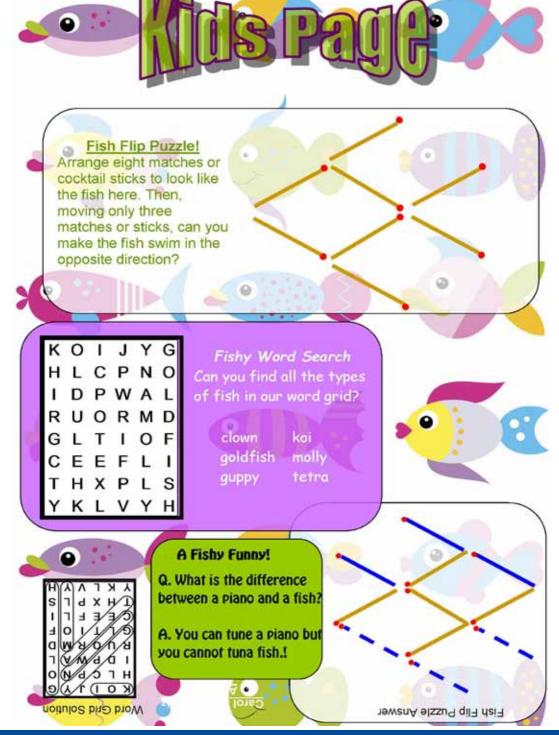


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# Winnie the Pooh Day Let's hear it for the bear this January

There's a national awareness day for most things, and Winnie the Pooh is one of them! Celebrated on 18th January, it commemorates the

birth in 1882 of British author and playwright Alan Alexander Milne, the creator of Pooh and his friends Piglet, Tigger and Eevore.

The book Winnie-the-Pooh first appeared in print in 1926 and was followed two years later by The House at Pooh Corner. Though Milne only wrote two Pooh books, his characters have become popular worldwide.

The characters are based on toys owned by Milne's son, who also appears in the books as his namesake Christopher Robin. They were written in Hatfield. East Sussex and

locations such as Hundred Acre Wood. Galleon's Leap and The Enchanted Place are linked with real places in and around nearby Ashdown Forest.

The books contain some wonderful lines that are simple and innocent but also wise:

"Weeds are flowers, too, until you get to know them."

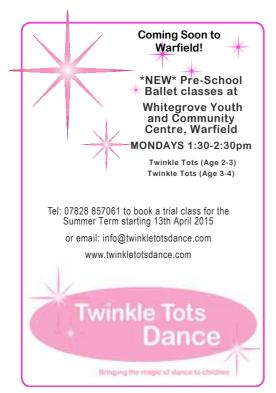
"If the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear."

Though there are no official events to mark Winnie the Pooh Day, here are some ideas for your own celebration: create some Winnie the Pooh artwork, dress up as a favourite character or play Pooh sticks!

By Debbie Singh-Bhatti

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# Parks and countryside events programme

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parksandcountrysidevents

### Monthly walks with the Rangers

Take a pleasant walk (between 1-2 miles, or approximately 1 hour) on the second Wednesday of the month, starting at 10am:

14 January - Larking in the woods Meet: Larks Hill car park, Harvest Ride, Warfield, RG42 2QD

We also run a series of Moderate (up to 4 miles, or 13/4 hours) and Rambler (up to 51/2 miles, or 21/4 hours) level walks. These take place on the second Tuesday of the month and start at 10.30am:

**13 January - Binfield and Billingbear (Rambler) Meet:** Jack 'O' Newbury Pub, Terrace Road North, Binfield, RG42 5PH Map ref: 845 644

### **Other Events**

#### Sunday, 11 January, 10am – 12 noon Bird watching for beginners around Horseshoe Lake

Come and spot winter migrants and resident birds with our Ranger. Please bring binoculars if you have them. Meet: Horseshoe Lake car park, Mill Lane, Sandhurst, GU47 8JW. Booking required - tel: 01344 354441.

### Saturday, 17 January, 7pm – 8:30pm

### Traditional Orchard Wassail at Lily Hill Park

Wassailing is a very old English custom to celebrate and protect fruit trees and ensure a good harvest. Come and enjoy a simple revival of this seasonal tradition, by firelight and accompanied by melodeon music. Suitable for all. Bring: Cider\* or apple juice.

Meet: At the orchard - follow the glow-sticks from the car park off Lily Hill Road, RG12 2RX.

\* Please drink responsibly.

Wednesday, 21 January, 12:30 - 1:30pm Lunchtime Wildlife Walk at Longhill Park and Lily Hill Park.

Come and join our Biodiversity Officer on a ramble through the wilds of Bracknell Forest and discover some of the visiting winter wildlife.

Meet: Longhill car park, off Long Hill Road, RG12 9UE

Saturday, 31 January, 10am – 12 noon Capturing Nature - Winter sunrise photography at Lily Hill Park

A practical guide to outdoor photography for the beginner, set in the beautiful landscape of Lily Hill Park. Bring: A camera and a tripod may be useful too. **Meet:** Car park, off Lily Hill Road, RG12 2RX. Booking required - tel: 01344 354441

Please pre-book all events where stated by contacting The Look Out Discovery Centre on 01344 354400 / 354441 or call in at reception (open 10am to 5pm) to record your contact details.

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#### TUESDAY

Birch Hill Community Centre 9.30am-10.30am

Braybrook Community Hall 6.15pm—7.45pm and 8pm—8.30pm (HiiT Course)

Bullbrook Community Centre 9.15am—10.15am

Farley Wood Centre 6.30pm—8pm and 8pm—9pm (High Intensity Exercise Only class)

#### THURSDAY

WEDNESDAY

Birch Hill Scout Hall 10.15am—11.45am (Fitsteps)

Holly Spring Infants School 6.30pm—8pm and 8pm—8.45 (Fitness Pilates HiiT Course)

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## Warfield Parish Council

Parish Office: 7 County Lane, Warfield, RG42 3JP Telephone: 01344 457777 – email: clerk@warfieldparishcouncil.org.uk Twitter: @WarfieldPC – Facebook: Warfield Parish Council



Warfield Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2015.

### A Retirement

Many of you will already be aware that Janis Harding, our Parish Clerk for more than 20 years, retired in December. We would like to thank Janis for all her hard work during her time in the Parish Office, and wish her a very happy retirement.

### New Member of Staff

We are delighted to welcome Jason Mawer as our new Parish Clerk. You may meet Jason if you visit the Parish Office (open Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 12.30pm).

### Planning Improvements to your Home or Garden?

Are you planning to make changes to your property? Whilst it may be obvious that some proposed improvements will require planning permission others, such as a garage conversion or the erection of a fence or installation of block paving in your front garden, may not be so obvious. If in doubt we suggest you contact Bracknell Forest Council. They offer pre-application planning advice for householders and will be able to advise whether or not your proposed changes require planning permission. This may save you the needless expense of returning your property to its original state if planning permission is retrospectively refused. Further information about this Bracknell Forest Council service can be found at www.bracknell-forest.go.uk under Planning.

### Thanks to Warfield Environment Group



Warfield Environment Group held two tree planting events in November, the first at Larks Hill and the second at Garth Meadows. At Larks Hill they were ably assisted by Beavers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bracknell Scout Group plus mums and dads and Richard Westwood, Bracknell Forest Council Ranger. Thanks to everyone involved!

Warfield Environment Group also held a litter pick in November with pupils, staff and parents from Meadowbrook Montessori School. They cleared rubbish around Westmorland Pond and the footpath to Tesco. Again, thanks to everyone involved for all their efforts!

### Parish/Borough Councillor Surgeries

The Parish Council holds monthly surgeries in the Parish Office to enable residents to discuss their issues with Parish and local Borough Councillors. The next two surgeries are on Saturday 7 February, 10am – 12 noon, and Tuesday 3 March, 6pm – 8pm. No need to book – just pop in at a time to suit.

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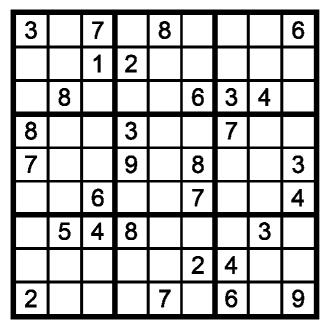
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(solution on page 26)



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# 2015 Warfield property predictions

## Daniel Elliott, Sales Manager at Romans Warfield, shares his property price predictions for the next 12 months:



Daniel Elliott Warfield Branch Manager warfieldresidential@romans.co.uk

"Although the property market hasn't completely stabilised we're seeing a much more balanced level of activity, compared to earlier in 2014.

The lack of supply vs demand has driven house prices up but now buyers and surveyors, on behalf of lenders, are comparing prices and ensuring that properties aren't being overpriced. Therefore, sellers need to be more mindful of the competition and seek expert advice so as not to over value their home. This can not only delay the entire sales process but can often result in an even lower sales price being achieved than otherwise might have been. This is due to the stigma associated with a property that has been on the market for a long time, or had its price reduced.

There is more choice for buyers now, and although this means there's less pressure to make an offer straight away, demand does remain strong, especially for quality property in desirable locations, such as Warfield. If you see something you like, the chances are you won't be alone in your interest, so I'm advising buyers to avoid any

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# from Romans

unnecessary delay or you might be pipped to the post by other buyers.

I predict further rises in property prices in the local area, with higher increases for the smaller one and two bedroom properties. This is all relative though, your house may increase in value but so will the house you want to buy next, so you need to work out if it's really worth waiting. More often than not moving sooner rather than later saves you more money in the long run.

First time buyers will continue to take advantage of the ongoing low interest rates and the government support schemes. People nearing retirement age, on the other hand, will be looking forward to the April change in pension rules and looking for property investment opportunities. I'm expecting to see other investors making a move to purchase more property ahead of this, to take advantage of the prices as they are before we see the increase in demand.

I believe a lot more people will turn to buy-to-let investment as an alternative way of receiving a regular income. Furthermore, the availability of better buy-tolet mortgage deals and a more gradual rise in asking prices should see investors actively purchasing more property, increasing the amount of new property available to rent. If you're interested in growing your property portfolio in 2015, our experienced lettings team can offer you expert advice about the entire process."

Talk to the team at Romans to find out more about the future of property in Warfield and the surrounding areas or to request an up to date property valuation. You can reach the team on 01344 753 061 or email warfieldresidential@ romans.co.uk



# In the Groove

### Records are enjoying a revival



"Mum this stuff is awesome! You should totally listen to it!"

That was my teenage son 'discovering' my 80's vinyl collection and my father's collection of 78s. Because of course my dad and I know nothing about music while he and his friends are experts.

In the age of the strangely invisible digital sound file, I watched his burgeoning love affair with these solid pieces of sound history with some amusement. 78s in particular are very tactile: the thick, heavy shellac, the dust, the stiff card cover. There's a richness about them which time hasn't dulled.

In the way of teens, Charlie began to google his latest obsession.

"Mum, did you know that in the early days they discovered that recording a piano while it was on the floor made it sound too tinny, so they suspended pianos in the air and made the pianist perch on an elevated platform? Cool?"

I had to concede that I did not know this!

Over the coming weeks I also learned that because there was no sound equipment early on, there was no way of modulating the volume of a singer to prevent distortion when recording. To get round this, a someone stood behind the singer reading the score, and when a particularly high note or loud phrase was imminent they pulled the singer away from the mic! Wonder what Mariah Carey would make of being manhandled like that?

Our language even evolved to reflect our love of records. The phrase 'In the groove', 'Groovy', 'To groove,' all relate to the grooves on a 78, LP or single.

In spite of all the studio shortcomings, collectors of old records swear the sound quality of 78s in particular has never been surpassed. The hiss and scratch caused by the patina and deterioration of old shellac discs appeals to them.

As Charlie's interest deepened, he spent a lot of time in specialist record stores and at collectors' fairs. A surprising number of people deal in vinyl or 78s or both, and most of them are friendly individuals with a wealth of knowledge they are happy to share.

It's a curious fact that in the age of huge TVs and surround-sound, the sound quality of the music many of us listen to is going backwards, because often we listen through tiny earbuds or mobile phone speakers. It is also curious that many young musicians, steeped in electronics, are rediscovering the joy of playing with sound on vinyl and shellac, in much the same way that the scratch and mix DJs of the seventies, eighties and nineties did.

Lots of us must have an old record player stashed in the attic along with our old vinyl LPs. We may even own a few 78s, inherited from our parents. The heyday of CDs lasted a mere 15 years, but there is more than 60 years' of music recorded on to these older formats. Think about that. Perhaps it's time to get them out, dust them off, and introduce a new generation to the joy of tangible sound.

### By Louise Addison

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# Garden View

How many seeds have you eaten today? Probably more than you realise. As a nation, we consume tons of them every day and whether they are ground to make our bread, mushed to accompany our chips or sprinkled on our burger bun, seeds play an important role in our diet ... as well as in our garden!

Most of the seed heads that were left over from autumn have now fallen over, disintegrated, or been eaten by hungry birds, so as part of my

'outdoor housework' I'm cutting them down to ground level before the new growth begins to emerge next month. The stately seed heads of Stipa gigantea looked fantastic for such a long period of time, as did the erect stems of Calamagrostis 'Karl Forester', but even these have been defeated by the wind.

It may be cold outside, but now is the perfect time for planning what to grow this year, from seed of course! Over recent years the popularity of growing your own vegetables has meant that veg seed sales have overtaken those of traditional flowers, but you really can't beat the satisfaction of plants from seed.

The first plants I ever grew were Snap Dragons. I was fifteen, and I found the packet in the back of a drawer (presumably they had been stuck to a box of cereal at some stage). I diligently followed the instructions for sowing and placed them on top of my wardrobe (I'm not quite sure why I did that). What



happened next really was a miracle. They germinated! It was hard to believe that the old seed, uneven layer of compost, wardrobe location and over watered soil, produced a rash of new seedlings. It wasn't long before they had grown to around 2 inches high and bent towards the light, narrowly avoiding the artex ceiling!

I potted them on and they produced the most beautiful range of colours all summer long, and that was the

moment I became hooked on gardening.

It wasn't really a surprise that they germinated, as that's what seeds are designed to do. They can survive in their dormant state for years, and because there are often more seeds per packet than you know what to do with, I always sow just a few more than I need and return the rest to a sealed container in the fridge. Stored like this they keep for years.

To give them the best start in life, most seeds require just a tray of compost and some warmth. Large seeds should be covered over with compost, but small seeds left uncovered as they often don't have enough energy to push new leaves through the soil. Prick out singly once large enough to handle and grow on somewhere frost-free, before gradually hardening off ready for life outdoors.

Until next time, happy winter gardening.

L.ee

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Nowadays it's probably more worrying if someone steals your phone than your purse because of the amount of data stored on it: bank, Facebook, Twitter, and Amazon accounts, are the tip of the iceberg.

Your first line of defence is to make it hard for thieves to get into the phone. Make sure you've got your phone lock turned on so that they have to enter your password. If you're using a pattern or pin



secure from virus attacks, but you still need to be wary of criminals. Virus attacks on phones mostly occur via dodgy apps. Apple are very strict about what is allowed into iTunes so virus protection isn't an issue. On Android devices you need to be more careful. Read reviews carefully and check the permissions the app requests when you install it. If it's a simple app asking for full access to your phone, it

code to unlock the phone make sure it's not something simple like 1234 or a rectangle.

SIM cards can be switched to another phone and used to run up bills of thousands of pounds. Notify your provider as soon as you realise your phone is missing. A delay may mean that you incur unnecessary charges. Although phone companies are being exhorted to cap the amount of liability a customer incurs if their phone is misused, at the time of writing this is not commonplace. Make sure your SIM is locked, as well as your handset, and check with your provider to see if you can voluntarily place a cap on your usage; that way, the phone will cut out once the limit is reached.

Switch your location service on. Your phone will then be able to tell you where it is. Apple, Android and other major systems all have online phone location websites. You can locate and lock the phone, make it ring or even wipe it.

Mobile phones, like laptops are open to hackers. In general phones are more should ring alarm bells. If in doubt don't install. Most of the major security companies produce Android apps to give you an extra level of security. Install one of these to give you extra peace of mind.

Remember, when your phone connects to a Wi-Fi hotspot all the information it sends and receives passes through the computer controlling that hotspot. Always be aware of who owns the hotspot and how much you trust them. Most data, like bank logins and other major services, are highly encrypted so they can't be stolen. However, other websites you use will not be as secure and may allow your login details to be hi-jacked. Check that the website or app you are using is secure (look for a little padlock icon) before you type in your details, especially card details. If in any doubt, don't use it.

Phone security is mostly about being aware of the problem and using common sense. If you follow the steps above, then even if you do lose your phone, it shouldn't cause you any serious issues.

### By Tom Hancock



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Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 30 minutes Serves 4

### Ingredients

500g/1lb very small fresh clams, or a small jar of clams in brine 3 tbsp olive oil 1-2 garlic cloves, finely chopped 1 tsp anchovy paste (optional) 2 tbsp finely chopped parsley 400g/14oz canned chopped tomatoes Salt and freshly ground black pepper 450g/1lb dried spaghetti

### Method

If using fresh clams tap each one sharply and discard any which stay open. Scrub the remaining clams.

Add the clams to 2-3 tbsps water in a heavy-bottomed pan. Cover with a lid and cook over a medium heat for 3-4 minutes, or until all the shells have opened. If using fresh clams discard any which have not opened after five minutes.

Remove the clam flesh from the shells (you can leave a few in their shells for garnish) and dip them quickly into their cooking water to rinse off any sand. Strain the juices from the pan through a sieve lined with muslin or a sheet of kitchen paper and reserve the liquid.

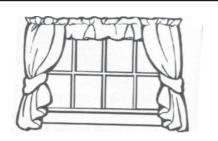
Heat the olive oil in a pan over a medium heat. Add the chopped garlic and fry until it begins to turn pale gold in colour, then add the anchovy paste (if using) and parsley and stir-fry for 30 seconds.

Add the chopped tomatoes and the strained clam juices (if you are using a jar of clams, you can use some or all of the brine from the jar, but be careful it doesn't make the sauce too salty). Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 20-25 minutes.

Cook the spaghetti according to packet instructions and drain.

Just before serving add the clam flesh to the sauce and stir well.

Mix the sauce into the cooked spaghetti. Serve garnished with parsley and any remaining clams in their shells.



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4	6	1	2	5	3	9	7	8
5	8	2	7	9	6	3	4	1
8	4	9	3	6	1	7	5	2
7	2	5	9	4	8	1	6	3
1	3	6	5	2	7	8	9	4
6	5	4	8	1	9	2	3	7
9	7	8	6	3	2	4	1	5
2	1	3	4	7	5	6	8	9



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### Kept – DJ Taylor

Billed as a Victorian Mystery, this novel by DJ Taylor is a true page turner in the style of Dickens, Wilkie Collins and the like. With multiple

narratives and a range of perspectives, Taylor weaves a web of intrigue around the life and death of Mr Henry Ireland and his wife, which surprises and delights the reader.

The novel begins with an arresting episode in which two men find themselves by a Scottish loch undergoing a series of challenges to steal rare birds' eggs. This links them to the strange but eminent naturalist James Dixey, who in turn becomes the guardian of a strangely disturbed young woman.

At times the narrative thread is truly puzzling, and the reader must connect and theorize for themselves – but this is no bad thing, and at least we can read on at our own pace rather than having to wait, in the Victorian manner, for the next instalment. There are plenty of potential heroes and heroines, and a smattering of particularly villainous villains, for us to engage with too.

One for those dark winter nights in front of the fire – abandon the television and curl up with a good book instead. Although be warned – you may stay up later than you had intended, reading on to the finish!

### Cars and Trucks and Things that Go! -Richard Scarry

Millions of children have grown up with picture books written and illustrated by Richard Scarry. By the time he died in 1994 he'd sold more than 100 million copies around the world. One of the best known is Cars and Trucks and Things that Go!

To celebrate its 40th birthday recently, the Designer Paul Smith – a huge Scarry fan himself - was asked to redesign the work while retaining the charm of Scarry's original drawings. There was also a boxed set which was limited to just 1000 copies and is already re-selling for hundreds of pounds a copy.

While most of us will never get the chance to own the boxed set, the newlook book is well worth seeking out. It has certainly impressed Scarry's son Huck, also a children's writer and illustrator, who said: "Paul Smith and his team have amazed me. It's Richard Scarry seen with Paul Smith's eyes."

For those who don't know the work, every manner of moving machinery is riotously depicted in a story which sees the pig family head to the beach for a picnic. On their journey they encounter every vehicle known, from the forklift to the locomotive, and many vehicles that are not known, from the pumpkin car to the broom-o-cycle. Each detailed spread provides the opportunity to make up

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