

# HORNINGSHAM

## NEWS

ISSUE 226  
October 2019





We clean frames as well as glass. We also clean Conservatories, Conservatory Roofs, Inside Windows, Solar Panels and Gutter Clearing  
 Call Doug Valentine  
 Tel: 01373 837423  
 Mobile: 07739 189180  
 doug.valentine8@gmail.com

# Horningsham Village Hall



Competitive Rates & Residents Discounts

Hall Hire - bookings@horningshamvillagehall.com  
 Event queries - enquiries@horningshamvillagehall.com

## Kerrie & Co

Cleaning, Ironing and Laundry Service  
 End of tenancy cleaning  
 Carpets & Ovens  
 01373 463456  
 07812 202206



Learn to drive

with your local instructor



call tina

01985 988578

mobile 07745 652777



Special Lunch Offer for 2018  
 10% Discount with this Ad

Open for Lunch  
 Tues – Sat 12 – 2.30 pm  
 Evenings Friday & Saturday  
 6.00 – 10.30pm

We also do takeaways

Bookings:  
 01373 467370  
 james@thaikitchenfrome.com  
 www.thaikitchenfrome.com

FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
 F. CURTIS & SON  
 11 PORTWAY WARMINSTER  
 TEL 212033

## Bed & Breakfast

and

## Self-Catering Cottage

Stephen & Margaret Crossman

Mill Farm  
 Horningsham  
 Warminster  
 BA12 7LL  
 01985 844333



**EDITORIAL**

Our cover photo this month is an atmospheric shot provided by Matt Simpson of the balloons seen over Horningsham's vineyard where another bumper crop of grapes is ripening in the Autumn sunshine.

The spectacularly successful Sky Safari is also the subject of our photo story. You can also read the latest Parish Council report, see photos of our new bus shelter and of the damaged one, see how our Parish Steward has been smartening up the appearance of the village, see pictures of Longleat's new tiger cubs, read the news from the School and find out how Margaret got on with her 26 mile walk for charity. There is also a list of the road closures that will be happening in November in Horningsham when Wiltshire Council repairs our roads.

If you do not follow us on Facebook you will be interested to know that a story of 3 lambs that were lost and found again received 1,392 hits while the re-opening of Mundy's Lane received an all-time record of 2,959 hits – exceeding even the previous record achieved by the resignation of David Bradley!

**Tim Hill**

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Email: [horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 689 “Page Follows” – well over three times the number of printed copies!**

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

## CHURCH NEWS



We have had a wedding and two baptisms this month. Ben and Chloe were married on the 31<sup>st</sup> August. During the week before the wedding, the flower arranger called in at the church while the cleaners were having a quick tidy up. They were delighted to be told that the family were bringing in a team of cleaners! It is a large building for four ladies to look after and they were very pleased to have some help. It was a lovely wedding and the church was beautifully decorated with green and white flowers.

The two baptisms are both related to the Trollope family, a surname that has connections with Horningsham going back 400 years! Oliver and Dylan are the grandsons of Carl and Tina Trollope. Carl grew up in Horningsham with his parents Victor and Ann and continued to live here after his marriage. Although the family have since moved to Warminster, it is wonderful to know that they still feel attached to the village. We would also like to thank Carl for strimming the grass verge in Church Lane. The help we have had with cleaning and strimming makes a great difference to the overall appearance of the church and we are very grateful.

In October our service will be Harvest Festival, which will be taken by the Rev Gay Maynard from Corsley. All are welcome to join us for this short and informal service giving thanks for the harvest, followed as usual by the auction of produce.

**Helen Taylor**

### Church Date

6<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Festival 5.00pm

*From the registers*

Baptism

Oliver Woolcott September 8<sup>th</sup>

Dylan Atkinson September 22<sup>nd</sup>

### A MESSAGE FROM REV GAY MAYNARD

A big 'thank you' to all who came to my Licensing Service on 5<sup>th</sup> September, making it a very happy and special occasion for me. Blessings, Revd Gay.

Dear Friends,

I write at the close of a blue-sky day of glorious sunshine. I have written before about the beauty of the countryside at this time of year as the earth slowly turns, and once again the shadows cast by the sun lengthen, the days shorten and we experience the dying away of the light as winter approaches.

Walking the footpaths and lanes every day with the dogs I notice the landscape changing as blackberries proliferate in the hedgerows and the trees become tinged with their autumnal colours. They will have flown away now I think, but the other day I came upon a group of house martins neatly lined up on a telephone cable making ready to undertake their extraordinary journey over land and sea to more hospitable climes. It never ceases to fascinate and amaze me that they have the ability to make this extraordinary journey. I stood for a while looking up at them and talking to them about what lay ahead and that I hoped they would be safe and then be able return to us in the spring.



One of the reasons I so love living in the countryside is that close proximity to the changing seasons of the natural world; we cannot step outside the door without engaging with this autumnal prelude to winter and the darker months that lay ahead. As it is with the created order so it is with us mere mortals who are part of it; the turning of the season echoes the seasons of our own lives.

I don't want to use this letter to talk about my 'stuff' but as I have said before I can only write from my own experience of life, from where I find myself at this moment in time. My awareness of the turning of the seasons, and how that resonates with the seasons of our lives has a particular poignancy at the moment as my father died very unexpectedly in the middle of August; yes he was 92 and had a good long life but still, fathers cannot be replaced and I miss him terribly. Walking in this ancient landscape has helped me more than anything; observing the gentle and beautiful journey of the trees and hedgerows towards their dying away I have felt held and supported by their presence and comforted by sense of being caught up in something far greater than myself. For all of us the meaning of that 'something' or maybe 'someone' will be different, and the journey we make in this life and across that ocean we call death will be ours and ours alone; like those house martins, we cannot stay here for ever, our bodies know this even if our minds refuse to believe it.

I wish I had room to give you a wonderful poem called 'The Other' by the Welsh poet R. S. Thomas, if you can, do find it and read it, it communicates the reality of our own smallness but also how we are embedded in and held by this other being. But I'll leave you with some other words from this extraordinary priest/poet who said 'God is a poet who sang creation', and that divine presence is still singing today.

Love and prayers,

**Pauline Reid [revpauline@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:revpauline@btinternet.co.uk)**

## HORNINGSHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



This year our Harvest Festival service will be held on Sunday 6th October at 3.00 pm - all donations of produce welcome, with a sale of goods after the service.

Our usual monthly service will be held on Sunday 13th October at 10.00 am.

**Carol Cox 07584 825421 honingshamchapel@aol.co.uk**



### WELCOME CLUB

The Welcome Club meeting was held on Thursday 19th September at Horningsham Hall. We had very few members attend but those who did enjoyed some fun games of Bingo with Tom as the Caller so that made it even funnier.

Our October meeting is on Thursday 17th and the October outing is to Lacock and Cirencester which will be the last outing of the season. It is on Tuesday October 24th. Please contact me if you are interested

On Tuesday 23 September the Welcome Club had their monthly outing, this month it was to Weymouth. We had some terrible weather to set off in. On our journey we had no more rain and stopped in Dorchester for coffee and refreshments. We arrived in Weymouth about 12.20pm. Five minutes after arriving we had a light shower which cleared quickly. Then in the afternoon we had clear blue skies which seemed hardly possible after the weather we set off in. We left Weymouth at 4pm because the forecast for later was not good. After stopping at Cartgate to do the raffle where it was already raining, we arrived home at 5.50pm after an enjoyable day out.

**Pearl Hudson 844779**



Just one welcome this month, to Don and Angela McCrickard who have moved to the Round House from East Sussex. Their daughter, Melissa Gardner lived at Rose Cottage before moving to Warminster. Angela has three horses at livery nearby. Don is a retired banking Chief Executive and is cricket mad. They are looking to buy a house locally. They have two rescue Labradors, Buster and Jessie, in two shades of gold!

**Maggie Osborne**

### **PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL**

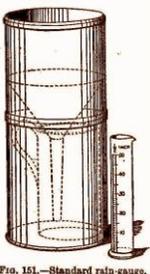


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

August started well with sunny mild weather. On the 5th we started with light showers which turned into very heavy showers the next day with strong winds, dropping 0.97 inches. In fact this carried on like this for the rest of the week, giving us another 0.99 inches. For the next 10 days we had a shower nearly every day, giving us a total of 3.95 inches. This of course put a stop to our harvesting, and by the time we could restart the straw was very brittle and made harvesting difficult, but thankfully the weather started to settle down giving us good weather for the rest of the month. The total rain for August was 4.21 inches compared with 2.64 in 2018.

**John Whatley**

### **Horningsham Cricket Club**



Our season is over. It was a long season full of incident, but this is a short report as your correspondent has been away in Thailand all month. The highlight of September was the tour to Cornwall. I am told this was a great success, for reasons that are allowed to remain in Cornwall.

We also had some final fixtures in Horningsham. At one of them the players on the field were briefly outnumbered by cows. This was the third time this summer that cows have made an appearance at the ground before the scheduled start of play; a

better record than certain of our team mates.

I would like to thank Susie Hilleary for another year of wonderful cricket teas. And also Dolly who always helps. They have to put up with a lot but every Sunday is a triumph.

We look forward to next summer.

**James Osborne**

## **HORNINGSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Horningsham Parish Council met on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September at the Village Hall.

**Present:** Councillors, Tim Hill, Stephen Crossman, Gerard Brierley, Ken Windess, Simon Millar, Michael Trollope, Fran Chris, Charlotte Hilleary and John Radley.

**Apologies:** Matt Simpson & Dermot FitzGerald

**In attendance:** The Parish Clerk Mrs. Sarah Jeffries MILCM

### **Planning**

**Application Ref: 19/06353/TCA**

**Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area**

**Proposal: - Crown Raise Mixed Species Group (G1) Over Access Road and Car Park Area to 5 Meters from Ground Level**

**At: 101 Anchor Barton, Horningsham, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7LR**

Decision: No objection

**Applications considered Between Meetings**

**Application Ref: 19/07232/TCA**

**Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area**

**Proposal: - T1 - Spruce tree - fell**

**At: 144 West Common, Horningsham, BA12 7LS**

Decision: Supported

**Application Ref: 19/07191/TCA**

**Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area**

**Proposal: - T1 - Beech tree - reduce one limb back to boundary line**

**T2 - Crab Apple tree - prune back to boundary line**

**At: 44-45 Prospect House, Newbury, Horningsham, BA12 7LG**

Decision: Supported

Decisions on the various applications concerning Stall Farm are still awaited.

### **Highways Parish Steward**

Council noted that an excellent job had been done on clearing Mundy's Lane and removing the accumulation of soil and weeds along the wall by the Church. The stretch down to the War Memorial still requires clearing. Councillor Gerard Brierley informed Council that the Parish Steward is trying to get the potholes in Mundy's Lane filled.

The following list of work required of the Parish Steward was agreed. The bottom of Church Lane requires work on the drain and the footpath from the Village Hall to the School requires cutting back ready for the children walking to school.

In Pottle Street, the mud gathers on the road by the gate on the left into Greens' field. This issue to be investigated by Councillor Gerard Brierley and Councillor Charlotte Hilleary and a meeting with Parish Steward arranged at the area.

It was noted that the new Tree Officer for Longleat has contacted the Chairman and the responsibility for the hedge at Town Well was discussed and agreed, the work will be actioned before the Memorial Ceremony by Longleat.

The tree on Newbury Common requires the skirt raising, the Clerk was instructed to contact the Longleat Estate regarding the action required.

### **Bus Shelter on West Common**

Councillor Ken Windess reported that the concrete base had been laid and the rest of the work was expected to be completed on the 13<sup>th</sup> September. The whole cost is being reimbursed by the Council's insurance company.

### **Preparation of the Tenders for the Grounds Contract**

Council considered at some length what alterations to this year's contract were required when the contract for 2010 was put out to tender. It was agreed that the new contract should specify the number and sequencing of the required cuts. There should be 14 cuts in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of every month from April to October inclusive. Various clarifications in the wording of the areas to be cut were also agreed. It was also agreed that the Play Area and a 2 metre strip around the tennis court should be added to the contract. The Chairman is the designated councillor for any grounds issues and Councillors were reminded by him to highlight any issues to him as soon as they are noticed. He added that this year's contractor had responded promptly to the various issues he had raised with them.

### **Play Area**

Following a consideration of the fallout areas from the play equipment a location for the seat within the Play Area had been identified. Councillors Windess and Crossman said they would undertake the necessary work.

### **Speeding Traffic**

The issue of speeding traffic by the Village Hall had been brought to Councillor Matt Simpson's attention by a parishioner. It was agreed not to take action at present but to keep an eye on speeding in that area in the future. The thought of a Speed Indicator Device such as in Maiden Bradley was discussed. The Clerk was instructed to add this item to the next agenda for discussion.

The issue of traffic in connection with the Balloon Festival was mentioned, and the Clerk was instructed to ask Longleat Estate if traffic cones can be placed both sides from Nockatt car park to the top of Newbury Green Lane to prevent parking on the road.

### **Chapel Sign on West Common**

The sign pointing from the Common to the Chapel was demolished and the parts removed. It was not known how the damage occurred or who had taken the parts. The Clerk was instructed to enquire of the Estate. Appreciation of the repair of the Newbury signpost by Councillor Windess was expressed by the Chairman.

*The next meeting of Horningsham Parish Council will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 in the Village Hall when all are welcome to attend.*

## **THEN & NOW SPECIAL: THE BUS SHELTER**

Last month we brought you the saga of the signpost and this month it's the saga of the bus shelter. Back in April 2016 we celebrated the impressive restoration job Ken Windess performed on the Parish Council's elderly bus shelter. Then in November 2018 we reported the mysterious fatal damage to it. Now we can bring you the happy ending! The Parish Council's insurer has funded a direct replacement for the much-loved bus shelter.



Inside it looks more like a pricey Finnish sauna than a humble bus shelter!



How it looked in April 2016 after Ken's labour of love.



In its sad state after the collision in November 2018



# Horningsham Primary School



✉ [Admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk)

✉ [FriendsofHPS@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:FriendsofHPS@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk)

[www.horningsham.schnet.org](http://www.horningsham.schnet.org)

☎ 01985 844342

## Horningsham 2019-2020

We have all settled back to a new term and a new year at school. Our new reception children have adapted really well and are fully fledged Robins now!

We are very proud of our new Year 6 children – they have taken on their new leadership roles with real passion and enthusiasm and have already impressed us with presentations to the parents at our Welcome Coffee Morning!



### Meet our new Young Leaders:



School Council



Head Girl and Head Boy



Eco Ambassador



Play Leaders



Team Captains

# Exploring the Woodland Show

We had a wonderful start to the year with the whole school visiting the Confor Woodland Show at Longleat.. It was a fantastic day and we all had great fun exploring the woods and meeting lots of experts learning about conservation, sustainable planting and seeing first hand a range of machinery. It was a lovely way to end our first week back. We are so grateful to Nick Hoare and Confor for giving us this wonderful opportunity and providing the trip for the whole school free of charge – incredibly generous.



## Children's Aims 2019

The children have generated their own aims for the year.

They are keen to think big and 'believe there are no limits' to learning.

## MAIDEN BRADLEY HALL



### **Saturday 12th October Film Night: Mary Poppins Returns (PG).**

Mr. Chippy will be available for purchase of Fish & Chips.

Doors open 5.45pm for 6.30pm film start.

### **Friday 8th November Film Night: Stan and Ollie (PG)**

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

**Post Office service**, café and the Community Store will be available every Tuesday afternoon 1-3pm in the Hall.

**Coffee Mornings & Library** every Friday 10.00 - noon.

Come along for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat. Everyone welcome.

**The Old Kitchen Community Store** now open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays selling basic grocery items e.g. milk, cream, butter, biscuits, crisps, chocolate, tea, coffee etc. Opening times: 9am – 11.30am. Please note CASH ONLY.

Look out for the Bargain Table in the shop during October.

## HORNINGSHAM HALL



We've had a busy summer at the Hall with weddings and parties. We have decided to postpone the upcoming Pip Upton night until next year. We hope you'll join us then.

Coming up next is our traditional bonfire night, Tuesday 5th November, 4pm until 6pm.

We always have a really lovely evening, great bonfire, great food and great company. All monies raised will benefit the Hall and continue to ensure we can carry on making improvements.

December date for the diary: Horningsham School Christmas Fayre Saturday 14th December, more details to follow.

**Louisa Cruickshank**

**TRADITIONAL  
BONFIRE  
NIGHT!**

**HORNINGSHAM  
PLAYING FIELD  
BA12 7LX**

**TUESDAY 5th  
NOVEMBER**

**HOT FOOD&DRINK**

**4-6PM**

**FIREWORK FINALE**

**FREE ENTRY!**

## Mill Farm Chronicles August -September 2019

Well we did it. I'm happy to say that we completed our walking marathon of 26 miles (42k) in 9.5 hours and raised the fantastic sum of £1,839 for Alzheimer's UK. I can't thank all the people, who so generously sponsored us, enough. The thought that so many people were willing us on kept us going through the tough bits and believe me there were some really tough bits, plus Steve, genuinely thinking, that I wouldn't make the full distance made me extra determined that I would!



We started off at 7.30am from Salisbury Rugby Club and walked in a big circle through Salisbury, past the Cathedral, to the Race Course, through Great Wishford, past Stonehenge, on to Great Durnford; Old Sarum and back to the Rugby Club. The glass of Prosecco at the finish was sooo welcome as was the sight of all our families cheering us home. As soon as we stopped our muscles seized up and the feet began to hurt. A hot bath sorted out the muscles but the feet took a bit longer. I lost 3 toe nails in total and have 3 more that are going black but the sense of achievement that I have is definitely worth every ache and blister.



On the farm we've had a few more calves and had a field of grass cut for silage and round-baled. The corn has been cut and Steve has brought in all our straw as well as several more loads from other farms that we've bought in. The TB skin test resulted in one inconclusive which means we are still shut down and require two clear tests before we are deemed clear.

We still have a few more cows to calve but today we've just had one cow have twins that are almost pure white.

The barns are all clean and ready to have the cows come in, in the next few weeks if necessary. The cows prefer to be outside but if the weather turns nasty then Steve will bring them in and undercover.

The Longleat balloon Sky Safari has just finished. We had several pilots and families staying with us and while the balloons are beautiful to see floating over they can cause livestock to panic and stampede. Cows can't look up so can't actually see what's making the noise that the balloon burners make, they just know that there's a sudden loud roar that's really frightening to them.

I was lucky enough to be asked if I'd like a flight in a balloon so obviously I said "yes please". I went up on the Sunday evening with a Grandad and Grandson team flying a blue, red, white and gold Cameron balloon. They were lovely and explained to me how they navigate, what all the ropes and bits were for and the whole ballooning etiquette. Jack followed us with the ground crew and retrieved us from a stubble field in Sutton Veny.



Back at the end of August we all drove to Manchester to attend my great nephew, Frankie's christening and 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. We stayed overnight in a house Guy found on Airbnb and we had a thoroughly enjoyable 48 hours. We attended a birthday bbq for my sister-in-law Jackie on August Bank Holiday Monday which was lovely. The weather was hot and sunny, just right for a bbq and I ate far too much.

Ivy started primary school a couple of weeks ago and looks so grown up in her new uniform. She seems to be enjoying it but was genuinely horrified when she was told that she had to go every day from now on!

It's pouring with rain at the moment and is quite chilly out. Our chimney has been swept in readiness for the first fire of the Autumn which I feel may not be too far away. The good TV programmes are on, Bake Off, The Apprentice and of course Strictly, which this year we all have a vested interest in because Emma, Viscountess Weymouth is competing. It's apparently only 94 days till Christmas so I had better start thinking about making Christmas puddings . . . oh heck!

**Margaret Crossman**

## Sky Safari Breaks All Records



Now in its fourth year, Sky Safari welcomed tens of thousands of visitors. Sky Safari is Europe's largest annual hot air balloon event and attracts pilots from as far afield as the USA, United Arab Emirates and Lithuania with more than 170 individual teams taking part.

The three-day event set a series of new records including the largest number balloons to take part in a mass launch in the UK, with 172 taking off on Saturday and the biggest Night Glow in the UK, featuring 84 balloons.

"The Sky Safari is growing in popularity each year and it's rapidly establishing itself as one of the biggest events of its kind worldwide," said Longleat's Steve Mytton. "The calibre of pilot and the sheer range of hot air balloons we are able to attract means our visitors get to see the very best of the best."

The star of this year's event was Adelaide, a giant koala, which took to the skies to celebrate the opening of Longleat's new Koala Creek home to a group of the iconic Australian marsupials. Adelaide was part of an aerial 'Safari Park' which also featured Simbaloo the lion, a cheetah called Duma, a panther, a wolf, a fox, a parrot and an owl.

More than 30 other special shaped balloons made an appearance over the weekend; either flying or taking part in tethered displays with everything from an inflatable recreation of the Brandenburg Gate, a giant emoji and a full-sized version of the famous animated balloon from Walt Disney's Up.

Longleat partnered with Exclusive Ballooning to put on the event which attracted current and former world champions in hot air ballooning from Japan, USA and UK competitions.







## Notes From A Horningsham Garden

September 29th is Michaelmas or St Michaels Day. He was an early Christian saint and the name is still used for marking one of quarterly bills in the financial year. In the garden, the name is celebrated by Michaelmas Daisies which are at their best at this time. These autumn flowers have been renamed as asters and now *Symphyotrichum*, but they were originally noticed as flowering so late amongst all the dying, end of summer plants and so they were named after the saint as a symbol of his many good deeds.



There is now a huge range of colours and types, many with good disease resistance and they come in all heights for front to back of the border. They are very little trouble, perennial and increasing well to form big clumps and look good for at least a month, which is a bonus at this time of year. Now is a good time to choose them in garden centres, and the best place to see them in all their glory, is Picton Gardens in Herefordshire where many of them are bred.

September/October is the best time for apples too. In fact there is an excellent sweet, juicy eater called Michaelmas Red. I bought a “heritage” espalier apple tree collection nearly 40 years ago, and though abused and neglected at times they all produce fruit especially the Michaelmas Red.





The cobnut harvest has been good. I picked 4 large boxes and evenings are spent cracking nuts and eating them or baking them in the oven. They then keep for months and it gives them an extra nutty flavour and crunchy texture. Timing is everything though and you can end up with burnt ones!



Since we've had such a nice lot of rain, the runner and French beans are still producing, though slowing down with lower temperatures and less light. Sprouting broccoli is recovering from being eaten by wood pigeons and the leeks are filling out nicely. Here's hoping for something to eat from winter into spring. October will be the time for clearing out the greenhouse and polytunnel with tomatoes and cucumbers finished and then tucking away tender plants to be protected over winter.

**Carole Hill**

## Horningsham's Notable Trees

At this time of the year the importance of hedgerows becomes more visually obvious than in Spring when we welcome the arrival of fresh green foliage and the birth of new mammals and birds that have been protected through the Winter. Is there a difference between a hedge and hedgerow? Yes. A hedge is a line of trees or shrubs maintained to form a physical boundary. A hedgerow is this same line of trees or shrubs but in association with other flora and fauna and physical features such as banks and ditches, in other words a complete ecosystem.

The Autumn harvest generated by an established hedgerow is valuable to both wildlife and human beings in terms of berries and fruit: the hips from roses, the haws from hawthorn, berries from elder and nuts from hazel. The main purpose of a hedge is, as we know, a barrier. John Wright in his book 'A Natural History of the Hedgerow' explains that "While almost any tree could be used, a magic three are used more than any other: hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel". Ease of laying and impenetrability are cited as the main reasons for their widespread use.

The common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is a native, understory, woodland tree, known also as Whitethorn, Quickthorn and the May-tree, due to its flowering period, it is the only British plant named after the month in which it blooms. My love for this tree and the month influenced our (my husband and I) decision to marry in May. I certainly grew up with the suggestion that bringing hawthorn blossom into the house would be followed by illness and death, and in Medieval times it was said that hawthorn blossom smelled like the Great Plague. Botanists later learnt that the chemical trimethylamine in hawthorn blossom is also one of the first chemicals formed in decaying animal tissue, so it is not surprising that hawthorn flowers are associated with death. I must be perverse when I admit to liking the smell. I prefer to think of it as its biological mechanism to attract or repel.

The fruits of hawthorn, called haws, are edible, but are commonly made into jellies, jams, and syrups, used to make wine, or to add flavour to brandy, rather than eaten fresh. Botanically they are pomes, but they look similar to berries. A haw is small and oblong, similar in size and shape to a small olive or grape, and red when ripe. Haws develop in groups of 2-3 along smaller branches. They are pulpy and delicate in taste. In this species (*C. monogyna*) they have only one seed, but in other species of hawthorn there may be up to 5 seeds. (FoodGeeks)

Early-flowering, blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) provides a valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees in spring. Its foliage is a food plant for the caterpillars of many moths, including the lackey, magpie, common emerald, small eggar, swallow-tailed and yellow-tailed. It is also used by the black and brown hairstreak butterflies. Birds nest among the dense, thorny thickets, eat caterpillars and other insects from the leaves, and feast on the berries in autumn. The timber is hardwearing and tough, light yellow with a brown heartwood. It was traditionally used for making walking sticks and tool parts. It burns well, and is often used as firewood. Human beings use the berries or sloes for wine-making and preserves, and, most commonly, flavouring gin. Blackthorn was long associated with witchcraft, and it is said that witches' wands and staffs were made using blackthorn wood.

*Corylus avellana*, “the common hazel has been important since the dawn of agriculture” In Chapter 15 of John Wright’s book *A Natural History of the Hedgerow* he advises that “farmers were well versed in its use and cultivation.” Apparently poet Virgil mentions hazel three times in Book 2 of *The Georgics*, including the line ‘*Plantis edurae Coryli nascuntur*’ [ From suckers the hard hazels grow ].

Hazel leaves provide food for the caterpillars of many moths, including the large emerald, small white wave, barred umber and nut-tree tussock. In managed woodland where hazel is coppiced, the open wildflower-rich habitat supports many species of butterfly, particularly fritillaries. Coppiced hazel also provides shelter for ground-nesting birds such as the nightingale, nightjar, yellowhammer and willow warbler. Hazel has long been associated with the dormouse (also known as the hazel dormouse). Not only are hazelnuts used by dormice to fatten up for hibernation, but in spring the leaves are a good source of caterpillars, which dormice also eat. Hazel nuts are also eaten by woodpeckers, nuthatches, tits, wood pigeons, jays and a number of small mammals. Hazel flowers provide early pollen as a food for bees. The trunks are often covered in mosses, liverworts and lichens, and the fiery milkcap fungi grow in the soil beneath.

Hazel has a reputation as a magical tree. A hazel rod is supposed to protect against evil spirits, as well as being used as a wand and for water-divining. In some parts of England hazel nuts were carried as charms and/or held to ward off rheumatism. In Ireland hazel was known as the ‘Tree of Knowledge’, and in medieval times it was a symbol of fertility.

Hazel wood can be twisted or knotted, and as such it historically had many uses. These included thatching spars, net stakes, water divining sticks, hurdles and furniture. Hazel was also valued for its nuts, or ‘cobs’. Today, hazel coppice has become an important management strategy in the conservation of woodland habitats for wildlife. The resulting timber is used in many ways, and is becoming increasingly popular as pea sticks and bean poles, used by gardeners.

Hazel was grown in the UK for large-scale nut production until the early 1900s. Cultivated varieties (known as cob-nuts) are still grown in Kent, but most of our hazelnuts are now imported.

**Woodlands.co.uk asks** “Do you have hedgerows on your land? Have you ever thought of trying to date them? It is sometimes possible to give an approximate age to a hedge using the ‘hedge dating’ system devised by Dr Max Hooper in the 1970s.

The basic formula for dating a hedge is as follows:

First measure out a 30 metre length of hedge.

Work along the hedge systematically recording each woody species.

Repeat this process with two or three 30 metre sections of hedge.

Calculate how many woody species on average you find in your hedge.

Generally speaking, a new species is added every hundred years”.

My grateful thanks to: Woodlands.co.uk and to Wright, John (2016) *A Natural History of the Hedgerow; and ditches, dykes and dry stone walls*. Profile Books Ltd, London.

**Jayne Glover**

## Horningsham Women's Group

In September, we explored our artistic ability guided by Phil Mumby. Phil is the Creative Design Manager at Longleat and does the most beautiful drawings of birds and animals. He showed us a selection of his work to try and inspire us with some of his talent and started us off with a selection of photos of birds to copy and a few tips such as calculating all the measurements from the proportion of the bird's eye. This was difficult but certainly key in making sure we avoided sticking a beak in the end of the head or putting the legs too far forward or back. The results were surprisingly good!



We also had a discussion about the future of our group as it is coming up to our 2 year membership of the W.I. While everyone agreed that we all gained from the social interaction of being part of a village group, because our numbers are still quite small, we have begun to question our suitability for meeting the requirements of a large organisation like the WI. We have therefore decided to terminate the W.I. connection and continue as an informal women's group but with the same pattern of meetings with speakers and socials, organised by ourselves. Our next meeting will, ironically be on that archetypal W.I. topic: jam making.

**Carole Hill**



**DRIVE IN  
AND PICK  
YOUR OWN  
FIRE WOOD**

**Woodchip, Mulch, Hardwood  
Logs, Softwood Logs, Kindling,  
House Coal, Smokeless Coal.**  
Delivery available.

Mon to Fri: 7.30am - 4.15pm  
Closed on Sundays & Bank Holidays  
Open Saturdays from Sep-Mar only until 12noon  
☎ 01985 213507 🌐 [www.longleat.co.uk/forestry](http://www.longleat.co.uk/forestry)

 **LONGLEAT  
FORESTRY**

*5% Discount on Firewood for Tenants of Longleat Estate*

## MONTHLY RECIPE

### *Healthy Digestive Biscuits*

It is strange to see the digestive biscuit, the UK's favourite biscuit, labelled as 'humble' ! I for one think the opposite. Described as a sweet-meal or semi-sweet biscuit, it has a complex background that is mainly attributed to its title 'digestive'. This gives it similar ranking to a 'digestif', an alcoholic drink that aids postprandial digestion. In the case of digestives, the addition of sodium bicarbonate supposedly gave rise to the belief that they had 'antacid' properties!

At this point, I must tell you that there are certain foods in our life that just don't taste the same as we remember them and it has nothing to do with getting older! Digestives are one of them, apparently the leading brand recipe is 'secret'! I could spend the rest of my life baking and testing digestive recipes posted online by professional and amateur bakers. Fortunately I have been saved by a recipe devised by Sarah James (talesfromthekitchenshed.com) that I absolutely loved and need search no more!

Prep time 10 mins Cook time 12 mins. Makes 30ish Preheat oven to 170°C fan/Gas Mark 4

#### **Ingredients**

175 g white spelt flour or plain flour	150 g oatmeal
150 g sunflower margarine or butter	½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
½ teaspoon baking powder	A pinch of salt
60 ml (4 tablespoons) maple syrup or golden syrup or milk. (I used Sweet Freedom)	
2 large baking sheets greased or lined.	

**Method** Sieve dry ingredients into a large mixing bowl and add the butter or margarine. Rub the fat into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs.

Add the maple syrup or golden syrup or milk (depending on which version you want to make) and bring the mixture together into a ball using your hands.

Flatten the dough into a thick disc ready for rolling out. Cover with cling film and place in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.

Remove your biscuit dough from the fridge and roll out to about 3 to 4 mm thick.

Using a 6 cm circle cutter cut out 30 ish circles and place the biscuits onto your baking trays – Use a fork or skewer to make a pattern. Bake in the oven for 12 to 15 minutes until lightly browned. If you like a really crisp biscuit, switch the oven off and leave them in for another 5 minutes or so.

Remove from the oven and leave to cool for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack.

Optional: decorate with melted chocolate.

Store in an airtight container. Sarah suggests using golden syrup instead of maple syrup if you want a sweeter biscuit made with sugar. If you prefer a totally sugar free biscuit, omit the maple syrup and use 3 to 4 tablespoons of milk and flavour with ½ teaspoon of salt to use with cheese.

**Jayne Glover**

## November Road Closures



First the good news! Wiltshire Council are to carry out carriageway resurfacing, road marking, adjustment of ironworks and surface dressing on various roads in the village.

Now the bad news – this will require a series of road closures on certain days in November when lengthy diversions will be signed.

It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works.

**Round Hill (Part), Horningsham;** from property known as Round Hill Farm for a distance of approximately 620 metres in a south westerly direction.

On 12 November 2019 and the closure will be required between the hours of 07:00 and 18:00 until 13 November 2019

**Hollybush (Part), Horningsham;** from its junction with the Maiden Bradley road to its junction with Hitcombe Bottom.

On 13 November 2019 and the closure will be required between the hours of 07:00 and 18:00 until 14 November 2019.

**Forest Road, Horningsham;** from its junction with B3092 Frome Road to its junction with Cock Road

**Cock Road, Horningsham;** from its junction with Forest Road to its junction with Anchor Barton

**Anchor Barton, Horningsham;** from its junction with Cock Road to its junction with Water Lane

**Water Lane, Horningsham;** from its junction with Anchor Barton to its junction with The Island.

On 14 November 2019 and the closure will be required between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00 until 18 November 2019.

## The Parish Steward

You may have noticed a pickup truck in the village prominently marked “Parish Steward”. The Parish Steward is employed by Ringway the contractor for Wiltshire Council Highways and performs a wide range of tasks. We are very fortunate to have Pete Wood as our Parish Steward. Pete is extremely helpful to Horningsham and does a great number of jobs very efficiently that impact on how the village looks. Last month we featured Mundy’s Lane which he cleared and re-opened. When we posted that story on the Horningsham News Facebook page it achieved a record-breaking 2,959 hits!

Pete sends Sarah Jeffries, our Parish Council Clerk, reports of the work he has done on his monthly visits and these are usually accompanied by before and after shots he has taken on his mobile phone. To celebrate Pete’s achievements we are delighted to publish just a handful of these photos.





## Endangered Tiger Cubs Enjoy First Taste of The Great Outdoors



A pair of endangered Amur tiger cubs - the world's largest big cats - has ventured outside for the first time at Longleat Safari Park.

Although initially cautious, the cubs, a male called Rusty and a female called Yuki, soon overcame their nerves and began exploring their outdoor enclosure, under the watchful gaze of mum Yana. Before long the pair, who both weighed just a kilogramme when they were born back in June, were chasing each other and even trying out their somewhat clumsy ambush skills on their patient mother.



The cubs' birth was the first at the Wiltshire safari park for nearly 20 years and keepers are delighted with their progress. "Going outside for the first time is always a key milestone in the development of any cub and it also marks the start of a whole new chapter in their young lives," said keeper Caleb Hall. "Despite all our best efforts, we never really know how they will react until the big day. However Rusty and Yuki took the whole thing in their stride and seemed to relish all the new sights, sounds and smells. Their playfighting and stalking games are exactly what they would be doing in the wild and signals the beginning of their independence from mum," he added.



Tigers give birth to very small and vulnerable cubs in comparison to their size and they are solely dependent on mum for the first three months. Even after that they will closely follow mum and only be fully mature at three to four years of age.

Both mum Yana and dad Red are four years old and have been at Longleat for just over a year having come from separate collections in Sweden and Norway respectively. The pair is part of a European breeding programme for the endangered sub-species. Native to the far east of Russia, the Amur tiger is the largest of the big cats and can weigh up to 300 kg and measure more than three metres in length.

In the 1930s the tigers had nearly died out due to hunting and logging. At one stage it is thought the population fell as low as just 20–30 animals. Although they are still under severe threat their status was officially changed from Critically Endangered to Endangered in 2007. Wildlife experts believe the current population of around 540 individuals is the highest for more than a century. There were once nine tiger subspecies, but three – the Bali, Caspian and Javan - became extinct during the 20th century.

## Even the pennies count at stately homes . .



**A STately OUTING**  
... for Mr. Popkiss, Eric  
Wainwright's dog, with  
the Marquess of Bath.

# LOOK! IT'S A TOP PEOPLE'S PLOT TO GET MORE CASH

by Eric Wainwright

**T**HE sign read "Dogs Must Be Kept On a Lead," so I tethered my spaniel, Mr. Popkiss, inside the car and drove on down the endless rolling drive to Longleat . . . Britain's third most popular stately home.

A mile from the massive and splendid 400-year-old house, an old man in a green Tyrolean hat hopped out of a hut and demanded a 3s. road toll.

For it costs a lot to keep up a stately home.

And this week the owners, who have formed a kind of trade union, will hold their first meeting at the London headquarters of the British Travel and Holidays Association.

The main topic of discussion will be how to attract more customers and more cash.

At Longleat, with the sun burning in the red and gold leaves, the 6th Marquess of Bath, tall, lean 60-year-old Henry Frederick Thynne took Mr. Popkiss for a stroll . . . on a lead . . . in his garden . . . 10,000 acres.

"I think this union thing is damn good," he

told me. "We're all new at the stately home game and we can help each other.

"For instance I made nearly £500 out of lavatories last year. I charge the men the same as the women. Well, I've advised the other people to put in plenty of lavatories. Small detail, of course, but it all helps."

**T**ODAY, Lord Bath's Longleat is third in popularity after Lord Montagu's Beaulieu, and the Duke of Bedford's Woburn Abbey. More than 2,000,000 visitors have walked its ancient corridors since it was opened in 1957.

And each year they contribute around £25,000 toward its upkeep.

These unwieldy lovely places are impractical, useless and priceless.

# Daily Mirror

4d. Monday, October 25, 1965

No. 19,235

## Swords

Fine paintings and books enrich the walls, and beside them hang the pikes and swords and armour of our turbulent ancestors.

But it's not enough.

"You've got to have a gimmick . . . much as I dislike the word," Lord Bath explained.

- Lord Montagu has a vintage car museum.
- At Woburn Abbey there is a sign: "See His Grace Eat," and for a few shillings visitors can rubberneck while the Duke feeds behind a roped enclosure.
- At Ragley Hall, Lord Hertford goes water-skiing. "People pay to see me fall off."

**A**ND at Longleat, Lord Bath has just fenced off 100 acres of woodland and is negotiating to stock it with forty lions.

"They cost 5s. a day to keep—each, that is—say £70 a week. But I reckon they will be a big draw. Of course, some people are trying to put a block on the scheme.

"'The Mad Marquess' they say, and 'What's going to happen if a lion escapes?' I suppose they think it would hare off to the nearest village and eat forty-seven children.

"Animals are a big attraction," he said with a shrewd look at Mr. Popkiss.

# Wiltshire Times

and Crombridge Advertiser.

20<sup>th</sup> October 1934

## HORNINGSHAM NOVEL COMPETITIONS.

Lady Weymouth was in the chair at the monthly meeting of Horningham Women's Institute on Thursday evening in last week, when a competition for the best conducted Committee meeting was a feature of the programme. Lady Weymouth and Mrs. W. L. Hogan, of Warminster, were the judges, and after some difficulty they gave the first place to the group of members of which Mrs. Whatley was "Chairman," and Mrs. Spurlie "Secretary." The second group was in charge of Mrs. Cheape and Miss Anderson, as Chairman and Secretary respectively. The prizes were given by Mrs. Hogan.

Another competition—for the best bunch of autumn leaves and berries—attracted many entries, and Mr. D. Anderson awarded the first prize to Mrs. Cheape and the second to Mrs. F. Chapman.

A fish-and-chip supper was a popular part of the proceedings, and Mrs. C. Davis acted as hostess with the assistance of Mrs. W. Penny, Mrs. W. Garrett, Mrs. D. Davis, and Mrs. C. T. Beauchamp.



### BUSES FROM BUS STOP 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

#### 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

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

### ADVERTISING RATES

¼ page £4.00    ½ page £8.00    Full Page £16.00

*These apply to the inside pages of the magazine*



### **BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES**

Black Boxes	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> October Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> November
Grey Bins	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> October Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Blue Bins	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> October Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Mobile Library	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> October Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> November <i>10.00 – 10.25 opposite the Hall</i>

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

### **Dates For Your Diary**

- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 5.00 *Harvest Festival* at the Church
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 *Parish Council Meeting* at the Hall
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 10.00 *Harvest Festival* at the Chapel
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 4.00-6.00 *Bonfire Night* at the Hall Field



THE BATH ARMS  
COUNTRY PUB & ACCOMMODATION

Warm, welcoming  
Wiltshire gastropub  
with 18 rooms

THE BATH ARMS

Championing **the  
finest regional ingredients**  
in seasonal menus

Scenic spot for **cycling  
and dog-walking** on the  
cusp of Longleat Estate



[www.batharms.co.uk](http://www.batharms.co.uk) • T: 01985 844 308

The Bath Arms at Longleat, Horningsham, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7LY

   @thebatharms

\*Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, or used on Christmas Day

( 01985 )  
21 22 88



( 01985 )  
21 22 15

FROM  
SOMERSET

**0800 542 5222**

WARMINSTER  
WILTSHIRE



**No Mole  
No Fee  
07512681111  
01373836350**



LAKESIDE  
garden centre



Everything for the garden.....with lakeside views.



CROCKERTON, WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE 01985 217413 OPEN MON-SAT 8.30-5.30 SUN 10.30-4.30



[www.fonthill-lakeside.com](http://www.fonthill-lakeside.com)



Professional  
Eco-friendly  
Carpet, Rug,  
&  
Upholstery Cleaning



**GREEN MAN**

FROM:

**01373 470416**

[www.greenmancleaning.co.uk](http://www.greenmancleaning.co.uk)

**STAR  
FISH  
BAR**

3 BROXBURN ROAD WARMINSTER  
TEL: 01985 217232

**\*\*OPENING TIMES\*\***

**LUNCHTIMES**

MON 11.45AM - 1.45PM  
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

**SUNDAYS, 4.30PM - 8.30PM**

**Your Advert  
Here  
Only £40 per year**

**FORD FUEL OILS**

[www.fordfueloils.co.uk](http://www.fordfueloils.co.uk)

The Oil Depot, Farrington Fields Trading Estate, Farrington Gurney, Bristol BS39 6UU  
Tel: 01761 452222 Fax: 01761 453977  
Email: [admin@fordfueloils.co.uk](mailto:admin@fordfueloils.co.uk)

**COMPUTER REPAIRS  
UPGRADES / SYSTEMS & LAPTOPS**

**VIRUS REMOVAL / BROADBAND  
WIRELESS / NETWORKING**



**FAST, FRIENDLY, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**COMPETITIVE RATES**

**ONSITE OR WORKSHOP**

**CC CompTIA**  
A+ Certified

call  
**01373 302901**

[www.ntscomputing.co.uk](http://www.ntscomputing.co.uk)  
[help@ntscomputing.co.uk](mailto:help@ntscomputing.co.uk)

**EMBERSON GENERAL BUILDERS**

- Carpentry
- Brickwork
- Plastering
- Roofing
- Fencing
- Painting & Decorating

Over 15 years experience.

**Call Tony On 07917 388408 For A**

competitive quote.

**Your Ad Here  
for just  
£20 per year**

**FOR ALL YOUR GARDEN NEEDS**

**CALL FLASH ON  
01985 988578  
MOBILE: 07840116119**