



Wargrave News

February 2020

Issue 441

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**LOST &
FOUND**

**If you run a club or society in
 Wargrave please send us
 articles about what you're up
 to each month. We welcome
 news about local activities
 and events past and future.**

The Editors

Photographs

Front cover features a beautiful
 Wargrave sunrise. Many thanks
 to Dave Moore for sending it to
 us.

Please send photographs for the
 front cover (portrait-orientation,
 file size at least 1.5Mb) to
editor@wargravenews.co.uk.

The Piggott Trust

The Piggott Trust has been in
 existence for over 200 years. It
 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 Bob
 Austen at 7 Dunnock Way,
 Wargrave, RG10 8LR or email
austenrobert@hotmail.com.

Copy dates and website

March's copy date will be
 Thursday 27 February at 6.00pm
 (distributed 13 to 15 March)

Please send your articles,
 letters and photographs to
editor@wargravenews.co.uk. For
 copy dates, guidance for
 contributors and recent issues,
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www.wargravenews.co.uk.

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Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman

Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman was born on 18 November 1940 and died of cancer on 10 January 2020.



He reigned over Oman for almost 50 years, the longest reign, by far, of any ruler in the Arab world. He was educated in Britain for two years, living with an English family in Suffolk while he studied, and then he enrolled as a

cadet at Sandhurst. After this, he briefly served in West Germany with the British Army. As a result he had an enduring affection for Britain, developed a close relationship between Britain and Oman, and came to have a warm friendship with the Queen.

When only 29, in 1970, Qaboos bin Said forced his fierce, autocratic father to abdicate and go into exile in the Dorchester Hotel in London, where he lived until his death in 1972.

Sultan Qaboos bought Wargrave Manor in 1974 after buying a residence in London – indeed, Wargrave Manor was mainly used for entertaining. His mother, the Queen Mother, known affectionately as Bebe, and his sister, Princess Omaimah, loved coming to Wargrave and often stayed for months, accompanied by a retinue of female relatives and ladies-in-waiting. About 30 ladies would come with their own doctors, nurses and masseuses, and they would love to go shopping in Bicester village and other shopping centres. There was a lot of pomp in the Queen Mother's time – staff dressed in black uniforms, white aprons, with doilies on their heads, would line the drive when she left and arrived and a Scottish piper in a kilt would play the bagpipes! The Queen Mother loved entertaining – in summer, banquets would be held in a huge marquee with three enormous chandeliers, Persian carpets and a glass wall overlooking the river. King Hussein of Jordan and his wife Queen Noor were visitors to Wargrave Manor, as well as other Middle Eastern royalty.

Sultan Qaboos would come up to Wargrave from London for the banquets, but he was a very private person and usually preferred to stay in London. He loved western classical music and had his own symphony orchestra which would often play at the banquets. In Muscat he established an opera house, but he also loved bagpipe music, and had his own pipe band mounted on camels!

Sultan Qaboos was also interested in horse racing. Wargrave Manor has its own stud farm – breeding mares are kept here and Omani racehorses are brought over for the Arabian racing at Newbury and elsewhere in England.

In the 45 years that Sultan Qaboos owned Wargrave Manor he has, quietly and often anonymously, helped

the local Wargrave community. In addition, in Oman, he has transformed a once poor and repressed kingdom into a prosperous, well-governed state that is today one of the most stable in the Middle East. It is a kingdom where women are empowered and encouraged to work, and where much money has been spent on education and health. Even though his cancer worsened over the last few years, he continued to play an active role in trying to calm the tensions in the region. Let us hope his successor keeps up his good work.

Thank you to members of the Manor staff for their help in writing this article.

Ellen Lindsay

The Omani evening

Wednesday 26 June 1985

How Wargrave became a focus for the national press!

Those of you who have lived in Wargrave for a long time may remember the Omani Evening which took place in a marquee on Mill Green as part of the Festival in 1985. Judith Stephenson-Hodges, whose idea it was to have an Omani evening, shares her memories with the *Wargrave News*.



The Royal Omani Dancers and Musicians

The village has been lucky in many ways to have the Sultan of Oman as owner of Wargrave Manor. When I had the idea of an evening to show our appreciation for the many donations he gave anonymously to organisations in the village, I had no idea what a storm it would cause. In the summer of 1985, the national press

got hold of the idea that we were going to serve sheep's eyes to everybody. The village was 'invaded' by reporters, some from as far away as northern Scotland. Messages came back from Reuters that many of the Middle East Countries were pleased at the idea of a celebration to thank the Sultan. Hard to imagine that happening now!

The tickets had already been sold at the cheap price of £5 for my planned simple barbeque, when the Manor's manager said he was going to supply everything. 150 more tickets were sold due to the many complaints from people who hadn't originally bought any. The Manor's suppliers were press-ganged into making low tables, and pillows were wrapped in ribbons, supplied by Facy, for everyone to sit on. Manor staff spent hours and hours pleating silk material to cover the serving tables. The Sultan arranged for his personal dancers

Omani evening 1985 (continued)



*The marquee
on Mill Green*

and musicians to be flown to Wargrave, plus water from the Jebel mountains (no alcohol allowed). The

Omani Ambassador attended. The press descended like a swarm of locusts to quiz anyone they could find to talk to them. I still have a copy of the menu of 11 dishes and a bulging file of all the reports in the national press about the whole day and evening's entertainment.

My conclusion, try to keep out of the limelight, and certainly don't believe everything you read in the press!



*Omani
dancers
and
musicians
arriving at
the
marquee*

Judith Stephenson-Hodges



*Judith with Alan Hall, who
helped to organise the
evening*

*Photos courtesy of
Tim Hodges*

*A rider in Omani dress for
the occasion.*



The Cwtch's Welsh Cake Recipe

We bake Welsh cakes in our kitchen each morning and serve them with every hot drink that day. Until they run out! This is how we make them...



Ingredients required:

- 110g Welsh salted butter
- 225g self-raising flour
- 85g caster sugar
- A good handful of sultanas
- A teaspoon of cinnamon
- A beaten farm fresh free-range egg
- A lot of love
- A little bit of a Welsh accent (optional)

1. Rub butter and flour together by hand to make breadcrumbs
2. Mix in the sugar, sultanas and cinnamon
3. Add the beaten egg
4. Use hands to form into a dough
5. Roll out on a floured surface to approx 1cm thick
6. Cut into desired shapes
7. Bake on a hot griddle lightly brushed with butter, for approx. 2 minutes each side
8. When cooled, dust with sprinkling of caster sugar



If you'd prefer to have them made for you, pop into The Cwtch Coffee Shop at Willow Marina (home of Val Wyatt Marine). We're situated right on the riverbank.

Parking is available in the side car park which can get crowded over the winter months. To help us in our efforts to be environmentally friendly, how about walking to us? We're a great stop for dog walks and have water bowls and treats for them too.

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wargrave

VE Day Ticket Day - Almost sold out!

On 25 January, the Church Centre in Wargrave threw its doors open a little before 9.00am to welcome Wargravians to the VE Day Ticket Day.

A few brave souls queued from 7.30am to guarantee their chance of a ticket, with some having experienced the impressive queues for Wargrave Festival tickets, the bi-annual village festival. Thank you to the ladies of St Mary's Church who provided bacon rolls and coffee!

VE Day organising committee member Andy Ferguson kindly opened the Church so that people queuing could wait inside until their number in the queue was called. Barry Paddison, from the committee commented on the high spirits and camaraderie as everyone patiently waited in the queue and Wargrave Festival Chair Cath Forsaith also offered assistance.

Wargrave has held two previous Street Parties for the Queen's Jubilee and the Queen's 90th birthday which meant the previous tried and tested table plan could be reutilised to make sure that we maximised the number of people that could attend.

Shirley Collie, Chair of the VE Day Organising Committee, attended to the table plan and everyone that queued for tickets, left with tickets, with 1083 sold in total. We were thrilled with the response on the day and grateful to everyone that took precious time out of their weekend to queue.

We now suggesting that anyone who wants tickets should email tickets@pursuitnha.com advising how many tickets they require so that they can be put on the waiting list. They will get an automatic response saying we will be in touch before Tuesday 31 March, to allow us time to negotiate with our suppliers.

We'd particularly like to thank our sponsors Hennerton Golf Club, Wargave Dental Clinic and Bushnells Boat Sales and Marine Services for supporting this event for the Wargrave community. Huge thanks also to Hunt and Nash for providing the advertising boards.

Ticket holders should keep an eye on *Wargrave News* and the Royal British Legion Wargrave's Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest information on the event which we will be releasing nearer the time.

Twitter @RBL_Wargrave

Facebook @RBLWargrave

#VEDayWargrave

Caroline Mulcahy

VE Day Organising Committee



Excited ticket holders looking forward to the event.



Television stars

Wargrave Boating Club starred in an episode of *Escape to the Country* on BBC1 in February.

Back in September 2018 Jonnie Irwin and a film crew from Boundless Productions visited the Boating Club on Station Road in Wargrave to film a segment on punt racing. Punting expert Matthew Gordon gave the star a lesson on punting then Jonnie took to the water.

After a short practice, and a swim or two, Jonnie and Matthew raced against Sian Barr and Paul Worthington.

I think it's safe to say that punt racing is harder than it looks! A professional exhibition of punt racing was provided by Josh and Marcus Chew.

The episode was shown on BBC1 on Monday 10 February. It is available for 30 days on the BBC iPlayer.

Sam Barnard
Wargrave Boating Club



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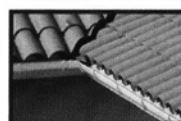


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Another Elizabeth Court Centenarian

Elizabeth Court celebrated the third 100th birthday in two years just before new year. Vera Bird lived all her life in Wargrave and celebrated her centenary on 31 December 2019, three days after a very happy family party at Hennerton Golf Club.

On a rain drenched August afternoon in 2017, Patsy Roynon led Vera gently through her years as part of a *This is your Life* presentation to the residents of Elizabeth Court. They all had a wonderful time as she led them back to an era when Wargrave was a 'very quiet place, peopled mostly by farm workers and gardeners, when you never went anywhere else because you had everything you needed in the village.' Who would now recognise that description?



Vera at the 50th birthday celebrations for Elizabeth Court June 2019.

Born and raised in Crazies Hill, Vera thought nothing of walking to Wargrave High Street or St Mary's Church several times a week and back again with all the shopping!

She joined the forces in 1942, enlisting in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). She was trained as an enemy plane spotter with the Royal Observer Corps who warned the anti-aircraft gunners.

This came to an end in 1944 when she married local lad Harold Bird and they moved to the Bird's family home, Ye Nest in Victoria Road. Their daughter Penny was born the following year. Imagine the family's astonishment when they stripped off all the ivy and discovered, painted in black all over the front walls, the 'birds' we still see today, their namesakes!

Vera talked with great enthusiasm about Wargrave in these post-war years when Victoria Road was home to only three motor cars and was served several times a day by a rumbling double decker bus. All the children, she said, used to roller skate along the middle of the road and everybody knew everybody. Two of these cars were owned by Harold who ran a private car hire business.

With pride Vera talked of her long association with the Royal British Legion. She was, for 40 years, the standard bearer for the Women's Section. She was made an honorary life member in recognition of that service, and the colours that she so proudly carried hang in St Mary's to this day.

In the mid-1980s, the Birds sold the business and moved again, down the road to the new Elizabeth Court. When Harold died in 1997, Vera stayed on and was by far the longest-serving resident. She talked of how pleased all the neighbours had been in 1970 to see an ugly patch of derelict waste land becoming the site for a dramatically novel concept, warm, affordable accommodation for local residents in their old age. She always told people how happy she was to be living there.

Patsy, who was on the Management Committee for nearly 20 years, has said that Vera stood out from the doughty number of centenarians she knew. She was a sparky, intelligent lady, a fine example of that generation of Wargravians.

Sadly, Vera was found on the morning of 1 January, the day after her birthday, dressed, sitting at breakfast, she had slipped away

Vera's funeral was on 4 February, she came into the crematorium to the sounds of *Underneath the Arches*, a wartime favourite, sung by Bud Flanagan of the Crazy Gang, who lived in the village and was Harold's best man.

Her final farewell was a lovely tea served at her beloved Elizabeth Court by the Tenants' Representatives and the House Manager.

Patsy Roynon and Shirley Collie



Fountain at Hennerton Golf Club taken by Hilary Thomas.

Hilary also took the photograph of the robin on the front page of our December issue.



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- Golden years club on alternate Thursdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.
- Carers' coffee mornings on alternate Thursdays from 10.00am to 12 noon.
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Carole Sackett

Carole Sackett, a former resident of East View Close, died on 22 January after suffering a stroke at her home in France. Many people will remember Carole. She was outgoing, enthusiastic and great fun, and, together with her husband, Dennis, she was a founder member of Wargrave Runners. She organised children's fun runs as well as encouraging lady runners in the village. She was also much involved with the Wargrave 10K and the Thames Valley 5K series. When she retired from running, Carole instigated a ladies' walking group which still meets every Saturday morning at the top of Purfield Drive.



Carole pictured with her ninth grandchild just two weeks before her death.

We all extend our sympathies to her husband Dennis and their family.

Dave Moseley

Wargrave Words

Patsy's play reading

A huge thank you to Patsy for another very successful play reading evening. I know Mondays don't work for everyone so maybe we'll try a different day next time. We read *History Boys* by Alan Bennett which a few of us had read before. Patsy was very apologetic but she really didn't need to be! I think I actually enjoyed it more the second time as I seemed to be more able to pick up some of the underlying themes which maybe I missed first time round. After all, many of us re-read books many times over. Some of the language in *History Boys* is quite colourful and it was quite fun hearing all those swear words coming out of the 'great and good' Wargrave residents/readers!

We are so grateful to Patsy for her hard work in sourcing the plays. It involves a trip to Reading Central Library, with parking limited to two hours in King's Road. She then peruses the shelves to find a suitable play with a cast of roughly eight to ten voices. This is

no mean feat! Patsy is always up for suggestions of plays but it rather depends if the library has multiple copies, but ideas are always welcome.

Hopefully we'll have another session during the summer. Do think about coming along. If you really don't want to read, you will also enjoy listening. It always leads to some post play reading chat which is also very interesting. A really enjoyable evening!

If you would like to be kept in touch with Wargrave Words' events please email wargravewords@hotmail.com so we can keep in touch with you. We are also very pleased to receive suggestions for events.

Wargrave Words

Letter to the editors

Scout Christmas post

Dear editors,

Thank you very much to everyone who used the Scout Christmas post. We had a few stray cards, a few cards with wrong addresses, but all were delivered.

We raised just over £200 which will go towards the children's activities.

For the first year the Beaver scouts helped deliver the cards as part of their evening activities.

Thanks again.

Lesley Hucker



Treasure beyond measure

Celebrating 30 years of music by Jewel Tones

The Charvil based girls' choir, Jewel Tones, will be holding a special anniversary concert on Sunday 15 March at 3.00pm at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Altwood Road, Maidenhead. The choir will be joined by past choir members and the Crosfields School Chamber Choir. Jewel Tones was started in 1990 and is now celebrating 30 years of music! At the concert, the present choir will be singing some of the favourite songs from the last 30 years, including *Rhythm of life*, *Astonishing*, *Bubble Trouble* and *Flying Free*. Tickets are £10 and available from the Box Office at Norden Farm, telephone 01628 788 997, <http://www.nordenfarm.org>.

Suzanne Newman



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What's happening on the High Street?



A new cafe?



What happened here?

Robin's Nest Gallery

We were all very sorry to see the Robin's Nest Gallery close down. That corner of the crossroads has never looked better than when Jo Sinclair started her gallery four years ago. We hope she may tell us of her plans in a future issue. In the meantime, have a good rest, Jo.

Sharon Hewitt



Wargrave Heritage Trust

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who supported our activities in 2019.

The *Songs from the Shows* concert that was produced by Len and Ann Roberts on behalf of the Trust at the Wargrave Festival resulted in a profit of just over £4,000 after contributing £1,000 to the Festival Committee – the committee provided invaluable support and assistance.

The profit from the sale of Christmas cards was nearly £800, a substantial increase on 2018, thanks in no small part to the hospitality of Graham Jackson and his Cards for Good Causes and the

determined individual efforts of Diane Bush, Ros Fernley and Chris Bookless in the Library and Jo Sinclair in the Robin's Nest. These contributions were supported by publicity from the *Wargrave News* and the Crazies Hill and Cockpole Green Residents' Association. We are immensely grateful to them all.

Currently the Trust has commitments to cover the cost of the new clock for the Woodclyffe Hall, the repair and renovation of Rebecca's Well at Crazies Hill, the preservative oiling of the timbers of St Mary's Church porches, and the specialist



Jayne at The Bull

Local landlady Jayne Worrall has recently been celebrating running The Bull for over 21 years. Jayne first took over the pub in January 1980 and has enjoyed running it for three periods of her life since then. The Bull is a huge part of both Wargrave history and community and under Jayne's guidance serves as a welcoming integral part of the village.

The 15th Century pub is full of character and tradition. It features exposed beams and roaring fireplaces perfect for a cosy night in with family and friends.

During her time at The Bull, Jayne has deservedly won a number of awards including pub of the Year in 2003 and best Sunday roast in 2019 in the Brakspear Hospitality awards. Those of our readers who have enjoyed a Sunday roast at The Bull will know that nowhere else comes close.

Well done Jayne!

Cath Forsaith

cleaning of the hanging sign on the Woodclyffe Hostel; amounting in all to about £16,000. None of these projects would have been possible without the great support we receive from you.

During the year we plan to stage a concert by the Bourne Again Shadows Tribute Band and a production by the Pantaloons Theatre Group. Details will be announced in the *Wargrave News* and we look forward to welcoming you.

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Chairman

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RNLI Wargrave

**Annual RNLI
Fundraising Dinner
Saturday 22 February
Hennerton Golf Club**



A few tickets remain for our fundraising event to be held at the Hennerton Golf Club from 7.00pm on Saturday 22 February. Tickets at £40.00 per head for the delicious three course dinner are available from our Chairman, Paul Blair at pwblair1235@btinternet.com.

In addition to the dinner we will be entertained by our guest speaker Bobby Prentice, Waterman and Lighterman, with a lifelong relationship with the Thames.

Bobby will share his insights into his life on the river and recount many personal Swan Upping stories. This is an 800 year-old British tradition of catching swans for an annual census as part of critical wildlife conservation. Everyone is welcome.



Twyford Xmas Fayre Results

A fine Friday evening in December selling scrummy home-made cakes, jams and marmalades and a bumper tombola at the Twyford Xmas fayre resulted in a healthy £500 for the RNLI. Our thanks, as ever, go to the generous baking and gift contributions that make this annual fundraiser such a success.

Future Diary Dates

Dates for the AGM are just being finalised, likely to be in April.

We plan to be present at local locations rattling our buckets during the May Bank Holiday weekend.

We will continue to host the popular car boot sales at The Piggott School, dates to be confirmed.

Our annual school's presentation at The Piggott School will be held week commencing Monday 6 July.

Gaye Hudson



Kiln Green news

In a cracking start to the new decade, Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has approved a new draft Local Plan Update which, subject to Government blessing and a public consultation, will end the threat of major housing developments on the Green Belt in Ruscombe, Kiln Green and Hare Hatch. Instead, a new 15,000-home eco-town at Grazeley will be developed in order to meet the bulk of WBC's housing targets, potentially until 2050 – bringing prosperity to the area while lifting the Sword of Damocles which has hung over the Green Belt for many years.

It feels like all our Christmases have come at once since Gigaclear finally started to plug us in to their fibre broadband network at the turn of the year. This manuscript hurtled over to the editor at the preposterous speed of 950Mbps, or some 100 times faster than my previous copper-wires broadband service. Was it worth the four-year wait? I have to say that it was. Our leafy lanes are alive with the buzz of enterprise, the shock of instantaneous software updates, the joys of streamed entertainment, the convenience of home automation and the emotional highs of video reunions with far-flung friends and family. We're connected!

And there's more! WBC has scored another notable victory in its campaign to protect our environment. At the latest meeting of the Heathrow Community Noise Forum working party, the council was able to secure an aircraft noise monitoring station for installation, initially for six months, in or near Kiln Green. This will enable aircraft noise to be continuously measured against WHO health guidelines while also building a bank of data against which to compare noise levels generated by future expansion of the airport. WBC has advised Heathrow that its continued support of the expansion plan is conditional upon there being no deterioration in aircraft noise impacts upon our communities.

Not all the news has been good though. Following a spate of burglaries and attempted break-ins around Kiln Green and Hare Hatch do check your locks and consider getting a CCTV system. Perhaps we are paying the price for RG10 being the second most expensive postcode in Berkshire according to a recent analysis by Zoopla.

Memories of the tragic death of police motorcyclist, PC James Dixon in a 2017 accident on the A4 at Hare Hatch came flooding back last month. A jury at Reading Crown Court found the driver of the car he hit, care worker Agne Jasulaitiene, not guilty of causing death by careless driving. Her passenger, 91-year old Gladys Goodwin, was also fatally injured in the crash. Jurors heard that PC Dixon had been riding at an estimated speed of 80-97mph on a training exercise.

If you have Kiln Green/Hare Hatch news, please drop me an email at sc@pr100.com and I will include it here, space permitting.

Simon Chapman

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News from St Mary's Church



Sunday services at St Mary's

Every Sunday 8.00am: Holy Communion said in traditional language

16 February	10.30am	Holy Communion
23 February	10.30am	Morning Worship
1 March	10.30am	Holy Communion
8 March	10.30am	Morning Worship
15 March	10.30am	Holy Communion

St Mary's music group accompanies these services and there are activities for young people

Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday is on 26 February. A service of Holy Communion will be held in St Mary's Church at 11.00am.

'We don't do God'

Alastair Campbell's famous interruption during a 2003 interview with Tony Blair is a milestone that seemed to mark the spirit of the new millennium. Not long after that, biologist Richard Dawkins published his famous appeal to finally shed our 'infantile' belief in a higher power, and over the subsequent years other famous 'new atheists' such as Philip Pullman, Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens became prominent and persuasive voices in British society.

And yet, further in to this millennium, the story hasn't been quite as we might have expected. There is evidence to suggest that, as he drew near to his death, Christopher Hitchens was privately asking searching questions about the reliability of Christian faith. Both Richard Dawkins and Philip Pullman are also now less strident than they once were in seeking to dispense with Jesus. Despite still making many of the same arguments and giving his new book the title *Outgrowing God*, Dawkins has recently admitted that if secularists are successful in extinguishing Christian faith then he would be apprehensive to see what might replace it. Harris has spoken about how he is fascinated by transcendence, and Pullman has recently talked about how exploring the mysterious relationship between matter and consciousness was his prompt to write *The Book of Dust*. Maybe getting rid of God, and specifically the Christian notion of God revealed in Jesus and his teaching, isn't quite as simple or as inevitably beneficial as many thought it might be.

If we are wondering why this is the case, then the celebrated historian Tom Holland helps us consider a possible answer. In writing his recently published book, *Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind*, Holland has been on a transformational journey that has led him to argue that Christianity undergirds almost everything Western society assumes to be true and valuable. He demonstrates how widely accepted concepts of human dignity and worth rely on Christian

morality, and he provocatively argues that the value of the strong serving the weak is far from self-evident. Surprisingly, he cites reading Nietzsche as the biggest influence on this journey: 'I have rarely felt more Christian than when reading Nietzsche'. Realising that Nietzsche's parable about the death of God applies principally to the people 'who assume that they can have Christian morality, Christian ethics, and Christian assumptions without Christian belief,' Holland has started attending church again and even playfully wrote on Twitter recently that he hopes the prayers of those willing him to find faith are answered.

Perhaps those wishing to dismiss Christian claims as a 'fairytale' will continue to find themselves reluctantly admitting that it has far more substance and potency than they had at first assumed. As we ourselves consider this, we might consider the words of C.S. Lewis in his famous challenge: 'Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.'

Hugh Barne, Assistant Curate in the parish of Wargrave with Knowl Hill

Do Something Different this Lent

This year's Lent Course will happen in various midweek groups, starting in the week commencing 24 February. These groups take place from Tuesday to Thursday, at various times of the day and evening and at various locations.

Over six weeks we will be considering the questions:

- How do you walk into church?
- What is church about?
- How to 'build'?
- When does church finish?
- Is church just for Christians?
- Obstacles to loving your church

To join a group contact me at stephen.turville@ntlworld.com or find out more on our website under the 'What's On/Home Groups' section and contact the named person.

Rev Stephen Turville

Contact us:

John Cook	Vicar	
	johnrmcook@btconnect.com	0118 940 2202
Hugh Barne	Curate	
	hughbarne@gmail.com	07515 488 542
Steve Turville	Curate	
	stephen.turville@ntlworld.com	0118 901 6720
Andy Ferguson	Lay Minister	
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Kim Moul	Administrator	
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You can contact the chair of the RCAG, Hugh Payen, at hugh.payen@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or contact the Twyford policing team on 101. As this is a team of volunteers, your enquiry may not receive an immediate response. The RCAG do not respond to incidents of rural crime so please continue to report these on 101, online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk or call 999 in an emergency. If you have information about crime or anti-social behaviour but you do not want to speak to the police, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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Wargrave Local History Society: December meeting

Tim Hodges: *Recollections and Ramblings*

Wargrave Local History Society held its Christmas Party in December, when members enjoyed home-made festive fare and mulled wine created by committee member Wendy Smith.

The evening also included a presentation of *Recollections and Ramblings* by renowned local photographer Tim Hodges. He began by explaining how the Society played a part in his taking up photography as a profession. Tim had entered two pictures in a photographic competition, and the one of Mill Green, Wargrave in the snow had won. He was invited to a party held by the Society's President, Lord Remnant, and presented him with a copy of the winning image.

This led to Lord Remnant asking if Tim would take the official photographs at a reunion of the Earl Marshal's 1953 Gold Staff Officers to be held at the House of Lords. As well as images of the 'below stairs staff', there would be a formal portrait of the Gold Staff Officers, who had been escorts at the coronation in 1953, with the Queen and Prince Philip. That went well, and at the next reunion, 10 years later, Tim was again asked to take the official photographs. There were now fewer Gold Staff Officers able to attend, so the event included those who had served as pages at the coronation. Tim commented that the Queen is a lovely person to photograph.

Tim had also taken a picture of the House of Lords seen from across the Thames, and when he discovered that the House of Lords gift shop did not have anything similar, he arranged for them to stock copies of his photograph, which sold well. He was now a professional photographer!

Wargrave is a very sociable community to live in and few people choose to leave the village once they have moved here. Examples of our community spirit were the parties held on Mill Green to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and her 90th birthday. Tim captured both events with photographs taken from the top of the church tower. He entered one of these in a Portrait of Britain competition – and it was adjudged worthy of a double page spread in the resultant book.

Other community activities that Tim portrayed were the Omani evening in 1985 to commemorate the Sultan's 11th year as Lord of the Manor, the activities of the Wargrave Adventurers Group (young and 'not so young' ascending Snowdon or cycling or riding the Ridgeway), the Wargrave Runners' 10K races and the Wargrave and Shiplake Regattas. A series of photographs Tim had taken from a microlight gave a different view of the village, whilst images of the area around the rivers Loddon and Thames recorded the floods that have affected the area from time to time.

Tim then showed what he called 'Wargrave's Hidden Secret'. The stones of a Jersey Temple had been gifted to a one-time Jersey governor, and re-erected on ground overlooking the Thames. The site now also includes a distinctive iconic house designed by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Tim had

captured both on film during a Society visit many years previously.

The last collection of recollections were of various 'village characters'. The first was a thoughtful John Ratings, former vicar, taking part in the Wargrave Theatre Workshop's production of *Measure for Measure*. Others included Oliver Cock, the first Olympic canoe coach, Robert Morley, the actor, and David Imrie, the village newsagent who, as a Chelsea pensioner was taking part in the Remembrance Day parade. We also saw Theresa May MP at the unveiling of the Flying Fortress crew memorial and Jim Waldron who campaigned for a long time for its creation. Then there was a photo of Paul Daniels; Tim was experimenting with a new high-speed flash and captured the cascading cards as Paul shuffled them. There were also photos of John Connell, the local antique shop owner, Alan Richardson, the village hairdresser, Douglas Goddard, former district councillor, village pharmacist Fred Freeman, and Society committee members at a festival fête many years ago!

Members enjoyed spotting many other familiar faces, present and past, in Tim's portrayal of the village over the last few decades.

Peter Delaney

January meeting

Aldon Ferguson: *The Military Photographic Interpretation at Danesfield and Phyllis Court*

Aldon began by explaining what photographic interpretation was – not looking at nice landscapes or holiday snaps, but a serious and scientific process. Military leaders had long wished to know what their opposition was doing, and the act of examining photographic images was to enable objects to be identified, and their significance assessed. The first aerial surveillance came in the first world war, when an observer would ascend in a basket below a balloon tethered to the ground. By means of a phone cable he could give directions to those on the ground as to where to aim their guns. It was hazardous, however, as the observer was in a vulnerable position, not least because the balloons were filled with hydrogen.

The next development was to use aircraft to take a camera up to record the scene. The large bulky cameras had to be held out over the side of the plane, the photographer also having to act as the gunner in the rear of the plane. The images were captured on glass photographic plates, a fresh one being put in place for each picture. In due course, the camera would be fixed to the side of the aircraft, and then inside the plane, between the pilot's feet, so he could take the pictures. It was important for him to know 'where he was' when each picture was taken, there being no 'navigational aids' at that time. From the photographs, maps were produced showing the enemy positions etc. By the end of the first world war, the entire Western Front was being recorded at least once every day. Interpretation skills had not been developed

Wargrave Local History Society: January meeting (continued)

at that time, but the military commanders could see the build-up of troops and materials taking place. When the war ended, however, it was not thought important to continue with this type of work, and so the expertise that had been acquired was lost.

At the outbreak of the second world war, the RAF formed their own photo reconnaissance unit, based at RAF Benson, with some operating from Wick, where they could cover activities in Norway, and St Eval in Cornwall, where they covered the French coast. The photographs from all three sites were sent back to Benson and taken to Medmenham for examination. The missions flew over any 'target area' to find out the number and type of German planes, where the ammunition was stored and so on. The definition of the photographs was extremely good, so individual people could be picked out. As well as airfields, the ships of the German navy were recorded. Many were held in the Norwegian fjords, often close to the cliff-side.



Danesfield House, RAF Medmenham 1944. This photo shows the way in which some of the enormous number of photographic prints were created there.

Once the images had reached Medmenham, (where the photographic interpretation unit for the entire operation, including the US forces, was based), they were carefully examined and a first report produced. In 1941 the RAF took over Danesfield House, which had been a private residence pre-war, and then a boys' school. The RAF took over the whole site, adding many huts for the hundreds of staff who worked there. As their expertise developed, more specialists were used, for example, to use the ecology to assess what might be happening, or the type of factory which could be seen. All the pictures were kept, carefully indexed, so that any changes taking place on the ground could be seen.

Many of the people who worked at Medmenham were women, it being considered that they were more diligent than the men, and not satisfied until they had identified what a mystery object was. An example was Constance Babington Smith. Having trained as a milliner, she became a journalist for *The Aeroplane*

magazine before the war, and so was used to examining photographs of aircraft and airfields. At Medmenham, she noted something unusual in pictures at Peenemünde, where information from spies had indicated strange activities. This was the base where the V1 Doodlebug flying bombs and later V2 rockets were being developed, and Constance was able to interpret the pictures by very careful examination of old and new pictures. The site having been discovered meant that the Germans moved the work underground, which severely delayed its progress. Amongst other ladies who worked there were Sarah Churchill and Lady Charlotte Bonham-Carter, who both worked as photographic interpreters. It is said that the former sometimes knew more than her father, Winston Churchill!

By this time, Medmenham was bursting at the seams, and so additional accommodation was needed. Phyllis Court was therefore acquired, initially to be used as the Officers' Mess for the ladies of the WAAF. Subsequently, other sections of the Medmenham work were moved to Phyllis Court, including the model making. Examples of models made by the photographic interpretation unit were of the locations targeted in the Dambuster raids. Further expansion of the Medmenham activities meant that additional space was needed, and so the map-making work was moved to nearby Hughenden Manor, named RAF Hillside for the purpose.

The work undertaken at Medmenham was on an enormous scale. By the end of the war, 25,000 negatives were being received per day, all to be indexed, studied and interpreted. The site also made copies of the pictures for use by – in particular – Bomber Command. At one stage around 60,000 prints were being made daily, whilst over the course of the war Medmenham had produced 36 million prints. Copies of many of the images still survive. It is thought that around 80% of the intelligence gained about what was happening in Nazi controlled areas (from the North Cape to Italy) was by means of photo reconnaissance as the photographs were capable of revealing instant evidence, unlike the messages intercepted and decoded at Bletchley Park.

Despite its importance to the war effort and being conspicuous from the air being painted white, the Medmenham site was never attacked by the enemy. It remained an RAF station into the 1970s, when it became the headquarters for the Carnation food company. Subsequently, the main building has been converted into the Danesfield Hotel.

The next meeting will be at 8.00pm in the Old Pavilion at Wargrave Recreation Ground on Tuesday 10 March, when the society will hold its AGM and the programme for the coming year will be revealed. See the society's website www.wargravehistory.org.uk or contact me on 0118 940 3121, for more information.

Peter Delaney

Wargrave Parish litter pick 2020

To all Wargravians, it is that time of the year again when you are invited to don your outdoor gear to help with the clearance of detritus and rubbish from our footpaths and byways within our Parish of Wargrave. Saturday 28 March is the date when you are all requested to do your bit for our village with our annual Spring Clean. We all meet on Mill Green, off Station Road, by the War Memorial from 9.00am until 12 noon. You will be issued with safety vests, litter bags and litter pickers and you will be offered a choice of areas to be cleared of rubbish. All you have to do is turn up in warm outdoor gear, sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring the family; children are very conscious in this day and age of what litter and rubbish are doing to our planet. If you can clear just one street of rubbish then you will have done your bit for our beautiful village and shown that we care. Parents, if your child would like to take part on their own then we have consent forms to be signed by yourselves, and the area around our church and Mill Green would be designated to them. (I have a child safety certificate). I know Saturday mornings are child sports orientated but if you and they could do your bit on another day do phone me on 0118 940 3533. Thank you. We are looking forward to seeing some new faces amongst our regulars on Saturday 28 March from 9.00am onwards. (Weather has never been a barrier).

Marion Pope



Royal British Legion February 2020

Thanks to our Poppy Collectors

On 18 January, around 40 Poppy Collectors attended a nibbles and wine reception in St Mary's Church Centre as a way for the British Legion Branch to say 'thank you', to them all for their efforts. In 2019 the collectors, along with local shops, businesses, clubs and schools raised £12,373 for the Poppy Appeal Fund. This represents a magnificent achievement and is a great reward for all their time, effort and perseverance in often cold and inclement weather in November. Many of our collectors have been volunteering for many years and at the reception some of them received badges or certificates for their long service. Recipients were :

Mrs Adrienne Rance	45 years
Mrs Margaret Tumber	25 years
Mrs Priscilla McNair	20 years
Mrs Penny Whitfield	15 years
Mrs Maxene Davis	10 years

The prestigious Poppy Cup, awarded annually for significant contribution to the Poppy Appeal, was awarded to Margaret Tumber.

All are to be congratulated on their long service to the Poppy Fund. Wargrave has a large number of collectors operating House to House or collecting at Dobbies or Hare Hatch Garden Centres. Age and infirmity do take their toll on our collector numbers, so volunteers are always needed and such support would be most welcome .

If you feel that you could give some support next November at remembrance time, please contact us.

Mrs Pat Beilby-Smith, Poppy Appeal Organiser 0118 940 4752

David Smith, Chairman, Wargrave Royal British Legion 0118 940 4752

Where had baby Jesus gone?



By Christmas Day many of you will have noticed that the Nativity tent had gone from the garden on Purfield Drive.

I have been asked many times what happened to baby Jesus. The main concern expressed by you was that the tent had been blown over in the strong winds. Rest assured Scout tents don't get blown down!!!!!!

The simple answer is – the innkeeper and his wife had headed over to Philadelphia to see another baby - their new grandson. Hence the early disappearance of the tent and baby Jesus from the garden.

We are sorry for those who were disappointed by the tent's disappearance. All the residents from the tent are safe and well; they will all be back in time for next Christmas.

The Innkeeper aka Bill Bookless

Bridge in the Sansom Room

Join our really friendly and welcoming group for bridge in the Sansom Room. We play every Thursday from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. Sessions are tutor-lead with prepared hands from September through until June, £6.50 per session (first session is free), plus an annual membership of £5. Contact me if you are interested in coming along at r.d.fernley@btinternet.com or pop into the library and I can tell you more about it.

Ros Fernley

Letters to the editors

Village Christmas tree

Dear editors,

I was lucky enough to bump into the good guys from ITM on 14 December putting up the village Christmas tree. Possibly some readers don't realise how big a job this is, including using a large scaffold tower.

I have attached a photograph of the job being done (see right).

However, I wish to know why a private company has had to step in and save the village tree? Why doesn't the Wargrave Festival Committee contribute towards this? I'm sure I've read something like 'by the village for the village' or similar. Surely they should be contributing?

Richard Deamer



Mill Green leaf clearance

A team of 30 turned up on 30 November to rake the leaves from the Churchyard and Mill Green. Our friends from Beechwood Tree Care once again gave their services free to the village and their expertise and energy are always greatly appreciated. Neil of Beechwood said it was a bigger collection than in recent years, possibly because the leaves were very wet this time, and he estimated that his team of 12 collected somewhere between two and three tons of leaves!

Our thanks to Beechwood Tree Care, who are based locally, for their fantastic contribution to the morning, and to the team of volunteers who turned up on a crisp and sunny morning, including Lucinda and Claire who cooked the delicious bacon butties, always a welcome feature of our leaf collections, and to an elegantly attired John Fry who helped with serving.

Robert Austen

[Our thanks to Tim Hodges for this photo of the good souls who gave their labour to this valuable work.](#)



Reply from the Festival Committee

I refer to the letter from Richard Deamer regarding the Village Christmas Tree to correct a misunderstanding.

The Wargrave Festival has contributed to the village Christmas tree for many seasons especially since the Wargrave Parish Council ceased to fund it. The festival has worked for many years with Phil Linstead, landlord of the Greyhound, in whose car park the tree sits.

There are many others, including ITM and BG Electrical, who have helped with erection, lighting and making it look pretty for the festive season. St Mary's Church and the Wargrave Choir have participated in the opening which has been attended by many Wargravians. Therefore there have been many contributors in the village providing the tree for the village and those who pass by. I therefore thank Mr Deamer for his photos and for giving me the opportunity to mention all those who have contributed over many years.

Graham Howe

Village Christmas tree

Dear Villagers,

Amazingly, in spite of the awful rain and weather during the 'Lighting of the Christmas Tree' at The Greyhound on 18 December, many of you braved the elements and supported the event.

The mulled wine and mince pies warmed everyone but, as they say, 'the show must go on' and Adam, as the true professional he is, sang of a *White Christmas* but all he got was soaked *Singing in the Rain*. Huge thanks to Adam and Chez Annetts too for accompanying him on a couple of tunes and it was lovely to hear mums, dads, grandparents and kids joining in.

The event of course wouldn't have been complete without a visit from Santa and his chocolate reindeers! Proceeds and donations from the event and the Greyhound Grand Christmas Draw, £261.87, were given to Camp Mohawk. Wishing you all a great 2020.

Laraine and Steve Linstead

Wargrave Festival

Festival Finances

As part of our articles, Wargrave Village Festival accounts are independently reviewed, and presented publicly to ensure full transparency and accuracy. It has been suggested by our independent auditor that we might want to re-cap some of the key points relating to the finances of last year's festival to a wider audience. The full set of accounts was presented at a public meeting in the Hannen Room in November, but in summary.

Societies and charities raised over £40,000 from 20 independent events held over the festival period. Some £6,000 of this was paid back to the festival as a contribution towards central operating and infrastructure costs.

£26,000 was raised as income from centrally-run events. This was nearly £4,000 less than in 2017, with raffle ticket sales and

programme advertising significantly lower than in previous years. Total income to fund the 2019 festival was thus £32,000.

2019 festival operating costs were £36,000 (£4,000 higher than in 2017). The main areas of cost increase were storage of equipment, waste management/recycling, and card payment costs.

This meant that the 2019 festival made an operating loss of £4,000. This loss was covered by reserves.

In addition, we used our reserves to make £6,000 of charitable donations in the year (Mill Green/St Mary's Church; Royal Berks Hospital; Wargrave Luncheon Club). We also spent £2,000 on enviro-cups that did not sell as we had hoped, but which we will continue to sell at future Festival events.

In total, festival reserves reduced by £12,000 in 2019, to a current

balance of £12,000. This balance will be used to fund advance payments for the 2021 festival infrastructure and to underpin future events.

The 2021 Festival Committee will be chaired for the first time by Cath Forsaith, who takes over from Graham Howe. Graham has run three Festivals as Chair, overseeing a huge growth in the scale and complexity of events that support local charities and provide a lot of fun for the village. He leaves behind a solid organisational template and a healthy financial reserve. Planning for the 2021 Festival starts again in March and we are looking at a number of changes to ensure that we break even at an operating level. If you would like to be involved, please contact Cath on 0118 940 1895 directly.

Thanks for your support!

The 2019 Festival Committee



1st Wargrave Wildcats Cub Pack

For an end of year Christmas party the 1st Wargrave Wildcats Cub Pack packed the Scout Hut for a *Cubs Got Talent Christmas Show* for their parents, siblings, and friends.

Before the show started Fiona Keen (Akela Too) was awarded her 10 year service badge. She was embarrassed and annoyed when Bill Bookless, Assistant Group Scout Leader, called her up to be awarded with her certificate and Scout Badge. Fiona did not want to make an acceptance speech to thank everyone who assisted her in achieving this milestone as one often hears after the award of an Oscar. Now on to the show:-

Matthew and Joe presented a double act which would not have been out of place on a music hall stage. Jackson improvised and

showed he is destined for a career on the stage. Toby made us laugh with his poetry. Toby has a skill for making us laugh. James co-opted Otter to be his foil (that's a fencing pun) and they both demonstrated a remarkable talent for the 'retreat'. Henry, Ollie and Zack sang a song about footballers to the tune of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. It was remarkably tuneful, but who is Jamie Vardy? Kit demonstrated his prowess on the piano and the massed choir of the cubs sang remarkably tunefully. Aidan amazed us with feats of magic and spelling. William read a fantastic poem about a fearless guard dog chasing off Santa the intruder on Christmas Eve. Shannon,

Caitlin and Jasmine sang and danced a Christmas medley in a blur of swirling hair. Evie demonstrated her skills in modern dance. Quinn performed some wonderful gymnastics. Isla demonstrated her



remarkable skills at prestidigitation which means

manual dexterity in the execution of tricks. Paul Daniels would have been proud of her. Hannah reminded us of her ability at joke telling around the camp fire.

Well done to all the cubs for the entertainment. Like a swarm of locusts the cubs, and siblings descended on the goodies table and swiftly devoured sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes and sweets.

Bill Bookless



1st Wargrave Rainbows



It has been lovely to see everyone back at Rainbows again after the Christmas break. We've had a fun-filled start to the new year, with plenty of crafts, games and learning. It already seems ages ago that we were admiring some of the wonderful Advent windows around the village at the end of last term.

In our first meeting of 2020, the girls made 'peg portraits' of themselves, using wooden pegs and other craft materials to create themselves in miniature. It was fun talking about all the things that make each of us unique.

Rainbows also love working together, and as part of Girlguiding's 'Know Myself' and 'Express Myself' themes, we are doing lots of interesting activities that involve teamwork and sharing. One of these was to make musical shakers, which also made for a noisy evening!



As part of the 'Express Myself' theme, we have been looking at ways to 'think differently' and we discovered that we don't actually need our shakers to make a musical rhythm. We enjoyed a fun activity called 'Clap, tap, pat' in which we used our bodies to make rhythms instead.

Concentrating hard on making our shakers

At the end of January, an excited group of Rainbows went to the Wargrave Theatre Workshop pantomime, *Anastasia*, in the Woodclyffe Hall. It was a brilliant performance that kept everyone – from our youngest Rainbows to the accompanying parents and leaders – thoroughly entertained for over two hours. We would like to thank everyone involved for putting on such a wonderful production.

In our last meeting of January, we welcomed in the Year of the Rat as we celebrated Chinese New Year. We learned lots about this special Chinese holiday with some games and other activities.

As we move into February, thoughts are turning to our first badge testing evening of the term. This gives Rainbows the chance to share some of the activities they have been working on at home to earn their chosen interest badges, which cover everything from reading to recycling.

If your daughter would like to join 1st Wargrave Rainbows, visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on 'Get involved'.

Topaz and Amethyst

1stwargraverainbows@gmail.com

Wildcats Cubs A young leader's diary

I am a sixth former in my final year at school and have been volunteering at cubs, initially with the Tuesday pack (the Pumas) and now with the Thursday pack (the Wildcats). I hope you will enjoy my diary.

December

The last month of 2019 held lots of adventures including puppies, very cute puppies, pet safety, bell ringing at the church, a rather dashing talent show at which all the cubs showed off their dancing skills, card tricks, walking on stilts and more. We finished with a food filled party and ended the year saying goodbye to two of the older cubs.

Thursday 16 January

The first evening of the new year was about important safety in the home in the event of a loss of electricity. This was helpful for the cubs as they learnt who to call or what radio station to change to in order to hear the reasons for the problem and how long they would be without electricity. This was followed by bench ball which tends to calm the cubs into a more sublime and teachable mood which is preferable to the energy driven children entering the Scout Hut at the beginning of the evening. Overall a great start to the new year!

Thursday 23 January

This Thursday was dedicated to Burns Night! It involved a guest speaker Neil Duguid telling the children about the cultural activities of Burns Night, his own personal memories of it, and some Scottish phrases said on Burns Night.

Then we played games such as 'Is it a Scottish word?' The cubs had to guess if a word was Scottish or not although some of them had an advantage due to being Scottish themselves. We followed this by a toast for Burns Night, a shot (of iron Brew) and haggis for the cubs to try. Many cubs did try it and ended up enjoying the meal along with the dessert of fruit and shortbread. This led to a sugar-filled last few minutes as the Wildcats thanked the guest and left the hut with no food or drink stains on the floor. A great achievement to say the least.

Thank you to Neil Duguid for his presentation, it was very informative and great fun for everyone.

Grace Atkinson



Physio Matters - How to protect your brain!

At Physiocare we see a surge in new people joining our gym at this time of the year and the majority of them will say they would like to be fitter. The link between physical activity and improved health is now readily accepted, but maybe less understood is how exercise can help prevent dementia.

While many people notice a natural decline in memory and thinking as they get older, others go on to develop mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or dementia. MCI is a term used to describe memory and thinking problems that result in difficulties that are greater than expected for their age and tend to get in the way of people's everyday life. Dementia is a more significant and progressive disorder affecting memory, mood and personality that does impact a person's ability to carry out daily activities without help.

About 35% of dementia is attributable to known risk factors that are considered modifiable risks. These include high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, poor sleep, obesity, social isolation and depression. A sedentary lifestyle and poor cardiovascular fitness are also important contributory factors. Improving cardiovascular fitness helps prevent insulin resistance and diabetes. It can improve cholesterol levels, reduce high blood pressure and have positive neurological effects associated with an increased blood flow to the brain.



Poor sleep patterns and poor mental health have also been shown to be risk factors for cognitive decline. In both cases regular low intensity physical exercise has been shown to improve mental health and sleep quality. Nutrition also plays a part as individuals who adhere to a Mediterranean type diet have fewer vascular risks and a reduced incidence of diabetes and as such can help in the prevention of mental decline.

The role of exercise in reducing the risk of dementia is supported by the most compelling research. Current guidelines advise that we undertake 30 minutes vigorous activity every day in addition to doing some resistance exercises twice a week. Anyone struggling to remain active is also advised to exercise to help prevent falls. For many reasons some people find regular exercise challenging. For the younger person this is often attributed to a busy lifestyle and general lack of time. For the older person it can be due to physical limitations or a lack of confidence and being unaware of appropriate and safe exercises that may be possible. The process of learning new skills and exercise regimes can be part of the cognitive training, which we know can help keep our brains healthy.

Physiotherapists are ideally placed to encourage and advise about the benefits of exercise. Over recent years I have been asked more and more for exercise advice and I am always happy to help in developing a suitable programme for anyone, irrespective of their age or ability.

The link between physical activity and health is well established. Even with risk factors for heart disease such as high blood pressure and diabetes, people who enjoy regular physical exercise have lower death rates and a reduced chance of mental health issues than people who have no risk factors but who are not physically active. Make 2020 the year you start exercising your brain.

Elizabeth Jones

MCSP HCPC MACP Clinical Lead Physiotherapist

Twyford & Ruscombe Horticultural Association

The Twyford & Ruscombe Horticultural Association store, in Loddon Hall Road Twyford, has reopened after the winter break. We sell horticultural goods to members on Sunday mornings from 10.00am to 11.00am. There are also pots of bulbs for those bare corners of your garden.

We are full of enthusiasm for the coming year and are currently planning our quiz, which will be held on Thursday 5 March at St Mary's Church Rooms, Twyford. It starts at 8.00pm. Entry is £10.00 and includes a cheese and wine supper.

Our Spring Show is on Saturday 28 March at Loddon Hall, Twyford, RG10 9JA. It is being held in conjunction with the Twyford Together Easter Egg Hunt so there are two reasons to mark this date in your diaries. Doors open for the public to view the show at 2.30pm. Entrance is £1.00 and refreshments will be available. There are classes for novices so why not enter your produce this year and join in the fun.

To join the Association email TRHAMembership@gmail.com, telephone our Membership Secretary, Jenny Wager, on 0118 932 0127. Standard Membership is £7.00, £6.00 for Seniors.

Details of all our events will be found in our newsletter, or visit our website www.trha.org.uk.

Frank Thirtle



Robert Piggott Schools PTA



Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year; we hope you all had lovely Christmases. Whilst we have some exciting events coming up this term, we first want to revisit

Christmas and provide the following updates: The Christmas Fayre will have raised an astounding £12,000 once the match funding comes in. This is a staggering amount so thank you to the generosity of everyone who attended and to all of the many parents, teachers and pupils who helped to organise the Fayre and make it such a success. The contributions of Kat Jackson, Nicola Hounsell and Kate Smith were especially appreciated.

The next disco is on Friday 28 February; this is always enthusiastically attended but does rely on a number of volunteers to ensure that the strict dress code is adhered to and that illicit sweets are peddled at a street value way in excess of their true worth. If you are available to help out then please let your Class Rep know.

There is a second hand uniform sale on 6 March at the infant school from 3.00pm; we will be collecting uniform from mid-February and there will be boxes in both school reception areas so please drop off any unwanted items.

The annual quiz is also coming up. The exact date is yet to be confirmed but will be sometime in April. For all those eggheads lucky enough to be in receipt of their exclusive tickets please get your head in the books as we don't want those Crazies Hill upstarts wresting the trophy from our grasp.

The PTA are also incredibly excited to be running the bar at the VE day celebrations on Friday 8 May. This should be a truly fantastic event and we look forward to seeing all of those who managed to get tickets in January.

Our school grounds are looking tidy and maintained thanks to the tremendous efforts of parents and staff on our regular TLC days. Building on this work we are launching our Green Playground initiative. Inspired by the knowledge that green spaces are good for us; physically, mentally and socially, the Green Playground project will also support the children's learning about the wider world we live in and issues such as biodiversity, sustainability and climate change. The aim initially is to introduce more colour and beauty to the playground by developing our small patches of flower beds and pots with a variety of plants and flowers. These will be attractive to us, but also to the birds, bees and other pollinators. As such please donate a plant to school. There's no need to go to the garden centre, plants could come from your garden or left-over flower seeds. We'll be collecting plants from now until April so please bring your plants to school and leave at the collection point outside reception.

The Robert Piggott Primary Schools PTA.

Tuesday walk in Henley is fun and free for everyone

Did you know that there is a short and easy organised walk in Henley, suitable for people of all ages and abilities?

It's a gentle half-hour walk run by the South Oxfordshire District Council in association with the Bell and Hart surgeries as part of the National Ramblers Walking for Health initiative. Walkers meet at 12 noon every Tuesday in Market Square, Henley, opposite the Town Hall. Walks are led by friendly trained volunteers who wear a high-visibility jacket so they are recognisable to new walkers. There are various walk routes: we often go down to the river, or past Friar Park to Badgemore, or to the community orchard near Henley College. We're always back in the town centre by 12.30pm so you can easily go on and do other errands, such as shopping or stop for lunch.

Cloudy or unpromising weather doesn't deter us, though we don't walk in heavy rain or in icy conditions. There's no obligation to turn up every week, just come and join us whenever you can. Dogs are welcome too. For further details phone Annalie Thomasson on 07766 991487 or email Annalie.Thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk

Darius Halpern

Volunteer recruitment morning - National Trust

Have you ever considered volunteering with the National Trust? With almost 6 million members, the role played by our volunteers in supporting full time staff is vital to ensure the day to day running of our properties, gardens, woodlands. A volunteer recruitment morning will take place at Greys Court on Friday 28 February at 9.30am in the tearoom. This event will provide an opportunity to meet us and to find out more about volunteering and how to get involved at Greys Court.



We are actively recruiting volunteers across the property but the main roles we are seeking currently are room guides and housekeeping volunteers for the house, garden tour guides for the gardens, and tearoom and car park volunteers.

Many of our volunteers find the role very rewarding, both in terms of meeting similarly minded colleagues and also when interacting with our visitors.

Do join us on Friday 28 February for a chat over tea or coffee. Meet the staff and volunteers and find out how you could make a difference and get involved at a very special place.

Should you be interested in volunteering but unable to join us on Friday 28 February, please email your details to us at VSTGreysCourt@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Colin Ming

Library matters

Happy First Issue of *Wargrave News* for 2020

A very big thank you to the Bookless family for another fantastic 'festive' morning prior to Christmas. We couldn't do it without you! They have also helped me with my attempt at a Burns Night display by supplying me with poems and haggis information.

Now you have gone through 'dry January' and 'Veganuary' (I went for 'excessive January' as you can't waste all those chocolates and leftover food), how about 'Library February'? We are always pleased to see new faces or the return of previous ones.

Jigsaw Fridays from 2.00pm

Lots of you have told us how much you enjoy jigsaws. So why not come along on Friday afternoons from 2.00pm to help us complete whichever jigsaw is out? We have a few core people (one of whom is me, who really should be sorting out books) but we would love to see some more faces. Tea and coffee are always available and if you are lucky, whatever bargains Waitrose has provided the previous day (huge thank you to Peter for those).

Press Reader

My son finally got around to checking out this app only recently. I did tell him off for not reading the *Wargrave News*, but he has been blown away with what is available to read via this app. He is massively into football and instead of buying subscriptions he is now receiving information for free, thanks to Wokingham Borough Council and his library card. Our stock manager is now my son's favourite person, as it is he who has negotiated an excellent package of content. You need to be a member of the library and have a pin for your card. Just go to the WBC website and follow the links to libraries and online materials. You'll also find information about e-books and e-audio, all free with your library card.

Quick Reads

Just to let you know we have just received some new 'Quick Read' books. Those are always written by well-known authors because their own publishers contribute towards the cost of producing them. They are short stories which are aimed to help 'hard to reach or reluctant readers' but in our experience, they are brilliant for our 'poorly' readers or those of you that struggle with lack of reading time. There is a huge range of styles from crimes to non-fiction titles.

Libby the Library Bear Non-fiction books

I'm a big fan of *Desert Island Discs* on the radio and I've decided what I would like to take if I end up on the island; a lifelong subscription to children's non-fiction literature! It really is excellent. So, if your children have homework topics, come in and have a look, or if you are really brave, come in and enjoy a browse through them for yourself. So many beautiful illustrations, they would look nice on the wall.

Read Me, Make Me

Sessions with Cynthia on the first Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 11.15am. Lots of rhymes, stories and an art activity. All welcome.

Rhymetime

Every fourth Wednesday of the month at 11.00am

The first session was held in January. Please put this time in your diary as we'd love to see a few more of you. I'm sorry, I think it might sometimes clash with Butterflies which we have always tried to avoid, or maybe you can do both. Pop in and give me your email address and I will do my best to send you reminders.

Quirks Animal Roadshow

Wednesday 19 February between 11.00am and 12 noon

A lovely activity for half term. Take a journey through the rainforest and interact with the animals that live there. The session is aimed at children aged four to 12 years old but this is just a guideline. I love these sessions and I'm a 'grown



up' (allegedly) and younger children are also most welcome to come. There is a charge of £4 per child.

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Ros & Chris 0118 940 4656

Regular Library Events

Monday Bookworms
First Monday of the Month – 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Crafts & Laughs
First Wednesday of the Month – 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Coffee and Cakes
Second Wednesday of the Month – 10.00am to 12 noon

Knit Wits
Third Wednesday of the Month – 2.00pm to 4.00pm

iHelp
Fourth Wednesday of the Month – 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Jigsaw Club
Every Friday from 2.00pm

Rhymetime
Fourth Wednesday of the Month – 11.00am to 11.30am

Read Me, Make Me
First Saturday of the Month – 10.30am to 11.15am

Wargrave Library
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Opening Hours

Mon – 1.00pm to 5.00pm
Wed – 9.30am to 12 noon
Wed – 1.00pm to 5.00pm
Fri – 1.00pm to 5.00pm
Sat – 9.30am to 1.00pm

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Motown: The Musical

Fun singing afternoon

Saturday 9 May

2.00pm - 4.00pm

Charvil Village Hall, Park Lane, Charvil

Ladies are invited to join us to sing a great medley of songs from *Motown: The Musical* arranged for two-part choir. The singing will be led by local music teacher and choir director Suzanne Newman

Songs will include - *Papa was a rollin' stone; Reach out, I'll be there; My girl; Please Mr Postman; Stop! In the name of love; I heard it through the grapevine* and *Ain't no mountain high enough*.

Cost is £10 which includes music and refreshments.

Places need to be booked and paid for in advance by contacting me on 0118 934 0589 or suzanneynewman@btinternet.com

Suzanne Newman

European unity

Was European unity doomed from the start?

Here's a little ditty that went around the European Community in 2008.

Heaven?

a place where the police are British, the chefs are Italian, the mechanics are German, the lovers are French, and it's all organised by the Swiss.

Hell?

a place where the police are German, the chefs are British, the mechanics are French, the lovers are Swiss and it's all organised by the Italians .

Pat Beilby-Smith



Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Every November, churches across the country run a Big Quiz Night to raise money for Tearfund. We took part for the first time on 29 November in St Mary's Church Centre and raised £420.



Tearfund works for the poor and their environment around the world and is one of the charities we support at Wargrave with Knowl Hill.

They run the quiz on video and provide the question sheets and team name cards.

Eight teams of 46 quizzers answered seven rounds of questions on books, stage and screen, the natural world, geography, music, sport and history, plus a picture round, in return for voluntary donations. Many of the participants also brought prizes, which went to the teams that came first and second.

Our teenage Tuesday Group came second after a play-off. Many of the choir joined in straight from their first carol concert rehearsal next door.

Most of the other quizzers came from the Families Group and Missions Team. They included the hosts Mike and Angie Buckland, Sue and Steve Witney and Ian and Li-Yen French, who provided free refreshments. Ian and Li-Yen signalled the end of each round with a wide range of musical instruments, including a plastic trombone. Ian was the hi-tech scorer. Angie made sure there was no cheating with the aid of a water gun she did not have to use. Sue and Steve ran the kitchen. Mike was MC.

In the interval, a short film about a young Nigerian mother whose family is helped by Tearfund reminded us why we were taking part.

Everyone had such a good time, and the feedback was so positive, that we consider the trial run a success and intend to run it every other year.

Mike and Angie, Ian and Li-Yen, Sue and Steve

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from Monday 24 February to Sunday 8 March this year. The focus is on chocolate and cocoa farmers around the world. As a change from the Real Easter Egg, which is available from the Meaningful Chocolate Company and supermarkets, St Mary's Church will be providing free Fairtrade chocolate - for immediate consumption or for keeping until Easter if you are avoiding it for Lent.

Mike Buckland

Wargrave charity road race

Sunday 7 June

Time to start training!

Entries have opened for this year's Wargrave five-mile charity road race, organised by Wargrave Runners. The closing date for entries is 4 June. Entrants must be at least 15 years old. There will also be a children's fun run.

Entry for affiliated runners costs £15 and £17 for non-affiliated runners. The fee for the children's race is £5. To sign up, visit bit.ly/2N9Vv5z

Last year's event raised £2,000 for various charities.

Karen Reilly

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News from your local WIs

Cockpole Green WI: Calling all bridge players

If you fancy playing bridge, in convivial company, why not come along to the Cockpole Green WI Bridge Drive being held at Crazies Hill Village Hall on Wednesday 11 March at 2.00pm. There will also be a delicious WI afternoon tea and lots of raffle prizes.

To secure your table, please ring me on 0118 940 3426. The price is £36.00 per table.

See you there!

Selina Avent

Cockpole Green WI: Tom Way, wildlife photographer

On 15 January, President Diane Bush welcomed members, guests and the return of Tom Way.



After finishing University, Tom went travelling to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, which instilled in him the desire to keep travelling; he followed his dream by setting up his own business as a wildlife photographer eight years ago. He recalled visiting us in 2014, when he talked about wildlife in the UK and the hours he spent trying to capture shy creatures like water voles. Such was his

enthusiasm and passion for photography, he did not mind the time waiting, often in the cold, as the results were worth it! He illustrated his talk with amazing photos, for example, a puffin in flight, before sharing his love of Africa with us.

His adventures overseas started in Sumatra in 2017. It was a 12 hour trek to finally see and photograph grey orangutans. The variety of wildlife in Uganda is exceptional and the gorillas there are well-respected. The Kalahari Desert, home of the meerkat, is a large sandy savanna in southern Africa, incorporating much of Botswana, Namibia and parts of South Africa; a true paradise for someone like Tom!

He shared his love of Kenya and Tanzania with us, not forgetting Mount Kilimanjaro. Lots of elephants roam there in the shade of the mountain. He showed us photos of lions, leopards, cheetahs and zebras. On one occasion he had the opportunity to photograph a lion up very close – he had been advised to make his stance one of ‘humility’. The lion and he exchanged looks then unexpectedly the lion started to run towards him! At which point Tom did not hesitate and ran back as fast as he could to the safety of the waiting jeep!

Tom found the migration of the wildebeest in Tanzania truly fascinating, especially the way they took care of their youngsters when the lions were prowling around to make them their next meal. Members were enchanted with all his photos; the cheetah against the setting sun, which took hours to achieve, the

magnificent lions, the leopard so well camouflaged up a tree. Tom found ‘time, patience and luck’ not enough, when it came to filming zebras; their stripes were constantly moving and he found that he had taken a lot of photos of their bottoms.

Tom spends most of his time overseas, mainly in Africa, where he leads photographic wild safaris, focusing on large animals.

On a more serious note, Tom talked about conservation and the fact that many animals are now in decline. Photographers around the world were invited to send in one photograph to be entered into a book, entitled *Remembering Lions*. The book raised over £500,000 for wildlife in just two weeks.

During a scrumptious tea, served by Judi and Helen, members enjoyed looking at a selection of Tom’s Wild Life Cards.

Our next meeting will be held at Crazies Hill Village Hall on Wednesday 19 February at 2.30pm. Our guest speaker will be Rachel Rance, whose talk is entitled *Chocolates!*

Selina Avent

Mill Green Wargrave WI: Programme for the coming year

A successful Christmas party was held on 4 December in the Sansom Room, with dinner and exchange of presents. There was no meeting in January as our meeting day fell on 1 January.

Our programme for the coming year is as follows:

March: Artists’ Village: A speaker from the Watts Gallery near Guildford.

April: Alisa Claybourn: A talk on *Enchanted Woodlands*.

May: An outing to the Watts Gallery, Artists’ Village.

June: Martin Lorenz talks about his childhood in Nazi Austria.

July: Nicholas Henderson: the last of his three talks on the wives of Henry VIII, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr.

August: Garden meeting.

September: Sue Milton: The History of Reading Abbey.

October: The Celtic Duo, Colin and Paul : An evening of live music and song.

November: Aldon Ferguson: *Lady Pilots of the ATA*.

December: Christmas Dinner.

Our meetings are held in the Hannen Room, Mill Green at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise stated.

Penny Hampton 0118 940 3080



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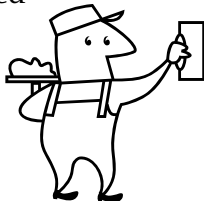
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WUG update

Firstly, the agreeable news. Green-fingered WUGGERS Judi Rowlands and Chris Bennett have worked wonders on the four planters they maintain at Wargrave Station. They (as well as the planters) are surviving the winter conditions very well. They were installed last autumn with help and much-appreciated financial support from GWR and Wargrave Parish Council.



Now the rather less agreeable news. Since the new timetable commenced on 15 December, the reliability and punctuality of GWR mainline services (especially during the morning and evening peaks) seems to have sunk to new lows.

We await actual statistics, although the way they are compiled tends to mask the bad news. We have suffered the usual suspects such as manpower shortage (which seems to crop up particularly at holiday times), troublesome overhead wires and the associated signalling problems, trains late from depots, and slow moving trains blocking the line. The list goes on.

But all this seems not to have made an indelible impression on GWR's top brass who pat themselves on the back for delivering better services, more trains, more seats, and so on. Maybe this has transpired on the longer distance routes but on the stopping or so-called semi-fast routes the improvements have been minimal. Our dear Henley Branch Line, however, has overwhelmingly produced a reliable service.

Mark Hopwood, GWR's CEO, has temporarily skipped to run South West Trains, the line out of Waterloo to Berkshire, Hampshire and Dorset. This franchise has suffered long-term problems with the unions demanding the retention of guards on trains and calling strikes to support their demands. GWR's stopping services in the Thames Valley are guardless and maybe Mr Hopwood is hoping to sprinkle some of his magic over problems at South West Trains. His interim replacement, Matthew Golton, sent WUG an email in January asking for opinions about the new timetable and the following here is an extract from this email.

'There are some issues, and we are looking at how we can improve services in those areas, but overall, we have been pleased with the implementation and operation of the new timetable. Performance has been generally good, albeit we have had some challenging days with the weather and sadly, a significant increase in fatalities on the network.'

If you have any ideas or suggestions from your own experience of the timetable, please do let me know. We are continuing to use this special Mark Hopwood email address, while Mark is temporarily at South Western Railway, but the emails are coming to me and either Jane Jones or I will reply.

Matthew Golton, Interim Managing Director Great Western Railway
mark.hopwoodGWR-MD@GWR.com'

Meanwhile, thanks to the efforts of Neil Gunnell, formerly of HBUG but now using Henley Trains as his mouthpiece, GWR and Network Rail have agreed to designate the 9.28 weekday TfL departure from Twyford as the first off-peak service of the day. This makes possible an arrival at Paddington at 10.18 exactly an hour after leaving Wargrave at 9.18. When this change will take place is not yet

clear.

Currently, WUG is trying to persuade GWR and Network Rail to approve a stop at Twyford on the fast Paddington to Oxford departure from Paddington at 23.30 on Saturday night. Currently it doesn't stop at Twyford but then waits for three minutes at Reading before continuing. A stop at Twyford would not exactly stop the world from spinning on its axis and would permit a full Saturday evening in London. Sadly the last train to Wargrave will have already left Twyford and your option is to leave your car at Twyford Station.

Philip Meadowcroft Wargrave User Group
philip@brandmasters.co.uk 07771 814630

Letter to the editors

Dear editors

The stretch of the B477, Mumbery Hill, as you leave the village towards the A4 seems to be getting narrower, in part due to the overhanging and dense shrubbery on the left hand side.

Is the management of the roadside hedges the responsibility of the landowner or council? On more than one occasion I've been forced to all but stop by an oncoming vehicle to avoid losing a mirror or incurring scratched paintwork, given the size of the branches in question.

Martin Jackson

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Guidance for contributors

The *Wargrave News* is delivered free of charge to over 2,100 homes and outlets within Wargrave Parish.

All the *Wargrave News* team are volunteers including the people who edit the articles you send us and create the pages, the clever people who proofread and correct our grammar and punctuation and our hardy deliverers out on the road.

We thank you for your contributions and your stories about local activities. They make doing the job worthwhile and a real privilege. We hope you, as our readers agree. We rely on you to make *Wargrave News* an interesting and entertaining local magazine.

When submitting an article to us, it would be helpful if you could follow the guidelines below.

Submitting articles

Please send articles by email to editor@wargravenews.co.uk. The editors regret they are unable to include letters or articles received after the copy date and reserve the right to alter and/or reduce in size any articles submitted, and not to include articles or letters they judge to be inappropriate, contentious, duplicated, not newsworthy or not of sufficient local interest. Please include a contact name and telephone number with all articles.

As we are volunteers, there may be a slight delay before you receive a response to a query.

The editors reserve the right to show articles or letters to other/third parties prior to publication in order to seek a response to include in the same or the next issue of *Wargrave News*.

Style

Shorter articles with one or two photographs are more likely to be of more interest and have more visual appeal to our readers and are therefore more likely to be published than longer pieces.

An unformatted Word document is the most helpful.

Photographs

High resolution photographs to accompany articles are very welcome.

Please supply photos in JPEG. It is helpful if you can give the file a descriptive name that we can use as a caption if needed – for example 'John Smith at this year's Wargrave Festival'.

We will ask you to confirm that parental permission has been obtained whenever photographs of children are submitted for publication.

Noticeboard

The noticeboard is reserved for local, non-business adverts at no charge. To place an advert on the noticeboard, please email editor@wargravenews.co.uk with full details. Please include the word 'Noticeboard' in the subject of your email.

Please keep sending your articles in.

The editors

Citizens Advice



Separation

Citizens Advice can help you through relationship breakdown.

There is no storm quite like an emotional storm, and the trauma of a separation from a loved one can be devastating and overwhelming. Some people say it feels as if the

ground is falling away beneath their feet.

If you and your partner or spouse have decided that separation is inevitable, you should try to work out the practical details between yourselves. But bear in mind that you might eventually need to consult a solicitor as well to enshrine your agreement in law, especially if you have assets or children. Going to court should be regarded as a last resort.

Discuss with your ex-partner where you will live, where your children will live, and how to split any money or belongings. If you and your partner are too upset to talk to each other calmly, wait and talk later, or use a mediator.

If your partner makes you feel threatened, get help. Call Refuge or Women's Aid on 0808 2000 247. There is also a Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327.

If you have children with your partner, you are both responsible for the cost of looking after them when you separate, even if you are not married. The parent who moves out might have to pay maintenance to the parent who looks after the children.

Consider any outstanding debts or loans that you might have, and think about who needs to be informed about the separation. If you pay council tax, or receive benefits or tax credits, get in touch with the relevant people and tell them about your new status.

Citizens Advice can help you find the ground beneath your feet so you can move on. Call Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 3309 042 or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

Volunteers needed in South and Vale to help with:

Reception duties in Abingdon, Henley and Thame, advisers in Abingdon and Didcot, head office administration in Abingdon, IT support in Didcot and Thame, fundraising (from any location) and communications and website designers (from any location).

It's up to you when you volunteer. We normally ask for two half days a week but can be flexible. If you are interested, please follow this link:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/

If you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email Jon Bright, Director jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk

Darius Halpern



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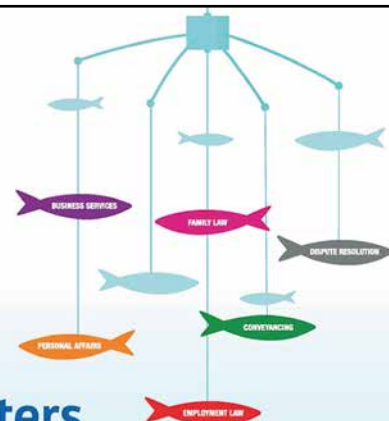
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Wargrave Lawn Tennis Club

The Christmas Lunch was attended by participants at the Dew Drop Inn on 11 December. It was organised by Sharon Barker, who also gave us a colour quiz to make us use our brains, something noticeably much under-used by us on a tennis court! Our chairman Dave Smith became rather noisy but at least he did know which colours were used on an aeroplane, a relief to us all since he is a pilot. It was good to get together informally and have a chance to chat over a pleasant lunch. (see photos)

A further jolly - Christmas Coffee/ Mulled wine morning took place on 8 December.

Our 'Boxing Day' tournament was held on 27 December. Only nine players turned up; clearly the others had no need to run off any calories, though there were three other courts with members playing casually. Each couple played four games with their partner and four against. As there was an extra lady, two kindly shared a man. The standard of tennis for some reason was not terribly good; maybe too many mince pies and turkey in the preceding days, but it provoked a lot of laughs and a great many groans. It was all good fun and undoubtedly better than sitting at home watching yet another film. Members kindly brought leftovers to nibble and in the spirit of Christmas we did our best to dispose of them. I don't think the calories used exactly matched the calories eaten but there are always New Year resolutions to deal with that.

Matches recommenced on 11 January and let's hope the weather is kinder than in the autumn, when so many were rained off. So far, we have mostly contended with gusty wind and frost, which takes ages to melt, especially in the shadows of the trees, in fact sometimes it doesn't melt at all, but that's winter for you. People are always amazed we still manage to play most of the time, even if wrapped up like Michelin men.



There are even some members who are still wearing shorts.....mostly men, brave souls!

Junior Club sessions will begin again after half term.

Half-term Junior camps run from Monday 17 to 21 February and there are discounts when signing up online with GDT. There are also adult camps available during this period, see the website.

Dates for your diary:

Membership renewals by the end of March with discounts for existing members. Information and reminders will be sent out at the beginning of March.

Easter Tournament: Monday 13 April, all welcome. Tomlinson Tournament: Monday 25 May.

Our pro rata membership rates are still in operation. Bear in mind we play all year when at all possible. If you are interested in starting to play or reviving lost skills there are coaching opportunities, including Saturday morning Rusty Rackets 9.00-10.00am.

If anyone is interested in lessons please contact one of the coaches or GD Tennis 0118 947 7885 or see their website.

For further information on tournaments, events, matches, membership or coaching, please see our website:
www.wargraveltc.co.uk

Sue Jones

Wargrave Women's and Girls' Football Club

Flying high

In the various leagues that Wargrave Women and Girls are entered into there is ample evidence of the strength of the club with many of the teams in the top four spots or better across the age ranges:

Under 12 Division 1 POS 1 AFC Reading Liberty Belles 2 Wargrave Lions	Under 13 Division 2 POS 1 Maidenhead 2 Wargrave Girls Pythons 3 Laurel Park Stars 4 AFC Reading Orlando Belles 5 Wargrave Girls Blues
Under 15 Division 1 POS 1 Tilehurst Panthers Stripes 2 Penn & Tylers Green 3 Wokingham & Emmbrook 4 Wargrave Girls Lions	Thames Valley Counties Women's Football POS: 11.00 1 Woking Ladies 2 Carterton Ladies First 3 Wargrave Ladies
	Under 14 Division 1 POS 1 Maidenhead Girls 2 AFC Reading Memphis Belles 3 Laurel Park Stars 4 Wargrave Girls Dolphins
	Under 16 Division 1 POS 1 AFT Diamonds 2 Wokingham & Emmbrook 3 Wargrave Girls



Christmas party fun

The ongoing streak of precipitation that continues to soak the recreation ground couldn't keep the spirits down for long. Whilst the girls were disappointed not to be able to play football, scores of them still turned up to have some festive fun in the scout hut. Loads of Christmas snacks washed down with hot chocolate covered in whipped cream crowns ensured that everyone had a wonderful time. The adults enjoyed a warming festive tippie too. The photos below left show some glum looking coaches and girls being given the news that there was to be no football tournament, followed by the delight at a wonderful party. Indeed, so many turned up that we were thankful for the bright sunshine in the respite between showers that many people spilled out onto the field.

Andy Brown



Wargrave girls and coaches standing by the puddles after yet another wet night preventing play.



Making the most of the sunshine at the Christmas party.



News from your Borough Councillors

Draft local plan public consultation:

Your support will make a difference

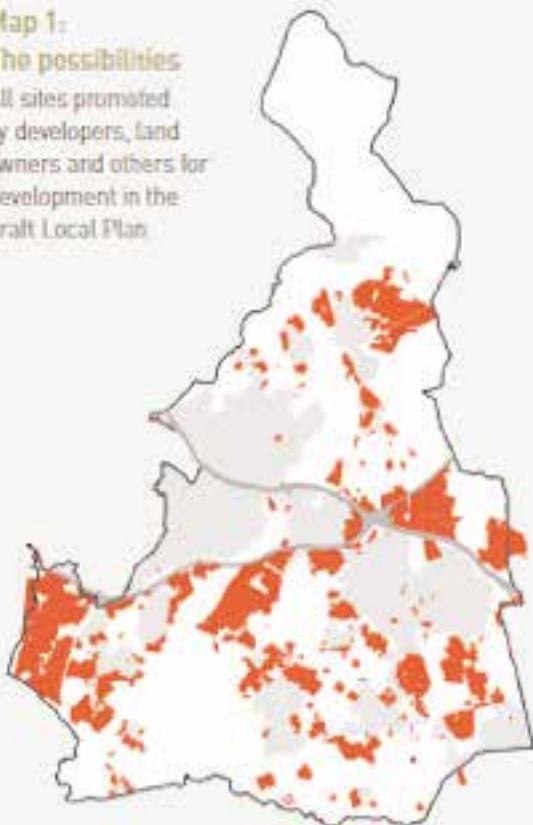
MAPS

These maps show all the land that was proposed for potential development (left) and only the land that is actually being recommended for new homes and other development in the new Local Plan (right).

Map 1:

The possibilities

All sites promoted by developers, land owners and others for development in the draft Local Plan



Map 2:

The preferred option

The sites we are proposing for development in the draft Local Plan



Wokingham Borough Council is seeking your views on the draft local plan, which will be the blueprint for development in Wokingham Borough in the years ahead. The draft local plan places climate change, the protection of countryside and of the environment, and local values at the heart of its strategic vision for the future. Without a local plan developers will be free to develop as they wish (the red).

Among its key points are:

- WBC is arguing for a lower housing requirement than that required by government policy.
- The draft plan protects the Green Belt and our countryside, and concentrates development in only a few places across the borough, eliminating the need for large scale building elsewhere.

WBC is proposing a new garden town at Grazeley that would be designed and built to cutting edge environmental standards with sustainable transport links into Reading, and massive investment in facilities such as schools and community centres, sporting and health facilities and huge swathes of green space opened up for public use.

The consultation on the draft local plan will run until Friday 20 March 2020; the survey is available at www.wokingham.gov.uk/consultations.

As these maps illustrate, by focussing on a new garden town at Grazeley, the draft local plan would allow WBC to provide the homes needed by allocating only a few other sites for development in this

local plan and beyond – with the vast majority of the borough protected. In order to have a regular supply of new homes and to ensure the ongoing viability of our towns and villages, some small housing allocations are therefore included in the draft local plan. Please read this document and any of the more detailed information available by searching for 'Local Plan Update' on our website www.wokingham.gov.uk before giving your opinion.

Please get in touch if we can be of help on this, or any other matter.

John Halsall 07939 041 227
johnhalsall@gmail.com

Graham Howe 07540 193 239
grahamhowe@gmail.com



Organised walks around Wargrave

Every Friday
10.00am
Meet at School Lane car park
Walks, of about four miles, are in the countryside and last between 45 minutes and an hour.
More info on 0118 974 3728 or healthwalks@wokingham.gov.uk

Jewel Tones

30th Anniversary Concert
Sunday 15 March
3.00pm
Norden Farm, Maidenhead
See page 9 for more details

February 2020

Wargrave Lawn Tennis Club

Half term Junior Camp
Monday 17 to Friday 21 February
Details at wargraveltc.co.uk

Quirks Animal Roadshow

Wednesday 19 February
11.00am to 12 noon
Wargrave Library
Activity for 4 to 12 yr-olds
Cost £4 per child

Wargrave Parish litter pick

Saturday 28 March
9.00am to 12 noon
Meet on Mill Green

Have a go at fire fighting!

Saturday 28 March
10.00am to 2.00pm
Wargrave Fire Station, Victoria Road
More information at www.rbfrs.co.uk/careers/on-call-firefighting

April 2020

Wargrave Cricket Club

Indoor nets start
Monday 24 February
Waingels College, Waingels Road, Woodley, RG5 4RF
Details at wargrave.play-cricket.com

WEA lectures in Wargrave

Starts Thursday 30 April
10.00am to 12 noon
Hannen Room, Mill Green, Station Road, Wargrave
See page 26 for more details

March 2020

Henley Symphony Orchestra

50th Anniversary Concert
Sunday 15 March
7.30pm
The Hexagon, Reading
Tickets from 0123 585 9210
See page 26 for more details

Wargrave Lawn Tennis Club

Easter tournament
Monday 13 April
Details at wargraveltc.co.uk

Our next issue

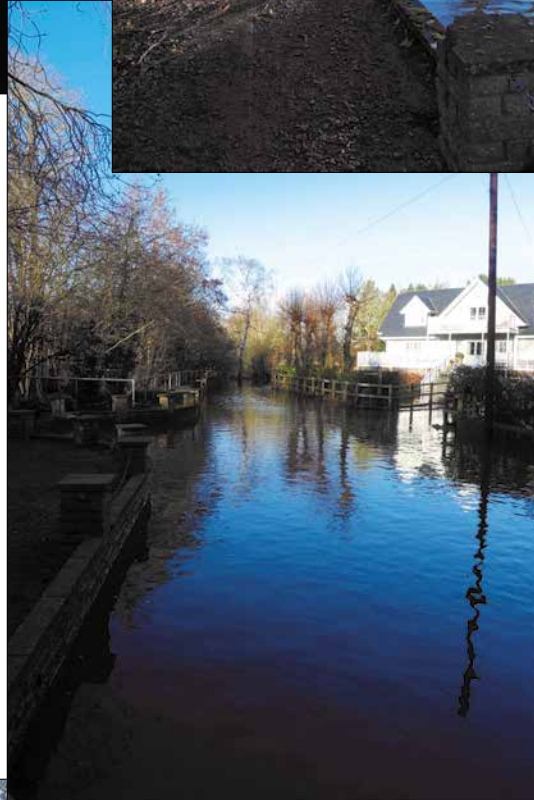
Copy date 6.00pm Thursday 27 February. Distribution from Friday 13 March

What's happening to the weather?



Photos from Sharon Hewitt

Five places
where there
should have
been roads
or paths.
Can you
work out
where?



*And the photo below from
Cornelia Hurley*

