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UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS

DECEMBER

EVERY

BRIDGE BAR COFFEE MORNING

Burditch Hall

10.00 - 11.30

THUR 4TH

THE BRIDGE BAR VOLUNTEERS EVENING

Come down for a free drink and to find out what we are all about.

7.00pm

FRI 5TH

CHRISTMAS BINGO & MEAT DRAW

Burditch Hall - Eyes down

6.30

SAT 6TH

WONDERFUL WINTER WIZARDRY

Wootton Village Hall

7.00pm

SAT 13TH

NATURE KIDS.

Jubilee Meadows

10.00 - 11.30

SAT 13TH

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St Mary's Church

2.00 - 4.00pm

SAT 13TH

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Wootton Village Hall

5.00 - 7.30pm

SUN 14TH

KILLI QUIZNIGHT

Killingworth Castle

6.30

FRI 19TH

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

St Mary's Church, Wootton

6.30

FRI 19TH

BRIDGE BAR BAND FOR CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

Burditch Hall - Straight after Carols Round the Tree

THUR 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY

Bridge Bar OPEN

12.00 - 2.00pm

JANUARY

SAT 8TH

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wootton Village Hall

7.30pm

SAT 8TH

VILLAGE HALL TALK - VALENTINE LOW

St Mary's Church, Wootton.

7.30pm

FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.WOOTTONBYWOODS.TOCK.CO.UK

Remember...

Outreach depends on YOUR contributions.

Photos / Events / birthdays and congratulations!



Deadline for the January 2026 edition - 15th December:

email to outreachwgk@gmail.com



Dear friends,
I hope that when you receive this month's Outreach you will be able to sit down somewhere cosy and read it at your leisure. It's this time of year I miss American apple cider most - it's essentially unfiltered apple juice, very scrumpy and probably full of stems and cores, but people buy it by the gallon and my mother usually has some simmering on the stove with a couple of cinnamon sticks all through December. If anyone knows of an apple press going spare, I'd gladly take it off your hands to produce some.
By now your calendar is probably already filling up with Christmas events, but I'd like to draw your attention to a few things happening in or around church this festive season. First, the Christmas Bazaar at 2pm on the 13th of December promises to be very fun and a great chance to buy (or even

win) all the presents you require, both edible and otherwise. Then we have Carols Round the Tree on Friday 19 December at 6.30pm, which will follow last year's pattern of some wonderful poetry and music supported by Ann and Mel Legget's awesome band. Mulled wine, too, thanks to Michele and the shop team.
Most of December, of course, is not really Christmas, though the world wants us to believe it is, and decorating in this weather is absolutely essential to enjoyment of the season. But Advent, which starts on November 30th this year and ends only with Christmas Eve, is a wonderful season and it's a shame to miss it. There is a delicious anticipation to Advent carols in particular. They hold all the excitement and solemnity of waiting for Christmas to really arrive, and they have some of the best tunes, since a lot of them are of medieval origin and also quite jolly - a very good combination. Come along to some of our services in December and you'll see what I mean.
This year on Christmas Eve we're trying out a Vigil Mass instead of Midnight Mass, to see if more people would enjoy an 8pm start rather than an 11pm one. (I know I will. I am not a night owl, and very few clergy can boast that they'll be

DECEMBER SERVICES in the Parish of Wootton, Glympton, and Kiddington

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday 7th December	10.15am	Advent II Patronal Festival for St Nicholas Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	Kiddington
Sunday 14th December	10.15am	Advent III Holy Communion Traditional Language	Glympton
Friday 19th December	6.30pm	Carols Round the Tree	Wootton
Sunday 21st December	10.15am	Advent IV Holy Communion Traditional Language	Wootton
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	Kiddington
Wednesday 24th December	3.00pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service	Wootton
	8.00pm	Vigil Mass Traditional Language	Wootton
Thursday 25th December	10.15am	Mass of Christmas Day Modern Language	Wootton
Sunday 28th December	10.15am	Holy Family Holy Communion Traditional Language	Wootton

tucked up in bed by 10pm on Christmas Eve - or at least having a quiet drink beside the tree and not having to go out to work again.). I look forward very much to seeing you there, and at our Christmas Day service in Wootton too. Services throughout Advent and Christmas are listed below. I hope that you have a very merry Christmas when it comes, and a deeply blessed and peaceful Advent.

With every blessing,

Esther



WOOTTON PARISH
COUNCIL NEWS

The council met in early November and was well attended mainly by those coming to listen to the discussion about planning applications.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Unusually, there were three planning applications on the agenda. All three had been carefully considered by the members of the planning committee who had visited all three sites and talked

both to the applicants and neighbours. The planning committee made detailed recommendations to the meeting. The applications for 2 Malthouse in Mill Lane and 70 Castle Road were supported, but a strong objection has been submitted to the proposed building in the garden of Holly Cottage, next to the church.

WOODSTOCK SURGERY

The council has been sent a progress report from the working group chaired by Calum Miller which is coordinating the work to secure a new site for the surgery. A copy is on the village notice board and also on our website.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

Yes - this is still apparently being worked on. (Whether we want it or not) we will have an elected 'super-mayor' for the Thames Valley and a new structure of single tier councils replacing the existing well-established county and district councils. There are three options being put forward for this new single tier of councils within the Thames Valley mayoral region.

OPTION ONE is a single council for the whole of Oxfordshire.

OPTION TWO is to have two councils: one combining the present Oxford city, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell council areas, and the other combining South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire councils.

OPTION THREE would have three

new councils:

- (i) 'Greater Oxford' (including Kidlington and Yarnton),
- (ii) a merged South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire, and
- (iii) a merger of the current West Oxfordshire and Cherwell councils, minus the parts taken into the new expanded Oxford. There will be a public consultation next year but it is clear the Government is not going to risk asking whether we want the existing structure to remain. So apart from trying to cope with inadequate resources, councils will also have to cope with reorganising everything.

REMEMBRANCE

A well-attended service of Remembrance was held in Wootton church on 9th November to honour those from the three villages who lost their lives in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. And Armistice Day itself - 11 November - was marked by an Act of Remembrance in the Memorial garden in front of Wootton church where a wreath was laid by the Parish Council on behalf of our community.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the council will be on Monday 12 January in the village hall.

John Harwood
Chair, Wootton Parish Council
www.woottonbywoodstock-pc.gov.uk

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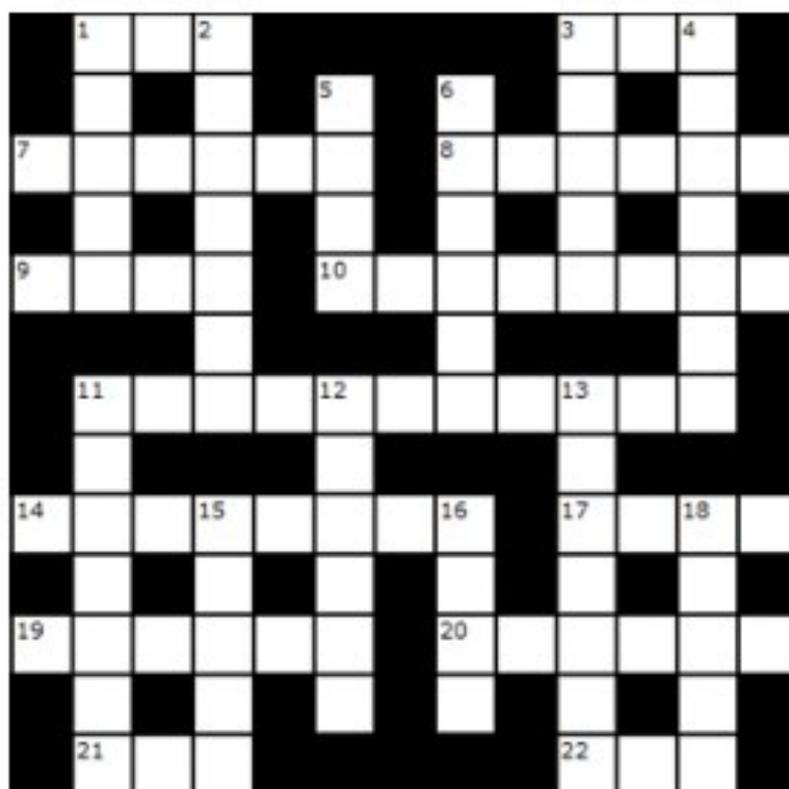
THE "OUTREACH" CROISSANT CROSSWORD — No. 244

Across

- 1) Poorly lit (3)
- 3) Body of water (3)
- 7) Martial art (4,2)
- 8) Continent (6)
- 9) Furniture retailer (4)
- 10) Cephalalgia (8)
- 11) Flying dinosaur (11)
- 14) Amiable (8)
- 17) Tiny amount (4)
- 19) Fitting at end of shoelace (6)
- 20) French stew (6)
- 21) Tavern (3)
- 22) ... Speedwagon, US rock band (1,1,1)

Down

- 1) Intoxicated (5)
- 2) Move with the seasons (7)
- 3) Country in Eastern Mediterranean (5)
- 4) Liquid responsible for making one as in 1) down (7)
- 5) Cry of pain (4)
- 6) Second largest country by area (6)
- 11) Edible mushrooms (7)
- 12) Strange thing (6)
- 13) Only Fools and Horses character (7)
- 15) Hughes, former Liverpool footballer (5)
- 16) Unit of length (4)
- 18) Cornish city (5)



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

Well done to Millie & Jack - just a couple of slips, so better luck next time!

So, **Congratulations!** again to last month's winner -- **JANE LEE!**

Enjoy your croissants Jane!

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.



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DON'T MISS THE WOOTTON CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!



in St Mary's Church,
Wootton-by-Woodstock,
Sat. 13th December 2-4pm



Grand Raffle—1st Prize £100

Teas, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

Hamper Raffle

Gingerbread House Raffle

Christmas Table Decorations

Re-Gifting Stall

Cake Stall

Children's Games

Preserves

Hot Chestnuts

Christmas Tombola



**Cash or card
accepted.**



There will be something for everyone at the Christmas Bazaar - tea and mince pies, mulled wine, a re-gifting stall, preserves, table decorations, cakes, a Christmas Tombola, raffles, children's games, hot chestnuts and much more! We would be very grateful for donations, particularly:

- items for the re-gifting stall
- soft toys
- bottles and Christmas goodies for the Tombola
- cakes (on the day)

There is a box in Wootton Stores, and also in Wootton church, for donations. In advance – many thanks!!
Ann Leggett

QUIZ NIGHT



We had a very large and enthusiastic turnout for the quiz in November. Frank Henderson was setting the questions and included his usual eclectic mix of thought provoking topics. It was a very close contest. The Early Doors and Combe Flombees came third with 22 points, but the bottle-winning positions were taken by "See You In Feb" with 23 points and in first place the Desperadoes with 24 1/2. Well played all!

As ever the entrance fee (just £2/ person) all goes to support the Outreach magazine.

The December quiz will be on Sunday 14th December, hosted by Tiffany. 6:30pm in the Killi. Do come and join us if you can, for some festive fun. I am sure there will be bonus points for festive dress.

Phil Parker

WOOTTON VILLAGE HALL TALKS

In NOVEMBER, Tom Heap, from BBC Countryfile, explored with passion a wide range of environmental issues. Highlighting his latest book, Land Smart, Tom told us competition for

land goes much further than just Food versus Nature. It is needed for housing, leisure, energy production, protection against flooding - and for solutions to climate change.

However, he said there are difficult tensions, such as biofuels versus solar panels and regenerative farming against biotechnology, and touched on the highly-charged debate of dietary change. Tom suggested we can balance all our needs - if we're clever.

He favours an approach he calls "stacking", layering multiple functions on a single piece of land. He has spoken to innovative farmers who are storing carbon, enhancing biodiversity and farming productively - while scientists are exploring new technologies that might help ease the pressure on land.

Tom is no fan of biofuels, made from organic matter, branding them a terrible use of land. He owns an electric car and cited a World Resources Institute statistic that shows you would need 300 hectares of biofuels to propel you as far as one hectare of solar panels.

He suggested solar-panels can go on warehouses and farm building roofs, as well as unproductive land, claiming elevated solar panels in fields can allow for productive crop and livestock farming below.

He highlighted a vast solar-farm in 

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Head gardener Dom Ford - Plantsman with RHS level 3 qualifications, Former Head Gardener at private estates and former National trust gardener (Greys Court).



China where - counter-intuitively - there is now more power generated from solar than fossil fuels. (Tom also played a video of him interviewing film-star Arnold Schwarzenegger, former Governor of California and keen crusader for Green innovation)

Tom was scathing about CFCs, a group of synthetic chemicals commonly used as refrigerants, propellants, and solvents - and are notorious for depleting the ozone layer. Due to this damage, they are being replaced with safer alternatives - but perhaps not quickly enough.

Tom claimed eating less meat and dairy could be the most powerful lever for clever land use. Studies show that 85 percent of the UK's farming land is used for meat and dairy production, while an area of land roughly equivalent to a second UK is used to produce meat and dairy imports. He cited the National Food Strategy that calculates a 30% reduction in meat could allow for almost a million hectares of Nature recovery in the UK.

Over 100 people again filled St Mary's Church - and the evening raised £650 for the Ukraine Appeal - making a total since March 2022 of £26, 747.21

There is no Talk in December. But we start again on Friday January 16th when the speaker is VALENTINE LOW, Royal Correspondent on The Times for over 20 years who has a peerless knowledge of the Royal Family and its workings.

With the departure of both Harry and Meghan and the disgraced Prince Andrew from royal life, the complex relationship between modern courtiers and royal principals has been exposed to global scrutiny.

William and Kate - equipped with a very 21st Century approach to Press and public relations - now hold the responsibility of making an ancient institution relevant for the decades to come.

LYSE DOUCET, the BBC's Chief International Correspondent, has kindly agreed to come and speak about her book on Afghanistan, *The Finest Hotel in Kabul*, in the New Year.

Entry for these events in St Mary's Church is £10 in cash - and includes free food. Drinks available for a modest donation. (Children over 16 welcome). Cards can be used to buy speakers' books

To reserve seats, please contact us through our website

www.woottontalks.co.uk

Andy Morgan
01993 813016

Meadow(s) Matter(s)

AFTER LAST WINTER's very wet but mild weather we had a warm spring, which meant that the trees and bushes flowered profusely.



The new COMMUNITY ORCHARD trees thrived, until we hit the summer with its long drought. Five months of very dry weather meant that we had to fight to keep them watered, and that the orchids on Dorn Warren Bank were present in greatly reduced numbers. Valiant efforts by the Trust meant that all of the new trees survived, in fact two fruited, and all are now doing well.



IN JUNE, Oxford Conservation Volunteers (OCV) gave us two days of their time during which they constructed a new bridge over the stream at the bottom of Round Top, repaired the bank and the "Monet" bridge over the Glyme and cleared the fallen Willow limbs from the river.

THE DRY SUMMER also meant that there was not much grazing for the sheep, and so they were only on Dorn Water Meadow for a couple of weeks to manage the vegetation there. We hope to have them back this winter and early spring to manage the grass and thereby help the wildflowers to thrive next year. However, the weather pattern this year has resulted in a bumper harvest of autumn fruits, nuts and berries that have

benefitted both wildlife and humans.

Meanwhile, the monthly Kid's Nature Club continues to thrive under the supervision of Sarah Brown. There is a regular attendance of eight or nine children who take part in a range of nature related activities on a Saturday morning, and Sarah regularly reports on this in Outreach.

(see next page. Ed)

OUR NEW MOWER enabled us to cut the grass around the orchard, and to keep the footpaths clear, while a contractor was employed to cut the growth on Roundtop, the Glyme Water Meadow and the Sedge Bed.

AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER, OCV returned to clear some of the scrub on the steps on Long Meadow, opening them and the area below to allow access to the riverside there.

OUR NEXT PROJECT will be the completion of the hedge laying between Roundtop and Dorn Warren Bank. This has been delayed for a year in order to allow the bushes to thicken up and for Wild Oxfordshire to investigate funding to cover the costs. Fortunately, as part of their Hedgerow Heroes project they are able to fund this for us and the remaining hedge laying should take place at the end of February 2026. We have also been in discussions with the North-East Cotswold Farmer's Cluster to discuss the potential involvement in a new DEFRA scheme that involves the creation of more wildlife habitats and their linking to form habitat corridors that will enhance the environment for our native wildlife. We are happy to report that, after an independent survey last year by

the Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project Officer on behalf of Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), we have been retained as a designated Local Wildlife Site. This is recognition of the value of the site and the way that we have managed it. All in all it has been a busy year for the Trust, but an interesting one.

*Malcolm Barnicoat,
For Wootton Conservation
Trust.*



Nature Kids



November saw a cold and damp (but thankfully not rainy) Nature Kids session, where we explored creatures that might overwinter on the Meadows. A good exploration of Round Top Flank found evidence of badgers, rabbits, bird nests of various types and lots of clumps of rougher plants that are shelter for various insects. Having



made clay models of their favourite Meadows creatures, the kids then replicated their habitats. After a well-

earned break and snack, we worked together to construct stag beetle habitats, with deciduous logs partly buried upright. We are at the northern-most point of regular stag

beetle sightings and we'd love them to find a home here!

We finished the session with an amazing experience - two roe deer running across the water meadows kept us entertained for ages!

Sarah Brown



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DARKER MORNINGS AND CHRISTMAS ORDERS

Our invaluable Wootton Stores volunteers who uncomplainingly and without fail open up the shop each morning (you know who you are!) really deserve a medal. While we can't stretch to that, we have decided that for the darkest days of winter we are going to change the shop's opening time from 8am to 8.30am, so they can at least have another 30 minutes in their warm beds. So, from Monday 1 December until the end of March: On Mondays to Saturdays, the shop



will open at 8.30am. On Sundays, the opening time will remain at 9am. All afternoon opening times and all closing times will remain the same.

When you do come in, try to spend over £10: not only will you be doing your bit to keep the lights on in the shop, you will also earn a stamp on a loyalty card. Once you have eight stamps on your card you can exchange it for a hot drink and a sweet pastry. With all the lovely new Christmas stock that has come in, you'll want to spend at least that anyway!



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TALKING OF CHRISTMAS – remember to pick up your order form for your turkey (plus duck and chicken, if you're making a turkducken, which apparently is a thing), or cockerel, goose, lamb, beef or pork. You can also order lots of other goodies such as pigs in blankets, and a slipper of gammon. You might want two of those. THE DEADLINE FOR RETURNING COMPLETED FORMS TO THE SHOP IS 11.00am ON SUN 30th NOVEMBER

And finally, here are the shop's opening hours over the Christmas period:

Wednesday 24 December:

8.30am–1.30pm

Thursday 25 December:

closed all day

Friday 26 December:

9am–11am

Saturday 27 December:

8.30am–12pm

Sunday 28 December:

9am–11am

Monday 29 December:

8.30am–1.30pm and 3pm–7pm

Tuesday 30 December:

8.30am–1.30pm and 3pm–7pm

Wednesday 31 December:

8.30am–1.30pm

Thursday 1 January:

9am–11am

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CAROLS ROUND THE TREE



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19th DECEMBER

at 6.30pm

LED BY

WOOTTON'S OWN

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WANTED – players for the Wootton Village Band! Any age, any (portable) instrument. If you can play a simple tune in the key of F (or G for Bb instruments) you are in! Music provided, one practice all together.

Also wanted – people willing to choose and read a short extract of prose from any source, relating to Christmas, to read at the tree.

Please contact me on anncleggett@gmail.com



S

TONESFIELD
GARDENING CLUB

Harriet Rycroft paid us a very welcome return visit in November, showing us how to plant pots for winter interest and spring joy. She is an expert on the subject of pots as she has, by her own admission, about 750 of them in total – the majority in a courtyard garden. She is adamant that one should plant pots to last a long time, not just as a form of flower arranging that gets redone regularly. She finished her illustrated talk with

a demonstration and amazed us all at the number of plants that she squeezes in to every container. As well as bulbs, she will choose a plant for height and a plant for cascading, as well as finding room for small perennials repurposed from other parts of the garden. All to ensure that there is always something of interest to look at.

Our meeting on 8 December will be our annual members’ quiz and social, complete with wine and nibbles.

Happy gardening

Diane

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

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