



Team News

Beaminster Blackdown Broadwindsor
Burstock Chedington Drimpton
Hooke Mapperton Melplash Mosterton
Netherbury Salway Ash Seaborough
South Perrott Stoke Abbott Toller Porcorum

JUNE 2020



Springtime at Mapperton. Photo by Steve Lannin.

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JUNE'S EDITION OF TEAM NEWS

Dear Readers,

A decision on what format the June edition of the *Team News* should take had to be made at the end of April. A conversation between myself, the *Team News* editors, Creeds and the Church Office was held, and I had to base any decisions on the Government advice at that time, which was still that we should stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives, that movement between places should only take place as a matter of emergency, and that we should not be visiting each other. As with any crisis situation, changes in advice take place and it was not until Wednesday 13 May that some of these instructions were relaxed.

I took further soundings from around the villages and it seemed that many were still not happy to deliver the magazine through doors for this month and some villages suggested that they were still not happy at the time to collect from a central point. I also sought the advice from our Team Health & Safety Advisor who clarified my thinking in so much as, whilst individuals have a responsibility for their own safety, I have a responsibility to safeguard those working on behalf of the church, which includes all volunteers.

In the light of those adjustments made in the Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons relaxing travel and contact we will again seek the opinions of village collectors and deliverers, and hopefully we can return to normal with a full printed copy of *Team News* for July.

I thank you all and our advertisers for your support and understanding at this time.

David Baldwin

So yes, we are still online. Since, however, our friends at Creeds are back to full functionality, we are pleased to be able to take advantage of their expertise to format the magazine in a rather more recognisable manner.

Thus, for instance, we see the return of our front cover, tailpiece, village and club logos, and plenty of other familiar features. Some stalwart elements are still absent, of course, because they serve no real purpose while we stay quarantined. We have also tried hard, as before, to avoid publication of individuals' contact details, except when specifically requested for inclusion. One obvious benefit for us all is that colour is free online, so online readers are getting a brighter magazine for a little longer.

We are conscious of the fact that you will be reading this in a variety of ways on a variety of devices. It is always a challenge to design something that will work equally well across the board. We have decided to modify the standard dual-column layout while we remain online-only, thereby enabling you to scroll or swipe in the same direction throughout.

We will undoubtedly revert to the traditional pattern in full once the print runs are re-instated. We trust you will find these temporary adjustments acceptable in the circumstances.

Ed

PRINTED COPY

If you are reading this, it will be online.

I remember some time ago, with the advent of Kindle, that it was thought that books would cease to exist in printed form before too long, but this has not proved to be the case. It seems to be true for newspapers, as news moves online and newspapers struggle for circulation numbers, but not for books.

There is nothing like having a book in your hand: it's portable, mostly lightweight; I like the cover designs, the print, the whole feeling of having the book in my hands and turning the pages, seeing how many pages I have left to go; and the worst bit for many people when I tell them this, I always read the end first!

It is not the same with a book online.

I have found the same to be true of the *Team News* online; I am glad we have it as an option, but do you know, I like delivering the freshly printed copies that have a new smell to them; I get to walk round the whole village. I like to sit in a quiet corner and catch up on all that is going on in the area; I have my favourite sections and look for them first.

So, although I am a modern person in some ways, give me back the printed copy and I will be a happier person with my armchair half-hour of all the news, views and opinions in our little bit of England!

Rosemary Thorpe



Team Page

The address of the Beaminster Team's website is <http://www.beaminsterteamchurches.org>

 *The Rector writes...*

One of the claims of our modern era is that humankind has come of age and has accepted responsibility for themselves and their environment. They are no longer at the mercy of circumstances. Until, that is, something goes wrong; then we start looking to apportion blame!

The first page of the bible represents God as giving us this authority: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over every living thing.' We are now responsible for the world we live in, for the kind of society we are creating, and we can only get a united, caring world by working together.

Working together we have done some wonderful things: rivers have been diverted and dammed; deserts irrigated; epidemics sometimes prevented; shuttles take us round the earth and to the moon; populations can be controlled; physical organs can be transplanted; lives cloned; expectation of life is increased; pain controlled; death postponed - some even hope to abolish it. So today's humanity is tempted to think that they are all-sufficient and have no need to depend on higher powers. They think we can do without God.

Through radio and television we gain a knowledge of the world and other people; we begin to realise the darker side of the global picture - wars, slums, widespread hunger, poverty and disease, racial and homophobic prejudice, stateless and homeless refugees, overcrowded prisons, pollution, pornography, research restricted, hospital wards closed...

None of these is God's will, they are human works. We may have come of age intellectually and technologically, but has our spiritual development kept pace? Saint Paul said that all these things are the birthpangs of a new order. Let us hope he was right.

We live in a time of tremendous change at this very moment, when individual neighbourliness is being challenged to grow into corporate responsibility. We are becoming more compassionate and generous in times of disaster and emergency, which has been wonderful to witness. However, when the present pandemic is over, which might be in the distant future, will we have learnt a new order in which these emergencies need not arise again?

There are voices which tell us that history will judge us. For people of faith there is the more solemn thought that we are answerable to God, the Creator, Rescuer, Inspirer and Judge of all.

*David Baldwin
Your Team Rector, Parish Priest and friend*

FROM THE REGISTERS

All weddings and baptisms remain suspended at this time.

THE DEPARTED: *'I am the resurrection and the life'*

20 April	Bridport	Susan Patricia HUNT (ashes interred at Melplash)
4 May	Beaminster	James Newington BEENY
8 May	Beaminster	Edith May HAMPSON
13 May	Beaminster	Margaret Jill HUNT

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Team Rector: The Reverend Canon David Baldwin, 862150, revdavidbaldwin@gmail.com (day off Friday)

Team Vicar: The Reverend Jo Neary, 867816, revneary@gmail.com (day off Friday)

Team Curate: The Reverend Fiona Beale, 867281, revfionabeale@gmail.com (day off Thursday)

Church Office: beaminsterteam@gmail.com (the office itself is closed at the moment, but Anne is working from home and can receive emails there)

Team News Editors: teamnews.eds@gmail.com (this is currently the only way to submit copy for the magazine; the duty editor will endeavour to acknowledge receipt as quickly as possible)

KEEP UP THE CONTACT!

Thank you to those who have been in contact with us via email, phone and social media. It is lovely to hear from you and respond to your suggestions.

Jo Neary

ONLINE WORSHIP

We now have a regular pattern of worship online.

- Daily reflections on Facebook and Instagram.
- Weekly prayer meeting on Zoom on Thursday at 7.00pm.
- Weekly Sunday worship on our website www.beaminsterteamchurches.org and Facebook.
- Weekly Collective worship for schools available on our website and sent out through our schools.
- Weekly RevChat available on the website, Facebook and YouTube.
- Monthly Messy Church at 4.00pm on the 2nd Saturday of the month via Facebook live. Join us on 13 June for our next session.

In addition we have Church Coffee at 10.00am every Sunday via Zoom, which is an easy-to-use video conferencing app or software for your computer. The link to Zoom is on our weekly Worship at Home section of the website. Just download Zoom from the website zoom.us or via your app store, then click the link and you should be able to see and hear us. It isn't a perfect situation: sound and video quality can be tricky, particularly if your internet connection isn't fast – but it gives us some opportunity to meet face to face.

A huge thank you to Harry who runs our website and edits our weekly videos and to Anne who sends out all our communications. We would be lost without them.

Jo Neary

WEEKLY WORSHIP SHEET

We have just started sending out a weekly worship sheet which can be printed out and distributed to people who do not have an internet connection. This is sent out every week from the office. Contact beaminsterteam@gmail.com to receive one. The idea is that you might print out a copy for a neighbour and pop it through their door.

Jo Neary

BEAMINSTER FOOD BANK

The Food Bank continues to operate to support those who might be facing financial problems during this pandemic. You can self-refer to the foodbank; just ring 01308 861030 and leave your details. A food parcel can be prepared for you and you can arrange to collect or it can be delivered. If you have any problem accessing the foodbank or if you know people who would like support but are afraid to ask, please do put them in touch with me on 01308 867816.

Jo Neary

PICKING UP AND PUTTING DOWN



A colleague from another diocese set her congregation a challenge. She invited them to find two pebbles. The first pebble represents something from lockdown that has been positive that they would like to carry forward into life after lockdown. The other pebble represents something that they would like to leave behind and not return to. The pebbles could refer to our lives, or perhaps something in our church life. I wonder what your pebbles might be? Currently I would like to keep the practice of daily exercise and walking with my family. I would like to

leave behind rushing around and always jumping in the car for short unnecessary journeys. In terms of church life, I want to take forward a slower pace of life that allows for more prayer, reading and reflection. I would like to leave behind evening meetings. It is likely that my views might change as the months progress, but it has given me food for thought. I would love to hear your reflections.



Jo Neary



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BEAMINSTER CHURCH ECO REPORT

As I write this we are six weeks into lockdown. We are all wondering how it will unlock and what changes there will be. It is our opportunity to change the way we live to help in achieving our country's goal of carbon reduction. What a joy to have cleaner air to breathe, to hear the increased bird song, to enjoy a walk in the lovely countryside that surrounds us and gaze at the spring flowers & blossom! We are blessed indeed to live here. Our thoughts go out to those in overcrowded blocks of flats in inner cities, those who are losing their jobs, those who have lost loved ones in difficult circumstances and those who are experiencing increased abuse.

It is a chance and time for thinking differently, innovation of new technologies working for the good of the environment, less consumerism, reduction in flying, etc. We have discovered new ways to communicate using our computers and phones for meetings and keeping in touch with family and friends. We have discovered new dedication in caring for others. We have applauded the NHS and other essential workers each Thursday evening as we join in the nation's appreciation by clapping, ringing of bells and banging of saucepans!

Our plans are going ahead for the tentatively titled 'Community, Climate & Wildlife Day--a West Dorset Road Show', at the moment booked for Saturday 17 October.

Gillian Perrott

BEAMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Unfortunately, there is little to report on any recent activities since lockdown and only one item to inform you of in the future. This being, fingers crossed, we shall re-convene in September at our usual venue, Beaminster Public Hall, at 7.30pm to hear a talk on Sedums and Stonecrops by Martin Young. As I am compiling this in May, anything could happen between then and now, but we will try to keep you informed of any developments. Meanwhile enjoy your gardens, take some pictures and stay safe!

Celia Rus

BEAMINSTER WI



Here we are teetering between lethargy and lock down. Is it worth putting the vacuum away or even getting it out in the first place. After all there is no-one to see and tut!

We do not know when we will all meet up again. We are taking advice from the DFWI and the NFWI but we think it will be quite a long, long time, perhaps after we have all been vaccinated.

Cherry and I hope you are all OK and finding ways to Skype, Zoom or even Whatsapp family and friends. Tonight we are dressing up and acting in a murder mystery on Skype with the family!

We send everyone a big hug and hope you are all keeping safe and well. Doing the garden, digging the weeds, who can ask for anything more? Best wishes from us both.

Bea Fox-Collins, Co-President (still!)

1st BEAMINSTER SCOUT GROUP



Scouting is alive in Beaminster! Although no face-to-face Scouting, many of the young people are engaged with badge work at home. Some have gained a Nights Away badge through camping with their families in their gardens. Adam has been creative by making face masks – this covers a multitude of badges. Lexi and Harley have built a bug hotel, this will go towards their

Environmental Conservation badge, and their Adventure Challenge. Spencer, a Scout and a student at Kingston Maurward, has also made a bug house! Bobby, having moved on to Scouts, has bought a poncho for the cooler campfire evenings, and he is sewing his Cub badges on to it – a mammoth job for you, Bobby! As the days go on without proper Scouting taking place, we may try and create some meetings for the young people via Zoom. We have already had a group Executive meeting in this way. Watch this space!



If anyone is interested in joining us in our 'Scouting at home', or when we return, please contact me.

Joy Edwards, GSL, 01308 862055



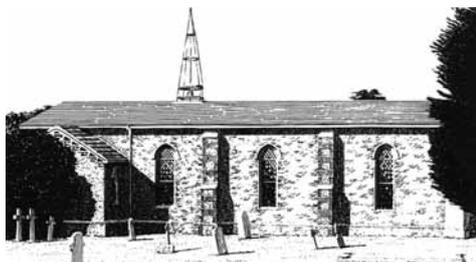
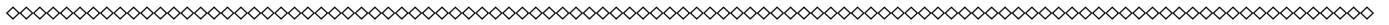
THE LIVING CHURCHYARD

We are so saddened by the death of Jim Beeny. He spent so much time in the churchyard, not only with us volunteers on a Thursday – so helpful, so reliable. We will truly miss him. Thank you, Jim.

The volunteers start tidying now the weather is favourable. I am incapacitated and can no longer garden on Thursday, so have been relegated to coffee maker. So we are now two gardeners short, in dire need of other helpers. Although volunteers, the churchyard gives us so much satisfaction and enjoyment. The other helpers are such a nice crowd who would welcome new colleagues. Please consider joining us for a couple of hours on a Thursday at 10.00am. Enjoy a coffee! Welcome!

I had a wander on Thursday evening. The churchyard looked pristine. David had cut grass, the memorial corner looked so tidy and cared for. I made time to sit and stare. Do wander around your own corner! Relax! Enjoy!

Joan Moverley



BLACKDOWN

VILLAGE EDITOR: HELEN DOBLE

BLACKDOWN NEWS

Blackdown Hill has proved popular with walkers during the lockdown, although the roads have been quieter. The lovely spring weather has also helped the grass grow well, which has kept Philip busy, who is still mowing the churchyard, and now with silaging in full flow, Blackdown roads will not be quiet for long. Although it was difficult to mark VE Day, it was lovely to see Broadwindsor and some of Blackdown had plenty of Union Jacks flying.

Helen Doble

SERGEANT PILOT REGINALD MARK PERRY

By the time VE day was celebrated in the Broadwindsor area, twelve local men had lost their lives. One of the first was Sergeant Pilot Reginald Mark Perry of 73 Squadron, whose Hawker Hurricane Mk 1 was one of two shot down during operations on 22 December 1939, northeast of Metz, in air-to-air combat with five Messerschmitt Bf 109s. He is remembered with honour at the French National Cemetery, Metz.

Reginald was born in 1914 when his mother was 45, the youngest of 14 children of George Perry and his wife Phillis Tolman *née* Hunt. Only 11 reached adulthood. When his mother, a native of Broadwindsor, was 14, she was a servant to the Dimond family of Hurst Farm, Blackdown. After his parents married at Netherbury in 1885 they moved around the area, living variously at Luppit, Stoke Knapps and by the time his father died in 1928, having been a farm labourer for most of his life, he had been the landlord of the Cross Keys Inn, Broadwindsor for several years. His mother died at the home of his sister Hilda Meech in Queen Camel in 1948, having lived for many years in West Street, Broadwindsor, where another sister Beatrice Legg, formerly Sampson, lived with her husband George, who had previously been married to their late sister Olive.

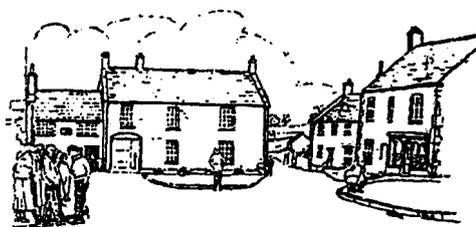
Reginald joined the RAF before the war and married Kathleen Pashley in Surrey. They were together for only fourteen months before he was killed.

A memorial service was held for Reginald at Broadwindsor Church in January 1940, attended by his widow, relatives and friends, including Sir Reginald and Lady Pinney, with Mrs J Frampton at the organ. Broadwindsor Boy Scouts, choir and bellringers were also represented along with Mrs Skyrme and Miss Peters from Beaminster Grammar School.



Pilots of RAF 73 Squadron around the Duty Office dugout at Rouvres, Normandy. Sgt RM Perry is on the back row, first left.

Helen Doble



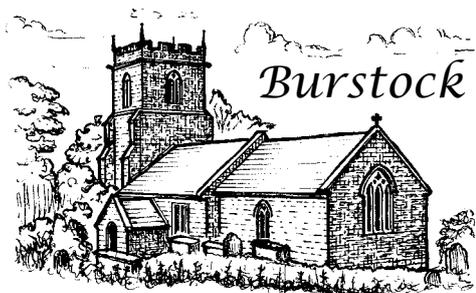
BROADWINDSOR

VILLAGE EDITOR: CAMILLE NEWALL

VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

The village made a great effort on VE Day. Bunting and flags proudly displayed. Two minutes silence observed, then Churchill's speech and WW2 music at lunch time from The Square. There was dancing (at a distance of course) and we noticed a couple of land girls. I have to say that I found the placing of the wreath by Prince Charles accompanied only by Camilla and the view of the lone piper on the White Cliffs of Dover very moving, almost more than a Grand Parade in Whitehall.

Camille Newall



VILLAGE EDITOR: KATE PENNEY

BURSTOCK REPORT

Friday 8 May was the 75th Anniversary of VE Day and although due to the present situation there were no community celebrations, the flags were out in Burstock to commemorate the day.



We remember the villagers who fought and lost their lives in action in World War II, Maurice WF Loosemore and Harry Frampton, who were laid to rest at St Manvieu War Cemetery in France.

Kate Penney

FROM THE BURSTOCK BOOK 1869-1870

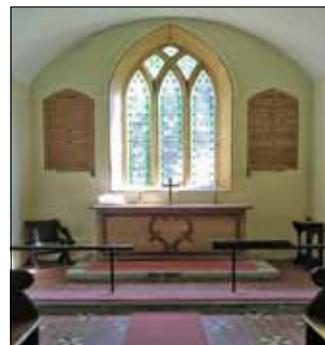
The altar and prayer desk had been placed in the church some few years ago by the Revd. John Bragge and were of excellent wood (a pollard oak cut down in Sadborrow Park) and fairly ecclesiastical in style. The altar cloth was of handsome red velvet. A new Communion service book had been procured for the church in 1866.

A Colonel Bragge gave a Carrara marble font to St Andrew's Burstock which he had brought from Italy whilst on his marriage tour.

In January 1872 Capt. Bragge sent over 50 young chestnut trees for the vicar to plant in the hedges about wherever he should think them an ornament. The Vicar had in a letter a few months before asked Capt. Bragge for some forest trees, for the purpose and Capt. Bragge probably chose this kind by recollecting two fine trees near the Manor House.

The Bragge family lived at Sadborrow and were owners of the land and benefactors to the parish of Burstock.

Kate Penney



Drimpton

VILLAGE EDITOR: NORMAN MARSDEN

OPENING OF DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL PLAYGROUND AND FOOTBALL PITCH

The village hall committee are very keen to open up the playground and football pitch as soon as possible, but advice from the Parish Council and Dorset Council is that we remain closed for the time being. I will inform everyone as soon as this situation changes, which we anticipate being quite soon, and will put a notice on the car park gate explaining our safety procedures.

Lesley Tibballs, Secretary, Village Hall Committee

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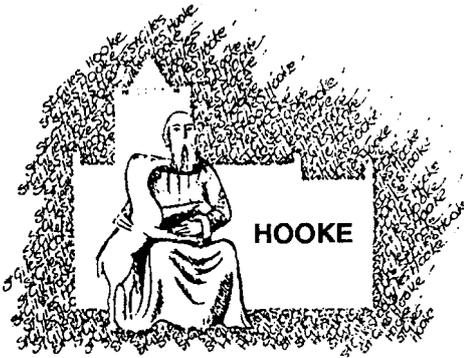
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VILLAGE EDITOR: **JOY EDWARDS**

VE CELEBRATIONS

Friday 8 May brought VE celebrations to Hooke. Just prior to the start, a huge number of honey bees started swarming near the Triangle by the junction at the centre of the village. Fortunately a new resident, Martin who is a bee keeper, managed to catch them. However, we moved our celebrations further along the road just to be on the safe side!

Giant VE letters created by James Wallbridge and Kelly were placed on the



Triangle (*see photo*). These were decorated with streamers, flowers and messages. Various memories from the war were also pinned to the village notice board.

Later in the day a celebration was held by local villagers. This included Kevin Wallbridge reading thoughts of Hooke during the War Years from his father Bernard Wallbridge. Bernard is the only person living in the village today who lived in Hooke during the war.

We also raised a glass to those who lost their lives in the war, and sang wartime songs led by Helen Taylor .

Joy Edwards

ST GILES CHURCH

Sadly, our church is ‘out of bounds’ for services, but the churchyard is kept beautifully, abundant with wild and cultivated flowers. Thanks to Brian for tending the churchyard.

Joy Edwards

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Hooke has good community spirit, and many people have been donating surplus plants and seeds. Hooke Court has been donating salad foods which they have grown for their residential visitors, but sadly, haven’t been allowed to come. The village has also been supporting the Clap for Carers on Thursday evenings. Thanks to Fiona Boggis, our Parish Meeting Clerk, who has co-ordinated these opportunities, together with the VE Celebrations. Sheelagh Fowler has been making more masks for people in the village, as well as continuing to make them for the carers in the Beaminster and Bridport communities. Thank you so much!

Joy Edwards



MAPPERTON

ALL SAINTS

VILLAGE EDITOR: **CAROLINE SANDWICH**

THE SCENE

The Mapperton scene in mid-May. Gardens full of colour, chestnuts blooming. Cold wind, bright sunshine. The sound of an occasional car or farm trailer in the lane to Melplash. Eight newborn Jacob’s lambs in the field – five survived. We should be happy, but we are arguably living through our greatest crisis since the last war. Many are not getting enough to eat; most of us are isolated. Churches are closed. The countryside looks its best and we keep saying we are lucky. But we want it back in full measure, and the freedom to enjoy it.

John Montagu

PARISH AGM?

The Mapperton Parish Meeting held its first virtual meeting. Except it didn’t, because Haisy our chair was unable to dial in. Gilly Puzey emerged as our IT expert and about ten people appeared on six iPhones. Under WhatsApp rules only eight people could take part. It was the AGM but no one could be elected. We were going to report that we were still being pursued by independent auditors for fees we knew nothing about, and that we had received a grant towards the cost of meals for those in need provided by the cafe. But all this was not even virtual! All we could do was decide to meet again the following week.

John Montagu



VILLAGE EDITOR:
ANNEMARIE BISHOP-SPANGENBERG

MELPLASH NEWS

Very quiet, less traffic and just a wave if you see someone from the village. We are lucky however with the Half Moon doing take-away and Sunday roasts. All I can say is please support our local!

Sadly at present churches are still in lockdown. However we do receive a weekly update, which I have put in our church notice board. Like the *Team News* is on the Team website.

You might be interested to read the final article in Salway Ash's section too.

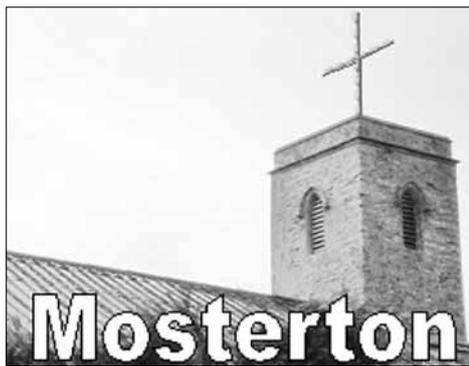
Annemarie Bishop-Spangenberg

FROM THE OLD VICARAGE

Meet Daisy! She is a funny old duck, nearly 18 years old and always prefers to be with chickens. Partly my fault, as I put this duck egg under a broody hen, a lovely motherly bantam called Dolly, who is always broody. I thought she might give up sitting on just one egg for four weeks. A chicken egg hatches after *three* weeks but Dolly sat and sat till Daisy hatched. She was lovely and Dolly was very protective, but had problems with her baby because all Daisy wanted to do was sit in their drinking bowl and refused to scratch the soil. When she was older she jumped in the pond. You should have heard Dolly, having a near heart attack while Daisy was swimming happily. The problem was Daisy never became a proper duck or chicken. Always slept with the chickens, shooed off amorous male ducks but fell in love with Napoleon the cockerel. For a long time she tried to snuggle under her mum but mum being a small chicken and Daisy becoming rather big, poor Dolly ended up sitting on top of her, till Dolly became broody again and at last had eight chicks. She was not interested in Daisy any more. For a while Daisy moped about. She still thinks she is a chicken and sleeps with the chickens. Now old and grey she has taken refuge in one of the cages, has mobility problems, and you cannot give a duck a zimmer frame or walking stick, so she mooches about, eats well, occasionally dips her face in water and just observes the chickens. However every morning my other twelve ducks visit her for a little while. I find that quite amazing.



Annemarie Bishop-Spangenberg



VILLAGE EDITOR: **BARBARA GOODE**

MOSTERTON (NON-)RAMBLING CLUB

Trusting all members are keeping safe and well in these unprecedented times!

Our programme for April, of course, fell victim to the Beast from the East, which has also put paid to the plans for June. This includes the Dorothy Yates memorial outing on Wednesday 3 June to Killerton, which has been cancelled by the National Trust. Hopefully this can be re-scheduled for 2021.

Mike has kindly volunteered to produce a members' newsletter, the first edition circulated by email on May 6; this contains a link by which Mike hopes to receive many contributions for future editions.

Roger Hudspith

1st MOSTERTON SCOUT GROUP



Well, the world has almost changed unrecognisably since we last wrote about what we were doing at Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. With the arrival of Coronavirus and the lockdown we obviously had to stop all meetings and visits, a trip to Crealy for the Beavers, a weekend camp at PGL for the Cubs, along with all sorts of other events, camps and activities which had been planned.

Some Beavers took part in a virtual sleepover where they had a number of challenges to do: pack a bag as though they were going away overnight; build a den at home or pitch a tent in the garden; sleep in the shelter; build a campfire (real or virtual); help with cooking a meal; and take part in either an art project, cookie bake-off or scavenger hunt. It gave them the opportunity to earn some badges; the ones who took part looked as though they had great fun from

the photos. They've also had the chance to complete some of the more in-depth badges which take a longer time.

We will be going back to Scouting, but we're just not sure when that will happen. We're a long way from anything like normal at the moment. In the meantime, we wish everyone well and hope we can all get outside together soon to fully enjoy the beautiful countryside!

Gill Collier

MOSTERTON GARDENING CLUB



Although we have of course had no meetings since the last edition of *Team News*, members have stayed in touch through emails and, as you would have seen in Sue Burnand's article, shared photos of their gardens.

Well it certainly has been good gardening weather and the rain most welcome too, yet it doesn't seem that long ago that we were begging it to stop!

Three of our members live in a close of bungalows off Orchard Way and on 8 May, along with the other residents there (and the rest of the UK), celebrated the 75th VE Anniversary, by having afternoon tea together but apart. All the lawns had been mowed and each home was adorned with bunting and flags. Tables and chairs were placed at the end of the gardens, whilst still keeping to the social distancing rules, and we all had a most enjoyable time. Everyone agreed that another party would be appropriate when the pandemic is over.

All club meetings and garden visits have been cancelled until further notice, but do please keep sending your garden photos to Sue.

Lastly it was with great sadness that we as a club heard that Neil Lovesey of Picket Lane Nursery had died. Neil had given us some interesting and entertaining talks over the years and he will be greatly missed.

Mo Sullivan



NETHERBURY

VILLAGE EDITOR: PAUL RADFORD

VILLAGE NEWS

Netherbury seems to have gone very quiet as people get on with coping with a seemingly endless lockdown. It is hard to judge, living as I do a good mile away in Oxbridge, but I only go into the village when walking the dogs and then it always seems to be eerily empty as if everyone has headed off to their second homes in London. (Sorry for the feeble joke). I have occasionally heard church bells in the distance and the sound of some hooting during the Thursday evening 'Clap for Carers' but nothing else. I did spot three chaps enjoying a game of cricket in the playing field the other day, bending the rules ever so slightly but plainly having a little fun.

I gather there was some singing of *Land of Hope and Glory* on the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The following day, 9 May, I embraced the 21st century by hosting a Zoom party for Channel Islanders who wanted to celebrate the 75th anniversary of their liberation from Nazi rule. Most of those on the call were Guernsey men and women from Devon, Somerset and Dorset and they included one from Beaminster and a neighbour of mine in Oxbridge. Curious that my Oxbridge neighbour was also a neighbour of mine in Guernsey about 45 years ago though we did not know each other then.

Paul Radford

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 14 July | Village Lunch, Village Hall, 12.00 noon |
| 1 Aug | Summer show, Village Hall |
| 12-13 Sept | Open Gardens weekend |
| 18 Sept | Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm |
| 13 Oct | Village Lunch, Village Hall, 12.00 noon |
| 10 Nov | Village Lunch, Village Hall, 12.00 noon |
| 12 Dec | Christmas Supper, Village Hall. 7.00 for 7.30 pm |

IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS

Just a note regarding the weather over the past six months. From mid-September 2019 to mid-March 2020 I have recorded some 31.5 inches of rainfall in my gauge. You may be interested in the following details:

One inch of rain falling on an acre of land amounts to 100 tons. An acre of land is some 4,840 square yards, about the size of a football pitch. Most people have no idea about the size of an acre but are familiar with a football pitch. So, if 31.5 inches of rain has fallen over the period, this will amount to some 31,500 tons on each acre. I feel sure that many people will know from experience that their two-gallon watering can weighs some 20 pounds when full, as water weighs 10 pounds for each gallon. For those who are mathematical thinkers, it is now possible to calculate how many cans of water would be required to apply the total amount recorded.

By the way, 12 inches of snow equates to one inch of rainfall.

Thanks to gravity, all is drained away. Nature is truly wonderful.

A final thought: I get no time off for good behaviour since being locked up in my own home.

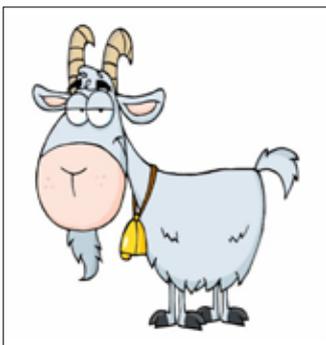
John Warren

NETHERBURY HISTORY WEBSITE ON THE WAY

Preparations have been going on for some months and now it can be finally revealed – a website devoted entirely to the history of Netherbury will shortly be launched. The site will contain articles, old photos, biographies of distinguished former residents, obituaries, census returns going back to 1841, parish records, house histories and much more. The site is the brainchild of Chris Whitmore who lives in St James Road and who set up a similar website when he lived in Glynde, Sussex. He has received help and advice from Beaminster and Bridport Museums, the Local History Centre in Bridport and the Dorset History Centre in Dorchester. I have been permitted a sneak preview and have submitted a potted history of my own house. I promise it will be a real treat for anyone interested in Netherbury and its past. More details will be announced shortly.

Paul Radford

PLAYING THE GOAT



The pandemic has reminded us all how precarious life is but a mundane domestic incident has made me realise how unexpected danger can lurk everywhere even if you are staying at home. I keep three goats and feed them a mix of cereals, pulses and molasses every morning in individual bowls. Yes, they are spoiled (but not spoilt). I went down to their 'goat palace' as usual one morning and found them on the veranda where they like to sunbathe (I did say they were spoiled). I always feed them inside their quarters and they usually head straight there as they are desperate to get stuck into their breakfast. But on this occasion, they would not budge from the veranda and began jostling me, as hungry goats do. Then I realised why. Haze, the biggest and greediest of the goats, seemed to be tied to the veranda railing with some twine and could not get free. The twine was wrapped twice round his neck and was tightening each time he tugged. But goats will literally die for their mix and he was plainly prepared to be throttled to death as he lunged for the bowls of fodder I was holding shoulder-high. As I tried to untangle the twine around his neck with one hand, I got caught up in a three-goat wrestling match for food during which the twine now wrapped itself tightly around my lower legs. I began to overbalance and had to release the bowls and drop them on to the veranda floor. The goats all lunged again, toppling me off my feet. I was now simultaneously alarmed that Haze was about to be strangled and that I could end up trampled under the rampaging hoofs of three marauding farm animals. My instinctive reaction of shouting at them had had no effect. Goats are intelligent creatures but lack great foresight and were not weighing up the possibility that if they trampled me to death there might not be any more breakfasts in the future. Amid panic, comes clarity (sometimes). I paused in my efforts to release Haze from being throttled and concentrated on freeing my legs, which was not easy. Once free myself, I was in a better position to loosen the twine around his neck and finally managed to disentangle it. He did not pause from guzzling during the entire process even though he was half-choking. That's two of us that might have kicked the bucket there, I told him ruefully. Luckily, goats' breakfast time is not usually quite so eventful.

Paul Radford



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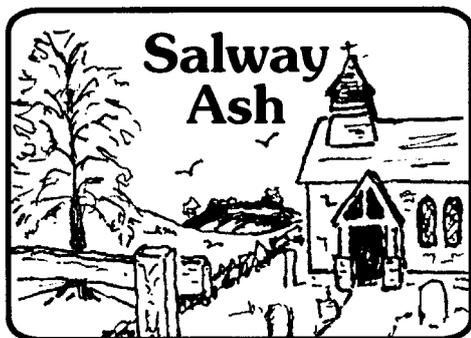
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VILLAGE EDITOR: ROSEMARY THORPE

SALWAY ASH 100 CLUB

The winners of our big Easter Draw at the end of April were:
£35 Brian Rumble (no. 59)
£20 Tom & Lyn Wells (no. 95)
£15 Sylvia Larder (no. 23)

Anne Woodward

SALWAY ASH LADIES GROUP

As you can imagine it has been business as usual, lockdown-style, for our group. Lyn is still giving us puzzling things to do to keep us guessing. We are all trying to keep in touch whilst staying apart. The occasional meeting

when passing a garden or out walking in the lanes is a treat.

I have been busy sewing face masks for my family, who are scattered throughout the UK. The task has been interesting, as I have resurrected my mother's Singer treadle sewing machine instead of using my electric model. Thus, I manage a little bit of exercise whilst I sew. Using the machine has brought back memories of dresses made for me when I was very young, each having to have a hanky pocket. My mother was a talented seamstress and made most of her clothes and mine. She also used the machine to alter clothes and never wasted any material. I hope she'd be pleased that I'm using cotton fabric that has had a former existence as a pillowcase or duvet cover to line the masks.



The members of the Ladies Group are looking forward to a time when we can welcome you to our meetings and coffee mornings, in whatever form they take. Until then, stay safe and well.

Lorraine Parnell

REPORT FROM SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL, MELPLASH, AFFILIATED WITH SALWAY ASH SCHOOL

My notions that home schooling would be a wholesome experience comprising of formative activities such as discovering an early love for Shakespeare and the Theory of Relativity were quickly dispelled within the first morning. Instead of the anticipated atmosphere of calm scholarly reflection, a state of barely controlled chaos took over.

The school day can start surprisingly early, with pupils discovered at work shortly after 7.00am completing online Maths tasks, participating in a garden bird count and making enquires as to when the kitchen will be serving the morning meal. Secondary school pupils, evidence suggests, start much later in the day, with a 10.00am start considered unreasonably early.

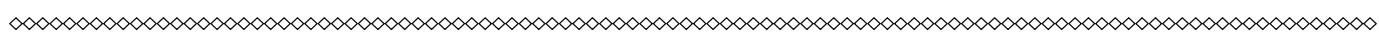
Fortunately, the term has had many sunny days, and the timetable included many sessions of PE including gymnastics and countless competitive games of kick-the-can.

There has been some variety in the curriculum.

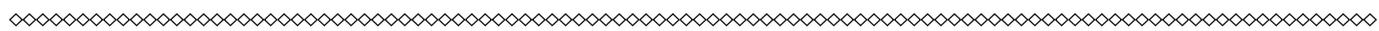
In Environmental Studies a dead shrew was found in the garden; it was identified and then buried. A week later an impromptu Biology lesson was undertaken in which the role of maggots was explored. The importance of burying dead animals at sufficient depth was also discussed. Inter-year learning has been encouraged, with the older pupils assisting the younger pupils. It is not clear whether the Year 1 pupil's spectacularly high score in the times table app was entirely gained through independent ability.

The Food Technology subject was embraced with enthusiasm, with a prolific output of delicious cake. Baking has since been removed from the syllabus in the interest of everyone's waistlines.

Matt Best, supply teacher to Springfield School



No copy has been received this month from Seaborough.





South Perrott & Chedington

VILLAGE EDITORS
SOUTH PERROTT – JANE BAKER
CHEDINGTON – MIKE JOHNSON

SOUTH PERROTT NEWS

Welcome to the June edition! I'm finding it difficult to believe I was last in the office in March with my colleagues and although we are all catching up via Teams it still feels odd not to be seeing either them or family and friends face to face.

During uncertain times there are still some positive things happening. Every week the village have been coming out for the clap for carers, it is so nice to hear people banging pots and pans and remembering those on the front line of battling this horrible illness. We are lucky to live in such a lovely part of the country during lockdown. We must thank Peter Jones

for the weekly delivery of his pastries, keeping spirits up when people are stuck inside isolating; it's a massive effort every week and we are certainly very grateful to him for the hard work. Time with families has come to the forefront and we have grown to appreciate the smaller things in life, like tending the garden or reading. It's a good job we don't have a 'best garden' competition as I think it would be a close-run thing now!

Employers are now thinking about what needs to be put in place to get people back into the workplace, social distancing, staggering arrival of different teams, no shared equipment... It's a massive undertaking. It does seem likely that working from home will be in place for quite some time to come.

The PCC would like to thank Tim Bartlett for keeping the churchyard maintained during this time. At least when the church can be opened again it will be well kept. Also Ben Sabran is going to be performing some routine maintenance. It seems like a good time to get all the jobs done while all else is quiet.

Until next time, take care and stay safe everyone!

Jane Baker

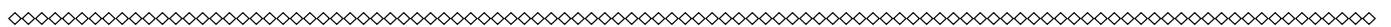
CHEDINGTON & SOUTH PERROTT GARDENING CLUB

The view from our front window is to the village pump, its stone trough set in a small raised garden and backed by stone walls, surmounted by shrubs and trees; and the area is an arena of conflict! Every morning in the period of breakfast blackbirds duel, jumping & fluttering from trough to shrub, retreating to trough, hopping anxiously from stone to stone, then charging back up to the top of the wall to disappear into the greenery offering a clash of yellow bills as they go. And in the garden there is conflict, for even now in the middle of May we have near gales and frost, the enemy of every early-bird gardener. Beans, potatoes and cucurbits all have to be protected or lost, another test of the gardeners tenacity!

Our present world conflict with Covid-19 virus is also testing that tenacity, but as with problems in the garden, we will persevere and hope to win the fight, we will meet again in our clubs, don't know when, but do know where, so hope to see you then. God bless and keep you safe.

Ivan Williams

P.S. Another conflict on the horizon in the shape of a drought.



VILLAGE EDITOR: INGRID HULL

2020 STREET FAIR CANCELLED – WHAT NEXT?

Sadly, we have had to make the decision that the 2020 Street Fair can't go ahead safely and so is cancelled. All the entertainers and external stallholders have been advised and rebooked for 2021.

We can all take a bit of a breather and in the New Year start afresh with planning the Street Fair on Saturday 17 July 2021. So what about 2020? It takes £1,500 to cover running costs for the village hall alone and the church also relies on the Street Fair contributions, so what could and do we want to do?

A few of us have come up with some relatively low-key ideas. It won't be possible to generate the level of income we would earn from the Street Fair but every little helps, and I suspect most of us would like to get involved in one or two community events – safely – with funds raised

supporting the church and village hall.

These are just ideas at this stage, but so far we have come up with a bake & produce sale, open gardens afternoon

with teas, a village quiz and a plant sale (June).

Alternatively, we could simply have a fund-raising village event for all of us and not involve 'outsiders' and worries about parking, but we would need to stump up some money ourselves! How about a ticketed 'damn the lockdown' village party that we can safely control? Perhaps some open gardens in the morning, a bake & produce sale and afternoon events like an auction of promises or village treasure hunt for entertainment? We could have music, drinks and a simple meal in the evening. We could dress up to make it an occasion. It would need good weather, but we could decide when to do it at the last moment.

Please can you let me know if you have any other thoughts or would like to get involved in helping to organise any or all of these. You can contact me on 867517 or catherineleech@me.com.

Catherine Leech

CAVIAR MYSTERY SOLVED

A few years ago I wrote in the *Team News* about finding caviar-looking spawn around the pond at the end of Anchor Lane. It looked like frog spawn but why was it spread on the banks? The mystery was solved when I heard Brett Westwood on Radio 4's *Open Country*. He was similarly puzzled by strands of 'caviar' on a fence beside a pond, but on returning the next morning he discovered buzzards waiting at the ready for frogs. Buzzards may hang lazily in the thermals but they are happy to come to ground to gorge on earthworms and, sadly, frogs.

During the sunny March we have just enjoyed I noticed lots of bee flies darting about and sticking their very long proboscises into the centre of the forget-me-not flower, bull's-eye every time. I was most intrigued and found out that they were parasitic on solitary bees and their name was *Bombylius major*. Again Brett Westwood lightened my darkness by explaining that these engaging little creatures have a crafty side. As they hover and dart, their two wings moving at a blur, they are looking for the holes in the ground where the solitary bee lays its eggs and once seen they unleash their own. The eggs mature into maggots which wriggle next to the bees' eggs and parasitise them. That may seem to be a loose way of doing things for so precise an insect but they have a chamber at the end of their abdomens and as they skim the ground they gather dust into it which adds ballast to their own eggs and helps with the aim.



Ingrid Hull

STOKE ABBOTT BOOK CLUB ZOOMS THROUGH LOCKDOWN

Oh, how we have missed our monthly gatherings at the New Inn but lockdown hasn't kept the Book Club down! Quickly after it was announced, we started fortnightly Zoom gatherings – not the same, of course (no cheesy chips) but wine was in evidence and we have even managed to chat about some books. Above all, it has been about the comfort and joy of seeing friends and neighbours (safely) and the chance to exchange news, views, concerns and opinion.

Everyone is welcome to Zoom in. We have some new dates and books for June and the first half of July, at which point we hope that normal service (*aka* an evening in the pub) will resume. On Thursday 11 June it's a classic: *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Brontë. Then it's *Maid* by Stephanie Land on July 9.

All Zoom chats are at 6.30pm and anyone can join in. Just let me know and we'll send you a Zoomvite (ouch!).

Catherine Leech (867517)

CATS AT THE CROFT



They are a lively foursome, hurtling around our pens, dropping toys in water bowls and starting a play fight by jumping on a distracted pen mate's head. Their stay with us is an extended one as normally we wouldn't have young cats that are ready for a new home in our pens for long. Normal, though, is being redefined for everyone, including animal charities.

Life events that can befall people from time to time led us to taking them into our care. It has become familiar to us, but for the people being separated from their pets it is a conflicting combination of emotions: relief that they will be cared for; and sadness that they are parted.

Those of us that enjoy life with pets have differing animals and routines but there is a commonality in the bonds we share and the joy in caring for them and appreciating their zest for life. For some the enforced isolation happens to have fallen at a time when they have lost a pet. They may have been hoping to find a new pet and to start building

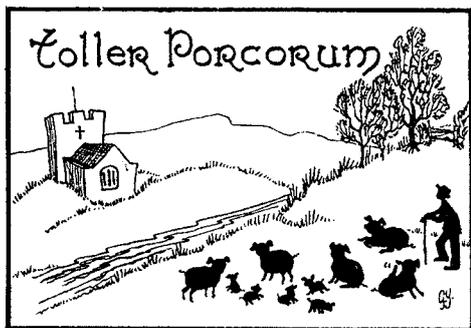
that bond before normal stopped being normal and the absence of a pet in the house became sharply apparent.

Nationally Cats Protection is working on a 'hands-free homing' process so that adoption can be restarted, and our branch is involved in these discussions. We feel the frustration of those who would love to adopt or have pets that need our help. We will find a way to get back to helping, and this may well bring permanent change.

Happily there are people waiting to adopt our four dynamic felines. Be assured, we are keeping them healthy and happy and they will be ready to go just as soon as we can.

See video clips of our cats on our branch Facebook page: facebook.com/cpyeovil.

Suzanne and Gareth Flux



VILLAGE EDITOR: JUDY MILLER

PLANT SALE

What a great success this was! There were some doubts that it should go ahead in the present circumstances, but everyone was very sensible and kept their distance. Many thanks go to Val Wallbridge, David and Jane Ennals and Judy Miller for all their input, and to everyone else who supplied plants, and of course to those who came and bought them. The amazing amount of £1,350 has (up to now) been raised. Well done to everyone! It is so encouraging to see that our village is pulling together still in these difficult times.

Rachel Miller

VIRTUAL (AT HOME) CREAM TEAS

Sunday 14 June. Home made scone cream and jam or cheese scones and pickle for two or four people!. £4 for sweet, 3.50 for savoury. Place your orders by Wednesday 10 June on 01300 321553 or email jstephenson87@gmail.com for a Zoom session. Collection or delivery between 11.00am and 1.00pm for a Zoom start at 3.00pm. Collection or delivery will be finalised nearer the time. All in aid of church funds.

Jo Stephenson



COVID-19 AND BUSINESS CLOSURES

When the Government brought in new business closure rules alongside social distancing, Local Authorities were given the responsibility to help ensure businesses complied with the new restrictions. Across Dorset, the Council's Trading Standards team have led on this with regard to non-food businesses, working together with environmental health officer colleagues focusing on food business. Not all businesses have had to close and there have understandably been concerns and questions as to what the closure rules mean. Working closely with environmental health colleagues Trading Standards have been advising businesses on the new closure rules as they have developed. Environmental health officers have also had responsibility for advising on social distancing measures within certain business premises that are still legally open but where concerns have been highlighted.

The new law gave us a range of enforcement powers and we have support from Dorset Police if needed. We were given a Penalty Notice option too but so far Dorset Council Trading Standards have not had to use them. The law will change and adapt as Government review what is and isn't working well, and it's likely to have changed since writing this article. Rest assured that Trading Standards will continue to adapt too, fulfilling our duties in helping keep businesses trading legally and people safe.

Rebecca Phillips, Trading Standards

HARMONY CENTRE



Many more people locally have been using mental health support services provided by Bridport's Harmony Centre in recent weeks. Almost a quarter of adults living under lockdown in the UK have felt loneliness according to the Mental Health Foundation Longitudinal Study. And although its doors have had to be closed, the Harmony Centre can still be reached by telephone, email and social media during the Coronavirus pandemic. Its services can be reached by telephone (07597 379290 or via the Bridport Community Support Helpline 01308 808900), via email: harmonyinfo@harmonydropin.org.uk and via Facebook.

Tegwyn Jones

DISTINCTLY DORSET

THE SOUND OF MUSIC THROUGH THE SQUARE WINDOW

A uniquely Dorset response to lockdown made headlines around the world when music started blasting out of a window every day in the village square of Broadwindsor. The residents did not complain though – they just asked for it to be louder. Local journalist Margery Hookings explains how it started.

About a week before lockdown was announced, I could see what was coming so decided to keep an online journal about life in the time of coronavirus in Broadwindsor. I'd been keeping a blog about village life for many years, which turned into a weekly column for the world's oldest weekly magazine, *The People's Friend*, after its editor found my words online. But earlier this year, I decided to give up the blog because I didn't really have much to say. And besides, I was saving the best bits for *The Friend*.

And then in March, all that changed. I realised I did have something to write about – the impending lockdown and how it affected me and my neighbours. However, when lockdown came a week later, I felt that I wanted to do more, to have a direct impact on the community I've lived in the heart of for nearly 20 years. I've been involved in many things in the village over the past two decades, as a former secretary of the Comrades Hall Management Committee, as a founding member of the village fun group and through interviewing people for audio projects such as Dorset Farm Radio and landscape trails.

Just before lockdown I was taking my granddaughter to work experience with an electrical engineering company in Weymouth. As she's 14, we listened to Radio 1 in the mornings instead of my usual habit of tuning into the Today programme on Radio 4. I was impressed with the way in which the DJ, Greg James, was keeping up listeners' spirits and then again when I got home and listened to Lauren Laverne on my radio station of choice, BBC 6 Music. I'd also been uplifted by a playlist on Spotify that a friend of mine had shared with me. Then I heard about The One O'Clock Wave which had just started at Bothenhampton. Neighbours would come out of their doors at the allotted time and wave to each other.

The three things – the radio request shows, the playlist and the daily wave – melded in my mind and I had an idea. I rang my neighbour and told her to listen from her window at one o'clock. I took my laptop upstairs, plugged it into a speaker and played the theme tune to *The Sound of Music* out of the window into the village square as loud as it would go. There followed *My Favourite Things* and *Do Re Mi*. Two other windows opened.

"I was going to do this every day at one o'clock," I shouted to another neighbour. "What do you think?" There was a firm thumbs-up and I went on like that for a couple of weeks, with friends and neighbours requesting via social media different songs each day, preceded by the call-to-arms theme of *The Sound of Music*. And then I was walking my dogs one morning and I came across a couple who lived further up the village. "About your music..." the husband said. And I thought, here it comes, my first complaint. "We can't hear it where we live!"

So I had a chat with a professional musician friend, Simon Emmerson, who lives locally. He lent me his speakers and mixing desk which, luckily, I'd used before when he and I had done New Year's Eve discos in the White Lion pub. So, about three weeks into lockdown, villagers all over Broadwindsor could hear the music and set their clocks by when Julie Andrews began her classic "The Hills Are Alive" warble. The story spread, with it appearing in *The Bridport News*, closely followed by BBC Dorset's breakfast show, BBC Spotlight, Radio 5 Live and then the World Service programme, *Newsday*.



Apart from one lady in Aylesbury who read the article in the *Bridport News* and was dismayed at the idea of destroying the peace and quiet, the feedback locally has been terrific, and people were very quick to tell her that on social media.

I've had messages and songs requests from people all over the village, who say they love *The Sound of Music Through The Square Window* because it brings everyone together and gives them hope that once again there will be fun times to be had in Broadwindsor. We've had ballads, VE Day numbers, rock and roll, jazz, punk and world music – a whole range of songs reflecting the wide taste of our residents. At one o'clock every day, familiar village faces of all ages appear out of windows, in doorways, on the pavements and on the village green, all at a safe distance from each other, dancing and waving and enjoying themselves.

This is a very close-knit community and I think we'll be even closer when all this is over. We'll get together for a post-lockdown party and the music played through the window will form the playlist.

Margery Hookings (photo by James Dawson)

Beaminster MUSEUM

I wonder what the oldest *natural* thing is in your home? I wonder what the oldest *man-made* thing is in your home?



The oldest item in our collection is in the fossil section, a large, heavy ammonite from 170 million years ago. It lived under the shallow, tropical sea where Horn Park Quarry is, between Beaminster and Broadwindsor.

Our oldest man-made artefact is one of three hand-axes from 500,000 years ago, found at Hursey Common near Broadwindsor. It was made by pre-Neanderthal people, hunting animals, gathering nuts and fruit in order to survive, whilst avoiding being lunch for the woolly rhinoceros, bears, and hyenas which were also hungry.



Each of these items has a fascinating story to tell, as do many other items in the Museum's collections.

Back to you; with time on your hands at present, what items in your house have special stories to tell? Have you written down any stories or details associated with objects? If you have jewellery passed down through the family, have you written down who they belonged to? If you have old photos, have you written names lightly on their reverse for succeeding generations to see?

Beaminster Museum is still closed during June, but we really look forward to seeing you when we are able to open and show you our collections in real life. As we will be starting building our extension later this year, we can't say when that will be unfortunately!

Bid Wheeler

BRIDPORT CATHOLIC PARISH

"It's just like Christmas", said little Emma, during a Corpus Christi procession in Plymouth a few years ago. For Catholics, June 14 this year is the annual feast of Corpus Christi, the feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus. It is the day when we give thanks to God for the gift of the Eucharist, which is the summit and source of our faith. In a profound way every Eucharist is Christmas. Just as really as God was present, veiled in the form of a babe, in the stable of Bethlehem, so Jesus is present, veiled in the form of bread and wine at every Mass. In these days of 'lockdown', Catholic priests have continued to offer Mass each day in their churches on behalf of the world, the Church and the parish. On Sundays, this Mass has been available to parishioners on our parish Facebook page. This has been greatly appreciated and we have often had more people visiting the site than we probably would have had in church. Although we know and have rediscovered in recent weeks that the Lord comes to us in many different ways, we look forward so much to the day when we can come together around the altar and receive him really and truly present in his Eucharist. It really will be "just like Christmas"!

Monsignor Keith Mitchell

IN YOUR GARDEN



Well, I would be if it was not raining! Actually, we have had some delightful weather recently and we gardeners have made the best use of the warmer weather to get our gardens ready for its future fruitfulness. June is a lovely time in the garden when our new plants come to fruition and the roses bloom their socks off, the vegetable plots start providing, and the weeds keep on growing! Talking of weeds, I've just started my bi-monthly bindweed attack. I ignore all other pressing jobs and pull for England. I, unfortunately, inherited a lot of this weed and having a blitz on it regularly keeps it at bay.

Because this job takes you throughout your garden, moving slowly your senses come into action and suddenly the perfumes around you come to the fore. First Mahonia and daphne, then azaleas and azara, honey Euphorbia and finally lilac and roses. Gosh, what a treat! Soon there will be Hesperis (sweet rocket), perennial wallflowers and honeysuckles, and lots more. A perfect sanctuary.

The birdsong has also been amazing this Spring and that blackbird at dusk never seems to take a breath. I guess the lockdown must be a blessing for town and city dwellers; having less air and noise pollution their world must be quite different and gives them a chance to appreciate the benefits of nature.

Looking ahead, our freedom awaits when we can re-unite with friends and family and enjoy our gardens together. Meanwhile keep wielding the hoe!

Celia Rus, Beaminster HS

IN JUNES GONE BY

10 years ago

Loyal readers will no doubt recall that *Team News* in June 2010 had a bright red cover bearing a picture by Colin Varndell of two marbled white butterflies.

The main talking point, certainly in church circles, was that we were still between rectors, which surely ranks alongside North Korea and Bracknell as places you wouldn't want to linger for too long. Rev Ken Masters had departed the previous October, leaving Rev Sue Symons at the helm as Team Vicar. A notice placed in the *Church Times* back in January had failed to produce any 'suitable applications', so the post was re-advertised in June. Rev David Baldwin subsequently began his appointment in December, meaning that the interregnum eventually lasted over a year.

Other memorable pieces included the story of the donkey who took a fancy to someone's toggle during a ramble, a mention of Mrs Christine Corson's enormous drawers, and Mike Morse's tailpiece about the dawn chorus in Netherbury, the highlight of which was the rare sighting of a dipper on the River Brit.

Special thanks and congratulations go to all of our village editors still in post ten years on! You have survived three different Prime Ministers (Gordon Brown was ousted three days before the copy deadline for June's magazine) as well as a further 120 editions of *Team News* in assorted colours.

20 years ago



We were six months into the new millennium when the Millennium Bridge across the Thames was finally opened to the public for the first time on June 10. It cost £18.2million, which was £2.2million over budget. Made in three sections on two river piers, it was designed to hold up to 5,000 pedestrians simultaneously.

Within minutes of its opening it was re-christened as the Wobbly Bridge because of its alarming tendency to sway from side to side. The expected slight motion was significantly exacerbated by the *unexpected* tendency of walkers to adjust their step to counteract the sway. The basic phenomenon had long been recognised as a feature of suspension bridges, and marching troops were always ordered to break step before crossing similar structures elsewhere, but nobody had foreseen the extent of the 'synchronous lateral excitation' caused by the instinctive behaviour of a large number of civilians. At first the number of people allowed to go across at the same time was restricted, leading to long queues at both ends, but after two days the bridge was closed. Several more millions then had to be spent adding a series of dampers. The bridge re-opened in 2002.

30 years ago



Rev Penny Jamieson was consecrated as Bishop of Dunedin on 29 June 1990. This made her the first woman diocesan bishop in the world. She was born and educated in the UK, but emigrated after her marriage to a New Zealander.

There was a considerable amount of discomfort in relation to her speedy promotion. For some it smacked of political points-scoring, designed to further the feminist agenda rather than being strictly on merit. She was formerly a student protester who had campaigned noisily for women's ordination, and had only been a priest for five years, it was pointed out. Some of her fellow bishops refused to attend her consecration service.

The hostility continued throughout her 14 years in office. She wrote about how hard it was to be a female leader in such a patriarchal institution, and mentioned her disappointment on retirement that she was still the only woman bishop in New Zealand.

40 years ago



At the end of June 1980 the sixpenny piece, or tanner, was finally taken out of circulation. No new tanners had actually been minted for ten years, but this relic of pre-decimalisation had continued to be worth 2½p.

The first sixpenny pieces were minted in 1551 during the reign of Edward VI. In those days the commercial value of coins was linked directly to the market value of the metal they contained, and the new sixpenny coin filled a gap following a revision to the silver standard. Over the years it was redesigned many times. One of the designs introduced in George II's time was the work of the then Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint, a man called John Sigismund Tanner, from whom it is generally assumed the coin took its popular name.

After World War II no silver at all was used in the production of any of our 'silver' coinage. All silver was returned to the USA under the wartime Lend-Lease agreement, and coins like the tanner were made out of cupronickel instead.

50 years ago



Democracy was shown to be alive and well in the Soviet Union on Sunday 14 June 1970. 1517 candidates contested the 1517 seats available in the upper and lower houses. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) was the only legal political party in the country, but public organisations were allowed to put candidates forward too. However, since all public organisations were controlled by the CPSU, it was all rather cosmetic.

The only choice on the ballot paper for each unopposed candidate was Yes or No. You could vote Yes by submitting a blank paper, but you had to go into a polling booth to vote No. Not many people voted No. Everyone was 'expected' to vote, and there was a 99.92% turnout. President Brezhnev of the CPSU must have been a mightily relieved man when all the votes had been counted and the CPSU were declared the winners. The Soviet press hailed the election as 'vividly showing the unshakable unity of the Party and the people'.

WAR CHILD

The certificate on stout A4 paper was headed with a large Royal coat of arms in full colour and had the bold signature George VI at the bottom. The first paragraph read: 'Today as we celebrate victory I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school, for you have shared in the hardships and dangers of total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of Allied Nations.'

Stirring stuff for a five-year-old to take home and I have kept it ever since, languishing latterly at the bottom of a drawer until all the VE Day build-up prompted me to dig it out.

At two months old when Hitler invaded Poland and started it all off, the dangers of total war passed serenely over my head for quite a while. Even with the arrival of a degree of awareness it didn't actually seem that dangerous, thanks I suppose to the sense of acceptance that so often protects children.

We lived outside Hull, the third most heavily bombed city in Britain, and nights spent on a mattress in the cupboard under the stairs or in the air raid shelter in the garden were an adventure punctuated by the sound of anti-aircraft fire and the mercifully not-too-close crump of falling bombs. Even when an incendiary fell into the next-door garden and a high explosive near-miss just down the road blew in windows and the kitchen door, scattering dust and plaster all through the house, it seemed part of the general scheme of things. I doubt that my mother had such a sanguine view.

We were all single-parent children then, whose fathers made only occasional appearances. My best friend met his, a sun-tanned stranger, after an absence of nearly four years in North Africa and Italy. That Dad came home bearing a treasure trove of strange foreign coins and military mementoes of which I was rather envious.

We occasionally escaped the bombing to stay with a great aunt in North Yorkshire. Crowded trains on which cheerful men in uniform helped my mother with the luggage and gave me the sort of military-issue sweets we couldn't get on ration.

Even in our bomb-free sanctuary the war wasn't far away...vivid memories of tanks rumbling up the street to the military training area on the moor above the village.

The abiding impression, as I sit writing and remembering all these years later, is just how normal our abnormal life seemed. The arrival at school of boxes of apples from Canada each wrapped in tissue paper. And our small contribution to the war effort collecting rose hips which were weighed by our teacher before being sent off to be converted into rose hip syrup. We even got paid a few pennies. And never forgotten, the miracle of my first banana flown in from Cyprus by an RAF colleague of my father's. Sadly, when unzipped, it was just a soggy mess.

From the age of four we got a bus to school unescorted. With a wider world full of so much danger and horror we were amazingly secure and happy in our childhood.

Hitler never managed to close our schools or keep us inside. Sad that it has taken a virus to do that for this generation.



Anthony Armstrong

LOCKDOWN vs QUARANTINE



It would appear that the word ‘lockdown’ was coined within the Californian prison system in 1973. It was the name given to a protocol preventing movement to and from a particular area of a prison. It usually referred to the process of confining prisoners to their cells for security reasons.

Current usage during the coronavirus crisis is probably technically incorrect. What we’re really undergoing is *quarantine*. As its name suggests, this practice refers to the forty days foreign ships arriving in Venice during the Black Death had to wait before the crew could disembark or unload their cargo, and was designed purely for medical reasons. The benefits of isolation when infectious disease was rife were long established, as shown in the King James translation of Leviticus 13:4. *If the bright spot be white in the skin of his flesh, and in sight be not deeper than the skin, and the hair thereof be not turned white; then the priest shall shut up him that hath the plague seven days.* The original version makes no mention of plague; this is just another example of translator’s licence when creating text suitable for a British audience in the early 17th century.

LOCKDOWN QUIZ

The answers to the following questions are all made from the letters of the word ‘lockdown’.

1. Which bishop appears on the Bayeux Tapestry?
2. Which punctuation mark is inside you?
3. What do Natalie, Ronnie and Victoria all have in common?
4. Which card game sounds lavatorial?
5. Which leaf is in court?
6. What did Mr Clough call Mr Tomaszewski?
7. Where do you attach another string to your bow?
8. What might be night, little or elf?
9. What might be red-throated, black-throated or yellow-billed?
10. From which railway station can you get to either Weymouth or Bournemouth within the hour?
(Scroll/swipe down a little for the answers)

QUARANTINE QUIZ

Whereas the answers to the following questions are all made from the letters of the word ‘quarantine’.

1. Which part of your eye can get detached?
2. What was the first capital of Italy?
3. How do you describe something you were born with?
4. Where did Romans fight?
5. Which single word means three in one?
6. What went out of circulation 40 years ago this month?
7. Which country shares its border with Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey?
8. What do you call a body of water in the Lake District too small to be called a lake?
9. What was the first name of the Minister of Health when the NHS was created?
10. Which Dorset village used to have a Toy Museum?
(Scroll/swipe down a little for the answers)

WHAT’S IN A NAME?



You may or may not have noted in the news that Elon Musk and his partner Grimes had named their child X Æ A-12 (pronounced ‘Godfrey’). And why not? Other interesting names for the children of famous parents include Frank Zappa’s daughter Moon Unit and Jamie Oliver’s son Buddy Bear Maurice.

It isn’t entirely a modern, celeb-centric phenomenon, however, for seemingly ordinary Victorians did similarly eccentric things.

1863 witnessed the birth of Leicester Railway Cope, whose parents were on a train at the time.

Then in 1870 whoever went to the registry office either misheard the question or was having a bit of a stressful day, for the poor little chap’s name went down on the list as One Too Many Gouldstone. He was soon baptised as Robert William, which was a slight improvement.

And perhaps it was just as well in 1872 that Friendless Baxter died in infancy.

POETS' CORNER CLARIFICATION

I understand that last month's funny poem entitled *A Poem for a Crisis*, which I know many of you enjoyed, was actually written by Pam Ayres MBE. With hindsight I should probably have guessed – and you probably *did!* Its official title is *Time for us girls*.

For those who like to know these things, Pam Ayres is now 73, and keeps rare breeds of cattle and other livestock at her home in the Cotswolds. She started life as the youngest of six children in a North Berkshire council house, and had her big break when she appeared on *Opportunity Knocks* in 1975. She called her autobiography *The Necessary Aptitude*, because that was what she was repeatedly told she lacked.



Ed

POEM IN A PANDEMIC

[The poem below, which has recently gone viral(!) on the internet, was allegedly written in 1869 during the Irish potato famine, then resurrected for the 1919 Spanish Influenza pandemic. In fact, it would appear to be only a few weeks old, and created for her blog by a retired American poet and chaplain. Ed]

And the people stayed home.
And read books and listened, and rested and exercised,
and made art and played games,
and learned new ways of being and were still.
And listened more deeply.
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed.
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous, mindless and heartless ways
the earth began to heal.
And when the danger passed,
and the people joined together again,
they grieved their losses, and made new choices,
and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara

LOCKDOWN QUIZ ANSWERS

1.Odo 2.Colon 3.Wood 4.Loo 5.Dock 6.Clown 7.Nock
8.Owl 9.Loon 10.Wool

QUARANTINE QUIZ ANSWERS

1.Retina 2.Turin 3.Innate 4.Arena 5.Triune 6.Tanner
7.Iraq 8.Tarn 9.Aneurin 10.Arne



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TAILPIECE

COVID VIRUS

This is an interim article. Writing anything about Covid-19 can only be provisional. We do not know what will happen next. But we know we are going through the most bizarre, unreal experience in the middle of the most extraordinarily beautiful spring and early summer. At least the government has opened a tiny chink in lockdown; let us hope no spike in cases occurs from it. Here are just a bunch of comments:

Let's start with the plus side. Communities have pulled together and shown compassion and kindness to each other and tried to look after their more disadvantaged and lonely members. Old friends who haven't spoken to each other for years have called each other. A certain 'wartime' spirit has been abroad which also includes the readiness to get on with what has to be done and not complain.

This spring has been early and exceptional. After three months of rain we've had two months of pure sunshine. How would we have managed lockdown in a rainy spring? Bulbs are over, so are the ornamental cherries, magnolias, wisterias; and roses and paeonies are just coming out.

And in this poignant beauty we have to contend with this unseen virus and work very hard at not letting it get to us. We are so lucky to be in the country and in Dorset which has had less than 400 cases in a population of 376,000.

Most of this is a new experience – and odd. Virtual meetings are all we can do: we're learning Zoom; parliament is mostly virtual (and older members are not finding the transition easy). People are having parties on Houseparty, meetings on Zoom, and intimate chats with friends on WhatsApp.

How has it affected us? Are we all getting to measure out six-foot social distancing? Are we becoming suspicious of people and keeping well away? Will we go on social distancing when we don't have to? It must have changed our outlook on the world and made us recognise how precarious life is. The Pope has asked the global Catholic community to pray and fast and remind the Almighty we need help.

Most of this time is sad, uneasy and fearful. Friends and relations have died. Our family has lost two friends in their late 70s and I suspect many readers will be missing people they know. It's causing emotional and mental distress and stress levels I suspect are higher than we acknowledge. Many people aren't sleeping too well and are tired most of the time. Most people have got a bit fatter over lockdown. Many living on their own are still more lonely as they can't meet their friends. Many alternate one good day with one 'low' day. Those of my friends who normally read heavy books don't have the concentration and have headed to light novels.

As for families, many are living together with all the joys and tensions this entails. Grown-up children are back living with their mum and dad. People have lost jobs and are acutely worried. Money is tighter; poverty increasing; children don't have school meals and the abuse lines are ringing. Home schooling is inevitable and how mothers dislike it and how little work children do if they can swing it.

At Mapperton we've been fortunate. We were a 'pod' of 12 members of the family who have all quarantined. But Mapperton, the heritage site, is closed, staff have been furloughed and all of us are working in the gardens. On the plus side, the café has been delivering 50 meals twice a week to Beaminster and Netherbury/Melplash. We've become Waitrose's recipient for Fareshare, a charity that rescues good-quality surplus food.

Will things return to normal? Will there be long-term effects? Will the world keep its CO2 emissions down? Won't people return to how they used to live? Or will government legislate for more walking and cycles and less cars? Will we learn to live with less? Who knows.

Caroline Montagu



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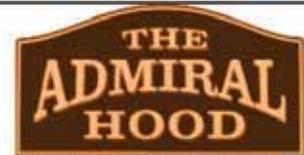


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