



February 2013

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.

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

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

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

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

Management and production

Roundabout is managed on behalf of the community and published by the Editorial and Production Team comprising Richard Bowers, Evelyn Brown, Peter Crankshaw, Amanda Garland, Andrew Garland, Dawn Kirby, Tony Lenney, Rosemary May, Neil Robinson, Grahame Sibson and Andy Thomson.

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*Deadline for submissions to the March 2013 issue:
Monday, 11th February
Email to roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk
or hand in at the post office
Content editor for March 2013 issue: Evelyn Brown*

Are you 7-14 years old? Like plants and having fun? Then join the Woodhouses Junior Gardening Club!

It's cold outside so we will be turning our attention to the warm indoors and house plants.
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Growing Better Vegetables in 2013

David Thornton, Secretary of the National Vegetable Society

Looking to grow the perfect parsnip, the crunchiest carrot
or absolutely tantalizing tomatoes? Want to win a prize in the village show?

Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall, 21st February

7.30pm, Admission £3.00 (members free)

[Garden Club AGM will be held at 7.00pm. All welcome.]

Editor's note

There is a varied diet for readers this month – a healthy mix of news and features, but the best news of all for 'Roundabout' is that it now has a future! We offer a very warm welcome to Dawn Kirby, our new co-editor. Dawn is the former news editor of the *Peterborough Telegraph* and arrived in Woodhouse Eaves last October. She has considerable experience on a variety of newspapers and will be a huge asset. Dawn will be helping to oversee the April publication.

In this edition, there are details of how Neighbourhood Watch swung into action to see off a jobbing builder removing roof tiles without proper permission; how a local farmer has been coping with the worst floods in living memory; the challenges faced by local litter pickers, and there's a further account of life at Fortnum and Masons for Jordan Ling, who left the village butchers' to join the famed London store.

Peter Crankshaw

Parish council news

Welcome to a new councillor

In January your council welcomed Mr Rad Thomas, who was born in the parish and now farms land that extends between Quorn and Woodhouse. Mr Thomas continues a family tradition as his late mother was a councillor during the 1960s, 70s and 80s, and was either Vice-Chair or Chair for many years. Your council has a full complement of nine members again to face the challenges ahead.

Goodbye to our Police Beat Manager

PC Matt Orton was moved to Syston in January after four years in our parish. The council members sent their thanks and good wishes to him. Fortunately PCSO Chris Kendall remains in our area, based in Quorn, and he will work alongside PC Rich Carruthers who arrives with a new title of Beacon Officer (p. 11).

The challenges ahead – funds

The budget for the year beginning each April is normally approved in December and in January the annual demand for a slice of your council tax (the precept) is sent to Charnwood Borough Council. This year, details of the funding for parish and town councils has been very uncertain, and advice on what the parish might expect arrived only on 21st December, after the Chancellor's Budget Statement and a lot of calculations at the



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Borough Council. The outlook for funding in following years is also very unclear and the council may even have its funding capped or reduced, so the January meeting had to approve budget and precept demand at the same time, even though we will only know exactly how much will be forthcoming from central to Local government, around late February at the earliest. The parish council, therefore, applied for a precept increase and estimates that it will receive about three per cent more funding than last year which is about £1,800 extra. This means that councillors may have to find ways to manage any increases in the costs of all the contractors who help to maintain everything. For example, the public toilets are an extra and in 2012 a considerable sum of money had to be spent on plumbing and electrical repairs in all of the buildings to make them safe.

Because of these delays, the council is not yet able to commit to borrowing the balance needed to demolish the old wooden hut behind the village hall, currently used by the scout group, and to replace it with a new community building that the scouts would also be able to use. The council decided to produce a business plan that will indicate not only the likely running costs of a new building, but also the likely income from lettings, in order to provide a clearer picture of the financial situation. The fees paid by groups who use the premises have not changed in 10 years. This is an important strategy which has helped to keep bookings flowing in and the council's books balanced, but the fees might have to change. Meanwhile, other fund raising and grant applications continue – the more that can be obtained in advance, the less the need to borrow. The borrowing would be from the Government scheme that helps parish and town councils to spread the cost of providing community assets such as village halls over several generations.

Flying the flag

As this is a topical issue you might like to know the parish council's policy. Two volunteers kindly fly the council's flags – one at the village hall and one at the War Memorial – John Plowright and Helen Kessling. Our flags are not flown every day. Instead, we work to a list drawn up by the Government Department for Communities and Local Government [DCLG]. This indicates the dates when civic buildings can mark the special occasions. The parish council adopts a selection of the dates taken from this list by the Borough Council. It is published on both parish and borough websites.

Covering risk

Your council's insurers send advice from time to time, just recently on risks from trees, which the council complies with. Every few years, a full professional survey of all the council-owned trees is paid for and a

contractor is asked to undertake any recommended work. One of the councillors also makes an annual visual inspection. These inspections are recorded. But some recent tragic cases of falling branches in other parts of the UK caused your council to feel that it would be better to have the annual check done by someone who has relevant expert knowledge. This is an extra cost, but better than finding out that something significant was missed that should have been spotted. Some parish councils have had to meet compensation claims because they did not have a suitable policy and documentation. Incidentally, both Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council have similar arrangements and they carry out regular inspections and maintenance of the many hundreds of trees for which they are responsible, including dozens within our parish.

Street lighting

We are beginning to see some early signs of energy cost saving from switching off some street lighting in the parish, with more savings to come in future years. But old lamp columns that could become unstable must be replaced. This year and next, all 12 of the old concrete columns will have to go. Your council normally budgets £1,000 a year for one column replacement but will benefit from a half price rate by having all 12 done over a short period of time – six before April and six after. The County Council is able to make the discount offer by replacing our columns whilst they are replacing their own concrete columns in Quorn.

Christmas cheer

The splendid Christmas tree at the village hall was once again kindly donated by Bradgate Trees – many thanks to the company for this generosity, also to Caretaker Jean Mawby and partner John for lighting it so beautifully, and to everyone who provided festive lighting in windows and gardens in both villages over Christmas and New Year. It was also good to see so many shops staying open during evenings and weekends to help businesses to thrive here. We are so lucky to have them.

Next meeting: See 'What's on'. Please let the Clerk know a week ahead if you want the council to discuss something. Email: clerk@woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk or tel. (01509) 890 050

Ann Irving, Clerk to the Council

For Parish Council information, including meeting dates and minutes see <http://woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/>

News in brief

A Neighbourhood Watch success

The Neighbourhood Watch system proved its worth recently when a jobbing builder, door-stepping elderly female residents in Woodhouse Eaves, got more than he bargained for. The man, describing himself as a roofing specialist, began calling at addresses on Windmill Rise and targeting people living on their own, despite a prominent street sign declaring the neighbourhood a 'no cold calling zone'.

Trouble began when he told one resident that her roof was in urgent need of repair. Her neighbour queried what he was doing, only to be told to mind his own business. After distracting her by asking for a cup of tea, he took the opportunity to begin removing tiles and mortar without her permission. He only replaced them after he was again confronted by concerned neighbours, but neglecting the mortar needed to secure them. Afterwards, he moved on to another property along the road where he was told to leave. After the builder called at a third address, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Johnny Gibb, contacted the police and a patrol car toured the area.

On the day the roofer could not be traced, but was spotted some time later by Police Beat Manager, PC Matt Orton. The builder was given the chance of repairing the damage to the roof, under legislation known as 'Restorative Justice', as well as a police warning. The repairs were later carried out under the watchful eye of PC Orton.

Neighbourhood Watch organisers in both villages are delighted with the outcome. Mervyn Greenhalgh, Neighbourhood Watch administrator, felt it was an excellent example of the organisation doing the job it had been set up for. The system had acted swiftly and efficiently, he said.

Peter Crankshaw

Reinvigorating Neighbourhood Watch: p25



Street Co-ordinator, Johnny Gibb and 'no uninvited callers' sign

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Changes in local policing

Meanwhile, PC Rich Carruthers was appointed as Beacon Officer, a new title, on January 8th, taking over from PC Matt Orton, who becomes part of the Leicestershire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) based at Syston. Although no longer directly responsible for Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves, Matt will still operate in the area in general. His considerable efforts on behalf of the community have been much appreciated by the Neighbourhood Watch team in particular, who are pleased that PCSO Chris Kendall continues in his present role.

PC Carruthers started as a civilian, working in the forensics team as a Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO). He joined the police service in 2006 and subsequently was responsible for Birstall and Wanlip for four years. His 'patch' bordered the city and Rich found himself dealing with under-age drinking, fights and burglaries. Weekends were always busy but that was due, in part, to a policy of keeping up the pressure on crime in general and dealing with law-breakers at every opportunity.



PC Matt Orton (left) and PC Rich Carruthers

His new 'beat' takes in Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves, Quorn, Ulverscroft, Rothley, Cropston and Thurcaston. Although a large area, the recently introduced Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) system within the Leicestershire police service, incorporating the new role of Beacon Officer, is expected to raise the police profile, provide back-up when needed and give greater assurance to local communities.

New bus service time-table

Changes to weekday bus service times for our villages came into effect on 7th January, 2013. Saturdays are unchanged.

The service is now the 154 (Centrebus).

Bus times to Loughborough from the village are: 07.12; 08.08; 09.53 and then every 53 minutes past the hour until 17.53.

Scheduled times to Leicester from The "Pear Tree" stop, Woodhouse Eaves are: 07.46 and 09.29, then 29 minutes past the hour, with the last one leaving at 17.29. There is a service, from the village, at 18.29, terminating at Beaumont Leys Centre.

Return times from Leicester to Woodhouse Eaves (then onwards to Loughborough) are every 15 minutes past the hour, commencing at 09.15 from the Haymarket bus station – Stand HG. An earlier service to Woodhouse Eaves, from Beaumont Leys only (Magpie & Stump), is at 06.50 and 07.45. The last service of the day for Woodhouse Eaves leaves Leicester at 18.15 and terminates at Quorn Cross.

Saturday services, both ways, remain unaltered.

Ed.



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Rain fails to dampen St. Paul's School 'bake-off'

Cakes, biscuits and mince pies made for both a mouth watering and colourful display when children from St. Paul's Primary School in the village showed off their 'master chef' talents to visitors at the school's fête. The 'bake off' competition drew entries from a wide age range, including some parents who were hoping not to be outdone by the youngsters!



High standards

After judging all the creations, restaurateur Paul Leary faced the prospect of whittling down the entries to just one winner per class – a task which proved a difficult one, if only because of the high standard the children had set themselves. They had baked their own creations at home and brought them to school for Paul to deliberate on at length.

Despite torrential downpours, the open day proved a resounding success; the assembly hall was crowded with parents, friends and, of course, children. A total of £1,105.72 was raised toward school funds, which Head-teacher Mrs Cal Hurst says will be used for new library books.

Winners of each class were:

Large decorated cake	Ali Drane
Four mince pies	Lola Pattison
Cup cakes	Jadyn Richmond
Biscuit	Georgia Vardy
Adult	
Mince pies	Sue Schofield
Cup cakes	Louise Himan
Biscuit	Suzanne Gunby



Some of the winners (left to right)

Back row: Sue Schofield, Paul Leary (judge) and Louise Himan.

Front row: Jadyn Richmond, Lola Pattison and Georgia Vardy

Peter Crankshaw



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Pedal power practice

Taking to two wheels for the first time, or going back to saddle and handlebars after too long a break, can be a daunting business. Wobbles apart, there is road traffic to contend with, while off road there is the need to develop an awareness of others around you; other cyclists maybe, or pedestrians. Well, fear not! Local cycling courses for adults are being organised in the area. The county council is actively looking for suitable training locations, including areas near Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves.

Campaigns officer, Ellen Holmes, says the courses are aimed at instilling confidence and a safety-first approach for complete beginners and the less experienced alike. The courses are free and are likely to get under way in time for the better weather. More information can be obtained by calling the county council on 0116 305 8307 or go online to www.leics.gov.uk/cycling

Peter Crankshaw

Anti-litter initiative widens

Following her success in recruiting volunteer litter pickers to help keep Woodhouse Parish clean and tidy, Pam Crankshaw is now attracting litter pickers in neighbouring villages. For the past two years, Pam has worked as volunteer parish litter warden with the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Charnwood Borough Council, during which time three others have joined her. Following a poster and advertising campaign, volunteers have now been found in Cropston, Thurcaston and Mountsorrel and are in the process of being supplied with grab sticks, gloves and reflector jackets by the borough council.

Tackling the litter problem - see p.19

Woodhouse Eaves Cricket Club report

There were no changes in the administration team of the village cricket club following the recent Annual General Meeting. John Gillingham continues as Chairman, supported by Steve White as Secretary and Andy Stovell as Treasurer

On the playing side, Chris McEwan was again elected 1st XI captain but will have a new vice-captain in James Simpson. After many years in the onerous position of 2nd XI captain, Malcolm Stewart thought it was time to return to the back benches and he will be replaced by Martin Palmer. The Sunday friendly XI will be in the hands of John Gillingham, where he will be assisted by Nick Stovell.

The club has just started on winter nets at the National Academy, Loughborough University. Anyone interested in coming along should contact John Gillingham (01509) 890193 or Don Bennett (01509) 890828.

Don Bennett

There must be an easier way...



Now you see it

For a period of weeks in October and November, residents of Woodhouse were puzzled to see a mountain bike chained to a lighting column in School Lane, close to St Mary's Church. No one seemed to know to whom it belonged and establishing the owner was deemed not to be a police matter. Eventually the inevitable occurred

and the bike was stolen. However, instead of simply sawing through the chain to remove the bike, the thief (more likely thieves) lifted the lighting column, tipped it over and left it lying gracefully across the adjacent grass bank.



Now you don't

Evelyn Brown

(Photos courtesy of Ann Irving)



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Drought, then deluge – defying the elements

A year ago saw the last in a series of articles following life on the farm at Upper Broombriggs, managed by the Reynolds family for more than 100 years. Following a year of unprecedented rainfall and the inevitable flooding that followed, we return to discover how Richard Reynolds and his team have coped. Ed.

Standing in a sizeable area of glutinous mud, laced with long puddles of water, in the corner of a field of winter wheat, Richard Reynolds was not impressed. He had never known it so bad for so long.

We now know 2012 was the wettest year for England since records began more than a hundred years ago and the second wettest throughout the UK. It has been a depressing set of statistics for many and one that brought little surprise, with rivers overtopping their banks, roads under water and in some parts of the UK, many homes ruined by the floods. The news featured regular aerial shots of vast tracts of land turned into lakes and small groups of cattle huddled together on higher land. Farmers were among the worst affected and Richard was no exception, but coping better than most of his peers. The year had started with all the expectations of a drought – and then Richard remembers all too well the challenges thrown up by a sudden change in the weather.



Richard Reynolds assesses flood-damaged crops

All the rain started at the end of March and has never really let up for any length of time, as far as farming is concerned. I was not able to get onto the ground because heavy equipment just causes so much damage when the land is waterlogged. For five weeks from the end of June, not a wheel turned. Flooding along the Soar Valley has lasted 10 or 12 days at any one time.

Slug bonanza

Less than half of next summer's crop is planted because harvesting was not possible until September which, in turn, has had a 'knock-on' effect. Silage and hay making came late in the year and not of the best quality, and as if that was not enough, slugs, revelling in such wet conditions, have been a

major problem to almost anything growing. It does not bode well for next summer's harvest, Richard feels, and seed not already in the ground will have to go in with the spring 'drilling'.

Livestock too has suffered. I have had to move about 30 cattle off exposed land and bring them back to the farm, while others went onto land I knew wouldn't flood. Cattle do not thrive well on wet grass and are susceptible to worms and liver fluke – a parasite which feeds off the animal internally.

He believes the markets are reflecting the effects of a cold wet summer and autumn. The price of lamb has fallen by £15 to £20 per animal – the lowest it has been for two years. Cattle, too, have not put on their usual weight because of poor quality grass to graze on. Richard will tell you just how miserable they have looked, sometimes huddled into the bottom of hedges for protection from the elements.

Business as usual

Meanwhile, the day to day business of running a farm has to continue. Apart from caring to livestock and treating them for the more common ailments, there are ditches to be cleared, buildings to be maintained and machinery to be serviced or repaired. There are the brakes on a tractor to be seen to and a quad bike to be repaired.

His final thoughts on a year which started with a drought and closed in a deluge of rain and the flooding it brought?

You have to be cheerful; there is no point in getting depressed about it all. It really does not matter what machinery you have or how advanced the technology you use, in the end the farming industry will always be at the mercy of the weather.

But it is not all doom and gloom. With the very first signs of spring not far off, it will not be long before Richard and the team face one of the busiest seasons of the year that always brings new life and fresh goals – the start of lambing.



Waterlogged land clogs up and damages expensive machinery

Peter Crankshaw

One hundred outings – 150 sacks of rubbish

It has been just about two years since parish litter warden, Pam Crankshaw, started her drive to find more volunteers in the constant campaign to clear up the mess left by others that disfigures our local and often picturesque countryside. One of her small team has kept a regular note of their activities. Ed.

Our happy band of litter pickers are Pam Crankshaw, Liz Randall, Janet Whitmore and Vincent Riley. Our fly tipping co-ordinator is Sian Mollart.

Outings

Since the beginning of March to mid December 2012, Pam, Liz, Janet and recently Vincent, have completed around 100 outings, lasting between two to three hours each time.

Apart from the two villages, we are also trying to keep the approach roads clear of rubbish. We have walked much of Breakback Road, Brook Road, Dean's Lane, Priory Lane to Rockyfield and part of Ulverscroft Lane, Jo Moore's Lane to the Roecliffe crossroads, Church Hill, Brand Hill & Brand Lane to Woodhouse and back through the footpath to Woodhouse Eaves. Pam, in particular, regularly walks Forest Road from the Bulls Head to the far side of Woodhouse. In addition, Ann Irving joined Pam and Liz to clear the woodland behind the extension to the churchyard.

During this period, we have collected around 150 dustbin sacks of litter. We try to separate out the cans, bottles and some plastic items for recycling. Sometimes, if the bags became too heavy to carry, we have had to leave them and go back in one of our cars to pick them up later. The weight of the bags obviously depends on the kind of litter we have collected. The commonest, heavy items are large, glass bottles. Somewhat disquieting is that after clearing a stretch of road, by almost the next day we notice some rubbish re-appearing.

Of shoes, hats and vodka bottles

The sort of litter we are consistently picking up includes very many drinks cans and in particular, alcohol drink cans, which clearly have been thrown out onto road sides by passing motorists. Drink and drive? Quite worrying! We notice these cans are usually thrown out at small parking spaces and



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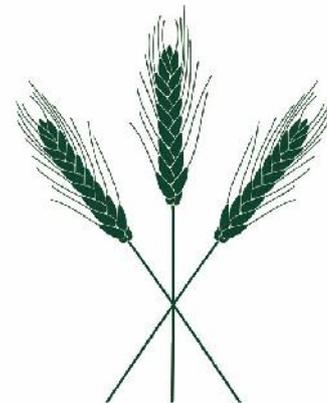
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Green and pleasant land? - Breakback Road

on straight stretches of road, rather than on bends and junctions. We also discover quite a lot of glass bottles; whisky and vodka is a favourite tippie! Broken glass can be very dangerous and it takes up to a million years to degrade. The litter most regularly found include food wrappings, all kinds of

plastic items, as well as cigarette packets and hundreds of cigarette butts. Then, there are the inevitable supermarket plastic bags containing all sorts of rubbish, with some bags full only of beer cans. The more obscure items have included car hubcaps, old batteries, vacuum cleaner parts, gloves, hats, old overalls, and pairs of shoes. Particularly unpleasant are the condoms and the evidence of drug taking, including needle sticks. Old motor and cooking oil, drained into plastic containers and dumped in the countryside, is not uncommon, neither are the bits off damaged motor cars, particularly the wing mirrors!

Hidden rubbish

During the summer, because of the exceptionally lush growth along the roadside verges and ditches, quite a lot of rubbish is out of view. Consequently, we are particularly busy now the winter months are with us. Another problem has been with the council mowing the grass on some of the roadside verges to give motorists a clearer view of the road but which chops up the cans and rubbish into small pieces. Jagged bits of can are particularly dangerous, so we take heavy duty gloves with us, where the grab-sticks are not practical. A lot of litter is to be found when we look over the dry stone walls and fences. We try to retrieve some but we have to be careful about entering private property and getting caught up in barbed wire. Also hidden, mostly in hedge bottoms, are plastic bags containing dog waste, which invariably resurface. Most ordinary/supermarket plastic bags can take between 10 to 20 years to biodegrade although some of the little black 'poo' bags are biodegradable.

Outsiders

We would also make the point that we think that at least 80 per cent of the rubbish is dumped from cars travelling through our villages - a bad and sad reflection on our present day, throw-away culture!



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Signs of improvement

We have noticed what appears to be a slight reduction in the amount of rubbish being thrown down. We wonder if some, now seeing a cleared space, are perhaps thinking twice before dumping litter. Let us hope so.

Volunteers Needed

We would very much welcome more people to help. If anyone is interested, please do ring Pam on (01509) 890930

Janet Whitmore

Jordan Revisited

In our edition last May, we profiled Jordan Ling at the time of his leaving Johnson's butchers in Main Street to join the food department at Fortnum and Mason's in Piccadilly. He has now worked there for well over eight months – a reasonable gestation period – and was happy to be interviewed again by *Roundabout* on the changes that life and culture in the Metropolitan south-east have offered. Most important to report is that he



Jordan with Johnson's 'regular', Olive Hewes, who called in at Fortnum and Mason while in London

finds his new surroundings both exciting and enjoyable. Living in London's East End – his rented accommodation in Bow is within spitting distance of the Olympic Stadium - and working in Piccadilly is easy in terms of public transport and he is happy not to have to drive, except when he wishes to get away from the Capital.

It is not just the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games that

have made London such a special location in 2012; learning new skills and adapting successfully to a new working environment have been particularly satisfying for Jordan. Thanks to good training in our parish, he was confident about his butchery work, but fresh fish counters in Charnwood are rare and he underwent a “learning experience” at Billingsgate, turning up at 5.45 am – apparently a time when the pace of work was beginning to slow down – to be shown how to recognise, handle and fillet a range of fish from live eels and crayfish to ocean-going monsters and regulars such as cod, tuna and salmon.

Christmas is a particularly busy and intriguing period for all counters at Fortnum and Mason’s, including Jordan’s fresh food outlet, and the store mounts a series of special seasonal displays, as the photograph indicates. With regard to turkeys, the shop contracts with a farm in the south-east who rear a special breed, known as Bourbon Reds, and these are sold to the public not by the individual pound/kilo, but in two sizes: medium (around 5 kilos, costing £80) and large (above - and sometimes well above – 5 kilos, costing £95). Jordan reckons around 300 were purchased, but a significant proportion is allocated to the shop’s own restaurants in their Piccadilly store. He also reminded me that whatever I felt about the cost, his birds were cheaper than those at Selfridges! Lamb, pork and venison is sourced from the royal park at Windsor and beef from the Prince of Wales’ establishment at Highgrove. In addition, sales figures for goose, quail, partridge and, of course, caviare go up at this time of year, as does that for something called “devils on horseback” – apparently dates and Parma ham - not a delicacy that has been part of our yuletide fare and not to be confused with “pigs in blankets”, which it sometimes is.



Jordan is now the longest serving member of staff on his counter, though one or two of his colleagues have recently returned after a break in service. He has to be discreet about celebrity shoppers whom he has seen or served – such amiable gossip is not encouraged by his superiors

– but his comments on managerial hierarchies and traditions in Fortnum and Mason’s are fascinating. For example, frock coats are much in evidence on regular staff who wear eau de nil silk ties, managerial staff wear silver ties, but head staff wear suits and carry their own name badge. He has enjoyed receiving a number of visitors from Charnwood and the photograph on p.23 records a friendly reunion with a ‘Johnson’s regular’ and local ‘fan club’ member who was shopping in London W1. There seems a distinct possibility that he now has more time on his hands to chat to customers than he had in Woodhouse Eaves, though there are no suggestions that his accent has changed or that his persona has assumed a more superior aspect.

Tony Lenney

Neighbourhood Watch plans public meeting

Neighbourhood Watch Administrator, Mervyn Greenhalgh, is calling a public meeting to build on the organization’s previous successes and to reinforce community involvement. He is inviting police representatives to explain the reorganisation of community policing and to introduce the new beat manager, Pc Richard ‘Rich’ Carruthers.

Concerned at the apparent size of the area, compared to the limited number of officers assigned to it, Mervyn hopes the meeting will highlight ways of helping the police ‘in order to help ourselves’. Emphasis will be placed on a ‘cascade system’, for urgent information to be passed rapidly between co-ordinators, usually by e-mail. It is hoped to involve more key people and attract those with specialist skills who could pass on useful advice – for example those working in the security industry - locksmiths and house alarm specialists. Building on existing community spirit where neighbourhoods work together was for the benefit of everyone, he believes. Neighbourhood watch, he says, should not only be concerned about crime. He would like to see more residents trained in the use of the defibrillator, at present kept in the entrance to the Cottage Surgery, as it has a potential to save lives. It is easy to use and comes with full instructions.

At present, 90 people from both villages are involved in Neighbourhood Watch, covering a total of 900 homes.

Crime

It is thought a thief who broke into a house on Forest Road, Woodhouse,

may have been watching the property. The home owner walks her dogs regularly and disturbed the burglar when she returned.

Planters have again been targeted by thieves – this time from a house on Beacon Road, Woodhouse Eaves. Thieves who broke into a house on Rawlins Close stole cash but ignored car keys, lap tops and mobile phones. Premises under renovation at Perry Close were entered and tools stolen from inside. There is a reminder not only to lock doors when leaving the house, but to remove the key from the inside, too! A thief smashed a pane of glass in a rear door then reached through to unlock it.

Pc Matt Orton and Community Support Officer Chris Kendall have often alerted car owners to the risks of leaving valuable items in their vehicles, but yet another 'satnav' was stolen after it was spotted by a thief who smashed a window to steal it.

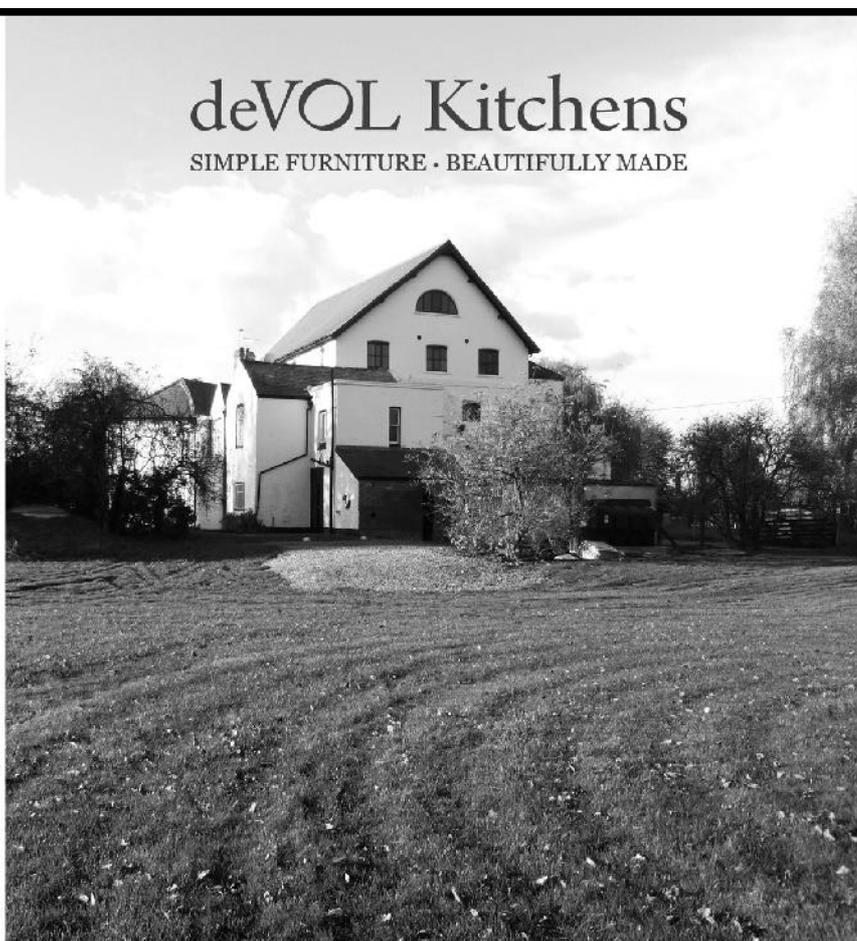
As ever, dial 999 if a crime is taking place or 101 for all other calls.

Peter Crankshaw

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Pragmatic cycling

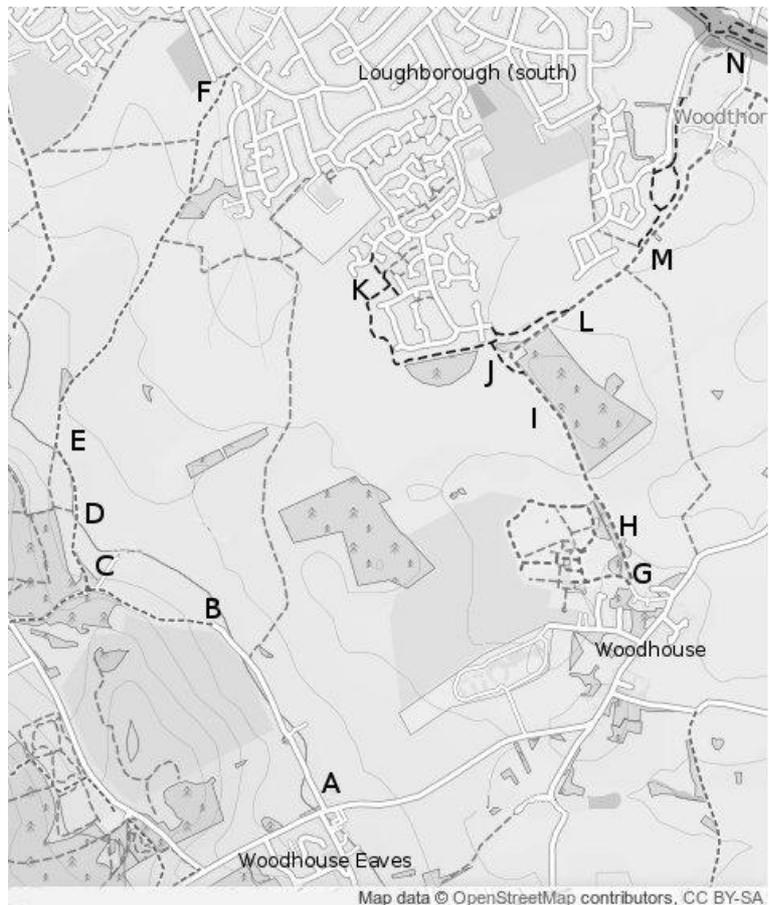
In last November's *Roundabout* Nina de Salis Young encouraged more of us to “take up the Olympic challenge and get on your bike”. As a frequent cyclist (though not an Olympic one) it has been interesting to note an increase in the number of cycles on the road. No doubt this has frustrated many motorists, slowed down when hurrying to work, play or Tesco, but in spite of this most are careful and courteous – thank you. True, the odd driver thinks he or she is lord of the road and will even overtake on the bend coming in to Woodhouse. Enough said, except that a fluorescent jacket does make motorists keep a foot or so further out when they overtake.

Nina gave us some ideas for cycling routes and trips. I want to add to that and also suggest one way to make cycling easier for those who find the prospect of cycling to work or shop daunting.

Getting to Loughborough

Nina suggested using Brook Road (starting opposite the Bulls Head) and then the bridleway to Valley Road (A-F on the map). This is best with a mountain bike and good suspension because sections B-C and D-E can be very muddy and E-F though paved long ago is, shall we say, knobbly. I am told that it is legal to cycle on bridleways, though it is not always practicable.

An alternative route is to take the track to the right of the Beaumanor Hall gateway. The status of this is unclear but I understand that it was an all purpose minor road until closed for security reasons during the war. Now open (except past Mucklin Lodge) it is in regular use by walkers and cyclists. A link (J) now bypasses the Lodge and connects to the paths around recent developments on the edge of Loughborough.



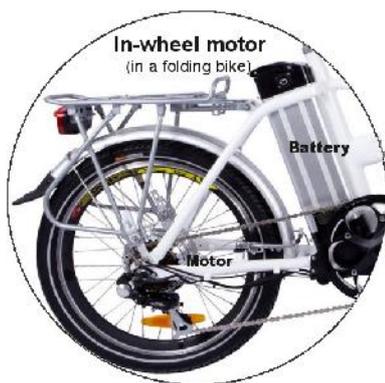
Some routes into Loughborough

The “Beaumanor” track has its own knobbly sections – from G to H and then from I to the new path J – but the longer middle section is surfaced. After section J (which sometimes has a large puddle, best taken at low speed) there is a choice of paths. You can go left and join the roads near the Rainbows hospice (K), right into the bottom of Haddon Road or right and right again towards Woodthorpe. If you do the latter you do need to join the (knobbly and puddly) old track for a while (L-M) but can then take new paved paths (M-N) on the Woodthorpe side of the new estate. From here the combined foot and cycle way along Ling Road takes you towards town.

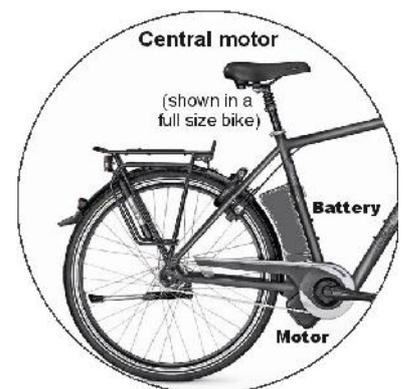
A little help along the way

Growing in popularity is power assisted cycling using an “electric bicycle” or “pedelec”. This is in effect a very low powered electric “moped” but does not need road tax or insurance. The idea is that some additional “oomph” is added to what the cyclist puts in. In many countries (and possibly here soon) the motor must only assist when the cyclist is pedalling. Also, the motor must not assist at all once 15mph is reached. The result is help where it matters most – going uphill. On the long climb from Quorn to Woodhouse Eaves my wife (on her pedelec) leaves me (without added oomph) far behind. But I go faster downhill.

Some pedelecs with large batteries are now claimed to have a range of 60 miles or more between charges. 20 or 30 is probably a more reasonable expectation but if you think of getting one make sure of the facts. Heavy lead-acid batteries gave limited range and have largely vanished from the pedelec scene; most now use much superior (but much more expensive) lithium-ion technology. Some now recharge while going down hill.



Cheaper models and “add in” d.i.y. kits generally use an “in wheel” motor (front or back wheel), while some models (perhaps technically superior) have one just behind the pedals, with power getting to the rear wheel through a common chain and gearing.



Buses may not turn up when wanted, but pedelecs are go! Several local families use them. There is an active and useful on-line forum on the subject at www.pedelecs.co.uk

Richard Bowers

Watch out for BioBlitz 2013



How many plants, birds, mammals, bugs and bees can you identify? What do you regularly see and what is rare? Would you like to learn more or have you a particular interest and knowledge that you would like to share?

Then put a note in your diary for 14th and 15th June 2013 as we are organising a Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves BIOBLITZ!

What is a BioBlitz?

A “BioBlitz” is a popular community event that engages large numbers of people with biodiversity. People are invited to get directly involved in surveying and monitoring their local wildlife and green spaces. During a BioBlitz event scientists and members of the public work together to survey a natural space; seeking, identifying and recording as many species as possible over 24 hours. Previous events have located between 300 and 1000 unique species!

We would like to invite you to be involved with this project and to have fun helping us contribute to increasing scientific knowledge of this beautiful area.

Who is involved?

Our BioBlitz will bring together experts and the local community.

We already have a number of organisations and experts involved. For instance: Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Beacon Hill Country Park, Loughborough Naturalists, British Trust for Ornithology and British Botanical Society and of course our local heritage team.

But most importantly anyone with an interest in our wildlife is welcome.

What is being organised?

We already have lots of exciting plans.

Friday evening will start in Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall Annex with an illustrated talk by a local wildlife expert. Then stay up late and join us on a spooky bat walk. Overnight events include moth trapping and identification, and we hope to set up a night cam to see what night creatures we can spot in a local garden.

Get up early on Saturday and join us on a dawn chorus walk at Beacon Hill. Other Saturday events include pond dipping, plant identification, a guided butterfly and bee walk, a self guided Tree Trail and much, much more. For the youngsters, LRWT Education Officers will be showing you how to use

pooters and magnifiers to identify minibeasts. There will also be displays and a series of interesting wildlife talks and demonstrations throughout the day.

Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall will be used for a reporting station and a 'Totaliser' board will display how many species have been identified. Records will be verified and submitted to the Leicestershire Environmental Records Centre via the NatureSpot website.

Where can you find out more?

Keep an eye on Roundabout in the coming months for further details.

More information about what a BioBlitz involves can be found at <http://www.bnhc.org.uk/home/bioblitz/>

To find out what species are being recorded in our area go to the NatureSpot website <http://www.naturespot.org.uk/parish/woodhouse>

What else can you do?

Please put the dates in your diary and come along on the day. Start: 9pm Friday 14th June 2013; ends: 9pm Saturday 15th June 2013. There will be something for everyone to take part in.

Get going now and submit your own records and photographs to <http://www.naturespot.org.uk/parish/woodhouse> Experts will help verify species identification.

If you have a particular knowledge or interest in wildlife or organise a community group that would like to take part then get in touch with us on heritage.warden@woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk

So let us make 2013 an eventful one for natural heritage in our villages. Everyone is welcome to take part in this community event.

Kate Moore

Not 'Out of Focus' with these Players

It seems amazing, but it was now over two months ago that the Beacon Players presented "Out of Focus", a comedy by Peter Gordon, at the Village Hall.

The vicar's wife has taken on the responsibility for taking bookings for the church hall annexe which proves to be somewhat beyond her as FIVE groups turn up on the same night! Total confusion reigns as people wrongly think individuals are present for their group - be it the table tennis, Brownies, railways slide show, badminton or the vicar's wife's own pantomime rehearsal. The overbearing (but single) Brownie leader, Helen Beever, upsets

everyone whilst trying to make up to half of the male cast. Bob Enfield constantly gets in trouble with his wife, Kath, which could just well have been due to him trying to take his young attractive secretary away with him on a business trip and then trying to help her in the changing rooms. Bob was also beside himself when David Wright, a policeman, arrived as he was convinced he was there to arrest him. David was in fact more interested in striking up a relationship with Sue Dixon, from the badminton club, much to the chagrin of Helen.

Eventually, they all decide to rescue Evonne, the vicar's wife and join in the pantomime production. Again, Helen leaves all in chaos as she threatens to withdraw from her part as an ugly sister, leaving Evonne as a last minute substitute. Leonard, the railway slide show king, keeps forgetting his cue as the baron, but as they always say in showbiz "It'll be alright on the night". Evonne avoids the wrath of the vicar, Bob and Kath make up and David and Sue get together.

A funny and thoroughly enjoyable production. Let's hope the Beacon Players continue to receive the support they so deserve.

Grahame Sibson

OLD WOODHOUSE OPEN GARDENS

Meeting

Monday, March 4th at 8.00pm

Old Woodhouse Community Hall

Woodhouse Community Hall Committee is organising a second charity Open Gardens weekend in the village on 18th and 19th May 2013. We were pleased with the success in 2010 and hope to make this an even better event. A number of gardens are already signed up but more would be welcome. We also need lots of volunteers to help with teas, parking etc so anybody interested in finding out more is invited to a meeting on Monday, March 4th at 8.00pm in the Old Woodhouse Community Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. For further information please contact either:

Libby Evans (tel. 01509 890 792)

or

Janice Slater (tel. 01509 890 105)

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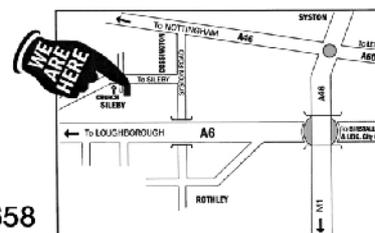
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High Street

Sibleby

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Tel: 01509 815658



Local History Group report

At our December meeting, members of the Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves Local History Group were treated to an excellent illustrated talk with photographs and maps about Grace Dieu Priory, by Ernest Miller. A very brief summary follows.

Situated close to the present village of Thringstone, it was founded as an Augustinian house for nuns about 1240 AD by Roesia de Verdon. It was never a large priory, having only about 17 nuns at any one time.

The day to day life at the priory was typical of the Augustinians over the next 300 years, and then came King Henry VIII and the Reformation. Grace Dieu was among those to be included in the dissolution of the monasteries.



Photos courtesy of Ernest Miller

Valued in 1536 at £97 8s.11¼ d. it was finally closed on the 28th October, 1538. It then came into the hands of the John Beaumont family and eventually to the de Lisle family, together with the Garendon estate.

Over the years, much of the priory was converted into a splendid manor house. However, time and neglect took its toll and the priory became the ruins that we see today.

It is now in the care of the Grace Dieu Priory Trust, together with English Heritage, who are still researching and carefully excavating parts of the site that could contain other parts of the buildings.

Visitors are always welcome at the site, and there are conducted tours taking place from time to time. Also, whether one believes or not, there are several tales of ghosts and other unexplained happenings. For more detailed information there is an excellent website on the internet.

For details of next meeting, see 'What's on'

Brian Axon

Garden Matters for February

You should be well on the way with forking or digging available land. When finished, use any compost* made through the year to spread on the surface and leave the worms to do the rest.

1. Give any soft fruit a dressing of a good fertilizer – approximately 2oz per square yard. Make sure all the bushes have been pruned and the centre of the bushes opened up.
2. Do not forget to check the mower and make sure it is in good condition for spring. If we have a dry spell, a run over the lawn will pick up any leaves etc.
3. If we have very cold frosty weather, take care of the fish in your pond. If frozen over boiling water in a container will make a hole to give fish oxygen.
4. Still time to prune apple and pear trees before the sap starts to rise in the spring. If the weather is fine, you can still set new trees and bushes.
5. When you cannot get in the garden, sort out the shed and discard old seeds and order new seeds. Clean all your tools ready for the new gardening year.

For details of the next meeting see 'What's on'

Neil Roberts

**If you are interested in the finer points of composting then look out for a report, planned for the March issue of Roundabout, written by Woodhouse Eaves resident, Bertil Schou. Bertil spent two days at Ryton-on-Dunsmore on a course to qualify as a 'Garden Organic Master Composter'. This was run by Garden Organic, who have trained more than 500 master composters from across the Midlands at their Warwickshire centre.*

The course included a visit to a commercial 'brown bin' site, exploring gardens and delving into the 'mechanics' of composting. Sponsored by Leicestershire County Council, it is part of a campaign to attract a wider interest in composting and so reduce the amount going to landfill.

Apparently Charnwood is the poorest performing borough in Leicestershire, although it is hoped Leicestershire as a whole will become one of the leaders of recycling in England and Wales..

The course, says Bertil, was a delight to attend and in his article he explains the uses of composting and its side products, including how to make comfrey juice for the benefit of the garden.

Ed

The last word



Wet cut madam?

Nigel Dowson, of Jigsaw hairdressers, Darlington, raised nearly £2000 for charity by cutting Helen Croslegh's hair despite being dressed in scuba gear and submerged at the bottom of the diving pool in the town's Dolphin Centre (above). Members of the Three Seas diving club posed as customers. – *Northern Echo*, 8th August 2012

The writing's on the wall!

A man has confessed to being a graffiti artist more than 50 years after scrawling his name on a wall. Fred O'Reilly's name was spotted on an old air raid shelter discovered by workmen at Monton village nursery. Mr. O'Reilly admitted being the author of the message on the

same wall that reads 'I Love Margaret' but declined to comment further out of respect to his wife, Janina. – *Manchester Evening News*, 19th October 2012



Nearly 60 years of mayhem

Dundee Council is considering creating a Bash Street in the city's west end in honour of the Beano's Bash Street Kids (pictured). The proposal was put forward by DC Thomson, publisher of the comic. City development convener Will Dawson said: 'We've already got Desperate Dan and Minnie the Minx in the centre and it's good to tie in the Bash Street Kids.' – *BBC Scotland Online*, 3rd November 2012

Contributions to *Roundabout*

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

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

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

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

Adverts: requests for further publicity, even for charities, incur a charge per issue of £8.50 for a quarter page or £17.00 for a half page. Full-page advertisements are not normally accepted. Contact the advertising managers, Amanda and Andrew Garland, on (01509) 890 839 or via the methods listed at the bottom of the page.

Copy deadline: please see the bottom of page 3.

Send any material for *Roundabout* by:

Email: roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk

Hand or post: *Roundabout*, Woodhouse Eaves Post Office,
45 Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8RG

What's on in February

		February	
4 th	7.00	Parish Council meeting (all welcome)	Village Hall
11 th	7.30	Local History Group, 'The Great Central Railway' Brian Axon	Methodist Church
13 th	7.30	Leics. & Rutland Wild Life Trust. Ratty returns. Re-introduction of the Rutland water vole – Tim Mackrill	Village Hall £1.50/ £2.00
21 st	7.00 7.30	Woodhouses Garden Club AGM. Growing better vegetables – David Thornton (see advertisement p. 4)	Village Hall Non-members £3.00
23 rd	7.30	Dance & dine 'Quo Duo' (with Dr. Clay) BYO drinks, raffle. Proceeds Cottage Surgery	Village Hall £10 PO, shops
27 th	7.30	Film show. ' <i>Salmon Fishing in the Yemen</i> '. 'Heart warming drama'.	Village Hall, £4 PO, n'ws agent
		Early March	
4 th	7.00	Parish Council meeting (all welcome)	Village Hall
4 th	8.00	Woodhouse Community Hall Committee – public meeting – open gardens (May). (See advert p. 31)	Woodhouse Community Hall

Check for more local event details on these web sites:

www.woodhouse-eaves.co.uk/diary/

www.leicestershirevillages.com/woodhouseeaves/local-events.html