

July 2017

West Berkshire, North Hampshire & East Wiltshire

OUT & ABOUT

A Newbury News Ltd publication

Raising the roof

Look down from the scaffolding surrounding The Wyne as renovation works go ahead



Happy champers

Disused churches are the latest camping craze

Swan Upping along the Thames

Annual ceremony steeped in tradition

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WELCOME to the July issue of OUT&ABOUT

Fingers-crossed the glorious weather continues into July. If you're looking for a day out, then The Vyne is definitely worth a visit (p14). Currently undergoing a £5.4m roof restoration, you can go onto an aerial walkway to view the works from above; visit the splendid Tudor chapel and stroll around the glorious grounds. Or enjoy the ceremony of Swan Upping (p38), a centuries-old tradition, which takes place annually along the Thames. If you're looking for something a bit more adventurous than camping, how about champing – a sleepover in a church? (p21).

If champing sounds a bit spooky, James Allen has some tipples to lift the spirits (p37). Simon Rhodes suggests Spanish paella as an alternative to a traditional barbecue (p33), but if it's meat on charcoal you're after then Hilary Scott has some tips on best buys and places that offer barbecue cuisine (p29).

See what's on in July (p59) plus fitness, books, motors, travel and fashion – hopefully will all inspire you to make the most of the sunshine.



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Out&About

July 2017

Cover picture of The Vyne, Arnhel de Serra

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10 STEPS TO YOUR FIRST FRONT DOOR!



Could this be the year you buy your first home? Given that buying a home is the single biggest purchase most people will ever make, it's important to get it right.

If you are a first time buyer, here are ten key steps you will need to take in order to buy your first home:

- 1. Get in touch with a mortgage provider.**
Agree a mortgage in principle; this will tell you the price of the property you can afford to buy.
- 2. Go house-shopping.**
Look at as many properties as you can to get a good idea of what is out there and don't forget to explore local facilities. Will the area suit you?
- 3. Make an offer.**
When you have found the property for you, you can make an offer, keeping in mind the amount you can borrow.
- 4. Meet with your mortgage provider.**
Speak to your mortgage provider and finalise your application for your mortgage.
- 5. Decide what you need to know about the property.**
The property will be valued, producing a basic report. If you want to know more about the property, you can organise for a home buyers or full building survey to be undertaken.
- 6. Instruct a Solicitor.**
Now you will need to instruct a legal representative to undertake the conveyancing process for you.
- 7. Receiving an offer.**
If your mortgage provider is satisfied with all the information in your application, they will make you a mortgage offer.
- 8. Paying the deposit.**
You will need to pay the deposit to your solicitors, who will arrange the purchase.

9. Contract exchange.

The contracts will now be exchanged and a completion date agreed.

10. Completion day.

Your purchase is now complete and you can collect the keys to your first home. Congratulations!

Remember, within your initial purchase, various fees may be payable, including; stamp duty, solicitors fee, valuation fees, application and booking fees.

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For more information on buying a home, you can visit our Newbury branch, call us on **01635 522588** or email newbury@newbury.co.uk

YOUR MORTGAGE IS SECURED ON YOUR HOME. THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE SECURING OTHER DEBTS AGAINST YOUR HOME. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE.



Jane Boshier
Senior Office Manager



Jonathan Hopson

...knows his silly mid-off from his square leg



Hopson's Hotshots claim the trophy from Hewens' Heroes in 2016

There's something quintessentially English about the game of cricket.

A 22-yard strip of grass with strategically placed fielding positions, including, third man, deep backward point, silly mid off and, sometimes, cow corner – the space between deep midwicket and long on, and so-called because few 'legitimate' shots are aimed to this part of the field, which means fielders are rarely placed there. This leads to the concept that cows could happily graze in that area.

And there's nothing quite like the sound of leather on willow as bat strikes ball on a summer's afternoon.

During the 1980s and 90s, I played for the Camp Hopson cricket team, competing against a variety of business teams including Darvell Removals, Plenty's, James & Cowper, Charles Lucas & Marshall and Vodafone.

Games were always played in good spirit and often concluded with a 'match tea' at a local pub.

Playing at Yattendon's pretty village cricket pitch – arguably one of the most picturesque cricketing locations in the Newbury area – usually resulted in victors and vanquished visiting the highly-renowned Pot Kiln pub in nearby Frilsham.

Despite now being closer to 60 than 50, I still play at least one game of cricket a year, as a Hopson XI – somewhat optimistically known

as Hopson's Hotshots – taking on Hewens' Heroes in an annual cricket match.

Nick Hewens has been a friend for more than 25 years. We've skied, played squash and tennis together and his three children, (triplets – two boys and a girl), have grown up with our two.

In the early 90s, when Nick was living and working in Yorkshire, he arranged a Southerners v Northerners cricket match in Hull.

By way of a re-match, it was agreed Nick and I would captain separate cricket teams in a game played in the south of England.

This inaugural match between Hopson's Hotshots and Hewens' Heroes took place in 1993 and was so successful it's been staged every year since.

It has been played at a variety of venues in the Newbury area, including Donnington Cricket Club, Horris Hill school and St Andrew's, Pangbourne.

For the last few years, the fixture has been played at Wilcot cricket ground near Pewsey.

Fortuitously, and in common with many cricket grounds, there happens to be a pub nearby, the excellent Golden Swan.

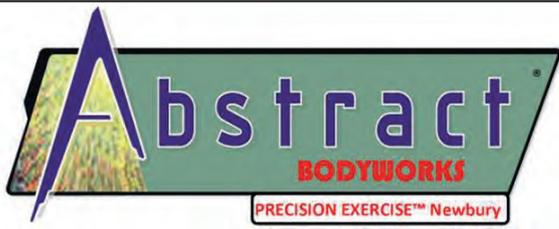
Over the years, some of the original bachelor players from the 1990s have produced children and there are now a number of father and son combinations in both teams.

The tally of wins currently stands at 11 to the Heroes, 10 to the Hotshots with two matches tied and one rained off.

So there's everything to play for in this year's 25th anniversary event which is scheduled to be played at the end of this month. [OA](#)



The Golden Swan, Wilcot, hosts the post-match celebrations



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It doesn't take much to increase your fitness levels and sense of well-being says VICKI BROWN. Just a few tweaks here in there in your daily routine – from diet to exercise – and you could soon be feeling in better shape and more energised

I think we can all get a little overwhelmed with the amount of information available about what we should and shouldn't be eating, how much and what type of exercise we should be doing. The list goes on.

What can often happen is either not enough or far too much knowledge leaves people unsure as to what they should be doing. In the end, it takes only a few simple changes to make a big difference to how healthy and well you feel.

If we look at our health and fitness as a whole, we can break it down into different elements to consider. What we consume, what we do and how we rest.

What we eat... and drink

How we fuel our body is one of the most important things to consider when wanting to improve your general wellbeing.

Drinking water daily and eating unprocessed, densely nutritious foods should make up the bulk of your daily diet.

Remember what you put into your body is your fuel... you put premium fuel into your car to get the best performance, that same principle applies to your body.

Be aware of what you are eating and how it makes you feel, some foods will give you energy throughout the day and others may make you feel lethargic.

Keeping a food diary and thinking about how a food makes you feel can help you make better food choices and may help you curb those cravings.

What we do... to use our bodies physically

There are sub categories within this area.

- ◆ Cardiovascular fitness

- ◆ Strength
- ◆ Flexibility
- ◆ Mobility
- ◆ Body composition

Try and make sure you get moving everyday.

Try and incorporate different types of training into your weekly routine – cardiovascular, strength and flexibility.

It doesn't matter if you have never addressed some of these areas before or you already do some – it is never too late to get started or increase your routine.

Remember to pace yourself with whatever you do and progressively make it harder.

If you are limited as to how much time you have available, try and incorporate different types of training and integrate them into your day.

It does not have to take hours for it to be of benefit. You could do a few stretches in the morning when you get up, park further away from the office so you have to walk those extra steps, do a HIIT workout – small changes, but ones which have a significant impact on your health and wellbeing.

How we rest... something that is often undervalued is the importance of sleep.

Do you get enough sleep, and enough of the *right* sleep so that you can fully recover ready for the next day?

Many factors can affect the amount and quality of sleep that we get.

Things to consider when trying to improve sleeping patterns include caffeine intake (when and how much), alcohol consumption, looking

at screens before bed, lack of routine and stress levels.

Tips to improve your sleep:

- ◆ set yourself a time to go to sleep each night – this allows your body to get into a natural sleep cycle during which it can recover and repair.

- ◆ avoid bright lights for up to two hours before bed and limit the number of electrical products on in your room

- ◆ avoid the consumption of stimulants after lunch, such as caffeine, sugar and nicotine. It is also best to avoid alcohol if you want a good night's sleep

- ◆ deal with issues causing you stress. If you are being kept awake thinking about certain issues within your life, addressing these problems will help you be able to put them out of your mind

- ◆ make sure you drink lots of water and exercise regularly too to aid a good night's sleep

Recommendation:

Complete a sleep journal of when you go to bed and when you wake up. Is there routine to your sleep or is it erratic? Look at changes that you could make and see how much of a difference those changes make to your overall sleep.

Hopefully that has given you food for thought as to how you can make small changes day to day to improve your general wellbeing. If you want more guidance as to how to address certain elements for your lifestyle, seek help from a professional who can help guide you and structure any changes to suit you. [OA](#)



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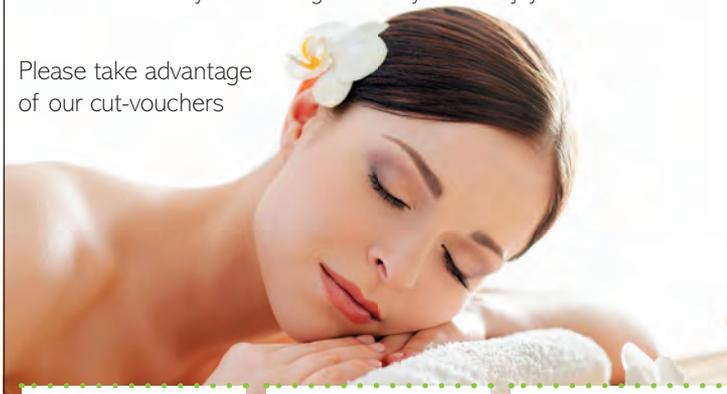
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Wash & go out

If you want to look beach blonde or costa del copper for the summer holidays, VICTORIA LEE says it's ok to use hair dye, as long as you take sensible precautions to protect your locks from the sun's rays and the effects of swimming pool chemicals

Colour and sunshine – what happens to your hair and best ways to avoid damage.

A much repeated question clients ask us is whether it is wise to colour your hair prior to going on holiday.

If we do colour before we go on holiday, the depth and tone fades quite rapidly and noticeably quicker than usual, because the sun photochemically produces a reaction within the hair shaft, enabling colour pigments to oxidise and change the hair's colour.

This process works on the same idea as fruit going off and changing colour. If the skin of the fruit stays intact, then no oxygen can reach the fruit beneath the protective layer of the skin, therefore keeping it fresher and not allowing any discoloration.

When hair is damaged, the cuticles (skin) on the hair shaft allow the sun to penetrate through, causing the colour to fade.

Applying conditioner to protect from UV rays is a myth, just as wearing moisturiser on our body will not offer protection from the sun.

However, if you care for your hair regularly with good quality products that contain high quantities of nourishing ingredients, you will limit the damage to your hair cuticles and thus allow less sun penetration and colour fade.

Another issue that can occur when in the sunshine, especially on naturally fair or bleached hair, is the hair picking up a tinge of green, particularly from swimming pool water.

The blame is often put on the chlorine in the water, when actually it could be due to the metal copper in the pool water or algicides.

When the metals in the water come into contact with 'blondes' and are then left to dry, this is when the hair turns green or 'khaki'.

Despite the name copper you may wonder why the hair is not dyed this colour from the water, but as the hair dries, copper is precipitated out as a copper sulphide.

With copper's positive electrical charge and hair and skin possessing a negative charge, water will evaporate from the hair when you get out of the pool, but the copper does not, which, with the cationic charge, remains in the hair and turns it green by an oxidation process.

To avoid this, we would recommend rinsing your hair in fresh water as soon as you leave the pool.

Covering your hair and scalp with a hat prior to going into the sun proves beneficial, failing that a high sun factor applied every two hours to the exposed hair will help protect it.

Hopefully, this will give you some quick and simple answers as to how to keep your hair looking it's best.

If you need any advice with your skin or hair give us a call at Diverse Beauty, as we are here to help. [QA](#)



Victoria Lee from Diverse Beauty
www.diversebeauty.co.uk
T: 01635 728023



An enjoyable way to lose weight says Nuala Carroll



Nuala Carroll
Award winning weight loss advisor

Our weight can be a lifelong project. I, like lots of people, spent most of my adult life either on a diet or enjoying not being on a diet, avoiding the scales and avoiding more than half my wardrobe that didn't fit.

The dream is to find a way to lose weight, but more importantly to keep it off. To be able to eat healthily, enjoy the occasional indulgence and stay the same size.

If you are looking to lose weight initially the most important thing to think about is your why? Think about it, be honest with yourself and then write down your why.

There are lots of 'hows' out there but you need to find the real reason you want to lose weight and that will be different for all of us.

That can be from a physical perspective, like bending down to fasten your shoes, to a lack of confidence and avoiding friends and social situations.

I've been helping clients in Newbury lose weight for more than six years. I work on a one-to-one basis, providing individual support and advice to suit individual needs and help them get to their goal even through the odd bump in the road on the way and provide support to clients in the long-term to help them maintain their weight loss.



You need to have a real and personal why. I've seen clients who have been told they need

to lose weight for lots of reasons but in the end you need to really want it yourself.

Think about how life will be different when you have lost the weight. Not just the pounds and stones but how, day-to-day, you will feel different and what you'll be able to do that your weight is preventing you from doing right now.

“ **If you are looking to lose weight, initially the most important thing to think about is why?** ”
Nuala Carroll

I recommend a meal replacement diet for lots of reasons. It can be a total meal replacement, which helps remove people's issues with regular food - where there is no ability to make good choices or portion control.

For those with lots of weight to lose the prospect can be overwhelming, so the structure and discipline of a meal replacement diet can help undo those habits and replace them with good choices. It can also be a partial meal replacement, which combines healthy conventional food with the nutritious supplements of some meal replacements. It is about finding what's the right way for each individual.

Here to help...

My office is based just off the Market Square in Newbury at Mansion House. Its centrally located, but discreet at the same time.

I have a passion for helping people feel the best they can and I'm very proud to have been recognised as one of the top 50 Cambridge Weight Plan Consultants in the UK.

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So Peppering Out

The sun should be shining - on some days at least - so let your toes peep out and soak up the rays. We've picked some of the highs and lows of summer sandals, and all available on the high street

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Sunday 30th July	Summer Open Day Ring Sue for details (Free)	
Sunday 13th August	Needle Felting Course (Birds) (£40)	10.30-15.00
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Looking great, doing good

It needn't cost the earth to look fabulous, as one lucky shopper discovered at Helen & Douglas House charity shop in Newbury recently. JANET CARRUZZO finds out more

Whatever you want a new outfit for, Henley, Wimbledon or even a summer wedding, you probably want something lovely that does not cost the earth and that no one else will be wearing.

Most of us would not think of looking in a local charity shop for an outfit and accessories, but you would be amazed at what gems you can find.

Helen & Douglas House in Bartholomew Street, Newbury, recently invited a personal stylist in to find two outfits for one shopper.

Newbury personal stylist is a great fan

Newbury personal stylist Victoria Lochhead, who runs Frankie and Ruby, is a real fan of charity shop shopping and has written a book called *In The Jumble*, available on Amazon, about the joys of finding, buying and wearing second-hand clothes.

Victoria decided to hold one of her personal styling sessions at the Helen & Douglas House shop recently with one of her clients Diana Pattendon.

They were amazed at what treasures they found and how much fun it was shopping at a charity shop.

The client brief

Diana, from Newbury, was looking for two outfits and the styling session started with her talking to Newbury shop manager Diane Batten about what she was looking for, with Victoria advising on the right colours, shape and style for Diana.

The colour blocking of clothes in this shop helped make the selection of clothes quick and easy.

The city break outfit

The outfit Victoria choose for her city break was a lovely Per Una long-sleeve Cerise top with beautiful broderie anglais detail (£4), the right shade for someone like Diana with a winter colouring, a lovely matching necklace (£2) and a smart pair of white cotton trousers

(£4.50) which were perfect for Diana's straight lines.

It cost just £10 for a whole new outfit for her weekend away.

The wedding outfit

Victoria choose a beautiful Kaliko grey jacket (£7.50) made of a high quality fabric in Diana's colours.

There were several great jackets to choose from, including a Ralph Lauren jacket for £15.

Diana does not like showing her knees so they choose a longer, patterned skirt (£5).

All the outfit needed to complete the look was a splash of colour by adding one of Helen & Douglas House's brand new fascinators in pink (£9.99).

This stunning wedding outfit cost just £22.49.

Diana Pattendon, the model, said: "Finding an outfit in a charity shop might seem a little daunting.

"The shopping experience is fun, the cost is unbelievably low and what's more your money supports an amazing charity."

Victoria Lochhead said: "In my experience as a personal stylist, looking fabulous needn't cost the earth.

"Charity shopping is the ultimate in recycling, and is so easy to do. I particularly love to shop in the Helen & Douglas House shop in Newbury.

"The shop is really well laid out, organised by colour, and is run by a very friendly and helpful team. "We found some wonderful outfits in the right style, colour and size.

If you've never been charity shopping, I pop in to Helen & Douglas House, because you never know what treasure is waiting there for you!"

Watch the film of this personal styling session at the Helen & Douglas House You Tube channel. #foundathdh



Pick of the week

What's new in at Helen & Douglas House

Keep up-to-date on what new clothing has come in to the shop every Tuesday during July and August on social media.

www.hdh.org.uk

For a wedding and evening dress appointments please call 01635 49695.

The Helen & Douglas House charity shop fact file

- It is the only charity shop in Newbury where the money raised helps local families.
- The charity cares for terminally-ill children and young adults living in the Newbury area.
- One bag of donated clothes can be worth on average £40 to the charity, which is increased by 25% if you use a Gift Aid card.
- They get a huge range of great donations, from high street brands to high value items like Louis Vuitton handbags and Jimmy Choo shoes.
- All the stock is replenished every two weeks. There is a high turnover of stock so pop in regularly to find new bargains.

Lifting the lid



*Size of roof : approx.
1600m², which includes
all pitched and flat roofs.*



The National Trust-run tudor 'power house' The Vyne, near Basingstoke, is undergoing a £5.4m conservation project, scheduled to finish in 2018.
GERALDINE GARDNER took a peek from the 13metre-high public walkway

I don't really have a head for heights, but the prospect of being able to survey one of the finest examples of Tudor architecture, The Vyne, from above the roof was an enticing one.

On the day I visited the weather was a little gloomy – but it didn't take away from the breathtaking view you get of the grounds surrounding The Vyne, or detract from the thrill of looking down on the rooftops and chimneys of this magnificent building. It would have been great if Dick Van Dyke had jumped out of one of the chimney pots, but you can't win them all.

First a little history. The Vyne was originally built in the 1520s by Henry VIII's Lord Chamberlain, William, First Lord Sandys.

Henry VIII was known to have visited the house with both Catherine of Aragon and more famously with Anne Boleyn – it even features in Hilary Mantel's Tudor epic *Wolf Hall*.

The house was purchased from the Sandys by the Speaker of the House of Commons Chaloner Chute in 1653, and became the Chute family home for successive generations over the next 350 years.

The Vyne is a mix of architectural styles. The earliest part is from 1520, but Chaloner Chute demolished two thirds of the original building, before adding the west tower and east wing. Later still, John Chute added the tomb chamber and designed the central staircase.

When William Lyde Wiggett Chute took over the upkeep of The Vyne in 1842, he recognised the damage the house had suffered from the weather over the years and set about repairing what he could.

An excerpt from William Chute's *History of The Vyne House and Property*, 1872, states: "The rainwater made its way into and through the house, which was necessarily made very damp, and wood work and pictures suffered in consequence."

He goes on to write: "It was impossible to reduce the size of the house, which could only be done by pulling down the Chapel at one end, or the Gallery at the other, or the staircase in the centre, which are all rather historical and could not with any regard to taste or good feeling be removed, and I was obliged therefore to undertake the repair of the whole as it stood."

Many of the Tudor interiors have survived, most especially the oak gallery, which is covered in wooden panels depicting the emblems of powerful Tudor personalities, from Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon to Thomas Wolsey and Thomas More.

During the conservation work, the oak gallery is closed to the public, but The Vyne is still well worth a visit, because there is so much to see – not least the bird's eye view you get from the aerial walkway.

If you have never visited The Vyne before the car park is a bit of a walk to the house, however opensided tram-style vehicles arrive on a regular basis to drive you up to the property.

If you are able to, walk – because you get a great view of the lake and grounds – even though the house itself is shrouded in scaffolding and plastic sheeting.

As you meander along the gravel path you will pass a beautifully laid out walled garden, orchard and glass house. There is also a 600-year-old oak tree and a 17th-century summerhouse.

When you get to the entrance, after donning a hi-viz jacket (all sizes catered for) you are then given the option of the staircase or lift.

When you get up to the galleried walkway, it really is an incredible site. It is easy to forget that you are actually on the roof of a house as you look at chimney tops, gables and vast open chasms of roof beams.

Birds flit in and out and plants grow haphazardly out of the brickwork and chimney pots. As the skilled craftsmen go about their business you can watch and wonder at the craftsmanship that built the original roofs.

There are regular information points along the walkway and if you take the children up there with you, there are discreetly-placed Lego figures dotted around the platforms to give them something to look out for.

We were taken round the area by manager of the building works Andrew Harris and National Trust archaeologist Gary Marshall.

Andrew has already experienced this kind of work, having supervised similar conservation work at Dyrham Park. It was there that the idea of creating a public viewing gallery while the work took place first developed. "It was such a success, we knew that it would work at The Vyne as well," said Andrew.

At the time I visited in mid-May the walkway had only been open for two months, in which time more than 23,000 people had been up on the roof.

"The response has been fantastic," explained Andrew. "We have had school groups and other organisations coming round and many people come back on a regular basis because what you can see is constantly changing as different parts of the roof come off." Things came to a head for The Vyne after the storms of 2014, when it became apparent that if left untreated the amount of water damage that had been done would be irreparable. ➤



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Children can spot Legomen placed around the roof structure



NT archaeologist Gary Marshall and building works manager Andrew Harris

It was then that the ambitious £5.4m project was hatched, with the added bonus of the public being able to see the work going on and, in addition, it was decided to take the opportunity to also do some scientific research. The team at the house are working closely with scientists from the University of Oxford, gathering as much data as they can to more accurately date the materials used on the house.

It is the first time that science and technology have joined forces with traditional skilled craftsman in this way to discover how a building was constructed.

It benefits both sides – it means the team working on the conservation can more closely replicate the bricks and tiles which were originally used and the university researchers can gain a greater insight into building methods from Tudor times. There are also other discoveries to be made, through analysis of seeds, plants and insects found in the building's framework.

NT archaeologist Gary Marshall explained: "Through extraordinary scientific and technological equipment we are finding out so much about The Wyne's construction and we're sharing our discoveries with our visitors.

"With a variety of different methods and technology we are able not only to pinpoint more accurately the date of The Wyne's construction, and the materials the original builders used to create tiles and bricks, even insulation, but also show how we have made these discoveries and give visitors a chance to explore the science involved."

One of the discoveries they made was that a fair bit of early recycling went on as Professor Heather Viles from Oxford Rock Breakdown Laboratory explained: "New dendrochronology analysis – the science of tree-ring dating – has revealed that some of The Wyne's 16th-century timbers were recycled from an earlier building."

If you want to find out more scientists from Oxford will be on hand in their mobile heritage laboratory on monthly dates up to September to share their discoveries as they analyse the tiles, bricks and mortar from the house.



General manager Stuart Maughan



Professor Heather Viles

The extent of the works means that 71,000 handmade clay tiles need to be replaced and again the public are being invited to get involved through The Wyne's Tag-a-Tile sessions.

Visitors can purchase and write a message or draw a picture on a tile, for a suggested donation of £5, that will go up on the new roof.

This really does seem to be a labour of love for everyone involved in the project and for visitors it is a once in a lifetime experience.

As Andrew Harris said: "The repairs we are carrying out now should protect The Wyne for the next few hundred years to come."

Once you have been up on the roof, and had a stroll round the grounds you should also visit the magnificent chapel at The Wyne. ➤



You can decorate a tile, which will eventually be used on The Wyne roof





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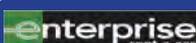
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The Vyne's chapel

The chapel was built at some point between 1524-26, during William Sandys's campaign to significantly develop the house.

It was richly decorated and an inventory of 1541 lists plate, altar cloths, hangings and vestments for a priest, a deacon and a sub-deacon.

The beautifully carved Tudor choir stalls are similar to those made for the Lady Chapel at Winchester Cathedral, and decorated with heraldic imagery. On the floor are Flemish tiles, dating from the early 1500s and featuring images of animals, birds and geometrical figures.

The stained glass in the chapel's windows is considered to be among the most beautiful and exceptional 16th-century glass in Europe. Famous for its jewel-like clarity and superb draughtsmanship, it is unmatched in England, and the finest example of Tudor glass in the National Trust's care.

Henry's visit

When Henry was travelling, Mass was celebrated every day in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary – the so-called Lady Mass.

At Mass, Anne Boleyn would have sat separately to the king, in my Lady's Closet. It was at times like these that she reportedly used to try and speak privately with Henry.

Historian at Keble College, Oxford, Dr Lucy Kaufman, explained the significance of this period in history: "Henry VIII's 1535 Progress was an opportunity to cement what we'd now call a 'Protestant' loyalty among his most powerful and wealthy subjects, including William Sandys, owner of The Vyne. It was also a chance to be seen with his controversial queen, Anne Boleyn."

Henry and Anne visited the chapel between 15 and 19 October 1535. His two year marriage to Anne Boleyn was tempestuous and had not secured a male heir. Plans to close the monasteries were met with rumours of revolt among some of his commanders, and Henry had just executed his former confidante Sir Thomas More for refusing to acknowledge him

as head of the Church of England.

However, in a letter to Lord Lisle dated 9 October 1535 Henry's close friend Sir Anthony Wyndesore wrote that: 'The King's Grace and The Queen's Grace were merry in Hampshire, thanking be our Lord...'. This may have been because Anne was pregnant at the time.

Three months later, on January 29, 1536, she suffered a miscarriage, and on May 2 she was escorted to the Tower by Lord Sandys himself, just seven months after he had entertained her at The Vyne.

Recreation of the Lady Mass

The unique sound of a Tudor Lady Mass has been created for the chapel. In this recreation, the ritual at the altar and the chants are undertaken by the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal, with the more elaborate music (polyphony) sung in three parts by the Children of the Chapel Royal with their master. These boys would have been chosen from among the best in England, sometimes plucked from poverty – a rare opportunity to obtain an education.

The polyphonic music for the Lady Mass was composed by Nicholas Ludford in around 1530. He was organist in St Stephen's Chapel in the royal palace of Westminster. The only manuscript in which this music survives belonged to Henry VIII, and was placed in the Royal Library at Westminster by 1542.

This is the first time a soundscape of the Lady Mass, as Henry VIII would have known it, has been created.

It is also reflected visually with an ornate altar frontal featuring Christ and four saints on display. The piece is copied from a rare hanging of the same period at another NT property – Cotehele in Cornwall.

General manager Stuart Maughan explained: "While our first floor is currently closed, we wanted to give our visitors something really different to experience."

The Tudor Mass audio experience will run throughout 2017 [OA](#)



Henry VIII stained glass

To find out more about The Vyne and the progress of the roof project visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne

Cost of project : £5.4 million.

Length of project : 18 months (Sept 2016 – March 2018)

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Take a pew

Forget camping or glamping, this year is all about champing. And yes, that really is a thing as SARAH BOSLEY and her family discovered after testing it out at St Katherine's Church, Chiselhampton, near Oxford

Champing

- The champing season runs from March to September.
- Spaces range from small chapels for two to churches big enough to hold 16.
- Prices start from £39 per adult per night during mid-week and £19 per child (under 16) per night, with a discount for groups of eight or more champers.
- Breakfast can be provided at a cost of £10 and bedding is available to hire.

To find out more about the champing experience go to www.champing.co.uk or call 0207 841 0436.



Champing is an ingenious new way the Churches Conservation Trust has found to make money, keep some beautiful medieval churches in good condition and let everyone have a bit of fun.

It started a few years back and now there are 12 disused churches across the country – even as far afield as Orkney – which people can camp in for the night, between March 31 and September 30 each year.

So camp we did, and St Katherine's Church in Chiselhampton became our home for the night.

The pretty little white-walled 18th-century church is nestled in the countryside just south of Oxford and we would have exclusive use of it from 6pm (the doors stay open until then in case anyone wishes to pop in).

It was a favourite of former poet laureate John Betjemen apparently and is the star of his 1952 works *Verses Turned in Aid of a Public Subscription towards the Restoration of the Church of St Katherine, Chiselhampton*.

Not wanting to be lounging in our sleeping bags when someone popped their head around the church doors, we decided to spend the day visiting some of the sites in Oxford before making our way over to our campsite later in the day.

We used the Redbridge park and ride, which costs just £2.20 (£2 if you pay cash) to park for the day, plus return bus fare for two adults of £5.20 – children were free.

With daughters aged nine and seven, it was inevitable that we would end up in a few shops, so had a browse around Waterstones and Zara before making our way down to the Ashmolean Museum.

This stunning building houses a cornucopia of treasures, as well as a gorgeous café selling homemade soup, lemonade and cakes, among other treats.

The museum plays host to a range of events throughout the year and on this occasion, it being half-term when we visited, there was a range of arts and crafts activities based around the River Nile. Perfect for daughter one who has been studying the Egyptians at school.

A smiling volunteer was also on hand to take children on short guided tours of the Egyptian artefacts kept in the museum.

Both my daughters found this fascinating, particularly seeing the mummies up close.

After a few hours of exploring the historical collections, we wandered down to the river and sat in the sun to enjoy lunch.

The resident geese and ducks certainly made

themselves known and we watched them, along with the rowers and punters, as they bobbed along the water in front of us.

A visit to Oxford isn't complete without a waterside drink in The Head of the River pub, so we finished the afternoon with a visit there before jumping on the bus and heading back to the car, discussing which of the university colleges the girls now wanted to attend.

That part of the day was easy.

We knew what to expect from Oxford, but now we were venturing into unknown territory. We've been camping a few times, but had no idea what delights champing would hold.

I had been surprised by the enthusiasm with which my husband had greeted the idea when I first mentioned it, but the children were slightly more apprehensive and, if I'm honest, I was a little nervous that it would seem a bit spooky for them – and me.

We pulled up outside the small Georgian chapel, which was built in 1762, and parked in the narrow layby next to the front gate, where a sandwich board announced to any interested passers-by that a champ was in progress.

The pretty grounds were well-kept, with rose bushes lining the gravel path to the church door.

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There were a sprinkling of headstones surrounding the church, but no large graveyard, which did take the edge off the spookiness of the adventure.

In all of the promotional literature, the champing team boasts how the sun shone every day that someone champed last year and the trend continued for us.

It was around 6pm on a glorious spring day by now and we needed to collect the key from The Coach and Horses, a 16th-century pub just a few hundred metres along the country lane.

We headed down there and sat in the garden to eat a delicious dinner, while the sun shone and our daughters zig-zagged their cartwheeling selves around the grass.

With the huge and heavy key now acquired, it was time to head back to the church and although it was getting late, being May it was still light, which made things a little easier once we were inside the ancient building.

Adding to the novelty value of our night away, you had to put the key into the large wooden door upside down to get in. That bit was comparatively easy – trying to work out which way to put the key in and turn it to lock the door from inside, however, took slightly longer.

After a good explore, which included taking

it in turns to have our say from the pulpit and discovering a stash of additional pillows, loo rolls and hot chocolate, we made up our beds for the night.

It was unearthing the hot chocolate that relaxed daughter two, as she proudly produced it and told me: "I was a bit nervous at first mummy, but now I feel very welcome here."

Every camper is provided with a camp bed thankfully, as the solid stone floors didn't look the most comfortable place to lay your head for the night.

New this year, the local ChampBot as they are called (a friendly local helper to me and you) can provide a freshly-laundered pillow and incredibly warm sleeping bag for an additional £25 per person. Or you can just bring your own bedding, which is exactly what we did.

Beds made up in a row down the aisle we donned our pyjamas, cracked open the wine for the adults, and sat playing Silly Sausage in the camping chairs that were set up around a small table on a wooden balcony looking down on to the pews.

The CCT is vocal in its encouragement of wine consumption during your champ – you can even pre-order a bottle or two – so who were we to disappoint?

There was no running water in the church, but there was a large water cooler, which daughters one and two sipped out of their plastic wine glasses.

On the balcony, we discovered the church's only light and a ladder into the clock tower. We also found out that the clock still worked, chiming every hour; albeit 10 minutes early.

There were a number of battery-operated candles and wind up camping lamps too and these provided ambient light for family games.

They also lit the way down to the vestry and its ChampLav. This is an eco-loo that requires no plumbing, water or sewage outlet, which is pretty perfect for a very old church in the middle of the countryside. Top tip – everyone has to sit down to spend a penny, even the men, otherwise things can get messy.

Cooking is not allowed in the churches, although they are looking at the possibility of barbecues at some of the larger sites in the future, but snacks are permitted and we munched on cupcakes and crisps, trying not to leave too many crumbs for the church mice.

As the sun slowly set behind the high stained glass windows and the girls started yawning, we headed back down the small, rickety wooden staircase, discussing who would ➤



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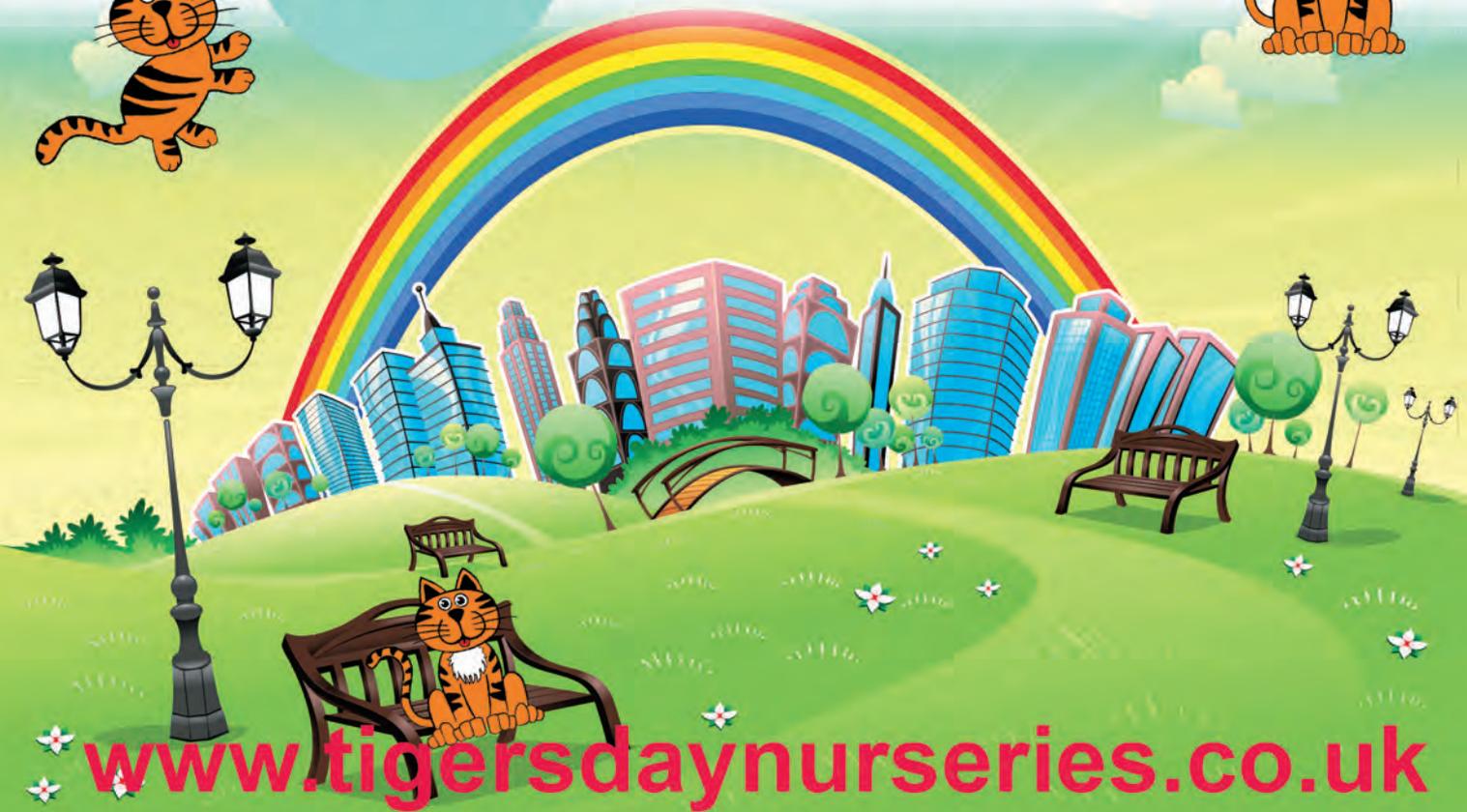


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have trodden those historical steps

There is no heating in many of the churches, but we would later discover a radiator kicking out quite a lot of warmth, which made for a very cosy night. We snuggled down, reading by torchlight, until we all finally drifted off into a very peaceful night's sleep.

We woke up to the seven o'clock chimes of the clock the next morning, with the sunlight streaming down on us.

There are no showers, so you wouldn't want to be heading to a wedding or an important

business meeting after a night champing, but we were just heading to breakfast and then home so it just added to the excitement of the adventure for the children.

Breakfast is provided at local pubs close to the churches and so it was back down to The Coach and Horses for a hearty feed before packing up our sleeping bags, signing the guest book and heading home.

Glancing down the list in the guest book gave us a brief idea of the popularity of champing already.

There had been people staying at St Katherine's for three out of the five nights before us. It seems to be particularly popular with American tourists.

Before being asked to write this feature I had never heard of champing, but now I will be looking at every old church and wondering what memories are being made within those ancient walls. [OA](#)

Lucy's Champing diary:

"I thought Champing was fun because you got to go up and see the clock bells and there were two parts to the church, an upstairs and a downstairs. Upstairs was very nice to sit down at night and play games. Then after a while you go to bed and sleep in a very comfy camp bed downstairs. It was nice because there was also hot chocolate, drinks and glasses there for us too. I would recommend Champing."

Hannah's Champing diary:

"I was a bit scared at first and then when I knew the secrets, like they hid hot chocolates in the cupboard and that you could go up and see the bell ring, then it was more fun and I liked it more and more and more. I think you should go Champing yourself because it's a very nice family thing to do."



Champing facts:

- 350 CCT churches are still consecrated, but not open for regular worship
- 12 churches are open for champing across England and in Orkney
- 76 beds were bought for champing last season, which were slept in by 656 people over 198 nights
- A fifth of 2016 champers had never camped before
- 650 breakfasts were served to champers last year
- 40 per cent of champers were couples
- 23 dogs enjoyed champing last year
- A fifth of champers were groups of eight or more people
- 10 per cent of bookings were from overseas
- More than 300 bottles of wine were drunk by champers last year
- Champing has just won the Hudson's Heritage Special Judges Award for Best Accommodation

Find out more about champing at www.champing.co.uk

If you're a little apprehensive at the thought of spending the night in a church, James Allen suggests some spiritual tipples to calm the nerves p37





Simply the best

The Royal Oak at Ecchinswell mixes tradition with inspiration and HILARY SCOTT says its a winning combination, which makes the pub a go-to place



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Pictures: Dijana Capan

From the top: The Royal Oak, the pub's renowned Sunday roast, the spacious and light interior, Chris and Laura Webb



Sometimes complicated menus cause some anxiety.

Will the foam last until you start eating? What was that little dot of something on your plate made of? If I order what the menu says is venison, peach and pine, will it taste like toilet cleaner?

So it is refreshing to visit a pub where the menu is easy to understand, where you are served some wholesome food and where everything is cooked really well.

You simply cannot fault the cooking at The Royal Oak Echinswell and the straightforward menu. Run by couple Chris and Laura Webb for the last five years, this is not to say the pub is not adventurous.

In the garden is a rum shack – a full-on bar facility used for parties and events and named in memory of a former customer, Big Ed, who was killed in a motorbike accident.

Lithuanian Laura has influence over the bar snacks, which often give a nod to her home country – kepta duona, a fried bread, mayonnaise and cheese dish which is great with beer, for example, or little Lithuanian dumplings with assorted fillings.

But to the menu – it's filled with favourites everyone will know, easy-eating sides, light bites and there's a children's version.

Prices are good – Sundays it's one course £10.95, two £16.50, three £19.95 – and it won't break the bank to bring the family here where you can enjoy a cosy nook inside or sit out in the large garden.

We started with a leek and potato soup (£4.75 with half a baguette), thick in flavour and

texture, and the crispy whitebait (£5.50).

The whitebait were large and meaty and the home-made tartare sauce was chunky and tart.

The portions are good and we were sad we could not try the pub's signature dish, fish and chips – Chris uses haddock – but a swelter of a day the previous day, meant a run on this popular item.

We did have what the menu calls 'gourmet' chips with our main of Kilhorne Bay scampi (£10.95) – no clue as to whether they are triple cooked, but they tasted like it.

Golden verging on brown and so crispy on the outside and fluffy inside, we loved them. And we loved their unpretentious labelling.

The scampi was plump and delicious dipped in the home-made tartare sauce and there were petit pois and a huge chunk of lemon.

Our other main had chips again, but this time a sweet potato variety.

Now any cook will tell you, trying to get sweet potato chips crunchy is a task and a half, but The Royal Oak's triumphed. They came with a pulled pork ciabatta (£13.50) – the pork was tender, sweet and smoky – and a side of house coleslaw.

And everything was cooked just right.

We sipped our rose pinot grigio and had a long rest before ordering dessert, which was a sharing platter (£7.95) and an apple crumble (£5.50).

I am not a great crumble lover – I've tried too many that stick to the top of your mouth and make even speaking impossible. And custard rarely excites me, so I was prepared to not say

much about it.

But this was a lesson in crumble-making – not too sweet chunks of apple topped with a fine, sandy crumble topping. And the custard – large hints of vanilla and a lovely sweetness hid amid the not-too-thick, not-too-thin pool. For a while, David Chang of New York's Momofuku's crack pie was the world's most sought-after dessert and I have been lucky enough to try it. Now I can dream of that pie with The Royal Oak's custard.

Meanwhile, the platter held a weeny crème brûlée, the right consistency, topped by a crazed sugar disc, an Oreo cheesecake which was as light as a feather and under a dark, caramelised piece of sugar work, a moist and date-studded sticky toffee pudding and a brandy snap.

As it was a Sunday – the Sunday menu changes each week to include the roasts and a selection from the à la carte and specials menu – other diners told us they came to The Royal Oak for the superb roast – and one of the diners let us photograph their lunch. It looked fantastic and they gave us the thumbs-up after they'd cleaned the plate.

And that's surely what you will do if you visit the Royal Oak.

There is a real skill to putting together a menu where dishes come to the table with every item spot-on. It's a guarantee not all pubs can live up to.

While upmarket dining can be exciting, there's also something very exciting about knowing The Royal Oak will serve you up good pub food every time. [OA](#)

Clockwise from top: pulled pork, leek and potato soup, Oreo cheesecake, the Royal Oak, Kilhorne Bay scampi

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Smokin' hot

It's barbecue time and HILARY SCOTT has the best tips and the latest trends in outdoor cooking. Don't have time to fire up that grill? We look at pubs and restaurants where you can eat barbecued food without the work or making anyone's eyes water

Barbecuing is a popular pastime in the summer months and an easy and fun way to get a few friends together.

The shops are full of grills, from portable barbies for the beach to gigantic specimens that need a big garden or deck and feed hordes.

There is a plethora of add-ons too, like a plancha, basically a metal slab you cook on over the coals, or chimney starter kits which are narrow and tall and start off your coals for you, making them quicker to get to the right heat (Tesco £4.80 is one of the cheaper ones) and if you want to research barbecue tongs, prepare to make plenty of time for it.

A big trend this year is smoking your food. There are lots of fancy smokers available, all pretty large. But you don't need an expensive smoker to do it.

We look at a few different ways to get smokin'.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTRY 2-IN-1 CHARCOAL SMOKER

is designed for serious low and slow cooking, but also converts to a portable picnic grill.

When used as a smoker, the chimney-like design with a vented lid and tight-fitting doors creates a constant flow of new smoke, and integral flavour channels direct smoke for maximum food flavouring.

To use as a grill, simply remove the body and drop the lid to the base. The reflector pan redirects heat to the cooking surface for thorough and even cooking.

£89.99 from: www.bbqandsmoke.co.uk

THE BIG EASY SMOKER, ROASTER AND GRILL

does what it says on the tin – smokes, roasts and grills. Roast up to 11kg poultry with no oil using the cooking basket and adjustable racks, which are included. The Big Easy includes four rib hooks to roast mouthwatering barbecued ribs. The removable porcelain coated grate provides easy cleaning when you cook your favourite meat. £279 from B&Q.



If you don't want to splash out or don't have the room outdoors, you can smoke food on a normal barbecue. You will need a smoke box, a box usually made of stainless steel with holes in the top.

You place this below your barbecue grill and the smoke rises through the lid's holes and infuses your steaks. Tesco, B&Q, Clas Ohlson, Amazon and many other outlets sell them.

Always wait for the barbecue to smoke before you place the food on the grill and remember if you want to smoke low and long, always include a water pan to keep the temperature down.

The best meats to smoke include chicken, lamb and beef. The cuts for the best results are generally beef brisket, pork shoulder, and ribs.

Some meaty fish is good smoked and mackerel is brilliant for smoking. Other foods like plain old chillies are fabulous with a little smoky hit.

And remember, white smoke is good, black smoke is bad. If your fire lacks ventilation or you place your food directly over the fire and juices are burning it will give off black smoke and will lead to a nasty taste.

THE KITCHENCRAFT HOME MADE BBQ SMOKER SMOKE BOX is easy to use and works on both charcoal or gas barbecues. Around £8.99 from Amazon.

Or try the **Blooma Smoker Box**, £7 from B&Q.

CHOOSE YOUR CHIPS

It's not a mystery what kind of chips to buy, though some serious barbecue/smoker types like to convince you it is a bit of an art, like wine-blending or cheese-making.

The first thing to consider is what kinds of wood to use, based on how overpowering the smoke they put out is.

For delicate foods like fish or poultry, go for birch or fruit woods like apple, cherry and peach.

Maple, hickory, oak and, pecan work with pork, and are good for beef and game, too.

Mesquite is the strongest of all the woods, but always use carefully. Mesquite chips will add a strong bacon-like taste to foods – Weber do a bag at around £10 from different outlets.

If you are buying your wood chips from the high street they will usually be labelled to show you what they are good for, like Weber Pork Wood Chips for ribs, pulled pork or pork chops. John Lewis £4.99 a bag.

Apple Wood Barbecue Smoking Wood Chips from Tesco, £3.50 are, as I said above, good for smoking cheese (with a cold smoker not on a barbecue) or grilling gammon or chicken. They can be used on a charcoal barbecue, with or without lid; can also be used on a gas barbecue.

You can even buy whiskey-soaked chips – Jack Daniels Wood Chips, around £10 a bag from different outlets, are made by the whisky soaking itself into the wood of the barrel over many years.

Some of the whisky is left in the wood after the process has finished and the liquid has been bottled for sale.

These pieces of wood are then broken down and made into smoking chips.





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Smokin' hot



Just desserts

You know the feeling – you've had a fantastic barbecue but just as you finish the coals are white hot and perfect for cooking. So here's some tasty tips for what to cook at the end of the barbie.

MARSHMALLOW KEBABS

Caramelised marshmallows oozing with sweetness are a hit with children especially. Thread on skewers and add some fruit between the marshmallows to make them healthier. But simple marshmallows toasted over the coals on skewers are always popular.

PINEAPPLE AND COCONUT

Stick slices or rings of pineapple on the grill brushed with a little icing sugar. When ready, serve with a coconut ice cream.

BANANA BOATS

Fill sliced bananas with chocolate chips and nuts, wrap in foil and grill. Serve with whipped cream.

SPONGE KEBABS

Thread cubes of sponge cake, any flavour, on to skewers with fruit like strawberries or bananas.

GRILLED PEACHES WITH CHERRY SAUCE

Dot halved peaches with butter and wrap in foil. While grilling, sauté pitted cherries with some sugar and balsamic vinegar. Reduce until syrupy and serve with peaches.



CORNucopia

Everyone loves a barbecued corn on the cob. Why not try this Mexican version?

Boil your cobs for 10 minutes then brush with melted butter and put on the grill.

When ready roll in a tray of grated parmesan cheese and sprinkle with paprika.

Serve with lime quarters to squeeze over.

Great grilling places

So you've run out of charcoal or simply don't have the time for a barbie. Here's where you can get authentic barbecued food around the area

BooBars

5 Market Place, Newbury RG14 5AA
T: 01635 226856

Award-winning smokehouse deli run by a former firefighter and his wife, which won best takeaway in the south last year.

BooBars beat off stiff competition at the Food Awards England 2016 to win a trophy as the south's best takeaway.

The Kintbury proprietors of BooBars, Sid Shepherd and his wife Charlotte, say they had travelled Route 66 to bring back the authentic taste of American barbecue.

"These travels are what inspired us to create our very own slaws, rubs and sauces to complement classic barbecue favourites".

The meat at BooBars smokehouse is cooked low and slow for a minimum of 15 hours over a traditional wood fire which makes it "exceptionally tender with a rich smoky flavour". Choose from burritos, chilli dogs and more.

Open until 5pm Mon-Thursday and until 8pm Friday and Saturday.



The Crown Inn, Upton

Upton, Andover SP11 0JS
T: 01264 736044

www.thecrowninnupton.co.uk

Newly-refurbished cosy pub with a lovely garden furnished with bespoke tables and chairs.

They fire up their drumbecue often and cook amazing meat and fish.

And if there's a downpour the inside is simply a lovely place to while away a few hours.



Bluegrass

15 Gun Street, Reading RG1 2JR
T: 01189 599112

www.bluegrass-bbq.com

From burgers to pulled pork, baby back ribs and barbecue pit beans, this is down home cooking in wood smokers from a chain restaurant.

But if you are looking for good ol' smoked food, you will be happy – especially with their huge platters.

There are even sandwiches from Texas, Kansas, Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama – along with lighter dishes such as jacket potatoes with a choice of smoky fillings. Salads are also available.



Snelsmore Common

Want to have your own barbecue in an open space? You can hire a barbecue pit in the picnic area of Snelsmore Common – perfect for large groups. Let the children run around and explore the common while you get the sausages and burgers on the go.



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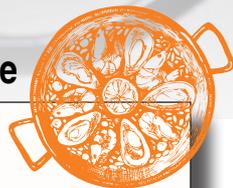
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AL AIRE LIBRE

The summer months and opportunity to eat outdoors are all too short in this country. However, we tend to make the most of the longer evenings and **SIMON RHODES** suggests Spanish paella is a great alternative to the traditional barbecue



Eating outdoors is one of my favourite pastimes, whether it is a barbecue or picnic. I think nothing compares to sitting in the sun and having a relaxing meal outdoors.

This time of year is perfect for the odd cold glass of vino or a cold beer and some yummy food.

Nowhere does eating outdoors quite like the Spanish, and here in the summer months is the closest we get to being in Spain when everything (and everybody) seems so relaxed. Now I know what mañana means...

Spain is famous for its paella and this dish was made for outdoor eating.

Paella originated in Spain and was derived from a leftover dish dating from Roman times. It was developed and was popularised in Valencia, where the Romans introduced irrigation, and then the Arab conquerors that brought rice perfected it.

Many folk say the best paella, and most authentic, still comes from Valencia.

The paella pan is characterised by being round with a flat bottom and can be anywhere from the size of an LP record, 12 inches in diameter, to several feet.

The one thing that doesn't change is the height. It is about first-joint-in-the-thumb deep as the Spanish would say, so that the rice has maximum contact with the bottom of the pan.

Traditionally, paella is cooked over an open fire. The Mediterranean is known for developing the art of frying, because of the lack of good slow-burning firewood. The available branches are of high acid content that make a very hot fire.

Depending on the region in Spain, the meats and vegetables added to the paella vary.

It can have several meats, including rabbit, chicken, Spanish smoked sausage like Chorizo and even hare, or no meats. Snails are common too.

Seafood for me is the most exciting part of great paella, almost anything will do but most popular are prawns or crevettes, mussels, clams, lobster and crab, octopus and squid.

Fish can also be added, but make sure it is added in later so it doesn't break up. A good fish to use would be monkfish, gurnard or even hake. 



Simon Rhodes owns:
The Lobster Pot Fishmongers, Cobbs Farmshop, Bath Road,
Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0SP
Telephone: 01488 686770

How to make

Paella

Start by heating some extra virgin olive oil in a paella pan or a flat pan.

Sweat down some finely chopped onions (Spanish of course), and add some crushed garlic.

Next, add a good glug of white wine and then the rice.

Stir in the rice and add the stock, chicken or fish will do. Then, like a risotto, keep adding the stock a little at a time.

As you go along add the various meats and shellfish. The meats such as chicken and rabbit should be added before the shellfish as they take a bit longer to cook.

Essential spices for paella are paprika and saffron, these should be added to enhance the flavour and give it a vibrant rich yellow colour.

Don't forget to season and make sure the rice is just cooked before serving with plenty of chopped parsley.

At the Lobster Pot we have all the ingredients to make a great paella, so why not pop in and say ¡hola!

Yummy

© Hot Drinks © Decaf available © Co



Independent's day

Honesty's newest coffee shop has just opened in Hungerford. ROMILLA ARBER encourages you to sample their fare and discover the other independent outlets in Barrs Yard



Honesty Hungerford opened on May 27 and we all love it, the decor, the light flooding through the big windows and the upstairs section.

There is plenty of room to showcase all our lovely produce and for customers to enjoy the best of what Honesty has to offer.

Ours is one of five units that have been built at Barrs Yard. Katie and Travers Nettleton own the site and it was their vision and positivity that have created such an interesting retail venue.

I think as high streets become more and more uniform in what they have to offer, shoppers are receptive to new experiences.

Now that Newbury town centre has become so focused on big brand names and the rate increases have really made it a 'no go' area for smaller businesses, it is great that there are retail opportunities for businesses like Honesty in which to flourish.

I also think that much care and attention has been taken by Katie and Travers to ensure that the outlets at Barrs Yard complement each other, from Cricket Fine Art to Garden Art and Jax Jeans to our café and coffee shop and Grapesmith next door to us; there is also Wendy's Florist and the Generous Gardener, which means that there is plenty to see and choose from for customers.

The site is also very close to Hungerford High Street and visitors can enjoy a lot more now when visiting the area. There is plenty of parking, so there is no excuse for not popping in to pay us all a visit.

The food offering at Honesty Hungerford ranges from our beautiful handmade breakfast pastries to pancakes or waffles for breakfast, as well as bacon or sausage filled rolls.

For lunch, you can enjoy a charcuterie board made using our homemade houmous and

baba ganoush served alongside the Lebanese flat breads, made by our fab baker boys.

The charcuterie is sourced from Ambrose Sausages, a local business in Hampshire. We have also introduced some interesting salad pots using healthy whole grains and an American style hoagie roll filled with pastrami and pickles.

In addition there are our usual seasonal soups, wraps and sandwiches.

Every month we introduce a new bake of the month. This month you will see lemon curd swiss roll in our shops.

The bakers are working on a Greek roll called a bastounakia which is the perfect accompaniment for picnics or summery lunches and dinners. It is made using fresh rosemary and will be an interesting addition to our great range of breads.

We have a whole new team at Hungerford.

So say hello to Glenn, Sharon and Megan when you next pop in. They are all excited about being involved in the new venture.

We really want this place to become our flagship coffee shop to show what a small, independent business can offer a community.

We have just re-signed our commitment to Living Wage UK to make sure that all our lowest paid workers are paid the living wage and they are all encouraged to train and develop within the business.

We shall continue to use local producers wherever possible, so if any of our customers have someone they would like to promote or introduce please let us know.

It is important to support local, small businesses so that your shopping experience is adding something of value to the local community.

Come and have a look at what we and our neighbours at Barrs Yard have to offer. Enjoy a coffee or tea or a glass of wine, which you can buy from Barnaby at Grapesmith to accompany any purchase at Honesty.

Sit inside or outside and watch the world go by, one occupation that is seriously encouraged in Honesty coffee shops.

If you want more details please do email on: info@honestygroup.co.uk



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Recipe

CARROT & COURGETTE MUFFINS



These are a fairly virtuous treat that can be made a bit more indulgent if you add the frosting.

Makes 12

100g grated carrot
100g grated courgette
200g caster sugar
150g natural yoghurt
225g self raising flour
3 eggs
1tsp finely chopped rosemary
200ml olive oil
a pinch of salt

Cream cheese frosting (optional):
125g mascarpone cheese
100g fromage frais
½ tbsp caster sugar
½ tsp ground cinnamon

Method:

- Preheat the oven to 200°C/ Gas 6. Line a muffin tray with 12 paper muffin cases.
- Place all the ingredients for the muffins in a mixing bowl and mix until just combined. Divide the mixture evenly between the 12 cases and bake for 30-35 minutes in the in the preheated oven. Remove and cool on a wire rack.
- To make the frosting, place all the ingredients in a mixing bowl and mix until combined. When the muffins are cool, top them with frosting, if using.




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Situated at 151, Bartholomew Street, in a beautiful listed building overlooking St. Nicholas Church, Inn at Home is a shining gem in the growing Newbury independent retail community

Here you will find a wondrous array of delicious drinks. Having a 'big night in'? Searching for a gift for a special person? Tired of the same old offerings in traditional shops? Look no further, Inn at Home is the place to go.

Choose from a vast selection of over 700 craft beer, wines & spirits and enjoy being served by a great and enthusiastic team who love creating amazing selections of drinks or advising customers on what to give, what to try and what to buy.

Stepping in to Inn at Home you'll very soon notice the emphasis on local and you'll find plenty of opportunities to taste the best of what's on offer locally or explore new creative drinks from further afield. Within a year of opening Inn at Home was awarded 'Best Beer Shop' South of England by Celebrate British Beer. This week they were also announced as deserved winner of Muddy Stilletos Award Poll for Berkshire's favourite Wine Merchant and WOW – you must check out what is surely the best range of Gin & Whisky for miles around.

In addition to the fabulous wines you'll see beers from all your favourite local breweries, and what a fantastic choice – West Berkshire, Two Cocks, Hermitage, Indigenous all stocked in plenty. Move a little further afield and the crazily creative Wild Weather and Siren surprise beery taste buds at every opportunity. The stunning spirit selection features local gems from Ramsbury through to international giants such as Monkey 47, Surrey's Silent Pool and from Northamptonshire the wonderful Warner Edward's Rhubarb.

Whether your preference is hop, grape or grain the Inn at Home team pride themselves on knowing their products in detail. They delight in sharing notes with wine lovers, gin enthusiasts, hopheads, whisky collectors and for gift buyers, they're simply always there to help.

Champing? You'll be delighted to know that all Inn at Home employees embark on specialist Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) training and are particularly well versed on amazing English Fizz. Check out the special offer on top tipples and use it to go English!



150 - 151 Bartholomew Street
Newbury, Berkshire T: 01635 48945
www.innathome.co.uk



toptipples

by *James Allen*



JAMES ALLEN sets out to lift your spirits with these divine offerings

If you feel slightly spooked at the thought of champing, as experienced by Sarah Bosley and her family (p21), then here's a selection of tipples to give you a bit of Dutch courage and fortify you through the night if you decide to give it a go. Hopefully one or two of these may hit the spot.

Chapel Hill The Prophet Shiraz 2015

Michael Fragos is a former winemaker at first class Tatachilla. Today he heads the 5-Star rated Chapel Hill winery, 10 wines of which James Halliday has awarded 94+.



The Prophet is a powerful, rich and spicy Shiraz. Ripe with dense black fruit, spice, tannic grip and great length.

Just in case you doubt its credentials my cousin Peter, who is actually a vicar in McLaren Vale, told me that Chapel Hill was the choice at a meeting of Anglican bishops recently.

So what better recommendation for accompanying you on a night in an old church.

£22.99 from Laithwaites, Theale

Silver Ghost Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon from the Central Valley, Chile

A couple of wines definitely worthy of consideration even for more suggestible souls.

Invitingly fruity, offering a juicy citrus and gooseberry backbone overlaid with notes of lime zest and fresh green apples. Crisp acidity provides maximum refreshment. Chill well and enjoy on its own or with simple fresh pasta dishes.

£5.49 from Majestic Newbury

Cabernet Sauvignon is the most widely planted grape in Chile, and was among the first of the noble varieties to have been brought over from Europe in the mid-1800s.

This example is made by one of the Central Valley's major wineries,

based in Cachapoal. A medium-bodied, fruit-driven style of Cabernet that offers rounded, ripe red berry fruit with a plummy and easy-going feel. Hints of green pepper and subtle oak notes on the nose.

£5.49 from Majestic Newbury



Abbot Ale

For those who fancy a different tittle, this fine ale from Greene King will certainly warm the cockles of your heart.

With masses of fruit character, a malty richness and superb hop balance. It is brewed longer to a unique recipe.

£19.20 for 12 bottles from Majestic Newbury



Manus Dei de Sixtine 2015, Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape AOC

Well what overnight stay would be complete without the involvement of the 'Hand of God'? Full flavoured berry fruit, smooth tannins and a long finish. From a distinguished and much lauded winery.

£16.99 from Laithwaites, Theale



Mission Estate Greenmeadows Pinot Noir 2014

From New Zealand's oldest winery (established by monks in 1851) this 2014 Pinot Noir has a bright colour and a sweet floral bouquet of red cherries, strawberry and spicy aromas.

The palate is medium bodied and carries an abundance of sweet fruit and ripe silky tannins. The wine has a fine structure with a rich long finish.

£14.99 from Laithwaites, Theale

Greyfriars Classic Cuvée

A classic blend of the three traditional Champagne varieties creating a delightfully light and crisp wine. This is a great showcase of English sparkling wine and should not only be saved for special occasions.

£24.95 from Inn at Home, Newbury





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151 Bartholomew Street, Newbury



Swan Upping

by Royal approval

Once all about food for the banquet, now it's conservation and education. As the annual Swan Upping approaches, TRISH LEE speaks to the Queen's Swan Marker David Barber

Out goes the cry 'All Up!' and a flotilla of traditional rowing skiffs close in on a family of mute swans. Teams of boatmen dressed in red and blue shirts herd them in.

It's the third week in July and the Swan Uppers have arrived up the Thames.

Royal Swan Upping is a centuries-old, once-a-year tradition on the River Thames and for years we have joined the crowds to welcome the arrival of the Swan Uppers at Goring Lock, one of the observation points on their five-day journey up river from Sunbury to Abingdon.

The ceremony goes back to the 12th century, but hasn't always passed by Goring.

One figure stands out among the rest; resplendent in yellow-braided scarlet jacket with a white quill in his cap is David Barber, the Queen's Swan Marker, who explains that the monarch has the right to own any unmarked mute swan in open waters by royal prerogative, but this right is mainly only exercised on certain stretches of the Thames.

"Only three other groups have this right: the Vintners and Dyers livery companies have owned swans on the River Thames since the 15th century, but only on the Thames.

"The third is the Ilchesters of Abbotsbury, on the south coast. The family have owned swans since the 13th century. All three have a royal charter to do that.

"Many years ago the marking of swans at Swan Upping was all about food; swans were highly-valued, a very important food source. Cygnets were served up at banquets and feasts.

"But they were only for the really wealthy.

"Of course, a lot were caught by poachers, but the fines and punishment were severe – certain imprisonment."



Swans are a protected species and no longer eaten, so today it's all about conservation and education, collecting data, assessing the health of young cygnets and examining them for injuries.

Cygnets are extremely vulnerable at this early stage in their development and Swan Upping affords an opportunity to help both adults and cygnets that might otherwise go untreated.

Twenty-two boatmen are involved in the ceremony, all highly-experienced.

"The Vintners and Dyers Livery companies both come up. I've got the Queen's swan uppers on my team, plus zoologist Prof Christopher Perrins – The Emeritus Fellow of the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology at the University of Oxford, Emeritus Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford and Her Majesty's Warden of the Swans since 1993.

"He's the top ornithologist in the country. He's not in uniform as his role isn't ceremonial.

"So there's 16 swan uppers, three swan markers – for the Vintners, Dyers and the Queen – plus the Swan Warden with his two helpers."

Contrary to popular opinion, the swans aren't aggressive.

"We circle the family of swans with six traditional rowing skiffs, working closer and closer together until we can lift the swans and cygnets by hand. We get them ashore and measure, weigh, and check them for injuries.

"We do find many injuries in the young swans due to fishing tackle and we either de-tackle them or, if they are seriously injured, we take them to one of the Thames-side rescue organisations for a vet to look at.

"Adult swans are pretty streetwise, but not the young, who swim straight into the fishing lines."

Swans caught by the Queen's swan uppers under the direction of the Swan Marker are left unmarked, except for a ring linked to the British Trust for Ornithology database.

Those caught by the Dyers and Vintners are identified as theirs by means of a further ring on the other leg. Originally, rather than being ringed, the swans would be marked on the bill.

What does it take to be the Queen's Swan Marker? David Barber is a 'qualified' waterman.

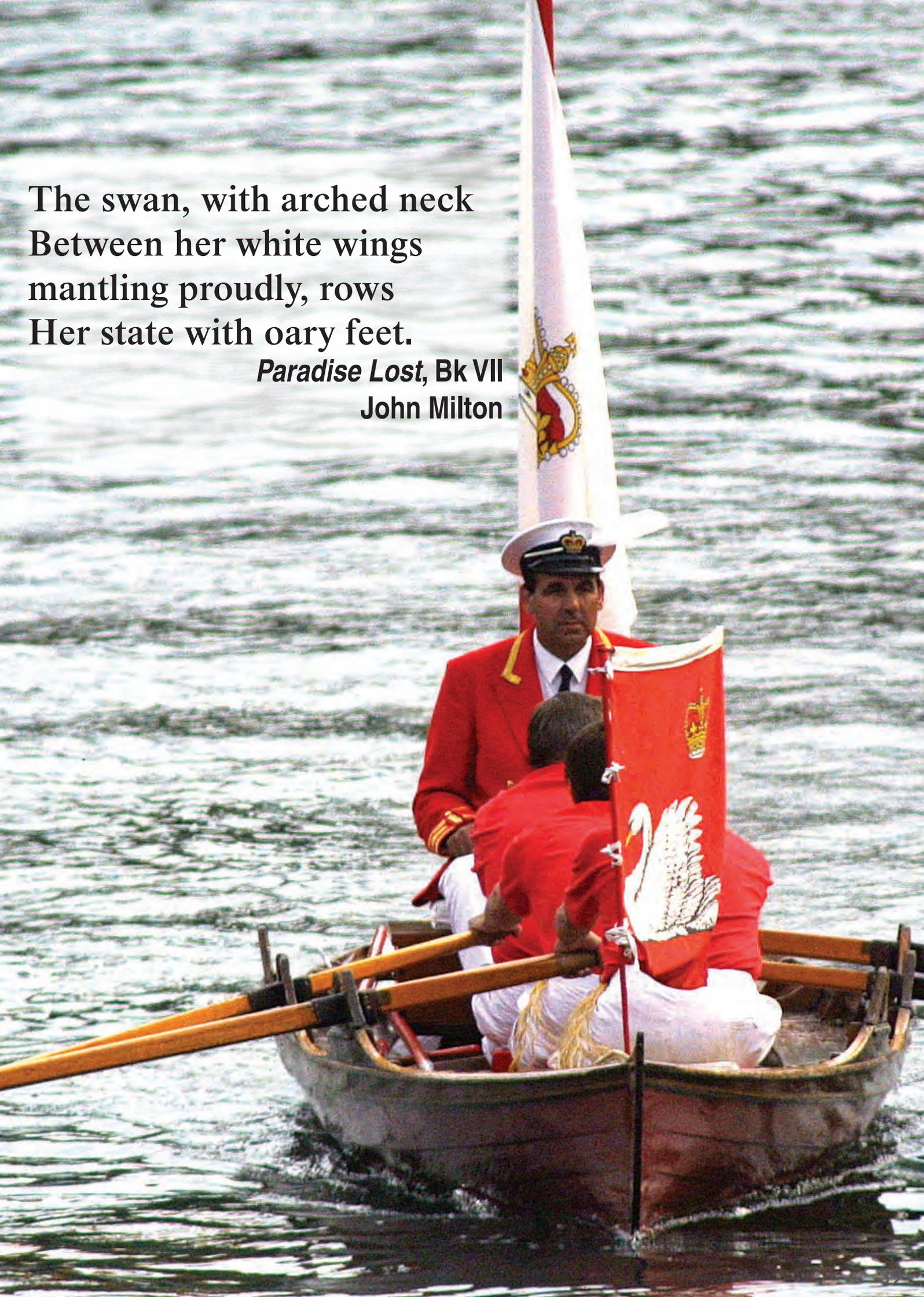
"Swan jobs take up much of my time, but my 'day job' is running a Thames boatyard at Cookham.

"I've worked on the river all my life – since I was 15 years old – as a Thames boatman I know the river backwards. I worked with swans with my predecessor as a Royal Swan Upper for many years, but Professor Perrins taught me all about the scientific side.

"It's hard work at this time of year, with lots of fishing tackle injuries and dog attacks. The mute swan population has gone down ►

The swan, with arched neck
Between her white wings
mantling proudly, rows
Her state with oary feet.

Paradise Lost, Bk VII
John Milton



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WHEN SCHOOL CHOICE IS EXTRA HARD



Lorna Woolley
INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL ADVISER

Lorna Woolley helps parents find the right school for children finding it difficult to learn

Choosing a school can be emotionally fraught at the best of times, but if your son or daughter has dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, ODD, Asperger Syndrome, ASD or other leaning difficulties, it can be really hard to know where to turn for advice.

Even as a highly experienced primary school teacher, I struggled to find suitable schools for my two dyslexic sons. Now, as an independent educational adviser, I'm providing the kind of specialist support I would love to have received 10 years ago.

For example, parents may have their heart set on a particular school but be concerned about how well their child will cope academically, socially and emotionally. In many cases I've been able to suggest alternatives where extremely talented teachers excel in helping each pupil access the curriculum, whatever their unique needs and learning style.

Parents often tell me they find it very worrying when an assessment indicates they should consider moving their son or daughter from the educational path everyone else is following. That's when they value finding someone able to give them the encouragement and confidence to make informed decisions about their child's education. And hearing how children have been able to flourish in the right setting is what makes my work so worthwhile!

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in recent years and we're concerned. "There are problems with wild predators – mainly mink, red kites (people think they feed on carrion, but they will take the young cygnets), other birds of prey and the increase in pike.

"Domestic dogs cause a lot of problems, raiding nests when the mothers are on them. It's not the fault of the dogs, the walkers need to be more careful. We've lost quite a few nests to dogs already this year."

And what about that splendid uniform? "I'm pleased you describe it that way – many people ask about my 'costume' and that upsets me.

"The jacket is the scarlet red of the Queen's colours, with the badges of HM Swan Marker on the side and ER II on the buttons – the

uniform is historical, going back many, many years.

"I'm also asked about my white trousers – extremely practical for catching wildlife," says David with tongue firmly in cheek. "They are clean on every day; I get through six pairs in a week."

Schools are invited to meet the Swan Uppers on their journey up river.

Working with the River & Rowing Museum at Henley on Thames on projects for primary school children has resulted in a learning resource covering a wide spectrum of the national curriculum, enabling schools to focus on a number of distinct subject areas revolving around the river's ecology and geography and the habitat it provides for so much of our wildlife.

"Many schools come along – this year nine. We teach them a little about what we are doing, the history, swan ecology, about boats, the river and locks. And they are very, very interested.

"It's good for them to see the river and for us to show them the very young cygnets."

The Queen herself also went along a few years ago to see the work of her Royal Swan Marker, who says he's sure she takes great interest in what they do.

"She seemed to enjoy her day, asked a lot of questions, spoke to people, met the children and presented certificates."

As for the future of the protected mute swan species, David is not entirely optimistic. "I wouldn't say swans are under threat, but Professor Perrins and I are concerned.

"Let's see what this year brings." 

The Swan Uppers wait for the command



Education is an important part of the Swan Upping ceremony

SWAN UPPING 2017

The observation points and times are as follows (all times given are approximate):

Monday, July 17

Sunbury Lock Cut 09.00 – departure point
Shepperton Lock 10.45
Penton Hook Lock 12.30
Romney Lock 17.30

Tuesday, July 18

Eton Bridge 08.45 – departure point
Boveney Lock 09.45
Boulter's Lock 13.00
Cookham Bridge 14.00
Marlow Lock 17.30

Wednesday, July 19

Marlow Bridge 09.00 – departure point
Hurley Lock 10.30
Hambleton Lock 12.00
Henley Town 13.30

Marsh Lock 15.30

Shiplake Lock 17.00

Sonning Bridge 18.00

Thursday, July 20

Sonning-on-Thames 09.00 – departure point
Caversham Lock 10.15
Mapledurham Lock 12.15
Goring Lock 17.00
Moulsford 18.00

Friday, July 21

Moulsford 09.00 – departure point
Benson Lock 10.15
Clifton Hampden Bridge 13.00
Culham Lock 16.15
Abingdon Bridge 17.00

Bespoke Shepherd Huts from Hartwood Oak

When childhood friends Sam McCallum and Tim Green left St Barts School they little imagined that their separate careers – Sam in Hatton Garden learning business skills, and Tim in Newbury using his love of carpentry – would one day bring them together into a business partnership, which this year celebrates 25 years.

Hartwood Oak Buildings Ltd has established itself as the go-to company locally for bespoke, high quality timber constructions from house extensions and outbuildings to simple, but effective porches, pergolas and garden buildings.

They have worked on restoring listed timber-framed buildings to creating large new oak frames of traditional and contemporary design. Hartwood Oak works as both a main contractor for bespoke projects as well as specialist contractor to other companies.

Tim and Sam have built the business from a two-man band, working out of a small shed, to a thriving commercial operation, which today

employs around 15 people and is housed in a large, suite of offices and a spacious workshop in East Woodhay.

It is still very much a family affair with Tim's son James now in charge of site operations and his daughter Helen handling drawings and planning.

"We started off building sheds and outbuildings," says Sam. "And then progressed to larger domestic projects.

They have now added the increasingly-popular Shepherd's Huts to their range, as people look for a stylish alternative for a spare room or extra office space.

"Shepherd's Huts are something we have been wanting to do for some time. It is such a versatile space – home office, playroom, writers retreat, changing room, spare bedroom," explains Tim.

Although the original aim was to produce huts that were as authentic as possible, the design can be tailored in a variety of ways to meet the

needs of the individual in terms of size and internal or external finish.

They can be clad externally in oak or traditional 'wriggly tin' and fully lined with matchboard painted in a variety of colours, there really is a wide range of possibilities.

Although they would love to produce an entirely authentic version, complete with rusty tin walls and time-worn floors and doors, they would like to hear from people with their own ideas.

Prices for the huts start at £15k plus VAT and include oak chassis with cast iron wheels, treated softwood main frame, insulation to floor, walls and roof, corrugated steel cladding in a variety of colours, timber floor, matchboard lined walls, lighting points and plug sockets, stable door and two traditional casement windows, plus oak entrance steps.

To find out more about Shepherd Huts or other designs from Hartwood Oak call:

(01635) 253534 or visit www.hartwoodoak.com



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Since 1927 the National Garden Scheme has been inviting garden owners to open their exceptional gardens to the public for good causes, giving people unique access to some of Britain's most beautiful, memorable gardens for around the same cost of a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

The National Garden Scheme is the most significant charitable funder of nursing charities in the country, donating more than £50 million to charities across the UK over the last 90 years. Around 3,700 gardens open each year.

pitch-perfect lawn, fish pond, pagodas and many hidden gems provide visitors with a rich panoply of vistas round every corner.

There is also a jungle gym for children to enjoy.



Wickham House, July 11, 11am-4pm, admission £5, children free

This half-acre walled garden was created from scratch in 2008 and was featured in *The English Garden* magazine.

Designed by Robin Templar-Williams, the different garden rooms have distinct themes and colour schemes. As well as an arched clematis and rose walkway, there is plenty to see, including a wide variety of trees, planting, pots brimming with colour and places to sit and enjoy the views.

Visitors can also explore a separate cutting and vegetable garden.

Further afield



Ivydene, Woodley, July 23, 10am to 5pm, admission £4, children free. Light refreshments

A small urban gardeners' garden in Woodley, with a mature tree fern walkway and many unusual hostas, ornamental grasses and plants.

Visitors can also enjoy overflowing herbaceous borders and a rose bed, of mainly patio roses. The vertical garden and the Heuchera Tapestry bed are new and developing.

The garden also features stained glass and ceramic art to complete the picture. The owner, Janet Bonney, is a previous BBC Gardener of the Year finalist



Old Swan House, Stockbridge, every Tuesday July 4 to July 25, 2pm- 5pm, admission £4, children free. Soft drinks & biscuits included

This garden offers a loggia hung with creepers, a mature fish pond with waterlilies, a long lawn under a 100-year-old hazel, which faces mirror herbaceous borders, and an ancient brick and flint wall sheltering mixed planting and shrub roses. Euphorbias, rosemary and lavender abound.

There is a square of grass garden in gravel, bounded by brick paths, a wildflower patch and a partly mature orchard.

Tanglefoot, Winchester, Thursday July 6 and Sunday July 9, 2pm-5.30pm, combined admission with Paige Cottage £6, children free. Home-made teas in the village hall



Designed and developed by owners since 1976, Tanglefoot's half-acre garden is a blend of influences, from Monet-inspired rose arch and small wildlife pond, to Victorian boundary wall with trained fruit trees. Highlights include a raised lily pond, small wildflower meadow, herbaceous bed (a riot of colour later in the summer), herb wheel, large productive kitchen garden and unusual flowering plants.

ngs.org.uk



West Mills Allotments & Island Cottage Garden, July 2, 2pm to 5pm, combined admission £5

A 120-plot site containing a wide variety of fruit and vegetables, some hens and an increasing number of flowers. Visitors are welcome to come look around the diverse styles of plot and interact with this active garden community to discuss the different gardening methods used.

A short walk away is Island Cottage, a small town garden set between a backwater of the River Kennet and the Kennet and Avon Canal. This garden was started from scratch in 2005, and then again after the floods of 2014.

Features include a studio at Island Cottage with a small art display by local artists and plants for sale at both sites.

Teas will be available at Island Cottage, weather permitting.



Jannaways, July 9, 2pm to 5.30pm, admission £5, children free. Tea & biscuits included

Three miles west of Newbury lies Jannaways. The garden spreads across five acres and encompasses a lake naturally fed by springs. A circular walk from formal beds near the house leads along a woodland path, crossing a weir to wild flowers and specimen trees. A

How does your garden grow?

timeless classics

Take a minute and let THOMAS PLANT advise you on what to watch out for at auction when you are looking for a new, but old, timepiece



This Seiko 1639 is best known as Pogue with its snazzy Pepsi-style dial. Prices of these have quadrupled in the last few years and they now go for a minimum of £200, with good examples even selling for £600.

In the auction world, the wristwatch market is diversifying.

Of course, the big and often expensive makes such as Rolex, Cartier and Patek Philippe are still sought after by collectors, but, in addition, other brands are clocking up interest in the saleroom.

There is less competition for the more modern, but still iconic makes such as Casio, Seiko, Omega, Junghans, Skagen or Bulova, which can be bought from £100 at auction, making them accessible to those who are buying the watches to wear as well as those who are buying for investment.

Wristwatches evolved from spring-powered clocks in the 17th century.

They developed from pocket watches and were first worn on the wrist during the First World War, making it much easier for the soldiers to see the time at a glance.

Watch design has certainly come a long way since those days.

With the advent of smartphones, a watch is no longer a necessity, rather an accessory, or a luxury depending on your price bracket.

Don't be put off, as you can find a watch for all budgets at auction.

We sold a 1960s 9ct gold ladies Tissot wristwatch in our February sale this year for £168– it came with its original box and guarantee.

In the same sale, a vintage Cyma as well as a gent's Tissot wristwatch went for £168.

A few months ago we also sold a vintage gentleman's Omega Automatic wristwatch for £180 and a Jaeger Le Coultre went for £504.

Seiko is perhaps the most well-known name in Japanese watches.

From the Seiko Kinetic automatic chronograph to the classic diver's watch, the company has a watch for every occasion. [OA](#)



The Longines for July is in at £100 to £200.



The Baume for July is in at £100 to £150.



The Seikos for September are £50 to £80 each.



The 12 watches together are known as the “Dirty Dozen”, and they were issued by the British government to soldiers in WWII. These are the holy grail of watches, and some collectors have the sole aim of buying the best example of each one that they can.



WHEN COLLECTING WATCHES:

- **DO!**
Buy something you like
Buy the best condition possible
- **WATCH OUT FOR**
The cost of repairing a watch could exceed its value... so make sure the purchase price is right



Thomas Plant discovered his love for auctioneering at a young age, living on the family farm. Watching the man with the gavel at local cattle auctions was a regular event, and Thomas quickly decided on which side of the rostrum he'd rather be.

He went on to take a degree in antiques and served his apprenticeship with leading auction houses, including Christie's in London.

Today, Thomas is the co-owner of Special Auction Services in Newbury and is also a favourite TV expert on BBC programmes, including *Bargain Hunt*, *Flog it!* and *Antiques Road Trip*.

If you've any jewellery, antiques and collectables you'd like valued for auction, don't forget SAS hold free valuation days every Wednesday at: Saleroom Two, 80 Greenham Business Park, Newbury, RG19 6HW.

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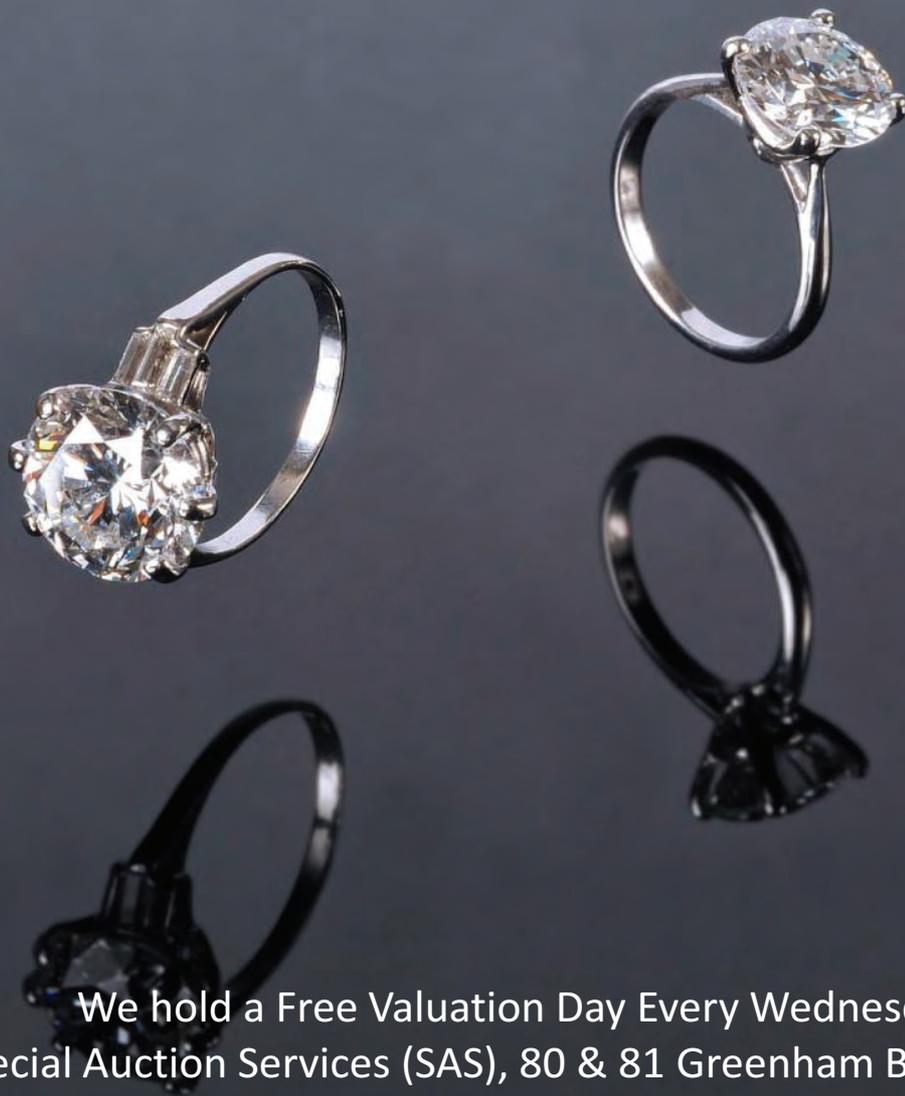


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Newbury Weekly News



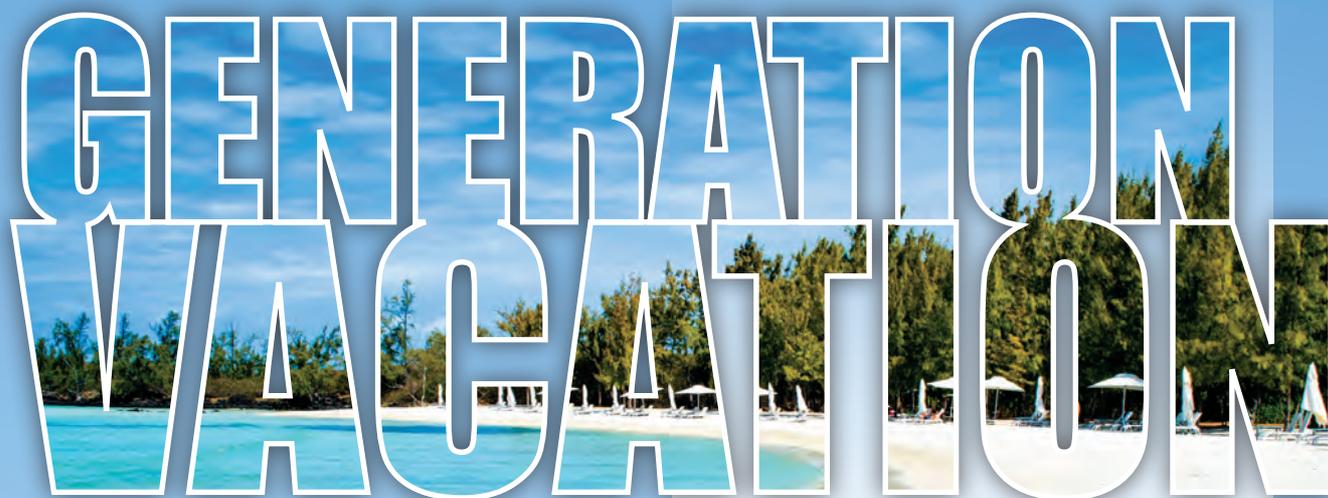
Newbury Weekly News – Still making history is an account of this truly local newspaper, ownership of which remains within the founding family since its first edition in 1867. It features some of the people who have contributed to the publication's longevity, and those who have worked to reinforce its place within the community it serves. Proud to be local, nevertheless at times its reach has also been both national and international. The history of the *Newbury Weekly News*, its growth and survival over 15 decades, is a remarkable tale of change and consistency.



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GENERATION VACATION



Significant birthdays, anniversaries or other milestones are always an excuse to get families and friends together for a celebration. Very often, this will mean finding somewhere that caters for a range of ages from grandparents to young babies and REBECCA SUTTON has found just the place in Mauritius



Whatever your reason to celebrate, inspiration comes directly from each destination.

Milestones come around just once, mark them well and make every moment count. There are inspirational places where the balance of action and relaxation for kids, parents and grandparents can be met with ease.

Be it a family villa or a hotel with lots to do, there are plenty of perfect places to keep everybody happy.

Blessed with an exotic mix of beaches, wildlife and culture, Mauritius is an extraordinary destination for families.

Many hotels offer excellent kids clubs, there are world-class golf courses and the island offers plenty of natural beauty spots to explore. Accommodation is often charged for in sterling too, making it an all-round winner.

Anahita Golf and Spa Resort on the east coast has villas within the resort, so you can experience the best of both worlds; home-from-home comforts and five star service and facilities.

The spacious one, two and three-bedroom suites overlook the sea, manicured gardens or golf course, while the beautifully appointed villas, which range from two to five

bedrooms, offer luxurious living complete with contemporary kitchen, large patio and garden as well as private swimming pools.

There are plenty of good restaurants within the resort and next door at the Four Seasons Mauritius at Anahita.

An extensive gourmet in-suite family dining menu is available for when tired little ones won't sit still at dinner, or alternatively call the Dial-a-Chef service to cook in the privacy of your villa – perfect for when you just want relaxing dinners or barbecues with the family while still in your flip flops.



“

We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures we can have if only we seek them with our eyes wide open

Jawaharlal Nehru

”



Professionally qualified nannies take care of children as young as eight months old at Our Space kids club, keeping the children busy with a long list of exciting activities.

The dynamic Escape Club engages teens with water skiing and tennis tournaments, leaving you free to head to nearby Ile aux Cerfs, a gorgeous island where a private beach exclusive to Anahita guests is a slice of heaven.

Should you muster up the energy to get active, a comprehensive range of water sports and unlimited golf on two 18-hole championship golf courses is complimentary.

For those who want to get out and about, Mauritius is a place designed for exploring.

Tropical gardens filled with endemic plants, animals and birds, including the Mauritian flying fox, parakeet and pink pigeon (distant relatives of the Dodo), old colonial houses and Hindu temples are waiting to be discovered, if only you can tear yourself away from all the resort has to offer.

Stay seven nights from £1,380 per person, based on a five-bedroom villa, B&B excluding flights and transfers. 

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ARE YOU A LOCAL AUTHOR?

Finding Love on a Farm

Trudy Smith

All's well that ends well. From the beginning we know that Trudy Smith has an amazing daughter and a passion for life. Remembering this makes it easier to read of the trials, injustices and abuses she went through in her life.

And yet my past still weighed heavily and dragged me down... and kept me there, because it was never far away.

Smith allows the reader to meander with her through her life against a backdrop of the South African veld with colourful imagery and descriptive prowess. We all have so much to learn, not only from our own past, but from the lives of others. To take comfort and strength from the success and happiness of those who have struggled and won. Her debut novel is a reflective look back over her life in South Africa. It still resonates today on a personal and global level. There is something for everyone to take away from Smith's debut novel.



"I lived in Newbury for about ten years and thoroughly enjoyed walking in the countryside and along the river. I was so fascinated that it went through the town and couldn't resist feeding the swans and ducks. Retirement came around suddenly, and it was then that I decided to gather all my thoughts I'd stored for a lifetime and write my memoirs."

Biography:

Trudy Smith was born in Pretoria and lived the majority of her life in South Africa. In this, her first novel of a trilogy, Smith paints a portrait of life in South Africa in the 1970s. As readers we can picture the landscape and almost hear the wildlife as we are transported back to a different time and place, into Trudy's childhood and early life. Now living in London, Smith is retired from a career in the cosmetic industry, and has time to reflect on a life filled with uncertainty and self-doubt. There is something for everyone to take away from this thought-provoking and evocative debut novel.

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Trudy's book 'Finding Love on a Farm' is available from Amazon and www.novum-publishers.co.uk

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Ghostly goings on

HELEN SHEEHAN and LISSA GIBBINS are drawn in by the time travel, historical figures and intriguing mystery, which make for a compelling combination in *The Phantom Tree* by Nicola Cornick

Browsing antiques shops in Wiltshire, Alison Bannister stumbles across a delicate old portrait – supposedly of Anne Boleyn. Except Alison knows better... The woman is Mary Seymour, the daughter of Katherine Parr, who was taken to Wolf Hall in 1557 as an unwanted orphan and presumed dead after going missing as a child. The painting is more than just a beautiful object from Alison's past – it holds the key to her future, unlocking the mystery surrounding Mary's disappearance, and the enigma of Alison's son. But Alison's quest soon takes a dark and foreboding turn, as a meeting place called the Phantom Tree harbours secrets in its shadows...



Very little is known about the life of Mary Seymour. After the death of Henry VIII, his sixth wife Katherine Parr married Thomas Seymour, the brother of Jane Seymour, Henry's third wife. Mary Seymour was their only child. There are few historical references to her existence, and all trace of her disappears very soon after she was orphaned, barely a year old. She seems to have vanished into thin air.

In Nicola Cornick's fascinating book she imagines what Mary's life might have been like, taking up her story as a young girl bundled off to the Seymour family's daunting house, Wolf Hall, in the depths of the ghostly Savernake Forest.

Wolf Hall had become a home for unwanted and disgruntled relatives who could find no place else to live.

Cornick's novel moves between Wiltshire in the present day and Tudor England.

It begins in the present, as Alison Bannister is browsing in an antiques shop in Marlborough and comes across a portrait that everyone considers to be Anne Boleyn, but Alison knows for certain that it is Mary Seymour.

The painting holds clues to Mary's past and can help Alison to solve a compelling and disturbing mystery that haunts her every waking minute.

She embarks on a quest to find out more about the painting and where it came from. This leads her into dangerous territory, taking her to places she thought she'd never see again, and discovering in the process what became of Mary Seymour.

Central to this novel is the idea of time travel.

Present-day Alison Bannister is actually Alison Banestre, a distant relative and fellow inmate of Mary's, at Wolf Hall.

She has managed to escape her tragic life at that desperate house by the magic of time travel, but she must go back for Mary, and for her own sanity.

This device works very well as a key to unlocking the mysteries of Mary's life.

"She knew at once she was in the wrong place, in the wrong time... Time was no easy medium to control".

Of course the temptation for any time traveller is to go back and meddle, right a wrong, settle a grudge or even prevent a death.

Alison has good reason to do all these things. When the time comes, and if the Phantom Tree allows her back, can she resist the urge to change her fate?

Set in many familiar local haunts, including Wolf Hall, the Savernake Forest and Littlecote House, this book contains delightful insights into the area in Tudor times:

"I loved the market for the noise and colour... the cobbles of Marlborough ran with blood from the carcasses that hung on pegs on the stalls".

Wolf Hall itself is already falling into disrepair, "The rambling old manor was...run down". However, "The gardens...proved a delight".

Mary enjoys a wild night at the Hungerford Midsummer Fair, "...we danced to the music of the lute and the recorders, and watched the fire-eaters".

There are many references to the Savernake, which, with its ancient trees, including the Phantom Tree, and its rumoured ghosts, make it the ideal backdrop for this tale.

"The forest was full of pale light and misty glades that morning".

One of the forest's most famous ghosts is the Headless Rider; we discover first-hand the origin of that grisly decapitation. At a picnic in

the forest, Mary and Alison witness a bolting horse crashing through the trees, whose rider's head is "severed... as neatly as any executioner".

Stories about famous Tudor families are usually full of wild romances, dashing heroes and monstrous bounders; these are all present in this book.

Alison and Mary find love and heartache in equal measure.

For Alison there is the added complication of loves in both past and present times. Mary, rather ordinary-looking in contrast to Alison's beauty, nevertheless has her fair share of love and loss, "...he took pleasure in looking at me, plain little Mary Seymour".

For anyone who enjoys historical fiction, *The Phantom Tree* ticks all the boxes. Cornick effortlessly weaves fact and fiction, and time and place together, making it a pleasure to read.

Told from two different perspectives – Mary's life in the 1560s and Alison's in the present – this epic tale of fantasy and history is interwoven in a seamless and engaging way. It is a poignant tale about a lonely girl of famous parents whose story has been lost in the sands of time, and a fitting tribute to what was probably a short and difficult life.

When you next visit the Savernake Forest you might think of Mary, and be reminded that even now the bare remnants of Wolf Hall harbour the ghosts of long ago.

The Phantom Tree is a skillfully written multi-stranded mystery with thoughtful reflections on two women's quests for belonging. [OA](#)

Helen Sheehan and Lissa Gibbins are writers and owners of Aide Memoire, Great Bedwyn. Inspired by their passion for words, they write memoirs, edit novels and documents and proofread for a wide range of clients.

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Sign of the Kodiak

Skoda's SUV eats the competition alive say MAURICE and ANNETTE HARDY



Best bits: Skoda displays its natural talent

The row about diesel cars shows no sign of abating, with NOx now the noxious substance of choice rather than CO₂.

So the higher NOx output of diesels is seen as far more damaging than the higher CO₂ generated by petrol-engined cars.

It's ok to sweat a bit more as the world warms with carbon dioxide as long as we're not choking on nitrogen oxides and the soot particulates of diesels.

With that in mind, it was with a degree of warmth and happiness that we were pleased to see the latest Skoda Kodiak arrive on our drive.

It came equipped with a 1.4 litre TSI petrol engine, producing a maximum output of 150PS and coupled to a six-speed DSG automated manual gearbox.

It caused some excitement as Kodiak is the very car our neighbours desire to replace their Audi. Yes, in these days of sensible aspiration it's ok to move downmarket, especially as Skodas are seen as the car of choice for VW / Audi buyers with some financial nous.

They loved the car after a day of trying it and happily set off to purchase one.

Their efforts came to an abrupt halt at the first dealership they approached – not local to where you are reading this. The salesman did the usual air-sucking-through-clenched-teeth, underbid them ridiculously on their Audi and then suggested they whistle for a discount on a Kodiak as it was too new to come with any deals.

Maybe he needed reminding that nearby Seat dealers offering the Ateca, a few months down the road in comparison with a Kodiak, might be more willing to bid sensibly for business on a

car that's ostensibly the same underneath. Kodiak is undoubtedly a brilliant car and has quite a few interesting things about it that dispel the myths around certain features.

The first is that a car with 19-inch wheels has to have a rock-hard ride because the test car with exactly those wheels (shod with 50 profile tyres) was relatively compliant and very comfortable for virtually everyone who rode in it.

The second is that an SUV of relatively compact length can have seven seats, all of which are entirely usable.

We set out for a restaurant with our neighbours – them in the front, us in the middle with space between us – and their strapping sons in the rear perches, and we all fitted in without too many contortions to achieve it.

And the third? That a 1.4litre petrol engine with an auto box can never move a car full of people with any degree of ease or economy.

The Kodiak's engine is clever in that it can run on only two cylinders when not under load and if it wasn't for the fascia display letting you know it was on two cylinders you'd never know.

When you want power, it cuts back in seamlessly, but the upshot is that this car can achieve up to 43mpg on a longer run, more like 38mpg when kicking about town on shorter trips, which is as good as many diesel SUVs, and an overall average commendably close to its official combined figure.

As an equivalent diesel Kodiak is likely to add another £1,800 to the price, buying a petrol car is a no-brainer, even if you want to tow as it will pull the same two tonnes as the diesel.

Fold the seats in the Kodiak and you can have

up to 2,005 litres of load space. Without the seven seats there's another 60 litres, but for flexibility (and long-term residual values) seven seats are the best bet.

TopGear magazine rates this the best car for big families, while *Diesel Car* rates it the best large SUV.

The driving experience is largely good, but there are occasions where the stop and start system needs disconnecting.

Negotiating narrow country lanes in the Cotswolds where other traffic could be met on steep bends was one instance and there was another waiting to turn right at a junction in town where an oncoming driver flashed to go. The Kodiak leapt into life with an alarmed chirp from the front tyres.

On the whole, though, there's very little on which to fault the car. Length of ownership would educate on its foibles and then it would be thoroughly enjoyable. [OA](#)

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Newbury Weekly News



We would love to see you at our
Summer Garden Party at Hungerford
Care Home !!

Saturday 22nd July

14:00 – 16:00

Come and join us at our summer fete! There will be Raffle stalls, FREE bouncy castle, face painting, BBQ, Bric a Brac, Pimms table, Plant stall, plus much more!

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MUSIC & FIREWORKS

Three pairs of tickets to the Highclere Battle Proms concert to be won

Since their first concert in 1997, the Battle Proms have been treating their audiences to a heady mix of sublime classical music, a carefully choreographed Spitfire flypast and cavalry displays, dramatic cannon fire and stunning firework finales.

As the series enters its 20th anniversary, the Battle Proms will once again return to Highclere Castle, the home of ITV's *Downton Abbey*, on Saturday, August 5.

The Battle Proms takes much of its historical inspiration from the Napoleonic wars.

As well as staging a colourful skill-at-arms cavalry display in full regalia, the Battle Proms is also the only place in the world you can see Beethoven's *Battle Symphony* performed as he intended – with 193 live firing cannons providing a thunderous percussion.

And if this wasn't excitement enough for a summer's afternoon, the Battle Proms have worked closely with the Grace Spitfire team over the years to create one of the most carefully choreographed aerial displays you are likely to catch this summer.

So much more than just a fly past, this display has the iconic Spitfire dancing through the sky to the opening pieces of the orchestral performance by the New English Concert Orchestra.

The full orchestral programme then takes centre stage for the rest of the evening, complete with a stunning performance by star soprano Denise Leigh and culminating in a flag-waving, sing-a-long *Last Night of the Proms*-style finale as a spectacular firework display lights up the sky.

Out&About has teamed up with the Battle Proms to offer three readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the event at Highclere Castle on August 5.

If you don't want to leave it to chance then find out more and book tickets for this spectacular night out at visit www.battleproms.com or call 01432 355 416.

For your chance to win a pair of tickets to the Highclere Battle Proms, answer the following question:

Which wars provide much of the historical inspiration for the Battle Proms?

Send your answer on the form, to

Highclere Battle Proms competition, Out&About, Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2DW. The closing date for entries is Tuesday, July 11.

For Out&About terms and conditions see page 63.

Highclere Battle Proms competition

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What's on

Find out what's happening in West Berkshire and the surrounding area this month, with concerts, theatre, fetes, lectures, exhibitions and markets to choose from. You can find more detailed listings every Thursday in the *Newbury Weekly News* or online at www.newburytoday.co.uk

Send in your foodie favourites

West Berkshire Museum is seeking groups or individuals to be involved in a community exhibition, opening in September 2018.

The theme of the exhibition will be food and festivals so they are searching for family recipes of favourite dishes served at a cultural/religious festival as well as any stories and objects tied in with the food and/or festival.

They would be particularly interested to hear from people from ethnic minority groups who live and/or work in West Berkshire.

If you are interested in finding out more and perhaps being involved in this exhibition, please contact

learning and participation officer Clare Bromley, at West Berkshire Museum on 01635 519562 or clare.bromley@westberks.gov.uk



Hungerford & District Community Arts Festival June 30 to July 16



Music, films, local artist exhibitions, talks, workshops, open gardens, guided walks and children's activities.

June 30 Cabaret chanteuse Lili la Scala launches the festival with her vintage pin-up looks, razor sharp wit and voice of a nightingale.

Saturday, July 15. 8pm. Ben Waters Big Band

One of Europe's supreme boogie piano players, will be headlining the festival.

Other events include the Wessex Male Choir, young Russian pianist Alexander Karpeyev, bluegrass band Francis Pugh and the Whisky Singers.

BBC Radio 4's *Any Questions?* is chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby from Hungerford and there's a tribute to Stan Laurel by the *Hi-de-Hi* actor Jeffrey Holland.

Twenty-two local artists' exhibitions and open studios will be on show at weekends, while workshops begin on July 1 with digital photography and range from beginners quilting to bell-ringing.

Ticket prices range from free to £15.

A list of events and further information is available at www.hungerfordartsfestival.com and printed programmes are also available from the Newbury Building Society (Hungerford), the library, the Hungerford Bookshop and many other outlets.



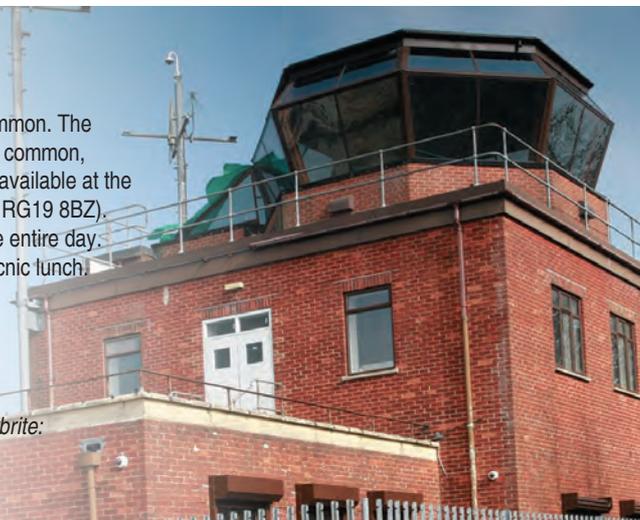
To boldly go

July 1

Historic Banner Walk across Greenham Common. The day will involve two different walks across the common, both starting at the Control Tower. Parking is available at the Control Tower (34 Burys Bank Rd, Thatcham RG19 8BZ). You can join the morning, the afternoon or the entire day. Please wear sensible footwear and bring a picnic lunch.

10am Meet: Control Tower for Walk 1
1pm Picnic lunch at Control Tower
2pm Meet: Control Tower for Walk 2
5pm Finish

Places are free but please book via the Eventbrite: goo.gl/bq41vQ



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Every last Monday of the month Esseborne hosts a Ladies Club where guests are entertained by interesting speakers after lunch.

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Monday 31st July

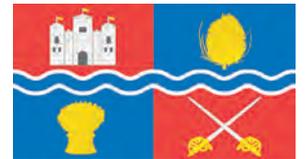
The Sewing Room

- a ghost story

by Heather Wylde

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July dates for your diary

Saturday 1

The Rocky Horror Picture Show – outdoor cinema, Newbury Rugby Club gates open 7.30pm, movie from 9.30pm, BBQ and Bar, Fancy Dress Competition Tickets to be purchased through www.ticketsource.co.uk/momoevents

Newbury Choral Society and The Will Todd Trio present *In the Mood: Sacred and Secular Jazz*, St Nicolas' Church, Newbury, 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (£5 under 16s) available online at www.newburychoral.org.uk or from Corn Exchange 0845 5218218

Music for a Summer's Eve, 7pm, In Cantata Ladies Choir, Newbury with guests The Newbury Flute Choir. St Mary's Church, Thatcham. Admission £7, to include cheese and a glass of wine. Tickets on the door.

Summer Silks, New Greenham Arts, 10am. Join Helen Mortimer for a fun, creative morning and experiment in this beautiful art-form. Using steam-fix silk dyes on stretched silk, you'll build up your own design and experiment with salt and alcohol to create unique effects. All materials provided. Call: 0845 5218 218; email: boxoffice@cornexchangenew.co.uk

Sunday 2

Kintbury Wildlife Group A morning visit to Harvey's Meadow, Hungerford, local bird ringers will show us some birds in the hand, followed by the delights of the meadow, which has never been cultivated and has some wild flowers and special features. By kind permission of the Town and Manor of Hungerford. Starting 8.30am, all are welcome, but please contact 07909 118825 in advance.

Pete Allen Reeds 'n' Rhythm with Hilda & James Clemas, 3pm, Chequers Hotel, Newbury. Tickets at the door £13.50 (cash only)

Big Top Summer Fayre, 12noon-4pm, Mary Hare School, Arlington. Contact KiriLynn Gardner kgardner@maryhare.org.uk, 07740 100654

Race for Life, Newbury Showground, 10am

South Berks Concert Band, *Heroes and Villains* concert, 4pm, Mortimer Fairground. In aid of Save the Children

Summer Serenade, afternoon concert 3.30pm, St George's Church, Andover Rd, Newbury. A relaxing afternoon concert, with Pimm's and strawberries served during the interval. A programme of well-loved classical and popular music, with a *Last Night of the Proms* finale. Tickets £8. Information and advance booking on 01635 45978 or pay at door. Proceeds to final stage of church's carbon neutral environmental project.

Aldbourne Band Pond Concerts 2017, 6pm. An informal, free concert. Bring a deck chair, and maybe a picnic, and put your feet up with a drink from one of the local pubs – a perfect way

to end a summer's day. Donations to help fund the band appreciated

Monday 3

Mini Professors Science Classes for children aged 2-5 years, 9.45am and 10.45am, Eddie Catz, York Road, Newbury. Contact Professor Ruth, newbury@miniprofessors.co.uk to book your place.

Tuesday 4

To July 8, **Nesting** by Ellen Robertson, The Watermill, Bagnor. Box office 01635 46044 watermill.org.uk

Wednesday 5

Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere. Service led by David Bartholomew 4.15pm. Free. Donations welcome.

Newbury Dramatic Society presents *Stanley*, based on a play by Pam Gems, 7pm, Kingsclere Library. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/nds or via Kingsclere Library

Newbury District Ornithological Club An evening visit to Greenham Common for a chance to look and listen for nightjars and woodcock. Meet in the car park on Burys Bank Road, at the top of Pyle Hill at 9pm. All welcome, but please call 07909 118825 in advance.

Thursday 6

Newbury Dramatic Society presents *Stanley*, based on a play by Pam Gems, 8pm, Croft Hall, Hungerford. Tickets £10 from www.hungerfordartsfestival.com or on the door

Bowie Experience, 7.45pm, Corn Exchange, Newbury. Box office 0845 5218218

And tomorrow, **New Era Players** present *The Importance of Being Earnest* – outdoor theatre, 7.30pm, Shaw House, Newbury. Tickets from Shaw House 01635 279279

Friday 7

Any Questions? BBC Radio4 programme with Jonathan Dimbleby. Corn Exchange, Hungerford. Tickets from BBC events

Saturday 8

Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society (Oxon, Berks, Bucks), *Excavations in the tomb of Panehsy at Thebes* – Dr Susanne Onstine will explore the life and death of Thebans from the 19th dynasty through to the Hellenistic era, using epigraphic and archaeological evidence from this remarkable tomb. 2pm, Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley RG5 4JZ. Visitors welcome (£3).

Cromwell Singers concert *Musicals and More!*, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Chieveley. Proceeds to St. Nicholas Church, Beedon. Tickets on the door or by phoning 01635 281825/281636. Refreshments available.

Heritage Walk with Jane Burrell: *Wartime Newbury*, 11.30am meet outside the Corn

Exchange. Tickets from Corn Exchange box office 0845 5218218

St Bartholomew's School Summer Fete, 12.30pm-3.30pm, in the school grounds. Entrance £1, students free. Lots of activities including a *Ready Steady Cook* competition, live music, paintballing and an art show. A barbecue lunch and real ale and Pimm's tent are on offer, as well as cream teas and other refreshments. There will be crafts, books and plant stalls and traditional games, as well as a raffle and tombola, plus a charity run (entry £1) in aid of the Rosemary Appeal. See how many times you can run around the track in 30 minutes. There will be one race at 2pm for Year 5 and 6 pupils and one at 2.30pm for all-comers

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Corn Exchange, 7.45pm. Balletic version of Shakespeare's magical play. Mendelssohn's music is interpreted by artistic director Darius James with Balley Cymru and highlights radiant costumes, sets and video projection. Tickets 0845 5218 218 or cornexchangenew.com

Sunday 9

Hungerford Town Band concert, 7pm, Hungerford Corn Exchange

First World War poetry reading, 11am – 5pm, Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere. Usual entry ticket to the chapel applies

Newbury Dramatic Society presents *Stanley*, based on a play by Pam Gems, 3pm, by kind invitation of Mrs Holbrook at Southcroft, Speen. Call 01635 33572 to book

Francis Pugh and the Whisky Singers, 8pm, Croft Hall, Hungerford

Monday 10

Watermill Theatre presents *Nesting*, 8pm Croft Hall, Hungerford

Tuesday 11

Newbury Floral Society meeting, National Demonstrator Coral Gardiner presents *Natures Summer Palette*, 2pm, British Legion Hall, Newbury. Guests are welcome. Contact (01635) 48852 or 253874 for further information.

Thursday 13

Classic Silent Film Double Bill Harold Lloyd in *Safety Last* and *Speedy*, 8pm, Croft Hall, Hungerford

Saturday 15

A Celebration of John Denver, 7.45pm, Corn Exchange, Newbury. Box office 0845 5218218

Drama: Stanley Spencer at the Beaufort War Hospital, Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere, 6pm. £10. Booking 0344 249 1895

Showcase of local artists and open garden, 10am-6pm, St Thomas' Church, East Shefford ►

July dates for your diary

The summer season is upon us and it's worth travelling the extra mile to see something special, in addition to the first-class entertainment on our own doorstep. Arts Editor TRISH LEE's pick of events in July.

For reviews and arts news see N2 in the *Newbury Weekly News* each week

Unexpected Alice

Creation Theatre: Alice
University Parks, Oxford
July 15 - August 19
Box office (01865) 766266
www.creationtheatre.co.uk

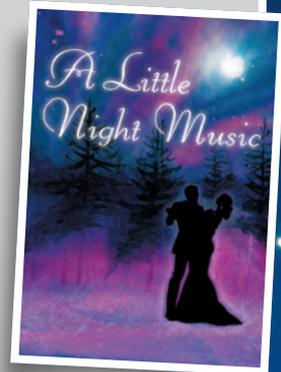
THE wonderfully-inventive Creation Theatre's outdoor summer shows are always eagerly anticipated – over 20 years, 58 shows and half-a-million audience members aged between five and 95 speak for itself – and this year, with the Lewis Carroll Oxford connection in mind, they are building a Wonderland in which to unleash their White Rabbit, Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts in a non-traditional *Alice* at the beautiful University Parks, Oxford. The whole family can fall down the rabbit hole and enjoy plenty of magic, music, puppetry and acrobatics as they join Alice on her journey towards adulthood... great fun. Expect the unexpected; an eccentric, fun, lively, quirky and fast daydream adventure that's definitely not like any version you've seen before. It's a weatherproof show so don't worry about rain, take a picnic and enjoy a summer afternoon in the park before the adventure unfolds in the Big Top – it's always dry in Wonderland.



Broadway comes to Bagnor

A Little Night Music
The Watermill, Bagnor
July 27 – September 16
www.watermill.org.uk

Bagnor will be soon be buzzing to the sound of *Send in the Clowns* and *A Weekend in the Country*... Sondheim fans will be in seventh heaven at the end of the month when his award-winning romantic musical *A Little Night Music* (book by Hugh Wheeler) will be performed by actor musicians for the first time on the Watermill stage. Sophisticated and witty, the show is based on Ingmar Bergman's *Smiles on a Summer Night*, a passionate story of intertwined love affairs, regret and longing, centred on elegant actress Desirée Armfeldt, and her family and flirtations. When Desirée performs in the town of her former lover, old passions rekindle and during a weekend in the country, the entangled romances of four couples are laid bare – with the magic of music on a summer's night, love's joys and complications play out in three-quarter time. Past Watermill productions of Sondheim have gone down a storm, including the Tony award-winning *Sweeney Todd*, which transferred to the West End and Broadway, so book early.



Tea-guzzling tiger

The Tiger who Came to Tea
Corn Exchange, Newbury / Monday 24 (1.30pm)
Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 (11am & 2pm)
Box office: (01635) 46044 /
www.cornexchangenew.com

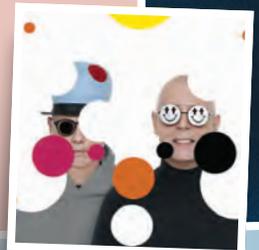
The doorbell rings just as Sophie and her mummy are sitting down to tea. Who could it possibly be? What they certainly don't expect to see at the door is a big, stripy tiger! We all have fond memories of reading Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* to our little ones – such was my son's love for the story of the tea-guzzling tiger, I can still recite it word for word. Now the UK's leading writer of plays and musicals for children, Olivier Award-winning David Wood, has adapted it for the stage and following a smash-hit in the West End, brings this delightful tale of teatime mayhem to Newbury. This grrrrrrrrreat family show for ages three and over runs for about 55 minutes, without an interval and is packed with music, magic, singalong songs and clumsy chaos.



Riverside Razzmatazz

Henley Festival
River & Rowing Museum, Mill Meadows, Henley-on-Thames
July 5-9

Box office: 01491 843404 / www.henley-festival.co.uk
Dust off the posh frock or DJ (dress code strictly black tie) and head for Henley Festival's Moët Champagne Lawn for a glass of fizz, grab some street food and prepare to party at the five-day, quintessentially British festivities on the Thames riverbank. The razzmatazz includes music that ranges from pop, World Music, jazz and blues to classical, with a good helping of art installations, comedy shows and gastronomy areas. Headlining the spectacular floating stage this year is R&B pop princess Jess Glynne, 80s electronic duo Pet Shop Boys, ex-Rufus vocalist Chaka Khan, Goldie and the Heritage Orchestra and girl band All Saints. The floating stage concerts can be seen from the Lawn or the undercover Grandstand and tickets are priced depending on the sightlines; general admission tickets don't afford such a view. If it rains, the show goes on as there are many covered areas within the enclosure. If you are on the Lawn or have a general admission ticket, make sure you take protective outerwear for the main stage concert, in exceptional weather, wellington boots are welcomed and the more colourful the better. There's lots to see and do, so turn up early to make the most of it.



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PRICE
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The changing face of Victoria Park

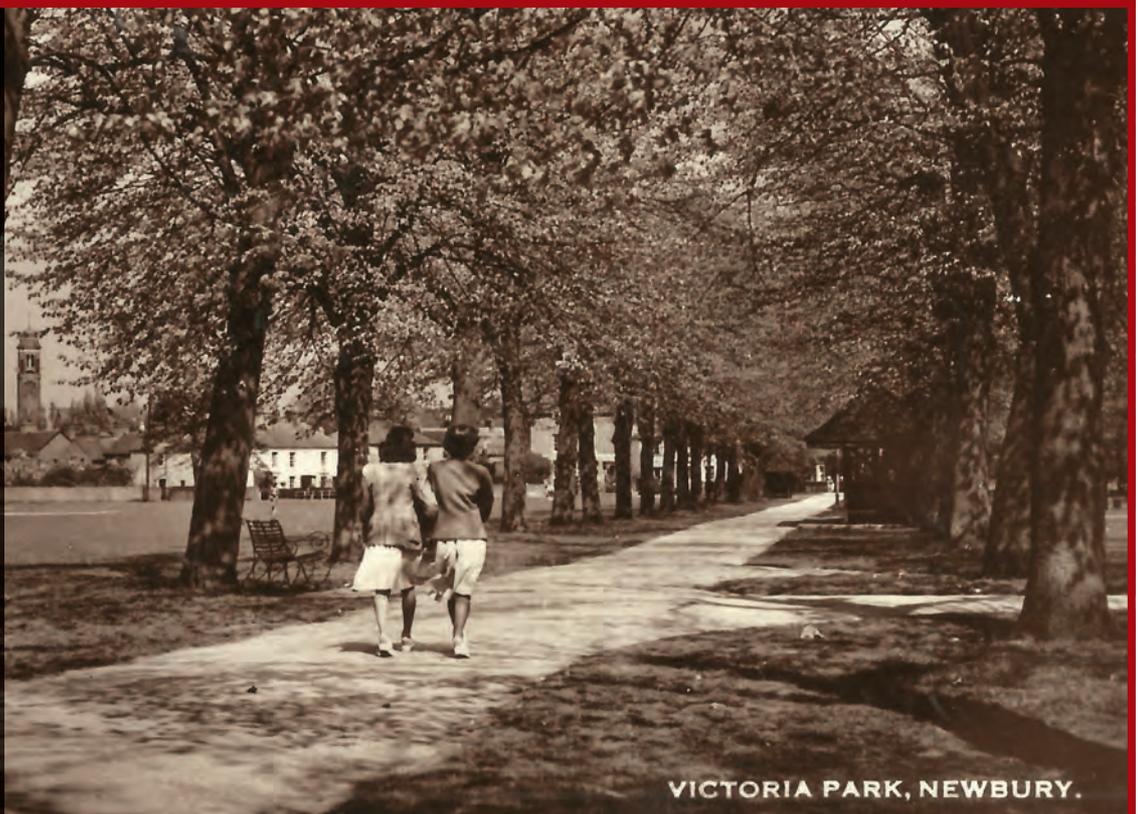
We will be running a feature on Victoria Park in the next issue of Out&About and we want to hear from you

Do you have memories of playing in Victoria Park as a child or old pictures of picnics in the park?

If you would like to be a part of the feature, please send your pictures and anecdotes to Out&About editor Geraldine Gardner, Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury RG14 5DW or email: geraldine.gardner@newburynews.co.uk or bring them in to our Faraday Road offices. Any original pictures will be returned.

Take a walk in the park down memory lane

OUT&ABOUT



VICTORIA PARK, NEWBURY.

July dates for your diary

Music with Adam and Friends: Lute performance by Adam Busiakiewicz, 6.30pm, St Thomas' Church, East Shefford

And tomorrow, 2pm-8pm, **Newbury Jazz and Blues Festival**, 6pm-10pm, Market Place, Newbury. Free

Sunday 16

Newbury carnival. The Carnival Parade will start at 2pm and the procession will wind through the town centre and finish in Park Way. The Carnival Fete will again be in Victoria Park.

Newbury District Ornithological Club A morning visit to the Downs above Compton to look for corn bunting, yellow wagtail and other downland species. Meet at 8am by the side of the track at Grid ref 174/SU509819. All welcome, but please ring 01488 682301 in advance.

Open garden event, Kingsclere. 2pm to 6pm. Tickets will be available from the churchyard of St Mary's Kingsclere from 2pm on the day.

Heritage Walk with Phil Wood: Around the Kennet and Avon Canal, 2.30pm, meet outside the Corn Exchange. Tickets from the Corn Exchange box office 0845 5218218

United Service of Remembrance. London Road Cemetery, for anyone who has a friend or relative interred at the cemetery. A short service is conducted by local clergy, 3pm, and refreshments are served afterwards

Sunday Afternoon live music concert, William Penney Theatre, AWE Rec. Soc, Tadley RG7 4PR, 3 pm. Spanning decades – this month Tony Stace. Bar available. £8 on the door. Sylvia 0118 932 3971. SATNAV takes you to Main Gate – ask for Theatre.

Padworth craft and produce show and fair, 10.30am to 4.30pm. Free entry. Padworth Village Hall, RG7 4HY. Children's rides, arena events, craft stalls, barbecue, beer tent, tea tent, ice cream and fun dog show, plus entertainment. Email enquiries@padworthvillagehall.info. padworthvillagehall.info

Wednesday 19

Vivace Voices choir summer concert, 2.30pm, St Stephen's Church, Pangbourne Road, Upper Basildon RG8 8LS. Entry £3 including programme and buffet tea. All proceeds in aid of the Rosemary Appeal

Archaeological finds surgery, 2pm-4pm, West Berkshire Museum, Newbury

Speed dating event (men and women in their 20s and 30s), 7.15pm, Slug and Lettuce, Market Place, Newbury.

Sunday 23

Heritage Walk: Lambourn Seven Barrows, 2pm. Meet in the Seven Barrows nature reserve car park on the B4001. Free event, as part of the Festival of Archaeology 2017

Newbury Waterways Festival, 10am-4pm, Victoria Park. The theme is *Beatlemania*. Enjoy a display of colourful and decorated narrowboats on the towpath. Victoria Park will be filled with stalls, activities and entertainment for all the family. Live music from the Acoustic Beatles Shambles, boat trips and a beer tent. Free entry

American Wild West Family Day, 12noon-6pm, Newbury Rugby Club, Monks Lane, Newbury. www.newburyrfc.co.uk/american-wild-west-family-day

Get Active Day, Newbury, 10am to 4pm. Unleash your inner Ninja and take on the Ninja Warrior assault course and scale the face-to-face climbing wall. There will be lots going on in Northbrook Street to keep the whole family entertained. Be sure to remember your trainers!

Wednesday 26

To July 30, **Boxford Masques** present *All at Sea!* by Geraldine McCaughrean, Welford Park. A cast of 60 actors, dancers and singers of all ages, drawn from the local community, directed by Ade Morris. For performance times and to buy tickets visit watermill.org.uk or call the box office on 01635 46044. Tickets are £9 (£11 on the door) on Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday evenings and Saturday matinee, and £12 (£14 on the door) on Friday and Saturday evenings. Discounts are available and children age 11 and under are free. Saturday, July 29 matinee is a relaxed performance.

Saturday 29

Newbury District Ornithological Club A late summer visit to Speen Moors to record the changing birdlife throughout the seasons. A level easy walk for all abilities. Meet in Northcroft Leisure centre carpark at 8.30am. All welcome, but please ring 01488 682301 in advance 

Deadline for listings for August issue:

Tuesday, July 11

Email: report@newburynews.co.uk
or tweet: @outnaboutberks

Village markets



Aldworth Community Market, every Saturday, 9.30am to noon. 01635 578090.

Basildon village market, 10am to 12.30pm. Last Saturday of the month. 01491 671515.

Beenham village market, 2pm to 3.30pm. Second Saturday of the month. 0118 971 4822.

Bradfield market, Bradfield Village Hall, 10am to 11.30am on the second Saturday of the month. 0118 9744068.

Bucklebury Artisan Food market, The Bladebone Inn, Chapel Row, first Saturday of the month, 10am to 12noon. Love food @BuckleburyAFM

Farmers' markets – Newbury, first and third Sunday of every month, 9am to 1pm; Hungerford, fourth Sunday, 9am to 1.30pm; Purley-on-Thames, second Sat, 9am to 1pm.

Hamstead Marshall market, second Saturday of every month, 10am to 1pm, 01488 658932/ 658168.

Hermitage farmers' market, second Sunday of every month, 10am to 1pm, 01635 201555.

Inkpen Food and Craft Market, Inkpen Village Hall, 3rd Sunday of every month, 10am - 12.30pm.

Silchester Market, Silchester Village Hall, first Saturday of the month, 10am to midday.

Spirals Craft market, raising money for The Brain Tumour Charity, dates and venues vary. See www.spiralscraftmarket.co.uk

Thatcham Community Market every Wednesday, United Reformed Church Hall, Church Lane, Thatcham 10am to 11.30am. 01635 872713.

Wolverton Village Hall, market first Saturday of every month, 9.30am to 11am. 01488 608594.

Woolhampton Village Market, first Saturday of the month, 10am to midday. 0118 971 3637.

Woolton Hill Village Market, last Saturday of every month, 10am to 1pm.

June competition winners:

RedKangaroo Trampoline package: Emma Fryer, Tilehurst

West Woodhay Gardeners Fair: Stephanie Curtis, Newbury; Catie Colston, Newbury; J Riddell, Tadley; Mrs B Spires, Wash Common; Claire Andrews, Hungerford

General competition rules: The winner(s) will be the first entry(ies) drawn with the correct answer. In the event that a winner must be

notified quickly and is unavailable on the daytime number provided, another winner may have to be chosen. Newbury News Limited employees, and employees directly involved in the competition, and their families, are not eligible to enter. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Responsibility not accepted for entries lost or torn in the post. Postal entries must be on the original form. There are no cash alternatives to the prize.



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Get outdoors and play

Make the most of the summer sun and get close to nature, says WENDY TOBITT from the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

Summer's here and now's the time to let loose your little and not-so-little ones into the fresh air of the West Berkshire countryside.

If you're looking for family trips and days out, then head to the Nature Discovery Centre in Lower Way, Thatcham.

Their amazing team creates something new every week for Fantastic Wildlife Fridays, from July 28 to September 1.

Just turn up for a session at 10.30am, 12noon or 3pm and you'll find wildlife adventures.

You could become a wildlife detective – like BBOWT's president Steve Backshall – make a bug hotel for your garden to attract lots of pollinating insects, or step inside one of the bird hides with a pair of binoculars and see how many birds you can spot.

One of the favourite activities is pond-dipping, so they'll be doing that at least once.

If you're busy on Fridays, there are other events in July and August such as Let's Go Batty, Crocodiles of the World, Reptiles and mini-beasts, and Fur & Feathers.

There's a photography workshop on August 29, for children to learn how to make the most of their cameras. This one might book up soon, so don't delay.

The Nature Discovery Centre really is a great place to discover nature.

This summer's visitors include families of sand martins whizzing across the lakes into their sandbank burrows, where they've nested and are raising their chicks.

Sand martins are relatives of swallows and house martins, members of the hirundine family, and like their cousins they spend the summer in Europe and the winter south of the Sahara in Africa.

They like nesting close to each other, which is why the Wildlife Trust has made a special home for several birds to nest close together in sandy burrows.

Sand martins are incredibly agile as they skim across the surface of lakes and old gravel pits, catching flies, so keep watching carefully to spot them.

In August BBOWT is running Wildlife Craft Days and Safaris at Shaw House gardens in Newbury.

Visitors can craft beautiful creatures and hunt out the garden's bizarre bugs and mini-beasts. This event is part of Linking the Landscape in West Berkshire, a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Discover how you can stay wild this summer with BBOWT. 



Sand martins perch on sandy banks at the entrances to their burrows



Pond-dipping at the Nature Discovery Centre



Pond-dipping in bright sunshine at the Nature Discovery Centre

July and August includes training events for people interested in learning more about small mammals, butterfly identification and ecology, and the delightful dragonflies and damselflies of West Berkshire's heathland ponds.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL WILDLIFE EVENTS

www.bbowl.org.uk/whats-on

for events throughout July and August.

Pictures: Margaret Holland, Pam Cruise, BBOWT

RIO'S FLAME GRILLED BURGER BAR



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BEEF BURGER • CHICKEN BURGER • VEGGIE BURGER

CHOOSE THE SIZE **4** oz **8** oz

CLASSIC plain & simple

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3.60 4.70

CASABLANCA salad & mayo

3.50 4.60

MALIBU bacon, BBQ sauce, pineapple & cheese

3.80 5.00

DEVILS PINCH hot chilli sauce, cheese & onion

3.60 4.70

DAYTONA coleslaw, cheese & salad

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3.60 4.70

BLUESTON blue cheese, salad & mayo

3.50 4.60

PHOENIX sweet chilli sauce

3.50 4.60

PACIFIC prawns in tasty cocktail sauce

3.80 5.00

RIO GRANDE blue cheese sauce & bacon

3.80 5.00

CHICAGO cheese, bacon & BBQ sauce

3.70 4.80

SUPREME swiss cheese, mushroom & garlic mayo

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