

# THE WOODCHESTER WORD

Issue 65 - Christmas 2018

## Return of replica mosaic in doubt

Plans to bring the famous replica of the Woodchester Orpheus Mosaic back to the area are in doubt in spite of the best efforts of a community team to negotiate its return.

The original Great Orpheus Pavement was made in 325AD by craftsmen from the Corinium School of Mosaicists in Cirencester and was the floor in the main reception room of the magnificent Roman villa at Woodchester. This was one of the largest villas in Roman Britain, boasting more than 64 rooms and thirteen mosaics of which the Orpheus Pavement was the largest and most intricate. First uncovered in 1793 by Samuel Lysons, The Great Orpheus Pavement is considered to be the finest Roman mosaic floor in Britain, and the largest and most complicated yet discovered in Northern Europe. Historians have called it "one of Britain's greatest historical treasures", and it is of international significance.

It was last uncovered in 1973, when 140,000 people visited Woodchester to see the mosaic in just 7 weeks. Following the last uncovering of the pavement, a full-size replica was made by local builders Bob and John Woodward. It took them ten years to construct, using 12 tons of clay, 1.6 million tesserae, and measures 14.5 metres square, the same as the original mosaic. Experts at The British Museum have described the replica as "being of national importance, of great archaeological and historical significance and is a very important record of one the country's major antiquities".



*Parts of the replica mosaic are examined in storage.*



*From right: John Woodward, Mark Woodward and Bob Woodward meet Councillors Iain Dunbar and Gervase Hamilton at the site of the Orpheus Pavement.*

After being displayed for some years at Prinknash Abbey, the replica was sold at auction in 2010 for £75,000 to a private collector and has not been seen since. Woodchester Parish Council were contacted recently by a BBC journalist with the news that the current owner may be prepared to loan the replica back to the community. It transpires that the replica was bought with the intention of installing it in a private villa in Italy, but the project was abandoned following the death of the owner's wife. The replica is now in storage near Heathrow Airport.

"We thought this was a real opportunity to get the replica back and put it on public display in the Woodchester area, and to retain this important historical artefact in the public domain for future generations" explains Woodchester resident Jim Searight, a member of the 'Orpheus Group' working on the project. The group is made up of three Woodchester residents, the Chairman of the Parish Council, the BBC journalist who set the project in motion, and Mark Woodward, son of one of the replicas creators. The Group has had extensive help and advice from Bob and John Woodward.

"We have inspected the replica in storage to confirm its condition and find out how much work is required to renovate it prior to display. The Group are in discussions with a number of local land owners as to a possible location for displaying the replica if we are successful in acquiring it, bearing in mind access issues" explains Jim.

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# Parish Council

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## Grit Bins

We have 26 grit bins strategically located around the Parish which have recently been topped up by Gloucestershire Highways. It would be helpful if residents could sprinkle a small quantity of grit from these bins on the public roads and pavements, especially on bends and steep sections.

**Please remember that the grit is provided for the whole community and should not be used on privately owned paths and driveways!**

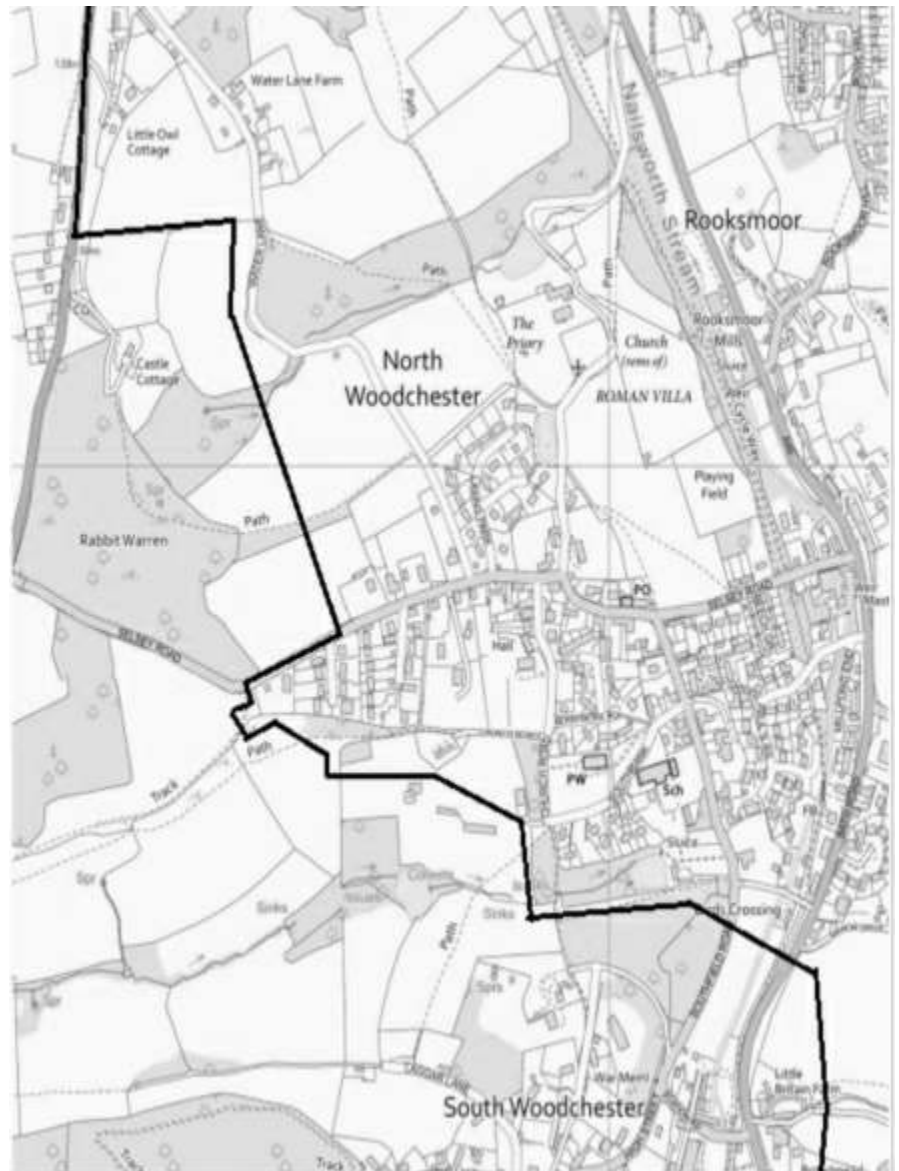
Grit and rock salt can be purchased from local garages and hardware stores, so please buy your own for private use. In the event of heavy snow, and should the County Council fail to turn up with a gritter and/or a snowplough, we have arranged for Peter Brown to bring his digger from the woodyard to clear Selsley Road on our behalf. Please help keep our village roads safe in the winter. If you notice that a grit bin is in need of topping up, please contact the clerk, Ann Bijkerk on 01453 873456 or [clerk@woodchesterparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@woodchesterparish.org.uk) who will in turn contact Gloucestershire Highways.

## Water Main Replacement from Westrip to Minchinhampton

Work is ongoing to replace the mains water pipe from Westrip to Minchinhampton. Severn Trent have begun work on Culver Hill before continuing through the village to Selsley. The map shows the proposed route of the water main work to be carried out by Severn Trent through Woodchester some time in the New Year. We have not been notified of the exact dates the work will start but will post these on the Parish Council website and notice-boards as soon as we have the necessary information. As the Parish Council are given more information relating to necessary road closures, details will be posted on notice boards, the village website and Facebook.

## Road Closure – Selsley Road

The Parish Council have been informed that **Selsley Road, from its junction with Church Lane down to the junction with Church Road, will be closed from the 21st December until the 28th December.** The loop along Church Road, down past Southbank and back along Southfield Road will be open and will therefore experience an increase in traffic during this time. The official diversion however will be back down Selsley Hill to Sainsbury's and back along the A46. **This is unrelated to the replacement water main.**



## Dates of Parish Council Meetings in 2019

Full Council meetings will be held on January 10th, March 7th, May 23rd, June 6th, July 4th, September 5th and November 7th. All meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 7pm except the 23rd May. On that date the Parish Council meeting will be held at 6pm with the Annual Parish Meeting to follow at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.

**The Parish Council would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.**



### New Road Safety Initiative launched

A new alliance to promote road safety in the Stroud area has been launched at a major conference in Stroud.

Representatives of more than 25 Town and Parish Councils in the Stroud District were joined by MP David Drew, Police and Crime Commissioner Martin Surl, and senior representatives of Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department to discuss road safety in the Five Valleys.



As a result of that first meeting a Stroud District Road Safety Group has been set up, one of seven district groups planned for Gloucestershire, working together under a County Road Safety Alliance. "By working together as a group, the founders of

the new partnership hope that more councils will be able to implement measures which will make their roads safer" commented Iain Dunbar, a Woodchester Parish Councillor who has been appointed Chairman of the Stroud District Road Safety Group. "We are delighted with Police and Crime Commissioner Martin Surl's commitment to help us fund speed cameras in the Five Valleys. He made it clear that his officers will support our initiatives in a very positive way."

MP David Drew agreed that working together is the right approach. "We need to work together to get people to drive better and more slowly – an integrated approach is the way to get people to drive sensibly and to make our communities safer."

One objective of the new group will be to make it easier for local councils to implement more

appropriate speed limits in local towns and villages. "A traffic regulation order (TRO) is required to change a speed limit and this can cost in excess of £15,000 – a cost which is well out of the reach of smaller Parish Councils" explains Iain Dunbar. "We believe that there are many parishes who would like to implement lower speed limits in areas where there are road safety issue, and by working with GCC Highways department we hope to make it easier for these changes to happen."

This issue was raised in a House of Commons debate on Road Safety on 16 October by David Drew, who referred to the Whiteshill Meeting, complimented Rodborough and Whiteshill for their introduction of ANPR cameras, and asked the Minister to look at traffic regulation orders (TRO). "Can we have a way in which we can make villages more composite, so that each village does not have to pay quite a large sum of money to get a TRO to reduce the speed in their area to 20 mph, which is largely recognised as being what villages need."



The Stroud District Road Safety Group has already discussed some of the key issues concerning residents across the District, including the need in many areas to get more appropriate speed limits imposed, and then enforce those rigorously with new prevention and policing measures.

Following the major traffic survey undertaken by Woodchester Parish Council earlier this year, the priorities for Woodchester are a reduced speed limit within the village and on the A46 through the Parish.

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(replica mosaic, continued from front page)

However, they recently found out from the owner's agent that although a period of loan is possible, an outright purchase is required in the long term to seal the deal, and that the asking price is an eye-watering £550,000. The Orpheus Group have sought expert advice on the likely value of the replica, and the general consensus is that this valuation is somewhat high.

"We think the project is workable and that a suitable location can be found" commented local resident

Caroline Hill, another member of the Group, "but much as we would love to have it on display in the Woodchester area, the asking price is the stumbling block at this time. We are simply not prepared to pay over the odds and are currently trying to negotiate a more realistic price for the replica."

Much work has already gone into this project, and at the moment its success is hanging in the balance. Watch this space for more news.....

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# World War 1

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**November 11th 2018**

## **Remembrance Sunday – War Horse**

The end of the First World War was marked by the service of remembrance at St. Mary's Church in North Woodchester, led by the Rev David Stoddart and Rev. Deborah Curran, and was proceeded by the act of remembrance and two minutes silence at the War Memorial where wreaths were laid on behalf of the church, British Legion and Parish Council.

An addition to those who attended this year was Val Woods' beautiful Shire Horse "Violet" adorned with poppies and "Remembering the War Horse" slung around her neck. Michael Morpurgo's famous and moving book of the story of the horses that were sent to the Western Front in their thousands and died there, and its film and stage play, are known to us all but having such a magnificent horse standing quietly while the two minutes silence took place was certainly a moving tribute to the sacrifice that the horses and their owners made.

To mark Remembrance Sunday on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, the bells of St Mary's were rung half-muffled before the Service at 11 o'clock, to commemorate the men who died. Then at 12:30, to coincide with ringing all over the country, and with national parades, they were run "open" (without muffles) to celebrate the Peace. On Sunday 18th they were once more rung half-muffled for an individual serviceman who died exactly 100 years before, in a prisoner of war camp in Poland. After that there remains only one more serviceman to commemorate, who died as a result of his wounds, but not till 1920.



*Sgt George Thompson, who defied orders to shoot his horse when it became sick.*

## **Lest We Forget**

Several parishes in the Stroud and Nailsworth area are remembering the fallen of the Great War in their respective local magazines and newsletters, around the hundredth anniversary of their death. As Thomas Alfred Horwood was missed off last time, this is now the twelfth and penultimate article.

### **THOMAS ALFRED HORWOOD**

Thomas Alfred Horwood was born 5 January 1896 in Woodchester, the son of James Goulding Horwood, a labourer, and his wife Emma Jane nee King. He was baptised on 17 October 1897 at All Saints Church, Selsley. In 1901, the family were living at Rubble Hole, Rodborough and by 1911, Thomas Alfred was a 15 year old assistant wood sawyer living with his widowed mother at the Alms Houses at the top of Bospin Lane. He was her only surviving child.

He enlisted as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery and went to Egypt on 8 July 1915. After that, his service is unclear but he must have returned to Europe as at some point he was taken prisoner. The medal roll suggests he was in 102nd Siege Battery and the Register of Soldiers' Effects suggests 26th Heavy Battery. Both of these were deployed in France.

As Alfred, he died of tuberculosis, aged 23, as a prisoner of war at Lazarett zu Czersk (Military Hospital), then in Prussia now in Poland, on 18 November 1918 and was buried locally. After the war, the bodies of Commonwealth service men were moved to Poznan and his resting place is in Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery.

It is possible that 'Alfred' had an earlier military career. A Thomas Horwood born c1894 Woodchester, enlisted in the 23rd Foot (Royal Welsh Fusiliers) on 27 October 1911. By May 1912, this man was already in trouble for being absent without leave, losing his equipment and stealing goods. In June 1912 the Army decided to dispense with his services - discharged for misconduct.

### **Cold Callers and the elderly**

Nearly half the landline phone calls made to elderly and vulnerable people are from cold callers.

Everyone should remember to **never, never** give your bank details or PIN number to anyone on the phone, whoever they say they are.

In fact, the best way to deal with cold callers is to say firmly and politely, "No thank you" and put the phone down. Don't be persuaded to buy anything on the doorstep. And don't let anyone into your house without seeing their Identification.

### Woodchester Alms Houses

When he died in 1729, Richard Cambridge left £20 to the Overseers of the Poor of Woodchester. The interest was to be disposed of for the benefit of poor persons of the parish. In 1763, the then Overseers, Messrs Pavey, Box and Powell bought the Alms Houses for 16 guineas and spent the balance of the legacy in repairing them. Following the Local Government Act of 1894, the properties came under the power of the Parish Council and repairs as and when required were funded by subscription.

There were five houses and it was said many people were grateful for their shelter. However, their location left a lot to be desired – at the top of Bospin Lane! For many years there was no water supply and all water required had to be carried from the spring on the High Street. However, it was certainly not an 'unhealthy' place to live as many inhabitants lived there for over ten years and survived to a ripe old age.

As time went on, there was less need for the Alms Houses and for a while some stood empty. Finally, in 1954 the Charity Commissioners gave the Parish Council permission to sell them and in April the following year, they were sold for £125. After the deduction of costs, £107 14s 6d was invested and the yearly interest paid out to suitable recipients.

Over the years, the requirements changed from 'aged poor' to 'poor' but there were few calls on the funds and in 1997 the remainder was transferred to the Seys and Bridges Trust.

Sources : Woodchester History, Woodchester Charity for the Poor, Census and Burial Register.

*This is the only photograph we have of the buildings which appears to be from a newspaper.*



Believed to have been built before the 17th century, Woodchester Alms Houses await demolition. Inset, one of the three occupiers, Mr. Albert Webb, until two years ago the village telegraph delivery "boy."

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### HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR WOODCHESTER WINTER CLEAR UPS

In the light of budget cuts affecting many public services including street maintenance, a group of residents from Millpond End, North Woodchester took it upon themselves to have a 'working party weekend' in October to tidy up their street. It proved to be hugely successful both socially in bringing lesser known neighbors together and practically by having a mountain of work being done by the team.

The proactive nature of this activity resulted in Stroud District Council stepping in to offer a helping hand by providing bags for the green waste, removing it all afterwards plus chipping and removing any unwanted small trees and branches cut down. "The partnership between the residents and Stroud District Council was a great success", one resident said.



*Some of the residents who took part in the working party weekend.*

So, if you are thinking of organizing a small working party event for your street or area, bear in mind that help is available from SDC. For further information, contact [Rozelle.Jachowicz@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:Rozelle.Jachowicz@stroud.gov.uk)



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# Around the Village

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## News from St Mary's Church

### "A Building for Everyone" Project

As you may have seen from the "thermometer" depicted in church, or on our website, we have made good progress with fund-raising over the summer months and, as at the end of October, we have over £136,000 raised towards our re-ordering project target of £200,000. Huge thanks go to everyone who has donated and/or helped and contributed at our fund-raising events. There is still a way to go, so, if you can still contribute, please help us along the road. And we can now get on with starting the work!

The tendering process for our "Stage 1" (the new kitchen) has been taking place and four potential contractors have submitted their fixed price bids. This has taken longer than expected, first because of summer holidays and then because of their in-progress workload. Now we have to evaluate and pick a contractor, to start work as soon as can be done after Christmas. The church will remain in use while the work takes place, with a screened-off "building site" in the corner opposite the main door. Some of our weekday activities may need to be relocated away from the church but Sunday services, and any funerals, in a properly heated church, will continue to take place. We look forward to the mass production of hot-cross-buns in the new kitchen in time for Easter!

### Christmas not so merry

In the church we have a Prayer Tree, on which anyone can hang a "leaf" that they have inscribed, representing a prayer, for others to read and then add the support of their own prayers. If you will be

spending Christmas this year without the presence of a loved one, who has passed away in recent years, why not take the opportunity to commemorate that person on our Prayer Tree?

### January Visit from Paul & Sarah Tester

St Mary's has had a link for many years with Paul and Sarah Tester, who live and work in Lima, Peru. Paul works for CMS (Church Mission Society) and a number of church members give financial support. In January they are visiting England and will be in Woodchester: on Saturday 12th January at 7pm, we are providing Dessert & Coffee in church after which Paul will bring us up to date with his work and their family life in Lima. On Sunday 13th January, they will be participating in our 11am service. Do come along at either time and find out about life in Lima!

### Churchyard News

It is sad to report that the fine Liquidambar tree to the west of the church, which had such good late autumn colour, has had to be felled after splitting and becoming unsafe in October gales. We are in need of help to maintain the churchyard – if you are interested in joining the "Tuesday morning gang" for a bit of fresh air and company, when spring arrives, please contact our churchwarden Nick Vallender (email [nick@stmaryswoodchester.org.uk](mailto:nick@stmaryswoodchester.org.uk)).

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## Girlguiding Woodchester

Many of you may have been aware that Girlguiding launched a new programme at the end of the summer term, to run across every age group of Girlguiding. Woodchester Brownies and Guides have decided to run the old programme and the new programme simultaneously for a couple of terms, in order to allow older girls to complete badges and awards under the old programme but also to ensure younger girls start working on the new programme in order to ensure they receive the full benefit of the new programme. The end of term plans include the usual Christmas party.

Brownies and Guides have been on two trips recently, one to Cattle Country at Berkeley and one to the Cotswold Wildlife Park at Burford.

As usual we took part in the Remembrance parade and service in Nailsworth. Before we did this however, we had to arrange to have our new unit colours (flags) blessed. We were very fortunate to have Rev Peter Francis attend one of our Brownie meetings at which he retired the unit colours for all the Brownies and Guides in Nailsworth District (which includes Woodchester) and dedicated all the new colours for all the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

At Nailsworth Noel the District will be running a treasure map. Anyone who would like to get involved in Girlguiding, either as a Brownie, Guide or Leader should contact Jackie on 01453 821258 or through one of the following websites: [www.ggwoodchester.wordpress.com](http://www.ggwoodchester.wordpress.com) or [www.girlguiding.or.uk](http://www.girlguiding.or.uk)

### Community Wellbeing Service – Stroud and Berkeley Vale

Many things affect our health and wellbeing, such as where we live, how we spend our time, our financial situation and our relationships with friends and family. Sometimes, we need a bit of help, for example, when coping with a short or long term health situation, or when life throws other challenges our way. This is where we can help! Our Community Wellbeing Agents (you may remember them as Social Prescribers or Village Agents) are part of a countywide service who tailor their advice to your needs. Independence Trust is one of a number of Community Wellbeing providers in Gloucestershire who have been commissioned to offer the service. We offer the service in Stroud and Berkeley Vale and our Community Agents are experts in the locality.

Community Wellbeing Service is a free and confidential service for anyone over the age of 16. The aim of the service is to connect you to local services, organisations and groups that can help you to improve your general wellbeing and meet your wider social needs. Community Wellbeing Agents can help you with:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Long term health conditions
- General health and fitness
- Social isolation Housing and environment
- Debt and finance



Contact us at your local GP Surgery or call us directly on 0345 863 8323 (press option 2) or visit [www.independencetrust.co.uk](http://www.independencetrust.co.uk)

### Statistics of the month

The average Briton buys 26.7kg of clothes a year – the most in Europe, and almost twice as much as the fashion-conscious Italians (14.5kg) (The Times).

At least 259 people were killed between 2011 and 2017 while posing for selfies. Three quarters of the victims were male! (Daily Mail).

### SUPPORT YOUR NEW-LOOK VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE!

Fresh local bread and cakes, milk and cheese, ham, bacon, sausages, eggs and honey all from local suppliers. Ready meals and freezer food. Cordials, beer, wine and chocolates. Lots of organic and environmentally-positive products. Groceries, home essentials, stationery, greetings cards, magazines and of course your daily paper!



Post Office Services include all your postage requirements as well as banking, bill payments, currency, home shopping returns, National Lottery payouts and Health Lottery.

#### Shop opening hours:

Monday-Friday 0730-1730. Saturday 0830-1230.

#### Post Office opening hours:

Monday-Friday 0900-1730. Saturday 0900-1230.



### WOODCHESTER VALLEY QUALITY COTSWOLD WINES



Photo - Mike Barby

Vineyard Tours • Accommodation • Shop



[www.woodchestervalleyvineyard.co.uk](http://www.woodchestervalleyvineyard.co.uk)

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## Around the village

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### Lunch with Friends

St. Mary's Church organises a lunch, usually on the third Friday of each month, when invites are sent out to our village senior citizens as guests. The lunch menu changes each time and comprises of two excellent courses and tea/coffee. The guests, usually 40 to 50 on each lunch, enjoy the meal of course but also enjoy the companionship of meeting their friends and colleagues from all over North and South Woodchester, Rooksmoor and further afield. For some, especially those whose mobility isn't good, it is the only occasion when they get out to meet friends. For more information, contact Liz Cole on 872287 or Christina Lewis on 873481.

### Messy Church at St. Mary's

Messy Church is a free, fun-filled session including refreshments, crafts, music and stories, for all youngsters up to Y6, who must be accompanied by an adult. Older youngsters often come to help and we are delighted to see them. We will be starting again, after the Christmas break, on Wednesday January 16th, 3.20-4.45pm. There is an area for little ones to play and there are refreshments for adults through the afternoon, an opportunity to sit down and to meet new friends. There are cards at the back of church giving Messy Church dates for the new school year. Please join us.

### Little Stars Toddler Group

Little Stars is a toddler group for parents/carers and their children under 5. Each week we have a bible story and craft, song time, play-doh and free play time with toys. Come along, make new friends and enjoy home-made cake and a cuppa (healthy snacks and squash/water for the children). Suggested donation £1 per family. Mondays (during term time) 9:30-11:30, in the undercroft at St Mary's Church. For more information contact Helen at [littlestars@stmaryswoodchester.org.uk](mailto:littlestars@stmaryswoodchester.org.uk)

### Stroud Resilience Project at Boundary Court

Some people may have noticed recently that there have been contractors carrying out excavations on National Trust land at Boundary Court. These works have been approved by the National Trust and are in fact part of a much wider project being carried out by Severn Trent Water called The Stroud Resilience Project. By investing £11 million the project aims to install a new water pipeline from Whaddon near Gloucester through to Amberley, via sections of Boundary Court to make Stroud's drinking water supply even more resilient for the future.

The recent excavations across Boundary Court have been carried out by a team of archaeological contractors employed by Severn Trent to find out if there is any archaeological features before the water pipeline is installed. This is just one of 84 sites along the proposed route that are being investigated. The trenches have now been backfilled and the National Trust are happy with the quality of the works that were carried out.

It is not known exactly when the pipeline will be installed, but it is likely to be in the next 3 months. Again, the contractors have been employed by Severn Trent Water. It will cause disruption for local walkers for a time but it is hoped the pipeline will be installed as quickly as it can. Once the pipeline has been installed the disturbed areas will be sown with a native wildflower grass seed to ensure that Boundary Court is back to how it was before the works commence. Please visit the Stroud Resilience Project website for more details - <https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/planned-improvements/thisisthetestforstound/>

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## WOODCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - PROGRAMME FOR 2019

**Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm** in the Undercroft: Tony Conder – Gloucestershire Railways past and present.

**Tuesday 4th June at 7.30pm** in the Undercroft: Howard Beard – People of the Stroud Valleys through Old Photographs

**Tuesday 9th July at 2.00pm at Saul Junction:** Cotswold Canals – a talk, short walk and boat trip.

**Saturday 10th August meet at 10.00 am on Church Green:** Mike Warnes will lead a historical walk over old paths and trails. This is a walk of approximately 3 hours and will involve a steep climb up the side of the Nailsworth valley.

**Tuesday 3rd September at 7.30pm** in the Undercroft: Chas Townley – Stroud's Workhouse

**Tuesday 5th November at 7.30pm** in the Undercroft: Cherry Hubbard – A Victorian Christmas - to include the AGM



# St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

St Mary's Hill, Inchbrook, Stroud Gloucestershire  
Tel: 01453 832682



## **We offer:**

- Excellent pupil behaviour within an inclusive environment
  - Small classes
  - Christian Family Ethos & Community Links
  - Excellent pastoral provision
- Exciting, bespoke Creative Curriculum with enrichment programme
  - Weekly Outdoor Learning opportunities
  - A Strong Pupil Voice
  - Christian Family Ethos & Community Links
- Set in an idyllic, rural location with great facilities
  - Afterschool and Breakfast Clubs
  - A welcoming and supportive parent body
  - Strong Leadership
- Early Years places available (from 2yrs 9 months)

**Contact:** [admin@st-dominics.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-dominics.gloucs.sch.uk)/[www.st-dominics.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.st-dominics.gloucs.sch.uk)

**'The outcomes, the provision, and the leadership and management of Catholic life are all good.'**

**The quality of the prayer life of the school is outstanding.**

**'The pupils' care and respect for each other make a positive contribution to the ethos of the school,'**

**'Pupils...make a good start in the early years and make good progress from their starting points.' (Section 48 Inspection June 2018)**

## **Parent comments**

**'The school has strong leadership'.**

**'Thank you! Your support has been fantastic!'**

**'Provides the best education and a good environment for our children'**

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## Our Schools

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### Woodchester Endowed Church of England Primary School

We were delighted to welcome our new Reception children in September. They have settled in well and have been looked after by their Year 6 buddies. The Year 6 children not only make sure our youngest children feel welcomed but also love the responsibility of being a buddy and take great pride in this role. We were also delighted to welcome two new teachers to Woodchester, Mrs Loomes and our new Deputy Headteacher, Mr Smith. During a September Evensong in Gloucester Cathedral, Bishop Rachel prayed for our families, staff and for everyone connected with our school and community.

Also in September, Year 5 and Year 6 children travelled to PGL, Liddington for their residential visit. Being away from home brought its own challenges alongside negotiating the exciting activities that were on offer such as raft building and abseiling. The children enjoyed this new experience, making many new memories along the way.

Last academic year, Parents, Staff and the PTA were busy fundraising to improve the outdoor space at school. We were very thankful to a number of different organisations for their support including the Big Lottery Fund, the Summerfield Trust, Midcounties Cooperative, the Seys and Bridges Foundation and Uniwire. With this help and donations from our generous parents we have been able to purchase new table benches, improve the Forest School area, extend and improve the outdoor classroom and create a pond and parachute area. We have also extended and renovated the outdoor Early Years' Play Area for the children in Ash Class and we were delighted that many came to join us to celebrate these improvements during a celebratory event.

At our Harvest service we were pleased to be joined by Vicky from the charity, KidStuff. This charity does amazing work providing toys, books, nappies and other items for children living in the Stroud area. Thank you to all our families for their generous donations, not only to KidStuff, but also to the Foodbank. Our service was led by the children and we all gave thanks through drama, music, art and poetry.

Lynn Pennington, Headteacher



*A new sandpit and water feature for Ash Class at Woodchester Endowed School.*

### St Dominic's Catholic Primary School Wonders of the World!

At St Dominic's it has been an action packed autumn term and we have much to be thankful for! The children and staff have immensely enjoyed exploring many wonders of the world through our whole school topic. Each class have had a different focus and have had the opportunity to learn about dinosaurs, pyramids, volcanoes, The Great Wall of China, The Great Barrier reef and Neolithic wonders to mention just a few! To ignite their learning even further, we spent a great day in London visiting the Natural History Museum exploring the many wonders held there. The children's behaviour was exemplary throughout and we were very proud of them. We have warmly welcomed new families across the school this term and it has been a delight to see them settling in, making new friends and becoming part of our school community.



On Monday 12th November, we marked the 100th Centenary of the end of the First World War with our own special remembrance service at the Wayside Cross, Inchbrook. Year 5 and Year 6 children chose readings, poems, songs and wrote reflections to ensure that we do not forget the sacrifices that have been made by those who have given their lives in War.

Whilst exploring the wonders of the world we have not forgotten our more local wonders! To support Pudsey Bear and Children in Need, we have undertaken our own challenge with a '**St Dominic's School Ramble**' in Woodchester Park, where we will spend a day walking, picnicking and exploring the local countryside, lakes and awe-inspiring Woodchester Mansion. The children's aim is to raise as much money as possible for this worthy cause whilst enjoying and learning more about their local environment. We have set up our own supporters' page on the BBC Children in Need website to make it as easy as possible for our supporters to sponsor us.

Also, don't forget our School and Parish Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 8th December 2018**, it will be a great opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts, enjoy festive refreshments and meet Father Christmas – I look forward to seeing you there!

We will mark the end of our Autumn term with an extra-special Nativity and Christingle service on Friday 21st December in Woodchester Priory Church at 9.15am – all are welcome and following the service there will be coffee and mince pies in the school hall.

We wish you a very blessed Christmas from all the staff, pupils, families and governors at St Dominic's.  
Jacqui Sollars, Headteacher

### **Woodchester WI – Food, Fundraising, Flowers and Fun**

Variety has continued to be the spice of life at WI meetings in the last quarter of the year. A visit from Kate of Kate's Cutting Patch saw all members making posies from a beautiful array of natural cut flowers. Even those of us who started the session with less enthusiasm and more knowledge of our own limitations left clutching a posy to be proud of – and with useful tips about how to keep it looking beautiful for up to two weeks. Norah Kennedy's October visit provided a very different craft demonstration; she combined an interesting talk about the history of willow-weaving, the process of willow production and the range of uses for willow baskets, with her own rapid creation of a small basket which became a coveted raffle prize. In November we welcomed the Piano Man, who entertained us after our AGM.

In our final meeting of the year we will enjoy early Christmas celebrations together with unseasonal but warming bangers and mash followed by more traditional mince pies, before exchanging Secret Santa gifts. Once again, some members will sing in the Gloucestershire WI Choir at the concerts in Cheltenham while others enjoy a range of performances, including Only Men Aloud, from the audience.

We continue to look out for opportunities to be involved in village life. The WI was represented at the Woodchester Produce Show in September, where members ran a stall with some of our produce and craft items for sale and traditional games for younger villagers. In November we will support the new Made in Woodchester event in the village hall, providing refreshments, including cake, of course.

Next year's programme is nearly complete. Tried and tested events like the August Fish and Chip supper and Christmas party remain, but there are plenty of

opportunities to experience something different too, from the Scilly Isles to our local canal restoration project. One of the first female officers to pass through Sandhurst is coming to share the story of her life and work and we will also hear the stories of the female stars of the music hall. Look out for spare copies of our programme, which will be available in the village shop next year. We are hoping to arrange another day out next year too after the successful outings of the last two years.

The WI group system means we have bi-annual meetings with Minchinhampton, Nailsworth and Box WIs, giving us a chance to meet a wider range of members and to exchange ideas. We are hoping to build on the success of these meetings next year, perhaps looking for some more unusual speakers and something a little different in the way of entertainment. The craft and book groups, new ventures for our own WI, have regular meetings and enthusiastic memberships.

We've been delighted to welcome new members at various points in the year and are hoping that details of our proposed programme will encourage more visitors to give us a try. There's no prize for being our thirtieth member but we promise to make you welcome. Above all, membership of your local WI provides so many more opportunities to get involved at local and national level: the WI public affairs campaigns, the most recent on plastic soup; the monthly walks and lunches arranged across Gloucestershire; taster sessions for bowls, croquet, and walking netball; craft courses in Gloucester; and courses of all kinds at Denman College.

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### **Orchard Pastures – join the Woodchester wassail!**

Come and join us on Sunday 20th January at 4pm for our annual wassail. It's a bit of fun, song and drama to coax the fruit trees in our orchard to a bumper crop! Children are very welcome, as well as everyone else. Bring something to shake, rattle or whack to scare those evil sprits away! We'll repair afterwards to The Ram for mulled cider and other delicacies. Meet in the lower Ram car park.

We also have allotments available for this year – open to anyone and everyone. Our rents are reasonable and the plot is in the heart of the village. Do contact us to find out more. Orchard Pastures is the land below The Ram owned by a group of villagers. For more information, email: [swalt.org@gmail.com](mailto:swalt.org@gmail.com) or phone Bert or Glen Cossins on 872407.

### **Woodchester Football Club**

Halfway through this season's league campaign and our report card reads "should do – and could do – better". After some early season points, we've endured an utter drought – but with many of those games finishing with us, and often the opposition, feeling we deserved something out of it. Finally though yesterday (Saturday 25th November) our drought ended in grand style, four nil up with five minutes to go against a team in the top half of the table. Even two late, and very unfortunate goals conceded couldn't take the gloss off of a fine team performance and three points in the bag. As ever, new players are always welcome or anyone wanting to get involved in the other aspects of running the club or managing the team. Age isn't a barrier either – yesterday's team included two teenage tyros in front of a back four with a combined age of 179... Please email [jamescollins99@hotmail.com](mailto:jamescollins99@hotmail.com)

James Collins, Secretary and Treasurer, Woodchester FC

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## Village Shop

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### Village Shop

We have had another successful year, and with the huge effort from Cathy and Pauline, we had a very successful shop refurbishment. A thank you also goes to all the villagers who bought our 2 year and 6 months bonds, as we wouldn't have been able to finance the refurbishment without them.

Financially, the shop refurbishment went without a hitch, as enough bonds could be sold to finance everything. We also already received the grant money from the Post Office, and the first half of the VAT refund, which gives us a current bank balance of £20,000.

We will see which part of the refurbishment can be written off this year as repairs, and which part we will have to write down over a longer period of time, which might even enable us to get a refund on last year's corporation tax. Our finances are in the usual healthy state, and there should be no issues repaying all the bonds in time.

The refurbishment went well even though we had some initial problems with humidity under the floor. We spent a bit more money on different flooring which copes better with the water, and our contractors still managed to bring the whole operation in on time, so that the shop could open on the Monday. New product lines were introduced as there is now more space on the shelves, and they have been well received by our customers.

The recent AGM thanked Cathy and Pauline for all their hard work organising and project managing the refurbishment. A lot of positive comments have been received from customers, and the whole project has been a huge success. The AGM decided on the usual 4% dividend per share, which will be paid out this month. An email will go out to all shareholders when the money is ready to be picked up at the Post Office. The AGM also decided to make the usual donations to Woodchester CoE Endowed Primary School, St. Mary's Primary School, Food Bank Stroud and the Village Hall.

**We've got Christmas covered! Come and see our lovely Christmas Cards, Christmas tea, Montezuma's Nutmeg drinking chocolate, Ginger and orange drinking chocolate, Dates, Caramalised almonds, Divine chocolate coins, Chocolate Advent Calenders and Dairy-free Advent Calenders, Clipper Tea Caddies and available to order Gluten Free Christmas Puddings.**

**Shop Local, shop at Woodchester Village Shop!**

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- Repair that fence/boundary?
- Remove those high tree branches?
- Replace that shed felt?
- Paint that surface?
- Install / change a light fitting?
- Mow, strim or hedgecut?
- Do any other job not mentioned yet?



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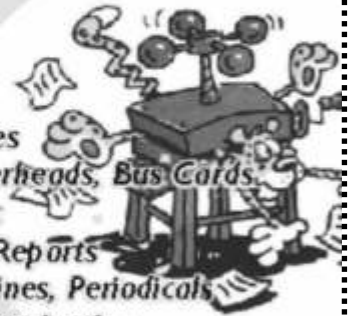
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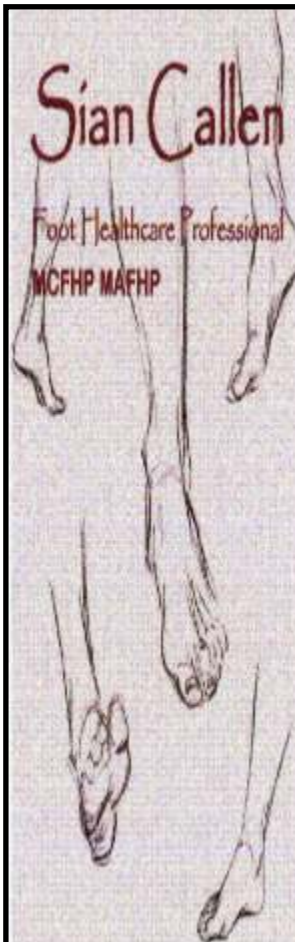
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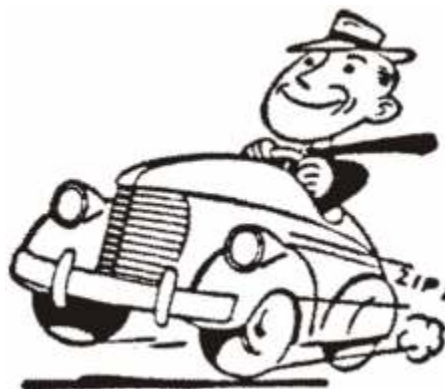


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### Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service Governance Review

In September Police and Crime Commissioner, Martin Surl, announced that he had taken the decision to reopen the work to assess the case for a change in the governance of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS).

Work carried out by Office of the PCC (OPCC) has identified a number of clear benefits a change in governance could bring. They are all contained in an outline business case, now available on their website at <https://www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk/how-to-get-involved/consultations-and-surveys/>. The next stage is to gather the views of people who live and work in Gloucestershire and this includes you. It is very important that as many people as possible take part in the consultation so please have a look at the outline business case and spare a few minutes to complete the short, anonymous, online survey.



There are four models of governance to consider. These are:

**No change / status quo:** This would mean Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service remains part of the County Council and collaboration continues to be progressed on a voluntary basis.

**Representation:** This is where the PCC would become a formal part of the existing governance for fire and rescue in GCC, with full voting rights.

**Governance:** Here the PCC takes on responsibility for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service in much the same way he currently does for Gloucestershire Constabulary. The role would become the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Police and fire would retain their own chief officers and staff and be operationally independent of each another.

**Single employer:** This is where the PCC would take on responsibility for fire alongside the police and also appoint a single chief officer for both services. Front-line services would remain distinct but support services would be increasingly integrated.

Against a statutory test of critical factors (economy and efficiency, effectiveness, public safety) and an additional assessment of deliverability, analysis shows that the **Governance Model** would achieve the best outcomes for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and for Gloucestershire residents. This would mean that the PCC would become the **Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner**. Governance of GFRS would be very much the same as is it with the police. Neither the PCC nor the OPCC would be involved in any operational activity but there would be a requirement to develop a police and fire plan setting the strategic direction of the service as well as overseeing funding. Roles won't change either – police will stay police and fire will remain fire.

Please make your views known via the survey or you can e-mail [pcc@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk) or telephone 01452 754348. You can also write to The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, No. 1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AN.

A festive poster for a Christmas Fayre. On the left is a cartoon Santa Claus with a large white beard and a red hat with a white pom-pom. On the right is a cartoon reindeer with large antlers and a red nose. The background is a light grey with stylized white snowflakes and small evergreen trees. The text is centered and reads: "Christmas Fayre", "Santa's Grotto", "Crafts, Stalls & Games", "Raffle", "Food and Mulled Wine". Below this, in a smaller font, it says "Join us for an afternoon filled with shopping, activities and plenty of Christmas cheer". At the bottom, it gives the date and location: "Saturday 8th December 12pm - 3pm", "St Dominic's Catholic Primary School", "St Mary's Hill, Inchbrook, Stroud, GL5 5HP".

**Christmas Fayre**  
Santa's Grotto  
Crafts, Stalls & Games  
Raffle  
Food and Mulled Wine

*Join us for an afternoon filled with shopping,  
activities and plenty of Christmas cheer*

**Saturday 8th December 12pm - 3pm**  
**St Dominic's Catholic Primary School**  
**St Mary's Hill, Inchbrook, Stroud, GL5 5HP**

# What's on

## Carol singing

Come and join us for Carol Singing round the village with Nailsworth Silver Band on Tuesday December 18th. Start 6.30pm at Frogmarsh, 6.50pm Tower House/The Ram, 7.00pm at the Royal Oak, 7.15pm on the Church Green or inside if wet! Followed by mulled wine and mince pies at St Mary's Church. All welcome, do come along and join us! Details from Andrew Pemberton 872813.



## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 8th December 2018:** St Dominic's School and Parish Christmas Fayre

**Sunday December 17th** 11.00am Christingle Service for all the family at St Mary's Church

**Monday December 24th** 3.00pm Crib Service, 6.30pm Carol Service at St Mary's Church.

**Tuesday December 25th** 10.00am Christmas Praise at St Mary's Church

**Sunday 20th January:** Orchard Pastures Winter Wassail at 4pm.

## Useful Village Contacts

### PCSO: Steven Phillipson

Tel: 101 or visit [www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)

**Neighbourhood Warden:** Dominic Everiss

Email: [dominic.everiss@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.everiss@stroud.gov.uk)

Tel: 01453 754514

Mobile: 07753 725185

**District Councillor:** Philip McAsey

Email: [Cllr.philip.mcasey@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.philip.mcasey@stroud.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01453 873329

**County Councillor:** Steve Robinson

Email: [steve.robinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:steve.robinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01453 834270

**Village Hall:** Mrs. Kath Gay

Email: [wvh888@btinternet.com](mailto:wvh888@btinternet.com)

Telephone: 01453 873348

**Parish Council:** Ann Bijkerk

Email: [woodchesterparish@gmail.com](mailto:woodchesterparish@gmail.com)

Telephone: 01453 873456

**Gloucestershire Highways**

Website: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/)

Telephone: 08000 514514

Email: [gcchighways@amey.co.uk](mailto:gcchighways@amey.co.uk)

**Woodchester Post Office and Village Shop:**

Pauline Woolam, 01453 872581

**St Mary's Church:** Rev Peter Francis, 01453 759680

**Church of the Annunciation:** 01453 832120

## Woodchester Village Hall

- Monday** **Circle Dancing:** 11.00 – 13.00  
Weekly, (Chrissie Grice: 07814 011980)  
**Circle Dancing:** 14.00 – 16.00  
Fortnightly  
**Table Tennis:** 19.15 – 23.00  
Sept – March  
(John Bunn: 07702 058754)
- Tuesday** **Art Group:** 10.00 – 12.00  
(Vera Naumann: 01453 873689)  
**Dru Yoga** 13.30 – 14.45  
(Elisabeth Noblet: 07973 877029)  
**Table Tennis:** 19.15 – 23.00  
Sept. – March
- Weds** **Calligraphy:** 10.00 – 16.00  
Fortnightly  
(Josie Brown: 01452 387768)  
**Creative Sewing:** 10.00 – 17.00  
Monthly  
(Catherine Kingzett)  
**FMC Dance Academy:** 17.00 – 19.45  
Subject to Sewing  
(Fay Cottrell: 07931 253116)
- Thursday** **Senior Health & Fitness:** 10.00–12.00  
(Dorothy Turner: 01285 885766)  
**FMC Dance Academy:** 16.30 – 20.30  
Subject to PC & WI  
**Parish Council:** 19.00 – 21.00  
1st in alternate months  
**WI:** 19.30 – 21.30  
3rd in month  
(Gail Birch: 07875 028671)
- Friday** **Circle Dancing:** 14.00 – 16.00  
Monthly  
Private booking 17.00 – 18.30

**Weekends** Available for Private functions

All Village Hall sessions are subject to change and are guidelines only. For bookings/late availability contact: Kath Gay: 01453 873348 or [wvh888@btinternet.com](mailto:wvh888@btinternet.com).

## Woodchester Endowed School

**Thursday Dancercise:** 7-8 pm Weekly  
Tricia Dunbar (07400 433536)

Letters, articles and items for publication should be sent to the editor, Rod Harris, at [woodchesterword@gmail.com](mailto:woodchesterword@gmail.com)  
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