

PARISH NEWS

OF THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY

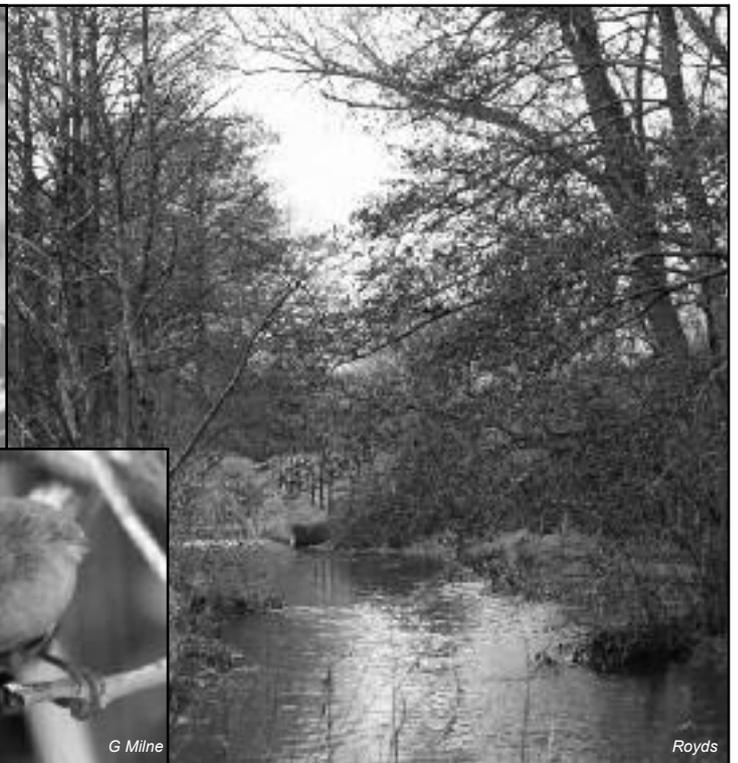
FEBRUARY 2021

NEW YEAR – NEW HOPE – NEW LOOK

Out with the OLD pandemic-ridden year and IN with vaccine-inspired hope for a much better 2021. The Parish News wishes all its readers a safe and healthy New Year and reinforces new hope with its own fresh new look. After forty years of wearing a comfortable livery suited to those times, our front cover has been beautifully redesigned and some of the inside pages reconstructed to give more consistency and a clearer sense of purpose and focus. We like it - and hope you do too. DS



Royds



Royds



Royds



G Milne



Royds

EDITORIAL

I hope you like the changes we have made to the Parish News and hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

Unfortunately, in these difficult times the Scammers are out to make a profit, most recent one appears to come from the NHS telling you to complete a form for the first vaccine, it looks official with all your details, it finally asks you to give your bank details. Your doctor and the NHS will not ask for your bank details, please be careful and if in doubt phone your doctors.

Later in this edition there are some more details for things to do during lockdown. Take care! RC



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THE COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN FOR THE LOCAL AREA

(Prepared by the Orchard Partnership on 7th January 2021)

As many of you will already know, the programme of Covid 19 Vaccination for patients registered with The Orchard Partnership, which includes Codford, Fovant, Shrewton and Wilton surgeries, has begun. We are calling patients by age group for the first dose, starting with the over 80s. Our local vaccination centre is the Michael Herbert Hall in South Street, Wilton, SP2 0JS. There is car parking next to the Hall and if you need assistance, there will be volunteers to make sure you can get into the Hall safely.

Patients in this age group will be contacted by the surgery and offered a vaccination time, so please wait for the surgery to call you. Please only call the surgery if you are in this age group and haven't heard from us by 31st January 2021. We are also vaccinating residents of local Care Homes and frontline Health Care Workers in the first group. For this first group we will be using the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine. The AstraZenica vaccine should be available for the next wave of injections from mid-January onwards and we will be using this to give to patients who are housebound or unable to get to the Michael Herbert Hall.

At the time of writing the plan is to call the next group, which is the over 75s,

once the first group has been completed. This will be followed by the over 70s and then the younger patients who are in what are regarded as high risk categories; this is the group that we normally offer a Flu vaccination to and again we will contact them directly. Further information is regularly updated on our Practice website: www.theorchardpartnership.co.uk Please also use the message button on the website to let us know of any change in your contact details.

It is really important that to halt the spread of Coronavirus we vaccinate as many people as possible, **so please only decline vaccination if you have given this serious thought.**

STOP PRESS: as at mid-January cases of infection are doubling week on week in our area so, please obey the rules, stay at home, be careful of scams pretending to be the NHS (do not open links or give any personal/bank details) - and have the vaccination when you are called.

THE VACCINATION PROCEDURE

"I am 80 and on 5th January I was invited to make an appointment at Wilton for the 7th. Some receive a letter, others a text or an email but only then do you ring the surgery to make your appointment. I drove to a well-organised Michael Herbert Hall car park and the hall was clearly laid out, with socially spaced chairs and 'jabbing points.' All was calm and quiet; I received the vaccination (which I didn't feel), was handed the details of my injection to be kept for next time, moved to a waiting area for ten minutes (they write down your exit time, in case you forget) and you read a simple leaflet.

The whole process was efficient, reassuring and faultless. This was our local NHS at its best, instilling the greatest confidence; how lucky we are. Thank you to all involved." (A much-impressed Codford resident).



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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 TEAM LETTER

"Give me strength!"

Life's tough right now. Some people are enduring private tragedies, for others there are griefs and disappointments, and for most of us, fear and anxiety - for ourselves, for our family and friends, for our community life. Combining home-schooling of noisy young ones with trying to work from home, searching online at 3 a.m. for supermarket delivery slots, not being able to visit a sick friend or family member in hospital, awaiting an operation deferred yet again..... How can we find the strength and the patience to carry on?

One Bible verse that has leapt out at me recently is in one of Paul's letters to a church under great pressure. "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances." Rejoicing isn't about parties or cheering our team when they win. It's a deep certainty that at the heart of everything the world is good - that it was created for good, and that the Creator's desire was for everything created to live in harmony and show mutual care. In the words of one great saint "All shall be well".

And prayer, constant prayer, isn't about repetition or church-going. I suppose we all pray at some point, though for some people it's just "Give me strength". Even if we're feeling anger or despair, that can be directed to God - the Psalms are full of anger and fear. But when we hold in our hearts those we love and fear for, we can trust that we are not alone in wanting the best for them - and that can be prayer.

Then there's so much to give thanks for. When we lift our heads from our immediate anxieties, we can appreciate the dedication of scientists, the devoted work of health and social care staff, shop workers, delivery people, plumbers, police and other essential workers. And perhaps most of all, the kindness and generosity so many of us have experienced from friends, neighbours, volunteers - even strangers. Over the last year we have also come to appreciate more the wonders of the natural world - and the bounty of our gardens, fields and orchards. We do live in a good place.

So whatever your concerns, try to rejoice, pray and give thanks. And know God's comfort and strength every day, whatever life throws at you.

Jane Shaw

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FOR OUR READERS... LIBRARY SERVICES

Wiltshire Libraries including the Mobile Library Service:

Due to the national lockdown that started on 5 Jan the public Mobile Libraries had to close. Some branch libraries have now re-opened offering an 'Order and collect' service during the lockdown. Wiltshire Libraries will continue to review this situation and the latest news on libraries, including opening hours and contact telephone numbers, can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries. Any library books that you currently have on loan from Wiltshire Libraries (including the mobiles) will be automatically renewed during the lockdown. Wiltshire libraries continues to offer all members free access to thousands of free eBooks, eMagazines, and eAudio-books (did I mention they were free?!) - details at the website above.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Replace one item of plastic in your home

It's estimated that between 8 and 12.7 million tonnes of plastic could be entering the oceans every year. We can drastically reduce this by replacing a plastic product; for example replace liquid soap and shampoo with solid bars, use reusable water bottles and coffee cups, or use beeswax food wraps in place of clingfilm. Why not give it a go....

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings

Trudy Hobson, Team Rector UWVT

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR AS CHRIST LOVES US

Have you been told that you need to self-isolate?

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

TEAM RECTOR

The Revd Trudy Hobson (*day off Friday*)

upperwyllyevalleyteam@gmail.com

840081

MINISTRY TEAM

Team Vicar

The Revd Clifford Stride (*on duty Tues.Wed.Sun*)

cgstride@btinternet.com

850941

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The Revd Diana Hammond

roger213hammond@btinternet.com

841185

The Revd Jane Shaw

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The Revd Jayne Buckles

jaynebuckles@btinternet.com

851176

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rhungerford157@gmail.com

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katherine.venning@gmail.com

840283

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Katherine Venning

840283

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew chapter 4 v4

If readers would like to prove the truth of this, try daily reading
www.wordlive.org

RH



PRAYER GROUP

We pray daily.

If you have any prayer requests, please call Anne on 840339.

An interview with Ellis Butcher, a local master thatcher.



Q: Have you always wanted to be a thatcher?

Yes, I used to watch and help a local master thatcher called Wilf Pierce (a real character) and I knew then that thatching was the career for me, especially as I am quite artistic and enjoy the outdoors.

Q: How many years have you been thatching?

I've been thatching for 38 years in total, though 5 of those were spent doing my apprenticeship, which I did in Cornwall as Wilf Pierce the local master thatcher had retired. I established

Thatchcraft Limited in 2002 but had previously traded as a sole trader under my own name.

Q: How long have you lived in Codford?

I moved to Codford when I was 11; my step-father was the local GP for the Wylve Valley - I used to live at East Farmhouse. I then returned to Codford, approximately 30 years ago and have lived in the same house, having renovated it in my spare time.

Q: Is thatching seasonal work?

No, I work all year round, in all elements! The only type of weather that hinders me are strong winds - the thatch ends up everywhere else other than on the roof, usually the neighbours garden!

Q: What materials do you normally use?

I either use locally sourced wheat straw which I buy from a farmer near Box or water reed which usually comes from Austria, though I have used Chinese water reed recently. I get my hazel spars from Les Barnard in Codford or from a spar maker from Westbury.

My current project in Heytesbury will need approximately 3600 bundles of water reed for the coatwork and about 400 bundles of wheat straw for the ridge.

Q: What makes you happy and what is your pet hate?

Satisfaction of seeing the customers

delight (and passers-by) when they see their completed roof makes me really happy and my pet hate is bad workmanship.

Q: Do you have any pets?

Yes, I have a Jack Russel dog called Molly who is often seen up on the scaffolding. She did have short relationship with a handsome Jack Russel called Turbo (who often writes a blog in this magazine) which resulted in 5 lovely puppies.

Q: What is the future for Thatchcraft Limited and yourself?

I have 2 beautiful daughters who I am very proud of but unfortunately neither of them wanted to become a thatcher! If either of my daughters wants a career change, I am more than happy to pass on my knowledge and train them!

In the last couple of years, I have taken on an apprentice (young George) who is undergoing an accredited apprenticeship scheme run by the National Society of Master Thatchers. So, Thatchcraft Limited will continue for future generations. I think it is important that thatching as a craft does not diminish, and we are lucky that there are lots of thatched properties in this area to ensure that the craft continues. I am also very lucky to have some loyal customers whose thatched roofs I have maintained for many years.

Q: What is your favourite thing to do when not working?

I enjoy painting, drawing and mountain biking. Some of my artwork has been sold, which I am quite chuffed about.

Q: Do you have a claim to fame?

I worked on the Highgrove estate many years ago when the Princes William and Harry were very young; I thatched a tree house for them.

Note from Editor: Would you like to write about your business for the Parish News, if you advertise with us feel free to contact the editor.

THATCHCRAFT LIMITED

Ellis Butcher
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YOUNG VOICES

The Big Question

As part of RE Day at Wylde Valley C of E Primary School, Codford, the year 5 and 6 children of Newton Class took a look at 'The Big Question' in relation to 'The Big Story' and the concept of 'incarnation'. Led by Helen Thornton the children looked at evidence from the Bible, the Jewish holy book and history to try and answer the question 'Was Jesus the Messiah?'. They looked at what qualities a Saviour might have, what Jesus is alleged to have done and said throughout his life (according to the New Testament) and

compared them with the prophecies in the Old Testament.

As part of the investigation, the children were split into groups and set a challenge to make a short TV report entitled "Is Jesus the Messiah?", in the style of the popular current affairs show for children 'Newsround'.

Naturally, the task was greeted with great enthusiasm and after two days of research, script-writing, editing and video-recording the children came up with some fantastic reports, complete with question and answer sessions afterwards. "I was

very impressed with the way the children took on this investigative challenge and at how they gave it a very 21st Century twist." said Helen. Year 5 pupil Philippa said "It was really fun because you had to work together to create a really good piece of writing and then present it to the class." Lynn Blood, Teaching Assistant, added "It was lovely to see the children thinking more deeply about 'The Big Question' and apply their learning in such an innovative and exciting way."

Sam Horgan

JEREMY COLTMAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT

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ANGLING NOTES

I have continued to shield during December and so have done no fishing. I am awaiting a vaccination which I understand is imminent. It is often surprising how Corona virus has affected lives. When fishing became allowed again in May or thereabouts lots of people went fishing and the sellers of fishing tackle did rather well. Recently, however, a friend was in danger of losing his job because his employer had nothing to sell.

The vast majority of fishing tackle is now manufactured in China, everything from waders to rods or, at least carbon fibre rod blanks and everything in between. They have learnt to manufacture to a high standard prompted by the demands of their customers.

The British fishing tackle industry was largely based in the Black Country and in particular Redditch. Metal working and in particular wire manufacture, lead to hooks. Certainly post Second World War we had a thriving industry based on manufacturing.

The Japanese tried to break into the market but made the mistake of making cheap copies of British reels as well as equally cheap copies of British fountain pens. France made some good

reels; Germany makes very good nylon for lines and leaders and probably still leads the field in this area.

Sweden produces good rods and as always the USA partly because of the size of its market produces what I regard as much of the top end of fishing tackle. They have always made good rods and I understand that many of the outstanding fly reels which they now produce have come from their space programme. Redundant engineers have turned to manufacturing fly reels!

All of this is now however, dwarfed

by China and when I buy a smart fishing shirt as a special treat from an American company I find that it has been made in China as have my wading boots and so on! It will be most interesting to see if we end up with a trade deal with China and what form it takes.

Will an authoritarian state follow the usual pattern, as the demands of their workforce grow the country loses its competitive edge as happened to "Made in Britain"?

Happy New Year; Robin Mulholland

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TURBO'S DOG BLOG FOR THE NEW YEAR



It's great being a dog. The lockdown means I receive more attention than usual with mealtimes, always a highlight, being at more regular times. I also think that I have been lucky over vaccinations. I haven't had to wait for a text or a letter as I am summoned every year in January for my

jab. I get it in the neck (described by the Vet as, 'I'll just pop it into a pinch of loose skin and he won't even know he has had it') and even if I haven't felt a thing, I squeal like a stuck pig. This brings two more vets and three nurses to the room and I receive six biscuits. I know it is a blag, but it seems a rather better deal than some of those poor people I see on the telly are getting as they queue in a cold car park.

Again, and unlike many, I am sleeping well. I get a good night's rest, wake briefly for breakfast and a nip outside before I settle down on the sofa for the rest of the morning for a snooze only

punctuated by two short breaks to bark at the postman and chase some pigeons out of the garden. After lunch we all go for a walk. On return, it is another brief kip before tea and then I settle down for the evening. One more brief trip outside and then it is, "Night, night, Turbo; sleep well," and so to bed.

I was, however, a little unsettled the other evening which, in retrospect, was probably due to it being the winter full moon (the Cold Moon) and the curtains next to my bed had inadvertently been left open. As a result, I saw every pheasant that couldn't sleep, plus 'Dignitas' the fox heading towards the chicken coop (don't worry, she is well locked away) and the annoying sounds of a deep-mining mole.

The next morning the Guvnor picked up on my apparent weariness and tried to cheer me up by repeating the story of the man who went to his doctor complaining of insomnia caused, he thought, by dreaming that he just could not stop himself singing Tom Jones songs and it stopped him from eating properly too. Asking the doctor if this was a complaint unique to him, the doctor replied, "Well, it's not unusual...." It almost kept me awake. It's a dog's life, you know.



DOWN ON THE FARM

A cold start to the year has meant field work is on the backburner other than a limited amount of ploughing ready to plant some Spring Beans when the soil starts to warm. The dairy continues its routine work and to welcome our year in we have a Red Tractor Inspection.

I am sure you are aware of the encouragement to buy and support British products as well as supporting local, and with the Brexit deal this is even more important.

The Red Tractor is the sticker you see on many British products and as consumers we are actively encouraged to look for this sign when buying food. We as a producer must have it to be able to sell our milk and we also have a further three inspections because we are on a premium milk contract and our milk processor sets more rigorous targets. These inspections are annual which is a good thing as we know as an industry we are providing the best produce available in the United Kingdom.

Fortunately, the rather chilly atmosphere has made the many hours in the office prepping for the inspection a good reason to stay in the warm, and

plough through the requirements for what is now a virtual inspection. The first question is: will the Wi-Fi and Broadband cope as Robert works his way around the farm with his iPad, showing the inspector what is needed to be seen.

In advance of the virtual tour, dozens and dozens of files are downloaded by us which cover every aspect of the dairy from the condition of the parlour and all its components, service records, all health records, drug and antibiotic usage, evidence of all protocols for drug administration and feed records from

delivery notes, to diets for all ages of animals, mortality rates and other herd health criteria, staff training, photos of all livestock living conditions and the handling and milking systems. Field records are also inspected which will include the use of muck to the chemicals that go on the fields. This is a small insight to what is involved and how intense these inspections are so that as the consumer you can be reassured that the products you buy are of the highest standard.

Kit Pottow

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SOURDOUGH BREAD

Many people have been making bread at home recently, including the traditional sourdough variety. This is made using a starter culture which contains naturally occurring lactobacilli and yeast. The lactic acid produced gives the sour taste. Sourdough was used as a raising agent until the Middle Ages when it was replaced by a byproduct from the brewing process. Bakers' yeast was only introduced about 150 years ago.

The sourdough technique was taken to California from Europe during the Gold Rush and sourdough breads are now very much part of the food tradition in that state. The hopeful miners in the Yukon during the Klondike years kept the starter dough in bags next to their bodies to stop it freezing and the old hands became known as 'sourdoughs'.

In this country there has been a recent revival of sourdough breads, originally among artisan bakers but now it is found everywhere. It is easy to make at home, just a bit time consuming (not that that's been a problem of late!). The bubbling culture needs regular 'feeding', takes on a life of its own and becomes part of the family. One local bread maker thinks of her starter as a mother giving birth to a daughter with each loaf. A Scottish chef named his starter Malcolm

and would ensure that 'wee Malcolm' was fed each day by one of his students. I felt really guilty when I discarded my starter to replace it with a newer, fresher version; we had been together a long time.

It is easy to find instructions online for making a starter culture and then using this to make a bread that will last well. The only drawback is that the bread is delicious (especially when fresh with lots of butter), makes wonderful toast (lots of butter again) and so I have never been able to test out how well it will last.



During the first lockdown I was asked to set an art challenge to my grandchildren every week. I am not an art teacher, just an enthusiastic amateur, but it proved to be fun. One of our challenges was to draw each of your hands using the other one. This is my effort. I think you can see from this that I'm right handed! Why don't you try it and send your results to the editor?

Angela Rosenthal

We missed these two businesses in a earlier edition of the Parish News.

HEALTH , BEAUTY AND WELL-BEING at the Ginger Piggery.

Tucked away in the corner of Boyton's Ginger Piggery lies a Wylde Valley jewel. Beauty Retreat is home to Sue King's beauty and well-being studio; with over 20 years experience in the industry Sue has kept the ladies and gentlemen of the local area pampered and restored for many years.

Sue's talents lie not only with up to the minute therapies and treatments, using indulgent products such as Neals Yard remedies, but with holistic therapies including Hopi ear candles, reflexology and Indian head massage for which she has a loyal client base who visit Beauty

Retreat to unwind to restore.

Sue's experience and love of her job is reflected in her Salon - always a cheerful welcome, you are never hurried so have time to relax and enjoy your treatments in the caring and friendly atmosphere.

It's been a difficult year for the beauty and well-being business, but Beauty Retreat is looking forward to welcoming us all back again when the time comes.

Sue provides warm, personal, competitively priced treatments and therapies, with many regular clients, like me, who love the well-being boost a manicure, facial or massage offers.
www.beautyretreatwiltshire.co.uk

THE STABLE WELLNESS at The Ginger Piggery is a lovely holistic space run by Emma and Liz since September 2019 in a warm and welcoming room where you can do Barre, Pilates, Yoga and Wellness Workshops.

For us, Wellness is about the harmony between mind, body and spirit. Getting in touch with The Stable is the first step on the path towards a happier, healthier and more holistic lifestyle.
www.thestablewellness.com

SOME MORE LOCK DOWN IDEAS.

Had some lovely comments about the paper hug we mentioned in a previous copy of the Parish News. Just to reiterate, you can sellotape sheets of A4 together to make the paper large enough for the child to lie down on, and then draw around him or her. Mine is still on the wall.

If you have Face time with your children, or grandchildren, plan a call at bedtime and tell them a bed time story. When my kids were growing up my mum had to tell them a Pink Fairy story, never having listened to one I was asked to do the same. I was glad that my kids could not remember the content either.

I was recently asked to do an online recording of punctuation for an ex student whose children were struggling. Why not during a FaceTime call teach the children how to do something? You will need to plan this in advance and have all your materials handy.

One of the lovely things about living in the valley is that every one speaks when you are out and about...even if you don't have a dog to walk just saying good morning helps some of our more isolated residents. Just keep your distance to be safe!

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DID YOU KNOW...

Despite Wiltshire being a rural county many of the young women who enrolled in the land Army were from the towns, signing up for what must have been seen as an adventure. The urgent need to increase the amount of food grown as well as to replace the men who were in the military meant that Land Girls were in demand. Initially they were volunteers but later they were conscripted. They had to be at least 17 years old, they were expected to work five and a half days a week for a minimum of fifty hours; this increased in the summer with harvesting and fruit picking. After deductions for food and lodging they were paid approx £1.12s a week, and in 1944 their pay was increased by £1.

One of the colleges that Wiltshire volunteers were sent for training in milking and general farming was to Seale Hayne College in Devon. There were crash courses of about one month where such basic skills such as hand milking, calf rearing, pig feeding, cleaning out and generally helping with field crops. They would also have to catch sheep for foot inspection and often had to put them in the sheep dip. One of the problems with sheep was that they would often get very dirty under the tail; in warm weather flies would lay their eggs, and when the insects hatched they would eat into the sheep's flesh, and if this was unchecked the sheep could die.

Cows were milked twice a day, at 5.30am then again around 2.30pm. Some days between milking the land girls would go into the field, hoeing crops, digging vegetables, turning hay and silage-making; other times they would look after the pigs and the calves. Dealing with

unfamiliar jobs led to the occasional accident, one young land girl from Salisbury recalls "pushing a heavy wheelbarrow full of pig manure up a plank to tip in. Over the top the wheelbarrow slipped off the plank and tipped over taking me with it."

Many farms delivered vegetables in Morris Cowley or similar vans. Frequently farms with dairies also had a milk round delivering milk to the surrounding villages. During wartime there was double summertime so it stayed light until 11pm. Milking began at 5am and the milk was taken to the dairy to cool, then put into churns or two gallon milk buckets, then measured into half pint, pint and two pint measures. On the doorsteps the

housewife would leave out milk jugs with a saucer on top. On certain days the land girl who was delivering would leave eggs and the butter rations - 2ozs per person. After the milk round it would be time for breakfast before washing and sterilising the cooling plant and all the utensils used on the round. The afternoon milking would begin the process again, only this time customers would come to the dairy to buy milk.

Working class girls would be unlikely to be able to drive; however once in the Land Army their duties were likely to involve driving a tractor or a delivery van and possibly learning how to maintain it.

The land girls had every fourth weekend off; if they were lucky enough to live close enough to go home they could sleep there overnight. Working in the countryside getting to the nearest town usually involved a ride on a double decker bus; a 14 mile journey was 2s 3d return. With so many troops around buses were often crowded so the girls nearly always had to either stand or sit on the stairs. If the girls lived more than twenty miles from home they got a rail warrant every six months.

Romy Wyeth

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A GOOD READ

IN PURSUIT OF BUTTERFLIES

by Matthew Oates

'Butterflies', as the poet John Masefield put it, 'are the souls of summer hours'. They exist in the most wonderful places, in the best of all weathers, in the greatest of seasons. It is little wonder then that 'butterflying' - to use the Victorian butterfly collectors' term for being out and about in pursuit of butterflies, can be seriously addictive.

Based on fifty years of the author's detailed diary entries, 'In pursuit of Butterflies' takes us on a celebratory journey across the mountain tops, peat

bogs, sea cliffs, meadows, heaths, chalk downs and forests. Full of humour, zeal, digression, expertise, thinking and anecdote, this book offers an exploration of the personal relationship we forge with wilder place, and with time itself.

Matthew Oates is a naturalist, author and broadcaster and was the special advisor on butterflies to the National Trust.

For those who have a love of wildlife and butterflies, in particular, I fully recommend this very readable book. 'The Independent' describes the book as 'Knowledgeable, cultured, and a welcome throwback to a gently comic kind of English nature writing.'

Jonathan Wansey


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VILLAGE NEWS

NEW START AT THE RED LION

Tanya, Richard and family, who have taken over the Red Lion @ Heytesbury, would like to thank the whole community for the warm welcome we have received and continue to receive on moving to this beautiful village.

Lots of people think we must be crazy taking on a pub in the middle of a pandemic. But for us we really couldn't outweigh the pros with the cons and were both looking for a career change of sorts.

Once we were able to open (even with tier 2 restrictions) at the start of December we could really see that the villagers were behind us and the support was encouraging, although it has been short lived and we are back shut for the foreseeable. We would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know we are able to offer a takeaway meal service Tuesday to Saturday evenings and have relaunched the community shop that was previously run from the pub in a different format.

Due to Covid being more prevalent, the safest way for this to happen is for you to order by phone (01985 840333) before 4pm Sunday to Friday for collection the next afternoon. We supply fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat, with the possibility of expanding if the demand is needed.

We are really looking forward to being able to welcome you all back through the door as soon as possible. When this does happen we will continue with all the Covid-friendly procedures in place to make it a safe environment offering homemade traditional pub meals Tuesday to Sunday.

For any enquiries regarding the shop or takeaway please don't hesitate to call us on 840333.

*Best wishes for 2021,
Tanya and Richard*

THE ORGAN OF KNOOK - AN ADVENTURE

One day in early 1965, Lord Heytesbury asked me to have a look at the organ in Heytesbury Congregational Church, which stood on his land at the top of Chapel Road. The Victorian building was due to be demolished, and he wondered if the organ was worth saving. The chapel had closed in the 1950s and although I had lived in the village for twenty years I had never been inside. I found a delightful organ in the rear gallery, built about 1850, installed in the chapel later in the century, and still in good working order.

I immediately thought of St Margaret's, Knook, which had an asthmatic harmonium, and discovered that the organ would fit perfectly at the back of the nave. But its removal and installation would be a big task.

With a friend, Peter Burrows (later a distinguished GP), I had built a small organ at school; together we felt we had just about enough experience for the job. By now, Peter and I were at university and, moreover, members of the stage crew of the Dramatic Society, a rich source of practical talent.

Thus it was that one sunny Friday in the summer of 1965, half a dozen Oxford students turned up in Heytesbury for a very long week-end. The chapel had lost its electricity supply, but the ancient lighting was still in place and failed to catch fire when we connected the fuse-box to the house next door. This enabled us to work far into the night, my mother providing vast quantities of food and drink at all hours.

First, the 449 pipes were taken out, cleaned and transported to Knook by farm cart. Then the mechanism, with its hundreds of moving parts, was taken to pieces, allowing the two wind chests, on which the pipes stood, to be removed. The large bellows followed, and finally the frame with its pine casework.

Lord Heytesbury was anxious to help, so we equipped him with a paint-brush and a five-gallon drum of woodworm killer, and he gave all the wooden parts a lethal dose as they were carried past him. Then we were ready to begin the reverse process of re-assembly, which was triumphantly completed on the Monday as planned. For the final process of tuning we had the help of a friendly organ builder.

The organ sounds lovely at Knook. In the 55 years since its installation it has proved splendidly reliable. It is still hand-blown - a job undertaken by three generations of the Pottow family; and it is Listed, like the Heytesbury and Sutton Veny organs, as being of national importance. Now it is having a full overhaul, thanks to an anonymous donation. Work started in January and should be finished by mid-April.

Mark Venning

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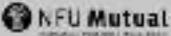
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VILLAGE NEWS

THOUGHTS FROM SHERRINGTON

Somewhere, tucked away on a shelf, there is a slim little book that I treasure: 'Days of My Life' by Hannah Hauxwell. It is the autobiography of a remarkable woman, all the more amazing that she lived in these years of technology and the pseudo life of celebrity. Hannah lived in Baldersdale in the north Yorkshire dales all her life. After a childhood that was happy, though life was always hard, she found that as family fell away for whatever reason she was left with the small family farm, and as a young woman her life was defined.

The privations of that life, no electricity, no running water and no help would be unthinkable for most people. The struggle to feed livestock in winter and deep snow must have been horrendous. Some years ago Yorkshire Television became aware of her and made a brilliant documentary.

It fascinated so many people that money was raised to connect her to the grid for electricity. She was feted in London at the luncheon for Women of the Year (leaving her wellington boots in the bin at the top of the track when the taxi collected her). Her face even after such a rugged life was striking in its serenity,

matched by the softness of her north country voice.

On morning such as today, when frost is thick on the ground and I am loth to leave a warm bed I only have to think of Hannah, alone, up since first light carrying bales for her livestock. She died about two years ago, ending her days in a comfortable cottage in the village. One can only imagine how it felt to be warm, have hot water, a soft bed and neighbours to keep an eye out for her.

Life in this village is less taxing even though there is livestock to be tended. Our Carol Service, though weeks away now was a great success. Obviously numbers were limited, we could not sing (a small contingent of the choir provided carols, accompanied by the Sherrington Philharmonic). The little church looked beautiful; it had been cleaned top to bottom by Anne Pelly's working party. There was a decorated tree, lighted crib and candles in the windows, candles even lit the pathway outside.

Lovely to have a variety of voices reading and mention must be made of Matilda and Poppy who read with such confidence. Afterwards we all sang "Hark the Herald Angels" outside and were further cheered by excellent mulled wine.

It was quite a party to start the village Christmas!

Now the Christmas cake is finished, the mince pies are gone, another year another lockdown, it all seems grey and flat. However, we are past the shortest day, so two minutes lighter every afternoon. Among the dull, dark days are days that are crisp and bright and spot the first snowdrops!!

BL

P.S. Keep those bird feeders primed!

SUTTON VENY CHURCH

That evening, at sunset, I was standing at the Church Gate ... I saw a soldier in combat dress march up to the War Memorial. He saluted ... placed a cross upon the Memorial, stood back, saluted and stood there for some moments before smartly turning away and marching off towards the Alexander Field.

The soldier I watched thought he was on his own and yet his marching and saluting were the best I have ever seen.

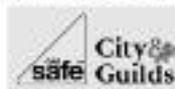
It turns out that he was representing the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and because there is no parade this year, each soldier had been asked by the Commanding Officer to place a cross on the grave or memorial of a soldier - Hubert S. Pickford of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry killed in the line of duty during the First World War

It was a most moving few moments and I am so glad I was there to witness one soldier's excellent gesture of thanks and respect to another.

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WORSHIP in the UPPER WYLYE VALLEY FEBRUARY 2021

There will be no services in church during February, but everyone is welcome to join our worship via zoom at 11 o'clock on a Sunday. An invitation on how to join the zoom service is circulated via email each week. If you are not on the Rector's mailing list, and wish to join us at the service, please email upperwylievalleyteam@gmail.com or phone the Rector 840081.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

services can be found via <https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/live>

"We are pleased that through technology we can continue to welcome you and worship together beyond the physical space of the building. Please join our online community."

Live-streamed services are

The Eucharist : Sundays at 11.00 **Choral Evensong** : Sundays at 16.30

A thought for the day, followed by a prayer, is streamed by one of the Cathedral clergy from Monday-Friday at 17.00.

BBC BROADCAST SERVICES

Sunday services

05.45 Prayer for the day Radio 4
08.10-08.45 Sunday Worship Radio 4
0915 Thought for the day Radio 2
13.15 Songs of Praise BBC 1 TV
15.00-16.00 Choral Evensong Radio 3

Daily services

05.45 Prayer for the day Radio 4
7.45-7.50 Thought for the day Radio 4
8.30? Pause for thought Radio 2
9.45 Daily service Radio 4
long wave or online

Wednesdays

15.30-16.30 Choral Evensong Radio 3
(repeated on Sundays)

OPENING TIMES OF OUR CHURCHES

Boyton	Wednesday 10am – 4pm
Codford St Mary	Wednesday and Sunday 9am – 6pm
Codford St Peter	Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday All Day
Heytesbury	Thursday 9am – 1pm Sunday 1pm – 4pm
Knook	Thursday 6pm – 6.30pm
Norton Bavant	Contact Churchwarden John Acworth 840134
Sherrington	Thursday All Day
Sutton Veny	Wednesday 9am – 1pm Saturday 1pm – 4pm
Tytherington	Closed
Upton Lovell	Closed

Bishop Andrew Rumsey is 'Going to Ground' most days, usually out of doors. There is lots to discover and enjoy. His youtube address is easily found via Google.

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY IS THE BEGINNING OF LENT.

We plan a short zoom service at 6 p.m., after which we shall read St Mark's gospel aloud for about half an hour. Please make a note in your diary, and phone the Rector if zoom details have not reached you.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST MARK

If you have two hours to spare, you can hear David Suchet, the actor, reading the whole of St Mark's Gospel in St Paul's Cathedral three years ago. The youtube video has been watched by 900,000 people so far. What about adding yourself to that number?

We are going to do something similar. We are going to discover more about Jesus through the story Mark told. Why is this story so extraordinary? Where do we start from? Where does it end? Which characters do we meet, and who is left out? Why did Mark write this?

We have six Wednesdays in Lent - from 6 - 7 p.m. to hear more. To talk about it. To listen, and to find out about the man who changed the world. "Mark is dramatic, fast-paced, in places startling." Let's listen.

A LOCKED CHURCH

Ah my dear Lord, the church is locked but let my heart be open to your presence. *lines by the Revd Alan Amos*

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

OLD FRIENDS REMEMBERED

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