

NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGES OF WOOTTON, GLYMPTON AND KIDDINGTON

# *Outreach*



JUNE 2023

**NEW BAR  
SNACK  
MENU**

**THE  
KILLINGWORTH  
CASTLE**

**The bar is open for drinks Wednesday - Sunday Mid-day - "close" (22.30 approx.)  
Closed Monday/Tuesday**

<b>We can now</b>	<b>Wednesday - Friday:</b>	<b>12.00 - 2.00 &amp; 18.00 - 21.00</b>
<b>offer food on:</b>	<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>12.00 - 15.00 &amp; 18.00 - 21.00</b>
	<b>Sunday :</b>	<b>12.00 - 15.00 &amp; 18.00 - 20.00</b>

CHERWELL GRAPHICS

# SPIRITED TASTINGS @TheKillingworth Castle

Calling all lovers of rum and revelry! With a history of revelry spawning 386 years at The Killingworth Castle, the pub is dipping its toes into a section of its history that was rife with debauched highwaymen, piracy and...rum!

As one of the fastest growing spirits in the World, rum will be the star of the show at The Killingworth Castle's special 'Spirited Tasting' evening on Friday 26th May. Booking essential.

A carefully chosen selection of rums will be paired with an inspired tasting menu created by the esteemed Killingworth kitchen team who have been consistently recommended by Michelin in its past 10 year independent ownership.

Guaranteed to be a rumbunctious, fun filled night out, there will be four tastings, four rums and two rum cocktails per person for only £55. the event will be compered by legendary frontman of The Cuban Brothers, Mike Keat.

DATE: Friday 26th May, 2023,

WHERE: The Killingworth Castle, Wootton near Woodstock, OX20 1EJ

TICKETS: £55 per person – 4 tastings, 4 rums and two cocktails!

BOOK: 01993 811 401 or pop in!

Claire



This month's cover ..

Stunning wildlife action from Tom Goffe, taken on the Kiddington estate.

Please keep the photos coming in - everyone;

Remember...

Outreach depends on YOUR contributions.

If you have events, clubs, sports, activities - anything at all, please get in touch and we'll see what we can do.

Deadline for the July edition - 15th June :

email to [outreachwgk@gmail.com](mailto:outreachwgk@gmail.com)

# H

ELP!

We're looking for a new distributor for

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*Mel*

THE PARISH OF WOOTTON,  
GLYMPTON AND KIDDINGTON



JUNE  
SERVICES

Sunday 4th	10.15am	St Mary's, Wootton	Sunday Light
Sunday 11th	10.15am	St Mary's, Glympton	Parish Communion
Sunday 18th	10.15am	St Mary's Wootton	Parish Communion
Sunday 25th	10.15am	St Nicholas, Kiddington	Parish Communion

**O** PEN GARDENS AND  
FLOWER FESTIVAL,  
SATURDAY 3RD AND  
SUNDAY 4TH JUNE.

For your delight, 10 Wootton gardens will be open to wander round during the weekend (2.00 – 5.30pm). In addition, a bonus of 3 extra gardens at the top of Glympton Road (including Blue Barn) will be open on Sunday morning only, from 10.00am – 1.00pm. You will find garden entry tickets, at £6.00, outside the church. Following the theme of "Village Crafts, Past and Present", a selection of items used and produced by craftspeople in the past will be on show in the Village Hall. (Of course, there will be the compulsory tea and cake, and a quiz.) In the church, as well as creative flower arrangements,

locally produced handmade crafts will be displayed.

All proceeds are in aid of our parish churches of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington.

*Ann Leggett*

**L** IFE'S  
EVENTS

We were saddened to hear that Les Cleaver formerly of Wootton, died suddenly aged 58 on the 25th April 2023. We send our deepest sympathy to his Les' wife, Waz and their friends and family.

If you would like a Life Event such as a baptism, birthday etc. to be included in Outreach please contact [fiona@macknlay.net](mailto:fiona@macknlay.net) or 07880327674. The deadline is the 15th of the month before the next month.

*Fiona*

# Wootton-by-Woodstock OPEN GARDENS AND FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 3rd June: 2.00 pm - 5.30pm  
Sunday 4th June: 10.00 am - 1.00pm  
and 2.00 pm - 5.30pm

...in St. Mary's Church, Wootton.  
Flower Festival and displays of crafts  
Theme: "Village Crafts, Past and Present".

Afternoon teas in Wootton Village Hall:  
ice-creams available at the Village Stores.

Garden tickets: £6.00 on sale at the church.

Proceeds in aid of the Parish Churches of  
Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington.



in community life in ways that we have done throughout our lives. A number of friends commenting on the Coronation last month reflected that the monarch could provide a focus of unity and bring people together from different backgrounds and beliefs. In a local but equally important way I believe a parish priest should play a similar role: holding the threads together. This takes time. In my previous appointment as Rector of the Ironstone Benefice – 8 rural churches and 3 schools just outside Banbury – it wasn't possible to be deeply

## **F**ROM THE RECTORY... (nearly)

As I write we are still 2 weeks away from moving to Wootton and 3 weeks from my Institution service but we have already received a welcome and hospitality from people including the team who turned up to move study furniture downstairs in the Rectory. Both Christine and I are looking forward to once again being able to engage

involved in the life of each village because of the sheer scale of the task. The threads were more fragile than I would have liked even after 10 years in post. We are looking forward to meeting you all and attending the various events, both regular activities and the specials throughout the year. In time the threads will come together and enable us to build on all the work that has gone before.

*John the Rector.*

# W

## OOTTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting - the general meeting for all Wootton residents - was held on the evening of Monday 15 May, with some twenty-five parishioners forsaking the warm sunny evening to attend. We received reports on their work and activities from the Wootton Conservation Trust, the Village Transport Network, WCAST, Wootton Relief in Need, the Village Hall Committee and Wootton School. Sadly, with the school closing at the end of this term, this was their last ever report. However, there will be a commemoration event in July to celebrate the contribution the school has made to village life over the past century and a half. And the Head hopes to maintain the link between Tackley school and the village in the future. Our county councillor, Andy Graham and the new district councillor, Tim Sumner, also spoke to the meeting about their work supporting the village.

There were written reports from the Wootton Toddlers Group and our PCSO, Helen Duffield, who drew attention to some of the current crime trends, and urged people to look out for suspicious activity. There was also a report from the Parish Council on the past year together with a separate report on

its finances. All written reports will be available to read on the council's website.

Finally, John Wynne made an interesting speech proposing that a village group to promote sustainability and help address climate change be established here. A number of other villages have set up such groups, and he feels Wootton should do the same, especially as he knows many people in the village are concerned about these issues and feel they cannot just be left to national governments to sort out. He asked that anyone interested in such a group should contact him on [john55@gmx.com](mailto:john55@gmx.com). He also suggested that we should consider expanding the name of the village to distinguish ourselves from all the many other Wootton's. Ideas please to his email.

Our next general meeting will be held in May 2024 - date to be announced nearer the time - and everyone has a right to attend and give their views on the state of the village. It's real democracy!

*John Harwood*

# P

## ARISH COUNCIL TO PLANT CORONATION TREES

Trees to commemorate the King's Coronation are to be planted this autumn in Castle Road, the parish council has decided. The May meeting of the council heard that

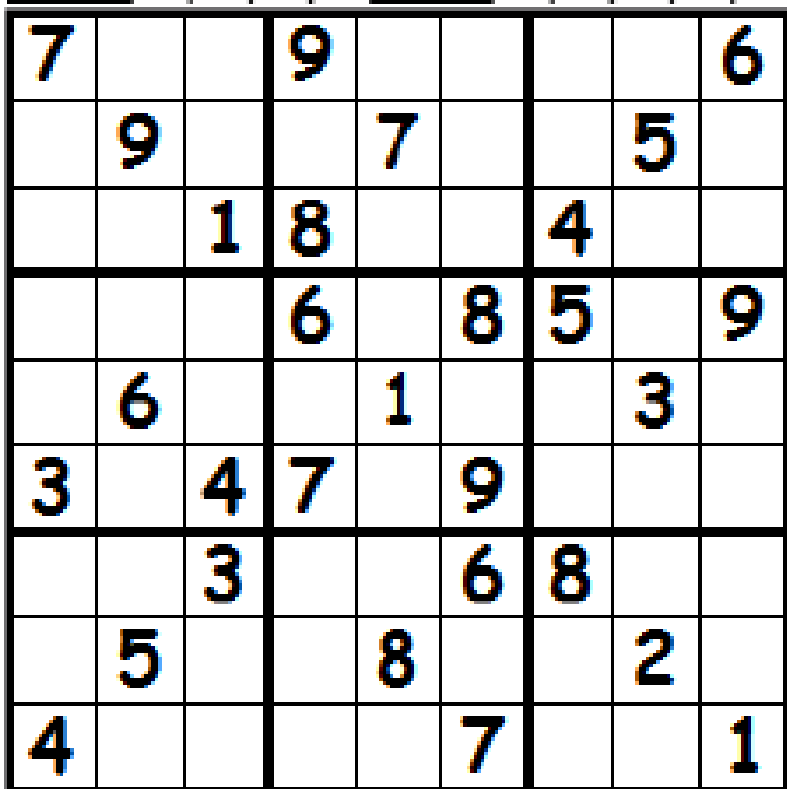
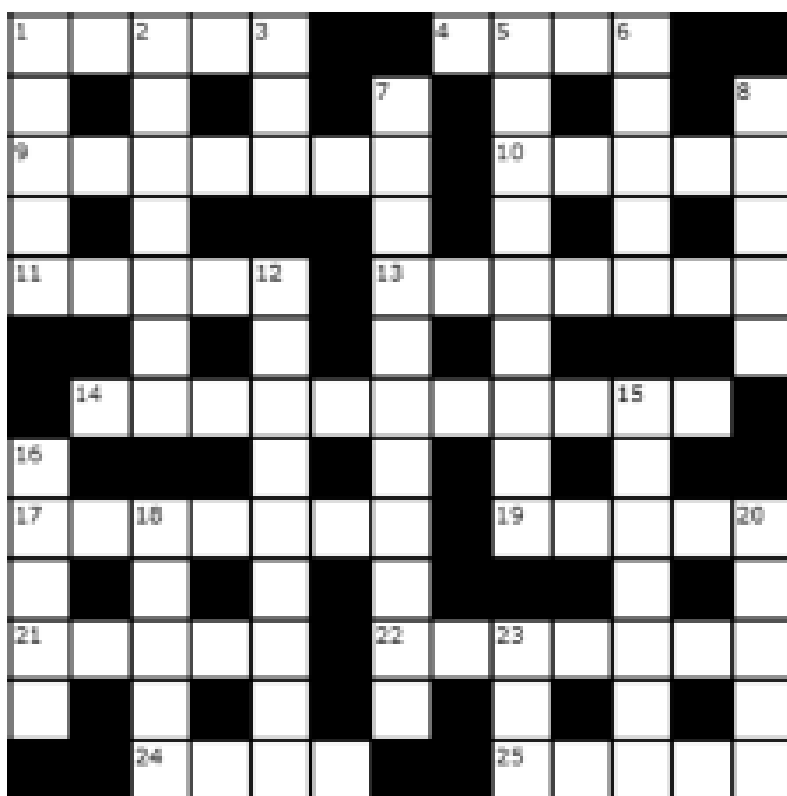
## THE "OUTREACH" CROISSANT CROSSWORD — No. 216

### Across

- 1) Money bag (5)
- 4) Got older (4)
- 9) Cowboy film (7)
- 10) Bog (5)
- 11) Wading bird (5)
- 13) Injurious to health (7)
- 14) "Slowhand", guitarist (4, 7)
- 17) Body of dead animal (7)
- 19) The aforementioned (5)
- 21) Fix again (5)
- 22) Spoke indistinctly (7)
- 24) Mislaid (4)
- 25) Less old (5)

### Down

- 1) Chess pieces (5)
- 2) More dangerous (7)
- 3) River in Devon and Somerset (3)
- 5) Slug or snail (9)
- 6) Small person (5)
- 7) Not good for body or mind (11)
- 8) Precious stones (5)
- 12) Swaps (9)
- 15) Emanation (7)
- 16) Frighten (5)
- 18) Relating to the countryside (5)
- 20) Weirder (5)
- 23) Adult male (3)



Last month's winner, May, was SIMON GABBATISS - first time lucky, I think!

**CONGRATULATIONS!!** Your croissants await you at Wootton Stores. Commiserations to those not lucky this time.... don't give up!

Completed puzzles should be handed in at Wootton or Glympton Stores, with your name and phone number, before the 15th of the month. The first correct answer drawn after the 15th of the next month will win four croissants.

Outreach is grateful to WOOTTON STORES for their continued generous support.





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most residents in the road support the move to plant some more trees to celebrate the Coronation. They will add to the chestnut trees which were planted in 1953 to celebrate the Queen's Coronation that year. Over the years, some of the original trees have died and the new trees will replace and supplement them. The council will now work up a detailed proposal showing the species of trees and where they could be planted. The plans will need to be cleared with the county council and by local residents, with the aim being to plant the trees this autumn.

Apart from this, at the May meeting, the council re-elected John Harwood and Andy Molyneux as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the council for the following year. Our new Parish Clerk was formally appointed: Ms Cathy Fleet, who is already a clerk to a couple of parishes in Cherwell will take up her duties in late June. The Clerk's email address will remain the same:

[clerkwpc0@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwpc0@gmail.com)

Finally, there was a further discussion about the village grass cutting contract. The council has had some real difficulty securing contractors to bid for this work and as a result has decided to look again at the contract specification inherited from the past. Over the next couple of months it will review the areas which should cut and the

other aspects of the contract which need to be agreed. If you have views on what cutting should take place and where, please speak to your local parish councillor.

*John Harwood*

*Support the fight for freedom in*  
**UKRAINE**  
Fundraiser at Wootton Village Hall  
**Friday April 21st at 7pm**

## U KRAINE EVENING

Many people from Wootton and other nearby villages gathered at the end of April in the Village Hall to enjoy an evening of home-cooked Ukrainian food and to raise funds for those fighting in Ukraine. The idea was initiated in January by Anastasia and Nadiya who live in Wootton. Soon others from Ukraine, or with a connection, joined in organising the event. The Hall looked wonderful decorated with flags, bunting, flowers and paper globes in yellow and blue. Glass lamps with yellow and blue were made by Kathy Gabbatiss, along with many other decorations. Carl Pollack kindly created a cocktail – The Zelensky – for the event, also yellow and blue, potent and delicious. Alena Hemingway

organised a team of volunteers creating the food.

It was an evening dominated by food – and food for thought. We celebrated Ukrainian culture with a banquet of home-made national delicacies – breads, spreads, salads, pastas, blood-red borscht and a bag of cookies to take home.



The flip side was a powerful talk by Olha Sokolova, a young Ukrainian historian. She gave us examples, from the seventeenth century to the twentieth, of Russia crushing Ukrainian bids for freedom and suppressing Ukrainian culture. We were asked if we could name a single Ukrainian cultural icon ... poet, composer, artist. A thoughtful silence. The point was made. The Wootton guard turned out in force: a parade of distinguished military men – from Roy Hanson to Jamie Mackinlay and Allan Johnson. We were told about the Ukrainian



our Ukrainian guests and their supporters. Thanks are due to the many people who helped with the event including those who kindly 'lent' kitchens for cooking. We had lots of generous donations to the raffle from individuals and companies listed on the night. Numerous kind individuals donated to the funds and bought raffle tickets. Particular thanks to Blenheim Estates for raffle prizes and funding the food costs, to Wootton Place and to Simon Linnett and to A&J Catering who provided catering equipment and

charity we were supporting which delivers practical aid straight to soldiers. Allan and Jamie called on their own experience of serving in the army to explain why this was so important: "the thought of sleeping outside night after night without a sleeping bag, with no thought of returning to a hot shower is simply unthinkable, completely demoralising". The heart-warming idea of donating money for something as personal and humane as a sleeping bag hit its mark. Meanwhile, there was no disPutin the effect of Carl's Zelensky cocktail. This was an iron fist in a velvet glove – deadly if abused. It was an extraordinary feat of organisation and teamwork by

JDP Solutions who printed the posters.

The event raised a tremendous £2,307 for the Ukrainian charity.

*Simon Heighes, Sue Ross  
and Frances Bates*





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## A CURE FOR LONELINESS

As a self-employed freelancer working from home, I can get a bit lonely some days. I mean, there are some benefits – if anyone asks me out for coffee (hint, hint) I usually say yes ('Yes please! When?! This morning?! Now?!'). And I can get three loads of laundry washed and dried on a sunny day. Now that's worth it alone.

But there is one morning each week when I know I won't be lonely – far from it! It's when I do my volunteer shift in Wootton Stores. I love it. You meet all sorts of people, all with an interesting story if there is the time and inclination to tell it (and there is no queue politely waiting).

Honestly, apart from sometimes feeling like I'm in an episode of The Archers, it's the best bit of my working week.

So ... you know what's coming, don't you? Please, if you think you might like to volunteer, pop into the shop! You will be so very welcome. And you'll get a free coffee each shift! As our lovely new volunteer Tiffany says, 'Moving to Wootton recently

has uncovered delights of all sorts and yet I could never imagine how much joy and sense of community I would receive as an added benefit of volunteering in the shop. It is undoubtedly the highlight of my work week due to the warm and neighbourly welcome that I've received in just a few short months. For anyone considering donating a couple of hours to help our community I would highly recommend it. Not only will you support a very worthy cause, you will make new friends and have a few laughs.'

*Melanie Waldron*

## **W**OOTTON STORES SHOP MANAGER

Most of you will be aware by now that our fabulous Shop Manager, Rachel Jones, has left to take up a position with another employer – lucky them! While we are in the process of recruiting a new Shop Manager, we are incredibly lucky that Michele Glanville, one of our volunteers, has stepped in to act as interim Shop Manager. Michele's cheerful outlook and can-do attitude is invaluable – thank you Michele!

### **STOP PRESS!**

The shop committee are delighted to announce that Michelle Glanville has agreed to take over the role of shop manager on a permanent

basis. This is terrific news as she is already familiar with the shop and has been working with Rachel over the last few weeks, learning how the shop is run. Please do all you can to make her feel welcome and help her while she finds her feet in her new role.

*Wootton Stores Committee*

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## WOOTTON VILLAGE HALL TALKS

Our next speaker at 7.30pm on Friday June 9th (our 125th event!), is TIM BIRKHEAD, one of the world's leading ornithologists who will be talking about his latest bestseller, *Birds and Us*, which traces the relationship between humans and birds. Tim says that since the dawn of human history birds have stirred people's imagination - inspiring and challenging our ideas about science, faith, art, and philosophy. Humans have worshipped birds as gods, hunted them for sustenance, adorned themselves with their feathers, studied their wings to engineer flight, and, more recently, attempted to protect them.

Entry is £10 in cash - and includes free food featuring delicious rocky-roads. Wine and soft drinks are

available for a modest donation. To reserve seats for Tim's talk, as well as other speakers booked until next February, please contact us through our website

[www.woottontalks.co.uk](http://www.woottontalks.co.uk)

(Children over 16 welcome)

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE DEC

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

In May, Simon Parker gave an inspiring talk about his long-distance bike-ride covering 3,500 miles around Britain in between lockdowns. Setting off from the northernmost point of Shetland with only a sleeping bag and a camping stove, Simon met hundreds of resilient people, including Britain's northernmost fisherman, folk musicians in the Highlands offering him a bed, homeless people in Bournemouth being taught skills, as well as one man fighting depression by using his metal-detector to dig up coins on beaches, often making up to 800 Pounds a month.

The evening raised £531.45 for the Ukraine Appeal, making a total since March 2022 of £7,158.45 - and also motivated many to take advantage of the warmer weather and get on their bikes

The Talks Team wishes everybody a happy summer - we return in September, with our speaker, Mensun Bound, a world-renowned marine archaeologist, known as "The Indiana Jones of the Deep".

Mensun was director of exploration for two expeditions to the Weddell Sea which led to the rediscovery of the Endurance, in which Sir Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men sailed for the Antarctic on the 1914-1917 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

*Andy Morgan*  
01993 813016

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Could villagers, owners and renters alike, please help to smarten up Wootton prior to Open Gardens. Areas around the shop, school cottages, the parking area by the church and around the Well in particular need weeding. Thank you to those people along Castle Road who are already keeping their verges mowed and looking cared for. Longer term we need volunteers to help with weeding the church borders.

*Ruth Marshall*

## THE CORONATION OF THEIR MAJESTIES KING CHARLES III & QUEEN CAMILLA

Following the first film screening in the Village Hall, of the aptly chosen The King's Speech we welcomed everyone to drinks, pastries and a lunch buffet to celebrate The Coronation on Saturday 6th May.

With the BBC's televised broadcast screened on the new and improved Village Hall screen (thanks to Robin Wheeler and Andy Warner) guests young and old began to arrive from 10 o'clock and were welcomed with hot drinks and yummy pastries courtesy of Wootton Stores and Woodstock Coffee Shop.

*(photos opposite)*

A huge thank you to the incredible volunteers who donated baked goods and gave up their time on the day (including Bridget Taylor, Adele Neckar and Jane Scott), to ensure we could make this another free event for everyone. It was such a memorable occasion and made all the more special that the village could come together, not least of all share in an extra special Coronation cake made by Marlene Fisher and christened by Ann Day!

*Zoe Wheeler*

## **G**RAND NATIONAL RACE NIGHT

The Grand National Race Night was a great success; lots of fun and excitement finishing up with a delicious supper.

The added bonus was a good profit for village hall funds, thank you to everyone who helped and supported what was billed as the inaugural Race Night, we can't wait for next year. *(photos opposite)*

*Connie*

## **F**LOWER SHOW UPDATE

I hope you have SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER marked on your calendars. Preparations for this year's show are in full swing. Please do keep an eye out for the SHOW PROGRAMMES, which will be arriving on your doormats very soon. That means it's time to start getting creative! Perhaps this will be the year you try entering that category you've always been meaning to? The more entries the better.

We also need your donations for the BOTTLE STALL. It's always hugely popular and guaranteed to sell out. We can never have too many bottles, and we'd love it if you would start putting a few aside for us. Maybe you could pop a couple of extra bottles into your trolley the next time you go to the supermarket? They don't have to be alcoholic. They don't even have to be drinkable. Bottles of shampoo are just as welcome as bottles of champagne.

Drop them round to 4 Manor Court any time - just leave them outside if nobody's home. There will also be a bottle collection round in the week before the show.

**DON'T FORGET THE BIG DAY -  
SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER**

*Martin Eastaugh*  
chair Wootton Flower Show  
woottonflowershow@gmail.com





THE CORONATION  
OF  
THEIR MAJESTIES  
KING CHARLES III  
& QUEEN CAMILLA



Avidly studying the results



# G

RAND NATIONAL  
RACE NIGHT



# W OOTTON WELLBEING

A wonderful selection of skilled practitioners will be coming to the Village Hall over the coming months to introduce you to ancient, traditional and holistic practises that can bring balance, harmony (and fun) to your everyday life. We want to normalise the term 'self-care' through a warm and welcoming space where you will learn new skills, reduce stress, challenge your senses and maybe make new friends too.



The workshops will be every 3-5 weeks, on Sunday mornings 10am-12noon so make time for yourself and please do join us to support this new addition to our regular event programme – updated on the village website – [www.woottonbywoodstock.co.uk/wellbeing](http://www.woottonbywoodstock.co.uk/wellbeing)  
To kick things off on Sunday 28 May

there's an Introduction to Chakra Balancing followed by an art workshop to learn more about Mandala Stone Painting on 18 June.



Future workshops include Parent & Child Meditation, an Aromatherapy Sound Bath and Breathwork.

Please Email:

[WoottonVillageHall@hotmail.com](mailto:WoottonVillageHall@hotmail.com)  
if you'd like to know more.

*Zoe Wheeler*

## Wootton Village Pop-Up Tea Room

**Saturday 24th June**

**10.30 -12.00**

**in Wootton Church**



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# WOODSTOCK & DISTRICT U3A

Woodstock & District u3a's Annual General Meeting took place in April, was well attended and a mix of formal business, a look back at the past year's events and a preview of things to come. Retiring Chair, David Duthie, was able to report that the Branch's finances, membership and activities had all not only survived the restrictions of the past three years, but had flourished, with membership up, finances solid and an increasing number of Interest Groups. The Branch now offers two Groups each for Board Games, Needlework and Recorder playing (one of those last reserved for 'Beginners and improvers'.) In all there are now seventeen such Interest Groups, ranging from 'Art', to 'Walking'; a Canasta group has just started, one for visits to local Historic Churches is getting under way, and an Embroidery group is also forming. Many of the current Groups were able to put examples of their work on display,. The recorder players, too, normally overheard only by users of the surrounding car park,were happy to play for once to a proper audience. In formal business, Susan Blackshaw was elected to take over the Chairmanship from David Duthie on his retirement, with

Penny Pedley continuing as Treasurer.

Finally, 17 August was pencilled in for a garden party, to be held once more at St. Hugh's in Woodstock; no mention, however, of those seven ladies' shoes picked out of St. Hugh's hedges after last year's event.;

*Chris Sladen*

This month's Solutions.....But don't look yet!

## SuDoku page 9

7	4	5	9	2	3	1	8	6
8	9	6	1	7	4	2	5	3
2	3	1	8	6	5	4	9	7
1	7	2	6	3	8	5	4	9
5	6	9	4	1	2	7	3	8
3	8	4	7	5	9	6	1	2
9	1	3	2	4	6	8	7	5
6	5	7	3	8	1	9	2	4
4	2	8	5	9	7	3	6	1

## crossword 215 solution.

	W	A	R		O	A	F		C	U	B	S
	E		O		N		A		O		A	
M	A	R	B	L	E		C	A	N	I	N	E
	P				R		T		Q		K	
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O	N	U	S		K	I	D		K	I	T	

## W.R.I.N.

### **HELP IN TIME OF NEED!**

Many people and families may need financial help. Particularly as it could be some time before Government grants are received.

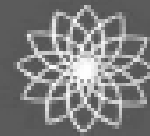
If you have a specific need Wootton Relief in Need Charity may be able to give you a Grant.

Please do not feel hesitant, or reluctant to apply for help. Your application will be treated in strict confidence.

If you would like further information, or wish to make an application, please contact:

Joan Thomas: phone 812354

Alternatively if you know of anyone who has a specific need, please pass on this message.



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## QUIZ NIGHT



Next Quiz: 7pm Sunday 11th June  
After a break in May, I am delighted to confirm we will be back in the Killi on 11th June. Start time is 7pm.

Nicholas and Didier are setting the questions.

Do come and join in!

Even if you are in ones or twos, come along and we can match up some informal teams on the night. If you'd like to go on the email reminder list, please contact me at [pclp@btinternet.com](mailto:pclp@btinternet.com)

*Phil*

## STONESFIELD GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker in May was Chris Day, talking to a good crowd of members about Gardening in a Changing Climate, looking at the way we garden, the plants we grow and how we deal with climate change.

Obviously, a huge topic to cover in an hour and very topical as we all had tales of the plants that had not survived through the winter.

Chris reminded us that trees and plants take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so the greening of our own spaces is a good idea. Small changes like growing a hedge in our front garden rather than fencing, means that the plants will capture pollution particles, as well as providing a wildlife corridor and

somewhere for birds and insects to feed and shelter.

We should be looking at conserving water and making sure that we have water butts around the garden. This has the added advantage of saving rainwater going in to our already hard-pressed sewerage system. Our next talk at 7.30pm on the 12th June, at St James' Centre, will be by Russell Attwood, who will be telling us about no-dig gardening. All those allotmenters in the village are very welcome to join us, we only charge £3 for visitors, barely covers the tea and biscuits!

*Diane Bates*

*Secretary*

[www.stonesfieldgardening.info](http://www.stonesfieldgardening.info)

## OURBUS BARTONS SUPPORTING UKRANIAN REFUGEES!

A West Oxfordshire Community Transport provider run by villagers took local Ukrainian Refugees on day-trips in April – and calls for the Government to focus on 'forgotten' rural communities.

OurBus Bartons was set up in 2016 after the village of Middle Barton saw its Public Transport cut. Run entirely by volunteers, it is still the only operation of its kind in Oxfordshire.

Ken Caldwell, Chair of the Management Team, said "We know that asylum seekers receive very little support after their arrival, so we wanted to help. We applied for funds from Community First

Oxfordshire to support Ukrainian Refugees. We reached out to Asylum Welcome and offered our services. Pretty soon we had potential trips to Windsor Castle and Cotswold Wildlife Park organised. Then it was up to our volunteers to make them happen.”

One of their volunteers, Andy Barry offered to take both trips. He explains: “They were both places I went to with my children so knew them well, especially the Windsor trip. It was so good to enable these families who have been through so much to get together in a safe space.”

Tamara Kurzova, Liaison Officer with Asylum-Welcome, said: “ It’s so wonderful and heart-warming how your Volunteers support Ukrainians and their wellbeing, they had a great time and are looking forward to more day-trips!”



#### OURBUS BARTONS GOES GREEN

Backed by the National Lottery Community Fund, a West Oxfordshire Community Transport provider run by villagers will be the first of its kind to go electric this Summer!

Ken Caldwell, Chair of the Management Team, said “When we

were not included in the initiative to bring 159 electric buses to Oxfordshire’s main routes this Summer, we submitted an outline proposal to the National Lottery to bring one electric bus into service, to work alongside our two diesel buses.

We launched our ‘Going Green’ campaign at our local Primary School in February 2022. The younger pupils had prepared some brilliant artwork and the older pupils spoke very passionately about the importance of protecting our environment. This passion encouraged us to upgrade the proposal to make our entire operation electric, with TWO fully accessible electric buses and a new Depot.”

They spent the next year working on their proposal, highlighting that they would be the first Community Transport Operator in the Country to go fully electric.

Last month, their bid was accepted and they were awarded the £175,000 they asked for. Kate Hood, from the National Lottery Community Fund said: “OurBus Bartons put in so much work, we’re delighted to support them. This is a first for the National Lottery too, we are very excited about being a part of their amazing story!”

They go back to the school on June 7th to celebrate as a community and receive the cheque!

*John Umney  
Director and trustee OurBus Bartons*

TO THE EDITOR...

Mel Leggett and Jill Thorne make some good points about the need to de-carbonise our energy sources but they make no comment on Botley West itself. The proposal to site the seventh largest solar scheme in the world in the middle of Oxfordshire is grotesque; not to mention that 76% of it will be in the Green Belt!

There are numerous arguments for and against solar energy in the UK ( loss of agricultural land, increase in biodiversity, local provision, carbon cost of panel manufacture and their after-life etc etc ) but those will carry little weight at the planning enquiry. The decision will be primarily based on size and siting and we think that both are totally wrong.

The National Trust has taken the decision to consider solar schemes on its land provided that they have minimal adverse effect on neighbours. We think that this is the right approach. There are many thousands of acres in this country which fit into this category. There are indeed several local schemes which are not overlooked by houses and are only fleetingly seen from roads. Further afield, numerous schemes can be glimpsed from motorways ( M5 and M6 for example ) which are also in open country.

*Miles Tuely*

AND...

Of course most of us accept that we have a climate crisis and that it needs to be tackled urgently. We are hugely privileged to live in a

very beautiful part of the world and no one is keen to "spoil" it by unsightly solar panels dominating parts of the countryside. However we all have to accept that the world is changing fast and we must sometimes put aside our own interests for the sake of the common good. We all realise that harnessing energy by means of solar panels and wind farms is the way ahead. The trouble is that no one wants them in their backyard because they are unsightly, so what to do?

Climate change and what to do about it has to be at the top of the list when it comes to World Challenges and sadly, some parts of the world seem relatively unconcerned about its effects and immediacy. But we know that we cannot put off the crucial decisions that will affect our planet and future generations.

So.....solar panels and where to site them, there are no easy answers. Certainly on the tops of new builds where suitable would help. Let us hope that people who have to make the decisions use their judgement wisely.

One thing we can all do is to try to cut down our own carbon footprint...recycle as much as possible, reduce waste and use of plastic, lobby our MPs and counsellors, go on marches. We live in such a materialistic/throwaway society, we need to change our attitudes about many things.

I think it is incumbent on all of us to play our part, just small things can help because it all builds up. So, let us



keep ourselves informed, try to accept changes that seem difficult and do our best to look after our wonderful planet before it is too late.

*Stella Dunman*

#### SOLAR: WOOTTON AWARENESS GROUP

In early May Private Eye featured an article on Botley West Solar Farm. It has been widely shared, so many will have seen it already. Those who missed it can find it here: <https://www.private-eye.co.uk/issue-1597/in-the-back>.

It exposed the source of the funding behind Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP) not only as Russian, but Russian money tainted by concealment, "improperly received funds" and a New York court case. It makes unsavoury reading, and it seems unlikely that Blenheim and Merton would now want to be associated with that company. Whatever one's views are on the impact of BWSF on the local countryside, should we be content to see a project of this size in the hands of a small company apparently connected to dubious individuals and alleged money-laundering?

I think one good thing to come out of this is that it has concentrated our minds on the most important issue: what we as a community can do about climate change. We recognise that one day, hopefully as part of a co-ordinated national plan, we will be able accept and adapt to

the appropriate measures to get us to net zero.

*Tiggy Sharland*

More than 20 rivers have burst their banks in Italy, leaving 14 people dead and forcing thousands from their homes after six months' rainfall fell in a day and a half.

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai took the lives of more than 1000 people across Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique in Southern Africa.

The start of 2020 found Australia in the midst of its worst-ever bushfire season. The fires have burned through more than 10 million hectares and killed at least 28 people.

**WE MUST ACT NOW!!!**

*Mel*

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## LOCAL CONTACT PEOPLE

Rector	Revd Dr John Reader	
Licensed Reader	Mrs Jenny Wagstaffe	01993 811027
Churchwarden: Wootton	Mr Nicholas Tomlinson	01993 813484
Churchwarden: Glympton	Lt. Col. Peter Browne	01608 658017
	Mrs Connie Surtees	01993 812076
Churchwardens: Kiddington	Mrs Jo Deacon	07917 158274
Verger: Wootton	Mrs Jane Scott	01993 813236
POC Secretary	Mrs Ann Leggett	01993 813005
Baby & Toddler Group - Chair:	Ms Clare Potter	07921 120068
Bell Ringers - Tower Captain:	Mr Mel Leggett	01993 813005
Glympton Village Hall - bookings:	Mrs Serena Warmington	01993 811486
Glympton P.O. & Stores	Mrs Serena Warmington	01993 811486
Wootton Parish Council - Chairman:	Mr John Harwood	johnharwood.wpc@gmail.com
- Clerk:	Ms Chris Hoad	clerkwpc0@gmail.com
Police -  Community Support Officers	Sgt's. Payne and O'Hare,  PC Rob Webb and  PCSO 9356 Helen Duffield	24 hour "non-urgent" incident line 101 mob. 07980 764756 email: helen.duffield@ thamesvalley.police.uk
Village Hall (Booking admin):	Mrs Caroline Bateman	cazb44@btinternet
Wootton Community And Sports Trust (WCAST) Chair Sec.	Rachel Jones Natalie Mitchell-Boorne	woottoncast@gmail.com
Wootton Conservation Trust: Chair	Mr Phil Parker	
Local contacts:	Mr Ed Taylor	07771 893046 edward@roberttaylorandson.com
Wootton Flower Show – Sec.	Natalie Mitchell-Boorne	07971 638136
Wootton School -		01993 811520
Wootton Stores	Mrs Rachel Jones	01993 811474
Wootton Relief in Need	Mrs Joan Thomas	01993 812354
	Mrs Jane Hoare	01993 813026
"Outreach" Editor  e-mail address	Mel Leggett	01993 813005  outreachwgk@gmail.com
Advertising Manager	Ms Fran Gardner	07770 324277
Treasurer	Mr Neil Scott	01993 813236

Should you, or someone else, be on this list?? Please let the editor know of any omissions or corrections.



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