

Community News

Shaun Edward's 100 Mile Race - Update

Many of you responded to the feature run in the March edition about the ridiculously courageous Wokingham man, Shaun Edwards, training for the Thames Path 100 2013, a 100-mile continuous trail race along the Thames Path from Richmond in South West London to central Oxford. The race took place 23-24th March and our hero Shaun completed the course (which cruelly ended up being 102 miles!) in 23 hours 36 minutes and 1 second. That's nearly 24 hours of non-stop running, punctuated only by brief food and drink stops.

The enormity of this challenge should not be underestimated - of the 300 who registered for the race, only 165 even started ... and 89 completed it, the demands of the race beating most of those who were brave enough to even attempt it.

Conditions were unbelievable treacherous; flooding, endless mud and a freezing night-time conditions testing the stamina of most beyond breaking point. Were it not for the support of Shaun's close friends and family - and a number of other supporters who dragged themselves from their beds in order to recognise his achievement - Shaun too may have fallen by the wayside.

But Shaun's motivation was simple. He was raising money for the Ollie Young Foundation, the wonderful local charity set up by his friends Sarah and Simon Young. His goliath effort has raised a fantastic £5,000, but honestly, £50,000 would be more appropriate.

Ollie died just over a year ago from an incurable brain tumour. There can hardly be a person in Wokingham who doesn't know his story, but if you haven't yet visited the charity website www.ollieyoungfoundation.org, I urge you to do so and read Ollie's Story and Memories of Ollie. It will completely break your heart.

It's not too late donate. You can still go to Shaun's fund-raising website: www.justgiving.com/runningforollie, or the Ollie Young website (which features lots of very muddy photos of the race!) and donate a little money to help fund brain tumour research. Thank you.

Wokingham May Fayre

The annual Wokingham May Fayre will take place on bank holiday Monday 7th May. Wokingham Lions Club organises this major event in the town which, according to the police, is the largest street fayre in the South of England.

From 10am in the morning until 6pm in the evening, the Market Place, Denmark Street, Erfstadt Court and Elms Field will be alive with FREE entertainment in the street, on the stage and on Elms Field. The streets and fields will be lined with stalls selling a variety of produce and offering entertainment as well. There will be a fun fair and electric train for the little ones and a climbing wall, trampolines, plate smashing and much more for the older visitors.

People who are interested in running a stall should contact Debbie Slay on debbie.slay@ntlworld.com or 0118 961 9916. Hurry because the pitches are filling fast. Parking is free on the day throughout the town. An event not to be missed - see you there!

Alpha Course in a Catholic Context

A 10 week Alpha Course will be run in the Keenan Rooms, Corpus Christi Church from Wednesday, 17 April 2013. This course gives people "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life" in the context of Christian faith. It is ideal for those people that

- don't believe in God,
- have given up on the Church,
- are curious or searching for something or
- want to understand their faith better

Each evening starts with a simple meal, followed by a dvd/ talk and then a discussion in small groups. The sessions will mainly be on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 pm and further details can be found at www.facebook.com/catholic.alpha. All sessions stand on their own, so

if you or someone else cannot make all of them it's still worth coming.

Please contact Julie Hughes 0118 973 0528 or Stefan Dahmann 0118 978 5249. The complete list of dates is: April 17th, 24th, May 1st, 8th, 13th, 20th, 29th, June 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, July 3rd.

Bowls Open Day

Wokingham Bowling Club is seeking new members and will host an Open Day on Sunday 12th May. Whether you are an experienced bowler or someone interested in taking up a new sporting/leisure activity then why not go along to find out more. See also p.14 & 15.

The club provides opportunities for bowlers of all levels from absolute beginners upwards. New bowlers will receive coaching and encouragement to progress to whatever level they are comfortable with. Fixtures include friendly matches against other clubs in the local area and for the more competitive players, league matches and inter-club county and national competitions. There are also internal club competitions and fun bowling events to ensure that members of all levels can get together to enjoy the benefits of our well-appointed club and the wide range of social activities.

Membership opportunities are available for men, women and juniors of all ages to join a friendly and successful club, so why not just turn up on the day, alternatively you can contact Bob Boswell on 01344 779390 or visit www.wokinghambowlingclub.co.uk

Wokingham Summer Concerts

Richard Parkes and Stan Hetherington are proud to announce that on 28th, 29th and 30th June they will be organising 3 major open air concerts in Elms Field Wokingham. They have been inspired to organise these concerts following the success of the Wokingham Town Council organised Jubilee Concerts last year.

The concerts will be on the evenings of Friday 28th, Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June. Friday night's concert will be headlined by Toploader <http://toploaderofficial.com/> who played at Buckingham Place for the 2002 Golden Jubilee celebrations. Saturday night Slough Philharmonic Orchestra <http://www.sloughphil.org/> will take the stage with a 40 piece orchestra and will entertain the crowds to a Night with the Classics. They will be supported by the wonderful Thames Valley Chorus <http://www.tvchorus.co.uk/>. On Sunday evening the field will be awash with the delightful sounds of the Millstones Dance Band <http://www.millstonesdanceband.com/>

The concerts will be held in Elms Field (subject to Licence). Last year the Jubilee Classical Concert attracted an audience 1,700 and Rich said "It would be great to get the community behind these concerts and see Elms Field full again. Stan and I want to recreate the magic last summer". For further information contact Stan Hetherington 07831 130610 or Rich Parkes 07766 395613. See also p.13.

1st Finchampstead Scouts

1st Finchampstead is the oldest scout group in the Wokingham District, with our own headquarters in California Country Park. We are a very active group offering lots of different activities and adventures both in our weekly meetings and on outside events and camps. We currently run 2 Beaver Scout Colonies (6-8 yrs), 2 Cub Scout Packs (8 - 10½ yrs) and 2 Scout Troops (10½ - 14 ½yrs).

We are always looking for adult volunteers and are currently looking for help in all three sections. Activities include archery, canoeing and hiking, as well as camping, cooking and drama. Scouting gives young people the opportunity to try new things, grow in confidence and make the most out of life. By getting involved you can give something back to the local community and make a positive difference to young people's lives.

We welcome people of all ages and backgrounds and you don't need to have any prior experience of scouting. For more information on how to get involved please contact the Group Scout Leader - gsl@1finch.org.uk or visit www.1finch.org.uk