

HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 237

April 2022





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EDITORIAL

Spring has sprung and the clocks have changed. As one goes around the village, especially notable this year are the many magnolias which are putting on a fabulous display, like the one on our cover this month. Let's hope no frost kills off the flowers.

Turning to wild, rather than cultivated, flowers, we welcome another new contributor. Andy Dean, Associate Horticultural Producer on Garden Rescue. He has been observing and photographing Horningsham's wild flora on his walks around the village since moving in to The Corner. We look forward to his regular contributions. By the way, it is rumoured that he has persuaded Charlie Dimmock to come to the Fayre.

Inside, as well as the School's lively activities, you can read about the dramatic (and expensive) works going on at Half Mile Pond. We also have news on the series of summer concerts planned at Longleat. By way of old news, we have the sad tale of a Trollope who drowned in the Avon at Bath. Also, the handing over of the village school by Lord Bath to Wiltshire County Council. The School had been colloquially known as "Lord Bath's School", not to be confused with Lord Weymouth's School now renamed as Warminster School.

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Friday 15th April 2022

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 1,428 “Page Follows” – over eight times the number of printed copies!

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

Horningsham Cricket Club



Our season starts in April, but so far this has been a cruel spring for the Horningsham Cricket Club groundsmen. The storms that knocked out Horningsham's electricity in February also blew down some of our boundary netting, and a telegraph pole that holds it up.

Somebody has driven a tractor over the soft ground and left huge ruts, threatening to make the year as busy for local A&E departments as it will be dangerous for mid-wicket fielders. And we have mole hills, 100 at the last count. Our captain tried to clear some up with a spade and broken wheel barrow last week. He did not get far with the mole hills but did mend the barrow, which pleased your correspondent a great deal as it was mine.

Fortunately our ground staff are a dedicated group, and they have put in many hard hours dealing with these challenges as well as everything else that goes into making a good wicket. We are extremely lucky to have them.

At least everything in the kit room has survived the winter in good order. We had a look last week: a pail of water with three soggy batting gloves, and a few stumps, bails and a pad. Sorted!

We may have our first match reports in next month's News. The first fixture is on Good Friday, 17th April, against a touring side who have not been to Horningsham before, and may not be aware that our cricket field is a bog in April. We shall need a dry spell to make it playable.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram. And you are always welcome to pop by during a game; bring a bottle of wine and some choice insults.

James Osborne



Fayre News

HORNINGSHAM VILLAGE FAYRE SUNDAY 19TH JUNE 2022

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON THURSDAY 21ST APRIL 7.30PM AT
HORNINGSHAM VILLAGE HALL

All systems are go!

We have a really entertaining Fayre planned for you for Sunday 19th June but we still need volunteers for help on the day. This could be helping to put up tents or bunting, manning stalls or maybe doing a stint on the cream teas. Just an hour would be great, more volunteers mean less time helping! Please help if you can. Your support is vital to help keep all the village organisations going.

These are:

The Village Hall
The Church
The School
The Chapel
The Cricket Club
Luncheon Club
Horningsham News

Steve Crossman, Chairman



WELCOME CLUB

The Welcome Club held their meeting at Horningsham Hall on Thursday 17th. We had about 25 people attend who paid their subscriptions and had a chat plus a cup of tea and a biscuit. We are always very pleased to see new members.

Our first Outing is on Tuesday the 19th April 8.45am at Horningsham 9.00am at Maiden Bradley. Our first outing is a mystery trip and only the driver knows where we are going. We are always looking for people to join us on the outings because of the cost of the coaches and fuel prices going up in price. At the moment our charges are £15.00 for members £18.00 for non-members which is very reasonable given the cost of petrol and diesel. If anyone is interested please contact Pearl on 01985844779 or Lesley on 01985211355.

Pearl Hudson



CHURCH NEWS

I was thinking about this article when I was at my allotment; it was a warm day and the sun was shining. The birds were singing, one or two bees were buzzing about and a butterfly landed on a dandelion flower. It reminded me of how fortunate we are to live in such beautiful surroundings. Easter is just four weeks away and it will be good to have a service in the Church again and to give thanks for all the good things that we have. If anyone would like to help with the Church flowers for Easter, I would be very pleased to see you on Easter Saturday morning.

Sadly, we have had another funeral. Geoffrey Dyke died in February and was buried at Horningsham where his wife, daughter and parents are also laid to rest. He was related to the Long family and we send our sympathy to Graham, Margaret and Margaret.

Helen Taylor

Church Date

17th April Easter Sunday Holy Communion 10.30am

Horningsham Congregational Church



The next service will be held on Sunday 10th of April at 10.00 am.

Carol Cox horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk

HALL NEWS



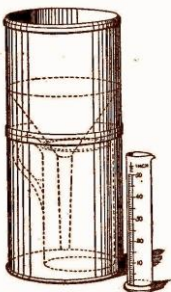
We have our AGM on Tuesday 31st May at 7pm, in the Village Hall. Please come along and support the Hall. We will talk about what more the Hall can do for the village, and what the Hall needs.

Various ideas have been suggested recently; such as using some of the space for hot desking during the week (we have excellent broadband), monthly coffee mornings and village markets, quiz nights, supper clubs, theatre, bingo. Even to house some Ukrainian refugees. If you would be interested in any of these please come along on 31st May.

The Hall is looking great after all the redecoration over the last two years. Our biggest challenge today is to raise funds to repair the roof. Would anyone feel able to join that effort? The Hall needs you!

James Osborne

PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL



February started cold and windy with some heavy rain in the first week, a couple of frosts, and then more rain. We then had the weather warning for Storm Eunice on the 18th with rain and extremely high winds of up to 80 mph, lucky for us that there were no trees in full leaf! We all lost some trees that day, but yet again we had high winds on the 21st during Storm Franklin which, even though the winds were not so strong, brought down more trees. At the end of the month we had a staggering 4.40 inches.

March so far is being fairly mild with showers.

John Whatley

Prayers for Ukraine

You may have noticed, as you've passed the school, that we have beautiful sunflowers and doves in our windows at the front of the building. The children have been empathising with the people of Ukraine and considering the importance of peace. The sunflower, the national flower of Ukraine, has become a symbol of peace and solidarity for the war-torn country since Russia invaded at the end of February, so the children created their own sunflower paintings to show their support and also wrote prayers for the people of Ukraine and filled the school with beautiful doves to promote peace with one another. We were touched at how much was donated by the families to go to refugees in Poland. Families dropped off clothes, essentials and nappies which were then added to the collections organised by Active Trowbridge.



We need you!

If you're interested in being more involved with the school and becoming a school governor then please contact Carole Andrews at the school 844342 admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk or have a chat with Bob Grove (Chair of Governors). Many thanks.

Reading Rocks at Horningsham!

We celebrated our love for books and reading with our annual Reading Rocks Week. We had lots of live events online with authors and the whole school focused on Helen Ward's 'The Tin Forest' for a writing and arts based project, culminating in a beautiful Horningsham tin forest and some incredible writing from all the children.

The highlight of the week was World Book Day, with everyone (including staff!) dressing up as their favourite book characters to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this annual event. Each child had a challenge to transform a shoe box into a room for a book character – their efforts were amazing and everyone enjoyed seeing all the creations in an end of day special gallery viewing.



The Tin Forest

As you travel through the forest, the rusted leaves clank in the darkness. A melancholy flower brushes your knee, truncated steel pipes stretch through the soundless cave-like forest, clinging on to bolts. The rigid branches grab metal leaves, pulling them to the roots.

A morbid feeling courses through your head. You feel as though you're a squeezed melon about to burst.

The scarcity for light hops around in your head. The darkness overcomes the tin forest, not a peep of sunlight enters your eyes.

Structures tower over the drooped flowers. Dense, leaden trees reach out searching for riveted leaves. The greyscale foliage replayed. The elaborate details on the robotics very carefully made.



The Tin Forest

An everlasting opaque landscape unravels before me as I tiptoe silently through the densely packed tin forest. My vision is obscured by the looming trees that seem to be playing an on-going game of hide and seek with me.

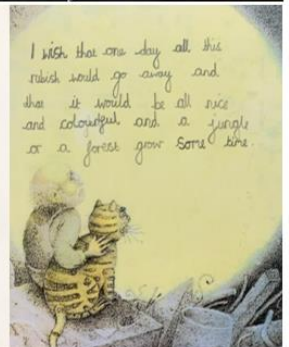
The impatient sun is continuously attempting to part the serrated leaves of the canopy to let in its reassuring light, but fails every time to do so.

There seems to be no life - no movement in this long maze of metal. But as your eyes adjust, it reveals an unnatural beauty. A flicker of an eyelid, so fast you would think you must have dreamt it; an astonished breath, so faint you would barely notice; a subtle step, hardly heard on the crisp, untouched forest floor.

But yet again, no one reveals themselves and the empty reality takes its dejected path. The never-ending isolation creeps within my soul and I shudder - the feeling dies and all I'm left with is dingy despair. All the downcast trees seem to be bowing their heads due to their forelorn feelings of misery. Again, I thought I heard the faint chirp of a bird, but alas, all I see is the same, old forest.



The Tin Forest
 The unwelcoming forest of tin was dark and grey, plants looked dull and the tiger looked a bit gloomy like the forest was forgotten. The tropical toucans were steel and grey, the butterflies looked gloomy and colourless. The trees stood gloomily in hanking dim shadows. The creeks grasses are uncomfortably grey. The lizard is climbing up the loringly straight trees that don't even move.



THEN AND NOW



C.1920



Not much has changed, apart from the clothes, in the 100 years that separate our two photos of Highwood opposite. However, over 200+ years much has changed. The whole area used to be the timber and building yard with stores and workshops for carpenters, masons and other Estate tradesmen and a house for the foreman.

In December 1833 a fire devastated the workshops as was reported in the Devizes Gazette of 19th December:

The Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette

VOL. XVIII.—No. 936

THURSDAY DEC. 19, 1833.

PRICE 7d.

A fire broke out last week at Longleat, in the carpenter's shops belonging to the Marquis of Bath, which are situated in one of the woods at a short distance from that nobleman's mansion. Some valuable carvings and a quantity of timber and tools were destroyed, and the premises also materially damaged, but by prompt assistance in unroofing part of the buildings, and cutting off the communication of the flames, total destruction was prevented. It was at first supposed to have been the act of an incendiary, but circumstances have since transpired to induce a belief of its being purely accidental. Indeed, from the well known amiable character and benevolence of his lordship, and the high estimation in which he is held, it is impossible to conceive that any human being would be base enough to do him the slightest injury.

One hundred and fifty four men turned out to extinguish the fire. They were paid 2 shillings each – save in the case of eight men, presumably of higher social status than the rest, who were given game instead.

The building nearest to the camera was built in 1787 as the foreman's house and continued as such until it was converted to two dwellings in the 1860s or 1870s. At around the same time the building further from the camera carried on as a workshop and store until it was converted to a dwelling. Over the years the cottages have housed a variety of Longleat employees including a night watchman, a head gardener, a forester and a librarian.

Recently two of the three cottages have seen great change as they are now a part of Longleat's "Stay at Longleat" enterprise. Renamed Gardener's Cottage and Carpenter's Cottage they have been renovated, furnished and equipped to a high standard and are available as holiday lets for around £500 per night.



Gardener's Cottage



Carpenter's Cottage

Daylight now arrives before 6:30 in the morning, and writing this in mid-March, the air awash with birdsong, I feel certain that winter will soon be a thing of the past.

It seemed virtually impossible to say that two months ago, amidst the stillness of ice and inescapable cold. But the last week has brought a pronounced softening, a healing thaw - and none too soon. Such is the movement of time. The year inches forward, and spring is at our doorstep.

Where I grew up in the American Northeast, heavy winters were often marked by one final, definitive blizzard in late March or even April: two or three feet of snow dumped in a single day. Winter's last clearance before spring was allowed to arrive.

Somehow, I doubt I will be experiencing that this year. And I am perfectly fine with it: we move to new territories, we adapt to new climates. Strange, though, how we still carry with us the memory of climates we once



lived in. I wonder if our toddler will retain a memory of ice, or a frost-laced field - if, in his lifetime, the planet continues its warming. Maybe some thaws do not bring with them an inevitable return to cold.

In the meantime, the present spring brings with it so many new discoveries for the toddler. The carpets of snowdrops have dwindled, replaced by upright, golden ranks of daffodils. Crocuses, primroses, periwinkle are a welcome splash of colour as they emerge out of leaf.

I unlatch my window, and after much straining, crack it open to the fresh air. Ladybirds have been massing in the casing. Many of them remain huddled in the shadow, but one or two of them venture out, sensing the change around them. I watch them trundling along the wood, inspecting, cautious - before they take off into the open air.

Winnie M Li

Longleat News: Preservation of Half Mile Pond



The expanse of water to the east of Longleat House, known as Half Mile Pond, is a defining feature of Longleat's beautiful parkland landscape. It may look completely natural but is, in fact, an artificial structure, artfully designed to imitate nature.

Due to its size Half Mile Pond is also classified as a reservoir; this means that Longleat needs to ensure the continued prevention of flood risk and the upkeep of a safe environment. With the changes to our climate and the increased likelihood of extreme weather events, this need is more important than ever.

This year, Longleat has embarked on an extensive £2 million project to preserve and upgrade an important feature of the pond, its original eighteenth century dam. Work will involve 550 metres of engineering to the crest of this historic structure. In total 3.5 kilometres of steel will be used to strengthen the dam so it can withstand an extreme flood event. The dam wall has to hold 110,480 tonnes of water, making this project a major engineering operation.





The dam was built on the western side of the lake, alongside the present-day route of the Longleat Railway. As part of the project the entire railway track and track bed, that run the length of Half Mile Pond, will be removed, to be replaced once the dam works are completed.



This unique project faces some unusual challenges; there can't be many reservoirs that are also home to hippos and sea lions! With the protection of our animals paramount, works have been carefully planned and will be monitored to ensure our animals remain safe and undisturbed.

Wild Horningsham

On my dog strolls around Horningsham I've been interested to see what wild plants are emerging. Especially as spring finds its feet, not before time as far as I'm concerned! It has to be the primrose *Primula vulgaris* that are front and centre through March and continue strong into April. Unsurprisingly I guess with the name prima rosa, or first flower of the year (although that's not strictly true as the beautiful snowdrops on February's cover show). But I can't let those little yellow faces go unmentioned, not least because it's Primrose Day on the 19th April, or so Richard Maybe tells us in 'Flora Botanica' with the botanist Sir George Birdwood apparently suggesting this after Benjamin Disraeli's death in 1881 as the former Prime Minister had such an admiration of the flower.

I wonder if I've spotted a couple of the similar plant oxlips *Primula elatior*, which would be exciting as they are a vulnerable, near-threatened species usually confined to the area where Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire meet, but I'm not entirely convinced that these are not an ornamental escapee from a garden, perhaps a local botanist can put me straight on this?



The ramsons or wild garlic *Allium ursinum* are getting well into leaf in the woods in the north of the village above Newbury and there's a little to be found on the road to Maiden Bradley. We like to make a pesto out of the wild garlic, freezing this in an ice cube tray is a great way to get a portion that you can easily throw into pasta or mix into a dressing for a salad, but this year I'm going to make some green garlic butter by simply beating the cleaned and shredded leaves into butter for a fresh subtle alternative to traditional garlic butter.

I've had a couple of passes over the nettles *Urtica dioica* in the garden already, picking the tips, blanching and freezing for later use in anything that we would use spinach in, I'm pretty fond of a smoothie made with any berries, fresh or frozen, a handful of greens, usually spinach but nettles in this case, milk and water then blend. I've also used the cooking water as a hair tonic so if you see me around the village with green hair don't be alarmed!

According to the Natural History Museum our stinging little friends have been reported to have over 100 different insect species feeding on them alone and they are host to the red admiral *Vanessa atalanta* (I think I may have gone to school with her) small tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* and peacock *Aglais io* butterflies as well as moths such as the Burnished Brass *Diachrysis chrysitis*, the angle shades *Phlogophora meticulosa* and the ruby tiger *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* to name just a few of the more charismatic species. And to name a few of the less charismatic species; the brilliantly named golden-bloomed grey longhorn beetle *Agapanthia villosoviridescens*, and *Parathelcus pollinarius* no funny common name I'm afraid but this little guy's only source of food is the roots of stinging nettles, look him up, I mean if a weevil can be cute...Old longhorn's a good looking chap too.



Talking about early flowering wild plants, another that flowered alongside the early primroses but whose flower has now gone over is the winter heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*, this has a great scent and maybe presents a food supply for early pollinators, though this is an extremely invasive non-native species. Being new to the village I'm not sure about the pace of its spread where I see it on the bank along from the Island, but I'm surprised, on my travels slightly further afield how quickly this is populating ground.

Just to see everything bursting into life at the moment is very exciting and I look forward to more walks and observations, maybe with a bit more sun, over the next month.

NB, remember that it's illegal to dig up any wild plant and always make double sure that the plant is what you think it is if you're going to eat it.

Andy Dean

Longleat Summer Concerts



SENBLA PRESENTS TOM JONES

THURSDAY 23RD JUNE



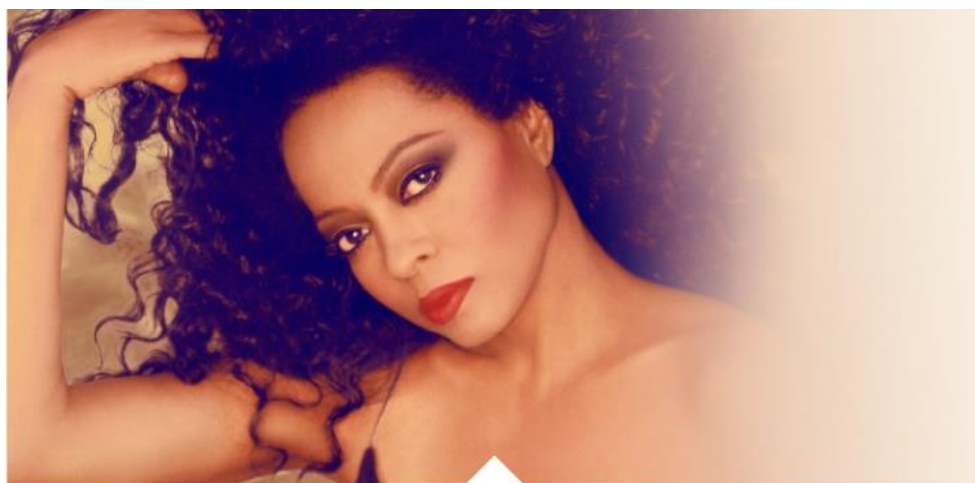
SENBLA PRESENTS SIMPLY RED

FRIDAY 24TH JUNE 2022



SENBLA PRESENTS BALL & BOE

TUESDAY 28TH JUNE



SENBLA PRESENTS DIANA ROSS

FRIDAY 1ST JULY 2022

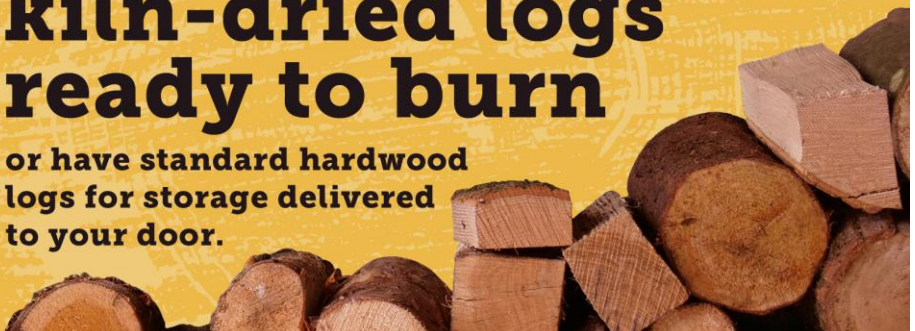


SENBLA PRESENTS TEARS FOR FEARS

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FORESTRY**



BATH.

The body of the young man found in the river Avon, a week ago, has been identified as that of George Trollop, a native of Horningsham, Wilts. He left his home three weeks ago for the purpose of visiting Bath to see his sweetheart, with whom, however, he does not appear to have had an interview.

The Wiltshire Times

AND
TROWBRIDGE ADVERTISER.

A Weekly Newspaper for the South and Western Counties.

The "Trowbridge and North Wilts Advertiser," established May 26, 1854, was incorporated with the "Wiltshire Times" on May 1, 1863. The "Wiltshire Independent," established November 16, 1854, was incorporated with the newly established "Wiltshire Times" on September 20, 1876.

VOL. LXXIII No. 8725.

TROWBRIDGE, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1927.

Registered.

TWO PENCE.

LORD BATH TRANSFERS A SCHOOL.

The report of the Building Sub-Committee, presented by Mr. J. Thornton, contained the following paragraph:—
"Horningsham School.—That the Committee accept the transfer of the Horningsham School to the local Education Authority on the terms specified, and that public notice of the intention of the local Education Authority to accept such transfer be issued."

Mr. Thornton, in moving the recommendation, said Lord Bath had offered to transfer the school to the Committee, and he would say to other managers "Go and do likewise" (hear, hear).

Miss Stephenson said they fully realised the advisability of transfer and placing the schools under one control. Could they do anything to induce the owners or managers to transfer other small schools to the Committee?

Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

01985 845303 (*answerphone*)



www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk

Sunday 3rd April – Sunday Catch-up Coffee Morning 10-11am

Monday 4th April – Bingo

Doors open 7.30pm eyes down 8.00pm

Saturday 9th April – 10.30am-11.30am Climate Coffee Morning

Friday 22nd April – Film Night – The Father

Doors open at 7pm, film starts 7.30pm

Free entry with a raffle to cover costs

Saturday 30th April – Quiz Night

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start

£3.00 per person, max 6 per team, bring your own refreshments

Sunday 1st May – Sunday Catch-up Coffee Morning 10-11am

Regular Events

Mondays	10.30am-11.30am	Yoga
Mondays	5.00pm-6.00pm	Dr's Surgery
Tuesday	7.00am-8.00am	Yoga Flow
Tuesdays	1.00pm-3.00pm	Post Office Service
Wednesdays	6.15pm-7.15pm	Yoga Flow
Fridays	10am-12pm	Coffee Morning
Book library available during Hall opening for regular events		
Saturdays	5.00-6.30pm	Fish & Chip Van

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THE FATHER

PG-13
VIEW THE TRAILER AT WWW.THEFATHERMOVIE.COM
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QUIZ!

SATURDAY APRIL 30TH
Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm
£3.00 per person
Maximum of 6 per team
Raffle

Please bring your own refreshments



**Services suspended
until further notice**



As a partial replacement, from 13 October a special shared taxi service will be provided for pre-booked passengers from Maiden Bradley and Horningsham to Frome on Wednesday mornings and to Warminster on Friday mornings, allowing approximately 1½ hours shopping in each town.

Normal bus fares will be charged on the shared taxi and holders of concessionary bus passes will be able to travel free of charge. To book a place on the shared taxi, please ring A&G minibuses between 9am and 5pm **the day before you need to travel** on 01985 218754.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience that these temporary arrangements may cause you. For further details about them, please ring the Wiltshire Council's Transport Unit on 01225 718080.

ADVERTISING RATES

½ page £8.00 Full Page £16.00

These apply to the inside pages of the magazine



BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES

Waste Collections

The recent change means there are now three different patterns around the village so it is no longer possible to list them all here. The only point in common is that they are all on a Wednesday. Some have all three on the same day, most have blue bin and black box on one day and the grey bin on another. However, even those differ in which week the pattern applies. For example, Rowe's Hill, White Street and Church Lane are all different! The only solution is to check your own dates on the Wiltshire Waste Collection Calendar at:

<https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays/index>

Mobile Library Tuesday 5th & 19th April
10.00 – 10.25 opposite the Hall

Frome Hospital Minor Injuries		01373 454740
Community Police Officer	Vicky Howick	0726818 ext 817
Wiltshire Police – non emergency		101
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	844197
Horningsham School		844342
Village Hall Hire		07541 211732
Longleat Property Department		845433
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	213436
Congregational Chapel	CarolCox	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 7th April **Parish Council** 7.30 at the Village Hall

Thursday 21st April **Fayre Meeting** 7.30 at the Village Hall

Tuesday 31st May **Hall AGM** 7.00 at the Village Hall

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WEDS 11.45AM - 1.45PM
THURS 11.45AM - 1.45PM
FRI 11.45AM - 1.45PM
SAT 11.45AM - 1.45PM

EVENINGS

MON 4.45PM - 9.00PM
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

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