

PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

JUNE 2026

THE BIRTH FLOWER OF JUNE

As the birth flower for June, the rose has appeared in centuries of folklore. My particular favourite is: Mythology suggests its creation is related to the tears of Aphrodite and the blood of Adonis. The Ancient Greeks claim the first rose grew from the tears and blood of Aphrodite the goddess of love, as she ran to save her fallen mortal lover Adonis who had been attacked by a boar. Aphrodite ran through a white rose field, and the thorns tore at her ankles and the blood turned the roses red. The rose, therefore, became the symbol of eternal, bleeding devotion. RC

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Anzac Commemorations... page 4

Turbo's Dog Blog ... page 5

Down on the Farm ... page 7

Sherrington ... page 10



THE ROSE HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF ROMANCE, BEAUTY,
AND SECRECY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

ALABARE BIG SLEEP ON FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2026

On Friday 26 June 2026, ALABARÉ will host its first ever public BIG SLEEP-sleepout at St Paul's Cathedral, bringing people together in a powerful act of solidarity for veterans facing homelessness.

It is hoped 200 individuals including Phil Sutton, Treasurer of St Peter's Church at Codford, will take part to raise funds by sleeping out for one night, and in doing so, help stop veterans from having no choice but to sleep rough every night.

If you would like to help you could do the sleep-over yourself with your own donors or else you could sponsor Phil through his Just Giving page at: https://www.justgiving.com/page/phil-sutton-2026?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Upton Lovell Village Fete Saturday 4th July

Time: 2 to 5 pm

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courtesy of

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Cream Tea

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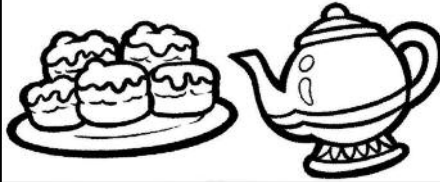
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THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AGM
All are very welcome to come to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's Church, Codford, on Monday 8th June at 6.00pm in St Mary's Church. There will be wine and nibbles after the meeting - so please come along!

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MINISTRY LETTER

Shaun Murphy has just endured the heart-break of losing a fourth World Snooker Championship final to Wu Yize of China. In a great contest, time and time again Murphy fought back from behind, only to lose the final frame and the match by 18 frames to 17. It made me wonder how people like him, or Jimmy White, who lost six finals, five of them in consecutive years, find the resilience to keep coming back, to keep trying again, after such crushing disappointment.

Perhaps these are trivial examples in a world filled with so much pain. The same day we heard of a wife and mother, aged 54, who has been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. How do she and her family make sense of this? How does she find the strength to keep fighting every day?

Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If' might be of some solace to Murphy when it says, 'If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two imposters just the same', but these words seem hopelessly inadequate to speak to the mother with MND and her family.

There is a hymn which says, 'God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform'. However, knowing there is a God on the throne of the universe is not sufficient to our needs in a world such as this. But to trust, as this woman does, that this God is good and wise and loving and purposeful and present can unlock deep resources on which to draw when life is falling apart. It is the basis for this trust which is captured in another hymn, whose author is unknown, but which countless people have found a strength and a comfort since it was written.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;

I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Tim Ling

BISHOP'S LETTER

One Church, One Faith, One Lord
It has been a joy these first four months of the year being the acting bishop of Stepney. The former bishop moved on in the autumn, and bishop (now archbishop) Sarah asked me to support the team as she moved on to Lambeth. Familiar with parts of London, the Windrush Line was new to me, so getting to know Islington, Tower Hamlets and Bethnal Green has been a new discovery, finding new vibrancy and life in the East End.

Spending a couple of days a week in our capital city I discovered frequent buses, the ability to walk thousands of steps a day between tube stations, churches and hotels and a great area team, Archdeacon, Missioner and Director of Ordinands. I met parish clergy, committed laity and young people; the newly ordained and the long serving area dean; interns testing their vocation, vicars to be licensed and new believers ready to be baptised and confirmed.

Yet the challenges of urban ministry are not too different from the challenges we face here in the Salisbury diocese, some churches struggle while others thrive; areas of deprivation adjoin areas of plenty; and partnerships and collaboration are encouraged as a way of sharing resources and working together joyfully in God's world. And the opportunities are the same too. A chance to reach out to those in need and offer hospitality, extending a welcome to newcomers in whom Christ is working, and walking alongside individuals in their faith journey.

As I have been energised by a new experience, so the London diocese have gained from my insights and objectivity. Now a new bishop begins in Stepney and I

pass the baton on. It is always good to be reminded that the church is much bigger than our own experience of it, and we share together in God's amazing plan, thankful for brothers and sisters everywhere and for all they can teach us.

+Karen

You are invited to the Diocesan Volunteer Day on Friday 5 June at Emmaus House, Wilton SP2 0FG, to support you in your church role.

You can choose different sessions to support your work and ministry (run by Bishop Karen)
Book now: <https://tinyurl.com/volsday>

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Letter to the Hebrews chapter 12 v1-3)

RH



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ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS IN CODFORD

This is the 111th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli and in Codford the annual commemoration to honour all ANZACs, and especially to remember the 66 New Zealanders and 31 Australians whose final resting place is in this peaceful corner of rural England, took place in our sacred and peaceful cemetery.

On Friday 24th April, the last day of the school week, Wylde Valley Primary School, with its ethos underpinned by Christian values, walked in quiet procession up Church Lane to attend its own act of learning and respect. Led by the Deputy Head (the Head being away), Mrs Maria Denham, some 120 children adopted a gravestone for the short but poignant service which was led jointly by Brigadier David Shaw and the Revd Tim Ling, the Team Vicar. At the end, each child laid a sprig of Rosemary, a powerful symbol of remembrance, on 'their' soldier's stone.

As the children departed for their classrooms, and in the spirit of Colonel John McRae's third verse from 'In

Flanders Fields..' '...to you from failing hands we throw the torch..' they were invited to 'tell those at home about today and I hope we will see most of you back next year; and when you are grown up, come back and bring your own children so we can keep this remembering going'.

The following day, ANZAC Day itself, dawned bright and clear, if cold, and at 6.30 in the morning over a hundred serving and ex-patriot Australians and New Zealanders, with their hosts from Codford and surrounding villages and other visitors, assembled in commemoration as did so many in Gallipoli, in the Antipodes and around the world.

Organised by Colonel Sir William Mahon now we have no British Legion Branch any more, and led by the Revd Mike Duff, Team Rector, this moving service followed a well-trying pattern of remembrance that covered the history of the campaign, called out the roll of honour, sang 'Abide with me..', heard the Ode, the Last Post and the Reveille and reverently observed the Silence.

Afterwards a piper led attendees up the High Street to the Village Hall where breakfast had been prepared and served by Emma Howe and Steph Nielson-Hunt and their volunteers under the map that showed the layout of the camps that

housed some 24,000 Australian and New Zealand troops here between 1914 and 1918.

Homage was properly paid.

DS



FISHING...

Our beautiful River Wylde is a chalk stream.

Its story began between 100 and 60 million years ago, when the UK was submerged under a warm, shallow tropical sea inhabited by trillions of microscopic, single-celled algae. When they died, their tiny calcium carbonate skeletons fell to the seafloor and over millions of years, compressed into the soft, pure white limestone we call chalk, sometimes reaching thicknesses of hundreds of metres. Between 65 and 2.5 million years ago, tectonic plate movements pushed these deep chalk beds to the surface, creating the rolling downs of southern England. Unlike harder limestones, chalk is riddled with fissures acting like a giant, underground sponge as rainwater falling on the hills sinks into the chalk. When this underground reservoir (the aquifer) is full it overflows back to the surface and becomes a chalk stream.

These streams originally carved their paths around 50,000 years ago as glaciers retreated, leaving behind the characteristic beds of flint and gravel that we see today.

Chalk streams exist only where this specific combination of soft chalk, a temperate climate, and post-glacial movements intersect, and are some of the most precious and rare freshwater habitats on Earth. Believe it or not, England holds around 85% of the world's

chalk streams, and so we have a very special responsibility to protect and care for them.

For fishermen, southern chalk streams like the Wylde are in great demand, seen as the most perfect and precious of places, offering some of the very best fly fishing in the world. Whilst you might sometimes see the Wylde a little coloured by runoff in the winter, or by algae in early summer, the aquifer acts as a giant natural filter, creating extremely clear water that remains at a constant temperature of 9 to 10 degrees, the ideal habitat for fish. The water flows over clean, flinty gravel, which is perfect for spawning salmon, trout and grayling and supports abundant aquatic plants like rare water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus*) and watercress which create luxurious,

flowing green mats, crucial habitats for trout, grayling, salmon, water voles, and kingfishers, as well as many water-based insects.

Despite their beauty and uniqueness, chalk streams are under severe threat, with many in poor condition through over-abstraction, pollution from roads, agriculture and poorly treated sewage, climate change and invasive species such as American Signal Crayfish and Himalayan Balsam.

Most people are unaware that angling clubs play an important part in conservation and restoration, ensuring the river environment is kept healthy and managed to the best possible standard.

Mike Tebbs

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'Scruffy,' 'particularly scruffy' and 'unbelievably scruffy' are phrases being bandied about our kitchen much more frequently, together with 'the little tyke is looking positively unkempt' as we emerge blinking into the Spring daylight from winter quarters, and I am beginning to think they might be referring to me. No, it can't be me as this is me; this is my persona; I was not born a smooth-haired, smooth-talking Cruft's entrant with trimmed and back-combed eyebrows and neatly coiffed hair and tidy paws. I was born to hunt and rat and chase and generally make a nuisance of myself and I have tried very hard to live up to expectations.

In fact, I wonder how many of my reader(s), the tentative plural is because I know of at least two, of my Guvnor's generation remember a countryman who used to write wisely, for a national newspaper about his life as a 'backwoodsman,' about rare public glimpses of an England of his day, of inglorious hunt balls, the dramas of the lambing shed, hound shows and farmers' suppers; but mostly about a breed fast disappearing. Willy Poole was normally accompanied, and 'assisted' by his Jack Russell Terrier who, on the rare

occasions he was under control, sat quivering with excitement in the basket of the quad bike looking for trouble and, if none was apparent, working out how to cause some. At all other times he was involved in minor or major mayhem and when he eventually, and with great reluctance, shuffled off his canine coil Willy wrote, 'He was a bloody little dog, but we loved him and miss him terribly. Extraordinarily, it is the daily trials and tribulations of living with a dog that had flaws we miss most - but that was what made him such a character'.



The King's favourite JRT was called Tigga, but there is not much written about his behaviour. Rather, the story about the Princess Royal's dog that famously killed one of the then Queen's Corgi's at Balmoral Castle, is well documented - but he was not a Jack Russell, so there!

All this has been prompted by my hearing talk about how, now the weather is warmer (and before long I shall find my summer warmth-bathing spot under the barbecue), of my visiting the groomer who is brilliant at exposing my sensitive skin to the elements. The only advantage I can see is that I might be able to run faster after things I really ought not to.

PICNIC ADVICE

If British Summer Time and warmer days mean you will be visiting one of Dorset and Wiltshire's local heathlands or outdoors spaces to enjoy the wildlife and wilderness, please take a picnic.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) is encouraging residents and visitors to bring a picnic and not a barbecue when out and about. Warmer and breezy weather increases the risk of accidental or deliberate fires in our open spaces.

A wildfire can escalate quickly, so we are asking everyone to follow some simple steps:

If you are enjoying our open spaces stay alert for signs of fire: smoke, heat, or unusual smells. If you spot anything worrying, call 999 immediately. Consider downloading and using What3Words to identify your exact location.

Avoid having open fires or using barbecues in the countryside. Disposable barbecues and campfires are banned in many parts of Dorset.

Extinguish smoking materials properly, and don't throw cigarette ends on the ground or out of car windows - take your litter home.

If you're at the beach, don't set off flares, have campfires or light barbecues

as these can easily lead to gorse and foliage on the cliffs catching fire.

You can also help by reporting any anti-social behaviour on our heaths to CrimeStoppers by calling 0800 555 111 (100% Anonymous).

Landowners and land managers are also advised, where possible, to be prepared for fires and ensure that fire breaks are cut and well maintained with any cut grasses and vegetation removed from the site.

For more information on heath fires and countryside safety, please visit our website Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Heath fires and countryside safety



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DID YOU KNOW? OYSTERS

The famous idiom 'The world is your oyster' comes from The Merry Wives of Windsor, Shakespeare's play written in 1602. The original line reads 'The world's mine oyster, which I with sword will open'. Shakespeare was suggesting that opportunities exist, but must be seized by force. Today, the expression is frequently used to mean that, in life, we have the freedom, opportunity and ability to do anything or go anywhere that we wish.

Oyster is the common name for a number of different families of salt-water bivalve molluscs. This means that it has a two part shell, connected by a flexible ligament. Some species of oyster are eaten and are regarded as a delicacy. Some types of 'pearl oysters' are harvested for the pearl which they produce. Others, such as the translucent 'windowpane Oyster', are harvested for their shells.

In nature, a pearl oyster produces a pearl by covering a minute invasive

object inside the shell with 'nacre', commonly known as mother of pearl. The layers of nacre build up and over time, and a pearl is produced. When pearls are cultured commercially, an irritant is inserted into the shell of the oyster to promote the production of mother-of-pearl.

Humans have harvested oysters for thousands of years. The Romans introduced intensive harvesting in Britain. Oysters were originally a food for the poor, but became very popular with the wealthy classes in the Victorian era. Oysters can be eaten raw, grilled or cooked and they are known for their salty, creamy flavour. Oysters are considered a natural aphrodisiac, largely due to their high zinc content, which is crucial for the production of testosterone. There is also a connection between oysters and the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. According to Greek mythology, Aphrodite was born from the sea and emerged fully grown while

riding upon a large shell. Some versions of the myth suggest that shortly after emerging from the sea on her shell, she gave birth to Eros (the God of romantic love), thus cementing the oyster's reputation as a food that inspires passion.

Oysters have featured throughout history, in art and literature. The famous painting by the 17th century Dutch artist, Jan Steen, entitled 'Girl Eating Oysters', depicts a young woman looking at us impishly, while preparing an oyster. There is a suggestion that she is offering more than just good food! The Nobel Prize-winning poet, Seamus Heaney, wrote his well-known poem entitled 'Oysters', in which he explores themes of guilt and privilege.

Whatever our own opinion is of these extraordinary sea creatures, Shakespeare's famous phrase, 'The world's mine oyster', will ensure that it will never be forgotten.

Jonathan Wansey

THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

I never cease to wonder at the combination of colours and shapes that nature puts together. On a recent walk in Devon we were treated to a combination of Greater Stitchwort, Herb Robert and Bluebells, the smell of wild garlic and the sound of skylarks. What a treat! Garden designers have such a knowledge of plants that we have to admire their skill in doing what nature seems to find so easy.

Talking of skill, by the time you read this The Chelsea Flower Show is likely to have been and gone; I haven't been for many years as I think it's too crowded, or it was last time I went, making it very difficult to look at the gardens. I wonder what the most fashionable designs will be? The fashion is growing for more informal planting, which is my preference, and also the use of wild flowers. Did you know the first Royal Horticultural Show started in

1804 and became 'Royal' in 1861. The first time the show was held at its present location was in 1913 becoming the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Anyway I digress; colour and lush growth is all around us from now on until the autumn colours are over and we are back to bare trees and flower beds. I have looked at patches in the garden from last month and I'm planning something different for this time next year. I have a big patch at the bottom of the garden and I'm thinking now the tulips and daffodils are gone maybe I could make the bed consist of more white flowers to be in flower now. The patch has a small obelisk and I have found a white nasturtium that could climb up it and also fill round the foxgloves that are now flowering with Oxeye Daisies and Cow Parsley. Doesn't Cow Parsley look wonderful in the hedgerows with the May in full blossom!

June is a time of multi colours, the border plants fill out covering the ground, so less weeding needed, gardening becomes more about deadheading, tidying and most of all enjoying the rewards of hard work over the last few months. We've had some very cold nights and warm days but it's now safe to put out any annuals. Morning Glory will be opening itself to a deep blue and we have had great excitement as our Wisteria has flowered for the first time since we have lived here. Don't forget to sit and enjoy!

Ali Tebbis



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DOWN ON THE FARM

As the summer months come, we turn our minds to the harvest that lies ahead of us. In a climate where wheat is highly susceptible to disease, we make every effort to plant varieties with resistance to common threats, particularly septoria, brown rust, and yellow rust. However, this resistance can deteriorate rapidly, often within just two to three years, so it is essential to regularly change the varieties we grow.

Fungus reduces the area of green leaf, resulting in less chlorophyll and, consequently, a reduction in the plant's ability to generate the energy needed for seed production. Keeping the leaves free from disease is therefore vital.

Growth stages are crucial, as there are specific times when we can best target the crop. The very top leaf, known as the flag leaf (leaf one), is responsible for producing around 70% of the energy required by the plant, making its protection paramount. Next in importance are leaf two and then leaf three. We focus on treating leaf three first, as this covers both leaf three and leaf two when it emerges. Most fungicides remain effective for about three weeks, with many being systemic meaning they circulate throughout the plant.

Different fungicides operate through various modes of action, attacking fungi in multiple ways. To prevent the development of resistance, it is common practice to mix two or three different fungicides. Fungal spores can be easily spread by the wind, and new strains resistant to treatment can sweep across the country in a single season, so careful selection and combination of fungicides is essential for all farmers.

In the photograph on the right-hand side, you can see the embryo ear, then the flag leaf waiting to emerge, followed by leaf two, leaf three, and leaves four and five. There is visible evidence of disease, specifically septoria, on leaf five. The final fungicide application is targeted at the ear during flowering to prevent the development of mycotoxins, which can lead to wheat being rejected, especially if for flour. This risk is heightened if maize was previously grown in the field, so it remains a concern for us. It is also critical to ensure that there are no residues in the grain.

In other news, we recently had a very successful inspection and met many of the new regulations and standards only recently released.

Looking ahead, we are hopeful for a productive summer and harvest.



Meanwhile, the cows are enjoying the lush, green pastures of the meadows and fields down on the farm.

Kit Pottow



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A POEM FOR THE MONTH... OUR BLACK HEN

Our black hen has glossy feathers and a comb that's deep red.
She sleeps up a tree and won't go in the shed.
When bird flu threatened all birds were locked down.
She avoided capture and went off on her own.
We didn't know where she spent the night
But she turned up for breakfast when it was light.
After months indoors the birds were let free.
The black hen joined them but has found her own tree.
She clung to her branch through the winter freeze
Storms Eddie, Chandra and Dave to her were a breeze.
She's a raggle taggle gypsy, our black hen
And won't be confined in a poultry pen

Caro Barker Bennet



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VILLAGE NEWS

CODFORD COMMUNITY KEY EVENTS JUNE 2026

- 2nd Codford local history society AGM at village hall (small hall) - 7.30pm
- 3rd Codford and district gardening club coach trip to Exbury gardens.
- 3rd Film night - 'One battle after another' at the Woolstore theatre - 7.30pm
- 6th Free drama workshop at the Woolstore theatre - 10.30am - 12.30
- 7th Codford community park run at Codford village hall grounds - 10am
- 11th Hearing aid clinic at Codford village hall - 10am - 12.00
- 12th Standup Historian, Crispin Thomas, is back with a new show 'D-Day - the first day' at the Woolstore theatre at 7.30pm
- 20th Free drama workshop at the Woolstore theatre - 10.30am - 12.30
- 21st Monthly drinks at the Woolstore theatre - 12.00 noon - 2pm
- 21st Monthly arts and crafts market at Ginger Piggery, Boyton - 10am
- 25th Codford word weavers with Lizzie at Codford tea rooms - 9am
- 25-27th New production of 'Calendar girls' at the Woolstore theatre - 7.30pm
- 28th Codford village fete at Codford village hall grounds - 11am

CODFORD VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

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

To find the Codford community website, type "Codfordcommunity.co.uk" into your search bar to access the website. There you will find various useful and informative content

CODFORD LADIES CIRCLE

On April 8th the Ladies Circle met to travel to the Witchmark Distillery at Fonthill Bishop. Witchmark Distillery produces a range of Gins using locally sourced crops and are also working to produce their own Juniper and eventually produce their own Whisky. The group had an extensive tour of the distillery followed by a tasting session of all the gins that they make. An interesting point the three stills are named after the three Directors wives!

Heather Earley

IT'S BACK! CODFORD VILLAGE FETE - SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 11AM-4PM

Join us for a fun-filled day at the much loved Codford Village Fete! Come along to support our local community, bring friends and family, and enjoy a great day out meeting neighbours old and new. There will be plenty to enjoy, with lovely stalls, delicious food, local crafts, and entertainment for all ages.

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The Codford Community Website team is looking for a creative pair of hands to help keep our village news lively and up to date. If you enjoy writing, editing, or spreading the word about what's happening locally, we'd love to hear from you. It's a great way to support village life and help share all the brilliant things happening in our community. Interested in getting involved? Contact Sarah on 07555 787351 or kevsarahboys@hotmail.com

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NEWS FROM HEYTESBURY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The current term at school (which we call Term 5) is one that can't help but be dominated by KS2 SATS. These are the statutory (Government mandated) tests in English and maths that are taken by Year 6 children as they come to the end of their time in primary school. They mark the end point of their learning in the core areas of reading, writing and mathematics, and are a benchmark as they move on to the secondary phase of their education.

Children's achievements are so much more than test results, and we work hard in school to create a broad and rich curriculum that gives all pupils opportunities to experience and feel success in a wide range of areas. But it is important that we also enable children to do and show their best in these tests, so they leave school with a sense of pride and confidence in themselves ready to excel in the next step of their journey.

Despite this focus on core learning, we have also had a number of other events going on in school in the past few weeks. We had a visit from the Wiltshire Walk Safe team, teaching the children how to keep themselves safe when they are out in the local area particularly around roads and traffic.



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We've had a book fair in school to encourage children to read for pleasure, which was visited and enjoyed by all our families. Our KS2 children took part in a tag rugby tournament at Warminster Rugby Club - more details in the accompanying report. And this week Cherry Class, our YR/Y1/Y2 children, enjoyed a trip to the seaside! We joined with children from Dinton Primary School, another school within the Acorn Education Trust, to visit Weymouth. The children enjoyed a visit to the Sealife Centre, and saw the otters and the seals being fed. Then spent time on the beach conducting a survey (and having fun!) to support their learning in geography as part of a topic called 'What is it like to live by the coast?'

As ever, life in school is busy and never dull.

Lindsey Hermon, Headteacher

WARMINSTER SCHOOLS TAG-RUGBY TOURNAMENT

In April, 7 of us went to a tag-rugby tournament. We were placed in League 1. At the start we did a warm-up and worked together whilst training hard, until we got called to play our first match - would we win? In the first 5 minutes we went 2-0 down, but we didn't let that bother us and with team-work and determination we came back to win 3-2! The referees, who were young sports leaders, were kind and helped us to practice our formations between matches. We played 3 more matches, and we drew 2 and lost 1. Overall we came third in our league, which we were really pleased with. We won medals for our hard work, and got clapped by everyone watching. The whole experience was amazing.

Leon Miller Y6

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HEYTESBURY HAPPENINGS

Many people will be aware that a planning application has been submitted for the building of nine dwellings, with associated ground works, on the land south of Park Street behind Old Forge Close. This item was on the Parish Council agenda in April. The applicant attended the meeting, alongside Councillor Christopher Newbury and a number of Heytesbury residents. A lively question and answer session was held, and Cllr Newbury gave some valuable advice. Once the public had been able to air their views, the Parish Council held a lengthy discussion. This included the potential risks to the flood plain, the river, wildlife and the existing houses; the extra traffic and the unsuitability of at least one of the proposed house designs (a house made of metal and made to look like a Dutch barn in the middle of a rural Wiltshire village). Eventually a vote was taken and all the councillors voted unanimously to object to the planning application.

Subsequently many residents have posted their comments on the Wiltshire Council website. A decision will be made in June. Interestingly this plot of the water meadows was the subject of a plan to build twelve houses in 1961/2. Then, Mrs Margaret Sharpe, widow of Denzil Sharpe the butcher, owned the land. The plans were refused by Wilts Council and on Appeal.

Whilst about land, the Parish Council have learnt that all the Parkland has now been sold.

A very successful annual Plant & Seedling Sale was held outside the Red Lion on 9th May, organised by Ali and Mike Tebbs, in aid of church funds. We wait to see the results when the Summer Produce Sales restart on Saturday mornings in the church from 13th June.

The Heytesbury Open Place project in the church is progressing. The award of a National Heritage Lottery Fund grant is anticipated so that a water supply for a server and toilet can be installed, and heating in the nave begun. A separate grant is awaited to begin work on a 3-phase electrical supply to enable new heating in the chancel.

Finally, Heytesbury is entered in the Best Kept Village competition again. Please help by keeping our village tidy and free of dog mess.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be at 7.00pm in the St John's Residents Hall on Tuesday 26th May for the Annual General Meeting and a normal meeting on Tuesday 30th June.




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VILLAGE NEWS

SHERRINGTON

Bluebells were phenomenal this year. To see that spread of wonderful blue beneath beech trees is a good to be alive experience. There appear to be more cowslips and tracks are bordered with the rich blue of speedwell. No scarlet pimpernel this year, I wonder why. Hedgerows are weighted down with the thick whipped cream of hawthorn blossom and the scent of an opened honey jar hangs in the air. Swallows, martins and swifts thread across the sky. The cuckoo is heard, lanes toss with the fragile lace of hedge parsley and it seems that summer is here. We have the longest day on 21st and on 22nd we hear that work will begin on the footbridge!! I don't advise holding your breath but fingers crossed might help. Thanks to Lorna for her constant efforts to keep Wiltshire Council up to the mark.

It appears that the swans are not nesting this year. A pair are present but no nest building has taken place. It seems that they appreciated the clearing of the small island when Mandy and Lee lived at Springhead.

Suddenly we are enveloped by foliage. It is hard to choose a leafy favourite tree, a horse chestnut with candles? I think mine is a beech, majestic height and shape, trunk like sealskin and there is nothing quite like the fragile silk of newly opened leaves, almost transparent.

I wonder how many people who walk or cycle in the wood are aware of the legend of Jack Hag? I was not until a friend told me of a plaque she had found. He was a highwayman who lived in the Great Ridge in 18th/19th century and preyed on coaches travelling between London and Exeter. He was caught and hanged from an oak tree. In 2005 a venerable oak came down and the Estate workers, when cutting through to move it, found embedded in the trunk a rusted iron tablet and deciphered the letter H. The Fonthill

Estate put a plaque on a young oak on virtually the same spot.

I have heard too of three beech trees in a different area where apparently three old women were hanged for being witches. A bit dodgy being an old lone woman in those days especially if one lived in a hovel, cooked in a cauldron and had a black cat. So what about me?! Well Rectory Cottage is not a hovel, I cook on electric and my familiar is a rather handsome dog so hopefully I tick the right boxes!

Nigel's conservation work is carried on by Lt Col Richard Clayton on the Plain and by Justine Hadfield on the farms and estates. Results so far are looking good but we really do not want another summer of drought.

Betty Lewis



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UPTON LOVELL RAMBLINGS

As we enter June, with all the blossom finished and the start of tiny berries and fruits appearing along with lots of small animals and birds taking their first outing or flights it reminds me of my childhood. I remember as a child being told 'Nere cast a clout 'til May is out' and having long discussion with my Grampa as to whether it meant keep you winter woollies on until the May trees blossomed or the May flies came out (my Pa's choice as a fly fisherman) or until the end of May which our northern relatives definitely voted for. Our friends in Grimsby had winter coats and spring coats and definitely didn't cast them off until June.

Old sayings or family apocryphal stories are such fun as are place names and pub names and signs. So many linked to the topography of the land or the activities and professions linked to place. I am sure many people remember playing games in the car on long journeys before motorways were built - 8 hours on the A 38 from Bristol to Cornwall! We played, Animal mineral and vegetable, my aunt went to Paris. I spy and a favourite of my Pa's Pub legs. So the Horse and cart was 4 legs, but the fox and hounds scored 32, why that number I have no idea, the fox and goose was 6 etc. The most legs you totted up on a journey made you the winner; needless to say my pop always won after a misspent youth on drunken rugby tours travelling the West country and remembering that if you started at a particular pub you would always get the most legs. In addition to these games he taught us scurrilous rugby songs accompanied by Mum saying you mustn't teach the girls those; I always thought that the Mayor of Bridgewater's daughter had loads of verses with tum te tum te tum until I was old enough to have rugby playing boyfriends who taught me all the words!

I so love watching how our local walks and countryside change in a matter of days, the myriad of greens from early leaves darkening to a more uniform colour, different flowers and scents. The hound, being of African descent, loves the warm weather, as does the cat and they lounge about cooking in the garden. I feel so lucky to live here.

Amanda Cheesley



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WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY JUNE 2026

June 7 Trinity 1	Norton Bavant	9.30am	Parish Communion	choir
	Codford St Peter	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
June 14 Trinity 2	Tytherington	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
	Sutton Veny	9.30am	Parish communion	
	Upton Lovell	9.30am	Celtic Morning Prayer	
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Parish communion	choir
	Codford St Mary	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
June 21 Trinity 3	Boyton	9.30am	Parish Communion	
	Codford St Peter	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	
	Upton Lovell	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Sutton Veny	11.00am	Matins	choir
June 28 SS Peter & Paul	Sutton Veny	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	choir
	Sutton Veny Hall	9.30/10.00	Café Church	
	Knook	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Patronal Evensong (BCP)	

UWVT WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesdays Sutton Veny 8.30 am Morning Prayer (BCP)

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL AND BURIAL OF ASHES

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

Susan Barbara Perry

on 19 April at Sutton Veny

May she rest in the peace and light of Christ

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NB email is the surer means of communication

Team Vicar The Revd Timothy Ling 512480
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teamvicar.uwvt@gmail.com

Associate Priest

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

Licensed Lay Ministers

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katherine.venning@gmail.com

Barbara Luscombe LLM 840830
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CONTACTS FOR OUR CHURCHES

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