

January 2021

50p

# Spectrum



## Editorial



### **Happy New Year!**

Christmas will have been different for many of us this year, but I hope you and your family could still enjoy some of it together?

When I was editing my first issue of Spectrum last year, I could never have imagined what 2020 held for us all. During lockdown I wrote out my lovely Nan's life story for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. My Nan was an evacuee in the war and writing down her memories certainly made me realise how lucky my family and I were, despite being in a pandemic. We had a warm home, food and each other. My Nan on the other hand had to leave her parents and slept for many months in a cold attic. I certainly know where I'd rather be!

You might be wondering who drew the front cover. Last year, I asked the children of St Thomas' Infant School to help me design January 2020's cover, and to continue the tradition I asked the children to help me again. The brief? To draw something they enjoyed in 2020. Every picture came back of the children with their family and many had rainbows. It made me feel happy that despite us adults seeing the year as one we'd rather forget, many children remember it for playing with their family and seeing rainbows in neighbours' windows. That we must be grateful for. We've used one of the pictures for this month's front cover and you'll find a few more inside the magazine.

You'll notice there is an "End Note" from Co-Editor Sarah Allchurch in this issue. Life has become a bit busier as time spent on my copywriting business has increased, so I called on Sarah's support to co-edit with me. It's a first in the history of Spectrum, I believe. But they do say two heads are better than one. Please welcome Sarah!

Before I go, I want to let you know about an article that shares meditation breathing techniques to try. You might think it all sounds a bit "woo", however after suffering with some insomnia and anxiety over the past few months, I gave Woolton Hill's mindful meditation class a go. I had the best sleep ever and asked Gillian, who runs the classes, to pass on her tips for any readers who might appreciate the support.

I do hope 2021 brings everyone a much brighter and more positive year. Enjoy January and I'll be back in February.

Abbie

**Editor for February 2021 & March 2021**

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Cover photo -Memories of 2020 by Zara aged 7

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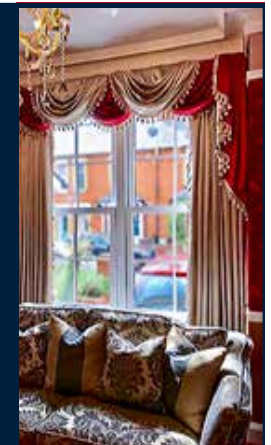
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# Woolton Hill & District Gardeners' Club



**T**HE TONIC of having a Gardeners' Talk is rewarding, and through the medium of Zoom in

November, we were entertained by Geoff Hawkins, who has a wealth of knowledge in all matters gardening. He also has a secret passion for panto, when he plays the "Dame", albeit with a beard!

The subject was "Herbaceous Borders", and we were taken through a wide range of settings, in which plants can be set out as a waving sea of colour, height and style to suit any garden. Of course, the larger garden lends itself to laying out swathes of plants mixed in together, with paths defining the planting, gates leading to other areas, and the introduction of different planting to break the immediate view, not to forget mirror images set out with a central path. Examples shown included Waterperry

Gardens, Monet's garden, Prairie Garden at Henfield, and many others.

However, all those of us with smaller plots were not forgotten, and he showed off the beautiful layout that he had developed for his suburban garden, which was small, and could be replicated by anyone. Tall plants mixed with short, clumps and repetitions, colour variety, the use of yellow, which always seems to bring itself forward, and blue in

the background. Geoff was not strict with types and encouraged interplanting of different plants, if that was what was wanted by the gardener.

Planting up in Groups, Tall, Blocks of Colour, Drifts of Green, and random planting were all encouraged to be experimented with. Plants in 3, 5 or 7 were recommended.

One of the great comments hidden within his talk was the fact that it was encouraged to leave the borders to die back naturally in the late autumn, so that the birds,

insects and other animals could enjoy harvesting the seed heads, etc. The gardener waits until early spring to begin tidying up, lifting and dividing, introducing new plants ready for the new year. Remember to match planting

with the soil type that you have.

Our club, thinking that it might well have lost out on our gatherings for talks, has found that Zoom talks have come to the rescue. When you read this, the next talk will be on 28th January '21.

Happy New Year from all of us in the Gardeners' Club.

Nick

*If you would like to join Gardeners' Club contact Nick Harcourt on [nick@harcourt2.co.uk](mailto:nick@harcourt2.co.uk)*



## Christmas cheer in Woolton Hill

We wanted to give a special thank you to everyone in Woolton Hill who decorated their homes with Christmas lights this year. You really did spread some festive cheer! An extra special mention goes to Jenny Graham in Harwood Rise who had a giant inflatable Santa outside her family's home to raise money for the Children's Society charity. It made everyone smile and many of us flocked to see it. Thank you villagers!

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## In Memory Of Colonel A.C. Futrell

It was with great sadness and sympathy that we heard of the passing of Tony Futrell.

Vi and I have known Tony for the best part of thirty years, and he has been a true friend during that time.

Tony was involved in numerous projects. He maintained the church grounds for many years. He was also a councillor with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

We spent numerous evenings enjoying meals and playing cards with wonderful company. Tony was a true English gentleman with an abundance of manners and the knowledge of how to deal with life's problems.

For over twenty years Vi and I and Tony and Jane managed the administration and control of the Woolton Hill Church Hall. Held on an annual basis, hall committee meetings were organised, with group leaders and the Reverend David Carter in attendance. We organised various events in the hall for fundraising in aid of the hall and the church.

A few years ago, Tony became seriously ill and was hospitalised. When he recovered, they moved to East Sussex to be near their family.

We visited them there in a delightful bungalow over the last few years. We certainly miss Tony but will remain in contact with Jane.

God Bless you Tony.

Vi & John Palmer



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# East Woodhay Parish Council

WELL, ONCE AGAIN we prepare for a new year but pray it will be not as dire as the year just past.

It is worth looking back at where the spending of money generated from major developments has gone so I will summarise the major spend areas. This process is controlled by managers at B&D District Council and is not in the absolute gift of the Parish Council.

The EW Village Hall and the Woolton Hill Hall together had £93K spent on refurbishments.

**Sports clubs:** £23k spent of a total of £41k benefitting the following clubs: Bowls, Cricket, Football, Tennis.

**Public Art,** £10k spent by Bloor on a sculpture in Meadowbrook.

There remains £29k earmarked for the Woolton Hill recreation area subject to public consultation and £9k for the community land area at Meadowbrook.

## The Parish Field

Following much misunderstanding circulating about the Parish Field and the path across it, the below statement should clarify this issue.

The path across the Parish Field provides an important route towards the surgery, to the Woolton Hill Schools, St Thomas Church, the Church Hall and walkers. The path enables a way of avoiding potentially dangerous roads.

Unfortunately, the existing trodden path is uneven and is therefore unable to be used by some with walking difficulties and as those, who have tried to use the path in winter and after the rain will know, the path is rarely in the state shown in

this photo when it becomes extremely muddy and therefore difficult to use.

Following feedback from residents, the PC has been investigating how to improve the surface. We have also been working to obtain a grant to help fund a porous, hard-surfaced footpath along the existing path line in accordance with HCC's Path Standards (2013). As the Parish Field is designated as being for agricultural usage, the Parish Council checked with B&D planners that planning permission was not required and the path does not change the agricultural designation.

We are therefore delighted that we have obtained approval for a grant from B&D Local Infrastructure Fund which will provide 50% of the cost of the path.



The Fittleworth sandstone path is designed to be firm but with a little give, be well drained and useable in all weathers; similar to that being used at many NT properties. It will be approximately 1.5m wide and to make sure we are providing a wheelchair and buggy useable route, the kissing gate at "Brownies Corner" will be replaced.

At the time of path laying we will take the opportunity to improve the drainage around "Brownies Corner" with a submerged drain between the two ditches.

Hopefully it will be installed in springtime 2021, when the field will be closed for construction. Once complete, the same conditions for the field will continue as exist now, i.e. all users going across the field must keep to the path and dogs kept on a lead.

The Parish Council are also looking to improve the biodiversity of the field as part of its long-term stewardship and, working with both B&D and HCC, commissioned a biodiversity study. We will update you further on the results of that study when it is received and next steps.

Phil



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# January Poems

Written by two very talented residents.

**January** by Moyra Harkness

January's here and the weather is grim  
But it's time for my fitness regime to begin.  
I ought to go out, which would help me get fit;  
Some walking or jogging, or postpone it a bit?  
It's chilly outside so I'll just stay indoors.  
Next week might be warmer – could go then of course?  
I guiltily glance at my new woolly hat  
Plus thick scarf and gloves – I'll be warm in all that!  
I set off supplied with choc biscuits and sweets.  
There's fruit cake to use up, I'll need all these treats.  
My New Resolutions; so good at the start  
Are proving a challenge and falling apart!  
Good health"- toast your friends, far away and those near.  
With hopes and surprises we'll start this new Year.

**January** by Sandie Ball part of the East Woodhay Womens' Institute.

January, a new month in a new year  
When the eagerly awaited snowdrops appear.  
With shorter days and on long dark nights  
The outer band of the milky way is in sight.  
The full moon silhouettes the skeletal trees  
And the grass glistens as temperatures freeze,  
Twinkling in the moonlight undisturbed  
Beneath an eerie silence where nothing is heard.  
Flakes of snow silently land on all in its path  
Covering animal tracks and the old bird bath.  
The sly fox hunts tonight without success  
His prey is safely home without distress.  
An owl hoots then flies to a branch up high  
And down below his meal tonight he will spy.  
A stoat takes advantage of the bright moonlight  
As he captures his prey and eats with delight.  
The morning dawns over the still white scene  
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Also looking for food are the rats and mice  
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East Woodhay Women's Institute wish everyone a happy and safe New Year.



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January 2021

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Dear Friends,

In my January 2020 letter, I reflected briefly on the concept of 2020 vision, seeing clearly into the New Year and the importance of noticing, and appreciating, the present moment as we turned the corner into another year. None of us then could foresee the extent of the coming pandemic and its impact on lives just about everywhere.

Now we stand at the turn of yet another year. We look back at 2020 and for most of us it was a story of unfolding uncertainty, for a number it brought an unknown illness, deep sadness or sudden financial worry. Certainly 2020 did not present us with the clear-sightedness its title might have suggested ... or did it?

There were some things which did come into sharp focus. We have seen clearly that humanity does not have all the answers and is vulnerable to the forces of the natural world. We have also seen clearly that we are dependent on one another; neighbourhood support and help schemes have come into their own with many new, willing volunteers. Those essential workers perhaps once taken for granted have received our gratitude – our local shopkeepers, supermarket workers, delivery drivers, care professionals. The medical profession, always valued, has been of particular importance and received our applause and thanks.

So, as we look ahead to 2021, we may ask ourselves if our own values and expectations have been reset for the better. Will we choose to learn from the lessons of the year that has passed? Will we continue to notice and value everyday life – enjoying a simple walk or bike ride, or chatting with a neighbour? Will we continue to support our local businesses and communities?

So, at the beginning of this New Year, we may be thankful for the now real promise of a vaccine but let us also value afresh every day the enduring gifts of family, friends, home and fresh air.

**A New Year prayer:**

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for bringing us through the changes of time to the beginning of another year. Forgive us the wrong that we have done in the year that is past, give us hope for the year to come that we might live to your honour and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

A blessed New Year to you all,  
Canon Christine

**From the Church Registers: November 2020**

**Funeral: may they rest in peace**

|               |                         |  |
|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| 5th November  | Josephine Head          | Woolton Hill<br>(West Berkshire Crematorium) |
| 12th November | Viviona Margarita Smith | Highclere<br>(West Berkshire Crematorium)    |
| 23rd November | Winifred Mary Brown     | Woolton Hill                                 |
| 30th November | Sir Ian Niall Rankin Bt | Ashmansworth<br>(Andover Crematorium)        |

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**Church Services JANUARY 2021**

A note about worship: *we continue to offer a mix of online and 'in church' services during January. If you would like details about the online services, please send your e-mail to [coordinator.nwhb@outlook.com](mailto:coordinator.nwhb@outlook.com) and ask to join the Rector's regular e-mail update. Please note that worship 'in church' is held according to current regulations and wearing a face covering in church is mandatory. Despite this, most importantly our prayer continues... everyone is welcome... please join us!*

|   |   |  |                                    |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>SUN 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b><br><i>Epiphany</i>                    | <i>All Together / Family Service</i><br>Parish Communion      | <i>Online 'zoom'</i><br>East Woodhay                 | 9.30am<br>11.00am                  |
| <b>SUN 10<sup>th</sup></b><br><i>Baptism of Christ</i>              | Parish Communion<br><i>Morning Worship</i><br>Evensong        | Woolton Hill<br><i>Online 'zoom'</i><br>Ashmansworth | 9.30am<br>11.00am<br>6.00pm        |
| SUN 17 <sup>th</sup><br><i>Epiphany 2</i>                           | <i>Morning Worship</i><br>Parish Communion<br>Evensong        | <i>Online 'zoom'</i><br>Highclere<br>Crux Easton     | 9.30am<br>11.00am<br>5.00pm        |
| SUN 24 <sup>th</sup><br><i>Epiphany 3</i>                           | Holy Communion (BCP)<br><i>Benefice Communion</i><br>Evensong | Highclere<br><i>Online 'zoom'</i><br>East Woodhay    | 8.00am<br><b>10.00am</b><br>6.00pm |
| SUN 31 <sup>st</sup><br><i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i> | Benefice Communion<br>Confirmation                            | Highclere<br>Woolton Hill                            | <b>10.00am</b><br>4.00pm           |

**WED 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Morning Prayer 10.00 am online 'zoom'**

**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



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# St. Thomas' Infant School

The children at St Thomas' were tasked with drawing a picture of something they enjoyed in 2020. Despite the year bringing a lot of challenges, it's so nice to see that the pictures show the children are still smiling and having fun.

A lot of children took part and drew some wonderful pictures. However, as Spectrum only has so much space to fill, we chose nine of our favourites, including the picture drawn by Zara (aged 7) that has been used as this month's front cover.



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## National Women's Register



**D**URING THIS YEAR, our group has learnt to adapt to challenges and changes, and we are proud to have continued our programme throughout the year. Meeting in each other's homes has been exchanged for meeting virtually on Zoom and socially distanced groups in the village hall and recreation ground. Huge thanks go to Val, our local organiser, who has ensured we have all had the opportunity to participate.

Our November meetings were Zoom based. We shared recipes, which had been given to us by friends or were favourites from Mary Berry's and Gary Rhodes' recipe books. Those we shared were mostly sweet which we then used to make a recipe book. Then the Treasure Trail enticed us with more sweetness. As two

Zoom groups and a link by WhatsApp, we phoned clue holders to find out clues and to verify our answers. Our starter questions were:

Dance with a degree  
Sounds like crazy time

We initially thought that the link between clues might be music or dance related. Then we stumbled across answers that led us to the theme, CAKES. We were in our element. Did you guess the answers above as Rum Baba and Madeira? We did get all the answers correct; however, we didn't win, which is perhaps a blessing as we won't need to set the quiz for next year.

We have a full programme planned for 2021, which can easily be adapted according to the current tier we find ourselves in. We look forward,

ingers crossed, to a history walk in Newbury, some garden visits and maybe a summer party.

We wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to times when we can return to meeting indoors.



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# East Woodhay Society



FOR MOST it has probably been a year to forget but I would like to say thanks to all the local businesses and people working so hard to help keep things as normal as possible. It is certainly a time to say Happy New Year. It is great to look forward to holding events this year, whether in person or remotely and please let me know of any ideas you may have.

As I write this, we have just entered Tier 2 and there were just **3 COVID-19 cases in East Woodhay, Highclere, Burghclere and Bishops Green.** Let's hope this low trend continues; to check on the latest numbers go to [www.woolton-hill.com](http://www.woolton-hill.com) where I include the appropriate link for this information.

We will continue to send out regular newsletters about the COVID guidelines and restrictions, as well as letting people know about local news. Thanks to everybody for your feedback and do please forward these on to others.

Thanks to members for attending the **East Woodhay Society AGM** on 17<sup>th</sup> November via Zoom. At the AGM we were pleased to continue our support to the local charity, Young People & Children First. YP&CF gives a home to young people (aged 16-25) who are leaving care or who are homeless.

## Local bird count joining in with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Each year half a million people take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and this year it is between 29-31<sup>st</sup> January. Following on from previous years' success we will be collating those birds seen in our local gardens. It's wonderful to see the wide variety of birds which frequent our gardens and last year the Goldfinches just overtook the Blue Tit numbers. There was also a good increase in Long Tailed Tit population (picture alongside).



Do let me know if you would be interested in joining in with this local count – my contact details are below.

## EWS Membership:

If you are supportive of what East Woodhay Society is doing and would like to be included in a monthly newsletter on local matters, then please join and become a member. Membership is now open for 2021 and is £10 for a couple/family and £6 for an individual. Just send me a note.

Mark Rand – Chair EWS

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## A Busy Term

This term we had Children In Need day! Children In Need is super fun because we get to go to school in home clothes and do lots of fun activities. The activities take place at lunchtime and breaktime, when we are all outside. Some of my favourite activities are skipping, hoola-hooping, tennis bounce and netball goals. I really enjoy playing netball but this year we didn't get to do it. At the end of the day, we did the annual duck race!

We all chose a duck with duck-related names (my favourite was Claudia Sinkleman!). It was close but Batman and Bobbin won this year! Unfortunately, I didn't win but one of my friends did!

After Children In Need, upper school had Viking Day. We all had to come in dressed up as Vikings, but you didn't have to if you didn't want to. The Open Box Theatre Company came that day. They taught us much more about the Vikings, what they wore, how their lives were, what they believed in and how they made longships. But it wasn't only the children that dressed up that day, it was the teachers too! The Open Box Theatre Company teachers were both hilarious and lots of fun! But now it's the build up to Christmas! Now that's one thing to look forward to.

Thank you for reading!  
Daisy Humphrey



Hello again.

I hope you are all doing well in Lockdown 2. The winter term has been very busy with lots of interesting and exciting events.

Upper school have been studying Vikings, and had a Viking dress up day, Lower school have been studying Egyptians and they had an Egyptian dress up day. The costumes all looked amazing.

To raise money for Children In Need we had a dress down day, where we all wore something yellow, spotty or sporty. We did lots of sports activities in our breaktime, such as who can do the most keepie-uppies with a football or how many times you can bounce a tennis ball on a racquet.

For Remembrance Day, we did a virtual Remembrance service in school; someone from each class read a poem and we all watched the service on our classroom interactive white boards.

Last week, Year 6 did "Bikeability", so you might have seen us cycling on the roads outside the school. It was really good fun, and we learnt a lot about road safety.

I hope you enjoyed this update and are looking forward to my next one.


Stay Safe.  
Solly

## St Thomas' Church 31st Annual Trivial Pursuits Championship ....is going online

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mindfulness

### Take a moment to breathe...

The growth and acceptance of mindfulness and meditation as an anecdote to our frenetic and unpredictable lives is testament enough to the powerful benefits it offers.

A definition for mindfulness meditation is:

*Gentle awareness on an anchor such as breathing, to bring you in to the present moment, which in turn quietens the mind, relaxes the body and balances out difficult emotions”.*

New and more experienced meditators alike report immediate improvements. Benefits are cumulative, the more we meditate, the calmer and more relaxed we become. This means, the more regularly you meditate, or introduce mindfulness techniques to your life, the better the results for your health and wellbeing.

#### Benefits Of Mindful Meditation

##### Stress reduction

The most commonly reported benefit of mindfulness meditation is **stress reduction**. “Stress” occurs from within, but also bombards us externally from all angles. It’s often quoted that it’s not so much what happens to us in life, but rather it’s how we feel about it, how we are with it, that matters.

Stress can be both good and bad for us. Good or healthy stress occurs, is managed and is released from mind and body. Bad or unhealthy stress is when stress stays with us. When we store stress hormones in our minds and bodies, it can be toxic. If we stay stuck in the stress cycle, stress may manifest as exhaustion, colds or flu, headaches, digestive issues or a skin problem, to name but a few.

Mindfulness meditation helps us become aware when we’re holding on to stress and helps us develop a habit of recognising, acknowledging, and releasing it more regularly.

##### Improves sleep

**Sleep** is so essential, yet often elusive. One quarter of the UK population suffers from sleep problems, due to reasons including stress, medication, pain or tension, hormones, external disturbances or a particular symptom of illness or disease. If you can’t sleep or wake too early or frequently, regular meditation can help.

##### Pain relief

Research continues into the potential for mindfulness and meditation for **pain relief**. While waiting for science to establish robust, peer-reviewed studies, many people report tension lifting and pain easing within a session or two. Techniques to improve flow and function in the body, to allow the body to completely let go of tension and relax, and improve breathing and posture are all contributory factors in managing pain in the body.

#### Top 3 Breathing Meditation Tips To Try

1. **To relieve stress**, take a deep breath in through the nose and through pursed lips breath out the slowest, longest breath ever (helps hiccups too!). Repeat several times.
2. **To sleep**, count down from 100-0, counting on each exhale. Any time you wander off in thought, come back to the breath.
3. **To relieve tension or pain**, place your hand on that area (if possible or else bring your awareness to the area) and gently breathe in/out to the area of discomfort for at least 5 minutes.

*Gillian Ward.*

*Gillian is the founder of Mindful Medicine based in Newbury. She runs a FREE midday mediation every Thursday. To find out more contact: 07840 620731, gillian@mindful-medicine.co.uk, mindful-medicine.co.uk*

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Deadline: 30 January 2021

## Shopaholic: Raising Money For Charity From Local Produce

What fun it would be to run a shop! My rather daunting Granny played shops with me on a dangerously small drop-leaf table, using her collection of Staffordshire figures and strings of beads as stock. Luckily the 5-yr-old shopkeeper had no idea of their value, apart from precious stock from which Granny chose. No money involved, but careful choices discussed and made. Useful lessons in life, taking care, reasoning, appreciation, persuasion, all painlessly absorbed.

First job, a holiday stint over Christmas in the toy department of our local big store. Later a few weeks' help for a grocer friend – paid in groceries. No wonder Harvest Festival in recent years found me below the pulpit in St Thomas' selling off the home produce when tins and dried good became less valuable than money paid direct to an appropriate charity.

2020, Covid-19 saw my daughter Claire working from home, and needing to keep her own mental well-being intact. She lives near a Community Orchard, so boxes of damson jam and crab-apple jelly kept finding their way to Trade Street until something had to be done. My sister's flat move expanded the stock available, so the Stanton Garden Room shop opened, once the first lock-down eased. Covid secure with access from the patio, sanitiser available and "donation" the price of everything. As stock decreased, the shop moved to a front room for window shopping with poster in the road to tempt walkers. Selected goods were put in the middle of the drive, with convenient donation box to hand.

The once small shop-keeper was happily able to play again, this time with paying customers, whose idea of the likely shop price for the goods on offer was both inaccurate and generous. The West Berkshire Food Bank was supported by all our 5 churches in the Benefice and an amazing £300 was the final total. Thank you.

Rosemary Cahill  
*Reader Emeritus*

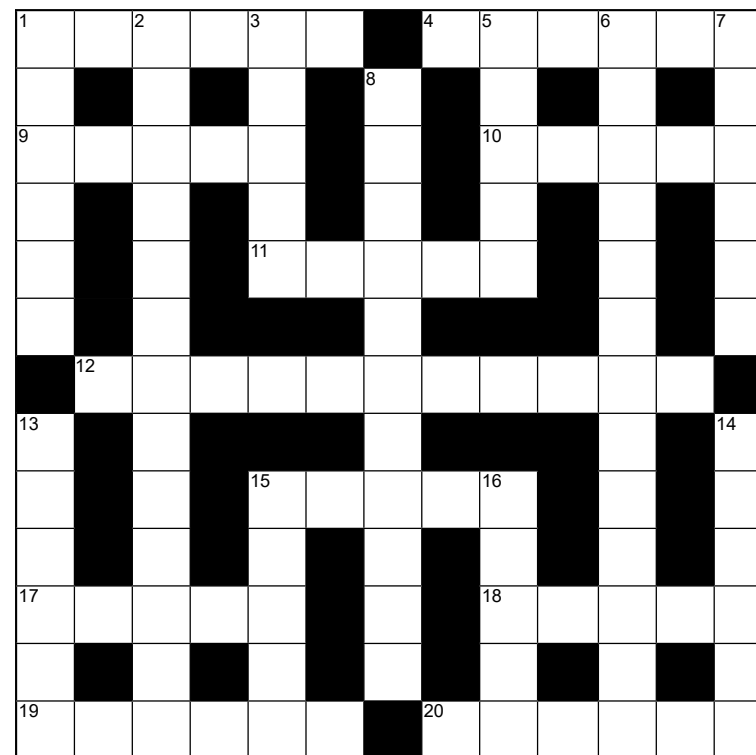
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# 215

Answers crossword no 214  
Across: 1 Locket, 4 Broker, 9 Perry, 10 Brink, 11 Thorn, 12 Smorgasbord, 15 Child, 17 Strum, 18, Poker, 19 Treble, 20 Sherry  
Down: 1 Lapdog, 2 Christmas tree, 3 Egypt, 5 Robin, 6 Knickerbocker, 7 Raking, 8 Decorations, 13 Russet, 14 Cherry, 15 Camel, 16 Depth

### Across

- Rearranges his gag to enjoy Burns Night fare (6)
- Home of bats and campanologists (6)
- First class oil mixed into sauce (5)
- Guru rallies in Arcadian environment (5)
- We see magnificence, but learner is lost in gory details (5)
- Spoke clearly about lorry type (11)
- Must be in Wonderland as I am surrounded by lace (5)
- Old fashioned type says it's yours (5)
- Val produces ID to prove she is legal (5)
- Fool woolly animal with strong drink we hear (6)
- Last sun god in the stars? (6)

### Down

- He joins the arts as part of a pack (6)
- Progress horse might be making around the world (13)
- Sounds as if I am full of joy decorating the cake (5)
- The French catch a bit of sunshine first thing (5)
- Psychic warned that crop would fail, but nut fell ere rot set in (7,6)
- Shout out in pain and look like a coward (6)
- Thinking about answers at the beginning of the year (11)
- See company exit far off land in a disorderly manner (6)
- Sounds as though wedding dress would have been more suitable for a horse! (6)
- Will be discovered near a sporting venue (5)
- Santa's helpers told to leave shelves quietly (5)

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

In the December edition Spectrum, The Parish Council stated that there had been a great deal of misunderstanding.

I do not feel that there has been any misunderstanding regarding the proposed footpath across the Parish Field. I am still very much opposed to its construction.

The Parish Council did send me a specification which amounted to a few lines on an e-mail, with two unrelated photographs of paths in a woodland setting. Also attached was a sketch of a proposed cross section of the path.

I was expecting a specification that had been drawn up by a Chartered Civil Engineer. This would I feel sure have given details of not only the construction but the works to protect the existing grassland. It would also outline the degree of supervision, the insurance cover for both the designer and contractor together with any guarantee and ongoing maintenance programme.

It would be interesting to know who has tendered for these works especially as the published cost is £17k (or is this a one-horse race?). We must not forget that the monies are coming from the public purse and that the instigators of this proposal are accountable for their actions. They are duty-bound to gain the best possible deal should this unfortunate scheme go ahead.

It appears that no consideration has been given to the considerable amount of topsoil generated by this proposal. This is now a valuable commodity.

I remain concerned that the "design" does not take account of the known problems of springs and other water features in this area, and also of the retention of the paving to prevent the migration of the layers of construction into the adjoining soft ground.

Another concern is the ability for this construction to bear the load of agricultural plant to service the field, this especially having regard to the minimal depth of the construction and the amount of topsoil left in place under the pathway.

Pete Mason

Former Chartered Building Surveyor

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## End Note from Co-Editor, Sarah Allchurch

Having lived in the village of Woolton Hill with my family for six and a half years now, and having loved being part of the community, I was thrilled when Abbie asked me to come on board to co-edit our wonderful local magazine.

I work from home as a freelance copy editor and proofreader, which has made a very pleasant change to previously working as a solicitor in London!

We are incredibly lucky here in this part of the world to have so many fantastic groups, businesses, events and opportunities in our villages and it certainly seems that the pandemic has not detracted from the positivity of everyone involved.

My daughter is in the same class at St. Thomas' Infant School as Abbie's son. I have thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the children's pictures and it is heart-warming to see that their drawings denote hope and happiness.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year. May 2021 be a brighter year and bring more of that hopeful spirit.

Warmest wishes.

Sarah Allchurch, Spectrum Co-Editor



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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# Directory of Local Organizations

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Southern Water (water supply). . . . . 01273 606766  
Southern Electric . . . . . 105 or 08000727282

**Age Concern Hampshire Village Agent Sarah** . . . . . 07806 659449

**Arbor Flora Group** . . Secretary: Ros Oles . . . . . 01256 896014

**Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council** . . . . . 844844

member: Clive Sanders (cllr) [clive.sanders@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:clive.sanders@basingstoke.gov.uk) . . . 254839

## Churches

East Woodhay, St Martin's . . . . . [www.stmartins.church](http://www.stmartins.church)

Churchwardens . . Richard Twallin 253354. . Andrew Colville . . . . 254017

W'lton Hill, St Thomas' [www.wooltonhill.com/community/church/church.html](http://www.wooltonhill.com/community/church/church.html)

Churchwardens. . . Chris Vane 253707 . . . . Bridget Wheeler . . . . 250729

## Defibrillators

There are 4 public access defibrillators in the Parish, WH Church Hall, EW Village Hall, the Rampant Cat, and WH Junior School.

**Doctors' Surgery Woolton Hill** . . . . . 253324

Patient Participation: . . . . . Rosemary Cahill. . . . . 253306

**Ducklings** . . . . . Fiona Morgan . . . . . 42080

## East Woodhay & Highclere Neighbourcare Volunteer Driving

Enquiries/Volunteers-[www.ewhneighbourcare.org.uk](http://www.ewhneighbourcare.org.uk) Keith Nunn. . 253888

**To collect your prescription or help collecting shopping call** . 01635 745600

**East Woodhay Charities** . . . . . Secretary: Susan Wren. . . . . 254875

**East Woodhay Cricket Club** . . . . . Contact Adrian Batchelor .07810 647618

**East Woodhay Flower & Produce Show** . . . . . 254114

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

**East Woodhay Football Club** . . . . . Chairman: Alan Jones . . . . . 254024

**East Woodhay Local History Society** Sec: Christine Dalton . . 07880 628 114

**East Woodhay Parish Council Members:** . . . . . [www.eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk)

James Mitchell (Ch) [james.mitchell@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:james.mitchell@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) 01635 254747

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Phil Jarvis . . . . [philip.jarvis@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:philip.jarvis@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) . . . 01635 254422

Mark Rand. . . . . [mark.rand@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.rand@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) . . . 01635 250898

## East Woodhay Parish Council continued

Karen Titcomb . . [karen.titcomb@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.titcomb@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) . . 07974 011065

Andrew Watson . . [andrew.watson@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.watson@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk)

Amy White (Clerk) [clerk@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) . . . . . 07480 042395

**East Woodhay Village Hall.** . . . . . Carol Stanley . . . . . 01635 35859

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

**East Woodhay Short Mat Bowls Club** Contact: Cathy Neller. . . . . 255589

**East Woodhay Silver Band.** . . . . . Contact: Rosemary Gittins 07917 522180

**East Woodhay Society** . . . . . Chairman, Mark Rand . . . . . 250898

[eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com](mailto:eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com) [www.wooltonhill/ews](http://www.wooltonhill/ews)

**East Woodhay Twinning Association** Helen Allen, Secretary . . 01635 250776

**East Woodhay W.I.** . Secretary: Pat Gibbs . . . . . 07831 669 220

**Hampshire County Council** . . . . . Member: Tom Thacker. . 01962 771863

**Highclere Film Club** Secretary: Chris Martin . . . . . 253461

**Highclere Evergreens** . . . . . Leader: Mrs. V. Burge . . . . . 864584

**Litter warden** . . . . . [litterwarden@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:litterwarden@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk)

**MP - Kit Malthouse.** . . . . . 01264 401401

[kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk) . . . . . 2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

**National Women's Register** . . . . . Val Burfield . . . . . 255168

## Neighbourhood Watch

Woolton Hill . . . . John Bentham . . . . . 255582

North End . . . . . Jack Castle. . . . . 253537

**Newbury Chamber Choir** . . . . . [info@newburychamberchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@newburychamberchoir.co.uk)

**Nwby. Wkly. News WH Correspondent.** . . . . . Nicole Bentham. . . . 255582

**Police** . . . . . Hampshire Constabulary (Position to be filled) . . . . 101

**The Samaritans.** . . . . . Freephone 116 123

## Schools

The Clere . . . . . 278372

The Clere Community Office . . . . . 278129

St Martin's East Woodhay CE Primary [www.st-martins.hants.sch.uk](http://www.st-martins.hants.sch.uk) 597796

**St Thomas', Woolton Hill, Infants.** . . [www.stthomasinfant.co.uk](http://www.stthomasinfant.co.uk) . . . 253431

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**Spectrum** . . . . . [www.wooltonhill.com/Spectrum.html](http://www.wooltonhill.com/Spectrum.html)

Chairman . . . . . Bob King . . . . . 253378

Treasurer . . . . . Gill Burrows . . . . . 254301

more over

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## Spectrum continued

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**St Martin's Guild** . . . Secretary: Sarah Leventhorpe . . . . . 255293

[info@eastwoodhayfete.org.uk](mailto:info@eastwoodhayfete.org.uk) [www.eastwoodhayfete.org.uk](http://www.eastwoodhayfete.org.uk)

**St Thomas' Handbell Ringers** . . . . .Nicole Bentham . . . . . 255582

**Woolton Hill & District Gardeners' Club** . . . . . Nick Harcourt . . . . . 253546

**Woolton Hill Argyle Football Club.** . . . . Jon Dennis . . . . [money.whafc@gmail.com](mailto:money.whafc@gmail.com)

**Woolton Hill Brownies** . . . . contact Maggie Russell - [2whbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:2whbrownies@gmail.com)

**Woolton Hill Church Hall.** . . . . . 253546

Nick Harcourt, Charnwood Cottage, Broadlayings

[wooltonhillhallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:wooltonhillhallbookings@gmail.com) . . . . . 07971 064087

**Woolton Hill Pre-School** . . . . .Nicola Logan . . . . . 254721

**Woolton Hill Sports Club (tennis, table tennis)** Alison Whitehorn . . . . 254391

**Woolton Hill Village Market** . . . . .Claire and Sally

[www.whvm.co](http://www.whvm.co) [whvmarket@gmail.com](mailto:whvmarket@gmail.com)

**Woolton Hill Website.** . . . . .Contact: Mark Rand . . . . . 250898

[www.WooltonHill.com](http://www.WooltonHill.com) [eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com](mailto:eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com)

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