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WOW!

WHAT'S ON IN WING January 2021



- NEW! HEALTH & WELLBEING COLUMN
- KEEPING TO THE FOOTPATHS
- HELLEBORES - MUCH NICER THAN THEY SOUND
- KEEPING YOUR EYES PEELED FOR OWLS
- OX-CAM EXPRESSWAY UPDATE
- REC GROUND PROJECT NEWS

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Happy New Year!

Here at What's On, we're specially happy – we have two super new volunteers – Jacqui and Vicky – both keen to get their sleeves rolled-up and help keep us running smoothly and efficiently. And more help is waiting in the wings.

We're also pleased to welcome Natasha Richmond to our list of contributors. Natasha knows all about healthy living, which includes getting up at dawn every day – that's her terrific photo on this month's front cover.

We're still keen to have ideas and contributions from readers, too. If you think there are topics we should be covering, please tell us. And send us your news: births and marriages, memorial items, sports clubs achievements, village memories, photos, sketches and paintings of local scenes, anything to do with people, events or places in Wing. We'll consider them all.

We've got a special feature this month, covering latest news on the Recreation Ground Project. A monster budget increase – no fault of our parish council – is forcing the team to consider its options. And it's a tough call. The update on pages 14 and 15 gives you the background to their deliberations.

This month's issue isn't quite as glossy as usual - the virus pandemic has meant a shortage of our preferred paper. We'll get back to normal as soon as possible.

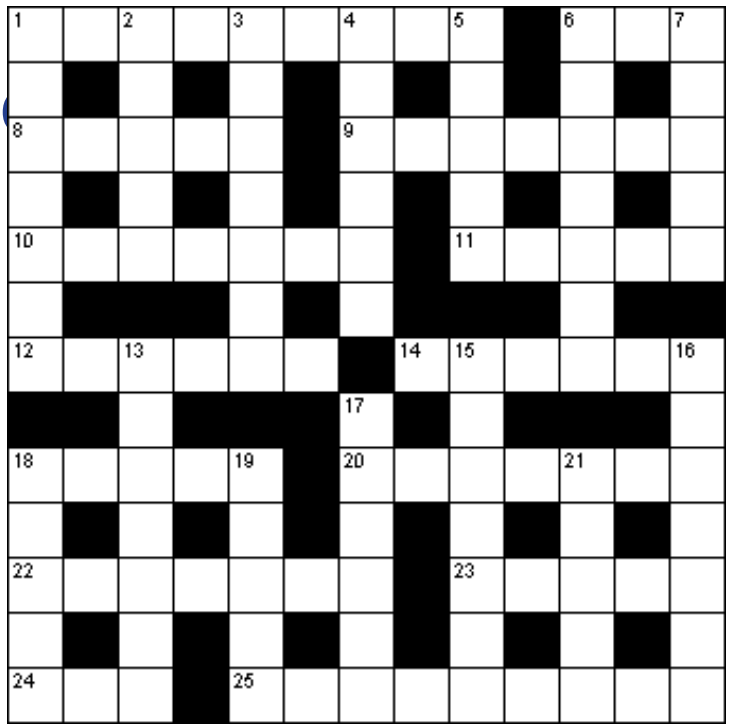
It goes almost without saying that we're all still living and working under COVID-19 conditions. They'll be with us for a while to come. So please, take care, be good, stay safe.

With best wishes,

Joyce Brooker and the team at What's On in Wing

Many thanks to the generous and anonymous donor, who contributed £20 to support the continued publication of What's On in Wing. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Comments, criticisms and feedback welcome. Contact us at: editorial@whatsoninwing.info



QUICK CROSSWORD

Solution p 26

Across

1 Game bird (9)
6 Disencumbered (3)
8 Permit (5)
9 Thick-set powerful breed of dog (7)
10 Most doleful (7)
11 New England state (5)
12 Constraint, force (6)
14 Extortionate money-lender (6)
18 Brazilian dance (5)
20 Roof beams (7)
22 Cut into three parts (7)
23 Dome-shaped Inuit home (5)
24 American whiskey (3)
25 Overjoyed (9)

Down

1 Lauded (7)
2 Annoyed (5)
3 Answers (anag) (7)
4 Reduce in rank (6)
5 Derby venue (5)
6 Former prince of Monaco (7)
7 Robinson Crusoe author (5)
13 Type of lettuce (7)
15 Putting through a sieve (7)
16 Answer (7)
17 Hansel's sister (6)
18 Indian stringed instrument (5)
19 In the lead (5)
21 Brilliant success (5)

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From the Rector ...



When I was a child, I always found New Year's Day really flat; it was all over then and everything was back to normal. Of course when I was a child I reasoned like a child and now I'm grown up, hopefully things are different. In the ancient world including the world of the bible, the calendar was directly linked to your ruler – hence references to XYZ year of King ABC's rule so lots of separate calendars. There were New Year celebrations with hopes for all the new year would bring. Today we have our New Year plans too, but goodness! wasn't the end of 2020 so different to the start? And what will January 2022 look like? We'll have to wait and see.

One of the bible readings for New Year's Day was from the book of Numbers. The book charts the experiences of the children of Israel as they journey with the Lord; the good bits and the not so good. Throughout however, the Lord never gives up on them and as scripture unfolds, we see the Lord walking with his people time and time again. Even a potted biblical history tells us that whatever our plans are and/or whatever happens, God wants to be involved. There is nothing new with the Lord; the question is how comfortable are we with the tension between staying put with the familiar and exploring yet more, both as individuals and together in our communities?

The Anglican Team of Andrew, Annie and myself along with our Methodist friends and Rev Donna have had really purposeful conversations about mission and ministry here in our neck of the woods. So, as we progress through 2021 I hope we will recall that the Christ child grew up both to walk with us and for us to walk with him.

With every blessing

Howard.

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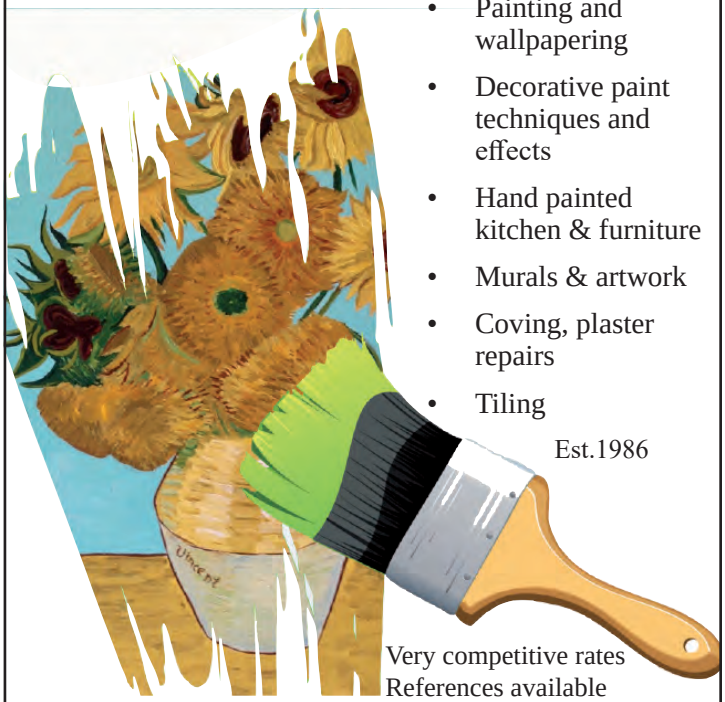
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CODEWORD

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Solution p26

SUDOKU CENTRAL

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Solution p 26



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New Year Health & Wellbeing

Hello and Happy New Year to you all! I hope that despite the COVID-19 restrictions, you managed to have a peaceful and safe Christmas, and that you had some time to rest and relax after the difficult year that we have all had.

I would like to say how excited I am to have this regular column in What's On In Wing, and to introduce myself. I'm Natasha, I have lived in Wing for the last twelve years (I'm 100% local though and grew up in Wingrave), and I'm a personal trainer, fitness instructor and nutrition coach.

Each month in my column I hope to motivate, encourage and inspire you to make healthier choices by providing you with practical information, simple advice and delicious seasonal recipes.

So to kick things off, I'm going to talk about the New Year. Traditionally we make New Year's Resolutions to be healthier, happier, lose weight, to be more organised, to be tidier, to eat better, to drink less, to exercise more, to get more organised for next Christmas….

The above things are all very well, but it's really hard to do everything at once and to not be totally overwhelmed by all the things that we promised ourselves that we would be.

So, for everyone reading this, please make your New Year's Resolution for 2021… LOOK AFTER MYSELF. Once you remember to say this to yourself every day, everything else will fall into place. You will slowly find yourself eating better, moving more, getting out in the fresh air, and doing the things you love. And if I could pick three pieces of advice to give to everyone, it would be 1. Keep moving. 2. Drink more water. 3. Get more sleep. Even if you do nothing else, these three things will help you immensely in your daily life, and it's a great place to start.

I will leave you with a recipe for a healthy, warming Sweet Potato, Coconut & Lentil Soup that will fill you up and make these dark January days seem just a little bit brighter. In 1 x tbsp olive oil fry 1 x chopped red pepper, ½ x chopped leek and 1 x medium sized diced sweet potato. When the veg has softened a bit add 1 x veg stock cube, 1 x tbsp curry powder, ½ x pint hot water, ½ x tin coconut milk and 1 x cup red lentils. Simmer for about 20 minutes and then blend. Makes 3-4 portions.

I will be back in the February issue, so please get in touch if there's something in particular that you'd like me to write about.

Best wishes,

Natasha



Natasha is a Wing resident, personal trainer, fitness instructor and nutrition coach
trainersandbananas@outlook.com

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Libby's

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Over the last 2 years, I managed to chip over 250 trees. Those chippings were used to cover some of the woodland paths within the beautiful Wing Community Managed - Long Spinney.

Unfortunately, the expedition trip to Kenya (I was fundraising for last Christmas) was cancelled this summer due to the current pandemic. However, I still plan to go, when the world gets back to some normality.

This year I have decided to help raise much needed funds for two charities, which are very close to me and my family.



Scoliosis Campaign Fund & Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL) Support

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We are hoping to build on the success of the last two year's recycling service and look forward to receiving your hugely generous and continued support.

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Libby Bridgen

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Walking in the path of righteousness



We've been approached by local farmers and landowners, asking us to post a reminder about keeping to footpaths. We asked Iain Malin, who knows about these things, for advice.

'We're very lucky in Wing. We have a splendid tangle of footpaths around the village. More than enough to keep us fit, without getting bored. With short walks and long walks, difficult walks and simple ones, we're spoilt for choice. And they're proper country walks, all of them through working farmland.

That's why it's so important to follow the footpaths. The temptation to strike out across a piece of open country, with nothing but the sun to navigate by, has to be resisted. And that's more than good manners. You may unwittingly be trampling a young crop. You may find yourself sharing a field with some irritable cattle. And those wide green margins around arable fields are dedicated wildlife areas, intended to be free from human presence.

All the footpaths are marked, either by signposts, or, especially along the way, by yellow arrow signs.



These days, you're unlikely to be trampled by Jorrocks and his pals in the hunt, in full cry after a fox, because they're not allowed to do that any more. But the parish of Wing has more than its fair share of Chinese water deer and muntjac, which are now so numerous they're doing measurable damage to vegation and crops. Now is the culling season. Stick to the footpaths, and the risk of being accidentally shot at will be greatly reduced.

Stiles and kissing gates protect most boundaries. In the rare case you pass through a field gate, or if you get lost, remember to leave the gate as you found it. If it was closed, close it. If it was open, leave it open.

You're not obliged to keep your dogs on a lead, but you must keep them under control. Especially now, when the fields are often home to in-lamb ewes (pregnant sheep, for those who come from Lunnon). And at risk of stealing the Wing Facebook page's favourite topic, we'd mention the need to use those little blue bags. Remember to put them in the bins, rather than hang them on the nearest hawthorn hedge.

Many footpaths around the village traverse open fields. Walkers sometimes get very anxious, when they find a cultivator or a seed drill has apparently obliterated a footpath. That's perfectly normal, and farmers are under a legal obligation to restore the footpath, pronto. They always do. But sometimes, we have to be patient, while they juggle workload and weather.

Wing's farmers are proud of the land they use, and the work they do to help feed us all. They really do want you to use the footpaths, to understand and appreciate their work, as well as share the great blessings of our natural environment. By keeping to the rights of way, we'll be doing our bit.

If you're interested in exploring our local footpaths, you'll find plenty of good maps on line. The one we're produced here is from www.footpathmap.co.uk Our reproduction is too small to be of practical use, but it shows just how many footpaths – shown in red – we have to choose from. There are countless other maps available, which you can download to your phone. Plan your walk - no excuse for getting lost!'

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Country Notes

by Iain Malin





Butterbur





Barn Owl

A new year begins, hopefully better than the one just gone. We are now in the middle of winter, the shortest day is past and the days begin to get longer. By the end of the month we will notice the evenings getting longer, although for a short time the mornings actually get darker.

Nature responds accordingly. Plants respond to the lengthening days, even though the coldest of our winter weather is still to come. I have already seen a primrose in flower, and winter heliotrope will begin flowering this month. This native of the Mediterranean was introduced into British gardens in 1806 but is now widespread in the wild. Butterbur is another member of the same family which grows in our parish. The insignificant male and female flowers grow on separate plants but the female flowers are only found on plants north of Leicestershire. It got its English name because of its large rhubarb-like leaves, which come up after the flowers – and were once used to wrap butter!

Hopefully many of you are feeding the wild birds. Great spotted woodpeckers are coming to my birdtable, and the number of birds visiting will rise in the colder weather, now the wild food is becoming depleted. Maybe we will get some snow which really draws them in, but then we really are committed to keeping the food supply going. With so many wet days and nights barn owls have a job hunting and may go several days without feeding. Their feathers are not waterproof - they don't have an oil gland like other birds. Care must be taken driving along country roads, especially this time of year as they like to hunt the roadside verges. Many get killed by cars. Keep an eye out for them along the road to Cublington, and also Wing Park through to Mentmore. To save energy they perch in the trees and roadside fence posts, often turning to look at you before taking off. They are one of the few birds that can turn their heads nearly 360 degrees. Other owls visit us at this time of the year especially when vole numbers are high. Short eared owls quarter rough areas of ground in broad daylight. If you are really lucky you may see a long eared owl as I have the last two winters. As for our resident tawny (brown)owls they are very noisy now, and may be sitting on eggs at the end of the month. ■

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PLAYGROUND BULLIES

Wing's Recreation Ground Project has occupied an increasing amount of Parish Council time over the last five or so years. It's been a difficult and complicated process. At the same time, there's been increasing public concern about whether the right amount of money is being committed to the right kind of project.

Our Parish Council has steadfastly maintained that the conditions of the New Homes Bonus funding award cannot be changed. There is no alternative to Plan A, as it's known, because no alternative will be allowed by Buckinghamshire Council. And, because the unchangeable Plan A has increased in cost, we have no option but to borrow an eye-watering £350,000 to top up the grant money, to deliver the project.

The legal protection of some trees rendered the very first Rec Ground plan impractical. Substantial and necessary changes to that plan were agreed to be acceptable by Buckinghamshire Council.

A revised plan was submitted – but then soared significantly over-budget. This time, we were told the plan couldn't be changed. Even though it meant, as it stood, taking on a very significant public debt. Even though the Bowls Club and the Tennis Club said they'd prefer something different and cheaper.

Is our Parish Council being bullied by Buckinghamshire Council?

Can it really be the case, that Buckinghamshire Council is forcing Wing - on penalty of losing all the NHB funding - to borrow money to build a pavilion that doesn't suit its users? And is it really doing that just as we head into what may be the worst economic times in living memory? Sounds improbable to us. But that, in effect, is what we've been told by the Parish Council.

We wanted to know exactly how Buckinghamshire Council had responded to any approach made by our Parish Council, about whether and how the conditions of the funding could be changed, to allow a modified and affordable project to proceed. We submitted a Freedom of Information request to Bucks Council.

To our huge surprise, the response to that FoI request shows that Wing Parish Council, since discovering the unaffordability of the project, has never actually approached Buckinghamshire Council, to discuss alternatives.

The FoI also brings another surprise. The revised application was accepted on the condition that it did not *'become a much larger project or one that costs significantly more, as this reduces confidence that the project would be viable'*. Just to be certain in its position, the NHB also said it *' must emphasise that if the project becomes too ambitious or expensive the grants panel will lose confidence that the project is deliverable and could withdraw the funding.'*

There is no record of the NHB committee saying that further changes in plan would result in withdrawal of any or all funding.

Instead of working with the NHB team to find a solution, the Parish Council asked the architects to find ways to save money. Those architects indeed saved money, but stumbled on some earlier costing mistakes. They actually increased the total budget, by £30,000. Accepting that, the Parish Council decided to budget for a £350,000 Public Works Loan.

And up goes the budget – again.

At the recent meeting of the Parish Council's Finance team, costs for the coming year were discussed, in order to agree the amount they want to add to our Council Tax. The Council hoped to keep the increase in the parish precept, as it's known, to 5%. It increased by 29% last year, and 29% the year before that. So, in relative terms, 5% might seem reasonable. Except not much else in life has gone up by 5% in the last 12 months.

One of the biggest single items in next year's parish budget is the amount required to start making repayments of the proposed Public Works Loan. Some people were shocked to discover that the amount the Parish Council now propose to borrow has now risen - without explanation - to a breathtaking £475,000.

The NHB panel warns against a project that costs 'significantly more', or one that becomes 'too expensive'. The cost of Plan A has soared from £795,273 to the PC's latest estimate of £1.27 million. That's a 60% increase. Would the NHB people see that as a significant increase in cost, or simply as too expensive?. There's no doubt that our parish council has found itself in an extremely difficult position. But is it now living dangerously, pursuing a project that could be deemed unviable?

Put aside what view the NHB people might take. When questions have been asked about the wisdom of taking on heavy long-term debt, the response from the PC has been to dismiss the concerns of 'a bunch of naysayers on social media'. Or to point out that 'it's just a couple of quid a month per household, for a pavilion we can be proud of!'. Or 'it will make Wing a more attractive place to live, and house prices will increase as a result.'



It's true that even borrowing as much as £500,000, over twenty five or thirty years, will only cost each of our households an average of about £2 a month. The actual amount depends on what Council Tax band your home is in.

But that only covers building costs. Surprisingly, Wing Parish Council has produced no plan or budget for running, maintaining and repairing any part of the future Recreation Ground, in particular the pavilion. And it's not as if they haven't been asked about those costs, many times.

The everyday costs of running the parish will continue to rise, as they always do. Adding 'a couple of quid a month' masks the reality of adding around £28,000 to the parish budget, for the next 20 years or so, just to pay the project costs. That's before discovering what it will cost to run the pavilion and its grounds (remember – members of the parish must be allowed to use the facilities without charge).

Is the bunch of naysayers making a fuss about nothing?

Maybe. But it's making that fuss about a total spend of almost £1,300,000. And in comparison to other parishes, Wing's finances are in relatively poor shape. We have far less in reserves , per household, than neighbouring parishes. We are the only one to see those reserves shrinking. Even though our parish precept has increased more than that of any neighbours.

That prompts the question: do we really need, then, to take on this amount of debt, to fund what looks set to be an enormous white elephant? Which we might not finish paying for before the end of its useful life?

Our Parish Council can't take out a Public Works Loan without the formal approval of the community. The official referendum that would usually be held can't take place because of Covid restrictions. A leaflet survey, or an on-line poll has been suggested by the Council. But such ramshackle methods cannot deliver a result

'Is our council living dangerously, pursuing a project that could be deemed unviable?'



with anything like the integrity or confidence of a referendum. What the Parish Council can do, it seems, is increase our local taxes enough to start paying off a loan, for which they have yet to seek community agreement. That's a path with risks. The risk that we might be paying for a loan we don't actually need. Or the risk of the argument that says – you're already paying for the loan, so we might as well take it. And the risk that, if we do take the loan, we'll also open the door to a ledger-full of unknown but ongoing costs.

What happens next?

The Parish Council has tasked a small team with evaluating three options:

1: Continue with Plan A, and evaluate ways to pay for it.

2: Find a way to reduce the cost of the project, through de-specifying, de-scoping and value engineering

3: Seek new tenders for the work, to see if better prices can be found.

As yet, there's no direct consideration of a Plan B. The second option might lead in that direction. But any Plan B would involve an approach to Buckinghamshire Council, to discuss the terms and conditions of the New Homes Bonus funding. So far, as the FoI request shows, no such approach has been made. That may be a result of timidity. Or through pursuit of project driven by corporate vanity. Or, maybe, the rabbit is just sitting there, frozen, staring wide-eyed at the oncoming headlights. ■

Wing Parish Council comment

We invited the Parish Council to provide their own comment on progress with the recreation ground project. They asked to see this article, prior to publication. As the pages of this issue of What's On were incomplete at that time, we provided the council with a comprehensive and detailed summary of the content of article, and we delayed publication to allow the council time to provide their comment.

Just before the press deadline, the council emailed to say it was unable to provide a considered comment without sight of the full article.

As the article pages were then complete, we forwarded them to the council, again delaying publication, to allow them time to respond.

At the time of publishing, after further delay, we have received no response from the council.

The rock

The Recreation Ground Plans cannot be changed, or the parish risks losing all the NHB funding.

The hard place

The NHB people say if the project's too expensive, the parish risks losing all the funding.

Heat, light, water, cleaning, business rates, insurance, maintenance and repairs, grounds care - who pays?

The parish council's funding application says: 'The management committees of the organisations will be required to enter into agreements that will cover leasing of the area concerned, together with maintenance, repair and insurance. The terms of these leases will be drafted to ensure that risks associated with use by the clubs will be transferred to the clubs. Areas not leased to clubs will be run and maintained by the Recreation Ground Management Group under the auspices of the Parish Council, which will provide funding for maintenance and repair, as is the situation at present.'

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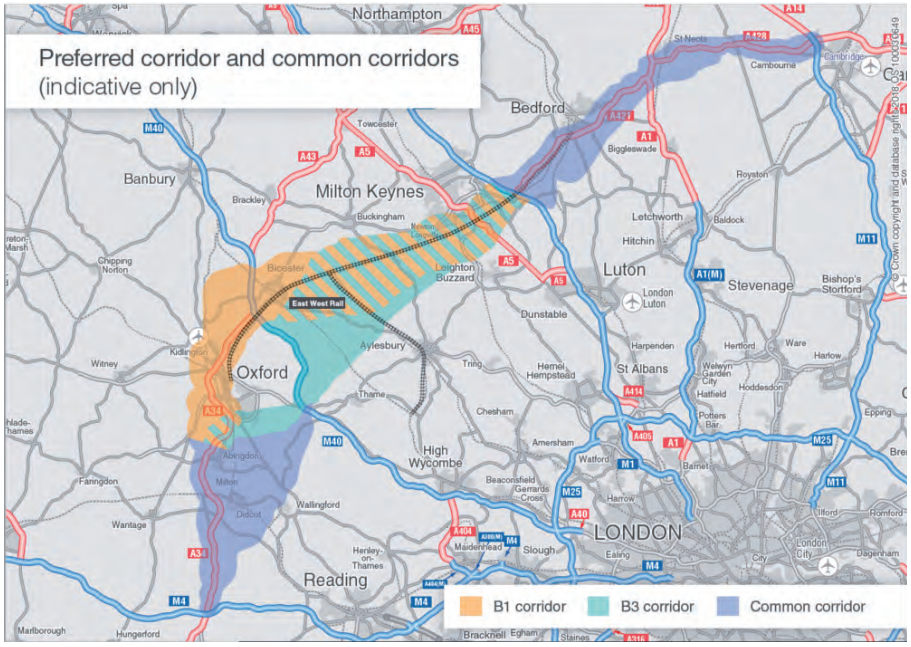
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The Oxford-Cambridge Expressway

An update from David Rogers, Secretary of the No Expressway Group



How close to Wing? The southern boundary of the Common Coridor passes roughly through Stewkley War memorial.

In **March** the Ox-Cam expressway was officially paused by the Government to allow alternative road links to be investigated. At time of writing (November 2020) the expressway is still officially paused, despite many enquiries and pleas for clarification from individuals, Local Councillors, and MPs asking questions in the House.

In **June**, the Wildlife Trusts, the Woodland Trust and the RSPB launched the '100 Miles Wilder' campaign to promote Nature across the Arc. Many supporters saw this as buying into all the proposed development across the Arc (i.e. 'greenwashing' it), and with no 'red lines' defining the limits to growth. NEG is in conversation with BBOWT about the needs to establish baselines and to determine the 'carrying capacity' of our area for more houses, especially in the light of the Prime Minister's instruction in the same month to 'Build, Build, Build'

In **July**, England's Economic Heartland launched a consultation on a Draft Transport Strategy that included associated documents on rail, freight and decarbonising the transport network over an area slightly bigger than the Ox-Cam Arc region. The documents looked at two new rail and 19 possible road connections, including one called the 'Oxfordshire-Milton Keynes Connectivity Study'. 13 of the 19 road connections were carried through for further study; it is not clear if the Oxon-MK link was one of them.

Also in July, Water Resources South East (WRSE) launched a very large consultation on water supply in the wider region for the decades ahead. A document on the Future Water requirements for the region will be produced in February 2021. Even without the Ox-Cam Arc developments it is predicted that 2 million Londoners will be short of water by 2040; in response, the water companies are planning to increase supply (e.g. new reservoirs, and/or joining up the Severn and Thames catchment areas) and to reduce demand and leakages.

In **August** the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government launched two related consultations, one on 'Planning for the Future' and the other on 'Changes to the current planning system' Together these documents propose radical changes to the current planning laws and to the way in which the Government's housing target of 300,000+ new houses per year should be distributed between the English Local Authorities. Both documents became instantly controversial. The new proposals involve a zoning system for land ('Growth', 'Renewal' and 'Protected'), and the possibility that major new towns could fall within National Strategic Infrastructure Project rules (removing virtually all control from Local Authorities). Local Authorities' previous housing targets would be greatly increased under the new housing 'algorithm'

In **September** Natural Cambridgeshire launched its 'Doubling Nature – a landscape led approach', designed to "put Nature at the heart of Cambridge's agenda" There is some debate as to exactly what is meant by 'doubling nature', as well as to how to achieve it. Natural Cambridgeshire is the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) for the eastern end of the Arc, and similar partnerships exist across the entire Arc region. These partnerships have defined an Environmental Opportunities Map for the Arc that offers "large-scale investment potential – for example to create or enhance biodiversity, habitats and/or green infrastructure". But the same map is presented by the Wildlife Trusts as identifying "core areas of existing high value for Nature". It is difficult to reconcile these two statements, because sites with a high value for nature are not obvious targets for offsetting.

October saw the launch in a blaze of publicity of 'The Oxford-Cambridge Arc Economic Prospectus' by the Arc Leaders Group. The emphasis in this document is economic development across the Arc, but Arc connectivity (both road and rail), settlements of the future and environmental enhancements are also mentioned.

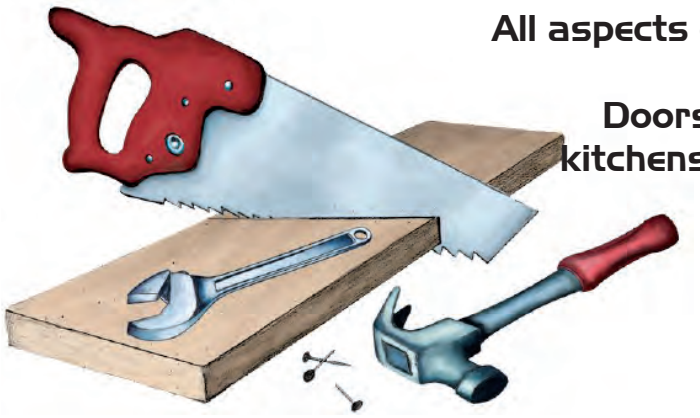
Also in October the Natural Capital Committee (NCC) produced its 'Final Response to the 25 year Environment Plan Progress Report' . The report makes sobering reading, nine years into the 25YEP period. Of the seven resource areas covered by the 25YEP none is on course to achieve the 25YEP objectives, and five are rated Red, indicating a decline or deterioration over the study period. It is clear that businesses and developers are ready and willing to seize the economic opportunities offered by the Ox-Cam Arc. It is not at all clear that the environment will be protected and enhanced in the process. There are moral, aesthetic and health reasons for preserving nature that transcend the 'dismal science' of economics.

Finally, the one million new houses by 2050 target across the Arc remains, as originally suggested by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) and confirmed by Bridget Rosewell of the NIC in a webinar in September of 2020. Developers always mention the one million figure (some even propose 1.2 million) and no politician has yet categorically denied it, or changed it to a lower figure. We understand that a spatial plan for the Arc is being developed and may be released soon. This should give us a clearer idea of the current infrastructure ambitions (rail, roads and houses) for the Ox-Cam Arc.

David Rogers, Secretary, NEG 15/11/20

Editors' note: we're aware that this update comes from a group passionately opposed to the proposal for a new major road, and the 1 million homes that will come with it. For the sake of balance, we're happy to publish sensible content from anyone passionately in support of the road and the housing. It's just that there doesn't seem to be anyone who is. Apart from roadbuilders and homes developers.

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Gardener's Diary

by Ginnie Hollas, Wing Gardening Club



H.Niger

Hellebores are one of the most attractive winter flowering plants. They are perennial, resistant to deer and rabbits and not too fussy where they are sited. Most of the year they are insignificant then in late winter into spring delicate flowers emerge which last for weeks and weeks. To fully appreciate their beauty, lift the flower head and inspect the attractive markings.

A member of the buttercup family there are many varieties. The most well-known is the earliest flowering H. Niger, the Christmas rose with large pure white flowers that rather resemble a wild rose. They prefer an alkaline soil and a shady position that is not too dry. Other varieties are:

H. Orientalis or Lenten rose blooming in early spring and varying in colour from white through all shades of pink to maroon and often attractively spotted. It often hybridizes and tolerates varied conditions, and will transplant easily.



H.Orientalis

H. Feotidus or 'stinking hellebore'. As its name suggests it has a slightly unpleasant smell but is worth growing for the unusual flowers, clusters of green nodding bells. A very tolerant variety, it will grow in a sunnier position and seeds easily.

Early winter is the best time to cut off the leaves right to the base to prevent disease taking hold, then when the flowers appear they can be viewed in all their splendour.

Hellebores have a long and fascinating history. The name derives from the Greek, 'elein' to injure and 'bora' food. There are many legends associated with them mainly as most species are poisonous. Extracts were used as an emetic a favoured by witches and potentially fatal. The sap can cause irritation and blistering. The German word is 'Neiswurz' meaning 'Sneezewort' as when the plant root is powdered it irritates the nose and causes sneezing. It was used as a component in making snuff.

One myth relates that, if an eagle sees one pulling up a hellebore, death will follow! An even farther fetched one declares that ground up hellebore, scattered around and in the air causes one to become invisible.

Don't be put off by these anecdotes. I have grown them for many years with no ill effects and have just enjoyed their beauty. ■

H.Foetidus

For more information on Wing Gardening Club, please email: winggardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk.

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If you have coronavirus symptoms?

Stay at home for seven days if you have a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back - or a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

if you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms.

If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.

If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

If

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

and you cannot find help on line

use the 111 coronavirus service - https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/

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FROM PUTNEY TO CERN



Transport comes in manifold disguises,
Sometimes full of intriguing surprises:
Vehicles that glide like swans in water,
While old crocks splutter, wheeze, and then falter;
Sleek super-trains that go so fast they're gone
Before you catch which platform they were on;
And aeroplanes that cannot always fly
Although the safest space right now is sky.
But there's one thing on wheels that has my vote,
Especially when it wears a bright red coat.

They used to be quite frequent on the road,
Blazing a trail beside the Green Cross Code.
Invariably they came along in pairs.
And offered you a choice view from upstairs.
Sadly the modern versions can't compare -
Apologetic, empty, or just elsewhere -
As insubstantial as a disused quarry,
With a label lamely reading "Sorry …".
But one old-timer has a unique use,
One of the old school, that needs no excuse.

One of the fleet from Putney made the grade
And set off, when converted, all fares paid.
Remembered by its engineer with pride,
It hosts a tardis-full of brains inside.
From England it has travelled overseas
To be one of Cern's prized amenities,
Where it invites professors and their techs
To attend meetings on its double decks.
Whenever someone has a bright idea,
They ring its bell and raise a grateful cheer!

c Sally January 2021

Tribute to the bright red Routemaster from the wife-of a bus spotter. Picture taken at Covent Garden.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!!!

Wing Village Poppy Appeal 2020





This year has been like no other and that is certainly true of the Poppy Appeal. We were notified in the late summer that there could be no door-to-door collections but that static boxes could still be placed in shops, pubs and schools. Luckily, our local businesses and organisations were more than happy to oblige, to whom we are very grateful.

Poppy Total

Even though no door-to-door collections have been able to take place, Wing have once again been overwhelmingly generous in supporting this extremely worthwhile cause.

Together we raised **£2537.00**

Thank you to each and every one of you who donated in this particularly challenging year. A special thanks must go to the pupils, parents and staff of Cottesloe who raised a magnificent £690.26, Anna S, a pupil from Overstone School who enterprisingly made and sold loom bands and raised a fantastic £65, and to Sheila whose knitted poppies raised £42. We would also like to once again thank Maggie Ryan and her team for organising the poppy display around the village.

Remembrance Sunday

Although there was no formal service this year, we would like to thank Rev. Howard Robson and the churchwardens of All Saints for their continued support; to John Lomas and the bell ringers for sounding out the bells on the day, and to Avelia the trumpet player who played the Last Post.

We have no idea at this present time how the Poppy Appeal for next year will play out, but we know that we can count on the support of this wonderful village.

Thank you!

Berni Blunden & Sarah Headington

Wing Poppy Appeal Organisers

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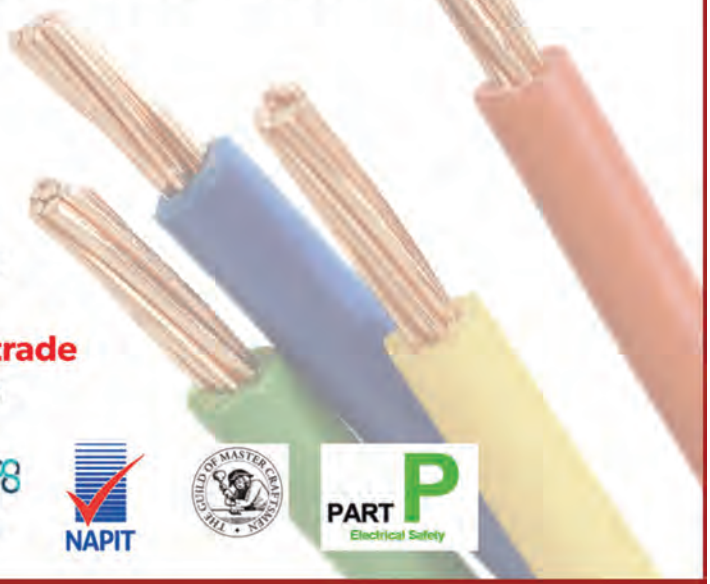
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HELP US PRODUCE WHAT'S ON IN WING

Just an hour or so a month will make a big difference!

We're delighted to say we've had a terrific response to our call for volunteers. COVID-19 has meant making some significant changes to the way What's On is produced. While Joyce Brooker, our Publisher and Editor-in-Chief continues to head-up What's On - and keeps us from losing our way - we're welcoming two new helpers. Jacqui Wakefield will be looking after our advertisers, and Vicky Mcleod is our editorial manager, making sure news, information, and contribuotr's photos and articles all appear in the right issue. Carmen James will continue to support Joyce with accounting and finance.

We're still looking for occasional help with layout. You may already have design skills, or you might just be interested in dabbling. Either way, your help will be welcome. We'll provide lots of help to get you started. If you don't have suitable software (yep, What's On is fully digital, now), we'll even provide you with free software to do the job.
If you've expressed an interest in helping , but haven't heard back - don't worry, we'll be in touch!

ALL THE ANSWERS

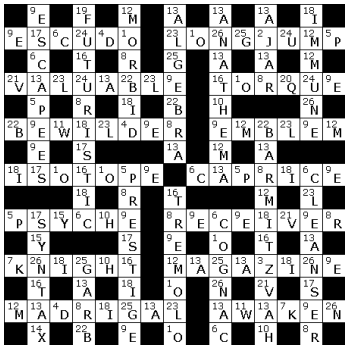
Crossword solution

1 P	A	2 R	T	3 R	I	4 D	G	5 E		6 R	I	7 D
R		I		A		E		P		A		E
8 A	L	L	O	W		9 M	A	S	T	I	F	F
I		E		N		O		O		N		O
10 S	A	D	D	E	S	T		11 M	A	I	N	E
E				S		E				E		
12 D	U	13 R	E	S	S		14 U	15 S	U	R	E	16 R
		O				17 G		I				E
18 S	A	M	B	19 A		20 R	A	F	T	21 E	R	S
I		A		H		E		T		C		P
22 T	R	I	S	E	C	T		23 I	G	L	O	O
A		N		A		E		N		A		N
24 R	Y	E		25 D	E	L	I	G	H	T	E	D

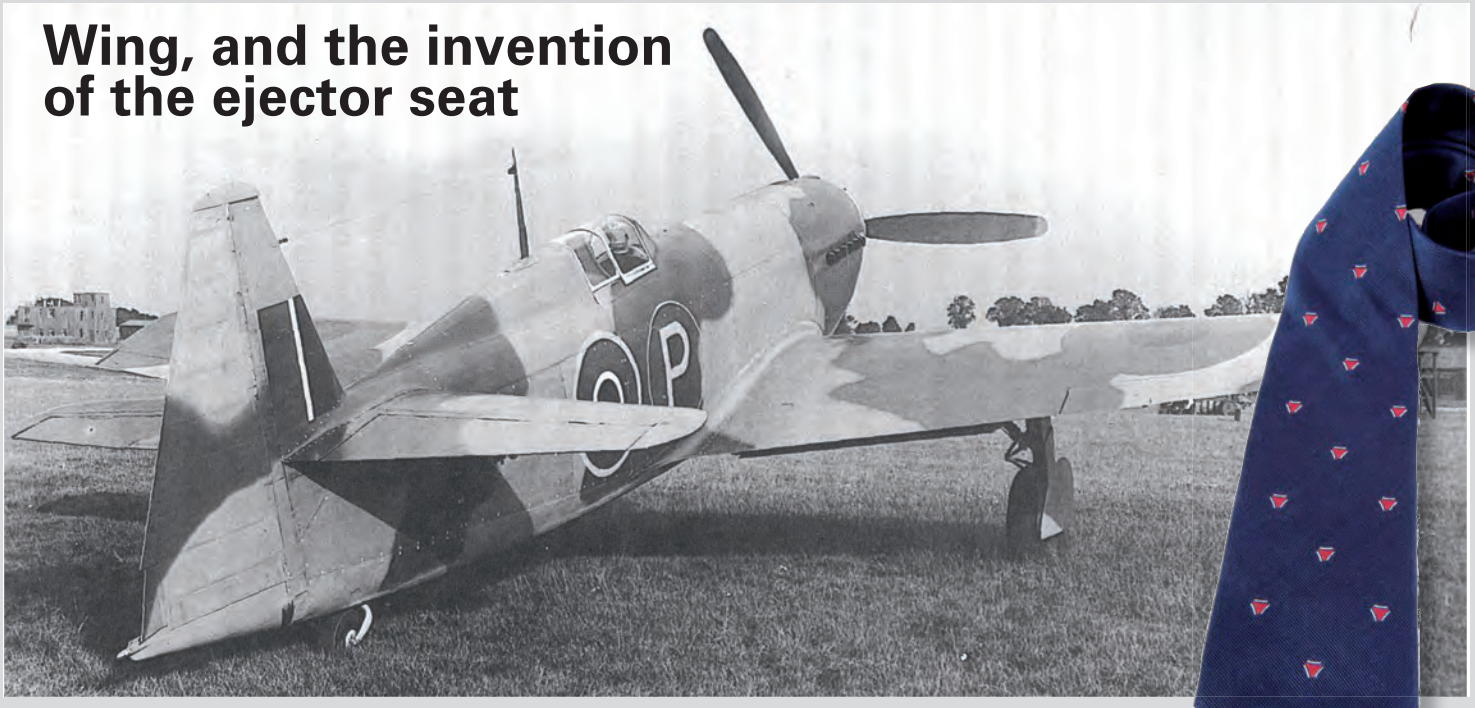
Sudoku solution

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

Codeword solution



Wing, and the invention of the ejector seat



Being home to a wartime RAF Operational Training Unit, Wing saw its fair share of aviation accidents. The MB3 was an experimental fighter plane, extremely fast and heavily armed. It was designed by James Martin, and flown by Capt. Valentine Baker, his business partner.

The MB3 was test flown very successfully on August 31st 1942 at Wing. On its 12th September flight, things went wrong. The crankshaft of the monster 2000 hp 24-cylinder engine fractured as the plane got airborne. Baker managed to land the plane in the stubble of a field in what is now Aylesbury Vale Golf Course. But the plane hit a tree stump, and burst into flames. Baker's body was pulled from the wreckage by Bunny Winter of Burcott Lodge Farm. The crash ended development of the MB3. James Martin felt he loss of Capt. Baker deeply. He dedicated his subsequent career to the safety of aircrews, through the design and development of the ejector seat. Today, the Martin-Baker company sponsors The Ejection Tie Club. Pilots whose lives have been saved by an MB ejection seat get a tie and tie pin, certificate, woven patch and a membership card. At the last count the club had 7,638 members. ■

HOW TO ADVERTISE IN WHAT'S ON IN WING

What's On In Wing is published once a month, and – in normal times – delivered direct to every one of some 1300 households, shops, pubs and public buildings in the parish of Wing. It's also available on-line, for browsing on-screen or downloading and printing. The easing of COVID-19 restrictions mean we're returning to hand-delivered copies.

Advertising Rates

What's On In Wing has always represented great value for money. Our advertising rates reflect increased circulation, colour printing and the addition of the on-line version (which in fact gives your advertising *global* reach). The on-line version of your ad links directly to your own website, at no extra cost.

SPONSOR AN ISSUE OF WHAT'S ON!

Sponsor an issue of What's On In Wing for just £95, and get a half page of editorial and photographic coverage of your business, as well as a whole page advertisement, and banner promotion of your company name on that issues front cover *and* every spread! Email advertising@whatsoninwing.info for details.

Size	Width mm	Depth mm	Price	Parish advertiser
Whole page	195	270	£35.00	£30.00
Half page landscape	195	134	£20.00	£18.00
Half page portrait	95	270	£20.00	£18.00
Quarter page	95	134	£15.00	£12.00
Eighth page	95	66	£10.00	£8.00
Inside front cover	195	270	£40	£35
Outside back cover	195	270	£45	£40
10% series discount for 12 ads				

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for content for the February 2021 issue of What's On In Wing is 21st January 2021. Alterations or additions can't be accepted after this date.

HOW TO CONTACT WHAT'S ON IN WING

Advertising

If you'd like to advertise in What's On, contact Jacqui Wakefield, on 07518 156853, advertising@whatsoninWing.info

Please supply your ad artwork by email to Jacqui . Artwork must be either a jpg, jpeg file, or pdf file to the sizes shown in the table, below left. We cannot accept any other kind of artwork.

Editorial

To submit editorial or photographic material, contact Vicky Macleod editorial@whatsoninwing.info

Accounts

For payments or accounts questions, contact Carmen James: accounts@whatsoninwing.info

Payment for advertising must be made at the time of booking, either by cheque to Joyce Brooker, or by on-line transfer to:

Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-90-89. Account number 45814960, Account name: What's On In Wing

Distribution, news, snippets, other enquiries

should be delivered/ sent to Joyce Brooker, 45a, Littleworth, Wing (688487) in an envelope clearly marked 'What's On In Wing.

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