

WRAYSBURY FAIR

"ON SAFARI"



SATURDAY 10th JUNE

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	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	Dial 999 for access code
Dave Francis (Flood Warden)	07957 123029

All information correct at time of going to press





Welcome to the June 2023 and 118th issue of the
Wraysbury & Horton News magazine

Our latest edition is packed with articles, including news of how we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III in both villages. We also celebrate not one, but two 100th birthdays, those of Dan Godfrey and Erika Holloway.

We pay tribute to, and look back on, the lives of Eddie Elderfield, Gladys Walker and Arthur Sexton.

Terry Doe comes under our Community Spotlight sharing his very interesting life as a Romani and giving us an insight into the Romani history and way of life.

Thanks to Sarah Higney for providing us with a quiz for this issue—we hope it isn't too taxing for you.

Thanks also to Lana, age 10, who drew the poster that we've used for our front cover advertising the Summer Fair—don't miss it on June 10th on Wraysbury Village Green.

As the Borough & Parish Council elections only took place in May, we were unable to include news from our Borough Councillors but we'll be sure to ask them for an update on what they've been doing in their (new) roles for our December magazine.

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.

If you would like to get involved in writing or editing the magazine, have any ideas for articles or would like to have a go at helping us put the magazine together, please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you.

We hope you enjoy this issue and have a great summer.

Dawn & Sue



info@grb-services.co.uk



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ADVERTISING RATES

WRAYSBURY & HORTON NEWS

The next edition of the magazine is scheduled for December 2023. 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 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 DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE IS
FRIDAY 29th SEPTEMBER**

Please email 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

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

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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Fun for all



Pitches / stalls available for locally based Arts & Crafts, groups, clubs, societies, charities and businesses.

..... perhaps you might consider adding a simple game to your stall e.g. hook a duck, pick a straw, pin the tail on the donkey, lucky dip, guess the...? Not compulsory but might be fun!

Please contact:

Debbie Larcombe 07598 183860

deborahlarcombe@gmail.com

Glyn Larcombe 07831 508099



A Right Royal “Do”

Villages Celebrate the Coronation

On Sunday afternoon, the 7th May, after a special Coronation Service at St. Michael’s Church, Horton, Wraysbury played its part in celebrating the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.



Sponsored by the Parish Council, local families and friends were lured, by the ringing of church bells, to a splendid picnic on the recently mowed and verdant looking Memorial Ground. After a few days inclement weather, the sun shone and bathed the village in Coronation glory.

The sight was one of jubilation: picnic blankets surrounded by royal bunting, flags and children making crowns. An exhibition of King Charles’ life, collated by Tony Kimber was on display.



Birthday girl Pandora was crowned as “Queen” for the day on the royal “throne”, painted by Ray Alletson of the Horticultural Society. All the children in the Fancy Dress competition looked so marvellous that it proved impossible to choose overall winners and so all the children received a prize.



Activities and games were provided by local clubs: tennis, badminton, football and bowls. Giovanna, Girlguiding Leader, was First Aider. A kayak, used to enhance dragon boat training was displayed by the Hurricanes Dragon Boat Club and the children (and some adults!) were given rides on Olly Sanders’ traction engine, great fun.



A Right Royal “Do” cont.

Local businesses contributed too, including Pumpkins Preschool who supplied children’s activities: soft play, crown making and bubbles. The Frost Partnership Estate Agents printed and distributed flyers around the villages and special Coronation Picnic Boxes filled with yummy items were supplied to order by The Kitchen Café.

Teas and coffees were also available during the afternoon in the Village Halls for those in need of a good ol’ cuppa, possibly drunk from one of the Coronation mugs given as prizes. Music added to the happiness of the occasion, with Wing-It playing live and Go Community Radio entertaining everyone, so that the afternoon had a festival feel.

The Village Halls’ Mark and Jackie kindly provided facilities for those needing a rest out of the sun and electricity for the entertainers.



About 30 members of our communities were involved in arranging the two day celebrations at the venues in our two villages for our families. That number includes the planning committee, participants, advisors and helpers, too many to name individually.

Photos thanks to [Tony Britton](#) and [Simon Carter](#)

On Monday, May 8th, a Royal Tea Party took place in Champney Hall, Horton.

Following the morning Volunteer Event in Wraysbury Village Halls, villagers were treated to an elegant afternoon tea at Champney Hall, all served on a bone china service, supplied by Lesley West. The occasion was organised by Benta Hickley and helpers, with the delicious food being prepared and served by Janet Crame and the WHVC. Bunting once again fluttered, made by the local craft group, while people chatted and reminisced about the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, as well as the Coronation of our new monarchs. Families were also invited to take part in a treasure trail around Wraysbury and Horton, organised by Jayne Kennedy.



Horton Parish Council and St Michael's Church have bought a mug for every child in Horton.

Please text your address and the number of children (under 18) who live at that address to the Parish Clerk on **07957 588277** so we can allocate the mugs.



Once you have registered, you can collect the mugs from Champney Hall coffee morning every Monday (except bank holidays) between 10am and 1pm or we will arrange to deliver.



Wraysbury & Horton Voluntary Care is a registered Charity. It was founded over 40 years ago along pretty much the same lines as now – to provide help for those who need it. We currently have 4 trustees - all are volunteers with a diverse range of backgrounds and abilities and all are active in the group. We have brilliant volunteers from across the two villages who provide an array of help and support but also in many cases are supporters of other organisations.

BUT we are really struggling to get new volunteers. Where have they all gone?

In a crisis, these two villages always step up: during the flooding, lots of people were keen to come forward and provide transport, manpower and lots of advice. When COVID struck, a huge number of people queued up to help in many ways; so many in fact that our organisation couldn't possibly accommodate all the offers of help. Wraysbury Village Halls were built because volunteers raised thousands of pounds to enable its construction. We have circles of wine, jazz and art, players, sports clubs and so many more – several pages of them in this very magazine. Yet in reality, many of the people who are so generous with their time are actually volunteering many times over for different groups.

So, if you haven't yet become one of the unsung heroes of the villages, please do consider it. We are always looking for new people to join us. We need:

- Drivers** - for ad hoc transport to medical appointments etc.
- Drivers** - who would take on a regular slot to deliver meals for mobile lunch club
- Handy-people** – to do ad hoc jobs in house or garden for local people
- Cooks** – to help cook on regular days in the Village Halls kitchen
- Kitchen help** – washing up; vegetable preparation and serving
- Coffee morning helpers** – serving coffee and cakes; washing up
- Admin** – general office support

**If you have any spare time at all and would like to join us,
please call our Helpline number 01784 482515**

What we do

Our regular work includes:

- Mobile lunch club – every weekday
- Weekly Lunch Club in the Wraysbury Village Halls - Thursdays
- Coffee morning in The Hub - Wednesdays
- Our new Coffee morning in Champney Hall – Mondays
- Handling service for food donations which we then deliver to Foodshare in Windsor
- Transport to medical appointments
- Shopping for the house-bound – purchase and delivery
- Help with household chores
- Helpline advice and support
- Ad hoc hands-on help and support where needed but in confidence

Since the last magazine issue, we have covered all the work listed, but also, on December 22nd we hosted a Christmas party at the Village Halls, serving and delivering more than 80 lunches to local people. We covered lunch deliveries for the whole Christmas and New Year period, delivering no-charge Christmas lunches to ten people in the two villages with only Saturday 24th December as a no-delivery day.

We are especially grateful to DW Francis (Builders), Waysbury Post Office, The Frost Partnership in Waysbury and Natural Meats butchers in Staines for their very generous donations of food and funding which helped make the Christmas party and our Christmas day lunches possible.

The Champney Hall coffee mornings continue to be quite well attended and we hosted one of the RBWM's World Café events last year. **The Wednesday coffee mornings at The Hub** continue to be popular and we were lucky to have Waysbury School choir singing carols for us before Christmas last year. For both coffee mornings, we have regular visits from the local police, councillors and many other organisations who use the occasion to provide new updates and advice where appropriate.

We now have a laptop available at both weekly events and can help anyone who needs assistance with accessing information on the internet.

Warm Room Initiative: We supported the initiative to open the Village Halls foyer for anyone wishing to use a warm public space. We initially provided materials for users to make themselves a hot drink and a sandwich, or warm up a meal. The Village Halls are still open to visitors, but there has been no demand for this service with the exception of one man who came for one day only.

The Helpline is still manned every day by Tim and Carolyn, taking calls from people who want advice, help with household chores or issues, food or transport.

Windsor **FoodShare**. Please look for updates on Facebook for emergency calls for food and toiletries. With the increased financial problems, many more families are seeking their help. All contributions do need to be non-perishable please and must be within good sell-by dates. Contributions can be left at the Village Hall, Monday – Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

Fund Raising : Outgoings consistently outstrip the takings, so without donations and grants we would run out of funds. There are charity boxes for contributions to our funds in many of the village shops and we apply to local trusts and organisations for grants wherever possible.

Thank you to all our volunteers and those who have helped with funds.

HORTON PARISH COUNCIL



Following an uncontested election in May 2023 your Horton Parish Councillors are:

Benta Hickley **David Buckley** **Neil Cole**
Eileen Coogan **Ewan Larcombe**

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

Email clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk

WRAYSBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Unfortunately, the results of the May 2023 Parish Council election were not available at the time of going to print.

The Clerk to Wraysbury Parish Council is **Jane Clemance**.

Email info@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 Mill Place
- 2) **Coppermill Road** - On the junction with Stanwell Road
- 3) **Stanwell Road** - On the bus stop outside Champney Hall
- 4) **Pickens Piece**

Information correct at time of going to press



Horton Parish Council Report

Since the last edition of this magazine, Horton Parish Council has been through the election process. As there were only five nominations for Councillors, the election was uncontested and by the time you read this the Annual Parish Council meeting will have taken place and roles and responsibilities assigned. There are still 4 vacancies to be filled. So if you are interested please contact the Clerk at Clerk@HortonParishCouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council have continued to work with the Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury Neighbourhood Action Group that meets quarterly with representatives from Thames Valley Police, the RBWM Community Wardens, Speedwatch, Neighbourhood Watch groups and other Parish Councils. The main issues arising for Horton at the moment seem to be fly tipping and an increase in local business vehicles being parked on the highways.

There are some issues with drainage on Stanwell Road that the flooding department at RBWM have been looking into, as a drain clean out by the highways department has not resulted in any less flooding.

The good news for those relying on public transport is that Thames Valley buses, with help from Heathrow funding, have been able to extend their number 5 bus service so that once an hour it passes through Horton in each direction (Heathrow and Cippenham). The 305 will continue with its current route until at least April next year.

There are some tree works on the Recreation Ground to cut back some overhanging branches and in front of Champney Hall where we have sadly been advised to remove the tree. All of these works are being carried out as a result of the tree survey done in the autumn of 2022.

The Parish Council was part of a joint venture with St Michaels Church and Wraysbury & Horton Voluntary Care (WHVC) to organise the Coronation celebrations.

We would like to thank Cappagh for their donation of the new community noticeboard and funding towards the village decorations for the Coronation weekend. Thank you to Jayflex for replacing our vandalised benches on Horton Road over the last year. We would also like to thank the volunteer litter pickers and RBWM for supporting our efforts by providing litter-picking equipment. Thank you to WHVC for organising and doing the catering for the Champney Hall Coronation Afternoon Tea.

As always thank you to those who have given their time to the council, your support continues to be much appreciated.

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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 MARGARET LENTON

CHAIR OF THE WRAYSBURY PARISH COUNCIL
UP TO MAY 2023



At the time of writing, we are nearing the end of the four-year term of the Parish Council. I am grateful for the work of those who have served this village for the last four years, supported by our very able and committed Clerk.

The last period has been very challenging because it witnessed the Covid 'lockdowns', when the Council had to use Zoom to conduct meetings (which I had never previously heard of). Last year saw the death of Queen Elizabeth II and I stood on the Village Green proclaiming King Charles III.

By the time you read this we will have celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with a family picnic on the Memorial Ground and a Volunteers' Fair in the Village Halls in line with the new King's wishes.

The other major achievement of the last four years has been the purchase by the Parish Council of the former Baptist Church, which has been a feature of the High Street now for nearly two hundred years. The building has required work and one of the last acts of this Council has been to agree to the replacement of the windows in the main hall. Part of the rationale for the purchase was to create an office for our Clerk. Many documents have to be kept for a specified time and the Clerk now has somewhere in the centre of the village to meet people. The Hub has also become the new home to the Archive which contains interesting information about life in Wraysbury over the last three hundred years.

The last year has also presented challenges as the Parish Council has faced additional costs – our dog bin provider went out of business and his successor's charges were greater. Gas, electricity and insurance are all more expensive. Despite this, we have made improvements to the children's playground and installed exercise equipment, thanks to the support of the Parochial Charities. We are delighted to see this being used.

I am a member of the Neighbourhood Action Group where representatives of Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury meet with the Police and raise residents' issues including speeding, anti-social behaviour and fly tipping. One concern – the use of nitrous oxide and the discarding of the canisters has now become a national issue talked about by the main political parties.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your Chairman of the Parish Council for the last four years.

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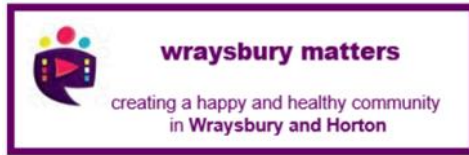
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wraysbury matters started 2023 with a fun filled Curryoke evening at The Hub. It was a great example of team work with Garry and Nicky from The Kitchen doing the curries and “Ginge” doing the karaoke. We raised £900 thanks to your generosity. **The next Curryoke evening is October 7th - SAVE THE DATE.**



Our main aim is to support mental health wellbeing within the villages and we have been exploring the best way to do that. We will be providing information at most village events throughout the year and are exploring ways of offering Mental Health First Aid.

Our other main aim this year is to continue to explore “Chill and Chat “ sessions for young people. Following a successful pilot scheme we are looking at ways to fundraise to pay for someone to undertake responsibility to run it (with full support and training).

We need your ideas! What do you think we should be fundraising for?

Over the past three years, we have run Wellbeing Days at the Village Halls with massage, Indian head massage and reflexology taster sessions as well as plenty of opportunity for retail therapy!

Keep your diaries free for our next day on Saturday November 11th between 10:00 and 16:00.

We are raising mental health awareness each month on our Facebook page – please *like* it! We continue to be represented at the WHVC coffee mornings at The Hub on Wednesday mornings as well as Champney Hall on Mondays – come and have a chat and share your ideas to promote a happy and healthy community.

Helen Williams, Dianne Cranmer, Benta Hickley and Ruth Fogg

wraysburymatters@outlook.com

WRAYSBURY LAWN TENNIS CLUB



**We welcome players of all ages so
why not dust off your racket & join us
Three all-weather courts (two floodlit)
Social mix-in sessions
In-house tournaments
Local league teams
Summer BBQ, Christmas Party
Coaching available**

Website: clubspark.lta.org.uk/wraysburylta

Email: 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 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 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

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 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.

St Andrew's Church, Wraysbury

& St Michael's Church, Horton

The Interregnum continues



As announced in the December 2022 edition, our local Churches are in a state known as 'Interregnum' – a period where there is no resident or dedicated Vicar. This started in October 2022 after the retirement of our last Vicar, Rev Colin Gibson.

During this period, Church activities and services continue, organised by the Church Wardens and the Parish Secretary with the support of the Oxford Diocese of the Church of England who arrange for visiting Clergy to help with those services that need an ordained presence.

The pattern of Services continues as it was before Christmas last year and details are shown on page 28.

Occasional Marriage, Baptism and Funeral Services continue to be held in both Churches by visiting Priests. If anyone would like to discuss any service of this type as the Interregnum continues, please contact the Admin Assistant who is acting for both Churches.

Email: secretary.hortonandwraysbury@gmail.com

Parish mobile: 07543 539569

The Churches are going through a process of acquiring a new Vicar. To do this we prepare a Parish Profile which describes who, where and what we are as Parishes and in which we review the type of person we think would be suitable as our Vicar and what we, as Churches, would like to achieve in our Villages going forward.

This document is now being prepared and we hope it will lead to the post of Vicar being advertised in early summer. The chances are that, even after interviews, the new incumbent will have to give three months' notice, so it is unlikely we will have a new Vicar until well into the autumn of this year.

Tony Kimber

Church Warden, St Andrew's, Wraysbury

St Michael's Church, Horton

An update from the Church Wardens

For the first time in several years, we were able to have the Scouts, Guides etc. into the church for their Remembrance service and then they paraded with their flags to the War Memorial, followed by the rest of the congregation. Many more villagers were waiting on the Green where Mr Galbraith laid the wreath for the church. Both parts of the service were very well attended.

Christmas and New Year were successful. The Church was decorated and Christingle was back for the first time since the pandemic with 83 people attending. There were 18 in the congregation on Christmas morning. The 11am service on New Year's Day attracted 22 people and it was followed by "Wine and Nibbles" to welcome in the New Year.

Along with Horton Parish Council and Wraysbury & Horton Voluntary Care we run a weekly community coffee morning which expanded into a "Warm Space" during the cold weather. This also hosts a "pop up" library, a repair cafe, a jigsaw swap, craft and chat and other events as suggested by residents or circumstances (e.g. make and take bunting session for the Coronation and attendance by the local Fire and Rescue service for Emergency Services Day).

Regular visits from Community Wardens, PSCOs and home care companies provide a chance for residents to voice concerns and ask questions. Our pop-up library is able to renew bus passes etc.

The coffee mornings take place at Champney Hall on Mondays between 10am and 1pm and all are welcome.

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



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

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Bell-Ringing

In November last year St. Andrews welcomed young ringers from around the Oxford Diocese. Despite terrible rain, some 18 ringers from as far afield as Marlow, Winkfield and Arborfield, turned out to ring as part of the monthly young ringers' practise. All 8 bells were rung (a rarity!) in rounds, call changes, Plain Hunt and even Plain Bob Doubles!



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

St. Andrew's Café, Wraysbury



St Andrew's Cafe meets on Tuesday afternoons in St Andrew's Annexe. Numbers are limited so please contact Church Warden Tony Hermes on 01784 391417 or tandh.hermes@gmail.com for more 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: david_gamble99@hotmail.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 st Sunday	Lay led ACTS service "What is church all about?"	11am
2 nd Sunday	Communion Service	11am
3 rd Sunday	Communion Service	11am
4 th Sunday	Communion Service	11am
5 th Sunday	Joint service at St Michael's	9:30am

St. Michael's Horton—Sunday Services

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

St. Michael's Horton—Tuesday Services

Every Tuesday	Communion or Communion by extension service	11am
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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

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lives of the following:

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Sandra Harris Pam Prickett Paul Sawdon

Arthur Sexton Gladys Walker

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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. Details of Mass times are below, together with contact details if you wish to ring beforehand.

Our parish priest has retired and we recently welcomed a new priest, Father Shyju Chacko, who is the 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

Contacts in Wraysbury:

Ros Nockles: 01784 483001 and Barbara Williams: 01784 483503



Interior of Our Lady of Sorrows Eton

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Tribute to Iris “Eddie” Elderfield



Born on May 27th, 1928, “Eddie” was well known to the villagers of Wraysbury for helping to run Wraysbury and Horton Age Concern, most recently organising transport for the “older folk” right up until she passed away this year at the age of 94.

Eddie, as her friends knew her (no one seems to know how she got the name) always gave her time generously, and her famous lemon drizzle cake made many an appearance at cake sales and village fetes. She had lifelong friends here and could be seen buzzing about the village on her pushbike well into her 80s.

Her son, Jeremy says “When I think of mum I feel enveloped in a blanket of warmth, love, selfless generosity, happiness and above all a longing to care and look after people”.

Caring for others was natural to Eddie, even from an early age. At the outbreak of World War II, she was sent to boarding school in Chalfont St. Peter where she was incredibly happy, apart from missing her parents of course. At the age of 11, her caring nature meant that the headmistress singled her out to help look after the younger girls.



After school, she started work at the Bank of England in Threadneedle Street, where she worked for 20 years, and it was through a work friend that she met the love of her life. On a visit to her friend’s family in Kent, they went to a local pub and there, playing the piano, was Jimmy. It was love at first sight and the start of a nearly 50 year, incredibly happy, relationship.

They were married in 1953 in Caxton Hall, where both Elizabeth Taylor and Diana Dors got married, as Eddie liked the idea of having a bit of a celebrity wedding. And she certainly looked the part in her satin gown and coat!

Jimmy and Eddie set up home on Friary Island in an idyllic sounding cottage called “Dingley Dell”. Not quite so idyllic, it was made of asbestos and also flooded a few times during their residence between 1955 and 1970. But Eddie and Jimmy couldn’t have been happier, feeding ducks from the windows, gardening and looking after wildlife.

Weekends were spent with Eddie’s beloved sister Jean, her husband Les and many friends, playing cards, tennis and generally “mucking around in boats”. Although they never had much money they were very content with their lot. Eddie’s words were “I wouldn’t change a thing”.

Jimmy, an aeronautical engineer at Fairey Aviation in Hayes, was highly creative. As well as engineering, he loved music, painting, pottery and carpentry. In fact, in the 1950s, Eddie and Jimmy even recorded a few songs on 78’s during a visit to the Billy Mayer School of Music recording studio in London. Jimmy’s abilities also extended to lovingly building a couple of boats from scratch as aircraft materials became available from his work. Eddie would work on Saturday mornings in London and, on her return, would be met by Jimmy in a boat at Staines and they would pootle back along the Thames to home.



They were blessed with their only child, Jeremy, in 1966. Eddie actually said she would have liked six children, and certainly had enough love for others. Her niece Julie and nephew Alan and subsequently their children all saw her as a grandmother figure. Friends in the village and children that Jeremy brought home were always fed a home cooked meal at Eddie's. Even when Jeremy was living away from home and it was his turn to "cook", a lasagne would appear on his doorstep!

Jeremy has found out since her passing that Eddie and Jimmy also nurtured a little boy from very young whose mother wasn't able to. Even to this day, that lad, now a grown man, says he would not be here if it weren't for Eddie's love and care.

It was suggested that Eddie be nominated for an award, to recognise her contribution to the community, but she refused to be singled out and never wanted a reward.



Life wasn't always kind to Eddie as she tragically lost her sister early and her mum passed away from cancer. When Jimmy passed away in 1998, she was devastated but summoned up the strength to carry on and get the most out of her life, helped by family and friends, especially her neighbour Sue who was like a daughter to her.

When Jeremy married Naomi, the two women became incredibly close. In fact Eddie introduced Naomi as her daughter to one of the nurses in Wexham Park Hospital.



On the eve of her 79th birthday, Eddie said that she had the "best birthday present ever" when her granddaughter Emily was born. Eddie had a new lease of life and another outlet for her care and love. They spent countless days chatting, baking cakes and crocheting together.



Eddie loved her garden and Jeremy and Naomi treasure the memories of sipping her homemade lemonade, sitting in the shade of her Hornbeam tree. Her garden was her pride and joy, thanks to her good friend Geoff who tended it lovingly for her.

She was certainly one of the "make do and mend" generation, never wasting a thing. She had a thing for serving meals with a "proper" napkin. Rather than throwing away a perfectly serviceable item, Jeremy found no fewer than 79 cotton napkins in her drawer!

One of her favourite books was 'Three Men in a Boat' by Jerome K Jerome. This passage, chosen by Jeremy, sums up Eddie and her life:

"Let your boat of life be light, packed with only what you need – a homely home and simple pleasures, one or two friends, worth the name, someone to love and someone to love you, a cat, a dog, and a pipe or two, enough to eat and enough to wear, and a little more than enough to drink."

Written by Sue Britton



Eddie's 90th birthday tea

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Test your little grey cells with our SUMMER QUIZ

by Sarah Higney



- 1) In February 2013, which playing token did the cat replace in new Monopoly sets?
- 2) In the song “Any Old Iron”, the lyrics say – “dressed in style, brand new tile” – but what is a ‘tile’?
- 3) Visiting the UK in February 2022, what were Dudley, Eunice & Franklin?
- 4) Who has the advertising slogan “Central Heating for Kids”?
- 5) What is the collective noun for bears?
- 6) What model of car can be made from the Roman numerals for ‘207’?
- 7) What is a Shillelagh?
- 8) How many fish represent the zodiac sign of Pisces?
- 9) The Santa Maria was the ship of which explorer?
- 10) How much is the letter X worth in Scrabble?
- 11) There are 3 U.S. States with just 4 letters in their name, can you name them?
- 12) A 2009 search for the Loch Ness Monster came up empty, but scientists DID find 100,000 what?
- 13) Sleeping through winter is called Hibernation, what is sleeping through summer called?
- 14) What was the name of the last private resident of 10 Downing St?
- 15) Which online game went viral in January 2022 and was later bought by the New York Times?
- 16) What was the name of The Queen’s beloved fell pony, who waited outside Windsor Castle to greet the late monarch’s coffin at her funeral?
- 17) If you said you’d got “Cutis Anserina”, what would you have?
- 18) Who wrote the book “Of Mice & Men”?
- 19) What is the name for a baby Echidna?
- 20) What is Scooby Doo’s ghost hunting group called?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 137

“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**

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- 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.

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HORTON COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

CHAMPNEY HALL

MONDAYS 10am to 1pm

Horton Community Coffee morning is open every Monday morning (excluding bank holidays).

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" sessions such as bunting for the recent coronation (no charge, everything provided by St Michael's) and 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 are often on site with us:

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

If you have any questions contact us
at ChampneyHall@gmail.com





Community Spotlight

Terry Doe

Written by Sue Britton

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Terry, a man striving to share his story to help promote better understanding of his Romani heritage. He hopes to build a stronger community spirit with non-Romani villagers. All his life, he's been aware of the assumptions people make and the consequences of being "different".

When I first spoke to Terry on the phone, I found him open, warm, extremely informative and funny. I wasn't disappointed when he visited me for a chat about his life, values, and beliefs. Terry is a writer and editor, and we could have talked for hours about dogs, photography, journalism, depression and family. Luckily he already came prepared with a copy of his talk, which he gladly gives about the history, traditions and myths of Romani people. Otherwise, I could have been scribbling till the paper ran out, there were so many fascinating insights.

Terry didn't even balk at my ignorance in terms of what to call his people, the mention of a certain television programme that dramatised the Romani way of life to an extent he didn't even recognise (you know the one...) and my other seemingly stupid questions. The only thing that made ME feel a bit self-conscious (Terry was thoroughly relaxed) was his description of how the traditional Romani people keep their environment immaculate, never mixing hand washing areas with food prep sinks and NEVER having pets indoors.....well, I had already made him a cup of tea in my (slightly messy) kitchen with two muddy hounds running around but, like many modern Romanis, he's an 'indoor pet' owner, too, so no problems there. Phew....



Terry's dad with dog Paddy in front of the family wagon



Morris, Terry's late dog and the subject of his first book

So, who is Terry?



Terry's family outside the trailer
he grew up in

Terry was born in Upton Hospital in July 1956, to a Romani family who lived on a narrow strip of land at the side of Wiggins' field in Horton.

His mother, Ethel, and his father, Matthew, had travelled, alongside other family members, from various locations, following the work i.e., going where tenant farmers needed strong labourers.



2 year old Terry

In those days, the Romani community were valued as land workers who worked hard, were disciplined, understood nature, did no damage and, with only one cold water standpipe between 50 people on the site where Terry grew up, needed very little in the way of facilities. Their key ethic was to "bring no shame to the door" and this made them welcome as resident workers.

As a child, Terry's father lived in a traditional painted wagon, but by the time Terry and his younger sister, Ann, came along, the family had moved into a more spacious caravan, always referred to as a 'trailer'. This one even had an extension! Life was still basic, cooking mainly outside over a campfire of kindling and washing clothes by hand. But this was normal for Terry's mum, who grew up as one of 15 children in similar circumstances and learnt Romani ways from her mother. The children also helped each day, to keep life going.



Gathering water was an essential part of a
child's day

Terry's mum was a strong woman who insisted that Terry and his sister go to school, despite a history of segregation at the local school during the war. At the time, this included having separate classrooms, coat hooks, and not allowing Romani children on any outings. During World War II, when evacuees fled the Blitz on London, the Romani children were sent away from their school to make room for them.

Cont.

The segregation was imposed to allay fears of the Romani children having a detrimental effect on the education of their non-Romani schoolmates. Records from the time showed no discernible benefit in the system. However, it remained in place for over a decade. Quite what damage such a system did to the community is harder to assess, but those who experienced it at the time criticised it without reservation.

Despite her personal experience, Terry's mum still believed in forgiveness and the power of education, and along with the other parents in the encampment, she decided to trust the system that had let them down. She also taught Terry NOT to confirm others' prejudices, but to prove them wrong by going to school and getting a good education.



Horton Primary School



Terry as Joseph in the school
Nativity Play

His mum's values became Terry's and are certainly why he is so keen to honour her legacy, teaching others about Romani life and promoting understanding today. Unlike the experience of his elders, Terry says that the Horton village school that he and his cousins attended was a wonderful place, where an inspirational Headmaster taught them so much that remains with them all to this day.

When Terry was 7 years old, several families from the Wiggins Field encampment were rehoused in Milton Close, Horton. As Terry explored his new home, he thought it was just like Disneyland. It had stairs, water from indoor taps, rooms that were lit by the touch of a switch, indoor cooking and toilet facilities, and joy of joys, a faux marble tiled floor in the hallway, that Terry used as an indoor ice rink, skidding into the coat racks as a buffer.



Terry's dad outside the house with his
pride and joy

For his parents though, the fundamental facts of their lives remained as solid as ever, especially the unbreakable laws of hygiene. This may seem irrational to some, but for a Romani family, cleanliness could mean the difference between life and death, especially when they never usually saw a doctor and had to deal with infection themselves. This belief was so entrenched that, when Terry's mother got her first washing machine (a front loader that was supposed to save her time and effort), she insisted the waste pipe be plumbed into the outdoor drain and not in the kitchen. She also pre-boiled all the clothes in the copper before loading them into the machine, which she obviously didn't trust ... so much for convenience!



Not exactly convenient!

Another example of this conviction was when Terry's father Matthew went into a local café and saw there was a cat on the table; he forbade his family to go anywhere near it.



Pleasure or peril?

Terry was always a "secret" reader and writer and did well at school. At 11 years old, he was expected to pass his '11-plus' exam and qualify for a place at Slough Technical School. But the thought of being the only Romani in the whole school was a stretch too far and he deliberately failed the exam.

Instead, he went to Churchmead, where again he was the only Romani in the "A" stream in his year, but managed to integrate well with all the non-Romani children, which stood him in good stead later in life. When the end of school exams rolled around, he did extremely well in the mocks but didn't take the final exams. Terry explained that he'd attended a work experience week at Windsor Safari Park, where the attraction of being surrounded by all manner of exotic animals was too much to resist, so he simply didn't go back to school.

Terry admits that not making the most of his education and specifically not going to university, remain among his greatest regrets.

Terry eventually worked at Heathrow airport as a cargo handler, until his lifelong back problem, scoliosis, became so bad that the pain was debilitating and he had to have an operation to fuse his lower spine.

That had to be the end of lifting cargo.

Cont.

Growing up on the land as a Romani, Terry has always loved outdoor sports such as fishing and shooting, which he has been very successful at in competitions.



Sporting success



This success was to be a way to use Terry’s intellectual skills once again. At a shooting tournament he was sitting next to the Editor of a popular shooting magazine and they got talking. Impressed with Terry’s knowledge, the Editor asked him if he had ever written for a magazine and would he like to write about the tournament? Terry saw the opportunity and said yes, he had written articles before (not quite true, but he knew he could do it). Terry also knew that the magazine’s offices were in Windsor so on the Monday after the tournament, Terry turned up as the doors were opening, to deliver his article to the Editor himself. The Editor was surprised by his commitment and the quality of his article too. Two more articles followed in a few days; Terry’s discipline and determination meant that he worked like a dog to get them done. Terry ended up as Editor-in-Chief of the magazine group, and worked there for the rest of his career.

Unfortunately, Terry’s life hasn’t always been that easy. Not only did he suffer prolonged pain from the scoliosis but he has recently been treated for throat cancer. Years of chronic back pain resulted in clinical depression in the early 1990s and Terry has maintained a commitment to helping others with depression ever since. He declares a personal determination to help reduce the misunderstanding of depression and he knows how it feels when people say “snap out of it”.

Nowadays, Terry has a tattoo on his wrist, visible to anyone who needs help, a semi-colon that says, “the conversation (your life) isn’t over; this is just a pause”. The symbol is part of the global ‘SEMI-COLON’ movement that has grown up to help others. It is used as a message of affirmation and solidarity with those who have dealt with suicide, depression, addiction and other mental health issues and invites people who may feel depressed or suicidal, to come and talk. Many a time, Terry has missed a train or a meeting, choosing instead to talk to someone in need.



Family Traditions

The whole Romani culture is built around family, especially the youngest and the oldest members. Terry has been tracing his family tree, although registering births and filling in census forms was not typical. For example, Terry's dad was actually registered several weeks after he was born, meaning, rather like the Queen, he had two birthdays. Oh well, a good excuse to go twice to the pub!

Alongside biblical names such as Mary and Nehemiah, names that reflect the Romani way of life such as Ocean (1864) and Freedom (1866) were used way before Gwyneth Paltrow named her daughter Apple!



Great grandfather
Matthew Loveridge born
1885 in Stroud, Glos

Terry's ancestors mostly lived around the South of England, in the Wiltshire Plain, Lyndhurst, Alton, Bramley and Southampton. Occupations included beehive, basket and clothes peg makers as well as tin workers and flower sellers.



Matthew and family back from
selling flowers in London
(taken at Sunnymeads Station)



Terry's mum (L), Aunt Mary and
cousin Nelson

In 2005, Terry's beloved mum passed away and Terry delivered his first eulogy at her funeral. That was over 40 eulogies ago and since then, Terry has become ever more determined to use his skills to honour those who have passed, writing and delivering tributes on behalf of those who need help at such an emotional and demanding time. Terry says, "I cannot give people back their loved ones, but I can make sure the last words spoken about them, before they are laid to rest, truly represent and honour them".

Cont.

Respect

Romani are extremely respectful of parents and grandparents and believe in making a big thing out of funerals and respect for the deceased, including the pre-funeral custom of what's called 'sitting up'. This amounts to spending time with the family of the deceased at their home, prior to the day of the funeral; the men around a fire, the women indoors, or in cabins and tents brought in for the duration, sometimes sitting there right through the night. This custom is now purely about showing respect for the deceased and their family, but its origins stem from the Romani ancient ancestors' desire to guard their loved ones through the hours of darkness, so that evil spirits could not steal their souls.

Terry has also continued the tradition begun by his uncle Bill and his father Matthew, in helping to care for the churchyard at St Michael's. This includes the restoration of neglected graves in both St. Michael's and St. Andrew's churchyards. He believes in making sure people's loved ones are not forgotten, whether that's a Romani, an RAF pilot from WWII, or evacuee children from the last war. The work carried out by Terry and the volunteers at St Michael's is transformational, turning a heap of grass and weeds back into a wonderful tribute.



Before



After restoration

Myths and Prejudice

The Romanis of Terry's parents' generation seemed to live in mortal dread of being judged and found wanting by 'the people'. Terry's mum often said, "Whatever will the people say?" and "God only knows what the people will think of us!" as if some imagined scandal loomed large on the family horizon. Terry has never found out who these 'people' were, but they must have had a fearsome reputation, if someone who lived as blameless a life as his mum was so scared.

Terry is trying to build bridges between the Romanis and his non-Romani neighbours, but he is realistic, reminded every now and again about the prejudice in society.

An example is when he contacted a stonemason to order a headstone for his mother's grave. The stonemason heard his voice and remarked that, "at least your mum is safely away from the Gypsy side of the graveyard, Sir!", meaning the side where most of the Romani people are buried. Obviously, after an 'informative exchange' and despite being offered major discounts by way of apology, Terry took his business elsewhere, because he would never dishonour his people by using such a company.

Of course, TV shows such as "My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding" don't help. Terry says these are largely works of fiction and the content of them came as every bit as much of a shock to his people as it must have to non-Romanis. For example, Terry says that if the young women of his family were subjected to the supposed tradition of 'grabbing' there would be a 'robust reaction' from those girls' fathers and brothers. These shows certainly do not reflect the lives of the Romani people and merely perpetuate unhelpful myths.

Another myth surrounds the ancient tradition of burning the wagons of the deceased. The myth is that it is to send the departed off to a "Romani Valhalla".



A traditional 19th C Romani "bender" tent

Instead, it purely stems back to the dread of fatal infection, taking no chances by sterilising their homes with fire.

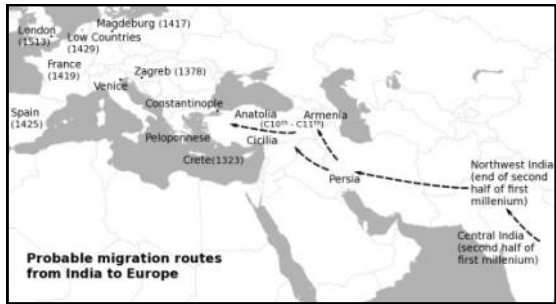


A travelling wagon

Cont.

Romani History

Let's now replace myth with some facts about the Romani people. Originating from India, the Roma (collective name for Romanis across the world) travelled across the Middle East and Europe, from 1000 to 1500 years ago, reaching



English shores by 1514, when there was the first mention of a 'Gypsy' in the country. The name 'Gypsy' is a contraction of 'Egyptian', which is where the Romani people were mistakenly believed to have originated. This name, now considered by many to be a derogatory term, has been used to refer to Romani people until very recent times.

The population is actually divided into three main groups, based on language, and can be referred to as:

- The Domari of the Middle East and Eastern Europe (the Dom)
- The Lomavren of Central Europe (the Lom), and
- The Romani of Western Europe (the Rom).

In the days of Henry VIII, Egypt was considered to be the cradle of mysticism and astrology, and the fictitious Romani association with Egypt is believed to have fostered the belief that they had all sorts of mystical powers.



The Egyptians Act 1530 was a response to the arrival of Romani Gypsies, known as 'Egyptians'

However, the main 'crime' the Romani people of this era found themselves accused of was,

believe it or not, harbouring emissaries from Rome. Of course, the King was at loggerheads with the Pope as he wanted to divorce his wife. So, in 1530, the expulsion of "Gypsies" was ordered and Henry VIII forbade their entry into England. In 1562, the range of offences was widened to include anyone who 'acted in the manner of an Egyptian'. So basically, if you even looked, lived, or seemed to be a bit like a Romani – you could be lawfully executed.

The persecution of the Romani people carried on throughout history, including their exploitation as slaves in the Caribbean and Virginia in the 18th Century, to the extermination of two million Romani people during the Holocaust.



Romanis today

Nowadays, 12 million Romani people live alongside non-Romanis all over the world and have had their own official anthem and flag since 1971. The flag depicts the green of the earth on which they travel and live, the blue of the sky

under which they live and sleep and at the centre is what looks like a wagon wheel but is actually a 16-spoke chakra, which is the Sanskrit word for wheel and represents the body’s inner spirit.

Romanis also have their own language, derived from ancient Punjabi or Hindi, as the Roma people originated in India. Although there is some variety across regions, a standardised dialect has been in development for several years by the Linguistic Commission of the International Romani Union.

Count to ten in Romani

1	yek	6	shov
2	duy	7	efta
3	trin	8	oxto
4	shtar	9	en’a
5	panj	10	desh

“Travelling Home” Talk

Terry says, “We are all different, yet we are often so alike and once we understand this and each other, then so much good can come of that”. For this reason, he is passionate about sharing his talk, “*Travelling Home*”, where he aims to bust some myths about the Romanis and teach non-Romanis more about their heritage and values.

If anyone would like to hear Terry’s talk, please email us at wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com and we’d be delighted to pass on the request.



A traditional Romani rasher pudding being prepared for the talk



Terry’s talk is popular at the church



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Our Wraysbury contact is Nicola Harrington-Gray (tel. 07902 046490)

Email: cats@haws-animals.org.uk Website: www.haws-animals.org.uk

We are busy as always but the last few months have seen a worrying increase in the number of cats abandoned. We took in two young ones who had been dumped on an allotment. The worst of many was a mum and three kittens left on a pile of rubbish in a broken carrier tied up with plastic bags without ventilation. It was a freezing cold night and if they hadn't been found may well have perished. The good news is that mum was fine and although the three kittens developed cat flu they quickly recovered after treatment.



All charities are overloaded due to the ongoing cost of living crisis and it is also impacting adoptions. Potential adopters who at one time would have happily adopted a pair of kittens, are now saying they prefer just one having investigated the costs. We don't criticise people for being responsible but it means kittens are waiting longer to be adopted which means they stay longer in foster homes. We always need more foster homes to make it easier for us to take more in.



We expect kitten season to be busier than usual as people struggle to pay for neutering and there is only limited help for free neutering under the C4 scheme. To qualify, people need to be in receipt of benefits. What is helping a little is that if we take in a mother and kittens, we find homes for the kittens and in return spay the mother cat and then she can be returned to the original owners without the risk of more kittens. We also microchip her.

We still have a good relationship with Sainsbury's in Chiswick who donate food and Pets at Home in Brentford where we receive vouchers to spend in store.

We are always in desperate need of donations whether it be financial or food, so if you can or help in any way, however small, please get in touch.



Thames Valley Police

A message from your

Police Community Support Officer

Les Bradfield

I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer evenings now the cold winter days are behind us.

The past months we have seen an increase in reports of burglary, identity fraud and online scams in the village. I appreciate the response from the community who have contacted me with information and for guidance on how they can help prevent criminal activity.

I can reassure you that we are doing everything in the Neighbourhood Police Team to deter, prevent and detect crime in the lovely villages of Wraysbury and Horton.

Every month I hold a crime prevention surgery at the Wraysbury Hub in the High Street; times and dates will be posted online in the Thames Valley Police Alert message and on posters in the village.

A doorbell camera is a good deterrent and provides valuable evidence for the police to catch the offender. The doorbell contains a motion sensor which activates a CCTV camera, records every time it is activated and sends images and an alarm to your phone. At night it records perfectly as security lights may have been activated.

Police patrols have been increased to prevent criminal activity owing to the recent number of reports.

Just to make you aware, I have gone part time now after keeping the lovely people of Wraysbury safe for 13 years.

I look forward to meeting you all soon, helping you out and sharing a cup of tea and biscuits with you.

Be safe

Les

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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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Memories of Wraysbury

A trip down memory lane with Graham Sinclair

How things have changed between the year I was born, 1935 and today. As a boy, I used to walk from home in Wraysbury Road to the Village School.



Map courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

The Lammas



As I cross the County Ditch from Staines, Middlesex (now Surrey) into Queensmead, Buckinghamshire (now Berkshire), I see the Old Coal Post that used to be beside the railway line near Wraysbury station. This is one of the boundary marker posts found in southern England, erected in the 1860s, forming an irregular loop on the outskirts of London to mark the points where taxes on coal were due to the Corporation of London. I erected it when it was moved in 1979 from “Wyrardisbury” station and I doubt if many people realise that inside this post is a time capsule, containing coins, newspapers and even an early edition of this magazine!



The Halt was a patch of land on the County boundary between the Lammas and the Coal Post. It was a historic stopping point for Romanis, all sound folk and a top man in particular was Wisdom Smith. How The Halt was lost I'll never know.

Gorrods Field and The Cow Field

Just off the Wraysbury Road was some 34 acres of open meadows which was looked after by Manor Farm (now St Andrews Close). Farmed by Alfred Reffell, the meadows were enjoyed by local people, with access to the Thames. We had our football and cricket pitches on these meadows and in 1977, held our Silver Jubilee party there. The kids had boats made from long range Spitfire fuel tanks. Mr Nichols, a transport man from Gloucester Drive, bought us a truck load from Hanworth Air Park after the war for 1s.6d each. When the land passed into the ownership of the Water Company in 1973, it was agreed by the Consultant Engineer (Planning Application Bucks County Council, ref. no. WS/6036/23/2) that the company would safeguard the amenities of the local residents, that there would be no embankments and pleasant views would be preserved through gaps in the surrounding trees.

Now **Queensmead Lake** is privately owned by Affinity Water and behind 6 ft fencing, so that residents of Wraysbury can no longer enjoy the view or facilities of this landscaped park, or access it as agreed.



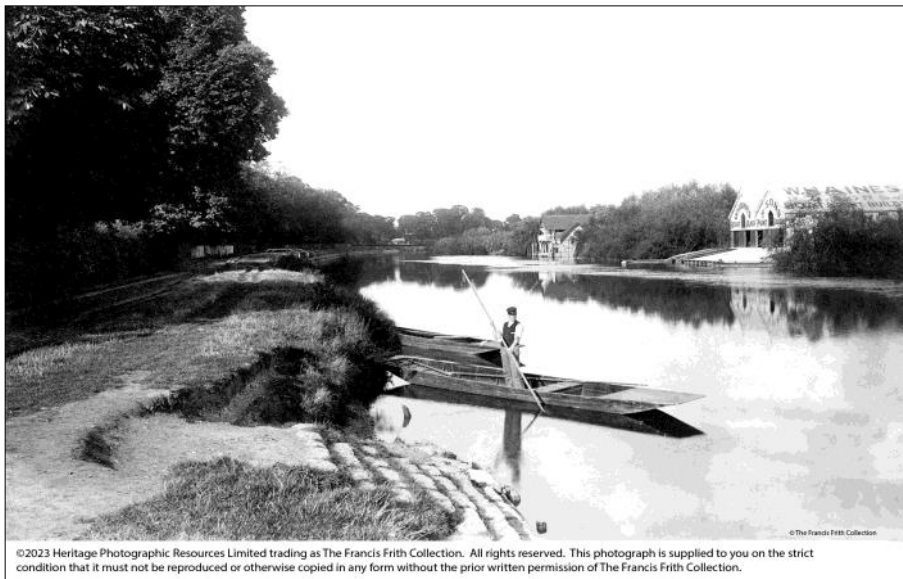
Queensmead Lake aerial view

Wraysbury Road

Off the Wraysbury Road, we used to walk along a little lane down to the Thames, now gated. This lane ran alongside Staines Stadium, a great venue for greyhound racing, motorcycle and bike racing. Reg Harris raced here. It also hosted Staines Town football club, visiting Russian Cossacks and much more. The stadium was owned by Jack Walsh, a larger than life man, who bought it with his winnings from his dog Lone Keel, the winner of the Dog Derby at White City.

Further down the Wraysbury Road, we find Colne Way, which in the old days was the way to Ferry Lane over the weir and down to the Thames. With a ring of the bell, the ferry would come over and take us for a nice drink in The Anglers pub, mentioned in the book "Three Men in a Boat", now The Runnymede Hotel.

On the road to Wraysbury, not many cars in those days, but regular bus services from Staines. The 460 ran to Slough and the 224 to West Drayton. Either side of the road, there was farmland: Armour's farm in Feathers Lane and Jim Fleming's farm at Magna Carta Lane.



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Wraysbury, The Ferry 1890
Copyright The Francis Frith Collection

Hythe End

Just before the river bridge on the right was Hythe End Common and on the left, we find the cinder track, with access in those days to the Thames. I can clearly remember fishing, boating, and open water swimming in the Colne Brook here. The cinder track was also home to Christine Keeler, a much-maligned lady and a chap called Alfie Hinds, known in the press as "Houdini" Hinds, who escaped three times during a 12 year sentence for robbery, before being pardoned by the Queen. The cinder track is now part of Hythe End Road, a private estate.

Staines Road

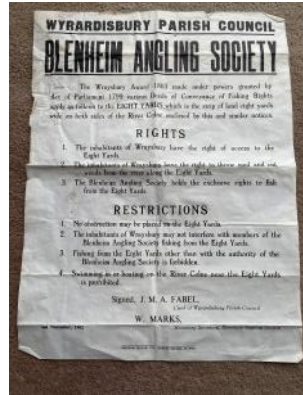
Walking along the Staines Road section, we had more meadows that became a gravel pit, were infilled with household waste, banded then domed, now a solar farm. A little further on were the fields where we picked potatoes to help the war



effort, now the Silver Wing sailing club, a wonderful addition to the area.

The Eight Yards

Go back a bit and we cross the bridge over the Colne Brook and the Horton Drain, and walk the Wraysbury Eight Yards, running all the way from the Wraysbury Road bridge to Wraysbury Station. This is a breadth of land eight yards wide either side of the Colne Brook that was awarded to the people of Wraysbury in 1803 by Act of Parliament and entitled us Right of Way to walk downstream to Hythe End Mill, cross the weir, and upstream to the Copper Mill, crossover via the weir and back again, a roughly 5 mile walk. The fittest lads could beat the 224 bus from Bell Weir Garage to Wraysbury Station, by running the Eight Yards and crossing the railway line. We spent hours swimming, boating and fishing in the Colne Brook. However, in 1962, a former Parish Council gave it away to Blenheim Angling Club. This was an unfortunate mistake, the Parish Council not realising that you can only alter the Award by another Act of Parliament, confirmed by Lord Denning, the most senior Law Lord at the time.



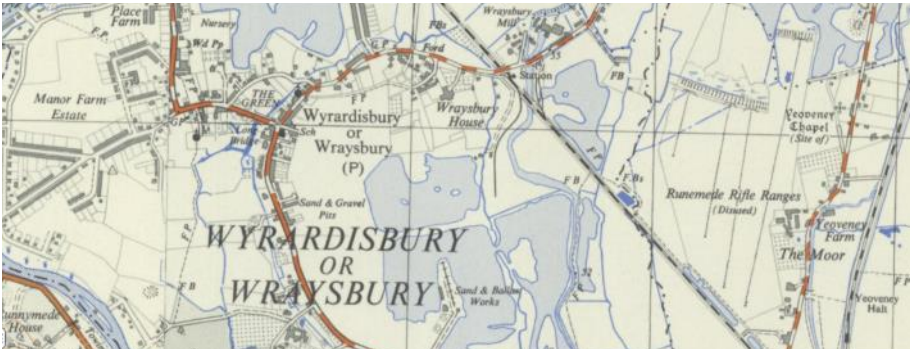
The Six Pubs of Wraysbury

1. The world famous **Feathers** pub in Feathers Lane, the old road from Staines to Wraysbury. The earliest landlady I can remember was Mrs Pendry, then came Eddie Basham, Ted Faulkner and finally Elsie and Ernie Summers. Much skulduggery went on here during the war, reputedly a haunt of criminals and even the odd murderer.
2. The **Green Man**. My dad was charged with the chinning of Marquis Stevens here.
3. The **George**, where Henry Cooper trained and Mike Gibson rang the ringside bell.
4. The **Railway** near the station.
5. The **Perseverance** (the "Percy"); still going strong, well run by Nick and Sarah, a great place to eat and drink.
6. The **Anglers** across the river from Bell Weir Lock.



The Green Man, flooded in 1947

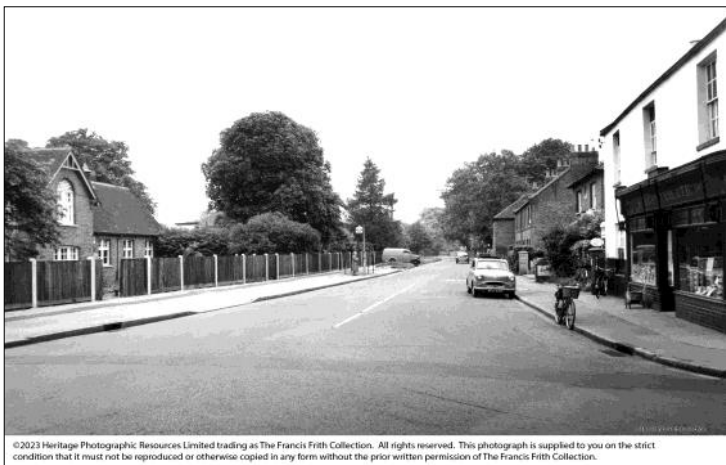
Only the Perseverance and the George survived in Wraysbury.



Map courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

The Village

As we come into Wraysbury “proper”, Bennett’s was Budgens, Frost’s was Reeves the Butcher, the Pharmacy was Jewson’s and The Co-op was Concorde Garage and before that Horace Saltmarsh had his garage there. My old school, Wraysbury Council School, where I started at 5 years old, had Mr Watson as the Head, who did the caning and was well-respected. Other teachers were Mrs Buckland, Mr Dunn, Mr Basden, Miss Fordham, and Mr Hannafey. Swimming lessons meant a walk to the river, where there were changing huts for boys and girls. The school site is now a pleasant development, retaining its identity.



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Wraysbury School, Staines Road c. 1955
Copyright The Francis Frith Collection

That’s my ramble around Wraysbury, hope it brought back some memories.



1st Wraybury Scouts

Over the past year we've been up to all sorts of exciting activities, with 5 camps down and another 2 to go pre-summer. Beavers had a Space Sleepover in October, complete with a planetarium. Cubs have been on Survival Camp, cooking dinner and breakfast for themselves on fires (which is quite impressive at 8 years old) and Cardboard Camp. Scouts have completed a Hike Camp and our annual Scouts' Freeze Out Camp.

By the time this goes to print, we will have returned from our bi-annual family camp. This is all the Group members, plus siblings and parents, for a weekend camping in the New Forest. We do all sorts of activities such as Crabbing, Archery, Tomahawks, Inflatables and Pioneering. It's a great weekend and "touch wood" everyone involved had a fantastic time!

We're also excited to get back on the Scouts' lake shortly, having bought new paddleboards for the kids last summer. We've had lots of volunteers going through training on kayaking recently and it's great to see so many people volunteering to teach these skills to the young people. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our activities, so please do reach out if this is something you would be interested in.

In Scouting we currently have 66 young people over the three sections: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. They are supported by 6 uniformed leaders, 2 per section, plus 3 parent helpers. Our Explorers section has been on hold since Covid hit, but we are very happy to announce it will be back this September! There are waiting lists for both Cubs and Scouts currently, but if you are interested in joining Explorers (14 to 18 years) or Beavers (6 to 8 years) please drop us an email and we can get you signed up. Beavers and Cubs meet on Mondays, with Scouts and Explorers meeting on Tuesdays. We are also always on the lookout for new leaders or executive members, so if you would ever like to find out more about volunteering within Scouting, please email WrayburyCubs@Hotmail.co.uk.

As you may know, we've had a lot of changes in our Leadership Team over the last few years, with Andy Bouch (Group Scout Leader) and Lucy Foster (Cub Leader) both stepping away after many years of dedication to Wraybury Scouts. We'd like to take this opportunity to say, yet again, how thankful we are for their many years of support to 1st Wraybury.

Our new Group Scout Leader is Stuart Ford (acting), supported by Charlotte Ainsworth and Mark Benefer as Deputy GSLs. Pam Morris runs our Beaver Section, Charlotte runs Cubs, and Laura Sutton looks after both Scouts and Explorers. Russell George is continuing in his role as Chair of the Executive Committee, while leading our two key fundraising activities, Wraybury Fair and Bonfire Night, both of which will be back this year!

We are currently reviewing whether our annual Christmas Scout Post fundraiser will be returning for 2023, since the number of cards being delivered has dwindled significantly in the last few years as more people adopt digital alternatives. It would be a shame to see this event go, as for many Leaders it's become a family Christmas tradition.

Stuart, Charlotte and Mark

1st Wraybury Group Scout Leaders.



CHURCHMEAD SCHOOL

BELIEVE TO ACHIEVE



We have had so much to celebrate this year. Students have taken part and helped to organise a broad range of events and activities right across the school. World Book Day, aimed at promoting reading in all our young people, was a great success with a fantastic array of different characters being represented by students and staff. We had an incredible ski trip to Italy during the February half-term break. Our older students represented the school at the Mock Trial competition in Reading and had an amazing day, giving them real insight into the different career paths linked to the magistrates' court. By the time you receive this, our year 11s will be in the midst of their final GCSE exams.

I have been so encouraged by the transformation we have seen in our young people as they demonstrate our values of courage, compassion and commitment. Students taking up new challenges and new opportunities was a theme for the spring term and moving into the summer term we have continued to celebrate the achievements of our students.

Chris Tomes
Headteacher



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Wraysbury Village Halls

By the time you read this article we will hopefully be enjoying an early summer full of warm, sunny days and some of you will have been able to join us for our recent 50th Anniversary celebration.

This event kicked off our “Raise the Roof” fundraising campaign for (you guessed it) a much-needed new roof for the Halls. The current roof has provided 50 years of loyal service but it’s now time to upgrade and do our bit for energy efficiency. The new roof will be a huge investment for the Halls (which are run as a charity for the benefit of local residents), so we expect to be running further fundraising initiatives later this year. Please dig deep to help our fundraising if you can, as we rely on your support to keep this valuable village asset viable.

But it’s not all about us asking you for money. Remember we have a huge variety of local clubs and societies who meet regularly at the Village Halls – from badminton to dance classes, Country and Western to Wine Circle, plus other ad hoc events such as the ever-popular comedy club.

Log onto our website 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.

Remember to also please keep us in mind for venue hire or meeting room requirements. Our hire rates are very economical and you can hire one small room for a few hours for a business meeting or the entire hall for the whole day for a wedding, with lots of options in between. Please get in touch with our friendly and experienced Managers, Mark & Jackie, who will be happy to discuss details with you.

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

Alice Hopkins

Secretary & Treasurer, Wraysbury Village Halls

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A Tribute to Gladys Patricia Walker

by her daughter
Jacqueline Lindegger



My mother Gladys had a definite sense of “right and wrong”, good “old school values” and was strong and resilient with a determination to bounce back without fuss.

She had gone through multiple falls and broken bones but still managed to make the paramedics laugh with her sense of humour. “That’s what keeps you going” she would say.

During the war, her first secretarial job was at Firestones. One day a bomb fell suddenly on the factory opposite and all the window glass flew inwards onto the ladies inside the office. Without panic, they were simply told to dust off their typewriters and “carry on”. They were made of strong stuff in those days!

Gladys had a close-knit family upbringing and she related many happy memories. They held musical Sunday afternoons playing the piano, violin, ukulele, banjo, mandolin and singing. They always enjoyed those days. Gladys loved her classical music and had it playing throughout the day and night. She also enjoyed the theatre, musicals and going to concerts. She took me along to these and I enjoyed them too. In fact, that’s where my love of theatre and the performing arts began.

Gladys loved her flowers and indoor plants. She seemed to have a knack of nurturing cuttings and growing plants; her front balcony was always very pretty and full of colourful geraniums, admired by her neighbours.

She also enjoyed adventure, travel and being very brave. She was remembered for flying (co-piloting) a light aircraft during an “Adventure Day” and zipping around on the Caribbean sea on a jet-ski. On a holiday with her, cruising around Norway, we had the thrill of going up in a helicopter above the glaciers. And if she had had better health, I know she would have carried on doing these adventurous things.



Gladys was very good at art, enjoyed sketching and passed that skill on to her children. She also enjoyed poetry often quoting a few lines of Wordsworth and W. H. Davies; “What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare.”

When Gladys broke her right arm she taught herself to write left-handed, practising with a few lines of Shakespeare, improving each time, until legible and clear. This showed her strong determination to overcome whatever life presented to her. “Keep calm and carry on” – that’s what she did.

She loved her family – it was everything to her and she was, indeed, everything to us all. May God rest her soul and may she be in peace (although perhaps not this time on a jet-ski!).



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WRAYSBURY SUMMER FAIR



Saturday 10th June
2pm to 5pm

As you read this, the 2023 Summer Fair will only be a couple of weeks away. The fair has been a much loved village event for many years and is only made so special by the support of everyone in the area, especially our sponsors!

Our theme this year is On Safari and we will have a children's fancy dress competition as well as lots of other entertainment in the arena, so we would love to see our children all dressed up in their jungle best!

The fair is always an exciting day in Wraysbury and it really brings our fantastic community together. Many of the stall holders are local independent businesses and of course, lots of our clubs and societies will be represented. We have lots of food stalls – the ever popular Scouts BBQ, cakes and drinks from the Rainbows, the cricket club will be serving drinks and the WI will be serving cream teas, so come on down, bring the family and stay all afternoon.



There will be lots of things to do, fair rides and some other fun stuff for free. We also have a classic car show, which is always well supported and very popular.

It is a fabulous day but we do have very limited parking so if you live in the village, please do walk. We can't wait to see you!

Faye





Wraysbury Primary School

After extremely busy autumn and spring terms we are all enjoying the summer term and the wonderful events that it brings. Reflecting on the school year, we have achieved so much as well as giving the children some wonderfully unforgettable experiences.

The children in our Early Years and Key Stage 1 became fully immersed in their Christmas production and Key Stage 2 performed their carols at the Wraysbury Hub, St Andrew's Church and at the Lighting of the Christmas Tree. In school, the PTFA made it a special Christmas; the Hall was beautifully decorated for Christmas Lunch, the Fayre was a roaring success and the ever-popular Christmas Shop was fantastic (this is where children get the chance to purchase a present for a person of their choice, wrap it and take it home to put under the tree). As you will remember we also held our much-loved Christmas Tree Festival which was well attended with many entries.

The spring term saw Years 3 and 4 entertaining us with their production The Greatest Show and everyone who came absolutely loved it! We also held our World Book Day, dressing up as animals and focussing on animal poetry. We also dressed up for 2 charity events this term, our usual whacky attire for Red Nose Day and Children in Need.

The term has been full of trips, extracurricular activities and sport too! It wasn't all about going out though, as we had Amazon Animals in to visit (scary!). One of the highlights of this year so far has been our Early Years children who went and performed at the Windsor Schools Sports' Partnership Dance Festival and were AMAZING! I even had fellow Headteachers telling me how fantastic they were and how their behaviour and attitudes were a credit to our school, so well done Reception!

Towards the end of term, Year 5 had a fantastic day led by Commando Joe! It was all about Team Building and working with others to complete challenges. They didn't find it easy at all, but by the end of the day they were able to work together to complete a variety of challenges. Well Done Year 5!

We finished the spring term with an amazing Easter hat competition – the theme was a recycled hat and was organised by our Eco committee. Some of the ideas were so original and it was very tricky to choose the winners.

This summer term we have many exciting things planned! Some children are going on a residential visit; Years 3 and 4 to Northamptonshire and Years 5 and 6 to the Isle of Wight! We will have had our Spring Fayre by the time that you read this, which I know is always a highlight for everyone. Fundraising is so important to us but so is bringing the community into our school.

We love the summer term at school as it is also when we can open up our swimming pool and make full use of our extensive grounds, both at playtimes and in curriculum time. We have a sports company with us during lunchtimes now so that we can all enjoy playing a wider choice of games and become more active and healthier.

We have also been working closely with other local schools and hope to engage more with St George's in Windsor on a Science Day for our older children.

Our school year will finish with more trips and our traditional Sports' Days which we all love. Years 5 and 6 will be performing a spin-off of a particular Celebrity Jungle Show – I am sure you can guess what it is. We will also be celebrating with our young people who have achieved highly in our end of the school year Celebration of Achievement.

Alison Fox, Headteacher

Wraysbury Art Society

We continue to thrive with members attending each Monday morning and taking turns to display their pictures on our refurbished space in the foyer of the Village Halls. We are planning to hold our regular outside exhibitions at Wraysbury Fair in June and at the Grange Garden Party in September.

We have sadly lost two of our "retired" members since Christmas and send our best wishes to their families and friends.

We run as a club rather than as a class and are a friendly bunch of amateur artists and crafters. If you have a couple of hours to spare on a Monday morning between 9.30am and 12.30pm and are looking for a new interest, why not come and join us in the Colne Room at Wraysbury Village Halls.



You definitely do not need to be an expert.

For more information, please feel free to contact me.

Lesley West (Secretary)

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EGHAM CHORAL

A TRADITIONAL CHOIR – FOUNDED 1953

Why are Egham Choral part of Wraysbury & Horton News? What a great question! The choir, although they rehearse in Egham and have been based there for almost seventy years, welcome singers from all over Surrey & Berkshire. One member even comes up from Somerset every week! There are several singers in the choir who live in Wraysbury and concerts are well supported with audience members who also live here.

This year we have been working both on our classical choral repertoire with a selection of German anthems and the very exciting performance of 'The Sunrise Mass' by the contemporary Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. Our continued link with the music students at Royal Holloway College allowed us to perform in The Windsor Hall, a fabulous modern music space within the University. The musicians who join us from The Royal Academy of Music are truly inspiring and really lift our singing. Did you catch our Flash Mob performance of 'O Radiant Dawn' by Sir James MacMillan at the concert? If not, you missed a treat.

Moving on to the summer concert it will be a bittersweet experience for the singers as we say goodbye to our wonderful Musical Director Richard Robbins, [@richardrobbinstenor](#), as he moves to Shrewsbury. We will be singing him out in style with some cheerful English folk music and sung choruses from the musical Oklahoma. Make Saturday 1st July a diary date now.

Why not join this very sociable choir and share in many other local singing events, venturing up to The Royal Albert Hall to join with bigger choirs, or simply meeting at the pub pre or post rehearsal?

Choir meets on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the United Church in Egham High Street. There is full disabled access.



All the details are available at www.eghamchoral.org

Dan Godfrey

Born on 1st December, 1922 in St. Bart's Hospital, Dan was christened Eric Edward, but after developing a passion for classical music, adopted the name Dan after the conductor and founder of the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra, Sir Dan Godfrey. Dan did have an older brother, Cyril Archibald, who unfortunately died of Amoebic Dysentery.



A card from King Charles III

As a bright boy from Tottenham, at 10 years old Dan won a scholarship to Tiffin School in Kingston, although it meant modifying his old football boots to conical studs and dyeing them black for Tiffin, where he was to play rugby instead.

At school, Dan excelled in Maths, Physics and French and took his School Certificate at only 15 years old.



At the start of the war, as a young teenager with a St. John's Certificate, Dan helped in the Search & Rescue teams during the Blitz, cycling miles every day to join the stretcher parties. One day, he literally fell asleep riding his bike home after a long shift and broke his nose. His father, who served as a First Lieutenant in WWI, was one of the Home Guard in WWII and Dan was to follow in his footsteps.

At 18, Dan went to Cambridge University to read Maths, but didn't escape the bombs as one fell in the next road while he was asleep in his room in Jesus College. His studies



[Dan \(left\) with his father Cyril](#) were also interrupted when he had to join up as a commissioned officer, working on maintaining radar equipment to keep anti-aircraft guns effective. He left as a Lieutenant, turning down the post of Captain, to return to Cambridge in 1946, finally leaving with a Masters degree.

Dan married Sheila, the “girl next door” (well, next to his friend) in 1942. They had two sons, Nic and Jim and adopted a daughter, Sue. They divorced in 1971.



Dan and Mollie

Dan later married Mollie, a special needs teacher who shared his interests in the Communist Party and they lived together very happily with their daughter, Kate until Mollie died aged 89 from Dementia.

Professionally, Dan went back to Tiffin School after the war to teach Maths, before becoming Head of Maths at Kidbrook School in Greenwich, teaching at St. George’s College in Weybridge and later giving private lessons after retirement.

Dan joined a long line of Godfreys in the village of Wraysbury. His grandfather, Archibald Edward, played the organ at St. Andrew’s and his parents moved to the village in 1950 from New Malden. After caring for them in their old age, Dan moved into their house and had it rebuilt in 1973.



Dan with baby Kate

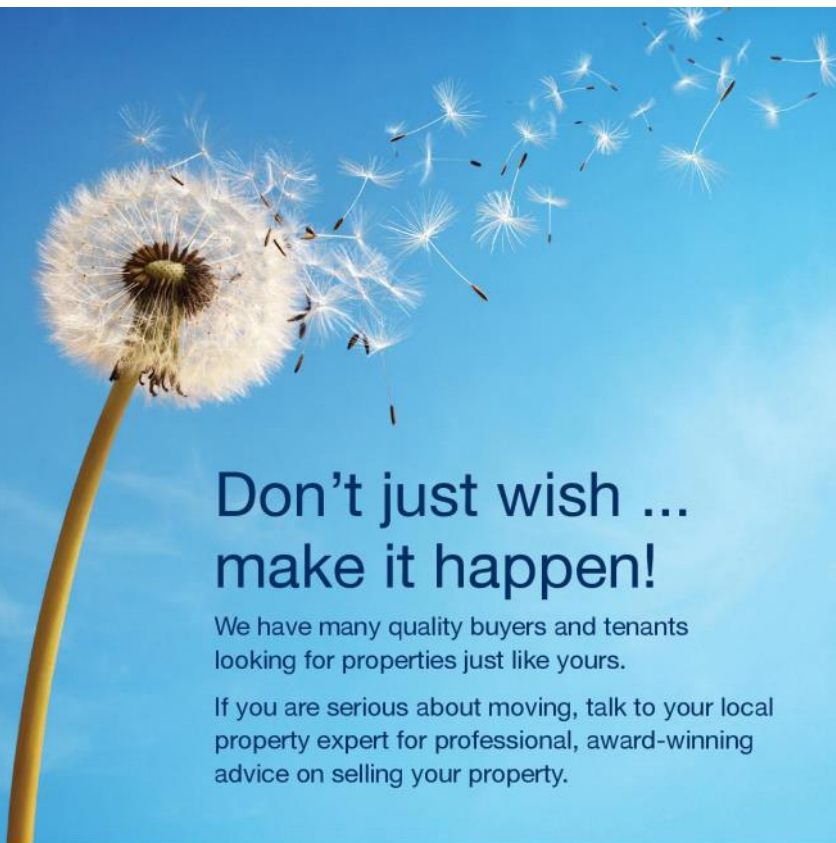
Dan has since been Chairman of Governors at Wraysbury Primary School (where he also taught his beloved chess), Chairman of the Village Club and Chairman of Wraysbury Classical Musical Society.

Dan still reads avidly, listens to opera and enjoys visits from his family and friends.



Dan and Graham Sinclair at the Village Club

Happy Centenary Dan!



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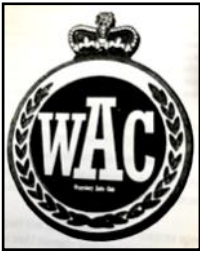


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Auto club wheels turning faster

It is late March: Sunday, 9.15 am. Wraysbury's Village Halls car park lies deserted; yet more sullen, dispiriting rain drumming down. A few hours earlier, in the dead of night, the clocks had moved forward, mockingly, to so-called British Summer Time. Was it the clock shift, together with the wretched rain, explaining why, with just a few minutes to go before the scheduled start of Wraysbury

Auto Club's first 2023 on-road event, there was as yet, no sign of the two dozen crew members due to take part?



WAC's first on-road event

Then, in quick succession, came the rumbles: a couple of Porsches, a trio of lusty BMWs, a mighty Daimler Double-Six limousine, a drop-dead gorgeous E-Type, an MGF two-seater and a tiny Fiat Cinquecento, warbling in like Pavarotti with a head-cold.

Yes, there'd been some drop-outs - there always are - but the 70-mile WAC Keep Calm Cruise (some wag renamed it Carry on Regardless) could

now get under way in earnest; its eventual destination, via a long, circular countryside route, one of the most fascinating nearby museums of which most Wraysburians have never heard. But more of that, later.

The past year has been one of transition for Wraysbury Auto Club; a process now looking likely to have some way further to go.

Its beginnings could hardly have been more modest. Many in Wraysbury recall the tragic, far-too-early death through illness of Dean Freeborn, engineer, entrepreneur, mighty AC Cobra sports car owner and

much-respected villager. Chatting, in early 2014, to equally petrolhead friends Paul Sall and brother Jas, they wondered whether there might be more such like-minded in the village and might it be worth putting something on Facebook? Paul and Jas between them did just that and added WhatsApp. On July 23, 2014, Wraysbury Auto Club was born.



It takes all sorts...

For much of the time since then, it comprised just a handful of car enthusiasts, agreeing to meet monthly at our quintessentially English village pub, the Perseverance. In what has become WAC's spiritual - not to mention thirst-slaking - home, right up until last year a good night would have seen, at absolute maximum, a dozen swapping tales of motorised derring-do at the bar. "The older we got, the faster we were", chuckles Chris Davis, Wraysbury's real-life former expert racing driver, Perseverance and Village Club quizmaster and prominent all-round village character.

However, over a few months of 2022, as the miseries of Covid faded, the auto club's wheels began turning faster. By December, membership numbers were surging beyond even the Percy's much-loved dining capacity to cope. As a result, more than 30 WAC members found themselves ushering in Christmas with a celebration dinner at the Cricket Club, welcomed heartily by club host Mike Ward and refuelled by Garry Hall and Co., hotfoot from their happily up-and-running High Street café "The Kitchen".

It is wholly probable that it is this publication, the Wraysbury & Horton News, with its recent adoption of reports of WAC's doings, which is largely the cause of the membership upsurge. But whatever the reason, the sense of enthusiasm was palpable and has been continuing to gather momentum in the current year.

So....that museum?

It's called "History on Wheels" and it's a devil of a job to find, lurking alongside the Thames up an Eton Wick side road leading onwards through fields. It is also open only occasionally and really requires a Google search to check. But the rewards for persevering are great. It provides far more than its quite extraordinary collection of cars, trucks and fighting vehicles of World War 2. It opens up a truly fascinating window on the world of how both civilian and military life was lived throughout Britain's most perilous years.

That it exists is thanks to Tony Oliver and his wife Vera, who initially used the buildings to house Tony's, then private, collection of vehicles and militaria. But its educational and historical significance became such that it was accepted it should be made available to the public, on what are now its formal 'Open' days. It remains an Oliver family affair; privately funded; non-profit-making; Vera still to be found in the lovingly-recreated NAAFI café, doling out the tea.

For members of the club, it proved a wholly fascinating visit. But what exactly might be the attraction of Wraysbury Auto Club itself? Perhaps that's best put into words by a prominent member, one Mr Olly Sanders.



*Olly Sanders & the Willis Special
at Angouleme*

Cont.

Sanders? Sanders? Name sound familiar? Oh, THAT Sanders! The one who brings the kids along to the annual Wraybury Fair in the trailer behind his gleaming little green steam traction engine, thundering - well, burping - along at a breath-taking 4.5 miles per hour. The one with the rickshaw lit up like a Christmas tree as chosen transport to and from the pub. Also, the one, actually, who is a serious racer in his own right, not least when piloting one of the UK's more interesting historic single seaters. (The *Circuit des Remparts*, comprising spectacular races through the closed streets of France's ancient hilltop city of Angouleme, and Barbados' Vaucluse Raceway are just two of the far-flung venues under his belt.)

"Before the auto club came along, I was a bit of a hermit", recalls Olly, "Just working on my 'autos' in my garage, keeping myself to myself. It took several people just to convince me to take a car to the village fair.

"Then I started meeting the little group in the Percy. Suddenly life became so much fuller. There were like-minded people who took an interest in my 'autos' and likewise I found interest in others. Knowing I liked to help and had a workshop, soon a few questions were being asked along the lines of 'could you just?' A few of the guys would pop round and we would make bits up for cars, fix last-minute technical glitches and so on.

"Suddenly I had a new family of friends. Within the club we have a whole mix of fixers, organisers, drivers, even the just interested. Everyone gets on with each other. So don't be a garage hermit or think you can't be part of it because you've just got a modest, modern family car. It's much more fun to share regardless of what 'auto' you've got."

It is a lack of formality that inspires some of the enthusiasm. There are no club 'officers' as such; indeed, no fees or subscriptions. Events are organised on an ad hoc basis, reflecting individual enthusiasms. The monthly common ground of meeting at the Percy has been found enough to keep the events ball rolling, says Paul Sall. Nor is any special car needed to be signed up for membership.

Paul himself reflects the enthusiastic, innovative spirit of the club. Four years ago, weighing up the soaring service and repair charges of dealerships, he thought "if car owners and enthusiasts had proper facilities, wouldn't they find it more interesting, fun and much cheaper to do it themselves?" Thus, in a High Street workshop in nearby Iver, Ramp Garage was born. It looks a bit like KwikFit without the tyres. Full-scale, high-rising car lifts are installed. Users simply rent them and work on their cars at will. Meanwhile, parked outside can occasionally be found some of Paul's own cars, not least an immaculate example of Honda's legendary supercar, the NS-X.



Dastardly Jas Sall & Muttl...er, wife Harps, ready to roll

Brother Jas, who with wife Harps has been in most events with cars ranging from Chevy Corvette to ancient, much-modified Microbus camper, describes the club as "a safe place to talk and laugh about our adventures, triumphs and failures in our motoring addiction.

“It originates from a locally shared passion for combustion-powered motor vehicles and I personally wouldn’t pick a better club to road trip with and to discuss and test out my crazy ideas. We gather once a month to plan out road trips, translate those crazy ideas from plans to action and of course, to help each other out.”

One of the most recent to join the club, New York born Kate Gowers, describes herself as “a WAC virgin” but has close professional marketing connections within the European auto industry. Taking part for the first time as navigator on the museum run, she recalls “I certainly enjoyed my first experience – it was novel to follow old-fashioned instructions rather than what the organiser called a Wimpnav.



New member Kate

“I’m not a confident driver – for me, my car is to get me from A to B, so I don’t see myself doing club driving. But I absolutely know women who would eat it up; indeed, I work with some.” As for wifely eye-rolling at petrolhead partners ogling pictures of Bentleys over garage calendar bare bosoms, “in truth my first experience really was inclusive. The club clearly exists for enthusiasts quite regardless of gender.

“I would definitely do all this again”, insists Kate. “By then perhaps I’ll be able to comment on boobs v Bentleys - I’m sure I can find male anatomy to comment on!”



Xavier “Snoopy” Herring takes a break from his kennel...er, MGB

She should not be short of opportunities, well at least not when it comes to enjoying events; a mid-week mystery run in late April, regular club evenings at the Percy and the large-scale “Petrolheads” meetings at the end of each month, typically attracting hundreds of classics and supercars to Runnymede Pleasure Grounds. And look out for a club presence at Frank Burry’s hugely popular Wraysbury Fair Classic Car Show.

latter where both Britain’s latest world land speed record cars, Thrust 2 and SSC are housed, complete with ride-on simulator. A club track day is mooted for Brands Hatch, Silverstone, Castle Combe or Mallory Park. And later in the year will come a three-day rally through the mountainous drivers’ heaven that is Snowdonia.

“It’s looking good; the club’s beginning to find top gear”, says Chris Bradley, one of the club’s earliest and enthusiastic members.

John Griffiths
Wraysbury Auto Club

A scenic weekend tour and overnight stay is scheduled for the Cotswolds, with visits to bus and Coventry transport museums – the



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Erika Holloway

Happy 100th Birthday!

Born in 1923 in West Germany, Erika grew up in a small village in the industrial Ruhr Valley. Her parents' house was next to a coal mine that employed her father and many other people from the area. War broke out as Erika turned 16 and she remembers how her parents were appalled by Hitler's activities, as were other villagers. One man refused to salute the Nazis who marched through the village streets and Erika remembers how he was slapped for not conforming.



Dennis and Erika's wedding day

During the war, Erika looked after her little brother who was only a toddler at the time. One evening, a bombing raid started while her parents were away at a wedding. She had to hide with her brother in the dark cellar and as soon as there was a lull, Erika ran with him across the road, where their neighbours kept them safe.

War rationing meant that, while they always had hot water from the mine, vegetables were in short supply. So Erika's father, who was a keen gardener, grew cucumbers and other vegetables in the fertile soil behind the mine. However, American soldiers, who were occupying a house nearby, assumed he was up to no good and shot him while he was digging up the potatoes! Luckily it wasn't a serious wound and he managed to let them know that he was not a risk. On the other hand, when the first American tanks rolled through the village at the end of the war, Erika remembers hanging white sheets in the window and the singing that followed their procession.

Just after the war ended, allied troops were stationed in her neighbourhood. Erika, now aged 22, always waved to one particular soldier as she cycled past the barracks each day. Her parents were open minded to their daughter mixing with the troops and she attended the local dances with the soldiers.

That particular soldier was Dennis Holloway from Wraysbury and in 1947, just after the terrible floods, Erika arrived in England, among a boatload of "brides", and was warmly welcomed by Dennis' family.



Erika lived with Dennis' grandmother, Sarah, in Wraysbury until at 24 years old, she married Dennis in St. Andrew's Church.

Dennis took Erika on the back of his motorbike to see their first home in Wraysbury: an asbestos bungalow with no bathroom, no running water, no sewerage system and surrounded by massive potholes. That didn't daunt Erika who worked hard with Dennis to make it their home.

At St. Andrew's church

When Dennis was demobbed he started painting and decorating for a living, as well as renovating the bungalow. While Erika's parents had to wait two more years for permission from the British Government to visit, they did eventually arrive with Erika's younger brother and loved the area and that Erika was so happy. Erika and Dennis had three children of their own between 1951 and 1968, then bought the land next door and built their own family home where all the children grew up and attended Wraysbury School.



Outside their Embankment bungalow

Erika worked as an Export Clerk in Slough, taking the ferry across to Old Windsor and then catching the bus the rest of the way, until she passed her driving test in 1961.



Erika in Dennis' truck 1950s

Erika remembers Wraysbury life in the early days of her marriage: they only had a pump as a source of fresh water, a horse and cart delivered the milk and Erika walked into the village to go to one of two butchers for fresh produce. Living near the river, the children had lots of fun in punts or boats.

Dennis and Erika enjoyed their life in Wraysbury as part of the Country and Western Society and St. Andrew's Church. Dennis unfortunately passed away in 2010 and Erika now attends Age Concern when she can.

Many congratulations on your 100th birthday Erika!



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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!

WRAYSBURY PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Wraysbury Parochial Charities is a charitable trust fund dating back to the Sixteenth Century, originally funded by personal bequests and 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 quarterly 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.

The last few years have been remarkably quiet for us, but it is now beginning to get a little busier and we are moving back towards what would be "normal activity" for us.

We have been providing ongoing financial support to the Thames Hospice for a number of years, in support of Wraysbury residents who are in need of palliative care. At the end of 2022 we made a £7,000 donation to support the fantastic work that they continue to handle for the residents of our village.

We also provided funding for the Village Halls which play such a central role in the life of our village, to help them acquire new equipment (principally new chairs) and we continue to fund "Lifelines" (a paging type device for medical emergencies) for 24 senior village residents.

The Parish Council approached us at the end of 2022 regarding their plans to install both a new slide at the children's park on The Green (to replace the now very old/damaged slide) and outdoor gym equipment which is now located in the park. We were very pleased to offer a "joint venture" with the Wraysbury Village Trust splitting the costs 50/50 between our two charities.

Finally, we were delighted to be able to give a grant to a 1st Wraysbury Scout to help fund her trip to the World Scout Jamboree which is taking place this year in South Korea.

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 can be found in the Directory at the back of this magazine.

Alan Buckland, Chairman

TeamUP to CleanUP

WRAYSBURY

We are a voluntary group that gets together for community litter picking events throughout the year but also empowers residents to keep their own bit of the neighbourhood free from litter. We've happily lent equipment to youth groups, including Scouts and Beaver Scouts who valiantly set about clearing the lakeside areas and the village green.

If you would like to take a little bit of responsibility for your part of the neighbourhood, PLEASE get in touch and we will lend you some equipment to get started.

Find us on Facebook and join this fabulous, friendly initiative

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

SPONSORSHIP: Huge thanks to **Wraysbury & Horton News Magazine**, **Wraysbury Village Trust** and **Wraysbury Parish Council** who have all sponsored us with funding to replace worn and broken litter pickers, buy sack rings to make the job much easier and some smaller pickers for the younger members of our village that we actively encourage to get involved.

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Access Adventures

Access Adventures took over the running of the Edge Adaptive Sports Centre in 2019 after working closely with the British Disabled Water Ski & Wakeboarding Association. Adaptive water skiing has been taking place at Heron Lake on the outskirts of Wraybury for over 40 years.

The registered charity provides life-changing adaptive sports and activities, such as water skiing and wakeboarding, for people with disabilities. However, its clubhouse was in desperate need of a refurbishment to enable better access for disabled participants, their family and friends for years to come. Thanks to incredible support from the local community, a recent crowdfunding campaign raised the funds needed for a vital upgrade of the facilities.

The charity is keen to develop more of a relationship with the local community. For local businesses, there are fantastic opportunities to raise their profile through association with the charity, or to use the stunning lakeside centre for corporate team building days.

An open day to say thanks to the local community is planned for Summer 2023.

One of the charity's main objectives is to make adventure sports accessible and affordable for all, allowing anyone with a disability the opportunity to gain from the transformational benefits of being active. Access Adventures uses sport as a rehabilitation tool to improve physical and mental wellbeing. Research has shown that taking part in sport and having regular exercise can help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Adaptive activities at the centre include water skiing, wakeboarding, kayaking, paddleboarding, biking, yoga and wheelchair skills. Access Adventures believes disability should not stop anyone getting the most out of their lives. Thanks to specialist equipment and trained instructors, a huge range of people can be supported. The charity works with individuals, disability organisations, local groups and charities. Last summer, hundreds of adults, children and their families enjoyed the activities.

Jane Sowerby, Access Adventures CEO & Co-Founder, said:

“At Access Adventures we are passionate about adaptive sport. Our participants inspire us every day, they're constantly pushing boundaries and challenging expectations. While we are immensely proud of the adaptive activities we offer and the benefits they bring, we were definitely not proud of the current changing facilities!

“This fundraising campaign helped us transform our adaptive sports centre. The current facilities were not fit for purpose, we wanted to create a space that the local community can be proud of. We were blown away by the unbelievable support from local businesses who enabled us to achieve our goal.”

For further information about Access Adventures visit

<http://www.accessadventures.co.uk/>

Operation S.W.A.T.

Final Report

Final operation outcome: FAIL

“sumus, ut mala nostra logo”



Definition of terms:

DBCTA - Dragon Boat Conspiracy Theorists Association. Brave, *brave*, keyboard warriors, fighting injustices wherever they have to make them up when things don't go their way.

DUFF - Dark Underhand Flailing Forces. Because as anyone who lives in an echo chamber knows, if something goes wrong for you then everyone else is to blame. It would never be worth having a long, hard look at yourself first.

SWAT - Stop Wraysbury at All Times. The codename for the operation.

Background and scope of enquiry:

The DBCTA had authorised DUFF to use the National Dragon Boat Championships to put a stop to this constant Wraysbury Dragons winning nonsense but left it to them to decide upon the methods that were to be used on the ground.

This DBCTA report seeks to establish the DUFF methods used, where they failed and why Wraysbury Dragons continued to win at the Nationals in spite of them. Also, retrospectively, to establish if there really is an organisation called DUFF or if someone has just run off with all our money.

Summary of the DUFF methods used:

The weather - FAIL

The National Water Sports Centre's closest ally - bad weather - couldn't blow Wraysbury off course, freeze them or soak them, and then didn't bother to turn up on the Sunday because it said, "what's the point?".

Date change - FAIL

It turns out Wraysbury's members don't have a social life, turning up despite the late change of date - If they aren't racing, they are training; and if they aren't training, they are racing, so have nowhere else to be.

The opposition - FAIL

Initially, this appeared to be a success - Thames did stop Wraysbury's boat by charging into their lane but ended up being disqualified themselves. Wraysbury still finished the race though, gaining a point in the competition and achieving a comically slow time.

Another attempt to crash into Wraysbury was made in a later race, but the Amathus helm had the map upside-down and veered right into lane 5 instead of left into lane 3.

The Starter - FAIL

The starter was so faint and casual it was as if she was chatting to a friend over coffee:

".... That's right Jane, I was saying to the children, are you ready? Attention, Go, and they... oh, you know those boats that were outside the window? They've all dashed off in a hurry. I wonder what they wanted. Anyway, have another biscuit. Now, where was I..."

Lack of updates to race times - FAIL

Wraysbury appeared on the water even though the race times hadn't been announced, content to sit patiently behind the start line for hours at a time until it was their race.

It transpired that, between races, some Wraysbury members were working out the placings for the next rounds and telling all the other crews gathered nearby, before the officials had even printed off the results for the races.

Illness and injury - FAIL

A weekend of racing generally takes its toll, but Wraysbury somehow turned up with 30-odd of their own paddlers so even a pandemic wouldn't have put a noticeable dent in the personnel.

Poor technique - FAIL

Are you kidding me?! The last person to say they saw Wraysbury put in a short stroke is a liar.

Age - FAIL

The average age of the crew in the 2000m was 62 and they won that by nearly a minute. Their other boat line-ups wouldn't have been far off that either. Age shall not weary them.

Conclusions:

Maybe a meteor would thwart Wraysbury Dragons, though they'd probably just surf the wash down the course, but otherwise we're out of ideas. Have you seen them?! They really were that good. They overcame everything that DUFF could throw at them. Sometimes they even had to go up to a 75% effort.



When we say "full length", this is what we mean!

Cont.

The sensible bit

Wraysbury Dragons had their most successful national championships ever: defending the trophies we'd won last year, adding some others to the collection and even finding the personnel to put in a women's team. This overall performance resulted in us winning, for the first-time ever, the Colenorton trophy, which is awarded to the best overall team at the championships.



Celebrating with some extraordinary October weather

So, now that you've hopefully worked out that the first two pages are really just a deprecating way of saying we did pretty well, rather than describe each race stroke-by-stroke, here are some pictures of what we actually do. Better still, come and join us on the water (see the details at the end)!

List of results		
200m Open champions 200m Mixed champions 200m Senior Open – 5 th 200m S12 Women – 2 nd	500m Open champions 500m Mixed champions 500m Senior Open champions 500m S12 Women – 3 rd	2,000m Open champions
Overall winners of the Competition Overall Open Competition winners Overall Mixed Competition winners Overall Senior Competition joint winners (with Manver Dragons and Yorkshire Sharks) Overall S12 Women's Competition- 2 nd		



Some of the weekend's haul



Wraysbury Dragons in full flight down the racecourse



Job done: the crew return to the jetty for another celebratory cup of tea!



Immaculate timing, even going backwards

Wraysbury Dragons Need You!

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Dave Sutton, Wraysbury Dragons

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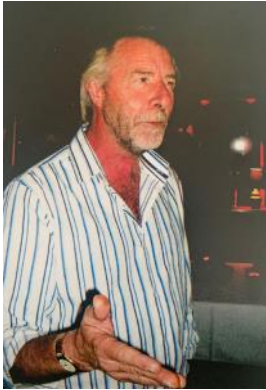


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Arthur Sexton

19TH MARCH 1953 – 12TH NOVEMBER 2022

Written by Kate Gowers

Zero. Null. 0. A number that doesn't exist, at least according to Arthur. Anyone who drank in the Perseverance would have known Arthur. A regular presence either in his corner of the bar or outside enjoying deep thoughts and a cigarette, he had kind and thoughtful words on all manner of topics.

Of course, we didn't know him before he moved to Wraysbury. We do know, from his memorial service, that he grew up in Feltham and attended Hampton Grammar School. He was a bright boy and much loved by his family and friends. He later worked for British Airways, travelling the world and was a VERY keen golfer in his day. He never married but was a doting uncle. But this memorial isn't just facts and figures.

It's about the man we knew. The man who would share his eclectic thoughts with anyone who would listen. Indeed, for those who did not have the time nor inclination to listen, he'd supply initially handwritten treatises, or, later, data sticks (which usually contained scanned handwritten treatises) on a variety of topics, from maths (and his absolute hatred of the number zero and his advocacy of a base 8 system) to time, to philosophy, to elements and trials of his own life.

I open one of his many writings from a stick in my possession. Entitled *The Origins and Consequences of Dyslexia, including conversions*, it contains a table converting base 8 into base 10 and a handwritten essay explaining how base 10 contributes to dyslexia. It is carefully argued and clearly thought out.

Opening another more or less at random, I discover a short document that truly encapsulates Arthur's thoughtfulness, intelligence and kind heart: *"Is it right that we ask questions of ourselves in order to learn, providing the intention is good, honest, open and decent, for everybody and in context? Is it right that we keep a sense of humour in order to maintain balance and in order to keep things in perspective?"* It is this, that perhaps best illustrates Arthur's noble (though he'd dispute that term) character.

He constantly questioned – both himself and others. He made us think and was not afraid to subject himself to the same challenges. He never asked anyone to think about something that he wasn't currently mulling over himself.

He was a kind man. Speaking personally (and, indeed, as Arthur would say, how else could I speak) he not only made me think, made me wonder and sometimes, made me want a drink, he also valued me (and everybody in his orbit). He felt, nay, *knew* that each one of us is valuable, smart, worthwhile and important – not just to him but to the universe.

I am sad that I didn't give him more of my time. I am sad there is, for me, no more time to give. Arthur would dispute that – he believed, in his own way that we persist through all eternity, not in the religious sense but, perhaps trivialising his complex thoughts, as stardust. Certainly as memories.

His funeral was special. There must have been 50 or so Wraysbury and Horton visitors to the Basingstoke Crematorium – I have no doubt his family and friends outside the villages were heart-warmingly shocked. There was not space in the main room – some mourners watched from an anteroom on a screen, such was the turnout. The stories that were told on the day by his friends (read by David Voges) moved every soul there (and Arthur was a very handsome man in his youth). The music selections reflected Arthur's loves and personality – Eric Clapton, Status Quo and BB King. It perfectly reflected Arthur's joyful and unique take on the world around him.

If you asked Arthur, when seeing him in the Percy 'how are you?' he'd often reply, 'better than I was yesterday, but not as good as I will be tomorrow.' Ever the optimist, despite some challenging times, he is sorely missed.

To answer one of Arthur's questions, yes, it is right that we 'employ courage, honesty, willpower, determination, openness, patience, sincerity, passion, understanding, self-control, humility, humour, compassion and integrity, when asking and answering questions.' Arthur certainly did all those things and inspired the people around him to do the same.



The world was a stranger place with him in it and a sadder one without him.

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When to move to an electric car?



We have all seen the increase in electric cars on the road and you may have been considering one yourself, but should you buy one? With fossil fuel engines being discontinued in 2030, what option do we have?

There are lots of reasons why people buy electric. They are easy to charge at home, meaning no more going to a fuel station. Very often they come loaded with technology, so controlling heating and locking the car via your phone is easy. They are cheap to run after the initial investment and are fun and easy to drive. It is also true that they require very little maintenance; however, manufacturers are slowly implementing more items on the service schedule. They have realised the loss of revenue for their dealers is not helping their profit margins.

There are various reasons why people don't buy electric. The biggest factor until now has been the cost but there are other reasons too, range anxiety being a big consideration. With electric cars now exceeding a 400-mile range it may well no longer be an argument, however, most models are still around the 250-mile range. This seems low when we consider how far we can go on a tank of "good old diesel". However, is it worth considering how far you drive on a daily basis? The national average, as recorded by DVSA MOT data, is just under 15 miles per day! If you are Mr or Mrs average mileage, then you will have to recharge once every two weeks. Now it doesn't seem so bad, does it? I know there are long journeys needed at times, but how many of those are over 200 miles?

If you do find yourself on a longer journey there are charge points in various locations. All you need do is have a coffee and hey presto, the car is charged. Or so we are told. The reality is somewhat different I am sorry to say. Good infrastructure is not yet there for electric cars. Yes, you can charge at home, which makes life very easy. Free chargers at Tesco, although it's on a very slow charge so unless your shopping takes 9 hours, I doubt you will get charged up for free.

I will give you an example of a friend of mine. His Peugeot will manage around 200 miles on a charge. So, he decided to take it to Cornwall. Google told him 4hrs and 30 mins. He set off, family in tow and had to stop three times to charge up. Yes, that makes his journey 600 miles, doesn't it? Well not quite. The car was loaded, the air conditioning was on and he wanted to travel at 70 mph. All of which have an impact on the range. 200 miles is given for optimum conditions. Put on your heater or air conditioning, carry weight, drive fast and it saps energy! This wasn't the end of his problems though. He experienced chargers out of order, queues at chargers and then when he did find one, he had to wait for the car to charge. So off into the motorway services to buy coffee and snacks etc.

Once he calculated the premium cost of the electric and the extra food and drink he bought, it was the same cost as the fuel in his petrol car! The worst bit is yet to come. Due to a bit of traffic, long queues at chargers and waiting for charging, the journey took him nearly 10 hrs!

It's good for the environment, isn't it?

I know we must consider the environmental impact of fossil fuels but are electric cars any different? Well, the mining of cobalt and lithium, used in batteries, is causing problems for the environment. The carbon footprint of removing it from the ground is massive. If we take lithium, it is found in high altitude salt lakes called salars. The lithium is enriched in the ground and collects in naturally occurring underground lakes; this is then pumped to the surface. The problem is that the underground lakes are then filled by rainwater which is suspected of causing regional droughts. Currently the leading German manufacturers are working with countries on improving the working conditions and stopping the suspected child labour used in mining these substances. They are also working on traceability, to avoid another diesel-gate! Aside from that we need to think about the recycling of the batteries and how do we produce enough electricity to fuel all of these cars? Those are conversations for another day.



So, what is the answer?

Part of the problem here is that we do not have a robust enough plan to change in the time span required. I think the answer may well be in the hydrogen fuel cell, which has a much greater range. The problem is the infrastructure to refill the hydrogen. There is virtually none. As I am writing this BMW have just announced its hydrogen development plan.

In my view electric cars will have their place. For shorter journeys and the everyday run around. It's easy to recharge and easy to drive. Hydrogen will be the longer-range alternative. So why are we not being told about hydrogen? Well, the hydrogen infrastructure and technology is even further behind than electric, but we'll be told to buy hydrogen once it is perfected.

I think 2030 is optimistic to cease production of fossil fuel cars. Unless things improve, I would imagine we may see hybrid cars being produced past the 2030 deadline. Electric cars are here to stay, for a while at least. Are they an interim measure? They may well be.

Jay Wheatley

*EV Master Technician & Business Mentor
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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2022 Wraysbury & Horton

Last year the two villages raised **£2127.50** during the appeal thanks to all the shops, pubs and churches who had one of the collecting tins and trays of poppies.

This amount also includes the payments for all the wreaths, lamp post poppies, enamel pins and wooden crosses.

In July, I shall be putting in this year's orders for all those special items so please let me know if there is anything you require.

Carolyn Wheeler

Email carolyn.wheeler1@btinternet.com

Tel: 01753 682918



Only in Wraysbury by Kate Gowers

From the outside, Wraysbury appears to be a charming, overtly English, quaint village, improbably situated within spitting distance of the M25 and Heathrow Airport. With its windmill, village green complete with cricket club, village halls, village club, picturesque church and two fine pubs, you'd be forgiven for thinking it's a sleepy commuter village, filled with bankers and weekend boaters. But it's so much more than that and things happen here that I struggle to imagine happen anywhere else.

Let's jump into Olly's steam traction engine. You can't miss it, touring the village around Christmas and Summer Fair time, expertly driven by the man himself, usually in period garb. Sitting in the wooden wagon on the back, sharing the space with a plastic full-sized skeleton (at least I hope it's plastic), you get a glimpse of life in the village.



You cannot help but be charmed by The Grange. It's The Grange's annual open day and on the year in question, the theme is hats with prizes for the most creative.

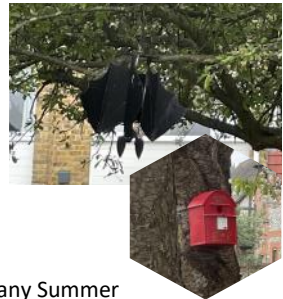
One young lady is dressed as an actual hat, from head to toe. There are hats of all shapes and sizes – the winners today are the lady dressed as the aforementioned hat and 'golden



horns girl'. Happily, at least the children recognised her costume as Loki – famed on screen and comic books. (Spoiler – I was 'golden horns girl').



As you pootle along the Windsor Road, you may be forgiven for thinking you've slipped into the world of Hanna and Barbera as a wonderfully crafted cat and mouse catch your eye, with spoons for ears and spanner legs. On the other hand, you may be spooked by the metallic bat and don't try to post a letter in the treetop post box.



You pass by the Village Green, that has seen many Summer Fairs and the Memorial Ground which has hosted Wrayfest, a local music extravaganza. See the windmill on the right as you approach The Splash? That was built in 1996. Who'd have thought? We don't have time today to go inside, but Purple Wayne will surely be happy to show you around another time. Mind the stuffed monkey hanging over the stairs.

As for The Splash, it boasts a duck house to rival the one cited in the Parliamentary expenses scandal, but this one is totally above (duck) board, of course.



Next, let's head to The Perseverance aka The Percy, one of Wraysbury's two fine pubs. Hopping off the traction engine (thanks Olly!) we sneak into the pub by the back door, where two fine ladies are fiercely competing for the final of Wraysbury's charity shove ha'penny tournament. Wait! Those are no ladies, but the dresses, wigs and make-up are expertly applied. Xav and Rob look resplendent as they compete for the coveted trophy.



Let's go further into the pub now. In days past, Arthur would have been in his corner and he is sorely missed – at the corner of the bar you'll find a plaque commemorating him. It's in binary. There are reasons for this. He had a violent dislike of the number 0.



Now that you have a drink, head to the small fireplace. On the fireplace, you'll find a box. I dare you to open that box. I double dare you. Perhaps there will be a small prize for the first person who describes what they find there, but probably not.

Watch out, on one Tuesday a month, for the dudes jamming on their ukeleles. Request a tune – they may even know it.

Perhaps next weekend we'll visit the pub again. It's Christmas. In July. Because why not? Santa is being jolly. There may even be holly, by golly. And other words ending in olly. The beer festival is in full flow as are the patrons.



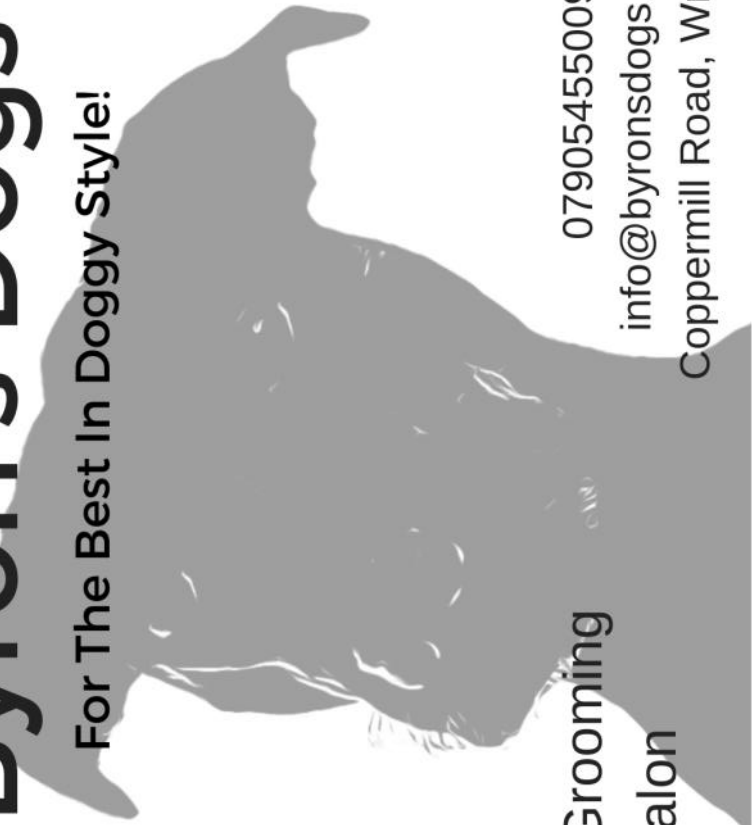
As you approach the High Street, keep an eye out for more strange occurrences. As was asked (quite seriously) on Facebook recently *"Anyone lost a ferret? Very friendly so obviously domesticated"*



This tour, no doubt, barely scratches the surface of the weird and wonderful, yet quirky and charming village that is Wraysbury. It should be noted that it's also a genuinely kind place. The stories I have heard of how the village came together during the flooding and the kindness I personally experienced during COVID prove that Wraysbury isn't just odd, it's mostly wonderful. I don't think I'd want to live anywhere else.

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WHEN:

4th Tuesday of each month @ 7.30pm

WHERE:

Wraysbury Village Halls

FIND OUT MORE:

wraysburyvillagewi@berkshirewi.co.uk

PRESIDENT: Nicola Harrington-Gray

We are now in our FIFTH year of WVWI. Over the past few months, our group have enjoyed many events, speakers and activities, including;

- ◇ Sing Along Film Night with Mamma Mia
- ◇ Art lessons – producing our own acrylic paintings
- ◇ Visit to Chichester Christmas Market
- ◇ Christmas Carols at the Albert Hall with the Philharmonic Orchestra
- ◇ Annual Members' Dinner in January – enjoying fine dining
- ◇ Celebrating St David's Day with flower arranging
- ◇ Trip to beautiful Hever Castle and the tulip displays
- ◇ Always a giggle over a cuppa or a glass of wine...lots of new friendships to be made

***LADIES...please come and join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month
Email as above for further information***

SNAPSHOTS OF HAPPY TIMES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS:

*Art tuition, Members' dinner, flower
arranging for St David's Day and our visit
to Hever Castle to see the tulips*



WRAYSBURY LAWN TENNIS CLUB



In 2022, Wraysbury Lawn Tennis Club celebrated its centenary with a 1920s themed dinner dance in the Village Halls. Complete with Charleston dancing and a live jazz band, the event proved a fitting celebration. The club has come a long way in its 100-year history. Back in 1922, when the club officially opened, there was just a single grass court on a quarter of an acre site and 23 members. From those humble beginnings, the club can now boast 3 all-weather courts, floodlights, over a hundred members, a coaching programme for all abilities and a large clubhouse with kitchen and showering facilities.

The club was established at a significant time for tennis because 1922 is also the year that the current Centre Court at Wimbledon was opened by King George V. The Championships had been established in 1877 and first held at the All England Croquet Club's original site off Worple Road in Wimbledon. It was partly due to the waning interest in croquet that interest in tennis and eventually the idea for a tennis tournament arose. The first Wimbledon tournament was contested by just 21 men (the 22nd failed to turn up). The rules (including the scoring system and dimensions of the court) had to be agreed before the tournament commenced. The prize was a 25-guinea silver trophy. The final was arranged for July 16th but was rained off and the rescheduled match was watched by 200 spectators and lasted just 48 minutes. The tournament made a profit of £10 which was used to pay for the repair of a roller.

By 1922 the championship had outgrown its original site and relocated to its present position in Church Road, Wimbledon. The principal court at Worple Road had been named the Centre Court as it was at the centre of the site. The same name was adopted for the main arena at the new Church Road site, even though it was clearly not at the centre. This was only put right in 1980 when four new courts were added. Of course, the Centre Court looked a lot different in 1922 than it does now, having gone through a number of makeovers, most notably the addition of a roof in 2009. The game has changed as well, from underarm serves that were still common in 1922 to the world record overarm serve of 157.2 mph in 2016. And fashions too; in 1922 long trousers for the men and stockings with calf length skirts for the ladies were the norm. Shorts did not become widely worn until after the war.

The men's champion in 1922 was Gerald Patterson of Australia who beat Randolph Lycett of Britain 6-3 6-4 6-2. Of the 8 quarter finalists, 5 were British, the other 3 all being Australian. In 2022 only one quarter finalist was a British player (Cameron Norrie).

Wraysbury Tennis Club has also grown and changed over the years.

Having achieved our centenary, we have also had our own makeover. Two of our three courts have been converted from tarmac to Tiger Turf (synthetic grass). This is now the surface of choice by many clubs nationally as it is easier on the limbs, straightforward to maintain and looks really great. This should prove to be a big step forward by the club and ensure that our playing facilities keep pace with other local clubs.

We have also recently welcomed a new coach, Tim Rose, who offers a variety of coaching sessions for both juniors and adults. The coaching can be provided to individuals or to groups of up to 8 people, with the emphasis on packages to suit players' needs whether they are experienced or beginners. Further details and contact numbers are provided on the club website. We are particularly keen to see more juniors taking up the game and making use of the coaching on offer. To this end, the club provides very attractive membership arrangements for children of all ages.

The club caters for players of all standards. We run teams in various leagues for those that wish to be a little more competitive. For those who prefer "social" tennis there are a number of club sessions when you can turn up and play with the emphasis on fun. Alternatively, you can organise your own games and simply use the online booking system to reserve a court. We also have several fun tournaments during the year. These are designed to be entertaining but not too serious, with a cup and medals for the winners.

The highlight of our year is the club championship. This knockout competition is open to all members and culminates one Saturday in September with the men's and ladies' singles and the mixed doubles finals. We also hold a round robin "Doubles Day" tournament.

On a sad note, one of our longstanding members recently passed away. Alec Laver was a member of the club for over 40 years and still playing regularly in matches into his 70's. He was well respected by all members and played an active role in organising tournaments and social events. He is sadly missed and our condolences go to his family.

If you are interested in joining the club, please look at our website; players of all ages and abilities are welcome: clubspark.lta.org/wraysburylta

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

Mike McLachlan, Chairman



Wraysbury

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WRAYSBURY BOWLS CLUB

THIS year Wraysbury Bowls Club celebrates its 25th anniversary, having been formed in 1998 by some keen members of the Indoor Bowls group who wanted to add an outdoor bowls club to the sporting activities of the village.

We began marking our quarter-century when joining in the village's Coronation Family Picnic event on Sunday May 7, at the Memorial Ground with our fun target bowls game. The club will also celebrate its milestone with a special Fun Day event on Sunday September 3rd.

We are a friendly club where our members enjoy some relaxed bowling, as well as more serious games, especially in our league competitions.

The club warmly welcomes new players. Anyone new to bowls and wishing to try out this engaging sport, or players who are new to the area, is welcome to get in touch and an individual introductory session could be arranged.

We are particularly keen to attract more female members, as some of our lady players have moved away – so come on ladies!

Also, there's an invitation to come along to any of our club session mornings (Fridays and Sundays) to meet members and find out more about our friendly club – if you arrive at 9.45am you can also have a bowl with us (just flat soled shoes needed).

Don't get the idea that lawn bowls is just for the older generation. It has a growing popularity among younger people who are demonstrating that lawn bowling is a challenging and entertaining sport for all ages and offers good gentle exercise.

Our club has an artificial playing surface, so players can enjoy their sport throughout the year. There are domestic competitions to keep our members busy, along with some fun social days during the summer.

Our men's team play in the Berkshire KLV League. The ladies also enjoy the challenge of competing with other clubs – in the Chiltern & Thames League mixed triples league.

For further information, visit the club's website:
www.wraysburybowlsclub.co.uk

Club Secretary: Len Carlton 07516 977063
email: wraysburybowl@hotmail.com

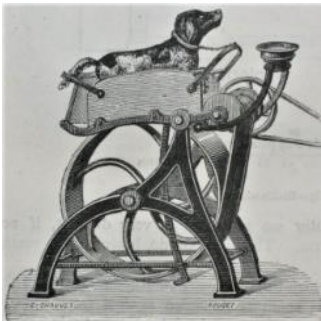


WRAYSBURY HISTORY GROUP

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

The group does not meet in January or February, so this year's programme started in March with a very enjoyable talk by local resident Stan Streather on "Being WINSTAN" – his experiences as a Winston S. Churchill impersonator. This talk had been postponed from 2022 as it was due to be delivered the day

Queen Elizabeth II died. The programme continued in April 2023 with a talk by Nick Brazil called "Castles in the Air" about weird and wonderful inventions from the Victorian era such as the dog powered sewing machine shown in the picture.



In May, just a few days after the Coronation of King Charles III, we were treated to a talk by returning popular

speaker Colin Oakes on "English Coronations through the Ages". Colin offers a selection of over 300 talks, each given without the use of notes or illustrations, which is remarkable.

In June 2023 I will be giving a talk on "The WW1 Gallipoli Campaign". This was the attempt in February 1915 by the British, in particular using troops from the then 'Empire', Australia and New Zealand, to try and pass through the Dardanelles Straights to Turkey (at the time part of the Ottoman Empire and our enemy), to try and shorten the war. It was instigated in part by Winston S. Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, and was a disaster.

In July 2023 we will have a talk by Nick Pollard of the Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group who will talk to us on “Weirs and Locks in Spelthorne”. Nick is a specialist in the history of our local area.

We will have our summer break in August and our group new year will commence with a winter programme in September.

Membership is £18 for nine meetings from September. Membership closes in November until the next September, but visitors are welcome at £2.50 for each meeting. No advanced booking is required.

Meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month in Wraysbury Village Halls, except for the months of January, February and August. All meetings are advertised around Wraysbury Village, on our notice board in Wraysbury Village Halls and by email.

Please let me know if you would like to be added to the group email circulation list.

Tony Kimber

TonyKimber1@aol.com / 01784 483801

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jacky.wilkes@neatnumbers.co.uk

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WINDSOR HOMELESS PROJECT

An update from Chris

It's been a busy start to the year for WHP, with new guests arriving and housing existing guests. We've also had some challenges as our room at Trinity suffered from power cuts in February but thanks to the efforts of Nick, our project manager and the church, we found alternative venues close by for a few weeks.

This year we have served up over 1,000 hot meals at Trinity and St Stephens churches. Despite the difficult circumstances, our donations have remained strong and we are so grateful to our supporters for their generosity and this helps us cope with rising prices.

We had some lovely donations: The Greene Oak from their invisible mince pie promotion, the son of a supporter, Fraser Grehan ran 100km in a month to raise funds for us and Windsor Rugby club hosted an under 9s competition and party, with profits going to us. We have also had some wonderful donations in support of Alma Road, our new home to be. It's our biggest commitment and we hope to be moving in along with our sister charities late summer.



We had a visit to our sister charity The Windsor Foodshare, from the Prince and Princess of Wales, in which they mucked in preparing food parcels and heard all about the food share and other projects under Windsor Christian Action, which of course includes the homeless project.



A new activity was introduced in February and is now going strong – Ukelele lessons! Matt Heffer, one of our volunteers, has started Ukulele sessions which are great fun for both our guests and volunteers and we certainly have some budding musicians amongst us.



Ukelele session

This initiative is part of the preparation for our training programme which we will be running in the future from the new premises. Many thanks to Matt, James Vigurs and Marion Greenwood for donating the instruments and their time.

Progress on Alma Road has been gathering pace, with the building completely stripped out and new heating and windows installed. WHP will be at the centre of Alma Road, which will become our community hub and the next phase will see the creation of a professional kitchen, café area, training rooms, sleeping areas, showers and much more. We are hoping to have a grand opening before the end of the summer. Volunteers from Centrica and our guests, have been instrumental in helping us get the work done. Many trades have also donated time to the project.



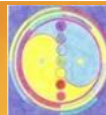
Alma Road

As part of our corporate engagement policy, we were pleased to meet a group of Legoland employees who visited Windsor Homeless Project and Windsor FoodShare, at Alma Road. Legoland were interested to hear the history of the projects, how they are evolving, the challenges faced and how they can help us. Over the past few months, we have established strong relationships with local businesses who have committed in various ways to help the projects. Hopefully Legoland will come on board and join Centrica, Eton Bridge Partners and Groupe SEB who are some of the most recent companies to express an interest and get involved.

Every Friday the Greene Oak in Dedworth provide us with lunches for our guests. We were delighted to hear they had recently won 'Best Food Offer' at the prestigious Publican Awards.

If you'd like to know more go to windsorhomelessproject.org

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And also..... Andy does **Tai Chi**,
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All Classes are held at Wraysbury Village Hall.

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NATIONAL TRUST

Runnymede and Ankerwycke

With riverside walks and open meadows, art installations inspired by history and a series of poignant memorials, there's lots to see and do at Runnymede and Ankerwycke. Here's what's taking place here over the coming months.

Magna Carta Week: 12-18 June 2023

We're celebrating the anniversary of the Magna Carta, which was sealed at Runnymede in June 1215, with a week-long event comprising walks, talks and workshops where you can gain a deeper insight into the history of Runnymede revealed in archaeological surveys and of course telling the story of the Magna Carta, its significance and relevance to the world today.

At the weekend, younger members of the family can enjoy a variety of activities and medieval style fun and games, including ring toss and skittles.

For our full programme of activities take a look at our website:

[Events at Runnymede and Ankerwycke \(nationaltrust.org.uk\)](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/events-at-runnymede-and-ankerwycke)

Uncovering Runnymede & Ankerwycke Exhibition at Chertsey Museum

Over the past few years, the National Trust has been working on a National Lottery funded project called Runnymede Explored, which has sought to bring to life the history of the location where one of history's most important documents, the Magna Carta, was sealed.

The project has involved archaeological work at Runnymede and Ankerwycke to find out more about the history of this site of significance. The work has revealed a much deeper story of the Thames-side landscape which is being showcased at an exhibition at Chertsey Museum entitled, "Uncovering Runnymede & Ankerwycke: The Archaeology of National Trust's Runnymede Explored".

The exhibition runs from 1 April to 9 October 2023. Chertsey Museum is open Tuesday-Friday 12.30pm to 4.30pm and Saturday 11am-4pm. Admission is free.

New pathway to the memorials

We're delighted to announce that work has started on a new Memorial pathway at Runnymede. Just like the new Riverside pathway which was completed last year, it will make accessing the memorials at Runnymede much easier for all throughout the year. These works are part of a larger project which will transform your visit to Runnymede and Ankerwycke.



Following the excitement of Christmas, what should we do to cheer everyone up on the dull evenings of January? Why, put on a panto of course!

Taking a bit of a chance on the lesser-known Brothers Grimm fairy-tale of Rapunzel, we decided on a fairly modern take with a script by Ben Crocker which allowed for The Players to embellish and

develop the storyline (thanks to our Chairperson, Jim) and deliver the humour that our audiences have come to expect.

Our panto had its very own storyteller, guiding the tale of a beautiful young princess, with the most extraordinary locks, who had been trapped in a woodland tower for eighteen years. She was stolen as a baby from the King and Queen of Evergreen by the wicked witch, Gothel, who claimed to be her real mother. All she really wanted were the golden tears that Rapunzel had shed for the first seventeen years of her life. But no longer, Rapunzel had become feisty and interested in the outside world. This is where our hapless hero entered, together with an anxiety-ridden dame, a ridiculously talented scout, pirates, royalty, pub landlords and a not-so-mighty weasel. These colourful characters climbed aboard the pantomime, travelled the high seas and searched for new lands, parentage and love. Oh, yes they did!



Like so many Amateur Dramatic Societies, we were concerned with meeting the demands of casting, maintaining rehearsals in these difficult times and would we be able to sell enough tickets? We needn't have worried as, firstly, we were able to cast the most amazing group of actors of all ages, some new to The Players. Despite a few set-backs with that nasty virus rearing its ugly head, we had the best time getting together for rehearsals and full performances. Audiences were fantastic and by the final Saturday night, we were a complete sell-out!

The set design was conceived back in September and it was largely due to the artistic skills and hard work of Daisy and Glyn that fulfilled my dream of building a tower on stage for Rapunzel, as well as a unique castle window for the actors to 'climb' through as if scaling the outside holding onto Rapunzel's hair. Things didn't always go to plan but this led to some of the funniest scenes in the panto! Daisy took full control of backstage with such confidence and patience – a true talent in this field.



Alongside some of our more experienced actors, we are always thrilled to provide opportunities for younger people to take part. We were particularly pleased this year to have a group of youngsters who took on multiple acting roles, danced their hearts out and added so much humour to our panto. This was recognised by our

affiliated body NODA (National Operatic & Drama Association) who always come to watch our performances and write up their report. They said *“it is always a delight to see societies who not only have a strong team of young people involved in the show as dancers and ensemble but also cast them in leading roles, giving them an opportunity to develop their confidence, skill and experience. Wraysbury Players’ annual pantomime Rapunzel does just that with a very strong young cast with speaking roles for most and excellent performances from teenagers such as Rapunzel, Waylon, Ms Jobs and Ms Worth”*. Furthermore, their report mentioned every young cast member and recognised their confidence and the vital role they played in our pantomime.

Other youngsters that deserved full recognition were the delightful members of The Performance Dance Academy who support us year after year with some fabulous dance routines to enhance our production. It’s so wonderful to see some familiar faces returning each January...just a little taller.



We always recognise that putting on a production of any genre is so much more than just being on stage. This is none more so than with the demands of a pantomime. From the outset our costumes and props were being carefully planned, bought or made, by the highly talented duo of Jenny and Barbara. Photography, video recording and cannon building can be attributed to Nigel G who always gives the professional touch.



Sound, lighting and pre-recorded voiceovers were delivered by the talents of Ben, Martin and Nigel H who worked so well together to bring the scenes to life with their knowledge of electronics. Who can forget Waylon the weasel’s cackle?

Beyond the technical prowess up in the box, we are always delighted to benefit from the incorrigible duo of Simon and Mike, aka The Band. Panto would not be the same without these two, who both travel a fair distance to support us at rehearsals and then keep the whole cast on their toes with musical accompaniments, sound effects and often with naughty heckling...we wouldn’t be without them each year.

Cont.

As always, our audiences are met and served each evening by the hardworking volunteers in our Front of House Team, from selling tickets, producing programmes, the fabulous raffle for each performance and making sure the audiences have a much needed drink, or two, from the bar. So much organisation and work goes on before show week.

Finally, we hope you enjoy just a few photos from Rapunzel, reminding you of beautiful Megan in the title role, the malevolent witch played with enthusiasm by Jacqui, our hapless hero played by Dan with some of the best expressions in the business, father and daughter partnership of Jim and Tammy actually playing the dual roles of King and Queen, the commanding presence of Sarosh as our storyteller and Yasmin who gave us the adorable young Max. However, some of the most abiding, hilarious scenes were played by real-life partners, Steevan as the highly flirtatious yet anxiety-ridden Dame of enormous proportions and 'her' talented, some might say over-achieving scout of a son called Max played by the very gorgeous Anastasia. Who can forget Max coming up the ladder with Hilda's discarded underwear on 'his' head!




That's it from me – see you all again next year for pantomime madness but in the meantime here are some of our forthcoming events for your diary.

Lynn (Director)



MURDERED TO DEATH – 29th June to 1st July
WRAYSBURY'S GOT TALENT – 23rd September
THE BIG VILLAGE QUIZ – 18th October





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Like to become a radio broadcaster?

Go Community Radio (GCR) is a voluntary based community radio station, broadcasting via the internet, smart phone or smart speaker.

The station is virtual based and will initially rely on broadcasters using their own equipment to sign in and broadcast from their own location, via their own internet connection to our radio account. We will provide a basic list of equipment needed, along with “nice to have” recommendations on what you would need to set up your own broadcasting facility. Later, we hope to add a location, where a small flexi-studio can be used for those who do not have access to the required equipment or wish to have several broadcasters or guests involved in a programme.

The ethos of the station is “community” so we are looking for as much local content for chat, music and local news. GCR would also provide a platform for more unique music or speech-based shows.

Although we will look for ways we can raise revenue to support the station, such as local advertising, promotional events, sponsorship etc, our business model is to establish a sustainable regular income, through a very modest broadcaster subscription basis.

Each broadcaster will make a small contribution towards the weekly station costs, which amounts to the cost of a fancy cup of coffee a week!

No broadcasting experience is needed to get involved. All we are looking for is enthusiasm and a clear idea of what you would like to contribute in terms of programming. We can help and guide you through the set up and delivery of your show.

If you would like to explore becoming a broadcaster on GCR, please contact either Colin or James via e-mail, we can arrange to have a chat with you.

Why not get involved now!

colin@go-radio.co.uk

James@go-radio.co.uk

WRAYSBURY WINE AND SOCIAL CLUB



Now in its 51st year, the Wine Circle continues to meet regularly, enjoying a variety of speakers and tastings of food or wine plus some dances. In February, **Queen Supersonic** gave us an absolutely superb evening's entertainment. Future dances will be provided by the tribute group '**ABBA Chique**' on 17th June and '**Vox Beetles**' (the Beatles) on 14th October, with the year being rounded off by one of our favourite bands, '**Choice**', at our New Year's Eve party. All the bands are very professional, giving us a terrific evening. The raffle takings at New Year's Eve always go to a charity, preferably local and for children. The takings for 2022 went to the Alexandra Devine Children's Hospice.

Our monthly meetings take place on the **first Tuesday of each month at 8pm in the Village Halls**; we have some excellent speakers, food and wine tastings and entertainment. Between now and Christmas we have talks entitled "Acting can be Murder", "Singing my way to the Stars", "The life of Chung Lee Soo" (who? - come along and find out!) and "Jingling tales of Theatre Ghosts". The July meeting is on 4th (our colonial cousins Independence Day) and a themed evening is planned with tasting of American wines. December will have a Christmas party feel with music and songs from Ray Lowe. Visitors to our meetings are always welcome.

WHY NOT JOIN THE WRAYSBURY WINE AND SOCIAL CLUB

As you can see from the above, there is always something interesting at our meetings and you could be a part of this for **only £10** a year.

Come along to **the Village Halls on the first Tuesday of the month, before our 8pm start time** and make yourself known to our Chairman, **Ray Alletson** or myself, **Christine Morgan** (Secretary); you will be most welcome.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND OUR DANCES

Just ring Sheila Wareham on 01753 841132 for tickets

Christine Morgan (Sec) 01784 482175 or mccwnews@hotmail.co.uk

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WRAYSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

What a winter we have had, so bitterly cold. I am sure I am not alone in losing a great many cuttings I was hoping to have ready for summer planting and unfortunately, several unusual plants I have nurtured for many years. By the time you read this the weather will hopefully have warmed up.

The Society has only two day trips organised this year; the first was in April to Hever Castle to see their annual tulip festival and the second is on July 12th when we return to Waterperry gardens after many years. This is for our annual picnic - three courses, wine, beer and soft drinks. There is so much to see at these gardens, certainly fabulous borders, the Mary Rose, walled & allotment gardens. There is also a museum and of course a gift shop, plant sales and cafe.

Our first away trip is to Wales when we will be staying in Llandudno for a few nights. We will be visiting Beaumaris on the Isle of Anglesey, take a boat trip on the Menai Straits and the main attraction is a visit to Portmeirion village. This trip is scheduled for 28th June - 2nd July. Our second short break is from October 16th - 20th when we travel to Kings Lynn. This includes a trip on the Bure Valley railway and also the Poppy Line to the seaside resort of Sheringham. A full day is spent at Bressingham Gardens and nurseries which also hosts a Steam Museum and a part recreation of Walmington-on-Sea of Dad's Army fame. Finally, a full day to visit Sandringham House to explore the house and formal gardens, station museum and 300-acre park.



Portmeirion

Although not really horticultural, we have decided to go to Hole Park in Kent for their Proms Spectacular. All the old favourites, plus the Spitfire display overhead, the free fall parachute team and a great fireworks display. We have visited Hole Park on two previous day trips and have been royally entertained by the owner and his wife - who incidentally makes the most delicious scones, (sorry not on this trip)!

Finally, we have chartered a 32 berth cruiser to visit the Croatian Islands, something on my bucket list for many years. We will be visiting gardens and uninhabited islands, so there is some horticultural significance.

Should you wish to come on our picnic or to Norfolk, there is still time to book or better still, join our mailing list. We will shortly be arranging trips for 2024 so email us on alletson@aol.com.

And do have a most enjoyable summer.

Pam & Ray Alletson

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Wraysbury Country Music Club



It's been a great first half year for Wraysbury Country Music Club (WCMC). 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 **WCMC** events are also a wonderful opportunity to share a special celebration and we always go out of our way to make the evening 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, coffee and biscuits 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 easily be made via the online booking site: www.goclubs.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 all of us and have a great night out. 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 me.

With best wishes for the rest of the year,

Colin

Colin@go-radio.co.uk / Tel: 07951 671123

MAGNA CARTA BOOK CLUB

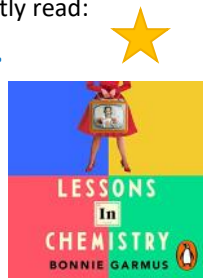
Magna Carta Book Club usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month, taking it in turns to meet in members' homes. We still have a glass of wine or a coffee and always cake (one must keep up standards!)

Every month, we vary book genres by taking suggestions from the "host" each time. We have no barriers to the types of book and thoroughly enjoy the discussion they provoke. There's no obligation to read every book but we still enjoy the company.

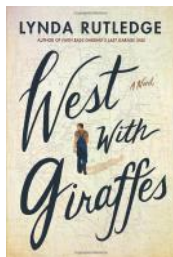
Here is a selection of our favourites from the books we've recently read:

Lessons In Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus is our **Star Choice**.

All the book club LOVED this book. Don't be put off by the title. Even if you've never looked at a chemistry book, IT DOESN'T MATTER. Elizabeth Zott is a phenomenal woman, taking on the male establishment in the lab and then changing the mindset of women in the 1960s, via her unconventional cookery TV show. What a breath of fresh air (oh, sorry: oxygen...)



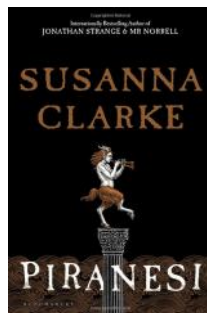
West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge



Two giraffes, destined for San Diego Zoo, miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. In their first few days in New York, the giraffes become the obsession of a young lad, himself a survivor of the deadly dust storms in the South. Mesmerised by their grace and beauty, he develops a unique relationship with them and finally earns the right to drive them across the States. An adventure telling the story of love, loss and hope, absolutely wonderful.

Piranesi by Susanna Clarke

Hold faith with this one! The first few pages make you think you've had something strange slipped into your tea with paragraphs like "*When the moon rose in the Third Northern Hall, I went to the ninth vestibule to witness the joining of three tides.*" It becomes clear as you read it, however, that Piranesi has slipped via black magic into a magnificent but crumbling parallel world where he learns to fend for himself and becomes at one with the ominous environment and grows to love the isolation. Twists and turns are revealed as you read on. Not a traditional "Sci-Fi" book, it makes you wonder about the possibilities of nature and our own existence. Mesmerising.



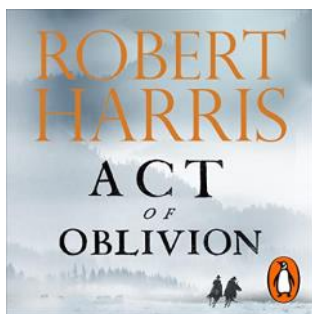
Saving Missy by Beth Morrey

An older lady who is lonely, having lost or been estranged from close family, is feeling her world shrinking around her. But a chance meeting in the park sparks a series of events, connecting her to a bunch of diverse characters and reminding her who she used to be. She once more feels valued and vibrant. Gripping, funny, sad and uplifting.



Act of Oblivion by Robert Harris

1660 England. General Edward Whalley and his son-in-law Colonel William Goffe board a ship bound for the New World. They are on the run, wanted for the

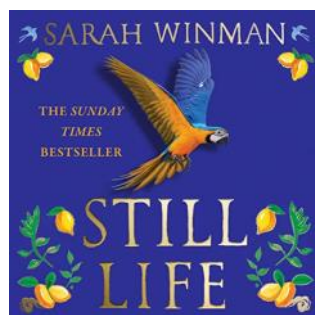


murder of King Charles I - a brazen execution that marked the culmination of the English Civil War, in which parliamentarians successfully battled royalists for control. Ten years on, with the rest of the perpetrators brought to justice or dead, just these two remain free. Richard Nayler, of the Privy Council, is charged with bringing them to justice and he will stop at nothing to find them. A gripping page-turner, with fascinating insights into life and politics of the 17th Century.

Still Life by Sarah Winman

What a contrast! Grimy, gritty East London after the war, where life in The Stoa and Parrot pub provides friendship, songs around the piano and the occasional fight among the fog, jellied eels and cold winters.

Then a chance event during the war offers up the opportunity of a new life in a Tuscan village outside Florence for pub employee and ex-soldier, Ulysses Temper. Art, food and beautiful scenery come to life in this extraordinary tale of love and friendship and their survival over time, despite parting and reunion. Then there's a fantastic parrot, a feathered philosopher who can quote Shakespeare and dish out advice at the most appropriate moments. Exquisite.



We hope you enjoy our recommendations!



Wraysbury Archive

Welcome to the new home of the Wraysbury Archive. Following the purchase of the old Baptist Church by Wraysbury Parish Council, we have built a secure, insulated space for the archive on the top floor of the new Wraysbury Hub. This is a larger space than was available previously, but it does double as an office for Jane, the Parish Clerk. Everything has been moved but, to paraphrase Eric Morecambe – all notes [documents] are there, but not necessarily in the right order!

It is the 50th anniversary of the Wraysbury Halls this year and we were asked to see what was available in the archive. It is mostly accounts, bills of work/supply and such, along with various proposed plans dating from the 1930s, but in the '60s there was an intense drive to bring Wraysbury into the 20th century which culminated in the new village 'centre' opening in 1973.



It appears that one of the *raison d'être* was the marketing of Wraysbury as an out of town 'conference' centre. You can judge for yourselves how successful that was. Whatever the machinations at the time, we did acquire a superb Hall and Club.

As usual, with this sort of development, there were many rumours and suppositions doing the rounds at the time. We have a considerable number of press clippings which cite various groups' gripes. Some of these may or may not have any basis in fact; some may just be based on 'blue sky' thinking coming out of discussion meetings. There is probably more in the minutes of council meetings but I haven't investigated them.

In the end, much of the funding came from local enterprises, but one of the ideas floating around the rumour-sphere was the selling of gravel rights to the Memorial Ground. Whether or not this was true, it could never have happened anyway. The Memorial Ground was donated to the village as an area to promote sports and leisure activities within the village. There is a charitable institute set up to manage it with the Parish Council being the Trustee.

Remember, there is an entry on the Parish Council's web site for the Archive - it currently has a searchable index which gives you the information about the containers relating to your areas of interest. In the near future this will be augmented with these contents lists (WIP). Feel free to browse and search - bottom entry on left hand menu on www.wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Peter Lord

An advertisement for JWO HEATING. The background is light blue with faint gear icons. On the right, a hand in a black and orange work glove holds a pair of red-handled pliers. The text is arranged as follows:

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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.

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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 or telephone 01628 796969



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 RBWM_Libraries

Out with the New and In with the Old!

This particularly pertains to the choices we make with furniture. To explore this further, we need to have a look at the differences between modern and vintage furniture. There may come a time in our lives where we actively consider choosing vintage furniture over modern.

If we already own vintage furniture, it tends to be that we are likely to have had it for some time and have got to the point where we want to modernise our surroundings leaving dark furniture looking out of place and old!

So, then comes the need to decide whether to keep it or invest in new. Vintage furniture is generally more sustainable than its modern counterpart in that it has already stood the test of time and has most likely been made from high quality products that are no longer used in modern manufacturing. For example, finishes such as 'dove tail' joints that were used in the past in drawers, gave a sturdiness that is just not seen in today's modern furniture. This type of furniture has many years of life in it and can be adapted to suit any home interior.

The big difference between modern and vintage furniture is down to the style, materials used and what it looks like.

Modern furniture is usually sleek with simple lines, minimal in design with an emphasis on practicality, whereas a lot of vintage furniture is much more ornate and elaborate with emphasis on design rather than functionality.



A good example here is a 'Purdonium' which, in the Arts and Crafts era, was fashioned to house coal. When you come across them you will find that some of them have intricate detail and the reason for this was that they were kept in a bedroom for the fire and needed to look elegant and in keeping with the rest of the décor in the room!

There is a significant difference between the materials used in modern and vintage furniture. Modern is generally mass produced and tends to use glass, steel,

plastic and cheap veneer over hardboard to simulate the impression of real wood, whereas vintage will have been made from all natural materials.

So, what can be done with our old, dark, unloved furniture in today's modern style of living?

Upcycle, Recycle, Refinish, Repurpose and Modernise are just a few of the words used to refer to the practice of breathing new life into furniture that either no longer goes with an interior, or which has now been shoved into a garage due to the fact that it is now looking outdated.

Upcycling is not only a creative and sustainable way to reuse furniture but the process can literally become addictive! In addition, it is great for our mental health, we are using an existing resource and making it even more beautiful, not adding to landfill, there are now so many products to paint with out there which are environmentally friendly, oh and if it is truly vintage, it will not have come from China!

Giving pre-loved items a second life can give a unique look and feel to a home; it can seem as if we have a brand new piece of furniture in our home! Embracing the beauty of these vintage designs will allow these timeless gems to blend harmoniously with contemporary furnishings for an eclectic yet stylish vibe.

So, food for thought when making the decision as to whether to choose vintage or modern for the home!



Upcycling does not need to be intimidating, there are workshops to learn how to do it – groups are a fun way to learn new skills and pool ideas with other participants while commissioning work is also a great way to create our own style for our homes. Working with the artist, tapping into the creative side of our brains we can explore and decide on which options work. The finished pieces will act as a reminder of the past and show respect to the wonderful craftsmanship of the item, as well as helping the environment which is crucial.

Julia Wheatley
Owner - Absolutely Mintage Ltd
www.absolutelymintage.co.uk

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, but so much more is planned for the summer months.

For regular members we are planning a visit to The Savill Garden for afternoon tea, a boat trip (again with tea) on the River Thames and our ever-popular visits to local garden centres for a spot of retail therapy.

There will also be our annual "Christmas lunch" which earlier this year was held at Squires Garden Centre where both the food and wine was well received.

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.

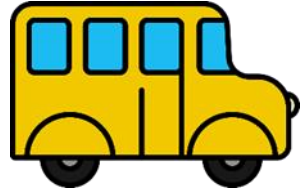
Before finishing, we must pay tribute to Eddie Elderfield who sadly passed away earlier this year. Eddie was not only a staunch supporter of the club, but she was also the Secretary for many years and was the main reason that the club has existed for so many years. Eddie was a lovely lady and will be sadly missed.

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.

Answers to the SUMMER QUIZ

*And the
Winner is...*

- 1) The Iron
- 2) A Hat
- 3) Storms
- 4) Ready Brek
- 5) A Sleuth or Sloth
- 6) Civic (100 is C, 7 is VII)
- 7) A wooden walking stick, club or cudgel
- 8) 2
- 9) Christopher Columbus
- 10) 8 points
- 11) Utah, Ohio & Iowa
- 12) Golf Balls
- 13) Estivation
- 14) Mr Chicken (moved out in the 1730s)
- 15) Wordle
- 16) Emma
- 17) Goosebumps
- 18) John Steinbeck
- 19) A Puggle
- 20) Mystery Incorporated



19th December 2022

Dear the people of Wraysbury,

I hope this letter finds you all well, I'm the local Fundraising Manager at Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to each and every member of the village for your support and hard work to fundraise for people living with cancer.

As I'm sure you know the brilliant Mrs Deborah Larcombe has been fundraising for Macmillan for many years, and 2022 has seen another amazing year of fundraising – enabled by the generosity and support of many Wraysbury locals. Whether you helped with the organising, baked cakes, sold your festive goods or made the teas + coffees your contributions will have an incredible impact on the people and families that we support.

Together you've raised an immense £5,970 in 2022! Given the current cost of living crisis and price of heating financial concerns are one of the most pressing issues faced by people living with cancer in the UK today, at a time when health should be their number one priority. Record numbers of people are turning Macmillan Cancer Support for financial support in order to be able to get to hospital appointments, pay for food and heat their homes. We provide rapid payments through our Macmillan Grants scheme which are one off grants of £350 to help alleviate some of the financial pressures they're under.

The £5,970 that you've collectively raised could fund 17 Macmillan Grants to support people living with cancer and their families which is a tremendous impact. In 2021 we awarded 26 grants in Wraysbury, Windsor and Maidenhead for a total worth of £9,100.

Personally, I want to say a massive thank you for the incredible support you've all given to Macmillan, the money you've raised will make a massive difference in helping Macmillan to continue supporting people living with cancer.

Kind regards,



Hebe Wright
Relationship Fundraising Manager – London
hewright@macmillan.org.uk
07458 007750

**For information, support or just someone to talk to,
call 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk**

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261077), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (806). Also operating in Northern Ireland. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, company number 2400959, Isle of Man company number 4694F. Registered office: 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7XJ. VAT no: 668265007



Christmas 2022 seems a distant memory now but here goes...

Despite 'hanging up my apron' (sadly no one has offered to take over) we decided to hold the Macmillan Christmas Bazaar. This was very well attended and hopefully everyone enjoyed the morning and left with armfuls of Christmas gifts, full of coffee, cake and Christmas spirit! We had a wonderful array of stall holders, both old and new, thank you all. Of course we couldn't do it without our loyal and hard working helpers, Faye and her lovely Mum and Dad, Anne, Jacqui, Leen, Henry and Elizabeth, Daisy, Rose, Ellie and Amrita (apologies if I have forgotten anyone). All those who donated delicious cakes, biscuits and scones. Mark and Jackie, our Hall Managers, who not only set up the halls and clear away but go above and beyond supporting us all. Our raffle was as popular as ever, thanks to The Frost Partnership and Billy, Wraysbury Village Trust, The Kitchen and everyone who donated raffle prizes. Special thanks to Cazza - cards, Dale - hats and books (more of Dale later) who donate all their stall takings to Macmillan! We raised £2,000 on the morning and with donations, I banked an amazing £3,000 on behalf of Wraysbury for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you all.

Last year alone Wraysbury raised in excess of £6,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Please see the letter of appreciation sent by Macmillan to Wraysbury opposite! The total is increased from extra donations!

Now back to Dale... Dale Davies sells second hand books on the internet and also sells on behalf of Macmillan. Over the past few months, in addition to his donation at the Christmas Bazaar, Dale has dropped in cheques totalling £600. This makes an enormous difference to our fundraising and to Macmillan. 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

THE GRANGE GARDEN PARTY on 2nd September this year will be supporting MACMILLAN. If anyone is interested in having a stall please contact me, details below. We would like to encourage local arts and crafts, societies, groups and clubs but all are welcome.

It only remains for me to wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Thank you all for your support.

Debbie Larcombe deborahlarcombe@gmail.com / 07598183860

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www.facebook.com/ThePercyWraysbury

www.ThePercy.co.uk

A PERSONAL VIEW

by Ray Alletson

I recently attended an excellent jazz concert at the Village Halls and during the interval, I happened to be looking around and it struck me how lucky we are to have such a great facility in our village, where so many clubs and societies meet on a regular basis. From the larger clubs such as the Wine & Social Club, the Jazz Club, the Country & Western and the ever popular Wraysbury Players to the smaller clubs including the Art Society, indoor bowls, Karate, Yoga, Pilates and Age Concern to mention just a few; they all play a significant part in our village.

It got me to thinking about the village as a whole. How many other villages can boast a thriving bowls club, a tennis club which recently celebrated 100 years since its formation and an established cricket club, now encouraging many younger people to take up the sport and playing regularly on our wonderful village green? We also have an active football club, again encouraging youngsters and ladies to take up the "beautiful" game. We even now have an outdoor gym and our lovely church St. Andrew's for regular worship. We can enjoy the Summer Fair in June and in September, the Grange Garden Party.

What would we do without our village shops, all of whom offer great service and excellent value?

We have two railway stations and although our bus service is limited, I am sure there are people working behind the scenes to rectify this.

We are spoilt for choice when we wish to meet up with friends for a meal or just a drink. We have The Kitchen opened just a year ago and proving very successful, our traditional pub The Perseverance, The George now re-opened as a steakhouse and of course the Village Club. Do not forget the Wednesday coffee morning at the Hub and the ever-popular Thursday luncheon club.

There are things that I get worked up about; the amount of litter that finds its way onto our streets (particularly at the two railway bridges) and of course the increasing number of potholes in the village approach roads, but these are national problems and not unique to Wraysbury. Indeed, I cannot imagine having to live in a concrete high-rise estate, where graffiti covers every surface and there's not a tree in sight.

I was lucky enough to be given the chance to move to Wraysbury 30 years ago, and whilst inevitably things change, I would never consider moving away.

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COVERING THIS AREA



Royal Free Singers, Windsor

We're proud to be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our community choir this year with a varied programme of concerts.

Here's the story of our history from our Musical Director, Ben Gunner:

"In March 1973, I wrote to the parents of the Royal Free Boys' School inviting them to come and join a new adult choir I had decided to create. I named the choir the Royal Free Singers and this same choir is now celebrating its 50th anniversary.

"From a modest start of 15 singers on the first night, RFS steadily grew into a large community choir of 150 singers, becoming a real Windsor institution. There were no auditions and anyone was welcome no matter their singing ability, just as is the case today. The pandemic affected the numbers significantly, as it did with so many organisations. However, the choir has recovered very well and now has over 100 members once again.

"The choir has a particular ethos which we cherish very much. It has a sociable and kind membership where people interact and look out for each other. Is that perhaps why it still flourishes half a century later?"

Our anniversary season continues as follows:

Summertime – Gershwin, Porter and more...

Windsor Parish Church, Saturday, 24th June at 7.30 p.m.

For tickets, membership information and our programme for the year, please see our website: <https://royalfreesingers.org.uk>

We look forward to welcoming you to enjoy an evening of light, popular music and refreshments afterwards in the church grounds.

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@dhholloway.co.uk
BADMINTON CLUB (Ladies)	Kim - 01784 482395 / Pam - 01784 482545
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
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
DRAMA (Wraysbury Players) Nigel Handyside	07867 787911 / hkfire4@yahoo.co.uk

DIRECTORY OF CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS Cont.

Organisation / Contacts	Contact # / Website / Email
FOOTBALL CLUB (Wraysbury Village FC) Mark Foster	wraysburyfc.co.uk info@wraysburyfc.co.uk 07788 413030
GIRLGUIDING: Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Giovanna Cochrane	giovanna.cochrane@btinternet.com 07914 673278
HISTORY GROUP Tony Kimber	TonyKimber1@aol.com 01784 483801
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Pam & Ray Alletson	alletson@aol.com 01784 482545
JAZZ CLUB (Wraysbury) Sec. Rosemary Smith Carole Mackie	thewraysburyjazzclub.co.uk 01784 483452 / micro500@btinternet.com 0208 890 3324 / carole.mackie@tiscali.co.uk
MOBILE LUNCH CLUB (Meals on Wheels) Tim	01784 482515
NATIONAL TRUST Runnymede & Ankerwycke	nationaltrust.org.uk 01784 432891 / runnymede@nationaltrust.org.uk
PAROCHIAL CHARITIES (Wraysbury) Sec: Sue Chapman	01784 483186 / s.k.chapman@btinternet.com
PRE-SCHOOL (Angels) Jane DeCecco	angelspreschool.co.uk 07944 848347 / info@angelspreschool.co.uk
PRE-SCHOOL (Pumpkins) Kellie Fairhall	pumpkinspreschoolwraysbury.wordpress.com 07500 224115
RADIO (Go Community) Colin & James	colin@go-radio.co.uk james@go-radio.co.uk
SILVER WING SAILING CLUB	silverwingsc.co.uk General Enquiries: enquiry@silverwingsc.co.uk Training Dept.: principal@silverwingsc.co.uk

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	WraysburyCubs@Hotmail.co.uk 07738 662663 07594 530634 07789 180417 07964 691347 07733 140562
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: Breda Shillingford Vice-Pres: Jason Martin Secretary: Steve Lewis Treasurer: Alan Ferguson	Secretary.wraysbury.village.club@gmail.com
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	mccwnews@hotmail.co.uk 01784 482545 01784 482175
WRAYSBURY HUB Helen Williams	wraysbury.hub@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk 01784 483039 / 07398 080258

Please help keep this information up to date
Email: wraysbury.magazine@gmail.com

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTACT DETAILS

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

Parish Councils	
Wraysbury Parish Council (WPC)	Horton Parish Council (HPC)
www.wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk	www.hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Meetings are held on the <u>3rd Monday</u> of each month, normally at <u>19:00</u> in the Wraysbury Hub, 12a High Street, Wraysbury, TW19 5DB	Meetings are held on the <u>3rd Tuesday</u> of each month, normally at <u>19:30</u> in Champney Hall, Stanwell Road, Horton, SL3 9PA
Chair: Unassigned at time of going to press	Chair: Unassigned at time of going to press
Parish Clerk: Jane Clemance	Parish Clerk: Jayne Kennedy
Email: info@wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk	Email: clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 01784 482613	Tel: 07957 588277 (Parish Mobile)
Postal Address: Clerk to Wraysbury Parish Council % Acklam Hill View Road Wraysbury TW19 5EQ	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.

St. Andrew's Church, Wraysbury Email: Secretary.HortonAndWraysbury@gmail.com Website: www.StAndrewsWraysbury.co.uk 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
St. Michael's Church, Horton Email: Benta Hickley Secretary.HortonAndWraysbury@gmail.com Website: www.StMichaels-Horton.org		
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
St. Augustine's, Datchet Email: office@staugustines.org.uk Website: staugustines.org.uk		
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^{1,2} heathrow.com

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

Gatwick Airport ² 0344 892 0322 gatwickairport.com

Stansted Airport ² 0844 335 1803 stanstedairport.com

Luton Airport ² 01582 405100 london-luton.co.uk

London City Airport ² 020 7646 0000 londoncityairport.com

² 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 ³ 0343 222 2222

³ 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/

Train Times

Please check up to date timetables on 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

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

Telephone: 0118 973 3486

EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FLOOD WARDEN		07957 123 029	francisbld@hotmail.com	
Dave Francis		01784 483 053		
Flood Information Service		0345 988 1188	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency	
P O L I C E	Criminal Act	In Progress	999	
		Reporting After The Event	101	www.thamesvalley.police.uk
	Vandalism	In Progress	999	
		Reporting After The Event	101	www.thamesvalley.police.uk
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	www.affinitywater.co.uk	
Sewer & Drain Emergencies (24hr)		0800 316 9800	www.thameswater.co.uk	
Datchet Health Centre		01753 541 268	www.datchetdoctor.co.uk	
Wraysbury Village Pharmacy		01784 482 430		
Citizen's Advice Adviceline (Mon – Fri, 09:00 – 17:00)		0800 144 8848	www.citizensadvice.org.uk	

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

RBWM Report it: 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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