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WOW!

WHAT'S ON IN WING May 2021



- PARISH COUNCIL NEWS & ELECTION INFORMATION
- LONG SPINNEY NEWS
- HOW DOGS LEARN
- MAKING CHANGES FOR BETTER LIVING
- NATURE NOTES, GARDENING DIARY, AND MORE

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



Very many thanks to everyone who supported us with donations and buying our Easter goodies.

We raised a fantastic **£403** with your help.

Our Blooming Great Tea Party is booked for the afternoon of Wednesday 30 June in the Village Hall and we hope you will come and join us then.

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Ne'er cast a clout 'till May be out.' The old Northern saying is, at the time we're writing this, a bit optimistic. It means keep your winter clothing on, until the May blossom – the hawthorn flowers – are out*. Right now, we're keeping our clouts – whatever they are - on and tightly buttoned, until it gets a bit warmer. Iain Malin talks of a blackthorn winter in this month's Nature Notes *(p17)*, so we know it's not just us who's feeling the chill.

Even so, the days are still lengthening, the temperatures are beginning to creep upwards. And a gradual easing of lockdown restrictions continues. We thought Tony Johnstone's front cover photo of a new dawn creeping up over Wing Clump was about right. Thank you, Tony.

This is a bigger than usual issue of What's On in Wing. That's a sure sign that the village is starting to come out of hibernation – of the seasonal and pandemic kinds – and things are looking up. Activities are cautiously beginning in Wing Hall, work has started on the football pitch. If you're thinking of starting projects in the house or garden, make sure you choose a local tradesmen wherever you can. Who better to do business with than friends and neighbours?

We have elections coming up in a few days. Proper social distancing arrangements are being made for Wing Hall, so you'll be able to turn up and have your say in reasonable safety. We had planned to run an article covering all the candidates. Two of the parties were simply uncontactable. Of the other four parties, only one took the trouble to provide any information. Unable to provide comprehensive coverage, we had to abandon the plan. Wing Parish Council did better than us, and managed to get four out of the eleven candidates to join in an on-line hustings event. There is a link to a recording of that event on the news page of the Parish Council website, and it's worth listening to.

Let's look forward to warmer weather and better times. Meanwhile, maintain your anti-Covid best practice, and keep your clouts on.

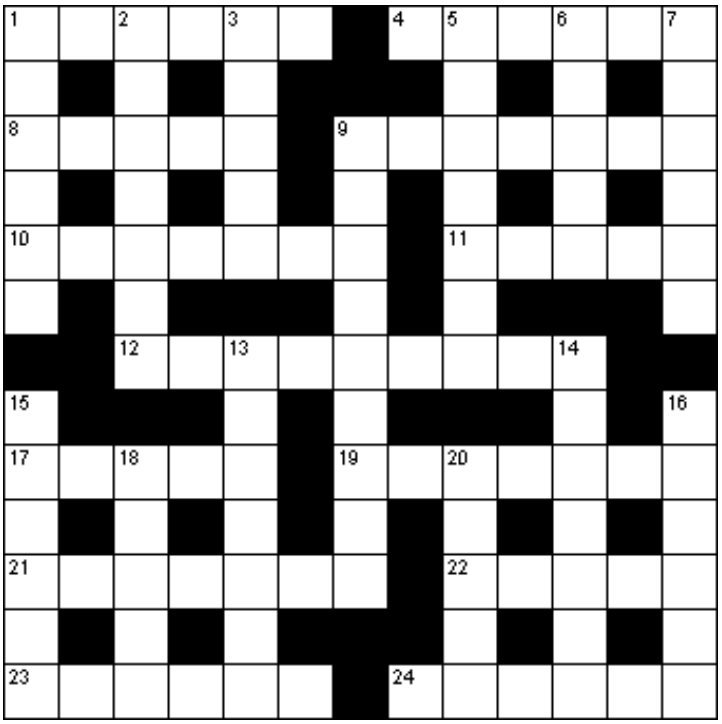
Stay safe, and best wishes,

Joyce and everyone on the What's On team.



**Although others say it means don't turn over any ground in your vegetable patch – don't start spring planting – until the hawthorn blossom's showing.*

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



QUICK CROSSWORD

Solution p 18

Across

1 Language of the Middle East (6)
4 Frankfurter in a bun (3,3)
8 Beautiful girl (5)
9 Fairy queen (7)
10 Foes (7)
11 Asian country (5)
12 Italian restaurant (9)
17 Sworn promises (5)
19 Horrid (7)
21 Own up (7)
22 Evenly matched (5)
23 Sleepy (6)
24 Extolled (6)

Down

1 Saunters (6)
2 Malady (7)
3 Boadicea's people (5)
5 Autumn month (7)
6 Giver (5)
7 Depart (2,4)
9 Laboratory glassware (4,5)
13 Rawness (anag) (7)
14 Amaze (7)
15 Compelled (6)
16 Rode a bike (6)
18 Latin-American dance (5)
20 Contest venue (5)

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From the Vicar …

May services		
Date	Time	
2	1100	Holy Communion
9	1100	Morning Prayer
16	0830	Communion BCP
	1100	People's Praise
23	1100	Holy Communion
30		No service at All Saints
	0900	Holy Communion, Cublington
	0930	Morning Prayer, Wingrave
	1030	Holy Communion, Stewkley

Greetings and warm wishes to you all in this season of Eastertide.

At the point at which I was writing this contribution we were on the eve of the mid-April landmark for the new wave of restriction lifting, and there was clearly a strong sense of déjà vu. My mind was therefore drawn to something that was written back in May 2020 as the restrictions from the first lockdown were being lifted. The writing in question was from a book written by former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, in a book called Candles in the Dark: Faith, Hope and Love in a Time of Pandemic (the book that our Benefice Lent Group was focussing on back in February and March).

Writing on the eve of the 75th anniversary of VE Day Williams notes that, after six years of the deprivation and uncertainty of war, a sense of rest, a return to 'normality' and to something people could 'cope with' was clearly a top priority. However, it didn't stop there, because many people did not consider it sufficient simply that the immediate threat was over. As Williams puts it, 'for them, victory was about opportunity: something new had become thinkable.' He notes the big changes that resulted in the social landscape of Britain as a consequence and speculates on what the modern-day possibilities for such a sense of opportunity might be, not least given the ongoing environmental urgency of our time.

As he too was writing in Eastertide, he was sure to relate this important focus on opportunity to an emphasis on Easter as a new beginning and not as an end – what he calls 'an event that changes forever the landscape in which we live'. The key question, for him, is then whether we are ready and willing to take part in 'whatever creative newness lies ahead' so that we triumph not just over past dangers but also over our own longing for a restored sense of the usual and familiar. We can be liberated from a dependence on past comfort zones and open to new possibilities looking forward not backwards.

As this seems to ring true just as much, if not more, this year than last, it seemed only right to mention it again here – and I commend the book in question to any who may be interested in reading it.

With prayers and best wishes as we move forward together

Andrew Krauss

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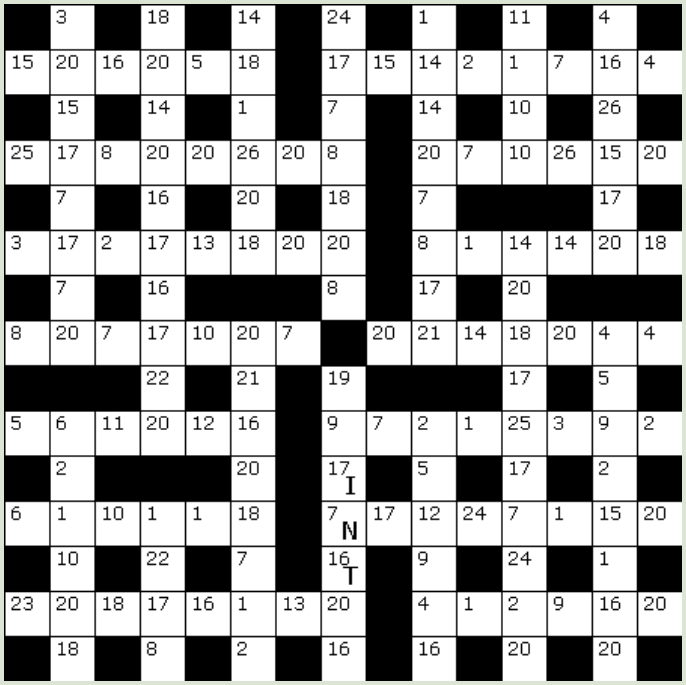
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Made by Sally Barnes in Wing - Contact 01296 688046
sallysababarnes@icloud.com



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Solutions p18

SUDOKU CENTRAL

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

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100 YEARS AGO IN WING

PART FIVE

In August 1920, Lady Harriet Wantage, the last Lady of the Manor of Wing, died at her home in Lockinge. She had inherited the manor from her father, Lord Overstone, but never lived in the village.



By 1924 the two principal landowners of Wing were Lord Dalmeney, and Mrs. de Rothschild, widow of Leopold, who had died in 1917, as had their son Evelyn. Evelyn's brother, Anthony, lived with his mother at Ascott House. 1926 was a good year for him – on 17th April he became engaged to "a charming French woman", Yvonne Cahen D'Anvers, daughter of a Parisian banker, and on the 30th his horse "Pillion" won the 1,000 Guinea Stakes at Newmarket. This was the era when the BBC was allowed to broadcast the Derby, but not allowed to mention the name of the winner!

Everyday life in the twenties was very different for most Wing residents. Unemployed men were put to work repairing the roads which were "in a worse condition than at any time during the past ten years". Most houses still had no telephone, and the quickest way to get a message to someone was by telegram. In 1922 residents protested at the weekly Thursday afternoon closure of the Post Office, which meant that no telegrams could be sent, and asked for a telephone exchange for Wing. The postal service delivered three posts a day, and envelopes were franked with the time of posting. In 1924 the cost of living was as follows: flour 10s 1/2d; sugar 1s 3 1/2d; pale ale (pint) 7d; Daily Mail 1d; and a 10lb wedding cake £1 17s 6d.



A familiar figure of Leighton Road was Jack of all trades, John Redrup, wheelwright, house decorator, carpenter and undertaker. This picture (early 1900's) is taken from "Wing as it was 2". It shows him on the far right, with Herbert, who was church organist (in WWI he enlisted in the Royal Engineers); Frank, who was married to school teacher, Miss Pullen; and young Helen. On the left is bootmaker Bill Capp.

In 1925 young Walter Randall received 2s 6d for rescuing a bull (a princely sum for a 10-year old). Walter had not been allowed to go "rabbiting" with his brothers, and, instead, had wandered through the church yard, where he had found the distressed bull stuck in the fence of a nearby field. He'd fetched his uncle, Joey Randall, the chimney sweep, who alerted Walt Green that his bull was in trouble, and it was duly recovered. Rabbits were then a common source of food, and Walter remembers his "Granny Bull" had a good supply of them hanging up in her house in Vicarage Lane. She would give them to neighbours who were hard up. In 2019, at the age of 104, Walter, by now living in Heath and Reach, was made the first ever Honorary Freeman of Leighton Buzzard for service to his local community.



If you became ill in the 1920's, you would go to surgeon, Dr. Alfred Leigh Chignell (pictured left). By 1920 he was Chairman of the Parish Council, and living at the Chestnuts. A dispensary, set up before WW1, provided funds for the running of Charlotte Cottage Hospital (built by the Rothschilds in 1884). It was very small, with only two beds, but a TB ward had been added in 1911, and Miss Mildred Jones was matron from 1924 to 1931.

Wingheritage.org - please get in touch if you have information to share.

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the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

NEWS FROM WING BRANCH

Once again, the Wing WI have met for a successful meeting via Zoom. This month, one of our own members, Ruth Falcon (a Primary School Teacher and English graduate) gave a talk on the subject of the language and phrases of William Shakespeare.

Ruth began her talk with a rough overview of the state of the English language at the time Shakespeare was writing, explaining that the Early Modern period in the English language (the era in which Shakespeare was writing) is only one language period removed from that which we speak in today, hence why Shakespeare's language is so accessible to us in the modern world. Additionally, Ruth guided us through the grammatical differences between Shakespearian and modern English, demonstrating that there are, in truth, very few.

Ruth also talked on the interesting matter of the words that Shakespeare created, and the quantity of words (roughly 3,000) that the Oxford English Dictionary credit Shakespeare as the inventor. The most interesting being alligator…who would have thought?!

As well as looking closely at spelling and pronunciation at this time, we also discussed the phrases that Shakespeare invented – many of which are still in use today (and many we don't always associate with Shakespeare!). Our favourite, in light of the current situation, was, 'We have seen better days', which comes from As You Like It.

Next month (Thursday 20th May) we are looking forward to meeting together via Zoom for our Resolutions meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the causes that we, as a WI, would like to support in the coming year. We will also be seeking a discussion on how we should celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2023. We would be delighted to welcome any guests who would like to join our meeting. Please get in touch if you would like to hear more about getting involved with your local WI.

President: Maureen Lomas
01296 682915 maureen@lomasfamily.plus.com
Secretary: Pat Jones 01296 682362 pat.jones@talk21.com

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Friends of Long Spinney



Following feedback from our online Facebook campaign, please read the following message.

The Friends of Long Spinney regrets that its request for support for the long-held plan to put one or two picnic benches in the meadow has caused some controversy.

They will be located where, pre-covid, we organised some family picnics and young peoples' activities. The Spinney has depended on its volunteers to maintain and develop it since it was taken over some 5 years ago from Bucks County as an overgrown wilderness closed to the public. We welcome extra help and all volunteers get the opportunity to learn about what is going on and to influence development.

From the outset there was an agreed Management Plan that clearly set out zones within the area so that we gave the most variety possible for public access and enjoyment including redevelopment of the wildlife and vegetation of this one-time Biological Notification Site.

Nearer the houses there are areas for the Scouts and Forest School to enjoy, and the dragonfly sculpture and 'fairy' additions are designed to encourage young people further into the outdoors. At the further ends, there are areas clearly set aside for wildlife – areas where many of our videos of the Roe Deer family and other wildlife have been captured. It can be disappointing when the few less responsible users create new routes, leave the path or indeed enter the wildlife areas, and even trespass in neighbouring fields where there is no right of way, creating issues with other landowners.

There is already a network of strategically placed benches through the site, both to help the less ambulant travel a bit further, but also placed where people can sit quietly and just look at the view. Any new benches will supplement the network and, indeed, we would also like to replace the second-hand one installed by the Young Farmers that is deteriorating.

All infrastructure is maintained solely by the volunteers. Luckily litter is less a problem for us than at other sites but it is always disappointing when a few expect the volunteers to clear up dog-poo bags or other litter after them. Even the bins are presently emptied by volunteers, so you can always help by just taking your litter home.

Clearly we leave it to all the village whether you wish to support this expansion of facilities or not. In truth the area was only acquired from the County on the basis it would not become a load on the Parish Precept (local tax). It depends upon the donation of people's time and funds to make it what we have all so enjoyed during this period of Covid lockdown and generally. This past year has shown a much increased footfall.

The village does have a choice. It can either contribute to the maintenance and development of this area for the benefit of all, or it can agree an increased Precept that would allow the Parish Council to manage the area with contractors, or we can just leave it to revert to an unsafe, overgrown wilderness that it was before the Village adopted it. The benches are just one small addition within that context.

Please send any queries or comments to: longspinneywing@gmail.com

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Health & Wellbeing



by
Natasha Richmond



How many times have you said to yourself 'I'm going to make a change', 'Things will be different', 'I'll start again on Monday'…? And then for those good intentions to get forgotten about - until next time.

Don't worry though, we are all the same. Something will spark off a desire to do better. To eat better, exercise more, get more sleep, drink more water. But it's so easy to lapse and go back to our old comfortable ways.

If I had the definitive answer to this scenario, I would be the richest person on the planet. How do you get it all right all of the time? Well, I partly have the answer, but it's not the quick fix that we want it to be. The answer is that we can't get it all right all of the time.

But the key thing is to keep trying in all areas of your life, and hopefully things will stick and become new habits.

Find a form of exercise that you like. Find healthier food options that are delicious and that you look forward to eating. Don't restrict your food in any way, because it will make you want it more. Try to eat sugary, fatty, salty, processed items less often and maybe save them for one day a week. And the same with alcohol.

Try to book your exercise time into your week like you would with an appointment or a meeting, and then do everything you can to make it happen. And the same with relaxation and making the time to do the things you love.

For the month of May I challenge you to make four changes. Start one new change a week and do whatever you can to stick to it. Write notes and stick them on your walls, get the whole family involved so that you can motivate each other. You could try drinking 2 litres of water per day, going to sleep by 10pm, going for a walk each day, running twice a week, gardening for twenty minutes per day, only eating sugar on a Saturday, eating five portions of fruit and veg per day. The options are endless. Get in touch to tell me what you're doing and how it's going. I'd love to know.

See you in the June issue!

Best wishes,

Natasha

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





The What's On in Wing production team is fast becoming a well-oiled, finely-honed super-efficient team. We run what's cutely known as a buddy-system, where everyone has a helper and a substitute. That means nobody feels too overburdened with responsibility or duty, and the work can be productive and fun, and people can go on holiday, or take some time out, without feeling guilty. We still need someone to help with layout work. It's not difficult. All it requires is a leaning towards things visual, and the ability to work a computer mouse. We'll provide loads of help, and lots of support, and you'll be part of a happy little team that gets a buzz out of doing a little bit for the village. And you'll get some whizzy free software, too.

Fact is – as and when travel restrictions are lifted, the folk currently doing the layout work will vanish. And there's a consequent risk that What's On in Wing will vanish, too. If you think you'd like to know more, without any kind of obligation or commitment, email admin@whatsoninwing.info. You never know. You might discover talents you never knew you had.



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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

New Councillors

Wing Parish Council has recently co-opted two new Councillors, Councillor Andy Hill and Councillor Sheryl Allmark.

Wing Parish Council Election

The Wing Parish Council elections for May are uncontested. From Monday 10th May, your duly elected Parish Councillors will be:

- Councillor Sheryl Allmark
- Councillor Philip Cronshaw
- Councillor Louise Crush
- Councillor Andy Hill,
- Councillor David Kellner,
- Councillor John Lomas,
- Councillor Jonathan Mortain-Cogar and Councillor Liz Tring

The Notice of Election informing people of the election for Parish Councillors, how to obtain nomination papers and where and how to deliver them was published on the Wing Parish Council website news feed, on the Wing Parish Facebook page and on all 6 noticeboards around the village.

From the 10th May, there will be 3 Parish Councillor vacancies which the Council will be able to fill by co-option. If you are interested in becoming a Wing Parish Councillor, please email wingparishclerk@gmail.com or visit https://www.wingparish.org/your-council/who-we-are/become-a-councillor/ for more information and an application form. The first opportunity the Council may consider applications is during the May Council meeting.

County and Parish Councils are looking for a youthful perspective and the views of younger people. You can help to take this out to a younger generation to be involved, so, if you want a new voice and make change, then stand for election / co-option

Invest in the place you live in for the future.

A council is only as strong as the community that supports it. Councillors are not volunteers, but public servants who are unpaid and do it voluntarily, and all council work is underpinned by local legislation.

You do not have to be retired! Anyone over the age of 18 can join.

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The skills you gain are transferable and **add value to your CV and career.**

The younger generation use **social media** with ease, a great skill to bring to a local Council.

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Photo: ©James Inglis

Buckinghamshire Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley Elections

Both the Buckinghamshire Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley elections are taking place on Thursday 6th May. The polling station for Wing is the Village Hall and polling hours are between the hours of 7am and 10pm. Three candidates will be elected for the Wing Ward.

The candidates for the Wing Ward, Buckinghamshire Council elections are:

- Diana Blamires (Conservative)
- Ashley Bond (Conservative)
- Peter Cooper (Liberal Democrat)
- Sanchia Davidson (Liberal Democrat)
- Justin Farrington-Smith (Conservative)
- Poonam Gupta (Liberal Democrat)
- Georgina Heyburn (Freedom Alliance)
- Louise Howitt (Bucks Residents Association)
- Janet Pentony (Green Party),
- Alexandria Rakowska (Labour)
- Ian Wells (Labour)

The candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley are:

- Matthew Barber (Conservative)
- Laetisia Carter (Labour and Co-Operative)
- John Howson (Liberal Democrat)
- Alan Robinson (Independent)

Wing Recreation Ground Project Update

The football pitch work is underway to level and reseed the currently fenced area. Depending on how well the reseeding of the area takes, it is intended the football pitch will be ready for the start of the 2021-22 football season.

A meeting of the recreation ground project working party took place on Wednesday 21st April with a report being given to the Parish Council at the April meeting.

Wing Village Sign



The new Wing village sign was erected on Saturday 10th April.

Wing Parish Annual Meeting

The Annual Wing Parish meeting is being held on Tuesday 4th May at 8pm on zoom. Community groups are invited to attend and give a short talk on their projects and aspirations for the coming year.

This meeting is not a Council meeting but is for all electors within the Parish.

The agenda will be available on the village noticeboards, the Facebook pages, https://www.wingparish.org/your-council/meetings/minutes/ and other locations around the village.

Parish Council Information

For more information on news and updates from the Wing Parish Council, please find and Like us on Facebook @WingParishCouncil or visit our website www.wingparish.org.

If you would like to read the minutes of the monthly Council meetings, they are available at https://www.wingparish.org/your-council/meetings/minutes/

If you would like to get in touch with the Parish Council, please either email wingclerks@gmail.com, use the contact form on the website https://www.wingparish.org/have-your-say/ or give the clerks a call on either 07415 296793 or 07739 430809.

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WING WOMENS INSTITUTE

Thursday 20th May 2021

To be held on Zoom ⍰ links in newsletter

Resolutions Evening

This meeting will be a discussion of the resolution going to the National Annual Meeting on June 8th 2021. Does Wing branch support the motion?

"A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer"

+



Wing WI was founded in 1923. Do you have any really good ideas about how best to celebrate this? Discussion to be held at the end of the Resolutions meeting.

Thinking of joining WI or would like more information about Wing Branch and our programme for 2021? Then please contact:-

President: Maureen Lomas
☏ **Wing 682915** □ **maureen@lomasfamily.plus.com**
Secretary: Pat Jones
☏ **Wing 682362** □ **pat.jones@talk21.com**

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Country Notes

by Iain Malin

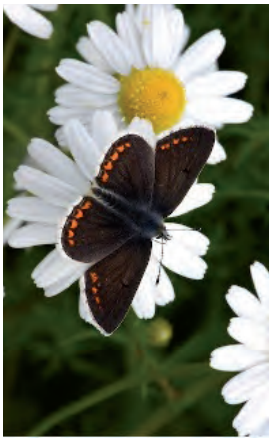
I think May is the most exciting month of the year for a naturalist. Everything is fresh, the trees are now showing a lush new growth,more vivid, now having just come out of winter. Many of our trees will now be flowering and asthma sufferers will know it. Last month was quite spectacular with more blackthorn flowers than I have ever seen, like snow on the hedges. As is often the case, at the same time we went through a very unusually cold spell with below average temperatures with frosts and snow flurries. This is what country folk call a Blackthorn Winter. It will affect the amount of sloes and plums this coming winter. It is a good time to look at our only deciduous pine tree, the larch. New cones are forming now and are a lovely red colour amongst the new needles.



Our summer migrant birds mainly arrived last month and paired and started breeding straight away. Birds like the chiffchaff and willow warbler will have their small ball shaped nests on the ground along with our resident skylark. Many unfortunately are lost to predators. However, we must play our part - many are lost to dog disturbance, which it is why it is so important to keep to footpaths and keep those dogs under control. Skylarks used to be so common but even they are suffering and their numbers are falling.



May will still see two more migrant birds arrive, the spotted flycatcher and the swift. A few years ago spotted flycatchers could be seen in every village. Now they are so rare that I know of only one local breeding pair. Birdwatchers try and spot them as they pass through on migration. Swifts are also decreasing. I still have them at my house and over the years they arrive back on the same date, 6th May. There is hope for swifts after many years of building improvements, which exclude them. There's a program in Aylesbury, building in thousands of Swift nest cavities to the new houses going up at the moment. Hopefully this will happen in other parts of the country.



May is a big month for butterflies with 12 species beginning their flight and their breeding period this month. Orange tips, green hairstreak, brown argus, common blue, small heath, small copper and three species of the whites all to be found around the village. So please don't be so tidy and get rid of all those weeds. Many are the food plants for the caterpillars. Stinging nettles are the food plant for small tortoiseshell, red admiral, peacock and comma. All butterfly breeding periods are timed for when there is the greatest abundance of flowers, to provide plenty of nectar for the adults. So go out and enjoy the beauty that nature provides this month. Next month will see the longest day - and we all know what happens after that...

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Friends of Long Spinney

Many of us have been enjoying our walks through Long Spinney this last year. It's been a wonderful place to escape to especially as we have had to stay close to home.



This summer may see many families staying in the UK so the Friends of Long Spinney would like to enhance our summer by installing a picnic bench or two.

We can't put on an event yet but this is a fabulous way to contribute. To donate please go to the Gofundme page on the link below: https://www.gofundme.com/f/picnic-benches-for-the-long-spinney . As soon as we have the funds, we will install the first picnic bench for all of us to use and enjoy.

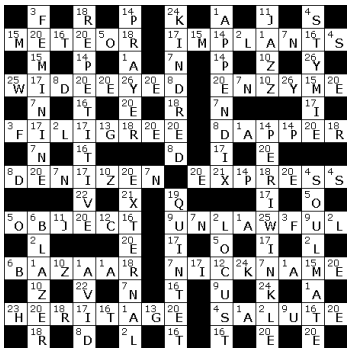
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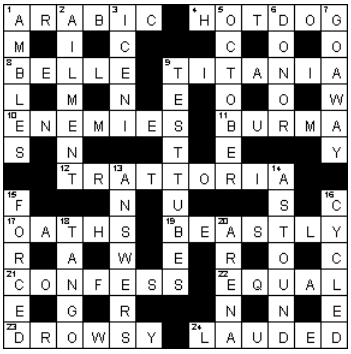
Friends of Long Spinney

SOLUTIONS

Codeword solution



Crossword solution



Sudoku solution

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

TALKING DOG

with Neil Smith



HOW DOGS LEARN

To educate your puppy / dog from an early age is so important, in order to achieve a well behaved, well mannered pet.

Puppies have no concept between right and wrong so it is our responsibility to educate them. This allows them to achieve their full potential throughout their lives. Dogs have two types of behaviour, innate behaviour which comes from their DNA and learned behaviour which they get from their experiences in the world.

Different breeds have different innate behaviour and certain traits are more pronounced in certain breeds, eg: herding in collies - causing them to want to round up groups, Greyhounds love the chase, gun dogs like to hunt and retrieve. So these characteristics can be positive or negative eg: cocker spaniels will want to bring objects to you and interact with you which makes for positive bonding but the downside is they can quickly learn to get pleasure self hunting and doing their own thing. Once learnt it can be hard to reverse.

Innate behaviour can lead to owners looking to re home dogs that have been categorised as having problems, when in fact it is just displaying normal behaviour for the breed. For example: German Shepherd dogs quickly learn that if they bark aggressively at something it generally moves away, this has the desired effect when protecting their home. However if this continues when outside it can be deemed as an aggressive dog. In fact this is normal behaviour that just needs to be channelled.



Learned behaviour is much easier to manipulate and shape with ongoing training. When training begins there are two key ingredients, firstly a reason for the dog to carry out a behaviour and secondly the ability of the handler to influence how the dog reacts. If the behaviour has pleasant consequences, then the behaviour is likely to be repeated and on the other hand, if the behaviour has an unpleasant consequence then it is less likely to be repeated.

Bear in mind that negative consequences must be implemented within 2 seconds of the unwanted behaviour for the dog to link the behaviour with the consequence. This is also the rule when rewarding desired behaviour. Getting the timing right will allow the dog to make the correct decision leading to success in training. Training dogs should be black & white - not grey.

Neil Smith is a professional dog trainer, who runs Three Counties Pet Dog Training, based in Wing.





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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The village sign has been restored,
A feature we can all applaud,
Greeting those who pass through Wing
On their way out, or their way in.
It draws attention to Wing's past,
Depicting buildings made to last:
The rare old church of Saxon date
And the village hall we venerate.
The hall has had its roof made good
And the dedication carved in wood.
It's ready to be used again –
We know it will, just don't know when.
We see the clock on the church tower
Which marks our time as it chimes the hour.
But over centuries, stone-work decays,
Now the mortar has seen better days.
But it too will be repaired with skill,
This landmark high up on the hill.
Weather-beaten, it still stands,
Though built by Medieval hands.



Today it's flag flies at half mast
As a mark of respect for a life just passed -
For a man who never came to Wing,
But gave his Sovereign everything.
He was always in the public eye,
Cracked jokes that often went awry,
But amused his wife and made her laugh,
A fillip for his Other Half.

c Sally April 9th 2021

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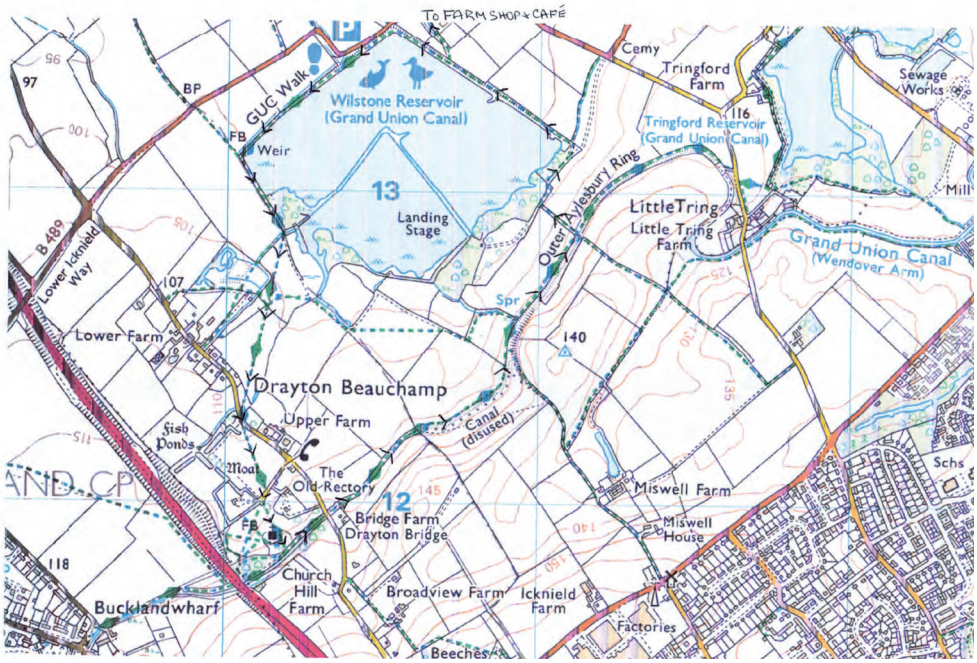
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OUT & ABOUT

with Gill Jeffries

A May Walk

- Park in the small car park at the bottom of Wilstone reservoir on the B489
- Walk up the steps and turn right along the reservoir edge keeping it on your left
- Turn left along the next side through the trees
- At a T junction on the path turn right over a little bridge into a field
- Cross the field diagonally to a gate
- Pass into the next field then a paddock crossing both diagonally
- Turn left onto the road then take the footpath a little way up on the right
- Cross the next field diagonally
- Turn right into a lane and follow the lane round a left hand bend to the church
- Walk into the churchyard and, keeping the church on your right, exit the churchyard at the rear fence, down the steps and onto the towpath of the Wendover arm of the canal
- Turn left and walk along the towpath
- Just after the second wooden bridge over the canal, No. 4, take the footpath on the left away from the canal through the trees
- At the bottom of the path turn right along a wide track
- Follow the track to a turning on the left.
- Turn left back towards Wilstone reservoir
- Walk along the edge of the reservoir until you reach the steps back to the car park.



PE Mead and Sons Farm Shop and café can be reached by taking the steps down from the reservoir at the end of the walk before getting back to the car park steps. There is a prominent sign to show the way.

OS Explorer 181
Streetmap.co.uk will enable you to print off a map with footpaths and field boundaries.
Approx. 3 miles 4.8 km 1 hour

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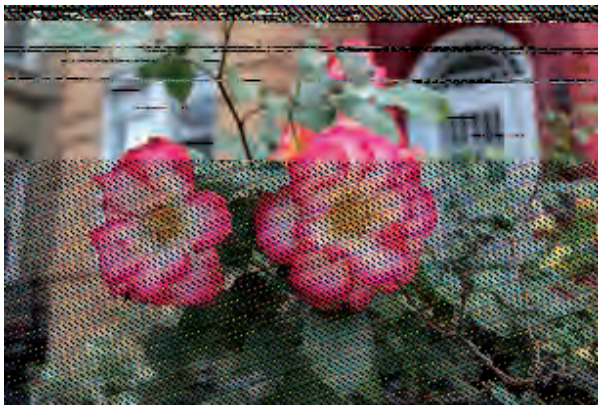
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Gardener's Diary

by Ginny Hollas, Wing Gardening Club

This is a lovely time of year for us gardeners with much to do. There were some very hard frosts which will have left gaps where plants have not survived or in a newly designed bed, so many will be heading for the garden centre or nursery for new stock. Before you do, here are a few thoughts to ponder on before you venture out. Do you know where you want to site the plants? Is it in shade or sun, dry or damp or does it need to be tall or short? Having these facts available will save disappointing failures from plants in the wrong situation.



Think about those beautifully displayed plants. Many have had a much pampered life, raised in perfect compost, with ideal amounts of water, heat and light, they beg to be bought to enhance your patch. Will they? Plunging them into cold, inhospitable soil, being besieged by pests, suffering sudden changes in temperature and suffering drowning or drought, it is no wonder many do not survive.

Before buying have a good look at the plant. You do not want to pick one in full bloom, lovely though it might look but the flowers will soon fade. Look for those with lots of buds or that will bloom later, giving a much longer period to admire their beauty. Read the label, this is so important. Check how tall and wide a plant will grow, we have all brought in thugs that take over a border. Look at the compost to see you are not importing perennial weeds. Plants in big pots are expensive but sometimes have recently been potted on and you are just paying for extra compost. You can see this by the loose compost and lack of any sign of roots coming from the bottom. Often you may find a smaller pot with a well-established plant for much less.

When you get home, give the plants a good water and time to acclimatise before you plant them out. Lots of bedding plants will not have been hardened off, so leave them for at least a week in a sheltered place to get used to the conditions in your garden. Hardy plants need less care but always checking for vine weevils that eat the roots and kill plants. Take the plant out of the pot and look for the fat grubs. If the roots are growing round in circles, gently untangle them before planting. It will not matter if you break a few as if left they will continue to grow round in circles and never thrive.

The roses will be starting to bloom so make sure you have fed them well and have tied in new growth on climbers, then sit back and enjoy their beauty!

Don't forget to pick up a bargain at the Garden Club plant sale in Prospect Place on 22 May.

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

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PROMPT Register

Latest News from All Saints Church, Wing

ALL SAINTS CHURCH WING RECEIVES A LIFELINE GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S CULTURE RECOVERY FUND

All Saints Church in Wing has received a financial boost from the government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help fund restoration work on our tower during the coronavirus pandemic. Lifeline grants from the Culture Recovery Fund are designed to protect heritage sites and ensure that jobs and access to culture and heritage in local communities are protected during the months ahead.

All Saints Church in Wing has been awarded £25,000 towards the costs of high level masonry repairs to tower parapets, masonry consolidation and pointing repairs to tower interior, external low level stonework repair and conservation trials to tower south elevation. The balance of costs will be covered by our Church. Donations to this fund can be made through the AChurchNearYou website https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/361/

Grants of up to £25,000 are being allocated to cherished heritage sites, like All Saints, across the country to cover urgently needed maintenance and repairs. This vital funding comes from a part of the Culture Recovery Fund called the Heritage Stimulus Fund and is administered on behalf of the government by Historic England. As well as rescuing precious heritage buildings in need, the injection of cash will protect livelihoods for some of the most vulnerable heritage specialists and contractors working in the sector.

Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, said: "These grants will help the places that have shaped our skylines for hundreds of years and that continue to define culture in our towns and cities. We're protecting heritage and culture in every corner of the country to save jobs and ensure it's there for future generations to enjoy."

All Saints in the village of Wing is a Saxon church. The crypt dates from 650AD and current thinking is that it contained relics of saints and was a place of pilgrimage. The importance of All Saints church in terms of its history and architecture cannot be underestimated. It is visited by academics and enthusiasts from all over the world who come to see and imagine what a large, Saxon place of worship looks and feels like.

Rev. Howard Robson, Team Rector of Cottesloe benefice said "All Saints is delighted to receive this grant which will help us to complete the first stage of our tower restoration".

Duncan Wilson, Historic England Chief Executive said: "Historic places across the country are being supported by the Government's grants awarded under the Culture Recovery Fund. This funding is a lifeline which is kick-starting essential repairs and maintenance at many of our most precious historic sites, so they can begin to recover from the damaging effects of COVID-19". "It is also providing employment for skilled craft workers who help keep historic places alive and the wheels of the heritage sector turning. Our shared heritage is an anchor for us all in these challenging times and this funding will help to ensure it remains part of our collective future."

For more information contact: Rosemary Robinson roserob75@gmail.com

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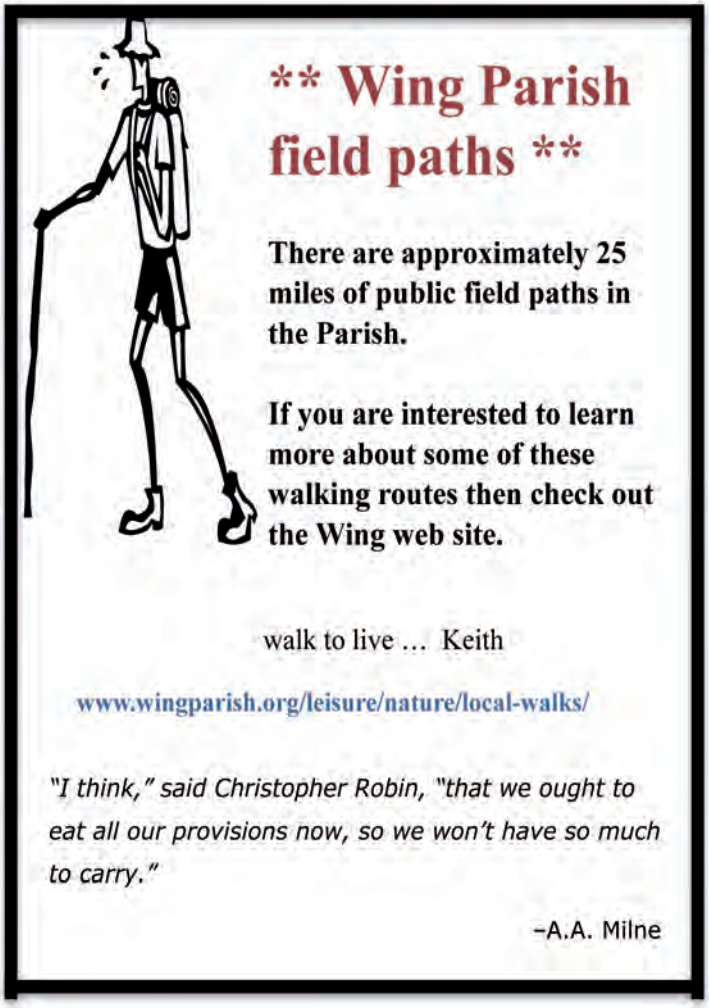
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