

VILLAGE BUZZ



A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR VILLAGES NESTLING IN THE NADDER VALLEY

DECEMBER 2022

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FOVANT, SUTTON ROW, TEFFONT EVIAS, TEFFONT MAGNA, UGFORD



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Species of the month

HOLLY

Peter Thompson, Barford St. Martin

I ONCE VISITED AN ESTATE in Sussex as part of my work and while walking the land with the owner, I noticed that many of the hedges had large holly trees growing regularly along them, having been allowed to grow up and not be trimmed back to form part of the hedge. When I commented on this, the farmer immediately replied, 'Oh yes, that's to stop the witches from running along the hedge tops'. When I chuckled at this, he told me that his father, who had lived and worked on the farm all his life, had been told this by local farm workers and although 'of course he didn't believe in such nonsense,' it was obvious that he had never cut any of them down!

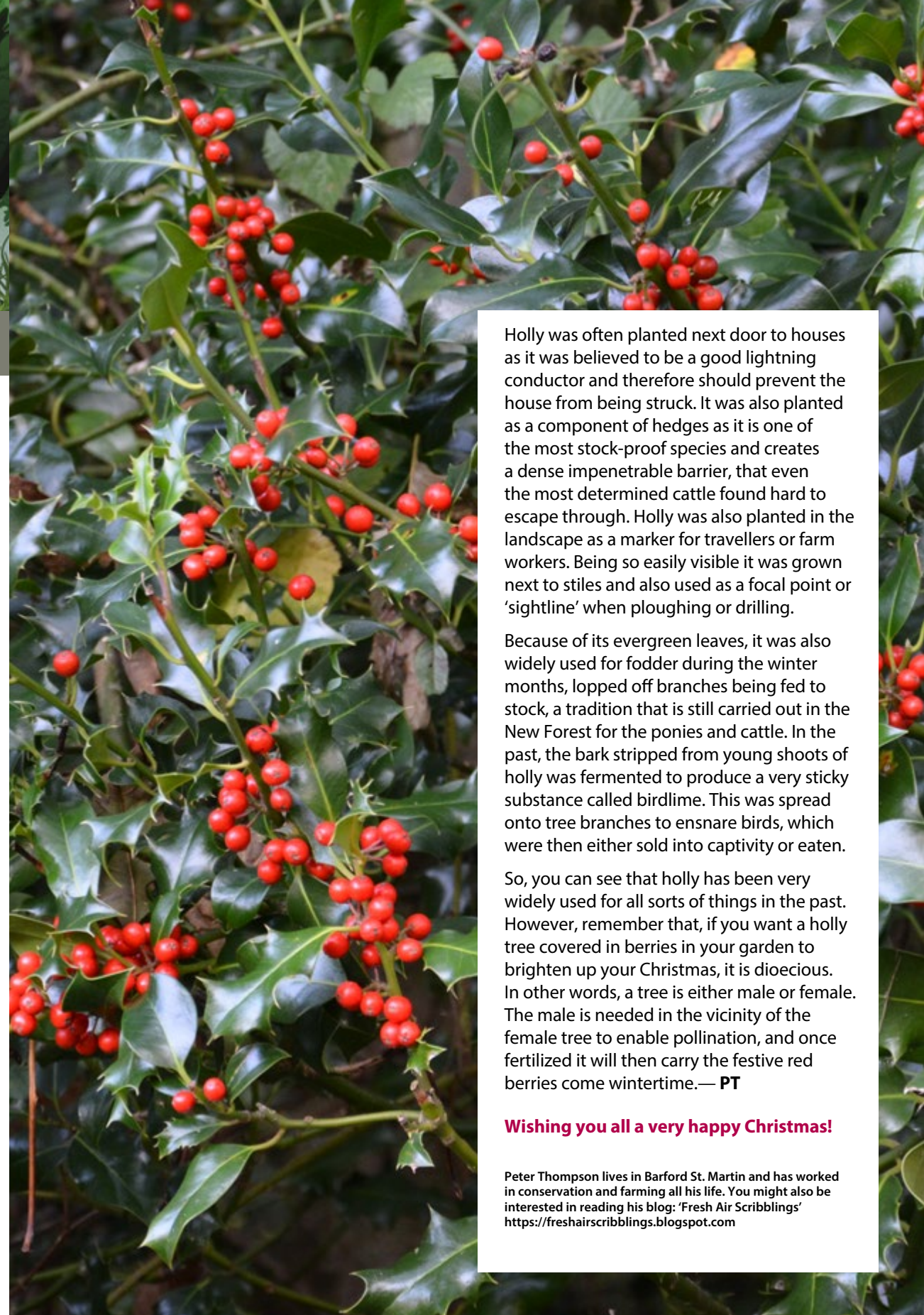
I love stories like these, and the countryside is full of such beliefs and traditions, passed down through generation to generation. It made me start to think of the role that holly plays in our culture, especially during this festive season. Why is holly so often the chosen plant for making wreaths and decorations at Christmas time?

The tradition of bringing holly into the house at Christmas is most probably linked to the rebirth of the sun at the midwinter Solstice (21st December). Holly is at its most glorious at this time of year, being fully leaved and covered in gloriously bright red berries. It readily symbolized life and fertility at a time when most other trees were naked and dormant.

The Yule log was burnt on Solstice Day by the Celtic Druids and was either made of holly wood or had holly branches laid over it. Each year the log was lit using the remains of the previous year's Yule log which had been kept by the hearth to help ward off evil and death. Christians began to use holly at Christmas time, especially when creating wreaths, because the spines of the leaves symbolised Christ's crown of thorns, and the red berries represented the drops of Christ's blood.

Apart from Christmas, holly has been important for many other reasons too. The wood is heavy, (so dense that freshly cut wood sinks in water!), strong, and of a whitish colour, especially in the centre of the trunk. This pale wood was commonly used for making white chess pieces, while ebony was used for the black. Because the wood is so hard and compact it is ideal to polish, creating a very smooth surface that is ideal for decorative inlay work on furniture, walking sticks, snooker cues and the hammers in harpsichords.

Holly was for a long time also believed to have a 'power over horses' and its pliable small branches were therefore chosen for making whips. In fact, in the nineteenth century when horses were used for ploughing, pulling coaches and most other means of transport, more than 2,000 whips per year were made using holly.



Holly was often planted next door to houses as it was believed to be a good lightning conductor and therefore should prevent the house from being struck. It was also planted as a component of hedges as it is one of the most stock-proof species and creates a dense impenetrable barrier, that even the most determined cattle found hard to escape through. Holly was also planted in the landscape as a marker for travellers or farm workers. Being so easily visible it was grown next to stiles and also used as a focal point or 'sightline' when ploughing or drilling.

Because of its evergreen leaves, it was also widely used for fodder during the winter months, lopped off branches being fed to stock, a tradition that is still carried out in the New Forest for the ponies and cattle. In the past, the bark stripped from young shoots of holly was fermented to produce a very sticky substance called birdlime. This was spread onto tree branches to ensnare birds, which were then either sold into captivity or eaten.

So, you can see that holly has been very widely used for all sorts of things in the past. However, remember that, if you want a holly tree covered in berries in your garden to brighten up your Christmas, it is dioecious. In other words, a tree is either male or female. The male is needed in the vicinity of the female tree to enable pollination, and once fertilized it will then carry the festive red berries come wintertime.— **PT**

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas!

Peter Thompson lives in Barford St. Martin and has worked in conservation and farming all his life. You might also be interested in reading his blog: 'Fresh Air Scribblings' <https://freshairscribblings.blogspot.com>



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The Waterloo Dispatch

Hot News 2

Paul Cordle – Chicks Grove



THE ROYAL NAVY'S DEFEAT of the combined French and Spanish fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 removed the threat of a French seaborne invasion of Great Britain and the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 was to become the decisive allied stroke which removed Napoleon Bonaparte from Europe for good.

In March 1815 the news of Napoleon Bonaparte's escape from exile on the island of Elba electrified Europe⁽¹⁾. It was the start of what became known as the 'Hundred Days' and the stark realisation amongst European rulers that the outcome of the inevitable campaign and battles to follow would mould their countries' future for decades to come.

At the time, the outcome of the campaign leading up to the battle of Waterloo and of the battle itself on 18th June was far from certain. Europe stood on the edge of an abyss and held its breath. As news of the allied victory was eventually sped across the Continent, it fell to Major the Hon. Henry Percy⁽²⁾ to deliver the Duke of Wellington's dispatch to London.

Napoleon and his army had moved north from Paris far more quickly than Wellington had anticipated. First reports of him approaching the French border were passed to Wellington in Brussels at the Duchess of Richmond's ball on 15th June. Wellington, alarmed and expressing his surprise, admitted that he had been humbugged by Napoleon and the urgency of the situation was such that many →



Sergeant Ewart of the Royal Scots Greys capturing the standard and eagle of the French 45th Regiment of the Line. By Denis Dighton, 1815-17, the Royal Collection. This was one of the trophies carried by Percy to London.

ABOVE: Captain the Hon. Henry Percy in 1808 by Frederick Buck of Cork

Hot News 2 – The Waterloo Dispatch

continued



officers present at the ball rushed to join their units in their evening uniforms. Henry Percy was one of them.

After a costly delaying action near the French border at Quatre Bras on 16th June, Wellington concentrated his army on a previously reconnoitred position on high ground south of the village of Waterloo (approximately 12 miles to the south of Brussels) with the purpose of blocking Napoleon's progress north. In the evening of 17th June he set up his headquarters in the village and gathered around him his immediate staff (his family as he called them) in preparation for the next day's critical battle. By nightfall of the following day, 18th June, the French Army had been thrashed, and with Napoleon, he had fled the field. The battle had been a savage experience for all ranks on both sides. The ever-present dangers of battle had been fully shared by commanders and soldiers alike and none more than Wellington and his staff, many of whom were killed or wounded, moving from one critical point to another as the battle developed. As Wellington said "*it had been a near run thing*" and the battlefield had become a scene of carnage with over 50,000 casualties.

Briefly, Wellington met the elderly Field Marshal Prince von Blücher, commanding the allied Prussian Army, who had loyally supported



Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington by Thomas Lawrence 1815-1816.



Field Marshal Prince von Blücher (1742 – 1819) aged 75, two years after the battle and two before he died. By George Dawe, 1781-1829, English Heritage, The Wellington Collection, Apsley House.

him on his left flank, and then returned to his headquarters. Exhausted by the stress of command over three days of intensive operations and overcome with emotion at the loss of so many killed and friends lost, he was in no state to write his dispatch; after supper he lay down to sleep. Woken in the early hours with news of the death of one of his *family* he started his report to Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for War, and, after breakfast, took Henry Percy back to his quarters in Brussels to complete it, ending with "*I send with this dispatch three eagles, taken by the troops in action, which Major Percy will have the honour of laying at the feet of His Royal Highness. I beg leave to recommend him to your Lordship's protection*". He then sent Percy off by coach with instructions to stop only to give news of the battle to the refugee King Louis XVIII of France.

Percy, with his evening uniform splattered with mud and blood, folded the dispatch into a lady's velvet handkerchief sachel and took the captured French eagles and gold-embroidered tricolour standards, each on 10 ft pikes, and set off for Ghent, 30 miles away, where he arrived three hours later to see the French King. Then via Bruges, Percy arrived at Ostend in a cabriolet at about midday on the following day 20th June⁽³⁾ and reported to Admiral Sir David

Pulteney Malcolm giving him the news on which the destiny of Europe had depended and adding "*the Duke is safe and well and in full march on Paris*."

The Admiral immediately ordered HMS Peruvian, an 18 gun sloop, to take Percy to Deal. The Captain, Commander James Kearney White, weighed anchor at 2.00pm for the 75 mile crossing to the Kent coast which would mean that Percy might just get to London by midday on 21st, three days after the battle. As with HMS Pickle carrying the Trafalgar dispatch in 1805, the weather was not in their favour and HMS Peruvian was becalmed and drifted slowly across the Channel during the night until at 11.00 am on 21st June white cliffs were sighted from the rigging. Commander White, anxious about the continuing delay, ordered four strong seamen to row him and Percy ashore in the ship's gig. It is said that he and Percy also rowed to make up speed for this final dash

of about 12 miles to the coast; the captured eagles and standards lay at the stern of the boat. The gig landed at 3.00pm when Percy immediately ordered a post-chaise and four (horses) to take him the 80 miles to London. The captured trophies of war, being too long, stuck out of the windows for all to see and one can imagine the excitement along the journey as the great news of victory was given to the crowds which gathered where changes of horse were made (Canterbury, Sittingbourne, Rochester, Dartford). England had been awash with contradictory and worrying rumours yet here was real news and visible proof of victory. It had rained in London that day, 21st June and

the pleasant evening invited people to be outside. As the yellow post-chaise clattered over Westminster Bridge the many pedestrians could not help but notice the eagles and standards sticking out its windows, so they eagerly followed on to Downing Street where Percy hoped to find Lord Bathurst. He was not there but luckily Charles Arbuthnot MP, Secretary to the Treasury, was just returning from an evening in Parliament and found Percy on the steps of the Colonial Office. On hearing the news, he jumped into the post-chaise leading Percy to Grosvenor Square and the home of Lord Harrowby⁽⁴⁾ where he knew that Bathurst was dining with other members of the Cabinet.

**'Victory!
Victory!
Bonaparte
has been
beaten'**

We get a glimpse of this moment of high drama from Harrowby's 14 year old daughter Mary who was woken by the cheering outside her home at 44 Grosvenor Square. In her night-dress she looked over the bannisters

to see '*an officer in a scarlet coat (Percy in his dancing togs) and two other men rush into house asking for Lord Bathurst and crying out 'Victory! Victory! Bonaparte has been beaten'*'. She noticed, too, how tired and dishevelled the officer looked as he disappeared from sight and then recorded the wild cheering which soon came from the dining room. A large crowd had now gathered around the post-chaise in the square so Lord Harrowby went out to announce the great news from the steps of his home.

Percy, drained by the exertions of battle and his journey, remained in the dining room and dozed off, only to be woken by a toast to the victory →



A contemporary aquatint showing Percy being carried to London by post-chaise and four with the French trophies of war gaily fluttering through the windows. Artist unknown.



and to the bearer of its news being proposed by Lord Harrowby and Lord Liverpool, the Prime Minister⁽⁵⁾. Now alert, his next duty was to find the Prince Regent so he was taken off to St James Square where it was known that he was dining at No 16, the home of successful banker Edward Boehm and his wife Dorothy. Dancing was to follow dinner for their dazzling guests amongst whom were the Prince Regent's brother, the Duke of York, then Commander-in-Chief, and Lord Castlereagh⁽⁶⁾, the Foreign Secretary. It was an evening to be remembered or so Dorothy Boehm had hoped as being the pinnacle of her social success; it was not to be. Through the open windows came the disturbing noise of a large crowd approaching across the square from Pall Mall and it was beginning to drown out the dance music coming from the ballroom on the first floor.



The velvet sash displayed on the evening coat worn by Henry Percy at Waterloo. Private collection.

Dorothy and her guests moved to the landing from where, to her horror, she saw the Prime Minister and a dishevelled officer in scarlet uniform carrying the highly prized trophies of war stride into the house. Lord Liverpool and the tired but elated Percy went up to the ballroom where Liverpool announced 'I have brought Major Percy who comes with news of a great victory for your Royal Highness' whereupon Percy stepped up to the Prince Regent and, dropping to one knee, laid the trophies at his feet calling out 'Victory, Victory, Sire'. What a moment! The prospect of peace at last after 20 years of war; the Prince Regent must have loved it. Percy now took Wellington's dispatch from the velvet sash and passed it to the Prince Regent who immediately promoted him to Lieutenant Colonel. The Prince Regent spent 20 minutes discussing events with his Prime Minister in an adjoining room during which no one felt much

like dancing and on his departure, the party broke up much to Dorothy Boehm's disappointment. The Prince Regent felt her disappointment keenly and later gave her a gilded replica of a French eagle⁽⁷⁾. Lord Bathurst's office sent bulletins to the Lord Mayor and the Press and made arrangements for the London Gazette to publish the dispatch as soon as possible.

Lieutenant Colonel the Hon. Henry Percy had done his duty and went to his father's home in Portman Square where, after making arrangements for the next day, went to bed. At 9.30 am, correctly dressed in day uniform, he attended the Duke of York at a great military display in St James's Park, involving all regiments then in London, at which the Duke read out passages of Wellington's dispatch; it was 22nd June. On 25th June, a week after the battle, he set out on his return to Brussels from where he soon followed Wellington to Paris. — PC

Notes.

1. Napoleon escaped from his 9 months' exile on 26th February.
2. Henry Percy, 14th Light Dragoons (1785 – 1825). 5th son of 1st Earl of Beverley and grandson of 1st Duke of Northumberland. The only uninjured ADC on Wellington's staff at the end of the battle. He was later made a Companion of the Order of the Bath and awarded the Russian Order of St Anne.
3. It would appear the Percy had difficulty finding horses and was thus delayed.
4. Lord Harrowby, Home Secretary 1809-1812
5. Lord Liverpool, Prime Minister 1812-1827
6. Lord Castlereagh, Foreign Secretary 1812-1822
7. Dorothy Boehm is said to have remained inconsolable at the disruption of her party and often referred to those 'horrid French eagles'.



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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.



December's Brain Gym

SOLUTION ON PAGE 31

Across

- 1 In ancient Greece, the chief city of Boeotia, destroyed by Alexander the Great in 336 BC (6)
- 5 A former British colony in the Windward Islands of the Caribbean, capital Roseau (8)
- 9 Lead singer of the grunge rock band Nirvana (4,6)
- 10 A small cake of unleavened Indian bread, deep-fried and served hot (4)
- 11 Chris ____, politician who became Secretary of State for Transport in July 2016 (8)
- 12 Marie ____, fashion model who married photographer David Bailey in 1975 (6)
- 13 The husband of Emilia in Shakespeare's play Othello (4)
- 15 A lively jig-like dance for one couple (8)
- 18 Amerigo ____, Italian navigator who explored the South American coast, thus establishing the New World (8)
- 19 French term meaning "at the home of" (4)
- 21 A wild, sociable dog-like carnivore which feeds on the kill of other animals (6)
- 23 Max ____, editor of the Evening Standard from 1996 to 2002 (8)
- 25 Edible starchy tuberous root of plants, especially taro (4)
- 26 An RAF officer of equivalent rank to a vice-admiral or a lieutenant-general (3-7)
- 27 Part of a church at right angles to the nave (8)
- 28 Hebrew prophet of the Old Testament who was given divine protection when thrown into a den of lions (6)

Down

- 2 Rutger ____, Dutch actor who played Roy Batty in the 1982 film Blade Runner (5)
- 3 Animated cartoon character of a 1920s flapper, created by Max Fleischer (5,4)
- 4 A concave moulding, especially at the base of an Ionic column (6)
- 5 Belgian-born jazz guitarist who formed the Quintette du Hot Club de France with violinist Stephane Grappelli in 1934 (6,9)
- 6 A hard, compact sheep's cheese made in the fertile plateau region of central Spain (8)
- 7 Asian country which was the world's last Hindu monarchy until becoming republic in 2008 (5)
- 8 A hormone produced by the adrenal cortex, used in the treatment of arthritis, allergies, skin disease, etc (9)
- 14 Jean ____, actress who played Auntie Wainwright in the TV sitcom Last of the Summer Wine (9)
- 16 Emily ____, reclusive nineteenth-century American poet whose posthumous collections include Bolts of Melody (9)
- 17 Especially in botany and zoology, pointed, prickly, having a sting (8)
- 20 In Norse mythology, the heavenly abode of the twelve gods and twenty-six goddesses, and of heroes slain in battle (6)
- 22 The standard monetary unit of Estonia (5)
- 24 An open space in a wooded area (5)

SOLUTION ON PAGE 31



Fovant



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Why sit at home on a cold winter's day?

Fovant Village Hall is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00-2.00pm.

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WINTER COATS

Bought a new winter coat for yourself or the children this year and want to donate last year's clean coats?

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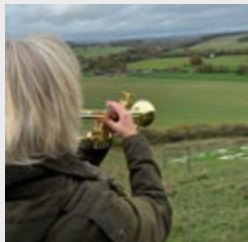
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The Commemorative Poppy at Fovant Down – Armistice Day 11/11/2022

The locally-based nationwide charity Alabaré held a commemorative ceremony to honour the memory of the fallen this year at The Fovant Badges, appropriately laying wreaths on the escarpment's Centenary Poppy emblem in the heart of Cranbourne Chase AONB.



Alabaré has assisted The Fovant Badges Society in their maintenance work this year, working on the Royal Signals and Poppy compounds as part of their Boots on the Ground initiative with ex-services personnel. Alabaré brought some of their ex-services veteran residents

to help with this work, some of whom are estranged from their home locations. Ed and Sue Williams, the landowners, kindly agreed to the suggestion of a commemoration, and in the bright but overcast morning Mr Andrew Lord, CEO of Alabaré, and Mr. Neil Barr on behalf of Alabaré's residents and veterans laid wreaths. On a practical note, these were pegged down against the autumn gales!



Ms Wendy Jobbins, herself an ex-services musician, added a touching poignancy to the ceremony by playing The Last Post, then Reveille, her cornet sounding out over the site of WW1 Fovant Camps on East Farm and the A30 in the valley below.

Leslie Brantingham FBS



Fovant

— FOVANT VILLAGE HALL —

Christmas Lunch – Sunday 11 December – 12.00 start

Come along to Fovant Village Hall to chat with friends and neighbours over a lunch of bread, cheese and a festive mince pie.

Tickets £6 from Celia Haselgrove celiahaselgrove@btinternet.com

Traditional Christmas Dinner – Tuesday 20 December

'OPEN DOOR' 10-2pm, Sit down 12.30pm

Guided Meditation Event – Monday 19 December

'OPEN DOOR' 12.30-4.00pm, Sit down 12.30pm

A well established and wonderful opportunity to give yourself some time and space to rebalance your life.

Free LUNCH

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Dinton

— DINTON VILLAGE HALL —

Pre-Christmas Lunch & Entertainment Sunday 11 December – 11.00-4.00pm

Booking Essential

This is a Local Community event arranged for the villages of Fovant, Dinton & surrounding villages.

Pre-book your place, select meal option, choose meal time and get your ticket by calling:

Simon 07554 624 445 | Vicky 07909 841 393

Tickets £6



One of our favourite recipes

Derryn Hinks' Allotment Recipes – Fovant.

Squash Cake with Salted Buttercream

Before you begin, prepare 350g of squash – peeled, deseeded, diced and boiled or baked into a purée. You will use 300g in the cake and 50g in the buttercream.

Ingredients for the cake

- 300g squash – puréed
- 100g unsalted butter
- 200g caster sugar
- 300g ground almonds
- 1 tbsp baking powder (gluten free) or traditional baking powder
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- 3 tsp ground cinnamon
- Pinch of salt
- 3 eggs
- 75g dark chocolate – melted in a bowl over simmering water

Ingredients for the buttercream

- 150g dark chocolate melted in a heatproof bowl over simmering water & cooled for 5 mins
- 100g softened butter
- 50g puréed squash
- 250g icing sugar
- Sea salt to taste



Method

1. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar together.
2. Add all of the other ingredients and whisk together thoroughly.
3. Divide the mixture between the two tins and bake for 25 – 30 minutes .
4. Allow the sponges to cool in their tins before turning out onto a wire tray.

To make the buttercream

5. Mix all the ingredients until smooth.
6. Use it to sandwich the two cake layers together.
7. Decorate.

Follow more of Derryn's Allotment Recipe Blogs at: www.fovantvillage.com/recipeblog

Have you got a good recipe?

If you have a favourite recipe that you would like to share with our readers, please email: gill@village-buzz.co.uk AND SEE YOUR RECIPE IN PRINT! AND EVEN BETTER, SEND US A PHOTOGRAPH TOO!

Hello! I'm Derryn and I'm a keen allotment plot holder of many years, home cook, gardener and closet squirrel. If it grows, my natural instinct is to hoard and store it by pickling, jamming or bottling, but best of all I like to cook seasonal produce fresh from our plot. Like many of us, we produce far too much at particular times of the year as I am too busy to manage succession sowing, so we experience the usual gluts of courgettes, cucumbers, beetroot, lettuce, tomatoes and squash, for example. To cope with this bounty, over the years I have developed new recipes, adapted traditional ones and now I have my own library of recipes that work really well with vegetables and fruit that we grow in our garden. Over the following months I hope to share some of these recipes with you. They will always be seasonal and simple, grown in our garden and mainly vegetarian. Our plot runs up the hillside in the village of Fovant and is arranged over four level areas, plus a small greenhouse and raised bed. My first offering is a cake which is gluten free and its main ingredient is squash. Now while I do like squash as a vegetable, best baked with a swirl of harissa paste or grated ginger, it can become a little tedious on the palate especially if you are making your way through a whopper of a specimen. I prefer to grow 'Crown Prince Squash' which has a beautiful blue-bloomed skin and gloriously nutty flesh. It stores well into Spring and works well in soups, pies, casseroles and preserves. I've chosen a cake because it is a little different and someone told me this was the nicest chocolate cake they had ever had. I didn't tell them it was made from squash! Have a go and I hope you enjoy it!



Stars Appeal launch ONLINE Christmas Raffle

A cash prize of £1,000 is the star prize in this year's Stars Appeal online Christmas Raffle. The second prize is £500, third prize £250, and there are more cash prizes too. Tickets cost just £1 each and are only available ONLINE at www.starsappeal.org

Money raised by the raffle will help towards the £1 million that the Stars Appeal aims to raise this year to fund projects at Salisbury District Hospital, helping thousands of patients and the NHS staff who care for them. These include state-of-the-art equipment, hospital chaplaincy, free Wi-Fi, accommodation for parents of babies and children, entertainment and companionship for older people, and support for the hospital's hard-working staff. You can see full details of these projects and many more, at www.starsappeal.org/our-work/

Mr Graham Branagan, Consultant Surgeon at Salisbury District Hospital and Chair of the Appeal Ambassadors, said, "The raffle is a brilliant

opportunity to support the Stars Appeal, our hospital's charity, with the chance of winning some cash this Christmas! The money raised will help make a difference for our patients and staff. Thank you for your support and wishing you a very happy Christmas."

Jo Maslen, volunteer fundraiser, said, "We hope that our thousands of supporters will buy tickets, and help us spread the word by inviting their friends, families and colleagues to take part. It only takes a minute to buy your tickets. You could win £1,000 and you'll definitely be making a difference for patients and staff in our hospital this Christmas."

Tickets are £1 each and are available ONLINE only at www.starsappeal.org
ENTRY CLOSES ON:
Wednesday 11th January 2023.
THE DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE ON:
Thursday 12th January 2023.

www.starsappeal.org

The Stars Appeal

The Stars Appeal is the NHS charity for Salisbury District Hospital. Every day, work funded by the charity helps hundreds of patients at Salisbury District Hospital and supports the NHS staff who care for them. The Stars Appeal aims to raise over £1 million each year to fund projects which offer direct, practical support to patients, their families and the Hospital's staff. A list of the projects the Stars Appeal is currently fundraising for can be found at: [https://starsappeal.org/what-were-fundraising-for/Challenge Manager \(Volunteer\) The Stars Appeal - Salisbury District Hospital's Charity Salisbury District Hospital, Salisbury SP2 8BJ 01722 429005 \(ext. 4005 from within the Hospital\) Registered charity no 1052284](https://starsappeal.org/what-were-fundraising-for/Challenge Manager (Volunteer) The Stars Appeal - Salisbury District Hospital's Charity Salisbury District Hospital, Salisbury SP2 8BJ 01722 429005 (ext. 4005 from within the Hospital) Registered charity no 1052284)

Stars Appeal ambassadors from wards and departments around the hospital gather to launch this year's Christmas raffle. Ambassadors from left to right:

- Dr Rowena Staples, Consultant, Children's Unit
- Dr Peter Collins, Medical Director
- Dr Susie Lewis, Consultant Cardiologist
- Dr Sebastian Gray, Consultant, Children's Unit
- Mr Roger Humphry Consultant, Eye Clinic
- Dr Richard Smith, Consultant, Rheumatology

Acts of Remembrance: Fovant camp, the YMCA, and poppies.

A perspective from a former Trustee of the Fovant Badges Society – **Dr Tony Phillips**

IN 2006 I JOINED THE TRUSTEES OF THE FOVANT BADGES SOCIETY (FBS), and under the tutelage of Colonel Tony Pinder I continued with his campaign of offering talks about the badges to a broad range of societies and social groups. I began to realise that the presence of the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) emblem among the military badges on the Downs reflected a crucial contribution by the YMCA nationally and in camps such as ours, in providing spiritual succour to servicemen at a terrible time. As a Fovant resident I have been privileged to gaze at these badges and think on this for over 30 years. I write personally from my own notes, and not on behalf of the FBS.

Early in WWI, with the need to massively increase the size of the New 'Kitchener' Army and to train armies from the Dominions, notably Canada, Australia and New Zealand, many additional training camps were set up and one was 'Fovant Camp', stretching 4 miles from Hurdcott to Swallowcliffe on both sides of the A30. By the end of the war some 20 badges had been cut into the chalk hillsides by troops in the camps. Many of these emblems were regimental cap badges, but there was also the Australian Army General Service Badge, better known as the 'The Rising Sun', and the outline of Australia and the YMCA badge. The nine large badges of the WWI era that still survived in 2001, together with three more cut during that 80 year interim, were granted Ancient Monument status. Details of their history may be found on the websites of the FBS, the Sutton Mandeville Heritage Trust (SMHT) and the Map of Australia Trust (MoAT). FBS members are also kept informed through an annual Newsletter.

In those 80 years the outlines had been topped up with chalk from time to time by some of the remaining or succeeding regiments and by what may well have totalled thousands of other volunteers. However, by the year 2000 the badges were in poor condition and with regret, given the size of the badges and the steepness of the hillside it was decided that a voluntary approach to repairs could no longer be expected to cope, and that somehow money must be sought to employ expensive contractors. Colonel Tony Pinder masterminded a rescue, which raised funds enough for contractor repair of remaining outlines and their periodic maintenance in the years ahead. Deservedly, he later received the BEM. Difficult decisions were



needed as to how to spread the funds raised – some £200,000 and eight of the twelve extant badges were rescued. The YMCA badge on Fovant Down was one of those not included.

Thanks to other initiatives, the two Sutton badges and the Australia outline were rescued later, as described on the websites of the SMHT and the MoAT. Also, an entirely new emblem was cut in 2016, a poppy outline added to Fovant Down to commemorate the centenary of the original badges – the first badge had been cut in 1916.

Restoration of the YMCA badge

The YMCA badge, though clearly visible in the year 2000, received no further attention and by 2016 it had almost disappeared from sight when, happily, a rescue was mounted. That project is described as Exercise 'Fovant Dog' in an article by FBS Conservation Officer Leslie Brantingham on the FBS website. Les and Corporal Adam Booth of D Company, 5 Rifles (based in Bulford), put together a restoration plan. In July and August 2016, preliminary work was carried out on the Down. Then in August, a troop from D Company marched over to Fovant and under Les' guidance restored and re-chalked the YMCA emblem – in under three days!

The rapid decay of the YMCA emblem during those first 15 years of the new millennium underlines the importance of periodic maintenance to avoid the massive costs of major renewals. Thanks to



determination from several directions in the last two decades, the whole hillside seems in better health than perhaps in living memory. A sustainable future for these monuments surely requires a local commitment to ensure a realistic funding stream, including by our personal contributions through subscriptions.

Origins of the YMCA

The YMCA was founded in 1844 in London, to help tackle problems of young men who had migrated to cities with the burgeoning of industrialisation. The Association set up reading rooms and refreshment areas to provide opportunities for prayer and bible study, and organised public lectures and education classes. The idea quickly spread to other countries, and by the early 1900s there were YMCAs in 45 countries, with a global membership of over 700,000. Within ten days of the outbreak of WWI, our national YMCA had established 250 recreation centres, providing cups of tea, sandwiches and reading material, at places such as railway stations where large numbers of troops would be passing. In military camps in the UK and at the Fronts, the YMCA became a vital social support network. YMCA huts such as at Fovant camp (see photo) provided servicemen and women with a meal, drink, help to write a letter home, entertainment and companionship.

Temperance

One thing many of the servicemen YMCA members might have had in common was teetotalism. Alcohol abuse had become recognised as a problem in the UK at least a century previously, with poverty

and domestic violence being greatly exacerbated by drunkenness. (Witness William Hogarth's cartoons). By the 1830s, temperance societies were starting to be formed to campaign against alcohol. At first, temperance was often interpreted as 'moderation', but that changed to 'total abstinence'. The non-Conformist churches were particularly active; one Methodist group became the Salvation Army. By 1900, some 10% of our population were total abstainers. During the war Lloyd George unsuccessfully campaigned for total abstinence, but at least laws were passed to license pub hours and limit the alcohol content of beers. Other legal measures restricted alcohol consumption in areas where there were troops or armament factories.

The YMCA at Fovant camp

One can imagine that there were two distinct motivations for the arduous task of cutting a large emblem on our hillsides. On the one hand, in the case of a regimental badge, soldiers of that unit worked together to cut a badge and there is some evidence of doing so in their spare time after daily duties. On the other hand, in the case of the YMCA badge, soldiers from right across the camp might have banded together to applaud the work of their local YMCA in this way.

Fovant camp didn't open until March 1915, and the battalions that cut the large British regimental badges arrived in early 2016. News that the war had been going badly on the Western Front would increasingly be filtering back, as soldiers returned to Fovant to join the next training groups or to be rehabilitated →



Beer Street by William Hogarth 1750-1751
(© Wellcome Images, Wellcome Library, London)



in the hospitals of the camp. It's hard to imagine what might have been going through the minds of the fresh young recruits in the camp, some of whom in a normal peacetime would never have travelled far from their neighbourhood.

The YMCA and the poppy as a symbol of remembrance

The poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those who died in military service is recognised principally in Great Britain, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, other Commonwealth countries, and the United States. In Germany the forget-me-not flower is used, and in France the cornflower in the form of the 'bleuet'. The Royal British Legion describes it as 'a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future'.

The origin of this remembrance symbol was described by FBS Patron, HRH The Earl of Wessex, at the 2016 annual Drumhead Service held at East Farm, Fovant, when he was able to attend to commemorate the new Centenary poppy badge – see above. The poppy story takes us to America and France.

One of the most famous poems of WWI was written by Canadian Lt Col John McCrae, "We Shall Not Sleep", sometimes called "In Flanders Fields" – see right.

It was first published in December 1915 in the London magazine Punch. Immediately popular, parts of the poem were used in appeals to recruit soldiers and raise money by selling war bonds.

Details on the Internet vary, but the version I like starts with Professor Moina Michael, who worked in the American YMCA

Overseas section. On 9 November 1918 she purchased 24 silk poppies to give to delegates at a convention, with her own vow to wear a poppy 'to keep the faith'. She then campaigned for this symbolism throughout the US. By September 1920, the National American Legion agreed to use the Flanders Fields Memorial Poppy as their emblem of Remembrance.

So how did the remembrance poppy arrive here?

A woman in the French YMCA, Anna E Guérin, had been present at that 1918 conference. Her role back in France included working with other WWI Allies – Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand – and she began to promote the idea of a universal memorial poppy. In 1921, she visited Field Marshal Earl Douglas Haig, founder and President of The British Legion, and is said to have persuaded him to adopt the Flanders Poppy as an emblem for The Legion.

The first British Poppy Day Appeal was launched in 1921. Proceeds from the sale of artificial French-made poppies were given to ex-servicemen in need of welfare and financial support. Then in 1922 our own Poppy Factory was established in Richmond-upon-Thames, by Major George Howson MC, founder of The Disabled Society for disabled ex-servicemen and women. With year-round manufacture, the factory employed five disabled people. It functions still, and with a further two factories, the British Legion now produces over 35 million poppies a year— TP

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Lt Col John McCrae



Teffont Magna

The beginning of the end of a Nadder chalk stream

Nick Blackford – Teffont

Teffont

The village of Teffont is defined by the beautiful spring-fed chalk stream, the Teff, that wends its way from the springs at the top of the village in Teffont Magna to join the Nadder just beyond the village boundary of Teffont Evias. The name Teffont is derived from the Frisian word for border 'Tef' and the Roman word for spring 'Fontana'.

There is evidence of early settlement at the spring site, with an Iron Age burial mound situated in the garden of Springhead and Roman coins, from the period of Emperor Constantine, having been dug up next to the spring itself. People have been enjoying the benefits of the year-round clean gin-fresh water for thousands of years.

Chalk Streams

The world has fewer than 300 chalk streams and most of these are in England. These streams occur where chalk bedrock meets the Earth's surface.

Their stable flow, cool, nutrient-rich waters support an exceptionally high number of species, to the point where these habitats are sometimes described as 'England's rainforests'. The Teff is no exception, hosting kingfishers, whose electric blue plumage always cause excitement when spotted, trout, grayling, water voles, water crowfoot, water starwort and all manner of insects including the Southern Damselfly, one of Europe's most endangered insects.

Springs no more

In July of this year, for the first time in living memory, the four springs at Springhead ran dry and have not returned to life and while lower down in the Teff there is still some flow, a report created by Wessex Water at

the request of Teffont PCC has confirmed that flow this autumn is lower than previous years. Anecdotally the view of those who have lived in Teffont all their lives is that the stream that used to flow so consistently all year round has been running lower and lower each year. If this trend continues, springs lower down the Teff will also dry up with the precious chalk stream becoming, at best, a

winterbourne, with much of the fragile wildlife lost to us during the summer months and at worst, a dry ditch that runs alongside the road. No doubt this would change the character of the Nadder as well.

Why is this happening?

Teffont sits upon a chalk aquifer, part of a series of chalk aquifers that spread from the south coast of Dorset and stretch in a band across England to the north Norfolk coast. Since 1987, Wessex Water have been extracting water from a borehole at Fonthill Bishop that sits on this aquifer. A study by the Environment Agency in 2013 concluded that this extraction does impact the Teffont Stream,

reducing flows by 28% in typical summer conditions. Conditions over the last few years, notably 2018 and this summer, have been anything but typical. We need to work with Wessex Water to have the extraction levels at the Fonthill Bishop borehole reduced so that this precious stream can be preserved.

If you are interested in helping, there will be a public meeting at Teffont Village Hall on Tuesday 6th December at 6pm, where the Principal Hydrologist from Wessex Water will answer questions.— NB





DATE	4 December			11 December			18 December			24 December			25 December			1 January 2023				
SUNDAY	Advent 2			Advent 3			Advent 4			Midweek Carol Services			Christmas Eve			Christmas Day				
SOUTHERN AREA																				
Ansty	11.15	MBCP	LAY	11.15	PC	MH	-	-	-	17 Dec 16.30	Carols	GS	-	-	-	11.15	AAC	GS	-	-
Compton Chamberlayne	09.30	PC	GS	-	-	-	16.00	Carols	GS	-	-	-	22.00	PC _T	GS	-	-	-	09.30	PC _T
Fovant	08.00	HC02T	GS	-	-	-	18.00	Carols	TF	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC	GS	08.00	HC02T
Sutton Mandeville	18.00	EBCP	+SL/GS	09.30	PC02T	GS	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.00	Carols	GS	-	-	-	-	-
Swallowcliffe	11.15	PC _T	GS	18.00	EBCP	GS	18.00	Carols	GS	-	-	-	22.00	PC _T	MH	11.15	AAS	JA	-	-
NORTHERN AREA																				
Barford St Martin	11.15	AAC	EB	09.30	McW	LAY	16.00	Carols	EB	-	-	-	22.00	PC	TF	-	-	-	11.15	AAC
Baverstock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16 Dec 18.00	Carols	EB	-	-	-	09.30	PC	EB	-	-
Chilmark	11.15	AAC	JN	09.30	AAS	EB	18.00	Carols	JA	15 Dec 11.00	Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School	EB/GS	22.00	PC	EB	11.15	AAC	CF	11.15	AAC
Dinton	09.30	AAC	EB	-	-	-	18.00	Carols	EB	13 Dec 13.30	Dinton School	EB	16.00	Crib Service	EB	09.30	AAC	MH	09.30	AAC
Teffont Evias	-	-	-	11.15	AAC	EB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teffont Magna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19 Dec 18.30	Carols	TF	-	-	-	11.15	AAC	EB	-	-
WESTERN AREA																				
Chicklade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 Dec 18.00	Carols	JN	18.00	PCBCP	JN	-	-	-	-	-
Hindon	09.30	PC	JN	09.30	AAC	JN	09.30	PC	JN	16 Dec 18.00 23 Dec 16.00	Carols Walking Nativity	JN	22.00	PC	JN	09.30	AAC	JN	09.30	PC
Fonthill Bishop	17.00	EBCP	JMH	08.00	HCBCP	SE	09.30	MBCP	JA	21 Dec 18.00	Carols	JMH	-	-	-	09.30	PCBCP	SE	17.00	EBCP
Fonthill Gifford	08.00	HCBCP	JMH	11.15	MBCP	JN	16.00	Carols	JMH	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.15	PCBCP	JMH	08.00	HCBCP
Tisbury	09.30	AAS	JMH	09.30	PC	MH	09.30	PC	JMH	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC	JMH	09.30	AAS
													16.00	Crib Service	JMH/JA					
										19 Dec 19.30	Village Carols	JMH	22.00	PC	JMH/JA					



Come and join us for a little quiet time and space to find

Healing and Wholeness



We invite you to join us for a time of prayer and contemplation – For yourself and for those whom you care about remembering that at this time of year all is not always as we would like it to be.

3.00pm
Wednesday
December 14th

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

Jesus came to earth that we should all be free: and the angels said, "Behold I bring you good news of great Joy"

* Please note the earlier winter timing! *

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

AJ Ven Alan Jeans
CF Colin Fox
EB Elaine Brightwell
GS Graham Southgate
JA Judy Anderson
JMH Juliette Hulme
JN Jo Naish
KH Karen Hutchinson
MH Mark Hayter
PG Paul Graves
SE Simon Evans
TF Tina Fox

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Sutton Mandeville
EVENSONG
4 DECEMBER – 6.00pm

The new Bishop of Salisbury will be preaching and you are warmly invited to attend and meet him.



Barford St Martin

To residents of Barford St Martin Does one of your neighbours need help?

The Nicholson Trust (Reg Charity No 309368) has assisted the people of Barford St Martin for 170 years. Originally founded to help young people into agricultural or domestic work, over the years it has adapted to the changing welfare and educational needs of the period. In the latter years of the 19th century it was a means of providing coal to needy residents. Throughout the 20th century it has provided one-off grants, in confidence, to alleviate hardship and assist education for Barford residents. Although the Trust assets are not large, it has stepped in as a local first line of emergency assistance whilst other welfare sources are organised.

The impact of energy cost increases and likely food prices during future months will have an impact upon the physical and mental health of many people. The Trustees would like you and your fellow Barford residents to be reminded that the Charity has modest funds available to help. You may come across instances of hardship emergencies and it would be useful to remind people that the Trust stands ready to help.

Should you be aware of a case where the Trust may be able to assist, please pass on the contact details of the Secretary to the Trustees:

The Secretary, The Nicholson Trust
C/O 2, The Poplars
West Street
Barford St Martin
Wiltshire
SP3 4AR

steph@sasevents.co.uk

ALL CASES ARE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

Roy Wilde
Co-Chairman, The Nicholson Trust



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impoverishing those who give.

It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts for ever.

None are so rich that they can get along without it; None are so poor, but are richer for the benefit.

It is rest to the weary, sunshine to the sad, and nature's best antidote for trouble.

It cannot be bought, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good until it is given away, and yet when it is given away, it always comes back. And nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none to give.

Thank you Rowena



TEA and CHATS for DECEMBER

We are running a tea and chat afternoon for all in Barford and Burcombe on

Thursday 8th DECEMBER

**from 2.00-4.00pm
in St Martins church
Barford St Martin**

There will be a short floral demonstration (a Christmas arrangement) by Lucy Cook.

Tea, coffee and cake and plenty of time to chat and meet others from the villages.

All welcome, no charge.

Hope to see as many of you as can come.

Many thanks Jenny Barrett.

Jennybarford@gmail.com



Christmas Charity Donation

At Christmas many of us like to give something to those who are in need.

Instead of bringing a present to church at Christmas, can you once again help us support local charities? Last year your generosity was so gratefully received. This year, it is still needed more than ever.

Salisbury Women's Refuge provides safety for families who have had to flee from abuse. This year, we have been advised that supermarket tokens of any value would be really helpful. Tesco and Sainsbury have big stores in Salisbury and tokens allow families who arrive to choose either essential items or presents for each other which is a real blessing.

Donations of non-perishable food items, particularly UHT fruit juices, tinned or dried food, or confectionary items for Christmas with a sell-by-date of End January 2023 or longer are also welcome for the Trussell Trust.

Please contact the Revd Jo Naish on revdjoannanaish@gmail.com or ask any member of the Nadder Valley ministry team to arrange for collection of goods or tokens.

Thank you so much for your help. Jo Naish
revdjoannanaish@gmail.com

Don't forget to let us have your email address and village name so that we can keep sending you an interactive copy of Village Buzz every month from January directly into your mail box!



read@village-buzz.co.uk

Sudoku solution December 22

from page 16

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

Crossword solution December 22

from page 17



WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE WITH US BUT HAVE NO ARTWORK?

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telephone: 01722 716874 | mobile: 07881 288027



Barford St Martin

2022 Children's Society Box Collection

Thank you to all Barford box holders for your generous support.

This year we have raised a total of £392.62 for this worthwhile charity.

Thanks so much – Sue Haddock



Advertising & article submission deadline

Tuesday 20 December

File formats we prefer to work with –

Text can be sent in Microsoft Word or Apple's Pages.

All adverts as high resolution Acrobat PDFs

All images as high resolution JPEGs (300ppi)

To maintain optimum quality for all our pages we only accept high resolution images.

In other words: Images must have a resolution of 300ppi (pixels to the inch).

Any problems please give Jan a call on **07881 288027**.

Dear dog owners and dog walkers!

A tiny selfish minority is continuing to spoil our wonderful countryside, paths and lanes! Please ensure that you pick up after your pet everytime you take your dog or dogs for a walk so that we can all enjoy our walks without stepping into anything nasty!

*Awe...
Come on!*

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- 2 Outline your lawn
- 3 Submit your details



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