

Spectrum



50p January 2024



GOLD & GREY

15% OFF

CURTAINS
BLINDS
LOOSE COVERS
UPHOLSTERY

Until January 31st

Call **Linn** On **07795 247142**

Explore Our New Online Shop:

www.goldandgrey.uk/shop

City & Guilds
NPTC



greentips

TREE SURGERY

YOUR LOCAL TREE CARE SPECIALIST

•Fully Qualified and Insured

•Tree Surgery

•Planting•Pruning•Removals

•Hedge Cutting

•Stump Grinding

•Woodland Management

•Chip, Mulch & Logs for Sale

T: 01635 254712

M: 07903 259973

www.greentipsuk.com

Editorial

January can be a tough month. The festivities of Christmas and the New Year are over; family and friends have departed; the cold dank days are set to continue for weeks...But there are compensations to keep us cheerful! Here are a few:

The worst is over! The days are undeniably getting longer by a little every day – as the poet Shelley said, “If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”

What can be better on a dark afternoon than sitting in front of a cosy fire with a nice cup of tea and a piece of cake/crumpet/hot cross bun? A pleasure like this makes you want the winter days to last longer.

The long nights mean we can sleep without being disturbed by the sun piercing through the curtains or by the busy birds with their dawn chorus.

In winter the countryside has its own great beauty, and we in East Woodhay Parish are fortunate to live on the doorstep of some of the loveliest scenery you can find.

And there’s always Spectrum to browse. Inside its varied pages you can dream of installing new central heating, getting the dog groomed and your house repainted inside and out, doing Pilates, dancing, reading poetry with others, learning all the local news and much more...the huge range of events, services and activities on offer inside its covers are endlessly diverting on a winter’s day and a great reflection of our active community.

Rain, sleet, snow, cloud, and gloom may be encircling us at this time of year, but we at Spectrum wish all our readers the happiest possible New Year!

Denny & Denys

Editors for January, February & March 2024:

Denny & Denys Blakeway
email spectrumwh@outlook.com

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.

The contents of this magazine are protected by copyright and nothing may be reprinted without prior permission.

Hannington & Green Contracting offer a wide range of services in domestic, industrial and commercial installations of electrics, kitchens, bathrooms and office spaces, as well as property maintenance and building services.

- Electrical Installation
- Data Installation
- Solar PV
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Commercial Fit-Out
- Property Maintenance
- Building Services

All our services are available to domestic, commercial and industrial clients.



01635 285354



info@hanningtongreen.co.uk

www.hanningtongreen.co.uk



Fieldfare TREES & GARDENS

- Garden Maintenance
- Trees & Hedges
- Small Landscaping Projects

Call Matthew Butler :

07884 551 778

01635 226 429

fftrees.co.uk

matt@fftrees.co.uk

Diary of Events January 2024

Wednesday	3rd	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWHVH	7.30pm
Friday	5th	Woodhay Walkers	WHCH	10.30am
		Community Cafe	St. Thomas' Church	10.00-11.30am
Monday	8th	Beavers	EWHVH	5.30pm
Tuesday	9th	EW WI	EWHVH	2.30pm
		Cubs and Scouts	EWHVH	6.00pm, 7.30pm
Friday	12th	Woodhay Walkers	Royal Oak, Ecchinswell	10.30am
		Community Cafe	St. Thomas' Church	10.00-11.30am
Monday	15th	Beavers	EWHVH	5.30pm
		History Society AGM	EWHVH	8.00pm
Tuesday	16th	Arbor Flora	HVH	2.00pm
		Cubs and Scouts	EWHVH	6.00pm, 7.30pm
Wednesday	17th	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWHVH	7.30pm
Friday	19th	Woodhay Walkers	WHCH	10.30am
		Community Cafe	St. Thomas' Church	10.00-11.30am
Sunday	21st	WH Church Hall Open Afternoon	WHCH	3.00-5.00pm
Monday	22nd	Beavers	EWHVH	5.30pm
Tuesday	23rd	Cubs and Scouts	EWHVH	6.00pm, 7.30pm
Thursday	25th	Gardeners Club	WHCH	7.30pm
Friday	26th	Woodhay Walkers	Crown & Garter, Inkpen	10.30am
		Community Cafe	St. Thomas' Church	10.00-11.30am
Monday	29th	Beavers	EWHVH	5.30pm
		EW Parish Council	EWHVH	7.30pm
Tuesday	30th	Cubs and Scouts	EWHVH	6.00pm, 7.30pm

February 2024

Saturday	3rd	Trivial Pursuits	WHCH	7.15pm
----------	-----	------------------	------	--------

Notices

East Woodhay Artisans

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Coffee Morning on 18th November, we had a fantastic turnout. The St Martin's Guild Tea Team kept everyone going with their delicious refreshments, and altogether over £1400 was sent to the Guild to be used for local causes.

Jackie, Tricia, Anne, Norma and Pat.

A H Pet Services

Angela Hutchins, Hatt Common

Reliable, friendly care for all your animals,
experienced with dogs and horses



**Dog Walking and
Pop in daily care for all pets**

Fully insured, Dog first aid course
certificate
Individual service, only dogs from the
same household walked together

**Call or text Angie on
07733 298771**

THE HIGHCLERE
**RED
HOUSE**

**EAT IN OR
TAKEAWAY**



Full Menu & Pizza Menu
Tuesday - Saturday 12-9pm

01635 255 531

www.thehighclereredhouse.com

Sharon Stretton Designs

**Bespoke Soft Furnishings
& Interior Design**

- Curtains & Blinds
- Tracks & Poles
- Upholstery
- Mood Boards
- Fabrics & Trimmings
- Cushions & Headboards
- Bed Valances & Throws
- Fitting Service

Showroom:
Unit 5 New Mills Industrial Estate,
Post Office Road, Inkpen, Hungerford,
Berkshire, RG17 9PU
Tel: 01488 669267



East Woodhay Womens' Institute

Our November meeting, though low in numbers due to illness, was an entertaining talk on the 'Good Old Days' which reminded us of the lifestyle a long time ago.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

With her rose-tinted specs on, Gill Bentall presented with great hilarity details on food, school, toys, recreation, mending, bath time, shopping and church with items not seen for some time!

On 12th December we held our Christmas party where other WI members and friends joined us for a quiz, and sang for their tea, accompanied by some of the East Woodhay Silver band.

Our programme for 2024 is looking varied and interesting.

Do join us on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm.

We wish you all a very Healthy and Happy New Year!



Events manager needed

East Woodhay Village Hall

Do you already have an events
business in need of a venue?

Do you just love organising
parties & events?

Are you interested in running events from our lovely rural village hall?

Whether as a business partner or a passionate local volunteer,
East Woodhay Village Hall needs you!

For more info, or to chat through your ideas, contact chloe@poulters.net

Wonders with Wood

Hardy's Custom-Made Carpentry & Joinery

Chris Hardy
Bruan Road
Newbury

07872124367
chris.hardy72@gmail.com



Highclere Osteopathy

Sara Winchcombe Registered Osteopath

Neck, back, any joint pain and sports injuries

07748 185 713

sara@highclereosteopathy.co.uk

www.highclereosteopathy.co.uk

Redlands Property Services Ltd

Specialist in All Aspects of Oil Fired Heating and Plumbing

New Boiler Installations, Servicing, Breakdowns, Oil Tank Replacements
Underfloor Heating, Mains Pressure Hot Water Cylinders Installations

All Work Guaranteed/Free Quotes

Please call : **James Mead**

OFTEC Registered Company C8170

Tel 01189 810 310 / 01635 282 172 Mob 07795 063 067

www.rpsllp.co.uk email boilersupport@rpsllp.co.uk



THE VILLAGE CAFÉ ☕

Come and visit the Café with a difference!

Welcome to Spectrum's Virtual Café where friends and neighbours within the Parish share tales about themselves – their life experiences, sports, passions, achievements and memories.

At the heart of our village lies the community – a rich community comprising individuals leading fascinating and interesting lives. Some may have spent a lifetime living in the local area, others may have travelled and lived abroad but each will have their own story.

We felt it would be really interesting for our readers to tap into that rich community – hear more about the lives and experiences of some of our neighbours. We wanted to create the informal, lighthearted atmosphere of a friendly café... but how to do it? Much discussion ensued, then... the lightbulb moment! Let's just imagine we are actually in a village café!

And so it has evolved... Spectrum's Virtual Café: the opportunity every couple of months to meet on the pages of Spectrum and learn about others within the community – all from the warmth of your living room.

Enjoy your coffee, read their story. ☕



Coming soon to Spectrum...

This well-known resident popped into the Café for a quick Latte and ended up talking about his lifelong passion. Can you guess who he is?



Come in and join us...

If you have a story to tell over a cuppa, we would love to hear from you. It could be anything you would like to share – work, sport, travels, memories, volunteering, a passion or hobby. Simply get in touch with the Café Proprietor, Hilary Hainge: hilaryhainge@gmail.com or 0783 376 1178

Later in the year we plan an article 'taking a trip down memory lane'. You are warmly invited to share your memories and photos of life in the village years ago. Please call or email Hilary.

SHAPE UP YOUR WEEK

Burghclere Hall

Monday Hone 'N' Tone
Beginners / Intern.

Body Blast!
Suits all levels
6.45-7.30pm. (£6.00)
7.45-8.45pm. (£6.00)

Tuesday Super Sweaty Step!

Help achieve your fitness goal. 7.30-8.30pm. (£6.00)

Thursday HITT!

Torch calories with this energetic class 7.30-8.30pm. (£6.00)

Fully Qualified Instructor, Sally
01635 278680



YOGA IN EAST WOODHAY

GROUP & PRIVATE CLASSES

SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS,
INCLUDING BEGINNERS

CONTACT FELICITY
07980 304590
FELICITY@FELICITYWOODYOGA.COM

BOOK YOUR PLACE
FELICITYWOODYOGA.COM

FWY

Airport Transfers



Professional service in luxury cars to anywhere in the UK for Business & Pleasure.

- Meet & Greet in the terminal, no waiting for shuttle buses
- Fully licensed, DBS enhanced checked
- Door to Door service, leave your own car at home
- Help with luggage
- Competitive prices
- All cards accepted

'Don't drive home tired, let us drive you in comfort and style'

Email: glntransfers@gmail.com

www.gln-transfers.co.uk

Tel: 07747 800707 or 01488 648719

M.W. SUTTON

Roofing Specialists
3 Byeways, Highclere

Family business established 1972

Contact Jason Sutton
for free quotations:

Mobile 07770 626230
Home 01635 253951
suttonroofing@yahoo.co.uk

Fully insured to carry out
all your roofing needs

1st Woolton Hill Scout Group

Over the last few months, the Scouts have been working hard learning all about map reading and navigation. All of this was tested whilst competing in the yearly district Alamo competition. [The Alamo is an annual event for the Scout groups of Kennet District. The event has been running since 1960 when the prize was free tickets to see the Alamo movie!]

The event this year was an overnight 'incident' hike of 13km through the local countryside around Compton. The Scouts walked without leaders to test their navigation skills, team working ability and all round scouting knowledge. As well as completing challenges and activities along the route such as model making and target practice with elastic band guns, they hiked late into the evening and then slept in the tents they had erected themselves. Quite the challenge!

The Scouts are judged by scoring points on all aspects of the event. Woolton Hill entered two teams in this year's event and both did very well, with one team even coming in third beating much more experienced groups with older Scouts. We'd like to say well done to all who took part and thank you to the volunteer adults who make this all possible!

If you are interested in helping us run Scouting in Woolton Hill, we need more adults to join and expand our ranks! We presently run Beavers, Cubs and Scout sections, all in need of more adults to give more young people valuable Skills for Life. Please contact the Scout Leader on wooltonhillscouts@gmail.com or our Group Lead mo.osborne@btinternet.com for more information, and visit the scout website here for more information: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer>

Adam, Scout Leader



the garden carpenter

decks, fences, gates and sheds
uncompromising quality

for a free estimate contact Duncan Graham

www.thegardencarpenter.com
01635 552301 ~ 0780 8069390

MARIO'S PLUMBING

25 years' experience

- gas/oil boiler servicing and replacements
- power flushing
- central heating and general plumbing

GAS-SAFE registered

**Telephone Mario
07967123819**

AREA SWEEP

CHIMNEY SWEEP

A PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEP SERVICE
CLEAN RELIABLE BRUSH AND VACUUM
FULLY INSURED MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE

AGA'S
RAYBURNS
JETMASTERS

ALL OPEN FIRES
WOODBURNERS
NEST REMOVALS
OIL FIRED BOILERS
SWEEPING CERTIFICATES ISSUED
CAPS AND COWLS SUPPLIED AND FITTED



CALL DARREN

01635 569195/07900398678
areasweep@btinternet.com



audrey robinson
garden design

Professional, experienced
and reliable

Garden Design

Border Design

Border Maintenance

01264 738580
07920 425704

www.audreyrobinsongardendesign.co.uk

smarthire
— vehicle rental —

01635 552200

SmarthireVehicleRental.co.uk

Third Street, Greenham Business Park,
Newbury RG19 6HW

- CARS
- VANS
- MINIBUSES
- TRUCKS

Women in Touch

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton, was the film chosen for our annual film night. When Harold Fry leaves to post a letter to his dying friend he is drained by life, full of self-loathing and incapable of mending his ruined marriage. Instead of sending the letter he just keeps walking, 500 miles from Devon to Berwick-upon-Tweed, in the belief that the journey will save his friend's life.

Solitude forces Harold to confront his personal demons. Simply walking requires behaviour that's totally out of character; an ability to connect with both nature and humankind. He draws the strength to keep going from his newfound awareness of nature's intricate beauty. The humanity of random strangers, those 'great unwashed' he's spent a lifetime tuning out, offer insight and comfort. Harold abides by the British unspoken rule not to ask for help, yet it is constantly offered, and with great civility.

It's an unapologetically sentimental film, though not cloyingly so. And it's a great adult love story that deals unflinchingly with the challenges of lifelong commitment. It focuses on the value of friendship, humility, self-forgiveness, and human kindness.

Our second meeting was a talk by Sarah Somerville on Shaw House. It was built in 1581 for Thomas Dolman whose family had made their wealth through the cloth trade in Newbury. Little has changed to the external architecture of the House, although internal changes have occurred throughout the years showing the varied uses of the home.

Six generations of the Dolman family lived at Shaw House, welcoming royalty including Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Anne, as well as witnessing battles during the English Civil War. In later years, Shaw House was owned by the Duke of Chandos, the Andrews and Eyre family and lastly the Farquhar family. The Farquhars sold the House and estate at the end of the Second World War to the council who used it as a school for over forty years.

Following funding the 21st century restoration made the building safe for use and

it now welcomes thousands of people each year. The main role of the House is as a business and conference centre, alongside being a heritage venue for a year-round programme of events. The House remains a place of significant historical interest and visitors are welcome to explore the House, Exhibition Rooms and Grounds, free of charge, on select days of opening between February and September.

WIT meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month, alternating between afternoon and evening sessions. If you'd like to find out more, please call Angie on 253233.



By Simon Burchell - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=74489969>

C & E GROUNDWORKS LTD

Experienced Groundworks & Construction Company In Newbury & Surrounding Areas



- Buildings • Foundations
- Paving & patio services
- Specialists in resin bond
- Turf & Astro turf • Concreting
- Fencing • Landscaping

feel free to contact us today for
a FREE QUOTATION

Based in Newbury C & E GROUNDWORKS LTD are a well known company that have a superb reputation for providing a range of groundworks from drainage to driveways.

cegroundworks@hotmail.co.uk 07500986386 01635 34601 www.cegroundworks.co.uk

Penwood Nurseries



Thousands of different hardy trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, roses, conifers, fruit, climbers, ferns and grasses are always available.

A family run business. Most of our stock is produced on site and we are happy to help you find just what you are looking for.

enquiries@penwoodnurseries.co.uk www.penwoodnurseries.co.uk

The Drove, Penwood, Newbury RG20 9EW

01635 254366

PAUL S. WALDEN Painter & Decorator

For all your painting and decorating requirements



City & Guilds Qualified
Interior & Exterior
25 years' experience
all work guaranteed

Tel no.: 07802 578934



QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 2nd March 2024

7.30pm

Woolton Hill Church Hall

Teams of up to 6

Tickets £17 pp to include hot supper & dessert

Please bring own drinks, but
Crochery etc will be provided

Contact: Genie Stapleton 01635 253485



English Sparkling Wine or Champagne?

At the end of November, for our first meeting at the Church Hall for over a year, it was delightful to welcome Jonathan Rogers, the owner of The Solent Wine Company. Jonathan has maintained a lifelong passion for wine making and was one of the first cohort of students at the first university degree course in viticulture in Brighton. Although we were a small group on that evening, I have never previously heard our members ask so many questions. A good indication that we thoroughly enjoyed his talk.

We were not surprised to learn that the Romans were the first to import wine into this country and that by 596 AD Augustine monks were cultivating grapes and making their own wine for the communion. The Domesday Book in 1086 recorded vineyards in forty-two distinct locations in Britain, with the most well-known places being Leeds Castle in Kent and Beaulieu Abbey in Hampshire. In 1945 Ray Barrington Brock experimented with growing different grape varieties and soon realised that the German varieties were the most successful in our climate. Only six years later, the first commercial vineyard was established at Hambledon. Today, there are 900 vineyards, mainly located in the south of England with a 70% increase in hectares planted during the last five years.

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier are the main grape varieties grown in these vineyards.

Many of you will be aware of the term 'terroir' which refers to the many different aspects that affect the quality of wine – soil, the angle of slope, microclimate, presence of trees or water. The geological map of the Paris Basin clearly demonstrates why the southern counties of England share similar characteristics with the Champagne region of France. A description of this region will sound familiar! Chalky soils which allow water to drain away whilst retaining sufficient moisture for cultivating the vines due to the seasonal rise and fall of the water table in the limestone rocks; the chalk's ability to reflect sunlight back on to the maturing grapes and the presence of iron and trace minerals in the topsoil to feed the vines.

French 'Champagne', Spanish 'Cava' and 'English Sparkling Wine' all share a similar production method. The secondary fermentation takes place in bottles which then have to be turned in a riddling rack to move the 'leaze' (created by the yeast in the fermentation process) into the neck of the bottle. This leaze then has to be removed



carefully from each bottle, either by hand, by freezing or by machine, whilst retaining the fizz in the bottle. Hence the difference in price between these wines and 'Prosecco' in which the secondary fermentation takes place in a tank, not in a bottle, making it much easier to remove the leaze and hence, reduce the price. By the time you read this article, my family may well have chosen an 'English Sparkling Wine' in favour of the French Champagne, the Spanish Cava or even the Italian Prosecco for our Christmas lunch. Or we may just be tasting that bottle of Sparkling Pink Currant made from the berries of 'Gloire de Sablon' from our allotment. I will let you know!

Lorna Rains

Join us in the New Year for 'The Darien Gap, Orchids, Terrorists and Kidnappings' by Glen Duggan. Thursday 25th January at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

Join us again on 22nd February for 'You, Your Garden and Climate Change' by Pauline Weeks.

New members and visitors always welcome.



Aladdin's Cave

In [Woolton Hill Church Hall](#) on:
Saturday, 17th February
10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.



Browse through the many new and virtually new items for sale. We hope that you will find some irresistible treasures. Come and join us for coffee/tea and cake too.

If you have any new or virtually new items you would like to donate please contact:
Angie 253233 or Carol 253082.

Proceeds to St Thomas' Church



Black Fox Chimney Sweeping

Clean, professional service
 Fully insured and DBS Checked
 Sweeping certificates provided
 All types of chimney and appliance
 Nest removals
 Stove repairs and maintenance

Call: 073 873 88 999
 Email: info@blackfoxsweep.co.uk
 Web: www.blackfoxsweep.co.uk

BUTLERS

- Tree Surgery
- Hedge Cutting
- Stump Grinding
- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Logs, Woodchip & Mulch

01635 254771
www.lopit.co.uk

Experienced, qualified

TUTORS

English, Mathematics

Sciences, Languages

History, Computing

English as a foreign language

All ages, all levels

On-line lessons available

telephone 01635 253942

email: susan.trinder@googlemail.com

Megan @ Barking Boutique



Professional Dog Grooming

Patient and Caring service
 for all breeds

Clipping, Hand stripping, Scissoring,
 De-Matting, Bathing, Nail & Ear care

Megan Kemp – 07551508398

megankempgrooming@yahoo.com

Windfield House, 3 Byeways, Highclere,
 Berkshire, RG20 9PA

East Woodhay Local History Society



The History Society welcomed David Peacock, to talk to us about the River Kennet through history which proved to be fascinating. The river between Newbury & Reading was navigated in the 1700s – before the main period of canal building. This navigation was made possible, by the construction of locks (even though it was not a canal) to maintain a steady flow of water.

There were many mills, such as Ham Mill, on both the Kennet & the River Lambourn. These were all for milling corn originally but some changed to fulling mills. This pounding process removed oils from cloth to enable it to felt.

David's maps showed that, where the library & taxi rank now are by the Granary Warehouse at the Wharf, there was a channel from the river to allow direct unloading.

John Rennie, one of the main canal builders, was involved when the canal was built westwards & apparently, tried out various designs of lock to discover the

most effective one. The owner of the canal also owned a quarry near Bath. When St Laurence's church at Hungerford needed re-building, he sent stone for the work thus enjoying income from both aspects of the contract!

This month's meeting is on Monday 15th January at 8pm in the Village Hall, Heath End. It will be our AGM plus short talks by members of the society with wine & nibbles to end. May I remind members that subscriptions will be due.

Chris Dalton, Secretary.



Woolton Hill Post Office and Stores

Post office, Newsagent, National Lottery
 Off-Licence & General Stores

Post Office Open:

Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm

Saturday 9am-12.30pm

We also hold Euros and Dollars



We also deliver newspapers in surrounding 4 miles.
 Woolton Hill Post Office & Stores
 Broadlayings
 Woolton Hill RG20 9TR
01635 253463

The final term at The Schools of Woolton Hill has certainly been an eventful one!

Saying farewell to Reverend Christine Dale after 21 years

On 20 November, The Schools of Woolton Hill held a farewell assembly for Reverend Christine Dale to say thank you for her support and contribution for over two decades.

Reverend Christine Dale has been the vicar in Woolton Hill, Highclere and East Woodhay since 2002. Within this time she has had an enormous impact on the pupils, teachers and parents at The Schools of Woolton Hill, (a Church of England School), holding regular assemblies, observing important Christianity events, and playing a pivotal role as a Foundation Governor bringing Christian values to life within the school community.

Within the farewell assembly, pupils had the opportunity to share their own personal messages with Reverend Christine. Some of the messages shared included:

Max, age 10, said: "It is always great to hear you telling stories from the Bible. You tell them in a really clear and entertaining way that we can easily understand. We have often wondered how you can learn them all off by heart!"

Amarea, age 10, said: "It's really important to have guidance from someone we trust, like Reverend Christine. There are lots of life lessons when we go to Church but she always presents them in a fun way that we can all understand. It's really clear and gives me something to think about on the way back to school."



Following the heartfelt messages, the children gave Reverend Christine memorable gifts and keepsakes to remember her time with the children, teachers, staff and governors.

Traditional Nativity, Christmas Concerts and Festive Fun

December is always full of festivities at The Schools of Woolton Hill, and this year was no exception.

The children at the infant school put on two amazing, traditional nativity performances in St Thomas' Church. The very talented cast included narrators, angels, shepherds, kings, sheep, camels, citizens, and of course Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus!




The lower school held a night to remember with an evening of Christmas Carols, also at St Thomas' Church. Parents got to watch and sing along to classic festive tunes including 'Rocking Around The Christmas Tree' and 'Silent Night'.

And to really help children and staff get into the Christmas spirit, the final week of term included Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Discos, Christmas Dinner and a trip to the Pantomime at Newbury's Corn Exchange!

Paul Davies, Head Teacher at The Schools of Woolton Hill says: "Thank you to Spectrum and you, the readers, for your continued support over this past year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year."








YEW TREE Garden Centre Ball Hill, Newbury www.yewtreegc.co.uk
 RG20 0NG 01635 255250

RED 76 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISERS

Free initial consultation at a time to suit you

- Corporation tax
- VAT
- Bookkeeping
- Statutory Accounts
- HMRC Enquiries
- Self Assessment
- CGT
- Valuations

Jon Dennis FCA
 01635 783 000 jon@red76tax.com red76tax.com






Pressurized hot water system?

Megafluo, Ozo, Ariston, Dimplex, Heatrae-Sadia, Tribune, Santon, Gledhill etc
All manufacturers recommend these systems are serviced regularly by qualified specialists

To book your service and ensure good safety and efficiency contact your local expert

Kevin Pearson
Total Pressure Ltd.

New installation a speciality.

07971 250799 01635 253975 totalpressurelimited@gmail.com




WOOLTON HILL CHURCH HALL

WOOLTON HILL CHURCH HALL

OPEN AFTERNOON

with 

CREAM TEA

Sunday 21st January 2024

from 3pm to 5pm

For catering, please RSVP numbers of adults and children by Wed 17th Jan
wooltonhillhallbookings@gmail.com

Help us celebrate the re-opening of our main hall



*Find out more about local clubs and groups
 Suitable for families - children's activities*

Everyone welcome!

*Registered Charity Number 1173894
 Woolton Hill Church Hall: Management Committee*

WINDING WOOD
VINEYARD



Open to small parties
for tours and tastings
from May to October

www.windingwoodvineyard.co.uk | hello@windingwoodvineyard.co.uk | 07798 885050



the
**Alexander
Technique**

Relieve back & neck pain
Enhance health & well-being
Improve posture & stamina

for lessons and courses:
Judith Turner MSTAT
01635 253981
07771 896696
judeturner7@gmail.com
www.jt-alexandertechnique.co.uk

East Woodhay & Highclere
Neighbourcare

**Do you need transport to a
medical appointment ?**

**Call our friendly local team
of volunteers on**

01635 745600

ewhneighbourcare.org.uk




Part of the Good
Neighbours Network

Providing
financial planning
and wealth
management for
private clients
since 1979





CHARTERED FINANCIAL ADVICE & WEALTH
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

www.essential-wealth.co.uk
01488 669840 enquiries@essential-wealth.co.uk

Job Opportunity



Administrative Co-ordinator for The North West Hampshire Benefice

Due to the impending departure/retirement of the existing Co-ordinator and volunteer support the five churches in the Benefice (St James' Ashmansworth, St Michael & All Angels' Crux Easton, St Martin's East Woodhay, St Michael & All Angels' Highclere and St Thomas' Woolton Hill) are seeking to appoint an Administrative Co-ordinator.

The role is flexible but in essence provides administrative support to the Rector, the Associate Priest and the churchwardens who will take on the non-ministerial responsibilities of the Rector during the 'interregnum' period after Canon Christine retires and before a successor is appointed.

Typical Responsibilities

- Responding to enquiries to the Benefice office, internal and external
- Drafting and issuing monthly notice sheets to the five churches and two parish magazines
- Maintaining the Benefice diary
- Preparing PCC meeting minutes
- Ordering church supplies
- Submitting periodic finance reports to the Diocese
- Managing the NWHB Facebook page and other social media.

Key Skill Requirements

- Good communication
- Office administration and organisation
- Computer skills (Word, Excel etc, Facebook and other social media)
- Good and accurate literacy and numeracy.

Location

To be confirmed, but with the opportunity to work from home.

Hours

This is a part time role, initially up to 4 hours per week with a view to this expanding over time. Availability to take enquiries during weekday hours.

Salary

Pay commensurate with experience.

This is a rewarding and exciting role, critical to the flourishing of our community. Please apply to: coordinator.nwhb@outlook.com or speak with any of the churchwardens who will be delighted to hear from you!



Letter from the Clergy

New Year Traditions

How do you celebrate New Year? For many years, whatever the weather, Suzie and I have made a picnic and taken our children to sit overlooking the lighthouse on Strumble Head, nr. Fishguard in Pembrokeshire. We had a farmhouse round the coast but loved the view from there, come rain or shine, cold or frost, out to the Atlantic. It became a tradition not because the weather was always fine – although it was often sunny and usually milder – but because the view never changed. Cliffs that had stood for millions of years rising from the boiling Atlantic. Seagulls and choughs, peregrine falcon and whinchat, soaring skywards, buffeted by the wind but, it seemed, enjoying every minute of it (as we did). How good some things never change!

What are your New Year traditions? Auld Lang Syne and coals carried across the threshold? Turkey sandwiches and a brisk walk? A dip in the sea, a shoot with friends, a New Year soccer fixture, tidying the garden before January and February's frost and snow? I searched 'New Year Traditions' and found an article in Glamour magazine (not a regular read, I hasten to add!) It lists 19 New Year traditions from around the world. Some are for midnight on December 31, like watching the ball fall in Times Square, eating twelve grapes to ward off evil in Spain, burning an effigy in India to consume the old year. Others involve food or activities on January 1, like heading to the beach in Brazil or to a frozen lake for fishing in Canada, sharing joumou (pumpkin) soup in Haiti or twelve round fruit in the Philippines, giving homemade tomas in Mexico, or chucking plates at your friends (!) in Denmark. Few people and places haven't got their own way of seeing out the old and ushering in the New Year ... propitiously.

I hope you have your own New Year traditions. Let me commend ours for a moment. It has three features that, like all good traditions, help us weather the storms of life. First, it is something we all enjoy. Family time matters. It reminds us who we are and how much we depend on loved ones. Second, it is out of the ordinary (and sometimes cold and wet!) that helps to put the 'ordinary' (shelter and warmth) into perspective. At the cusp of the old and new year, 'taking stock' and 'giving thanks' is never a bad habit. Last, we see cliffs remind us how brief and vulnerable life is. There are many things, BIG things, that prompt us to stop and ask the BIG questions of life. I find God to be like those mighty cliffs who humbles me and makes me think. I very much hope He's a tradition you rediscover in 2024 and in every year thereafter. Happy New Year to you all!

Chris Hancock, Associate Priest

Church Services

<p>NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE BENEFICE Ashmansworth + Crux Easton + East Woodhay + Highclere + Woolton Hill <i>...making Christ known in our communities</i></p> <p>Church Services JANUARY 2024</p> <p>Welcome! Service details are correct at time of publishing, any necessary changes will be posted on church noticeboards.</p>			
<p>SUN 7th <i>Epiphany</i></p>	<p>All Together Matins Parish Communion Evensong</p>	<p>Woolton Hill Highclere East Woodhay Ashmansworth</p>	<p>9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm</p>
<p>SUN 14th <i>Epiphany 2</i></p>	<p>Holy Communion Parish Communion Matins</p>	<p>East Woodhay Woolton Hill Highclere</p>	<p>8.00am 9.30am 11.00am</p>
<p>SUN 21st <i>Epiphany 3</i></p>	<p>Morning Worship Holy Communion Parish Communion Evensong</p>	<p>Woolton Hill Ashmansworth Highclere East Woodhay</p>	<p>9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm</p>
<p>SUN 28th <i>Presentation of Christ</i></p>	<p>Holy Communion Parish Communion Morning Worship Baptism Evensong</p>	<p>Highclere Woolton Hill East Woodhay Highclere Crux Easton</p>	<p>18.00am 9.30am 9.30am 12noon 5.00pm</p>
<p>WED 3rd January Prayer Group Woolton Hill 10.00 am</p>			
<p>Contact number for church enquiries during the vacancy: Benefice Office 07577 423715</p>			
<p>Rector: Vacancy Associate Priest: Revd Professor Chris Hancock 254718 Reader: Suki Coe 07990 755323 Reader Emeritus: Rosemary Cahill 253306</p>			



Farewell to Canon Christine

Thank you to everyone who attended the special Evensong service at St Martin's Church on 30th November to say farewell to our wonderful Rector, Revd Canon Christine Dale, who has retired after twenty one fantastic years, and to wish her and Simon every happiness in the future.

Although the service was in St Martin's (where Christine's induction service took place in November 2002 and where she and Simon were married the following year) organisation was very much a joint effort by the five churches in the Benefice. The team of sidesmen worked hard to find space for the 260 people who attended. Apologies to a few who had to stand at the back of the church, probably caused by the chairs being used to extend the space in the chancel to accommodate the choir, augmented by singers from Woolton Hill, Highclere and Ashmansworth!



The evening was a very fitting tribute to all that Christine has achieved during her twenty one years as Rector, not just during all the regular Sunday services that she has taken but through her work with the countless families she has touched: in the schools, preparing and performing baptisms, weddings, funerals and other pastoral work. We all owe her an enormous debt of gratitude.

We now enter a period of 'interregnum' during which the churchwardens will work with the Diocese to identify and recruit a new Rector. During this period we are truly fortunate to be able to rely on our Associate Priest, Very Revd Professor Chris Hancock, and Licensed Lay Minister, Suki Coe, so that together we can continue services in our five churches and our mission of making Christ known in our communities.

Richard Twallin
Churchwarden
St Martin's Church



It was particularly special that the Bishop of Basingstoke, the Right Reverend David Williams, who preached the sermon, and the Reverend David Roche, Area Dean, were able to join us. Special thanks to them and also the many others who worked hard to make the service such a success, in particular Ann Harris, verger, Georgie Robertson who conducted the choir and Hugh Cobbe, organist.

Thank you also to the very many who contributed so generously to the collection which enabled Andrew Colville, on behalf of the churches, to present a cheque and other gifts to Christine immediately after the service. This was followed by tributes from Katy Bartlett, Headteacher of St Martin's School, Bishop David, Revd David, Simon and a response from Christine.

We then enjoyed refreshments, including champagne (very generously given by an anonymous donor) and canapes prepared by numerous volunteers under the direction of Sarah Ede, whose organisational skills had been recognised earlier by Simon who invested her with a 'drinks monitor' badge!



**KEITH
LAWRENCE**

KITCHEN BEDROOM & BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS



**Planning to Completion
Traditional & Contemporary**

FREE QUOTATIONS 01488 608789

3 Ermin Street, Stockcross, Berkshire RG20 8LG

www.lawrenceinstallations.co.uk 01488 608789



The Friendly www.friendlyoilservice.com

Oil Boiler Service Ltd

Fully qualified and insured
oil boiler service & repair specialists

Simon, Nick & Paul

01635 282992



Your local renewable energy specialist

Now installing EV chargers for solar PV

Heat Pump servicing - Mitsubishi Accredited
PV repairs & batteries - MCS/NICEIC certified

Contact Paul Gibbons on 07791 364408
or visit www.greenwiresolar.co.uk



Greenwire Solar, October Cottage, Broadlayings, Woolton Hill, Newbury RG20 9TT

The Revd. Canon Christine has responded with this letter to Spectrum:

Dear Friends,

I write to say a sincere thank you to everyone for the wonderful leaving service held for me held 30th November. It was such a joy to see so many from all around the parishes of our benefice gathering with me to give thanks for blessings received and ministry shared. Thank you so much also for all your good wishes, kind cards and generous gifts I have received.



As I have said elsewhere, all the ups and downs and the humdrum of the work of a parish priest make up a rich tapestry of experience woven through the years. There will certainly be much to reflect on as I retire and look back.

It has been an enormous privilege to serve these parishes and thank you for all the adventures along the way. Simon and I are so grateful for friendships made and blessings received. We are sad to be leaving of course, but we know that God is faithful and as we move on to pastures new, ministry here will continue... and in time the next Rector will arrive and a new chapter to church and parish life will begin. Meanwhile our prayers will be with you.

With every blessing to you all,

The Revd. Canon Christine Dale

Poetry? Prose on Steroids!

If you enjoy a good poem, why not join us at:

Highclere Poetry Group Tuesday January 16th at 7.30

Brick Kiln Cottage, Hollington Lane, Woolton Hill RG20 9XX

We're a friendly, informal group - bring a favourite poem or two to read (or have read), anything from a limerick to T.S Eliot, or just come along to listen. No need to book, though it would be helpful to let us know if you are coming. Wine and refreshments provided.

Entry is free, donations (£5 suggested) welcome.

On-site parking. what3words: [gurgling.multiply.magnetic](https://www.what3words.com/gurgling.multiply.magnetic)

Contact: Don Crerar: 07813 170929 doncrerar9@gmail.com

St Thomas' Church 34th Annual Trivial Pursuits Championship

Saturday 3rd February 2024
7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

Teams of up to 6 people
 Tickets £17 per person to include a hot supper

This year we will return to Woolton Hill Church Hall

Space will be limited so please book early

To enter or for further information please contact Ian Roch
 01635 255298 ian.roch@hotmail.co.uk

Charity Number 1173894



East Woodhay Village Hall For Hire

Available now for:

- regular ongoing business hires
- one-off events
- country wedding receptions
- childrens' birthday parties
- wedding anniversary celebrations
- special birthdays
- just to celebrate...

*Fed up of working from home?
Use our rooms for a change of scenery...*

Get in touch - EWVillageHallBookings@gmail.com

More info - www.wooltonhill.com - click on East Woodhay Village Hall

East Woodhay Parish Council



January is the time of year when all parish councils are budgeting and agreeing what the precept (a part of your council tax) should be for the running of the parish in the forthcoming financial year. Did you know what the precept covers? Local facilities such as the maintenance of both our recreation grounds, tree maintenance, hedge cutting and maintenance of play equipment at Heath End and Woolton Hill (including CCTV), the parish field path in Woolton Hill, footpath repairs, the speed indicator, Parish Clerk, planning support and war memorials at East End and Woolton Hill etc. This financial year we have also added the Meadowbrook grass area to our maintenance contract; this includes grass cutting, hedge cutting and tree maintenance along the part bordering Tile Barn Row.

Factors we continually have to take into consideration are the ageing asset base - our play equipment will not last forever and there are times when we have to consider the cost of repair vs replacement- this requires budgeting and planning.

As you will all no doubt be aware, costs have been rising and finding contractors to deliver the work required within budget is proving harder. All of these factors have to be taken into consideration when deciding on what precept to raise from Basingstoke and Deane. The Finance Committee has worked incredibly hard to achieve a draft budget to reflect East Woodhay Parish's growing needs- you can find the current draft on our website under Finance Committee.



We are always happy to have volunteers to help support the work of the parish council- you don't need to be a councillor!

Do come along to our meetings to find out what our plans are for 2024/25.

Personal Computers

new - repairs - upgrades - data recovery - no job too small

phone John on 01635 254102

VG Furnishings. *The Curtain Specialists.*



01635 867804 • www.curtainspecialists.co.uk



The Oakwood Clinic, Highclere *Massage Therapy*

- DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE
- FACIAL MASSAGE
- AROMATHERAPY
- REFLEXOLOGY
- HOT STONE MASSAGE
- EAR CANDLING

Monthly Offers. Gift Vouchers. Men by referral only.

Charlotte Piddington (ITEC)
www.theoakwoodclinic.co.uk
07733442059



Andy Jones
Window Cleaning
07876 028905

**Window Cleaning - Gutter Clearance - Fascia & Soffit Cleaning
Conservatories - Solar Panels**

Call or text for a no obligation quotation on 07876 028905

contact@andyjoneswindowcleaning.co.uk

www.andyjoneswindowcleaning.co.uk

Memories of Woolton Hill Church Hall

It is so good to see that Woolton Hill Village Hall is now fully operational once more after the recent building works. I am aware of this as the lights from the Hall can be seen twinkling through our hedge.

I first visited the hall more than fifty years ago in 1967 when I attended a Parish Council meeting regarding a planning application. From that meeting I gradually became involved in numerous meetings and activities at the hall. One was playing badminton with the net stretched across the hall. As I walked to the hall, I collected the keys from the Meads who lived opposite the playing fields. There are now two three-storey houses where they lived.



Woolton Hill Scouts used the hall one evening a week, as did the Brownies, Cubs and a youth club. My children Mark and Carol enjoyed taking part. During those days the Vicar, Rev. David Carter, was much involved in the Hall's activities. We enjoyed attending his church services on a regular basis.

In 1986 my wife Vi and I were invited to become organisers and caretakers of the hall.

Although we were both working full-time, we accepted the role and became responsible for all bookings, payments, and general maintenance. As I was involved in the building trade, the upkeep and repairs were undertaken by reliable and trusted tradesmen. Vi was involved in the administration of the hall and kept an eye on everything that was going on. She also became Chairperson of the local WI.

After a few years we received much help from Tony and Jane Futrell in running the hall and became very good friends with them. We were so sorry when Tony and Jane moved away a few years ago, but fully understood the circumstances.

Woolton Hill Church Hall was an enjoyable and important part of our lives for 23 years. During that time we met so many of the village locals, whom we are happy to keep in contact with today. Wonderful memories.

John and Vi Palmer

R. D. RUTTERFORD

OIL FIRED BOILER MAINTENANCE

MEADOW VIEW
BROAD LAYINGS
WOOLTON HILL
NEWBURY
BERKSHIRE RG20 9TS

01635 253257
Mobile: 07771 610145



Thyme
The food you would have cooked

- ❖ Let me cater at your next event.
- ❖ Menus are available for dinner parties, special celebrations, christenings, celebration of life, business and shoot lunches and many other occasions.
- ❖ Options for dining at home are also available and delivered locally.
- ❖ All dishes are freshly made, using locally sourced ingredients.

Rhona Everard
07796 946664

thymehomecook

thyme_homecook

thymehomecook@gmail.com



*Antique Silver & Gold
Bought, sold & valued*



*Edward, Reis Silverware,
Ball Hill.
Tel. 01635 250505
e.reis@tiscali.co.uk*

ATH PLUMBING & HEATING

OFTEC Registered

- New boiler & system installations
- Mains pressure hot water cylinder -service & installation-
- Maintenance
- Insured, references available, free estimates
- Bathroom installation

Please call Nigel Brown:
01635 254787 07979718427
athplumbingheating@gmail.com

East Woodhay Society



EWS Charity and AGM

We had 17 people attend our AGM on Friday 17th November where we voted on our good cause for 2024 and are pleased to continue to support Newbury Soup Kitchen. Not only do they provide hot meals for those in need locally, but they also cater for the whole person: physically, emotionally, and socially. In 2023 we raised £750 for Newbury Soup Kitchen which will be doubled up to £1500 via the Good Exchange.



After founding EWS, John Angle has now decided to step down from the committee. John has been a bedrock of the society since its inception, and we would like to thank John for all he has done throughout the years to enhance the community via his work in EWS. We probably would not have a society without John.

Amy White has also left the committee and we thank Amy for her work helping to arrange the Coronation Picnic in the Park.

This means that the new committee is now Louise Rand (secretary), Alan Stapleton (treasurer), Avril Cole, Paul Hurst, Hermione Sheldon and we welcome Steve Waite.

I will continue as Chair for a final year as we work to find a successor. This will also be Alan's final year as treasurer.

The main discussion on the evening was around events. Essentially, we need people to come forward to volunteer to lead an event with EWS committee providing support and the society covering with its insurance. Please contact me for more information. There were good suggestions around both the Curry & Quiz and Wine Quiz returning in 2024 which was very encouraging.

Woodhay Walkers

Fancy a walk on Friday mornings? Just come along and join us at 10.30am to enjoy the fresh air and a chat. We will be walking from St Thomas Church Hall in Woolton Hill on 5th and 19th January where the walks will be about 3 and 4 miles respectively. On 12th January we will be walking from Royal Oak, Ecchinswell and on 26th we plan to walk from Carpenters Arms, Burghclere. Walks are likely to be muddy in places so please wear suitable footwear. Please email Louise at woodhaywalkers@gmail.com or see the Woolton Hill website for more detail.

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



OUR SURGERIES:

Burlyns Surgery, Burlyns,
East Woodhay, Newbury,
Berkshire, RG20 0NU.
Foxhold House Surgery,
Crookham Common,
Thatcham,
Berkshire, RG19 8EL



We can help you meet all your pet and equine healthcare needs, with professional and caring staff who can treat your animal at a time that suits you. Out vets offer an emergency service giving you 24 hour reassurance.
...we're here to listen

24 hour phonenumber: 01635 254544 www.coachhousevets.com



Building & Construction

- Loft Conversions
- Extensions
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Refurbishments
- Patios
- Double glazing

Small selection of building work we undertake

For all your building projects and free estimate

Call Jeremy

01635 278 485
07885 985 275

www.watermill-sounds.co.uk



A D CARPENTRY & BUILDING

- **Joinery**
- **Built-in storage**
- **Doors and windows**
- **First and second fix**
- **Rotten wood**
- **Refurbishments**

Free estimates, competitive prices -
call Andrew **07979 455903**



**Lock & McDermott Ltd
Painters & Decorators**

Public & Employers' Ins. held

Qualified with over 30 years of experience

Producing High Quality Interior and Exterior Work in the Private Sector

✉ lynda861@btinternet.com | ☎ 01264 363 267 | Trading Standards Approved
Trader (CRB Checked)

New Year

What will this year bring?
What memories from the last?
Things went right
- some went wrong
You cannot change the past.

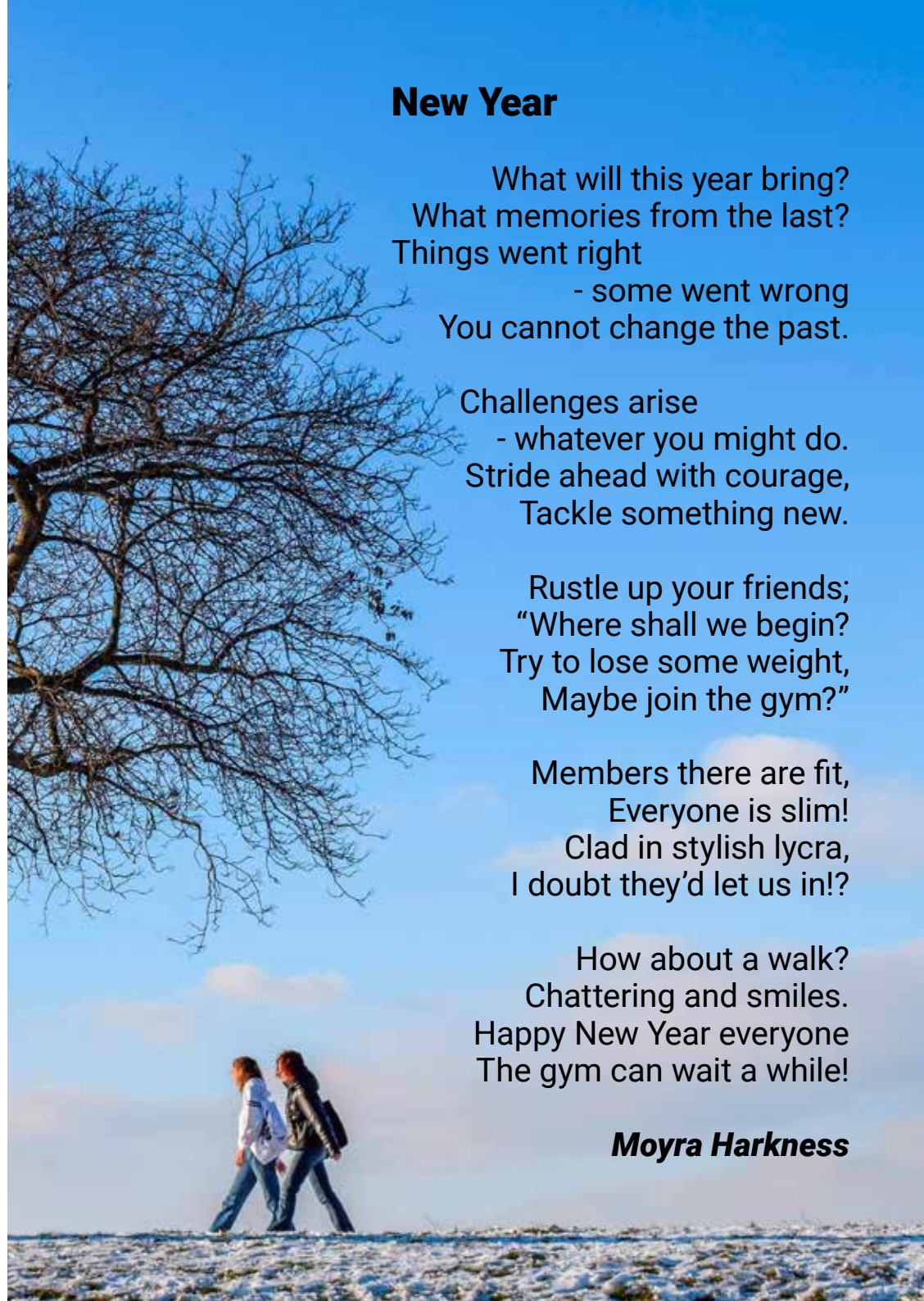
Challenges arise
- whatever you might do.
Stride ahead with courage,
Tackle something new.

Rustle up your friends;
"Where shall we begin?
Try to lose some weight,
Maybe join the gym?"

Members there are fit,
Everyone is slim!
Clad in stylish lycra,
I doubt they'd let us in!?

How about a walk?
Chattering and smiles.
Happy New Year everyone
The gym can wait a while!

Moyra Harkness



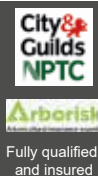
OVEN SOLUTIONS

Put That Sparkle Back Into Your Oven

- ✦ Biodegradable deep clean
- ✦ Ovens, hobs, extractors & BBQs
- ✦ Repair service including elements & seals etc.
- ✦ Non-franchise established over 18 years
- ✦ Child and pet friendly. No fumes
- ✦ See our reviews via website



Peter Hudson 07733 253 563 Oven-Solutions.co.uk peterhudson934@gmail.com



Professional, friendly and reliable with attention to detail coupled with great value pricing

- Tree felling
 - Stump removal
 - Tree reduction
 - Hedge reduction
 - Climbing & aerial work
 - Site clearance
- Contact **Nigel Smith** on 07803 034716
Email: nigel@highcleretreeworks.co.uk
Visit us at www.highcleretreeworks.co.uk

We take on small and large jobs and will happily discuss any individual requirements with you

Emergency work undertaken

RJ Lampard & Company Ltd

A family run business Est 1976



- **Specialist Drainage & Ditching Works**
- **Road Repairs and Road Construction**
- **Civil Engineering Works - Concreting etc**
- **Own fleet of plant and machinery**
- **Fully qualified and experienced operatives**

For further information please call:-

01635 253137 / 07768 201370 or email: rj@rjlampard.co.uk

To Dance is to Live

Many years ago, I read an advert in Spectrum for Irish Set dancing. As an avid dancer I thought it sounding interesting and went along to see if I would like it. Well, 19 years later, I'm still enjoying it.

Amongst the many new friends I made on the dance floor were Sue and Jim Crick. They enjoy dancing so much they wanted others to do so, too, and decided to start a group locally in the hopes of sharing their love of the dance. You may have seen adverts in Spectrum for what they call Simple Traditional Social Dancing.



SIMPLE TRADITIONAL SOCIAL DANCING FOR FUN DANCES FROM HERE AND ABROAD



No experience necessary
Easy on the knees

No partner required – all welcome
Suggested voluntary contribution to hall cost £2

Highclere Village Hall
Mondays 2.00 – 3.30pm

**but check for dates
Never the first Monday of the month**

Contact
Sue Crick 07557 870038
Jim Crick 07776 302137
or just come along

The result has been good as there are now a group of regular locals having a good time, lots of laughs when we go wrong and feeling good when we get it right. Sue insists that no one needs any previous experience or to come with a partner. The dances vary in many ways. Some are with partners, some without, maybe a circle, a square or longways set. All explained patiently by Sue. They may be from England, Scotland, France or many other countries, so lots of different styles and rhythms with interesting music found by Jim.

Definitely a great experience and as it is now generally acknowledged, good for mental health as well a lovely way to exercise. So if you think you might be interested, here is their advert!

by *Nutmeg*

Light & Day Electric

Part-P & 17th Edition qualified

New installations~New circuits~Rewire Consumer unit replacement
Extend Circuits~Lighting~Garages~Outside Buildings

Smoke alarms~Fault Finding

For all your electrical needs & free estimate

Phone Jeremy 01635 278 485 07885 985 275



Aardvark
PROFESSIONAL OVEN AND
CARPET CLEANING SERVICES

AARDVARKCLEANINGSERVICESLTD.COM

07783 810806

P J Cole Plastering & Brickwork

- ✓ Qualified and reliable local bricklayer and plasterer
- ✓ All types of plastering, floor screeds, artexing/plastering over artexed ceilings, coving, tiling, garden walls, patios and extensions undertaken
- ✓ Fully insured
- ✓ No job too small
- ✓ References available
- ✓ Quotations available upon request

Please contact 07771 865621
or 01635 253300 for further
information

TT Garden Care

Private & Commercial Maintenance

Hedge Cutting - Lawn Care - Fencing - Small Tree Work

Turfing - Weed Control (NPTC Qualified)

Free estimates on request

Trevor Thomas

T : 07949 995658

01635 865604

E : tt4gardencare@btinternet.com

East Woodhay Bowls Club

Short Mat Bowls Match against Chieveley

East Woodhay Short Mat Bowls Club recently played a friendly match against Chieveley Bowls Club. We took two teams of three. The first two matches ended with a win on one mat and a trouncing on the other. The mats were very fast. One of East Woodhay's teams was unable to slow their shots sufficiently to reduce Chieveley's high score. Given our opponents fielded a side that included a father and son who play at county level, there is no need to mention their score.

Mid-way through the afternoon Chieveley gave us a lovely tea and held a raffle. We resumed with different players after tea. This time East Woodhay managed to control the speed of their woods and kept closer order on the score with one match being a draw, the other a loss.

We would like to take three teams next time we play Chieveley. Please come along and have a go. The club has recently welcomed new players who have settled in well and enjoy our friendly weekly get togethers.

East Woodhay would like to encourage anyone to come and have a go at playing bowls at East Woodhay Village Hall from 7.30pm every Wednesday.



louise benson mobile hairdresser

01635 38041 ANY TIME

quality hairdressing with a personal service

Handy4Jobs

- Painting Decorating & Tiling
- Kitchen & Bathroom Fitting
- All aspects of Gardening & Fencing
- Window Cleaning, Facias & Guttering



General DIY & Gardening ~ Wayne Murkett, Handyman
07796813580 ~ 01635 31016 ~ 07796950639

FALKLAND GRANGE CARE HOME

NEWBURY
A PORTHAVEN CARE HOME

Care with compassion

See the difference Porthaven makes at Falkland Grange Care Home

Book a visit at Porthaven.co.uk
or call 01635 926970

NURSING ■ RESIDENTIAL ■ DEMENTIA

Falkland Grange Care Home
Monks Lane, Newbury,
Berkshire, RG14 7RW



Pure Clean Window Cleaning

also frames, canopies, cladding, conservatories, guttering & soffits

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

Woolton Hill Preschool

www.wooltonhillpreschool.org.uk

The Church Hall, Woolton Hill, Newbury

30 years of experience, Achieved 'Good' in 2016 Ofsted report

Secure, fun & caring environment

Friendly, loyal & Qualified staff

Strong curriculum based learning through play

French, Debutots & Talking tots at no extra cost!

Places for ages 2-5, government grant available

Breakfast club available for all children up to age 8

The staff walk the children to the Junior and Infants school

Flexible term-time hours. Mon-Thurs 8am-3pm Fri 8am- 12.30pm

Contact on: 01635 254721 Or email at: hello@wooltonhillpreschool.org.uk



TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING
JOURNAL



The Nature Sketchbook

It is January 2024, and I have revisited my sketchbook/nature journal from January 21 to remind myself what the month ahead in nature may hold.

On the ground we can hope to see snowdrops - such cheery early flowers, holders of hope that the colder weather and the darker nights will end soon, whisperers of spring.

Whilst snowdrops are a familiar sight across the UK and are plentiful, they are not native and originate from the continent of Europe. It is not surprising that they thrive here as they enjoy damp soil! They can be found in broadleaf woodlands, meadows, along riverbanks and under my neighbour's hedge.

Snowdrops have flowers but not petals. Flower sepals are usually green and enclose a developing bud. Petals are usually coloured and are modified leaves which together form the corolla of a flower. Where these two structures are fused into one indistinguishable part these are known as tepals; snowdrop flowers are formed of these.

Overhead, we may be able to see birds of prey and in January 2021, I witnessed a kestrel hovering at the side of the road between Newbury and Basingstoke.

The kestrel is one of our smaller birds of prey, found all over the UK, where it can be seen hovering over open grassland in search of prey. It is found in highest numbers around arable farmland.

The lifespan of a kestrel is typically just 4 years although the oldest ringed bird was recorded at 15 years! Sadly, the common kestrel has experienced population decline and sits in the amber category of "UK Birds of Conservation Concern". Declining bird numbers are a natural consequence of biodiversity loss. According to "The State of Nature" report from last year, losses of UK biodiversity are significant and much of the decline in farmland birds' populations has resulted from "intensive farming practices, particularly an increase in use of pesticides and fertilisers".

At least with awareness comes progress. For example, Earth Trust are custodians of Wittenham Clumps and 500 hectares of mixed farmland near Abingdon. They aim to farm "in a climate-friendly way, working with the environment to enhance biodiversity, minimise carbon emissions and maximise soil carbon sequestration, whilst producing quality food". They also function as a hub for shared learning.

Back to 2021, when I also recorded our smallest UK bird, a tiny goldcrest, at Penwood trail. A goldcrest weighs just 6g, or 11% of an average mince pie if you have any left-over! Goldcrests are tree birds found in coniferous woodlands, feeding on small insects. Their beaks are like cocktail sticks, ideally suited to picking out the bugs from between pine needles. This bird provides a golden headed pop of colour in an otherwise dreary winter landscape. I hope to see another this year!

Helen Grimbleby is a Woolton Hill based artist who is inspired by the natural world's changing seasons. After exploring outside, she enjoys writing and illustrating her Nature Sketchbook and painting larger landscapes at her home studio: (@burbleartstudios)



Helen

PROPERTY DESIGN STUDIO
ESTABLISHED 2012



INSTAGRAM – pd_studio_ltd
www.pdstudio.co.uk

SMALL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PRACTICE

HOUSE EXTENSIONS
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
BUILDING REGULATIONS
ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS



ASHTON GROVE
BALL HILL
RG20 0NL
07917 203071
01635 254910
email - nick@pdstudio.org



Cookery School

Honesty Cookery School is situated in the peaceful village of North Sydmonton, a few miles from Newbury. It offers a relaxed environment, where guests can enjoy a variety of cookery and craft courses. Check out our website for information on our latest courses or to buy a gift voucher for family or friends.

www.honestygroup.co.uk/cookery-school



email: cookeryschool@honestygroup.co.uk

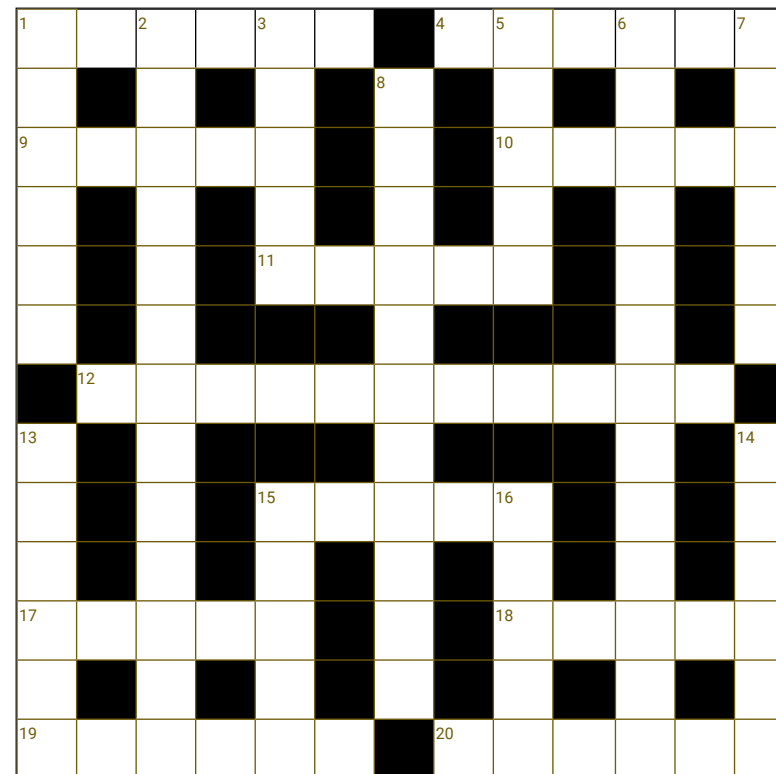
Learn to Draw & Paint Daytime Adult Classes



- 10 week Adult Daytime Art courses - held throughout the year
- Designed for absolute beginners to intermediates
- Warm and welcoming environment
- Pencil, Watercolour and Acrylic (as well as other mediums) every course
- Morning or Afternoon sessions available
- Held at St Marys Church, Shaw



Get in touch for more details or to book your space.
or visit our website www.creativeartclasses.co.uk
or email studio@creativeartclasses.co.uk



Across

1. I see, I see the French dripping water in winter (6)
4. Twisted tube extra loud when serving food this way (6)
9. Find Greek letter at river mouth (5)
10. Certainly had flair, but was very delicate (5)
11. German car arrives on time for financial inspection (5)
12. On this day of remembrance, drove through sea in Rolls Royce with Navy (11)
15. Old tool used to strike a light (5)
17. Is Lottie bringing money from Poland? We hear you ask (5)
18. Stands to reason to coil around note! (5)
19. Famous Egyptian turns near ship (6)
20. This time she turned up with Police Department, initially to see how low they could sink (6)

Down

1. We would see Colin dig onions inside if they were this colour! (6)
2. Are munitions all I have to create display? (6)
3. All Mother had to turn to was a small camel (5)
5. Was it fun? Could have been if I wasn't so badly out of condition (5)
6. I fear the measure of dangerous boxer (13)
7. Hesitate after seeing seeing mineral used for cosmetic purposes (6)
8. What is that thing called that provides such a romantic setting for a meal? (11)
13. Heartless footman shivers around zero (6)
14. Did we hear bird swear on seeing spring flower? (6)
15. Irish flower made of lye (5)
16. Tell head of university to use net (5)

251

Answers crossword no 250

Across: 1 Tester, 4 Chewed, 9 Inuit, 10 Stamp, 11 Raise, 12 Undertaking
15 Songs, 17 Balti, 18 Ripen, 19 Ensign, 20 Spires
Down: 1 Trifle, 2 Stuffing balls, 3 Enter, 5 Haste, 6 Wrapping paper, 7 Depend
8 Christingle, 13 Bauble, 14 Blends, 15 Sting, 16 Syrup

Directory of Local Organisations

24hr Emergency Numbers

Thames Water 0845 9200 888
Southern Water (water supply) 01273 606766
Southern Electric 105 or 08000727282

Arbor Flora Group Secretary: Diana Durkin 07980520044

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council 01256 844844
Member: Graham Falconer (cllr.graham.falconer@basingstoke.gov.uk) 253144

Churches

East Woodhay, St Martin's www.stmartins.church
Churchwardens. Richard Twallin. 253354
Andrew Colville 254017

Woolton Hill, St Thomas www.wooltonhill.com/churches
Churchwardens. Chris Vane. 253707
Bridget Wheeler 250729

Defibrillators

There are 5 public access defibrillators in the Parish:
WH Church Hall, EW Village Hall, Rampant Cat, St Martin's School, WH Junior School.

Doctors' Surgery Woolton Hill. 253324
Patient Participation: Rosemary Cahill 253306

Ducklings. Fiona Morgan 42080

East Woodhay & Highclere Neighbourcare 01635 745600
For transport to medical appointments: www.ewhneighbourcare.org.uk

East Woodhay Charities Secretary: Susan Wren 254875

East Woodhay Cricket Club Contact: Adrian Batchelor 07803 519765

East Woodhay Flower & Produce Show 254114
www.eastwoodhayflowershow.co.uk

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

East Woodhay Footnotes Mens Singing Group
Organiser: Peter Stanley 07467572341

East Woodhay Local History SocietySec: Christine Dalton . . .07880 628 114

East Woodhay Parish Council Members: www.eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk
Paul Hurst (Ch) (paul.hurst@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) 01635 254363
Susan Cooper (susan.cooper@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) 01635 254149
Graham Dick (graham.dick@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) 01635 255372
Martin Hainge (martin.hainge@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk). 01635 255793
James Mitchell (james.mitchell@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk). 01635 254747
Mark Rand (mark.rand@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) 01635 250898

Directory of Local Organisations

East Woodhay Parish Council (continued)

Karen Titcomb (VC) (karen.titcomb@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) 07974 011065
Andrew Watson (andrew.watson@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk)
Amy White (Clerk) (clerk@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk) 07855 275336

EW Short Mat Bowls Club Contact: Cathy Neller. 01635 253467

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

East Woodhay Society. Chairman, Mark Rand. 250898
eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com. www.wooltonhill.com/ews

East Woodhay Twinning AssociationHelen Allen, Secretary . . 01635 250776

East Woodhay Village Hall. ewvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

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

MP - Kit Malthouse 01264 401401
kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk 2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

Neighbourhood Watch

Woolton Hill. *vacant*
North End Jack Castle 253537

Newbury Chamber Choir. info@newburychamberchoir.co.uk

Nwby. Wkly. News WH CorrespondentNicole Bentham 255582

Police. Hampshire Constabulary 101
Kieron Venn kieron.venn@hampshire.police.uk

The SamaritansFreephone 116 123

Schools

The Clere. 278372
The Clere. Community Office. 278129
St Martin's CE, East Woodhay . . . www.st-martins.hants.sch.uk 597796
The Schools of Woolton Hill www.schoolsofwooltonhill.co.uk
Juniors (WHJS) 253364
Infants (St. Thomas). 253431

St Martin's Guild. Secretary: Sarah Leventhorpe. 255293
info@eastwoodhayfete.org.uk. www.eastwoodhayfete.org.uk

Directory of Local Organisations

Spectrum	www.wooltonhill.com/Spectrum.html	
Chairman	Bob King	253378
Treasurer	Gill Burrows	254301
Distribution	Chris Vane	253707
Advertising	Michael Robinson	253004

Editors:

(Jan-) Denny & Denys Blakeway .	spectrumwh@outlook.com	
(Apr-) Mary Gulliver	mary@TheGullivers.co.uk	254567
(July-) Jim Hannington	seamusman3@gmail.com	0789563761
(Oct-) Avril Cole	spectrumwh@outlook.com	

St Thomas' Handbell Ringers. . Nicole Bentham 255582

Women in Touch. Angie Maxwell 253233

1st Woolton Hill Scout Group. . Group Leader mo.osborne@btinternet.com

Beavers	Alison Sellar	wooltonhillbeavers@gmail.com
Cubs	Stuart Ashby	wooltonhillcubs@gmail.com
Scouts	Adam Davies	wooltonhillscouts@gmail.com

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

Woolton Hill Argyle FC. Jon Dennis money.whafc@gmail.com

Woolton Hill Church Hall wooltonhillhallbookings@gmail.com
 Clifton, Tile Barn Lodge, Tile Barn, Woolton Hill

Woolton Hill Pre-School Nicola Logan 254721

Woolton Hill Sports Club. Alison Whitehorn 254391

Woolton Hill Village Market. . . whvm.co whvmarket@gmail.com

Woolton Hill Website Contact: Mark Rand 250898
www.wooltonhill.com eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com

Spectrum Advert Rates

(with effect from April 2023)

Annual rates—please contact Michael Robinson Tel 253004

For ALL fund-raising events (charity, political, etc)

£3 per quarter page b&w, £5 colour

For all commercial and professional advertisements

£25 (colour) per quarter page

Invoices are issued once the publication has been sent to print.

Please note that advertisements may be altered in size to fit the space available.

Guidance to advertisers including ad sizes and file format:

www.wooltonhill.com/spectrum-guidance

Subscription: £5 per annum

Mown & Grown

HEDGE CUTTING • FENCING • GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

01635 745060

mownandgrownnewbury@gmail.com

www.mownandgrown.net

Liberty Garden Buildings



www.libertygardenbuildings.com

Yew Tree Garden Centre,
Ball Hill, Newbury RG20 ONG

01635 255533



GREENHOUSES
HOME OFFICES
GARDEN ROOMS
ROTATING PODS
SUMMERHOUSES
GARDEN SHEDS



CONTROL SERVICES
Pest Management & Timber Care

Wasps • Hornets • Rats • Mice • Moles
Woodworm • Ants • Fleas • Flies • Moths
Bed Bugs • Beetles • Cockroaches

Domestic and Commercial

www.pestcontrolberkshire.com

01635 250 852



MARSH fuels



Heating Oil now available to collect in 20 litre drums

01635 253 253
www.marshfuels.co.uk

H C Marsh (Newbury) Ltd, Ball Hill, Newbury, Berkshire. RG20 0PW

Esseborne Manor Hotel & Restaurant

Family run business offering a warm welcome and the best food in the area.

Daily lunches with canapes & wine

A la carte dinners

7-course tasting dinners

Sunday lunches

Vintage afternoon teas



Perfect for private functions & weddings

Hurstbourne Tarrant SP11 0ER,
www.esseborne-manor.co.uk, 01264 736 444