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APRIL 2023

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Species of the month

BLUEBELLS

Peter Thompson, Barford St. Martin

THE MONTH OF APRIL BRINGS LIFE BACK INTO OUR WOODLANDS after the cold dark days of winter. Often it is the bright splashes of yellow celandine that are already flowering as the month starts which first catch our eye. This makes us look more closely and we realise that the little purple dog violets are also in bloom and that it will not be long before the flower buds of the wood anemone open. But as April progresses, it is the millions of bluebells that steal the show, deep violet-blue swathes of shallow fragrant waters flowing around the tall trees – surely one of nature’s most dramatic scenes.

We often think that bluebells only belong in Britain, prompting names such as 'English' bluebell, but in fact they are found across Europe, albeit at much lower densities than here. The UK does hold at least 30% (some believe that it is 50%) of the world population, with the rest located in various countries across Europe, but none occurring elsewhere in the world.

Our native bluebell is a very good indicator of ancient woodland. So, should you come across bluebells growing in the bottom of a hedge, it probably shows that this boundary was once part of a large wood, long since felled and turned into farmland.

Bluebell seeds are covered by a sweet substance which attracts ants that carry the seed off to their nests where the coating is eaten by their larvae and the seeds are then discarded. The larvae get fed and the seeds get spread!

Talking of ants – should you be in a bluebell wood and spot an ant nest – drop a bluebell

onto the nest and watch it turn into a pinkbell! The formic acid squirted by the annoyed ants (which view the dropped bluebell head as an invader) will gradually change the colour. The change from blue to pink might be a familiar one to many of you – it’s basically the same as the litmus test. I’m sure you remember those little rolls of blue paper we were forever dipping into various liquids to see if they changed colour! The blue in bluebell is an anthocyanin, water-soluble pigments that are well-known for exhibiting colour change when exposed to acids!

Bluebells have a very sticky sap which was once used to bind the pages of books and glue feathers onto arrows, and during the Elizabethan period, the bulbs were crushed to make starch for the ruffs of collars and sleeves.

The native bluebell that I have been talking about here is *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, but increasingly the Spanish bluebell, *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, is becoming established across

Britain. Spanish bluebells grow upright, with the flowers all around the stem, not drooping to one side like the British bluebell.

This invader is most commonly found in woods close to urban areas where they have been planted in gardens, parks and churchyards and have slowly spread into neighbouring woods. This slow colonisation is often speeded up by bulbs being included in garden waste dumped in the countryside. In fact, one in six broadleaved woods surveyed recently had Spanish or hybrid bluebells in them.

Does this spread of a foreign bluebell matter? Well, the problem is that our native bluebell is the less vigorous of the two species, so if it is not literally muscled out, then it often hybridises, resulting in a different

'more Spanish' flower. Apart from losing our truly native plant, the other annoying fact about the Spanish bluebell is that it is scentless, meaning that one day perhaps, a walk through our woods at this time of year will be a visual experience only.

So, all is not well with this wildflower that was voted 'Britain's most popular' in a poll conducted by the charity, Plantlife. Once again, human beings are managing to destroy the very things that we supposedly cherish so much. — PT

Peter Thompson lives in Barford St. Martin and has worked in conservation and farming all his life. He is Chair of the Salisbury & District Natural History Society and would be delighted if readers joined either the society's Facebook page or the society itself – or indeed both! If you are interested, please see details on page 8.

IMAGE: PETER THOMPSON



If you think this is a lovely picture, take a look at the next page...



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Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!

A 'Rule' was formally enshrined in the Magna Carta of 1215. Upholding this 'Rule' has always been a central theme of the High Sheriff's role, and over the centuries regular celebrations have been held to recognise its significance. These normally take the form of an annual Thanksgiving or 'Legal' Service hosted by the High Sheriff and attended by the county Judiciary, Law Enforcement agencies and others.

This year's ceremony took place in Salisbury Cathedral, home of one of the best surviving versions of the Magna Carta and is preceded by a public procession through the City for all citizens to witness. *(but where were the citizens?)*

What is the Rule?



The Rule of Law

It confirms that every citizen has the constitutional right to trial by a jury of twelve fellow citizens and that they are presumed innocent unless & until they are proven guilty.

On Sunday 12 March, Salisbury residents were able to witness for the first time a centuries-old British tradition. The annual Rule of Law Celebration. It was hosted by the High Sheriff of Wiltshire and comprised a Civic Reception in the Guildhall, the public Procession through the city centre and the invitation only Thanksgiving Legal Service in the Cathedral.

The public centrepiece of the event was the Procession from the Guildhall to the Cathedral – consisting of the Lord Lieutenant; the High Sheriff of Wiltshire and Sheriffs of surrounding counties; Wiltshire-based Judges; Armed Forces and Emergency Services Chiefs; Wiltshire Council officials and the Mayor of Salisbury and mayors of surrounding Wiltshire towns – all led by the Salisbury Town Cryer and accompanied by the City Beadle and traditional Mace Bearers. Processioners were in full ceremonial dress with gold braid, wigs, chains and medals as appropriate – a wonderful exhibition of British pageantry.

What made this year unusual however, was that this was the first time that the Procession made its way

through the streets of Salisbury. The event normally takes place within the Cathedral in front of an invited audience and Evensong congregation. By opening the event to a wider audience, it was hoped that more people would be able to enjoy the spectacle and show their support for the important work that the Judiciary, uniformed Services and Local Authorities do to keep our communities safe.

Shortly after 4.00pm the Town Cryer announced the start of the Procession from the steps of the Guildhall from where the procession made its way through the city streets to the Cathedral where it arrived fifteen minutes later.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE ROLE OF HIGH SHERIFF & THE RULE OF LAW

'Shire-Reeves' – have been an integral part of the fabric of English counties (Shires) for over 1000 years – in fact it is the oldest public appointment other than that of Sovereign. Originally Sheriffs had extensive powers for convening and judging criminal cases, raising a posse, acting as law enforcers, maintaining prisons, turning out the county militia, raising taxes and generally supporting the Sovereign in maintaining law & order within their county boundaries. Over the years, most of these executive roles have been superseded by the formation of the National Courts Service, the Judiciary, the Police and Prison Services, the Territorial Army, and the Inland Revenue.

Today's **High Sheriffs** – are still the ceremonial figurehead for Law and Order in each county, working under the King's Representative, the Lord Lieutenant, but these days it is a purely voluntary appointment. Modern Sheriffs still attend Royal visits to their counties, visit County Courts and host visiting Circuit Judges. They can make Sheriff's Awards to citizens playing a prominent role within their communities and Sheriff's Rewards to citizens apprehending criminals. They act as Returning Officers for parliamentary elections and play a role in royal proclamations in each county e.g. on the recent accession of King Charles. More broadly, they lend active support to the principal organs of the constitution and community within their county: The Royal Family, Uniformed Services, Local Authorities, local communities, charities and faith groups.

This year's High Sheriff – is the **Rt Hon, The Marchioness of Lansdowne**. In addition to her traditional shrieval duties, she has been very active supporting Wiltshire-based charities – especially those with a theme of 'Home' – including The Amber Foundation, Doorway, the Harbour Foundation, Bobby Van Trust, FearLess, and Swindon Women's Aid. To demonstrate her role in support of youth, the rule of law, and the uniformed Services she is invariably accompanied on ceremonial occasions by young cadets from the Police and Fire & Rescue Services.



It is well worth remembering in our increasingly volatile world that the rights and freedoms we so blithely take for granted have not been automatically gifted to us from heaven but have been struggled and fought for over many centuries. This we should celebrate. Thank you Magna Carta.



Compton Chamberlayne

Compton Events

DOWNTON ABBEY WITH TOGAS?

Compton Chamberlayne Village Hall
Friday 14th April at 7pm

Roman villas and Roman mosaics are scattered across south-western England with plenty in Wiltshire and Dorset. But what was a villa? who lived in them? and what did they get up to? Some of the grandest were the equivalents of great country houses of later centuries such as Stourhead or Wilton, others less grand but still comfortable, yet others were farms with ambitions.

Looking at things as diverse as the colourful floor mosaics, the heated bath-suites or animal bones can be combined to give a picture of life in these places that may seem surprisingly familiar to us.

(spoiler alert: no togas)

This fascinating talk will be given by **Professor Simon Esmonde-Cleary**, Professor Emeritus of Ancient Studies at Birmingham University. His archaeological speciality is the Roman period. He has been widely published, most recently he has written the definitive work on Chedworth Villa in Gloucestershire.

Do come as he is really worth listening to!

Please reply to: sarawillan@gmail.com or 01722 785 086

A suggested donation of £10 will include a glass of wine on arrival.
To reserve a place please make your payment to:

Compton Chamberlayne Village Hall
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Once The Queen's, now The King's, Part 1 – The King's Messengers

Paul Cordle – Chicksgrove

THE HISTORY OF THE CORPS OF KING'S MESSENGERS goes back to 1199 and King John. Today, over 820 years later, its existence is hardly known yet it remains an indispensable part of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) by carrying secret material to our Embassies, Consulates and Missions across the globe. Messengers' work sounds fun but, although they are no longer armed for self-defence, it is deadly serious and at times dangerous. The Corps' motto is:

*'Neither snow nor rain nor heat
nor gloom of night shall stay
these couriers in the swift
completion of their
appointed rounds'.*

HERODOTUS

This atmospheric painting is by Richard Beavis (1824-1896). The author does not know if this painting is of a real incident or was intended to prepare messengers for the reality of their work. It shows a King's Messenger armed with a sword and, almost certainly, he would also have had a flintlock pistol (possibly two) in a holster(s) by the pommel of his saddle.

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There can be few organisations with such a long heritage as the Corps of King's Messengers. That it is almost unknown is partly because it has never numbered more than about 60 messengers nor been widely publicised and partly that messengers travel overseas, mostly alone and are not in the public eye. The purpose of their work remains unchanged – it is to provide an escort to the diplomatic bag.

It was in King John's reign (1199-1216) that money was first put aside to fund the overseas travel of the King's Messengers but it was not until 1547, towards the end of the reign of King Henry VIII (1509-1547), that his 40 messengers were formed into a corps and put under the control of the Lord Chamberlain(1). In medieval times King's Messengers only travelled in Europe which was the limit of England's diplomatic interests and they enabled our Kings and Queens to send sensitive or secret information securely. Known as Royal Messengers or more classically as 'Nuncii' if they travelled by horse or as 'Cursores' if they were on foot, their arrival at a foreign court would have created great interest.

Records show that in 1641 'Forty messengers of the Great Chamber Ordinary' were lodged in royal palaces under the orders of the Lord Chamberlain and one wonders if they employed others of a lower order to do some of their work. This became the case in 18th century as we shall see. →

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Once The Queen's, now The King's, Part 1 – The King's Messengers *continued*

Paul Cordle – Chicksgrove

Between 1651 and 1660 King Charles II, whilst in exile on the Continent, employed four messengers to carry letters to foreign courts and to secret Royalist associations in England and Scotland; it is said that it was the King who gave rise to a silver greyhound becoming the emblem of the Corps. The story goes that he broke four small decorative silver greyhounds from a silver bowl and gave one to each messenger as authentication that he came from the King. To this perfectly credible story can be added that the greyhound is a heraldic symbol of despatch and that is embroidered on the tabard of the Somerset Herald, an officer of arms at the Royal College of Arms(2).



At his Restoration in 1660 King Charles II rewarded the Corps for their loyalty with a Badge of Office to be worn embroidered on their tunics to identify them when overseas; in 1714 King George I replaced this with a metal badge. The name of the Corps and details of its badge were and continue to be changed on the accession of a new monarch to the throne; hung around the neck on a Garter (blue) ribbon they are now only worn on formal occasions. Messengers, however, are identified during their travels by their use of a red passport and a tie incorporating the greyhound emblem.

ABOVE: King's Messengers have several multi-paged passports partly to cater for their extensive travel and partly that not all passports can all be used in all countries; for instance, a passport stamped in Israel cannot be used in an Arab country.

With the United Kingdom's growing Empire and spreading international influence the Foreign Office was established as a Government Department in 1782. A decision was also taken to divide the Corps into two separate divisions, the King's Home Service Messengers and the King's Foreign Service Messengers but it is not clear as to how much control, if any, was ceded by the Lord Chamberlain.

The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1795- 1815) were a time of great activity and risk for the foreign messengers. Inevitably they got into tight scrapes and remedial action had to be taken. Sensitive material was written in miniscule script in the corner of a piece of paper so it could be disposed of

easily. On one occasion Andrew Basilico, when in France, had to eat the corner of his dispatches before being arrested; all the French found were sheets of blank paper. He was later exchanged for a captured French General. On another occasion Benjamin Bathurst disappeared; the circumstances of this were so mysterious that Napoleon Bonaparte himself granted a passport to his widow to travel the Continent in search of him(3). Another unusual tale from this time involved a messenger who had to bring a prisoner to London. He ended up taking him home where he and his wife, having wine and dined their 'guest', took the precaution of taking a loaded pistol to bed. It can be

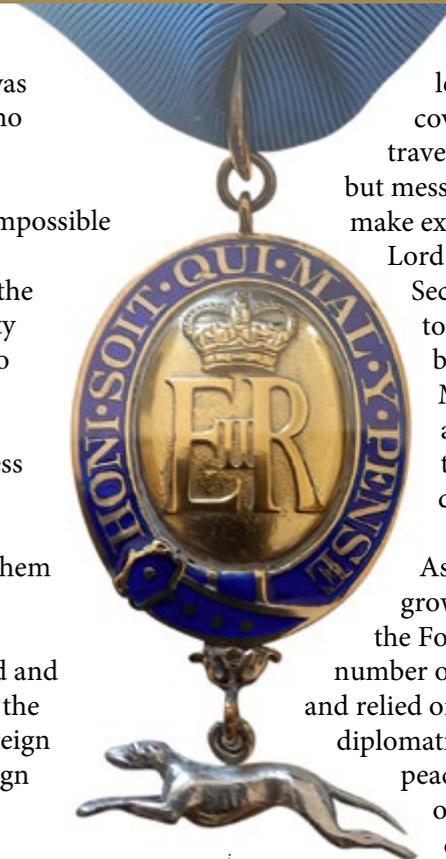
assumed that the prisoner was a gentleman on parole and no rogue.

During the war, it became impossible to predict when messengers would return to London so the Foreign Office drew on thirty Home Service Messengers to undertake foreign duty. The pressure became such that servants, valets and other 'less desirables' were appointed, the result being that The Diplomatic Corps thought them 'a very subordinate class'.

Post-war reform was needed and in 1824 complete control of the Corps was passed to the Foreign Office. Lord Canning (Foreign Secretary 1822-1827) soon ordered that only British citizens could become messengers and preferably they should be former officers of good character from the Navy and Army. This was an important measure as, by now, the Empire had acquired new territories and messengers were required to travel far more widely to remote places. It was essential that they were reliable, self-sufficient, resilient and able to keep their cool in stressful situations. That still applies to this day.

Messengers were able to claim for expenses on each journey and did so using a list of authorised costs. They were no fools; as they travelled by coach they had the opportunity of selling the spare seat in it. This apparently

ABOVE: Major Michael Senior's Queen's Messenger Badge. He served from 1987-2006 during which he travelled over 5,000,000 miles. — See next page.



legitimate practice helped cover costs and provided a travelling companion for them but messengers were prone to make excessive charges. In 1837 Lord Palmerston (Foreign Secretary, 1835-1841) tried to prohibit the practice but the Superintendent of Messengers pushed back against this 'hardship' and the proposed reform was dropped.

As the Empire continued to grow during the 19th century, the Foreign Office reduced the number of messengers to only six and relied on ship's captains to carry diplomatic mail. This worked in peacetime but with the increase of sensitive material to be carried during the First World War officers of the Navy and Army, who otherwise would have been on active service, were appointed as messengers for a limited period of eighteen months.

Following the war, advancing technology began to change how things were done and how messages were conveyed. The Foreign Office established a Communications Department and assigned thirteen King's Messengers to code and decode messages when they were not travelling in their normal role, others were appointed to senior positions in the Foreign Office. The Second World War saw further changes starting with an expansion of the Corps to 57 messengers and travel by air being adopted. Most of →

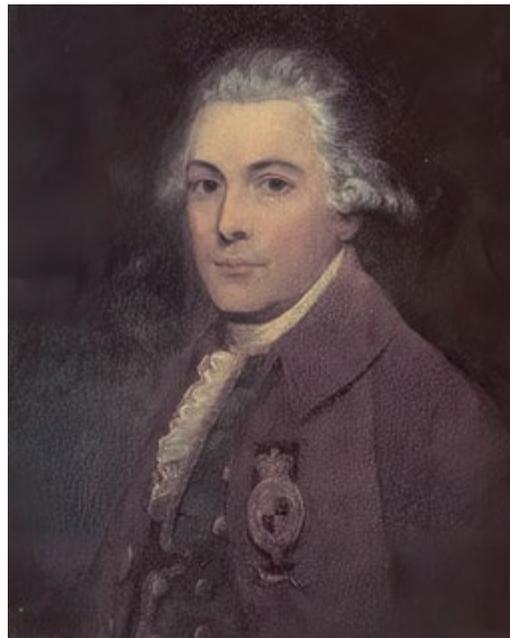
Once The Queen's, now The King's, Part 1 – The King's Messengers *continued*

Paul Cordle – Chicksgrove

the messengers being retired officers were too old for active service but nonetheless they shared the hazards of war alongside the younger generation and some were killed on duty.

During the war, it became necessary to locate some messengers overseas to distribute diplomatic mail in their regions but with the advent of peace, followed in the 1950s by the introduction of jet-engine aircraft and faster journey times, messengers were gradually withdrawn to the Foreign Office in London from where all journeys now start and end. Changes continued to be made to meet the challenges of the Cold War during which the number of messengers fluctuated between 40-50 and numbers eventually fell to 29.

Diplomatic immunity is routinely respected by all countries in which messengers travel.⁽⁴⁾ They normally go about their business unmolested but there are local exceptions to this. For instance, in the criminally volatile Nigeria and Colombia local armed police escorts are essential and on the long train journey through remote areas between Beijing (China) and Ulaan Batar (Mongolia) a second messenger was always needed. Yet it is the non-routine situations which call for a cool head and quick thinking. One such case was during the Falklands War when the aeroplane carrying



William Slater, Senior King's Messenger to King George III from 1785 to 1803 when much of his service was during the French Revolutionary Wars. Note his King's Messenger badge on what seems to be a red, possibly uniform, coat.

Martin Smith⁽⁵⁾ to Chile could not make the planned stop at Montevideo in Uruguay. It was forced to fly on a further 100 miles to land and spend the night in Argentina. On arrival Smith explained his difficulty to the crew and that the diplomatic bags could neither be left unattended overnight nor off-loaded. Fortunately, without the Argentine authorities being told, he was locked alone in the plane overnight with presumably a bag of peanuts to keep 'the wolf from the door'.

A second story involving Smith took place in China. In June 1989, he was accompanying fellow messenger Michael Senior from Ulaan Batar with a consignment of diplomatic bags for London. Senior recently recalled "...we arrived in Beijing by train to find ourselves in the midst of the Tiananmen Square incident. The normal reception committee was not at the station to meet us so we obtained the services of two cycle rickshaws and weaved our way through burning vehicles, barricades and the general chaos. We were unable to get to the Embassy due to small arms fire so diverted to the safety of the Jianguo Hotel where we telephoned the Embassy with our whereabouts".⁽⁶⁾

It is perhaps comforting to know that, even today, in spite of the massive changes wrought by Information Technology, King's Messengers

are still needed as a vital human element of the FCDO's communications capability. Now numbering only about 17 men and women, recruited from a wider field, they continue to travel the world on the King's business. They are normally away for about 50% of the year during which, on average, they each travel about 250,000 miles and no doubt continue to find themselves in tight corners. No ordinary travellers! — PC



Queen's Messenger Lt Col Simon Kerr-Smiley putting diplomatic bags into a car. The bags of white canvas are made by inmates of British prisons; some are sufficiently small to be put into attaché cases, others large enough to carry heavy office and signals equipment.

Notes

1. In 1509 the King had formed another corps 'The Troop of Gentlemen' or his 'Nearest Guard' which eventually became what today is known as His Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. Unsurprisingly it is known for short as 'The Bodyguard'.
2. Rather disparagingly, Lord Melbourne (Prime Minister, 1835-1841) thought the greyhound looked more like a fat bulldog. Hence the title given to his books by former Queen's Messenger George Courtauld.
3. To this day, the Bathurst family do not know what happened to him.
4. The safe passage of diplomatic baggage is guaranteed by Articles 27 and 28 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. For reasons of secrecy, diplomatic bags do not go through normal airport baggage checks nor can they be opened, X-rayed, weighed or otherwise investigated by customs of a foreign state. The actual bags of white canvas are made by inmates of British prisons in a range of sizes and large enough to cover heavy pieces of office or signal equipment.
5. Lieutenant Colonel Martin Smith, formerly Grenadier Guards, served as a Queen's Messenger for 6 years (1984-1990).
6. Major Michael Senior, formerly Welsh Guards, served as a Queen's Messenger for 19 years (1987-2006), longer than most. Both he and Martin Smith were told during training in the 1980s that should they lose a diplomatic bag they would be expected to submit a letter of resignation with 24 hours. One wonders if such peremptory dismissal is still permitted.



The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), London.

Further Reading

1. The History of The King's Messengers by V.Wheeler-Holohan published by Grayson and Grayson 1935.
2. Papers of Lewis Hertslet (Superintendent of Messengers from 1824, later Foreign Office Librarian, retired 1854) in the National Archives – Foreign Office folders FO366, FO 351, FO 95. Whilst there are no dedicated files recording details of messengers journeys there are full records of their dates of service, the oaths they took, those who died in service and their pensions.
3. Leaflet printed for The King's Messengers by the FCO Publishing Section.
4. George Courtauld. 'The Travels of a Fat Bulldog' published by Abacus Travel 1995 and his later 'The Fat Bulldog Roams Again' and 'The Last Travels of a Fat Bulldog' are amusing reads.

Wylve Valley Art Trail

#WVAT'23



Sat 29 April - Mon 8 May

- SCULPTURE
- CERAMICS
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- GILDING
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WYLYE VALLEY ART TRAIL

Celebrating visual art in south west Wiltshire

Free art trail guides available at tourist information centres, libraries, arts centres & lots of other places from mid-March. Download the App at wvat.co.uk



We are very excited to announce that the Wylve Valley Art Trail is taking place again this spring, from Saturday 29 April – Monday 8 May 2023, the first of this year's open studios festivals.

The Wylve Valley Art Trail is an inspiring and eclectic festival of visual art and craft set in 73 venues across southwest Wiltshire: open studios and workplaces, galleries, art group exhibitions, student groups, virtual exhibitions and other fascinating events including 'hands on' activities, demonstrations, workshops and talks. This year there are over 240 exhibitors, ranging from award-winning artists with international reputations, to those just starting out on their creative journeys. This is a unique opportunity to view a wide range of artistic skills, from painting to print- making, furniture making to photography and sculpture to ceramics as well as contemporary art forms such as digital art, installation, video and art using recycled materials.

The Wylve Valley Art Trail team is hugely proud that, in early 2022, Her Majesty The Queen approved the QAVS National Assessment Committee's recommendation that the volunteers of The Wylve Valley Art Trail should receive the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). This was one of the final awards made by Elizabeth II before her death in September 2022.

Nick Andrew, the founder and coordinator of the Wylve Valley Art Trail states:

"I hope you enjoy following the 12th Wylve Valley Art Trail. I can't believe that it is 22 years since the first event in 2001, when 34 studios, workshops and makeshift galleries threw open their doors, stretching a vibrant trail across this beautiful corner of Wiltshire. Since then it has taken place every two years, organised by a small team of volunteers, growing in size and bringing a wonderfully colourful and varied patchwork of visual creativity across the landscape to the attention of enthusiastic and art hungry visitors.

Achieving the Queens Award for Voluntary Service is a fabulous honour and reflects profoundly on everyone involved in WVAT over the years, from the organising teams through to the participants"

Colourful and eye-catching Wylve Valley Art Trail brochures will be available from early April at Tourist Information Centres, Arts Centres, Libraries and many other places.

www.wvat.co.uk

For more information please contact info@wvat.co.uk or phone 07730 400784



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Cherubim Music Trust's Fonthill House Open Garden Music Alfresco on Sun 23 April, near Tisbury, will feature 16 year old Lily Owens prize-winning young musician from Wells Cathedral School.

Cherubim Music Trust is appealing for a silver flute for Lily, and has already raised over £11k towards the £15,500. (Why silver? It's far more resonant and powerful than the normal alloy, and needed if a flute soloist is to be heard above an orchestra.)

Lily has already won the Two Moors Festival Competition and twice performed as the National Youth Orchestra's leading flute.

Her teacher, Susie Hodder-Williams writes: *"Lily is the most exceptional musician.*

Please contribute what you can to help a young flautist onto the ladder of what we hope will be an exceptional career."

But there will be much more for visitors at Fonthill. Apart from the magnificent gardens & Lily Owens there will be 10 other musicians performing around the gardens, artisan stalls, food, wine + drumming and art activities for children.



£10 in advance. Children free. Dogs welcome.
BOOKING <https://tinyurl.com/fontkts>

Queries 07891 550849 or mms@cherubimtrust.org
Cherubim Music Trust

27

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TO COMPLETE THESE PUZZLES PLEASE PRINT THIS DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD ON YOUR PRINTER.

WHEN USING YOUR PRINTER:
Ensure your page is set to **LANDSCAPE** mode.

This PDF file treats each double page spread as one single page.
SO TO PRINT THIS SPREAD SET YOUR PRINTER TO PRINT PAGE 15 ONLY.

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

The objective of the puzzle is to complete the grid so each of the rows, columns and 3 x 3 sub-grids contains the numbers 1 to 9. The challenging part of the puzzle is that each number can only appear once per row, column, or sub-grid.



April's Brain Gym

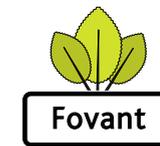
Across

- 1951 novel by Nicholas Monsarrat, based on his North Atlantic naval experiences in World War II (3,5,3)
- Company, founded in 1945 in Clichy, France, which manufactures disposable consumer goods (3)
- Town in East Sussex nicknamed "the bonfire capital of the world" (5)
- Sovereign state in southern Africa, whose capital is Mbabane (9)
- Bill ____, actor who played ARP Warden William Hodges in the TV sitcom Dad's Army (7)
- Village, eight miles from Coventry, which claims to be the geographical centre of England (7)
- The world's highest uninterrupted cascade of water (5,5)
- A fixed stake put down by a poker player, usually before the deal (4)
- In Indian cuisine, the potato (4)
- European city which hosts the annual Spectre Film festival, celebrating science-fiction, horror and fantasy (10)
- Oakland ____, NFL American football club who play in grey and black colours (7)
- A lightweight weapon first manufactured in Brno, now in the Czech Republic, then in Enfield, England (4,3)
- A medicinal and lubricating liquid obtained from the seeds of the tropical African plant *Ricinus communis* (6,3)
- A richly jewelled semicircular head-ornament worn by women (5)
- An obsolete measure equivalent to 216 gallons of ale (3)
- English rock and roll star who reached number one with Singing the Blues in 1957 (5,6)

Down

- Genus of edible freshwater fish native to Africa and the Middle East, also known as St Peter's fish (7)
- Actor who played notorious gangster Johnny Rocco in the 1948 film Key Largo (6,1,8)
- Ken ____, Australian tennis player who was the losing Men's Singles finalist at Wimbledon in 1974, aged 39 (8)
- Disc jockey who broadcast his Radio 2 show live from the summits of Ben Nevis and Snowdon for charity in 1995 (2,7)
- A sustained involuntary muscular contraction (5)
- The standard monetary unit of Madagascar (6)
- Neoclassical monument in Berlin built by Carl Gotthard Langhans in the late eighteenth-century (11,4)
- A succession of chords closing a musical phrase or at the end of a complete melody (7)
- American folk and blues musician, born Huddie William Ledbetter in 1889 (9)
- French term meaning "see you again soon" (1,7)
- An Asian fruit, *Prunus armeniaca*, roundish, orange-coloured, with a downy skin, and of a rich aromatic flavour (7)
- The top edge of the hull of a nautical vessel, where it meets the deck (7)
- A vessel used in a chemical process, typically a flask with a long bent-back neck used for distillation (6)
- A wind of force 10 on the Beaufort scale, reaching speeds of 55 to 63mph (5)

Fovant Village Events & Activities

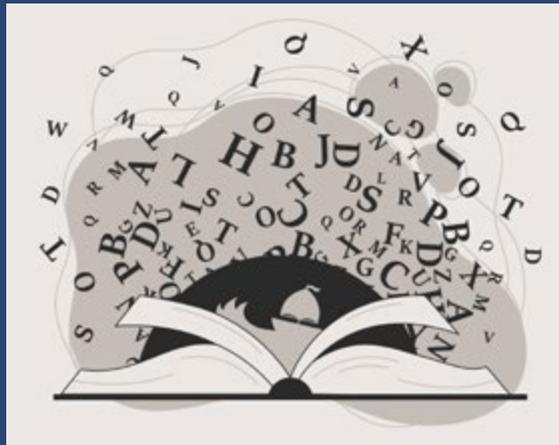


Fovant Village Hall Weekly Activities



WEDNESDAY, 1, 15 & 29 MARCH
WRITING GROUP
5.00pm-7.00pm

Join this friendly group led by local Fantasy author **Rick Haynes**. All writers welcome. Just turn up with a pen or iPad.
Contact: profexus@yahoo.co.uk with any queries.



Fovant Village Quiz Saturday 15 April



Doors open 6.45pm, first questions 7.15pm

Get your teams together, ready to pit your wits against your neighbours.
Fish & chip supper in the interval
(external provider)

Tickets £15 from Celia Haselgrove
celiahaselgrove@btinternet.com



MONDAYS
TAP CLASS
7.45pm-8.45pm

Come along and join in with our very friendly and inclusive class which meets weekly.

TUESDAYS
OPEN DOOR
10.00-2.00pm

Providing a warm space.

Socialise, work, read or play games.
Simple and reasonably priced lunches are available to purchase.

THURSDAY
COFFEE MORNING
10.00-11.00pm

All welcome

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.
Donations welcome.

FRIDAYS
SEATED EXERCISE CLASS
10.00am-11.00am

This sociable class is excellent for stretching muscles and keeping mobile for those who have some challenges with their mobility. It's a super way of keeping fit.

SATURDAY MORNING
BREAKFAST CLUB
9.00-11.00am every week

Breakfast to eat in or takeaway.
Delicious as always.



Mobile Library

TUESDAY 4th APRIL
1.50pm – 2.05pm
Clay's Orchard

Change your books, collect or request new ones and use this valuable service.

Remember 'Warm Tote Bag' packs are available via the Mobile Library service – just ask. It contains a hot water bottle and cover, a thermal mug and blanket.



Poetry Group

WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL
2pm – 3.30pm

Reading and discussing poems on the theme

'Friends & Friendships'
1 Sling Orchard, Fovant.

New members always welcome.

Contact Beryl 01722 714343

Fovant Village Hall

Weekly Activities – *continued*



AFTER THE EVENT

FILGroup February meeting March – Reflexology, Pip Zingg



The guest speaker for FILGroup's March meeting was local reflexologist Pip Zingg who gave a fascinating insight into the art of reflexology. In her warm and easy manner she explained how she first became interested in reflexology when her mother was very ill, then proceeded →



to show us with the aid of a special map how the eleven body systems are mapped out on the soles of the feet so that the treatment is not only deeply relaxing but can be beneficial in relieving tension and stress, increasing circulation, improving sleep and boosting the immune system. Now fully qualified and insured in Reflexology and `Reflexology Lymph Drainage, she practises from her own charming clinic at her home in Fovant. Pip concluded her talk with a demonstration of her expertise on committee member Jane Hallett explaining her technique to the audience as she worked. Jane loved it and was so relaxed she found it hard not to fall asleep! Our thanks to Pip for giving up her time and sharing with us her knowledge of such an interesting subject.



Thursday 13 April 2.30pm – 4.00pm

'Fovant Independent Ladies Group' FILGroup Meeting @ The Village Hall

Presentation on 'AONB'

We live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Find out what this means and How it affects you. Presentation begins 3pm. Tea & coffee 2.30pm.

ALL WELCOME. Non-members £4.50

For further information please contact:
filgroup15@gmail.com
01722 714654



Waterside Youth Club

Weekly Activities



WEDNESDAYS
Parents & Toddlers
9.30-11.30pm

Want to make new friends?
Calling all babies and toddlers*
Come and join us (with a parent!) every Wednesday term time at the Fovant Youth Club, High Street. Lots of toddler toys to play with, tea and coffee for mum or dad and the chance for them to have a chat!
**No charge but donations for tea always welcome.*

WEDNESDAYS
Club for Juniors, ages 5-10 yrs
3.30-5.00pm

Crafting activities and Games – 50p
Open to children from all local villages.

ADULT ART CLUB
ALTERNATE MONDAYS – 3 & 17 APRIL
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Do you like painting and drawing with like-minded people?
Contact: c.brantingham@icloud.com
Cost £2 each session.



Dr Kinlin's April Focus Session

Thursday 27 April

4 - 5pm The Waterside Youth Club, Fovant

Understanding Dementia

**How is it diagnosed...
and what happens then?**



Future Topics will include Arthritis, Prostate Cancer, Long Covid... for example

Weekly Chapel Event
**Fovant Satellite
 Food Bank**



PHOTO— DEREK HARPER

Fovant Free Church

The Chapel, High Street,
 Fovant SP3 5JL

**EVERY THURSDAY
 1.30-3.30pm**

Open for tea/coffee, a listening ear
 and a warm discreet space as well as
 accepting food bank vouchers.

If you would like to donate warm
 clothing such as fleeces, scarves, hats,
 gloves and coats please contact
 Julie on:

07816 511340

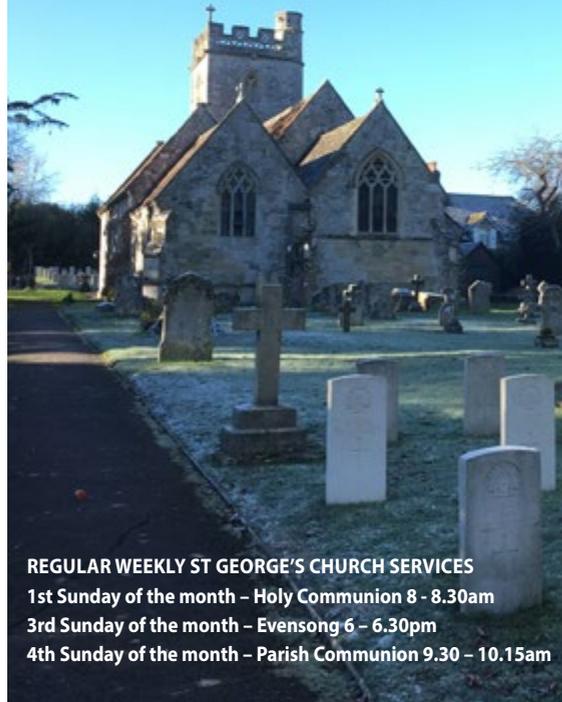
**SUNDAY SERVICE
 6.00pm every week.**

As a non denominational church –
 everyone is welcome and there are
 refreshments provided following
 the service each week and chance to
 catch up with friends as well.
 Further details:
www.fovantvillage.com/chapel

**Volunteer Gardening
 at St George's Church
 Saturday, 1 April,
 8.45am – 9.45am**

Are you able to spare an hour to help
 keep the gardens at the church looking
 beautiful? Your help would be much
 appreciated. Refreshments provided.

Contact Felicity Pinder at
pinderfelicity@gmail.com



REGULAR WEEKLY ST GEORGE'S CHURCH SERVICES
 1st Sunday of the month – Holy Communion 8 - 8.30am
 3rd Sunday of the month – Evensong 6 – 6.30pm
 4th Sunday of the month – Parish Communion 9.30 – 10.15am

For regular and up-to-date news on
 events, classes and activities in Fovant
 Village, please also use the website
www.fovantvillage.com

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Sutton Mandeville



Chicks Grove

Make a note in your diary
that there will be a

Coronation Village Picnic on Sunday 7th May 12.00-3.30pm

All Saints is a local community group with a mission to bring everyone together from Sutton Mandeville and Chicks Grove through an annual programme of lively community events.

This year, All Saints is organising a Coronation Village Picnic on Sunday 7th May, 12-3.30pm, at Ham Cross Farm, where the two villages are invited to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Organiser Lara says "This is an occasion to get dressed up, bring along a lovely picnic, and join in with some daft village games – including 'welly wanging' and 'log ladder'. We would be delighted if anyone wants to bake a cake for the church fundraising stall, create a floral arrangement for display in the marquee, or help us to sell raffle tickets on the day for some top notch prizes."

Later this year, All Saints are organising another event, a Harvest Moon Dinner on Saturday 30th September which will feature local meat cooked on an argentinian asado. They are also planning a programme of talks to be held inside All Saints Church, and will be announcing more details soon.

For more information about All Saints Community Group
please contact laracolenso@icloud.com

Sutton Mandeville & Chicks Grove
**CORONATION
VILLAGE PICNIC**
Sunday 7th May 12-3.30pm
at Ham Cross Farm

BYO Picnic, Chairs & Blankets

Dress Up!
Wear red, white or blue
Sport a hat
Kids in fancy dress

Village Staples
Flower Arranging Display
Cake Stall
Raffle

Village Games
Welly Wanging
Hula Hooping
Tug'O'War

ALL SAINTS
TOGETHER SINCE 1130



CLICK or TAP to go back
to the CONTENTS PAGE



Earl of Pembroke celebrates record fund-raising challenge for village playground.



Barford St Martin

The Barford St Martin Community Fund committee, which was set up last January (2022) to raise funds to create a new playground in this small south Wiltshire village, has achieved the extraordinary feat of raising £80,000 in just eight months.

To celebrate this success the Earl of Pembroke joined Barford St Martin residents to cut the ribbon and declare that the playground was officially open for business.

The Earl said that this was an amazing achievement, and he was hugely impressed that the committee and village community had got together to raise such a substantial sum in such a very short time.

Morag Walker, Chair of the Barford Community Fund, introduced and welcomed the Earl of Pembroke to the celebrations and said, "For a small village like Barford to



have raised nearly £80,000 in just under eight months has been recognised as an extraordinary achievement and demonstrates that our village has a tremendous depth of character and a strong beating heart."

She continued, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people,

businesses, Barford Parish Council and the fantastic village community who came together to support our vision to raise funds to install a new playground in the village."

She also recognised that this could not have been achieved without the support of many grant giving organisations such as Barford's own grant-giving charity the Nicholson Trust, the Wiltshire Community Foundation, the Special Educational Needs Development fund and many more besides.

Nabil Najjar the Wiltshire County Councillor for the Chalke Valley also attended the opening ceremony. He has advised the committee on applying for grant funding through Wiltshire Council's Area Board's grant giving arm – not just once but three times!

Councillor Najjar, said, "I am delighted that Wiltshire Council was able to provide over £8,000 to help make this playground a reality. I'm so proud of the community in Barford St Martin, and the amazing volunteers who put in so much time and effort over the past year."

Now that the Barford St Martin Community Fund has completed the playground project, residents living in the village have identified that they would like the committee to raise funds to make space in an existing building in the village into a flexible community area.

This will involve installing toilet facilities, a kitchen as well as versatile seating. Fund-raising has now started for this project, which means that village residents will have a local community space for film shows, playgroups, attending talks, yoga classes and more. It will be a very adaptable and useable space where residents can organise events that will appeal to all.

For more information, please contact:

**Morag Walker, Chairperson,
Barford St Martin Community Fund,
Telephone: 07736 124097
or email: morag@moragwalkerpr.co.uk**

FAR LEFT: The Barford St Martin community came out in force recently to celebrate the official opening by the Earl of Pembroke of a much-needed playground in the village.

BOTTOM: Residents of this small Wiltshire village were delighted that the Earl of Pembroke was able to cut the ribbon to the playground with his young children by his side.





Barford St Martin



Burcombe



TEA and CHATS

Our next 'tea and chats' in a warm space will be on
Wednesday 26th April, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

St Martins Church, Barford St Martin



We are having a talk by Bill Fairbairn about a husky trek in Finland.

There is no charge but we are asking for donations in aid of the restoration of our church clock. There will be plenty of time to chat, with tea, coffee, and cake in a warm space.

ALL WELCOME

Come and meet old friends and make new from our villages.

Jenny Barrett

jennybarford@gmail.com



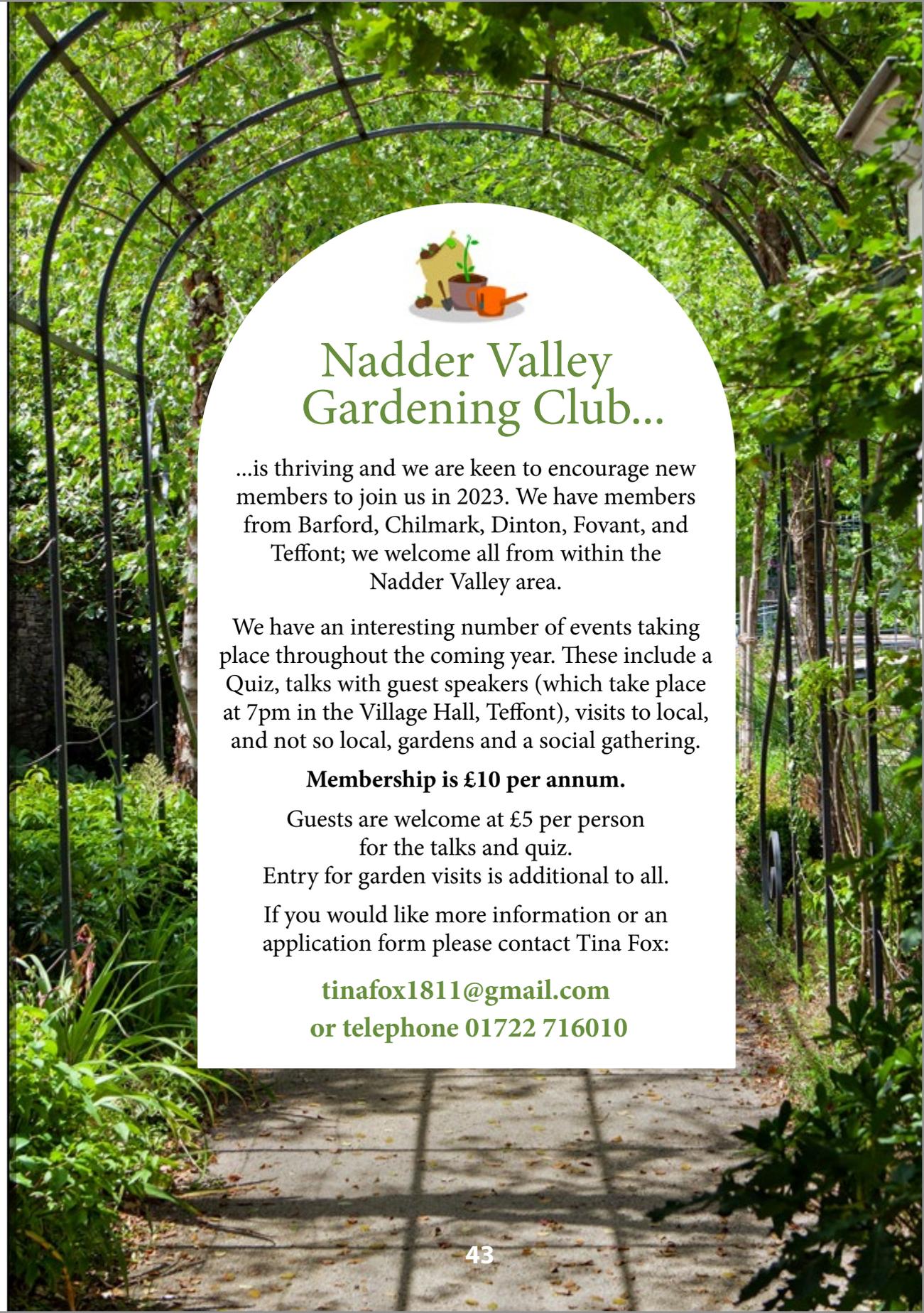
Children's Easter Egg Hunt At Barford St. Martin Sunday 9 April

Alabare Centre, Dairy Road
11.00am to 1.00pm
Tea, coffee, cupcakes & raffle
£1 per child

All funds going to Barford Community Fund



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Nadder Valley Gardening Club...

...is thriving and we are keen to encourage new members to join us in 2023. We have members from Barford, Chilmark, Dinton, Fovant, and Teffont; we welcome all from within the Nadder Valley area.

We have an interesting number of events taking place throughout the coming year. These include a Quiz, talks with guest speakers (which take place at 7pm in the Village Hall, Teffont), visits to local, and not so local, gardens and a social gathering.

Membership is £10 per annum.

Guests are welcome at £5 per person for the talks and quiz.

Entry for garden visits is additional to all.

If you would like more information or an application form please contact Tina Fox:

tinafox1811@gmail.com

or telephone 01722 716010



DATE	2 April			3–6 April			7 April			9 April			16 April			23 April			30 April		
SUNDAY	Palm Sunday			Holy Week			Good Friday			Easter Day			Easter 2			Easter 3			Easter 4		
SOUTHERN AREA				MAUNDY THURSDAY 11.00 – CHRISM EUCHARIST AT SALISBURY CATHEDRAL			DEVOTIONAL SERVICES														
Ansty	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.15	GS	GS	11.15	PC	GS	-	-	-	11.15	AAC	GS	-	-	-
Compton Chamberlayne	09.30	PC _T	TF	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC _T	GS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fovant	08.00	HC02T	GS	-	-	-	14.00	GS	GS	09.30	CbE	JA	18.00	EBCP	JA	09.30	PC Patronal	GS	09.30	PC	GS/TF
Sutton Mandeville	18.00	EBCP	GS	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC02T	MH	16.00	AAS	EB	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swallowcliffe	11.15	PC _T	GS	-	-	-	09.30	GS	GS	11.15	PC _T	MH	08.00	HCBCP	SE	11.15	MBCP	LAY	-	-	-
NORTHERN AREA																					
Barford St Martin	11.15	AAC	JN	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	AAC	EB	09.30	HCBCP	SE	09.30	AAC +APCM	EB	-	-	-
Baverstock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	AAC	TF	-	-	-	18.00	ANZAC	AJ/EB	-	-	-
Chilmark	11.15	AAC	TF	-	-	-	17.00	EB	EB	09.30	AAC	+AR	11.15	AAC +APCM	EB	11.15	McW / MPr	LAY	-	-	-
Dinton	09.30	AAC	+SL/EB	08.00	HC Maundy Thursday	EB	-	-	-	11.15	AAC	EB	09.30	AAC	EB	09.30	McW	JA	10.00	AAC	EB/JA
Teffont Evias	11.15	AAC	EB	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.15	AAC	+AR/TF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teffont Magna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.15	AAC	MH	-	-	-
WESTERN AREA																					
Chicklade	-	-	-	18.30	Compline Tuesday	JN	-	-	-	08.00	HCBCP	JN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hindon	09.30	PC	JN	18.30	Compline Wednesday	JN	14.00	JN	JN	09.30	PC	JN	18.00	EBCP	JN	09.30	PC	MH	10.00	PC	MH
Fonthill Bishop	17.00	EBCP	JMH	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PCBCP	CF	09.30	MBCP	JN	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fonthill Gifford	08.00	HCBCP	EB	-	-	-	11.15	JMH	JMH	11.15	PCBCP	JMH	08.00	HCBCP	JMH	11.15	MBCP	JA	-	-	-
Tisbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC	JMH	09.30	PC	JMH/AJ	08.00	HCBCP	JMH	-	-	-
	09.00	PC	JMH/JA	-	-	-	13.30	JMH	JMH	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC	JMH	-	-	-
	10.00	PC Procession	JMH/JA	19.30	PC Maundy Thursday & Vigil until 22.00	JMH/JA	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.00	Choral Evensong	JMH	-	-	-	-	-	-



Come and join us for a time of quietness and space to find

Healing and Wholeness



We invite you to join us for our monthly time of prayer and contemplation – For yourself and for those whom you care about, remembering all those who are in difficulties at this time of year.

6.00pm
Wednesday
April 12th

**St Andrew's Chapel,
St John the Baptist, Tisbury**

"Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed" Acts 10.38

the Disciples "went through all the villages, preaching the Good News and healing everywhere" Luke 9.6

SERVICES

- AAC All Age Communion
- AAS All Age Service
- BCP Book of Common Prayer
- CbE Communion by Extension
- CW Common Worship
- E Evensong or Evening Prayer
- FC All Age Family Communion
- HC Holy Communion (said)
- HC02T/C Order 2 Communion, traditional/contemporary
- M Mattins or Morning Prayer
- MPr Morning Praise

- PC Order 1 Communion (with hymns)
- PC_T Order 1 Communion, traditional language (with hymns)
- PC02T Order 2 Communion, traditional language (with hymns)
- PC02T/C Order 2 Communion, traditional/contemporary
- RS Reflective Service
- SoP Songs of Praise
- SoW All Age Service of the Word

CLERGY

- +AR Bishop of Ramsbury
- +SL Bishop of Salisbury
- AJ Alan Jeans
- CF Colin Fox
- EB Elaine Brightwell
- GS Graham Southgate
- JA Judy Anderson
- JMH Juliette Hulme
- JN Jo Naish
- MH Mark Hayter
- SE Simon Evans
- TF Tina Fox



Children's Easter Holiday Workshop

Wednesday 5th April 2023
2.00pm – 4.00pm

AT FOVANT VILLAGE HALL

Join us to explore the story of Easter through fantastic activities, makes, bakes, story and music with the Nadder Valley Team.

Don't delay – book your places today!

Contact Revd Jo Naish on 01747871820
or email – revdjoannanaish@gmail.com.

All children will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.



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How do we understand Easter?

On a recent governor visit to St John's Primary School in Tisbury I enjoyed observing a lesson with Year 1 and 2 class on 'New Life'. The children were looking at pictures on the screen of lambs, eggs, chicks and daffodils. They were encouraged to offer other examples of new life and the teacher was helping them make the link with Jesus' new life at his Resurrection. Living in the Northern hemisphere we can automatically link the signs of Spring and new life with the Easter Story. For all of us, whether we have a Christian faith or not, we cannot help but be uplifted by the beauty of birdsong, blossom, lambs frolicking, brighter mornings and lighter evenings. Our spirits are renewed and we breathe in new life.

Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday 2nd April and those in Tisbury all are welcome to join the 3 churches to walk with a donkey singing from St John's Church with our Palm crosses up the High Street to the Methodist church stopping at 2 locations for a dramatised reading of the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' mock trial and sentence to be crucified. On Good Friday many churches in the Benefice offer a reflective service and we link the sorrows of the world with the suffering of Christ.

On Easter Day we celebrate that Jesus Christ is risen and that sorrow, suffering and evil do not have the final word. There is hope and new life and victory over death.

I end with the beautiful words of the first verse of the poem 'Easter' by George Herbert, poet and priest at Bemerton near Salisbury in the seventeenth century.

**Rise, heart, thy lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him may'st rise:
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and, much more, just.**

EASTER BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL

Revd Juliette Hulme, Team Vicar



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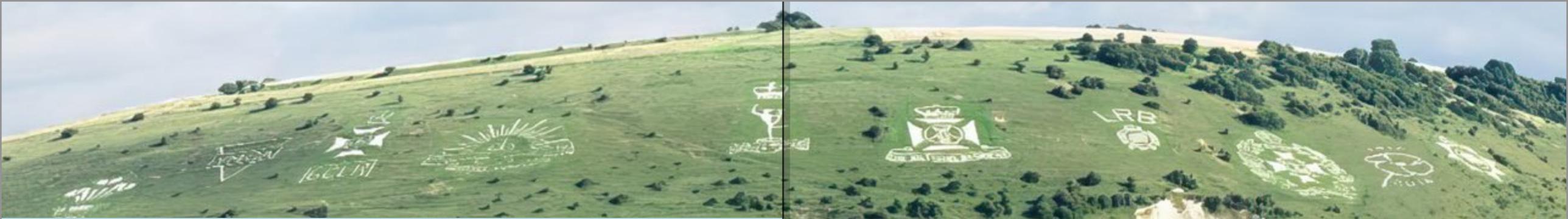
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Dear Reader: Do you have an interesting article inside you or a funny tale or memorable experience hidden away? A special poem, fascinating family history or passionate interest you'd like to talk about? please send it to us and we'll create some lovely pages on your topic for you and everybody else to read and enjoy.

jan@village-buzz.co.uk



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A Dog Walker writes:—

Quit Spade, or I Rant.... Friday at Fovant Down



Strange things you see on Fovant Down... by the Famous Badges. The Pooch and I were taking what was a really bracing walk in the freezing wind and sleet over the escarpment this week when we lighted upon a crew recording footage for a programme that I'm not allowed to mention. Well not just yet, as I was cautioned, charmingly, by Ian Dirt-Paroquet, a very large rough looking man with his small spade. So as the judges say "**Poi Qatar Intrude**" despite Dog straining on the leash to join in like a piquet rat in road.



There was clearly a TV 'personality' here, rather resembling an *antiquated prior*, in this arctic ensemble performance, and the rough man was demonstrating over several takes with some energy and skill how the other could show his prowess as a maintainer of chalk emblems.

Fascinating to watch the process unfolding, and the drone buzzing overhead too. Wonder if they recorded the giant NHS logo cut during the pandemic? No matter. Dog and I were freezing and hungry, and as crossword loving legals say at the end of a meal in Gray's Inn hall "**Dinar Partite Quo!**" and we left them to it so I could reacquaint myself with my toes and finger tips.

Will be watching the schedules in the autumn to see if I am in-shot anywhere...15 seconds of fame, well I guess that's the depreciating effect of inflation on Warhol's 15 minutes of fame maxim ..."**Drier Op Aquatint**".

Pip Pip!! Mrs.Codé "**Paranoid-Quitter**"

LB

FOVANT BADGES SOCIETY

ANNUAL DRUMHEAD SERVICE Sunday 2nd July 2023 3.00pm

(Please be seated by 2.45pm)

At East Farm Fovant SP3 5JD

Follow the signs on the A30

Teas on the lawn afterwards

(Weather permitting)

ALL WELCOME!



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SUDOKU solution

April 23
from page 28

5	2	1	6	3	4	9	7	8
4	8	7	2	1	9	6	3	5
3	9	6	8	5	7	1	2	4
9	5	2	7	8	1	4	6	3
6	1	8	5	4	3	2	9	7
7	3	4	9	2	6	8	5	1
1	7	9	4	6	5	3	8	2
2	6	3	1	7	8	5	4	9
8	4	5	3	9	2	7	1	6

CROSSWORD Solution

April 23
from page 29

T	H	E	G	R	U	E	S	E	A	D	I	G		
I	D	O	D	P	R	R	I	A						
L	E	W	E	S	S	W	A	Z	I	L	A	N	D	
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SAVE THE DATE

Sutton Mandeville

The 2023 Sutton Mandeville Flower Show
 Saturday 9th September – 3.00pm

Fovant Village Hall

Sutton Mandeville

FEBRUARY DRAW RESULTS

1st £40 — 03
2nd £20 — 81
3rd £10 — 51



Ansty

Ansty May Day Monday 1st May, 4.30 – 8pm

Preparation for this much-loved historical event in Ansty has already started! A hard-working committee is now planning the logistics, whilst parents and dance teachers will soon be gearing up to support and encourage this year's crop of youngsters into the art of Maypole dancing! Accompanying the dancing will be the May Day procession with the crowning of the May Queen – along with The White Horse Morris Dancers and Musicians; Tattie Bogle; A Bar, Food and Refreshments and a variety of stalls. We look forward to seeing you!



<http://www.anstywiltspc.org.uk>

Advertising & article submission deadline

Friday 21 April

If you plan to submit ready-made advertising please ensure that the file is in the format of either a high resolution Acrobat PDF file or a high resolution JPEG (300ppi) file – thank you.





VILLAGE BUZZ

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR VILLAGES NESTLING IN THE NADDER VALLEY

APRIL 2023

USEFUL INFORMATION – SORRY, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT

Why should we pick up our dog poo?

With more people out walking when the sunny weather eventually comes, the perennial question of dog walkers and poo arises. I have a dog and always pick up his poo and dispose of it in an appropriate bin out on the walk or at home. I have met people who have lived in the country all their lives and they say, 'I just push it off the path and it is OK.' – But is it?

Only last year it was reported that cows in the New Forest aborted their calves due to infection with *Neospora caninum* which is spread by dog faeces⁽¹⁾.

A farmer lost 18 calves which were half of his total calves that year, with disastrous financial consequences. So, how dangerous is dog faeces to humans and animals? A review in 2015 showed human gastro-intestinal diseases found in dogs include: Noroviruses, Salmonella and Campylobacter together with other diseases that are transmitted by dog saliva and bodily fluids⁽²⁾.

Other diseases that are spread in dog faeces include *Cryptosporidium*, *E. coli*, *Giardia*, Roundworms (*Toxocara canis*) and Tapeworms⁽³⁾.

All these cause diseases with varying degrees of danger to humans – children and the elderly being most susceptible. Transmission of these diseases is not confined to humans and domestic animals; they can be passed on to wild animals also. The problem with dog poo does not stop with diseases, as a Belgian study in 2022 showed. It found that dog faeces contributes a substantial amount of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilisation

to the forests, grasslands, wetlands and heathlands where high numbers of dog walkers roam⁽⁴⁾. This has a detrimental effect on the biodiversity of the sites, especially in nutrient-poor areas, such as chalk downland. The nutrients will also be washed into adjacent watercourses causing a drop in dissolved oxygen, algal blooms which can poison humans or animals, including dogs, and the death of plants due to the blockage of light. It goes on to state, 'Our findings also underpin that a 'stick and flick' strategy to reduce the nuisance of treading in dog faeces (as currently considered by, for example, the Forestry Commission in Britain) is to be avoided'. It also highlights that the removal of dog faeces also prevents the infection of grazing animals with zoonotic (passed between species) diseases.

Also, please, please, please, don't ever stick your poo bags on barbed wire fences or low branches in the hope that other people will deal with it – they won't. Enjoy your dog walking this Spring and Summer but always remember your dog is your responsibility and that responsibility includes to other humans, animals and the environment.

**Neil Burton
Burcombe**

(1) <https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/19856840.new-forest-cows-abort-babies-due-disease-dog-poo/>

(2) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5319273/>

(3) <https://www.dogsforgood.org/good-advice/zoonoses/>

(4) <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2688-8319.12128>



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