

THE FLYING GOOSE

News from Wytham

After a year of unprecedented challenge and sadness, at last some signs of recovery, hope of better times abounding, and within our Benefice we look forward to appointing our new vicar. Exciting times indeed.

Within the joy of looking to the future, thoughts of the last year remain. In the depths of the pandemic, I was inspired by reading of individual coping strategies and acts of kindness, as described in *The Flying Goose*. The same applied in this smaller community, increased village support showing great regard for the welfare of others. However, huge disappointment came in closure of our church buildings, causing grief, but church life and work continued, led by our clergy through our beautiful, expertly presented on-line services and many other behind the scenes acts of support led by members of our communities, those unsung heroes.

Although we worship using different rites (the All Saints' congregation is well-known for its love of the Book of Common Prayer) and we have our own PCC, we are part of the joint Benefice with its shared clergy team, whom we thank most warmly, and enjoy increasingly close connections with St Peter's.

As All Saints' Churchwardens, Lorna Logan and I are pleased to see connections between our communities growing. She relates that when a new warden appointment at All Saints' was imminent, Charles remarked that as she



lived equidistant from both churches, she was the answer. She worshipped at All Saints', but had much knowledge of St Peter's and Wolvercote. David Humphrey, the warden who expertly led our building restoration for many years, with several members of our congregation and organists, live in Wolvercote. Several Wytham children attend Wolvercote Primary School and Wolvercote and Wytham Midsummer Festival provides wider community links and we are part of the Summertown and Wolvercote Church Partnership.

Increased Benefice links served well in preparing for the appointment of our new incumbent, particularly in the writing of the Parish Profile and joint PCC meetings with church officials. Administrative involvement is much valued and Lorna and I appreciate discussions with St Peter's wardens on important matters of common interest at our regular Zoom meetings, and thank them for including us.

The restoration of services is eagerly awaited as Easter approaches and we can worship in our much loved churches, and when possible again, enjoy talk, coffee and reunion with friends afterwards. In Wytham we also anticipate the time when we can start our Friends of All Saints' events involving the wider community through shared interests, and fellowship. Members are drawn from the locality, with church and often village connections. Rogation Sunday parish boundary walks and picnics, visits to stately homes and social events in church are among many gatherings enjoyed. Supporting the PCC in the smooth running of the church is paramount and following lockdown, when possible, essential fundraising events will be to the fore.

On my Wytham walks last month there were snowdrops, said to represent hope and new beginnings, apt for the Wolvercote and Wytham Benefice as we move forward into the next exciting stage in the life of our churches. It's good to do so together.

Kathy Day-Dawson



All Saints' Wytham - socially-distanced PCC meeting

Horses on Wolvercote Common



When I first moved to Wolvercote, I thought the view across Port Meadow with its herds of cattle and horses was like looking across the Serengeti Plains. But these animals are carefully managed, however freely they roam. Grazing on the 400 acres of Wolvercote Common and Port Meadow is jointly managed by the City Council and the Wolvercote Commoners (it's impractical to separate the two areas), ideally with enough animals to keep the sward short without overgrazing.

The rights to graze Wolvercote Common are attached to certain properties in Wolvercote Parish that were registered in 1965 (see Commoners website). Horses and cattle are complementary grazers – cattle tear tufts of longer grass while horses can nibble grass lower to the ground – and while cattle graze from March to November, horses can remain on the meadow year-round, with some supplementary feeding in winter. Their welfare is monitored by the council rangers and the Commoners' horse warden, and owners informed immediately of any problems.

It's essential for the welfare of the horses that no attempt is made to handle them or feed them titbits, which can lead to injury of both the horses and the general public. It's also important not to leave any rubbish e.g. from picnics or illegal bottle-digging on the commons, which has led to illness, injury and even the death of animals. And of course dogs should be kept under control. That way, people, cattle and horses can all enjoy the commons safely and freely, conserving these ancient pastures that have been grazed for thousands of years.

*Julie Hamilton
for the Wolvercote Commoners' Committee*



News from Wolvercote Primary School

As we approach the end of the third lockdown, we continue to be humbled by the wonderful community that we are part of. The staff have felt supported by many kind emails and we have appreciated gifts of flowers, cakes, gloves (to keep us warm in our well-ventilated classrooms!) and a very generous financial gift "to be spent on the staff".

Our children have also benefited from the generosity of the community. Musicians from the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra have run fantastic online workshops for our younger children. Families have donated computers or given money to the River Learning Trust 'Just Giving' page for Chromebooks. We are delighted to say that every child at Wolvercote School has a device to use for online learning. This has helped them learn, engage and stay connected with their friends via the class Zoom calls. A huge 'Thank You' from the staff and children.

However, this continues to be a very challenging time for the children and their families, as is summed up in a letter from a Year 6 child. The task was to write requests to 'the Wish-granter'. *Lucy Young (Headteacher)*

Dear Wish-granter,

I am writing to ask for a favour. Lockdown has been very hard for me, and recently I have had one of the biggest disappointments of my life. My wish is to have happiness during lockdown. This could be as simple as a hug every day, or it could be as complex as being able to see my friends. If you could stop COVID-19 it would be – no joke – the best thing that has ever happened to me.

The reason I want this is not just for me, but it would be good for my friends as well. You should give this to me because everyone in my family is going a bit crazy in lockdown. I believe if we could all see our friends we would all feel better. If you could cure COVID-19, nearly everyone in the world would be happy. Isn't your job making people happy?! Frankly, I am surprised you haven't cured it yet.

Please help! Year 6 child



A reminder from a Year 2 child of things we can do to help people around us. Some wise words!



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Neighbourhood Plan Referendum



We expect the referendum to be held with the local elections on **Thursday May 6th**. The plan is on our website www.wolvercotenf.org.uk and will, if Covid regulations allow, be available in hard copy. We need a resounding 'Yes' in the referendum!

www.wolvercotenf.org.uk
wolvercotenf@gmail.com

A majority means a larger share of the Community Infrastructure Levy from developments (25% rather than 15%) to spend on local projects like improvements to green spaces; facilities for young people; sports facilities; cycle paths; traffic calming, etc. Local people make the decisions. So vote and keep telling us what you think is needed.

We continued to try to relocate our surgery to the Mill site. However, the planning approval only required a shell and the costs of fitting out were unaffordable. With strong expressions of local support we have continued to try to find a way forward. The Village Hall charity is negotiating to accept the transfer of the Community Building. There are plans to rebuild Godstow Weir and with others, we have been doing our best to ensure the historic site is protected.

School funding for the residents of Oxford North remains an issue (see our website). Suggestions that a substantial amount might come from the local portion of CIL, when it should have come from the developer, would mean very little left for community projects.

We drew attention previously to the concern, expressed by politicians from all parties and many other organisations, that proposals to streamline planning and increase permitted development would reduce local democracy, and weaken protection for green spaces. Now the National Trust is concerned about the effect on town centres and conservation areas. We are doing our best to ensure that unacceptable proposals are challenged and our policies are not ignored. That's why we need a resounding 'Yes' in the referendum.

Christopher Hardman

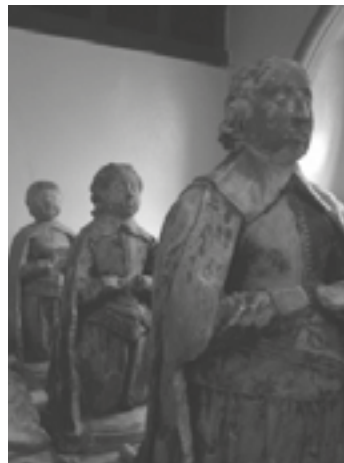
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Wolvercote Local History Society



The Walter Tomb in St Peter's Church

John Walter (1566 - 16430) lived in troubled times, and as a noted lawyer was to play a significant part in some national events. In one notorious case in 1628 he imprudently opposed the king, Charles I, over his demand for customs revenue due to the crown. Nine Members of the House were imprisoned: John Walter lost his job as judge.

He was the son of a lawyer, and not a native of Oxfordshire. His tomb tells us that he was born in Shropshire, and then worked in London as he made his way up the legal profession. He had gained the favour of the Prince of Wales, later Charles I, and had become Attorney-General and the Prince's Trustee in 1613. One of the two Welsh judges, he was knighted in 1619, and in 1625 became Chief-Baron of the Exchequer.

He had come to Oxford as an undergraduate at Brasenose, and later acquired interests in Sarsden and Churchill as well as in Wytham and Wolvercote. But Wolvercote was clearly his preferred estate: he bought the manor in 1613, built a house in the ruins of the abbey, and purchased what was then the fulling/corn mill in 1616. He died in Wolvercote in 1630, as his tomb tells us, "full of days and honours".

He married Margaret, "daughter of William Offley Esquire of London", and they had eight children, four boys and four girls (only six appear on the tomb, though it seems that in 1710 all eight were recorded). At her death she was, we are told, "deeply lamented, being a most tender Mother towards her Children and most affectionate love towards her Husband". His second marriage was to a widow, Lady Anne Bigge from Worcestershire, who "after his death...in deepest sorrow took care that this tomb should be erected". It is not now, regrettably, the magnificent tomb commissioned by Lady Anne, which did not survive later alterations to the church. But Sir John lies between his wives in his ceremonial judge's robes, witness to another Wolvercote.

Barbara Dennis

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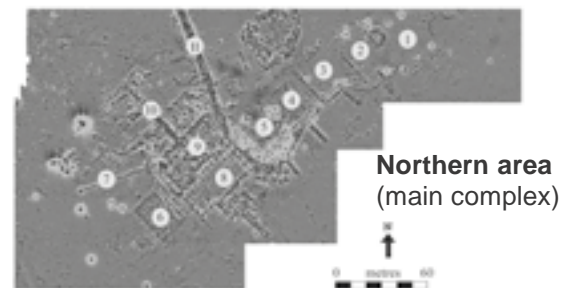
Under Port Meadow lies...

Evidence of the WW1 aerodrome on Port Meadow has been revealed in a non-invasive archaeological (magnetometry) survey.

The annotated photos highlight that most of the main structures can be seen, including surprisingly, several of the canvas hangars. Most were temporary in nature, and not expected to leave evidence behind. Such clear plots can be attributed in part to the Meadow being uncultivated, and to use of magnetised coal ash/cinder for tracks, paths and ramps, groundcrew leaving behind metal bolts around one hangar when dismantling it, marking its outline, and to the construction of some of the more substantive structures such as the corrugated iron main Flight Shed (used for repairs) and brick supports for a number of timber sheds used for instruction.

To the South West of the main complex, near the Thames, was the firing range for sighting aeroplane machine guns, and a nearby concrete circle for calibrating aeroplane compasses. The plots reveal the 2 parts of the range and the "shadow" of the circle, but most interestingly, more detail of the pre-historic features there. Little did the RFC know that they built their utilitarian structures right in amongst the Late Iron Age settlement.

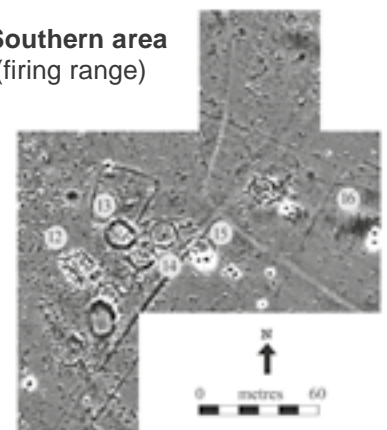
Due to the Meadow's Scheduled Ancient Monument status, it is not possible to excavate the site, and that would risk damaging the delicate remains. It is also illegal to metal detect. Perhaps more of the Meadow and Common will be surveyed in the future, as it has been shown history is there to be discovered!



Northern area
(main complex)

- 1-6 Sites of Bessonneau hangars.
- 7 Probably a soak-away to take rainwater from the yard area.
- 8 1915 type Flight Shed corrugated iron building.
- 9 Yard/parking area.
- 10 Area of instruction huts and path.
- 11 Access track.

Southern area
(firing range)



- 12 SW end of firing range (butts)
- 13 NE end of firing range
- 14 Probable Iron Age or Bronze Age settlement and trackway.
- 15 Probable aeroplane compass adjusting circle.
- 16 Various ditches and other prehistoric remains.



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Crossword by Troglodyte. A prize bottle of wine is offered for the first correct solution to the Cryptic Crossword out of the hat on 23rd April; please submit solutions to the editor before then.

Cryptic: Seven answers, on a single theme, are clued without definition

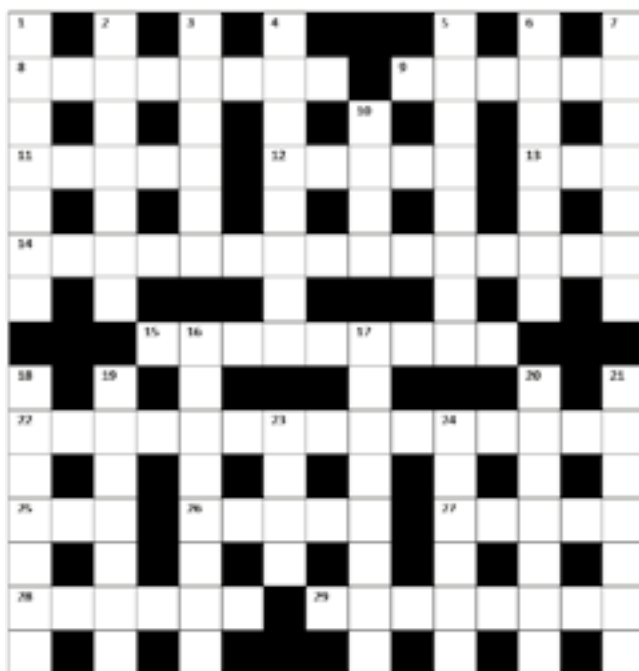
Across

- 8: see 25A
- 9: Idol of doctor sitting by hen poo, perhaps? (6)
- 11: Plots to poison, eliminating heir. (5)
- 12: Middle of ship or front part of wagon is built last. (5)
- 13: see 15A
- 14: Badly represent – again! – a satiric schemer. (15)
- 15 & 13: Gone thin? Grumbling, empty? No nuts? (6,3,3)
- 22: Eccentric border town with sign of progress. (10,5)
- 25 & 8A: Adamson upset about limits of carnal wrath. (3,8)

- 26: Surrounded by crazed Goan medievalist front? (5)
- 27: Stand-in sounds uncertain after hair is trimmed. (5)
- 28 & 23D: Distressed, we slop goo down. (6,4)
- 29: Previous head of state has put on weight? (8)

Down

- 1: Can't see spot where Glaswegian stood on naked Roman? (7)
- 2: A doctor gets into major conductor, leader of symphonium. (7)
- 3: "Love, it's grey in Calais" "Head for home, it's horrible!"(6)
- 4: Boast on mountain where I had problems with Uncle Monty. (4,4)
- 5: Handkerchief or tie that's worn on the last day of Lent. (8)
- 6: Cow says - "messy lint is nightly illuminated". (7)
- 7: After church, I go half way from Old Sarum to Stonehenge, perhaps. (7)



- 10: Diet supplement found in Koblenz, (in Chemists'). (4)
- 16: Murray's book describes grave disturbance: too mature? (8)17: Your mother might approve of this lass from the Midi? (4,4)
- 18: Commander in fast car is well-adapted to his surroundings. (8)
- 19: Drown me in nasty grime! (7)
- 20: He joins righteous women soldiers and jazz fans. (7)
- 21: On sunny days, they cast a shadow over the hour. (7)
- 23: see 28A
- 24: Robots ogle Ms Batty. (6)

Non-Cryptic

Across

- 8: Tree-climbing bird. (8)
- 9: Pigs' noses. (6)
- 11: Japanese undercover agent. (5)
- 12: Racecourse with hot water? (5)
- 13: Marsupial, for short. (3)
- 14: Waterproof footwear for the Duke? (10,5)
- 15: 125. (4,5)
- 25: A place I'd like to roll to, some day before I'm old. (3)

- 22: Paul Hogan's outback hero. (9,6)
- 26: Yes, OK, understood, I'm onto it, Roger. (5)
- 27: Bottled spirit who sounds like another sort? (5)
- 28: He lives away from home. (6)
- 29: A lot of power. (8)

Down

- 1: Something Donald Rumsfeld isn't aware of? (7)
- 2: Without emotion. (7)
- 3: Hot sauce for 11? (6)
- 4: 8-pointed figure. (8)
- 5: Liable to collapse. (8)
- 6: Place you might find junior officers on board. (7)
- 7: Take up with fiancée? (7)
- 10: You can say that again! (4)
- 16: Poker or gate, perhaps? (8)
- 17: Not unusual. (8)
- 18: A letter for Hawthorne, in a study for Conan-Doyle. (7)
- 19: Tediously mechanical. (7)
- 20: Career aspiration of denizens of 6? (7)
- 21: Charles Schultz is probably paid more than this! (7)
- 23: Eric's not up to much. (4)
- 24: Zombies and Vampires! Ghouls and Ghosts! (6)

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December's winners

Answers to December crosswords are on the bottom of p 6. The first correct cryptic solution was Laurence Wroe's; but the first name out of the hat was Sachiko Tytler's, so she won Troglodyte's bottle. Tomos Potter also submitted correct solutions, but the hat was not kind to him either. Perhaps it's a hat which favours female cruciverbalists. The name was drawn by Mrs Troglodyte, I gather. Let's see what happens next time!



St Peter's Players - Waiting in the Wings with photos of how it was (and will be again - Oh Yes it Will!)

At this time of year, St Peter's Players would generally be in full swing with twice weekly rehearsals for the Spring production. What a difference a year makes!

Last year we were already well on with GHOSTS AT THE GRANGE; books down, props and furnishings collected and scenery painted. Then lockdown hit. Initially we optimistically put the play back a few months but it remains, twelve months on, the play "in waiting". We sincerely hope we can dust off the cobwebs, polish up the lines and perform it sometime in 2021.

The group has kept in touch regularly through the pandemic via Zoom and when we were able we did have a number of restricted and socially distanced rehearsals



in the hope of producing an outside pop-up potted panto for the delectation of the people of Wolvercote and beyond. But once again we were thwarted! That too will hopefully pop up again in 2021!

However, the group has produced a virtual Supper Show and a virtual Christmas compilation on-line featuring a few new items and some old favourites to make you smile. These are both available via our website www.stpetersplayers.co.uk

Thanks to David, our IT wiz, for putting all this together. All good wishes to all our supporters and assuring you we are all poised and ready once again to make a drama out of a crisis!
Clare Winterbottom



Wolvercote & Wytham Midsummer Festival 2021 Friday 18 – Sunday 27 June



This time last year the Festival Committee was busy planning events themed around '2020 Vision'. One thing we didn't foresee was a global pandemic or national lockdown into early July. Technology and creativity saved the day. Instead of declaring 'Fun on the Green' open, television personality Saira Khan compèred a virtual Music Night, Alison McDonald took us on a virtual walk in Pixey Mead, Wolvercote Horticultural Society hosted a virtual Summer Show, a Lockdown Treasure Hunt was created, and a Poetry Corner established. If you missed any of these, or would like a reprise, they are all available on the Festival page of wolvercote.org.

Planning a 2021 festival remains challenging but, armed with lessons learned from 2020's 'virtual' experience and boundless enthusiasm, we are forging ahead with ideas, not the least of which is this year's theme - 'Colours'. All 'physical' events will be outdoors, following government guidelines including

social distancing. As events are finalised, details will appear on the Wolvercote website. The final programme will be posted on local notice boards, and on leaflets placed in shops and pubs around the villages a week or so before the festival starts.

Although 2020 was a testing time, one thing that shone out was the community spirit which is such an inspiring feature of our area. The festival's aim has always been to bring residents together and forge long-lasting bonds. Even if this year's festival finds us in different venues, or doing things in a different way, it will stay true to our aim. Expect fun, surprises, new friends, new places, and above all lots of 'Colours'.

The committee is always looking for volunteers willing to offer anything from a few hours help to producing a whole event. If you'd like to help, email: festival@wolvercote.org as soon as possible.
Val Tate

Answers to December Crosswords

Cryptic: 1A,20D,24A A Merry Christmas To Us All; 16A,34A God Bless Us Everyone; **Across** 9 Drachma; 11 Scrooge; 12 Emoticon; 14 Ego; 19 Mint; 21 Cryptomeria; 23 Oars; 28 Bob; 29 Ebenezer; 31 Chassis; 32 Tiny Tim; **Down** 2 Marley; 3 Roc; 4 Cratchit; 5 Rising; 6 Sorted; 7 Myotonia; 8 Steam; 10 Hat; 13 Overs; 15 Biro; 17 Obey; 18 Opal; 19 Miltz; 21 Cribbage; 22 Mazel Tov; 24 Abuses; 25 Leases; 26 Proign; 27 Jacob; 30 Eon; 33 Yay.
Non-Cryptic: **Across** 1 Jingle All The Way; 9 Rudolph; 11 Angelic; 12 Nonsense; 14 Era; 15 BA; 16 Set; 19 Each; 21 Holly And Ivy; 23 Roan; 24 Wee; 28 Eve; 29 Reindeer; 31 Annulet; 32 Isotope; 34 Father Christmas; **Down** 2 Iguana; 3 Goo; 4 Achingly; 5 Loaves; 6 Hogget; 7 Well Away; 8 Yacht; 10 Lys; 13 Nylon; 15 Beer; 17 Ends; 18 Aloe; 19 Evoke; 20 Halo; 21 Hazelnut; 22 Notifier; 24 Wellie; 25 Erotic; 26 Grappa; 27 Quaff; 30 Duo; 33 Tot.

As some of you may know, the Environment Agency is replacing the old weir structure next to the Trout Inn at Godstow. This is because the existing weir is in poor condition and no longer fit for purpose.

We need to replace the weir as we have a legal duty to maintain water levels for navigation on the River Thames.

In February we removed a few trees from the Trout Inn Island, to enable us to access the site later in the year. We needed to do this prior to the start of bird nesting season. We have carried out a number of environmental surveys to ensure we are not disturbing any protected species or habitat. We will start construction of the new weir in early summer to try and avoid the higher water levels later in the year, which could stop us from working.

We will remove the old weir structure and build a new weir, slightly further downstream. We will be installing a fish pass channel on the left hand side (looking upstream). Throughout construction most of our deliveries will be routed through Wytham from the A34. During this time we expect local businesses to remain open, including the Trout Inn.

There will be short periods of disruption to the Thames Path at Godstow Abbey, while we move materials



to the island from our compound. We have permission for the compound from Historic England.

If you would like to know more, please contact nicola.shorter@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 03708 506 506.

Nicola Shorter

Getting help from your councillors

Your councillors are always contactable by email: cllrsgoddard@oxford.gov.uk, cllrwade@oxford.gov.uk, Paul.Buckley@oxfordshire.gov.uk. We normally hold surgeries every fortnight, but government advice at the time of writing doesn't allow us to do this. We miss this direct personal contact with our constituents, and will resume surgeries as soon as permitted. If this does become possible again, and subject to May's prospective elections, we will have surgeries as follows:

Saturday 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June at 10.30-12 noon at Kendall Crescent shops;
Sunday 11th April, 9th May, 14th June at 11.30-12.30 at the White Hart, Lower Wolvercote.

Valerie Barnish

16 July 1930 - 30 December 2020

Valerie Barnish's bookshelves attested her love of poetry. As so often, sadly, happens, I learned more about her after her death than I had known when she was alive - that she had been an English teacher, that she had published useful critical guides to a range of texts for A level and undergraduate students of literature, that after college in Hong Kong she came to Lady Margaret Hall to read English.

I gathered from her that her husband John had been a vicar in Worcestershire. John's name came up, *en passant*, on more than one occasion, as is often touchingly the way when widowhood has been long but a spouse lives on in thought and memory and affection. I knew her as the neatly dressed Sunday worshipper who brought a special back rest for her pew (she had for years patiently suffered from rheumatoid arthritis); and the one with a notable line in classy hats. I learned that she was an ace knitter of woollen comforters for Missions to Seafarers (her father had been in the RNVR), and team-leader for the parish knitting squad.

Then she offered what turned out to be expert and discriminating help in proofreading this magazine. Thanks to Val we narrowly avoided publishing a December edition which didn't propose any services on Christmas Day - and that was well before the current

crisis. Gulp. She also insisted on the proper use of the comma: no wonder we got on. Thus it was that I used to go to her flat to collect the proof and to have a cup of tea and a chat (and sometimes a slice of cake), and gained some small sense of how rare a person she was.

In 1985, newly widowed, Val came to live in Dove House Close, where she was a hospitable, sociable presence. Then, after some years in her pleasant flat at Charles Ponsonby House, she moved once more, this time to a care home in Lancaster, where she died peacefully at the very end of last year. She stayed on the prayer-list at church and remained in our hearts and minds.

We will find the land sadly altered when those of us who attend St Peter's church get back to together again. We shall miss a number of people whose faithful commitment enacts the stabilising strength of the quietly steadfast Christian life. Let us give thanks for Valerie Barnish, and remember her with love.

CSSD



Goodbye to the Reverend Sarah Flashman

Sarah has led the ministry team at St Peter's and All Saints' since Charles's retirement. We shall miss her warmth, her loving support and her encouragement.

I asked the Revd Professor William Whyte to write about her ...

Time is doing very strange things at the moment. Is it really a year since we said goodbye to our vicar Charles Draper and his family? In one way, it feels like a decade ago; in another, like only yesterday. Successive lockdowns – and the strange, interstitial moments between them – have collapsed time. It all seems the same: one undifferentiated, endless thing.

That the church in Wolvercote and Wytham hasn't collapsed into chaos in this peculiar period is due in no small part to the unceasing labours of Sarah Flashman, who came to us two years ago and is now leaving to take on a big job within the Diocese.

Sarah must be one of the most energetic and accomplished priests in the Church of England. She's certainly one of the busiest. Married to another Anglican priest, and the mother of five, she has combined her work in Wolvercote and Wytham with a chaplaincy at Wycliffe Hall, the Evangelical training college on the Banbury Road. Beyond Oxford, she helps run a charity that supports impoverished communities in Kenya. Sarah is also a writer, a theologian, and an accomplished musician. She clearly knows how to manage time – even now.

Whether commuting from Quainton in Buckinghamshire or speaking on Zoom, Sarah has been the most wonderful colleague and a hugely positive presence in the parish. North Oxford may not be the most exotic location for someone who has spent years travelling around the world on Christian missions; nor was Sarah required – as she had been in her last role – to found an entirely new church. But every community brings its challenges and never more than during the last year. We are all profoundly in her debt and wish her the very best for the future.

William Whyte



I don't think Sarah will be pleased with the editor for choosing this picture, but he is unrepentant. Sarah has been a blessing to us.

... and Sarah kindly agreed to write for us one last time!

Dear Friends,

Life is full of hellos and goodbyes.....!

We all know the familiar 'hellos' of welcome and new things and inevitably the 'goodbyes' of leaving, along with the memories that stay behind. During this pandemic, we have experienced the 'goodbye' of normality and freedom and the 'hello' of restrictions and physical separation of friends and loved ones. In some cases, some of us have known the agony of a final goodbye as we've lost a loved one or friend to death due to coronavirus or other sickness. Such 'hellos' and 'goodbyes' have assailed us in the 'yo-yoing' of the past year. It has been disorientating and unsettling, exhausting and depleting. Many have hated the 'hello' of covid-19, yet some have known peace and quiet from the usual madness of 'too busy' a life! They have welcomed the 'goodbye' of being pressured and rushed and stressed.

It seems hard to believe I made my own 'hello' over two years ago as I joined St Peter's and All Saints in January 2019. Now as I prepare to say goodbye to my parishes of Wolvercote and Wytham, I find myself recalling the heart of the gospel message; the great 'hello' of welcome and reconciliation; the greatest message of hope. The welcome of Christ enables us to embrace the 'hello' of new life and also makes possible the 'goodbye' of pain and bitterness, of regret and un-forgiveness.

As I bid you a fond farewell, I prepare to say 'hello' to new colleagues at Church House, Kidlington and a new role of New Congregations Enabler working with a team to develop church growth.

I offer my love and prayers and immense thanks for your friendship these past two years,

Sarah

From St Peter's Register

Funerals

1 December	Sheila Gellatly (St Peter's)
28 January	Elizabeth Clayton (North Oxfordshire Crematorium)
2 February	John Brown (Oxford Crematorium)
23 February	Frances Bower (St Peter's, then Wolvercote Cemetery)

Holy Week and Easter - we hope at least for this:

Palm Sunday	All Saints' Matins (with Passion Liturgy 0945) St Peter's Parish Communion 1000
Maundy Thursday	St Peter's Holy Communion 1930
Good Friday	St Peter's Meditations led by the Revd Canon Angela Tilby ('The Three Hours'), 12 noon with Good Friday liturgy starting at 1400
Easter Day	St Peter's Dawn Mass 0600 (sunrise 0633) All Saints' Holy Communion 0945 St Peter's Parish Communion 1000

1 June 1936 - 12 January 2021

John was a Scottish Presbyterian, born and brought up in Edinburgh, whose career was in university administration. He worked in Uganda for a short time, then at the University of Hull where he was secretary, *inter alia*, of the Staff Car-Parking committee, chaired by the university's librarian, the poet Philip Larkin. Few things are more contentious in university cities than the allocation of parking spaces - when John moved to Oxford, Philip Larkin's farewell gift was a volume of his poems with the inscription 'Parking is such sweet sorrow.' How John must have treasured that!

Here in Oxford John was the long-term secretary of various university bodies, including the Curators of the Sheldonian and the Curators of the University Archives; he retired in 2003 as an Assistant Registrar. He was valued for what Tony Lemon, in his funeral address, characterised as 'unostentatious efficiency and kindness' - John enjoyed the high regard and the affection of his colleagues.

John wore a suit to attend Sunday worship at St Peter's, a formality which did not extend to quiet reflection during the organ voluntary; his loud barks of conversation and splendid guffaws would often punctuate the music. He helped elderly members of the congregation by driving them to church. It was perhaps typical of him to do good more or less by stealth. He committed himself to what seemed worth supporting - thus it was, for example, that for ten years he compiled the Directory and the Calendar for *The Flying Goose*, from its launch in 2006 until 2016. In my report to the Annual Parish Church Meeting in 2016 I

thanked 'the quietly heroic John Brown, compiler of both Directory and Calendar from the very first edition of *The Flying Goose* in 2006 ... John's immaculate care has been crucial to the accuracy of these two important pages. His penetratingly witty one-liners at editorial meetings will be much missed.' Two years later he submitted, rather tentatively ('I am not at all sure that it is FG worthy') one of the best articles we've published recently (the one about Jane Britton's encounter with the poet John Wain in the First Turn Store - see December 2018, p9).

John loved music; the last time I properly spoke to him was at a concert, and even then it was not much of a conversation - I think he was rather a shy person. His last email to me, in August, was laconic and extremely funny. He was a man of parts - cultivated, entertaining, warm-hearted and generous. He was looked after at the end of his life by two great-nieces who loved him. His funeral was on February 2nd - Candlemas Day. There must have been many candles lit for John on that sunny afternoon in the hearts of those in Wolvercote and Oxford and across the world who were fond of him - certainly there were in mine.

CSSD



On Saturday April 24th

Chris Fletcher-Campbell and colleagues hope in some way to celebrate National Organ Day with an afternoon recital on the Jennings Organ at St Peter's Church. Keep a look-out for further details in case something is allowed to occur!

The Wolvercote Young People's Club is looking for a Charity Manager with proven skills in team leadership / project management / fundraising 3 days a week / £35K p.a. pro rata

**To apply see
www.wolvercoteypc.org.uk/work-with-us**



The Flying Goose is produced by St Peter's Church, the Anglican Parish Church of Wolvercote (www.stpeterswolvercote.org). It appears four times a year (in March, June, September and December) and is distributed free to 3,000 homes in the parish and ward of Wolvercote. It is a resource for local community groups to let others know about their news and events. It is printed on recycled paper.

Articles, Diary Dates and Advertising

To submit an article or amend the Directory, contact Stephen Drew at flying.goose.ed@gmail.com, tel 554352.

To put something in Diary Dates, contact Nick Buckland at nfandfmbuckland@hotmail.co.uk, tel 557830.

To enquire about advertising, contact Sarah Pepys at sarahpepys50@yahoo.com, tel 07931664034

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Next edition The copy deadline for the next edition, to be published in June, is 28th April, once it has been confirmed with the editor that space will be available.

What's in a name? *The Flying Goose* is so called because Wolvercote has a long connection with geese being kept on Port Meadow and Goose Green; because in Celtic Christianity the goose was a symbol of the Holy Spirit; because geese flying in V formation are a good image of community co-operation (flying in a V, geese can travel up to 70% further than any single goose on its own, each goose taking a turn as the leader whilst the others honk encouragement from behind). It also made the editorial team smile!

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Meeting John Humphrys (or not)

I had the pleasure of participating in the 2020-21 series of *Mastermind*. It was very much a spontaneous decision, although I've had a go at a couple of other such quizzes before (*Brain of Britain* on Radio 4 a couple of times; and, years ago, the excellent quiz for teenagers, *Blockbusters*): in a spare moment over Christmas 2019 I filled out an online application form, and rather to my surprise was invited to an audition in London in February last year. This turned out to be a little unnerving – no doubt deliberately, to see which applicants would stand up to the pressure of the black chair – and a few weeks later, I was asked to take part in the actual series.

The intention was originally to film it over the summer, with the final being recorded some time in early autumn, but that plan was quickly scotched. I think the BBC team took great pains to make everything Covid-secure; one thing they had to dispense with was a live audience, and I've yet to decide whether that made the experience more or less scary. In any case, the delay – I filmed my first-round match in early September – worked a little to my advantage: my 'specialist subject' in that round was the BBC sci-fi programme *Blake's Seven*, and I was able to rewatch all 52 of its 50-minute episodes over last summer.

One pleasure of filming *Mastermind* resulted from its being made in Belfast: any legitimate excuse to travel far afield was a treat. I like Belfast (its birdlife is subtly different from the rest of the UK, for a start), even under lockdown-like conditions. Contestants were put up in a nice hotel, just around the corner from the TV studios; this was pleasant, although quite a lonely experience, involving a lot of time spent in one's room, frantically revising one's subject and abstruse bits of general knowledge (I especially like trying to memorise US state capitals – it'll come up one day...). One thing which didn't happen, perhaps unsurprisingly, was any sort of encounter with the famous presenter of the programme, John Humphrys (whose last series of *Mastermind* this turns out to have been), apart from in the studio as quizmaster.

Filming itself was interesting, and was completed relatively quickly. One unexpected factor on the morning of my first-round match was learning that one of my opponents was a former French student of mine, who

graduated about five years ago. Neither she nor I was expecting that.

At the time of writing, only this first-round match has been broadcast, and the production team were insistent that nothing should be revealed in advance about anything which happened later – but I did win that match, albeit by the narrowest of margins. I finished the specialist subject round narrowly in fourth and last place, with eight points, which was *not* the game-plan; but knowing I had to go for it in the general knowledge round gave me an excuse to throw caution enjoyably to the wind, and I ended up with what is nowadays a respectable overall score of 20. Another contestant also reached that score (my former student managed 19); but unlike me, she had passed on a couple of questions (I made absolutely sure not to), and in *Mastermind* a tie is decided on the contestant who has passed fewer times – so that made the difference.

The *Oxford Mail* picked up on the fact that the then Sheriff of Oxford had been on *Mastermind*, and ran an article on it; my students were a little bemused by the whole thing; and I clocked up an appearance on a Radio Oxford Breakfast programme quiz early one morning, for which I was only barely awake. I deliberately avoided looking very much at online reaction, but I did end up in touch with what turns out to be a very active and passionate online *Blake's Seven* fanbase.

By the time the *Flying Goose* is published, all may have been revealed. I can draw a few conclusions from what has been a hugely enjoyable experience. One is, if you fancy trying *Mastermind*, go for it – it's fun, stimulating and full of surprises. If you do so, make sure you choose specialist subjects which you're passionate about, and which you enjoy; there must be nothing worse than spending hours reading about something you realise you don't much like. And finally, if you do get onto the programme... don't ever pass!

Steve Goddard



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The White Hart - Passionate about Pizza!



Hi, I'm Freyda and I manage the kitchen at The White Hart Community Pub in Wolvercote. Here's my story!

On leaving school at 16 I enrolled at Oxford City College studying 'Catering & Hospitality' for 3 years. I went on to work at Jamie's Italian, Gees and The Old Parsonage, where I continued to develop my cooking skills.

Following my son's birth I took a career break and in 2016 moved to Wolvercote. At lunch with a friend who knew of my catering background, I was asked to help with running the pub's kitchen. Before I knew it I was cooking breakfasts at the Sunday Community Market where I met Mariella Bliss, a chef from Naples, who teaches authentic Italian cooking.

Together we hatched the idea of bringing true Neopolitan pizzas to the village. We raised funds to buy our pizza oven and have been serving pizzas ever since. Everything is freshly prepared and handmade, faithfully following the wonderful recipes that Mariella gifted. Most importantly they are made with love.

"I don't usually like pizza but I love the White Hart's", is a comment we often hear. "This is the best Pizza I've ever had in Oxford", is another.

Thanks go to our talented team of Junior Pizza Chefs: Tyler, Ella, Billie and Ollie; and to our landlord Simon Ryde for his contribution towards the oven and for his continued support.

Pizza nights during lockdown are every Wednesday & Thursday, 5.30 – 8.00 pm. Advanced orders welcome. To order please call 01865 511978 or text/WhatsApp 07543 584605.



Rick Stein at his favourite Oxford pub: The White Hart in Lower Wolvercote!



STREET TAG

This new family-friendly game rewards primary schools, families, individuals and communities for physical activities (eg walking, running, and cycling).

Street Tag turns streets and parks in Oxfordshire into a giant virtual playground. You can play to win rewards for your child's primary school, or as an individual or team of up to six people in Oxfordshire's community league.

Watch your total distance accumulate and see how you far you climb up the local leaderboard. Get ready to push yourself and start your journey to a healthy lifestyle with Street Tag. For more info on how to play, go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/streettag



Michael Stockford's inimitable articles have been absent from the last two editions - he has been unwell - but many of us were shouting for Michael when he reached his 90th birthday on 17th January. He and **Rita** celebrate their **70th wedding anniversary** on 26th March. How amazing, how wonderful is that! We send them our love and congratulations.

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Wolvercote Young People's Club

When the latest lockdown meant that we had to close the club doors again, staff and volunteers at the WYPC were despondent. We'd just perfected our programmes of in-house socially-distant youth work: kids had been making music videos, our forecourt was blossoming with mosaic trees and a rainbow mural, and the juniors had been having a blast with Clare's craft workshops. How on earth were we going to reach out to our community of young people?

Fortunately, Marsha Jackson, our head of youth work, had a plan. It was ambitious: we'd deliver art packs to kids who wanted them and do crafts online; we'd have an Instagram open-mike evening; we'd drop off ingredient packs with recipes and have a weekly interactive cooking show. The list of activities went on. Some of us were sceptical, but when Marsha promptly raised £15,000 to make it all happen, it was clear there was nothing stopping her.

The big challenge was reaching young people. Again, Marsha didn't give up, and after two failed publicity attempts, she hit upon the magic formula for getting people involved. By week two, some online workshops were so full, she had to book extra sessions. We had a few technical glitches to start with, but something was working: the kids and teenagers kept coming.

The online programme has also allowed us to reach young people who might not be able to come to the club. And delivering the art and food parcels has given youth workers the chance to have a friendly check-in with families at a distance on the doorstep. As one mum said, "Joseph has been shielding for a year now and is clinically extremely vulnerable, so being included in this project has been amazing for him and us. A big thank you!"



Joseph cooks up a storm!

Carol Peaker, Chair, WYPC



Wolf Pack on the March!

With the freedom of spring on our minds and in our step, Wolvercote Cricket Club (WCC) needs YOU! We are looking for batters, bowlers, keepers, umpires, and scorers of all ages and ability for a summer of fun and friendship playing cricket the right way: competitive, but with a smile on our faces!

Wolvercote goes from strength to strength in 2021: We've added a 4th team, are building state-of-the-art outdoor net facilities at Cutteslowe Park, and have taken on a second ground at Kennington; we are one of the fastest growing clubs in Oxfordshire! Further, starting in May, Wolvercote Youth offers a full season of fun, coaching, and matches for boys and girls aged 5-17.

There's never been a better time to join the "friendliest club in the city", as we look forward to a glorious summer of cricket for players of all abilities, young and old, with the facilities and opportunities to match. Have you thought of picking up a bat or turning your arm over during lockdown? Maybe you just want to get out and involved in the community? Want to know more? Email Chris at wolvercotecricketclub@gmail.com or see our website: wolvercotecricketclub.co.uk

Chris Potter



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