





AN EVENING CONCERT PERFORMED BY THE

Oxford Fiddle Group

St Mary Magdalene Church

Woodstock, Oxfordshire

Saturday 23rd November 2024

Hear the magical sound of the massed fiddles of OFG playing tunes and songs from the UK, Ireland and the USA. From foot-tapping jigs and reels to beautiful airs and laments

Doors open 7.30pm. Concert starts at 8.00pm.

Tickets at the door: £15 (full time students £5, accompanied children under 16 free)
In advance £15 from the Woodstock Bookshop, 23 Oxford Street Cash & Cheque only

All proceeds for the church roof restoration fund

www.oxfordfiddle.co.uk

Bar Available

Editorial

This month sees a few new ideas, and a consolidation of the first two months efforts. I very much hope that everyone is enjoying the magazine with more colour and the silk paper. I am pleased that it seems to have been well received, and I am always open for suggestions for improvements. I am grateful for advice I have received on graphic design, to give more white space, and improve the consistency of headings and captions, etc.

We have our next article on 'Woodstock Around The World', from Cape Town in South Africa, and many thanks to the author, Nicky Stubbs, who gives us an evocative report into a different community - she lives there, and is a good friend of a local Woodstock resident.

We also have a lovely article on the 'visitor' theme - this time from someone who has moved here from Brazil. I love hearing from people who come to visit; sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own lives that we forget to remember what a special and wonderful place we live in.

And there is a section from readers who have taken WOBL on their travels and have taken pictures. I've called it 'WOBL Around The World'. Please feel free to take your own images when you travel and send them into me - let's see how many countries we can reach.

I am also very pleased to announce a collaboration this month (and for the rest of the year) with a local firm of Solicitors - the Burnside Partnership. They will be writing an interesting article every month which we feel will benefit readers - this month, it is an article on probate.

With many thanks to all who contribute, to those who help with the distribution, and of course to our readers and subscribers.

Nick Manby-Brown, Editor

Disclaimer: Woodstock and Bladon News is a community amenity relying significantly on voluntary contributions and support. The Editor cannot be held responsible for any of the views expressed in its pages, nor does it endorse any products or services advertised. The Editor reserves the right to cut, edit, or omit any article submitted for publication, or to refuse advertisements for reasons of space limitation, suitability, etc. The Editor's decision is final. The contents of this magazine are Copyright and the intellectual property of the Authors.

Items Included in this Issue

Page	Item
6	Woodstock Around the World - South Africa
8	From Rio to Woodstock
9	WOBL Around The World
10	Letters to the Editor
12	Peter Jay Obituary
14	Woodstock Town Council
28	Tennis Review of the new lights
33	20mph Speed Limits - do they work?
38	Stop Press and Crossword

There are many other reports and notices from local clubs and societies

Subscriptions

The magazine costs £2 per issue, or £20 per year (for 10 issues).

It can be purchased locally at Mary and Martins Newsagent, The Woodstock Bookshop, Woodstock Town Hall, the Oxfordshire Museum, and the Wootton Stores. It can also be delivered to your door on a monthly basis - please contact Nick (editor@wobl.news) for Woodstock, or Lucy for Bladon. To pay by bank transfer, please pay to Nicholas Manby-Brown 04-29-09 31146627 and use the first line of your address as the reference. (This bank account is temporary until a business account is set-up)

The magazine can also be purchased for online reading. Please send an Email to editor@wobl.news

Please do write for our Magazine

Send your contributions to: editor@wobl.news

The next deadline is Sunday 17th November for the December 2024 issue (there is some flexibility).

We aim to be balanced and inclusive, and welcome all new contributions that may be of interest to our readers.

Printed by Windrush Press, Witney

Woodstock and Bladon News is printed on 100% sustainable paper which helps promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

Front Cover: 'Fireworks over The Star' by Caroline Gibson

Local affordable lino prints at www.carolinegibsonprints.com and Gleide Home Decor

Answers to October Crossword - The character from Blackadder was 'Prince George'

Across: 1. Happy, 4. Hierarchy, 8. Stollen, 9. Preview, 10. Cactus, 13. Tussle, 14. Lioness, 17. Pledged, 19. Kettle, 23. Extend, 25. Inertia, 26. Embargo, 27. Ginger nut, 28. Teams.

Down: 1. Hesitate, 2. Phobias, 3. Yule, 4. Hangar, 5. Empathic, 6. Clinics, 7. Yawned, 11. Singer, 12. Fledge, 15. Restrain, 16. Generous, 18. Lantern, 20. Taverna, 21. Wooing, 22. Insect, 24. Abut.

Woodstock Solicitors

“Looking after you and your legacy”

Specialist solicitors with offices in
Woodstock

Wills

Probate

Inheritance Tax Planning

Powers of Attorney

Court of Protection Services



Woodstock Solicitors, First Floor, 32 New Road, Woodstock

OX20 1PB



Telephone 01993 811 792 for an appointment or email

info@woodstocklaw.co.uk

Artisan Collective

A Haven for Local Creativity

Nestled in the heart of Woodstock Oxfordshire, the Artisan Collective is a vibrant gathering place that celebrates the exceptional talents of local makers, creators, artisans, and small businesses.

Nina of, 'Of Woodstock' set up this collective 4 months ago. Her intention is to make The Artisan Collective a permanent part of the heart and soul of Woodstock.

Woodstock and the surrounding area is a treasure trove of artistic and entrepreneurial spirit. The Artisan Collective provides a platform for these hidden gems to showcase their exquisite creations, ranging from: baskets, beauty products, pre-loved clothing, textiles, homewares, candles, jewellery, bags, shells, crystals and so much more. We also run our healing collective alongside, and this gives people the opportunity to come and relax and receive. So far we have had mini reflexology and breathwork sessions on offer by Suz of @nurture and shine.

Once a month we are upstairs and the Woodstock Town Hall. The next 2 dates for the diary are Saturday 16 November (9.30am to 1pm) and Saturday 7 December (9.30am to 2pm). Perfect time for Christmas shopping. We run the dates alongside the farmers market so it is offering the community so much more.

We would love for you to come and see us and help us grow the Artisan Collective by spreading the word to friends, family, and fellow art enthusiasts. Together, we can create a thriving hub for local creativity and support our community's unique talents.

Your attendance at the Artisan Collective not only supports local businesses but also fosters a vibrant and creative atmosphere in Woodstock. By coming together, we celebrate the artistry and entrepreneurial spirit that makes this community so special.

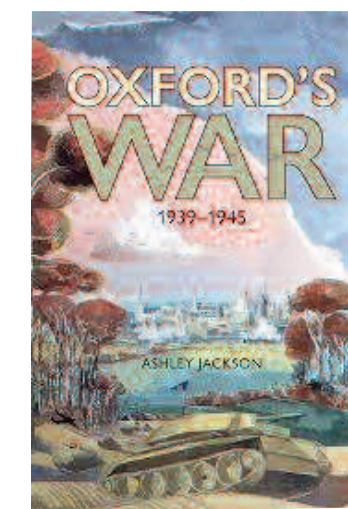
For more information:-
www.ofwoodstock.co.uk
[@artisan_collective_woodstock](https://www.instagram.com/artisan_collective_woodstock)



The Artisan Collective upstairs at the Town Hall

The Woodstock Bookshop

will be hosting an event with Professor
Ashley Jackson, author of 'Oxford's War'



Drawing on first-hand narratives and material from university and college archives, this pioneering account reveals the essential role Oxford played in producing military intelligence, creating propaganda, and developing radar and the atomic bomb. It also explores the city's role in bringing penicillin to market and laying the

foundations of the welfare state. It shows how the Cowley car works was heavily involved in arms production and the salvage of RAF fighter planes, and also how the University provided a place of sanctuary for academics fleeing fascism who in turn made significant contributions in their fields of expertise.

Saturday 30 November, 3pm, at St. Hugh's Centre,
Hensington Road, Woodstock

Tickets £5 with tea and cake provided

Call 01993 812760 to book a seat!

WOODSTOCK AROUND THE WORLD

Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa



Table Mountain from Albert Road

A five 5 minute walk away at 85 Albert Road is the Woodstock Exchange, built on the premises of the Woodstock Hotel where the area got its name. Story has it that in 1867 a group of fishermen voted at a resident's meeting at the hotel to rename the area (formerly known as New Brighton) to Woodstock, after their favourite pub. The Anglican Church of St Mary the Virgin next door is still there and serves as a nod to the British settlement of the area towards the late nineteenth century.

Woodstock was originally inhabited by the Khoikhoi until the arrival of the Dutch in the 1600s. To begin with three freehold farms were established on the slopes of Devils Peak and as the area populated, it became known as Papendorp. With the increased demand for supplies and housing by the British troops during the First and Second Anglo-Boer Wars, the area changed from rural hamlet and became a popular seaside resort called New Brighton. The long stretch of beach was reminiscent of Brighton in the UK. The iconic Castle Brewery Building is now built on what was Woodstock beach when the massive land reclamation of Table Bay in the 1950s changed the landscape and it became the urbanized and industrialised Cape Town Foreshore.

The working class Woodstock area became increasingly racially integrated or a 'grey area', unusual in Apartheid South Africa. This paved the way for the urban renewal of the late 1990s. Fast forward to 2024 and the area is a dynamic mix of businesses, corner stores, retail stores, designer kitchenware and interiors stores. Dilapidated Victorian cottages and townhouses stand alongside highrise apartments and office blocks.



Partially gentrified Gympie Street

I am standing on the corner of Gympie Street and Sir Lowry Road, Woodstock, Cape Town. A couple of kilometres away is the Cape Town city centre. To my left is Ghana Jollof sitdown and takeaway; behind me is Gympie Street, once a drug dealing hotspot and now partly gentrified; across the road is the imposing Ironworks luxury apartment block and to the right, The Woodstock Quarter housing La Grange interiors, a trendy coffee shop, a supermarket, apartments, and a rooftop pool. A towering apartment development, home to young professionals and students, is in sharp contrast to the displacement and conflict inherent to gentrification. A security guard at the MyCiti bus depot asks that I put away my phone before one of the skollies (petty criminals often connected to gangs) on the corner snatches it.



St Mary The Virgin Church

The Covid pandemic hit businesses in the area hard. While many have closed or were abandoned there are signs of rejuvenation and growth. Woodstock remains an eclectic mix of tattoo parlours and antique stores, high end restaurants and coffeeshops, hole in the wall bakeries and takeaways. Art galleries share premises with legal practices, and dilapidated factories rub up against industrial clusters. With the ever-present backdrop of Table Mountain Woodstock epitomises the disparities and contradictions of urban life in Cape Town. While taking a photo of the St.Mary's I am once again warned by a local to put my phone away and be wary of the 'skollies'.



The Neighbourgoods Market food stalls

Woodstock has become famous for its impressive offering of restaurants and liquor outlets, boasting a brewery, gin distillery and a number of luxury bottle stores. The Woodstock Street Art Walking Tour is a great way to learn more about the area. The Neighbourgoods Market food stalls situated in the The Old Biscuit Mill precinct and popular with tourists and locals over weekends, are a visual and taste explosion serving a variety of delicious street food including Tanzanian, Cape Malay, paella, Ethiopian, oysters, lobster, wine and beer. A DJ keeps a throbbing beat adding to the buzz and boldness of the experience. Set back behind the shops selling crafts, clothing, antiques and jewellery is Luke Dale Roberts' newest restaurant offering 'Salon' which has been voted by the World Culinary Awards as Africa's best new restaurant.

The joyful singing of gospel church, the muezzin call and shouts of hawkers and pedestrians compete with the gaatjie's (taxi assistant) shouts calling and hooting for customers. Visiting Woodstock, Cape Town with its blend of grit and sophistication is a sensory blast.

Nicky Stubbs, Resident of Cape Town



Wall graffiti



Woodstock Gin

Making policies work for you

We're a family run, independent insurance broker placing you at the heart of everything we do.

With our knowledgeable and experienced team, we're able to place cover for your home, vehicles, business, hobby and much more. By using County you can access our own in-house insurance policies or a wide variety available from specialist insurers.

www.county-insurance.co.uk

Call us on 01865 842084
Follow us @County_Insure

County
Insurance Services

Independent Insurance Brokers: County Insurance Services Limited. Address and Registered Office: County House, Glynn Court, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 1LQ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) (FRN: 597267). Company registered in England No. 08411634.

From Rio to Woodstock and The Cotswolds

What a lovely discovery! What a fantastic surprise! These words perfectly capture the feelings I had when I first visited Woodstock.

My love affair with England began a long time ago when I lived in London in the late 1990s, studying English and Theatre. As a Brazilian, I was enthralled by the history and landscapes of England as I navigated the British capital. A history as old as time, that harks back to ancient Roman settlements and Celtic monuments.



Luciana at Blenheim

There's more to England than meets the eye. When you think of England, a number of images and impressions spring to mind. These include London, the Royal Family, the iconic Big Ben, the tradition of afternoon tea, the Beatles, the Union Jack and the country's many pubs, a British institution in their own right.

As an Anglophile, I have always been amazed and curious about England. I grew up in Rio de Janeiro, surrounded by books in my father's library, so it's no surprise that English authors have often been part of my treasured 'to read' lists for as long as I can remember. Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, Agatha Christie, Harold Pinter (theatre, oh theatre!) and of course Shakespeare are some of my favourites. These authors have accurately and skilfully depicted England's best-kept secret, the English countryside. A distinctive and cherished feature of the nation's landscape.

The evergreen and lush fields, the picturesque roads where one can become lost amidst the numerous historical villages and hamlets, and the sense that time is standing still, are all attributes of this exceptionally beautiful region, the Cotswolds. The atmosphere is one of tranquility and serenity, which even the most seasoned traveller finds awe-inspiring. Moreover, television

shows such as 'Midsomer Murders' and 'Father Brown', which I am a big fan of, contribute to the allure and mystique associated with English country life.

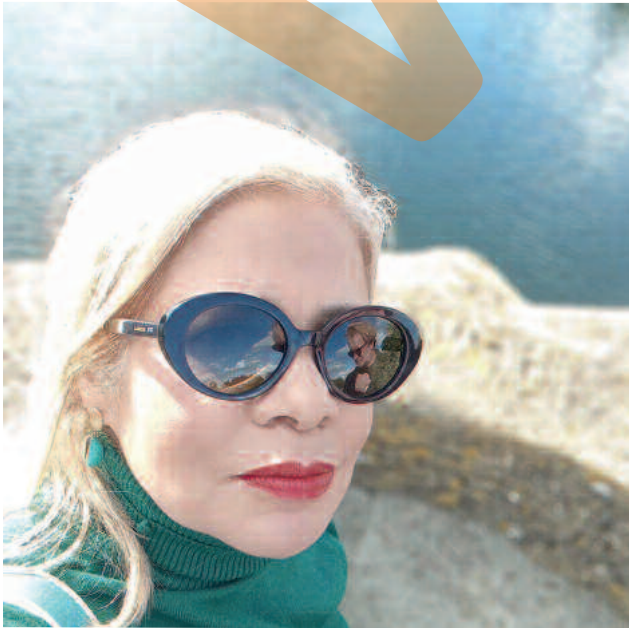
In 2022, I finally encountered Woodstock for the first time. That feeling of amazement came back with a vengeance. My heart's desire had been granted, and then some. All my expectations were exceeded. I got off to a good start with a warm welcome into the heart of a Scottish family who made their home in Woodstock some thirty years ago. The introduction to one of Britain's most renowned towns was nothing short of perfect. The cobbles, the scenic and charming gardens, the sense of harmony and beauty all around left a deep and uplifting impression.

And then, Blenheim. What a sight to behold! Clichéd as it may sound, 'Magnificent' is the word that comes to mind when you step through the gates of Blenheim to be wowed by the palace standing in its Capability Brown landscape. The hearts of lovers of architecture from all over the world beat in unison at this grand, sumptuous English Baroque palace and estate. No wonder it has been the subject of so many paintings over the years, and that it has so many tourists queueing up year after year to see this jewel of English architecture in the flesh.

There are many attractions and, shall I say, distractions that Woodstock has to offer. A perfect day in Woodstock, if you only have a day to spare in this lovely part of the world, should start with a visit to Blenheim and its gardens. Then lunch in one of the many quaint pubs, followed by a walk through the lanes and streets of Woodstock. For those brave enough, why not sign up for a ghost tour at night to discover the mysteries and haunts of the town. All these things can be rounded off with a glass or two of fizz in one of the many pub gardens.

I was beyond thrilled to be invited to contribute an article on my perspective as a Brazilian in Woodstock. An unassuming yet sophisticated town that I have come to call my second home.

Luciana Alves dos Santos



WOBL Around The World

Thank you to the 6 readers who have sent photos

From left to right:
Mike is outside Campagnac in the Tarn, France
Stacey is in Croatia
Jake is in Ibiza
Trisha is in Sardinia
Philippa is on the Dordogne, Bordeaux, France
Kate is in Ibiza

Editors Note: Please think about packing a copy of WOBL in your suitcase for the next journey, and then take a photo to show us where you have been.



On-Street Poster Boards
Theatre Advertising
Distribution
Fulfilment
Printing
Design

Put yourself on the Map!

West Oxfordshire
City Of Oxford
South Oxfordshire
Vale of White Horse

Proud to distribute Woodstock and Bladon News

To get your business in front of the right audience,
email us at info@direct-publicity.co.uk
or call **01865 249 473**
www.direct-publicity.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Last month you were kind enough to publish a letter from me, asking that Woodstock Town Council (WTC) appoint a councillor to monitor the expansion of two major enterprises, Blenheim and 'London-Kidlington' Airport. I mentioned that I put this proposal to WTC directly on 2 September.

Whilst I have had no official answer from WTC, off the record I'm told WTC has now appointed two councillors to address these key issues, and that Cllr the Duke of Marlborough will monitor Blenheim and Cllr Parnes the Airport. The former is a prized, if rare, attendee at WTC and the latter recently failed in his attempt to sue WTC for thousands of pounds of damages.

Whether WTC considered any possible conflicts of interest in making these two appointments (the clue to the former is in the name, and to the latter his failed court action) we do not, of course know and recent rule changes to the making of public representations to WTC meetings mean we may never to know.

Please forgive me for writing to you again this month but about another issue altogether, the latest so-called 'WTC Parking Survey'.

Anyone with even a nodding acquaintance of how to conduct a survey scientifically will raise an eyebrow at the scrap of paper recently posted through our letter-boxes, containing 14 questions. Respondents are not asked for their names or addresses and that the 'survey' can be completed online as well as on paper - so there's no way, it seems, of preventing multiple responses by using both paper and online to give them (twice over for couples).

As you peruse the questions on the 'survey', you can only smile. They are aimed at those who 'have a connection with the Town', and Q. 10 is addressed specifically to those who 'live outside' it, without defining what this means (in the Shire? In England? Overseas?) - or what the locus standi of such folk should be in evaluating their responses.

But it gets worse. Every single question asking respondents for an opinion on the Scheme leads with a hostile or negative prompt. To the first question, about shopping in Woodstock, the 'survey' asks if the Scheme has 'strongly discouraged' respondents from shopping in Woodstock, or 'somewhat discouraged' them. Ditto the question of how the Scheme has impacted on their businesses (the prompt is for 'strongly discouraged'). Question 8 requires a 'yes' or 'no' answer to whether the Scheme has stopped us attending functions in Town Hall or Community centre (not whether it has facilitated attendance). The 'survey' concludes with a hotchpotch of questions including whether

respondents would like to 'increase the fee parking period' (surely they mean 'free') and whether the scheme 'should be removed altogether' (we imagine they hoped for answer is 'yes').

Who devised the 'survey'? How will we get to learn the total number of respondents? Not revealing the number of respondents is a well-trying way of foxing the public.

Candidly, it does seem that the aim of this 'survey' is to attempt, yet again, to re-open and discredit the parking Scheme, despite the District Council election where the pro-Scheme candidate won 51% of the vote and the anti-Scheme person just 28% and the fact that the Scheme works so well.

Councillors' wily strategies are often good for a laugh. But bearing in mind that it is our money that is being wasted on this 'survey' and that so many serious problems in our Town are not being addressed, it seems fair to wonder if it is not WTC who is having the last laugh - on us, at our expense. Literally.

Anthony Glees

Dear Editor

I returned to Woodstock after a short period away and was horrified to see the condition of the once beautiful, mature trees within the Woodstock Conservation Area. Their value to the town centre environment is incalculable - now nearly every tree has been severely pollarded, leaving just a stump.

Trees are an essential element of the street scene and experience of the Conservation Area. They provide multiple benefits beyond the visual and aesthetic. There are probably many more but these are just a few of the benefits:

- Modify climate in urban settings
- Help to clean the air
- Provide habitat for birds and insects
- Increase well being by bringing greenery into built up areas
- Reduce vehicle speeds in the carriageway through 'side friction'
- Soften the visual impact of car parking in streets

Clearly, trees need to be managed carefully to remain healthy and safe. It is evident that the trees have been pollarded previously and that this was a standard practice in tree surgery. However, there must be less brutal methods of managing trees within such a significant streetscape, such as more limited thinning and lopping or pollarding more gradually over a period of time so that the impact is lessened.

A representative of Oxfordshire County Council Countryside and Tree Service has agreed to meet me to explain their approach to tree maintenance and I hope this may prompt a review of methods for the care of street trees in the future.

For now, the damage is done and for a considerable time the centre of Woodstock will be a degraded experience for all - residents, tourists, business owners and visitors alike. There will be no trees marking the seasons, no bird song, nowhere to hang the Christmas lights and nothing but tree stumps and overflowing bins in the streets.

Who, if anyone, is actively protecting and conserving our beautiful town?

Susan McGlynn

Please see pictures of the pollarded trees on the inside back cover

Dear Editor,

Bob Pomfret is right when he refers in his letter (WOBL, October ed.) to the Botley West project being controversial.

Just one of the reasons for this is that large scale solar is very inefficient when compared to other sources of renewable energy. As little as 11% efficient, it is approximately half as efficient as onshore – and one quarter as efficient as offshore – wind. The UK is very nearly the least suitable country for solar power in all of Europe due to those characteristics of its weather that have been only too obvious this summer. Its delivery of energy can only be termed 'clean' if the highly carbon-intensive process of manufacturing its panels and shipping them from China is conveniently ignored; as also the use of elemental and metal materials that are dug up, using fossil-fuelled mining plant to do so.

As with electric cars, China will inevitably tighten its current grip on the source of these materials, thereby undoubtedly leading to 'international politics and incidents'.

Eleven-mile long Botley West will be the biggest solar development in Europe if it goes ahead. The infrastructure required for two million solar panels on this huge 3,200-acre project includes concrete posts and blockhouses – one in every field-sized area – plus the cabling, 110 km of fencing and security lighting required. Rapid obsolescence in solar panel technology will shorten its life to much less than the putative 40 years. It is debateable as to who will pick up a half billion-pound tab for decommissioning the development. More likely this mainly Green Belt land - much of it BMV farmland

As for our legacy left to future generations, our concern should lie with the current 'net zero or bust' policy pursued by our government. It will impoverish our country, render us uncompetitive and insecure in a geo-politically dangerous world, and leave a landscape degraded by rusting panels on our once-cherished countryside.

Giles Lewis

Dear Editor,

Having missed out on the opportunity to add my signature to the 28 residents who wrote to the Town Council before Wednesday's meeting, I am writing to express my deep dissatisfaction with the recent actions taken by Woodstock Town Council, actions that I and many other residents see as a gross display of disregard for transparent governance and respect for the community.

The resignation of Mayor John Banbury, after a brief five months, left residents in the dark and raised many questions. Instead of responding openly, the Council hastily convened a meeting, at which only six councillors were present. To choose Ann Grant as Mayor under such dubious circumstances, without even a clear explanation for the urgency or need, is an affront to fair governance. To proceed with such a significant decision, particularly in a way that undermines public input and bypasses established protocols, is nothing short of a bold overreach.

Additionally, recent changes to public participation procedures making it nearly impossible for residents to address the Council without prior councillor approval are nothing less than an attempt to silence the very voices the Council is elected to serve. This shift flies in the face of the Local Government Transparency Code (2014), a clear violation of the public's right to contribute to local decision-making.

Further concerns include the questionable handling of grant allocations, with critical meetings rescheduled at the last minute, causing some Councillors to miss them entirely. The lack of transparency in these decisions, coupled with potential conflicts of interest, seriously undermines trust in the Council's motives.

The Town Clerk's recent conflicting statements around procedural changes have only added to the confusion. Woodstock residents deserve a clear, honest explanation, not contradictory statements and haphazard decision-making. Additionally, the ongoing issue with Councillor Parnes' legal dispute with WTC has cast a long shadow over the Council's integrity, a situation that demands thorough public disclosure and accountability.

The WTC exists to serve the interests of Woodstock's residents, not to advance individual agendas or circumvent established democratic processes. The recent conduct has been a stark reminder that this Council seems to have lost sight of its purpose, forgetting the duty it has to the public.

In light of these issues, I urge the WTC to restore trust by holding an Extraordinary Town Meeting, allowing Councillors to address the community directly, answer the questions and account for recent actions. Our town deserves leadership that upholds transparency, respect for procedure, and accountability to the public. This standard must be met, anything less is a disservice to us all.

Mr Bowman-Smith

Peter Jay, 7 February 1937 - 22 September 2024



Peter Jay, when joining BBC c.1993

The ‘official’ narrative of his life’s achievements will be well known to readers of the national papers. For those who may have missed the formal obituaries it is worth summarising the quite extraordinary diversity and range of his working life. After a brilliant student career at Christ Church Peter went to work at the Treasury, and then moved on to be the economics editor of The Times. There followed a role as presenter on the TV programme Weekend World, and a two year appointment as Ambassador in Washington.



Jamie, Emma, and Peter, 2023

It was with both sadness and fond memories that people in Woodstock learned of the death on 22 September of Peter Jay. His funeral and thanksgiving service held on the 12th October, one of this autumn’s rare sunny days, in the church of St Mary Magdalene was a heart-warming occasion. His large family and many friends created a unique tribute in words, images, music and poetry which ranged from St Paul to Beatrix Potter, The Dragon School song to the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The golden threads running through it all was his love for his family, both siblings and children and his wife Emma, and his love of the sea derived from his years of happy childhood holidays in the Isle of Wight and his National Service in the Royal Navy.



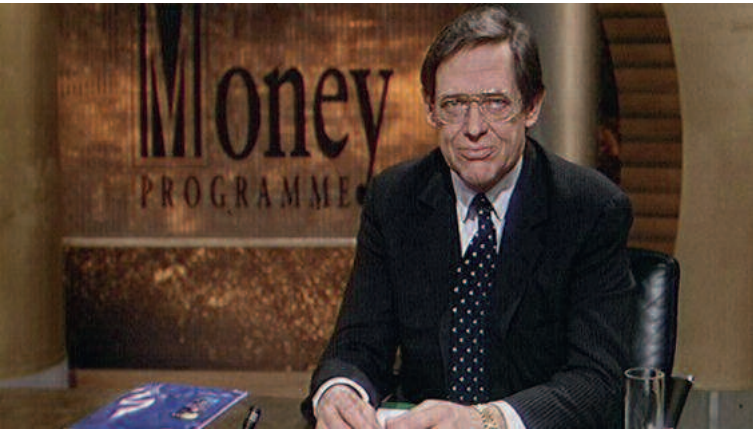
Peter Jay, David Frost, Angela Rippon, Michael Parkinson TV AM Launch, c.1983

He started and ran the TV-AM breakfast show, and then experienced three frustrating years working for Robert Maxwell. His final career move was to the BBC as economics editor, and where stayed for ten years. At the BBC, Emma recalls that he was delighted to bring promising newcomers such as Stephanie Flanders and Evan Davies onto his team. His friend and colleague John Birt, former Director-General of the BBC shared Peter’s ambition to explain economics seriously to a wide audience, and spoke at his funeral of his journalistic goals. His final appointment was as a non-executive director of the Bank of England.

His first wife was Margaret Callaghan with whom he had three children. Margaret was the daughter of James Callaghan, later to be the Prime Minister, and when Peter was appointed as Ambassador to Washington there were loud and predictable cries of nepotism. But David Owen, then Foreign Secretary, made it clear both at the time and more recently that the appointment had been at Owen’s own suggestion as he wanted a fresh, younger Ambassador to get on well with President Jimmy Carter. To take up his Washington appointment Peter sailed himself with a few friends across the Atlantic. The Washington years were a professional success, for example he countered the American view of the IRA with knowledge and authority. But the marriage with Margaret crumbled in a now well-known saga. After Washington, the couple divorced.

A few years later in 1986 Peter married his second wife, Emma Thornton, and they had three children. Emma who read history at Cambridge went on to teach history in London, but they decided that Emma would be a stay-at-home mother, a role she greatly enjoyed. They moved to Woodstock in 1994, their sons attending local schools in Woodstock and Oxford. Emma’s devotion to Peter through their marriage was remarkable, particularly her dedicated care for Peter in his final two years.

At this point the story of Peter’s life becomes a local one, because in his long retirement in Woodstock, Peter was firmly committed to Woodstock affairs. He followed Emma onto Woodstock Town Council and then served as Mayor in 2008 and 2009, and again in 2018. His love of history led him to promote the idea of a celebration of the 900th anniversary of the granting of a Royal Charter to Woodstock, and various themed events and a book were the outcome of an enjoyable local effort to celebrate the long history of the town. His stated aim as Mayor was to improve the civility and efficiency of local politics. As a former journalist he understood the value of community media to reflect local life in all its variety, and when the previous



Peter on The Money Programme

editors of The Woodstock and Bladon News retired Peter gamely took over the editorship. He re-vamped the style of the magazine, introducing colour photographs, and reached out to many local groups who had previously not been featured. As a regular contributor at the time I can vouch for the warm and collegiate atmosphere of the WOBL editorial team under Peter’s editorship.

As his youngest son Sammy said in his moving tribute which echoed Peter’s love of poetry, Peter played many parts in his life, all of them distinguished and all suffused with the deep kindness of his nature to which so many have paid tribute. His Woodstock years were his quiet years. But not years marked by any of the regrets or sense of disappointment with his life which some of the more waspish, and maybe envious, obituary writers assumed he would have felt after such a glittering early life.



Emma and Peter (as Mayor)

To quote from Sammy’s eulogy: “...it seems to me important - specifically as a corrective to a running theme I noticed in his public obituaries: the assumption that his later years must surely have been attended by feelings of disappointment or frustration. After all, wasn’t this supposed to be ‘the cleverest young man in England’, a mover and a shaker on the world stage? What was he doing editing The Woodstock and Bladon News? But what nonsense. And what total poverty of understanding what life is actually for. If ever a man met with triumph and disaster and treated those two imposters just the same it was Dad. ...I don’t know about all this ‘cleverest man in England stuff’- what an awful thing to be burdened with (even if there was someone reassuringly cleverer in Wales)... In the main, Dad in his later years seemed subtly to have slipped off the cold cloak of cleverness and donned instead the warmer wrap of wisdom’

There could be far more to say about this multi-talented and public-spirited man who found peace and completeness here in Woodstock, but let the last words be those of Sammy: “And he leaves us here now with the extraordinary privilege of being alive. And the way he lived with us encouraged us to sharpen and deepen our sense of it”

Linda Glee



Peter in front of the Town Hall

Woodstock Town Council Meetings

15th October 2024

8 councillors and 7 members of the public attended. The Town Clerk was assisted by the Responsible Finance Officer. It was unclear whether the meeting was recorded.

A moment of silence was observed for the memory of the recently passed Peter Jay, former Councillor and Mayor of Woodstock Town Council.

There were several declarations of interest at this meeting. Councillors Grant, Cooper and Spencer-Churchill for the Youth Club, Councillor Banbury for the Chapel Trust Memorial Garden and Councillor Cooper for Sustainable Woodstock and West Oxfordshire Planning.

Three members of the public spoke. Firstly, John Brimble referred to the Council meeting of 13th August which included the court case of Councillor Parnes vs Woodstock Town Council. John asked if the costs had been paid to the Council, if so when and if the judgement document had arrived and when would the Council produce the report it promised at that meeting. The Mayor replied this would not be discussed at the meeting. Secondly, Jo Lamb stated that the Town Council insists on transparency on the part of the electorate. Referring to the Minutes of the Council meeting of 10th September, Jo said that stating there were no public speakers was not wholly accurate. At the time of the meeting the Council website encouraged public participation, even if the matters were not on the agenda. This was however overruled by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the meeting, stating the subject had to be on the agenda. Jo suggested the Minutes should include the following:

“In an effort to discourage public participation, members of the public intending to speak at the meeting were prohibited from doing so in direct contravention of the provisions of the Woodstock town Council website at the time of the meeting”.

This section of the Council’s website has since been removed.

Councillor Cooper suggested that Jo’s amendment to the Minutes be included. The Council then voted in favour of the amendment being included. Councillor Nethercott then asked the Mayor if he could raise a motion to revert to the previous rules regarding encouragement of public participation. The Mayor asked for this to be at the next Council meeting. Finally, the third member of the public spoke regarding a planning application.

The Mayor reminded Councillors that the Armistice Day celebration would take place on Sunday 10th November at 11am.

In the Clerk’s report, regarding the Christmas lights and lack of places to put them following the tree pollarding, the Clerk is looking into alternatives for town decorations at Christmas. The existing lights have been saved. The Surgery’s administration staff are making use of using a room in the Town Hall following the recent flooding of part of the Surgery.

Andy Graham, County Councillor then gave his report. The County is looking into the recent flooding in Bens Close. For the town parking survey, the consultation will close on 25th October. Regarding the area healthcare infrastructure, an Officer-led task working party recently met to address health care provision across Oxfordshire. It noted that Section 106 monies could be prioritised and that the old police station site on Hensington Road was not considered feasible. Although not the responsibility of the County Council, Andy said he remained committed to working with others towards finding a successful outcome.

From the Town Council’s Surgery working group meeting of 25th September, it was decided to ask the Mayor to call a Town Meeting inviting all those involved in the decision making process, including Calum Miller MP.

Councillor Cooper then gave his report on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council. It contained a motion regarding Winter Fuel Payments. It highlighted the importance of Councillors and Officers in helping vulnerable residents throughout the winter and promoting an awareness campaign working with local NHS partners, Parish Councils and charitable, civic and religious groups to encourage eligible elderly residents to register for benefits such as Pension Credit.

Apart from the very visible tree work in the town centre, carried out by the County Council, the Town Council has approved a large amount of tree work (high and medium priority) and surveys in areas they are responsible for such as the Old Woodstock Line, Hensington Road Cemetery, the Water Meadows, Old Woodstock Playground and the Lawn Cemetery. A detailed report from Dowdeswell Forestry on proposed work can be found on the Council website.

Regarding this year’s Woodstock Town Council grant allocation, Councillor Martin expressed her frustration that she could not attend the last-minute time changed grants working group meeting as she had work commitments. She also noted that the grant applications were only available as hard copies held at the Town Hall so only accessible when the Town Hall was open. Councillor Martin then reviewed the proposed allocation of funds to the various groups that

had applied and highlighted that 36% of the total Council grant fund was going to the Youth Club. There followed no further discussion by the Council and the grant allocation was voted through. No previous declarations of interest were considered. It was then voted in that grant applications to the Council revert to once a year with a budget of £7000 for 2024/2025 (applications should be submitted by the end of February 2025).

Responses to the Council parking survey were being received and the results would be ready for the next Council meeting. Due to the deadline of the County Council consultation, 25th October, the Clerk was tasked with submitting the Town Council’s survey results to the consultation by this deadline.

Due to restrictions of space not all Council business has been included. For full details please refer to the Town Council website for agendas and minutes.

Graham Brown

23rd October 2024

6 councillors and 10 members of the public attended. The Town Clerk was on holiday and the Responsible Finance Officer (acting as Deputy Town Clerk) attended. The meeting was not recorded.

The Mayor, Cllr John Banbury, was in the Chair, and as the first Agenda Item was the election of a new Mayor (after the resignation of the Mayor), Cllr Banbury asked for nominations. Cllr Poskitt nominated Cllr Grant and this was seconded by Cllr Williams. As there were no other nominations, Cllr Ann Grant became the new Mayor. The declaration of office would be signed later as the Responsible Officer was not present.

Cllr Grant took the Chair for the rest of the meeting. There were 5 apologies for absence.

Two members of the public spoke in the Public Participation section. The first, Jo Lamb, thanked Cllr Banbury for his work as Mayor and remarked that the reason for his resignation had not been made public, and she wondered if it was to do with the latest change of policy in not allowing the public to speak of subjects that were not on the Agenda. The Mayor said that this would be addressed in future so as to allow members of the public to speak on any subject.

The second, John Brimble, also thanked the previous Mayor, and then raised a question as to how he would be able to ascertain whether a debt due to the Council by a Councillor had been paid, if the item was not on the Agenda. He handed some questions to the Deputy Town Clerk.

The meeting finished at 7.10pm

Nick Manby-Brown



Kirtlington Property Maintenance

Local and reliable home and garden improvements, maintenance and repairs

- Painting and decorating internal and external
- Household repairs
- Various jobs inside and out
- Garden maintenance
- Pressure washing
- Landscaping including fencing, gates, decking, turfing, patios, driveways, shed/base installation etc.

Competitive rates, fully insured and references available on request

No job is too small – please call Noel Price on 07884 185171 or 01869 351619 or email noelprice@btinternet.com

www.kirtlingtonpropertymaintenance.com

For domestic and commercial cleaning please call Jayne Price on 07795 055202

Woodstock Hardware

Oxford Street, Woodstock

Stockists of:

- Plumbing
- General Hardware
- Electrical
- Cleaning Products
- Tools
- Kitchen Essentials
- Garden Equipment

Open 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
Telephone 01993 813196

White House, Bladon

New landlady - Nicky Smith



I recently had the pleasure of chatting with new Wake Up Woodstock member and new landlady of the White House in Bladon, Nicky. She gave us an insight as to how she's going to proceed and all is very exciting for the village.

Nicky says "My husband and I have been warmly welcomed to the village and made many new friends in a very short period. I intend with the assistance of the community and the committee members to build on the weekly events and introduce new events, whilst ensuring value for money and quality products."

"I have introduced a 10% discount card for all shareholders, for all food and drink, which it is hoped will bring in new shareholders, and have introduced a new menu and removed the service charge so as to encourage people to the White House."

"We have so many exciting things to look forward to, we will be celebrating Sir Winston Churchills 150th birthday 30th November with Traditional Cream Tea's, we are continuing the annual village firework display on 2nd November with an 80s party with The Flashback band afterwards."

"We've got Santa visiting on the 22nd December and lots of other Christmas events, all the details will be on our Facebook pages and Wake up to Woodstock events pages."

"I intend to bring a few new products into the White House including Hawkstone draft in the next few weeks and themed dining nights, I am looking forward to meeting many new customers and always open to any suggestions for helping or hosting with charity and community events."

From all in Bladon and Woodstock, we sincerely wish Nicky & Terry all the best x

Nickie Rogan, Chair, Wake up to Woodstock

Woodstock Festive Fayre



Join us for the 6th edition, brought to you by Wake Up To Woodstock

Get into the Christmas spirit this November and experience the biggest Woodstock Festive Fayre to date in three amazing venues: St Mary Magdalene Church, The Oxfordshire Museum and The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum.

Opening from 5 to 8pm on Friday 29 November and Saturday 30 November from 10am to 7pm; come and discover the unique creations from our 55 talented stallholders showcasing their unique crafts, delicious treats, and Christmas gifts including artisanal food and drink, cozy winter wear, jewellery, art and festive decorations - there will be something for everyone.

Whether you're looking for the perfect gift or simply want to savour a glass of mulled wine and delicious hot food, Woodstock Festive Fayre is the place to be!

Please come and support these local and artisanal businesses and celebrate the magic of Christmas. Admission is free and everyone is welcome (however, we ask that all four-legged friends enjoy the festive ambiance from outside the venues).

For more information about the Christmas Fayre, including a full list of stallholders please visit www.wutw.co.uk/woodstock-festive-fayre-2024/

We look forward to seeing you there!



Night of a Thousand Candles

Enjoy the magic of Christmas on Saturday 30 November at this free event for the whole family, between 5.30pm to 7pm outside Woodstock Town Hall.

Celebrate a traditional Victorian 'Christmas lights switch-on' featuring choir music and carols and singing, Santa, food & drink and all things festive. With a special visit from the local fire station for the kids to enjoy!

Bring your lanterns and candles to light up the square!

For more information visit www.wutw.co.uk

Updates on 'Botley West'

Solar Farms and Culture Wars

Is somebody rattled?



NIMBYs. Blockers. Not evidence-based. Climate change deniers. These are a few of the slurs being levelled at people who are unconvinced by proposals for developments like Botley West Solar Farm, a 'factory' that would be the size of Heathrow Airport, 75% of it on the Oxford Green Belt.

The spokesman of Botley West Solar Farm's developer, Mark Owen-Lloyd, takes any opportunity to allege that Stop Botley West's campaign is "scare-mongering" with "no evidence to back it up". Similarly a senior elected member of Oxfordshire County Council recently wrote "There seems to be a campaign putting out non-evidence-based assertions around solar farms increasing flood risk". Stop Botley West's assertion that solar farms increase flood risk was in fact based on the latest peer-reviewed research-based evidence.

At the national level too the new Government has declared war on "the blockers, the delayers, the obstructionists" who dare to raise questions about specific energy and housing proposals. They are dismissed out of hand as "NIMBYs". Ed Miliband apparently thought the same labels apply even to the government's own Planning Inspectorate. When, after several years examining the evidence, the Planning Inspectorate recommended that the proposal for Sunnica Solar Farm in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire should be rejected, the Secretary of State approved the proposal regardless.

Name-calling is a lazy tactic, designed to shut down debate. It treats issues that are complex and nuanced as if they were simple and clear-cut. It portrays people who have genuine concerns as selfish and ignorant. It can be seen as hate speech aimed at denigrating and marginalising people.

This is how culture wars are waged.

It is to be expected that those with enormous sums of money riding on Botley West Solar Farm - the developer Photovolt Development Partners GmbH and the landowner Blenheim Estate - will say whatever it takes to try to get it over the line. It is more alarming when elected representatives are unwilling to respect the concerns of local residents and give them proper consideration, regardless of how genuine and well-evidenced their concerns are.

The overwhelming majority of people accept the need to cut carbon emissions rapidly and at scale. This does not justify giving the go-ahead to any renewable energy scheme that any developer proposes. As even

Ed Miliband said to the House of Commons, "We know that not all planning applications are good."

Utility-scale solar farms produce much-needed renewable energy but they are not a silver bullet. They have down-sides too.

Strong research-based evidence shows that solar farms can increase flood risk, that they do not necessarily have a positive impact for nature recovery and biodiversity, that they rely on slave labour and exported carbon emissions in China. They take agricultural land out of production and they spoil beautiful countryside and landscapes. The larger they are, the bigger the impact.

These are real concerns and they cannot be ignored. We need a grown-up and balanced debate based on the best evidence, not a culture war.

What can YOU do about this?

1. Please make a donation to our fighting fund via our website stopbotleywest.com. If you are in a position to make a significant donation to fund a heritage expert please contact us via our Chair: alex.rogers@stopbotleywest.com to arrange a personal meeting.

2. Please write to your new MP, Calum Miller (Calum.Miller@oxonlibdems.uk) and to the Leader of WODC, Andy Graham (andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk) with all your concerns about Botley West.

Stop Botley West, Hanborough Villages Group

DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets dry within the hour

Unbeatable results, removes almost all spots & stains

Call

GRIMEBUSTERS

01993 868924 01865 726983

www.grimebusters.co.uk

Specialist Private Client Lawyers & Tax professionals

Trusted advisors to individuals and their families

We provide specialist advice on Wills, inheritance tax planning, probates, powers of attorney and generally protecting your assets. Our tax specialists are also here to help with your personal tax compliance.



For more information, please call our Combe office on 01865 987781, visit www.theburnsidepartnership.com or email anna.boucher@theburnsidepartnership.com

"The team is superbly put together, showing professionalism and personality in equal measure"
Legal 500, 2024



Probate - Why Bother?

Ah, probate. The word alone sends shivers down the spine, doesn't it? It conjures up images of dusty offices and forms as thick as an encyclopaedia. For most people, it sounds about as appealing as getting a root canal while listening to a bagpipe solo. And I can hear the chorus already: "Why bother with probate? It's just more paperwork. Surely it's just another way for the government to slow things down and siphon off a few quid?" Well, not exactly.

I get it. You've just lost a loved one, the last thing you want to deal with is bureaucracy. But here's the thing: probate isn't just another meaningless hoop to jump through. It's there for a reason - a reason you'll appreciate *once you realise* what happens when people don't bother with it.

Firstly, probate is the *only* thing that stops absolute chaos from descending. Without it, there's no official proof that you have any right to take control of the deceased person's estate. You'd think, "Well, I'm their son/daughter/spouse, surely that's enough?" Sorry to burst your bubble, but no. Banks, insurance companies, and even your great aunt Maude's prize-winning dahlias aren't going to be handed over just because you flashed a family photo.

Probate is *what* gives you the legal power to manage someone's estate. Without it, you're basically stuck in limbo. You can't sell their house, access their bank accounts, or distribute their assets. It's like owning a car but being told you can't drive it until you've passed a driving test - frustrating, yes, but also vital to avoid total anarchy on the roads. The paperwork might feel like a bit of a grind, but imagine the carnage if everyone could just take whatever they fancied from someone's estate without any checks or balances.

"But it's just a small estate!" you cry. "What difference does it make?" Well, let me paint you a picture. Imagine Uncle Bob, who was always a bit tight with his money, dies without leaving a will. You think, "It's only a few grand in his bank account and a shed full of tools, do I really need to bother?" Yes. Yes, you do. Because here's what happens when you don't: other family members start appearing from nowhere. Suddenly, Cousin Larry, who hasn't been seen since the 90s, emerges from the woodwork, claiming that Uncle Bob **definitely** promised him the few grand and the shed and all its contents.

Without probate, there's no legal record of who gets what, and you're in for a family feud that makes the plot of 'Succession' look like a picnic. Probate stops these disputes before they start.

And if you think you can outsmart the system and just start divvying up the estate without probate, then you might want to think again. Try selling a house that still

technically belongs to someone who's six feet under. It's not happening. Without probate, you're legally powerless.

Yes, probate involves forms and yes, it takes time. But it also gives you clarity and control. It's the difference between a legally sound transfer of assets and a free-for-all that will end in tears, court cases, and potentially, a fistfight at the family Christmas party.

But wait, here is the best part. Probate can be a monumental pain in the backside, especially when you're already dealing with the emotional rollercoaster of losing someone you care about. But if you get it right, probate isn't just a necessary evil. It's actually a golden opportunity to maximise your own tax planning. In fact, when done properly, with a bit of professional know-how, it's not just a box-ticking exercise. You can use it to save a small fortune for your loved ones. But—and this is a big but—if you mess it up or try to cut corners, you're basically handing your money over to the taxman to fund yet another government project no one asked for. Sometimes, inheritance tax is the tax you pay because you didn't take the time to get things right, and let's be honest, it exists for a reason. It's a punishment for those who don't plan ahead.

In short, probate is one of those necessary evils that, while annoying, prevents a whole lot of headaches down the line.

So, why bother with probate? Because it stops the chaos. It keeps the peace. It can save you money. And, most importantly, it keeps Cousin Larry far, far away from that shed.



Anna Boucher, Senior Associate

Anna Boucher is an inheritance tax, wills and probate specialist solicitor at The Burnside Partnership (Combe office). Each month, Anna will share helpful tips on inheritance law, mixing humour with practical advice. If you have any follow-up questions, you can email her at anna.boucher@theburnsidepartnership.com or call the Combe office on 01865 987781 and ask for her secretary, Bev.

Woodstock Natural History Society

Woodstock Natural History Society offers a wide range of environmentally-related activities to suit both young and old. We welcome new members, and indeed have quite a few, probably because we cater for such a varied range of interests and are such pleasant people.

We host monthly meetings, to which all are welcome, at St Hugh’s Hall, Hensington Road, Woodstock, from 7.15 pm until 9.00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Our recent evening meeting, on Tuesday 8th October, saw Catriona Bass, who for 25 years has managed the Long Mead Wildlife Site. It is a 30-acre farm, with a rare ancient floodplain meadow, thrill us with her talk on 'Connecting communities - connecting landscapes: Community led landscape-scale restoration of the UK's rarest floodplain meadows'.

In 2018, in the light of this experience, and realising how vanishingly rare floodplain meadow had become, she co-initiated the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project, a farmer/landowner led project to create a joined-up network of floodplain meadows along the Thames North of Oxford and along the Cherwell in the city itself. She and OU Professor Kevan Martin bought some of the rare habitat at Swinford to protect it from further degradation. In 2020, she co-initiated the Nature Recovery Network, a bottom-up network of people for nature recovery in Eynsham and surrounding area.

The motto of this Nature Recovery Network is 'Connecting communities, connecting habitats', and the Network now involves 600 members and volunteers, and also enables schools and vulnerable people to engage with habitat restoration. The Network is inclusive; farmers and landowners, including Oxford colleges, are contributing to expanding this rare habitat. It will take many years for the bewildering species diversity of Swinford’s 1000 year-managed meadow to be replicated across all the brand new floodplain meadows, but the speed of expansion and restoration has been humbling. After first joining up 210 hectares of surviving floodplain meadows, the project, working with landowners, has added another 190 ha in less than four years.

This project is about habitat, wildlife and people; I shall certainly be doing my best to support it; Catriona’s understanding that schools, allotment societies, landowners and colleges all have a part to play, and if politely consulted will achieve miracles, is a valuable lesson to all.

On Tuesday 12th November we will be privileged to welcome Dr David Duthie, who will talk on 'Protecting Global Biological Diversity: an Insight into

the UN Environment Programme'.

Our Tuesday meetings are augmented by a wonderful programme of guided walks, social events and visits; contact us for details. On Friday 18th October we visited the Harcourt Aboretum to view the autumnal colours and to view the variety of fungi which fruit on and among the trees in Autumn.

We would love to see you at one of our events, and very much hope that you will want to become a member. For a copy of our programme please email contactwnhs@gmail.com, please also check this column regularly, and turn up at one of our Tuesday evenings. We are also keen to help young people into an appreciation of nature, and will do what we can to assist schoolteachers wishing to embark on relevant projects.

Dr Stephen Vickers, Meetings correspondent, WNHS

Bladon and Woodstock Flower Club

We had a really, lovely meeting on 14 October with Emma from Signature Flowers. Her demonstration was very uplifting. Emma is a professional florist and does a lot of wedding, funeral and corporate events. Her flowers and greenery were top quality, and her arrangements consisted of one in a hatbox, a twisted hazel wreath, small bottles in a row, one on a black frame which she would use to display a table plan, and a beautiful handtied one. So very interesting.

Our next meeting on 12 November will be an imposed workshop. At this workshop each member will be given flowers, greenery plus some unusual items like sticks, paper plate, string, and scourer. These items they will have to incorporate within their arrangement. They do not know what they will be given until the evening. It is great fun to see all the different ways they have used all these items.

Our December meeting on the 4th will be an open evening to be held in Exeter Hall, Kidlington. The Demonstrator will be Arnaud Metairie, a world renowned, demonstrator with his title ‘Festive Floral Fantasy’. Tickets are £15 each which includes a drink, and the doors will open at 6.15pm for 7.30pm. There will be retail stalls and a floral art stall. If you would like tickets, they can be purchase from me on 01865 376587 or online with a QR code which will be on the posters, also through the website bbandoflowers.org.uk.

Our normal meeting place is the Bowls and Tennis Clubhouse, Cadogan Park, Woodstock and the meetings start at 7 pm. Visitors are always welcome with a charge of £8.

Margaret Lang

Woodstock Live

A message from the outgoing Chair, Greg Hooper

To all those with connections to Woodstock Live music festival over the last 5 years,

I am writing to say that I will stand down as chair for Woodstock Live in 2025 and hope that this announcement will prompt an organic process in which a new person from the community will stand forward to lead the festival. There will be no Woodstock Live 2025 without a new chair.

I hope that a potential new chair with a passion for live music and a good level of leadership and administrative skill will come forward by Christmas 2024 in time for the start of the festival organising process in January. I am more than happy to offer as much support as I can to a new chair, either as a committee member in a smaller role or as somebody outside of the committee.

Being the chair of Woodstock Live has been a wonderful and fulfilling experience for me and I am hugely proud of everything the committee has achieved over the last 5 years. But as a father of 3 young children and self-employed professional, I am continually running out of the time and energy required to lead effectively and absolutely have to step out of the top role.

The festival is in a healthy financial state, with support from reliable sponsors, a wealth of brilliant volunteers and an audience that rolls up come rain or shine every year. Sadly though the committee has lost most of its members with stage manager, marketing, admin and personnel management roles that would ideally be filled by more people.

Thank you to all committee members for their great contributions of talent, skill and dedication to the last 3 festivals: namely Chris Bayne, Katja Behrens, Jack Walker, Oli Lanestead, Sophie Gregory, Richard Boon, Harry Moseley and Richard Belmont. You've all done so much to help shape the fantastic 3 festivals that we put on together and help Woodstock Live continue to grow.

To anyone who would like to put themselves forward for the chair, or other committee role, or would like to refer someone else, please get in touch with hoopergreg2@gmail.com.

Woodstock Scout and Guide Hut Committee Needs You!

Woodstock Scout and Guide Hut Committee are looking for a new **Treasurer**. Woodstock Scout and Guide Hut, located in Union Street, is home to Woodstock's Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Trefoil, Beaver, Cub and Scout Units, several u3a clubs and is also used for occasional hire. The Hut Committee and Trustees are responsible for the Hut's finances, its maintenance and ensuring it is an asset Woodstock is proud of.

Wanted Treasurer

The role of the **Treasurer** involves:

- Managing the day-to-day finances and banking. This includes paying bills, arranging insurance and utilities and invoicing hirers.
- Keeping accurate records and producing Annual Accounts for audit each financial year.
- Reporting on the Hut's financial position at each committee meeting and at the annual Trustees meeting. (Typically, 4-5 meetings a year).
- Providing financial information to support grant application.
- Producing financial forecasts to help ensure the Hut's sustainability going forward.

It is not responsible for managing the finances of the Scout and Guides Units; they manage their own. The role of the Treasurer typically takes 1-3 hours a month, with a little more at the end of the financial year when the accounts need auditing.

If you have accountancy, book-keeping, or Treasurer experience, are familiar with online banking and know how to use spreadsheets, please think about volunteering for this role!

If you have the right background and time and want to ensure Woodstock's Scouting and Guiding Units have a home now, and in the future, please contact **Debbie Teanby** at woodstocksghut@gmail.com or on **07882 447214**. The Hut Committee would love to hear from you.



Woodstock Literature Society

A review of a talk: Coleridge’s Rime of the Ancient Mariner - what does it all mean?

By Professor Seamus Perry on Saturday 26 October 2024



Most of us remember reading this poem at school, and for Woodstock residents it has particular resonance: the story is based on an account Wordsworth had read about Simon Hatley from Woodstock, who did indeed shoot an albatross while beset by storms off Cape Horn.

But what is this strange poem all about?

Professor Perry steered us gently through the choppy waters of this long and puzzling poem, which Coleridge tinkered with obsessively throughout his writing career. The story is simple enough, in outline: a ship stuck in Antarctic ice is apparently rescued by an Albatross, which for some reason one of the sailors then shoots dead. This results in the ship being becalmed in searing heat, and the dying crew punish the Albatross’ killer by hanging the dead bird around his neck. A rekindled appreciation for all of Nature absolves the sailor of his guilt, the burden leaves his neck and finally he is able to return home safely.

The first interpretation offered was of the poem as a Christian Allegory. The Albatross - often rhymed with Cross - attempts to guide the crew to safety, but is rejected by the sailor who kills it, who is subsequently filled with guilt but eventually atones for his sin as he comes to appreciate God’s creation and receives the gift of salvation.

However, Professor Perry pointed out that there are no direct references to Christ or prayer in the poem, and the poem is closer to Wordsworth’s pantheism than traditional Christianity. Moreover, the mariner seems to remain anxious long after the burden of guilt has been removed from him, and is doomed to relive his terrible tale by repeating it to anyone trapped in his clutches.

The reason for writing - and rewriting - the poem remains unclear, however. It has been suggested that as a radical he was burdened with guilt about the slave trade, or traumatised by how the French revolution had descended into despotism. He seems to share with Wordsworth a sense of awe and even fear of the sublime power of Nature, and was perhaps also trying to impress his friend by writing the best poem in the Lyrical Ballads. However you interpret it, it remains an unforgettable poem.

This was a fascinating talk, illustrated with engravings by Coleridge’s contemporary David Scott, the 20th century illustrator David Jones and the famous and deliciously gothic engravings of Gustav Dore.

Ann Handsley

Woodstock Literature Society’s further events this autumn

The final WLS talk of the year will be on Saturday 16 November at 3.00pm at the St Hugh’s Centre and will be given by Dr David Grylls whose topic will cover the Edwardian novel. More information on the website: www.woodstockliteraturesociety.co.uk

For more information about the Woodstock Literature Society visit the web-site: www.woodstockliteraturesociety.co.uk



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Thursday 14 November, Buscot Park, Faringdon

In a talk and fundraiser for the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Ingram Murray (father of historian and comedian Al Murray) will tell the story of the search for the identity of an unknown soldier killed in action during the First World War.

See poster to the right of this text for details as to how to apply for tickets for the tour of the house, and for the talk.

MARY & MARTIN’S NEWSAGENTS
44 High St, Woodstock
NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINE DELIVERIES
Specialist magazines
Stationery
OPENING HOURS
Monday – Saturday
5:30 am – 6:30 pm
Sunday
5:30 am – 5:00 pm
Phone 01993 811497

PK
PAUL KAY HAIR SALON
41a Oxford Street, Woodstock
Tel: 01993 810810
paulkayhairsalon@gmail.com

TOM SHANNON MEMORIAL LECTURE
10
‘KNOWN UNTO GOD’
FINDING LIEUTENANT WORDSWORTH
The story of how museum volunteers worked with The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre to finally identify the remains of an officer who fell in the Great War, missing since 1917.
14 NOVEMBER 2024
6.30PM TOUR OF THE HOUSE
7.15PM TALK WITH INGRAM MURRAY
BUSCOT PARK
FARINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE, SN7 8BU
£45pp (INCLUDES WINE & NIBBLES)
WWW.SOFO.ORG.UK
01993 810 210
SCAN ME
SUPPORTING SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE TRUST (REGISTERED CHARITY 1145408)

WOOTTON STORES
Run for the community by the community
Church Street, Wootton, Woodstock, OX20 1DH
Mon–Fri: 8am – 1.30pm and 3pm – 7pm
Sat: 8am – 12pm / Sun: 9am – 11am
• finest local produce • everyday essentials
• fresh coffee • treats and goodies
• service with a smile!

KBDR
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
The Old Tannery, Hensington Road, Woodstock,
Oxon, OX20 1JL
01993 814590
info@kbdr.co.uk

The Oxfordshire Museum

JASSO Exhibition

Saturday 9 Nov 2024 - Sunday 17 Nov 2024

The Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford will be putting on an exhibition of members work to mark their 50-year anniversary. This will be held in the Garden Gallery at the Oxfordshire Museum.

Admission to the exhibition is free and items on show will be available for sale.

Museum Shop

The museum shop has a proud history of working with local suppliers and makers from across Oxfordshire. We are delighted to have recently expanded our stock range from talented artist Jane Tomlinson. Jane is based in Freeland and we now have a fabulous range of greetings cards, tea towels and jigsaws in stock – including the bestselling Oxfordshire Map. We also have a limited supply of 2025 calendars. They would make the perfect Christmas gift so why not pop in and get yours whilst stocks last!

Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum

Monthly talks in the Museum in Woodstock at 7.30pm

Wednesday 6 November

‘The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire’

Deborah Hayter MA, Oxford University Dept of Continuing Education

Britain has a large number of Deserted Medieval Villages, but what really happened to them? Why did some die out and some live on? Was it wicked landlords, population collapse or peasants’ choices? Our speaker will offer possible explanations,.

Wednesday 4th December

‘Street of Shame or Street of Adventure?’ St Brides’ Fleet Street and the World of the Media.’

David Meara, Archdeacon Emeritus of London

St Bride’s Church Fleet Street is an iconic London Church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It is the spiritual home of the British Press and it continues to exercise a unique Ministry to the world of journalism.

Talks are free to Friends, who are also sent a ZOOM link.

Visitors are welcome in person or by ZOOM for a fee of £5.

For further details Email:
contactfriendsoftom@gmail.com
or website: www.friendsoftom.org.uk

Art on Conflict

The Artists in Woodstock (AiW) have come together with the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) and are delighted to launch the month-long Art on Conflict exhibition on the 19th October. This exhibition has allowed artists to create in their medium of choice a piece centred on the theme of Conflict. Rosalind Butt, one of the organising committee, says ‘We are excited to show personal, moving, and poignant art work related to war, ranging from pieces inspired by the far ranging repercussions of conflict on civilians such as impact on women fleeing war zones, such as Iraq, the impact on trade and the weaponisation of language. Artists within the group have drawn influence from celebrated established poets such as Wilfred Owen, their own inner conflict with health diagnoses, reflecting on the current conflicts across the globe and from paraphernalia and imagery associated with war.

The exhibition promises to show a diverse range of art including work by; Rana Ibrahim, who is the founder of Iraqi women art and war (IWAU); renowned watercolour artist Rod Craig; poet and photographer Rosalind Butt, collage artist Jane Hance and so much more.

‘As a collage artist and founder/director of the Iraqi Women Art and War (IWAU) CIC, I, Rana Ibrahim, explore themes of identity, memory, and displacement in Iraq from 2003 to 2024. My work reflects the stories of the younger generation of Iraqis, particularly those who protested against the corrupt regime in 2018, and the impact of conflict on their lives.’

Rod Craig ‘This was challenging for me as it was for many of the artists in the group – most of my recent work has been landscape based. By way of contrast for this exhibition I have produced five new pieces largely focussed on the divisions of people and of nations brought about by fear and prejudice’.

Artist Jane Greer says ‘Whilst preparing for this exhibition I became increasingly aware of the role of language in creating and resolving conflict.

For me growing up bilingual there was always a conflict between my mother tongue Welsh and my father tongue English. My maternal grandmother had been punished at school for speaking Welsh - a weapon used throughout the world to subjugate and attempt to destroy an indigenous culture. After the holocaust the German philosopher Adorno said that all art was barbaric but ironically art in the form of images, words and music will survive us all and perhaps help future generations understand us more than we understand ourselves and make sense of our inherent paradoxes.’

Jane Topliss, who is more familiar with making functional ceramics, found this a really interesting challenge which pushed her in a new creative direction. Her work ‘Battle Lines Redrawn’ commemorates the selflessness and resilience of not only the men who fought on them, but also Mother Nature who is forever trying to heal the wounds of conflict.

The exhibition runs from the 19th October to the 24th November 2024 and is free to enter.

Panniers

Everyday cycling in Woodstock and Bladon

I recently discovered that not everyone is aware that it is possible to cycle through Blenheim Park between Woodstock, Bladon and Long Hanborough thanks to the new community path.

The Blenheim Community Path - for walking and cycling - starts close to Hanborough railway station and passes through some wonderful scenery to the park gate at Bladon. As part of its campaign to encourage more sustainable transport, Blenheim now allows cycling along the section of path from Bladon towards the palace and Woodstock. Blenheim assures me that residents' walking permits will suffice to use the route with a bicycle.

Not only is it a perfect leisure route, but it allows residents of Long Hanborough and Bladon to reach shops, work, schools etc in Woodstock without having to use a car.

Mixing cycles and pedestrians is a touchy subject but it can work. 'Share the space is the advice on many canal towpaths while in Germany you can find signs that say 'kindness widens the way'. Happy utility cycling!

David Walker is a member of Sustainable Woodstock, the Village Travel Network and is a qualified Bikeability instructor



A bridge along the Blenheim Community Path linking Long Hanborough and Bladon



WOODSTOCK Jazz

KATYA GORRIE QUARTET

Katya Gorrie - Vocals
Dom Franks
Andy Bowen - guitars
Paul Jefferies - bass

“Stunning vocals delivered with great pathos”



Friday 29th Nov
Doors open 7:00pm
Show starts 7:30pm

Tickets £20.00
from Website
07704 297119

NB. This is a 'Bring Your Own' drinks event
Hensington Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1JL

www.woodstockjazz.co.uk

Rebirth - A local Hockey Revolution

Oxfordshire sport has this month seen a revolution with the formal launch of the first new Mixed Hockey Club in over thirty years and a bucking of the trend of diminishing sports participation.

The new Burford Hockey Club is based in the town at the new purpose built astro pitch at The Burford School. Open training sessions are held on Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 8.30 and are well attended by a mixture of local youth, regular and returning adult players. The mixed side is playing friendlies under the captaincy of Stephanie Wood and the mens side is playing on Saturdays in the Cherwell 3 division of the South Central Hockey league under the captaincy of Nick Henry.

Burford has a proud Hockey history with the museum hosting pictures and details of the town's mixed side playing fixtures as far back as 1895. However, no club had been operational in the town in living memory. That is until a group of friends from varied clubs around the county grew fed up of the travel and decided to start afresh.

The new club was brought into being at a well-attended foundation meeting on the 6 September at the Lamb in Burford and has already got primary sponsorships in place for the inaugural season. The club is welcoming those wanting to rekindle their love for the sport by just training, as well as those looking for competitive or friendly hockey from the area. With players already coming from Burford, Carterton, Witney, Chipping Norton, Banbury and across into Gloucestershire, the opportunity is proving to be very attractive. Of course, a club needs all sorts of people to function so we are also seeking administrators, umpires, and other supporters willing to help make the venture a success.

The first home fixtures took place on Saturday 28 September with a mixed game on Sunday 29th.

Chairman and co-founder Nick August said "We wanted to create a club to provide an enjoyable playing experience for everyone and take advantage of this fantastic new facility on our doorstep. We have been delighted by the response and we think a women's side will soon follow the Mixed and mens sides."

Vice Chairman, Co-Founder and Coach James Merrill said "We trained all last season with just six or seven people attending, but this summer the attendance has leapt with 15-20 attending most weeks. It is great to see such a range of ages and abilities training and turning out to play. from humble beginnings come great things."

Malcolm West, Secretary
burfordhockeyclub@gmail.com, 07841 778095

Woodstock Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival

Trees wanted!

From 14th December 2024

Following the success of last year's Christmas Tree Festival and in response to public demand, Woodstock Methodist Church are holding their Christmas Tree Festival again! This is a great opportunity for different clubs and societies to raise their profile within the community, raise money for our two church charities, Médecins Sans Frontières and Asylum Welcome, and have some fun!

If you are part of a club, society or organisation, and you would like to take part and decorate a tree please contact Debbie on 01993 812325 or email stewards@woodstockmethodists.org.uk.

A few things to note:

- You provide the tree; it can be a traditional one or made of something different e.g., paper, cardboard, branches, etc. It needs to be under 3ft or lie flush to a wall (as our church is not too big).
- You can use your imagination on the decorations and theme as you like but we are an Eco Church and so please bear sustainability in mind.
- You provide a small poster advertising your group to go alongside your tree including your group's name; what it does, when and where it meets, etc.
- Tree setting-up will be Friday 13th December between 4-6.30pm (or can be dropped off before for us to set up for you), ready for the Festival open afternoon on the 14th December and Sunday service on the 15th December
- The Trees will then be displayed over the Christmas period so they can be viewed at the weekends and on other days, when the church is open
- It is free to take part.

The church has limited space so please book early. Below are a some of the trees from last year for inspiration. We hope to see an abundance of trees of all types, shapes and sizes again this year - what will you do?

Woodstock 50+ Cinema Club

This Club shows films on the fourth Friday of every month at the Woodstock Methodist Church in Woodstock.

Please come and spend a relaxing morning for a get-together, watch a film, and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and biscuits.

Jessica, 07384 511698

Woodstock Baptist Church

Tearfund Big Quiz Night 2024

Everyone welcome to come along to a quiz night being hosted by Woodstock Baptist Church.

Saturday 30 November, 6.30pm for a 7pm start, the venue is St. Hugh's Church Hall: free entry, free food, bring your own drinks, and donations welcome for Tear Fund. Maximum team size 8 people. It should be a fun evening!

If you would like to come along just email wbcenquiry@woodstockbaptistchurch.org.uk so we know numbers for food.

Gareth Davies-Jones - 'Darkest Midnight in December'

Gareth Davies-Jones is back at Woodstock Baptist Church on Sunday 8 December at 6pm.

Gareth's Solo Christmas Acoustic Show, 'Darkest Midnight in December', brings a welcome oasis of acoustic calm amongst the busiest of seasons. Armed with fresh interpretations, arrangements and melodies, and with a little background on the writers themselves, he comes back to Woodstock, aiming to uncover some of the original potency and impact of familiar seasonal music.

Tickets are £15 and available at <https://garethdavis-jones.com/tour>.

Christmas Fayre

The annual Christmas Fayre which is held and organised by myself at the Woodstock Social Club on the first Sunday of December is going to be held at the Woodstock Scout and Guide Hut in Union Street, Woodstock, due to the closure of the Club.

It is on Sunday 1 December from 11am till 3pm.

Tables are limited because there isn't the same amount of space.

There is free entrance tea and coffee will be available.

Linda Addis, Ex Chairperson of Woodstock Social Club

Combe Community Cinema

Screenings take place at the Community Cinema in the Combe Community Hub - the former Methodist Church - in Park Street, Combe.

On Friday, November 22, the film will be 'The Holdovers'. Set in late 1970 and early 1971, the award-winning film stars Paul Giamatti as a strict classics teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go over the Christmas break.

Doors (and bar!) open at 7.30pm, with the screening starting at 8.00pm. All are timed to end by approximately 10.00pm, and all feature subtitles. Tickets £5 on the door.

u3a

Our speaker last month was Frederick Dove, who gave us a fascinating insight into the Thalidomide scandal, which affected many births globally, mainly between 1958 and 1962. The drug, sold as a sedative, remained active for only a few hours, but if taken by women in early pregnancy, it could cause a miscarriage or serious damage to their unborn child. An informative, but also uplifting talk. Medical science and drug control have greatly moved forward since then, and research continues to bring new understanding.

Our next speaker meeting is on Thursday 5 November at St Hugh's Hall, Hensington Road, Woodstock when Vivienne Sieber speaks about Kino and Kinder - A family's journey in the shadow of the Holocaust - a family history. 1.45pm for 2pm talk - visitors welcome at £2.

Interest groups continue to expand with German speaker sessions to be offered. The Singing group is to re-establish itself at the Scout and Guide Hut in Union Street, Woodstock on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm - next date is 20 November. All welcome.

Please do check our website for further information: www.woodstocku3a.uk.

Sue Blackshaw, Chair, Woodstock & District u3a



Experienced English tutor, writer and translator

- GCSE and A-level AQA exam boards for the Marlborough School
- English as a foreign language
- Translator - French, Spanish, German into English

• Essay writing - up to Masters level
I can help with exams, essays and learning English as a foreign language - one to one sessions in person or online.

References supplied on request.

Please contact:
michelleturkie@gmail.com

Tennis

After many months of research and planning, there’s an exciting new development for sport in Woodstock. This year the town’s Tennis Club secured permission from WODC to install lights on its courts. They were switched on for the first time in September and are proving a big hit.

They’re not floodlights, but an innovative tennis court lighting system called Tweener, recently developed in France and taking off all over Europe, where it’s been installed at some of the most prestigious venues. Instead of mounting floodlights high on columns, the Tweener lights are simply fitted with brackets along the existing court fences.

Ecologically and aesthetically it’s a triumph. The club’s Courts Officer, Nigel Bryant, said: “The installation had a near-zero carbon footprint, and energy usage is 50% less than floodlights. With the lights fixed right down at court level there’s minimal light spill. And we’re so lucky at Woodstock: we have an exceptionally beautiful setting. This would have been badly compromised by floodlights – with 15 columns across the site it would have looked and felt like a supermarket car park. But the Tweener system makes no visible change to the site at all: when it isn’t on, you wouldn’t know it was here.”

What about playing quality? “It’s remarkable,” he said. “You can’t believe it could possibly work with the lights fixed down so low. But it does. In fact it’s better than the great majority of conventional systems, and the clubs where we play-tested it last year told us that many of their members much prefer Tweener to floodlights. It’s easy to see why. With floodlights, the sources of light are multiple, on separate columns at the ends of the courts and often halfway along, beside the nets. With Tweener, there’s a single source of light running the length of the court, so the coverage is far more even, and tracking the flight of the ball as it travels down the court is really easy, with none of the strange effects you can get with floodlights.”

In terms of playing time, court lighting is transformative for the club. James Lilburne, one of Woodstock’s team captains, said: “We have nine teams playing league tennis both summer and winter, but in the winter we’ve always been at a big disadvantage: for months, all through the week, those of us who work during the day have been unable to practise between matches. Now that we’ve lights, we can play on weekday evenings, and practise both individually and as teams.”

Tory Houghton, the club’s Welfare Officer, said: “It’s brilliant for families. Until now, for six months of the year my husband and children haven’t been able to play together except at weekends. Now, with the court lighting, we can play as a family in the early evenings.”

And Tom Francis, the club’s Head Coach, said: “The lighting is a massive boon for Woodstock juniors. We can now run our Coaching Programme properly all the year round, instead of having to ask parents in winter to drive their children to other venues which have lighting. Ecologically that wasn’t great, and for many parents, with the best will in the world, it wasn’t even manageable. And it’s a boon not just for our juniors: we can now offer year-round coaching sessions for working adults, too. Enabling more court hours through the winter evenings aligns with our core philosophy, of getting more people active, more often.”

Woodstock Tennis Club’s social tennis has always been thriving in the summer. Its popular Club Nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays can now run all the year round. Full details about the club, its coaching, its team play and its social play, and how to join, are on the website: www.wbtc.org.uk



The Woodstock Society

'Frank Bevan's Woodstock,1932': A Talk by Dr Robert Edwards

Monday 18 November, at 8.00pm
St Mary Magdalen Church, Woodstock

Dr Edwards, as a local General Practitioner, has served this community for many years. Robert has been Mayor of Woodstock on two occasions and many will remember his introduction of the many legged dragons in the annual parades.

He has been instrumental in Woodstock being awarded firsts in the Oxfordshire in Bloom competitions and he is an accomplished archivist writing, editing and producing several books about the buildings and history of Woodstock.

New members and visitors are welcome
Annual membership £25 (9 talks) or visitor fee £8
Further info: www.woodstocksociety.org

JLDA

Design, Planning Applications, Listed Building Consents & Building Regulations Applications, Construction Drawings

A complete service for all your building needs, including New Builds, all types of Extensions, Internal Alterations as well as Loft and Garage Conversions

"JLDA has done 3 designs for us. The first one has transformed our lives. It was a ground floor extension and involved redesigning our kitchen as well. The work was of the highest quality and the level of service excellent. We were very much involved in the process of design but the bureaucratic requirements such as Design, Planning permission were expertly handled by JLDA."

★★★★★

Call now to discuss the project you have in mind

01869 349825
design@jlida.co.uk
www.jlida.co.uk

Blue Monkey Trees

Tree risk assessment and surveys

Tree surgery

Felling

Planting

07935 236311

bluemonkeytrees@gmail.com
www.bluemonkeytrees.com



Singing for Fun

Now at St Mary Magdalene Church every 1st Monday of the month at 2pm

Due to the closure of Woodstock Social Club, our Singing for Fun sessions have relocated to St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock, beginning on Monday 4 November at 2pm.

Please come and join us for an enjoyable and friendly hour where we chat, have a cup of tea/coffee, and sing our way through one of our large print songbooks. Don't say 'I can't sing' - it doesn't matter what your voice is like, we sing for fun! Most of our regulars are between 60 and 100+ but everyone is welcome and sessions are free.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Social Club for hosting us so warmly and generously for 8 years. Also to Andy Graham for helping us obtain a Councillor Priority Fund grant for the church heating costs. And thank you, St Mary Magdalene, for making this new chapter possible.

Tessa Hall and Paul Ralph

Friends of St Martin's Bladon

The Friends of St Martin's are holding a St Martin's Feast to celebrate the Saint's Day on the 9th November - this is our first Feast since the covid lockdown. Traditionally goose is served on these occasions.

The Saint became a hermit after leaving the Roman army where he famously gave half his cloak to a beggar. However the Church decided to make him Bishop of Tour. Martin hid when the delegation came to take him from his hermitage but was betrayed by the cackling of geese. All over Europe goose is eaten around the 11th November to mark this event.

The Friends of St Martin's however cannot work out how we could serve goose to around 36 people so we serve duck for the Feast. A main course, pudding and glass of wine plus entertainment will be served for £20.

Tickets are available from Chris Corser in Bladon, (01993 813071) or from Mollie Hance in Woodstock (01993 811354).

Mollie Hance

Woodstock Social Club

Important news following the AGM on 12 October 2024

At the AGM, we briefly explained our reasons for closing the Social Club - it was simply that it would be losing less money when closed than it was when it was open!

Following my speech, there was an introduction to Plunkett UK, whose speaker Mr Christopher Buckham took Q+A's from the meeting, and explained about becoming a CBS (Community Benefit Society) and the benefits it would provide to our club. These include grants, tax and rates relief, to name but a few.

A dissolution clause (to prevent) against any future proposal to sell the club or assets for any other purpose, was voted with a large majority of voters present and no objections.

A vote was then proposed by the Secretary to dissolve the current club structure but ONLY on the basis that the current rules would then be written into the founding rules and constitution of a new CBS. This motion was accepted almost unanimously, with again no objections.

We are confident that this outcome was the only way to move the club forwards.

The committee has already applied to register our building as an Asset of Community Value with West Oxford District Council. Once we have applied to set up the new business we will be putting out additional updates and working on publishing our first community share offers.

We invite any existing customers, previous members and community leaders please to make any offers of assistance they are able to provide to help us out during this time.

Dean Fowler, Secretary

Rejuvenate Aesthetics

Aesthetic Treatments and Injectables
Lash and Brow Treatments

Based between Woodstock & Combe
E: Rejuvenate.by.angharad@hotmail.com
Instagram: @rejuvenate_by_angharad
Facebook: rejuvenate.by.angharad

Acorn Fencing

Fencing - Gates - Security Fencing
Decking - Garden Structures

trevor.acornfencing@live.co.uk
Tel: 07949 511182

Oxfordshire & Home Counties

The Arts Society Cotswolds

Lecture on Wednesday 13 November 2024
Northern Renaissance Art and its Influence on the Italian Renaissance

This lecture considers the influence of the art from the Low Countries on Italian Renaissance art. Generally considered a one-sided cultural exchange from the South to the North, this talk demonstrates the significance of Flemish art for its innovations in the medium of oil, landscape painting and portraiture. Focusing on the example of Florence, the impact of Netherlandish art is considered from the perspective of the Medici and leading patrons together with painters including Botticelli, Ghirlandaio and Leonardo. The extent to which Flemish art was valued, economically and aesthetically, is underlined by its frequent appearance in household inventories and the stylistic changes adopted by Florentine artists to satisfy the increasing demand.

About our speaker: Dr. James Lindow was the first Renaissance PhD from the Royal College of Art and the V&A. He has convened and presented at international conferences, lectures widely in the UK and overseas and is currently a fine art underwriter in the City. He has written articles on diverse aspects of the Renaissance, and his book entitled The Renaissance Palace in Florence: Magnificence and



Splendour in Fifteenth-Century Italy was published by Ashgate Press in 2007 to widespread critical acclaim.

This hybrid lecture will be held at the Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford, OX18 4RZ at 11am and via Zoom. Please be seated by 10.50 for notices of upcoming events. Numbers are no longer restricted but booking is recommended to reserve a place via our website (see below) Non-members are welcome (space permitting) at a charge of £10.

Further information will be circulated via the newsletter and bookings can be made via the website (see below) or please call Lisa Etheridge on 01285 711805 for a booking form.

To learn more about The Arts Society Cotswolds and to see what lectures, Special Interest Days and other activities are planned, please log into the website www.theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk

Or contact Carolyn Walton on 01993 822296

Wootton Village Hall Talks

Our next speaker at 7.30pm on Friday 8 November is **Charlie Ireland**, the key farming adviser on Amazon's hit, Clarkson's Farm - a series about Jeremy Clarkson and his 1,000-acre Diddly Squat Farm near Chipping Norton. The evening is now Sold Out - but we sometimes get returns in the days leading up to a Talk, if you wish to go on the waiting-list.

Future monthly Talks are planned between January and April next year - details of speakers will be on the Talks website as soon as they are booked, so please keep checking in order to reserve seats. www.woottontalks.co.uk

Entry is £10 in cash - and includes free food. Wine and soft drinks are available for a modest donation. (Children over 16 welcome). Cards can be used to buy speaker's books. To reserve seats, please contact us through our website www.woottontalks.co.uk

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

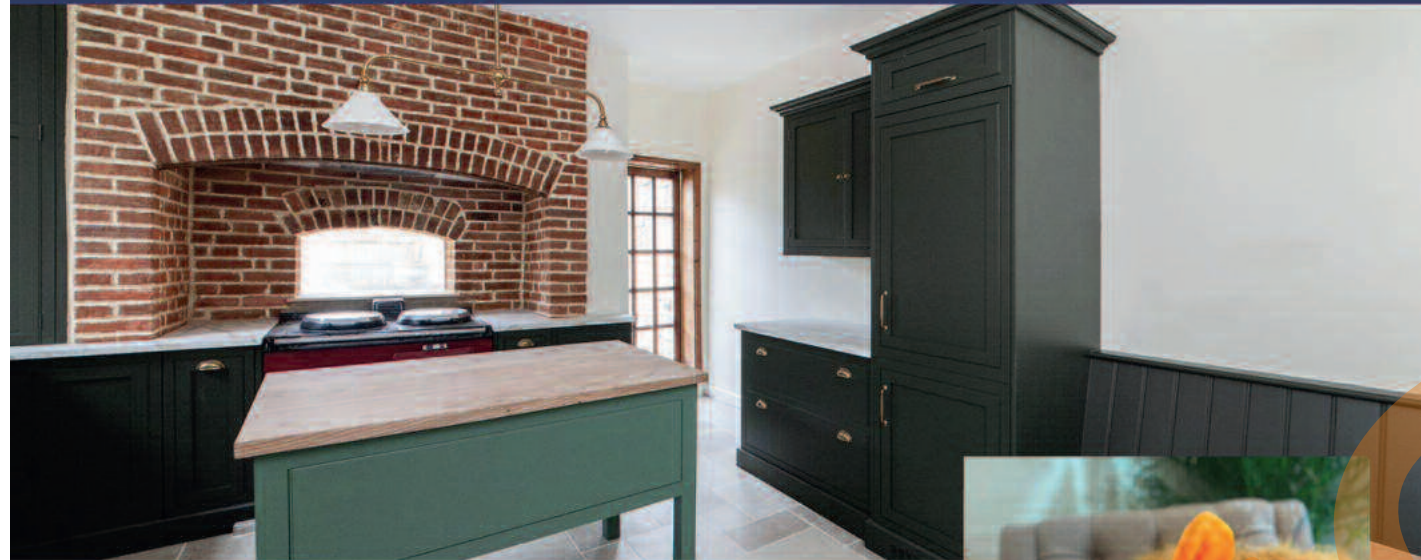
STAMPS WANTED

Stamp collections purchased:
friendly free valuation service
without obligation and with
immediate payment. Also medals,
coins, postcards and other
collectables.

Please call David Lord
01993 881862

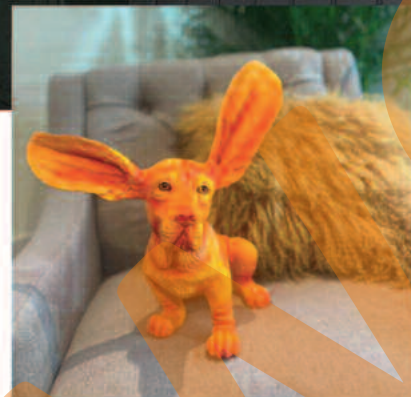
William Jones Estate Agency

A Team You Can Trust



Sales

With sales, the team comes with bags of experience and a love for Oxfordshire properties. Our sales packages include professional photos & floorplans, accompanied viewings, honest and constructive feedback and out of hour viewings by arrangement.



LETTINGS: FULL MANAGEMENT SERVICE

At William Jones, we offer competitive and bespoke contracts and rates at 8% + VAT. Full management rental services include: a property file system, registered deposit or reposit scheme, rent collection service, mid-term inspections and 24/7 out of office emergency heating and plumbing service.



01993812666
36 High Street Woodstock, OX20 1TG.

20mph limits - have they worked?

Woodstock's new 20mph zone stirred up passionate debate in the community. Some residents welcomed the slower speed limit as a long-overdue step towards pedestrian safety, while others argued it was unnecessary or would never be enforced effectively. Manor Road, known for being uncomfortable for pedestrians due to speeding traffic, became the focal point of this discussion.

The road, our only pedestrian connection from Old Woodstock to the rest of the town, has long been a concern for parents walking children, elderly residents, and anyone navigating the narrow pavements. The sense of vulnerability many pedestrians feel is not without reason; previously, Manor Road often saw vehicles reaching speeds well above the old 30mph limit, making it a daunting experience for those on foot. The push for a speed reduction was as much about reclaiming the road for the community as it was about following safety standards.

Inspired by an initiative in Stanford Rivers, where villagers used data to monitor local speeds and force action, I decided to take matters into my own hands. In Stanford Rivers, residents published data showing how frequently drivers were exceeding speed limits, and that simple yet powerful evidence helped spur local authorities into action. Taking a page from their book, I set up a system to log vehicle speeds on Manor Road, from the start of the 20 zone to the bottom of the hill.

The setup was straightforward, using the same mobile phone GPS data that identifies traffic jams in google or apple maps. This data is free to use as long as you keep requests under 1000 per day. So for the month of October, I setup a system to log the average traffic

flow speed every 5 minutes. Although we don't have data from before the limit, I think the chart is still pretty compelling.

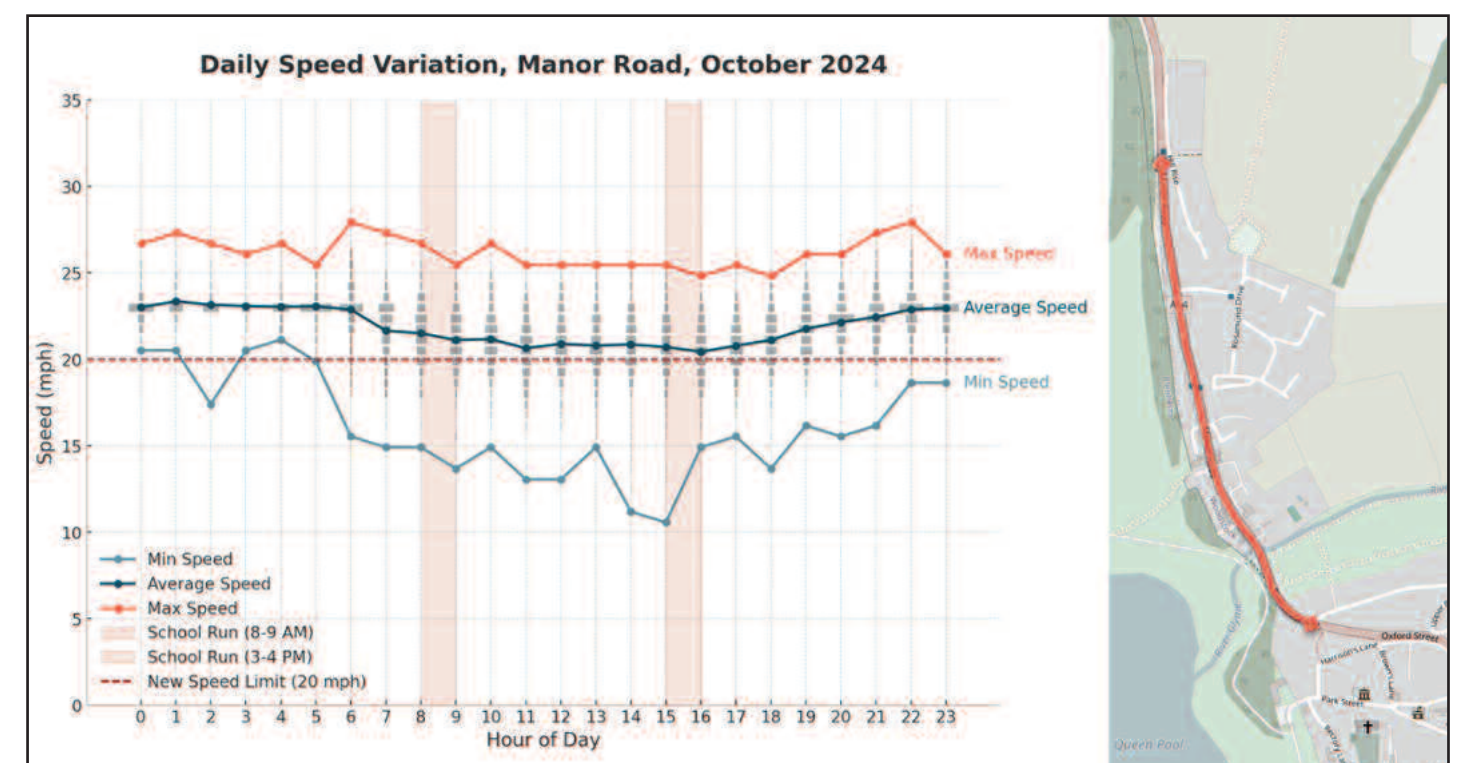
The chart we produced tells an interesting story: while most drivers are still exceeding the new limit, traffic speeds have significantly reduced compared to the 30mph that used to dominate Manor Road. This shift in behaviour suggests that, despite the fears of some, the introduction of the 20mph limit is making a positive difference. During peak times, such as school drop-off and pick-up hours, the data shows a noticeable decrease in speed.

This data-driven approach offers an encouraging sign that community-led efforts, combined with the power of information, can help create safer roads for all. It also demonstrates that real change doesn't always require waiting for official enforcement measures. By highlighting the realities of traffic behaviour, we're showing that people can come together to make a difference, whether it's through speaking up at council meetings, creating awareness, or using technology to gather evidence.

The new speed limit is still in its early days, and while it may take more time for full compliance, the early indicators are promising. Manor Road is slowly becoming less of a hazard, and more of a shared space for everyone - a place where pedestrians can walk without the constant worry of speeding traffic. It's a testament to the power of local action and a reminder that, even in small communities like Woodstock, we have the ability to shape our environment for the better.

Up next - widening the pavements at key pinch points and a bridge over to the water meadows!

Oli Lanestead



Bus Shelter Update
Promoting User Friendly and Greener Travel

Since writing to the Woodstock and Bladon News and asking advice from the Town Clerk, Councillor Lizzie Martin thanked me for flagging the issue and offered her support to raise this item again at the Town Council. Thank you, Cllr Martin.



Shelter at Hill Rise - photo taken by Hill Rise resident

Some readers have passed on their support and ideas for making improvement, and include:

- All existing shelters need repair, refurbishment or replacing
- All shelters well-lit
- All North and Southbound stops to include live updates (including town centre)
- Opportunity to sit
- Adverts - No issue

3 NEW shelters suggested from users

- Northbound on A44 Bladon roundabout
- Northbound on A44 Hensington Gate
- Northbound on A44 Hill Rise (at the moment, the narrow pavement means they often have to stand on the grass ... that can be long and very wet).

Please pass your ideas for improving the public transport experience to the Town Clerk and he can forward to Cllr Martin.

Email clerk@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

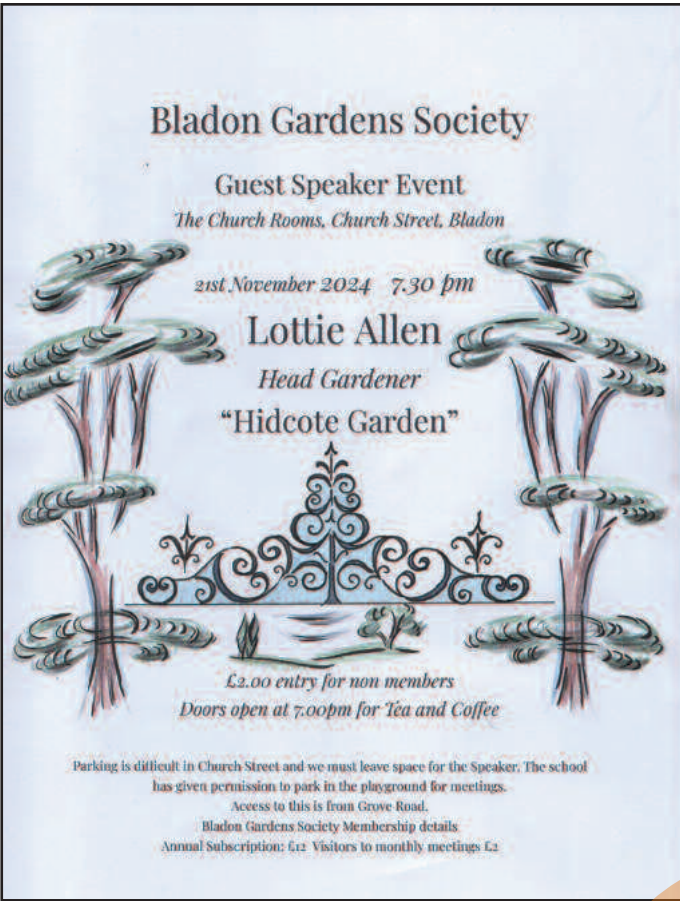
Hilary Brown, Sustainable Woodstock

Bladon Snippets from the Past

Bladon War Memorial

Central to our Community with the flight of steps and a shelf at the bottom for poppy wreaths, is the stone memorial. There was once a Bronze Cross in the now empty space near the top at the front. This bronze was probably collected for scrap metal by dealers on their way past..... what disrespect! Shocking!

Mary F. Sitch



Oxford Bus Museum
inc. Morris Motors & Historic Cycle Collection

Readers who have been on one of our free historic bus rides will know that there is always a conductor dressed in 1950s summer uniform with a mechanical ticket machine. Older readers will remember the machines in use until the mid-1970s.



The picture is of a Setright Ticket Machine SM.B is one of the ones we use. It has been adapted for use after decimalisation.

Henry Roy Setright, known as Harry, was an Australian who liked gambling on the horses. He was born in 1886 and trained as an engineer with NSW government railways.

Just before the First World War 'pooled betting' was legal in Australia and there was competition to manufacture a 'Totaliser' machine for calculating and displaying the odds for each horse. The first Totaliser was manufactured by Automatic Totalisers, which was set up in 1917. Harry was their works manager.

Harry had already developed his own design for printing betting slips to avoid the delays as the bookie laboriously hand wrote the slip. In 1922 Harry sold his business to Automatic Totalisers and two years later moved to France to join the large Chambon Company, which was developing techniques for printing and rolling paper.

Machines for printing betting slips were not much different to what was required to produce transport tickets. In the 1920s the number of passengers seated on each bus was increasing. The existing pre-printed travel tickets for each fare had to be punched. Faster ticket issue would safeguard revenue and was thus attractive to bus operators.

In 1928 Harry was in England, no doubt to exploit the legalisation of 'pooled betting'. He designed the 'Setright Ticket Register' that printed on cards manually inserted into a one inch slot in the machine. The machine printed variables such as fare paid, stage boarded, class of ticket and date. Initially the machine could print 19 different fare values. In June 1931 he formed 'Setright Registers Limited' (the Company), which took over his premises, licences and other business assets.

The next improvement was to replace the 'L' shaped machine with one that had ink ribbon housings above and below the machine. These machines went into mass production in the late 1930s. Walter Alexander

and SMT were major customers with 4,000 in use in Scotland. These companies were still using their machines until decimalisation in 1971.

The Setright Ticket Register was less successful in England, so Harry introduced a roll ticket machine known as the 'Setright Roll Ticket Register' and later Setright Model A (SM.A). The main disadvantage of the SM.A was the continuing need to rewind the ribbon. The number made was small. However, there were significant operator savings with the reconciling of cash taken with cash counters on the machine.

Harry died in 1942, but his Company continued. In 1944 the company filed a patent for the Setright Model B or SM.B. All variables required for the ticket issue were put in a single vertical column or turret on the top plate of the machine, which proved to be the defining characteristic of the machine. Works serial numbers were stamped on the small rectangular makers plate affixed to the front of the machine. Purchasers could have their own numbering system engraved on the front plate. The Company made over 100,000 machines after the war.

City of Oxford Motor Services took three batches of the post war Setright SM.B. The first were acquired between 1953 and 1956 and were numbered 001 to 215. The second was bought in 1961 and numbered 300 to 464. The final batch were bought in 1971 for decimalisation.

Source: Anthony Cross The Setright SM.B 2017 Ticketronic



Children's play area at the OXFORD BUS MUSEUM
Next to Hanborough Station OX29 8LA
20 Morris cars, 35 buses, 50 Historic cycles, Explorer notebooks for older children, Photos of old Oxfordshire, Transport memories, Café and shop
A great place to take children and grandchildren
Open: Weds, Sun & most bank holidays 10am to 4pm
www.oxfordbusmuseum.org.uk

**The Marlborough C of E School
Charity Week Presentation Assembly**

A presentation Whole School Assembly was held at the Marlborough School on Wednesday 25th September, to present cheques for money raised to our three nominated charities from last academic year: Sobell House Hospice (local), Anthony Nolan (national) and Toilet Twinning (international).



Back row L-R: Miss Wilkinson (Enrichment Leader), Charity Representatives and Mr Hanlon (Principal).

A representative from each of the charities spoke at the assembly to thank the students for their outstanding work and provide an insight as to how the money raised will be used to make a difference to so many people. We are so very proud of our Community and Social Action Team, who also spoke during the assembly, for their incredible hard work throughout the year and organising a hugely successful Charity Week back in March, and to all our students who took part and contributed.

Cheques were presented to each charity for the sum of £5,000. Overall, we raised a grand total of £15,534.67, a phenomenal amount! This amount exceeded the previous year's total! The remaining monies raised will be used to host our Senior Citizens Christmas Party and go towards our Christmas Shoe Box appeal.

North Oxfordshire Food Bank Collection.

Matt Bodinham, The Marlborough School Chaplain writes:

We have been supporting the North Oxfordshire Food Bank for the past few years, and they are always incredibly grateful for all the ways that we are able to help and support so many in the local community to get what they need when hard times hit.

The morning of October 4th, a team of Sixth Form volunteers and I went to deliver all the donations that have been made over the last month. Whilst we were dropping off the donations, we were invited to come

and see how they set-up the Food Bank to make sure that everyone who accesses gets what they need. It was really impactful to see the need that these donations meet, and to learn a bit more about what happens next with them.



Sixth Form students and School Chaplain Matt Bodinham, with donations packed and ready to be delivered

It is always such a powerful testament to who we are as a school that so many people donated items to the Food Bank and gave up their time to help collate, sort, and deliver it all, as well as a great reminder that as a school we are not just within a wider community, but really able to contribute back into it as well.

Love Where You Live

Thank you to local Marlborough students who recently volunteered for litter picking in Woodstock. Litter-picking protects wildlife, farm animals, reduces plastic from invading everything and increases our wellbeing. And is actually very satisfying.



Every act to protect the environment, no matter how small, makes a difference.

Anyone who would like to litter pick near where they live or work, please get in touch with Sustainable Woodstock and we can offer advice, litter pickers and high-vis. Email Sustainablewoodstockuk@gmail.com

Woodstock CE Primary School

Harvest Festival & The Foodbank

We had a wonderful visit to the church last week celebrating Harvest Festival with the children led by Pastoral Lead Matt Bodinham. It really was a special service and the children's singing was magical - many of the local community commented as we walked through Woodstock about what a special opportunity it was, and it was lovely to see the children from the school out and about. One elderly member of the community came to the church to speak with the new Vicar and as we left, he said he was touched by the glorious singing he could hear coming from the church.

The North Oxfordshire Food Bank came to collect the donations you had made to school and thanked you all dearly for your kindness and generosity. We were once again overwhelmed with the support from you all.

U9 Girls Football Tournament

We had the pleasure of accompanying a team of 10 girls to the Witney ATP to take part in a West Oxfordshire School's U9s Football Tournament. They were an absolute credit to the school, showed huge amounts of team spirit, perseverance and great skill. We were up against some tough competition, with many school teams consisting of girls who regularly play for local football teams. We were very proud to have come 3rd place out of 12 schools - certainly some potential Lionesses. Watch this space!

Woodstock Probus Club

Our Monthly Meeting was held on 3 October when our Speaker was Nigel Peters, Secretary of the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group. The Group has been established for over 55 years and has a close co-operation with Oxford Archaeological. They identify new sites during dry weather by looking for 'Parch Marks'. Then they survey a site using magnetometry and resistivity techniques for detecting subsurface features of interest. Magnetometry tends to show up a wider range of archaeological features better than resistivity and is a lot faster, but is limited. Resistivity will show up walls better. Then there is a period of 'Test Pitting and Opening Trenches'. The County Archaeological Team will then survey and monitor progress.

Current sites they are working on include the Smokedown site of a Late Iron Age enclosure overlain by a substantial Romano-British villa in the Upper Thames Valley. At Kelmscott Manor, a 16th century grade 1 listed manor house and known to many as the

country home of William Morris, they are involved in carrying out surveys of the adjoining land.

Nigel mentioned that the Department of Education, Oxford would welcome students and in addition new members are welcome at SOAG to hear more about the subject and participate in the field work. It was a fascinating talk and prompted much discussion as to what lies below us.

Later in the month, our anticipated visit to 'Rigoletto' is scheduled and preparations are under way for our attendance and wreath laying participation in the Remembrance Day Service. Also, later in November we will be in the Town Hall for an English wine tasting being arranged by our very own 'Topsy Palace'. Cheers!!!!

Michael Bowles, Past President

Whats On In November

Editor's Note: This is a new section which is intended to link with the Events page on the website. If you would like your event included here, please send an email to editor@wobl.news. Additionally, we are looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate this exciting new project. Please let us know if you are interested.

Wed 06 Nov, 7.30pm - Talk
Oxfordshire Museum
The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire by Deborah Hayter

Thurs 07 Nov, 2pm - Talk
St Hughs Centre
Woodstock and District u3a
Kino and Kinder: A family's journey in the shadow of the Holocaust - my family's history; Speaker: Vivienne Sieber

Sat 16 Nov, 3pm - Talk
Woodstock Town Hall
Woodstock Literature Society
Edwardian Fiction: Feminism and Terrorism with Dr David Grylls

Sat 23 Nov, 8pm - Concert
Woodstock Town Hall
Hear the magical sound of the massed fiddles of OFG playing tunes and songs from the UK, Ireland and the USA. From foot-tapping jigs and reels to beautiful airs and laments

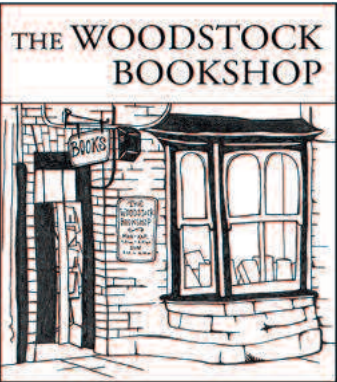
Fri 29 Nov to Sat 30 Nov - Event
Town Centre; Woodstock Festive Fayre with Night of 1000 Candles on Sat at 5.30pm

Sat 30 Nov, 3pm - Talk
St Hughs Centre
The Woodstock Bookshop
'Oxford's War' with Professor Ashley Jackson

This is only a sample of events taking place in November

STOP PRESS

Sally McEwen
Sally passed away on 22nd October 2024, leaving behind her husband Alastair, 6 children, 16 grand children and 3 great grandchildren. Working alongside Alastair for over 50 years she was instrumental in making The Marlborough Arms the success it is. Passionate about her bridge and her family and her friends.



THE WOODSTOCK BOOKSHOP

Monday to Saturday
10 am – 6 pm

Sundays
11 am – 5 pm

We have several thousand titles and can order most books by the next day. Discounts for book groups and school orders.

23 Oxford Street
Woodstock OX20 1TH
info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk
01993 812760



TOWNHOUSE

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

WOODSTOCK TAXI SERVICE

LOCAL & ACCOUNT TRANSFERS

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

WEDDING & PROM CARS

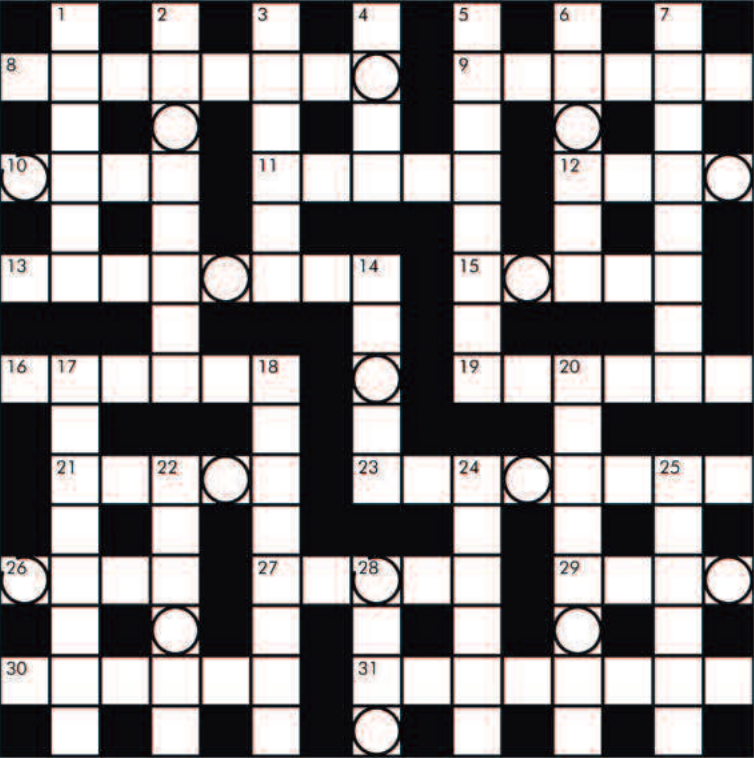
07766 743081

www.townhousewoodstock.co.uk
townhousewoodstock@gmail.com



Pictures of pollarded trees in Woodstock Town centre, taken by Susan McGlynn - see letter on Pages 10 and 11

Solve the clues to this straight crossword. Read through the letters in the marked squares to reveal a critically endangered creature native to Australia, as discussed in the October issue.



- Across

 - 8. Colossus
 - 9. Building material
 - 10. Bread bun
 - 11. Bullock
 - 12. Simple
 - 13. Vaccinate
 - 15. Bingo
 - 16. Misbehave (4,2)
 - 19. Valuable resources
 - 21. Relief carving
 - 23. Obsceneness
 - 26. Heat up; cosy
 - 27. Salivate
 - 29. Semester
 - 30. German capital
 - 31. Bushy tailed rodent
- Down

 - 1. Change for the better
 - 2. Envy
 - 3. Miniature tree
 - 4. Indian butter
 - 5. Rain shelter
 - 6. Clergyman
 - 7. Travel document
 - 14. Artist's tripod
 - 17. Produced milk
 - 18. Poking
 - 20. Hygienic
 - 22. Talk indistinctly
 - 24. Tusked marine mammal
 - 25. Rode the waves
 - 28. Hops kiln

Why not join our FREE Daily Puzzle Club and take a look at our fantastic printed Puzzle Magazines? Just visit www.puzzlechallenge.co.uk to take part.



We care, when it matters most.

An award-winning local family funeral business trusted by families for over 60 years with a first class reputation for quality, value and service.

“Invaluable support”
“Seamless arrangements”
“Nothing was too much”
“Sympathetic and professional”

Above are just some of the many touching comments we have received about our service. Learn more about us at www.jerramsbrothers.co.uk or call us at any time.



33 High Street Woodstock OX20 1TE 01993 811491 18 The Kidlington Centre, Kidlington OX5 2DL 01865 374444



Christmas at
**BLENHEIM
PALACE**

15 NOV – 1 JAN

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

blenheimpalace.com/christmas



NEVERLAND
IN THE PALACE

THE
GREAT SKATE



Arena