

# HORNINGSHAM

## NEWS

ISSUE 244

April 2023





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**EDITORIAL**

Looking around the village it's clear that Spring has arrived in Horningsham. Camellias, magnolias and daffodils are in full bloom and our tadpoles are growing!

We are pleased to welcome back our regular gardening feature which focusses on what Spring means in the garden. We have news of a second Village Supper. Like the first one, it will be provided by Jo and Angus. The first supper sold out so don't delay in getting your tickets for this one. There is news also of a tea to celebrate the coronation. Preparations for the Fayre continue apace though more volunteers are still needed.

Both the Chapel and the Church have Easter services. A cutting from the Wiltshire Times tells what a major event Easter was for the Chapel 50 years ago. I'm sure some of our readers will remember just how big an occasion it was with worshippers coming from Congregational churches around the area including Bath.

**Tim Hill**

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Email: [horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Editorial Team**

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



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## WELCOME CLUB

On Thursday 23rd the Welcome Club held their meeting at Horningsham Memorial Hall. We had a very good attendance with several new members joining wanting to come on our monthly outings. They all paid £5.00 to join the Club and got their membership cards telling them where our outings will be going too this year. The first outing is a mystery trip where only the driver knows where we are going it is on Tuesday 25th April picking up at Horningsham at 9.00am and Maiden Bradley at 9.15am. The charges this year are £18.00 for members and £21.00 for non-members. There may be seats available so if you are interested please call Pearl on 01985219289 or Lesley on 01985211355

**Pearl Hudson**

### PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL

February started windy and cold and a frost in the first few days, which kept the temperature down. We continued to have the occasional drizzle that did not really do any good but was just annoying. Luckily we had a semi dry day for our TB TEST but on the reading day it was damp and cold, but spirits were high as we had a clear test.

The last few days gave us some really sharp frosts, so even though it felt that February was a wet month, we only had 0.67 of an inch. March started in the same vein as February but HELLO WE HAD SNOW. The local schools shut and the children had a great time, unfortunately it really only lasted the day as it disappeared as quickly as it arrived.

**John Whatley**

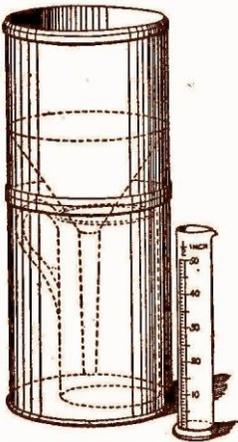


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

## HALL NEWS



A couple of big events coming up, we hope you will join

### **The Village Supper: Friday April 22nd, 6:30 for 7pm**

Ticket prices are being kept very cheap at £15 for two courses. Please book your tickets (email [katygunning@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katygunning@hotmail.co.uk) or click on the QR code on the poster overleaf) and join us. Remember to bring some cash for a raffle, and it is BYOB. In November it was great fun and we are delighted that Jo and Angus, who cooked a fantastic meal last November, are doing it again.

### **The Coronation : a village tea party, 3:30 pm on 8th May**

The Parish Council have made some money available for an event to celebrate the Coronation. It would be a shame to do nothing. So we plan to lay on an informal, free village tea party with champagne and tea and soft drinks, cakes and biscuits on Monday 8th May, which is the Bank Holiday Monday. Perhaps we can get that rounders bat out again on the sports field. If anyone could help bake cakes that would be very kind.

### ***Upcoming dates***

Coffee Morning Sunday 16th April 10 - 12

Village Dinner Friday April 22nd, 6:30

Hall AGM : Thursday 4th May 7pm

Coronation Village Tea Party Monday 8th May 3.30

**James Osborne**

**Saturday April 22nd 6.30pm**

# **Village Supper**



**Horningsham Village Hall**

**Two course meal for the village.**

**£15 Adult portion**

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**Bring your own drinks**



**Tickets [katygunning@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katygunning@hotmail.co.uk)**

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## **A Right Royal Fayre! Sunday 11th June: 12noon - 4pm**

We had a really productive fayre meeting in March: Many of our arena events have been confirmed including a comedy keep-fit session - think Jane Fonda meets Mr. Motivator set to all your favourite disco tunes. The local art & craft producers are signing up for stalls along with some really tasty sounding food and drinks outlets; Fancy a cocktail to go with your BBQ sausage this year? You can!

There will also be the usual favourites; coconut shy, splat-a-rat and wet sponge throwing (James may or may not have promised to dress as Queen Victoria to take a wet sponge to the face this year). Please remember it's a king/queens theme so start planning your outfit now; there will be a prize for the best dressed King or Queen - adult and child categories. Also a competition for best crown and potato most like a royal. \*insert Jersey Royal/King Edward/Princess Charlotte potato related pun here.

We would like to dress the hall and field in red/white and blue, as well as Union Jack flags etc. If you have any bunting or flags you could donate or lend; we'd be really grateful. Also any fabric coloured red/white or blue which we could tear into strips to decorate the hall would be great: we're thinking (clean) old tee-shirts, sheets etc. We are really excited about this year's fayre; there's some fresh entertainment ideas to pair with the much loved traditional elements and we hope it'll be another fantastic day for Horningsham village. Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay in touch with all the latest news.

### **Volunteers: Your fayre needs you!**

We need you guys to help deliver the fayre of the year - from baking a cake to helping park the cars, there's many ways you can get involved and help out. From an hour on the day helping sell plants or bric-a-brac to baking a cake or lending a hand to put the tents up; there's a lot to do but it's a great way to get involved, get to know your neighbours and feel good about yourself! Look out for more details in the May edition of Horningsham News or speak to someone on the committee about how you can help. Every little helps.

### **Donations: Tombola / Bric-a-Brac / Red/White/Blue Prizes**

Now's the time to clear out your quality goods for a good cause: if you have any old furniture or ornaments, handbags, toys, shoes, garden tools, etc we can collect and sell on the bric-a-brac stall. Steve Crossman can collect. We are also looking for bottles of booze/soft drinks for the school tombola and prizes for the winners of the Kings/Queens. We'd like to put together a winner's hamper for the best dressed King and Queen - these hampers will be themed "Red, White and Blue". Please donate any items that are red, white or blue so we can make up a winner's hamper. Donations for the tombola and prizes can be made at the village hall on the Sunday coffee mornings: 16th April and 21st May. Or directly to a fayre committee member.

**Next fayre meeting:** Thursday 20th April - 6pm virtual meeting online. This is the meeting where we hope to confirm all the outstanding elements.....not long now folks! Fingers crossed for sunshine and blue skies.

**Caroline Dykes**

## Church News



### *Sunset: Paul Kemp*

It has been a long winter, but nature always gives us signs of hope. The snowdrops have been particularly good this year. The display in our churchyard increases every year and Longbridge Deverill churchyard is full of them. I like to think they are the first sign of spring.

The time between Plough Sunday and Easter is a quiet time for our church and we are very much looking forward to Easter Sunday, when our Rector Pauline will be taking the service. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special service of celebration in the church year, and for coffee and cake afterwards.

**Helen Taylor**

### Church Date

9 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	11.15am
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Benefice Holy Communion	10.00am

(Please note the different times)

Dear Friends,

I have thought a lot about what on earth I am going to say in this Easter edition of my letter. Easter is about resurrection hope, a glimmer of light pointing beyond the darkness of despair, suffering and death. But I am acutely aware that for many people both in the UK and the wider world, that light is very hard to find today.



We live in a ridiculous, confusing world do we not? As I write there is much in news about a wonder drug that can be used to combat obesity, and yes, every day we read in the newspapers that this obesity ‘epidemic’ is killing us. And yet the rising price of food, fuel and just about everything means that we hear reports of parents having to forgo their own meals so that their children can eat. 43 million people in 38 countries across the globe are at risk of falling into famine or a severe hunger crisis. Globally, almost one in ten people don't have enough food to eat. 3.1 billion people can't afford a healthy, nutritious diet. Desperate people continue to flee their own countries, forced to risk their lives in attempting to find sanctuary, hope, and safety from persecution and death. Thousands of people languish in refugee camps, forgotten, ignored, just another statistic. Where is the resurrection hope for these people?

The Christian message is that Jesus came and lived among us to share what it means to be human and that he died and rose again so that we might have eternal life. But what does this actually mean? Is this life after death, a nice cosy home with God in heaven when we die, and what or where is heaven? To be honest I don't know the answer to these questions; I do believe that when we die, in some mysterious way, we are united with God, but I wouldn't presume to know what that looks like.

So is that it, do you think? Is the idea of eternal life *only* about the hereafter? Doesn't it have something to do with how we live our lives now as well? In the Old Testament there is a very powerful imperative to care for the orphan and stranger, to see that justice for the poor is upheld, essentially to love God and neighbour. Jesus took this one step further and blew apart the prevailing understanding of justice. The stories that he told and the way he lived show us that eternal life is very much about the here and now, it's about life in all its fullness for *all* people. Resurrection isn't just something that happened two thousand years ago, it needs to happen now for all those people who are crying out for food, for justice for life, and we all have a part to play in making that happen.

Of course, there is still a place for chocolate eggs and such like, and we should enjoy and give thanks for the good gifts that God gives us. But let's not forget that Easter is for all God's children and not just for us.

**Happy Easter! Pauline Reid**



# Horningsham Primary School

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## Reading Rocks at Horningsham

We really enjoyed our annual Reading Rocks Week this year. The week was full of reading based activities and challenges, including recreating a book cover at home with the family. Can you recognise some of these famous children's books?



The school was transformed on World Book Day with everyone (including staff - and yes Mrs Lapham is a hot dog!) dressed up as a different book character. The governors came in for the afternoon and read with the children, which was lovely. The children had been focusing throughout the week on an amazing book called 'Journey' where the character enters a door to another land. Everyone enjoyed exploring the worlds each one of them created through their own door as a World Book Day challenge.



## Maths on the Move

The children have been enjoying 'Maths on the Move' routinely. This is a programme using physical active learning to enhance their confidence and attainment in maths. We have the most amazing grounds and it's been so lovely for the children to be able to explore them in a whole new way to develop their maths understanding.



## Virtual Science and Technology Talks

The children have been able to have amazing talks and virtual meetings with leading experts from the Natural History Museum and space STEM sessions, with Tim Peake talking to the children about his experiences. It is a fantastic way to enrich their learning and access expertise of scientists and specialists beyond school.



## Help! Kitchen Assistant Still Needed!

We are still looking for anyone who can help with lunchtimes on any school days – please spread the word and signpost anyone interested to our website / School Office.

## Congregational Church



### **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**

9th April Note New Time: 11am



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10 – 12 at the Hall**

## Easter at the Chapel 50 Years Ago

### **On Good Friday**

Good Friday is the great day in the chapel's calendar. Then it is that friends from all the churches in the district, and further afield, converge on Horningsham to sample the famous tea and, later, to hear some outstanding preacher. After a week of rain, sleet, frost and fog, the day turned out to be gloriously fine and the glistening landscape simply beamed a welcome. The waving daffodils on the hillsides, the primroses in the hedgerows, the lambs gambolling in the sunshine, the rooks building their nests in the treetops, all reminded us of the words: "Oh, to be in England now that April's here."

The special speaker this year was the Rev. D. W. Langridge, of Boscombe. He brought along with him a party of his own folk in a brand new 40-seater bus which would have graced any coronation procession! They first explored the treasures of Longleat House, then satisfied their appetites in the village hall, and afterwards swelled the large congregation in the chapel to hear their minister in a characteristic provocative, heartsearching, challenging and inspiring address on "Being Appreciative."

Alderman Sidney Pond, of Burcombe Manor, a good friend of the chapel, presided, and Mrs. D. Dicks was the organist. The Rev. A. E. Banton (minister) warmly thanked all who had helped to make the occasion so memorable.

### Notes From A Horningsham Garden

It's officially Spring, so even though March has brought snow, frost, gales and rain, there are definitely signs in the garden that warmer days are coming!

Tree blossoms are taking the place of catkins. The camellias are dazzling with luscious pink, red and white flowers. They grow well here because the greensand soil is slightly acid. They also have attractive shiny evergreen leaves and require very little pruning as they retain their compact size and shape. They just need enough water in late Summer to help the flower buds develop and shade from the scorching sun. Close behind them are the magnolias in pale pink and white. Their thick petals are very susceptible to frost damage though, so I always hope to enjoy their large flowers without an overnight freeze to turn them brown.





Daffodils, a real Easter flower, have replaced the snowdrops. My favourites are the delicate, shorter stemmed, wild variety, *Narcissus Ovularis*. They stand the weather much better, flower for longer and seed themselves around. There is a large patch of them now, growing on the lawn. Other delights are cyclamen cum with their bright cerise flowers and marbled heart shaped leaves, creeping over the ground by the pond.

Best of all are the hellebores, which have been pushing up their white, pink, purple and some spotted flowers since January. With their evergreen leaves and tidy habit, they are a most attractive plant at this time of year. They provide ground cover around trees and shrubs.



The veg patch needs an overhaul ready to receive plants raised in the greenhouse. At present, that includes lettuce, rocket, Ruby chard and spring onions. Courgettes and cucumbers have only got as far as the bedroom windowsill, while beans, squash and corn haven't started yet. The veg patch has been covered with the contents of the compost bin, but has yet to be raked over as it's too wet so far. However, I did manage to plant out 2 rows of first early potatoes, Rocket and Red Duke of York with their shoots well "chitted". I have also planted out the huge cloves of Elephant Garlic already rooted in the greenhouse.

Other signs of future vegetables are the Aquadulce broad beans, a very reliable autumn sown variety which are now about 5cms tall and fairly frost resistant, and fresh shoots of chives and mint.

The herbaceous border is flowerless at present, but springing to life with promising shoots of tulips, fritillaries and irises. The bed has had a good mulch of well-rotted manure to keep it fed and help retain moisture.

Spring is such a busy time in the garden. It all kicks off at once as soon as the weather gets warmer, so it's good to try and get ahead before that happens.

I'm hoping to have some plants to sell on the Plant Stall at the Summer Fayre. Any contributions from other gardeners would be very welcome, as would help selling them! Please give me a ring on 844365, or call in at Park Farm.

**Carole Hill**

## HORNINGSHAM CRICKET CLUB



The season is almost upon us. The ground is so wet and soft that one of the grounds team's vehicles sank into the outfield the other day, and he had to send an SOS to Steve Crossman to rescue him with his tractor, leaving a large hole.

We have five home games scheduled in April and early May. If the weather clears and we are lucky enough to play, do pop by and watch.

In the midst of those we look forward to our day trip south of Salisbury to meet Redlynch and Hale in the national Village club on 23rd April. In the course of which I expect we will get to enjoy the thrill once more of being 'hurled headlong from th' ethereal sky / with hideous ruin and combustion down / to bottomless perdition\*', as that is what has always happened to us in the past.

### ***Home matches in April***

Sunday 16th vs Chilmark, 1pm

Wednesday 19th vs The Poplars, 6pm

Friday 28th vs 5 Rivers, 5pm

### ***Home matches in early May***

Wednesday 3rd vs Heytesbury, 6pm

Thursday 4th vs Rode, 6pm

Thursday 11th vs Red Star, 6pm

**James Osborne**

\* *Ed: Paradise Lost by John Milton*

**Then & Now**



**c.1979**





**2023**

You might be wondering just where this month's buildings are. The answer is: Manor Farm, but seen looking down from Church Street. The nearer building is now Manor Farm Cottage but in the earlier photo it was a Grade 2 listed stable. The further building is still a Grade 2 listed cart shed. Both were thought to have been built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century for Longleat Estate. The stable was probably for draught horses that powered the "horse engine" in the octagonal building across the yard. A horse engine was rather like a treadmill for horses which provided power for machinery such as a threshing machine. The horse walked round and round turning a shaft which was connected with cogwheels and belts to the machinery. The cart shed has five bays with the south one having what English Heritage describe as a "boarded and limewashed granary".

Manor Farm Cottage is currently unoccupied and is on the market to be let for a monthly rental of £1,000.



Are you decluttering? Do you have anything you no longer want that we may be able to sell at the Fayre? Please let the Fayre Committee know. The Bric-a-Brac stall can raise as much as £1,000 in a good year which all helps village causes. Call Steve Crossman 844333 or James Osborne 07753 404705

## Wild Horningsham

I bent down to take a closer look at an insignificant-looking little plant in a ditch the other day and noticed that, as with many of these plants, it was more impressive up close but also that on looking it up that it had a story to tell.

Recently, in wondering what to do about an alternative to the conundrum of species poor garden lawns, I've been reading a lot into grassland habitats and have stumbled across an Aladdin's cave of literature on our natural and semi-natural meadows and pastures. All have National Vegetation Classifications (NVC's) and keys to their identification.

You'll not be surprised to hear that it doesn't stop there . . .

I understand that we can, by looking at the plants in our garden or the wider landscape, determine roughly what aspect it faces, whether it is wet or dry, or more acidic or alkaline on the pH scale. I also understand that, as mentioned in May 2022's issue, certain plants such as wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* can be indicators of, for example, ancient woodland.



On this theme I was looking up primrose *Primula vulgaris* as I hadn't noticed it mentioned in the NVC grassland keys, it turns out on looking it up that the dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* (what a great name) that I'd bent down to inspect can be a key indicator plant of ancient woodlands, those being woodlands that

have grown into a rich ecosystem and been present since at least 1600 CE, and along with this, every wild plant you can think of, each of them is an indicator of one or another ancient habitat and these become more specific as you add other plants into the mix.

According to the NVC field guide to woodlands, dog's mercury might well lead one to investigate the surrounding area for ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and field maple *Acer campestre* as it is the distinctive field layer species, and if this were to have primrose and ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea* growing within it, for example, would fall into a subcategory of the above.

My little investigation was less of an in-depth study than a curiosity, but it goes to show that the plant, the community of plants that it grows within and the region will all point towards a specific habitat. What's more it also highlights the fragility of the landscape once conditions change due to occurrences such as a warming or cooling climate or something more direct such as an altering of the landscape mechanically or by way of additions such as fertilisers.

This one plant in a ditch next to a road on the edge of a field, may well be telling a story of once being part of the makeup of an ancient woodland and is along with many of its plant community a clue to a past landscape. But it also gives us the clue that if the land here were left to its own devices and given long enough, this is likely what it would become again.

**Andy Dean**



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## Spring Cleaning Longleat

A team of conservation cleaners is embarking on their annual spring clean of Longleat House. Longleat is among the earliest and finest examples of the great Elizabethan show or prodigy houses. Begun in 1568, it took 12 years to complete and has 128 rooms. The epic task includes a thorough inspection of all the Wiltshire stately home's state rooms and the careful cleaning of thousands of priceless and historic objects and artworks they contain.



The team use a variety of specialist cleaning tools including low-suction vacuum cleaners and fine dry brushes to carry out the painstaking work.



“We monitor things throughout the winter months when the house is closed to the public, but the spring clean is the real start of the main season for us and it’s always a challenge to ensure everything is looking its best for visitors,” said Tracie Mason, Conservation Cleaning Supervisor.

In addition to the artworks and objects, the cleaning team also has to tackle no fewer than seven libraries containing more than 40,000 books. It takes between three and 15 minutes to clean each book depending on age, size and how delicate it is - some exceptionally large books take longer.

“We don’t clean every single book annually, however we’ll still be inspecting, dusting and, if necessary, repairing thousands of volumes as we gradually work our way through all seven libraries over a period of years,” said Tracie.



The libraries are among the finest in any private house in England. Approximately 130 books are known as ‘incunabula’ which means they were printed before 1500, the earliest dates back to 1470. Many of the books are extremely rare; ranging from 17th century political pamphlets through to a Shakespeare First Folio. Others, such as the ‘Book of Cookery’ published by Pynson in 1500 are unique, being the earliest known printed volume in English on the subject.

The library’s origins date back to the 16th century, when the house was built by Sir John Thynne, and there are still books in the collection which were owned by him. It was greatly expanded through the prolific collecting of Thomas Thynne, 1st Viscount Weymouth, in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

# Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

01985 845303 (*answerphone*)



## April events coming up....

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Community Litter Pick 1-3pm**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Catch-up Coffee Morning 10-11am**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Easter Bingo**

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April – History Night**

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Banjo Circus LIVE MUSIC EVENT**

Doors open at 7.30pm for 8pm start

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Wylde Arts Trail**

Please see [www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk](http://www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk) for further details

## Regular events

Mondays	10.00am-11.00am	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

Book library available during hall opening Friday mornings

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March  
*10.00 – 10.25 opposite the Hall*

Frome Hospital Minor Injuries		<b>01373 454740</b>
Community Police Officer	Vicky Howick	<b>0726818 ext 817</b>
Wiltshire Police – non emergency		<b>101</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	<b>844197</b>
Horningsham School		<b>844342</b>
Village Hall Hire		<b>07541 211732</b>
Longleat Property Department		<b>845433</b>
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	<b>213436</b>
Congregational Chapel	CarolCox	<b>horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk</b>
Horningsham Church Rector	Rev Pauline Reid	<b>841290</b>
Warminster District Link Scheme		<b>211655</b>
Mere Link Scheme		<b>01747 860096</b>
<b>Stray or Fouling Dogs</b>		<b>0300 456 0100</b>

### **Dates For Your Diary**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April *Parish Council* 7.30 at the Village Hall

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April *Easter Service* 11.00 at the Chapel

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April *Coffee Morning* 10-12 at the Village Hall

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April *Village Supper* 6.30 at the Village Hall

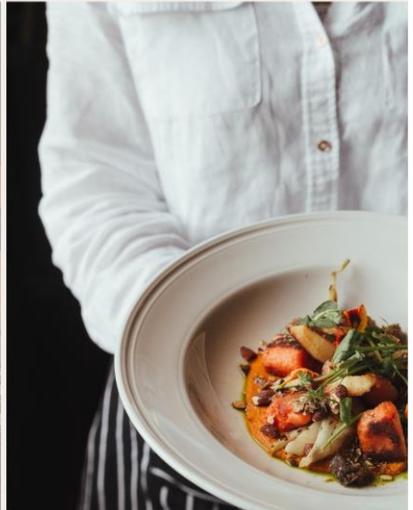
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May *Hall AGM* 7.00 at the Village Hall

*Village Coronation Tea Party* Monday 8th May 3.30



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## **\*\*OPENING TIMES\*\***

### LUNCHTIMES

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**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**

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