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## Editorial

$S$0 another year has gone and here I am back in the Spectrum driving seat. Firstly, I would like to thanks all those readers who have made the effort to send in so many interesting items and making the work of an editor so much easier. It is lovely to see children getting involved as well as our old regulars, that is old as in long time contributors, not age! Keep sending thing in, please. We have
 received some lovely compliments from readers, so your efforts are appreciated.

I have also been so touched by the support, kindness and offers of help from friends and neighbours during, what has for me and mine, been a very difficult and worrying time without the extra problems of Covid. With all the instructions to stay at home, I have found myself driving to and from various
 hospitals far too often but hopefully not so much in the future. I have also learned a lot of medical terms I really didn't want to know. So many thanks to good friends and neighbours.

So for some folks, this last year has seen a new interest in growing vegetables and a resurgence of the love of jigsaws. I admit to doing both and have done for many years. Puzzles have been shared with many friends and with both our sons who were brought up with the family tradition. Unfortunately, neither son has taken to growing vegetables....yet. I am working on it! They do both go out walking which is another activity we have increased during lockdown but so many other pastimes have been cancelled. I do so miss my dancing and badminton!

Still things are looking brighter as long as we continue to be careful.

## Editor for May \& June:

Mary Gulliver,
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## From The Archives

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N THE Churchyard, not far from the present West door, there once stood a curious and ornate little tower which was demolished during Mr.Utterton's incumbency. This was originally built to hold the remains of John Frederick Winterbottom (who built Tile Barn). For some reason it was never used for this purpose, and he was laid, instead, in the family vault.

I remember, as a small boy, exploring this tower and entering a little room which was used for storing Sexton's tools and the like. From the roof space came the hum of innumerable bees, of which there must have been many swarms. Probably they were attracted there by the sound of the bells on Sunday. Anyway, they were quite inaccessible, and no one could take them.

The Winterbottom vault was, and still is, in the centre of the Churchyard Originally it could be distinguished by two massive iron trap-doors centrally padlocked. At some time in recent years the burial chamber was broken into by children, and damage done to the lead coffins. As a result the place, under the direction of Mr.J.E.Head, was cemented up and sealed for ever. Its position now is merely marked by four corner stones-once part of the little tower.

From Memories of St.Thomas' Church_by Mr.Guy Graham, published in St.Thomas' church magazine, March 1959.


The Winterbottom 'tower' was designed by Pugin at the behest of Baroness Weld, widow of J.F.Winterbottom. It was built in 1871 and demolished in 1931. A copy of the architect's drawings and this photograph of the building are displayed on the history board at the back of the church. During lockdown the church is open from 10-4 on Sundays.


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## East Woodhay Parish Council <br> 

s I WRITE this we have news of our slow release from the stringent anti-Covid measures introduced by the Government. Hopefully this may accelerate before too long and we can resume living normally without fear.

I have just had a look at the interactive map provided by the Office for National Statistics. This shows that our area, which runs from North End in the west to Bishop's Green in the east and as far south as Dunley, suffered just 5 deaths from Covid throughout the period starting March 2020 to present day and 4 of these were in Jan 2021. I found this surprising but these are official figures and not something made up on Facebook so should be true.

The PC has been discussing whether we should update our logo but we are reluctant to spend public money on something that will bring no obvious benefit to the public. Now among the community in general there will probably be people with a talent for design who may care to produce a new design for the logo at no charge to the council so if anyone has a bright new design for the EWPC logo they should contact the Clerk to the council. If a number of designs are submitted then the council will review them and make a choice if one is deemed suitable. The only reward for the effort will be recognition and thanks. So all you budding designers on your marks, go!

Latest news from Government says that Council elections will take
place this May and we will be voting for the first time in our new constituency Evingar. This will involve Hampshire CC and Basingstoke and Deane council.

A special plea to cyclists. Many people walking along our lanes often have to move out further into the road when confronted with potholes and while they are aware of motorised traffic approaching them from behind they do not hear cyclists unless the cyclists ring a bell or shout a warning This has caused some near misses. Please give warning to pedestrians as is your legal obligation.

We recently received a charming letter from one of our junior parishioners as shown in the photograph. It is reassuring that the young are thinking of their future and the importance of our countryside. EWPC is keen maintaining the health and longevity of our trees and regular health checks and pruning are part of this essential care. We are lucky to be living in a beautiful area but it needs to be kept that way by us picking up our litter and any dog mess we generate.

The spring equinox is upon us and we enter that half of the year when the light of day is greater than the dark of the night. This will give more time to trim back any hedges that may start growing out into the pavement areas. Enjoy the spring season.

Phil


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## KINTBURY BOWLS CLUB

## Woolton Hill \& District Gardeners' Club

The new season is about to start. If you are fed up being stuck indoors then why not join us at Kintbury Bowls Club on Mondays and Thursdays at 6pm for a 6.15 start.

## The season begins on $19^{\text {th }}$ April.

The Bowling Club is behind the Jubilee Centre, Inkpen Road, Kintbury. If you require further details contact Alan Pettitt: 01488658246

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- +HE gardening club members really look forward to our monthly meetings on Zoom and there was great excitement as we all logged-in just before 8 pm on the last Thursday in February for a talk on Topiary by Darren Lerigo of 'Modern Mint'. Many thanks to Mary and Nick for hosting the meeting and to Keith for liaising with Darren.

Darren began the meeting with a quick quiz question, to which we responded by showing a 'thumbs-up' for the correct answer. I wonder if you can answer correctly? Question: "Which of these is NOT an essential tool for topiary? Is it shears, wire, olive oil or a hedge trimmer?" Starting the evening with a question was a bit of a surprise for our members, but we valiantly joined in, with many of us answering "hedge trimmer", thinking this would be an unlikely tool for a professional topiarist, but we were wrong. The correct answer was 'wire' because a wire framework can be replaced by string which will not damage expensive equipment. Darren had recently been working in the largest topiary garden in Henley

work out to whom this garden belonged and I think I might know! We discovered that the most useful attribute
for a topiary plant is the ability to sprout, although fragrant leaves and flowers can add to the experience of the person doing the clipping. One of Darren's early experiences involved clipping a ceanothus to the base of the plant and this proved to be a big mistake as ceanothus doesn't 'sprout'. A fairly slow growth habit is an additional attribute as this means the pruning or clipping only has to be carried out once a year. Boxwood and Yew are good examples of this and both have quite small, shiny leaves which reflect light into the garden. Darren reassured us that box blight is not a really serious problem, but that we should look out for the boxwood moth and caterpillar. These have been spotted at Boxhill in Surrey, not a great distance from here. A really useful tip was a reminder to put a sheet down to catch your clippings before you get the shears out. I hadn't expected to find this topic fascinating. But it was and Darren proved to be a really entertaining speaker. Thank you, Darren. We loved your talk. Lorna Rains

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## Woolton Hill Junior School

## Book Week

This week was book week! On Monday we were reading a book called The Tin Forest. We had to draw an animal that we thought would be in the Tin Forest, so I drew a tin toucan. On Friday was World Book Day so we all dressed up (if we wanted to) as our favourite book characters. We suggested the book and what it was about the day before. The teachers also dressed up as characters, some of my favourite were Mrs Stickland she was the BFG (big friendly giant) and Mrs Johnstone was Rita Skeeter from Harry Potter. We also had masked readers throughout the week. The masked reader was one of the teachers reading a book but with a voice filter and a background/mask. Also, some of the parents of students were reading a book to us each afternoon. Thank you for reading! Stay safe! Daisy Humphrey.

Last week was Book Week in school, we normally have lots of Book themed activities but as we are still doing online lessons from home then it was a bit different this year but still fun.

Each day the school uploaded a different video of one of the parents reading a story, normally parents would come in and we would have a Reading cafe where they would read with us. I enjoyed the different stories and it was nice to see friends parents on their videos. My mum did a video of her reading a story which was really nice as she can't normally come to the reading cafe's as she works in another school.

The Teachers did a quiz called The Masked Reader where a different teacher read something and their faces and voices were disguised and we had to guess which teacher it was, we will find out next week if we got them right.

They also did a video where all the teachers read a page of a story and edited it all together which I enjoyed.

The best part of the week was on Friday where we dressed up for World Book Day as a character from a book. I dressed up as evil Count Olaf from The Series of Unfortunate Events and all the teachers dressed up too. We all showed our costumes on a class video call and explained what book it was from.
Here is a Book Week Joke for you.
Why are frogs not allowed in the library?
Because all they do is shout 'Reddit, reddit, reddit'!
I hope you are all enjoying the sunny weather as much as I am. Stay Safe,

Solly.


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## Local Walks

With the weather starting to warm up it is a great opportunity to enjoy the local area.

East Woodhay Society have produced a number of local walks, and these are posted on our local website under www.wooltonhill.com/footpaths-walks. We are regularly adding new walks for people to try.

There is also a handy map of local footpaths and bridleways in the area, which will help you create your own favourite walk.

Do share any walk you have created with us and we will put it on the website, and it will help others to enjoy our countryside.

Here is a photo taken recently of the view up to the Downs, near East Woodhay.

Please keep looking at the website www.wooltonhill.com where we publish additional local news including the latest Covid information and the number of local infection cases

It is now over a year since we first started sending out our regular 'Coronavirus Newsletters', and we hope these have provide you with information on the latest rules/guidelines as well as local information. We are always looking for local photos which we can include in these newsletters; please do send them and our email address is below. These help to brighten up the news as we look forward to the time when we can all meet up again.

Mark Rand - Chair EWS
Email - eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com Website: www.wooltonhill.com Telephone-250898



The Rectory, Woolton Hil
Dear Friends,
This year April begins with the Easter Festival, when Christian folk all around the world rejoice in the new life and hope offered by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As spring gets underway, we also see the beauty of new life and growth emerging in our gardens and in the landscape around us

April 2021 is rather different to April 2020. Last year we were contemplating many more weeks of lockdown with so many uncertainties. This year we are beginning to navigate our way along the road map out of the current lockdown. Whilst uncertainties continue, the roll out of the vaccination programme is giving hope - but do we feel more hopeful? Some do, but many of us are very tired, who would have thought staying at home so much could be so tiring, but it is! Some may be wondering if they can muster up enough energy to engage once more in life which, all being well, may look more as it used to later this summer. Some are worried whether there will be future employment for them. Many are simply looking forward to being able to hug all their loved ones once again.

One thing is for sure, current concerns about the state of the nation's mental health are real. None of us should pretend to be fine if things are getting us down. We need to be kind to ourselves and to each other. It will take time to readjust. The Gospels tell us it took the disciples time to get used first of all to the news of Jesus' dreadful death and then, on the third day following, that he had risen to new life. They were on an emotional roller coaster with these events happening around them. They gathered together for support, comfort and reassurance and, so together, they experienced the hope and joy of new life in Christ

We need each other, just as those early disciples needed each other. As light and hope are renewed this month take a few moments to chat about how you are feeling with someone you trust, and make a few moments to ask a friend or neighbour how they are getting on and really listen to their answer. Let us be light and hope to one another and let us find our way forward together.

May the light and peace of the risen Christ be with you all,
with every blessing,
Canon Christine

| Register entries for April 2021 magazine From the Church Registers: February 2021 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Funeral: may they rest in peace |  |  |  |
| 5th February | Michael George Collins |  | Highclere |
| 11th February | Susan Yvonne Halewood | Woolton Hill (West Berkshire Crematorium) |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 18th February | Colleen May Harvey |  | Woolton Hill |
|  |  | (Wes | Crematorium) |
| 23rd February | Mavis Eileen Gomm | (Wes | Woolton Hill Crematorium) |

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## Church Services APRIL 2021

A note about worship: during April we are re-introducing some services in church as well as continuing with some online (zoom) services. If you would like details about the online services, please ask to join the Rector's regular e-mail update for details by sending your e-mail to coordinator.nwhb@outlook.com. Please note that worship in church continues to be subject to current restrictions. Wearing a face covering and keeping social distance in church is mandatory.
All our churches are open for private prayer on Sundays. Whether online or in church, most importantly our prayer continues... everyone is welcome... please join us!

| THURS $\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ <br> Maundy Thursday | Holy Communion of the Last Supper | Online 'zoom' | 8.00pm |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FRI $2^{\text {nd }}$ <br> Good Friday | At the Foot of the Cross At the Foot of the Cross | Highclere East Woodhay | $\begin{array}{r} \text { 11.00am } \\ \text { 2.30pm } \end{array}$ |
| SUN $4^{\text {th }}$ <br> Easter Sunday | Easter Communion <br> Festival Communion <br> Easter Communion <br> Easter Communion | East Woodhay Online 'zoom' Woolton Hill Highclere | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 8.00 \mathrm{am} \\ 9.30 \mathrm{am} \\ 9.30 \mathrm{am} \\ 11.00 \mathrm{am} \end{array}$ |
| $\text { SUN } 11^{\text {th }}$ <br> Easter 2 | Parish Communion Morning Worship Evensong | Woolton Hill Online 'zoom Ashmansworth | $\begin{array}{r} 9.30 \mathrm{am} \\ 11.00 \mathrm{am} \\ 6.00 \mathrm{pm} \end{array}$ |
| $\text { SUN } 18^{\text {th }}$ <br> Easter 3 | Morning Worship Parish Communion Evensong | Online 'zoom' Highclere Crux Easton | 9.30am <br> 11.00am <br> 6.00pm |
| $\text { SUN } 25^{\text {th }}$ <br> Easter 4 | Benefice Communion Evensong | Online 'zoom' East Woodhay | 10.00am 6.00 pm <br> 6.00pm |
| WED $\mathbf{7}^{\text {th }}, \mathbf{1 4}^{\text {th }}, \mathbf{2 1}^{\text {st }} \& \mathbf{2 8}^{\text {th }}$ Morning Prayer 10.00 am online 'zoom' |  |  |  |
| Rector: Revd Canon Christine Dale (Rest day: Friday) <br> The Rectory, The Mount, Woolton Hill, Newbury RG20 9QZ 253323 <br> Associate Priest: Revd Canon Marvin Bamforth 254718 |  |  |  |



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## Letters to the Editor

## Letter to our Chairman

I'm not sure if I've said this before, but it's certainly worth saying again. I just wanted to congratulate the whole team on making Spectrum such an interesting and upbeat read over the past 12 months of lockdown. The standard and variety of the content have been excellent and provided a real focus for the whole community in what has been such a bleak time. Well done all, and please keep up the splendid work.

All the best
Nicole Bentham
Thank you, Nicole, for your kind words

## Rubbish

During the third lockdown I have taken to walking each day for my permitted exercise the route along Woolton Hill Road turning right into Tile Barn Row past the Stud to the T junction turning right on to Ball Hill Road over the county boundary bridge, where the road becomes Enbourne Row then turning right to pass by the car park entrance to The Chase via Station Road then continuing to the left towards the Rampant Cat in Broadlayings back to our home. This is a distance of approximately 3.6 miles of glorious countryside.

I often reflected on how fortunate we were to live in such a splendid area. Then I began to notice the litter on the roadside as I left the confines of Woolton Hill where the Local Council collect litter. Paper, cans, bottles and plastic discarded without thought. So I decided that rather than just get frustrated and cross, perhaps I should do something practical. We have a litter pick up stick so I started to collect the rubbish. In three days I filled up seven bags. On one day there were five wine bottles on another collected fifty six metal drink cans. Another day the bags got so heavy I had to leave one by the roadside and return in the car to collect it. None of this rubbish fell from the sky or was left by animals or grew there. It has to be have been discarded by us humans.

Who are these people who have such a blatant disregard for our countryside? Why do they do it? How do you stop it? Answers to the Editor, for next month please.

Roger Boys.



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## St Thomas' Church Fete

We are sorry to have to inform you that we will not be holding the Church fete on 3rd July this year - the decision has been taken due to the current restrictions and the easing of lockdown. However, all is not lost, we will be holding in the church grounds our very popular plant stall, cake stall plus a few ideas still in the melting pot. So please put 3rd July 2pm in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there.

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## East Woodhay Women's Institute

The early fledglings hop around the garden looking for morsels to eat. Their parents show the way and then watch

from a distance ready to distract any overhead raptures like the sparrowhawk, kestrel or owl who with beady eyes are looking for their prey. On the ground the most common enemy is the domesticated cat. The cat will stalk from his hiding place and pounce on the unsuspecting victim. A natural phenomenon for the cat but distress for the birds and humans witnessing this scene. Roaming domestic cats kill a staggering twenty-seven million birds in the UK over Spring and Summer each year. How can we help to reduce this number? Many Cats dislike the smell of strong citrus and will stay away from peel lying on the garden soil. Sprinkling brewed coffee grounds over the soil will also help. Cats tend to choose the same spot repeatedly so wash the area well with a hose or from the water butt to remove the scent. Try planting rue, lavender, pennyroyal and lemon thyme which cats reputedly hate. For your own cat have a litter tray indoors or place a small sandbox away from the birds feeding area amongst planted catnip, mint or honeysuckle as a peace offering Elasticated bell collars would act as a warning to the unsuspecting bird.

## The returning migratory birds we long to see In our gardens, hedgerows and shapely tree. <br> Already here the robin and blackbird nest

 In bowl or cup like shapes that have stood the test Of time for the pending brood of three to five Growing safely where they will surely thrive.The blue tits start nesting too in time for their Young to feast on tiny caterpillars aware That they will have also hatched on tiny leaves Before the arrival of the lazy cuckoo thieves. This bird will plunder a nest and oust an egg To make space for its own with the kick of a leg.

The swallow is the last to arrive with its forked tail To build a nest with mud and straw from the bale In a dish-shaped home for the eggs, glossy white. Soon they will hatch and fledge in broad daylight But will return to the nest before freedom they find Calling, swooping and circling in shapes well defined.

## Time, Gentlemen Please!

## Part 2

Last month I introduced you to East Woodhay's Public Houses and the families who ran them. What role did they play in village life?

All the pubs performed a variety of functions. As well as casual drinking customers, they also provided accommodation for travellers and hosted meetings and dinners. The Plough is mentioned most often in the newspaper accounts for laying on this sort of 'do'. It had a clubroom for larger gatherings. Mr Jacobs, the landlord, is recorded as providing, "a bountiful spread on the table" for over 30 members of the East Woodhay Band and friends in 1891.

On Easter Monday 1849, The Horse and Groom in East End was the venue for a donkey race with a new bridle as first prize; blind fold running races and a covered-in 'four corner ground' was laid out. (Four Corner was a type of skittle game.)

The pubs were frequently used for auctions. The items sold included houses, farms and their equipment. Above all, the auctions were of timber. This auction is typical and was held at The Axe and Compasses in 1849: "sale of timber - 300 fine oak trees from Burleywood estate, auctioneer Alexander Davis". The quantity of timber auctioned year after year is astounding

In the first half of the 19th century beer houses and pubs were often seen by the authorities as centres of unrest. This was especially the case during the Swing Riots of 1830 when the East Woodhay men first gathered at The Axe and Compasses before marching around the village at midnight, demanding money from the local gentry. In 1890 a local farm labourer was charged with disorderly conduct having refused to quit The Sun; he also assaulted a servant, "during a skirmish which followed an attempt of his to enter the house by the cellar".

The magistrates were always keen to use their licensing powers to keep crime and disorder under control. The landlords of The Sun and The Fox beer house were charged with selling beer out of hours in 1856. In 1883 the granting of The Axe and Compasses' new licence was adjourned because of complaints about the house not being properly conducted and its landlord, Case Pickernel, was cautioned.

In 1890 the chairman of the Kingsclere magistrates complained that there were too many public houses in East Woodhay, relative to the population. They noted that the population of East Woodhay was 1,527 which gave a proportion of pubs to population of 1:69. There were five fully licensed houses and four beer houses in the parish. This was a much higher proportion than in Kingsclere or Whitchurch. How different from today!

The story of the parish pubs, like that of the post offices, reminds us of how self-sufficient our communities were in the years before the widespread ownership of private cars. The old newspaper accounts give us glimpses of the people who ran the pubs and the life that revolved around them; but only a glimpse.

## Val Pollitt

Many thanks to Norman Powers and Chris Dalton for additional research


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## Tim Escudier Update.

Back in March 2020, we included an article about Tim and had his photo on our front cover and thought are readers might like to know how he is getting on.

He completed the Hampton Court Half Marathon on 15th March-one week before the lockdown in 2 hours 9 minutes with a calf strain early on. He has tried to keep training through lockdown but kept picking up calf niggles. On marathon day 26th April he went for a 26 mile bike ride and managed to get a surge in his fund raising of $£ 500$ on the day (calf injury prevented him from doing any running). Since then training has fallen off the cliff (his words) and he has found himself losing the motivation to run so he played lots of golf (badly) through the summer instead!

However, a few weeks ago he got the urge to start running againAlthough he was doing 18 mile runs leading up to the marathon, that fitness and endurance had gone so it was back to basics and build up slowly. As he says, "It's great to be back out on the roads around here-once you get off the main road, the lanes are so quiet and beautiful to run-and it's great to have the company of my daughter."

Good news, he heard last week that the RNIB have put him into their team for the October 3rd 2021 London marathon and that has really got his motivation back.

Much more time to build up so he is planning on consolidating by regularly running 10-15k during the winter and building core and leg strength with gym work and then start focusing his training from spring toward the autumn marathon. Excited and motivated by the challenge again and hoping to be up to it although 18 months older!!

It's great to see so many more people out running- all shapes and sizes and enjoying this great area where we live. The lockdown has clearly had some positive impact. Tim had to increase his target for fund raising to $£ 3000$ as the RNIB, as with all charities, depend on these events, and 2020 was really hard for the charity. Tim is $50 \%$ the way there and hopes the target is obtained and even exceeded to help the people who depend on the RNIB.

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Across

1. Teaset carefully put on display at Downton Abbey for example (6)
2. Turn ankle in local shop, painful, but no bones broken (6)
3. Expensive, but falling sharply (5)
4. Trot round to the East for sweet dessert (5)
5. Small part came to nothing (5)
6. To give minion a boat is a despicable act (11)
7. Something tells me lilac could be Miss Black's favourite colour (5)
8. In boom, fifty would come out (5)
9. Cowboy rode to the ring for exhibition (5)
10. Through eating this, aristocrat ended up extra wide (6)
11. Earnest expression of thanks lost in respray Erica had done (6)

## Down

1. A teaser for spring (6)
2. Receiving gift, had wobble when I saw who it was from $(3,3,3,4)$
3. How to pick endless subject of conversation (5)
4. First class pot being stirred on the terrace (5)
5. I feel silly today because Sally paid for nothing! $(5,5,3)$
6. Annoy someone with the end of a syringe (6)
7. Come on, clamp is ridiculous, even though not unusual (11)
8. Strange bar, bit of chat, and in comes a bunny (6)
9. Part of Devon and Somerset used to be uncultivated upland (6)
10. Company receives MBE in small valley (5)
11. I join rear of clothes horse (5)

## National Women's Register

UR February Zoom meetings took on a different flavour with a sharing of favourite books and a game of Scattergories.

What would we have done without books during the last difficult year? Many of us have spent hours being entertained, instructed and educated by books and Kindles.

After a brief history of the evolution of books, we each gave a review of books we are currently reading and had taken our fancy.

The books varied widely from "The Day of Joy" by the $14^{\text {th }}$ Dal Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams, to the "Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. This turned out to be a 'marmite read' with some loving it and others not quite so sure

One poetry book, 'Ironing with Sue Lawley' was selected following an interview by the poet Pauline Prior-Pitt on an NWR zoom meeting in February in which she talked abou her life and read some of her poems. These come from everyday thoughts
about daily tasks as they are carried out. In the title poem she questions the choice of music and luxuries made by the guests on Desert Island Discs as she irons.

By the end of our Zoom session, we had a list of thirty books, all in some way meaningful to the reviewer.


Playing Scattergories was a great hit and is a game that lends itself well to Zoom. If you are not familiar with the game, the aim is to find as many words linked to a given list provided, beginning with a selected letter. Players score points by finding words not chosen by others. Lists of categories are readily available, together with a random letter selector online. Some letters, such as U really challenged those little grey cells and one-liner jokes in between rounds made us smile.

Zoom has enabled us to get to know each other better and share a laugh or two. We can't wait to be able to meet in a group of 6 and see each other face to face soon.

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## East Woodhay Parish Council continued

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