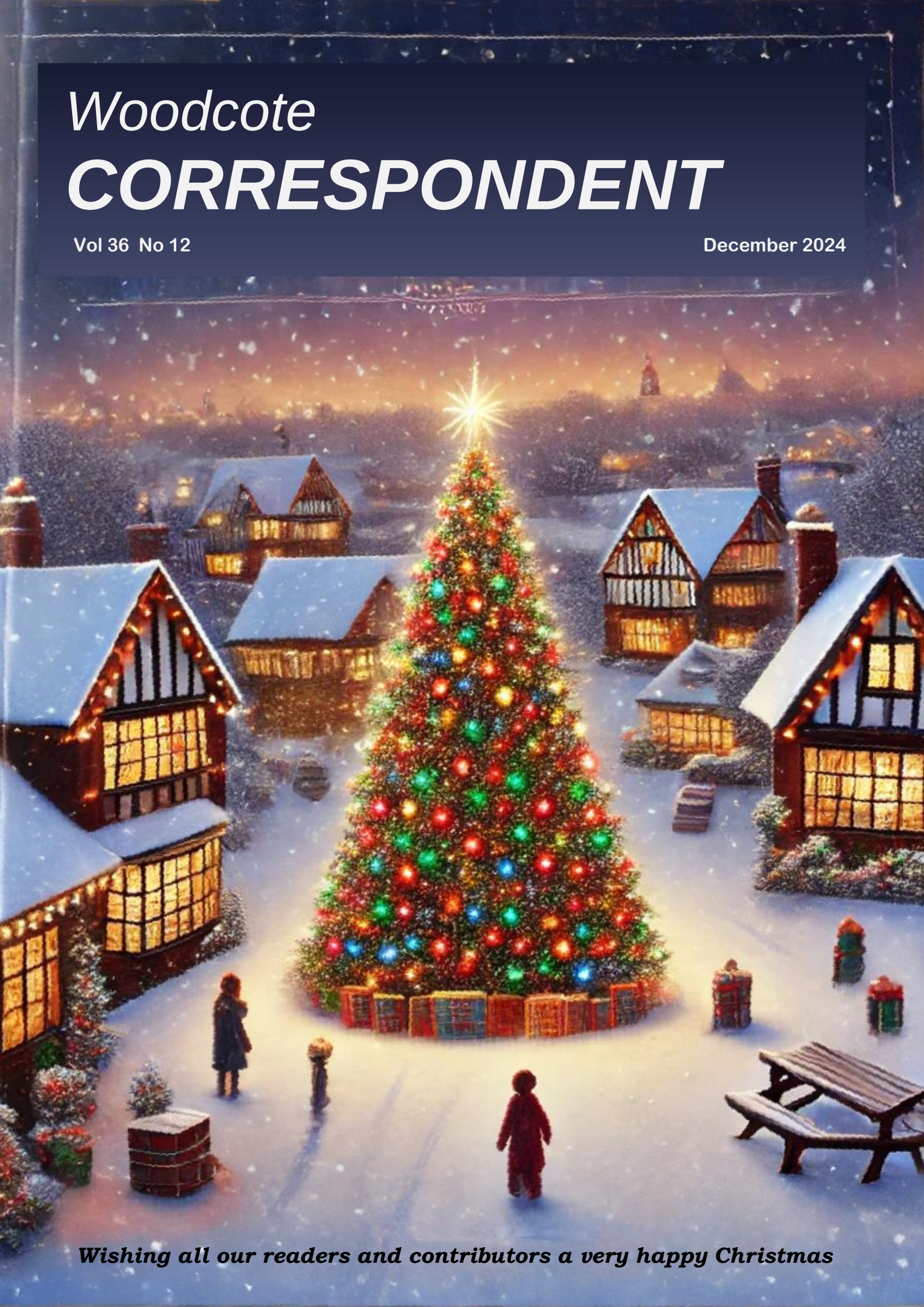
Woodcote CORRESPONDENT

Vol 36 No 12 December 2024



Wishing all our readers and contributors a very happy Christmas

COMMENT FROM ST. LEONARD'S

As the festive period of Christmas approaches, our hearts are filled with anticipation for the season ahead. Christmas is not just a date on the calendar; it is a time to reflect on love, hope, and the profound message of peace that the birth of Christ brings to our lives, and to our world that desperately needs peace.

At its core, Christmas is a celebration of the arrival of Jesus, the Light of the World. His birth in humble surroundings teaches us about humility, grace, and the importance of community. This season reminds us to embrace the values of compassion and generosity, extending our hands and hearts to those in need.

From decorating our homes with twinkling lights to singing carols that echo through the streets, Christmas traditions vary from family to family and community to community. These practices create a sense of belonging and help us connect with one another. Whether it's sharing a meal, attending a candlelight service, or volunteering our time, these moments bring us closer to each other and to the message of Christ.

The act of giving is central to the Christmas spirit. As we exchange gifts, let us remember the greatest gift of all—God's love, manifested in Jesus. This season is an opportunity to reflect on what it means to give selflessly. Consider donating to local charities, supporting families in need, or reaching out to those who may be feeling lonely during this time. Small acts of kindness can have a profound impact on someone's life.

In the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, it's essential to carve out time for reflection and prayer. As we gather with loved ones, let's pause to appreciate the blessings in our lives and seek guidance for the year ahead. Attending Christmas services can be a beautiful way to centre ourselves and remember the true meaning of the Christmas season.

This Christmas, let us embrace the spirit of love, hope, and joy. May our celebrations be filled with warmth and kindness, and may we carry the message of Christ's love into the new year. Together, we can create a season that not only honours the birth of Jesus but also uplifts our community and brings the Light of Jesus to the world.

We understand at St Leonard's that this time of year can bring up difficult memories and feelings, so please do remember we are here if you need any support during this time. We warmly invite anyone who is interested to attend one of our Christmas services and include a list below with the times.

Wishing you all every blessing at Christmas,

Reverend David Benskin
Team vicar for the Langtree Team

Services at St. Leonard's in December

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 1st December

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.45 am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th December

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.45 am Worship together

Sunday 15th December

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 3.30pm Christingle in the Village Hall

Friday 20th December

- 7.00 pm Carol service

Sunday 22nd December

- 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.

Tuesday 24th December

- 4.30 pm Carols on the green
- 11pm-Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December

- 10.00am Family Communion for Christmas

Sunday 29th December

- 10:30 Team service at Checkendon

All services above (other than the team service) 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 porch of the church right now we have a small book stall with some puzzles for sale. Please do come in and have a look, sometimes we have jams and other 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



The Correspondent is very grateful to have received a grant from the Parish Council. All the work that goes into producing The Correspondent every month is provided by volunteers. We are committed to providing a printed copy for free to all households in Woodcote each month. We aim to fund the printing costs with our advertising, but typically make a small loss with each issue. Thanks to the Parish Council's grant we will be able to make up for the shortfall and keep the Correspondent going.

We are also grateful for the donation we've received from the Woodcote Rally, who help support so many local organisations. Our grant will allow us to purchase a new computer to be used by our production team for laying out each issue.

Nick

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION

Owing to the busy run-up to Christmas, we need to produce the January edition of the magazine a week earlier usual.

Please ensure all submissions for January reach the editor or advertising manager by December 6th.

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. **Please note the deadline for January contributions is December 6th.**

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 for January is the **6th of December**.

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 bit.ly/WoodcoteCorrespondent

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

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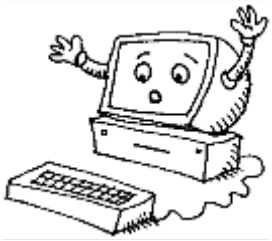
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WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

The November meeting of the Parish Council started in the normal way, receiving apologies from Councillor's who were unable to attend the meeting and approving the minutes of the previous meeting. The Council approved some grants, discussed a planning application and approved the finances for the month. They received an update from the Conservation Group on the Greenmor Ponds, where it was confirmed that more work would need to be carried out next year. The Council further discussed and approved two new policies, in response to changes in legislation. We hope that the December meeting will be similarly short, but we will be discussing the 2025-2026 budget and setting the precept. The draft budget will be available online by the time you receive this copy of the Correspondent, so please do send any comments or come to our December meeting if you want to make any representations on the numbers.

Granting

The Council approved three significant grants in November:

- Woodcote Correspondent: £2400 to allow them to keep operating this year, after falling advertising revenue.
- Citizens Advice: £650 to continue to support their good works for the residents of Woodcote.
- St Leonards Church: £1000 to support their external maintenance including mowing.

As ever, we encourage any local organisation to make use of our granting budget. Our grant policy, including application form and other criteria are on our new website. Where possible the Clerk will place the application on the next available full Council agenda for consideration.

Website and Mailing List

Most people should now be aware we have a new website: WoodcoteParish.gov.uk. We are still transitioning all the information to the new website from the old one, but all new information goes on the new website only. Our website also has a mailing list feature. Please sign up for this to receive Council updates directly to your inbox, including notification when the papers for upcoming meetings go live on

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the website, and notification of extra meetings or urgent road closures, etc. The sign-up form for the mailing list is on the right-hand side of the front page of the website.

News from Goring

Goring-on-Thames PC has written to us this month to notify us that from 1st January 2025 their fee structure is changing for the Parish Council run White Hill Burial Ground. They are aware that many of the parishes which boarder their parish do not have a civil cemetery and will be implementing a reduced rate for burials and interment of ashes for those being laid to rest who lived in the parishes of Streatley, Moulsford, South Stoke, Woodcote, Goring Heath, Whitchurch-on-Thames & Basildon. Further details can be found on their website www.GoringParishCouncil.gov.uk/Documents/Notices.

Contacting the Council

A small reminder that you can come and visit the Woodcote Clerk at the Village Hall on a Wednesday morning or make an appointment to meet outside these times. You can also write directly to the Council using Clerk@WoodcoteParish.gov.uk or call 07594 210389.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

South Oxfordshire District Council calls for 'failing' Thames Water to be brought back under public control

South Oxfordshire District Council has issued a resounding vote of no confidence in Thames Water, unanimously calling for the 'failing' water provider to be brought back under public control.

In a motion passed on 24 October 2024, council members highlighted widespread concerns over Thames Water's environmental and financial mismanagement and their inability to meet key operational standards affecting residents and local ecosystems.

The council's motion, proposed by Cllr Jo Robb and seconded by Cllr Andrea Powell, emphasised the need for government intervention through the Water Industry Act 1991, which allows companies to be placed into Special Administration when they are in financial distress or fail to meet essential duties.

Thames Water's record in South Oxfordshire underscores the need for immediate action, council members said. So far in 2024, untreated sewage has been discharged into the River Thames or its tributaries from sewage treatment works operated by Thames Water for more than 15,500 hours. This pollution is symptomatic of deeper issues within the company, with nearly two-thirds of Thames Water's sewage treatment facilities reportedly out of compliance with regulatory permits.

Beyond pollution concerns, Thames Water's infrastructure challenges are also significant. The company loses about a quarter of the region's public drinking water supply due to its leaks. It is also struggling to manage an £18 billion debt that has led credit agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's to downgrade Thames Water's debt rating to "junk" status.

The council's motion specifically calls on the government to end water industry privatisation, citing it as a "failed experiment" that has led to increased financial and environmental risks.

In addition to calling for Thames Water to be brought back under public ownership, South Oxfordshire District Council is backing amendments to the Water (Special Measures) Bill, now progressing through Parliament. These amendments include:

- Halting any public bailouts for the water industry as proposed under Section 10 of the Bill;
- Restructuring Ofwat's duties to prioritise public and environmental interests;
- Re-democratising water company boards to include employees, bill payers, and council representatives.

Councillor Jo Robb said: "The performance and priorities of Thames Water have clearly failed our residents, our environment and our trust. There is significant public and political sentiment for reform of the country's water supplies and bringing Thames Water back under public control is essential if we truly wish to protect water supplies in the South East and restore accountability."

Councillor Andrea Powell added: "Privatisation of water services has not delivered on its promises and it's vital that we stop putting shareholders before the environment and public health and place this resource back into the hands of the public. We need real change to ensure our rivers and other water courses are safe and allow wildlife to flourish for future generations and we call on other local authorities and campaign organisations to join the movement to bring water services back under public control."

At the meeting the councils also resolved a motion on supporting communities in their efforts to retain pubs; a motion on the need for an urgent review of local government funding; and a motion on the importance of local government in delivering Net Zero. For full details of the motions, visit our meetings webpage.



Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

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If your child was born on or between **1 September 2020** and **31 August 2021**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fly Tipping in the Woods

Dear Editor,

Over the past few years, we have been subjected to the increasing enclosure of the woodland in Birchen Copse, which has greatly detracted from the pleasure so many of us have derived from walking there. Now, to add insult to injury, we are confronted with a substantial instance of fly-tipping (photos below). What is particularly mortifying is that this vandalism has been carried out by someone with vehicular access to the woods through the gate to which presumably only the owners of the fenced-off plots have keys.

Yours sincerely,

Name and address withheld





WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

Are you creative and social media savvy?

We are looking for a new person to be our communications lead. The role is not very time consuming and consists of putting posts on our Facebook page, occasional design work, writing the monthly article for this newsletter and updating our web page. Full support and training will be given. 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 description of the role is available on our website.

Tea Parties for our clients

We had a very good turnout for our tea party in November and thanks go to Henry Law for stepping in at the last moment to play some guitar, which went down well. Our talk by Age UK about how to avoid Scams, a very important issue, had to be postponed at the last minute. We hope to put this on early next year. Our next Party, with a Christmas theme, 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 Marcia who has joined us to help with the committee agenda and taking minutes. You will be a great asset to us and help the smooth running of our meetings.

Office hours over Christmas and New Year

We will have a limited service during this period, with office helpers only coming in to check urgent messages. We also have a limited number of drivers who are available, so if you can find alternative transport arrangements to your medical appointments, we would be grateful, thank you.

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 call 01491 681171 giving us at least three days' notice as it can be hard to find someone at the last minute, but we will always try!

To volunteer, email info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk. Find out more about us: www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk or www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers.

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RACING FOR PARKINSON'S UK OVER CHRISTMAS

Over the past 12 months groups of families, friends, birthday parties, neighbours, company team building and even the Goring Beavers have raced on the amazing Scalextric layout in Goring. This has resulted in over £2,700 of donations for Parkinson's UK. I can confirm that the Scalextric layout will be open over the festive season and beyond for racing sessions for parties of between 4 and 10 people. Sessions usually take from 90 to 120 minutes depending on numbers and ages.

The layout is housed in my insulated double garage in Goring and consists of a 27 m long circuit built over a two-year period using second-hand Scalextric items, wood and foam along with lots of cardboard and glue. The end result is a very impressive computer-controlled scenic layout which:

- races up to 6 cars on the circuit at the same time
- has lane changing to overtake and to enter the pit lane
- uses virtual 'fuel' as cars go around (cars have to 'refuel' in the pit lane)
- displays race positions, laps, times and fuel levels on a monitor over the layout
- plays sound effects when enter pit lane, get fastest lap time etc
- depicts an alpine location with hairpins, tunnels, buildings, spectators etc.

As you may imagine, the scenic details, the digital control system and the software all combine to make racing on the circuit realistic, competitive and hugely enjoyable! Why not arrange a session? Come have some great fun, perhaps break the all-time lap record, and all for a donation to Parkinson's UK.

Call Ron on 07747 764274, or email ronmurray@hotmail.com to arrange a session. Further information and pictures are available at https://ronmurray9.wixsite.com/mysite.

Ron Murray



Guests enjoying Ron's Scalextric layout

RBL POPPY APPEAL 2024

Huge thanks to all those that had a poppy box and collecting tin again this year. From Woodcote to Whitchurch Hill and anything in between! We are very grateful. All in all, the cash and contactless donations came to nearly £1.8k. Where every penny counts, this is a lovely donation to be banking. There isn't as much cash in many of the static tins as in previous years but am hoping that many donations were made via the QR code, which will be added to our tally later.

The Co-op was very supportive and let me have a stand there each morning of the three Saturdays of the poppy appeal. I'm very grateful for that opportunity. So huge thanks to them. With the contactless machine as well as cash, donations came to nearly £600 in total for those 3 Saturdays alone! Without this push face-to-face, we would've been down on previous years by quite a bit. However I'm conscious of tough times. Also many other outlets, like the main supermarkets outside of our area, also made donating very easy.

So thank you to everyone. Every penny literally counts for countless people who need the support after and whilst serving for our country.

Linda Burton and David Jennings
RBL Poppy Appeal Organisers
Woodcote and Goring Heath









WOODCOTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Devs March on While Firsts are Inconsistent

The first team's inconsistency continued in October while the Development team marched on undefeated. In the Thames Valley Premier League, the first team has won one, drawn one and lost one. The win came in impressive fashion at Finhampstead with a 3-2 win in which, Sam Green capped an outstanding performance with a goal, the others coming from Daniel Santos and an own goal. The draw was in the local derby against Henley Town at home. Captain, Gianni Massi scored with a great strike from thirty yards. The defeat came at Reading YMCA by 1-0. In the Oxfordshire Senior Cup, the team progressed to the second round with a win on penalties over Launton Sports. The score at full-time was 1-1 with Toby Nowell on the scoresheet. Woodcote won the penalty shoot-out by 3-1 thanks to successful strikes from Archie Simpson, Locke Harper and Jay Herbert. In the second round Woodcote will play Southern League, Kidlington.

The Development team, comprising an almost exclusively teenage squad, and leading the North Berks Division 2 by ten points, had a 15-1 win at Long Wittenham (Sam Primmer 3, Zak Fanstone 3, Fraser Sharples 3, Lucas Clark 2, Archie Clark 2, James Andrews 1, Klay Fisher 1). They beat Grove 3-2 at home (Fraser Sharples 2, Zak Fanstone 1) and Kingston Colts 3-0 away (Matt Webber 1, Archie Clark 1 and Fraser Sharples 1).

SP



Sam Green



Toby Nowell



Klay Fisher



Fraser Sharples



Zak Fanstone



Archie Clark

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WOODCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Good Attendance at Annual Presentation Dinner

The Cricket Club held their Presentation Evening in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th November with over fifty members, partners and friends in attendance. This was the first time, certainly for many years, that the event has been held in the Hall and it was considered by all present to be a great success. The event had been organised by Katie Worsfold, who was unfortunately unable to attend because, on holiday in Mexico, she had to have her appendix removed. Jonny Clark, who organised the bar stood-in brilliantly and the evening progressed without a hitch.

Chairman, Sam Peates, announced and presented the trophies. President, John Worsfold presented the President's Trophy to Alec Curtis for his work for the club during the season as First Team Captain and for off-field services. Jonny Clark received the Christopher Quinton Memorial Cup for long and active service, which included scoring over 5000 runs and taking over 100 wickets. A new trophy for the Midweek Player of the Year was presented by Neil McDougall to the club in memory of his father, Terry, a great supporter of the club, who passed away earlier in the year. A successful raffle was held with James and Katie Worsfold's daughter, Eva, selling the tickets. Eva also stepped-up to receive trophies on behalf of James and her cousin, Callum Ahmed.

Other trophies presented were:

- First Team Player of the Year: Jez Mayo
- Second Team Player of the Year: Rakesh Patel
- Midweek Player of the Year: Jonny Clark
- Batting: Jonny Clark
- Bowling: James Worsfold
- Fielding: Archie Clark
- All-Rounder: James Worsfold
- Wicketkeeper: Neil McDougall
- Young Player: William Gordon & Callum Ahmed

The Cricket Club is already making preparations for the 2025 season by holding fortnightly indoor net sessions at the Oratory Sports Centre on Tuesday evenings. New members are always welcome and should contact me to get involved. sampeates@gmail.com.

SP



Team Player of the Year: Jez Mayo



Young Player: William Gordon



Eva Worsfold. Receiving Callum Ahmed's Award



Midweek Player of the Year: Jonny Clark

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WOODCOTE CONSERVATION GROUP

The wonder of trees

Have you ever wondered why leaves change colour? In autumn, deciduous trees reabsorb the chlorophyll from their leaves so other pigments previously masked by the chlorophyll (which is green) are revealed. As the leaves die, carotenoids (which are yellow, orange and red) and anthocyanins (usually red in tree leaves, but also purple and blue in fruit and veg) are produced in great quantity from sugars that remain in the leaf. However, this process requires warmth and bright light during the day and cold at night to reduce the chances of the sugars being withdrawn back to the tree. Therefore, the nature of the weather dictates the quality of the autumn colours each year. The still, dry weather we had between mid-October and mid-November was ideal, allowing leaves to change colour gradually and fall when they were ready to do so rather than being buffeted by wind and rain. The resulting prolonged autumn colours were stunning.

But why do leaves fall in the autumn? Simply to save the tree from storm damage by reducing its resistance to wind, ice and snow. Shedding leaves also reduces water loss at a time when replacement soil moisture is limited by lower temperatures.

In deciduous trees, the mechanism to shed leaves is called abscission. Leaf fall is a deliberate sequence, triggered by decreasing daylight and reduced air temperatures. Across the base of the leaf is the abscission zone which breaks allowing the leaf to fall from the tree. The breaking of this zone is caused by increased levels of the plant hormones ethylene, abscisic acid and/or auxin. If you look at a twig, you will see a scar remains at the site of the shed leaf.

Evergreen trees renew their leaves in much the same way, but most old evergreen leaves fall in spring as new leaves develop. The leaves of some evergreen trees are shed a year after they were produced; others remain firmly fixed for around three years, for example holly, this month's tree.

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), a native species, is very common as understorey in the beech and oak woods around Woodcote. Often planted in gardens, it is a well-loved shrub that shelters birds and gives hedgehogs a cosy place to hibernate.

The glossy, dark green, prickly leaves make holly easy to identify, but did you know that leaves on a tree are very variable? Lower leaves tend to have spines all over but leaves higher up often have smooth edges. Scientists recently discovered that holly trees adjust their spiky armour in response to hungry animals and changing environments; the prickles protect lower leaves from browse by livestock and deer. This leafy transformation happens through epigenetic modification. This is a fascinating way that organisms adjust their gene expression without actually changing their DNA. So, although the DNA of all holly trees is the same, trees can switch off or on different traits to adapt to their environment.

Mature holly trees can grow up to 15 m and live for 300 years. The bark is smooth and thin with lots of small, brown 'warts', and the stems are dark brown. Holly is dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers occur on different trees. Flowers are white with four petals and bloom any time between early spring and the very beginning of summer, depending on the climate. To produce holly berries, there must be a male holly tree within pollinating distance of a female tree.

Holly has been used for centuries as a decoration at Christmas time. The origin has been traced to the druids who decorated their huts with evergreens during winter as an abode for the sylvan spirits. Holly being one of the few evergreens available, along with yew and ivy. Holly was seen as a fertility symbol and a charm against witches, goblins and the devil. It was thought to be unlucky to cut down a holly tree which is why you sometimes see mature holly trees in hedges.

Holly wood is white, hard, dense and very fine-grained. It distorts when drying, but stains and polishes well. Its hardness meant holly was used for things like lace bobbins, butter prints, chessmen and whip stocks but the main use for holly these days is for intricate inlay work on decorated furniture.

Update on the restoration of the Lower Greenmoor Pond

We were pleased that local company W J Hatt were able to carry out some investigation works at the Lower Greenmoor Pond in September. As some water had accumulated in the base of the pond following the rain earlier in the month, the works were not as extensive as hoped but we have identified a way forward. We have updated the Parish Council, are now developing a Restoration Plan and obtaining quotes for the work required to restore the Lower Pond. A public meeting will be held to present the proposal to the village in the new year. If approved, fund raising will then get underway to raise the money required and we will apply for grants from a range of sources. The work will need to be undertaken when the pond is dry, so we are hoping for less rain in 2025. We will continue to keep you informed.

We hope you enjoy our articles in the Correspondent. For more information about our activities and how to become a member, see our website https://woodcotecg.org.uk/.

WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Wallingford Photographic Club (wallingfordphoto.club) continues into winter with talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions. We meet on Thursdays from 730pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion, with a handful of sessions online during the season, to make the most of inviting speakers from far away. December includes a guest speaker at the Pavilion: Peter Crane talks us through *Street photography my way* including candid, monochrome and colourful images.

THE CASE OF BONFIRE NIGHT

There were no celebrations for Hallowe'en when I was child (I am talking about the early nineteen fifties). Maybe there had been in earlier times, and the Church had disapproved of them such that they had fallen into abeyance, but I don't remember anything in the least special about the night of October 31 till pumpkins and trick or treat were introduced as an American import in the nineteen-eighties.

What we did have was a proper Bonfire Night, and this was just about the biggest night of the year for us children, with the possible exception of Christmas Eve. In this case too, a considerable part of the pleasure lay in the build-up and prolonged preparations. As soon as fireworks came into the shops my father would take me along to the local newsagents, where I was allowed to choose perhaps ten shillings' worth from the display in its glass case at the counter. This took much time and calculation: one wanted bangers and squibs and a rocket or two, of course, but I liked the pretty ones as well. Eventually I would make my purchase and bear them home, to be taken out endlessly in the days leading up to the 5th and arranged in order of preference or planned detonation: Silver Fountains and Golden Rains, Cascades and Roman Candles, cone-shaped Mount Etnas, jumping crackers like small brown concertinas and coiled-up Catherine wheels. Other boys up the road, with wealthier parents, might have had ten times the number I did, their choice of Brock's finest, great half-crown rockets, huge squat box-shaped bangers that would shake the whole field when detonated, but I doubt if they derived more pleasure than I from a little gunpowder in a few cases of coloured paper.

But perhaps the best part of the Guy Fawkes preparations was the communal building of the bonfire, which was always constructed by us children in the middle of The Hedge, a local bit of wasteland. And the Building of the Bonfire began with the Getting of the Tree. Some bright weekend morning about the middle of October the bush telegraph would come into play and a gaggle of children, the older ones armed with choppers and hatchets, would gather up The Hedge and set off across The Field to The Woods to bring back a straight sturdy sapling to be the centre-pole of our bonfire, along with a number of thinner lengths for supporting poles, and any old brushwood we could find for filling the gaps.

Bonfire Night itself (which unlike now was always and only on November 5th) held a deep magic for me. It was something about the country dark all round, the leaping flames, the gusts of orange sparks whirling away above the trees, the people moving long-shadowed in the firelight, that seemed to reach far back, making a bridge to another time of the world. It would not do now, of course: health and safety officials, if they didn't faint first, would slap an instant injunction on it. A great roaring bonfire, stuffed with papers and boxes and anything else combustible, not roped off, with small boys every so often shielding their faces from the heat and dashing in to poke a charred log or piece of brushwood deeper into the heart of the glow. Fireworks being let off all over the place with no more than mild admonitions from parents to 'watch what you're doing with that rocket!', a necessary warning given that we fired our rockets from milk bottles, which had a tendency to keel over at launch and send the rocket on an unintended trajectory a few feet above the crowd. Catherine wheels coming loose from their moorings and scything through the air like small fiery chariot wheels. Teenagers throwing bangers at one another's feet. Infants waving sparklers to make glowing circles on the dark air. And once, whether by design or accident, one boy's whole box of fireworks going off all together in a few glorious moments of pyrotechnic mayhem.

Oddly enough, I never remember anyone making complaints about animals being traumatised. Were dogs and horses simply less highly-strung back then, some of the poor beasts maybe having lived through too many wartime air-raids to be bothered by a few harmless bangs? And, miraculously, I never personally knew anyone get hurt on these occasions, though it must be admitted that casualty departments in general did find November 5th one of their busier nights. It was a dangerous, unsanitised freedom we children had back then, and no doubt some somewhere paid the price for it; it was not a price that could be asked or tolerated now. Yet safety too comes at a price: in experience, in knowledge, in vitality, in liberty, in sheer fun. As my father would have said, you pays your money and you makes your choice. There is much to be said for the choices made back then.

David Sutton

SATURDAY COFFEE SHOP

Slots Available for 2025

A huge thank you to everyone, organisers and customers, for making 2024 a great comeback year for the Saturday Morning Coffee Shop.

Eighteen different groups ran 36 Coffee Shops during the year raising a total of over £10,000 including raffles, book sales etc held on the morning for good causes. These included local schools, pre-school, the Library, WADS, St Leonard's Church, Woodcote Volunteers, the W.I. (Woodcote and Stoke Row), Oxford Hospital School, the Burnese Rescue & Rehoming Charity and several others.

The new online booking system launched this year has made it much easier for hirers to look at room availability etc and make a booking. The website also has guidance notes on how to run the coffee shop including food safety requirements. Thank you to Louisa for so ably running the website and booking system. Louisa also promotes the individual coffee shops on social media.

The Community Centre Management Committee is in the process of raising funds to refresh the kitchen which has been well used for the past 30 years since the Centre opened.

We would now like to start filling the Saturday Coffee Shop slots for at least the first half of next year. FOWPS are already off the mark with two bookings!

Dot Knox is running a coffee shop on March 8 to raise funds for the Ben Kinsella Trust, an anti-knife crime charity which we hope will attract a lot of support.

Please visit our website www.woodcotecc.org.uk to make your next Coffee Shop bookings. If you would like more information, please email bookings@woodcotecc.org.uk.

Many thanks again and Best Wishes for the Festive Season.

Saturday 7th December Christmas Coffee Shop

The Community Centre Committee is running a Christmas Coffee Shop on December 7th to raise funds for our kitchen refurbishment project. We will have a seasonal raffle, lots of lovely cakes as usual and of course good company. There may even be some mince pies but can't promise mulled wine!!

We will look forward to seeing you there.

Frances Cork
Woodcote Community Centre
www.woodcotecc.org.uk

CHECKENDON PRE-SCHOOL

We are all looking forward to celebrating Christmas this year.

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

We have also been decorating Christmas crackers, which may have a little treat inside for the children. The children have also been enjoying the role play area, Fathers Christmas's Grotto, where the children wrapped presents at the wrapping station, wrote and sent Christmas cards and dressed up in lots of festive outfits. We have also been celebrating and enjoying many fun activities such as singing, Christmas jumper day, Polar Express day, performing our Nativity to friends and family and our Christmas party, which the children look forward to every year, with visits from our friends Jester Giggles and Father Christmas.

Thank you all for your continued support and Merry Christmas!

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

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Our book for October was *Get Well Soon* by the French writer Marie-Sabine Roger. This book won the Prix Des Lecteurs De L'Express in 2012. The story was about an elderly man reminiscing about his life while recovering in hospital. His reminiscing is interspersed with the current lives of young people and medical staff he meets while in hospital. It was a thoughtful and humorous book which was thoroughly enjoyed by all our readers.

Our book for November is *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke.

Book Club meet on the fourth Monday of the month at Woodcote library at 3.30pm (date/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 PRIMARY SCHOOL

November is a time of thought for us at the primary school. We think how different our lives may have been if the Houses of Parliament had been blown sky high by Guy Fawkes. We do, however, love the fireworks we can see each year!

We also remember the soldiers from across the world who are fighting for freedoms and those who have died in conflict. Each year we learn about a different experience from one of the wars and we always remember every name on the Woodcote War Memorial. This year at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month, we stood for our 2 minutes of silence together with The Cabin and Woodcote Pre-schools. Our year 6 children recited *In Flanders Fields* and once we had placed our poppy wreaths on the memorial, Reverend Benskin led us all in prayer. This year we were honoured to be joined by Mr McAuslin, who has himself been involved in conflict whilst in the armed forces. We chatted for some time afterwards and are looking forward to him coming into school to chat with the older children at later stage this year.

The children's poppy wreaths are now on display at school.

The children have been competing in Cross Country tournaments this term and are going to the South Oxfordshire Schools' Tournament on Tuesday of next week. This is a 2 km run and a big competition. We are very proud of our team of 28 runners going to compete. Good luck everyone!

It's also rugby season. The children are having a lot of fun once again with a ball that doesn't quite work the way they expect and wrangling with the question as to who it was that thought of this 'throwing backwards' technique!? They are feeling challenged, motivated and are working extremely well as teams.

A huge thank you to the volunteers that have come forward to read with the children. This term we have welcomed 4 new weekly volunteers from the local community, and we are delighted to be able to share our wonderful school with them. Let us know if you too have some time and would like to join the crew.

Christmas is on its way. The younger children in the school are preparing for their performances of the Nativity. This year they will be telling the story from the point of view of the star who marked the way to the stable where Jesus was born. We are all looking forward to it very much.

We are also looking forward to the FOWPS Christmas Fair on Friday December 6th from 4.30 – 7.00. Santa will be here, there will be a BBQ and a really Christmassy atmosphere throughout the evening. You are all invited so please do come over and join in the fun.

Everyone at the Primary School wishes you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Mrs L. Hunt

CABIN PRESCHOOL

The Sparkling Season is Here!

Get ready for a glitter-filled term as we dive into an array of Christmas-themed activities! Our staff and children are brimming with excitement as we prepare for the big day.

We're delighted to announce that we'll be joining the Primary School for their Christmas production. We'll also kick off December with a special trip to St. Leonard's for Christmas songs and a story session with Rev. David Benskin.

We started this term with vibrant celebrations of Diwali and Bonfire Night. The children enjoyed singing festive songs, creating an incredible group firework display, and making beautiful clay tea light holders (diyas) decorated with sparkles and jewels.

A special thank you goes out to Mr. Westell, a long-time supporter whose children have attended Cabin over the years, for donating and fitting two wonderful new fire doors. A heartfelt thanks to his company for generously providing the doors, an incredible savings for us!

Books We've Loved:

Pumpkin Jack: This book captivates children as it teaches the life cycle of a pumpkin, introducing them to the concepts of growth, decay, and nature's cycles in an engaging way.

Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper: A delightful tale about friendship, teamwork, and sharing. The trio of Cat, Squirrel, and Duck make their daily pumpkin soup with each friend contributing their special

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touch. We had plenty of pumpkin-themed fun ourselves, from making soup to crafting pumpkin faces and tapping golf tees into pumpkins!

This Term's Reads

Dipal's Diwali, a factual and lively story that brings the joy of Diwali celebrations to life. A variety of nursery rhymes for National Nursery Rhyme Week, promoting phonics development through rhyme and repetition. Plus *Owl Babies*, *The Gruffalo's Child*, *Dear Santa*, and *Stickman*.

This Term's lessons and activities

We've continued focusing on numbers 1-3 and colour recognition, with hands-on activities that help the children practice counting, recognizing, and ordering numbers in fun, playful ways.

Our phonics lessons have emphasized developing listening skills through engaging sound recognition games. The children have identified sounds from both the home and the great outdoors, laying a strong foundation for future reading and writing.

Autumn has been a wonderland of exploration! The children delighted in the changing leaves, collected them for art projects, and enjoyed observing the vibrant seasonal hues. Our weekly meetups with Oak Class (Reception) have been a great way to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Our annual Harvest Festival at St. Leonard's Church was a heartfelt success. Thank you for your generous food donations, which have been sent to the Reading Food Bank. This tradition is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about the seasons, the origin of food, and the importance of gratitude and giving.

We've been supporting our children in learning the importance of good oral health as we work toward our Healthy Smiles Accreditation. Brushing teeth is a vital part of their personal, social, and emotional development. Our fun vegetable tasting session, where children decorated a crown with stickers that they earned by trying veggies was a hit. Parents have even reported more adventurous eaters at home! Remember: "You don't have to like it, but I want you to try it."

The children have been enjoying Dough Disco, a playful activity where they use playdough in rhythmic movements set to music. This helps build hand strength, dexterity, and coordination which are all essential for early writing. We've also practiced forming letters in flour for extra fun!

During Wellbeing Week, we will explore what keeps us healthy. This will include learning about taking care of our bodies with exercise and hygiene, calming our minds with meditation and mindfulness, and nurturing relationships through kindness and friendship.

We do have sessions available now, if you want to find out more about us, then please call and arrange a visit on 01491 680854, or email info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk. Free entitlement for 2 year olds as well as 3 and 4 year olds, I can help you cut your childcare costs, if you meet the criteria.









WOODCOTE PRE-SCHOOL

We have had such a busy November, celebrating lots of exciting things.

For Diwali, we explored coloured rice, made Diwali lamps out of clay, tried Indian food and coloured lots of Diwali pictures. We read our special book, *The Best Diwali Ever*, a lot too!

Next, we celebrated Bonfire Night. We pretended to go camping under the stars and watched fireworks together. We made our own firework creations with playdough and sparkly pipe cleaners. The children baked Bonfire cupcakes and had so much fun measuring, mixing, spooning and decorating. We also made firework paintings to take home.

Our next celebration was Remembrance Day. The children made beautiful poppy handprints to be made into a wreath to be placed on the War Memorial. We talked about why we have Remembrance Day and how it is important to us.

Nursery Rhyme week was so much fun for us all. We chose our favourite nursery rhymes and enjoyed investigating different things about them. The children made their dollies from *Miss Polly Had a Dolly* feel better, fed the animals from *Old Macdonald's Farm*, made mice out of playdough from *Hickory Dickory Dock* and many other fun activities.

During the same week, we also acknowledged anti-bullying week by having lots of conversations about kindness, sharing and celebrating our differences by wearing odd socks.

Lots of cooking has been taking place, as well as our bonfire cupcakes, the children have made pizzas for lunch and Pudsey biscuits for Children In Need. The children were invited to wear yellow for Children in Need too.

Our Christmas period is going to be busy and exciting as always. We have so many things to look forward to. The roles for our nativity play have been cast and we will be welcoming the children's families in to see them sing the songs they have been learning. Jester Giggles is going to be paying us a visit on our last day, during our Christmas party, as a surprise for the children. We'll be making our Christingles and taking them to St Leonard's for our annual Christingle service. Another very special thing that we look forward to every year is our delicious Traditional Christmas lunch, which is cooked from scratch on the premises by our very own cook, Tanya. Santa and his Elf, Freddie, have promised to visit again this year and bring presents for all the lovely children.

We will have a stall at the Christmas Fair at Woodcote Primary School on the 6th of December. Please come along and support us by getting a glitter tattoo, having a go on our lucky dip or buying a Christmas decoration.

Our annual Christmas Raffle is being drawn on Wednesday 11th December on Facebook live and we have over 60 Prizes to be won.

The top 3 are:

1. One Night Stay at The Coppa Club at Goring or The Mill at Sonning,
2. £150 cash,
3. Family Annual Pass to Blenheim Palace.

There as so many more amazing prizes to be won, please check out our website for a full list. Pop into Pre-School, The Red Lion or The Black Lion to buy tickets or look out for them being sold in other locations.

We are offering an exciting opportunity for someone to join our small and friendly team of staff. The applicant must be Level 3 qualified in childcare and someone who has a passion for working with children. For more details, please contact Wendy Powell on the details listed below.

Spaces in Pre-School are filling up really fast, we have a few spaces left for children aged 18 months to 4 years old. Please contact us on 01491 682300 or woodcote.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk.



Fun with friends in the park



Making cupcakes



SLIMMING WORLD CONSULTANT NOW HELPING OTHER PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR WEIGHT LOSS GOALS ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE

Amy has transformed her life by losing 4.5 stone and is now using her success to launch a new career, helping others achieve their own weight loss goals and change their lives.

Amy Howard joined her local Slimming World group in Reading and lost 4.5 stone, reducing her clothes size from an 18 to 12. Over the past 55 years, Slimming World has been supporting self-employed consultants, such as Amy, to help members change their mindset and form new healthy habits around eating and activity so they can stay slim for life. Amy run's groups in Sonning Common and Caversham.

Through completing the training to become a Slimming World Consultant, Amy says, "It's a privilege for me to be able to pass on the experience, insight and understanding that helped me. Being able to give other people the support they need to get to their target weight, in the way my Consultant did for me, is an amazing feeling." Amy adds,"It all starts with the feeling that you're not alone. I know I wouldn't have succeeded with my weight loss without the weekly help, encouragement, and understanding of my own Consultant and the members in the group. I want people in Reading to know that if they're struggling alone with their weight, we're here for them, we understand and we can help."

Tackling obesity is one of the greatest long-term health challenges England is experiencing, with around two-thirds of adults being above a healthy weight and over half living with obesity. The Department for Health and Social Care claims that obesity is linked with reduced life expectancy, a range of health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, liver and repository disease and cancer. It can also have an impact on mental health. In fact, the cost to the NHS for treating obesity-related health conditions was estimated to be £6.1 billion in 2019.

According to the Local Authority Health Profile Report for Oxfordshire in 2019, there is an increase to 58.9 % in the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese in Oxfordshire. 67.2 % of the population have had a diabetes diagnosis, which is an alarming increase from the 2018 results. The demand to open new Slimming World Groups in Oxfordshire has never been greater.

Amy adds, "One of the main reasons I decided to become a consultant with Slimming World is that I loved the flexibility the role provides which enables me to fit this role in around my other commitments; of course, being able to earn well was an added bonus".

No prior skills, experience of qualifications are necessary, as all consultants receive in-depth training from the Slimming World Academy which equips consultants to run a successful group, delivering Slimming World's programme based on the science and psychology of behaviour change, and training on how to build and promote a successful local business.

Slimming World provides administrative support, centralized marketing and PR, stock services, a regularly up to-date website with the additional support nutrition and research expertise, to help consultants run their own self-employed businesses. Anyone looking for a career that offers opportunities for growth and development and flexibility around family life. Other commitments could find that opening a Slimming World group offers the perfect solution.

There are opportunities across the whole of the Berkshire and Oxfordshire. For more information call Amy on 07826 109207 or go to www.slimmingworld.co.uk/careers.

WOODCOTE WI

Ann Larden welcomed the members to our Harvest meeting, and we gave a big welcome to new member Yasmin Gaielle and two visitors.

Our birthday girls this month were Sally Lambert, Barbara George, Connie Vickery, Gill Woods, Kathy Brewer and Kerry Jones.

Patricia Solomons read us some poetry about autumn and then we had fun making cards with autumn as a theme. Thank you to Patricia for arranging this activity.

We had a collection for the foodbank, thank you to everyone who contributed. The food was wonderful such an amazing variety of savoury and sweet dishes some very talented cooks! The table were decorated with lovely flower decorations in mini pumpkins, you are very clever Kerry!

We had a coffee shop in the Community Coffee Shop, a big thanks to everyone who came to support us.

We are looking forward to going to the Bell at Crowmarsh for our Christmas meal.

Our speaker in December will be Alix Booth, who will talk on *Entertaining through puppets*, the tea will be made by the committee. Competition will be for the most interesting finger puppet.

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

Judy Williams

ST. LEONARD'S FAIR

This year's fair made an all-time absolutely fantastic profit of £2,138. Everyone was absolutely delighted, and we send a massive "thank you" to all who came and hope that you enjoyed yourselves and were pleased with your bargains and prizes.

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

Stalls were brightly decorated, and stall holders were bedecked with Christmas hats, jumpers, earrings and even flashing necklaces. Aside from the bustle of the main halls the refreshment room provided an alternative oasis of floral calm along with the opportunity to catch-up with friends over tea and biscuits.

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

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

The St Leonard's Fair Committee

WALLINGFORD CORN EXCHANGE

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. The bar and auditorium will open from 7pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand. Films with subtitles will be shown on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please look at the website (www.cornexchange.org.uk) for updates.

The theatre will be closed from Tuesday 24 December until Thursday 16 January when we start our annual pantomime which is Dick Whittington.

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

Cinema

Small Things Like These (PG)

- Sunday, 1 December, 7:30pm

Never Look Away (15)

- Monday, 2 December, 7:30pm
- Tuesday, 3 December, 7:30pm

Portraits of Dangerous Women (15)

- Wednesday, 4 December, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, 4 December, 7:30pm
- Thursday, 5 December, 7:30pm

Christmas Eve in Miller's Point (12A)

- Friday, 6 December, 7:30pm
- Sunday, 8 December, 7:30pm
- Monday, 9 December, 7:30pm

Superman: The Story of Christopher Reeve (PG)

- Wednesday, 11 December, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, 11 December, 7:30pm

Red One (12A)

- Thursday, 12 December, 7:30pm
- Friday, 13 December, 7:30pm
- Sunday, 15 December, 7:30pm
- Monday, 16 December, 7:30pm

Gladiator II (15)

- Wednesday, 18 December, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, 18 December, 7:30pm

Wicked (PG)

- Thursday, 19 December, 7:30pm
- Friday, 20 December, 7:30pm
- Saturday, 21 December, 2:30pm
- Saturday, 21 December, 7:30pm
- Sunday, 22 December, 2:30pm)
- Monday, 23 December, 2:30pm

Live on Stage

Moonage, A David Bowie Tribute Band

- Saturday 7 December, 7:45pm
- Tickets £19



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Moonage, the Best of Bowie Tribute Band, returns again to the Corn Exchange stage. It is their collective talents and passion that makes Moonage one of the best live tribute acts around and the most exciting and genuine Bowie tribute band out there. The band performs David Bowie's material from across three decades, selecting some of the best album tracks as well as those all-important classic hits.

Punchbowl by the Sinodun Players

- Saturday, 14 December, 7:30pm
- Tickets £12

The Sinodun Players present an evening of seasonal offerings, with a second half of music from their own talented band, Outliers. All funds raised will be donated to Crisis at Christmas.

Live Screening

Cinderella from The Royal Opera House

- The Royal Ballet
- Tuesday, 10 December, 7:15pm
- Tickets £15 adults, £12 seniors, £6 under 18s

This Christmas, be transported into an ethereal world where a sprinkling of fairy dust makes dreams come true. This enchanting ballet by The Royal Ballet's Founding Choreographer Frederick Ashton is a theatrical experience for all the family. Stuck at home and put to work by her spoiled stepsisters, Cinderella's life is dreary and dull. Everything changes when she helps a mysterious woman out… With a little bit of magic, she is transported into an ethereal new world. one where fairies bring the gifts of the seasons, where pumpkins turn into carriages, and where true love awaits.

The Nutcracker from the Royal Opera House

- Tuesday, 17 December, 7:15pm
- Tickets £15 adults, £12 seniors, £6 under 18s

Discover the enchantment of ballet with this sparkling festive treat for the whole family. Julia Trevelyan Oman's period designs bring festive charm to Peter Wright's beloved Royal Ballet production, as fairytale magic comes together with spectacular dancing in this unforgettable classic ballet. Join Clara at a delightful Christmas Eve party that becomes a magical adventure once everyone else is tucked up in bed. Marvel at the brilliance of Tchaikovsky's score, as Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker fight the Mouse King and visit the Sugar Plum Fairy in the glittering Kingdom of Sweets. Peter Wright's much-loved production for The Royal Ballet, with gorgeous period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, keeps true to the spirit of this festive ballet classic, combining the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular dancing.



Coming Soon

Dick Whittington by the Sinodun Players

- Friday, 17 January to Saturday 1 February
- Adult tickets: £18-weekend, £15-week
- Under 16s tickets: £10

Join us for a magical adventure with *Dick Whittington*, the classic pantomime filled with laughter, music and fun for all ages! Follow young Dick and his loyal cat as they set off to seek fame and fortune in London, where the streets are said to be paved with gold!

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.

There is only one meeting for December, which is on Wednesday 11th December and it will be our postcard evening where members have an opportunity to display some interesting postcards. We may also find out some interesting facts about the postcard and how it has developed. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

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

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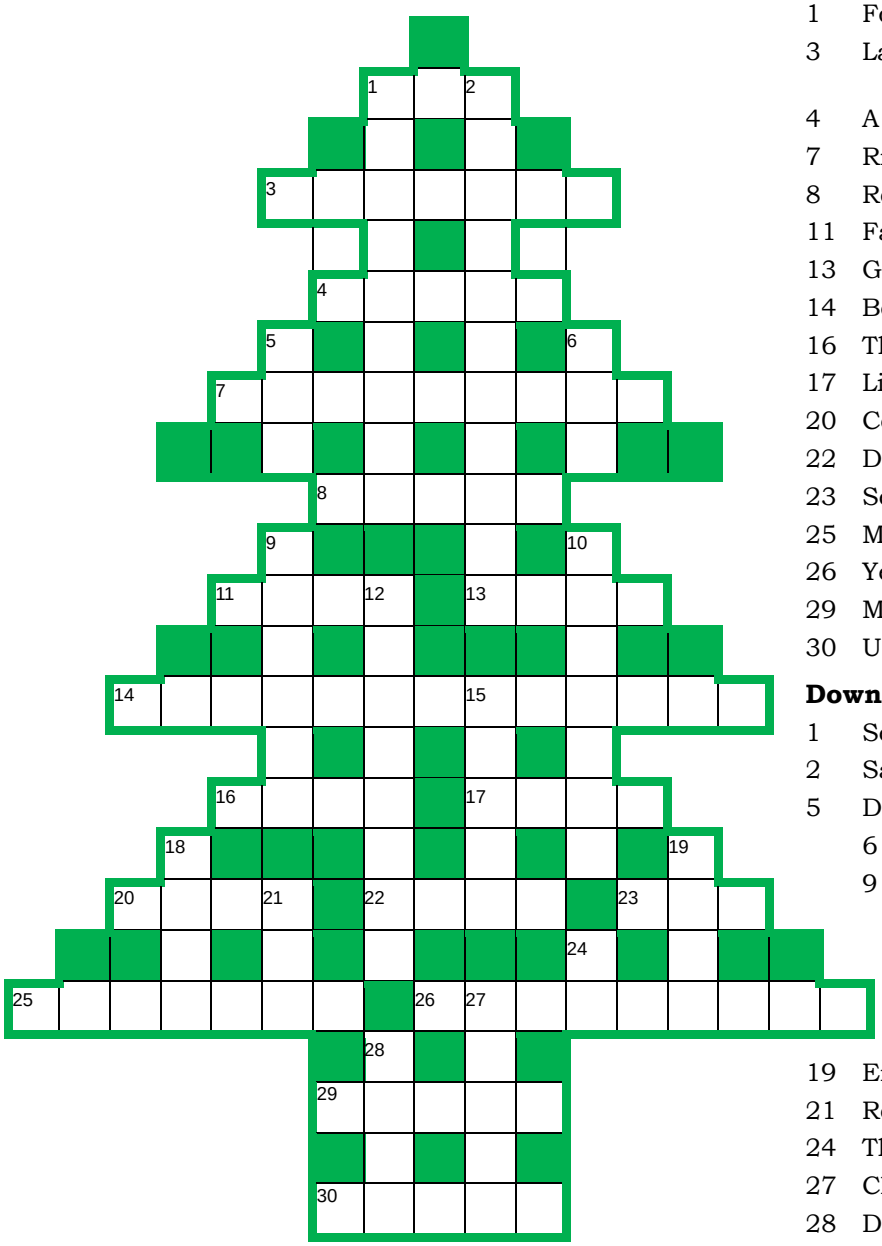
Woodcote

South Oxfordshire

Tel. 07976431697

nozeyparker5@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

1 Fool leading a seasonal song (3)
3 Large relative of Rudolph drops in for early dinner (3,4)
4 A bit of leg from a leading toxicologist on drugs (5)
7 Rich – so yob creates a musical lot (9)
8 Regular transport (5)
11 Fast girl meets alien (4)
13 Girl need tin-opener to get pudding ingredient (4)
14 Bohemian ruler's assorted walking scenes (4, 9)
16 Therefore old ruler to go (4)
17 Lion locks in permanent enclosure (4)
20 Confused sailors Christmas guide (4)
22 Departed after hours (4)
23 Seasonal helper begins eating lunch food (3)
25 My niche makes Santa's entry (7)
26 Yelling Carol grabs the best (9)
29 Mike in church makes a pie filling (5)
30 Unpleasant around about money (5)

Down

1 See 12 down
2 Santa's accompaniment says kill beauties (6,5)
5 Doctor usually on extended Christmas duty (3)
6 River heard on 4th of July (3)
9 Root/spice from Hamburg, in Germany (6)
10 Game, hard going for yokel (7)
12 & 1d Evergreen carol (3,5,3,3,3)
15 Christmas worker spent half-time in bed (5)
18 Particle in first half of the alphabet (4)
19 Endless stout for seasonal pudding fruit (4)
21 Regret the French way (3)
24 The old tree doesn't need water at first (2)
27 Clown has a drink (5)
28 Draw led right to row (4)

NOVEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

C	R	O	O	K	■	M	U	G	G	E	R	■
A	■	N	■	N	■	I	■	R	■	■	■	B
N	E	T	W	O	R	K	■	O	B	E	S	E
D	■	H	■	W	■	A	■	U	■	■	■	A
I	D	E	A	■	A	D	O	P	T	I	O	N
D	■	N	■	R	■	O	■	I	■	N	■	O
■	P	A	P	E	R	■	H	E	R	T	Z	■
R	■	I	■	C	■	S	■	S	■	E	■	H
A	L	L	S	O	R	T	S	■	O	G	R	E
M	■	■	■	R	■	A	■	S	■	R	■	A
P	O	U	N	D	■	R	U	T	L	A	N	D
S	■	■	■	E	■	E	■	U	■	T	■	E
■	I	C	A	R	U	S	■	D	R	E	A	D

DECEMBER QUIZ

1. In what ocean is Christmas Island located?
2. What famous scientist was born on Christmas day 1642?
3. What is Scrooge's given name?
4. What Saint's Day falls on Boxing Day?
5. In what country did the Christmas Tree tradition begin?
6. What Christmas table item did Tom Smith invent in the early 1850's?
7. In what year did King George V first broadcast the monarch's Christmas message?
8. In what year was Queen Elizabeth's Christmas message first televised?
9. How many ghosts appeared to Scrooge?
10. In what pantomime does Buttons appear?

Answers on page 22

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

DECEMBER DATES

Sun 1st	*	Wallingford & District Art Club Winter Art Show. Centre 70, The Kinecroft, Wallingford. 10am-4pm
	*	Wallingford Town Christmas Fayre. Wallingford town centre. 10am-5pm
	*	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
	*	Woodcote Volunteers Client Tea Party. Woodcote Community Centre. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Goring Green Fingers Gardening Club. Storton Lodge, Icknield Rd, Goring. 7.30pm-9.30pm
	*	Woodcote Parish Council meeting. Function Room, Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
Thur 5th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Street photography my way'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm
Sat 7th	*	Christmas Coffee Shop in aid of Woodcote Community Centre (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm
	*	Goring Repair Café. Goring Village Hall. 10am-12.30pm
Tues 10th	*	Board Games Club for adults. Woodcote Library. 3.30pm-4.45pm
	*	Senior Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
Wed 11th	*	BMMHS Talk: 'Hunting Evil'. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
Thur 12th	*	Wallingford Photographic Club talk: 'Christmas Social'. Crowmarsh Pavilion. 7.30pm-10pm
Fri 13th	*	Medieval Carols by candlelight. Goring Catholic Church, Ferry Lane, Goring. 7pm

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DECEMBER DATES *Continued*

Sat 14th	*	Saturday Crafts - Christmas Tree Decorations. Woodcote Library. 10.30am-11.30am
Sun 15th	*	Hardwick Market. Hardwick Rd, Whitchurch RG8 7RA. 9am-3pm
Mon 16th	*	Junior Youth Club. Woodcote Village Hall. 7.15pm-8.45pm
Tues 17th	*	Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration: 'Jazz scene in watercolour'. Via Zoom. 7.30pm
Wed 18th	*	Woodcote WI meeting. Woodcote Village Hall. 2.30pm
Sat 21st	*	Coffee Shop in aid of Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) Trust (cash only). Woodcote Community Centre. 10am-12.30pm

FORTHCOMING DATES IN JANUARY

Wed 8th	*	Wallingford U3A meeting. Crowmarsh Village Hall. 2pm
	*	Woodcote Volunteers Client Tea Party. Woodcote Community Centre. 2.30pm-4pm
	*	Henley & District Stamp Club meeting. Bix Village Hall. 7.30pm
	*	Woodcote Parish Council meeting. Function Room, Woodcote Village Hall. 7.30pm

DECEMBER QUIZ ANSWERS

Quiz on page 23

