

PANGBOURNE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 160

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021



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THE MODERNISATION OF THE STATION ROAD TOILETS HAS BEGUN!



At the time of writing this article, (November 30th) the modernisation of the Disabled Toilet is well underway and by the time you read this article the new Disabled Friendly Toilet Cubicle will be complete and available to use. A wheelchair can now be manoeuvred in the new enlarged space bringing toilet up to the standards of the 21st century.

Modernising the Disabled Cubicle is the first of three projects planned by the APT trustees (Action for Pangbourne Toilets Charitable Trust) and fundraising for Project Two, the Modernisation of the Ladies, is now well underway. Project Three, will, of course be to modernise the Gents.

We are pleased to say that once again, APT is one of the Co-op Community Fund charities in Pangbourne. Last year APT received £5,300 from the community fund for Project One, which covered a substantial part of the cost of the work. The Co-op sets aside 2p in every £1 that is spent on Co-op branded products, this money is then shared between three local charities. If you want to help us and have a Co-op card, you can log into your account and nominate APT to receive all of your donations.

In addition the Greenham Common Trust are matchfunding up to £5000 in donations on Project 18253 on the Good Exchange Platform, simply log onto www.thegoodexchange.com and search for the project to make a donation.

The plan is to go ahead with Project Two in the Autumn of 2021, and with your support we are confident that this will happen.



PANGBOURNE VALLEY PLAYGROUP SCARECROW TRAIL

The Pangbourne Scarecrow trail was a huge success over October half term, raising over £1000 for our playgroup. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made a scarecrow, bought maps and helped us make the event a success. It was lovely to see so many families going round the village looking for scarecrows and there were so many brilliant creations! The best scarecrow was named the **Minion** by those who took part.



This event has raised vital funds for the Playgroup at a time when we are still struggling financially due to the effects of Covid 19.

The Playgroup would particularly like to thank Garlands, Little Labels and The Rhubarb Tree for selling maps for us and the Pangbourne Magazine for their support printing the maps and posters.



RE SOLUTIONS 2021

If something needs resolving and you don't resolve it, it'll still be unresolved.

What, if any are YOUR New Years resolutions (perhaps by the time you receive Pangbourne magazine they have gone by the wayside?). It could be the resolution you aspired to was one or more of the following * exercise more * control your weight * get organised * learn a new skill or hobby * live life to the fullest * save money/spend less money * quit/control addiction * quality time (if permitted) with family and friends * travel more (if permitted) * read more * or something completely different?

What's the solution to achieve your resolution? What may you have tried to solve and now want help to resolve?

As my youngest daughter Caitlin said "Gratitude changes your attitude and to be grateful for the good things you have".

How can hypnosis/hypnotherapy/hypnoanalysis help you achieve your 2021 resolutions, alleviate anxieties, boost self esteem/confidence and help you achieve exceptional results relating to life problems such as sleep, weight and addictions.

Book a consultation at my office in the heart of Reading . . . very near Reading railway station . . . we are so fortunate to have excellent regular trains from Pangbourne to Reading (if you can not face parking car in Reading!) As my youngest daughter Caitlin says "Gratitude changes your attitude" and "Doing the same thing over and over expecting different results is mad!" Her resolution is to continue enjoying first year of university.

My eldest daughter Jessica has resolved to study "Mental Health" at university in 2021 . . . I asked her for a quote but she resolved not to give one !

Jim Tubbs-Galley, Hypnotherapist and Reiki Master

THURSDAY CLUB

On behalf of our members we would like to thank Pangbourne Rotary for their very kind and generous donation towards the running of the Thursday Club, hopefully it won't be too long till we meet once more at The George Hotel.

We also received a donation from the proceeds of the Christmas Raffle 2019 which was organised by the Pangbourne Business Forum. Thank you all for your support and understanding especially of late during Covid. Most of our members have been isolating and dependant on others for shopping etc. Our volunteers have found the business's most helpful during this time.

Thank you.



PRESS RELEASE

Cheese Etc, The Pangbourne Cheese Shop was thrilled to announce the opening of its workshop at 15 Reading Road, Pangbourne.

Their new premises gave savvy customers who placed Christmas orders an easy point to pick up their cheese. Christmas orders placed before 13th December were made up in the new workshop and were available to collect from there the week before Christmas.

Jen Grimstone-Jones, business owner said, "We've been looking for addition space to make up customer orders for a while and are so pleased to be able to offer a speedy collection option for all our customers who place orders in advance. We send cheese to most places in the UK and have seen a surge in demand for this service with many people sending gifts to friends and family, so this workshop space will be a great addition to our shop."

Congratulations to Ali and Jen on recently becoming the Winner of the UK Cheesemonger of the Year at the Farm Shop and Deli Awards as well as Cheese Counter of the Year at the World Cheese Awards.

BEALE WILDLIFE PARK WELCOMES ITS FIRST WILD CAT – A LYNX NAMED FINN

A new lynx is making Beale Wildlife Park its home. Finn is a 15 month old Carpathian lynx (*Lynx lynx carpathicus*), a subspecies of the European lynx coming from the Carpathian basin (Romania, Slovakia and Hungary).

He is settling in very well and exploring his new enclosure. "He seems inquisitive and also very laid back," commented Andrew Nicholls (Curator). "He is a young adolescent and we hope, in time, to find him a mate."

His diet consists of a variety of natural meat and fish and he is beginning to get to know his animal keepers who are learning all about his personality.

Finn has the whole of the winter to get used to his new surroundings before the Park opens to visitors again on 8th February 2021. His natural habitat is across northern Europe so the temperatures in West Berkshire winter will not faze him at all.





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A huge thank you to all our customers for your continued support over 2020. We will be closed for our annual closure early part of January, and you can check the website for our updated hours that we'll be doing over the coming months.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy new year.

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CHURCH SERVICES

St James the Less, Pangbourne

January

Sunday 3rd

10 am Holy Communion St James

Sunday 10th

7.45 am BCP Holy Communion St James

10 am Zoom Worship Zoom

Sunday 17th

10 am Holy Communion St James

Sunday 24th

7.45 am BCP Holy Communion St James

10 am Zoom Worship Zoom

Sunday 31st

10 am Holy Communion St James

The current uncertainty means that services may change at short notice but up-to-date details of all worship is on our website www.pangbournechurches.org/services

COVID restrictions mean the number of people we can safely seat in St James is limited so it will be necessary to book seats in advance for all services. This can be done by emailing office.ptschurches@gmail.com.



February

Sunday 7th

10 am Holy Communion St James

Sunday 14th

7.45 am BCP Holy Communion St James

10 am Zoom Worship Zoom

Sunday 21st

10 am Holy Communion St James

Sunday 28th

7.45 am BCP Holy Communion St James

10 am Zoom Worship Zoom

Reflections on Remembrance Sunday 2020

As we all know, everything that took place in the last nine months of 2020 was different. However, that does not always mean that it was not as good, and so it proved for Remembrance Sunday. The gates to the War Memorial were open before 9.30 and soon two very smart Scouts and their Leader were placing wreaths on the Memorial. From then on various wreaths were laid, until just before 11 am those of the Parish Council and the Royal British Legion were placed. As soon as the church clock had struck 11 the two-minute silence began. It was gratifying to see traffic stopped on Pangbourne Hill at that time. Following the reading of the names, the Kohima Epitaph and the prayers, Rev Brian Tims made his way to the west end of the churchyard and placed wooden crosses and prayed at the War Graves that are in the churchyard. During this time one church bell tolled 57 times, once for each name remembered in Pangbourne every year.

This may not have been the usual parade and large service in the church but it was a very quiet and meaningful Act of Remembrance. The gates were left open until 4 pm and by then the number of wreaths, crosses, flowers and specially decorated stones had grown considerably. Thank you to all who made this special date so meaningful and memorable.



THE PARISH OF PANGBOURNE WITH TIDMARSH AND SULHAM

www.pangbournechurches.org

Parish Vacancy Update

The process is now underway to appoint a new rector for our parish. However, as is normal in the Church of England, this will take a number of months but we will let you know as soon as there is any further news.

Tuesday Tea Club Update

Sadly, it has not been possible to restart the Tuesday Tea Club so far but we hope it will be possible in the not-too-distant future. All those on our Tea Club list will be contacted as soon as we can start again safely.



NOAH'S ARK

10am on Friday mornings.

Check our website for specific dates:

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Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

10am on Wednesday,
17th February

St James the Less, Pangbourne

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The parishioners of St Bernadette's naturally support many charities throughout the year. These include CAFOD, Pax Christi, our twinned diocese in Bamenda, Cameroon, and Catholic missions at home and abroad.

However, through our **Parish Social Project**, we choose a charity to direct our specific focus on. We are currently supporting the work of a local charity, **Young People and Children First**, YPACF, based in Thatcham. YPACF provides supported housing for care leavers and homeless people aged 16-25 in West Berkshire. We are delighted to be supporting a local charity and especially one which can turn around the direction of a young person's life. In England 64% of looked after children are in care due to abuse or neglect, causing lasting trauma. One third of care leavers become homeless within the first two years of leaving care.



YPACF currently has two houses and plans to open a third in 2021. Each house has a 'trusted adult' who provides individual and holistic support. The three dogs they bring to work, Sasha, Lady and Ludo are also instrumental in relieving loneliness, anxiety and depression. The supported environment is bridging the gap between care and independent living. Currently 57% of the residents are in full-time employment, 14% are in full-time education and 14% are volunteering.

We have not been able to run as many fund-raising activities as we would have wished during 2020, but we have held some small events including an online quiz in December. We look forward to more community events to raise funds for this worthwhile cause in 2021.

If anyone is looking to support a local charity at this time then you can give via the DONATE button at the top of our parish webpage (select YPACF).

Happy New Year from all at St Bernadette's!

Lucy Gallagher

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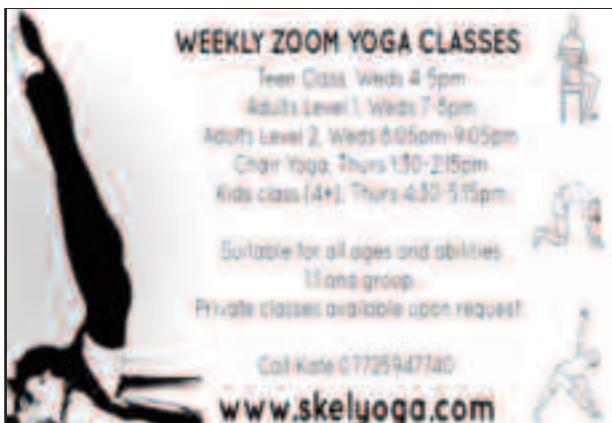
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Duration	45 minutes

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NAME: Victoria Rowland
CONTACT:
victoria.rowland@paul.williams.org.uk

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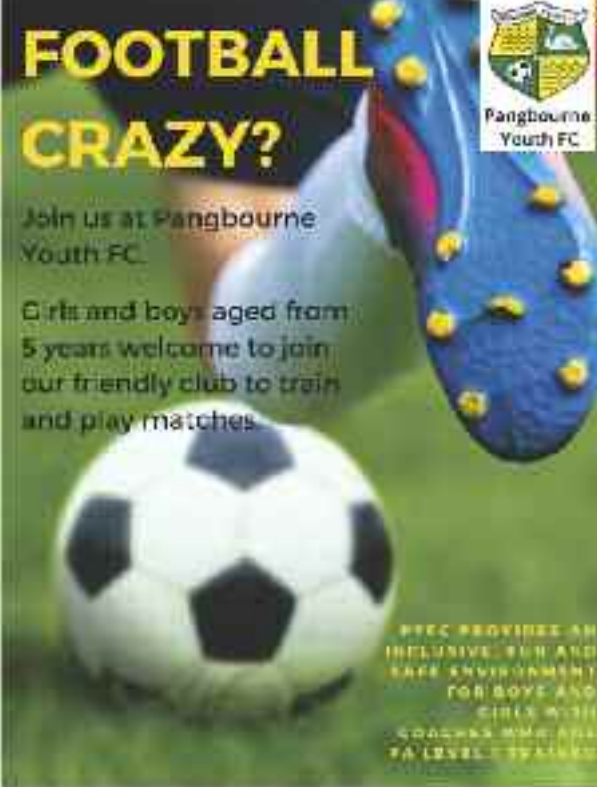


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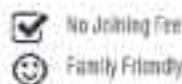


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Teams

- Crib 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

Visit us on Facebook

www.pangbourneclub.co.uk

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

We step in to January with a very varied and interesting January /February programme ahead – a positive Zoom Fest. Ian's (x2) images (*Member's Pics*) proves that there are images to be captured even at this time of year, not just images, good images.

JANUARY

Wed 6 – Jenny Hibbert MPAGB EFIAP/s AWPf shares her award winning images of river wildlife. Picture dragonflies, butterflies, salmon, otters and water voles to name just a few.

Wed 13 – 100 STRANGERS. Steve Myall EFIAP BPE4 recalls the project to approach and photograph 100 total strangers in the street. Lots of techniques, tips in both the photography and persuading strangers to agree to take part in this project.

Wed 20 – THE MONOPOLY PROJECT. Peter Merry LRPS 40 locations, walking over 70 miles photographing London sites included on the London Monopoly board. The project took one year to complete and tonight he shows the fruits of his labours which include images of a drug deal 'going down' in the West End and a Czech Army T-34 tank just off the Old Kent Road.

Wed 27 – CREATIVE FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY. Colin Harrison FRPS FIPF FBPE MFIAP MPAGB EFIAP/d3 MPSA AWPf APAGB shows how easy it is to take flower photographs and computer manipulate them in many software packages including Photoshop, Painter, Topaz and Studio 2.

FEBRUARY

Wed 3 – NATURAL HISTORY COMPETITION. This year's popular annual competition will be judged by Micki Aston CPAGB MCIOJ from the Windsor Photographic Society.

Wed 10 – ALONG THE SILK ROAD. Alan Colegrave ARPS BPE1 takes us on a photographic trip starting in Armenia and finishing in Kyrgyzstan visiting Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Wed 17 – SELF-DRIVE SAFARI IN NAMIBIA. Richard Gillams recalls his recent visit to Namibia, camping on the roof of a hired truck and driving across a large part of this Country. He found stunning landscapes, amazing wildlife and beautiful night skies. Camping and National Parks accommodation in Namibia and South Africa are great value and provide freedom to explore.

Tues 23 – ROSEBOWL COMPETITION Round Three. For the final round, our images wing their way to the Northfields Camera Club who meet in Ealing. They will be joined by images from the Stoke Poges and Marlow clubs.

Wed 24 – DIGITAL COMPETITION NO 3. 'Silhouettes and/or Shadows' is the set subject for Round 3 this season. Our images will be judged by Kevin Day from the Stoke Poges Photographic Club.

MEMBERS PICS – THE IANS



THAMES VALLEY AUTUMN

I captured this late on a sunny November day just as the sun was sinking, a deeper coloured light. On the screen the colours were 'muddled' introducing Photoshop Filter accentuated the golds and the reds – returning the scene to the image I had originally seen.

Ian Lewis



THE MOORS WITH PANG FLOODING

One of the many of local scenes I've captured over the years. Taken on a February day last year, I liked the browns and ochre's of winter mirrored in the flooded Pang.

Ian Nash

We will be continuing Zoom meetings until April when we will review the situation. Full details of all our meetings are on our website see below. Or you can ring our Chairman, Alan Copeland, on 01491 681471 for further information.

WHCC would like to wish you all A Loving and Prosperous 2021.

Lyn Higgs, WHCC

www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

POPPY APPEAL



This year has been very strange for the RBL due to the pandemic, not least the Annual Poppy Appeal. As I wrote in the last edition of this magazine, there were no street collections this year, but Poppy boxes and collection tins were distributed by our staunch Poppy Appeal Officer, Bob Logue, to the village businesses. Pangbourne village has always had a fantastic relationship with the RBL and never ceases to amaze with the generosity of the residents. Unfortunately, our second lockdown came during the Appeal period and the collection boxes had to be removed from all but “essential” businesses. Yet you all still managed to give so generously during these restrictive times and we raised a staggering £3035.70! Also, as we were unable to stage our Annual Dinner, our biggest fundraiser of the year, our Membership Officer set up a justgiving.com site enabling those who would otherwise have attended to donate the cost of their tickets – or more if they liked! – raising another fantastic £855! Please don’t forget, donating isn’t solely restricted to the Poppy Appeal period and can be done online at any time! (Apologies for my cheek!)

Thank you so much all of you out there who still found it in their heart to support this needy and worthwhile cause.

Also, as again mentioned in the last edition, only a very restricted Remembrance Sunday ceremony would be taking place on November 8th and the new lockdown curbed proceedings even further. Rather than the ceremony starting at 11am as I’d said, the laying of the wreaths started very early that morning. The children’s organisations offerings were already in place when the others commenced a staggered placement from around 10.30am. As we were unable to find the services of a bugler (the Pangbourne College bugler was committed to their own ceremony), there was no Last Post or Reveille which seemed hauntingly strange. The church clock struck 11 followed by the traditional two minutes silence. Even the Ocado delivery van driver stopped and observed this time. Thank you – I’m sure you know who I mean. The exultation was given by the President and the Roll of Honour for the fallen of Pangbourne delivered by the Chairman. The stand-in priest offered prayers and the ceremony closed with the tolling of the bell, one ring for each of our heroes. There was a good turnout of observers, all observing recommended safety measures. We do hope they found the ceremony to be appropriate considering the circumstances.

So all being well, 2021 will be kind to us in our fundraising and ceremonial activities. Scheduled for early Spring should be our Murder/Mystery evening at The George Hotel. We’ll keep you updated via this magazine. We’re keeping our fingers crossed we’ll all be in a better place by then!

Meantime, thank you so much once again for supporting such an important time in the Legion’s calendar.

Stay safe and well.

Denise Saunders – Branch Treasurer



GIRLGUIDING PANGBOURNE

As I write this and reflect over the year, and what a year it has been, I’ve realised how strong Girlguiding is in the village, even in the challenging times we have faced over the last few months.

I clearly remember having to suspend our face to face meetings back in March, thinking we would be back in a few weeks, but that wasn’t to be the case. As we headed into the summer term we all heard about this platform called “Zoom” and began to think could we use this and after setting up an account, we haven’t looked back since! Our Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers, and us leaders have embraced the technology and we all have continued with our Girlguiding journey.

We have done scavenger hunts, arts and crafts, games, bingo, made ferrero rocher, pizzas, flatbreads, butter and have enjoyed visits from the Cats Protection, our local Girlguiding peer educator looking at mental health and building resilience and body confidence, and the girls loved a visit from Lisa the goat. From September we were able to return to face to face Guiding, and it was amazing to see the girls in person again! We ran our units from the car park of the village hall and activities ranged from a night hike, to making lava lamps and dance routines with glow sticks. But I think the most important thing was just being there every week, a much needed little bit of “normal” for our girls and leaders alike.

As we think about the new year and try to plan what that may look like for us, one thing I do know is that our units will continue to offer an amazing programme of adventure, friendships, new opportunities and fun for our local girls and young women.

If you are interested in finding out more about Girlguiding, please give me a call on 07762 112921.

Helen – Unit Leader

THE PANGBOURNE BAND

What an utterly strange year this has been. Who, this time last year, could have predicted the first lock-down on 23 March followed by a plethora of rules and guidance from the Government to help lift lock-down and then a second lock-down on 5 November?

Inevitably this has wiped out our year as far as events and rehearsals are concerned: no village fetes; no bandstands; no beer & gin festival at the Elephant Hotel; no contests; no Christmas markets; no formal carol concerts! It is sad that so many events that support charities and bring a sense of fun and community spirit to local organisations have not taken place.

At the time of writing we are not sure if we will be able to play carols on the streets of Pangbourne; but we live in hope that things will ease a little by Christmas.

We did manage three rehearsals immediately before the second lock-down at Rushall Manor Farm in their Black Barn. We are grateful to them for letting us use their facilities while it was legal to do so and for supplying the chairs. Our first rehearsal was on Sunday afternoon 11 October and the other two were on our usual Wednesday nights.

Our thanks go to Rob Burnage for putting together a risk assessment, organising safety supplies, ensuring we were checked in properly on arrival and supervising the cleaning and layout of chairs. I am pleased to say that everyone who attended rehearsals followed the rules for each other's safety.

Just being together (socially distanced) and playing some old favourites lifted our spirits. Hopefully, we won't be too rusty when next you get to hear us again.

Other than the three rehearsals, we have been able to keep in touch on alternate Wednesdays during the year using Zoom and that has been a welcome treat for us. Some of us have even been able to use Zoom for music lessons.

In normal times we rehearse on Wednesday evenings at Pangbourne Village Hall, starting 7pm for The All-Comers Band and 8pm for the Brass Band. We are a friendly bunch of people and welcome new players so, when it is safe to do so, why not come along at 6.45pm if you are a learner (or trying a different instrument) or 8pm if you are a more experienced brass player?

David Paine, The Pangbourne Band

PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

After a disastrous year when we have been unable to play any games or matches, we are now looking forward to our new season which will start in April.

Behind the scenes, we have been hard at work in looking after the green and we have already arranged a full season of fixtures with other bowls clubs. For all this to work, we are looking for new members to join us and further information on this will be in our article in the next edition.

In the meantime, please make a note of our Open Day on Saturday, 17th April 2021. This will be your chance to come along and meet us and have a go at bowling for yourself. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Anyone interested in joining should contact alan@alancopeland.co.uk or visit our website www.pangbournebowls.co.uk.



Pangbourne Band getting ready to rehearse in the Black Barn on Sunday 11 October 2020.

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Trading Store is now closed for the winter season and will re-open the first weekend in February 2021. Please check the Society's website for further details regarding events.

Marion Dabbs – 9422349

ADVENTURE DOLPHIN

May I begin by wishing you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and much better New Year. We hope all are well and coping with what has been a very difficult year to date.

Just when we thought we could open and started a phased opening in October, things changed and we were back in lockdown. This has had a number of direct affects to our planned activity. This has been under constant review and we plan to re-open in December as I write this article.

This year has been difficult for everyone and has given us all the opportunity to reflect on what we do, and want to do in the future and what we no longer want to do. I have spoken to a number of readers who would like to come back as soon as possible, but that will vary from person to person depending on a multitude of factors.

The facilities group and Trustees have had a busy time behind the scenes in managing the closure and then recommissioning the building at the end of the first lockdown. This task was more complicated by having to make it compliant with all the Covid regulations. Next, the operations group for looking at how our club activities could restart, and for developing a simple set of rules which we had just started piloting with a gradual return to activities in October. We know how frustrating this has been for all those of you who use the building, and how difficult it has been for some who have organised sessions and events – including our AGM – and having them cancelled, or postponed.

We plan to hold our rescheduled AGM 21st January at 7pm, this is likely to be a virtual meeting, more details will be found on our web site.

This time, although the general lockdown has not been as inclusive as previously, I regret our activities had to close down again following National Governing Bodies guidance.

Just as lockdown started we completed the redecoration of the main areas of the Centre, this was needed after 10 years of fairly heavy use. So as we re-open people will be enjoying a brighter, fresher look, and we look forward to showing you. The Centre is available for both one off and regular bookings please contact bookings@adventuredolphin.co.uk.

Are you fed up with working from home, or want a more business like venue, we have reorganised our working spaces in our office and can now offer desk space and meeting areas. Should this be of interest please contact Angela on bookings@adventuredolphin.co.uk.

CLIMBING

Due to the size and ventilation in our climbing room, the advice we have received prevents us from running sessions for groups, but when the regulations are relaxed the team may be able to offer sessions to family groups/individuals prior to a full re-opening.



Marathon paddlers training when we were able to be on the river.

PADDLESPORT

Just before this current lockdown the marathon group had started training and the Sunday morning local paddles had restarted. Both have been interrupted and we plan to re-open on December 6th and 7th December respectively, following the rules we have put in place and recognising we are now in winter conditions.

LOWLAND LEADER

This year's cohort have now been assessed and are awaiting verification. The team has decided to not run a course in January as in past years, but hope to re-start when the regulations allow camping overnight stays for training and groups. Hopefully this will be later on in the year.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

We had just re-opened and had planned the Final Bronze practice and expedition, regrettably these have fallen foul of the new regulations. On a positive note many have been working on their other sections and those who have completed their Skills, Physical and Volunteering by Christmas will receive the Accolade Award for their efforts. The team delivered a weekly on line session for the group over the summer lockdown. We have just contacted the Silvers to meet up to discuss the programme for them to complete their Award next year. The Golds are still working on their other sections. We hope to recruit for our next cohort at Bronze, Silver and Gold around Easter after we have completed the delayed Bronze and Silver Expeditions.



D of E silver team setting up camp after a long days paddle to Henley.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Although the building is Covid secure we have left it to our community groups to re-start when ready. Pilates have already begun, and Scouts are looking to re-start. I hope the other long established groups will come back when they are ready.

TRUSTEES

This year Clive Williams will be stepping down after over 35 years of service, as are Ed Edwards, David Appleton and Joy Jamieson, all of whom have played key roles in the recent history of Adventure Dolphin. However this leaves a big gap that we need to fill, so please come forward and help if you can. We have the opportunity to push forward with new Ideas and initiatives so if you would like to be in the driving seat please let us know, email: info@adventuredolphin.co.uk or speak to any of the current Trustees or pop into the Centre and speak to Angela. You may be in a position to help, but do not want to be a trustee, so again please let us know. With the AGM coming up the Trustees are seeking members to come forward to join the group which has overall responsibility for the building, clubs and programmes.

OPERATIONS GROUP

As mentioned earlier the group has been working hard to re-open a programme safely and have come up with a set of rules to allow that. The group are continuing to meet every two months. The main focus is on developing a programme for next year.

A number of new ideas are being looked at to make the programmes more welcoming and more closely aligned to a wider choice of club activities:

- The feeling expressed at the last meeting was to cancel the Open Day and instead to arrange for taster sessions throughout the year.
- We have chosen to run a marathon race next year on Sunday 12th September 2021.
- We are planning to be in a position to offer courses next summer from Easter.
- Look to develop a paddle board section.

For more information on our activities please visit our website www.adventuredolphin.co.uk

In looking back over our year, last December I was reporting the River was in flood on red boards and any river activities were for the more expert paddlers, this continued through to February. We were just beginning to organise ourselves for the summer season when the lockdown occurred and the river was closed. We really hope the weather and vaccine will enable a new normal to be with us by this summer. The high point of the early summer was seeing the number of people who were out on the river on their new paddle boards. We are looking to start a paddle board section in the club next year.

This has been a very strange year and one I hope we will gradually recover from. It was so frustrating to have such a good summer and not being able to be out on the River, exploring the Hills and climbing. We all look forward to being in a much better place next year.

We wish you all a much better 2021 and hope you will come down and join us as the weather improves!

NEWS FROM PANGBOURNE'S FRIENDLIEST TENNIS CLUB

COME AND ENJOY TRYING/PLAYING TENNIS IN 2021

Pangbourne Tennis Club invites you to come and try tennis (for anyone new to it), to try it again (if you have played before) or to play it with us (if you currently play). We are a friendly club, welcoming to all abilities, from total beginners to regular league competitors, and all ages, from 4yrs old to 80yrs+.

Tennis is fun, Covid-friendly and on your doorstep. And experts tell us it is enough to keep a person fit and active into their 80s! Currently, you can take advantage of a winter membership, running to 31st March for just £10 for adults and £5 for children.

OUR CLUB WAS 2020'S BERKSHIRE LTA'S COACH OF THE YEAR – DAMIAN LANE

Damian has coached both adults and juniors at Pangbourne for many years. Damian is a great asset to the club, particularly because he is superb at tailoring his coaching so that everyone gets the most out of the sessions.

WINTER COACHING – STARTS ON SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY

Over the winter, Damian Lane will be coaching on Sundays from 11:30 to 13:00 from January to March. Come along for a trial session for free or book the sessions you want in advance. Lessons cost from £7.50 to £10 each depending on how many you commit to.

Full details and the booking form are on our website: www.pangbournetennis.org/coaching, or email us at info@pangbournetennis.org to find out more.

A SMASHING FINALE TO 2020

Members gathered on 12th December for our end of year festive tournament. The seasonal jumpers and Santa hats kept us warm on a breezy afternoon on court, before enjoying mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate.

SPRING IS ON THE WAY

Looking ahead to the warmer weather, our spring programme for adults gets underway on Tuesday 6th April, and junior coaching starts on Friday 23rd April. Register your interest by email us at info@pangbournetennis.org, or find out more about the club by coming down to one of the coaching sessions. The club is located between the river and the railway on the Recreation Ground.

*Pangbourne
Tennis Club
Committee*

pangbourne
tennisclub

PANGBOURNE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

With the Christmas season coming to an end, and the prospect of further Covid restrictions and the depths of winter before us, we thought that readers might like to try something new with the Twinning Association's virtual French language lessons. And why not experiment with the *Bûche de Noël* (Yule Log) recipe, sent from our friends in Houdan? Also, in case in Pangbourne we feel that our life with Covid is drab, we are publishing *verbatim* a letter in English from the Houdan Exchange Committee. The absence of kissing and handshakes (Paragraph 2) must remove a lot of the colour (and fun?) from French daily rituals.

FRENCH LANGUAGE LESSONS

The twinning Association is offering French language lessons at Beginner / Improver level with a professional teacher of French. Classes are of four people, via zoom.

Please contact Lauren Kilsby via our website pangbourne-twinning.org for more information.

BÛCHE DE NOËL

The Bûche de Noël, the French equivalent of our Yule Log, and literally translated as 'Christmas log', is the traditional modern dessert eaten by the French at the main meal on Christmas Day. It therefore has the same significance as our Christmas Pudding.

The French dessert represents what was originally an actual log, a tradition with its roots in pagan rituals associated with the Winter Solstice. The Yule Log was an entire tree, brought into the house with great ceremony. The larger end of the Log was placed in the hearth, with the rest sticking out into the room. It was lit from the remains of the previous year's Log, which had been carefully stored away for the year under the bed, because the Log was thought to determine a person's luck for the year. Also, it would provide protection for the household from lightning.

In Christian times a portion of the Yule Log was burnt each evening until Twelfth Night, so, if you read this before Wednesday 6 January, you still have time, as it were, to take part in the *Bûche de Noël* ritual – but we don't recommend leaving any part of your culinary creation under the bed until next Christmas.

MARCHER ET PARLER

This group (Walk and Talk) has proved very popular, and over the autumn has become MANGER ET PARLER (Eat and Talk). It will continue just as soon as Covid restrictions allow. Please contact Lauren Kilsby via our website pangbourne-twinning.org for more information.

HOUDAN TWINNING CHAIR'S BÛCHE DE NOËL (YULE LOG)

INGREDIENTS

2 mangoes	30g coconut powder
1 lime	75g caster sugar
3 eggs	2 sachets vanilla sugar
60g butter	75g flour
3 tablespoons milk	3 teaspoons baking powder
15cl cream	
200g white chocolate	



METHOD

STEP 1

Peel the two mangoes and remove the stones, chop the flesh into cubes and cook for 20 minutes at low temperature with the vanilla sugar and 30g of the butter.

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Butter a rectangular tray or use lightly buttered baking paper.

STEP 2

Separate the egg whites from the yolks. Mix the yolks with the caster sugar until the colour turns light cream, add the lime zest and mix. Add the flour, baking powder and the milk.

Whisk egg whites with a pinch of salt to stiff peaks. Add gently to the mixture without stirring too firmly.

Spread this mixture onto the baking tray and bake for 10 minutes. When baked, remove onto a damp kitchen cloth. Spread the mango compote and roll up the cake.

STEP 3

Chop up the chocolate and cover with very hot cream, blend with a whisker and add 2/3 of the coconut powder. Spread over the cake, then sprinkle the rest of the coconut powder on top and leave to cool in the fridge.

Add decorations of your choice.

THE PANDEMIC – A VIEW FROM FRANCE

Houdan, November 3rd 2020

Dear Friends,

We hope you are all well and we missed the exchanges this year. As we write, we are on Skype with our teacher, Laurence Dujardin, we would like to share the current situation with the Pangbourne team.

Since May, we were free to travel, we could go shopping in any shops but had to make sure we wore a mask and keep our distances with people, no kissing, no handshakes! Two weeks ago, the government enforced a curfew from 9.00 pm to 6.00 am.

Hospitals are now full and the government has enforced a second lockdown for a minimum of one month, however, this time schools are open everyday and children can eat at the canteen. All companies are open except cafés, restaurants, cinemas and theatres, leisure centers and "non-essential" shops. We are allowed to go out with a document which explains what we are doing.

During the first lockdown we worked a lot in the garden and we now pick fruits and vegetables. Children could not celebrate Halloween this year. We hope we can celebrate Christmas with our families, buy presents to exchange with people and organize a traditional French Christmas dinner. We cook a stuffed turkey with potatoes, mushrooms and chestnuts, for desert, we have a "bûche de Noël" which is a rolled sponge cake with chocolate cream and serve Champagne for drinks. We might not be allowed to gather too many people in one place... and hopefully Christmas trees will be delivered and children will be happy to decorate them. Our n°1 wish on our Christmas list is to remain in good health.

The government says this pandemic might last until March but there are signs a vaccine might be released sooner. As you probably know, we are very disturbed by all the measures that are taken by the government and you must feel the same. We wonder how you cope on your side.

The sports event we were due to organize in April was cancelled and we hope we can hold it next year, meanwhile we tried to keep this project afloat by holding little competitions between clubs (handball, football, tennis and table tennis). We are in contact with the Olympic Committee and wish we can organize a great event in 2024. Before that, we hope to continue the exchanges between us as soon as possible and are open to any ideas which can contribute to keep the link strong. We could set up a meeting through Skype to wish each other a happy new year (with Champagne says Beatrice!).

We hope you are looking after yourselves and that your families are not too isolated, it seems we will have to be very creative over the Christmas period if we cannot gather our families...

We wish you all the best for the coming future, let's keep in touch!

Kindest regards,

The Houdan Exchange Committee

A reply in French, setting out the situation in England, has been sent by the Association.

VISIT TO HOUDAN

We are hopeful of being able to visit Houdan in 2021, Covid permitting. If a visit is possible, it will be:

either Friday 30 April to Monday 3 May – our usual dates

or Friday 24 to Monday 27 September – this is the weekend of the Foire Saint-Mathieu at Houdan, a traditional fair founded in 1065 and claimed to be the oldest in Europe.

Please put these dates in your diary.

Bonne Année in 2021 to you all from the members of the Twinning Association.

Nigel Suffield-Jones and Lauren Kilsby



Houdan

PANGBOURNE HERITAGE GROUP

EDUCATING PANGBOURNE

The Reverend Heather Parbury once asked me why Pangbourne did not have a church school, understandably she was interested to know the answer. The short answer is that it is a long story dating back to 1685, when John Breedon, Lord of the Manor of Pangbourne, gave to his executors a piece of land for the purpose of establishing a free school for 12 poor boys, leading to an apprenticeship in a useful trade. The endowment also provided for a school master, and would be administered by the church and overseers of the poor. All very laudable, had the original wishes been fulfilled.



By the 1850s, the school house [known as the Breedon school] was in a state of collapse, the school master had flounced off and started his own school, not having been paid for months if not years. A court case resulted in the trustees winning the right to re establish the Breedon school, but the court costs were paid out of the apprenticeship fund, leaving very little to educate the boys.

Nationally, there was concern about the level of illiteracy, and thereby little chance of advancement for either boys or girls whose parents could not afford to pay for even the most basic lessons. In 1870 a law was passed by which all children should receive a free elementary education to the age of 12. In rural areas, or places where absentee landlords or indifferent clergy [as in Pangbourne] there was little interest in promoting this, and it took a forceful intervention by the local professional classes and village tradesmen to break the stranglehold of the clerical trustees, and insist that a free school be built to cater for all children, with a school master appointed by a new governing body.

This was not before time, as by 1890, only six boys and no girls received a free education, and eight pupils had been apprenticed in the last 14 years! A public enquiry was requested as the funds that should have been used for the purpose of the Breedon Educational Foundation appeared to have been squirreled away by the trustees.



No time was lost in planning a new school, to be built on Pangbourne Hill by Leonard Stokes, an architect of renown. In 1895 the Breedon school was closed due to lack of funds, and reopened on the site under the management of the new school board until the new school was ready. The original trustees of the Breedon Educational Fund, including the Reverend Finch were declared not fit to hold office due to the lack of transparent accounts, or any at all, and the fund was transferred to the parish, and is known today as the Breedon Trust, to which both boys and girls can apply for grants.



The new headmaster took over in 1896 and initially was horrified at the lack of discipline and achievement shown by his pupils. However, the move to new premises was welcomed, and the governing body headed by General Waddington showed a keen interest in the improvement of chances for the young pupils in spite of the shaky start. By 1901 there were 151 junior aged children and 83 infants. The school was grouped according to standards, but only two juniors were at the top level, and the infant room was very overcrowded. Most teachers were not certificated, but this was beginning to change, and in 1902 Local Education Authorities replaced School Boards and a more centralised approach improved standards.



The school Log books give an insight into the difficulties experienced by headteachers in maintaining staff levels, controlling epidemics which forced the school to close for weeks, and the effects of the first World War which began in 1914. Mr Varley retired in 1922 after 28 years of service to the school, and Mr Harber took his place. A year later Miss Patience Annetts became a certificated teacher at the school, one of the last of the Pupil Teacher regime, and remained there for her entire career, beloved of many of her infant pupils.

Gradually as Pangbourne became less dependent on agriculture or domestic service, as a source of employment, the opportunities arose for children to extend their education at secondary level, and seek employment either with a

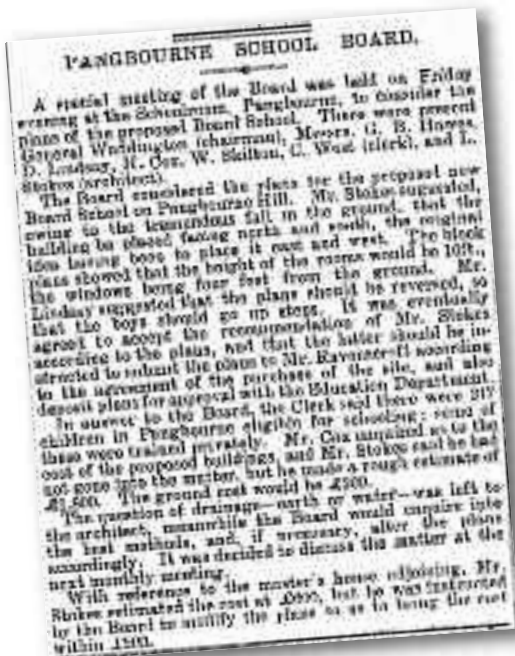
business or trade, nearby or further afield. There was still a lot of poverty, and children who lacked the basics, warm clothes and hygienic living conditions, but the establishment of the school on the hill gave them a start in life and improved expectations. It was a brave move on the part of the village community to set up a school in the face of opposition, and a leap of faith on the part of the rising middle classes to support the idea of education for all children regardless of background.

If you wondered why the development on the side of Pangbourne Hill is called Stokes View, now you know. The original building has been adapted to provide for a number of apartments. The headmaster's house has been rebuilt, and the school dinner hall [not part of the 1890's building] knocked down and replaced with new houses in a similar style.

Incidentally, Robert Stone, the miller was one of those promoting the idea of free education and the building of the new school. His grandson, Percy Stone junior, took over the redundant Breedon school building for his sales of milled products in the late 1940's, and his son Richard expanded and altered the business to Floristone. The school entrance has remained virtually untouched in spite of the many changes of management.

Lesley Crimp

(Photos courtesy of Jane Rawlins)





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PANGBOURNE ALLOTMENTS

A good gang of allotmenters turned out for the working party in October, and we managed to clear a large area and fill the skip whilst adhering to all Covid rules. Two new ploholders have been hard at work, so hopefully the top corner of the allotments will be productive again next year.

Harry Potter stood at the entrance to the Allotments for the Pang Valley Playgroup's Scarecrow Trail during the October half-term. He was made, complete with besom broom and magic wand, by Claire Middleton and her niece.



Cathy Pumphrey having a "Ta da" moment!

The new Parish Council noticeboard has now been erected, and there have been many favourable comments from all who use the public footpath. The PAA will now be able to tidy up the entrance and the compost bins by the side of the track – for many years used as the unofficial pinboard and rubbish dump for all and sundry.

Planning for spring is in full swing, with seed orders safely in. For those who are members of the NSALG, another order will go in to King's Seeds in January/February – so get studying their catalogue!

To apply for an allotment, contact
clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk
or phone Jo on 0118 984 5898.



Before . . . and after.






TENNIS MEMBERSHIP 2021

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PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Pangbourne Primary School has many success stories to share and good news items to celebrate! It has been a very busy but exciting term.



I can't believe it is the end of the Autumn term, time has flown by! It has certainly been a very busy start to this academic year which includes a few major changes with our processes and procedures as a result of these unprecedented Covid-19 times. It has been great to have the whole Pangbourne Primary family back together. One of the key skills we have been working on is confidence. There really is such a positive caring atmosphere in the school.

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD

Last year, M & M Productions put on a wonderful performance of *The Railway Children* in our very own school hall. We enjoyed it so much, we instantly booked them for *The Secret Garden* in 2020. However, Covid-19 regulations meant a change of plan; instead of bringing a troupe of actors with scenery, lighting and special effects, M & M Productions arrived as just one person, with a big screen and a projector. Such is the talent of the production company though, this didn't prevent them from putting on a wonderful performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. Most of the show was pre-recorded, with the one actor in school (character name Professor Stage) interacting with the action on screen. He jumped in and out of the screen, passed items onto the screen and even talked to the characters – at one point he even used a remote control to pause the Wicked Witch of the West. It was a great show, which all the children from Year 2 up thoroughly enjoyed. A massive thank you to FOPPS, who subsidised the show and to M & M Productions, who have already been booked for next year!

Children's comments:

"We all loved the show and hope we can watch another one soon!"

"I especially enjoyed the part when you made the Wicked Witch of the West freeze and then sing Frozen songs."

"I was amazed at how you managed to time it so it looked like Professor Stage was jumping in and out of the screen . . ."

"Your show made me laugh more than I have ever done before in my life!"



AUTUMN TERM 2020



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHR.../ASSEMBLIES

Although school looks and runs quite differently from normal, we are constantly finding ways to keep things as normal as possible for children. Because we can't all meet in the hall for school Assemblies at the moment, Mrs Fry has become an expert in digital assemblies. She has enjoyed travelling to different classes and celebrating children's successes, with other year groups joining in using Microsoft Teams. We have celebrated pupils who have displayed the school's learning values and given out House Point certificates. We were able to do two minutes silence on Remembrance Day, as a whole school, in this way too.

Mrs Fry has also been enjoying reading stories via video link and thanks to FOPPS, KS2 classes have been able to increase their class libraries with new books that celebrate diversity and cultural differences. Mrs Fry has enjoyed picking some of them out to read for Assembly.

As Christmas approaches, we continue to adapt our usual activities – Christmas Jumper Day, Christingle and Christmas lunch.

DIVERSITY

As part of Black History Month, children in Year 6 have been debating a range of issues that are important to them. One discussion centred around whether they thought it was a good idea to rename street names in Liverpool where they had links to slavery. We also turned our post box black and considered our feelings as the Royal Mail painted boxes black to honour black Britons and as a tribute to their staff. Children wrote their thoughts and pinned them to the post box which was then shown to younger children to prompt talk around Black History Month. We also ordered a new collection of Diversity books for the school.

CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 13th November, Pangbourne Primary School showed their support for Children in Need by going spotty. Children were invited to come to lessons wearing something spotty and official merchandise was sold at school in order to raise as much money as possible for the BBC fundraiser.

Although Pudsey wasn't allowed to visit us this year as he was following Lockdown rules, his PPS helpers worked hard to package all the spotty items ready for the children. Friday therefore saw spots on jumpers, trousers, socks and faces as everyone came together to raise money for this worthwhile cause. Altogether we raised an amazing £757.60!!



FOPPS, the Friends of Pangbourne Primary School, has been continuing to support the children's education

and experiences, now that the school is back open. The top priority for 2020/2021 is ICT and 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, and other activities and items to support the children's education and wellbeing.

PANGBOURNE 10K – YOUR WAY!

Unfortunately, due to restrictions on large gatherings imposed by the coronavirus pandemic we had to cancel the Pangbourne 10k in 2020. However, we created an amazing alternative event, **Pangbourne 10k – Your Way**. This event was open to all and aims to encourage increased fitness for runners, parents and children in the local area, as well as raise funds for FOPPS. We opened it for a whole month between Sunday 20 September and Sunday 18 October, with categories for individuals, families, teams and children. People could be sponsored, sponsor another runner, make a donation, or simply join in our virtual event and share your experiences with no cost. We are delighted to announce that the event raised over £2000 – enough for a brand new interactive whiteboard! Thank you to everyone who took part and sponsored our intrepid runners.

Unfortunately (but not unexpectedly) we had to cancel the annual **Fireworks Fiesta**, as we can't hold events with lots of people on school property. However the children all wore sparkly or bright clothes on Bonfire Night, raising over £200 in the process.

We do have several online ways to support our local charity. We have online and retail programmes – the West Berkshire Lottery and Amazon Smile.

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.

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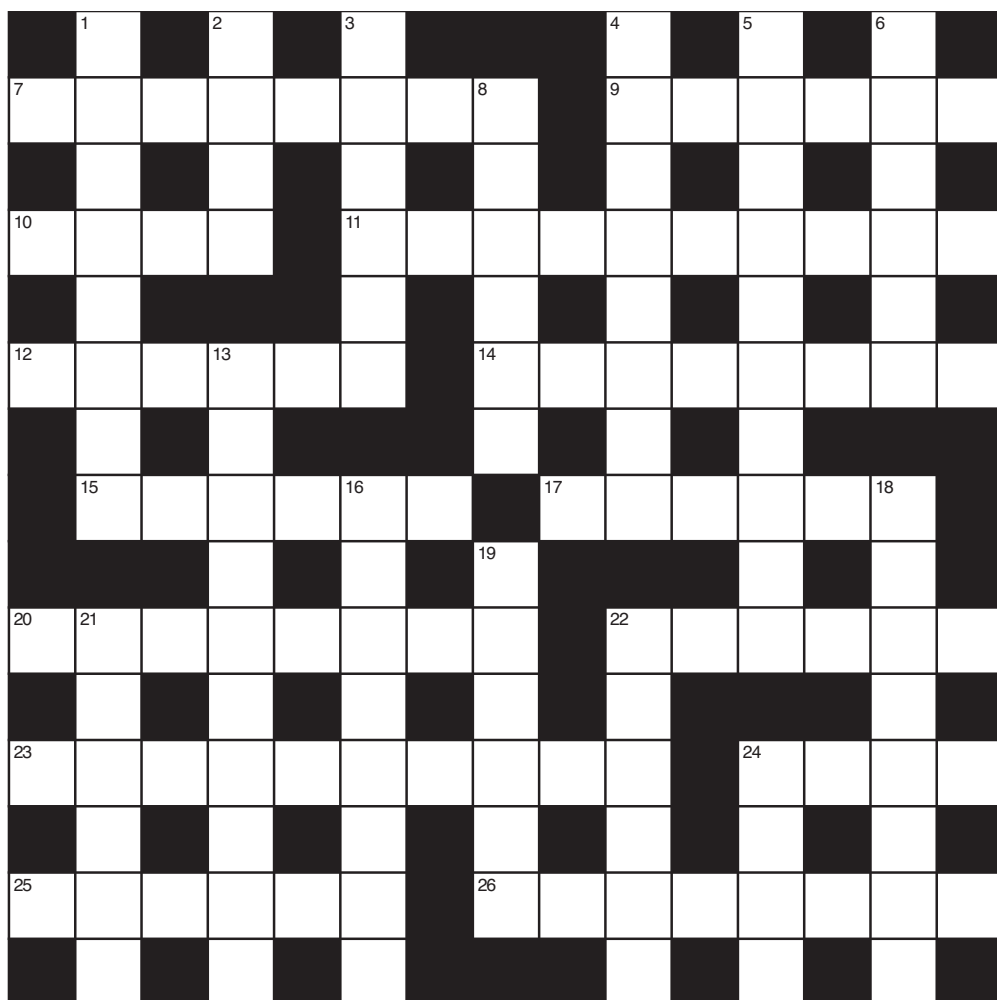


If you shop online at Amazon, you can now also help to raise funds for FOPPS. Next time you log on, navigate to smile.amazon.co.uk and choose to support Friends Of Pangbourne Primary School (FOPPS). AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same price and products, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a .05% of the net purchase price to FOPPS.

Finally as a reminder we do have a textile recycling bin just inside the school playground, so if you need to recycle some old clothes or shoes, do think of us.

As always if you would like to get involved, help or donate to your local primary school during these challenging times please contact us at info@fopps.org.uk.

CROSSWORD



CANTOR'S CROSSWORD NO. 15

ACROSS

7. Made it difficult by overacting (6,2)
9. "A _____ come to judgement!" Merchant of Venice (6)
10. Is it really all that glitters? Nothing new here (4)
11. Underground god here had established control over her, per se, landline link (10)
12. One Musketeer's moving performance sank into this – ridiculous (6)
14. It takes a devilish twist to produce food like this (8)
15. If you'll allow, let's see if these little fly-by-nights are the real thing (6)
17. The slight mix up to sort out here is real: it's the solution, that was promised (6)
20. To be revered initially in the east but got overcrowded (8)
22. Be precise – you need to cross the t's, having done what else? (6)
23. Here one really does bend the knee (10)
24. So now, ditch bank – and have a good laugh? (2-2)
25. Sounds like a strange place to shop (6)
26. Used to open an old window – on a new world? (4-4)

DOWN

1. Fussy end to this mythical kingdom's shining reputation and fame (2, 6)
2. Composer who winged it in his time (4)
3. Publicity briefly changes to suit needs (6)
4. Love to laze in the flora on the headland doing little or nothing (8)
5. No gradual metric overtake allowed here in our Imperial measure idiom (6,4)
6. By the sound of it, pretends to on passing-out parade (6)
8. Use your sense! If I fry up you'll need to get fresh, clean air in (6)
13. Praise be! Keep on turning that handle over, they chorused (10)
16. Do acrobats need to get rid of their glasses? (6)
18. Sounds like a nautical beach shelter (3,5)
19. They're must be found, somehow, within these directives (6)
21. Top church vision's views may oscillate here (3-3)
22. Do hold back, ultimately, from supporting the blessed man (6)
24. The pledge is a meal deal, including meat and wine (4)

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 43)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

For the first time in the College's history, due to the second COVID-19 lockdown in England, our Remembrance Sunday service and parade were cancelled this year. Instead, a pre-recorded Service of Remembrance was created by our Chaplain, Neil Jeffers, for the whole school community and shown on Remembrance Day. This was followed by an Upper Sixth-only parade organised by RSM Colin Hearn and supported by the school's Marching Band and Bandmaster Andrew Thornhill.

A film taken on the day shows a much-reduced number of pupils, and will act as a poignant reminder of how we've had to adapt to these unusual times. You can see the service and parade in two separate films on our YouTube channel.



YEAR 9 PUPILS DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVE

During the October half-term holiday, Pangbourne College pupils, Harry Standbridge, Lewis Hoey, Ed Badcock and Luca Peralta-Niewiarowski volunteered to organise and undertake a charity walk for the charity FareShare. This national charity takes good quality surplus food from across the food industry and distributes it to frontline charities and community groups.

On Saturday 31 October, despite the rain, the boys hiked 10 miles, with plenty of hill challenges along the way. Each carried a rucksack of food based on the minimum quantity that they would need to survive for a week.

Thomas Garnier, Headmaster, said: "We are very proud of the initiative they have demonstrated and their fundraising efforts. They have smashed their target of £200, raising over £1,000 so far!" If you would like to donate to FareShare, please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/luca-harry-ed-lewis>.



Charity walkers: Edward Badcock, Harry Standbridge, Lewis Hoey and Luca Peralta-Niewiarowski.

SPORTING SUCCESSES

We are very proud of our reputation for adding breadth and depth to every individual through our impressive co-curricular offering. Whilst we have had to cancel all our external hockey, rowing, and rugby fixtures this term, we have adapted our sports programme to include a greater variety of sports and internal tournaments for year group bubbles.

In recent months, Year 11 pupil Connor Jacob qualified for The Junior European Open finals, which is considered the toughest test in junior golf across Europe. In addition, Year 12 pupil Liam Turnbull has been selected for Hampshire Cricket's Under 17 team.

In November, England Hockey showcased Year 12 pupil, Megan Fergusson, in one of its 'inspiring story' videos. Megan, who was born without her lower left arm, plays in the Girls' 1st XI team as well as at county level for Basingstoke Ladies.

Megan says: "I've never let my disability hold me back in life and in Hockey. I've adapted and come through stronger as a result and I believe that I can achieve whatever those with two hands can achieve."



Megan Fergusson

Since Megan has appeared on England Hockey's YouTube channel, she has been interviewed by Olympian Jeanette Kwakye on BBC Radio London and Former Reading FC captain, Ady Williams, on BBC Radio Berkshire.

MUSIC SUCCESS AND NEWS

At the beginning of December, Year 11 Tuba-player, Daniel Ginn, achieved the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Associate Diploma. This now entitles him to add the letters ARSM after his surname, at the young age of just 16!

On Advent Sunday, the chamber choir and Headmaster took part in the first ever virtual Pangbourne & District Advent Carol Service. Andrew Mullins (Upper Sixth) sang the tenor solo in *Keep Watch, Take Heart!*, an anthem composed by our Director of Music, Chris McDade.

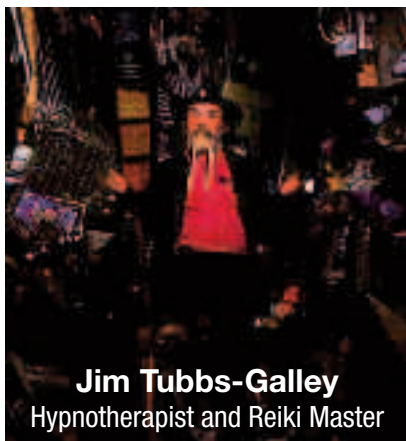
The school community then came together to create a virtual Carol Service, which is also available to view on our YouTube channel. We are all hopeful that our usual Christmas celebrations will be able to resume in 2021.

RESOLUTIONS - TRY HYPNOSIS » » » WORK - TRY HYPNOSIS » » » REST - TRY

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STOKES VIEW

Recalled in **Stokes View** is the architect who was responsible for a number of buildings in Pangbourne in the 1890s, including most obviously the shops and offices overlooking The Square.

Leonard Stokes was born in Southport, Lancashire in 1858 to a staunchly Catholic family. He trained in London and travelled to Germany and Italy. Most of his work covered Roman Catholic buildings, including churches, convents and schools, but he also designed a number of country houses and about 29 telephone exchanges, including the one at **Minster Road**, Reading. In 1919 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects, having been its President 1910-1912. He had an impish sense of humour, and for his official portrait he was painted in his dressing gown.



Leonard Stokes, in his dressing gown.

Stokes's involvement with Pangbourne followed immediately after the sale of the Breedon estate in 1894. DH Evans, the London Oxford Street draper, purchased **Shooters Hill Cottage**, once an ale house called the 'Hole in the Wall', plus 15 acres, and employed Stokes to alter and



Shooters Hill House.

extend the property. £60,000 was spent on the house, including the purchase price. In the specification was a picture gallery to house Evans's art collection, which doubled as a billiard room, and is now the Masonic Hall. Shooters Hill Cottage had very definitely become **Shooters Hill House!**

At about the same time Stokes was commissioned to design what became the **County Primary School** and **The Master's House**, the former now extended and converted into apartments and the latter a private residence. He felt drawn to Pangbourne, and put down roots. Still a bachelor, he first lived in a property where **WH Smith** now stands, but he soon moved to **Wierpool Cottage**, which he extended and altered from former fishermen's cottages. Several commissions in the village followed, including in 1897 the alterations to **Church Cottage**, to which Kenneth Grahame retired after writing *Wind in the Willows*.



Headmaster's House. It originally cost £500.

In 1899 DH Evans sponsored Stokes in the design of some of the dominant buildings in our village. As the art historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner writes, quoted by Jan Ward in her *The Leonard Stokes Directory*: "...THE SQUARE. Here, and along the bit of Whitchurch Road to the railway arch, a group of houses and shops... a nice quiet, yet varied composition." It is well worth standing with one's back to the Oxfam shop and, ignoring the ground floor premises, admiring the skill and balance of Stokes's work as represented by the floors above.

It is said that Stokes, then aged 40, first met Edith Gaine, who was 20, at the home of DH Evans. Edith's father, only seven years older than Stokes, had been appointed General Manager of the National Telephone Company in 1893, and it was through this connection that Stokes's architectural practice received a full order book of telephone exchanges. The couple were married in 1898 and moved to London, bringing to an end the association with Pangbourne.

The first school in Pangbourne was established by John Breedon, a highly respected London Alderman who had bought Pangbourne Manor in 1671, and was High Sheriff of Berkshire in 1675. On his death he left the money to pay and house a schoolmaster, who was to teach up to 12 boys from the village free of charge. The site, apparently originally four cottages, is now largely occupied at ground level by **Garlands, Costa and Ruby & Grace**.

By 1863 this school was considered ill-adapted to the needs of the parish. The school room, only just over 7 feet high, was replaced by a large new room, and the master's house was updated. Space for infants was added 1873-75, and further improvements were made in 1883. The whole is recalled in **The Old Breedon School**.

As Lesley Crimp has pointed out to me, unfortunately the school was very poorly managed by the trustees, and in any case, with 217 children eligible, the building was becoming too small. It was decided that a completely new school was required, which would also cater for girls and would be non-denominational. Enter Leonard Stokes. The new school became a County Primary School in 1904, for children aged 5 to 12, and then 14 as the school leaving age changed. The late Beryl Cox, a former pupil quoted by Joan Wilcox in her *Pangbourne – An Illustrated History*, recalled: "The school had a boys' football team and a girls' netball team. Bullying seemed to be unheard of in those days. Some children were able to sit for a scholarship to a Grammar or Secondary School. Children who did not have this opportunity left school at fourteen but were able to read, write, spell and add up. There was a lot to be thankful for."

The move to sell the school site was triggered in the 1970s by the plan for a Pangbourne bypass, to run from the A329, across the meadows beyond the Allotments, over the Tidmarsh Road, up Breedons Hill, through the School complex, over Pangbourne Hill and the railway, and rejoining the A329 towards Streatley. With the construction of the M4, that plan was abandoned.

The road network remains unaltered today, but the sale of the land on which the school stood did go ahead. The proceeds went to Berkshire County Council to build the Primary School in Kennedy Drive. The buildings comprising the school on Pangbourne Hill were converted to apartments, and are now surrounded by new houses, designed to blend in with and reflect many of Stokes's original features. He would surely have been pleased with his named legacy in Pangbourne, **Stokes View**.

Nigel Suffield-Jones



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PANGBOURNE AND WHITCHURCH SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Having just come to the end of our second Coronavirus lockdown I am pleased to say that PAWS has been business as usual via Zoom.

Following the success of our October meeting introducing the Warmer Streets initiative we repeated the meeting in November to increase our uptake. We hope that many of you will have taken up the opportunity to bring your home insulation up to date via the financial provision of the Green Homes Grant. For more information go to www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant and greenhomesgrant.campaign.gov.uk. For more information about Warmer Streets contact WestBerksCAN@gmail.com.



Our other event in November has been to watch the film *Planet of the Humans* written and directed by Jeff Gibbs, and executive produced by Michael Moore.

This controversial documentary film has evoked a great deal of criticism from environmental groups as being inaccurate in respect of data and statistical interpretation. It also seeks to find corruption within the renewables industry.

This film provoked a lively discussion among PAWS members in a Zoom meeting attended by about 20 people. The film in general was thought to be poorly made which was disappointing given the very good documentaries made by Michael Moore in the past. However, it gave us the opportunity to reflect on why we are part of the climate change lobby.

Some belong because they believe in the accepted science that predicts that our planet will suffer extensive damage as a result of climate change and that it will make large parts of the world unsustainable bringing suffering to millions of people, initiating mass migration and political instability worldwide.

Some belong primarily because they can already see the changes taking place in our natural world and the impact on biodiversity, where many species of flora and fauna are fighting a losing battle against the impact of carbon emissions and man's intrusion into their natural habitats.

One person was honest about their ambivalence regarding the technologies being used to create renewable energy. They feel that technological advance in wind power and solar comes at a cost to the aesthetic view of our beautiful countryside and changes our very lifestyle, for example, being able to cuddle up in front of a bright burning coal fire on a cold winter's evening. Our new energy practices will bring about changes in our world as we have known it since the discovery of fossil fuels.

Some have already embraced change through their work in the field of providing green energy alternatives into domestic and work environments and some have invested in expensive but low emission heating, via heat exchange systems etc and many own electric cars. Some cycle and walk rather than use the car and all subscribe to extensive recycling and reducing plastic waste. PAWS has focussed on these issues for many years, recognising that the best steps towards change are small, local and personal.



Some expressed their concerns regarding the politicisation of the climate issue as the inevitable changes needed to combat the destructive force we are facing need concerted effort from all political parties. Should we rely on capitalism with its emphasis on private profit, or socialism which requires the state to take control or can we develop a mixed economy approach which may enable the growth of an infrastructure necessary to provide clean energy and clean green living whilst encouraging the best of individual creativity?

The film did draw attention to issues regarding biomass and biofuels, reminding us that most actions will bring with them possible unintended

consequences and that the search for a carbon free environment will not be without pain, but that we need to explore every possible way forward to mitigate the unintended consequence of industrialisation.

It is obvious that climate issues provoke passionate feelings. The film presents the view that the power of vast corporations is now being extended into the renewable and green sectors and that this will lead inevitably to reduction of the moral imperative underpinning the climate movement. How true is this and if so, is this the only way to progress towards a world free from carbon emissions?

We had a very good discussion as a result of this flawed film, and felt that it emphasised the immensity of the climate crisis and the need for strong government leadership over an issue that attracts such individual views of our human experience. To watch the film go to [bing.com/videos](https://www.bing.com/videos).

Hot off the press is the announcement by Boris Johnson that the UK is committed to cut emissions by 68% by 2030 based on 1990 levels.

Roger Harrabin, BBC Environment correspondent, reports that the National Audit Office says the target "will affect the way we work, travel, heat our homes – even how much meat we eat".

Scientists including our own Professor Sir Brian Hoskins urged Mr Johnson to implement policies to back up these ambitions – currently the UK is slipping behind its existing targets. He told BBC news: "Mr Johnson's target is ambitious – but we need action to back it up, right now." He noted that Chancellor Rishi Sunak recently committed £127bn to the HS2 rail link and new roads – which will both increase emissions – while offering just £1bn to home insulation, which would reduce emissions. Currently 40% of UK carbon emissions come from our homes! For the full article see [bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-55179008](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-55179008)



This week the world has received hopeful news in the announcement of ready to go vaccines against the Corona virus which has had such a profound effect upon lives and economies worldwide. Hopefully by the time I write the next article we can be looking forward to our future and the future of our planet.

Heather Thorne

Visit our website www.pawsg.com
and join our Facebook group: PAWS (Pangbourne & Whitchurch Sustainability)

CANTOR'S CROSSWORD NO. 15 ANSWERS

Across

7 PLAYED UP, 9 DANIEL, 10 GOLD, 11 PERSEPHONE, 12 BATHOS, 14 FIENDISH, 15 OWLETS, 17 ISRAEL, 20 ESTEEMED, 22 DOTTED, 23 GENUFLECTS, 24 HA-HA, 25 BAZAAR, 26 SASH-CORD

Down

1 EL DORADO, 2 BYRD, 3 ADAPTS, 4 IDLENESS, 5 INCHED PAST, 6 FEINTS, 8 PURIFY, 13 HALLELUJAH, 16 TUMBLERS, 18 LEE SHORE, 19 EDICTS, 21 SEE-SAW, 22 DESIST, 24 HOCK

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES* AND ADVERTS†

	COPY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Issue 161 – March/April	5th February	25th February
Issue 162 – May/June	9th April	29th April

Please send all submissions to pangbourne@heraldgraphics.co.uk.
Please bear in mind the distribution date when including dates in your articles.
(*receipt of an article is not a guarantee of inclusion; †payment is required in full prior to publication)

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NEW YEAR 2021

As we enter a new year and leave 2020 firmly behind, Pangbourne Parish Council would like to offer New Year's wishes to all residents in what we hope will be a happier, healthier one as we potentially start to emerge from and overcome the worst effects of the covid-19 pandemic.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all residents, businesses and support services in Pangbourne who have worked tirelessly throughout the last twelve months or who offer their time as volunteers in a wide variety of roles.

Thanks to all those who have given up their time to help support the Parish Council or the Good Neighbours group over that time.

Best wishes to you and all your families.

From all Councillors and Staff at Pangbourne Parish Council

PANGBOURNE MEADOWS AND RECREATION GROUND CCTV

Many residents will I'm sure have spotted the recent works taking place at the River Meadows and Thames Avenue Recreation Ground. This is the foundation of a new CCTV network installation which when finished will cover both areas including the meadow track to help protect the various amenities at these sites. It is hoped that the system will be operational by the time this magazine is in circulation.

This is in response to the vandalism last year at the playground and recreation ground car park and to the continuing problems associated with anti-social behaviour which sadly detract from the enjoyment of these areas for everyone else.



PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL COVID-19 UPDATE

The parish's open spaces continue to operate and all facilities remain open in line with current government guidelines (as of December 2020).

Sporting facilities are operating in line with their relevant sporting association guidance.

The Village Hall is operating as a covid-19 secure location with all relevant social distancing measures in place and with reduced bookings.

The pandemic has affected Council finances with the protracted closure and reduced operation of the village hall this year having a particular impact. Although the Parish Council receives much of its funding from the Precept (raised from taxation), it also relies on income generated from its amenities, of which the hall is the largest. Bookings since March have fallen by approx. 90-95% for the year when many of the underlying running costs remain. We hope to be able to welcome the return of many community groups to the hall as soon as it is safe to do so and are very aware of how much these groups have been missed by all those who attend them.

In addition, costs in some areas, particularly dealing with litter and waste at the open spaces have risen in response to the effects of lockdown. The Council has received very limited support in the form of grants and rebates.

We are currently finalising budgets and expenditure plans for 21/22 and will provide a break down of the new plans in the next edition of the magazine once they are complete. In order to continue providing all our current services, we intend to spend from council reserves but will also need to increase the precept for the coming year. It is anticipated that this would cost an average band D property no more than an additional 13p per week.

In addition to its normal operating budget, the Parish Council still has ring fenced CIL funds available (Community Infrastructure Levy or Developer's Premium). These can ONLY be spent on repairing, replacing, renewing or providing new infrastructure within the parish. There are still a number of projects in work or planned for next year from these funds.

HIGHWAYS DRAINAGE

As we approach what is likely to be yet another wet and muddy winter it is a good time to focus on the matter of highways drainage and blocked drains throughout the village.

Did you know that you can report a blocked or overflowing public highways drain via the West Berkshire website under the report a problem section in the same way that seasonal potholes can also be reported. A simple description of the location of the blocked drain should be sufficient to be able to report it, however for those who wish to, you can use the interactive online map to find it's individual reference number and the date it was last cleared.

You can report a problem here:

<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem>

(options to follow are: Remove or tidy something/road/highway drainage)

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING AT FORMING A FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP AND NEED VOLUNTEERS FROM WITHIN THE VILLAGE TO HELP REPORT AND CHASE REPAIRS. IF YOU ARE ABLE AND WILLING TO HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK ON THE USUAL EMAIL DETAILS ABOVE.



COUNCIL NEWS

WARMER STREETS INITIATIVE

SAVE MONEY ON HOME EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

The Parish Council is keen to support local environmental initiatives and has been liaising with PAWS (Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability Group) about their involvement with the Warmer Streets initiative. This initiative is being led by West Berkshire Climate Action Network (WBCAN) in support of the UK Government's Green Homes Grant. This grant allows homeowners to receive a grant for up to two thirds of the cost of green home improvements up to £5,000 or 100% of the cost for homeowners on low incomes up to £10,000. The scheme only uses registered, approved installers and is a fantastic opportunity to not only 'go green' but to save £s over your household bills. At a time when lots of us are spending more time at home, why not use this opportunity to ensure your home is as energy efficient as possible. The approved supplier for this area is Insta Group and there is a further 10-15% discount available if you mention Warmer Streets when you enquire for a free survey with them. The Green Homes Grant scheme has now been extended to the end of March 2022.

www.instagramroup-homes.co.uk

www.gov.uk/apply-green-homes-grant

SCAMS

Unfortunately, since our last article there have continued to be a number of recent scam attempts in the parish and so we are re-publishing the information below again. Please make yourself aware of these and report anything suspicious to the police via 101 or 999 if you feel threatened or in danger. Please also make a report to actionfraud.

ONLINE EMAIL, TEXT AND MESSAGING FRAUD

There are a high number of HMRC, Banking and Card Frauds at the present time, plus the rise in online shopping is leading to an increase in online purchase fraud. If you receive any unsolicited messages regarding your bank, cards or any HMRC matters please do not click on any links or respond directly. If you wish to check whether a message is genuine, please contact your provider via the contact details publicly listed elsewhere on their websites or genuine source.

COURIER FRAUD

A local resident received a call from a male reporting to be from a bank and they were told to go to the Reading branch to hand over their bank cards. They were told that someone could come to collect the cards but the victim said no. A male then came to the door to take the cards, whilst the aggrieved was on phone to the male reporting to be from the bank. The male at the door was also trying to get the pin number of the cards. The aggrieved refused to give the cards and pin numbers.

On another similar incident in Pangbourne, the aggrieved received a call stating her bank cards were out of date, and that another man would be bringing new cards. A male came to the door. He gave the aggrieved an envelope which actually contained mobile cards. The aggrieved saw a small car with a black roof drive away.

We have also heard of other scams involving scammers knocking on doors with false offers of Covid-19 testing. You should never be asked to pay for a test or approached at the door.

"NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS"

What are Nottingham Knockers?

Door-to-door traders who try to sell goods on the doorstep, often cheap household items. They will often claim to be on a rehabilitation scheme trying to find work and may have a false trading permit or other forms of ID.

Nottingham Knockers are not part of any recognised rehabilitation scheme. The government-backed Community Payback scheme does not involve door-to-door sales.

What is the issue?

The conmen will cover a number of streets looking for a vulnerable victim they can scam. Concerned residents say they feel vulnerable in their own homes when they are approached in this way. Police say streets being targeted by the Nottingham Knockers often see an increase in distraction burglaries.

They say those going door-to-door often have long extensive criminal histories and anyone who gives them money may find themselves the target of other scams including rogue builders and other groups.

Police Emergency: t: 999

Action Fraud: t: 0300 123 2040 w: www.actionfraud.police.uk

Non-urgent matters: t: 101



PLANNING APPLICATIONS REVIEWED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL SINCE LAST ARTICLE

APP NO:	PROPOSAL	RECOMMENDATION
20/02240/ HOUSE	Demolition of existing garage, detached out building and two pitch roof rear dormers. Blue Daws, Pangbourne Hill RG8 7AS	COMMENT/OBJECTION
20/02329/ FULD	Section 73 - Application to vary Conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (materials), 4 (construction method statement) and 7 (drainage) of planning permission 20/01046/FULD - 5 Bedroom detached dwelling, detached garage and hardstanding. Former Camden Ridge, Riverview Road, Pangbourne	NO OBJECTION
20/02336/ HOUSE	Two storey front extension, single storey side extension, new orangery in place of existing rear extension, enlargement of the roof and general remodelling Hill Rising, Green Lane, Pangbourne RG8 8LD	NO OBJECTION
20/02094/ HOUSE	Erection of Brick Piers and Metal Parkland Railing Fencing 1 Sheffield Close, Pangbourne RG8 7GD	COMMENT/OBJECTION
20/02539/ HOUSE	Extension to side and rear 40 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JH	NO OBJECTION
20/02508/ FULD	Creation of a separate residential dwelling unit through the conversion of an existing redundant ancillary residential building. Oakleigh House, Bere Court Road, Pangbourne RG8 8JU	OBJECTION
20/02661/ LBC2	New awning to rear external drinking area with retractable canvas roof. The Swan Hotel, Shooters Hill, Pangbourne RG8 7DU	NO OBJECTION
20/02662/ FUL	New awning to rear external drinking area with retractable canvas roof. The Swan Hotel, Shooters Hill, Pangbourne RG8 7DU	NO OBJECTION
APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL:		
20/02259/ TPW	T1 - Sycamore Tree - Leaning towards neighbours' fence and property, with large decay pocket at base. To section fell to ground level and poison stump using Eco-Plugs. T2 - Sycamore (self-set) tree, located in pond wall - To fell to ground level. T3 - Sycamore - To remove one branch back to source which is growing over road to allow clearance for high sided vehicles. T4 - Sycamore, located opposite Fircroft - To remove one branch back to source which is growing over road to allow clearance for high sided vehicles. T5 - Turkey Oak, located in rear garden. To remove epicormic growth from main stem. T6 - Ash overhanging cabin opposite Dunheved - Lift canopy over cabin to give 2m clearance. T7 - Alder near T4, lift canopy to give 4-5m carriageway clearance. Fircroft, Cedar Drive, Pangbourne RG8 7BH	APPROVAL
20/01931/ LBC2	Replace two white, pine, single pane sash windows with two aesthetically identical white, pine, single pane sash windows. Both windows are to the rear of the property and are not visible from the public highway or public land. The windows are beyond repair as the base (and sides) have rotted through - allowing rain water to ingress impacting the internal untreated structural timber below. Please see photos provided. All other windows are repairable. 14 Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne RG8 7BP	APPROVAL

APP NO:	PROPOSAL	WBC DECISION
20/01999/ HOUSE	Replacement garden outbuilding South Lodge, Bere Court, Pangbourne	APPROVAL
20/02111/ HOUSE	New garden building including outdoor kitchen and external store/changing room Lower Stonehams, Pangbourne Hill RG8 8JS	APPROVAL
20/02352/ TPW	T1 - Field Maple - Growing at 45-degree angle over neighbouring property and garage. To section fell to ground level T2 - Field Maple - To reduce one branch growing adjacent to the fence line of the property 'Fircroft' by approx. 2m back to growth point to balance the tree's crown. Sakura, Cedar Drive, Pangbourne RG8 7BH	APPROVAL
20/02248/ COND2	Application for approval of details reserved by Condition 1 - Time limit, Condition 2 - Approved Plans and Condition 7 - Hours, of planning permission 16/03012/FULD (Demolition of existing single storey extension and garage and erection of new x 3 dwelling within existing garage footprint). 165 Bourne Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JT	WITHDRAWN
20/02147/ HOUSE	Single storey front extension 12 Chiltern Walk, Pangbourne RG8 7LE	APPROVAL
19/02333/ 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 APP/W0340/W/20/3249672 - Planning Appeal	APPROVAL
20/02076/ HOUSE	Single storey rear extension Valhalla, Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne RG8 7LB	APPROVAL
20/02336/ HOUSE	Two storey front extension, single storey side extension, new orangery in place of existing rear extension, enlargement of the roof and general remodelling Hill Rising, Green Lane, Pangbourne RG8 8LD	APPROVAL
20/02241/ COND1	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 'Schedule of works' of planning permission 20/01534/LBC2: Changes to Gutter area of Link Building to create new deeper gutter along line of Servants wing and to replace lead in gutter with Saranfil. Bere Court, Bere Court, Pangbourne	WITHDRAWN
	Tree Preservation Order 201/21/1020 Land at Camden Ridge, Riverview Rd, Pangbourne RG8 7AU	APPROVAL
20/02312/ 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	APPROVAL
20/02237/ HOUSE	Demolition of existing flat roof extension, conservatory and potting shed To be replaced with single storey rear extension 7 The Moors, Pangbourne RG8 7LP	APPROVAL
20/01801/ CERTE	Certificate of Lawfulness Application seeking confirmation that Attic flat 2-10 Whitchurch Road, 4-6 Whitchurch Road and 14 Mulberry House are all the same property 14 Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne RG8 7BP	REFUSAL

USEFUL NUMBERS

USEFUL NUMBERS

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	www.pangbourne-pc.gov.uk	0118 984 1118
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	Peter MacIver – peterpangbourne@gmail.com	07768 004844
VICE CHAIRMAN OF PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL		
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CLERK TO PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL		
	Becky Elkin – clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk	0118 984 1118
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THE PANGBOURNE MAGAZINE

Production/Advertising/Finance:
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Submission of articles* and adverts:
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*(*receipt of an article is not a guarantee of inclusion)*

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March/April Magazine:

Friday, 5th February 2021

(for distribution at the end of the month)

Distribution: Lucy Bromage – 07747 056193

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JASON, Technician at PR Motors



COVID-19 UPDATE

We are Covid secure and are offering all our usual services

We are also totally contactless

Thank you for your support

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Opening times: **Mon-Fri: 7:30am - 5:30pm**