



Wargrave News

November 2018

Issue 429

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The Piggott Trust

The Piggott Trust, which has been in existence for over 200 years, offers grants to young people of Wargrave and Crazies Hill aged up to 25 to help with further education or training costs and to help those who are planning to serve as volunteers in their gap years.

Additionally the trust provides annual grants to the Robert Piggott Infant and Junior Schools, Crazies Hill School and The Piggott School to help with specific projects.

Young people wishing to apply for a grant should write to me at 7 Dunnock Way, Wargrave, RG10 8LR.

Alternatively, please email me at austenrobert@hotmail.com.

Bob Austen

Happy birthday

Rather pale and thin at birth on 1 October 1978, but now thriving, having put on weight, and full of colour.

A much-loved, true 'village treasure' – the *Wargrave News* is 40 years old!

Peter Delaney

Help for those in need

Wargrave Parish Trust offers financial help to people in need living in the parish.

To claim, or for information about making a financial donation or including the Trust in your will, please contact Bob Austen on 0118 940 3038 or email him at austenrobert@hotmail.com.

Photographs

This month's cover shows the newly cleaned war memorial.

We welcome high-resolution, portrait-orientation photographs for the front cover (file size at least 1.5Mb).

Please email your pictures to editor@wargravenews.co.uk.

December copy date

The next copy date is 6.00pm on **Thursday 22 November** (distributed 7–9 December). Please send items to editor@wargravenews.co.uk. For copy dates and guidance for contributors, please visit www.wargravenews.co.uk.

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Charity Christmas card shop – new venue for 2018



A Christmas card shop in Wargrave is supporting a wide range of charities

The festive season will get underway in Wargrave when the Cards for Good Causes pop-up charity Christmas card shop opens in the Old Pavilion, Recreation Road, Wargrave, on Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 November.

The change of venue this year is because of the redevelopment work at Elizabeth Court.

Buying Christmas cards through Cards for Good Causes is the best way to get access to the widest selection of Christmas cards available, as well as a fantastic range of seasonal gifts and products, while supporting a range of national and local charities.

Staffed by a team of local volunteers, the Wargrave pop-up shop is part of a network of more than 300 temporary shops run by Cards for Good Causes, the UK's largest multi-charity Christmas card organisation. It represents more than 250 charities including Cancer Research UK, Barnardo's, the NSPCC, Alzheimer's Society and RNLI, as well as a number of local charities such as Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Daisy's Dream.

Shoppers will be able to choose from hundreds of different Christmas card designs, as well as traditional advent calendars and candles, wrapping paper, gift tags, napkins and stocking fillers.

Buying charity Christmas cards is one of the simplest ways to support good causes this festive season and we stock one of the widest ranges of Christmas cards anywhere. The proceeds from every card or product sold make a vital contribution to the work of the charities that we partner.

Come and find us in the Old Pavilion and get ahead in your Christmas preparations by getting your cards early.

In the past 10 years, charities have received more than £40 million from Cards for Good Causes, representing at least 70p in every pound, out of which the charities pay for the production and distribution of their Christmas cards and any VAT.

Shop opening hours

Tuesday 6 November
9.00am to 7.00pm

Wednesday 7 November
9.00am to 5.00pm

Shop address

The Old Pavilion, Recreation Road,
Wargrave RG10 8BG.

For further information, visit www.cardsforcharity.co.uk or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Graham Jackson
Shop manager, Cards for Good Causes

Wargrave Heritage Trust's Christmas card

As in previous years, the Wargrave Heritage Trust will be selling its Christmas cards at the charity card pop-up shop in the Old Pavilion, Recreation Road, on Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 November.

If you are not able to make the Cards for Good Causes sale in the Old Pavilion, the Heritage Trust cards will also be available at Victoria News or directly from Wendy Smith, who can be contacted on 0118 940 2920.

The card, which is somewhat larger than last year's, features a painting of Wargrave High Street in the snow by Donald Robinson. The picture has been adapted from a photograph taken in about 1890.

Wargrave Heritage Trust is sincerely grateful to Donald for allowing it to use his superb artwork.

Graham Jones



Wargrave Heritage Trust's 2018 Christmas card

Wuggers' world

Morning and evening peak-time travel from Wargrave via Twyford and onto points east or west continues to be rubbished by unreliable and unpunctual services.

Our branch line shuttle, mercifully, continues to work decently. By the time this article appears in the *Wargrave News*, WUGGERS will have heard Mark Hopwood's response to some very testing questions at a public meeting in Henley Town Hall on 25 October organised by HBUG (Henley Branch Line User Group).

Off-peak travel onward from Twyford – with its cheaper fares and allowing use of railcards – is far more like what we can reasonably expect as far as reliability and punctuality. Yet, the other day, I travelled to Birmingham and back direct from High Wycombe after 9.30am for £7.80 return inclusive of senior railcard discount. Moreover, I was able to park in the multistorey carpark at High Wycombe station on a weekday morning; there were plenty of spare places after 9.00am. The car park charge was £8.90 (using the telephone/credit card service – 40p extra).

Compare that with the equivalent Wargrave/change Twyford/change Reading/Birmingham return ticket price of £39.25.

It is plain to see that Chiltern Railways can be a far more attractive alternative to GWR.

GWR's comment is that their fare is the result of the Reading–Birmingham section of the journey being provided by Cross Country Trains, not GWR, and current pricing is a legacy of decades of past ticket prices for that line. GWR said that Chiltern operates the entire service itself and there is no legacy pricing impacting on the current tariff which Chiltern can set for any particular service.

Not for the first time... what a way to run our railways.

Meanwhile, the media is reporting that Chris Grayling, the beleaguered transport secretary, is said to be ruminating about bailing out Transport for London (Crossrail/Elizabeth Line operators) because of a modest cost overrun of around £500m. Alternatively, Crossrail could be abandoned. But that would be catastrophic for TfL, who are desperately reliant on the Crossrail revenues for their continuing solvency.

Watch this space.

Philip Meadowcroft, Wargrave User Group
07771 814 630
philip@brandmasters.co.uk



1st Wargrave Scout Group Christmas post



Once again, Wargrave Scouts are providing a local Christmas card postal service within Wargrave village.

Collection boxes will be at:

- the Library, Church Street
- Victoria News, Victoria Road
- Lloyds Chemist, Victoria Road

from Saturday 1 December until Friday 21 December.

Costs are 20p per card, reduced to 15p per card for senior citizens.

Scouts will deliver cards during the weekends of 8–9 and 15–16 December and after the final collection on Friday 21 December.

Please support the local Scout Group in this fundraiser/community service, but please restrict your cards to within the village; anything outside the village will not be delivered. Please do not expect our youngsters to deliver cards along the country lanes around Wargrave.

Please put the full address and postcode on all cards.

Thank you.

Letter to the editors

Dear editors

Although Cayton Park Stud Farm has had some bad press recently, due to their rebuilding causing heavy traffic and excessive noise, their on-site workmen responded rapidly when we had a tree blown over, threatening the control box of our fairly new and very expensive sewage system.

They came straight round to our property and with their expertise and muscles helped with the safe removal of the tree, avoiding disaster to the sewage system of five homes.

Thank you from all at Holly Cross.

Sandra Turnbull

See page 20 for the latest news from Cayton Park.

Ringling Remembers 11 November



Ringling Remembers is the campaign officially endorsed and sponsored by HM Government for recruiting new bell ringers and ringing at 12.30pm on Sunday 11 November – aligning with the published agenda for processions and marches in celebration of peace.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) has been working hard with government officials to finalise and announce plans for ringing on the centenary of the armistice for the first world war.

Additionally, Battle's Over is the private initiative of Bruno Peek MBE. It is a programme of events on the evening of 11 November, inviting ringing at 7.05pm by bell ringers across the country.

Taking into account the wide variety of local circumstances, general ringing, quarter peals or peals rung at or around 12.30pm is the ideal and recommended option, but ringing at any time that afternoon or evening is also supported.

St Mary's Wargrave bell ringers are planning to ring bells at around 12.30pm – general ringing and/or a quarter peal, depending upon available ringers. A quarter peal lasts around 45 minutes.

It is also planned for us to have general ringing at 7.05pm for a short time to coincide with the rest of country. If you have rung church bells before, come and have a go again and be one of the nationwide ringers celebrating the Battle's Over.

In addition, we will be ringing as normal for the 10.00am Remembrance Day service from 9.20am.

For more information, contact me at johnccoombes@aol.com.

John Coombes

Local hero Charles Pugh



Thank you to Sheila Williams for photographing this first world war grave in St Mary's Church cemetery, which commemorates Charles Pugh (pictured below).

Sheila has used some of the poppies from the Tower of London display.



Charles Pugh

Charles Pugh was born on 8 December 1893 at Childs Hill in Middlesex. He was one of seven children of Charles Pugh from Stow-on-the-Wold and Elizabeth, née Blencowe, from Whitfield in Northampton.

Charles and Elizabeth had been married in Hampstead in August 1880, and Charles's older brothers Ernest and Edward and his sister Mirriam were also born in Childs Hill, but his younger siblings Edith, Herbert and Frederick were born in Wargrave. The family had moved to Wargrave, living at Yeldhall Cottages as father Charles had become the gardener at Yeldhall Manor.

Young Charles was educated at The Piggott School (in the buildings that are now the junior school) and joined the then new Wargrave Scout Troop. When he left school, he also went to work as a gardener, the family later living at Woodside Cottages.

Of the 55 people from the first world war commemorated on the memorial on Mill Green, 17 had served in the Royal Navy, and Charles Pugh was one of them. He joined the crew of HM Trawler *Tervani*, which was a fishing boat that had been requisitioned and converted into a mine-sweeper. Charles was the officer's cook, 2nd class, on board the vessel.

On 5 December 1916, the *Tervani* was blown up by an enemy mine, but Charles was rescued from the water. Commander Cayley wrote that, when he was being brought to land in a destroyer, Charles asked the doctor to attend to the other men first as he was not as bad as they were. The fleet surgeon reported that he had sustained a frightful injury to his leg, was wounded in the forehead, and suffered from exposure to cold and from immersion in the sea water and floating oil. Charles was taken to the Royal Naval Hospital at Shotley, where the injured leg was amputated, but he succumbed to his injuries and died on 7 December 1916, aged 22. His commander wrote: 'He showed himself an extremely gallant man'.

Charles's father had died a month before him, and his mother then moved to Olney Cottage, and later lived at Ivy Dene, also in Victoria Road. She seems to have moved away from the village in the 1920s. Charles's sister Edith was married at Wargrave in 1921, but that seems to be the last mention of that family here.

Peter Delaney

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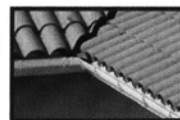
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Centenary Remembrance Service – Lest We Forget

At 11.00am on Sunday 11 November, 100 years after the signing of the armistice for the first world war, people all over the world will remember the fallen of both world wars, and of the numerous other wars and operations in which our military have been involved.



The services always include the Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph.

The Exhortation

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.'

The words of the Exhortation are from the fourth verse of the poem 'For the Fallen', written by Laurence Binyon in Cornwall in September 1914. Binyon did not visit the battlefields until 1916, but this fourth verse does not deny the later horrific experiences of the fighting men.

The Kohima Epitaph

'When you go home tell them of us and say;
For your tomorrow we gave our today.'

The words of this famous epitaph come from the inscription on the memorial for the Battle of Kohima (April–June 1944) and are found on many veteran memorials throughout the world.

The Kohima memorial remembers the Allied dead who repulsed a force of 100,000 Japanese that had invaded India in March 1944.

Two of the names on the Wargrave memorial – Corporal Astell and Brigadier Theobalds DSO – fought and died in this campaign in 1944. They are buried in Kohima and Imphal war cemeteries in India.

Our local regiment, the Royal Berkshire Regiment (now part of The Rifles), fought at Kohima.

Remembrance Sunday Service at the Wargrave memorial

Wreath-laying and planting of memorial crosses

Memorial crosses will be planted, after the laying of wreaths, by the Wargrave Scouts and Guides. They will plant 48 crosses, each inscribed with the name of a person on the Wargrave war memorial. Pupils of The Piggott School will then plant 19 crosses in memory of former pupils whose names are on the memorial, followed by Victoria and Caroline Hermon planting crosses in memory of their uncle and great-uncle.

We are delighted that many descendants of those named on the war memorial will be planting crosses in memory of their own loved ones. They will plant their crosses along with those planted by the Scouts, Guides and pupils of The Piggott School.

Wargrave war memorial

The war memorial on Mill Green, the focal point for the Remembrance service, was unveiled in 1922. Designed by the famous architect Sir Edward Lutyens, it is a Grade II listed building.

To commemorate the 100 years since the signing of the first world war armistice, Wargrave Parish Council, who are guardians of the memorial, have recently had the memorial cleaned in readiness for this year's service. The memorial now looks splendid, as can be seen on the cover of this month's *Wargrave News*.



Please do come down to Mill Green on Sunday 11 November at 10.45am to take part in the Remembrance service. There will be a reading out of all the 69 names on the memorial, the customary two-minute silence at 11.00am, followed by the reading of the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph, the laying of wreaths, planting of crosses and the national anthem.

The Royal British Legion parade, led by the St Sebastian Wokingham Band, will march past the war memorial to pay respects to those who died in the service of their country and then continue on through High Street.

Let us make this a Remembrance service fitting for the centenary.

David Smith, Chairman, RBL Wargrave Branch

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Wargrave Advent windows: where and when

It's a longstanding festive tradition in Wargrave that during December, creative residents and businesses decorate their windows to celebrate Advent.

Here's a list of where and when to visit to see these Christmas treats for yourself.

Date	Name	Address of window
Saturday 1 December	Marion Skinner	161 Victoria Road
Sunday 2 December	Rabea Hands	86 High Street
Monday 3 December	Susannah Hanks	9 East View Road
Tuesday 4 December	Bill Bookless/Wargrave Scouts	26 Purfield Drive
Wednesday 5 December	Ros Fernley	Library, Church Street
Thursday 6 December	Wargrave Guides and Rangers	The Hair Company, High Street
Friday 7 December	Charlotte Taylor	63 High Street
Saturday 8 December	Sonia Norman	8 Langhams Way
Sunday 9 December	Patricia Vella	6 Beverley Gardens
Monday 10 December	Wargrave Brownies	1 Newalls Rise
Tuesday 11 December	Denise Meldrum	22 Bayliss Road
Wednesday 12 December	Karen Lloyd	172 Victoria Road
Thursday 13 December	Maddy Kendall	High Street, window above The Robin's Nest
Friday 14 December	TBC	TBC
Saturday 15 December	Luke Wootton and friends	94,96,98 Victoria Road
Sunday 16 December	Heidi Leigh	67 Ridgeway
Monday 17 December	Louise Beasley	Yule Cottage, 7 High Street
Tuesday 18 December	TBC	TBC
Wednesday 19 December	TBC	TBC
Thursday 20 December	Rosemary Hancock	Thamesford, Ferry Lane
Friday 21 December	Caroline Mulcahy	69a High Street, above Hunt & Nash
Saturday 22 December	Kim Moul	6 Purfield Drive
Sunday 23 December	Camilla Cook	Scene inside St Mary's Church, Mill Green
Monday 24 December	TBC	TBC

If you'd like to offer an Advent window for one of the 'open' dates in December, please contact Kim Moul on 0118 940 1204.

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St Mary's Church



Sunday services at St Mary's, Wargrave

8.00am every Sunday

Holy Communion said in traditional language

10.30am

(A crèche is available and there are young people's groups.)

4 November	Holy Communion
11 November	Annual Service of Remembrance (Note: 10.00am start)
18 November	Holy Communion
25 November	Morning Worship
2 December	Holy Communion
9 December	Morning Worship

Thought for the month

In the autumn of 1914, the world was at war. Total British casualties, by the end of hostilities, exceeded 700,000 dead – 13% (an eighth) of all those who fought for their country (about 2% of the entire population, plus a further 4% who were wounded). The dead and wounded were mostly men. In total worldwide, some 9.4 million died (1.8% of the combined population of the countries involved) and a further 23 million were wounded. Enormous numbers.

Back in September 1974, aged just 13, I recall being struck by the dislocating enormity of the first world war, seeing the names of 355 boys from the school which I had just started who were killed in that conflict, not to mention countless others in later wars and conflicts.

At our Service of Remembrance in St Mary's, Wargrave, at 10.00am on Sunday 11 November, we will recall the sacrifice made and its enormity, on this the hundredth anniversary of the end of the first world war. It is right we should do this.

T.S. Eliot's poem *The Waste Land* emerged from the period of trouble and trauma following the first world war. In it, he laments his incapacity to live out a coherent life in an age of uncertainty. He sensed the need for a framework of meaning to help.

We may in our fragmented world of experience, as we survey life and history in all its mess and agony, as well as beauty, wonder if there is any coherence to our lives and reality. Our preacher, Hugh Barne, will be touching on this.

John Cook
Vicar of Wargrave with Knowl Hill

Remembrance Sunday 11 November

This is one of the best-attended services in the Wargrave calendar. This year, it is special because 11 November actually falls on a Sunday and because it will mark 100 years since the end of the first world war was declared.



As usual, the uniformed organisations meet in Church Street to march with St Sebastian's Band, to arrive in church at around 9.45am for the 10.00am church service, when the speaker will be the Reverend Hugh Barne, Curate of St Mary's.

At 10.45am, the congregation moves to Mill Green to mark the two minutes of silence at 11.00am. All are welcome.

St Mary's annual concert Saturday 17 November

This year, the concert is being held in honour of Alan Baird, a talented musician and member of St Mary's Music Group who died earlier this year.

The music will vary from light classical to popular, performed by local and professional artists. The successful Wargrave Community Choir is an exciting new addition to the line-up for 2018.

Tickets are priced at £20 and £10. To buy, contact tickets@pursuithna.com.

Christmas wreath-making

Thursday 6 December, 2.30pm

Join us for an afternoon of wreath-making and a talk to get us thinking about Christmas. Afternoon tea will be served.

Tickets £20 (payable in advance). Bring a pair of secateurs! For tickets, please contact Camilla Cook on 07939 031 542 or camillacook@btconnect.com.



Christmas Services at St Mary's

Sunday 16 December	6.00pm	Carol service
Friday 21 December	3.00pm	Seniors' carol service
Monday 24 December	4.00pm	Children's nativity
	6.00pm	Family carols
	11.00pm	Midnight Communion
Tuesday 25 December	8.00am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.00am	Family Communion

For contacts, see wargravechurch.org.uk.

Andy Ferguson



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Sarah Hart Nutrition

How does nutritional therapy play a part in our wellbeing?

When I asked readers which topic they would like me to write about in this month's *Wargrave News*, one lovely lady posed the question: 'How does nutritional therapy play a part in our wellbeing?' So, here goes!

As a registered nutritional therapist, I not only focus on dietary habits and how to improve them with my clients, but I also take into consideration their lifestyle, which includes both mental and physical health. Being healthy and feeling happy is very important to your overall wellbeing.

Questions around physical activity, family and work-life balance, how you relax and unwind (de-stress) and hobbies are just some of the areas discussed. Many factors may impact our wellbeing in a negative way, such as spending too much time alone. This may be due to personal circumstances such as being self-employed and working from home, being incapacitated, living alone, being elderly or becoming a new mum who has recently left a corporate environment, meaning that the phone has suddenly stopped ringing and regular contact with work colleagues has been lost.

Adapting to new environments can also be difficult. Other reasons affecting your wellbeing may be that you are so busy looking after the family that you have little time for yourself and have therefore placed yourself way down the priority list. Just ask yourself, what impact would there be on everyone who relies on you if you become unwell? Time to put yourself at the top of the list, perhaps, to avoid this happening. Following healthy dietary advice will of course improve nutrient intake and address some issues, but if other factors are not also improved, dietary changes alone may not be enough.

Socialising can have a very positive impact on our wellbeing, including meeting fun and interesting people. It is easy to get stuck in a rut sometimes and think that how you feel is 'normal' when, in fact, it is not. I recently volunteered to help out at the Pavilion in Wargrave, where they offer lunches each Thursday for those wishing to enjoy some company. Eating in a relaxed and friendly environment does wonders for your wellbeing, so if you would like to join this group or would like some further information, please get in touch. This may be for you or someone you know.

I hope this has answered the question of how nutritional therapy plays a role in your wellbeing.

Sarah Hart, Registered Nutritional Therapy Practitioner

BSc (Hons), mBANT, CNHC

<https://www.nutritionist-resource.org.uk/nutritionists/sarah-hart>

07884 471 280



Yoga with Josie: Low lunge – anjaneyasana

This is a great pose for stretching the thighs and the groin.

It also opens up the chest and works the shoulders.

And, it's a great stretch to do after you have been doing any cardio, especially running and cycling, as it will help to stretch out the leg muscles and stop them from tightening as much.

1. Start in downward facing dog (one of the first poses we covered) and raise the right leg into the air. Look forwards between the hands and swing the right foot forwards so that it is flat on the mat in between the hands. Position the knee so that it is directly above the ankle.
2. Drop the left knee to the mat and then slide it back until you feel a stretch in the front of the left thigh. Be careful not to over-stretch here; it should feel comfortable, not painful or pinching in the hip. Rest the top of the left foot on the mat.
3. Breathing in, lift your hands from the mat and raise your torso upright, sweeping your arms up to the ceiling. Lift your chest, drawing your shoulder blades back to straighten the arms next to the ears. Tuck the tailbone.
4. Continue to gaze forwards, stretching the arms to the ceiling. If you want to deepen the stretch, look up towards the hands, extend the torso as much as possible and then stretch the hands behind, following with your gaze to arch through the back.
5. Remain in the position for several breaths and then bring the hands back down to the mat. Tuck the toes on the left leg and bring the right leg back to return to downward dog position.
6. Repeat on the opposite side.



Josie demonstrating the low lunge

Josie Fear

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Wargrave Theatre Workshop

What's on at Wargrave Theatre Workshop (WTW)

Tuesday evenings are a busy time for Chez Annetts, as she prepares the two WTW junior groups and the WTW youth group for their next production, a double bill entitled



The junior group getting into character for *The Pied Piper*

Consequences.

The junior groups will be performing their version of *The Pied Piper*, based on the original poem by Robert Browning.

Tenn Angel is the title of a short play about the journey of a teenage girl who has to earn her wings into heaven. This will be presented by the youth

group. Performances will take place on Friday 16 November at 6.30pm and Saturday 17 November at 1.00pm and 3.30pm. Chez has advised that this production is unsuitable for very young children due to mildly dramatic scenes exploring loss. Tickets are available now at www.wargravetheatre.co.uk.

With barely time to draw breath from their performances in *A Doll's House*, Emmajane Hughes and Linda Daman are jointly embarking on preparations for the ever-popular village pantomime. An initial reading of *Hansel and Gretel* will be held on Thursday 1 November in the Green Room at 8.00pm, followed by auditions on Sunday 4 November at 7.00pm and Thursday 8 November at 8.00pm, also in the Green Room.

Hugely popular with our audiences, the pantomime is great fun from the word go, and is an excellent way to become involved with the WTW. It offers lots of singing (under the direction of Rod Murray), dancing and a variety of acting roles to tempt those of you who fancy treading the boards. Young actors (ideally 16 years plus) are particularly welcome.

If you have other interests such as costumes, set construction, painting or make-up, there are plenty of jobs on offer. Please call Linda on 07740 174 550 or Emmajane on 07782 325 661 for further information.

Looking further ahead, we are pleased to announce that the Wargrave Festival's 'Shakespeare On The Green' will be *As You Like It* on Thursday 13 June to Monday 17 June 2019. Often called Shakespeare's funniest play, *As You Like It* is an Elizabethan romp with Shakespeare's most engaging heroine, Rosalind, dominating the action. We will create the Forest of Arden and follow the adventures and tribulations of our four sets of lovers. The Festival Shakespeare is a village event and we welcome those with little or no acting experience to take part. You will have a lot of fun and may discover talents you never realised!

If you would like to learn more about this production or attend a short presentation of the play later this year, please contact Joe Haynes at joe@joypep.co.uk or call 07876 532 716.

Tickets for the pantomime will be available at the beginning of December from www.wargravetheatre.co.uk.

More information about WTW at www.wargravetheatre.co.uk.

Joe Haynes

Amy Goodall-Smith, FPFS

Even 18 years of working in the financial sector has not diminished Amy Goodall-Smith's drive and determination to further her knowledge and skills, to ensure she is offering the most comprehensive, thorough and up-to-date advice to her clients.



After intense further studying, Amy recently became a Fellow of the Personal Finance Society (FPFS). This achievement places her above the status of Chartered Financial Planner by the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), whose patron is Her Majesty the Queen. A Fellow of the Personal Finance Society is the profession's highest possible qualification.



Amy's Fellowship graduation was held at the historic and beautiful CII building in the City of London, where Amy was presented with a certificate and signed an oath recognising her achievements. This oath proudly hangs on the wall (alongside the 26 other certificates detailing Amy's financial achievements) in her office in the centre of Twyford.

Amy's team consists of paraplanner Laura Hill, and Melanie Eastwood, who advises on mortgages. A smile will always greet clients and those enquiring about services offered, where wealth management, investments and tax planning can be discussed in a confidential, personalised and relaxed manner.

Amy is established as Goodall-Smith Wealth Management Ltd, an Associate Partner Practice of St James's Place Wealth Management.

For further information, please contact Amy on 0118 4665 005 or 07799 838 761, email amy.goodallsmith@sjpp.co.uk or visit the team at 2a High Street, Twyford RG10 9AE.

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Autumn colour at Wargrave Gardeners' Club

By this time of year, our gardens can sometimes start to look tired and lose their appeal. However, in her talk on *Autumn colour* on 26 September, Margaret Finch of Farley Hill Place Gardens (near Reading) proved that this season can be a time of vibrant colour in the garden.

Bringing along a variety of flowers and plants from her own garden, Margaret explained how these can bring colour, fragrance and interest well beyond the summer months.

She began by showing us a stunning display of squash varieties which, with their natural 'splashes' and stripes of green, orange, red and yellow, have great ornamental appeal (they can be kept indoors for up to two years) as well as being delicious to eat!

While assembling a colourful bouquet, which included the bright colours of zinnias, statice, cosmos,

and dahlias, bronze forsythia foliage and red 'Kiftsgate' rosehips, Margaret demonstrated how there is also still plenty of scope for cut flower arrangements later in the year.

She helpfully described the characteristics and habits of the various plants on show – Rudbeckia 'little goldstar', Penstemon, Achillea, asters, the added fragrance of phlox, the foliage interest of Heuchera 'Marmalade' and the steely blue Festuca glauca grass were among many good examples of autumn colour and interest.

Some plants like Sedum 'Matrona' are also great 'landing pads' for bees and butterflies! Margaret gave helpful and practical advice on propagation, taking cuttings (now is the time for Penstemon) and basic plant care. Frequent dead-heading and the 'Chelsea chop' (cutting back perennials in May) will improve plant shape and flowering.

We were surprised to learn that it's better to delay the final cutback of all plants until as late as March, which will also allow for greater architectural interest in your garden.

So relax, enjoy your autumnal garden, resist the temptation to tidy up and 'go architectural'!

Gardeners' Club members took the opportunity to get started by buying some of the plants on display.

We met again on 31 October for a quiz night and the following meeting will be the AGM and bring and share supper on Wednesday 28 November at 7.30pm in the Hannen Room. This will also be an opportunity to renew annual membership and welcome new members! For more information, please contact Caroline Davies on c.a.davies@sky.com or 0118 940 2630.

Caroline Davies



Pop-In Club

Our outing to the Henry Street Garden Centre for afternoon tea was most enjoyable. A lavish spread was served, and members had the opportunity to look around the well-stocked nursery and gift shops before returning home.

Our guest speaker was Sandy Selwyn Jones, who showed us how to professionally manicure our nails. She brought a wonderful selection of varnishes and with some assistance from our helpers, everyone had their nails painted and we were delighted with the results. It was a different and interesting morning.

Over the years, Avril Elsley had made a collection of photographs of club activities and had transferred them onto DVDs.

Steve Turville projected the discs onto the large screen and they brought back many happy memories to members. We hope to show more of them at a later date.

Mary Clifford hosted a coffee morning at her home in aid of the Macmillan Coffee Morning, which was very successful. The grand sum of £185 was raised for this most worthy cause.

We are looking forward to visits from Bob Whelton from Continental Chocolates with his delicious selection of Belgian chocolates, and also Peter Wilford from the RNLI, who will be selling Christmas cards and other gifts.

We meet every Monday morning at the Old Pavilion from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and transport can be arranged. If you would like to join us, please contact Mary Clifford on 0118 940 6846 or me on 0118 940 2267.

Pat Jones

Woodclyffe Allotment Society Leaf collection morning



Annual general meeting, Wednesday 21 November

With autumn drawing on after an unusually hot but fruitful year, and allotment workloads decreasing, Woodclyffe Allotment Society (WAS) members will see less of each other over the coming months. And we have said farewell to some committee members who have been key to building our allotment community.

Amy Battle left for Australia in early October. She played a central role as WAS secretary and as a source of ideas, enthusiasm and support for other allotment-holders. Ian Bradley, who has moved to Shropshire, was our treasurer for a number of years and a valuable team player on any working parties. He wielded a deadly scythe! Stuart Kennedy, WAS treasurer for the past year, is taking up a new job in Scotland. Stuart has helped enormously with allotment events such as the produce stalls and open days. We would like to thank these three people, who will be sorely missed.

Our thanks also go to Stephen Hedges, parish council clerk, who has personally mowed allotment pathways, cleared overgrown allotment areas and done much to improve the overall appearance of the allotments.

More detailed news and feedback, plus cheese, wine and homemade pickles, will be available at our AGM on Wednesday 21 November at 7.30pm in the meeting room of the parish council offices in the Old Pavilion, Wargrave Recreation Ground.

There are spaces on the committee that we must fill if we are to keep our allotment community going.

We look forward to seeing you. Please confirm your attendance or send apologies to Rowena Perry, acting WAS secretary, at woodclyffeas@gmail.com by Sunday 18 November.

David Mattock
Chairman

RNLI news

September's car boot sale results

An excellent profit of £1,870 was raised for the charity by the recently held car boot sale in the grounds of The Piggott School. No doubt the fine weather was a positive contributor to the healthy turnout of 113 sellers' vehicles and over 300 buyers' cars.

RNLI at Twyford's Christmas Fayre

We will be hosting two stalls again at this year's Twyford Christmas Fayre. These include our famous fresh cake stall, packed with homemade cakes and jams, and the tombola, which will be well stocked with bottles of wine, fashion accessories and stocking fillers. Mark your diaries for a fun-packed evening on Friday 7 December in Twyford's High Street from 6.00pm to 9.00pm.

Gaye Hudson



Mill Green and churchyard leaf collection morning, Saturday 1 December

Every year, a group of villagers meets to gather up the leaves from Mill Green and the churchyard.

This year, the chosen date is Saturday 1 December, starting at 9.00am. We usually finish by 12.00 noon.

The Mill Green and churchyard are important village features and we would welcome as many volunteers as possible to assist in this task, which provides good exercise and the opportunity to meet up with friends old and new. Everyone is invited to share in the good work – all you need is a decent leaf rake!

Please book this date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you for however long you can spare. We shall be working whatever the weather, so do come prepared. Coffee and bacon rolls will be served.

Bob Austen

Picture puzzle

Which road is this?

The photograph in our September issue was taken in Autumn Walk, Wargrave.



A.B. Walker named regional Funeral Planner of the Year



*Julian, Melissa
and Matthew
Walker*

Independent funeral directors A.B. Walker has been named the best medium-size funeral planner in the Southern region at this year's Funeral Planner of the Year Awards, run by funeral plan provider Golden Charter.

A.B. Walker has branches in Reading, Bracknell, Wokingham, Henley-on-Thames, Thatcham, Tilehurst, Caversham and Maidenhead, and is run by the fifth generation of the family.

In addition to the Funeral Planner of the Year accolade, the Woodland Trust has dedicated trees on behalf of A.B. Walker which are to be planted in recognition of the company's achievement.

We are delighted that the service we provide has been recognised with this award. We are at the heart of the community and have been supporting bereaved families for nearly 200 years. Death is something that no one wants to think about, and that's natural.

But we know that for many people, planning their funeral has brought peace of mind and can help to ease the financial and emotional burden on loved ones at a distressing time.

Golden Charter CEO Suzanne Grahame said: 'The respected and caring work of independent funeral directors within their local communities often goes unrecognised and so it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the team at A.B. Walker for their tremendous achievement in winning this award.'

The Funeral Planner of the Year awards celebrate the independent funeral directors who are excelling in promoting pre-paid funeral plans, and by doing so providing peace of mind for families that everything is taken care of.

Julian Walker

For information about A.B. Walker, please contact Julian Walker on 0118 957 3650 or julian@abwalker.co.uk

Mark Lowe is a traditional butcher on a mission

Hare Hatch Sheeplands is the location for my first attempt at reviving the role of traditional local butcher.

I want to bring the traditional butcher's shop back to the local area, as they have been pushed out by the growth of supermarkets.

Butchers' shops in this country are closing at the rate of one a day and in one town 13 local butchers have now been reduced to just two.

I describe the traditional local butcher as one who gets all his meat delivered fresh, including as carcasses, and then cuts and prepares on site. They can give customers personal advice on products and cooking times.

I got into the trade after leaving school as a 17-year-old without any qualifications. I found a job as a trainee in a butcher's shop in the Midlands, and everything started from there.

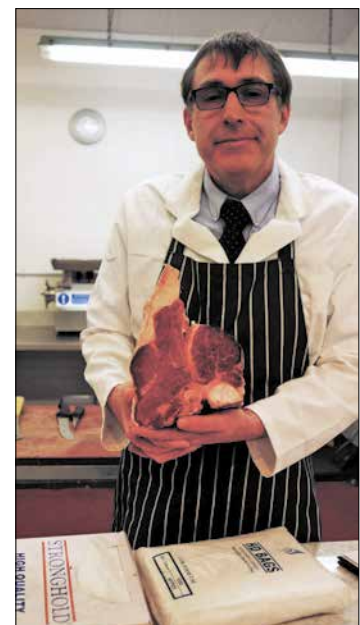
Recently I won Good Taste awards for my homemade pork pies and home-cured bacon, both of which I will offer to customers, as well as homemade sausages and a wide range of fresh meats.

I will be helped in this by partner Becky Yapp and I am realistic that the task will not be completed in a hurry. This area needs to have traditional old-fashioned butchers and once people know about us, they will support what I am doing.

Our Christmas booking order form is now available at the counter, so come along to place your order and look at the meat I have to offer.

Mark Lowe

wargrave
in business

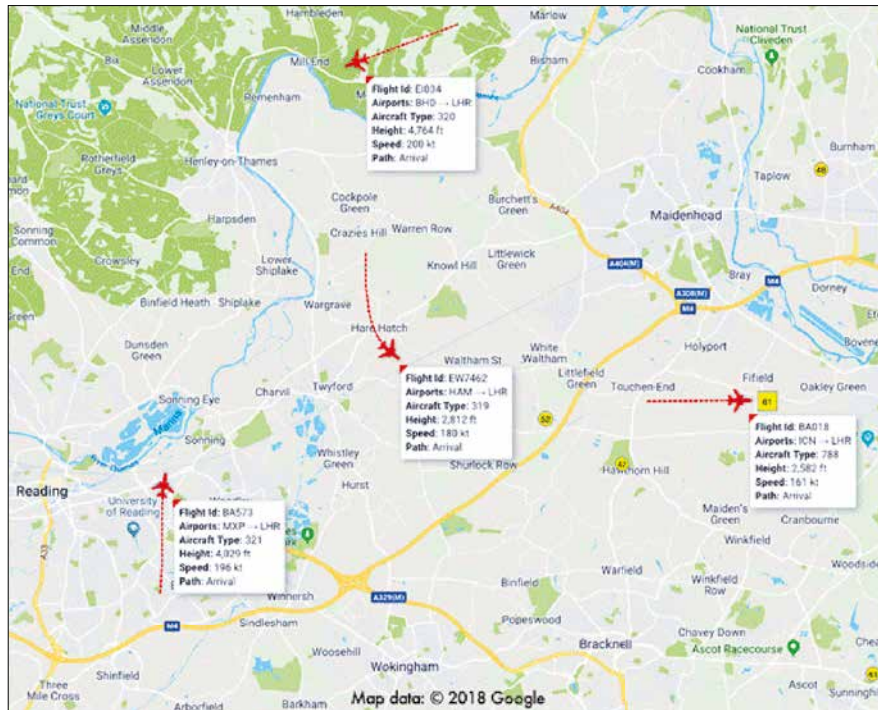


Mark hopes to revive the role of the traditional butcher

Letter to the editors

Dear editors,

I refer to the letter from Aldon Ferguson in last month's issue. I can provide him with ample proof that jets do regularly fly over Kiln Green at below 3,000 feet. The WebTrak screen grab below shows an Airbus 319 passing through at 2,812 feet and I can supply many more.



The average height is above 3,000 feet but I did not suggest otherwise. They are loud at 3,500 feet and even louder at 2,812 feet. It is true that when the prevailing wind dictates, we see only the outbound flights. They have usually climbed to 6–7,000 feet by the time they get here and the noise is more tolerable.

Heathrow's official data reveals that they handle 1,300 flights per day but since they are restricted to only 16 movements a day between 11.30pm and 6.00am, the frequency varies from hour to hour. Routinely, a plane lands every minute, but at peak times it can be one every 45 seconds, and even more with the third runway. If Aldon thinks the noise level is tolerable, he should join me for afternoon tea in the garden.

There may be no third runway compensation fund for us, but there will certainly be a loss of amenity if the provisional new flight corridors are confirmed, and any increase in noise will impair the value of the property we own. Aldon suggests that the expansion of Heathrow will increase our property values but there is a point of diminishing return, which has probably already been reached.

If Heathrow were really operating at maximum capacity, the new runway would be easier to swallow. But today's aeroplanes are far from full with, on average, 24% of seats empty*. The aviation industry is also trending towards bigger aircraft, which will presumably mean even more empty seats. The main beneficiaries of the expansion look to be the big airlines and the airport, for whom the extra runway 'slots', which can change hands for up to £50m each, represent very tangible assets.

*Simon Chapman
Kiln Green*

*Heathrow passenger jet load factors: https://www.heathrow.com/file_source/Company/Static/PDF/Partnersandsuppliers/Heathrow-Airport-Limited-Airport-Charges-Decision-2018.pdf

Cayton Park House update

We are pleased to report our latest update of the progress at Cayton Park House in Warren Row.

As we now move into autumn, we are facing wetter, colder and windier weather. This has proved challenging on a number of fronts but most noticeably affecting the operation of the crane and the laying of bricks.

That said, we can report that we are on time with our current programme and are making provisional plans to deal with the weather conditions better as we begin to understand the microclimate at the site.

Local residents will have started to notice more frequent road cleaning as we endeavour to keep the roads clean and a dramatic reduction in HGV movements.

We have now completed the basement excavation, the ground floor slab and the formation of driveway. There are a number of tasks in progress: the lower ground floor internal walls, the ground floor structural walls, light wells, the ground floor slab waterproofing, below ground drainage and the external staircases.

For those of you who have any feedback on the site, please contact us on caytonparkinfo@gmail.com and one of the team will come back to you as soon as possible.

Rosco Project Team
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A Taste of Christmas concert
St Mary's Church, Twyford
Saturday 8 December
at 7.30pm
Tickets (£10 adults; £5 children and students) can be purchased from the Floor Store, High Street, Twyford or telephone 0118 934 3328.
Part of the Christmas Tree Festival from 6 to 9 December inclusive

Library matters

Please make calling into the library part of your weekly habit. We know there are lots of new babies in the village and we would love to see them in the library, along with their mums and dads of course!

We have a lovely range of board books that are suitable for very young babies and, of course, even more beautiful picture books for when they are a little bit older.

We can always order books (even brand new ones) from other Wokingham borough libraries for you to pick up from Wargrave and it will only cost you 60p – which, we think you will agree, is a lot cheaper than using your petrol and paying for parking. (Not that we want to put you off visiting other libraries. Don't forget that Woodley library is even open on Sundays, and there is free parking... and you can pop into Lidl for some bargain shopping at the same time.)

Home Library Service

If you do know of anyone who is struggling to get to the library due to ill-health or mobility problems, we can offer a service (completely free of charge) whereby books are brought to their home by a volunteer.

We also have a service where staff, based at Woodley library, come out once every three weeks to visit larger homes, such as The Mount and Elizabeth Court. In fact, over the years, when we know of people who used to visit the library in the village but are no longer able, Ros has often managed to persuade the team to pop in on their way. So, do tell us if you know of anyone this applies to.

NEW! Mind the Space events
Starts Wednesday
14 November, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Please come and support our first Mind the Space event. Sarah Hart,



a specialist in nutrition, is going to join us for a health-themed coffee morning. Sarah will talk about looking after yourself, in terms of both nutrition and mental health.

Sarah will also be offering taster massages using products from the Tropic range, which she can supply if anyone is interested.

The idea of this range of talks is to offer a way of encouraging contact with other people, and it can perhaps develop into something of a support network. The good news about it being on our usual coffee morning day is that there will be plenty of tea, coffee and less than healthy snacks available (sorry, Sarah!).

Knit Wits

Third Wednesday of the month,
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Just in case you are reasonably new to the village, I wanted to let you know that we have a lovely group of knitters who are busy making 'magical knitting' in between knitting for charity!

Our team of trusty knitters are already starting to think about the Wargrave Festival next year (an amazing event; if you are new to the village, you will be so proud of the place you have come to call home!). The theme of magic is inspiring a lot of 'wand' knitting, but if you are up for knitting (or crocheting) a rabbit and a top hat, please join us. This is a great way to learn a new skill and don't worry: if the idea of rabbits seems a bit much for now, we always need very straightforward knitted strips too.

If you would like to learn to knit but need to pick the children up from school, please let us know as we can arrange to see you a bit earlier to get you started. We have plenty of spare knitting needles and wool. This is a great way to relax and a good way to rest your brain. (Well, it is once you have the hang of it!)

There is also a lovely group that meets at The Bull on Thursday evenings to knit, sew up, crochet and drink. To be fair, we don't recommend trying to produce anything too tricky on those evening sessions; Ros reports that her bunting came out very wonky when she tried to combine all three

activities! We can give you details if you call into the library.

Brown bags and blue bags

We know some of you are still surprised by what you can pick up from the library apart from books. We supply the brown gardening waste bags for £1 each, which the council will pick up from your house (alternate weeks). They are very useful when all the leaves are starting to be blown off the trees and for motivating you to clear up the garden before the chills of winter set in.

We also supply blue refuse bags, so you can stock up if you've run out or if they have 'forgotten' to deliver to you (some houses are very tucked away and seem to be missed every year!). We can sell you rolls of 10 bags for £4.

If you have recently moved to the area, just telephone the council on 0118 974 6000 and they can give you a voucher via email (no need to print them out; we are happy to take the information from your phone if you have that facility), which we need to record. Don't forget that if you have a family of more than four people (sadly, although we have all tried, guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs and cats don't count), you are entitled to extra bags. Just get in touch on the number above.

Libby the Library Bear

Well, we had a very busy first Saturday session with Art before Stories... sorry, I mean Read Me, Make Me. It might have been beginner's luck, so I'll let you know more next month. I will also tell you how all the Paddington Bear adventures have gone. Although I am feeling a little bit jealous of all the attention that bear is getting!

But don't forget, Saturday sessions are on the first Saturday of the month, from 10.30am to 11.15am and we are always pleased to see new faces as well as our lovely regular ones.



We have also had an offer from someone who is willing to run a Rhymetime session every

Library matters (continued)

other Wednesday morning (weeks to alternate with Butterflies at St Mary's Church). We'd be really grateful for your feedback on this: is this a time that would suit a few of you? Please call into the library for a chat.

Timetable changes

We're a little bit reluctant to put this in *Wargrave News* as all the balls still seem to be in the air... although, occasionally, they do get near the floor! But it looks as if Chris will be your regular host in the library on Monday afternoons and Ros will be catching out those of you who also use Twyford library, by being there two out of three Mondays. The good news is that on one in three Mondays, both of us will be at Wargrave together, so they will become Dream Team Mondays! And a good chance to catch up!

Regular library events

Crafts & Laughs

First Wednesday of the month
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Coffee and Cakes

Second Wednesday of the month
10.00am to 12.00 noon

Monday Bookworms

First Monday of the month
2.00pm to 3.00pm

Knit Wits

Third Wednesday of the month
2.00pm to 4.00pm

iHelp

Fourth Wednesday of the month
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Read Me, Make Me

First Saturday of the month
10.30am



Opening times

Please pop in
and see us!

Monday	10.00am–12.00 noon 2.00pm– 5.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am–1.00pm 2.00pm–5.00pm
Friday	2.00pm–5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am–1.00pm

Ros and Chris
0118 940 4656

News from Elizabeth Court

Our development continues apace and, in line with the principle of 'making things worse to get better', the demolition work is largely over and we are now starting to see the shape of our new space. The main structural building work is completed, so noise from heavy machinery is reduced.

The next stage will include main entrance and improved pathway surfaces, steps and safety lighting. Unfortunately this will mean some disruption to the open site areas, and the management committee would like to apologise to visitors to the surgery who have had to use the rear entrance on several occasions recently while work has been undertaken to create this new entrance.

Despite the disruption to our facilities, our residents continue to enjoy their regular activities.

In August, Roseleen Merriman delighted residents of Elizabeth Court with Hattie's visit. Hattie is a six-year-old Spanish water dog and has been a Pets as Therapy (PAT) volunteer dog for five years. To work for PAT, Hattie has to be well-mannered and obedient, with a reliable, friendly nature and, above all, happy to meet people.

The charity was founded in 1983 by Lesley Scott-Ordish, who has seen how depressed and lonely people in homes and institutions can become. Animals are ice-breakers. They can revive memories of pets from the past, encourage communication and allow tactile contact.

Roseleen takes Hattie to Age UK in Twyford, where she meets people who love chatting to her, stroking her and feeding her. Human biscuits are forbidden, but not dog biscuits provided by Roseleen.

We heard the moving story of a patient at Wokingham Community Hospital, who was recovering from a stroke and had impaired speech. He looked longingly at Hattie, who allowed him to stroke her. The ward manager gave permission for Hattie to be put on his bed.

For four years, Hattie has been visiting St Michael's school in

Sandhurst, as part of the Read2Dogs programme, which runs throughout the UK. Children with reading difficulties or simply a lack of confidence read to non-judgemental Hattie for 15 minutes, with astonishing results. No wonder Hattie represented PAT at Crufts on the 'Bark and Read' stand. When not working, Hattie is loved and nurtured by her owners Roseleen and Peter.

If you have a friendly dog that you would like to share with others, please go to petsastherapy.org to download the application form. You can volunteer for as little as two hours a month. There is a huge waiting list for PAT visits and not enough dogs.

October saw Elizabeth Court welcoming two new residents. Both have spent many years in Wargrave and we wish them much happiness in our community. There are still some vacant flats and we would welcome enquiries from retired people living in Wargrave who are ready to downsize or those Wargrave residents with parents who wish to move closer to family and grandchildren.

To learn more about us or to arrange a visit to look around, email the house manager at elizabeth.court1@btconnect.com or call 0118 940 6116.

Shirley Collie



Betty Moore making friends with Hattie

1st Wargrave Rainbows



1st Wargrave Rainbows have spent the first half of the autumn term completing their Roundabout The World badge.

We made mini greenhouses and planted seeds, which the

girls have been eagerly watching grow at home. The Rainbows learnt about road safety and took advantage of Victoria Road being closed to practise crossing by themselves. There was lots of careful looking and listening as they crossed.

The Rainbows spent one meeting this term learning about Votes for Women and the suffragettes. They combined this with thinking about how the things they like might be different from other girls, and how they could convince someone else to agree with their opinions. They also explored their crafty side by designing and making suffragette badges, some of which are shown below. They were very imaginative and every badge was different.



We have also enjoyed lots of games and singing.

If you would like to join 1st Wargrave Rainbows, please register your interest by visiting www.girlguiding.org.uk and clicking on 'Get involved'.

We are also looking for unit helpers. If you might be interested, please contact the unit directly by emailing 1stWargraveRainbows@gmail.com.

Caroline Dent (Topaz)

Being a Brownie leader

Some of our leaders have generously shared their thoughts on what being a Brownie – and now a Brownie leader – means to them.

Were you a Brownie and, if so, what do you remember about it?

Brown Owl: Yes, I was a Brownie, Guide and Ranger in Shrewsbury. They were very happy times for me; I remember lots of giggling and lots of fun going on pack holidays and camping.



Wise Owl: Yes I was, and I have many memories, from being with my 'six' working on challenges together to sitting in a big circle singing around campfires. We all took the Promise ceremonies very seriously when new Brownies joined us. I was a Sprite.

Snowy Owl: Yes, I was a Brownie and Guide, and thoroughly enjoyed my time in both. My main memories are of having fun with lots of other girls – playing games, singing songs and working towards badges. I remember feeling very proud of my Brownie uniform with all the badges on it – and I know the Brownies today feel equally proud of their badges, which show all the hard work they have done.

Favourite thing you've done as a Brownie leader?

Brown Owl: Taking the girls to Paxmead on pack holiday, as I knew all the girls had a wonderful time.

Wise Owl: Brownie Camp was so much fun. Spending two days trying new things, working together and having loads of fun.

Snowy Owl: One of my clearest memories of being a Brownie was doing my Cook's badge and learning about staying safe in the kitchen. Last year, I loved being able to give the Brownies that same experience by taking them through the same things I learned all those years ago – all still as relevant today as back then.

It is clear that the girls benefit from your volunteering, but do you benefit too?

Wise Owl: Massively! I always come out of Brownies with a 'buzz'. We have 30 Brownies this term and working as a team to allow girls of all personalities to enjoy new things and have fun fills me with a huge sense of pride.

Snowy Owl: I've found that in my efforts to give the Brownies valuable experiences, I've been pushed outside my comfort zone and have gained in confidence doing things that I wouldn't have believed I would have done five years ago.

How does being a Brownie Leader fit around your family, work and other commitments?

Wise Owl: Surprisingly well. I was worried I wouldn't have enough time to give, being a full-time working mum who travels a lot, but it turns out that Brownies doesn't take a lot of time. I can fit our session-planning around my busy life and take my time to keep the leader courses up to date. Basically, there is no rush, but plenty of fun.

Helen Wallace

Autumn term fun at 1st Wargrave Scouts

Autumn term is well underway, and we have had a busy, fun-packed programme, allowing Scouts to learn and experience several new skills.

Term started with a cooking evening. Instead of the usual pancakes, Scouts cooked vegetable pizzas from raw ingredients, even making the bases.

Over the summer, we were lucky enough to have a large number of nine-foot wooden poles donated to the troop. As part of a big structure pioneering evening, the Scouts built and raced chariots and then constructed a giant seesaw on the rec! Making use of the last of the light evenings, we took part in a night navigation hike from Knowl Hill to the Kissing Gate, and on another Monday enjoyed cooking in Bowsey Woods.

The highlight of the term so far was our summer camp, which this year took place at the end of September at the Youlbury Scout



Activity Centre near Oxford. Fifteen Scouts worked in three teams, sharing all food preparation, cooking and washing up. Some of the new Scouts mentioned that this camp was the first time they had ever done some of these tasks!

Other activities included Jacob's Ladder, axe and tomahawk throwing, and a 6km day hike to Farmoor Reservoir and back along the River Thames.

Just before half-term, we held an international evening as part of the World Challenge badge. The Scouts debated Brexit. It was interesting to hear the view of 10 five-to-14-year olds as they presented back their own understandings of the advantages of 'Leaving' or 'Remaining'.

Later that evening, we welcomed back Daniel Dowling and Thomas Hicks, both ex-1st Wargrave Scouts who are now at Loddon Explorers. Daniel and Thomas have been selected to take part in the Berkshire Scouts' *Project Africa*. This involves spending three weeks in Uganda next July as part of a team building a new school classroom. We wish both of them all the best with what will be a great life-learning challenge and adventure.

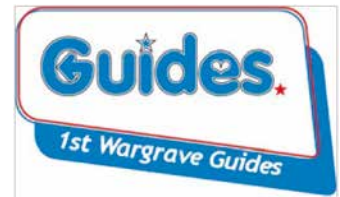
Over the next three to 18 months, we have a large number of leaders retiring and moving on from Beavers, Cubs and Scout sections. This means that we will be looking for a new team of parent volunteers to come forward to maintain Scouting in the village. We are also on the lookout for villagers to join as trustees on our executive committee, which organises social events and maintains our charity finances.

If you have some spare time and are interested in providing young Wargravians with the opportunity to experience the outdoors – helping them grow and develop skills for life – please do visit our website www.wargravescouts.org, email gsl@wargravescouts.org or speak to Pete Fry, 1st Wargrave Group Scout Leader.

Pete Walsh, Scout leader
0118 940 2747

All change at 1st Wargrave Guides

You may have heard in the news that Girlguiding has changed. It is still the same amazing, fun, adventurous organisation, but the badges and activities have all changed.



The way the girls achieve the top award, now called Gold Award, in each section has changed too. All of the sections are now linked together so it is easy to see a girl's progress throughout Girlguiding. The Senior Section has gone back to being called Rangers and now it only goes up to the age of 18. Although the new programme is not a requirement until September 2019, the Guides have taken it on with great gusto.

We started off the autumn term by welcoming three new Guides. We played a game of Risk and won or lost tokens depending on how much of a risk we were prepared to take. The game got very competitive, with some Guides collecting huge amounts of tokens whilst others lost everything. The conversation around how easy it was to lose everything was very interesting, as the girls related it to what could happen in real life.

There is a super new badge book for Guides and the girls are really inspired by it; earlier in the term, we undertook the Personal Brand badge. Each patrol produced a super advert for its own brand and came up with some brilliant ideas.

We have completed a few skills builders too, and have now completed our Stage 3 Innovate badge.



There is a new Vlogging badge for Guides, which we recently started. Working in patrols, the Guides planned, filmed and edited a vlog (video blog) on an iPad. They were amazing. The Guides have all been set the challenge to complete another vlog at home to complete the badge.

The day after starting the Vlogging badge, we received our first additional vlog from Tilly – it was super. It was cleverly crafted with music and special effects, and it showed her making a lemon drizzle cake.

We are looking forward to seeing what other exciting new things the Guide programme has to offer.

If you are interested in knowing more about Guides, please do visit our website at www.1stwargraveguides.co.uk.

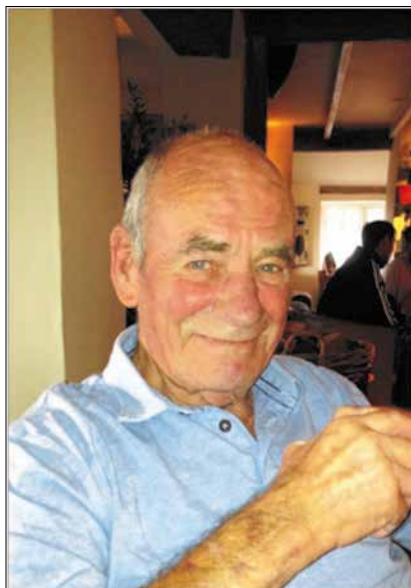
Tamsin Phipps

Guides (continued)

Here are a few photos of some of our recent Guiding activities.



The Bill Hickman Cup



Bill Hickman's smiling face will be a familiar sight to many in the village.

Sadly, Bill passed away a little over three years ago, never to be forgotten – but, as a reminder, the Bill Hickman Cup, a golf day based on the Ryder Cup format, was started in 2016.



Unlike most golf days, which frequently use the Stapleford form of scoring, this is a team-based match play competition, which is much more exiting – someone could take 10 shots on the first hole and lose the hole, but win the next hole, bringing the match back to all square.

The teams were 'The Builders' versus 'The Drinkers'. Bill, of course, was both, and highly skilled at both. 2018 once again saw The Builders retain the cup, but each of the three years it has been a close-run thing: only one hole in it, on all three occasions.

The Builders were ably captained by Mick Hinton and The Drinkers not so ably, it would appear, captained by Geoff Knight.

This year, 10 teams of two fought it out in strange weather conditions; it blew a gale, then the monsoon came, and finally the sun came out. No dampening of spirits was detected and the final result hung on the last match, which The Builders won.

As usual, Bill's lovely daughter Emma (who plays of a handicap of 14) performed extremely well. Twenty golfers took part and the day was followed by a dinner and prize-giving at The Bull, attended by most of the players and their partners. A good day was had by all, and it was a fitting memory in honour of Bill.

The Bill Hickman Cup is not a fundraising event; however, as in past years, we were able to provide a modest donation to the Sue Ryder Trust, which took such good care of Bill towards the end of his life.

The event will take place again next year, hopefully in July or August to avoid the monsoons. The more players the better, so if anyone who knew Bill would like to play and hasn't played in the past, please let me know.

We will stay with the Ryder Cup format as it's a bit different and everybody appeared to enjoy the team aspect.

Last but not least, a big thank you to Jayne at The Bull for providing a great meal and the lovely venue. The Bill Hickman Cup is on display in The Bull if anyone would care to see the trophy we fight for.

Geoff Knight

Your photos



Thank you to Mike Jones for this photo of one the wonderful sunsets we saw earlier in the autumn. We're guessing it was taken near the St George & Dragon.

Robert Piggott primary schools

The school year is now well and truly up and running. The infants put on a spectacular harvest festival performance and hopefully you have all ordered your colourful and unique Christmas cards as designed by the children.

We have already had a couple of fundraising events. The first film club of the year saw *Peter Rabbit* being screened: this was a huge success as always, with increasing amounts of sweets and popcorn being consumed each year.

The Robert Piggott primary schools also featured in Waitrose's green token scheme. Thank you both to Waitrose and to all those people who popped their little green tokens into the relevant box at the exit of Waitrose Twyford. You know who you are.

The disco is fast approaching and the children are really looking forward to it. Could some of you spare some time to help make the evening a success? We need people to hand out drinks and peddle sweets and glow sticks before sitting back and marvelling at the shapes being thrown with gay abandon on the dance floor. Please email Sarah Davies if you can help: setwell@hotmail.com.

The times are:

Infants: 5.00pm–6.00pm

Years 3 and 4: 6.15pm–7.15pm

Years 5 and 6: 7.30pm–8.30pm.

Come along and enjoy the fun at the annual Christmas bazaar.

Visitors will be treated to a glorious array of Christmas sights, sounds and smells; it's the perfect place to get into the festive spirit. Children have the chance to meet Father Christmas in his wintry wonderland grotto and collect a Christmas gift.

There will be mulled wine, mince pies, carol singers and a range of festive stalls to browse, to find that perfect gift. Choose and order your Christmas tree, and feast on freshly made gourmet burgers or sausages with all the trimmings (each one sold contributes to the school). There will also be luxury gift hampers for sale, guess the weight of the

Christmas cake competition, cafe, cake stall, toy stall, tombola and a fantastic Christmas raffle with some amazing prizes.

The Christmas fayre is open from 12.30pm until 3.30pm and entry will be free for children, with a suggested donation of £1 per adult.

Please come along and support our school. All proceeds will go to Robert Piggott primary schools.

For further information, please contact Sally Reason on chair@robertpiggottpta.org.uk.

See you all there!

The Robert Piggott Primary Schools PTA

The Piggott School

The Piggott School has recently completed another successful exchange visit to Erfstadt in Germany. The school has a long-running association with the Ville-Gymnasium (grammar school) in Erfstadt, which is near Cologne, and this well-established exchange has proved very popular over the years.



Here is an account of the experience from one of our Year 10 pupils:

At 6.40am on Saturday 29 September, we met at school to make the great seven-hour trek in a coach, all the way to Germany to meet our exchange partners.

We spent time with our exchange families visiting local sites. I went to Gaia Zoo, Aachen and the cathedral with my exchange family.

During our time in Germany we went on numerous excursions. One day-trip was to Burg Eltz, an impressive medieval castle above the Moselle River. Later we drove to Koblenz where we all went shopping. We found a shop selling

Christmas decorations (yes, on the first day of October!).

On another day we went to Cologne and climbed the cathedral tower, all 533 steps. The steps were stone, and very narrow. You can see right across Cologne from the top of the tower. After the cathedral, we walked along the Rhine to the chocolate museum where we got free chocolate. We tasted different components of chocolate, and chilli chocolate! There was a chocolate fountain, where we got wafers dipped in melted chocolate from a pool of it with some ornate statue thing on top. On the way out, we got a small bundle of chocolate! We visited the chocolate shop and some of us bought more Lindt products. Afterwards, we had some shopping time in Cologne.

We went to the Haus der Geschichte museum, where we learnt about Germany during and after the second world war, the division of Germany, and the Berlin Wall coming down. It was interesting and showed how different life in Germany was then to how it is now. We also went tobogganing and to a winery for a wine-making tour, where we tried different grape juices.

We were in Germany for Reunification Day, which celebrates the Berlin Wall coming down. Many people spent the day in Phantasialand. It was really busy there!

We spent a day in school with our exchanges. School in Germany is very different from English school, as they wear their own clothes and their days start at 8.10am.

On the following Saturday, we said our emotional goodbyes, and we all still miss our exchanges in Germany. It took about six hours to get home and the traffic wasn't too bad. On the coach on the way home, we had a small awards ceremony. My friend and I got the 'going-like-grannies-down-the-toboggan-run' award! Overall, it was a very enjoyable trip.

Sophie, Year 10

Crazies Hill C of E Primary School

Learning about fire

In October, there was focus on fire as a topic.

The children created a dance to communicate all the knowledge they had gathered about the Fire of London. They now understand the difference between fire-fighting today and in the past. They used ribbons to add another dimension in their final performances.



They also created some beautiful artwork inspired by this topic. This very impressive piece was by Martha.



The Tudor houses they made were lovely too.



School meals are changing

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Edwards and Ward Catering Services as our new provider of school meals, beginning in September 2019. The current Wokingham contract was up for renewal and we decided to go out to tender with our local cluster schools to get a service that's right for Crazies Hill.

Edwards and Ward have an excellent reputation for providing fresh food that is popular with children and provides a value for money. They are very committed to delivering an exciting choice of food with the help of their nutrition and food development team.

This information has been taken from one of the newsletters kindly provided by the school's headteacher.

Wargrave Baby and Toddler Group

Welcome back to another year! We can't believe we are a half term in already. We have had a great start to the term – all the sessions so far have been nicely busy. The children are enjoying the new baby dolls with their accessories, as well as the new fancy dress outfits.



We have also introduced a 'tuff tray' some weeks, as an alternative to the craft table. The little ones stand around it to play. We've introduced different things each time to engage the children, such as making pasta necklaces and pushing the cars/diggers through lots of rice. It has been fun, if a little messy!



Photoshoot, Tuesday 20 November

This year, the Wargrave Baby and Toddler Group itself is offering to take Christmas-themed fun portraits of the children for a nominal fee of £2... All proceeds go straight back into the WBTDG and the photos are a great idea for presents for family and grandparents, or as Christmas cards. One of our regular and very talented mums, Lucy Hamilton, has offered to create a stylish and fun backdrop for the photoshoot.

Christmas party

Tuesday 11 December, 9.30am–11.00am, Wargrave Scout Hut

For the final session of the term, we will be putting on an extra-special festive treat, including a children's entertainer and a surprise visit from Santa and his trusty Elf. All the children will receive a present and there will of course be lots of Christmassy nibbles for all. We will only be charging £2 per child for the session and we would really appreciate it if you could let us know in advance if you will be attending – either on the sign-up sheet at upcoming sessions or by emailing wargravebabyandtoddler@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you.
Isie, Jenny and Suzie

News from your borough councillors

Star Works

First, grateful thanks to those who have supported us with Star Works. Muckmentum did a fine job presenting a very comprehensive case and we now need to see where we get to.

Wargrave fire station

You may remember that 18 months ago, I asked you to support the retaining of the fire station. An overwhelming number of you did, so thank you. It tilted the scales.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) must save approximately £1.3 million from on-station services, contributing to wider savings of £2.4 million across the organisation. The fire authority considered and determined the implementation of the proposal relating to Wargrave be deferred for 12 months, subject to the fulfilment of the following criteria:

1. The required savings be found elsewhere within the RBFRS budget.
2. Wargrave to demonstrate an increase in availability to 60% within that 12-month period, which began on 1 October 2017 and has now elapsed.

Retained Duty System (RDS) availability is dependent on several factors: the overall establishment at the station, ie the number of people, the level of cover they provide in terms of number of hours and whether this is during the day or night, on weekdays or at weekends, and the operational qualifications they hold.

The RDS project board managed a number of work streams to improve and streamline RDS recruitment and training. Focused recruitment activity with the communities in Wargrave has seen a significant increase in the establishment.

Since October 2017, the establishment has increased from eight to 15 people (including two dual contract personnel). When compared with the year-end figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17 of six people, this demonstrates a positive outcome in respect of increasing the number of people available to give fire cover.

For new RDS personnel to have an impact on fire cover, they must

commit to several training modules to become Breathing Apparatus (BA) qualified. This means there will be a lag before new recruits influence availability.

During the 12-month deferment period, availability reached a monthly high of 36.7% in March 2018 and a low of 3.2% in September 2018 as defined by corporate reporting. Availability was also analysed over a rolling 28-day period and maximum availability achieved over 12 months was 38.7%.



Therefore, the target set in April 2017 of 60% has not been achieved. There are several factors that have contributed to these statistics and operational qualifications are a key element: firstly, the training lag, and secondly, the impact caused by a reduction in availability of junior officers. These officers will act as the Officer in Charge of the appliance and without this role the pump cannot be made available for fire cover.

It is possible to predict availability based on personnel becoming qualified at BA, Emergency Response Driving (ERD) or returning from sickness absence or light duties. The fire authority is recommended to postpone the decision for nine months to enable Wargrave to achieve the 60%.

In the meantime, it gives an opportunity for other partners to consider sharing the service.

You can view graphs that illustrate the points made above, at www.rbfrs.co.uk.

Please be in touch if we can be of help.

John Halsall
07939 041 227
johnhalsall@gmail.com

Graham Howe
07540 193 239
grahamhowe@gmail.com

Fire station latest

Time to pay, or they'll take it away?

On 22 October, the management committee of RBFRS unanimously agreed to recommend extending the probation period for Wargrave fire station by another nine months.

This means we **will** meet the target set of 60% availability, but the budget deficit of over £200,000 still needs to be found. This could mean that in nine months' time, even if Wargrave is the **best-performing** retained station in Berkshire, it could still close if it cannot find the money for its operating costs.

So what can we do? We could find a wealthy benefactor. Or we could try to raise the money. The most practical solution is to consider paying for the fire station ourselves. I have spoken with local parish and borough councillors and it is **possible** for a part of our council tax to be solely allocated to the fire station. But who would be prepared to pay for this?

Please complete the survey at <https://bit.ly/2zdKRCB> and let us know! It's just one quick question: how much, if anything, would you be prepared to pay to keep a fire station local to your home?

I, Wargrave Fire Station has almost met the criteria required to keep it open however the RBFRS budget deficit of over £200,000 still has to be found for it to remain open. If it was possible for money to be taken through your council tax for the SOLE USE of funding the Fire Station operating costs, would you agree to an increase and by how much?

No, I do not want to pay extra to fund Wargrave Fire Station

Yes, up to £5 a year (£50 a month)

Yes, up to £10 a year (£10 a month)

Yes, up to £15 a year (£15 a month)

Yes, up to £20 a year (£20 a month)

Yes, up to £25 a year (£25 a month)

Yes, up to £30 a year (£30 a month)

Other

Enter (please specify):

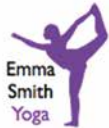
I hope to collate the answers and present them at the final decision meeting on 19 November.

We can't hide the fact that we have lost many local services due to government budget costs or other services being prioritised. But we can do something about this one... We might not have to, but I think a back-up plan wouldn't hurt.

Chez Annetts

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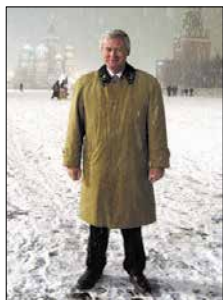
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News from your local WIs

Cockpole Green WI: September meeting

On 19 September, president Adrienne Rance welcomed members. Our speaker was local resident Aldon Ferguson, who talked about the 17 years he spent working in Russia between 1990 and 2007.



*Aldon Ferguson
in Russia*

Arriving in Moscow, Aldon found that the weather was extreme, varying across the seasons from -30°C to

+30°C. Spring and autumn hardly got a look in. He found everything very drab, as money was mainly spent on the military.

There were no mobile phones or cash machines; only untipped cigarettes were available, and there

was one Western-style petrol station, where fuel was four pence a litre. No supermarkets; just small shops, which did not use tills to record payments but instead used a notebook and abacus.

Dollars were used and any change was given in the form of sweets. To hail a taxi, all you had to do was stick out your hand and anyone would stop!

There were no Western hotels, so Aldon often stayed in the Belgrade Hotel (a Stalinist skyscraper), which was very basic. In communist times, everyone was employed and had to work – there was no alternative. Trams were very cheap and often crowded, as were the metro and buses. Cars were basic and built like tractors, and there was a waiting list of approximately three years to buy one unless you were a party member.

The state owned all property. The government allocated flats – which, although cheap, were provided

without any consideration for the size of the family. As a result, you could have six people living in a one- or two-bedroom flat. Mum, dad, grandparents and children would all share the same basic facilities. The central heating, known as City Heating, came from central heating stations and the city decided when it was turned on and off.

As there was no heating control in the flats and fridges were very rare, perishable food was hung in bags out of the windows to keep cool.

In 2000, however, the lives of the Russian people began to be transformed when Russia opened up its borders. McDonald's was allowed to set up a chain of fast food restaurants in 2004 and this was a massively popular move with the Russians, who were happy to join long queues.

Selina Avent

Cockpole Green WI: October meeting



Channel swimmer Peter Lowe and his support boat

On 17 October, our president welcomed members and guest speaker Peter Lowe, who gave us a fascinating insight into the *Challenge of the Channel*.

Peter started his talk by showing us a video called *Quest for Glory*, compiled by his friend Hannah Young from Wargrave – also a channel swimmer – to give us an idea of what his challenge entailed.

He took 22 hours and only wore swimming trunks – a tradition carried on today as no wetsuits

are allowed. Members also learned that because you are not allowed to touch any person, or the support boat, during the course of the swim, any food or drink is passed to you from the escort boat in a cup on a string.

Peter had a carbohydrate drink every half-hour and some solid food, like jelly babies or mini sandwiches, every hour.

After his first two hours of swimming, he was permitted a support swimmer to swim alongside. A support swimmer was then allowed every other hour.

Peter's training took place in a wide variety of locations, and in March this year, he went to a long distance training camp in Mallorca. He showed us a video of his extreme shivering following a six-hour training swim.

At 9.00am on 25 July, Peter set out from Dover Harbour to swim the 21 miles to France. While swimming, he came across stinging jellyfish, whose tentacles slashed across his face. A light attached to his goggles

strap made him clearly visible to the support boat.

When Peter finally reached the beach, he was elated, but there is little glamour in Channel swimming and there was nobody to greet him.

Although he was very seasick on the journey back, he was thrilled to see a welcome home party of his two brothers waiting for him on the harbour wall in Dover with a bottle of champagne!

Peter's challenge has so far raised £4,500 for Cancer Research UK. If you'd like to donate, go to <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/petes-channel-swim-2018>.

Our next meeting will be held at Crazies Hill village hall on Wednesday 14 November at 2.30pm. Our speaker will be Aldon Ferguson, whose talk is entitled *Danesfield House and Phyllis Court at War*. All are welcome.

Selina Avent

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News from your local WIs (continued)

Mill Green Wargrave WI



President Frankie Macmillan proposing a toast at our 500th meeting

On the occasion of our 500th meeting on 3 October, Jennipher Marshall-Jenkinson gave a thorough explanation of the principles of microwave cookery.

Jennipher began her career in Sydney, Australia, leaving England after her marriage. In Sydney, she wrote for a magazine called *Nature and Health*, amongst other food-related publications. She then wrote a book entitled *Microwave Knowhow*, which was published bi-monthly with a recipe magazine,

and so her microwave career was launched. She helped to set up MICA, the Microwave Council of Australia.

On her return to England, Jennipher discovered that microwaves were being marketed hugely but no one really understood them, so for the last 30 years she has been chairman of the Microwave Cookery Association.

Jennipher has had a very varied career in the field of food microwave cookery, as well as writing articles for national and international publications. She also used to write the Dairy Diaries that came with home deliveries of milk.

Jennipher has also appeared on the *Watchdog* television programme with Angela Rippon at Oxford University, carrying out experiments on the value of preserving the vitamins in vegetables by microwaving them.

Several simple dishes containing no more than three ingredients were

then cooked for the audience to taste. First, teriyaki salmon and chicken with apricots and accompanying vegetables. A chocolate and cherry upside-down pudding with chocolate sauce followed.

Jennipher demonstrated how to cook small cakes in just one minute, as well as some simple and very quickly prepared puddings, which are both useful additions to the list for amusing small grandchildren!

After a toast given by the president, members tasted the dishes along with a glass of wine to celebrate the 500th meeting. The vote of thanks was given by Jan French.

Our Christmas dinner will be held in the Sansom Room on 5 December at 7.30pm. Our January meeting will be a members' evening.

Penny Hampton

Meetings are held in the Hannen Room at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Wargrave Local History Society



Local historian and author Paul Lacey recalled the history of Smith's Coaches of Reading in an illustrated talk at Wargrave Local History Society's October meeting.

In 1921, Paul bought an ex-army chassis and a load of spares. Having refurbished it, he called it *The Bluebird*, and in partnership with Charlie Tanton, put it on the road in 1922.

Soon, Smith and Tanton were being asked to take parties to the coast. In 1923, they bought a new charabanc and, as a result, much longer trips were possible. Towards the end of 1925, however, Alf Smith

and Charlie Tanton had a major disagreement (following an accident to a hired vehicle that Charlie had been driving), and so the partnership was ended.

When the second world war started, about a third of Smith's vehicles were requisitioned by the military. Work during this period included carrying workers to munitions and aircraft factories, and prisoners of war to work on farms.

After the war, Smith's again bought vehicles from the military. Many were in poor condition, but the company staff was skilled in getting them back to a usable condition. People were keen to travel – on just one day, Smith's sent 66 coaches out on their express services. Church groups, outings, factory workers and villages would all arrange an annual outing.

Meanwhile, garage provision in Reading had become a problem. In due course, land at Rose Kiln Lane was acquired, the fleet was expanded and modernised, and

grew to become the largest private coach operator in the south of England. Alf Smith – a former mayor of Reading, described as a wealthy but generous man – died in 1976. The family continued to run the business until 1979, when it was sold.

For information about Paul's books on local transport history, including the latest one on Smith's, see www.paullaceytransportbooks.co.uk.

Our next meeting takes place on Tuesday 13 November, when David Lewis will reveal some of the history of Old Windsor, and on Tuesday 11 December we will hold our Christmas party.

Meetings take place at the Old Pavilion on Wargrave Recreation Ground, starting at 8.00pm.

Contact me via our website, www.wargravehistory.org.uk, or telephone 0118 940 3121 for more information.

Peter Delaney



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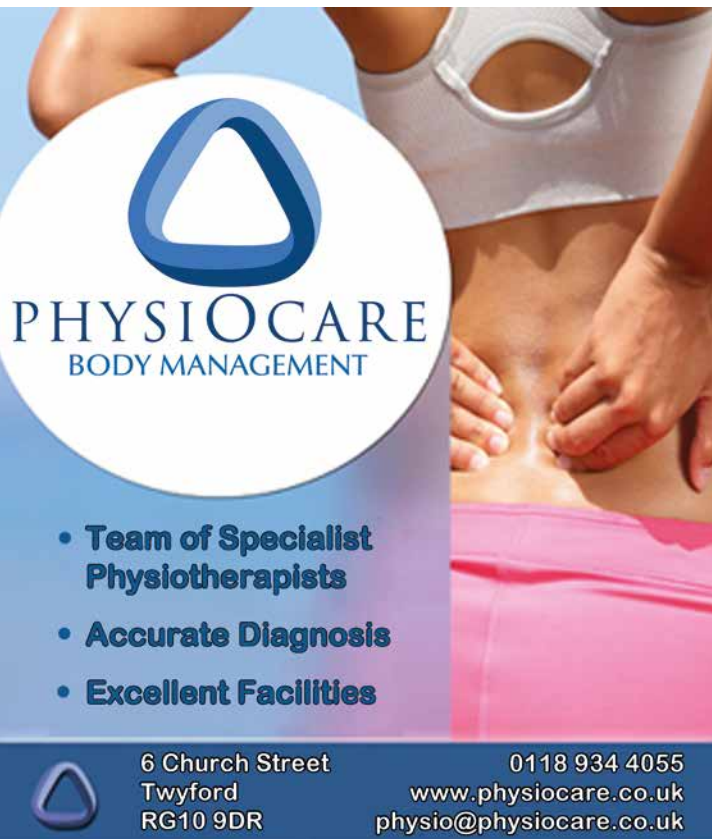
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Kiln Green news

To our consternation, Kiln Green saviour, Mike Quinn – who last month assured residents that they would have ultrafast fibre broadband by February – has now left Gigaclear. The task of delivering that promise now falls to his successor, project director David Thrower, who, it is hoped, will honour the commitment and finally bring our three-year wait to a happy conclusion.

shallow layer of topsoil spread along the gutter, was always doomed, since it could not be protected from incursive vehicles. My photograph of the resulting devastation was taken one day **after** this remedial work was carried out.

All is not lost, however. Thanks to a generous donation of bulbs by local



Gone, but not forgotten: Gigaclear's Mike Quinn (right) last month gave Scarletts Lane residents a "100% guarantee" that they will be connected to his fibre broadband network within six months. Also pictured (from left to right): Residents' Association chairman, Wayne Roxburgh-Smith and residents, Brian Cakebread and Geoff Harris.

Speaking of commitments, Wokingham District Council still hasn't finished its ditch and drain clearance work on the A4 at Hare Hatch as we go to press. Drainage maintenance manager Eddie Napper tells me that the job is bigger than anticipated, requiring multiple vehicles to clear away the ditch and culvert detritus from both sides of a 150-metre stretch of road. 'It will definitely be finished by the end of October,' he said. His team has managed to fix a separate standing water problem caused by a bag of cement blocking a drain.

And the pothole repairs in Scarletts Lane have finally been completed, albeit the council has made a token and ill-conceived attempt to restore some of the verges in the lane which were flattened by the full weight of diverted traffic from the A4 last December. Their plan, which was to sow grass seed on a

resident Barry Holliman of Ladds Garden Village, the Scarletts Lane verges will be bursting with colour next spring. The residents' association has organised a plantathon for 3 November.

*Simon Chapman
sc@pr100.com*



Verging on the ridiculous: newly seeded topsoil is pulverised by careless drivers within hours of the restoration

Give it a go! Bridge in the Sansom Room



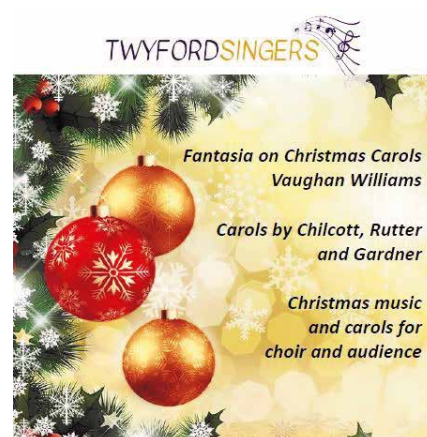
Fancy trying your hand at bridge? Why not come and join this friendly and welcoming group, which meets every Thursday in the Sansom Room (above the library) from 2.00pm until 4.00pm from September until June.

Sessions are tutor-led with prepared hands. The cost is £6.50 a session (your first session is free), plus an annual membership of just £5.

If you are interested in coming along, please email me at r.d.fernley@btinternet.com or call into the library and I can tell you more about it.

We hope to welcome you soon!

Ros Fernley



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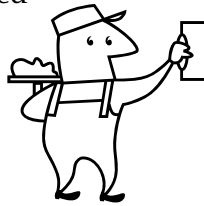
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Help needed by local charity ABC to Read



Local charity ABC to Read is looking for volunteers to work one-to-one

with primary school children to support them with their reading, encouraging them to enjoy stories and love the adventures that are on offer through words on a page.

The charity's model of using trained volunteer mentors has gained excellent results. ABC to Read has more schools requiring help than ever before, resulting in a need for

over 50 new volunteers across the county. For more information, please visit www.abctoread.org.uk.

Marcia Rowlinson, ABC to Read CEO, said: 'While I'm thrilled that so many more children are receiving the support and encouragement they need with reading, this increased demand also requires more volunteers.

'The impact we have on local youngsters is phenomenal and I'd love to be able to tell more schools that we can provide the help their

children need because more volunteers have come forward.'

For more information about training days or joining the scheme as a school or volunteer mentor, email abctoread@btconnect.com.

Jenny Cooney
Reading mentor and trustee of ABC to Read

Citizens Advice offers haven for hate crime victims

Victims and witnesses of hate crime in south Oxfordshire who are unwilling to talk directly to the police now have a place to go to report incidents. Since July 2018, Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale has become a hate crime reporting centre, providing a safe environment where you can tell specially trained staff what happened to you.

Citizens Advice staff and volunteers can then act on your behalf, contacting the police if you want that, and referring you to Victims First, a service which will provide the support you need to recover from your experience. Please see

below for more information about Victims First.

Hate incidents or crimes are acts of violence or hostility directed at people because of their personal characteristics or because of what other people think those characteristics are. People might be verbally abused in the street because they are disabled or gay or because somebody thinks they are. Hate incidents are commonly sparked off by people's prejudices about disability, race, religion or sexual orientation. They can take many forms, including threats and harassment, verbal abuse, intimidation, physical attacks, hate

mail, online abuse or damage to homes or cars.

You can report a hate incident or hate crime even if it wasn't directed at you personally.

Contact Citizens Advice in person during opening hours or by telephone (Adviceline: 0344 411 1444).

For locations of offices and opening hours, please see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale.

Darius Halpern
Oxfordshire South and Vale
Citizens Advice Bureau



Support for victims of crime and abuse from Victims First

Have you been a victim of crime or abuse? Being a victim of or a witness to a crime can be an emotional and difficult time.

Victims First provides free emotional and practical support to all victims and witnesses of crime or abuse, as well as family members of victims. It is available across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and can provide help regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police.

A Victims First Officer can discuss any emotional or practical needs you may have and work with you to put a tailored support plan in place.

This could involve referring you to a specialist service such as services for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

The type of assistance available includes telephone and face-to-face support, advocacy (including help to access other services such as sexual health clinics, drug and alcohol services and legal services), support through the criminal justice system if you have reported the crime to the police and therapeutic counselling.

A Young Victims Service is also available to anyone under 18 and works with young people to help

them cope with the effects of crime.

To speak to a Victims First officer about the services or to receive support, please call 0300 1234 148.

You can also find more information or make a referral for support online at www.victims-first.org.uk.

Sarah Stokes
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Home-Start Wokingham District



Home-Start Wokingham District is a voluntary organisation supporting young families across

Wokingham borough who have at least one child under five years of age and who are experiencing difficulties.

Volunteers visit families in their own homes once a week to provide practical help with children as well as emotional support and friendship to the parents.

Volunteers can be a listening ear and signpost families to other organisations that can help with specific issues, they can help

families with medical and other appointments, and help a family get the children out to the park or play with the children in the home.

We have recently launched a Big Lottery-funded 'Tools For Life' (TFL) project. Over the next four years, we will be working to ensure that children are provided with the tools they need to achieve the best start in life by improving their chances to access formal educational settings fully, both nursery and school.

Their parents, as their first educators, will grow and develop their own skills and self-belief to be able to help their children achieve their full potential. Our TFL volunteers will be trained to provide

short targeted support (up to six months) per family and assist them as they achieve these important outcomes.

If you are a parent or grandparent who feels you could help a young family, then Home-Start Wokingham District would love to hear from you.

Our next 10-week course will begin on Wednesday 23 January 2019.

If you would like to be involved, please email admin@home-startwd.org.uk or contact the office for more information on 0118 988 8025.

Lindsay Browne
Home-Start scheme co-ordinator

Winter burglary advice from Thames Valley Police

With the darker nights setting in, the police neighbourhood team offers this advice about keeping your house secure and well lit.

Doors and windows

Ensure all doors and windows are locked. Many burglaries are opportunist, when a burglar sees an easy way into a property and takes the opportunity. Keeping doors and windows locked really makes a difference. Double-lock doors. We have seen burglaries where people gained entry by pulling the door handle through the letter box. Double-locking your doors prevents this.

uPVC or composite doors have multi-locking systems, but it is recommended they are fitted with an anti-snap lock cylinder (TS007) of 3* standard as a minimum. Make sure your front door is well lit.

Use dusk-to-dawn lighting which automatically comes on as it gets dark. Window locks can be seen from outside and could deter a burglar from forcing the window.

Security outside your home

Never leave garages or sheds unlocked, especially if they connect

to your property. Visible burglar alarms and carefully directed security lighting can deter burglars. Make sure that alarms stop sounding after 20 minutes and that lights don't disturb your neighbours.

Keeping keys safe

Ensure your keys are kept in a safe place out of sight and well away from your letterbox. Don't tag keys so they can be easily identified. Don't leave spare keys outside or in a garage or shed. Consider buying a safe for personal papers, passports and jewellery and secure it to a floor or wall.

Going on holiday

Suspend deliveries such as milk and newspapers. Don't share information about when you are going on holiday on social media. It is even possible this could affect your insurance cover. Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property. Try to make your home look (and even sound!) occupied while you are not there by using timer switches on lamps or a radio.

Marking your property

Ultraviolet or invisible marking can only be seen by an ultraviolet lamp, although it fades over time and can

be washed off eventually. Permanent marking by engraving or etching is suitable for hard surfaces.

Tracking for laptops and smartphones

These can now be traced if stolen by using online tracking software, which is usually free. Search online and register your laptop or phone. Know your IMEI number, the globally unique 15-digit number assigned to your mobile phone which can be used to block it from being used if it is lost or stolen.

Contact us

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, call the police on 101 or, in an emergency, 999. You can contact us at TwyfordNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for urgent matters.

Follow us on Twitter
[@TVP_Wokingham](https://twitter.com/TVP_Wokingham).

To receive free information updates about your area from Thames Valley Police, you can register for Thames Valley Alerts at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk.

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Wargrave Lawn Tennis Club

Our annual senior and junior finals day, combined, was held on 16 September. It was a fine day and, though a little gusty, we had some excellent tennis to watch.

Seniors

The men's doubles final, contested between Jeremy Morgan and John Winston against Colin Johnson and Kieran Martin-Davies, set the tone. All four are very good players and the onlookers were rewarded with some fast and skillful play. Jeremy and John won.

At the same time, the ladies' doubles took place between Steph Aston and Jenny Harding against Claire Bovill and Liz Hindley. Again there was some fine tennis but the greater experience of Steph and Jenny resulted in a win.

While the onlookers were nibbling their picnics, the mixed doubles took place between Tim Janisch and Jenny Harding against Jeremy Morgan and Steph Aston, last year's winners. Again, this was a real treat for spectators, with one set each followed by a thrillingly close third set. The well-deserved win went to Tim and Jenny.

In singles, the men's was won by Jeremy Morgan against Tim Janisch. The ladies' singles was won by Liz Hindley over Linda Nelson.

The plate competitions were also full of fun and while perhaps not quite the same standard, they had great entertainment value and allowed those knocked out in the first rounds of the tournaments a chance for another try.

The men's singles plate was won by Andy Vyranos, and the ladies' by Julia Freeman. The ladies' doubles plate was won by Linda Nelson and Chris Reid, and the mixed by Gary Westwood and Liz Hindley.

Juniors

The juniors winners were:

Red Ball (U8) – Freyja Hyde

Green Ball (U10) – Robert Jones

Orange Ball (U9) – Will Fisher

Yellow Ball (U14) – Leo Vyranos



Many thanks to Chris and Tom, the coaches, for organising the junior events and thanks also to the participants, who provided some exemplary tennis for us to watch.

Finally, thanks also to Dawn Broomfield and Dave Smith for organising the day's events and to those providing the teas.

Sue Jones

These photos of the finalists show, from the top, the men's singles finalists, men's doubles finalists, ladies' doubles finalists, and the mixed doubles finalists.

Clockwise from top left: Red Ball finalists Freyja Hyde and Myles Warner, Green Ball finalists Robert Jones and Fabienne Fisher, Yellow Ball finalists Leo Vyranos and Ben Morgan, and Orange Ball finalists Will Fisher and Freddie Simmonds.

Wargrave Lawn Tennis Club (continued)

A charity tournament

A tournament organised by Jenny Harding took place from 9.30am on 27 September. Jenny is running the London Marathon and part of her fundraising included this tournament in aid of blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan.

A good turnout of 20 invited ladies participated in a fun format, ensuring everyone moved round and played with people of differing standards, with five matches, each of 20 minutes. At the end, the games won were added up and the winner was Caroline Simmonds. Congratulations to her. The event raised £420 – a fantastic amount.



Our next event is the bonfire tournament at 11.45am on Sunday 4 November. All senior members are welcome and partners are picked randomly, so if you haven't tried an event like this before, why not come along and join in? It is good fun and not very serious!

Membership rates are now subject to pro rata reductions, from this month for the rest of the year. If you are interested in joining, please contact our membership secretary, Julia Herbke (see website).

For information on tournaments, events, matches, membership or coaching, see www.wargraveltc.co.uk.

Sue Jones

Your photos



Our thanks to Mike Winter for this lovely photo of a fly agaric seen in Bowsey Woods

Wargrave Wolves

The new football season is in full swing for all of the Wargrave Wolves age groups and the under 10s are no exception. The pre-season was always going to be tough for our age group due to the loss of five players (from a squad of only 13) to Saturday school with Lambrook. This meant a recruitment drive was in order to allow the under 10 age group to continue.

I'm delighted to say that this has been achieved, with Oliver, Jack, Adam, Joe and Malo joining the rest of the boys to make a respectable squad of 12.

As with all of the age groups, we have a fantastic little squad with a great bunch of boys who are friends on and off the pitch; every one of them works hard for each other and nobody demands or seeks the glory for themselves, which is a joy to witness. I am always intrigued to see the latest goal celebration from the boys: it mainly centres around the computer game Fortnite. Sometimes, if you walk past training on Mondays, you could be forgiven for thinking that you are on the set of *Strictly Come Dancing* with all of the moves on offer.

We have experienced some highs and lows this season in the first five games (to be honest, mainly lows) but a fantastic penalty victory recently against a very strong Reading FC academy girls under 10s has given the boys a much-needed boost. I was incredibly proud of the boys who played, as I could quite easily have given man of the match awards to any of them, and to see them all leave the field shattered meant their hard work had paid off.

As well as a fantastic squad and parents, I am also very fortunate to have superb help from my assistant coach Dave Jeary and, most recently, my younger brother Sam Ellis. But in all honesty, my role is made so much easier by having somebody to undertake the administrative duties. This season, we have been extremely fortunate to have the services of Michaela Seaman, who I think everybody involved in the under 10s would agree has been fantastic and kept us all in check. Michaela has adapted to the role seamlessly, even securing brand new sponsorship from Gabriel Machin. They are traditional family butchers and their sponsorship has allowed us to purchase new shirts and jackets. Very smart indeed!

I absolutely love my role as a coach and kick every ball and make every tackle they make; I feel their joy and their disappointment in equal measure, but one thing is for sure: whether we win, lose or draw, we do it together and come back stronger each time.

If you know anybody who would be interested in joining Wargrave Wolves, please visit our website at www.wargravewolves.co.uk.

Adam Ellis
Wargrave Wolves U10 coach

Wargrave Women and Girls' Football Club



WWGFC U9 training on The Piggott School's 3G pitch

Back in May 2014, my eldest daughter was awestruck when we stumbled across the Wargrave Women and Girls' Football Club (WWGFC) annual awards ceremony at the recreation ground. Meghan's jaw hit the ground and she was transfixed as over 100 girls, dressed in the sky blue of the club, ran around having fun and then got together to celebrate the end of another successful season. Her reaction was: 'I want to be part of that, Dad!'

Meghan joined the WWGFC U8s Academy the following September and has enjoyed being a member of the club ever since. I stepped up

to help coach the U8s two years later to help encourage our youngest to give it a try. After some convincing to start with, Nerys now loves training and the opportunity it has offered to stay in touch with old friends and make many new ones.

We have one of the largest dedicated women's and girls' football clubs in the whole country right here in the village. Over 40 coaches volunteer across 10 different age groups, supported by the club's officers and the Berks & Bucks FA. We are blessed with great facilities at the recreation ground and Kings Field, thanks to a supportive parish council and a first-class

groundskeeper. Midweek training takes place on the 3G surface at The Piggott School, which was developed with the support of the club. We are also thankful for the support of the junior school, which allows us use of Mumbery Field when the recreation ground becomes too busy.

The success and growth of women's and girls' football has been evident in recent years. The U9 team alone has 38 players and the club as a whole is pushing 350 in number, drawn from Wargrave and the surrounding area. The U9s enjoyed their first friendly tournament of the season at the beginning of the month, where we were able to enter three seven-a-side teams. All of the games were close, with the Wasps, Wildcats and Wolverines enjoying some good results.

It is incredibly rewarding to see the girls running around having fun, and it's really good to see the camaraderie and confidence that being part of a team sport can engender. The best days are those when the weather has closed in, yet the girls are enjoying being outside in the rain and mud, building on their skills.

New players are always welcome and the club now extends down to school year 1. There are several teams in each year group. The U14 Leopards are particularly keen to hear from girls in year 9 who might be interested in joining.

Why not take a stroll up to the recreation ground on a Saturday morning, grab a bacon butty and a coffee from the cafe in the guide hut and cheer on one of the teams?

The club is grateful to its sponsors AMC Computer Supplies, Bovis Homes, Gravity Consulting Engineers, Goodall-Smith Wealth Management, In Cloud Solutions, NatWest, Physiocare, Quintessa and Simmons & Sons.

*Russell Walke
WWGFC U9 coach*

The 2017–2018 WWGFC U8s Academy



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

House-to-house collections begin
Saturday 27 October

Bereavement Service

Sunday 6 November
6.00pm
St Mary's Church, Wargrave

Wargrave Bowls Club AGM

Wednesday 7 November 7.00pm
Club house, Wargrave Recreation Ground

Wargrave Theatre Workshop

Pantomime *Hansel and Gretel*
Thursday 4 November, 8.00pm: initial reading
Sunday 4 November, 7.30pm: auditions
Thursday 8 November, 8.00pm: auditions
The Green Room, Woodclyffe Hostel

Cards for Good Causes

Tuesday 6 November, 9.00am to 7.00pm
Wednesday 7 November, 9.00am to 5.00pm
Old Pavilion, Wargrave Recreation Ground

Service of Remembrance

Sunday 11 November
10.00am in church, 10.45am on
Mill Green
St Mary's Church, Wargrave



Wargrave Bowls Club race night

Wednesday 14 November
Club house, Wargrave Recreation Ground

Wargrave Theatre Workshop

Pied Piper (junior section) and *Tenn Angel*
(youth section)
Friday 16 November, 6.30pm
Saturday 17 November, 1.00pm and 3.30pm
Tickets from www.wargravetheatre.co.uk

St Mary's Church annual concert

Saturday 17 November
In honour of Alan Baird
Proceeds to 21st Century Appeal
St Mary's Church, Wargrave
Best seats £20; rest £10, available from
1 October from tickets@pursuitnha.com

Christmas wreath-making

Thursday 6 December, 2.30pm
Afternoon tea will be served.

Tickets £20 (payable in advance). Bring a
pair of secateurs!
For tickets, please contact Camilla Cook
on 07939 031 542 or
camillacook@btconnect.com

A Taste of Christmas concert

Saturday 8 December
7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Twyford
Tickets £10 (children £5) from Floor Store
or 0118 934 3328
Part of the Christmas Tree Festival from
6 to 9 December

Twyford Singers Christmas concert

Saturday 15 December
7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Twyford
Tickets £12 (under 16s £6)
Available from ticketsource.co.uk
or 07762 738 384

Rhymetimes at Wargrave library



Please pop into the library or email
editor@wargravenews.co.uk to let
us know when you'd like
Rhymetimes to be held!

Our next issue

Copy date 6.00pm Thursday 22 November
Distribution from Friday 7 December

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12 - 2.30PM



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Saturday 24th November, 12.30pm - 3.30pm
at Robert Piggott Junior School