PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

NOVEMBER 2026

APPEAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As Christmas and the spirit of goodwill approach, it will not surprise readers who know that while many people's finances are difficult, the Parish News is no exception. Some of our advertisers have dropped out and they are, of course, our principal source of income - supplemented by the occasional voluntary, and much appreciated, donation from readers and events.

We are a non-profit making magazine, delivered free to 1400 homes in the Upper Wylye Valley by volunteers. As we end the calendar year, we forecast a financial 'break even' as we enter 2027, which is not viable operationally, so as well as seeking new advertisers, I am also appealing to readers to increase voluntary donations to help us keep afloat. We need to raise about £1500 to give us a firm base from which to carry on.

All donations will be gratefully received; cheques are difficult these days - not impossible – but much simpler ways are set out below;

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Your support has always been valuable and appreciated; we now ask those who value and appreciate the Parish News as a community asset, to help. The volunteer Committee joins me in thanking you in advance for your generosity this Christmas.

David Shaw, Chairman, 1 November 2026

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EDITORIAL

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Upper Wylye Parish News, without you the news would not exist.

I now have two favours to ask. Can we try and keep to the 400-word limit. Obviously with the wealth of information, we receive that will not always be the case. In the event articles are too long, I may place them in two separate editions.

The second favour: deadline date is the 10th of the month prior to publication. I appreciate that contributors have busy lives, but if we want to get the publication out to distributors before the end of the month, we must stick to this date.

Finally, you will have seen our appeal, if you run a business or know someone who runs a business, please encourage them to advertise with us.

Apologies to Hadrian Howard who wrote the fitness article in last month's Parish News. We left out the zero from his phone number, which should have read *07401 690610*

PARISH NEWS

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ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL

The Parish News, which is not for profit, relies on and is very grateful to all advertisers without whom the magazine could not be produced. Prospective advertisers should contact Andrew Barton (see details below). However the Parish News does not endorse any of the products or services advertised and takes no responsibility for any disappointment, accident or injury, howsoever caused, resulting from purchase or involvement. We welcome contributions on any subject but reserve the right to edit to fit. Opinions expressed in material from contributors are for readers to appreciate and are not necessarily endorsed by the editorial team.

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UPPER WYLYE VALLEY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS

The new season of Men's Fellowship Breakfasts got off to a cracking start with Richard Williamson, a strategic change maker-for land-based businesses, delivering a talk about the current state of farming in this country that was thought-provoking but also somewhat alarming and depressing. He has promised to return and deliver a more up-beat presentation if/when the situation improves!

Cornerstone, our local community support organisation, was the nominated charity and the 45 attendees donated an impressive £150 to it.

The second breakfast will take place on Monday 2nd November and the speaker with be Katherine Bowhay, a Community Fundraiser for Dorothy House Hospice. Dorothy House looks after anyone aged 18+ with a progressive, treatable but not curable life-limiting illness or with severe frailty. This year marks its 50th Anniversary. Katherine is one of 3 community Fundraisers who work across the almost 800sq mile area that Dorothy House covers and her patch includes Warminster and stretches right across to Shepton Mallet and up to Keynsham. Her role is to support and promote fundraising events, build relationships with supporters and also to meet community groups to raise awareness of the work of Dorothy House.

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.

Best wishes

Richard Jackman

CODFORD TENNIS ANNUAL CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT!

is on Friday 20th November in Codford Village Hall

Last year we ran out of tickets for this now regular and very popular Village event.

It has been wonderful how the Community has supported the Curry and Quiz Night for several years now and always wants to know when the next one is!

It is our main fundraiser to maintain and preserve your lovely courts for future generations. Although managed by Codford Tennis (with a small and ageing membership), the courts are on Parish Council property and as such are free for any resident of this village to play tennis. Or join the Club for half price: if you live somewhere else you do need to be a member to use them.

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

Invite your teams to gather at 6.30 to organise yourselves and some drinks (bar is open!). Quiz starts at 7pm and supper at 8.
Tickets: £12.50 will shortly be available from Codford Post Office, Codford Tearooms and Broadleaze Bar (for cash purchases).

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

Look forward to seeing you there
Vincie

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MINISTRY LETTER

November is a month for remembering. It begins with All Souls' Day on the 2nd, when we remember the faithful departed, on 11th with Armistice Day, remembering when the guns of the First World War fell silent and then Remembrance Sunday on the nearest Sunday to the 11th (this year the 8th) which is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

Many would say that our freedoms and way of life are under threat now and the question left hanging is whether our generation are prepared to defend them again. Taking action requires first taking notice and then recognising that it may not be someone else's job to do something about what is wrong. With the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus reminds us of who the neighbour is that we are instructed to love as ourselves. A charitable reason for the priest and the Levite passing by on the other side is that their compassion was constrained by their duty to their role. The Samaritan, someone of a different nationality, race and religion, saw the human need and acted selflessly without hesitation to do the right thing and not just what was expected.

The servicemen we remember are often credited with defending high ideals when in practice most would attribute their bravery to defending their own life and those of their brothers and sisters in arms. John 15 v13 - 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' recognises this. For service people there is an implied assurance that the 'higher ups', who are sending them in harm's way, have a moral compass, sound judgement and have correctly weighed operational and tactical risks against strategic benefit. Those 'higher ups' need our prayers just as much as those who are sent to do their bidding.

All who have served know that ultimately, they face the potential requirement to give their lives for others. That is a huge ask. There will be times when our service personnel are called to respond to this challenge. What a wonderful role model we all have in Jesus who chose not to fight with a sword but with compassion and sacrifice. As we are reminded in Mark's Gospel 'he did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Richard Jackman

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Paul's letter to the Christians in Philippi, Chapter 2)

Robin Hungerford.

2027 WYLYE VALLEY CALENDAR

The 2027 Wylye Valley Calendar is now available! This is the 16th edition of the calendar and as in all previous years, proceeds from sales will be donated to the international children's charity Hope and Homes for Children (reg. charity no. 1089490) based in Wilton.

Calendars are priced at £12 and copies are available from Budgens at Codford, Heytesbury Stores, The Artist's Barn at the Ginger Piggery, or from Coates & Parker. You can also order online at www.chrislockphotography.co.uk or from the online shop at www.hopeandhomes.org

During the long hot summer spent designing the calendars in my office, I looked fondly at images of frozen flood water at Tytherington, the river on a winter morning at Norton Bavant, and frosty fields at Sutton Veny, all included in the calendar. There are some lovely summer images too!

Last year, combined sales of the 2026 Wylye and Nadder Valley Calendars raised £6,268, with all of this money going to support the charity's overseas programmes in Eastern Europe, Southern and East Africa and South Asia. Hope and Homes for Children remains committed to the belief that every child deserves the love and belonging of a safe family home, never the abuse and neglect suffered in orphanages. By working with families, communities, local authorities and governments, the charity has helped move thousands of children out of orphanages and back to family.

For 2027, my little family of calendars celebrates a new addition, the Chalke Valley Calendar, so I'm hoping to exceed last year's fundraising total.

Chris Lock

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TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR 'EARLY' AUTUMN

Apparently, it is appraisal time!
The Guvnor sprung this on me today and it looked like a School Report; then he read it out:
English: VG vocabulary, sentence construction and imagination; writes well.
Maths: a hopeless case. Time keeping awful except for 8:30 am (breakfast) and 5:00 pm (tea) which he knows by heart.
Geography: knows every square inch of the Wylye Valley from occasionally roaming out of control.
History: utterly useless. Forgets every instruction in moments but remembers visitors who wear a yellow, or orange, fluorescent jacket.
Foreign languages: speaks fluent 'dog' and gets by in 'cat'. Otherwise, ignorant of any instructions in English.
Domestic science: uninterested, other than in recipes for biscuits and tips for the use of leftovers.
Hobbies: like many delinquents, VG at forbidden hobbies such as chasing rabbits / hares, putting up game birds and barking at pigeons and muntjacs in the garden. Has never actually attacked anyone but has a scary, off-putting, snarly bark of welcome which really means 'now push off'.
Sports: swimming – reluctant but allows his feet to get wet during a hot summer; shies away from baths.
Team sports: completely hopeless; might be useful in an all-girls team or helping with puppy classes but anything Alpha Male is a no-no.
Manners: has very few good ones.
Sense of humour: sometimes a bit mocking but occasionally comes out with a bon mot; for example, when one of the Guvnor's friends arrived in his new car, T went out, inspected it, and wee'ed on all four wheels; said friend was put out, to say the least. The Guvnor apologised but T simply said, 'My tree is out of order'.
Head Teacher's Summary: T is feisty, fierce occasionally, fearless all the time and full of character when he is asleep. In repose he can look angelic. His Guvnor says of him, 'he is, of course, a bloody little dog some of the time - but we love him and wouldn't change his character one jot. He is, after all, a JRT!'

Turbo commented, 'It's a dog's life but I can live with that final comment!'

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WINTER FISHING

It is possible for fly fishermen in the UK to fish all year round, depending on local restrictions. In our southern chalkstreams, anglers can fish for game fish between the beginning of April and mid-October and grayling from mid-June to mid-March. Laws exist to protect fish during spawning.

Close seasons stop anglers from catching or disturbing fish on the gravel beds they use as nurseries; spawning is hard, exhausting work for fish and handling by anglers could add stress when the fish are weak. It also protects newly laid eggs and tiny juvenile fish from being accidentally trampled on or disturbed and gives the rivers and underwater plants time to grow without human disruption.

Whilst chalkstream fishing is almost exclusively done using an imitation fly, there is an equally exciting, but very different way of fishing during the colder winter months, but for grayling instead of trout. Grayling have an underslung lower jaw evolved for feeding on the river bed, where they mostly search around for food in the gravels. So using a method that takes the bait to the bottom is required. 'Trotting' for grayling is a classic specialist river fishing method which employs a weighted float to run downstream at the exact speed of the flow, to target shoals of winter-hardy 'Ladies of the Stream'.

There are speciality rods such as the J W Young 13ft 'Trotter' which help keep the line under control. The float is set so that the bait brushes just a fraction over the riverbed. Periodically checking the float halts it for a split second, making the bait lift and bounce along. As it touches the bed it will jump up and down, or 'trot' along with the current. Because of this delicate method, it also requires a special type of reel named a centrepin that allows the reel to spin effortlessly under the pull of the river current.

I use a Lewtham 'Leeds' centrepin reel, which employs exceptionally smooth, free-running ball-bearings to give perfect control over line feed and allows the bait to flow at a completely natural pace. Master craftsmen like Chris Lythe make truly beautiful handcrafted, custom built trotting reels which are not only fabulous pieces of fine engineering but also do the job perfectly.

Fishermen can get quite potty about their collections of reels, some of which can cost thousands of pounds. There's a wonderful saying amongst anglers, which goes: 'When I die, please don't let my wife sell my fishing kit for the price I told her I paid for it'! *MT*

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THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN

The garden is settling down for winter; you can feel it in the air when the sun goes down, hopefully giving a lovely multi-coloured sunset. We are lucky to live near the top of a hill and we're south facing so we see the sunrise and more spectacularly, the sunset in all its glory.

Several things have got to happen this month and the first is Mike's gardening hat! It's an old Panama which when new was folded to take to Australia to visit family. But, oh dear! It's now very grubby and battered, and our older son thinks it should have gone in the bin years ago. But I do understand how Mike might feel about such an old, loved possession; however he has reluctantly agreed it should go, much to the relief of said son! He does have several more in much better condition as there is a very good supplier in Salisbury. One of those will have to be selected for gardening next year.

Other things to sort out are old and tired tools that need cleaning and sharpening and perhaps I should take a look at my gardening trousers!

We have sorted our pots and thrown away any beyond repair, broken terracotta pots are ready to use in the bottom of pots for new plantings next year. We serviced the lawn mower during the summer when it was not in use and it's now had several outings as the grass begins to grow again.

Garden compost will be arriving in a couple of weeks, so we have tidied and trimmed, where necessary, old leaves and debris leaving as much bare soil as possible to make mulching that much easier.

The ash tree at the bottom of the garden is shedding its leaves. I bag a lot of them as they make excellent mulch, but I also make heaps of some leaves in the hope that it will be of use to hibernating insects and mammals. The effect of deciduous trees showing us their bare bones and wonderful structures means we can enjoy the colours and shapes of our evergreens, a time to appreciate them a bit more.

The work never ceases in the garden, but now is a good time to feel the garden closing down. So we can take more time out in the lanes and fields enjoying what nature is showing us and then returning to a hot cuppa and a good book!

Ali Tebbs

DID YOU KNOW? SNAILS

Do you like snails? If you don't, what is it about them that you don't like? Is it the fact that they eat some of our garden plants, or do you just not like the look of them?

Snails are extraordinary creatures and have existed for over 500 million years. They belong to a class of animals called 'gastropods'. Baby snails hatch from eggs with a soft, tiny shell already formed on their bodies. Snails eat using a tongue-like structure called a radula. The mucus that a snail secretes helps it to glide smoothly and protects its soft body from predators and from drying out. Most land snails have two pairs of retractable tentacles. The upper pair carry the eyes and the lower pair act as scent organs. Land snails breathe using a primitive lung

It is sometimes said that a snail carries its home on its back. The snail shell is made of calcium carbonate and grows as the snail itself develops. The shell allows the snail to retract for protection. Slugs are also gastropods but have no large outer shell. This makes them able to move faster and be more mobile. Slugs can squeeze into tight crevices under rocks or logs, while snails are restricted by their shell size. Slugs are essentially snails that have evolved to lose their external shell.

Many garden snails live up to two or three years in the wild and up to fifteen years in captivity. Snails eat living plants and decaying organic matter. They require damp environments in order to keep them from drying out. That is why they are most active at night or after rainfall.

Snails appear in literature as symbols of slowness, timidity, protection and living at a gentle, mindful pace, instead of rushing through life. Shakespeare, in his poem 'Venus and Adonis', uses the snail to represent shyness and emotional withdrawal.

In France, eating terrestrial snails is commonplace. Known as 'escargot', there is a long-standing culinary tradition of cooking snails. Snails should never be eaten raw as they can carry a dangerous parasite. Snails are high in protein with very low fat. They are rich in minerals including iron, calcium and vitamin A.

Well, I hope you read this article swiftly….and not at snail's pace!

Jonathan Wansey

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Why does one read a book which would take up less time if you could watch it on tv? A further question might be: why read a novel with 416 pages. Are you able (as many of my family are) of cutting off all surrounding activity – however fascinating – and living in another world? I seldom have the will-power as I'm too involved in what's going on around me. But 'Once upon a River' by Diane Setterfield took over my free evenings, after the first few chapters. (And I need to re-read those, as I skipped over important information.)

It is a gripping story, with several close ties to real life. The River Thames has a personality of its own, do as all rivers in the changing seasons. On its banks, the Swan at Radcot (a country pub) 'was where you went for storytelling'. The story is set in the period when photography was in its infancy, and policing within the community not reassuring: there was no apparent enquiry to discover what happened to a beautiful 4 year-old girl (of rich parents) who was kidnapped. Another little girl comes back to life, having been considered dead as she had stopped breathing, and she closely resembles the kidnapped child... and she is not the only child who goes missing in the story. You need to concentrate!

One central character is Henry Daunt (based on the photographer Henry Taunt, of Oxford) who had a houseboat kitted out as a darkroom. Another impressive character is Rita, a midwife and nurse, presumably self-taught, who is surprisingly knowledgeable in medical technicalities such as pulse-rates and body-temperature, and is one of the local people who frequent the Swan at Radcot.

There is a splendid array of characters: some Very Good and some Very Bad, and the relationship between them is completely unexpected. Abject poverty is a fact of existence for some characters. One thread in this skein of a story is a black man who has a white-skinned granddaughter, and the reader has to wait a long time to discover the reason. Is this story a Whodunnit? or is it just an exploration of existence on the banks of the river in an completely believable period of the 19th century? The sounds and smells of the rain-soaked riverbanks are atmospheric; a pig with a personality is also kidnapped; fear and violence are a fact of life. And almost to the end, one is left wondering about the identity of Alice, or Amelia or indeed of Ann, the missing child.

KV

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Blue tongue has been widely reported for some time throughout the press, with warnings of how it is spreading across the country being especially bad in Devon and Cornwall.

What is Blue Tongue? It is a non-contagious born viral disease carried by midges. It does not affect humans, and it is safe to eat meat and any other product. It only effects ruminants (cows, sheep, goats, deer, camels, alpacas, and llamas). It is a notifiable disease so needs reporting to DEFRA and APHA (Animal and plant health agency).

Sheep show more severe symptoms. Fever, swelling to the face, lips, tongue and neck, aural and nasal ulcers. Excessive salivating and foaming of the mouth and lameness, all of which contributes to a high fatality rate.

Cows are A symptomatic so show no symptoms or very mild. We look for a high temperature (over 40), being lethargic, swelling in limbs, frothing at the mouth, drop in milk (cases of up to 15% have been reported) and low fertility. Cows act as a virus reservoir which means a non-infected midge can bite an infected cow and then transfer the disease.

It is possible to medicate by injecting an anti-inflammatory and administer a broad-spectrum antibiotic because the animals are vulnerable to other infections.

We can vaccinate, although there are multiple strains of the disease so we cannot know exactly which to vaccinate against and each shot costs £4 and must be done twice (hence an extremely high vets bill of recent).

Last year was a smaller outbreak but this year was greater and across the country due to the hot summer. For there to be any let up we must wait for the midges to die which means it needs to be below 0 degrees for an extended period.

With our seasons being noticeably warmer this is potentially a continuing concern and the odds of a long enough cold period being present and helping ease the situation is looking less likely which means we will have to continue with the vaccination programme and regular observations of the cows down on the farm.

Kit Pottow

"Villagers in Sutton Veny gathered together on a sunny Saturday morning in September to clear a footpath connecting one side of the village to the other. Many hands made light work and the community spirit got the job done in a couple of hours, watched over by two neighbouring horses. Now pushchairs and wheelchair users can use the path again, keeping us all connected."

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Codford Community key events November 2026

1st Codford community park run at- Codford village hall grounds 10.00am
1st Live music
3 piece band performing classic rock and pop at Codford tea rooms 1.30pm
2nd Men's fellowship breakfast at the George Inn, Longbridge Deverill 8.15am
4th Film night 'Savage house' at the Woolstore theatre 7.30pm
6th Fishy Friday menu
at Codford tea rooms 5.30pm
7th Free drama workshop at the Woolstore theatre 10.30am
7th Codford Fireworks display at Stockton Park, Codford from 5pm
10th Codford local history society talk at Codford village hall 7.30pm
13th All you can eat menu at Codford tea rooms 5.30pm
14th Winter warmers. Soup, roll, cuppa and biscuit. It's free.
Codford village hall 12 noon
15th- Monthly drinks
at the Woolstore theatre 12.00 noon
15th Monthly arts and crafts market at Ginger piggery, Boyton 10am
18th Codford & District gardening club talk at Codford village hall – 7.30pm
19th NSPCC Christmas fair at Codford village hall 10am – 2pm
20th Step back in time menu at Codford tea rooms 5.30pm
21st Free drama workshop at the Woolstore theatre 10.30am
27th Burger night menu
at Codford tea rooms 5.30pm
28th Codford Artisan Christmas market at Codford village hall 10am
28th Corton big breakfast
at The Fane hall, Corton 9am - 12 noon.

CODFORD FIREWORKS NIGHT RETURNS!

Get ready for another fantastic evening as **Codford Fireworks night returns on Saturday 7th November for its fourth year.**

The event has become a highlight of the village calendar, bringing together families, friends and neighbours for a great evening of community fun. Gates open at 5pm, with fairground rides, food and drink stalls, and the spectacular fireworks display lighting up the sky at 7pm.

More than just a great night out, the event raises valuable funds for projects across Codford and the wider community. Previous events have supported Wylye Valley Riding for the Disabled's summer camp, Codford Village Hall, local schools, The Woolstore Theatre, and helped create the new Codford Book Stop, providing free books for readers of all ages.

Tickets: £10 adults, £5 under 16s
Available from Budgens Post Office or on the gate. Free parking
Come along, wrap up warm, and enjoy one of Codford's favourite community events while supporting great local causes. We look forward to seeing you there

CODFORD COMMUNITY PARK RUN

From first-time runners to seasoned regulars, Codford Community Park Run is bringing neighbours of every generation together, and recently, even more of our younger residents have been joining the fun!

Now in its second year, the monthly run welcomes all ages and abilities, from pensioners to children who have only just started school. There is no pressure to be the fastest, the focus is on getting active, having fun and encouraging one another along the way. At our latest event, a fantastic group of younger runners completed the course and each proudly received a medal.

We meet at the Codford Village Hall grounds at 10am on the first Sunday of every month. Whether you want to run, jog, walk or simply cheer everyone on, you will find a warm welcome and a friendly, supportive community waiting for you.
Fancy giving it a go? Contact Kevin Dorrington on 07780 578717 to be added to the WhatsApp group and keep up to date with upcoming events. Pull on your trainers and come and join us, all ages and abilities are welcome!

WARM UP WITH CODFORD WINTER WARMERS!

As the colder days draw in, Codford Winter Warmers is back to bring good food, friendly faces and a little extra warmth to our community.

Held once a month throughout the winter, this free local event is open to everyone. Come along and enjoy a choice of delicious soup, a bread roll, a cup of tea and a biscuit in the welcoming surroundings of Codford Village Hall. It is the perfect chance to enjoy a warming lunch, catch up with neighbours or meet someone new.

The first Winter Warmers takes place on 10 October from 12 noon. There is no charge, although optional contributions are always welcome, with every penny donated going to a nominated charity.

So, wrap up warm, bring a friend and join us for a bowl of soup and a generous helping of community spirit. Everyone is welcome!

...BULBS, BLOOMS AND A VERY IMPORTANT WINE RESCUE!

Christmas is blooming early in Codford. Come along to the NSPCC Christmas Fair at Codford Village Hall on 19 November, from 10am to 2pm, where local gardening enthusiast 'J' Claypoole will be selling her beautiful bowls of bulbs.

J's garage is currently home to more than 80 bowls of bulbs, which are taking up valuable space reserved for her husband's life-saving wine supply, so this is officially a horticultural emergency!

These bowls make a wonderful festive treat for your home or a thoughtful Christmas gift. Last year, one delighted customer reported that her white hyacinths opened on Christmas Day itself. What could be more magical than fresh flowers blooming just in time for Christmas?

So please support the NSPCC, brighten your home and help reclaim J's garage: come along and buy a bowl or two before the wine runs out of room.

CODFORD VILLAGE HACTIVITIES
codfordvillagehall.org.uk
Tue: Pilates & short mat bowls.
Wed: Pilates, Choir, Sing & smile, 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. A new quiz has also been added, which can be found on the home page.

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

NEWS FROM HEYTESBURY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

We had a fantastic time in September with the pop-up swimming pool in the playground for 3 weeks. During this time the children all had a daily swimming lesson, and made the most amazing progress from their starting points. Even children who started off being fearful of getting in the water were confidently swimming by the end. We invited all our parents to a swimming showcase on the final day we had the pool, and they were all impressed by what their children were now able to do and the evident enjoyment they had had of the experience.

Heytesbury School is part of a group of schools that work together called a multi-academy trust, and our trust (Acorn Education Trust) has launched an initiative this year called the Acorn Advantage. This is about offering a wider variety of enriching activities to all children to broaden their experiences and enable their personal growth. For a small village school like ours, this is bringing some wonderful opportunities. Our Y5 and Y6 children have already been able to take part in the annual Kingdown School Sponsored Walk, where they joined the older children for a challenging 4 mile hike. Whilst our older children were doing this, the rest of the school went on a walk around the village, so we didn't miss out on the fun! Through these walks, we raised money to support the Acorn Advantage, so that it can fund more activities and experiences. Through this scheme our Y5 and Y6 children have also been taking part in netball and football festivals, during which they get to try out for the Acorn team – a fantastic fun and competitive opportunity for our pupils.

Last week we celebrated our Harvest Festival in Church, with a lovely service led by Rev. Tim Ling. We sang seasonal songs and hymns, shared poems and were able to show our gratitude through the giving of gifts of food which we donated to Warminster Food Bank. Our Worship theme this term has been Generosity, and this was an opportunity for us to show this in action.

We have also held our first Open Morning of the year, when we invite anyone who would like to visit the school as they are considering it as a potential setting for their child to come and have a look around. A number of families took us up on the opportunity, and we had a lovely morning making autumn wreaths and playing with some of our many resources both inside and outside. If you know of anyone who is looking for a school for their child to start in Reception in September 2027, or as a different option for an older child, please encourage them to get in touch with us and book a personal tour around the school. We are very proud of who we are and what we do, and we love to share this with others.

Lindsey Hermon, Headteacher

HEYTESBURY HAPPENINGS

This October has certainly been the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' (John Keats, Ode to Autumn) and apples have been in abundance. Now that winter and darker evenings approach, the Parish Councillors have been checking the street-lights in Heytesbury, especially in Park Street where several suspicious loiterers have been reported. Wiltshire Police are aware and have been giving advice to residents.

At the last council meeting, the state of The Angel Inn and its environs were discussed. All agreed that the site was an eyesore on entering the village and letters, requesting a tidy up and information on progress, have been sent to the owner by the Parish Council and Dr Murrison, MP.

The planning application for houses south of Park Street has still not had a decision. It is hoped that we shall hear further by the end of October. Meanwhile the number of road traffic accidents on the A36, and the implications to our village and the rural lanes, was also discussed. Sadly, it is unlikely that money will be spent on improvements in the near future, and we can only hope that drivers learn to be more careful at this accident black spot… most accidents there have been due to appallingly bad driving. Be careful.

The AGM of the Raymond Trust was held in September and a grant of £2,000 to the AED Guardians, for essential maintenance of the four defibrillators in our villages, was approved. The Guardians hold various fund-raising events throughout the year, and this grant will help insure the continuation of this life-saving equipment. If you are unsure of how to operate a defibrillator, then do go to their next training session.

The weekly Summer Produce Sales in the church have now ended but have been a great success once again. Over £3000 was raised this year which will go towards the cost of heating our large church once the new heaters are installed. The Sales were also a wonderful meeting place every Saturday with many people chatting with friends, or newcomers, over a cuppa.

Our grateful thanks go to Ali Tebbs and all her helpers who baked, grew fresh produce, manned the various stalls, gave raffle prizes and helped to create a vibrant atmosphere.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 27th October at 7.00pm in the St John's Residents Hall. *SB*

Good wishes for Christmas
and 2027.
Greetings to all my friends
Enjoy the time with your family
and friends.
As usual I am not sending cards
but will make a donation
to the Village Hall
Stay healthy! Ann Levick

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SHERRINGTON

John Milton wrote two rather lengthy poems: Il Penseroso and L'Allegro, two different mindsets. I think I must be a penseroso person as I do love the Autumn. It is not the death of the year but renewal and regeneration, or it was in the good old days. I love longer walks, leaves underfoot, bookshops and excuse to read on darker afternoons, casseroles and of course the colour.

THE KESTREL'S TAIL, PART III

The afternoons now darkened and shortened to the extent that Charlie's exercise was confined to the weekends. We were now able to fly him to the lure. I was pretty inept at this, but Nigel's skill meant that we could have great fun. We could get three or four flights before the edge went off Charlie's appetite and he lost interest in the lure. We lost him once at this time, making the mistake of trying one more flight, Charlie's appetite was dulled and he declined the lure. He remained in the ash tree and then was gone. We went to the 'flying ground' at dawn the following morning. No sign of the errant falcon initially but across the lane was a ploughed field and there was Charlie with a female Kestrel. This delighted us as it augured well for the next stage when we would slowly hack him to his wild life.

Winter passed and spring came and with it longer daylight hours. We enjoyed extra flying time but were now thinking of the hacking back process. During this time Charlie was beginning to grow his own handsome tail. One by one and in strict sequence his new feathers grew down the shaft and ejected the substituted ones. Eventually he was once again resplendent with the distinctive slate-blue tail of a male Kestrel.

Spring gave way to summer and now we felt we could begin the hacking back programme. A Kestrel nestbox had been placed by Nigel in one of a group of beech trees bordering the lane that ran alongside the paddock where Charlie began his training. We went to the paddock one sunny afternoon and released the little bird. After half an hour we returned. Charlie flew to my glove and we brought him home. The length of freedom increased over the weeks. A feeding point was selected in the fence line and finally the leg anklets were removed, Charlie was now unencumbered with falconry equipment and he knew where to report for rations. The wing injury that had initially brought him into captivity had impaired his ability to hover in the characteristic Kestrel manner so a back-up food supply was essential for him.

Winter passed, a mild one, and with the spring came a small miracle. Watching through binoculars we noted the appearance of another Kestrel, a female. It was beyond belief, but Charlie had attracted a mate and they had settled in the nest box across the paddock. Now began the exciting time. There were eggs then young. With a huge family to feed Charlie became impatient and reported to our garden for rations. We put up a feeding point in our garden and food was placed there. Charlie's mate must have been hugely impressed that he had a tame human being who produced food on demand. Nigel, a licensed ringer was able to ring the young, a great delight.

The next spring was a repeat, but the following year Charlie moved to another site. We had a vague idea of the new location. Before the advent of mobile phones, I had to hare off to the new area. Nigel gave Charlie his rations and from my vantage point at the edge of the copse I saw our little Kestrel come over the trees, food in talons. We had this amazing experience and pleasure for the next five years then quite simply he ceased to appear and we knew it was all over. We never knew how old he was, but this wonderful little falcon had given us such pleasure and we like to think we enhanced his life too.

Betty Lewis

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UPTON LOVELL

November is my least favourite month, the clocks have gone back, the weather seems dreary, the light is grey, the ground is covered with wet leaves. When I was a child I loved it but I only remember cold crispy days, lovely smells of nutty earth kicking deep droves of dried leaves on walks which made a fabulous noise, toasting bread and chestnuts on an open fire in the sitting room.

Now the hound walks are shorter due to his dislike for being wet, cold or in any way uncomfortable and as he absolutely refuses to wear any form of doggie apparel due to the possible humiliation of a loss of 'street cred'.

This does mean I can be seen dragging a stubborn 40kg Ginger Ninja round the local fields. He also manages to do 'I am a badly treated miserable dog' extremely well. On a plus note there is less animal dung left for him to slurp; why are some dogs so disgusting?

When you read this, you will have had the joy, or otherwise, of the Halloween visits from small people dressed in a variety of garments some of which seem completely irrelevant to the occasion. Screams of trick or treat and hysterical laughter followed by complete bewilderment when asked for a trick!

The next joy is of course Guy Fawkes, bonfire night; I wonder how many people know where these two events stem from? My Ma and Pa loved games and when we were children gave fabulous parties for us with homemade toffee apples which, at one time or another we all lost teeth in. Apple bobbing in an old tin bath – almost impossible, we were all soaked and for some reason sticky current buns hung with string from the ceiling so we had to limbo dance under them and try to eat the wildly swinging buns. The other fabulous game was murder in the dark with gruesome body parts scattered around the pitch-black room to be found during the search - peeled grapes – eyeballs; sopping wet sponge – brain; wet stockings – innards etc. Huge fun.

We of course are reminded in every shop from October that Christmas is nearly here. Check the sell-by date, there is nothing worse than giving or receiving a gift saying use by 23 Dec!

Amanda Cheesley

! When contacting advertisers please tell them that you read about them in the Parish News !

WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY NOVEMBER 2026

NOVEMBER 1	Norton Bavant	9.30am	Patronal Festival	choir
All Saints			Parish communion	
	Codford St Peter	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Upton Lovell	3.00pm	All Souls' Service	
	SV Village Hall	4.00pm	All Age Worship	
November 8	Tytherington	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Remembrance	Codford St Peter	10.45am	Remembrance service	
Sunday	Sutton Veny	10.45am	Remembrance service	
	Heytesbury	10.45am	Remembrance service	
November 15	Boyton	9.30am	BCP Communion + hymns	choir
2nd Sunday	Upton Lovell	11.00am	Parish Communion	
before Advent	Sutton Veny	11.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Codford St Peter	6.00pm	Informal Worship	
November 22	Sutton Veny	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Christ the King	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Sunday	
	Knook	11.00am	Parish Communion	choir
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	
November 29	Codford St Mary	10.00am	Team Parish Communion	
Advent Sunday	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Advent Service of Light	choir

UWVT WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday	Sutton Veny	8.30 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

Congratulations to

Emily Beagley and Christoph Duncan
on 19 September
at St Mary's Church, Codford.
May they have many happy years of married life together

Funerals and Memorial services

Our sympathy and love to those who mourn the passing of

Michael Vernon-Powell
on 14 August at Upton Lovell
Anne Bennett-Shaw
on 17 August at Heytesbury
Rex Harrison
on 2 September at Upton Lovell
Shirley Levy
on 3 September at Upton Lovell
Michael Rideout
on 5 September at St Peter's, Codford
Jean Davis
on September
at Salisbury Crematorium
May they rest in the peace and light of Christ

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01985 212329
PARISH PRIEST
Father Anthony Paris 01722 562703 or
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

HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN, HEYTESBURY
CHAPEL SERVICES
Wednesdays Morning Prayer at 10.00
3rd Sunday of the month
Holy Communionat 10.30

General Manager Paul Budd
01985 840441

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
upperwylyevalleyteam@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

LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Codford	Henry Collins	850193
Sutton Veny	Richard Jackman	840899

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
TeamPSO.uwvt@gmail.com

BELL RINGERS	Nick Claypoole	850724
PARISH CHOIR	Katherine Venning	840283

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Please telephone 840283 for any change

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Dr Andrew Murrison MP 01225 358584
CORNERSTONE 01985 220657
cornerstone-warminster.org
NATIONAL DEBT LINE 0800 8084000
AGE UK 0300 3031234
SIMPLE ENERGY ADVICE LINE 0800 444202
CRIME STOPPERS 0808 1689111
MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE 0800 953 0110
ENERGY SAVING TRUST
energysavingtrust.org.uk
WILTSHIRE COUNCIL 0300 456 0100
customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk for help with council tax, financial support, welfare provision, free school meals and childcare, help in a crisis.
WILTSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLORS
Andrew Davis 217431
Christopher Newbury 01373 822508
Bill Parks 07484 826540
POLICE: Warminster Neighbourhood Team
Warminster Police Station 01722 547175
PC 2342 Helen Daveridge
PCSO 70901 Lukasz Kolasinski 07471029004
lukasz.kolasinski@wiltshire.police.uk
Warminster Rural Beat
Community Police (non-emergency) 101
PARISH COUNCILS
Boyton/Corton
Chair: Jill Adams 850822
chair@boyton-corton-pc.gov.uk
Clerk: Kirstie Hoddinott 640277
clerk@boyton-corton-pc.gov.uk
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: Jenny Shingleton 07955 246874
Clerk:Stephen Oxlade 07801 090335
Upton Lovell Chair: Steve Boxall 851171
Clerk: Nicola Duke 01373 864127
clerk@uptonlovell.org.uk
HEYTESBURY, HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN
Administrator 840441
office@stjohns1472.co.uk
DOCTORS' SURGERY CODFORD 850298
CODFORD POST OFFICE (Budgens) 850345
HEYTESBURY POST OFFICE 840914
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Codford Mike Davidson 850549
Heytesbury Peter Andrews 840517
Norton Bavant John Acworth 840134
Sutton Veny Peter Strangeways 840403
PRE-SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE GROUPS
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Kim West 851030
Heytesbury Hedgehogs
Annette Pulvertaft 802416
Wylye Coyotes Afterschool Club 851713
info@wylyecoyotes.com or 07805 515863
PRIMARY SCHOOLS
Codford, Wylye Valley
Head: Robert Barnes 850461
Heytesbury
Head: Mrs Lindsey Hermon 840429
Sutton Veny
Head : Adam Lewis 840428
www.suttonveny.wilts.sch.uk
VILLAGE HALLS
Codford Secretary: Nicky Cornock 850803
nicky.cornock.cvh@codfordvillage.org.uk
Bookings: Janine Clarke
bookings.cvh@codfordvillage.org.uk
Corton Fane Hall
Bookings: Niki Gerring 07816 874503
Sutton Veny Chair: Alan Russell 07802436850
Newsletter: svvhnewsletter@gmail.com
Bookings: Gay Woods 840057
svvhbookings808@gmail.com
Upton Lovell Bookings: Ros Coombs 851277
CODFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB
J Claypoole 850724
CODFORD LADIES CIRCLE
Jenny Hunt 850280
Area code 01985 unless otherwise stated.
CODFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sir William Mahon 850586
Gilly Walker 851723
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Heytesbury www.heytesburyparish.co.uk
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Sutton Veny www.suttonveny.co.uk
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WHERE IN WILTSHIRE?

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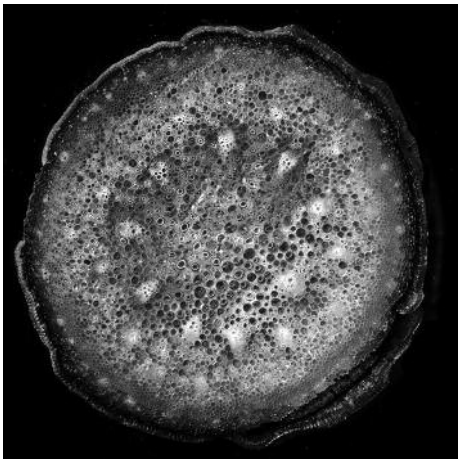

This intriguiging photograph above was sent to the Parish News by Roger Hammond.

Do you know the answers?

Please email your answers to the Editor - robinwculver@mac.com

The correct answers will be printed in next month's magazine possibly with another brain teaser.