

HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 241
December 2022



Christmas Issue



We clean frames as well as glass. We also clean
Conservatories, Conservatory Roofs, Inside Windows,
Solar Panels and Gutter Clearing
Call Doug Valentine
Tel: 01373 837423
Mobile: 07739 189180
doug.valentine8@gmail.com

Horningsham Village Hall



Competitive Rates & Residents Discounts

Hall Hire - bookings@horningshamvillagehall.com
Event queries - enquiries@horningshamvillagehall.com

Kerrie & Co

Cleaning, Ironing and Laundry
Service
End of tenancy cleaning
Carpets & Ovens
01373 463456
07812 202206



Learn to drive

with your local instructor



call tina

01985 988578

mobile 07745 652777



Open for Take Aways
All by pre order

Friday & Saturday
5.00 – 8.00pm

Book by Wednesday or
Thursday

01373 467370
james@thaikitchenfrome.com

www.thaikitchenfrome.com
Menu on website

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
F. CURTIS & SON
11 PORTWAY WARMINSTER
TEL 212033

Bed & Breakfast

and

Self-Catering Cottage

Stephen & Margaret Crossman

Mill Farm
Horningsham
Warminster
BA12 7LL
01985 844333





EDITORIAL

Inside this Christmas issue you will find news of upcoming seasonal events from our regular contributors. Carol services are planned by the Church, the School and the Chapel. There is also a report on the successful Village Supper organised by Katy Gunning who is planning further Suppers. Thanks to Paul Kemp for the seasonal cover picture.

I am delighted to welcome back the regular advert from the Bath Arms. Their support has been important to us from our first issue and it is really good news that this is to continue.

Finally it only remains for me to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas.

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Sunday 15th January 2023

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	



find us on
Facebook

We now have 1,467 “Page Follows” – over eight times the number of printed copies!

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



WELCOME CLUB

On Thursday 17th November the Welcome Club held their Annual General Meeting at Horningsham Hall we had a very good attendance with lots of discussion of places members would like to go on their outings next year. Lesley Pearl and Tom will go through the places and decide on cost of coach so we can let members know at the next meeting on Thursday 23rd March 2023.

Our next thing will be the Christmas Bingo on November 28th, after that it is the Annual Christmas Dinner when we are joining the Luncheon Club at Hunters Lodge on Thursday 15th December. Everyone should by now have given Lesley what they want to eat.

We wish all the members a very Happy Christmas and let's hope 2023 will bring us brighter things to look forward to.

If there is anyone interested in joining the Club and coming on our monthly outings please let Tom know on 844468, or Lesley on 211355 or myself Pearl on 844779 we will look forward to seeing you.

Pearl Hudson

PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL

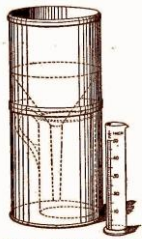


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

October started well, if a bit dull and muggy, with the grass still growing well. We did have a frost on the 11th, though not hard enough to sweeten the parsnips! It's amazing that the temperature during the day is so high, as if we are in May weather. A few mornings were thick with misty damp fog up here at the farm making everything that you touched feel wet. In the middle of the month we had a real heavy storm, and boy did it pour straight down so that you had a job to see. It dropped 2.93 inches over 2 days then a 12 hour break and another inch fell. We thought that was it but next day we again had 0.84 inches. It was then quite warm for a few days but the rain had not finished yet! As we again had a downpour of 1 inch on the last day of October, giving us a total of 5.77 inches compared with October last year when we had a total of 6.85. November started with more rain of 0.69 on the 1st and on the 5 / 8th we had more. So far we have had 3.76 this month.

John Whatley

HALL NEWS



The Bonfire night event raised just over £250 profit for the Village Hall. There weren't the huge crowds like last year but it was a good turn out. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported the event. Special thanks go to Katy Gunning for organising the kitchen and cooking all the sausages Thanks to Huw, Jon, John, Eilish, and Ginni for serving the food and drinks. Thanks to Andy and Jen for onion magic and setting up safety cordons. Thanks to Amy and the Bath Arms team for supplying the drinks and supporting us whole heartedly again. Thanks to James, Geoff, Bill and the cricket club for providing the fireworks and setting them off safely. Thanks also go to all those who put money in the collection boxes and special mention to John Whatley for his generous donation. Finally thanks to Finn for helping me move wood and micromanaging the building of the fire. It's great to have community events where we can all catch up, talk nonsense and laugh together- long may it continue.

Any ideas for clubs, regular events or one off events are welcome - please contact the Village Hall Committee through the new improved website.

Rick Gunning

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Macmillan coffee morning on Friday Sept 30th raised £270 for charity and was attended by over 30 villagers. Thanks to the village hall for donating the space and electricity for such a good cause, thanks go to the 'Girls who grind coffee' company who kindly supplied all the coffee, thanks to all the cake bakers who donated delicious offerings and all those who attended, ate heartily and gave so generously

.Rick & Katy Gunning



A rather belated welcome to Alice, Simon and family who have moved into Prospect House, 44/45 Newbury. (The house opposite the amazing walnut tree for all you tree spotters out there).

Simon, Alice and Reuben arrived in February along with Harley the black cocker and 2 cats: Pixie & Pickle. You may have seen Pixie roaming the village back in February when she disappeared for 3 weeks and turned up on Cock Road, the other side of the village. She's settled into her new area now and is a friendly, one-eyed tortoiseshell; fond of an ear scratch or a leg rub so do look out for her when you're out this way.

Simon has been the Operations Director at Longleat Safari Park for almost 5 years and knows the village as he previously lived at West Common and Stalls Farm. He's enjoying the Newbury views and family life now the rest of the Townsends have joined him from Cornwall. Originally from Suffolk, Simon's leisure and tourism background initially saw him running a lot of cinema multiplexes. He's now responsible for the entire visitor experience at Longleat which encompasses the Animal Team, Arrivals (that ticket booths to me and you), Guest Service and Attractions. He also runs Cheddar Gorge and Caves with up to 300 staff across the two sites reporting to him at peak season. He was involved in the setting up of this year's magnificent Roald Dahl lantern festival and tells me that filming for Animal Park's winter season has just finished. The Animal Park team enjoyed a wrap party in The Bath Arms and Simon can exclusively reveal the show airs on BBC from 19th December for 5 consecutive days.

Alice grew up in Mevagissey, Cornwall and comes from a very musical family. She plays bass guitar and is hoping to learn the violin soon together with their son Reuben who was recently gifted his own violin. Reuben has settled into Horningsham Primary School, made friends in the village and celebrates his 8th birthday in December. Happy Birthday Reuben! Alice and Simon have 3 other adult children between them and Simon's daughter Lara also lives at Prospect House. Jasmine is down the way with her family in Westbury and Herbie is studying to be a Maths teacher in Brighton. All sound musically talented so I hope for a Townsend Village Band in the not too distant future! Maybe an opportunity for the musically gifted Harmans of Newbury to join the Townsends in a summer jam under that walnut tree? I'll bring the sandwiches.

It's also a delayed farewell to Rachel and Phil Mumby and their daughters Emily and Seren who left the village at the end of May. Rachel was an active member of the community, joining the Women's Institute and the Lion Cubs when both clubs were set up, as well as supporting the School, the Fayre and various other events at the village hall. The family moved to Horningsham in 2015 when Phil set up the creative department at Longleat and his stylish designs and work can still be seen across the marketing and signage at Longleat including the Roald Dahl lantern display. The family moved to Newtyle in Scotland to be near Phil's new job with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland; he's now getting creative for Edinburgh Zoo and the Highland Wildlife Park - a long held dream to live in Scotland, finally realised. We wish Rachel, Phil and the girls all the best.

Caroline Dykes

HORNINGSHAM LUNCHEON CLUB



The Club is going from strength to strength. We have two new cooks from Maiden Bradley, Pat and Sarah and two of our regular cooks who have been off for a few months will be back with us in the New Year. This will help with the rota that Margaret organizes and spread the load amongst the cooks.

We are very grateful for the time given by our cooks and helpers, especially Fran, Jean and Colin who are there every week. If you find in 2023 you have a few hours free on a Thursday and would like to help please get in touch.

Our Christmas meal last year at Hunters Lodge Wincanton was a great success, so we have booked again for this year. This meal is for all the members and the cooks and helpers who work so hard throughout the year. We have also asked our Welcome Club members who do not also belong to Luncheon Club to join us, which will make a large party of about 70. A very noisy and happy occasion I am sure.

We will be closing for the Christmas break on the 8th December and reopen on Thursday 5th January.

From all the members, cooks and helpers we wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and hope you all have a healthy 2023.

Margaret Long 844756 Lesley Trollope 211355

CHURCH NEWS



‘Christmas is coming’, and my cake is maturing nicely. It is my trusty Nigella recipe that I use every year, as I know it will turn out well. The church always has the same services at this time of year; traditions that we look forward to and will enjoy. The Christmas Day Eucharist will be at 11.15am and we are very grateful to Robert Shuler from Kingston Deverill who has kindly offered to take the service. This year we will be able to enjoy refreshments afterwards. It will be lovely to have the church full of lively conversation along with the mince pies and a glass of something celebratory.

The Bathampton Morris Men will be visiting us as usual in January. It is so kind of them to visit us every year and share this very jolly occasion with us. Do put the date in your diary.

There is plenty to look forward to and we hope to see many of you at these events. Other Christmas services are available in the Deverills and will be advertised on the poster in the noticeboard on the main road.

Helen Taylor

Church Dates

Christmas Day	11.15am*	Eucharist
Sunday 8 th January	11.15am	Plough Sunday

*Please note the time.

Dear Friends,

I'm writing on a very dark, rainy day; the chickens are huddled forlornly under their shelter and even an excursion to the garage to fetch the papers demanded that waterproofs should be worn.

Of course, as we approach the winter solstice the days will get progressively darker and probably colder. I know some people find this winter darkness very difficult to live with, but I actually love it. There is something mysterious about the deep darkness of winter that encourages a turning inward, it's a time for reflection and pondering on the year that is ebbing away. As T.S Elliot writes: 'Between melting and freezing /The soul's sap quivers'



There is not much pondering going on in my life at the moment as I prepare for Christmas in church, and try to get ahead with the baking etc. Last year for the first time ever, in an attempt to lighten the load I bought a Christmas Cake; there were howls of outrage at this dereliction of duty. Needless to say, a Christmas cake is now sitting in the pantry being regularly fed with brandy. We do love our traditions don't we, and all of us have deeply held ideas about what should happen at Christmas. Rest assured we've got loads of traditional events happening in church in December.

First up is our From Darkness to Light service at Longbridge Deverill on December 4th at 4pm. It's a few years since we have put this on so if you haven't been before do come along, it's a really lovely service and we'll be serving wine and mince pies afterwards.

The next Day at Longbridge on Monday 5th our Christingle service takes place at 2pm when Crockerton School will be joining us. Everyone is very welcome but if you have a little one who would like a Christingle, please email me then I can make sure we have enough made.

On Sunday the 11th at 6pm we have a Carol Service on the field by The George who very generously will provide hot chocolate and mince pies. Our big traditional Carol Service will take place at Kingston Deverill church at 6pm on the 18th but go early! It is usually stuffed to the gills. Midnight Mass will also take place at Kingston at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day is actually a Sunday this year, oh joy. So, 9.30am Eucharist at Kingston, 11.15am Eucharist at Horningsham and 11.15 Christmas Family Worship at Longbridge; a short Christmas service where children and adults are welcome to dress up as part of the Christmas story, and if you want to come in your pyjamas that's absolutely fine too!

So, lots going on to enjoy. We are so lucky to be able to live as we do, but I don't really need to point out that for some families this Christmas will be very, very difficult as people struggle with horrendous household bills and ridiculously expensive food. At the heart of Christmas is love given and shared, let's do all we can to share something of the good things we enjoy this Christmas. May you enjoy a happy and peaceful Christmas,

Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.co.uk

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



We had a Remembrance Service at the Chapel which was very moving. We had the Last Post and 1 minute's silence.

Our next service is on 11th December at 10am.

We are planning to use the morning as a Carol Service as our historic Carol Service is not well attended. Please join us if you can.

Sadly we lost Ann Green a loved member of our Congregation in September she is very missed.

The Chapel sends prayers to Maggie and family on the loss of John Osborne a lovely man and a great friend of the Chapel.

God bless all who are mourning for loved ones.

Carol Cox horningshamchapel@aol.com

**Pick your own
kiln-dried logs
ready to burn**

or have standard hardwood
logs for storage delivered
to your door.

Monday to Friday: 7:30am to 4:15pm
01985 213507
longleat.co.uk/forestry

**LONGLEAT
FORESTRY**



POPPY APPEAL

The total amount raised is £507.04

This year The Bath Arms raised £98.20, Horningsham School £61.08, the Church service followed by Remembrance Sunday service and a few people in the village £165.50.

Longleat and Center Parcs have become cashless since COVID. Longleat have had ten poppy boxes for many years from me, but last year's collection was so low that I gave them two which were put in main areas. They raised a total of £87.27. Center Parcs had the normal two boxes and raised a total of £94.99. It's obvious that it is not working well at Longleat or Center Parcs, so I have contacted the Wiltshire community fundraiser. He is going to take it down the corporate route, possibly with an unmanned plinth and a card reader.

Looking at the amounts raised, Horningsham School have done very well and always do, especially as the footfall is miniscule compared to Longleat and Center Parcs.

If anyone has an interest in the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and would like to take it over from me, please telephone 844364.

Many thanks to all who have contributed this year.

Susie FitzGerald



Horningsham Primary School

Email: FriendsofHPS@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

Email: admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.horningsham.schnet.org

☎ 01985 844342



Lest we Forget ...



The whole school went to Horningsham War Memorial to pay their respects on Remembrance Day. Woodpeckers and Owls sang 'In Flanders Fields' and each class read out a prayer. It was, as always, a very moving occasion for everyone.



Exploring The Past

Woodpeckers went on a virtual trip to the British Museum to consider the important role that each of the people involved play from the discovery of treasure right up to then putting it on exhibition. They also studied the local unearthing of the Frome Hoard and what coins tell us about the Romans.

Owls' Class enjoyed a trip to the Tutankhamun Exhibition in Dorchester. They learnt lots about Howard Carter, his role in discovering Tutankhamun's tomb, and what it was like inside the tomb through the incredibly realistic replicas. Our trip coincided with the 100th anniversary of the tomb's discovery and BBC Breakfast filmed interviews with some of Owls' Class; we all enjoyed watching the special broadcast when we were back at school! Maybe you saw them on the news!

Learning Outside of the Classroom



Robins' Class enjoyed their trip to Warminster Fire Station where we were met by some fire fighters and police officers. They showed the children the emergency vehicles, what they keep inside them and why all the equipment was important. Each child got to dress up as a fire fighter and even had a go at using the hose. The children learnt the process that happens in the fire station when a 999 emergency is called in. Lots of children have decided they want to be fire fighters and police officers as future jobs.



Robins had a fantastic day at Hidden Woods forest school. The children worked together as a team to create large wooden towers, learning how to move large logs safely around the area. They created magic string by twisting different colour wool together and made wonderful clay objects using nature around them to decorate their clay. After learning about fire safety and how to move around the fire, the children enjoyed toasting marshmallows

Christmas You are all welcome to join us for our:

Christmas Market at the Village Hall on Saturday 10th December

Carol Service at St John the Baptist Church 1.15pm Friday 16th December.

Horningsham Primary School

Kitchen Assistant VACANCY

8.75 hours per week (1 hour 45 mins per day)

Scale 2. Temporary contract commencing ASAP

We are looking to appoint a Kitchen Assistant to serve hot lunches and support the MDSAs in their duties.

You will be:

- A motivated individual
- A team player
- Reliable
- Professional

We can offer:

- An attractive and supportive environment
- A friendly team of staff and pupils

For more details about this position and duties, please contact the school or visit our website.

For Application Form go to:

I. www.horningsham.schnet.org

T. 01985 844342

E. admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

Church Street, Horningsham, Wiltshire BA12 7LW





HORNINGSHAM

Christmas Market

Saturday 10th December
11am – 3pm

Horningsham Village Hall
Festive stalls by local artisans

Santa's Grotto ~ Kids Crafts

Seasonal Food & Drink

Best Ever Raffle

Brought to you by the Friends of Horningsham Primary School



Village Supper

Well, that was epic!

I bumped into Jo and Angus, who live opposite the Hall, on my Macmillan coffee morning publicity trawl of the village. They are "new" to Horningsham, having moved here just before lockdown, they are professional chefs having moved here as they wanted to be involved in a village community. Plans for a big village supper started to be made.

Supper for 50, at the Village Hall last Thursday and an absolute feast was enjoyed. Not 1, not 2 but 3 fabulous courses of food, all locally sourced.

Many familiar and new faces turned up to enjoy lamb, cheese cake and a selection of cheese and biscuits.

A huge thank you to Jo and Angus, the Village Hall committee and all of the village helpers who make wonderful events like this happen.

If you are suffering from a little bit of FOMO, don't worry there will be a next time, plans are already being hatched for the next big Horningsham gathering in the Spring . . . watch this space!

Katy Gunning





THEN & NOW



1905



2022



Early 1900s

The Chapel itself is virtually unchanged in these photos . It is said that the chapel, also known as the Old Meeting House, was founded in 1566 when it was provided for the dissenting Scottish Presbyterian masons who were building Longleat. Unfortunately the records of the first 100 years of the chapel were lost so there is no proof of this, but the same surnames appear on the list of the original Longleat workmen and the earliest registers of the Chapel, and a number were still there on recent registers.

The current Grade II* listed building is generally thought to date from around 1700 but there were alterations to the building in the 18th and 19th centuries when it was enlarged. At some point the side door was removed and upper windows installed on both sides. Claims that it is the oldest Free Church in England might be disputed, but it is certainly the oldest Free Church still in use for regular worship.

On the west wall outside there is an illegible memorial to Wm. Barnes. Fortunately it was transcribed in 1932:

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

The Chapel Hall next door was once The Manse, converting to a school in 1860 when the new Manse was built. For years a small day school was held in it. The new manse ceased to be the Manse because Ministers now visit from elsewhere.



The Chapel Revealed!

Our thanks go to Rick Gunning who has reduced the laurel hedge down to the height of the stone wall, opening up the view of the Old Meeting House from Chapel Street.





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FAMILY, FUN, FUNDRAISING AFTERNOON AT
MAIDEN BRADLEY MEMORIAL HALL

for a

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2022

FROM 2PM

LOCAL CRAFTS AND CAKES FOR SALE

A VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS

TOMBOLA & GAMES

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

CHRISTMAS JUMPER COMPETITION

*Proceeds will be split equally between the
Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall
and
The Friends of All Saints Church*



LONGLEAT NEWS



Original drawings of Winnie-the-Pooh and the Mock Turtle from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland are part of a new winter exhibition celebrating children's stories at Longleat House.

Running until 8th January, 'Picture This: Illustrating Stories for Children' showcases a selection of original drawings for children's books collected by Henry Frederick Thynne, 6th Marquess of Bath.

The exhibition features unique works by seven artists, including some of the most important names in the history of illustrating stories for children.

Original artworks are accompanied by the published books, drawn from the large and important collection of children's literature formed by the 6th Marquess.

The drawings and books span a century of children's book illustration, from the 1860s to the 1960s.

The earliest work on display is a drawing by John Tenniel for the character of the Mock Turtle in Lewis Carroll's iconic Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1866), one of the most successful and influential illustrated books of all time.

Works by Randolph Caldecott, Kate Greenaway and Walter Crane represent the late-Victorian and Edwardian Golden Age of British children's book illustration.

These three artists were the most successful illustrators of ‘toy books’, inexpensive short children’s books with colourful illustrations. Often featuring fairy tales and nursery rhymes, they revolutionised children’s publishing and established many elements of the modern picture book.

The exhibition includes the little-known Longleat ‘black book’, which Crane created for his six-year-old son Lionel in 1882. Consisting of 56 watercolours depicting Lionel’s adventures, this is the first time it has been on public display.

The interwar period is represented by a famous drawing of Christopher Robin, Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet by E.H. Shepard.

The final illustration in A.A. Milne’s *Now we are Six* (1927), a book of children’s verse including 11 poems featuring Winnie-the-Pooh, the drawing will be familiar to many as the cover image of later editions.

The most recent works in the exhibition have particularly strong links to Longleat and the Thynne family’s artistic talents. Created by the 6th Marquess’s second son, Lord Christopher Thynne, they illustrated Candida Lycett Green’s *The Adventure of Hadrian Hedgehog* (1968).



THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 2224.—VOL. LXXIX.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1881.

TWO SHEETS. SIXPENCE.
By Post, 4d.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO LONGLEAT.

On Saturday evening the Prince and Princess of Wales concluded their four-days' visit at Longleat House, the seat of the Marquis and Marchioness of Bath, leaving by way of the Frome station on the Great Western Railway. The early part of the day had been occupied in shooting in the home preserves at Longleat, where the Prince and party also shot on Friday.

Our Illustrations represent the scenes at Warminster, on the Tuesday of last week, at the arrival of their Royal Highnesses. Warminster is rather more than two miles from the entrance to Longleat Park, at one side, about north-east; while Frome is situated on the other side of Longleat, to the north-west, and in the adjacent county of Somerset. The Warminster contingent of the 1st Wilts Rifle Battalion acted as a guard of honour, and the Warminster troop of the Royal Wilts Yeomanry Cavalry, of which regiment the Marquis is commander, rendered service as an escort to Longleat. The streets of the town were bright with illuminated devices. Four gay double arches spanned the main thoroughfare leading to Longleat, the crossbeams of the first from the station bearing the inscription "Welcome to our Prince and Princess." The presentation of addresses was dispensed with, as the visit to Longleat was of a private character.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

Nearly a thousand head of game was bagged by the Prince of Wales and party during his five days' shooting over the Longleat preserves. The Princess, with the Marchioness of Bath, drove into Warminster on Saturday. Their Royal Highnesses were accompanied by their host and hostess to Frome in the evening at the close of their visit. The town was decorated and illuminated, and a hearty welcome from the people greeted the Royal visitors. At the railway station the Frome troop of the North Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry, and the local rifle corps acted as a guard of honour, and a large body of the county constabulary was in attendance. The Prince and Princess travelled by the Great Western Railway to town. Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud of Wales arrived at Marlborough House the same day from Sandringham. The Prince and Princess attended Divine service on Sunday.

His Royal Highness has sent presents of pheasants for the patients of the metropolitan hospitals, and also to those of Norwich and Great Yarmouth.



Arch in Market Place



Flags and Banner in Market Place

Wild Horningsham

The conifer is synonymous with Christmas of course, though this is a relatively new tradition. In 1841 Queen Victoria's new husband Albert introduced a German Christmas tradition into the British royal household. From that point on the Christmas tree has, apart from a small dip in popularity after the death of the Queen (Victoria), been on the up and up in this country, Western Europe, America and many other parts of the world.

The history of the Christmas tree's origins are many and varied, but essentially evolve from the Pagan and Druidic celebrations of the Winter Solstice (21st December), this being the shortest day. The lack of daylight inspires the 'celebrations of light' with the encouragement of sunlight for the next half of the year and the hope for a fertile time to come.

To symbolise this a sprig of something green was brought into the home, which represented eternal life and the promise of replenishment during the winter months. Over the years this evolved into the tradition today of the evergreen tree.

The Christmas tree is also a Christian symbol and is said to have originated its religious roots through the English monk St Boniface who in the 7th century went to Germany to teach the word of God. Legend has it that he used the triangular shape of the Fir tree to describe the Holy Trinity.

The 'fir' tree that we historically associate with Christmas is actually a Norway spruce *Picea abies* a native species of Germany, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. More recently the Nordmann or Caucasian Fir *Abies nordmanniana* native to the Caucasian mountains has become popular for its tendency to hold onto its needles.

Here in Britain we have only five native evergreen trees, but not all evergreens are conifers and not all conifers are evergreen. Of the five, two are not conifers - box *Buxus sempervirens* - typically a large bush when left to its own devices and holly *Ilex aquifolium* that we all know and love this time of the year (unless you need to pick up their fallen leaves).

These are both angiosperms, whose seeds are held within their fruit and differ from conifer trees (gymnosperms) that have naked seeds; angiosperms are more recent on the evolutionary scale than conifers by approximately 200 million years.

Our native conifer juniper *Juniperus communis* is a low growing spreading shrub or small tree and famous for its use as the flavouring ingredient of gin, indeed in the 17th century it was one of Scotland's largest exports, mainly to Holland for the production of jenever, the forefather to gin. What we call a juniper berry is in fact a tiny cone with fleshy scales.

Just to confuse the issue further, another of our native conifers, Yew *Taxus baccata* bears a single seed in a modified seed cone resembling an open ended berry called an aril.

Back onto more stable ground we have the Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, our only native pine tree. In 2014 this statuesque tree was voted Scotland's national tree. As opposed to our other two conifers it is monoecious, meaning that both male and female flowers grow on the same tree, once pollinated by the wind the female flowers go on to form cones,

maturing the following season. If you look at a Scots pine you should always be able to see some cones, either ripening green or those becoming brown and mature in late autumn when the cones open up their scales in a spiral, release their seeds and subsequently fall from the tree. These spent cones make great fire lighters by the way!

I fully intended, when I started writing this, to describe how to identify some of the local conifers in the area but I seem to have got carried away. I'll save that for another day.

Merry Christmas!

Andy Dean



Holly



Yew



Pinus Sylvestris

Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

01985 845303 (*answerphone*)



www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk

Winter events coming up....

Saturday 3rd December – Christmas Wreath Making 10-12.30

Saturday 3rd December - Christmas Cookery Demonstration 2-4pm

Sunday 4th December – Catch-up Coffee Morning 10-11am

Monday 5th December – Bingo-Doors open 7pm, eyes down for 7.30pm

Sunday 11th December – Christmas Bazaar from 2pm

Monday 19th December – Carol Singing and Mulled Wine in aid of Dorothy House 6pm

Sunday 1st January 2023 – Catch-up Coffee Morning 10-11am

Please see www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk for further details

Regular events

Mondays	10.30am-11.30am	Yoga
Mondays	5.00pm-6.00pm	Dr's Surgery
Tuesday	11am-Midday	Bradley Babies
Tuesday	1.00pm-3.00pm	Post Office Service
Wednesdays	6.15pm-7.15pm	Yoga Flow
Fridays	10am-12pm	Coffee Morning

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 1st November
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 1st December *Parish Council* 7.30 at the Village Hall

Christmas Day *Eucharist* 11.15

Sunday 11th December 11th *Chapel Service with Carols* 10am

Saturday 10th December *School Christmas Market* Hall 11-3

Friday 16th December *School Carol Service* at the Church 1.15

Sunday 8th January *Plough Sunday* 11.15am



DEC 15
7.30PM

CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH MARK & DERYN

Come along and have a festive sing-a-long with musical theatre duo Mark & Deryn. Mince pies and mulled wine will be at the ready, of course.



WORLD CUP GAMES LIVE

Join us for drinks, snacks and great football! We'll be showing all the England games as well as the quarter finals, semi-final and final.

**DARTS COMPETITION AND PUB QUIZ
COMING SOON IN JANUARY**



(01985)
21 22 88



(01985)
21 22 15

FROM
SOMERSET

0800 542 5222

WARMINSTER
WILTSHIRE



**No Mole
No Fee
07512681111
01373836350**



LAKESIDE
garden centre



Everything for the garden.....with lakeside views.



CROCKERTON, WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE 01985 217413 OPEN MON-SAT 8.30-5.30 SUN 10.30-4.30



www.fonthill-lakeside.com



Professional
Eco-friendly
Carpet, Rug,
&
Upholstery Cleaning



GREEN MAN

FROM:

01373 470416

www.greenmancleaning.co.uk

**STAR
FISH
BAR**

3 BROXBURN ROAD WARMINSTER
TEL: 01985 217232

****OPENING TIMES****

LUNCHTIMES

MON 11.45AM - 1.45PM
TUES 11.45AM - 1.45PM
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

SUNDAYS, 4.30PM - 8.30PM

**Your Advert
Here
Only £40 per year**

FORD FUEL OILS

www.fordfueloils.co.uk

The Oil Depot, Farrington Fields Trading Estate, Farrington Gurney, Bristol BS39 6UU
Tel: 01761 452222 Fax: 01761 453977
Email: admin@fordfueloils.co.uk

**COMPUTER REPAIRS
UPGRADES / SYSTEMS & LAPTOPS**

**VIRUS REMOVAL / BROADBAND
WIRELESS / NETWORKING**



FAST, FRIENDLY, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

COMPETITIVE RATES

ONSITE OR WORKSHOP

CC CompTIA
A+ Certified

call
01373 302901

www.ntscomputing.co.uk
help@ntscomputing.co.uk

EMBERSON GENERAL BUILDERS

- Carpentry
- Brickwork
- Plastering
- Roofing
- Fencing
- Painting & Decorating

Over 15 years experience.

**Call Tony On 07917 388408 For A
competitive quote.**

**Your Ad Here
for just
£20 per year**

FOR ALL YOUR GARDEN NEEDS

**CALL FLASH ON
01985 988578
MOBILE: 07840116119**