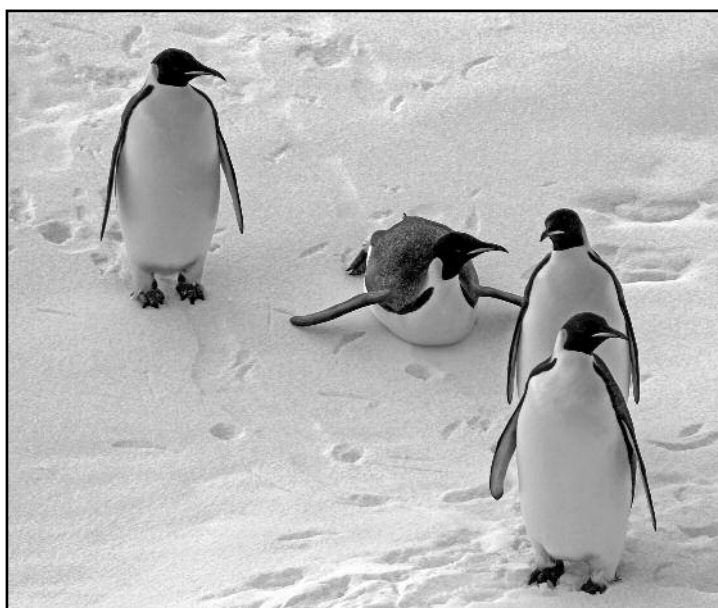


PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

FEBRUARY 2024



Is it cold outside?

Top Emperor Penguins

Centre Iceberg in Amundsen Sea Antarctica with Route

Bottom Coast of Victoria Land Ross Ice Shelf from the air

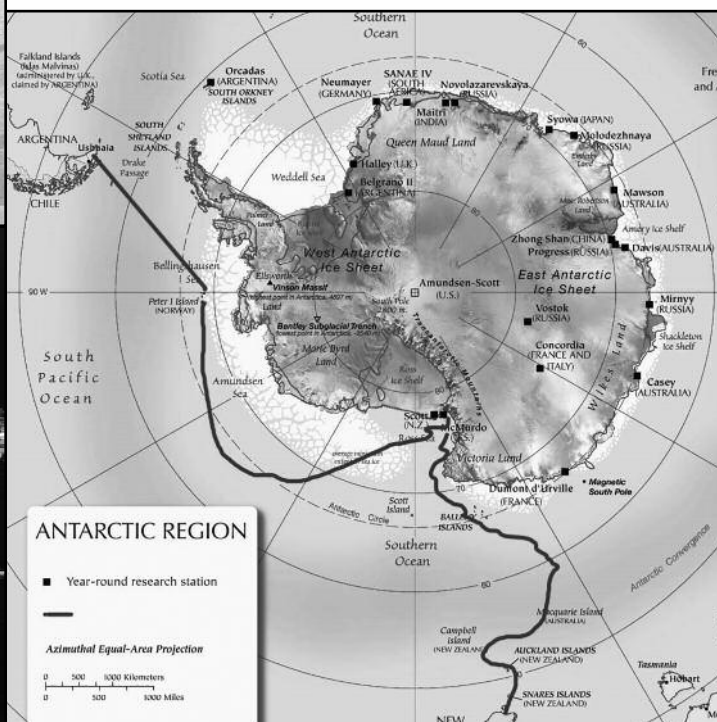
See on page 5 an accompanying article and further photos from the third expedition to Antarctica by Sarah Buttenshaw

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EDITORIAL

We had technological problems putting the Parish News together for the last edition. The first was the appearance of hyphens in the middle of words and whilst proofreading I had to alter thirty plus words.

The second problem was line spacing, some of our contributors insist on putting a space between paragraphs, with 1.5 line spacing through out and a double space after every full stop. Please could all spacing, line and between letters and symbols, be single. If everyone did this, we would not be able to publish as many articles as we do, and one of our proof-readers would have more time if she did not have to alter layouts and in some instance re type text. Please do not justify to a page width.

Finally, we use Trebuchet MS as our font, it is not difficult for me to change, but if you could use the same font my life would be easier.

Moan over.

After much discussion, and with a certain amount of regret, we have to warn advertisers that charges should increase by 5%, rounding figures down to a whole number of pounds.

FANE HALL BIG BREAKFASTS
17th February and 23rd March, 9-11am

THE VILLAGE MEMORY TREE

If you feel unable to make a heart, Eileen has a selection for you to choose from. Contact eileenkellow@hotmail.co.uk

CONTRIBUTE TO



THE VILLAGES MEMORY TREE IN HEYTESBURY Join Us!

Make your own heart to hang on the Villages Memory Tree.
Free for all our local villages.

Knit or make a felt heart 3.5 x 4" with your message on it, in memory of all your loved ones lost during Covid and beyond.

Decorate the Villages Memory Tree located on the green as you enter Heytesbury from the roundabout, between 3rd - 17th March.

Everyone is welcome to participate.
To find out more email eileenkellow@hotmail.co.uk



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS

The Men's Fellowship breakfasters slipped into 2024 with a fascinating talk about eels given by Andrew Kerr, the Chairman of the Sustainable Eel Group (SEG). With beginnings and endings in the Sargasso sea, the lifecycle of these critically endangered fish is as mysterious as the shady illegal trade in European glass eels, which carry a phenomenal value that makes smuggling them of interest to international terror groups. Andrew's entertaining and stimulating talk made it abundantly clear that without the international campaigning and practical steps being promoted by the SEG the eel population in Europe would soon be completely decimated.

In a year in which the UK will join about half the world's population in going to the polls, the topical speaker at the February breakfast will be Bradley Whitaker, a spokesman for Make Votes Matter, a campaigning group seeking to replace our existing voting system* from First Past the Post with some form of Proportional Representation. (*Apparently the only other user of this system in Europe is, Belarus!)

The breakfast on Monday February 5th will be held at 8.00am (for 8.15 start) at the George Inn, Longbridge Deverill. Breakfasts cost £15, of which £2 will go towards the charity of the speaker's choice - on this occasion it will be the South Sudan Maridi Link.

Please note, this is not a club, but is open to all. Just contact the organisers via email (uwvmfb@gmail.com), before the preceding Friday at the latest, if you'd like to attend.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 1st March Upton Lovell Village Hall 6.00pm supper followed by service in the church.

Join us on this global ecumenical day, prepared this year by the Christian women of Palestine. The day starts as the sun rises on the international date-line in Samoa. As the earth rotates a great wave of prayer begins to build. The wave reaches Europe and moves on until the sun finally sets over American Samoa. 146 countries and islands take part before a worldwide circle of prayer is completed.

Join us for this special service.

FILMS AT THE WOOLSTORE

Wednesday 7 February
SCRAPPER (12A)

7.30pm - Tickets £6.00

<http://www.thewoolstoretheatre.org.uk>

This vibrant and inventive father-daughter comedy follows Georgie (Lola Campbell), a resourceful 12-year-old girl who secretly lives alone in her flat in a working-class suburb of London following the death of her mother. She makes money stealing bikes with her best friend Ali (Alin Uzun) and keeps the social workers off her back by pretending to live with an uncle. Out of nowhere, her estranged father Jason (Harris Dickinson) arrives and forces her to confront reality. Uninterested in this sudden new parental figure, Georgie is stubbornly resistant to his efforts. And as they adjust to their new circumstances, Georgie and Jason find that they both still have a lot of growing up to do. Winner of Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.

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Our vision is to be open, welcoming, growing and inclusive churches,
living within the love of God, and sharing God's love and life with others.

upperwyllyevalleyteam.com

MINISTRY TEAM LETTER

MESSAGE ON A TEATOWEL

THE SPIRITUAL RAILWAY

Memorial in the south porch of
Ely Cathedral to the engine driver and
fireman who died in a railway accident
in 1845. *Writer unattributed 19thC*

The Line to heaven by Christ was made
With heavenly truth the Rails are laid,
From Earth to Heaven the Line extends,
To Life Eternal where it ends.
Repentance is the Station then
Where Passengers are taken in,
No Fee for them is there to pay,
For Jesus is himself the way.
God's Word is the first Engineer
It points the way to Heaven so dear,
Through tunnels dark and dreary here
It does the way to Glory steer.
God's Love the Fire, his Truth the Steam,
Which drives the Engine and the Train,
All you who would to Glory ride,
Must come to Christ, in him abide.
In First and Second, and Third Class,
Repentance, Faith and Holiness,
You must the way to Glory gain
Or you with Christ will not remain.
Come then poor Sinners, now's the time
At any Station on the Line,
If you'll repent and turn from sin
The Train will stop and take you in

I see these lines when I hang my teatowel
to dry above the cooker.

They are eye-catching, and relevant.

Lent is a good time to take up the
challenge posed by the Spiritual Railway.
We may feel slightly adrift currently
without Rector or Vicar, but God is here,
and won't be retiring.

Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's
Day. The service for the beginning of Lent
is in Heytesbury Church at 6 p.m. on 14
February. It's worth coming.

We have four Lent groups planned.
You can choose whichever you want:
membership is not required. If you don't
like discussion groups, you could read a
Good Book (there are so many to choose
from: just ask someone you trust), or you
could attend a service each week and be
prepared for God's love to meet you
there.

Each Lent group has a different
theme. Details on page 11. Kim and Phil
Sutton will follow the Pilgrim series on the
Eucharist. Roger and Diana Hammond have
chosen verses from Matthew, Luke and 1
Corinthians to discuss. Vincie's group will
continue their studies in Isaiah, and the
Sutton Veny group will be very informal
with questions such as What's the point of
Lent? Why go to church? and Best hymns
for Lent? *Katherine Venning*

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR AS CHRIST LOVES US

Do you need some support? If you would like a chat,
prayers, spiritual, pastoral or practical support and
help, please do call someone from the numbers below

TEAM RECTOR **Vacancy**

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cgstride@btinternet.com **850941**

Ordained Minister with Permission to Officiate

The Revd Jonathan Hiscox **840966**

jonathan.hiscox@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Katherine Venning LLM

840283

katherine.venning@gmail.com

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Upton Lovell	Andrew Cumming	850834

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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Kim Sutton

suttonkimh@gmail.com

BELL RINGERS Nick Claypoole 850724

PARISH CHOIR Katherine Venning 840283

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not
envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It
does not dishonour others, it is not
self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it
keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not
delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always
hopes, always perseveres. Love never
fails.

*Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth,
chapter 13 v 4f* *RH*

CODFORD'S CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB CELEBRATION (Who is Welcome at the Crib?)

A most successful service to act out the
Christmas story involved all comers and all
ages in Codford in mid-afternoon, and was
set around a moving stable tableau in
Bethlehem. The story took many turns and
twists and to follow it in detail and to see
a photograph in full colour go to:

www.upperwyllyevalleyteam.com/team/parish-news
The Christmas Eve 2024 Crib
Service is already booked.

Vincie Abbott



PRAYER GROUP

We pray daily.
If you have any prayer requests,
please call Anne
on 07432 205229

AU REVOIR TO A MUCH-LOVED VICAR

Revd Clifford Stride, our Team Vicar for the
last seven years, retires this month. Clifford
has been a central member of the Ministry
Team, has led the benefice during two
periods of Vacancy at great cost to his
health and wellbeing, and has taken on
more than his share of spiritual, pastoral
and administrative duties. His regular
contributions to the Parish News have been
inspirational, showing insight and care.

His pastoral leadership will be sorely missed
but the respect and friendship he has
earned here will endure. WE ALL THANK him
warmly and wish him a very happy and
healthy retirement.

David Shaw

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Friends of St Mary's Church PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Saturday 3rd February

Please come along with your
friends, children and grandchildren
to our annual Ploughman's Lunch on
Saturday 3rd February 2024, in
Codford Village Hall, from 12noon -
2.00pm. As usual delicious soups, a
variety of Ploughman's Lunches and
amazing deserts. Price for all this
only £6.00. Children under 12 free.
There will also be a raffle.

DOWN ON THE FARM...

Recent months have very much been about routine work whilst negotiating the very wet conditions. Many of you will be aware that the meadows around the farm have been under water for much of the winter making maintenance of fields impossible let alone the prospect of cattle being let out once Spring arrives, we can but hope the water levels drop and ground conditions dry as quickly as possible allowing us access for fertilizer on grass and crops.

There is a shortage of barley seed due to the difficult damp harvest which effected germination of seed crops. Many farmers will endeavour to use home saved seed but unfortunately ours is not good enough so we hope we can find some. An alternative is to plant more wheat, but the wet conditions are not good for this, and we only have until the end of January, early February to achieve this. Looking ahead to Spring we hope to have the bean seed drilled and the barley (if we locate a supply).

The office is always beckoning with many jobs, one being the 'Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)' paperwork. I've spoken of this before, a scheme we welcome being a part of but is hugely time consuming and most of Christmas was dedicated to completing it with a deadline of 31st December which was made harder

by a late drilling season, again due to weather conditions but the deadline was met.

We are all now sporting hi viz clothing around the farm, along with fetching bright pink and blue bobble hats or for the more reserved green beanie hats. This is all part of our continued commitment to health and safety for all those who work on site. There has been some concern from walkers who go through the farm that the bright hi viz might upset the cows, the cows are totally unaffected by it, although the bobbles on the hats are always worth a lick and nibble, if you are unlucky enough your hat might be whipped off and dropped in a rather dirty

puddle or flung across the yard but overall the feed supply is more inviting.

As we head towards Spring there is plenty to look forward to and embrace within the farming calendar and we hope the weather conditions will improve, although at the time of writing we are some way off, but life carries on as it must 'down on the farm'.

Kit Pottow

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TO THE ROSS SEA IN THE WAKE OF THE ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS

In mid-January 2023 my sister and I embarked on our third expedition to Antarctica. This voyage was in the wake of those who had sailed in wooden ships to the far south to explore the imagined Terra Incognita. We left Ushuaia, in Argentina, in a small expedition ship with 85 other passengers. There were three small helicopters onboard, with Chilean pilots and mechanics. They helped us clamber into the tiny cockpit in all our warm clothing and lifejackets.

Captain James Cook was the first sailor to cross the Antarctic Circle in 1773...but he only discovered freezing fog, frozen sea, and huge ice bergs. It was another 50 years before Bellingshausen glimpsed snow covered mountains, confirming that a seventh continent did exist. He also discovered a small, remote volcanic island which he named Peter 1 Island. This mountainous island has steep cliffs and no beaches. It is often impossible to reach through thick pack ice. We were lucky and were flown onto a smooth glacier where we marvelled at the bleak scenery, adding another 100 people to the sparse visitor total. More people have flown into space than have stood on Peter 1 Island.

We sailed further south and carved a passage through the sea ice into the Ross Sea. This was where we wanted to be... where so much of the exploration of Antarctica took place. In 1841, Captain James Clark Ross, in his ship "HMS Erebus", was the first man to discover and

explore this large area in the far south.

We spent a week there. We flew onto the awesome Ross Ice Shelf by helicopter where we walked on a tiny part

of the huge expanse of ice. (The guides had checked for hidden crevasses or snow bridges before we were allowed to wander.) The Ross Ice Shelf is the size of France, with a 500 mile coastline. Explorers such as Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, and Aeneas Mackintosh all dragged, with the aid of dogs and ponies,

their laden sledges 500 miles inland on this ice shelf before reaching the Transantarctic Mountains. From there it is a climb of 7,000 feet, up one of the vast glaciers, onto the polar plateau, followed by a gradual incline to the South Pole, which is over 9,000 feet above sea level and approximately 1,000 miles from the Ross Sea. Captain Robert Scott, with four others, reached the South Pole in January 1912, only to find Norwegian Roald Amundsen had got there first. The heart-broken British party then had to return to their base on Ross Island in increasingly bad weather. Tragically, they all died in the attempt.

Other wonderful days in the Ross

Sea area were spent in the McMurdo Dry Valleys; looking around the preserved wooden huts of Ernest Shackleton and Robert Scott on Ross Island; watching

Emperor penguins on the ice floes alongside the ship and gazing in awe at the 12,000 feet high Mount Erebus. This is an active volcano covered in thick snow, continually emitting steam from its summit. Yes, it was very cold but we were well equipped and the ship was cosy.

Eventually we had to sail north again, to Bluff in New Zealand. We had sailed over 6,000 miles over 33 days.

Many people have asked why I keep returning to this inhospitable, cold place. I can only say that once you have experienced the beauty, the quiet (unless you are near a penguin rookery), and the feeling of human's insignificance in Antarctica, you will understand my addiction. I find it to be the most fascinating and spiritual place that I have ever visited... and I very much hope to return.

S B

Article, above photograph of Scotts wooden shed, penguin, front cover images, by Sarah Buttenshaw



ART CHALLENGE

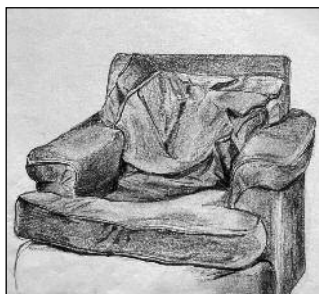
We haven't had any drawings submitted by our readers for ages. Winter days when you don't fancy going out are the ideal time to find some paper and pencil and get drawing! There are many things around the home that are fun to draw, and good practice for your observational skills.

It is quite magical how shading an object can make it appear three dimensional on a two dimensional surface. Make full use of the range of tones from your pencil, from the very dark using heavy pressure to light grey when gently using the side of the lead. The lightest areas are left white. Scribble on a piece of paper with differing pressures to find the range of tones before you start. Sometimes it is easier to see the tonal differences in an object when you half close your eyes.

Here are two pictures to, hopefully, encourage you to put pencil to paper, an unfinished chair I did some time ago and some bottles from Richard Martin. Please do look around your home for

something to draw. I've drawn a pestle and mortar in the past, an open book is a good challenge, and send your pictures to the editor. We look forward to including them one month.

Angela Rosenthal



Adelie Penguin

Mt Erebus on Ross Island



ANGLING NOTES

This long period of wet weather has meant that the rivers are very high and brown and many areas of bank are under water. The Society has, therefore, closed all of our fisheries on the Avon and Wylfe in the interest of safety and to avoid damage to access points. In the event of the rain continuing we may even be considering closing some fisheries when the new season opens in April!

On a more cheerful note the Wylfe Landscape Recovery Project has secured funding from DEFRA's landscape restoration plan. The Wylfe Farmers Cluster, the Wessex Rivers Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are involved. It is all about river and floodplain restoration, reconnecting the river to the floodplain and restoring the river channel. Planning, which will take two years, will involve flood risk assessment and feasibility studies. The flood risk assessments will be signed off by the Environment Agency before implementation.

Some readers will remember attending a rather unsatisfactory meeting in Upton Lovell village hall some two years ago. This project appears to be related to that meeting and will no doubt

produce some interesting discussion.

Fish Legal, which is associated with the Angling Trust, recently were successful in obtaining a court order preventing a prominent London store from labelling its farmed salmon as 'sustainable'. This ruling is very important. Open net salmon farms in the sea are in no way sustainable, there are disease issues, issues of escapees affecting the wild gene pool, welfare issues and it takes many more tonnes of mostly edible fish to produce one tonne of farmed salmon.

As the Scottish Government refuses to regulate the industry for reasons of income and the UK government seems unable to act on pollution and abstraction Wild Fish (previously the Salmon and Trout Association) have set up 'Off The Table', a campaign to persuade any food outlet to stop serving farmed salmon (offthetable.org.uk).

I have always avoided buying farmed salmon as it is my only means of protesting against the industry and I hope that other readers will consider following suit. All the technology exists to bring the industry on shore which would solve

the problems of escapes, disease and pollution; the problem is one of cost. Canada has taken a step forward by requiring its Pacific coast farms to come on shore in the not too distant future.

I am hoping that 2024 will be kind in terms of climate and successful in terms of conservation.

Robin Mulholland

LOCAL WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2023

The year 2023 has been a memorable one for weather in the UK and also the Wylfe Valley. When I first came to the area in 1962 we relied on the Guinness Barley Research Centre at Corton for weather records which they were happy to share with local organisations. At that time the local average rainfall was 38 inches per year. Until this year it was evident that the average was falling. My amateur measurements indicated an average of 34 inches per year for the period 2016 to 2022. There were some wetter years in this period but there were also some quite dry summer months that caused heavy use of hoses in the garden.

2023 has been an exceptional year for rainfall. I measured a total of a small fraction short of 49 inches for the year. An increase of 15 inches over the seven-year average. CO2 has been steady at around 400 parts per million throughout the eight period under review, so it is hard to see how that has been a major component causing the rise in rainfall. As billions are being spent on CO2 reduction is it possible that some new thinking is needed?

2024 may produce some more surprises but my advice would make sure your water butts are full before Summer, if we get one!

Jon Royds

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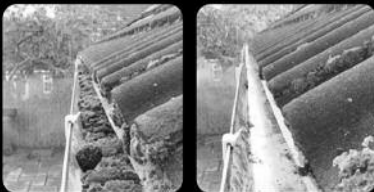
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TURBO'S BLOG

There is a picture of a 1983 Lotus Esprit posted up on the fridge next to my bed with the number plate TUR 80. If it is to do with the craze for personalised number plates the car is probably worth £10 - but the plates £99,990. Enough of this vanity.

I hate the New Year. The Guvnor loves it because he says it is full of the hope and promise of a brighter future, that the worst of the dark evenings and satanic mornings are behind us and there is everything to look forward to. On the contrary, Pollyanna, there are no left-over turkey bits left over, the gammon has all been eaten by mammon, we are done being stuffed full of stuffing and the words 'figgy, piggy pudding' are heard no more.

As far as food is concerned, I have decided to identify as a human being in 2024 as, it seems to me, they get a much better deal than us dogs if kitchen scraps are anything to go by. Frankly, biscuits and kibble are all very well, but roast beef knocks them into a cocked hat.

On the other hand, and in my experience, dogs probably get a better deal, generally speaking of course, from being looked after by human beings than the other way round. For example, the Guvnor and the Muvnor sleep most of the night and hardly ever during the day, whereas I sleep for about 18 hours in

every 24 and am only very active for a couple of them.

I therefore find it mystifying how many human beings have declared their intention to identify as animals this year. I have heard of people identifying as:

- A dog, which allows a student to eat his own homework.
- A cat, which will not reduce the mouse problem but might get litter trays put in the public loos.
- A horse, only to be told that Polos and sugar lumps are bad for you.

More positively, however:

- An aardvark which gets your name called out first in any queue.

• A cheetah gives you a head start in any race on Sports Day.

• And a pig enables anyone who calls you that not to consider it an insult and thus does not feel guilty about it.

Of course, it is all nonsense so, on balance, I think the status quo should probably prevail - biscuits, but an increase in the very occasional piece of beef.

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'Rain rain go away, come again another day.' As I write this it has not been raining for a few days but by the time you read it, we may have had a lot more rain - or it might just be cold and clear, which I much prefer. Cold days with frost and sunshine seem to lift the spirits during winter, so much better than the dull, damp and dreary days which we have at the moment. However, looking on the bright side, we have had one or two stunning sunsets of late. I have been clearing the garden of dying foliage, generally tidying up and giving the soil a light turnover, so much easier when the ground is soft and it's not too cold. My friendly little robin has been very attentive and picking out grubs alongside me. I love the little sounds he makes as he watches me turn over the soil. It has been too wet to finish the autumn gardening until now but I have finally got there. I do make sure that I leave plenty of dead flower and shrub stems and stalks for the insect life that takes refuge there during the cold weather, and they also give some structure to bare areas - not to mention the wonderful displays of spider webs after a frosty night! The paths and edges are now clear of leaves and to my eye it all looks very satisfying. However, a visitor would probably not notice the differ-

ence or see all the effort I have put in, but that doesn't matter. I'm ready for the growing season to begin and looking forward to everything starting to happen as the weather gradually warms up and the days become longer.

I have been pruning back my roses by about a third; they have been getting a bit straggly in the last year or two and not looking their best. I will cut them back hard when the time is right and hope to get a stronger growth and a better display during the summer months.

The bulbs all seem to be a bit early this year, a lot were showing the first shoots back in December, due no doubt to the warm weather we had at that time. I wonder if we are in for a year of early surprises or will we get frosts to halt the advance? I had hellebores as well as calendula marigolds, roses and periwinkle all flowering before Christmas! Also, I'm still in the never-ending battle with my bête noir, bindweed! I'm forever pulling out the roots.

Ali Tebbs



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DID YOU KNOW ? Some facts about the Willow Tree.

We all love to see the beautiful willow tree on our walks in the countryside. But what do we know about its origins and uses?

There are around 400 species of willow tree, known in Latin as 'Salix,' meaning 'sallow.' Very often when we speak of the willow tree, we tend to think of the 'weeping willow,' or 'Salix Babylonia.'

The weeping willow is an extremely fast growing tree that has a long history in Great Britain, although it originated in China. The sight of a weeping willow, gently leaning beside a river or lake, has a quintessentially English feel about it. The weeping willow

will typically have a height of between ten and eighteen metres. It is usually found alongside water and in the spring, yellow flowers appear as catkins. The flowers of the weeping willow produce ample pollen and nectar, and are much loved by bees, butterflies and moths. The cascading branches also provide refuge for nesting birds.

Willow trees produce a milky sap which contains salicylic acid, which is used to make aspirin. Long before aspirin became commonplace, people would chew willow bark to treat fever, inflammation and pain. The willow tree's natural ability to absorb large quantities of water makes it ideal for planting in

flood prone areas or where drainage is required. Willow wood is used to produce many items, including baskets, furniture, broom handles, musical instruments and of course, cricket bats.

We all know of the expression that cricket is the sound of 'leather on willow,' but cricket bat willow is a variety all of its own, 'Salix alba Caerulea.' This fast growing and straight stemmed variety of willow produces wood that is tough, but lightweight and does not shatter easily, perfect for cricket bats! It is a specialised business choosing the best wood, and there is a demand for good quality cricket bat willow timber.

In the arts or in spirituality, the willow tree often appears in a variety of contexts. In Hamlet, Shakespeare uses the mournful symbolism of the willow. The doomed Ophelia falls into the river, when the willow branch on which she is sitting, breaks.

In J.R.R. Tolkien's series, The Lord of the Rings, 'Old Man Willow,' is an ancient tree with an evil heart. In Greek mythology, the willow goes hand in hand with magic, sorcery and creativity. The poet Orpheus, traveled to the underworld, carrying branches from a willow tree.

The 'willow' features in a great deal of poetry throughout the ages, one such poem, entitled 'The Weeping Willow,' was written by Ada Constance Woodhouse. (1856-1943)

Blowing softly in the wind, waving for all to see,

Bowing with a majestic ring, this weeping willow tree.

Tested by the winds and rain, this tree remains undaunted,

Its small but supple limbs remain, strong against their taunts.

There's beauty in its fullness, in the gentle fall of leaves,

And in the gentle gracefulness of this weeping willow tree.

Jonathan Wansey

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CODFORD

Fabulous news from Codford Tennis gets even better.

As the Curry and Quiz Night approached, things seemed a little 'slow', but on the night, the hall kept filling up with people, chatter and excitement. In the event, over 75 folks battled it out, with 2 teams in serious competition finishing in 3rd and 1st places.... At 8, we stopped to enjoy the delicious curries provided by the Members of the Club, ranging from 'three game' through beef, pork and pineapple, chicken to a really warming vegetable curry. Some returned for third helpings!

The raffle had some lovely prizes and two magnums of rosé wine, and a

HEYTESBURY COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

are seeking Academy Council
Governors.

Academy Council Governors provide an essential link between the school, the parents, the community and the Trust. Academy Councils are a formal part of the Acorn Education Trust governance structure and each Council is responsible for maintaining the unique identity, community ethos and culture in their school.

The Academy Council meets four times per year but members may attend additional meetings in school during the year if required for a specific purpose, e.g. to undertake training, liaison with teachers or attend events. The Chair is the main contact with the headteacher but all members work with the head, keeping a professional distance and acting as 'critical friends'. Academy Council members may be of any age or from any walk of life and all life experience is valuable to the role. The time commitment is not much but enthusiasm, integrity and confidentiality are essential.

You can find out more about school governance on the Acorn Education Trust website
<https://www.acorneducationtrust.com/851/governance-information>

If you are interested in becoming an Academy Councillor or know of someone who might be interested, in the first instance please get in touch with Miss Williamson, the Headteacher on 01985 840429

bottle of Tattinger champagne were auctioned - overall the evening raised just shy of £1,200. Thank you everyone for your support and for being part of our adventure. Just a few days before the event, we received a kind donation from Warminster Lions - thank you so much if you happen to read this.

Meanwhile, 10 days after our C&Q Night, I had the most wonderful phone call from someone with a lovely story of Codford Tennis in times gone by, who went on to tell me that they wanted to support us (anonymously) and have donated £5,000! This helps so much with looking forward to Phase Two of the Fence Project being in reach...long reach, but still more possible.

By the time you read this, the western end of the courts should be re-clad in new green MUGA fencing. This is to protect the courts more robustly from flying footballs and will be the completion of Phase One of the Fence Replacement Project. Work starts the week beginning 11th December.

Fundraising continues to complete the whole project but we changed our minds about trying to organise something for the end of February - we're planning now for the Spring. Do continue to watch this space!

Contact for further information:
lawntennisclubcodford@gmail.com
or Vincie on 850239.

Heytesbury and Norton Bavant

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to the Royal British Legion poppy appeal last November. The Heytesbury and Norton Bavant boxes and the gift aid envelopes on Remembrance Sunday raised £782.

HEYTESBURY CHURCH

The month of December was full of events celebrating Christmas and the festive period. The Christmas market was a great success with a variety of stalls, mince pies and lots of people. There were various carol and church services, the school's Christingle service and a community carol service presented by the Heytesbury schoolchildren.

The Heytesbury Open Place project is progressing as the church received permission to remove the larger pews from the nave which will enable us to host larger events. A combination of the smaller pews and new lightweight, stackable chairs will provide the seating for church and community events. With the majority of the surface water drains cleared, the next challenge is the interior - a toilet, servery, meeting room, redecoration and upgrading of the lighting system.

Tina Sitwell

SHERRINGTON

Early January and we were shocked by the change in character of our normally benign little river. We are used to seeing her slipping along like green glass, willows trailing their fingers and the occasional drift of swans. We are unused to the angry grey torrent tearing through, snatching at detritus and even toppling the footbridge, unheard of behaviour! So far, no damage to property but in other areas where there are incredibly still developments on floodplains it must surely be a different story. Today has been a day without rain and this afternoon it was rather better underfoot. One tends to forget the good weather we have had. I remember walking in early December, emerging from the Great Ridge and looking out over that lovely spread of land, softly green under a gentle sky. It could have been Spring but the clatter and chatter of Fieldfare in the hedge behind me reminded me that it was indeed Winter,

Cards and decorations now gone, I was loth to take down the lovely wreath made for us by friends and really appreciated. As ever, William and Anne Pelly donated and decorated a Christmas Tree that glowed in the little church along with the Crib scene and candlelight for the Carol Service that had been such a success. So good to have the Sherrington Ensemble and good too that some young people got up to read the Christmas Story and did so well. It was enjoyed by all who attended, the mood at the end enhanced by a generous supply of mulled wine. All weeks ago now but cheering to recall on a chilly grey day and another bit of cheer is that it will soon be time to spot the Snowdrop.

I have enjoyed this afternoon. As I said earlier, better underfoot so Tyto and I headed off for a longer walk, his, of course longer than mine! Lovely then to come indoors as the light fades, little church safely locked, dogs exercised and fed and now dark outside. Time then for hot tea and the last of the Christmas cake. *BL*

WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY FEBRUARY 2024

4th Candlemas	Sutton Veny	10.00am	TEAM SERVICE Clifford's last service before he retires	<i>choir</i>
11th 6th Sunday of Epiphany	Tytherington Upton Lovell Heytesbury Codford St Mary	8.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Sunday Worship Evensong (BCP)	<i>choir</i>
14th Ash Wednesday	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Service to begin Lent	<i>choir</i>
18th First Sunday of Lent	Boyton Codford St Peter Norton Bavant	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Sunday Worship	<i>choir</i>
25th 2nd Sunday of Lent	Sutton Veny Codford St Mary Knook Heytesbury	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Matins (BCP) Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)	<i>choir</i>

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Pheobe Darby Brown
on 10th December at Knook
May she grow in the Christian Faith

Funerals
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Susan Parker
on 28th November
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John Hamilton
on 19th January at Sutton Veny
*May they rest in the peace
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