

HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 195

September 2016





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EDITORIAL

The evenings are drawing in, the children will soon be back at school, we have a date for the Harvest Festival and the Horningsham News is back from its summer break! Not an enormous amount has happened since our last issue – I often reflect on the oxymoronic title I inherited as your Editor – there usually isn't much news in Horningsham, but I suppose that's just how we like it. However, I hope you will find something of interest in the present issue.

In our most popular regular feature, you can find out what has been happening on Mill Farm, including an account of the biggest party in the village this summer. If you missed the exciting evening about Rorke's Drift, then we have an illustrated report. You can also read about the Luncheon Club's annual outing, which included a trip by boat on the River Exe. The 450th Anniversary of the Chapel was the occasion for unveiling a plaque to Barbara Carpenter who for so long played its organ and acted as custodian. We have farewells from Rev. Di Britten and from the School's Assistant Head, Andrew Dix. Even those of you who don't much like cricket will enjoy the report on the match at Fontwell. There is a longer than usual "From the Papers" on Horningsham's most famous fallen hero, though you won't find his name on our Memorial: Thomas Gray the village policeman's son who won the first RAF Victoria Cross of the Second World War.

For those who are looking to get more involved in our community: there is a vacancy on the School's Governing Body; the Fayre Committee is looking for more volunteers; and the Luncheon Club is always looking for cooks and helpers.

If you haven't sent in the questionnaire that came with the July issue, it's not too late. So, fill it in and send it off!

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Saturday 17th September.

Email: horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial Team

Tim Hill	844365	Chrissie Buttery	844622
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Facebook

We now have 451 "Page Likes" – well on our way to three times the number of printed copies!

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

CHURCH NEWS



The Village Reunion took place in July as usual and once again we had a very successful day. Our theme was the Chapel's 450th anniversary and we held our service there. The Chapel has a very special atmosphere and with the sun shining and a congregation of 60 it was a wonderful occasion. This year Kim very kindly provided lunch, which everyone enjoyed. We are very grateful to her for taking over from Susie Lane, who was responsible for the lunch for many years. I had a postcard from Susie in early July, wishing us well, which was kind of her. She is now living on the Isle of Lewis and is very happy there.

At the end of the month Horningsham hosted the celebration lunch and service to mark the retirement of the Rev Di Britten. This was a Benefice service and we were joined by our friends from Corsley and Chapmanslade as well as the Deverills. It was a very happy occasion. Di was very involved with Horningsham School and has also taken many services at Horningsham. We will miss her very much, but wish her a long and happy retirement.

Our next service is at the end of September when we will be celebrating Harvest Festival. In October we will be hosting the All Souls service. I know it seems far ahead, but I have been asked to compile a list of names for Horningsham. (It will be a Benefice service and Pauline needs time to gather in names from all the churches). If you would like a candle lit for a loved one who is no longer with us, please can you either contact me direct or put the name in the box on the table just inside the church, by the end of September please.

Helen Taylor

Tel 215906 Email helen@pottlepress.plus.com

Church Dates

25th September

Harvest Festival 5.00pm

30th October

All Souls 4.30pm

Dear Friends,

If you are not a dog person I apologise now because I cannot write this letter without reference to the ball of fluff called Betty who has already become a much-loved member of our family alongside our beautiful black Labrador Alf.

Pondering on possible subject matter I wondered, given the pain and tragedy that is so much in evidence in our world today, whether it was acceptable to focus on such trivialities as the arrival of a new puppy in the family. But I came to the conclusion that it's really important to keep telling stories about the good things in life that bring us joy, because if we don't, the dark aspects of human experience can blind us to what is good and hopeful in our lives. And there is something wonderfully joyful about getting to know a puppy and watching them interact with a world that to them is new and incredibly exciting.



It's hard work though! Training has to begin from day one and I am constantly in and out the garden, so much so that my knees actually hurt from the constant leaping up and down! But you know what, being forced out in the garden of necessity, I have seen so much beauty that I usually miss. I have gazed entranced at the moon in the night sky, wondered at the mist hanging over the fields in the early morning light. I've sat on the lawn in the evening after a riotous game of fetch, listening to the pheasants preparing to roost and watching the long shadows of sunlight slide away into dusk. I've laughed at Betty trying to play with the wind by batting it with her paws, and stood by her as she listens intently to the multiplicity sounds that surround us; everything is fascinating; each new experience is greeted with interest and delight.

We are all so busy rushing around aren't we, and there almost seems to be an element of competition in the need to be constantly engaged in what we perceive as worthwhile, productive activity. The default answer these days to the question 'How are you?' seems to be 'Oh I'm really busy.' I wonder what the reaction would be if the answer was: 'I'm well thank you, I've been laying on the lawn looking at the stars and the moon and wondering about my place in it all.' I would imagine some of you will be getting cross at this point and muttering about time and the demands of 21st Century life, but I think what I am trying to say is that we need to make time to wonder. I would say, we need to make time to engage with the numinous, to open ourselves to the breath of God whose presence fills the universe if only we would stop and apprehend it.

So in these beautiful last days of summer, as the light fades once more, take the time just for a moment or two to stop, and breathe, and wonder at the mysterious beauty of it all.

With love and prayers,

Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.com

From: Reverend Di Britten,
Applecroft, Lane End, Corsley. BA12 7PG

Thank you

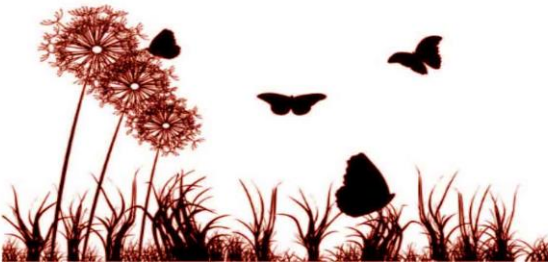
Thank you all, those who were able to join with me in my last service as Associate Priest, at the Benefice Service on July 31st , and those who were not able to make it, for the wonderful support and help I have received from you all during my nine years of ordained ministry. I have enjoyed my time immensely and it has been a great privilege to serve here in this Benefice.

Thank you especially for your hospitality and kindness as I travelled from village to village, for your patience and forbearance when things have not quite gone according to plan, and for your prayers during those busy and difficult times that reassured me I was not on my own.

Last but not least, I would also like to thank you for your most generous gift on my retirement, which I have put towards a new greenhouse. As many of you know my garden is one of my great loves and I look forward to having the time and space to indulge it even more and contemplate a wonderful period of service and fulfilment in my life.

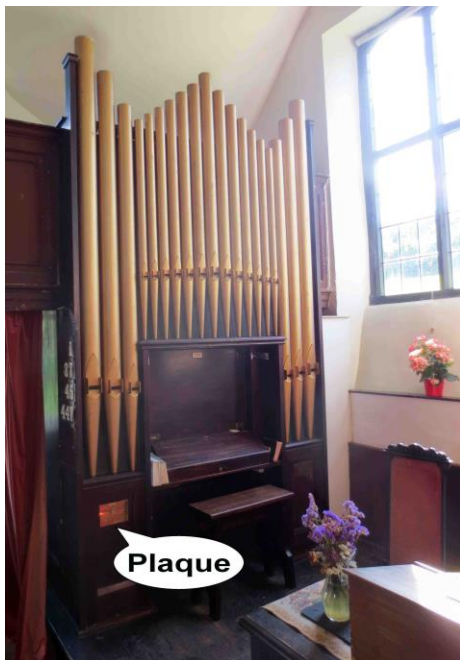
Thank you all

Di Britten



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

We had a wonderful day on the 17th July when the Chapel's 450th anniversary was celebrated, with a service conducted by Yvonne Campbell, General Secretary of the Congregational Church.



Many past Ministers and Federation members of our region attended along with many friends and members of the Chapel. On the day we unveiled two plaques, one in memory of well-loved Barbara Carpenter unveiled by her daughter Lynn Ware and another of Catherine Dicks who was our previous organist - both faithful servants to the Chapel. A reception followed at the Village Hall with a 450th celebration Cake and Buffet made by our members. This special day for our Chapel was well attended and enjoyed by all. (A report was in The Warminster Journal)



On the 10th July we were pleased to welcome to the Chapel our friends and relatives of the Annual Village Reunion with the service conducted by Reverend Alison Wadsworth. A lovely lunch followed at the Village Hall with a display of photographs showing the history of the Chapel. A lovely day with all our friends

We had a pretty wedding of Caroline Croudace and Keith Fowler on 18th June and the weather was kind.

Our September services will be announced on our Notice Board.

Carol Cox horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk

INS & OUTS



Not many people have been moving this month, but:

Welcome to Sue and Gary Sullivan, and Lottie their white cockatoo, who have moved in to Rose Cottage in Water Lane. Gary spent 22 years in the Army, in the Royal Signals, and Sue was in the Royal Signals TA for 15 years. They both now work for SDC Builders on contract to Center Parcs, Gary as Site Manager and Sue as Administrator.

Farewell to Debbie Godsell, with Georgina and Abbie, who are moving to Frome from 95 Anchor Barton.

Maggie Osborne

WELCOME CLUB

We enjoyed our trip to Abergavenny in July – a new place created increased interest and we almost had a full coach. So perhaps next season we could spring some surprises!

Mr Brockman was unable to be with us due to family illness for his version of the Antiques Road Show in July. However, he has promised to join us again in 2017.

The Dogs Trust is due on 1st September and our trip will be to Swanage and Poole on 6th September. The dates fall awkwardly this month for our Thursday meetings, so number two will be on 29th September when Tom Allday will be treating us to another “Story Time”. When he did this in March we all found it most enjoyable.

Chris Short 847373

**Deverills
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2016**

Bath Philharmonia Chamber Players

Saturday 17 September, 7.30pm
Kingston Deverill Church

Programme: Mozart’s Piano Concerto No 12 in A Maj
Tchaikovsky’s Souvenir de Florence

About the Players: The piano and string septet features Joseph Havlat, pianist with principals of the orchestra.

Full details at: deverillsfestival.com bathphil.co.uk

Tickets: £15

01985 844385 info@deverillsfestival.com



HORNINGSHAM FAYRE

Planning is about to start for the 2017 Horningsham Fayre!

If you are interested in getting involved in this major community event, come along to the first Fayre Committee meeting on Wednesday 21st September at 7.30 in the Village Hall. We are always looking to involve more people so it would be great to see you.

Caroline Dykes

HALL NEWS

We have a busy month of September at the hall, with a Jazz concert on the 3rd September. There are regular yoga classes every Tuesday from the 6th September through until 18th October, from 1.30pm till 2.30pm.

There's a possibility of a hot air balloon target competition over the weekend of the 16th, 17th & 18th of Sept, more details of this to follow.

On the 30th September Dorothy House are holding a quiz night, they are trying to raise as much as possible so all welcome.

Later in the year on the 8th December we have the fabulous Pip Utton back, this time performing "A Christmas Carol". Ticket prices and times will be detailed closer to the event.

Hope everyone is enjoying a lovely summer and hopefully we'll see a few faces at the village hall soon.

Louisa Cruikshank



Sunday 18th September

10.30 – 12 noon

Horningsham Village Hall

Fresh cafetière coffee, teas and biscuits served till noon.

Everyone invited!

PARISH COUNCIL

Horningsham Parish Council held an additional meeting on Thursday 4th August to consider various planning applications.

Present: Councillors, Tim Hill, Steve Crossman, Michael Trollope, Simon Millar, Dermot FitzGerald, Matt Simpson, Emma Curtis, Ken Windess, and Fran Chris.

Apologies: Councillor Gerard Brierley.

In attendance: The Parish Clerk Mrs Sarah Jeffries MILCM and 4 members of the public.

Planning Applications

Application: 16/05920/FUL & 16/06662/LBC

Location: 212 Pottle Street Horningsham Warminster BA12 7LX

Proposal: Demolition of modern conservatory and lean to, new extension to the kitchen, existing second modern conservatory replaced with new and new conservation roof lights installed to rear tiled roof lean to Minor internal alterations.

The Chairman explained that the property is Grade 2 listed and therefore Listed Building Consent as well as planning consent were needed. He then invited the members of the public to speak to their applications. They explained that the alterations were intended to enhance the present building for 21st Century living whilst maintaining its attractive historic character. Councillors then raised various questions, such as the excavations at the rear of the property and the location of the oil tank, to which the applicants responded. The Chairman clarified with the applicants that the appearance of the property from the front, as seen from Pottle Street, would remain unaltered with all of the alterations being carried out at the rear.

Council then voted unanimously to support both applications.

Application: 16/06179/FUL

Location: Longleat House Longleat Horningsham Warminster BA12 7NN

Proposal: Removal of existing themed attraction and replacement with new themed play equipment.

The Chairman invited Longleat CEO Bob Montgomery to speak to the application. He explained that the existing “Postman Pat” attraction had become tired and its theme was now less attractive to young children than it had been. The new attraction would be an area for active play and would not include any mechanical rides.

Council voted unanimously to support the application.

16/067 Licensing Act 2003

Application for a Premises Licence: The Long House, The Estate Office, Longleat, Horningsham, Wiltshire, BA12 7NW

Details of licensable activities applied for:

- Plays (Indoors & Outdoors): Monday-Sunday 10:00-02:00
- Films (Indoors & Outdoors): Monday-Sunday 10:00-02:00
- Indoor Sporting Events: Monday-Sunday 10:00-02:00
- Boxing or wrestling entertainment (Outdoors): Monday-Sunday 10:00-02:00
- Live Music (Indoors & Outdoors): Monday-Sunday 10:00-02:00
- Recorded Music (Indoors & Outdoors): Monday-Sunday 10:00-02:00

- Performances of Dance (Indoors & Outdoors): Monday-Sunday 10:00-02:00
- Late Night Refreshment (Indoors & Outdoors): Monday-Sunday 23:00-02:00
- Supply of alcohol (ON & OFF the premises): Monday-Sunday 10:00-02:00

The Chairman invited Longleat CEO Bob Montgomery to speak to the application. He outlined the intended uses of the facility for public and private events and underlined that the licence would relate only to the building and the defined area immediately around it. He said that the venue would be a profitable additional facility for the Estate. Councillors expressed support for the aspects of the licence that related to activities indoors but raised concerns about the licencing of outdoor live and recorded music during the hours of 10.00 am to 2.00 am, seven days a week. Past experience suggested this could be a nuisance to those living within earshot. Mr Montgomery said he understood the concern and would be happy to withdraw that part of the application. Following further discussion, Councillors suggested that if the outdoor element ended at midnight they would find it acceptable. Mr Montgomery thanked Council for this compromise and also gave an assurance that traffic would exit any event via the main entrance to Longleat and not through Horningsham.

Council voted unanimously to support the application conditional upon there being no outdoor music after midnight.

Application for a Variation to a Premises Licence: Center Parcs, Longleat Forest, Warminster

Application by: Center Parcs Limited

This is an application by Center Parcs to increase the 5,000 person limit at any one time on the premises to 8,700 people to include changeover days.

Councillors raised concerns about the public safety issues involved in an additional 3,700 people on the site. They were especially concerned about the volume of traffic in view of the present inadequate traffic management arrangements for vehicles entering Center Parcs. There are often long queues already on the approach roads as vehicles wait to enter. This is largely due to the way Center Parcs organises guest registration.

Council voted unanimously to not support this application. It further voted to invite Center Parcs to send a representative to the next Parish Council meeting in September to discuss concerns over the traffic queues on the approach roads.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 8th September at 7.30 in the Village Hall when all are welcome to attend.

POLICE NEWS



Maiden Bradley and Horningsham

4x non dwelling burglary (Center Parcs)

Criminal Damage (Longleat)

Dog Bite

Not much crime reported in Horningsham in July – just the dog bite in Chapel Street.

LUNCHEON CLUB OUTING

Thursday August 5th dawned rather murkily, but by the time our coach had picked up the travellers at Horningsham and Maiden Bradley, we were bowling along the A303 in sunshine through Wiltshire and Somerset to glorious Devon.

We stopped for an hour at the Otter Nurseries for refreshment and a browse in the well-stocked garden centre. Some of us bought plants.

By lunchtime, we were set down in Exmouth town centre for a wander through the shopping centre, then across the gardens to the sea front. Bright sunshine and a refreshing breeze, made ideal conditions for a walk along the esplanade, where there were beautifully planted and maintained flower beds. There was plenty of soft golden sand for the bucket and spade group and a variety of eating places in town and in cafes along the seafront for choice of lunch venue. A glass of chilled white wine and a plate of antipasto looking out to sea was our ideal spot.



We all assembled at the coach to be taken to our boarding slipway for a trip up the river Exe estuary in a ferry boat. Burly sailors assisted in negotiating the long steep gangplank on to the Tudor Rose. The weather was still set fair as we made our way upstream towards Topsham. Our navigator pointed out places of interest along the way such as: Powderham Castle, home of the Courtenay family; Cockwood village where Devon violet perfume was first

made and marketed from the local violets; the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre; and the Exmouth mussel fisheries where the mussels are now sold to top restaurants in the country as well as being a local speciality. We skirted round the mid-estuary seafood restaurant accessible by water taxi and made our return journey facing the sea and the beginning of the enormous Lyme Bay and the start of the great Jurassic red cliffs.



On the way, we were served cream teas, efficiently handed out by the crew so we could continue to enjoy the lovely scenery while munching our way through delicious cream and jam covered Devon Buns washed down with mugs of tea, coffee, or cider.



On reaching dry land, we re-joined our coach, pausing to buy some mussels at the fish shop, and then headed for home, stopping on the way for a raffle organised as usual by Tom and arrived back from our seaside trip tired but happy.

Many thanks to Pearl for organising such a successful trip yet again.

Carole Hill



END OF A FANTASTIC YEAR...

What a great year it has been! From our China topic to Take One Book. We've done so many wonderful things and are really proud of all our children. Good luck to all our fantastic former Y6 pupils as they start their first term in secondary school; they have been excellent role models and leaders this year and we know they will go on to make us proud. We welcome our new reception children as they start with us this month and also a big welcome to Mr Edwards, who joins us as our new Assistant Head and teacher of Owls class.



SUMMER PARTY SUCCESS

What a fantastic atmosphere the summer party held at the Village Hall and green at the end of term! Great food, great company and great support from our families and the local community. A massive thank you to the PTA for organising such a wonderful social event.



Y2 CHINA
DAY
中国

Our Y2 children spent a wonderful day at Walwayne Court Primary School spending the day immersed in Chinese activities. They produced some lovely work, including calligraphy, origami and dance and were also fantastic ambassadors for the school with their great manners.

SPORTS DAY & WINNING TEAM FOR THE YEAR

Our annual Sports Day turned out to be a fun and exciting day. We awarded lots of medals and trophies as all of the children did very well and showed lots of determination, passion, self-belief and respect throughout the day. The Team Captains did a great job of organising the afternoon activities too. Congratulations to Wilton for winning overall for Sports Day and also for winning the most team points over the year. As a reward, they were treated to a pool party, which was great fun!



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WEEK *All of the classes have had a week of learning about their body parts and changes, life cycles and how to keep clean and healthy. We have had some great visitors over the week to support our teaching. Mrs Lodge and Mrs Smilie brought in babies George and Sienna, which was super cute and very interesting! We have had ducklings wandering around the hall, reflexology in Woodpeckers, a visit from the School Nurse in Owls and animal noises during a yoga session! The final day was great fun, with the children working in mixed age groups rotating around a variety of activities: cookery, art, gardening, relaxation and bouncing! What a week!*



SCHOOL GAMES GOLD KITEMARK 2015-16 *I am really pleased and proud to announce that we have been awarded GOLD for this year's School Games Mark due to our commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport in 2015/16. This is something that we have really worked hard to achieve this year so well done Horningsham!*



WILTSHIRE SCHOOL GAMES: TRI-GOLF

Well done to the children that went to Marlborough College to compete in the Wiltshire School Games Tri-Golf tournament. We came 5th out of the 9 teams to qualify for the event, but had a very high score of 909 - there was lots of great putting and chipping! We then had the opportunity to watch some of the other sporting competitions and finished off with some fun in the Athletes village!



YEAR AHEAD: *We have lots of great plans for this academic year with lots of inspiring topics and activities. We always aim to work as closely with the village as possible and welcome any involvement (e.g. hearing children read, supporting events). Please do contact us if you wish to take a more active part in working with us – we'd love to hear from you!*

History of Horningsham

If you have any resources or information on the history of the village please contact us – it would help greatly with our topic this term!

ANDREW DIX



Andrew with his children: Kelsey, Owen & Jade

I would just like to thank the wonderful families connected to Horningsham School. I was overwhelmed by both the volume of thoughtful cards and gifts, as well as the kind words I received on my final few days with you. I'm not sure I managed to thank everyone personally, so please accept this as my huge "Thank You" to you all.

I had three very memorable years as the assistant head at the school, working with the most amazing bunch of children who were exceptionally well-behaved, inquisitive, questioning and highly-motivated learners. I have enjoyed the interaction with all the parents, who again have been a joy to deal with, indeed some of whom actually found my sense of humour quite endearing! The village has a prized asset in the school and all the staff who work so very hard to offer as many exciting opportunities as possible. Treasure it. Having worked in schools with triple the number of staff, I can vouch for just how hard it is to work in what appears to be a sleepy school in an idyllic village. You as a community are blessed with true professionals who go above and beyond for your children.

At one time we had a supply teacher who would drive in from Frome and say to me that each time she came to the village it felt like she was entering Narnia. I can echo those sentiments: the village and community will live long in my heart and affections.

Andrew Dix

HORNINGSHAM CRICKET CLUB



Our season is nearly over. 32 games have come and gone. We have won 15, lost 7, abandoned 2 in mid-flow because it started raining too hard, and 8 never happened, for various reasons - weather, opposition unable to raise a team, usual stuff.

In the Sunday league, with one round of fixtures still to play, it remains anyone's guess who will be this year's winners. Mostly, because so many games have been abandoned, or rescheduled, or passed by with the participants forgetting to tell the rest of the league what happened, that no one really has a clue. And also I think the competition is genuinely tight. We have lost

one game, to our friendly rivals Mere in July, our first league defeat since 2014 - a game which we might have won if we had turned up with a full side.

One game that sticks in my memory was a on a sunny evening at Fonthill Park. So beautiful is their ground, surrounded by parkland, that it is hard to get a game against them, owing to the streams of London touring sides passing their way. We hoped that if we put on a good show they might invite us back. Best of all, if we arrived on time, with a full side, and played a game without controversy, ideally to a nail-biting conclusion, they might even promote us to a Sunday afternoon slot. So we arrived 15 minutes late, with 7 players (an eighth came later), and borrowed a spare 12 year old off the opposition. They looked unimpressed, and then batted first and made a vast total. In short, they thought we were not just hopelessly disorganised but also pretty rubbish. Then we had a moment when our umpire and their captain disagreed about a rule. And finally, despite best efforts with the bat, we fell out of contention with 40 runs needed off the last two overs. At which point Sam Lock woke up and hit 39 off 11 balls. You can imagine the change in atmosphere across the field as the home team looked back from the woodland where Sam kept depositing sixes, to the scoreboard which suddenly showed us needing 1 to win off the last ball. Intriguingly, it was the 12 year Fonthill lad, batting for us, who had to face the last ball - which he miss-hit, straight to a fielder, who somehow fell on top of the ball. Amidst the chaos and the time he took to extract it from under his belly, the young lad scampered home to win the match. Eventually, a nail-biting conclusion and very enjoyable end to the evening . . . but, well, I am not sure they will invite us back!

James Osborne

WANTED

Lions of Longleat / Longleat Safari Park guide books.

I am trying to collect all of the guide books since the park opened in 1966.

If you have any you are willing to sell, please contact me. Thanks! Cathy Turner

Tel: 07917 478776 / 01985 844807 cathy@starlinetaxis.co.uk

An evening of story-telling and heroism

The Zulu War of 1879 and Rorke's Drift were brought alive on a very rainy evening in the Village Hall on Armed Forces Day, Saturday 25th June.

To a packed village hall that included both the Commanding Officers of Warminster Garrison and until very recently of the 1st Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, South African born, world renowned story-teller and Zulu War expert, Rob Caskie, joined us for a fascinating evening.



With the village hall team, without whom these events would not be possible to stage, the hall decked out in copies of famous paintings of Rorke's Drift, those who received the VC, the inevitable bunting, Union Jacks and of course, Zulu and British Army memorabilia. For this, a particular word of thanks must go to the Royal Welsh Regimental Museum in Brecon for the loan of two Henry Martini Rifles and a Zulu shield and to our very own Maggie Osborne, whose Grand Father fought in the Boer War of 1899 -1902 and brought back some excellent examples of Zulu spears, called an Assegai or Iklwa and the close quarter clubs that in English we call Knobkerries.





Originally seen in London last year, Rob was persuaded by Geoffrey Wheating and Janie Robertson to come to Horningsham at the start of his UK tour. Having made a few calls, tapped a few contacts and as a demonstration of our strong links with the Military in a year that Longleat has officially signed up to the Military Covenant, they were able to get the support of the Royal Welsh, whose "B" Company 24th Regiment of Foot were at Rorke's Drift. Their 1st Battalion is based at Tidworth and while sadly their Commanding Officer, Lt. Col Paul Clayton MBE was unable to attend at the last minute, he was ably represented by Lt. Jon Edis who came with their Regimental Mascot, Fusilier Llewelyn, escorted by the Goat Major Mathew Owen.



In addition to which, Paul kindly sent their Regimental Colours and Lt. Coghill's sword as the backdrop onstage with a display of the spears and clubs and a suitably tattered large Union Jack loaned to us for the evening by Longleat. What's all the more special is that with the further merger of our regiments these revered Regimental Colours with the list of honours that include Rorke's Drift, were laid up (retired) at a ceremony earlier this year. This is the regiment that still, to this day, has the honour of receiving the most VCs in any one engagement, so having these here was particularly special.

It was a great evening that Rob thoroughly enjoyed. He was particularly blown away by the reception we gave him and by our having the Colours and sword onstage with him. It was a first! How he then pulled out the facts of what happened to the Terrier running the length of the mealie bags barking to alert the soldiers of Zulu's approaching in the night, we will never know. He did say afterwards that "It never ceases to amaze me when coming to the UK; however gory the tale there will always be someone in the Q&A who asks "and what happened to the horse or dog? It's a peculiarly British thing!" How true!



Mill Farm Chronicles July – August

It must be nearly Autumn: the nights are drawing in; I'm getting up in the dark; the brilliant Olympics is over; the Autumn TV schedule is starting next week with "must watch" programmes like "Poldark" and "The Great British Bake Off" coming back, and it's sausage time again!

Quick synopsis of what's been happening on the farm over the summer.

Our heifers have started calving and are doing really well, producing some lovely sturdy calves. Steve is very pleased with them.

We had so much grass around over the summer that we made 250 round bales of silage which is in addition to our clamp silage. (The cows will eat well this winter!)

The Maize was looking awful at the beginning of the summer but the warm weather has filled it in and perked it up so that hopefully it might just be an OK crop. Harvest reports say that winter barley and winter rape yields won't be very good this year due to lack of sunshine in June. Ours isn't looking too bad but we will see when we harvest it in the next few days.

We won't have enough straw from our wheat to see us through the winter so Steve has bought in and hauled 100 tons. That's about 500 big square bales, which are now stacked in the barn. That's a fair bit of straw!

Best news is that we went clear on our first TB test in July. Now we just need a second clear test in September and all will be well again.

The bed and breakfast has been busy with lots of families coming to visit Longleat. We've had repeat visits from people who have been before but come back again which is always lovely and we've had a beautiful bride leave from the farm for her wedding and come back to spend her honeymoon night with us. The people, I like very much, the washing ironing and shopping is getting to be a chore, I think I need a holiday!

Mum eventually came out of hospital after 8 long weeks. She seems very well but is still having ongoing tests to see if the Sepsis has compromised her heart, lungs or kidneys.

Socially, we've done a few things. We've been to a lovely drinks and nibbles party in the village, a summer party at Heytesbury and did a one day dash to deepest Wales to visit dear B&B friends who are having a tough time health-wise, but the biggy this summer for us was Steve's and Guys 60th/30th birthday bash. We held it at the farm using the yard, and both covered yards. We had the famous Pedro's disco man (aka Kevin Tarr) in the big shed, a bar and seating in the middle yard. Steve and I had spent a month collecting any "free for collection" sofas that people didn't want. We covered them with throws and had a comfy chill out area. Outside we had a burger and hotdog van and fire pits on which we toasted marshmallows. We asked guests to dress up in fancy dress with a theme of the 50's or 80's and lots did! We had Wonder Woman(Amy), lots of Elvises, Ghostbusters, Stormtrooper, Boy George, Where's Wally(Steve), Timmy Mallet (Guy) Batman (Jack) Paddington (me) a plethora of neon dance wear (Ivy), some beautiful 50s dresses, Topcat (a local farmer!), punks, Andy Pandy and Looby Lou, MadMax and Super Mario to name but a few. We were very lucky with the weather, it was a lovely warm still night. I hope

everyone who came enjoyed themselves because we all did, apologies if we disturbed any one.



Steve has just returned from a week away in Scotland, driving and loading for a client on the Grouse Moors. He was in Edinburgh for a Saturday night which just happened to be during the Edinburgh Fringe. Accommodation was obviously at a premium because we struggled to find him a bed for the night and when we finally did it was 5 miles out, in a broom cupboard with a 2'6" bed and a croissant for breakfast and he paid £120 but he was thankful for that!

Steve always raves about the stunning countryside and scenery up north and in Scotland, maybe one day I'll get to see it too.

Margaret Crossman

MAIDEN BRADLEY SHOP

Sue, our new Manager, has been working hard in the last few months to get to know her customers and, very importantly, to work out what they like to buy! It is never easy to take over a business but Sue has never faltered when various unexpected crises have hit (the last being chillers and freezers having a blip during the heatwave!). Old customers might have already seen some changes to stock and layout and there are more changes in the pipeline. It is essential to keep the shop evolving with different buying patterns from customers.



The shop is currently promoting our meat supplier – Andrew Barclay, a traditional family butcher in Wincanton. Newcomers to the area might not know that Andrew Barclay is a very popular and highly valued butcher who sources his meat, poultry and game locally. He also produces his own sausages, bacon, pork pies, scotch eggs, hams and lots more. Maiden Bradley Shop is VERY lucky to have him as a supplier. He only supplies one other shop in Somerset. His meat is of a very high quality and he will supply any order however big or small. So you can order 1 lamb chop or 5 kilos of beef! We have a regular supply of cold meats etc. and some fresh meats (chicken fillets, pork chops, mince, etc.) but we take orders for whatever you want and it is delivered to us twice weekly for collection. The prices are just the same as buying in Wincanton – so why drive all the way there when Maiden Bradley is nearer?

People often think buying in small shops is much more expensive but this is really not the case. Our trout products from the Mere Fish Farm cost just the same as buying them at the Farm and these products you can order from us as well. Our wines and beers are competitively priced and our buyers look out for interesting offers.

If you come to the shop and can't find what you are looking for then please let Sue know – she usually has it by the next day! You can request an order by e-mailing, phoning, or placing a request on our Website and/or Facebook page.

Thank you to everyone who uses the shop.

MAIDEN BRADLEY POST OFFICE



Pam Thomlinson has been awarded a certificate by the Post Office congratulating her on completing 10 years as our Postmistress! Horningsham will want to join us in Maiden Bradley in thanking her very, very much for her dedication in looking after us all so well! She always remains calm and cheerful with even the most difficult of customers (Us? Never!). Long may she stay with us!

Well done Pam!

www.maidenbradleyvillageshop.org.uk mbshop@gmail.com 01985 844206

Facebook: Maiden Bradley Community Village Shop

EXCELLENCE DOES NOT COME EASILY



It takes patience, dedication and the right team

Horningsham Primary School is looking for a new Governor to join a team striving to achieve excellence. The school prides itself as being a caring community where children can grow confidently and happily, so as to develop their potential to the full.

What's known is that with ambition comes change and the need for a particular mix of skills to take us to our next level of attainment. Ideally, you will live locally and have an interest & understanding of what makes Horningsham and its Primary School unique and if, with this, you have property management experience then all the better. For more information or an informal conversation please don't hesitate to contact Bob Grove, Chairman of the Governors, via the school on Tel: 01985 844342 or by email on: bgrove@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk



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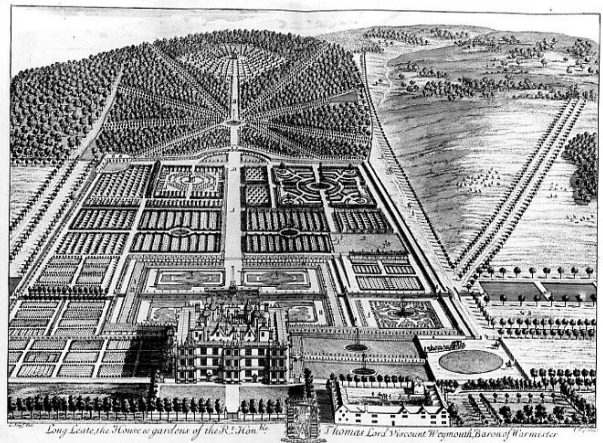
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LONGLEAT NEWS



Yet another anniversary, but this is the 300th Anniversary of the birth of “Capability” Brown, the designer of landscape gardens that were so fashionable in the 18th Century. Longleat is one of the eight Capability Brown landscapes that appear on a special set of commemorative stamps that are out now.

Between 1757 and 1762 Lord Weymouth paid Brown over £6,100 to landscape 900 acres of parkland creating the Grade 1 listed grounds around Longleat House that we enjoy today. The earlier formal gardens around the house with their parterres, fountains and canals had decayed and were swept away by Brown as he created the series of lakes and the rolling parkland seen at its best from Heaven’s Gate – the view on the stamp. Brown also created the Pleasure Walk from the house to the kitchen gardens.



Longleat’s formal Dutch gardens pictured around 1700

The logo for Dorothy House Friends Frome is a dark blue oval with a glowing effect. Inside the oval, the words "Dorothy House" are written in a white cursive font at the top. Below that, the word "FRIENDS" is written in large, pink, outlined capital letters. At the bottom, the word "Frome" is written in a white cursive font. A stylized pink tulip flower is positioned behind the text.

Dorothy House
FRIENDS
Frome

Quiz Night at Horningsham Village Hall

On Friday 30th September the Frome Friends of Dorothy House Hospice will be holding a quiz night in aid of the hospice.

6.30 for 7.00pm Start

Tickets in advance @ £9 per head for teams of 4
Ploughmans Supper included in the price

Cash Bar run by the Village Hall volunteers

For tickets please contact Steph at:

steph.cox@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk or 01225 721480



MORE LONGLEAT NEWS



Long-term Horningsham residents will remember hot air balloons at Longleat, well this month they're back! On the weekend of September 16th to 18th, over 50 hot air balloons in every imaginable shape and size, including Longleat's very own 'Flying Lion', will be making a series of spectacular mass launches into the sky over the Estate between sunrise and sunset. Plus on Saturday 17th September, Longleat will be lit up by a very special night glow event with the balloons firing up their burners accompanied by music.

Timings

Friday 16th and Sunday 18th September

Morning Launch: 07:15am - 07:45am

Tethered Ascents: 10:00am - 12:00 noon and 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Evening Launch: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Saturday 17th September

Morning Launch: 07:15am - 07:45am

Tethered Ascents: 10:00am - 12:00 noon and 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Evening Launch: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Night Glow: 7:30pm - 8:00pm

The Sheep Are Back!

A little later than Tim Moore, the Churchwarden, wished, the sheep are back in the lower churchyard. They have set to work on getting the vegetation back under control though they did look a little daunted by the sheer scale of the task they had been set!



FROM THE PAPERS

The Bath Chronicle of June 15th 1940 carried the story of the first RAF man in World War 2 to win the Victoria Cross. Although the headline said it was a "Bath Man", it could have said "Horningsham Man" for Thomas Gray grew up in our village. His father, Sgt. Ernest Gray, was for many years, the village policeman. The family lived at the Police Station at 108 West Common near the Bath Arms until Ernest retired in 1940 and moved to Bath.

At the time of this first story, Thomas was posted as "Missing in Action" but by the time of the second story reporting his parents receiving the VC from the King at Buckingham Palace it was known that he had been killed in action at Maastricht. Thomas had six brothers, three of whom were also in the RAF and were also killed in action. His father Ernest died aged 65 in December 1945 having suffered a stroke two years earlier.

BATH MAN WINS THE V.C.

Defied Death to Destroy Vital Bridge

SUPREME COURAGE

As in the last Great War a Wilts man has been among the first to win the V.C. He is Sergeant Thomas Gray, an R.A.F. observer, whose home is at Odd Down, Bath, but who was born at Devizes.

The announcement of the award by the King was made on Saturday and is contained in the following message:

The King has conferred the Victoria Cross on Flying Officer Donald Edward Garland and Sergt. Thomas Gray "in recognition of most conspicuous bravery."

The two men are heroes of a desperate bombing attack on a bridge in Belgium. It is understood that both Flying Officer Garland and Sergt. Gray have since been posted as "missing." Many admirers will thrill with pride of the supreme heroism he displayed at a vital moment during the great German drive into Belgium.

An Air Ministry bulletin, Saturday, announcing the awards stated that Flying Officer Garland was the pilot and Sergt. Gray was the observer of the leading aircraft of a formation of five aircraft which attacked the bridge, which had not been destroyed, over the Albert Canal, and was allowing the enemy to advance into Belgium.

CHOSEN BY LOT

All the air crews of the squadron had been selected by drawing lots. The attack was delivered at low altitude against this vital target. Orders were issued that this bridge was to be destroyed at all costs. As had been expected exceptionally intense machine gun and anti-aircraft fire were encountered. Moreover, the bridge area was heavily protected by enemy fighters. In spite of this, the formation successfully delivered a dive bombing attack from the lowest altitude.

British fighters in the vicinity reported that the target was obscured by the bombs bursting on it and near it.

Only one of the five aircraft concerned returned from this mission.



Sergt. Thomas Gray, V.C., with his fiancée, Miss Zoe Sedman.



Here are Sergt. Gray's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Gray, of 2, Alexandra Place, Odd Down, Bath.

The pilot of this aircraft reports that, besides being subjected to extremely heavy anti-aircraft fire, through which they dived to attack the objective, our aircraft were also attacked by a large number of enemy fighters after they had released their bombs on the target.

Much of the success of this vital operation must be attributed to the formation lead by Flying Officer Garland, and to the coolness and resource of Sergt. Gray, who, in most difficult conditions, navigated Flying Officer Garland's aircraft in such a manner that the whole formation was able successfully to attack the target in spite of subsequent heavy losses.

On Monday the Mayor of Bath (Dr. J. S. Carpenter) called on Mr. and Mrs. Gray to express congratulations on the honour bestowed upon their son and the hope that they would soon have happy tidings of his whereabouts.

BORN AT DEVIZES.

Sergt. Observer Gray was born at Devizes in 1914 and was thus 26 years of age.

Educated at Warminster Secondary School, Sgt. Gray entered the R.A.F. as an apprentice at Halton, where he remained for three years. He then became a fitter, and subsequently an observer, being made Sergeant about two years ago.

He was posted to a bombing Squadron, and was one of the crew which won the Fairey Battle Trophy for his Squadron before the war. He was himself awarded a silver bullet for obtaining highest number of marks.

On the outbreak of the war he went to France with his Squadron, and was last home on leave in January.

He was looking forward to coming home again shortly to get married to Miss Zoe Sedman of Driffield, Yorks. He mentioned this fact in a letter which his parents received only a day or two before he was posted missing.

He would have been home earlier but for the fact that he gave up his leave to another airman to enable him to come home to see his wife and baby.

SCHOOL STUDIES.

While at Warminster, Sergt. Gray was very keenly interested in his studies, and his mother is the proud possessor of a number of prizes and certificates won by him. These are for Latin, French, English, arithmetic, algebra and geography, and he frequently was top of the class.

In the earlier days of the war he took part in many reconnaissance flights over the Siegfried line and into Germany.

Sergt. Gray's father was born at Colerne and served 26 years in the Wiltshire Police before retiring about 12 years ago and coming to live at Bath. He retired with the rank of Sergeant and his last station was at Horningsham. Mrs. Gray is a Londoner.

They have six other sons, two of whom, Arthur, aged 28, and Reginald 21, are Corporals in the R.A.F. The former was on the Courageous when she sank, and was among those saved.

Another son is in the Wilts Police—having previously served in the Life Guards. One is a transport driver, another engaged on munitions and the youngest is still at school.

GRAY'S COMPANION.

Flying Officer Donald Edward Garland, Sergt. Gray's companion V.C., was born at Ballinacor, Wicklow, Eire, in June, 1918, and was educated at Cardinal Vaughan School, Kensington, from 1929 to 1935. He entered the R.A.F. as pupil pilot in July, 1937, and was granted a short service commis-

sion as acting pilot officer, with effect from that date. He was promoted flying officer last February. His home was at Hovingham, Yorkshire, and his mother, Mrs. G. D. Lane, lives at Westwood Avenue, Ipswich.

Sergt. Gray's fiancée, Miss Zoe Sedman, lives at Eastfield Road, Driffield, and it was while he was stationed near that town before the war that they met. On Sunday she went out on their favourite walk alone.

She said to a newspaper representative, "Tom will like to know that I am carrying on as usual," she explained. "I am sure that he is alive and well, and that I shall hear from him soon."

KING--TO BATH V.C.'S PARENTS

**"YOU MUST BE PROUD
OF YOUR SON"**

"You must be proud of your son," said the King, as on Tuesday last, at Buckingham Palace, he handed a lost airman's Victoria Cross to the father, a Bath man.

And the Bath father did, and, together with the mother, who was also present, always will feel proud of his son; for he was one of the blue-clad heroes who fought and died in the battles for France and Belgium.

It is now a year since Sergt.-Observer Thomas Gray, of Devizes, was awarded his V.C.

With Flying-Officer Garland, who was awarded the same distinction, he took part in a raid in May on a bridge over the Albert Canal at Maastrich, which was ordered to be destroyed at all costs.

Simple and Sincere.

The raid was successful, but Gray, who with Garland had so much to do with it, did not return. After being presumed missing, he was later posted as presumed killed.

At their home at 2, Alexandra Place, Odd Down, Bath, Mr. and



Sgt.-Observer Thomas Gray

Mrs. Gray told me (writes a reporter) of their visit to Buckingham Palace.

"We both felt completely at home," said Mr. Gray. "It was a simple, sincere affair."

"The King was in naval uniform, and looked very happy. Personally, I thought his face was nicely tanned."

"He said: 'You must be proud of your son,' and then asked me how old he was—he was 29—and how long he had been serving. Then he shook hands with me."

Tussauds Model.

"There must have been about 200 people there, altogether," said Mrs. Gray. "The whole thing lasted about an hour."

"Afterwards we saw the models of our son and Flying-Officer Garland at Madame Tussaud's."

"Then at my brother's home in Southfields there was quite a family reunion."

Mr. and Mrs. Gray have two other sons in the R.A.F.—Sergt. A. Gray, a survivor from the Courageous and Sergt. Reginald Gray.

They waited outside the Palace for their parents.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

**BROTHER OF BATH
V.C. HERO**

Another airman son of Mr. and Mrs. E.-A. Gray, of 2, Alexandra Place, Odd Down, has achieved distinction for war service.

He is Corpl. R. M. Gray, who has been mentioned in despatches by Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Portal, and has received from Sir Archibald Sinclair, Secretary of State for Air,



SERG. REGINALD GRAY,

on behalf of the King, an appreciation of his services.

Corpl. Gray, who is 22 years of age, was promoted to sergeant two months ago.

His brother, the late Sergt.-Observer Thomas Gray, was posthumously awarded the V.C. for an attack on a bridge over the Albert Canal at Maastrich in May of last year.

Another brother, Sergt. A. Gray, serving in the R.A.F., is a survivor from the Courageous.



Thomas Gray's bravery is commemorated in a stained glass window at RAF Halton where this portrait of him hangs in the Officers' Mess

*Thomas's
home at 108 —
the old Police
Station.*





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 1 st ; 15 th & 29 th September Thursday 13 th & 27 th October
Grey Bins	Friday 2 nd ; 16 th & 30 th September Friday 14 th & 28 th October
Blue Bins	Friday 9 th & 23 rd September Friday 7 th & 21 st October
Mobile Library	Tuesday 27 th September Tuesday 25 th October <i>10.00 – 10.30 opposite the Hall</i>

Horningsham Outreach Post Office service every Thursday at the Village Hall from 1.30-4.30pm

Frome Hospital Minor Injuries		01373 454740
Community Police Officer	Vicky Howick	726818 ext 817
Wiltshire Police – non emergency		101
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	844197
Horningsham School		844342
First Steps Nursery		844942
Village Hall Hire		07541 211732
Longleat Property Department		845535
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	213436
Congregational Chapel	Carol Cox	horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk
Horningsham Church Rector	Rev Pauline Reid	841290
Warminster District Link Scheme		211655
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096
Stray or Fouling Dogs		0300 456 0100

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tuesday 6th September *Luncheon Club outing to Swanage & Poole*
 Thursday 8th September *Parish Council Meeting* at the Hall 7.30
 Sunday 18th September *Coffee Morning* at the Hall 10.30 – 12.00
 Sunday 25th September *Harvest Festival* 5.00pm at the Church
 Friday 30th September *Dorothy House Quiz Night* 6.30 at the Hall



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Outdoor Sunset Cinema

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FILMS
SHOWING

The Way, Way Back 1st September

Sing-Along a Sound of Music 8th September

Closing with fireworks

Live Music - Friday 16th September

Three piece local band. 8pm onwards

Decades Disco - Saturday 17th September

8pm onwards

Blondie & Ska Tribute - Sunday 18th September

4pm-8pm

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SAT 11.45AM - 1.45PM

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TUES 4.45PM - 9.00PM
WEDS 4.45PM - 9.00PM
THURS 4.45PM - 9.00PM
FRI 4.45PM - 9.00PM
SAT 4.45PM - 9.00PM

SUNDAYS, 4.30PM - 8.30PM

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