

THE WOODCHESTER WORD

Issue 74, Summer 2021



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our local election has resulted in a change of personnel in your Parish Council.



I was previously Vice Chairman and therefore became Chairman when Gervase Hamilton, our Chairman for 10 years stood down, although he remains as a Councillor, Barbara Warnes and Uta Baldauf have retired due to other life commitments.

Our new Councillors are Liz Hasinski and Caroline Noon. Remaining are Iain Dunbar, Paul Baynham-Henri and Katharine McNealey who is Vice Chair.

For those of you who do not know me, I live in Convent Lane with my wife Dawn, daughter Becky and granddaughter Daisy. We are fortunate to live in this village where we grow vegetables and keep bees, all of which has kept us sane during these difficult last two year

We have lived in Woodchester for about 15 years. We may be considered by some as newcomers; but in this short time many features of our Parish have changed. When we first arrived we enjoyed a street party, followed by village fetes and the Produce

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A letter from the chairman continued.

Show. We could shop in North and South Woodchester, enjoy three Pubs in our Parish, have a choice of two Primary Schools and start our Christmas Carols through the Village from the Convent accompanied by the Sisters,

Some events, whilst not occurring over the last two years hopefully will still continue, however several of the losses listed are the sad effects from a world driven by economics.

Economics are impacting us in other ways as well. Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Central Government all have less money to spend, resulting in Parishes, Towns and Cities receiving less help to maintain the local environment and services. Therefore, if we want to prevent our Parish from becoming unkempt and bereft of services we need to call upon ourselves to step up and ensure we can be proud of Woodchester. The Post Office is a prime example of this. Other activities include the Wombles litter picking and guerrilla gardening. But we need to do more.

My tenure in the chair will be 3 years, and during this time we are setting ourselves what we hope are achievable projects that will ensure all Parishioners can take even more pride in their village.

Our next Council meeting is 2nd September and I am inviting you all to come along to share your thoughts and to offer your skills and talents to help us make a difference and achieve our, and your, ambitions. I will ask that our Agenda has a half hour slot for open discussion near the beginning of the meeting, so that if you choose, you do not have to sit through the business bit of the meeting.

Just one final note, and that is to remind you that we, your Parish Councillors, are unpaid volunteers who believe we can use our various skills to the benefit of the village we share with you. However, we are only 7 willing volunteers, we need more and with the saying many hands make light work, we could achieve a lot more.

Cheers, and I look forward to a lively Parish Council Meeting in September!

Peter Lead

Reunion for the WI

We enjoyed our first in person event for 15 months this July, meeting for tea and cake in the Secretary's garden. The sun shone, scones were piled high with jam and cream and the garden was alive with the sounds of chat and laughter.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

It was a delightful afternoon. While we have managed to stay in touch throughout the pandemic via newer and old-fashioned means, nothing can replace the fun of being together and sharing good food. We are all looking forward to resuming our monthly meetings in the village hall, starting, we hope, with our traditional fish and chip supper in August, followed by a visit from Neal's Yard, a speaker from the Butterfly Garden charity at Cheltenham, a beetle drive and our Christmas party.

Our WI has remained very active despite the restrictions with a number of interesting Zoom talks, including a tour of the food heroes of Bath. In early July we were pleased to provide refreshments for the craft fair event in the village, another highly successful day attracting large numbers of visitors who enjoyed the range of crafts on offer, live music, sunshine and lots and lots of cake baked by WI members.

Our book groups and craft groups have continued to meet regularly, sometimes on Zoom and sometimes in person and we have enjoyed a number of walks together. We hope that we may at last be assembling the banner we started to commemorate Gloucestershire Women Institute's Centenary in 2019. Some of us have continued to enjoy the Zoom Denman at home talks, craft and cookery courses, available for a reasonable £5 to members and non-members alike. The Gloucestershire Federation has also made a range of courses available, including Japanese patchwork and shadow applique. They too are now restarting their programme of events which includes craft courses, opportunities to try out bowls and croquet and a number of guided walks across our beautiful countryside.

If you would like to try us out, come along to a meeting or phone the Secretary, Sally, (873003) or the President, Gail (873692), for a chat. We are very keen to hear suggestions for new groups we might offer or ideas about making our programme more appealing. Our current programmes is usually available in the Post Office. Most meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 in Woodchester Village Hall.

2021 Village Picnic and Dog Show

Because of the Covid induced uncertainties and the erratic late spring weather we will not be holding a Village Flower and Produce show this year. There will however, be a Village Picnic with a Fun Dog Show, Live Music and tea and cakes on the Church Green in the afternoon of Saturday 11th September.



The winners of the Endowed School growing project will also be announced on this date. Keep your eyes on the village notice board and Social Media for further details !



Trustee – Stroud And Cotswold Districts

Do you want to help the community where you live, work or study and gain valuable skills?

Do you want to make sure your family and neighbours get the advice they need now and in the future?

We are seeking new Trustees to join our Board and are specifically looking for people with a background in marketing, communications and IT.

Time commitment –

6 x Board meetings a year and approximately one other meeting a month with associated paperwork.

Deadline: 31st July 2021

For more information please contact Diane Elsdon, Business Manager by email at diane.elsdon@ca-scd.org.uk.

News from St Mary's Church

Where's a quiet, cool place to be in a heat wave? – your local church! Especially with its thick stone walls and high ceiling.



If you have had a look inside recently, you will have seen the second stage of our project to re-furbish the interior taking shape. The wooden chancel screen is a great piece of local craftsmanship but was not original to the design of the church. It was installed to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII, in 1903, to a design by a Mr J. P. Moore, and was given and produced by the Workman family of Woodchester, in their local factory. In the recent building work, we have re-purposed this screen to front some new spaces at the west end of the church, restoring the open-ness of the chancel which its architect S S Teulon originally conceived. Anyone sitting in the main part of the church now has a much better view of the Victorian east window and the tiled picture of the Last Supper, known as a reredos, beneath it. And you can now see something of the organ pipes on the right-hand side. Please come in and have a closer look – the door is open every day.

In the spirit of Loving Our Neighbour, we remain cautious whilst Covid-19 infections are on the rise: if you come to church, please wear a mask and stay distanced. During the restrictions we have at least been able to enjoy our final hymn or song outdoors on Sunday mornings, and indeed recently we had a whole Sunday service, complete with baptism, outdoors. There are also outdoor activities for children and young people; Messy Church will start its new season in September.

Lunch-with-Friends continues, after a break in July, with a monthly delivery service to the older and/or more isolated folk in the village. And it will stay that way until the organising team AND the participants all feel it's safe enough to meet all together in person.

Woodchester Endowed Church of England Primary School

Since the last time of writing, we have emerged from another lockdown, with all children returning to school in March. I am sure that children, parents and staff would agree that it was a relief to put aside remote learning and to be able to welcome everyone back to school.



The demand for key worker places was very high with over sixty children attending school either on a full or part time basis and juggling two systems was incredibly challenging for a school of our size. The whole community pulled together and I am enormously thankful to everyone for their contribution in ensuring our children continued to learn and be supported.

With the anniversary of the first lockdown approaching, Revd. Haslam invited Year 6 children to help prepare a new lavender bed in the churchyard for the 'Service of Remembering'. Throughout history, lavender has been considered a plant with soothing, healing benefits and our children tenderly and carefully planted the lavender and created a flowerbed for everyone to enjoy. It was a huge privilege to contribute to this symbol of peace, healing and hope.

With the 'bubble' system remaining, adaptations have had to be made but everyone has been eager to ensure school runs as normally as possible. We have continued to teach a full, broad, balanced and engaging curriculum as well as take

part in extra curriculum opportunities that enrich learning and wellbeing. Visitors from our community have brought an interesting dimension to learning in History, Geography and Science and we thank them for sharing their expertise and knowledge. PC Weedon visited Year 6, who received the complete programme of 'School Beat' sessions. A Science focus week encouraged all our children to ask scientific questions and explore patterns in Science. This was very informative and enjoyable with a 'Dress as a Scientist' day and a 'Seek the Scientists' hunt around Woodchester village organised by our PTA. The 'In the Net' online safety session was organised virtually as were activities to celebrate World Book Day. Our children took part in the Diocesan RE & Art competition and Isabella's painting, 'The Tree of Life' was a winning painting! Taking part in Eco Schools' Mindfulness Minutes project, alongside extra Forest School sessions, helped us nurture everyone's mental health and wellbeing. Last week, Year 6 parents were treated to a wonderful performance of the Shakespeare musical, 'Macbeth' and Juniper Class also enjoyed a

piano recital by concert pianist and recitalist, Ms C Hammond.

In sport, all children took part in a 'Chance to Shine Cricket Day' organised by the Gloucestershire Cricket Board and learned new skipping skills with 'Dan the Skipping Man'. Other opportunities for specific year groups were seized upon, including, a 'School Games Rounders Festival', a Dodgeball tournament, 'Pentathlon Games' and 'District Sports' and we look forward to 'Sports Day' at the end of term.

Finally, we brace ourselves to say farewell to the children in Willow Class. As a school we have benefitted enormously from their wide-ranging individual talents, wonderful individual personalities and personal attributes. As they embark on the next stage of their educational journey we send them our good wishes, thoughts and prayers, and the sincere message that we are immensely proud of them all!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer,

Mrs Lynn Pennington
Headteacher



As the Seys and Bridges charity has been in the Woodchester news recently due to its merger with St Loe's, it seemed an appropriate time to have a story from the more active days of the Bridges charity when they were funding apprenticeships for boys in the parish.

Thomas Webb

Thomas Webb was the son of John Webb (a blacksmith) and his wife Hester Cratchley who were married in Woodchester, 14 December 1817. They had several children baptised in Woodchester among whom were Ann, 3 October 1819 and Thomas, 26 December 1830. There were two children baptised at Woodchester in 1837 (one was born in 1832) where the family are described as living in Houndscroft. The 1841 census shows John Webb, a blacksmith, living in Houndscroft with his wife, Esther and several children including Thomas aged 8.

On 3 November 1839, John and Hester's eldest daughter, Ann, married Farmer Johnson, a smith, at St Mary's Woodchester. They had a child baptised in the village in 1841 and eventually settled in Little Hinton (Hinton Parva) in Wiltshire.

Thomas was apprenticed to his brother in law, Farmer Johnson on 21 November 1845 to learn the trade of a Blacksmith but in March 1848 the Rector, who was one of the trustees of the charity, received a letter from the clergyman in Little Hinton. It seemed that 'the boy has not been going on well and has acquired for himself a very general notoriety as a lawless, ill-conditioned youth: absenting himself from his work and to the great distress of another family seizing every occasion to lead their daughter, a girl of 16 into evil'.

Farmer Johnson was 'considering himself aggrieved' and 'his wish was to take the boy before the magistrates' but he didn't have the right part of the indenture (the legal document relating to the apprenticeship) which he was now requesting.

The Rector (Rev John Williams) responded robustly. He didn't wish to 'separate Thomas Webb from his master' as 'his master has received the full payment (£15) due to maintain him and instruct him in his business'. Also 'a better check' could be given to his irregularities in Little Hinton than if he were 'sent to such a

place as Cheltenham where his father resides'. He went on to say that the master should 'send him to prison and there maintain him', and that he could obtain a duplicate of the indenture from Mr Wm Smith, solicitor of Nailsworth.

Who was the 16 year old girl being led into evil? It is possible that she was Harriet Hicks, whom Thomas later married in 1849. The 1851 census shows Thomas and Harriet living in Wanborough, Wiltshire (very close to Little Hinton) with their son, John, aged 1. Thomas is described as aged 20 and a blacksmith.

Did Thomas settle down and complete his apprenticeship? It seems uncertain. In 1845, he was apprenticed for seven years, as was normal. This would suggest that he would still be an apprentice in 1851 but the census does not show this. In 1871 and 1881, Thomas is described as a Journeyman Blacksmith. A Journeyman is defined as 'one whose apprenticeship is complete and hires his labour out by the day or the week'. At no point is he described as a Master Blacksmith (in business on his own) and there is no evidence that he himself took on apprentices. However, Thomas appears to have been able to support his wife and family but in 1891 and 1901 is not living with Harriet. By 1911, Thomas is again living with Harriet in Eddington (near Hungerford), Berkshire, where she had been in the previous two censuses. He is now described as an 'Old Age Pensioner'. Thomas and Harriet claim to have been married for 60 years and have had seven children all of them still living. Their married daughter, Esther Sandford is in the household, along with three grandchildren.

Farmer Johnson continued as a blacksmith in his birthplace, Little Hinton. Census data do not show any other apprentices. Several of his sons became smiths and may have learned their trade from their father.

Woodchester Post Office and shop

Firstly, we would like to welcome our new Woodchester residents as customers to the shop and also the new volunteers.



It's been an unusual few months with the ever present 'C' word causing disruption, then flash floods and hail came to Woodchester we had a bit of a battle on our hands trying to keep our little shop dry and then with the numerous road closures and diversions our road outside the shop became, as one person commented, 'like Brands Hatch' but it also brought with it some new passing trade. The shop continues to do well selling our lovely local products - the fantastic Woodchester Meats proving very popular in Barbecue season as is Winstones Ice Cream during this lovely weather (as I write this the sun is shining!). Not forgetting our stock of Woodchester Wine and Stroud Brewery Ales that are popular in any weather. Back by popular demand is Woodchester Honey and Jean's plants as ever fly out of the door as soon as they arrive. Dangerfields continue to deliver their fresh baked bread and cakes daily and are proving as popular as ever. Our Organic stockists, Essential Trading, are celebrating their 50th Anniversary and their produce continues to be popular with our customers.

A reminder to all that the Post Office is again able to provide Euros on demand and other currencies to order often for collection the next day and that home shopping returns can be sent via the Post Office. We thank our customers for continuing to observe social distancing and mask wearing in our shop helping to keep them and the staff and volunteers safe. Thank you again to all of our customers and volunteers that keep this amazing community asset running as so many villages have lost theirs.

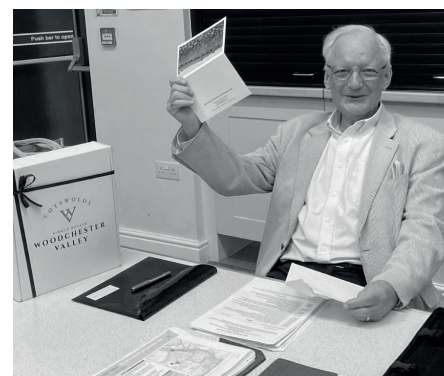
PARISH bulletin

Changes to Parish Council

Following the recent elections, there are a number of changes to the Parish Council. Gervase Hamilton has stood down as Chair after 10 years in the role, although his experience will not be lost as he will remain as a Councillor. Gervase was presented with a box of Woodchester Valley Vineyard wines from his fellow Councillors.

"It has always been a pleasure to work with such a pleasant and co-operative group of fellow councillors and, looking back over the past ten years, how productive a Parish Council Woodchester has proved to be, notwithstanding the obstacles we've sometimes had to negotiate with the bureaucratic ramifications of our District and County Councils!" commented Gervase. "I look forward to continuing to work as a Parish Councillor with you all in one capacity or another for as long as I can make a positive contribution to our work."

Cllr Peter Lead takes over as Chair and Cllr Katharine McNeally as Vice Chair. Uta Baldauf and Barbara Warnes both resigned as Councillors having given great service to their community over recent years. Barbara will continue to patrol the footpaths and byways of the Parish and will use her extensive knowledge in this area by working with the Parish Council in an advisory role. Caroline Noon and Liz Pritchard join the council. The roles and areas of interest of each Councillor will be explained in the next issue of the Woodchester Word.



Selsley Road Closure

Selsley Road will be closed sometime between the 7th September 2021 and 31st December 2021, to allow contractors working on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council to carry out carriageway surfacing works. No Parking restrictions will be in place during all or part of the works. Notices will be posted as soon as we have specific dates, but this could be as little as one week before the works commence.

Cycle Path Updates

After several weeks with diversions, the new bridge on the cycle track at Birds Crossing has now been fully opened and is being well used by residents and visitors to the Parish. The final sections of the cycle track have now been resurfaced and the permissive path through the Rooksmoor development is open making the walk between Rooksmoor and the Post Office much easier.

Rooksmoor Bus Stop

There is now a temporary trial bus stop on the A46 in the layby by the Rooksmoor Development, replacing the one previously removed. There is a plan to install an enforceable bus stop clearway marking inside the layby to formalise the arrangements and ensure the area is kept free from obstructive parking. The temporary bus stop will eventually be replaced by a permanent post.

Essential Tree Work

With Ash Dieback there has been a great deal of tree work in the local area carried out by both GCC and National Trust. This will be continuing over the summer with temporary road closures as required. Regeneration schemes include a mixture of leaving areas to regenerate naturally and replanting with native broadleaves like beech, whitebeam, cherry and oak. In some areas a mixture of both types of woodland management scheme will be used. GCC are offering a scheme of replanting native trees and the Parish is looking for potential sites. If you have any ideas for sites please contact the Clerk (deadline for applications is 31st July). The Parish Council has also done tree work to make safe larger trees near the Mountain Biking Trails.

Parish Council Meetings

The legislation to allow meetings to be held on line has come to an end and so Parish Council Meetings are now being held face to face at Woodchester Endowed School. Various protective measures are routinely in place (such as cleaning surfaces, good ventilation, signage and a system of track and trace). Numbers will be limited to the number that can safely be accommodated in the room (at 2 meters distancing). The next meetings are 2nd September and 4th November at 7pm. All Welcome.

Woodchester Football Club

Following lockdown Woodchester FC has reopened, fielding one adult team in Division 8 of the local league. More information can be found on the Woodchester Parish website at www.woodchesterparish.org.uk

Grants

St Loes, Seys and Bridges Foundation Trust provides grants for students in need of financial assistance at university. Applications should be made as soon as possible after being offered a place at University, but by 1st September at the latest. More information is available here: <https://www.woodchesterparish.org.uk/community/st-loes-fund>

Litter Picking

Woodchester Parish Council is very grateful to those members of the community who continue to pick up litter in the village. If you struggle for space in your bin to dispose of it, you can now request up to two (SDC printed and authorised) beige sacks which you can then leave out for collection with your household rubbish. Contact Abii.Frith@stroud.gov.uk for further information. The Parish Council can also provide you with litter picking sticks. Please contact the Clerk.

Improvements to Mountain Bike Trail

Improvements are underway to the popular Woodchester Mountain Bike Trail. A new entrance and holding area have been constructed to make it safer to enter the track, and to provide an area where bikes can be parked when riders are not using the track. New blue and green track signs make the Beginners and Intermediate tracks clearer. Phase two will include creating a revised track loop around the spring-fed seasonal pond, which has again flooded part of the blue track. We are currently consulting experts on the safest way to carry out this change and hope to have it completed before the summer holiday. If you have any comments or suggestions about the changes, please contact Iain Dunbar at iaindunbar29@gmail.com or on 07484 228024.

Need a rest?

Next time you need a short rest while walking on the cycle path, you will find a new bench has been installed by Stroud District Council near Station Road overlooking the stream. A lovely spot to rest awhile.....



Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

The recent meeting of the Parish Council enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Julian Foxon, who is our new Cotswold Voluntary Warden.

There are 800 square miles included in the Cotswold National Landscape, which was previously called Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and it is the second largest area after the Lake District. Julian and his colleagues do three key things:

1. **Parish Wardening** – help to keep Rights of Way accessible and well-maintained, identifying issues and consulting with Parish Councils, farmers, landowners and residents
2. **Working Parties** – carrying out maintenance work to conserve and enhance the region (eg installing kissing gates, repairing stiles, drystone walling, hedgelaying, tree planting)
3. **Guided Walks** – leading guided walks, promoting the area to a wider audience

Every right of way in the Landscape has a unique reference. For Woodchester these are prefaced by the code NWO. Although the landowner has the legal responsibility to maintain the right of way, the wardens will help in this task if required. The local wardens are currently working on a list of wheelchair accessible routes and making routes more accessible. Julian is keen to hear from residents about any issues they come across on the footpaths and he can be contacted at 07916 440099.

What does the Parish Council do?

A Parish Council is a local authority which makes decisions reflecting the wishes of the people in the parish. It is the level of government closest to the community, with District and County Councils above it in the hierarchy. As the authority closest to the people, the Parish Council is often the first port of call people go to with concerns or ideas and is thus a vital part of any community. Parish Councillors are elected for four years terms and are unpaid. In Woodchester we have seven Parish Councillors, each of whom will be a direct contact for residents on specific issues. We will be publishing a list of Councillor's interests in the next issue of the Parish Bulletin and explaining more about the role of the Parish Council in village life.

What do YOU want from your Parish Council?

Over the coming weeks, the new Council will be working on a three-year plan of actions we hope to accomplish within the Parish. If you have ideas about things you would like to see achieved by the Council, or areas of concern about issues within the village, please speak to one of your Councillors, come along to a Parish Council Meeting, contact the Clerk at woodchesterparish@gmail.com.

Do you live in South Woodchester?

Automatic External Defibrillators are used to revive someone from sudden cardiac arrest and can save lives. We are lucky to have two AED's in Woodchester, but we need a volunteer to help with checks on the S. Woodchester defibrillator. The checks take a few minutes and are easy to do. They are done weekly but responsibility is shared with another volunteer. Can you help? If so please contact the Clerk: woodchesterparish@gmail.com, 07863 098710

(The Parish Bulletin section of the Woodchester Word is funded by Woodchester Parish Council)



Reminder....the village has both a website and Facebook page with information posted about local issues and the Woodchester Word will be available on the website too. www.woodchesterparish.org.uk



Duck Lockdown

Ruth, our daughter was furloughed in March 2020 so she came home to Woodchester during spring.

When she arrived home, she announced that she had ordered two fertilised ducks eggs and they will be arriving in the post, which they duly did a few days later. Making a makeshift incubator from a cardboard box, a table lamp, thermometer and jar of water (to keep the humidity for the eggs correct!) Ruth's daily diary revolved around being present every four hours to turn the eggs. After 28 days on June 4th, the eggs hatched but sadly only one duckling survived. Two days later, Ruth tells us that ducks must have companions so off we trot to a poultry farm near Banbury (only a short journey she says!?) to collect a duckling companion to number one. So we now have two ducklings, one a standard pekin duck the other an indian runner, that both love swimming in the bath and will follow us obediently around the house but no pond. Next stop Argos to buy a dog paddling pool. In the meantime,

Jake our flatcoat retriever, who will retrieve anything lying around the house..... your shoes, teatowels, slippers, pants, socks..... discovers the five day old ducklings and picks one up in his mouth! Duckling survives, no doubt suffering from duckling traumatic stress disorder.

The ducklings, now named Drako and Dobbie, spend the next nine months growing up into ducks, spending time in the garden (and house when allowed,) providing us with two beautiful eggs each day, sharing the chicken run at night time with the hens and almost becoming one of the family!

Then..... spring 2021 came and the local fox searching the village to provide food for his family of newly born cubs paid us a visit!

We do miss them!



home of



- In January 2020, when the curtain fell on the last night of our panto Babes In the Wood, who could have foreseen that the Playhouse would be closed for 18 months?. But a brand-CPnew season began in July and once again our theatre is buzzing with rehearsals and performances and plans for the future.
- From now on our audiences will benefit from a totally new heating and ventilation system and improved staging, lighting and sound systems.

In September

**Fri 10th, Sat 11th & Sun 12th
September at St Laurence Church,
Stroud**

Well, That Was Different!

written and directed by Philip Douch

Two short plays to make you laugh and think. One singer, two stepladders and rather a lot of rhyming couplets. And loads of bin-bags.

This production is the Cotswold Players' contribution to the 2021 Stroud Theatre Festival

For booking please refer to Stroud Theatre Festival website.

Mon 20th & Tues 21st September at St Laurence Church, Stroud

**Thurs 23rd, Fri 24th & Sat 25th
September at the Cotswold Playhouse**

Peace in our Time

by Noël Coward

England has lost the Battle of Britain and London is occupied by the Nazis. We follow the lives of the family running a London pub and their guests. Resistance to occupation grows and by 1945 the Nazis are losing control of Britain.

An exploration of how Britain may have reacted if things had turned out differently in 1939 and a commentary on who was most likely to lead a fight back, and how.

This Cotswold Players production with the generous support of Stroud Arts Festival also brings together Stroud Choral Society and the Capriol Chamber Orchestra to celebrate the festival's 75th anniversary.

Book online at cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk or phone 0333 666 3366

Girlguiding Woodchester

Brownie and Guide meetings have continued to be held over Zoom and girls have played games, earned badges, learnt new skills, participated in cooking activities and generally had lots of fun. Most girls completed the sock challenge designed by Gloucestershire county Girlguiding – I was astounded at the number of activities that girls could do involving socks!

Even though we have not been meeting face to face we are still able to accept new members and girls aged between 7 and 9 (Brownies) and 10 and 13 (Guides) are very welcome to join us. We hope to start meeting face to face in September but there are no definite plans yet. Please email: woodchesterbrowniesandguides@gmail.com or 'phone Jackie on 01453 821258.

Volunteer Girlguiding Leaders required

Do you have a couple of hours to spare a week on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays? Are you male over 18 years of age or female over 14 years of age? If so, both Brownies and Guides in Woodchester and the units that meet in Nailsworth would like to hear from you. We need some new volunteer leaders to inspire and lead girls. Previous experience not necessary. Training and support will be given. Please email girlguidingnailsworth@gmail.com or 'phone Jackie on 01453 821258.

Village Craft Fair a resounding success

The expected rain held off, the crowds turned up, and the Village Craft Fair was, everyone agreed, a resounding success.

Held in the beautiful gardens at Larchgrove House (courtesy of Roger and Angela Campbell) around 20 local crafters displayed their wares to more than 350 visitors, who also enjoyed wonderful homemade refreshments from the WI, an excellent BBQ by Niall from the Royal Oak, and foot-tapping music by the Rodborough Folk Orchestra.

This was the fourth Craft Fair held by the Made in Woodchester group, and for the first time it was linked to a fund-raising effort for local charity Cobalt, who raised more than £2000 on the day by a raffle with some amazing prizes, and blind auction of items donated by the crafters.

"It was a typical and enjoyable traditional English village event, which I hope everyone enjoyed" commented Made in Woodchester's Mike Barnard, who organised the whole event with great efficiency.

The group are hoping to hold a Christmas Craft Fair in the Village Hall this year if Covid restrictions allow.





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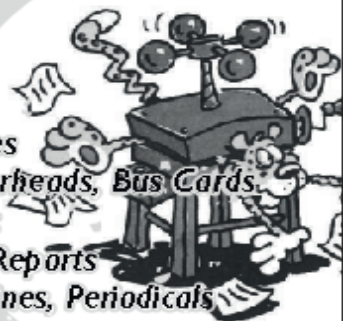
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Woodchester Park lake at sunset.



Heard in the pub

"Politics is too complicated and serious to be left to the politicians. Anyway, we have a hooligan class of politicians and a national football team of gentlemen"

"I knew my marriage was over when I stopped giving my husband the last strawberry"

Heard in the school in a geography lesson

Teacher – What are reefs?

Pupil – Something you put on coffins.

Some areas of the desert are cultivated by irritation.

People who live in Israel are called Israelites, people who live in Canaan are called Canaanites and people who live in Paris are called Parasites.

Mushrooms always grow in damp places – that's why they look like umbrellas.

Useful Village Contacts

PCSO:

Steven Phillipson

T: 101

or visit www.gloucestershire.police.uk

Neighbourhood Warden:

Chris James,

T: 01453 754512, 07753 725185

E: chris.james@stroud.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Steve Robinson,

T: 01453 834270

E: steve.robinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Village Hall:

Mrs. Kath Gay,

T: 01453 873348

E: wvh888@btinternet.com

Parish Council:

Sylvia May,

T: 01453 873438

E: woodchesterparish@gmail.com

Gloucestershire Highways:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/

T: 08000 514514

E: gcchighways@amey.co.uk

Woodchester Post Office and Village Shop:

Shop: 01453 873218

Post Office: 01453 872581

St Mary's Church:

Rev Peter Francis,

T: 01453 759680

Church of the Annunciation:

T: 01453 832120

Due to editorial delays in production of this edition has meant that, with apologies, some dates mentioned in one or two articles are out of date.

Letters, articles and items for publication should be sent to the editor, Rod Harris, at woodchesterword@gmail.com
Advertising: Ann Bijkerk. Design: Plus One Design.
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