

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Greetings!

Please accept our most sincere thanks for the warm welcome that you have shown to us as a family – it has been and is very much appreciated by us all.



It is good to be with you – a tad daunting perhaps, but good. Having been settled in one place for the past seven years, I had forgotten just how disorientating it feels to know almost nothing about a place and even less about its people. Attending meetings when one knows at best only a limited amount of the background to any of the conversations is somewhat unnerving. So life seems more than a bit strange at the moment but then I am sure that it does for you too as you slowly begin to adjust to life with a new minister and with someone about whom you know little or nothing.

I am tempted to help you out by providing you with a short biography of my life so that you at least know how old I am, where I come from, where I have been, what I have done and what I like doing etc., etc., but I am going to resist that temptation and instead keep the playing fields level!

Instead, let me simply say that I hope that, in the months and years ahead, as we journey together, we will be able to tell and share our stories with one another that we might then *all* be better placed to help each other make connections between those stories and God's story. Such connections are always there to be made – however uninteresting or unspectacular we believe our own particular story to be – but sometimes we need other people to help us to identify them. I look forward to you helping me and in return promise that I will do my best to help you.

Ministry is, I believe, very much a shared task and responsibility and I look forward to sharing that task and responsibility with you.

As we contemplate our journey together, let us borrow a verse from a

well-known hymn and pray that we will always be able to say to one another:

*Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.*

With every blessing

*Paul*

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## **MERTON ARTS SOCIETY**



The Merton Arts Society is an Arts Society for adults of all abilities and is the longest standing Arts Society in the London area. It is delighted to be holding its events at Martin Way Methodist Church from now on.

Events are monthly and on **Tuesday October 7th** feature a demonstration of Chinese Brush art - birds and flowers. Members of the Church are invited to come along for the evening from 7.15pm until 9.00pm. The charge is £5 redeemable against membership fee.



On Monday **27th Oct - Saturday 1st November**, the society is holding its popular exhibition in the Gallery in Wimbledon Library. All are welcome to come and see the range of work that members produce and have a chat about the Society if they wish.

For further information please contact Candida Wenham, either by email at [candidawenham@hotmail.com](mailto:candidawenham@hotmail.com) or by phone 07766 825372.

# **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERTON PARK**

## **What does it mean to be Ecumenical?**

The Ecumenical Movement is the name given to the 20<sup>th</sup> century search to restore Christian unity, which dates itself officially from the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh in 1910. Not to be confused with Inter-faith, or conformity; to be ecumenical is to declare a willingness to explore with other Christians the common roots of the faith; of most importance in Christian ecumenism is that people focus primarily on Christ, not on separate church organizations.

Various Scriptures speak to us about the unity of the Body and God's own reconciling nature:

**2 Corinthians 5:19** The Church is entrusted with the message of reconciliation

**Ephesians 2: 11-22** God is reconciling himself to the Church through Jesus Christ

**1 Corinthians 12: 12-31** The Church, as the Body of Christ, is made up of many parts. All parts are necessary for the Body to function properly.

**John 17:20-26** As the Father and the Son are one, Jesus prays that his followers will be one.

**Churches Together in Merton Park** continues to meet 6 times a year. The meetings are usually well attended with all 5 churches (namely Merton Park Baptist, St Mary the Virgin CofE, St James of Merton CofE, St John Fisher RC and Martin Way Methodist) represented. At our last meeting in June there was a general feeling that we should be building ourselves up as the Body of Christ, so that we can discern where we are going as Churches Together and raise awareness of our planned activities for the year ahead. As a result it was decided to have an 'away ½ day' -a retreat for the committee, past members or those with a heart for ecumenism. St Michael's Convent is a possible venue and date to be decided.

## **Joys and Concerns from the five Churches**

**Martin Way.** Derek Heaton announced that he will be standing down from the committee after 13+ years of faithful service. The

committee appreciates his diligence, dedication and enthusiasm for the work of CTMP and knows that he will still be with us in spirit.

**Merton Park Baptist.** Celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary on the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June with a Barn Dance on the Saturday. The Rev. Dr. John Wheeler President of the Baptist Union and Principal of Cardiff Bible College was the guest preacher on Sunday.

**St Mary the Virgin.** The Rev John Hayward was inducted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. An impromptu concert for the Burmese cyclone Red Cross appeal raised over £4000, and the Church fair in excess of £3000.

**St James of Merton.** The summer fair was a success, with involvement from the Korean group. The regular family services are gaining in popularity, and are being used to establish prayer partners. The Church is having problems with planning permission for much needed work on their hall.

**St John Fisher.** There was a large attendance at Canon Acton's golden jubilee of ordination, which was celebrated with Mass and a reception. 70-80 children celebrated their first Holy Communion in June.

## **Future plans and Dates for your diaries**

**A Service of Reconciliation and Healing** for the five Churches will be held on St Luke's feast day, on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 6pm at St James Church. This will be in a Taize worship form.

The next annual **Church Unity Service** will be held at **Merton Park Baptist Church** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in January during which members of the CTMP group will be commissioned. As in previous years it will include a Service in each of the Churches during the week 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**Christmas leaflets.** The CTMP group would welcome any comments on the Christmas leaflet and possible suggestions about its continuation. A different format will be used this year.

**More Representatives?** Although meetings are well attended it would be good to have another person to represent Martin Way. Please speak to Joyce Plant or Gwen Wildman if you would like to attend these meetings before deciding or making a commitment to join the committee. Everyone is welcomed.

## **USE OF CHURCH PREMISES**



Over the last few months you may have been aware that the Church premises are been used more regularly. This is beneficial for several reasons; it opens the Church to the local community, shows that we are not an insular organisation, helps maintain the fabric of the building, gives the place a “buzz”, raises revenue to assist our finances and the Church is seen to be a living place.

This increased use does bring out other issues that have not been apparent previously such as cleaning, rubbish disposal (using the bins), turning on/off lights, locking up etc. The main issue, however, is around the booking of rooms. In order that disappointment is avoided, can I ask you following this very simple checking and booking procedure ;

- 1) Check if the room required is used by a regular user. A list is on the notice board in the corridor opposite the Vestry.
- 2) Check if the date, time and room is available in the Diary in the Vestry.
- 3) Check with the Booking Secretary (Pete Boyd).
- 4) Fill in a Booking form (to be found in Diary) and forward to the Booking Secretary.

My contact details are: Peter Boyd  
96 Ashridge Way  
Morden  
SM4 4ED

Tel: 020 8542 2377                      Mob: 07880814709  
E-mail [peteboyduk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peteboyduk@yahoo.co.uk)

If these few steps are followed, we should avoid problems but please contact me if here are any queries.

*Pete Boyd*

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH - OCTOBER 2008



At our afternoon tea to welcome our new minister, Paul, it was announced that two couples were about to celebrate their 40th and 45th Wedding Anniversaries. A widower friend sitting next to me said, “It would have been our Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday”. Had June been still alive we would have been celebrating our Sixtieth Anniversary this month. When I mentioned this to someone she said, “It is still your Diamond Anniversary!”

June died eleven and a half years ago and some of us know what it is like when anniversaries, birthdays and Christmases come around and our loved ones are no longer with us. I suppose the celebrations become commemorations. When these days come around we feel that the ones we lost are still with us. Of course we feel that at other times too. Memories of happy days are easily triggered.

But how long after our lives on this earth are over will we be remembered? Only as long as someone who has known us are still alive. In a hundred years time we will all be forgotten. But when our time comes, what sort of memories will we leave behind? How will people remember you and me?

Jesus gave us guidelines for living. If we try to follow those, we will leave behind, not only happy memories, but also an example to follow. We need help to live our lives to the full and that help is available if we ask for it. It's as well to remember that what we sow we shall also reap.

So ends this month's thought. Sorry if it has been rather sombre. Meanwhile, best wishes to those who soon have a birthday or anniversary to celebrate in the near future.

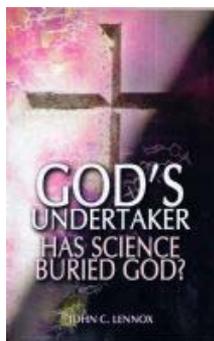
*Bill Cox*

## REVIEWS from RE:FRESH BOOKS

### *God's Undertaker – Has science buried God?*

by John Lennox. - rrp £14.99

John Lennox, Reader in Mathematics at Oxford University, takes a fresh look at the relationship between science and God arguing that science sits more comfortably with theism than atheism. Chapters look at current issues such as reductionism, intelligent design, the origin of life and the genetic code.



### *Just Walk Across the Room*

by Bill Hybels £8.99

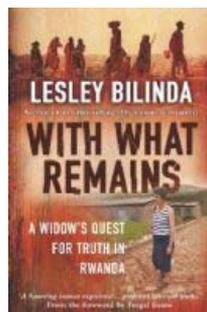
Bill Hybels' new book *Just Walk Across the Room*, takes its title from an incident at a cocktail party when a man detached himself from his cosy group and walked across the room to talk to a lone stranger. That really says it all!

The book is about personal witness. Hybels, one of the authors of *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, advocates building up a relationship of trust over a period of time, following a "3D" approach – first develop friendships by engaging in the lives of other people, then discover *their* stories, and finally discern the next steps. He places an emphasis on stories – other people's stories, your own story, stories about Jesus and the stories Jesus told. The book itself is rich in illustrations.

### *With What Remains*

by Lesley Belinda - £7.99

In 1994, Lesley lost her Rwandan husband in the Rwandan genocide. In this book she describes with great honesty her return to Rwanda ten years later to search for the truth of what had happened to her husband, and what she eventually discovered. She shares her fears and memories, as well as the traumatic truth that emerged.....and alongside this is the story of her journey of faith and forgiveness.



*These books are available from re:refresh books & christian resources,  
23 The Broadway, Tolworth, Surbiton KT6 7DJ*

## **NEWS FROM KENYA**

### **10th September 2007**

Habari, Jambo, Cyfarchion,  
Greetings to everyone,

Yes, it feels good to be back in this beautiful country. Even though Joyce and I were weary after our overnight flight, we were able to appreciate the early morning sights and sounds especially the blooming Jacarandas lining the roads on the way from the airport. It was good to see our friends from Kijabe who had earlier greeted us and to exchange news.



According to the World news reports Kenya is more stable now than it was in January following the post election conflict. The reality is that there are still many displaced families in various camps, reports that the 10,000KS given to families to help them find work have been squandered, food prices have risen as much as 200 % over the past 8 months with many unable to buy basic commodities, and an estimated 1.3 million Kenyans are facing starvation in the worst drought-hit areas. Some schools are threatened with closure over rising food, electricity and fuel prices. Here in Kijabe hospital a family who suffered extensive burns following the fire that destroyed their church in Eldoret, are still being treated and 2 of the children who have been in-patients here for the past 9 months, recently started attending the local primary school during the day.

On our third day here Joyce and I were invited to attend a 'Reception' to a Feeding program which started from small beginnings 9 months ago and targets the orphans from 2 local schools. Having visited the Centre with Moira in January, it was encouraging to see that the program was making a difference to the children's well being and education. Not until we got to the event did we realise that many dignitaries including the press were present. It didn't seem to matter to them that we were scruffily dressed, but we were later presented with scarves each (pictured opposite) as well as certificates of appreciation for just being there.

In Magina we had a chance to visit the Nyota home though we have yet to see the JS Centre. The family had got together for a funeral of a dear

relative whose daughter Rosemary worked at the Centre last year. Sadly he died whilst crossing the highway near Kimende. It was good to see John's sister Fresia from Baraimu who I have not seen since August when we went to Meru with the 2007 group.

Wangari was delighted with the Laptop that I was able to bring with me and is already using it to for the Youth Minsitry that she is involved in .Last Sunday we joined the Magina bible study group who now meet at a different venue, and are thriving. We look forward to visiting 2 more groups which have developed in Kinale and Kimende. Regarding the idea of forming a mobile type Clinic from Kijabe to neighbouring communities, this is still in its primal stage. A lot more discussions with the community in need is necessary, and a diagnosis made of the prioroties.

Finally Joyce and I met with a friend in Nairobi yesterday and had lots to share. Martin reminded me that I had sent him a text message some time ago with a verse from Corinthians to encourage him, and in response to his e-mail that he and his family were experiencing difficulties at the time. He related that he received my message whilst in a prison cell! Apparantly he had arranged to meet a friend in a Nairobi street and as he was waiting, sat down and was partially leaning on a large flower pot. He was approached by the police who demanded to know what he was doing. They would not accept his explanation unless he pays a bribe. Protesting that he is a Christian and therefore will not pay bribes, he was arrested and later charged with damaging the flowers! and had to pay a fine of 500KS. Even though he was innocent, to appeal would have meant a



longer period in goal away from his family. Reflecting on this incident, he asked the Lord “what did I do to deserve this?” to which the Lord reminded him that although he prays for the sick etc, how often does he remember to pray for those in prison. After a night in the cell, he was able to identify

with the plight of his fellow prisoners, some of whom were also innocent. Whilst he had a phone for communicating with the outside world, his fellow sufferers had no such luxury.

The moral of this story is- do not underestimate the power of prayer and beware of leaning on large flower pots!

All for now.

*Gwen Wildman*

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## **AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEST Part 2**

**In a series of Elementary School tests children were asked questions about the old and new testaments. The following statements about the bible were written by the children. They have not been retouched nor corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in. This is the second part of the test (the first part was last month)**



16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found jesus in the manager.
17. Jesus was born because mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miricle when jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
21. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
22. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
23. One of the oppossums..was st. Matthew who was also a taximan.
24. St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony which is another name for marraige.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

September was a time of special celebration for 2 couples at Martin Way. First to Joan and John Harding celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and secondly to Maralyn and Tony Loft celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary – both Anniversaries fell on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

*We want to wish them all very warm hearted congratulations from all their friends at Martin Way.*

For one lucky of the couples I was able to get hold of their Wedding photo, who could this handsome couple be?

Sorry no Prizes for guessing correctly!



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## SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

SIGMA are now meeting every Sunday between 4.00 to 5.30pm at Martin Way Methodist Church for rehearsals of their Christmas Production, to be performed at the church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December.



SIGMA is a Greek letter meaning ‘All things coming together’ The group is made up of mixed ages and is a mixed medial creative art group (singing, dance, drama, musical, instruments, back stage), So if you enjoy singing/acting/dancing, please come and join us.

For more information please contact Anne Conquest.

Tel no: (020) 8942 7147 or Email [aconquest@btinternet.com](mailto:aconquest@btinternet.com)

## WINTERSHALL NATIVITY 2008

A few of us last year went to a production of the Nativity on a farm just outside of Guildford. We really enjoyed it and thought we would share our experience. It was a lovely way to Start Christmas off last year, it is really worth while seeing!



The production is held in the open air and inside the Holly Barn and is on from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December this year, there are 2 showings a day 1<sup>st</sup> at 4.45pm and 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm (Each performance last 90 minutes). Tickets are £15 for adults and £7.50 for children (from 3 years old until they leave full time education).

It is advisable to come warmly dressed and with suitable shoes or boots. The Barn theatre is a few minutes steep walk from the car park but disable access is available by prior arrangement. The seating is on plain wooden benches but you could bring a cushion to sit on if you wish. The 'Inn' opens for tea/coffee and Mince pies 45 minutes before each performance.

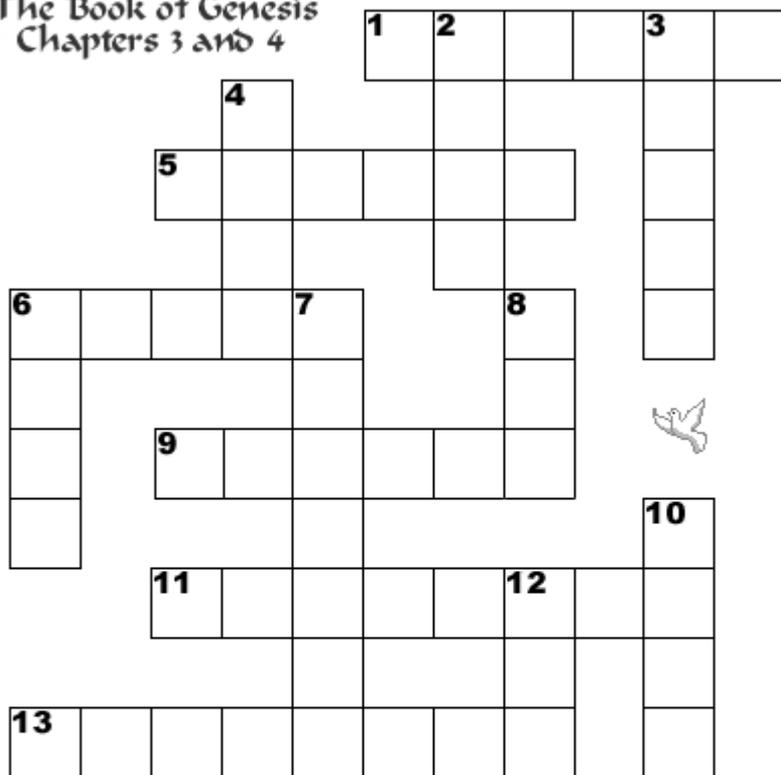
I am hoping to go again this year and if anyone would like to join me I will be booking tickets for the Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec show at 7.30pm. Please let me know if you are interested by **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October** – as I need to book tickets. If you can't make it that day but still wish to go you can book tickets online on their website, but please note that the tickets do sell-out quickly. Visit their website to find out more at – [www.wintershall-estate.com](http://www.wintershall-estate.com)

*Abby Herring*

## PUZZLE CORNER

# Bible Crossword for kids

The Book of Genesis  
Chapters 3 and 4



### Down

- (2) Adam's second son
- (3) Cain's first son (Gen. 4:17)
- (4) Adam's first son
- (6) Adam's third son
- (7) What creature tempted Eve
- (8) Cain lived in this land
- (10) First man
- (12) First woman

### Across

- (1) Cain's occupation (Gen. 4:2)
- (5) The \_\_\_\_\_ of Eden
- (6) Adam and Eve's first clothes (Gen. 3:21)
- (9) Because of sin the ground was \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3:17)
- (11) Abel's occupation (Gen. 4:2)
- (13) Cain became a \_\_\_\_\_ and a vagabond (Gen. 4:12)

The above puzzle is thanks to <http://biblewordgames.com>

# CHURCH DIARY



Fri	3	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	4	6.30pm	Barn Dance and Harvest Supper
Sun	5	10.30 am	Harvest Festival led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	7	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	8	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Wheels for the World</i> - Richard Polley
Sun	12	10.30 am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	14	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	17	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sat	18	10-12noon	Midways Coffee Morning - proceeds for St. Raphael's Hospice
Sun	19	10.30 am	Praise Service led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	21	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>London Wild Life Trust</i> - Ted Burden
Weds	22	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Armenians in Jerusalem</i> - Souki Tchilingirian
Sun	26	10.30am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
		6.30 pm	Bible Study led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	28	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

Fri 31 12.30 pm Luncheon Club

*Please refer to the Website ([www.martinway.org.uk](http://www.martinway.org.uk)) or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information*

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday this month a very



*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Jennifer Smith on 13th October**

**Tyler Butland-Brooks on 26th October**

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## **WELCOME SERVICES**

**Revd Paul Timmis** along with Revd Margaret Adams were welcomed in their new roles at a service on Wednesday, 3rd September at Stoneleigh Methodist Church. The address and welcome were led by the Chair of the London District, the Revd Jenny Impey. Tea and cakes followed in what was described as an evening full of warmth - and that wasn't due to the weather!

Also welcomed at that service were Diana Pinchin (Lay Worker - Pastoral) and Dulcie Batten (Lay Worker - Admin) both of which will be helping Margaret in her new role of Circuit Superintendent.

**Paul, Rebecca and their two children, Amèlie and Matilda** were "officially" welcomed to Martin Way last Sunday, 14th September, at a "Welcome Tea" which provided an informal time together where we got to know them a little better and they us.

# HARVEST SUPPER

**Saturday 4th October 6.30 for 7pm**



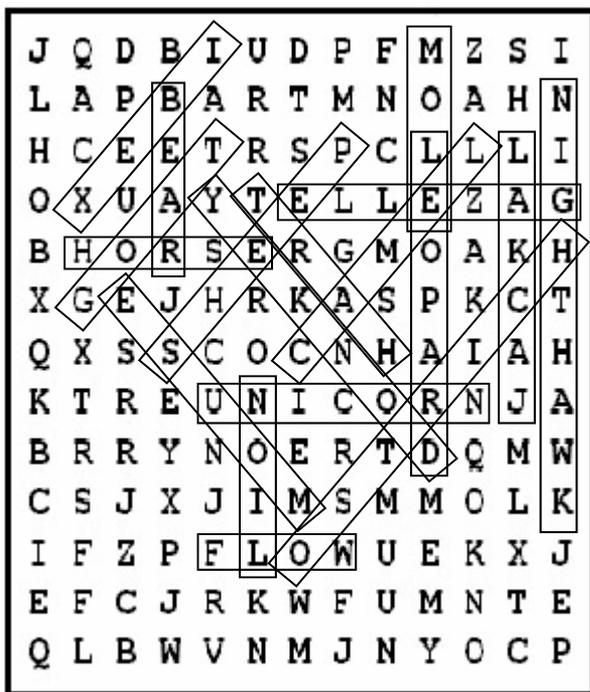
Tickets are available for our Harvest Supper and Barn Dance. They are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for the under 16's.

Come along and enjoy a good meal and work it off afterwards, dancing to Ruxley's own band - "Ouch". If you don't want to dance - no problem - come anyway and enjoy the food and company.

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## PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

Solution to the  
Animals in the Bible  
Word Search from  
last month's  
Newsletter



Items for the **November Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,  
(email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 19th October** at the latest