

Oxfordshire Guardian

Witney & Carterton edition

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FREE!

World championships come to town



WITNEY has been chosen as the new home for the World Pooh Sticks Championships.

After being forced to move from its home in Little Wittenham, the com-

petition is coming to Langel Common on the River Windrush for this year's event on June 7.

• See page 9 for the full story

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SPRING IS COMING!



Pooh sticks head to Witney

THE search is over to find a new venue for one of Oxfordshire's most popular past-times.

After 31 years at Day's Lock in Little Wittenham, the World Pooh Sticks Championships will move west across the county to Witney.

Organisers the Rotary Club of Oxford Spire were forced to find a new location because the event, which coincides with the Earth Trust's lambing weekends, was becoming too big for the village.

On Monday, it was revealed that Langel Common on the River Windrush will be the new venue and this year's event will take place on Sunday, June 7.

The championships, based on the game in A. A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh tales, will be run in partnership with heritage

ronment Agency only allows the competition to be held between October and the end of March because of high levels of boat traffic from April.

However, Ms Adams said that will now not be a problem.

She continued: "It does not have river traffic which means we can run it during the summer months and we are not at the mercy of the river."

Colin Shone, a director at Cogges, added: "We're really delighted to be supporting it."

"These simple pleasures in life where you get out in the countryside and make your own fun is absolutely what Cogges is about."

"It is a wonderful thing to be supporting. We're really pleased to do it."

Cllr Richard Langridge, cabinet member for Communities and Culture on West Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We are thrilled that Witney has been chosen as the new venue and we can assure them that they will be given a very good welcome."

Ms Adams said news of the event's new venue has travelled as far as Wisconsin, America, where Winnie the Pooh fanatic Deb Hoffman lives.

She added: "She holds the record for having the biggest Winnie the Pooh memorabilia and wants to come and play."



• Windmill Primary School pupils and teachers as Mr Bean

Pupils embrace comic relief

CHILDREN and teachers at an Oxford Primary School turned themselves into mini versions of Mr Bean last Friday to encourage people to get into the spirit for next month's Red Nose Day.

Youngsters at Windmill Primary School, in Margaret Road, donned grey jackets and red ties to dress up as Rowan Atkinson's famous comedy creation for the day.

"They are hoping that their efforts will get other local schools and residents to dress up on Red Nose Day, taking place on March 13, to raise money for charity."

• (from left) Richard Langridge, Lesley Adams, rotary club member Karen Eveleigh and Colin Shone at Langel Common



News Bites

Man fined

BICESTER: A 33-year-old man has been fined for stealing bottles of champagne from two shops in the town.

Gary John Wickens, of Leach Road, Bicester, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft at Banbury Magistrates' Court on February 11.

He admitted to stealing champagne from The Co-Op in Barberry Place on January 14 and from M&S in Sheep Street on January 24.

He was fined £129.48 and given an eight-month conditional discharge.

Clothes swap

OXFORD: ReFashion, an event that sees visitors swap unwanted clothes for new garments, is taking place at Oxford Town Hall on March 3.

For each item brought along, visitors get a token to exchange for a new piece of clothing.

The event runs from 1pm to 6pm, and is free to enter.

Water saving

CHERWELL: The district council and Thames Water is offering residents free water-saving gadgets to help them save money on their bills.

Items include shower timers, and tap aerators, which could save up to £185 on water bills. Go to thameswater.co.uk.

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Digni-Tea celebration at Abingdon Court Care Home

TO mark Dignity Action Day 2015, residents, relatives, friends and staff at Abingdon Court Care Home gathered on Sunday 1st February for a "Digni-Tea" celebration.

Chef Wendy, baked and decorated a cake in support of the campaign which is celebrated every year at Abingdon Court. The cake was enjoyed by all those who attended and several residents and staff braved the cold weather to launch balloons into the Abingdon skyline to signify those who are cared for at Abingdon Court.

The campaign's core values are about having dignity in our hearts, minds and actions, changing the culture of care services and placing a greater emphasis on improving the quality of care and the experience of citizens using services including NHS hospitals, community services, care homes and home support services.

"The Dignity in Care campaign is very important to us all at Abingdon Court. Promoting and delivering dignity in care is at the centre of what we do every day. We are proud to be associated with the campaign," said Karen Aldred, Home Manager.

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