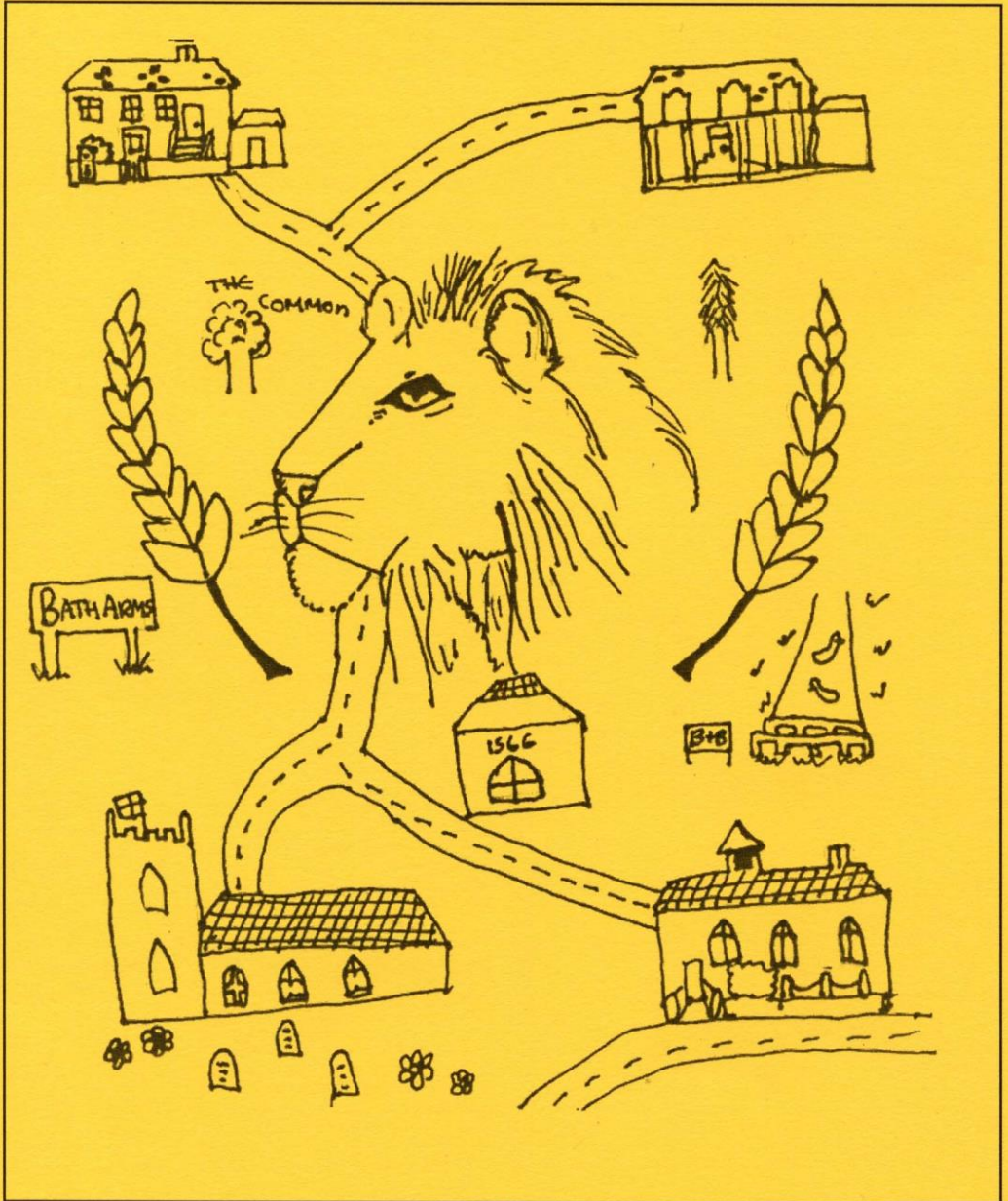


HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 198
December 2016





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EDITORIAL

Inside this bumper Christmas Edition as well as most of our regular features you will find reports of recent events in the village as well as notifications of plenty of those still to come. In the first category we have: the well-attended Remembrance Ceremony; the launch of Longleat's third Festival of Lights; and the successful Bonfire Night at the Hall. In the yet to come category we have: Pip Utton's *A Christmas Carol*; the Christmas Bingo; the School Christmas Fair; the Chapel Carol Service; and the monthly Coffee Morning where new and 'old' residents get a chance to meet.

In spite of all these upcoming events, there will be no News in January as the Horningsham News takes a month off. So this is a chance, as 2016 draws to a close, to thank all of our contributors for sending in their columns and a special thank you to our willing team of distributors who give up their time to push the Horningsham News through Horningsham's (often rather small) letter boxes.

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Sunday 15th January.

Email: horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial Team

Tim Hill	844365	Chrissie Buttery	844622
Helen Taylor	215906	Gill Courtney	844411
James Osborne (<i>Treasurer</i>) 844711			



find us on
Facebook

We now have 465 "Page Likes" – well on our way to three times the number of printed copies!

Printed by Parish Magazine Printing (01288 341617) printers of community magazines.

CHURCH NEWS



We did not have a service in the church during November. Instead we joined the many villagers and visitors who gathered at the War Memorial for the annual Act of Remembrance. This short service is an important event in Horningsham and gives us all the chance to take a break from our busy lives to remember the young men of Horningsham who gave their lives and the family and friends they left behind.

Our December service will be communion on Christmas Day. Alison Wadsworth is taking a well-deserved break this year and our service will be taken by the Archdeacon of Sarum the Venerable Alan Jeans. We are very grateful to the Archdeacon for sharing part of his Christmas Day with us and we do hope you will join us for this celebration followed by seasonal refreshments.

January means Morris Men! Once again we are looking forward to the annual visit of the Bathampton Morris Men for the Plough Sunday service. This is always a jolly occasion when all the parishes in the Benefice come together to bless the plough and to celebrate farming and the work of farmers. This service will also be followed by some suitable refreshment. We look forward to welcoming you at both of these special services.

Helen Taylor

Church Dates

25th December Christmas Day Eucharist 10.30am

8th January Plough Sunday service 11.15am (please note time)

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter for December in the middle of November when it is not even Advent, let alone Christmas, which feels a bit weird to be honest. But never mind, like many other people I would imagine, I am already planning what we are going to eat over the festive period and spending days off cooking varying items to stash away in the freezer; two chocolate roulades, white chocolate torte, bags of tiffin, bread sauce, cranberry sauce, red cabbage, carrots and parsnips and Christmas cake ticked off. Mince pies, marzipan and icing are still on the list plus a meal or two for when I'm busy. This Christmas will be a very special one as all of our family will be together as both our daughters and their



respective partner and husband will be here from New York and Spain as well as our two sons and their partners who live in this country. Well, actually the daughter in Spain has been teaching at a university in Tokyo for 4 months but that's another story.

To be honest I find this letter very difficult to write; on the one hand I love all the preparation and yes, as I've said, the prospect of having all of my children with me for Christmas is wonderful, but lurking in there somewhere are rather more painful associations. No family is perfect and mine is just as messy and difficult as everyone else's with memories of times when someone has been in a bad mood, times when long buried but simmering tensions have erupted and spilled over into what should be, if we believe all the glossy magazines tell us, 'your most wonderful Christmas ever.'

And then there are those for whom Christmas is just plain awful: the lost, the lonely, the bereaved, the homeless and mentally ill, those for whom the word 'family' is an anathema. Those who have no country to call their own, never mind a home. What has Christmas got to do with this?

Christmas comes into our world as it is in all its messy, terrible, brokenness to give us Emmanuel, God with us, to tell us that whatever happens, however deep the darkness, it will not overcome the light. Christmas comes to you and me as we are in all our human frailty because God loves us, *as we are*. Whether the Christmas story is literally true or not is beside the point, because it alerts us to a greater truth; as Aslan said in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, 'there is a deeper magic.' A magic more powerful than human sin and death that *nothing* can destroy.

So, as I make those mince pies, I'll be praying for you all and especially for those of you for whom the season is particularly difficult this year. I pray that whether you are busy stirring the gravy and looking after those you love, or with us in church, that the spark of God's presence will be real for you this Christmas.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be yours.

With love and prayers,

Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.com

WELCOME CLUB

We're off to The Bell pub near Andover on Tuesday December 6th. 11 am from Horningsham and 11.15 from Maiden Bradley – lunch served at 12.30. If you haven't given your name to me, please do so now. The cost of the meal is £12 per person paid before December 6th. The coach fare will be paid for by the kind donation made by Irvin's family in memory of him, our lovely friend who so enjoyed the trips we made. Many thanks from us all.

No more meetings this year. A Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2017. We will meet up again on 16th February. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Chris Short 01985 847373

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



We had our meaningful Remembrance Service and 2 minutes silence with Andrew Coxhead on the 13th November. We hope to join the village next year to remember at the War Memorial.

Our next service will be THE CAROL SERVICE on the 4th December at 3pm taken by Mr Gwyn Stoye from the Shetlands. I hope villagers will be able to join us at this joyful celebration.

Chrissy Buttery hopes to be home soon from Salisbury Hospital after suffering a dislocated shoulder. We all send her Love and Prayers for a speedy recovery.

Carol Cox horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk

HORNINGSHAM LUNCHEON CLUB



Luncheon Club

At this time of year the Luncheon Club members would like to thank several people who help to make our Club such a success. Firstly all the cooks and helpers who make our delicious meals and wait on us at table. Victor, Penny, Lionel and Tom A who run the weekly raffle which helps swell our funds, Pearl, our Treasurer, who keeps us on the straight and narrow, Dolly who delivers meals to housebound residents and Fran and Julie who are there every week laying up, dishing up and washing up for us. Without all of this voluntary help there would be no club for the members to enjoy.

We have been very lucky in enlisting new helpers and cooks for the New Year, but would always welcome any new helpers or indeed any new members to come and join us on a Thursday lunch time.

Our last meal this year will be the Christmas Lunch on 15th December for which we thank Kim and her helpers who cook for us and our invited guests. We are also entertained by the children from Horningsham School which always puts everyone in the Christmas Spirit.

The first lunch of 2017 will be on Thursday 5th January.

The members of Luncheon Club would like to send our Christmas Wishes to you all and wish you a very happy time and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

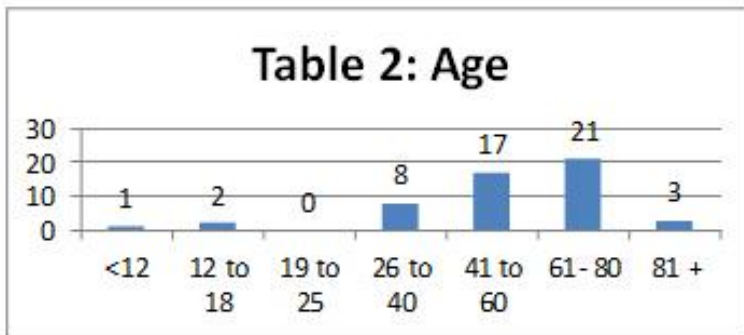
Margaret Long & Lesley Trollope

HORNINGSHAM PARISH PLAN

We had 52 who completed the Parish Plan Survey and submitted their responses. Whilst the level of response is perhaps a little lower than was hoped for, the quality of the information has been very good. A full summary of all the responses will be issued with the next issue of the Horningsham News. To whet the appetite here are some of the results. Table 1 shows responses to the question; ‘How long have you lived here?’



Table 2 shows the breakdown by age. There appears an interesting demographic gap in the 19-25 year age group, which will be explored further.



The desire by many to take an active part in improving the village was most heartening. We have identified 14 volunteers who are keen to participate, no doubt there are others out there. The Horningsham News had a ringing endorsement and was reported as the primary source of information (Facebook less so!). There were plenty of suggestions as to what needed to be improved in the village.

Next Steps

There will be a meeting (including mulled wine) in the Village Hall on Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm where the results of the Parish Plan Survey will be explained. We will establish focus groups to lead with the changes suggested in the survey. Everybody is most welcomed to this meeting, especially if you missed filling in the survey.

Dermot FitzGerald

HALL NEWS



Autumn has brought some beautiful colours to the village and we've had some strange colours at the Hall too! Ghosts & ghouls of Horningsham School used the Hall for their annual "Monster Bash" this October and I'm told the Hunt Dinner was a success too.

Speaking of successes our 'traditional bonfire night' was definitely enjoyed by many. It was lovely to see so many faces at the Hall, young, old and all in between. Angus, Rick, Jim and the rest of the team did a fab job. Delicious food, amazing bonfire – we'll look forward to doing it all again next year.

So what's coming up? Our next coffee morning is on Sunday 18th December, 10.30 until 12.00pm, please pop in if you are free.

Thursday 8th December we have Pip Utton's candlelit reading of "A Christmas Carol" starts at 7pm. Not to be missed! Family of four ticket £20, adult £10 & children £5 (recommended for 8 years and older) please contact James Osborne Jamesosborne@btinternet.com or 07753 404705

Horningsham School Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 10th December, 11.30 until 2.30pm. Hot food, mulled wine, grotto and lovely stalls all ready to get you in the Christmas spirit.

BINGO is back on Saturday 10th Dec, eyes down at 7pm, lots of prizes to be won. Come along and see if your luck is in!

Everyone is welcome to all our upcoming events, so please let your friends know and come along to support the Hall and our local community

Louisa Cruickshank

A Christmas Carol

Pip Utton



At Horningsham Village Hall

Thursday 8th December 7 pm

£10 per adult £5 per child £20 family of 4

Refreshments and Drinks Available

During the last twelve years of his life Dickens toured Britain and the USA reading his writings professionally to his adoring public. The most popular of all these readings was 'A Christmas Carol'. It is perhaps the most famous Christmas ghost story ever. In this almost totally candlelit performance and looking uncannily like Dickens, Pip Utton recreates the famous author's public readings using the script and directions that Dickens himself used.



We hope that families will come but it might not be suited to very young children. We suggest 8 years and up.

Pip is generously donating all proceeds to the Hall.

Tickets from: James Osborne
Jamesosborne@btinternet.com or 07753404705



FAMILY FRIDAY

We now have a termly event where parents and grandparents are invited in to join us for our Celebration Assembly followed by Golden Time. It's been really well attended and great to see families engaged in activities together in school. Each Family Friday is followed by a team cake sale to raise money for school resources.



WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

...The children showed great respect at our Remembrance gathering at the War Memorial in the village. The whole school gathered at the site along with two of our parents in full army uniform (which made it even more poignant). Poems were read by Year 6 followed by a prayer from each class. Charlie and Livi then played the Last Post followed by a 2 minute silence and then the Reveille. It was very moving.

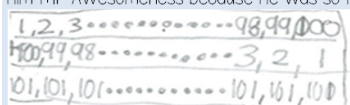


THEATRE VISIT

Owls class went to the Athenaeum Theatre in Warminster to watch the musical 'Grease' performed by Warminster School. There was a lot of singing and dancing and a live band — and we did a lot of giggling! Their performance was awesome and we really enjoyed it — we hope the general public like it as much as we did.
Review by Freya and Clemmie.

MATHS CHALLENGE

Eight children from years 4, 5 and 6 had an amazing maths lesson with a mathematician called Mr Angus, but we called him Mr Awesomeness because he was so kind and of course, awesome! He showed us so many maths tricks and strategies. He also told us about a young mathematician who came up with a very interesting solution for the addition of numbers between 1-100. It was very clever and involved $10 \times 100 \div 2$ because he added the numbers between 1-100 twice so you have to divide it. Simple! By Jake and Emily



WE'RE IN THE NEWS!

There's a lovely article all about us in the Wiltshire Times — 2 page spread with some fantastic photos. There's a link to it on our website too!



VICTORIAN DAY

The children looked amazing on our Victorian Day all dressed as Victorians (the staff looked good too)! We had great fun making decorations for Longleat, who had asked for Victorian / Edwardian Christmas decorations for the tree in the Great Hall. The school became a workhouse for the day, with the children working really hard to create dried fruit decorations, gingerbread men and hand made ornate paperchains. Some children will go down to the house and help decorate the tree in the Great Hall – it should look wonderful!



HANDS ON LEARNING

Owls learned first-hand about life in a Victorian Mill during their visit to Trowbridge Museum. Dressed as Victorians for the day, they handled a range of historical artefacts to investigate evidence from this era. It was a great trip and tailored to their topic on the impact of the Industrial Revolution.

Horningsham School Christmas Events

All welcome

5th Dec 5pm

Christmas Carols – part of a choir from three local schools singing on the staircase in Longleat House.

6th Dec 5pm

Christmas Fayre (Sat 10 Dec Village Hall)

HORNINGSHAM VILLAGE HALL

10th DECEMBER 11.30 TIL 14.30

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Mon 12 Dec 1.30pm
(Village Hall)

Christmas Play 'Victorian Christmas Party'

Tues 13 Dec 6pm
(Village Hall)

Christmas Play 'Victorian Christmas Party'

Friday 16 Dec
1.15pm

Carol Service (St John the Baptist Church)

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



On a beautiful sunny winter's morning a good crowd attended Horningsham's Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the War Memorial. During the service which was led by Mr Tim Moore, the Chairman of the Parish Council read out the names of the men who died in both World Wars including the name of the Belgian soldier who died at the hospital in Longleat and is buried in our churchyard. There was a special mention of Joseph Ernest Carpenter who was the last Horningsham man to die on the Somme who was killed on the very day, 13th November, 100 years earlier.

Mr Bill Smy, a veteran of the Korean War, laid the wreath and Mr Graham Long played the Last Post and the Reveille on his bugle. The restored view of the village from the Memorial was much admired. The cleared area will soon be sown with grass and wild flower seed and a seat installed so that everyone will be able to rest and contemplate.





Accidental Volunteers 3: Sarah's Story

Lightning storm and heavy rain over Thessaloniki tonight. Tears over breakfast and even more in the mini-bus taking a couple of families to the seafront today. It's been emotional. (Not me, Caroline. I've got Car and Classic.com to keep me grounded). We got news that a friend from the camp, I'll call her Sarah, had been reunited with her sister in Belgium. She had given up on the legal and taken her chances on the smuggler route. She bought an ID card from one of the Pakistanis running the operation in town and made it through at her first attempt. Caught a flight last night and her ordeal was over less than two hours later. She's still stateless, broke and traumatized, but at least she's not sleeping on the cold concrete floor of an unheated warehouse with 1,500 other people under army supervision. She's free, but she's been through hell and she's starting again from zero.

The way it works is, you pay a smuggler either 2,000 euros for an ID card or 3,000 for a passport. You deposit your cash with a third party. You meet the smuggler in town, although never at the first rendezvous. You go to the first meeting point where he never is, from there he texts you another place, you go there, he may or may not be there. You wait . . . then he shows up or he texts you another location, and so it goes on. Sometimes it can take most of the day before he reveals himself. Turns out the Pakistanis are running the most reliable operation here. It's cheaper in Athens, but more expensive to get there, so the price in Thessaloniki is lower than 6 months ago, but still non-negotiable. The smuggler either finds a stolen ID card of someone who looks similar, or takes your photo so he can make one himself. Next time you meet he will have the document and he will have booked your flight out of the country which may be within a few hours. He spends that time making you look like the person on the ID card. You may have to dye your hair, or shave, or not shave, or wear a lot of makeup, then he dresses you in readiness for your trip. You get taken to the airport and try your best to convey confidence, because your life depends on it, when it's the one thing you're out of. If you are successful your money gets released to him by the third party. If you get busted you get it back when you get out of jail. She made it at her first attempt. Because she was so nervous, someone paid for her to be accompanied by two other women who were traveling legally, but didn't want to go to Brussels and so had to be paid to fly from there to their homes elsewhere in Europe.

Now some of us may see moral dilemmas here. Is it right to break the law in this instance? In my mind the answer is the same one I use whenever I break the law. Am I obliged to adhere to a system that isn't working even for those who designed and operate it? I wish her luck in her new life. She was friendly and made us a good cup of instant coffee on her camping stove in the tent when we met her a couple of weeks ago. But she was a tragic case. An underdog from the day she was born into a sect in Syria who struggled for equality even when there was order there. She was stigmatized in the camp as a woman traveling alone until she was taken under the wing of a respected member of the tented community. She was nervy, severely depressed and traumatized by her situation, an engineer back in Syria, divorced with a child she was never allowed to see and had taken to cutting herself. You'd have to have a heart of stone not to want to see her out of that place.

So that was what all the crying was about, we never knew she was taking that chance last night. We never knew she'd made the decision to take that chance, to drive to the airport

dressed how a Pakistani guy living in Greece thinks a Belgian woman in her early forties would dress. With her hair straightened and dyed as well. (We were shown a photo).

And you might think she should have been more patient. Perhaps if you had been her, you would have maintained your faith in the system, or maybe you wouldn't. The Norwegian Refugee Council were given six million euros by the EU to, amongst other things, locate apartments in Thessaloniki and move vulnerable camp residents into them. Vulnerable includes single mothers, the elderly and families with many children - the camps are full of them. There are many completely empty apartment buildings all over town. Places that have been empty for six, seven, ten years, since the economic problems that engulfed the Greek economy. So, the NRC show up at all the meetings on time, they are a good looking bunch with new vehicles almost as expensive as the ones UNHCR run around in, they look to be on top of their game.



And how many people have they managed to move out of the camps into apartments so far? Zero. That's the number: Zero. Less than 1. Six million euros and they can't even work out how to rent an apartment for 250 euros a month. And then ask yourself would you take a chance with a crook who keeps his promises and takes his work seriously? Or would you want to wait for an NGO that spends its time refining dithering into an art form?

ONE HUMAN TO ANOTHER...

SENDING MESSAGES & CARDS TO SYRIAN REFUGEES



Facebook for more info:
One Human to Another
& Syrian Family Fun

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- Leave the envelope unsealed
- Donate £10 online (see below)
- Send your card to the address below
- Relax

We'll make sure each card contains €10 Euros and your message is matched to either a family, single female or male

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Syrian Family Fun Days

Send card to:

Helen Hitchings

26 Livingstone Road,
Southsea, Hants PO5 1RT

Contact: Caroline Dykes for more info: syrianfamilyfun@gmail.com

Supporting Syrian Refugee Families forgotten in unheated

Photo: MWWall.com Greek warehouses. 7months and counting...

Syrian Family Fun

Giving refugees in Greece a chance to feel human again



**From refugee
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play park**

*Sponsor a family day out for 3 families
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**£120 buys a day out for 12 people (3
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Donate at: gofundme.com/syrian-family-fun-days-out-of-camps

See syrianfamilyfun on Facebook

*All donations are spent directly on days out for Syrian families from
Oraiokasto Refugee Camp nr. Thessaloniki, Greece*

**Neil & Caroline are British independantly funded volunteers
in Greece until January 2017. Please email on
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HORNINGSHAM FAYRE

If you're having a clear out before Christmas, please think of the best bric-a-brac stall in the village - Horningsham Village Fayre would love your quality cast-offs. Please contact Margaret Long to donate to the Village Fayre bric-a-brac and help make 2017 another successful Fayre year.

Next Fayre meeting is on January 18th at 7:30pm. Please come along to the Village Hall if you would like to be involved with 2017 Fayre planning.

Caroline Dykes

PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL

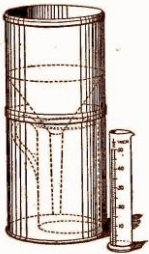


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

The weather!! What can I really say since the last report? We have had one or two days that were so damp and thick with this wet foggy/misty blanket, not very nice at all, then clearing giving us a great day but still a little cooler with a keen wind.

It continued in this pattern for the rest of the month of October. Total rainfall of just 1.37 inches compared with 3.45 inches in October 2015.

November started with a thick blanket of fog on the 1st which stayed with us all day at the farm. A very eerie feeling! Then came the hard frosts on two successive days. At least the parsnips will be sweeter if nothing else! Again we are now getting some really heavy showers in the early mornings. Total so far in November is 1.05 inches

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.

John Whatley

*18th December
Coffee Drop In
Every third Sunday of
the month - Free to all*

**10:30
-
noon**

- Fresh cafe-style coffee & croissants
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SHEEP ON THE MOVE

You know winter is really coming when the age-old custom of transhumance¹ takes place in Horningsham. The sheep have eaten their way through churchyard and have been moved to their winter quarters in White Street.



¹ Transhumance: the seasonal migration of livestock to suitable grazing grounds. From French, *transhumer* to change one's pastures, from Spanish *trashumar*, from Latin trans- + *humus* ground

Mill Farm Chronicles October - November

Following a clear TB test (hooray) we have now brought all the cows in for the winter, (good job too with all this rain we've had) They have been sorted into three groups. The cows with young calves are up at Butchery with the older calves and in-calf cows down at Mill. All the store cattle were treated for any worms that they might have picked up, whilst out in the fields, before they were put into the sheds. If the cattle have worms in their stomachs or lungs then they will fail to thrive or put on weight. Apologies to the villagers who live near Butchery or Mill for the 2 noisy nights when the cows and calves called to each other. Believe me we suffer too or at least I do, Steve and Jack seem to sleep through anything!

We have bought in 15 Aberdeen Angus heifer calves as future replacement cows. They will be big enough to go to the bull when they are 15 months old but for now they will just live together and grow.

Early in November Steve and I were invited to join Lord & Lady Weymouth and the other tenant farmers for lunch in the banqueting suite at Longleat House. We had a lovely meal of pea soup, Longleat venison and a yummy pineapple and ginger pudding that was Emma's creation. The lunch is a good opportunity for landlord and tenant to meet informally and swop ideas as well as a chance to put faces to names of Estate staff that we may contact through the year.

The bed and breakfast trend seems to be quiet at the beginning of the week but busy at weekends. Everyone is coming to see the Longleat Festival of Lights. Steve, Jack, Amy, Ivy and I went to see the lights on the Annual Pass holders evening and I can confirm that they are wonderful. Based around the 150th anniversary of Beatrix Potter and Longleat's safari park's 50th anniversary, the lights are a mix of Peter Rabbit, Mrs Tiggwinkle, elephants and giraffes and featuring an animal birthday party with a huge cake! Ivy was mesmerised by it all especially the Christmas story that is projected onto the buildings in the courtyard, it made me feel quite emotional watching her reaction to it all. I'm really looking forward to seeing her meet Father Christmas on the Santa train on Christmas Eve.



It's been a really busy month for birthdays. We've had my brother-in-law's 60th, my niece and two nephews' 24th, 25th & 28th respectively and my mother-in-law's . . . well I'll let you guess that one. All involved eating copious amounts of birthday cake which can't be bad! It was also my birthday last week. I had a lovely day eating and being spoilt. Two of my presents were a little bit different to the norm. Steve gave me a voucher for an indoor free fall experience. I have to drive to Basingstoke, don a flight suit, helmet and goggles and then get popped into a big glass tube that has air pumped into it forcefully from below that will make me float. Now I'm not the lightest of women so I really hope the pump has enough umph to keep me afloat for the 15 mins I'm in the tube or I'm in real trouble. I'm looking forward to trying free fall but just a little bit scared too. Watch this space for embarrassing pictures!!

My second rather unusual present was from Amy and Guy and was a "relaxing???"flotation session followed by a festive afternoon tea. Both venues were in Bristol and were booked for the day after my birthday. Now if you have never experienced flotation before let me tell you it's really rather nice. You have a private room with a shower and a flotation pod that looks like a sideways teardrop in it. The pod has 12 inches of very, very salty, warm water in the bottom. After a shower to remove cosmetics and creams etc you stick some earplugs in, ram an inflatable bath pillow around your neck and hop in to the pod . . . naked! I was also advised to dab vaseline on any cuts or scratches I might have to stop stinging but I didn't bother with that . . . I'd be ok. Now all was fine until the room goes dark and the pod's roof slowly closes totally enclosing you in this dark steamy bubble. Mild panic and claustrophobia set in then and I had to give myself a stern talk to, to stop me hitting the panic button. Once I calmed down it was rather pleasant floating around my little warm dark pool, or at least it was until the salt found every bloomin' little cut and scratch I had on my body (and I seemed to have loads) and the stinging set in. OMG it hurt, a lot. Now this is obviously anticipated by the management because strategically placed inside the pod is a spray bottle of fresh water to squirt the stingy bits and alleviate the sting. So there I was floating in this pod trying to keep the stingy bits above water so that I could spray water over them to stop the stinging which was ok until I managed to poke myself in the eye with a salty finger, ow ow ow and then opened my mouth to squeak and got salt water in my mouth . . . yuck yuck yuck! Then my earplugs fell out and my ears filled up with water and I lost them in the panic. I really hope there wasn't a camera or a microphone in that pod because a naked me rolling around contorting myself to reach unmentionable places that were stinging would not have made pleasant viewing and the language was a bit ripe in places too. Well it hurt!! Finally things settled down and I did relax and nod off. I'd like to do it again but I'm definitely slapping on a layer of Vaseline next time.

Christmas is coming and my Christmas cards are almost written. This is definitely the year my cards are posted by 1st December and not still being delivered on Christmas Eve. Yeah right . . . who am I kidding?

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Margaret Crossman

THEN & NOW



1804



22

We are back at the parish church of St John the Baptist but this month we are looking at the church from the South-West rather than from the North-East. The water colour again is from 1804 before the major rebuild of 1844 that expanded the church's capacity from 400 to 900. The south wall that features so prominently in the drawing had already been rebuilt in 1783 and, in the process, had been raised by four feet and the porch removed to the other side of the building.

The bad state of the church prior to its rebuilding was somewhat exaggerated in this report from the Hants & Salisbury Guardian of 17th June 1843:

Wiltshire and Dorset.

SALISBURY, JUNE 17.

Two Reverend gentlemen have offered themselves as candidates for the vacant office of chaplain of the Fisherton County Gaol, viz, the Reverend Henry George de Starck, rector of the parish, and the Reverend William Mayo, chaplain to Saint Nicholas Hospital, in or near the Close of Sarum.

The parish church of Horningsham, in this county, near to the princely residence of the Marchioness of Bath, is now, with the exception of the tower, a heap of ruins. A new church upon the same site, but upon a much larger scale, is about to be erected by her ladyship, at a cost of about 3,000*l.* At present the worthy perpetual curate of the parish, the Rev. Francis Skurray, performs divine service in a barn, which has been fitted up for the purpose

The church can hardly have deteriorated from how it looks in our 1804 picture to be “a heap of ruins”. We know from Longleat accounts for the rebuilding of the Church that expenses were paid “for fitting up barn for Divine Service and putting it in order afterwards”. So the arrangement of using the barn was actually while the building work was done not because the Church was “a heap of ruins”.

Comparing the two pictures one can easily see the addition of five buttresses and a narrow window at the tower end. Less obvious is the way that the windows have been modified to give them a more Gothic look to match the windows in the south side. The chapel at the right hand end has been enlarged and the old window has been replaced by two of gothic design.

Another striking difference is the churchyard. In the 1804 picture the paths to the church clearly started from the corner of Church Lane and Church Street. Nowadays the entrance is lower down in Church Lane with a single short path up through the lychgate. Interestingly the first record of the church in 1224 recorded that there was no burial ground or fence so that animals were free to roam. By 1408 a graveyard and fence had been added though the fence needed repair. The wall we know now around the churchyard was built as part of the 1844 rebuilding project. The accounts show money being paid for removing monuments, levelling ground, and “making gravel walks, gates and piers”.

The lychgate visible in the second picture, came later towards the end of the 19th Century at the prompting of the vicar James Jacob. The name comes from the Old English word for corpse: *lic*. The lychgate kept the rain off the coffin and the seats were for the pallbearers to rest. The coffin was then transferred to a bier, like the one still to be seen inside our church.

BINGO

PRIZES AND CASH PRIZES!

Eyes Down 7pm.

**Saturday
10th
December**

Horningsham Village Hall

Water Lane Horningsham

REFRESHMENTS SERVED

THE NIGHT SKY OVER HORNINGSHAM

On the 11th of this month, the planet Mercury will be at its highest point in the Western sky, best spotted just after sunset.



What should be a bit more spectacular will be the Geminids meteor Shower, between the 7th and 17th, with peak viewing night time on the 13th and 14th. Many consider this to be the best of the meteor showers, with as many as 120 shooting stars per hour, in many colours. It is the remains of an asteroid called 3200 Phaethon that was discovered as recently as 1982. The only problem will be the nearly full moon, whose brightness will obscure some of the paler meteors. They take the name for the constellation Gemini, from which many of the meteors will originate, but they can appear anywhere in the night sky. Best viewing is from a dark location, one thing we are very lucky to have here in Horningsham - hardly any light pollution, from street lamps.

There will be a third and final Supermoon on December 14th, this will have a serious effect on the meteor view, but why not enjoy the full moon? It happens just a week before the winter solstice (December 21st), the longest night when the North Pole is tilted furthest away from the sun. A final meteor shower will be peaking at the same time. This one is the Ursids, discovered in 1790. These will not be as bright as some, another reason to be grateful for so little light pollution.

Matt Simpson



POLICE NEWS

Keep a look out – thieves stole a quantity of heating oil from a tank in the garden of a house in Cock Road. The lock was still in place so the theft wasn't obvious.

BONFIRE NIGHT

As part of the Village Hall Committee's ongoing efforts to put together a varied and entertaining calendar of events it was agreed that we should host a Bonfire Night on the playing field. Due to the village being sandwiched between two of the country's larger fireworks displays at Longleat and Center Parcs, the idea was to make a return to a traditional celebration that was both socially inclusive and in keeping with the other events that have proved so popular at the Hall.



With this in mind, we were going to need a pretty big fire! This was provided in some style by Rick Gunning and his team at WRC as well as James Bagnall and Harry Hatch from the Forestry Department whose contribution we are very grateful for (although being a Friday afternoon and involving lighting a huge fire we trust they enjoyed themselves!). Donald and Hillary were the obvious choice for guys on the fire and fears should have been raised when the latter was the first to go up!





Hot food and drink was provided at our very own food stall which proved very popular with 100 hot dogs sold on the night as well as buckets of hot chocolate and toffee apples whilst the bar did a roaring trade. It really was lovely to see so many children and adults enjoy a fun evening at the Hall which bodes well for the soon to be built playground and we would like to thank all those families from the School for supporting what we hope will be the first of many excellent bonfire nights.

Angus Hilleary

MAIDEN BRADLEY SHOP

Well it's coming to that time of year again, so why not order your Christmas meat, dairy and vegetables from the Village Shop? We will have order forms available from December 1st. There will also be a range of Christmas gifts, cards and wrapping paper available so please come and see if anything takes your fancy.

Now that the shop refurbishment is finished we will be stocking some new ranges. We already have a new supplier for cakes from Lavender Blue in Gillingham so please come in and try a few.



Other bakery ranges will be expanded with Taylors supplying mince pies and seasonal breads for the festive period. Please note that Taylors are closed from 23rd of December to 2nd of January so remember to order in plenty of time. We will have some frozen rolls available for those last minute purchases. We also intend to expand the current range of frozen foods and you should soon see some more speciality and seasonal ranges in the shop. All our Andrew Barclay meats are selling really well with the new ordering system working

very well. A current favourite is the pork chops, well worth a try.

Our opening times over the festive period are not yet fully finalised so keep an eye on the notice boards for any changes to the normal hours. The intention is to open as normal but this may change due to the availability of our wonderful volunteers. We will be closed on Christmas Day with reduced opening times on Boxing Day of 9:00 until 12:00.

So finally from all at the shop please have a very merry Christmas and very happy New Year. Also a very personal thank you all so much for your support in the last six months

Sue Worrell





HISTORIC FIRST AS RARE CHEETAH CUBS BORN AT LONGLEAT

A rare pair of cheetah cubs are thriving at Longleat. The pair, a male and a female, were born eight weeks ago and will remain inside with mum Wilma until they are 12 weeks old.

“Both mum Wilma and dad Carl have very valuable genetics within the European population as they came to us from a captive breeding population in Pretoria, South Africa,” said keeper Eloise Kilbane. “This means they, and their offspring, are genetically distinct from the vast majority of the cheetah within Europe. It’s crucial for us to be able to widen the gene pool as much as possible within the breeding programme to maintain genetic diversity and create a healthy population,” she added.

The cheetah is the fastest developing member of the cat family. Longleat’s cubs opened their eyes after just six days, began moving around on their own within three weeks and started chewing on bones at five weeks. Cheetahs are the world’s fastest land animals; capable of top speeds of 71 miles per hour. While running they can cover four strides in a second with each stride measuring up to eight metres. In the wild cheetahs can chase and kill much larger game including antelopes and even zebras as well as smaller animals like hares and rodents.





HORNINGSHAM SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE



HORNINGSHAM VILLAGE HALL 10TH DECEMBER 11.30 TIL 14.30

HOT FOOD, MULLED WINE, SANTAS GROTTO
NEALS YARD, FRUITILICIOUS, CHOCOHOLICS,
AND MANY MORE GIFTS READY FOR CHRISTMAS



ALL WELCOME

FROM THE PAPERS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

A highlight of the year for the children at the village school is the Longleat Christmas Party. Just when the tradition began is lost in the mists of time but in 1945 it was an extra-special Victory Christmas Party held in the Village Hall as the Warminster Journal reported.

HORNINGSHAM

Victory Christmas Party

On Friday, December 21st the members of the Women's Institute co-operated with the Village School to give a Victory Party at the Memorial Hall. All the babies and schoolchildren residing in the village, and their mothers, and other friends, were invited. A very big company, including over 110 children, sat down to a splendid tea, in the most festive atmosphere. At one end of the Hall was an enormous Christmas tree erected and decorated by Mr. Wheeler, who, with several "old girls" had hung gifts thereon, for every child.

The fairy lights were lent by Mr. Wheeler and the gifts bought with the funds raised at a highly successful School jumble sale held in the autumn. The Hall had been artistically decorated by Mr. A. Ford and Mr. I. Edwards. Lord and Lady Weymouth, and Lady Nunburnholme, with their families, the School Managers, and the Rev. J. and Miss Dickson were present and joined in the evening's merry-making. The eatables were provided by the Women's Institute and the members had worked their hardest in the preparation of the tea.

Carol-singing by the children followed and the grown-ups joined in the old favourites. Then came the "surprise visitor," Mr. Brownell, who gave a delightful hour of "magic-making," which was as great a treat to the adults as to the younger folk. Lord Weymouth was the fairy god-father responsible for this event.

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Then came an interval during which the children performed part of the programme which they enjoyed, with all the power of their lungs. They cheered (under the leadership of Mr. C. G. Long, Chairman of the Managers) all the people who had organised and worked: the Women's Institute under Lady Weymouth (President), Lord Weymouth, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Holly, Mr. Wheeler and all the workers and donors, the decorators, toy-makers, and piano accompanist.

After such thirsty work, came a "refreshing" surprise. Mr. and Mrs. E. Trollope took up their stands behind an improvised counter and dispensed with dexterity, delicious ice-cream to every one present. More cheers to these kind donors followed, and then came the climax to the small folk.

The Christmas tree was dismantled and the gifts distributed to all who could still call themselves children. And so a joyful event ended with mutual wishes for "A Happy Christmas."

Lady Nunburnholme was Mary, the youngest of the 5th Marquis's 3 daughters.

The Longleat Christmas Party continues and, from the pages of the Horningsham School album for 1978, we offer a glimpse of the party 38 years ago – can you recognise anyone?



LONGLEAT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Every year Lord Bath invites all the children at the School to the Longleat Christmas Party. The coach picks up at suitable sites around the village. Most of us got our feet wet because there was snow everywhere. We went down to Longleat in the coach and went round to the back entrance, took off our coats and went to have our tea.





Longleat's Festival of Light

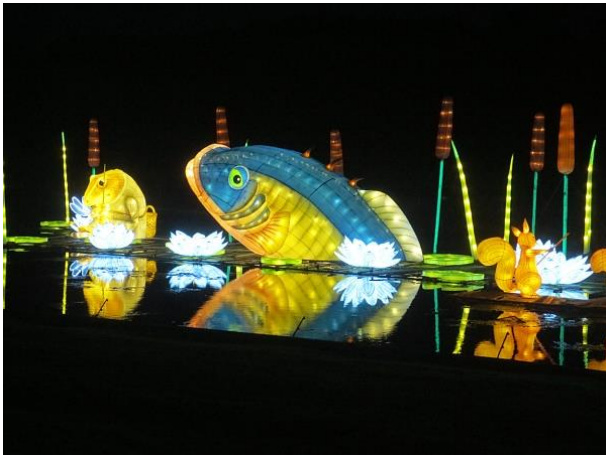
Giant illuminated versions of Beatrix Potter's much-loved characters, and a 20-metre-tall multi-coloured birthday cake, with over two kilometres of lighting, are among the highlights of Longleat's Festival of Light that launched on 10th November. This is the third year running that Longleat has staged the event and it is the largest and most ambitious to date with over 2,500 individual lights, 20 km of silk, more than 30,000 bulbs and over 4km of LED lighting.



The displays celebrate the 150th anniversary of Beatrix Potter's birth and the 50th anniversary of the Safari Park. They include Peter Rabbit's close encounter with Mr McGregor, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle putting out her washing and Jemima Puddle-Duck looking after her ducklings. Jeremy Fisher's lucky escape from a gigantic trout has been recreated on Longleat lake alongside Squirrel Nutkin's ill-fated rowing trip to collect acorns on Old

Brown's Owl Island. There is also a safari scene which includes a trio of life-size porcelain elephants, created from tens of thousands of Chinese plates and bowls. The Festival of Light is open Fridays to Sundays from November 11th to 27th. Then daily from December 1st to January 2nd (excluding Christmas Day).









BUSES FROM BUS SHELTER AT THE COMMON

Salisbury every Tuesday **83**

Leaves Horningsham 09.35 *Holly Bush 09.37* Arrives Salisbury 10.30
Departs Salisbury 13.45 Arrives Horningsham 14.45

Trowbridge every Thursday **81**

Leaves Horningsham 10.03 *Holly Bush 10.01* Arrives Trowbridge 10.55
Departs Manvers St Trowbridge 13.10 Arrives Horningsham 14.04

Bath every Saturday **80**

Leaves Horningsham 10.05 Arrives Bath 11.00
Departs Bath Bus Station at 15.50 Arrives Horningsham 16.49

Warminster every Friday **82**

Friday leaves Horningsham 09.45 *Holly Bush 09.48* Arrives Warminster 10.10
Departs Warminster Coach Station 12.20

Frome every Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday

Wednesday **80** leaves Horningsham 10.06 *Holly Bush 10.01*

Departs Cork St. Car Park 12.15 and 13.45

Thursday **81** leaves Horningsham 10.03 *Holly Bush 10.01*

Departs Frome Market Place 13.50

Saturday **80** leaves Horningsham 10.05 and 14.05

Departs Cork St. Car Park 12.10 and 16.30



BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES

Black Boxes	Thursday 8 th & 22 nd December Thursday 5 th & 19 th January
Grey Bins	Friday 9 th & 23 rd December Friday 6 th & 20 th January
Blue Bins	Friday 2 nd 16 th & Saturday 31 st December Friday 13 th & 27 th January
Mobile Library	Tuesday 20 th December <i>10.00 – 10.30 opposite the Hall</i>

Horningsham Outreach Post Office service every Thursday at the Village Hall from 1.30-4.30pm

Frome Hospital Minor Injuries		01373 454740
Community Police Officer	Vicky Howick	726818 ext 817
Wiltshire Police – non emergency		101
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	844197
Horningsham School		844342
First Steps Nursery		844942
Village Hall Hire		07541 211732
Longleat Property Department		845535
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	213436
Congregational Chapel	Carol Cox	horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk
Horningsham Church Rector	Rev Pauline Reid	841290
Warminster District Link Scheme		211655
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096
Stray or Fouling Dogs		0300 456 0100

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 8th December *A Christmas Carol* 7 pm at the Hall
- Saturday 10th December *School Christmas Fair* 11.30 – 2.30 at the Hall
- Saturday 10th December *Christmas Bingo* 7 pm at the Hall
- Thursday 15th December *The Parish Plan* 7.30 pm at the Hall
- Sunday 18th December *Coffee Morning* 10.30 – 12 noon at the Hall
- Thursday 12th January *Parish Council Meeting* 7.30 at the Hall
- Wednesday January 18th *Fayre Committee Meeting* 7.30 pm at the Hall



— FESTIVE MENUS —

FESTIVE LUNCH & DINNER

Festive Lunch and Dinner menus available from 1st-23rd December 2016

TWO COURSES £21.⁵⁰ per person **THREE COURSES** £28.⁰⁰ per person

STARTERS

Curried Parsnip and Chestnut Soup with Thyme Roasted Croutons

Local Game Terrine with Piccalilli, Dressed Leaves and Crostini

Smoked Salmon, Sweet Pickled Beets, Horseradish Crème Fraiche

Goat's Cheese & Basil Panna Cotta, Pink Grape Fruit and Pomegranate Dressing, Parmesan Crisp

MAINS

Wiltshire Roast Turkey, Roasted Potatoes, Pancetta Sautéed Sprouts,
Honey Roasted Carrots and Parsnips, Buttered Greens, Bread Sauce and Cranberry Sauce

Braised Feather Blade Of Beef, Grain Mustard Mash, Braised Red Cabbage and Parsnip Crisps

Pan Fried Sea Bass, Haricot Bean and Smoked Mussel Broth with Courgette Noodles

Onion Tart Tatin with Goat's Cheese and Balsamic Glaze

DESSERTS

Horningsham Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce and Whisky Ice Cream

Apple And Blackberry Crumble with Vanilla Ice Cream

Chocolate Delice with Marinated Winter Berries

West Country Cheeseboard with Chutney and Biscuits

— — —
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TUES 11.45AM - 1.45PM
WEDS 11.45AM - 1.45PM
THURS 11.45AM - 1.45PM
FRI 11.45AM - 1.45PM
SAT 11.45AM - 1.45PM

EVENINGS

MON 4.45PM - 9.00PM
TUES 4.45PM - 9.00PM
WEDS 4.45PM - 9.00PM
THURS 4.45PM - 9.00PM
FRI 4.45PM - 9.00PM
SAT 4.45PM - 9.00PM

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