

Life *on the* Green

THE RANGEFORD WAY

*Groups
AND
Activities*
CUT OUT
& KEEP

**Memorable
moments from
holidays**

**The gardens of
WADSWICK GREEN**

***A first time
for everything!***

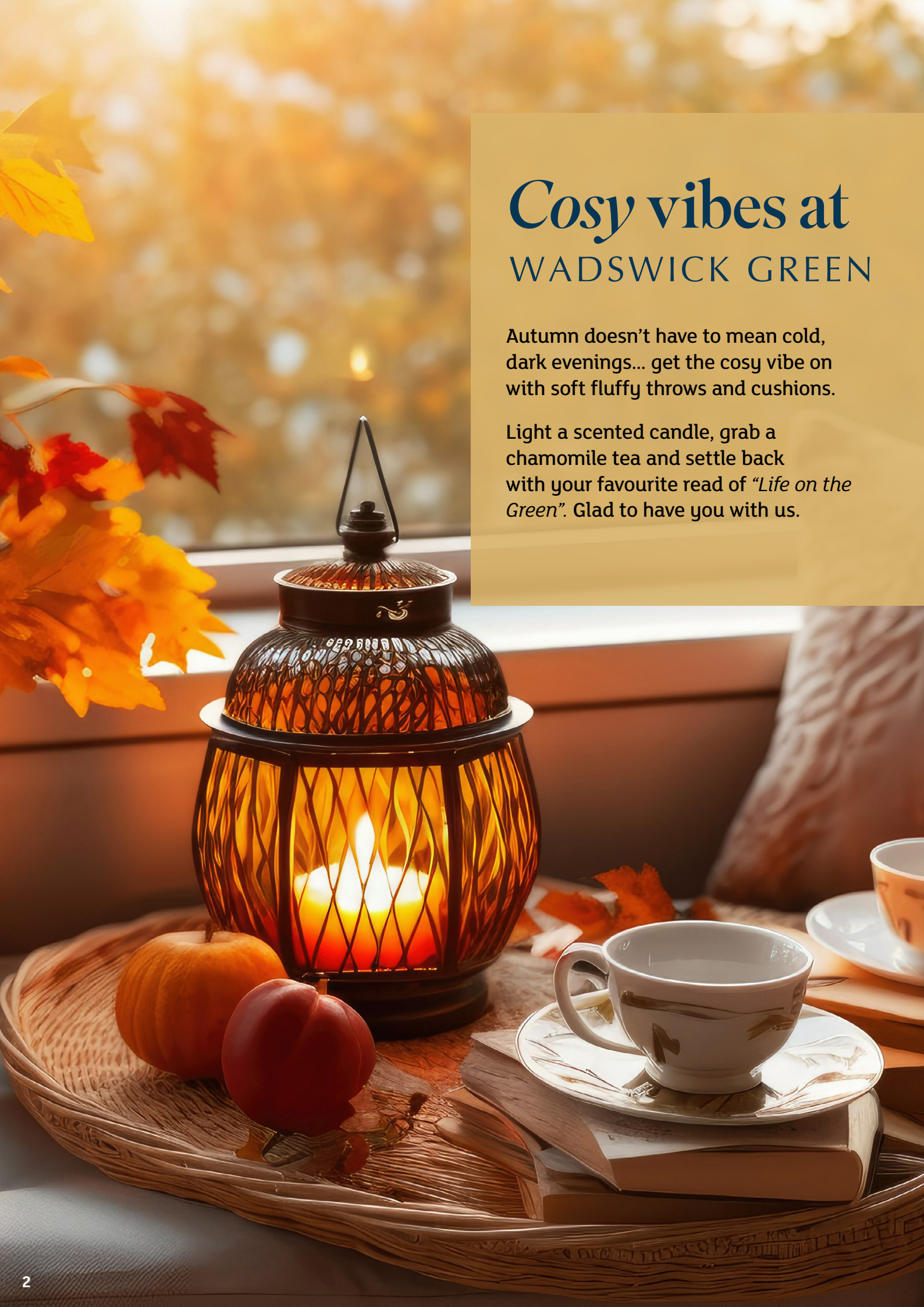
***welcome
to new
residents***

Getting to know our new neighbours

Cosy vibes at WADSWICK GREEN

Autumn doesn't have to mean cold, dark evenings... get the cosy vibe on with soft fluffy throws and cushions.

Light a scented candle, grab a chamomile tea and settle back with your favourite read of "*Life on the Green*". Glad to have you with us.





Welcome

It's been really lovely to read the contributions for this issue and to hear why people have moved to Wadswick Green, what they like about it and what they've discovered or tried since they chose to live here. It's very pleasing to know that it was clearly the right choice for them! It's daunting for some; others take it in their stride and embrace all that a retirement village has to offer.

There's a very nice article on the gardens, which are a great attraction of Wadswick Green. The gardening team have to cope with a variety of challenges, plan ahead and keep costs down. The results speak for themselves and show that all their efforts are worthwhile.

You can also read about the charming little Monk's Chapel near Neston; some memorable holiday moments; meet Roy Travis (our oldest resident); learn about life behind the scenes at a National Trust property; and of course have a brief introduction to a few of our newer residents. Some people have also shared details of their favourite toys, past and present.



I do hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Louise

Louise Anderson

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...plus much more!



First Impressions of WADSWICK GREEN by Robin Parry



It was mid-March this year that a very close friend said to me “Robbie, why don’t you go to Wadswick?”.

The next day I visited the Marketing Suite; two days later (Fathers’ Day) my two daughters joined me for the weekend and on 26th March I paid the deposit. Selling my property was facilitated by the same friend and I moved into Almond Close midday on 14th June – how quick was that?

When my daughter and I arrived, we were welcomed by the very friendly concierges Zac and Clare who showed us where everything was, how it worked and offered help with all aspects of moving and settling in. We were of course introduced to the restaurant and enjoyed a complimentary meal for the two of us. This, followed by the delivery of the F&M hamper, gave me a taste of things to come!

Sitting alone at the table for my first breakfast in Almond Close whilst looking at the view, I felt so calm and relaxed (despite the chaos in the room behind me), I knew I’d done the right thing!

Having been here 10 weeks I’ve now begun to appreciate just how much is on offer.

What do I like about Wadswick Green? Not only the beautifully maintained gardens, the restaurant, the superb swimming pool and gym (and the views from my apartment!), but also the community spirit engendered by the well-supported communal activities which create the village atmosphere.

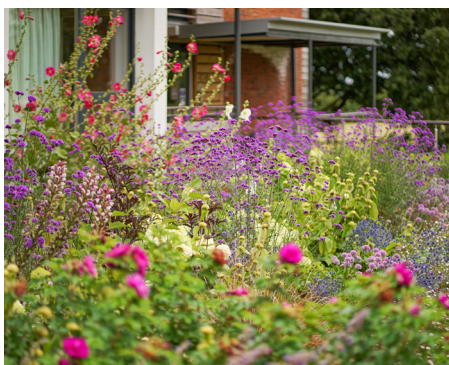
I was struck by the friendliness of the Concierge and Greenhouse staff – how do they remember the names of so many? Then, on the day we arrived, surrounded by 70+ packing boxes, we were visited by a neighbour inviting us for a drink, and so it has since continued with other neighbours.

The provision of schedules for the activities and events, and the weekly newsletter are a boon to organising my life. In addition to my visits to the swimming pool and gym and attempts at croquet, I do like the talks and social events in The Greenhouse - in particular the cheese and wine!

Although I still enjoy driving at present, the availability of transport is reassuring and the occasional day trips certainly beckon me.

I’m only 3 miles from where I have lived for the past 28 years and where I was very much involved in the community; consequently I have to date participated only in a small number of the many activities on offer. But now with no garden to maintain, no painting and decorating and only the settling in to contend with, I hope to have time to revisit photography, painting and sketching.

These are just my thoughts - my family and friends who visit me are in awe of my lifestyle.



“I was struck by the friendliness of the Concierge and Greenhouse staff – how do they remember the names of so many?”



Why WADSWICK GREEN by Jeanette Cowler

Why did we choose to come to Wadswick Green village?
When my husband said he thought we should move to a retirement village I said the words that most people say “but I am too young to move to one of those”.

Nevertheless, we started our search and saw five other villages and then Wadswick Green. There was no road, no Pavilion, no other courtyards, no gardens, just Rowan Lane, the start of Birch Close and lots of mud! We met the sales team and yes, the lovely Debbie and Susan who are still here made us feel so welcome. We loved the open space of the potential gardens and surrounding countryside and the welcome we received from the few owners who were already here and decided to buy. No other retirement village that we had seen had the lovely light airy apartments and balconies and space.

We have never regretted our decision in all of the nine years we have lived here and have been extremely happy. My husband was proved right, I wasn't too young after all.

“We have never regretted our decision in all of the nine years we have lived here and have been extremely happy.”



The gardens of WADSWICK GREEN



by Steve Besent & Sue Page

What made you decide that Wadswick Green is the place for you? Well for many of us the gardens and sense of space were a significant factor and often a tipping point in the decision. The gardens are now nearly 10 years old and, like us, evolving and establishing themselves. We thought that made it a good time to have a chat with Chris Liversidge, our Head Gardener, and Keith Turnbull, our Village Manager, to discover more about the development of our wonderful gardens and their plans for the future.

Evolution

The original vision of the architect had been to create a prairie garden which unfortunately didn't work. At a later date some cottage garden type block planting around Birch Close took place. When Chris took on the development and maintenance of the gardens, he had virtually 25 acres of blank canvas. Much of the area was still patchy grass alongside paths, swampy ground and a building site. In the early days, Chris set about planting up the gardens with shrubs and trees without a clear budget to work to. It was not until the second phase of apartments, namely when Almond Close and Ash Lane were built, that a clear budget was dedicated to the maintenance and upkeep of the gardens.

Chris and Keith both made the point that there will always be financial constraints on a leasehold site, but by the large-scale propagation of plants, Chris has managed to constantly refresh the planting while carrying out infrastructure improvements over and above his contractual commitments. Examples of this are the building of the croquet and putting greens, the provision of allotments, the stone circle, the gradual improvement of watering systems and the help given to home owners for planting their balconies, etc. Chris explained that his intention is the gardens will eventually "wash their own face" by careful propagation and replanting with more drought-tolerant plants as the plants reach the end of their lives.

With that in mind, Chris has already established a Tree Nursery at Siddington Park, where 60 new trees destined for Walnut Lane are being cared for. The Walnut Lane development has of course had a big short-term impact, resources have been stretched and the building work has inevitably disrupted some of the garden structures already in place. Chris has kept all the healthy trees that had to be moved elsewhere and he will be replanting those and the new trees when the site is finished. The borders at Rowan Lane and Birch Close will also benefit from some of the 3000 new plants that have been propagated this year, as will other areas of the gardens here at Wadswick Green.

Future

Chris and Keith are also committed to delivering a new village green and lawn bowls rink once the new village hall has been erected. Chris has a team of four gardeners on site; two part-time and two employed full-time. He has also recently committed his own time solely to the contract he has with Rangeford. Asked why he feels so strongly about this place, he explained that having visited other nearby retirement villages in the past, he believes totally in the concept here and says there is nothing more rewarding than trying to create an oasis where people can enjoy both their independence and community living.

Chris says that he has learnt so much about new ways of working as he has landscaped and advised on the villages at Siddington Park and Chertsey. He wants to share these ideas and new methods across all the sites in which he is involved.

At Wadswick Green his focus this winter is gradually moving to more drought-tolerant planting in response to our warming climate, especially in areas of Rowan Lane and Birch Close where some of the planting is at the end of its natural life; he also has plans for some new systems to make watering easier and less wasteful.



Contract

The current contract with Chris ends next summer and will go out to tender. Keith and Chris clearly have a good working relationship and both described an ongoing commitment to the gardens and their future development.

Chris and his team of gardeners recognise that their efforts are appreciated by the residents, even if there is some muttering from us in May and June about the weeds and the areas of grass not mown!

Having chatted to some residents, we know that there are some concerns, such as more wilding or not, wild flower areas, watering, tree felling, colour schemes, etc. If you would like to comment on these or any other gardening issues good or bad, please provide feedback to Steve Besent or Sue Page or Chris and Keith themselves. Please remember to check with the gardeners before planting or removing plants.

We came away from the chat feeling confident that these wonderful gardens are in good hands.

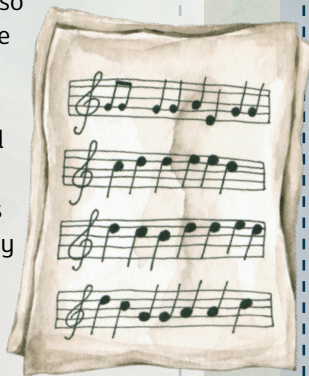


A first time for everything

Name This Tune!

Annette Henry

I arrived at Wadswick Green prepared to make new friends and embrace all that Wadswick had to offer. There is so much to participate in and one of the activities was Musical Memories. Having been brought up through the rock and roll era, classical music had passed me by and so it was quite a refreshing challenge to embrace this once-a-month activity. I've got to say that I thoroughly enjoy the whole experience and look forward to the monthly meetings.



I have also taken up other sporting activities, swimming, table tennis, a little croquet and last but not least boules. This would never have happened if I hadn't moved to Wadswick Green.

To say it was one of the best decisions I have ever made is putting it mildly: life is what you make it and there is so much to do here one is spoilt for choice. I love it!

Booking online with a real human!

Jenny O'Donnell

I have just come back from my very first cruise with Saga, from Dover to Edinburgh. The weather was as bad as everyone had predicted but the Spirit of Adventure was unperturbed, its journey over a rough sea far smoother than a car journey over the Wiltshire roads.

From the ease of making my booking online with a real human being, to the friendly considerate drivers Saga employed to take me from Birch Close to Dover and back after the trip, it was so stress-free. It takes a lot for someone disabled, as I am, to be able to say that. I found quite enough on board to keep me occupied: excellent gym, library, theatre, the Spa, completing a mile walking laps of the deck or just chatting with strangers.

Now I am hoping Premium Bonds come up trumps. I want a next time, but longer!

I nervously went to my first play reading meeting

Joan Thake

When I moved here I was delighted to see how many activities one could join and having always supported the arts, especially the theatre, I decided to try Play Reading. I nervously went along to my first meeting and was welcomed by the leader and the group. I found that I simply love it!



We have a lively, enthusiastic group of players, which I thoroughly enjoy participating in. Thank you to all those involved for making it such an exciting experience!

Drawing is something that gives me great pleasure

Allan Whatley

Drawing is something that gives me great pleasure, ease and contentment - a wonderful distraction from the stresses and strains of life.

A good friend I met at Wadswick Green gave me a set of watercolour pencils, which I used for some nature paintings. I prefer drawing a single flower to a bouquet and I try to capture its essence by showing how the petals are arranged or how the seed-heads are formed.



When I decided to turn my hand to portraits I could hardly have chosen a more difficult subject.

I have initially focused on doing portrait pictures of Wadswick Green staff. Some have come out quite well and some have not. I have not sought to produce a photographic likeness - I am not sure that I could - but I have tried to convey a sense of what that person is like. If my paintings are displayed, fingers crossed that you can identify who these people are!

Forming new Friendships

Iris and Peter Vincent

Prior to moving here, we were members of our local U3A and had joined various interest groups. We were delighted to find similar groups available here, for instance Play Reading, Book Groups and Table Tennis and more recently some new ones like the Discussion Group.

By attending these groups we have met many owners from other courtyards and formed new friendships. We would definitely recommend dipping your toes in any of the groups, or setting up a new group, and we are sure that you will be made to feel very welcome.



The Joys of Croquet

Richard Eales

I have always enjoyed following and watching sport. Unfortunately, my sporting prowess has mostly lagged behind my enthusiasm and my trophy shelf was bare and gathering dust until I came to Wadswick Green and discovered croquet.

Croquet at Wadswick is quite different from when I'd played before: the lawn is maintained in pristine condition, and the various competitions are fiercely contested with no quarter given or received - but always, of course, in the friendliest and nicest possible way.

Great strength is not required: good results are achieved by a successful combination of hand, eye and brain and the ability to see just one move ahead of one's opponent.

If I can do it anybody can. Ron Spurgeon and I have won two of the doubles events and I played in the singles final. As one competition closes so another begins and the draw has just taken place for the Autumn season.

Let battle commence!



The happy group of pétanque players

John Jones

And here are some of the pétanque players who are out playing after lunch on Mondays and afterwards meet up in The Greenhouse for a cup of tea and chat.

They play in groups of four and the skill is in throwing your ball closest to the jack. Like in croquet, you can aim your ball to knock others out of the way!

I now have a very busy social life

Lennie Almond

Moving to a new location at any age is daunting. Moving when you are older and on your own for the first time in decades presents many challenges. And yet my move to Wadswick Green has undoubtedly been a good decision. My quality of life has definitely improved.

I love being part of a village community, and am a big believer that to make community work, you have to 'give a bit, to get a bit', so aside from joining existing groups I helped start a new discussion group with Brenda Beeton, which meets monthly. The purpose of this group is to encourage its members to think about a range of local, national, or international topics which dominate the media, and discuss them within the group setting.

An unexpected and significant bonus to living here has been developing new female friendships within the village. They have helped me adjust to my new life here, and to contemplate the future without anxiety or fear. I now have a very busy social life, more than I have ever had.

Feeling that I am not alone, even though I now live on my own (except for Sam my dog!) is definitely a plus. I know I can call on my new friends here for practical help and/or emotional support. And I hope they know that I would do the same for them. I feel lucky to be here.



Book reviews

Back in the Day:

by Melvyn Bragg

Melvyn Bragg was born in 1939 in Wigton, Cumbria to working class parents. He is probably well known for his books and presenting the programme The South Bank Show. Currently he is in the House of Lords where he speaks up for the Arts and Education.

Will she do?

Act One of a Life on Stage:

by Eileen Atkins

Eileen Atkins was born in 1934 and lived on a council estate in Tottenham. She is well known for her acting roles in Cranford, Upstairs Downstairs, Queen Mary in the Crown and Doc Marten's Aunt. She was made a Dame in 1991.

It was fascinating to read how in both cases they have had to overcome problems from their backgrounds to achieve their dreams. Both of their fathers had suffered through the world wars and had been prevented from having the education they could have had. Both of them were encouraged by their teachers to take up opportunities to fulfil their potential. Melvyn had experienced a breakdown in his early teens and was encouraged to work through it by studying. He admits that he can sometimes have attacks of anxiety before speaking publicly.

Eileen had also been encouraged by her teacher who recognised her potential and helped her to overcome her North London accent through elocution classes. Against the odds they had both achieved places at Grammar Schools, which had then enabled them to achieve the next step towards their careers. Melvyn ended his biography when he was about to leave Wigton to go to Oxford University with these words: I would go but I would never leave.



Christmas in July

by Sylvia Humphries



Monks' Chapel is a local treasure which officially lies in Neston, although the nearby cottages are in the parish of Gastard. Built in 1662 by the Quakers, this chapel is the only '5 mile chapel' where worship has continued unbroken since the Reformation.

Following the downfall of Oliver Cromwell, King Charles II restored the established Church of England. The result being, those who did not conform were classed as Dissenters so not allowed to practice their religion within 5 miles of any town. Monks' Chapel is more than 5 miles from Chippenham so worship was allowed to continue.

In 1690 a gallery was built, meaning this chapel was no longer a simple Quakers' meeting house and was more of a Dissenters' chapel. Today it is part of the United Reform Churches.



Malcolm arranged for the Friday walkers to walk to the chapel where we were met by Wendy, a church elder, who welcomed us in and gave us a potted history of the chapel. Whilst there, I noticed a flyer advertising their main fund raiser event to be held a few weeks later - Christmas in July. Now that is different; I had to go along.

A beautiful sunny, Sunday afternoon in July and a traditional Christmas service with help from the Colerne and Corsham Military Wives Choir. Singing about snow lying deep and crisp and even did seem a bit odd but a carol service, singing those well-known, traditional carols, whenever it is held is always uplifting. Following the service, there was tea with Christmas cake and mince pies in the graveyard and a chance to meet and talk to new people. Such a very lovely afternoon.

Look out for it next year and join me celebrating a second Christmas without all the hassle of presents, turkey and sprouts. This will go down as one of my best Sunday afternoons this summer.

There is a service at the chapel every Sunday afternoon at 2.45pm. You don't have to take Malcolm's route across the fields to get there; it is less than 10 minutes by car and there is a very large car park nearby.

*"This will go down as one of
my best Sunday afternoons
this summer"*

Memorable *moments* from holidays

POSTCARD

Our family took a two week holiday to Egypt on the Red Sea at Hurghada. The first morning we all went to the beach. Our two boys took one look at the water and dived in. This part of the coast has a long reef within 15 metres of the shore. As they surfaced the first words were "It's just like the Tele".

The other funny experience was the fact the an Egyptian beach attendant that we became friendly with, tried to exchange me for two Lamborghinis; which has become a family joke. My husband replied that he only had room in the garage for one car. This became one of the most memorable family holidays.



Egyptian Adventure

Catherine Puleston



POSTCARD

Uganda, the pearl of Africa. It has everything – from stunning scenery to wonderful wildlife. But there was one sight that was totally unforgettable...mountain gorillas.

We had been trekking for nearly six hours when the ranger raised his hand for silence...and there they were...a gorilla family. Two females with babies and three juvenile males. Almost within touching distance was the head of the family – the silverback. Not quite the size of King Kong but near to six feet and weighing over 200 kg – he was the most awe-inspiring sight.



Mountain Gorillas

Joy Manton

POSTCARD

Travelling down the Karakoram Highway in Pakistani Kashmir one comes to the Hunza Valley, a rugged, mountainous region of immense beauty. Spanning the Hunza River is the Hussaini suspension bridge, often dubbed one of the most dangerous bridges in the world. It's known for its precarious nature with large gaps between its wooden planks and a tendency to sway in the wind.

Well, one just had to have a go! Time did not permit me to get the whole way across before dusk made it too dangerous, but it most certainly was one of life's experiences.



The Hussaini Suspension Bridge, Kashmir

Graham Wilkins



Meet Roy Travis

by Steve Besent

I very much enjoyed an hour or so chatting with Roy Travis, our most elderly resident, about his life and times. You wouldn't know he is in his 100th year.

Roy was born in Manchester and went to school in Derby. His father was a railway man, which gave Roy early opportunities to see much of England by train. This started a life-long interest in travelling and one special journey to Cornwall gave him a love of the West Country.

His schooling was somewhat disrupted by the war but he joined Manchester University in 1943, gaining a Dental degree. Following his National Service, Roy joined the Navy at Chatham as a Surgeon (Lieutenant). He worked in a number of military hospitals during his 32 year service in the Navy. Roy has particularly fond memories of his time in Malta. He was the most senior of the Navy's three "Honorary Dental Surgeons to the Queen".

Roy met his wife Marjorie, a Wren, in 1954. They had four sons and two daughters. He now also has ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Roy is clearly very proud of the achievements of his family and is looking forward to a big family gathering in Bristol for his birthday.

On leaving the Navy, Roy went into private practice as a Dentist, working in Plymouth. Following the death of his wife Marjorie, he moved to a bungalow near Malmesbury. He has been a keen traveller and regards Cape Town as the best city he has visited.



Roy moved to Wadswick Green six years ago when his large garden became a bit too much of a challenge. Roy has lived happily in his Pavilion apartment at Wadswick Green for 6 years. He was still driving regularly at the age of 96!

Roy is a keen reader and keeps up to date with world events. However, he made it very clear that he has never had any interest in sport. I don't think he watched the Olympics! He is in good general health, although recently in hospital for an operation on his leg.

Roy can't speak too highly about the Wadswick staff. He feels well looked after and supported. He loves his top floor apartment with its morning sun on the balcony and distant views of the Ridgeway in the east on clear summer evenings.

Good to get to know you Roy!



Volunteering for the National Trust

by Michael Williams



For 25 years I was a room guide and house guide. Hinton Ampner house and garden is a small National Trust house on the A272 in Hampshire.

The house has been in the same family since the 14th century but was subject to a fierce fire in the 1960s. The owner of the time, Ralph Dutton, decided to rebuild it in the Georgian style rather than the Victorian that he had inherited. When he died, he left it to the National Trust, who did not know what to do with it so let it to a tenant. It was only open on a Tuesday and the Head Gardner was the administrator and there were only eight volunteers. We did not get many visitors at that time and they were mostly to the garden.

“Being a room guide meant that one had to learn the history of every piece of furniture, ceramics and the very large collection of Italian paintings.”

When the tenant died, the NT decided to completely reorganise the place and we soon received a House Steward, two conservators, and we recruited about 100 volunteers for the house, garden and estate, so that we could open 7 days a week.

Being a room guide meant that one had to learn the history of every piece of furniture, ceramics and the very large collection of Italian paintings. The library contained over 2000 books covering gardening subjects, genealogy (Ralph Dutton was a member of the College of Arms), and many books by Trollope, Dickens, Jane Austen, as befits a “Gentleman’s Residence”. There was a large collection of ‘Blue John’ and we had many visitors just to see that.

The garden was huge and he had designed it. One of our volunteers accessed every plant and shrub by GPS and then computerised it so that visitors could use it to identify the contents. An administrative change made the whole operation less informal and the additional rules and objectives that were introduced caused quite a few of the volunteers to retire. My most memorable experience was to take a gentleman (he was a High Court Judge) on a private tour of the house, and remarkably we found that we knew certain people in common. Sadly, I read his obituary in the Daily Telegraph a week or so later.



welcome to New Residents



Sally Grundy & Jill Sheppard

Sally was born in South Africa where she spent the first 36 years of life and represented Natal in Women's Cricket. The abhorrent Apartheid system was the main reason for relocating to the UK where there were strong family links in Bristol and Lancashire. After various office positions she spent the last ten years of her working life running the British headquarters of The Knights of Malta in St. John's Wood. Unfortunately, golf is now beyond her, but she does enjoy reading.

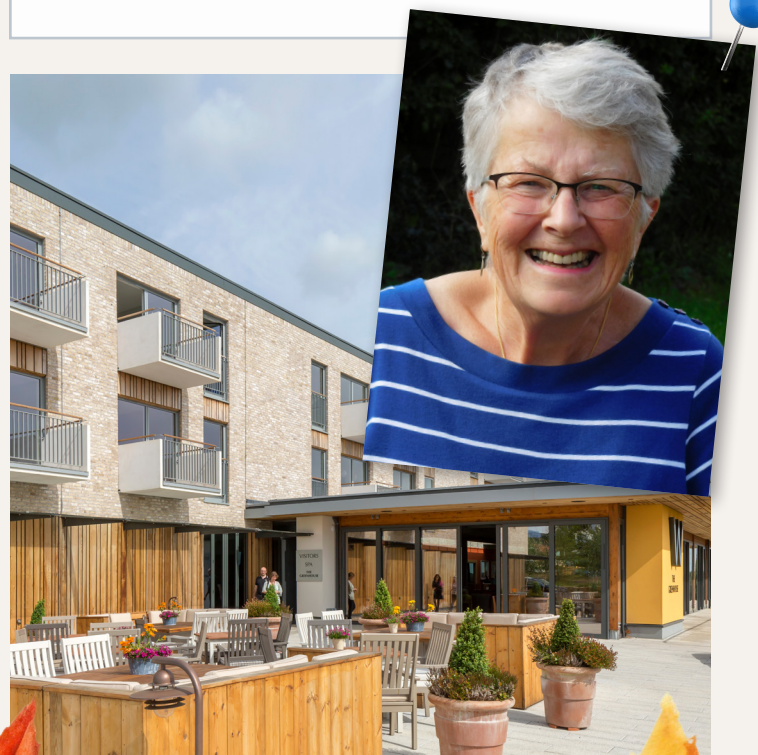
Jill was born in Liverpool where her parents managed a large pub catering for traders at the local markets. Having enjoyed the swinging 60s she went to teacher training college in North Wales then to London to teach, loving her work with children and the diversity of the school community. Jill was the language co-ordinator and in charge of drama, choir and school productions at St Mary's in Kilburn for 30 years.

Sally and Jill moved briefly to Southport and then to Suffolk where some close friends had relocated. They travelled a lot to South Africa, spending time with Sally's family and loving the African bush. Jill's interests include art, theatre, design - having done a garden design course - reading and jigsaw puzzles.

Jane Morrish

As an only child of a farming family my story began in rural Oxfordshire. I qualified as a Physiotherapist and worked with people with severe spinal injuries in an NHS rehabilitation unit in South Wales - challenging but deeply rewarding work! Later, now married to husband David, I changed careers and enjoyed some time working in industry before taking a break for family and more training. I started a small business which I ran for 20 years - first independently and latterly with David. We worked hard but enjoyed hobbies like walking, archery, badminton and croquet.

Once retired and living in Devon, we finally took some fantastic holidays including Antarctica, Kenya and Galapagos. After David's sudden death, I initially downsized but stayed in Sidmouth, but on my own with virtually no family, I was restless and needed radical change - so am delighted to be in Wadswick with new friends and exciting opportunities.





Anne Nunes

I have Cornish roots and a West Country upbringing. After a degree at Exeter University, I won a postgraduate scholarship to William and Mary College, Virginia, USA. There I met my future husband and brought him back home with me! We settled in the West Midlands where we both pursued teaching careers while bringing up our family.

When my husband created a Programme for American undergraduates in Bath, we moved to Lacock. Very sadly he died in 1997, but I was able to continue his work and the project still exists and thrives.

Since retirement, I have spent time in New Zealand where our daughter lived until 2018 and with my son and his family in Bristol. My main interests are music, singing and the natural world. I was particularly drawn to Wadswick Green by the expansive green spaces, inspired planting and variety of fauna. I look forward to joining some of the activities and have adopted a raised garden bed.



David & Brenda Beeton

If you have noticed a very tall new resident with a black greyhound, it is probably David Beeton (6' 7") who moved here with his wife Brenda. She was a speech therapist who spent most of her career at the RUH in Bath helping brain damaged young children to communicate.

David qualified as a solicitor and spent a year in Lesotho on voluntary service overseas before walking and hitch-hiking home from South Africa. He was appointed Chief Executive of Bath City Council 50 years ago. He subsequently became The Secretary of the National Trust and finally Chief Executive of five of the Queen's Palaces in London.

David loves cooking, which is appropriate for a descendent of Mrs Beeton the Victorian cook, and he ran a wine tasting group in Bath for over 40 years. He and Brenda are keen to meet any residents with any similar interests.

continued overleaf...

welcome to New Residents



Robin Mackinlay

I was born in Kenya Colony and went to boarding school there from six. At 13 I came back to school at Glenalmond in Scotland, leaving in 1958 and returning to Kenya to farm. However, to have a qualification as a backstop, I returned to go to University in Edinburgh getting an engineering degree. I joined Metal Box Company working on Machinery Development but finding that boringly slow, I got a job with Dalgety and New Zealand Loan back in East Africa who then amalgamated locally with Inchcape and sold their share. I managed the Uganda engineering department.

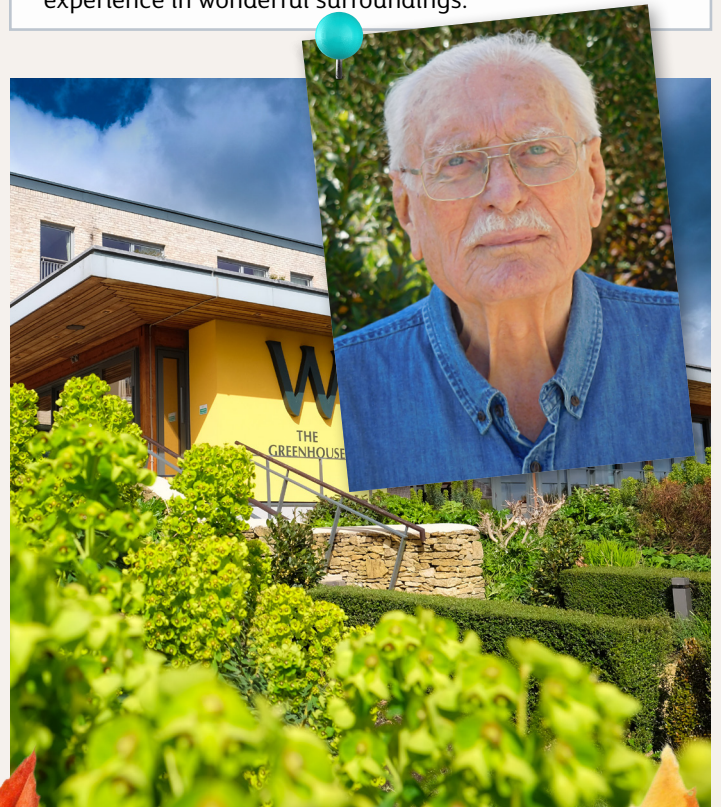
I married in 1970 and transferred with Inchcape to Gilmans in Hong Kong dealing with very different products. I then joined up with a partner to start our own company and provide equipment and systems to contractors on the HK Mass Transit. We developed that business to cover other equipment and also over a wider area. Since our sons did not want to take that on, we sold the trading company though I stayed on as joint MD. I left HK before the Handover and lived in Scotland still going to HK at intervals. The common thread of my work has been equipment development and problem solutions.

My interests include painting, bridge, and reading - leaning towards history, travel, and development.

David Keys

I was born in South London before the war, but we moved to Surrey to escape the bombs before settling in Bristol in 1946. I attended Bristol Grammar School and studied classics, playing rugby and becoming a Queen's Scout and group leader where I met a pretty Girl Guide – you can imagine where the future took me! On returning from National Service, spent in Egypt, I married Barbara and began 64 years of love and loyalty, moving to Broad Hinton where we brought up our three children.

On retirement from a life in the catering trade, progressing from salesman to Company Director, we moved to Rode to be closer to our two grandchildren in Bath. I enjoy sports, reading, researching family history, stamp collecting, cooking and making friends. So here I am at Wadswick Green enjoying a great new experience in wonderful surroundings.





Tony & Audrey Bamber

Tony and Audrey moved here from West Wales where they had lived for over thirty years. They are both retired librarians and met when they worked for Bristol Public Libraries in the 1950s and 60s.

After marrying in 1959 they had two sons and moved in turn to Leicestershire, Surrey, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire by which time Tony was the deputy County Librarian and Audrey had become a freelance editor, proof-reader and indexer. After retirement they moved to Wales, where Tony continued his consultancy in library management.

They enjoy the theatre, music, reading (now they have time for books!) and seeing more of the family who live not too far distant. They are looking forward to exploring whatever Wadswick Green has to offer and to meeting new people.



Robin Parry

I was born in 1936; we lost our home in the Bristol Blitz in 1940 and moved to Frome. At 17 I embarked on an Electrical Engineering apprenticeship followed by 2 years National Service. On “demob” I secured a job designing and planning the construction of HV overhead power lines for the National Grid. I then got a job planning the coordination of the research and development of what became BT’s digital telephone system. This led to similar employment, mainly in Defence systems through to retirement.

I married in 1960 and have 2 daughters by my first wife Norma who died in 1978. Twenty years later I met and married Brenda who died in 2020. My interests include DIY, art, boules, singing, photography, boating and voluntary work in both the community and the K&A Canal Trust where I was a skipper for Canal Trust cruises. I now swim to keep active.



My favourite TOY

Classic toys include jack in the boxes, yo-yos, kaleidoscopes, spinning tops and wooden train sets, but other toys become our favourites for very different reasons. Read our warm-hearted, nostalgic look through the toys that helped define our residents' childhoods.



Dolls' House

Sue Warren

Father Christmas brought me a dolls' house when I was five years old. The house and most of the furniture had been made by my Dad in his shed at the bottom of the garden, it was a total surprise to me. Some of our neighbours were in on the secret and also made things to go in it.

The house was fully equipped with curtains, electric lights, the batteries were hidden under the stairs, and fireplaces glowing with silver paper embers. There was wallpaper and pictures on the walls, Lino and rugs on the floors. A family of dolls lived comfortably in the house and in a basket with five kittens was a black cat.

The house was refurbished by my Dad when our daughter was a toddler and she enjoyed playing with it as much as I did. The house eventually went to a collector but I still have the black cat snuggled in her basket; her kittens left home long ago



Lorry

Malcolm Jennings

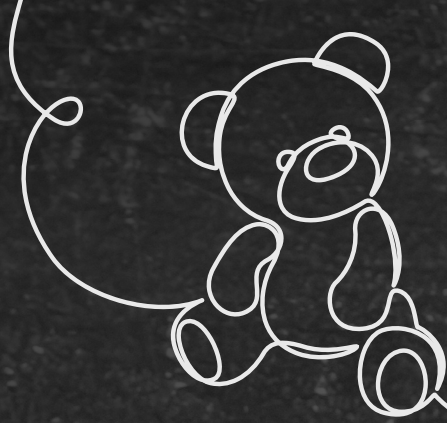
I was born at the beginning of the Second World War when toys were difficult to obtain so my father made me a lorry which was painted in bright colours. Although it was a toy to be pulled with a string I sat on it and eventually I became too heavy for it and kept breaking the wooden axles. My dad kept replacing them for me and told me not to sit on it. I was also given a crane at this time by my uncle who had made it entirely of metal as he was an engineer. The crane lasted a lot longer than the lorry!!



Theodore

Kathie Jennings

Some time ago I realised that I had never owned a teddy bear and regretted it, so about ten years ago Malcolm bought me one. His name is Theodore and he sits proudly on his own little chair looking out of the lounge window here at Wadswick Green.



Foxy Marian Nuttall

He was not a childhood toy of mine. Despite his orange shirt and long green dungarees, we called him Foxy. I bought him when my children were little, and he travelled the world with us. Once the children had left home, he languished for some years in the junk room, until, preparing to move to Wadswick Green, he was rediscovered. He and his furry companion now reside happily on the bunk beds in my great grandchildren's bedroom. Perhaps he'll survive another two or three generations.



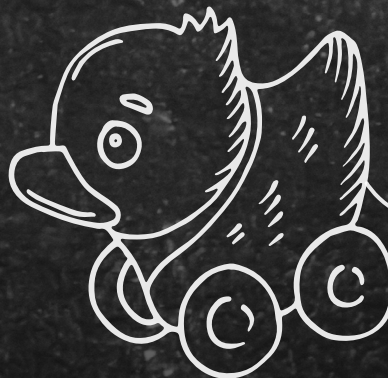
Duck Sylvia Humphries

Toys were in short supply in war-torn Liverpool in the early 1940s. My father made me this duck which would waddle downhill. I'm not sure it was my favourite toy but it was my only one for some time and the only one I have kept.



Cabinet Chris Sayer

This little cabinet hopes for a quiet retirement at Wadswick Green!!! When I was three, living with my Granny and Grampa in Lancashire, there was a house fire in the dining room directly below my bedroom and a strange man woke me up and carried me next door. I was happy being indulged by two spinster ladies, known as the 'Addison Sisters'. They gave me this cabinet, which has been home to many little treasures during my lifetime. Years ago my valuable jewellery was burgled, then more recently a second burglar helped himself to many of the less valuable sentimental odds and ends.



Puzzle page

C	R	L	S	W	A	L	K	I	N	G	Y	N	N
S	A	L	G	C	B	Y	R	N	G	R	H	N	B
C	G	A	R	D	E	N	I	N	G	E	P	N	O
I	O	N	E	S	I	Q	I	P	G	A	A	H	U
B	Y	I	O	U	I	P	O	L	N	D	R	O	L
O	G	Q	O	G	P	G	T	C	I	I	G	I	E
R	S	N	R	O	I	A	P	C	T	N	O	C	S
E	B	N	H	O	S	Q	G	O	N	G	T	R	D
A	A	S	H	Q	E	P	T	O	I	R	O	O	H
N	C	E	L	P	B	N	S	E	A	T	H	Q	D
C	R	O	C	H	E	T	T	P	P	R	P	U	A
O	E	N	S	C	R	A	B	B	L	E	I	E	R
R	I	G	A	G	S	E	T	A	L	I	P	T	E
O	E	D	T	A	B	L	E	T	E	N	N	I	S

Wordsearch

Can you find these activities?

- SHOPPING
- SCRABBLE
- TABLE TENNIS
- QIGONG
- BOULES
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- CROQUET
- WALKING
- READING
- AEROBICS
- PILATES
- GARDENING



Toy Anagrams

- Ildos ehosu _____
- Ariebb _____
- Ysknil _____
- Rm Opatot Edah _____
- Critceel Tnrai Tes _____
- Dllso Mapr _____
- Ywden Ehsou _____
- Ahlu Ooph _____
- Gsnipnin Opt _____
- Beerisf _____

Poetry Puzzle

What poem is this extract taken from?
And who was the poet?

*Better than all measures
Of delightful sound.
Better than all treasures
That in books are found.
Thy skill to poet were, thou scornor of the ground!*

*Teach me half the gladness
That thy brain must know,
Such harmonious madness
From my lips would flow
The world should listen then, as I am listening now.*



Poetry Puzzle
Percy Bysshe Shelley
1792-1822
To a Skylark

Toy Anagrams
Dolls House, Barbie, Slinky, Mr Potato Head,
Electric Train Set, Dolls Pram, Wendy House,
Hula Hoop, Spinning Top, Frisbee

S	I	N	N	E	T	E	T	E	L	E	T	E	O
R	I	G	A	G	S	E	T	A	L	I	P	T	E
E	N	S	C	R	A	B	B	L	E	I	E	R	O
C	R	O	C	H	E	T	T	P	P	R	P	U	A
N	C	E	L	P	B	N	S	E	A	T	H	Q	D
A	A	S	H	Q	E	P	T	O	I	R	O	O	H
E	B	N	H	O	S	Q	G	O	N	G	T	R	D
R	S	N	R	O	I	A	P	C	T	N	O	C	S
O	G	Q	O	G	P	G	T	C	I	I	G	I	E
B	Y	I	O	U	I	P	O	L	N	D	R	O	L
I	O	N	E	S	I	Q	I	P	G	A	A	H	U
C	G	A	R	D	E	N	I	N	G	E	P	N	O
S	A	L	G	C	B	Y	R	N	G	R	H	N	B
C	R	L	S	W	A	L	K	I	N	G	Y	N	N

Answers:



cut out and keep Groups and Activities

Art Group	1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 10am	Village Hall	Kathie Jennings / June Game
Boules	Thursdays at 3pm (4pm during summer)	Village Green	Mike Lee
Contemporary Issues Discussion Group	1st Friday of the month at 10.30am	Village Hall	Lennie Almond / Brenda Beeton
Croquet	Wednesdays at 10am	Village Green	Graham Wilkins
Gardening Group	Every other Monday at 2pm	Outdoors	Sue Page / Penny Caro
Knit, Natter & Crochet	1st Tuesday of the month at 10.30am	Greenhouse	Jo Dolman
Ladies Sunday Tea Group	Sundays at 3pm (Informal)	Greenhouse	
Low Impact Aerobics	Tuesdays at 3pm & 4pm	Village Hall	
Musical Memories	4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm	Village Hall	Moyra Evans
Photographic Group	4th Wednesday of the month at 10.30am	Royal Arthur Room	Vic Steadman
Play Reading	2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm	Village Hall	Moyra Evans
Prayer Group	Mondays at 10am	Village Hall	Norman Fuggle
Reading Group	1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm	Village Hall	Christine Carter
Reading Group	2nd Friday of the month at 4.30pm	Royal Arthur Room	Ron Spurgeon
Sketchers Group	Flexible times to suit members	Outdoors	Chris Sayer
Scrabble	Mondays and Tuesdays at 2pm	Greenhouse	
Seated Pilates	Thursdays 3pm & 4pm	Village Hall	
Sunday Hour	Sundays at 5pm	Village Hall	Pat Fuggle
Table Tennis	Sundays at 11am & Wednesdays at 6pm	Village Hall	Steve Besent
Tai Chi Qigong	Mondays at 3pm and Fridays at 3pm	Village Hall	
Walking Group	Fridays at 10am from The Greenhouse	Greenhouse	Malcolm Jennings
Water Aerobics	Wednesdays at 3pm	Pool	
Watercolour Classes	2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month	Village Hall	Sue Warren
Yoga	Wednesdays at 2.45pm	Village Hall	





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