December 2020

50p





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Editorial

As I write this, I have just watched the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph. Somehow our present problems and trials are put into perspective. Compared to those times of WWI & II and other conflicts, we are probably not doing so badly.

I know there are problems for us all as we struggle with loss and grief, job losses, confinement and other problems arising from this pandemic, but with modern technology providing face to face meetings, and with a community that



cares for our neighbours, (please find some information on that on Page 28) we can pull through. It is certainly very different from wartime, but if we had to choose, I wonder where we would put ourselves?

Well, I did mean to keep this editorial upbeat and jolly (it is nearly Christmas after all), but somehow reality has intervened. Do try to keep smiling even though things are different. We may be down but we are NOT out!

I hope that you will enjoy reading this Spectrum and I must take this chance to thank everyone who has offered reports, poems and stories that over the past few months. With fewer things happening, it has not been quite so easy to fill the pages!

I now hand over to Abbie Dando for January to March, and I shall look forward to a rest and being back with you all next October – and I hope that things will be a little more normal!

Wherever you are and whatever you do, please do make the most of Christmas this year. We may not be able to sing carols in church, but we can play them at full volume at home and sing as loud as we want to – so go for it, and Enjoy!

Take Care, Kathy

Please note: Because of the Coronavirus pandemic it has been decided that it would be inappropriate to go ahead with this year's walk. This will bring to an end an unbroken 35 year history of village walks but hopefully we can all reconvene next year for the 36th Village Christmas Walk on the 27th December 2021.

Many thanks

Clive

Cllr Clive Sanders Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Editor for January 2021, February 2021 & March 2021

Abbie Dando, 5 Meadowbrook, Woolton Hill, Newbury, RG20 9AN SpectrumEditorAbbie@gmail.com Tel 07477987943

Cover photo - Moyra Harkness

December

Dark days in December as winter draws near. Long gone are the flowers, red berries appear. Frost blankets the ground, it's so cold and it's bleak. Birds huddle in bushes, some shelter to seek. Brisk walks on fine days, though the sun's fairly low. Back home, enjoy mulled wine by the fire's rosy glow. Relax in the warm and escape from the cold. Reflect on the year, many tales will unfold. No Seasonal parties, we'll feel rather sad. But there's mince pies and Christmas pud So thing's aren't too bad

Moyra Harkness







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Will Santa Call this Year?

Throughout the factories at Santa's HQ, the bells rang out. Elves stopped what they were doing and looked at each other feeling rather afraid and puzzled. 'Yikes! What on earth was this about!?' Production lines ground to a halt with toys and presents half wrapped, and all the whirring noisy machinery was suddenly silenced – and the bells clanged on.

Suddenly the bells stopped and the sonorous voice of Santa himself came over the loudspeakers.

'I'm calling an Extraordinary Meeting! All Elves and their helpers report immediately to my cave. A terrible and unheard of event has reached my ears and I need to speak to you all. Come! I need your help now!'

With worried faces a low murmuring broke out as everyone hurried from their factory and ran to Santa's cave. It wasn't long before it was full to busting and the last elf in only just managed to get the door shut to keep the cold and snow out. Santa was pacing up and down but when he saw that everyone was gathered, he stood still and looked at them all.

'Well, What are we to do! 'He said, looking angry and sad all at the same time. 'I hear there is a nasty virus on earth and people are being warned to keep away from others, wear face masks, keep washing their hands – and all in all it is a proper toodoo! What does this mean for us? I'm just not sure we should go around the world on Christmas Eve and possibly spread bad germs! What do you all think?' He looked around, and Woody Elf put his hand in the air.

'Dear Santa', he said, 'We've made all the presents and they are all being wrapped at the moment. We have all the lists of what to deliver to each house, and Rudolph is organising the reindeer stops for changes. Everything is organized and on time. Are you saying we won't be delivering anything this year? Surely we cannot disappoint all the children, especially the ones who are being good just so they get a present? Can you imagine the amount of tears and boo-hooing on Christmas morning when their stockings are empty?!'

> A whispering of agreements went around the cave and support for Woody was felt in the warm air from Santa's fire. What was to be done? Never before had Santa not delivered his presents to every child and it couldn't be allowed to happen on this watch.

'So!' said Santa beginning to look very frazzled 'What is the answer, what are we to do? I can't go around and make people ill, but the children are expecting me and I can't disappoint them. We have to find the solution!'

This was a real head scratcher, and as the elves turned to discuss this with their friends the whispering grew to a chattering which grew louder and louder as the faces of the elves grew redder and more and more angry and frustrated. Just one little elf stood apart with a small smile and thoughtful expression, and after a while Ellie Elf raised her hand and Santa bid everyone hush to hear what she had to say.

'I believe moon wrap is the answer. It is amazing, made of space atoms and it can shape and pull anyway you like it. It surrounds you like a bubble, won't let any germs through and it will roll along with you so it is constantly renewed. My friend Selene, she lives on the moon you know, was telling me all about it when we met for a crunchie-stew last week.

The Elves began to jump with joy, their frustration evaporating into happiness. They began to chant, 'Moon Wrap Moon Wrap! We'll cover the earth in Moon Wrap!'

Santa was smiling and clapping his hands. He said to Ellie (when he could be heard), 'This sounds like a plan! Can you get some for us to see? Can we speak to Selene? We need to be really sure this will work!'

'Of course Santa, Selene is on her way (I had a word with her before I put my hand up), and she will be here in a jiffy to show you how perfectly it will work for us. Such a simple solution Santa! I'm so glad you asked us all and didn't worry alone!

So children, all is well, Santa will be with us as usual this Christmas. Just remember to be good and be nice to everyone and you will have the best Christmas ever!

Happy Christmas to you One and All! XX

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Ultimate Christmas Quiz Questions 2020

- 1. In the Dr Who Christmas special in 2017, which actress made her first official appearance as the 13th Doctor?
- 2. Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?
- 3. Who is generally recognised as writing the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (also known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas")?
- 4. Snowflakes are often portrayed as being 6 sided but studies suggest that less than what percentage of snowflakes exhibit the ideal six-fold symmetric shape?
 a) 0.1% b) 1% c) 10%
- 5. A Bellini is flavoured with which fruit?
- 6. From the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Special of 1971 can you complete this quote–'I'm playing all the right notes but ...'?
- 7. In 'The Gingerbread Man' fairytale, who or what devours the gingerbread man in the end?
- 8. What stick would you put into a mulled wine?
- 9. In the 1947 version of Miracle on 34th Street, who plays the little girl Susan Walker?
- 10. Who wrote the Band Aid song 'Do They Know It's Christmas'?
- 11. The Australian external territory of Christmas Island is in which ocean?
- 12. Modern Christmas trees originated in the 16th century in an area now known as which country?
- 13. In the novel A Christmas Carol, which is the first ghost to visit Scrooge?

Ultimate Christmas Quiz Questions 2020

- 14. Driving Home for Christmas, was written during a car journey back to which town?
- 15. In the Christmas song 'Let it Snow' what has happened to the lights?
- 16. In the film Scrooged starring Bill Murray, which actress plays the Ghost of Christmas Present?
- 17. Which Christmas hit for Harry Belafonte in 1956 is now widely performed as a Christmas Carol?
- 18. Port, the Portuguese fortified wine, often drunk at Christmas, is produced exclusively in which valley in northern Portugal?
- 19. Which famous scientist who developed the three laws of motion, was born on Christmas day 1642?
- 20. Which wordless children's picture book by Raymond Briggs was first published in 1978?
- 21. In Matthew's version of the birth of Christ in the bible he mentions the arrival of the Magi. Who or what are the Magi?
- 22. One of the most popular toys of 1970 was a NERF Ball. What does the acronym NERF stand for?
- 23. Pepparkakor are very similar to gingerbread cookies but much thinner, hard and very crisp and are found everywhere over Christmas in which scandinavian country?
- 24. La Noche Buena refers to which time over the Christmas period in Spain?
- 25. How many Drummers Drummed?

Answers page 33



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December 2020

The Rectory, Woolton Hill

Dear Friends.

Worship and Christmas Services

Planning things seems rather impossible at the moment! I am sure many of us are finding this to be so. Christmas arrangements for many families have probably been adjusted a number of times by now - this is also true for our church families. As I write in early November, I wish I could be sure the schedule of services for December will stand firm in the face of changing times!

During the second lockdown sadly, public worship has not been permitted, so we have been worshipping online and churches have been open for private prayer on Sundays. The December services listed opposite are planned in anticipation that public worship will be permitted according to previous guidelines.

We aim for a mix of online and 'in church'. Online services will include the Christingle Service and a Carol Service, so that you can freely join in the singing in the privacy of your own home! The 'in church' services will be different from those we are used to, but we truly believe that we can bring the unchanging Christmas message of comfort and joy through familiar Christmas readings and music (even if congregational singing will likely still not be allowed – hence a new service for this year 'Not the Carol Service!'). We are hoping to live stream some of our services. We also have a couple of new 'surprises' planned - 'Come to Bethlehem' in St Thomas' Church on 19th December will be a live Nativity which family groups can come to explore, and watch out for the Scarecrow Nativity in Highclere!

Please note that due to the reduced capacity of our church buildings we have a booking system for 'in church' Christmas services. Please e-mail coordinator.nwhb@ outlook.com to find out about this or to join the circulation list for details of all our services, including online links.

We will post details and confirm services as we are able via our Facebook page (look for North West Hampshire Benefice) and church noticeboards.

My prayer is that, in these challenging times, we may all discover afresh the unchanging gift of the peace of Christ this festive season.

> With every blessing to you all, Canon Christine

	From the Church Registers: October 2020)
11 th October	Baptism: we ask God's blessing on the life of Iona Emily Rose Freeman	 Highclere
	•	riightiere
	Funeral: may they rest in peace	
5 th October	Vera Webb	Highclere
29 th October	Bryan Ernest George Bishop	Woolton Hill
	West Berk	shire Crematorium.

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Church Services: DECEMBER 2020

Please read the Rector's letter opposite for more details...

If you would like details about online services please send your e-mail to coordinator.nwhb@outlook.com and ask to join the Rector's regular e-mail update. Worship 'in church' is held according to current regulations and wearing a face covering in church is mandatory. Despite this, our prayer continues... do join us!

SUN 6 th Advent 2	Parish Communion Christingle Service	East Woodhay online via Zoom	11.00am 3.30pm
SUN 13th Advent 3	Parish Communion Morning Worship Evensong	Woolton Hill <i>online via Zoom</i> Ashmansworth	9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm
SAT 19 th	'Come to Bethlehem' explore the Nativity in church, booking a time slot will be required – e-mail coordinator.nwhb@outlook.com to find out more.	Woolton Hill	9.30am – 11.30am & 1.30pm – 3.30pm
SUN 20 th Advent 4	Not the Carol Service! Not the Carol Service! Not the Carol Service! Not the Carol Service!	East Woodhay Highclere Ashmansworth Woolton Hill	11.00am 11.00am 4.00pm 6.00pm
WED 23 rd	9 Lessons and Carols	Online via Zoom	7.30pm
THURS 24th Christmas Eve	Midnight Mass	Highclere	11.30pm
FRI 25 th Christmas Day	Holy Communion (BCP) Christmas Communion Christmas Service Christmas Communion Christmas Service	East Woodhay Woolton Hill Crux Easton Highclere Ashmansworth	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am
SUN 27 th	Benefice Communion	Online via Zoom	10.00am
WEDNESDAYS (not 30 th) Morning Prayer 10am online via Zoom			
The Rec As	ector: Revd Canon Christine Dale ctory, The Mount, Woolton Hill, Newl ssociate Priest: Revd Canon Marvir Horbert 255700, Harrage Mitchell 25	oury RG20 9QZ 25332 n Bamforth 254718	

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Aspects of the Victorian Age

Victoria's reign-1837 to 1901-was a period of significant social, economic and technical change and an expansion of Britain's industrial power. Our NWR Zoom meeting explored the period and our contributors" items covered many different and varied aspects of the time.

First of all there was a variety of perhaps little known features of life at that time. Arsenic in cosmetics was thought to improve skin quality for women and increase libido for men! As well as for mourning, the other more practical reason for the Victorians wearing black was to hide dirt caused by industrial pollution. Jelly Babies were invented in 1864 by an Austrian refugee in Lancashire who produced them as "Unclaimed Babies".

The London Underground was the world's first underground railway to be built under a navigable river. The pedestrian Thames tunnel was converted to rail for Underground trains in 1860 with the first train running in 1863 and carrying 38,000 passengers on the opening day.

Not everything was positive. The Dale Dyke Dam burst in 1864 when parts of Sheffield were devastated and 240 lost their lives, while the collapse of a section of the Tay Bridge in Scotland caused the deaths of 75 rail passengers and crew. Danger also came from leisure pursuits when 183 children died at the Victoria Hall in Sunderland as they were crushed to death after a stampede to the stage where free toys had been offered.

Among the social reformers Octavia Hill, whose legacy still remains today in affordable housing, Florence Nightingale who transformed hospital surroundings and Beatrix Potter, whose properties make up a significant part of the Lake District National Park, were discussed. Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas showing the fanciful "topsy-turyy" worlds where subjects like politics, the aristocracy and social issues were tackled in a witty and entertaining way were very popular.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's vision and skill made it possible to travel at 45 mph between London and Bristol. In addition he was responsible for designing and completing numerous projects for GWR and for the restructuring of our major docks-all a tremendous influence on our life today.

Sir George Gilbert Scott's style was showy and bold, an example being the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park, and reflected the wealth and vitality of the period.







Beatrix Potter



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East Woodhay Society



s I write this, we have just entered our second national lockdown and the COVID-19 cases in East Woodhay, Highclere, Burghclere and Bishops Green had a rolling rate of infection of 171.4 and growing, which is a worrying

trend. To check on the latest numbers go to *www.wooltonhill.com* where I include the appropriate link for this information.

We said at the time of the COVID newsletter at the end of July, that we would bring them back again if the situation changed. Consequently, as there are changing regulations which affect our area, we are producing Newsletters again. They contain an easily digestible summary of the regulations and also local helpful information. These are emailed directly to EWS members and are also held on the Woolton Hill website.

At the time of reading this, we will have held our East Woodhay Society AGM on 17th November by Zoom rather than in person. I wonder if 2020 will become known as the year when video calls became fashionable as so many meetings now seem to be held this way. However, I for one, cannot wait until we can get back to meeting in person.

At the AGM we will have made a presentation to our nominated charity, Young People & Children First. YP&CF gives a home to young people (aged 16-25) who are leaving care or who are homeless. They have two houses locally and all the young residents are provided with personalised support in a family environment, helping them to develop life skills such as cooking on a budget and money management, as well as recreational activities with other residents and support getting into education, training or work.

With your support we have raised £1500, which we expect to double up to £3000 via the Good Exchange. In addition, we also raised £130 from Teresa Munn's Seeds of Hope and also £327 via the local photo email quiz. Thank You!

I wish to say a special mention to Spectrum, as we are now partnering to include Spectrum adverts also on *www.wooltonhill.com* under the business section; this contributed £600 of the £1500.

We have all suffered with this year's COVID restrictions, but things have been particularly tough on local charities and your support has made a real difference to what YP&CF are able to continue to do.

I include a photo from them enjoying some pumpkin carving around Halloween.

Please email me if you would like to join East Woodhay Society as we work to help improve our local area and support local charities.

Mark Rand – Chair EWS

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From the archives

Woolton Hill Domestic Poultry Keeping Club

A talk on Poultry keeping will be given in the Church Hall by Mr.A.W.Grimes, the County Poultry Instructor, on Wednesday December 10th at 3pm. It will include a demonstration on culling.

St.Thomas' magazine, December 1941

Our Eastern Parish Boundary

In our September number we gave some account of our boundaries as a whole. There are, however, some points of particular interest about that which divides us from Highclere; for the line here follows the old track from Andover to Newbury, known since Saxon times as Honey Way. From Seven Stones Bridge it runs northward through Penwood, keeping on the higher ground to the east of the present road. It crosses this at the big bend just before the railway bridges, follows Wash Water to a point near the Old Blanket Mill, where it climbs northwards towards the field of the first Battle of Newbury, passing the old Bell Inn and the tumuli beyond it.

Tradition has it that the original parish boundary between Woodhay and Highclere was Wash Water Stream; but during the reign of Queen Elizabeth the men of both parishes were beating the bounds one rogation day-the traditional times for this practice-and happened to meet; a quarrel arose and the men of Woodhay drove the Highclere people across Wash Water back to the old Andover-Newbury track, which was then established as the frontier between the two parishes. St.Thomas' magazine, December 1946

I would like to thank Tom Gittins, who recently donated copies of St.Martin's magazine to our archive. Of particular interest is the copy from February 1937, by far the oldest in our collection. Any other contributions would be most welcome.

Chris Vane





Please Don't Feel Alone!

Lockdown help for those with no computers

For those of us who may be alone and who possibly do not have computers and internet, there is help and activities available. I hope that you will take advantage of all that is on offer. It is so good that we have volunteers willing to give their time and proves that the community spirit still prevails!

An update from **Neighbourcare**, (which will also be updated in our directory at the back of the magazine): East Woodhay & Highclere Neighbourcare For transport, collect your prescription or help collecting shopping call....01635 745600

Enquiries/To Volunteer -

www.ewhneighbourcare.org.uk....Keith Nunn.....253888

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East Woodhay Women's Institute



A Different Year for the WI

We met in January and socialized in groups with a cup of tea after the Christmas break. New guizzes were tried and we had fun reflecting on past customs. In February Terri Robinson took us on a canal journey from the building of the first British canal in 1757 carrying coal and other cargo to the leisurely pursuits of today. The social history and hard life sustained by families making meagre livings contrasted with the well known art work of castles and roses decorating the narrowboats and their utensils. Terri produced some of her own art work in the traditional colours for us to admire and buy. In March we tried our hands with artwork in a different form with lovely results at the Pottery Coffee House. The items were collected just before lock down and then our life and freedom changed. In April we stayed at home thankful for electronic communication. Fortunately the weather was kind and we had a beautiful Spring. The job lists were started and our homes were decorated and our gardens became one of our greatest pleasures. May and June came and the flowers were admired and the vegetables enjoyed. The birds sang and produced their offspring. Home deliveries became the norm and Thursday night clapping showed our appreciation of this and the NHS. The printers couldn't produce the Hampshire WI News and we relied on technology to bring the articles and photos to our homes. We read about the deeds performed throughout the county and the making of masks, including for those who need to lip read and protective clothing for essential workers. Others had enquired about English wine grown in Hampshire and took part in book reviews. August came and we escaped to pastures new always wary that we were not completely free but away from the house and familiar location. Not able to have a full AGM the committee met in my garden in September on the only wet day of the week but fortunately canvas protection was available and we carried on. It was good to be together again and we had done our duty followed by a cream tea supplied by a member. Our programme was cancelled until the following Spring but a pub lunch was hastily arranged. Unfortunately new restrictions were announced and this was cancelled too. Undeterred we keep in touch with our newsletters, home guizzes, stories, anecdotes and festive craft plus thoughts on what we will do at future meetings when it is safe to do so.

Happy Christmas everyone. SB

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Woolton Hill Junior School

Student reports from WHJS

School Values – Working Together School values are one of the most important things that represent WHJS. I have chosen the working together value in action. I



enjoy working together because we produce great work! In maths me and a partner help each other with our math if we find it tricky, sometimes me and my friends get different answers so we mark them and see who is wrong or right. If I had the right answer, I would be willing to help others to get it correct, but if I get it wrong, I will ask 3 people on my table (ask 3 before me) before asking the teacher. In science we usually work together, last time we did science I was in a partner with Georgie Ryan (my friend) and we were experimenting making parachutes so we did different sizes of paper for each one to see which would fall slower or faster which was a lot of working together! It is so much nicer to be working together with my friends and classmates than being at home. Thank you for reading my article!

Daisy Humphrey- student of Woolton Hill Junior School.

Our Values in action.

Hi, my name is Solomon, I am the W.H.J.S. Reporter and I will be writing articles for the Spectrum. This month I am writing about our school values and how I have demonstrated some of them so far this term. Our school values are Kindness, Curiosity, Responsibility, Independence, Resilience and Working together.

In History we are learning about Anglo Saxons and Vikings, I got a star award for showing Curiosity as I always ask sensible questions to find out more. I also showed I am good at Working together with other children as I made up some new playground games and taught most of my class how to play them and we play them every day now.

I hope you enjoyed reading about our Values, why don't you see how many of them you can show this month?

Stay Safe, **Solomon**'

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Christmas Eve, 25) 12

Answers: 1) Jodie Whittaker, 2) Blitzen (Blitzer), 3) Clement C. Moore, 4) a) 0.1%, 5) Peach, 6) 'not "necessarily" in the right order.', 7) A fox, 8) Cinnamon, 9) Natalie Wood, 10) Bob Geldof and Midge Ure, 11) Indian Ocean, 12) Germany, 13) Jacob Marley, 14) Middlesborough, 15) They've been 'turned down low', 16) Carol Kane, 17) Mary's Boy Child, 18) Douro Valley, 19) Sir Isaac Newton, 20) The Snownan, 21) The three wise men/kings, 22) Non-Expanding Recreational Foam, 23) Sweden, 24)





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Woolton Hill & District Gardeners' Club

The restrictions on Clubs and Families meeting together has blunted our 20/21 Programme, and Hall meetings had been cancelled for the year ahead. With a brave heart and much determination, we got in touch with Timothy Walker, and asked him to conduct a Zoom Meeting.

On Thursday 22 October we had 35 computers, logged on, along with 51 eager gardeners at least tuning in. He spoke to us on the topic of 'In the not so deep winter', demonstrating that we could all have access to a seemingly endless number of shrubs and flowers that could adorn our cold and windswept gardens throughout the Winter months. His enthusiasm and knowledge of plants shone through with a deft, amusing and interesting delivery. There was colour, size, shape and scent to match any of our needs. Berries, flowers and foliage appeared in surprising variety. All of these plants were excellent for wildlife in our gardens. We were not left off lightly, when his list of winter jobs was mentioned at the end. Leaf sweeping, compost making, mulching, digging, planting new borders, coppicing and cleaning out the pond, if you have one.

I remembered one great quotation that Timothy gave: "I do not believe that any plant is tender, until I have killed it, myself" – Sir Peter Smithers. (we have a few!)

Nick







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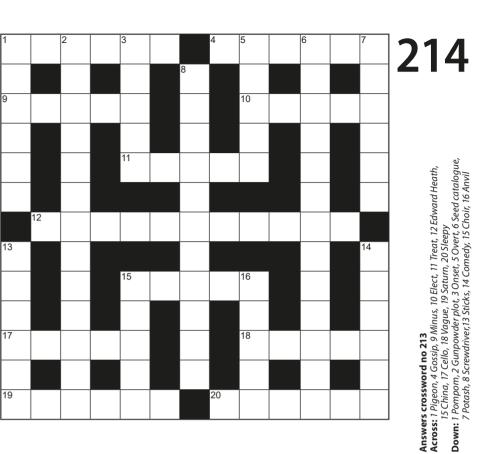
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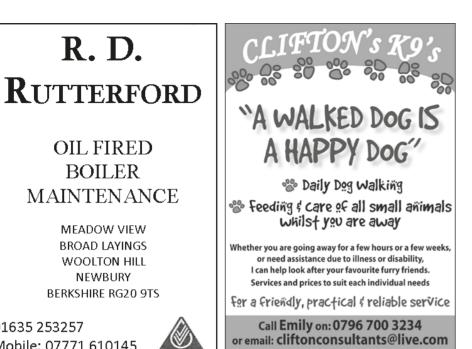




Across

- 1. We hear instruction to keep jewellery safe (6)
- 4. Agent has no money right at the end (6)
- 9. Pry about Queen liking fizzy drink (5)
- 10. Note ice skating area on the edge (5)
- 11. Time instrument could cause a pain in the the side (5)
- 12. Empty mouths found in good bars right when Scandi feast is served (11)
- 15. Chilled the French out for son or daughter (5)
- 17. Play guitar on street with drink (5)
- 18. Game face used to stir up fire (5)
- 19. Three boys singing? (6)
- 20. Shy to make mistake around Christmas tipple (6)

- Down
- 1. Father has gold for pet (6)
- 2. Rich master set up his festive centrepiece (9,4)
- 3. Note type of mixed up country this is (5)
- Bird behaving like a sloppy burglar (5) 5.
- Breeches worn by old New Yorker (13) 6.
- Football club abandons drilling for oil for 7. gardening job (6)
- 8. We'll do coaster in Christmas colours (11)
- 13. A true ship is apple coloured (6)
- 14. Babycham without one would make her cry (6)
- 15. Ship of the desert came across fifty (5)
- 16. Short department hard to measure (5)



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East Woodhay Parish Council

By the time this report is in your hands the full Council will probably have held its last meeting of the year. To say it has been a strange year would be a massive understatement and as I write these words the outlook for 2021 seems equally uncertain so we extend our best wishes and hopes that everyone will be able to celebrate Christmas as they would like to.

Our footpath team have reported that the local footpaths appear to be in steady use but alas they make this judgement based on the litter deposited along them. There is, and never will be, any facility for litter collection along the footpaths. Please take all your litter home with you. This includes any dog poo if you have a dog with you. Bagging it then leaving it in bags is the very worst thing you can do. If bagged, take it home! If you have no bag to hand then flick the poo into the undergrowth off the path where it will have a chance to degrade naturally.

Parish Field, the facts.

A great deal of misunderstanding appears to have been generated regarding the Parish Field and its future use. The council plans to maintain and improve the current permissive path into an allweather path with a porous structure so that it will drain and be more userfriendly in adverse weather. This will have no effect on its agricultural usage.

We have also commissioned a biodiversity study which has now been carried out and we await the full report. Our hope is that we can arrange for an increase in the wildflower population as part of long-term stewardship of this land.

We have equally recently commissioned a survey using metal detectors to check whether the field contains any historical artefacts. This survey will be done under controlled conditions and



days. The dates will be advised locally and to schools in the Parish. The results will be published. Nootherplansforthefield have been discussed.

We have received an update from the Basingstoke Rural Police Team.

Last year there was an increase in burglaries to out buildings and garages. This declined through lockdown. However, this is now on the increase again.

Properties in Northern Hampshire (Tadley, Baughurst, Silchester, Headley and Ecchinswell), especially isolated buildings, have had outbuildings and garages broken into since September. Tools and bikes have primarily been removed.

The Police are warning residents in rural North Hampshire to be vigilant and fit extra security measures on out buildings in particular. This should include fitting security locks, alarms, CCTV and security lighting. For more security prevention advice, visit www.hampshire.police.uk.

If people see any vehicles or people acting suspiciously report it immediately by calling 101, or if you believe a crime is in progress call 999.

The rural police have said they will be conducting extra patrols across Northern Hampshire.

Finally we wish to remind everyone that the Parish Clerk is a Council employee tasked with recording Council decisions and the implementation of some decisions. The Clerk is not responsible for decisions made and as a part time employee should not be expected to offer rapid replies to parishioners questions. The Council has a duty of care to its employees and will not tolerate any harassment of the Clerk.

Phil

Letter to the Editor

I understand that the Parish Council is proposing to build a "Permissive Path" across the parish field. This appears to be in direct conflict with the Deed Of Gift that the Parish Council entered into on the 18th March 1959 with the donor Mr E C Eliot Cohen. This deed of gift was drawn up by Alsop Stevens & Co of Liverpool and signed by the donor and witnessed by his butler Mr Richard Edwards.

The signatories from the council were Mrs C Trier and Mrs B Wolmer. The witness to both these signatories was Mr Philip Issac the parish clerk. Under item 3 in this deed the parish council agreed that this field be only used for agricultural purposes and no building operation should take place.

I believe that the proposals are in direct conflict with this deed and if pursued may face a legal challenge.

Looking now in more detail this proposal dissects the field diagonally. This structure will interrupt the natural flow of water which is the commencement of the issue which runs through the northern part of the parish and discharges into the lake in the Chase.

On a much more practicable note, when you consult the contour and drift maps you will see there is a pronounced depression in the land. This area is on a clay bed with a perched water table. Flooding has been experienced in the past. Some drainage has been provided in the area of the ribbon development along the road from the Church to Dodd's Corner. This is highly unlikely to cope with the runoff from footpaths and other paved areas. It would create localised surface water hot spots which the clay substrate could not dissipate in periods of heavy rain, with climate change. This rainfall is becoming the norm rather than the exception. To

introduce such other features in this area would, I believe, destabilise this somewhat fragile environment. As there are no formal surface water sewers in this area the options are very limited and needless to say abortively expensive.

I believe that this proposal would be considered a development of land and may attract a planning application.

To overcome this deed of gift would require a High Court action even if the Trustees of Mr Eliot Cohen's estate agreed with your proposals. There always was a footpath across this land which ran from the gate opposite the Lychgate to the working men's club in Trade Street. This was closed many years ago by the Parish Council making representation to Hampshire County Council. It is one thing having an unmade path across agricultural land but completely different having a paved path. This would make the field unviable for its intended purpose also making it difficult to maintain the land and the hedges. This is an especially true if this footpath does not have sufficient integrity to cope with the loads that agricultural vehicles and plant would generate. Are we destined to have another catastrophe as we have experienced with the Parish Charities land, where it was so poorly managed that it became unviable?

I really cannot see why new residents wanting to move "to the country" from the towns and urban areas only to convert our rural environment into townscapes.

> Pete Mason Past Chairman of EWPC

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Jim Hannington <i>seamusman3@gmail.com</i> 07895637611

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