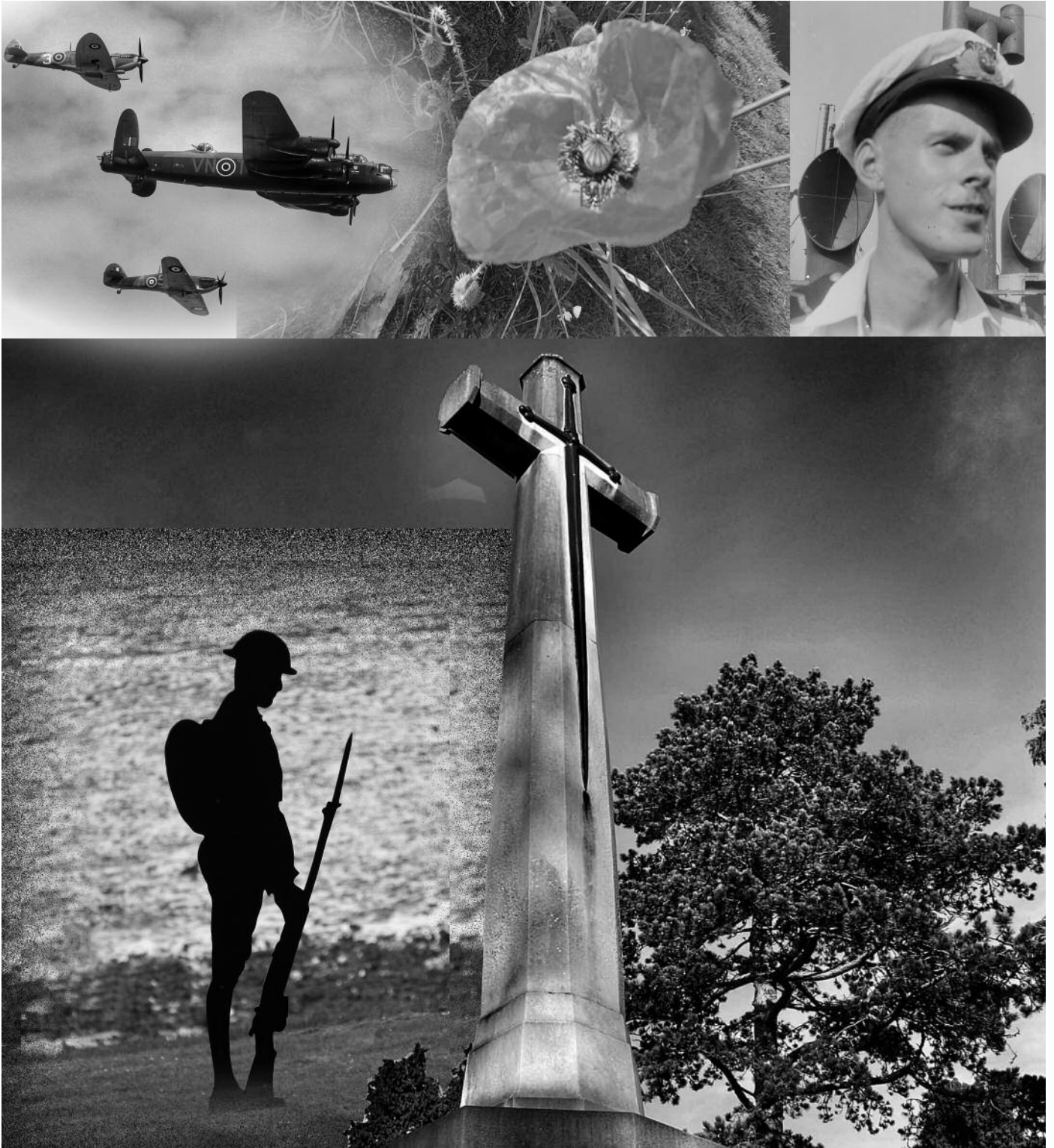


PARISH NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2024

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS

The Men's Breakfast got off to a racing start in early October when Jonathan Laver, the President of the Motor Cycling Club, delivered his informative and hugely entertaining talk about the origins of the Club, which was formed in 1901, and how it goes from strength to strength; organising events that test the driving skills and capabilities of the classic motorcycles and now cars* that take part. Jonathan nominated 'Veterans with Dogs' as his chosen charity and moved the breakfasters to make some supplementary donations that took the sum raised to over £170. (*He revealed that some modern cars try to take part but when they get 'airborne' the airbags go off and the electronics shut the engine down!)

The next breakfast is unusually on the first Wednesday, the 6th of November, rather than the first Monday in the month. This has been done to accommodate the busy diary of Wiltshire's Chief Constable, Catherine Roper who will be the speaker. In post since February 2023, Catherine will offer breakfasters some insights into her role and the challenges that it poses drawing from the experience that she has gained during her 24 year career, which has spanned many areas of policing including specialist crime, armed unit, custody, intelligence, protection, professional standards and crime prevention. Most recently she was the Commander responsible for Central Specialist Crime, which included tackling the most serious organised criminality.

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.

For your forward diaries, the December breakfast on 2 December returns to the usual first Monday of the month. The in-house speaker will be Andrew Moore with a talk based on family connections with the German Navy's raid on the seaside town of Hartlepool during the First World war.



PRAYER GROUP

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

FILMS AT THE WOOLSTORE
Wednesday 6 November
SWEDE CAROLINE (15) Drama/Thriller
Documentary/Comedy
7.30pm - Tickets £6.00
(doors open at 7.00pm)

A hilarious mockumentary set in Shepton Mallet, which follows Caroline, a competitive giant vegetable grower, as she readies herself for the big annual National Veg Championship. When her prized marrow, named Ricky Hutton, is stolen, Caroline and her fellow growers, conspiracy theorist Paul (Richard Lumsden) and affable Willy (Celyn Jones), are led into a seedy world of crime as they attempt to find the culprit.

SIMON'S RIDE

Three loud cheers to celebrate Simon Firth's achievement. He committed to visit five churches on his scooter on Ride & Stride Saturday, to raise money in support of St Peters Church Codford and Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. And great heavens - he did it, in a little over 3 hours! He must have fairly scooted along the lanes to achieve that time. He looked a little weary when he arrived home but gave a cheerful 'thumbs up' as he turned into his driveway. I was fortunately on hand to record his arrival at Codford St Peter, the final church on his circuit.

Anthony Bainbridge

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PARISH NEWS

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MINISTRY LETTER

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Who is Etheldred Benett? 'The Mother of English Geology' lived in Norton Bavant, and a new sign-board has sprung up outside the church to commemorate her. Wikipedia knows about her too!

We have many ways of remembering people, whether they are famous or not. Churches and graveyards are full of memorials, but we seldom pause to consider how the people fit into the history of their times, or what their lives were like.

Two large paving slabs in Boyton church fascinate me. One says:

MSO Jul 7 1724

Æt 21

The other, next to it says:

RSO Mar. 21 1725

Æt 37

Thou Hypocrite first cast the
Beam out of thine own Eye
& then shalt thou see clearly
to cast the mote out of thy
Brother's Eye

It's a biblical quotation, but why? What was the history of these brothers who died within seven months of each other? It's a situation worthy of a historical novel.



The recumbent knight nearby is 'Sir Alexander Giffard, Crusader, hero of the Battle of Mansourah in Egypt 1250'. A paving slab beneath covers the remains of the son of Margaret and John Giffard, executed in 1322 by King Edward II for rebellion. Can you imagine what it was like living through that period of history? What heartache must have been involved for that family.

A beautifully polished silver plate on the pulpit lamp in Sutton Veny reads, 'In Loving Memory of Frank Haskell, lost with HMS Penelope Feb 18th 1944.

Given by his brothers and sisters'. Frank was one of eleven children, and could not be brought home to rest in his home churchyard. The recent funeral of his great-niece enabled Richard Jackman, who served in a more recent HMS Penelope and was verger for her service, to discover the connection.

Our churchwardens are guardians of our churchyards, with diocesan oversight. Headstones are allowed above a coffin, but ashes can only have a flat stone, and the wording must follow the guidelines. The Chancellor at a Consistory Court in another diocese, following a family dispute, said that "memorials should be an oasis of peace, suitable for time spent in quiet reflection and contemplation for all visitors whether bereaved or not". (Church Times 27.9.24)

We have many different ways to mark the passing of our loved ones. In Boyton, a fifth church bell remembers those who died in the War. The bench beside the footpath in Heytesbury remembers the parents of a resident, and nearby there is a tree planted in memory of a parish councillor.

"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it" is the text for an exhilarating anthem by John Ireland. John Donne's words also resonate: "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." Music and poetry encompass some of the best memories and speak a language deeper than words. The kneeling figure of Thomas More, 1623, in Heytesbury Church has the following epitaph (note the first letter of each line).

Time on our Vertue hath no power:
Her ofspring breathes not by ye hower:
Our Bodies only are intombde,
Made thereby perfect not consumde,
And thus wee change our state, not dy,
Sealde up unto Eternity.

Mourne not then (Reader) but believe,
Our Friend's but changde, he dyde to live,
Recordes of worth preserve him safe:
Each thankfull Man's an Epitaph.

Katherine Venning

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

(Matthew chapter 24 v3ff) *RH*



Codford and District Branch
The Royal British Legion

Remembrance Sunday Sunday 10th November 2024

The annual Service of Remembrance will be held at the Church of Saint Peter, Codford on Sunday 10th November 2024 starting at 10.45.

The congregation are asked to
be seated by 10.40.

Veterans who wish to march are asked to form up at 10.30 by the Branch Standard at the entrance to The Grove.

GONE FISHING



I am a compulsive litter picker, so, when I spotted a prominent, cream-coloured, something that shouldn't have been there in the river, I had to do something about it, especially as it was in the middle of my favourite Heytesbury view, looking east from the bridge down the Wylde where trout used to swim.

So, I returned home, put on wellie boots and a waterproof jacket, armed

myself with one of those adjustable metal walking sticks and hurried back to the bridge. A hundred yards or so further down the road on the left is a metal gate, almost hidden by stinging nettles. With difficulty, I climbed over this, then, waded through knee high wild vegetation towards the fenced off cattle drinking area, open at one end, which I thought might offer me a reasonable way of getting within fishing distance of the target.

I soon found my route, over grass hummocks surrounded by water, was not easy to negotiate but, by holding onto the wooden fence, I made slow progress. However, I could see no sign of the object of my efforts and realized that the fence at the western end of the enclosure was hiding it from view. But just then I saw another horrid, muddy, once white, trainer shoe in the water. I fished this out and returned whence I had come, then went along the south side of the fence back towards the bridge.

I managed to climb over the fence but found the grass verge the other side very steep and leading only to deep water well above wellie boot level. There is a curved stone wall with most of its top just above water where, many years ago, I had seen a water vole feeding. I didn't much care for this route, particularly as I had

assured my wife that, although the river was in flood, there was no danger of me getting swept down the river. The first stone was wobbly and slippery, and the stick got stuck in the mud. Worse was to follow. I slipped off the next stone and thought I was going for a swim but just managed to extricate my stick from the mud and get myself onto a slightly firmer footing. From here I managed to hook the offending piece of plastic with my stick, and returned home in triumph carrying my booty, and with only one boot half full of water.

Joe Charlesworth



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ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD ANNUAL CLEANUP

We shall be having our annual Churchyard cleanup on Saturday, 23rd November from 9.30am. Please come along with wheelbarrows, secateurs, trowels, and rakes - you will be rewarded with coffee and delicious biscuits!

TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR THE END OF SUMMER

Let's face it, it has been a lousy summer what with wind, rain and not many lazy, hazy days of lying under the barbecue and dreaming of The Kinks, and sausages. Occasionally a sausage does drop and I'm onto it like Flint (whether you remember Errol Flynn or James Coburn as Derek Flint, this means 'having quickly, or easily, achieved a goal') and the Guvnor never wins a race for a sausage. More on this battle of wills, or speed of reaction, later.

Someone asked if I was right-handed or left the other day and it seemed a stupid question until I thought about it. I think dogs are ambidextrous actually; after all, I can scratch my right ear with my right paw and my left with my left but get into a fix if trying right paw to left ear. Human beings are better

at it but only because they are more supple and use tools better than we do. For example, the Guvnor has an extendable backscratcher that is more useful than a tree or gatepost or having to lie on my back and wriggle.

His wife is a 'south paw' meaning, of course, she is left-handed. Boxing fans have it that a left-handed boxer leads with their right hand leaving their left to deliver the knockout blow, while in America it is to do with the diamond-shaped layout of the ballpark with the batter looking east and away from the setting sun. The pitcher's arm, if left-handed, faces south. Whatever, there has been correspondence in our daily paper about what 'lefties' are good at, and less so.

The Guvnor wrote to the Letters Editor to say, "The left-handed person I

have lived with for more than fifty years slices bread at 45 degrees to the perpendicular and is not allowed near the bread board except in emergencies." I wish he hadn't raised this because quite often I quietly received the 'levelling up' triangle of bread.

After all this niff, naff and trivia, I have discovered an obvious truth. Picture the scene - I need to go outside: I use my teeth, I try my paw; I whine a bit, I walk in circles, but nothing seems to work. Then with a twist of his wrist, the Guvnor turns the doorknob and I'm out; and that's when I finally realise - he is a wizard.

THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

The garden is my happy place! A place to think about things or nothing in particular, just enjoying the robin singing his head off. Is he telling me off for not being in the garden to turn over the soil more often, or is he telling me this is his patch, go away? But it's more likely it has nothing to do with me! I haven't been in the garden very much this summer but recently while planting tulips and Michaelmas daisies (which I found in a supermarket), I realised what it meant for me to be out pottering. Michaelmas daisies are a vital source of nectar for bees at this time of year and they are so busy on the ones I already have that I thought it time to plant some more for late summer next year.

Rachel de Thame recently said that 'every ending is a beginning' in the garden. How true for this time of year. It's time for clearing down and collecting seeds, dividing and moving plants, sowing seeds and generally having a tidy up and

rethink about how we want our gardens to look next year. It sounds as though I'm never satisfied but one of the beauties of gardening is that we can make changes all the time, try different plants and colour combinations thereby using our own creative flair.

I still need to do a lot of tidying as the compost will be arriving any day now and I need to see the earth between the plants. I don't take up my dahlias, I'm too lazy! But I do cover them in an extra thick layer of compost and so far I have got away with it. Our winters seem to be getting wetter and warmer so maybe I'll get away with it again this year.

I keep hearing that now is the time to consider bare root plants and shrubs, as the earth is still warm enough to plant them and they will get a good start before the spring. This needs some serious thought as to how I want the garden to look next year, so I'd better get on with it!

Ali Tebbis



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DID YOU KNOW: THE DOOM BAR

Many of us will have enjoyed holidays over the years in Cornwall. Padstow and its surrounding area is a popular destination for tourists. Padstow is a picturesque fishing port on the north coast of Cornwall, situated on the west bank of the River Camel.

At the mouth of the estuary of the River Camel, where it meets the Atlantic Ocean, is a large sand bar, which was known for generations as Dunbar Sands, but has been known as The Doom Bar since at least the eighteenth century. The reason for this name is due to the large number of shipwrecks and tragedies which have been caused by this sandbar over the centuries.

For sailing ships, the Doom Bar was a considerable danger as they attempted to enter the port of Padstow. If the wind dropped, causing loss of movement, or if there were sudden gusts of wind, ships could easily drift away from the narrow channel and run aground on the coarse sand, often causing severe damage. Since records began in the nineteenth century, the Doom Bar has caused over 600 major accidents, the majority of which were significant shipwrecks.

The Doom Bar is composed mainly of marine sand which is constantly being transported from the seabed by the tides and sea currents. Passed down over the years, however, is the Cornish folklore legend, which states that a mermaid created the sand bar as a dying curse after she was shot by a local man. The story has it that the man had seen a young woman sitting on a rock and was entranced by her beauty. He offered to marry her and when she refused, he shot her in retaliation, subsequently realising that she was in fact a mermaid.

Throughout the years, The Doom Bar has been reflected in literature and music and more recently, has given its name to a local ale, which can now be found in pubs across the nation. This well-known beer was founded 1994, brewed across the Camel Estuary in Rock.

It was founded by Bill Sharp, of Sharp's Brewery and Doom Bar is its flagship ale. Doom Bar Ale is still produced locally in Rock but, since 2013, it has also been brewed in Burton upon Trent in Staffordshire. Doom Bar bitter has won many national awards and was believed to be the prime reason that Molson Coors spent £20 million on their takeover of Sharp's Brewery in 2011. An alcohol-free version, named Doom Bar Zero, was launched in 2020.

Whether on holiday in Cornwall, or enjoying a refreshing pint in your local, I hope that the name 'Doom Bar' will have greater significance. Cheers!

Jonathan Wansey

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ANGLING NOTES

When I wrote of seeing olives on our new lake for the first time, a friend responded by saying that he had seen them frequently for a considerable period of time, even years, but mainly in the evenings. I no longer fish in the evening, particularly on fisheries which are an hour's drive from home, which perhaps explains why I have not seen them previously. On my second visit of the month fishing conditions were good. There was an East wind, which was unusual, but which provided a good ripple on the lake. The weather had been settled for some time, there was a steady hatch of olives all day and the rainbows took the olive nymph imitation which I used with great

confidence. The pattern was simply a sophisticated version of a Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear which is a traditional pattern used to imitate hatching olives on the chalk rivers. Because the lake was very clear the rainbows were very silver and very lively.

When the Piscatorial Society acquired this fishery it came with a stretch of the river Test and a lake. The lake has very steep, almost vertical sides and there are no areas of shallow water. We consider that this seriously limits the range of fauna and flora which exists. When we built a new lake, on the site of a fish farm, we set out to create a much more diverse habitat. We created two deep holes, one of 3 and one of 4 metres in depth to provide shelter for the fish in extremely hot or cold conditions. All of the margins were sloped to provide areas of shallows and much of the lake is shallow, less than 1 metre in depth. An algae trap was incorporated on the East end as the prevailing wind is a westerly. Some have argued that too much of the lake is shallow but in terms of the fly life, which is our major concern, it seems that we have got it about right. There are good numbers of buzzers (chironomids), damselflies are plentiful as are dragon flies, which I have seen fish take and olives are

present. We have snails and water boatmen (corixae) both of which the fish feed on. What I have not yet seen are sedges (tricoptera) although on the old lake in settled weather there are good numbers of a very small black sedge which hatch in the evenings. Mayflies (Ephemera danica) have not yet appeared but hopefully they will.

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BOOK REVIEW

MY BRILLIANT FRIEND by Elena Ferrante

This novel is the first in what has become known as the Neapolitan Quartet. Written by a pseudonymous Italian author, Elena Ferrante, and translated into English in 2012, it was, together with its successors, adapted into a play and a television series and they have sold over 10 million copies in 40 countries.

My Brilliant Friend begins in the 1950s, in a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples. It relates the early years of Elena (Lenù) (also the narrator) and Lila, her bright and fearless friend. My translation (Europa edition) was rather overpopulated with American English ('gotten', 'second grade', 'intuited') but this did not take away the detailed and fascinating thread of the story. The relationship between Lenù and Lila, two perceptive and intelligent young girls, reminds me of Violet Elizabeth Bott's remark in *Just William*: 'she's my best friend and I hate her'!

The book deals with the trials and tribulations of the families of the neighbourhood, an area people rarely entered and rarely left, full of poverty and violence. It is so detailed and alive that it makes you wonder how much is autobiographical. The myriad names and families take a little getting used to (the family genealogies at the beginning of the book are initially rather overwhelming!). However, that is overcome as the book leads you on through the girls' education and escapades. Lenù's father is a porter at the market, Lila's a cobbler. Money is short. They both pass their exams to go to the High School... but Lila's parents cannot afford the fees so only Lenù goes on. Yet Lila, naturally feisty and bright, encourages Lenù in an offhand fashion

thereby ensuring Lenù's academic success. Meanwhile, amidst the violence and the entrenched traditions, they find boyfriends - a perilous affair as Naples in the 1950s was deeply Catholic.

In the original Italian version, much of the book was written in the very strong Neapolitan dialect, so in the translation we are always being told whether people are talking in dialect or not, normally an indication of the limited education most people had had. It is slightly clumsy but difficult to avoid. As people moved higher up the educational ladder, they left the dialect behind them. So Lenù could switch from the dialect to standard Italian and others were judged by their ability to do the same, which most couldn't.

Lila, outwardly the stronger character, led Lenù into various scrapes, then found herself going out with Stefano Carracci, whose father had been murdered but who had money and suddenly she is seen in smart places with new clothes and sophisticated friends. However the day of her wedding, at sixteen, Lenù is bathing her before the wedding ceremony and Lila makes her promise to be the best: 'you're my brilliant friend', whereas in the reader's mind it had always seemed the other way round. Lila then puts on the wedding dress that Lenù had chosen for her and for the first time in the book, Lila

shows uncertainty: "What's going to happen to me, Lenù?". As the reader you realise that her boldness and strength on the street has not prepared her for marriage. Even a wealthy husband and economic security could not help her.

At the reception following the wedding Lenù's mother forbids her to talk to her 'boyfriend' who was a mere mechanic and her disciplinarian mother was not going to let her go so cheaply, having given up so much in order for Lenù to carry on at school. So Lenù was left, as she put it herself, 'completely alone', and looking around the room at the reception, with people getting drunk and arguing, she thought to herself 'the plebs were us'... she yearned for Nino, also from the neighbourhood, who had also succeeded on the education ladder, but he seemed to be unreachable and she decided that studying was useless... it alienated her from her friends but didn't take her anywhere else.

The dénouement happens literally in the last paragraph of the book, a veritable cliff-hanger! Marcello Solara, Lila's nemesis whom she had earlier already threatened with a knife, walks into the wedding reception. Not only that, but he is wearing shoes which she had designed, her father and brother had made with great care and her new husband had dearly bought. For her, this is a treacherous and, on the part of someone - her new husband who had so dearly bought the shoes? - a traitorous act. Lila, dressed in wedding white, is looking murderously at all around her. No explanation is given. And the book finishes, almost mid-sentence, with a feeling of dread.

It is a beautifully written book, and, as any good book does, leaves you wishing for more. However in this case, there clearly is more, as there are three more books in the quartet to follow, taking us through the girls' lives and it is a sign of the quality of the writing that you await the second book with impatience (and trepidation!).

My Brilliant Friend is an easy read, though the content - filial and maternal roles, poverty, domestic violence and engrained Mafia-like brutality - is far from cosy. However, it is a brilliantly portrayed realism which is extremely evocative and gives a picture of 1950s Naples that is difficult to put down.

Lorna Wheeler, Heytesbury Readers

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VILLAGE NEWS

BOYTON AND CORTON CUTTINGS

The first Big Breakfast of the season has taken place, with the tempting smell of bacon permeating the village. This time our new village Bobby joined in, obviously to know who to keep an eye on! Two more breakfasts to come, on the last Saturdays of October and November.

Our new Community Support Officer, Lukasz Kolasinski, is keen to get to know the village. As well as enjoying breakfast, he also joined a church service at Boyton. Should you need to contact him, his number is 07471 029004.

On the same day as the breakfast, the renovated lych gate to the burial ground was dedicated. This was led by Clifford and well attended, all rewarded with sunny weather and afterwards a cream tea in the Fane Hall.

The next talk in the Fane Hall will be given by Richard Adams on the 15th November. His subject is the story of bank notes, the intricate design of which was his field for many years. As always this will be accompanied by a delicious meal.

By the time you read this, the village will have celebrated a milestone birthday for Robin and Richard Witt. They are such an integral part of Corton, farming the land west and north of the village and supporting the villages in so many ways, from providing a well mown field for the fete and hall parking to hosting Plough Sunday in their amazing tractor shed. Their cows are an absolute joy to people walking around the village, and a photo of one even made the national press. We all wish them many, many happy returns.

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: 4pm - 5pm
(circuit based exercise session for those suffering from effects of heart & respiratory disorders)
Clubercise: 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Badminton: 8pm - 9.30pm
Further details can be found on the Village hall website (Codfordvillage.org.uk). The latest Parish Council meeting minutes are displayed on this website - Codfordpc.org.uk

CODFORD'S NEW COMMUNITY WEBSITE

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new Codford community website! It has been designed to be a comprehensive resource for both villagers and visitors, our site aims to be your go-to destination for all things Codford. Whether you're looking for information on key events, regular activities, local clubs, community services, or simply want to read articles of local interest, you'll find it all here. Our website also features a section for local business adverts and a community marketplace where you can buy and sell items. We believe there's something for everyone on our site.

Please visit our website - <https://www.codfordcommunity.co.uk/> and explore all that we have to offer. Let's work together to keep our community website up to date, relevant and engaging. We would love to hear from you!

Share your ideas and information you'd like to see on our site by contacting us at codfordcommunity@gmail.com.

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CODFORD TENNIS'S POPULAR CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT IS ON FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

As autumn draws in, and the weather will no doubt have changed as the clocks go back (though as I write the warm sun is on my back), the eagerly anticipated Tennis Club Curry and Quiz night will be just a couple of weeks away.

Do you have your teams together? Gather at 6.30 to organise yourselves and some drinks (bar open!). Quiz starts at 7pm and supper at 8.

Do you have your tickets yet? They are available from the Post Office (Smith's Budgens) and Broadleaze Bar. Alternatively, call the Chairman on 850239 if you would like to reserve tickets and pay on-line. They are £12.50.

Most of you will have seen that Phase One of the Fence for which we have been raising funds was completed just before Christmas 2023.....most of you have had a part in that. Thank you so much. We are now trying to get Phase Two done.

It is a lot of money to do this, however, it preserves your lovely courts for future generations. Although maintained by Codford Tennis, the courts are on Parish Council property and as such are free for any resident of Codford to play tennis. (I'm afraid if you live somewhere else you do need to be a member to use them.)

The team will come up with delicious curries and organise another event of fun and getting together. And our new Quizmaster will come up with plenty of brainteasers and questions to make our brains burn.

Look forward to seeing you there. Contact for further details: lawntennis-clubcodford@gmail.com or Vincie on 850239.

CODFORD KEY COMMUNITY EVENTS DURING NOVEMBER

- | | |
|------|--|
| 3rd | Park run Codford Village hall grounds - 10am |
| 6th | Woolstore Theatre film night - Swede Caroline - 7.30pm |
| 7th | Warminster and District NSPCC Christmas Fair. Village Hall - 10am - 2pm |
| 9th | Codford Fireworks at Stockton Park. Gates open from 4.30pm, Fireworks start at 7pm. Tickets available from the Post Office - £10 per adult, £5 children (5 -15). |
| 10th | Remembrance Service - Codford St Peter's - 10.45am |
| 13th | Ladies circle meeting - Village Hall - 3pm |
| 15th | Codford Tennis Club's annual curry and quiz night - Village Hall 6.30pm |
| 16th | Winter warmers (soup, roll, drink and biscuit) - Broadleaze bar - 12 |
| 17th | Arts and Crafts market at Gingery Piggery - 10am - 2pm
Woolstore bar open - 12pm - 2pm |
| 19th | Codford local history society talk 'Maps and mapping' by Tony Painter, 7pm |
| 20th | Codford and District Gardening club talk 'for the love of snowdrops' by Lyn Miles - 7pm |
| 25th | Parish Council meeting - 7.30pm |

VILLAGE NEWS

HEYTESBURY NEWS

There has been quite a bit of activity at the church as we were completing the final stage of the drains project. Not only were the remaining drains cleared but also a soak away was set into the ground in the northeast corner. It is an interesting construction as it consists of rigid, pierced plastic boxes which form a grid in which the surface water is collected and then slowly seeps into the ground. With all the recent heavy rain, we are glad it is in place as it takes all the water coming off the chancel and tower roofs. We were very fortunate to receive funding from the National Churches Trust and the Friends of Heytesbury, Tytherington and Knook Churches.

The Friends are active in raising funds for the restoration of our three churches by arranging guest lectures, concerts and tribute band evenings! Lt Col Robin Phayre, a former resident of Heytesbury, presented the recent fascinating lecture on 'Drone Warfare in Ukraine and Beyond'.

We are now focusing on our next project which is to make the nave an inviting space for our congregation and the community. It will include new heating, upgraded light and sound systems, a toilet, servery and meeting room as well as redecoration. To fund the project, we are preparing a large bid to cover the costs. We have created a new website <https://heytesburychurchopenplace.org> to keep everyone informed about the project as well as forthcoming events.

You may have noticed our new information board at the front of the churchyard. We are grateful to Alexandra Wilson who provided money for the board in memory of her husband, Barnabas. Many of you will remember Barnabas (Barn) as he was often seen around Heytesbury in his electric buggy photographing people and the landscape.

Just to remind everyone, our Christmas Market will be in Heytesbury Church on Saturday November 23rd from 10am-12pm - lots of stalls selling Christmas gifts, produce, preserves, cakes and much more plus mince pies and coffee.

Tina Sitwell

SHERRINGTON OCTOBER

First day of October and the last swallows were wheeling over the fields above the village, packing their last-minute haversack rations. Trees are still heavy with foliage although none yet brushed with Autumn fingers, although the colours change every day. In the Great Ridge elegant Larch trees have yet to turn to gold. They are deciduous so shed their needles, leaving the graceful, upswept, branches to face the winter. Small green tassels appear again in early March.

We have days that are grey and dull and others that are sparkling and bright and one such occurred on the first Saturday in October and Tyto and I headed off to the wood. It seemed we had the whole area to ourselves; wonderful. The Fonthill Estate is not shooting there so no half-tame pheasants, making it even better. Trees are still in full leaf and the only sound was a light wind whispering through their branches. Everywhere one turns there is something of beauty; a massive, perfect tree or one that is old and gnarled, its trunk painted with vivid mosses, and left and right tracks that invite, 'this way - follow me'. When I can no longer stagger along with walking poles, I shall be able to scroll through my many pictures and recall days such as this.

Cassandra Gloom has set aside her hat because, here and there, there are hawthorn berries! Only a sparse few but better than nothing and hedgerows are bright with enamelled rose hips. Ivy has berries later on that are a food source, and they will be abundant this year so not a complete famine. It has been the year of the bramble! In some places berries have been large and luscious, even in our unruly hedge. The downside, of course, are the vicious and invasive runners that appear everywhere, defying all attempts to eradicate them. However, blackberry and apple crumble is a favourite pud!

Harvest Thanksgiving saw the little church filled with the colours of Autumn and in Bert Imber's day No 23 always contributed a vibrant show of dahlias. Happily, that tradition continues, and the windows had vases of stunning colour. A hamper of non-perishables was delivered to the Warminster Food Bank; it was gratefully received and a warm 'Thank You' is on the notice Board in the porch.

Restoration of the Fish ladder has been a success thanks to the skilful work of Toby Bainbridge and Chris Wheatley-Hubbard. It's good to see fields of rye grass under sown with clover and other plants and none being grazed; the Agri-chemical people must be grinding their teeth down to the gums, but the soil will be smiling! Finally, our Council has scooped the award in the 'Make Britain Ugly' contest as the approach to the footbridge, and an idyllic part of the river, is now transformed into a depressed building site.

BL

FOR YOUR INTEREST!

In May 2022 Steve Hannath, Chair of the Wiltshire Geology Group left a comment on the Upper Wylde Valley website following a visit to All Saints, Norton Bavant to say that there was no acknowledgement of the life of Etheldred Benett, who lived in Norton Bavant Manor and is buried in the church, and who is known as the Mother of English Geology. We contacted Mr Hannath, who offered to raise the funds for the erection of a memorial board. It has taken over two years to bring the project to fruition, but the board was finally unveiled and dedicated very recently.

Hilary Connellan

DOWN ON THE FARM

There is no Down on the Farm this month but will return in the next edition with some exciting news.

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WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY NOVEMBER 2024

3 NOVEMBER	Sutton Veny	9.30am	Sunday Worship	
All Saints	Heytesbury	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Codford St Peter	11.00am	Parish Communion	choir
	Upton Lovell	3.00pm	All Souls' Service	

10 November	Tytherington	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Remembrance	Codford St Peter	10.45am	RBL Remembrance service	
Day	Heytesbury	10.45am	Remembrance service	
	Sutton Veny	10.45am	Remembrance service	

17 November	Boyton	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
2nd Sunday	Codford St Peter	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	
before Advent	Norton Bavant	11.00am	Parish Communion	choir

24 November	Sutton Veny	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Christ the King	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Parish Communion	choir
	Knook	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	

BAPTISM

We welcome into the Christian Church

Frederick Charles Barrett

15th September at Boyton

May he grow in the Christian Faith

OLD FRIENDS REMEMBERED

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

Ruth Wilds (Frank Haskell's great niece) Sutton Veny

Roger Osborne of Tytherington

May they rest in the peace and light of Christ

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 Codford St Mary David Shaw 850372
 07899 906371

Codford St Peter Alasdair McGregor 850073

Heytesbury Tina Sitwell 840556

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Norton Bavant John Acworth 840134

Edward Moore 840420

Sherrington Richard Morris 07555425110

Sutton Veny Richard Jackman 840899

Sandy Barton 07769 781392

/841157

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