

PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

OCTOBER 2025

“OCTOBER: PUMPKINS, SOUL CAKES, SPIDERS AND LEAVES IN FULL FLOWER.”

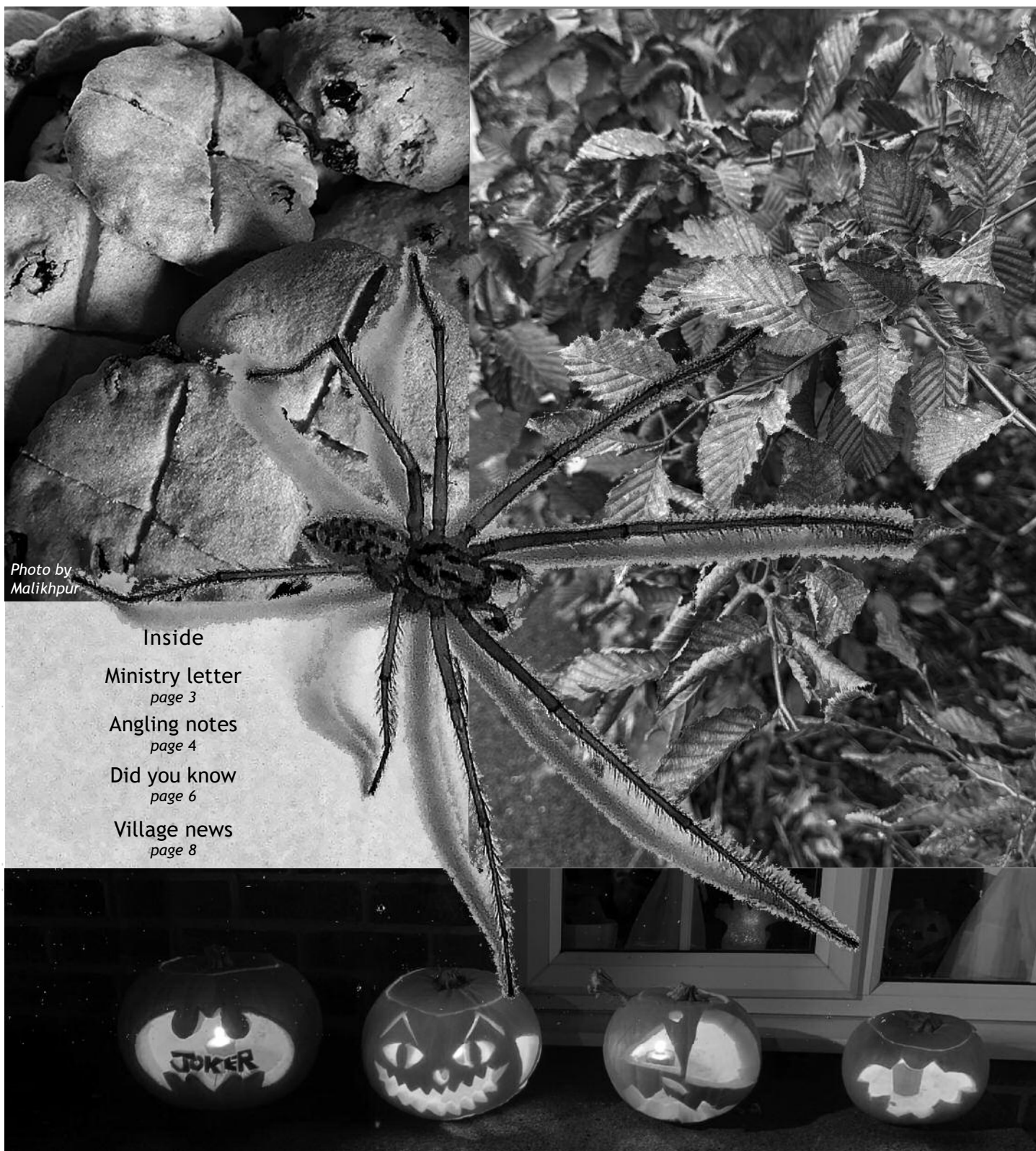


Photo by
Malikhpur

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EDITORIAL

Can I remind all contributors and advertisers that I need copy by the 10th of the month prior to publication. For example, if you want an article or advert in the November edition, I need it by the 10th of October as does Simon for the adverts. In the September edition we were still receiving adverts up to the 18th of August. By that time, it had gone to print.

RC, Editor

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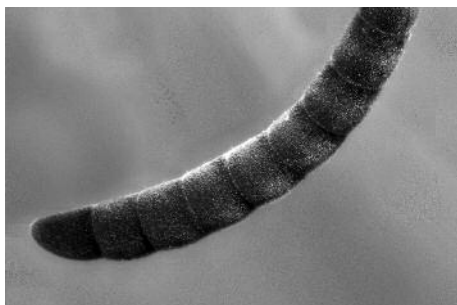
Starring Michael Fassbender and Cate Blanchett. When intelligence agent Kathryn Woodhouse is suspected of betraying the nation, her husband- also a legendary agent - faces the ultimate test of whether to be loyal to his marriage or his country.



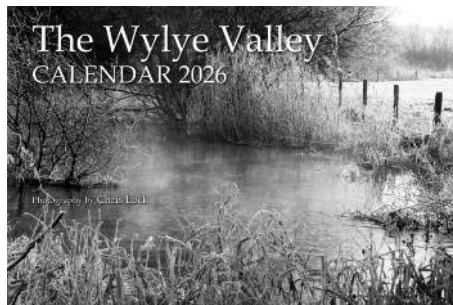
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WHAT IS THIS?



The answer to last month's photograph by Roger Hammond, is...A Rusty Tussock moth



This time of year seems to come around quicker than ever and the 2026 edition of the Wylve Valley Calendar is now available! As in previous years, all proceeds will be donated to the international children's charity Hope and Homes for Children (reg. charity no. 1089490), based in Wilton. The price of the calendar remains the same as last year, £11.50. It comes with a sturdy mailing envelope and can be posted at the 'large letter' rate.

Copies are available locally from Budgens at Codford, Heytesbury Stores, The Artist's Barn at the Ginger Piggery, The Bell Inn, Wylve, or in Warminster from Coates & Parker. You can also order online at www.chrislockphotography.co.uk or from the online shop at www.hopeandhomes.org

This year's selection of images include a peaceful scene on the river at Hanging Langford, evening skies at Corton, Wilton House in all its glory, a Langford Lakes sunrise and an early morning scene at Sherrington.

Last year, combined sales of the

2025 Wylve and Nadder Valley Calendars raised £6,340, with all of this money going to support the charity's overseas programmes in Eastern Europe, Southern and East Africa and South Asia. Hope and Homes for Children remains committed to the belief that every child deserves the love and belonging of a safe family home, never the abuse and neglect suffered in orphanages. By working with families, communities, local authorities and governments, the charity has helped move thousands of children out of orphanages and back to family.

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living within the love of God, and sharing God's love and life with others.

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MINISTRY LETTER

"SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME, AND FORBID THEM NOT."

That memorable phrase from the King James bible is less resonant in modern translations, but this is how I remember it. Matthew, Mark and Luke all tell of the disciples shooing away the small children and admonishing their parents for letting them get too close to Jesus.



Some of us are not very good at suffering the presence of small children at our services, but the church is theirs too. They are the Christians of the future, and the future of our church depends on them. Children have a greater sense of the numinous than many of us. They may not understand the mystery of the incarnation (do you?), but they love to hear bible stories, and they relate to Jesus in their own way. Freddie (our smallest grandchild, aged 2) enjoys playing with Russian dolls; the biggest she calls 'my angel', and the smallest 'the baby Jesus'. It's not always

easy to find Jesus when you want him, but that's a parable for life itself.

Small children in church can cause problems, especially if they are testing the acoustics as they listen to the resonance. I recently sat behind a toddler with a hammer in one hand and a metal tractor in the other (both of which came from the bag of toys kept in church). There are some excellent toys near the carpeted play area in Heytesbury church, but children often prefer to join in the service. We may find them distracting, and some of us are easily distracted. ('Did I remember to turn the oven on' can spoil my concentration just as effectively.)

Our best experience of havoc happened on Christmas morning when our youngest daughter was a toddler. Her Christmas present was a jack-in-the-box activated by pressing a big red button. She was innocently cruising round the church during a hymn when she found a big red button against the wall and pressed it. It was the mains switch. The churchwardens panicked as the lights went out and the organ ran out of wind: the congregation sang on.

Children love long words and memorable phrases. They don't need to understand what the words mean: my favourite line at the end of the hymn 'Christ is made the sure foundation' was (and still is) 'consubstantial, co-eternal'. The authors of NEH have changed it to 'One in love and One in splendour'. Children can ask very pertinent questions. One question to which I did not have a ready answer was: "What colour is the Holy Spirit?"

Children have much to teach us, but all too often we are like the disciples

in St Matthew's account. 'Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he blessed them.'

Katherine Venning

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.

Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth, chapter 1 verse 18
RH

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ANGLING NOTES

A Wildfish Smart Rivers Report records a decade of clear decline in invertebrate communities (river flies) on the river Avon, a Special Area of Conservation. Recording by kick sampling has shown a decline in abundance and the decline in sensitive species was more significant than that of the wider invertebrate community.

According to the Water Framework Directive assessment, all of the recorded sites were scored as high quality for invertebrates in 2015. In 2024 the monitored sites still scored as 'high' or 'good' despite the declines in the invertebrate community recorded by Smart Rivers. The Environment Agency and Natural England must change how they assess the health of chalk streams by setting more ambitious targets. Unless this takes place, the disconnect between healthy policy classification and on the ground reality will continue, and we risk extinction of sensitive species. It is very important that a conservation body such

as Wildfish should have such sound data, professionally collected and analysed, if they are going to use the information to pressure government to take action.

This report can not be dismissed as hearsay. We have a particular responsibility to care for our chalk rivers as we have some 85% of those in the world. Meanwhile here on the fisheries, activity has been limited.

All of The Society lakes were closed for a while during August because of high water temperatures and a wish to prevent the fish being stressed. The relentless drought has shrunk the rivers even more. We must hope that substantial rain does arrive.

I have usually spent some time at dusk watching for bats in my garden. I have on occasion had up to 3 species. This year I did not see a bat until well into August and then only 1. This is another indication of a lack of insect life.

Robin Mulholland

THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

I have just looked at the opening sentence of my article this time last year and I started by saying 'It's official, it's the coolest summer since 2015'. Now we have the hottest summer on record! No wonder our plants and trees are confused. This morning a friend said their Azalia is flowering, poor thing must be very confused! But now the pond is filling again the water butts are full and the grass looks a lot more like a lawn, but it has been so good not to look at the

weather constantly to decide if we can invite friends to come and share a meal in the garden.

Autumn is upon us and it's time to do a bit of tidying up, before the time comes to fill the beds with compost. There are still flowering plants available for late bees and other insects and hopefully enough insects and worms to fatten the hedgehogs ready for their long winter sleep.

I have been reading a book my mother gave me, Dr Hessayon's 'Bedside Book of the Garden'. I'm sure lots of us are familiar with his 'Expert' series of books but this one is rather special. I didn't realise that he only died in January of this year at the age of 96. I read that William Robinson started to change the more formal style of



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gardening. Capability Brown was all about structure but Robinson wanted to change to a more relaxed style with more emphasis on flowers being planted in clumps rather than rows and also to include wildflowers. Wildflowers was a step too far during the mid-1800s, but he became friends with Gertrude Jekyll who was influenced by Robinson and they remained friends until she died.

The same book gives lots of tips and one I thought I would follow is for overwintering geraniums or pelargoniums. Sometimes I'm successful and other times not, but he rightly says they are expensive to replace every year and suggests taking them in before the first frost arrives, shaking off the soil from the roots and potting in seed compost into as small a pot as possible. Take out any old leaves, reduce the size of the stems, place them in an unheated room and water very little until spring. Hessayon suggests they need to rest. I have geraniums that I leave in my conservatory that continue to flower all winter, but I have noticed this year they don't look quite so healthy, so I will try putting them in a spare room and persuade them to take a nap.

Ali Tebbs



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BOOK REVIEW

'THE GRAPES OF WRATH'*

BY JOHN STEINBECK

The Grapes of Wrath is a masterpiece of creative writing, but it is also social history. Steinbeck's story-telling is superb; the theme is of poverty and hardship, and the enduring determination of the Joad family draws one in. The book follows the journey of an extended family as they travel from Oklahoma to California in search of work. Their farmstead has been destroyed by a landowner who cares more about his bank account than about the land he is farming. He cares nothing for the tenant farmers for whom this had been home. There are no caricatures: these are portraits of real people, facing degradation and hunger through no fault of their own. Their journey is prompted by empty promises of work via leaflets which make California sound like the Promised Land. The description of the greed and cynicism of the bankers and landowners who

manipulate those on the bread-line shone a light on a swathe of society which the rich preferred to ignore, and was close enough to the truth that libraries and schools in parts of California banned the book. The ending is extraordinary - its significance would mean very little if you haven't read what comes before it. The glimmer of optimism is a testament to the humanity of those who are suffering.

The fortunes (or lack thereof) of the impoverished Joad family are strangely relevant to the present global situation - themes of hardship, poverty, greed and inequality but also family, friendship, kindness, and stoicism. These people are totally believable. Poverty is not a crime, but it is treated as such. The 'Oakies' who long for work are viewed by the rich as being pariahs in society. In our enlightened world, one feels it couldn't happen again, yet the politicians who think they can make America Great Again are following in the footsteps of their

predecessors almost a century ago. We may prefer to treat Europe's migrant crisis as being someone else's problem, but may have to admit that it has great relevance to us all.

Steinbeck did a lot of research before he started writing, visiting migrant camps, getting to know the people and seeing for himself how they were treated. He then achieved the remarkable feat of writing the book (my copy has 535 pages) in five months, with his wife transcribing and typing it. It won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, was turned into a film in 1940, and was a contributing factor to Steinbeck's Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962.

*The title comes from The Battle Hymn of the Republic: "He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on."

Katherine Venning

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE BIRD KIND

Reading the article on The Kingfisher by Jonathan Wansey and the beautiful poem, which I had not seen before, I was taken back almost thirty years, when my late husband Graham and I lived on the river Wylfe in Bishopstrow.

A bridge over the trout-filled river led us to the main part of our garden, with two beautiful weeping willow trees, whose elegant boughs cascaded down, almost touching the water. It was from there that these glorious incandescent birds would appear, in a flash, into the water and then emerge with a small silver fish in their awesome black beak and perch on the bridge. It would proceed to 'bash' the quivering fish on the bridge rail, swallow it and then fly off down river. The first time we saw this happen, we were almost quivering with excitement and joy.

We loved watching the water voles that nested in the riverbank. They became quite used to us and when we sat out by the river in the evening, they would happily sit and munch their grass stalks. Any sudden noise would have them plopping back into the river or scurrying into their burrow. The burrows that were gently eroding the lawn above!

Then there were the noisy greedy ducks, the dippers, and the swans that would disappear to breed and then proudly bring their grey fluffy cygnets to show us, and the grumpy looking Grey Heron that would stand in the river early in the morning. In the midst of all this wonderful wildlife it was The Kingfishers who gave us the most pleasure.

One day we heard a soft 'thud' on the window, and went out onto the terrace to see a male Kingfisher on the ground. Dismayed, Graham bent down and gently picked it up. "It is still breathing

and no legs broken" he whispered. The bird's bright little eyes were closed. Then, he moved in Graham's hand, his little feet unclashed, and took hold of Graham's finger, and shakily stood, rocking slightly. "That is a bird with a huge headache" I thought. We walked slowly towards the bridge, his favourite perch. His eyes opened and he shook his head, still holding onto Graham's finger, then moved forward onto the rail and took hold.

Graham signalled for us to leave, and we tiptoed away to watch at a distance. He swayed a little, then suddenly took off in the usual flash of colour and flew downstream. We were so overjoyed we hugged each other. Then we sat on the bench on the terrace, silently. Suddenly he flashed back, with a flypast of thanks (well that is what we thought anyway) and into his Willow tree.

We went back into the house and opened a bottle of wine to celebrate his survival.

Christine Powell



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DID YOU KNOW? FROGS AND TOADS

Did you know that all toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads? The term 'toad' is often used to refer to a specific frog species that tends to be more terrestrial and have dry, warty skin.

Frogs and toads are members of a diverse and largely semiaquatic group of short-bodied, tailless amphibian vertebrates, belonging to the order 'Anura', which means 'without tail'. Frogs generally have smooth moist skin, long legs for jumping and live near water. Toads have dry, warty skin, shorter legs for crawling or hopping and are more tolerant of dry land. While toads found in Britain are not poisonous, they can secrete toxins from their skin that can be harmful if ingested. Frogs and toads are cold blooded amphibians and they are carnivores, using their long sticky tongues to catch insects and other small prey. They can breathe through their skin and can lay thousands of eggs in water, which hatch into tadpoles, before transform-ing into adult frogs.

Frogs are widely distributed around the world, but the greatest concentration is to be found in tropical rainforests and other wetlands. Fossilised evidence of frogs date back 250 million years.

Frogs typically spawn their eggs in bodies of water. The male fertilises the female's eggs as they are laid, externally.

The fertilised eggs form a jelly-like mass, known as frogspawn, which then hatch into aquatic tadpoles. The tadpoles eventually undergo metamorphosis, growing limbs and developing lungs and finally transform into young frogs. A frog's eyes and nose are positioned on top of its head, enabling it to see and breathe while submerged in water.

The average lifespan of a common frog in the UK is typically between 5 and 10 years. Frogs generally return to the same pond every year to breed. Frogs reach maturity and start to breed when they are two or three years old. In Britain, common frogs hibernate during the winter, usually finding somewhere

sheltered underground, or sometimes secreted among leaves and mud at the bottom of a pond.

Frogs and toads are beneficial to gardeners, as they eat slugs and snails, and other pests. Therefore, it is important for gardeners not to use slug pellets or insecticides, which are poisonous.

Frogs and toads appear frequently in literature and television. Mr Toad from The Wind in the Willows, Jeremy Fisher from the writings of Beatrix Potter and Kermit the Frog from The Muppets, are all well known and much loved characters.

Finally, when someone speaks with a croaky voice, it is not uncommon to hear them apologetically saying that they have a 'frog in their throat'. Isn't the English language delightful?

Jonathan Wansey

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TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR (NEARLY) AUTUMN

I think readers will agree with me that it is with some dread we face the autumn storms that have visited us recently and which, after the driest and sunniest summer on record, have not only taken us by surprise but have been welcome. The parched earth has become green again and we have been caught out by heavy rain on more than one occasion. And as usual, just when I really need my waterproof coat there has been seditious talk of having me stripped. Loyal readers will remember we have been here before and I am full of trepidation that hairy and smelly and warm and comfy will become 'Look at Smartypants, all groomed and sweet-smelling and looking like the bees'

whiskers'. Coupled with this new look will be a clean bed and renovated cushions that would not be out of place in a Poodle Parlour.

I shall be too embarrassed to show my face outside the homestead and will be grumpy and cross right up to Christmas by which time I may have recovered from a totally unnecessary bout of 'dear old bed bereavement syndrome'. All this, of course, is on top of the world around us being in turmoil, global warming playing havoc with the weather, the price of dogfood rocketing and my just having had my thirteenth birthday. In dog years this makes me 91 and I can still give visiting cats a good run for their money. That

said, I never manage to catch one as they have this extraordinary gift of being able to run up trees as they have claws like crampons that can also deliver a mighty swipe to draw blood when you are not looking.

Every cloud has a silver lining, they say, and this week I saw it here. The Guvnor's wife has not been very well, and he has been told to feed her a diet of mainly fish and vegetables with lots of fruit and no alcohol, a regime that seems to be helping her recovery. The trouble is that the Guvnor has had to share these meals and is missing even the occasional dose of red meat. He managed to raise his own morale by cooking sausages for himself - and had five. Yes, five! I sat and stared at him in silence and in disbelief, only to be studiously ignored but imagine my delight to find shame and guilt and undoubted self-loathing prevailing - and sausage number five in my breakfast bowl.

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DOWN ON THE FARM

How much did you pay for your pint of milk this morning?

We are often asked how much we are paid for the milk, as you would expect it's not a matter of x pence per litre. There are several things that affect the price for all the producers, not least of all the end use. Does it go into a bottle for your tea, a block of cheese for a sandwich, it could even be powdered and then used back on the farm to feed the calves.

Our milk is bottled for the supermarket, so we get a premium price for the 80% that ends up there. Muller do all the processing and haulage, that is why you see their trucks in the village. There is a separate calculation for this price.

Then we get into the nitty gritty, the milk must reach certain standards. There is a target of 4% butterfat if the figure is higher, we get a bonus and if it is lower a deduction. But to increase the fat the cost of feed increases and can lower the amount of milk the cows produce, this becomes a fine balancing act. If the milk was going to be made into cheese there would also be a payment for the amount of protein in the milk, it is not part of our

contract. Next is the cell count, this is a measurement which relates to the health of the cows. If the count is high, there is a deduction. The same goes for the bactoscan, this measures particular bacteria in the milk it is related to the cleanliness of the milking equipment. There are also big penalties if the milk is too warm, it must be below 5 degrees within 30 minutes of leaving the cow. Antibiotics are not allowed in any way, if any gets into the tanker the responsible farm is liable for the entire load. It is also tested for water content, if there is a problem with the milking equipment water can contaminate the milk.

We also have a seasonality payment/deduction. There is usually excess milk produced in the spring, so to discourage over production we have a deduction if we produce too much over our monthly average. Conversely there is usually less milk in the autumn so we can get additional payment. Seasonality has little effect on us as we produce about the same amount of milk each month. We do have to enter a prediction of what we will produce each month, if we are more than

10% out, we get another deduction.

Finally, there is a small deduction for the AHDB to do some milk marketing and a volume bonus because of the amount we produce.

So, when you pay for that pint in the morning it is a simple transaction, at this end it is a little more complicated.

Robert Pottow

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VILLAGE NEWS

CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT

As summer draws to a close, the much looked forward to, regular social event is not far away. It has been wonderful how the Community has supported the Curry and Quiz Night for a number of years now and always wants to know when the next one is!

We still need to raise a lot of money to maintain and preserve your lovely courts for future generations. Although maintained by Codford Tennis (with a small and ageing membership), the courts are on Parish Council property and as such are free for any resident of this village to play tennis. (I'm afraid if you live somewhere else you do need to be a member to use them.)

We succeeded in erecting Phase One of our Fencing Project at the end of 2023, but the next phase is still some thousands of £s away.

Our in-house quizmaster will again present us with a variety of brain-teasers and general knowledge questions. The team will come up with delicious curries and organise another event of fun and getting together.

The date is Friday 21st November in Codford Village Hall.

Invite your teams to gather at 6.30 to organise yourselves and some drinks (bar is open!)

Quiz starts at 7pm and supper at 8.

Tickets: £12.50 will be available from the beginning of October at Codford Post Office, Codford Tearooms and Broadleaze Bar (for cash purchases).

If you would like to pay online or book a table of a specific size (normal team and table is six), please contact lawntennisclubcodford@gmail.com or Vincie on 850239, or WhatsApp on 07747 798365.

Look forward to seeing you there.

CODFORD BOOK STOP -

What a wonderful addition to our village.

Since opening our wonderful community hub, Codford's Book Stop has blossomed – thanks to your generous donations of books, puzzles, and magazines. Your support has truly made this space special. We've been busy expanding the space with new shelves, a dedicated children's corner, and a brand-new magazine rack to showcase the latest additions. It's become more than just a place to read – it's a place to connect, share stories, and celebrate the joy of reading.

Next time you're passing through Codford, pop in and explore the growing collection. You might just discover your next favourite read – and meet a few new friends too.

And if you spot a book out of place, feel free to give it a tidy. Let's keep this community treasure well cared for ♥

SAVE THE DATE:

CODFORD FIREWORKS IS BACK ON THE 8TH NOVEMBER.

TICKETS WILL SHORTLY BE AVAILABLE FROM CODFORD POST OFFICE.

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CODFORD KEY COMMUNITY EVENTS OCTOBER 2025

- 1st Film night at the Woolstore theatre. This month's film is 'black bag' - 7.30pm - The Woolstore theatre
- 4th Ploughman's lunch (homemade soup, ploughman's and a pudding) in aid of St Peter's church. All for only £6 - 12 noon - Codford village hall.
- 4th Wyllye Valley Plants Nursery open day - 9am - 1pm.
- 5th Park run - 10am Codford village hall grounds.
- 9th Hearing aid clinic at Codford village hall (small hall) - 10am - 12pm.
- 11th Free drama workshops at the Woolstore - 10.30 - 12.30
- 12th - Codford apple juicing. Bring your apples along to the community apple juicing day - 10am - 12pm - Codford village hall.
- 13th Parish Council meeting - 7.00 - Codford village hall.
- 15th Codford and District gardening club talk 'Putting plants to bed for winter' - 7.30pm Codford village hall.
- 19th Monthly drinks at the Woolstore theatre - 12 - 2pm.
- 19th Textiles arts and crafts market at the Ginger Piggery, Boyton - 10am - 2pm
- 25th Free drama workshops at the Woolstore - 10.30 - 12.30

CODFORD VILLAGE HALL

- Tue: Pilates & short mat bowls.
- Wed: Pilates, Choir, Fit club.
- Thurs: Community café, Happy hearts, Clubercise and Badminton

Type "Codfordcommunity.co.uk" into your search bar to access the community website. There, you will find various useful and informative content. A new quiz has also been added, which can be home page.

Codford Parish Council minutes can be found on the Codford Parish Council website (codfordpc.org.uk) or you can find a link to them from our Codford community website.



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VILLAGE NEWS

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY IN HEYTESBURY

The day dawned sunny, if a little breezy, and early at Heytesbury there was a hive of activity as everyone worked to create the space for the Service and the amazing refreshments that followed.

As 10am approached, people just kept on coming and gathered in the sunshine. Each person who had a role to play did so brilliantly. The Service was led by Crichton Wakelin who trained as a Lay Worship Leader in the Team before moving away. An accident could have kept him away but he was determined to be with us. He was, and it was great to have him lead. Two serving Major Generals, Ben and Sam, read from Psalms and Philipians. Lieutenant Colonel Simon led our Act of Remembrance, with Wendy on the trumpet for the Last Post and Reveille sympathetically played. Lt Gen (Ret'd) James spoke sensitively about the reaction and the costs of the end of WWII and led us to consider our responsibilities, especially as followers of Jesus, the Man of peace. You can read James's talk on our website which also has many photos.

Q'Private Amanda led the most poignant of prayer times naming loved ones who 'had been there' while Robin and his band kept the music flowing. Led by Tina and her Team, the hospitality was second to none. Enough...the words of those who were there:

"I'm so glad that we managed to provide the perfect venue and the Good Lord smiled upon your efforts with his sunshine, but the event was hugely successful and memorable as an outstanding one. I'm also dropping a line to Robin Scard for his wonderful group's contribution. Anyway, we send you our warmest thanks and congratulations. I do wish our new clergy had been able to join us to see and hear what we can do on our own." (A long retired Army officer)

"..thank you and all the team for organising such a beautiful service. Many people I spoke to after the service agreed with me that it was perfectly put together, the hymns, the Generals reading the lessons and Reflections, the prayers led by Amanda and the story of your father. Even the weather cooperated and it was lovely to sit outside in the sunshine looking towards the beautiful and ancient church. It was very good to have the social occasion afterwards when people had an opportunity to chat and share stories". (Widow of an 'old' soldier)

"The Lord shone upon us this morning and led us into praise and intercession. The order of service was most apt, and the organisation excellent. So encouraging to see a crowd there and uniformed chaps too. Very well done to you all on the planning group". (Retired priest and officer)

"The tone, the content, the contributors, the setting, the turnout, the weather and the cakes made it a very fitting and moving acknowledgement of the sacrifices made in the past and a part of the War that often is not given the prominence that it should have. The personal accounts made it even more poignant." (Retired private)
And what it is all about - "It was a privilege to play a small part and to hear the stories of friends and families which we must continue to tell over the years to come". (Serving Major General)

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A THANK YOU FOLLOWING THE V J SERVICE

Vincie wishes to say an embarrassed and emotional thanks to 'us all' (and especially those responsible) for the exquisite bouquet and card left in their porch. "So overwhelming, I'm just serving the Lord".

PARTY AT THE PUB

Heytesbury social was pleased to work with the Red Lion to arrange another successful event. The weather was kind and we had a good number of visitors to our annual event. There was plenty to see with traditional games, cream teas, craft stalls, bric a brac, the illumination twirlers and music from Jane Bennett. The local PCSO visited and the talented balloon man Dave Hickory created amazing models. Knook allotments had produce grown by their members

WINNERS ON THE DAY.

The Horse Poo lottery was won by David Aitken Berry. The charity Ladder Game was Martin Champnes and Guess the number of sweets winner was John Howlett only 3 sweets out!

We can't put our events on without your support and the help of volunteers, so thank you.

Karen Riggs, Heytesbury Social



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VILLAGE NEWS

HEYTESBURY HAPPENINGS

Autumn is upon us, the lawns are looking green again, apples are abundant, and the hedgerows are laden with blackberries and sloes.

The main news for this month is that the Asset of Community Value application, for the recreation ground off Park Street that the Parish Council submitted to Wiltshire Council, has been approved. However, the current owners of the parkland have requested a review of the decision. This was expected and does not detract from the magnificent response of fifty villagers who wrote to approve the application. Thank you for your support. Work is now ongoing to see if it is possible to secure any of the land for village use. In August we commemorated eighty years since Victory over Japan (VJ Day in 1945) with a lovely outdoor service on the lawn in front of the church. Our village congregation was swelled by worshippers from the other Upper Wylde Valley villages with the hymns being expertly accompanied by our local musical trio of Bob Burgess, Colin Dipper and Robin Scard. It was a solemn and uplifting occasion on a gorgeous summer Sunday morning. Thank you to the hard working volunteers who keep the churchyard looking immaculate.

The east end of the High Street is undergoing building works at both 'Lindens', 74 High Street and The Angel Inn. Planning permission was given for 'Lindens' to have new rendering, with new windows and doors which are already in situ. It is good to see this attractive old house being loved by its new owners and we all look forward to seeing its renovation once the scaffolding is removed.

Meanwhile, building work continues at The Angel Inn and mountains of earth and rubble have been removed from its old car park to make a new pub garden. A provisional date for completion has been requested from the owner but has not been submitted in time for this report.

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The Parish Council welcomes all the newcomers to Heytesbury over the last few months. We hope that you will be happy in Heytesbury.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 30th September, pre-ceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Raymond Trust, in the St John's Residents Hall at 7.00pm. The public are invited to attend.

S B

SHERRINGTON

I opened the door this morning and found autumn waiting, a slight edge to the air and the sunlight slants at a different angle. I always love this time of year, the sun is still warm but the abrasive heat of the summer is gone. We have rain too and a wash of green appears over the fields as grass grows again.

However, my eye fell on a rather grim article stating that the seemingly early onset of autumn indicates Nature under Strain being pressured into early production of fruits and seeds. Nonetheless, after witnessing last year's scarcity of hawthorn berries, beech mast and acorns I can't help but think whoopee and just hope that next year is not so extreme. I do so wish that our brain power, ingenuity and worldly wealth could be used to address the calamity we appear to have created. However Elon Musk spends billions trying to colonise another planet having messed up this one and one thinks of that Wedding in Venice, incredible outlay there too, might have gone some way to reclaim a small desert.

The swans appeared briefly on the cress bed but did not linger, no food there. However up at the Manor the family still appear on the lake, obviously not predated as originally thought. It is dragonfly time and something the size of a drone is about the garden. Butterfly numbers have

decreased in this garden at least but could have something to do with the fading of flowers particularly the buddleia whose season has ended. However I thought there were more insects. At one stage there were martins and swallows over the village and that must have been a result. The swifts always leave first, two or three weeks ago now. It has been magic to watch swallows and martins dipping over the cress bed by Springhead. Some will have been travellers moving south and pausing on the epic journey. One wishes them good luck as they face so many hazards. As well as being of benefit to the land the under selling of fields with a variety of plants has been a visual delight and of course must have accounted for the increase in insect life.

Trees are not yet touched by the gilding finger, indeed going up the rugged track to the higher reaches of the Great Ridge the tunnel of beech trees is as green as early summer. The poor horse chestnut has succumbed once again to the blight that affects it annually and looks brown and crumpled. However come the spring and it recovers to produce foliage and candles as usual.

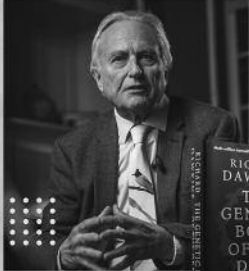
People who know Nigel as the Owl Man might be interested to know that a trophy is to be awarded in his name in recognition of his conservation work for the MOD on Salisbury Plain (although it did extend to other areas). I am so delighted he will be remembered and his work deemed to be of value.

Betty Lewis

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WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY OCTOBER 2025

5 October	Sutton Veny	9.30am	Harvest Festival Communion	choir
Trinity 16	Codford St Peter	11.00am	Harvest Festival	
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
Wed. 8 October	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong with Bishop Moses from South Sudan	
12 October	Tytherington	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Trinity 17	Upton Lovell	9.30am	Celtic Morning Prayer	
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Parish Communion	choir
	Codford St Mary	6.00pm	Songs of Praise	
19 October	Boyton	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Trinity 18	Codford St Peter	9.30am	Parish Communion	choir
	Tytherington	11.00am	Harvest Festival	
	Norton Bavant	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
26 October	Sutton Veny	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Last Sunday	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	
after Trinity	Knook	11.00am	Harvest Festival Communion	choir
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING

*Congratulations to
Cecily Eve Pepper & Jonathan Dancey
on 20 September at Sutton Veny
May they have many
happy years of married life together*

BAPTISM

We welcome into the Christian Church

Ottillie Lorna Anderson
on 14 September at Heytesbury
May she grow in the Christian Faith

*contact the Ministry Team to make arrangements
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Parish Deacon in Residence:

Reverend Terry Aspell
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MASS: Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 9.00 a.m.

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MINISTRY TEAM

Team Rector The Revd Michael Duff

Team Vicar The Revd Timothy Ling

Contact details not yet available

Associate Priest

The Revd Jonathan Hiscox 840966
jonathan.hiscox@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Ministers

Katherine Venning LLM 840283
katherine.venning@gmail.com

Barbara Luscombe LLM

barbara_luscombe@hotmail.com 840830

CONTACTS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Boyton & Corton	Robin Grist	850596
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
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Tytherington	Caroline Lester-Card	07787556505
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PCSO 70901 Lukasz Kolasinski 07471029004

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Codford Chair: Tom Thornton 850560

Clerk: Karungi Grant 850523

clerk@codfordpc.org.uk

Heytesbury/Knook

Chair: David Bond 07766 397107

Locum Clerk : Karungi Grant 850523

Sutton Veny Chair: Kate Phillips 07970 104595

Clerk: Tekla Hicks 07427 406943

Upton Lovell Chair: Steve Boxall 851171

Clerk: Nicola Duke 01373 864127

clerk@uptonlovell.org.uk

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Heytesbury Peter Andrews 840517

Norton Bavant John Acworth 840134

Sutton Veny Peter Strangeways 840403

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Heytesbury Hedgehogs

Annette Pulvertaft 840798

Wyllye Coyotes Afterschool Club 851713

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Heytesbury

Head: Ms Laura Williamson 840429

Sutton Veny

Head : Adam Lewis 840428

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VILLAGE HALLS

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secretary.cvh@codfordvillage.org.uk

Bookings: Janine Clarke

bookings.cvh@codfordvillage.org.uk

Corton Fane Hall

Bookings: Niki Gerring 07816 874503

Sutton Veny Chair: Alan Russell 840 883

Newsletter: Richard Jackman 840899

svvhnewsletter@gmail.com

Bookings: Gay Woods 840057

svvhbookings808@gmail.com

Upton Lovell Bookings: Ros Coombs 851277

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CODFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sir William Mahon 850586

Sally Thomson 850339

CODFORD LADIES CIRCLE

Jenny Hunt 850280

PARISH WEBSITES

Team www.upperwyllyealleyteam.com

Webmaster admin@newvalleywebdesign.com

Codford www.codfordcommunity.co.uk

Heytesbury www.heytesburyparish.co.uk

Norton Bavant www.nortonbavant.co.uk

Sutton Veny www.suttonveny.co.uk

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