, and trikes together.

The cabin has some full-time spaces available plus a mix of part-time sessional spaces available. Please call us on 01491 680854 or email info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk for more information or advice. You can enrol and join us at any time.
















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## WOODCOTE PRE-SCHOOL

First of all, we would like to say a big welcome to Romina, Rea, Ralphy and Elliott. We can't wait to share some fun activities with you all.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at Woodcote Fete. The children worked hard on their entries for the competitions, and we had some winners! Lockie won 1st prize for his decorated biscuit and the Windmill Award. Our courgette caterpillar won 3rd prize. Tate won 2nd prize for his decorated biscuit. Maeve won 2nd prize for her pasta necklace and Morganna won 3rd. Well done to all the children for all their hard work and efforts!

Our Harvest service at the church with our friends from The Cabin went fantastically! The children were all so well behaved and sung beautifully. Their favourite song is Dingle Dangle scarecrow! Thank you, Reverend David Benskin, for leading the service. And thank you to all the parents who came along and supported us and donated food.

The children have been learning their Halloween and Bonfire Night songs and actions ready for their Halloween party. We can't wait to see all of the fantastic costumes and enjoy a special party lunch. Please check out our Facebook page to see who won the Best Dressed competition.

We made our final visit of the year to our very own allotment. We picked the pumpkins for Halloween along with the last of the courgettes and sweetcorn. We ate the sweetcorn with our lunch. We are looking forward to making some delicious pumpkin muffins with the children this year. Thank you as always to Rick for all your help with our allotment.



Thank you to the Co-op for the community fund money. It is truly amazing as we were nominated for an additional £5,000 anonymously by somebody in the community as part of the Everyone Active grant. We are excited to use the money to continue improving our outdoor area, purchasing some more sensory resources and expanding our construction materials.

We are offering an exciting opportunity to join our team of staff! We are a small and friendly setting looking for a Level 3 qualified person who has a passion for working with children. For more details, please call Wendy Powell on 01491 682300 or email woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk.

We have some spaces available for children aged 18 months to school age. If you would like to some forms or to arrange a visit, please contact us using the details above.





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## WOODCOTE WI

Sally Lambert welcomed the members; our speaker was Hugh Warwick, who told us *All About Hedgehogs*. Hugh told us about his passion for these small animals which have declined over the last decades. We found out about their habitat, what they like to feed on, how we can help in our own gardens with hedgehog streets and what to do with hedgehogs that are ill or out in the daytime.

We had a lovely tea thank you to Connie Vickery and Joan Comley.

We played skittles at the Hithercroft Sports Centre with a fish and chips lunch which everyone enjoyed.

The winner for a handmade toy animal was won by Shirley Bryant.

In November we will hear about *Innovations in Origami Design*, speaker is Peter Buchan-Symons.

Come and join us for a 2.30pm start in the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

## CHOLSEY REPAIR CAFÉ

This voluntary service helps to avoid worn or broken items being thrown away needlessly and takes place regularly at The Cholsey Pavilion on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months. The next session will be on Saturday 16th November 2024, from 11.00 to 13.45. No charge is made for help, although the cost of any spare parts supplied must be covered. Any domestic item that can be carried into the hall can be considered, as well as bicycles, mowers and the like. Further details are available at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com.

## CHECKENDON PRE-SCHOOL

We have been joining in with lots of celebrations. Rosh Hashanah celebrating Jewish New Year, Halloween and Bonfire Night as well as enjoying all the different colours of Autumn during our nature walks. We have been playing games for Rosh Hashanah, getting messy with paint making firework pictures and autumnal leaves we have collected on our walks and creating spooky ghosts for Halloween. The little chefs have enjoyed making a variety of sweet and savoury treats this term including Apple and honey cake for Rosh Hashanah, Autumnal Pizza, using a variety of different coloured toppings and Bonfire bangers for Bonfire Night.

The children are also looking forward to our upcoming Christmas celebrations. Due to popular demand, Checkendon Pre-School will again be doing the Christmas Hamper Raffle. This is our main fundraiser for the year. If you would like to support your local preschool and purchase some tickets you can come to the Village Hall and speak to the Checkendon ladies. It is £5 for a strip of tickets. Thank you for your continuous support.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, do visit our website www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk, call us on 01491 682 589, e-mail preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com or just pop in – we always look forward to welcoming you to Checkendon Pre-School.

Judy Williams







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

### Cinema

*The Room Next Door* (12A)

- Sunday, 2 Nov, 7:30pm
- Monday, 3 Nov, 7:30pm
- Thursday, 7 Nov, 7:30pm

*The Apprentice* (15)

- Friday, 8 Nov, 7:30pm
- Sunday, 10 Nov, 7:30pm
- Monday, 11 Nov, 7:30pm
- Tuesday, 12 Nov, 7:30pm
- Wednesday, 13 Nov, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, 13 Nov, 7:30pm

*Heretic* (15)

- Thursday, 14 Nov, 7:30pm
- Friday, 15 Nov, 7:30pm
- Saturday, 16 Nov, 7:30pm
- Sunday, 17 Nov, 7:30pm
- Monday, 18 Nov, 7:30pm
- Tuesday, 19 Nov, 7:30pm

*Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat* (PG)

- Wednesday, 20 Nov, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, 20 Nov, 7:30pm

*Paddington in Peru* (PG)

- Friday, 22 Nov, 7:30pm
- Sunday, 24 Nov, 7:30pm
- Monday, 25 Nov, 7:30pm
- Tuesday, 26 Nov, 7:30pm
- Wednesday, 27 Nov, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, 27 Nov, 7:30pm

*The Mountain Within Me* (12A)

- Thursday, 28 Nov, 7:30pm

*Small Things Like These* (12A)

- Friday, 29 Nov, 7:30pm
- Saturday, 30 Nov, 7:30pm

### Live on Stage

*ABBA Sensation*

- Saturday 9 November, 7:30pm
- Tickets £18

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 or clap along. Sadly, the Corn Exchange has no room for dancing, but we are sure you will be dancing all the way home!

*Varnish with Jonathan Mayer*

- Saturday 23 November, 7:30pm
- Tickets £15

It takes star quality to get adopted. And Jonathan Mayor has star quality. The play begins as *An Audience with Jonathan Mayor*, but the fantasy soon glitches to reveal a darker truth. *Varnish* is a solo show, performed by stand-up comedian, Jonathan Mayor, in his dramatic debut. It is a fictionalised version of his life, written by new playwright, Janet Taylor, based on hours of interviews. The play explores transracial adoption and the fracturing of identity that happens when a mixed-race child is brought up by white parents. This is a funny and poignant show. Suitable for ages 14 plus.

### Live Screening

*Wolf Witch Giant Fairy*

- The Royal Opera
- Friday, 1 Nov, 7:30pm
- Saturday, 2 Nov, 2:30pm
- Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (seniors), £6 (under 18s)

This special screening is 65 minutes long and is geared towards a family audience. A presenter will appear on screen at the beginning of the show to introduce the production to families and introduce children to the wonderful world of Opera! Sung in English with subtitles.

Devised and performed by The Ensemble, Clare Beresford, Peter Brathwaite, Dominic Conway, Miriam Gould, Eugénie Pastor, Tom Penn, Alexander Scott, Shamira Turner, Jon Whitten, Claire Wild. Directed by Alexander Scott. Conceived and created by Little Bulb. Musical directors: Dominic Conway and Clare Beresford.

Do not miss this 'enchantingly staged' family folk opera, following the triumphant, Olivier Award-winning run in 2021.

Red Riding Hood is tasked with delivering bread to her grandmother, deep in the heart of the fairy-tale forest. But en-route, Red meets a cunning Wolf who tricks her into taking a different path. Along the way, Red stumbles into a colourful cast of characters, including a scary witch, a talking cat and a rather persuasive Peddler. Join our ragtag band of wild musicians as they guide all the family through this famous tale with new twists, turns, magic and song.

*The Phantom of the Opera*

- From the Royal Albert Hall
- Tuesday, 5 November, 7pm
- Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom Of The Opera* is a worldwide entertainment phenomenon. It has been staged in 145 cities across 27 countries and its box office sales eclipse *Avatar*, *Titanic* and *Star Wars*. To

celebrate its 25th Anniversary year, Cameron Mackintosh presented *The Phantom Of The Opera* in a fully-staged, lavish production set in the sumptuous Victorian splendour of the Royal Albert Hall. *Phantom Of The Opera At The Albert Hall* stars Ramin Karimloo as 'The Phantom' and Sierra Boggess as 'Christine'. They are joined by a supporting cast and orchestra of over 200, plus some very special guest appearances.

*Girl from the North Country*

- Thursday, 21 November, 7pm
- Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

It's 1934 in Duluth, Minnesota. We meet a group of wayward travellers whose lives intersect in a guesthouse filled with music, life and hope. Experience this "profoundly beautiful" Broadway production (The New York Times) brought to vivid life by an extraordinary company of actors and musicians. Written and directed by celebrated playwright Conor McPherson and featuring Tony Award-winning orchestrations by Simon Hale, *Girl From The North Country* reimagines 20 legendary songs of Bob Dylan as they've never been heard before, including "Forever Young," "All Along The Watchtower," "Hurricane," and "Like A Rolling Stone."

## WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT ART CLUB

Join our friendly Wallingford and District Art club demo on Tuesday 19 November 2024, at Centre 70, 7.30pm, when artist James Ort will give a live demo of his process of making an animal sculpture from wire. Using his knowledge of anatomy and form, James pushes ceramic and wire to its limits and has developed some innovative techniques to help achieve this. Colour brings his pieces to life! The meeting is free for club members and £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.

### Winter Art Show

More than 500 art lovers will enjoy Wallingford & District Art Club's Winter Art Show on 30th of November and 1st of December 2024 at Centre 70 in central Wallingford. The free event is open from 10 am to 4 pm each day. Timed to coincide with Wallingford's Christmas Shopping Event on 1 December, visitors can pick up a perfect, original gift from over 100 artworks, plus limited-edition prints, art cards, handmade gifts and ceramics. Families and visitors to Wallingford will find plenty to delight among our members' still-life, landscape, animal, flora, figurative and abstract artwork, all produced by our 50 club members who range in ability from commercial artists to skilled amateurs.

"Our last three shows have delighted around 500 visitors each time," said Nick Shanagher, chairman of the friendly local art group. "There is no pressure to buy. We welcome the feedback. And some people fall in love with a special painting. So, with Christmas around the corner, come and find something unique for your loved ones."

Leading artists:

- Mark Wood paints colourful local landmarks, still lives and birds. He will be painting live over the weekend.
- Geoff Johnson specialises in flowers and landscapes that capture the changing seasons.
- Jeff Barker paints dreamy, atmospheric acrylics of landmark places in sunnier times.

Centre 70 is just off the Kinecroft and in easy walking distance of both Waitrose and Goldsmith Lane car parks. The venue is large, light and airy—giving ample scope for unpressured browsing.

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



## WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday November 21st we will be welcoming Jim Donahue to our first afternoon meeting 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 time frame, focusing on the Thames from Windsor to Oxford and features many photographs of local people and events. I'm sure we'll have lots of questions for him. The meeting will be 2.30pm at 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.

There's no meeting in December, but we start up again in Whitchurch Village Hall at 2.30pm on Thursday 16th January 2025.

## GORING CHAMBER CHOIR

### A Thousand Years in Song

In a big change from our last concert, Goring Chamber Choir's next performance focuses on music from three short periods of history. First is the 12th and early 13th centuries, when Hildegard of Bingen was composing her ecstatic visions. Other songs from the period include the well-loved round *Sumer is icumen in*, attributed to a monk of Reading Abbey. Moving on 400 years, we'll contrast the late renaissance style of Queen Elizabeth I's reign with the exciting new developments and first operas from Italy, Byrd versus Monteverdi and Francesca Caccini with instruments added to the mix. Another 400 years along, and we'll move to the sound of the 21st century, including a focus on women composers. Plus, we will perform pieces by Paul Spicer and Eric Whitacre, whose *Sainte-Chapelle* is as an ecstatic vision of a stained-glass window as Hildegard of Bingen's songs were 900 years earlier. Canadian composer Sarah Quartel sets a 13th century text, the *Golden Sequence*, bringing our vision full circle.

- Musical Director: Frances Brewitt-Taylor
- Accompanist: Steve Bowey
- St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Goring
- Saturday 9th November 2024 at 3pm

Tickets: £15. Free for under-18s. Obtainable from Inspiration, Goring, from a choir member, or on the door.

www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk


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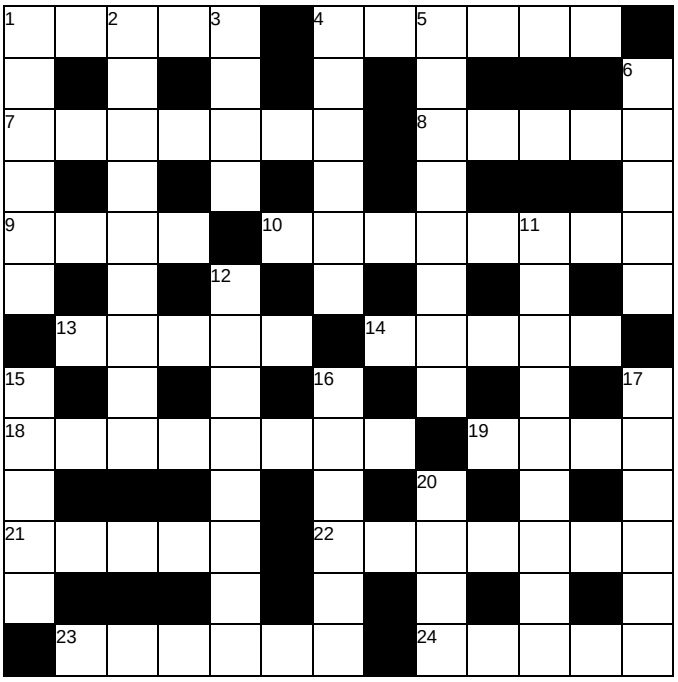
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## NOVEMBER CROSSWORD



**Across**

1 Criminal caught going over castle (5)
4 Criminal back to encourage in spirit (6)
7 Catch Labour in web (7)
8 Wardrobe set to store fat (5)
9 Thought from a new aide (4)
10 Ratification of centrally graded choice (8)
13 Publicity has copy for daily (5)
14 Rental frequency (5)
18 Sweet variety (8)
19 Giant! Hence turn back! (4)
21 Cash enclosure (5)
22 Groove on the ground of small county (7)
23 Highflier sent one car to US (6)
24 Doctor dared show fear (5)

**Down**

1 Frank is able to do and accomplished (6)
2 Pay here when the hammer falls (2,3,4)
3 Recognise a sound refusal (4)
4 Emperor Kim returned to a party (6)
5 Bands having, that is, followers (8)
6 Comic party (5)
11 Thankless type having tea without a blend (9)
12 Judge instrument (8)
15 Artists take Prime Minister up slopes (5)
16 Hearing flight, looks closely (6)
17 Led top newspaperman (6)
20 Boss having final night in the south of France (4)

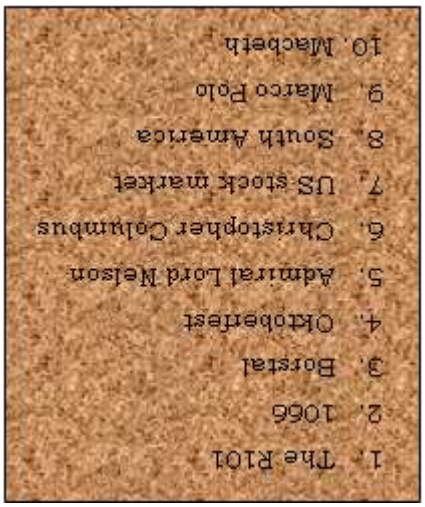
## OCTOBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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## NOVEMBER QUIZ

1. Which famous British airship crashed near Beauvais in October 1930?
2. In what year was Harold II, England's last Anglo-Saxon king killed?
3. Where in Kent was England's first prison for Young Offenders opened in 1902?
4. What famous German beer festival is held largely in September?
5. Who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Trafalgar, in 1805?
6. Who, in October 1492 made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas?
7. What crash in October 1929 led to the Great Depression in America?
8. Cape Horn is the southernmost tip of which continent?
9. Venice's international airport is named after which explorer?
10. Which Shakespeare play is superstitiously known as the Scottish Play?

## 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

## NOVEMBER DATES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sat 2nd** | * | Coffee Shop in aid of OWL (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm |
| **Mon 4th** | * | Junior Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm |
| **Tues 5th** | * | BMMHS Zoom talk: 'Royal Marines Musicians at War'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm |
| **Wed 6th** | * | 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 |
| **Sat 9th** | * | Coffee Shop in aid of FOWPS (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm |
| | * | St. Leonard's Fair. Woodcote Village Hall. 2pm-4pm |
| **Tues 12th** | * | Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3.30pm-4.45pm |
| | * | Senior Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm |
| **Wed 13th** | * | BMMHS Talk: 'First Gulf War Air Campaign'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm |
| | * | Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm |
| **Thur 14th** | * | Wallingford Photographic Club - Day Out image review. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm |
| **Fri 15th** | * | Jazz Night - Goring Community Jazz Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm |
| **Sat 16th** | * | Cholsey Repair Café. Cholsey Pavilion. 10am-12.45pm |
| **Mon 18th** | * | Junior Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm |
| **Tues 19th** | * | Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration: 'Animal sculpture in wire'. Centre 70, The Kinecroft, Wallingford. 7.30pm |


## SMALL ADS

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|---|---|---|
| **Wed 20th** | * | Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm |
| **Thur 21st** | * | Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society meeting. Goring Heath Parish Hall. 2.30pm |
| | * | Wallingford Photographic Club Competition - No Set Subject 2. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm |
| **Sat 23rd** | * | Coffee Shop in aid of St. Leonard's Church (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm |
| **Mon 25th** | * | Book Club. Woodcote Library. 3.30pm |
| **Tues 26th** | * | Chatterbox. Woodcote Community Centre. 2pm-3.30pm |
| | * | Senior Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm |
| **Wed 27th** | * | Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm |
| **Thur 28th** | * | Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Capturing the decisive moment, sport and action'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm |
| **Fri 29th** | * | Wallingford & District Art Club Winter Art Show. Centre 70, The Kinecroft, Wallingford. 10am-4pm |
| | * | WADS present 'Aladdin'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm |
| **Sat 30th** | * | Coffee Shop in aid of Stoke Row WI (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm |
| | * | WADS present 'Aladdin'. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm & 7.30pm |

## FORTHCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sun 1st** | * | Wallingford & District Art Club Winter Art Show. Centre 70, The Kinecroft, Wallingford. 10am-4pm |
| | * | WADS present 'Aladdin'. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm |
| **Mon 2nd** | * | The Oratory Christmas Fair. The Oratory Sports Centre. 6pm-8.30pm |
| | * | Junior Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm |
| **Tues 3rd** | * | BMMHS Zoom talk: 'Rorke's Drift'. Email zoom@bmmhs.org. 7.30pm |
| **Wed 4th** | * | Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm |