

PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

JULY/AUGUST 2026

*July-Ruby Passion
and Protection*

BIRTH STONES

*August-Peridot
Clarity and Healing*

The birthstones of July and August have an interesting history.

In Ancient Burma, the ruby, the soldier's stone, was placed under the skin for protection in battle.

The Romans called the Peridot the emerald of the evening owing to its ability to glitter and sparkle in the lowest of lights. The Egyptians thought it was the gem of the sun.



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EXHIBITORS WANTED FOR THE HEYTESBURY COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Are you part of a club, society, charity, community group, local business, arts or crafts venture, or volunteer organisation serving Heytesbury, Knook or Tytherington? We would love you to join us at the Heytesbury Community Showcase on Saturday 5 September 2026, 2.00pm-4.00pm, at St Peter & St Paul Church, Heytesbury.

The event will bring together local organisations, businesses, artists, makers and residents for an afternoon of conversation, community connections, tea and cake. Display space is free of charge for participants (although donations to the church are always welcome).

Whether you are looking for new members, volunteers, customers or supporters, or would simply like to share what you do, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact Cllr.Judith.Dando @HeytesburyParish.co.uk or Cllr.Karen.Riggs@HeytesburyParish.co.uk for more information or to reserve a space.

Upton Lovell Village Fete
Saturday 4th July 2 - 5 pm
at South Farm House courtesy of
Andrew and Gilly Cumming
Brass Band Bar Stalls Dog show
Cream Tea



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GARDEN PARTY**

LOCAL CRAFT STALLS - ART EXHIBITION
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Our vision is to be open, welcoming, growing and inclusive churches,
living within the love of God, and sharing God's love and life with others.

upperwyllyevalleyteam.com

MINISTRY LETTER

Eight months into our new life in the Wyllye Valley, we have many good reasons to give thanks for the generosity all around us. First there was the wave of people knocking on our front door with gifts and cards, welcoming us to the Benefice. Then there was the round of invitations to join groups and events and parties and to come round for drinks or dinner. And the kindness of those making space for us and adapting to our new leadership in the churches. Thank you all for your generosity.

One particular moment helped us recognise what a very generous community this is. A church member was in very great need - and the word went round. Before I knew anything about it, money had been collected and the need had been exactly met. Thank you.

And many of our churches have a group of Friends who have so generously gathered resources for the sustaining of their village church building. Thank you, too.

This last month in the churches, we have been thinking about the very great

generosity of God: God the Father created and sustains the world in all its richness, so evident all around us; God the Son poured out his life for us on the Cross - offering us reconciliation with God and the promise of eternal life; God's Spirit is at work in us - growing in us the character of God, including for instance His generosity.

And we have been thinking about the generous response God looks for in us. It might be by looking after our neighbours, which many of you do so supportively. It might be giving to charities like Alabaré, or our link diocese in South Sudan working for good across the world. It might be as a Friend of the churches of the Upper Wyllye Valley - supporting our buildings. Or it might be by enabling the ministry of our village churches. We'll be celebrating all of this on our Response Day on 12th July. If you have already received an information pack - please do have a look at it. If you would like one - do ask at church! But above all - thank you all for your generosity.

Mike Duff

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Jesus said, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

The Good News from Luke 6 verse 46

It is fitting that we say grace
For in the world is many a place
Where multitudes have now't to eat;
A sip of water, and crumbs a treat;
Bless them Lord, in their great need
And we thank you now as we feed.

Robin Hungerford

BISHOP'S LETTER

800 years ago, on 14 June 1226, an extraordinary event took place at the heart of the post-Conquest still-new Diocese of Salisbury. The bodies of three of its early bishops (Osmund, Roger, and Jocelin) were removed from their tombs in the cathedral of Old Sarum. They were brought down the hill, and reinterred in the cathedral of New Sarum, then in its seventh year of construction.

It was a sign that the cathedral community's centre of gravity had shifted decisively. Its principal place of worship and prayer was no longer the windswept hilltop, under the watchful eye of the royal garrison. The community had moved, and it was important that the remains of its former leaders should move too. In life and in death, God's people belonged together.

It was not a custom peculiar to mediaeval England. Scripture records moments when the bones of the elders are moved as the community moves. On his deathbed, the patriarch Joseph prophesies that God will deliver his people from Egypt. He asks that when that day comes his bones should be reburied in the Promised Land.

We could debate the theology of such removals at length. Presumably the unity in Christ of the living and the dead is not contingent on the place where the remains of the dead are located (or, indeed, on the place where the living are resident!). But the care with which such remains were treated, and the importance attached to their being close at hand tells us something. It suggests that our forebears were prepared to view those who had led them with respect and generosity.

Roger, Jocelin, and Osmund were all Norman aristocrats heavily embroiled in the politics of the new regime. Despite Osmund's later canonization all must have made enemies (indeed, Jocelin was twice excommunicated by Archbishop Thomas Becket, martyred in 1170, while Roger's predilection for castle-building earned him the perpetual enmity of King Stephen). Yet the community honoured them; honoured the office they had held as Bishops of the Church; honoured (perhaps) whatever good they had seen in them as they exercised that office; and continued to pray for them as brothers in the Lord's family as they were laid to rest in the new cathedral.

Many commentators have observed

that these are difficult times for leaders: the scrutiny they are under is intense and the expectations of them are high - understandably, and necessarily so. Perhaps the strange rite of 800 years ago - that solemn procession from Old Sarum to New - has something to teach us. Something about our common origin in God's loving purposes, which puts our differences into perspective; something about the roles leaders hold which transcends the qualities or defects that they bring to them; and something about our vocation to pray constantly - and to learn to pray for those we find hard to love.

Nicholas Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury

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TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR 'HIGH' SUMMER

The Guvnor and I, being of the same sort of age and, he thinks, ageing now at the same sort of rate, have been turning our minds towards the inevitable - how to live forever. Well, it's a dream, but one worth musing over at least while aiming to fit as much in as possible at best. Readers with good memories might remember the Guvnor leaving the bottom drawer of his filing cabinet open and where I read a file label titled, 'What to do if I die'. I thought then - surely even the eternal optimist means 'when'?

To the present, and for me, my summer grooming is on the cards, and even though the recent spell of fine and very warm weather has given way to a miserably cold June so far, the booking now has impetus. I won't mind as much as I usually do, if they forget to change my SOB (stinky old bed!). For him, it means sorting out stuff he has been putting off for too long and working out the balance between Pollyanna's romantic view of life and the practical common sense, one that he has probably bought his last large bottle of hair shampoo. Mind you, for a bald man that could last a year.

I was listening to him 'bigging' up, or rather trivialising, the business of

getting things in order and memorial headstones or tablets is but one item. His musings went from: 'In Woolwich in East London there is the grave of an Army Major whose inscription reads - 'Sacred to the memory of Major James Brush who was killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol by his orderly 14th April 1831'. And underneath that: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant', to the wacky but cracking-up engraving on Spike Milligan's stone that said, 'I told you I was ill'.

Talking of inscriptions, he read out

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a good one the other day. It was a telephoned order to a cake shop to buy a farewell gateau large enough to be shared among office staff with a fond goodbye in icing on the top. A beautiful cake duly arrived, bearing the message:

**GOOD LUCK GEMMA
AND UNDERNEATH THAT
WE WILL ALL MISS YOU**

It wouldn't have bothered me, and I don't suppose Gemma minded much either, but you do have to have a sense of humour in these difficult days.

RECIPE - MARVELLOUS MINT

Mint is such a taste of summer and so easy to grow. I have a large pot of it not far from the back door, which I top up with a pot from the supermarket as needed. As well as tasting good, it is a natural remedy for nausea and can have a calming effect. Mint can be added to many summer drinks and even frozen in ice cubes. Mint tea is easily made, and can be served hot or cold. One of my favourite mint drinks, since visiting Cuba, is a Mojito...some recipes follow....

Mint tea...steep about 10 mint leaves per cupful in boiling water for 3-5 minutes, add honey or sugar to taste. Cool and pour

over ice to serve chilled.

Mojito...mix together the juice of a lime, 1 teaspoon of sugar and about 10 mint leaves, crushing the leaves. Add ice, white rum to taste and top up with soda water (or fizzy water). Garnish with more leaves. You can use dark rum but white rum gives a fresher drink.

Hopefully we will have some more lovely weather this summer, when we can relax in the garden with a chilled drink. Do let the editor know if you have any favourite recipes you could share with readers.

AR

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THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

Oh my! What a topsy turvy summer it's turning out to be! The weather has been relentless, no wonder we are a nation known for always discussing the weather! We've had extreme heat over half term, excess rain, hail the size of large marbles, thunder and lightning and wind. Some wonderful roly poly clouds and beautiful sunsets. I put my winter clothes away and then had to get some out again! I'm told everything is three weeks early; certainly the roses have bloomed early and faded fast in the heat, thank goodness for repeat flowering roses, otherwise after the first bloom our gardens would be looking a bit dull. We have a beautiful shrub rose which was given to us on our silver wedding anniversary and is now 27 years old (have we really been married that long!), it was in full bloom and looking magnificent when very heavy prolonged rain overloaded the leaves and flowers with water and we have had to support it against the wall for the first time ever.

I'm pleased to say it has recovered and is looking very happy.

Our pond is looking clear and fresh and the flag irises and water lilies are looking good after a very thorough pruning earlier in the spring. We have many blue and some red damselflies and a broad-bodied chaser dragonfly which we haven't seen before. Apparently they can grow to 39 - 48mm in length and have a 70mm wingspan. They have a dark patch at the base of their wings and the one we have seen has what looks like an electric blue covering on its body, which is the male. We haven't spotted the female but perhaps that's just because she is brown and therefore not so noticeable. There are also lots of newts and some handsome frogs, which makes standing and staring into the pond a must - when we have time to stand and stare.

Standing and staring are very worthwhile occupations especially when the gardens look their best in all their summer glory. Enjoying villages with

Open Gardens is a lovely way to spend an afternoon. Dead heading and making sure no patch of soil is visible between the flowers is a pleasant way to spend time in my own garden. Barbeques or coffee and tea with friends is a reward for all the hard work that has gone into making the garden look so good. Enjoy!

Ali Tebbbs



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DID YOU KNOW? TOMATOES

The question was once asked, 'What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?' The answer given was 'Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad!' The tomato is an edible berry that is eaten as a vegetable. It is a member of the 'nightshade family' that includes tobacco, potato, and chilli peppers.

Tomatoes originated in the Andes Mountains of South America and were certainly grown as a source of food in Mexico around 700 AD by the Aztecs. It was the Spanish who introduced them to Europe in the 16th Century. Initially, it was thought by many Europeans that their bright red skin suggested that they were poisonous. Indeed, this theory was supported when European wealthy aristocrats served them on pewter plates. The high acidity of the tomato leached lead out of the pewter, causing fatal lead poisoning.

The earliest mention of the tomato in European literature appeared in 1544. It was suggested that a new type of eggplant had been brought to Italy, and the author Mattioli, named the fruit 'pomi d'oro', or 'golden apples'. The French referred to the tomato as 'pommes d'amour', or 'love apples', as they thought they had stimulating aphrodisiacal properties. Tomatoes were not grown in England until the 1590's. By 1820,

tomatoes were described as 'to be seen in great abundance in all our vegetable markets and to be used by all our best cooks.'

Today, tomatoes are grown worldwide. To assist with transportation and storage, tomatoes are often picked unripe (green) and ripened in storage. In 2023, the world produced 192 million tonnes of tomatoes, with China producing 36% of the total, followed by India with 29%.

Tomatoes are typically classified by their size, shape and culinary use. The most common varieties include cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, plum tomatoes, beefsteak tomatoes, globe tomatoes, oxheart tomatoes and vine (truss) tomatoes. Tomatoes are used extensively in cooking. They are the base for almost all traditional pasta and pizza sauces, and in Indian cuisine they are used to build the rich spiced bases for many curries. Tomato soup is a classic comfort food globally. Tomato juice is the primary mixer used in the popular cocktail known as the 'Bloody Mary'. Tomatoes are 95% water and a rich source of vitamin C.

Perhaps the most famous poem on this subject is entitled, 'Ode to the tomato', by Pablo Neruda. This celebrated poem portrays the tomato as a 'star of the earth', highlighting its role as a fertile summer staple and its vibrant nature in salads. (Just remember, don't include it in your fruit salad!) *Jonathan Wansey*

FIVE UPSTAIRS

Enid Blyton - may her shadow never grow less - did not, I think, send her Famous Five up a spiral staircase into a ringing chamber. Whyever not? Bells have been used for centuries to warn of skullduggery and to alert the citizenry. We do it to this day.

We at Codford St Peter, ever alert to the need to make a noise 'to the glory of God', can embarrass Blyton fans

everywhere. We have our own Famous Five - and don't they enjoy themselves! From left to right we find Sarah H, Annabel, Caroline, Stella and Sarah D. On this particular occasion we men were out numbered and wisely kept out of sight.

We are keen to grow this female band from five to (at least) six. Can you help us? We can soon train you to the point where you will not only handle a bell

but grin at the same time. And by the way, our numbers are drawn from several of the Valley communities, not only Codford. So do please pick up the phone (Nick on 850724, Anthony on 851079).

I might add that we could easily put together a Famous Five of male ringers. So don't let the women call all the shots.

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THE WYLYE ANGLER

I was leaning over the fence one day, just looking at our river and enjoying the beauty, peace and tranquillity of the scene when someone walked up to me and said angrily, 'It's outrageous, what are they doing cutting down all these trees along the riverbank? It's utter vandalism!'

I wasn't really surprised, because the riverbank did look a little bare. However, cutting back to manage fast-growing willow on the river's edge is only a small part of river management. The earliest evidence of active human management dates to the Early Neolithic period (approximately 6,000 years ago), when pioneering farmers began clearing the valley's primeval forests to exploit its rich soils. The Romans created strategic river crossings for their military roads, such as the Roman ford at Kingston Deverill. There is a footbridge over the ford near Great Wishford on the Wilton Club's water that is named New Way Bridge, and I asked our archivist how old it was. He said, 'It was probably old when the Romans came!'. The most obvious evidence is what we can see in the surrounding fields, the derelict hatches and ground works associated with the mediaeval water meadows.

If the river was left to its own devices, we would soon find it rapidly deteriorating, with siltation, fallen trees and excessive weed growth strangling the flow and forcing the water into the

surrounding fields and villages - but that's not likely to happen! Angling clubs are a vital part of river management and are often responsible for managing and maintaining the river and its banks along much of the river's length, balancing ecological preservation with sustainable fly-fishing. These efforts help to secure the clean, cool, alkaline waters necessary for wild brown trout, grayling and so many wonderful insects and animals to thrive. Some of the angling clubs have full-time river keepers, whose job is to manage, care for and protect the Wylfe. They spend their lives on the river and know far more about its habits and character than anyone else. I often wonder whether government ever asks their opinion before making their decisions! There is also a new initiative named 'The Wylfe Valley

Landscape Recovery Project', a major partnership between the Wylfe Valley Farmers, the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Wessex Rivers Trust. It focuses on the restoration of our globally rare chalk stream and floodplain habitats. The project has completed a 2-year development phase and plans are currently being reviewed by Defra before a commitment is made to long-term funding for the restoration of the Wylfe Valley.

Mike Tebbs

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DOWN ON THE FARM

Artificial intelligence (AI), not to be confused with artificial insemination (AI). Although both feature in our day to day running of the farm.

Recently I was asked (by a few people) if AI (to save complication I will now on this occasion only be referring to artificial intelligence) was evident in our world. Well, the answer is "oh yes, it most certainly is"!

I am not hugely knowledgeable with it, but I am beginning to find it useful in the office, for a number of tasks from producing maps, health and safety forms, risk assessment templates to the exact criteria I need, the list is never ending.

On the farm though it has huge benefits, especially with welfare of the cows. Currently we have two AI cameras monitoring the cows:

1 - assessing mobility and tracking lameness trends for each individual animal, cows pass under the camera twice a day each time the camera plots on the graph the trend in mobility and body condition.

2- Looks at cow comfort, laying times, standing time, perching and feeding time. A wide-angle camera spanning the shed to identify high traffic zones, hot and cool spots where cows crowd to avoid hot or uncomfortable areas, generating a cow comfort score (Index of comfort).

This gives us a continuing report to enable us to be fully aware of each cows needs and how we can improve the quality of life.

There is no denying AI is a fast-growing source, and its use will only become more apparent and just how much it can help our day to day running of the farm.

We are now beginning to implement it in staff scheduling and basic paperwork to save time.

Sadly, it is yet unable to help us with the more physical tasks like a big farm tidy up which we are tackling now, manpower still very much an important part of running a farm.

Second cut of silage was good, and the soil is warm which is allowing the maize to grow rapidly!

We are hoping to only apply two fungicides to the corn, but the recent rain may mean a third is necessary. Beans though will only have one application of fungicide.

The big questions are - do we buy fertilizer and if so, how much? Oh wait, AI might answer that question, or we stick with the knowledge we already have and has after all worked extremely well for generations before us down on the farm.

Kit Pottow

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VILLAGE NEWS

CODFORD COMMUNITY KEY EVENTS JULY AND AUGUST 2026

- July
- 1st Film night - 'Hamnet' at the Woolstore theatre 7.30pm
- 4th Annual Australian badge cleaning followed by breakfast at Codford village hall 8.45am.
- 4th Free drama workshop at the Woolstore theatre 10.30am - 12.30
- 9th Hearing aid clinic at Codford village hall 10am - 12.00
- 12th Codford community park run at Codford village hall grounds 10am
- 18th Free drama workshop at the Woolstore theatre 10.30am - 12.30
- 19th Car boot sale at Codford village hall grounds 7am for sellers, 8am for buyers
- 19th Monthly drinks at the Woolstore theatre 12.00 noon - 2pm
- 19th Monthly arts and crafts market at Ginger piggery, Boyton 10am
- 27th Parish Council meeting at Codford village hall 7pm
- August
- 5th Film night - 'The shepherd and the bear' at the Woolstore theatre 7.30pm
- 5th The Codford and District gardening club trip to the gardens of Corsley House
- 9th Codford community park run at Codford village hall grounds 10am
- 13th Hearing aid clinic at Codford village hall 10am - 12.00
- 16th Monthly drinks at the Woolstore theatre 12.00 noon - 2pm
- 16th Monthly arts and crafts market at Ginger piggery, Boyton 10am

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

ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN BADGE CLEANING & COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

It's that time of year again for this wonderful hands on tradition that brings our village together in support of the ANZAC heritage so closely linked with Codford.

Everyone is encouraged to come along with family and friends, and don't forget

to bring your forks, hoes, spades, and gloves to help with the morning's work. Once the cleaning is complete, the whole group will head back to Codford Village Hall to enjoy a hearty breakfast together.

CODFORD COMMUNITY CAFE

Our Thursday morning Community Cafe continues to be very popular with people from the village and beyond. Not only do you get a refreshing cup of coffee or pot of tea with a delicious home-made scone or slice of cake, but there is also much chatter, discussion, laughter and friendships to be made during the morning.

In the last 12 months we have opened 49 times, served approx 1,719 adults and 43 children, and welcomed numerous dogs (thank you Fozzie for their treats!).

Over 40 volunteers have led, served, baked and donated scones and cakes, arranged flowers for the tables, chatted, and washed up, all with a smile.

We have donated £5505.66 to local charities and good causes including; Codford Village Hall, Salisbury Hospice Cuddle Beds, Warminster Food Bank, Macmillan Cancer Research, Codford Tennis Club, Alabare, Heytesbury and Codford Football Club, Julia's House, Samaritans of Salisbury and District, and Friends of Erlestoke Prison.

Please spread the word and bring your friends. We are open from 9-11.30am every Thursday in the Village Hall Social Club and charge £2.50 per person (children under 5 are free). If you would like to help or bake, have a cause you would like us to support, or need more information, please get in touch with me. *Tiggy Thornton 07891 240803*

DISCOVERING WILD ORCHIDS ALONG THE WYLYE VALLEY WALKS

Some gorgeous orchids spotted on my walks in the last couple of weeks (butterfly, pyramidal and early purple). As a dog walker, I'm lucky enough to spend most of my day walking in the beautiful Wiltshire countryside, and particularly in the Wylye Valley. We have the very special chalk downland, some shady beech woods and lovely foot paths along the Wylye river to enjoy. I look forward to sharing some of my finds and observations with you over the coming summer months.

Emma, Wylye Valley Walkies

CODFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Outing to Exbury Gardens 3rd June

We went by coach and the plan was to have lunch and then have a guided tour of the gardens. Luckily after lunch the sun came out, our guide met us and we wandered around the gardens for nearly two hours! Our guide, Theo, made our day! He not only enlightened us about the trees, plants and design of the immense Exbury gardens, but also told us so much about the history of the Estate and in particular the wonderful vision and talent of Lionel Rothschild who created the gardens. We then posed in front of Exbury House for a group photo! - 'J' Claypoole.



A NEW CUTTING GARDEN AT SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

A wonderful cutting garden has been created in the Cathedral Close, thanks to the generosity of The Friends of Salisbury Cathedral and the vision of one of the flower arranging team. This means that we will have our own supply of flowers, greenery and shrubs for the flower arrangers to use in the weekly arrangements in the Cathedral. Not only is the cost of cut flowers (often imported) enormous but our supply will be fresh and handy! There are over 40 flower arrangers - six live in Codford! - 'J' Claypoole

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VILLAGE NEWS

NEWS FROM HEYTESBURY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

As ever, life in school has been busy and enjoyable.

In the week before the half term break, our KS2 children enjoyed a morning out of school learning about our local environment, organised by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. They learnt about the animals and plants that live around the River Wylye, and enjoyed dipping in the river and identifying the bugs and invertebrates that live within it. They were also taught by Wessex Water how they keep the water clean. As well, the children got to dissect owl pellets, to learn about their diet. This proved to be a 'marmite' activity - loved by some but hated by others!

Maple Class were also lucky enough to be visited by the historian Crispin Thomas, who brought alive the learning they had been doing about World War II in history. They learnt in depth about the Battle of Britain, and most excitingly got to see a real WWII jeep! It was fantastic for the children to be able to get so close to a real piece of history.

We were also blessed with a glorious day on which we held our annual Sports Day. The children all took part in a carousel of activities such as speed bounce, team skip and a crossbar

challenge to earn points for their team. And parents and family members joined in to help raise the totals.

There were also lots of races where the children could show off their sprinting and long distant running skills. In amongst it all, we enjoyed a family picnic on the school field with ice pops to keep everyone cool. We were ably assisted on the day by a number of Y9 students from Kingdown School who were on a work experience placement. Although one team had to be victorious in the end, everyone had had so much fun no-one minded if they had been in the winning or the losing team.

We have much to look forward to this term too, with a whole school trip to the Thoulstone Activity Centre, our school musical, and a visit from a professional basketball player.

Lindsey Hermon, Headteacher
(See artworks on the back cover by Pippa Gunter, Lola Osment and Ted Garrett)

HEYTESBURY HAPPENINGS

I am sure that many people will have heard the cuckoo calling... a sound of summer. Talking of which, it is pertinent to remind everyone that noise carries in the summer when windows are open and people are in their gardens. A very yappy dog that was visiting in Newtown over the early Bank Holiday weekend caused aggravation to neighbours who were trying to enjoy the good weather in peace and quiet. Please be mindful of others.

At the May Parish Council meeting, parking in the village was discussed. This has notably increased and is problematic. Everyone is reminded that the Highway Code (Rule 243) states that vehicles should not be parked at, or within 10 metres, of a junction, or cause visibility concerns. You should not stop or park near a school entrance; anywhere that might block access for the emergency services; where the kerb has been lowered or on a bend. Vehicles that park on the bend outside St John's Hospital, blocking sight of incoming traffic, are an example of this infringement.

Speeding through Heytesbury is another perennial problem. 'Metro Count' strips have been placed near the school yet again and we await the outcome of this survey.

Fifty-five residents objected to the Planning Application for houses on the land south of Park Street; with one person in favour. The decision on this application should be available on the Wiltshire Council website by the time that you read this magazine.

This month thanks go to Martin of 'Neat & Tidy' who has cut back the footpaths. That must have been a horrid task as the nettles were tall, and heavy rain had soaked all the undergrowth. Also, we thank the team of volunteers who keep the churchyard looking so tidy, and to all the enthusiastic cleaners who took part in the Annual Church Spring Clean on 6th June. Feather dusters and mops were flourished in a cheerful atmosphere and the shelves of used books, CDs and DVDs for sale, were tidied. Do come and browse.

In Knook, a weekend of Cream Teas, with a small Art and Jewellery Exhibition, on the afternoons of 27th and 28th June sounds attractive. The proceeds will be in aid of the repair of the roof of Knook church.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.00pm in the St John's Residents' Hall on Tuesday 30th June.

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VILLAGE NEWS

SHERRINGTON

How wonderful to live in England and to smell the scent of the thirsty land after rain. Wonderful too to have the benison of trees and to walk from the blazing sun into soft green light. More favourite trees are of course copper beech that have now darkened from smoky pink to mahogany and limes too. I think of the spectacular row of lime trees at Broadlease and there is a handsome one that overhangs the gate end of Parsons Path, soon to flower. Disquieting to see some beech trees, and the one by the churchyard gate is one, loaded with early beech mast in June! Yet another sign of nature under stress. Hard to find mention of World Environment Day in the Media! In spite of wild fires, flooding, and loss of species it seems to be of no concern.

It is the month of the Rose and some beauties in the area, from the Rambling Rector (I think) that covers a tree at the Old Rectory in Boyton, stunning ones at the Farmhouse in Sherrington, deepest red at No. 1 and tucked away at No. 13 (you may to look hard for that one) and pause to look at the yellow climber at No. 23!

The churchyard now sways with grasses, such a variety and beneath them some orchids are showing, ox eye daisies too. A newcomer is the (oddly named) Vipers Bugloss, a tall plant with vibrant blue flowers that grows on the Plain. The path above the village has blue cranes bill, a relative of the garden geranium, cushions of yellow trefoil and two or three clumps of pink sainfoin. That is another plant that grows on the Plain and when I used to go to Tilshead certain areas were a mass of pink flowers along with creamy foam of drop wort, a downland cousin of meadow sweet.

The swans did not nest in the village this year but camped on the bank at Sheepfold. That is why they tolerated the Canada Geese who hatched 4 goslings.

Little or no food for them on the cress bed so the family did not stay.

Few swallows over the village. I looked up one evening and saw about a dozen darting across but in a moment, they were gone. However, Tiggy Thornton has the wonderful swifts again and a good number too. Someone visiting the cathedral in the evening for a concert (must have been magic) reported a number of swifts in The Close, wonderful. Joyous song of the little blackcap in the trees at the Manor and skylarks in the field above the village, and we have enjoyed the sound of the cuckoo, heard much more this year. Few moths in the evening; not a single one appears when the light goes on for Tyto to go out. Not seen for several years now is the cockchafer, a massive beetle like a flying tank that would zoom past ears and was often to be seen in the house on its back, legs waving ready to be scooped up and put outside. I believe there are 3,700 species of beetle in the British Isles and 250,000 worldwide, but we seem to have lost the cockchafer in this area at least.

Betty Lewis

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UPTON LOVELL RAMBLINGS

I am sure you have noticed the proliferation of colourful, laminated flyers that have appeared on village notice boards, lamp posts and on the local footpaths advertising upcoming village fêtes. The work that goes into the organising the event, designing, laminating and then distributing these flyers, not to mention remembering where they are in order to remove them after the event, is huge. If you have the time and the energy you could attend one a week for at least 6 weeks without travelling out of the Wylve valley.

The history of the village fête dates back to medieval times with origins in the trading fairs where people gathered to celebrate a successful harvest or to buy and sell livestock. By Victorian times they had evolved into more recreational gatherings with a focus on enjoyment and community and then during the 20's and 30's they became more like those we enjoy today: sales of work and cakes, with stalls and games raising money for local causes. Their popularity declined from the late 50's due to social change but has become popular in recent years often tied to a national event such as a jubilee, but it continues the historical ethos of community identity, highlighting local skills and produce and raising money for local charities.

I remember as a child going to annual school or Church fêtes where my Grannies and Mum used to take homemade jams and cakes and unwanted bottles of things for sale. These bottles, often Bols advocaat, a virulent yellow alcohol drink popular in the 60's, or a rather nasty smelling hand cream or bath salts seemed to be recycled annually as people bought them to show support and brought them back next year!

The fêtes being promoted at the moment are more ambitious and include dog shows - most handsome dog, dog most like its owner, best child handler etc. Judges beware, the offence caused by not choosing Fido or Sebastian can be lasting. There are also Tug of War, cream teas, ice-creams, bric-a-brac, books, coconut shies, whack the rat, terrier races, brass bands and flower and plant stalls plus the local pub running a beer tent. So, sort out your unwanted tat, bake a cake, put your hands in your pockets and go out for a truly nostalgic and jolly afternoon. Upton Lovell's fête is 4th July and includes all the above plus crockery smashing!

Amanda Cheesley

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WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY JULY/AUGUST 2026

JULY 5 Trinity 5	Norton Bavant Codford St Peter Heytesbury Upton Lovell	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion + hymns Parish Communion Sunday Worship Evensong (BCP)	choir
July 12 Trinity 6	Tytherington Sutton Veny Codford St Peter Heytesbury Codford St Mary	8.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion /Gift Day Sunday Worship /Gift Day Sunday Worship /Gift Day Parish communion /Gift Day Evensong (BCP) /Gift Day	choir
July 19 Trinity 7	Boyton Upton Lovell Sutton Veny	9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)	choir
July 26 Trinity 8	Sutton Veny Codford St Mary Knook Heytesbury	8.30am 9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion Parish Communion Patronal Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)	choir

UWVT WEEKDAY SERVICES

	Wednesday	Sutton Veny	8.30 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
2 AUGUST 9th Sunday after Trinity	Norton Bavant Sutton Veny St Leonard's Old Church		10.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)
9 August Lammas celebration	Codford St Mary Knook		10.00am 6.00pm	Lammas Communion Evensong (BCP)
16 August 11th Sunday after Trinity	Upton Lovell Tytherington		10.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)
23 August 12th Sunday after Trinity	Boyton Heytesbury		10.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)
30 August 13th Sunday after Trinity	Codford St Peter Sherrington		10.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)

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MASS: Saturday Vigil 7.00 p.m.

Sunday 9.00 a.m.

**Reconciliation: Immediately prior to
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**Weekday Masses: check Bulletin on
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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
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CONTACTS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Boyton & Corton Robin Grist 850596
Codford St Mary David Shaw 850372
07899 906371

Codford St Peter Alasdair McGregor 07803246480
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Norton Bavant John Acworth 840134
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Sutton Veny Chair: Alan Russell 840 883

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