

# The WOODCHESTER Word

Issue 35 - September 2011

## Church spire renovation nears completion

Everyone in the village must have looked up at St Mary's church recently and wondered what was happening at the top of the ladder precariously attached to the side of the spire. The simple broach spire is 123 feet high and has stood since the church was built in the early 1860's. It was designed by Samuel Sanders Teulon, a notable 19th century English Gothic Revival architect, and was consecrated on 24th September 1863.

Having stood proudly above the local landscape for 150 years, the steeple was in need of urgent repair. This required stonework, inner counterpoise weights, weathervane and clockface to be dismantled and lowered to the ground for examination and repair. The stonework has been rebuilt and a new stainless steel vane rod fitted. At the time of writing, the fitting of new weather protection to the quatrefoil openings is the only outstanding job, on completion of which the scaffolding will be removed.

The father and son steeplejack team of Bill and Ben Neath have been busy carrying out the work. The clockface on the west face of the tower (I wonder how many residents have noticed it in the past, as many only see the other faces?) and the cockerel weathervane have been beautifully regilded and painted by Gillian Hancock of Painswick.

"We have met our fundraising target of over £30,000, thanks to numerous contributions and in particular the very generous support of local benefactor Richard Hains" commented Churchwarden Andrew Pemberton. "We held a very happy Songs of Praise service in church to celebrate the main work being completed; Bill Neath came down from Birmingham to join us and was interviewed in the service by our Rector, Rev Stephen Bowen".

In the words of Stephen Bowen's latest church leaflet, "The spire reaches symbolically up to the sky in a 'celestial and hopeful gesture' beloved of Gothic and neo-Gothic architects and many others of us too". The recent restoration should keep the spire structurally sound and reaching to the sky for the next 150 years.



*Above: Looking up into the spire from the level of the bells, which shows the new steel anchorage struts and the end of the steel rod which anchors the top of the spire.*

*Right: the regilded and repainted clockface and weather vane.*

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How would you like to advertise your business to every household in Woodchester, and at the same time help support our parish newsletter?

Advertising is very reasonable, and we also give our supporters editorial opportunities within the newsletter.

For more information contact Iain Dunbar on 01453 872185, or email [iaindunbar@btconnect.com](mailto:iaindunbar@btconnect.com)

### Can you help.....?

The Woodchester Word is published and distributed entirely by volunteers, with printing costs defrayed by advertising from local businesses. More volunteers are always welcome.

If you would like to join the team to help with production or distribution, please get in touch with the editor on 01453 872185

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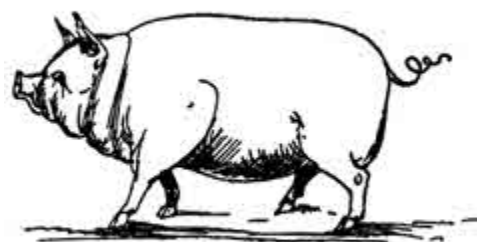
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# Parish Council Update

Things have been comparatively quiet on the Parish Council front during the summer holiday period.

## Roads

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has sought the views of parish councils generally on a number of issues, mostly concerned with transport. GCC has drafted a new Transport Asset Management Plan to outline how it intends to look after its roads, bridges, footpaths, gullies, traffic lights and street lights and how it will carry out winter operations. The plan sets out service standards for each area of work carried out by the highways department, in particular:

- Protect front line maintenance services by making best use of available funding and resources.
- Be guided by highway codes of practice and national guidance documents as well as taking into account local needs.
- Aim to keep our road network in a steady state.
- Invest in preventative work which will reduce defects appearing in the first place so roads last longer.
- Work more closely with communities to enable them better to help themselves.

As far as Woodchester is concerned we hope that this will result in a diminution in the number of potholes resulting from the recent harsh winters and their more timely repair. In this connection the PC has agreed with Gloucestershire Highways and Brown's timber yard that a tractor be adapted with a snow-plough for use in the village as needed and a supply of salt be kept in the yard so local grit bins can be kept topped up during the winter months.

## Bus services

There was considerable local concern that bus services locally might be affected by proposed changes in subsidy from GCC. Following the recent review of bus services in the County and widespread local consultation and analysis of the responses, the changes proposed for services affecting Woodchester are as follows:

### Route 93: Gloucester-Stroud-Nailsworth (Mondays to Saturdays)

From 13<sup>th</sup> November, the 7.35pm departure from Gloucester on Mondays to Saturdays and the 6.55pm departures on Monday to Friday (6.40pm on Saturday) from Stroud will continue to run.  
(These are subsidised services.)

### Route 46: Cheltenham-Stroud -Nailsworth (Runs every day).

On or before January 2012 further review of Sunday services to be undertaken to reduce costs (only Sunday services are subsidised.)

### Route 40: Stroud-Nailsworth-Wooton-under-Edge (Monday to Saturday-subsidised service).

On or before January 2012, the number of journeys will be increased from 5 to 6 from Wooton-under-Edge but reduced from 5 to 4 in the opposite direction. Some journeys will run between Wooton-under-Edge and Nailsworth where connections will be available to and from Stroud. There will be journeys for college students and workers and the service will be supplemented by a Nailsworth-Dursley service with some journeys continuing from Wooton-under-Edge.

### Route 263: Nailsworth-Amberley-Woodchester-Nailsworth (Mondays and Wednesdays - subsidised service)

On or before January 2012 this service will now run on Fridays to coincide with Nailsworth Library opening times.

### Route 267: Stroud-Woodchester. (Thursdays - subsidised service)

On or before January 2012 this once a week service will run on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays and times will change.

## Village Events

Please note in your diaries the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony on 13<sup>th</sup> November. (It is hoped that the final cleaning and restoration of the War Memorial will be completed in time for the ceremony). Village Christmas Carols will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Next year marks the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. All over the country special celebrations will take place over an extended weekend on 2, 3, 4 and 5 June. A special event is being organised for Woodchester. We need more volunteers to assist the Events Committee to plan the event and to ensure it is a resounding success. Please, if you are able to spare the time, give your name to the Parish Clerk, Duschanka Sutherland.

## Vandalism in the Village

Mercifully Woodchester is generally a crime free area. Unfortunately we are not immune to the attacks of vandals. In the last couple of months the phone box in North Woodchester has had most of its glass panels broken, and the recently renewed bus shelter opposite the Old Piano Factory was set on fire. The wooden seat was destroyed and the back and side damaged. It will cost at least £250 to repair the damage and although this is partly covered by insurance, it is a sum which could have been better spent elsewhere on projects to improve the village. The police have been actively involved but residents are asked to report any similar incidents to our local PCSO, Stephen Wadley on 0845 090 1234.

## Around the Village

### Woodchester Endowed School

Another school year has flown by and we have once again said goodbye to one set of children who have moved onto secondary school and welcomed new children into the school.

Our Year six children finished their time with us in spectacular fashion performing a wonderful adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado about Nothing'. Set in a 1950's American diner, the set and costumes were quite something. It is always a pleasure to see how the children have matured through their years with us and are clearly prepared for the next stage in their lives.

During the summer term we also enjoyed another of our creative 'focus fortnights'. This time studying life in Britain during World War II. We were extremely grateful to a number of local residents who came to speak to the children about their experiences growing up in those times. In particular the children were spellbound by the accounts of Michael Maltin who kindly spoke of his times as a spitfire pilot. We will again take time out of our usual curriculum delivery this year to focus on such interesting topics. Needless to say the London 2012 Olympics will feature strongly in these during the year.

Our summer fair was a great success despite being on one of the wettest evenings in July! Our thanks to everyone in the community who supported the event which raised in excess of £2000 for our PTA to support the children's learning in school. We are so fortunate to have such an active group of parents who give their time for the benefit of the school.

We will be, once again, collecting used clothes and fabric items through the 'bag2school' system this autumn. Bags will be collected from the school on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November so please do hang onto any items for now and look out for the blue bags coming through your doors nearer the time. It may surprise you to know that the last collection raised £585 for the school proving that it is a really worthwhile exercise.

My thanks again to everyone in the community who has supported our events during the last year. I very much look forward to seeing many of you again soon.

Gordon Soutar, Headteacher

### Stroud CAB - new service for over 65s

Stroud and District Citizens Advice Bureau has been fortunate to receive a grant from the Nationwide Foundation to increase its services to older people.

If you would like advice, **07815 166143** is a new telephone number just for those aged 65 and over, and will run until the end of 2011. All advice is independent and confidential. CAB can ring you back to keep down the cost of your call, and if you are housebound may be able to arrange a home visit.

Under 65s can of course still ring the bureau for advice on **08444 111 444**.

Sheila Orson, Upper Summerwells Cottage, Convent Lane

### St Dominic's Primary School becomes an Academy Trust.

The Governors of St Dominic's School are always looking to improve the educational opportunities for local children, and to that end they have unanimously decided to become an Academy. The aim is not to change the outward appearance of the school or the ethos, but to gain greater control and more opportunities to provide an enhanced education for the benefit of the children whilst keeping the Catholic nature.

The school intends to develop the already excellent links with other local primaries as well as the broader Catholic school community (primaries and St Peter's High School). Becoming an academy will provide greater opportunities for all involved through improved interactions and shared resources and expertise.

In recent years the school has upgraded its environment, improved outdoor learning facilities and is currently in the process of developing a Nature Centre linked with the Stroud Beekeepers Association.

It is a very exciting time for the school, and staff and governors are all looking forward to the challenge and opportunities that academy status will present. The intention is to build on the excellent standards to provide a broad and stimulating education for all children.

The school will be holding an open morning on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 9:30 -12:00 and prospective parents and children are warmly invited to come along and view the school in action.

Margaret Smith, Headteacher.

### Church of the Annunciation

As I write this we are busy preparing ourselves to use the new translation of the liturgy, and as with any change the question 'why' is asked. The texts of the Mass are precious to us, because they were inspired by the Bible. These words have come down to us over the centuries, and most of the words we speak at Mass are rooted in the Bible. When we gather for Mass, we are praying with words that have been given to us by our ancestors, who knew the Bible well and prayed it well. The revised translation tries to make the connections between the Bible and the Mass clearer for us.

Another big change has taken place, of which you will all be aware. The Sisters have left the Poor Clare Convent in Convent Lane. There are only two Sisters now, Sister Marie Therese died last month, Mother Irene Joseph and Sister Susanna are in the Arundel Convent, and have settled in and are very happy. They send greetings to all who knew them.

There is so much interest in the old Convent Buildings that some of our members will be providing a public tour of the building. This will be a rare opportunity to view a largely unaltered Victorian building which has been an enclosed convent since 1860's, and to reflect on the history of daily life and worship in this extraordinary place. Details will be posted in the local Churches and in the local press closer to the time.

# Around the Village

## An Amateur Gardner's Heartfelt Prayer

May the good Lord keep cats from my patch,  
Shoo them away to other places to dig and scratch.

May slugs and snails give me a rest,  
Then I'll no longer see them as pests.

May sun and rain be kind to my seeds,  
Then I'll raise hardy plants and not weeds.

May my puny efforts be crowned with success,  
Then I'll thankfully sit back and rest.

And if I smugly start to bore my friends, well then  
May they stop me with a fervent amen.



## Woodchester WI

Our small but friendly WI welcomed a new member at our August meeting, the evening started with a small amount of business followed by a fun quiz and ended with a very enjoyable fish and chip supper.

The WI has designed and produced two Pennants to be sent to London for presentation to athletes taking part in the 2012 Olympics, this was in response to a National request from the organisers. One depicts the hills and valleys of the area; the other is a pictogram of the word Woodchester.

Needless to say, although our membership has now increased by over 15% this year we still have room for more! Further information from Muriel - 873314 or Gail - 873692.

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

The Brownies plan to start the new term with a games evening and a "Bring A Friend" evening, followed by a variety of activities based on the 5 senses. There will also be a Promise ceremony and the opportunity to work towards various interest badges. Girls aged 7 to 9 years are welcome to join us. We can put your name on our waiting list if you're not yet 7 years old. Contact Jackie on 01453 821258.

The Guides are starting the Autumn term with a food evening, followed by a "Bring A Friend" evening. A range of activities are planned for the remainder of term, including a sports evening and a pampering "girly" evening. Girls aged 10 - 14 years are welcome to join us. Contact Jackie on 01453 821258.

## Orchard Pastures

Orchard Pastures is the land near The Ram which was bought by a group of villagers two years ago. Shown on the village tithe map in 1838, the land is beginning to live up to its name - rather than 'bramble, dock and nettle field' which would have been more apt when we first started! But brambles are no bad thing when it comes to jam, and we've been busy making it from blackberries, as well as mirabelles - little plum-like fruit - from the long-established trees on the land. The new orchard we've planted is still a couple of years from being productive, but growing well. Apples seem to be ripening early this year, and we'd like to invite you to an apple pressing day on Saturday 15 October from 1pm. You'll be able to see and join in the whole process of crushing, pressing and, most importantly, tasting apple juice - it's absolutely delicious freshly made. Bring clean plastic bottles and, if you have them, your own apples too. All ages welcome.

With lovely weather, we held an open allotments day in August. Around 20 visitors enjoyed a guided tour of the plots and land - and took away some fresh veg. Sadly, the barbecue picnic we'd planned in June had to be cancelled because of inclement weather.

We're learning as we go along, but at the heart of our project is making the land a resource for the village whenever we can. We are now home to some bees belonging to a villager and our chicken plans are still on the boil (coming home to roost, maybe?), so we hope they'll get on with each other. If you've always wanted to keep chickens and would like to get involved, please do get in touch. We are planning to construct a fruit cage this autumn to provide protection for soft fruit. If you are interested in being involved, please let us know.

Our planning application has been approved subject to conditions, which we are about to discharge, to erect a secure store for equipment and to provide safe access from Station Road. Orchard Pastures is very steep, and this will allow us to create a much more level path across the site to transport things like water for the allotments and essential equipment. Although the landlord of The Ram kindly allows us to access the land through the car park at the moment, this will allow us to secure permanent easy access.

For more information on the apple pressing, please contact Glen Cossins on 872407 and for other information contact Gary Brown on swalt.org@gmail.com or 873464



Extract from 1838 Woodchester Tithe Map showing Orchard Pastures

# Woodchester Produce & Craft Show 2011

## Produce Show goes from strength to strength

We were lucky with the weather again this year and everyone enjoyed an interesting day. The number of entrants for the show was slightly up on last year, there were more stalls to enjoy on the green, and there was an excellent exhibition in the church by local photographers.

Once again, one of the highlights of the Produce and Craft Show were the amazing exhibits created for the children's sections.

Results were as follows:

### Children under 5

Winner - Ana Sutherland-Dean; runner-up - Willow Dolan

### Children 5-8

Winner - Lucas Dolan; runner-up - Lucie Danneman-Scott

### Children 9-12

Winners - Lauren Turner and Benjamin Latham; runner-up - Aimee Read

### Adults

Winner - Liz Falconer; second - Tamzin Phillips; third - John Hale

This year there was a new trophy donated by Rhiannon and Steve Wiggzell in memory of David Brown, who sadly died earlier this year. This was given to the entrant who gained the most points in the vegetable section as David was an enthusiastic grower of vegetables. The winner was Liz Falconer.

Children's games on the green included egg and spoon races, a human maypole, and a football penalty shoot-out won by Huw Syrett.

Following the prize giving, an auction of the produce was held and a raffle with prizes donated by The Ram Inn and the Bottle Green Co. Thanks go to all those who helped to make the show such a great success.



*Liz Falconer receives her trophy from Gordon Soutar*

# Around the Village

## From "The Story of Our Museum and What it Taught Us"

(by Rev Henry Housman, published in 1881)

I was recently loaned a copy of this fascinating book and if I ever need to stuff a bird I shall now be well prepared. It describes the museum built up by Henry Housman and his brother in the 1840s. The part I found most interesting was the description of Woodchester some of which I have reproduced below.

*The Bath road, leading through the vale of Rodborough, is of singular beauty. At first it winds under Rodborough Hill, crowned with its useless though picturesque fort... while to the right runs a stream, too small to be named, but large enough to be useful, as the various manufactories which have sprung up on its banks testify.....*

*About two miles from Stroud a side road crossing this stream by a small bridge forms the directest approach to Woodchester; and after passing a little brook which comes rushing down from the hills on the right, the visitor soon finds himself on a gentle eminence, close by the old parish church, and surrounded on all sides by enchanting views. This is classic ground, for he is now standing on the site of the famous Roman villa. ....*

*Leaving the old parish church, the road, bearing to the left and skirting the rectory gardens – noted for their fine ornamental trees – takes a turn to the right, and if followed straight on up the hill would lead to an extensive plain, called Selsley Hill, noted for its large quarries of building stone.....*

*If, however, instead of following this road up the hill, we take the first turning to the left, after passing the cottages and schools which form a considerable part of this northern division of the village, or "Near Woodchester", as it is called, we soon find ourselves in the fields again. Just on entering them there is a spring of clearest water, which gives the name of Frogmoor to the meadow, while on the left-hand side of the path stands the new parish church, conveniently situated midway between the divided districts of the parish. A little further on the road dips into a little valley running up into a wooded hollow on the right. At the bottom we cross a bright little trout stream, coming down from the head of the valley, and forming a fine mill-pond on the left. Immediately after crossing this stream, the path takes a steep ascent, at the top of which stands our old home, Woodchester House.....*

*Skirting the front lawn, we soon find ourselves in "Far Woodchester", the southern and more populous of the two divisions of the village. Here is the post-office, the dissenting place of worship, and the big shop of the village, with its groceries, medicines and tobacco, butter, cheese and other necessaries for the inner man on the one side; and blankets, dresses, gorgeous neckties and such like comforts for the outer man on the other. Still keeping to the right, after passing this universal store, the houses become fewer and farther apart, until they cease altogether, and we come to a secluded demesne, called Atcombe lying as its name implies, in a combe, down which runs a rivulet which forms the Atcombe ponds..... The path, which passes between the head of the upper pool and the tail of the lower, joins a lane which, after wandering for a mile or two amid charming scenery of the truest rural type, leads to Woodchester Park, in our day belonging to Earl Ducie, but which has long since changed hands, and become a stronghold of the Romanists.*

In case anyone is confused as to where this route is going. I believe we are leaving the A46 at Priory Lodge and following Cholmeley's Drive, crossing what is now the cycle track at the bottom of the dip and continuing on the current footpath up the field to the corner by the Priory. Then, along Church Lane to its junction with Selsley Road, turn right and then left onto Church Road. The school was then in the village hall. Continue straight on through the kissing gate, down the hill, across the stream and up Little Hill to Woodchester House. Then on Tower Drive to the gate and along to join the High Street at the bottom of Bospin Lane. Leave the High Street on Atcombe Lane but things then become a bit confused. He may be describing a route that followed the driveway or on the footpath across the field. Either way, the path between the ponds exists and leads up to Convent Lane which continues in the direction of Woodchester Park. (Barbara Warnes)

## Snow Warden's Update

Although it is only the first Day of Autumn, I am pleased to say that we have already started planning for "whatever winter throws at us!" Highways have appointed Peter Brown, from the Wood Yard, as our Snow Plough Operator, and will be providing him with a plough for the front of his tractor, and also a supply of bagged salt as backup for the salt bins. We are also hoping to negotiate a few extra / replacement bins for the village; although Highways are reluctant to replenish many more.

Highways are also keen that we stress the following:

- **Salt in bins is provided solely for use on Public Highways and footpaths. Use on private drives is considered as THEFT!**
- **Salt should be used sparingly... a handful is enough for at least one square metre. Excessive use is both a waste and uses up valuable supplies.**

In very severe weather conditions, parishes are encouraged to use self help as Highways need to give A and B roads priority. Despite the publicity given to the possibility of people being sued if anyone has an accident on an area cleared by an individual, there were no recorded cases. Further, it is considered highly unlikely that any prosecution would succeed unless there was gross stupidity, such as trying to hose the road clear!

# Around the Village

## Village Hall News

The Village Hall will be refurbished during the month of August – keeping high standards for the benefit of all users. All hall equipment is maintained regularly.

An Art and Craft Exhibition took place at the Hall earlier this year with over 100 paintings and other works from three Art Groups, including an exhibition of craft from our own village WI. The Glevum Scribes contributed calligraphy and associated work and textiles from the UK and India were also featured. The Trustees wish to thank all those who made the exhibition such a success.

Details of classes and social events held at the Village Hall are posted on all the Village Notice Boards.

## Correction to Convent article

In the article on the Convent in the last issue of Woodchester Word, we mentioned that there were 10 orphans and nuns exhumed from the Convent site and reburied. We have since learned that this was incorrect.

There were in fact 10 orphans (most of which died of TB aged between 6 and 22 between the dates of 1890 & 1920) as well as 78 or 79 nuns and 5 seculars - family & friends. In other words, there were almost 100 remains transferred which is far greater than the 10 we suggested! They were moved in four lots.

Apologies for the error. (Editor)

## Woodchester Historical Society

The next meeting of the society will be on Tuesday 1st November at 7:30pm in the Undercroft of St Mary's Church, North Woodchester.

There will be a short AGM followed by 'The Purton Hulks', speaker Paul Barnett. Admission is £2 for members, £3 for non members. All welcome.

## Annual Christmas Concert

The 23rd annual Christmas Concert will be held in Woodchester Village Hall on Friday 16th December 2011, starting at 7.30 p.m. It's an enjoyable occasion for all the family and a great start to the festive period, so come along and join us this year! Free refreshments. All proceeds in aid of charity.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

WANTED FOR WOODCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

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## The Railway in Woodchester

The Cycle Path was once a single track railway line built by the Stonehouse and Nailsworth Railway Company in 1867, but was soon taken over by the Midland Railway. Sadly it closed in 1966, having had no passenger service since 1948, only goods. Very quickly the track was torn up and the demolition gangs moved in. Today, there is very little of the old railway left – a few bridges, Nailsworth Station, the goods shed (both in private ownership) a platform and wall at Dudbridge and if you look carefully a small number of relics hidden in the undergrowth along the way.

- In 1872 there were 9 trains each way between Stonehouse and Nailsworth, 3 passenger, 3 goods and 3 light engines. In 1932, five each way.
- There were five stations on the line – Stonehouse, Ryeford, Dudbridge, Woodchester and Nailsworth.
- The fastest trains took 25 minutes to traverse the whole of the line, the slowest "stopper" took 70 minutes.
- The plan was to continue the line from Nailsworth to Tetbury and Malmesbury to join the Great Western Main Line. This idea did not come to fruition, but it would have been an interesting development if it had.
- The train that ran from Dudbridge to Stroud was nicknamed the Dudbridge Donkey!
- Woodchester station had one platform, and unlike the other stations on the line, only wooden station buildings. There were extensive sidings to Workman's Sawmill and wood yard.



*Photo taken when excavations revealed the track at Rooksmoor a few years ago.*

## Mobile Police Station

From September, the East Gloucestershire Mobile Police Station will commence regular visits to Nailsworth as part of route 3. 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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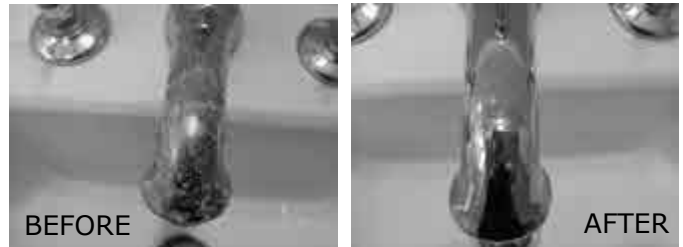
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They also offer steam cleaning which not only brings a higher standard of deep cleaning, but is **chemical free** and **kills 100% of all dust mites and bacteria** - so fantastic for asthma and allergy sufferers. Other services include carpet cleaning using 'hot water extraction', patio cleaning during those lovely summer months and a range of other concierge services designed to make your life just that little bit easier.

Let them buff your shiny surfaces to within an inch of their lives, and banish dust forever. If you would love to have the that wonderful feeling of walking into a clean and sparkling house, without you having to do all that hard work - then give Maid2Measure a call on **01453 889400** or **for more information visit [www.maid2measure.co.uk](http://www.maid2measure.co.uk)**

"It is incredible what a bit of intelligence applied to cleaning can achieve - thank you so much" - Sheila McGrath, Brownshill



### Cotswold Carpet Cleaners - special offer for Woodchester residents

We have been cleaning carpets and upholstery around Gloucestershire for over ten years. Using high specification machinery our fully trained staff deliver the best value for money. Our cleaning process helps to extend the life of your carpet and upholstery by removing soil and reducing dust and grime, leaving the carpets soap residue free. We don't take a 'one size fits all approach' The method we use to clean your carpet depends on the condition and type of carpet fibres or upholstery fabric, as well as the extent and type of soiling and staining. Services include spot removal of stains caused by anything - including red wine and engine oil - and removing unwanted smells from carpets and upholstery.

Bruce has undertaken more than 5,000 cleaning operations since the company was formed 10 years ago. "On many occasions I'm told not to bother cleaning the carpet in a particular room, because it is past its sell by date," said Bruce. "It is a great feeling to clean a carpet so it means it does not have to be replaced, thus saving the customer quite a lot of money."

The Stroud-based firm has also become renowned in the county for specialising in the restoration of grubby stone and marble. "Restoration of hard flooring is an excellent challenge - most floors, whether marble or stone, travertine, terracotta or tessellated finishes, are absorbent." Other types of property he works on include pubs, churches, shops, cottages and small flats.

Prices are dependent on size, but as Bruce grew up in woodchester he is offering 10% off just for mentioning this article when youbook an appointment! He can be contacted at [bruce@cotswoldcarpetcleaners.co.uk](mailto:bruce@cotswoldcarpetcleaners.co.uk).

### N Scotford - your local garage for repairs and MOT.

Nigel Scotford Limited moved to the Woodchester area in the year 2000. Located in Station Road Trading Estate, we are a workshop repair based business and offer a wide range of services; from MOT and general servicing to air conditioning and welding repairs.



As well as providing a personal service on all makes of cars, we have the facilities to cater for domestic and class 7 commercial vehicles, motor homes and camper vans, including twin axle up to 3.5 tonnes. Using the latest on-board diagnostic equipment we are able to offer accurate troubleshooting on any engine management faults.

Our friendly and professional, fully qualified technicians have considerable experience in all areas of the automotive industry, domestic and commercial, and are always happy to share their knowledge and expertise.

To celebrate our time in Woodchester we are offering a free MOT with every full service that will be valid for 12 months. See our advert on page 11 of this issue. Call Matthew on 01453 873787 for full details

Next Issue.....

The copy deadline for the December issue of Woodchester Word is 18th November. For information about advertising or to send a contribution, please email [iaindunbar@btconnect.com](mailto:iaindunbar@btconnect.com).

## Local Business



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VISIT Frogmarsh Mill, South Woodchester, Stroud GL5 5ET



BUPA



British Chiropractic Association

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South Woodchester

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Our Full Menu is also available Sunday Lunchtime and Evening.

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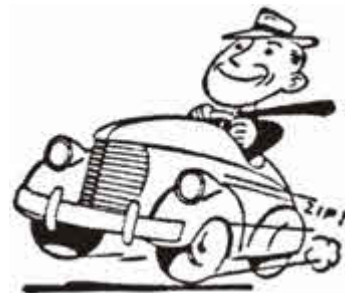
Sunday night quiz from 8:30 – cash prizes.

Call 01453 873329 for bookings or more information.

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**Call Matthew on 873787 for full details**

Station Road  
South Woodchester  
Tel 01453 873787

## A bowl of fruit

Brian Keenan wrote a deeply moving book called 'An Evil Cradling' about the four and a half years he spent as a hostage in Beirut. And he describes one wonderful moment worth recalling every Harvest time.

For most of his captivity, he ate the same monotonous food. And then one day a guard brought in a bowl of fruit. Keenan was mesmerized. He stared at the apricots, oranges, cherries, and bananas as if seeing them for the first time. He was entranced by the feast of colour in his dirty, dark room. He felt such wonder that he wanted to bow down before the fruit, loving it with all his being. For days he sat in a kind of dreamy lethargy, in part contemplation and in part worship. Even the walls appeared to be singing. He fondled the fruits but he could not eat them.

It is hard for us to look at the fruit we eat with the same wonder as Brian Keenan did. It is so easy to take all the food we enjoy each year for granted. But Harvest still touches us deeply. It seems to stir in us a sense of our roots in the countryside. It is a time to be thankful and to remember God's goodness. But it also brings an uncomfortable thought. We see on our TV screens people who have no harvest to celebrate. They would look at the food we eat most days with the same wonder as Brian Keenan did. So one way we can show our gratitude is by helping people less fortunate than ourselves.

One way to start might be to take a fruit from your fruit bowl and instead of eating it just gaze at and sense the wonder of God's creation.

With every blessing,

Stephen Bowen.

## Woodchester Word is looking for a new Editor - would you like to help?

Since I took over as Editor of the Woodchester Word in 2009, we have moved from a single A3 sheet format to a 16-page A4 publication which is now supported by advertising from local businesses. We have had lots of very positive feedback and I hope that the Word is a useful source of information and news within our local community.

Having recently taken a new job, I don't feel able to give as much time to the role of editor as I have in the past, so we are looking for some new blood to take over as Editor after the December issue.

With an established list of contributors, there are two elements to the role - collecting the copy each quarter and producing the newsletter artwork to send off to the printer. It's interesting and rewarding, and I am happy to work alongside a new editor to help show them the ropes and get the first issue of 2012 produced.

If you are interested please drop me an email at [iaindunbar@btconnect.com](mailto:iaindunbar@btconnect.com) or give me a call on 01453 872185 for a chat about the role.

## Dates for your diary

### Saturday 01 October

Concert by the choir of the parish of Nasby in Sweden. 7.30pm. Admission is free.

### Sunday 2nd October

Service of Harvest Praise at 11am. All gifts of produce will go to the Nelson Trust.

### Wednesday October 12th and November 30th

Messy Church at St Mary's at 3.20pm. For youngsters up to year 6 accompanied by an adult - crafts, music & stories.

### Saturday 15th October

Apple Pressing Day at Orchard Pastures, from 1pm.

### Tuesday 01 November

Woodchester Historical Society Meeting, 7:30, St Mary's undercroft.

### Sunday 13th November

Remembrance Sunday Service at St Mary's at 10.55am, followed by an Act of Remembrance at the war memorial.

### Friday 16th December

Annual Christmas Concert in Village Hall, 7:30.

### Saturday 20th December

Carol singing through the village - if anyone would like to help please contact Rhiannon on 872353.

## Village Hall Programme

### 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.*