

September 2013

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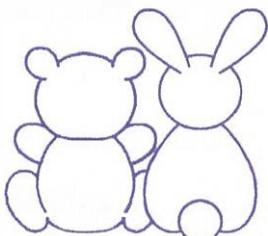
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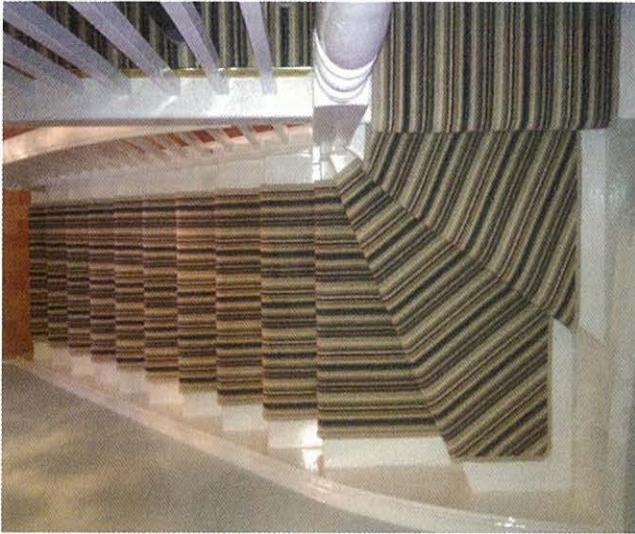


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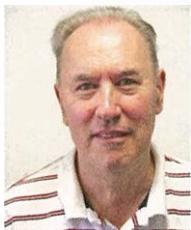
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Editorial

September has become the month of food glorious food, especially with BOFF, the Big Olney Food Festival, which takes place on Saturday the 7th of September in Olney Market Place.

Last year must have been a record turnout and with what is on offer this year it is sure to bring in the crowds again. We have a few pages of food articles inside the magazine with some local food outlets advertising their wares as well. Not all of them are from Olney, and not all of them are taking part in BOFF, but they do provide extremely good food services and are all local, so you have a great choice of where to go to eat, drink, or buy your food.

Everyone should find it a tad easier getting into Olney

now the road surfacing has been completed. A full week of upheaval has had many of the shops in the town contacting us with alternatives to the way things could have been managed. Shopping chaos has been caused by the road works. Well, now that the road works are over, I'm sure the new, smooth road surface will bring customers back to the town.

And, after all that food, one thing you might think of trying out is the Newport Pagnell Muster, there are a few walks available of different lengths being held on Saturday 14th of September which should help you get rid of those extra pounds you may have put on the week before!

More info on page 78.

Ron Hall (Editor)

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Dee Cosford Mystery Visitor

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Food'athon

See our summer food section, featuring BOFF, Phonebox Foodie, Recipes and more

Events

All the Latest Events Listed for You

For our readers in Astwood, Blakelands, Brayfield on the Green, Bozeat, Carlton, Chicheley, Clifton Reynes, Cold Brayfield, Denton, Emberton, Filgrave, Giffard Park, Grendon, Hanslope, Harrold, Lathbury, Lavendon, Lavendon Grange, Moulsoe, Newport Pagnell, Newton Blossomville, North Crawley, Olney, Petsoe End, Ravenstone, Sharnbrook, Stagsden, Stevington, Stoke Goldington, Turvey, Turvey Station, Tyringham, Lathbury, Weston Underwood, Wollaston, Yardley Hastings



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Mysterious Milton Keynes

Competition

Congratulations to Gerald Brook of Leeds, who was the first entry out of the hat in our Mysterious Milton Keynes competition. One copy of Mysterious Milton Keynes is winging its way up to you.



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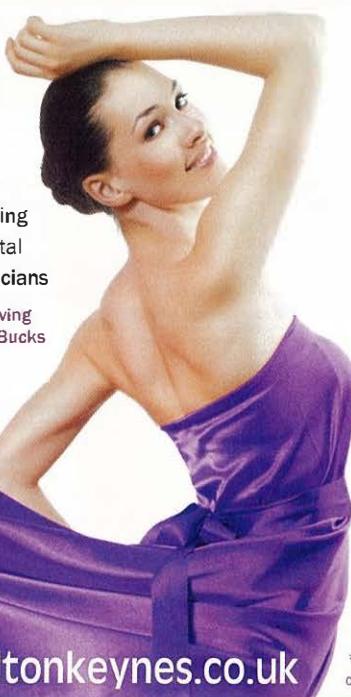
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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Billy Harley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double

glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we

say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Milton Keynes, Bedford and Leighton Buzzard areas and Billy is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's

not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Billy a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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The purpose of this short article is to allay any fears some residents may have at the prospect of the freehold of The Olney Centre, including the Library and Pre-School, being transferred from Milton Keynes Council (MKC) to Olney Town Council (OTC). Originally, the old school building belonged to Bucks County Council, and all the alterations that OTC has made were in conjunction with the county council and the county library service. When Milton Keynes became a unitary authority some years ago, The Olney Centre was transferred to MKC. Attempts were made by OTC to obtain the freehold at that time, and since, but to no avail.

The new initiative from MKC of Community Asset Transfer has resulted in them offering to town and parish councils and community groups the opportunity to take on the freehold and management of community assets like The Olney Centre.

Because OTC has always managed the day to day operation of The Olney Centre, the transfer of the freehold to us will have no effect on the users of the building including the Library and the Pre-School.

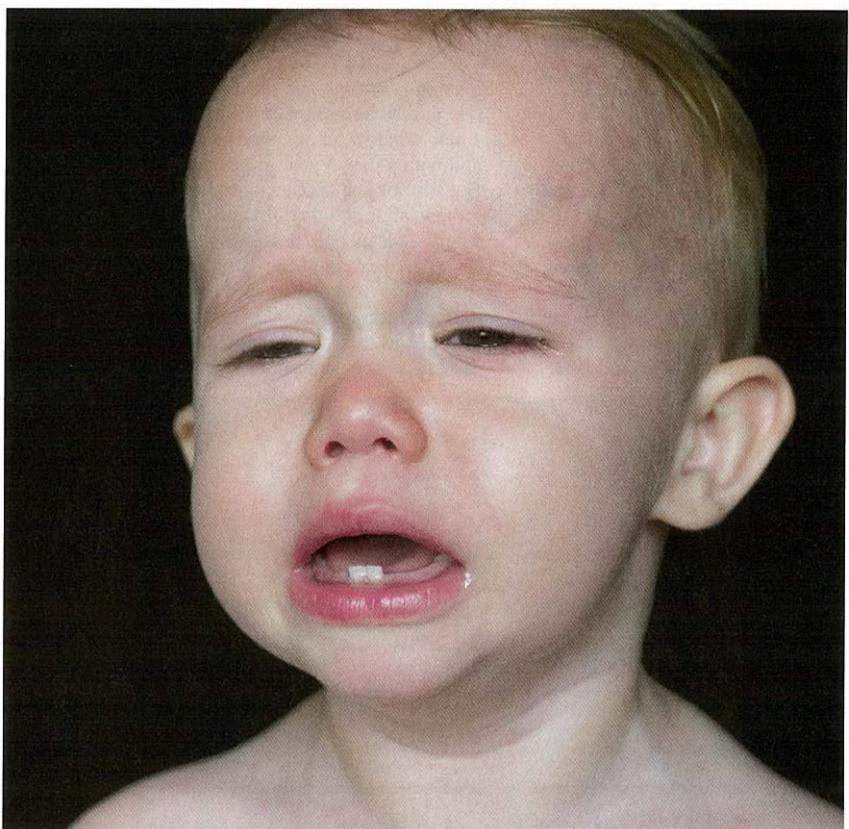
What it does mean is that OTC will become responsible for the upkeep of the outside of the building; we already maintain the interior. A structural survey has been carried out on the whole building to ensure that there are no major problems that could cost OTC in the near future.

Part of the process of the asset transfer requires OTC to consult the views of the various groups that use the centre and this has been done by a letter that was sent out in July. It is hoped that groups will respond favourably, and that this brief explanation will help those who were unsure as to what was really happening.

Finally, providing MKC agree to the transfer of the building to OTC, we can reassure you that nothing will change for those who use the centre.

Tears and Fears for OTC

Olney Centre Notice



J. GARRARD & ALLEN SOLICITORS

J. Garrard & Allen has been a leading firm in Bucks, Beds and Northamptonshire since it was established in 1799. Based within the central market town of Olney, we have had the privilege of advising generations of local families and businesses on a multitude of matters.

Our strong reputation for sound, trusted and practical advice has accorded us the honour of loyal and respected clients from across these Counties, in many other parts of the Country, and, indeed the World. We believe that this can be attributed to our ethos of ensuring that only qualified Solicitors represent and advise our clients.

We are always happy to meet you in your own home, should it be difficult for you to travel to the office. We are more than ably assisted by our superb support staff.

Allow us to introduce ourselves:



ROBERT MARCHANT (Senior Partner)

Robert has been with JGA for over 25 years and has been advising on various high value commercial and property matters since he qualified in the City. His talents, however, far exceed the realms of property law and he is reputed for his comprehensive knowledge in the law of landlord & tenant, partnerships and business ventures and tax & wealth planning. JGA is very much a Marchant family firm, his Father, Andrew, having been a Senior Partner here for decades before him.

BRENT HILL (Managing Partner)

Brent has been instrumental in the growth of JGA since 1975 when he opted to leave city firm Simmons & Simmons. Alongside Robert's Father, Brent's reputation for commercial knowhow, extensive expertise and no nonsense approach has furthered the firm's strong local reputation. His knowledge and experience are invaluable to his clients and to his colleagues. Brent deals with multi-million pound development sites, all manner of commercial property transactions and planning law.



VANESSA SCHOMBERG (Partner)

What Vanessa does not know about Wills, Trusts and Tax & Wealth Planning probably isn't worth knowing! She is our guru when it comes to such matters, but with her extensive experience of over 30 years, you probably wouldn't be surprised. Vanessa's brilliant mind coupled with her sympathetic approach has helped countless clients prepare Wills and Powers of Attorney, establish family trusts, organise high value estates and advised many as to the best way to avoid the payment of inheritance tax, or at least reduce what is a burdensome levy at 40%. She boasts a healthy love for Manchester United, but we don't hold that against her!

PAUL GARDENER (Partner)

Paul, our Senior Civil Litigator, Employment, Personal Injury and Dispute lawyer (not to mention the many other disciplines in which he has expertise), became a Partner at JGA in 2001. His knowledge of the law is remarkable, as is his ability to translate that into practical, clear and concise advice; he is a truly talented lawyer, and his many accreditations, although hard earned, are well deserved. We would refer you to our website for a more comprehensive list of his expertise; there simply isn't space here.



ANNE MCCALLUM

Anne specialises in residential conveyancing, but having qualified in 1979 and worked in a number of city and provincial firms, her experience is far wider than this. Anne advises clients on all manner of property transaction, including Transfers of Equity, Declarations of Trust with Rights of Occupation, Mortgages & Remortgages, Equity Release, Shared Ownership, Residential Leases and First Registrations to name but a few. She is also a very active member of the community in Olney and surrounding district, including acting as a Trustee of the Olney-Newton Link, a local charity.

RICHARD SATYANADHAN

Richard, our second in command for litigious matters, qualified as a Solicitor in 2004 having progressed here from legal assistant, to Trainee to his current role alongside Paul Gardener. His encyclopaedic knowledge of civil procedure is a dangerous and skilled asset from which his clients continue to benefit. Richard has wide experience in many aspects of complex commercial litigation, routinely deals with Landlord & Tenant disputes, small claims matters and more recently litigious probate. He is also in training to qualify as a Costs Draftsman.



JAMES MCCARVILLE

James has been with the firm for a number of years now, having trained and qualified with us. Routinely advising clients on multiple issues including Wills, Trusts, Tax, Powers of Attorney and Probate, James works closely with Vanessa in our Private Client department. However, he also advises on a number of property matters and tends to masquerade as an honorary member of the Property Department. As such, James deals with a diverse range of issues, but has a particular interest in Court of Protection and Elderly Client matters.



RENNIE CHAMBERS

Rennie is our resident expert in leasehold/ landlord & tenant matters. Working alongside Brent and Robert in our commercial department, Rennie principally advises commercial clients on property and development transactions, but his practice includes finance, general real estate and corporate transactions. Prior to joining JGA, Rennie had practised with a major international law firm.



GILLIAN RUSHFORD

Gillian is our newest addition having joined the firm in the early Spring of this year and heads our family law department. As an experienced Court advocate and Solicitor of some years, Gillian is able to advise on all areas of matrimonial law, including divorce, matrimonial finances, civil partnerships, children act disputes and proceedings, domestic violence, cohabitation disputes and issues, prenuptial and no nuptial agreements, and all issues surrounding the family and relationships. What's more, before qualifying as a Solicitor in 2005, Gillian had practised as a Barrister having been called to the bar in 2002.

Find us at: 4 High Street, Olney, MK46 4BB

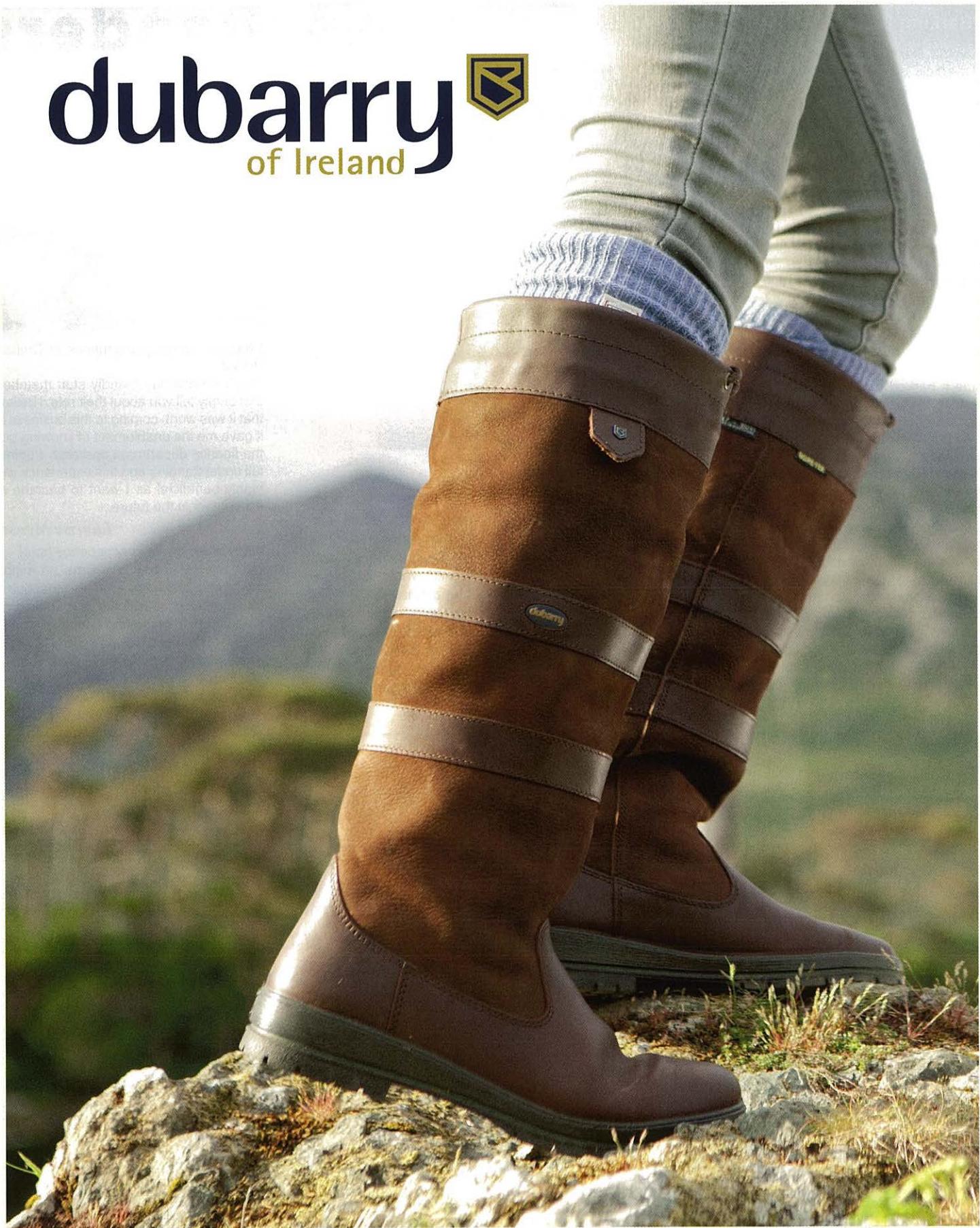
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Phonebox Magazine 9

Barking Dog

Anon

I would like to comment regarding the article about the barking dog in Dinglederry. The comment made by the sender was most welcome. We too have heard the same dog barking on many different occasions especially at 6 am in the morning. This does appear to be when the owners have gone away for a short time and a family member lets the dog outside and leaves it there. I don't think the dog is being mistreated, but it obviously does not like to be left outside. It also quite possible that -as in the comment I refer to below from the RSPCA- the owners don't know it barks when they are out. I must admit when the barking was particularly bad, I was making a note of the length of time it barked and how frequently. I was on the point of thinking how can I politely tell these neighbours about their dog? It was difficult because the owners are very nice people. When I read the article, I was relieved that someone had spoken out.

Interestingly I hadn't heard it recently - but then we have been away on holiday! However, would you believe it? Yes it barked for about 5 minutes this morning - July 31st. I haven't heard it any more today though. I do intend to make a note of the time it barks over the next few weeks, but let's hope the owner has read the Phonebox and does something about it!

Run for Animal Care

Isabel Jaye

My name is Isabel Jaye and I am from Ravenstone. I have recently graduated as a veterinary surgeon from the University of Nottingham and am planning raising money through sponsorship to help Animal Care Abroad continue their important work.

In order to do this I am running a sponsored 5km run in September so any donations would be very much appreciated. Animal Care helps working animals and the people that depend on them so greatly for their livelihoods.
justgiving.com/isabel-jaye



Readers

Work Experience

Orchard Press welcomed two work experience students, Miranda and Laurisa



I had an amazing experience in Orchard Press!

The business has friendly staff members that briefly tell you about their role. I believe that it was worth coming to this business as it gave me the enablement of knowing how the finance department operates. I gained full understanding and this experience was highly beneficial as I want to become an accountant in the future.

Laurisa Mensah

I truly loved my work experience here! Orchard Press has given me an insight on how a business can be established and made me passionate on pursuing my career path in marketing and advertising. I would recommend looking into the business since everyone deserves to have such an amazing experience!

Miranda Obeng

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Letters

Farewell

Jo, Tim Bourn and family
(and Daisy & Jaz the dogs)

Through the medium of the Phonebox I'd just like to say a big thank you to all the people in Olney who made our 18 year stay so enjoyable. We had hoped to have a leaving do but as usual we left it too late. So if we missed you we didn't mean to go without saying goodbye.

When we arrived the Tannery hooter was still summoning everyone to work, the children met in the town square to parade up to the first school for their annual school fair and the Fiesta was in full flow. As we leave a new cohort have kept the community spirit alive, reading the Phonebox every month demonstrates this. Our three children have grown up in an ideal environment. They've learnt how to smile and say hello to people, without stopping and putting themselves in danger. They now carry this with them as they move in to the wider world. Thank you to all the faces going up Spring Lane and the memories you have given our children. Thank you also to all the people that gave up their time so our children could enjoy sport/Brownies/Scouts and learn to use their energy and skills productively.

We'll miss all the dog walkers and the wildlife, kingfishers, otters, owls, adders and wallabies to name a few. We learnt

so much by talking to the locals about the history of the town. These chats will be treasured.

As I sit here in Devon the rain is pouring down, the radio says it's sunny in the South East and the internet isn't working! The girl's say we look like a family of self-harmers after cutting down the brambles. On the plus side the view from the window is amazing and the tree doesn't stop moving with the amount of birds in it. Thank you once again to all the friends and fantastic neighbours we have left behind if you're ever this way do pop in. From Jo, Tim Bourn & family (And Daisy & Jaz the dogs.)

Magazine Inquiry

Isobel

Dear Editor

My name is Isobel and I am an 18 yr old student from Milton Keynes. Through my volunteer work with Make a Difference (MaD) I have secured some funding from O2 Think Big to create a youth "zine". The small magazine, "MaD Quill" will showcase young writers from across the city. I am currently looking for any young writers aged 16-20 who would be interested in contributing to or getting involved in the production of the zine. Anyone who wants to know more can email me at: isobelrose16@hotmail.co.uk

Missed Walks

Jackie Worby

Dear Editor

I would like to give you feedback on your magazine that I read in Newport Pagnell at my place of work. I find it very interesting to know what is going on at the weekends in the area and if I need a tradesman there are adverts for everything, but my favourite is the series of walks set out with easy to follow instructions we did the Castle Ashby one today and will do the Ravenstone one next weekend. They were from the May, June July issue but not in August please could we have another one for September as we are looking forward to getting out in the countryside in this fine weather followed by a much welcome pub lunch.

See page 66 and 67, Jackie



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Please send entries to Brooklands Dental Clinic LTD. Brookland Farm Newport Road, Broughton, MK16 0HU. Winner drawn at random from correct entries. No cash alternative prize is available. The judges decision is final. Closing date 30th September 2013. Winner will be notified in writing in October.

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Dexterity

An array of enlightening performances absorbed the hearts and minds of eager audience members. The annual Dexterity Showcase is always a mix, from the young, light-hearted dancers to the more professional, inspiring and creative performances.

Estha Jones is the much needed and admired artist that merges the treasured mix of these opposites into one perfected masterpiece. Backstage was fun, ordered chaos, every dancer played their part in the day's pursuits towards what many people believed to be a very successful and enjoyable evening.

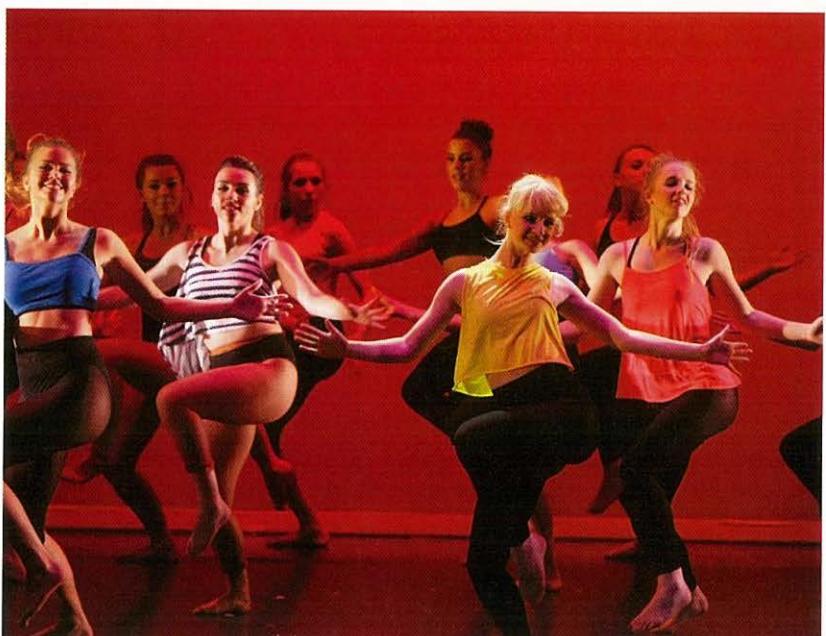
From the audiences view the dancers did no wrong and executed each dramatic motif the way they expected.

The dancers abilities range from beginners to highly skilled with professional performances from former students. We also have a unique boys Contemporary dance group which is always a very popular piece – the boys always amaze us with their talents. The Dexterity community is always keen to accept new members. Whether the person has no experience or is the next George Sampson, we are happy to work with them.

Dexterity is like a family, we know and care for everyone and we couldn't work without each other.

By Ellie Leighton age 15.

If you would like to find out more about Dexterity and the classes we offer please visit our website www.dexteritydance.com or phone Estha on 07971 822 009. Enrollment for September is open book soon to avoid disappointment. Classes offered in Olney also coming soon. Maybe you too could be onstage with us next year?





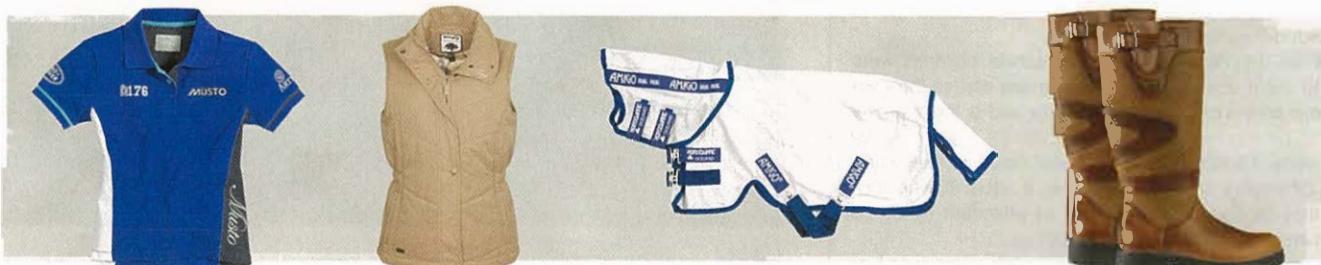
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The Bathing Place

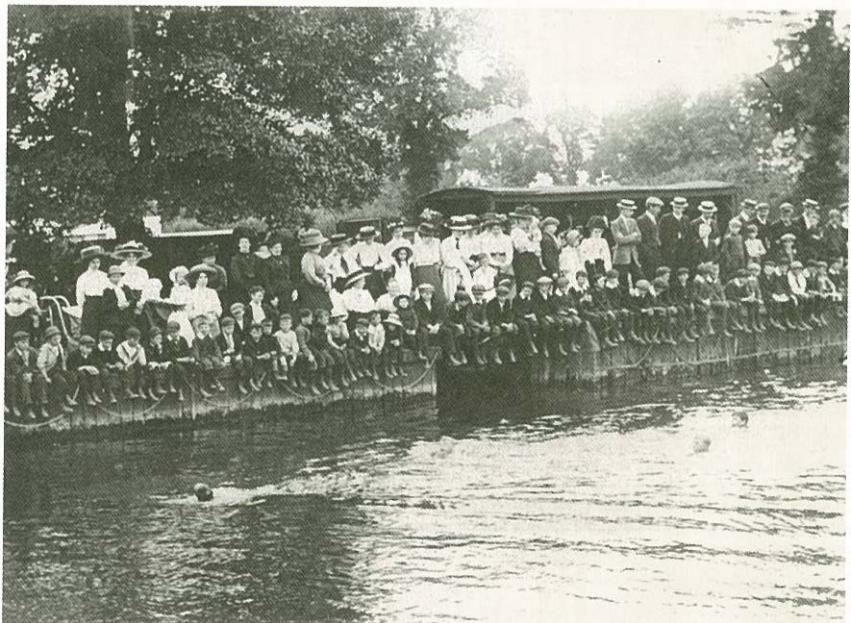
A History Of Swimming In Newport



Plaque



Original bridge



The site where competitive and leisure swimming started in Newport Pagnell was situated on the River Lovat, off the Willen Road. Prior to having a designated area the local lads swam down by the Mill in the River Great Ouse.

The owner of the Mill at that time did not approve and to deter them he put broken bottles on the river bed. Thankfully the new headmaster of the Church Schools on Riverside, Mr Orson Bull, collected the glass and placed it on the town pump in the High Street outside Taylor's Chemists (now Willen Hospice Charity Shop). This brought to everybody's attention the need for somewhere safe to swim.

On 21st June 1887 at Newport Pagnell, as elsewhere, the event of the Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was being celebrated. The celebrations commenced with the opening, before breakfast, of a new bathing place off the Willen Road. Various events took place including a knife and fork tea in Bury Field to which 1,300 sat down, and then enjoyed sports and a firework display.

Wheels were set in motion to enhance the designated area, two wooden sheds were erected and later the banks were concreted and chains attached to hold onto, also steps were made on either side of the temporary bridge. At a later date the permanent footbridge was erected with fittings for a plank at the side to enable swimmers to start their races with a dive.

A swimming Club was formed in 1890 and Aquatic sports were held against other clubs including Cambridge and London. Internal galas were held for the men and boys, (no women swimmers at that time). Many spectators lined the banks to watch with hundreds travelling on the train from Wolverton.

NEWPORT PAGNELL AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

(Affiliated to the M.O.A.S.A.)

THE AQUATIC SPORTS

Under the Laws of the Amateur Swimming Association.

Will be held at the 'Bathing Place' on Tuesday 6th AUGUST, 1895
commencing at 3 pm

In 1903 the professional champion of the world at all distances came to attempt to break the existing 5 mile record, his name was Joey Nuttal. One annual event was a team race (80 yards) for the Duke of Bedford Challenge Cup. Newport Pagnell won the trophy every year from 1898 - 1902, and as was customary, they retained the Trophy. A grand concert was organised for the presentation of the Trophy. The trophy is now held by the current Chairman of the Newport Pagnell Swimming Club.

As well as the regular Galas, the school children were taught to swim. On completing swimming across the river they were presented with a certificate and a three penny piece.

In the early 1900's alterations were made to the water closet! Changing from a plank over a ditch! It was also stated that on special ladies days an attendant would be present and the screens would be put up.

Swimming continued in the river until 1951 when the river became polluted and the bathing place closed. The town could not afford to build a swimming pool but in 1956 an original swimmer of the Duke of Bedford Relay team went into the Council offices with a wonderful gift of money and shares to be used to build a swimming pool. He stated he wanted it to be completed by the following summer, which it was.

He remained anonymous until his death when his name was revealed as Harry Middleton and the pool officially named as Middleton Pool.

In 1988 the pool was covered and heated and opened by Sharron Davies. The Newport Pagnell Swimming Club expanded and had many county swimmers.

The Bathing Place bridge which saw so many Galas and events is now being replaced as the concrete pillars are deteriorating. The new bridge will be higher, wider and with longer ramps for ease of access.

The remaining reminders of the old Bathing Place are being retained, the concreted sides of the river, the concrete steps and the base of the diving board further down the river. The information plaque which was erected by the Historical Society will be reinstated when the new bridge opens.

By Connie Hilton Past President and Chairman of Newport Pagnell Swimming Club and Past President and Chairman of Newport Pagnell Historical Society.

As readers of The Phonebox will remember, our friend and neighbour, British Jazz Legend Terry Lightfoot, passed away in March earlier this year. As a mark of respect, Terry's Jazzmen (including local resident and family friend, drummer Bobby Orr), lead by Terry's youngest daughter Melinda, will take to the stage for one last time, in a fund raising concert for Ward 2 at Milton Keynes General Hospital, where Terry received such good care in his last weeks.

The concert will be held at Terry's favourite venue, The Stables Theatre, Wavendon, on Sunday 6th October at 7:30. The audience will be taken on a journey from his early days as a Bandleader, through to Melinda joining the band. The second set will see Melinda hand over the reins to Terry's youngest Grandson Joe (singer/guitarist) and will feature his brother Ollie on Drums (both boys attended Olney First School).

Growing up surrounded by music, it is no surprise that both boys are very talented musicians; they first played with Terry's Jazzmen in 2010 at The Buxton Opera House, when Joe was just 14 and Ollie 17!

The second set of the concert will feature songs from some of Terry's favourite artists, including Norah Jones, Ray Charles, Jamie Cullum and John Mayer. Melinda explains "I'm delighted that The Bateman Brothers (Ian and Alan) will be joining us on the night and that Ian has worked on specific brass arrangements for the songs which Joe will perform, it will certainly be a night to remember!"

Terry's Clarinet seat will be occupied by the world class Julian Stringle, "I first met Julian at The 100 Club in London" explains Melinda "when planning this concert Julian was the obvious choice, as Dad held him in such high regard. He is truly an outstanding and versatile musician and in September he is in the recording studio with my two sons". "I'm delighted with the line-up and that the evening will appeal to all ages, who knows, some of their old school friends or teachers may be there!" laughs Melinda.

Melinda will be joined by the award winning Trombone player Roy Williams, who first joined Terry's band in the early 60's and appeared regularly with the band for the last 7 years. Prior to Roy's return, the regular Trombone player was Ian Bateman (now with Acker Bilk's Band) and Melinda is delighted that Ian will join them on the night and is collaborating with Joe.

Now 17, being influenced by Terry, John Mayer, Jamie Cullum and Ed Sheeran, Joe is a full-time singer/guitarist and determined to make Grandad proud. He regularly performs in London and Northampton. Between now and The Stables Concert, Joe is headlining a gig in London and has been booked to appear as 'one of the best unsigned artists in the UK today'! You can follow the Lightfoot legacy on Twitter @joemilesmusic and Facebook.com/joemilesofficial.

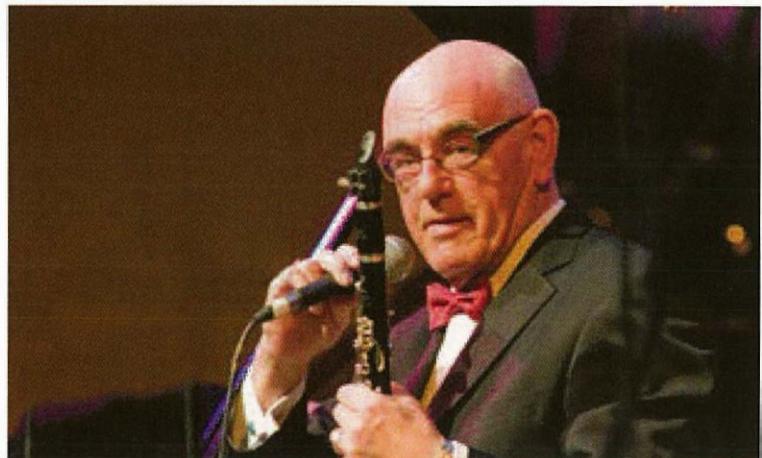
The Stables Box Office can be contacted on 01908 280800 "a great night, for a great cause, in tribute to a great man.....bring your dancing shoes"

Terry Lightfoot

A Tribute to a Legend



"As one journey has ended another one has begun" explains Melinda Lightfoot"



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01908 562 151/info@afmk.co.uk/www.afmk.co.uk

Enrolment morning in Olney Library on 7th Sept 10.00 to 12.00

CHURCHES TOGETHER NEWPORT PAGNELL

Letter From The Minister Klaus Reidel

I recently spent a weekend at Turvey Abbey. Such a visit is always special and my latest stay at Turvey Abbey, which is located between Bedford and Northampton, was no different. This time I went on a retreat there, which is an opportunity to withdraw from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to spend time with God and with oneself. Turvey Abbey is a great place for such contemplation. Its lovely gardens are an invitation for gentle walks, but crucially it also has a rhythm of life that's determined by the times of prayer. It was a great joy to join the nuns and monks in their regular prayer time. A retreat has nothing to do with escapism; in fact it is the opposite. It is a time of reflecting on life and where changes could be made. This was aided by times of silence. When I experienced periods of deliberate silence for the first time a few years ago, I wondered what the point of it all was. Can silence be helpful? Amazingly, it can, because it gives us the chance to distance ourselves from the noise that usually goes on around us. A period of silence helps us to focus on our inner voice. It is a bit of a journey of discovery. As all this takes place in a prayerful environment, God speaks to us on retreats. He does so all the time, of course. But a retreat and especially a silent one helps us to listen to him.

The Space Academy Needs You Rev Jenny Mills

Three, Two, One... BLAST OFF! On Monday 12th August we blasted off into Space Academy for our week long Holiday Club run by the Churches' Together in Newport Pagnell. We had over 120 children registered, all checks and preparation had been done and over 30 volunteers arrived at the United Reformed Church which we used as Mission Control for the week. Each day began with group time: Starts, Martians, Aliens, Kryptons, Klingons and Vulcans – age appropriate groups in bases around the URC and in the Methodist Church. We all then gathered in the URC for our morning exercise regime where we had to exercise until we were Fit To Fly. This was followed by our Holiday Club song which we got better and better at as the week went on and most of Newport probably heard by Friday; we were so loud! Each day we had a game of Double Or Drop! 23 items held and nothing dropped! And then we had a story. Each day we learnt more about Daniel from the Old Testament in the Bible. We heard of him as a young boy trusting in God to help and guide him after he was caught by the Babylonians and how he became wise and an adviser to King Nebuchadnezzar. We traced his journey as he got older and still trusted God to guide, help and love him. Daniel



was like an alien – he was taken to a different country and it must have felt like he was so far from home. But he knew God would care for him – we learnt that God cares for each of us, too, and wants the whole world to look after each other and the world God has created. After our whole group sessions we went into our teams and each day had snacks and then crafts and learnt more about the story of Daniel.

The robot is one of the creations made. Thursday evening we met at the Baptist Church for a BBQ and a show and tell evening with family and friends. The Holiday Club ended on Friday with exhausted but happy leaders and children alike! Much fun, lots of friendship making, fellowship and a time to find out about faith in God. A good week! Here's to next year.



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Mystery Visitor: Diana Cosford

July's edition of The Phonebox featured a request from local artist DEE Diana Cosford to help identify the mystery writer of a lovely comments message left at Dee's exhibition at The Three Hares Gallery, Cowper & Newton Museum Olney. The mystery reader wrote that a certain piece of music (George Butterworth's Bank of Green Willow) came to mind when viewing Dee's paintings so Dee felt compelled to download the lovely music which she says she will paint to.

Stoke Goldington reader Emily Chua "was reading the Phonebox and saw the scan of the blue note with familiar handwriting. It was penned by my mother. She had rung me up a few weeks previously and said she had had a lovely morning. One of the things she had done was to visit (Dee's) exhibition and leave that comments slip".

Her mother, Olney resident Pamela Attenborough, 82 and living in 4 Knights Close, has always loved classical music, especially English composers and both parents were interested in contemporary art.

Pamela has grown to love Olney, the walks she can do, the life of the town and the easy access and seeing Dee's exhibition was one of her pleasures.

She did not put her name because (as she told Dee when she met her recently- see picture alongside) it "was not about her".

Mother and daughter were delighted to see the Mystery visitor identity request and Emily, in her message to Dee, also wrote "Thank you for helping to make my mum happy."

So all involved want to thank the Phonebox publication!



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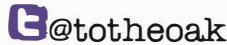
we serve our fantastic locally sourced roast beef from 12pm-5pm every Sunday, so as the autumn approaches why not book a table, kick back with a newspaper and we'll look after the food and drinks for you and your friends & family

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Mind the Pensions Gap

This year's Pensions Bill lays the foundation to rebuild the UK's retirement savings system and simplify the State Pension. Many aspects of the State's Pension provision will change as a result, including:

The introduction of flat rate pensions based only on an individual's record of National Insurance contributions.

Higher rates of National Insurance contributions for both employers and employees as the earnings-related elements of the state pension are abolished.

Further increases in the state pension age.

Increases in state pension expectations for low earners, and reductions for high earners (although benefits accrued until 2016 are retained).

How Will This Affect You?

How you may be affected depends on when you'll reach State Pension age. If it's after April 2016, there will be a one-off recalculation of everyone's State Pension to ensure existing entitlements are protected. Whether you'll benefit or lose out depends on your individual circumstances.

Find out more

If you would like advice on how the Pensions Bill may affect you, please contact us.

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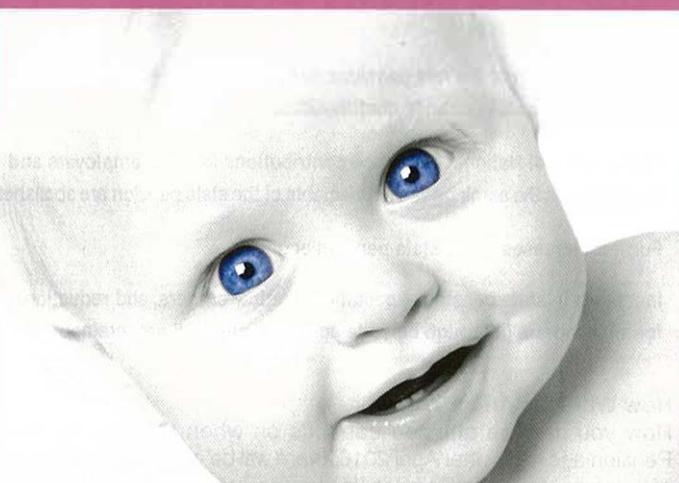


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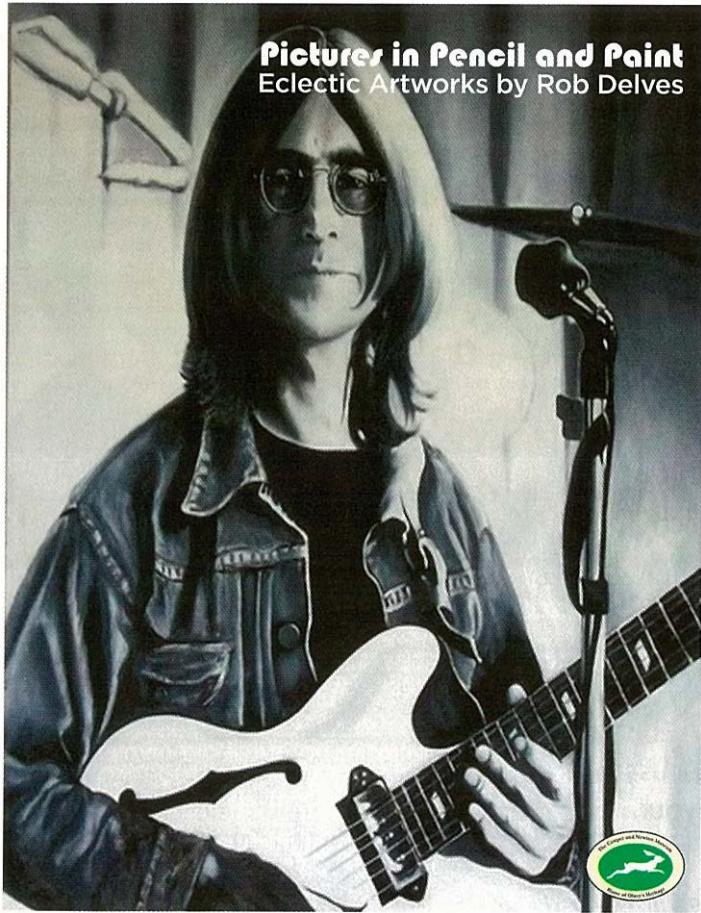


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4th to 28th September 2013

**Three Hares Gallery,
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Events

Jazz Nights @ Cafe Brio

Every Monday at 7.30pm

Come along and enjoy good food in a brilliant atmosphere with some great local music. 2nd Sept Neal Astbury; 9th Martin Simons Duo; 16th Cool Jazz with Elaine hatton & Neil Riches; 23rd Lincoln Noel; 30th Neal Astbury

Live @ The Bull, Olney

Every Sunday from 8pm

1st Sept: Open Mic
8th Sept: Gig Night
15th Sept: Open Mic
22nd Sept: Gig Night
www.facebook.com/livebulloleyne

Farmers Market @ Olney Market Place

First Sunday of every month

Thursday Lunch Club @ the Olney Centre, High Street

Every Thursday at 12.30

Why not come along and join us for lunch? . . . You will be sure of a warm welcome.... Jenny Owen and her team from Age UK serve up a wonderful home-cooked two-course lunch plus tea or coffee for £5. So if you are over 60 years of age, do come along – no need to book.

Green Park Community Centre, Newport Pagnell

Every Thursday, 10-12noon

Short Mat Bowls, Darts, Cards, Quizzes. £2 a week. If you are retired, why not come and join us?

Olney Senior Citizens Club @The Olney Centre

Every Friday at 2pm

Sept 6th: Whist
Sept 13th: Bingo
Sept 20th: Affordable Warmth
Sept 27th: Harvest Festival and
Tea at URC

Olney Jazz Club @ Carlton House Club

Tuesday September 3rd at 8pm

Sponsored by Phonebox Mag Hot Club of Cambridge with Andy Aitchison (violin): £9 on the door; £7 in advance.

Emberton and District Flower Club World of Flowers @ the Olney Centre

Tuesday September 3rd at 7.30pm

World of Flowers demonstration with Sue Smithson from Banbury (NAFAS). Raffle,

tea and coffee. All welcome, visitors £4.50. More information on 01234 712883.

Lippy Ladies Supper @ The Old Mill, Newton Blossomville

Tuesday September 3rd at 7pm Main course and a glass of wine for £10. Choose from pan-fried chicken breast or aubergine & mozzarella stack. Please book before 2nd September.

Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale @ Westbury Grange

Saturday 7th September
10.00am to 12 noon.
In the Limes Atrium (next to Westbury Grange).

Big Olney Food Festival

Saturday 7th September 12 noon to 10.30pm

Kids Zone 12-5pm, Live music from 4.30pm, fabulous food all day and evening - see Phonebox Foodie for more details

Olney Model Railway Club Exhibition @ Carlton House Club

Saturday 7th September
10.30am to 4.30pm
£2.50 entrance fee for adults, £2 for children and over 60s, £6.50 for a family ticket. Refreshments available. Many layouts, trade support, society stands.

Newport Pagnell Horticultural Show @ United Reformed Church, High Street, Newport Pagnell

Saturday 7th September

Patronal Festival Weekend @ St Mary The Virgin, Carlton

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September

Saturday at 7.30pm - a choral festival of Marian Music, tickets £8 at the door or Carlton Village Shop.

Sunday at 11am - Festival Eucharist with the venerable Malcolm Lesiter. And in the afternoon 2pm-5pm Tea and Cakes.

Yardley Hastings Village Weekend @ Yardley Hastings

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September

Food and drink market on the Saturday 11 until 4pm in the village hall. Beer tent in the grounds of the hall from Andrew at the Rose and Crown - 11-4 on Saturday and 2-4 on

Live & Local Diary

Sunday. Cheese platters will be available too. Sunday afternoon there will be the traditional fete.

BOFF The Big Olney Food Festival, Saturday 7th September

Emberton Fete @ Church Farm Gardens

Sunday 8th September at 1pm Home made cakes, garden produce, a book stall, bottle tombola, classic cars, stalls and games. Sit down with a light lunch or afternoon tea and listen to Olney Brass entertaining you.

Photographic Exhibition @ Stagsden Village Hall

Sunday 8th September 2-6pm A collection of contemporary images themed Moggies 'n' Motors by Alison Wilkerson. £2 entrance fee.

Summer's End Fete & Fun Dog Show @ HULA Animal Rescue, Aspley Guise

Sunday 8th September 12 noon 4.30pm Fun dog show (entries on the day); visit from Gully Mouse; Hula Dog Parade; Pet Photo competition; Side stalls and bazaar; children's fun and games; homemade refreshments; pet shed bargains. Dogs welcome. Admission £2 adults, accompanied children just £1. Free parking.

Olney Archaeological Society @ The Olney Centre

Tuesday 10th September at 10am to noon

Dr Gill Eyes - a geologist, who works with archaeologists, has lectured at the Open University since 1986 - will give a talk entitled 'From Tropical Seas to Icy Wastes - The Geology of Bucks'.

New members welcome. £20 for 19 lectures. Visitors £3 per lecture.

The Cowper and Newton Society @ The Olney Centre

Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm

Speaker is Naomi Jones speaking about her Experiences of Homeopathy and HIV in Africa. Entrance £2. Refreshments. Raffle. All welcome.

NADFAS - Local branch of North Bucks DFAS @ Lovat Hall, Silver Street, Newport Pagnell

Second Thursday of each month - next meeting 12th Sept

We are a friendly society and would be pleased to meet you at one of our lectures. We also hold special interest days and have visits, the next being to the Pompeii exhibition at the British Museum. Further details at www.northbucksdfas.co.uk Times of Meetings: Coffee at 10.15, chairman's notices 10.50; lecture 11am. Thursday 12th September: Professor Andrew Hopkins - The Sacred Spaces of St Peter's in Rome. Info:

Professor Hopkins was the Assistant Director of the British School in Rome until 2002 and since 2004 is the Associate Professor at the University of L'Aquila. Part of his PhD on Venetian architecture was awarded the Essay Medal by the Society of Architectural Historians (GB). He was a Fellow at Harvard University's Villa I Tatti in Florence and in 2009 was the Paul Mellon Senior Visiting Fellow at the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC. He has also written books on The Origins of Baroque Art in Rome and Baldassare Longhena and the Venetian Baroque.

Lavendon Annual Village Show

Saturday 14th September from 2.30pm

Schedules are available in the Village Shop, the Green Man, the Horseshoe and other outlets in and around Lavendon and on line at www.lavendon-connection.com

Black Tie Dinner and Promise Auction @ The Olney Centre

Saturday 14th September Any monies raised go to the Soul Time projects that are being held in the Church Hall.

Newport Muster @ Newport Pagnell

Saturday 14th September The fifth Newport Muster - a festival of walks in and around Newport Pagnell. More details elsewhere in the mag. Register on our website: www.newport-muster.org.uk.

Heritage Open Days @ Cowper and Newton Museum

Sat 14th and Sun 15th September, 10.30am - 4.30pm 240th Anniversary Celebration of 'Amazing Grace' - We will



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be celebrating this anniversary by opening the museum and gardens to the public free of charge on this weekend. The story of John Newton and how he came to write the words of "Amazing Grace" is well illustrated in the Museum and is particularly relevant on this occasion. The event will be part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme, the museum will be open 10.30am to 4.30pm both days.

**That Time of The Month
Comedy Club @ the Cannon
Newport Pagnell**

Sunday 15th September at 7pm
Brian Gittins brings his oddball comedy to the comedy club. The alter-ego of David Earl (Or Kev if you've seen 'Derek'), Brian Gittins is the owner of a roadside café somewhere off the A32. A couple of the café's regulars have said he's 'quite funny', so he's been attempting to make it in the world of comedy. He also supported Ricky Gervais for some of his tour in 2009. Tickets are £4 in advance or £5 on the door.

Olney & District Historical Society @ the Olney Centre

Tuesday 17th September at 7.30pm

Victorian Market Town Lodging Houses - A talk by Barrie Trinder - Historian living in Olney and ODHS Member (Programme change). All welcome.

**Have your Say Meetings:
NAG @ Costa Coffee**

Every fourth Monday at 10.30am

NAG with Tina Lewington, your local Police Community Support Officer. You can discuss local issues and concerns. The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd September.

Olney Archaeological Society @ The Olney Centre

Tuesday 24th September at 10am to noon

John Poulter, who has a degree in engineering and has spent many years studying roman roads, will give a talk entitled 'The planning of roads and walls in Roman Britain'. New members welcome. £20 for 19 lectures. Visitors £3 per lecture.

**Friends of the Museum
Autumn Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper @ Olney Centre**

Friday 27th September, 7.30pm

Tickets are £8 and available in the museum. Each table seats

6, but we can make up teams on the night. Bring your own glass and drink.

Mozart & Friends @ The Olney Centre

Saturday September 28th at 7.30pm

A group of local musicians, led by Karen Mason, have come together to raise funds for The Friends of Cobbs Garden. 'Mozart and Friends' an evening of chamber music, with groups including woodwind and strings, playing music by Bach, Mozart, Weber and others, will include an oboe quartet, a flute quartet (flute, violin, viola and cello) and a clarinet quintet (clarinet, two violins, viola and cello). Tickets are £10 including a drink and are available from the surgery.

Autumn Fayre in aid of Willen Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support @ North Crawley Institute

Saturday September 28th 2013 1pm - 4pm

Enjoy home made afternoon tea, buy some home made/

grown goodies and enjoy some shopping. Children's activities, a raffle and tombola for everyone to take part in.

**That Time of The Month
Comedy Club @ the Cannon
Newport Pagnell**

Sunday 29th September at 7pm
Marcel Lucont returns with his 2013 tour show - 'Gallic Symbol'. Witty, acerbic, magniloquent Frenchman seeks willing, intelligent audience for fun, adventure, maybe something more. Must have own underwear, socks and breath but be prepared to have these charmed off, laughed off and taken away respectively. Tickets £8 in advance and £10 on the door.

Terry Lightfoot - A Tribute to a Legend @ The Stables Theatre

Sunday 6th October at 7.30pm
Terry's Jazzmen, led by Terry's youngest daughter Melinda, will take to the stage for one last time, in a fund raising concert for Ward 2 at Milton Keynes General Hospital, where Terry




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Live & Local Diary

received such good care in his last weeks. The audience will be taken on a journey from his early days as a Bandleader, through to Melinda joining the band. The second set will see Melinda hand over the reins to Terry's youngest Grandson Joe (singer/guitarist) and will feature his brother Ollie on Drums (both boys attended Olney First School).

The Old Mill Race Night @ The Old Mill, Newton Blossomville

Saturday 12 October at 7.30pm. Raising funds for Willen Hospice. 8 races, Auction Race and Tri-Cast. Everyone welcome. Tickets are £4 including sausage and chip supper. Tickets from the Old Mill - 01234 881273

The Big Sing for Willen @ St Peter & St Paul Church, Newport Pagnell High Street

Saturday 12 October at 7.30pm. Admission £7.50; concessions £6.00. 150 amazing voices from six local choirs led by the Newport Pagnell Singers will celebrate International Voices

for Hospices Day. Together with Sounds Familiar, Music Makers Milton Keynes, Hearts and Music, The Reluctants and the U3A Choir we guarantee an enjoyable evening.

Tickets will be available from 2nd September at Cambourne Travel and CT Wilson's, Olney.

Flu Day @ Newport Pagnell Medical Centre

Saturday 12th and Wednesday 23rd October, 9th and 20th November in the mornings

Flu injections need to be repeated every year in the Autumn before the flu season starts. The vaccination is highly recommended for all patients age 65 years or over or in a medical 'at risk' group.

This risk group includes patients with heart or lung problems, diabetes, kidney or liver problems, patients who have had a stroke, patients who are taking medication or have an illness that lowers immunity, carers, if you are pregnant, health and social care staff

directly involved in patient care. Please ring 01908 617111 to book your appointment.

Hackleton and District WI's Annual Community Project 2013

The Roman Challenge Mountain Bike Event

www.romanchallenge.co.uk

Book early as places are limited Sunday 13th October 8am-5pm. Adults £15; 5 to 16 years £5. Under 5s free. Choose from three circular routes departing from Hackleton Village Hall. Superb ploughmans and WI home-made cakes included for all entrants.

Lillian Boutté Concert @ St Peter & Paul Church, Olney

Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm

Lillian has been on the music scene for more than 30 years singing jazz, gospel and R&B. She has performed with many legendary musicians including Humphrey Littleton. She is interested in Olney's link with the hymn Amazing Grace and has so agreed to come and sing for the Friends of Cowper & Newton Museum. It promises to be an excellent evening. Tickets available from the museum - £15

Singing for All in concert @ Cowper Memorial United Reformed Church, Olney

Saturday 16th November at 7pm

In aid of The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2013. Tickets are £5 and available from CT Wilsons and Sons or Teapots in Olney.

Emberton & District Flower Club Christmas Event @ Carlton Club, Olney

Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30pm

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The Courtyard Hotel, Stanwick, Northants, NN9 6QY Sunday 29th Sept

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The Carlton House, Club, 38 High St, Olney, Bucks, MK46 4BB Fri 18th Oct

Whitney Houston tribute

The Courtyard Hotel, Stanwick, Northants, NN9 6QY Sunday 27th Oct

Please note, all the above venues have regular club nights see website for details.

Club Nights £5.00 entry - Tribute Nights £8.00
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For more information on the
above events and news on
future ones visit the website

www.musicandfriends.co.uk

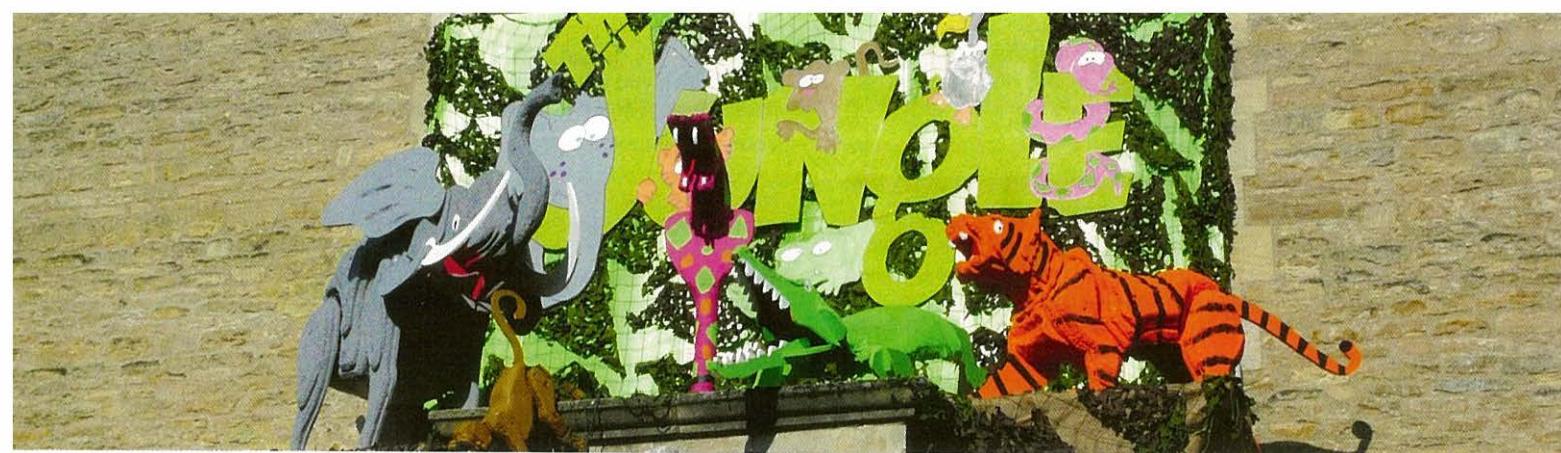
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Holiday Bible Club

The Jungle

"This year's Holiday Bible Club was called "The Jungle" and you may have seen the wonderful decorations on top of the porch at the Baptist Church recently. The Club is organised and funded by the four churches in the town, and is for children aged between five and 12.

Our fabulous famous family BBQ on Friday saw around 300 people enjoying the evening's fun and games. We had over 200 children attending each day, and over 30 teenagers helping with the drama, music and other activities. It is truly a great community event, as there were over 100 adults involved in helping during the week, either in setting up or in leading the groups.

We were delighted to have a number of special guests this year; our MP, Mark Lancaster came, also our Mayor, Steve Clark, Councillors Debbie Brock and Peter Geary, and, new to Holiday Bible Club this year, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Buckinghamshire, Miranda Powell-Sheddon. They were all impressed with the scale of the event, and with the enthusiasm of the children (not to mention with the volume of their combined voices!).

We aim to help the children have fun while learning about Jesus. We encourage them to read their Bibles, learn the words to the songs, and to learn how to love one another.

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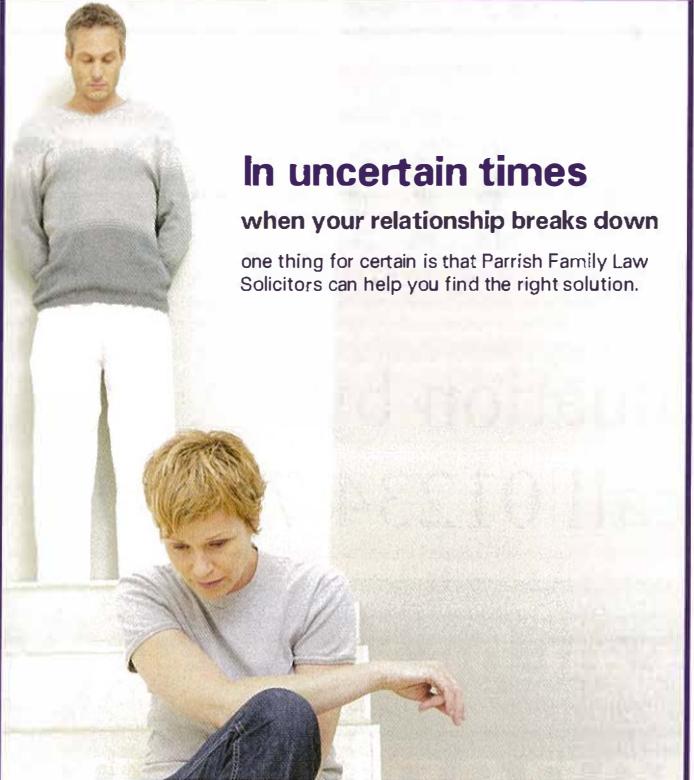
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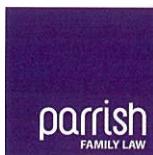



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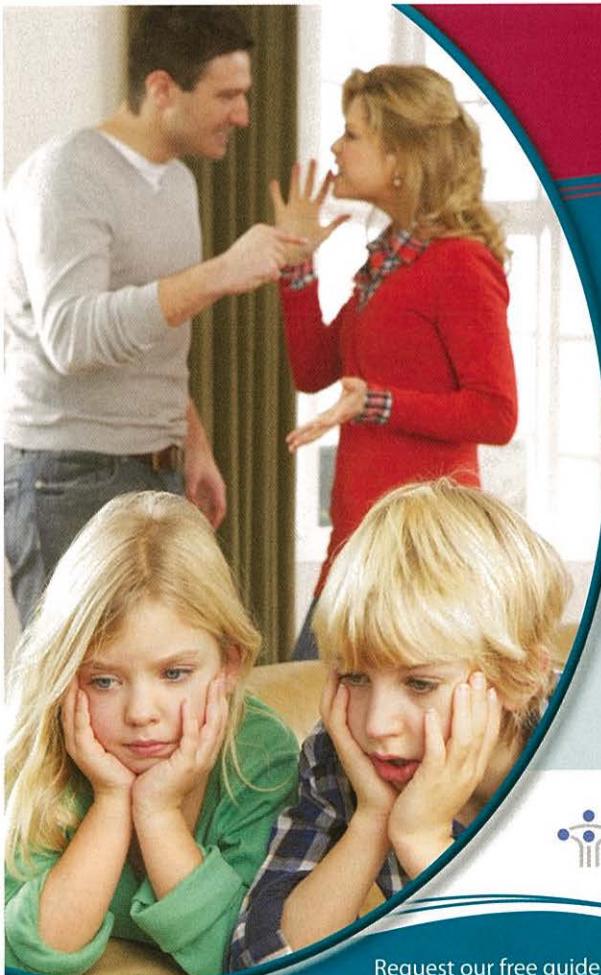
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On Your Bike

Phonebox magazine recently caught up with Carol Osborne, founder and organiser of the hugely popular 'Get On Your Bike MK' event which is being held at Furzton Lake, next to the Fayre and Square Restaurant.

Carol, a survivor of cancer herself first took part in a cycle ride called 'Cycle for Life,' organised by Cancer Research UK back in 2005 and saw the event as a way of raising money on a personal level.

The event proved to be a big inspiration and by 2006 she had organised her first event renaming it to 'Get On Your Bike MK' with the support of Cancer Research UK.

As we sat speaking, the wheels were firmly in motion for another event filled day. Clearly there is a huge amount of organising involved in any such event with on average 350/370 riders taking part. Speaking with Carol I was really struck by how down to earth and modest she was.

Carol says "Now, here we are at 2013 and heading towards raising well over £100,000 with the support of great riders and team and of course my fantastic sponsors. This has always been my dream goal to finish on, which is the reason why this year is sadly my last.

Over the years I have experienced support

like I could only dream of, plus riders that have shown such truly great courage. We've had riders that even though they knew they were terminal, still support CR UK as they knew if it were not for research their lives would have been shortened and not so comfortable and bearable. I felt honoured that a family asked me to be with a rider as he lost his battle. This shows how much respect they had for the event".

This event is without doubt a very unique experience due to taking part on the purpose-built Millennium Cycle Route. It takes you to both interesting and picturesque areas around Milton Keynes, will offer a personal challenge, help others and is a very worthy cause that can be a great day out for friends, families and individuals.

Lets make Carol's last event the best possible and together let's come together again to fight cancer.

For more information please phone Carol on 01908 502418 or 07747025482. For online registration: www.getonyourbikemk.org (children cannot be booked on line) contact Carol direct.

There are two excellent bike businesses advertising in this very edition for anyone who needs them -

See Corley Cycles and Roy Pinks.



Carol Osborne with Dan Grimes

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An advertisement for Roy Pink Cycles. The top half features the 'Roy Pink cycles' logo in a stylized script. Below the logo, a man and a woman are riding electric bicycles through a field of yellow flowers. A green circle on the right contains the text 'Electric bikes available under the Tax-free Cycle-to-Work Scheme'. The bottom of the ad includes a small note about the range of the electric bikes and the Roy Pink Cycles logo.

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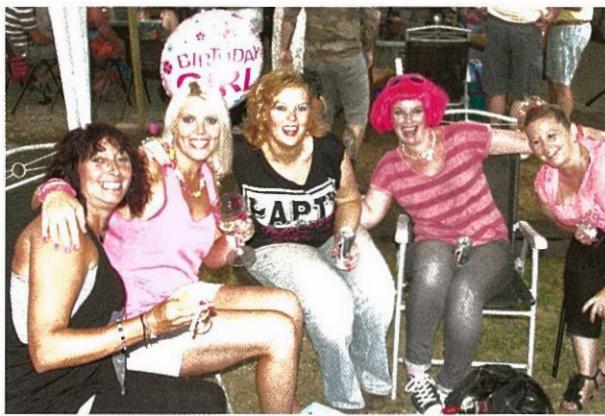


In The Pink

Garden Party

We're In The Pink held their annual garden party late July on a very wet evening. We would like to thank everyone that attended, the local people and businesses that donated raffle prizes, all those that helped and the amazing "Mad Mods" for their fantastic acoustic set. The evening was a huge success for this local breast cancer support group, we raised £1000.

For more details on the group please visit www.wereinthepink.org.uk or contact sarah on 07904 389036. Hopefully next year will be just as successful (and a little drier). Again thank you for all the support from all.



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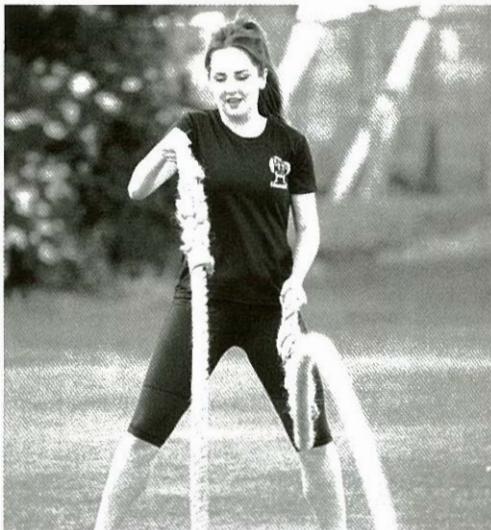
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But leaving the final word to founder, Stuart Dorrill; "aside from the irrefutable positive impact it has had on hundreds of people, the part I get most pleasure from is the incredible group camaraderie of everyone pulling in the same direction encouraging each other to reach their goals - It's got all the greatest elements of a team sport whilst driving individuals to reach their own goals. And then once those goals are reached, for many it becomes a new way of life".

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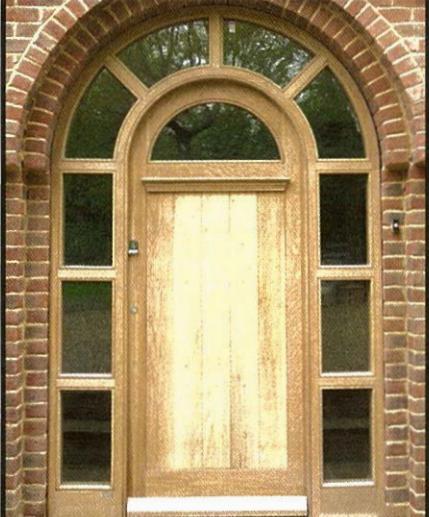
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Lillian Boutté

On the music scene for more than 30 years, Lillian is a monument to Jazz, Gospel and R&B. She has performed and recorded with many legendary musicians including Humphrey Littleton. She has travelled the world performing New Orleans Jazz and R&B. She was named the second 'New Orleans Musical Ambassador' in 1986, the first being Louis Armstrong! Despite touring all over the world almost non-stop for the last 18 years Lillian has kindly agreed to perform for the Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney. She is interested in the link with the hymn 'Amazing Grace' written in Olney! A unique singer who performs all that is best in Jazz, Gospel and R&B, she leads a band featuring one of the UK's finest guitarists, Denny Ilett. She is a regular performer at the Ascona Jazz Festival (Switzerland) and the French Quarter and Jazz and Heritage Festivals (New Orleans) and is currently working with Pee wee Ellis (of James Brown fame)! Tickets are available at the Museum.

For more info please visit the museum website:

www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

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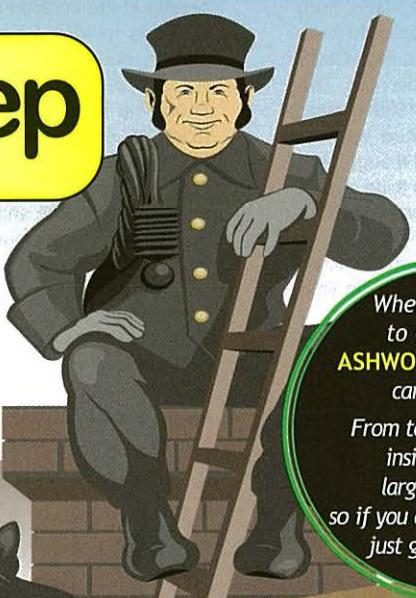
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David Pibworth – FIRST CLASS SERVICE



My wife and daughter travelled down to the coast for a break recently and due to a work commitment I had to follow on a couple of days later. To do my bit for the environment, rather than to pollute the world with another car on the road, I decided to take the train down to Bournemouth. Actually it was cheaper but I like to give the impression that I care about such things. I went to 'TrainLine' who do the online cheap tickets as I felt I should give them a go, not least because they paid me a sensible fee to ride a horse bareback through a railway carriage for one of their annoying adverts last year.

Imagine my astonishment when I found that a first class single to Bournemouth from London was cheaper than a standard one. I bought it and looked forward to First Class service. I've seen both 'Murder On The Orient Express' films, and the 1938 version of 'The Lady Vanishes' so I knew what to expect from First Class Travel. I thought that a light worsted suit would be the thing, rather than full white tie and tails, as I was travelling during the 'luncheon' period. That's what David Niven would have worn, and so attired correctly, and 20 minutes early - just in time for a couple of exotic cocktails before lunch - I strode along platform 6 at Waterloo station looking for the Pullman Carriage and porters to carry my bag aboard. Admittedly it was a Budgen's bag, with my spare pants, string vest and a toothbrush within, but none the

less a First Class ticket is a First Class ticket. I hailed an employee of the railway company, and said "Excuse me my good fellow, could you tell me the destination of this locomotive?" He glanced up from his cheese and pickle sandwich, pointed up at the destination board and muttered something. As a matter of fact he was wrong. Bournemouth isn't in Kent, it's in Dorset, but looking at the board I saw that it was the right train and strode on, finally seeing the First Class carriage. My first impression was that it didn't look much different to the others, but I guessed there would be a Tardis effect and all would be transformed once I stepped inside and onto the plush carpet and joined the other guests at the cocktail bar. I had in mind a Daiquiri, which is a blend of rum and lime juice, shaken and served neat while studying the menu, although I knew that it would be Brown Windsor Soup, followed by Peppered Venison Loin with Smoked Sausage. I'd miss the pudding and go onto a coffee and Petits Fours with a small port brandy, which should see me through to pulling into Bournemouth Station at 14.05. At first glance I could see a few people dotted about and to my horror none were dressed for luncheon. The only difference I could see from Second Class was that it had First Class engraved on the windows. Not a cocktail bar in sight. Still, being British I sat down and waited for the pampering to begin. 20 minutes later, the train pulled out of the

station, with not a waiter in sight. An hour passed and then I heard the trolley clattering along behind me. At last I could salvage something. A rather scruffy man hove into view and said "Want anything off here?" I looked at the trolley. The selection was some rather limp looking vegetarian Panini's, a variety of Walkers Crisps and some melted Kit Kats. I was deflated but pulled myself together and said, "Have you anything with meat in it?" He looked up and down the trolley and ducked down to look into a hidden compartment, came back up and said "No mate. We did have some bacon but they had it all in second class."

I bet Wilfred Hyde-Whyte never had to put up with this kind of service. Still there you have it. I now realise why, on South West trains, you pay £49.50 for a Second Class ticket and £33.25 for a First Class ticket. They get first dibs on the bacon rolls. Only fair really. I think I'll drive down next time.

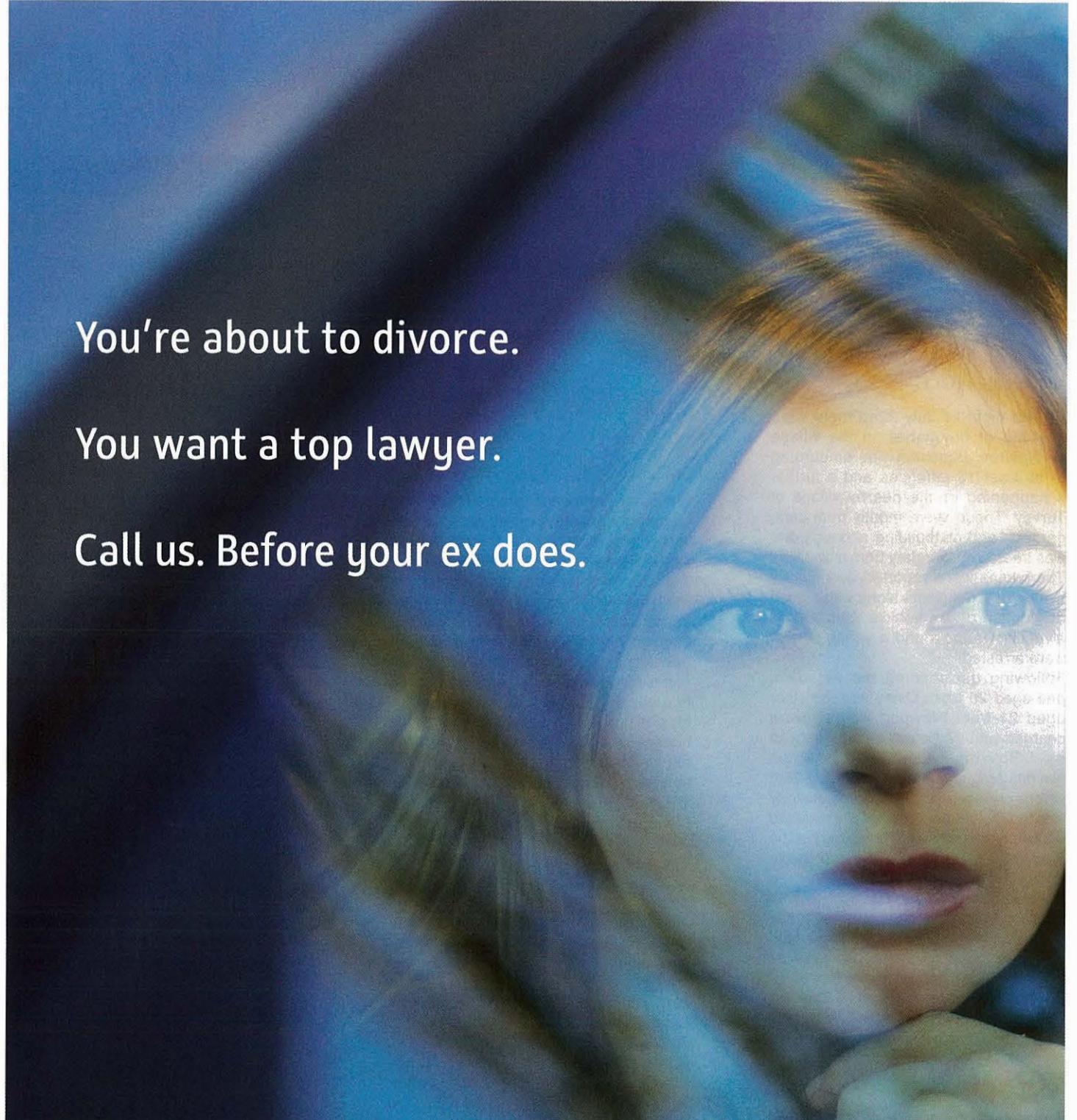
NB. You may have noticed that this month there is no Mercury Report. The reason for this is the Council decided to take August off. While they were away, me and a few mates decided to have a bit of a joke and posing as Councillors we instructed some contractors to re surface Olney High Street and bet them that instead of working sensibly for 7 hours during the evening, they wouldn't be able to shut down the whole of the High Street during the day. Sorry about that.



One week we're outside the Deli in Olney



And another week we're back on the High Street ... outside the Deli!



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A contribution from Cllr Debbie Brock & Cllr Peter Geary



Holiday Happenings

BURGLARIES IN NEWTON BLOSSOMVILLE

On the night of July 22nd there were a spate of burglaries in the village of Newton Blossomville amounting to at least 13 offences and a further 4 happening in the nearby village of Turvey. These were mostly from cars, garages and outbuilding although one was treated as burglary from a dwelling. The crimes were reported very quickly by the local residents along with a good description of the vehicle used and as a result two men and a young person were arrested.

Following questioning the two men, one aged 20 from Olney and the other aged 21 from Newport Pagnell were charged with 17 counts of conspiracy to steal. Both men appeared at the Milton Keynes Magistrates Court on July 25th where one was remanded into custody and the other was conditionally released with an electronic tag. The young person was released on bail pending possible charges at a later date.

Following this event we worked with Thames Valley Police to arrange a day where officers could come and give advice to the local community on crime prevention and how to make properties harder for thieves to target. The day was supported by 3 PCSOs including Chantelle Gregory who was helping on her last day before she left her role as a PCSO to join Thames Valley Police as a Police officer.

These burglaries were a great shock to the local community especially at a time when statistically crime has been decreasing both locally and nationally. You are less likely to be a victim of crime now than at any other time in living memory for most people. That does not mean however that we should not be vigilant as it is better security that has helped prevent many crimes and is continuing to do so. The Police are redoubling their efforts to reduce burglary and it is one of the key priorities of the new Police and Crime Commissioner in Thames Valley. There is however much more that we can do to improve locks on sheds, outbuildings and garages as well as doors and windows in the home. If you need further advice on how to make your home secure then please do let us know and we will put you in touch with the local Police.



SALTBOX SITE LAVENDON

We have mentioned previously that a planning application was likely to be forthcoming soon for the Saltbox site on the Bedford Road in Lavendon.

The site, the entrance of which is opposite the Harrold Road is mostly in open countryside and has had a chequered history with proposed development, however this application is the first to come forward for planning permission in a number of years. The application is for outline planning permission for nine houses in total. Five of these are terraced retirement homes as it was acknowledged that there is a need for such housing in the village. The other 4 houses are detached properties spread over the rest of the site, these are eco friendly properties.

The application is for outline planning permission which means the detailed design is not being considered at this stage, that will be part of another application at a later stage. This application is about whether the site, in principle, should be developed for this sort of housing but is considering the access. If people wish to see the plans they can do so either in person at the Civic Offices in Milton Keynes or on the Milton Keynes Council Website. The planning number is 13/01460/OUT. Comments can also be sent either in support or in opposition either via the website or by post to the planning officer Mr James Kirkham at Milton Keynes Council.

We have also arranged a public meeting where people can come along to look at the plans, question the planning officer and also the applicant of the site. This has been arranged for Monday September 9th at 7pm at the Village Hall, Lavendon.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Every year on four days in September, buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors. It is a once-a-year chance to discover architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities that bring our local history and culture to life. Heritage Open Days are free of charge and this year take place from 12-15 of September

Across Milton Keynes there are 46 events, many have special activities for children and families, details are available at www.mkheritageopendays.com

At Olney's Cowper & Newton Museum they will be celebrating the 240th Anniversary of "Amazing Grace" by opening up the museum & gardens for free on Saturday 14th September and Sunday 15th September.

KITCHENER CENTRE GARDEN PARTY & BBQ

As we mentioned a few months ago the Kitchener Centre has now transferred from being run by Age UK MK to being run by Milton Keynes Council. On July 27th a little while after the handover, the Kitchener Centre put on a BBQ and garden party for all their clients and their families. The sun shone and a great time was had by all with singing and enjoyment. The staff at the centre have transferred to Milton Keynes Council employment and will continue with the same tremendous care for their clients as they always had done.

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Once again in early August, the Churches of Olney all came together to run the Holiday Bible Club. Hundreds of local children from Olney and the surrounding area, between the ages of 5 and 12 attended with the theme this year being In the Jungle. We were invited to attend this year and did so with Miranda Powell Sheden a deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire.

Once again the many helpers were all working together to make the week a really enjoyable time for all those who went, with many songs activities and a different play every day. The Holiday Bible Club is just one example of the really great community that exists in Olney and our thanks go to all those who work so hard all year round to make it a really great week.

Our surgery will take place on Friday 6th September at the slightly earlier time of 6pm – 7pm at the Olney Centre if we can help with an issue, or contact us on the details given at any time.

The Milton Keynes based Health & Wellbeing charity Climb Your Mountain (CYM) will officially be five years old on September 18th and since the charity was founded in 2008 over 2,500 people in the area have benefited from the range of services, activities, support and opportunities the organisation provides. The charity has just started doing walks and workshops in Northampton too and people from all over the area, including Olney, are very welcome to get involved.

CYM is open to anyone and aims to improve people's physical and mental health via a range of physical activities and educational courses and workshops. Everything is done in a friendly, empathetic and safe way so that people can climb their own personal mountain they may be facing. There is support and opportunities to help yourself whether it is stress, depression, anxiety, low confidence, ill health, bereavement, works issues, relationship problems, etc.

The physical activities include regular free walks, hikes, a running club and fitness classes. They are fun, friendly and safe and open to anyone from children to pensioners!

The free educational courses and workshops include topics on stress, depression, anxiety, confidence, barriers to wellbeing, motivation, nutrition and benefits of exercise.

CYM also organises many UK and Overseas trips which are primarily for fundraising purposes but of course such challenges have great benefits and are always fantastic experiences for those who take part. Anyone can get involved and support the charity in this way. Trips like Snowdon, Scafell Pike, Ben

CY
M

Local charity celebrates Five years



Nevis, Brecon Beacons, Dorset Coast, Kilimanjaro, Everest Base Camp, Great Wall of China and the Inca Trail & Machu Picchu.

You can also help by taking part in fundraising events like a parachute jump, firewalk, half or full marathons, long distance walks, cake sales or anything you fancy doing and the money raised will

directly go to helping more people benefit. Additionally, the charity is always looking for volunteers to help out, raise awareness, offer support and fundraise. So if you want to help yourself, help others or help the charity get involved!

For more information please visit www.climbyourmountain.org or contact the founder, Charlie Wardle, by email.

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From the Mayor's Chair

Councillor John Smith,
Mayor of Newport Pagnell



Having just returned from a ten day break in our little caravan, I now have to get myself into working mode. Not work as an occupation, but the work that you undertake as an elected member of a public body. Sometimes it can be quite tedious reading through a multi-page document on something trivial, yet an important, major decision, can be made on just a paragraph or two. Either way, the same amount of attention is given to both. Sometimes I wonder if I had made the right choice when voting on an issue. So many people's way of life depends on what we decide for them. That weighs heavy at times. It is no wonder that so many of my fellow councillors are like me, retired. With a full-time job and a home life to lead, there is not a lot of time left to dedicate to being a councillor. Whilst I am Mayor, I have to work my holidays in to the gaps in my Mayor's diary, council meetings and when the cattery has space for our cat! It sounds silly, but true! Since my last effort at writing this column, Yvonne and I have been to Milton Keynes to attend the Civic Service given for Cllr. Brian White, Mayor of the Borough of Milton Keynes held at Christ the Cornerstone. Being a multi-denominational church, the service was shared by many religions which was most enlightening. In total contrast, I was pleased to be asked to present the prizes to the Girls and Boys

Brigades of the Baptist Church in Lovat Hall, here in Newport Pagnell. As a member of the Neighbourhood Action Group in the town, I hear so much about youth issues being a problem. It was with a lot of pleasure that I observed so many young people leading such exemplary lives. At the end of July I, along with other members of the group of Newport's gardening volunteers, went to Alban Hill Nursery to celebrate their fifth anniversary. Alban Hill Nursery is half way between Newport and Olney. It was a very pleasant evening with drinks and picky bits (my terminology, not theirs). There was live music and a question and answer session with guest speakers followed by a raffle. I was one of the lucky ones who won a prize. Milton Keynes Council has started a program of giving local councils in the borough the opportunity of having local assets transferred to them. The community centre at Green Park has been successfully run by us here in Newport since it was built. This was chosen to be one of the pilot schemes to test the procedure. A rather long-winded process finished a few weeks ago and I symbolically received the keys. From our point of view, nothing has changed. It is, as it always has been, a centre that provides a necessary facility for the people in the town. As the Mayor of Newport Pagnell, I have been entrusted with the Chain of Office. Each and every Mayor, up and down the country, has a chain which is unique to their town. The medallion which hangs from it, is very symbolic to its location in a special way. The photograph shows the elements which make up the chain that I wear. In case you cannot

see clearly due to my photography, there is a scroll, a wheel, crossed keys, two rampant lions and two wavy lines. I wonder how many of you can tell me what they all represent. I did not know all of them and had to ask. There is no prize on offer, just the satisfaction of getting it right. I will give the answer in the next issue of Phonebox. Thinking caps on and e-mail the answer to me. John.smith@newport-pagnell.org. Let's see how good you are. This chain was created when Newport Pagnell went from a Parish to a Town. The cost of having a chain made was, and still is, very expensive. The councillors at the time looked for financial support from within the town and had a reasonable response. Luck was on their side when a business man who was retiring at the time, very generously donated the whole cost himself. He also wanted to remain anonymous. For many years, Newport Pagnell played a big part in his livelihood, so he showed his thanks with this chain.

My next important date is only a few days away as I write this, it is a Civic Service here in Newport. This is the first of an annual event for the town and invitations have gone out to all of the dignitaries and special guests in the surrounding area. Just as importantly, everyone in the town who wants to be part of this is also invited. I am really nervous as I have to do a reading during the service. I am by nature a shy person. The thought of standing up in front of a church full of people fills me with dread. At the same time, I am very proud to be the first Mayor for Newport to take part in this celebration. I will let you all know how it went. Fingers crossed!

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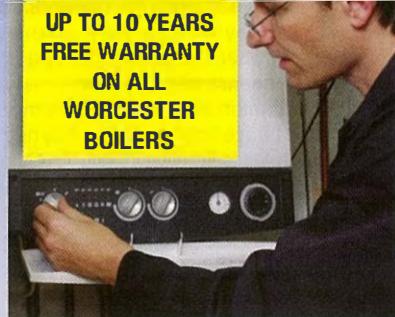
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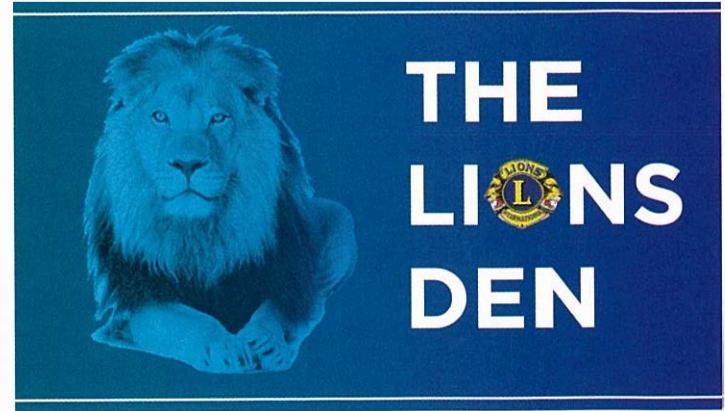
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Another Year passes



"Recession! What recession?" was the response from many of our members when we looked at what our efforts have achieved in the past year.

Donations of over £10,000 have been made to a wide range of good causes and individuals and this year over half of our donations went to local recipients with the remainder being split between National and International groups or causes. The local element of a Lions Clubs activities is key to our very existence and where we prefer to direct our efforts.

We may be a small club but thanks to our active friends group, we have also given a massive amount of time to many local organisations as they run their own events.

We know only too well how difficult it is to manage large events and having the support of a group of 'extras' from Lions really makes a difference. We now have the confidence to take on tasks which would normally be beyond the means of the 18 men and women who make up our Club and hopefully contribute even more to society.

Who did we help last month?

A very busy month for Lion Tony Higgs and his service committee who vet all requests for assistance before passing on their recommendations to the club for a final decision.

Following our very successful malt whisky tasting evening, led by Dr Andrew Ferguson from The Balvenie Distillery, we gave a donation to the charity, Disability Snowsport Scotland as a thank you for his time and effort (not to mention over a dozen bottles of The Balvenie). This charity is part of Disability Snowsport UK which introduces various snow sports to those who have a range of disabilities. Andrew's wife is the Scottish Organiser and it seemed an appropriate way for us to say thanks for what was a brilliant evening.

Also, this month we made significant donations to the Macmillan Cancer Support and Hearing Dogs for Deaf charities following our successful Motorama event in Olney. The success of this Free event (wonder how it would do if we were able to charge admission?) resulted in both charities receiving donations of £500 to help them in their very important work.

A major charity which the Lions work with on the international front is Water



Aid, an organisation which brings fresh water and sewage services to third world countries. Lions in the UK have specific interest in villages, in Nepal and Malawi – and fund Water Aid projects on an ongoing basis. Thanks to match funding by the UK Government, our £200 donation immediately doubled and in the current year, Lions in the UK have seen over £80k finding its way to the two countries helping to transform the health and hygiene standards of the population. Finally, this month, we gave a donation to MK Special Dons, which is a sports club providing activities for disabled people in and around Milton Keynes. Each year they participate in an award ceremony and we agreed to finance one of the raffle prizes which will help them raise even more money for their club. Helping others help themselves is more effective than simply giving donations.

MK Hospital Children's Ward - Parents Room

Over the past year, the Lions Clubs of Milton Keynes have been working with Milton Keynes Hospital Children's ward

to refurbish and redecorate the Parents Room. This room is used by parents whose children have been admitted to hospital, often in emergency situations and provides them with a quiet retreat away from the hustle and bustle of the hospital, helping them relax in an otherwise stressful and often traumatic situation. Pictured above are some of the Lions relaxing after a hard day's work and is a good example of how clubs can come together for the benefit of their communities.

And Finally

Fancy helping us out occasionally? You will have read in our opening paragraph that a number of our activities need additional pairs of hands and an hour or so of your time can make a massive difference.

Our friends group is one of our success stories helping us transform the club from a failing group six years ago to an extremely active and strong group of men and women who serve our community in Newport Pagnell & Olney today.

Ring John on 0771 001 8751

brings you

Finance Matters

New research shows that more than 'Auto Enrolment' is needed

For those in Money Purchase pension schemes (such as Personal Pensions), the size of the pension fund at retirement is vital regarding the level of income that can then be enjoyed during retirement. Simply put, the higher the fund value when you retire, the better off you will be.

However, the other crucial factor is how much income the fund will buy.

When taking pension benefits you have a number of choices. The most common is to purchase an annuity, although there are several types of annuities and many options to choose within these. One such example would be whether to have a level income or a lower starting income that will then rise each year. Fundamental to the level of income though is the current level of annuity rates. This is generally linked to gilt rates and over the last few years we have seen these fall considerably, resulting in a lower level of income for those retiring.

Another option at retirement is Pension Drawdown which involves leaving your funds invested and 'drawing down' an income from the

fund. There are maximum levels of income you can take though (known as GAD rates) and these are once again linked to gilt rates. The maximum level of income is reviewed periodically on policies and lately we have seen many of these reviews show a reduction in the level of income allowed due to the lower GAD rates. Indeed at the end of 2012 we saw the GAD rate at 2.00% for a couple of months.

Encouragingly for those receiving pension income in this way, the rate for September is 3.00%, a rise of 50%*. This is also good news for potential annuity purchasers.

If you would like to discuss or review your retirement options or your general financial planning, then please call us. Remember, initial meetings are free and we are happy to come to see you in the comfort of your own home. See our advert below.

This article does not constitute advice and should not be taken as a recommendation to undertake any course of action mentioned without consulting a relevant professional.

* - figures from Technical Connections 19/08/13

What would your future hold if you could make your money go further?



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Together in Song

A Musical Collective

We began singing as a local choir two years ago and are open to anyone who wishes to sing, at all levels. We share our existing skills and ideas and learn new skills, as well as encouraging each other in the art of singing and performing. We bring a rural community together by helping and supporting each other in a creative and caring environment – and most importantly, we have fun! Our membership consists of nearly

50 singers, including a strong male contingent, a pianist and musical director and this enables us to perform a wide range of music. Our growing repertoire includes choral and folk pieces, alongside music from shows such as Phantom of the Opera and Les musical.

Since September 2011, we have performed locally and raised money for charitable causes such as the Royal British Legion, Cancer Research UK, Air Ambulance and the URC Stone Fund.

We have also been invited to perform at local Christmas functions by Cowper & Newton Museum and Dickens of a Christmas and we have been involved in Carol Services both in Olney and surrounding villages.

We meet weekly on a Thursday evening at the United Reform Church on Olney High Street. For details of our next Concert which will be held on Saturday 16th November, or if you would like to join us, please contact Sue Watson on 01234 241180.

Olney Health And Fitness

New Gym Manager

Olney Health and Fitness has today announced the appointment of a new gym manager, Kerry Lewis. Kerry has lived in Olney and worked alongside Martin Stevenson and the rest of the team for the past six years, so she is no stranger to the members or the locals in Olney.

“It’s an exciting position and I’m thrilled to take up the role” Kerry writes. “Martin has done a fabulous job with the gym in the last 6 years or so, and I just hope I can carry on where he has left and continue to grow the business by offering a great training facility for everyone.”

The gym was purchased in 2005 by Martin Stevenson, who turned the business around. Prior to the purchase, Martin worked in industrial automation as a highly successful Managing Director. He was head-hunted earlier this year by a global business in the same field and decided to make a move back to this industry.

“I’m sure I speak for everyone when I wish

Martin well in his new venture. Martin is quite a famous face in the bodybuilding world and he has done wonders to raise the profile of the gym both locally and Nationally” writes Kerry.

Olney Health and Fitness is a well equipped facility that welcomes members of all shapes and sizes. It offers over 20 cardio machines as well as an assortment of strength and conditioning equipment and boasts the only Vibrogym in the area. There are daily exercise classes in its purpose built studio and qualified Personal Trainers are on hand to help those who need that extra push.

Olney has a great offering when it comes to Health and fitness pursuits; there are running, tennis, rugby, football and cycling clubs; so there is no shortage of ways to keep yourself fit and healthy. “Strength and conditioning training is so important”, writes Kerry. “Particularly if you partake in other sports as it significantly advances your performance.”

Kerry is a self confessed fitness fanatic “I’ve



trained since I was 16”, Kerry writes. “I have always enjoyed the gym and trained hard. Unfortunately, two car crashes have left me with 4 slipped discs, that require surgery. It means I am quite limited in what I can do, but it certainly doesn’t put me off. Lots of people have damaged spines and I think it is even more important that they work out in the gym to promote stronger muscles to help support the injury site. Obviously everyone is different, but people shouldn’t be put off coming to a gym”, Kerry continues “Likewise, lots of females are adverse to weight training as they think they will put on loads of muscle - rubbish! The most it will do is give you a healthy, toned figure your friends will envy”. Olney Health and Fitness caters for everyone from those wanting to lose fat, to those serious athletes who use weight training to complement other pursuits. If you haven’t been there before, it is definitely worth a visit. It’s a hidden gem in Olney and definitely won’t be what you’re expecting from a local, privately owned gym.

There will be an evening of delightful live classical music at The Olney Centre, High Street Olney, on Saturday 28th September 2013 at 7.30pm in support of The Friends of Cobbs Garden Surgery.

A group of local musicians, led by Karen Mason, have come together to raise funds for The Friends of Cobbs Garden, a charity run by a group of patients whose aim is to raise money to provide services and equipment for the surgery that the NHS no longer provides.

'Mozart and Friends' an evening of chamber music, with groups including woodwind and strings, playing music by Bach, Mozart, Weber and others, will include an oboe quartet, a flute quartet (flute, violin, viola and cello) and a clarinet quintet (clarinet, two violins, viola and cello).

"This is some of my favourite music, specifically chosen to be enjoyed by everyone, whether or not they have heard music like this before," says Karen, who will be the soloist in the Mozart Oboe Quartet.

Olney-based Karen, a lawyer by day, who has performed in previous concerts in the town, will be joined on the 28th September by a number of other local musicians including Lizzie Molloy (flute), Christine Hunt (clarinet), Lesley Newing (violin), John Alexander (violin), John Wynne (viola) and Jonathan Hunt (cello).

All the performers will be donating their time and talents free in order to support this very good cause. Everyone is welcome and is assured of a enjoyable evening so please do come along and support the concert if you can!

Tickets for the concert are £10 each (including an interval drink) and are available from Cobbs Garden Surgery, West Street, Olney C.T. Wilson, 84 High Street, Olney, Olney Stephen Oakley & Co., 35 High Street, Olney Allens of Olney, 5 & 6 Market Place, Olney

Mozart & Friends

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Jane Burdiak's literary success continues with her eagerly awaited third novel *Between the Stars*, published on 30th August. It was started in 2009 and finally completed last year. Like her previous titles *Patchwork* and *Domestic Science*, *Between the Stars* profiles the highs and lows of ordinary life. Although categorised as fiction there are a sprinkling of facts to give authenticity and much of the story is set in and around Newport Pagnell. Local people will feel familiar with descriptions and place names. Scattered throughout are memories that all the time anchor the characters firmly to their pasts. With the undercurrent distracting, Jane's candid observations make for compelling reading.

Radiating warmth and sincerity *Between the Stars* is a thought provoking book. It is a tender and bittersweet tale of a relationship of at times intense despair, emotional upheaval and reconciliation. Louise's memories wash over the pages that are interwoven with chunks of absorbing narrative to maintain the equilibrium and escape her on-going torment.

Spanning decades, *Between the Stars* is an enduring story of love and devotion. From adolescence to old age, life is not without its challenges. Living with the failings and misgivings and resolving them is a journey in itself and takes a lifetime. Against the backdrop of this fragile relationship, a tangle of intense emotions, guilt and fear are interspersed with moments of pure unadulterated love.

Jane retired from teaching last year and continues to be inspired and uplifted by life going on around her. Jane's fourth novel and a quick read are in the pipe-line.

The cover is of the wonderful image called 'Deep inside the Milky Way' and is courtesy of NASA.

Between the Stars is published by Austin and Macauley and can be purchased from local bookshops or online or as an ebook.

Third Book Published

Local Author Jane Burdiak



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An Indian Summer.

It has a huge reputation as being one of the best Indian restaurants around this area, the Mysore in Newport Pagnell. A quick look at their website and you will see they have accolades aplenty, including Real Curry Guides Best in Britain and The Tiffin Cup (House of Commons) 2012. And we had never been. Bit of an oversight really.



A friend's gig at the Cannon created the perfect excuse and a group of us piled in to see if they live up to their awards. The menu is extensive and of course has all the usual suspects. But alongside the Madras, Jalfrezi and Masalas, they have some really interesting sounding dishes including Handi Khushbo (chicken flavoured with cumin, aniseed and fenugreek), Madhu Chicken (marinated in honey & fresh cream) and Goan Machlee (chunks of salmon tikka in a coconut & mustard cream with garlic and green chilli).

Ultimately most of us played it safe, with a vegetarian Thali, a number of biriani, a madras and balti. I chose



chicken biriani - it's my current benchmark and nobody makes it quite as good as my own home masterchef*. This one was good. Served up in a little copper pot - it had that glorious rich golden colour and smelt divine. Lovely and delicately spiced and not too dry. The vegetarian and house special got good reviews too.

Somebody chose tandoori rainbow trout which won lots of brownie points and looked quite special. But the star of the show, generating much food envy, was Mysoree Acharee Chicken - in a tamarind sauce. It looked amazing and very different. The flavours were superb - a proper sweet and sour infusion bursting in your mouth. Good choice masterchef - and do you think you could try to cook it please?

So - yes - on the food front they are pretty good. Sadly, the place is particularly shabby, the decor not just dated, but old and tired. And the service was slow. Very slow. With me having to hunt down a waiter to request more drink - never good. Would I go back? Of course, if in Newport Pagnell. But with three great Indians of our own in Olney - it won't be in a hurry.

* using a spice and recipe kit from The Spicery <http://thespicery.com>

Biriani Benchmark Test -

How do the biriani of those three Olney Indians match up to the benchmark?

Spice Garden

Not great, very dry and not a huge amount of flavour. But they currently win the Madras benchmark and their tandoori chicken just now is an absolute delight.

Amaya

Also not a great biriani, sadly a bit bland both to the eye and taste. But you can't beat their potato cakes and chick pea starter. The food is all beautiful to look at and overall it's still my favourite.

Four Pillars

Easily the closest to the benchmark biriani. Fabulous flavour, looks and smells great. Not too hot. Bang on.

10/10.

Hats off to BOFF

My favourite day of the Foodie year - BOFF - the Big Olney Food Festival, this year on the 7th September. What's on the menu this year?

Pastures Farm Poultry: Crispy Duck Wrap; Paprika Chicken; Chicken Satays; Pastures Farm Four Bird Banger; The Mezze; Pan Fried Guinea Fowl Breast Quarter

Beans Coffee Stop: Pea and Ham Soup; Tomato and Mascarpone soup; Jacket Potatoes; Cakes and Coffee

Much Ado Catering: Beef or vegetarian chilli; Manomasa Tortilla chips with dips; Deli cheese board; Deli charcuterie selection

Courtyard Brasserie: Lamb moussaka; Vegetarian moussaka; Plus other Mediterranean delights

Melis Restaurant: real mixed BBQ grill with your choice of Lamb & Chicken shish, Izeara Kofte, Pirzola & Kanat; A selection of cold mezes also available.

The Bull Inn: Sausages to include Bedfordshire Chorizo; Yardley Hastings Turkey; Leek & Cranberry; Bedfordshire Salt Beef & Mustard Seed; Thuringer Bratwurst; The Bull Banger - All served in a roll or with mash and onion gravy.

Teapots of Olney: Olney pancakes with various toppings; Cream Teas; Children's packed lunches

Four Pillars Tandoori Restaurant: Samosas; Kebabs; Pakora; Chicken Bhuna with rice

Feast (lunch only): Giant onion pattice; Falafel and Haloumi salad wrap; Saraban Daal Persian Curry; Shararma with sweet potato

Café Rosco (lunch only): Savoury crumpets with a range of toppings

Old Shanghai Restaurant (lunch only): Vegetable spring rolls; Prawn crackers; Chicken and Prawn Szechuan served with egg fried rice

Deli Vegetaria (evening only): Moroccan Vegetable Tagine; Medium Hot Curry; Pasties; Butternut squash bake; Vegetarian Chorizo sausage; Burgers; Nut Roasts

Paellas d'Olney (evening only): Chicken, Seafood and Vegetarian paella.



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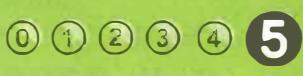
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FOOD HYGIENE RATING



66 High Street | Stoke Goldington | Newport Pagnell | MK16 8NR

Following the success of last year's Bake Off, we are delighted to be running the competition this year sponsored and supported by Jane Smith Financial Planning Ltd, an independent, family-run financial planning firm based at Olney Office Park. It's a much simpler format, no application form, just turn up on the day with your cake. The competition is open to all non-professional bakers and children up to the age of 16.

The categories are as follows:

Kids up to the age of 12 to produce 6 cupcakes of any style
Kids over 12 and up to 16 to produce 6 cupcakes of any style
Best cake, this can be any type of cake fruit, chocolate, carrot etc
Best sponge, whether it be Victoria, Madeira etc

There will be prizes for the best cake in each category and also a runner up prize in each category.

The organisers of BOFF are thrilled that we have attracted high profile judges this year and we will be joined by the Mayor of Milton Keynes Mr Brian White, The Mayoress of Milton Keynes Mrs Leena Lindholm-White and The Rector of St Peter and St Pauls Church, Reverend Claire Wood, as well as Nicola Watts from Jane Smith Financial Planning Ltd, a long-time supporter of Olney's Chamber of Trade.

We hope that the Big Olney Bake Off will see the same high number of entrants as last year. At the end of the competition we will be selling the cakes by the slice and every penny raised will go towards St Peter & St Paul Church Hall Fund. Those local to Olney will have noticed the refurbishment of the Hall taking place over recent weeks and we hope to raise money that will support their refurbishment that will include a Youth Café.

Competition Timings and Rules

Bring your cake to the main marquee, and find the cake competition stall by 3.00pm on the day of BOFF

The judging will take place between 4.00pm – 5.00pm with winners announced and prizes given out on the day, so please stay around.

The cake baker should not be a professional baker (ie bake cakes for a living)

Please ensure your name and phone (and age for children) is clearly identified when you hand your cake in

All cakes will be sold once the winners have been announced – all money raised is going towards the ST Peter and St Paul Church Hall renovation fund, which will provide improved facilities for the youngsters of Olney

By entering the competition you are giving your consent for your cake(s) to be photographed and used for future promotional material and for the cakes to be sold with all proceeds going to the Church Hall Fund.

Big Olney Bake Off



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Scallops and pea purée

Chef Daniel George

On 9th September the Old Mill in Newton Blossomville are launching a new seasonal menu and as an appetiser to their new Specials Board, Phonebox Magazine were invited along for a quick taster.

Head Chef Daniel George is particularly looking forward to adding one of his favourite dishes -Seared Scallops on a black pudding crumb, with pea puree & finished with crisp Serrano ham. Dan loves this simple starter for its unique combination of flavours, with the black pudding also giving an unusual texture to the dish. It's something a little different and he has generously given us all a guide on how to cook this enticer.

To make this, firstly measure out 600ml water and 300g peas. Then add a sprinkle of salt and a pinch of chopped mint. While this comes to the boil, take 3 king size scallops and season with a pinch of salt and pepper on both sides. Once the peas are boiling, gently turn down the heat to allow them to simmer for 5mins.

Next grill the black pudding, and place a non-stick frying pan on a high heat. When the pan is smoking, place the scallops into the pan, and sear until golden brown. Turn the scallops carefully using a palette knife; drain the peas and blitz into a pea purée with a stick blender. Push through a fine sieve and season.

Once the scallops are heated, place onto a small plate to rest, cut up the black pudding until it's finely chopped, and place in the middle of a plate. Now run the pea purée through the black pudding, place the scallops on top of these, and finish with crisp Serrano ham for a nice starter.

The Old Mill use fresh North Atlantic Scallops delivered straight from Cornwall by Charlie's Fish whom we're told are an excellent local fish supplier.

Obviously for the real experience it's worth popping along. We hear a glass of crisp white wine is an excellent accompaniment!

For those of you not into scallops, fear not. As well as a changing Specials Board, there are also pub favourites and rotating seasonal menus.



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Surf 'n' Turf with Blue Cheese Sauce

Alexandra McVey

Last week, my boyfriend and I went along to the charming farm shop at Browns of Stagsden, to have a look at their hand-reared produce and speciality goods on offer. We met the lovely Hilary from the Brown family whom have been running 'Browns of Stagsden' since 2005, however the family have been involved in farming and butchery across the Bedfordshire and Cambridge area for over 200 years! Hilary very kindly supplied us with 2 sirloin steaks, cut from their resident Short Horn cattle, which they have up to 50 of at any one time on their 900 acre farm.

All of their beef is hung for a minimum of 3 weeks (our steaks were hung for 4), which makes for a more wonderfully flavoured and tender meat. I decided to cook them up as a Surf 'n' Turf with my favourite blue cheese sauce.

You'll need:

- 2 sirloin steaks
- 6-10 raw king prawns
- 150g 'Blacksticks Blue' cheese
- 1 bunch asparagus tips
- 2 large flat mushrooms
- Knob of butter
- 150ml double cream
- Olive Oil
- Half a red chilli
- 2 garlic cloves
- Mashed potato

(I cheated and bought it pre-made)

Step 1:

Season the steaks with Olive Oil, Sea Salt (I used smoked salt as I love the flavour), and freshly grinded pepper, and leave for at least 10 minutes. Defrost prawns in cold water if frozen.

Step 2:

Chop up the chilli and garlic and mix with olive oil on a griddle pan at a low heat – leave to infuse. Prepare your veg, peeling and slicing the mushrooms, washing the asparagus.



Step:3

Make your sauce. Slice up the cheese into small-ish chunks (*please note* if any of the cheese happens to accidentally fall into your mouth at this point, don't be alarmed – this is normal) and pop into a small non-stick pan with a knob of butter and your double cream. This needs to be stirred on a medium heat until all melted and slightly bubbling. At that point I turn the heat off until everything else is ready for plating up.



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Step: 4

If you are a mashed potato–cheater like me, pop it in the microwave at this point. Get your non-stick frying pan, and turn up the heat as high as it will go, and leave it until the dry pan is smoking hot. Take some tongs and place your seasoned, oily steaks onto the pan and push them around a bit so they don't stick. It's advisable to be wearing sleeves at this point.

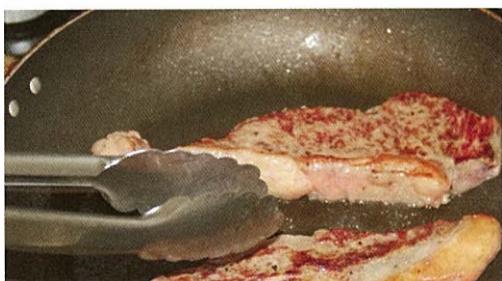
I cooked mine medium-rare so gave them about 1 minute on either side and left them to rest covered for 5-10mins before serving.

Step: 5

Pop your sliced mushrooms and asparagus tips into the steak pan straight away and keep the heat up, letting them sizzle away for 5 minutes and stirring regularly.

Step: 6

Turn up the heat on your griddle pan and place your prawns one by one on the griddle pan. Cook for 2 minutes turning over once half way through.



Step: 7

Plate up! Turn the heat back on for the sauce. I sliced my steaks so you could see how they looked once cooked, and we also wanted to try a bit of each one. Arrange everything on your plates in the most artistic way you can manage!



Finally

I very much recommend taking a little drive up the pretty country roads to Stagsden and having a look in the farm shop. They have an excellent local cheese selection, seriously tasty sausages and plenty of other hand-reared meats and produce to choose from. I also got a lovely big bunch of leafy carrots as a treat for my rabbits. They were unavailable for official comment, but I can confirm they enjoyed them a lot.

12 Noon BOFF Opens
Bar and Foodie Stalls start trading

12.00 – 5.00pm *Kidzone – Attractions aimed at toddlers upwards:-
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2.00pm The Great Gappo takes to the Stage

3.00pm 4 String - THE best ukulele band in the Milton Keynes

4.00pm Great Olney Bake Off – Judging and winners announced.
Judges includes: The Mayor & Mayoress of Milton Keynes, The Reverend Claire Woods and Sponsor Nicola Watts from Jane Smith Financial Planning

4.30pm Jazz Quartet – special guest Amy Roberts with Chris Barber (sax Big Band), Alan Haughton (keys), Russell Swift (bass), and Bobby Orr (drums) playing favourite, swinging jazz standards.

6.00pm Belly Dancers – Shake Shimmy Fitness as seen at Melis

7.00pm Darwins Wish – 2 Piece soul, funk and rock

8.30pm Chocolate Badger – Return visit from this popular band

10.00pm Bar Closes

10.30pm BOFF Ends



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Or, for those of you with a sweet tooth, there will also be freshly made crepes.

As well as all of these delectable tasty goods, you will also be able to choose from a wide range of products including hand bags and leather items, Marseille soaps, lavender, children's toys and pashminas! There really will be something for everyone!

Most of the products on sale will come from each stall holder's region, where they are produced by small organisations such as family businesses, farms or small factories using traditional methods, maintaining a high standard of quality!

All of the traders will also wear their traditional local costumes from 100 years ago, as well as decorating their stall to represent the region of the country they come from. The market will therefore provide you with a true flavour of the continent...

For more information contact:

Traditional Market Ltd, Olivier Simonin, Market operator or visit www.traditionalmarket.co.uk Mobile: 07833937251



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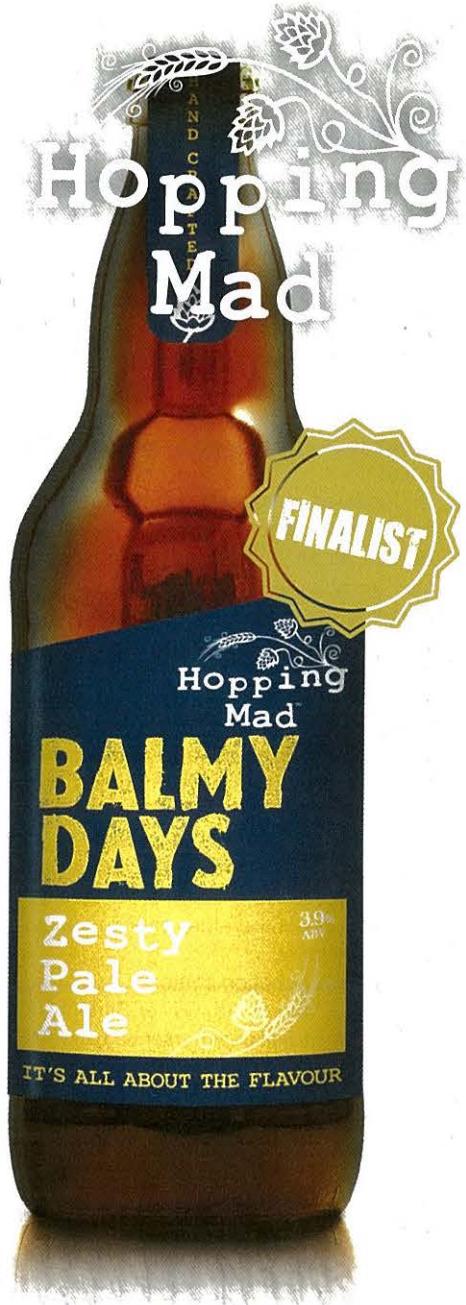
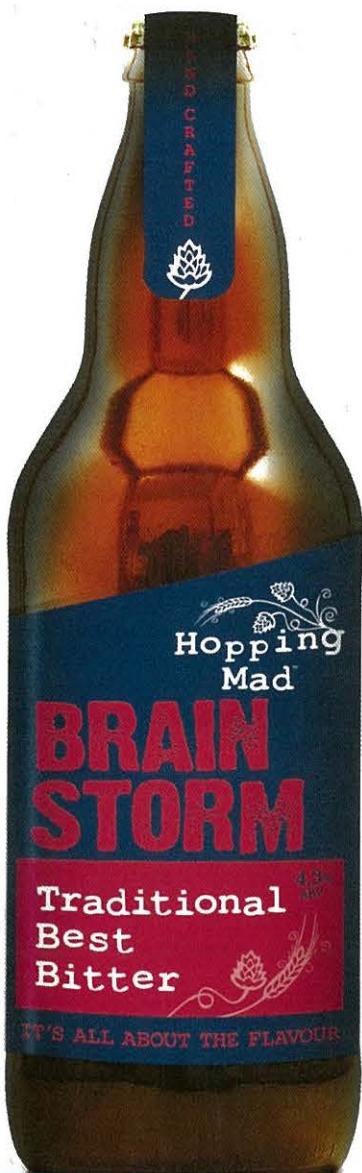
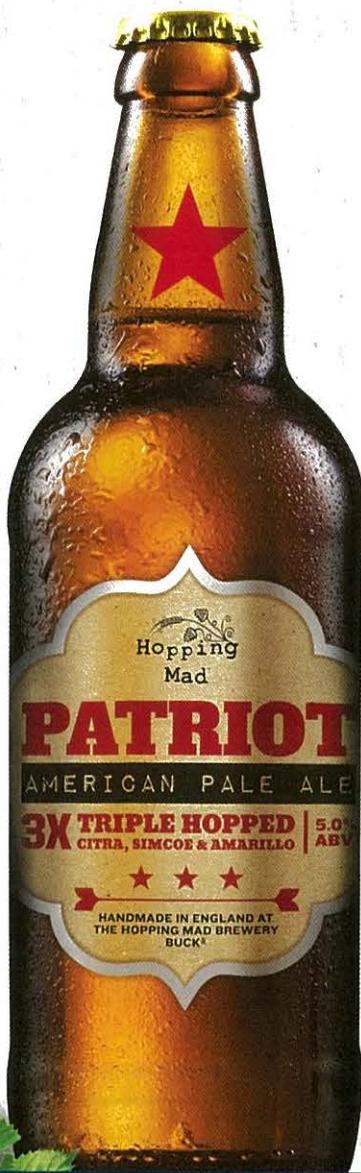


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Beer Festival

You can find more photos from this event on Phonebox Magazines Facebook page.

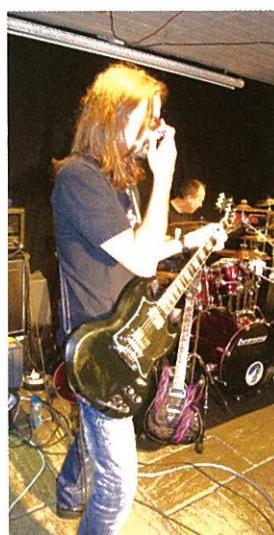


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Out and About

With MP Mark Lancaster

September is a funny month in parliament as we return back to Westminster for two weeks before the party conference season begins. I always enjoy recesses as it gives me uninterrupted time in the constituency, meeting groups and organisations who are the backbone of the community we live in.

With the summer recess now coming to an end and MP's bags being packed ready to head down to parliament, it is a perfect time to reflect on the fantastic places I have visited over the past month.

I always try and visit the Olney Bible Club, which runs during the summer holidays. With over 200 children in attendance and a jungle theme this year was as impressive as others.

It is no easy task to look after and entertain so many children from our local area. I am always so impressed with the quality of activities and the amazing talents of the many volunteers who give up so much of their time. I was delighted to be able to visit this year and speak to the children who were completely captivated by the club.

Many of you will know that I am still a serving officer in the Territorial Army and have served abroad a number of times. It was therefore with enthusiasm that I joined the Buckinghamshire Army Cadet Force on their annual camp.

The Cadets who are based locally at bases in Wolverton, Blakelands, Kents Hill and Bletchley, were on their Annual Camp in Salisbury. I took the opportunity to join the cadets and hear about their experiences and even take part in some of the day's activities.

I was really impressed with the discipline and ability of the cadets from Milton Keynes, it is clear they all really enjoy themselves and it is a great way for young people to learn new skills and disciplines. I would like to encourage all young people in MK to join their local Cadet Force who welcome girls and boys from the age of 12. You can find out more about them at www.armycadets.com/county/buckinghamshire-acf. I also enjoyed joining the team down at Haversham Sailing Club. A hidden local treasure, courses available are for novices (especially youngsters over the school holidays) and race days held regularly on weekends, it really is a blast.

I thoroughly enjoyed being taken out on a dingy, feeling the wind in my hair and the clubhouse bar afterwards was also good fun. With the weather having been so good, I would strongly recommend people explore it as a new sport and get in touch with the club on 01908 225657. At the time of writing this, I am also looking forward to holding my regular mobile surgery at the end of August. I particularly enjoy this as I get to go from village to village meeting different people and offering assistance when I can. A yearly highlight, I am looking forward to it immensely and hope very much you will come and say hello.

As ever, if there is anything I can do to help you then do get in touch on 01908 686830, otherwise I hope to see you while I am doing my mobile surgery this month.



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I hadn't seen my cousin for a few months. We'd always been the heaviest ones in the family. When I saw her she'd lost 3 stone! I couldn't bring myself to say to her, "Well done, you look fantastic" because I was so jealous. She'd followed SureSlim plan, so the next day I signed up myself. I lost 11lbs in my first week!

I was a size 22 when I started the plan - if I could get to a size 14 I would be very happy. I'm a size 12 and I've totally exceeded my expectations. My life has completely changed and I couldn't be happier!

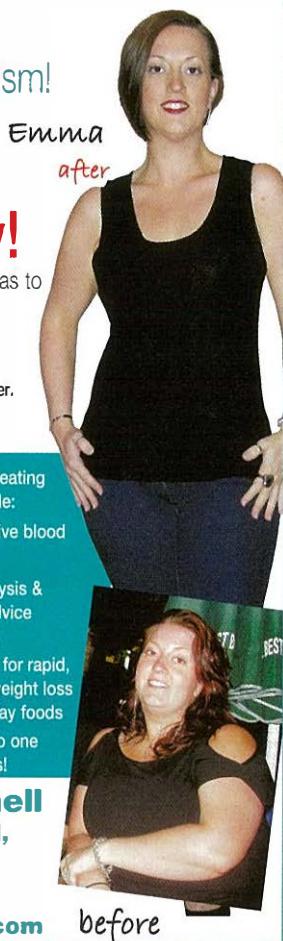
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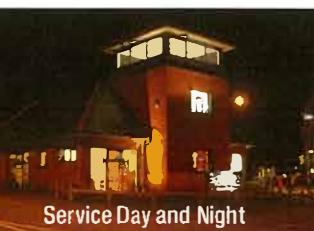
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The Olney & District Historical Society has now formally launched the Family History section of its website. It has also re-launched an enhanced Market Place Tour which now includes the facility to use Google Maps.

If you happen to be an Olneyite (usual meaning: born in Olney) then why not check out your own Olney family history. Find out who were your relatives, where did they live, how did they make a living, etc? All the data from the 1851, 1891 and 1911 Censuses are integrated into the person search facility, together with the data from the 1910 Inland Revenue Land Survey and the 1936, 1945 and 1951 Registers of Electors; a total of over 14,000 records. A unique feature of the person search facility is that a recent photograph of the property appears with the person search results. Afterwards if you're really adventurous, why not search the site for relatives in the Olney Parish Register which goes back to 1665!

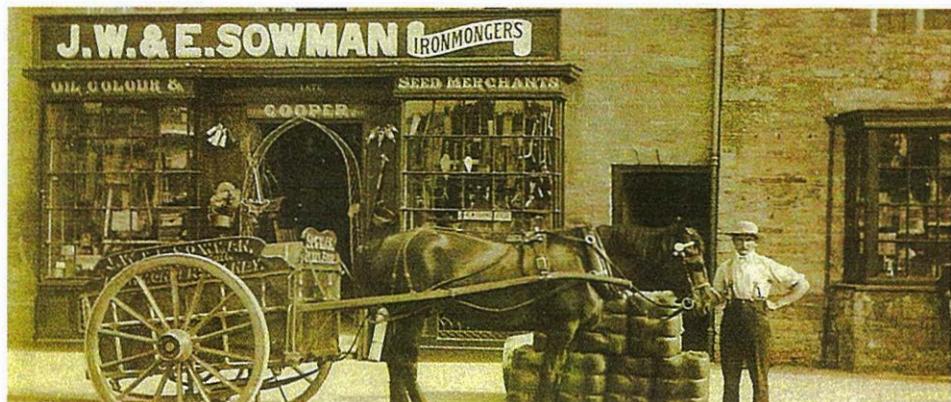
If you were not born in Olney, but live in Olney, then why not check out the families who lived in your house in earlier years. Around 600 photographs of nearly all surviving houses built before the start of WW1 are on the building search facility, together with residents listed in the 1891 and 1911 Censuses, the 1910 Land Survey (together with the property's owners), and the 1936 and 1951 Registers of Electors. The building search facility, we believe, is quite unique, as is the facility to progress buildings up and down the streets to check out who the neighbours were!

The Market Place Tour addresses every property in the Market Place. It systematically progresses clockwise around the properties

LAUNCH OF THE OLNEY FAMILY HISTORY SECTION

Mike Neale

Olney & District Historical Society



and presents the history of the buildings and their residents from 1800 to 1950. The tour has been significantly enhanced this year to extend the content and the number of historical photographs. The tour has also been redesigned for 'tablet personal computers' so that they can be used as 'mobile tour guides'. So why not try walking the tour with your 3G enabled iPad (or even your 'smartphone'); all it lacks at present is a soundtrack! But it does have the option of a customised version of Google Maps, with 'Street View' if required, to guide you around the tour.

By the way, do not forget to check out the major features and articles we have produced in recent years. How many of you remember the really large Sowmans and Garners shops in the Market Place? We have compiled major features on both. We have also uploaded a major feature on The War Memorial so we can learn much more about those Olney men who gave their lives for our country in the two World Wars. Finally, do not miss our article on the Northampton-Olney-Bedford (LMS) Railway (1872-1962), which consistently remains our most viewed web page! olneyhistory.org.uk

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Thelma Shacklady

Women of Consequence

Mark Hitchens, biographer, historian and former teacher, has achieved a remarkable tour de force. He has brought together the lives of eleven women, some well-known, some less so, who have made a difference to society. Beginning with Elizabeth Fry, who did much to change the conditions of prisons in England, and whose Institution of Nursing Sisters, he points out, was founded twenty years before the Nightingale's School of Nursing, he records the remarkable achievements of women in various fields.

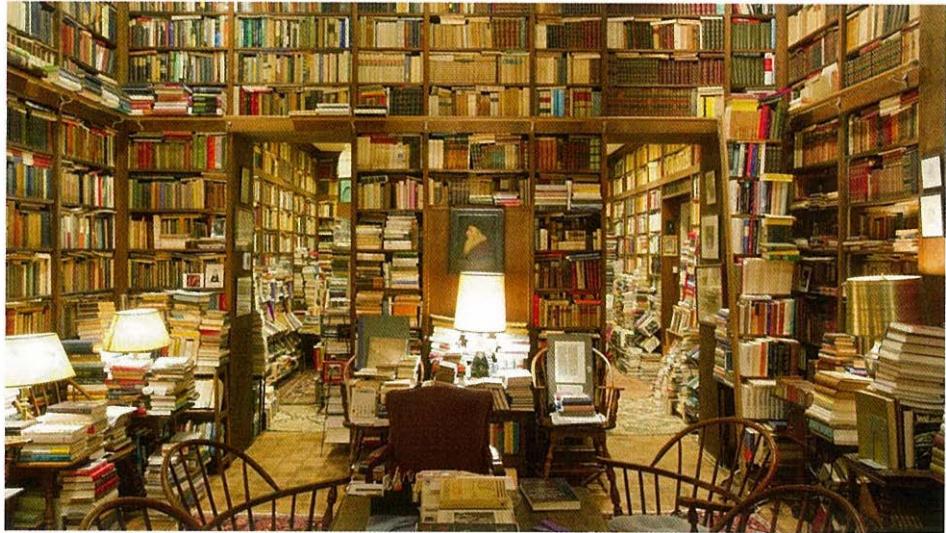
Some of the names are familiar, but Emma Cons was one I had not heard of before. She was a great Victorian lady who was not prepared to turn a blind eye to the suffering of London's poor, and sought to improve their lives through education. The Victoria Theatre in Waterloo Road was purchased with the aim of providing suitable entertainment without obscenity and innuendos, and opened as the Royal Victoria Coffee and Music Hall. Not licensed as a theatre, the entertainment it offered included recitals from opera and readings from Shakespeare. From these small beginnings developed one of the most well-known London theatres – the Old Vic.

The story of the Old Vic continues, when Emma's work is taken over by her niece, Lilian Bayliss. Under her control it became a theatre offering Shakespeare plays and opera alternately. Subsequently another theatre was purchased, Sadlers Wells, in Islington, and the opera moved there. Another well-known name is added at this point – Ninette de Valois, whose original name was Edris Stannus, an Irish dancer. She had a historic meeting with Lilian Bayliss and agreed to put on ballets in Shakespeare plays at the Old Vic and give lessons in deportment and mime to the actors. From this meeting developed the Royal Ballet, based at Sadlers Wells.

Another interesting name is that of Angela Burdett, later Baroness Burdett-Coutts. Thanks to an immense fortune which came her way on the death of her step-grandmother, a fortune which she believed had been bestowed on her by the grace of God and was to be used in his service, she supported the work done in 'ragged schools' and in redeeming 'women of the night', founding a Home for homeless women. She was a friend both of Charles Dickens and of the Duke of Wellington, and a woman of great influence. A great philanthropist, she was the first woman to be made a Baroness in her own right and also the first to be made a Freeman of the City of London.

Women from the twentieth century include Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Edwina, Countess Mountbatten and Dame Edith Sitwell, each contributing significantly to the society in which they lived.

This is a remarkable book, providing eleven pen portraits of women whose achievements were outstanding, despite the restrictions placed upon them. A wry comment made at the end of the introduction is most telling....*It is interesting to note that today, when women are subject to no such restrictions, there have been very few comparable achievements.*



Sandra Metcalf

Not The Usual Review

My apologies to everyone, but for only about the third time in almost six years I find myself unable to complete a review. It's not that I haven't been reading – I'm always reading, usually to the detriment of the housework, the shopping and every other necessary but boring chore of everyday life. But of the fiction books I've managed to finish (we won't bother counting the ones I found too dull or badly written to persevere with) I find I can't really, honestly, recommend any as a really good read.

The Abyssinian Proof was a bit like a *Da Vinci Code* set in Turkey. It had better writing than Dan Brown's book (which isn't difficult) but a scarcely more credible story. *The Mystery Writer* by Jessica Mann was an interesting idea – using herself, 'the writer', as a protagonist in a murder mystery – but it didn't quite work. Too many threads not sufficiently woven together and too many unrealised characters so that you had to keep reminding yourself who was who. Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* was probably the best of the bunch, but somehow didn't live up to its hype. It has an effective structural device, using an old man looking back on his life; decent treatment of the theme of life's turning points, its wrong decisions which sometimes turn out to be right; and some decent writing. But I think Gruen is far too much in love with her background material and can't seem to make up her mind whether her narrative is centred on the circus trains of the depression era in the USA, or the love

story she sets against this background. I review (normally!) books for the *Phonebox Magazine* on behalf of the Oxfam Bookshop at Olney and of course I buy a good proportion of the stuff I read from there and from the Oxfam Shop in Newport Pagnell. But it seems to be getting more difficult to find new titles to entertain and inspire in the way a 'good read' should. The volunteers in both shops will tell you how difficult it has become to keep a wide range of fiction on the shelves despite the very generous donations of books made to Oxfam. There are probably lots of reasons for this. Publishers have become more cautious about taking risks with new writers. High Street book shops have been hit not only by the on-line giants but also by the supermarkets who only stock a narrow range of best-sellers in as large a quantity as possible – maximising profit is what they do best after all. Electronic books are also a factor but not a huge one as yet – readers tend to use both formats in the same way that the people who borrow books from libraries have always been the people who also buy books. You might have a preferred format but if you want to read something you will take it in whatever packaging it comes. Sales of eBooks have gone up dramatically in recent years but sales of books have also risen – so where are they all?? And why are they not leading a useful 'second life' on Oxfam's shelves – raising money for excellent causes and providing enjoyment for a second, or even a third reader? And, of course, giving me a chance of finding something decent to review!

Saturday the 13th July saw the first event for a new youth choir for young people in Olney and the surrounding area – a taster afternoon for those interested in joining the Newton Youth Choir. Twelve young singers gathered in The Olney Centre under the direction of conductor Anna Hailes for an afternoon of singing, games, and fun! Being one of the hottest days in the year, conditions were not ideal for singing! However, all the singers coped brilliantly with the heat and worked together to put on a fantastic concert to parents at the end of the day. The singing included a variety of repertoire including rounds and part songs, new songs and well known songs. Two favourites were without a doubt I'm a Believer and The Bare Necessities which showed off the singers' ability to sing effectively in two part harmony.

Very few of the group knew more than one other person attending that afternoon, but by the end of the day it was as if they had been rehearsing together for weeks, rather than hours – they were absolute superstars! Special thanks has to be given to members of the South Bedfordshire Youth Voices who came along to support both the singing and running of the event.

We are looking for new members between the ages of 9 and 16 who would like to join us – rehearsals start in September at the Ousedale School, Olney Campus on Wednesdays from 6.00-7.30pm. We are hoping to be seen in and around Olney singing at local events and concerts, so keep your eyes peeled! For more information on how to join and information about the choir please visit www.newtonyouthchoir.org.uk.

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Fifth Anniversary

Alban Hill

Alban Hill Nurseries celebrated their 5th anniversary on 26th July 2013 with an evening event at the nursery. On a lovely, warm summer's evening about 150 people came to enjoy wandering around the nursery, accompanied by the Bedford Brass Band and relaxing on the Jubilee Coffee Shop patio. The mayor of Newport Pagnell came with his wife, along with members of the Alban Hill Gardening Club and invited guests who have supported the nursery over the past five years. Mr Nigel Eaton RHS, Wisley and Mr Bruce Liddle of Newbury Farm Plants and Three Counties Radio, chaired "A gardener's Question Time" which proved to be very popular.

The evening was a great success and all wished Alban Hill Nurseries success for the future.



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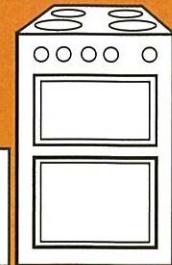
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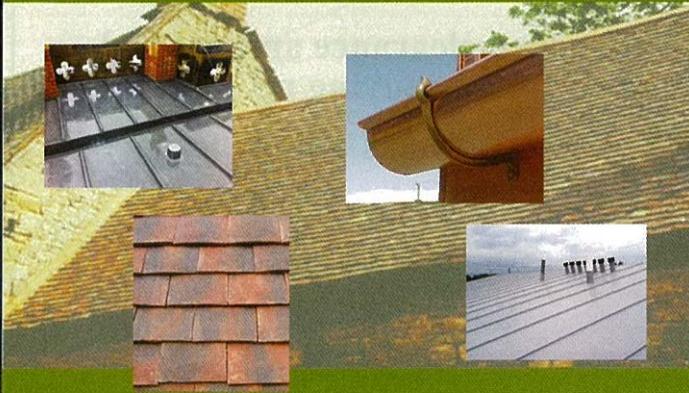
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KIP McGRATH EDUCATION CENTRE

OPENING IN NEWPORT PAGNELL IN SEPTEMBER!



I am delighted to be opening a brand new Kip McGrath Milton Keynes North Education Centre in Newport Pagnell in September serving Newport Pagnell, Olney, the north and eastern flanks of Milton Keynes and surrounding villages.

KMECs originated in Australia and are now established in 20 countries with more than 650 Centres offering professional tuition in Maths and English for young people from 6-16, helping them to reach their full learning potential.

With over 25 years teaching and management in secondary schools I bring a range of experience to my new position as Centre Director. As a qualified English teacher for over two decades and having taught abroad as well as locally, I have also held various senior positions such as Headteacher, Executive Head & Educational Consultant with significant Ofsted experience. My background has allowed me to work successfully with students of a wide age and ability range establishing an impressive record of results over the years. My love of teaching is bringing me back to work more directly with students in this

Newport Pagnell Centre where, using proven Kip McGrath methods, my team and I can support and motivate students to fulfil their potential, aim high, believe in themselves and then take this back into their school classroom.

We believe that every child can succeed with the right support and we work in a way that builds confidence and self esteem.

How this Centre can work for your child

We offer a FREE ASSESSMENT to evaluate each young person's individual needs and then use an individualised teaching programme to meet these. Your child will receive quality tuition from an experienced tutor who holds responsibility for a maximum of 5 students in a session. Using proven teaching and learning techniques, each session is structured over 80 minutes to include computer-assisted learning, 1:1 tutor support, written exercises and games for learning. Homework is also provided to reinforce the learning from each session. This proven format allows each student to work independently on their own unique

programme at an appropriate pace. This is not a one-size-fits-all programme but, instead, is relevant to each young person's needs and designed individually to help the young person improve in every identified area.

Because this is a brand new Centre your child can be one of the first to be welcomed into this supportive learning environment and there are multiple reasons why this Centre might be appropriate for your child. Perhaps your child has fallen behind due to illness or a family move to another area. Maybe the transition from one school to another has been difficult. Some children have a lack of confidence or even learning difficulties which affect their progress and they flourish in a smaller, supportive learning environment. Others may be performing well but want to boost their performance further.

The reasons may be varied but the tutoring is not. We guarantee quality tuition of a consistently high standard. Our nurturing and encouraging approach in this friendly and modern environment allows each child to thrive as the learning experience is enjoyable and successful outcomes are ensured.

I hope we may be welcoming your child to our Centre soon! Moyra Forrester (See my advert on the back page)

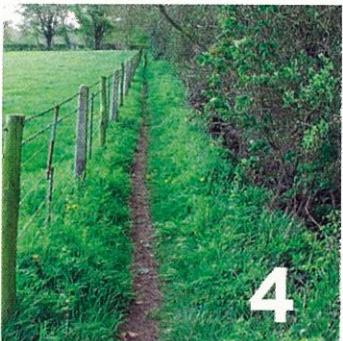
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From Harrold

Rambling from Harrold, refreshed:-
A circular walk of circa 5 miles from Harrold Country Park via Odell, the Great Woods, and the old Podington Airfield.

(with overflow parking within the grounds), please put a £1.00 in the box it helps with the upkeep of this facility.

Refreshments are available at pubs in Odell and Harrold and at the cafe in the Country Park.

There are some fields that might have cattle, sheep and horses in from time to time, so keep an eye open for this if you have a dog that's off the lead, please put it back on.

Parking at the Country Park.

The idea behind these occasional walks is to encourage us to visit our neighbouring villages and to enjoy their surrounding countryside, the different seasons can greatly effect the scenery, with delightful flowers in the meadows and woodlands in spring time, and crisp clear frosty days in winter can often increase the distance you can see as well as blowing away those winter cobwebs.

Reversing the walks can also give different views that you might miss in one direction and adds another walk to your repertoire.

All of our walks can be traced using the Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps No's: 192/207/208/223/224 these contain a wealth of information for planning walks within the Phonebox catchment area.

We hope that you enjoy this walk, please remember to close all gates after you and to take any litter home.



Leave the car park and walk between the two lakes, passing the overflow car park, this broad path becomes a track and leads into Odell. Keeping on the right continue on the road past the pub and keep left up the hill on the path by the stone wall, follow the path round to the right. Then, with the church 50 yards or so in front of you and Odell Castle on your immediate right, cross over the road through a sign-posted gate on to a broad path towards Odell Great Wood.

Proceed along the gradually narrowing path into the woods eventually coming to a 6-way junction of paths, carry straight on with Yelnow Plantation on your right to a "T" junction, turn left here onto a wide and undulating track (caution here as vehicles occasionally use this track). After the fields on your right is the disused Podington Airfield with Santa Pod over in the distance. Follow the track for about a quarter of a mile round the perimeter of the woods, crossing areas of the old runways to another T junction and turn left into White Lane, this is signposted to Harrold. This broad path eventually leaves the woods with fields and excellent views to your right and has hedges to both sides of the path.

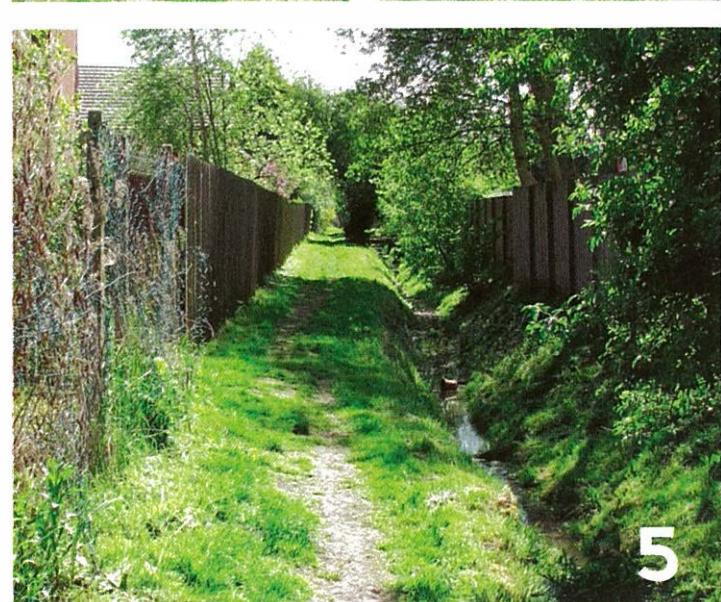
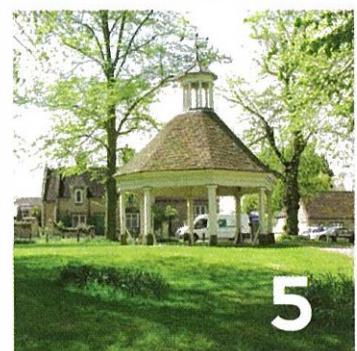
After about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the T junction there will be a yellow sign and kissing gate on the left, pass through the gate, turn right and then head diagonally left across three fields with a gate between each field, on entering the third field there is a small holding to the left that keeps horses. In the bottom left hand corner is a stile, which leads out onto the Odell Road, go left here for a few yards as the next path is across the road and over a stile before the first house on the other side.

Follow the path, with the house and its garden on your left, straight across the field to another stile onto a narrow path, turn left here with a stream on your right. Eventually bear right across a bridge above a small cascade between two lakes, then through a gate into a field, keep left through two fields with gates and also a hedge on your left.

The path now passes between new houses towards Harrold with a stream on your left, at a T junction turn left over the bridge and then immediately right with the stream now on your right, this continues through more new housing to another T junction with another stream in front of you, turn left here and continue to Dove Lane, this is now the older part of the village. Turn right and proceed to the High Street where you turn right again, cross over to the left-hand side and head towards The Green with Lock Up and Market House (built during the 1820s and early 1700s respectively).

Turn left into Mowhills, keep to the left of The Green into a path with houses on your left, this is heading towards St. Peter's Church. As the path bears round to the left there is a green area to the right where you can see the River Great Ouse as it passes through towards the country park. Keeping straight on, the path crosses a road and then passes through a lychgate into the church yard, the cricket green is over to your left across the wall. On through the churchyard to the Carlton Road which you now cross over back into the Country Park.

If you wished you could now do a circuit of the lakeside path or just sit and enjoy the views, also the church on the hill behind the smaller of the Harrold lakes on the right is St Nicholas's just outside Carlton/Chellington.



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First Day at School

Robert Barker: Olney Library

John's face hit the playground and a muddy boot pressed down on the back of his head, grinding his cheek into the wet tarmac.

'New, are you?' a voice snarled from behind.

John lay trapped, silent, and seething. He had not seen the gang of lads lurking just inside the school gate waiting to pounce.

'Lost your voice, then?' another voice sneered.

Memories flooded back of being forced to move house and change schools following his parents' divorce. He had been mercilessly teased and bullied for being the 'newbie'. The familiar feelings of fear, anger, and humiliation now returned.

'Cat got your tongue?' a third voice taunted.

John was aware of a crowd gathering, laughing, chanting, sensing blood. Now someone was pinning his legs down. Unable to move or call for help, he resigned himself to the inevitable beating.

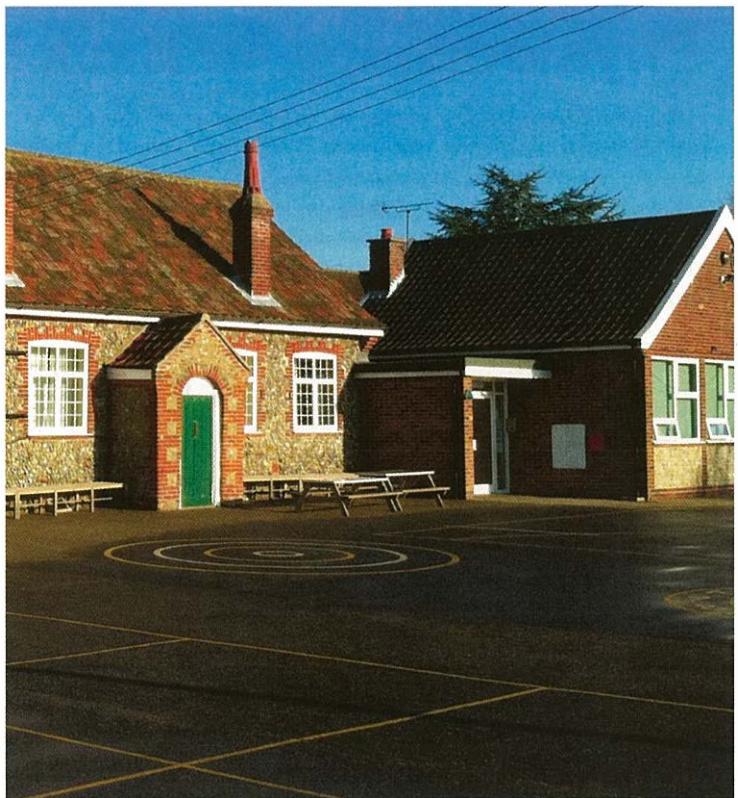
Suddenly, a man's voice boomed over the noise of the crowd, 'Alright, break it up!' John recognized the voice as belonging to the Headmaster whom he'd met on a previous visit to the school. Instantly John was released, his assailants disappearing into the dispersing crowd.

'You alright, Stevenson? John, isn't it? Sorry about that. Some of our older lads can be a little boisterous. Is that the bell? Come on now, boys, inside.'

John got up, wiped himself down, rubbed his cheek, and hurried off to teach his first class.

Olney, MK46 4EF Tel: 01234 711474

Email: Olney.Library@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Olney Library opening times:

Monday Closed

Thursday 10.00 am – 5.30 pm

Tuesday 10.00 am – 6.00pm

Friday 1.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Wednesday Closed

Saturday 10.00 am – 1.00pm

Sunday Closed

Getting The Word Out

MK Scrabble Club

We are looking for new players to expand the membership of MK Scrabble Club. Our members are a small friendly bunch who love nothing more than battling it out across a scrabble board. Formed in May 2011, after meeting for two years in a noisy pub we moved to our new venue at the Royal British Legion in Newport Pagnell earlier this year, where we enjoy the peace and tranquillity of a room to ourselves. We meet every Wednesday evening from 7pm and would be very happy to welcome new players of all abilities, beginners are particularly welcome. So if you want to take your game to the next level and make new friends, why not come along to one of our meetings and see what we are all about.

Visit our facebook page at

facebook.com/MKScrabbleClub for more details or email mkscrabbleclub@btinternet.com or call Paul on 07936 412806



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Physiotherapy for Back Pain

Hello, I am Eileen Lewis, I have a BSc in Physiotherapy and also am a qualified Acupuncturist with over 20 years experience. This month I would like to cover Back Pain.

At some point nearly all of us will unfortunately suffer from Back Pain. This may cause pain and stiffness in the upper back (thoracic spine) around the ribs and shoulder blades or lower back pain (lumbar spine). The pain may refer to the buttocks, legs, trunk, abdominal or groin region. You may also experience pins and needles in the legs or feet.

Many of my patients present with these symptoms and after a thorough examination the cause of the problem can be established. It

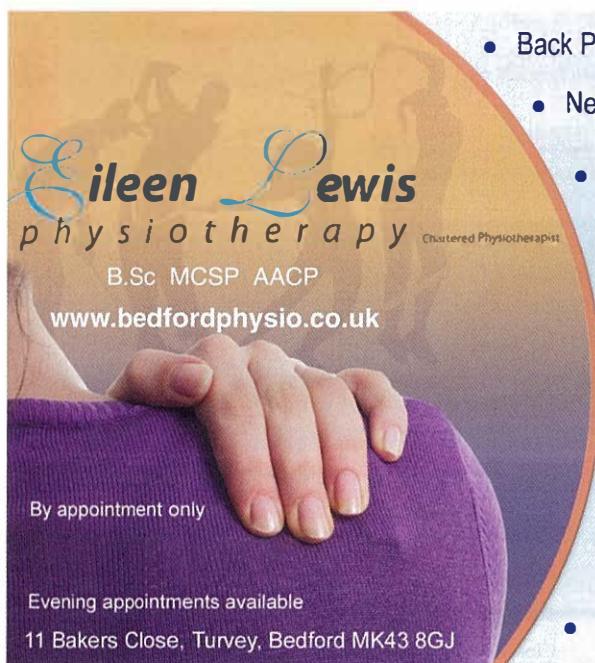
may be the vertebral joints of the thoracic or lumbar spine, the sacroiliac joints of the pelvis, the nerves or the surrounding muscles or fascia that are the source of your Back Pain.

The good news is that 95% of all Back Pain gets better given the correct advice, exercises and treatment. Depending on the source of your pain Physiotherapy treatment that will facilitate recovery may consist of Mobilising or Core Stability/Pilates based exercises, Myofascial Release Techniques, Joint Mobilisations or Manipulations, Ultrasound or Acupuncture.

I also always give general advice regarding management of Back Pain in both the short term and long-term, in order to help alleviate the acute pain and prevent recurring problems.

So if you are suffering from any of these symptoms and this all sounds too familiar, then give me a call on 01234 881400 or alternatively please visit my website for any further information at www.bedfordphysio.co.uk

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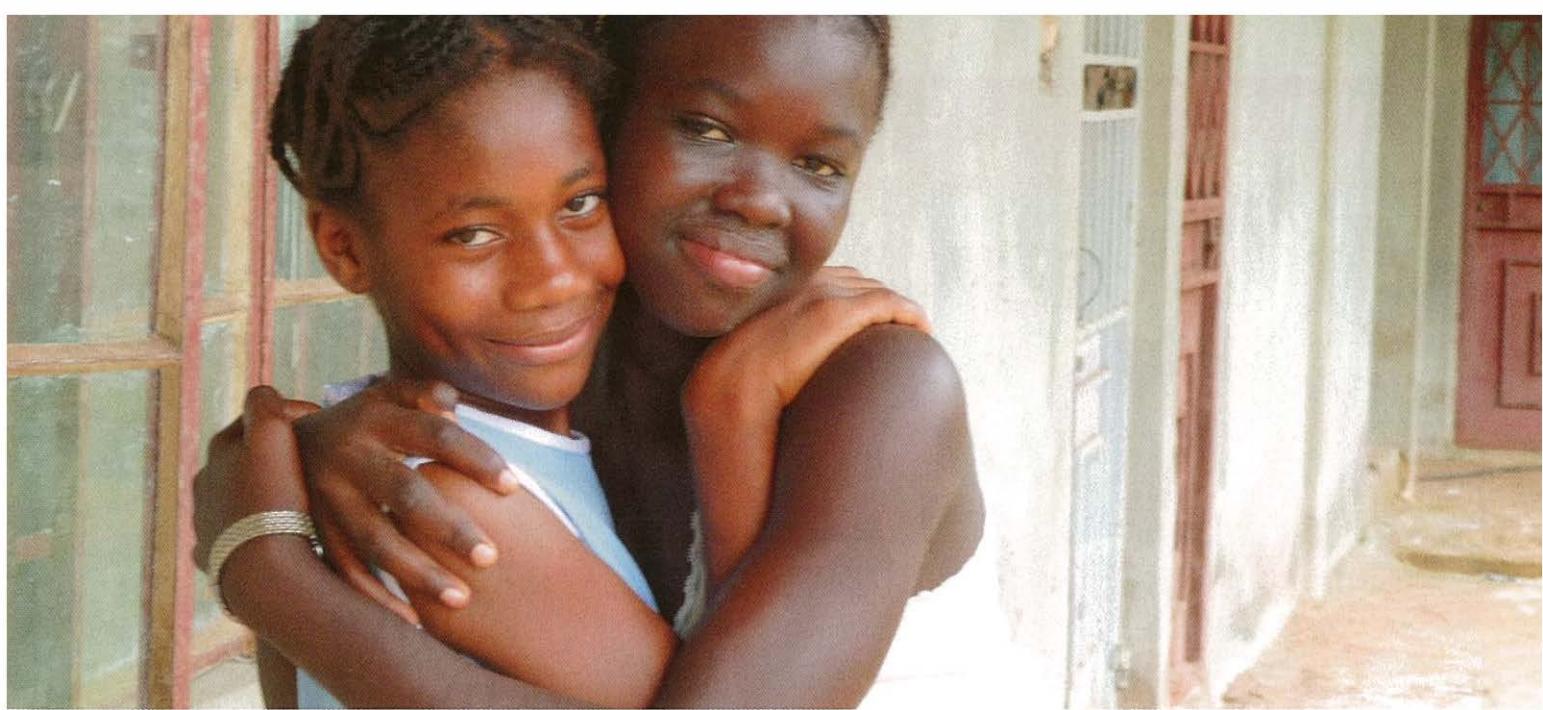
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Olney Newton Link

Claire's experiences of a year in Sierra Leone

After spending a year in Sierra Leone it seems very odd to be back amongst the land of power, water, and plenty. In these troubled financial times saying the latter may bring on a snort- and believe me I can understand the reaction. So why is it important to keep supporting the local charities such as Olney-Newton Link?

Sierra Leone has definitely come a long way since my first visit 10 years ago. Then the people were lethargic, traumatised and in desperate need of any help to basically survive. Their tenacity as well as other people's generosity has meant the nation has picked itself up and made dramatic improvements to quality of life. Schools run, exams are passed, degrees awarded, jobs created, families cared for, weddings, christenings funerals and so on. In other words LIFE- the same responsibilities, dreams and frustrations as everyone else in the world. The difference is that financially

the whole country is on a precipice, and it needs foreign investment to help any further move forward.

This is where charities come in, and do a vital job. The little guy, the ones that don't make the news headlines are the people who MAKE a nation, live in it, work in it, rejoice in it. Yet often they are forgotten about by the big political machines- where investment in roads, infrastructure and banking become the by- words. NGOs on the other hand provide aid to assist in the development of opportunities for simple yet valuable changes. ONL for example not only has created training opportunities with the skills centre, but toilets for the schools so diseases can be controlled, health equipment for the local doctors and nurses, repairs to the water well, building houses when the people of Newton were returning home from being refugees. These small projects have made a massive difference to so many faceless people- the importance

cannot be overemphasized.

I noticed how many NGOs were in evidence in Sierra Leone and that tells us something. The country needs us to continue in any small way (or big) that we can. A pound here, a donation there, an evening out for a concert, or a quiz, buying a raffle ticket all adds up to a new boost for somebody and surely that has to be a GOOD THING. We're not asking for the world, just occasional support so that the money (and with the local charities you are sure its 100%) goes to the community. If there's one thing to consider in this time of financial constraints, treating others as we wish to be treated should be a mantra for us all. And that includes having the foundations for a good, healthy and happy life. And if we have the chance to assist others, why don't we take it? And that's what giving to charity in any method is all about.

To find out more about the Olney-Newton Link visit our website olneynewtonlink.org.uk.



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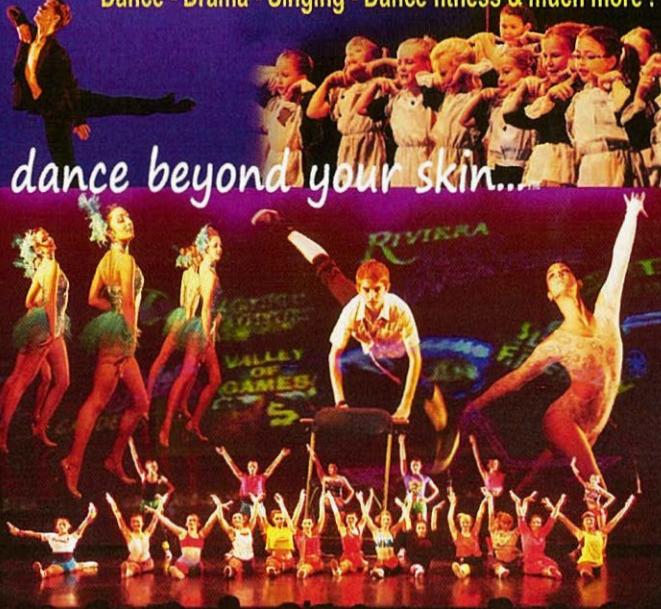
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6pm

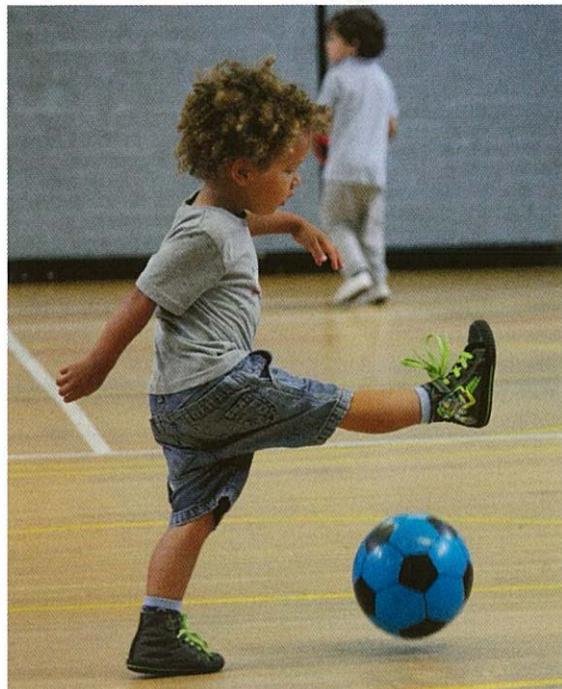
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 Girls' Day School Trust

74 Phonebox Magazine

Over the Summer Woodlands Children Centre based at the Olney Youth Club ran an action packed calendar of activities for families with 0-5's in Olney and the surrounding villages. Monday All Day Stay and Play sessions were a huge hit and attracted over 100 local families into the centre. Splatter Cats sessions "Not just a box" and "Warning children at play construction site" got children using their imagination and creativity on a whole new level with role play and an explosion of paint, glue, sand, water and glitter! Mini Strikers got toddlers running around excitedly, balancing on beams and jumping over hurdles in a fury of organised chaos and Rag Dolly Anna's combined children's song and rhyme times with props, instruments and a full on workout for parents! I feel exhausted just thinking about it! Many thanks to all the parents who came along and made it such a success. Our new September to March Calendar is due out soon, Like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WoodlandsChildrenCentreMiltonKeynes



GCSE Results

Wellingborough School

We, like everyone else, have been watching the press reports with some trepidation, fearful of what might lie in this year's GCSE results. However, this year has been a record breaking year for GCSE success at Wellingborough School with an increase of 6% at A*, a 13% increase in A* and A grades and an increase of 11% of grades at A* - B from last year; 60% of all grades were A or A* and 74% of the Year 11 pupils gained at least one A* with over 40 pupils gaining 3 or more A*. Congratulations must go to Georgina Cowan-Turner and Sabia Egan who gained a clean sweep of 10 A* each. 7 pupils also gained an A grade in the Advanced Free Standing Mathematics Qualification (FSMQ) which is a Level 3 qualification usually

associated with Sixth Form study.

One area of success of which we are particularly proud is in Modern Foreign Languages and 96% of the year secured a pass grade in French with 62% of the passes in French and Spanish being at A or A* level. We are delighted with the increasing numbers of pupils who are choosing to continue with these languages in the Sixth Form.

As ever we are equally proud of those with more modest results which come from equally hard work and we are pleased that some of those who thought that they may struggle to meet the requirements to enter the Sixth Form are now firmly on their way to a successful Sixth Form career at Wellingborough.



Combined Churches of Olney

Improving the church

'We need a guide'

At this time of year some people go off on journeys to their holidays, some go off looking for work as they have finished school or college, and some are starting the journey of higher education, having got their exam results. Whatever the cause, many of us face journeys and changes - some will be long planned and hoped for, some will be issues of anxiety or disappointment. This year the combined churches of Olney put on the annual Holiday Bible Club, which was a massive success, there is a separate report about it, and one of the big ideas was that life can be a jungle (exciting and sometimes hard) and that we do well to have an experienced guide to help us; of course, that guide is Jesus.

As we look ahead at the changes and challenges which will be coming our way in the next weeks and months, let's remember that he calls us to follow him, that his truth and life are greater than the obstacles which come across our path, and that because of his promise to never leave us, we have his presence with us to 'cheer and to guide'.

Welcome & Harvest

I was delighted to go along to the induction of Rev Derek Hopkins, the new minister at the United Reformed Church, and look forward to sharing our Harvest services together. The Baptist church will join with the URC on the evening of the 29th September, and the Baptist church will host the joint evening service the following week, 6th October. Harvest thanksgiving is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for all the good things we enjoy, and also to share them with others less fortunate than ourselves - at the Baptist church any tinned or dry goods will go to the Milton Keynes Foodbank, and our collection will go to support the work of TearFund.
(see www.tearfund.org for more details).

Building work

By the time you read this, the initial works at the side of the Baptist Church will have started, we are looking forward to our building project getting going: to see an artist's impression of how the improved premises will look, go to www.olneybaptist.org.uk



The Churches of Olney - your invitation

The Christian Churches of Olney celebrate their common faith, and express their worship with refreshing diversity, from contemporary to traditional approaches, and thought provoking Bible teaching. Come along - we'd love to get to know you. More information is available from each Church, their leaders and websites.

Welcome to our Sunday Services:

Olney Baptist Church
(known as 'Sutcliff'): High St.
(opposite the Market Place)
Rev Ian Field 713880
10.30am Family Worship
6pm Evening service
www.olneybaptist.org.uk

SS Peter & Paul: Sunday: 10.00am (Weekly)
8.30am (2nd/4th Sunday of the month)
5.00pm (2nd/4th Sunday of the month)
6.00pm (1st/3rd Sunday of the month)
Wednesday 9.30am (Weekly)
More at www.olneyparish.org.uk.
Reverend Claire Wood 713308

Cowper Memorial URC:
Sunday Morning at 10.45am
Communion on first Sunday of month.
Celia Dashfield, 01234 713468
contact@cowperurc.org.uk
www.cowperurc.org.uk

The Catholic Church of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Lawrence:
Saturday Mass at 6.30pm
Sunday: Mass at 10.30am.
Benediction 4 - 5 pm at the Convent
Father Malcolm Bull and Church administrator,
Sister Rita Scott 711212

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Come & give “RUGBY A TRY” at Olney RFC

The new season is nearly upon us we are ready to put on our famous Cerise and French Grey shirts, boots and gumshields!

If you would like to join our very friendly, sociable club where our dedicated, fully qualified coaches and administrators are waiting to welcome you then please contact Sarah on sjb12@btinternet.com or 07702 886189 for further details or just come along on Sunday 1st September 10.30-12 (in fact any Sunday morning in September!) and have a free trial session to see what you are missing! If your child is starting School Year 1 from September then come along and join our U6s team for lots of fun, rugby games and plenty of running around. Our U14s team (school year 9) are also looking for fresh talent to join their very successful team. Our registration evening is Friday 13th September 7pm - 9pm. Whatever age you are come down and give “RUGBY A TRY” at Olney RFC.

Olney Town Colts FC Secures £40,000 From Sporting Legacy Fund

Olney Town Colts FC has secured Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund and will use the award towards the cost of building dedicated youth changing rooms.

Sport England's Chair, Nick Bitel said: "A year on from the Olympics, this National Lottery investment is helping us deliver a lasting sporting legacy across the country.

With investment now on offer from our Inspired Facilities Fund until 2017, we look forward to supporting many more sports clubs who play such a vital role in grassroots sport".

Colts Club Chairman, Ian Stokes said: "We are obviously overjoyed by this award as it now means that we can provide our 300 youth players with their own facilities, and continue to improve standards on and off the pitch.

We have grown from 3 teams to 24 teams in the last 7 years, and without the support of Olney Town Council and other local sports clubs, none of this would have been achievable.

We are very grateful to everyone that has helped us to date, and look forward to a successful future developing local youth football and being able to offer use of our changing rooms to other clubs in the Town". Mr Tony Evans, Chairman of Olney Town Councils Recreation and Services Committee said: 'It is wonderful news that Olney Town Colts FC has secured Olympic Legacy Funding to help them provide changing facilities specifically for the many Colts Sides. We are extremely fortunate in Olney to have so many adults giving their time to provide coaching for young people in many sports but particularly I know how hard the Colts FC work both with coaching and arranging matches and fundraising for kit and better facilities.

"I sincerely trust that Olney FC will realise what an asset the Colts are for the future of the club and join with them to improve the Club's facilities for all ages. The town Council are proud to be able to provide playing facilities for the Colts and will strive to provide more in the future."



If it is September then it must be time for the famous Newport Muster. This year it is on Saturday 14th September. All walks start from the United Reformed Church Hall (High Street, Newport Pagnell), and you can start any time from 10am onwards.

We are really excited that the Newport Pagnell Carnival Court are hosting a Picnic Checkpoint in Bury Field where you can stop and meet the Carnival Queen and her Princesses and enjoy the hospitality on offer. There will also be a special Willen Hospice competition for the younger walkers to do as you walk around Bury Field.

And if that was not enough, the six mile Garrison Town Walk goes past Middle Pool who are very generously giving away a number of Swim Cards to some lucky walkers.

We are very pleased that we will be joined at the Muster by Cllr John Smith (Newport Pagnell Town Mayor), Cllr Brian White (Mayor of Milton Keynes) and Mark Lancaster MP. Don't forget that there are four walks to choose from (3, 6, 9 and 15 miles). See the website www.newportmuster.org.uk for more details and to register for your walk.

Our chosen charity is Willen Hospice and we encourage you to raise sponsorship for this, or your favourite charity.

NEWPORT MUSTER



Newport Pagnell

Well, in August we learned that Arctophilie means the collecting of Teddy Bears. Joyce Shirley brought around 50 bears of different types and sizes for us to see, and explained that this was only approximately half her collection!

She began her hobby in 1993 by accident when she attended a craft fair and came home with two bears – and her interest just grew from there.

There are many different manufacturers of teddy bears, one of the most well known possibly being Steiff of Germany. German bears tend to have a humped back and long legs and arms, whilst English ones have shorter limbs and no hump. They can be made in different types of fabric and have different fillings. Some are very soft and cuddly whilst others are much firmer – one of Joy's bears was even filled with lead shot and was very heavy despite his small size. All of Joy's bears have

names and she told us how each one had been acquired, some were gifts, and some she bought at craft fairs. In 1996 she began making them herself from commercial patterns which are available, sometimes adding a hat or spectacles, or a waistcoat to make them individual.

Afterwards everyone was keen to pick them up and stroke their soft fur (I suspect many of us would have liked to take one home!).

The raffle this month was won by visitor Emma Verdin and June Weston.

Competition winners were Marion Stapleton, Angela Hancox and Evelyn Mison. Newport Pagnell Women's Institute meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Royal British Legion Club, and is always delighted to welcome new members. Next time (10th September) Mr. Tebbutt will be telling us about Public Rights of Way. For further information please call Evelyn Mison on 01908 615630.

Olney

the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

There was a change to the scheduled WI programme on 7th August. Dr Tony Maisey gave a talk and slideshow on, "How and Why we Age", instead of, "The Concept of Pain". With wit and humour he recounted stories and anecdotes, keeping us interested and amused throughout. So much so, that while he was informing and entertaining us our President Judi Boardman composed the following poem.

And there's corrosion in me pipes
Me bowels are on their last legs
And the medicine gives me gripes

And I'm not going to Princes Risborough
'Cos the pub's got dodgy beer
And I'd never make it home again
'Cos I've got the diarrhoea

I'm steering clear of Barnsley
- tho I went there this weekend
And me husband's still alive and well
Thank god I broke that trend!

So now I'm in me dotage
And I need me cushioned shoes
Me brain is somewhat addled
But - I'm going on that cruise!!



The moral of this poem is, don't put off all those things that you want to do, do them while you are still fit and healthy enough to enjoy doing them.

The competition was won by, 1st Flo Mynard, 2nd Lou Rice and 3rd Margaret Southgate. The raffle was won by Sue Harrison, Sue Humphreys, Margaret Saunders, Ann Cottrell, Judy Gay and Jill Cotter.

At lunchtime (12.45) on Wednesday, the 4th. October, 1963, the Rotary Club of Newport Pagnell held its first 'official' meeting. This gathering comprised of around thirty members, and the club officers at that inaugural meeting were C.W. Lynes (President), J.S. Stewart (Vice-President), F.A. Hall (Secretary) and the (very important) W.A. Farrer (Treasurer). The listing of Rotarians in those far off days was similar to cricketers - all initials and no christian names.

Many of the club's founder members will still no doubt be remembered by the more mature readers of the Phonebox. Bob Dunbabin, an insurance claims assessor, Les Fairey - Olney retail and rugby club connections, Tony Stanley - well known for his TV and electrical shop in Newport Pagnell and Jo Visscher, owner of the unique Parchment Factory which still trades successfully to this day. The register of members from 1963 is still available and lists many other familiar Newport Pagnell and Olney names - all with two digit and three digit telephone numbers.

The black and white picture shows members of the Rotary club at the first meeting. If you know who they are, please let me know. Group photograph shows members at a Rotary Conference circa 1990/91.

The sketchy records would indicate that the venue for the Rotary meetings in the sixties and seventies was The Two Brewers at Olney, and this location continued until the Rotary Club changed from being a lunchtime meeting to an evening meeting in 1985/86. Its new venue became The Swan Revived in the High Street, Newport Pagnell, where the club continues to meet every wednesday evening.

The Rotary Club of Newport Pagnell has had strong twinning connections with the Rotary Club of Ede (Netherlands) since the very early days, and the Ede club will be represented at the fiftieth anniversary dinner to be held at Cranfield next month on the 4th. October. Whilst the format and informality of our 21st century meetings have changed somewhat, the aims, objects and activities of the Newport Pagnell Rotary Club remain the same - Fun, Fellowship, Service above Self.

ROTARY CLUB Of Newport Pagnell



A First Meeting



WHAT IS ROTARY ?

www.newportpagnell.rotaryweb.org

There are many perceived misconceptions by members of the public as to what Rotary is. Firstly it may be better to explain what Rotary is NOT. It is not a secret society. It has no political or religious or sectarian connections, and in this modern world it has ceased to become totally male orientated. Many Rotary Clubs benefit from being dual gender clubs, as is the Rotary Club of Newport Pagnell. What, then, is Rotary ? A simple definition is that it is a 'world fellowship of business, professional and other like-minded men

and women united in the ideal of service'. This definition is very similar in 2013 as it was in 1905 when the Rotary Movement was initiated by Paul Harris and his fellow businessmen who started the organisation by having regular meetings at members homes - hence the word Rotary. From those small beginnings, Rotary International is arguably the largest service organisation in the world with 34,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide supporting a membership of over 1.2 million, and all dedicated to making a difference locally, nationally and

internationally. All Rotarians enjoy lots of fun and fellowship whilst helping to make life more bearable for the less fortunate in our world.

For more information, have a look at our website
www.newportpagnell.rotaryweb.org
or contact the following
Nigel Benson (President)
Tel: 01908 615140
nigel.benson@daredevildata.co.uk
John Belcher, Tel: 01908 210028
Tel 01908 617735 . neilbeeton@sky.com

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Newport Pagnell Football

The highlight of early season matches for Newport Pagnell Town was a fairly comfortable and well deserved 2-0 win over Hatfield Town at Willen Road in the Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup on 17th August. The home team were perhaps not quite as sharp as they could have been in front of goal but they created plenty of scoring chances against a Hatfield team that rarely threatened the Newport goal. Despite lots of Newport pressure it was not until the 31st minute that a well-struck Sam Maude shot from the edge of the penalty area gave them the lead, and it took them until the 82nd minute to score a second goal and make the game safe, when Dan Silver won the ball inside the Hatfield half and played a good ball through to Lee Jones, who gave the visitors' goalkeeper no chance with a well-placed shot.

This FA Cup win earned Newport Pagnell an away tie in the Preliminary Round of the competition, at Kings Langley on Saturday 31st August.

Early league matches were less successful, with a disappointing 3-0 defeat away at Peterborough Northern Star followed by a 3-2 midweek home defeat against Yaxley. After a poor first half against Yaxley the home team looked much better in the second half and should have at least drawn the match. They hit the post with a penalty and then saw a last minute header hit the outside of the post and go wide.

With two first team players having retired and four moved on to play for clubs at a higher level, there are several new faces in the first team line-up but the second half of the Yaxley match and the FA Cup performance a few days later showed signs of them starting to come together as a coherent team, even if they still need a bit more sharpness in front of goal to get consistent results.

The FA Vase campaign starts on 7th September with an away match at Langford.

There are then four scheduled home matches

at Willen Road in 11 days – league matches against Desborough (Saturday 14th, 3pm), Wellingborough (Tuesday 17th, 7.45pm) and AFC Rushden & Diamonds (Saturday 21st, 3pm), followed by another visit by Desborough for a league cup match (Tuesday 24th, 7.45pm). These are subject to change, depending on progress by Newport Pagnell or their opponents in FA Cup and FA Vase competitions, so keep an eye on the Newport Pagnell Town Football Club web site, www.nptfc.co.uk, for up to date fixture information.



KIDS CORNER

SUDOKU

HEY KIDS, SIR PETE THE POWERFUL HERE, I'M SO PSYCHED BY ALL THE DRAWINGS YOU SENT ME, I'M OFF TO SLAY SOME MONSTERS! THIS MONTH'S THEME IS ADVENTURE! BEST OF LUCK LITTLE HEROES.

1	7		9	8
			4	6
4			7	
	7	2	6	9
5	9	8	3	7
		3		2
6		1		
3	9		8	1

Last Month's Winners
Yeeeeaaaaaaaaahhh!!

1st Adam & Laura Daly

Sharnbrook

2ND Rosie & Beth Rodden Olney

3RD Chanda Baccam Newport Pagnell

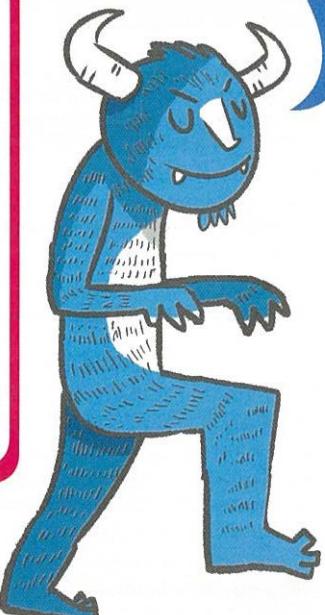
4TH Myriam Ben Hassine Olney

BLIZZARD ZERO
 FLAKES CHILLY
 GLOVES FROST
 SLEET SHIVER
 BLUSTERY PENGUIN
 FLURRIES SKIBOOTS
 GUST FLEECE
 SNOW BALACLAVA
 CHAPPING GLOVES
 FREEZE WELLINGTON
 ICE BOOTS
 WINDY PARKA
 ARCTIC MITTENS
 DRIFTS GAITERS
 FROZEN MASK
 SHUDDER

OSAKSHIVERNTPKLOAMVETKM
 CVPRHSIQSTEUOOPKKCWICDI
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 VBPCRRWLWSHQEEEXZUOFRAZS
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 VMCLGRLOBEAECQUEENSXHSG
 ADNEFLKNBPBSKMCLRWDLWYX
 UPURYUXFBAKQKYTVFYAYNGG
 GLNGLCMPZEAABDFLQBKISEQF
 FABLSKIBOOTSPYUQWYWRYSY

What kind of monster loves to disco dance?

A: The boogiemani



Solve the Word search or Sudoku on this page and send it in together with your name and address to Kids Corner, Phonebox Magazine, Unit 2 Stanley Court Olney Bucks MK46 5NH and the first correct entry drawn out of my hat will win £10 and the next three correct entries drawn will receive £5 each. Please send your entries in by the 15th of the month.

DRAWING COMPETITION



WINNER



SADLY WE DID NOT RECEIVE A NAME WITH THIS LOVELY ENTRY PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR YOUR PRIZE Pete

RUNNER UP

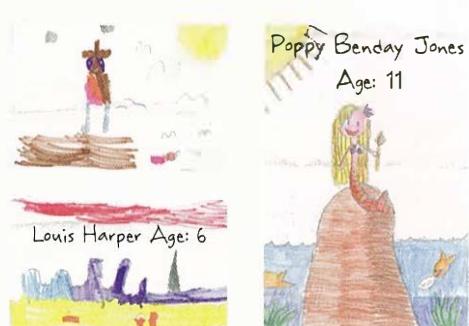
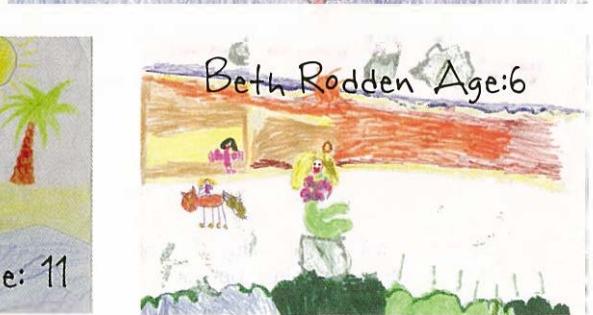
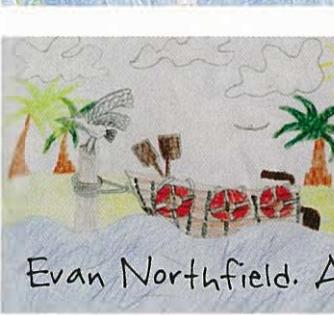
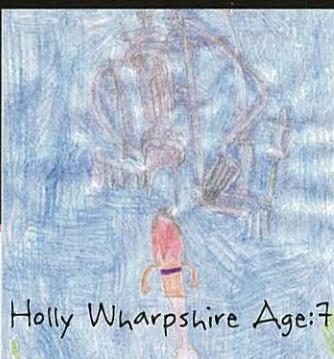
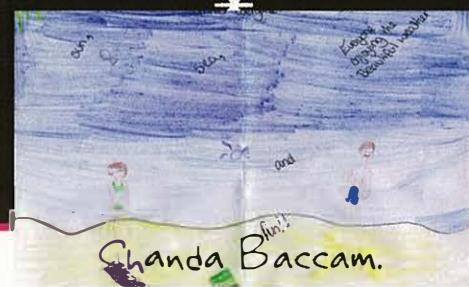


This Month's Theme Adventure

This month we're drawing to the theme of adventure. All the good stuff, swords, dungeons, treasure, monsters, princesses kings and junk. The entries will be featured in Phonebox Magazine next month along with the artist name, that's you!

- The winner gets Ten pounds worth of pocket money to spend the heck out of. Good Luck, I can't wait to see your work.

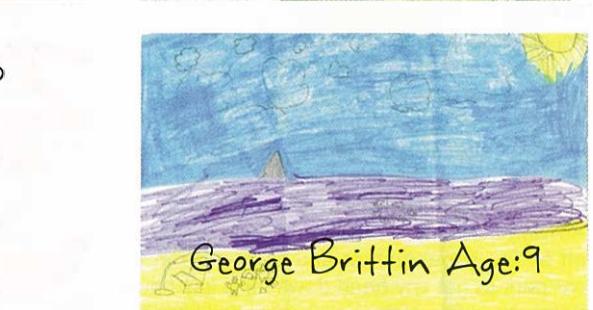
Elouise Partridge Age: 8



Ben Wharpshire Age: 9



Libby Cole Age: 6
GIRL LIBBY
PIRATE



A number of weeks ago the Government announced the plans to commemorate the Great War or the First World War as we now know it. I myself had been planning my own trip and as I had just retired I thought 2013 would be a better time to go than 2014 as the interest would be greater and perhaps the crowds larger.

My interest in the history of both world wars was somewhat large and had been initiated by the occasional story my late Dad would tell of his time in the Royal Navy which started when he was sixteen at the end of 1940. For three years he served on a battlecruiser (faster and larger than a battleship but much less armoured!) which incorporated Atlantic, Russian and Malta convoys. The last two years of the war he spent in the Far East including the last ten months behind Japanese lines with a small flotilla of ships sending back information on ship and troop movements!

I remember as a young boy visiting my Dad's mum in Northern Ireland and seeing a black and white photo of a man in army uniform and being told by my Dad that it was his older brother (my Uncle Bobby, who was actually a Royal Marine) killed in Belgium in 1944.

I also remember as a young boy visiting with my Mum to her aunt (her Mum's sister) in the east end of London and hearing them talk about "Uncle Jimmy" and my Mum asking questions about him. I learned later that he had been killed in 1917 on the Western Front.

As the years went on and my interest grew in the history of these conflicts and whv these relatives of mine had perished I tried to picture what these men would now look like and how they might have shaped my life. I also knew that one of my Dad's younger brothers has a long name and that this name came from someone killed in the first World War but that nobody close to my Dad had ever met this man.

History at school ended for me at the year 1815 and information on these two world wars I found in library books and in recent years through the internet. Delving into family records and military records gave me considerable information and talking to older members of the family helped to fill in many of the gaps.

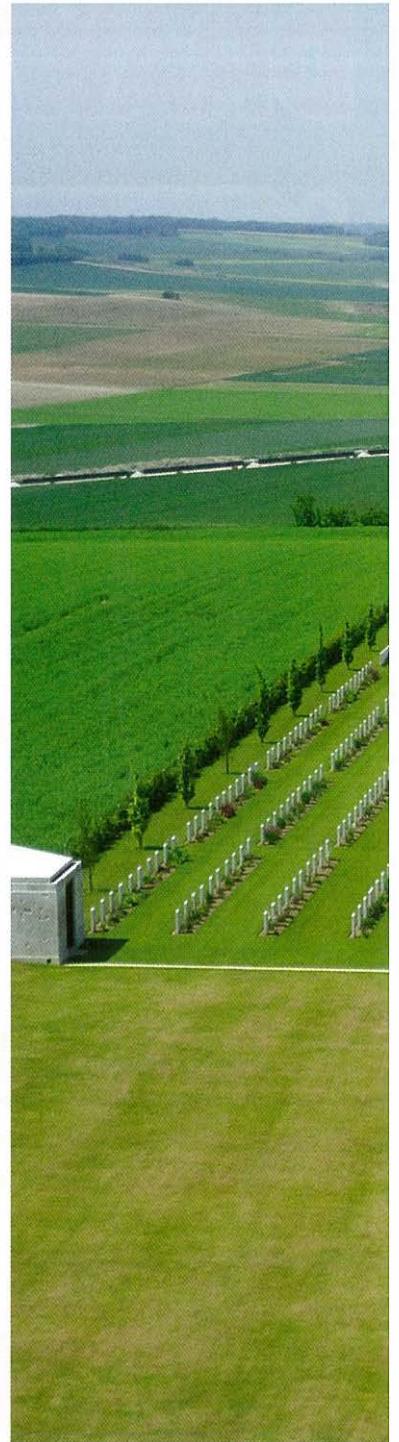
I decided to do a pilgrimage to pay my respects to members of my family and also to take in some of the other well known battle sites even some dating back to the middle ages. And so this year, after some planning I set off in my one-man campervan heading off late one Thursday evening to Folkstone for the train to Calais. Arriving in Calais in the early hours I stopped off at the supermarket and parked up in the car park to get my head down for a few hours. Being June the sun was up early and I headed off eastward to look for Crecy en Pontieu where Edward III defeated the French army in 1346 in his quest for the throne of France. Edward's claim came through his mother who was the French King's only daughter and when all four of her brothers died without children he claimed the right but the French chose a distant cousin instead and so Edward and in doing so started what we now know as the Hundred Years War. He went with an army to France and was chased by a much superior force and was forced to

make a stand and as at Azincourt his archers won the day for him and he marched on to take Calais after a long siege. To find the battlefield I had to go into Crecy and then turn off onto the Wadicourt road and about a half a mile outside the town was the battlesite. How did I know – there was a small sign in the field stating this was where the battle was. All I found in the field was a small herd of very disinterested cows! And so on to Agincourt which is only a few miles from Crecy. The village of Azincourt (not Agincourt) is festooned with images of medieval warriors and the battle field is just outside on the road to Tramcourt. The area outside the village is more open and you can get a feel of the topography and how the battle progressed. This was Henry V's campaign to capture the French throne and nearly succeeded but unfortunately he died only seven years later with his son (Henry VI) a babe of less than a year who was actually crowned king of France but he was such a weak person that he lost both the French and English crowns and died in prison!

From Azincourt I travelled to Villiers Bretonneaux just east of Amiens to the Australian memorial to their missing of the Great War. The site is just north of the town on a hill that overlooks the countryside for miles. The cemetery contains just under 700 soldiers and the names of just under twelve thousand Australians who have no known grave. I was searching for the name of my maternal grandmother's brother. James George Campbell was born in the east end of London in 1893 and became a baker when he left school. Unfortunately the pollution of the east end and flour of the bakery dust left him suffering badly with his lungs and he was advised to go and live in a warm dry climate and so he left his family and emigrated to Melbourne hoping to save enough to bring his fiancée out to join him but the war took a

hand and he volunteered for the Australian army and became a gunner in the field artillery and in 1916 was posted to the Western Front. In 1917 he received leave and returned to the East End and married his fiancée and six weeks later was killed in the battle in Bullecourt, a forerunner to the battles of Messines and Passchendaele.

Part of the cemetery has scars from another war. There are bullet marks on some of the buildings from fighting during 1940 when the cemetery was fought over as the tower on the memorial wall gave a commanding view for miles. My next port of call was Theipval in Picardy, the scene of the bloodiest battle the British fought in during the Great War. Sixty percent of all participants on first day became casualties. Nineteen thousand were killed. On July 1st 1916, in front of Theipval wood the Ulster Division (the 36th) left their trenches at 7.20am and headed up the hill towards the German lines. By the end of the day five and half thousand of them were dead! They were one of the few divisions to take their objectives but because the divisions either side of them failed to take theirs the Division had to pull back. This was a purely Northern Irish Division and contained only volunteers from the cream of Northern Irish Protestant society and to this day the province is the only area in the UK to commemorate the event every year. In



Battlefield

Michael Totton



front of the wood lies the Connaught military cemetery and I was disturbed by the sight of a headstone carrying the words "Twelve soldiers of the Great War. Known unto God" and there were others with ten and eight. My imagination took over as to what the pioneers/gravediggers would have buried! This battlefield was fought over in both 1916 and 1918. Just behind Theipval Wood is the "Memorial to the Missing" commemorating the lost soldiers of the Somme battle and designed by Sir Edward Lutyens who also designed the Cenotaph in Whitehall. It is a huge edifice and contains over 72,000 names of British and South African soldiers who have no known grave. The day I was there was warm and sunny and it seemed so tranquil yet I pondered the slaughter and violence that carried on here for five months in 1916 and the battles of early 1918 when a whole British Army (the 5th) was virtually destroyed.

I moved on and headed north towards Ypres (or Leper as it is known to the locals or "Wipers" as

it was known to the Tommies!). The Western Front was in the main a straight line running north to south and bending eastward the further south it went.

After the early battles of 1914 each side tried to outflank the other and this became known as the race to the north as the trench system grew to a length exceeding 400 miles! The town of Ypres lay in the path of this race to the north and the British were determined to hold it and held a salient around the north and east and so began the legend in which most of the British Army spent some time in this salient defending it. It was here that the German army first used gas as an offensive weapon in 1915.

To the north and east of Ypres lay two ridges which overlooked the town, the Messines ridge to the east and Passchendaele to the north. In conjunction with the French, the two armies were to attack at the same time. The British would start at Arras and disastrously at Bullecourt where the Australians and British

casualties were enormous and bitter arguments between the two left recriminations hanging over their association. The battle was poorly planned, organised and carried out. Incompetent communication by the Australians and criminal incompetence by the British generals helped to fill the cemeteries and only extreme bravery by both Aussie and Brit allowed the town of Bullecourt to be taken. The battle is known as "Bloody Bullecourt" by the Aussies. It was in this battle that my grandmother's brother was killed. Sent back to collect more ammunition for his battery, the site was hit by a German shell and the dump blew up. He had only been married 6 weeks.

The French offensive, which was to be the main attack was a complete disaster with astronomical casualties and the French Army mutinied, refusing to "go over the top" but holding their lines. The main French General, Nivelle, was sacked and General Pétain (famous or infamous collaborator with the Germans in the following war) took over. It took the French Army a year to recover and in the mean time the British Army would take the brunt of the fighting. The following month the next phase of the battle took place at Messines. Under General Plumer the British had been mining under the German lines for over a year.

Anybody who watched the recent programme "Birdsong" from a book by Sebastian Faulks and starring Eddie Redmayne would have seen scenes of the mining operations. Many Welsh miners were brought in to do the work. The battle commenced on June 8th with the detonation of 19 huge mines and killed thousands of German. This was followed by a creeping barrage and follow up by tanks and horse patrols. The battle was closed down on the 14th June. The British artillery by this stage of the war was the

most competent of the services in the British Army. Development of the creeping barrage, flash spotting and sound detection of enemy batteries allowed them to disrupt and destroy much of the German artillery. On the second day of the battle, June 9th, my Dad's cousin was killed. Reginald Howard Marsh was born in Bundaberg, Queensland twenty two years before and served in the 42nd Battalion of the Australian Infantry. His grandfather (my G-Grandfather's brother) had left Ireland to make his fortune (and not in chains!) and became Mayor of Bundaberg in 1899. A town made famous for its rum! - as the town is in the centre of the Australian sugar area.

I reached Messines late in the day and set up for the night and would begin my search for East Bethleem farm cemetery in the morning.

The cemetery lies just to the east of the town and I found it by going up a mud track, luckily it was dry. The cemetery itself lay in a potato field up a small, neat grass path and is surrounded by a wall and contained around thirty headstones. Reginald Marsh's headstone lay next to the wall. The date was June 8th 2013, just one day before the anniversary of his death. Adolf Hitler was stationed at Bethleem farm at some time during 1917.

From Messines to Ypres is a very short distance, perhaps eight miles but the road is festooned with military cemeteries and even entering Ypres on its south-east border, there is a cemetery called the Ypres Reservoir Cemetery. The Cloth hall in the town is a magnificent building, rebuilt after the war and the town itself is pleasant and friendly. Inside the building I visited the "Flanders Field" exhibition and well worth the visit, showing exhibits and films from the battles around the town.

The Menin Gate is situated on the north eastern edge

of the town on the road to Passchendaele just around the corner from the Cloth Hall.

It was built by the Imperial War Graves Commission (the forerunner to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) to commemorate the missing of the Ypres salient. It was during the building of this magnificent building that the authorities realised it was going to be too small for all the names. It holds the names of 54,000 Allied soldiers killed from August 1914 until August 1917 with no known grave.

The other names are commemorated at Tyne Cot, of which I will write later.

Most of the British Army would have gone through Ypres at some time during the war and in January 1919 Winston Churchill wrote "I would like to acquire the whole of the ruins of Ypres. A most sacred place for the British people does not exist in the world". At eight o'clock each evening there is a ceremony held at the Menin Gate in which the local Fire Brigade play. Passing through the Menin Gate I headed towards Passchendaele. About eight miles outside of Ypres I came across the New Passchendaele Cemetery. It is situated on the most western point of the British advance in the third battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). As I looked easterly I caught sight of the village with the same name and the one that holds such passion for the British people and came to epitomise the slaughter and suffering of the ordinary British soldier in World War One.

On the site of the largest pill box now stands the Cross of Sacrifice. Just under twelve thousand headstones fill the site and around the cemetery a wall and alcoves filled with the names of thirty-five thousand British and New Zealand soldiers with no known grave.

Two British and one French Army battled against two German armies. The initial bombardment destroyed what was left of the drainage system of the surrounding area and the summer rains, very heavy for that year turned the battlefield in a bog. The attack began on the 31st July.

Over the next four months fifty thousand British and

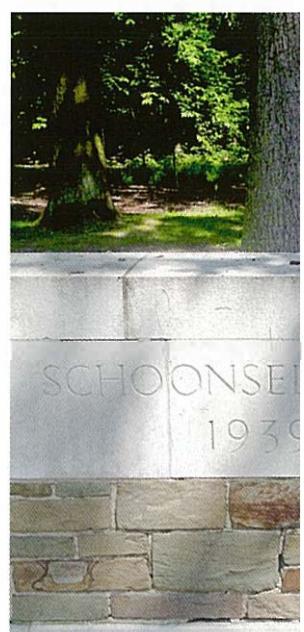
Commonwealth soldiers disappeared into the mud! They were sent on impossible attacks again and again and only gained the village on November 6th 1917 at which point General Haig called off the attack. A British general visiting the front lines at the end of the battle said incredulously "Did we really send men to fight in this?" Yes, you did, General!

I passed through the village of Passchendaele and turned back towards Ypres and a couple of miles outside the town I came across Tyne Cot cemetery. Tyne Cot is the largest British Military Cemetery in the world. Tyne Cot is a small hamlet which gives its name to the cemetery and was the site of a fortified German strong point with concrete pill boxes. On the site of the largest pill box now stands the Cross of Sacrifice. Just under twelve thousand headstones fill the site and around the cemetery a wall and alcoves filled with the names of thirty-five thousand British and New Zealand soldiers with no known grave.

As I walked slowly around the site, the sound of a young girl reads out the names of the fallen in the Ypres Salient. Every ten seconds a name and age but no rank. The names of one hundred and eighty five thousand soldiers will be read out!

The day is warm and sunny and very peaceful and I have to admit tears came to my eyes. There are craftsmen working around the site working on the headstones as the years have taken their toll and some of the words are fading. Those badly worn are being replaced with better materials while others are being re-sculptured and cleaned up - "Lest We Forget" I headed north along the Belgium motorway system to Antwerp. The city was in 1914 one of the largest ports in the world and played an important part in both First and Second World Wars.

As the German advanced in the early part of August,





Winston Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty sent the Naval Division to help the defence of the city. The city became isolated as the German advance continued on southward and after some brave and dogged fighting alongside the Belgians they surrendered. Churchill was castigated for sacrificing the Naval Division. The gallant Belgian Army fought on alongside the British in Flanders. The City was liberated at the end of the war.

In the Second World War Antwerp was the first port captured by the Allies after D-Day and although it was damaged it could still be used. Up until its capture all supplies for the Allies had to come through the D-Day beaches as the Germans had destroyed all dock facilities along the coast. Antwerp lies inland from the sea along the Scheldt estuary and unfortunately the British only captured the south side of the estuary and some very hard fighting was needed to dislodge the Germans from the north side. To clear up the port and ready it for shipping the Royal Navy sent out a very large contingent to assist in this plan. It contained Engineers, Administrators, signallers, medical staff. My Dad's older brother, Bobby, a Marine was a signaller and on 16th December 1944, along with some mates went to the Cinema – the Rex – to see Gary Cooper in "The Plainsman" a story of Buffalo Bill. The crowds were enormous and many were turned away. During the showing of the film a V2 rocket landed just behind the screen and the building collapsed. It took six days to clear the site and find the bodies of which there were five hundred and sixty seven split between civilian and military. What the rescuers found as the cleared the rubble was row upon row of bodies sitting up, all with their eyes open. They had all been killed by concussion!

Hoboken lies in the southern part of the city and the Cemetery of Schoonselhof lies just off the main boulevard. It is a huge cemetery, both military and civilian. The military part lies in the south east section and takes about twenty minutes walk to reach. I came upon a First World war cemetery containing British soldiers killed during the last two months of the war. There was a very large Belgian Military Cemetery and just behind a neat hedge and through a gate I found the headstones of many soldiers and Marines, all killed on December 16th 1944. My Uncle has no known grave and among the headstones were three "A Soldier of the 1939 – 1945 War". I can only presume! As I left this part of the cemetery, behind the neat hedge I found two single rows of Italian and Russian headstones, all from the Great War.

Among the British headstones from the First World War I found one to James Totton Gardiner – a Sub-Lieutenant of the Royal Irish Rifles killed in October 1918 aged 19.

When I returned I looked at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website for his details and found he came from Portadown, the same town my Grandfather and his predecessors came from. It was a tradition in Scots-Irish families to give second or third sons a middle name of the mother's maiden name. I then travelled north into the city centre and following my Tom-Tom (lent to me by my son-in-law with the words "It is a bit old but should be ok") headed for DeKeyserie (the Oxford Street of Antwerp) and there I am in the inner lane (or is it outer?) of a four lane throughfare, listening to the Tom-Tom which tells me to turn right, which of course I did and headed straight into another four lane throughfare but coming towards me or were about to when the lights changed. Yes, I was keeping to the right but unknown to the Tom-Tom the road had become one-way! Swerving to my left and headed down what I thought was an inner parking road only to be told forcibly by some large female Belgians to go away (or words to that effect). I did what any self-respecting British driver did, I headed across the junction of this four lane cross

road at forty five degrees and headed back the way I came! - ignoring the car horns off course.

I managed to park my van and walk a short distance (with my hat and dark glasses on) to De Keyserie and found the site of the cinema. In the late 1930s when it was built, it was state of the art and was rebuilt after the war but during the 1990s its appeal faded and it closed down and a few years later was rebuilt by the UCL group.

I then headed north to take me through Holland to Germany and arrived late in the evening at Kleve. Known to us a Cleve where Anne of Cleves, one of Henry VIII wives, came from.

Just south of the town is the Reichswald Forest Cemetery where some bitter fighting took place during the last few months of the war.

My Granny Totton had three brothers who all learned there trade as shipbuilders in the yards of Harland and Wolf in Belfast. One brother, Joe took his skills to Barrow on Furness to work in the yards of Vickers, who built warships of all descriptions and met a local girl, settled down and married and a little while after they had twin boys, Jack and Richard.

Both boys went into the Royal Engineers during the war and Richard was killed while on bomb and mine disposal in the Reichswald Forest just inside the German border. I somehow expected the cemetery not to be up to the normal standard as it lay inside Germany. Non of it! The place was immaculate and the stonework looked new. I found the headstone of my Dad's cousin just as the sun was going down!

My pilgrimage was complete but my journey was not finished. I decided to stop on the way back to Calais and visit Waterloo. The battlefield lies on the Charleroi to Brussels road and takes it name from the town of Waterloo which is just north of the site. Development has marred the original site but monuments give one an insight as to the topography. There is a huge mound which on top sits a statue of a lion. This was erected in 1826 and walking to the top one has a very good view of the battlefield.

One: My task was now complete and I gathered my thoughts. We discuss today the sacrifice of four hundred and fifty service men and women in Afghanistan yet the Great War cost the British three quarters of a million dead and the rest of the Commonwealth another quarter of a million. Added to this would be the wounded whether they be physical or mental often had to carry on without any help.

Two: I was born in the late 1940s and I thank my lucky stars for that. Always food on the table, the NHS, good education and a good social security system (well pretty good!) to ensure that standards of well being are maintained. Most of those that survived the Great War did not come home to a place "Fit for Heroes". There was still a class society which divided the rich few from the many poor and those from the Second World War came home to a bankrupt state, its industry worn out, most city centres destroyed in the bombing, rationing which was to get worse for a few years but a determination to change the way they lived and build a meritocracy. In this I believe they succeeded.

Three: At the cemeteries I visited I wanted to leave a message in the visitors book and thought long and hard as to what I should write. Some years ago professor Richard Holmes of Cranfield University did a series of programmes for the BBC called "War Walks" in which he visited six different battlefield sites. The fourth episode was about the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and at the end of the programme he stood by a British Cemetery and I took his final lines and added a few words of my own and wrote "I came to pay my respects to the preceding generations in the clear and certain knowledge that every man lying here was a better man than I".

Three adult teams promoted already!

In what may well be Olney's most successful season to date, three teams are already promoted and others may follow. The Mixed B team have won all 7 matches and in the latest, they beat David Lloyd 6-2 with Dan Avenell, Lynda Baker, Tom Guilford and Sarah Wilkinson playing for Olney then The Ladies C won promotion after a terrific draw against Buckingham who had a Junior Champion to thanks for all their sets against Olney's Cindy Parker, Ruth Ayling, Jo Weaterhill and Lyn Quennell. The third promotion was gained by the Mens B after a tight 5-3 win against Milton Keynes thanks to Daniel Avenell, Simon Barter, Andrew Barr and Philip Ramos.

The Mixed A are leading their division having dropped just one point so far. In their latest match they beat the Open University 6-2 after good play by Daniel Avenell, Nigel Willard, Glynise King and Eleanor Carter.

The Mens C are in second place and hoping to keep that position to also go up. They beat Wolverton 8-0 thanks to Ted Barnes, Stuart Ayling, Sam Maltman and Ted Barnes.

The Ladies A have struggled in Div One but it was encouraging to have new squad players Sophie Isherwood and Susie Cornwell playing for the top team with Glynise King and Eleanor Carter despite losing the match.

The Mens Bucks team had a resounding 15-3 win away at Halton and now have to win every set in their last match to go up! Olney's team was Simon Barter, Phil Anderson, Gin Chui Hwang, Dan Avenell, Tom Guilford and Tom Field.

Ladies B reaches Cup Final after dramatic Semi!

After a match full of drama, Olney Ladies B has made the MK Knockout Final in September. They started well winning both first sets then misfortune struck! Anne Bacon fell and could not continue (subsequently discovered to have broken her arm). So Anne and Beryl Rook's remaining 3 sets were conceded. That meant

Olney Tennis Club



Olney's other pair, Sarah Wilkinson and Lynda Baker had to win all their sets. This they did after a titanic effort, pulling off one of Olney's most historic victories.

Summer Camps full of future

Murrays and Robsons!

Our popular camps ran throughout the School Holidays and loads of youngsters from 4 years old upwards enjoyed fun tennis while improving their skills. We hope many will continue to play the rest of the year and overall there are good grounds for optimism for Olney and British tennis!

Summer Tournament – sponsored by the Jardine Motors Group.

Exciting matches are being played between the 70+ players who have entered all the events this year and successful players are looking towards finals now that are held on September 22nd. All are welcome to come and enjoy them.

Latest American Tournament

On a lovely day, many members enjoyed a

very social event which ended with a final between Lynda Baker and Ross Dunton against Nicola Norbury and Pete Beecroft that Lynda and Ross won after a tight struggle.

Breakthrough Cancer American Tournament – Sun 29 Sept @ 2pm

Don't miss our annual event that raises loads for a good charity and is great fun. All have to wear something pink. Sign up in the clubhouse.

Junior Team results

We have finished the junior summer match season with a mixed bag of results:
U9: League winners and cup finalists
U10: League runners up
U12: League runners up and cup finalists
U14: Finished 4th
U16: Finished 3rd
U16 girls: League winners and cup finalists
Finals day is on September where we hope to do well in 9u & 16u girls

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ADOPTION CHARITY WELCOMES GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

St Francis' Children's Society (SFCS), an independent adoption charity rated as "outstanding" by Ofsted, which identifies and supports adoptive parents and the children they adopt, welcomed the government funding announced yesterday. It will go a long way to help recruit desperately needed adoptive parents from Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.

"We are delighted by the news; it is a real acknowledgement of the challenge that adoption charities face and it will help improve and stabilise the lives of many more children. Over the past two years the number of children placed by us grew by 132%. So far this year, the need has continued to soar – all without direct government funding until now.

"Nationally, there is an immediate need for 2000 more adoptive parents, and then 700 more each year will need to be found. This means we need to find 25% more adoptive parents each year – and we will rise to the challenge," explained Alison Miller, CEO of SFCS in Milton Keynes.

The Department for Education set out its commitment to strengthen the capacity of the voluntary adoption agencies (VAA) in January 2013. Today, it revealed that the support would amount to £16,000,000, which will be divided amongst adoption charities like SFCS.

SFCS social workers work tirelessly to prepare potential adoptive parents, helping them through the system until they adopt a child or siblings. From here, the SFCS social workers provide lifelong, specialist support to the children and their new families.

"The additional funding will mean we can find more families for more children – which is what we're all about," concluded Alison.

If you would like to find out more about adopting a child or would like to provide support, please contact St. Francis' Children's Society on 01908 572700 or email enquiries@sfcs.org.uk.



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Six cyclists from Mazars' Milton Keynes office raised more than £2000 for the British Lung Foundation and Action Aid by taking part in the first RideLondon-Surrey 100 sportive on 4 August. The 100 mile challenge was completed by business performance improvement partner Craig Goodwin and Tom Trewby, a member of Mazars' tax team, who finished the full distance, and a relay team of four anchored by Stephen Eames, the Milton Keynes office partner. Everyone rode better times than they had hoped, Craig cut a whopping 37 minutes off his previous best setting a time of 4 hours 58 minutes.

It was the largest cycling sportive ever held in the UK, with 15,883 participants.

"To go from accountants to relay cyclists with my colleagues Ed Tomlinson, Sean Rebbets and Matt Johnson was great fun and an amazing experience. We all tipped our hats to Craig and Tom on completing a distance that's tiring to drive let alone pedal. A huge thank you must go out to our friends and colleagues who spurred us on throughout our training and donated so much to the charities we supported," explained Stephen. The RideLondon-Surrey 100 was part of Boris Johnson's campaign to keep the Olympic flame burning in Britain.

"Riding this course almost exactly a year after some of the world's greatest cyclists gave me incredible appreciation of what they'd achieved. We followed a modified version of the London 2012 Olympic route stretching through London and Surrey. We started at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, followed closed roads through the Capital, which included notoriously difficult climbs up Leith Hill and Box Hill before a spectacular finish at The Mall," commented Craig.

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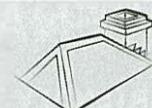
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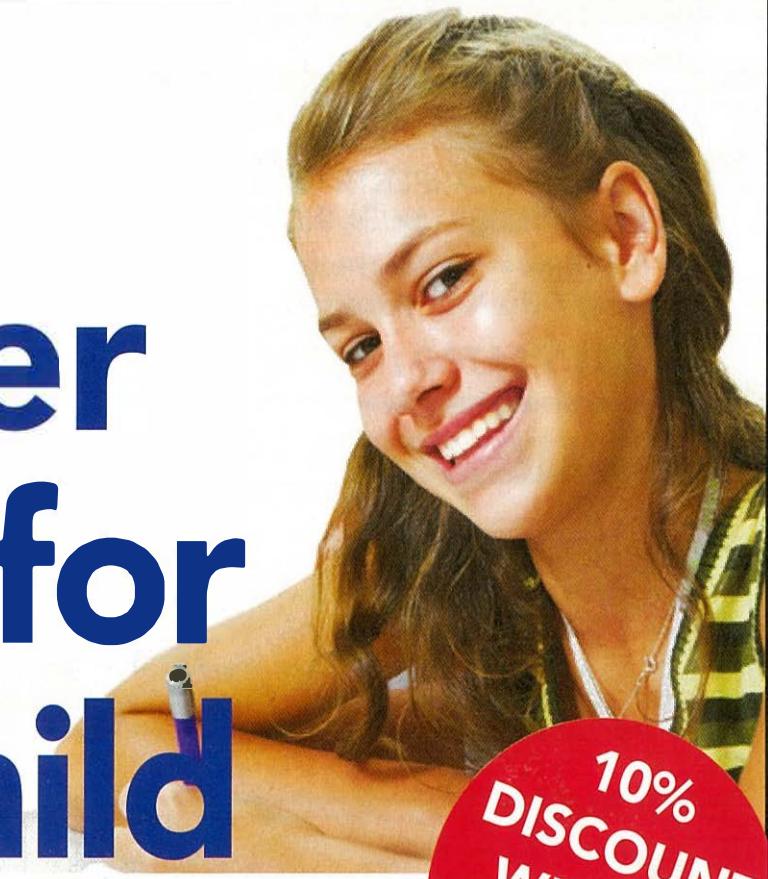
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