

PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

APRIL 2024

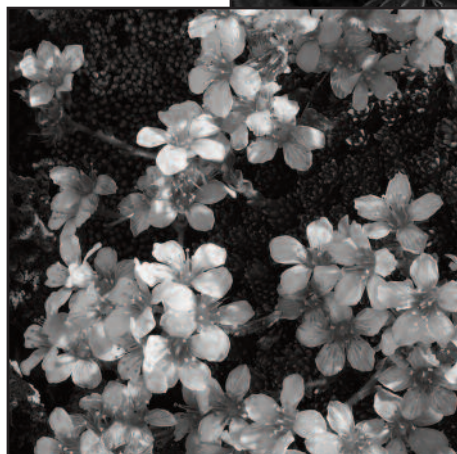
A FLORAL TRIBUTE TO ALL OUR READERS



Paintings by Bridget Kerr



Photography by Jon Royds



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THE DIARY

FILMS AT THE WOOLSTORE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we regret we are unable to show 'Napoleon' on 3rd April, but will be showing 'One Life' and hope to show 'Napoleon' at a later date.

**Wednesday 3rd April
ONE LIFE (12A)**

Starring Anthony Hopkins with Helena Bonham Carter and Johnny Flynn. Based on the true story of British humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton as he looks back on his past efforts to help groups of Jewish children in German-occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee in 1938-39, just before the beginning of World War II.

7.30pm - Tickets £6.00
(doors open at 7.00pm)

Tickets available online through the website: www.thewoolstoretheatre.org.uk or at the Theatre Box Office (open during productions and on film nights).

In addition, we will be selling tickets at the Codford Community Cafe at the village hall on the second and fourth Thursdays, 10am to 12noon.

EASTER IN CODFORD

**Presented by CVH and BroadleazeBar
31 March 2024
Easter Sunday**

Join us and the Easter Bunny for crafts, biscuit decorating, and a treasure hunt from 2pm, with an Easter Celebration in the bar at 4pm. Family fun for all £3 per child
Tickets on sale from March 1st

BRING & BUY SEEDLING & PLANT SALE



Outside

RED LION
Saturday 11th May
10.00 am to Midday

In aid of Heytesbury Knook and Tytherington Churches

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH, CODFORD

AGM will take place on Wednesday
8th May at 6.30pm in the church.
All welcome and refreshments will
be served afterwards.

**Save the date!!
CORONATION FUNDS BARN DANCE**

We hope that you are polishing your dancing shoes for another epic barn dance on May 11th in Codford Village Hall

Those who joined us for the amazing Coronation weekend last year will remember the fab barn dance we held at the start of the celebrations for the Coronation. Well, thanks to generous donations at the time we have funds left to contribute towards a repeat evening - we hope this may be an annual event! Find your friends and families (yes we even had a few babies last year!) and plan a table.

Our local caller Robin Scard accompanied by 'Tim, Ben and friends' will be putting us through our paces. Snacks will be provided and the bar will be open! Tickets are available at the Post Office and will be £10 per adult - free for all children 16 and under. Tables can be booked through squarrelle@gmail.com
See you there! SQ

WARMINSTER FOODBANK CODFORD

Collection bins are once again situated back in Heytesbury Church porch. Contributions of food and/or toiletries are very welcome (as long as the 'sell by'/'use by' dates have not expired, and the items have not been opened). We are really very grateful for all donations, however small. Our sincere thanks to those of you from Heytesbury and district who have donated in the past, your generosity is much appreciated, especially as we now have a new larger storeroom in Warminster and can accommodate more supplies!

Thank you. Sue Middleton

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**Tuesday 23rd April
6.30 for 7.00pm**

**Tickets £12.00 each
including light refreshments**

Available from: The Friends, tel: 01985 840501
or s.buttenshaw@btinternet.com

In aid of Heytesbury, Knook and Tytherington Churches Reg. charity no. 1083252

THE IMPORTANCE OF SERMONS

The Church Council in Heytesbury has decided that from 1st April onwards, the Sunday sermon will be broadcast by loudspeaker from the top of the church tower. This is to allow hard working people who want an extra lie-in to be able to hear the sermon from their beds. Others who are up and about and too busy to come to the church will also benefit from this opportunity. The Council would value feedback on the quality of the sermon each week. Thank you. RH

PARISH NEWS Editor

Robin Culver
robinwculver@mac.com
Chairman **David Shaw** 850372
dandshaw@btinternet.com

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MINISTRY LETTER FROM ST JOHN'S, HEYTESBURY

Dear Residents,

I am the new(ish) Chaplain at St John's. My name is Caroline McKinnell, I have been a Chaplain in various settings for a few years and I am also a member of Avon & Somerset Police as one of their Chaplains. I am in my final year studying part time at Sarum Theology College in Salisbury and will be ordained Deacon in June. We have a short morning worship in St John's on Wednesday mornings at 10am which you are welcome to join.

As I write we are in the season of Lent, and we are following the Salisbury Diocese Lent Course which is focussing on Luke 4 and particularly from verses 18 & 19: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to

the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free". It challenges us to share the Good News of the Kingdom with others, and we all do this in very personal ways. Some of us preach, some of us quietly journey alongside others, some of us share our coming to faith through sharing in groups, some of us work with those less fortunate.

Jesus' invitation to "come and see" was very gentle and quite subtle; He offered rather than insisted. He showed us how to live in a Godly way, He demonstrates this by being fully human and inhabiting our world - He truly has walked a mile in our shoes. And so we are tasked with inviting others to 'follow me', to share in the love and forgiveness that is available to us all when we enter into relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As theologian and author Henri Nouwen said: "Following Jesus means to let go of the 'I' and move toward the 'other'. Following Jesus means to dare to move out of ourselves and to slowly let go of building our 'self' up."

Caroline McKinnell



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BELLRINGERS WANTED

The band of bellringers whose home tower is Codford St Peter have members drawn from several churches in the Upper Wylde Valley, and we do indeed ring at other churches - Boyton, Sutton Veny, Heytesbury, Norton Bavant - to vary our routine or to ring at services and weddings. So we might be said to be in reality a Valley Band - 'Have ringers, will travel!'

To secure the future of ringing in the valley we need more recruits. It would be wonderful to train some newcomers, drawn from any of the villages; it's a skill which once learned is never forgotten, and one which will gain you a welcome at any tower in the land. The commitment, once you've been taught, is to attend practices regularly and be willing to join in a team activity. Plus a drink in the pub afterwards (wherever there is a pub!).

If the idea appeals, please call Anthony Bainbridge on 851079 or Nick Claypoole on 850724. You will be welcomed with open arms.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

Paul's letter to the Christians in Corinth,
chapter 15 v1-7 RH



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

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upperwyldevalleyteam@gmail.com

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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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	Edward Moore	840420
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Tytherington	Caroline Lester-Card	07787556505
Upton Lovell	Andrew Cumming	850834

LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

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TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR SPRING

The human race delights in the first days of spring and there is no doubt that daffodils and crocuses, a rising warmth and all that stuff do lift the spirits. The dog world benefits in that walks are longer and more fun and that if the people who feed us, walk us, drive us around and pay our vet's bills are happier in mind and body, it rubs off on us.

What is it then, that when I ought to be full of the joys of Spring and grateful for all the gifts that wellbeing brings, I still seem to harbour an inbuilt and unshakeable instinct to give the Guvnor a hard time, if only to keep him on his toes?

In dog years I am now the same age as him but there the resemblance ends. I am still able to chase a pheasant or a pigeon at full pelt until it cheats and takes flight, pursue a rabbit for half a mile and I'm not even going to mention cats as my other fan has one. The Guvnor, on the other hand, breaks out in a sweat while watching the athletics on the television.

We both like biscuits though. His consumption is restrained mainly because he is married; mine is only restricted by whether I can catch his eye. Oh, and

there is another trick in the 'clever dog quiver' which I shall explain if I can guarantee that as he is typing this, he is behaving like many a secretary who is up against the clock and doesn't actually read what they are working at.

A dog can get away with a whole load of naughtiness provided the results are not disastrous, dangerous, or too distressing. My favourite is running off at pace towards the railway line and then footling around in the undergrowth while they worry that there is a train coming. After a good five minutes I wander back,

and they are so relieved I get a biscuit. It's a good wheeze and works every time. I think it is all to do with my eyes. I have been told that my large, brown eyes are beguiling and once gazed into, irresistible. All I know is that 'adorable' is also used so I have decided to offer them to nice Mrs Rosenthal for her art class. After all, as they say in Parliament - 'the eyes have it; the eyes have it'.

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THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN...

From the first snowdrops onwards, I feel Spring is in the air and the earth is waking up again. Not so fast! So much has been under water or just sodden for so long. But now I do feel Spring is on the move. A few cold mornings and bright, clear days and the sun feels warm on my face and I've had to take my coat off working in the garden. The spring flowers are all in bloom and the blossom is out in force. The air has a wonderful freshness to it making being outside such a pleasure.

The main project so far has been cutting back and re-shaping trees and

shrubs, a major task which has resulted in countless trips to the tip where we meet other likeminded gardeners. I wanted it all done before the birds started looking for nest sites. There are squabbling jackdaws nearby and I've seen the rooks carrying large twigs in their beaks, so not a moment too soon.

How many of us have been cutting lawns, hoping the first pull on the lawnmower cord will jump-start the mower into life? I'm told the temperature needs to be 6 degrees for the grass to grow and I suspect it's been 6 degrees or more for

quite a lot of the time. We've learnt that we have had the warmest and wettest February on record! We just need more warm, dry days for the lawn to dry out a bit to make mowing viable. Having said that, Mike has mown at least once already and the church yard has also been mown, leaving that lovely smell in the air.

The pond needs a bit of tidying but I'm reluctant to put my hands in as it's a bit cold! It's also full of frogspawn and their tails are beginning to grow, making them look more like tadpoles than jelly with a black blob in the middle. The potatoes are in their sacks and tucked in a sheltered spot in the vegetable garden, the greenhouse is full of veg and flower seedlings, some of which will go to our village seedling sale in May and I am planting up my hanging baskets, but I'm keeping them in the greenhouse until the middle of May. It's very tempting to buy all those lovely young plants in the garden centres and supermarkets, but too cold still to plant them out. Hopefully when the time comes they will have doubled in size and be looking very healthy.

The hour has changed giving us an extra hour to garden; who will be the first to spot a swallow?

Ali Tebbis

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DID YOU KNOW ? The Cuckoo

Well, Spring is here and I wonder if you have yet heard the unmistakable call of the cuckoo? There is an old British tradition of welcoming the cuckoo, as it also represents the arrival of spring. The adults arrive from Africa in late March or April, and leave again in July or August. However, the earliest-ever reliable record of a cuckoo in England was one in Surrey, on 20th February 1953.

The cuckoo is a bird of a size between a blackbird and a wood pigeon. Cuckoos have a grey head with a thin, bright yellow ring around their eye, yellow feet and a black beak. They have dark grey plumage on their upper parts and barred plumage below, which resembles the markings of the sparrow hawk. Some females are a rusty-brown colour. In flight, the cuckoo looks very similar to a sparrow hawk.

Cuckoos are 'brood parasites', which means that they do not raise their own young. Instead they lay just one egg in the nests of other birds, which raise the chick, thinking it is one of their own. The nests of Dunnocks, Meadow Pipits and Reed Warblers are favourites. The cuckoo chick hatches after around eleven days. It will push any other eggs or chicks out of the nest, ensuring that it receives the sole attention of its adoptive parents. These adoptive parents will continue to feed the

young cuckoo, even though it may grow to two or three times their own size.

Many poems have been written about the cuckoo, perhaps most well known is that written by William Wordsworth, which begins:

O blithe New-comer! I have heard,
I hear thee and rejoice.

O Cuckoo! Shall I call thee bird,
or but a wandering voice?

Here are a few more facts about the cuckoo:

There are 54 species of the cuckoo; most live in Africa, Asia and Australasia.

The name 'cuckoo' is onomatopoeic, which means that it is taken from the sound of the bird's call.

Only the male bird sings the familiar 'cuckoo' call.

Each female will lay between 12 and 22 eggs, all in different nests.

Adult cuckoos fly back to Africa as soon as the breeding season is over. This can be as early as the second half of June, in Southern England.

Young cuckoos follow their parents back to Africa several weeks later.

The female cuckoo will generally lay her eggs in a nest belonging to the same species that reared her.

Cuckoo spit has nothing to do with cuckoos, but is produced by insects as a protection from predators.

The cuckoo's favourite diet is poisonous hairy caterpillars, shaking away the toxic substance before swallowing their prey. The scientific name for the cuckoo is 'Cuculus canorus'. The average lifespan of a cuckoo is 4-6 years.

Finally, the term 'Cloud cuckoo land' is today used to describe a state of absurdly, over-optimistic fantasy. It derives however, from a play written by the Greek playwright Aristophanes in 414 BC. Pisthetaerus, a middle-aged Athenian, persuades the world's birds to create a new city in the sky, to be named 'Cloud Cuckoo Land'

Jonathan Wansey.

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Will the rain ever stop? It is certainly holding up the works for us on the farm and making life at times difficult for so many, not least the many walkers we have passing through the village and surrounding area. In fact, since before Christmas we have hardly seen anyone and those brave enough to venture this way have found themselves stranded at times if not appropriately dressed. As Robert likes to say "there is no such thing as bad weather just bad clothing", I tend to agree but wearing waders daily is not my first choice of clothing, even with the fact I have made it through the winter wearing wellies with holes in, I have got used to a soggy foot everyday and I will at some point invest in a new pair but had hoped by now I could at least of been in my walking boots!

The farm is ticking along, the dairy is doing what it should, milking the cows, although the milk yield is a little down. We have lots of calves arriving, we calve all year round as it is a system that suits our methods, and our processors pay us to have a level supply of milk all year round. Other farms will block calve, the method is in the name, you calve all your cows in a block period over 6 weeks. This works particularly well in the Spring when the fresh grass is coming through as you can then turn the cows out immediately. There is also the option to block calve in the autumn.

Groundwork is a little more haphazard (as always), early nitrogen is going on late! Weed control that should have been done in the autumn is not done. We are getting ready to put spring barley in the ground and everything we can drive on has had fertilizer but a lot of the grass ground hasn't, which will mean the cows will be turned out late, a blessing for some of you who don't totally appreciate the inquisitiveness of our bovine friends when you are out walking.

We though hope to see them out grazing as soon as possible because that

will mean finally the ground is dry and the sun will be shining 'down on the farm'.

Kit Pottow

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS

On 4th March our speaker was Andy Dakin, a former RAF officer and currently a resident of Crockerton, and who is CEO of the Naval and Military Bible Society. The Society's strapline is 'To serve those who serve by supplying Bibles' and Andy began by setting out the context in which he got the job. His career, mainly flying Harriers in the RAF, took him to many of the world's trouble spots including flying with the US Marine Corps in the 1st Gulf War and concluding with command of 41 Squadron, the Harrier, Tornado and Jaguar Operational Evaluation Unit for 5 years. The Naval and Military Bible Society was formed in 1779 and today the charity gives out 150,000 bibles a year to deserving individuals and groups worldwide at a cost of some £20,000 in postage alone. Andy spoke interestingly and modestly and an audience of almost 40 made a donation of £80 to the Society that is looking forward to its 250th anniversary in 2029.

The speaker for April and our final breakfast of the season will be Nicholas Walters, a recently joined breakfaster from Chitterne. Nicholas spent 45 years as a marketing and corporate communications consultant. For the last 15 years he has been a Director of the World Steel Association, the global steel trade association, acting as the Observer/spokesman at the annual COP Climate Change negotiations.

Nicholas will try and answer the question "Why Steel?". He will provide some global context to why the British steel industry has been decimated, why political decision making for the last 40 years has been at best abject and what we might expect moving forward.

The breakfast on Monday's April 8th 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. 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.



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CRICKET CLUB NEWS

With the smell of freshly cut grass it must be the start of the Cricket Season! Here is what we have coming up in the next few weeks.

All Stars Cricket (Ages 5 -7; School Years Reception, Yr1 & Y2)

An 8 week course for boys and girls aged 5 - 7 years who have never played cricket before.

The tailored All Stars coaching programme will commence at Sutton Veny on Sunday 12th May from 1000 - 1115 and continues every Sunday for 8 weeks. If anyone has any other questions please call Graham on: 07727 630199

Under 9s Dynamos Cricket (Ages 7-9; School Years Y3 & Y4)

The Dynamos course is for children aged 7-9 years who have either graduated from All Stars Cricket, played some cricket at school or who are new to cricket. The programme will commence at Sutton Veny on Sunday 28th April between 1000-1130 and continues for 12 weeks until the school holidays in July. Last session will be Sunday 14th July.

Dynamos aims to provide children with a great first experience in game and match-based cricket. The programme is delivered by the Club's Award winning coaching team. It is a fun and active way

to develop your child's skills and most importantly put these into match situations. Throughout the summer they will take part in various inter-club festivals held throughout the county, learn skills, as well as make new friends in a safe and inclusive environment. For more information, please call Justin on: 07876 456260

Under 11, Under 13 & Under 15 Hardball Cricket (U11 Sch Yr 5 & 6; U13 Sch Yr 7 & 8; U15 Sch Yr 9 & 10)

With one of the fastest growing Junior and Youth Programmes in Wiltshire, we offer hardball cricket at U11, U13 and new for 2024 U15 age groups.

Most of our players have graduated from our U9s Dynamos programme or played some cricket at school. However, if your child is new to cricket then this is not a barrier to them starting and learning to play. Training has started. Please call for information.

All our age groups are entered into local leagues and cup competitions. With nearly 70 matches scheduled for 2024, this gives all our players the opportunity to test their skills and learn the value of teamwork. Training is one evening a week with match days either midweek or on Sundays-the season runs from May to August. For Information, please contact Head Coach Justin Wagstaff on 07876 456260

Women's Softball Cricket

Soft Ball Cricket is about getting out and playing; maximum fun, minimum fuss. No pads, no hard ball, no heavy bat, no head-scratching rules. It's a game for absolutely everybody, no matter your skill level, fitness or age.

Women's Soft Ball Cricket is a great opportunity for women, of all ages and experiences, to participate in regular cricket fixtures whose primary focus is on socialising and having fun. Results are not important. For more information, please contact Lucy Bartlett on 07514 392293

Men's Cricket

Whilst one of the Club's aims is to instil a lifelong love for cricket in junior players, we also recognise the importance of providing a positive experience for all adults playing the game. Whether that be people completely new to cricket or juniors progressing out of a youth section and into an adult cricket environment.

At HSV (Heytesbury & Sutton Veny) we have a wide variety of standards and environments for players to choose from. So, for people new to the area or for those wanting to start their adult cricket journey, please get in touch with us and we will be happy to help find the right team for you. Please contact Justin on 07876 456260



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ANGLING NOTES

A little while ago I said that there was a likelihood that we would have beavers on the Wylfe at some point in the future. As I wrote that they were probably here already! We now know that there are beavers on the Wylfe. We have no idea how many and just where but our river keepers have seen signs of their activity over a long stretch of the river and a local person reports having seen one in the dusk. There are no signs of dam building as yet, just gnawing and chewing of branches, mainly willow. We can only speculate as to where they have come from or if they have been deliberately introduced. The Frome and the Bristol Avon have them and it is obvious that they will be everywhere with suitable habitat in a very short space of time.

Our fisheries management team are quite relaxed about them; they really have no option to be any other way! Landowners adjacent to the river may be more concerned about flooding of crops and hole digging in the river banks. Those readers with valued trees close to the river may wish to begin thinking of tree guards.

The very wet February has not been helpful from the fisheries point of view. It looks increasingly likely that we

will not be able to fish our rivers in April and even May with flooded banks and very wet access tracks being serious problems. Looking forward to June if our keepers are unable to get into the rivers to cut weed there is a real likelihood of flooding of land and crops.

Climate change is a serious threat to our enjoyment of traditional chalk stream fly fishing.

My water feature, which is an old iron field trough acquired with the house, has become too warm for gold fish. My fish died during the summer of 22 and 23. It does not lend itself to being a lily pond and so I am turning it into a marsh garden. It is now ready to receive plants and I have the enjoyable task of selecting from old familiars such as Purple Loosestrife, Ragged Robin and Globe flowers (Trollius) and plants which are new to me. This is an interesting occupation to fill my time until spring is truly here and I might even get to go fishing. *Robin Mulholland*

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A GIANT IN DORSET new research on the Cerne Giant

In 2020 National Trust archaeologist Martin Papworth, excavated four small testpits through the Giant to date him. In the last 2 months we undertook further fieldwork work: geophysical surveys and augering/probing, and as a result have completely re-written our understanding of the Giant. Our research addresses the following: How do we date him? What date is he? Who is he? If he is Hercules, where is his cloak? Were the 'cock and balls' / phallus and testes added later? Why and how did he disappear from the countryside for six centuries? Why did the monks of Cerne abbey tolerate the rude man of Dorset? Was he always the white chalk-figure we see today? If not when did he occur in this manifestation? Is there more than one Giant? If so how many are there? I address some here, others may be addressed in my lecture for the Codford Local History Society at the Woolstore (17th September), and the rest in the book. Here are just some headlines ... much of which was generated here in Codford.

Antiquarians and archaeologists have debated its age for 300 years; was he prehistoric (Celtic), Roman, or a 17th century image? Could he be Hercules, a

sheep-gobbling giant, or a mockery of local 17th century MP Lord Holles? Dating him is difficult; there are no finds to radiocarbon date. The earliest documentary record is cleaning/scouring him in 1694. Archaeological excavation revealed deposits washed against the chalk outline and even under the giant which could be dated scientifically by optically stimulated luminescence (OSL). Although very difficult on chalky soils, samples were taken from site back to university laboratories and dated. Much to our, and my, surprise he is probably 10th century, possibly as early as 7th century. He was Saxon, and coincident with the re-founding of Cerne Abbey in AD 987.

The date poses a conundrum. If he's 10th century, why is there no record of him until 1694? Many, antiquarians, cartographers, and estate owners (Aubrey, Stukeley, Colt Hoare) would have ridden between Dorchester and Sherborne; why did none mention him? Detailed study of the hillside ecology and analysis of microscopic fragments of snails from the excavation (they live in different habitats: short-grazed grass, long grass, shrubland, open or closed woodland) indicated that long grass grew

over the Giant and he disappeared from view. Our research indicates who he is, and that there are 2 if not 3 Giants.

The book with the excavation includes chapters by many authors discussing this and other hill figures, published in August 2024. Pre-publication offer A Date with the Two Cerne Giants - Oxbow Books.

Dates for your diaries

Lecture to the Codford Local History Society at the Woolstore on 17th September. Tickets available from Alec Thompson thomsoncodford@gmail.com

Conference on the Cerne Giant (announcing many new discoveries) and other Wessex hill figures at Dorset Museum (Dorchester) on Saturday 28th September 2024, see Cerne Giant and other Wessex Hill Figures - Dorset Museum

Lecture on 'A date with the two Giants' on 17th October at Society of Antiquaries, which is free and open to non-fellows but must be booked in advance. A date with the two Cerne Giants: results of the National Trusts excavation in 2020 - Society of Antiquaries of London (sal.org.uk)

Mike Allen

BOOK REVIEW

Speaking as we Find:
Women's Experience of Tyneside Industry
1930s-1980s

by Caroline Barker Bennett.

Many of you will know Caro from her appearances in the church choir but you may not know that she worked as an industrial chaplain on Tyneside and recorded interviews with women about their experiences of working in the 1930's through to the eighties and the extraordinary changes that took place in women's working lives between those times.

This is a serious work but also, accessible, engaging, entertaining and a sometimes humorous account of twenty women's experiences which informs, through their own stories, life in various jobs including: a women's co-operative; an engineering works and shops and offices.

'Speaking as we Find' describes how the women spoke about their experiences, which led to the title of the work and it is clear from the text that the women do exactly that. Any record of women's personal experiences of work, at that time, was fragmented and sparse and this book addresses that and succeeds in giving a voice to the many women included.

This is a review, not a re-telling of

those experiences so I would like to pick out just a few examples. One in particular resonates strongly with me. I grew up in Aberdeen and the fishing industry was one of the mainstays of that area along with farming, the paper mills and excellent university education. The first interview records Vera's work on The Fish Quay on Tyneside in the 1930s which brought before me the work of the fisherwomen in Aberdeen, who cleaned the fresh catches of fish and when the catch was small, remuneration for them, and for Vera, was small. Hardships were many; freezing temperatures; icy cold water; bleeding hands and sometimes twenty-three-hour days because the fish have to be 'worked up' when they are fresh. Vera goes on, throughout her life, to have different jobs, for example in a factory where you only had to work a ten-hour day, bliss after work on the quay!

Careers' advice in the 1950s was sparse, and non-existent in some schools. Brenda remembers wanting to be a prison wardress but ends up, due to a relation's influence, working in the Co-op greengrocery. Her mother felt 'some queer characters ended up in "there" (prison) so refused to let Brenda apply.

Audrey worked in The Colliery Shop where she was often asked by the colliers to buy a Christmas present for a

wife. In one case a 'slip' was wanted and Audrey describes the embarrassment of the gruff collier trying to say what he wanted. She goes on to describe how when she would get what they wanted from the warehouse they might give her a kiss of thanks with their rough beards. I imagine there would be plenty lawsuits if that went on now!

Another woman describes working under glass roofs that got so hot women had to wear newspaper hats. What price health and safety! Another workplace had the factory pram which accommodated a new baby of any one of the workers which allowed her to feed the baby at intervals so she could carry on working. The pram was kept in the supervisor's office to protect the baby from the noise.

Of course, this book has a serious purpose in documenting an area that has been neglected but does it in a way that brings these women alive, and I am sure everyone who reads it will find something they can relate to. The book is well illustrated with photographs of the various locations and workplaces.

We chose this book for our book club, and it was a great success. It comes recommended by all of us. You can buy a copy (£10 + postage) from Tyne Bridge Publishing. It is easily obtainable online.

Maria Ironside

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VILLAGE NEWS

BOYTON AND CORTON CUTTINGS

Recently the Fane Hall hosted a very interesting talk by the Clerk of Works from Salisbury Cathedral. We will all now look up at the masonry with new eyes. I will take binoculars to try and see some of the stones carved by the masons into unexpected shapes. The anecdotes, photos and fascinating facts were all much enjoyed, as was the delicious supper.

By the time you read this, the last Big Breakfast will have happened for a while and the Easter Egg hunt and tea will have been enjoyed. Our thanks go to the Fane Hall committee and helpers for all their hard work.

Also by the time you read this, hopefully the water levels will have fallen and lawns will no longer be soggy sponges. The grass is long but at the moment would need an amphibious mower to cut it. On the theme of mowers, Corton will greatly miss Stewart Penny and his workshop now that he has moved to Codford. It will be quiet without the procession of mowers, great and small, wending their way around the village to be fixed.

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EVER THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING CODFORD TENNIS?

Are you thinking about becoming a member of our Club? Would you like to know more before you join?

We have our AGM on Friday 19th April at 6pm followed by supper together. We love to welcome those who are thinking about being part of us, and it gives you an opportunity to find out more about us too. If you would like to join us, please make contact on the number/email address below, for more details.

We have been saying 'watch this space' and finally we can tell you that we have planned our next major fundraising event (for Phase Two of the Fence Project) - please come along and help us turn it into the social event of the year. It will be a: Super Summer Seventies (and Eighties) Supper and Dance on Saturday 6th July in the Village Hall. Get out your flares, platform shoes and shoulder pads (or come as you are), whichever way you will enjoy the evening most.

Keep watching this space for more details as we get closer to that date. And a future date for your diary. Our ever popular Curry and Quiz night will be on the 15th November 2024. For further information contact: lawntennisclubcodford@gmail.com or Vincie on 850239

FSVC PARISH NEWS

The Trustees of the Friends of Sutton Veny Church wish to keep readers of the Parish News informed of progress with our two main aims.

First: to assist the PCC to maintain and improve the structure and facilities in the Church building and Second: to encourage use of the building as a cultural asset in the heart of village life, to which events we invite our neighbouring villagers.

Our financial assets, held ready to support the First aim, exceed £70K. In support of the Second aim, the Trustees have considered a wide variety of 'events' to hold this year and next and can now confirm that:

The famous explorer and expedition organiser Colonel John Blashford Snell will give an illustrated talk on Saturday 18 May in the church at 11 o'clock. His talk will tell of his long and exciting life experience of leading expeditions all over the world and encounters with wildlife and will include a film of his latest expedition to Mongolia. Refreshments will be offered at the end. Total time about one hour.

With the agreement of the Headteacher, Sutton Veny school children and their parents will be invited to attend (children free).

A talk is planned by Hamish de Breton-Gordon on aspects of chemical warfare, in early November, with supper in the Village Hall.

Other events are under review, include: A Quiz Night and supper, in agreement with the Sutton Veny VH committee.

A behind the scenes look at the work done to provide the King's anointing screen at the Coronation.

A choral concert by the Farrant Choir of thirty singers, next year.

The return of Michael Lunts, by popular request, to perform his version of Flanders and Swan, plus some Betjeman poetry.

Any questions to Alick Moore,
01985 841624 Secretary F S V C.

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2nd Sunday	Sutton Veny	9.30am	Parish Communion	
of Easter	Codford St Peter	11.00am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	<i>choir</i>
	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
14 April	Tytherington	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
3rd Sunday	Upton Lovell	9.30am	Parish Communion	<i>choir</i>
of Easter	Heytesbury	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Codford St Mary	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
21 April	Boyton	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
4th Sunday	Codford St Peter	9.30am	Parish Communion	
of Easter	Norton Bavant	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Sutton Veny	3.00pm	Anzac Service	<i>choir</i>
25 April	Codford St Mary	6.30am	Anzac Service	
28 April	Sutton Veny	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
5th Sunday	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Matins	<i>choir</i>
of Easter	Knook	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	



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The latest contribution we have received for the 'Art Challenge' is a lovely line drawing of a chair by Anna Miller.



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