

HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 219

February 2019





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Happy New Year!

EDITORIAL

We are back after our break over Christmas and New Year and looking forward to 2019 in Horningsham. Spring isn't in the air quite yet, but there are signs – like the camellia on this month's cover or the mass of snowdrops along White Street.

Inside you will find most of our regular features as our village organisations gear up for their activities for another year. John Whatley reveals how much rain fell on Parsonage Farm last year. The Lion Cubs have a review of their first year in photos and the W.I. share the topics they will focus on in the coming 12 months. As well as a mouth-watering recipe, Jayne Glover reveals the oriental art of “forest bathing”. Following on from the nostalgic account of Longleat Christmas Parties from the School's photo albums, we look back at the felling of the last elm tree in Horningsham which involved an elephant! Our series remembering the men on our War Memorial draws to its close with the death in February 1919 of Sydney Wheeler, a serving soldier who was killed by Spanish flu.

Finally, we are sad to record the passing of Bunny Pollitt, former Head Guide at Longleat, whose 100th birthday we celebrated last year. Also of Margaret Hayward whose husband Ted was Longleat's Clerk of the Works for so many years.

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Friday 15th February 2019

Email: horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial Team

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Tim Hill | 844365 | Chrissie Buttery | 844622 |
| Helen Taylor | 215906 | Gill Courtney | 844411 |
| | James Osborne (<i>Treasurer</i>) | 844711 | |



We now have 598 “Page Likes” – well over three times the number of printed copies!

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

CHURCH NEWS



February is a quiet time for our church, as it is too cold to hold a service. It is therefore particularly pleasing to look back over the past month when we have welcomed 100 people through the doors. We were very pleased that Pauline was able to take our Christmas Day service this year. The congregation was a mix of villagers and visitors of all ages, who came to enjoy this special Christmas service. The music was again provided by Lyndy Bishop from Warminster who played the carols on her violin, accompanied by her 'virtual' husband on the piano. This combination works beautifully and we were very grateful to Lyndy for being kind enough to once again share her Christmas morning with us. After the service we enjoyed champagne and hot mince pies and it was lovely to see everyone celebrating Christmas morning together.

On a more sombre note we are very sad that our beautiful, porcelain crib figures appear to have been stolen. The figures have been in our church for over 50 years and it was very upsetting to find just an empty box. It is very distressing that there are people who come into our church intent on theft.

Thankfully this happens very rarely and we move on to the much happier occasion that is Plough Sunday. We have built up a good relationship with the Bathampton Morris Men who have been coming to Horningsham for many years. Plough Sunday is set aside not only to bless the plough and the ploughmen, but also to give thanks for those who look after the land and the countryside. In years gone by, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday, which was seen as a way of generally celebrating farming and the work of farmers. Morris dancing was an important part of this celebration. After the service everyone enjoyed bread and cheese with hot cider. It was good to see so many people and to end our Christmas celebrations on such a positive note.

There will not be a service in Horningsham during February. Please see the church noticeboard for services in the Deverills.

Helen Taylor

Dear Friends,

I can't believe I am writing the February letter already!

I spent this last weekend on a wonderful course called 'Guts and Gaia' exploring the healthy connections between the bacteria within our bodies and the bacteria within the earth. I had great fun learning simple fermentation techniques to make foods that promote good gut health and overall wellbeing. It was an incredibly joyous and inspiring time and I now have a jar of sauerkraut and a jar of kimchi fermenting away in my kitchen, two beautiful sour dough loaves in the bread bin, and some very pungent sour dough starter in the fridge. I have to be very



careful in opening the sauerkraut jar as you can literally see the contents bubbling as the bacteria do their amazing work of fermentation. I've known for a long while how important it is for our own gut health to eat fermented foods but I've not made them before. I must say nature is so very clever at providing us with the means to nurture our own health with something so mysteriously alive and active

I'm no scientist but we did have some theoretical input about bacteria and how vital it is in maintaining balance within the earth and within our bodies. And this remarkable and mysterious biological process has been happening since the birth of time and still goes on unnoticed and largely unacknowledged, like so much of the working of the natural world we are oblivious to that which we cannot see or quantify. The first miraculous snowdrops are emerging as I write, we marvel at them because it seems almost impossible that in the dead of winter such delicate and beautiful plants can emerge out of the cold dark earth. Of course nature has been doing her work under the soil, life and change and growth have never stopped it's just that we cannot see it.

Looking at hugely magnified slides of bacteria I was humbled and awestruck at the interconnectedness of all things and how the natural world works in harmony for the good of the created order. Tragically, it is we human beings who have come along and broken this harmony with our greed and self-centeredness. But more than this, I felt a deep sense of wonder at the mystery of life and the mystery of the divine presence who is at the heart of all things and who is not disconnected from our world but rather animates every living thing. All time, all life, all the mysterious 'being' of the universe, all the complex patterns in nature are held within the beating heart of God.

So, wrap up warm and go and find some snowdrops and give thanks for the gifts, seen and unseen, that mother nature so generously and wonderfully shares with us.

Love and prayers,

Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.com

HORNINGSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Horningsham Parish Council met on Thursday 10th January at the Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Tim Hill, Stephen Crossman, Ken Windess, Michael Trollope, Fran Chris, Simon Millar, Matt Simpson, Gerard Brierley, John Radley and Charlotte Hilleary

Apologies: Dermot Fitzgerald

In attendance: The Parish Clerk Mrs. Sarah Jeffries MILCM.

Parish Steward

It was agreed that the Parish Steward had actioned a good job with the pavement opposite Town Well and the other works requested but it was noted that the work to clear the debris at the side of the road near the Church was still outstanding. John Radley gave confirmation that he has been corresponding with the Parish Steward on the issues discussed and time had been the constraint.

Grounds Contract

The Contractor had supplied the Clerk with a point of Contact for the contract. Council agreed to appoint Councillor Tim Hill to be the point of contact for the Contractor and to report back to Council at meetings.

Community Litter Pick

It was agreed that Saturday 6th April 2019 at 10.00am to 12.00 noon from the Village Hall, would be the date of the litter pick. Councillor Fran Chris agreed to lead the event. The Clerk would purchase the black bin liners nearer the date.

Village Hall Committee

Councillor Ken Windess reported that the defibrillator unit does not drop down easily. He has reported this to Julia Doel at the Great Western Ambulance Service, she has said this is the same with all of the units. It was noted that the unit at Crockerton has been tried and this unit also is hard to open so it is believed to be a manufacturing issue. Councillors tried the unit outside of the hall and it was realised that a very hard push was needed.

Play Area

On Sunday 16th December 2018 the Working Party meeting had marked out the play area as agreed 12 x 24 metres. As Councillor Stephen Crossman was unable to level the area, a contractor had been sought to level the area by Councillor Stephen Crossman. The Contractor had agreed a fee of £350.00 to level the area. It was noted that a site meeting with the Play Area Contractor will take place at 2.30pm on Wednesday the 16th January 2019.

Grant Applications

The availability of grants to community organisations would be advertised on the Horningsham Facebook pages with a request for applications to be received for the next meeting.

Budget/Precept

The draft budget presented by the Clerk was agreed. Council approved the precept balancing figure of £15303.45. Council instructed the Clerk to action the precept request to Wiltshire Council.

Dates of Full Parish Council Meetings 2019/2020

All Parish Council meetings will have an opportunity at the start for parishioners to ask questions or make comments on any matter.

Thursday 10th January 2019 7.30pm

Thursday 21st February 2019 7.30pm

Thursday 4th April 2019 7.30pm

Thursday 16th May 2019 7.30pm Annual Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 27th June 2019 7.30pm

There will be no meeting during the July/August Break

Thursday 5th September 2019 7.30pm

Thursday 10th October 2019 7.30pm

Thursday 21st November 2019 7.30pm (Budget meeting)

Thursday 9th January 2020 7.30pm

Thursday 20th February 2020 7.30pm

Thursday 2nd April 2020 7.30pm

***The next meeting of Horningsham Parish Council will be on
Thursday 21st February at 7.30 in the Village Hall.***

All are welcome to attend.



Bric A Brac Wanted

Any saleable items are wanted for the Bric a Brac stall at the Village Fayre in June. If you are sorting out after Christmas, just phone me I can collect or deliver to 15 Gentle Street. I have plenty of storage.

Margaret Long 844756

HALL NEWS



We hope you all had a great Christmas and a good start to 2019. We are ready for a busy year at the Hall.

We have a new group using the Hall on Saturday mornings - A.C.T.S Theatre Arts School. Children aged between 6-17 can join in acting, singing and dance classes - see their website www.actstheatreschool.com for more details.

The Hall Committee will be meeting on Monday 11th February at 7.30pm, the aim is to plan a year of events so if you have any suggestions pop in or let us know by emailing enquiries@horningshamvillagehall.com

The Hall is constantly in need of some tender loving care, we are uncovering areas we need to fix or improve all the time so your continued support is crucial to keeping the Hall in a usable state. We've already spent so much on improvements and hope to continue with this.

Louisa Cruickshank

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WELCOME CLUB

The Welcome Club's new year starts with our first meeting on Thursday 21st March at 2.30pm. This will be a general meeting when yearly subscriptions of £5 will be due. We will have the printed programme for the year with dates of meetings and the monthly coach trips to distribute on this date. Anyone is welcome to attend, you may even wish to join us at Luncheon Club and stay on, as many members do, for the Welcome Club meetings. The dates and destinations for the coach trips will be printed in the next edition of the Horningsham News and the Maiden Bradley News with pick-up times and contact details to book.

If you have any queries please contact the number below. We look forward to seeing you at Horningsham Hall in March.

Lesley Trollope (01985211355)

LUNCHEON CLUB

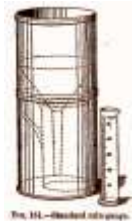


Our Christmas Lunch was held on 13th December when over 50 members and guests sat down to a delicious lunch cooked by Kim, Margaret and helpers. The children from Horningsham School entertained us with their wonderful singing of music from their Christmas Play, concluding with well-known carols that we could all join in with. Our thanks to the children and their teachers for making the day so special.

We started back with our weekly lunches on 3rd January. As always we meet at the Hall from 12 noon to sit down for lunch at 12.30pm. Lunch costs £3 for a main course, pudding and tea or coffee. Anyone over 60 can join us and new members will be made very welcome.

Margaret Long & Lesley Trollope

PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL



A late Happy New Year to you all. December was again a mixed bag starting with some really heavy showers, and feeling miserable with the dull days. This really continues for the whole month. By the 19th we had an amazing 4.00 inches, we then had misty foggy mornings and more rain. The total ended up as 5.00 inches for the month.

So, the total for 2018 was 33.93 inches compared to 34.59 in 2017 and 32.38 in 2016.

John Whatley

Horningsham Primary School

✉ Admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

✉ FriendsofHPS@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

www.horningsham.schnet.org ☎ 01985 844342



Happy 2019!

What a full and exciting end of Autumn Term we had at school. It was wonderful having so many of the village join us for lots of events – we've become quite a singing school and so enjoyed performing our Christmas Play (Baboushka) at the Village Hall, singing at Luncheon Club,

singing in the Great Hall at Longleat, singing at Bath Christmas Markets and a lovely Carol Service with a choir made up of children, parents and staff! Thank you to everyone for all your support at our Christmas Market – we raised over £1000. We hope you enjoyed the apple juice! Any empty bottles can be returned to school for recycling. It was quite a term of engaging with the community; something we love and hope to do more of as we go into another exciting year!



FOHPS (Friends of Horningsham Primary School)

We had a great Quiz Night at school last term, which was really well supported by lots of locals. The curry and company were wonderful!

The quiz was quite challenging, but we all had great fun! We hope to have lots more events that are for the whole community – please look out for our Bingo night coming up and we'll keep you up to date of any other events planned. We hope very much that you'll join us again – please also let us know if you would like to run an event or play a part in planning and organising other events; we very much want FOHPS to truly be all friends of the school and another great way for our lovely community to come together. If you have any ideas or want to be involved more, then please email us on FriendsofHPS@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

Yoga

As part of our drive towards 'healthy bodies, healthy minds' we have a yoga teacher doing weekly sessions with the children. Yoga is a fantastic way of developing flexibility, balance and strength as well as a great way of relaxing and the children are all really enjoying the sessions.



Roman Baths Trip

Woodpeckers had a fabulous trip to 'Aeuae Sulis' to support their topic 'The Ruling Romans'. In a workshop they learnt how to dress in togas and tunics, practised writing in Latin with a stylus on a wax tablet and found out about what the Romans would have eaten. After lunch they worked their way around the museum seeing lots of fantastic Roman artefacts. Finally, they walked in the footsteps on the bathers around the Great Bath and the surrounding rooms before getting to try some of the mineral rich water. It was a fantastic trip and they learnt lots.



Can you help?

We are continuing to develop our gardening around the school site and now plan to install some raised beds in the Secret Garden. We obviously have a minimal budget for this but want to maximise the potential and access for all pupils, so are seeking help. If you have experience of building raised beds then we would love your support/hands on help – please contact the office if you would like to help in any way (844342).

Mill Farm Chronicles Dec 2018-Feb 2019

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a good Christmas and amazing New Year celebrations. Our Christmas was lovely. On Christmas Eve we went with Ivy and Theo to see Father Christmas on the Longleat Santa Train which was very magical and a nice start to the holiday. Christmas Day was here with family, eating too much, watching random TV programmes and playing with new toys. Boxing Day was much the same but at a different venue, a very nice day spent with Steve's brother Peter and his family. The next couple of days found half the family very quickly getting rid of said food after Theo inadvertently passed on a sickness bug! Very festive! Thankfully I didn't get it (I hate being sick) and nor did my Mum, Amy or Jack. Apologies to those that did. New Year's Eve was very quiet. We all (Steve, Jack and I) watched TV till about 10.30 pm and then went to bed. Slept through it all!



So now here we are at the beginning of 2019 and I'm wondering what this year will bring. One good piece of news is that Jack is now a permanent member of staff at Longleat and he and we are very happy about that. Jack has been working at Longleat off and on since he was 14 so nearly 16 years. Jack totally loves his job on The Family Farm and Animal Adventure and puts his all into it.

Farming news is again pretty quiet. All the cows are in sheds, the donkeys are in a shed and even Thelma and Louise the pigs have been tempted back into their pen after being free range for the summer. The morning routine for Steve is busy now because he has to have everything checked, fed and watered by 7.30 before he can go and work on the shoot, easy when nothing goes wrong but all it needs is for the tractor to not start or the pipes to be frozen and it throws the whole of his schedule out. I've learnt to keep my head down on those mornings!

We've got three woolly visitors staying at the moment. We are supplying bed and full board to three rams that were running amok round the village this weekend. They are now in our front paddock waiting for their owner to come and collect them. They are feisty little things who must give themselves headaches from all the head butting they do but Jack tells me they are quite friendly.

We have a bunch of heifers at the farm who are due to calve for the first time over the next month or so. Unfortunately today one of the cows slipped her calf, which means she gave birth too soon, and the calf was dead. We called the vet out to check her over and he suggested that the calf was taken to the Bristol Veterinary School at Langford for some tests to try to ascertain what caused the problem. Hopefully it's nothing sinister and will just be put down as just "one of those things".

I'm off to Barcelona for 3 nights at the beginning of February with Amy. This is a birthday trip for both of us, my present from Amy and Guy and Amy's present from Guy. I'm really looking forward to it as I hear Barcelona is wonderful. Steve and Jack will be fending for themselves for 4 days which probably means they will live on cereal, beans on toast and possibly omelettes unless some kind relative takes pity on them and invites them to tea.

It's 11.05 at night and I'm writing this tucked up in my nice warm bed but a quarter of an hour ago I was in my dressing gown and wellies out in the freezing cold yard, checking on a bellowing cow, because Steve was at skittles. Oh the joys of being a farmer's wife!

Margaret Crossman

LION CUBS

As we glance back on many happy memories made with our little lion cubs in 2018, we look ahead to all that is 2019 . . .

Lion Cubs playgroup is delighted to welcome old faces and new back to Horningsham Village Hall every Thursday during term time from 9.15 - 10.45am.

For a small donation of just £1, we offer lots of fun activities for all to enjoy and as the weather warms we will be getting out and about to explore our beautiful surrounding countryside and all that it has to offer.

Charlotte Hilleary





HORNINGSHAM W.I.



A big thank you to Charlotte and Sara for sharing their skills turning pheasant feathers in to decorative wreaths and baubles and also to Lucy for patiently instructing us in the art of needle felting. Both of these crafts I had never done before and genuinely was surprised I could produce some great decorations. Just before Christmas there was a final get together with delicious shared treats.

Having had 2 lovely festive evenings to complete the meetings for the 2018 we are looking forward to this year's meetings. An exciting programme of speakers and sessions is coming up. Some are new and some we enjoyed so much we are doing them again. Activities for 2019 include: jewellery making; Lebanese cookery; sugar craft and willow weaving; learning more about deciphering handwriting; and of course some Christmas craft.

We have changed meeting dates from the last Tuesday of the month to the first Tuesday of the month making the next few dates: 5th February, 5th March and 2nd April.

Meetings take place at Horningsham Village Hall with arrival from 7.30pm to allow time to catch up before a prompt start at 8. If you are interested in finding out more or coming along you can email wihorningsham@gmail.com or ring me on 01985 844801. We would love for new members to join us to share their talents or simply to learn with us.

Caramantha Wellstead
President Horningsham W.I.





MONTHLY RECIPE

Homity Pie

Belated Happy New Year! At this time of the year our needs revolve around warmth and comforting food to sustain us until Spring stabilises itself. The recipe I have chosen provides for these needs and it's nutritionally and economically sound too (I just don't believe austerity is over!). Originally thought to go back to the Second World War, this hearty vegetarian dish was popular with Land Girls using what was available and their rations. However it is also known as 'Devon Pie' and is commonly seen there in current times. As a vegetarian dish it was made famous in the Sixties in Cranks restaurant in London and now is seen on supermarket shelves under the Higgidy brand.

I am giving the basic recipe because it fulfils and provides everything I mentioned earlier but be assured after enjoying a mouth-watering search there are enough embellishments ranging from The Hairy Bikers, Hugh FW. to the British History Magazine - or 'make it your own'.

It is of course 'Homity Pie'



Ingredients

- 4 largeish potatoes
- 2 largeish leeks
- 1 eating apple (cored and chopped into small cubes)
- 2 cloves garlic (chopped finely)
- 1 egg
- Butter or margarine (generous)
- 4-6 oz cheese (use more if you have lots to spare)
- Fresh or dried thyme (to your own taste)
- Salt and pepper (to your own taste)
- Shortcrust pastry made with 6 oz flour and 3 oz fat

Method

1. Make the shortcrust pastry using plain flour (we used half strong wholemeal and half white) and 3 oz fat (I used 1/2 veg shortening and 1/2 hard margarine). Rub fat into flour to make breadcrumbs and then bind together with a little water to make a pliable dough.
2. Roll the dough out into a greased pie dish, mine measured about 10" x 6" and place it into oven on 200 c for about 10 minutes or so to half cook.
3. Leave skins on your potatoes and chop into chunky cubes, place in boiling water and simmer until tender.
4. Chop up leeks and garlic and sauté in a pan gently (with butter or margarine) until cooked. Add in plenty of thyme and the chopped apple and toss
5. Drain potatoes then add to pan of leeks, 1 whisked egg, add more butter or margarine and 2oz of the grated cheese and loosely mix, add in lots of salt and pepper until it tastes good!
6. Dollop mixture into the pie dish on top of the pastry, then top with 4 oz of cheese (or more if you have more available in your cheese ration as it completes the pie beautifully), add a sprinkle more of thyme and pepper.
7. Cook in oven at 220°C until the top is browned Remove and leave to cool a bit before serving.

(Taken from 'The 1940s Experiment.com)

Until next month Keep Calm and make Homity Pie!

Jayne Glover

The Big Horningsham Litter Pick

Saturday 6th April

At the Village Hall

10 am – 12 noon

Bags, High Vis. Vests & Grabbers Provided

Please come and clean up our village!



The Last of Horningsham's Elm Trees

TASK FOR AN ELEPHANT



LORD BATH WATCHES as the massive elm opposite Horningsham village church is felled. He planted a five-foot English walnut in commemoration of National Tree Week.

On Monday, the first day of National Tree Week, the last of nearly 1,000 big elm trees on Longleat Estate was felled with a chain saw and winch and the limbs were towed away by one of Longleat's elephants, Wamba.

“It’s a sad thing to think that no child born today will ever see a fully grown elm”, said the estate’s Head Forester John McHardy who, with Lord Bath, watched the felling. The last elm 80 feet tall and about 100 years old was in Hollybush, Horningsham.

This elm like all the others on the 12,000 acre estate, had to be cut down because it was ravaged by Dutch elm disease. Although it took a century to grow it was felled in about 20 minutes.



In the Autumn of 1978 the last elm tree on Longleat Estate was cut down.

They had all died from Dutch Elm Disease.

An elephant from the Safari Park walked up to the field where the dead elm was standing.

My mum rang up the School Mr Hill about the elephant when she saw it go past her house.

All the infants and juniors went out to see it.

Mr Cawley gave ~~us~~ some grass nuts to feed to the elephant took an interest in Jeremy she started to suck up his hair! After that excitement the elephant walked on up to the field where the tree was being cut down. The elephant picked up a branch in her trunk and put it on the pile.

The cutting down of the tree was being filmed by BBC and ITV camera men.

Alma de Ganton.





MAIDEN BRADLEY HALL



Friday 8th February
Doors open 7.00pm
For
7.30 Start

THE PIED PIPER OF BRAIDEN MADLEY

Tickets for our exciting and very entertaining Pantomime which is being staged in the Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall on 21st 22nd and 23rd February 2019 (with an added Matinee as well as the evening performance on Saturday 23rd) will be on sale from Monday 7th January 2019 in the Village Memorial Hall Shop which is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.00 am to 11.30 am. You will also be able to purchase tickets from the Somerset Arms from the same date.

The price of a ticket is £7.00.

In the grand tradition of the Village Panto you will see some amazing and talented villagers as you have never seen them before and a few you have but love all the same.

If you have any problems getting hold of your tickets please ring me (but don't leave it too late), they go like hot cakes.

Carol Kenzie 844745

MAIDEN BRADLEY PANTOMIME GROUP

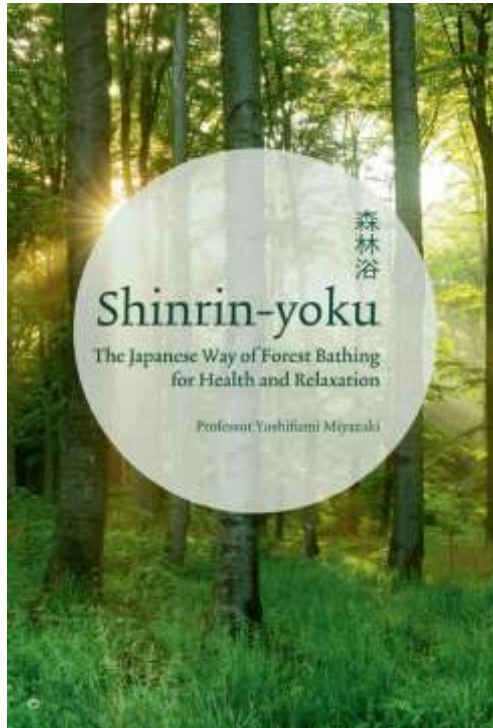
Come along for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat. Everyone welcome.

The Old Kitchen Community Store now open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays selling basic grocery items e.g. milk, cream, butter, biscuits, crisps, chocolate, tea, coffee etc. Opening times: 9am – 11.30am. Please note CASH ONLY.

Notable Trees

森 林 浴

Of course we've all heard of Shinrin-yoku, haven't we? Of course we have, we live surrounded by forest. Well what I really wanted to talk to you about was the beauty of trees in winter, to take you back to the trees that we visited last year, like the beech and the deciduous conifer and to take in their silhouette seen against a grey sombre, or a bright blue clear sky. It gives you information that even without leaves tells you what kind of tree it might be. If you look a little closer buds, bark, fruit and branch arrangement give information that is usually clothed in leaves. Mmm tut tut you see I digress, but only slightly.



Shinrin-yoku, Professor Yoshifumi Miyazaki describes it as follows in his book *Shinrin-yoku: The Japanese Way of Forest Bathing for Health and Relaxation* (Aster 2018):

“Simply put, forest bathing is the practice of walking slowly through the woods, in no hurry, for a morning, an afternoon or a day. It is a practice that

involves all the senses and as you gently walk and breathe deeply, the essential oils of the trees are absorbed by your body and have an extraordinary effect on positive feelings, stress hormone levels, parasympathetic nervous activity, sympathetic nervous activity, blood pressure, heart rate and brain activity.”

Go to a Forest. Walk slowly. Breathe. Open all your senses. This is the healing way of Shinrin-yoku, the medicine of simply being in the forest. Shinrin-yoku is a term that means “taking in the forest atmosphere” or “forest bathing.” Shinrin means forest and yoku means bath. It was developed in Japan in the 1980s and has become a cornerstone of preventive health care and healing in Japanese medicine. Researchers primarily in Japan and South Korea have established a robust body of scientific literature on the health benefits of spending time under the canopy of a living forest. Now their research is helping to establish shinrin-yoku through the world. (www.meetup.com)

I think I must have been asleep because Forest Holidays have 10 locations where guided Shinrin - yoku takes place. But I think that it’s great that we have somewhere right on our doorstep. I certainly get the feeling that this is giving a gift to yourself, not entertaining the children or taking the dog for walk. Most importantly it is an opportunity that can be taken all year round. The changes of season add greatly to this experience and allow you to become familiar with everything around including tree identification. Ah ha have I managed to complete the circle?

10 Things to Commend and Recommend

1. “Forest Therapy: Seasonal Ways to Embrace Nature for a Happier You”
by Sarah Ivens
2. Winter Tree I.D Woodland Trust
3. It doesn’t cost anything
4. Helps us to appreciate our immediate environment
5. Essential oils released by the trees known as phytoncides boost the immune system
6. You don’t have to cover acres of ground or ‘hike’
7. You don’t need loads of gear although I’d be tempted to take a hand lens or magnifier to get a real wow factor
8. Check out Ordnance Survey maps, Woodland Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Forestry Commission for variety.
9. Don’t get lost, but do try and lose yourself.
10. Consider a Journal? Maybe?

Jayne Glover



World War 1: 100 Years Ago This Month

Sydney Walter Wheeler

The last man on our War Memorial died on 8th February 1919, nearly 3 months after the Armistice that brought the Great War to a close. Sydney Wheeler died in the Red Cross Hospital in Trowbridge with his wife Mary at his bedside. His death certificate says he died of lobar pneumonia after 13 days in the hospital. The suddenness of the onset of his illness and the cause of death make it highly likely that he died as a result of Spanish Flu. This was an unusually deadly pandemic caused by the H1N1 virus, that killed 20% of those infected, and swept the world killing many more than the Great War itself. Estimates vary widely but it is thought that between 50 and 100 million people died around the globe. Death was principally by pneumonia.

Frustratingly little is known about Sydney, even the order of his Christian names seems to vary, sometimes Sydney Walter, sometimes Walter Sydney. The first reliable record is the census of 1901 which shows 13 year old “Walter S.”, a stable boy, born in Crockerton, living at 12 Church Street in Longbridge Deverill. His father Walter is a 41 year old agricultural labourer who was born in Horningsham. His mother Ellen, 45, was from Longbridge Deverill. Also in the house are two younger brothers: 10 year old Edward and 6 year old Louis. We next find him aged 24, married to Mary, also 24, living at Semley where he was working as a farm labourer. He was now signing himself on his 1911 census form as “Sydney Wheeler”.

We know from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record that he served in the Devonshire Regiment and achieved the rank of Lance Corporal. At some point he was transferred to the 651st Agricultural Company of the Labour Corps as a Private. The Devonshire Regiment has no record of him, his service record is not available, nor has it been possible to find his medal card. The only other official record of him is of his back pay and War Gratuity being paid to his widow, Mary.



Avonview House, demolished in the 1960s, stood on the corner of The Down and Canal Road. Wooden huts in the grounds provided extra beds. It closed as a Red Cross Hospital in 1919. Two of the huts became Staverton Reading Rooms.

The Wiltshire Times on 15th February reported that there had been 3 deaths at the Red Cross Hospital which was “in its closing stages”. The report stated:

Private Wheeler, a member of a Labour Corps, while on his way from Chiseldon to Warminster, became seriously ill at Trowbridge, and on the recommendation of the army doctor, he was admitted to the hospital. His condition was then regarded as critical, and after lingering for some little time he died on Saturday from influenza and double pneumonia. His widow resides in the neighbourhood of Longbridge Deverill, where the funeral took place.



Sydney's grave is one of three Great War graves in the churchyard at Longbridge Deverill, just up the road from his childhood home.



His death certificate states that Mary was living at 207 Pottle Street and had been present at Sydney's death. She later received his £5.90 back pay and a War Gratuity of £5.



BUSES FROM BUS STOP 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

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

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

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| Wiltshire Police – non emergency | | 101 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | Keith Shattock | 844197 |
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Thursday 21st February *Parish Council* 7.30 at the Hall



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