

# HORNINGSHAM

## NEWS

ISSUE 238

May 2022





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**EDITORIAL**

May marks the intensification of preparations for Horningsham’s big event of the year – the Annual Fayre on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June. After a lengthy gap due to Covid it is even more important that this year’s Fayre is a success. The Fayre Committee have been energetically planning the Fayre’s return but are appealing for help with preparations on the Saturday as well as on the day itself. You will also find appeals for cakes, plants and bric a brac. As well as being a time for the whole village to come together, all of the money raised goes to support our village clubs and organisations throughout the year. So do put the date in your diary and come and support the Fayre.

Before then, we do have another village event on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June when the Hall Committee are organising a Jubilee Village Picnic from 5 to 8 at the Hall.

As we were preparing this issue the sad news reached us of the death of Alison Wadsworth. Alison was a much loved Headteacher of Horningsham School for 10 years from 1986. It was only the week before that a postman in his 40s made the unsolicited remark to me: “Mrs Wadsworth was the best teacher I ever had”. What a way for Alison to be remembered.

**Tim Hill**

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Email: [horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Editorial Team**

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**We now have 1,438 “Page Follows” – over eight times the number of printed copies!**

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

## **HORNINGSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Horningsham Parish Council met on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Village Hall.

**Present:** Councillors, Stephen Crossman, Simon Millar, Ken Windess, Elizabeth Glover, John Radley, Paul Jones, Charlotte Hilleary, Matt Simpson, and Dermot FitzGerald..

**In attendance in person:** Unitary Councillor Bill Parks, the Bath Arms Team and two parishioners.

**Attending Virtually Online:** LarMac Live & LarMac Projects Events Team and the Parish Clerk Mrs. Sarah Jeffries PSLCC.

**Apologies:** Councillors, Tim Hill and Gerard Brierley,

Council resolved that the Vice Chairman, Stephen Crossman would Chair the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

### **Public Question Time**

The LarMac Live & LarMac Projects Events Team, the Bath Arms Team and those present, discussed possible issues and concerns regarding residential parking, the Bath Arms clientele and how the proposals would affect the parish.

The timings of entry on to the Estate, the entrances to be used and exit times were mentioned. Traffic management at Picket Post to Heaven's Gate is a potential issue being policed. The effect of Friday night traffic, change over at Center Parcs and those exiting the Longleat Estate, which already causes traffic issues, without the introduction of a concert. The LarMac Live & LarMac Projects Events Team assured everyone that it had all been considered within the traffic management draft plans. Soft closure of the estate on those Fridays along with the fact there will be electronic parking notices on the major routes into the area so they can direct the traffic different routes is expected to help to alleviate any traffic backups. Preventative measures were put forward that could be put in place regarding the volume of traffic and visitors to the village on the Concert nights. It was noted that there is to be a one-way order from Center Parcs through to the Longleat Estate entrance. Horningsham School would be disrupted by the traffic setting up the event was mentioned and the event team assured that they will contact the school to make them aware.

The Events Team said that this meeting was the last they were having, the input from this meeting would be feedback for them to complete the last version of the Traffic Management plan. They reassured the meeting that access for emergency vehicles will be part of the plan.

A parishioner addressed Council on issues they have with trees getting cut down and not replanted. The Chairman directed them to David Abrahams the Estate Arboricultural Supervisor as the person to speak about tree planting on the estate.

A parishioner addressed Council regarding housing in the village. Their family member wishes to move back into the village but the housing is not affordable to them. They had been shown a property in Newbury, but this was not suitable due to its condition. They mentioned the number of empty houses and had asked Longleat if any were going to be changed into short term accommodation. Longleat said none had been earmarked for this.

The Chairman pointed out that the Estate is privately owned and is a commercial business so cannot be forced to provide social housing. Jon Timney the Director of Estate, Property and Maintenance will be attending the next Parish Council meeting.

Unitary Councillor Bill Parks reported that the project to have signage warning of pedestrians crossing the road to Heaven's Gate car park and road marking to slow the traffic will go ahead

### **Planning Applications**

Proposal: Demolition of the existing lemur walk-through enclosure and associated fencing, existing toilet block and associated hard surfacing, existing small animal (tortoise) exhibition building and associated hard surfacing. Provision of 18no. safari-tent style sleeping lodges on land at the northern end of the Safari Park including associated gravelled access tracks and parking areas. Re-alignment of existing animal enclosure fencing to increase the area of the giraffe enclosure. Succession planting in various locations across the northern end of the Safari Park in accordance with Longleat Estate's tree management plan. New soft landscaping to improve the setting of the lodges.

Site Address: Longleat Safari Park, Horningsham, Warminster, Wilts

Resolved: Supported, as long as it stays within that designated boundary area

### **Planning Decision**

PL/2022/00437: Site Address Village Green, Horningsham BA12 7LY

Proposal: All works to be pruned to adequate pruning points and in accordance with BS3998 Tree Works: specifications

T1 and T2 - Veteran Beech - Reduce crowns by approximately 3.5m

T3 - Horse Chestnut, reduce crown by 2.5m and crown lift over roadside only to 5.2m

T4 - Lime - Crown lift to 5.2m along roadside only

T5 - Sweet Chestnut - Crown reduce by 2.5m and crown lift over roadside to 5.2m

T6 - London Plane - Remove two small (approximately 8cm dbh) regenerative stems to ground level, leaving a standalone tree.

Decision: No objection

### **Bulb Planting Project**

Councillor Matt Simpson will seek 3 quotations for the supply of these. He suggested that schoolchildren could plant them.

### **Community Orchard**

Councillor Matt Simpson will explore with Longleat the possibility of creating a community orchard.

### **Jubilee Trees**

Councillor Matt Simpson will seek permission from Longleat to plant trees on the Common.

### **Parking on The Common**

Councillor Paul Jones reported that Jon Timney Director of Estate, Property and Maintenance at Longleat was looking at various areas for parking to be provided. One possibility is the area known as the Garages off Haskell's Lane.

### **Painting of the Phone Boxes**

Council resolved to hire Contractor A at a cost of £1,180.00

### **Teenage Recreational Provision**

Councillor Charlotte Hilleary reported that progress has been had, she has had a meeting with Bikepark, and they are back out to look at the site. It was agreed that the design must make sure that the access is from the track, rather than across the hall field, there may need fencing to be considered to segregate it from the cricket field.

#### ***The Annual Parish Meeting***

*(The meeting of the Electors called by the Chairman)*

***7.30 on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall***

***The next meeting of Horningsham Parish Council will be at 7.30 on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May at the Village Hall when all are welcome to attend***

### **HORNINGSHAM LUNCHEON CLUB**



Reading an article in the monthly Wiltshire Life magazine passed to me by one of our Luncheon Club members, it shows how lucky we are to be an independently run club. The club in question has learnt that Wiltshire Council says they will be changing their funding model. In the mean time this year their funding will be cut by 50% and next year cut by another 50%. This means as they buy in their dinners from Age UK's meals service for £7.50 per head and also

charge members for the rent of the room their price is £10 per member per meal.

We on the other hand have volunteer cooks and helpers who produce a home cooked dinner and pudding with tea or coffee for just £3.50 a head - a massive saving. We also have to thank the Hall Committee for giving us a very favourable rental charge. We don't have any grants but we do share in the profit from the Village Fayre as one of the organisations who benefit from this annual event. This shows that without the support of all our volunteers (who incidentally are all getting on in years) the club would not be sustainable.

If anyone has a few hours to spare on a Thursday then please get in touch with us. Margaret does a rota so it works out about one Thursday in four you would be rostered on.

We are closed at present for our two week Easter break and will open again on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Our AGM will be held after lunch on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Lesley 211355 & Margaret 844756**



## FAYRE NEWS

As I write this it is just 8 weeks until our Annual Village Fayre on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am until 5.00pm**. It is three years since we last had a Fayre due to the pandemic and we hope for a bumper crowd.

The Fayre Committee have worked hard through the year helping to provide an entertaining event for everyone. Admission is free but we hope everyone will buy a draw ticket at the entrance for which we have some exciting prizes this year. Lady Bath will be opening the Fayre and our guest Charlie Dimmock will be in attendance.

There will be the usual village stalls: Plants, tombola, cakes, bric-a-brac, barbecue as well as various outside craft stalls. There will also be a mix of food stalls plus cream teas in the Village Hall. The bar will kindly be run by The Bath Arms this year.

Laser Cleys will be back again this year in the copse at the far end of the field. In the arena we have Bellevue Vets running the dog show so please bring your 4 legged pet with you. There will also be a flying display from Pitcombe Falconry and the school will be entertaining us with a dance display. There will be a steel band in attendance all day to add to the atmosphere. This year we hope to have an added attraction of a display of vintage tractors.

All the profit from the Fayre is shared between various organisations within the village which makes it a great community event.

As usual we are always pleased to have extra help in setting up the Fayre and on the actual day itself. We will be meeting on the field at 6.0pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to erect the tents. On Saturday we will be on the field from 10.00am onwards hanging bunting and getting everything ready. Please come along if you have time to spare as many hands make light work.

If you can spare any time on the Fayre day even just an hour to give someone a break it would be much appreciated.

***Our last Fayre Meeting before the big day is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 7.0pm at the Hall, everyone is welcome.***

Let's all hope for a fine sunny day.

**Lesley Trollope**

## Horningsham Cricket Club



Cricket can be a harsh game. Take for example our game last Sunday, played against Chilmark. For us it was our first game of the season, and for one of their team, it was his debut for them. He had come in a rush from London, missed a train, taken two taxis, spent a lot of money, arrived just in time and came out to bat with a reputation as a solid player. Of course he was out first ball. But more than that. He was given out to a dodgy LBW by the umpire who was none other than the Chilmark club chairman who had begged him to give up his Easter to play.

Cricket can also be romantic. Take the Chilmark teenager who had been coached through their ranks, and now batting in partnership with his proud Dad, scored a brilliant century, his first ever century, and won the match for them; while his happy Mum was held up in traffic and arrived to watch just after his innings was over.

So that is what happened, but we were not without opportunities to spoil the young man's day. The first time he miss-hit a gentle lob towards Julian Allard who was startled from a day dream and seeing the ball passing him at mouth height, seemed to try to bite it, rather than catch it, as if he mistook it for a bun. In retrospect this mattered as the lad had only scored about 10. At the time we were entertained. But when Jules started to dribble down the side of his mouth, giving him the appearance of a nonplussed vampire who had woken up before sundown, it became too much - bleeding on cricket balls is no joke in these covid times - and we fined him for that.

Later, the same batsman hit the same bowler to the longer on boundary, where Dan Joines dropped him again. Dan's excuse was that he was standing on the wrong side of the boundary anyway so it would have been futile to catch it. Another fine.

The same bowler, Oli Smith, also twice had the young man caught behind off no balls. You could say that Oli was having a bad day and later he was described as having anger management issues. So yes he was fined for that.



These errors affected the progress of the game and the serenity of Oli's mood but also in a more visceral way Connor Widdows, who was seen writhing on the long leg boundary in disappointment and making pained noises like a cow giving birth. A spectator asked me later who he was.

The rest of the side could hardly bat and we reduced them at one point to 115 for 9. The game then reached a crisis of the sort that distinguishes village cricket from the professional game. One of our bowlers was on a run of four wickets for no runs in four overs. And he had an easy opportunity to take his fifth, a big deal in cricket circles, by bowling out the last batsman who had the air of a man who could not bat. But the cakes for tea were not due to arrive for another forty minutes. So he deliberately bowled wide of the stumps, the momentum shifted, and the tyro the other end smashed another 60 runs before we could stop him. Chilmark ended on 176, which proved to be just more than we could manage. But for those cakes it was well worth it.

In fact we batted competently right to the end. Jacob Abbott scored 50 and retired. Several others chipped in. Only one of our side was out first ball. But we fell 6 runs short, losing a game that we had had every opportunity to win. Still, it was an excellent start to the year, played in good spirit and under a dreamily beautiful sunny sky, and we look forward to many more games like it.

**James Osborne**



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## HALL NEWS



The Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday is coming soon and the Hall and Parish Council are celebrating with a summer party on Thursday 2nd June, on the sports field, with fizz, picnics and games (croquet, rounders, plank races...). A free, informal event for people who live in Horningsham. Please bring your own picnic and drinks and come along. 5pm start.

If you have an interest in the Hall and sports field, and what they can do for village life, don't forget to come to our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 31st May (7pm). The Hall is looked after by a voluntary committee and we do need extra help.

**James Osborne**

An advertisement for Longleat Forestry. The background is a bright yellow with a faint wood grain pattern. In the foreground, there is a pile of cut logs. The text is in bold black font.

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FORESTRY** 

# JUBILEE VILLAGE PICNIC



**Join us to celebrate the  
Queen's 70th Jubilee**

**Thursday 2 June 2022**

**Horningsham Village Hall, 5pm till 8pm**

BYOB, picnic and blanket and let's raise a glass to the Queen.  
Games, quiz and more. Come and meet your neighbours.

Toast to the Queen at 5.15pm

## CHURCH NEWS



The Easter weekend brought with it some very welcome sunshine. The church always looks lovely in the sun and it is a good year for primroses. Perhaps it was the weather that encouraged people to choose a different option to church on Easter Sunday; the congregation was disappointingly small.

There are five Sundays in May and it is Horningsham's turn to hold the Benefice Service. We also have a wedding to look forward to. Jane Yates's grandson Alex will be married here on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. Jane's connection with Horningsham goes back almost 60 years and it will be wonderful to welcome the family back to the village for this very special family occasion.

Sadly, we have just heard that Revd Alison Wadsworth died peacefully at home over the Easter weekend, with her carer and a friend by her side. Alison spent her working life as a teacher, and was headmistress of Horningsham School 1986-1996. She was ordained Deacon in 1997 and Priested in 1998. Although Alison lived in Warminster and was based at the Minster, she continued to have a great affection for Horningsham, a feeling that was reciprocated by her many past pupils, who often asked her to take their marriage service or baptise their children. Our thoughts are with Alison's family and her many friends.

### Church Date

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May Benefice Communion service 10.30am

**Helen Taylor**

Dear Friends,

Perhaps by the time you read this you will have been lucky enough to hear the song of the cuckoo once more, a sound that announces that spring has truly sprung. For the moment I will content myself with rapidly greening hedgerows and a garden that seems to be budding and flowering before my very eyes. Once again the miracle of new life unfolds and little green shoots push their way through the soil in the vegetable bed.



Biblical writers were acutely aware of the precious beauty of the natural world but they also had the greatest respect for it as well. Life for these nomadic people was hard and food, water and security were understood to be gifts to be treasured; there was no illusion or indeed expectation that life would be easy or that human beings had everything under control.

We live in uncertain times do we not, a time when peace and stability seem to be slipping away and we fear for a future, both in terms of the environment disaster that we can longer ignore, and in which volatile leaders make decisions that have far reaching consequences for the whole world order. Most of the time we are able to push any thoughts of our own human vulnerability firmly under the carpet and comfort ourselves that we in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are far more sophisticated than those biblical men and women, that we have progressed to such an extent that we are completely in control of our own destinies. Now and then a catastrophic event or series of events will jolt us out this complacent and arrogant assumption and I think the context we find ourselves in today is such a time.

Of course our perspective on life is different to our predecessors, we live in a very different age, and unlike them our news channels supply us with graphic images of the human suffering of people thousands of miles away twenty four hours a day on a relentless roll of grief and loss; there is something awful about sitting watching all this in the comfort of one's own sitting room.

So, I want to give grateful thanks for the fact that I live in this beautiful and peaceful place, I want to acknowledge that I lead an astonishingly privileged life and that I feel helpless in the face of the suffering I see in Ukraine, and in the many other places of conflict or famine in our world. I know I'm probably repeating much of what I said last month, but I think we need to hear it again and again. I do feel unnerved by world events, by so much avoidable suffering, but I also want to point to the Christian understanding of hope; however dark the world seems, and however impossible it looks that new life will ever appear, love will prevail in the end, God is in there somewhere. St Francis of Assisi encapsulated everything I have been trying to say with these words: 'All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of one single candle.'

With love and prayers,

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

**Horningsham Congregational Church**



1905

Our next service will be held at the Chapel on Sunday 8th of May at 10.00 am.  
Carol Cox [horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk](mailto:horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk)

**Jane Yates writes:**

*My grandson, Alex, is to be married in Horningsham church on May 28th at 1.30pm. We should like to invite everyone who remembers us to the service to wish Grace and Alex well.*

**Thanksgiving Service  
For Beryl & Joe Lovatt.  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 2pm**

**St John the Baptist Church Horningsham**

Followed by refreshments at Horningsham Village Hall approx. 3.30pm

If you are taking refreshment kindly let Paul Know by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Email: [paul.lovatt2@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.lovatt2@btinternet.com) or M 07586 838150

Look forward to seeing you.

Paul Lovatt

## PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL

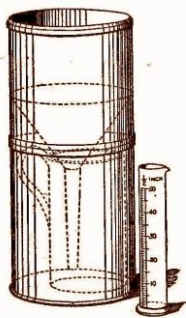


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

March started with quite a few mornings shrouding us in early mist here at the farm, but the rain soon made it disperse. So the first 14 days were cold, drizzly days with some sun shining through. We had quite a hard frost here on the 17<sup>th</sup> but it then turned into a warm sunny day, but with a keen wind. This continued for the next week allowing us to catch up with the spring planting of spring barley, and on the last day of the month it turned very cold, hence a flurry of snow appeared early on the 1<sup>st</sup> April!

We only had 1.85 inches in March, but the ground is still cold and amazingly, quite wet.

**John Whatley**



## WELCOME CLUB

On Tuesday 19th April the Welcome Club set off on the first outing of the season which was a mystery trip and our driver Lionel was only person on the coach who knew where we were going. We set off heading for Mere but we turned off at Stourton then onto Zeals then we turned off for the A303 - we thought maybe South Devon. No, we did not go onto the A303 but turned to Gillingham then to Sturminster Newton, ending up at Blandford for the coffee break.

After our break we headed back towards Warminster, we thought "No, not going home already!" but we turned off for Wimborne then onto Bournemouth for lunch. Some of us went to Harry Ramsdens for lunch where we had the over 60s menu where we had small fish & chips tea or coffee and pudding all very good and great value. Then back to the beautiful park to sit and people watch.

We were back on the coach at 2.45pm then Lionel took us on to Lyndhurst for tea it was a really lovely drive through the New Forest. The only rain we had was when we came out of the cafe after having tea. Back on the coach Tom thanked Lionel for a lovely outing and did the raffle. We arrived home about 6.30pm after an enjoyable day out.

There are some benefits in being older enjoying a day out in good company and all having a laugh, looking at lovely countryside and not having the trouble of having to drive. If you are interested in coming on our next outing to Teignmouth on Tuesday May 24th please call Pearl on 01985 844779 or Lesley on 01985 211355.

**Pearl Hudson**



# Horningsham Primary School

Email: [FriendsoffPS@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:FriendsoffPS@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk)

Email: [admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk)

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

☎ 01985 844342



## Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds

We had a two-week whole school focus called Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds during April. This is a time where we explore a range of themes centred round relationships and feelings. Each class combined elements of the RSE and science curriculum to develop understanding of body parts and explore what makes us special and individual whilst at the same time celebrating cultural diversity. The children considered their own futures and aspirations and developed a greater understanding and empathy for friendships and family dynamics and techniques and processes for managing their worries and feelings.



Each class were very fortunate to have Deborah Peaceful lead them in a couple of meditation classes – both indoors and outdoors. The focus fortnight culminated in a whole school rotation day with all the children working in mixed aged groups – something particularly special given this had been restricted a lot this year with classes having to operate in bubbles due to Covid. The children had a great day developing mindfulness through Zentangle drawing, cooking mini-quiches, learning relaxation and meditation techniques, getting active with body percussion and being creative making dream catchers. They also developed a sense of community responsibility by doing grounds maintenance and planting sunflowers.



# Horningsham Wedding Choir



Singing has always been a strength for the school and this was demonstrated recently at our very own Miss Vaughan's wedding on Easter Saturday. A group of 15 children and 5 members of staff formed a special wedding choir and spent Term 4 having weekly after school rehearsals to prepare for the big day. The children worked really hard learning all their parts and their practising certainly paid off as they performed Calum Scott's 'You Are The Reason' and The Beatles' 'Here Comes The Sun' in perfect harmony. They did a fantastic job and impressed and moved the bride and groom and wedding guests. It was a wonderful community occasion and the children excelled themselves with both their singing and their impeccable manners. A big congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Vesey!



## Easter Festivities

We had a lovely end of term celebrating Easter. The children all took part in a special orienteering Easter egg hunt developing their map skills with chocolate rewards around the school grounds! We all joined together for an Easter assembly where Robins' Class performed their version of 'Chicken Licken' and we sang Easter hymns and shared prayers.

**Michelle Anne Lyons 11/12/1965-29/12/2021**



Michelle spent the last 8 years of her all too short life living in the village that she loved. Horningsham was always her happy place and the place she always thought of as home. She came and went from the village at various times but always came home. When I met her 10 years ago and she brought me here for the first time she told me that she would love to move back here to stay and so we set about making it happen.

Michelle was born in Southampton to June and Ken Windess who both went on to have a long association with both the village and the Longleat Estate. Both her parents had distinguished careers with the Estate and Michelle herself worked in the “Dolls House” within the Estate which would have been a dream job for her.

Michelle’s early adult life was not always easy and saw her widowed with 4 young children at a young age. She showed her sheer determination and spirit to go on to raise 8 wonderful children who have turned into exceptional adults. Several of those children have even been educated in the village school. To have seen her pride when one of our daughters also came to live in the village sending another generation of our family to the village school was a privilege in itself.

I was lucky enough to meet Michelle 10 years ago and we were both adamant we would never marry again, little did we know 12 months later we would be planning our wedding! We moved in to our first home together in Wincanton and very soon made the move to 113 Little Scotland. With 4 growing children at home this proved a bit snug and when the chance arose we moved next door to 114.

In July 2019 Michelle was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia and we were told then that chances of her getting a cure were not good. Here started probably the hardest fight of her life. Constant rounds of chemotherapy and battles with infections coupled with in the latter months endless blood transfusions. She almost always faced these things head on and with a smile and refused to give up easily. I am so immensely proud to have been married to such a wonderful lady who was so much more than my wife, she was also my best friend.

Michelle lived for her family and particularly our grandchildren. It made for a home always full of fun and laughter and in her passing has left me with a wonderful legacy to carry forward. I may have only had 10 years with her but treasure every little memory of my time with the woman I adored.

Sleep tight princess your work is done.

**John Lyons**



Sam Grove and Winnie Li have been living on White Street since December 2020, with their toddler Timo. A Christmas visit to Sam's parents Bob and Nicola, turned into something longer, due to the Covid lockdown. Previously, they had been living in London, where Sam worked as a personal trainer and community organiser. Originally from the United States, Winnie is an author and activist. In addition to her monthly contributions to the Horningsham News, she writes novels, essays, and screenplays. Her literary suspense novel, *Dark Chapter*, came out in 2017, and her second, *Complicit*, will be published in June. Sam's book, an academic study on the radical philosophical implications of Darwin's thought was also published last year. A shorter (and

cheaper) illustrated version followed soon after. Meanwhile, their toddler goes to nursery in Frome, enjoys finding snails, watching tractors, and feeding the waterfowl and donkeys at Mill Farm.



A Midsummer Night's Dream  
at Heywood House

Sunday 4th September 2022

Gates open: 2PM  
Show starts: 4PM

Tickets on sale now!  
[www.heywoodhouse.com/whats-on](http://www.heywoodhouse.com/whats-on)



## Wild Horningsham

If, as the song goes, you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise...well if that surprise is that you fall over, then you may be lucky enough to end up at eye level with some of the plants that I've been checking out this month.

All of these plants can be found without too much difficulty in either (and almost certainly both) the woods at the end of Pottle street and up towards Heaven's Gate.

The first to catch my eye were the delicate lilac veined, five petalled flowers of wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*. This plant, flowering around Easter time, is known in much of Europe as 'alleluia'. It has almost clover-like three lobed leaves that apparently act like a weathervane, folding up before and during rain and when it gets dark. Well, one of those might be useful, I guess the others you could work out for yourself. The leaves have a lemony flavour but should be consumed in moderation. Wood sorrel was in the past used for treating scurvy due to its high vitamin C content.



*Wood Sorrell*



*Speedwell*

You'll need to stay very close to the woodland floor to see the tiny flower of ivy-leaved speedwell *Veronica hederifolia*. This plant is an archaeophyte apparently (a new word for me) meaning it's non-native but introduced in 'ancient' times, so some time before the 15<sup>th</sup> century (pre early modern period). The name describes the leaves Ivy *Hedera* and leaf *folia*.

If you still can't get up, you're in luck because you'll be face to face, as it were, with muskroot *Adoxa moschatellina*, also known as moschatel or Good Friday plant (as it nearly always comes into flower by the beginning of April) This plant's not showy but really subtly beautiful when you look closely. I guess when it was given its genus name they had this in mind as *Adoxa* means 'without glory'. The other (specific) part of its name *moschatellina* means musk, referring to the musky smell it can emit when damp.

Another of its common names is Town Hall Clock, so called because of the flowers that sit at the top of the stalk, four forming the (clock) faces of a cube and the fifth above.



***Town Hall Clock***



***Wood Anemone***

Having eventually got to our feet and not needing to be quite so close to the floor we can enjoy the wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*. The sight of this lovely, early spring, white flower always makes me happy. It is a good indicator of ancient woodlands or hedges as its seed is rarely fertile and therefore relies on its root system to spread, which it does at a pace of approximately six feet each hundred years.

Last but by no means least! I can't not mention the bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* which is looking great, and not to be mistaken for the invasive, non-native Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, the former being smaller and a more intensely coloured deep blue/purple; is stronger scented and all the flowers grow on one side of the distinctly drooping stem. If you want some bluebells in your garden these are the ones to buy or gather seed from.



Have fun in the woods and please watch your step!

NB, remember that it's illegal to dig up any wild plant and always make double sure that the plant is what you think it is if you're going to eat it.

**Andy Dean**

**THEN AND NOW**



c.1930



Not much change here in 90+ years! The only visible changes are: the demolition of part of the garden wall to create a drive for cars; the arrival (in 1938) of two poles carrying electricity and a couple of TV aerials.

However, the main building featured in the photograph has a story to tell of an eccentric unhappy aristo, love, a child bride, untimely deaths, possible ghosts, possible murder, wild exotic animals and a puzzlingly grisly find. So, read on!

Although Collins, who was then the butler at Longleat House, titled his postcard “The School Houses”, what his photo shows in the foreground is actually a former Manor House built around 1700. When the School was built in 1844 the furthest part of the Manor House was extended and became the School House where successive Headteachers lived for over 130 years. Many of the rooms in the Manor House still have original features, notably wooden panelling.

After the death at their house in Grosvenor Square of his 22 year old wife Louisa on Christmas Day 1736 following childbirth, Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Weymouth, dismissed the staff and closed up Longleat House and moved to this Manor House with his three sons, old nurse, and three servants. His youngest son later died aged four.

Thomas’s life had an inauspicious beginning, being born a month after his father died. Aged 4 he inherited the title Viscount Weymouth and Longleat with its Estate from his great-uncle. On leaving Eton at 16, he married 14 year old Elizabeth Sackville in 1726 but the marriage was still unconsummated when she died under 3 years later. In 1733 he married 19 year old Louisa Carteret whose father was Earl Granville and Seigneur of Sark.

During his time at Longleat he bought a number of exotic animals including wolves and a leopard. He also kept a bear in a cage in the cellars. The bear was brought up to the Great Hall to entertain guests. He also enclosed many of the open fields around Longleat reducing the common land available to villagers and so causing them much hardship. The straight drive from Horningsham to the house was another of his innovations. Much of his time was spent shooting and hunting and he bought a pack of hounds and numerous horses.

It was rumoured that Louisa had a lover and that Thomas killed him by pushing him down a staircase at Longleat. The only supporting evidence for this is that a body from that period was found when work was being done on the house in 1915. Louisa is said to haunt Longleat as the “Grey Lady”.

Thomas never remarried but he did keep up his interest in horses and one of them won the 100 Guineas at Newmarket in 1741. 10 years later he died aged 41 and broke with family tradition by requesting in his will that he be buried in the parish where he died. So, Thomas is the only Thynne buried in Horningsham Churchyard. His large box tomb in the graveyard bears a hard-to-read inscription extolling his virtues.

Intriguingly, the contents of the Manor House were listed on Thomas’s death and included the following items: 600 bottles of port and a pair of scarlet breeches in which were 2 half-guineas, 6 shillings in silver and the keys of St James’s Park – of which he was the Ranger. There was also a “saw for cutting off human bones”!

## On Saving a Sheep's Life

One evening, I find myself walking alone in the deer park below Heaven's Gate. In the middle distance, I spy what looks like a sheep fallen on the ground, its legs flailing from time to time. Curious, I draw closer and notice it is heavily pregnant, like all the ewes in this pasture. Perhaps she is in labour and wants to be on her own.

What do I know? I'm just a transplanted Londoner.



I post a photo of the ewe on Twitter, asking: Is this sheep about to give birth? A few minutes later, a reply comes from a friend of a friend in Ireland. She tells me the ewe is stuck, and I'll have to help her up. Evidently, a common occurrence with very pregnant ewes. Uncertain, I speak to my mother-in-law, Nicola, and eventually we enlist the aid of our neighbour Fran, who takes one look at the photo on my phone and confirms: 'Yes, she needs turning over.'



And so, the three of us march out past Huntley's Gate in the dying light of the evening. 'Steady girl,' Fran says to the ewe. With a single push, she rights the sheep, which trots off, seemingly unbothered, to graze further up the slope. Fran assures me that if we had left her, the ewe would have been dead by the morning. Her and her unborn lambs.

It's a strange small triumph, to think about those ovine lives, potentially lost. In a different era, I, like any country folk living here, would have immediately known what to do. But I had to resort to Twitter and knocking on a neighbour's door. A 21st century definition of community. How closely life and death can rest on looking around and observing, on asking for help.

Every time I walk through the pasture, I see more lambs - and I wonder which of them may have come from Sheep 10881, unborn on that evening, but soon to see the light of day. That I'll never know. I will have to remain content with believing they are out there, somewhere roaming the fields. They scamper in the sunlight, and leap in the sheer joy of being alive.

**Winnie Li**



## LONGLEAT NEWS

Keepers at Longleat are using a cuddly toy koala to help weigh their baby joey. The seven-month-old female marsupial is the first ever southern koala to have been born in Europe.



Weight is a key indicator of a koala's health and each individual animal has to be weighed weekly to ensure they're in top condition. In order to make the process as stress free as possible, keepers have added a soft toy koala to the weighing basket.

"Koalas' diet consists entirely of eucalyptus leaves so keeping a close eye on their weight helps us make sure they are eating enough, and their digestive systems are in order," said lead keeper, Jon Ovens. "As well as helping us to monitor her condition, the weekly weigh-in also helps her to get used to our presence and allows us to give her an overall health check," he added.

Koalas give birth after a pregnancy lasting just over a month. The joey is born blind and hairless and about the same size as a jellybean. Within minutes, the tiny baby is able to find its way into its mother's pouch. As it continues to grow and develop, the joey will leave the pouch and explore. However, it will remain largely dependent on its mother until it is up to a year old.

At Longleat the koalas' purpose-built enclosure includes a natural stream, eucalyptus trees, climbing poles, a mix of indoor and outdoor habitats, viewing areas, and a medical care unit.

A plantation of eucalyptus trees has also been established on the estate to help provide some of the koalas' supply of leaves, the only thing the marsupials will eat.

The facility is part of a ground-breaking joint initiative with the Government of South Australia, Cleland Wildlife Park and Longleat to support research and raise funds for koala management and conservation.

In the aftermath of the bushfires, keepers from Koala Creek travelled out to South Australia to help with the recovery programme and in 2020 Longleat donated over £50,000 to support koala conservation and recovery programmes.





American Independence Day  
Extravaganza  
At  
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SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022  
6pm-10.30pm

Roth Bar Traditional American Burgers and  
Hot Dogs for Sale  
Picnics welcome

12 Piece  
Motown Band

Licensed Bar

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Tickets email: [chogtickets21@gmail.com](mailto:chogtickets21@gmail.com) Adults £20, 14-18yrs £10, Child Free

All proceeds to go to Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches



# Village Fayre Plant Stall heads up



Time to think about the Plant Stall!  
How about growing some seeds or cuttings?  
Carole Hill 844365



## CAKE STALL

Time to start thinking about this year's Cake Stall  
Could you help on the day of the Fayre?  
How about making something to sell on the stall?



You can make anything from a cup cake to a gateau, jam tart to a quiche, marmalade to chutney, in fact anything that is home made and delicious.

Susie Hilleary 844454



**Wanted: more Bric a Brac for the Village Fayre in June.**

Any saleable items are needed.

If you want me to collect just call or you can deliver to 15 Gentle St.

I have plenty of storage.

**Margaret Long - 844756**

# ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES VALUATION DAY

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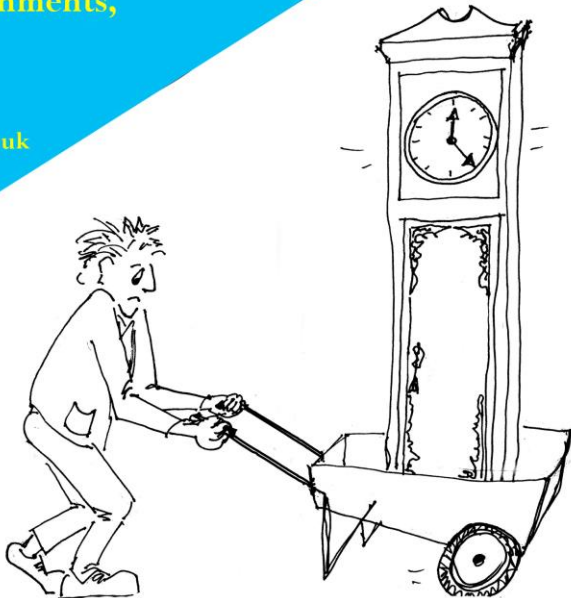
**WEDNESDAY, 18th MAY 2022**

**MAIDEN BRADLEY CHURCH**

**4.00 - 7.00pm**

**Cake Stall, Refreshments,  
Tower Tours**

**Further Information:**  
[sarah.neish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah.neish@hotmail.co.uk)



Only £2 per item - all proceeds to the Friends of the Church

# Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

01985 845303 (*answerphone*)



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

**The Forces March from the Memorial Hall  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 9.15am approx.**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – Sunday Catch-up Coffee Morning 10-11am

**CELEBRATIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Beacon Lighting at Rodmead Farm, Maiden Bradley  
with kind permission from the Neish Family

Beacon to be lit at 9.45pm

Dessert & Pudding Marquee

Please feel free to bring your own drinks (no glass due to livestock)

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 12.30-18.00** The Big Lunch Garden Party at Bradley House

With kind permission from The Duke of Somerset

Bring a picnic and enjoy a sociable afternoon with lawn and children's games

All Saints Church open all Bank Holiday weekend with floral decorations and  
70 years of history exhibition

For more details, please check our website

## **Regular Events**

Mondays	10.30am-11.30am	Yoga
Mondays	5.00pm-6.00pm	Dr's Surgery
Tuesdays	1.00pm-3.00pm	Post Office Service
Wednesdays	6.15pm-7.15pm	Yoga Flow
Fridays	10am-12pm	Coffee Morning

Book library available during hall opening for regular events

Saturdays	5.00-6.30pm	Fish & Chip Van
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**Services suspended  
until further notice**



As a partial replacement, from 13 October a special shared taxi service will be provided for pre-booked passengers from Maiden Bradley and Horningsham to Frome on Wednesday mornings and to Warminster on Friday mornings, allowing approximately 1½ hours shopping in each town.

Normal bus fares will be charged on the shared taxi and holders of concessionary bus passes will be able to travel free of charge. To book a place on the shared taxi, please ring A&G minibuses between 9am and 5pm **the day before you need to travel** on 01985 218754.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience that these temporary arrangements may cause you. For further details about them, please ring the Wiltshire Council's Transport Unit on 01225 718080.

## **ADVERTISING RATES**

½ page £8.00    Full Page £16.00

*These apply to the inside pages of the magazine*





## BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES

### Waste Collections

The recent change means there are now three different patterns around the village so it is no longer possible to list them all here. The only point in common is that they are all on a Wednesday. Some have all three on the same day, most have blue bin and black box on one day and the grey bin on another. However, even those differ in which week the pattern applies. For example, Rowe's Hill, White Street and Church Lane are all different! The only solution is to check your own dates on the Wiltshire Waste Collection Calendar at:

<https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays/index>

Mobile Library      Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May  
*10.00 – 10.25 opposite the Hall*

Frome Hospital Minor Injuries		<b>01373 454740</b>
Community Police Officer	Vicky Howick	<b>0726818 ext 817</b>
Wiltshire Police – non emergency		<b>101</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	<b>844197</b>
Horningsham School		<b>844342</b>
Village Hall Hire		<b>07541 211732</b>
Longleat Property Department		<b>845433</b>
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	<b>213436</b>
Congregational Chapel	CarolCox	<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

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May *Annual Parish Meeting* 7.30 at the Village Hall

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May *Parish Council* 7.30 at the Village Hall

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May *Fayre Meeting* 7.00 at the Village Hall

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May *Hall AGM* 7.00 at the Village Hall

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June *Jubilee Village Picnic* 5 – 8 at the Village Hall

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June *Village Fayre* 11 - 5

# WE'RE LOOKING FOR GREAT STAFF

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**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**  
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**SAT 4.45PM - 9.00PM**

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