

HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 191

April 2016





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EDITORIAL

Very sad news reached us as we go to press that Jan Smy had passed away. Jan was one of the very long-standing regular contributors to the News. In August 1999 she filed her first Monthly Recipe and continued faithfully for the following 15+ years despite many periods of ill health. We shall miss her and her recipe column but our loss is as nothing compared with that of her husband Bill. We send Bill our sincerest condolences at this sad time. We will include our tribute to Jan next month.

Every year is a year of anniversaries but 2016 is a special year for anniversaries in Horningsham. The Meeting House, also known in the village as The Chapel, or more correctly as The Congregational Church is 450 years old this year. It is renowned amongst Nonconformists both here and abroad as the oldest Nonconformist church in England still in use as a place of worship. It features in our “Then & Now” series (*Page 20*). Another notable anniversary is that of the opening of the Safari Park at Longleat 50 years ago (*Pages 17 & 23*).

Literally hundreds of people, at least one of whom is in Australia, followed the dredging of Mill Pond on our Facebook page and Margaret’s “Chronicle” (*Page 18*) provides additional information. Those photos helped the Horningsham News Facebook page past a milestone when it achieved 342 “page likes” which is more than double the number of printed copies we distribute to every household in the village. As well as the UK, the people who like us are in: Australia; Spain; USA; New Zealand; Russia; India; and Guam! If **you** haven’t looked at it yet, why not do so now? You don’t have to sign up to Facebook just Google us.

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Sunday 17th April.

Editorial Team

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		James Osborne (<i>Treasurer</i>)	844711

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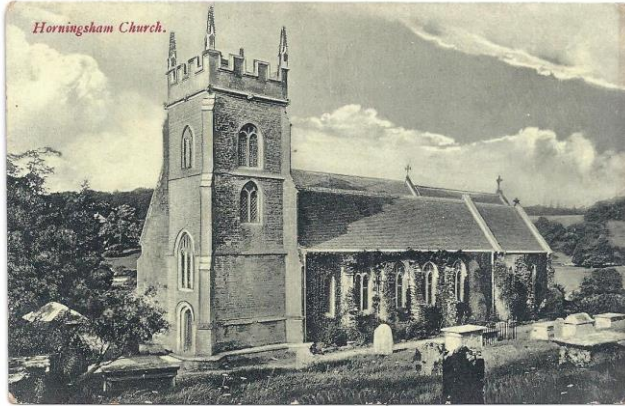


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Facebook

We now have 342 “Page Likes” – more than double the number of printed copies!

Printed by Parish Magazine Printing (01288 341617) printers of community magazines.

CHURCH NEWS



It has been a very quiet start to the year in Horningsham church. We had the Plough Service at the beginning of January and, as I write this, we are still looking forward to Easter. Our list of services for the year has been planned and there are just two months (February and August) without a service. (There is no colder church than Horningsham, so February was a good month to miss!).

We know that in a benefice with seven churches, deciding where and when to hold services will always be a challenge. We are also approaching the retirement of the Rev Di Britten who has been actively involved with the School and taken many services in Horningsham. However, we are very pleased that Robert Shuler, a churchwarden at Kingston Deverill, will be training as a Lay Worship Leader.

Here in Horningsham we have a lot to be thankful for and plenty to look forward to. Visitors have been signing our book all through the winter and many of them buy some notelets or a church guide. This tells us that people appreciate finding the church open and are happy to support it. Some of the ladies in the congregation recently had a spring clean and I'm sure you will have noticed all the work that has been done in the lower churchyard and how much tidier it looks. Hopefully we shall soon have some woolly residents who will help keep it under control. We are also very pleased to welcome some new volunteers onto the flower rota.

There is a good variety of services coming up. In April we will have Evensong, which we are looking forward to as we rarely have this service in our church. May is Rogation when we usually visit one of the farms in the village. In June we will celebrate the festival of our patron saint, John the Baptist.

Do come and join us at any of our services; you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Helen Taylor

Church Dates

17 th April	Evensong	5.00pm
8 th May	Rogation service	6.00pm

Dear Friends

I write on a glorious day of bright sunshine and clear blue sky. I have just returned from taking Alfie for a walk and marvel at the shiny yellow beauty of the wild flowers that adorn grass verges and the extraordinarily weightless appearance of several buzzards gliding and hanging in the air.

By the time you read this, Easter Day will probably have come and gone as it was so very early this year, but we continue with an Easter theme in the church for 6 weeks until we come to Pentecost on May 15th. Easter is the time when we fill the church with flowers

and sing celebratory hymns and songs that proclaim the wonder of new life, that announce that death has no more dominion and such like. I often wonder at these time what it is like for those who haven't reached Easter Day yet and who are forced by circumstances to remain in the darkness of Good Friday.

Being the Priest in Charge here I am privileged and humbled to be able to accompany those who are struggling with life, whether it be bereavement, terminal illness or relationship breakdown to name but a few of the situations I encounter. How does the Easter story intersect with occasions like this, with the terrible plight of the thousands of refugees who have nowhere to call home, with those who suffer at the hands of others, those who go to sleep day after day hungry? I don't have a neatly worked out answer, and I cry out with others at the injustice and suffering that is so much part of human life. But I believe that Good Friday and Easter Day show us that God is with us in our deepest darkness, in life and in death and beyond, that love is stronger than evil, and that there is no place that God is not. That's not to say that I can just sit back and relax because God has it all in hand, far from it. When we pray in the Lord's Prayer 'Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done.' we are not asking God to do it all, we are pledging our time and energy to the task of bringing about that kingdom of justice and peace. We know in this life that God's kingdom has yet to be realised fully, but we need to be doing our bit even if it is only a tiny spark of light in the darkness.

To return to the image of those buzzards hanging in the air, the Bible tells us that '*Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint.*' (Isaiah 40: 31) and from the book of Deuteronomy we hear that God is '*Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft.*' (Deuteronomy 32:11)

If your wings are bit broken at the moment and you long for the freedom of flight, allow God to catch you and carry you on his wings, to be with you in your Good Friday so that you can hold on to the hope of Easter Day when all things are made new.

Love and prayers,



Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.com

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Morning Service Sunday 10th April 10.00 am

Carol Cox
horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk

**THE 22ND ANNUAL
HORNINGSHAM VILLAGE REUNION**

10TH JULY 2016

WILL THIS YEAR BE HELD AT THE CHAPEL

WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS

450TH ANNIVERSARY!

**For more information, or to book lunch at the Hall,
please contact Helen Taylor**

PARISH COUNCIL

Horningsham Parish Council met on Thursday 25th February at the Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Tim Hill, Fran Chris, Emma Curtis, John Radley, Ken Windess, Matt Simpson, Simon Millar Gerard Brierley and Dermot FitzGerald.

In attendance: The Parish Clerk Mrs. Sarah Jeffries MILCM and two parishioners

Apologies: Councillor Michael Trollope

Public Question Time

Council heard from parishioner Mrs Ros Algar about plans for a fund-raising event, in aid of the Play Area, at the Village Hall on Saturday 9th April. Ros had planned an evening at which Henry Worsley, a former resident of Pottle Street, would have talked about his solo trip across Antarctica. His unfortunate death had necessitated the cancellation of this event. The Headmasters of Wellington and Warminster had offered to speak at an event to commemorate Henry Worsley. Ros reported that their offer had been well received and that ticket sales were strong and various sponsors had made donations. Parishioner Geoffrey Wheating spoke in favour of the planned event and suggested other possible sources of funding for the Play Area. The Chairman thanked Mrs Algar for coming to tell Council about the project and for the hard work she had put into organising the event and commended her initiative. He said that Councillors would discuss the matter later in the meeting proper. He added that his regret at her planned departure from the village after 21 years would be widely shared in the community.

Council Vacancy

Council witnessed Councillor Dermot FitzGerald signing the Co-option papers and his acceptance of the Code of Conduct. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Dermot FitzGerald to the team.

Planning

Although there were no applications on the Agenda, two applications had been considered between meetings. Both had been fully supported by Councillors and that had been communicated to Wiltshire Council as the planning authority.

16/000394/FUL Location: Longleat safari and Adventure park

Proposal: Replacement of 3 existing EE antennas with 3 new EE antennas, installation of 3 MHAs and ancillary works

16/00640/TCA Location: Old Timbers 14 Gentle street Horningsham BA12 7LD

Proposal: T1 and T2 Yew trees reduce canopies by 2.5m T3 Western Red Cedar fell in sections.

Parish Steward – Highways

Various potholes throughout the village were marked on a map for the Parish Clerk to report to the highways authority. The wobbly handrail on the footbridge would also be reported to Wiltshire Council as they own the bridge. Councillor Steve Crossman reported water in Water Lane and said he would notify Wessex Water.

Litter Pick

The Clerk reported that she had ordered the skip and would deliver the litter picking equipment to Councillor Fran Chris.

Community Speed Watch

The Clerk reported that previous traffic surveys in the village had shown little problem with speeding and unless a new one came up with a significantly different result, Horningsham would not be considered a priority. Council decided to take no further action.

WW1 Commemorations

Councillor Steve Crossman reported that he was awaiting the clearing of the stumps by the Estate. The Chairman reported that he is to meet with Michael Birnie the next day and will discuss the area around the War Memorial with him.

Play Area

Councillors discussed the offer presented by Mrs Algar before the meeting. There was unanimous support for the idea of donating the proceeds of the planned event and of any sponsor donations towards the proposed Play Area. Councillors expressed their appreciation of Mrs Algar's efforts and warmly endorsed her plans which would now mean that the long hoped-for Play Area may now become a reality. The Chairman reminded Council that Ceawlin Thynn had told him that he would be willing to help with funding the project.

Parish Plan

Councillor Steve Crossman reported that he had spoken to Dr Bob Grove and will arrange a meeting with him and Michael Birnie so that they may together form an inner group to drive the process forward.

Bus Shelter

Councillor Ken Windess reported to Council on the renovation project to date, and said that he will paint the blocks cream and still had the roof to complete. A two-foot path will be maintained around the bus stop for maintenance purposes. The Council wanted to thank Longleat for its help with the project, notably Mr Graeme Metcalfe, Maintenance Manager, and his team. Councillors expressed their gratitude to Ken Windess for his tremendous efforts in renovating the bus shelter, a generous act which would save Council Tax payers a lot of money and provide a valuable facility to the community for many years to come. Inspired by Ken's example, Councillor Brierley said he would donate the paint for future repainting of the Gentle Street phone box. His offer was gratefully accepted.

CPRE Best Kept Village Competition

In the past Horningsham had been successful for many years in this competition but the deterioration in the state of the village had led to a disappointing result when it last entered. Although Councillors thought that there had been a marked improvement recently in the appearance of the village, further work was needed before Horningsham would be likely to win again. It was decided not to enter the competition 2016 but to consider entering in 2017. The Chairman was asked to discuss the matter with Michael Birnie as the active involvement of the Estate was vital in achieving success in the competition.

The next meeting of Horningsham Parish Council will be on Thursday 21st April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when all are welcome to attend.

HALL NEWS



Another busy few weeks ... It was good to have so many new faces at the February Feast recently. We were down on numbers a little but those who came had another great evening. A big thank you to everyone who supported the night either behind the scenes or front of house and to all who came for the great food and music. As always, the money raised goes straight back to the Hall to help with running costs and repairs.

Next up was the Easter Bingo. This is always a popular event and something we hope to also make a regular feature of the Hall calendar. Another big thank you to everyone who helped set up and for the generous donations which made up some of the prizes.

Coming soon it's "Maggie". The final instalment in the Pip Utton one man show trilogy will be at the Hall on Thursday 12th May at 7.30. Tickets £12 from James Osborne jamesosborne@btinternet.com or 07753 404705. Refreshments available.

The events at the Hall rely on us and you to come up with the ideas and then help to run them. If you would like to be involved in the running of the Hall, please consider joining the committee - there are always plenty of things to do! The last year has flown by and it's election time again so now is your chance. Contact anyone on the current committee to find out more.

Don't forget it's the AGM on Wednesday 20th April.

Elaine Dahl

WELCOME CLUB

We enjoyed being treated to a few chapters from Charles Dickens which were read to us by Tom Allday and look forward to more of the same as the season progresses.

There will be a Prize Quiz in the Hall on April 14th at 2.30 pm. No "University Challenge" questions – more fun-filled! See you there.

At long last our coach trips are to start again. On 19th April we have a Mystery Trip arranged - I'm sure our driver will find somewhere of interest. I would remind you that we welcome everyone, members or otherwise, to join our trips. 8.45 am at the Bath Arms, Horningsham and 9.00 am at Maiden Bradley.

Chris Short 01985 847373



Dance Festival 2016

Mrs Lapham's dance club went to Bath to perform at the Forum in the 2016 'Dance Through the Ages' Dance Festival. We think it is fair to say that the children did very well... fully embracing the 1940s era, telling a beautiful wartime story, full of emotions. We are so proud of our Dance troupe,



The children looked amazing in their wartime costumes.

well done to all of you for your hard work; it was a

very challenging routine! They impressed everyone with their dancing skills, merging lindy-hop with jive. A massive well done and thank you to Mrs Lapham for another highly successful routine and experience. A big thank you to the parents too for the wonderful costumes, helping with hair and make-up and the enormous amount of support.



World Book Day



The whole school, staff and pupils, all dressed up for World Book Day. The school was full of a wide range of book characters, from Thing 1 and 2 to Willy Wonka! The day started with an unusual visitor: the White Witch from Narnia! She worked with each class doing different workshops bringing the book to life. During the afternoon we turned the hall into a reading room and were so grateful to all the visitors (parents, grandparents, governors and villagers) who came to share and read stories to the children. There was a wonderful atmosphere and the children thoroughly enjoyed such a rich and varied range of books. Lady Weymouth came along too and John enjoyed hearing the stories and playing with the children.



Run for Sports Relief



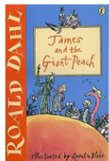
The whole school took part in Sports Relief in a special event at Longleat. The staff were amazing, blocking off the mile drive so that the children could all take part in a sponsored run. Every child was dressed as a different animal – we had a komodo dragon, tigers, unicorn and pigs amongst many other species! Phil Wylie, duathlete for Great Britain, joined the children and ran with them before presenting medals to the top five runners in KS2 and KS1. Points West interviewed some of the children and filmed them as they set off from the Bath Arms (you may have seen it on the TV!). The children did amazingly well and we were all so impressed with how encouraging they were with each other, going back and running with those at the end to see them to the finish line. We had a special bike set up in front of the house for parents to ride – pedalling didn't advance the bike, but did power a smoothie machine attached to the back. The parents pedalling ensured every child had a freshly made fruit smoothie when they finished the run! It was a fantastic afternoon and we are so grateful to Longleat for supporting this and giving up their time to coordinate the event. We look likely to have raised over £1,000 for Sports Relief.

Invitation

'Take One Book' Exhibition at Horningsham Primary School



Owls:
Carrie's War



Robins:
James and the
Giant Peach

A collection of work inspired
by four different books.

Monday 11 – Friday 15
April 2016

9am – 5pm daily
Finishing 11am Friday 15th April

Special Evening Viewing
Wednesday 13th April
6-7pm



Woodpeckers:
Alice's
Adventures in
Wonderland



Whole School:
Varmints

We are delighted to invite you all to an exhibition at the school (Hall) at the beginning of term 5. Please do come along – we would appreciate an RSVP if you intend to come to the special evening viewing on Wednesday 13th April so we know exact numbers.

Maiden Bradley Shop



As you will have seen from the various notices at the Shop, on Facebook and on the Website it has been a busy month for the shop.

The explanation of the shop hours changing is twofold. First of all, in line with the new Government rates of pay which come into play on 1 April, the committee concluded that it had to cut the paid staff hours. The wage bill is the largest overhead in the budget and at the present time the shop cannot sustain a large increase in the wage bill. Unfortunately we do not have enough volunteers to keep the shop open to compensate for reduced paid hours. Maybe if more volunteers come forward we can reinstate the Tuesday afternoon. Secondly, we decided to close on Tuesday afternoons as the Post Office is able to change its 3 hour slot from the afternoon to the late morning. This will probably be more beneficial to the Post Office as mornings are always busier than the afternoons. We will, of course, keep this change under review.

The next big announcement this month is that we are in the process of recruiting a new Manager to start on 1 May. Amanda Dye has decided that she would like to move on to other things. Amanda took over the reins as Manager at the end of 2013 and has given a great deal of thought and time to making the shop as welcoming as it is today. She has brought in new stock and tried hard to satisfy the shopping needs of the changing populations of Maiden Bradley, Horningsham and the surrounding areas. Thank you Amanda for all your hard work.

Running the shop is a challenge but an exciting one and can be very rewarding. It is very important that the Manager understands the ethos of the community shop and is flexible on all fronts! A detailed job description and application form are available in the shop but can also be obtained from me on-line. ernixon66@gmail.com I look forward to receiving applications and hope we can have a new Manager in place on 1 May.

And on a final note. I am hoping that in April we will be able to install a smart new awning for the shop. The Maiden Bradley Parish Council, the Warminster Area Board and the Fudge Trust have all given grants towards this. I need just a little bit more to cover the full cost so there is a collection box in the shop – all donations gratefully received!

Liz Nixon

Website: www.maidenbradleyshop.org.uk

JOB VACANCY SHOP MANAGER

MAIDEN BRADLEY COMMUNITY SHOP

The Shop Committee is looking for a new paid Manager to run the Community Shop from 1 May, 2016. The Manager will be required to work approximately 26 hours per week during the week (mostly mornings) and also be available to work on Saturday mornings if necessary. The Manager should also be available to open the shop on at least 2 mornings per week.

The position requires flexibility and understanding of the ethos of a small village community shop. Retail experience is an advantage.

A detailed job description and application form are available in the shop or contact

Elizabeth Nixon
Tel: 01985 844242
e-mail: ernixon66@gmail.com

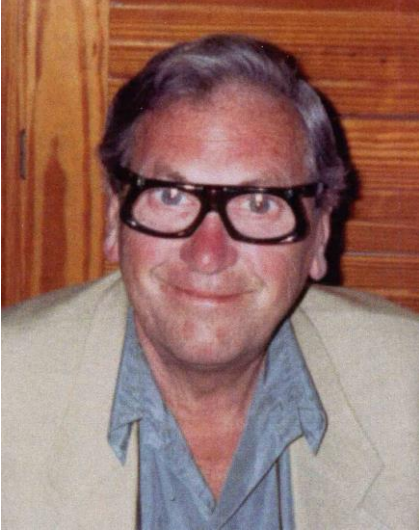


SAVE THE DATE

Historian, story-teller and world renowned expert on the Zulu War of 1879, Rob Caskie, will start his UK tour this year in Horningsham

7.00pm
SATURDAY 25TH JUNE

Joe Lovatt (1930-2016) a good friend.



I well remember our introduction to the Lovatts in 1981. Richard and I had gone up to the Bath Arms to view the new tenants. Joe was, as always, behind the bar, genial, efficient and friendly, dressed in a suit and tie, his work clothes. Beryl, his wife, beautifully dressed, welcoming and Paul emerged from the Public Bar as it was in those days and he and Richard started to talk cricket and rugby, a source of constant interest to them both!

Over the years Joe and Beryl became very much a part of the village. They kept a tight ship - the food was excellent, neither being averse to stepping into the kitchen when things were rushed. The beer was always well kept, Joe and Paul both knew their cellar work. The Bath Arms became the place to go, to meet your friends, to celebrate and even to commiserate.

Joe was a good friend to many, he would think nothing of giving up his time to drive you to a hospital appointment, a lift into Warminster, or to just offer an ear to listen.

So many amusing memories flood back: do you remember when Joe put milk on tap in the bar? The chef, Sean, was breathalysed on his motorbike by a copper who had been longing to catch him having drunk 4 pints of . . . strawberry milkshake!

Joe's generosity included the Luncheon Club, at which Beryl often cooked. In those days we used to have to close the Village Hall for an election and Joe would invite the Club up to the pub where lunch was served in the restaurant at the Club's usual price, but with complimentary wine or beer!

My two sons, David and Charlie, worked for Joe - Charlie somewhat reluctantly - but David did his industrial placement there learning many things including the fact that he did not want to own a hotel because the clients would not go to bed and the bar had to be kept open until they did! Those were the days of the Lichtenstein deerstalkers who would consume vast quantities of the very best champagne, have cases of beer brought to their bedrooms and one had to have a binocular case with 2 bottles of Holsten Pils for emergency rations!

Joe and Beryl retired to Dulverton but after a short time lived permanently in Malta where we spent some delightful holidays with them in their flat. Sadly poor health caused them to return to the UK and live with their daughter, Dianne, and her doctor husband, Patrick. Beryl developed dementia and Joe's gentle, persuasive care of her was inspiring - now Paul has taken over in his father's place.

Eventually Joe's ashes will lie beside Horningsham Church which he used to attend during his years in the village. And his legacy to Horningsham for which all will be grateful is Dolly whom he persuaded to move with him, and what a legacy!

Jane Yates

HORNINGSHAM CRICKET CLUB

At the time of writing, the wonderful cricket T20 world cup is in full swing in India. AS village cricketers, we have been particularly appreciative of the rich variety of calamitous errors on show. These really resonate with us. In one game the England captain was out first ball, because he decided to play no stroke against a straight ball. Angus Hilleary was bowling in a match against Mere recently when most of their batsmen played exactly the same shot. Yesterday the Bangladesh team needed only two to win with three balls left, but scorned the obvious and managed instead to pull off a far rarer feat: to lose three wickets in three balls, and the match. We confidently believe we have the incompetence in our ranks to have done the same.

Enjoyment of rank hopelessness is at the heart of village cricket, and if you cannot celebrate it, you may as well be playing club cricket, or heaven forbid, even the professional sport.

So we are not setting over ambitious targets for the season that starts in April. Like all good sportsmen we will take each new opportunity to mess up as it comes. And yet, we cannot lie, we hope also somehow to win.

First match is on 17th April vs Chilmark. First Sunday league match is 24th April vs Dorchester.

James Osborne

844711 jamesosborne@btinternet.com



PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL

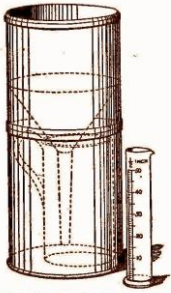


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

February continued to be wet and cold with some days being quite windy. The frosts still came with a real sting on the 15th and 16th. We again had 1.08 inches of rain on the 19th and 20th followed by frosts every morning till the end of the month, giving us a total of 3.41 inches compared to 2.29 inches in February 2015.

March started with the March winds being very strong, and we had hail showers thrown in on the 2nd. We had an early surprise on the 4th when we got up to find a covering of snow on the hill and garden. It continued being cold and miserable but dry overhead, and now by the 16th the dust is blowing, so far this month we have had 1.09 inches.

John Whatley

LITTER PICK

Fantastic! A very big thank you to all those who turned up to the village litter pick. Lots of new faces, and ages from 88 down to Poppy aged 5 who had already helped the School plant snowdrops in the Pleasure Walk.

I think everyone was amazed at the vast amount that was collected with more and more orange bags coming back to fill the skip. I gather it was overflowing by Monday morning. I hope everyone appreciated a spotless village.



Very many thanks to all those who worked so hard on the day.

Fran Chris

Jan Smy

Jan Smy's funeral will be held on Tuesday 5th April at 12.45

Mendip Crematorium

Old Wells Road

Croscombe

Wells

BA5 3RR

LOOK AT OUR BUS SHELTER!!



Not many people know that the two bus shelters in Horningsham actually belong to the Parish Council. The one near the Bath Arms was in a very poor state and needed urgent repairs. Luckily for all our Council Tax payers, Councillor Ken Windess generously offered to carry out the repairs if the Council paid for the materials – his offer was speedily accepted!

Little did Ken realise, until he came to dismantle the shelter, just how extensive was the job he had taken on. Much of the wood was rotten and to prevent that happening again, new blockwork was needed. Ken toiled away in a barn at Mill Farm on the woodwork and then Graeme Metcalfe, Longleat's new Maintenance Manager, stepped in with an offer of his team to carry out the blockwork. Having built it, they then helped Ken with re-erecting the shelter. That done, Ken then treated all of the wood, painted the breeze blocks and the whole of the inside of the shelter.

Thanks to all this admirable voluntary effort, Horningsham now has a beautifully restored bus shelter that is arguably better than the day it was new!

Well done, Ken!



INS & OUTS

No “Ins” as we go to press but we hear two are on the way.

Another sad farewell to a long-time resident of Horningsham. Norma Bundy is moving from 75 Church Street to a bungalow in Westbury, near other members of the family. Her son John and his family will miss her but she will not be too far away. She and her husband Pete lived at Park Hill Cottage when he worked for Longleat as Fisheries Manager and then deerstalker. Norma worked as part-time housekeeper for Lord Bath and looked after Ceawlin and Lenka.

Zoe and Rob Hudgell have moved from the old Post Office in Chapel Street and have bought a house in Corsley, so this is not a farewell. We hope to see them around as Rob is still working at Longleat

Maggie Osborne



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LONGLEAT NEWS

LONGLEAT CELEBRATES SAFARI PARK'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

This year Longleat marks the 50th anniversary of its ground-breaking safari park. In 1966, the park became the first of its kind to open outside of Africa. So began a revolution in zoological collections that has since spread around the globe. For the first time animals were able to move freely across hundreds of acres of land and to interact naturally with each other.

Today it is difficult to imagine the furore aroused when Longleat's plans for an initial 100-acre lion reserve were made public. There were warnings of big cats running wild in the Wiltshire countryside, clergymen were up in arms and there were even questions asked in the Houses of Parliament. The Times observed: 'No amount of soothing assurance can persuade sensible people that a quite gratuitous and unnecessary risk to life is not contemplated.'

In spite of the fears however the ground-breaking concept of the drive-through safari park, aided perhaps by the storm of publicity, proved hugely popular.

As part of the celebrations, Ceawlin and Emma also officially unveiled Longleat's very own lion-shaped hot-air balloon which is tethered outside the front of Longleat House, alongside the giant four-metre tall sculpture of a lion. The shipping of the lion from South Africa even made news in the container shipping world under the corny headline: "Lion Shipment A Roaring Success".



Mill Farm Chronicles Feb – March 2016

If I ever get any silly ideas about altering the house again please feel free to shoot me or at least restrain me till I've forgotten about it! The new B&B room, aka The Cowshed is nearly ready for guests on Easter Saturday but oh my goodness it's been a mammoth task, expensive and a long time in the making. Thank goodness for the Internet and Google search that has enabled me to source most of the contents of the room without going out of the house, that is apart from a trip to IKEA in Bristol which is less of a shopping experience and more of a rite of passage (the meatballs are lush!) We have had three brilliant contractors working for us, Peter Sturman (electrician), Steve (decorator from Trowbridge) and Alex Fritchley (general builder, plumber and all round super star!). They have been patience personified as I've changed my mind on what I wanted, changed my mind back again and generally messed them around, but it seems that copious amounts of tea, coffee and chocolate biscuits are all that's required to get a great job done (that and a hefty invoice at the end!) All I can hope for now is that it's the beginning of a really good Bed and Breakfast season so that I can start to recoup some of the money spent.

Spring is here, hooray! This is my most favourite time of the year. I love seeing the grass getting greener and the buds on the trees begin to open. We've had a few lovely sunny days which is good because it has allowed us to turn out the majority of cows with their calves. The first time they all get out into a field after winter is always a joy to see, they run and skip and jump and generally go mad for half an hour enjoying the freedom. The only down side of this is that they all get muddled up and so the next half an hour is spent with all the mums mooing, trying to find their calves. Peace reigns eventually then its heads down for some serious grass eating.

Things are beginning to grow in the fields, mainly due to Steve doing some dung spreading and fertilising. We've also had some ground ploughed ready for some Spring barley to go in. Steve, Jack and our nephew Robert have been wooding, cutting up a few limbs of trees that have fallen over the winter. We have a heaving wood store now ready for next winter (nothing like being prepared!)

The main story for this month has to be the dredging of the pond. Two diggers appeared on the Saturday morning to start the job, one large one with a very long arm and a smaller one to do the finer work. They began by diverting the stream that constantly runs through the pond, into the field so that the mud drained and was easier to pick up. Then on the Monday morning three tractors towing rear discharge dung spreaders arrived and the digging began in earnest. Bucket after bucket was dredged and loaded into the spreaders which was then put on the field opposite the farm. By day two the pond was significantly emptier and the fields looked like something out of a scene from a World War One film. We thought it would take a week to complete but it was actually finished in 4 days. The corner by the sluice has gone from being 4ft deep to about 12ft deep and hopefully all the horrible pond weed has gone too. The final job to be done was to build a wood barrier along the bridge end bank of the donkey field. The bank has been eroding away for years so hopefully this will stop that happening any more. The field banks both sides have been reinstated and tidied up and the pond has been re filled. Give it a few weeks and the grass will grow back and all will be back to normal. I think the only creatures not happy about the pond being drained were the geese, ducks and swans who were most put out to not

have any water to splash about in. It was quite funny to watch them come into land though, the mad flapping of wings as they realise too late that there was no water just sludge to come down on. We had some very muddy, embarrassed ducks for a couple of days!



Other farm news is that Thelma and Louise, the pigs have gone on holiday up to The Bath Arms for a while. This was because we ran out of room to have them, the cows and the calves all inside at once, so thank you to the Bath Arms for accommodating them. The donkeys have been turned out into their paddock again. They were pleased to come inside over winter but, like the cows, are delighted to be out again now. They too ran and kicked and jumped with the sheer joy of just having space again. One sad bit of news, a badger has dug and broken its way into Jack's chicken house and killed the majority of the chickens. The ones that are left are traumatised to say the least.

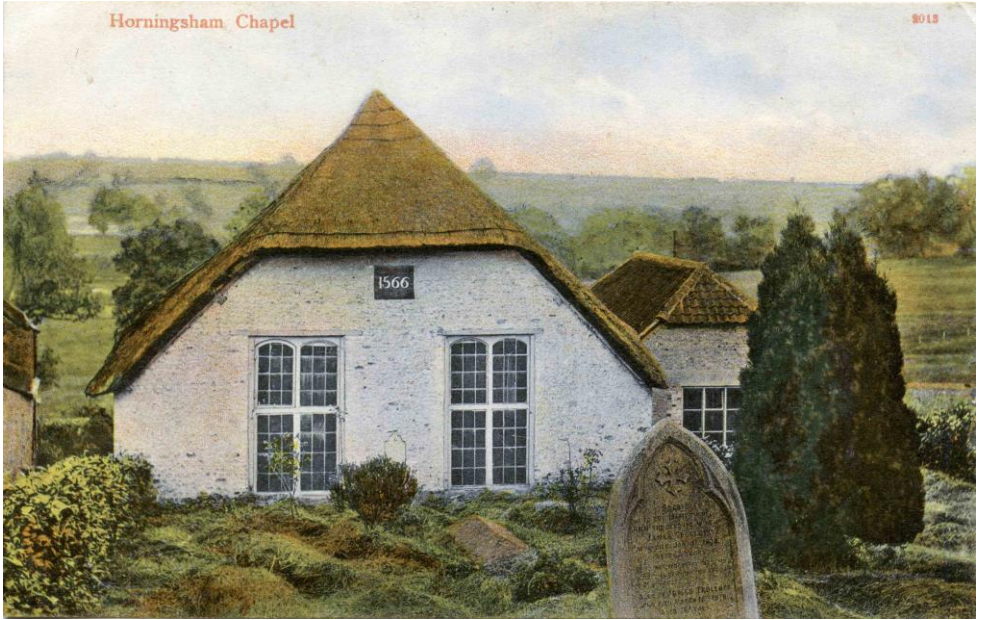
Socially it's been a fairly busy month, we've been to Steve's cousin Sue's 50th birthday in Bristol, my aunty's 90th birthday lunch in Cirencester and the sad funeral of Joe Lovatt (landlord of the Bath Arms for many years who was responsible for Steve and I meeting because he gave me a barmaid's job back in 1981)

I have also attended a sleep workshop (because I don't!) and Amy and I have just returned from a brilliant weekend in London. We went to the Ideal Homes exhibition (ideas for new room and retail therapy), Phantom of the Opera (entertainment), the National Gallery (just to prove we can do a bit of culture) and around London on a Big Red Bus tour (strangely informative). We also ate . . . too much! Quite a lot crammed into 36 hours!

Steve is due to have a knee operation on 4th April and will be confined to barracks. He's not allowed to drive for two weeks or work for 6 so it would be really good if anyone would like to visit him so that he doesn't go stir crazy from being indoors when he'd rather be outside. I've got a feeling that I'll have to hide his truck keys anyway or he will be sneaking off when my back is turned. So please give us a ring, come on down and keep him amused, I promise to provide the coffee and biscuits!

Margaret Crossman

THEN & NOW



c.1900



Another in the “Unchanging Horningsham” series! The chapel, or Meeting House as it is sometimes called, and its schoolroom, the former Manse, look remarkably unchanged over the more than 100 years between these two photos. The striking change is in the appearance of the graveyard. In the old photo the graveyard appears to be full of overgrown tombs, just one remains now. It is not known when the graveyard was cleared but one clue might be the establishment of the new burial ground on the other side of Chapel Street. In 1906 the Minister showed the Marquess of Bath around and, having offered to pay for thatching, new joists and to “beautify the inside walls at his own expense”, he further offered a piece of land (38 perches) for a new burial ground at an annual rent of 2 shillings and 6 pence – Half a Crown or 12½p.

Most of the inscription on the standing tombstone in the postcard is legible and says:

*SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ANN THE BELOVED WIFE OF JAMES TROLLOPE
WHO DIED JAN 4TH 1875 AGED 73 YEARS
ALSO OF JAMES TROLLOPE WHO DIED MARCH 16TH 1878 AGED 76 YEARS.*

Between the two windows there is a plaque which in recent years has become completely illegible. Fortunately in 1932 it was transcribed and what it used to say is:

*IN MEMORY OF WILLM. BARNES who died of the HYDROPHOBIA: He
was bitten by a Dog on the 18 of May and was Dipped in the Salt Water on
the 19 and Died on the 31 of July following after a few HOURS of strong
PAROXYSMS: aged 28 years 1820*

Hydrophobia (fear of water) was the name given to rabies at the time. The rabies virus, which attacks the central nervous system, is now found only in bats in the UK but was relatively common in dogs in the 19th Century. In the period of 1810 -1830 there was something of a national panic about rabies with many scary stories in popular newspapers and it was in this atmosphere that this stone was thought worthy of erecting in its unusual and prominent position. A favoured treatment at the time was to bathe in sea water, doubtless the dipping in salt water was an attempt to replicate that treatment in Horningsham.

Above it, the date 1566 records the date that it is believed the Chapel was founded, not the date of the present building which is thought to be 17th Century with two later extensions in 1754 and 1816. The long-established traditional story is that Scottish builders brought in to build Longleat wanted a Presbyterian form of worship and Sir John Thynne provided them with this site to do so. It is also held that the area of Horningsham behind the Bath Arms that is known as “Little Scotland” derived its name from those Scottish builders. The Chapel is still leased from Longleat and a lease of 1786 says it must only be used for “divine worship” and must be thatched. Should it not be used for that purpose then the lease reverts to Longleat. The Manse had a similar clause and, even though its building was paid for by supporters of the chapel, when there ceased to be a resident Minister, the house reverted to Longleat who now rent it to one of their staff.

Whatever the true facts of the Chapel’s foundation, Horningsham Congregational Church is indisputably the oldest non-conformist chapel still in use in England and 2016 marks its 450th anniversary.

Sarah McQuaid www.sarahmcquaid.com

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Refreshments Available



ON SAFARI AMID THE PRIDE OF WILTSHIRE

FROM A STAFF REPORTER

LONGLEAT, WILTSHIRE, APRIL 3

Nobody was eaten here today. The first safari into the lions' compound was watched with disdain by all of the lions in the pride except two.

Espying a cavalcade of none too tasty-looking journalists, a lioness crouched menacingly, glared like a politician given an awkward question, and ran at a car. At the last moment the lioness swerved, barging it with her shoulder, and loped off.

The only other real contact was when a group of cubs strolled towards a party of photographers in vehicles. Lord Bath, wearing a fetching Mexican hat was half-way out of his car. It looked a dangerous moment.

One of the cubs approached at a trot, a white hunter with a loaded gun stood by, and Mr. Richard Chipperfield, a member of the circus family, stood his guard.

UNDER THE FENCE

The cub turned out to be one of his friends and Lord Bath stroked it bravely.

The safari had begun forebodingly enough as the party drove past a sign pointing to "Heaven's Gate. No Coaches".

Already Mr. James Chipperfield, a partner in the lion-keeping scheme, had denied stories of lions escaping only a fortnight ago. All that happened, he said, was that two cubs had got under the wire in the inner 6ft. electrified fence into the area between it and the 14ft. outer fence.

The intention, he said, had been that small cubs should be able to roam in that area if they wished away from the fully grown lions. The inner barrier had now been fitted with chain-link fencing.

Outside the first entrance gate today a "white hunter" in bush hat and khaki sat astride a horse as in an illustration from a boy's adventure story. He is one of 15 recruited with experience of big game.

THREE MARKSMEN

There were more guards at two further gates, the second of which opens into the 97-acre compound. Inside three marksmen, each accompanied by a driver, are on duty in Land Rovers.

The 46 lions already here roam at will beneath the trees in the compound, laze on the verandahs of their insulated shelters (made from railway banana wagons) or pace up and down inside the fence, eyeing meaty cows in the parkland beyond. On each of six days a week every lion is thrown 14s. worth of meat.

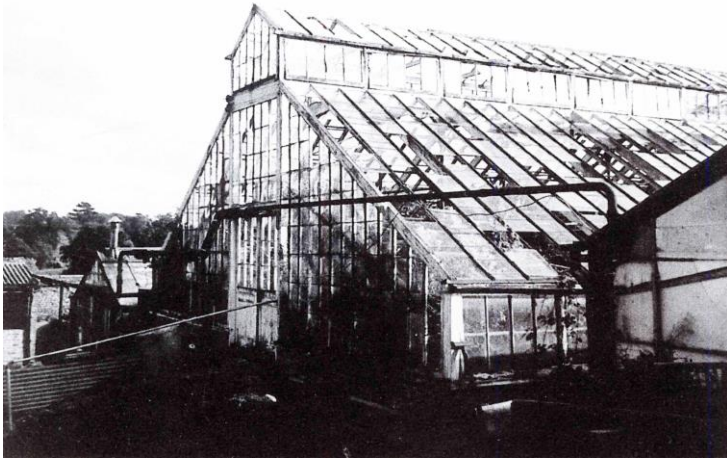
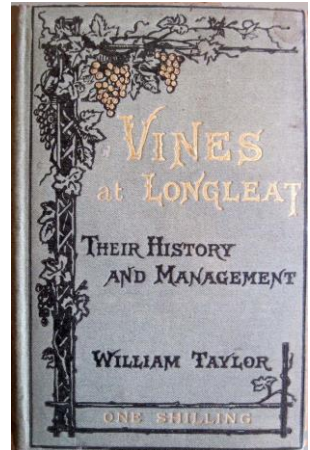
The compound will be open to safaris by the public from Tuesday.

Picture, page 22.

Grapes at Longleat

We have heard on the grapevine (!) that grapes are to be grown in the Kitchen Gardens but did you know that Longleat's grapes were famous 150 years ago?

In the 1860s an immense glasshouse or vinery was built in the upper part of the Kitchen Gardens at the instigation of the Head Gardener, Mr William Taylor, a famous viticulturist who came from Suffolk. The glasshouse was 216 feet long, 30 feet wide and 18 feet tall. This was the heyday of the Victorian Kitchen Garden with their wealthy owners vying to grow exotic fruits such as pineapples (Heligan) or, in Longleat's case, grapes. The Thynnes must have been well-pleased with Taylor for the Longleat grapes became famous and frequently featured in gardening magazines of the time. Taylor's own fame was such that in 1882 he published: *The Vines at Longleat: Their History and Management* which can still be found in antiquarian booksellers though at around £100 a copy rather than the original price of one shilling.



Taylor planted four Muscat of Alexandria vines in the borders he had created within the vinery. By 1881, William Pratt, a Scot, had succeeded Taylor. He planted further vines including late black varieties but the Muscats continued to thrive as *The Garden* reported:

It is the central compartment that has done so much to make the Longleat Grapes famous, this being wholly devoted to the Muscat of Alexandria. A more even or grander crop of this high class variety could not well be found, there being hundreds of bunches . . . which, when fully grown, will average not less than 3 lbs. each.

By 1897 according to a report in *The Garden Illustrated* Pratt had died and was succeeded by Josiah Trollope:

Scores of bunches are not less than 5 lbs. each in weight, and some might be found equal to scaling 8 lbs. Altogether there cannot be far short of one ton of Grapes in that compartment, and Mr. J. Trollope, the head gardener at Longleat, has every reason to feel proud of what he has accomplished.

In 1901 *The Book of the Grape* heaped yet more praise on the Muscats Taylor had planted: I have frequently seen the grapes at Longleat, and finer crops of Muscats I have never seen in any other part of the United Kingdom; in fact, I have never, taking the crop throughout, seen any Muscats to equal the Longleat Muscats, many of the bunches exceeding six and a half pounds in weight, the berries, too, being of great size and substance, and borne on unusually stout foot-stalks. The colour, bloom and flavour of the berries left nothing to be desired.

When *The Gardeners' Chronicle* visited in September 1905, Henry Gandy was the Head Gardener. The reporter noted what an achievement it was for the Muscats to still be prolifically producing first class grapes and praised Taylor's original design of the glasshouse:

In the erection and planting of this vinery provision was very wisely made for having ample space above and between the Vine rods and the glass roof. A large lantern roof, with lights to open continuously on each side, and other deeper front lights, which open just above the ground line, maintain a circulation of air which tends so largely to the continued success of the Longleat Grapes.

It is not clear when grape growing ceased but in 1970 Lord Bath gave up the Kitchen Gardens and leased them until 1975 to Clifford Gould who used the glasshouse for propagating fuchsias, including one called "Lady Lenka" he also grew plants he sold in the Garden Centre at Longleat.

The end for the vinery came in January 1990 with the great gale of that year (not the Michael Fish tornado of 1987!). Most of the glass was smashed and the vinery was later demolished



The vinery before the 1990 Gale



BUSES FROM BUS SHELTER AT THE COMMON

Salisbury every Tuesday **83**

Leaves Horningsham 09.35 *Holly Bush 09.37* Arrives Salisbury 10.30
Departs Salisbury 13.45 Arrives Horningsham 14.45

Trowbridge every Thursday **81**

Leaves Horningsham 10.03 *Holly Bush 10.01* Arrives Trowbridge 10.55
Departs Manvers St Trowbridge 13.10 Arrives Horningsham 14.04

Bath every Saturday **80**

Leaves Horningsham 10.05 Arrives Bath 11.00
Departs Bath Bus Station at 15.50 Arrives Horningsham 16.49

Warminster every Friday **82**

Friday leaves Horningsham 09.45 *Holly Bush 09.48* Arrives Warminster 10.10
Departs Warminster Coach Station 12.20

Frome every Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday

Wednesday **80** leaves Horningsham 10.06 *Holly Bush 10.01*

Departs Cork St. Car Park 12.15 and 13.45

Thursday **81** leaves Horningsham 10.03 *Holly Bush 10.01*

Departs Frome Market Place 13.50

Saturday **80** leaves Horningsham 10.05 and 14.05

Departs Cork St. Car Park 12.10 and 16.30



BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES

Black Boxes	Thursday 14 th & 28 th April Thursday 12 th & 26 th May
Grey Bins	Friday 1 st 15 th & 29 th April Friday 13 th & 27 th May
Blue Bins	Friday 8 th & 22 nd April Friday 6 th & 20 th May
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Wiltshire Police – non emergency		101
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	844197
Horningsham School		844342
First Steps Nursery		844942
Village Hall Hire	Caroline Dykes	07779 121228
Longleat Estate Office		845535
Longleat Office	Accounts	844400
Longleat Clerk of Works		844304
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	213436
Congregational Chapel	Carol Cox	horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk
Horningsham Church Rector	Rev Pauline Reid	841290
Good Neighbour Co-ordinator	Emma Curtis	07557 922033
Warminster District Link Scheme		211655
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096
Stray or Fouling Dogs		0300 456 0100

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 9th April *From the Atlantic to Antarctica* 6.00 pm at the Hall
 Wednesday 20th April Hall Annual General Meeting
 Thursday 21st April *Parish Council* 7.30 pm at the Hall
 Thursday 12th May *Maggie* 7.30 at the Hall



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