



**LIZ SAWNEY, DEPUTY LIBRARY MANAGER.**

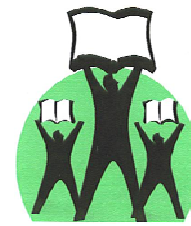
**Describe your average day at work:** Most days I begin by tidying the books and shelving yesterday's returns. I check my e-mails when someone phones and says 'did you get my e-mail' which normally causes me to panic. I can assume any role from working on the counter, enquiry desk or the music library and have been known to clean the toilets when the occasion arises. I love working on the enquiry desk using my skill as a librarian. Nowadays a lot of my work is more people management and often 'crisis' management. I am studying for a Masters Degree at Thames Valley University part time and I will finish in the summer. Studying to that level and working full time is sometimes exhausting. **What do you like best about your job?** When I have successfully averted chaos and all seems to be running smoothly. However you have to keep on your toes as the next one is just around the corner. I guess in reality I probably quite enjoy a 'crisis'. **....and the worst?** I would agree here with Helen Goreham, there are never enough hours in the day to complete your work!

**How long have you worked for Buckinghamshire County Libraries and what did you do before?** I have worked for the library service since 1998. Before that I worked as a classroom assistant at Downley Middle School. I was there for eight years. **What words you hear too often.** 'I can't come to work today I am sick.' **Recommend a book you have just read.** Gentlemen and Players by Joanne Harris, this book has the most bizarre twist at the end. **The first record you bought?** Just One Look by the Hollies **Your favourite subject at school?** Art. **Your favourite film.?** Dances With Wolves, I just love Kevin Costner. **Your favourite food?** Baked potatoes in their jackets with butter and cheese. **Your favourite restaurant?** The Curry Centre, High Wycombe. **Any interesting skills?** Cooking a meal while changing a nappy while doing someone's homework and holding a telephone call at the same time. **Any interesting hobbies?** I read masses, I love my garden and I love my cat.



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**Your favourite place?** The Derbyshire Dales. **Place you would most like to visit?** The Great American West. **Your happiest memory?** My Silver Wedding Anniversary party in 2004. **Childhood hero?** Ricky Nelson. **What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?** 'A still tongue makes a wise head.'



# Friends of High Wycombe Libraries



## FRIENDS AND WYCOMBE ARTS FESTIVAL MAY 2006

This year three festival events are being hosted by the Friends in the Library, Queen Victoria Road. Tickets, £2 each, will only be available from the library, see below.

### The Remarkable History of the Stagecoach; by David Thomas Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at High Wycombe library, 7.30pm

For over 150 years, stagecoaches thundered through High Wycombe carrying passengers, mail and sometimes more exotic goods, such as live turtles and fresh mussels, from London to Oxford, Birmingham, Shrewsbury and into Wales.

We all have a picture in our heads of what the old stagecoaches were like – a picture we have perhaps made up from a combination of Mr Pickwick, Tom Brown's Schooldays and Jane Austen. To this we have added our images of Dick Turpin, post horns and old prints showing blazing fires and buxom serving wenches in comfortable and quaint old coaching inns.

Modern PR executives also have this picture in their heads since they like to market hotels and pubs as 'former coaching inns' even when they were built 50 years after the last coach ran.

But what were the coaches and the coaching inns really like? Were they the romantic carriages of our dreams or were they noisy, verminous and uncomfortable? Were the inns the epitome of English hospitality or were they the motorway service areas of their day?

In David Thomas's talk you will hear stories of racing coachmen, highwaymen and rogues. You will hear accounts from people who travelled on the coaches and stayed in the inns and you will hear about the nemesis of the coaches. Your eyes will be opened and you will learn to see the evidence which the coaches have left behind. You will learn to recognize

when a hotel is a coaching inn or when it is a marketing man's fantasy. Most importantly, you will be amused.

### Publishing and Agenting for Terry Pratchett; by Colin Smythe Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup> at High Wycombe library, 7.30pm

Colin Smythe has been publishing books from Gerrards Cross since the 1960s, and published Terry's first book in 1971, and another four before changing his role and becoming Terry's agent in 1987. He will talk about his publishing and agenting career.

### Begging for Mercy: Crime and Punishment in Buckinghamshire c.1780-1850; by Paul Carter Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> at High Wycombe library, 7.30pm

Paul Carter is the Principal Modern Records Specialist at The National Archives with research and publishing interests in the poor laws, labour/trade union and criminal history.

This talk on crime in Buckinghamshire will concentrate on serious crime and serious sentencing in various parts of the county.

What happened to people convicted and then sentenced to death and transportation - if further information came to light once the courts had decided guilt and the judge had passed sentence? How did people, some barely able to spell their names, cope with the bewildering procedures of the law? Did they really sentence people to hang for a few shillings? Once sentenced would it be possible to 'beg for mercy'... and what good would it do?

The talk will be liberally sprinkled with examples from Buckinghamshire.

### Get Your Tickets Here

Talks organised by the Friends of High Wycombe Libraries, are to be held at the library, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe.

Tickets, at £2 each, will only be available from the Library.

For further information, please ring the Chairman of FOHWL Mike Dewey on 01628 525207, or email: deweymiked@aol.com.

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## SWOP Corner

### JOINT FRIENDS/SWOP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Some 30 people attended the Christmas Party on 13th December, organized jointly by Friends and the SWOP, (Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs), project team.

The highlight of the evening was a competition when the guests were divided into four teams, and asked to use their combined knowledge to identify and describe 12 photographs taken of different locations and features in and around High Wycombe.

The winning team was led by Albert Ivermee, each member receiving a bottle of wine. Mike Dewey



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Chairman: Mike Dewey; Hon. Sec. Mary Woodman; Hon. Treasurer (Vacancy); Mem. Sec. Colin Taylor; Publicity Hilary Payne

Newsletter editor John L Carr, contact 01494 529320 or email to [editor@fohw.plus.com](mailto:editor@fohw.plus.com)





### DESERT AND DHOWS

The Friends of High Wycombe Libraries enjoyed an entertaining talk by Margaret Deakin on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Margaret, a former teacher of 30 years, retired in 1996 and has since enjoyed travelling the world with her husband. Fortunately for the FOHWL she has become an accomplished travel writer and we enjoyed sharing in her memories, including photographs and items from her most recent trip in Arabia. Beginning with an opening question of "what does Dubai evoke" we were treated to a brief but detailed history of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Once a small trading port framed by mountains and dunes, populated by passing Bedouin and fisherman and tradesman, its traditional industry was one of goat and sheep herding, date cultivating and pearl fishing. Now this small port and souk (market) has grown to become one of the richest cities in the world. This has been in



part due to the focussed plan of the Maktoum family who have ruled the emirate from 1830. Dubai was originally a protectorate of Britain as part of the Trucial States which extended along the northern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Following British withdrawal in 1971, Dubai joined 6 other states to form the United Arab Emirates. The Emirates include Abu Dhabi, the largest and wealthiest with 10% of the world's oil reserves, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah and have a collective population of 3.48 million and share 33,000sq miles of desert.

Dubai's big break came in 1966 with the discovery of oil. The then Sheik Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum invested heavily in the infrastructure and created the foundations of modern Dubai. As an Islamic state, it is more tolerant and relaxed than some of its neighbours and is host to first-class accommodation, food, shops and leisure facilities some of which Margaret had the good fortune to experience and share with us during the evening. Her talk continued illustrated with photographs starting with central Dubai.

The city sits on an expansive creek festooned with dhows, the traditional fishing boats, and abras, small ferry boats for locals and tourists, all reflected in stunning glass buildings. This is a city of contrasts with modernity and tradition existing side by side. Further photos showed intriguing buildings called Bastakias – traditional wind tower houses. The towers caught the wind and funnelled cool air into the building so were effectively an early form of air conditioning. These were introduced to Dubai by Iranian settlers, and models of these Bastakias were on view at the museum in possibly the oldest building in Dubai, the Al Fahidi Fort which dates back to 1787.

Margaret also visited one of Dubai's 200 mosques each decorated in different styles representing and indicated by the different schools of Muslim. The Mosque Margaret visited is also a

centre for cultural understanding and welcomes tourists. Stunning architecture with beautiful decorative arches and ceilings meant this is surely a visual experience not to miss.

Moving onto the East coast and away from central Dubai, the oil industry becomes more prevalent, its proximity evident on the station forecourt where petrol only costs 17p per litre – making it actually cheaper than drinking water.

Margaret visited one of the more conservative Emirates, Sharjah, where new laws on decency and public conduct were introduced in 2001. As a result, this isn't as popular as destination for tourists (alcohol is banned here) but hosts impressive mountain ranges in the form of the Hajar mountains and souks where again the contrast that makes UAE unique is evident. We saw photos of a garden centre filled with flowers and plants – even in the arid dryness and heat, the desert will bloom as its inhabitants indulge in their love of gardening.

And so onto the desert, to 'stables' where camels are bred for racing and fed a diet of protein rich alfalfa grass and to the rolling dunes where fossils can be found embedded in rocks and you can enjoy a hair raising jeep ride or a visit to the Wadi – which means valley or oasis in the desert – a rare rain shower made for interesting photos. In a country where oil is a cheaper commodity than water, but where water is still found to keep the

flowers blooming, locals still make their way to the Wadis to enjoy this precious resource. From the desert, she travelled to the coast and in particular to one of UAE's landmark hotels – famous throughout the world due to its distinctive design – the Burj-Al-Arab is advertised as the only 7\* hotel in the world. This opulent hotel is the last word in luxury, (a £1000 per night tariff). Margaret dined in the underground restaurant which housed an aquarium where the fish had their own staff and kitchen. Still, on the neighbouring beach in the shadow of this exquisite hotel, you could enjoy a simple camel ride.

Another huge development which has attracted the interest of a few Premiership footballers is Palm Island or Palm Jebel Ali which will be manmade islands built in the shape of Arabic script quoting a poem written by the Sheik including the rather humble statement "it takes a man of wisdom to make words from the sea". On its completion, these islands will add 120 miles of coastline to the UAE.

In closing, Margaret talked of the many souks visited and we had the opportunity to see some of her purchases, gold earrings from the gold souk where jewellery is sold by weight, ornate gift boxes, a woman's burka intricately embroidered, henna and sandalwood spices from the spice souk.

It is testament to Margaret that on a cold February the Friends found themselves warmed by Margaret's memories of Dubai's deserts and dhows. Now, where's my passport?

Hilary Payne



### HIGH WYCOMBE LIBRARY'S CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

A dramatic transformation of the library took place, as many will have seen, at the end of January this year. January 29<sup>th</sup>- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> was Chinese New Year, and the library celebrated in style. Staff worked incredibly hard on decking out the library Chinese-style, creating themed displays of sport, food, (to name but a few) and all things Chinese.

The diversity / display team was led by multicultural librarian Rhana Nazir and, as the photographs show, were imaginative and colourful to say the least. We were also fortunate enough to borrow a lovely dragon from another library.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb saw our culmination of celebrations as we held an oriental storytime in the morning, followed by a fantastic craft and demo session in the afternoon. This event had been organised in conjunction with local members of the Chinese community who volunteered their expertise and enthusiasm for free. I cannot thank Shirley Grigg and her sister enough for their input.

Shirley and co. descended with calligraphy and card-making equipment, and lots more besides, and made a real impact in our small children's library!

We made cards and lanterns and children's names were written on their cards in Chinese characters using calligraphy ink.

Children, parents and staff all had a go at learning the correct way to use chopsticks, courtesy of some prawn crackers brought from Shirley's sister's restaurant. Let's just say I still need a lot of practice!

The afternoon was incredibly well attended, with over 70 children and parents crammed into every available space of the children's library!

Much fun was had by all, and staff and volunteers went home shattered.

Children learnt about an unfamiliar culture as a real cultural mix was attracted by the events.

The celebration was organised in order to support our local Chinese community. We have just recently revamped our stock written in the Chinese language and introduced weekly newspapers. The stock is being borrowed and we continue to promote to the



Chinese community and strengthen links with them.

New books have recently been purchased in English covering all things Chinese, so look out in the library soon for more travel guides, cookery, sport and the like. Why not find out about the latest in relaxation techniques or even learn beginner's Chinese!

Lynsey Knock

Community Development Librarian, Wycombe & S. Bucks

### LAUNCH OF THE NEW CASTLEFIELD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Castlefield Library has been located in Castlefield School since 1992, serving both the local community and the school. In 2005, as a result of the school renovation, the library was given the chance to move to a better location at the front of the school.

Over the school summer holiday it was fitted out with new shelving and furniture. Although no bigger physically than the old library our new area is lighter and provides a more flexible and safer environment for the public, school children and staff to enjoy.

An added bonus for the local community

has been the introduction of a Saturday morning opening (10am – 1pm) and this has proved to be very popular with families. The library is also open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we staff the library for the school class visits for all children.

A lot of work has been done by our development librarians in promoting the new library and opening hours to all the residents of Castlefield. We are lucky in having three newly appointed staff who are keen to carry on this work! Manfred is the Branch Manager and Susan helps him on public days with Harriet helping out on Saturdays.

The opening of the library took place on Monday 20 February after the school had its official opening. Bob Strong, Head of Libraries and Heritage welcomed our invited guests from local community groups, library staff, Friends of High Wycombe Libraries, Councillors and Castlefield school colleagues. After a short speech Councillors Mallen and Mohammed were invited to cut the ribbon and photographs were taken.

Tea and cake completed our very pleasant ceremony! Helen Goreham, Group Manager.





FOR YOUR DIARY

The following talks and events are brought to your attention. Please attend as many as you can in support of the Friends and especially the speakers.

FRIENDS' AGM 2006

On Wednesday, April 19th 2006, the Friends' AGM will be held in the library in Queen Victoria Road. Please come along and meet other members and participate in the selection of the new committee. Your comments and feedback are much valued by all. If you would like to help out on the committee please pick up an application form from the library. In addition to the formal part of the evening there will be, may I say, a lively talk by Tom Doig see below.



THE VICTORIAN WAY OF DEATH;  
by Tom Doig  
Wednesday, 19th April 2006

In the 1800s, death did not hold the same taboo as it holds today. It was a time of sombre celebration and an opportunity for the family to gather. In this humorous and informative talk, the folklore and traditions that surrounded Victorian death are investigated.



THE ICE AGE  
by Jill Eyers

Wednesday, 15th March 2006

Jill Eyers, a professional geologist takes a look at the last Ice Age and the different environments this created across the UK.

The talk closes with a question posed - "so what is coming next - global warming or a return of the ice age?"



FESTIVAL OVERTURE

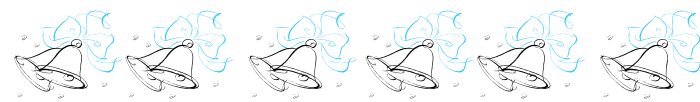
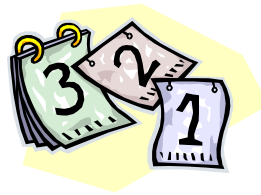
See the front page article for details about the three events we are hosting during the Wycombe Arts festival in May.



CAKE AND COFFEE MORNING  
Saturday, 29th April 2006

Please support the Friends by donating cakes and buns, (homemade or bought) for our annual cake and coffee or tea, morning held in Queen Victoria Road Library.

If you can help please see the details opposite.



FOR COLE READ PAYNE.  
Our Publicity Officer Hilary Cole made her own news when she changed her name to Hilary Payne marrying Garry in October last year. Hilary has proved a boon to the Friends since joining the committee, with her publicity skills and readiness to help and participate in our events. We wish the newly weds all the best in their future happiness together.  
John Carr

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?  
Researching your family history has become very popular after the recent BBC2 programme about the family history of several well-known celebrities. At High Wycombe Library we have access to numerous records for family history research as well as being able to help you to locate the most suitable web sites for information. Family history afternoons are held on the third Wednesday in the month from September to November and again from January to May. These usually consist of a short talk on a relevant subject followed by practical help and advice from members of Buckinghamshire Family History Society. Entrance costs just £1 and beginners are always welcome. We can't promise to fly you off to India or provide records held on long bales of silk but we can promise a very enjoyable afternoon and, in most cases, send you on your way with at least one of your ancestors.  
Chris Featherstone, Local Studies Specialist

Cooking the Books?

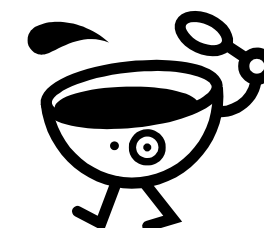
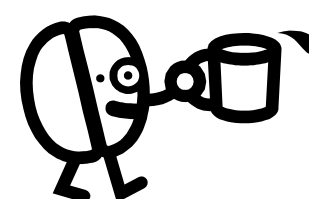
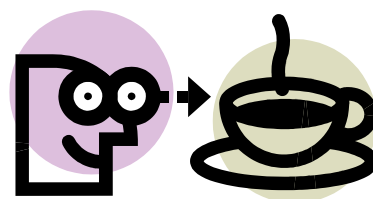
Well, not exactly. What we really want is your cakes and cookies, homemade or bought, for our annual...

Cake and Coffee Morning

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am to 1.00pm

This event provides valuable funds and publicity for Friends, so please help in any way you can. We also need volunteers to do a one-hour stint selling the goodies and telling the public about the work of Friends.

Offer of help? Please telephone  
Vanessa or John Carr on 01494 520320





## RAISING FUNDS ON EBAY

What is eBay? Well, for the uninitiated, eBay is an auction website on the internet that gives people the opportunity to advertise their unwanted items to potential buyers - pretty much like the Bucks Free Press Classified Ads section, only on a worldwide scale. I am sure that many of you out there have seen the rather comical adverts on television; unwanted belongings lying around taking up space can be turned into money.

I have been selling books and other articles on behalf of the Friends on eBay since March 2005, (bringing three years of eBay experience with me from before-hand), and we have found it to be a valuable means

of raising money. The idea is simple - people donate unwanted books to the library, which are then examined to see if they would be worth putting on to eBay. If they pass this first test, photos are taken of each book, a description of the books condition is written up, and the item is listed on eBay, for people all over the world to view.

Generally, an item is listed for a period of 10 days, during which time anyone who desires the item can place a bid on it, pretty much like a normal auction, except spread over a longer period of time. After the 10 days are up, the item is sold to the person who placed the highest bid. For example, Mr Smith bids £5.00 on day one, then Mr Jones bids £7.50 on day 5, then Mr Smith then follows suit and bids up to £8.50 on day 6. On day 10, Mrs Brown then beats everyone else and places a bid in the final seconds of the auction, to win the book for £8.51. It really is as simple as that!

Once the items have sold, the funds are passed over to the Friends, who, in turn, spend the money on the Library, which includes purchasing items that will benefit the Library as a whole. Previous purchases have included chairs and kinder boxes for the Children's Library, a digital camera, and a laminator, amongst other things.

Since March 2005, many different types of books have been



sold on eBay on behalf of the Friends. The interesting thing is, a book doesn't necessarily have to be in good condition for it to be a success - we have sold several rather dilapidated books for decent sums of money, showing that what some people may regard as rubbish could be worth a lot to someone else out there!

Of course, there are the occasional items that are advertised on eBay by the Friends that don't actually sell. The amount of items that don't sell is kept down by carefully choosing what will and what won't be listed, based on my previous experiences and knowledge, with the aim of maximizing the income for the Friends.

To keep this invaluable source of income coming in, we will need more stock to sell on eBay. This is where you come in! If you have any unwanted books at home, why not donate them to the Friends? Anything would be accepted, regardless of age, content, or condition. Maybe you have a hoard in the attic that you want to get rid of? This is a great opportunity to help your local Library and clear some space at the same time.

Anything that isn't listed on eBay will be donated straight to the Library itself, where it will either be added to stock or sold through normal Library book sales.

Anyone who wants to donate books to the Friends, please ring on 01494 471862 or pop into the Library and ask for me, Rob Andrews.

Any book or similar item will be gratefully received.

### Editor's note:

**Why not have a look at what is on auction for the Friends at the moment?**

**Go to [www.eBay.co.uk](http://www.eBay.co.uk) and search for hiwlib**

## MICKLEFIELD LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

We appreciate the moral support we have received from the Friends of Wycombe Library. Seven of us are members of the Friends now.

We continue to work energetically to keep our library open in Micklefield. We are now raising funds to keep open from 1st September to 1st April 2007. We hope to have been successful in a bid to the Big Lottery Community Library Fund by then. At a dramatic meeting at County Hall on February 8th, representatives of the eight community libraries threatened with closure made impassioned speeches for their libraries to be given a chance to keep going.

Our Chair David Cannings spoke confidently about our plan to have a better library and learning resource for Micklefield and he received a loud round of applause. A majority of councillors voted to call in the decision to close the libraries and this

made history.

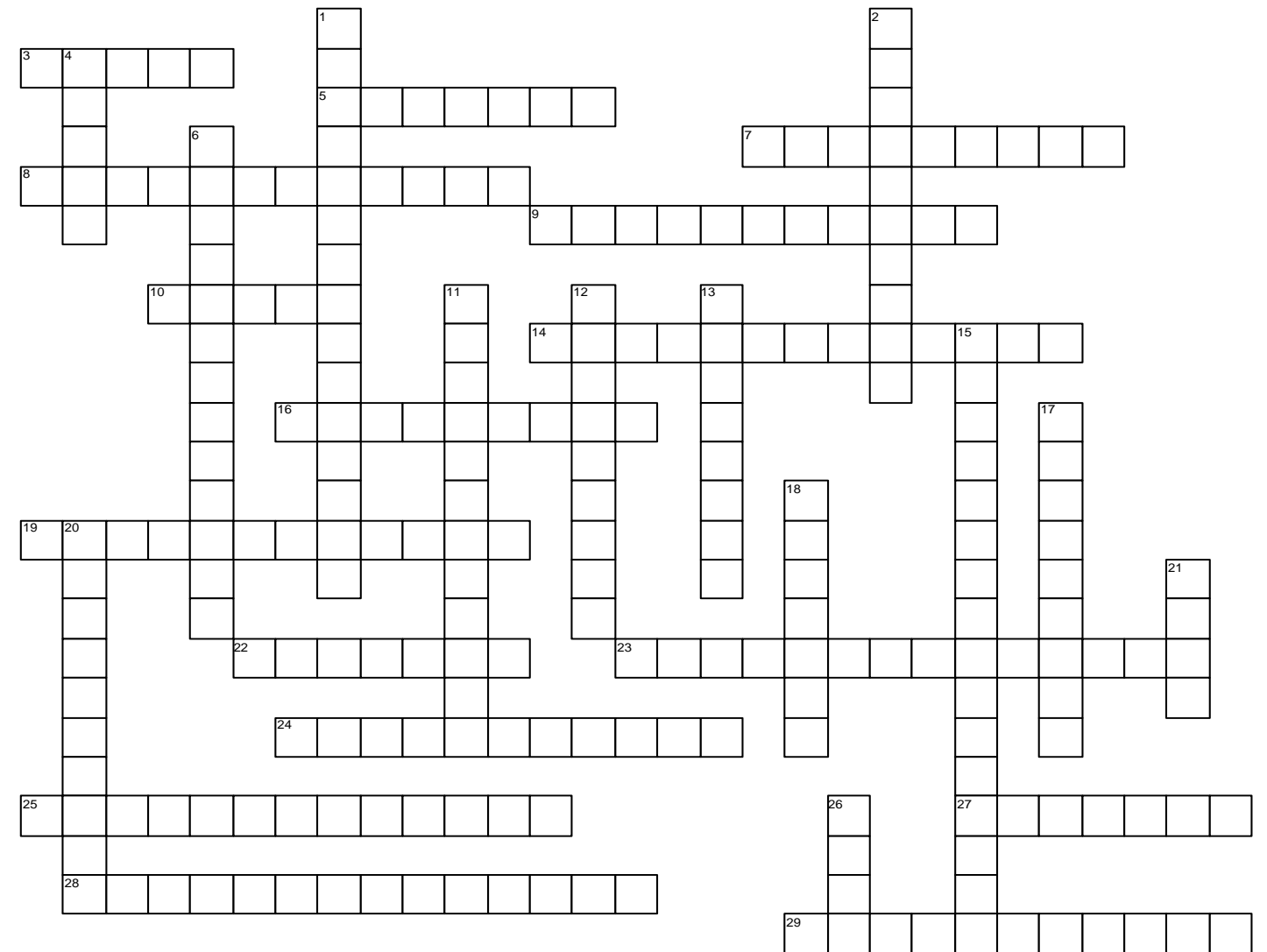
We have raised £7,500 so far towards our first target of £18,000 needed by May 31st and we are selling 5,000 tickets in a May Draw. The top prizes are £500.00 and a lap top computer. We would appreciate any help with selling the tickets. We have some good allies: the Bucks Free Press, local councillors, our M.P. and architect Tony Mealing to name but a few. Our committee is very busy. David has been to visit Peckham Library, Hazel is writing to local businesses and we will all be selling our tickets around Micklefield in March and April. Everyone is doing something. The outcome of negotiations with Wycombe District Council could be vital as we do not have a Parish Council to support us. Our crucial deadline is May 31st so we hope to have good news for the next Newsletter,

Micklefield Library Action Group



## Friends Spring Quiz.

Book Titles in a Freeform Cross Word. Some straight and some cryptic clues. A mix of adult and childrens books not all read by me. John L Carr



### ACROSS

- 3 (5) The ..... I could have sworn on this.
- 5 (7) An anonymous narrator battles with the ghost of her predecessor
- 7 (7,2) Paul Scott's winner of the Booker Prize 1977
- 8 (8,4) The ..... WW2 through the eyes of Mary Wesley
- 9 (3,3,5) An epic tale whose core is set in 1812
- 10 (2,3) Dymchurch's parson.
- 14 (6,3,4) A bear of little brain
- 16 (9) The ..... A jewel of a novel
- 19 (7,5) A boy, a crow and the Gordon Riots
- 22 (4,3) Minette's story of a claustrophobic housing estate and mob frenzy
- 23 (9,5) A ..... Something for Christmas Eve
- 24 (11) A gothic tale from the pen of Mervyn Peake
- 25 (4,2,3,4) Jack London's novel written in 1903
- 27 (7) Get your teeth or his teeth into this.
- 28 (7,7) The ..... Was filmed as the Village of the Damned.
- 29 (2,5,4) The .. A recent brain teaser of a novel

### DOWN

- 1 (10,5) Bertolt Brecht's book of Kurt Weill's opera.
- 2 (10) The first of three about the Five Towns
- 4 (5) The ..... Literally the classic tale
- 6 (5,8) The ..... The final book of His Dark Materials trilogy
- 11 (6,6) A scot tale of a ship wreck leading to a hangover
- 12 (9) A scottish book of skulldugery, derring-do and abduction
- 13 (8) Sebastian Faulk's emotional tale of WW1
- 15 (3,6,3,4) Ruth Rendell's crossword clue
- 17 (9) The ..... Graham Greene's far from comic tale.
- 18 (7) Miss Marple as the goddess of vengeance
- 20 (6,4) An allegory that could be mistaken for a children's story
- 21 (4) A rollicking farce (includes a blow-up doll)
- 26 (4) Emile's victim of hypocrisy and moral corruption in late 19th century France

Answers will appear with the next issue



# Solution to the Spring Quiz in Issue 7

## Friends Spring Quiz.

Book Titles in a Freeform Cross Word. Some straight and some cryptic clues. A mix of adult and childrens books not all read by me. John L Carr

