

# The WOODCHESTER Word

Issue 36 - December 2011

## Ringing the changes

This time last year we looked back at a year which seemed full of disasters - natural ones including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, monsoons and floods, as well as the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and the Copiapo mining accident in Chile. 2011 has been the year of revolution in the Middle East and financial uncertainty across the world, with issues of the global economy likely to dominate much in our lives in 2012. On a more parochial level, the New Year looks set to see many changes in our own community, some small and others more significant if not necessarily immediately obvious to all.

We all wait to see what will happen to the Convent so sadly vacated by the last of the Sisters of the Poor Clares. The Convent has played a truly significant part in the history of the village for the last 150 years and it is to be hoped that the same will be true of whatever role it is destined to follow in the future.

The renovation of the St Mary's Church spire is now complete, and hopefully the splendid improvements will be appreciated by all who use and see the magnificent church for many years to come.

Stephen Bowen, who has been rector at St Mary's for nearly 14 years is moving to a new parish in Cheltenham. Stephen has been a key figure within the church, at the Endowed School, and in the wider community. His final contribution to the Woodchester Word is on the back cover. He will be much missed and the prayers and good wishes of the whole village go with him in his new post.

According to some, 2012 will see the end of the world - December 21st 2012 is a date of major significance in the much-studied (but little understood) Mayan calendar and there are other purported predictions of imminent apocalypse from European, African, and Asian belief systems.

Hopefully the reality will be that we can all look forward to an improving financial climate and the same hope as this time last year - that 2012 brings more peace and less suffering in those troubled countries, and more joy and harmony to all in our Parish, and across the world.

Happy Christmas and a joyful and peaceful New Year to all our readers.

## Hope - the lifeline



Here's to a Merry Christmas,  
Here's to a bright New Year.  
Let's put aside doubt and anger  
And hope longed for peace is near.

I'm afraid there will always be sorrow,  
Along with pain and despair.  
There's bound to be utter confusion  
When we wonder is God ever near.

I think of countless aching hearts  
To them Christmas won't mean a thing.  
May we wish comfort and solace  
After winter must surely come spring.

So welcome the old traditions  
Sing carols, ring bells, reflect and speak  
Of the awesome wonder of Christmas.  
Let hope be the lifeline we seek.

*(Lanteglos Parish News, December 2005)*

### Village Carols

The village carols will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. A mummers play will be performed at The Ram at 6.30 and Nailsworth Silver Band will play carols at The Royal Oak at 6.45. Both groups will then walk to the village green for a Nativity play and carol singing accompanied by the band at 7.15, where mulled wine and mince pies will be served. All are welcome!

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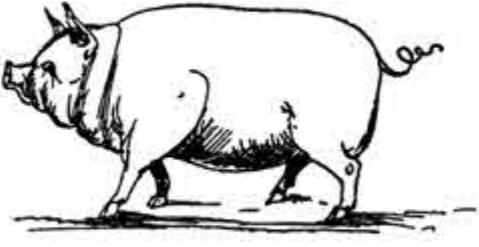
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# Parish Council Update

## Changing faces at the Council

Councillor Penny Brown, who has been actively involved with the work of the Parish Council and, in particular, its planning subcommittee and village events, has recently retired so we are now looking for somebody to replace her. Should you be interested in applying please contact the Parish Clerk as soon as possible, who will be happy to supply you with further information as to the role. It is an excellent opportunity to be involved in Woodchester and to influence its future. The only qualifications are to be a resident of the Parish and to be over 18. The closing date was November 21<sup>st</sup>. The Parish Council will interview the shortlisted applicants and agree to co-opt one of them. Please note that the selected candidate will retire with all the other Parish Councillors in May 2012 when local council elections are due to be held. Any Parish Councillor may stand again at that time for re-election.

At the same time our Parish Clerk, Duschanka Sutherland is moving on. She has ably served the Parish Council for the past two years and will be greatly missed. We are looking for a replacement when she leaves us at the end of November. The post is a part time one involving ten hours work a week-salary dependent on experience but starting at a rate of £8.34p per hour. We are looking for somebody with good communication, computing and administrative skills, preferably familiar with basic finance spread sheets. An opportunity for further training will be offered to the successful candidate. The closing date for applications was 23<sup>rd</sup> November. If there are no suitable applicants the search will continue, so if you know of anyone who may like the job please check if there is still a vacancy.

## A Luncheon Club for Woodchester?

The idea of a luncheon club is to provide a sociable hot meal for older members of the community which is paid for by those who use it. It has been suggested that Woodchester residents might like to set up such a service but it would require someone to organise and run it depending on demand. The parish council would not be directly involved but would certainly help in getting things off the ground provided there was sufficient demand for a club. Any one interested in volunteering to do this is asked to contact the editor of the Woodchester Word within the next four weeks.

## War Memorial

Residents will see that the final cleaning and restoration of the War Memorial is now complete and was the focus of the Remembrance Day Service on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Parish Council is grateful to Richard Haines of Woodchester House for paying for the work to be undertaken and has agreed to set aside a sum of money to ensure the Memorial is properly maintained in the long term.

## Village Design Statement & Revised Village Plan

Following much hard work by Councillor Peter Lead and his team, the VDS and supporting material has gone to Conrad Moore of Stroud District Council for his approval. Once he is satisfied it will need to be adopted by the District Council, at the earliest around March/April 2012. Once it has been approved it will be used as part of the planning process.

The revised and updated Parish Plan is expected to be ready by March 2012. In the meantime a draw was taken following suggestions submitted by residents for inclusion in the plan. The winner of the Kindle (or the alternative £100 cash prize) was Andy Dean. It is not too late to input your suggestions for improving Woodchester, by e-mailing or speaking to the Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

## Village Carols

The village carols will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. The Nailsworth Silver Band has been booked. This year it will start at the Ram and the Royal Oak and converge at St. Mary's. If you would like to participate in the Nativity Play or help mull and serve wine please contact Rhiannon Wigzell on 01453 872353.

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## Queen's Diamond Jubilee, June 2012

The Events Committee is suggesting that Woodchester should focus its celebrations on 'The Big Jubilee Lunch' to be held next year on Sunday 3 June. This is an event which, with the support of Buckingham Palace, communities throughout the Country will be joining in to mark the occasion.

The inspiration of the founder of the Eden Project, Big Lunches have become an annual summer event in recent years. The nature of the events can vary but the philosophy behind them is to draw communities together in friendship and fun. A 'bring and share' format is seen by us as the best way to achieve this. Also important is the involvement of all those who want to have an input - large or small - to the arrangements and organisation and, of course, we hope on 3<sup>rd</sup> June itself for a repeat of the amazing support you have given previous events.

So, whether you want a picnic or a street party, together with duck racing or sheepdog trials, let us have your thoughts. If you would like to join the Events Committee, specifically to help with the planning of this event, or more generally, please get in touch with Penny Brown or the Committee Secretary, Dawn Lead.

(continued)

## Around the Village

We will meet early in January to discuss the arrangements in detail. A venue has yet to be found, so if you think your garden, field, or driveway might be suitable please get in touch with Dawn or Penny. More information on the 'Big Lunch' can be found at [info@thebiglunch.com](mailto:info@thebiglunch.com).

### Produce Show, September 2012

The Produce Show will next year be on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September. There will be an exhibition, to mark the Jubilee, by the Woodchester Historical Society in St Mary's Church as well as teas and stalls on the Church Green.

### Events Committee

The Events Committee is an informal group which holds the funds, (arising initially from the last street party), to enable community events to take place. It is not a sub committee of the Parish Council and any resident or representative of an organisation based in the Parish is welcome to volunteer. A small core of regular members, many of whom are committed in other aspects of parish life, would welcome your ideas and assistance. For more information about village events, contact Penny Brown (tel 01453 873431, e-mail [davidbrown140@btinternet.com](mailto:davidbrown140@btinternet.com)) or Dawn Lead (01453 832383, email [peterdawnlead@aol.com](mailto:peterdawnlead@aol.com)).

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### Woodchester Endowed School

The 20 children who joined us this year in our reception class have all settled in really well and bring the school numbers to 139. We are really pleased with the progress all our children are making and it is lovely to see the range of talents and skills that they develop throughout their years. This week a group of our brass instrument players took part in a workshop in Gloucester and their confidence was reported as an example to all. They will be playing at our Christmas Fair planned for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 5pm which I'm sure will be a treat for all. It is always nice to have local residents join us for this so please do so if you can.

Our football team are also performing really well and are now through to the finals day of the Stroud schools 6-a-side competition. It is great to see the pride the children take in representing our school and the enjoyment they all get from taking part in sporting activities.

Our latest 'focus week' gave all the children in school the chance to learn about toys; both modern and dating back through the years. Opportunities were taken to visit the Stroud Museum in the Park and the Gloucester Folk Museum which brought even more of the learning to life for the children. Interestingly, this seems to have led to a revival of the simple hula-hoop which is now a big hit in the playground! After Christmas, our next focus theme will be 'Under the Sea'. If any local residents have any expertise in this area we would certainly be pleased to hear from you. Not surprisingly, our summer theme will link in with the Olympics in London. We are already planning our own 'Games' with an opening ceremony and torch relay.

Like so many in the village we experienced real mixed emotions when learning of Stephen Bowen's departure from the parish. We have such close links to the church and Stephen's support, enthusiasm and friendship will be greatly missed by us all. We had a lovely send off for him in school with staff, governors and parents sharing afternoon tea and wishing him well as he embarks on his next challenge over in Cheltenham.

Many thanks again for contributions to our bag2school collection. A huge heap of bags was sent off and valuable funds raised for the school in the process. (Mr Gordon Soutar, Headteacher)

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### St Dominic's Primary School

As 2011 draws to a close it is encouraging to look back over the year and reflect upon areas of progress and development within the life of our school. We have now been an academy for a couple of months and this has given the Governors increased freedom to pursue our vision. It has been a tremendously busy year in many ways and I am sure will continue to be so.

Some of you may have seen the feature on the television about the apiary in the top field; we are hoping that the link with Stroud Beekeepers continues to strengthen through the years ahead and that this initiative develops into a wonderful resource for the local community and encourages children to develop an awareness and interest in the natural world and in particular beekeeping. The children are currently busy designing labels for the honey which has now been extracted and will be on sale at the Christmas Bazaar on the 3rd December starting at 12:30pm. Please come and support this event if you can.

Recent enhancements to our environment include the retiling of our outside classroom, building a new shed to house PE equipment (with a living roof!) and replacing all lighting in the classes. Hopefully all these refurbishments will help us become greener and eventually enable us to achieve the 'Eco School' award – something to work towards during 2012.

The choir will once again be taking part in 'Young Voices' at the NEC, Birmingham on 1<sup>st</sup> December and they will also be singing at the Goodwill evening in Nailsworth on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Our infant plays will be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30 am and 6:00 pm. All are very welcome. I would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to keeping you informed during 2012! (Margaret Smith – Headteacher)

# Around the Village

## 1<sup>st</sup> Woodchester Brownies and Guides

We are very pleased to announce that after Barn Owl moved away we have found a replacement Leader, called Sapphire Owl. This means that we are able to accept new girls into the Unit as we can now maintain our child:adult ratio.

The new girls who have already joined will soon be making their Promise and with Christmas approaching we will be busy with Christmas activities, including taking part in the Nailsworth Goodwill Evening and the end of term Christmas party.

Brownies are open to girls aged 7 – 9 years. Please contact Jackie on 01453 821258 for further details.

The Guides will spend much of the remainder of this term working in their Patrols planning and carrying out their own activities, gaining Go-For-It certificates which form part of their Year Challenge Badge. There will be the obligatory Christmas party at the end of term.

Guides are open to girls aged 10 – 13 years. Please contact Jackie on 01453 821258 for further details.

## Woodchester Historical Society

The next meeting of the society will be on Tuesday 6 March at 7:30pm in the Undercroft of St Mary's Church, North Woodchester. Bruce Hall will speak on 'Cotswold Canals Past, Present and Future'.

Admission is £2 for members, £3 for non members. All are welcome.

## Stroud Beekeepers Association

The bees are now closed up in their hives with plenty of stores ready to over winter after a confusing year for them.

Without doubt, the year has confused not only us but also the bees, as they started swarming as early as March and as late as August whereas normally it is June and July.

At our new apiary we started the season with bees that had suffered through the winter with nosema (bee sickness) and struggled to get well. However we have ended the season with 10 strong colonies and hope to have much healthier bees next year. We now have a new training shed that will provide accommodation for teaching and wet weather cover.

As you will read in St Dominic's report, SBKA and the school are developing together an educational centre for all to enjoy that promotes the importance of the honeybee and our environment. We will have a small bog garden, orchard, plants and trees that are pollen and nectar bearing and allowing part of the field to develop a wild flower area.

We are also working with the British Beekeeping Association to start a junior branch in the spring of next year that will be able to teach young people the art of beekeeping. During the winter we will be running training courses and enjoying several talks all of which are promoted on our website: [www.bbka.org.uk/local/stroud](http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/stroud)

## Orchard Pastures Update

At the Village Produce Show in September the Orchard Pastures stall and children's quiz run by SWALT members proved popular. Sales of both mirabelle plum and blackberry & apple jam were brisk and with allotment produce, including Woodchester's biggest pumpkin, up for auction, about £50 was raised for Inishfree and the Woodchester Events Fund.

While the sponsored trees in the orchard are too young to put out fruit yet, in October over 30 villagers took up the invitation to bring their windfalls to an apple pressing session. Countless apples were crushed and much juice was produced and taken home; will there be cider to follow?

Speaking of cider: what do a sing-song, a shotgun and slices of cider-doused toast have in common? The answer – as the 50 or so people who braved the elements last January will know – is that they are all essential elements of an Orchard Wassail. This is the ancient tradition of singing and drinking to the health of apple trees in the hope of a good harvest for the coming year.

This season's Wassail will take place on Saturday, January 15th at 4 pm. Everyone welcome – the more the merrier (and the better next year's apple crop will be).

By that date, Orchard Pastures will have five more residents. Five hens (and no cockerel!) will be moving in before Christmas.

For further information about our project and its aims, please email Gary Brown, [swalt.org@googlemail.com](mailto:swalt.org@googlemail.com)



## Around the Village

### Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau

As we approach the Christmas season it seems appropriate to remind you of the work done by the Stroud and District Citizens Advice Bureau. Its aim is to advise people on their rights and responsibilities in trying to find a resolution to the problems they face. It seems that in many ways the Bureau is in fact one of the emergency services. An illustration of this is given below by one of our volunteer advisers.

*A man came to the bureau extremely stressed and unable to think straight because of his multiple problems. He became visibly less agitated as his discussion with the adviser helped him to consider the options available and left him better able to deal with the issues confronting him.*

Last year the Bureau helped over 3,700 such people, of whom 28 came from this ward. After a first interview those who can help themselves are encouraged to do so. Some, where appropriate, are redirected to organisations that can help while others need more help from the Bureau. Last year, advisers wrote over 3,200 letters and made over 900 phone calls to third parties.

Effective advice requires expertise and understanding and often calls for investigative skills on the part of the adviser in order to get to the bottom of the issue. None of this comes without cost. Many people do not realise that the bureau is a charity. It is grateful for the support it receives from Stroud District Council, without whose help it would be unable to continue, but increasingly it has to turn to local people to maintain the service. We are asking you to consider supporting the Bureau this Christmas, when we are most aware of those in our community who need help.

We are enormously grateful to those who have already decided to support the Citizens Advice Bureau. If you feel you can support the Bureau with a standing order, please note that the Coventry Building Society (formerly Stroud and Swindon), has committed to doubling the value of new standing orders (up to the value of £15,000) for one year. So your donation achieves even more!

For more information please contact us via the editor or visit the website [www.strouddistrict.org.uk](http://www.strouddistrict.org.uk). If you would like to give on-line, please follow the links from the website to Virgin Money Giving. Thank you!  
Ann Horner (Fund Raising Committee)

### Woodchester Endowed School Christmas Fair

Friday 9th December is the date for the ever-popular Woodchester Endowed School Christmas Fair. This year there will be lots of stalls for adults and children, with a children's craft & activity area. Father Christmas will be visiting the Grotto and mulled wine and mince pies will be served. The Fair starts at 5:30pm.

### Next Issue.....

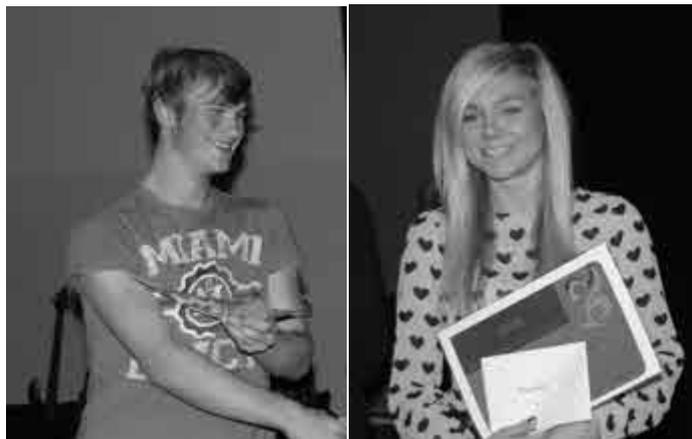
The next issue will be Easter 2012. The closing date for copy and advertising is 3rd March and the issue will be distributed on March 24th.

### Sir William Romney's School

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, we celebrated the exam success of our Year 11 students who left in the summer.

Of the many who received awards, two students from South Woodchester are mentioned here. Rhiannon Evans received Attainment Prizes in Art & Design and Religious Studies. She also received a Progress Prize for Dance. Rhiannon was in fact nominated for several Progress awards and was subsequently selected for the Lewis Progress Prize for the student who had made the most progress during the year. Leo Ward won the Drama Attainment Prize, together with a prize for Service to School Music.

Congratulations to them both and to all the prize winners.



### Mobile Police Station

The East Gloucestershire Mobile Police Station will visit South Woodchester at 11:00-11:30 on the following dates:

December: 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

January: 5<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

February: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>

The schedules for each month are published two months in advance and the schedules are posted on the Gloucestershire Constabulary website at [www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk), or contact PCSO PJ Bowman on 07734 068276.

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# Times Past

## The Dudbridge Donk Trail

I am hitting the trail of the old Dudbridge rail  
Where the 'Dudbridge Donk' ambled along,  
Altho' saddle sore, it's a pain I'll endure  
For the sake of the sentiment strong.

There's many a tale of the Dudbridge rail  
That maligned old 'Donk' of the past,  
She wasn't a breed recognised by her speed  
But by steam and her shrill whistle blast.

I rode on this thro' the Woodchester Vale  
On the iron horse year after year,  
By day and by night, but not ever a sight  
Of an injun or bellowing steer.

She travelled each day on the permanent way  
Putting all other transport to shame,  
A modern day house with this dynamic force  
Would endure the annals of fame.

When loaded with mail, through snowstorm or gale  
This old donkey had fire in her heart,  
Then up came a clown and he had her put down  
Obsolete as the donkey and cart.

The 'donkey' has gone but the trail still lives on  
With no signals and no shining rails,  
I've bought a new steed of the two wheel breed  
For my ride on the new Dudbridge trail.

I ride old-of-tooth down the trail of my youth  
On my own iron horse without rails,  
No fire left to feed and no guard do I see  
Just to look out for bent rusty nails.

I'm riding along with my sentiment strong  
And a felling of ecstatic pride,  
Tranquility reigns and there's no sign of trains  
On the 'Dudbridge Donk' bicycle trail.

I'm hitting the trail feeling hearty and hale  
With no craving for gold as my wealth,  
Just pedals and gears and a front wheel that steers  
And God's gift of my share of good health.

*(From an old cookery book. Contributed by Pauline Bolton)*



## Christmas when I was young

I'm 80 years old now but I can most vividly remember the lovely Christmas times when I was young. Not many things were shop-bought then like they are today. Our mothers made all of it themselves - mince meat, Christmas puddings and cakes, ginger wine etc. Even the apples used to be picked and laid out on newspapers and stored for winter use.

For weeks before the actual Christmas our homes were filled with the most delicious smells, especially when it was saffron cake that was being baked. We children helped by cutting up the peel - no sharp knives though - and stoning the raisins (all bought ready to use now!). We grated the nutmeg and what a lovely smell that was. We helped stir the mixture and always made a wish. My mother always made a 'taster' when she made the Christmas puddings and I remember my brother and myself used to race home after school, for the first slice of the 'taster'.



Our saffron cake was delicious and I can remember staying down quite late with my mother and watching her turn the big stug of cake around in front of the coal fire so that with the evenly distributed heat the yeast in the cake would work and made the mixture rise. She wouldn't go to bed until that happened. The mixture was so rich you could have eaten it as it was, but of course it was to be cooked. A most delicious smell and taste.

It is wonderful I'm sure that today Christmas poultry can be bought months before Christmas and put in a freezer along with the puddings, mince pies, cakes and gateaux - but oh my! Where are all the lovely smells gone, and the excitement, and how can you slip eagerly looked-for little coins and charms into that tightly-wrapped Christmas pudding? Such magic seems to be gone.

We all went to church or chapel over Christmas, and we all learned the Christmas story at Sunday school. Like today's children we all loved the carols.

Our stockings were really clean worn ones, and in the toe was always an orange, apple, nuts and some sweets, and then one or two much appreciated games and toys. We didn't have expensive presents. I remember my grandmother gave her many grandchildren a silver 3-penny bit. My other grandmother bought her grandchildren a little Christmas hanky from Mrs Congdon's shop. I can remember going into this shop, which was next to my Gran's, and choosing these little hankies. And we loved it all however little it may seem today.

*(Mavis R Cocks, born 1916, published 1996)*

# Around the Village at Christmas

## Christmas at the Priory Church of the Annunciation.

This month's report seems to be a list of fun and games and perhaps that is as it should be at this time of the year. Indeed for any Christian community Christmas is a time for celebrating the beginning of our faith story. Though it is smothered by commercialism, at the heart of our celebrations is the Prayer time and the Symbols of Christmas.

Saturday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> is the day of our Christmas Bazaar starting with Lunch at 1pm. Tea and cakes will be served during the afternoon when some interesting stalls will be open for business. All are welcome so do feel free to come and visit us in St Dominic's School Hall. Bring your children; there will be plenty of fun and games for them.

Woodchester Mansion will be the venue for our pre Christmas Carols and story telling by candle light and log fire. Starting at 3pm. on Sunday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. we hope to make this a real family do.

As you know our Parish Priest, Fr. Bill Watson, of Stonehouse Parish, also covers our Parish as well and we alternate major feasts between the two Churches.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December there will be a Christmas Vigil at The Annunciation, Woodchester with Carols 11.00pm. Midnight Mass starts at 11.45pm

On Christmas Day there is a Family Mass with Carols at 11.00am (please note that there will not be the regular 5.00pm Sunday Mass on this Christmas Day).

Through this paper may we wish all its readers the Joy and Spirit of Christmas.

## St Dominic's School Christmas Bazaar

Come and join us on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 12.30pm for a fun-filled family afternoon. There will be lots of lovely stalls where you can buy some Christmas presents, delicious lunches and cakes plus plenty of activities for children of all ages – face painting, splat the rat, biscuit making, crafts and a raffle with some wonderful prizes. Father Christmas will be there too with his elves!

## Woodchester Playgroup Christmas Fair

The Playgroup Christmas Fair is being held from 10:00-12:00 on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Village Hall.

Stalls will include Barefoot books, Jamie @ Home, Phoenix cards, jewellery, gifts – including handmade bears, stained glass, homemade cakes.

There will also be a raffle including great prizes from The Ram, The Royal Oak, The Fleece, a bottle of wine from the House of Commons, stunning designer "Knickers", Phoenix cards, Jamie at home and many more...

All money raised will go to Building Appeal, so please come along and support your local playgroup on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Services at St Mary's Church

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

11.00 Christingle Service. During the service the children and young people will be making their own Christingles. There will be lots to see and do and the service will be short and ideal for families. There will be a collection during the service for The Children's Society.

### Christmas Eve

15.00 Crib Service. We warmly invite everyone to our Crib Service which will be held on Christmas Eve at 3pm. This will be a short service and we look forward to children dressing up as shepherds (tea towel), kings (crown), angels or an animal (animal mask). Please stay after the service for refreshments.

18.00 Candle-lit Carol Service. Please join us for our traditional service of carols readings and songs, followed by mince pies, tea and coffee. (There will be no Midnight Communion Service)

### Christmas Day

09.00 Holy Communion

10.00 Christmas Praise with Family Holy Communion

## Selsley Road

This photograph of unknown date was taken on Selsley Road near where Lawns Park now is. The photographer must have been standing in the middle of the road, looking down the hill. There are more houses shown than at first obvious. The gable end in the foreground belongs to a different cottage to the lean to structure with the chimney. The houses in the background are Goring House and its neighbour (the rounded porch is just visible). The railings lead round into Church Road. The view is now partially obscured by a silver birch tree but the shrubs are shorter.

There are some bits and pieces of dating evidence. Note the lack of television aerials which must take it back over fifty years. The other interesting feature is right in the middle of the picture. This appears to be a chimney at the front of what is now Knapp House. As this is adjacent to the Old Bakery was there some connection? The pole in front of Goring House is probably carrying electricity cables.



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*Anne P – Minchinhampton*



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See my PC hints and tips at [www.PCPROP.com](http://www.PCPROP.com)



**Matt Hughes**  
[www.pcprop.com](http://www.pcprop.com)

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## Focus on Local Business

### Computer Hints and tips

In 25 years of computing I've learnt that computers are not reliable. If I could pass on one piece of advice to other computer users, it would be "keep your stuff backed up". Easy to use backup software is free, and backup storage is very cheap, it's not worth losing all of your stuff for the sake of £50

Recently I have seen an increase in scam software, like fake anti-virus or anti-spyware that arrives on the computer without prompt, and asks for money to cure the problems it apparently found. Be extremely suspicious of such software, as there are many free anti-virus programs available. Also be aware of scam telephone calls from companies' claiming to be Microsoft Partners who say you have problems on your computer that they need to fix for a fee. They'll be pushy but don't be gullible, get an expert if you have problems.

Computers have become an emotional attachment for their owners, as so much of modern life is conducted with them these days. They can be a love / hate relationship, but it's rare that a computer problem can't be solved.

**For more PC hints and tips, call Matt on 07740 167 318, or visit his website at [www.pcprop.com](http://www.pcprop.com)**



### Leopard Press

Leopardpress.com is Woodchester's only litho and digital printer. Our mission is to deliver high quality services which add value whilst reducing costs – all in conjunction with sound environmental business sense. Leopardpress.com have grown organically since starting in 1982 using letterpress, continually reinvesting in new technologies – 2011 adding a digital crease/fold machine and new Hewlett-Packard wide format poster printer.

Incorporating HathawayPress, Nailsworth and ValePress, Inchbrook, production moved to the Chicken Shack, Boundary Court, Selsley Common (RDS technologies original home). This hugely improved our environmental credentials by reduced or even eliminating the need for electric lighting during bright days whilst our under floor heating during the winter keeps the paper dry and stable for printing. Constantly improving our Sustainability, our next projects are solar panels and rainwater recycling. All our waste paper is recycled..

As a small local company, we pride ourselves on offering a competitive, bespoke service at both the Chicken Shack and Nailsworth office at Days Mill. Our endless product range, from standard business cards and stationery used by small businesses, thermographed (raised) invitations and letterheads, Strung tags, Raffle tickets, promotion pens and frisbees to a million leaflets for a national train operator. We get the job done to the highest of quality on time.

Our digital printing presses produce small run leaflets, books, thesis as well as personalised t-shirts and mugs. Our large format machines print pull-up displays, banners, posters which can be mounted, laminated or encapsulated. We test our machines to the limit, our research/development often pioneering new production methods, so that when the unexpected comes along, we have the experience to find a cost effective solution.



*Before and After - the new Leopard Press facility at Boundary Park.*

### Woodchester MOT Centre

Woodchester MOT centre opened its doors 20 months ago and is already gaining a good local customer base so if its... Strange squeaks? Slight knocking? Or just a general check up! A friendly welcoming workshop for all your motoring needs awaits you...

From MOT's to servicing, repairs, tyres and recovery at a very competitive price we cater for all your needs, with our friendly, warm advice and assistance we will get your car back on track for many more motoring miles. Not only do we take pride in our work but also in our working environment hence a well equipped clean, tidy workshop, so rest assured we will take care of your cars, with many years of experience our technicians are here to help you enjoy the best of your vehicle so that you can worry about the more important things in life. Using the latest technology and on board diagnostic equipment we are well prepared for your vehicle, old or new..

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## Full of Memories

By the time you read this I shall have moved to a new post in Cheltenham after nearly fourteen years as Rector of St Mary Woodchester. I leave with many happy memories of my time among you and it has been a great joy and privilege to share in the life of such a wonderful community. Thank you for all your encouragement and support.

There is a moving scene in the book of Acts when St Paul says farewell to his friends before boarding a ship. Everyone cried with sorrow because they would never see his face again. Of course Paul was on his way to eventual martyrdom in Rome while I am moving just up the A46 to Cheltenham!

Christmas is always portrayed as a happy time for all but it can be a time of loneliness for many people. It is often the time when people feel all too keenly the pain of being parted from each other. Even though Paul's friends knew that they would see him in heaven, they were still overcome by emotion at being separated from him. And in those days, when people travelled less than today, there would have been little opportunity to see him again.

Paul himself had some special words for times of parting.

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord'.

May God bless you all

Reverend Canon Stephen Bowen

## Woodchester Word has a new team

A new team will take over the production of the Woodchester Word from the New Year.

Rod Harris will take over as editor. Rod has lived in the village for many years and has been a regular contributor to recent editions of the Word.

Iain Dunbar will continue to produce the artwork and arrange printing of the Word.

Peter Lead will continue to handle advertising, and will take over responsibility for distribution of the Word each quarter.

We are always looking for people who would like to get involved with the Parish Magazine, in however small a way. If you would like to contribute by writing an article, or even just a letter to the Word, please contact Rod at [rod.harris@fsmail.net](mailto:rod.harris@fsmail.net)

If you are interested in advertising in the Woodchester Word, or could help with distributing copies four times a year, please contact Peter at [peterdawnlead@aol.co.uk](mailto:peterdawnlead@aol.co.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

### Saturday 3rd December

St Dominics School Christmas Bazaar starting at 12:30pm.

### Friday 9th December

Woodchester Endowed School Christmas Fair from 5pm

### Sunday 18th December

Christingle Service at St Mary's Church at 11:00am  
Christmas Carols and story telling by candle light and log fire. Woodchester Mansion, 3pm.

### Tuesday 20th December

Village Carols: starting at The Ram (6:30) and The Royal Oak (6:45) and converging at the Village Green (7:15).

### Saturday 24th December

Carols and Christmas Mass at Priory Church of the Annunciation, starting 11:00pm  
Crib Service at St Mary's Church at 3:00pm. Children invited to dress as shepherds (tea towel), kings (crown), angels or an animal (animal mask).  
Candle-lit Carol Service at St Mary's Church at 6:00pm - traditional service of carols readings and songs

### Sunday 25th December

Family Mass and Carols at Priory Church of the Annunciation at 11:00  
Christmas Praise with Family Holy Communion at St Mary's Church at 10:00am

### Sunday 15 January

Orchard Pastures Wassailing event at 4pm.

## Village Hall

### Monday

1000-1200 Short Mat Bowls (01453 872340)  
1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

### Tuesday

1000-1200 Art Group (01453 873689)  
1400-1630 Friendly Circle - alternate weeks (873566)  
1645-1730 Ballet (07887 671956)  
1830-1930 Pilates (01453 873229)  
1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

### Wednesday

1000-1600 Calligraphy- alternate weeks (01452 387768)  
1830-1930 Movement to Music (01453 886953)

### Thursday

1000-1200 Healthy Lifestyles (01285 885766)  
1400-1800 Adult Ballet (0788 767 1956)  
1830-2130 Parish Council (1st in alternate months)  
1930-2130 Women's Institute (3rd in month 873314)  
1930-2130 Morris Dancing (2nd, 4th, 5th, 731752)

### Friday

1000-1200 Art Class U3A (01453 872044)  
1400-1800 Ballet (01453 834356)  
1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

For all bookings, including weekend bookings, please contact Mrs Kath Gay on 01453 873348.

*Views expressed in this paper are those of the author and not necessarily those of Woodchester Parish Council. We reserve the right to edit or omit any material submitted for publication. No liability is accepted for loss or damage arising from any omission of copy or advertising.*