September 2019 50p Spectrum





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Editorial

I know that in the grand scheme of things Mother Nature has a purpose for every plant and creature, dead or alive. However, I fail to see the upside of having wasps! Oh, I know, they are carnivorous and do eat other undesirable insects, and they do a little pollinating, but to me they are nothing but a nuisance. They don't apparently feel the same way about me because they always make a bee line (no pun intended) for any of my exposed skin they can find. Not long ago I was stung several times on my bald scalp and sent into anaphylactic shock, such that I now rely on an EpiPen in case it happens again. So I must confess to setting out several jam



jars around the house to catch the waspy little devils which seem to be quite prolific again this year. I know there must be a nest nearby but I have yet to find it. Last year I did find the nest and called out Martin from Control Services and he quickly rid us of the menacing little stingers. So standby, Martin, you may be getting a call very soon. My apologies to Mother Nature.

Comrade-in-Arms poem on page 24 by Bertie Edwards (courtesy of Christine Fairbrother Bertie's daughter).

Spectrum http://www.wooltonhill.com/Spectrum.html

Spectrum is a monthly community magazine serving East Woodhay and Woolton Hill. It is run by a committee of volunteers and is a not for profit publication.

Reports on village activities and articles of local interest are welcomed for publication subject to the discretion of the editor. Copy should reach the editor by the seventh day of the month preceding publication and should be a maximum of 500 words. In the event of pressure for space, the editor reserves the right to reduce the length of the article while attempting to maintain the style of the writer and retaining as much content as possible.

The editorial committee accepts no responsibility for the views expressed by Spectrum contributors or for the quality of goods and services provided by advertisers in this magazine.

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Editor for October, November and December

Kathy Scott 'Bowood' Gore End Road, Ball Hill, RG20 0PG Phone: 01635 254756 (only between 6-9pm) Email: spectrumwh@outlook.com *Cover photo by Bertha Bates "Garden Poppy"*

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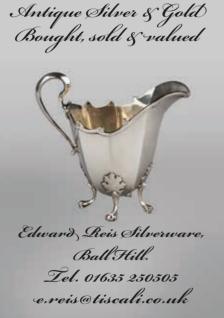
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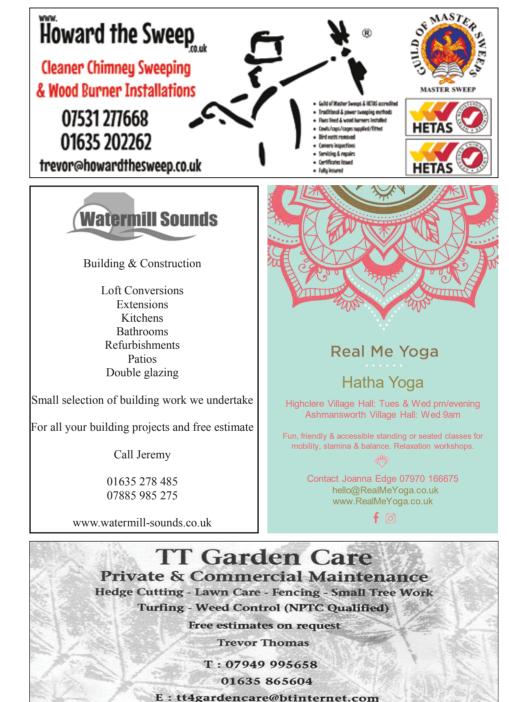
Diary of Events September 2019

JCPC					
Monday	2 nd	Evergreens	HVH	2-4pm	
Wedsnesday	4 th	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	7.30pm	
		NWR		8pm	
Thursday	5 th	St. Martin's Kneeler Group	Jack's Cott, Ball Hill	10.30am	
		WH Gardeners' Clun AGM	WHCH	8pm	
riday	6 th	Community Cafe	St. Thomas' Church	ch 9.30-11am	
		Walking for Health	WHCH	2.30pm	
ſuesday	10 th	EW WI Harvest Auction	EWVH	2.30pm	
Vednesday	11 th	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	10.30am	
Friday	13 th	Community Cafe	St. Thomas' Church	9.30-11am	
		Walking for Health	Rampant Cat	8pm	
Monday	16 th	EW Local History Society	EWVH	8pm	
luesday	17 th	Arbor Flora	HVH	2pm	
Vednesday	18 th	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	7.30pm	
		NWR		8pm	
Friday	20 th	Community Cafe	St. Thomas' Church	9.30-11am	
		Walking for Health	WHCH	7.30pm	
Wednesday	25 th	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	7.30pm	
Thursday	26 th	WH Gardeners' Club	WHCH	8pm	
Friday	27 th	Community Cafe	St. Thomas' Church	9.30-11am	
		Walking for Health	Rampant Cat	10.30am	
Saturday	28 th	Village Market	WHCH	10am-1pm	
Monday	30 th	EW Parish Coincil	EWVH	7.30pm	



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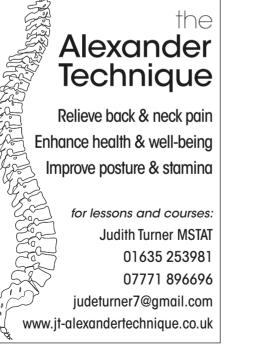


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East Woodhay Parish Council

Parish Field

Aren't we lucky that the Parish Field affords some of the best views up to the downs. This field was opened up by the parish council to residents to provide safer access to schools from the Trade St. entrance, whilst allowing everyone to appreciate the views and enjoy the field. However, there are a few people who are not respecting the rules that were put in place to allow safe and respectful access. PLEASE do not let your dogs off the lead in this field. Not only are some doas aettina into residents' properties bordering the field but if dog mess is not picked up and placed in a bin it contaminates the hay that is collected, making it unusable. There is a bin provided at the entrance by St. Thomas' Infant School. Also do not ride bikes along the field, it is for walkers only. It is with much regret that the field will have to be closed if the actions of a minority ignore the rules put in place.

S106 funding update.

Further to the announcement made in the July Spectrum a further £40,895 has been approved by BDBC for aid to sports clubs. The following funding split has been approved

- £10,000 for the cricket club for new practice nets.
- £10,000 for the football club for an aerator and trailer for pitch maintenance.
- £2,800 for the bowls club for a new mat and mobile storage.
- £18,095 for the tennis club to replace existing bulbs in floodlights with LED bulbs and fittings.

The cricket and football clubs having only leased land are subject to limits on funding but thanks to the good work of the various project managers together with Councillor Hurst they have obtained the absolute maximum



funding possible. Thanks also due to Gareth Evans the sports manager for BDBC for his continued support.

Policing.

Our PCSO has alas moved on and the position is now vacant. The area remains covered by the neighbourhood policing team of PC's Martyn Evans and Simon Denton. Their main priority is with outbuilding thefts which continue to be a problem. Outbuildings should be kept secure and where practical have security cameras and alarms installed.

A new scam has been reported in our area with telephone calls from people claiming to be police officers with a variety of variations of instructions but all designed to get bank details and sometimes cash withdrawals from banks to move money to "secure " locations. The police will NEVER ring to ask such things so any call you might get is a scam. Be alert.

Electricity.

SSE have finished the first phase of the area network upgrade with cables buried and the troublesome overhead cables now removed. Phase 2 which requires the upgrade of the overhead feeder cable running through various wood and properties to the west of Ball Hill is still waiting to get all the necessary permissions from landowners and stakeholders. The works are planned for this financial year but cannot proceed until all permissions are in so it is not possible to give a start date as yet.



Shape up your week and keep fit!

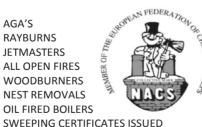
Monday - Hone 'N Tone Gentle Aerobics for the Less Frantic! (suits any age) At 6.45 - 7.30pm - Just £4.50

Monday - Simple Circuit Suitable for all levels At 7.45 -8.45pm - Just £5.00

Tuesday - Beginners Step Learn the easy way to step. Tone up the muscles while having fun At 7.30 - 8.30pm - Just £5.00

Thursday - Tums, Bums and Thighs 'Get rid of the enemy' At 7.30 - 8.30pm - Just £5.00

All classes held at Burghclere Village Hall Fully gualified instructor - Sally Contact on 01635 278680



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East Woodhay Local History Society

Firstly, I need to mention that, due to a senior moment, I forgot to put in the time of our meetings in last month's Spectrum item! All our meetings commence at 8pm in the Village Hall, Heath End and finish around 9.30pm following light refreshments after the talk. Apologies for that!



Our first talk will be on Monday 16th September and we are pleased to welcome back Becky Peacock from the Watercress Line. She first spoke to us last year about women working on the railway. This time she will be telling us about the Railway Orphanage. The Southern Railway Orphanage was set up in Woking in 1885 to care for 'fatherless girls' before expanding to include boys as well. It eventually closed in 1988. New members and visitors welcome.

Chris Dalton (Secretary)

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Film Night 21st September – The Greatest Showman

This film has been chosen especially for a fundraiser for the Studio.

The Greatest Showman is about "P.T. Barnum, a showman on a mission for fame. But when he gambles his circus, his wife and daughters and all his money on the Swedish opera star, Jenny Lind, things become treacherous for Barnum."

This light hearted film is a must if you haven't seen it, made all the more enjoyable by being with friends to watch it.

The tickets cost £15 which includes a two course meal of a chilli, both meat and vegetarian along with rice. You will also be able to buy wine and raffle tickets!

Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The meal will be from 7.30pm – 8.30pm when the film will be shown.

Tickets can be purchased from Heather Snipp on 01635 254026 or email <u>heather@highclerevillage.com</u>

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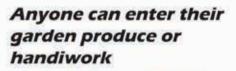
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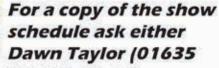
Saturday 7th September from 2pm at Hazel Paddock, Enborne (opposite the village school)

More than 100 show classes for local fruit and veg, flowers, cakes, preserves, handicrafts and children's classes as well as tombola, grand draw (1st prize £150), East Woodhay Silver Band, craft stalls, barbecue and refreshments









32006) or Penelope Lake (01635 48701)

A Ruth Mott Favourite Recipe Courtesy of Bertha Bates Peach-Honey Ham

Serves 4 to 6

In the old days when we used to buy whole York hams, we bought them dry and they had to be soaked for 3 days. I often had the job of scrubbing them with a scrubbing brush which was a really messy job. It is a lot easier now!

I don't usually bake my ham, I find it gets too dry. I always boil it then finish it off in the oven. Although many people buy ready-cooked ham, cooking it yourself usually makes it slightly more juicy. I prefer ham on the bone, but you can use this method for any ham joint - on the bone or boned and rolled. My favourite is still York ham; it is lovely and smoky although it can be a bit dry, but boy is it expensive!

There are plenty of variations to this cooking method. You can use pineapple instead of peaches, use dry cider or simply pat the boiled ham with plenty of demerara sugar and stud with cloves before finishing it off in the oven.

1 × 4lb (1.75kg) gammon joint	1 x 14oz(400g) tin peaches, drained and
1 onion, quartered	juice reserved
1 carrot, sliced	2 tablespoons clear honey
I bay leaf	12 cloves

Soak the gammon joint in water for 2 to 3 hours to remove any excess salt. Place the joint in a saucepan just large enough to fit, cover with cold water and add the onion carrot and bay leaf. Bring to the boil and simmer very gently for 25 minutes per 1 lb (450g) plus 25 minutes extra.

Pre-heat the oven to 400°F (200°C), gas mark 6. Remove the ham from the saucepan and drain it. Peel off the skin, leaving just a small amount of fat. Place the ham in a roasting tin. Ifyou are serving the ham hot, arrange the peaches round it. Mix the honey in ½ pint (300 ml) of the reserved juice and pour this over the ham. Dot the ham with the cloves and put it in the oven for about 15 minutes to brown, basting occasionally with the peach juice. If serving the ham cold, decorate it with the peaches when cool.



Call Claire or Martin on 01635 523917 or 07958 207451 email kimble@techie.com

Summer Revels

On a balmy July evening, about 50 people met in Ann Fleming's garden in Tile Barn. As the wine and soft drinks flowed, and delicious canapés were served by a willing team of volunteers, there was much conversation and conviviality. To add to the enjoyment there was a raffle with superb prizes, which several lucky partygoers took home with them.

The Revd Canon Christine thanked the organisers for a very successful event and, in particular, Ann for lending us her lovely garden for the evening. A fantastic total of £1000 was raised, a contribution to the planned improvements in the churchyard at St. Thomas' Church.



Dear friends,

As I pen this article I am beginning to look forward to a few weeks of annual holiday. Many of us are fortunate to be able to have a break away from the normal routine and patterns of daily life. It is good to have time away from the telephone, the computer, the internet, social media, and perhaps, above all at the present time, Brexit. Although if you ask me after my holiday if I managed without the occasional newspaper–I may struggle to give you an honest answer!

If you have had a holiday – be thankful – because there are people in our society who are unable, for various reasons, to look forward to a change and a break from the daily demands of life.

Whilst human beings are social creatures most of us appreciate time and space for, and by, ourselves. It's hardly surprising that with so much turmoil in our national life, sad divisions in our society, and concerns about the future, more and more people – especially the young – are struggling with their emotional well-being, and mental illness is widespread. This is a very real and serious issue.

Maybe you would not claim to be religious let alone Christian. However, many people are 'spiritual' – aware of being more than just a collection of molecules. If we nurture our spirit, we can enhance our emotional well-being. We are all different, and have varying needs, so nurturing our spirit can take place in a whole variety of ways. For all who have a garden it can be a haven of peace. Locally we have five church buildings and several of them are open through the day–usually quiet, peaceful, places. All of them have churchyards providing a haven of tranquillity, with, in most of them, a bench on which to sit and spend time away from the distractions of everyday life. These sacred spaces – indoors and outdoors–are there for local people. Why not seek some peace and quiet in one of these sacred spaces near you to see if it enhances your well-being?

Canon Marvin Associate Priest

The First World War in East Woodhay In Memoriam

During this month 100 years ago the following lost their lives: Private Arthur Little 23rd Sept died of wounds Woolton Hill The following we have no information Henry George Berry Frank Earnest Carter William Gale Frank Jerrum William Johnson LET THEIR NAMES BE NOT FORGOTTEN

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SUN 1 st Trinity 11	All Together Matins Parish Communion Evensong Cemetery Chapel Service	Woolton Hill Highclere East Woodhay Ashmansworth Highclere Cemetery Chapel	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm 6.00pm
SUN 8 th Trinity 12	Holy Communion Parish Communion – with Sunday Club Matins Holy Communion	East Woodhay Woolton Hill Highclere Ashmansworth	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am
SUN 15 th Trinity 13	Morning Worship Family Service Parish Communion Harvest Festival	Woolton Hill East Woodhay Highclere Crux Easton	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm
SUN 22 nd Trinity 14	Holy Communion Parish Communion Matins Evensong	Highclere Woolton Hill Crux Easton East Woodhay	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm
SUN 29th St Michael & All Angels	Benefice Communion Baptism	Highclere East Woodhay	10.00am 12noon
SUN 6th Oct <i>Harvest</i>	Harvest Festival Harvest Festival Harvest Parish Communion Harvest Festival	Woolton Hill Highclere East Woodhay Ashmansworth	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am
WED 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th , 2 nd Oct 10.00am Holy Communion Woolton Hill			
Rector: Revd Canon Christine Dale (Rest day: Friday)			

The Rectory, The Mount, Woolton Hill, Newbury RG20 9QZ 253323 Associate Priest: Revd Canon Marvin Bamforth 254718 Readers: Mary Herbert 255700, Horace Mitchell 254677, Mike Sarson 07913 943504 Reader Emeritus: Rosemary Cahill 253306 Lay preacher: Angela Myers 254559

From the Church Registers: July 2019 Burial of ashes: may they rest in peace		
2 nd July	Evelyn Blundy	Woolton Hill
23 rd July	Phyllis Lee Beaver	East Woodhay

In Memory of a Comrade-In-Arms

You see the films and hear the roar, But Scotcher, said I with a grin, Of all that has gone on in war, But I will tell you of a man, More truly than a film star can. Though he was both big and strona, Yet he did not stand out from the throna.

We used to wrestle, he and I, Until the sweat ran in our eve, And do vou know we had our fun, With never caring who had won. His name was Private Harold Smith,

But once when something went amiss,

I called him 'Scotcher' and from that day,

To me he had no other name.

Now in May of 1940, The Germans started their big sortie.

They swarmed from over their frontier,

And all the land they did lay bare. Then it was the B.E.F.,

Got into its predicament. The place we went was to Louvain, T'was where the Belgies tried in vain,

to stop the Germans, but you see, They had no thoughts of victory. They just could not stand up and fight,

Against the whole of German miaht.

The morning was so fair and briaht,

And we fought there with all our miaht.

The bombs and shells were falling fast,

With bullets whistling in the blast. Then Scotcher said above the din. Eddie, I have seen something. There's a mortar that I swear, Behind those bushes over there. Those German lads are getting brash, Between us we will kick their ass!

There's not much chance of reaching him. For its a thousand vards or more, But I'll have a go if you will score, And tell me where my bullets drop. I'll set my sights at a thousand and fifty, Are you ready, oh Christ be nifty. Scotcher said, vou're just too short,

Wind your sights up one notch more, We had the mortar as he said, Those Germans should have

staved in bed! Sometime later, I recall,

We had our backs against the wall. The Belgies they had packed it in, The French had had enough it seemed, But we were fighting far and wide, to do our best to stem the tide. The German 6th were going strona, they just came at us all day long. Bren gun blazing, barrel red, I somehow just did keep my head. Scotcher boy was on my left, He shouted that with all the fuss, This life was bloody dangerous. If they keep throwing all this dirt,

Someone here will soon get hurt.

I felt great pain across my back, Looked round from my Bren to see, Friend Scotcher grinning wickedly. I made him rush his aim he said, Or he'd have got you in the head. But he'll not worry us again, I shot the Fritz for all his pains. He put a dressing on my wound, As gently as a woman could.

We fell back a fast dwindling band, With nought but hatred of the land.

Tired and starved and thirsty too, With yet so very much to do. For there's and Order Of The Day, To let the others get away. The 3rd Division will stand here, And sell your lives, so very dear.

Five more men, and Scotcher too, Were all that was left of my crew: Which when we started was thirty-two, And of the whole Battalion, There were left just eighty-seven.

Then we dug in Scotcher and I, And made our foxholes side by side

He shook my hand then as he said, Eddie, I think we'll soon be dead, And if that's so, then bye and bye, I'll watch your back up in the sky. But Scotcher and I we both survived. For three more days and nights we fought. The onslaughts of those German

Corps.

The order came, slip out tonight, And go due West up to the sea. But in the dark I lost my mate, God. I was worried for his fate. Him on the beach I could not see. A boat came in, a sailor said, You twits are not right in the head, Come get aboard or we'll all be dead.

Back in England I looked around, To see if Scotcher could be found. At last when I came out of dock, And rejoined unit, there he was. I've been worried, Ed for you, Where did you get to you old screw? But now you're here let's get a drink. D'you know, my feet, I think still stink.

For six more years we soldiered on, And always we could sing a song. He was the bravest man I knew, But he was so modest too. He died not very long ago, I pray the Lord will rest his soul.

He was cheerful to the end, I am so proud he was my friend.

Kintbury and Woolton Hill Surgery Photography Competition

(closing date 31st October 2019)

Being in nature, or even viewing scenes of nature, reduces anger, fear, and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to your physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones.



With this in mind, we would like to invite all our staff, patients and local community to get out and enjoy some of our beautiful local scenery and take some photos. Images can take any form, from landscapes to abstract interpretations. A selection of winning images will then be framed and hung as artwork at our surgeries.

There is no limit to the number of images individuals can submit. please write your name. photo location and contact number on the back of any submissions and hand them to reception.

Happy Snapping and increased wellbeing!

The Kintbury and Woolton Hill Surgery Teams



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National Women's Register

NWR

NWR Summer Walk

On a glorious summer evening we enjoyed a guided walk of Newbury by local historian Dr David Peacock. We did not realise how much history there was along Bartholomew Street and the lower part of Newtown Road; we heard so many interesting facts about our town (too many to include in this short résumé) and the people that influenced its development. The first buildings in Newbury were in the 11th century near the entrance to the Kennet Centre and at that time Thatcham was more important than Newbury. In Anglo Saxon times, Bartholomew Street was the main trade route from Southampton and Winchester to Oxford and so there were many coaching inns. As far back as the 15th century, inns called the Globe, Catherine Wheel and The Waggon and Horses existed. The Monument pub was named after the Great Fire of London. Our attention was drawn to some lovely 18th century houses along Bartholomew Street that are now offices. Some of the beautiful houses in Argyll Street were restored in the 20th century by a doctor and included a nurses' home. St Bartholomew's Hospital occupied the land between Pound Street and St John's roundabout from 1215 until it became a school in 1466. Using charitable money, it moved to the Wormestall site in 1848 where it remained until very recently. Next time you are in town look out for the blue plagues outside Hogan Music Store and Hillier and Wilson. Our evening ended with a meal in town.

Summer Party

We have once again reached the end of our year and celebrated with our summer party. We enjoyed quizzes and a delicious buffet before the rain arrived and we decamped inside to continue the fun! A lovely relaxing way to round off another year of interesting and enlightening discussion topics.

The NWR celebrates its diamond anniversary next year and as part of the celebrations each group is going to complete two pages of an A3 'scrapbook' showcasing their group. So this summer, rather than having a month off, we will be busy creating what we hope will be a reflection of what makes the Woolton Hill NWR group unique. Once every group's pages are completed, the finished books will be presented to The Women's Library, where the NWR archives are stored.

We will begin our programme of meetings in September when we review and discuss our summer reading. This includes 'If You Can Walk, You Can Dance' by Marion Molteno from the NWR list of books linked to their annual theme which this year is 'Music and Society'.

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East Woodhay Women's Institute

July/August

June & July have been very busy celebratory months for our WI. We visited the National Needlework Archives at Greenham to have a short talk and to examine the Country Wife Embroidery which was first made for the 1951 Festival of Britain. Many of us had seen it before but as it is such a tremendous on-going project we all saw something new. While we were there we were able to take in the Berkshire Federation Craft Exhibition and to talk to ladies working on the Toc H banners. A team of our members went out to Vernham Dean to our Group Ouiz where we came third and enjoyed some

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Crossword Puzzle No. 200

At the start of each month I always look forward to the arrival of my new crumpetsand turn straight to the crossword puzzle! This issue sees the publication of crossword No. 200 and I would like to thank the compiler who I hear is a member of a native American tribe in the British Women's Royal Naval Service.

> Yours sincerely Colin West

Woolton Hill & District Gardeners' Club

Our summer break is nearly over. The new season starts at 8pm on Thursday 5th September with the AGM. There will be a review of the year and news of the programme for the coming year, plus the all important election of officers.

The first talk is on Thursday 26th September, when Rosie Hardy will advise us on Autumn Flowering Perennials. No doubt there will be plenty of ideas on extending the flowering season in our own gardens.

All our meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month in Woolton Hill Church Hall, starting at 8pm. New members and guests are welcome.



super cake.

July 9th saw us at Essebourne Manor for Afternoon Tea in the grand style – a real celebration, and the committee enlivened us with snippets from our hundred years.

The month ended with our coffee morning in the beautiful garden at Manton, Ball Hill where we were joined by other members of our group.

Our August meeting is a visit to Old Camp's garden Headley – this is by ticket and I was not lucky enough to get one, but I hope to hear about it at our September Harvest Auction.

June Milsom

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East Woodhay Society

Barn Dance

The annual Barn Dance is on 5th October – this is always a great laugh and we have an experienced band and caller to help us through the steps. It starts at 7:30pm and will end at 10:30pm. Please see the advert opposite for details and send me a note to secure your tickets to avoid missing out.

Walks and Footpaths

It is still a wonderful time to walk along our lovely footpaths and whilst walking why not take a pair of secateurs with you. You can easily help others by snipping off any offending brambles that are across a path or any other foliage that can be annoying/ dangerous to walkers-the better we maintain the footpaths, the more everybody will be able use them.

Our regular Friday morning walks, which are around 3 miles in length, start at 10.30am and last around an hour. 6th and 20th September are from St Thomas' Church Hall, where we also finish with a welcome coffee/tea, and 13th and 27th September from the Rampant Cat.

Mark Rand – Chair EWS Email – eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com

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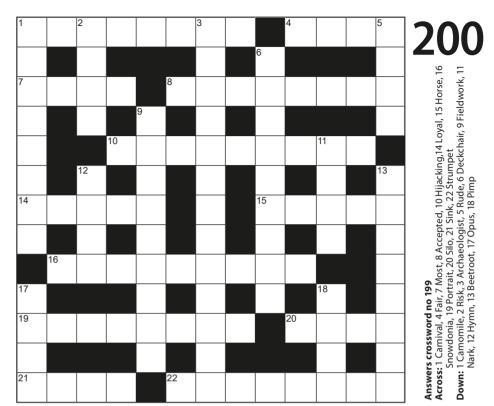
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Across

- 1. Discover good, hard use for place where no one wants to be (8)
- 4. Dessert for an idiot (4)
- 7. Coin turns out to be worthy of veneration (4)
- 8. Short magazine about roses is covered in cobwebs (8)
- 10. See headless hamster on reservoir wall in European city (9)
- 14. Cricket trophy left after burning (5)
- 15. Present backward learner as an example of having a particular speech sound (5)
- 16. A burnt out policy needs a complete change of direction (9)
- 19. Shows all that can be found at the water's edge (8)
- 20. Greek Goddess of shrubs? (4)
- 21. Curious rats express creativity (4)
- 22. SOS from beast on finding dangerous material (8)

Down

- 1. Mary and I will work with cows (8)
- 2. Strange goal that you would not wish to reach (4)
- 3. The Spanish thwart mobs trying to spoil popular pastime (5,3,5)
- 5. Rule by temptation (4)
- 6. It's a job to roast a nut in space (9)
- 9. Pleasantly entertaining, saying about mule mostly (9)
- 11. Final solution contains hidden extra (4)
- 12. Just an old fashioned you (4)
- 13. Wears the trousers but avoids the subject (8)
- 17. Fly back first class to South America from another continent (4)
- 18. Be on street where no one comes close (4)

American Friends

It all commenced with a long casual and very interesting conversation on a very hot day around the pool at our resort in Florida some five or six years ago with two similar American holiday makers.

We have known the couple over a period of about 12 years, not only by meeting at the holiday resort but by postcards and e-mail. From the conversation and discussion the differences of the country and culture between the two countries became evident, and we invited them to stay with us for two weeks.

On 9th July we arrived at Heathrow, via the M4 roadworks to collect our good friends. We discussed and observed the various meanings of words in our countries, such as gas for petrol, Interstate for Motorways, yard for the rear of the house, and Mall for shopping centre.

Our first visit was to Newbury town seeing the different types of shops and then coffee in Camp Hopson's. This was followed by a visit to the Newbury Museum showing not only the town but the villages and countryside around.

Another obvious visit was to Greenham Common Control Tower, which had been the American Air Base.

As the Americans are interested in English history we did mention Winchester and they then sang 'Winchester Cathedral' which then required a visit. This was a real eye opener for them with all the dates of the bishops and their involvement in the area apart from the architecture and style of the building.

We arranged the visit to coincide with our week's stay at Bournemouth where the apartment overlooks the sea. This they thoroughly enjoyed with numerous outings and relaxing around the pool.

They recalled their differences as being, we have hedges they have fences, we have agricultural land they have more built up areas.

The icing on the cake was a visit to Highclere Castle which was exciting for them as they could not realise that a building could be that many years old and still in a reasonable state of repair.

Our friends left on the 23rd July with many memories of this country, insisting that we must visit them in Boston and Cape Cod next year.

We were so pleased that we could show them where we live and this part of England.

Vi and John Palmer

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John Murdoch, 6 Tile Barn Row, Woolton Hill RG20 9TF
Mark Rand, Lostock, Church Lane, Woolton Hill, RG20 9XG 250898
Hanne Teece, Tendele, Trade St, Woolton Hill RG20 9UJ
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East Woodhay Village Hall
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East Woodhay Short Mat Bowls ClubContact: Cathy Neller 255589
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