The Month Ahead . . .

Wednesdays @ 11.30am & 12.30pm ~ Dance and Stretch for the over-50s @ Woodstock Town Hall

~ 7.00pm ~ Football Training (all welcome) on the War Memorial Playing Field

Thursdays @ 7.30—9.00pm ~ Bell Ringing practice night @ St Mary’s, Wootton—all welcome

Fridays @ 9.45—11.00am ~ Baby and Toddler Group @ Wootton Village Hall

Saturday 2nd @ 9.00am ~ Wootton Walkers meet @ The Killingworth Castle Car Park—All welcome (p. 4)

and @ 2.00pm ~ “Easter Eggstravaganza!” @ Glympton Village Hall—all welcome (p. 18)

and on both Saturday & Sunday ~ Village Litter Blitz Weekend ~ volunteer to do your bit (p. 13)

Thursday 7th by 4.00pm ~ Parish Council Nominations must be delivered to Witney Council Offices (p. 3)

Friday 8th @ 7.30pm ~ Village Hall Talk ~ Martin Wainwright, journalist & broadcaster, (p. 21)

Sunday 10th @ 8.30pm approx. ~ “OUTREACH” Quiz @ The Killingworth Castle—all welcome (p. 14)

Wednesday 13th from 2.00-5.00pm ~ U3A Open Event @ Woodstock Bowls & Tennis Club (p. 24)

Thursday 14th @12.30pm ~ TRIO Luncheon Club @ The Burditch Hall, Castle Road ~ All welcome (p. 2)

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th ~ WOW Weekend Two for One visits to local attractions (p. 6)

Thursday 21st @ 6.00pm ~ A Grand Tea Party to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen’s Birthday (p. 16)

Saturday 23rd ~ St. George’s Day & the 400th Anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare (p. 15)

Monday 25th @3.15pm ~ Messy Church @ St Mary the Virgin, Wootton—bring an adult (p. 3)
Dear Friends,

Thankfully, I’ve not had the experience of waking after a long period of unconsciousness, but I do know about waking up after a good, long and deep sleep! I feel a bit like that today, having returned from a very restful break on the Suffolk coast. I’m not sorry to say that I didn’t do very much, some walking, shopping for nice meals, and sitting in the very good pub enjoying Adnam’s beer, literally piped from the brewery round the corner!

I did some Crosswords and finished a couple, and I did try the Latin Crossword in Saturday’s “Times”. I didn’t finish it (non complevi!). However, looking up some possibilities in search for answers, I learned quite a bit about Roman life and literature. It just goes to show that you’re never too old to learn, as I’m told when I zip up my coat properly! I found information about an interesting character called Trimalchius, who arranged memorable dinners with interesting diversions for his guests! Apparently, great discussions took place, and it’s recorded that a heated and vociferous one was about Education, with the usual views expressed that the children were not being taught properly! (Perhaps, Senatus Govus was there!!). Apparently, the guests enjoyed their evenings, and reading about this character, I learned again the value of sociability. Although I enjoyed a great holiday, it’s good to be back amongst friends!

Stephen

TRIO LUNCH CLUB

Although I wasn’t present at the March lunch, I’ve heard that it was very enjoyable, good value, a good meal, and a time to meet! The next Lunch will be on THURSDAY, 14th. APRIL at 12-30pm in the Burditch Hall. Please let us know if you would to come, and just as important, tell us if you can help with preparation, serving and/or tidying up! One again, many thanks to the Cooks, Servers, and those who provide the lovely flower arrangements.

Stephen Jones
Reminder to persons not included in the Electoral Register. District Council elections will be held on Thursday 5th May 2016 and if you are not included in the register of electors you will not be entitled to vote. Applications to register can be made online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or direct to the Elections Office at Woodgreen, Witney no later than Monday 18 April 2016.

MESSY CHURCH

“Messy Church” is a type of church involving fun, and children, parents and carers are invited to come to St. Mary’s Church, Wootton, on Monday 25th April at 3.15 pm.

We ask for a suggested contribution of £1 per child to cover costs.

Pam, Jill and Ann

Wootton Parish Council Elections 2016: All existing councillors must stand down and re-apply for nomination together with any new applications.

A Notice of Election will be published on the Parish Council Noticeboard at the end of March. Nomination papers are available from the Clerk or Woodgreen Council Offices in Witney. The final date for their receipt at Woodgreen will be 4pm on Thurs. 7th April, and NB - nominations must be delivered by hand (not by post).

Remember

Please submit your “OUTREACH” articles or copy by APRIL 15th

E-mail to outreachwgk@gmail.com
The April Walk will be on Saturday 2nd. Meet at the Killingworth Castle at 9.00 am and bring a mid-morning snack. New walkers always welcome. Walkers are welcome to stay for lunch at the pub.

Mel and Ann Leggett

ST MARY’S CHURCH, WOOTTON

Many thanks to everyone who came to the meeting in February about the proposed changes to St. Mary’s Church, and to those who responded on a question/comment sheet. It was good to see so much interest.

The next step is to gather all the information together to apply for a faculty, which is the legal permission from the Church of England to carry out the work. Notice of the submission of the faculty will be displayed on the church notice board for a month, from the time that the paperwork goes in to the Diocesan Registrar.

Ann Leggett
(Churchwarden)
A thank you from Anna Shepherd

Tim’s health was failing all last year, and in November he left home for the last time - with great difficulty getting into the car, which I then drove rather haphazardly to the John Radcliffe hospital (losing a wing mirror en route through a close encounter with oncoming rush-hour traffic. Nobody stopped, so I hurried on!).

Within a few days, Tim was transferred from the JR to Sobell House hospice. Here, with Sobell’s remarkable understanding, expertise and kindness, he rallied briefly - but then declined slowly over eight long weeks, dying peacefully on the afternoon of January 27th. Within a few minutes, his body had crumpled into the pillows but his soul – or so it seemed to me – had gone on, leaping joyfully out through the window and up into freedom, space and eternity – returning, as I believe, to its loving Creator.

Sadly of course we, his family, could not follow him on this journey. But when I got back to Wootton, bereft, dazed and exhausted, there was an influx of warm, encouraging messages – cards, letters, flowers, food, thoughts and prayers. I am so grateful for that support. And grateful too that Tim was not forgotten all through his long stay in the hospice. Thank you all so much.

Anna Shepherd
The special weekend, which runs from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 April, recognises and celebrates local residents’ efforts to welcome visitors, both from the UK and overseas, to the area.

WOW offers local people a range of ‘two for one’ vouchers to visit local attractions. The event has already proved to be very popular in West Oxfordshire and it promises to be even better this year as it has been extended to cover the Cotswold District.

So far some twenty local attractions have already signed up for WOW including:

- Blenheim Palace, Woodstock
- Crocodiles of the World, near Carterton
- Rousham House & Garden
- Fairytale Farm near Chipping Norton
- Cotswold Farm Park, near Bourton
- Birdland Park & Gardens, Bourton
- Bibury Trout Farm
- Bourton Model Village, Bourton
- Cotswold Falconry, Moreton-in-Marsh
- Oxford Bus Museum, Long Hanbro’

To take advantage of the offers residents just need to pick up a ‘2-for-1’ voucher sheet, available from any of the Visitor Information Centres or council reception points in either West Oxfordshire or Cotswold districts from Friday 1st April.
**Do you remember . . .** Henry Wickham Steed? The second son of Joshua George Steed, a solicitor's clerk, and his wife, Fanny Wickham, Henry was born in Long Melford, Suffolk, on 10th October, 1871. He was educated at Sudbury Grammar School, but failed his entrance examination for the civil service. However, his father arranged for him to work in the offices of his friend, William Cuthbert Quilter. Steed also contributed articles to the Pall Mall Gazette.

In 1892 he studied economics, philosophy, sociology, and history at the University of Berlin. The following year he attended the University of Paris. He met Joseph Pulitzer who appointed Steed as the Paris correspondent for his New York World. In 1896 he went to work as a foreign correspondent for The Times. His biographer, A. J. A. Morris, pointed out: "Barely twenty-five years old, Steed revelled in his demanding appointment. He alone recognized Bismarck as the author of an anonymous newspaper article revealing that the reinsurance treaty had been signed with Russia without the knowledge of Germany's diplomatic partners. Without ruffling relations with German officials, he sent detailed reports of the Leckert von Lutzow libel action that discredited the Kaiser, his court, the foreign office, and the secret police."

In June 1897 Steed became the newspaper's Rome correspondent. He was highly critical of the Vatican's policies in his reports. Steed admitted in his autobiography: "I have ever been partisan... A partisan of England... of ordered freedom as against tyranny or licence; of reality against humbug and pretence... of men whom I thought honest."

Steed moved to Vienna in November 1902. He was an early critic of Emperor Franz Josef and two months ahead of the event, he forecast Austria's annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. When it was rumoured that he might transfer to Berlin, the pro-German lobby at the Foreign Office complained that this would be "disastrous... a red rag to the Teutonic bull."

In 1919 Lord Northcliffe appointed Steed as head of the foreign department of The Times. According to A. J. A. Morris: "In June 1914 the Austrian embassy sought to mislead and muzzle Steed, the most knowledgeable commentator on their country. Steed nevertheless insisted that the Austrians would attack Serbia, and he dictated the line taken by The Times up to the outbreak of war, which in turn was followed by the rest of the Unionist press."

During the First World War he worked closely with Northcliffe, in attempting to influence the governments of Henry Asquith and David Lloyd George. In February 1919 Steed became editor of The Times. The following →
month he drafted a memorandum with which Northcliffe fully concurred. In effect he argued "that any government seeking the support of The Times should follow the dictates of the newspaper."

In the summer of 1922 Steed and The Times were fully engaged in a battle to oust Lloyd George from 10 Downing Street and bring an end the coalition. He also played an important role in the election of Andrew Bonar Law. After Northcliffe's death in August 1922, the paper's new owners, John Jacob Astor, replaced Steed with Geoffrey Dawson as editor of the newspaper. The following year he became editor of Review of Reviews, the journal that had been established by William Stead in 1890.

A strong opponent of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany, Steed argued that appeasement would be unsuccessful and in his book, Vital Peace (1936) he repudiated neutralism. He was also a regular broadcaster on world affairs for both overseas and domestic services of the BBC.

Henry Wickham Steed died at his home, Holly Bank, Wootton, on 13th January 1956.

In any church renovation project
The rector's first job is
Building bridges

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The “OUTREACH” Croissant Crossword for April — No. 135

Across
1) Group of wolves (4)
3) Large group of soldiers (4)
7) Unit of land area (4)
8) Very many (8)
9) Not beneficial (12)
11) Hunting hound (6)
13) Pool of water (6)
15) Disastrous (12)
18) Provoke to action (8)
20) Chess piece (4)
21) Period in office (4)
22) Footwear (4)

Down
1) Image (7)
2) Inexpensive (5)
3) Upper limb (3)
4) Mythical sea creature (7)
5) Rude, impertinent (8)
6) Sea bird (4)
10) Made better (8)
12) Igneous rock (7)
14) Sugar found in milk (7)
16) Soon (4)
17) Severe (5)
19) Point (a firearm) (3)

Congratulations are in order this month to the lucky winner of the first-picked correct solution to last month’s Crossword Competition. David Allen wins the croissants this month, courtesy of Wootton Stores. Our thanks go to him for taking part, and to Mulberry for setting another corking crossword puzzle.

Solution for the March Crossword No.134

Styles for All
Woodway Road, Middle Barton.
Tuesday - Saturday
8.30am - 5.30pm
Late night Friday
Appointments not always necessary
Senior citizens special rates Tuesday
Also available:
Manicures, Pedicures,
Ear Piercing, Waxing,
Body piercing,
FREE
Car Collection Service
Tel. Sheila: 01869 349934
The day’s lesson in Mr Thomas’s kindergarten class was numbers. He wrote the figure “1” on the board. "Who knows what number this is?" he said.

Several hands went up. "Michael?" he said. "That’s a one, Michael replied. "Very good. And who knows what comes after one?"

Fewer hands went up. "Margaret?" Margaret replied "Two." "Very good. And what comes after two?"

Only a couple hands were raised. "Yvonne?" "Three," Yvonne replied. "Very good," said Mr Thomas. "Now, what comes after three?" he continued. Only Pat’s hand was raised. "Pat?"

"Four comes after three!" she said, enthusiastically. "Very good." Mr Thomas replied. Pat continued, "And after that comes five, six and seven."

"That’s right. Very good, Pat!" "And after that, eight, nine and ten!" "Impressive!" said Mr Thomas. "Where did you learn your numbers?"

"My father taught me," Pat answered. "Well, you have a very caring and attentive father," Mr Thomas said. "Yes, he’s the best!" was Pat’s reply. "Did he teach you what comes after ten?"

"Yes," Pat said. "Jack, Queen, King and Ace."

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Thoughts from the Editor’s Chair

The name “Berenice”, which caught my eye when featured in a recent edition of this little publication, in an appeal as to the whereabouts of a former resident thus called, is of Greek origin. However, in its more commonly known Latinised form, it is perhaps more readily translated as Veronica - the name of the saintly woman who stood and watched the struggling Christ as He dragged His cross along Jerusalem’s Via Dolorosa, on the way to Golgotha and His crucifixion.

Taking pity on Jesus, she gave Him her veil that He might wipe His forehead. He accepted the offering, held it to His face, and then handed it back to her – the image of His face miraculously imprinted upon it.

It surely cannot be mere coincidence that “vera ikon” translates as true, or truthful, image. Although there is no reference to Saint Veronica and her veil in the canonical gospels, the story is well known and indeed features in the Sixth Station of the Cross in many churches throughout the world. The closest parallel to the story is the account of the woman who touched the hem of Christ’s robe, as He passed by on His way to raise Jairus’s daughter. We are told by St Luke that she was instantly healed. In one of the apocryphal gospels, she is named as Berenike.

N.P.T.
As we go to press, news has just reached us of the death of Margie Mitchell, a long-standing former resident of Wootton. She and her husband, Basil, an eminent philosopher who died in the summer of 2011, had lived for many years at Bridge House. It is only recently that this nonagenarian had had to give up her home in Woodstock and move into Spencer Court. There will be a timely appreciation in next month’s edition.

Some good news for Caz Jewell, who has been working with the Restore Project (supported by funds from the EU and from the RSPB) which aims to develop a framework for the restoration of minerals sites across North West Europe to provide benefits for biodiversity, habitats and local people. She has now been appointed (head-hunted in fact) to a senior post with the Heidelberg Cement Group, one of the world’s largest building materials companies, operating in 74 countries with a workforce of almost 50,000. Heidelberg Cement has a strong commitment to sustainable business practices and Caz will be their Senior Expert in Biodiversity and Natural Resources, working with the Group’s Global Sustainability team to restore its extraction sites and maximise opportunities for wildlife. She and Simon will be moving initially to Brussels and possibly in the longer term to Heidelberg. We congratulate her on this exciting and challenging promotion and hope very much that she and Simon will be able to come back from time to time to Wootton, where they will be much missed.

Many happy returns to the April birthday girls, Megan Bryant (seven on 29th) and Kate Lemon (eight on 25th), and belated best wishes to Leslie Bowen who celebrated his 85th birthday on 27th February.

Caroline Weston

Do you know where this was?

Unfortunately, no date is attached to this old photo of the Wootton signal box on the old Woodstock line.
**VILLAGE LITTER BLITZ**

**APRIL 2\(^{\text{ND}}\) AND 3\(^{\text{RD}}\)**

It’s time to Spring Clean our beautiful village. Please spend a little time over the first weekend of April picking up any litter adjacent to your property. For more details of larger litter sweeps around the village, see details in the shop, or give me a ring.

Simon Gabbitiss

Parish Council

A Gentile, weary of trying to grasp the complexities of Jewish doctrine, went to the great Rabbi Hillel, of a generation immediately before Jesus. He asked the wise scholar to teach him the whole of the Torah ‘while I stand on one foot’, i.e. briefly.

Hillel told him: “Whatever is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man. This is the whole Torah. The rest is commentary. Now go and study.”
For the benefit of those who have not yet enjoyed attending one of Pete Appleford’s splendid monthly Sunday night quizzes at The Killingworth Castle, enjoying the camaraderie of the occasion and, usually, one of the Rector’s jokes too, here is a sample of what you have been missing.

The following twelve anagrams are the names of cities, towns or villages - all within a short driving distance of Wootton - but fiendishly distorted by our amazing Quizmaster.

With his permission, we print them here as a brain-teaser for “Outreach” readers. Who knows? - It may persuade some of you to come along and enjoy a quiz live. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

i) FOX ROD
ii) SNOT CASING
iii) MAPLE TYPHOON
iv) BETS RICE
v) TOLERANT BEEPS
vi) FLEA NERD
vii) NODDLE TESTIMONY
viii) HOSTILE HUG
ix) FONDEST LIES
x) STRENGTHEN ONE WOE
xi) UNCROWDED WHINY PHOTOS
xii) CLONED MUSHY TROUT

“OUTREACH” March KILLY QUIZ

Many thanks to all the teams attending the March edition of the Outreach Quiz (profits towards the running of this very publication). Amongst some familiar faces, we were especially pleased to welcome visiting Islip team the Ice Slippers to the competition. Sadly, Pickled Brians were otherwise engaged for this quiz, although a certain key member of their number was able to add strength in depth to regulars Team Alb. At the break it was all to play for again, with the Ice Slippers tied in first place with Now We Are Six whilst Dementia Dodgers and the Albs both stayed in contention in joint third. Perhaps disadvantaged by an unfamiliar format, the Ice Slippers dropped away at the last, with Dementia Dodgers making a late surge just behind “The Six” with what is, I believe, their maiden win. Once again well done to all and we hope to see you for the next edition of the Quiz - Sunday 10th April, 8.30pm.

“Short Bark And Sides”
Oxford Villages
Mobile Dog Groomer
No washing and drying, saving time and money! For grooming and nail clipping in the comfort of your own home and at your convenience
Less stressful for your dog and more relaxing for them in their own surroundings
For £25 book a professional dry clip or cut Call Sharon for an appointment on: 07876 010475
Or email me on: Sharon@shortbarkandsides-mobile.co.uk
The famous story of George and the Dragon is by no means primitive, but became immensely popular in the West through the *Golden Legend*, translated and printed by Caxton. The dragon, a local pest which terrorized the whole country, poisoned with its breath all who approached it. Every day it was appeased with an offering of two sheep, but when these grew scarce, a human victim, chosen by lot, was to be substituted instead. The lot had fallen on the king’s daughter, who went to her fate dressed as a bride, but George attacked the dragon, pierced it with his lance and led it captive, with the princess’s girdle serving as a collar, as if it were completely tame. George told the people not to be afraid: if they would believe in Jesus Christ and be baptized, he would rid them of this monster. The king and people agreed; George killed the dragon and 15,000 men were baptized. George would take no reward, but asked the king to maintain churches, honour priests and show compassion to the poor. The Legend continued with an account of the sufferings and death of George in the persecution of Diocletian and Maximian, this last point being probably the only historical element in the story.

The cult of George took on new dimensions for England during the Crusades. A vision of St George at the siege of Antioch preceded the defeat of the Saracens and the fall of the town in the first Crusade. Richard I placed himself and his army under George’s protection. By now he was the special patron of soldiers. At the Synod of Oxford in 1222 his feast (April 23rd) was made a lesser holiday. Edward III founded under his patronage the Order of the Garter for which the fine chapel of St George at Windsor was built. After the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, when many believed St George was actually seen fighting on the side of the English, Shakespeare immortalised Henry V’s famous speech invoking him as England’s Patron Saint.
A Special Event

To Her Majesty’s Ninetieth Birthday

You are invited to attend

“A GRAND TEA PARTY”

Commencing at 6.00pm on Thursday, April 21st

A best made Crown competition with Prizes

At 7.30pm the Official Beacon will be lit, followed by a twenty-one gun salute

And the singing of The National Anthem
Celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday

Make a crown competition

Create a crown and bring it along to the birthday tea party and beacon lighting

April 21st 2016

The Burditch Hall, Castle Road, Wootton
Prizes for 3 age groups:
5 and under; 6-9; 10 and over
Virgin Media have announced a £3 billion investment programme to connect 4 million extra UK homes and small businesses to super-fast fibre broadband, and are specifically proposing to include rural communities in the plan.

Oxfordshire is one of the counties they have designated for the new build programme, which is based on narrow trenching (faster, cheaper and less disruptive than conventional cable laying).

Virgin Media are asking for expressions of interest from private individuals and businesses, and will make the decision on where to start building based on the levels of interest received.

If, therefore, people in Wootton, Glynpton and Kiddington (not to mention Woodstock) are interested in signing up, they need to register their interest relatively soon at cablemystreet@virginmedia.com

---

Glympton Village Hall

**EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

**EGG HUNT**

Teddy Tombola

Easter Egg Raffle

TEA & CAKES

**LOTS OF FUN**

Everyone Welcome!

**Saturday 2nd April 2016**

2 pm - 4pm
Wedding Presents

Arthur Stockwin poses a question

Dear “Outreach” readers of a certain age, do you remember what has happened to those wedding presents you received all those years ago? And my second question is: do any of you remember receiving a load of coal as a wedding present?

Let me tell you something of our own experience with those precious objects designed to speed the happy couple along its pathway of wedded bliss. And let me humbly confess to you that I have just discovered two such presents while clearing out our roof storage space, that were certainly unused and in the one case apparently unopened. I should set the scene: I am dressed in my oldest clothes, standing at the top of a ladder, my head projecting into the roof space, surveying an internal roofscape of cardboard boxes festooned with spiders’ webs, gnawed at and garnished by mice, deep in dust and dead insects. I have to remove an old wasp nest – a beautiful construction of hexagonal cells. The vertical height is such that I cannot even kneel, but have to crawl. Many of the boxes contain books, which are heavy and awkward to get down the ladder. I balance some of them precariously on my head as I descend. I decide to remove all the boxes and clean the space out. It takes a day and a half.

And among all these boxes are three that contain long lost wedding presents. One box is a precise cube whose three dimensions are each 36 cm., containing six champagne glasses, protected by enormous quantities of wood wool; the other two a little smaller, containing between them an elegant modern tea set made in Germany. We remember the circumstances surrounding the champagne glasses: Some friends of my parents gave us a set of Redouté table mats from a prestigious London store, with a note attached saying that we could change them for something else if we preferred. Being young, inexperienced and no doubt rather cheeky, we took them at their word, and exchanged the table mats for champagne glasses. It was a mistake. Following the wedding in January 1960, we spent a week’s honeymoon on Exmoor (hardly Hawaii, but wonderfully empty and wild [and wet] in early February), then embarked on the SS Orcades for a new life in Australia. The champagne glasses looked so delicate, and we had too much luggage anyway, that we decided to leave them behind. The German tea set is a mystery, with no indication of who the donor was, and no means found yet of jogging our memories. But it is beautiful.

This takes me on to the subject of coal. As I write this, I have before me a lovely piece of calligraphy, author unknown, listing the presents my parents received at the time of their wedding in April 1934. Some of their relatives and friends gave items of furniture, they received ‘Kitchen Ware’, an ‘Electric Vacuum Cleaner’ and several cheques (value unspecified). Two items were punctuated with exclamation marks, three in the first case, six in the second::

Bride to Bridegroom Motor Lawn Mower !!!

Bridegroom to Bride Electric Washer !!!!!!!

But the item that jumped up in my face when I first found this list was as follows:

Councillor and Mrs Lawley ***Load of Coal.
I have no memory of Councillor and Mrs Lawley, nor any idea who they were. But in a land built on coal, they gave coal as a wedding present. Would you ever think of doing that? Or of receiving it?

And this takes me to a story that my father told more than once about coming down to breakfast one day after the First War, probably in 1919, while he was still at school. His father, a schoolteacher, had just received in the morning post a bill for a supply of coal. Dramatically, he announced to his wife, my grandmother: “Laura, the country’s finished. Coal is a pound a ton!”

Both my grandparents, and my parents up to the 1980s, heated their houses with coal, and my earliest memories include us all huddling over an open coal fire in freezing winters. But if it was acceptable to give a load of coal as a wedding present, then coal was surely part of the very fabric of people’s lives.
Our 85th talk will be at 7.30pm on Friday April 8th when the speaker is MARTIN WAINWRIGHT

His talk is called: Wootton? I'd rather be in Sheffield (Disentangling fact and fantasy on England's North-South divide)

Martin worked as a journalist on The Guardian newspaper for 37 years, including 17 years as the paper’s Northern Editor. He was born in Leeds (son of Richard Wainwright, former Liberal MP for Colne Valley) and has spent half his life in the north and half elsewhere in the UK - before his retirement in 2013 when he and his wife, Penny, moved to Thrupp, near Kidlington.

The main part of Martin's working life was spent trying to understand the north of England and explain it to others, during the course of which he came to feel that it has been grossly misrepresented (both outside its boundaries and within). This is the subject of one of his books, True North, as well as much of his journalism. However, Martin says he came to suspect that the "south" had been almost equally misunderstood - and that he has found no reason to alter that view since moving to Oxfordshire.

Martin's talk in Wootton will be the first he has given on the north-south since leaving Yorkshire (other than a BBC Radio 4 series last year, which was commissioned before he left). And he says he is keen not to be one of those northerners who preach about the North whilst not actually living there. So, Martin will be talking about the North historically - up to 2013, but not beyond.

Please come to this milestone evening - when celebration cake will be served.

To reserve seats, please contact us through the website www.woottontalks.co.uk

Guy Browning came to Wootton with a reputation for being a highly entertaining and witty speaker – and during his talk on March 11th he showed just why he has won so many plaudits. During a riotous
hour of constant laughter, Guy took us through his varied career which has so far included working in the advertising industry, journalism and, more recently, writing and directing a feature film.

Guy developed a comedy act whilst at Oxford, earning his equity card, before going into advertising. In one hilarious section, he told us how he worked on the Whiskas cat-food campaign and recorded many cats meowing and edited them into a sequence which was intended to sound like them saying they preferred Whiskas. The only problem was that cats can’t create the sound “K” and so it was left to Guy to make the noise and this was spliced into the commercial – and from this experience working with animals his career took off.

Guy subsequently set up his own business, called Smokehouse, where his team create identities for brands, but also developed a career in journalism – writing features and a column for The Guardian for many years. He also created the very witty Sidestroke cartoon for the Sunday Times, alongside the terrific Oxfordshire artist, Janet Brown. At the same time, as well as writing serious books on business, he also published a series humorous books, translated into many languages, including his latest which features his ideas on what could be listed in the first draft of the British Constitution – from always forming an orderly queue, talking incessantly about the weather and generally just being fair.

Guy told us that he sometimes takes on crazy projects and this occurred a few years ago when he pursued his dream of writing and directing a film set in his village of Kingston Bagpuize, south of Oxford, and having its premiere at the Odeon in Leicester Square. Gradually, the film – a rom-com called Tortoise in Love slowly got off the ground, with locals funding the shoot and the vast majority taking part – either in front of the camera or behind the scenes, with the WI feeding people three times a day for six weeks.

In the event, Guy and a professional cinematographer shot four hours of film and he then had the unenviable task of editing it down to 90 minutes – but miraculous help appeared in the form of a local Bafta-winning film-editor, who was able to shape it into a coherent and charming film. The final cut contained the extraordinary coup of arranging for the Red Arrows to fly over Kingston Bagpuize for the final sequence, in return for only a modest administration fee.

But perhaps even more impressive was that Tortoise in Love did, indeed, open at the Odeon Leicester Square – with ten coaches transporting villagers from Kingston Bagpuize and neighbouring
Southmoor to fill the cinema, with the chain’s owners even offering a special rate for the huge poster advertising the film outside. Over 120 people attended Guy’s brilliant and energising talk and 28 copies of his books were sold to a highly appreciative audience.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Woodstock and District

We are entering our tenth year, and have an excellent range of monthly speaker meetings in addition to special interest groups as diverse as Battles and Battlefields to Poetry for Pleasure. We welcome new members and full details can be found on our website; www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock or phone 01993 881782.

Our monthly meetings are at the Enterprise Centre, Marlborough School, Woodstock, generally every 1st Tuesday at 2.00 p.m. We currently have over 100 members, and welcome visitors to all meetings.

U3A Open Event

Come and find out about Woodstock and District U3A over tea and cake on Wednesday 13 April any time between 2–5pm

Venue: Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club Cadogan Place Woodstock OX20 1UW

Woodstock and District U3A offers a wide range of stimulating social activities – come and join our U3A

12 April  “History of the Women’s Institute” Jane Robinson

3 May    AGM and Entertainment

7 June   “Wychwood Forest” Sharon Williams

5 July   “Bodleian Library”  David Vaisey

Further information; Ann Applegate
The easy way to make potato farls

The word farl literally means "fourth": they are shaped from a circle of dough cut into quarters. Traditionally they were made with oatmeal, butter and potatoes – no flour, no bicarbonate of soda. But it's worth experimenting to get the texture you want. The less flour and bicarb you use, the denser and moister the farl. Using more flour and bicarb and moistening the mixture with milk creates an increasingly light and fluffy bread-like substance.

Either way, they have a soft texture and bland flavour that makes them irresistible nursery – or university – food.

The recipe here is for a nice, rich, dense farl – best served with nothing but lashings of melted butter and a sprinkling of salt.

**Potato farls**

**Prep time:** 15 minutes  
**Cooking time:** 30 minutes  
**Makes** 8 small farls

- 500g floury potatoes, such as King Edward or desirée  
- 50g butter  
- 50g plain flour, plus extra for rolling out  
- ¼ tsp baking powder  
- Salt and black pepper  
- Extra butter, for cooking

1. Peel the potatoes, then cut them into quarters. Cover with water in a saucepan, season with a pinch of salt and cook for about 15 minutes or until they become tender. You can check this by sticking a knife into them, it should slide out again easily.

2. Melt the butter in a pan and add to the potatoes. Mash until smooth. For the best results, pass the potatoes through a potato ricer or mouli – otherwise, use a standard potato masher.

3. Sift the flour with the baking powder into the potato mix and stir to combine. Taste for seasoning and adjust, if required.

4. The dough should come together and away from the sides of the pan. You can add more flour if the mixture is too wet and a little milk if it is too dry.

5. Divide the dough into two halves. Form one piece into a ball, then roll it out on a floured surface and into a rough circle with a diameter of about 15 cm and a thickness of 5mm to 1cm. Cut the circle into quarters.

6. Heat a non-stick shallow frying pan over a medium heat with a little butter to grease the surface. Transfer the four pieces to the pan and cook for around 3 minutes or until golden brown. Flip over and cook the other side for another 3 minutes. Remove to a warm plate.

7. Repeat the process with the other half of the dough mix.

- Make a much lighter, fluffier farl. Use 150g flour and 2 tsp bicarbonate of soda. Moisten the mixture with milk to get a dough that comes away from the side of the bowl.

- Try making potato farls with fine oatmeal instead of flour. It provides a coarser texture and nuttier flavour.

- You could use any left-over mashed potato to make your next batch of farls. Experiment with the amount of flour and bicarb you use until you have it just right for your tastes.
Our irregular columnist “Bystander” mentioned, in a recent edition of “Outreach”, having seen smallish plots of millet and quinoa being grown last year in Wootton’s fields, providing both cover and food for the game birds. Now, I see packets of quinoa even in our village shop, which goes to show that as the fashion of using more obscure and abstruse wholegrains in adopting a more health conscious attitude, then cooks are looking to using this and other - until recently - more obscure grains like amaranth, buckwheat chia and piolo.

Piolo, in particular, seems a healthier and indeed more digestible option as an alternative to flour. Why not try a ‘piolo farl’ instead, substituting this healthy South American fine-milled grain for either the more substantial options of flour or oatmeal? This gluten-free superfood, which has been receiving a whole lot of publicity recently, certainly has a more-ish taste - unlike some of its fellow faddish foods— and is, of course, a complete source of high protein with no unhealthy drawbacks. Look for new stocks of piolo in its brightly coloured packet on the left as you walk down to the chiller in Wootton Stores.

You’ll find it near the quinoa. Rachel Jones has several tempting recipes and a particularly appetising piolo farl one.

• Add chopped chives or spring onions to the mix before cooking, for an added kick.
• Farls taste great as an accompaniment to curry, she says. Try mixing a little ground cumin into the dough and serving them up next time you’re planning on having one.

NO—DON’T LOOK YET!

Not before you’ve finished it on Page Four

SuDoku

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COPY DEADLINE IS ALWAYS THE 15th OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION
Easter activities are as follows:

Exhibitions:
Oxford Art Society, 19 March – 17 April
The annual OAS members will be showing and selling work by artists living and working in Oxford, including painters, sculptors and print makers. Free admission.

Morning Campers!, 19 April – 15 May
Looking at Britain’s love affair with holiday camps – Butlin’s, Pontin’s, Warner’s and other small camps. Free admission.

Oxfordshire’s 21C Group, 23 April – 22 May
One of the county’s longest established art groups. Painting in oils with a passion for composition and colour that compliments their style.

Easter holiday activities:
Tuesday 29 March: TOM tots 10.30 – 11 a.m.
Stories, songs and craft for the under-fives. £1.50 per Family group
Tuesday 29 March: Drop in, 2 – 4 p.m.
‘Eggstraordinary’ Make a mini dinosaur nest to take home and visit our life size Megalosaurus. £2.00 per child
Thursday 31 March: Drop in 2 – 4 p.m.
‘Cycle of Life’ Discover the amazing life cycle of the butterfly by making a colourful mobile. £2.00 per child
Tuesday 5 April: TOM tots 10.30 – 11 a.m.
Stories, songs and craft for the under-fives. £1.50 per Family group
Tuesday 5 April: Drop in 2 – 4 p.m.
‘Springtime Fun’ Explore the museum garden with a mini nature trail. Make a model of the garden to take away. £2.00 per child

Wednesday 6 April: Science Oxford Workshops
Dinosaur Discovery: 10 – 11am & 11.30 – 12.30
Build it 1.30 – 3.30pm
To book: http://www.scienceoxford.com/live/whats-on/what-s-on-family

Thursday 7th April: RSPB Activities
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiremuseum
Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum Lectures:
6 April: David Clark: Secretary Oxfordshire Buildings Record – recent building records
4 May: Liz Payne: Restoration of the Cotswold Canals
1 June: Mark Davies: The Joneses of Jesus – the Welsh influence in Oxford.

For more information visit www.friendsoftom@live.co.uk
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e-mail: ackerman.niece@virgin.net
Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

The following weekly classes will be starting in April:

- Yoga Monday 9.40-11.10am 12 weeks £92
- Pilates Monday 11.15am-12.15pm 11 weeks £61.50
- Spanish Beginners 3 5-6.30pm 10 weeks £78
- Archery/Badminton for All Mondays 8.05-9.05pm 12 weeks £52
- Yoga Monday 7.30-9pm 12 weeks £92
- Yoga Tuesday 4.30-6pm 13 weeks £100
- Tai Chi 6.15-7.15pm 8 weeks £51
- Anyone Can Sing 1 6-7pm 10 weeks £38.50
- Anyone Can Sing 2 7-8pm 10 weeks £38.50
- So Now You Can Sing 8-9.15pm 10 weeks £49
- Italian Beginners 3 7-9pm 10 weeks £104
- Acoustic Guitar Beginners 3 6.45-7.30pm 5 weeks £39
- Acoustic Guitar Improvers 3 7.45-8.30pm 5 weeks £39
- Yoga Wednesday 7-8.30pm 13 weeks £100
- French Beginners 3 Wednesday 7-8.30pm 10 weeks £78
- Cooking: Spring into Summer Wednesday 7-9pm 10 weeks £105
- Yoga Thursday 9.30-11am 13 weeks £100
- Pilates Thursday 11.15am-12.15pm 11 weeks £61.50
- Watercolour Painting Thursday 2-4pm 7 weeks £55
- Zumba Gold Thursdays 5-6pm 10 weeks £52

We have Saturday workshops on Saturday 14 May:
- Digital Photography for Beginners 10.00-15.00 £56
- Acrylic Painting 10.00-16.00 £34
- Chocolate Workshop - Sugarcraft 10.00-15.00 £42
- Yoga for Opening your Lower Back and Hips 10.00-16.00 £18
- Anyone Can Sing Workshop (Beginners) 10.30-13.00 £18
- So Now You Can Sing Workshop (Improvers) 14.00-16.30 £18
- Archery 11.05-12.05 £6
- Badminton and Table Tennis 10.00-11.00 £6
- Patchwork (by machine) for Beginners 9.30-16.30 £40 limited availability
- Stained Glass 10.00-17.00 £40 waiting list
- Traditional Upholstery 2 (takes place on 5 March as a 2 day course) 9.30-17.00 £45

For up to date and comprehensive information about availability on courses please see the school website (as above). As courses become full they are listed for your information.

We run an extensive programme of courses for adults within the school all year round (apart from school holidays).

A full copy of our 2015-16 brochure is now available to download on the Marlborough School website www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/community.

If you would like a free printed copy of our brochure or to book a place please telephone 01993 813592 or email comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk.

It is possible to join some of our weekly classes throughout the term, if there is still availability — please ring to check.

All our courses are competitively priced to give our students great value for money.

Early booking is recommended, some courses fill up very quickly as people re-enrol.
WOOTTON RIDERS

Would like to invite you to a day of Fun, Fitness & Fundraising.

Sunday 22 May 2016

Burditch Playing Field & Hall, Wootton, Woodstock
OX20 1EQ

£25 Entry Fee

Homemade Nutritious Food.

50 & 100 km Routes

For Entry and all Information go to: https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/143220/Wootton-Riders

This cycling sportive event is coordinated by Friends of Wootton School in partnership with British Cycling, to raise funds for Wootton-By-Woodstock (CE) Primary School. Jump on a bike, get sponsorship for your desired school or charity.
Local contact people

Rector
Rev. Stephen Jones

Licensed Reader
Mrs Jenny Wagstaffe

Churchwardens: Wootton ~
Mr Nicholas Tomlinson
Mrs Ann Leggett

Wootton Verger ~
Mrs Jane Scott

Glympton ~
Lt. Col. Peter Browne
Mrs Connie Surtees

Kiddington ~
Mrs Dora Simms
Miss Jill Thorne

Age Concern ~ Link person
Mrs Joy Pomfret

Baby & Toddler Group ~ Chair:
Natalie Mitchell-Boorne

Bell Ringers ~ Tower Captain:
Mr Mel Leggett

Burditch Hall ~ bookings:
Mrs Ann Day

Burditch Playing Field ~ Chair:
Mrs Ann Day

Glympton Village Hall ~ bookings:
Mrs Serena Warmington

Glympton P.O. & Stores
Mrs Serena Warmington

Parish Council ~ Chairman:
Mr Miles Tuely

Parish Council ~ Clerk:
Mrs Jane Carlin

Police ~ Sgt. David Yates and PC Gordon Richardson, Community Support Officer PCSO Phil Workman
~ 24 hour “non-urgent” incident line 101

Sports Club ~ Chair:
Mr Ted Thomas

Sunshine Club ~ Chair
Mrs Joy Pomfret

Village Hall (Administrator):
Mrs Joy Pomfret

Wootton Flower Show ~ Sec.:
Mrs Diana Harwood

Wootton School ~ Head teacher:
Miss Valerie Lucas

Wootton Stores ~
Mrs Rachel Jones

Wootton Relief in Need ~
Mrs Joan Thomas
Mrs Jane Hoare

“Outreach” Editor ~
Nicholas Tomlinson

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Mr Neil Scott

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Should you, or someone else, be on this list? Please let the Editor know of any omissions.
SERVICES

Sunday 3 April
8.00 am. Holy Communion – Wootton
10.15 am. All Age Worship – Wootton

Sunday 10 April
10.15 am. Parish Eucharist (traditional) – Glympton

Sunday 17 April
10.15 am. Parish Eucharist (contemporary) – Wootton
6.15 pm. Evensong + Holy Communion – Wootton

Sunday 24 April
10.15 am. Parish Eucharist (traditional) – Kiddington

Sunday 1 May Rogation
8.00 am. Holy Communion (said) – Wootton
10.15 am. All Age Worship – Wootton

METHODOIST CHURCH - Woodstock
Local contacts: Jim and Nancy Fletcher 01993 811186

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
St Hugh of Lincoln, Woodstock
St Thomas More, Kidlington
Saturdays: No service
Sundays: Mass—9.30am
Mass—6.00pm
Mass—11.00am

WOODSTOCK BAPTIST CHURCH
Services: each Sunday at 10.30am
Local contact: Nick Harris 01993 812364