LOCAL NEWS
EVENTS
SUPPLIERS
SERVICES
LEISURE
CLUBS
ACTIVITIES
GAMES & PUZZLES

WOW!

WHAT'S ON IN WING

March 2025



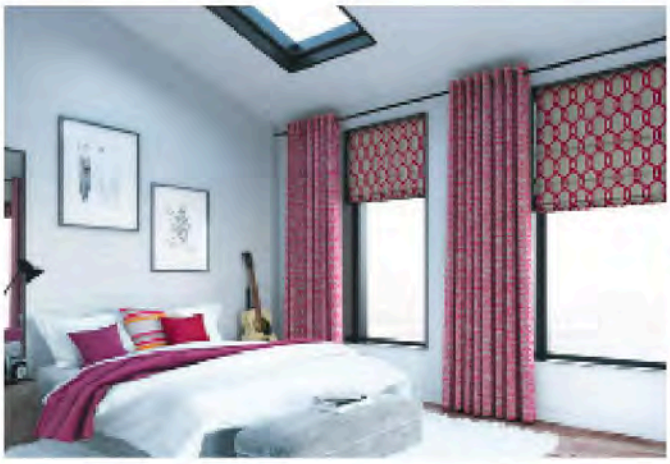
- ‘Lights on!’ for Wing Tennis Club!
- A message from our MP
- Beware the horsetail in Long Spinney!
- Night skies in Wing this month
- Dog health - external parasites
- A sports roundup
- A seasonal recipe, puzzles and more…

Distributed free to every home in Wing. Supported by voluntary donations.

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Blinds & Curtains

Local family run business established for over 23 years






Quality blinds & curtains from a local family run business.

Town centre showroom with blind displays, curtain fabrics and new awning display showing three electric awnings

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Cover photo by Brian Clarke



©Hollie Childe

Delivery Team

The task of putting a copy of What's On through your letterbox each month (no matter the weather) falls to a volunteer, some of whom have been doing it for years.

If you see What's On being delivered, a word of thanks to that person would always be appreciated.

What a relief and pleasure it must have been last month, when Wing Tennis Club was able to switch on their new lighting system, which will extend considerably the playing time for members. The recreation ground project continues to deliver, step by step.

This issue includes notes from our MP, Laura Kyrke-Smith, whom we welcome as a contributor. As a result of this, our readers will often now have the benefit of information from our representatives at parish, county and national level (we do our best to keep everyone informed!).

We are always grateful to Sally Barnes for writing a topical poem for s each month. March 2025 is no exception and Sally has commemorated World Book Day on 6 March for us, both with a poem and a wordsearch quiz for us all to enjoy.

Best wishes to all our readers
from the What's On team.

P.S. Did you notice the QR code just below this? If you hover your phone camera over it, it gives you easy access to What's On in Wing. We included it last month for the first time and it will be in all future issues.

The current month's issue of What's On in Wing can always be found online at: www.whatsoninwing.info

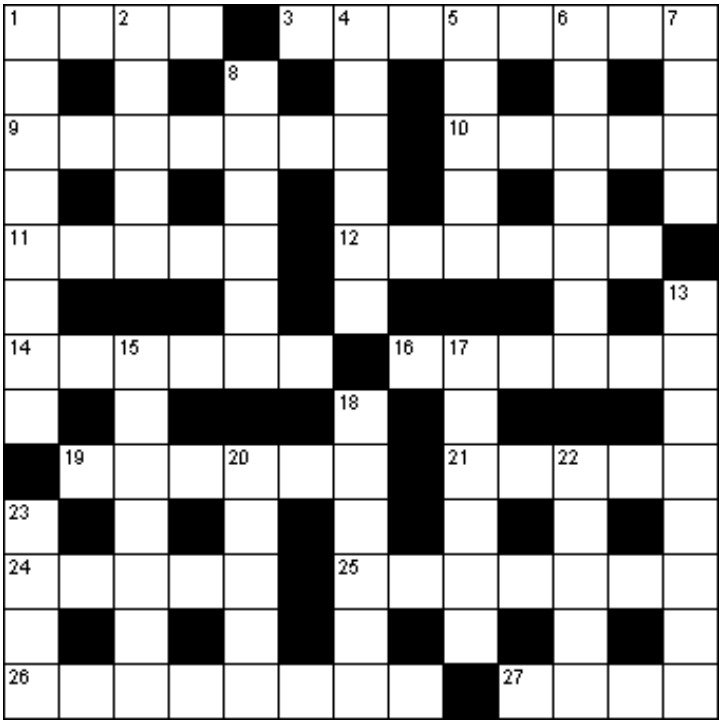
Comments, criticisms and feedback are welcome. Contact us at: editorial@whatsoninwing.info

DEADLINES

If you are an occasional advertiser with WOiW, or are intending to advertise with us, please note that you **must now book your advertising space no later than NOON on 5th of the month before publication** (contact Jacqui at advertising@whatsoninwing.info). Space will then be held for you. The **absolute deadline** for receiving advertising material and editorial content is NOON on 15th of the month preceding publication.

What's On In Wing is published by What's On Publishing CIC, registered number 14178082

Quick crossword



Across

1 Practise boxing (4)
3 Serenity (8)
9 Entourage (7)
10 Major Hindu deity (5)
11 Weary (5)
12 English county (6)
14 Kid (6)
16 More corpulent (6)
19 Combat (6)
21 Compositions for two performers (5)
24 Poised for action (5)
25 Slaughter (7)
26 Capsize (8)
27 Undershirt (4)

Down

1 Close investigation (8)
2 Role player (5)
4 Relaxed (2,4)
5 Skinflint (5)
6 Distinguished (7)
7 Thailand, formerly (4)
8 Nervous, tense (2,4)
13 Outlook (8)
15 Appease, pacify (7)
17 Vipers (6)
18 Sporting swordsman (6)
20 Romantic meeting (5)
22 Dodge (5)
23 Threesome (4)

Solution p36

sing out for mental health

12th April 2025
Aylesbury
Waterside Theatre

Hundreds of Buckinghamshire singers join forces **to raise awareness of the impact of singing on mental health** in a ground breaking concert.



Scan the QR Code for tickets

WENDOVER SINGERS

The Wing Singers

www.singoutfor.org

sing out for mental health



From Rev Str Pamela Reeves

March Services		
2	1100	Holy Communion
5	1000	(Ash Wednesday) Ashing Communion
9	1100	Morning Prayer
16	0830 1100	BCP Communion People's Praise
23	1100	Holy Communion
30	1100	(Mothering Sunday) Holy Communion Benefice Service

Dear Friends,

When I look back on the last time I wrote to you it was September. I wrote about dark nights getting longer, folk being isolated. Now its nearly over, spring is on its way. Clocks go forward at the end of the month.

Another year is celebrating itself in spring, with snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, as we yearn towards an early summer and warmth.

Our heads and hearts look forward to it; before that we have Easter, and before that Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5 March. (We have four services dotted around the Benefice that day). It lasts 40 days. Lent is primarily identified with the time Jesus spent in the desert fasting, praying and being tempted. Thats why we hear so much about folk giving up things for the period of Lent. Alcohol or chocolate, however, if you don't drink much alcohol or eat a great deal of chocolate its not really cutting it is it? What it's really about is making a difference to your life during this time. For example you might want to commit to taking a couple of hours out each week to concentrate on you, thinking about life, where are you going? Is this what you are really about for the next 30 years? Something that is a bit different from the norm and something that does take commit- ment.

The Benefice (our eight Churches) are running a couple of different sessions on Wednesday evenings during Lent; they both begin on Wednesday 12 March. Dom our fab Rector is running a Zoom course on the Nicene Creed (its 900 years old this year). Dom has put together some very specialist speakers for these evenings, and it should be really good for those of you who have a good understanding of the Christian faith and want to go deeper.

Annie and myself are running Wednesday evenings at Wingrave Church, at 7.15pm for 7.30pm, for those wanting to grasp a little of the Christian faith. We are asking you to dance with us as we talk to each other about where we are coming from and where we might hope to go.

We have food involved and general friendship and chat. We really, really do hope to see you there.

You see, all this is before Easter and perhaps before your tulips have blossomed and, when Easter comes, well who knows what we are up to. I look forward to spending my ever emerging year with you. Lets go!

Best, Pam.

Our Colouring Competition Winner



In last month's What's On we announced that the Christmas Colouring Competition winner was eight-year old Mary Lewis…here she is!

When Mary was presented with her £10 prize and certificate, she commented that working on the colouring challenge (see below) took her almost a full afternoon.

Photo by Brian Clarke



WING GARDENING CLUB

A club for anyone interested in gardening. Varied talks, demonstrations,



CHRISTOPHER BAMFORD-DAMP

will talk about how he opened his garden for the Charity, some of the trials and tribulations he went through, and successes he had.

Own Gardens and NGS Gardens

Tuesday 11th March 2025

WING VILLAGE HALL
Small hall at rear

7.30 for 8pm start

More information from Jacqui via winggardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk

Members: £2 Non-members: £4
Price includes light refreshments and a raffle ticket

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SUDOKU CENTRAL

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Solution p36

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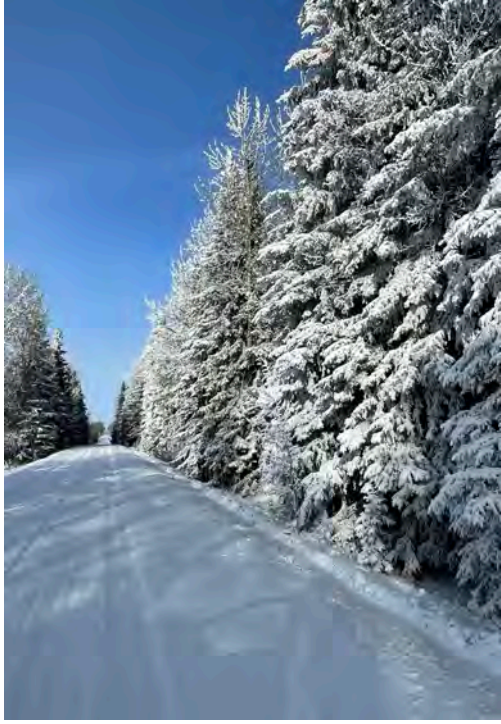
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9	■	15	■	8	■	3	■	9	■	19	■	15	■	9
20	9	12	19	21	21	19	■	21	19	15	6	19	20	23

Country Notes from Canada

by Iain Malin





Well it's the middle of February and it's time to write March Nature Notes. True to form I have to start with the weather. Having been back in Canada now for four weeks I understand the weather is still miserable and overcast much of the time; a little about that later. Here we are in our second week of temperatures ranging from -250C to - 380C with wind chill, and still apparently another week to go. Again very little snow, but we can't complain. I read that Alberta gets 300 days a year on average of sunshine, so we still have our blue skies. We have been having some incredible hoar frosts and rime frosts. Hoar frosts are found in clear conditions and rime frosts come from freezing fog.

More about the weather in Wing - and indeed the whole of Britain. I for one am a big believer in global warming and its catastrophic events and mention it frequently. However, recent satellite photographs are catching scientists out. They are showing a very cold area stretching from Greenland, Iceland and of the coast of Ireland and Britain, which is influencing the weather. These cold very wet years or winters are here to stay, contradicting conditions elsewhere in the world. It is all to do with AMOC (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation), called North Atlantic drift when I was at school. I will leave those interested to read about it as is far too long for here, but basically warm salty seas on the surface from the Caribbean come north up towards Britain (hence palm trees growing on the west coast of Scotland). This water then cools, sinks and goes back to the Caribbean. It is changing and controlling Britain's weather.

As for wildlife, bird feeders are out here and are reasonably busy. Cleaning is tedious but essential because of the bird flu epidemic. The first lesser redpolls have arrived after the Niger seed and the usual posse of followers are in attendance. We have two types of nuthatch, two types of woodpecker and the ever present black-capped chickadees. Bohemian waxwings in large flocks of several hundred have now arrived, to gorge on the numerous Rowan (Mountain Ash) berries, with at least one tree in most gardens. It is much like a starling murmuration in Britain.

In Wing I would still feed the birds, as in our ever clean and tidy world it is important. With the vast amount of insecticides and pesticides used in agriculture, food is scarce, therefore supplementary feeding is important. Last month the RSPB withdrew all flat feeders and the specialist food seed owing to bird flu outbreaks, but I see no reason to stop using feeders.

March in Wing should see at the end of the month the arrival of northern wheatears. If walking on Wing Park grass ('cow field' to some) they can often be found on the humps and bumps feeding on early insects. Their name stems from old English "white arse", because of the bright white rump patch. They are only passing through on their way to the high ground of Britain further north, but are a sign that spring is on its way.



Northern wheatear

Solar farms are subject to a lot of controversy and I for one am not in full agreement with them. My view is that they should be on houses rather on fields, where big companies rake in guaranteed money and the consumer pays twice. In Bucks and quite close to Wing there is a high concentration of solar farms and a revent proposal for a large one very close to Wing. If we are to be plagued with them and valuable land is to be taken out of food production to power up your electric cars and tv, then I think they should be under planted with native grasses and wildflower mixes. This will only help our rapidly declining wildflowers but, even more importantly, be in organic or natural areas, i.e. with no chemicals to help our rapidly declining bees. In the early stages it would help restore some of the cornfield wildflowers, such as corn marigolds, corncockle, crested cow-wheat and cornflower among others, with perennial wildflowers taking over for the guaranteed 25 years of the solar farm.

Food for thought. If all the bees disappeared in one year, the human population would start dying out after 5 years! We have to do something.



Cornflower



Crested cow-wheat

ALL SAINTS CHURCH WING

Pancake racing

Tuesday 4th March



at 3.15 pm

Children of all ages welcome

Pancakes will also be served to eat

Suggested contribution to costs £2.50 pp

WHAT'S ON at WING HALL

REGULAR ACTIVITIES



MONDAY	Rainbows & Brownies		Small Hall	1730-1830	Carolyn Saunders	01296 688508
	Tai Chi		Large Hall	1100-1200	Norma Collins norma.tai.chi@hotmail.co.uk	07947 672069
All except 1st in month	Badminton Club		Large Hall	1900-2300	Gary Stevens	07769 074570
1st in month	Bingo		Large Hall	1930 start	Malcolm Rickard	01296 688428
	Library			1400-1630		
TUESDAY	Dance Class (adults)		Large Hall	1000-1300	Adrian Marsh	07906 988880
3rd in month	Pop-In (Age Concern)		Small Hall	1330-1600	Janet Ratcliffe	01296 720946
Term time only	Street Dance		Large Hall	1530-1830	Kiri Fitzgerald	07988 161043
2nd in month	Gardening Club		Small Hall	1930-2130	winggardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk	
	Badminton Club		Large Hall	1900-2300	Gary Stevens	07769 074570
Last in month	Parish Council Meeting		Small Hall	1930-2200	wingparishclerk@gmail.com	
Term time only	11+ tuition for years 4 & 5		Library	1705-1915	Rachel Harris hello@rachelharrisprofessionaltutoring.co.uk	
	Library			1400-1630		
WEDNESDAY						
1st in month	Art Appreciation		Small Hall	1400-1600	Bobbie Ward	01296 681982
Fortnightly	Lunch Club (over 60s)		Small Hall	1200-1400	Sue Nightingale Richard Webb	01296 682999 01296 681516
	Dance Class (adults)		Large Hall	1830-2200	Adrian Marsh	07906 988880
	Table Tennis		Small Hall	1830-2300	Zita Pascoe leightonbuzzardttc@gmail.com	07517 018889
	Library			1000-1230		
THURSDAY	Tots Bop		Large Hall	0930-1200	Rachel Kenning	01525 237474
Term time only	Lacemaking		Small Hall	0930-1130	Bobbie Long	01296 624179
	Yoga		Large Hall	1900-2000	Kim O'Hanlon	07770 450788
3rd each month	Wing WI		Small Hall	1900-2200	Val Fielder	01296 688044
FRIDAY						
	Line Dancing		Large Hall	1045-1400	Adrian Marsh	07906 988880
	Library			1400-1630		
	Table Tennis		Large Hall	1900-2230	Zita Pascoe leightonbuzzardttc@gmail.com	07517 018889
SATURDAY	Library			1000-1230		
SUNDAY Term time only	Wing Singers		Large Hall	1645-1915	Angie Varey wingsingers@yahoo.co.uk	07908 653006
Any day	Snooker Club				David Turner	07392 482415

Hall rental charges are in a separate notice in this issue.

CONTACTS

Regular bookings
Sheila Lambert: 01296 682795
sjlambert49@gmail.com

One-off bookings (parties, weddings etc)
Stephen Payne: 07555 722315
stephenpayne3@hotmail.co.uk



www.winghall.org

Wing Village Hall

WING HALL TRUST
71 Leighton Road, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 0NN

Registered with the Charity Commission No 212601



Alex Warren

The fields are cold and laying wet at the moment, so not much is going on out there. But Spring is on the way, and this is one of my favourite times of the year. This month we've started calving. Every cow has been vaccinated, wormed and health-checked ready for the big event. Baby calves are being born and it's nice to have some new life on the farm!

We've recently setup and fitted a new camera system in our calving sheds. We now have three 360 degree view cameras operating, and they are fantastic. It's 2 degrees outside at the moment and I can at ease look on my tablet or phone to view the goings-on in the shed.

The great thing about the cameras is you can view what's going on with out disturbing the animals. The cows like to calve in isolation, as far away from the other animals in the quiet corner of the yard - this is instinctive behaviour. The cameras are great for monitoring stress-free births, and if action is required I know when to take it. As I write this month's column an Aberdeen Angus has just given birth to a Salers calf and I can see the newborn is up and about already.

Salers is one of the world's oldest breeds of cattle originating from central France. A Salers bull crossed with an Angus cow means relatively easy calving, fast growth and hardiness for efficient production of high quality lean beef. And Salers calves are noted for their 'get up and suck - as this one has just shown.



Many of you may have seen in the news the latest protest led by the farmers' action group, Save British Farming (SBF). Over 600 tractors descended on London's Whitehall in an impressive organised and peaceful protest.

Farmers had travelled in tractors from as far as Exmoor, Somerset and the Isle of Wight to deliver their powerful message to the government. They will not back down unless there is reversal of the controversial policies proposed.

At the moment it's hard to see a future in the farming industry. Neither my family or me have ever seen protests like this in this country before. Farmers are fighting back against the anti-farming policies being bought forward. Only time will tell if they are listened to.

The good news? We've had a clear tb test on the farm, if we can get another one by end of march we will have tb-free herd status regained. That will still be against a background of heavy losses, and we will have a lot of new stock to buy in.



YOU ARE ALWAYS **WELCOME**
AT THE **POP IN**
Tuesday 18th March
WING SMALL HALL
1.45 – 3.45



Come for tea, coffee, cake, a chat and a few games
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FRIENDS OF 3W HEALTH

3W Health
Registered Charity No. 296089

Time on your hands? 'Friends of 3W Health' is a registered charity established to support the 3W Health GP practice, which currently embraces three sites at Winslow, Whitchurch and the Wing surgery at 46 Stewkley Road. Patients registered with the 3W practice may attend any of the three sites, and the Friends are keen that its own membership should include those living across the catchment area.

The aim of the Friends is to help provide, maintain and improve equipment and services at the Practice, thus contributing to the provision of patient care, support and experience. As we all know, these are difficult times for GP services and, while there's little we can do about the national shortage of GPs and Practice Nurses, we can be of some assistance in helping to maintain the equipment and facilities available on all three sites.

Items recently purchased include examination couches, a baby changing unit, a paediatric oximeter, blood pressure monitors and hearing loops, together with a centrifuge machine which has enabled the practice to offer more blood test appointments.

The Friends Committee is made up of registered patients, together with some admin and clinical staff from the practice. We are trustees of the charity and we are mainly involved in discussion and decision-making to ensure that funds raised are used appropriately and effectively. When necessary, we will also organize fundraising activities. Any patient of 3W is eligible to sit on the Committee, although current membership is slightly unevenly skewed towards Winslow, and we would like to redress the balance. So, while we would love to hear from interested parties from any of the three areas, we are especially keen to hear from patients more familiar with the sites at Wing and Whitchurch. You don't have to be sciency or technical; we have clinical members on board. You just need to be interested, enthusiastic and registered with 3W. Alternatively, if you don't think you're a committee sort of person, we are also interested in forming a list of people who might be willing to be contacted to assist in any future fundraising activities.

If you think this might be you, we'd love to hear from you and please feel free to ask any questions. You can email us on friendsof3whealth@aol.com.

The Friends' AGM is at Whitchurch Surgery on Monday 31 March, at 6.30pm; all 3W Health patients are eligible to attend.

Can You Spot the Titles of 11 Children's Books and 10 Authors' Surnames?

(Answers can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and read either forwards or

W	Z	S	T	I	G	O	F	T	H	E	D	U	M	P
I	A	D	L	I	T	A	M	O	M	I	L	N	E	R
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SEARCH FOR:

Winnie the Pooh	Milne	The BFG	Dahl
Huckleberry Finn	Twain	Robinson Crusoe	Kipling
Kidnapped	Stevenson	Zagazoo	Blake
Heidi	Spyri	The Wee Free Men	Pratchett
Matilda	Dahl	The Hobbit	Tolkien
		Stig of the Dump	King

Solution p34

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The Wing Singers

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No auditions or musical knowledge needed

Professional, patient and approachable Musical Director, Jill Neenan

Half-time interval to enjoy tea & coffee and a chat

WING VILLAGE HALL
EVERY SUNDAY* 16:45-19:15
*Rehearsals held on Sundays during school term time

For more information, check out our website, www.thewingsingers.org.uk, or email Angie, the Membership Secretary, at wingsingers@yahoo.co.uk

Repair Cafe



is coming to

Cottesloe School

09:30 - 12.30



ivinghoepitstonerepaircafe.co.uk

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Whenever a book is
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Road to a
Life of
Discovery revealed.

Behind the words lies a maze
Of questions leading to a surprise
Of answers -
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Destination
Adventure for
You all.



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9.2.2025

For World Book Day
6th March 2025

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Sports and Social Club

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SATURDAY 5TH APRIL

Doors open at 7.30pm act starts at 8.30pm



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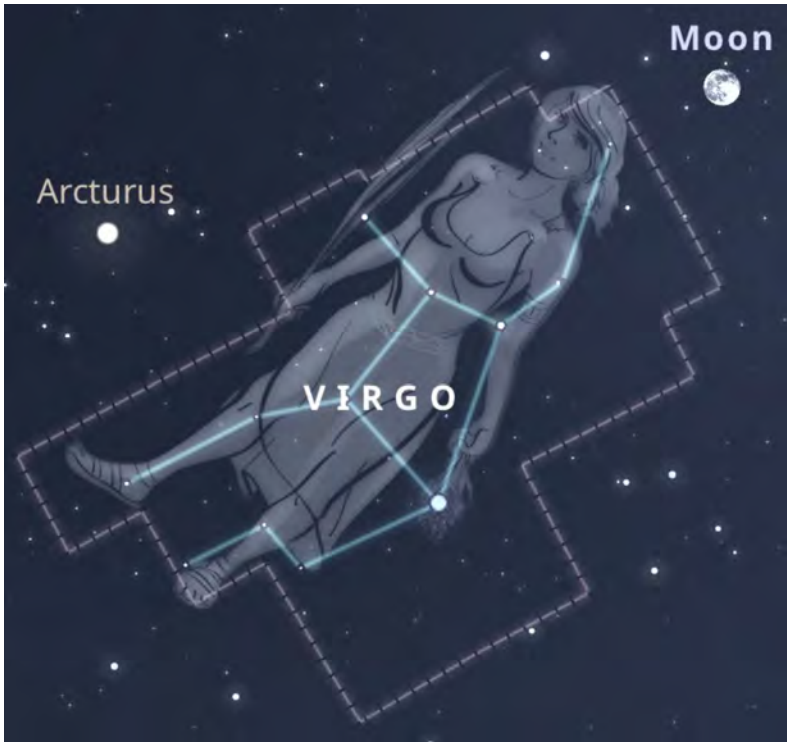
WING SKIES AT NIGHT

with
Greg Wakefield



Spring is here and, as the nights get shorter and the days lengthen, we say goodbye to the familiar constellations of Orion, Taurus and The Pleiades – which give way to the constellations of Leo and Virgo that will dominate the night sky as we move more in to the Spring months. As the days lengthen we are starting to lose the planets in the sky also, setting not long after darkness falls as we move further in to Spring. But they will return!





Spring heralds the galaxy season – Leo and Virgo are awash with lots of galaxies. To view them you will need a telescope or 10x50 binoculars. Each galaxy contains billions of stars, some many times bigger and hotter than our own sun (constellation images courtesy of the Stellarium app).

Opposite is an image of a cluster of galaxies known as the Leo triplet, that I took using my102mm refractor telescope and a DLSR camera back in 2022. They are located near the back foot of Leo. The light from these galaxies has taken around 31 million years to reach us...just shows you how big our universe actually is… infinitely huge!

On 29 March there will be a partial solar eclipse. About 35% of the sun will be eclipsed by the moon from the UK. If the skies are clear it will begin at 10.10am and last until 12 midday. Please remember, you should NEVER view the sun directly either with the naked eye or through any unfiltered optical equipment, as to do so will seriously damage your eyesight. Use special solar glasses/filters or use a colander or a pin hole in a sheet of paper and project onto another sheet of paper/card to see this spectacular event of nature taking place.

Finally, there are three meteor showers this Spring – the best of the three are the Lyrids, peaking on evening of 22 April, with an hourly rate of 18 meteors per hour. Look North East near the constellation of Lyra in the late evening. The second is Eta Aquarids, peaking on the evening of 6 May. Look to the East for the constellation Aquarius, with an hourly rate of 50.

That's it for now. I wish you clear skies!



If you have questions, or you'd like to know more please contact me by email at:
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A message from our MP





Laura Kyrke-Smith at one of her recent 'Meet and Greet' sessions.

Laura Kyrke-Smith

I am delighted to write for the latest edition of What's On In Wing as your Member of Parliament for Aylesbury and the villages.

I have continued to be out and about across the villages I represent over the past few months, meeting residents and hearing your priorities.

I have been holding 'Meet and Greet' sessions in the villages that form part of the Aylesbury constituency, so far in Ivinghoe, Edlesborough and Cheddington. These informal coffee mornings are fantastic opportunities for me to hear residents' feedback and ideas on how I can best support their community. At the time of writing, I am planning on holding my next session in Wing, details of which will be announced soon.

Parliament returned in January and the Government has been getting on with the work of change. I am taking a leading role in delivering some of these reforms as the government's National Health Mission Delivery Champion.

I look forward to serving the people of Wing in 2025. I am here to listen and to help you. The best way to reach me is on laura.kyrkesmith.mp@parliament.uk. I am also sending out a regular E-newsletter to update residents on my work. You can sign up for the mailing list via my website, www.lauraforaylesbury.org. Thank you.

Wing is now in the new Aylesbury parliamentary constituency. We're also in a new Unitary Council Ward, too - more on that in a future issue.



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LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Wing Tennis Club finally gets lit up



It took nine long years, but last month, Wing Tennis Club at last switched on their fabulous floodlights. First proposed in 2016, the lighting project has encountered numerous challenges, financial and technical. Although the modern LED technology means the floodlights are cheap to run, the capital costs of purchasing, installing them and connecting them has been high. But now, with funding from housing developers' contributions and much encouragement and support from Wing Parish Council, the 400 lux fittings have lit up the colourful courts, as well as prospects for club and players alike.

There's been a tennis club in Wing since the 1930s, playing on grass courts on the same site as today's tarmac ones. The present Club was founded in 1989 and the courts were opened in 1991 by Lou Woodward, the last of the pre-war grass court champions. Lou donated his own 1939 cup to the Club. The cup is still used today and presented to the winner of the annual Club championships.



'The floodlights open up huge opportunities for extra court time,' said Club Chairman Paul Lambert. *'In addition to regular matches, we are developing a new coaching programme, running from early spring, through summer and now, into late autumn.'* The Club uses all three of its courts, with use now increasing to as much as six days a week in the spring and summer, and up to three days a week in the autumn. *'And now,'* said Paul *'every day offers so much more play. If light is poor because of the weather, or the shortening of the days, we can just switch on the lights and keep playing.'*

Wing Tennis Club is a member of the Aylesbury League and the Milton Keynes League. *'The floodlights mean we can play more matches, and we can enter more teams in league events.'* said Bob West, the Club's Treasurer.

Wing Tennis Club currently has around 70 members. It's well-known both as a super-friendly Club, and as one of the most affordable clubs to join. Non-members are invited to play a few sessions before deciding whether to join. In addition to tennis, you can from time to time play football tennis or pickleball. The clubhouse is smart and comfortable, and the tree-lined setting for the courts is perfect for social tennis matches - every Sunday from 10am until 1pm - as well as Club matches.

If you'd like to know more about Wing Tennis Club, you can find their website at https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WingTennisClub, or on the busy Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/wingtennis. Their email address is wingtc@outlook.com.





Clockwise from top left: Jake Norman, Bob West, Becky Salter, Richard Komenda, Dave Turner, Paul Lambert (Wing Tennis Club); Helen Sunday, Lin Gilbert (Wing PC) and Nicole Webb (Wing Tennis Club).

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If You Go Down to the Woods

Last year someone asked what the asparagus-like growth in Bewick Green and Long Spinney were! No great edible feast unfortunately - these are the emerging tips that grow into a bottlebrush - and finally into giant horsetail that grows to waist height or even higher as the year progresses. You may have waded through it?

It is found in damp shady places, usually in open woodlands, commonly in large colonies. It is somewhat rare due to loss of wetland habitat and we have it as Long Spinney is an example of rare Wet Woodland habitat. It is a relic of dinosaur times, being first found in the early Jurassic. We are told it is something we should cherish, but the Bucks and MK Environmental Record Centre agreed we have too much, so we have controlled it in places, for example mowing regularly to create the meadow area by the picnic bench.



We have been asked by locals if they could have a bit of the 'pretty plant' for their garden, but BEWARE, this is a highly invasive weed that reproduces by spore, root and even bits of the segmented stem. The roots (rhizomes) have been reported 2-4 metres (6-14ft) down into the wet soil and even working its way through concrete! Perhaps its persistence isn't surprising, given that it has existed through all sorts of climate change for hundreds of millions of years!

Control of the horsetail was just one of the tasks that had to be done by volunteers for a couple of years prior to the formal reopening of the Spinney for public use just 10 years ago. The area is still maintained for village use by a small cadre of volunteers who continue to maintain access and develop the area for the enjoyment of people and wildlife. If you would like to help, look at the dates for working parties in the notice boards around the area or email: longspinneywing@gmail.com.

By Malcolm Oliver







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TALKING DOG with Neil Smith

External Parasites



Parasites are organisms that live predominantly on the dog's skin and feed off their host. These parasites are of no benefit to the dog, generally causing irritation which is annoying, but can also be life threatening if they are not treated in a timely manner with the correct medication. Here are two of the main offenders.

Fleas



An adult flea is about 2.5mm in length, which is easily visible. They move rapidly around the dog, particularly enjoying the groin, around the hind quarters and neck. The adult will feed every few days by biting the dog's skin to enjoy a blood meal. A fertilised female can lay up to 50 eggs a day onto the skin, a high proportion of which will be dislodged by the dog scratching and will hatch between 2-12 days, either on or off the dog. Carpets are a great nursery for all these little parasites, who will jump back onto the dog to feed. Central heating gives a warm environment and wall to wall carpeting in the house is the perfect environment for the pupa to develop.

In order to eradicate fleas in all stages of their life cycle, it is necessary to treat not only the host but also the house, car and any other pets that have contact. This may take a couple of treatments depending on the severity, but thankfully there are many good products available on the market alongside veterinary advice.



Ticks

Ticks are blood sucking arachnid parasites that have a four-stage life cycle: egg, six-legged larva, eight-legged nymph and adult. The female tick lays thousands of eggs and then dies; a few weeks later the larvae will hatch from the eggs. The last three stages of the tick's life will require a host to feed off, but most of their lives are spent sitting on a leaf or blade of grass waiting for a host to come along. Once the tick has climbed onto its host it will bury its head into the skin and start to gorge on the blood. At this point the tick becomes more visible as its body fills up with blood. It is best to use a special tick remover to get rid of the tick. Do not pull the tick out as it may leave its head embedded in the skin, which will become infected. Instead, gently twist the tick to release it. It is always best to use gloves to do this as ticks will attach themselves to humans, and they also secrete a substance that may irritate the skin. Some species of tick transmit diseases like Lime Disease, so it is important to always check your dog after a walk and remove any ticks, taking care to destroy them. There are tick prevention treatments available, but they aren't always effective on every variety of tick.





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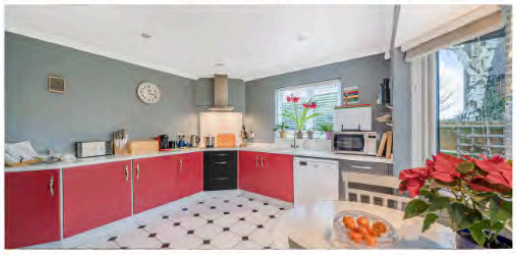
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Wing Parish Council News

SOME GOOD NEWS

Bike Racks

The Parish Council have received funding for, and are in the process of, installing some bike racks around the village in various locations. The hope is to promote the use of bikes locally and allow owners the reassurance of safe storage when left.

Free Hedging

Also, following a successful application to the Woodland Trust for two free packs of 30 hedging plants, we have been advised that delivery is due fairly soon. The plan is to create a hedgerow in Bewick Green on the Moorlands Road boundary where some dead hawthorn trees were removed recently.

———

Ground Nesting Birds

As spring approaches, so does the season for ground nesting birds The season runs from March for several months.

When you think of nesting birds, you'll most likely think of stick nests in trees and hedges. But many birds lay their eggs on the ground. Ground nesting birds often rely on remarkable camouflage to conceal their young in this risky location. Sadly, these special birds are under pressure due to habitat loss and disturbance by people and dogs.

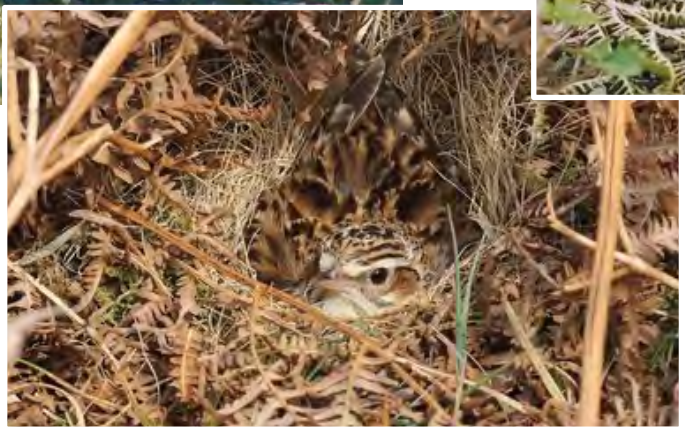
The nation's forests and woodlands are an important place for ground nesting birds, particularly on open habitats. Our landscapes are home to species of ground nesting birds that have been lost from many other parts of the country.

The Spinney, and parts of Bewick Green, are potentially the perfect habitat for these birds and we would ask that you please be aware of this as you walk in these areas, particularly if you have a dog with you.

Below: Lapwing, Woodlark and Nightjar, to name just a few of the ground nesting birds.







Hedgecutting - Take Care

Please also keep a look out for nesting birds when cutting hedges this time of year.



Fix My Street Reminder
Here are some of the issues covered by Fix My Street:

Should a problem arise in your area please be aware that it should be reported online to: https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/report

It is a reasonably simple process and you should receive feedback on the status of the reported problem.

If you are unsure whether the issue should be dealt with by the Parish Council or Bucks, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk for more information: wingparishclerk@gmail.com

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Parish Council Contact Information

For more information, news and updates from the Wing Parish Council, please find us on: Facebook @wingparishcouncil or visit our website www.wingparish.org; Instagram @wingparishcouncil; Email: wingparishclerk@gmail.com.

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Gardener's Diary

By Rosie Richardson, Wing Gardening Club





I've a new horticultural experiment – growing ginger from a rhizome. So far so good. The rhizome was planted close to the surface in gritty compost and was given a little bottom warmth after watering to aid growth. The red circles indicate the 'eyes' that are the growth buds. This is where the green shoots will emerge from. Once the weather warms up a bit and light levels improve, I think the plant will grow quite rapidly and need potting on frequently. Eventually I can tip the plant out and harvest the large rhizome and cut it up for use and replant some. Theoretically! This was a piece cut off a supermarket chunk, but named varieties are available in the 'bulb' section of garden centres at a much greater price.

By March we should be getting 11-12½ hours of daylight so all seedlings should take off now. If it's still rather chilly perhaps best to hold off. Later sowings will soon catch up. The weeds will certainly be responding to better light levels so It's time to get the hoe out.

This year I am following the Charles Dowding 'No Dig' approach to vegetable growing. Before Christmas I put thick layers of cardboard (Amazon packaging with all plastic removed) and then a thick layer of composted farmyard manure and left the beds uncovered. This has certainly suppressed the weeds and hopefully the worms underneath got the memo and have been devouring the disintegrating cardboard! I plan to start most veggie seeds off in modules in the greenhouse and then plant out into these prepared beds, without digging over or standing on the soil.

Charles Dowding also produces a fascinating Planting Calendar with tips on successional planting and first sowing of seeds for autumn vegetables.

I'm planning on sowing more homegrown carrots this year as they are so easy and delicious. I've had great success growing them in large pots stood on top of an upturned pot, and used up old compost mixed with a bit of sand to make a light soil. This deters the dreaded carrot fly as they can't fly above 60cm. The female carrot flies lay their eggs close to carrot seedlings and the larvae then burrow into the carrot roots, ruining the crop. They can smell the enticing aroma of carrots, especially if you thin the sowing out. By growing above their maximum flight level you minimise the risk. Failing that, a barrier of wind proofing fabric around the veg bed at a height of 70cm should stop them. They are most active twice a year - April/May and July/August - so by sowing around those months, or covering your seedlings with enviromesh, can deter them.

Carrots in a pot are a great way to get children interested in sowing and growing and, hopefully, by eating their homegrown carrots, they'll love



vegetables. I'm also going to try growing parsnips in long tubes in a pot. Having seen 'prize winning' vegetable growers do this, I want to give it a try. I also saw how easy it is to germinate the parsnip seed in a plastic tub on damp kitchen paper. This method of germination also works a treat with sweetcorn.

Now is the time to finish any rose pruning (apart from ramblers which are pruned after flowering in the summer). A handful of feed will encourage strong, fresh growth and in turn more flowers. Dogwoods grown for winter stem colour can be cut back now. Clumps of perennials that have outgrown their space or that need reinvigorating can be dug up, divided and replanted. I did a lot of this in the autumn and potted quite a few things on, which will hopefully be available at low cost at the Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale in May.

Happy gardening and hello Spring!

Wing Gardening Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month in Wing Village Hall. For further information e-mail winggardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk

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N	A	H	E	I	D	I	H	H	D	M	S	I	I	T
I	Z	E	F	R	O	E	E	N	E	K	P	K	P	C
E	O	H	O	B	B	I	Z	E	I	I	Y	L	L	H
T	O	O	E	F	T	H	R	D	A	N	R	O	I	E
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We are grateful to Sally Barnes, our regular poet, for providing this challenge in celebration of World Book Day.



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Overstone Combined School Reporting from Birmingham



At the end of January, 26 of our children ranging from Year 3 to Year 6 had the most incredible night, performing with thousands of other children at the Young Voices concert, at BP Pulse LIVE in Birmingham. Young Voices is the largest children's choir in the world and is an amazing opportunity for children to experience live music. For that one night, they become part of a united choir, singing and dancing together as well as listening to world class singers and watching award winning dancers. The Young Voices mission is a simple one: to ignite a love for music, empower children to discover their voices, and build their confidence.

The day began at 10.30am, when we made our way on the coach to Birmingham. After a quick lunch break on arrival, the three-hour long rehearsal started. From the minute our conductor came on stage, the children were enthralled. We warmed up our bodies and voices and then went straight into the first song. It wasn't long before we were introduced to all the singers and dancers on stage and they helped the children throughout the rehearsal, leading them all and encouraging them to sing out. When MC Grammar appeared, he caused a huge stir from all the schools! MC Grammar is the star of Sky Kid's Wonder Raps and World Book Day Ambassador. His enthusiasm and passion for what he does shone from the tips of his gold shoes to the top of his gold chain, and this was equally matched by the eagerness and excitement from all the children. He is somewhat of a celebrity in all our eyes!

Once the rehearsal was over, it was time for dinner. There was a sense of nervous anticipation, but most of all excitement, from the children. We were back in our seats at 6.00pm and it was almost time for the performance to start.…

At 7.00pm the lights went out and the Young Voices torches turned on. The atmosphere was electric. Every song from Birdhouse in Your Soul to the Pop Medley was sung with pure enjoyment. The children sang, danced and beamed from beginning to end. The day will be remembered by all the children as a day of musical wonder and joy. As one young person told me at the end of performance: *"This was the best night of my life!"*.







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C	■	C	■	8 O	■	T	■	I	■	M	■	I
9 R	E	T	I	N	U	E	■	10 S	H	I	V	A
U	■	O	■	E	■	A	■	E	■	N	■	M
11 T	I	R	E	D	■	12 S	U	R	R	E	Y	■
I	■	■	■	G	■	E	■	■	■	N	■	13 P
14 N	I	15 P	P	E	R	■	16 F	17 A	T	T	E	R
Y	■	L	■	■	■	18 F	■	D	■	■	■	O
■	19 B	A	T	20 T	L	E	■	21 D	U	22 E	T	S
23 T	■	C	■	R	■	N	■	E	■	V	■	P
24 R	E	A	D	Y	■	25 C	A	R	N	A	G	E
I	■	T	■	S	■	E	■	S	■	D	■	C
26 O	V	E	R	T	U	R	N	■	27 V	E	S	T

Sudoku solution

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

Codeword solution

26 B	13 U	10 C	6 K	20 R	19 A	25 M	■	24 P	11 O	3 I	15 N	21 T	9 E	23 D
19 A	■	19 A	■	11 O	■	3 I	■	11 O	■	15 N	■	18 W	■	3 I
12 G	19 A	20 R	12 G	11 O	16 Y	5 L	9 E	22 S	■	14 Q	13 U	9 E	22 S	21 T
24 P	■	24 P	■	17 F	■	23 D	■	22 S	■	13 U	■	19 A	■	8 H
3 I	26 B	9 E	4 X	■	24 P	9 E	20 R	3 I	18 W	3 I	15 N	6 K	5 L	9 E
24 P	■	15 N	■	24 P	■	18 W	■	26 B	■	9 E	■	■	■	20 R
9 E	4 X	21 T	11 O	20 R	21 T	■	24 P	5 L	19 A	21 T	16 Y	24 P	13 U	22 S
■	■	9 E	■	3 I	■	3 I	■	9 E	■	13 U	■	8 H	■	■
8 H	11 O	20 R	3 I	1 Z	11 O	15 N	22 S	■	19 A	23 D	7 V	9 E	20 R	26 B
11 O	■	■	■	9 E	■	22 S	■	17 F	■	9 E	■	15 N	■	9 E
19 W	19 A	5 L	5 L	17 F	5 L	11 O	18 W	9 E	20 R	■	2 J	11 O	18 W	5 L
9 E	■	16 Y	■	3 I	■	25 M	■	20 R	■	6 K	■	25 M	■	19 A
7 V	16 Y	3 I	15 N	12 G	■	15 N	11 O	20 R	21 T	8 H	18 W	9 E	22 S	21 T
9 E	■	15 N	■	8 H	■	3 I	■	9 E	■	19 A	■	15 N	■	9 E
20 R	9 E	12 G	19 A	21 T	21 T	19 A	■	21 T	19 A	15 N	6 K	19 A	20 R	23 D

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The Ladies play on Sundays in the Thames County women's league. Come along and give it a go. For more information, contact wingladiesfc@gmail.com or call manager Chris Sanders on 07770 211257







Pickleball

After the recent switching on of the new floodlights at Wing Tennis Club, put pickleball on your list of sports to try on an evening.

Invented in 1965 by Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum on Bainbridge Island, Washington State USA, the game was named after the Pritchard family dog who was called Pickles.

The sport combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis, played on a badminton-size court with a modified net and using a hollow, hard plastic perforated ball and a smooth-faced paddle.

It's a great sport for all ages and abilities, as it is low impact and played at a slower speed than tennis, for example.

Try it for free on social Sundays between 11am and noon at Wing Tennis Club. There's no need to book…just turn up and equipment can be provided if needed.

Wing Community Sports Assistance for Children



My name is Sue, and I'm the sports editor for WOiW magazine. I'm also involved with the newly formed Wing Ladies football team, and am on the committee for the recreation ground.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Sue Corcoran, Sports Editor

As a child and young adult I was always very involved in sports. My interest in sports remains the same today, albeit I may have slowed down somewhat! I am a great believer in all children having access to sports outside of school.

The overall benefits to children who play sports is proven. Currently in England 10.1% of reception age children are obese, with a further 12.1% being overweight. At age 10-11 (Year 6) 23.4% are obese and 14.3% overweight, and these figures continue to grow. Children who are from poorer communities or families are substantially more likely to be obese.

When it comes to mental health, in 2022, 18% of children aged 7-16, and 22% of young people aged 17-24, had a probable mental disorder. A study conducted by HRSA (Health Resources And Service Administration) found that between 2016 and 2020 the number of children aged 3-17 diagnosed with anxiety grew by 29%, those with depression grew by 27%. 50% of mental health problems in children are established by the age of 14. The number of children in England needing mental health treatment for serious mental health problems, rose by 39% in the year up to January 2023.

Exercise has many physical benefits for children as well as their mental health. It gives them a better outlook on life, builds confidence, manages anxiety, stress and depression as well as increasing self esteem and cognitive skills. In simple terms, children who participate in sports have fewer physical and mental health problems.

However, for some families, especially now with the cost of living crisis, paying for kit/equipment and fees in order for their children to take part in sports outside of school is simply not affordable. I will therefore be setting up Wing Community Sports Assistance For Children.

The first stage will be a simple donation and collection point (to be confirmed but likely the new pavilion) where people can donate items like shorts, t-shirts, football boots, tennis rackets etc which are no longer wanted, so that we can provide these items to children who need them.

The second stage will hopefully be to set up funding in order to help with fees. I will also be contacting our local schools and sports clubs for their support and suggestions. That's the idea in its basic form and I'm hoping that the great community we have here in Wing will give its support and enable more children in our village to have access to sports outside of school. If anyone is interested in helping in any way, or has suggestions, please feel free to contact me by email at csue031@gmail.com.



'In The Ditch' from Wing Village Bowls Club

Can you believe that March is here already and that the Green will soon need to be worked on to get it match ready (although to be fair it's already looking rather good). Our Fixtures Secretary, Geoff, has been busy arranging the season's matches, which start on the 20th April, Easter Sunday, at home to Long Crendon. The Easter Bunny will hopefully have been to hide some eggs around the place for players to look for as an added incentive to getting out on the green, because if it's typical Easter weather it will probably be snowing!

The 27th April is our Club's Open Day, so if you want to try your hand at bowls and find out what it's all about, please come and meet us, enjoy a drink and slice of cake (or two), and join in the fun.

The Clubhouse has now been 'electrified' and the only thing we have to do is to work out how to use the heating so that we can warm the place up without having to resort to wearing thermal undies, hats and gloves. Our Toasty Games mornings have been continuing every Friday. Members have been playing various Board Games and are trying to complete a jigsaw before the beginning of the season. As we're only managing to put in a maximum of three pieces a week, and it's a 1,000 piece jigsaw, the season we're talking about is 2027! It could be a good little earner if we charged visiting teams 50p a go to find a piece and put it in though. Toasty Games has been a really lovely way of getting to know each other and of whiling away some very dreary Friday mornings. The mornings continue until the 21st March, when we'll be holding our final 'Comic Relief' Toasty Games.

On the 28th March we are holding another fantastic Quiz Night – (awaiting your team's name, Hayley). Posters will be going up around the village with all the details, so please keep an eye out for them and get your teams registered ASAP as spaces are limited.



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Seasonal Recipe

by Elaine Morris
Morris of Hoggeston at Wing Thursday Market

Lime and Anchovy Lamb Steaks

Ingredients:

750g new potatoes
2tsp olive oil
4 lamb leg steaks, rubbed with oil and salt
250g mixed green vegetables
4-8 anchovies, roughly chopped, to taste
Zest and juice 2 large limes

Method:

Boil the potatoes for 10-15 minutes until tender.

Fry the lamb steaks in the oil for 2 minutes on each side or until nicely browned. Reduce the heat slightly and cook for 1 minute more on each side for pink, or until cooked to your liking. Remove from the pan and set aside.

Turn the heat down to medium, add the green vegetables and cook for 1 minute, then add the anchovies and most of the lime juice, 1 tbsp water and a good pinch of coarsely ground black pepper. Mix well and fry for 1 minute more.

Add the potatoes, vegetables along with the rest of the lime zest and juice. Set the lamb on top to serve.

Send us your favourite recipe!
We know there are enthusiastic and capable cooks in Wing, so please send us a recipe that we can use. It doesn't have to be 'seasonal' as favourites are always going to be welcome!





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OUT&ABOUT

Walk and photos by Arthur Jones

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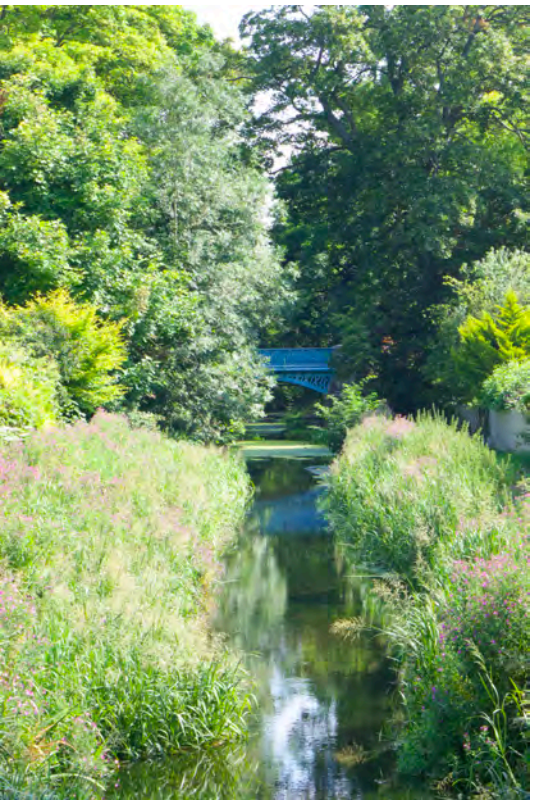
Map: © OpenStreetMap contributors

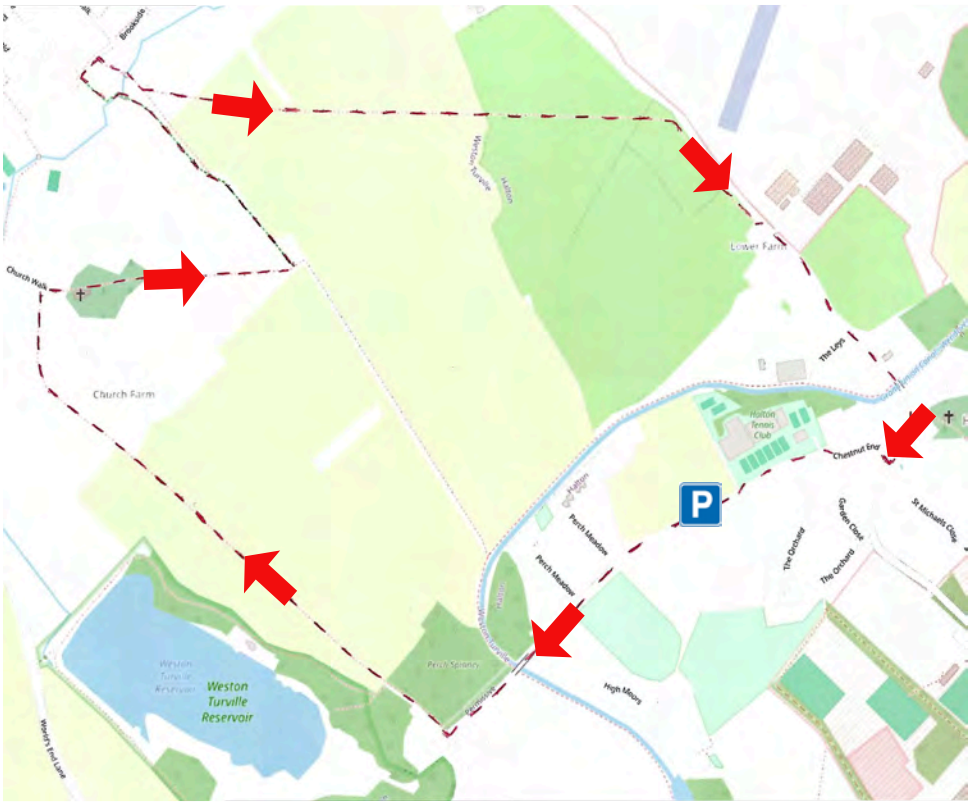
(Equivalent OS Explorer map:181)

NB: streetmap.co.uk will enable you to print off a map with footpaths and field boundaries.

Halton Flyer

Starting from the Halton Tennis Centre, this a medium distance and a flat walk through fields and copses towards Weston Turville, with a return past the airfield and through the historic Rothschild village of Halton.





▶The starting point is the overflow car park at Halton Tennis Centre, Chestnut End (lane) HP22 5PD.

▶From the car park walk down the road and turn right onto Halton Lane.

▶Walk down the lane and over the canal bridge until reaching a layby on the right.

▶Take the footpath signposted Nature Reserve and walk through the small wood until emerging at the entrance to an open field. Do not take the footpath to the left leading into the nature reserve.

▶Follow the footpath ahead passing Church Farm buildings on the right. Climb over the stile at the end of the field and cross the next field staying close to the fence on the right.

▶Leave the field via the gate onto the road and at the junction turn right towards the church. Enter the church yard via the unusual lychgate, follow the path through the small graveyard and into the field behind.

▶Walk diagonally across the field, exit via the kissing gate and take the bridlepath via a wooden gate immediately to the left. This bridlepath heads towards Weston Turville and is bounded on each side with trees and hedgerow.

▶Cross the wooden footbridge, follow the path behind the houses and emerge onto Church Road. Turn right and walk for c100yards and take the signposted footpath on the right between the houses.

▶Follow the footpath crossing the next two fields diagonally going over stiles and through gates. On entering the third field walk towards the left corner where there is a gate leading into the next field. NB: the path across the third field is ill-defined.

▶Walk parallel to the hedge on the left (adjacent to the road) and, ignoring the first gate, carry on until reaching the end of the field. Walk through the next field keeping the hedgerow on the left and emerge via a gate onto the road and opposite Halton airfield.

▶Turn right and walk along the path and through Halton village, cross the bridge over the canal and turn right just past the Old Post Office into Chestnut End and back to the car park.





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Babysitters



The following young people* have offered to babysit:

Name	Born	Contact
Tilly Forrest	Dec 2007	07854 918457
Jemima Pye	Jan 2008	07840 944111
Emma Wrighton-Ward	May 2008	07877 198591

** The inclusion of a name on this list is neither a recommendation nor an endorsement by the What's On in Wing team.*

—/—

N.B. If you would like your name included on this list, please email editorial@whatsoninwing.info **with the same information shown above (please only do this with the approval of your parent or guardian).**

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YOUR STARS for March by *Maggy La Grenouille, MBE*



PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20 You should be feeling great over the next few months. You are a star. An angel. Loved by all. Talented, gifted ... Ah, sorry. That was meant for Scorpio.

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19 Domestic matters come into tension with work issues next week. Worse, on 28th you may wonder why on earth you just didn't stay in bed.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20 Your bright ever-positive disposition will serve you well soon, when friends and family demand a group outing to Ikea. On a Saturday.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20 You may start experiencing some very weird Technicolour 4K dreams. Pay close attention to them. They're telling you something.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22 Try not to let despondency and gloom cast a shadow over your plans. What you had in mind was never going to work, anyway.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22 Your attitude to travel may suffer a blow very soon, so take extra care in Burcott in case the speed camera van comes back sooner than expected.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22 Everything is on the uptick in the next few weeks. Energy, creativity, positivity, dynamism. You'll be driving everyone nuts. Do stop it.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22 You're probably about to spend some considerable time trying to escape reality by watching teen-scream movies and Emmerdale. That should work.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21 Hmm. The absolute magnitude of Casanova will conflict with the commensurability of Amalthea. You can expect to be mooned.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21 You're going to need to choose between living a happy and fulfilled life, full of fun and friendships. Or going to work.

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19 Worried about a relationship? That's just another word for the ferry that's bringing your second cousins from Belgium for a two-week stay.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18 You handled that last birthday with grace and charm. Yes, your partner still loves you. Of course they do. They just forgot. And ran out of time. OK?

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What's On In Wing is published once a month. 1,400 copies are delivered to households, shops, pubs and public buildings in the parish of Wing, and public buildings in neighbouring parishes. It's also available on-line.

Advertising

For **advertising enquiries and bookings**, contact Jacqui Wakefield, on 07518 156853, advertising@whatsoninwing.info

The absolute deadline for reserving advertising space is noon on the 5th of the month preceding publication.

Please supply your ad artwork by email to Jacqui. Artwork must be a jpg to the sizes shown in the table below. *We cannot accept any other kind of artwork.*

Size	Width mm	Depth mm	Price	Parish advertiser
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The absolute deadline for content is noon on the the 15th of Credit or refunds cannot be applied when artwork is provided after the deadline.

To submit **editorial or photographic material**, contact Lance Redler: editorial@whatsoninwing.info

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

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