



April 2017

# Roundabout

Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves

Roundabout is delivered free to every address in the parish

## **Editorial policy**

*Roundabout* aims to promote local events, groups and businesses and to keep everyone informed of anything that affects our community. We avoid lending support (in the form of articles) to any social, political or religious causes, and we reserve the right to amend or leave out any items submitted. The final decision rests with the editors.

While *Roundabout* is supported by Woodhouse Parish Council, we rely on advertisements to pay production costs, and we accept adverts for local businesses as well as those that publicise charitable and fundraising events. Brief notification of events in the 'What's on' schedule is free.

Copyright in any articles published is negotiable but normally rests with *Roundabout*.

We apologise for any errors that might occur during production and will try to make amends in the following issue.

*Roundabout* needs your input. For guidelines on submission, please see inside the back cover.

## **Management and production**

*Roundabout* is managed on behalf of the community and published by the editorial and production team comprising Janine Ainscow, Roger Berkeley, Amanda Garland, Andrew Garland, Caroline Pook, Neil Robinson, Grahame Sibson and Andy Thomson.

Editor for this issue: Caroline Pook

Cover (Flower petals): Neil Robinson

Advertising managers: Amanda and Andrew Garland

Desktop publishing (page layout) for this issue: Andy Thomson

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*Roundabout* is available to download from the parish council website at [www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/roundabout.html](http://www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/roundabout.html)

Distribution: *Roundabout* is delivered by volunteers to every address within the parish boundary – just under 1,000 households and businesses, including all the surrounding farms. Please let us know if any house or business in Woodhouse Parish is not receiving *Roundabout*, or if you can help out with deliveries.

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*Deadline for submissions to the May 2017 issue:  
Monday, 10th April 2017  
Email to [roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk](mailto:roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk)*

*Editor for May 2017 issue: Janine Ainscow*

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## Editor's note

Spring is here and the creative juices are certainly flowing in the parish as gardens spring into life and activities abound.

Children in Woodhouse Eaves made the most of National Book Day on 2nd March by reading and enjoying stories. St Paul's School held a P.O.W.E.R. challenge day (see p.13), while at the Woodhouse Day Nursery the focus was on all things Gruffalo! (see p.14)

Jo Poultney's article considers the many jobs to be done in both flower and vegetable gardens (see p.26), while Andrew Garland puts out a call for young gardeners on page10. We also publish the schedule for the horticultural show on 2nd September (see pp.16–17). Although it's a way off, the organisers have asked us to include it early to encourage you to plan ahead and grow or create something. So please save the date and consider entering a category or two – and remember, no M&S Victoria sponges masquerading as your own!

There have been numerous changes within the editorial and production team at *Roundabout* in the last couple of months (see p.7). I'm delighted to now be involved with editing the magazine on a regular basis. We're always open to new ideas and contributions, so please do get in touch if you'd like to help out – whether with writing, joining the editorial team or with distribution.

Caroline Pook

## Parish council news

### **Bus and highways services to remain at current levels**

The Saturday bus services and the last buses on weekdays in the parish are subsidised by Leicestershire County Council and there was an expectation that these might be reduced. However, the proposed 'savings' were removed from the county council budget proposals for 2017–18, so it appears that services will remain at their current level for the time being.

The parish council had anticipated taking over some of the work currently carried out by county highways staff, such as hedge and verge cutting, but this will not happen this year. Pilot schemes will be trialled in larger parish councils, with the councils carrying out this work. When these pilots have been assessed, decisions will be made about which services to smaller parishes might be axed. The parish council has asked neighbouring councils if they would be willing to collaborate on subcontracting; some, like ours, are unable to provide the equipment or staff to do such work. There is

some support for this way of working. Highways officers will let us know more towards the end of this year so that we can make sure our budget will cover the work required.

### **Scout Group request**

After meeting for two years at Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse Eaves Scout Group had asked the council if it would grant a 25-year lease for the annexe building, which they hoped they could demolish and rebuild. The council took advice from several sources and realised that a lease could compromise their governance of the playing field. This is because, with the King George's Field charity designation, everything on the land must be available to the whole community and not restricted to one group. However, the council could offer use of the annexe to the scout group, naming it as a priority user. All of the council members expressed a desire to see the group return to the village. Possible sites where a new dedicated building might be erected were suggested, following news of the group's success in winning a national scout hut design competition (see more on p.8). The council offered use of the annexe while the sites were being explored.

Next meeting: Monday, 3rd April at 7pm in Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall

Ann Irving, Clerk to the Council

**Calling all budding green thumbs  
aged 7 - 14 to join in on the fun  
of growing your own vegetables and flowers**

Woodhouses Junior Garden Club will be meeting, from 2.00pm – 3.30pm  
on the following dates, in the allotments:

April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>  
May 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Come prepared to dig in and get growing! Activities include: seed starting, building up healthy soil, restructuring a water garden, planting fruit trees, making a strawberry bed, planting your own garden square, plus loads more...

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**Jill McLeod 01509 890 795**

## Changes to the *Roundabout* team

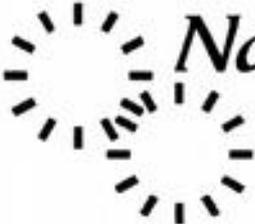
There have been several changes within the *Roundabout* editorial and production team over the last couple of months. The team is very sad to say goodbye to Dawn Kirby, who has edited the magazine for the last four years. We greatly appreciate Dawn's involvement – she always produced interesting and inventive copy, used her journalistic instincts to hunt out good stories, and took on the role of editor calmly and confidently, and always with a dry sense of humour. We will miss her.

I'm pleased to be able to commit to editing the magazine on a regular basis, working alongside Janine Ainscow, my co-editor, and look forward to learning more about village life as I do so.

The team would like to welcome Mary and Peter Cheney as the new distribution managers of *Roundabout*. The couple, who have lived in Woodhouse Eaves for more than 35 years, first got involved in 2015, when they helped with distributing the magazine around the parish. Mary and Peter are taking over the mantle from Tony Lenney, who has managed the distribution in recent years, and has been a part of *Roundabout* since its inception in 2006. Tony has acted as secretary, while his wife, Rosemary, has been chair, and the couple have generously hosted numerous production meetings. Tony has also taken on the role of 'roving reporter', providing interesting stories from the parish and its inhabitants. We are grateful for their involvement in many ways over the years.

We're always on the lookout for new ideas or articles for the magazine. If you're interested in writing an article, or have some memories of the parish that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you – if you don't feel confident composing something yourself, we'd be happy to write it for you. And if you'd like to join the team of editors or distributors, please do get in touch at [roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk](mailto:roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk)

Caroline Pook, on behalf of the *Roundabout* editorial and production team



**Nomaz** (Richard J Bowers DLC CEng so trading)

**Windows Vista support ends in April**

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## News in brief

### £100,000 win for Woodhouse Eaves Scout Group

I am delighted, not to say flabbergasted, to confirm we have won £100,000 in a national competition funded by the Shanly Foundation and jointly organised with the UK Scout Association. The competition was launched last year with the challenge to 'Design your Dream Hut' with a first prize of £100,000 for a new hut, five prizes of £10,000 to refurbish an existing hut, and six prizes of £5,000 to support activities, equipment or storage.

Having been hut-less since our old hut had to be demolished in 2015, it was a no-brainer which prize to aim for, and we dedicated huge effort into putting our entry together. All groups (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) gave up their evenings for the competition, and everyone contributed drawings and designs for our proposal. Special thanks are due to former explorer Emma de Salis Young, who is going on to study architecture at university and who helped to professionalise the drawings, and to Scout leader Sharon Rassool, who put the whole submission together, and drove down the M1 to submit it. We were still working on it the night before the deadline!

**kay young**

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Fast forward a few months and after having been asked to make a few clarifications and to provide further details, we got the unbelievable news in late February that we had won first prize! Only a handful of us were to be 'in the know', until the big reveal. And so it was that at a regular Monday Scout evening on 27th February, we asked Scouts to be well-presented as we were expecting a visit from our District Commissioner, Paul Smith. Then Paul interrupted the meeting to ask whether any Scout remembered the competition, and in came Tamra and Tim from the Shanly Foundation, with the giant (literally!) cheque. The whole room erupted, first in disbelief, then in euphoria, and it still gives me goosebumps to recall this, ten days later.

The judges were extremely complimentary about our proposal, and the fact that all our young people had contributed to it. They were also seriously impressed with the way we had kept the groups thriving, despite having no permanent home for the past two years.

So what happens next? Well, we were already looking around, but our search is now well and truly on for a suitable plot on which to build our dream hut. We are looking at a number of possibilities and would welcome any suggestions from our parishioners. We'd like to move quickly because, as reported previously in *Roundabout*, this year marks 60 years of Scouting in the village, and to have a base for the next 60 years will be a dream come true. It goes without saying that our leaders, committee members and youngsters are all very excited about once again having our own place, where we can put up our posters and displays, store our gear, hold our meetings, and which we can share with other village groups.

Graham Cameron, Secretary of Woodhouse Eaves Scout Group

### **Woodhouse Eaves cricket club news**

How quickly time flies! It hardly seems five minutes since the bats and stumps were packed away for the winter and here we are a few weeks away from the 2017 season. There have been changes, with the club leaving the Leicestershire and Rutland cricket league, but the coming season promises to be an exciting new chapter in the club's history. We are planning a fairly full Sunday fixture list, and we're very much looking for local players of all ages to become involved. If you're interested, or know someone who is, please contact me on (01509) 890 193. Thank you.

John Gillingham

## Group for young gardeners

Throughout the spring and summer Woodhouses Junior Gardening Club will be meeting regularly to introduce children aged 7–14 to practical gardening skills at the Woodhouse Eaves allotments. The varied programme will include sowing seeds, using tools safely and learning how to mix up good growing soil. Each young gardener will also be planting up and caring for their own mini plot. Younger children are most welcome if accompanied by an adult. The membership cost is £10 for seven sessions between April and September. Refreshments are included. No previous experience is necessary. Interested? For more information, please contact Jill McLeod on (01509) 890 795 and see our advert on page 6.



Young gardeners proudly displaying their plots at the allotments.

Andrew Garland

## Become a master composter volunteer

Leicestershire County Council is looking for 20 more volunteers to come on board and spread the word about the importance of composting. Master composters are volunteers who use their skills and enthusiasm to raise awareness of the benefits of home composting and how it: can reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill; saves money; reduces greenhouse gas emissions; and helps to improve soil fertility. They also encourage more people to compost at home and can help with composting queries.

It's an initiative run by the council's waste management team, in conjunction with the Leicestershire Waste Partnership and the charity Garden Organic. There are currently 45 master composters across the county. Anyone can volunteer, from composting enthusiasts to people with a passion for protecting the environment. By getting involved, you can become an expert and save money; learn new skills and build confidence; meet like-minded people and get involved in the local community; and gain work experience in environmental topics.

The scheme is open to all Leicestershire county residents aged 18 years old and over. If you're interested or would like more information, please visit [www.lesswaste.org.uk/volunteering/](http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/volunteering/) or contact Matthew Copley, volunteer co-ordinator at [wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk](mailto:wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk) or on (0116) 305 7005.

Editor

## **Garden crime prevention**

Now that spring is here, and many of us are starting to pick up our gardening tools, it's useful to consider the following:

- Gardening tools and garden furniture are not cheap – they are very saleable items for thieves. So put tools and equipment away after use.
- Always lock shed or garage doors behind you and remove the key.
- Ensure garage doors are closed and valuables are out of sight.
- Install an alarm and security lighting on your shed or garage.
- Prevent easy access to your shed, garage or allotment with locked gates, fencing or prickly hedges.
- Check shed frames and fence panels and replace if damaged/rotten.
- Mark your postcode/house number on property with UV pens or paint.
- Gravel paths make it harder for a thief to approach unnoticed.
- Go to [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) to register your belongings.

Visit [www.leics.police.uk/garden-crime](http://www.leics.police.uk/garden-crime) for more information.

Emma Smith, Community Engagement Officer, Leicestershire Police

## **Traffic Watch Group update**

The Traffic Watch Group (TWG) is pleased to announce a significant outcome from its speed campaigning activities. Leicestershire County Council has allocated £500,000 to trial average speed cameras installed in six locations across the county, selected on the basis of evidence submitted by communities to confirm the scale of local speeding issues.

Woodhouse Eaves has been selected as one of the six pilot trials and is the only location selected from Charnwood. From its monitoring activities, the TWG has gathered evidence regarding speeding 'black spots', but as the year-long trial progresses, leaflets will be disseminated throughout the parish to encourage residents to state their views regarding preferred locations for average speed cameras.

Fines accruing from the conviction of motorists for speeding are currently paid to the Government, which can then award grants to local authorities to assist with road safety measures. We understand that the county council is negotiating with the Government to secure the return of all fines' income to support the provision of average speed cameras beyond the proposed trial.

The Traffic Watch Group recognises that this trial is a huge step forward in reducing speeding but we still need the active support of the community. Please contact [lizrandall@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizrandall@tiscali.co.uk) for more information.

Liz Randall, on behalf of the Traffic Watch Group

## Pre-driver days

Leicestershire County Council Road Safety Education team is offering 16- and 17-year-olds pre-driver day courses so young people who have not yet started to drive can get behind the wheel. The course offers a variety of workshops highlighting key issues faced by young and inexperienced drivers. The day will cover: an introduction to driving; issues relating to speeding; impairment; and the Highway Code. There will also be a practical off-road driving session using the Mallory Park track and paddock area, accompanied by a qualified driving instructor in a dual-control car.

The course aims to give young, inexperienced drivers the knowledge and understanding to make safe choices as drivers and passengers. Course dates for 2017 during the school holidays are: 10th April, 20th April, 1st June, 20th July, 14th August and 16th October. Each course costs £50 for Leicestershire residents and takes place at Mallory Park in Kirkby Mallory. It's on a first come, first served basis, as places are limited. For more information and to book, visit [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/pre-driver-courses](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/pre-driver-courses) or call Anthony Stone on (0116) 305 7233.

Editor

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# Celebrating World Book Day

## Reading is P.O.W.E.R.

The fabulous reading scheme at St Paul's School has really taken off with hundreds of P.O.W.E.R. teddies collected by children for reading at home and earning P.O.W.E.R. points, as well as some book tokens and one top prize of a family day out! Children and staff have already been 'extreme reading' (reading in extreme locations) and with so much more planned we decided to celebrate World Book Day on 2nd March by holding a P.O.W.E.R. Reading Challenge Day. (P.O.W.E.R. stands for read for Pleasure, read Often, read Widely, read Everything and read Regularly.)



Young readers enjoying a book outside.

## Books galore!

The day was completely focused on reading and enjoying books. Everywhere I went I found children reading: wrapped in fleece blankets, under tables, outside, inside, everywhere and all engrossed and happy!

During the day the children filled our new reading shed and held a competition to name it. The Reading Bonanza Shed is now officially open every playtime. Book corners were updated and class book clubs launched, with books chosen and ordered by the children. We held a library book amnesty allowing all children to take home a new library book (even if theirs was lost down the sofa somewhere!).



Older readers sharing a non-fiction book.

## Libraries and book swaps

We sent library information to all of our parents and had a visit from a wonderful librarian, Tricia, from the newly opened Quorn library. Children

who join the library and take out books will earn even more P.O.W.E.R. points. We have also launched a family book swop in the Woodhouse in the playground. Children can pop a book they have enjoyed into the tub and borrow one for free. Each swop earns prizes too. Swops are at 8.50am and 3.30pm and we are leaving it to parents or older children to organise.

## **READ ALOUD Project**



The highlight of the day was the launch of our READ ALOUD Project! We shared Jacqueline Wilson's '70 Great Books to Read Aloud' with parents and asked them to give these books a go. Parents can sign up to the scheme and earn five reading points for each book read out loud to their children. We kicked off the project by having a whole school READ ALOUD assembly, and some wonderful parent volunteers came in and shared their favourite picture books. It was awesome and the children loved it! Over the summer we will be launching more book and author competitions for our families so watch this space!

A parent reading their favourite book at assembly.

Cal Hurst, Headteacher, St Paul's School

## **Woodhouse Day Nursery celebrates World Book Day**

The children and staff at Woodhouse Day Nursery (which is now under new management) had a great day celebrating World Book Day this year with a Gruffalo theme. The children took part in busy activities that brought this fantastic story by Julia Donaldson to life. The children got messy making Gruffalo crumble with oats, and Gruffalo faces with playdough, all followed by a wonderful home-cooked menu with a Gruffalo theme – the owl (vanilla)



ice cream was a great hit! The children all looked brilliant dressed in their outfits while they listened, sung, danced and acted out the story to their hearts' content. We even visited the local forest rock to look for the Gruffalo and all his friends. A great day was had by all!

Making a Gruffalo face with playdough.

Kariena Weston, Nursery Manager

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# **WOODHOUSE EAVES HORTICULTURAL AND**

## **FLOWERS**

1. Six Roses in a Container
2. Container of Six Sweet Peas
3. Three Roses in Three Stages
4. Container of Mixed Garden Flowers
5. My Best Flower
6. Three White flowers in a Vase (same variety)
7. One Gladiolus Spike
8. Three Decorative Dahlias
9. Rose (judged on scent alone)
10. Three Pom-pom Dahlias
11. Three Flowers of same Variety (on a 15cm x 20cm board)
12. Three Chrysanthemum (any variety)
13. Single Hosta Leaf

## **POT PLANTS**

14. Cacti/Succulent
15. Orchid
16. Foliage Plant
17. Three Types of Plant in a Bowl or Pot
18. Flowering Pot Plant

## **FRUIT**

19. Plate of Five Dessert Apples
20. My Best Fruit
21. Plate of Five Plums
22. Plate of Ten Raspberries
23. Plate of Five Cooking Apples
24. Basket of mixed fruit (max. of 5)
25. Largest Apple

## **VEGETABLES**

26. Three Onions, each 250g or under
27. Four White Potatoes
28. Six Shallots
29. Four Coloured Potatoes
30. Cauliflower
31. Three Carrots

32. Novelty or Unusual Vegetable
33. Pair of Vegetables (same variety) – not in schedule
34. Four Pods of Runner Beans
35. A Container of Fresh Herbs
36. Three Chilli Peppers
37. Four pods Dwarf French Beans
38. Two Cucumbers, House or Frame
39. Two Sweetcorn Cobs
40. One Head of Cabbage 8cm stalk
41. Five Different Vegetables in a Seed Tray (one of each)
42. Two Marrows (max. length 40cm)
43. Three Leeks
44. Three Courgettes (max. length 15 cm)
45. Three Round Beet
46. Heaviest Onion
47. Heaviest Marrow
48. Longest Runner Bean
49. Heaviest Pumpkin
50. Heaviest Tomato
51. Three Sticks of Rhubarb
52. Six Tomatoes
53. Six Miniature Tomatoes

## **CULINARY**

54. Three Muffins on a Plate (own recipe)
55. Plate of Six Cheese Straws (own recipe)
56. Loaf of home-made Bread – made by hand
57. Four Bread Rolls – made by hand
58. Five Plain White Scones (own recipe)
59. Fruit Cake Loaf (own recipe)
60. Victoria Sponge, round tins, any size (own recipe)
61. Four Decorated Cup Cakes (judged on appearance only)

# ***CRAFT SHOW Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017***

62. Treacle Tart (own recipe)
63. Parkin (own recipe)
64. Quiche (own recipe)
65. Apple Pie
66. Sponge Cake 'Most Attractive' (judged on appearance only)
67. Shortbread (own recipe)
68. Four home-made Biscuits or Cookies
69. Jar of Chutney
70. Lemon Curd
71. Jar of Jam
72. Jar of Marmalade
73. Jar of Honey
74. Three Eggs

## **BOTTLE CLASSES**

75. Alcoholic Beverage – Spirits, e.g. Sloe Gin/Cassis
76. Alcoholic Beverage – Other, e.g. Cider/Beer
77. Bottle of home-made Red/White/Rosé Wine
78. Bottle of home-made Non-Alcoholic Cordial (any recipe)

## **CRAFT**

79. I made this myself (not in schedule) – WOMEN ONLY
80. Flower Arrangement – in recycled container
81. I made this myself (not in schedule) – MEN ONLY
82. Hand-knitted Garment
83. A stitched item
84. Wildlife house
85. A Piece of Embroidery
86. Soft Toy – knitted or material
87. Container of floating flower heads
88. Painting, any size, any medium
89. An item in Cross Stitch, any size
90. Hand-made Rug any size, any medium

91. Quilting
92. An Article of Interest Associated with the Village
93. Coloured Photograph – LAND (max. 18cm x 18cm)
94. Coloured Photograph – SEA (max. 18cm x 18cm)
95. Length of Bunting

## **CHILDREN 13 AND UNDER**

96. Photograph – SPLASH (max. 18cm x 18cm)
97. Something I created
98. Something I baked
99. Garden on a plate
100. Eco-collage (max. size A5)
101. Bug Hotel
102. Posy in a jam jar
103. Potato Bag (heaviest)
104. Sunflower (most perfect)
105. Poster: Keep our Village Tidy (max. A4 sketch, paints, computer, etc.)

## **TEN AND UNDER**

106. A Decorated Biscuit (judged for decoration only)
107. Four Crispy Cakes
108. Decorated or dressed Clothes Peg
109. Painting (seasons)
110. Painted / Decorated Pebble
111. Something I made from Recycled Materials
112. Something I Made Myself
113. Something I Grew Myself
114. Vegetable Animal
115. Poster (Same as Class 105)

## **FOUR AND UNDER**

116. Collage: Healthy Meal on a Plate

*Please contact Wendy Young on 07845 951370 if you have any queries.*



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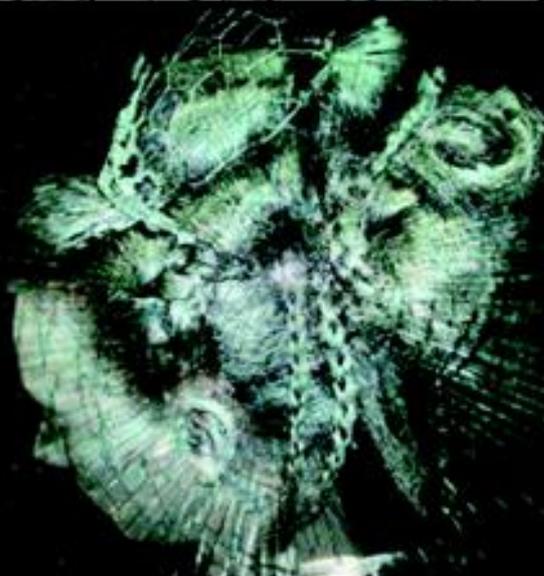
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# Mrs Woolley and Elsie – another Stoneywell tale

*Woodhouse Eaves resident Mark Temple shares the memories of Stoneywell provided in notes by Jennifer Healey, Mrs Woolley's great granddaughter. Ed.*

## The early life of Mrs Woolley

On the 26th August 1905, Maria Elizabeth Woolley's life was suddenly changed when her police officer husband, William Reynolds Woolley, failed to return from patrolling the streets of Spilsby, Lincolnshire. He had 'collapsed and died during a violent struggle with a man he had arrested for being drunk and disorderly and was attempting to handcuff.' PC Woolley had already served in the Lincolnshire Constabulary for 16 years, working in Skegness, and only transferred six weeks before this attack. With no welfare state, Maria found herself left to provide for two young daughters, Edna, aged nine, and Elsie, three. At the time they were living in a 'police house' and Mrs Woolley was granted an annual police pension of £15 for herself and £2 and ten shillings for each of her daughters. Within a few days, she had to vacate the house, find a new home for her family and provide an income. The police pension was not enough to keep the family, and the great fear was that the family would become destitute and end up in the local workhouse. Fortunately help came from a bank manager in Atherstone, Warwickshire, from where Mrs Woolley's family originated. He offered the Woolleys 'Morning Dawn', a holiday cottage at Ingholdmells Point on the Lincolnshire coast. The family quickly moved into the bungalow.

## The move to Leicestershire

Morning Dawn became the Woolley family home until the owner decided to live there himself in the early 1920s, and Mrs Woolley and her girls had to go elsewhere. She was fortunate to find a position cooking and keeping house for Sydney Gimson at 20 Glebe Street, Leicester. Daughter Elsie was also taken on for 'domestic duties' while elder sister Edna escaped service, having married a local farmer. How the Woolleys first came to meet the Gimsions still remains a mystery.



Mrs Woolley.

## The Gimsions in the early 1920s

In the winter, the Gimson family lived at Glebe Street, not far from Leicester train station and in the summer they, with the Woolleys' help, moved up to Stoneywell Cottage. Miss Nora Goodman, Sydney's sister-in-law, would drive over to

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Stoneywell with Elsie to light fires and air the cottage and beds before the Gimson family arrived for the summer.

Years later, Elsie recalled that the journey to Stoneywell in the 1920s and 30s from the city was not easy as it involved travelling on a Brown's Blues bus, which dropped them off at Markfield leaving them with a 15–20 minute walk across fields to Polly Botts Lane, emerging by the stile just over the road opposite Chitterman House. So when the Gimson family car could be sent to collect them from the Markfield bus stop, it was always appreciated!

### **Keeping house at Stoneywell**

Although being in 'service' was not an easy life, Mrs Woolley and Elsie felt fortunate to find themselves keeping house for the Gimson family, who they considered kind and considerate employers. On one occasion, Mrs Woolley had to go into hospital for an operation and Elsie commandeered her sister to help her with the cooking and housekeeping. During this time they managed to drop a large boiled pudding into the mop bucket when lifting it out of the boiling water of the copper (a type of boiler set into a brick-built base under which a fire was lit to boil the sheets on wash day). Years later, Donald Gimson said he was sure it would still have been eaten with enthusiasm because nothing was ever wasted at Stoneywell.

While at Stoneywell Mrs Woolley and her daughter always shared the twin bedroom from which a wooden ladder led to Olympus, the room in the roof space. The Woolleys always ate their meals in the kitchen after the evening meal and they could often be found playing whist and 'Chase the lady' with Donald Gimson while the senior members of the Gimson family were in the living room next door playing bridge.

Monday was always washday, when Mrs Woolley and Elsie would carry baskets of washing up to the laundry behind the stables, beside the road. It was always quite a climb. In the spring of 1971, when Nora was visiting



Mrs Woolley and Elsie on left picnicking in gardens with the Gimsons.

Stoneywell, Elsie was also invited, the first and only time Elsie had been back to Stoneywell after leaving at the start of the war. She stayed for tea but asked if she might see the old laundry where she could still remember how many swings of the pump handle it took to fill the copper. She would be amused to see how the National Trust is now caring for the place and that the laundry is now the tearoom, with the copper still in the corner.

Mark Temple

## Local History Group: Arthur, his stories, and me

The ancient slide projector (about to be retired) added to the air of nostalgia at the Local History Group talk in February as Doug Maas presented the illustrated tale about 'Arthur, his stories, and me'. Doug's passion had been sparked by a Christmas present over 60 years ago: one of the *Swallows and Amazons* series of children's novels by Arthur Ransome (1884–1967).

### Education and early career

Arthur Ransome's life was dramatic. Born in Leeds and spending long summer family holidays in the Lake District, he was educated at Rugby School, from where he went to Yorkshire College (later Leeds University) to study, reluctantly, applied science. A chance discovery in the college library of a biography of William Morris became his decisive moment, setting him firmly on a writing career. He abandoned his studies and travelled to London to a job with a firm of publishers. He began writing, living a bohemian life.

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## **An interest in folk talks and Russia**

When he could, Ransome returned to the Lakes and, by chance, met up with the Collingwoods who lived on the shores of Lake Coniston and who became his second family. One of their daughters, Dora, married Ernest Altounyan. They had five children who, in some ways, later became the Swallows in Ransome's books. Arthur married (unwisely) Miss Ivy Walker, a descendent of the Pochins of Barkby Hall. Her demands were so great that, despite the birth of their daughter Tabitha, Arthur needed to escape. He had become interested in folk tales told by peasant people as their means of communication. The best seemed to come from Russia and so he travelled there and learned the language from children's reading books.

Ransome spent seven years in Russia – during revolution and war – getting to know the political leaders and meeting Trotsky's secretary, Evgenia, who later became his second wife. He was drawn into becoming a war correspondent. Eventually he and Evgenia had to escape and spent some years living in Estonia and Latvia, sailing the Baltic in several yachts including *Racundra*, built to his own specification.

## **A return to the Lake District**

Back in England Ransome and his wife found a house in the Lake District near Windermere. The Altounyan children visited and there were adventures on the lake, but they had to return to Syria where their father was a doctor at the hospital in Aleppo. Ransome wrote his first book, *Swallows and Amazons*, about the children and their imagined adventures on the lake. He hoped they would enjoy reading it, back among the camels, sand and mosquitos.

## **A legacy for enthusiasts young and old**

Ransome wrote more books in the series until there were a dozen, now famous, classic novels for children. Thousands of enthusiasts around the world are fans and many belong to The Arthur Ransome Society (TARS). They explore the factual and fictional locations in the Lakes and the East Coast as well as abroad. As members of local groups around the world, and as families, they encourage today's youngsters to pursue Ransome-inspired outdoor activities.

Doug explained that his keen interest had been a major factor when he decided to volunteer at Stoneywell, discovering that Ransome's books had inspired the Gimson children and that a set of them was on display on a shelf in the cottage. For more information, visit [www.arthur-ransome.org.uk](http://www.arthur-ransome.org.uk)

Mark Temple

## A stroke of genius

'Stroke' is a word that often implies positive experiences: stroking your dog, stroking a loved one's cheek, and even a stroke of luck. So it is not a word that immediately incites panic or trauma. However, the more ominous force associated with this word can be quite the opposite of pleasant.

### A common killer

Stroke is the fourth most prevalent killer in the UK. Ageing arteries that become narrower and harder lead to an increasing tendency to get blocked. Certain medical conditions (diabetes and heart disease) and lifestyle factors (smoking, being overweight, no exercise) can also increase the risk.

There are two main types, both being attacks on the brain. When the blood supply to the brain stops due to a blockage, this is known as an ischaemic attack. Bleeding in and around the brain can cause a haemorrhagic stroke. A transient ischaemic attack (TIA) is also known as a mini stroke because the effects last no longer than 24 hours as the blockage is temporary.

### Acting FAST

Recent campaigns have highlighted the importance of acting as quickly as possible if you suspect a stroke. The acronym FAST gives us clear directions on recognising the symptoms:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Borders &amp; Raised Beds</li><li>• Weeding</li><li>• Tree and Shrub Pruning</li><li>• Planting</li><li>• Laying Woodchip &amp; Bark</li><li>• Hedge Trimming</li></ul> <p>Please call today for a quotation.</p> <p><b>Pete Perry</b></p> <p><b>M: 07515 825610</b></p> <p><b>D: 01509 891072</b></p>
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**Face** – the face may have dropped on one side; the person may not be able to smile, or their mouth or eye may have drooped.

**Arms** – the person may not be able to lift both arms and keep them there because of weakness or numbness in one arm.

**Speech** – their speech may be slurred or garbled, or the person may not be able to talk at all despite appearing to be awake.

**Time** – it's time to dial 999 immediately if you notice any of the above.

### **Long-term effects of stroke**

The prognosis following a stroke can depend on the areas of the brain affected by the attack. A stroke on the left side of the brain will affect the right side of the body. Effects can be visible and non visible. Visible effects include:

- paralysis and muscle weakness, which will affect the ability to control movement and balance to differing degrees
- impaired vision
- difficulty swallowing
- an inability to control the bladder and bowels.

Non-visible effects include the following:

- aphasia, affecting one third of stroke patients, describes difficulty speaking and understanding. There can also be difficulty with reading and writing, resulting in a marked difference in the ability to effectively communicate
- memory and thinking can be affected, in terms of short-term memory, concentration, problem-solving and direction
- difficulty in controlling emotions can lead to depression and anxiety.

Although these effects may be permanent, some people may feel only a few mild and short manifestations of these symptoms.

### **Life-saving awareness**

By the age of 75, one in five women, and one in six men, will have a stroke. With the population of 'golden oldies' increasing, and more and more of us finding ourselves being carers for our elderly relatives and friends, being able to recognise the symptoms could be a life-saving stroke of genius.

*If you have any particular health-related topics you'd like me to cover in Roundabout, please email me at [zenji123@msn.com](mailto:zenji123@msn.com)*

Zainab Master

## **April in the cottage garden**

Easter bunnies, frolicking lambs and the colours green and yellow sum up April. The bright yellow of narcissus and the green of a growing lawn are just the start. Tulips of all colours, blue pulmonaria, choisya, erysimum and the acid green of euphorbia are just some of the colourful plants that make April the true start of spring. And its busy, busy, busy times for us gardeners as we make the most of the longer days and warming temperatures, which see the garden growing and changing almost on a daily basis.

### **The flower garden**

Prune hydrangeas by cutting back old stems to a new shoot lower down. Reinvigorate hardy perennials by digging up clumps, dividing and replanting them. Hostas respond well to this treatment, as do daylilies. Sow varieties of hardy annuals such as nigella and marigolds into gaps in borders. Continue deadheading spring bulbs to prevent them from setting seed. It is also time for me to plant out sweet pea seedlings I've grown in root trainers in the greenhouse. Plant at the base of sturdy supports such as canes or metal obelisks in soil enriched with well-rotted manure. Lastly, watch for the emergence of aphids on roses and rub them off before they turn into major infestations. Disease-prone roses will need to be protected against fungal diseases such as blackspot and rust. I will be trying a method new to me this year – bicarbonate of soda. Although not a fungicide, it apparently creates an alkaline condition the acid-loving fungi hate!

### **The vegetable garden**

Plant second, early and main crop potatoes. Watch broad beans for infestations of aphids and spray with a soap-based solution. Sow chillies and courgettes in pots to be planted out later on. Sow first batches of lettuce along with herbs such as parsley, coriander and dill in handy containers and place in a sunny spot. Fill in temporary gaps with fast-growing crops such as raddish. Plant flowering companions to vegetables such as borage and marigolds. In the greenhouse I have planted indoor tomato plants in large containers placed in low troughs for easy watering. Runner beans and climbing french beans have replaced the sweetpea seedlings in the root trainers (used to encourage root growth on plants that need good root systems to do well).

### **An ode to the humble flowerpot**

Clay flowerpots were once a common sight in every nursery and something every gardener had a large stock of. Not only did these pots give plants

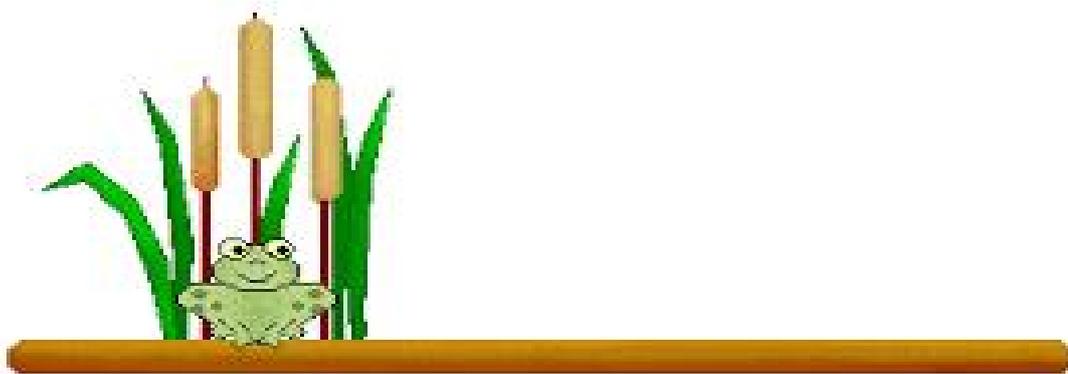
support and space to grow, but signs of weathering also made them lovely to look at. Although their place has long been taken by cheaper plastic pots and machine-made, mass-produced terracotta, old clay pots have become collectors' items and objects to be admired.

Most of the old clay flowerpots were handcrafted using plaster of Paris moulds into which the clay was worked by hand and dried before being fired. Maker's marks can often be found stamped into the upper outer ridges. The huge majestic terracotta pots seen in stately gardens were, and still are, made from Impruneta terracotta, a clay named after a town in Tuscany where it is found, which has a high degree of frost resistance and is strong enough to be made into very large containers.

Now desirable objects rather than practical necessities, clay flowerpots not only show off the plant but also the container. Who cannot help but be drawn to a garden table with a display of small clay pots filled with different varieties of sempervivums; pots planted with collections of hostas or brightly coloured annuals; or larger pots in a sunny spot filled with a variety of different herbs? And plants like clay flowerpots! The conditions created in clay pots are very similar to those of outdoor planting. Excess water is dispersed through the porous walls, and the evaporation helps to cool the plant's roots in summer. In winter, the clay insulates and protects the roots, while excess fertiliser and salts are filtered through the pot walls.

If, like me, you are an avid collector of these increasingly scarce and beautiful containers, it's worth taking care of them. Not only are they costly, but individually irreplaceable, so avoid contact with the ground by placing larger, more expensive pots on little feet. Protect from waterlogging with good drainage and, if in doubt, overwinter your favourite pieces in a frost-free place. Next time you come across an old clay flowerpot in a cobwebby corner of a junk shop, snap it up, plant it up, then admire the once-humble clay pot that has been transformed into a feature in its own right.

Jo Poultney



# Codeword

A codeword is like a crossword puzzle, but the letters in the grid have been replaced by numbers. Each number represents a letter of the alphabet and all 26 letters are present. As in any crossword, the words used can include proper nouns and even common phrases. Can you solve the puzzle? We have given you some letters to help you get started. The solution can be found inside the back cover. (Andy Thomson)

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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							G					

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## Woodhouse Eaves Open Gardens

Every year the village comes together to welcome visitors to view our gardens and sample some of our wonderful residents' baked goods with a lovely cup of tea. The money raised goes towards St. Paul's Church renovations - a very worthy cause as the Church is without doubt a key feature in our beautiful village. Whether you are a Church goer yourself or not, you will agree it would be sad to lose such an impressive landmark (although many of you may not know there are parts of the church which are in desperate need of repair).

We would so love for more people to join in this event this year, and open their gardens. Many people feel their gardens need to be 'perfect', but people are just interested to see the quirks of the different gardens around the village, and are not looking for 'perfection'! We are also looking for someone to run a tombola (box provided) not necessarily in their own garden. If you think you may be able to help

Please contact Liz Wilson on 01509 890 181 or email chestnut1@live.com

It is such an enjoyable event for all who take part, so we really do hope to hear from you. The dates this year are the 3rd and 4th of June, from 2pm until 6pm on both days.

## The last word

### Parents reveal favourite fibs

If you've ever taken the batteries out of your child's most annoying toy, or dispatched it to the charity shop, you're not alone. A survey carried out by Now TV has found that 'losing' or secretly sabotaging a toy, then claiming it has broken, is the most common white lie told to children, deployed by 55 percent of parents. Pretending that the television or iPad has stopped working is the second most popular.

Other lies include pretending to call the police when children have done something naughty, and claiming that the ice cream van plays music when the ice cream has run out. Ten per cent of parents have claimed to be 'poorly' when they have a hangover.

*Pressreader.com, 10th March 2017*

### It's no picnic...

A log of jobs undertaken by computer support staff had several entries stating the problem was PICNIC. Asked what this meant, one of the technicians explained: 'Problem In Chair, Not In Computer'! *Observation by a friend of Richard Bowers working at a local university*

### Shreep around witches' knickers?

The British are famously obsessed with talking about the weather – but one expert has claimed that we still do not do it enough. Robert

MacFarlane, a Cambridge academic, says the language we use to describe the weather and the world has narrowed – and he is determined to reverse the process. He spent two years gathering as many of our nature words as possible, from more than 30 languages and dialects around Britain and Ireland, now on display with accompanying photographs in Cockermouth, Cumbria.

The words include 'shreep', an East Anglian word for mist clearing slowly, and 'sun-scald', a Sussex word for a patch of bright sunlight on water. Macfarlane has also revived expressions describing other, less natural, phenomenon, including 'currick', a Cumbrian word for a manmade pile of stones used to guide travellers, and 'witches' knickers', an Irish expression referring to plastic snagged on a tree.

*Telegraph.co.uk, 11th March 2017*



Sun-scald – an image in Dr MacFarlane's exhibition. Credit: Rosamund and John MacFarlane

## Contributions to *Roundabout*

We publish items of interest to the communities of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves, such as news of local events, groups and businesses in accordance with the editorial policy (see inside front cover). We can write up people's stories for those who prefer to talk, rather than write. We do not publish notices of births, deaths or marriages. We aim to keep most articles under 800 words.

*Format:* electronic copy in 'Word', using 'Arial' font, is most useful, although we accept handwritten items that are legible.

Pictures are welcome: digital if you have them, otherwise prints.

*What's on:* brief notification of events in the 'What's on' schedule is free. Send event details to *Roundabout* at the email address below. Please note that we normally include only 'in parish' events, may abbreviate the details and are not obliged to include all items submitted.

*Adverts:* requests for further publicity, even for charities, incur a charge per issue of £9.50 for a quarter page or £22.00 for a half page. We do not normally accept full-page adverts. Contact the advertising managers, Amanda and Andrew Garland, on (01509) 890 839 or via the *Roundabout* email address given below.

*Copy deadline:* Submissions to the May 2017 issue should be sent in by Monday, 10th April. Send any material for *Roundabout* via email to [roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk](mailto:roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk) or via a member of the editorial and production team.

### Codeword solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
J	S	K	H	Z	B	W	I	D	Q	Y	N	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
U	E	P	X	L	C	O	G	T	M	V	A	F

## What's on in April

Mon	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00	Council and charity meetings	Village Hall
Thu –Sat	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Beacon Players, 'The Erpingham Camp'. Farce by Joe Orton, café-style seating, BYO	Village Hall, £8, n'agent, PO or on door
Mon	10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Local History Group, 'Art of the lace bobbin', Evelyn Brown	Methodist Church Hall, £3 visitor
Wed	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	'The Crucifixion' by John Stainer. A concert by the Tudor Choir of Leicester	St Mary's Church, free
Tue– Fri	18 <sup>th</sup> –21 <sup>st</sup>	All day	Holiday activity clubs for 7–14-year-olds. Incl. high ropes, canoeing, archery and pirate capers. Call (01509) 890 119890119	Beaumanor Hall, £35 per day
Thu	20 <sup>th</sup>	6.00	Council finance committee meeting	Annexe
Mon	24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Friends of Charnwood Forest, 'Living wild in South America', Michael Webster	Village Hall, £3 visitor
Wed	26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Film show, Sully, PG, starring Tom Hanks. Light refreshments or BYO	Village Hall, £4, newsagent or on door

Check for more local event details on these websites:

[www.woodhouse-eaves.co.uk/](http://www.woodhouse-eaves.co.uk/)

[www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/local-events.html](http://www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/local-events.html)