

# WRAYSBURY & HORTON NEWS



DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 119

## DEFIBRILLATORS IN HORTON & WRAYSBURY

There are a number of defibrillators located around Horton & Wraysbury. Please note that they are not necessarily available 24 hours a day.

Location	Tel. No.
Wraysbury Dive Centre, Station Road TW19 5ND	01784 488007
Wraysbury Village Halls, The Green TW19 5NA	01784 483240
The Perseverance, 2 High St. TW19 5DB	01784 482375
The George Steakhouse, 29 Windsor Rd. TW19 5DE	01784 482000
Wraysbury Primary School, 18 Welley Rd. TW19 5DJ	01784 482603
Wraysbury Post Office, 31 High St. TW19 5DA	01784 482477
Wraysbury Community Building (Scout Hut), Village Green	Dial 999 for access code
Wraysbury Lawn Tennis Club (subject to access when club open)	Access code on box
The Hub (former Baptist Church), High St., Wraysbury (24 hrs)	Dial 999 for access code
Wraysbury Village Club, The Green	Dial 999 for access code
Liquid Leisure, Horton Rd. Datchet SL3 9HY	01753 542500
Champney Hall, Stanwell Rd. Horton SL3 9PA (24 hrs)	Dial 999 for access code
Dave Francis (Flood Warden)	07957 123029

*All information correct at time of going to press*





Welcome to the December 2023 and 119<sup>th</sup> issue of the  
Wraysbury & Horton News magazine

Our latest edition is packed with articles, including a **Christmas Corner** on pages 22 & 23, where you can find Church Services, concerts and events to make the season jolly.

We are highlighting two prominent features of our local landscape for this issue: the Ankerwycke Yew and the River Thames.

**The Ankerwycke Yew:** (Cover Illustration by Glyn Larcombe)

*"Nearly 1000 years ago Father Christmas waded to Druids celebrating the winter solstice under their already 2000 year old Ankerwycke Yew, whilst nuns were chanting their prayers in St Mary's Priory and parishioners were arriving from Wirecesbere's old Saxon settlement at St Andrews Church. On Runnymede, travellers are headed for the festivities at Windsor with King William"*

Recent excavations around the Ankerwycke Yew have revealed the full size of St Mary's where remnants of the 11th century ruins have recently been restored. You can read more about this from the History Group on pages 114 & 115.

**The River Thames:**

Another wonderful resource, about which there are two articles in this issue:

- A wonderful campaign to clean up our beloved Thames by Liz Berry of Creek Paddles on pages 36 & 37
- And if you're just up for "messaging about in boats", please read the witty article about the Wraysbury Fleet by John Griffiths, starting on page 60.

**Chris Davis** comes under our Community Spotlight, sharing his very interesting life as a racing driver, mixing with the glitterati of the Formula 1 golden era.

As always, our thanks go to all our advertisers and contributors without whom there would be no magazine and also to the volunteers for delivering it to every house in Horton and Wraysbury.

Now here's my plea.....I am very short of help to format and edit the magazine at the moment. If you can spare a few hours once or twice a year, please look at my advert on page 19 and get in touch if you can give me a hand.

I hope you enjoy this issue, have a great Christmas season and a good start to 2024.

**Sue**



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## ADVERTISING RATES

### WRAYSBURY & HORTON NEWS

The next edition of the magazine is scheduled for June 2024. We distribute over 2000 free copies to every house in Wraysbury & Horton, along with the local shops, pubs, clubs and community buildings.

**Adverts included in the magazine will also be placed on the [wraysbury.com](http://wraysbury.com) website at no extra cost**

The current advertising rates for new colour adverts are shown below:

Advert Size	Cost
Full Page	£90.00
Half Page	£45.00

**THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES, DIRECTORY OR ADVERT CHANGES  
FOR THE JUNE 2024 ISSUE IS  
FRIDAY 29th MARCH**

Please email [wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com) with any submissions or changes.

Online PDF copies of the magazine are available on the Facebook pages “Wraysbury News”, “Wraysbury Informer” and “Horton and Wraysbury News” & also on community website [wraysbury.com](http://wraysbury.com)

If you are interested in advertising, submitting an article, getting involved with the editing and publication of the magazine, would like to join our band of delivery volunteers or have any feedback or comments please email:

[wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com)

We are happy to receive material in all formats but if you could email it, either as an attachment or in the body of the email, it saves us having to re-type it.

**All articles in the Wraysbury & Horton News are the views of the contributors and do not reflect the view(s) of the “Editorial Team” and where the team deem it necessary, articles will only be published following editing / redaction.**

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## **When did you last get your eyes tested?**

All our senses are precious, but sight is the sense people fear losing the most. It is recommended that everyone get their eyes tested at least once every two years. An optometrist can often recognise the signs of an eye condition, or even an underlying health conditions, before you have noticed any changes in your vision.

Although age is the biggest risk factor for many eye diseases, there are lots of steps you can take to look after your eyes now to help maintain good eye health over your lifetime.

**Get a regular eye test** - Not just for yourself, but your children too.

**Eat well** - Studies show that what we eat can affect our vision. Foods recommended for eye health: broad leaf greens such as kale and spinach, brightly coloured fruit and veg such as corn, carrots, orange sweet peppers and oranges, oily fish like salmon, tuna and mackerel, broccoli and eggs.

**Maintain a healthy weight and move more** - Being overweight and/or lack of exercise can affect not only our health generally, but the health of our eyes, raising the risk of developing some of the major causes of sight loss, such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

**Stop Smoking** - After ageing, smoking is the biggest risk factor for developing several of most common sight loss conditions.

**Protect your eyes from the sun** - Your sunglasses should have the CE mark on them which ensures that they are giving you the right level of ultraviolet protection. UV has an accumulative impact on our skin and our eyes. Children should be encouraged to spend time outdoors for healthy eye development, but don't forget hats and sunglasses to help protect their eyes for later life too!

If you are already living with Sight Loss there are lots of ways that Berkshire Vision can help you. Services range from sight loss support and befriending to a wide range of activities and sports. Visit [www.berkshirevision.org.uk](http://www.berkshirevision.org.uk) or call 0118 987 2803 to find out more.



This should be a list of our achievements for the past 6 months. Thanks to the Wraysbury.com website and Wraysbury News websites, it's old news. But....

***Thank you to everyone who does help in any way. However small you think your contribution is, it really does make a difference.***

We have been very lucky this year to receive substantial grants from charitable trusts outside the village – The Pargiter Trust through Berkshire Community Foundation and the Yapp Charitable Trust. We are extremely grateful to them and really couldn't do what we do without the generosity of these organisations. Everyone who works with WHVC is a volunteer. We only use our funds to pay for the food we cook, kitchen and hall spaces we rent and the telephone helpline. But it all costs; and of course, costs are going up. Without these external grants and help from our own community, we really couldn't make WHVC work. As everyone knows, the cost of food has increased substantially and we rely on subsidies to make the services that we do charge for reasonably priced.

What we need to achieve from this article is a huge push to people in our community to recognise that we're no more special than any other organisation but what we do is also really important. Our villages absolutely rely on the goodwill of the community to look after the community. Call it Christian if you like, except that all castes and creeds have the same focus and that's a proven fact in this area. It is beholden on us as humans to ensure the continuance of the species by caring for those who came before us and come after us. And beholden on us as two small villages on the edge of huge conurbations to make sure that the villages continue to have communities, not just houses with people who live in them. We need more people to volunteer and/or help us with finances so we can keep the charity going for future generations.

If you really don't have the time to volunteer, it doesn't mean you're a bad person. We'll have your money instead!! Please do your shopping, or at least some of it in the village independent shops – that keeps the shops open for all of us. When you buy a chocolate bar in Wraysbury News, a bag of potatoes from the Post Office, a packet of paracetamol from the pharmacy, have your coffee in Wraysbury Kitchen or buy a hammer from Pennyfields...please put the change into the WHVC donations box. Our weekly coffee mornings in Champney Hall and the Hub are also an opportunity to drink coffee, eat cake AND make donations.





It all adds up. Or if you are still earning a salary, what about Payroll Giving? You can ask your employer to make a regular donation, however small, from your salary and it can be sent straight to us.

**If you would like to volunteer or make a donation or both, please call one of the Tims on our Helpline number 01784 482515.**

**AND OUR NEW NEWS:** ....we have provisional approval from Wraysbury Village Halls Management Committee to turn what was the Doctor's surgery in the Village Halls into a permanent kitchen for the Lunch Club and Mobile Lunch Club service we provide. If we can get the funding to do this, it will be a tremendous boost for us because it will be our permanent kitchen. This will mean that we will no longer have to clear out the existing kitchen in the Halls every Friday and reinstate it on Mondays for Halls events over the weekends. We will also have the opportunity to do more of our 'batch cooking' there rather than in private kitchens as now. So, we are appealing for donations to help us achieve this. It's unlikely we will get the conversion work done in time for our WHVC/lunch club Christmas party, but we are really hopeful - with your help - that we can move in early next year.

*Janet Crame*

A poster for Wraysbury and Horton Voluntary Care. At the top left is the 'WH' logo. To its right is the text 'Wraysbury and Horton Voluntary Care'. Below this is a row of seven colored ovals, each containing a service name: Shopping (pink), Support (orange), Mobile Lunch Club (teal), Pastoral Care (green), Prescription Delivery (light green), Advice (blue), and Food Bank (purple). Underneath the ovals are seven stylized hands of different colors and skin tones, each with a sleeve of a different color. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'VOLUNTEERS WANTED!' is written in blue. Below that, a paragraph of text reads: 'If you can offer any help, even an hour or two a week, to help cook, serve dinners at Lunch Club or deliver meals to the local community ,'. At the very bottom, it says 'call 01784 482515 or email wraysburymatters@outlook.com'.

## HORTON PARISH COUNCIL



Horton Parish Councillors are:

- Chairperson:** Cllr Benta Hickley  
**Vice Chairperson:** Cllr Neil Cole  
**Council members:** Cllr Freda Bovingdon, Cllr Ewan Larcombe,  
Cllr David Buckley, Cllr Eileen Coogan,  
Cllr Jaimin Patel

**Vacancies for Councillors: 2**

The Clerk to Horton Parish Council is **Jayne Kennedy**.

Email [clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## WRAYSBURY PARISH COUNCIL



- Chairperson:** Cllr Phil Jackson  
**Vice Chairperson:** Cllr Mark Bowerman  
**Council members:** Cllr Margaret Lenton, Cllr Ewan Larcombe,  
Cllr Neelu Kaur, Cllr Andy Spillane,  
Cllr Rory Latif, Cllr John Meller, Cllr Colin Pye  
Cllr Mike Ward, Cllr Darren Laverty

The Clerk to Wraysbury Parish Council is **Karen Pye**.

Email [karyn.pye@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:karyn.pye@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Location of the Wraysbury Parish Council Noticeboards

- 1) **Coppermill Road** - Next to the village sign opposite Mill Place
- 2) **Village Car Park** - On side wall of The Frost Partnership estate agency
- 3) **Hythe End** - On the front wall of Hythe End Stores in Staines Road
- 4) **Gloucester Drive** - On the side wall of Giggs Stores in Wraysbury Road
- 5) **Village Halls** - To the left of the main entrance from The Green
- 6) **Wraysbury Primary School** - By the school entrance
- 7) **Welley Road** - Opposite The Avenue / Park Avenue
- 8) **Wraysbury Hub** - 12a High Street

### Location of the Horton Parish Council Noticeboards

- 1) **Coppermill Road** - Next to the Wraysbury village sign opposite Old Mill Place
- 2) **Coppermill Road** - On the junction with Stanwell Road
- 3) **Stanwell Road - Community Board** At the entrance to Champney Hall  
A big thank you to Cappagh for donating the noticeboard.

# Horton Parish Council Report



## Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to all our Parish Council Meetings at Champney Hall on the 3rd Tuesday every month starting at 7.30pm. Details can be found each month on the meetings page of the website:

[www.hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Annual Parish Meeting: This was held on the 23rd May 2023, attended by the invited speakers and no one else.

DHW Neighbourhood Action Group: Horton Parish Council continues to work with the group. The latest issue to be raised is the parking at the Stanwell Road end of Coppermill Road.

The Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead Community Land Trust came to the Horton Parish Council Meeting in September and talked about schemes for affordable housing which can be delivered by land trusts working with the Parish Council.

## Transport

The number 5 bus has been a popular addition to village transport services.

## Mugs

Horton Parish Council with St. Michael's Church have mugs left from the King's Coronation to gift to any Horton resident. One per resident on a first come, first served basis. See contact details below.

## Village Events

The Remembrance Event took place on Remembrance Sunday (12th November 2023). We would like to thank all of those who supported the event.

The Christmas Tree lighting Ceremony will take place on the second Thursday in December (7th). There will be a special guest to switch on the lights and a carol singing session around the Christmas Tree with refreshments. Please join us at this family friendly annual event.



## Ways to contact the Parish Council:

Email: [Clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[Cllr.Hickley@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Hickley@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[Cllr.Buckley@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Buckley@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk) -

For anything Horton related contact the website above.

Call or text 07957 588277 or pop in to the Monday Coffee morning at Champney Hall 10:00 - 13:00. Champney Hall has a letterbox where notes can be left.

Thank you to all those who have supported the Parish Council throughout the year and to all the Councillors who have contributed to the Council this year.

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024!

***Benta Hickley***

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## WRAYSBURY SHORT MAT BOWLS

Short Mat Bowls is played in Wraysbury Village Halls on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm until 4pm. We welcome new players and you do not need to have had any previous experience, just a pair of flat shoes, as bowls can be supplied.

This is good exercise and good company. We always end the afternoon with tea, biscuits and a natter. If interested, come along to the halls on either of the afternoons or please ring our Chairman Mike Stone on 01784 458045 or 07543622461.

## WRAYSBURY LADIES BADMINTON

Are you interested in Badminton? We are a ladies group who meet every Thursday morning from 10am to 12 noon at the Wraysbury Village Halls. We are looking for ladies to join our group. We play for fun and exercise and try to make it a social morning.



There are no leagues to play and beginners are most welcome.

Please contact **Kim** on **01784 482395** or **Pam** on **01784 482545** for more details.

Or just turn up at the Village Halls – your first game is free.



## MESSAGE FROM PHIL JACKSON

### CHAIR OF THE WRAYSBURY PARISH COUNCIL



On May 4th 2023, an election was held to elect members of Wraysbury Parish Council. It was the first properly contested Parish election in Wraysbury for many years.

Of the eleven Councillors elected, three, Ewan Larcombe, Margaret Lenton and Graham Sinclair were members of the previous Council. I was persuaded to come out of retirement to stand again. The other seven Councillors were new to the Council.

I would like to thank the Councillors who stood down, and those candidates who were unsuccessful in the election, for their years of service to the village, and I would like to welcome Councillors Mark Bowerman, Neelu Kaur, Darren Laverty, John Meller, Colin Pye, Andy Spillane, and Mike Ward to the Council. The new Councillors, while inexperienced at Council work and procedures, are an enthusiastic group of successful professionals who bring a wide variety of commercial and personal experiences.

Shortly after the election, Councillor Graham Sinclair resigned. I would like to thank Graham for his many years of service to the village. His unrivalled experience, gained during his 88 years as a Wraysbury resident, will be sorely missed. A group of residents submitted a request that the vacancy created by Graham's resignation should be filled by election, rather than co-option. In the event, as only one candidate was nominated, Councillor Roly Latif was deemed to be elected. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Roly to the Council. I am sure that he will make an important contribution.

We now have our full compliment of eleven Councillors. I believe that we have an effective and impressive team. The experience of Margaret Lenton and Ewan Larcombe is proving to be invaluable.

I was elected as Chairman, with Mark Bowerman as Vice Chairman. The other principal jobs were allocated as follows:

- Lead Member for Planning: Colin Pye, Deputy: Mark Bowerman.
- Lead Member for Greens: John Meller, Deputy: Mike Ward.
- Lead Member for Properties: Neelu Kaur, Deputy: Darren Laverty.
- Lead Member Community Resilience, Infrastructure and Communications: Mike Ward, Deputy: Andy Spillane.
- Lead Member for Watercourses: Ewan Larcombe, Deputy: Andy Spillane.
- Chairman of the Wraysbury Hub Management Committee: Margaret Lenton
- Chairman of the Staffing Committee: Mark Bowerman.

As with all organisational changes, we have faced some difficult challenges. On 28th June, our Parish Clerk, Mrs Clemance submitted her resignation. Unfortunately we had to cancel the August WPC meeting as we were not in a position to issue a legal Agenda. I would like to thank Mrs Clemance for her years of service to the Parish Council and the village.

We immediately advertised the vacancy. The Interview panel, which was chaired by Mark Bowerman, and comprised Margaret Lenton and Darren Laverty, interviewed the candidates and made a recommendation. An emergency meeting of the Council was held. This meeting appointed Mrs. Karyn Pye as our new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

I am delighted to welcome Karyn to the job of Clerk to the Council. She has extensive relevant business experience and will I am certain be a great asset to the village. I am looking forward to working with her.

Karyn, unfortunately does not have any Local Government experience. To help Karyn and to ensure that we remain compliant with the many rules and regulations which govern the activities of Parish Councils, we have also employed a locum Clerk, who will serve for three months. She started work in September.

Karyn has made a great start. She attended her first Parish Council meeting on Monday 18th September. We had a very long agenda, because of the cancellation of the August meeting, but we got through it. I would like to thank the Councillors and members of the public present at the meeting for their brevity in helping us to get through the agenda.

I am confident that, with Karyn and the locum Clerk working together, normal service will swiftly resume and we can get on with doing the job which we were elected to do. There are some exciting developments in the pipeline.

Making the Wraysbury Hub safe and viable is a priority. This building, the old Baptist Church, was purchased for the village by the previous Parish Council. It is old and somewhat dilapidated. A new Wraysbury Hub Management Committee has been appointed by the Parish Council. It is working well, and is starting to plan the necessary works, some of which will be quite expensive. The roof, for instance, is seriously deficient and may need to be replaced. New windows have been installed, in a contract organised by the previous Parish Council. It is intended to convert part of the upstairs room to an office for the Parish Clerk and a store for the Village Archives. To facilitate this, it was necessary to make the stairwell safe, by installing banisters and hand rails. Plans for future improvements, such as the construction of a kitchen and a room which can be used as a medical consultation room, are under development.

We have started to market The Hub, to attract more lettings. A new advertising leaflet has been produced. The marketing of The Hub will be coordinated with that of the Village Halls and Mr. Glyn Larcombe, the Chairman of the Village Halls Management Committee, has agreed to serve on the Wraysbury Hub Management Committee. The two buildings will complement, rather than compete with, each other.

Margaret Lenton and others are planning to organise a Christmas Fair, with Santa Claus, in the Hub and also commemorations of the 80th Anniversary of D Day next summer. We hope to make The Hub into a great asset for the village.

We have regularised the position of Wraysbury Cricket Club, by granting permission, as landlord, for the temporary placement of the marquee during the cricket season, the construction of the excellent new practice nets, the storage of the portable nets and the wicket covers on the Village Green and for the temporary storage of excess soil which was left over from the construction of the nets. This soil will be spread on sunken areas of the Green after the end of the season and will be seeded, in order to improve the surface.

We have also authorised the Cricket Club to apply to the Royal Borough for retrospective Planning Permission for the temporary positioning of the marquee, the construction of the new nets and the storage of the portable nets. When these applications are validated, members of the public will have the opportunity to submit comments to the Borough Council and to the Parish Council.

A very exciting development is in the pipeline, masterminded by Dianne Cranmer. The plan, which is being developed in co-ordination with the Royal Borough, the National Health Service and Datchet Health Centre, is to develop a 'Health Hub', which will be attended by medical professionals and will include a 'health kiosk'. The details have not been finalised as I write this, but it is very likely to go ahead.

The Parish Council strongly support the petition organised by Henry Perez and Graham Cribbin, which calls for a better bus service in Wraysbury. I personally submitted a paper to the Council suggesting some improvements which could economically be made. The new Borough Administration is in a dire financial situation and bus usage has not recovered fully from the collapse in bus usage caused by the pandemic. The full Council of the Royal Borough will have considered this issue in September, when the results of a Borough wide review of public transport will have been discussed. The Officers' Report recommends that the 305 service should be diverted from Datchet to serve Windsor, rather than Colnbrook, and possibly increased in frequency, to include the school bus services to Datchet. That would be an improvement on the current situation. Let's keep our fingers crossed that something positive for the residents of Wraysbury emerges from this exercise.

Councillors met with a Highway Officer and an Engineer to discuss the parking 'free for all' in the High Street and the difficulty and danger which this causes for elderly and infirm people and children. The Officers are currently drawing up a plan. Once we receive it, we will hold a Public Consultation meeting to consult villagers before approving it. We hope that we can improve the situation without inconveniencing businesses and residents unduly.

We are developing a constructive relationship with Affinity Water and the Colne Valley Park, with a view to agreeing a Management Plan. This would cover Silver Wing Lake, Hythe End Lagoon, Colne Mere, Heron Lake and the 'Wet Meadow', which will encourage nature conservation, landscape improvement, and will allow public access where appropriate. The '8 Yards' strip on both sides of the River Colne Brook, which runs through the middle of the Affinity Land, is not owned by Affinity, but access to it will be maintained and enhanced. I organised a walk around the area, which was attended by Ed East, the Land Manager of Affinity Water, Stewart Pomeroy of the Colne Park Valley and Councillors Jodie Grove and Ewan Larcombe and have since led a guided walk on behalf of the Colne Valley Park. Both were successful and hopefully we can organise similar events in the future.

Flooding remains a major issue. Channel One of the River Thames Flood Alleviation Scheme, which was planned to run from Datchet through Wraysbury to the Thames downstream of Bell Weir has been cancelled, as the previous Royal Borough administration failed to provide the necessary funding. The part for the scheme which runs through Surrey is going ahead. We fully support the efforts by our three Borough Councillors to obtain Borough funding for either the restoration of the scheme, or alternative effective flood alleviation measures and we continue to support the efforts of Ewan Larcombe to get the Borough to fulfil its statutory duty to maintain our local watercourses, the Wraysbury and Horton Drains. We will shortly be reviewing our Wraysbury Flood Plan and inspecting and replenishing our supplies of equipment in the event of an emergency.

It has been an interesting few months! I am confident that the new Council will serve the village well.







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## MESSAGE FROM EWAN LARCOMBE

### RBWM COUNCILLOR

**With very minor changes - the article below was previously published in the Wrysbury News Magazine Issue No. 92, dated December 2009...**

*Deja vu? History repeating itself...*

*I remember hearing about the Maidenhead Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme proposals in 1987, but arrangements were different then. In particular, the National Rivers Authority had no obligation to consult the Parish Councils about their scheme, but project details were properly considered at the Public Inquiry in 1992 and Ministerial approval given in 1995. The Environment Agency superseded the National Rivers Authority in 1996 and the rest is history - £110m world-class, award winning project – design changes after approval, fell apart on first use in 2003 at only 2/3rds capacity, £5m in repair costs, a £2.75m out-of-court settlement with the designers and continuing allegations that the MWEFAS (now called the Jubilee River) aggravated flooding downstream of Windsor.*

*Times have changed and I am impressed that the Environment Agency has at least brought its 'consultation' into the village, but I am not confident that the EA can accomplish this project without unintended consequences and when mistakes happen and things do go wrong that they will be put right.*

*For many years now I have found the Environment Agency to be lacking in accountability but seriously strong on excuses and denial. I am still waiting for the 350m Myrke flood bank (damaged in 2003 and rebuilt in 2004 at a cost of £1.3m) to be refurbished. I am confident that the Jubilee River bend radius that fails to comply with design recommendations will never be rectified.*

*I believe that the EA should have a duty to maintain the Thames for flood defence purposes, in just the same way that they do for navigational purposes.*

*Finally I am concerned that the groundwater level in the village dropped about 300mm in October leaving the Wrysbury Drain dry in places. I have mentioned before that I believe there ought to be a duty on Parish and Town Councils to regularly monitor and record the condition of their own watercourses. While flooding remains a threat, the issue of leaflets, maps and flood warnings fails to reduce the probability of flooding, but effective watercourse maintenance could be beneficial.*

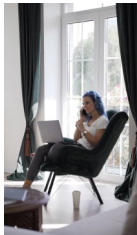
## MESSAGE FROM EWAN LARCOMBE CONT.

Fast forward to the end of 2023 - after a recent political revolution at RBWM.

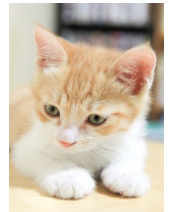
The bottom line is - new political masters and no money. As for flood prevention – River Thames Scheme Channel One (through Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury) has been proposed then removed from the project due to a lack of ‘partnership funding’. Local land drainage infrastructure is in the worst state that I have ever seen. As designated lead local flood authority, RBWM is responsible for ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water flooding. Unfortunately, while the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 gave RBWM both permissive and enforcement powers - there was no associated duty to use those powers. Similarly there is no duty on the EA to dredge main rivers for flood defence purposes.

**The good news.** I have made crystal clear my unhappiness (actually shock) regarding another £20m of expenditure on the River Thames Scheme for the 2024/5 year. The £70m already spent has not contributed one iota to flood probability reduction in this area and I cannot see justification to approve more. All I see is another HS2 - where the objective is to minimise reputational harm.

*Ewan Larcombe* [ewan.larcombe@mail.com](mailto:ewan.larcombe@mail.com)



### Wraysbury & Horton News Magazine Help Required



Can you copy and paste?

Do you have an eye for layout?

Could you spare a few hours a year?

I can train you on “Publisher” which is easy to use

and you could work in the comfort of your own living room!

OR

- Could you send out, reply to and keep track of emails?
- Save attachments electronically?

*If any of these tasks seems like something you could manage, I would love to hear from you (sorry, I blatantly used the cute kitten just to get your attention!)*

**Sue** email: [wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com) or 07958 471634

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## Test your little grey cells with our WINTER QUIZ by Sarah Higney



1. Which organisation's motto is "Nation shall speak peace unto Nation"?
2. Which ex-model and ex-Eastenders actress, played 'Dolly Clothespeg' in TV's *Worzel Gummidge*?
3. Which song's opening line is "I met her in a club down in old Soho"?
4. What does Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien's initials stand for?
5. Which country has the most colours on its flag?
6. What was 'special' about Rosa Klebb's footwear in *From Russia With Love*?
7. Which 1970 American-Japanese movie dramatises the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?
8. Which traditional British form of entertainment is a combination of harlequinade and burlesque?
9. Which traditional annual event takes place at Cooper's Hill near Gloucester, on Spring Bank Holiday?
10. The winning jockey of which classic British horserace, is traditionally awarded an over-sized red floppy cap?
11. In which Scottish whisky region would you find the Glenfiddich distillery?
12. Who is England's most capped football player?
13. What type of rock forms The Rock of Gibraltar?
14. What does a Costermonger sell?
15. A wide, white stripe down the middle of a horse's face, is called what?
16. The A5 road stretches about 260 miles from London to where?
17. Which famous actor is MICRO SUET an anagram of?
18. Which bodily fluid results from lachrymation?
19. Assuming no special letter/word scores, how many points would Butterfly spell in Scrabble?
20. In which Disney film would you find this quote – "The past can hurt, but the way I see it, you can either run from it or learn from it"?

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 71**



# CHRISTMAS CORNER



## Wraysbury and Horton Christmas 2023

With love from all at  
your local Churches

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Tree and Craft Festival, St Andrew's Lighting of Wraysbury Village Tree, Frosts	12.00 noon – 4.30 pm 6.30 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas Tree and Craft Festival, St Andrew's Father Christmas + stalls at the Wraysbury Hub	10.00 am – 3.00 pm 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Lighting of Horton Village Tree, Village Green	6.00 pm
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service, St Andrew's	6.00 pm
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Communion, St Michael's Lay led Morning Service, St Andrew's Christingle Service, St. Michael's Midnight Mass, St. Andrew's	9.30 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm 11.30 pm
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Worship, St. Michael's No services at St. Andrew's Church on Christmas Day	9.30 am

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or £18 on the door. Accompanied children free.



# CHRISTMAS CORNER



## 2023 Wraysbury Christmas tree & craft festival

St Andrew's Church  
01 Dec - 02 Dec

Friday 1st December 12pm – 4:30pm  
Saturday 2nd December 10am – 15:00pm

St. Andrew's Church  
FREE ADMISSION

Join us for a special performance from our Wraysbury Primary School Children and view the fabulous forest of uniquely designed trees, and wonderful crafts. vote for your favourite and perhaps even bid on one!

Enjoy the music and refreshments,  
and a chance to win our amazing hamper  
in our raffle

This is a fundraising event for Wraysbury  
Primary School & St Andrew's Church.

Special thanks to all who have helped make this event happen.



## St. Andrew's Church, Wraybury

### An update from the Church Wardens

We are now nearly a year into the interregnum (period without a vicar) of our two parishes following the retirement of Colin Gibson last October.

Church life has carried on much as normal thanks to the dedicated and loving support of both congregations, local clergy and our Area Dean Janet Binns. Obviously we miss Colin and the day to day pastoral care for the community that a full time vicar brings.



We are looking forward to the new appointment which will hopefully be early in the new year. In the meantime, church services will continue to take place and community events planned. Watch out for further information.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers during this challenging time.

Finally we would be delighted to see you on a Sunday, you can be sure of a warm welcome.

**Tony Hermes (Churchwarden St. Andrew's Church)**

## St. Michael's Church, Horton

### An update from the Church Wardens



Approaching the one-year milestone since Colin Gibson's retirement, the question of his successor remains unresolved. Despite extensive speculations and discussions, an official decision remains pending. We are cautiously optimistic that we will soon reach a stage where we can finally convene our eagerly anticipated Section 12 meeting to initiate the recruitment process for the right individual to serve our parishes.

It's worth noting that our Parish Development Advisor, who has provided support during this transitional period, has moved to a different role within the organisation. We expect her replacement to have assumed their duties by the time you read this.



Our church services have been upheld with unwavering support from our local clergy, particularly Rev. Alan Dibden and Rev. Simon Douglas Lane, with congregation numbers remaining stable. However, it's important to acknowledge that due to a reducing availability of clergy, there may be occasions when the church wardens will lead the service or when the church is open for private prayer and a friendly gathering rather than a communion service.

During this Interregnum period without a vicar, we have continued to conduct Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals, thanks to the support of our local clergy and our Area Dean, Rev. Canon Janet Binns. In August, we solemnly carried out two consecutive funerals, both followed by burials at Ditton Road, alleviating the need to manage space constraints in the churchyard. The first funeral was held in honour of a revered senior member of a local family, presided over by Rev Simon Douglas Lane. The second presented a unique challenge, as the family wished for their Pastor, who is not affiliated with the Church of England, to lead the service. To accommodate their request, Rev Alan Dibden was present in the church throughout the service, ensuring its smooth progression.

During both August and September, we had the privilege of hosting weddings at our church. August's wedding was particularly memorable, largely because of the complexities surrounding residence qualifications, which were resolved when the groom asked to be baptised at St. Michael's. Despite these logistical challenges, the wedding was a joyous occasion. Fortunately, the weather cooperated beautifully, with rain only making an appearance during the part of the ceremony held inside the church.

In September, our church witnessed another heartwarming celebration as it was filled to capacity with well-wishers for a young couple. The ringing of the church bells added an extra touch of joy to both occasions, and it was truly delightful to hear them ring out in celebration.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing a comprehensive range of services and extending a warm welcome whenever our church doors are open.

We are hoping to provide the ever popular Christingle service on Christmas Eve, as well as a cheese and wine lunch on New Year's Day. Please check our newsletter, website or Facebook page for more details and times.

Further details can be found on our website at [www.stmichaels-horton.org](http://www.stmichaels-horton.org), or you can reach out to the parish administrator by emailing [Secretary.HortonAndWraysbury@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.HortonAndWraysbury@gmail.com)

Kind regards  
Benta

## St. Michael's Church, Horton

Dear Friends,

St. Michael's Church has been a beloved landmark in our community for nearly 900 years. It has seen generations of families come and go, been a place of worship, community and solace for many and we want to keep it that way. Over time, the church has weathered the elements and minor repairs have been regularly carried out, along with occasional major repairs. However, a recent inspection by our church architect has determined that we need to spend £85,000 on essential remedial works to the exterior masonry.

This is a significant amount of money, but we believe it is essential to protect this important part of our community's heritage. The works will be carried out by an experienced church restoration company and are subject to approval by the Diocese. We are hoping to commence the work this year.

We are therefore setting up an appeal to the local area. Any donation, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. You can donate using modern or traditional methods:

- You can donate online at our website
- You can use the QR code on the weekly newsletter (available on the website and social media)
- You can use the card reader on a Sunday morning
- You can send a cheque (payable to "Horton Parochial Church Council") to the church office
- You can post a cheque to St. Michael's c/o Champney Hall, Stanwell Road, Horton SL3 9PA
- You can give cash or cheque to the Church Wardens (Carolyn Wheeler and John Blackman) or Treasurer (Mike McKeon)

We know that times are tough for many people, but we believe that St. Michael's is a vital part of our community and we are asking for your help in preserving it for future generations.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*The Parochial Church Council of St. Michael's Church*



St. Andrew's Church, Wraysbury



## The Annexe

This room, attached to the Church, is available to hire.

**Suitable for: Children's Parties,  
Anniversary Celebrations, Club Events,  
Society or Business Meetings, etc.**

It is a good size, usable for events with up to 40 attendees

Tables and chairs are available

There is a well-equipped kitchen for preparing or serving food

Disabled/Baby Change Toilet available

Small lawn area outside for use during good weather

Large Car Park

**Enquiries to: Lesley West**

**07930 362403 / [lesleywest125@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleywest125@btinternet.com)**



## *Little Lambs*

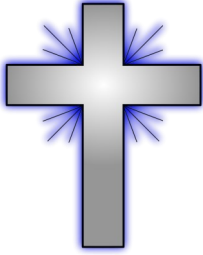
*A church based toddler group*

*Little Lambs takes place at*

*St. Andrew's Annexe on*

*Wednesday mornings, 10-12, during term times.*

*For more info please call Becky Webb on 07843 386585 or email the church on [secretary.hortonandwraysbury@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hortonandwraysbury@gmail.com)*



## REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES



Our churches are currently without a vicar so these service times are submitted in good faith but there may be some changes.

### St. Andrew's Wraybury—Sunday Services

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Lay led ACTS service "What is church all about?"	11am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Communion Service	11am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Communion Service	11am
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Communion Service	11am
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Joint service at St Michael's	9:30am

### St. Michael's Horton—Sunday Services

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Communion Service	9:30am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Communion Service	9:30am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Communion Service	9:30am
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Communion Service	9:30am
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Communion Service	9:30am

### St. Michael's Horton—Tuesday Services

Every Tuesday	Communion or Communion by extension service	11am
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## REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

### Bell-Ringing

Bells are rung for various events, from church services and weddings to national events such as the King's Coronation. It can be a social and fun activity to participate in. Bell ringing, however, will only continue if we can recruit and retain new bell ringers. If you are interested in learning to ring or would ever just like to come and see what is involved, please come and join us - Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm at St Andrew's, Wraysbury. For further information please contact Roger Lewiston by text/phone 07973 725682 or email [roger.lewiston@outlook.com](mailto:roger.lewiston@outlook.com)



### St. Andrew's Café, Wraysbury

St Andrew's Cafe is open on a Tuesday between 2pm and 4pm in the church annexe.

Come along for tea, cake, fun and fellowship. Everyone is assured of a warm welcome. We hope to see you there. Please contact Tony Hermes on 07563 756471 for any further information.

Volunteers to help with transport and serving teas are very welcome.



### St. Andrew's Choir

Enjoy singing?

Why not come and join St Andrew's choir?

We sing at Sunday Services, Weddings, Christmas and other times.

Please contact our organist David Gamble on

07929 441994 or

email: [davidgamble99@hotmail.com](mailto:davidgamble99@hotmail.com)



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NAFD Member

## Catholic Parish of St Augustine's Datchet and Our Lady of Sorrows Eton

Wraysbury did once have a Catholic Church - St Monica's - which was at the corner of Douglas Lane and Station Road but sadly, it closed down in the 1980s. So, for local Catholics, our parish churches are in Datchet and Eton.

Both churches are small; this means the community is a very friendly one and anyone new to the area would be made very welcome. Coffee is served after Sunday Mass every other week at both churches and other social events take place from time to time. Details of Mass times are below, together with contact details if you wish to ring beforehand.

Our Parish priest has been with us since March 2023, after Father Frank retired. He is Father Shyju Chacko, who is priest for both churches. The only regular Mass in Eton is at 9.30 am on Sundays, but the church is worth a visit as it is very beautiful inside, built in the Baroque style with some Italian paintings on the walls. It is now owned by Eton College who wish to preserve the building and its interior. Mass in St Augustine's church, Datchet is at 6.30 pm on Saturdays and 11.00 am on Sundays. In addition, there are weekday Masses in Datchet at 9.30 am on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week.



*St Augustine's Datchet*

### Contact details:

**Father Shyju - 01753 917030 / 07505 927937**

**Email: [office@staugustines.org.uk](mailto:office@staugustines.org.uk)**

**Contacts in Wraysbury:**

**Ros Nockles: 01784 483001 and Barbara Williams: 01784 483503**



*Interior of Our Lady of Sorrows Eton*

# **WRAYSBURY LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

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**Website: [clubspark.lta.org.uk/wraysburylta](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/wraysburylta)**

**Email: [wraysburylta@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wraysburylta@yahoo.co.uk)**





- *Igniting passion and compassion for women and with women in Horton and Wraysbury and throughout the world.*
- *Creative opportunities to make items which might meet community needs both here and in the world.*
- *An environment for women that's Welcoming, Friendly, Accepting, Loving, & Caring!*

We work with a US charity [daysforgirls.org](http://daysforgirls.org) making washable menstruation kits for girls around the world who otherwise would miss 4 or 5 days of school every month.

Everyone is welcome to join us, you don't have to be experienced at sewing - there is ironing and cutting to be done and tea and coffee to be made!

We put a monthly reminder on the Stitch Facebook page before each session or you can email us at [wraysburystitch@gmail.com](mailto:wraysburystitch@gmail.com) if you want more information, or contact us via Facebook. You can read about the work of the charity, how we contribute to it and other ways you can help, at [www.wraysburystitch.blogspot.com](http://www.wraysburystitch.blogspot.com)

We have also taught a number of our members to use a sewing machine and / or overlocker - come along if you want to learn a new skill.

We have sent kits to Kisumu in Kenya and sent more to Ukraine at the start of the recent events there. Each kit costs about £9.85 to make (we provide the girls with knickers, soap, flannel and a pretty drawstring bag as well as the menstruation kits) - would you or your family or your company like to sponsor some kits?

Donations can be made to [WraysburyStitch@gmail.com](mailto:WraysburyStitch@gmail.com) via PayPal. We are happy to attend clubs and organisations to talk about what we do and show the kits.



Women in Senegal receiving their kits



We meet on the last Saturday of the month at Champney Hall in Horton (SL3 9PA) between 10am and 12 noon. We are very happy to mentor any teens who are looking for volunteering experience for Duke of Edinburgh awards—please contact us for more information.

Do feel free to pop in and join us for a cuppa.

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Wraysbury.com is a community website, run by the community, for the community. It is run by volunteers and is completely free to use and free of tracking software.

We are trying to make it a fair representation of all interest groups in the villages, with a wide range of interest articles, local resources, of all our voices, to enable you to get the most out of your community. A bit like an online version of this magazine, with whom we share some resources.

We are always happy to receive submissions, anything that you believe will be of interest to your community and if you would like to have a regular input, or feel there is a missing voice, please do speak to us.

We are also trying to promote and facilitate improved internet access for those in our community who struggle to get online, with help, support and lessons and we hope to soon have some devices to lend out on a short-term basis for those of us who aren't sure if they can justify the cost, to try out.

Go on, have a look, sign up for our notifications, stay in touch.

Many thanks

*Simon Carter, Editor*

**It's your village, your community, your website.**

# RIVER CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

## with Creek Paddles



I am Liz Berry, the passionate owner and driving force behind Creek Paddles, a venture I established in Wraysbury just 2<sup>1/2</sup> years ago. My journey in the world of paddleboarding began as a personal passion, but it has since blossomed into a fulfilling career as an instructor.

Over the past year, I have not only honed my skills as an instructor but also actively sought collaborations with local businesses. My partnerships with Canoe & Kayak Adventures in Windsor, LDB Supboarding at Thorpe Park, and Longside Lakes Watersports in Egham have allowed me to create opportunities for others to experience the joys of paddleboarding while contributing to vital river clean-up efforts.

One significant step in my journey was becoming a representative for Planet Patrol, a non-profit organisation dedicated to environmental conservation. This role has enabled me to guide and support others in their endeavours to make a positive impact by cleaning up our local rivers and lakes.



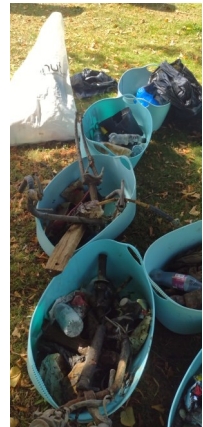
I was then invited by the founder of Planet Patrol to become a pace-setter for an unprecedented paddleboard challenge. This extraordinary challenge spanned 641 kilometers, took 28 days to complete, and traversed 8 different cities. I led a group of dedicated paddlers from Shepperton Lock to Romney Lock, where we not only explored the scenic waterways but also conducted crucial water quality tests for pollution at 5-kilometre intervals. Our findings are now being used to compile essential data for future conservation efforts.



This awe-inspiring adventure, known as "Race for Rivers," garnered support from various community stakeholders. We had the honour of involving the Mayor of Runnymede in the project at Staines Bridge, and The Tea Boat Project and Home Instead, Windsor and Runnymede provided unwavering support throughout our journey. Councillor Ewan Larcombe even joined us at Datchet for an insightful interview about the water conditions and was featured in a documentary produced by Planet Patrol.



My journey is far from over, as I remain dedicated to educating myself and others on the importance of taking an active role in preserving our environment. In celebration of Recycling Week, we organised a special event and we also conducted a successful clean-up initiative along Kingswood Creek in Wraysbury.



If you share my passion for making a positive impact on our local rivers, lakes, and environment as a whole, I invite you to follow Creek Paddles on social media or visit our website at [www.creekpaddles.co.uk](http://www.creekpaddles.co.uk). You can also get involved by volunteering your time and joining us in our mission to create a cleaner, healthier, and more vibrant natural world. Together, we can make a difference.

**Liz Berry**

BSUPA Instructor  
Creek Paddles

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Monday - Friday 07:00 - 17:00

Saturday - 07:00 - 13:00

Sunday - Closed

## St. Michael's Crafty Church



Crafty Church is a monthly group for crafters who want help, support, encouragement, who want to share their skills and knowledge, or just get on with their craft with people who "get it"!

We meet on the last Saturday of the month, from 1pm to 3pm. There is no charge and the kettle usually goes on at about 2pm. We meet at Champney Hall in Horton, SL3 9PA (what3words worms.lions.poppy).

Come and join us - bring your own crafts or come and see what others are doing! We often have donated fabric and wool available and have been given a Sizzix die cutter - but are happy to bring other craft resources if there is something specific you want to try. We love to see what people have been making and are very happy to assist if a project has stalled or you need some help.

You can contact us on [craftychurch@stmichaels-horton.org](mailto:craftychurch@stmichaels-horton.org)



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

## Community Spotlight

### Chris Davis



Chris was born in 1951 in Shepherd's Bush, the son of Cliff Davis, a car dealer and sports car racing driver. Chris has been surrounded by motoring all his life and his story is like a Who's Who of Motorsport. His life has had as many twists and turns as the Monaco circuit plus a few major crashes! But, let's start with Cliff....

#### The Famous Cliff Davis

Chris' father Cliff set the scene for Chris' obsession with racing. As a mechanic, Cliff's knowledge of cars saved his life during the war. Taken prisoner and held in a concentration camp, Cliff sabotaged a threshing machine and faced immediate execution. But fortunately, the camp Commandant was due to have his Mercedes serviced by Cliff the next day, so spared him his life.

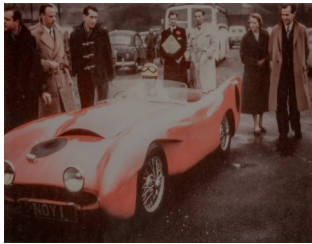
Cliff then became a successful racing driver during the 1950s, featured in Motorsport magazine and earning himself a coveted BRDC membership; you can still see his plaque on the wall at Goodwood. His career started with a brief spell in a Cooper JAP 500 single seater, racing alongside Bernie Ecclestone. He then went on to have success in Tojeiro cars with Bristol 2.0 and 1.5 MG engines, which he built himself on a ladder rack chassis. He dominated both classes with these cars, until John Tojeiro sold the cars to AC Motors. Their design inspired Carroll

Shelby to conceive the famous AC Cobra. Cliff's next car was the Lotus Bristol MK X featured in the film "Checkpoint" in 1956 with Anthony Steel, which he raced against Stirling Moss and Mike Hawthorn, the first British F1 champion. Chris' first memories of this golden era of Motorsport was being taken "round the block" in a Lotus racing car with the registration NOY1. Cliff later competed in the Monte Carlo Rally in another of the Tojeiro series, registration LOY 500, with no roll bar, seats belts (in fact no proper seats!), heater or even lights. Later, he repeated the adventure, this time in an MG Magnette, with the editor of Autosport magazine, Gregor Grant. LOY 500 and JOY 500 can still be seen at Goodwood Festivals.



*Cliff in his Monte Carlo rally car*





*Lotus MKX used in "Checkpoint"*



*Cliff in the AC Ace*

## School

Chris was taught to drive at the age of 9 by his grandfather, known as "The Guv", an "Arthur Daly" sort of chap with a Trilby hat and a Morris Minor van. Chris was then employed to park cars on the forecourt of his father's garage (Cliff Davis Motors) in Goldhawk Road.

Soon after, Chris was sent to boarding school in Sussex, where he stood out for being a bit savvier and maybe a little more "Cor-Blimey" than the other boys. Even there he got his driving fix by "racing" the Maths teacher's frog-eyed Sprite up and down the long drive. Chris was bright and qualified to get into Mill Hill school at age 13, near family friends Graham and Bette Hill. Chris often played with their children Damon and Brigitte, so when he could, he escaped school and went to see them. One day, he took a bet from 300 of the schoolboys that Graham would come to the school to visit him. This was a bit risky as Chris did not have the means to pay out if it failed. On the day, everyone was waiting in the drive for Graham to appear but "Oh Dear" .... no sign. Then, just as the boys were trailing off, calling Chris all the names under the sun, a roar came from up the road and a sports car sped into the grounds, did a 360 degree turn and the car was planted inches from the shocked schoolboys. Winding the window down, Graham said "Hi Chris, sorry I'm late, got a bit held up!" Well, that won Chris the bet and sealed him as a cool kid, although they still called him "The Docker" for his "forthright" turn of phrase....

On another occasion, Graham asked Chris to fly his plane back from Gibraltar to Malaga. Chris had training from the Air Cadets but was only a young lad. However, he took control while the crew enjoyed themselves with Graham. It was only when the Air Traffic Controllers heard a young voice, that they insisted the pilot come back and land it!



*Chris' family on holiday with  
Graham Hill*

## Entrepreneur

Chris left after his “O” levels and went back to Cliff Davis Cars as a cleaner and apprentice mechanic. Chris was working in the garage during the day and, being a natural entrepreneur, didn’t wait for his father to turn up at his usual time of 11am when a prospective buyer wanted a Mini at 9.30 am. Chris sold his first car on behalf of the



*The garage in Shepherd's Bush*

garage, a Mini, for £99. Instead of getting the praise he thought he deserved, Chris got a rollicking, for taking the buyer out for a test drive without a licence at the age of 15! It did, however, make him realise he could make more money buying and selling cars, than cleaning or repairing them.

He got his provisional licence in 1967 and had his own first “car” now he was legally able to drive..... a BMW! Don’t get too excited, it was a 3-wheeler Isetta “bubble car” as it was covered by his licence. He was supposed to blank out the reverse gear under the terms of the licence but no way! With the door on the front, he would never get in or out if he parked near another car or wall, so Chris “bent” the rules again. Once on the road, he started selling cars himself through the local papers and made much more than the £8/week his dad paid him.

## The Motorsport “Aura”

At his father’s garage, Chris didn’t earn much money but was in his element, as the associated lock ups were rented by Frank Williams, Bubbles Horsley (who introduced James Hunt to Lord Hesketh, the start of an amazing partnership), Sir John Whitmore with his Lotus Cortina, a Formula Junior racing team called Ausper, and also housed a F1 car built for Tony Maggs, a South African driver. The place was known as “Make or Break Alley”, many of the teams being financially broke but still pursuing their dreams. Some fell by the wayside, and some became world class, as you know. Chris’ love of racing was kept up at the time by karting with his cousins at Staines Stock Car and Dog Track, where Cliff used to race John Kaiser, owner of Autocraft Garages in Horton. John was succeeded by his son Van and grandson Ross Kaiser who also have the racing bug. Cliff lavished the money he made on a house in Chertsey Lane, with 100ft moorings, a swimming pool and a huge “River Room”. He hosted many parties, with guests such as Tommy Steele, Jimmy Clarke and Jack Brabham. He also bought a villa in Spain where Graham and Bette Hill visited, along with Alan Mann (who built “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang”) and Jochen Rindt, the first posthumously awarded F1 World Champion.

## The WHO

On his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, Chris got his full licence and immediately bought himself an E Type Jag without any brakes (why not?!). He was introduced to George Castell, who had a garage under the arches at Stamford Bridge. Known as “George the Weld” or “George the Jag”, he soon fixed the brakes and from that day on, they became great mates.

George maintained and repaired the cars of “*The Who*”, Chris’ idols. They ended up going backstage at a lot of their gigs and Chris, having a natural ear for music, tuned Pete Townsend’s guitars before and during performances. They’d often shop at The Skin Room in Ealing, buying leather gear to emulate their idols. Dressed in leather with tassels and snakeskin boots, Chris and George felt like one of the rock and roll set. They’d meet up with the band at the exclusive “Speakeasy Club” for a meal and drinks, chilling out with another George (Harrison) and Eric (Clapton).

When George Castell got banned from driving (clocked at 151mph over the Chiswick Flyover), Chris became the designated driver. One day, he took Keith (Moon) to an appointment just off Oxford Street in his Bentley. They were pulled up by a motorcycle cop, trying to work out where the loud expletives were coming from; Keith was in the back seat with a microphone attached to a tannoy system under the bonnet! They somehow managed to get away with a warning, although Keith was laughing and sucking his thumb like a naughty schoolboy. Keith was always crazy but very funny.



Chris did have a lucky escape, though, when he wasn’t available to take Keith to a nightclub in Middlesex, where Keith riled some lads on arrival, who were throwing coins at the Bentley. Keith’s driver got out to try to sort it out, but Keith, who didn’t drive, got behind the wheel and floored it in a panic. Tragically, he ran over his own driver.

One day, George and Chris were at a university gig with *The Who*, in front of 1000 students, when Keith raced backstage, gave Chris the percussion sticks and George the bongos and said “come on, we’re doing *Magic Bus*”. Luckily, Chris had been supplementing his garage income DJ’ing and playing in various groups at night, so they went on stage and played with The Who! They were deaf for over an hour afterwards..... no wonder Pete Townsend lost his hearing.

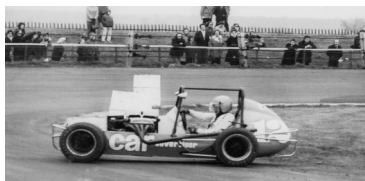
Chris saw Keith years later in a nightclub, and introduced him to girlfriend Sian, later his wife, who was amazed that Keith remembered him. George opened and still owns Lee Spares in Hythe End.

## The Dream is Sparked

Chris still desperately wanted to be a F1 racing driver after his heroes Graham Hill and Jim Clark (who he got drunk with celebrating Jim's World Championship win) but he lacked the backing needed to finance his dream. The cheapest single seater car was a Midget (not to be confused with the MG), an Indianapolis style oval track racer. The maximum engine size allowed was 1300cc, so Chris bought an old Dastle Mark III from Bubbles, not ideal for an oval track but great on the long stretches. The engine was then fitted to his next car, a front engine Dastle FF, made by Geoff Rumble in Ripley. Chris won 2 out of 3 races in Snetterton and knocked 14 seconds off the stock car record. By this time, Cliff had started racing again and they became a highly unusual, father and son team. Cliff had bought Les Leston's MK VII Dastle, a superior car, so kept beating Chris. As Chris says; *"Yes, he kept beating me, until I borrowed his car when he was on holiday and won the first outing, lapping up to 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Yes, the car does make a difference!"*



*Chris' second hand Midget*



*Cliff's superior Midget MK VII*

Chris must have done pretty well, because in 1971, just before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, the British Racing and Sports Car Club asked him if he would take part in the first Production Saloon Car Race at Brands Hatch. By this time, he had been buying and selling American cars at his dad's garage and they happened to have a 1965 Ford Mustang 289. He took it off the forecourt, drove to Brands Hatch, but came last in practice, as he didn't know the track and couldn't believe how big and wide it was compared to what he was used to. However, that worked in his favour; it turned out to be a handicap race, so he was now on pole and, being a bit more used to the track, won the race! He was awarded the garland and the chequered flag by DJ Mike Smith and did a lap of honour on the back of the Ford Capri track car; the feeling of euphoria was totally addictive....



*The winning Ford Mustang in the handicap race at Brands Hatch*

## Formula Ford – the first rung on the ladder

*“I wanted the real thing, the big tracks. But then, to be competitive, you had to have the big bucks. As I was totally self-financed, I had to go second-hand again, saving up for a Formula Ford single seater on the first rung of the ladder to F1.”*

Formula Ford is hugely competitive, and the entry fees are expensive. Not only that but the format is very different to Midgets. At 7am, Chris had to get to the track for scrutineering, practice at 11am and race at 5pm, with only 10 laps.

Chris bought an Alexis MK18B from Geoff Lees who briefly drove in F1. Chris' first test drive at Silverstone coincided with Geoff testing his brand-new car. He helped Chris with getting the lines right, the extra gear changes and at the end of the day, Chris was nearly keeping up with him, until Geoff went off at Woodcote.

*“I knew my car was old and underpowered, but I could out-brake and out-corner the big boys, who then sailed past me on the straights with a lot more power.”*

Chris' only choice was to pay for a better engine, and as a novice, could only take part in restricted status races, making entries being even harder to get. With only 20 mins to test the track at Mallory Park, he knew about the long sweeping corner of Gerards where you could drift the car around this right hander that just keeps going, until you run out of road and “fall off” the track, hitting the bank.

*“During the race, it was so windy, I thought I had chronic understeer and piled on the lock. The car's front was lifting and when it came back down and connected with the track, I spun like a top at 100mph. I'd learnt in the Midget to hold the wheel and spin on the car's axis, instead of careering into other drivers or hitting a barrier. So here I am, safely on the grass, which seems to speed things up, spinning round and round in a 360 movement. Fine, but no, hang on, there's a lake in the middle of Mallory Park, and I'm heading straight for it! Funny what goes through your mind in these situations: I've six seat belts on, two layers of fireproof clothing, a Bell Star crash helmet, roll bar and a collapsible steering column – I am going to xxxing drown!!!!”*

Luckily, Chris stopped just before the lake, pointing in the right direction, managed to dip the clutch without stalling, waved to the horrified marshals and took off again! At the other end of the track was a hairpin bend which seemed tighter than ever with his brakes fading and tyres screaming hot. He somehow survived, although the cheap road tyres were shredded and would never get him home.....



*The Formula Ford Alexis*

The day before his next race at Silverstone, his new engine had no oil pressure; it had been fitted with the wrong bearings..... and Chris wasn't allowed to work on his car during company hours, so it was a long night rebuilding the engine before the race. Also, the only vehicle with a tow bar was being used by his father, which he had to pick up at the crack of dawn before setting off for Silverstone. Qualifying 5<sup>th</sup>, Chris would have been on the second row of the grid BUT during practice, the flywheel came loose and nearly ruined the gearbox! The next race, again at Silverstone, was also full of drama; told to change his gearbox ratio for the longer straights by pulling out the gears from the back of the car, Chris ended up with cogs all over the road. Putting it all back together, he realised something was wrong when he started driving, as the gears weren't what they should be; 2<sup>nd</sup> was 3<sup>rd</sup> etc. Then the water pump broke so he "borrowed" one from a MII Cortina that happened to be in the car park, which he replaced after the race! Oh well, at least that kept Chris' race alive and in steaming hot temperatures, he finished 7<sup>th</sup>, beating Tiff Needell, who went on to present TV's "Fifth Gear".

The next entry couldn't be more different; Brands Hatch on a freezing Boxing Day. This time, throwing the car sideways into a tight right-hand bend landed him in a spin, to the delight of the fans. Finishing 4<sup>th</sup>, Chris realised his limitations of his Alexis or any other old car he could have afforded.

### **Goodbye to the F1 Dream**

Despite taking part in a few more races, Chris' car wasn't competitive and new blood was coming into the sport. So, he sold his car to his brother-in-law, Garry, who had been successful in Super Stocks, but while he demolished the opposition for a while, he also tried to demolish the fence on his first outing! Later, he was more successful with Hot Rods and now Garry Jnr and Jack are winning in the category. James Hunt had won the F1 World Championship aged 29 and Chris was now heading for 27, not having moved up the racing ladder. He realised there were more important things in his life now, with the business, buying his next home and being with the lady he loved.

### **Meeting Sian**

Working evenings on the cars had its upside though, as the Ravenscourt Arms provided beer and food at last orders for Chris and his mates. There he met Sian, a nurse who loved cars and had been in rallies. Sian became Miss Thursday, as every other day Chris was working. She never complained although that went on for two years. Chris realised that if he didn't change, he could lose a special person. He proposed and they got married in 1978.



## European Racing

Chris still couldn't resist racing in the Midget class from time to time, and qualified to represent Britain in the 1975 European Championship in Germany. By loading the car onto his American pick-up truck, with a 4-poster bed on the back, he not only saved the cost of a trailer on the ferry but also used the truck for some interesting publicity with ladies agreeing to pose on the truck too! Things didn't go so well on track, however, as one of the carburettor mountings had sheared off the manifold. Looking around for some welding gear, Chris found a German stock car racer who refused to lend him the gear. However, Chris desperately grabbed the gear and lit it, welding with flames coming out of the engine and sending the paddock people running for their lives! He needed to start the race to get the £100 fee to get home...

On the track, his wheels touched with Willi Weber, the top driver, at 70mph, which shot Chris' car up and over the crowd and landing on solid ground on the other side, so he had to retire. However, he did have a win that day, breaking the record in the bar for drinking 26 *Der Fleiger* drinks before being carried out! Luckily the next day's race in Holland was cancelled as he couldn't have driven...

## American Car Sales and the long hot summer of '76

Back in the UK, the garage was getting busier, with a new Spares and Custom Shop for American cars. Chris supplied cars for films



*Bay City Rollers promo car*

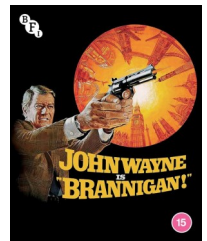
such as "The Omen" and "Brannigan"

with John Wayne. He became the man to go to for American cars, selling and buying with the likes of Lonnie Donegan, Errol Brown of Hot

Chocolate, Johnny Dankworth, Screaming Lord Sutch, Lemmy of Motorhead, Pete Townsend and Mick Ralphs and Paul Rodgers from Bad Company. He also maintained John Entwistle's Cadillac Convertible.

Air conditioning was sought after as it was the hot summer of 1976 and one week, Chris sold 10 cars and

had to chase around for more stock. In the middle of all this, Chris was hired to promote the film "Linda Lovelace for President", having to drive around the West End in the American pick-up truck with 5 ladies on the back and a tannoy with the advert. Unfortunately, Chris didn't have the luxury of Air Con, so they all stopped off at Cliff's house with the swimming pool for a skinny dip each day to cool down, a bit awkward when Aunt Eunice and Uncle Viv turned up with their children!



## ASCAR

In 1979, while Sian was pregnant, Chris started Ascar racing, with 6 pilot races at Mallory Park. It was a success and so became a 12-race championship in 1980. The Cliff Davis Car team won this first championship.



*The winning ASCAR team in Chevy Camaros (Robin Gray left, Chris right)*

## Giving Back

Cliff never came to watch Chris racing but Chris' mum, Sylvia, never missed a race if she could help it. Sylvia was one of the founder members of the WMRAC, the wives of the racing drivers who raised money for families of drivers who died, sadly too many in those days, and for whom there was no life insurance. Known as the "Dog House", the women held many fundraising events which Chris and Sian were involved in. Chris played the Dame at The Mayfair Theatre and Count Dracula at the Mermaid Theatre, alongside Graham Hill as Genie, Bette Hill also taking a role. Sian too threw herself behind every event, even dancing in stockings, all for charity. Sylvia sadly passed away in 2020.



*Sian (middle)*



*Sian (right) with Brigitte Hill 1978*



*Chris as Dame at The Mayfair Theatre*



## Wraysbury

Chris chose to leave his father's garage in early 1982, which was sold a year later, but Chris didn't benefit financially, so he started selling cars from home (not popular with the neighbours....) and also lost a lot of money on a failed theatre project (another story....). That was when he sold the house in Wembley and moved to Wraysbury, thanks to a recommendation from a friend. In Wraysbury, he found a house for him and Sian with a beautiful outlook on a lake. He also met another friend, Anne Sykes from Fulham, in Wraysbury and they introduced him to Bill Copeland and "*the wonderful, charismatic Bob Cheeseman, owner of 5 Continents and Liftco Transport and Crane Company*". These friends, along with Bill Bird, used to drink at The Feathers pub and have some stories to tell! They also helped Chris find work. The Ball family, who originally owned Chris and Sian's house in Wraysbury, were also very supportive. Buying and selling cars from the house, steam cleaning and repairs became Chris' new life in Wraysbury, as well as doing pub quizzes around the area. In 1986, Chris joined the Wraysbury Players and reignited his love of acting, playing the lead in *The Vagabond Prince* as well as acting in other productions.



*The Vagabond Prince*



Family wise, Chris and Sian's daughter, Sarah, joined the Army and was in Iraq in 2003. Daughter Nicky has two sons and son Jon and wife Emily have their first baby on the way.

*With Sarah and Nicky*

Sian was Matron at St. Bernard's in Langley and then manager of various Nursing Homes so between them they kept everything going and stayed in their beloved Wraysbury. Sadly, Chris lost his lovely wife Sian 5 years ago, who bravely fought but lost to cancer; "*As I always say, I'm still here and get to say "Thank You" to everyone in Wraysbury, who have been so understanding and supportive*".



Sian

Mark Walker took over Chris' garage in the late '90s and established **Car Care**, along with Tommy, Jamie and Luke. They service the Wraysbury Village Trust minibus for free, look after Slough Community minibuses and received an award from Polaris for excellent service throughout the Pandemic. They still look after ambulances and are very busy, so Chris says;

*"Apologies for the vehicles parked outside on Welley Road, hopefully it deters speeding and don't worry if you see the odd ambulance – I'm not dead yet!"*



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A photograph of several painting brushes with yellow and green handles and bristles, arranged diagonally across the frame. The background is a soft, light blue gradient.

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You know questions should be asked.

Each boy belonged to someone  
A brother, a cousin, or son  
But he's gone, lost, wasted  
Surely something's wrong!

You see memorial stones in your village  
And they mean so much to you  
There's one in every village  
There's so little you can do.

These stones are all over Europe,  
Our Commonwealth, Worldwide  
There's a stone for mums to remember  
Even for boys on the other side.

For every tear shed on our side  
There's a tear shed elsewhere  
Bombs and barbed wire made to kill  
They're not made to care.

War never solves the problem  
It only makes things worse  
Ask mothers and fathers worldwide  
They all know it's the reverse

The boys died for our future  
They died to make 'ours a better place'  
The evils that they fought against  
To preserve the human race.

But it's only the survivors  
Who can see what's been achieved  
Have these boys that went to war for us  
Been sadly, cruelly deceived?

*By Graham Sinclair*



## WRAYSBURY CRICKET CLUB

As the leaves start to fall on the village green, it is great to be able to reflect on a challenging cricket season in Wraysbury. The 2023 season started with much anticipation for all teams including both the seniors and the colts. However, we never quite reached our expectations and apart from the 3<sup>rd</sup> team winning their league for back-to-back promotions, it was a struggle. That said, we were able to progress at all levels as we challenged our preconceived ideas of the level we could reach. Most of the senior and all the junior teams had moved up a league which really challenged our depth. For a cricket club in a village the size of Wraysbury, playing teams from major towns like Slough and Windsor is extremely difficult but we were able to hold our own, most of the time. What was very pleasing was to identify more Colts who can make the step up to senior cricket with our 4<sup>th</sup> team playing friendlies against all the teams we will be playing in that league in 2024. The results achieved by these young players were quite incredible, considering that all of them had never played an adult game before this season. They won most of their games, one even with 9 players, 6 of whom were Colts.

Another fantastic development was the upgrade of the new cricket nets. The old facility, kindly bought by the Parish Council many years ago, had become a hazard and needed replacing. Thank you to all those who supported this initiative, whether that was in donations, attending events or merely having a drink at the bar. I can assure you that all the young cricketers in the village are extremely grateful, they absolutely love this facility.

Redevelopment of the Village Green continued, as more of the outfield was levelled for both sporting and recreational purposes. It is our mission to ensure that this facility is improved every year for the enjoyment of all. We are only able to make these upgrades with improved equipment, which comes at a considerable cost, but were hampered by a very slow season in our search for revenue to fund this equipment. Inclement weather and a lack of resources to host events cost us dearly this summer, but we aim to rectify that by formalising our relationship with our volunteers to include them in the decision-making processes of our club. We will welcome anyone in the village who would like to get involved. The hard work will start early in 2024 and I invite all who are interested to get in touch with me to discuss.

Another fantastic development has been the growth of the women's rounders that we are looking forward to converting to cricket proper in 2024. This will be spread into two sections, firstly we will continue the rounders, to encourage participation, and secondly, we will arrange cricket laws friendlies against teams in our area such as Egham CC and Kew CC. Our outcome of this is to be able to enter our first ever women's league team in our 100<sup>th</sup> season in 2025.

The 2024 season will be a pivotal one, as with increased numbers of Colts and the increase to 4 Saturday League teams in the TVCL, we will have greater demands on our facilities. Upgrades to the pavilion and the changing rooms are urgently required to ensure inclusion for all, especially women's and disability cricket. These changes are not merely cosmetic, they are demanded by England Cricket as part of their growth strategy for the game. Your support in these endeavours will be much appreciated. This club is a charity and all the profits earned from the bar and other events go straight to these kind of initiatives.

The annual cricket week was a huge success with fantastic sponsors and a renewed commitment from the MCC to attend this event every year (most other clubs only get a bi-annual fixture). They have already committed to their fixture in 2024 which will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, so you have plenty time to make plans to attend this honorary fixture. Our week was slightly sad as it was the first year without our dear friend Liz Dean. On President's Day we observed a minute's silence to remember this great woman and the massive contribution that she made in our lives; she will be sorely missed.

The balcony at the club again proved popular when the cricket eventually got underway this season and we hope that it will continue to be a feature of village life in 2024. To this end we are opening up Social Membership of the club again which will enable villagers to come and use the club facilities and enjoy a drink on the balcony or in the marquee. We are fortunate to have such a lovely place to play and watch cricket and it would be good to welcome people to the Village Green in 2024.

Wraysbury Cricket Club is open to all who wish to play cricket or socialise, and we particularly welcome players and social members from the village. In terms of cricket, we have 4 Saturday League teams in the TVCL, women's rounders, a good Sunday Social team, a thriving Colts section and our annual subscriptions are still among the lowest in the area.

For more information about the club contact the Chairman, Michael Ward, on 07931 038325 and [chairman@wraysburycricket.co.uk](mailto:chairman@wraysburycricket.co.uk) or for playing affairs Andy Prasad is available on 07921 801338 and [1stXI@wraysburycricket.co.uk](mailto:1stXI@wraysburycricket.co.uk) The Colts cricket contacts are Andy Freeman who is available on 07747 898110 or Iffy Wain on 07983 570494 and [colts@wraysburycricket.co.uk](mailto:colts@wraysburycricket.co.uk) or go to [www.wraysbury.play-cricket.com/home](http://www.wraysbury.play-cricket.com/home).

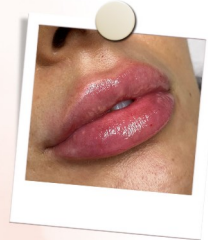
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Horton Community Coffee morning is open every Monday morning (excluding bank holidays). As the days get colder we can also offer a "Warm Space" including soup and a roll for lunch.

As well as coffee, we offer tea, chat and biscuits (and sometimes cake). RBWM library services open at the same time and we have jigsaw puzzles to borrow or swap and have a laptop so we can offer IT support. A group of local knitters often meet at the coffee morning and can help if you have any knitting or crochet questions.

We offer occasional "make and take" craft sessions and have children's activities for the school holidays (no charge, everything provided by St Michael's).

We provide signposting - recent examples include signposting to local support groups such as:

- Windsor Homeless Project
- Windsor FoodShare
- RBWM housing dept
- Samaritans and Shout
- Thames Valley Police
- RBWM Community Wardens

We can also provide assistance through our partners who often attend the Coffee Morning:

- Horton Parish Council
- Wraysbury & Horton Voluntary Care
- St Michael's Church
- Wraysbury Matters
- Wraysbury & Horton Repair Café



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**DEPRESSION**  
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no motivation inadequacy  
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**Ruth Fogg MSc**

**Therapist .Speaker. Author**

## HORTON HISTORY NEWS

Horton has a blog where a historical information about the village is being saved as we find it. It is available to all to view at [hortonshistory.blogspot.com/](http://hortonshistory.blogspot.com/)

If you have any photos or scanned documents about the village that you are happy to share please email them to [ChampneyHall@gmail.com](mailto:ChampneyHall@gmail.com) and we will add them. Thank you



Recent additions include information and photos about Horton's war graves and Arthur Jacobs (the nature reserve was named for him). We are in the process of scanning and uploading documents relating to the village from the early 1900s. If you would like to help us with this project, please visit Champney Hall on a Monday morning or email us on [ChampneyHall@gmail.com](mailto:ChampneyHall@gmail.com)

## Floating their boats

*Pub chat launches a waterborne Wraysbury phenomenon*

They bore down on the unsuspecting, hapless waterside diners swiftly and remorselessly, their dread black skeleton flags aloft, the dull thuds of exploding bombs echoing across the water, a cutlass-waving horde straining at guardrails to reach their victims ashore.

Er, not quite what the packed customers at Walton-on-Thames's Anglers pub were expecting as 14 largeish cruisers rafted up 7 abreast and the pirate swarm leaped to the bank on a sunny day in mid-June.

That the 'pirates' were children of all shapes and sizes; their cutlasses plastic and the 'bombs' were water-filled balloons hurled mainly between the marauding boats, did not save Angler' patrons from being relieved of cash. It having been pointed out that filling waved charity buckets might just be preferable to walking the plank, there followed the chink and rustle of yielded doubloons - ok, then; coins, fivers and tenners - all along the bankside.

Thus proceeded Penton Hook Yacht Club's annual 'kids' Pirates Charity Day. It is a glorious, boisterous, slightly barmy, not - so - much a cruise as flotilla on manoeuvres. And that it takes place is something for which local charities over the years have become rather grateful – this year it's been White Lodge, the Chertsey-based centre caring for the disabled which also provides support for their families. Almost needless to say, it wasn't only Anglers' patrons left with lighter wallets. Locks, moorings and other pubs were pillaged all along the route.

So what's all that got to do with Wraysbury? Well, close to half the marauding boats were from the Fleet.



*Pirates prepare*

## The Fleet?

Indeed; “The Wraysbury Fleet”. Formed just five years ago, it is a name now resonating ever-further up and down the Thames.

Originally planned by its founders to be called the Wraysbury “Armada”, the name was toned down for fear of causing – er, fear. In sharp contrast, it now causes riverside pub and restaurant landlords’ eyes’ to light up when news of the Fleet’s approach spreads. “They could have called it *The Wraysbury Thirst*”, one observer suggests.

It was just over five years ago that Michael Gorman, whose Broom cruiser rejoices in the name of “Lively Lady”, first got to wondering whether a few other boating friends might be persuaded to get together for an occasional trip. That led to chatting it over with friend (Long?) John Meller and later with a small group of fellow water rats including veteran boater, soon afterwards to be organiser-in-chief, Ian Rhodes. Ian in turn enlisted the help of day boat enthusiasts Rob la Roche and Colin Pye (both John and Colin are recently-elected Wraysbury Parish Councillors). None of them could have had any inkling of what would later unfold; as of this being written, in mid-October, the Wraysbury Fleet has grown to comprise a mighty 38 boats. There are over 60 individual members, and the number of Wraysburians and other friends who have variously voluntarily enjoyed or been press ganged into crewing by now must be measured in hundreds.



So...Gin Palace Central? Not at all. The boats come in all different shapes and sizes. OK, Simon Kain’s magnificent Sealine “Bad Buoys” does look almost big enough to run Saga cruises. But they range all the way down: through mid-sized and smallish, both modern and classic cruisers, to day boats, ribs and dinghies. “The only requirement is that we all look out for each other and ensure that we have a good time”, says Colin, whose wife, new Wraysbury Parish Council Clerk Karyn, is as keen on the water as Colin himself.

*Just messing about on the river*

Few who took part will forget the Fleet's first formal get-together, around a year after the founding. Well over a dozen boats took part in a boisterous junket through Wraysbury's home waters between Ham Island weir and Runnymede's Bell Weir lock. That joyous, thumping music soaring out from Cunard's Princess of the Seas - sorry, "Bad Buoy" – was no less than Wingit!, Wraysbury's favourite band lined up across the transom. Except that one member was missing: one Mr Xavier Herring, Wraysbury's answer to Alan Titchmarsh and that chap who every year turns the outside of The Perseverance pub and the cricket club's balcony into Chelsea Flower Show. Instead, the appropriately-named Herring was to be found seated, legs akimbo on the bow of "The Kitchen's" Garry and Nicky Hall's dayboat "Dolly Daydream", playing his heart out on guitar (or was it ukelele?)

Since then, however, "Generally now it tends to be smaller groups from the Fleet joining together for mainly days out rather than larger groups", says Colin. "This is merely for logistics reasons. If you have ever tried to keep five or more boats together when going through a lock during the height of summer you will appreciate how difficult it would be to have twice or even three times that many. We have had those days and they are fun but generally chaos ensues."

Chertsey's lock keeper would have agreed wholeheartedly with Captain Pye on the day of the Fleet's and Penton Hook Club's foray up to Walton. Exactly what boaters going upstream thought of the sight of wall-to-wall Jolly Rogers bearing down on them, we'll never know. Nor is it known who, exactly, started the Prosecco inter-boat cork firing wars. However, among the things that did emerge are that a) Fleet and Wraysbury Trust stalwart Andy Davison couldn't hit an elephant with a fizz cork at 20 feet and b) 14 piratical cruisers arriving simultaneously at Chertsey lock is almost certainly the worst nightmare ever to be experienced by that increasingly rare species, the EA lock-keeper. One haunting, frustrated cry still echoes: "Blimey, there's more lines round this bollard than the Underground."



*Christmas Cruise Time*

Since that first venture onto home waters, the Fleet has ventured – in varying-sized groups -as far upriver as Oxford, where the barely 7-foot headroom of Osney Bridge bars the way to all but low-slung vessels seeking to reach the limit of navigation above the pretty Cotswolds town of Lechlade. On such adventures, there has been the opportunity to once again enjoy the hospitality of Wraysbury’s departed old hands Ben Smith and Katie Morgan, Ben having sold The George gastropub to buy the 300-year-old Beetle and Wedge, one of the Thames’ most famous riverside watering holes (with moorings and accommodation), upriver of the Goring Gap at Moulsoford.

“We’ve also been downriver to London and beyond”, says Colin. “Downriver” for the Fleet majority means mainly one place: St Katherine’s Dock, lying within the shadows of the Tower of London and Tower Bridge. Surrounded also by restaurants and pubs, it is one of London’s most attractive venues and a magnet for yachts and cruisers from around the world. Some of the Fleet, venturing through its lock for the first time, half-expected to be treated with

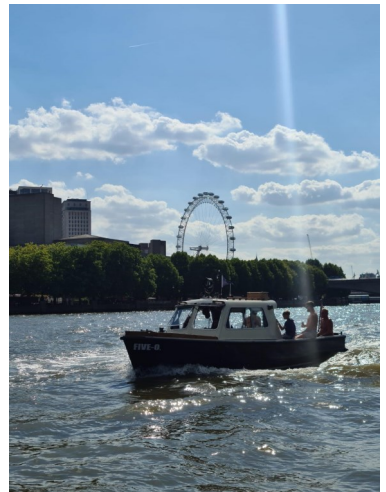


*Fleet getting the VIP treatment*

condescension. Older hands knew better. Sure enough, “moor up around the VIP platform; there’s no-one else using it this weekend”, came the ever-friendly instruction. Its green astroturf, huge gazebo roof, sofas and armchairs scattered around, dining table for 30 and a self-stock bar allowed the Fleet to party like royalty all weekend.



*The Fleet says au revoir to St. Katherine’s dock*



*Eye eyed*

“A lot of the Fleet members are also members of the Penton Hook Club and regularly join with boats from Penton for trips throughout the year”, adds Colin. His “beyond”, however, represents a smidgen of understatement, for the Penton Club is happy to be fully sea-going. Just a few weeks ago, one of its last cruises of the year was scheduled to be up England’s East Coast, along its sand banks and restless North Sea. The Fleet’s experienced members are only too keen to stress that once down on to the Thames tideway and estuary, boating becomes a more complex and potentially hazardous business than gently cruising up the river. Day skipper and VHF qualifications, with the ability they provide, not to be left helpless if a GPS chart plotter develops a glitch, are not just desirable, but experts regard as essential.

“Overall, the river is a great place to be at any time of the year as long as it’s not flowing too fast and it’s safe to navigate”, Colin continues (not that Wraysburians need much telling in the wake of 2014 flooding and jokes about the nearest town being Staines-Below-Thames). “You pass through towns and villages that you know well and have visited many times by road. But they look entirely different when viewed from the river”. Cruising through millionaires’ rows such as Bray may well invoke some ‘house envy’, he acknowledges. “But boating is also a good leveller. You can have a fabulous day on a boat whether its 15 feet or 50; it’s about the company you are with and the calmness of the river. So if you fancy joining the Fleet, just contact any of the Admins or message via the Fleet Facebook page. Or if you just fancy a day out then shout up, some of the larger boats are often grateful for additional crew.”

So, where does the Fleet go from here? And what’s on board for 2024? “It’s early days yet when it comes to planning and drawing up a precise schedule”, says one of the Fleet’s enthusiastic members, Paul Bowker. One thing is for sure, he suggests, the camaraderie and joint ventures between Fleet and Penton Hook Yacht Club will continue and the ties grow ever closer.



*Homeward bound*

Paul should know. He’s a senior committee member of Penton Hook Yacht Club.

*Written by John Griffiths*



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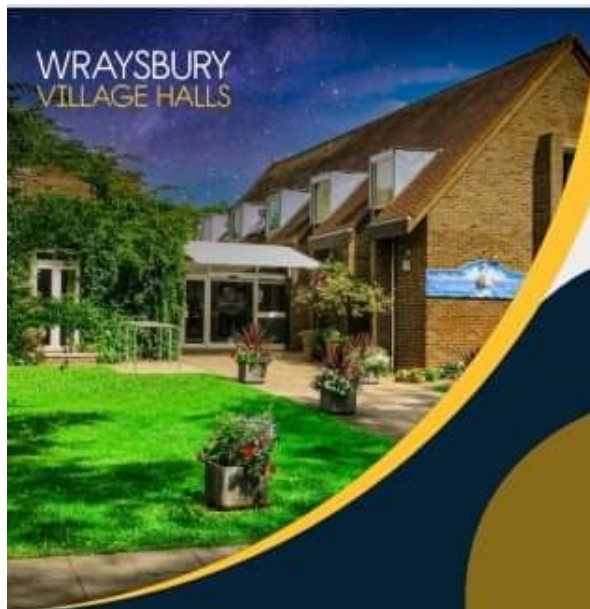
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## Wraysbury Village Halls

Here we are again in the run up to Christmas, how the months, like Santa's sleigh, are flying by!

Thank you to those who attended our 50th Anniversary event held at the Halls back in May. A distant memory now, but a very happy one and our thanks go to Trustee Marilyn Ferguson and her incredible team of helpers for putting on a fantastic evening which will be long remembered! Here's looking forward to the next 50 years (by which time we will have replaced our roof!).

As you might know, Wraysbury Village Halls are run as a charity by a management committee made up of Trustees, who are all local residents or representatives of clubs and societies who regularly use the Halls. We are currently looking for a new Trustee and are keen to invite enquiries from local individuals who would be willing to stand as a Trustee on the committee. You do not need any specific experience, just a willingness to help run the Halls for the benefit of the Wraysbury and Horton community. The Trustees meet four times a year in March, June, September and December for a couple of hours in the evening. Trustees are unpaid (except expenses) but the role is rewarding and fulfilling with a sense of giving something back to the community.

The Trustee board are keen to promote diversity and inclusion and therefore would be very interested to hear from applicants of any age and especially from groups who are under-represented on the committee, such as those who identify themselves as coming from ethnic minority or disadvantaged backgrounds, or those living with disabilities.

If you would like any further information on standing as a Trustee, or to have an informal chat with one of our current Trustees, then please contact me at [wraysburyvillagehallssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wraysburyvillagehallssecretary@gmail.com).

The Halls always have lots of great activities in the run up to Christmas and also the famous Wraysbury Players pantomime in January (oooooh noooooo we don't!). Please log onto our website [www.WraysburyVillageHalls.co.uk](http://www.WraysburyVillageHalls.co.uk) and check out the "What's on" section for more details and contact information for each club or society. Also don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for details of upcoming events.

On behalf of the Wraysbury Village Halls Management Committee, I would like to wish all our Halls supporters a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon.

***Alice Hopkins***

***Secretary & Treasurer, Wraysbury Village Halls***



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## Wraysbury



### Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

With moving into my new home in Old Windsor in March this year, I've been able to focus on getting all of the Wraysbury Girlguiding units up and running again.

Girls are now able to join Rainbows at 4 years old and can stay in a local Girlguiding unit into adulthood.

The aim of Girlguides is to help girls grow and develop their confidence and self belief. Activities are based around 6 themes and the girls are actively encouraged to take a hands-on approach in deciding what the unit does each week.

I am actively seeking other adults that would like to volunteer. Additional adult help is needed to run 1st Wraysbury Rainbows that meet from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Tuesdays and 1st Wraysbury Guides that meet from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm on Fridays during term time.

In addition to the unit assistance, I am also looking for adults that would be prepared to offer their time to assist with administrative duties and fundraising.

If you would like to find out more about any of the above, please call me on 07914 673278 or email me at [giovanna.cochrane@btinternet.com](mailto:giovanna.cochrane@btinternet.com).

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## Wraysbury Primary School

Well who knows what the weather will be like as you read this, but writing it now in October, our children are enjoying an extended summer! They are using our school grounds to their fullest and it is just a shame that we are not still swimming in our gorgeous pool!

This summer we held our Sports Days and gave our Reception children a wonderful Graduation and our Leavers a wonderful send off (trampolines and pizza – what a combination!). We were entertained by our Years 5 and 6 in their production “I’m an eleven year old, get me out of here!” Can you guess which TV show it was based upon? We also enjoyed two great residential trips, one to Northampton for Year 4 and one to the Isle of Wight for Years 5 and 6.

The autumn term is nearing its end as you read this and we have had a wonderful term; our Family Sharing where we opened the classrooms up to the parents to come and see the learning, our Stay and Play for Reception and Welcome and Harvest assemblies for parents. We have had our PCSO Les in school chatting to us and seeing if there is anything that the Police can do to help our families.

We have already been taking part in our sporting fixtures and we have had successes! Following on from the success of the Lionesses, our Year 4s came 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Windsor Schools Football Tournament! What an achievement coming in the top 3 with both our teams!!!

As you may know our children and families love to fundraise and Breast Cancer Awareness is dear to our heart, so we raised money in the form of a Pink Day! Everyone dressed in an item of pink clothing and we had a Pink Staff Raffle. The Christmas events are all planned; the Christmas Productions, Carol Singing out and about in the Community, the Christmas Lunch, the Fayre and the ever popular Christmas Shop (known as Elfridges) where children get the chance to purchase a present of their choice for a person of their choice, wrap it and take it home to put under the tree. As you will remember, we also have our much loved Christmas Tree Festival (with a twist!) on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Do watch out for updates on the school Twitter feed or website.


This term we are focusing hugely on our Mental Health and Wellbeing and in fact we still have our trained Mental Health practitioner from the NHS working on site one day a week which is fantastic as it means we can target help at those that need it.

Looking forward to January and the New Year, we have many exciting things planned! We will be having the last of our Open Mornings, so if you have a child due to start school in September 2024, do come and have a look around. Details will be on the website. The closing date is the 15<sup>th</sup> January – which is not far away! This is the website you need to look for [Starting school or moving up to junior school in September 2024 | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead \(rbwm.gov.uk\)](https://www.rbwm.gov.uk)

*Alison Fox, Headteacher*

## Answers to the WINTER QUIZ

1. The BBC
2. Lorraine Chase
3. Lola (The Kinks)
4. John Ronald Reuel
5. Belize
6. They concealed a poisonous knife
7. Tora Tora Tora
8. Pantomime
9. Cheese rolling
10. The St. Leger
11. Speyside
12. Peter Shilton (125) Wayne Rooney is second with 120
13. Limestone
14. Fruit & Vegetables (street seller)
15. A Blaze
16. Holyhead, Wales
17. Tom Cruise
18. Tears
19. 17 (B3 U1 T1 T1 E1 R1 F4 L1 Y4)
20. The Lion King



If you've enjoyed Sarah's quiz, why not try Quiz Night at **THE PERSEVERANCE** on Thursday evenings, 9 pm? £2 per person, all welcome!



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## EGHAM CHORAL A TRADITIONAL CHOIR – FOUNDED 1953

Egham Choral is a friendly and busy traditional choral society. There are several Wraybury residents who sing in the choir across all voice parts. This season marks our Seventieth Anniversary.

Writing this in September when we are enjoying the last of the fantastic summer weather it is hard to believe we are already preparing for Christmas in the choir. Our exciting Christmas concert is on Friday 15th December. Don't miss this wonderful festive event. After an absence of many years, we are absolutely thrilled to be singing in the wonderful chapel at Royal Holloway College. If you have never seen this special building, it will really add to the atmosphere of what is shaping up to be a wonderful concert.

Sadly, we said goodbye in July to our Musical Director as he moved to Shrewsbury but after a strenuous audition process we are settling into a new baton and excited the RHUL will be his first concert with us.

Our busy social programme has continued as we try to make any new members feel part of the choir family - coffee mornings, pub nights, theatre trips, quiz nights, Bring & Sing concerts. Never a dull moment!

Why not join us in the new year? We have a busy programme for the whole year, with concerts in April (Brahms, German Requiem) & July (with a special celebration for our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday). There are no auditions to worry about and someone in each voice part is designated to welcome you and look after you through your first weeks with us. There will be a FREE Open Rehearsal in January do come along and raise your voice. It is fantastic therapy!

We rehearse on Monday evenings from 7:30pm to 9:30pm – broadly following school terms. The rehearsal venue is the United Church of Egham (UCE), High Street, Egham. The venue is accessible with a ramp and wide doors. There is plenty of parking nearby (free in the evenings).

Contact our chairman at [chairman@eghamchoral.org](mailto:chairman@eghamchoral.org). for more details and do visit our website for up-to-date concert news and ticket purchases.  
[www.eghamchoral.org](http://www.eghamchoral.org)

**Lynn Moran** (member since 1982, proving it is a great place to sing!)

# WRAYSBURY'S GOT TALENT!

## 2023

On September 23rd, **WRAYSBURY'S GOT TALENT!** was hosted for the third year by Wraysbury Players. It was again a roaring success, the talent this year being really top class.

The Grand Finale is the culmination of months of auditions and rehearsals to bring together the best of local talent in a glamorous setting for a wonderful evening of entertainment:

*"Was amazing from beginning to end. So much talent, thank you"*

*"The highlight of the year! Please save me seats for 2024!"*

*"Bill and Ben was so funny and the script was great!"*

*"The judging panel were all knowledgeable in their fields"*

*"So much talent in and around Wraysbury"*

This year our hosts were once again the brilliant double act of **Terry Gleed** and **John "Ginge" Dewhurst**, who you may have seen together on Facebook. Imagine a local version of Eric and Ernie with all the corny jokes and fantastic singing. Their rapport and good humour made for a great atmosphere - and Terry's performance of a Latin Medley supported by The Resolution Dance Company in gold lame was fantastic! *"those hips don't lie"* as Shakira would say...



But enough about the hosts, what about the judges? This year the gorgeous **Bunty Bailey** from *Hot Gossip* returned, accompanied by **Carol Howard**, with her wonderful stage and directing experience of over 50 years. The ladies were joined this year by **Jim Minter**, Wraysbury Players chairperson and notorious Panto Dame, bringing his great sense of humour and debonair style. We also invited **Anoop Sira**, last year's winner, to be an honorary judge. A talented singer-songwriter, Anoop also played piano and sang again during the voting, which reminded us why he was a well deserved winner.



And we could not have put on a spectacular show like this without the help of an amazing team:

- Sound and Lighting: **Steve Courtney** and **Ian Santry**
- Backstage crew: **Steevan Glover, Ronnie Glover, Ana Stavriniades** and **Nick Haymonds**.
- Front of House: **Corinne Bryant, Lynn Holden, Henry Perez, Ben French, Laura Lloyd, Jacqui Lindegger** and **Sarosh Khan**



And now for THE RESULTS..... drum roll please!

FIRST PLACE: **ISAAC HOWARD- REAL**

No wonder Isaac has just won a place at the renowned Mountview School of Theatre Arts to study Musical Theatre! He performed “Music of The Night” from Phantom of the Opera, and from the moment he stood on stage and took a deep breath, we were all spellbound. Haunting, mesmerising and utterly beautiful, his performance left me shaking and near to tears. He held us all in the palm of his hand. I know everyone who heard him will be saying we saw him at the beginning of his career, because he WILL be on the West End stage one day soon! He absolutely deserves his trophy and £100 prize money.

**CONGRATULATIONS ISAAC!!**



And now..... the amazing runner up.....

Second Place: **YASH SARAN** As a 13 year old student of the Royal Academy of Music, Yash is unused to performing but his piano playing was absolutely amazing. We were all astonished at the quality and intensity of his performance, with his fingers seeming

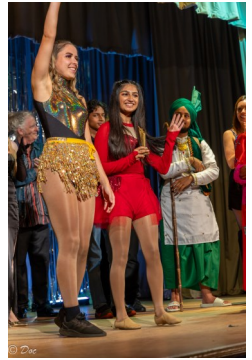


to dance over the keys. He delighted us with the Gershwin number “The Man I Love” and Chopin’s Etude A flat major;op. 25, no. 1.

He absolutely deserves his trophy.



Third Place: **THE RESOLUTION DANCE COMPANY** Not only did this versatile and creative team provide backing dancers for Sam Henry and Terry Glead, they amazed us with their spectacular and powerful dance to “The Greatest Showman”. The whole audience were enthralled with the costumes and creative choreography. Congratulations to Heather and all the girls.



And here are the other acts who performed. **ALL** of them worked really hard to give us an entertaining evening, thank you all so much!

**Lucy Moreland:** This year, Lucy showed us a completely different side to her talent; a rock chick emerged and sang the raunchy “Out Tonight” from Rent The Musical. She was HOT!



**Sam Henry:** Our Wild Card from last year, Sam opened the show with an bang! She took us back to the ‘60s, singing “Shout!” backed by The Resolution Dance Company, what a start!



**Pete Cox:** Pete treated us to a spoken word spectacular, a journey of word play, fluidly flowing from one topic to another with humour and passion. What a treat.....



**Wendy Kessack:** Our runner-up last year, Wendy treated us to a beautifully sung double bill of “Somewhere” and “Tonight” from West Side Story, in her soaring operatic voice..wonderful.



**Arjan and Arun:** Third place winners last year, they have got even better this year, Arun singing with incredible passion and Arjan adding his own flair to the song “Another Love”; fabulous.

**Chalice:** a stark, visceral performance from this duo. A mix of spoken word and singing, the band gave us a lot to think about with lyrics like “*Sorry red enamel, cane on sharp flesh, the machine made the rattle and you’re laid to rest*”, accompanied by the haunting rhythm of the guitar.

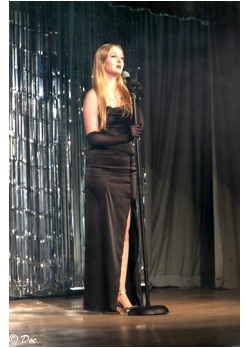


**Honor Redman:** Honor has a beautiful tone to her voice and projected all the emotion possible with her rendition of “Heart of Stone” from SIX, The Musical. You could listen to her all night.

**Run Free:** This newly formed, although highly experienced, four piece band fronted by the lovely singer Sue, entertained us with a medley of soul and funk including a crowd pleasing “Love Train”. What a great sound....they’d get a party going anywhere!



**Megan Perry:** Megan looked incredible in a black satin dress with long evening gloves, just perfect for the James Bond theme “No Time To Die”. She performed the song beautifully, the eerie tones transporting us into this enigmatic world of mystery.



**Meharpal Singh:** Meharpal filled the stage with colour and energy, performing Bhangra dancing to an even higher level than last time. He left nothing behind, using props and all his amazing personality to entertain us, mixing fiery with soft. No wonder he was exhausted, we were exhilarated!

**Watch With Mother:** Well, if you remember Andy Pandy from last year, you’ll appreciate that we had to do another spoof of a children’s TV programme. This year, Bill and Ben can’t resist a “Little Weed” growing in a warm corner of the greenhouse. They of course get a little “high” and see psychedelic flowers appearing before their eyes! Finally, the gardener tries to eliminate Little Weed with a fatal spray but clever Bill has switched the bottles, so she gets fertilised instead (and yes, all the innuendo is deliberate) - brought the house down again!



Thanks to David “Doc” White for the photos and Wraysbury Players for hosting another brilliant production





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## SPELTHORNE CHORAL SOCIETY

Monday nights are special for Gill Henry – because Monday nights are choir nights! No matter how bad her day at work, or how dark or cold, singing as part of the Spelthorne Choral Society (SCS) each week is a must for her.

And she's not alone. 'I know I'll come out of choir uplifted and in good spirits', explains Helen Senior, a member of the society for 7 years. 'I come to choir, tired after a long day's work and I leave energised. Singing in a group is a wonderful experience'.

Choir members Magdalena and Daphne have also both found being part of the choir therapeutic. It helped them both to cope with the loss of loved ones. 'Singing with SCS stops me feeling sad. You can't think of anything else whilst you are singing - I love it', says Magdalena. "I find singing this wonderful music so therapeutic. It's helped me through this very difficult time" adds Daphne.

Whereas for Linda and Kieran it's the escapism and the opportunity to sing with a lovely group of people, that draws them back to the choral society each week.

Their experiences are also backed up by science, which shows that singing releases endorphins, happy chemicals that boost our mood and make us feel good about ourselves. Also, simply breathing properly, from the diaphragm, boosts awareness and improves lung function, which is good for releasing stress and helps us rest and relax.

I've been a member of the Choral Society for 15 years. For me, singing with other people helps build connections and feelings of togetherness. What pure joy it was to return to singing back together at Our Lady of the Rosary School after lockdown. (I shed a few tears of relief after that first session).

I'm a New Year's resolution person – this year it's learning web design. But 30 years ago, top of my list was to join a choir. I did and it's been a constant in my life ever since. Quite simply singing has seen me through thick and thin.

If you've ever enjoyed singing with others at Christmas, or perhaps you're more of a 'shower' soprano or a bathroom baritone, or just curious to find out more about joining a choir, you'd be welcome at the Spelthorne Choral Society. We don't hold auditions, so if you'd like to discover your voice, see what you can do and how it feels to sing with a group of friendly people who love to sing, then come along on any Monday evening at 7.30pm. We rehearse at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, Park Avenue, Staines, TW18 2EF.

Or contact us at [info@spelthornechoralsociety.com](mailto:info@spelthornechoralsociety.com).

**Gill Henry**

***For details of our Christmas Celebration Concert on December 16th see page 22***

## THE GRANGE GARDEN PARTY



This is the first year that my family and I organised and held The Grange Garden Party on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support. This was a Larcombe/Wordham/Hopkins family project with everyone (especially the grandchildren) given allotted tasks. We even had planning meetings with minutes!!! Thankfully, after a wet and miserable August, we were blessed with good weather and had a turnout of well over 500 people enjoying the sunshine.

Thanks Graham for the opening and welcome speech.

We had a wonderful variety of stalls with everything from homemade cakes, arts and crafts, jewellery and theatre groups, to family games.

Thank you all. Special thanks to the stallholders, Jess and Alex facepainting, Rogue Tattoo Windsor, Care Your Way and the Tennis Club (Brian and Sue) for very kindly donating all of their takings to Macmillan. Also Willy Wonka and the beautiful princess who, with their chocolate tombola, were raising money for Macmillan nurses.

The bouncy castle supplied by The Frost Partnership entertained both children and parents all afternoon.

Thank you Father Simon for taking on the difficult task of judging the Fancy Dress Competition, Resolution Dance for their dynamic display and Go Radio's MC Colin for keeping us informed and entertained with great music during the afternoon.

Thank you to Giovanna and Wraysbury Guides for providing scrumptious cream teas and cakes and Wraysbury and Horton Volunteers for the delicious gourmet burgers, especially Janet and our very own 'Gold Star' Billy! Must have been good as they both cream teas and gourmet burgers sold out!





Our lovely raffle ladies, Lesley and Jeannette sold (and folded) in excess of 3,000 raffle tickets. Thanks to The Frost Partnership Wraysbury, The Kitchen, The George, Co-Op Wraysbury and everyone who donated raffle prizes. We raised a magnificent £509. Thanks also to Jim who once again did an excellent job manning the entrance!

We decided to try and revive The Craft Tent, a village tradition we didn't want lost! This task was left entirely to Daisy, a mammoth task for one person. I am sure you will agree Daisy did an amazing job. Hopefully this will become an annual event and we are looking forward to many more entries next year! Thanks to judges Benta, Nigel Gray and East of Eden for your expertise!

Above all, a huge thank you to all of you who attended, supported (and I hope enjoyed) The Grange Garden Party and in doing so raised a wonderful £2,920 for MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT.

A very special thank you to Dale Davies, who as well as running his own online book business, D2D Books and Wombat Hats, has been selling books on behalf of Macmillan. Over the past few months he has made many very generous donations to Macmillan, helping to support many people living with cancer. If anyone has books they would like to donate to Dale, any condition, genre or topic, they can either be dropped off at 1 Bells Lane, Horton SL3 9PW, where there is a box clearly marked "Books Drop-Off Zone for Macmillan" or if there are a lot of books Dale will collect locally.

You can contact him on [dale.davies@btconnect.com](mailto:dale.davies@btconnect.com)

Thank you Wraysbury and Horton for your continued support.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2024.

***Debbie Larcombe***

On behalf of Wraysbury Macmillan Cancer Support

**07598 183860 [deborahlarcombe@gmail.com](mailto:deborahlarcombe@gmail.com)**



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For more information please see our Facebook page Pumpkins Preschool or call 07500 224 115



# WRAYSBURY VILLAGE CLUB AND INSTITUTE

MEMBERS CLUB SINCE 1894 01784 482155



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**1-3PM | 5-7PM**  
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**SUNDAYS RAFFLE**



# WRAYSBURY VILLAGE CLUB AND INSTITUTE

MEMBERS CLUB SINCE 1894 01784 482155



39 The Green, Wraysbury, Berks TW19 5NA

We are a family & dog friendly non-profit members club in the heart of Wraysbury, and the hub for great live music and entertainment.

Our club is a great local venue to meet old and new friends alike. You can enjoy a drink from our well stocked bar which includes regular guest ales and relax in one of our two comfortable lounges.

We have a large sunny garden with outside seating, a great smoking/summer hut and an outside stage for live music in the summer months.

We have a varied mix of live music and tribute acts most Saturday nights from 9.00pm and Sunday afternoons from 2.00pm.

Bingo Tuesday nights at 8pm

Open mic night Wednesdays at 9.00pm

Meat raffle and 'Open The Box' Sunday afternoons

In partnership with The Kitchen, Wraysbury we serve delicious food for members and guests every Friday between 1pm - 3pm and 5pm – 7pm

All major sporting events are shown on our 4k flat screen TVs and giant screen.

We also have a snooker room with 2 full size tables and two fruit machines and tab lotto dispensers.

New members are always welcome. Please enquire behind the bar or ask a committee member for details.

### **Club Opening Times**

Sunday noon - 9pm

Monday 3pm - 9pm

Tuesday – Saturday noon - 11pm

**We look forward to seeing you soon!**

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## WRAYSBURY PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Wraysbury Parochial Charities is a charitable trust fund which originally dates back to the Sixteenth Century. It was originally funded by personal bequests and was created specifically to provide support for the residents of the Parish of Wraysbury.

There are (usually) nine Trustees who are collectively responsible for the running of the charity. Each Trustee has lived in Wraysbury for many years and between us we have a pretty reasonable knowledge of the village.

The Trustees generally meet every three months and our main purpose is to provide financial assistance to individual Wraysbury residents who find themselves in need of help and to local causes that benefit the village and its residents.

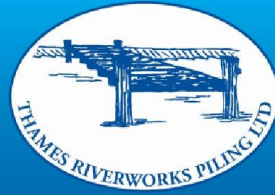
As a result of Colin Gibson's departure as our Ex-Officio Trustee, via his retirement in the latter half of 2022, we're currently a Trustee short and we await the appointment of a new vicar to St. Andrew's as Colin's replacement.

It has been a quiet year to date but we have provided funding for a variety of causes in the village including the Village Halls, helping a 1<sup>st</sup> Wraysbury Scout to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, and new playground equipment at the "Swings" on the Green. We continue to fund "Lifelines" (a paging type device for medical emergencies) for 24 senior village residents.

If you find yourself in need of support, or if you know of a Wraysbury Village resident who is, please contact us via our Secretary, Mrs Sue Chapman whose contact details appear in the Directory of Clubs & Organisations in this issue of Wraysbury & Horton News.

***Alan Buckland, Chairman***

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# **Wraysbury Auto Club**



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**Meetings last Wednesday each month at**

**Mr Nicholas and Mrs Sarah Higney's**

**Emporium for the Slaking of Gentlefolk's Thirst**

**THE PERSEVERANCE, the pub on Wraysbury's High Street**



We hope by the time you are reading this article, we will have carried out a seasonal whole village Litter Pick.

Over the past few years, what has made a real difference to our residential roads is our army of litter pickers who look after the areas in which they live.

Due to recent sponsorship from Wraysbury News, Wraysbury Village Trust and Wraysbury Parish Council, we are in a position to equip households with their own pickers for you to get involved with looking after your own neighbourhood area.

We are also very happy to lend out larger numbers of equipment for community groups such as the Scouts, Beavers, Brownies and Guides.

We can then periodically focus on the hotspots of both Wraysbury and Sunnymeads stations as well as the Staines Road.

Get in touch - make a difference and take pride in our lovely village!

Find our group on Facebook and join this fabulous, friendly initiative or DM me

*Lynn Holden*

**"REMEMBER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE EXPERIENCED AS YOU'LL PICK IT UP!"**

## Wraysbury Dragons Win Again at the National Dragon Boat Championships!

At the end of September, Wraysbury Dragons went on their annual pilgrimage to Nottingham for the National Dragon Boat Championships. Partly for the racing, but mainly because we got a letter through our doors asking us to attend our annual sight test at the racecourse by attempting to read the scoreboard from our campsite. Each year a little bit worse maybe? But inversely proportional to our performances on the water.

As Saturday dawned, it looked like we would be in for some very un-autumnal weather, with sun (sun!), blue skies and cloud formations to appeal to members of the Cloud Appreciation Society. Or anyone these days that feels the need to obsessively post things on their Instasnapbook account.

Putting away the phone for the time-being, we got out on the water early (early!) for our first race in the 200m Open competition. Our first heat was against the locals Notts Anaconda and we pushed away from them easily enough to win the race and avoid the reps.

Come the semis, we had Amathus next to us; but, as we hadn't really raced domestically much this year, we weren't sure exactly how much of a problem they would pose. We quickly discovered they posed a big problem, as they did to us what we did to Notts previously - got in front and held us off easily along the course.

Our post semi-final huddle evolved into something akin to a management meeting, (without the 'go round the circle and tell everyone an exciting fact about yourself' element) as a new strategy was proposed, amended, approved, seconded, ratified and signed off. We set out for the final with new strokes, a new rate, a new warm-up and a new mindset.

As all the crews got blown about on the line, we held our position and waited for the other boats to swing into line at the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> attempt, ready to totally commit to the new plan.



*Our nemesis, the scoreboard: "Does that say Wraysbury or Worcester?!"  
"Is that a 6 or a 2?!"*

From the 'Go!' we blasted off from the line:

Start sequence ("well that was big") – done;

brief glance ("oh, we're ahead of Amathus") - done;

mid-race push ("we're really moving here") - done;

brief glance ("still ahead, not sure about Secklow") - done;

final drive to the line and glance across ("better than expected, but still only second") - done;

Recover, recover, recover - done;

Paddle the lactic acid out to the jetty whilst spending a lot of time turning around to look at the scoreboard ("oh, we've won") - do...;

Cue surprise, then pandemonium in our boat - done, done, done.

After checking that the result hadn't been taken down and corrected, or that our eyesight was really bad, we virtually skipped back to the tent; all thoughts of wondering where we sat in the pecking order were now forgotten as belief surged through the team.

Next up were the Ladies races. They didn't disappoint either - heat winners in a time so far ahead of the others that you wondered if they had started at 150m instead without anyone else noticing. There was a brief moment of worry that they might have been late to the start line (because I had unhelpfully left the number board on a wheelie bin), but when you are three seconds up on second place, that is the race to get a time penalty in.

Favourites for the final put them in the middle lane and, once again, they took control from the start, leading the opposition down the course to win their first national title! Brilliant!



The Seniors racing passed uneventfully - launching off the start and holding off Secklow by half a boat length in the final. The game for the rest of the day was guessing which crew member would wander off between races and be out of communication when needed in the boat...

With the race programme now so far behind, the 2000m racing was starting in near darkness. As we waited in the fading light for our turn to start, it occurred to me that night racing is the way to go - if only for the photos. And then, for the last time that day, we exploded out of the blocks with the intent to harass the rest of the opposition round the course.

Straight away, the boat settled into our long stride, riding over the bumpy water without a wobble, closing the gap on Amathus and Typhoon in the first straight.

We pushed round the turn, drove past Typhoon early on, and closed the distance on those ahead. The rhythm was beautiful. More power, more run, eating up the distance to the turn. We pushed on through round turn two, lifted the boat up, kicked it on and attacked the catch.

Into the final turn and we could catch Amathus by the finish. Out of the bend, for the last 500m we drove for the line, getting the overlap by the finish. All the way round the boat felt strong, and our performance culminated in another win.

Sunday came around too quickly. In the Mixed 500m final, we were the filling of a Secklow-Amathus sandwich; not that this concerned us, as our starts had gradually been inflicting more damage on the opposition each time. Coming out of our start, I glanced across and saw we had nudged ahead. Length calls to halfway kept us in front, with only Amathus coming with us; we started to push, winding up the power for the charge to the finish and driving over the line in first place. The ladies promptly then raced with the same commitment; in their final, they pushed off the line first and held a lead that they never looked likely to relinquish - double National champions! What a step up from last year!



*It's 2000m to the finish, we got a full boat of paddlers, half an energy bar, it's dark.... and I'm wearing sunglasses*



*All smiles in the victorious Ladies boat*

The final event of the day was the 500m Open: we were straight back out to behind the start line to dispense with the opposition once more. Even with a much-changed boat, we had enough power to build a three-second lead by the finish. Job done and into the final.

In the final, the middle lane was ours again and with a boat stacked to win, we went up to face the headwind for one last time. One last opportunity then to cower the waves, slap them down, make them regret being in our lane.

Practice start ("holy moly!") - done;

Drift up to the line and wait - done;

Go!

Glance across after the start (“we’re definitely ahead”) - done;  
Approaching 200m gone, big push (“let’s see who can live with us”) - done;  
Another big push (“let’s take another seat”) - done;  
Third quarter, another push (“give me a full length”) - done;  
Final call, BIG leg drive (“I want clear water!”) - done;  
And finish (“down, down, down”) - done;  
Crane my neck to look behind (“everyone else is still racing to the finish”) - done.

And so, for the fourth year in a row, our drummer was propelled across the line first by the best crew in the country. By an absolute country mile! Brilliant, brilliant, brilliant! What a way to end the weekend!

### Wraysbury Dragons Need You!

If Dragon Boating sounds like your sort of sport, come and give it a try! We train on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings at Wraysbury Skiff & Punting Club (WSPC), Runnymede Recreation Ground, off the A308. New members are always welcome, please search online for ‘Wraysbury Dragons Boat Club’, ‘WSPC’ or look for our details in the contacts page of this magazine.

*Dave Sutton, Wraysbury Dragons*



**Wraysbury Village Women’s Institute (Est 2018)**



#### **What to expect at our WI:**

**WHEN:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 7.30pm—9.30pm

**WHERE:** Wraysbury Village Halls

#### **FIND OUT MORE:**

*wraysburyvillagewi@berkshirewi.co.uk*

**PRESIDENT:** Nicola Harrington-Gray



We enjoy a variety of activities i.e. speakers, demonstrations, quiz nights, picnic and annual dinner to name a few along with various outings

**Why not come and meet us? We would love to welcome you!**



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YEARS



## WRAYSBURY BOWLS CLUB

The bowls club marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a celebratory champagne & buffet lunch on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, which followed the annual Ladies v Gents match - all enjoyed in fine sunshine.

The lunch was attended by a good contingent of current players and past members and friends of the club..... and importantly some who were at the club in its early days - Nancy Fuller, Avril Pearce, Trevor Dobson and Margaret Perkins who, reprising her catering prowess from the early days, prepared a superb buffet spread.

Club chairman Graham Sinclair, who himself played his part in the groundwork which allowed the rink area to be built back in 1998, gave the toast and spoke about the role that the late Bob Marshall played as a founding father and driving force in the club's formation.

Graham highlighted the clubhouse which was named 'the Marshall Pavilion' when it opened in 1999 after being built by Glyn Larcombe using timbers to match the Windmill. Glyn was present and is now the club's President.

It was an enjoyable occasion and with the enthusiasm of the current committee and members, Wraysbury Bowls Club looks forward to many more years as a popular village amenity.



We are always happy to welcome new members to our friendly club and anyone wishing to try out this engaging sport or who already play the game and are new to the area, are invited to get in touch, and an individual taster session could be arranged.

The summer house tournaments were well contested but as we go to press only one final has been completed. This was the Ladies' Singles where Val Lambert, in a repeat of last year, beat Janet Cross in a close fought contest. The finalists of the other knockout championships were – Men's Singles:- Len Carlton v Gregg Scott and Pairs:- Howard Brooks & Fred Parsons v Val Lambert & Martin Wilson.

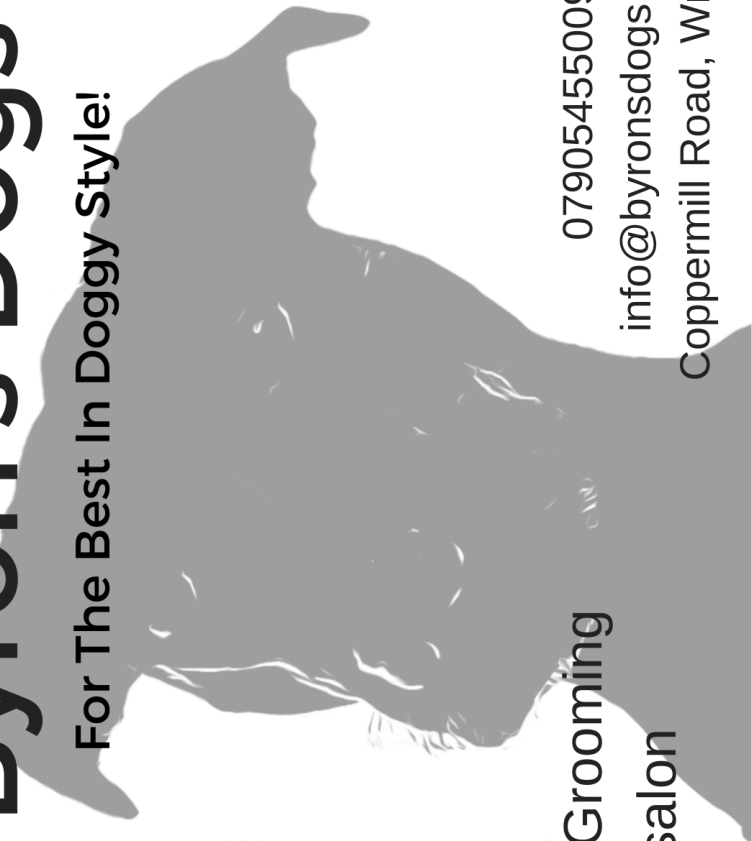
For further information, visit our website: [www.wraysburybowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.wraysburybowlsclub.co.uk)

**Club Secretary: Len Carlton 07516 977063**

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**BLUE ACRE HORSE RESCUE**  
**Ham Island, Old Windsor**  
**Reg Charity: 1168059**

As ever we are deeply grateful for the amazing support we continue to receive from our local community in various ways: local businesses - The Perseverance, The Kitchen, The Co-Op and Wraysbury Club all host donation boxes (if others would like one please let me know). Other local groups make donations each year – West Eden Nurseries, Wraysbury Players, Wraysbury Horticultural Society plus others who wish to remain anonymous. Many people also make regular monthly donations ranging from £1 upwards – please don't think that a small amount won't make a difference, I can promise you that it does.

Our Facebook page following has grown once again and now stands at over 3,500 followers. This is a key part of promoting the work we do; a way to engage with interested parties and simply let people know we exist. We are always happy to give any local business we work with a mention on our page.

### **GIFT AID**

We are registered to claim Gift Aid from HMRC at a rate of 25% of the value of the donation where UK tax has been paid. We need your name/address and confirmation that UK tax has been paid on relevant donations but we will undertake the process of recouping the tax paid – e.g. for every relevant £10 donation we can reclaim an additional £2.50 if the appropriate paperwork is in place / written permission given at no cost to the donor.

**Please let us know if this applies to you. If you make/have made any single donation over £20 or if you make regular donations and you are a UK tax payer we could claim an additional 25% on your donations at no extra cost to you. We can claim on donations going back 4 years from the date of the claim.**

### **2024 CALENDARS**

Our 2024 calendars are available for purchase. They are £10 each (£2 if postage required). Local delivery is available – email [blueacrerescue@outlook.com](mailto:blueacrerescue@outlook.com) or message via our Facebook page. 100% of purchase price goes directly to helping our horses and ponies through the winter.

## FUNDRAISING

We are thrilled to be one of the chosen charities by Neil Knowles, the new Mayor of RBWM council and look forward to working with him on some new initiatives.

It's important to note we are very aware that everyone is experiencing increases in the cost of living and it makes it tough for us to ask for help, particularly when it's simply asking for money, but this is what we need right now. Two years ago the response to our winter hay appeal enabled us to provide sufficient hay for the winter but the Spring 2023 appeal netted 10% of that. We operate on a shoestring, relying on a monthly budget which enables us to buy the basics – feed and hay, mostly funded by people subscribing by direct debit to our sponsorship programme which starts at a suggested amount of £10 per month but every penny truly helps. If everyone who follows or supports us gave £1-£10 per month, we would never have to ask for donations. The bottom line is that without local support we would have to close.

We hold stalls at various events and are so grateful for the generosity of our community in donating prizes. We also apply for grants which are few and far between for animal welfare charities. We also accept foreign currency (current or old) which is converted to GBP by Land of Coins in Datchet (anyone can take currency in to them and ask for it to be donated to Blue Acre Horse Rescue) or give to Sue who will deliver to them. If anyone would like to get involved with fundraising please let us know.

Donations don't always need to be monetary – a yard broom, buckets, a wheelbarrow, a bag of horse, chicken, goat, pig or dog feed or a bag of carrots or apples is also welcomed. Every single penny goes towards helping our residents – none of our volunteers or Trustees are paid for their time or services.

## REHOMING UPDATES



**Ziggy**, the pony abandoned at Old Ferry Drive, Wraysbury. This poor lad was discovered by Maddy, a local resident when she took over tenancy of the stable yard in Old Ferry Drive in March 2022. He'd been left locked in a stable for several weeks when the previous tenants left, with no food or water and if she hadn't found him he would have been dead within a few days.

After a year of rehabilitation with us Ziggy was rehomed to a wonderful family in May 2023 and is very much loved.

This makes even the toughest days worthwhile. It's why we do what we do.





We have also rehomed **Storm** and **Oscar** this year. Unfortunately, Storm was returned after a few months due to no fault of his own. This is a stipulation of our rehoming contract to prevent our rescues being passed from home to home if things don't work out. It was really touching to watch him reconnect to his surroundings, his horse friends and to our team.

**Storm** off to his new home and meeting new friends



**Oscar** is an enormous (17.1 hands), handsome boy but has a lot of issues and despite his size, lacks confidence. He has gone to a very experienced new home who will work with him at his own pace and allow him to be the best he can be, whatever that turns out to be.

### SUCCESS STORY



Millie, who learned to ride at Blue Acre several years ago and is now in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of equine studies at college has worked with **Beau**, one of our rescue horses for a long time. She has worked hard getting him fit over the summer, riding in the evenings after college. On 24<sup>th</sup> September her hard work was rewarded when she achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place at her first cross country outing with **Beau**. We are beyond proud. (See testimonial from Millie later in this article about her volunteering experience).

## LOSSES

Over the last 12 months we've sadly said goodbye to four of our beautiful residents including:



**Mouse** (aged 37) who lived a long and very happy life. In his later years he and his 31 year old devoted girlfriend **Honey** (who we also lost recently) had the freedom of the farm. They would call to each other if they got separated for more than half an hour and we like to think they are now reunited.

**Toffee**, a miniature Shetland, was also part of a lifelong partnership. He came to us with **Pinky**, both in their late teens/early 20's and seemed happiest milling around the yard at the farm with the chickens, goats, pigs, dogs and people, rather than going out with the main herd. They were part of the furniture and Pinky is currently clearly grieving the loss of his friend.



## What Blue Acre means to our volunteers – some testimonials



**JADE:** *"My family have been volunteering for a few years. Last winter I volunteered more as we were desperate for help in the harsh conditions. A memorable day was when it was so cold the water pipes were frozen so we had to gather water from a source far from the yard. My auntie and I spent hours hauling gallons of water onto the tractor and driving it to the yard. I will never forget how frozen my fingers and toes were and how my muscles ached. We started at 9am and by lunchtime we were exhausted. As I sat, feeling slightly overwhelmed, I pulled out my sandwich and a soft pony nose appeared to take it straight from my mouth! It was so funny and sweet that I was instantly brought back to the reason why this is so important. Each one of these horses and ponies is worth the hardest day of volunteering. Most of them were let down by people and it's our job to change that narrative and show them love."*

*"This charity doesn't just help horses, it helped me. I lost 3 family members, including my dad before I started volunteering, and winter always feels hard with Christmas approaching but those gorgeous horses and even the goats, chickens and pigs always make me laugh, distract me, give me love. They're such sensitive creatures, they deserve the best!"*





**BLUE ACRE**  
HORSE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

I love Blue Acre because I love the animals and I enjoy looking after them. I've been volunteering for 3 years now and I have a special bond with a pony called Boots, he is so sweet

All of the rescue horses are special and some have had very difficult pasts. They all have different characters, all special in their own way.



**From Karla, who volunteers with her Mum, Julie**

**PAT (Max and Noah)**

Max: "My best friend gifted me a Christmas present of 6 months' pony sponsorship at Blue Acre and this is how I met Max. He's a lovely Arab pony who can't be ridden due to a back condition. When we met, he wouldn't stand still to be groomed and it was difficult to convince him even to walk in with me from the field to the yard. I never gave up on him and used treats, scratches and loads of love. One day I went to the field to collect him and he started following me around, which he still does to this day. He's come a really long way and I'm very proud of him. Needless to say I continue to sponsor him!"



Noah "He arrived at the farm a couple of years ago with his half brother Isiah. Their owner could no longer care for them and they have never been apart. I had a soft spot for them immediately and was really happy when Caron, who runs the Rescue, offered me the chance to work with Noah. He can be ridden now, after a long spell of rehabilitation and we do a lot together – hacking around the farm or the village roads, do little jumps and a bit of schooling. Noah is lovely and takes good care of me so my confidence in riding has improved a lot since we met. We are working towards participating in the Windsor Great Park fun ride next year, which will be our first outing together".

**MILLIE:** *"I started volunteering at Blue Acre when I was 11. I am now 17 and studying my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of equine management at college. I plan to become an equine physiotherapist and would not have this dream if it wasn't for Blue Acre, it not only helps and educates the horses but also the volunteers. Before I started volunteering I knew nothing about horses and now I have learned more than I thought possible.*



*In July 2020, I started working with a thoroughbred called Beau (Diablo). When Beau arrived he had serious separation anxiety and would not leave the other horses easily. Trying to ride him was difficult as he would run backwards, trying to get back to the herd. I spent time building a bond with him and increasing his confidence and eventually we were able to ride out on our own – each time going a little further from home. He now happily hacks out alone and his progress has been just amazing.*

*In the last year we have been to "best rider" shows, sponsored rides, BCA and on 24<sup>th</sup> September we competed in our 1<sup>st</sup> cross country competition at Hall Place where we came first!!! I am so proud of how far Beau has come and the progress we have both made as we have grown together. I can't wait to continue going out and having fun with Beau."*

### **Ways to Help**

**Sponsorship of a pony** – details of our sponsorship programme can be found on our website and this is a key source of income for us as it's regular and allows us to budget monthly. Many people give sponsorships as birthday or Christmas gifts. I'm happy to answer any questions on this.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

**Website - <https://www.blueacrerescue.co.uk>**

**Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/blueacrehorserescue>**

**Email: - [blueacrerescue@outlook.com](mailto:blueacrerescue@outlook.com)**

**Paypal - [blueacrerescue@outlook.com](mailto:blueacrerescue@outlook.com)**

**(please use "family and friends" option to avoid fees being taken)**

**For direct donations - Metro Bank**

**A/C 36119934**

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## 1st Wraysbury Scouts



It's been a busy few months for 1st Wraysbury, including our two biggest annual fundraisers - Fireworks Night and our stall at Wraysbury Fair! We hope you all had a fantastic time at these events, and hopefully enjoyed a burger or two. Thank you again to everyone who supports these events - we are able to do so many fantastic things as a direct result.

Going around the 4 packs (yes 4 - now that we've restarted our Explorer pack for 14-18 year olds!), Beavers have had a great term of learning hockey, completing the disability badge, and building some Lego towers. Cubs have been busy learning about different animals and how you can help look after these - ranging from reptiles and falcons pre-summer to showing off their cats and dogs this term, completing the animal carer badge. Scouts have been relishing the return of our Scout Leader, Gresham Peters, following a 2 year break. I believe they have simply been playing their favourite game of "Gresh Hunt" every week since, with the odd evening of fires and pioneering around this. Finally, our returning Explorer section got off to a flying start with painting, parkour pioneering and pumpkin carving.

In between all this, we were lucky enough to have completed four camps; three section sleepovers in the scout hut, and then a coasteering camp for the Scouts and Explorers down in Swanage! This was a fantastic camp, and all 40 kids had a great time completing something most of them never thought they'd be brave enough to do.

Overall, we now have 91 young people over the four sections: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. They are supported by 7 uniformed leaders, 2 per section (except Beavers), plus 3 parent helpers and 7 young leaders. There's a waiting list for Scouts currently, but if you are interested in joining any section, please do drop us an email and we can get you signed up. Beavers and Cubs meet on Mondays, with Scouts Tuesday, and Explorers meeting every other Wednesday. We are also always on the lookout for new leaders or trustee members, so if you would ever like to find out more about volunteering within Scouting please do email [WraysburyCubs@Hotmail.co.uk](mailto:WraysburyCubs@Hotmail.co.uk).

***Stuart & Charlotte***

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## WRAYSBURY LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The tennis club started this year with the opening of our 2 new artificial grass courts. They have been very well received and have proved to be very popular.



We continue to operate club sessions on a regular basis – session times can be found on our website. We welcome players of all abilities, from beginners to match players and especially junior players of all ages.

Our junior membership has increased this year thanks to Tim Rose, our new coach, who has started a junior group session and held a very successful summer camp. This camp was organised extremely well by Tim and Sue Britton.

We held a Club Junior Tournament and it was a wonderful morning. Thanks to all the youngsters who took part, their families for supporting them and everyone who helped (being umpires, making teas, preparing Pimm's, presenting trophies and tidying up) - you are all brilliant. Also, the biggest thanks to our fantastic coach Tim Rose who pulled it together, encouraging everyone to do their best!

Congratulations to our under 9 winner Ben Francis, and the under 12 winner Raphael Kirton 🏆👏

We held our club championships again this year with the singles and mixed



doubles completed throughout the summer, and the finals were held in September. We congratulate Jane Irwin and Daniel Landi, the Ladies' and Men's Singles winners and Steve Whiting and Jane Irwin, the Mixed Doubles winners.



Both the ladies' and men's doubles championships were played on 26<sup>th</sup> August. The weather was excellent, and all matches were very entertaining, with some great rallies. This year's Doubles champions are; Ladies' Doubles Jane Irwin and Kate Freeman, Men's Doubles Rob Crisp and Chris Smith. Congratulations all!



Our calendar includes several social events and competitions. The season opens in April with the Maureen Burr tournament, a fun competition for all abilities with an impressive shield being awarded to the winners. The Peggy Willatts' Rose Bowl competition, held in October, is well supported and not too serious.

A quiz, a late Bank Holiday BBQ and a Christmas function also feature in our annual programme. The club setting is very attractive, with the 2 new courts both being floodlit, meaning we can play all year round and in the evenings.



If you are interested in joining the club please take a look at our website - everyone is welcome: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WraysburyLTC>

If you have any queries or would like to contact us then please email us, we would love to hear from you: [wraysburylta@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wraysburylta@yahoo.co.uk)

**Anne McCulloch, Club Secretary**



# Angels Pre-School

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Website: [www.angelspreschool.co.uk](http://www.angelspreschool.co.uk)

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*Namasté*

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# WRAYSBURY HISTORY GROUP

The first meeting of the Wraysbury History Group took place in the Snug Bar of the George Inn in January 1972, so we continue to celebrate 51 years of learning about and creating history in Wraysbury.

The 2023/24 Club year started in September 2023 with a talk by a speaker new to the group - Paul Whittle from Woking - who told us the story of the life of Florence Nightingale known as 'The Lady with the Lamp' from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Crimean War. The first thing we learned was that Florence did not carry a lamp! Paul certainly knew his subject and had visited the Crimea before the Russians took it over in 2014, so he was able to show us photographs of the places she went to and he then covered her life after Crimea when she effectively invented the modern profession of nursing. It was a very interesting evening and we hope that Paul will come and speak to us again next year on another historical subject.

At our October meeting a representative from the National Trust came to talk to us about the progress that has been made at the archaeological investigations and digs at Ankerwycke. We learned about the original Priory and how, after King Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, the land was purchased and a large Tudor house was built with spectacular gardens going down to the River Thames. Part of the original Priory was incorporated in this house. Later on, the house was significantly modified and the gardens changed, but part of the Priory was still used as part of this house. Finally, this house was demolished and a new house built some distance away. Part of the old house was left as a ruin to provide an interesting outlook in the grounds of this new building. Finally this last house was demolished in 1992 but the ruin remains and it is the part of the house that contained just a fragment of the original medieval Priory – very interesting.

We also learned that the Ankerwycke Estate is one of the most important archaeological areas in the UK because it is one of the only areas that has not been commercially farmed and therefore retains the medieval strips farmed by the peasants at that time and they can still be seen on the terrain. There is also the route of a Roman Road that can be followed from Staines which will have gone straight through St. Andrew's Churchyard, across Wraysbury and on to the West, north of the Thames. South of the Thames the Roman Road went to Silchester.

In November we had a talk by Judith Hill who we last heard in March 2022. She told us all about Victorian Society and how it was effectively divided between the 'haves' – the wealthy, who lived 'Upstairs', and the 'have nots', who worked mainly 'Downstairs'. Their different lives were described in detail.

In December we will have our Christmas Social, which is always an enjoyable evening with shared food, a quiz, a raffle, and a short talk on Historical Blunders.

The group does not meet in January or February.

At our March meeting there will be a talk on 'The Three 'Spitals' of King Edward VI'. After the dissolution of the monasteries by his father King Henry VIII, the City of London lost many such institutions and they had provided education, food and care for the poor, especially when they were sick. London was then overrun by the hungry, sick and uneducated poor, many of whom turned to crime and prostitution. On his deathbed, aged only 15, the young King set in motion the creation of three 'Spitals' (Hospitals) and agreed that three premises owned by the Crown could be used to site these organisations. They were 'Bridewell' for those who were 'misbehaving', 'St Thomas's' for the sick, and 'Christ's' for the education of the poor.

All three still exist in modern Britain!

Other talks have been arranged for next year including a special talk in June to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'D-Day' landings in Normandy.

Meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month in Wraysbury Village Halls, except for the months of January, February and August. Membership for this year is now closed, but visitors to all meetings are welcome for a fee of £2.50. All meetings are advertised around Wraysbury Village, on our notice board in Wraysbury Village Halls and by email.

If you would like to be added to the group email circulation list, please call or email Tony Kimber - details below.

The Wraysbury History Group is currently managed by the following:

- Treasurer; Tony Kimber 01784 483801 [TonyKimber1@aol.com](mailto:TonyKimber1@aol.com)
- Diana Hughes 01784 482729 [dianajhughes@btinternet.com](mailto:dianajhughes@btinternet.com)
- Wendy Kessack 01784 482312 [stott.kessack@gmail.com](mailto:stott.kessack@gmail.com)
- Jan Willis 01784 483499 [jwillis248@btinternet.com](mailto:jwillis248@btinternet.com)

***Tony Kimber***

***[TonyKimber1@aol.com](mailto:TonyKimber1@aol.com) / 01784 483801***

**MURDERED TO DEATH** Following our highly successful pantomime Rapunzel in January, we immediately set about casting our summer play. Our long-standing member, Carol Howard, stepped up to direct 'Murdered to Death', a play that we had performed sometime ago when Carol herself took on the role of Miss Maple. Due to the larger cast than usual for our plays, we set



about hosting an Audition Evening and were delighted to expand our membership!

Murdered to Death was written by Peter Gordon and was an amusing spoof in the best of Agatha Christie traditions. Set in a country manor house in the 1930s, with an assembled cast guaranteed to delight. Amongst the characters was Bunting the Butler, played by

our very own Chair and Players' favourite, Jim Minter. He was a somewhat hapless member of staff to the striking but pretentious house mistress Mildred, ably portrayed by Nicola Wallbank, whose early murder was central to the plot.

The bumbling Police Inspector Pratt was hilariously played by Steevan Glover, who you may have recognised more recently wearing a frock in Rapunzel, but in this role he was skilfully likened to Inspector Clouseau meets Inspector Jack Frost. Steev was joined by real-life son, Ronnie Glover, playing the sidekick role of rookie Constable Thompkins, whose tolerance and ultimate exasperation of the Inspector's constant mispronunciations and ineptitude was a constant throughout the performance.

Mildred's long-suffering niece and general housekeeper Dorothy was delightfully played by newcomer, Ambar Zohra Hart, with a calm demeanour that hid an inner strength of character. Impressively, Ambar was able to fit in her pre-arranged wedding in Slovenia midway through rehearsals... that showed commitment, although she was let off learning lines for two weeks!



Glamour was brought into the play with the characters of snooty Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington and a somewhat shady Frenchman, Pierre Marceau. This couple's backstory was one of art dealing but early on we were aware they were little more than con-artists, out to dupe Mildred but actually getting little past the steely eyes of Dorothy. Ana Stravrinides beautifully portrayed Elizabeth, with her accent alternating between upper-class Belgravia to the East End of London as she plotted with Pierre. Talking of accents, who could forget the almost caricature French speaking Monsieur Marceau who was brilliantly played by another newcomer, Daniel Pope, again more Peckham than Paris?!

Intertwining the storyline were family friends, Margaret Craddock and her husband Colonel Charles Craddock. Wraysbury Players' favourite, Jacqui Lindegger, stepped up to the role of Margaret, whose irritation of everything her husband said or did led to some terrific comical elements. The role of the bumptious Colonel was taken by another talented newcomer to us, Nick Haymonds, whose commitment to this tweed-wearing, pipe smoking and surprising past lover of Mildred was to also grow an extraordinary moustache for the part. We always love a bit of method acting!

At the heart of this play of course was the actual crime solving character of Miss Maple, superbly delivered by another Wraysbury Players' favourite, Sarosh Khan. As the deceptively mild-mannered neighbour of Mildred she was really a bothersome busybody who often seemed to find herself at the centre of mysteries. Miss Maple had a rather unsentimental understanding of human nature but possessed extraordinary skills of problem-solving, which she subtly passed on to Inspector Pratt, who of course took full credit. All in all a very successful play which was recognised by NODA in their report...



*"the pacing of the production as the investigations progress and the comic timing of the delivery of the lines, Wraysbury Players got this just about perfect. The pacing was very good, steady enough so we could follow the twists and turns but quick enough so we did not spend too long reflecting on truthfulness of what we heard. Throughout the cast reacted really well to each other, playing it straight but pointing the comic lines neatly with some very good physical business."*



**THE BIG VILLAGE QUIZ** was an enormous hit in October. In a packed Village Hall, we hosted some 26 different teams to compete for the coveted cup (many thanks to last year's winners, Wraysbury Village Trust, for bringing it back all smart and shiny!) With our rebranding of the Annual Quiz, we were thrilled to see teams joining us from Windsor, Datchet, Staines, Burnham, Slough and even Kent!



Lots of fun and variety with interactive rounds of pictures, music, voices, mating calls and even testing out some Pringles. Worthy winners with a high score of 95 out of 110 were the Datchet Players. Huge congratulations to them!

On a serious note, however, this annual event allows us to contribute to a local charity or group that might otherwise get overlooked nationally. This year we are proud to donate £500 to **SWAN SUPPORT**.

### SAVE THE DATES FOR 2024

**JACK & THE BEANSTALK** is our choice of Panto for January 2024. Rehearsals are already well underway with a full cast of around 30, working on a script that will appeal to everyone. Sets and costumes are being designed by our hardworking members behind the scenes. Tickets will have gone on sale in November, with popular nights always a sell-out, so don't be disappointed and **BOOK NOW!**

- SUMMER PLAY** 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June
- WRAYSBURY'S GOT TALENT** 21<sup>st</sup> September
- THE BIG VILLAGE QUIZ** 16<sup>th</sup> October



## A FOND FAREWELL TO THE WRAYSBURY WINE AND SOCIAL CLUB



From its first meeting in 1972, when the club was established (as the Magna Carta Country Winemakers) for those interested in the new hobby of home brewing, to its present form as a Social Club with a wine component, this club has given its members 50+ years of enjoyment and friendship. During the heyday of home brewing our enthusiasts were very successful in inter-club competitions and at the big Middlesex Show. The club was active in the village running dances, entering floats in the Wraysbury Fair parade and for many years using their time and talents to produce the much loved annual 'Music Hall'.

By evolving to more of a 'social' club, we have lasted longer than many other homebrew clubs that were set up at the same time, but alas and alack, we are all getting older and it seems that the club has no appeal for younger generations. The membership is ageing and there are fewer and fewer willing to step up and take on the positions needed to run such a club, especially the position of Chairman. Sadly therefore the Committee have taken the decision that **the Club will close at the end of December this year.**

Our last monthly event will take place on **5<sup>th</sup> December** which will have a Christmas party feel with music and songs from Ray Lowe. Visitors to our meetings are always welcome.

The final **New Year's Eve dance** to be run by the Wine Circle will have a welcome drink, a two course meal with some wine on the table and dancing to one of our favourite bands, 'Choice'. Tickets are priced at £45 per person.


**(Just ring Sheila Wareham on 01753 841132 or 07702 211956 for tickets)**

**\*IT WILL THEN BE SO LONG, FAREWELL, AUF WEIDERSEN, GOODBYE!\***

### FUTURE DANCES

**As the 'tribute band' dances we have run recently have proved so popular a small team will be organising three more during 2024. Keep your eyes open for further information early next year.**

**(Christine Morgan (Sec) 01784 482175 or [mccwnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mccwnews@hotmail.co.uk) )**



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## Wraysbury Country Music Club

2023 has been another great year for our monthly Friday evening concerts. We have had a wide range of Country music bands, featuring some outstanding talented musicians. Whether you prefer to sit and enjoy the music or jump up and have a dance - you won't be on your own! The atmosphere is always welcoming and friendly.



The **Wraysbury Country Music Club (WCMC)** is also a wonderful event to share a special celebration and we always go out of our way to make sure the evening is an enjoyable memorable occasion.

As one of the oldest clubs in our community, the WCMC run 10 events a year, culminating in our Christmas party night.

We offer the option of enjoying a nutritious supper menu of jacket potatoes, with a varied choice of fillings which are cooked on the premises - very in-keeping with the Country music theme! There's also tea or coffee included in the ticket price. Alternatively, you can choose to come along without dining.

We welcome guests as well as members, advance bookings are required and can be easily made via the web site [www.go-clubs.co.uk](http://www.go-clubs.co.uk) or by completing a simple booking form. Members receive advance concert information, a monthly newsletter and booking information for the next event.

You really don't have to be a country music fanatic to come and join us. Whether you come along on your own or attend with others, you will receive a warm and friendly welcome from us all. Our team will be on hand at each event making sure everyone has a night to remember.

If you would like to find out more about coming along, feel free to contact us.

With best wishes for the New Year.

**Colin Bolton**  
**[Colin@go-radio.co.uk](mailto:Colin@go-radio.co.uk)**  
**Tel: 07951 671123**

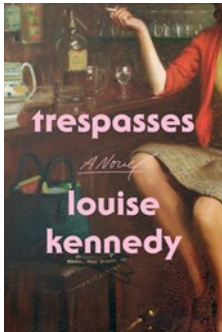


## MAGNA CARTA BOOK CLUB

By Mandy Muggeridge

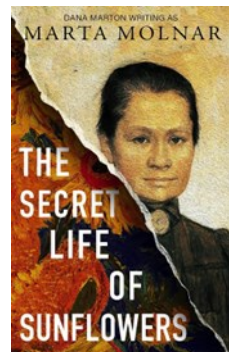
Over the last six months we have read many good books, 18 in fact, as we take it in turns to choose three a month. They are usually very diverse, seldom dull and sometimes a bit of a challenge, but it's always fun to see what each of us will come up with next.

It's hard to pick the standouts from recent reads but here goes.....



**Trespasses by Louise Kennedy** which was an impressive debut novel set in 1975 Belfast. It tells the story of Cushla, a young Catholic teacher, who has an affair with a married Protestant barrister who is significantly older than her. Set in a small town outside Belfast at the height of the Troubles, we meet a mixed community coming to terms with increasing sectarianism. The narrative is very evocative of the times and the characters are utterly authentic; people trying to live ordinary lives, often in very desperate circumstances. This was a poignant novel written with great empathy and skill.

**The secret life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar** is inspired by the life of Johanna Bongor, the wife of Theo Van Gogh, and sister-in-law of Vincent. She fought hard to promote Vincent Van Gogh's work after his death, despite his colleagues and 'friends' advising her to burn them all! The dual story line tells us of Elmsley, who is trying to get her new business off the ground in present day L.A. and her recently deceased grandmother, Violet, whose home she has inherited in New York. The parallel stories compliment one another and are well blended together. I was intrigued by the character of Johanna and eager to find out more about her, and her quest to gain recognition for Vincent's work. The book weaves this fascinating true story with an entertaining and plausible work of fiction which was an easy, but engaging and enjoyable read.





**American Dirt by Jeanine Cummings** is my personal favourite (and also recommended by the Ellipsis Book Club. so it must be good!). It is an extremely well written story of a family tragedy. A mother and son are running for their lives across Mexico from the extreme violence of a drug cartel, hoping to reach the comparative safety of America. I found it a compelling read which demands your attention from the very first to the very last page, with scarcely time to catch your breath in between. It's not an easy, cosy book and it tackles issues which may be outside your comfort zone at times, but it is a genuinely moving story which I could not put down. Every character and every scenario is so believable and it gives a heart wrenching insight into the trauma which motivates migrants, not just from central America, but the world over.

I do hope you will read one of these books and enjoy it as much as I have done. I'm looking forward to another six months of entertaining and stimulating reading, along with all the lively discussion, laughter and support and I know I shall not be disappointed. Oh, and did I mention the cakes?.....

# **CHEVRON ALARMS**

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# Wraysbury Archive

## Recent Activity

There has not been much call on the Archive's services recently, which is, in a way, quite fortunate as the archive has been suffering from an attack of chaos after the move. However, this is now resolved and items can be found again.

We were asked if we had any details of the opening of the Village Halls and were able to provide a quite marvellous scrap book of the late Queen's official visit in 1974.



There was also a request from the National Trust for information on Court Rolls (historically, records of rent paid and property held by tenants) related to Ankerwycke. Stuart Burgess visited the Archive and although we couldn't find the specific information he was after, we did find some fascinating contracts and agreements, so spent a couple of hours photocopying them. Stuart took the copies away and we will hopefully receive some transcripts in due course.

Talking of transcriptions, I was at the Berks Archive recently and discovered an 'Idiot's' guide to the Inclosure Act 1797 as it affected Wraysbury. When transcribed, it will be available for your delectation (a word much loved by Leonard Sachs in *The Good Old Days*).

There have been some recent donations to the Archive, thanks to the donors:

- A Wraysbury map
- Some Mugs to add to our collection, and articles about the late Queen
- The archives of the late John Sleep associated with the 8 Yards and the Ankerwycke Yew.

## Archiving in the Digital Age

I have been pondering the way we manage archiving data in this day and age:

- Newspaper cuttings seem to have gone the way of the Dodo,
- Web sites will disappear when the author(s) stops funding them,
- Items stored on social media sites are subject to copyright and GDPR issues and the veracity of the social media owner,
- Digitised items need to take account of GDPR and possibly copyright,
- Digitised data needs to be managed.

Some of these issues can be handled by providing links to the source, where possible, but this still leaves us open to the effects of arbitrary changes by the site owner.

Web sites and similar are dependent on remaining funded by the owner and the solvency of the host.

Social Media sites all have their own way of defining media ownership.

GDPR – Aaarrgh.

There has yet to be produced a 100% reliable storage medium for digital data. It has even been discovered that CDs, DVDs and the like only have a life expectancy of some 25 years. Interestingly, re-writeable media seem to have a longer life span of 100 – 200 years. Current generation USB sticks and other cards seem to have a life span of 10 years – they ‘decay’ in much the same way as batteries, but at different rates. HDDs and SSDs are expected to last 5 – 7 years (or rather, manufacturers recommend assuming that lifetime) but this is when in use. Out of interest, I have HDDs older than 7 years which are still going strong, but I do have a backup policy just in case!

Currently, the go-to approach seems to be to use Cloud Storage which, like all other solutions have both benefits and risks – how much do you trust the supplier; who owns the contract; how much does it cost; what happens if there is a payment default (or similar); what happens if the supplier goes out of business, or changes their business model?

So, this leads to three things:

- We will not have digitised information freely available on the internet. An Intranet will be created internally in the Hub accessible only to visitors,
- It must be accepted that some information will not be available ‘for ever’. For example, we have some copyright protected stuff (DRM) that will only last as long as the media on which they are stored – such as some donated movies,
- Media that can be replicated has been but a regime of replication must be enforced to pre-empt any data loss. This will not necessarily include cloud storage, but will involve storage at different sites.



An example of these issues is shown in the photo above. This is from the website Wraysbury.net which was owned by the late Carl Hughes, but was rescued from his HDD as donated by Diana Hughes. The domain Wraysbury.net may even now be owned by someone else, but not the data. A snapshot will soon be available on the Hub intranet and is well worth a view. My favourite is the Wraysbury history time-line.

If you have any thoughts on the above, I would be pleased to have a chat.

[wraysbury.archive@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:wraysbury.archive@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

*Peter Lord*

# THE KITCHEN WRAYSBURY

Thank you so much to everyone who has visited The Kitchen in our first few months, your support means so much to us.

If you haven't had a chance to pop in yet for breakfast, a daily special or just a cuppa then we look forward to welcoming you soon. There's always some home made cake ready for you and you're always sure of a warm welcome.

29 High Street, Wraysbury TW19 5DA 01784 483782

*"Good food is very often, even most often, simple food"*

Anthony Bourdain

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## LIBRARY NEWS

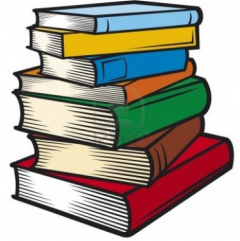
### Wraysbury Container Library

The Wraysbury container library is now permanently sited in the village carpark opposite the Village Halls and is open during the following hours:

Wednesday 2.30pm to 7pm

Friday 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Saturday 10am to 1pm



### Horton Library Service

A full library service is available at the Horton Community Coffee morning each Monday between 10am and 1pm at Champney Hall. Pop in for a cuppa and to see what's on offer.

### Home Library Service

If you or someone you know is housebound or cannot get to a library on a regular basis, owing to mobility issues or lack of access to transport, the Home Library Service could be the answer.

How does it work?

As a Home Library Service reader, you can:

- Reserve titles online or email requests to the Home Library Service.
- Get matched with your own local library volunteer.
- If you are not sure what to read, let us know what you enjoy reading and we will do our best to put together a selection of books to your liking.
- Books can be delivered every three weeks or once a month.
- Any books to return will be picked up at the same time as your new book delivery.
- You can let your library volunteer know what you think of the titles you read and what you would like more or less of.

Email: [libraries@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@rbwm.gov.uk) or  
telephone 01628 796969



## Library


### Volunteer to support your local Library

Help bring books to housebound readers. Enjoy chats and laughter with readers about books and what's on, plus get the satisfaction knowing you've helped to improve someone's quality of life.

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## WRAYSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

This summer has certainly caused the shrubs and trees an extraordinary amount of growth and I have had to resort to cutting back very many shrubs, reluctantly I must say, much earlier than usual just to keep the pathways accessible. Now as I write this, the leaves from the very mature trees that border our garden are falling thick and fast and autumn has only just begun! Never mind, good exercise raking them all up, I tell myself.

But on to the Horticultural Society.

We had a very enjoyable annual picnic on our return to Waterperry Gardens in July. We previously visited there in 2011, how time flies.

Whilst we did not have an autumn day trip this year, we saw plenty of colour when we paid a four day visit to Norfolk and the wonderful Blooms Gardens and nursery, with a couple of steam train journeys through the countryside culminating in a visit to Sandringham.

Now on to next year. We have tried to find gardens that we have yet to visit within relatively short journeys from Wraysbury. After 20 years of organising these trips it is becoming quite difficult but we have come up with two.

Our first trip on Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> is to Great Comp Gardens in Kent. In spring these gardens erupt into bloom with over 80 Magnolias, followed by Azaleas and Rhododendrons, under planted with drifts of Hellebores and bulbs. Pam & I have previously visited these gardens much later in the year, when their renowned collection of Salvias were in bloom, so it will be interesting to see it earlier in the year.

Our second visit is on Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup> for our annual picnic to be held at Hughenden Manor & Gardens at High Wycombe, a National Trust property.

Because they had never hosted anything like this before, a lot of work by the staff to find a suitable site for our picnic has paid off and provided the weather is kind, I believe this will be a memorable day. The views from the grounds, and the spectacular parterre garden together with the Manor House will only enhance the visit. Part of the grounds are quite hilly, but a buggy will be on hand to transport the less mobile to the picnic site, cafe and shop.

Earlier in the year we sent out an enquiry listing of five venues for our short breaks next year, asking what preference they had. The two most popular we have booked for 2024.

*...cont*



In June, we are travelling to Torquay staying half-board at the TLH Leisure complex with included trips on the River Dart to Brixham and to Plymouth with a cruise across The Sound to the River Tamar, just £469 per person.

In November, we will make a return visit to Warners Leisure at Gunton Hall where they are celebrating Turkey & Tinsel and we include a trip to the Thursford Christmas Extravaganza, Snape Maltings and Beccles. We have negotiated a special price of £499 per person for this trip.

Should any of these trips interest you, please contact us to check availability email [alletson@aol.com](mailto:alletson@aol.com) or telephone 01784 482545.

Now we look forward to another year, this one seems to be going by very quickly, so please have a very good Christmas and more importantly, a happy and a very healthy 2024.

***Pam & Ray Alletson***

## “Living on the edge”

Do you have a river or a stream either through your land or bordering your land? If so, you might need to read a copy of this booklet. You can collect a copy from Champney Hall at the Community Coffee Morning on Mondays.

It explains your **Riparian rights and responsibilities**

**A RIPARIAN LANDOWNER HAS CERTAIN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY COMMON LAW AND STATUTE, INCLUDING:**

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- The right to protect their property from flooding and erosion
- The right to take water (abstraction), for domestic purposes up to 20m<sup>3</sup> per day
- Responsibility not to pollute the watercourse or interfere with its quality
- To keep the watercourse and its banks in good condition and free from obstructions so that water and fish pass freely.

# Ellipsis... Our Book Club

By Lynn Holden

A good few years ago in Wraysbury, a group of us got together looking for something different to do, something uplifting, something to enjoy and yes, bring some much needed joy to our lives. That was the start of our Book Group, which for some long-forgotten reason, we called Ellipsis!

We agreed to meet monthly, to take it in turns to host and that the host would pick the next book, any genre, to be discussed at next month's meeting. We started with a random draw to determine whose turn it would be next to host. We would discuss our opinions and then award each book a score, which would represent a gut reaction rather than any slavish scoring against defined criteria.

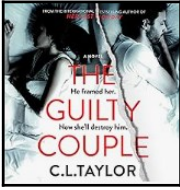
The first meeting found a group of twelve of us on our best behaviour, being very polite in our views and deferring to each other's opinions. For simply ages, every single book scored a very healthy '7'. As we got more comfortable with expressing different opinions, our discussions became more interesting and the scores started to diverge too.

We understand those who care mostly about being carried along by the plot, those for whom the plot must be driven by behaviours which are in keeping with what we know about each character or some who appreciate more the style of writing.

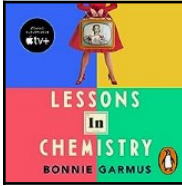
Since then, we have met in each other's homes most months, and even via the dreaded Zoom during the Covid years. We have learned that there are vanishingly few books which are universally liked but that the more we disagree, the more lively the discussions will be.

For fun, can you match the summary opinions in the list below to the sample reviews of some of the books we have read recently?

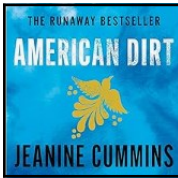
- ⇒ **almost universality admired**
- ⇒ **really moving and uplifting**
- ⇒ **enjoyed as light summer reading**
- ⇒ **surprisingly enjoyable**



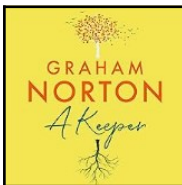
*...a riveting thriller that keeps you guessing till the final page. With complex characters and an intricate plot, it delves deep into the moral grey areas. A gripping read for those who love psychological twists and a good dose of suspense.*



*...a delightful novel brimming with humour and heart. The story of scientist Elizabeth Zott navigating the challenges of a male-dominated world is both empowering and entertaining. Through witty prose and endearing characters, it offers a refreshing take on feminism and the pursuit of dreams.*



*...a powerful and heart-wrenching journey that immerses readers into the harrowing world of migrants fleeing violence. Jeanine Cummins crafts a compelling narrative, filled with empathy and suspense. While it sparks essential conversations about immigration, some criticize it for cultural representation. A gripping, thought-provoking read.*



*...a captivating blend of mystery and family drama. Set in rural Ireland, it weaves a poignant tale of secrets, love, and generational ties. Norton's storytelling prowess shines, offering a heartfelt narrative filled with memorable characters and a touch of magic realism. A truly engaging read.*

We will check in with you in the next issue of Wraybury & Horton News, sharing some of our recently reviewed books and perhaps give you some ideas for choosing a book!

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## WRAYSBURY & HORTON AGE CONCERN

Welcome to Wraysbury & Horton Age Concern. We meet every Thursday morning at Wraysbury Village Halls between 10am and 12 noon.

We welcome new members to our friendly club with tea/coffee, biscuits and very often cakes, available. Besides the popular regular bingo, where unfortunately you will not win enough for a world cruise, we also have regular raffles with wide ranging prizes plus occasional entertainment and demonstrations, and much more is planned.

There will be our "Christmas lunch" which was well received last year. There are also shopping trips to either Staines or Egham on alternative Wednesday mornings. If you are unable to make your own way to our Thursday morning gatherings then the community bus can pick you up and return you home later, or you may wish to stay on for the luncheon club, where just the dessert trolley is well worth the money!

Please contact Barbara Hearne on 07752 121998 if you wish to book a place on the community bus for the lunch club or shopping trips.

*Barbara Hearne & Jackie Keynes*

## WRAYSBURY & HORTON AGE CONCERN NEEDS YOU

If you have recently retired and could find the time, would you please consider occasionally driving the community bus to pick up our members. Also, we are looking for drivers' assistants to help members onto and off the bus.



We meet at the Wraysbury Village Halls between 10am and 12 noon each Thursday morning.

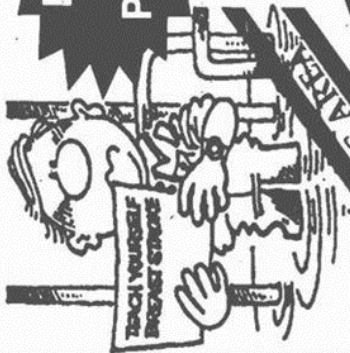
If any local resident feels they could help, please ring **Barbara Hearne** on **07752 121998** for further information.

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## Wraysbury Village Trust

Another year has gone by and we at the Trust have been busy with our donation requests and supporting the Wraysbury Village Halls. We also cover the running costs of the Minibus which has been used every week for Age Concern with shopping for the people who need to use it, supporting the lunch club held on Thursdays at the Village Halls, the Scouts weekend away, cricket matches and various other outings. Our thanks To Andy Davison for his contribution from the St. George's Day dinner, raising enough funds to help with the upkeep of the bus.

Once again, we supported Cricket Week with sponsorship for the Thursday MCC day, which was a great success. Many thanks to The Kitchen for the food for the players, Nikki Haynes, Carly Gibbons and Marilyn Ferguson for the food and drinks, support from the Scouts for the use of their tables and Andy Davison and Dave Bishop for setting up. Members and guests enjoyed a drinks reception, buffet lunch and afternoon tea in the marquee. Entertainment was provided by Robbie Lee who was so popular he stayed on and even the players enjoyed it. The sun came out and even better, Wraysbury Cricket Club won the match. Thank you to all the helpers on the day. The raffle was amazing, raising £800 —thank you to Nikki Haynes and everyone who donated.

Whilst writing this we are well underway with our plans for the annual Christmas dinner/dance which we plan on making, yet again, an event not to be missed.

The Trust goes from strength to strength and we always welcome new members. Our annual fee of £24 covers our money prize draws: the big one of £1000 will be drawn at the Christmas Dinner Dance on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Invites to members will have already been sent out and it may be that the event has already taken place by the time you read this but we all at the Trust wish every one of you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year 2024.

***Marilyn Ferguson Chairman WVT 250 club  
President Roger Chapman and all the Committee***

## DIRECTORY OF CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Organisation / Contacts	Contact # / Website / Email
ACCESS ADVENTURES (Edge Adaptive Sports Centre, Heron Lake)	accessadventures.co.uk team@accessadventures.co.uk 01784 483664
AGE CONCERN Barbara Hearne	ageuk.org.uk 07752 121998
ARCHIVE (WRAYSBURY)	wraysbury.archive@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
ART SOCIETY Sec: Lesley West	lesleywest125@btinternet.com 07930 362403
BADMINTON CLUB Chair: Brian Holloway	01784 482419 / brian@dholloway.co.uk
BADMINTON CLUB (Ladies)	Kim - 01784 482395 / Pam - 01784 482545
BOOK CLUB (Ellipsis) Lynn Holden	lynnholden1812@gmail.com 07894 991259
BOOK CLUB (Magna Carta) Lesley West	lesleywest125@btinternet.com 07930 362403
BOWLS CLUB Sec: Len Carlton	wraysburybowlsclub.co.uk 07516 977063 / wraysburybowl@hotmail.com
BOWLS (SHORT MAT) Chair: Mike Stone	michael.stone.781@btinternet.com 01784 458045 / 07543 622461
COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB Colin Bolton	colin@go-radio.co.uk / 07951 671123
CRAFTY CHURCH	<a href="mailto:CraftyChurch@stmichaels-horton.org">CraftyChurch@stmichaels-horton.org</a>
CRICKET CLUB (Wraysbury) Carly Gibbons	wraysbury.play-cricket.com secretary@wraysburycricket.co.uk
DRAGONS (Hurricanes Dragon Boat Club) David Randall	hurricanes-dbc.com 07813 309601
DRAGONS (Wraysbury) (Wraysbury Skiff & Punting Club) Dave Sutton	wspc.org.uk



## DIRECTORY OF CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS Cont.

Organisation / Contacts	Contact # / Website / Email
<p>DRAMA (Wraysbury Players) Nigel Handyside/ Lynn Holden (Chairperson)</p>	<p>07867 787911 / hkfire4@yahoo.co.uk 07894 991259 / lynnholden1812@gmail.com</p>
<p>FOOTBALL CLUB (Wraysbury Village FC) Mark Foster</p>	<p>wraysburyfc.co.uk info@wraysburyfc.co.uk 07788 413030</p>
<p>GIRLGUIDING: Rainbows, Brownies &amp; Guides Giovanna Cochrane</p>	<p>giovanna.cochrane@btinternet.com 07914 673278</p>
<p>HISTORY GROUP Tony Kimber</p>	<p>TonyKimber1@aol.com 01784 483801</p>
<p>HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Pam &amp; Ray Alletson</p>	<p>alletson@aol.com 01784 482545</p>
<p>MOBILE LUNCH CLUB (Meals on Wheels) Tim</p>	<p>01784 482515</p>
<p>NATIONAL TRUST Runnymede &amp; Ankerwycke</p>	<p>nationaltrust.org.uk 01784 432891 / runnymede@nationaltrust.org.uk</p>
<p>PAROCHIAL CHARITIES (Wraysbury) Sec: Sue Chapman</p>	<p>01784 483186 / s.k.chapman@btinternet.com</p>
<p>PRE-SCHOOL (Angels) Jane DeCecco</p>	<p>angelspreschool.co.uk 07944 848347 / info@angelspreschool.co.uk</p>
<p>PRE-SCHOOL (Pumpkins) Kellie Fairhall</p>	<p>pumpkinspreschoolwraysbury.wordpress.com 07500 224115</p>
<p>RADIO (Go Community) Colin &amp; James</p>	<p>colin@go-radio.co.uk james@go-radio.co.uk</p>
<p>SILVER WING SAILING CLUB</p>	<p>silverwingsc.co.uk General Enquiries: enquiry@silverwingsc.co.uk Training Dept.: principal@silverwingsc.co.uk</p>

## DIRECTORY OF CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS Cont.

Organisation / Contacts	Contact # / Website / Email
SCOUTING (Wraysbury) Acting GSL: Stuart Ford Scout Leader: Laura Sutton Beaver SL: Pam Morris Cub SL: Charlotte Ainsworth Chair: Russell George	<a href="mailto:WraysburyCubs@Hotmail.co.uk">WraysburyCubs@Hotmail.co.uk</a> 07738 662663 07594 530634 07789 180417 07964 691347 07733 140562
STITCH	<a href="mailto:WraysburyStitch@mail.com">WraysburyStitch@mail.com</a>
SUMMER FAIR (Wraysbury) Faye Bowerman	wraysburysummerfair@outlook.com 07788 975373
SWAN SUPPORT (Datchet)  Wendy Hermon	swansupport.org.uk / info@swansupport.org.uk 01628 876336 / 07968 868172
TENNIS (Wraysbury LTC) Chair: Mike McLachlan	clubspark.lta.org.uk/wraysburyltc wraysburyltc@yahoo.co.uk
VILLAGE CLUB (Wraysbury) Pres: Andy Davison Vice-Pres: Barry Barfoot Secretary: Kinde Hanspal Treasurer: Amrit Raj	<a href="mailto:Secretary.wraysbury.village.club@gmail.com">Secretary.wraysbury.village.club@gmail.com</a>
VILLAGE HALLS (Wraysbury) Chair: Glyn Larcombe Bookings: Mark & Jackie	wraysburyvillagehalls.co.uk 01784 482254 / 07838 220386
VILLAGE TRUST (250 Club) Marilyn Ferguson	wraysburyvillagetrust@btinternet.com 01784 482198
VOLUNTARY CARE (Wraysbury & Horton)	01784 482515
WINE & SOCIAL CLUB (Wraysbury) Chair: Ray Alletson Sec: Christine Morgan	Until January 2024 mccwnews@hotmail.co.uk 01784 482545 01784 482175
WRAYSBURY HUB Kellie Fairhall	hub@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk 07598 320268

Help keep this information up to date Email: [wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTACT DETAILS

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM)		
General Enquiries	<b>01628 683800</b>	<a href="http://www.rbwm.gov.uk">www.rbwm.gov.uk</a>
<b>RBWM Out of Hours Emergencies (24 Hour Line)</b>	<b>01753 853517</b>	
RBWM Borough Councillors for the Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury Ward		
Cllr. David Buckley	Cllr. Jodie Grove	Cllr. Ewan Larcombe

Parish Councils	
<b>Wraysbury Parish Council (WPC)</b>	<b>Horton Parish Council (HPC)</b>
<a href="http://www.wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk">www.wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk">www.hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Meetings are held on the <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</b> of each month, normally at <b>19:00</b> in the Wraysbury Hub, 12a High Street, Wraysbury, TW19 5DB	Meetings are held on the <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday</b> of each month, normally at <b>19:30</b> in Champney Hall, Stanwell Road, Horton, SL3 9PA
Chair: Phil Jackson	Chair: Benta Hickley
Parish Clerk: Karen Pye	Parish Clerk: Jayne Kennedy
Email: <a href="mailto:karyn.pye@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk">karyn.pye@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Tel: 07773 427632	Tel: 07957 588277 (Parish Mobile)
Postal Address: Clerk to Wraysbury Parish Council % The Hub 12a High Street Wraysbury TW19 5DB	Postal Address: Clerk to Horton Parish Council % Champney Hall Stanwell Road Horton SL3 9PA

## CHURCHES INFORMATION

Following Vicar Colin's retirement, St. Andrew's & St. Michael's churches are still in a period of Interregnum. For all enquiries please phone 07543 539569.

<b>St. Andrew's Church, Wraysbury</b>		
Email: <a href="mailto:Secretary.HortonAndWraysbury@gmail.com">Secretary.HortonAndWraysbury@gmail.com</a>		
Website: <a href="http://www.StAndrewsWraysbury.co.uk">www.StAndrewsWraysbury.co.uk</a>  St Andrews Church, Wraysbury		
Vicar	vacancy	
Licensed Lay Minister	Beryl Walters	01784 482092
PCC Secretary	Benta Hickley	07543 539569
Parish Secretary / Admin	Benta Hickley	07543 539569
Wardens	Tony Hermes	01784 391417
	Tony Kimber	01784 483801
Parish Evangelist	Mike Miller	01784 558972
Bell Ringers	Roger Lewiston	07973 725682
Choir / Organist	David Gamble	07929 441994
Annexe Bookings	Lesley West	07930 362403
Little Lambs	Becky Webb	07843 386585
Bereavement Support Co-ordinator	c/o Benta Hickley	07543 539569
<b>St. Michael's Church, Horton</b>		
Email: Benta Hickley <a href="mailto:Secretary.HortonAndWraysbury@gmail.com">Secretary.HortonAndWraysbury@gmail.com</a>		
Website: <a href="http://www.StMichaels-Horton.org">www.StMichaels-Horton.org</a>		
Vicar	vacancy	
Licensed Lay Minister	Beryl Walters	01784 482092
PCC Secretary	Beryl Walters	01784 482092
Wardens	Carolyn Wheeler	01753 682918
	John Blackman	01753 545643
Parish Secretary / Admin	Benta Hickley	07543 539569
Organist	Ian Harman	0208 894 6903
Crafty Church	Benta Hickley	07986 239269
<b>St. Augustine's, Datchet</b>		
Email: <a href="mailto:office@staugustines.org.uk">office@staugustines.org.uk</a>		Website: <a href="http://staugustines.org.uk">staugustines.org.uk</a>
Priest	Fr. Shyju Chacko	01753 917030 / 07505 927937
Wraysbury Contacts	Barbara Williams	01784 483503
	Ros Nockles	01784 483001

## USEFUL TRAVEL INFORMATION

### TRANSPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

Heathrow Airport                      0844 335 1801<sup>1,2</sup>      heathrow.com

<sup>1</sup> Calls cost 7p per minute + your telephone company's network access charge

Gatwick Airport <sup>2</sup>                      0344 892 0322              gatwickairport.com

Stansted Airport <sup>2</sup>                      0844 335 1803              stanstedairport.com

Luton Airport <sup>2</sup>                          01582 405100              london-luton.co.uk

London City Airport <sup>2</sup>                  020 7646 0000              londoncityairport.com

<sup>2</sup> Drop-off fees may apply - please check the airport's website for details.

Public Transport Information      0871 200 2233              traveline.info

National Rail Enquiries              03457 48 49 50              nationalrail.co.uk

Eurostar                                  0343 218 6186              eurostar.com

Transport for London – TfL        0343 222 1234              tfl.gov.uk

TfL Congestion/ULEZ Charge <sup>3</sup>    0343 222 2222

<sup>3</sup> With effect from 29th August 2023 the ULEZ is expanding across all London boroughs. Check whether your vehicle is compliant at:  
[tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/](http://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/)

### Train Times

Please check up to date timetables on [southwesternrailway.com](http://southwesternrailway.com)  
or call 0345 600 0650

Please note that when buses replace trains the bus stop for Wraysbury is at Old School Court and **NOT** Wraysbury Station.

### Bear Buses 305

Staines to Poyle via Wraysbury & Horton

For full timetables go to [bustimes.org/operators/bear-buses](http://bustimes.org/operators/bear-buses)

Telephone: 0208 867 0617

### Thames Valley Buses 5

Heathrow - Slough - Cippenham (One bus per hour extended to LHR T5 via Datchet, Horton & Poyle)

For full timetables go to [thamesvalleybuses.com/services](http://thamesvalleybuses.com/services)

Live tracker for the number 5 bus: <http://TinyURL.com/BusFiveTracker>

Telephone: 0118 973 3486

AS AT OCTOBER 2023

## EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FLOOD WARDEN		07957 123 029	<a href="mailto:francisbld@hotmail.com">francisbld@hotmail.com</a>	
Dave Francis		01784 483 053		
Flood Information Service		0345 988 1188	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency</a>	
P O L I C E	Criminal Act	In Progress	999	
		Reporting After The Event	101	<a href="http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk">www.thamesvalley.police.uk</a>
	Vandalism	In Progress	999	
		Reporting After The Event	101	<a href="http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk">www.thamesvalley.police.uk</a>
Social Worker Emergency Duty Service (24hr) (Personal / Family Problem Reaching Crisis)		01344 351 999		
Gas Leaks (24hr)		0800 111 999		
Electricity Supply Faults (24hr)		105		
Water Leaks (24hr)		0345 357 2407	<a href="http://www.affinitywater.co.uk">www.affinitywater.co.uk</a>	
Sewer & Drain Emergencies (24hr)		0800 316 9800	<a href="http://www.thameswater.co.uk">www.thameswater.co.uk</a>	
Datchet Health Centre		01753 541 268	<a href="http://www.datchetdoctor.co.uk">www.datchetdoctor.co.uk</a>	
Wraysbury Village Pharmacy		01784 482 430		
Citizen's Advice Adviceline (Mon – Fri, 09:00 – 17:00)		0800 144 8848	<a href="http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk">www.citizensadvice.org.uk</a>	

## Emergencies & Issues Dealt With by RBWM

Emergencies & issues such as - **traffic lights not working**, fallen trees, dangerous structure, missing manhole covers or dangerous potholes, unauthorised tree felling, **anti-social noise**, street lighting, emergency planning incidents, issues with council owned buildings, fly-tipping etc.

**RBWM Out of Hours Emergencies**      01753 853 517

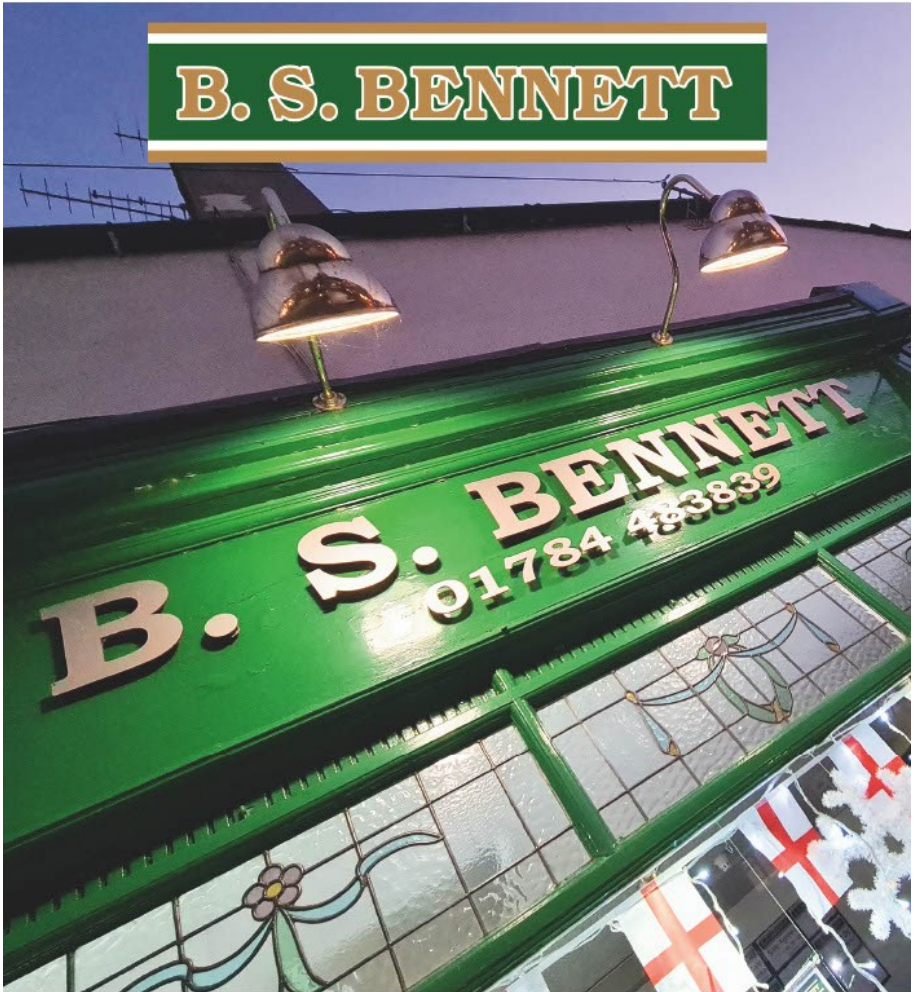
**Noise Complaints (Out of hours)**      01753 853 517

## RBWM Services Available During Office Hours:

**RBWM Home Page:**    [www.rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk)

**RBWM Report it:**    [www.rbwm.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/report-it)

Library and Resident Services	01628 683 800	First Point of Contact for Enquiries
Noise Complaints	Via online form	
Antisocial Behaviour	01628 683 800	(Office Hours)
Fly-tipping RBWM	01628 683 800	(Office Hours) or via online form



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