

# PANGBOURNE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 156

MAY/JUNE 2020



**VE DAY  
TRIBUTE**



(Pages 29-36)

Picture supplied by Olwen Grant,  
'Bramble' in the Meadow behind  
Pangbourne Allotments.

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REMAINING



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Prices correct at time of print. Interior photography of existing show home at Breedon Place.



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## WHAT BEST DESCRIBES A COMMUNITY?

In the strictest terms, dictionary definitions talk of a group of people living in a shared locality, with common interests and lives.

True communities are far more than that and share something much stronger, community sentiment. It is this that gives a community its sense of permanence and belonging which allows its members to identify emotionally as part of a larger group. A sense of loyalty to the community itself as well as all those in it can be felt and shown in many ways and Pangbourne always had a strong tradition of volunteering. This is never better demonstrated than in times of crisis and the current pandemic is no exception.

In every part of the village neighbours, businesses and services have found a way to pull together to serve the community and make a difference. All the little acts of kindness make a sum that is far greater than its parts.

Retailers such as Ninos have ceased ordinary trade, switching their operation entirely to delivering low cost food boxes. The Cheese Shop, Greens and Garlands have continued to trade essential food supplies but reduced opening hours to allow greater home delivery services covering a wide area. Community partnerships have flourished with Greens working closely with the Dementia Forum following a generous donation to supply orders to the elderly and vulnerable. The Coop staff have continued to work tirelessly to stock shelves over long hours and personally serving many, many customers. They have worked with the community to ensure that orders can be fulfilled for those self-isolating or vulnerable and supported community projects and groups. And then of course there is Collins, barely reducing hours and continuing to provide all the regular postal services and vital domestic supplies that keep the community functioning.

The Boathouse Surgery and Lloyds Chemist have continued to offer appointments and serve residents under very challenging circumstances, working with various C-19 community groups across Pangbourne,

Whitchurch and surrounding villages to provide additional support where needed. The Royal Mail team have continued delivering post with no visible disruption yet handling many more parcels.

And then, there's all those residents helping with the community volunteer scheme, shopping and collecting prescriptions, as well as all those who are quietly making their own arrangements, looking after neighbours, friends and family members.

There is pastoral support from the local Churches and local residents have come forward to offer mental wellbeing support or financial advice.

Amongst us are the keyworkers, teachers, council, health and care workers and neighbourhood police teams continuing to work ceaselessly for all our benefit.

How lucky I have felt to be able to walk to "my local shops", to find that they are stocked with tinned tomatoes, bags of pasta, eggs, milk, meat and bread flour. To find that I am still greeted with a smile under difficult circumstances by people who know my name and ask after my family. To be able to shop local and not have to "face" the large supermarkets too often at a time when this can induce a certain anxiety. To be able to walk in beautiful surroundings in the sunshine once a day for my family's daily exercise, to see and hear the signs of spring and to have time to stop and appreciate the simple things, the things that matter. To see friendly faces (at a safe distance) when out and about. To be able to find comfort in the familiar when the whole world itself has altered.

For those fortunate enough to be untouched by this horrific disease or the economic and social hardships that come with it there is so much to be deeply thankful for. For those who have sadly known dark days, there is a communal arm outstretched.

Once all this is over, there is much to remember, to cherish and to value about this small community we all call home.

## ALISON HALLIDAY 1920 – 2020

Former Pangbourne resident, Alison Halliday, sadly passed away in January, two weeks short of her 100th birthday. Alison lived in Tidmarsh and then Pangbourne for 43 years until 2013. Alison, her husband Robert (known also as Bob), mother, Irene Hunter, and son, Duncan, moved to Tidmarsh Manor from Ickenham, Middlesex, in 1970. While they lived at the Manor, the BBC filmed a Dr Who episode entitled Planet of the Spiders. The Queen of the Maoris, whose grandfather had stayed in the house nearly a hundred years before, visited. At this time, Alison volunteered with the Citizens Advice Bureau, Bob was a Pangbourne Parish Councillor and they both ran the raffle stall at Tidmarsh Fete.



From there they moved to Farmhill in Pangbourne where they stayed until 1985 when they bought the Gatehouse in Pangbourne. During this period Alison was an active member of the WI and went to upholstery classes making and repairing furniture. She also delivered Meals on Wheels.

In 2013 Alison left Pangbourne and moved to Windsor to be near her family where she remained until last September when she moved to a Nursing Home.

*Duncan Halliday*

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Recovery in Mind is a West Berkshire social enterprise based in Newbury it was set-up by the founder Angela Ryan four years ago. Recovery in Mind offer free mental health courses for adults in West Berkshire who suffer from a variety of mental health challenges.



Following on from this we offer a 'Welcome to Recovery' foundation course, which runs for six weeks. The aim of this course is to look at various aspects to beginning your recovery journey. We include sessions about hope,

supporters, healthy living and developing a 'wellness toolbox'.

Did you know that approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health challenge every year, such as anxiety and depression.

In 2019 at Recovery in Mind we had 120 new students attend courses in addition to another 50 students who we have supported in previous years. Our courses for January 2020 foundation (Recovery in Mind run two every half term) are both full. This proves there is a clear demand for our work within West Berkshire.

So, what exactly is our work and how are the courses set-up?

The aim of the courses is to learn to self-manage your mental health challenges so you're less reliant on the system but more reliant on yourself. As Angela Ryan says; 'We live with our minds everyday and this is what can cause challenges, as our thoughts are so constant'.

Angela has experienced her own serious mental health challenges in the past and helps to run the courses alongside NHS professionals, who are Occupational Therapists as well as other staff members, some of whom have been students at Recovery in Mind in the past.

The courses are split into three stages; Bitesize, our Foundation Course then the option of 14 other courses, all designed to learn skills, tools and techniques to help support and improve mental health.

Every two weeks we run a Bitesize course, it's a taster session to see if Recovery in Mind is right for you.

For the final session we review our learning and set one or two goals. 'Follow on' (stage three) courses and workshops include self-compassion, self-esteem and confidence courses. Creative and wellness workshops, mindful walking, reading for recovery and our 'Wellbeing in the wild days'.

The list goes on but for more information about Recovery in Mind and the free courses we offer please visit our website [www.recoveryinmind.org.uk](http://www.recoveryinmind.org.uk). You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Thank you!

*'A friendly and welcoming place to start your recovery journey'*

*'Recovery in Mind makes you look at mental health issues in a very different way'*

*'I would like to say thank you to the Recovery in Mind team. The course was really helpful and I do feel the benefits after the 6 week foundation course. I'd like to carry on and join the regular mindful walks and other creative workshops.'*

*'I found the courses so helpful – they are not aimed at individual counselling but are about learning/studying together in a safe, caring environment. They are supportive, positive and forward looking; encouraging you to accept yourself and develop your own personal 'wellness toolbox'.'*

*'What really stays in my mind from doing this course is that there is hope for everyone. I also met some great people who I hope to remain friends with.'*

## HELP IN ISOLATION FOR THURSDAY CLUB MEMBERS AND OTHER LOCAL RESIDENTS

Greens of Pangbourne has been a supporter of the Thursday Club since its inception by either donating or subsidising the main lunch item. Covid 19 isolation has meant cancellation of meetings so with Diane Williams one of the club organisers handling distribution, meat/food packs will be given free by Greens to the members.

We have been helped in doing this by a generous donation from a former local who has great affection for Pangbourne and its people. He wishes to remain anonymous, suffice to say he is a friend and fan of Greens and has been known to Royston for over fifty years. A sum of money is earmarked for this project which will enable gifts to be given to Thursday Club members and others in isolation finding life difficult.

Stay safe, we will get through this together.

*Greens of Pangbourne*

## PANGBOURNE VILLAGE MARKET

We were very sorry to have to close our market but government guidelines forced us to do this. The first time in over forty years of trading that we have been unable to open!!!

We are still growing vegetables, flowers and plants, making preserves and are ready to restart as soon as the restrictions on movement are lifted.

Last year we also provided strawberries, raspberries and other fruit as it came into season. This proved very popular with our customers.

We hope you all stay safe in these very trying times and we look forward to reopening and welcoming you all back to market.

In the meantime if you need to contact phone 0118 9744420.

## JOHN FAWTHROP

John passed away on 29th March 2020, aged 74. Devoted husband to Irina, beloved father to Louise, Jonathan, Jennifer and Emily, and much loved grandfather to his five granddaughters. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.



Unfortunately, due to the current situation, the funeral will be for immediate family members only. A celebration of John's life will be held at a later date, where all will be most welcome to attend. Cyril H Lovegrove Funeral Directors, 01189 452 103.

## HOW WELL DO YOU REMEMBER WALLINGFORD?

Unfortunately, we have had to temporarily close the museum and postpone our events, walks, and TWHAS talks due to the coronavirus outbreak. We will re-open and re-schedule our events as soon as conditions permit.

Whilst Wallingford Museum is temporarily closed, we will continue to share the museum experience, town history locations, local history facts . . . to engage with residents and future visitors.

Our website will show a quiz each week, starting Mondays. Answers will appear on the website on Sunday evenings. These virtual quizzes should be solved by NOT going out-and-about, but by using internet searches, and Google Earth!

In addition we have a selection of jigsaws to complete online. These show past and present scenes of Wallingford.

Look for the quizzes and jigsaws on the Museum website at: [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)

You may wish to comment or contribute via our Facebook page!

Hope you enjoy!

*Stu Darby – [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)*

## PANGBOURNE VILLAGE FETE

We are very sad to announce the Pangbourne Village Fete is postponed and no longer scheduled 20th June 2020. We look forward to bringing our wonderful event back to Pangbourne again in the future!

Stay safe,

*Pangbourne Village Fete Team*





# Pangbourne Club

NEW  
MEMBERS  
WELCOME



## Facilities

- Air Con throughout
- 3 full size snooker tables
- Pool Table
- 2, 2mx2m projector screens and large TV's
- BT Sports
- Conference Facilities
- Function Room for hire with kitchen facilities and licenced bar

## Entertainment

- Live Entertainment every second saturday of the month
- Bingo every Thursday evening
- Jazz 1st Sunday evening of every month (fee applies)
- Regular exercise classes
- Weekly raffles

LOWEST  
DRINK  
PRICES  
IN THE  
VILLAGE



## Teams

- Cribbs teams
- Snooker Teams
- Table Tennis



## Objectives

PWMC is run as a non-profit making organisation by its members through an elected committee, which provides a social facility for residents of Pangbourne, the surrounding area and for people working in the village.

## Pangbourne Club

Rosewood Hall, Whitchurch Rd, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7BS

t: 0118 9842885

e: [info@pangbourneclub.co.uk](mailto:info@pangbourneclub.co.uk)

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West Berkshire Brewery are still brewing and packaging with a very small team to keep up with the demand of our wonderfully supportive customers. The shop is still open for pre-ordered collections Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-4pm and we offer completely contact free delivery to your car boot if you so require. Please place your order online at [wbbrew.com](http://wbbrew.com) or by phone on 01635 767090. If you're within 10 miles of the brewery and you spend £100 or more, we can deliver to you free of charge on a Thursday or Friday, please be sure to get your orders in before 5pm on Wednesday to guarantee delivery that same week. If you're not looking to buy beer, or need a present, why not purchase a gift card from as little as £10 to use in our shop, taproom and kitchen or Oxford pub The Grapes when we're allowed to leave the house again. We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back into the Taproom for a good old knees up when we can. Thank you so much to everyone for all the positivity flowing our way in this difficult time.

## Nino's TRATTORIA ITALIANA

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Tel: 0118 984 1333  
or 07823 470 201

*Keep safe – Nino*



## SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY THRIVE AS A REMOTE STUDENT

Making the transition to an extended period of online learning will, to a greater or lesser extent, present challenges to all students in Pangbourne and the UK. Personal circumstances are different for each of us, and everyone will go about managing life away from school, college or university ('school') differently, but here are some suggestions that may be worthy of consideration:

### HAVE A STRUCTURE TO YOUR DAY

There is a lot of structure to a typical school day. Many schools will provide an online learning timetable to provide a helpful amount of structure to each day. Some won't and you will need to devise a sensible daily timetable to ensure you get through the curriculum. In addition, try to remain self-disciplined on matters of personal hygiene (e.g. shower every morning), food (eat regular, healthy meals and don't rely too much on snacks) and bedtimes.

### EXERCISE OFTEN

Research shows that regular exercise boosts mental health as well as physical health. You get lots of opportunities for daily exercise when attending school and extracurricular activities, so it is important that you find alternative ways of keeping fit now that you are at home. There is lots out there – Nike Training Club, PE with Joe Wicks, NHS Gym-free workouts, MadFit Yoga, Strava Challenges you can complete from home. Browse online for Apps, many of which are free. And, whilst there are certain restrictions on movement, get on your trainers to exercise outdoors – walk, run, or cycle.

### READ BOOKS

Disengage from technology for a period of time each day and enjoy the opportunity to read.

### PLAY MUSIC AND ENGAGE IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

If you play an instrument, keep it up. Take opportunities for extra-curricular engagement – e.g. prepare a lecture, write a paper for your school website or newsletter, enter an essay competition, or sign up for one of thousands of free online courses from Harvard, MIT and similar via EdX or MOOC, including languages, computer programming, astronomy, and physics – there is something for everyone. Perhaps do a DIY project and learn new practical skills.

### KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OTHERS

Maintaining social connections with friends during times of challenge is important. Engage as much as possible in your online lessons and don't always take a back seat. Keep in touch by calling a friend or loved one, as well as using online and social messaging platforms.

### SET AND ACHIEVE DAILY GOALS

Everyone benefits from feeling as though something has been accomplished each day. Goals could relate to some of the above – learning, doing exercise, reading, playing music, and keeping in touch with others.

### FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS, AND WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL

Worrying about things you cannot change will only upset and frustrate you. Concentrate all your attention and resources on the things that matter and that you can actually influence.

### WATCH YOUR MEDIA DIET

Take a good, honest look at your media intake and ask yourself, 'Is reading these articles, watching these videos, and reviewing these headlines helping or harming the way I'm feeling and functioning?'. Choose carefully where you get your news updates from. If the news is making you feel overwhelmed, turn it off.

### BE KIND AND HELPFUL TO OTHER PEOPLE, EVERY DAY

Look outwards, beyond your own situation. How can you help vulnerable neighbours and friends, emotionally and practically? Reach out to them and offer support. Help your parents with household chores and cooking.

### MAKE QUIET TIME FOR YOURSELF

In the busyness and among the pressures of the day, set aside some quiet time for yourself during which you can be quiet and reflect.

### TALK TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Some people find it helpful to chat through their thoughts and feelings with others, but don't get swept up in pointless speculation. Stick to the facts. Don't get dragged down by people who don't have your best interests at heart. Ask yourself, 'Is this conversation helping or hindering me to feel good and function as best I can right now?'. Deliberately seek out the friends and family you trust and who you know care for you.

*Keep safe, use your time wisely,  
and be kind to yourself and others.*





## Let's stay connected

### Advice for residents during Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic

In West Berkshire we have strong, resilient communities ready to look after those who need it during this uncertain time. At West Berkshire Council we are also working hard to look after our residents and communities.

Here we give you some information which will help keep you safe and tells you about help which is available from West Berkshire Council and elsewhere in the District.

Many people will already have family, friends and neighbours who can help them if they have to stay at home for prolonged periods. We also know there are some fantastic charities and community groups doing amazing work throughout the district. However, we also know there are some people who are not so lucky and we are there for those residents who need us.

#### Community Support Hub

We've set up a Community Support Hub to assist those people who don't have anywhere else to turn to for help. If you need help please email the team at [westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk) or call them on 01635 503579 (Mon-Thu 8.30am to 5pm; Fri-Sun 8.30am to 4.30pm).

The Community Support Hub is working with local community groups to match people who need help and support with those best able to provide it. The Hub can also help those people who want to volunteer in their community but don't know where to begin. If you want to volunteer, and it's safe to do so, please get in touch with the Hub.

#### Financial Support

For some people the changes being made will make it harder to pay bills. There is help available for both residents and businesses in the event of financial hardship, such as help with Council Tax payments and Business Rate relief.

If you need to speak to someone about this please email: [customerservices@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@westberks.gov.uk) or call us on 01635 551111 (Mon-Thu 8.30am to 5pm, Fri 8.30am to 4.30pm).

#### Avoiding Scams

Unfortunately some people will seek to take advantage of the lonely and vulnerable at times like these. Please report any suspicious activity to Thames Valley Police on 101 – but in an emergency you should always call 999.

#### Useful links

You can find local and national advice online – these websites below provide a good source of information about staying healthy, accessing help and finding about changes to Council services in your area.

**NHS 111:** Use this dedicated online site to check if you have coronavirus symptoms: [www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19](http://www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19)

**NHS:** Information about coronavirus: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

**West Berkshire Council:** A dedicated page updating you on any Council services which are affected for residents and businesses: [www.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**West Berkshire Community Support Hub:** <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-communityhub>

**Gov.UK:** Stay up to date with national advice and guidance: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**NHS Every Mind Matters:** This sort of incident could cause undue pressure and anxiety. This website has some really simple useful tips and advice to support good mental health: [www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters)

#### STAYING SAFE

Here are our top-tips for staying safe, saving lives and protecting our NHS:

**Stay up to date** with national advice.

**Stay at home** this is what everyone should be doing now and only leaving the house for the four specific reasons given (shopping for basic needs, one form of exercise a day alone or with a household member only but still keeping a distance of 2 metres from others, a medical need, travelling to/from work but only if essential and you can't work from home).

**Stay away from others (social distancing)** keep at least two metres away from each other.

**Self-isolate** don't leave the house at all if someone in your home has symptoms. If you have symptoms of Coronavirus, you'll need to self-isolate for 7 days.

If you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll need to self-isolate for 14 days from the day their symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear.

**Shielding** if you have been told by the NHS you are vulnerable you should stay at home for at least 12 weeks from the day you receive your letter.

**Stay connected** keep in touch with family and friends as best as you can via email, social media, phone calls, text, and video call.

#### Keep in Touch

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



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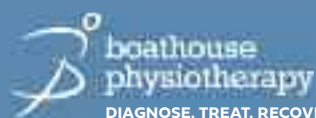
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## THE PARISH OF PANGBOURNE WITH TIDMARSH AND SULHAM

### PANGBOURNE RECTORY HOLY WEEK 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I am writing this in Holy Week 2020 and looking forward to an Easter Holy Day celebration like no other we have yet experienced. When you read this we will be the other side of the Easter 'holidays' but we are not just now expecting the schools to be back for the beginning of the Summer term and I am certain that you will not have been travelling to share your time with families and friends and to explore the British countryside in the Spring sunshine.

We are living in strange times, but many of the experiences we are having are not unprecedented.

#### Would you like a small history quiz?

Can you find any times when the following have happened before in Britain?

- Curfews have been ordered to prevent the movement of folks about the community.
- Villages have been isolated for fear of spreading disease.
- Governments have prevented people from gathering for worship and feasting.
- Families have taken to planting their gardens with vegetables in the expectation there will not be so much available to buy 'for the duration'.
- Queues have been seen outside the shops and food has been rationed.
- People have been confined to their homes. For many the home was the only workplace.
- Employment has become difficult or impossible, and folk have been fearful about their own and the nations finances.

Quizzes are a good way to while away some time while stuck at home and I hope you find it interesting researching answers if you want to, but, of course, there is a serious side to all this. Only those employed in 'Disaster modelling' for the nation would have seen some of this coming, and then probably not in this particular year.

The escalation of the challenges we have been facing was amazing. By the time you read this I am hoping that we will begin to see the other side of the Coronavirus mountain. Let's hope by the time we have the next issue in July we will be looking back at a crisis almost over.

We will certainly have seen how generous and kind our neighbours have been fetching shopping and prescriptions for those isolated at home; how well the Parish Council and Church Community put the Good

Neighbour scheme in place even before the West Berkshire Hub was thought of; what wonderful virtual gatherings of families, work colleagues and the worshipping community have arisen through this crisis. Our communities will definitely not be the same again in future.

Some people's patience will have been stretched to the limit by home confinement, others will have found depths of strength and love within themselves and their families they did not expect. Whichever describes us – and to be honest probably both for most of us – we can keep the positive for the future and put the negative behind us as we come out of this communal experience.

#### The Christian Church calendar has many days for remembering

Our grandparents and great grandparents would have been much more familiar with Holy Days than are we. As well as the well-known festivals when we think of Jesus' birth and death most days of the year have a designation to commemorate people who have lived before us, sometimes way before us. Some of these people travelled across the world taking the Gospel message of hope, forgiveness and love with them to new communities by others hardly left their homes, and not the British Isles, in their lifetime. All have something to teach us about making the very best of difficult times, trusting God for the future.

#### Perhaps you would like to find out about those we are invited to remember this month and next?

You may discover why people through the ages have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and their hope in God's spiritual guidance in times of trial and endurance.

#### Celebrations we can join in with at home . . .

May 1st: Maypoles and garlands and bathing in dew – or perhaps a quiet prayer of thanksgiving for the dedication of our church in Pangbourne to St James the Less on his day shared with St Philip!

May 8th VE Day Commemorations: No parties and parades this year as we had hoped but on her day do use a prayer by Julian of Norwich, c.1417 (she was walled up in her home for years!)

*'All will be well, and all will be well,  
and all manner of things will be well'*

Rogation Days May 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th: Usually a season for farm walks and countryside rambles or beating the bounds of the parish as we ask God to bless all those who work on the land. We can't do that together this year but as you look out on your garden, or take your daily exercise in the fields, spare a thought and perhaps a prayer for those who are working on the

land and with the livestock and who have not had a day off in all this time we have been in lockdown.

May 21st Ascension Day: When our thoughts turn from earthly to heavenly matters.

May 31st Pentecost: When traditionally in Britain Whit Week Holidays were taken with trips to the seaside, Parish Fetes and Sunday School Parties. Celebrate at home if you can.

## Some people from the history of the British Isles to find out about and remember on their days . . .

- 25th May The Venerable Bede, Monk of Jarrow 735
- 9th June Columba, Abbot of Iona and Missionary to Britain 597
- 20th June Edward, King of the West Saxons 979
- 22nd June Alban, Roman Christian and first Christian martyr in Britain 250
- 23rd June Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely 678

For all our trials at the moment we probably would not want to swap 21st century life with any of them, but we can learn from them all. Perseverance, Faithfulness, Courage, Wisdom, and Love.

## We will continue to meet virtually for worship

Live streaming is taking place all around the world. Close to home you can join us for Sunday prayer and worship on:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org>

Or find comfort linking with your friends and relatives around the country:

[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

If you are continuing to home school can find good families resources:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/>

And please keep an eye on our own website <https://www.pangbournechurches.org> which will tell you when to come along to church for that great celebration once we can gather again. We will remember with sadness the difficult times we have experienced together but we will give thanks that we have come through.

*Happy History Researching, and  
may God bless you all in your homes.*

*with love,*

*Rev Heather*



**T H E M I L L**  
S O N N I N G



**Following the orders of the Government regarding Covid-19, The Mill at Sonning is now completely closed, including the Box Office.**

If you have a booking, we understand that you may be anxious about your tickets. Please be assured that as soon as it is safe to come back into the office we will have an army of operators calling you and re-arranging your booking.

Until then, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their wonderful support during these difficult times.

We will keep you updated as much as we can via emails, social media and our website.

When the time comes to open our doors again, we look forward to welcoming you back and entertaining you.

**In the meantime, stay safe and stay in.**

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## 1ST PURLEY & PANGBOURNE SCOUT GROUP APRIL 2020

The Coronavirus has changed the way that many of us are currently living our lives, and the experience of Scouting is no exception. We know it's a difficult and challenging time for everyone, and the health of you and your family is of course your number one concern. As a result of this, the Scout Association decided in March that face-to-face Scouting should be discontinued for the foreseeable future so that families could participate in physical distancing properly. This suspension of meetings was greeted with dismay by some, but it was an important way for us to promote the health of our communities. Nevertheless, the current situation, with young people at home and parents trying to find new ways of keeping them occupied, underlines the importance of keeping our members busy developing their skills and learning about the world around them. This need prompted Scout HQ to come up with some different ways that young people and their families can keep learning skills whilst staying at home, and to continue to participate in Scouting without the routine of meetings.

As my previous update talked about our Scouts in the great outdoors, you might not be surprised to hear that the first innovation is The Great Indoors – a campaign with over 150 activities that are perfect for sharing with your young people and their families. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>. You will find a whole range of activities here, from science experiments to trying out mindfulness, from arts and crafts to understanding technology, and much more. These are all free resources, and are not just for members, so please feel free to explore what is available.

The second is that we are encouraging our members to look at the different things they could be exploring from their own homes and, in particular, to work on some of the requirements for the badges that make up our programmes. Many of these can be completed at home rather than with their unit and will provide distraction and fun – and perhaps make a great change from schoolwork or their favourite screen!

Scouts have also come together across the country to support their local communities, and nationally we are working with our members to decide on an action Scouts across the country can take together. If you have any ideas about ways that Scouts could help in our community, we'd love to have your input. As a movement we'll be working together, even while we're apart.

[gsl@1stpandp.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1stpandp.org.uk)

## CORONAVIRUS HITS TENNIS

Sport came to a standstill in March and tennis was no exception. From 23rd March, all tennis – local, national and international – was suspended. Even Wimbledon has been cancelled for 2020. This is a very small price to pay to bring the epidemic to an end as soon as possible. All the club's activities have been suspended for the time being. We are keeping a close eye on the updates, ready to get up and running again when it is safe to do so.

The membership year starts on the 1st April but this year we are delaying subscription renewals until the club has reopened. The membership fees will be prorated to reflect the time the facilities have been closed.

In the meantime, the LTA is also playing its part in the collective national effort to fight the coronavirus. Tennis led the way for the sport sector with the launch of the LTA's Tennis at Home campaign in answer to a Government call to help keep the nation active during the current situation. (<https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/lta-youth/tennis-at-home>).

Once the crisis has passed, tennis will be a great way to get outdoors to enjoy a social sport after weeks, possibly months, of social distancing. Check out our website for the latest information – [www.pangbournetennis.org](http://www.pangbournetennis.org).

By the time you are reading this, we may be back on court!

Keep safe and well!

*Pangbourne Tennis Club Committee*



*Hoping we will be able to  
enjoy tennis like we did last summer!*

**pangbourne**  
**tennis club**



# LOCAL CLUBS



## PANGBOURNE HERITAGE GROUP

### PARADES AND PILL BOXES

The Archivist side of our group has been extremely busy during the last few weeks, although our regular meetings have been cancelled or postponed. Jane Rawlins has been collecting items in preparation for the exhibition featuring Pangbourne at West Berkshire museum in Newbury, and a group of us have been helping Becky Elkins with the tribute to the 75th Anniversary of VE Day (see page 29). Work on the Living Memories project has continued, albeit by members communicating with each other from home.

Although the commemorations for VE Day will be much curtailed, the spirit of national pride lives on. Pangbourne, according to our archive, was enthusiastic about any event prompting a large gathering, preferably with a band and or dressing up. The accompanying photographs show some of the events over the years, the long ribbon of Reading Road threading its way through the village is used on Remembrance Sunday, as in past times, and the Square has long been a gathering place for specific or impromptu occasions.

Pangbourne was well to the fore with the Women's Suffrage Movement. An excerpt from the 1914 census recorded at Jesmond Hill House lists Mrs Jones, head of household, also Lilian Mary (single daughter 35), Ethel Sprigge (married daughter 36), Petica Robertson (married daughter 27) and Margaret Lois Garrett (visitor, single 23). All women gave Suffragist as their occupation. Garrett was a well known name in the Movement, but we are not sure if the one mentioned was of this family. Charles Edward Courselles Jones was also present, he was killed in action in 1916, and is named on the war memorial.

The following cutting from a Reading newspaper describes a Suffragist meeting in the Square in 1914:

*SUFFRAGETTE MEETING: A meeting was held in the Square on Wednesday evening. Mrs Muriel Matters was the principal speaker. The presence of five policemen prevented disorder, and despite a few interruptions the meeting passed off satisfactorily.*

I resisted the temptation to put in various exclamation marks, the report is as it appeared in the newspaper. I think what the report does not say is more to the point.

The article Becky Elkin has written mentioned the impromptu celebrations in the village square on the eve of VE day. If I remember correctly, the late Betty Farr told me that her mother played the piano, which was dragged out from their house for the occasion.

On to the subject of pill boxes, of which there are several in the Pang/Sul valley, and along the Thames, providing a defence for the region in the event of an invasion in WW2. These are a memorial to the bravery and dedication of those who fought on the Home Front. They are part of military history, and a reminder of the sacrifice of hundreds of soldiers who trained here and ultimately did not live to return home. It seems insensitive, especially in this year of commemoration, to learn of proposals to change the pill box in the field next to the recreation ground into living accommodation and make major changes to its structure. Although described as a house, there is no record of it being regarded as residential from the post code indicated. The Heritage group have expressed concern over any development of a structure which is a monument relating to a period of Pangbourne's history. There is something to be said for leaving these buildings in peace and isolation and finding somewhere more appropriate to build a residential property.

I hope by the next bulletin we shall have a little more normality to report, but in the meantime, keep enjoying the village in spite of the restrictions, and the chance to appreciate our surroundings and most of all our local businesses who have come up trumps in adapting to circumstances.

*Lesley Crimp, Ellie Thorne, Jane Rawlins and Siw Randall*



1914 – Carnival and elephant.



1914 – Whitsun



1927 – Army parading through the town centre.



1928 – Masonic Service at Pangbourne Parish Church.



1952 – Pangbourne Band.



1984 – Pangbourne School Fete.

## CORONAVIRUS AND ACTION FOR PANGBOURNE TOILETS

The Trustees of Action for Pangbourne Toilets (APT) intend that the Station Road block will remain open throughout the Coronavirus crisis. This is provided that the cleaning company who clean the block EVERY DAY continues to have the staff to do so, and UK and Local Government and our insurance allow it to be open. APT Trustees consider it even more important to keep the facility open as a Public Health necessity, because alternative options are now limited due to the closing down of pubs and cafés in the area.

### SUMMARY OF THE APT'S AGM

APT Charitable Trusts 3rd AGM took place on March 8th in the Village Hall. Sir Brian Hoskins, the Chair of the Trust, opened the meeting, briefly telling the audience of the Trusts intention to modernise rather than just refurbish the block. He also said that APT would really like to have more Trustees and Volunteers, and enquiries from anyone who might be interested would be much appreciated.

Mike Fellows, the APT secretary, said the APT has had a very successful year with fundraising. It has received substantial donations from the Coop Community Trust, Cardy Beaver Foundation, Glastonbury Festival and the Greenham Common Trust, via the Good Exchange. APT has also received grants from Pangbourne Parish Council and other local parishes for which it is very thankful. Because of this success, APT has begun detailed planning to start the modernisation later this year.

Colin Thoma, APT Treasurer confirmed that income throughout 2019 had been particularly good, with the accounts showing that after £11K running costs are taken out there was a surplus of £25K, this being available for the modernisation.

Jackie Malcolm, Fundraising Coordinator, for the APT said that, although donations and grants had been very high, many were not likely to be repeated. For instance, Glastonbury, and Cardy Beaver Foundation were one-

off payments and the cost of modernising the block was going to be high. Fundraising needs to be ongoing!

Dave Probert, the Trustee who manages the building, gave a presentation on the plans in hand to bring the Disabled Toilet up to current standards. This involved structural changes in order to extend the space so that a wheelchair can be turned inside it. Drawings had been completed and kindly gifted to the APT by an architect living in Pangbourne. APT Trustees are now seeking quotes from builders. If sufficient funds are available, a full modernisation of the Ladies may be done at the same time.

The meeting ended with an open forum.

*Footnote:* In view of the current coronavirus crisis, affecting the lives of everyone in the UK, it is now looking highly unlikely that the building work will commence later this year as planned.

### A NEW DRINKING FOUNTAIN ON THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE TOILET

The idea of having a drinking fountain was suggested by Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability group (PAWS) and it provided £250 towards the costs. This was match-funded through the Good Exchange. APT obtained permission for the fountain, costed it and successfully sought the remaining £640 through the Drinking Fountain Association. The fountain was fitted by APT after the danger of severe frosts, and a launch that included a lovely "well dressing" provided by Sarah Rasmussen was performed by PAWS on 15 March (see their article, page 50).



## THE WHITCHURCH & DISTRICT THEATRE CLUB

We visit musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month or more. Salisbury, Windsor, Guildford, Stratford and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited.

Major London venues and productions. Mainly matinees in the week, but sometimes evening performances and weekends. Holiday trips away.

Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates. Coaches depart from Pangbourne.

For our forthcoming programme please check the Whitchurch-on-Thames Website.

*Subscriptions: £14 per annum but £12 if paid online.*

Organiser: Christine Martin, "Sonia", Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG  
Tel: 0118 9844252 email: whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

## ADVENTURE DOLPHIN CHARITY

What a difference a few weeks can have, as reported in the last issue we were looking forward to at long last being able to restart canoeing and kayaking as the River. It had been on Red Board flood warnings since the end of October and we were all involved in the final preparations for our Open Day and the start of our evening courses, then the Coronavirus hit us all.

Our thoughts are with anybody suffering from the virus and families and friends all having to self isolate and not being able to get out. We hope recovery is quick with a return to relative normality as soon as possible.

Along with many other local organisations we are following the current advice of the Government and our National Governing Bodies and have had to close the Centre. This has affected not only our own programmes but those of all the community groups that use the Centre for their classes, we ask for your patience and we will reopen as soon as we are allowed, the safety of all our members and users is paramount, so we hope you understand.

On a brighter note we can report that we have just finished a total redecoration the Centre which we are pleased with, but we will now have to wait until we reopen to invite the community in to have a look as it will be available for hire for groups and parties.



Before we closed the programme we were able to get on the River and members did two trips away. The first was to explore the River Cherwell from Islip down to Oxford.

This was a bright

winter's day, and although the River Thames was flooding, the Cherwell a tributary was high but not in flood. The day went well, but as the River was high we found ourselves up to branch height of the trees lining the river in places so the occasional clearing and cutting through the log jams was required. The day was a good first paddle of the year all enjoying the trip. Thank you to Claire, Ian, Ed and Adrian for leading the day.

The next trip was more exciting as a group of members wanted to walk and paddle the length of the Thames, so we had decided to do the section from Cricklade, marking the top of the navigable river with canoes and Kayaks to the village of Castle Eaton some five miles down stream. At this point in the summer there is very little water in the river and often you are having to wade through shallows until it is deep enough to paddle. So the choice was made to paddle this with a little more water in it. We reccied the trip and found the River to be high but in its bank at Cricklade, but further down out of the urban area it was like a large lake, so we did the appropriate risk assessments and gave it a go. It was a brilliant paddle, again in places we had to clear a pathway through, but the fun was finding the River!!! Where it had burst its banks into the surrounding fields it was challenge to see the original course of the River. So all had great fun in route finding

and to suddenly find that you were traversing a field where you had thought the river went. To make matters more exciting a strong gusty wind was with us that created waves on the Lakes which were in fact fields. But again a great day so thank you to Ed, Ian, Adrian and team for guiding us through.

At this time of year our Canoe and Kayak marathon racing group are out training for the Devizes – Westminster canoe race held over the Easter weekend. A series of races along the Kennet and Avon Canal based around Newbury and the Thameside series around Reading had begun in preparation for the race the remaining races have had to be cancelled as has the actual DW this year.

The climbing which takes place inside on our climbing wall had started and were going well with the participants completing their NICAS climbing Awards. At the end of the first course we had a team in which changed all the routes on the wall to make it more interesting for our regulars and give those new to climbing a selection of new routes. So when we reopen please come along and have a look at the wall and have a go!!

The other major focus of our work is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award where this year we have four Bronze groups and one Silver group. This term we had started on the expedition training which again has had to be postponed until we can work together and the groups complete their expeditions. This year the Bronze groups will walking and camping, staying local in West Berkshire and South Oxfordshire. The Silver group will be canoe camping and exploring the Thames from North of Oxford to Cookham some 80 miles plus. We will hope all will be in a position to complete their Award this year. We will be recruiting for our next groups for Bronze, Silver and Gold in June and July so if you are aged 14 plus and under 24 and would like to have a go please contact us at: [dofecoordinator@adventuredolphin.co.uk](mailto:dofecoordinator@adventuredolphin.co.uk) for more information.

We were really looking forward to the evening courses this season as we had recently introduced stand up paddle boarding alongside our regular Kayaking and Canoeing courses, hopefully, we will be back on the water later on in the summer, ever the optimist!!

Thank you for all your continued support and understanding, please keep safe and we will look forward to seeing you all soon when we are allowed to reopen.

More information will be posted on our website:  
[www.adventuredolphin.co.uk](http://www.adventuredolphin.co.uk) or email us on:  
[info@adventuredolphin.co.uk](mailto:info@adventuredolphin.co.uk).





## PANGBOURNE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

We managed to hold the Allotment working party and skip-filling exercise before the Coronavirus lock-down, and since many people are working from home, the allotments have provided a welcome break for fresh air and exercise, and are thus mostly looking well tended.

With gatherings banned and the Village Hall closed, the AGM was cancelled, but all committee members have agreed to serve another year, so thanks to all of them.

Funds for the two lime trees that have been planted on either side of the field gate were provided by the Parish Council, and planted by Phil Lewis and Brian, so let's hope they grow into healthy and beautiful trees.



*Another happy resident of the allotments!*

For people who have come to rely on our annual plant sale for their supplies, allotment holders may have some surplus vegetable and flower plants. If you would like to contact me with requests for specific things, my email is [jo.power@me.com](mailto:jo.power@me.com), and I will try to supply you with what you want.



*Brian MacDonald holding the new lime tree.*

It's proven: according to a Times article on Friday March 20, being outdoors makes you happier! The article says "It's something that gardeners have known for centuries, of course, but now researchers have backed them up.

In a study that also revealed the power of jogging to boost happiness, experts found that exercising outdoors and gardening were associated with the highest feelings of exhilaration". Later in the article it says "On an allotment the outside world recedes. There is happiness, serenity and, with any luck, some delicious veg for dinner." If you want to join the happy band, contact the Parish Clerk ([clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk)).



## PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### AGM

On Wednesday, 19th February the AGM took place in Purley Memorial Hall. Paul Humphreys was re-elected as Chairman, together with the 2019 Committee. After the official business was completed members were invited to participate in the Bring & Share refreshments, together with a glass of wine or fruit juice. I hope everyone enjoyed this.

### SPRING SHOW

Unfortunately this has been cancelled due to the Corona virus outbreak.

### RHS

As an affiliated Society we hold a card that provides entry for one paid up member of P.H.S. and one adult guest at a 30% reduction on the normal adult entry rate to any of the RHS gardens. If you require further details or would like the card, please contact Wendy Chapman on 9429067.

### TRADING

As many of you will be aware we have had to close the Trading Store due to the corona virus outbreak. We hope to open again in the foreseeable future when restrictions have been lifted. Please check our website.

If you are interested in more information on the Society's activities you can visit the Purley-on-Thames website, [www.purleyonthames.org.uk/Phs](http://www.purleyonthames.org.uk/Phs).

*Happy gardening – Marion Dabbs, 9422349*

# LOCAL CLUBS

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## PANGBOURNE WI

The speaker at our February meeting brought to life the story of "The Witches of Pendle" which encompassed superstitious mumbo-jumbo, underground Catholicism and the survival of Pagan Rituals. She explained how a group of poverty-stricken "wise women" came to be convicted of witchcraft and posed the question "were they really witches?".



The tale, sometimes grim and often amusing, was told through the eyes of the family of Alison Device, her mother Squint-Eyed Lizzie and her grandmother Old Demdyke, and how the local Magistrate and High Sheriff Roger Newell was determined to prove the prevalence of witchcraft – at any cost! An example given was the belief that the Devil could appear in the form of a black dog, and when evidence was given of a brown dog being present in one case, Roger Newell decided that was proof indeed that witchcraft had taken place.

The trials of the Pendle witches in 1612 are amongst the most famous witch trials in English history and some of the best recorded of the 17th century. The 12 accused lived in the area surrounding Pendle Hill in Lancashire and were imprisoned in Lancaster Castle prior to their trial, where they were convicted, often on very spurious "evidence", of the murders of 10 people by the use of witchcraft.

One of the tests of a witch at that time was that, if you pricked a woman with a needle and she did not bleed, it was proof that she was a witch. Rumour has it that sometimes a retractable needle was used where the blade retracted into the handle, resulting in no wound – and therefore no blood.

Altogether a fascinating talk of a practice that we were all relieved belonged to a bygone age!

The March meeting was our AGM. Judy Schurer was standing down as she had been President for over five years and was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and gift vouchers for the Rosebourne Garden Centre, together with a card containing lovely messages from many of the members. The committee for 2020/21 was voted in and Sue Smith was appointed as the new President. Judy thanked all the members for her very generous gifts, and the committee for all their hard work and support in ensuring we had interesting speakers at meetings and also fun outings and events. She was delighted to welcome Sue to her new role, and said that she was sure Sue would be a brilliant President.



We then enjoyed an extended "tea and natter" session, during which quiz sheets were handed out, on which we had to identify various musicals, films and books from the initial letters of the titles. There was much amusement as members tried to work out the answers, and chocolates were presented to the winners. There was also our annual handicraft competition, which this year was for the best hand-knitted scarf. Members were invited to vote for their favourite with a 20p coin, the money collected going to the WI charity ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World). Margaret Packham was declared the winner and was presented with the Rosekilly Cup and an M&S voucher by our new President Sue.

Sadly, along with most organisations, our WI meetings have to be suspended during the current Pandemic. Rest assured that we shall be up and running as soon as we can, and would love to welcome lots of new faces to Pangbourne WI to join our friendly group. I am sure that, after having to endure "social distancing", we shall all be looking to enjoy social times together again.

In the meantime I send you all my very best wishes during this difficult time.

*Judy Schurer – 07812 381005*

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## THE THIRD THURSDAY CLUB

In February, on a rather chilly, wet day, there were about 27 ladies and gentlemen – several for the first time – at our tea and cakes afternoon. We were delighted to welcome Jen for her second visit who entertained us with her lovely voice and bubbly personality. She sang songs from the twenties to the sixties and many of our guests and helpers were dancing and jiving to Elvis and Sinatra songs. I was having difficulty remembering my 'hand jive' movements!

Many, many thanks to Kiren Sharma (Gravity Personnel) our sponsor and the lovely Devarshi and her staff at the George. Not forgetting Greens of Pangbourne for their support and their delicious lunches.

Sadly, due to the current health situation future meetings have been suspended. We have set up a buddy system for all our guests, each of our volunteers are ringing around their people to ensure they need for nothing. We are collecting medication and doing any shopping our guests require. In the meantime we are looking to the future and making arrangements for our Thursday club meetings . . . WATCH this space!

Sponsored by  GRAVITY PERSONNEL and supported by The George Hotel and Green's of Pangbourne

For more information contact Gill 9841122 or Di 9842473





Of course WHCC is not meeting at the moment, so members have given a few of their local images to share with you, so Pang Mag readers we bring the 'Outside In'...



*Thanks to members  
Tilly Jamieson, David Belcher,  
Ian Lewis for their images.*



Usually we meet mainly on a Wednesday at 8pm, with an occasional 'techy' Thursday, at Whitchurch Hill Village Hall, Manor Road. Join as an annual member or 'cherry pick' your visits, find the details on our website: [www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk)

*We look forward to seeing you sometime soon.*

*Lyn Higgs*





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## RNLI

On Friday March 6th, we were lucky enough to hold our annual Race Night, our most popular and profitable event of the year, just edging in before the dreaded lockdown that has befallen our nation.

The doors opened and our 60 guests took their seats for a night of fast paced betting! Each race had a theme of names for the horses causing much merriment and banter with the competitive audience thereby boosting the funds handsomely! A delicious fish and chips supper was enjoyed by all and the licensed bar also did a roaring trade! Our thanks, once again go to West Berkshire Brewery who kindly sponsored a race and gave a tour of the brewery as an additional prize. (If anyone would like to follow this trend and sponsor a race at our next Race Night in 2021, please contact us for more information.)

Our final staggering amount to send to the RNLI was just over £1700, a rise of more than £300 on last year when we had more guests! So, on behalf of our Chairman and committee, a huge, huge THANK YOU!

Given our current national crisis, I thought I'd contact the Weymouth Lifeboat Station, to which we in Pangbourne are affiliated, to see how they are faring.

Their Coxswain, Andy, kindly sent me some interesting information.

Since October, the All-weather and Inshore Life Boats have seen a total of 21 launches for various shouts including searches, people in the water and broken down vessels!

Currently, the lockdown has seen the station suspend all training, exercises and public engagements with of course a total stop on all fundraising and the closure of the shop. The station is only attended for essential maintenance with the mechanic and coxswain home working and attending on opposite days! Shout wise, it has been agreed to take only the minimum crew needed – five on the All-weather boat and three on the Inshore – with the crew remaining at home until phoned except on very time critical shouts!

Obviously, our thoughts are with these very brave people who risk their lives to save anyone in peril in the sea or on the coast.

Hopefully, our next fundraiser will be the Quiz Night in the Autumn. So all being well, we'll see you then? More information as and when we are more sure of what's going on!

Kind regards to you all, and again, a big thank you for your continued support.

*Denise Saunders  
RNLI Committee*

*[Saunders939@btinternet.com](mailto:Saunders939@btinternet.com)*



# Lifeboats

## PANGBOURNE TWINNING ASSOCIATION



We should, by now, have been packing our bags for a weekend in Houdan, to celebrate VE day with our French comrades, but like all other social activities, this has been indefinitely postponed. Our AGM was also postponed for a year, the committee offering to stay in post, for which much thanks! Many of our active members have maintained contact with their French partners through digital media, like so many other aspects of life these days when online activity is better than nothing.

Once the period of quarantine is passed and our activities can resume, we will be returning in earnest with cultural and fundraising activities. We are always looking for volunteers to help with these efforts so if you would like to, please get in touch.

This month we focus on our French Film Nights. These take place on the last Sunday evening of the month through the winter months and have been run in the Village Hall for the past six years.

They grew from an idea of Antonia des Forges's, who ran them initially in the Elephant. Since moving to the Village Hall and being marketed more actively, these are now our major fundraiser, and our main social and cultural activity. Run by Steve Harris and Mike Power, and supported by a number of willing volunteers, they run on donations from the audience. These support the cost of the licence fee and hall hire, and contribute to our funds. But more than that, they provide an increasingly popular, local, easy-going social and cultural experience to lighten the long winter evenings. We also offer good quality wine and beer to add to your enjoyment. Steve already has next season planned, due to begin on October 25th.

Films have ranged from the harrowing: *Au revoir les Enfants*; *La vie en Rose*, the biopic of Edith Piaf's life; *I Have Loved You So Long*, starring British actress Kristin Scott-Thomas, to the uplifting *La Famille Belier*, and *I've Got Life*, with plenty of humour and pathos in between. All films have been of very high quality with wonderful acting, brilliant direction and beautiful cinematography.

Our audiences started at around 20 and we hardly broke even, but now audiences average just over 40. Our highest recorded audience in recent years was 53 for *Beautiful Lies*, a light hearted romantic comedy starring the incomparable Audrey Tautou, and coming a close second, 52 for *The Man on the Train*, which paired rock star Johnny Halliday with veteran star Jean Rochefort in a well observed crime drama, with interesting undertones of friendship and understanding between strangers.

Each season has a wide range of genres, with something to appeal to everyone, and is a good way to get a taste of French culture in Pangbourne. All are welcome – and, fear not, all films have English subtitles. The last film of our 2019-20 season was to have been *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. This

film was critically acclaimed for "breath-taking visuals and dynamic performances", and won awards at Cannes in 2007, BAFTA and the Golden Globes. The film

is based on the extraordinary French autobiographical account of Locked-in Syndrome, by Jean-Dominique Bauby, editor of Elle magazine at the time, who wrote it by learning to communicate through blinking, after a stroke left him "locked in".

It was originally conceived as a film in English with screen play by Ronald Harwood. Its director originally planned to make it in both English and French, casting bilingual actors, but when Johnny Depp pulled out, he decided to make it in French, to make best use of the rich language of the original book, with Mathieu Amalric as Bauby. The director, Julian Schnabel, learnt French to help him make this production.

We will do our best to slip this masterpiece into our forthcoming season. Look out for our publicity.



Posters for past showings.

Alison Hill – Chair



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# VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY



*Home Guard*



*Home Guard*

When VE day commemorations were first discussed a few short weeks ago, who could have imagined that the theme of courage and strength in the face of adversity in a world changed overnight and beyond recognition, would have struck such a chord or been so very relevant.

The collection of extracts, photographs and information below has kindly been supplied by Pangbourne Heritage Group or taken from the 2011 book *Thames River Girl* by Maisie James (nee Finch) which is a personal account of her life in Pangbourne from 1928 onwards.

Some of the information was previously published in 1995 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of VE Day and so may be familiar to those with a long memory. For many like me, this archive is a fascinating insight into the village during WW2. Previous letters to the magazine from residents in 2004 also paint a vivid picture of life at this time.

Many thanks to all those you have put the original articles together and or supplied photographs and information.

*Pangbourne Parish Clerk*

## TROOPS IN PANGBOURNE

### ACCOMMODATION

Many Soldiers were billeted in houses around the village at various times, while *"the less fortunate were sent to Whitchurch Mill where the rushing water, noise and cold made the quarters very unpopular- but the kindly mill owner allowed baths for 3d."*

Units from all over were stationed or passed through Pangbourne including the Scottish Engineers," South Wales Borderers, Australians, New Zealanders and some "ferocious" French Canadians who were from a commando unit, many of whom were later to be killed on Juno Beach in Normandy.

By 1940 soldiers were mostly no longer billeted in the village but in Whitchurch Mill, Walliscote House, Coombe Park and the village Halls. The RAF had a maintenance unit at Goring Heath and Nissen huts at Woodcote. Thames Bank house near the river in Whitchurch was the headquarters of the American Engineers until D-Day, believed to have received a visit from General Eisenhower.



*"Early in 1943 the American soldiers arrived. They were billeted in Nissen Huts at Coombe Park in comparative comfort. A shop called a PX was set up for them with no shortages of food or comforts. The American units practised bridge building. Their bridges had to be built in ninety minutes in pitch dark and in complete silence with no commands, using pontoons which were made of light plywood and covered in canvas.... A lorry would then cross the bridge as a final test. At the end of the American's training there were realistic manoeuvres and they let off flares and crackers as they passed under the bridge next to our cottage."*

Whitchurch Toll Bridge was out of bounds during manoeuvres but otherwise the toll gates were left open for the army to travel to and from their units free of charge.



# VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY



*Remembrance Day Parade 1939  
Highland Division and Silver Band*



*Bridge Building Pangbourne Meadows  
1939 (Reading Chronicle)*

## OPERATIONAL EXERCISES ON THE MEADOWS

*"The arrival of the Pipe and Drum Band of Territorial Engineers attached to the 51st Highland Division was the first of many soldiers bridge-training in Pangbourne from October /November 1939. I learnt the bandsmen had paid for their own uniform and instruments. they played for three consecutive Saturdays in the Square, marching in formation . . . they played at the Remembrance Parade on November 11th 1939 which was led by Pangbourne Silver Band.".* Many of the 51st Highland Division were captured in France and interned in prison camps throughout the war.

Bridge building exercises regularly took place on the "Big Meadow" now Pangbourne River Meadow. It was used as a Bridge Building Practice Camp from 1939 until after D-Day. As the bridge progressed across the Thames the Sappers would have to row sections into place. In the winter the Thames was overflowing and several times a whole pontoon section would be swept away downstream, taking the soldiers many hours to drag it back to the temporary bridge. There was a sad incident in 1943. Six Canadian Engineers wearing full kit and carrying rifles were swept downstream over the weir. One soldier drowned.

## LOOKING AFTER THE TROOPS / ENTERTAINMENT

There were several places for the soldiers to seek refreshment and provisions around the village.

At the start of the war, sisters Ivy and Billie Perral opened a canteen in the vestry of the Methodist Chapel (now Chapel House on the corner of Whitchurch Road and Thames Avenue) where the soldiers enjoyed a warm fire and a table to write letters, accompanied by tea and yellow buns and rock cakes. If they were lucky the Perrals would even darn their socks.

Another troop canteen was set up in 1940 in the Congregational Church schoolroom on the Reading Road by the Finches and if helpers could not be found, their daughters Evelyn and Maisie assisted. Writing paper, papers and light refreshments were provided along with table tennis and board games.



*Congregational Church – Reading Road*



*Forces Canteen at Methodist Chapel*



*Constitutional Hall*

# VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY



For entertainment, the American soldiers or “Yanks” liked jitter-bugging in the Constitutional Hall (on the stretch that is now Greens the butchers). *“Young Ladies with dyed blonde hair and red or orange jackets arrived regularly by bus.”*

Local buildings provided services such as No 2 Thames Avenue which was used as a First Aid post where soldiers queued for hours to see a doctor.

*“Many villagers opened their doors each evening so that soldiers who passed through could sample home life, with tea and sandwiches given generously”.*

## DUNKIRK EVACUATION

*“On a Sunday morning at the time of the Dunkirk Evacuation my sister and I heard voices from outside our bedroom window . . . we could see soldiers lying across carriage seats; the rail track was parallel with our window. Evelyn and I rapidly dressed and ran through the boat wharf towards Pangbourne Station. There was a long line of ambulances at the entrance and wounded soldiers were being taken away at intervals to Englefield House and other big houses nearby.”* (Maisie James)

## CIVIL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

In 1940 the UK was at risk from Germany invading after the fall of France. Sir Edmund Ironside was made CO of the Home Guard and embarked on building a series of ‘stop lines’. Work started around June 1940.

The idea was to protect London and used natural barriers and ditches to deter any chance of the Germans using tanks like they had in France. Between the natural barriers anti-tank ditches were dug and pillboxes built to defend from attack. When work stopped on the stop lines the pillboxes were left and over 1200 remain today. How much use the stop lines would have been is open to question. Some call them the castles of the last century, which in a way they were.

Strategically, the Thames Valley was a vital area to protect, and the railway lines and bridges were targeted for extra defensive measures. Pill boxes were placed near the River Meadows, Sulham Lane Meadows and near the reach at Shooters hill in Pangbourne and in a line to Tidmarsh and beyond. They form part of a historic defensive line known as the “Sulham Gap Defences (part of the GHQ Line Red)”. The Red line is specifically described on the Historic Environment Record as follows:

*“A dense string of pillboxes and anti-tank ditches link the Kennet and the Thames, thus joining two stop lines and protecting the Western approach to Reading. GHQ Line Red joined the course of the River Thames from Abingdon to Pangbourne, and then ran south through the Sulham Valley. At Theale it met GHQ Line Blue, this line having followed the Kennet and Avon Canal from Line Green in Wiltshire. Most structures were built between 1940 and 1941, after the defeat at Dunkirk in May 1940.*



A personal recollection from a local resident was that the anti-tank ditch from near Pangbourne to Nunhide was a huge trench, at least 8 foot deep. “

The railways were also of huge strategic importance as evidenced in this first-hand account:

*“In the early months of the war I was assigned to a junior clerical post at Pangbourne Station, which also included working at Tilehurst, Goring and Wallingford. Pangbourne railway station was part of the Great Western Steam Railway . . . commanding a*





# VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY



staff level of 12. As the war progressed from months to years, troops arrived to occupy the Army training centres. The station was officially designated a potential military target with staff being issued with gas masks and tin hats."

"Later still in the war, emergency food depots were established at Tidmarsh and Yattendon for civilians, and extra freight wagons brought supplies for the No 70 Maintenance RAF unit at Woodcote. Ambulance trains carried war-wounded soldiers to the American hospital at Ipsden, and towards the end of the war prisoner-of-war trains brought captured enemy servicemen to nearby camps."



## WAR WORK

Those not called up for essential military duties were assigned roles over and above their normal occupations – older school children included. In Pangbourne there were Air Raid Protection Wardens (ARP) including Wilfred Finch and John Stone, First Aiders (based in the George Hotel annex), the Fire Brigade (then based in the car park behind Garland's) and also the local Police. At this time there were 7 Policemen, 27 Special Constables and 6 WPC's in the village. Others served with the Red Cross or helped serve food at the canteen in the Congregational Church. The ARP also recruited civilians for their headquarters at Carter's Builders yard as did the Upper Thames Patrol. The UTP had two platoons who patrolled the Thames from Whitchurch to Mapledurham and also Pangbourne to Goring (Swan to Swan). Pangbourne's platoon became known as Up The Pub. 30-35 people worked in shifts, had uniforms and were armed. The boats (cabin cruisers) were moored at Hobbs

Boatyard (now the boathouse surgery). Duties included guarding the bridge and in summer making sure the camping punts did not light fires or use lights.

At the age of 16 young people had to register for future war work. In Pangbourne this took place at the Old Breedon School (used as a school dentist).

Finally, there was the Local Defence Volunteers, better known as the Home Guard – or somewhat irreverently "Dad's Army".

Although light-hearted incidents occurred, the task of guarding strategic areas was taken very seriously and members were trained in rifle shooting, machine gun and grenade handling. They prided themselves on their professionalism.

On one memorable occasion, two platoons arranged an ambush to test the effectiveness of the Home Guard defence and, as the "enemy" platoons of regular soldiers drove down Pangbourne Hill in a series of open army vehicles, they were set upon by the Home Guard. Taking advantage of the prevailing weather, the main weapons were snowballs! The irate soldiers left their vehicles and gave chase, forgetting their rifles in their haste. These were confiscated by the triumphant Home Guard and the regulars were forced ignominiously for their return.



6 WPO Women Police Officers.



The Red Cross building which was shared with the Home Guard – now the nail bar on the Reading Road.



# VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY



*Canteen Workers at the Congregational Church*



*(ARP) Pangbourne Air Raid Protection Wardens*

## WASTE NOT WANT NOT

As the war continued, everybody became used to saving whatever could be re-used, mending or making-do, bartering or exchanging goods and coping with shortages. Rabbit pie was a popular delicacy; new shoes were non-existent and shoes repairers worked flat out. People were strongly encouraged to raise money for the war effort despite their own privations.

*"I remember whilst at Pangbourne (primary) School, there was a Wings for Victory week and some of us dressed in the national costumes of various countries. We danced on the lawns of Pangbourne Lodge, then owned by Sir Arthur and lady Griffiths-Boscowen. Lady Boscowen was always in the village in her WVS uniform."* When the Servicemen returned home after the war, the village had raised a "Welcome Home" fund to aid their return to civilian life.

## THE BLACKOUT

Daily life could be dreary. Winter nights were the worst. Everyone was busy – voluntary work, hospitals, the munitions factory at Theale, day shifts and night shifts. Getting home was a miserable business, with trains and buses lit only by dim blue lamps.

*"The bus conductor would lean right out of the bus at each stop to see if anyone was waiting. Even a hand-held torch had*

# VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY

to be covered with blue tissue paper. When it was foggy you had to walk with one foot on the pavement and one in the gutter it was so dark everywhere."

*"An Air Raid Warden's Post was established at the Builder's Offices in Horseshoe Road and wardens regularly patrolled the streets to ensure blackout regulations were observed – PUT OUT THAT LIGHT!"*

## EVACUEES AND SCHOOLING

*"The Government Evacuation Scheme for school children, young children, mothers and expectant mothers was implemented before the outbreak of war in 1939. Hundreds of special trains took these families from cities expecting heavy bombing raids.*

*Our headmaster, Mr Townsend, became the billeting officer and was kept very busy organising teams of helpers who would be familiar with householders in the village, and for two years the local children attending Pangbourne Council School were completely disrupted. Many stories have been written by the evacuees rushed from their city homes to an alien countryside. Little has been recorded by the village schoolchildren themselves . . .*

*The evacuees were mainly from Barking in Essex and their schools were a year in advance of us." (Maisie James)*

## UNDER ATTACK

There was a genuine fear of invasion. The German bombers heading for Coventry had a particular drone that became a familiar sound. The fires of the London Blitz lit up the skies to the East. On one occasion incendiary devices were actually dropped on Pangbourne. A German plane dropped a stick of incendiary bombs from Eastfield Lane through to Thames Avenue. Some homes were hit but fortunately there were no casualties.

On another occasion *"Two landmines attached to parachutes were dropped at Lower Basildon. One landed at the side of a house. It was so big that it was almost the same height, embedded in the ground. The other exploded in mid-air and bits of parachute fell over the village for days afterwards."*

## BOMBING OF READING

*"On the afternoon of February 10th 1943, I ran upstairs to change my clothes to prepare for my errand girl job . . . I saw a black plane swoop over the weir in the direction of Reading and a few minutes later I heard several explosions. On reaching Caversham the black plane had turned right towards Reading town centre. It was reported at the time that a young girl who was five years old . . . saw the plane as it passed over Caversham. She could see two crewmen but her mother rushed her inside . . . Later I received a first-hand story . . . bombs had been dropped, missing Reading Station but causing serious damage and the death of people eating in the People's Pantry or British Restaurant between Friar Street and the Town Hall . . . The bombing had caused 41 deaths and 104 injuries."*

## WELLINGTON BOMBER CRASH

*"On September 18th 1943 I was sitting in our tin bath when a tremendous crash occurred nearby. My father, an ARP (Air Raid Precaution) Warden was on duty with his colleague John Stone (from the sweetshop), and went to find out about the explosion. He reported that there had been a plane crash in Sulham Lane and had found RAF sentries on duty. After attending the morning church service, the next day, Sunday 19th, I walked to the site of the crash, which was roped off. Of course, we could not know this at the time (press censorship generally prohibited the reporting of air crashes and forced landings) but subsequent investigation by Pangbourne Heritage Group has shown that . . . a Vickers Wellington Bomber Mark HX367 of Bomber Command No 15 Operations Training Unit crashed at Pangbourne. The aircraft was taking part in solo circuits and landings training at RAF Harwell and had taken off from Hampstead Norreys Airfield. The aircraft was only twenty minutes into training when it approached too low over the Pang Meadows and crashed at 2045 hours in the marshlands towards Sulham Lane. Following an extensive survey of the area we have now been able to establish the actual route and skid path of the aircraft and eventual impact site. The accident records . . . show that the aircraft . . . engines were running perfectly immediately prior to the crash (although local residents reported that engines were on fire as the plane flew over Pangbourne).*

*The crew on this flight consisted of three young men of the RAF Voluntary Reserve: Eric Huntley, Edgar Cooke and Henry Harris. Tragically they all lost their lives." (Maisie James)*

## D-DAY TO VE DAY

### D-DAY

Workers manning the telephone exchange in 1944 noticed an air of bustle and expectancy and a sudden increase in activity. American troops arrived; training was stepped up. *"We all knew something was about to happen but did not know where . . ."*

*"One morning in late May 1944 there was a strange silence throughout Pangbourne . . . Our family members, friends from Basildon Park and soldier and airmen attached to Glider*



*The Home Guard on parade in Pangbourne*

# VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY



*Regiments had gone. No farewells were allowed but all was to be revealed in the days following D-Day."*

After D Day the number of troops dwindled. the Army base at Basildon Park became a PoW Camp for German prisoners, and a small encampment of Italians was established in Nissen huts at Bere Court Road. The Italian men integrated into village life and many of them came from farming families back home. The German prisoners of war came to Bere Court a year later. Even with these concrete signs of the Allied advance "there were so many reversals it was difficult to look to a future. "The horror of the concentration camp discoveries in Germany and Eastern Europe early in 1945 muted the joyful realisation that peace was within reach. However, as always, there was the unquenchable spirit of optimism among people in English villages, who had survived the privations of

war. Ice cream and bananas returned to Pangbourne and the village celebrated VE day (or night) noisily and cheerfully.

Memories do not stretch beyond the dragging out of the Constitutional Club (now Mulberry house) piano into the square! No-one in the vicinity had much sleep that night and the pubs did a roaring trade.

As the Servicemen returned, facing a long period of readjustment, the village also had to adapt to the changes brought by peacetime.

The War years are remembered by John Hiscock for the "spirit of friendship" and "hours of comradeship" at Pangbourne station by those working there. Ex Servicemen described the same feeling towards those they trained and fought with – closer than family ties at times.

## LETTER TO PANGBOURNE MAGAZINE APRIL 2004

*"I can remember being on holiday with my mother in South Wales and having to return home urgently a few days prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. I recall playing with a friend from the Farm Cottages when mother/father said war had been declared, and soon afterwards we had the first of many, many soundings of the siren (from the roof of Pangbourne Police Station) followed by the all-clear. My recollections of the war were rationing – food and clothing were in very short supply, the "blackout" and the removal of all road signs . . .*

*There was a considerable increase in the presence of the military, and I can recall a tented camp for the Royal Engineers in the field adjacent to Flowers Court / Flowers Hill. The whole field was covered in tents and a wooden cookhouse/ dining hall was built approximately 50 yards up Flowers Hill (on the left), from Tidmarsh Road. This building remained for years after the war until demolished to make way for housing. Additionally, I can remember the Engineers engaged in pontoon building adjacent to Whitchurch bridge, and lorries and tanks crossing the River Thames and driving through the grounds of the house opposite- into Whitchurch village. Can anyone remember a contingent of Czechoslovakian soldiers similarly engaged at the same location? Also, US Airborne troops were based at Basildon Park – who can recall their large green lorries with troops in the rear, often passing through the Pangbourne area?*

*We were quite fortunate to avoid heavy bombing, although we awoke at Flower's court one winter's morning in 1942/43 to find that a 'stick' of incendiary bombs had landed in the grounds- but miraculously all the buildings escaped unscathed . . .*

*Can anyone remember a bomber (a Wellington I was told) crashing one winter's evening in the marsh, just beyond the River Pang? I heard the roar as it flew low overhead from the west, followed shortly afterwards by the crash. I can recall seeing the flames in the dark night – there were no survivors.*

*I can also recall a prisoner-of-war camp, in which Italian prisoners were housed, at the junction of Pangbourne Hill and Bere Court Road, only a short distance uphill from the school. We used to visit the location after school to watch them playing football, wearing brown uniforms with large orange or yellow patches on the back . . .*

*I left Pangbourne School in the summer of 1941 on a Breedon Scholarship and went to Reading Collegiate School on the London Road, making the daily journey in wartime conditions for the next three years. My most poignant memory of that period is of a serious air-raid in the centre of the town – Friar Street / Town Hall area – when a restaurant and other buildings were destroyed and many people lost their lives."*

Peter Blake  
b.1928 Stable Block Flowers Court, Tidmarsh Road



# VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY

## LETTER TO PANGBOURNE MAGAZINE AUGUST 2004

"... very soon after the declaration of war, troops were billeted in most of the houses in Horseshoe Road and throughout the village. The first to arrive were men of the 51st Highland Division. Four men came to stay with us and slept in the attics. I recall them cleaning their rifles when sitting on the beds and the bugle call at six in the morning which brought them all into the street to form up and march off. They soon left for France. Soldiers of the South Wales Borderers then followed them. They were training and building pontoon bridges over the Thames by Whitechurch Bridge and I thought it was exciting when a convoy of tanks and Bren Gun Carriers came along the Reading Road. We ran alongside them as they turned right into Whitechurch Road and entered the field on the right just before the river bridge and crossed the river on a pontoon bridge. They entered the garden of the big house on the opposite bank and emerged through the wall back onto the road. The huge gap in the wall remained for many years.

Part of the home defences included a tank trap that was excavated from the Thames to the Reading Road, then across Mr Howe's fields and on towards Sulham. It was about twenty feet wide and ten feet deep and constructed by a large excavator... The trench soon filled with water and we used to swim in it. I recall swimming with a number of boys after school and on climbing out saw one of them floundering. I slid down the muddy bank into the water and as he came up, I grabbed him by his hair and dragged him to the edge. I have often wondered who he was?

Most of the evacuees were billeted locally and those from Purley, we called Purleyites. They arrived each morning at school in a Morris Commercial lorry, which came up the hill into the playground...

As part of the war effort the boys were introduced to gardening and learnt how to plant seeds and potatoes. The Headmaster kept chickens in his garden at the back of the school. I remember being given a bucket full of boiled potatoes and told to mash them down and feed them. Not all of them went to the chickens!!

Father thought it would be a good idea for me to gain experience in the printing business so after school I went to Mr Haslam's home at the end of Horseshoe Road, opposite the Police Station, where he had a small printing business.

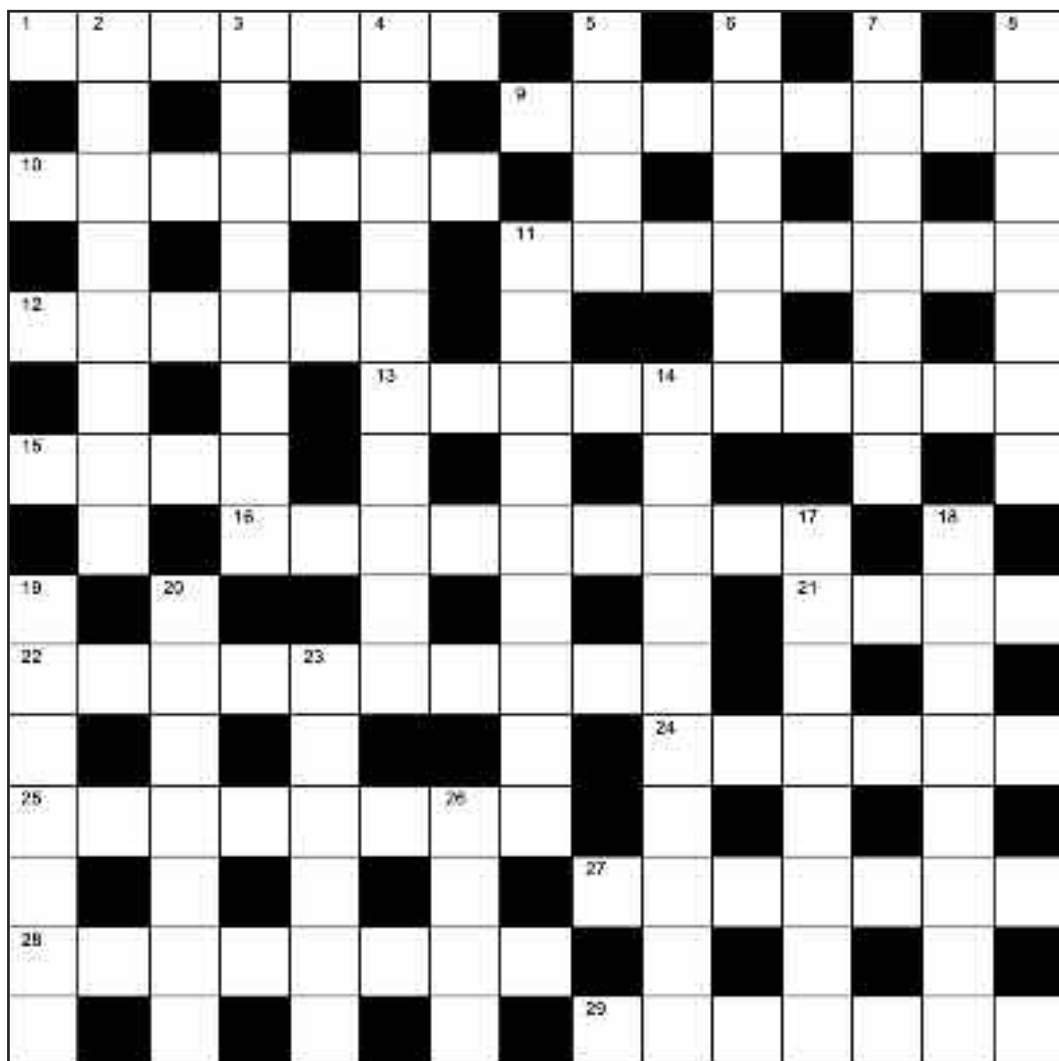
Canadian troops came to Pangbourne about the time of the blitz. They manned a number of anti-aircraft guns in Mr Howe's field by the tank trap. They looked after us well. They sat us on the seats of their anti-aircraft guns, put tin hats on us and gave us sweets and Sweet Caporal cigarettes. At night we would look out of a bedroom window and watch the red glow of the London blitz and the searchlights combing the night sky. I do not recall the guns firing at anything. I well remember the night the Wellington crashed. It hit fir trees close to the path that led from the allotments into Sulham Road. The fire and exploding ammunition made it too dangerous to be allowed anywhere near.

It must have been 1943, when the Italian prisoner of war camp was opened at a site alongside Pangbourne Hill above the School. We used to go and see them and one of them tried to sell us a dead fox they had caught. German prisoners were held near Lower Basildon House, Basildon Park. The only time I saw any of them was at a Christmas Midnight Mass held at the Catholic Church in Goring. My brother and I were altar boys at the time and about twelve of them attended... There was no Catholic Church in Pangbourne at that time but Sunday Mass was held in the Nautical College boathouse at the rear of property on the Streatley Road. The priest travelled from Douai Abbey, Woolhampton.

I left School in 1942 and found employment with the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway as a telephonist. The Company, with others, had moved from Moorgate in the City of London, to Hardwick House near Maple-durham to avoid the Blitz. I cycled to work and as a small side line, delivered daily papers in Whitechurch for Tidbury on the way... From my office window I had an open view to the river and recall the day I saw a single German bomber flying very low along the river towards Reading, its markings and colour very distinctive. The next day we learned of the bombs that fell on the town causing so many deaths.

Early in 1944 when the bombing of London had abated, the Company decided to move back to Moorgate. Those of us who wished to travel daily were retained in their employment. The rail service was excellent despite the bombing that had occurred at the London end. To get into the office on time we caught the 8.06am train from Pangbourne to Paddington and via the Inner Circle line to Moorgate, arriving at work by 9.20am. I doubt whether they can do it in much better time today?... If we were quick, we could catch the 5.25pm home. I remained in their employment until I received my call up papers and spent the next three years in the R.A.F."

Michael Cronin



CANTOR'S CROSSWORD NO. 11

## ACROSS

1. Nothing precedes an Arts Degree here in Spain except light rope (7)
9. Expect a tart but tasty response here in Derbyshire (8)
10. The one you expect to wear a bowler out when in? (7)
11. Patience homophone should take you to them – legally (8)
12. The solution here is a back related one (6)
13. Their staple plan here must involve courting sympathy (10)
15. Sounds like a ceremony properly observed (4)
16. Calamitous outcomes as setter sets raids as an answer (9)
21. It sounds as if implicit assent is seen in them (4)
22. Through my lens and on film, I once read you like a book (1,2,1,6)
24. Rational discussion precluded by physical activity? (6).
25. Being cut short leaves Diana greatly upset (8)
27. It could be an aquatic event with a rugby ball, I'm betting (7)
28. Certainly not an odd equine activity (8)
29. Means to find a couturier? (7)

## DOWN

2. Might one be smelled in a choral composition? (8)
3. Want to know what made sis tedious? She always held back (8)
4. Adrift with no idea of how, when, what or where! (2,3,2,3)
5. That really sounds a little dear for me (4)
6. In the end you must tell the troop precisely what to do (6)
7. Once resolute, but fainted here, when challenged! (7)
8. Cut down a blest figure finally, even though initially the most near (7)
11. Great simulators believe in such publicity (9)
14. Is very relaxed about not being straight re the facts (4,6)
17. Sounds like an aquatic vision – a large pinch of salt needed (8)
18. Sounds like more than one of such insects fly flags (8)
19. Here you may need to send Tim to reassess his mental approach (7)
20. A vast amount collected in a limited edition (7)
23. Little choice – may need eggging on . . . or a dog's dinner for Rev? (6)
26. Sounds like that fifth French cat failed the Channel swim (4)

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 63)



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## PANGBOURNE VALLEY PLAYGROUP (PVPG)

The Spring term has been quite busy for Pangbourne Valley Playgroup as it was filled with a number of exciting activities. Thank you so much to our staff, committee members, partners, and volunteers for all the contributions during these busy months.

### WORK WITH CHILDREN

#### World Book Day Celebration: 2nd-6th March

We love celebrating the World Book Day because this is when we normally take a chance to dedicate the entire week to talk more about various authors, illustrators, books, and, most importantly, to read our favourite stories. This year, we ran "Stay & Play" sessions



for parents and carers, who were invited to read with the children and do some book themed craft activities together. The children and staff also

created a book titled "The adventures of Pangbourne Valley Playgroup" that included their individual stories. Children had a unique opportunity to become authors, illustrators, editors, and even publishers. Throughout the week, there was lots of excitement, including dressing up, singing, and dancing. Who wouldn't like to live in a fairy tale, even if it is just for a week?!

#### British Science Week: 6th-15th March

British Science Week is an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, and maths that we couldn't miss, as it perfectly fits into the learning process used in the Pangbourne Valley Playgroup. This time, we focused our activities on simple experiments, tailored to encourage the children to actively participate, keep trying, and discover what happens when small changes are made. This is how we develop communication and problem-solving skills, team work and reasoning, resilience, creativity, challenge, and reward. We explored topics such as light and colour, water and materials, recycling and baking.



### FUNDRAISING

#### Pamper Evening: 6th March

This year's Pamper Evening was a real success. It was held at the Elephant Hotel in Pangbourne and brought together a total of approximately 100 guests, therapists and volunteers. During the event, everyone could enjoy various therapeutic sessions of relaxation, check out some locally produced beauty products, get inspired by listening to healthy lifestyle experts, try to win one of the amazing prizes in our raffle draw, or simply enjoy good music and calming atmosphere of the evening.

The programme included talks from Michael Cordova, the TEDx speaker and co-founder of Floating Point Float Centre; Anthony Bath, the physiotherapist from Boathouse Surgery; and Monique Grindal, the founder of Earthen by Nature Organic Creams & Lotions. Geoff Brown, the guitar and banjo player from Kent,



performed some live music in between the talks. The total raised from the event was £550 that will go towards the activities promoted by our charity.

#### Snacks from FareShare

We are happy to announce that Pangbourne Valley Playgroup had received support from FareShare, the company that redistributes surplus food to charities that turn it into meals. Promptly, all the healthy snacks served in Pangbourne Valley Playgroup will be provided by this company, which we greatly appreciate.

### ONLINE LEARNING

Unfortunately, due to the current situation with Covid-19 pandemic, we had to close Pangbourne Valley Playgroup until the further notice. Nevertheless, our brilliant staff keep working incredibly hard to support parents during this difficult period, setting up home learning, supportive live chats on our Facebook page, and sharing some fantastic ideas on how to keep everyone sane, active and occupied.

### NEEDED SUPPORT

If you want to financially support Pangbourne Valley Playgroup during this difficult time of complete lockdown please do not hesitate to contact us. Pangbourne Valley Playgroup has existed in the village for decades and has provided vital affordable childcare throughout that time. Pangbourne Valley Playgroup is well loved by the community and there are numerous children in the village who have happily attended this setting. Please help us preserve Pangbourne Valley Playgroup for the next generations!

If you want to enrol your child for the next academic year contact us via e-mail at [pvp.pg.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:pvp.pg.enquiries@gmail.com). For more details please visit [www.pvp.pg.org.uk](http://www.pvp.pg.org.uk) or Pangbourne Valley Playgroup Facebook page.

*Pangbourne Valley Playgroup Committee*

# PANGBOURNE SCHOOLS

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We are going through some difficult times as a nation and I am conscious we may not see people face to face for a while. I just wanted to say we will always be here for the Pangbourne community. We will be providing childcare for as long as we can for those who require it (under the government guidance). If your family is affected by any kind of trauma and if the school can help in any way please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can be there for you and support you. We have asked the children to think of our school themes of 'act of kindness' and 'golden moment' every day.

I am extremely grateful and proud of how the whole school community has supported each other during these difficult times. I would like to particularly thank the staff who have been (and are continuing to) go above and beyond to support the pupils. We are very lucky to have such supportive staff!

I have also been blown away by the offers of help coming from the community. If you have offered help we will be in contact if we need you. Thank you.

It feels incredibly strange that there will be physical distance between us and most of the pupils. We will all miss that contact hugely!! Please know we greatly care and will always be there for you.

Take care. Look after yourselves and stay in touch.

Melissa Fry – Headteacher



Like everyone else, we find ourselves in unprecedented times, as the school closed on 20 March in order to enable social distancing. The teachers at the school have moved to online provision of lessons and support, for which all Pangbourne Primary School parents and carers are very grateful.

Thank you to all the teachers and to Mrs Fry for your ongoing support during these difficult times.

We hope that school will be able to open again this academic year, and we will be able to continue our work to raise funds to improve the education and experiences of children at the school.

FOPPS' other aim as a charity is to bring the community together, and while we have had to cancel our second-hand Green Ticket Trail, and will not be able to participate at the Village Fete in June due to that event's cancellation, we do hope that later in the year we will be able to run the Pangbourne 10k Race and the Fireworks Fiesta.

## FUNDRAISING – GRANTS, MATCHED FUNDING AND DONATIONS

While we are all staying at home, we can continue to raise funds for our local charity. Anyone in the local area can help us via these three programmes running currently – the West Berkshire Lottery, Amazon Smile, and shopping at the local Co-op stores.

We continue to raise funds for ICT equipment, where we are replacing the entire school's interactive whiteboards and funding an additional Class's worth of Chromebooks. We are also putting funding aside to replace the playground equipment in the Foundation Stage area.

West Berkshire Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in West Berkshire – and FOPPS is now registered as one of the causes. If you would like the chance of winning up to £25,000 AND supporting FOPPS, all you need to do is go to the site below and purchase a ticket.

[www.westberkshirelottery.co.uk/support/fopps](http://www.westberkshirelottery.co.uk/support/fopps)



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If you shop online at Amazon, you can now also help to raise funds for FOPPS. Next time you log on, navigate to [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and choose to support Friends Of Pangbourne Primary School (FOPPS). AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk), you'll find the exact same prices, range of good, and convenient shopping experience as [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk), with





the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FOPPS. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

We are again one of the local community fund charities in the Co-op in Pangbourne. 1% of spending on Co-op branded products is divided among the local community funds, and if you have a Co-op card you can log on to your account and nominate FOPPS as your chosen charity. Please consider supporting your local primary school by shopping at the Co-op over the next few months.



## CAN YOU HELP WITH DONATIONS, OR MATCHED FUNDING?

Perhaps you wish to support children in the local area, and it may be that you work for an organisation which offers matched funding as part of a charitable giving scheme. If so, FOPPS would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us at [info@fopps.org.uk](mailto:info@fopps.org.uk).



Photo: Sarah Lomer

*The sun shines on part of the 10k route*

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## POPULAR PIANO FESTIVAL AT PANGBOURNE COLLEGE CONTINUES TO FLOURISH

For the eighth year running Pangbourne College celebrated its All Steinway School status in style with a Piano Festival. This year more than 100 young people, aged 6 to 18, from almost 40 state and private schools in the south of England participated in this special annual College event. Among these were eight Pangbournians – Eve Allen, Lucia Buri, Daniel Ginn, Bastien Hamilton, Henry Jackson, Amelia Mirchandani, Grace Spalton, and Cameron Spiers. Lucia Buri won the Solo Advanced, 18 and under (Grades 7-8), class and Grace Spalton and Lucia won the Duet Senior, 17 and under, class.

This year the Festival included competitive solo and duet classes of Grades 1 to 8+ standard. During these classes each participant or duo had the opportunity to perform their piece and had instant feedback from one of three experienced, positive and sympathetic adjudicators, Mrs Pamela Chilvers, Mr Luis Parés and Mr Peter Selwyn. At the end of these classes an album of music was awarded to the winner. For the first time there was an accompaniment masterclass, in addition to two Solo Masterclasses, in which the participants could look more in-depth at a piece with one of the adjudicators.



All of Pangbourne College's pianos come from the world-class piano manufacturer Steinway & Sons and sit well within the beautiful surroundings of the school's Music department which was created in 2012, Drake Hall, and the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, a splendid modern spiritual building opened by The Queen in 2000. The latter houses one of the largest Steinway instruments, a Model D, and this particular one, chosen with the help of maestro Vladimir Ashkenazy, has an amazing breadth of sound as demonstrated by the Grade 8+ young pianists, in particular.

The Piano Festival is one of several outreach musical events which have been organised by Pangbourne College this academic year. Others have included two Choral Days in March.

## HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PROVIDES MOVING TALK FOR STUDENTS

Pangbourne's Form 3 and Lower Sixth pupils were privileged recently to be given an inspirational and moving talk from Holocaust survivor, Mr John Fieldsend BEM. The insight given to the Form 3 pupils in particular, who have recently started a module on World War II in History, was invaluable.

John was born into a Jewish family on 11 September 1931 in Czechoslovakia to a Czech mother and a German father, and along with John's older brother they moved to Dresden in Germany. Here is when he began to recount his story of the early stages of Hitler's dictatorship and the campaign against Europe's Jewish population.

He recalled that one of his earlier memories was a visit from Hitler to the town of Dresden in 1935 where, whilst neither he or his family attended, they could hear him shouting "Die Juden, die Juden . . . those terrible Jews". This was merely the beginning, as at the age of five John's life really began to change.

John was no longer able to play with many of his friends at school because the bullying and exclusion of Jews became indoctrinated. One day, when playing with his father, he cut his head and upon being taken to the doctor, the doctor said, "I don't treat Jews".

In the wake of this, John's parents took them to his grandparent's house in Czechoslovakia where they had a safe life until Hitler invaded. Thereafter, the lives of Jewish people again became intolerable as they were treated terribly.

This led to John's mother and father telling their boys they would travel together to England on their own. They were put on a Kindertransport train and arrived



in England in June 1939, and were soon separated to live with different foster families. Neither boy saw their parents again as they were taken to Poland and killed.

Despite being uprooted from his home at such a young age and in such tragic circumstances, John speaks fondly of his time in England. He recalls his foster home being a happy place, where he remained until his marriage in 1961, and said how fortunate he was to have been placed with the family he stayed with.

Later in life he carried out research into his family history and discovered that the man responsible for getting him and his brother on the Kindertransport train was Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved the lives of over 600 children during the Holocaust. John now regularly shares his story in schools and colleges on behalf of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

He followed his presentation with a Q & A session, in which some of Pangbourne's students posed some interesting questions. Despite the serious subject matter of his talk, he ended it with a positive message and one encouraging our pupils to take positive actions, saying: "I suppose I have told you a pretty hard story but I want to reassure you, and I hope you already know this, that life is good, basically. This is a wonderful world. The only thing wrong with our world is us! My generation has made a mess of this world and we are handing it over to you. I have one last request and that is that you please make a better job of it than we have."

## JUNIOR GIRLS' HOCKEY TEAM WIN BERKSHIRE COUNTY PLATE

Pangbourne Junior Girls' Hockey Team have secured first place medals after winning a Berkshire county plate competition.

A squad of ten Dunbar (the College's Junior House) girls travelled to St Mary's School in Ascot for the 'In2Hockey' Berkshire Tournament. Pangbourne won two games and lost two games during the group stages, meaning they qualified for the plate. The next group games in the plate brought heavily improved performances with four wins from four games. This led the girls to a semi-final against Leighton Park where they played brilliantly to win 3-0. A final against the Abbey was set up as a result, and the momentum continued as they claimed another 3-0 victory to secure the trophy and the 'Plate Winners' status. A total of 10 matches were played during the day with eight wins and two losses, with 27 goals scored and only three conceded.

Dunbar Hockey Coach, Mr Dan Colquhoun, said: "The girls showed a fantastic attitude throughout the day and the ability to learn from mistakes earlier in the tournament resulted in huge wins and great performances against good schools."



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# PANGBOURNE PLACE-NAMES

## SAXON PLACE

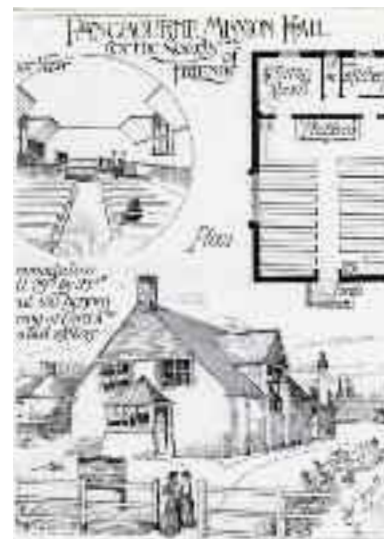
I am very grateful to members of the Heritage Group for their help in assembling the information on the various buildings that were demolished to make way for **Saxon Place**, built by Hicks Developments Ltd in 2005.

At the entrance to the site stood what was until 1920 the Quaker Meeting House. This was taken over then and modified by the Congregational Church, moving from Whitchurch Road. All the elements of the non-conformist movement came together in the Reading Road church, renamed the United Reformed Church. The Church was used as a canteen for soldiers during the Second World War. Behind was a rather decrepid building used as a church hall, and it also housed a nursery until it became unusable.



*The Congregational Church.*

Also at the entrance to the modern site were the premises of William Purvey, blacksmith. Born in 1869, he had moved with his family to Pangbourne from Gloucestershire in 1901. As well as a blacksmith, he felled large trees and built roads, and this is why he had gravel pits at Theale and Purley. At Purley he had his own narrow gauge railway to transport the gravel, which he supplied for building Caversham Bridge. He also built the Pangbourne College Drive from Bere Court Road to the College. His son William (always known as Jack) had joined him in the firm, and when his father retired, Jack took over the business until he retired, around 1964, when it closed.



*Architect's plan for the original Quaker Meeting House.*

Whoever chose the name **Saxon Place** did well, for it takes us right back to the very beginning of our village in the Anglo-Saxon period. At that time Pangbourne was at the northern limit of an area dependent on the important Roman settlement at Silchester, and was to an extent protected to the immediate north by the Thames. Indeed, the Thames has always been a natural barrier, even more so before it was canalised. However, for much of our village's history up to the arrival of the Normans in 1066, Pangbourne was in a sort of No Man's Land, at the very limit of the protection provided later in the period by the seat of West Saxon power at Winchester.

It is easy to think of 'the Anglo-Saxons' as somehow occupying a solid block of time between the departure of the Romans in AD 410 and the arrival of the Normans in 1066, but in reality this is a period of some 650 years. It is approximately the same length of time as between the Battle of Crécy in 1346 and the present day – and an awful lot has happened in England between those two dates!

In fact, archaeological evidence suggests that the first Saxon settlers in our area were farmers working alongside their Romano-British, Celtic counterparts. They had established themselves peacefully, placed amongst the existing farmers by their Roman overlords to provide protection from any tribal difficulties to the north, beyond the Thames. It has been suggested that place-names in the area indicate that the main concerns of these soldier-settlers were water supply, water control, water crossings and dry sites for villages. Sample names are **Brightwell** ('bright spring'), **Little and Long Wittenham** ('Witta's land in a river bend'), **Sandford**, Abingdon ('sandy ford') and **Cholsey** ('Ceol's dry ground in a marsh').

These settlers had already been in England for up to 100 years before the Romans left Britain, as the Roman Empire contracted and finally broke up, partly from within with its own internal political divisions, and partly from the pressure of the Germanic tribes on its Eastern border, mostly in Europe. Scholars differ as to the causes of these Germanic migrations which were widespread and, on occasion, fast-moving, involving tribes of perhaps 10,000 to 20,000 each. I am fascinated in particular by the Vandals, the blue line on the map, who, in AD 400 from an area of what is now South Poland, moved across Europe and Spain, later giving their name to the province of (V)Andalusia. In AD 429 they crossed into North Africa, and were at Carthage, in what is now Tunisia, in AD 439, just 39 years after leaving Poland. Looking at a map of the movements of these Germanic tribes as they crisscrossed Europe always reminds me of a multi-coloured tin of spaghetti. Seen through the eyes of hostile Roman writers, these tribes were quite simply barbarians, especially if, like the Visigoths in 410 and the Vandals in



*Invasions of the Roman Empire.*

# PANGBOURNE PLACE-NAMES



*Vandalic necklace.*

in much obscurity. While a general idea can be formed of their course, there is still doubt about some of the tribes that took part, their exact location on the Continent, and the dates of their respective migrations.

In principle, the Jutes from the area of modern **Jutland** invaded Kent, and the Angles from the modern Schleswig area of Germany settled in the area of East Anglia, where they were divided into the North Folk (**Norfolk**) and the South Folk (**Suffolk**). Saxons, at that time settled on the German North Sea coast, invaded the areas broadly covered by the modern **Essex** (East Saxons), **Sussex** (South Saxons) and **Wessex** (West Saxons). It would seem that the Middle Saxons (**Middlesex**) settled only half the territory of the others, until one realises that **Surrey** means 'the southern (Surr-) district (*ge*, developed to *-ey*)'. The Saxons may have derived their name



*Remains of a seax, with a reconstructed replica.*

from the *seax*, a kind of dagger for which they were known –

and, one suspects, feared, for their name survives to this day in *Sassanach* in Gaelic and *Sassneig* in Welsh. Other Germanic tribes represented in the invasion, as indicated by place-names, include the Frisians at **Friston**, Suffolk, as well as **Friesthorpe** and **Frieston** in Lincolnshire, and the Swabians at **Swaffham**, Norfolk.



*Anglo-Saxon Homelands and Settlements.*

It was in this confused period of Britain's history that the legend of King Arthur was born. The Anglo-Saxons at the time were essentially sea-borne raiders who, when they moved inland, did so on foot. Historians believe that the Arthurian legend developed around a British cavalry commander who had learnt his military skills either directly or indirectly from the Romans. He won a series of important battles against the ill-armed Saxon infantry, culminating in a great victory towards AD 500 at Mons Badonicus, an unidentified site. Britons who emigrated to Brittany in the 6th and 7th centuries took the story of this great commander with them, and the legend was born. The romance, including the Knights of the Round Table – probably Arthur's subordinate commanders – was developed in France in the Middle Ages, fitting very well with the courtly love tradition of the time.



*King Beorhtwulf.*

During the turbulent times of the 5th and 6th centuries we must assume that the former Saxon soldier-settlers of our area carried on their lives as best they could. Angles intruded from the north-east, probably moving down the Icknield Way, an ancient pre-Roman trackway running from Norfolk to Wiltshire that crossed the Thames at Goring. On occasions they crossed the river, to settle in essentially Saxon territory, whence the significance of **Englefield**, 'the rough pasture (feld) of the Angles', and **Englemere Pond**, Winkfield, probably 'the lake (*mere*) of the Angles', although the earliest known form, *Inglemoare Pond* in 1607, is too late to be certain.

In the 7th and 8th centuries the key factor was the rivalry between Wessex to the south and Mercia to the north, with our area debatable land between the two kingdoms. Our soldier-settlers paid their taxes to whoever was in a position to levy them. Into the 9th century, Berkshire may have been regarded as part of Mercia south of the Thames, and certainly when **Pangbourne** is first mentioned, in a Saxon charter of 844, it is a Bishop of Leicester who gives our village to King Beorhtwulf of Mercia. The seat of the Bishops of Leicester was transferred to Dorchester, Oxfordshire, after 877, but Berkshire, and therefore Pangbourne, was by then part of the See of Winchester. Under King Alfred, born at Wantage in 849 and King, first of Wessex 871-886 and then of the Anglo-Saxons 886-899, the peoples living south of the Thames looked, not to the Mercians north of the Thames, but to the south, to the West Saxons as their administrative and religious overlords. **Saxon Place** is indeed well-named.

*Nigel Suffield-Jones*





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## PANGBOURNE AND WHITCHURCH SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

'Strange Times, Stay Well, Keep Safe' are words that are on everyone's lips these days and certainly when I wrote about us being in the throes of Storm Ciara in the last magazine I had no idea that this time we would be experiencing lockdown as a result of the Corona Virus pandemic.

The positive side effect of the global epidemic is a sudden and rapid decrease in the amount of carbon being put into the atmosphere. Globally we are not on flights, driving cars, cruising the oceans, being as wasteful with food, using as much energy in our industries and businesses. The cost to us as individuals, however, is very great: the loss of life, freedom, job and house security, global financial chaos and living with anxiety.

The gains made in our natural world can be heard in the glorious birdsong of Spring which we can now hear in this new quiet environment and the time we have gained to be aware of the natural world around us. We have time to be part of our community whether by helping our neighbours with shopping or clapping for the NHS on Thursday evenings. We have time to think what matters. The present crisis will have a radical effect upon how we view our world and should provide us with an opportunity to make the changes necessary to face the even greater challenge of global warming. This issue will not go away in the way we hope that Covid 19 will and so in PAWs we continue to think about and provide ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint.

This period at home could give us the opportunity to fill in an On-line carbon calculator. There are many around and we recommend Carbon Independent.org. It helps us reflect on our personal responsibility towards the planet.

We will have to cancel or reschedule some of our events throughout the summer, but will of course update you through the website and Facebook.

We managed, however, on 28th February to hold our vigil in support all those around the world who have suffered as a result of natural disasters. As it was raining so hard we met in Pangbourne Village Hall around the world map which depicted where typhoon, hurricane, fire, flood and drought have taken place over the last few months. Around 35 people attended and listened to a brief explanation of these disasters given by Professor Sir Brian Hoskins before lighting candles and holding a two minute silence.



## PAWS AND THE DRINKING FOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION FUND A NEW DRINKING FOUNTAIN FOR PANGBOURNE – *report by Jackie Hoskins*

On Sunday March 15th PAWS opened a new drinking fountain in the Pangbourne Village Hall car park. The fountain has very kindly been installed, and will be serviced and maintained by, the APT Community Trust that runs the toilets in the car park. The tap was turned on by the Chair of PAWS, Jackie Hoskins, and three Junior PAWS members were the first to fill their reusable bottles.

PAWS is delighted with the new fountain. Instead of buying bottled water the fountain will be there for all to drink from, or to fill their reusable bottles, so reducing the number of single use plastic bottles being used. The water is





filtered and the fountain will be cleaned every day and so very safe to use.

We have long wanted to have a fountain in the Village and have held a number of fund raising activities to pay for it. The Junior PAWS group have campaigned hard to encourage people to stop using single use plastic that is endangering the lives of animals and the fish in the oceans. The girls took the opportunity of the opening to tell those gathered around of their concerns and left their poster messages up on the wall of the toilet block to encourage more people to use the fountain and stop using plastic bottles.

In spite of the pouring rain, there was a good crowd around the

building to cheer as the water was turned on. APT Trust arranged to have the fountain dressed as in the medieval period to bring luck and keep the water sweet. So the building was looking very attractive and eye catching for those using the car park.

## PANGBOURNE ENERGY – report by Rob Hill

PAWS is looking at ways that Pangbourne and the surrounding area can contribute to the UK target of zero greenhouse gases by 2050 and also West Berkshire Council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

One approach we are considering is a community effort to increase the amount of renewable energy in our area as has been done elsewhere. This would involve setting up a community energy scheme

A community benefit society, "Pangbourne Energy" with Directors from the local community, could be set up to finance and install solar panels on public and commercial buildings in the area. The panels would be owned by Pangbourne Energy. The occupants of the building would benefit from cheap electricity and surplus electricity would be sold to the grid. The money generated from its sale would be used to pay a dividend to investors in the scheme with the profit going to fund community projects in the village.



Projects already exist in many areas including Reading, Oxfordshire and Maidenhead, and the sites below enable you to can see how the schemes operate:

**Reading Community Energy**  
[readingenergy.coop](http://readingenergy.coop)

**Low Carbon Hub, Oxford**  
[www.lowcarbonhub.org](http://www.lowcarbonhub.org)

**Maidenhead**  
[www.maidenergy.coop](http://www.maidenergy.coop)

We are at the initial planning stage at the moment and are looking to identify suitable buildings.

We do not know how our world will be looking in the months to come and all of us at PAWS wish all of you in our communities good health and optimism that when we emerge from isolation we will find better ways to respect humanity and our natural world.

Stay Well

Heather Thorne

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## PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Just a few weeks ago, who would have thought that the world would have changed so dramatically? The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have been felt in every community. It is understandably an anxious and difficult time for everyone.

However, on a positive note, the community of Pangbourne have excelled themselves. As the crisis unfolded, a request for volunteer helpers was made to support those in the community who are vulnerable or self-isolating and the Parish Council was inundated – over 130 residents offered their help. We are so grateful for your offers of assistance and we know that those needing help continue to be very appreciative of the support in picking up prescriptions, shopping and having someone to phone for a chat.

Becky Elkin (Parish Council Clerk) and Jo Griffin (Assistant Clerk) were instrumental in setting up a network of volunteers in record time. Aided by Vanessa Saunders (Church Administrator), they produced an information leaflet, printed in record time by Herald Graphics (the producer of this magazine). With the help of Pangbourne Magazine distribution volunteers, co-ordinated by Jennifer Holmes, this leaflet was delivered within a few hours to every household. A few days later, a second leaflet detailing the named volunteer and contact phone number was distributed by each of the volunteers. The Parish Council is very grateful to all those who contributed to this mammoth task. Becky and Jo continue to maintain this network of volunteers as some have had to stop and others come on board.

Let's hope that this overwhelming spirit of caring and looking out for each other in our community continues into the future.

We are very fortunate that Pangbourne has plenty of green spaces, shops and businesses, and we look forward to being able to appreciate and enjoy these to the full once life returns to 'normal' again.

However under Government guidelines, all activities in the Village Hall have had to stop, and the Parish Council Office was also forced to close its doors. Behind the scenes, and thanks to modern technology, Councillors can continue much of their work, so in fact the Parish Council Office is still very much 'open for business'. As always, the Clerk and Councillors can be contacted by emailing [Clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk), or phoning 0118 9841118.

### PANGBOURNE GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

I don't usually write Parish Council articles from a personal point of view, but in these exceptional times I wanted to express my personal gratitude to all the residents of Pangbourne who make it such a wonderful place to live. When times are difficult you realise the strength of the community that binds it together.

As this current crisis began unfolding, Pangbourne Parish Council, working alongside the local Churches asked for volunteers to help collect essential items such as shopping and prescription for vulnerable members of the village who were self-isolating or unable to leave the house. Within minutes of posting the request, we had our first volunteer and within two days we had over 130 volunteers from Pangbourne and surrounding villages.

Those volunteers have been truly amazing and have provided a much needed lifeline to many in these uncertain times. Thank you to each and every one of you.

We are also hearing daily of many other private arrangements among neighbours and local groups to offer support to each other and of all the good work local businesses are doing to help residents including new local delivery schemes. Thank you to those keeping the Boathouse Surgery and Chemist operational, to all the supermarket staff and to the local postmen police and other keyworkers. Thank you also to Herald Graphics for supplying the leaflets for free and in record time to make this scheme possible.

At the time of writing (early April) the situation is moving fast and it is uncertain the extent of the help that will be needed and for how long but what is clear is that new relationships have been forged among neighbours and across generations.

Everyone's world has got a little smaller but in a sense the community has grown.

*Becky Elkin*  
(Pangbourne Parish Clerk)



## WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

All residents should have received the leaflets through their doors from Pangbourne Parish Council about the GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME along with the "HELLO NEIGHBOUR POSTCARD". These give details of the variety of help available within Pangbourne.

In addition to the local Good Neighbours Scheme, further help may be available for residents from West Berkshire Council who have set up the WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB based in Newbury. It is intended that the hub will act as something of a one stop shop for residents, volunteers and Parish Councils.

The Hub will be run by the Building Communities team from West Berks Council supported by the voluntary sector, Greenham Trust, Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire. The aim is to help coordinate local organisations representing their communities and to monitor needs across the district to ensure that they are understood and met.

The Hub will prioritise support for:

- Those who need shielding (identified as approx. 1.5 million people nationally)
- The vulnerable (all those aged 70 or over, pregnant women, those with underlying health conditions)
- Those who are vulnerable in a variety of other ways

## WEST BERKSHIRE (COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB)

You can contact the West Berkshire Community Support Hub for non-medical advice or support regarding Covid-19 or to register to help volunteer on:

**Email:** [westberksBCT@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:westberksBCT@westberks.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 01635 503579

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CommunitySupportHubGroup/>

**Website:** see specific pages below

- A designated page providing vital updates on services and support, such as assistance for those struggling to pay council tax. This can be found here: [www.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-residents](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-residents)
- WBC are working to support businesses. The business rates team is working as quickly as possible and will continue to update their page at: [www.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-business](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-business)
- Public Protection have warned that the current situation may lead to an increase in the number of scams targeting vulnerable residents. Residents should remain vigilant and verify the source of unfamiliar communications. **More information, including FAQs, is available on our residents' webpage.**
- Household Waste Recycling Centres, Libraries, Leisure Centres and Family Hubs remain closed and bulky waste collections have been suspended. Waste collections will continue, although *residents are asked to place their bins outside their property by 6am instead of 7am*. This will allow collections to commence earlier in the morning to keep our community safe.
- In response to the current directive from the Government to close schools due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, West Berkshire Council have taken the decision to refund fares for school transport. A refund will be given to those who have bought a farepayer seat on home to school transport for the two weeks from 23 March 2020 to 3 April 2020. To qualify for this refund parents and carers will need to complete the dedicated refund form available online: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/36932>. The information needs to be completed correctly as the payment will be made by bank transfer. A decision will be made regarding the last two terms of school, 20 April to 22 May 2020 and 1 June to 17 July 2020, once central Government have issued further guidance on school attendance for these periods. Completed forms must be returned to: [transport@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:transport@westberks.gov.uk) by Tuesday 30 June 2020.
- Car parking charges have been suspended in all WBC surface car parks. This is to minimise the burden on key workers at this difficult time and will also assist everyone to comply with social distancing guidance.
- There have been changes to some bus routes across the district, which may make this form of travel difficult. We would therefore encourage keyworkers who require assistance with essential travel can contact us for help on **01635 551111**.
- West Berkshire Council's advice leaflet should have been delivered to every household. This provides residents with useful information about the local support available from West Berkshire Council. A PDF version of this leaflet has been made available on our **Coronavirus Residents' webpage**. If you require it in another format, please contact the Community Support Hub using the details above.
- In line with national guidance, WBC continue to advise residents to 'Stay at Home', with a small number of exceptions. WBC know that this not easy and that it will be a source of anxiety for many in the community. Daily wellbeing tips are posted on WBC social media and there is a section on the website to help those struggling with social isolation, particularly if they live alone.

# COUNCIL NEWS

- There is also advice about drug and alcohol abuse as well as smoking. Given the nature of COVID-19, it is more important than ever that we all consider the impact these behaviours have on our health and look to make positive changes where we can. This information can be found here: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-residents-health>
- West Berkshire Council's Emotional Health Academy is also launching a helpline specifically for young people who are experiencing emotional difficulties as a result of the current situation. This is in addition to the statutory support in place to safeguard the most vulnerable children. This will be in place from Monday 6th April and can be reached on 01635 503587.

<b>PANGBOURNE GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME</b> <i>Pangbourne Parish Council • Pangbourne Parish Church • St Bernadettes</i>		
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<b>PASTORAL SUPPORT</b>	Rectory Phone:	0118 984 2928
	St James Church Office:	office.ptschurches@gmail.com
	St Bernadette's Church:	www.douaiparish.org.uk
<b>UPDATES AND INFORMATION</b>	Facebook and Twitter:	Pangbourne Parish Council
<b>MEDICAL INFO AND ADVICE</b>	NHS 111 online service:	www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
	Telephone:	111
<b>TO REPORT A FRAUD OR SCAM</b>	Online:	www.ActionFraud.police.uk
	Telephone:	0300 123 2040
<b>WELLBEING CONTACTS</b>	Lucy Hill (West Reading Villages PCN):	07933 944 556
	Heather Thorne:	0118 984 3803

## Would you like to?

- Improve your general health and wellbeing
- Reduce feelings of isolation
- Volunteer your own time and experiences
- Find bereavement support
- Access social groups and parenting classes
- Explore support for housing, employment, benefits, debt and legal advice
- Become more active
- Get involved in your local community
- Discover local self-help groups, clubs and befriending agencies



**If so, make an appointment with the social prescriber at your local GP surgery to help you achieve these goals.**

Our social prescribing service is available to anyone registered at Mortimer Surgery, Chapel Row Surgery, The Boathouse Surgery or Theale Medical Centre. Talk to your healthcare professional about a referral. Alternatively, call Lucy Hill on 07933 944 556.

### West Reading Villages PCN

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## PANGBOURNE RECREATION GROUND

The equipment has now arrived to repair the playground and ground conditions are getting drier every day. Works will be carried out to enable us to fully re-open the playground as soon as national restrictions are lifted.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Annual Parish Meeting, Litter Pick Day and Watermill Theatre Events have all sadly been postponed until further notice and may be cancelled if they cannot be re-arranged at a later date.

## NEW PANGBOURNE VILLAGE SIGN

Eagle eyed residents may have noticed the brand new "Pangbourne" village sign which arrived a few weeks ago. The new signage as you cross Whitchurch Bridge and the West Berkshire border means that there are now "Pangbourne" signs in all directions as you enter the village.



## RAINBOW WINDOW TRAIL

In these difficult times, one lovely activity has been the "Window Trails" families have been undertaking.

Children around the country have been making Rainbows and messages of support and hope to adorn windows and many can be seen across the village. At a time when children and families are unable to meet and socialise, the rainbows are intended as a way to communicate a little sunshine and happiness to those passing by.



# COUNCIL NEWS

## LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION TO 2036

West Berkshire Council have recently begun the latest stage of consultation with all Parish and Town Councils across the District on Local Planning Strategy to 2036.

This included consideration of the Settlement Boundary as well as potential development sites put forward by landowners in the HELAA (Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment). Only one site was identified by West Berkshire as being partially deliverable within the next 15 years at this stage, PAN5.

The Parish Council has proposed no changes to the existing Settlement Boundary. Details of the HELAA sites and the village's Settlement Boundary can be found on West Berkshire Council's website.

## TREE PLANTING – BOURNE ROAD

The Parish Council have been working with a dedicated group of Bourne Road residents and West Berkshire Council since the middle of last year to deliver a tree planting scheme for the road. The scheme has been driven by the residents who having originally requested the trees, then contacted as many householders as possible to agree the planting scheme. The trees have been funded and planted by West Berkshire following a thorough consultation with residents to identify where the trees should be sited.

After a lot of hard work by all three parties, the trees were finally planted over the course of a week in early March and look great. In total there are 42 trees and with the continued support of the residents they should look fantastic in years to come.

If you think your road is suitable for tree planting do please get in touch on [clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk) as we are always looking for more areas to plant.

*Himalayan Birch*



*Japanese Privet*



*Common Hazel*



*Sargent's Cherry*



*Silver Birch*



*Hawthorn*



*Hawthorn*



*Wild Apple*



*Mountain Ash*



*Common Whitebeam*



*Small Leaved Lime*



*Hornbeam*



## INFORMATION FROM THAMES WATER

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help-and-advice/coronavirus>

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/sitecore/content/Corporate/Corporate/media/News-releases/News-Release---Covid-19-key-workers>

<https://corporate.thameswater.co.uk/media/News-releases/COVID-19-wet-wipes>

<https://corporate.thameswater.co.uk/media/News-releases/News-Release---Coronavirus-water-efficiency>





## PLANNING APPLICATIONS REVIEWED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL SINCE LAST ARTICLE

APP NO:	PROPOSAL	RECOMMENDATION
20/00554/ HOUSE	Single storey front and rear extensions. Conversion of garage to workshop. 33 Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne RG8 7JP	<i>NO OBJECTION</i>
20/00473/ FULD	New 4 bedroom detached dwelling with detached garage and new crossover. Camden Ridge, Riverview Road, Pangbourne	<i>NO OBJECTION</i>
20/00444/ HOUSE	Demolition of existing single storey utility room. Proposed two storey side extension with single storey front and rear extension and loft conversion to existing dwelling. 6 Bourne Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JS	<i>NO OBJECTION</i>
20/00158/ FUL	Change of use from personal fitness and pilates studio to office. Unit 4, 41 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7HY	<i>NO OBJECTION</i>
20/00157/ FUL	Change of use from office to personal fitness, health and pilates studio. Unit 2, 41 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7HY	<i>NO OBJECTION</i>
20/00420/ HOUSE	Single Storey Extension to Meadow Farm House (with demolition of annex). Meadow Farm House, Meadow Farm, Whitchurch Road RG8 7DA	<i>OBJECTION</i>
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY:</b>		
20/00547/ COND1	Application for approval of details reserved by Condition (3) Schedule of Works of planning permission — 19/02413/LBC2 Bere Court, Bere Court, Pangbourne RG8 8HT	
20/00549/ COND1	Application for approval of details reserved by Conditions (3) Plaster work to ceilings and (4) Schedule of Works of planning permission 19/02881/LBC2 Bere Court, Bere Court, Pangbourne RG8 8HT	
20/00548/ COND1	Application for approval of details reserved by Condition (3) Opening Works of planning permission - 19/02882/LBC2 Bere Court, Bere Court, Pangbourne RG8 8HT	
20/00428/ COND1	Approval of details reserved by Condition (7) – Electric Charging Point of Approved Application 19/01344/FULD 2 Woodview Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JN	

APP NO:	PROPOSAL	RECOMMENDATION
<b>APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY WBC:</b>		
20/00131/ TPW	Various Tree Works 1 St James Close, Pangbourne RG8 7AP	<i>APPROVAL</i>
20/00366/ TPW	Copper Beech – 1.5-2m overall reduction; Crown lift to approx 5m from ground 21 Shooters Hill, Pangbourne RG8 7DZ	<i>APPROVAL</i>
19/03123/ CERTP	Demolition of existing rear conservatory and proposed Construction of single storey rear extension 17 Chiltern Walk, Pangbourne RG8 7LE	<i>APPROVAL</i>
19/03001/ TPW	Asst Tree Works 2 Sycamore Court, Station Road, Pangbourne RG8 7BN	<i>APPROVAL</i>
20/00270/ HOUSE	Change front garden to a driveway and add a dropped kerb 60 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JF	<i>REFUSED</i>
20/00160/ PACOU	Prior notification for the change of use of former Ladbrokes (Betting Shop) Sui Generis to C3 to create a 2 bedroom house. 29 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7HY	<i>APPLICATION REQUIRED</i>
20/00111/ HOUSE	Single storey granny annex and associated alterations Covered car port. Highbeech House, Pangbourne Hill RG8 7AS	<i>APPROVAL</i>
20/00093/ FULD	Detached new dwelling with detached garage landscape and Hardstanding. Former Camden Ridge, Riverview Road	<i>APPROVAL</i>
20/02333/ FULD	Retention of existing house, demolition of existing barn building and greenhouse. Division of plot to allow for the construction of a new family dwelling and double garage. New double garage outbuilding for the existing house and associated works to the driveway. Three Cliffs, Bere Court Road, Pangbourne RG8 8JY	<i>REFUSED</i>
20/00420/ HOUSE	Single Storey Extension to Meadow Farm House (with demolition of annex). Meadow Farm House, Meadow Farm, Whitchurch Road RG8 7DA	<i>INVALID</i>

## SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES\* AND ADVERTS†

	COPY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
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Issue 158 – September/October	7th August	27th August
Issue 159 – November/December	9th October	29th October

Please send all submissions to [pangbourne@heraldgraphics.co.uk](mailto:pangbourne@heraldgraphics.co.uk).  
Please bear in mind the distribution date when including dates in your articles.

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	Parish Office opening hours – Mon am, Tues am, Thurs pm	
CHAIRMAN OF PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL		
	Peter MacIver – <a href="mailto:peterpangbourne@gmail.com">peterpangbourne@gmail.com</a>	07768 004844
VICE CHAIRMAN OF PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL		
	John Higgs – <a href="mailto:jhiggs@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk">jhiggs@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk</a>	0118 984 4758
CLERK TO PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL		
	Becky Elkin – <a href="mailto:clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk">clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk</a>	0118 984 1118
WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL		
	Switchboard	01635 551111
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		01635 516 605
MP FOR READING WEST		
	Alok Sharma	0118 941 3803
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	Reverend Heather Parbury – <a href="mailto:rector@pangbournechurches.info">rector@pangbournechurches.info</a>	0118 984 2928
FLOOD WARDENS		
	Kay Lacey	0118 984 2221 or 07889 231136
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21 EYES, 22 I AM A CAMERA, 24 ROWING,  
25 DISTRESS, 27 PUNTING, 28 EVENTING, 29 ADDRESS

### Down

2 ORATORIO, 3 DESISTED, 4 BE ALL AT SEA, 5 FAUN,  
6 DETAIL, 7 DEFIANT, 8 CLOSEST, 11 IMPOSTERS,  
14 LIES AROUND, 17 SEAWATER, 18 PENNANTS,  
19 MINDSET, 20 AMASSED, 23 CURATE, 26 SANK

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