

PARISH NEWS

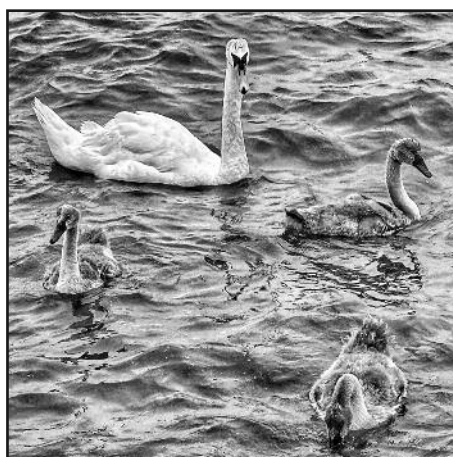
OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

SEPTEMBER 2024

When summer's end is nighing...

The ear too fondly listens

For summer's parting sighs *by AE Hausman*



'... who stole my chips?'

Inside

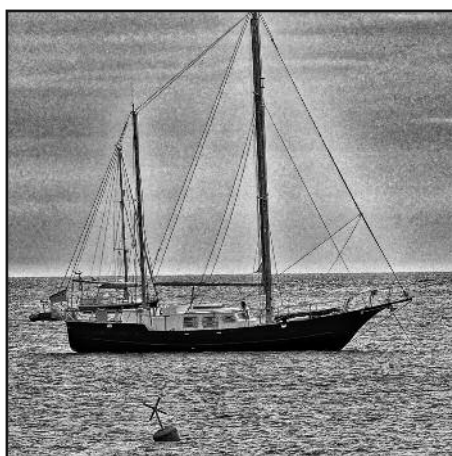
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UPDATE ON THE INTEGRATION OF (SOME OF) THE OLD ASHTON GIFFORD NEWS

In the Summer Edition I indicated the Parish News' determination to help integrate the best of the AG News into the Parish News, while maintaining the latter's requirement to serve all ten villages of the Upper Wylde Valley. We have made a positive start thanks in no small part to Sarah Dorrington who is the new focus for AG-type news, and I point readers to page 9 for a most useful summary in calendar form of current and future activities in the eastern end of the benefice.

Together with some snippets of news, both reports of past events and

forecasts of future ones, this is the finebalance of the essential versus a deluge we have been seeking and I hope encourages those who are missing the AG News and mitigates any concerns of those who feared it might take up a disproportionate share of available copy.

Out of any necessity comes invention and I am glad to report progress on the creation of a Codford Community website. The plan is to 'soft launch' it in September, receive feedback, and then fully launch from October. With Village News space in the Parish News this combination should, everyone hopes, fill the gap left by the demise of the AG News.

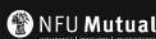
David Shaw; Chairman

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Wednesday 4th September
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Colt Seavers (Ryan Gosling) is a stuntman, and like everyone in the stunt community, he gets blown up, shot, crashed, thrown through windows and dropped from the highest of heights, all for our entertainment. And now, fresh off an almost career-ending accident, this down-on-his-luck hero has to track down a missing movie star, solve a conspiracy and try to win back the love of his life (Emily Blunt) while still doing his day job. What could possibly go right?

Tickets available online through <http://www.thewoolstoretheatre.co.uk> or at the Theatre Box Office (open during productions and on film nights) and Codford Community Café on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.

CODFORD COMMUNITY CAFE REPORT

Over the last year the Codford Community Cafe has gone from strength to strength. Many of the customers, who now average 35 weekly, pop in every Thursday morning to meet friends and make new ones, over a cup of coffee or tea and a selection of delicious home-made cakes or savouries. We also welcome passers-by and people from other villages after they have been to a doctor's appointment or the hearing aid clinic (every 2nd Thursday in the Village Hall). Woolstore Theatre tickets are also on sale at the Cafe every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, and this attracts more customers.

I would like to thank the large team of volunteers who give of their time to run the Cafe; welcoming the customers, serving the refreshments with a smile, washing up, baking large quantities of cakes and savouries, and providing the flowers for the tables. Although we only charge £2 per head and children under 5 go free, we have donated just over £3,000 in the last year to local causes including Codford Village Hall, Stars Appeal, Macmillan Cancer, Wessex MS Therapy Centre, Julia's House, Great Bustard Group, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Codford Tennis Club and The Woolstore Theatre.

**Codford Community Cafe runs every
Thursday from 9-11.30am at
Codford Everyone is very welcome.
If you would like to join the team
of volunteers to help in any way,
please ring me.
Tiggy Thornton 07891 240803.**

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MINISTRY LETTER

In AD313, 280 years after our Lord's Ascension, the Edict of Milan made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. God chose to come to earth at a time when the influence of the Roman Empire had transformed the life of the known world.

LANGUAGE

We read in the Acts of the Apostles that the first converts heard the Gospel message in their own language. Beyond that, the early Church benefited from the international use of Greek, which was the most understood of the languages of the Roman Empire, with Latin used for imperial administration, legislation and the work of the military. The use of Greek enabled people from different nations to intermingle in a way not heard of previously.

For the Church, that meant that its message of God's love could spread more effectively because most people could hear and understand what was being said, fulfilling our Lord Jesus' command "to make disciples of all nations".

However, opponents of the early Church could also use this shared language and stir up trouble for Christians, as St Paul found during his visit to Lystra and Derbe when Jews from Antioch and Iconium encouraged violence against him.

ROMAN ROADS

In the epistles of Paul we can see how the Christian message had spread far and wide in a very short space of time.

Galatia, Phillippi, Colossae, the titles of letters in the New Testament, are not just down the road from Jerusalem, but approximately 600, 900 and 750 miles away. These places were important centres, and Philippi was a place where major roads met, and was of strategic importance, as it commanded the highway between Europe and Asia.

The Roman Road-building program was tied in with society's practical need for security and enabled Roman legions to travel quickly to any flash points of possible war and civil uprising. In patrolling them, the Roman Authorities kept those of a criminal mind in check; those who were bent on causing trouble for the early Church could also travel.

SOCIETY

Churches were quickly founded where the Romans had established settlements. These were run along the lines of Rome

itself, often colonized by parties of 300 veteran soldiers who had been granted Roman citizenship as a reward for their military service, and who, together with their wives and families, adopted the customs, language and ceremonies of Rome itself. There was a certain amount of religious tolerance, but citizens were expected to offer sacrifice to the Roman Emperor, who was regarded as a son of the gods, rather than a human being.

Some of these places would have a sizable Jewish population as well as sects such as the Gnostics, who would become major opponents of the Christian Church. Greek religions proclaimed that one could do what one liked with earthly bodies which encouraged lax moral living. Jewish opposition, in its simplest form, was that God's gifts were solely for the Jews and not for anyone else, for the Jewish nation was the one created, blessed by, and saved by God, Gentiles having no place in His plan of salvation.

The doctrine of the early Church, which we follow today, was that Christ died to save the whole person, no matter what their nationality. The body is Christ's, and the message of love and salvation can be experienced both as a witness to, and expression of, love for God.

Marriage had a formal ceremony with a written, personal agreement, but it was not legally binding. Divorce, in most cases, could be declared in front of seven witnesses unless the divorce was granted on grounds of the wife's adultery by a special Roman court which, incidentally, did not recognise adultery by a husband. Juvenal, recorded examples of the failure of marriage, including one woman as having 8 husbands in 5 years.

Children were in a different position in Roman Society. A father had absolute power over them and could sell them as slaves, make them work in his fields and punish them, even putting them to death, without fear of legal repercussions. The custom of child exposure often meant that baby girls were left to die, or be picked up by those who would raise them to be sold as slaves.

Slavery was prolific, and slaves could be killed without reason and without legal comeback. Slaves had no legal rights and, if two slaves cohabited and had a child, that child was automatically their master's property.

Many in the early Church were from groups oppressed by Roman Society. God's love gave these people a standing and acceptance that they could find nowhere else in society, which was important in the spread of Christianity.

Society today is very different yet the equality which enabled Tertullian to quote non-Christians as declaring "See how these Christians love one other" reminds us of the important task for the Church to give a place to everyone - where the unloved can be loved, the lonely find company and every Christian can be supported and empowered to carry out the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, who said: "make disciples of all nations, baptising them...and teaching them to follow everything that I have commanded you."

Jonathan Hiscox

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?'

Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'

John's Good News chapter 8 v31ff

RH

HOME COMMUNION

We know that some people find it difficult to come to a Communion service in church because of ill health or mobility problems. If you would like to receive communion at home, please contact

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DOWN ON THE FARM

The rape harvest has taken place and was in fact better than expected so despite Robert's concerns about growing it for another year and then wet, cold conditions the crop came good. We are here waiting to fire up the combines and start on the wheat and barley any moment.

Three cuts of silage grass completed so far, some for the clamp (big storage area) the rest in wrapped bales ready for storage and use in the winter. Turnips planted in preparation for cattle to graze on by early September, grazing ground is regularly topped so the cows can graze the fields for longer before the weather really changes and the grass slows down and the fields become too wet to put the cattle on.

We endeavour to welcome as many visitors as possible onto the farm, precautions must be taken to avoid any cross contamination, so foot dips are everywhere, and visitors asked to dip their footwear before entering the farm.

I volunteer at a local children's camp every year. The Wylde Valley Disabled Children's Charity was set up over 50 years ago by Bill and Joan Puddy,

to provide a riding and activity camp for children with disabilities. It is with great pride that the charity continues stronger than ever and still run by the Puddy family. It is hard to describe just how special an environment it is, and the support network is huge and made up of a very versatile and diverse group of people who in many ways their lives

to have given them the opportunity to visit the farm, spend time with the cows, and investigate the machinery.

A few of the helpers were equally as intrigued and for some it was an environment that took them out of their comfort zone ethically, so the trip became an opportunity for everyone to learn so much and have a little more understanding of how important our lifestyle is to us and in particular the welfare of our animals. As one chap said, "I had absolutely no appreciation of the science and knowledge needed and if I were a cow I would love to live here".

The children loved the interaction with the cows and for those in wheelchairs the calves were brought to them so they could have a cuddle and chat and see how friendly these creatures are. A trip in a tractor was compulsory and again the shock at the technology was eye opening for the older children and adults.

The farming chat went on for days and for us that is what being a part of a community is, being there to give others that are interested the opportunity to spend time 'down on the farm'.

Kit Pottow



wouldn't cross if it wasn't for this one week a year spent in a field.

This year some of the children were particularly enthusiastic about farming so it would have been wrong not

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THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

It has been a privilege, and sometimes a little nerve wracking, to be responsible for watering friends' gardens while they are away on holiday. Inevitably it involves a bit of dead-heading and picking produce, which we take to the Church Produce Sale on a Saturday morning. Nerve wracking because I have been given the responsibility of looking after a beautiful orchid which I have put on my kitchen windowsill together with my own two orchids. The one I am looking after is very different, but they do seem to like being on the kitchen windowsill. It's north facing but light and it gets steam when I strain the veg for supper of course, and the occasional water spray. So far, it's doing ok, although it has naturally lost a few flowers!

It's always a pleasure to look and see what friends are growing and how successful their plants are, to discover some unusual and pretty shrubs in pots and see how different plants are put together.

We have also visited several gardens open to the public through the Gardening Club and the NGS scheme, some grand with many rooms, and some more compact; again, it is interesting to see how plants are put together and to make notes about plants I like, even if I don't have room for them!

We have also visited Wisley, one of my favourite gardens, although getting through the traffic and negotiating the improvements to the junction with the M25 is a real challenge. I suppose it will be finished one day! We used to live near Epsom, so for us it's a great way to meet up with friends as well as being in beautiful surroundings.

There is currently a new tall mound which was covered in different lavenders in full bloom when we were there, and from the top you can see so much of the gardens, surrounded by the lovely scent of lavender.

Back in my own garden, I have not done a huge amount recently as it's been

too hot for me. I have managed dead-heading - in fact I cannot seem to go into the garden without feeling the urge to deadhead something! Probably because of the wet weather earlier in the year most things have grown like topsy. But the weather seems to be more favourable for gardening now, so lots of sorting out, thinning, and generally tidying to make the most of all that is in bloom.

The colours are mellowing in tune with the shortening days and some lovely sunsets. How good to see the yellows, ochres and other autumn colours beginning to come into their own.

Ali Tebbs



TURBO'S HIGH SUMMER DOGGEREL

I've had a short rest in July from my blog.
It's exacting work you know, even for a dog
To prove to sceptics, cynics and detractors
That dogs don't just sleep, eat, and bark at contractors.
Rather, having watched the antics of the human
We can make our views known with well-hidden acumen.
After all, words are words, but mixing them up from time to time
I've come up with gibberish that (sort of) does rhyme.
So here goes - my effort to put myself out there
With Pam Ayres, if not Betjeman, or old William Shakespeare.

Summer took its time to make itself felt
And for weeks we wondered at the hand we'd been dealt.
It was cold and windy, and days spoiled by rain
Meant washed out picnics again and again.
But just when gardeners and farmers despaired
The clouds cleared, the sun came out - and we were unprepared!
Up in our hub, (the shop), people reviewed their daily lot,
And were heard to remark, 'It's too darned hot!'
But that is England; weather varied and unpredictable
That elicits descriptions from resigned to unprintable.

The summer has been saved, I'm glad to report
By the 'essence of life' as my Guvnor calls sport.
I slept through three Test Matches against the West Indies
Waking for breaks; drinks, lunches and cricket teas.
We won them all - unusual raptures
Of delight as it's a religion - just minus the scriptures.
Then came Wimbledon, and tennis without Murray
Prepared his retirement, but not in a great hurry.
The Olympics followed - lots of throwing, running, jumping
- and then some.
Fears and tears, podia, medals, the National Anthem.

And whatever's going on out in the world at large,
Or here in our country with a new government in charge,
Wars, murders, rioting and general thuggery
Mingling with many 'innocently' seeking out skullduggery,
Our little corner of England's countryside
Is peaceful and quiet; life goes on, in and outside;
Proceeding quietly; just fine, as far as I'm concerned
As peace is much better, I have maturely discerned.
So bring on our walks by the river, avoiding the fuss
Of paws on hot pavements, and the 24 bus.

For what we need is a morale boost daily
Of stories of courage, of cracking on, but mainly
More light in our world, and even quite soon,
Might things get better? Perhaps a BIG Harvest Moon!



DID YOU KNOW

I wonder if you know the origin of the phrase, 'to be on tenterhooks'. Or, as is very often mispronounced, tenderhooks. To be on tenterhooks means 'waiting nervously for something to happen.' The word 'tenter' relates to a frame used for drying cloth and is related to the word tent; so being on tenterhooks compares the tenseness of the stretched fabric to the tension of nervous waiting. The word 'tenter' is still used today to refer to production line machinery, employed to stretch polyester and similar fabrics.

Prior to the industrial revolution, cloth making was a major industry in England, and Wiltshire played a significant part in its development.

After a piece of cloth was woven, it still contained oil and dirt from the fleece of the sheep. A craftsman called a 'fuller,' cleaned the woollen cloth in a 'fulling mill,' and then had to dry it carefully, to prevent the woollen fabric from shrinking. To prevent this shrinkage, the fuller would place the wet cloth on a large wooden frame, called a 'tenter,' and leave it to dry outdoors. The lengths of wet cloth were stretched on the tenter using 'tenterhooks' which were hooked nails which were driven into the wood all around the perimeter the frame, so that the cloth would keep its shape and size.

Some interesting local history to be found in 'A History of the County of Wiltshire, 'The Woollen Industry before 1500', tells us the following: In the second quarter or the 15th century in the upper reaches of the Wylde Valley, many 'fullers' had been recorded in poll-tax returns. There were signs of increasing exploitation of water-power, stimulated as much by the proximity to Salisbury, as by the great activity in sheep farming on the chalk uplands.

At Heytesbury, which was one of the principal centres of management for the sheep flocks of the Hungerford estates, manorial funds were invested in the construction of a wholly new fulling-mill in 1422, together with tenters for stretching the cloth out to dry, for which were bought 2,500 tenterhooks. The mill was then farmed out at £2 a year to Thomas Knight and his wife for life, with the tenters, the mill-pond, weir and fisheries.

Finally, two examples of the 'tenterhook' phrase being used: Firstly, in 1690, the periodical, 'The General History of Europe', stated that "The mischief is, they will not meet again these two years, so that all business must hang upon the tenterhooks till then". The second historical mention of this phrase and one which I think is wonderful, is to be found in John Ford's play 'Broken Heart', dated 1633. It contains the lines: "There is no faith in woman. Passion, O, be contain'd! My very heart-strings are on the tenters".

Jonathan Wansey

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ANGLING NOTES

My trip to South Uist saw some difficult fishing. The early days of my two weeks were characterised by bright sun and some cold North and North East winds. At the end of the first three days with two of us fishing we had caught just two trout. It improved after that and my companion had a good day with the salmon catching a very fresh run grilse (a salmon which has been at sea for just 12 months) and hooking but losing two others. The number of trout caught for the week was about 30 and not very dissimilar to the previous year.

I change companions at the end of the week and my first friend flies out on the same flight that my second friend arrives on. The weather improved and the fishing was a little more consistent in the second week but there was one very puzzling day. We were fishing the big fish loch where one does not expect to catch large numbers of trout but where there is always a hope of a wild trout of up to 7 pounds. Conditions were good with some cloud cover and a steady breeze, I caught one trout, and my companion had none and that one trout was the only offer which we had all day.

It turned out that almost no fish had been caught on any of the 'machair' lochs that day. I can only conclude that the barometric pressure was wrong at



that time, certainly it was nothing which we could see. At the end of the week we had caught similar numbers of trout to the previous week and on the final day, which I had set aside for packing and loading the car, my friend had 3 sea trout, the largest of which was 4lbs 10ozs and the ghillie, fishing in my place caught a salmon and lost another after a long battle.

This day made the week and reminded the party that fishing for wild fish in wild places is very rarely consistent, the good times are often brief, and it is important to be ready to take advantage of them. None of my 'new flies' which I wrote about last month made a significant contribution and the standout fly was a traditional Irish pattern called the Green Peter which represents an emerging sedge (Trichoptera).

All of the fish which we caught were returned. There are no rules on the island about returning trout but last year 96% of all trout caught were returned and the weights recorded indicate a steady increase in the size of trout caught over recent years.

The birds were quiet, the corn-crakes had finished 'craking', I saw only one hen harrier briefly and only one short eared owl and one of my friends saw a sea eagle. Oystercatcher, arctic terns and common gulls were plentiful as were various ducks and grebes.

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COOK WITH CARE

'Cook with Care' has four key themes to help reduce kitchen fires:

Prepare - Before you start cooking, create a clear space to prepare your meals safely. Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob, and take care if you're wearing loose clothing.

Prevent - Never put anything other than pots and pans on your cooker hob; even after you've finished cooking, the hob will remain hot for some time. Never put anything metal into the microwave. Saucepan handles left sticking out create a danger; there's a risk they could be caught, leading to the pans being knocked off the hob.

Focus - Don't leave cooking unattended. Avoid cooking if you are tired,

have been drinking alcohol or are taking medication that leaves you drowsy.

Stay Safe - Keep the oven, hob and grill clean as a build-up of fat or grease can catch fire when hot. Switch off the oven and/or hob when you have finished cooking and take pans off the heat.

It's vital that we do all we can to protect our communities, especially those people who are perhaps more vulnerable

because of their age or where they live. By highlighting some of the potential dangers in the kitchen, DWFRS hope to encourage safer cooking behaviours amongst those most at risk.

There is more information on the DWFRS website about safety in the home, www.dwfire.org.uk/safety-at-home and anyone with an older friend or relative who lives alone is asked to share this advice with them. If you are concerned for someone's safety, you can contact the DWFRS Safe & Well team - call 0800 038 2323 or visit www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits Area Manager Marc House

BOOK REVIEW

STEEPLECHASING by Peter Ross

The play-on- words title gives this book a jaunty air which the author carries on. Yes - it's about church spires, but so much more. Ross on his visits meets monks in the north of Scotland and a cat called Doorkins, one of four who have church connections, in Southwark Cathedral.

In Cookham he reminds us of artist Stanley Spencer, whose Sandham Memorial Chapel at Burghclere in Berkshire is well worth the journey and in Kilpeck of its extraordinary gargoyles. Fascinating too is the history of London churches and their monuments: with John Donne's falling into the crypt of St Paul's during the Blitz, and how a wartime Watch patrolled the dome. Among poets we meet poets Philip Larkin and John Betjeman who have written on the subject. Going north he sees the tombs of Bede and the Shrine of St Cuthbert in Durham Cathedral.

The final chapter is of Westminster Abbey between the Queen's funeral and King Charles's Coronation, with tales of chapels, effigies (twenty of them!) and visitor behaviour among the crowds from all over the world.

Very knowledgeable, but with such a light and engaging touch, it's a treasure to own.
Catherine Hayne

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BOYTON AND CORTON CUTTINGS

The Fane Hall hosted a most enjoyable village lunch in June. The sun shone, the food was excellent and I won some whisky in the raffle.....what could be better.

The Friends of the Church held their AGM during which it was reported that work on the lych gate was complete, but they are still hoping to replace the existing wooden gate.

By the time this is published, the Fane Hall will have hosted a supper/talk evening, on the subject of Sugar and Slaves. Another talk is scheduled for November. The first big breakfast of the season will be on 28th September.

Rumours still abound about the future of the Dove, but, when I last checked Savill's website, it was still on the market, at a much reduced price. It is looking so sad, we really need this corner of the village to be up and running, here's hoping it is sold soon. **AR**

CODFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The latest Parish Council meeting minutes are displayed on this website -

Codford Parish Council -
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(codfordpc.org.uk)



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A CHALLENGE

On the back page you will see that we have set a photographic challenge. The reason being that some months I run out of ideas for the front page. I am a great believer in producing interesting front pages that capture the reader's attention. This month I have asked readers to take photographs of flowers, plants or weeds. You could even add trees to that, as we do have some fantastic trees.

This will help me in making decisions about future front pages. I will acknowledge all copies of photographs

CODFORD KEY COMMUNITY EVENTS DURING SEPTEMBER

1st

Park run Codford Village Hall 10am

'Free Peace' band playing at
Codford Tea Rooms 1.30pm - 2.30pm

2nd

Parish Council meeting - 7.30pm

4th

Woolstore Theatre Film Night 7.30pm

8th

Songs of Praise
(popular hymns and readings)
Codford St Mary's church 6pm

12-14th

'Meetings' - 4 in 1 act plays at the
Woolstore Theatre - 7.30pm

15th

Woolstore bar open 12pm-2pm
Arts and Crafts market at Ginger Piggery
10am-2pm

17th

Talk on the 'Cerne Abbas Giant' by our
Codford archaeologist - Dr Mike Allen in
the Woolstore Theatre - 7.30pm

18th

Gardening club meeting and talk from
Nicola Hope on 'Tales from the
Potting Shed' Codford Village Hall - 7pm

20th

The Greatest Showman singalong with
Supper at the Woolstore Theatre -

22nd

80th anniversary of the Battle of
Arnhem (Operation Market Garden)
Commemoration Service - Codford St
Mary's Church - 9.30am

received and inform participants that their photo will be on the front page of the next edition.

Please do contribute to this challenge and if you the reader would like to photograph other things that could be on a front page, please feel free to send to me...some themes could be Autumn, Christmas, Winter, People, Strange Happenings or anything else of your choosing, I can usually find a banner headline for the theme.

One final reminder would contributors please remember we have a word limit of 400 words, only on the rare occasion will we allow a contributor to exceed that limit, limit, see this month's edition. **Editor**

CODFORD ANNUAL FETE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AGAIN

On behalf of Codford residents and others from the area who came over on Sunday 30 June, I'd like to thank Crispin, Katie, Andy and all the rest of the Committee for an excellent day.

The sun shone, there were many and varied stalls, ringside entertainments and much fun was had. It was a splendid day and much enjoyed by all.

Pimms, cakes, burgers and hot dogs, coffee everything the heart and tummy desired.

Again next year please!

AL

SAVE THE DATE - FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

Now it seems, a regular event in the early winter calendar, the ever popular Tennis Club Curry and Quiz night is back on its usual Friday - 15th November. New Quiz-master, same fabulous curries. Join us for an evening of fun questions, banter, great company and delicious curries. See you there!

COMING SOON... New Codford Website, bringing all village information together, making it quick and easy to find what you are looking for.

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WEEKLY EVENTS AT CODFORD VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday

Pilates - 5pm - 6pm
Short mat bowls - 7pm - 9pm

Wednesday

Pilates - 9.30am - 10.30am
Choir - 1pm - 3pm
Fit club - 6pm - 7pm

Thursday

Community Café - 9.30am - 11.30am
Happy hearts (circuit based exercise session for those suffering from effects of heart & respiratory disorders) -
4pm - 5pm

Clubercise - 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Badminton - 8pm - 9.30pm
Further details can be found on the Village Hall website: Codford - Hall for Hire Events, Licensed Bar Parties (codfordvillage.org.uk)

VILLAGE NEWS

SHERRINGTON

Heytesbury Deanery has sponsored ten houses in a Commune in Meridi in South Sudan, with each house being named after a parish in the Deanery. In the little church is a photograph of Sherrington House!

Normally, I love the days at Summer's end. Trees are still heavy with foliage, flowers are abundant and the corn is ripening. There are signs everywhere of autumnal largesse, an essential lifeline for wildlife throughout the winter months.

This year however I write this wearing my Cassandra Gloom hat, for things appear to have gone badly wrong. Not long ago, emerging from the Great



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Ridge, I walked along a track bordered by Hawthorn bushes usually heavy with ripening berries, but there were none at all. That alerted me to look at other things. No beech mast on the beech trees and where are the acorns and hazels?

One of the pleasures of a walk on an autumn afternoon is the clatter and chatter of Fieldfare feeding on the Hawthorn and the silver flash of underbellies as they wheel away - but not this year. I do not actually recall seeing the froth of Hawthorn berries last Spring.

Blackthorn was abundant, but few sloes. By contrast apple trees are bearing fruit, Blackberries are plentiful, still tight and green along Parsons Path but black and lustrous in some places. There are Elderberries too so I can only think that the blossom escaped the chilly rain of Spring.

In our gardens Hollyhocks have done well. They wander over the garden and decide where they will flower, and I am happy with that. We have plenty of Buddleia, Lavender, Nepeta, all a delight for bees, butterflies and, indeed, all pollinators. The golden Buddleia by the back



gate is usually sagging with bees, but not this year. There is a lone tree at the end of Parsons Path in Boyton which is hung with blossom and the air is sweet with its scent, but I couldn't spot a bee!

I understand that farmers in the area belong to a Farmers' Cluster; groups of neighbouring farmers who come together to set common objectives to improve the local environment e.g. soil (fewer chemicals or none where regenerative farming is practiced), water and wildlife habitats. This must all surely embrace the responsible use of sprays, and yet.....it looks like a hungry winter and silent spring ahead. I hope so much I am wrong. BL



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WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY SEPTEMBER 2024

1 SEPTEMBER	Sutton Veny	9.30am	Sunday Worship	
Trinity 14	Heytesbury	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Codford St Peter	11.00am	Parish Communion	choir
	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
8 September	Tytherington	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Trinity 15	Sutton Veny Village Hall	9.30/10	Café Church, breakfast from 9.30	
	Upton Lovell	11.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer	
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Harvest Festival	choir
	Codford St Mary	6.00pm	Songs of Praise	
15 September	Heytesbury	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Trinity 16	Codford St Peter	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	choir
	Boyton	11.00am	Harvest Festival followed by baptism	
22 September	Sutton Veny	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Trinity 17	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Arnhem 80th Anniversary Parish Communion	
	Knook	11.00am	Matins	
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
	Sherrington	6.00pm	Harvest Festival	choir
29 September	Norton Bavant	10.00am	TEAM SERVICE	choir
Michael and All Angels	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Pimms & Hymns	

WEDDING

Congratulations to

Lysa Heaton & Matthew Hutchings
on 3rd August at Codford St Peter

*May they have many
happy years of married life together*

BAPTISM

We welcome into the Christian Church

Dexter William Frankie Reid
on 22nd June at Codford St Mary

May he grow in the Christian Faith

OLD FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Our sympathy and love go to all those
who mourn the passing of

Annie Crooks of Upton Lovell

Martin Collier of Sutton Veny

Peter Crisford of Sutton Veny

Helen Belchamber of Codford

Sheila Bell of Codford

Timothy Williams of Heytesbury

*May they rest in the peace
and light of Christ*

*Please contact the Ministry Team to make
arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals,
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Prayer Boards are a place to post your prayer requests in the knowledge that our church community will lift them up in prayer.

How to Participate:

• **Visit Us:** Drop in to the church at any

time, the Prayer Board is near the entrance door.

• **Share Your Thoughts:** Write down your prayer requests, hopes, or anything you wish to share on the paper provided. Feel free to be as specific or as general as you like.

• **Support Others:** Take a moment to read the requests of others and, if you feel moved to do so, offer a silent prayer or a kind thought for them.

We look forward to seeing your contributions and supporting each other through life's journey.

Gill Boxall

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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Licensed Lay Minister

Katherine Venning LLM

840283

katherine.venning@gmail.com

CONTACTS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Boyton & Corton	Susanna Maitland	851191
Codford St Mary	David Shaw	850372
		07899 906371

Codford St Peter	Alasdair McGregor	850073
Heytesbury	Tina Sitwell	840556
Knook	Robert Pottow	850285
Norton Bavant	John Acworth	840134
	Edward Moore	840420

Sherrington	Richard Morris	07555425110
Sutton Veny	Richard Jackman	840899
	Sandy Barton	07769 781392
		/841157

Tytherington	Caroline Lester-Card	07787556505
Upton Lovell	Gillie Cumming	850834

LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Codford	Henry Collins	850193
Norton Bavant	Didee Acworth	840134
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WYLYE VALLEY VOICES

Codford Village Hall Wednesday 1.30

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andrewforbeslane@gmail.com

A PHOTOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

Have you got a favourite picture of a flower, plant or even a weed!
If so send to the editor and next month the best images we will feature on the front page!

