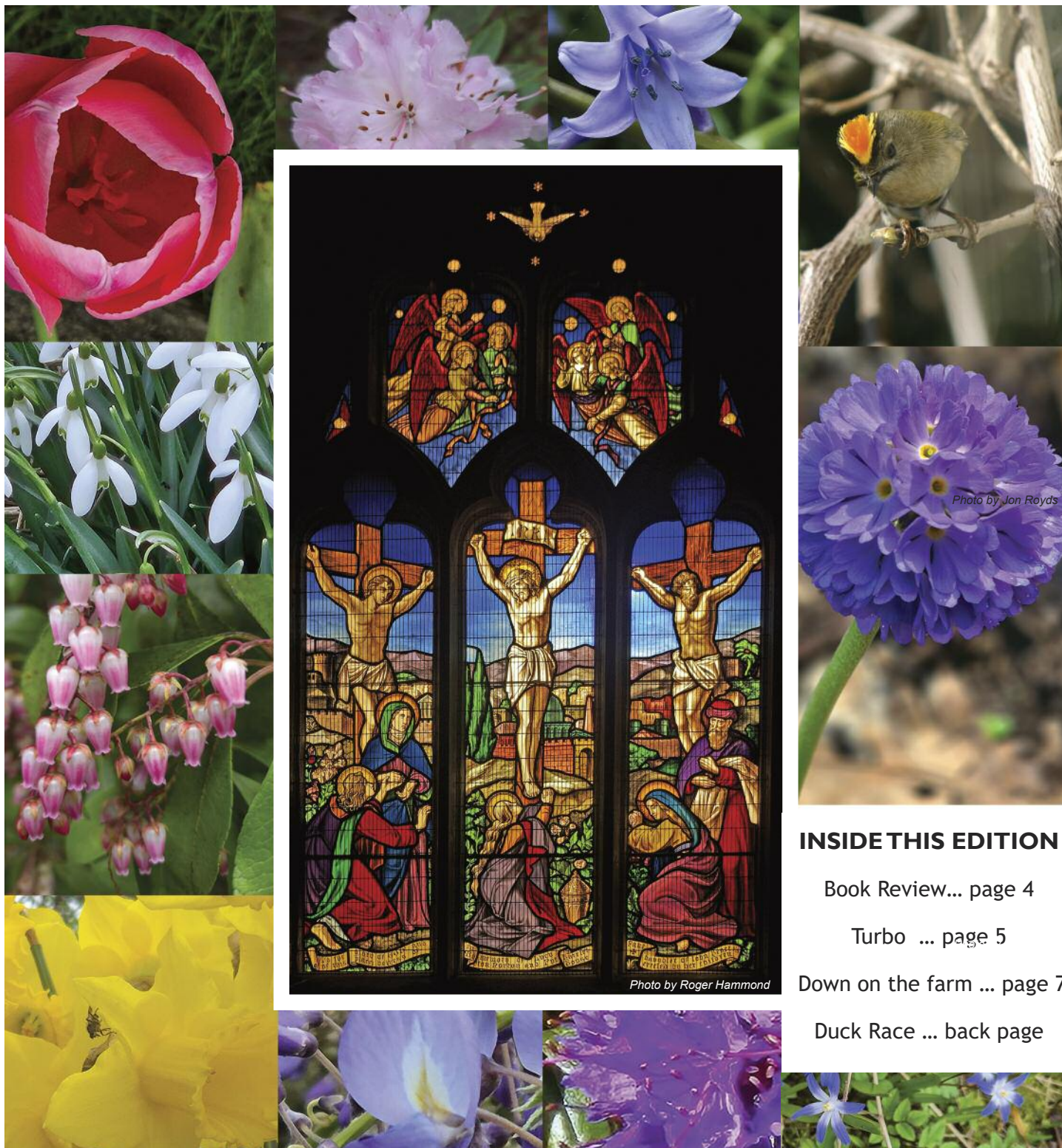


PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

APRIL 2026

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR READERS



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THE ANGLING COLUMN

The Chairman and the Committee of the Parish News are sad to report the death in early March of Robin Mulholland. Robin began a regular column on angling in the Ashton Gifford News about 25 years ago and the Parish News has carried his reports for the last ten. Robin's creel held a collection of lifelong experiences as a countryman, the expertise of an angler of note, observations on the ever-changing river that we love here and others we can visualise from his recollections, together with a wide array of anecdote, lore and the lure of the outdoors. We shall miss his passion.

DS

ADVERTISING MANAGER

The Parish News pays a fulsome tribute to the most successful contribution of Simon Guerri-Fear as our Advertising Manager over the past year and thanks him for his dedication and hard work for the magazine. We welcome his successor, Andrew Barton, warmly; his contact details are at the bottom of this page.

DS

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UPPER WYLYE VALLEY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS

In March the breakfasters had their darkness lightened in terms of the mysteries of church patronage and the role that Revd Mike Duff, our now not quite so new Rector, had performed within CPAS (an Anglican evangelical mission agency), appointing vicars around the country. CPAS was Mike's nominated charity and almost £90 was raised.

The April breakfast will be the last of this season, and in order to deconflict with Easter Monday it will be slipped a week to Monday 13th April. Our speaker may decide that we go out with a bang. David Scales is currently the Security Manager at the Pertwood Estate. Before that he had over two decades of experience in three world-acclaimed Special Forces units - C Squadron Rhodesian SAS, the Selous Scouts Regiment and the South African Special Forces. He has a rich repertoire of stories he could tell but has intimated that, since many of the operations in which he took part involved jumping out of perfectly serviceable aircraft, he could share his experience of how parachute technology and techniques developed during his time in service.

The breakfasts take place at The George Inn, Longbridge Deverill beginning at 8.15am. The cost is £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.

ST PETER'S AT EASTER

This Easter St Peter's Church will not be doing its usual display of lilies which are kindly funded by generous donations in memory of loved ones. Not buying lilies saves tonnes of CO₂, and instead we hope people will consider donating to a beautiful display of native flowers such as hellebores, narcissi, daffodils and primroses which later can be planted out in the churchyard.

Please leave your donation along with who you would like to remember in an envelope in the letterbox at Codford Lodge.

*Stained glass window front cover
THE EAST WINDOW OF ALL SAINTS,
NORTON BAVANT*

Photo by Roger Hammond

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Wednesday 1st April THE CHORAL (15)

Ramsden, Yorkshire, 1916. The chorus master and most of the men of the ambitious local Choral Society have volunteered for the front, so under the direction of the demanding, driven Dr Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), the Choral recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls. Together they discover the joys of singing and the urgency of desire as the new boys come to terms with their imminent conscription into the army. Directed by Nicholas Hytner.

ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS IN CODFORD

ANZAC Day is the 25th April when Codford will remember all those who fought and died at Gallipoli in 1915 by gathering for a short service in the ANZAC cemetery next to St Mary's Church at 6.30 am. This may be followed by breakfast in the Village Hall for which tickets will be sold from the PO at Budgens. Confirmatory details will be on the Codford Community website www.codfordcommunity.co.uk from late March. All very welcome at this important annual event.

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MINISTRY LETTER

As I look around the valley in my first Spring back in the countryside, I can see why it is easy for our minds to turn to new life at this time of year. Early blossom in the hedgerow, snowdrops and crocuses giving way to daffodils, shoots springing up in the fields. No wonder Easter is so often connected in the popular imagination with rabbits and eggs and woolly lambs! But this focus on nature's annual renewal out of winter's cold death can quickly lapse into a nostalgic and sentimental hopefulness that life will be warm and pretty and colourful once again.

Yet we know that life doesn't settle that way for long. Three recent funerals of people who for many years were at the heart of their village life reminds us that we are all vulnerable to grief which doesn't bounce back into delightful spring just because the year is changing. Some of us are struggling with gruelling illness and the threat of our own mortality. And meanwhile, around us the geo-political scene goes from bad to worse; we wonder what planet international politicians are living on, as new regions of the world descend into violence, war and chaos. Might drones suddenly be flying in our direction too?

So thank God, literally, that the Easter hope is so much deeper and more powerful than chocolate eggs and bunnies and spring lambs. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have died in him (1 Thess 4:14). At Good Friday, Christians remember that God in Jesus shared the worst of our pain and suffering, cruelty and violence - on the cross dying like us. And on Easter Day, we worship the God who broke the power of evil and death by raising Christ from the

dead to physical resurrection life; and now he invites us to join him in a new heaven and earth - in life, through death, and to all eternity. Do join us at Easter Services across the benefice as we celebrate the Easter story and share his joy together. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Mike Duff

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me (Paul) also, as to one abnormally born.

(Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth, chapter 15)

RH

AN ETERNAL ADDRESS

Living in two places at once, which most of us need to do at some point in our lives, can be a confusing business. Where should our post go? Where do we belong? To make dual residency of any kind work requires imagination as well as practical effort.

Christians are called to do this in a spiritual sense, for we believe Christ makes us at the same time citizens of earth and of heaven. At no season of the year is this most clearly evident than at Easter, when we celebrate God's new creation in the midst of the old. We are people who inhabit the spring, seeing in its signs of this new birth, but whose true hope is in resurrection.

The poet John Donne, musing upon life and death, wrote how Jesus makes 'one parish' of earth and heaven, which is a lovely image. He adds that 'Christ was not out of his diocese when he was upon the earth'! Nor (we might add), when he ascended to heaven.

The church, then, is a rehearsal space for the kingdom of heaven - and as

such must allow for all the trial, error and excitement this involves. For Christ is risen, we have an eternal address and another country beckons.

Bishop Andrew

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BOOK REVIEW

THE EMPRESS AND THE ENGLISH DOCTOR by Lucy Ward

Heytesbury Readers meetings are lively and wide-ranging and our February get-together with eight members present was no exception. The book under discussion was 'The Empress and the English Doctor - How Catherine the Great defied a deadly virus' by Lucy Ward. The book was highly recommended by one of our group and was the choice of another. Lucy Ward is a writer and former journalist who lived in Moscow with her family from 2010 to 2012.

'The Empress and the English Doctor' is a non-fiction book that was written during the Covid pandemic. It tells the story of how Catherine the Great of Russia persuaded an English Quaker doctor, Thomas Dimsdale, to inoculate her and her son against smallpox, with the intention to persuade Russians to follow suit and thus avoid a huge amount of suffering and loss of life. It is a thoroughly researched book providing a detailed account of the fight against this disease.

Carolyn introduced her choice as a fascinating book and an intense read packed full of information, although she felt the detail was sometimes a little overwhelming. She enjoyed the description of the close personal relationship between Thomas Dimsdale and Empress Catherine, and reading about a powerful female leader. The character of both Thomas and the Empress Catherine was richly portrayed as were many of the other protagonists.

The book provoked an energetic discussion and there was general acknowledgement that most of us were unaware of how severe and widespread smallpox was and how much death and suffering it caused. Several members had been aware of Edward Jenner's role in the understanding and development of the treatment of small pox as a result of his observation that dairymaids frequently contracted cowpox but did not succumb to the much more lethal smallpox. However, Thomas Dimsdale's role was less well known. The relevance of research and statistical analysis was noted as well

as the fear of the unknown and a reluctance to accept change. The inoculation principle practised by elderly women in Turkey went through many refinements and adaptations before it became the simplified but effective vaccination process that eventually led to the eradication of the disease by 1980.

A quote "Throughout his book, Thomas returned to the touchstones of the enlightened eighteenth century natural philosopher: 'observation and plain reasoning as opposed to inherited theory.'"

Linda Sides

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A PARISH RENAMED?

In its review of Wiltshire village history and names, the County Council has proposed that Heytesbury should be renamed as 'Heytesbury Ho!'

An historic link with Westward Ho! in Devon has been discovered, since Charles Kingsley who wrote the book 'Westward Ho!' resided in the High Street in Heytesbury. The village of Westward Ho! is the only one in England to have an exclamation mark and as a consequence it has drawn many curious visitors and holiday makers to the town. To share that distinction would have similar benefits for the county and especially favour the Wylze valley.

Consultations will begin on April 1st.

A PHOTO CHALLENGE

We have had art challenges for some time in the Parish News, recently one of our readers suggested to me that we should do a photographic challenge.

Everyone is photographing all sorts of things on social media, from their meals in restaurants to hobbies which they are enjoying.

You no longer need a digital SLR, with a huge assortment of lenses. Most smart phones now do the job of these lenses.

The challenge this month is to take a picture of something small, often called

Macro photography. Macro photography involves capturing closeups of small subjects making them larger than life. It usually shows intricate details, textures and colours which are usually invisible to the naked eye.

In this challenge I would also like you to provide a caption for your photo, serious or humorous.

I have started you off with a photo I took in the Autumn and the caption reflects the recent weather we have been experiencing.

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TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR SPRING PROPER

Last month my wily old Guvnor hinted that 'I might be going down under to have my teeth cleaned...' I was nonplussed as I have never, ever, allowed anyone near my mouth unless they are carrying a large snack or treat either destined for me or, if not originally planned to go in my direction, was close enough for me to take decisive action myself regarding its destination. Words he would use, and unnecessarily harshly I thought for an act of survival as my meals are so small, are steal, thief, snatch, purloin, swipe and filch whereas I simply call it 'taking an opportunity when one presents itself' even if not on a platter.

Back to the cryptic message of 'going down under' I can now explain all - and it has nothing whatsoever to do with Australia or Australians. Oh no; it means someone administering an anaesthetic to knock me out cold for as long as it takes to investigate the condition of my mouth, extract any bad teeth and clean up the rest. As I was waiting, I smelled a rat because the nice nurse kept saying, 'Don't worry, Turbo, you won't feel a thing, and you will be loads better afterwards.' She was right, up to a point; I drifted off to sleep and dreamed about cats and rats and rabbits and hares; and pigeons and pheasants and partridges that

actually stay on the ground long enough to be caught, and then a little later on about bowls full to the brim with enticing lumps of meat, and bones that strengthened my teeth rather than break them off.

Apparently, that is exactly what had happened. Three of my teeth were missing, presumed swallowed, and I had another four removed. The kind and expert vet then said in my hearing (I was still a bit groggy, but my hearing was A1) 'he really needs to have another eight removed so he'll have to come back when he has recovered from this episode'.

What? To go through all that again? Not on your nelly, I thought - but the Guvnor was just nodding, and I could read his thoughts: 'The cash register is going mad, gobbling up all my life savings so Turbo can gobble up even more of Professor Wellbeloved's best kibble'.

That all said, though, that nurse was right: I do feel loads better - now.



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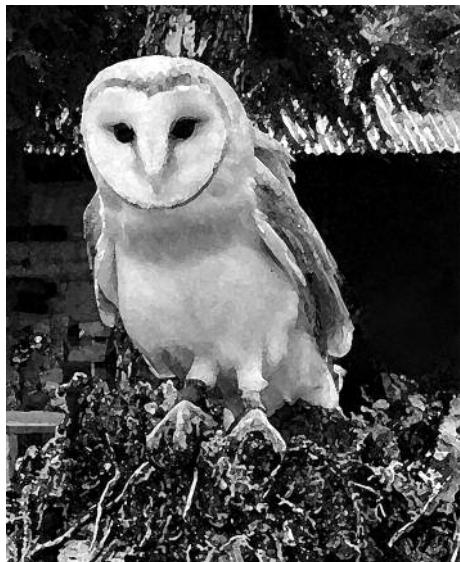
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DID YOU KNOW? OWLS

There are almost 250 different species of owl, spread across every continent apart from Antarctica. Throughout Europe, there are sixteen species and seven of these can be found in Britain. They are the Tawny Owl, the Little Owl, the Barn Owl, the Short-eared Owl, the Long-eared Owl, the Snowy Owl and the Eagle Owl.



The Oxford English Dictionary describes owls as 'Any bird of prey of the order 'Strigiformes' which are typically nocturnal and characterised by a large round head, raptorial beak, soft plumage, upright posture, and large eyes directed forwards and surrounded by a shallow cone of radiating feathers.'

It is said that owls are elusive and enigmatic, but although we don't see owls very often, we do hear them. The naturalist and author, Mark Cocker, writes 'Owls inhabit the one landscape that we weak-sighted, day-loving primates, still haven't mastered, night-time.' Another fascination about owls is that, unlike most other birds, they have their eyes on the front of their face, rather than at the side; giving them binocular vision, just like us. This gives them a rather human appearance! Owls are far-sighted and cannot focus on objects within a few centimetres of their eyes. Their hearing is also exceptional. Owls have a short, curved, downward-facing beak and talons which are sharp and curved, enabling them to catch and kill their prey with precision. Owls are carnivorous birds of prey and live on diets of insects, small rodents and small herbivorous mammals, such as rabbits and hares. A group of owls is called a 'parliament'.

Owls are often seen as symbols of wisdom and knowledge, hence the phrase 'you wise old owl'. This phrase originates from the Greek myth of Athena, where the owl represented the goddess's insight and ability to see in the dark. Owls are often

also seen as wise due to their large eyes, resolute posture and relative silence.

The following poem, 'A wise old owl' (anonymous), pays tribute to this symbolism.

'A wise old owl lived in an oak;
The more he saw, the less he spoke;
The less he spoke, the more he heard;
Why can't we all be like that bird?'

Perhaps the best known poem about an owl is 'The Owl and the Pussycat' written in 1871 by Edward Lear.

It begins as follows:

'The Owl and the Pussycat went to sea,
In a beautiful pea-green boat,

They took some honey, and plenty of
money,
Wrapped up in five pound note.'
This famous nonsense poem culminates
with the iconic verse:
'They dined on mince, and slices of
quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the
sand,
They danced by the light of the moon.'

Brilliant!

Jonathan Wansey

THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

I have just returned from a wonderful trip to see both sons and their families in Australia and Dubai with an unexpected extended stay in Dubai thanks to the sudden war there! Frangipani is flowering in both countries and my 5-year-old Australian grand-daughter loves putting the flowers behind her ear - and mine! The roads in Dubai have the most wonderful borders of Bougainvillea, making everywhere bright with colour.

Returning home and driving down the A303 gave us wonderful drifts of flowering cherry, catkins and pussy willow and the faint show of new leaves, with so much expectation of Spring, who could fail to love our countryside! A kind neighbour sent a video of our garden with the daffodils showing, although the snowdrops seemed to have flowered and gone, but such a kind thought and lovely to see. The snowdrops have left patches of leaves showing me where I need to divide plants and fill more gaps. Not that there are many of those, each year the show gets better and better.

Whenever we arrive home from a visit away, even for just a few days, we make a cup of tea and wander round the garden to see what has changed. We are blessed

with a wonderful gardener who has pruned, tidied and composted Mike's vegetable patch and there doesn't seem to be a lot to do at the moment. However, by the time you read this, things are likely to be very different as everything starts growing in earnest. We will be busy from now on, planting seeds and filling the greenhouse and conservatory with trays of seeds waiting for the magic to happen.

I am now ready to prune my hydrangeas; the advice I read says 'don't do it too early'. I think the new growth needs the protection of the old growth against late frosts. The suggestion is that it's like a 'late deadheading'. The old shoots which carried last year's flowers can be cut down to a new side shoot, but the unflowered shoots which have a fat bud at the end should be left, as they are this year's flower shoots. All other pruning in the garden seems to have been done.

Hanging out the washing this morning from our travels, with all the bright colours of summer clothes in cottons and linens is also a reminder that Spring is on the way and I hope it won't be too long before I can wear summer clothes again. Look out for late frosts!

Ali Tebbs

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DOWN ON THE FARM

The normal pressure of weather conditions continues, a slight sign of Spring allowed for some field work, but the beans and spring barley still need planting.

Digest is due to arrive from the Crockerton biodigester, it's an excellent liquid fertilizer for all crops alongside the use of muck which is being spread now.

Using digest saves on nitrogen which at the moment is important due to the situation with Iran and no nitrogen available and no price, this subject has even made the front pages of the press, headlining the news as well as sparking awareness on podcasts and news programmes. Why is this such a crisis? 30% of the worlds area production goes through the Strait of Hormuz and due to the ignorance and incompetence of our government there is no longer any UK produced nitrogen. This is a worldwide problem and from next year we are taxed on it, and crops cannot grow without it!

To add to the issues Saudi and Jordan are the primary suppliers of potash and phosphate. Overall, the outlook is not good on so many fronts.

The cows we hope will be back out on grass soon. The ground has some drying to do first but there are signs of this, and the grass will recover quickly ready to give the girls what they need. It always takes them a few days to accept being back out after a winter in the warmth and shelter of their cosy barns, but they graze for a few hours a day in between milkings and stay in at night.

Before we know it the first cut of silage grass will be upon us. Last year due to the long hot summer we were limited on how many cuts were available leaving us very tight on supplies for the winter so as much as we hope we experience a lovely summer, as hot and dry as last year might not be quite so welcome, but that is the way of mother nature and we can do

nothing about it but accept and work with what we are given and continue to go about our daily lives down on the farm.

Kit Pottow

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VILLAGE NEWS

CODFORD COMMUNITY KEY EVENTS APRIL 2026

- 1st Film night at the Woolstore
showing 'The Choral' 7.30pm
- 3rd Fishy Friday
at Codford Tea rooms 5pm
- 5th Live music at Codford tea rooms
1.30pm - 2.30pm
- 10th Pizza and something beginning
with P... Codford tea rooms 5pm
- 11th Free drama workshop at the
Woolstore theatre
10.30am - 12.30
- 12th Codford community park run at
Codford village hall grounds
10am
- 13th Men's fellowship breakfast at the
George, Longbridge Deverill -
8.15am
- 14th Local History society talk - details
to be confirmed 7.30pm
- 15th Codford & district gardening club
talk 'Grow the food you can't
buy' at Codford village hall
7.30pm
- 16th Hearing aid clinic at Codford
village hall (small hall)
10am - 12pm
- 17th Codford word weaving breakfast
with Lizzie at Codford tea rooms
9am
- 17th Golden oldies evening at
Codford tea rooms 5pm
- 19th Monthly drinks at the Woolstore
theatre 12 - 2pm
- 19th Arts and Crafts market at the
Ginger Piggery, Boyton
10am - 3pm
- 24th Live music at Codford tea rooms
7pm - 9pm

www.codfordvillage.org.uk

CODFORD VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES EACH WEEK:

Tue: Pilates & short mat bowls.

Wed: Pilates, Choir, Fit club.

Thurs: Community café, Happy hearts,
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BUS TRAVEL

Thinking of heading to Devizes or Salisbury by bus from Codford? If you've been wishing for easier public transport options, you might be pleasantly surprised by what is already running through our valley. Thanks to Tiggy Thornton, there's a weekly Thursday bus from the Wylve Valley that stops in Codford before continuing to Devizes. It's a handy, relaxed way to reach the town without needing the car. Timetable can be found at <https://bustimes.org>.

And that's not all. The number 56 bus travels the scenic back road from Warminster to Salisbury three times a week, giving you more flexibility for shopping, appointments, or a day out. It's well worth making use of these services – every journey helps keep them running for the whole community.

RESURFACING UPDATE A36 & A303 Deptford Slip Roads

Wiltshire Council has announced essential resurfacing works on the A36 and A303 Deptford slip roads to improve safety and provide smoother, more reliable journeys. The programme runs until 27 March, using a mix of overnight, weekend, lane and full closures to minimise disruption. Full

details and updates are available on the council's website, and all diversions will be clearly signposted.

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HUGH'S RETIREMENT TEA PARTY

A very big thank you to everyone who joined us on Saturday 28th February. The sun shone and the village hall was packed. That might have been the lure of a cup of tea and the wonderful selection of cakes. There was even a vintage Ferguson tractor complete with plough which rather alarmed the footballers.

For me it was very humbling to see so many of you there and I am only sorry that I didn't have more time to talk to you all. Thank for all your kind words, cards and gifts, it means a lot to me. The blue plaque was an inspired present; I am now deciding where the best place is to display it.

Special thanks to all those who baked cakes, helped set up the hall and who worked tirelessly in the kitchen to make sure the supply of tea and cakes kept flowing.

It has been a privilege and very rewarding to have been a part of the Cherry Orchard Surgery team for just over ten years. We are very fortunate, and these days quite unique, to have a surgery where we know you and you know us and you can talk to a real person rather than a computer algorithm. That was one of the things that drew me to Codford in the first place. You could describe this as old-fashioned General Practice, but I think it is the best way to practice. Whilst I am sad to retire, I am happy that I leave the practice in good health and safe hands.

The whole surgery team work very hard to deliver the best possible primary care; be nice to them and bear with them even if things don't always run as smoothly as you would like.

Wishing you all the best of health

Hugh Bond

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VILLAGE NEWS

HEYTESBURY HAPPENINGS

We are into the yellow season... daffodils are everywhere, primroses are starting to show and the forsythia is out. Maybe Spring is finally here. Now we hope that the River Wylye continues to drop to a safe level for the annual Easter Duck Race, to be held on Easter Saturday.

Thank you to everyone who has given their support to the Trustees of the Raymond Trust in their efforts to buy some of the remaining Parkland for the community. The Open Meeting in the church was well attended with a friendly, positive discussion and a unanimous vote to proceed. As a result, a professional land agent has been engaged; a solicitor, who is an expert on charities, has given his advice and the Charity Commission has been consulted. Now, the Trust is in negotiations with the landowner.

The dead elm trees on land bordering the Knook allotments, owned by the Parish Council, were felled recently with the spare timber being offered free to the village. It was achieved with minimum disruption to the residents of Knook. Also, our grateful thanks go to the Steptoes, the new owners of Garstons. They have done a magnificent job in reducing their very overgrown boundary hedge on Park Lane.

Whilst on the subject of land management, we respectfully ask gardeners to be mindful of the wind direction if lighting a bonfire. There have been recent complaints about noxious, black smoke from a garden bonfire, drifting across the village, necessitating residents to grab their washing off lines and close windows.

Commiserations are due to the Sincocks of Mantles Cottage who had their mains water pipe broken by contractors digging survey holes in the field to their rear. They ask if this is a portent for future disruption to their tranquil home?

A Litter Pick-up morning is planned. Complimentary coffee or tea will be available before we set out around the village. Date and details will be on the PC website, noticeboards and the Heytesbury, Knook & Tytherington Villagers Facebook page. We hope some of you will join us.

Meetings of the Parish Council will be at 7.00pm in the St John's Residents Hall on Tuesday 31st March; Tuesday 28th April; Tuesday 12th May for the Annual Parish Meeting and Tuesday 26th May for the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

NEWS FROM HEYTESBURY COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have only been back in school following the half-term break for a couple of weeks when I write this, but we have already done and achieved a lot and have much more planned for the rest of term.

Our Y3 and Y4 children are enjoying weekly swimming lessons at Warminster Pool. Kingdown School kindly lend us one of their minibuses each week so we can transport the children to the leisure centre and back for their lesson, which is a great help for a small school like ours to enable children to access these opportunities. We were also able to use the Kingdown minibus to take our YR, Y1 and Y2 children to visit Warminster library. The children enjoyed a story time with the librarian before being able to browse all the books and choose one to borrow and take home to enjoy.

Our newly formed School Council has been working hard already. They organised a great World Book Day, when we all came to school wearing our pyjamas so it felt like we were having a bedtime story all day! We joined together with Heytesbury Hedgehogs Nursery and the older and younger children shared and read stories to one another, which was a lovely time enjoyed by all. Then we were joined by family members for a big story time at the end of the day.

School Council's next task is organising a fundraising event for Red Nose Day, and they have decided to hold a Heytesbury's Got Talent event! We are looking forward to sharing and enjoying the many different talents and skills that our children have whilst raising money for a good cause.

We are also looking forward to the Easter Egg Trail we are planning around the school and village on Friday 27th March from 3:30-5:30pm. If it is not too late when you read this, please come and join us - it is free to take part!

Lindsey Hermon, Headteacher

Y5/6 TRIP TO UFTON COURT

Ufton Court was a pleasure to go to and an experience that really felt like we were walking the landscape of Ancient Greece. We experienced trading as the Greeks did in times of peace, exchanging natural resources and products for things our region needed. We also learnt how to sword fight and tactics for combat. We even experienced what justice and courts were like back in BC times when we acted out different trials and had to decide who was guilty and who was innocent, and what punishments people should be given. The day really brought alive life in Ancient Greece.
Teddy Woods (Y5)



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VILLAGE NEWS

SHERRINGTON

Snowdrops are gone and it is blackthorn time with the hedgerows billowing in bridal white. One hopes to see blossom thronged with pollinators but on this particular morning just two bees! However, still early for much insect life although brim stone butterflies are already about.

The colours of Spring have to be green and yellow. Daffodils are everywhere, primroses spreading in the churchyard and clustered on the bank outside the village. In the gardens forsythia shows spiky blossom, in hedgerows celandines raise enamelled starry faces to the sun and there are king cups and first yellow flags beside the cress bed. Buds, so tightly shut are just beginning to open, the first leaves on the tough old elder bushes and willows are misted in green.

There is birdsong. All through the winter we have been regaled with the cheerful robin and now he is joined by a fluting blackbird and on the river path to Codford courageous notes of a song thrush. A spotted woodpecker drums on the tree and elsewhere the yaffling call of a green woodpecker. I am intrigued by the Merlin App that adds a new dimension to a walk. It indicated a kingfisher, water rail, chaffinch and in the wood a chaff chaff, a

first incoming migrant. Of course other migrants are on the way. One hopes their journeys have been favourable and that soon we will welcome back swifts, swallows and house martins. Tiggy Thornton always has the excitement of 'her' swifts returning to nest sites. There are now other colonies established in the area, at Westdown Camp and at the FIBUA village on the Plain. Less delighted by the magpies established in our ash tree, ever vigilant, on the lookout for nests with nestlings.

Walking recently in the wood on a misty Sunday morning the colours were still sombre. I was on a track with dark firs on one side and old deciduous trees on the other. Bracken was still dark auburn, young beech trees still had the bronze leaves of autumn. Old trees, fallen logs

and roots were furred with moss, vivid green and overall the scene was smoked with mist, it was beautiful. I do not pretend a deep knowledge of these things but I do rather question the current enthusiasm for rewilding. Surely we need agriculture as much as we ever did. Acres of endless monoculture are of course bad news but I feel that the natural world can prosper alongside sympathetic and sensible regenerative farming. Add to that the unpleasant experience of facing wild boar or bison in the wood. My tree climbing days are long past and what of the dog!!

BL

WOOLSTORE THEATRE

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For Information - Jenny Johnson -

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WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY APRIL 2026

Wednesday 1st	Sherrington	6.00pm	Compline	
Maundy	Codford St Peter	6.00pm	Last Supper with hymns	
Thursday 2nd	Sutton Veny	6.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion	choir
Good Friday	Codford St Mary	12.00noon	Hour Before the Cross with 'testimonies'	
3rd	Norton Bavant	2.00pm	The Last Hour with readings and hymns	
	Upton Lovell	2.00pm	Music, poetry, Scripture and silence	
APRIL 5	Codford St Peter	6.00am	Sunrise service ☺	
EASTER DAY	Tytherington	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
	Sutton Veny	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Easter Communion ☺	
	Upton Lovell	9.30am	Easter Communion ☺	
	Norton Bavant	9.30am	Easter Communion	
	Sherrington	11.00am	Easter Communion	
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Easter Communion ☺	
	Boyton	11.00am	Easter Communion	
	Knook	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
April 12	Upton Lovell	9.30am	Parish Communion	choir
2nd Sunday	Heytesbury	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
of Easter	Codford St Mary	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
April 19	Boyton	9.30am	Parish Communion	choir
3rd Sunday	Codford St Peter	11.00am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	
of Easter	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
25 April	Codford St Mary	6.30am	Anzac service	
April 26	Tytherington	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
4th Sunday	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	
of Easter	Knook	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Sutton Veny	3.00pm	Anzac Service with Bishop Andrew	choir
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	

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07544 053785 anthony.paris@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Deacon in Residence:

Reverend Terry Aspell

07847 209715 terry.aspell@cliftondiocese.com

MASS: Saturday Vigil 7.00 p.m.

Sunday 9.00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Immediately prior to Saturday Vigil Mass.

Weekday Masses: check Bulletin on stgeorgeswarminster.co.uk

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FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL AND BURIAL OF ASHES

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

Elizabeth Crowley

on 12 February at Codford St Mary

Peggy Dearsley

on 17 February at Norton Bavant

David Beail

on 24 February at Boyton

May they rest in the peace and light of Christ

Baptisms

We welcome into the Christian Church

Flora Alicia Barton Mynott

on 25 January

at St John's Church, Sutton Veny

May she grow in the Christian Faith

Please contact the Ministry Team to make arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Confirmation preparation or Service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage.

The clergy will officiate at any crematorium service.



PRAYER GROUP

We pray daily.

If you have any prayer requests, please call Mike on 640098

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

PARISH OFFICE

upperwylyealleyteam@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM

Team Rector The Revd Michael Duff 640098

(day off Friday)

teamrector.uwvt@gmail.com

NB email is the surer means of communication

Team Vicar The Revd Timothy Ling 512480

(on duty Sunday to Tuesday)

teamvicar.uwvt@gmail.com

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 07803246480

Heytesbury Tina Sitwell 840556

Knook Robert Pottow 850285

Norton Bavant John Acworth 840134

Edward Moore 840420

Sherrington Richard Morris 07555425110

Sutton Veny Richard Jackman 07968 164256

Tytherington Caroline Lester-Card 07787556505

Upton Lovell Gilly Cumming 850834

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 PCSO 70901 Lukasz Kolasinski 07471029004
 lukasz.kolasinski@wiltshire.police.uk
 Warminster Rural Beat

Community Police (non-emergency) 101

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 jilldeborah@me.com

Codford
 Chair: Tom Thornton 850560
 Clerk: Karungi Grant 850523
 clerk@codfordpc.org.uk

Heytesbury/Knook
 Chair: David Bond 07766 397107
 Clerk: Sarah Vesey-Thompson 07879 529437
 clerk@heytesburyparish.co.uk
Sutton Veny Chair: Kate Phillips 07970 104595
 Clerk: Tekla Hicks 07427 406943

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Heytesbury Peter Andrews 840517

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 Kim West 851030

Heytesbury Hedgehogs
 Annette Pulvertaft 840798

Wyllye Coyotes Afterschool Club 851713
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Heytesbury
 Head: Mrs Lindsey Hermon 840429

Sutton Veny
 Head: Adam Lewis 840428

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VILLAGE HALLS

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 nicky.cornock.cvh@codfordvillage.org.uk
 Bookings: Janine Clarke
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Corton Fane Hall
 Bookings: Niki Gerring 07816 874503

Sutton Veny Chair: Alan Russell 840 883
 Newsletter: Richard Jackman
 svvhnewsletter@gmail.com

Bookings: Gay Woods 840057
 svvhbookings808@gmail.com

Upton Lovell Bookings: Ros Coombs 851277

WOOLSTORE THEATRE

Tickets - Ticket Source
 Theatre bookings - Gavin Park -
 gavin@pfp-ltd.com
 For Information - Jenny Johnson -
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CODFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

J Claypoole 850724

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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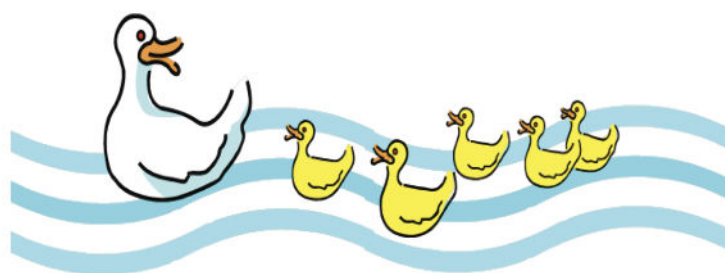
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