

HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 229

February 2020





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EDITORIAL

This month's cover photo recall the Great Snow of 1978 when the village was entirely cut off from the outside world for a number of days. The photo shows the road above Dock Hill heading towards Heaven's Gate car park with snow filling the entire road from hedge top to hedge top. We must hope that 2020 does not see a repeat.

In this issue we have most of our regular features including John Whatley's report that in 2019 Horningsham had more than 3 feet of rain! You can also read about the latest doings at Mill Farm and a somewhat delayed report on the Remembrance Service. This year also marks the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and you can read how the village celebrated the original VE Day in 1945. We look forward to bringing you news in due course of how Horningsham will celebrate in 2020. In this anniversary year we are planning a series of articles on Horningsham in World War Two.

Longleat has confirmed that the Bath Arms will close on the 3rd February until 1st May for refurbishment. Longleat has announced that "Longleat Bath Arms Ltd. will cease to trade under the current management" and will re-open under "a new company with ownership not linked to the Longleat Group". We hope to carry news of the new company when it becomes available.

Finally, we are sad to report the death on New Year's Eve of Reg Foreman, formerly of Chapel Street. We send our condolences to his family.

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Saturday 15th February 2020

Email: horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial Team

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We now have 725 "Page Follows" – more than four times the number of printed copies!

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

CHURCH NEWS



December and January are busy months for the church as we have had two services of celebration. We had a good congregation on Christmas morning for our communion service taken by the Rev Gay Maynard from Corsley. Although we thought we would be without an organist, Pam Garrett from Warminster kindly volunteered. Music makes such a difference to the whole atmosphere of the service and we are very grateful to Pam, her husband Brian and to Gay for sharing their Christmas morning with us.

We have not had a Christmas tree in church for a few years, but that changed this year! We were very pleased when Harriet Martin and her family offered to put up and decorate a tree. It was lovely to see the tree twinkling on Christmas morning and also the beautiful flower arrangements that filled the church. Unfortunately, Maggie Osborne was unable to be involved this year due to her broken arm and Jane Glover kindly stepped in. The church was full of flowers and looked amazing; thank you so much Jane and Harriet for all your hard work.



Luckily the flowers lasted until Plough Sunday when more than 50 people were able to enjoy them. The Bathampton Morris Men have been coming to Horningsham on this day for many years and it is always a happy occasion. The service celebrates the beginning of the agricultural year and prayers are said for the blessing of the land. The highlight of the service is always the dances performed by the Morris Men. They are a larger than life, cheerful and friendly group who light up a dull January morning and make everyone smile. They always bring their Hobby Horse with them and he enjoys moving among the congregation hoping for a pat on the nose! If you have never been, you don't know what you are missing.

These services would not be the same without the lovely refreshments we all enjoy, giving people the opportunity to stop for a chat afterwards. The champagne and hot mince pies disappeared in a flash on Christmas morning! For the plough service Steve and Margaret Crossman kindly provide hot cider with bread and cheese which is always very welcome. Thank you to everyone who has helped make these services a success; it was lovely to 'end on a high' before our winter break. There will be no service in Horningsham during February; please see the notice board for services in the Deverills.

Helen Taylor

Dear Friends,

I don't know about your garden but mine is a quagmire, particularly the chicken run. We've got 7 chickens and they have a really big area of the garden to live in but the grass doesn't stand a chance against the torrential and persistent rain we are experiencing this winter. Mud rules in the chicken run, and it takes a good deal of effort to actually stay upright when collecting the eggs. But the chickens don't seem to mind and still come charging up to the fence when we appear in the garden hopeful that there will be a treat or two on offer.



Despite the rain there are signs of better things in the natural world; defying the miserable winter weather bulbs can be seen thrusting through the cold wet soil and those magical white jewels we call snowdrops have miraculously appeared; they are such a sign of hope are they not.

In the life of the church later this month we start our journey towards the hope of Easter day with Ash Wednesday on February 26th. There will be a Eucharist with ashing at 10.30am at Longbridge Deverill, and Chapmanslade. There is something very profound and moving about receiving the sign of the cross on one's forehead in ash, a reminder of our frail human nature and our mortality. Traditionally Lent is a time of reflection and commitment to prayer in preparation for Easter. Prayer doesn't have to be in church, it doesn't have to involve words at all. It can be a walk in which we try to immerse ourselves in the created order, it can be a lifting of the heart on listening to a beautiful piece of music, a stirring of gratitude as we consider the privileges that we enjoy. As part of our Lenten preparation Bishop Andrew is coming to lead a pilgrimage around the Benefice on Wednesday 4th March. Suffice it to say that you needn't worry if you are not fit enough to join in the actual walk; we will be stopping at several of the churches along the way for a few words from Bishop Andrew and some refreshments, so you can join in then. Do contact me if you need any further information.

Every Lent the Archbishop of Canterbury picks a special Lent book. This year Bishop Nick, our diocesan bishop, has sent every clergy person in the diocese a copy of this year's book which is by Ruth Valerio: 'Saying Yes to Life'. In the forward Archbishop Justin writes: 'It is of the utmost importance that we now stand in solidarity together, repenting of our sins towards our earth and committing to face our responsibilities as God's people. As people of faith (I would add as human beings) we cannot just say what we believe. We are obliged to live out the life that Christ calls us to live, to care for our neighbours, for the creatures and the creation God has so generously given us.' I couldn't agree more, belief doesn't just mean verbally agreeing with certain statements or creeds, it means living them day by day, minute by minute, and we will stumble, and fail and get in a muddle, but we just have to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves down and keep trying even though it's hard. Which is why we need a bit of help now and again. So I'm asking you to join me in reading this book throughout the 40 days of Lent. You can read it on your own or maybe gather a little group together to discuss it. If you want to come and have a coffee and some cake I'll be kicking off here at the Rectory on Thursday 5th March at 2pm and then gathering again on Thursday 9th April at 2pm so we can share thoughts etc. Sarum College Bookshop in Salisbury stock the book and you can order it and have it posted to you if that's easier. I do hope and pray some of you will feel able to join in.

Meanwhile, let's give thanks for the miracle of a snowdrop.

Love and prayers,

Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.com

HORNINGSHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



We wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

Our Carol service was held on Sunday 15th December and all proceeds were donated to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance charity.

Our next service will be held on Sunday 10th February at 10 am.

Carol Cox horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk

HORNINGSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Horningsham Parish Council met on Thursday 9th January at the Village Hall.

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

Apologies: Simon Millar

In attendance: The Parish Clerk Mrs. Sarah Jeffries MILCM

Planning

Planning Applications

None had been received for comment at this meeting but the following application had been supported between meetings.

Application Ref: 19/11168/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - T1 - Thuja plicata approximately 4.5m height Recommended to remove to ground level.

At: 71-72, Church Street, Horningsham, BA12 7LW

Planning Decisions

Application Ref: 19/10199/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - T1 - Mature Beech - Significant decay from various Ganoderma australe brackets located on trunk at 0.5m, and decay reaching from 0.5m to approximately 3m in height. Request to reduce the height of the tree to 6m

T2 - Mature Lime - Request to repollard to previous pruning points.

T3 - Mature Ash trees roadside, remove the lower dead branches of roadside.

At: 144 West Common, Horningsham, BA12 7LS

Decision: No objection.

Application Ref: 19/10200/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - T1 - Mature Goat Willow - Historically pollarded, now with elongated limbs, requires a repollard to approximately 2m in height.

At: 36 Newbury, Horningsham, BA12 7LG

Decision: No objection.

Parish Steward

Dips and bends near Heaven's Gate: the edge of the road has subsided producing a deep rut.

Forest Road: the edge of the road has subsided producing a deep rut.

Hitcombe Bottom: the sign is damaged and needs repairing.

Hitcombe Bottom: Councillor Brierley will suggest to Highways that chevrons should be installed on the sharp bend where a vehicle recently ploughed through the hedge and crushed a cattle trough.

Parish Noticeboard

The legs on the board have rotted making the board outside the School unsafe and it has been removed. Councillor Windess will re-install it using angle iron. He will also replace the cork surface. Councillor FitzGerald offered to dig the necessary holes.

Play Area Bench Seat

Councillor Crossman reported that he needed help with moving material to fill in the drops either side of the new plinth for the bench. He also said he would explore the possibility of acquiring waterproof material that could be used to solve the problem of the muddy approach to the Play Area.

Remembrance Service

At the last meeting it was suggested that the use of a musical accompaniment to the hymn and the National Anthem might help attendees with their singing. The Chairman reported that he had found many downloadable versions that did not require a performing rights licence. He also suggested that in future the National Anthem should be restricted to the first verse with which most attendees were familiar.

Horningsham Street Signs

At the previous meeting Council had voted to acquire a first instalment of 10 signs of street names. They also voted on which signs they thought should be installed in the first round in 2020. The Chairman reported that the 10 signs receiving the most votes were as follows:

Little Scotland (5 votes)

Pottle Street (5 votes)

Forest Road (5 votes)

Bradley Road (5 votes)

Newbury (4 votes)

Church Lane (4 votes)

Hollybush (4 votes)

Anchor Barton (4 votes)

Cock Road (4 votes)

Anchor Barton needs a sign at each end making a total of 10 signs.

Council voted 7 in favour and 1 against with 2 abstentions. The Clerk was instructed to go ahead with obtaining a price from the only supplier that Wiltshire Highways will approve.

Gardens and Trees in the Village

A letter had been received from Mr David Abrahams, Longleat Arboricultural Supervisor, suggesting that he might organise a “Horningsham in Bloom” garden competition that would encourage more residents to care for their gardens. He also suggested that he would arrange for the gap in the hedge above Town Well to be planted and to replace trees in public areas. Councillors welcomed his suggestions and proposed that Mr Abrahams be invited to the next meeting to discuss his ideas.

Annual Litter Pick

Saturday 21st March was chosen as the day for the litter pick as this will coincide with the national “Great British Spring Clean”.

Councillor Chris’s offer to organise the litter pick again was gratefully accepted.

Community Emergency Plan

Councillor Simpson reported that he had the collection of salt in hand.

He also said he would seek two ice warning signs to be placed in Water Lane above and below Town Well where there is normally water on the road.

Council decided to discuss the acquisition of another grit bin for Newbury at the next meeting.

Dates of Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 28th May 2020 7.30pm

Full Parish Council Meetings 2020/2021

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

Thursday 9th January 2020 7.30pm

Thursday 20th February 2020 7.30pm

Thursday 2nd April 2020 7.30pm

Thursday 14th May 2020 7.30pm

Thursday 25th June 2020 7.30pm

There will be no meeting during the July/August Break

Thursday 3rd September 2020 7.30pm

Thursday 15th October 2020 7.30pm

Thursday 26th November 2020 7.30pm (Budget meeting)

Thursday 7th January 2021 7.30pm

Thursday 18th February 2021 7.30pm

Thursday 1st April 2021 7.30pm

The next meeting of Horningsham Parish Council will be at 7.30 on Thursday 20th February at the Village Hall when all are welcome to attend.

Remembrance Service



On a beautiful morning on Sunday 10th November, looking out over Horningsham bathed in glorious sunshine, we gathered to remember the men from the village who died in the two World Wars. The previous year there had been a very well-attended special occasion commemorating 100 years since the Great War that included many relatives of the 25 men from that war on our memorial. So it was especially pleasing that so many came to the 2019 service - 52 people, including a number of new residents.





The service was led by the Reverend Di Britten, the wreath was laid by Korean War veteran Bill Smy, Graham Long played the Last Post on his bugle and the Chairman of the Parish Council read out the names on the memorial.



Photos: Caroline Dykes

LUNCHEON CLUB



Our Christmas Meal at the Royal Oak Corsley was very successful. 45 sat down to a traditional turkey dinner followed by Christmas Pudding, mints and tea or coffee. The cooks and helpers had all been invited and appreciated the meal without the cooking, serving and washing up. We had a fantastic raffle with a prize for everyone. The only thing missing was the singing from the pupils of Horningsham School which normally accompanies our

Christmas meal. It will be up to our members to decide at our AGM the plans for Christmas 2020!

We have started the year well with four new members and another two to join which will swell our numbers. We are open every Thursday until 2nd April when we will close for a 2 week Easter Break.

Lesley Trollope



WELCOME CLUB

The Welcome Club held their Christmas Bingo at Maiden Bradley Hall on Monday 2nd December. I am pleased to say we made a profit of £214 00 which will certainly help funds for the forthcoming year. Thanks to everyone who gave prizes and came to the event, a special thanks to Brenda who helped us selling tickets.

On 3rd December members and friends went on the Annual Christmas Dinner to the Bell at Weyhill near Andover where we had a carvery dinner and pudding. After we held our annual Christmas raffle with Tom in charge which everyone enjoyed. Our special thanks goes to Lesley who organized the coach to take us there and the pub.

If you want information about joining the club and coming on outings with us in the summer please contact me.

Pearl Hudson 01985 844779

PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL

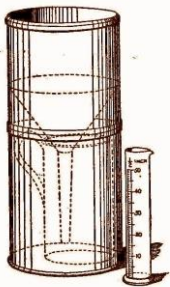


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

The weather has been so unpredictable over the last few months, that it seems I could copy last month's reports. November started wet and very windy for the first 2 weeks, then we had 3 days starting with a frost. It stayed fairly dry but cold, then at the end of the month it poured. Total for the month was 3.10 inches.

December started with a frost, and cold winds, and was really a washout for the whole month. Fog appeared some mornings making it damp and it felt cold, a really unpleasant month. We had 6.82 inches!

The Grand Total for 2019 was: **39.04** inches compared to 33.93 in 2018, 34.59 in 2017 32.38 in 2016 and 33.85 in 2015. So 2019 was certainly a wet year!

John Whatley



Two welcomes this month.

Angus Gray and **Jo McKenzie** have moved to 92 Water Lane. Angus is a superyacht Captain and Jo an artist and a chef on private yachts now looking to retire from that and start her own catering business. They have lived in Mallorca for nearly 20 years but are now delighted to be back and living in Horningsham. Angus has two sons, Thomas 18 and Alfie 14 and Jo has two daughters Jessica 21 and Alicia 18.

Will Pace, an arboriculturalist with a business in London, has moved into Church Street opposite the Tree Nursery. He has two boys, Otto, 8 and Jake, 6 who are at school in Frome.

Maggie Osborne & Charlotte Hilleary

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This year it is 75 years since the guns fell silent in Europe on 8th May 1945 – Victory in Europe Day. Though the Second World War did not end until 15th August when Japan surrendered unconditionally.

The Spring Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday 4th to Friday 8th May – check your diary has the correct date! This is to facilitate as many people as possible to join in a national and international celebration of the arrival of peace in Europe.

Plans are being laid for all sorts of events including street parties and celebrations at pubs, clubs, village greens and halls around the UK. At 3 O'clock there will be buglers playing the Last Post and Reveille followed by pipers playing The Battle's O'er at many locations including: The Bridge Over the River Kwai; Red Square, Moscow; Table Top Mountain, Cape Town; and the four highest peaks in Britain.

Following this, there will be the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War Two when everyone will be invited to raise a glass of the refreshment of their choice.

At 7.00pm church bells will ring throughout the nation and around the world in celebration of the peace and friendships we share today.

On Sunday 10th Services will take place in cathedrals and churches throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man in celebration of the peace we share today. We will remember those who lost their lives or returned home dreadfully wounded and pay tribute to those who put their lives on hold at home to keep the nation fed and the factories, mines and hospitals working, many of them not knowing if their loved ones would return home safely.

How Horningsham will join in the celebrations has not yet been decided but the Parish Council has suggested they could help financially should the Hall Committee organise a party on VE Day similar to the Diamond Jubilee Party they organised in 2012.

Opposite, you can read how our village celebrated victory in May 1945.

The Wiltshire Times

and Crowbridge Advertiser

THE LEADING COUNTY NEWSPAPER

The "Crowbridge and North Wilt Advertiser," established May 6th, 1864, was incorporated with the "Wiltshire Times" on May 1st, 1890.
The "Wiltshire Independent," established November 19th, 1856, was incorporated with the newly established "Wiltshire Times" on September 29th, 1876.

HOME
EDITION

VOL. XLII No. 4674

TROUBRIDGE SATURDAY MAY 26, 1945

Registered

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HORNINGSHAM

CHILDREN'S VICTORY TEA.

More than 100 children on Whit-Monday enjoyed a "Victory" tea in the Memorial Hall, arranged by Mrs. Barnett, Mrs. Hutchinson and Mr. Sheppard, of Church Farm.

After tea Mr. Fred Chapman got games going and at the end of the party delightful prizes were given to the lucky winners. Miss Peet kindly played for the musical games.

During the evening the children were told to sit down and were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Easterbrook, of Maiden Bradley, with comic songs which caused much amusement.

A large cake given by the Vicar was auctioned, and the proceeds which amounted to £1 5s. were given to Miss Anderson's "Distress in Holland Fund." At the end of a very enjoyable evening Mrs. Blair called for a hearty vote of thanks to all who had helped to make the event a success—organisers, subscribers and helpers.

Miss Anderson expressed the thanks of the guests, children, and grown-ups and hearty cheers were given by the children.

Helpers with tea were Mrs. K. Carpenter, Mr. Trollope, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Barnes, Miss Peet, and Miss Beauchamp.

The result was so generous that Mrs. Barnett has some money in hand which, at the suggestion of the Vicar, is being held back for the final victory.



Horningsham Primary School

Email: FriendsofHPS@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

Email: admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.horningsham.schnet.org

01985 844342



Art Commission!

We are very proud of our Art Club for rising to the challenge from Longleat of producing a series of stained glass windows depicting images from Arthurian Legend. It was quite a challenge and took a lot of problem solving, team work and vision from the group of children and parent helpers working with Miss Andrews. Our final three installations were then displayed in Longleat House as part of the Festival of Light; floodlit from outside at night, which projected them on to the walls. Well done everyone and thank you Longleat for giving us this opportunity and also to the White Horse Art Society for making a donation towards the cost of the materials.



Christmas Highlights

We had a wonderful end of 2019 with lots of fun and memorable Christmas events. A massive well done to our FOHPS (Friends of Horningsham Primary School) for organising such a fantastic Christmas Market. We hope you all enjoyed it! They raised a staggering £2040. Singing certainly featured heavily with performances as a choir with Sutton Veny at Longleat House, a wonderful Carol

Service and the most hilarious and fun Christmas Play that had everyone laughing! Breakfast with Father Christmas was a huge treat and the children's lanterns at the Trowbridge Lantern Festival were beautiful. Here's to a wonderful 2020 everyone!

Horningsham's Helping

Our Eco Leader initiated a special day to raise money for Australia in the wake of the terrible bush fires. The children all paid to bring their own toy animal to school for the day to protect and put their donations on a giant koala picture. Cara Wellstead kindly met with Isobel, our Eco Leader, to plan activities and then came in to school and led a whole school session identifying different Australian animals, exploring the impact of climate change and generating ideas for how we can make a difference to avoid this further. The children worked in teams to collect ideas which the Eco Gang will combine together to make a poster (to help promote reducing unnecessary energy and co2 emissions). We will share this with you in due course. The children have managed to raise £282.65 so far and we will give the final amount to Longleat to go towards their campaign to raise money for supporting Australia.



Horningsham Designer Eco Bags

Our unique and very sturdy canvas bags are on sale at school in the Little Office. The bags have a beautiful bird tree design on the front made up of individual birds created by each of the children in the school. They make for excellent long life bags, helping the environment whilst helping the school too! They are just £6 each or 2 for £10. Please contact the office if you would like to buy one (or two!). All proceeds will go towards new fiction books for our class libraries.





Our Village School Needs You

Horningsham Primary School has vacancies on the Governing Body both immediately and later in the year. If you might consider giving some of your time and skills to learning about and supporting the school as a Governor we would love to hear from you.

On **27th February at 7pm** Caramantha Wellstead (Governor) and Bob Grove (Chair of Governors) are hosting a meeting at the school to explain what is involved.

If you can come please let one of us know or phone the school on: 01985 844342

email: bgrove@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk
cwellstead@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

MONTHLY RECIPE

Pasta Alla Carbonara

By the time you read this we will have zipped through Christmas, coped with ‘Blue Monday’, Hurricane Brendan, the Four Horsemen and left the EU?! Some of us will have experienced the seasonal colds and flu. It’s a time when comfort food is at its most needed and I think we all have a favourite ‘go to’ that satisfies the tummy and the tastebuds. Mine has always been pasta in all its forms (310 specific forms, known by 1300 documented names) but particularly ‘pasta alla carbonara’

Carbonara is an Italian pasta dish from Rome, made with egg (usually yolk), hard cheese (pecorino romano), guanciale (or pancetta), and black pepper. The name is derived from carbonaro (the Italian word for ‘charcoal burner’), some believe the dish was first made as a robust meal for Italian charcoal workers. It has even been suggested that it was created as a tribute to the Carbonari (‘charcoal



men’) secret society prominent in the early, repressed stages of Italian unification in the early 19th century. In Michel Roux Senior’s excellent book on Eggs he says “A successful carbonara depends on good pasta cooked to perfection at the last moment, a very hot serving dish and the rapid mixing of cream and egg to create a glistening sauce which lightly coats the pasta.” Mmm can’t you just taste it? But . . . my version is ‘basic’ or ‘untwisted’. Like a lot of recipes carbonara gets ‘twisted’. Chefs now use ‘twist’ as opposed to ‘version’. My pasta is untwisted because it comes from the *cucina povera* which ain’t necessarily poverty but more to do with using what was available, eggs, cheese, preserved meats, vegetables and flour. This is fast food so have everything ready.

Ingredients and Method

Boil 75 - 100 grams per person of pasta to your liking but preferably not overcooked.

In a bowl break 1 egg per person and 30 grams of cheese per person. To this you may add a little salt and a lot of freshly ground black pepper and some thin slices of cooked bacon. (I use Finnebrogue - no nitrites). Mix

Drain the pasta quickly, return to the pan and add the contents of the bowl and mix rapidly until a coating sauce forms. Add a little heat if necessary to ensure the eggs are cooked thoroughly. Add Parmesan and serve immediately. Eat ! All done quicker than you can say I would rather have tartiflette. 😊

I’m reliably informed that any leftovers can be heated slowly in a heavy bottomed frying pan and used for a fabulous breakfast the next day.

Just off to boil the pasta 😊

Buon appetito! 🍷🍴

Jayne Glover

Mill Farm Chronicles Nov 19 – Jan 2020

Happy New Year!

It really was a happy New Year for us actually because we finally went clear on a second TB test at the beginning of January which means that after 8 long months of being unable to trade, we can now sell our cattle. We've got 60 days to sell the calves and after that if we want to sell, we have to have a pre-movement test on just the ones going to market but as long as they are clear then we won't have another big test until July. We have a young lady called Carmen from Garston Vets come to do the testing and she is really lovely. Carmen is very calm and gentle with the cows, talking to them through the whole procedure and Steve says what can be a very stressful time for both cows and humans is a doddle with her here. We usually have a combination of Jack, Carl Trollope (aka Flash) and Ben Windle, who used to live in the village, helping us on test days. I stay indoors and just feed the troops. This is usually bacon or sausage sandwiches on arrival followed by a cooked lunch and pudding at the end (cottage pie and rice pudding and jam this time) On the reading day, which is finished much quicker, its Danish pastries and sandwiches mid-morning.

Nothing much else is happening on the farm, it's just the daily routine of checking, feeding, cleaning out and strawing down the animals in their respective sheds every day until calving starts next month. The donkeys had a very successful two weeks holiday at Lakeside Garden Centre helping Father Christmas. I think they relished all the attention they received.

Thinking back over December I realise what a busy month it was. The B&B was busy up to the time I closed for Christmas but I still managed to cram an awful lot of things in under the heading "Let's get Christmassy". This is what I did . . .

I had all my presents bought and wrapped early and all the cards written and sent by the 1st December - result!

I've cooked loads of food for loads of people and stuffed my face with loads of amazing food in a variety of places over the past few weeks which has culminated in me feeling huge and the need to diet before our bed breaks. Just how much chocolate can one person eat???



Steve and I saw the Stourhead Illuminations three times, once with friends, once with Jack and once with Amy, Guy and the children. That time the children met Father Christmas too which was magical, although Theo would insist on shoving his finger up his nose all the time we were trying to get a nice photo of him and Ivy with the big man - kids!!

We went down to Longleat twice to see the Festival of Lights, once with friends and once with Amy and the children. The lights were amazing and I particularly enjoyed looking around the house decorated for the 1920s this time.

Amy and I went to The Glass Hub at Wingfield where we each blew a glass bauble which was fun.

I went to two Christmas wreath workshops, one with friends and one with Amy. It's odd but my wreaths always end up looking the same each year.

Ivy was a snowflake in her school play and she was brilliant, but I might be a tad biased there.

I took my "little treasures" out for our works Christmas lunch at The White Lion at Bourton. That was Jo, Amy and Kirsty. It's my way of saying 'thank you' to them for all their help with the B&B over the year. Kirsty was 8½ months pregnant at the time and has since given birth to a beautiful baby boy called Jack.

We took Ivy to the pantomime for the first time this year on New Year's Eve. It was in Frome and was 'The Beauty and The Beast'. Ivy really enjoyed it and was lucky enough to be called on to the stage to sing with the dame Madam Fifi.

It was a good job I was organised this year because there was a hiccup early on in the month where my Mum was taken into hospital again with pneumonia. Luckily it was caught early and she was home recuperating after 5 days. As usual all the staff in RUH were fantastic as were the paramedics, long live the NHS!

Talking about the NHS brings me to another excitement we had around Christmas. Amy has been accepted into Bournemouth University to take a degree in Midwifery. She's been taking an Access course for the past year and passed it with distinctions across the board which means she has the equivalent of 3 A levels at grade A. She starts her course in September which will include work placements in Yeovil or Salisbury hospitals. I'm so blooming proud of her and I think she will make a fantastic Midwife.

We are coming to the end of the shooting season so there will be no more mass sausage cooking for me till September (except for B&B), I can't believe how quickly the days roll by. Spring is just around the corner but I wonder if February will bring a dump of snow, I hope so!



Margaret Crossman

Notes From A Horningsham Garden

January is the best month for getting planning for spring. Once Christmas is safely behind, there are fun things to do like checking last year's leftover seed packets and wondering what new varieties of vegetables and flowers might be good to try. I always have 6 free packs from Garden Organic who conserve old varieties and have nice names like Burpless Tasty Green cucumbers or Bulls Blood beetroot. Our local nursery, Simpson's Seeds, have a really good range of vegetable seeds and a few flowers, and Pippa Rosen of Beans and Herbs has a large range of interesting organic vegetable, herb and flower seeds as well as many beans.

I did manage to plant my autumn broad bean seeds in between the rainstorms and they are now well up. They are protected by netting cloches against the worst of the winter weather!

Now is a good time to apply a farmyard manure mulch to all the flower beds. The greensand soil here is very light and needs the extra organic material to hold in nutrients and water and keep it fertile. I get a ton of lovely well-composted, light manure that is easy to spread and looks very nourishing!



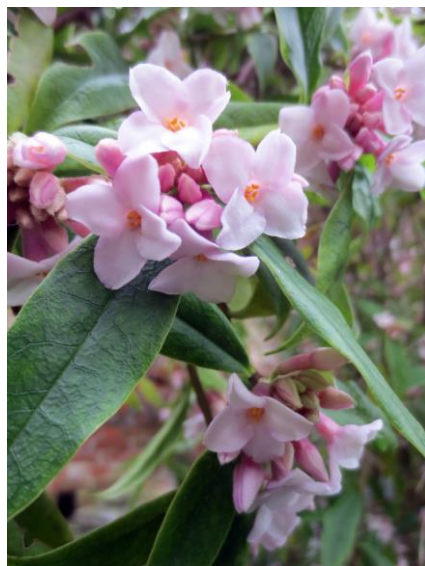
This is followed by wood chip mulch to shrub borders to help keep moisture in and weeds suppressed.

The next seeds to sow are sweet peas. They should be flowering in June if sown in January. I start them off in root grow pots to give the roots lots of space to develop and placed in a narrow tray so I can balance them on the windowsill of an unheated room and keep them safe from being eaten by mice while they start sprouting. When they are well-grown, about March, I can move them out to the greenhouse for maximum light and to harden off before planting out in April.

There are some early flowers to enjoy in the garden. Snowdrops are already out thanks to mild weather and are flowering on the verges and hedgerows too. I fell prey to snowdrop philia and have collected a few rare ones which are increasing slowly in pots. I notice really rare ones can be sold for as much as £100 a bulb!



Three winter shrubs are looking and smelling fabulous at the moment, the hamamelis mollis or witch hazel, which has little tufts of yellow or red flowers, Camellia St Ewe, with single pink flowers and conspicuous stamens, and Daphne Bholua with pink and white waxy flowers. That one is near the back door and the perfume is really sweet and powerful as you pass by.



Here's hoping that winter progresses gently without dumping lots of ice and snow!

Carole Hill

Lion Cubs

We had a lovely end to our Playgroup term, with some special sessions leading up to Christmas. We visited Father Christmas at Fairwood Lakes and all had a magical time, then our final session of the year was a Christmas party with lots of fun, party food and Christmas music!





For our first session of 2020 we thought we would help our feathered friends through the cold weather by making fat cakes to hang in our gardens for the birds. The birds made short work of the ones we hung in our garden!



We are looking forward to having lots more fun with our Lion Cubs in the coming weeks and, as always, hope to see some new faces joining us.

Look after yourself this winter

As the dark nights draw in across Wiltshire and winter really starts to bite, it's worth thinking about how we can all make sure we're looking after ourselves and staying well over the cold winter months.

The NHS recently launched its annual winter campaign – Help Us Help You– which is here to help make it easier to understand the things you can do.

We all know hospitals and surgeries can be especially busy during the winter months and it can often be tricky to know the best place to go for help, so here's some handy tips to see you through until spring:

1. It's not too late to get your flu jab

The free flu vaccination is offered to those who are at increased risk from the effects of flu, including people aged 65 and over, pregnant women, those with underlying health conditions and children aged 2-10. If you've not had one yet, it's not too late.

1. Call 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk online

If you're unsure where to go and think you need urgent medical attention, but it's not life-threatening, contacting NHS 111 can help you make sure you reach the most suitable NHS service for your needs.

2. Ask a pharmacist for advice before minor ailments or winter illnesses get worse

Community pharmacists are qualified healthcare professional who can offer clinical advice and over the counter medicines to safely manage things like coughs, colds and sore throats.

It's quick and convenient to see a pharmacist– you don't need to book an appointment and can often be seen in a private consultation room.

3. See your GP in the evening or weekend if you can't see them during the day

If you need to see a GP but find it hard to find the time during routine hours, appointments with a GP, nurse or other healthcare professionals are often available in the evenings and at weekends through many local practices or other local NHS services.

For more information about services in your area visit: www.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/local-services



Call
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If you have an urgent
medical problem.



HELP US
HELP YOU
STAY WELL THIS WINTER

If you're not sure what to do,
Call NHS 111

Minor Injury Units (MIUs)

- Treats non-life-threatening injuries such as bites, sprains, infections and broken bones
- Run by experienced nurses on a first come, first served basis – you don't need to book an appointment
- Cannot treat minor illnesses

A&E

- Only use an A&E service in very serious or life-threatening situations such as stroke, severe bleeding, heart attack, severe head injury or fits that do not stop
- Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

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Saturday 1st February - Pub Night opens 5.30 - 10pm. Beer/cider/wine/soft drinks available. Fish and chips available from Mr. Chippy. Children welcome. Come along for a chat & catch-up or a game of table tennis.

Friday 14th February - Film Night: *Downton Abbey* (PG)
Doors open 7pm for 7.30 showing.



Friday 21st February - Quiz Night
Bring your own team or join one of ours.
Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start

Post Office Service, Café and the Community Store will be available every Tuesday afternoon 1-3pm in the Hall.

Coffee Mornings & Library every Friday 10.00 - noon.

Come along for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat. Everyone welcome.
Our book library has now been extended to include a jigsaw library. No need to join simply make a donation of 50p.

The Old Kitchen Community Store now open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Opening times: 9am – 11.30am. Please note CASH ONLY.

LONGLEAT NEWS

Two specialist koala keepers from Longleat have flown to Australia to help with wildlife caught in the devastating bushfires after a call for help from colleagues in the south of the country.

Almost half a billion animals are thought to have been killed by the fires. It is feared many that survive the fires will die later because of a lack of food or shelter.

Longleat is part of a long-term partnership with the South Australia Government and Cleland Wildlife Park, in the Adelaide Hills, supporting research and conservation programmes for wild koalas.

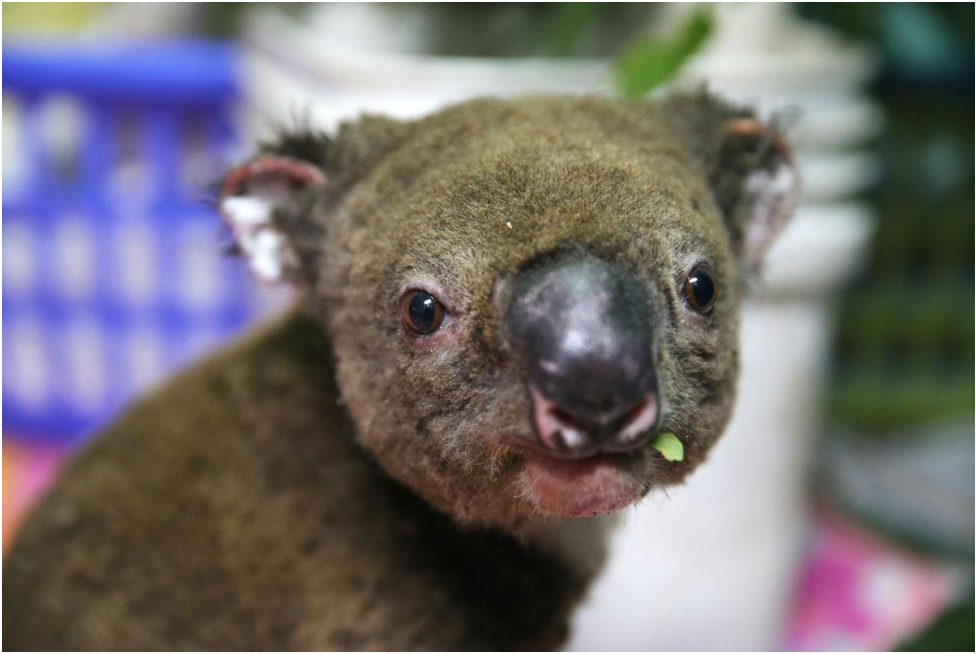
The keepers, who have experience of working with koalas and wombats, offered assistance after colleagues asked for practical, hands-on help.

"We have been watching with horror as the true extent of the damage and loss has become clear," said head of animal adventure Graeme Dick. "This is an absolutely catastrophic situation and Australia's unique wildlife is being particularly hard hit. Recovery will take years ," he added.

They are taking a donation of AUSS\$ 25,000 (£13,000) to help fund the work of three local rescue groups - South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management, Minton Farm Rescue and Manfred Heide Wombat Rescue.

Fundraising is also taking place to assist with the longer term recovery programme.







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

ADVERTISING RATES

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These apply to the inside pages of the magazine



BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES

Black Boxes	Thursday 13 th & 27 th February Thursday 12 th & 26 th March
Grey Bins	Friday 14 th & 28 th February Friday 13 th & 27 th March
Blue Bins	Friday 7 th & 21 st February Friday 6 th & 20 th March
Mobile Library	Tuesday 25 th February Tuesday 24 th March <i>10.00 – 10.25 opposite the Hall</i>

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

Thursday 20th February *Parish Council Meeting* 7.30 at the Village Hall

Thursday 2nd April *Pip Utton* 7.30 at the Village Hall



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FRI 11.45AM - 1.45PM
SAT 11.45AM - 1.45PM**

EVENINGS

**MON 4.45PM - 9.00PM
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