

January 2022

50p

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Editorial



Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and managed to enjoy a relaxing break. As I'm writing this (from my kitchen with a cup of tea and a slice of homemade Christmas cake) the Covid cases are rising and the new Omicron variant has sent a new wave of worry amongst us all. Therefore, when I say 'relaxing' break, I do hope that when you read this many of your Christmases could feel a bit more normal this year and families were able to reunite.

Since joining Spectrum I've collaborated with St Thomas' Infant School for the January issue offering the opportunity for pupils to draw a picture with a chance to be featured on the front cover. This year we asked the children to draw a memory from 2021. The children's artistic talents have amazed the Spectrum team yet again and brought huge smiles to our faces – we hope they will to yours too!

You would've seen the wonderful Harper's drawing on the front cover of her having fun in the rain with a friend. Our 'runners up' it seems had fun adventures last year too – motorcross racing, horse riding and walks with family. How exciting. It always reminds Sarah (Co-Editor) and I that despite living in 'uncertain' times, many children are still embracing life and seeing the best in everything. They really are something, aren't they!

If you'd like to tell your own story or have something you'd like to share with our readers, please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

I hope you have a great start to the New Year. I think we all put too much pressure on ourselves to 'make it the best year yet'. But I do find January much more content embracing each day as it comes and planning a few things to look forward to throughout the year.

See you next month.

Abbie

<https://www.wooltonhill.com/spectrum>

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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Life in the Parish over the past 100 years

This is a belated report from last October's talk given by the society's chairman, Norman Powers.

Norman looked at life in the parish over a period of 100 years that coincided with the Women's Institute's first century.

The many photos that he has amassed showed the wider variety of activities that went on in the village such as Ball Hill Dairy, Blacksmiths and a holiday camp. Many more pubs were evident around the parish but now we are down to just two.

Charabanc coach trips were also a highlight at that time plus the local railway station that meant you could travel down to Winchester and Southampton or up to Newbury and Didcot. It was also essential for the many goods that were transported as well, such as Marsh's coal. How useful that would be now!

Some of the large houses were shown at the talk and many of their occupants were very good to the village. Sir Frederick Carden, who lived at Stargroves, was frequently the official opener of many events. Others gave parcels of land for parish use such as the cricket ground and the Parish field near St Thomas'.

Norman also told us about the various churches and chapels as well as St Martin's School and its earlier

history. One story was about one headteacher who had to go around North End with a wheelbarrow to get enough coal to heat the school. Educational funding issues are not new!

More exceptional events were also covered such as the Heinkel that crashed in Fullers Lane during WW2. The tail is in a museum at Littlecote and a machine gun is still meant to be around somewhere in the village.

It proved very interesting to compare the parts of the village shown on the screen with how they are now. That led to a short discussion on road names which have changed or disappeared over the years.

We must be very grateful to Norman for collecting all this information and if anyone has any old photos or documents that could add to that collection then we would love to hear from you.

Before Covid-19 the Society was starting to organise a permanent archive at the Village Hall but, obviously, that has been put on hold but will be something we will return to soon. The Society did produce a book in 2000 on the history of the parish and copies are still available, priced £5. Please contact me on:

chrissie.dalton@yahoo.co.uk or
07880 628 114.

Chris Dalton (Secretary)



EWLHS Notices

The programme for the rest of the season is as follows (*please note some changes to the original list*):

All start at 8pm in the Village Hall at Heath End.

Monday 17th January 2022: Dan Allen on 'Women at War'.

Monday 21st February 2022: AGM and Members' Ten-Minute Talks.

Monday 21st March 2022: Mike Robinson on 'A Brief History of Farming'.

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Comfort Food

Why do I like chocolate? I know it's bad for me.
 But now that we're in Winter, it cheers me up you see!
 So where's that box of chocolates? – I'll just eat one or two,
 But when I open up the lid I see there's very few.

It seems I've eaten all the cakes, my stash of comfort food.
 Those brownies, sponges, choc rolls, – all tasted really good!
 The waistline's larger – that's a shock, I must resist these treats
 And concentrate on eating fruit but that might be for weeks!

An alcoholic substitute? To while away the time.
 The evenings would be pleasant with a glass of port or wine.
 With visions of more chocolate always floating in my head.
 I raise my glass and wish you all a happy year ahead.

Poem by Moyra Harkness





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Woodhay Walkers

We are pleased to revamp our Friday walks which will not just be focused on people recovering their health, but we will be putting an extra emphasis on enjoying the countryside and life too. Consequently, rather than being under the 'Walking for Health' umbrella, we will now be called 'Woodhay Walkers' which will be run by the East Woodhay Society.



The walks will be held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays of the month and will start at 10.30am from the Church Hall car park.

The walk on 7th January will be around three miles lasting approximately one hour. The walk on 21st January will be around four miles and last approximately 90 minutes.

East Woodhay Society AGM

Thanks to members for attending the East Woodhay Society AGM on 17th November by Zoom. EWS have been so pleased to have partnered with Young People & Children First for the past two years. YP&CF now have a 3rd house, specifically for 'moving on' young people who are transitioning from the fully supported houses, but still need a bit of help and guidance. The house has now been kitted out beautifully with donated furniture and furnishings.

Following a vote between charities serving the local area, Growing2gether was voted as being the charity to support in 2022.

More information will be written over the coming months but Growing2gether functions primarily as a horticultural therapy and environmental education centre for adults and young people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and mental health issues. It also functions as a food-growing hub for all members of the local community, but in particular children. It is felt there is a great alignment with so many gardeners locally.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 28th – 30th January 2022



As in previous years we will be joining with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch that takes place on 28th – 30th January 2022. Each year half a million people take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. 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 continued their number 1 position but only just ahead of the Blue Tit.

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

Covid-19 update

At the time of writing, local Covid-19 numbers continue to be high and all the latest statistics together with a graph showing the numbers over time are shown on www.wooltonhill.com. This is updated weekly.

EWS Membership

If you are supportive of what East Woodhay Society is doing and would like to be included in a regular newsletter on local matters, then please join and become a member. Membership is now open for 2022 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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Dear friends,

I am writing this letter before we even begin December but hopeful that in spite of great concern over COVID cases, and news of another variant of the virus being a threat, our Christmas church services, gatherings, and celebrations will have taken place; and we will have had an enjoyable Festive Season hoping that all of us will be more aware of the real 'reason for this season'!

Writing a January letter for our local magazine so far ahead is potentially fraught with difficulties and so I wrestled with the question "where can I find some inspiration so as to avoid falling into the trap of resorting to vacuous New Year platitudes?" The answer came in a four-letter word which I recalled reading on a Border Regiment Chapel memorial in a Cumbrian parish church during our August holiday in the Lake District – HOPE. According to writer Alexander Pope: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast".

Author John C Maxwell noted that "Where there is no hope for the future there is no power in the present". Experience teaches me that without hope there is despair, without hope it is very hard, if not impossible, to see a way forward.

By any review of 2021 it was a challenging year for everyone. But there were some signs of hope. In meeting the challenge of COVID now and in the future, global cooperation in the production of vaccines is proving to be a vital key to our learning to live with Coronavirus just as we live with other respiratory illnesses. Some people are choosing to remain unvaccinated which can lead to others becoming very ill; our son tells us that some people on London public transport are not following the requirement to wear a face-covering – so some people are being irresponsible and selfish – thankfully most people do care about others and have shown this over the past two years.

Our national economy seems to be recovering from the impact of several lockdowns – although inflation will badly affect many households. Following the gathering of world leaders for the COP 26 climate conference in Glasgow in November, there seems to be a growing awareness that determined international cooperation is the only way to tackle the problems posed by global warming. There are, as we all know, many challenges to be faced in our country and across our world, but, by and large, the response to the pandemic has shown that when we realise our common humanity, combine that with a choice to view our differences as enriching, cooperate rather than be divisive and work together for the common good and the flourishing of everyone, then there is hope!

To all readers and local people my hope is for everyone to have a Happy New Year!

Canon Marvin.

From the Church Registers: November 2021

Funeral: may she rest in peace

2nd November Eileen Joan Cox East Woodhay

Burial of ashes: may he rest in peace

18th November Donald Mitchell East Woodhay

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SUN 9th <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	Holy Communion Parish Communion Matins Holy Communion	East Woodhay Woolton Hill Highclere Ashmansworth	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am
SUN 16th <i>Epiphany 2</i>	Morning Worship Matins Parish Communion Evensong	Woolton Hill East Woodhay Highclere Crux Easton	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm
SUN 23rd <i>Epiphany 3</i>	Holy Communion Parish Communion Messy Church Matins Baptism Evensong	Highclere Woolton Hill Ashmansworth Crux Easton Highclere East Woodhay	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 12noon 6.00pm
SUN 30th <i>Presentation of Christ</i>	Benefice Communion Baptism	Highclere Highclere	10.00am 12noon
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St. Thomas' Infant School

St. Thomas' Infant School



St Thomas' children's memories from 2021


As mentioned in the Editor's Letter, the editorial team asked the children of St Thomas' to design the front cover for the January issue. The brief? A memory from 2021.

The very talented Harper (whose picture you'll find on the front cover) wowed us with her very colourful memory of having fun with her friend in the rain. However, there were so many other wonderful drawings that we had to share them with you. Prepare to be amazed by the artistic talents of Freddy, Immy, Sienna, and Oliver.




 **Immy, aged 6, ice skating with her friends.**




 **Sienna, aged 6, having fun horse riding.**



Oliver, aged 7, walking with his family.




Freddy, aged 7, taking part in a motorcross race!






Medical breakthroughs since the 17th century

Our first topic in November was Medical Breakthroughs of which there have been many over the centuries.

William Harvey was our first pioneer. In the early 17th century he discovered the circulation of the blood and worked out that it flowed from the heart to the lungs via arteries and veins.

Between the 1700s and 1900s a vaccine to eradicate smallpox was discovered, anaesthesia was developing apace leading to the manufacture of chloroform (imagine basic dentistry or surgery without it!) and scientists found that specialist cells in the pancreas secrete insulin which regulates blood sugars. We now have synthetic insulin.



In 1900 Paul Ehrlich's work on pathogens led to the discovery of two drugs active against syphilis. This was a common and devastating disease of that era. He coined the

term 'chemotherapy' and developed drugs which killed the pathogens and not the patient.

The bacteriologist Alexander Fleming identified a mould belonging to the genus *Penicillium*. Collaboration by scientists and the industry resulted in the widespread manufacture of penicillin by the 1940s.

World War II was a catalyst for many scientific breakthroughs. Plastic surgery and treatment for burns victims was revolutionised.

By the 1960s transplantation of organs and tissue and kidney dialysis were becoming regular medical procedures. If a donor kidney is not available, dialysis is a life saver.

The contraceptive pill was also becoming widely available. To date, cochlear implants and tiny battery-powered hearing aids have come a long way from the simple but large ear trumpet.

Advances in the treatment of cystic fibrosis have enhanced and lengthened the lives of sufferers of this genetic disease.

Typically, just one downside of this progress is the carbon footprint of the NHS. This accounts for 5% of UK's greenhouse gases by inhalers, blister packs and some drugs. According to this article, it won't be long before some brilliant scientists have a solution.

A fascinating and informative evening!

The Annual Treasure Trail

The annual Treasure Trail was our second meeting. It is never easy but we enjoy it. Firstly we are given two cryptic clues before the meeting starts. We must phone through our answers (if we have any) to get the next clue. There is a strict time limit - no pressure then! Sadly, we didn't win as we were stumped by two clues.

Better luck for us next year.

The theme for the treasure trail was BIRDS. Here are two examples:



Letter to the Editor

I thought that the picture of litter picker Daisy, on the front of the December issue of Spectrum, was delightful. Whilst our locality doesn't have a serious litter problem, it is heartening to see one so young being as intolerant as I am to any litter, however small it may be.

Keep up the good work, Daisy!

Graham Vane



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St Martin's link with Bukuya

For a number of years, St Martin's has had strong links with a school in Uganda. This link exists through the Winchester Diocese, and involves all the primary schools in Whitchurch Deanery, including the Church of England schools and these are all linked with Church of Uganda schools in the Mityana Diocese of Uganda (about 60 miles west of Kampala).

The school that we are linked with, Bukuya School, sits on a ridge mainly surrounded by a swamp. The local town, Mityana, is about 1.5 hour's drive away. The majority of the pupils that attend the school walk at least one mile to school and back each day. Some of them make this journey with no shoes on. Their school year runs from February until early December, therefore following the calendar year.

At St Martin's we love to learn about our companion school and understand what life is like for the children of Bukuya. Rev Dodie visits regularly to keep us updated about life in Bukuya and takes our news back to Uganda when she visits. There are many ways in which we are similar, for example we all love to sing, play football, and learn! There are also many ways in which we are different, such as some subjects we learn, the food we eat and the environment in which we learn.

Each year at St Martin's we hold a Uganda day. This involves the children dressing in black, yellow, or red, the colours of the Ugandan flag, and spending the day learning about the children at Bukuya School.

We have been involved in many fundraising activities and have been able to provide substantial support to Bukuya School. In the past, some staff from our school have visited Bukuya School, and vice versa. This has not been possible in recent years, but we hope that one day it will be again.

During lockdown, Rev Dodie made some virtual worship sessions for us to watch at home and continue to learn about the school and the struggles they have been facing during the past 18 months. Currently the school is still shut so pupils have had no access to education for nearly two years.

As well as learning from each other, at St Martin's it's important to us to think about other people and to help and support them where we can. We recently raised £1,500 for a new block of four latrines for Bukuya, which have now been built and are being used, not just by the school, but also by the church and the local community.

The fundraising is important for the school but just as important is the communication between the two schools and the information passed from one to the other and the Bukuya church link with St Martin's.

If you would like to find out more about St Martin's and the link with Bukuya then please visit the school website or contact the school office.

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Woolton Hill & District Gardeners' Club



'The Vegetable Garden at Malverleys' – a talk by Mat Reese

Whilst walking with friends and family along the road through East End, I have often been impressed by the quality of the produce on the vegetable cart outside Sungrove Farm, as I am sure many of you have also been. So, the opportunity to hear about how this happens is one I was looking forward to, especially as Mat was coming to the November meeting in person; our first speaker to do so since February 2020.



As Mat began speaking about the development of the garden at Malverleys, during the last ten years and about his previous position at Great Dixter, I began to realise that the role of a professional Head Gardener involves many disciplines – horticulturist, farmer, botanist, florist, carpenter, chef, teacher, and manager. For many of our members, these wide-ranging occupations are what keeps gardening fascinating!

Fruit and vegetables are grown inside the walled garden at Malverleys, as well as in the market garden at Sungrove Farm. The soil is kept

in tip-top condition by digging in well-rotted cow and sheep manure; many vegetables – brassicas (the cabbages and kales) and umbellifers (carrots, celeriac, parsnips and fennel) – are protected from pests with Enviromesh and seeds are given an early start using Jiffy pots, paper tubes and home-built cold frames. Carefully managed crop rotation also helps to keep the produce healthy and pest-free and, for those of us who grow our own food, the most important aspect of all – taste testing is given a high priority!



Now, just a few little comments from Mat's talk.

- Sow onion seeds on Christmas day for the largest prize-winning onions at East End Show.
- If your parsnips don't germinate, it will probably be the seeds!
- Ask your supermarket why their lettuces do not have slugs in.
- Collecting your own seeds from summer squash could lead to a visit to the doctor the following summer!

Thank you Mat for a most interesting talk. We are all looking forward to the next Open Day and the return of the Veg Truck.

Lorna Rains

Woolton Hill & District Gardeners' Club

Notice from Woolton Hill and District's Gardeners Club

All meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at Woolton Hill Church Hall at 8pm. New members welcome.

Dates and speakers for the beginning of 2022 are:

27 January – Ray Broughton: Wildflower Gardening

24 February – Tim Woodland: How and when to plant bulbs

24 March – Timothy Walker: What have plants ever done for us?



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Last Word



It's hard to believe another year has been and gone. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing the Last Word for the January 2021 edition. And yet, here Abbie and I are again, back for 2022!

I do hope all of you have had a great and festive Christmas, remaining healthy and happy. As Abbie has said, at the time of writing, Covid seems to be rearing its head again, but hopefully not in the way we have seen previously.

It's always nice to start the year off with some of the St Thomas' children's pictures. We loved seeing what their favourite memories of 2021 have been. As usual, these pictures bring colour and joy to what can sometimes be a bit of a gloomy month. Rainbows are still a big feature in them! The children's positivity and zest for life are an inspiration to us all.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year. We have a lot to look forward to in 2022!

See you next month.

Sarah

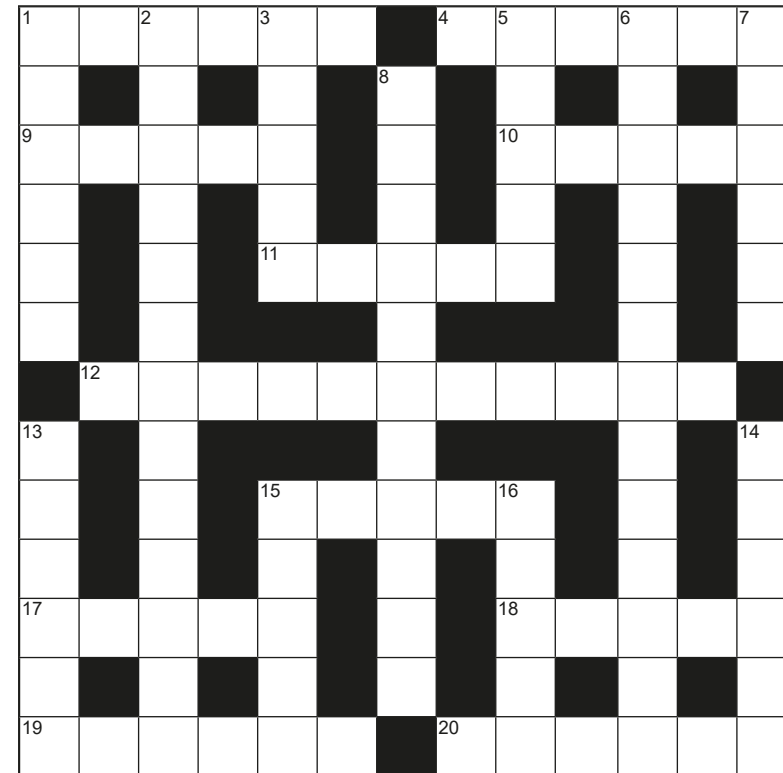
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Answers crossword no 226
Across: 1 Turkey, 4 Candle, 9 Sedge, 10 Orbit, 11 Talon, 12 Sleighbells, 15 Ruler, 17 Event, 18 Batch, 19 Tattoo, 20 Snored
Down: 1 Tassel, 2 Redevelopment, 3 Elect, 5 Adorn, 6 Debt collector, 7 Eatery, 8 Smallholder, 13 Advent, 14 Fished, 15 Ratio, 16 Robin

Across

1. List of actors the French might consider for chess move (6)
4. State of America sank as Dorothy searched for home (6)
9. Turns out snail is right at your finger tips (5)
10. Steel yourself against wintry weather appearing (5)
11. Avoid dealing with item of clothing (5)
12. Many found at New Year, but might not last (11)
15. Language used when each pays for their own dinner (5)
17. Roman god looking back and forth (5)
18. Amusing to see Roy in a different light when opposite meaning is revealed (5)
19. He is on an adventure to find where nose and forehead meet (6)
20. Must be present to see dent at all (6)

Down

1. Nancy found nothing in deep gorge (6)
2. Sends his plank off on long, thin legs (13)
3. Allows bottoms of boots to slip away (5)
5. This should be set as a valuable item (5)
6. Opens pint, and gets how to cross (13)
7. Runs at heavenly body, probably around the rings (6)
8. I tug a curler and I'm ready to farm (9)
13. Not the kind of horse you want! (6)
14. I fed Ray before he came apart at the seams (6)
15. So, CID had to join the dance? (5)
16. He is on time for robbery (5)

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