

October 2024

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 omit any items submitted. The final decision rests with the editors.

Roundabout relies mainly on advertisements to pay production costs. We accept advertisements for local businesses as well as those that publicise charitable and fund-raising events. Brief detail of events in 'What's on' and 'Forthcoming events' is free. For more information see inside back cover.

Copyright in any articles published is negotiable but normally rests with Roundabout. We apologise for any errors that 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 Roger Berkeley, Jane Futcher, Helen Horne, David McClelland, David Ross, Grahame Sibson and Joke De Winter.

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Roundabout is available to read or download from the parish council website at www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/roundabout.html

Distribution: *Roundabout* is delivered by volunteers to every address within the village boundaries – nearly 1,000 houses and businesses – and some of the surrounding farms. Please let us know if any house or business in the parish is not receiving *Roundabout*, or if you can help with deliveries.

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Deadline for submissions to the November 2024 issue:
Thursday, 10 October 2024
Email to roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk
or to a member of the editorial team
Editor for November 2024 issue: David McClelland



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Editor's note

As the nights close in, it's definitely feeling like autumn. I don't know where summer went. If anyone finds it, please can they return it?

September saw two important events in the parish calendar - the horticultural show and the community picnic - and we have reports on both. There are brief updates from St Paul's CE Primary School and Little Owl Pre School and details of our recently-elected MP's new constituency office. Our usual updates from parish, borough and county council keep us in touch with our elected representatives.

We hear that WI members have been cooking with spices since their recent meeting, and the Junior Garden Club have been cooking their own produce. Local technology expert Richard Bowers shares some opinions on the endless cycle of device upgrades, and there's very autumnal feel to our cottage garden advice this month.

Do get in touch with your news, reviews and events – we rely on you to tell us what's happening: roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk

David Ross

Parish council news

Windmill at Broombriggs update

The working group met with Leicestershire County Council and Buzzing Roots to discuss the survey which was recently distributed in Roundabout and on the parish council website. We had a response of 10% return of the survey. 75% of people would like to see the Windmill restored with a new roof and viewing platform. 65% don't want to see any commercial development. The parish council will now look at working with the county council to apply for grant funding for restoring the windmill.

Reporting potholes

To report a pothole in the villages as a parishioner you can call Leicestershire County Council at (0116) 305 0001 or visit their website at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/report-a-road-problem. By all means, if you would rather get in contact with the parish council, we can also report these to LCC.

Little Libraries – calling book lovers

We are looking for a volunteer to monitor and replenish the books every now and again in the little library in Woodhouse by the entrance of Beaumanor Hall. We have two super volunteer librarians in Woodhouse Eaves who will be happy to support you in the role. Please do get in touch if you would be interested.

Charnwood Police Beat Surgery

Don't forget to put the next beat surgery in your diary to meet our local PCSO Jade Martin.

• Tuesday, 22nd October at 2.00pm at the Village Hall, Woodhouse Eaves This is such a good opportunity to discuss your neighbourhood concerns and any parking issues. We hope to see you there.

Community Cafe

Don't forget to pop along to the Community Café every Tuesday from 2.00pm to 4.30pm in the Village Hall, Woodhouse Eaves. Meet other villagers over a cuppa. This is for all ages, babies and children are welcome too.

Facebook page

Please keep in touch and visit our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WoodhousePC/

Parish Council meetings

Please note the next Parish Council meetings:

- Monday, 7th October at 6.45pm at the Village Hall, Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves.
- Monday, 4th November at 6.45pm at the Woodhouse Community Hall, Woodhouse.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Agendas and minutes can be found on our website at www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk

Please contact me with any news or issues at clerk@woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk or on (01509) 891 299.

If you wish to book one of the halls for a group activity or a weekend party/ event, please visit our website:

www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/village-halls.html

Emma Crowe, Clerk to Woodhouse Parish Council

Charnwood Borough Council news

Charnwood Sports Awards

Just a reminder, it is the last chance to submit nominations for the 2024 Charnwood Sports Awards. This year's awards ceremony is taking place at

Burleigh Court in Loughborough on Monday, 9th December 2024. However, the deadline for nominations is midnight on Friday, 4th October 2024.

The event, which is organised and run by Charnwood Borough Council, is in its 14th year, and celebrates the sporting achievements of individuals, clubs and volunteers, as well as highlighting workplaces and schools which are making a difference to the health and wellbeing of residents.

Charnwood residents can nominate their sporting stars across a range of categories, including two new categories this year: Team of the Year and the Generation Charnwood Inspiration Award. To find out more about the eleven categories, nominate online, or find out more about the awards visit www.charnwood.gov.uk/sportsawards or call (01509) 634966

Hope Bell installation

The Hope Bell will mark the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on local communities, a tribute to the NHS and key workers, and a reminder of how communities came together to support each other in challenging times. The main structure of the bell has now been installed in Queen's Park, Loughborough.

Fittingly made on behalf of the council by local company, John Taylor & Co, the last major bell foundry in the UK, the Hope Bell is a clock chime installation comprising four quarter-chime bells and the main Hope Bell to sound the hours. The installation is due to be completed by October 2024.

Kick Start Market

A special market day set up for new traders and budding entrepreneurs is returning to Loughborough town centre on Sunday, 20th October, 10.00am to 4.00pm. The initiative is being organised by Charnwood Borough Council's markets team. The successful pilot event held in May was aimed specifically at young people, but this time around, the upper age limit has been removed to enable anyone to get involved.

Anyone interested in becoming a market trader or running a stall to support their new business can sign up, as well as students who want to sell items, display their work or get feedback on their business ideas.

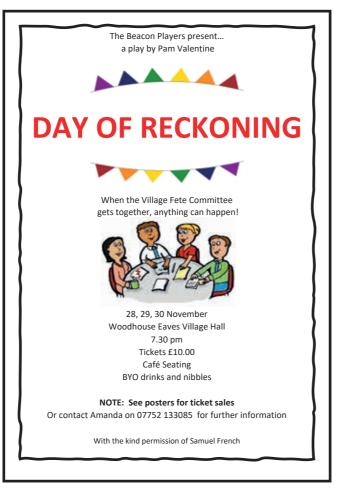
Alongside the market stalls, there will be a range of food outlets and entertainment, including live music. At the pilot event, traders sold a variety of goods and services, including homemade jewellery and accessories, retro sweets, plants, toys, guitar tuition and physio equipment.

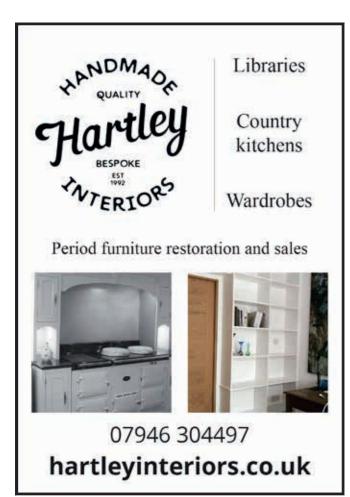
Kick Start Market stalls will be free of charge on the day, but spaces must be booked in advance. The council has arranged public liability insurance for the traders, anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. To sign



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up and find out more information, contact the markets team by emailing markets@charnwood.gov.uk

David Snartt, Borough Councillor, Forest Bradgate

Leicestershire County Council news

Over the summer, I have been to Chesterfield to meet the newly elected mayor of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and discussed how we can work together for the benefit of all our residents.

I have also met with several of our new MPs for the county and set the relationship between parliament and the county council to ensure we have a good working relationship.

I have also been invited as acting leader of the county council to several of the new government's webinars. These have covered the proposed new planning framework and the early release of prisoners. There has also been a flurry of letters sent to the local authority from the new government regarding plans and changes they are putting in place and we await further details.

Beacon Hill Café

The Beacon Hill Café has now gone cashless. You can now just tap and go with your mobile or use your card to make payments. This has been changed to cashless due to several attempts to break in and it has been deemed safer for all concerned to not have cash on the premises.

Free play sessions

Free sessions including messy play, language workshops and sensory fun are being held around Leicestershire's Family hub centres.

Parents and carers of 0-2 year-olds are being welcomed with their little ones, and their pre-school age siblings, to the events which will take place between 2nd September and 18th December across the county.

The bookable sessions have been organised as part of Leicestershire County Council's 'Family Hubs Start for Life Initiative', which helps to give parents and carers a deeper understanding of how they can aid their child's development through simple and fun activities.

Booking is open now for the free sessions, taking place at family hubs across Leicestershire; find out more and book a place at a family hub at www.familyhubsleicestershire.org.uk/

If you have any issues or concerns, I'm here to help.

Deborah Taylor, County Councillor

News in brief

Update from Peter Bedford MP

I hope that you are enjoying the summer and have made the most of the sunny days – when we've had them! I want to update residents on what I have been up to over the last few months since my election as your member of parliament.

The most challenging of my tasks has been to set up an office both locally and at Westminster, as well as recruit staff, and respond to the hundreds of pieces of correspondence that I have received since the general election. Much progress has been made and I am pleased to announce my constituency office as:

Office of Peter Bedford MP, 4 Cropston Road, Anstey, LE7 7BJ Tel: (0116) 507 7162, email: peter.bedford.mp@parliament.uk

The office will be open to the public from 10.00am to 4.00pm from Monday to Friday; but I would encourage calling ahead to ensure that my staff are appropriately prepared to deal with any issues you wish to raise.

It is my intention to hold surgeries fortnightly (Fridays between 10.00am and 2.00pm); and once these are up and running, I will advertise to residents via my social media platforms.

If you have any issues that my office can be of assistance with, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Peter Bedford Member of Parliament for Mid Leicestershire

Little Owl Pre School update

We are delighted to announce that due to increased numbers attending, Little Owl Pre School remains sustainable for the future. For those who may not know, prior to Christmas 2023 there were doubts as to whether this much-loved pre-school could continue to run due to depleted numbers. Having been a charity pre-school for over 30 years, many of those who had utilised this little nurturing haven were understandably upset.

Many parents and caregivers spoke of magical days, holding their little one's hand and walking into 'Little Owl's'. We even spoke to grown-ups who could remember being there! With such a positive and emotive outpouring, we were keen to push forward and get the word out there that Little Owl's is a wonderful place to assist with childcare and prepare your child for school.

Through parent groups, school chat and word of mouth we got the website back up and running and asked for Google reviews. Little Owl Pre School

is based at the rear of the Baptist Church, and we discovered some new joiners hadn't know there was a pre school in the village. As the year progressed, numbers attending increased, and many joined the waiting list for 2025. We are planning a number of events to raise money for new play equipment and started with a coffee morning in Quorn last month. This was very successful.

Little Owl Pre School offers childcare from 9.00am till 2.00pm Monday to Wednesday, accepts childcare vouchers, and their small numbers, dedicated staff and amazing outdoor play area is the perfect step for your child. If you would like your little one to join Little Owl Pre School please call Pru on 07957 655544 or email owl@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk

Sarah Barker

The start of a new school year

The academic year at St Paul's CE
Primary School has started very well.
Our new reception children (Robins)
seemed confident and eager and the
only tears were from the parents! The
children have continued to settle in well
and embrace the new friendships and
learning that coming to school brings.

A particular focus for this school year will be to develop the children's spoken language skills, now termed 'oracy'. We are lucky that the children in our area



Some of our new Robins, enjoying a picnic with Elmer the elephant.

usually come to school with high standards of speaking and listening, and we will seek to extend and develop this further, giving children a secure understanding of when and how to use more formal language.

We continue to develop the children's 'cultural capital' with our schedule of trips and visits. We have a three-day residential visit to Beaumanor Hall, planned for our Y4 children. The Y6 children are looking forward to a week-long visit to Norfolk in October. Both these visits enable the children to develop confidence and independence as well as cementing close friendship bonds.

As a Church of England primary school, we have welcomed the 'Open the Book' team visits, with their drama-based retelling of Bible stories. We are looking forward to Rev'd Lisa's visits commencing to deliver worship every other week. We have been thinking about thankfulness as our Christian



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value this half term. This ties in well with harvest celebrations which our Y3 class will lead at St Paul's Church later in October. The food donations provided by families will go to the John Storer House food bank.

We look forward to the events of this half-term, including the commencement of 'Golden Worship' where we share our successes with parents, as well as our Macmillan coffee event, and our first parents' evening of the new school year.

Although we are full in our reception class, we do have a few places in other year groups. Please contact the school office, if you would like to enquire.

Lisa Gilchrist, Headteacher, St Paul's CE Primary School

Have you seen a wild boar?

BeastWatch UK is conducting a localised survey on wild boar in and around the Leicestershire area.

As our wild boar are slowly moving into Leicestershire's boundaries, we would like to know where they have been seen along with time and dates if possible. So, if you have seen wild boar within



Leicestershire, then we would love to hear from you.

You can contact us through our email address: beastwatchuk@hotmail.co.uk

Chris Mullins

Forthcoming events

Fascinating Fungi – Wednesday, 9th October, 7.30pm

Ben Devine, Head of Nature Recovery for the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, will talk about the fascinating world of fungi at the next meeting of the Charnwood Local Group of the Trust.

The talk will take place at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall and costs £3 for members, £3.50 for non-members and children get in free.

This will be followed on a later date (to be confirmed) by a walk led by Ben to identify the fungi in the wild.

Charity pamper evening with Tropic Skincare – Thursday 10th October, 7.30pm start (6.45pm for food)

Join us at Lingdale Golf Club Club House for an evening indulging in the beauty and scents of the tropics, in aid of Cancer Research UK. Enjoy

facial skincare demonstrations plus products and ideas to keep you heathy and well. Extra option to purchase a mezze grazing board or cheese table beforehand at £10 per person (book this in advance with the bar).

Tickets £5 and include a glass of prosecco on arrival. Tickets can be purchased from behind the bar, or phone (01509) 890 703 (option 3).

The Arts Society Charnwood: In Search of Britain's Oldest Pubs, with James Wright – Thursday 10th October, 7.15pm for 7.45pm, Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall

Numerous claims are made to be Britain's oldest pub from all corners of the isles. Pubs have been the beating heart of communities for centuries and there are firm regional rivalries when it comes to competing for the very oldest boozer. Is it ever possible to come close to identifying which establishment has been serving up the beers for the longest?

Fish 'n' Chip 'Quiz Nite' - Saturday, 12th October, 7.00pm

It's almost time for the annual St Paul's Church 'Quiz Nite' at the Village Hall, Woodhouse Eaves. Fish 'n' chip supper, bring your own drinks, glasses, knives and forks. Teams of four to six people. Need a team? Don't worry – we'll match you up! Tickets £15 from Oakwood Pharmacy.

International Repair Day - Saturday, 19th October

Saturday, 19th October is International Repair Day and will be celebrated across the world as community groups such as ours showcase their repairing skills. Our Repair Café will be in the Youth and Community Hall, Woodhouse Eaves between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Bring along your broken items of electronics, clothes, jewellery, textiles for repair. Also bring small tools or knives to be sharpened, jewellery to be cleaned and bikes to be given a free maintenance check. We will also have a demonstration of a 3D printer and an expert talking about increasing the life of your old laptops. All repairs are free, we ask for a donation to cover costs.

For more information visit www.wheplasticfree.co.uk/repair-cafe

The Friends of Charnwood Forest: The Veteran and Ancient Trees of Bradgate Park – Wednesday, 23rd October, 7.30pm

A fascinating talk covering the significance of the nationally important collection of ancient and veteran oak trees at Bradgate Park.

Rob Doyle will cover many aspects, e.g. habitats dependent on the trees, their conservation and recording here, how to tell the age of an ancient oak, its place in history and in Bradgate Park's development, and identify the most important oak sites in England. There will also be a photographic tour.

Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall. Friends of Charnwood Forest members – free; visitors £3 on the door.

Woodhouse Eaves Art Group Annual Exhibition, Saturday and Sunday, 26th and 27th October, 10.30am – 4.30pm

The annual exhibition of Woodhouse Eaves Art Group takes place later this month. A wide range of artwork, much of it for sale, will be on show at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall from 10.30am to 4.30pm on both days. Work in a variety of media from pencil drawings to acrylic and oil paintings is produced by amateur artists who meet on Fridays at the Village Hall. Hot drinks and cakes made by group members will also be on sale. The art group is friendly and supportive and welcomes new members.

Woodhouse Bingo and Supper Night – Friday, 22nd November, 7.00pm All welcome to the Woodhouse pre-Christmas Bingo and supper night; chilli and rice, or veggie and non-chilli options. Bingo prizes and a raffle with profits towards our proposed children's play area. Bring your own drinks.

Woodhouse Community Hall, doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Tickets £15 in advance from Alison: 07920 727626 or alisonmichalska@icloud.com

Celebrating horticulture and craft

Early September saw the return of the Woodhouse Eaves Horticultural & Craft show to the village hall. Like last year the event was held on a smaller scale and again it was a great success. The tables were filled with entries, and the room was buzzing with people enjoying the exhibits, wonderful cakes, coffee and tea.





Our aim was to get more children under 13 to take part in the show and this year they made up one third of the overall entries. Even more amazing, several children entered adult classes and went on to win them.



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The show entries were judged by members of the National Guild of Judges. The Valerie Fitchett Cup, most points in the under-13 categories, was awarded to Savannah and the Randon Cup, most points in the under-10 categories, went to Juliet. In the adult classes the Woodhouse Eaves Cup, for highest overall points, was a joint win between Neil Roberts and Wendy Young.

The committee would like to thank everyone who entered exhibits, the people volunteering to help out on the day, the local businesses donating raffle prizes and everyone who donated a cake for the catering. Without you all the show wouldn't exist.

Also, a special thank you to the 'older' members of the committee who have organised the show ever since it was first held. After two years of showing the new members of the committee how things are done, they would now like to retire. Thank you Wendy, Linda, Liz, Lynne, Mervyn and John.

The money raised at the event will go towards a picnic table in the new garden by the Youth & Community Hall, and a donation to LOROS and Rainbows.





The next Woodhouse Eaves Horticultural & Craft Show is scheduled for Saturday, 30th August 2025. We hope you can join us for another celebration of growing and crafting. Classes will be printed in the April 2025 edition of *Roundabout*. Entry forms, rules and tips will appear on the parish council website from June onwards.

See you next year.

Joke De Winter

I was a little taken aback when I became aware I had won 'Best in Show' for my raspberries at the Woodhouse Eaves Horticultural Show. They did seem somewhat dwarfed by the many other amazing exhibits. But my ten little



Paul Whitmore with his best in show raspberries.

raspberries held their nerve and came good. The care of the raspberries when they were growing was to simply do what my dad told me to do. Plenty of water, some good quality manure, more water, lots of weeding, even more water, some sunshine and taking time to talk to them each day. Thanks dad for sharing your knowledge.

The show is something to be proud of in this village with amazing exhibits and community spirt. Thanks to all those who organise and volunteer to make it happen.

Paul Whitmore

Come rain or shine – community picnic

Sunday, 15th September was the annual Good Neighbour Scheme Community Picnic at the Woodhouse Eaves King George V playing field. Running since 2021, the picnic has become a village calendar staple and is a lovely, relaxed event, bringing together all ages of village life for an afternoon of picnicking, enjoying live music and sampling some great bakes from the cake stall.

The year, in addition to local busking legend Eddy Hall, we were also treated to the great sounds of ukulele band, The N'Ukes, who brought a wonderful selection of songs for all to enjoy and a great array of instruments with ukuleles, drumming a washboard and, I think I even heard a kazoo included at one point! Garden games, mini golf, badminton and crafts were available for all to enjoy, making the most of the large amount of space available.

However, I can't do a write-up about this year's picnic without also mentioning the weather! Unfortunately, carrying on the theme of a wet summer, September 15th was very damp too, and the event had rain for large parts of the afternoon.

Nonetheless, as I was attempting to pack up a very wet gazebo and emptying out the water from inside of my picnic hamper, my feelings weren't of the disappointment of the rain, but of pride in my community: I'm thankful for the many helpers that we had throughout the day who worked tirelessly setting up the field, serving drinks, tidying and packing away; thankful for

the families, couples and groups of friends who arrived coats and umbrellas in hand to come to support us; and thankful for the people who saw the advertising, saw the weather forecast and came anyway.





The afternoon reminded me of the strength of community that we have in Woodhouse Eaves and I am so grateful for that. As part of the Good Neighbour Scheme, we aim to support our neighbours, provide help and reduce social isolation, and I certainly felt like the recipient of that this year!

Jo Atkinson

WI ladies get spicy

Our August meeting of the Woodhouse Eaves WI proved to be educational, informative and well... just fun.

Following the club's business presented by our vice president and treasurer, Cheryl McGreevy, we had an excellent presentation by Yung Tsang, our

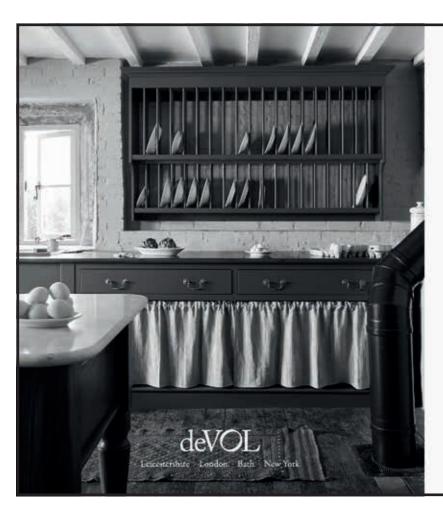
secretary, on our new and up-to-date WI Woodhouse Eaves website, very useful for some of us who are perhaps not quite as adept as we should be at accessing online information. There is also a locally dedicated Facebook page.

The main event of the evening was a presentation by Leicester-based cookery teacher, Mrs Bhanu Mistry on Indian herbs, spices and pulses used in both Indian and Asian cuisine as well as for medicinal purposes.

Mrs Mistry brought along a fabulous array of spices and herbs which she carefully went



Mrs Bhanu Mistry giving a presentation about Indian herbs, spices and pulses.



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through explaining their uses and how they were incorporated into particular dishes. Starting with perhaps the most well-known spice, chilies, she had an assortment with varying 'strengths', explaining that if you preferred a less 'lethal' strength it was best to remove the white membrane as well as all the seeds contained within. An interesting fact was that there are over a hundred varieties grown in the UK alone but to our amazement, over a thousand world-wide. Well, the mildest turns out to be paprika. Very wisely, she had brought just four varieties along for our evening demonstration.

As she went through the many spices on her display table, she gave us some good tips for both using and storing them, for example when you have too much chopped garlic it can be frozen to avoid waste.

There were useful health tips in her presentation:

- garlic can help to lower cholesterol
- ginger is good for coughs and nausea
- turmeric, which contains curcumin, is well-known for reducing the pain and discomfort of osteoarthritis.

There were many familiar spices, some of which are used in the making of garam masala – cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, nutmeg, sesame and black and white peppers – but there were also ones most of us had not even heard of such as asafoetida, a tree-root used for 'fixing' tastes in many dishes. Mustard seeds, a more familiar spice, are commonly used tempering/flavouring both vegetables as well as dishes made from pulses.

Pulses, such as mung beans and dahl are widely used in Asian cookery and orid is used in the making of flour for poppadoms whilst chickpeas are used to make garam flour which, incidentally, is good for those who are gluten intolerant.

Before concluding her talk there were many questions from the WI members including how long spices and herbs should be stored to maintain freshness and the best way to use them for medicinal benefits.

Finally, the part everyone had been looking forward to, the tasting session! Mrs Mistry had brought along a generous selection of savoury biscuits, nibbles and Indian 'canapés' to try which were, of course, delicious.

The evening was a great success.

Deirdre Thomas

Harvesting at Junior Garden Club

After the long summer break, our young gardeners were back at the allotment at the beginning of September to harvest produce and tidy up their plots. We normally have an abundance of beans but the wet weather earlier in the year meant slugs and snails ate most of the seedlings before they had a chance. A few determined plants did keep going so hopefully they will produce some beans eventually. We did harvest some from the communal plots – including some of the purple French beans – but not the quantity we normally see.





Look at how much we harvested. Everyone helped find the potatoes whether that be from the side or the middle of the plot! It was like digging for buried treasure.

We had a more successful time harvesting potatoes and apples which produced bucketfuls. We managed to get a good quantity of tomatoes, raspberries and also blackberries. One of our gardeners even managed to cook his tomatoes with pasta for his tea which looked yummy!

We were blessed with another dry session (even though the forecast had been threatening storms) so were able to gather together and enjoy the harvest.

Amanda Garland

Terminating technology

From the editor: Woodhouse Eaves technology expert Richard Bowers asks whether Big Tech has our planet or their profits in mind when continually asking us to upgrade our devices.

Humans are strange creatures. Most animals spend most of their time seeking food, eating, sleeping or ensuring the continuation of the species. Of course, many do like to play as well. Most animals do things in much the same way as their ancestors but we (humans) are always seeking some new thing – the latest mobile phone or a bigger TV, for example. The old phone or whatever gets stuck in a drawer and quite likely eventually ends up in landfill. We know that our consumerism is putting at risk future generations, but we carry on regardless. Can we do better?

We all know about global warming (though some choose not to believe in it) but we often act as if we don't. Take Alphabet (parent company of Google) for example. Having made sincere efforts to cut down on energy usage, they have jumped on the artificial intelligence (AI) bandwagon and in doing so increased their energy consumption astronomically. So have Microsoft and Meta (parent company of Facebook). I believe that AI can be useful, but using it to do your homework or whatever actually benefits nobody. And I have not found the answers it produces to searches a great help. So, I try to avoid it and use DuckDuckGo for searches. Try it.

Many older computers cannot run Windows 11. The computer industry appears to be trying to panic us into replacing our computers with new ones (with Windows 11 pre-installed). Two arguments are being put forward: the first is that you will be more efficient, but for most people and uses I doubt it; the second is that Windows 10 will not be supported from October – sometimes not making it obvious that this means October 2025, not October 2024. My guess is that if you are contemplating an 'upgrade' it will not do much for you as well as adding to the volume of discarded technology.

The fact that Microsoft will not issue updates for Windows 10 after October 2025 does not mean that it will stop working – though if you rely on Windows Defender for virus protection it may become advisable to subscribe to an alternative next year. Having said that, I believe that for now Windows Defender is a perfectly adequate security mechanism for most people. Why pay for something else?

This article is being written on an elderly laptop which originally ran Windows 8 but now without a Microsoft product in sight. Instead of Windows it is running a very user friendly (and free) version of Linux. The word processing software is Libre Office, which does far more than I require and when necessary can process Microsoft Office type files. Again, free – though donations to its support and development are understandably welcome. As for performance, I am happy – and I don't get nagged to subscribe to Office 365 or to browse with Edge when I want to use Chrome.





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As a friend recently said, 'Microsoft is making life very hard nowadays'.

So one way of helping the planet (and particularly future generations) may be to hold on to that old computer, installing Linux and other (probably free) software. I will be available to talk about this subject, and demonstrate what can be done, at the Repair Café on 19th October. If you bring along an old laptop it may help to discuss your options. Anyway, please think of the planet and of your grandchildren before you 'upgrade'.

Richard Bowers

October in the cottage garden

Austice – a wistful omen of the first sign of autumn – a subtle coolness in the shadows, a rustling of dead leaves abandoned on the sidewalk, or a long skein of geese sweeping over your head like the second hand of a clock. From autumn + auspice, an omen, or a divination derived from observing the actions of birds. (The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows).

I find right up to the beginning and sometimes the middle of October, there are days when Austice is evident. With the acceleration of darkness at each end of the day comes a cooling of the temperature, even on a sunny day. A few fallen leaves, berries, acorns, children collecting conkers (I hope they still do). The slightly mournful song of the robin. The steaming up of windows. All signs of a change towards autumn which, by the end of the month is in full swing. In the garden I notice a real earthy smell, vegetation beginning to die and decompose. An abundance of beautiful spider webs. Thoughts turn to putting the garden to sleep.

In the flower borders

If we are lucky enough to get a mild September and even a bit of an Indian summer, you might have been able to keep tender annuals going with regular feeding and dead heading. However, now is the time to decide which plants to try and keep and which to discard. I will bring in some of my favourite tender pelargoniums, having made sure I have taken cuttings of those I don't have room to keep. Annuals like dahlias and cosmos should still be fine right up until the first frosts, when dahlias will need to be lifted and stored over winter.

Cut back the foliage of any perennials that have died back, particularly foliage that has fallen over or is starting to rot. Upright dead stems of annuals such as Ammi and perennials such as echinacea provide seeds for birds, winter protection for insects and a bit of architectural interest in a winter border, so I will leave them. Plant spring bulbs like daffodils, crocus and fritillaries. Plant evergreen shrubs and hardy perennials while the soil



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is still warm. Reduce the height of shrub roses by a third to avoid windrock damage over winter. But leave a proper prune until early spring.

In the vegetable garden

Take cuttings of shrubby herbs such as rosemary and thyme and bring any pots of tender herbs indoors to a sunny windowsill for use during the winter. You can sow hardy broad beans and peas at this time of year for an early crop next season. Finish harvesting runner and French beans but save a few pods of each to harvest your own seed. Clear away old spent crops so that they can't harbour pests and diseases on the vegetable plot over winter. Cut fruited stems of blackberries and autumn raspberries down to the ground.

If you have a greenhouse, get rid of any debris that could harbour pests and diseases. It is also a good idea to wash down the glass to maximise as much of the fading light as possible. Any plants to be overwintered in the greenhouse need to be watered sparingly from now on.

Natural weed killers

As things begin to slow down in the garden, I like to use a bit of time to read up on any interesting or new ideas I may have come across in the horticultural world. A lot of the old well-used weed killers have been banned over recent years, and rightly so. So, it might be an idea to have a go at some tried and tested home remedies to combat weeds. It's worth remembering though that any natural weed killer is never going to be as strong as a chemical one, so may need applying a few more times before any results appear.

Boiling water – a particularly effective solution on paths and patios where nearby plants will not be affected.

Lemon juice – contains citric acid which can cause weeds to shrivel. Mix the juice of five or six lemons into a bottle or alternatively use a bottle of ready-squeezed lemons.

Salt – sodium chloride can be very harmful to plants as it dehydrates them. To be used as a weed killer salt must be diluted in water. It is also a good idea not to use regularly as it will affect other plants and can alter the pH of your soil.

Baking soda and vinegar – vinegar or acetic acid only works effectively when mixed with baking soda, salt or lemon juice and is most effective on young or annual weeds in paved areas. However, it smells awful!

Jo Poultney

How well do you know your village?

This month's pictures are slightly different. They are just bits of things. Do you know what and where they are?

2









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 on the inside back cover (Andy Thomson).

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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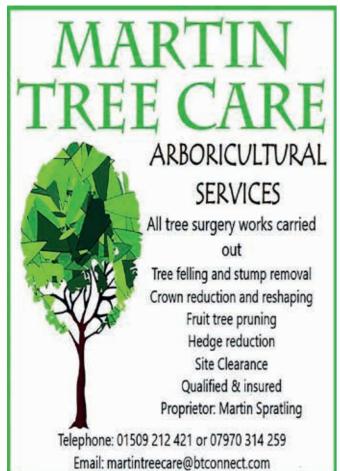


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Contributions to Roundabout

We publish items of interest to people living in Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves that accord with our editorial policy (see inside front cover). We do not publish notices of births, deaths or marriages, but can write up people's stories for them if they wish. We aim to keep most articles under 800 words.

Copy: please send all editorial material (including requests for 'What's on') to roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk Submissions in Microsoft Word are preferred, but we can accept legible handwritten items. Digital pictures (jpg or png) are very welcome, but please send them as standalone files, not embedded in a Word document or email. For deadlines see page 3.

What's on: brief notification of events in the 'What's on' schedule is free: please send details to roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk We normally include only events occurring in the parish; we may abbreviate the details and are not obliged to include all items submitted.

Forthcoming events: organisers of not-for-profit or charity events may submit a maximum of 100 words to publicise a one-off or annual event. We may edit your submission and are not obliged to include all items submitted.

Advertising: we charge £15 for a quarter-page and £36 for a half-page, with 20% discount for annual contracts and 50% discount for advertisers that are not-for-profit. We prefer adverts be sent in jpg or png format: send enquiries to the advertising manager at roundaboutwwe.advertising@gmail.com

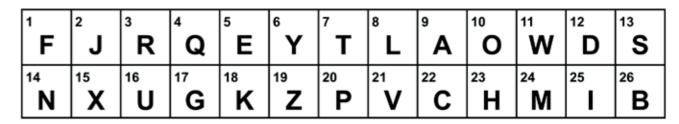
Answers for How well do you know your village?

Picture 1: The top of one of the pieces of play equipment at the Village Hall.

Picture 2: Young tree at the bottom of Patterson Drive.

Picture 3: The decoration at the top of the pump on High Street.

Picture 4: A little mouse on the front of the refurbished Little Library, outside the pharmacy.



What's on in October

Tues	1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th	2.00– 4.00	Every Tuesday: Woodhouse Eaves Community Café. Everybody welcome!	Village Hall
Mon	7th	6.45	Woodhouse Parish Council meeting	Village Hall
Wed	9th	7.30	Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust: Fascinating Fungi with Ben Devine	Village Hall, Members £3, Visitors £3.50, children free.
Thurs	10th	7.30 (6.45 for food)	A Charity Pamper Evening with Tropic Skincare – in aid of Cancer Research, Tickets £5 from Lingdale Golf Club bar	Lingdale Golf Club
Thurs	10th	7.15 for 7.45	The Arts Society Charnwood: In Search of Britain's Oldest Pubs, with James Wright	Village Hall Visitors £10
Sat	12th	7.00	Fish 'n' Chip 'Quiz Nite'. Tickets £15 from Oakwood Pharmacy.	Village Hall
Wed	16th	7.30	Woodhouse Eaves WI: Lady Jane Grey – the Forgotten Tudor with Sandy Leong	Village Hall
Sat	19th	9.30– 12.30	Repair Cafe – as part of International Repair Day 2024. For more information visit www.wheplasticfree. co.uk/repair-cafe	Youth and Community Hall
Wed	23rd	7.30	Friends Of Charnwood Forest: The Veteran and Ancient Trees of Bradgate Park with Rob Doyle	Village Hall, Visitors £3
Sat and Sun	26th and 27th	10.30– 4.30	Woodhouse Eaves Art Group Annual Exhibition	Village Hall

Check for more local event details on the Woodhouse Parish Council website: www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/local-events.html