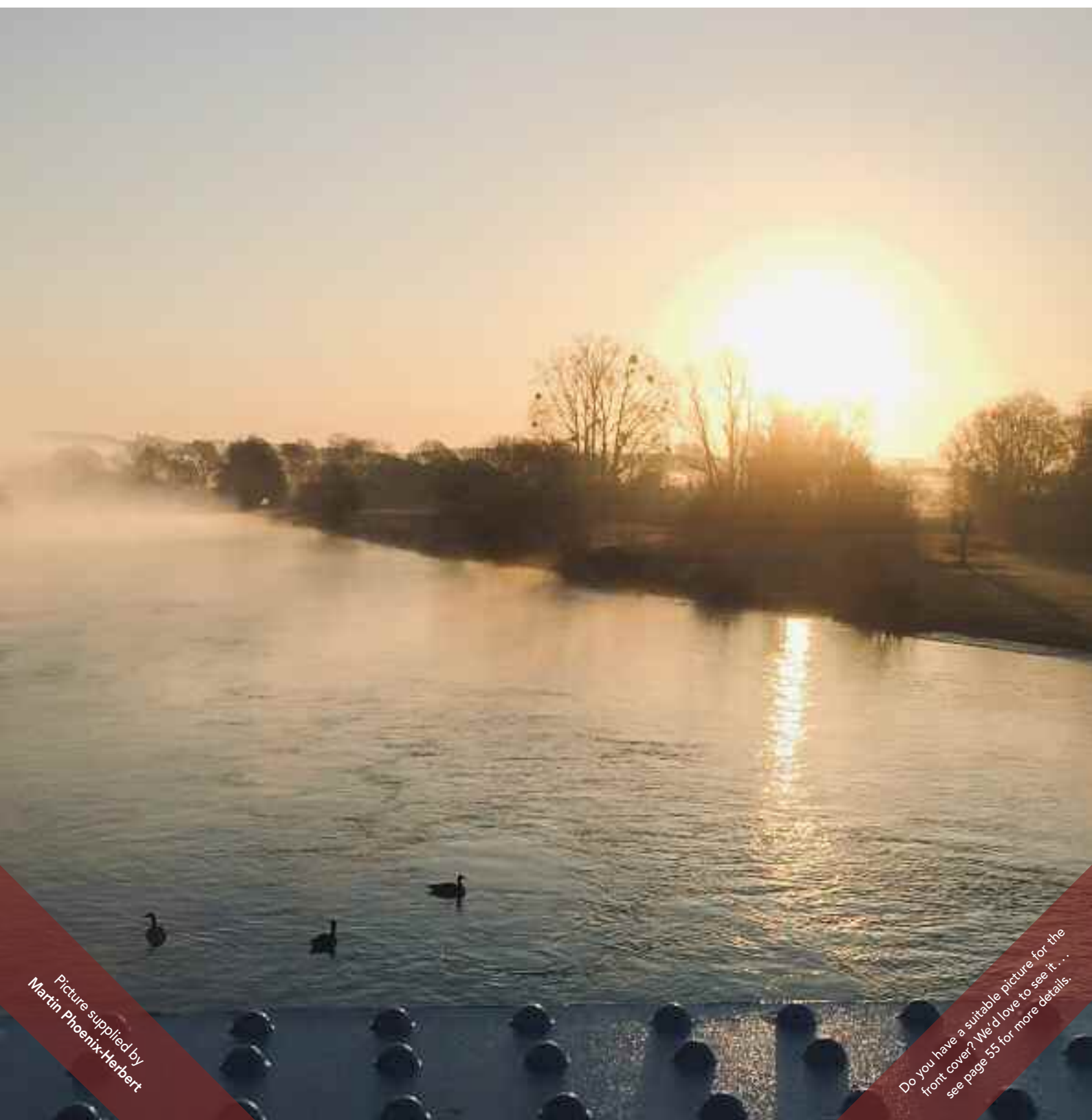


PANGBOURNE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 157

JULY/AUGUST 2020



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Martin Phoenix-Herbert

Do you have a suitable picture for the
front cover? We'd love to see it...
see page 55 for more details.

LAST FEW
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WELCOME BACK!



With lockdown easing and shops and services gradually re-opening from 15th June, many of Pangbourne High Street's businesses will be making a welcome return. Of course the pharmacy, post office, food and other essential retailers in the village have continued to open throughout lockdown and provide valuable services and much needed home deliveries to the local area for which we have all been very thankful.

As announced in the Government briefing on 9th June many non-essential retail outlets will now be allowed to join them in opening their doors from mid June. Please observe all social distancing measures. Restaurants, pubs and bars, as well as hairdressers, barbers, nail bars and related services all continue to remain closed until 4th July at the earliest (as at time of writing). To find out further details of which businesses are open and latest opening hours please contact individual businesses or visit their website.

| | | |
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| Abbots Shoe Repairs: . . . 0118 984 1155 | Franks Barbers: 07762 480 210 | Oxfam: 0118 984 3754 |
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| Cheese Shop: 0118 984 3323 | HR Owen Garage: 0333 240 8818 | Ruby & Grace: 0118 976 7652 |
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| Collins Hardware : 0118 984 2294 | Laughing Halibut: 0118 984 1614 | Simply Wine: 0118 984 2025 |
| Cooperative: 0118 984 2038 | Launderclean: 0118 984 2197 | Strutt and Parker: 0118 984 5757 |
| Costa Coffee: 0333 003 5883 | Lina Tandoori: 0118 984 5577 | Swan Hotel: 0118 984 4494 |
| Cozze Restaurant: 0118 984 5858 | Londis: 0118 984 3923 | Triangle Travel: 0118 984 4166 |
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| Davis Tate: 0118 984 5333 | Miahs: 0118 984 3731 | Vision Express: 0118 984 2428 |
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| Floating Point: 0118 327 2490 | O3 Interiors: 0118 984 1266 | Working Mens Club: 0118 984 2885 |
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JANE GRIFFITH WILLIAMS

21ST MARCH 1932 – 12TH MAY 2020

Jane passed away very peacefully the morning of 12th May 2020. Jane suffered a pulmonary embolism last August and spent several weeks in hospital. She returned home, with carers coming three times a day and then a "live-in" carer but unfortunately she took a turn for the worse and ended up back in hospital. It was impractical for Jane to return home to the village so she spent the last six months at Woodbury House, Farley Hill, where she was very happy and well cared for.



Jane grew up in Cranleigh Surrey with brothers Michael, Denis and David with whom she was very close. In fact it was through Denis that she met her husband John at the tender age of three days! At the age of eight, John though, showed no interest at all, being more occupied with boys' toys. Years went by and Jane went on to be a radiographer at Great Ormond Street and latterly chief radiographer at Moorfields Eye Hospital and it was there that their paths crossed again; John was a patient at the time. They rekindled their friendship, which led to their engagement in 1975 and subsequent marriage in Cranleigh Church, Surrey.

When they moved to Pangbourne she threw herself into village life and both John and Jane were involved in the Church, both sang in the choir and arranged the Lent Lunches being very particular how things were to be done. They also helped at the blood donations sessions in the village hall way back in the 70s. This they did for a great many years and woe betide you if you didn't stop for tea and biscuits! Jane was also a member of the Women's Institute and hosted the bridge group every Monday, teaching many people to play and passing on her skills. All the proceeds went to the ME Association. Apart from the Church choir, Jane sang in the Pangbourne Choral Society which she loved and also found time to sit on numerous village committees plus she was the catering organiser for the Volunteer Centre. Jane will be remembered for her kindness and concern for other people. She gave so much to the residents of Pages Gardens organising coffee mornings and games afternoons. In 1991 Jane was awarded the Jubilee Cup for her contribution to the village.

Apparently Jane was quite an accomplished artist and when she found time to sit and relax she would paint. Aside from all this she found time to "puppy walk" trainee guide dogs, which she did for over 20 years, training a total of 21 puppies: she didn't like it much when the puppies had to go back and do their proper training but she compared it to the children going off to university!! She had the little humans (children) in the village on the lookout for tin foil which she collected for the Guide dogs. The children loved this as when they dropped off their collection they would be able to play with the puppies. When the Thursday Club held "Refreshers Day" in the village hall she was in her element when we invited the Guides Dogs along . . . all her heavens had come at once. We also had a tiny puppy visit us at the Thursday Club one Thursday afternoon: she was so happy standing there cuddling this puppy, with a big beaming smile.



John and Jane were married for 25 years until John's passing with Parkinsons in 2002. Jane continued to enjoy an active life in the village and going on with many of her volunteer works. Jane was one of the early members of the Pangbourne Dementia Forum and as she had been diagnosed with early onset of dementia she thought it would be rather helpful having someone on the inside, "so to speak", able to describe her experiences to us and how she coped living with dementia. Jane continues to be the only person I have met who openly admitted she was living with dementia. Most people hide it away . . . NOT Jane she met it full on and participated in our committee meetings until the last twelve months when she took a back seat, enjoying the Thursday Club from the other view point.

Jane, may you find peace and happiness wherever you are, we thank you for the contribution you made to the Thursday Club . . . look after them puppies.

God Bless, from us all

PANGBOURNE VILLAGE MARKET

I hope all our customers have kept well during this difficult time. We are hoping to start up the market in the open air in the village hall car park. Our time will remain at 9.30 to 11.30am. We hope to restart on Friday the 19th or Saturday the 20th June. Once decided we will advertise around the village giving the actual day of the week. We will have a selection of home grown vegetables, local soft fruit, home grown cut flowers, preserves, cakes, plants, eggs and anything else that is available.



We do hope that our customers will return to support us. The village hall is not likely to be open for some months but we want to restart now open air markets are allowed. We look forward to seeing and will hope for good weather.

Felicity, Pangbourne Village Market

DEAR EDITOR

We would like to think that you are inundated with letters of a similar ilk so will not be surprised if – in fact, we even hope that – you do not use this particular letter!

However, we feel it is very important to express our appreciation of all those in Pangbourne who have worked so hard to help and sustain the residents of this lovely village, and those of its immediate neighbours, during the lockdown period. It is always dangerous to single people out but we think particular mention should be made of Collins with the Post Office, Greens, Garlands, Nino's, The Cheese Shop, Birch Bakery, the two Co-op stores and, most importantly, The Corner Chemist. It is also important to mention those who have continued with their jobs at the surgery, the Rector for looking after us spiritually, those at the Royal Mail delivery office, the refuse and recycling crews, those who have kept our essential services operating and many delivery drivers. Becky, Jo and Vanessa also deserve a huge vote of thanks for setting up a help scheme so efficiently, ahead of many other places, and continuing to maintain it.

Thanks also to those who have exercised, at a suitable distance, in the churchyard of St James which has looked so well kept and provided a pleasant route for a permitted walk.

Our sympathy goes to those who have had to close their businesses temporarily and hope that soon all will be open again. What will be important will be the continuation of our use of all these businesses now and going forward, as it has been proven how vital the independent providers are to our wellbeing and that of the village. May you all thrive in the years ahead.

We celebrated living 50 years in Pangbourne this April and have felt immeasurably fortunate to live here in this community with so much to offer. The last few weeks have endorsed this feeling so a huge thank you to all concerned.

Jill and Len Palfrey



APPLY FOR THE CO-OP LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND

The Co-op local Communities Fund supports projects across the UK that members care about. It is currently open but **applications must be completed by midnight on 28th June 2020**. If successful you'll be part of the Community Fund for 12 months from 25 October 2020 to 23 October 2021.

Three local causes will be chosen by the in-store teams of both Co-op Pangbourne and Co-op Petrol Pangbourne. Causes will need to fit in with Co-op's three main aims (under who can apply).

For more information visit <https://causes.coop.co.uk>.



PANGBOURNE TEACHER MAKING VITAL PPE FACE MASKS

Teacher of Design Technology (DT) and Assistant Housemistress for St George, Mrs Rosie Jewell, is taking the lead on a fantastic initiative, funded by the College, to create vital Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for NHS and care workers.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, the demand for PPE for nurses, doctors and care workers has soared, and manufacturers are struggling to keep up.

Mrs Jewell said: "My sister is a nurse at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH) – she's Lead Infection Control Nurse. When I spoke to her, she said they were very low on PPE as the demand is so high at the moment, and I wanted to do something to help. So far, the Design Technology Department here at the College has donated 15 boxes of gloves which went to the RBH and now I'm working on visors."

Mrs Jewell has been making a prototype of a visor which can be sent out to local care homes and hospices as well as the hospital. She said: "The visor prototypes have been made; we're just waiting for some acetate to arrive now. The prototype is made of different coloured thin HIPS (high impact polystyrene) which have been laser cut. The laser cut file was from a DT specialist who had given it out online for free which was nice, and now that we've laser cut all of those, the acetate will be hand cut and assembled onto the visors when we get them."

Reflecting on her plans for the project, Mrs Jewell added: "This has been fully funded by Pangbourne, and I am delighted that the College is so supportive of this project. We will have made 80 PPE masks by the time the acetate comes in, but my goal is 500 depending on the materials we can get. I think we're going to need them in the months to come."



*Rosie Jewell (L) and teacher
assemble PPE visors*

RUNNING A CARE HOME IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

THE COOMBE HOUSE, STREATLEY

We have been in unique and unprecedented times. Covid-19 has transformed our lifestyles more suddenly and more completely than ever before: the Covid-19 era. Whatever our age, occupation or stage in life, we have all been impacted and are now passing through a transition period to a “new normal”. This is a brief glimpse into our Care Home in this new environment. Although on the surface, all has changed, underneath, the same warmth and care continues.

We locked down in early March, almost two weeks before the official, nationwide lockdown. This has meant that no one except our Care Staff have been allowed to enter the Home unless essential. We reorganized by installing a temporary outside wash basin for washing hands, using a downstairs room for entry from the terrace to allow staff, now wearing scrubs to change before and after their duties. We had very little guidance at the beginning but managed to stock up on some PPE and also essential foods ‘just in case’!

We are lucky that we have some patio doors and a Conservatory, so that most people have easy access to the garden. It also means that health care professionals can easily visit without walking through the Home. The lovely weather has certainly helped everyone, as our residents have been able to sit and walk round the garden. We have enjoyed the son of one of our residents playing his violin weekly, not only outside his mother’s French window but all round the house and conservatory allowing everyone to enjoy the music. Morag, who had no previous connection with our Home, volunteered to come and play her saxophone in the garden. This was a delightful interlude! We also had a visit from the very local and most talented group “Bourne to Play”, who have visited us over the years, who played for residents listening from the conservatory.



Despite being in lockdown modern technology has enabled us to hold regular Holy Communion Services and to continue periodic afternoon talks. Thanks also to modern technology, residents have been able to speak regularly to their families. We bought a new Ipad specifically for this purpose. More simply, some families have visited and been able to chat through windows observing the guidelines current at the time.

Staff have discovered hidden talents in organising games, talks, and had lots of chats with our residents. Our local community have cheered us with gifts of chocolates, flowers and pampering products for our staff. We had a Victory Day celebration when we had a wartime menu of Lord Woolton pie, Corned Beef Hash and vegetables followed by glasses of fizz and a wartime quiz which triggered off many reminiscences.

Somehow, the months have flown by. We know that we are not “out of the woods” yet, but so far we have remained Covid free and will keep our strict infection control procedures, continue to limit visitors and hope to remain that way. Now that families can visit again, we’ve made a timetable for them and, observing social distance they can now chat freely in the open air of the garden. So we continue to remain positive, keep our lovely residents safe and well and hope for a vaccine or a treatment for this cruel virus in the not too distant future.

We’ll end with a poem which one of our residents, Bill Armstrong age 100, wrote – this moved staff to tears:

*Oh Carer Carer please do tell
What it is like where angels dwell.
They sit on clouds as white as snow
And gaze upon the earth below.
But all angels do not in heaven dwell
There are angels here on earth as well
And of these, we at Coombe, do have our share
And for us they do so kindly care.
When they have time, they stop and chat.
We talk of this and perhaps of that
Until by buzzer they are called elsewhere
To give to others their kindly care.*

Suzanne Howard and Sarah Windebank,
The Coombe House, Streatley



Coombe House
RESIDENTIAL CARE



NINO'S VEGBOXES FOR THE COMMUNITY

For those of you that were not aware, let us officially announce to everyone that our vegbox chapter has come to an end. And for others that didn't know about the scheme at all, I'll share with you what we've been up to at Nino's the last few months . . .

I started the scheme in early April when things were particularly bad, just after I paused the takeaway service. I suddenly had a lot of free time on my hands, (something which usually is in short supply . . .) and so I wanted to try and do something useful whilst keeping busy. I saw there was a real struggle with getting online supermarket delivery slots, so I started making up a few boxes of fresh produce thinking that maybe there would be a demand to help deliver them to local people in need. Well a demand there was! Within seven days of our first vegbox, we had over 400 local families asking for our help.

Fast forward to end of April and we were preparing up to 200 vegboxes a week on both weekly subscription and one-off basis for families. Alongside the vegboxes we were delivering a whole host of supplies such as flour, pastas, tinned goods, milk and eggs, (all delivered in a van very kindly donated by Rabbits Vehicle hire Caversham, for which we must all extend a huge thank you for!).

As lockdown then began to ease, we re-introduced our takeaway service, and it became apparent that our home delivery service was firstly less crucial, but also that I needed to start refocusing on the business. I took the decision to end the scheme, and we packed our last box early June. Suffice to say that surrounding myself day to day with such amazing colourful produce has been so incredibly wholesome at what is a dark time for us all, and it was an absolute pleasure to provide the service for you all. We did our last week of vegboxes the first week of June.

We've prepared just under 1500 boxes since we started the scheme, and although it's with a degree of sadness that I say goodbye to the veg, I know it's the necessary step to be able to forge a new albeit different future for the restaurant. To all those who have had a box, both weekly and occasionally, thank you for giving me a purpose during this time when I couldn't be a restaurateur. It's truly an experience I'll keep with me for a lifetime.

A massive thank you to Millgate (developer behind local development, Breedon Place) who very kindly donated £500 to help towards the cost of delivery and distribution, including van insurance and petrol, ensuring ongoing deliveries could be made to those who needed them most. Also special thanks also to our waitresses Emily and Katelyn who helped massively with both admin and logistics, and packing the boxes.

For now our takeaway pizza service is running Thursday-Sunday evenings (collection only), and I'm working hard to prepare and plan for a safe reopening of dine in as soon as it's allowed, and viable to do so. Keep an eye for updates on the website and of course in the next issue of this magazine!

Nino Junior



Pangbourne Club

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- Jazz 1st Sunday evening of every month (fee applies)
- Regular exercise classes
- Weekly raffles

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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

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There is currently no certainty when exactly the government will permit our Taproom and Kitchen to reopen, but we hope that it will be in the next few weeks and, please rest assured, we'll be letting everyone know when it does!

We will be introducing comprehensive social distancing and hygiene policies to ensure the safety of our customers and staff. We will be looking to make the most of our outdoor seating area, including an outdoor bar, and we will be providing a much reduced and simplified menu.

The shop remains open for draught and packaged beer collections.

Thank you for all your support over the last few months, it has enabled us to keep trading during these difficult times.

Nino's TRATTORIA ITALIANA

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Takeaway pizza service currently
Thursday-Sunday evenings (*collection only*).
See website for updated menu
and opening hours.



We're working hard to open our doors again as soon as we can. Safety of all our lovely customers is of utmost importance, and please know how greatly you're all missed during these difficult times.

Once it's safe (and viable) to reopen, we'll look forward to warmly welcoming you all back with the same big smiles you're used to. Keep safe and meanwhile come see us in the shop!

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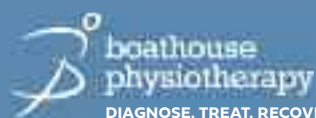
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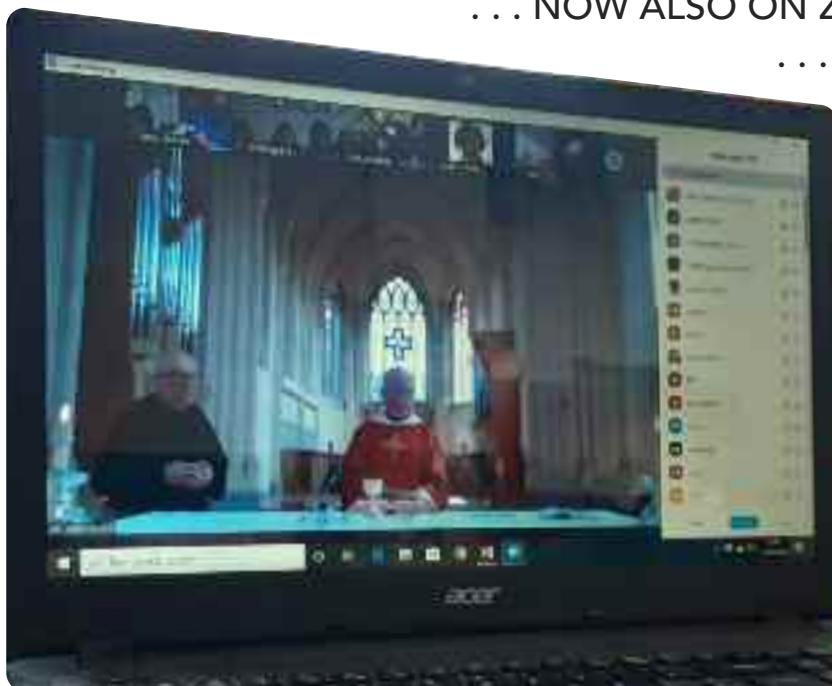
CHURCH NEWS

ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HORSESHOE ROAD

... NOW ALSO ON ZOOM

... AND ON YOUTUBE

... AND AT HOME!



In normal times, the congregation of St Bernadette's comes together each Sunday morning for Mass. So when the lockdown began in March, we lost our contact with this important sacrament. For those with internet access, many masses have been available online, so parishioners have enjoyed mass from other churches; some choosing local churches, some reacquainting themselves with their childhood home parishes, while others enjoyed streaming Mass from the Cathedral in Portsmouth.



St Bernadette's is part of the Woolhampton Parish and is served by Benedictine monks of Douai Abbey. We very much wanted to maintain our links with our fellow parishioners and our parish priests. Lockdown began during Lent so as Good Friday approached, we made plans for two services following the Stations of the Cross – one of which was for children. The children of the parish normally have their own liturgy each Sunday and we have been able to continue this with a weekly video which has proved very popular.

Within a couple of weeks of the start of lockdown we were arranging Zoom meetings for different committees, coffee sessions, bible study sessions, praying the rosary, and First Holy Communion preparation classes. All of these different activities helped to bring us together and keep us in touch. At the same time many phone calls were made to those unable to access the internet. It has been important to maintain contact with the most vulnerable and those who live alone.

Each week Fr Peter has recorded a video talk from inside the beautiful Douai Abbey church, and the parish videos have had thousands of views so far. The talents and efforts of both Fr Peter and members of the congregation have enabled us to join in live via the internet with Mass from the Abbey church. Musicians and singers have provided the music, and young and old have read. These have been brought together as a true parish celebration on both Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday when 71 households joined in.

This lockdown has been a strange time and a very difficult one for many in our community. We have been fortunate that we have been able to 'meet' with others in our parish through the use of technology. We look forward to the gradual re-opening of places of worship, but in the meantime, we shall continue to support each other in a safe way while remaining ever aware that we need personal contact in some form.

Lucy Gallagher
www.douaiparish.org.uk, 0118-971-5350



THE PARISH OF PANGBOURNE WITH TIDMARSH AND SULHAM

I know many of you are wondering when we will be able to gather once more in our village churches. The answer is that although we cannot put a date on reopening buildings once more, plans are being put in place for this to happen as soon as it can be safe to do so. There are strict guidelines for buildings opening to the public during the Covid-19 pandemic and we do know at the time of writing that we may not allow folks in until after July 4th at the earliest. We will then have to put in place adequate Covid-19 risk assessments and deep cleaning arrangements. This means the opening of church buildings throughout the country is likely to be a phased progression with some churches being able to open before others. We very much hope that in our parish we will have a facility for drop-in prayer as soon as we can, while gathered worship may take some weeks, or even months, more to resume.

You can join us for Christian worship in the parish weekly by Zoom, or with the wider church through streaming on the Oxford Diocese and Church of England websites: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>. Please contact Vanessa on office.ptschurches@gmail.com for an invitation to Zoom worship with your local congregation.

News updates and our weekly lockdown letter are available on the parish church website: www.pangbournechurches.org. Meanwhile please be assured that the church community is active on your behalf through the Covid-19 crisis. The Good Neighbour Scheme of volunteers is serving folks in all three villages and prayers are offered regularly by the ministry team and other members of church. Please ask if you would like particular prayer to be said for you and your loved ones. Phone 0118 984 2928 for both of these services.

The funeral was held on June 1st for Mrs Jane Griffith Williams with family attending. Jane is remembered with great affection by many throughout the parish, particularly for her long years of service to the community and faithful membership and support of local church and charities. We hope to have a memorial service in St James the Less church when possible.

I wish you all a safe and happy summer, and thank you for your prayers and for being good neighbours in these trying times.

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.

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PANGBOURNE ART GROUP

Pangbourne Art Group had their last meeting in early March before the lockdown. Since then we have been keeping in touch by email and regular newsletters from our Secretary, Maureen. She has also given us several painting projects to do, one being to pick a tree, and paint at each season as it changes (David Hockney has done this). Others have been to paint a sunset, a garden / or your garden, a room in your house and the latest one is a river scene being very appropriate for where most of us live.

We've also managed two committee meetings via Zoom with the help of our technical wizard, Debbie. Many members took part in a *Desert Island Choices* where members were invited to send in: five favourite paintings; five favourite pieces of music; a favourite film; a favourite book; choose a celebrity / well known person (alive or dead) you would like to invite to dinner. This was popular and we had quite a few very interesting entries.

Another of our members, Robert Kidner sent in an Art Quiz for us to get 'our little grey cells' working.

We had lockdown reflections from several members about what was keeping them occupied, such as going for walks and seeing family and friends via zoom, and of course producing some great Art works.

There are lots of workshops, painting demonstrations, paint along sessions on YouTube to keep our interest.

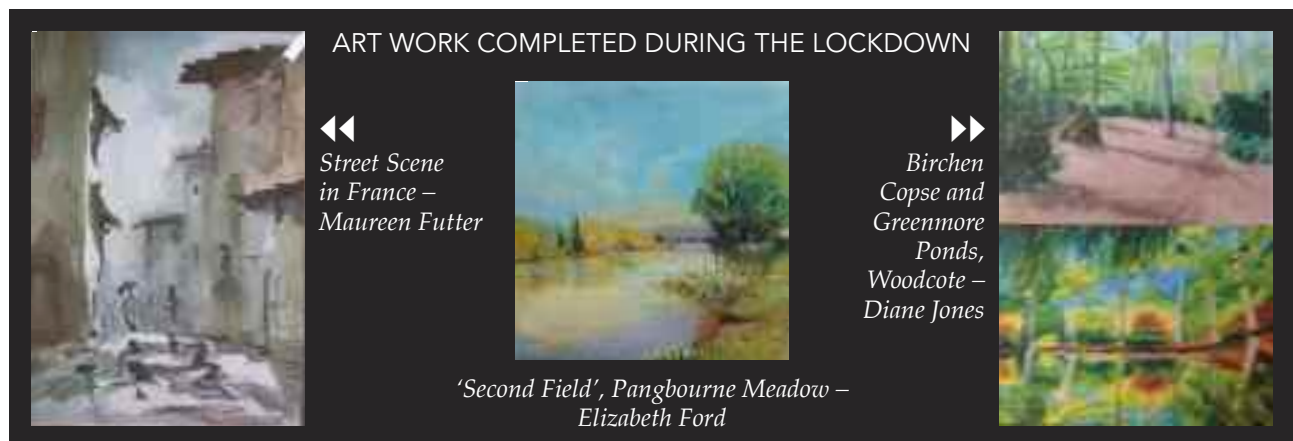
Unfortunately, our two workshops for the year were cancelled. The first one at the end of March was to be with one of our favourite artists, Paul Weaver, who was showing us how to do a *Market Scene in Watercolour*. The second was to have been in September, with Mark Warner, a 'plein air' Artist who was new to us, but we were really looking forward to his workshop. He was going to do an Acrylic painting for us to attempt . . . hopefully they may both be able to come to us in 2021.

Unfortunately our Annual Art Exhibition in October has also been cancelled. We hope very much to be able to hold it in 2021.

This lockdown has been a time of reflection and taking life at a slower pace, and for lots of us to paint more often, those that are able to go out for walks and observe nature and give us inspiration for a painting, sketch. Also enjoy watching some programmes on TV with an Art content.

We do hope that we will be able to return to the Village Hall sometime this year, but of course it all depends on the control of the virus, and keeping everyone safe. There will have to be many changes on our return, with a 'new normal' way of life.

Elizabeth Ford, Pangbourne Art Group



PANGBOURNE BOWLS CLUB

Our club has been part of the village life of Pangbourne for nearly 100 years and we intend to be around for many years to come. We are a very friendly group and enjoy meeting up in the Summer for not only a game of bowls but much more besides.

We will shortly be celebrating our big centenary year in 2022, just two years away, when we are planning a number of special events for our bowlers. Before then, however, we need to make sure we continue to grow and become the leading bowling club in the area. To do this, we need new people to join us – both men and women and possibly young people.

Our bowling green is at the Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne where parking is free. Once the current lockdown is lifted, we look forward to welcoming new members to our club.

For further details, please contact Alan Copeland by e-mail to alan@alancopeland.co.uk or by phone on 01491 681471. Alternatively, have a look at our website at: www.pangbournebowls.co.uk.



PANGBOURNE HERITAGE GROUP

JULY/AUGUST

I am unable to write a report, as we have not had a group meeting since February, and it seems unlikely we will be back before Autumn this year. However, many of us have been enjoying the glorious weather, and a bonus has been the opportunity to spend time on the Thameside river meadow.

To take you back to the last issue of the Magazine, the article to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day described the use of the meadow to train troops in Bridge Building from 1939-1944, when the last of the Engineers left for northern France to take part in D Day. The importance of this training is not to be forgotten. No recreational activity could take place on the River Meadow for a number of years, and the evidence of the troops in and around the village was evident in the mementoes they left behind.

A casualty of the Covid-19 lockdown this Spring was the VE Anniversary Exhibition at the Berkshire Records Office, which the Heritage Group had been planning to attend. One of our committee and project group members, Ellie Thorne was one of the organisers, and she was able to give us a link to the contents: www.throughthereyesWW2.com. Those of you who looked at the link would have seen some items relating to the time spent by soldiers in Pangbourne, both when training and also in making use of the canteens set up in two of the Pangbourne churches (now residential properties).

The photographs accompanying this article show three different phases of the River Meadow, firstly in the black and white photo, when it was used by young swimmers (there were often cows munching grass in the background during this time), and secondly the closure in 2013 for the rebuilding of Whitchurch Bridge, when once again the heavy vehicles and platforms rendered the area out of bounds.

A few days ago, I walked along the Thames path from Pangbourne to Mapledurham Lock, and was struck by the number of visitors who could enjoy being by the river quite safely, and without breaking any rules about social distancing. There were swimmers (a few), paddle boarders, canoeists, readers, games players, cyclists, and lunch partakers. The ducks, geese and swans were around for the entertainment of small children, and somehow the atmosphere seemed to be timeless, this was the Meadow restored to being recreational, and more than just a green lung for villagers and visitors alike. Since the 1900s, when Pangbourne became known as a destination to be explored and enjoyed, activities on the Thames or the surrounding open space have put the village on the map.

The sad days of the war years are not forgotten, and can be reflected on with pride. The current restrictions have brought out the best in people, but all of us need some therapy at times, and our access to such beautiful surroundings provide this.

I hope that next time around, we will be reporting on what the plans are for the rest of the year, but in the meantime, have a good summer.

Lesley Crimp



Pangbourne Meadow 1930s



Bridge works 2013



GORING GAP BOAT CLUB

BACK TO THE WATER, SLOWLY BUT SURELY . . .



Spring 2020 will be long remembered as one with many challenges as people and businesses got to grips with what lockdown meant for them. For Goring Gap Boat Club, it was no different – we went from a wet winter restricting many months of rowing only to be struck by lockdown just as the weather turned to glorious British springtime.

Finally, we have now been able to open our doors again. Whilst at the time of writing we can only allow single sculling and same household doubles, GGBC are working hard to enable more members the opportunity to row via singles coaching sessions. Led by our one of our Captains of Rowing, Richard Berkley, and supported by our club coaches, the sessions have been very successful. Encouraging old and new rowers alike to get back on the water, safely.

At a time when many of us find ourselves at home more than ever, if you are considering something new, or indeed may be an old hand wanting to return to the water, please do get in touch. Whilst we may not be able to offer the traditional GGBC experience of our general weekly sessions rowing in larger boats, please keep an eye on our website www.goringgapbc.org.uk/. We are working to respond as quickly as possible as guidelines on restrictions change and are always happy to talk to prospective new members.

Goring Gap Boat Club . . . Get on Board . . . Recreational Rowing for the Community

ACTION FOR PANGBOURNE TOILETS CHARITABLE TRUST

The trustees of the APT decided at the beginning of lockdown that they would make every effort to keep the Station Road toilet block open during the Covid crisis to ensure that the facility was available for key workers and trade people at all times. Fortunately, the cleaning company has been able to provide staff to maintain cleanliness throughout the crisis. Of course, the usage of the toilets dropped dramatically throughout April and May, but still 25-30 people were making use of the facility on a daily basis and several very appreciative comments have been made by the public. It is anticipated that usage will resume to more normal levels as the restrictions are gradually lifted.

The APT have now put out to tender the work to modernise the toilet block, starting first with the disabled toilet and secondly the Ladies section of the block. If the work for both comes within budget, the two projects will be done simultaneously, and if all goes to plan, the trustees hope that work can commence by the end of 2020.

The Gents modernisation will follow on as soon as enough money becomes available through continual fundraising activities and grants, in addition to the support that we already receive from Pangbourne PC and other nearby parish councils to maintain the block.



Jackie Malcolm, Trustee

RNLI

As many of our valued supporters know, we usually hold an Autumn Event at some point in October, to raise funds for our truly worthy cause. Given the current situation we cannot be certain what restrictions and/or guidance will be in place by then! However, we are optimists at heart so our committee made the decision to plan an event on the basis that we may be able to stage something with appropriate restrictions at the time – possibly!

Therefore, all being well, we are planning another Quiz Evening. These quizzes, in their various guises, according to feedback received, have proved immensely popular. To date, our themes have included James Bond, Cinema, Halloween and Decades. We hope you'll like the theme for this year! It will be General Knowledge, interspersed with CHRISTMAS! We hope to decorate the hall – along with guidelines at the time – in true Christmas tradition and hope that our attendees will dress up appropriately! As with our other quizzes, this has always proved popular and has really helped getting into the spirit of the evening!

Subject to the guidelines at the time, we will have a Fish and Chips supper, bar and souvenir stall where you'll be able to purchase your RNLI Christmas cards. The planned date is October 23rd at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and tickets will be £10. Confirmation of the event and more details will be announced in the September edition of this magazine. This is just over three months away, so we hope the situation will enable us to go ahead in some form or another to raise much needed funds for our wonderful cause!



Stay safe and well.

Denise Saunders, Committee

Lifeboats

GIRL GUIDES

1ST BASILDON RAINBOWS

We have had a busy term so far, despite the current circumstances we are meeting virtually with our members and doing all sorts of things online – cooking, craft, games and scavenger hunts.

We meet fortnightly and are for girls aged five to seven years old.

1ST PANGBOURNE BROWNIES

Brownies are for girls aged seven to ten years and at the moment we are running a programme similar to our Rainbow unit.

1ST PANGBOURNE GUIDES

Back in March we had the most amazing evening on the role of Girl Guides in World War Two. I will leave it to Louisa to tell you what we learnt! (*see below*)

As with the Rainbows, we are “zooming” with our members weekly, and enjoying the usual routine of a “monday night at Guides” even though it is somewhat different.

PANG VALLEY RANGERS

This group is for young ladies aged 14 to 18 and many of our members also help with the local units. We meet monthly and do all sorts of things, usually you can guarantee it includes food and a good old chat as well.

I appreciate that as I write this we are still easing our way out of lockdown, and as soon as we are able to, we will back in the village hall, but for the meantime we will run with a virtual programme.

If you would like to find out more about Girlguiding please do contact Helen on 07762112921.

GIRL GUIDES: THE FORGOTTEN ARMY

It was the year 1939, with war raging in Europe and soon to spread across the globe, the Girl Guides – an association still less than 50 years old, were soon to play a pivotal role in the war effort that would put their badges to the test.

At the time, there were 750,000 Guides in the UK. This included Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. Many Guides had completed highly useful badges: Electrician, Cyclist, Surveyor and Telegraphist to name a few. Teen girls across the UK would prove to be vital for keeping up moral.

One of the Guides' first tasks was to assist with the evacuation of England's children to the countryside. Many of the city evacuees had never seen farm animals first hand and consequently the Guides were tasked with teaching them about country customs and cleaning houses for the children. A large portion of the Guides also worked to raise money for the Red Cross and helped the injured at hospitals. In addition, the devoted and hardworking girls took on a great deal of responsibilities to help their community, such as whitewashing the curbs to increase visibility in blackouts and distributing gas masks to citizens. During air raids, they would entertain the rest of their bomb shelter with “Blackout blues” (At the time, many Guides played an instrument).



Perhaps the most interesting venture of the Guides happened in 1941, when the government asked the Brownies and Guides to collect empty cotton reels for a classified purpose. Forever efficient, they collected 15,000 of them from residences in their area. Until recently, the purpose of these seemingly useless items has been a secret kept to MI9. However, de-classified files show that maps and money were hidden inside the reels and sent to prisoner of war camps to be found by the British men who had been captured. It may never be known how many of the cotton reels helped the prisoners escape.

On the shores of Dunkirk, over 300,000 soldiers waited for British boats and a chance to evacuate. One of the boats that rescued them was a boat paid for by the Guides, who had similarly raised money (around £50,000) for ambulances. The Girl Guides could be referred to as the embodiment of the home front spirit. Digging bomb shelters, building emergency ovens and knitting for soldiers. Many Guides even learnt Morse code!

Sadly, the part that the Guides played in winning the war has all but been forgotten, perhaps because of their young age. It should be noted that as the Guides marched past Winston Churchill at the Lord Mayor's show in 1942, the Prime Minister took off his hat in salute as a way of thanking the Guides for their efforts.

Despite their erasure from history, the memory of the courageous and resourceful Guides of World War Two lives on through modern-day Girl Guiding, especially during difficult times such as the present.

Louisa, 1st Pangbourne Guides



The Guides in the war.

PANGBOURNE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

The combination of coronavirus lockdown, furloughing and two months of beautiful weather has meant that people have had more leisure to devote to their allotments. It has been a sociable time, as it is very easy to keep one's distance while having a conversation with neighbours; the main gate has been kept permanently open, and care has been taken with water taps and the sharing of tools.

Rabbits have been a particular problem this year, which has meant a rash of netting and rabbit-proof structures appearing in the affected parts. Apart from this, and the fact that it has been a problem to get seedlings to thrive in the very dry weather, the allotments are looking in very good order.

The annual plant sale had to be cancelled this year, so a system of swapping between allotment-holders was instigated – with donations to the Allotment Association – and together with some beautiful beeswax wraps made by Helle Bond, using John White's beeswax from the allotment beehives, £318 has been raised for future projects.

We are hoping that the next event will be able to take place: the Open Morning on Saturday August 15 to celebrate National Allotments week. Come along between 10am and 12 for a look around, with refreshments and a produce stall.

If you want to apply for a plot and want to go on the waiting list or ask for details, contact Jo Griffin, pangbourneasstclerk@gmail.com



Apart from some potentially very productive vegetable beds, there are occasional bursts of glorious flowers, as on the plot of our resident iris grower (John Postlethwaite) and Alan Heighway's brilliant clump of oriental poppies.



Life on the allotments isn't all hard work, as demonstrated by Matt and Polly Wain taking their ease!



A scarecrow in fancy dress in a Pangbourne garden (photo by Ian Crimp)

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Trading Store is still closed. Please check our website on <https://www.purleyonthames.org.uk/PHS/> for any further information.

Marion Dabbs, 9422349



PANGBOURNE YOUTH FC RISES TO THE CHALLENGE OF LOCKDOWN

Even a global pandemic can't keep Pangbourne Youth FC down! Matches and group training might have come to an abrupt halt in March, but the team spirit is certainly alive and kicking thanks to its dedicated coaches, enthusiastic squads and digital media.

The conclusion of the winter season should have seen some exciting matches with teams battling it out for the remaining points to ensure their best possible league standings. And the Panthers (Under 11s) and Pumas (Under 12s) both had the expectation of thrilling BYDL cup final games but disappointingly their journey to cup glory has been thwarted for the time being.

Not to be downhearted, the coaches set their squads a 'Run to Wembley' challenge encouraging the kids to get out, enjoy the local countryside and each run 2km of the 62km distance from Pangbourne to Wembley. Spurred on by a personal message from Gary Lineker they not only smashed the target, running a combined total of 168km, but also raised over £600 for Sport in Mind, a local charity which helps improve the lives, through sport and physical activity, of people experiencing mental health problems.

While group training was another casualty of the Coronavirus lockdown, some teams took to social media to record training videos and set exercise drills for their team-mates. Happily group training for some of the teams has now resumed, closely following social distancing rules of course.



Hurricanes – Under 8 (school year 2 or 3)
Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League (BYDL) on Saturday mornings

Hurricanes – Under 9 (school year 3 or 4)
Play in the BYDL on Saturday mornings

Red Kites – Under 10 (school year 4 or 5)
Play in the BYDL on Saturday mornings

Phoenixes – Under 11 (school year 5 or 6)
Play in the BYDL on Saturday mornings

Piranhas & Panthers – Under 12 (school year 7)
Two teams. Play in the BYDL on Saturdays

Pumas – Under 13 (school year 8)
Play in the BYDL on Saturday mornings

Falcons – Under 15 (school year 9 or 10)
Play in the East Berkshire Alliance League on Saturday mornings

With lockdown restrictions starting to be relaxed, thoughts now turn to the start of the 2020/21 season this autumn. At the time of going to press the hope is that the season will commence in September with matches and training as normal, however the situation will be carefully monitored and the Club will follow official advice on this.

Several of our teams currently have space for more players so if you have boys or girls who would like to join our friendly squad for the start of the new season please get in touch via our website. The Under 17s will move into the adult league in September but to find out how they've enjoyed being part of PYFC read John McCandless' interview with two of the squad members.

We'd also love to hear from anyone with some knowledge of the game, lots of enthusiasm and a bit of time to spare who would be willing to coach our current under 7s team as they start their progress in the Berkshire Youth Development League. All our coaches undertake FA training and are DBS checked. Contact us via our website for more information – www.pangbourneyouth.co.uk.

UNDER 17's CAPTAIN AND VICE-CAPTAIN REFLECT ON THEIR TIME WITH PYFC

Manager John McCandless sat down with Captain and Vice-Captain of the U17s, Alex and Jamie respectively, to reflect on their time with PYFC now that the team is reaching its natural conclusion at the end of this season.

How long have you played for PYFC and what position(s) have you played?

Alex: I Joined Pangbourne when I was five and from what I can remember we only ever used to play tournaments and the occasional fixture against the local rivals Bucklebury, often resulting in a win! Although as the years went

on, we became accustomed to the trials and tribulations of the Reading and Oxford leagues. I have played mostly up front for Pangbourne however back when I was little, I had a long stint as goalkeeper before deciding that constantly having to get new goalie gloves was getting costly and subsequently transitioned to the obvious next step, up front.

Jamie: I've played for PYFC for 11 years in total, I've played at CB, RB and GK in that time

What is your fondest memory of playing for PYFC?

Alex: I'm going to cheat this question slightly as I can't decide between two of my fondest memories. Firstly I'd say that one of my fondest memories would have to be the trip to Holland that we did as a club [2012, U10]. The quality of football over there is excellent and although we got battered every game it was a great learning curve although playing in goal wasn't too fun. Secondly, my favourite memory would have to be winning the league three seasons ago as I finished top scorer and we nearly went unbeaten exciting the local crowd of dads with counter-attacking football seasoned with a bit of European pressing spice.

Jamie: When we went undefeated in the league at U10s, that was a special year!

What's the best thing about playing for PYFC?

Alex: The best thing about playing for Pangbourne is probably the familial atmosphere of the club and the fact that we easily punch above our weight. We may not be the same size as some other clubs however every time I've turned up on a Sunday, I've never felt daunted by the other team as I know that on our day we can easily beat anyone.

Jamie: At PYFC, you can play football for fun and keep fit while you play

What advice would you give to the younger players coming through the ranks?

Alex: Firstly never profess your love for playing in goal otherwise you'll be called upon every time there's an injury and secondly never beat yourself up after a loss. Seasons have the great attribute of being constantly changing and one bad performance or loss should not be thought about too much, just get out there next week in any weather and give your all for the club; your love for the game will stay with you forever because it definitely has for me.

Jamie: Try your best and try to enjoy it along the way.



PYFC Under 17s Squad

LOCAL CLUBS



TENNIS IS BACK!

The first steps in easing the coronavirus lockdown were announced in mid-May. Tennis was one of the first sports to be reopened. Ideal for the world of strict social distancing, playing tennis is a great way of contributing to the physical and mental wellbeing of all ages.

The Tennis Club and the Parish Council worked together closely to open up the courts as safely and quickly as possible – our thanks to the Parish Council for all their help in what was a very busy time for them. One change that regular users will have noticed is that all the courts are now locked. Members are given the code for the locks, which will be changed each month.



The courts have been available for singles play since 22nd May, and the further easing of the lockdown for sports in June allowed friends from different households to play doubles and for small group coaching to restart. We hope that the situation with the pandemic has continued to improve so that when you are reading this, the courts are still very much open for play. But, whilst you can enjoy a game of tennis, it's vital to maintain social distancing and hygiene measures.

GETTING BACK ON COURT

| CATEGORY | MEMBERSHIP FEE |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Adult | £50 |
| Family (2 adults and all the children) | £110 |
| Junior (1st, 2nd and subsequent siblings) | £20, £16, £12 |

Membership for 2020/21 is now open. The fees for this year has been pro-rated to reflect that the club was closed in April and May. You can renew your membership or join the club at www.pangbournetennis.org/membership.

Coaching started again in June, for small groups (of up to five players), under the watchful eye of our highly experienced coach Damian Lane.

The very popular **Back to Tennis** programme also restarted, ideal for anyone who hasn't played for quite a while or wants to take up tennis for the first time.

Sessions are running on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings and evenings, with the current block ending on 9th July. We are waiting to see how the guidelines develop during June before confirming the programme for July, August and September. We are hoping that we will be able to expand the scope of coaching, possibly to include a junior programme for the school holidays. Check out www.pangbournetennis.org/coaching for the latest information.

PAY AND PLAY THE NEW WAY

Now that the courts are locked, our previous "honesty" system for pay and play won't work. In this place, the club is offering a monthly pass for £10 for occasional players. To activate a monthly pass, please email info@pangbournetennis.org or phone 07554 432216. Payment is made by internet bank transfer.

Keep safe and well and enjoy your tennis!

Pangbourne Tennis Club Committee



PLAY CRICKET FOR PANGBOURNE

CALL Cpt. DAN: 07956 526 505
www.pangbournecc.org



Under the steely gaze of a
Sea Eagle – **Whitchurch Hill**

Camera Club are managing to exchange ideas, share images, hold competitions BUT no new images, no fresh inspiration, BUT plans aplenty.

Zoom has enabled us to compete – the latest being *The Picture of the Year*. Below are just a few of the images. The authors, Tony Bates with *Water Shadow*, Ceri Jones' *Autumn Mist* and John Sexton's *The Wren* were all high scorers.

The Sea Eagle? Our signature facebook image, a white tailed eagle shot by member John Sexton on pack ice off the coast of Hokkaido Japan. Meanwhile our Chairman Alan Copeland is working away to move and save speakers from our current programme for us to enjoy the 20/21 season – next year?

Lockdown has meant WHCC has had to move the boundaries to give you images from beyond Pangbourne, we hope you enjoy them.

Take care – *Lyn Higgs, Whitchurch Hill Camera Club*



PANGBOURNE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

To mark our planned visit to Houdan for VE day this year, we held a get-together on Zoom with our French hosts. With over 100 participants, we exchanged messages of friendship and solidarity, and “shared” a glass of good cheer and sang *We'll Meet Again*. It was great to see so many French and English old friends as well as new would-be travellers on the screen, the French enjoying warm sunshine in their gardens and terraces. Conversations went on for over an hour. Thanks to Lauren for organising this and to Mike Power for providing tech support, photos and music and to Nigel Suffield-Jones for translations into French.



Zoom meeting (J Steele)

As we cannot share reports of our visit in this issue of the Pangbourne Magazine, we offer you some information about Houdan. It has a rich history and culture, so look out for further articles about the famous Houdan chicken breed and the almost as famous Pâté d'Houdan as well as other local delicacies and about its social history.



General view of Houdan (J Pflieger)

Houdan is an old market town on the rivers Vesgre and Opton, 63 km west of Paris, 43 km from Versailles. It lies in a well-watered area supplied by many streams which flow in the larger rivers of the Ile de France. Now on the N21 from Paris to Brittany, it became a prominent staging post from the 15th century. It has a railway station, on the lines from Paris to Alençon. It is a thriving town with a gradually growing population of 3,800 and its own hospital, built in 1914 on the site of a leper-house dating from the 12th century to the mid -16th century.

There has been a settlement here since the 5th century. The name has evolved from the Saxon “Hoding”, meaning “settlement on the hill”. By the 12th century, the town had two churches and a château. During the Hundred Years

War the town changed hands and was pillaged frequently; and was eventually destroyed with only the 12th century keep surviving from that period. After the war, the town was ruled by the English until 1475.

The keep or donjon now stands on a slightly raised motte or mound on the north side of the old town. It was built by Count Amaury III de Montfort (1105-1137), more as a deterrent than to have active military function. It is an imposing structure 25m high, and 16m in diameter with walls 3m thick. It was an innovative design, round towers not being used before this period, and has four semi-circular turrets at the four points of the compass. This design was aimed at improving the close reach of bombardment from above on attacking forces. The main entrance was to the first floor above ground level, which housed the quarters of the military commander. This was the main space of the tower. It was not possible to move to any other part of the building without passing through it. Despite the war-torn history of the town, the keep was never taken by enemy forces. Between the 16th century and the French Revolution it was used as a prison. After this it fell into ruin. It has housed a water tower since the end of the 19th century. It is now also a museum and reopened to the public after lockdown on June 10th. When the Houdanais visited Pangbourne last year they presented us with an accurate scale model of the Keep made by Claude Fauchet, which we are lending to the Focus on Pangbourne Exhibition planned by Newbury Museum from July.

Houdan was mentioned in the Prophecies of Nostradamus. In 1562 he wrote about the Wars of Religion and a battle nearby, possibly the battle of Dreux. He prophesied that the army would lay down its ensign and set about converting one thousand people. Others would be rounded up, chained and burnt at the stake.



The keep



The model of the keep (G Freeman)

The town's history as staging post is still evident today, with many old hotel buildings on the town centre streets. Between the 15th and 19th century more than 20 inns opened in the town. Traffic was so heavy that the main streets were cobbled in 1774 requiring 11,000 new cobble stones. The town was famous for its hospitality and some of the timbered facades bore carvings of gastronomic and other delights to entice customers to stop. One of the most famous inns on the Grand Rue is the Auberge du Plat d'Étain (Tin plate), infamous because of the so called Seznec affair. On 25th May 1923, Guillaume Seznec and Pierre Quemeneur were driving from Rennes to Paris in a Cadillac, to negotiate a car sales contract. After a series of breakdowns, the car limped into Houdan at nightfall. So the pair stopped at the Plat d'Étain. During dinner Quemeneur received a phone call and after that mysteriously decided to take the 21.56 train to Paris. The two men were last seen together in front of the station. Quemeneur disappeared. Seznec was immediately suspected and despite protesting his innocence, eventually was convicted of murder and forgery and sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour. He was sent to a penal colony in Cayenne, French Guyana. He was subsequently pardoned by General de Gaulle and he returned to France in 1947.



Old coaching inn Grand Rue (G Freeman)



The market

There have been markets in the town since the middle ages, traditionally held on a Wednesday in various locations, selling calves and pigs, eggs, butter and cheese. The poultry and dairy market was held in front of the church on the Rue d'Épernon, with crates of live-stock piled up to first floor level. It was fast and loud: at a signal from the superintendent's bell, up to 1500 chickens would be sold in 30 minutes. In bad weather the stall holders would shelter in the church until they were banned for rowdy behaviour and the market moved under cover to the Clothiers Hall nearby. The roads around would be white with chicken feathers on market days, giving the roads from Mantes and Brittany the names "white roads".

Houdan became an important poultry and egg market for Paris in the 19th century, the meat and eggs of the locally bred Houdan chicken were used in the still famous Houdan pâté en croute (see more in the next issue about the gastronomy of Houdan). There is still a weekly market held in the Rue d'Épernon on Friday mornings. This had to close throughout March and April because of lockdown but is open again with social distancing, a one-way system, no contact payments and masks obligatory.

The coat of arms of Houdan recalls its double allegiances to the Duchy of Brittany and the Crown of France. It is to be found on the town's logo and on walls of the old Auberge de Grand Admiral which used to house the Mairie. Next to it is a plaque commemorating the liberation of Houdan by General Patton's forces on 18th August 1944.



The Coat of Arms

Alison Hill, Chair PTA



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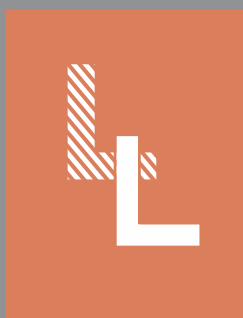
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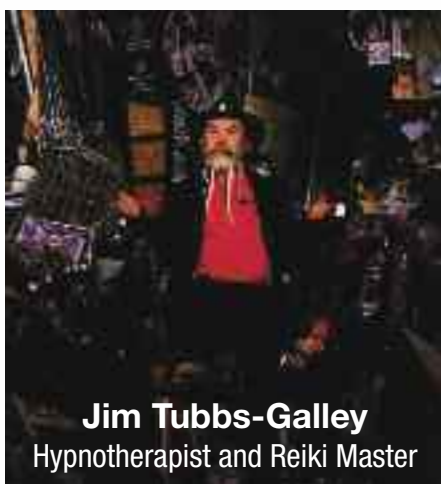
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PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Year 6 class of Pangbourne Primary School are all looking forward to starting at secondary school in September. This year, leavers are heading to various destinations, including Denefield, Theale Green, Langtree, Little Heath, The Abbey and The Oratory.

While Coronavirus meant that they engaged in remote learning for the first half of the Summer Term, this did not dampen their enthusiasm for school and when Pangbourne Primary School was able to resume at the beginning of June for their year group, they came back in high spirits and ready for the second half of term.

Once back at their desks, the children learnt quickly how to cope with the new regime of handwashing and social distancing and were able to enjoy being outdoors as much as possible. They invented socially distant PE activities, talked about the environment and had the opportunity to show their classmates all the activities they had done while at home.

Lockdown life undoubtedly had an impact on the last few months of their time at Pangbourne Primary School and it was very sad that they couldn't go on their much-awaited residential, always a highlight of the year. Despite these setbacks, teachers tried to make sure that as much as possible remained in place to make their last term special.

At the time of going to press, the Leavers' Hoodies had just arrived amid great excitement, so you can look forward to seeing all our lovely leavers sporting them over the summer when lockdown eases further. Good luck to all our Leavers – you are all amazing and we will miss you terribly. Keep in touch and come back and see us!

Sophie Hearn, Year 6 Teacher



Year 6 on World Book Day, Autumn 2019



FRIENDS OF PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

While the school remains partially closed and, at the time of writing, we await government guidance as to when it will be permitted to reopen, FOPPS work is also partially on-hold. We intend, if permitted, to run the 10k race in September, and hope to confirm that in the next few weeks.

While we all "stay alert", there are still things we can do to raise funds for Pangbourne Primary School.

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 website and purchase a ticket: www.westberkshirelottery.co.uk/support/fopps. Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000! That's a better chance of winning than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery!

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 prices, range of good, and convenient shopping experience as 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.



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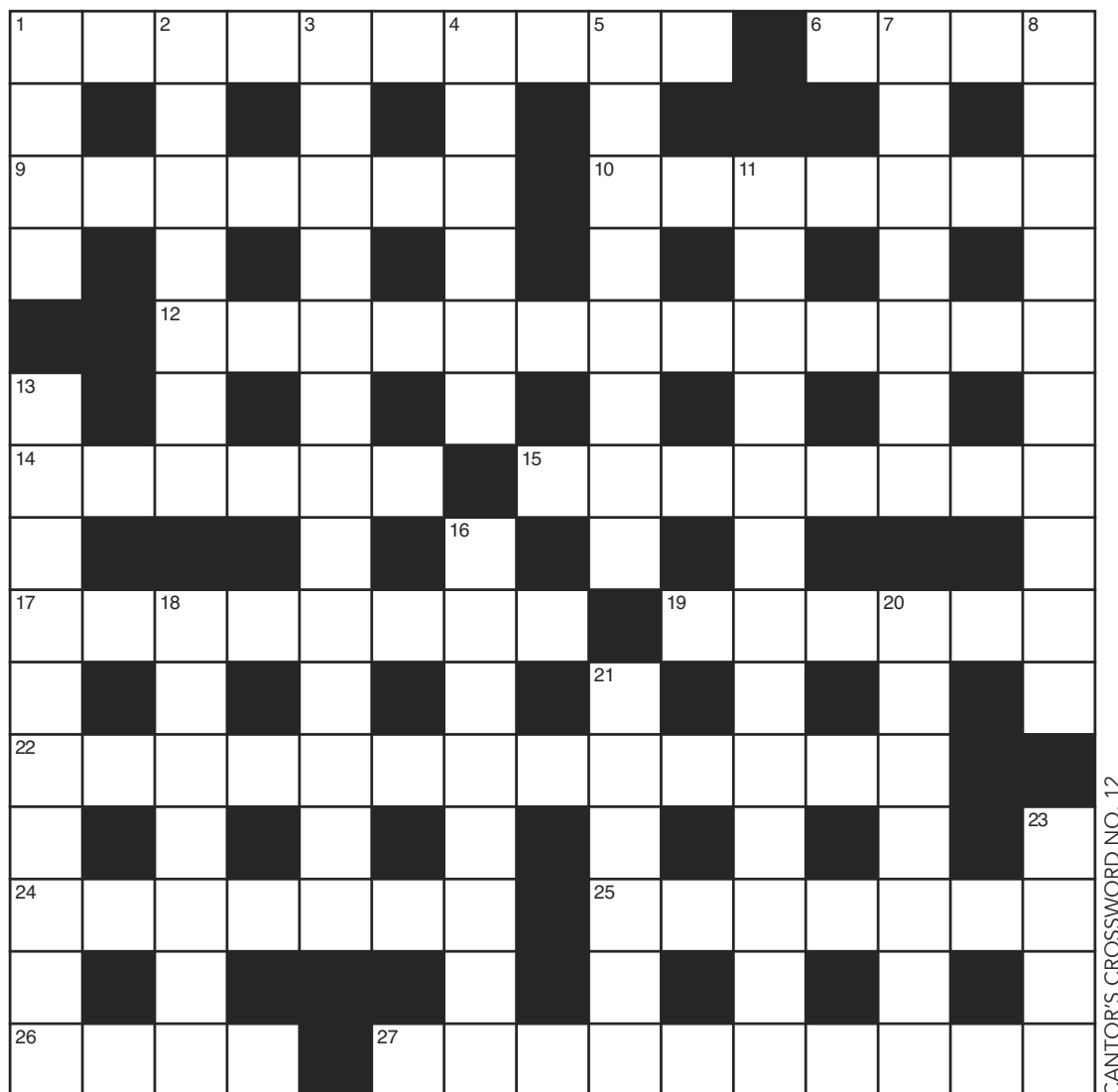
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CANTOR'S CROSSWORD NO. 12

ACROSS

1. The ageing process finally shows in this building site worker (10)
6. Not an organisation that atheists would believe in (1,1,1,1)
9. An uplifting process kept this film series going (5,2)
10. Here you'll find this Rae lives in the Middle East (7)
12. Thoughtful? It would hardly describe a vocal pint meet in the local! (13)
14. Expect to turn blue taking a dip anytime in this European river? (6)
15. Parliamentary angler in mourning dress? (5,3)
17. A regal ferrous-flanked Edmund's sobriquet (8)
19. Finally come out all together (6)
22. Here they are found going round advertising on our poster rota (4,9)
24. In part, it's an umpire's function in cricket – keep an eye on him (7)
25. TV's eponymous independent trader (7)
26. Look here, this seat will more than satisfy (4)
27. Their name rocketed to fame being run on family lines (10)

DOWN

1. Not a race anyone wants to win in the workplace (4)
2. I'm finally able to identify this initially confused continent's royal air force (7)
3. Senior clerics who were once airborne – on winged gaiters? (6,7)
4. Just hang around heather a while on royal moorland (6)
5. Sounds like a mid-European's vote to leave the EU (4,4)
7. The "in" place for top political figure to stay (7)
8. Being blunt about the situation, or rather, not – it's the antithesis (5,5)
11. He's not left behind at sea – the MoD career room gave him rank (4,9)
13. Brief publicity – such are obsessions with clear enunciation (10)
16. Overall, one stuck on a career as an ear, nose and throat specialist? (8)
18. Describes a life style conflicting with a Christian time of abstinence (7)
20. It's about what moves one to new places (7)
21. Keyboard skill needed to back up pot pal in trouble (6)
23. Could be a maritime bird or a flying architect . . . (4)

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 55)

PANGBOURNE PLACE-NAMES

THAMES AVENUE

The Pangbourne Heritage Group has kindly provided the information on Thames Avenue that follows, as well as the photograph, probably taken by Tidbury relatively shortly after the Avenue was built, and dated to 1900 to 1910. Building had begun in the Thames Avenue area in the late 1800s, at which time only the 'T' end was so called,



Thames Avenue, c. 1900-1910.

the main part being Rosewood Avenue, named after Rosewood, now the Pangbourne Working Men's Club. It is not known why or when the name 'Thames Avenue' was extended to the whole road network.

The terraced houses on the south side of the Avenue were mainly rented properties, with many tenants in each, some being built for the use of railway workers. The larger houses on the north side were mainly freehold. During the Second World War some houses were requisitioned by the Army, for use as offices and a clinic. The Methodist Primitive Chapel was built in 1894.

The more permanent a feature is in the landscape, the more likely it is that its name is of great, or even very great antiquity. The most permanent of all are forests, mountains and hills, and above all rivers. A ready example is presented by the **River Avon**. An Anglo-Saxon comes up to a Celt, points at the river, and asks: "What's its name?" The Celt replies in Celtic: "You mean the River (*afon* in Celtic)?" The Anglo-Saxon nods, having apparently got his answer, and spreads the word that *afon* is the name of the river – and so it has remained, down to the present day, for a number of River Avons in England.

This is the process undergone by the name **Thames**, except that, being a very major river, the participants were probably both pre-Celtic, speaking different dialects of the assumed mother language, Indo-European, from which a number of modern languages in Northern India ('Indo-') and almost all languages in Europe are descended. So not surprisingly, there is lengthy and on-going scholarly debate on the precise meaning of 'Thames', which occurs in England in various forms, including the **Thame** in Buckinghamshire, **Tamar** in Devon, **Teme** in Shropshire and **Tome** in Somerset. There are also a number of cognates, words or names coming from the same linguistic family, that have been given to rivers in Belgium, Italy and Spain. The traditional interpretation of 'dark river' is now discounted, in favour of a derivation from an Indo-European base word simply meaning 'to flow'.

The same problem of meaning surrounds the **River Kennet**. It is of course a major river in our area, and has given rise to the names **Kentwood**, Reading ('Wood by the River Kennet) and **Kintbury** ('Fortified site (*burh*) on the River Kennet'), but its meaning remains obscure.

More definite, but still the subject of scholarly debate, is the **Loddon**. There are other examples of this name in Norfolk and Hereford, and its meaning may well be 'muddy river' – which, as one crosses over it on the M4, would seem to suit it very well. It is from the valley of the Berkshire river that the charming wild flower, domesticated as the 'summer snowflake', has gained its folk name, 'Loddon lily'.

The last of the major rivers in the old county of Berkshire with a pre-English name is the **Ock**, which flows into the Thames at Abingdon. It is derived from a Celtic word for a salmon, and echoes the Anglo-Saxon derived **Mortlake**, Surrey, which may mean 'young salmon (*mort*) stream (*lacu*)'.

The **Severn** makes an unlikely appearance in our County, not the mighty river of the West Midlands, but a tiny stream that flows through Temple Park and



Loddon lily individually . . .



. . . and en masse, at Withymead Nature Reserve, South Stoke.

PANGBOURNE PLACE-NAMES

into the Thames at Hurley. Referred to in 1246 as *Severne*, it shares the same etymology as its illustrious namesake. The name is pre-Celtic, its Indo-European base probably being a word meaning 'liquid', and it has cognate river names in Belgium, France and Ireland, but the actual details of its origin are uncertain. The derivation from Latin 'Sabrina' from Celtic legend is fanciful. The legend has it that Sabrina, the illegitimate daughter of a Welsh king called Locrine, was drowned in the River Severn on the orders of the king's wife Gwendolen. The river name is mentioned in the form *Sabrina* in the writings of the Roman author Tacitus and the Venerable Bede, but the name of the legendary character is almost certainly derived from the river, rather than vice versa.

Another surprise is the **Humber**. The Berkshire version is no more than a brook, flowing west through East Hendred to Ginge Brook, but, like the mighty river in Yorkshire, its meaning is unexplained. From about AD 600 the line across England from the mouth of the Humber to the mouth of the Mersey cut the Kingdom of Northumbria off from the rest of England. This fluvial barrier was a major one, marking the southern boundary of the Old English dialect of

Northumbrian, which, incidentally, was the one used by the Venerable Bede. Originally that kingdom covered all of the land north of the two rivers, whereas now the name is only retained in the County of **Northumberland**.



Mercia at the height of its power. The dot is Pangbourne, and the red line Offa's Dyke.

The western arm of this boundary was the **River Mersey**, joining the North Sea at Liverpool. Interestingly, the name actually means 'boundary (*maeres*) river (*ea*)', the boundary being between Northumbria to the north, and Mercia to the south. **Mercia** is a Latinisation of the Anglo-Saxon *Mierce* meaning 'boundary people', the boundary in question being specifically with the Welsh to the west. In the 7th century the Mercians appear as a group of 12,000 households, occupying the middle of England, and, centred on Lichfield, Staffordshire, Mercia rose steadily to be at the height of its power in the 9th century. The fullest extent of Mercian dominance is shown in my illustration, although Pangbourne, lying to the south of the Thames, in fact remained for much of the Anglo-Saxon period in West Saxon territory, and so just outside Mercian control.

Offa's Dyke, possibly named after the 8th century Mercian King Offa who caused it to be built, runs from Liverpool Bay in the north to the Severn Estuary, roughly following the current border between England and Wales. The structure did not represent a mutually agreed boundary between the Mercians and the Kingdom of Powys, but rather was a defensive earthwork, or else a demonstration of the power and intent of Offa's kingdom. The English counties bordering it – Shropshire and Herefordshire – have since taken on the title of "The Marches", and in the Middle Ages the term was also applied to the Anglo-Scottish border, which saw much violence and cross-border raiding, only brought to an end in the 17th century by the Act of Union.



Offa's Dyke in the 20th century.

In medieval Europe a *march* or *mark* was any kind of borderland, in contrast to a notional heartland. It could either be a border, or a neutral buffer zone under the joint control of both states, with its own, different laws. In both senses *marches* served a political purpose, such as providing warning of military incursions, or regulating cross-border trade, or both. Just as *counties* were traditionally ruled by *counts*, *marches* gave rise to titles such as *marquess* (masculine) or *marchioness* (feminine) in England, *marquis* or *marquise* in France and Scotland, and corresponding titles in other European states.

For example, historically the name **Denmark** is made up of Den- ('flat land') and -mark ('boundary or forest'), the boundary or forest in question probably being the forests in south Schleswig between the Germans to the south and the Vikings to the north. In the same vein, in the 1930s following the *Anschluss*, the annexation by Germany of Austria, the Nazi government revived the old name **Ostmark** ('Eastern boundary territory') for Austria.

The term '*march or mark*' has evolved in English. The original meaning is preserved in the agreeably old-fashioned 'my property marches with my neighbour's'. Generally, 'mark' became the 'sign of a boundary', then a 'sign in general' and so an 'impression or trace'.

In contrast to the imprecise geographical features marking the borders between England and Wales, England and Scotland, and many countries in Europe, the Thames is precise, and substantial. Although for a time Pangbourne was a 'march' village between Wessex and Mercia in Anglo-Saxon England, mostly throughout its history it has been securely protected to the north by the Thames's extensive, watery mass.

Nigel Suffield-Jones

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PANGBOURNE AND WHITCHURCH SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



This spring has been for us all a different experience from usual. To the many essential workers, engaged in the battle to care for the sick and those in care and the many individuals keeping the country fed and running, the blazing sunshine and beautiful natural world has been simply a backdrop. To others it has presented many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, dig gardens, experience nature in all its glory but sadly for many people it has been a time of mourning.

The pandemic has highlighted the extreme divides in our country, with workers living in densely populated cities suffering disproportionately from Covid-19. They already suffer high levels of pollution and the dramatic fall in pollution during lockdown highlights the unhealthy norm for many people.

Most of this pollution is caused by excessive car usage and it is pleasing to see how some towns and cities are attempting to make the environment more cycle and pedestrian friendly. However, these are only small changes.

The pandemic has brought us to a crossroads. Gloomily I think the most likely response will be business as usual, back to high carbon emissions and high pollution, but we must hope for a vision that will make the changes necessary to living in a carbon neutral world.

A new study by Steven Levitt, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, co-author of *Freakonomics* suggests that when faced with life-changing choices people tend to be quite cautious, but those who opt for change were in the study significantly happier and had fewer regrets than those who opt for the status quo. He writes that "A good rule of thumb is, whenever you cannot decide what you should do, choose the action that represents the change".

As John F. Kennedy wrote, "The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word **crisis**. One brush stroke stands for **danger**, the other **opportunity**. In a **crisis**, be aware of the **danger** – but recognise the **opportunity**."

This is the biggest opportunity we as a country and as a world have been presented with. The pandemic and related economic crisis has highlighted the gross damage we are inflicting on our planet by our life styles. We can change this by putting the environment first in every single decision making process. We have had the capability of destroying our planet, albeit initially unknowingly, and we have the capability to restore it. This is the time for the green revolution, investment in green jobs, green transport, ethical green financing and green living. In the short term this may mean less international travel, but we are capable of innovation and there are many innovations in the pipeline, we just need the will to invest in them and slow down the rate at which our planet is warming.

In PAWS we continue in our grass route approach to bring about change. Our first change was to conduct our AGM by Zoom! Attended by 16 people the meeting

represented the growing commitment in our Parishes to become carbon neutral by offering locally led opportunities to make us all able to live that greener life.

Pangbourne Parish Council has initiated Terracycling, a scheme whereby people can drop off hard-to-recycle items at the village hall on the last Sunday of every month. PAWS has registered as a collection point for some of the available Terracycling waste schemes. Of course this cannot be operative yet, but hopefully by the end of the year this will be up and running.

PAWS representatives are meeting with the Parish Council with a view to initiating a Climate Action Plan for the village with a view to becoming climate neutral.

We continue to be in talks with Reading Community Energy and Solar Streets bringing the hope of more energy saving possibilities into the villages. By the way, those solar panels we see in our neighbourhoods have greatly contributed to our renewable energy supply in the last two months. See the sunshine statistics below. How many of us are using 100% renewable energy providers? There are several out there offering very competitive tariffs.

In May we contacted West Berkshire in response to the letter they sent out encouraging us all to join in their bulk buying energy scheme. We requested that they include green tariffs as it seemed that the project was in conflict with West Berkshire's Environmental strategy for 2020. It seems now that the winning bid from So Energy uses "100% renewable gas and electricity". This looks like good news.



Whilst we are unable to run our usual events this year we are poised ready for action as soon as it becomes safe to do so. This is a celebratory year for PAWS as we have now been in action for ten years. We are hoping to celebrate properly at our Christmas event. There have been many highlights over the years, not least the formation of our junior PAWS group and the recognition that all the educational sessions we have run in local schools have ensured that our younger generation is informed and committed to living more sustainably.

I hope that in the next article we will be through the worst of the pandemic and beginning that journey of change that our world needs if we are to stave off the worst effects of climate change. Climate events have not

stood still during the pandemic: Kolkata has just endured its worst cyclone in 100 hundred years. Two districts of the city of 15 million people have been 'completely devastated' and the city's State Minister describes the situation as 'war-like' as they battle with both the impact of the storm and Covid-19.

In contrast we locally have experienced statistic changing sunshine and early drought. Jackie Hoskins has supplied us with the following statistics recorded by the Department of Meteorology's Atmospheric Observatory, on the Whiteknights Campus, at the University of Reading.

Our total sunshine in May amounted to 345.1 hours, which is 183% of the average for the month of 188 hours. Not only was this the sunniest May on our sunshine records (which started in 1956), it was our sunniest month on record. The previous record holder was June 1975, with 305.6 hours, an average of 10.19 hours/day; May 2020 averaged a remarkable 11.13 hours/day, sunnier than the May average for Seville or Malaga.

It was not only our sunniest month on record in terms of the duration of sunshine, it exceeded all previous records for the percentage of possible sunshine (where 'possible' is the duration between sunrise and sunset).

May managed 71.3% of possible sunshine, streets ahead of the previous record-holder – the exceptionally sunny August 1976 (a few of you may remember the 'Summer of '76' . . . ?), which managed 62.2%. This was only the fifth month in our 64 year record to attain 60% of possible sunshine, so to exceed 70% is truly exceptional.

On a longer-term record, May also became the sunniest month on record at the Radcliffe Observatory in Oxford, where sunshine records have been made continuously since February 1880. May's total there was about 333 hours (final figure awaiting confirmation), surpassing the previous record of 310.4 hours in July 1911. (Anyone still remember the 'Summer of '11'? No, thought not . . .)

And one final record – May was also the driest May on our records, which for rainfall began in 1901 – the previous driest was 1990, with 3.1 mm. All the month's rainfall, just 1.0 mm, fell in showers on 1 May, which means it's now a month since we've had any measurable rainfall. All the more remarkable turnaround after an autumn and winter when rain fell more frequently than two days in every three. At Oxford, May was the driest in over 200 years – since 1795.

Heather Thorne

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

PANGBOURNE FLOOD GROUP



Well, we have had some interesting weather to contend with so far this year!

February received the highest ever recorded rainfall for that month, and the Environment Agency issued five Flood Alerts and one Flood Warning for the River Pang between January and April 2020 – the last one only being lifted on the 23rd April. Due to all the rain that has fallen we also have had a Groundwater Flood Alert in place in the Upper Pang Valley, lifted only recently on the 26th May. In fact it was the very last flood alert to be lifted across the whole of the UK! High groundwater levels have contributed to the sewer flooding problems in some parishes and kept the Pang flowing at an unusually high level until just recently.

Pangbourne has mostly escaped the flooding unscathed this year (other than footpath flooding, but more on that below and the flooding of Purley Road) – certainly no property flooding. Other parishes have been less fortunate this winter with incidents of severe surface water flooding and some sewer flooding.



FLOOD PREVENTION IN ACTION

We were relieved that all the efforts we have made over the years to try and reduce the risk of flooding in Pangbourne seem to be working. Even though the Pang went on to Flood Warning on the 16th February – when property flooding can be expected – the greatest level of risk seemed to be in the Tidmarsh area. The spillway into the Sulham Estates field adjacent to the A329 worked well and meant that we could allow the excess water upstream to spill out into the field to avoid a possible flood risk – a huge thanks to my co Flood Warden, Stephen Billyeald, for keeping the vegetation cut back and ensuring that this structure can work as intended. These photos were taken by Stephen on the 17th February. The water level was at roughly two bricks above the girder of the A329 bridge at this point so the spillway was working well to take away the pressure from upstream.



The flooding on Purley Road was quite deep and the road was only passable if you drove down the middle. It was reported to West Berkshire Highways yet again and grips have since been cut to allow the surface water to flow out into the fields on the south side (the same side as the spillway).

WBC are also looking at what can be done on the northern side although this is more difficult due to the field being higher than the road. The drains along the road have now been cleaned and the Parish Council has also reiterated the need for regular drain clearance to prevent reoccurrence.

FOOTPATH FLOODING

We have had many calls and queries about the flooding of the footpaths near Rectory Cottage and from the green footbridge over the Pang back towards the A340. A lot of people were concerned that the large fallen tree over the Pang was causing the flooding. In fact the cause was eroded river banks adjacent to Rectory Cottage. The fallen tree – although very large – was having little effect on water flow. Thank you to all those who reported it to us. We notified the Environment Agency but they were on Emergency footing only and were therefore only working in the field if there was a risk of property flooding – which in this case there wasn't. The tree has now been partially dealt with by Sulham Estates and by the time the magazine is delivered, we understand that it should all be removed.



Stephen and I (with help from Stephen's wife, Penny) put some biodegradable Floodsax in the breach points of the banks to try and reduce the flooding. This, plus the naturally reducing height of the water, has helped so that one footpath is completely dry and the other is just passable without wellies. We have recently met with the landowner and a company specialising in river restoration to look at ways of restoring the banks to prevent future flooding of the footpaths.

OTHER WORK

Stephen and I continue to work to reduce the risk of flooding to residents in Pangbourne – but it would be nice to get your support! We had a problem last year with a large willow behind Bourne Road that fell across the Sulham Brook. The Environment Agency pulled it out of the river and cut it up, but unfortunately they weren't able to remove all the debris and brash so it was left to be removed later. This then started being thrown back into the Brook, and sometimes being built into dams, causing a potential flood risk. Stephen has spent many occasions pulling this back out of the Sulham Brook. We printed and laminated notices explaining that this could cause flooding and requesting that it be stopped – and the notices were ripped down and thrown in the Brook as well! Please – support our work and ensure that your family and friends realise that flooding devastates lives. Many of you will still remember July 2007 and the horrendous impact it had on many people who live locally. We are trying to ensure that we don't have a repeat of this and one of the ways to do that is to make sure there is nothing in the river that could cause an unexpected blockage and prevent the natural flow of water. Help us to help you. Thank you.



*Kay Lacey and Stephen Billyeald
Pangbourne Flood Wardens*

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES

As residents will be aware, most of the Parish Council's public amenities have unfortunately been closed over the period of lockdown, however the Council has continued to operate remotely throughout the last few months. It has been a busy time and below is a summary of what has been happening and the Council's plans for re-opening up facilities over the coming weeks.



WHERE WE ARE NOW:

Parish Council owned Open Spaces (River Meadows, Recreation Ground, Cemetery) have remained open throughout, however all buildings and sports facilities have been closed in line with Government Regulations and for a period the car park at the Recreation Ground has also been closed.

As the country generally starts to re-open and some sense of normality begins to return, we have been working hard to establish ways to re-open facilities as when and when we are able to with the correct measures in place and when the time is right.

Like many other "beauty spots" around the country, the Meadows saw a huge influx of visitors once restrictions started to be eased and Pangbourne became a destination of choice! It is lovely to see so many people legitimately enjoying being in the open air again, making use of the river and Thames Path, but this has also brought us some concerns and issues with the minority who have not adhered to social distancing guidelines or who have sadly left huge volumes of litter behind them.

With the superb weather of the last weekend of May in particular, the River Meadows were used by hundreds of people and sadly several large noisy groups were still in the area late into the night. We were fortunate enough to have the help of an army of Volunteers and Councillors early on the Sunday morning to clear the rubbish and re-organise all the bin stores which were overflowing. Additional rubbish sacks were placed at all the exits and emptied regularly throughout the day. We are pleased to report that this greatly improved the situation and by far the vast majority of visitors made use of this to help keep the area clean. A BIG THANK YOU to all those who continue as always to use the Meadows responsibly and who regularly pick up litter when out and about.

Going forward, we have increased the frequency of bin collections temporarily as it is likely that the village's open spaces will continue to be heavily used over the coming weeks. We are also looking to source temporary waste bins for use at busy times to enable us to provide additional capacity.

We would ask residents to note that in line with the byelaws, BBQs are NOT permitted and we request that people refrain from using portable BBQs to the Meadow and Recreation Ground as they cause damage to the grass and pose a potential fire risk, especially when the ground is dry. The recent forest fires near Wareham have sadly demonstrated the problems that these can cause.

The Parish Council have been working closely with the local Neighbourhood Police Team to support us in monitoring these areas during this time and you may well have seen them undertaking regular patrols. Unfortunately they do not have the manpower to be onsite throughout and residents are reminded that they are able to report any breaches of social distancing or criminality via the Thames Valley Police (TVP) website for 101 reporting.

COUNCIL NEWS

WHERE WE ARE HEADED:

RECREATION GROUND

CAR PARK

The car park at the Recreation Ground has been closed since March to deter the attempted use of any of the closed facilities. Later on, closure continued to help ease and slow down the numbers travelling into the village to make use of our open spaces. The time is now right to start re-opening the car park for the use by residents visiting both sites, especially as West Berkshire Council has now re-commenced charging in all of its car parks, including the River Meadows car park since 1st June. From Weds 10th June, the Recreation Ground car park will be open **daily from 8am until 8pm** with gates being closed overnight. No overnight parking is permitted. We would ask that this is used responsibly to enable everyone to make use of this free facility.



PANGBOURNE TENNIS CLUB

The Tennis Club recommenced activities in May. They are operating in line with all the relevant guidelines from both the LTA and government and the courts are only open for members with courts being locked at all other times as part of this. Please contact the club should you wish to book a game or join the club . . . maybe this is the time to start a new hobby.



PANGBOURNE BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club were also permitted to restart activities in May, however have decided to wait until 1st July to reopen in line with guidance from the national bowls club association. Again they will be following strict social distancing guidelines at all times. Anyone wishing to join the club should contact Alan Copeland for more information.

PLAYGROUND

There is mixed news on the playground and I'm sure I join with many other local parents in saying how greatly this has been missed.

We are pleased to be able to report that the playground has now been fully repaired (ironically everything was finally in place to do these repairs just as we were prevented by lockdown).

Under the Government Regulations in place at the time of writing (early June), there are no timescales for re-opening playgrounds and it was intimated on a recent daily briefing that playgrounds might be one of the last amenities to re-open. For now, this remains closed and the heras fencing and red tape remains in place as we would ask that residents respect this and for everyone's safety do not attempt to use it.



RECREATION GROUND TOILETS

The Council took the decision, like many other authorities across the country, to close these facilities to help prevent the spread of the virus. There were concerns regarding the safe use of the toilets by members of the public, the frequency with which we are able to clean this facility and the safety of those doing the cleaning.

As we begin to open up, the Council are working with their cleaning contractors, Healthmatic to undertake risk assessments and implement safe ways of working, additional measures to enable these to re-open. It is likely that in the coming days the disabled toilet will re-open first with the Ladies and Gentlemen's re-opening after that. Whilst additional measures will be taken, please do also use common sense to help prevent the spread of the virus when using these facilities in the coming weeks and months.



TEAM SPORTS – FOOTBALL

These have not currently been permitted to re-start and for now, team games are still not permitted at the Recreation Ground.

PANGBOURNE RIVER MEADOWS

These are open and we ask that all visitors continue to:

- Respect our beautiful meadows
- Respect social distancing
- Leave no trace

Please take litter home with you, or use the bins provided.

The River Meadows Car park operated by West Berkshire has now recommenced charging.

The locks on the Thames have now re-opened finally allowing the boats, who have had no choice but to moor at the Meadows throughout lockdown, the chance to move upstream.



PANGBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

At the current time, (early June) the Government have given no indication of when public buildings such as Village Halls will be permitted to re-open. For now, the only activities allowed are blood donation sessions and the operation of community food banks. As such we have no immediate plans re-start bookings and many local groups have either paused meeting or taken their sessions online. Many of the exercise groups in particular have chosen this option. Again, the team are working out ways that groups can legally begin meeting when the time is right, perhaps using the outside spaces in the grounds of the hall or the rear carpark in the first instance.

We have had several queries regarding the ever popular Friday Market and it is hoped that this may be able to re-start, albeit in a slimmed down form with just a few food produce stalls, within the next few weeks. If this proves possible, it is likely to take place in the car park to the side of the hall and may become the "Saturday Market" in the short term. We are currently working on the details to ensure this can be done in a safe way. Please watch out for online updates and advertising within in the village.

The large hall, kitchen and foyer have all had a thorough paint and smarten up during this quiet period.



PANGBOURNE HILL CEMETERY

Continues to remain open and we ask visitors and relatives to observe all the latest social distancing guidance when visiting. Small services are able to be held in line with guidance.



PANGBOURNE ALLOTMENTS

With one of the most warm and dry springs on record and many people with time on their hands and staying local, the allotments off Grahame Avenue have never been more popular nor more smart. The Parish Council has seen an increase in enquiries for new plots with many first time allotment holders picking up their spades which is great to see. There is currently a short waiting list, so do get in touch to get your name down if you would like to take on a plot. The fence put in over the last year is now starting to blend in and some of the new trees recently planted by the gate are already looking lovely. A new "deer proof" gate has been put in to connect the wooded section (or the "withy bed" as it was known on old allotment maps) with the main section. Please do keep dogs on leads when using the public footpath or when working at the allotments.



COUNCIL NEWS

NEW DOG BINS



You may have spotted that two new dog bins have recently been installed. One by the public footpath through Pangbourne Allotments to Sulham Meadows and one in the River Meadows (Dolphin Centre) car park. Both of these areas have issues with dog fouling and it is hoped that these bins will help reduce this problem. Dog fouling is never acceptable. Please can dog walkers ensure that they clean up after their dogs and use the new bins provided. There is no excuse for throwing used dog bags in hedges or leaving them on the ground.



PUBLIC FOOTPATH INQUIRY

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Section 53

Order Making Authority: West Berkshire District Council

Title of Order: (Pangbourne & Purley-on-Thames, Saltney Mead Public Footpath) DMMO 2019 and (Purley-on-Thames, Springs Farm Public Footpath) DMMO 2019

The inquiry into the above Order which was due to be held at 10.00am on **14th July 2020 WILL NOT TAKE PLACE** on this date due to current restrictions. The Planning Inspectorate is currently consulting on whether this Inquiry can be conducted via email submission or virtual means instead. If it is determined that the Inquiry is to be held in person, this will be delayed until at least next year.



PLANNED PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS FOR 2020

CCTV

We know that residents are all too well aware of anti-social behaviour at the Recreation Ground and surrounding areas. In addition it is intended that the Council focus investment on both maintaining and improving the existing facilities and on installing new. As a result, a key cornerstone must be to provide enhanced security and safety and the Council has been working since last summer on the installation of CCTV. The vandalism at the playground and damage to cars and the public toilets last year only served to make this project more of a priority.

Much care has been given to the positioning of the cameras and none of the cameras overlook houses or gardens, however, we have fully drawn plans available so please do make contact should you wish to know more about this project. We have been in contact with WBC and TVP regarding the permissions for the siting of these cameras and planning permission has been applied for. Work is intended to begin very shortly once this permission is in place.

PICNIC AREA AND SHADE

Once the CCTV is installed, it is hoped that the next project will be the creation of a picnic area beside the playground with approximately six (rectangular and circular) wooden and concrete picnic benches along with a hardwood pergola/structure to create much needed shade at the site. It is hoped that several of the picnic benches will be suitable for use with wheelchairs and or prams and buggies. In due course, the planting of suitable trees to provide further shade to this area is also planned. A planning application has been submitted for this project and we will provide updates once this is hopefully granted. Partial funding has already been obtained from West Berkshire Council via a Members Bid.

PUBLIC BINS AND WASTE STORES

PPC has been working on a plan to overhaul the provision of bins and waste collection at both the Meadows and Recreation Ground. Provision at the Recreation Ground is insufficient and often overflowing whilst that at the entrance to the Meadows encourages fly tipping as it is directly accessible from the carpark and is damp and dingy and often not full to capacity.

We have invited tenders from a variety of waste contractors over the last 14 months and the journey has been eye-opening for Councillors and staff in terms of how difficult it is to provide viable recycling options and just how few contractors can guarantee that "contaminated recycling" ends up where we would all expect it to. We are edging ever closer towards agreeing contracts for this provision to be upgraded and the end destination of waste has been a key consideration. PAWS has been informed throughout this process. Once contracts are agreed, a further piece of work will be undertaken to improve the visual look of the stores, cutting back overhanging trees, installing new timber fencing/changed access etc.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS REVIEWED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL SINCE LAST ARTICLE

| APP NO: | PROPOSAL | RECOMMENDATION |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 20/01206/ CERTP | Two Pergolas 4.2m x 4.2m in size with a maximum height of 3.5m with seating. Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/01155/ CERTP | To install CCTV at Pangbourne Recreation Ground and track by the meadows which will involve erecting 3 x 6 metre poles to carry cameras to cover the playground area, car park, and track. It will entail three bases to be constructed to hold the poles. The base dimensions will be 0.55 metres in depth and 1.1m x1.1m square below ground level. Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/01046/ FULD | 5 Bedroom detached dwelling, detached garage and hardstanding Former Camden Ridge, Pangbourne RG8 7JF | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00954 /HOUSE | Single Storey Rear Extension 18 The Moors, Pangbourne RG8 7LP | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00933/ HOUSE | Section 73: Variation of condition 2-approved plans of previously approved application 19/02308/HOUSE: First floor extension over existing flat roof and dormer window to attic 68 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JL | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00919/ HOUSE | Single storey rear extension, demolition of existing conservatory and internal alterations. Hillside, Riverview Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AU | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00870/ HOUSE | Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a two storey rear extension and single storey side and rear extension. 36 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JF | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00726/ HOUSE | Ground floor infill extension to form additional family space 13 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JQ | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00673/ CERTP | Pitched roof porch on front of house 49 Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne RG8 7JR | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00830/ HOUSE | Proposed first floor extension for new bedroom above existing kitchen; 1no. new bathroom velux and 4no. new sun tubes to first floor. 16 Purley Way, Pangbourne RG8 7JY | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00817/ HOUSE | Single storey pitched roof front extension No Objection 21 Chiltern Walk, Pangbourne RG8 7LE | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00831/ LBC2 | Replacement of worn and damaged external floor tiles to the Whitchurch Road elevation 2-6 Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne RG8 7BP | NO OBJECTION |
| 20/00701/ HOUSE | Erect side and rear extensions 25 Briars Close, Pangbourne RG8 7LH | NO OBJECTION/ COMMENT |
| 20/00639/ HOUSE | Loft Conversion; New windows on ground floor and 1st floor 1 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JQ | NO OBJECTION/ COMMENT |
| 20/00642/ FUL | New Dwelling Garden Land East of Hillside, Riverview Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AU | OBJECTION/ |

| APP NO: | PROPOSAL | WBC DECISION |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL: | | |
| 20/00673/ CERTP | Pitched roof porch on front of house to workshop. 49 Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne RG8 7JR | APPROVAL |
| 20/00830/ HOUSE | Proposed first Floor extension for new bedroom above existing kitchen; 1no. new bathroom velux and 4no. new sun tubes to first floor. 16 Purley Way, Pangbourne RG8 7JY | APPROVAL |
| 20/00701/ HOUSE | Erect side and rear extensions 25 Briars Close, Pangbourne RG8 7LH | REFUSED |
| 20/00554/ HOUSE | Single storey front and rear extensions. Conversion of garage to workshop. 33 Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne RG8 7JP | APPROVAL |
| 20/00473/ FULD | New 4 bedroom detached dwelling with detached garage and new crossover. Camden Ridge, Riverview Road, Pangbourne | APPROVAL |
| 20/00126/ HOUSE | Proposed side and rear extensions and inclusion of loft conversion to existing dwelling. 34 Bourne Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JS | APPROVAL |
| 19/02460/ FULD | Planning application for block of nine flats and reconfigured car park Clifton House, 17 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7LU | APPROVAL |
| 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 | APPROVAL |
| 20/00260/ TPW | T1 - Birch - Crown lift to 2.5m above public footways and garden, plus 5m above the road, plus first main branch tip reduction by 1-1.5m. 69 Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne RG8 7LD | APPROVAL |
| 20/00357/ LBC2 | The installation of secondary glazing to three windows 27 Shooters Hill, Pangbourne RG8 7DZ (Masonic Temple) | APPROVAL |
| 20/00158/ FUL | Change of use from personal fitness and pilates studio to office. Unit 4, 41 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7HY | APPROVAL |
| 20/00157/ FUL | Change of use from office to personal fitness, health and pilates studio. Unit 2, 41 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7HY | APPROVAL |
| 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 Reading RG8 8HT | APPROVAL |
| 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 Reading RG8 8HT | APPROVAL |
| 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 Reading RG8 8HT | APPROVAL |

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| | Peter MacIver – peterpangbourne@gmail.com | 07768 004844 |
| VICE CHAIRMAN OF PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL | | |
| | John Higgs – jhiggs@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk | 0118 984 4758 |
| CLERK TO PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL | | |
| | Becky Elkin – clerk@pangbourne-pc.gov.uk | 0118 984 1118 |
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| Issue 159 – November/December | 9th October | 29th October |
| Issue 160 – January/February | 4th December | 7th January |

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