

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR VILLAGES NESTLING IN THE NADDER VALLEY

OCTOBER 2022

BARFORD ST MARTIN, BAVERSTOCK, BURCOMBE, CHICKSGROVE, COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE, DINTON, FOVANT, SUTTON ROW, TEFFONT EVIAS, TEFFONT MAGNA, UGFORD **Seriously Challenging Summer** Ben Jeans – page 3 Species of the month Peter Thompson – page 6 **Constable in Salisbury part 2** Paul Cordle – page 12



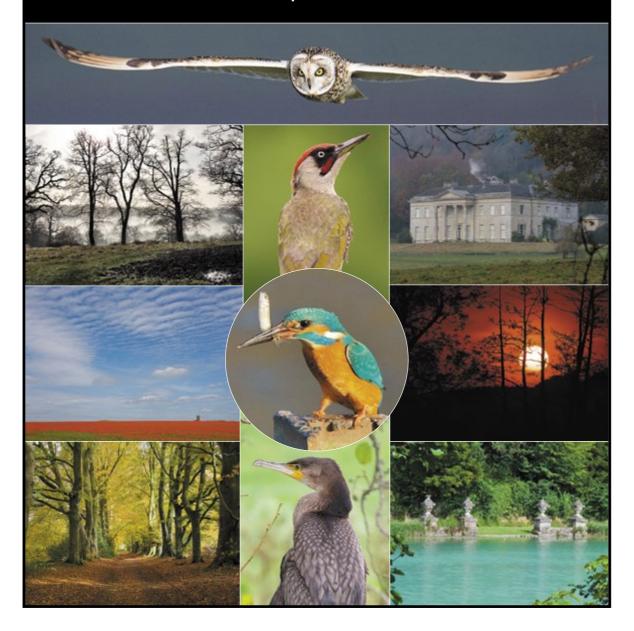
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A seriously challenging summer

Ben Jeans - Compton Chamberlayne

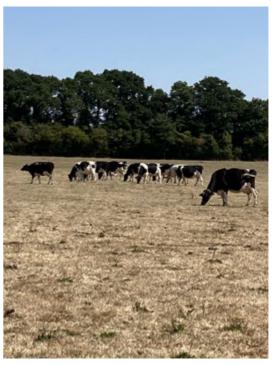
Whilst I fully appreciate the impacts that fossil fuel emissions have had on our climate in recent years, I'm always cautious about blaming every bit of extreme weather on this cause and reacting in a knee-jerk manner. After all, climate 'averages' are only that, and extremes have always occurred, as has global warming and cooling. However, after our third extreme drought in the 5 years since we took our arable enterprise back in-house, combined with two savagely wet autumns, I'm starting to wonder if a pattern is in fact emerging around which we might be able to rationally adapt.

With just 15 mm of rain over the months of July and August compared to the 2 month 'average' of 121 mm, combined with record-breaking and sustained heat, we have had a seriously challenging summer.

Grass growth stopped by early July and we were already having to feed our expensive winter fodder to our milking cows by this stage. Milk output dropped sharply as we buffered the ration with lower quality straw (something which we do have 'on tap') in order to eke out the higher quality silage so that we have enough for winter. Cows were dried off a few weeks earlier than usual ahead of our autumn calving period and moved up to the downland pastures to join our youngstock and ewes. Fortunately in these pastures we had built up some reserves of standing

hay – mature, headed grass of low quality but high dry matter – perfect for a pregnant or 'in calf' dry cow to stop them becoming over-conditioned. Much planning, fencing and emergency livestock

> movements followed (often during the peak and heat of harvest) and I think we have come through relatively unscathed, although the farm finances have taken a hit and will continue to do so. Importantly, the livestock haven't suffered and in fact, look particularly well. As I write, the heavens have finally opened and I think we are just about out of the woods. With a bit of luck the 320 acres of oilseed rape that we have recently drilled into fairly dusty seedbeds might even start growing away from the dreaded flea beetle! →







There are two plant types of bryony native to the UK. The black bryony which is a member of the yam family and the White bryony, which I am going to talk about here, the only native wild plant belonging to the cucurbit family (Cucumbers, courgettes, pumpkins, melons).

White bryony is a scrambling perennial climber, with large, five-lobed leaves, climbing tendrils, and greenish summer flowers, followed by red berries in the autumn. These berries,

which are greenish at first, turning orange then red, are highly poisonous. Just 40 berries are lethal for adults, whilst only 15 are needed to kill a child.

The plant also has large, poisonous, tuberous roots, which with older plants can grow to the size of a new-born baby and weigh several kilos.

Historically, white bryony roots were sometimes used as a cheap substitute for the Mediterranean plant mandrake

(Mandragora officinarum). Mandrake roots often grow to resemble the human form and were therefore considered to be useful for enhancing sexual potency. But as mandrake doesn't grow in Britain's cooler climate, it was cheaper and more convenient to carve white bryony roots to look like mandrake roots, or even to grow them in special moulds so that they formed the expected shape.

There was money to made from these roots depicting the human body. The medical writer John Pechey (1655-1716) wrote "Jugglers and fortune-tellers make wonderful monsters of this root, which, they have hidden in sand for some days, before digging it up for mandrakes; and by this imposture these knaves impose on our common people."

Mandrake was also used as a soporific (sleepinducing) and pain-killing plant for many hundreds of years. Mandrake is a powerful narcotic,

emetic, sedative, hallucinogen and was also considered to increase interest in sexual activity.

However, when the more poisonous white bryony tubers were substituted and sold to unfortunate victims as mandrake roots, it acted more as a purgative and resulted in terrible diarrhoea.

It was undoubtably the 'form' that these roots took that mainly attracted buyers, however. Indeed, bawdy competitions, known as Venus Nights, used to be held in village inns,

for the most strikingly anthropomorphic bryony root in female form. The prize-winning root was sometimes given to childless women to place under their pillows or hung in the sow's sty as an encouragement for her to produce large litters!

The male form was created too, as William
Shakespeare knew well and wrote "he was for all the
world like a forked radish, with a head fantastically

upon it with
a knife. He
was so forlorn,
that his dimensions
to any thick sight were
invisible; yet lecherous as
a monkey, and the whores called
him mandrake. (Henry IV Part Two Act III, Sc. 2)

carved

But there was an even darker side to this plant, as many curses also flourished in the suspicious minds of that time. Stories such as the man who was digging a neglected garden half a mile from Stratford-upon-Avon, who cut through a large root of white bryony with his spade. He called it mandrake, and ceased to work at once, saying it was 'awful bad luck'. Before the week was out, he fell down some steps and broke his neck.

Stories like this spread rapidly through the population, not helped by the likes of William Shakespeare who wrote "What with loathsome smells, and shrieks like mandrakes torn out of the earth, that living mortals, hearing them, run mad... (Romeo and Juliet Act IV, Sc. 3). Yes, apparently these roots 'shrieked' as they were pulled from the ground, verifying their human likeness.

My own story, told to me by a very old man when I was just a youngster, goes like this. A farmer had just grubbed out a hedge on the farm and left an assortment of roots and debris on the surface.

The farm cows were then let out into the field. On returning to the field later in the day, the farmer

was shocked to find that half his cattle had died, and the rest were very ill. They had been eating white bryony tubers. He quickly removed the cattle that were still alive.

Sometime later when the dead cows had been cleared away and the ground emptied of white bryony roots, the cattle that had survived the ordeal were let out into the field once more. The

Sometime later when the dead cows had been cleared away and the ground emptied of white bryony roots, the cattle that had survived the ordeal were let out into the field once more. The farmer was astonished to see the cattle run across the where the hedge had been removed and start pawing at the ground, desperately trying to find more of the deadly roots. They had become addicted after just one feed, even though it had nearly killed them.

Anyway, despite all of this I think that bryony is a fascinating plant, with lots of intrigue attached to it and heaps of attitude! That is why I named my daughter Bryony!

-PT

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

LAST CALL — Reference the Village Buzz article on hedgehogs in the May issue – should you see a hedgehog in the Village Buzz area – do please send me the date of your observation and a place (either a house number/name and post code or an ordnance survey grid reference). Send the info through to either my email: peter. gl.thompson@outlook.com or text me on 07710344340. Thank you.



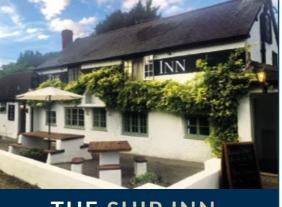
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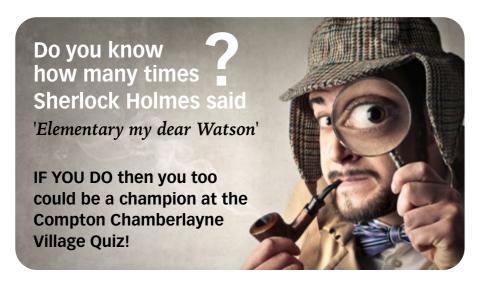
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Tickets are £15 each and include as usual a first class Fish & Chip meal and a free 'aperitif' on arrival.



Please let Sara Willan know as soon as possible if you are coming and if you have a team or preferred team to be in.

sarawillan@gmail.com

If you know anyone without email, then please pass this message to them so they can also come along. A selection of drinks will be available on the night for a small donation and all proceeds from the event will go to running and maintaining our wonderful Village Hall.

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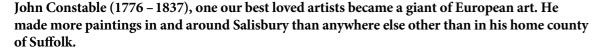
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Constable in Salisbury – Part 2

Paul Cordle - Chicksgrove



Last month we saw how Constable had been drawn to Salisbury by his friendship with the Bishop of Salisbury, Dr John Fisher, his wife and their nephew the Reverend Jon Fisher (1). He visited the city seven times between 1811 and 1820 and painted over 300 works there and in the surrounding countryside. Four of his best known Salisbury paintings are included this month; in each we see how he achieved an extraordinary atmospheric effect with his treatment of the sky and clouds. Besides using them in all their changing moods, Constable also studied

and included rainbows in his work. He said this of them "To the Romantics, the rainbow seemed the ultimate image of everything in life that was beautiful but transitory, visible but intangible".

We see this in two of his most powerful and highly acclaimed watercolours to which medium he turned in 1829 – Old Sarum (1834) and Stonehenge (1835), so different in style to his work in oils that one might think they are the work of a different artist. As in his oil paintings, Constable continued to use the sky to dramatic effect.

Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows c. 1825, private collection. (Below left)

Constable considered this to be his most important oil painting; he referred to it as 'the great Salisbury'. He had been encouraged to paint it by Archdeacon John Fisher as a larger version (a 'six footer') of an earlier work following his wife Maria's death. It is very likely that the original version exhibited in 1831 did not feature a rainbow as neither the reviews at the time mention it despite the critics' focus on what they described as 'a strange, chaotic sky' nor do Constable's sketches for the original work show any traces of it. It has been suggested that he added it in tribute to his friend Archdeacon John Fisher

who died after the exhibition and on whose home, Leadenhall, the base of the rainbow rests. He never found a buyer for the painting which remained in his studio until his death.

Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds. (Below right)

Originally commissioned by Bishop John Fisher in 1820, Constable made several versions of this oil painting which was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1823. It is of the southern face of the Cathedral seen from the grounds of the Bishop's Palace (now the Cathedral School). The water (a canal) was originally a naturally formed stretch of water, part





Constable in Salisbury – Part 2 continued

Paul Cordle - Chicksgrove

of the City's medieval water system, which flowed into the River Avon beyond the Cathedral Close to the south. Constable said of this work "My Cathedral looks very well ... considering how much I dreaded it. It was the most difficult landscape I ever had on my easel." The figures of his friends Bishop John Fisher, his wife Dorothea and their daughter Dolly (beyond) are on the path to the left of the painting. The combination of the water and cattle can wrongly lead people to think that this is Constable's water meadows ie his 'great Salisbury'.

Old Sarum, 1834. (Below left).

This watercolour has been described as, 'one of the most powerful statements of Romanticism to have been produced in England'. Note the dramatically formed clouds and the suggestion of a rainbow to the right. Two years before Constable painted this, Old Sarum had ceased to be a rotten borough (2)

Stonehenge, watercolour c. 1836 (Below right). Constable first made a sketch of Stonehenge in 1820 and eventually worked this up into a large watercolour for his last exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1836. He made this romantic, albeit melancholy, painting at a sad time in his life; his wife Maria had died in 1828 and his closest friend Archdeacon John Fisher in 1832. The exhibition catalogue (probably Constable himself) described "the mysterious monument of Stonehenge standing remote on a bare and boundless heath...' Note the suggestion of a double rainbow. —PC

Notes

- The Reverand John Fisher, nephew of the Bishop of Salisbury, later became Archdeacon of Berkshire and thus known as the Venerable John Fisher.
- 2. Old Sarum is notable for having been one of England's 56 rotten boroughs. Although Old Sarum and the land immediately around it comprised one farm and hundreds of sheep it was, nonetheless, represented in Parliament by two MPs. The existence of rotten boroughs was grossly unfair to the new densely populated industrial centres for example, cities like Manchester with a population of 126,000 (1821) which returned one MP to Parliament. Rotten boroughs ceased to exist with the passing of the hotly opposed Great Reform Act 1832.

Further reading

There are countless art books available in libraries and shops. A new book 'Constable: A Portrait' by James Hamilton, published in February 2022, is available in hard and paper back. It has received very good reviews in the Sunday Times and The Telegraph.











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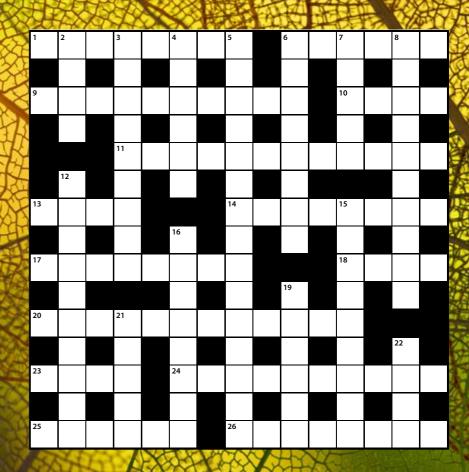
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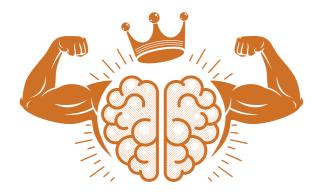
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			2						XX
	6			3		9			5



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.



October's Brain Gym

SOLUTION ON PAGE 31

Across

- 1 The region of Italy which forms the "toe" of its geographical "boot" (8)
- Mill, a BBC television studio complex in Edgbaston, Birmingham, from 1971 to 2004 (6)
- In law, a joint heir to a property or an estate (10)
- 10 A T-shaped cross with a loop above the horizontal bar, the symbol of life (4)
- 11 Thomas ____, English artist who painted the full-length portrait The Blue Boy in 1779 (12)
- 13 The ____, gang who opposed the Puerto Rican Sharks in the musical West Side Story (4)
- 14 Courteously deferential and respectful (8)
- 17 Clive ____, inventor who produced the first slimline electronic pocket calculator in 1972 (8)
- 18 American psychedelic rock band who recorded the 1967 album Forever Changes (4)
- 20 Illustrator who became the inaugural British Children's Laureate in 1999 (7,5)
- 23 A group of islands off the west coast of Ireland, home of the eponymous cable-stitch knitted sweater (4)
- 24 An annual award given by UK's Crime Writers' Association since 1960 for the best crime novel of the year (4,6)
- English city, known as Isca Dumnoniorum under Roman rule(6)
- 26 Hampshire village, the birthplace of pioneering naturalist and ornithologist Gilbert White (8)

Down

- 2 The smallest particle in an element which can take part in a chemical reaction (4)
- 3 Any medicine, such as aspirin, that reduces pain without inducing unconsciousness (9)
- 4 Shane ____, actor who plays Alfie Moon in the TV soap opera EastEnders (6)
- 5 Literally "a year of horrors", the term used by Queen Elizabeth Il to refer to the royal misfortunes of 1992 (5,10)
- 6 Historically, a licensed seller of papal indulgences (8)
- 7 The ____, children's comic which includes the characters Minnie the Minx and Billy Whizz (5)
- 8 Body of water on whose shores the Swiss city of Lausanne lies (4,6)
- 12 Athenian tragedy by Sophocles about the king of Thebes who killed his father Laius and married his mother Jocasta (7,3)
- 15 A vocal exercise in which runs, scales, etc, are sung to the same syllable or syllables (9)
- 16 Kim ____, actress who played the Bond girl Domino Petachi in the film Never Say Never Again (8)
- 19 A member of a north-eastern Germanic people who overran Gaul, Spain, and North Africa, and sacked Rome in 455 (6)
- 21 A musical composition for nine performers (5)
- 22 Small family hatchback car produced by Spanish manufacturers SEAT since 1998 (4)

SOLUTION ON PAGE 31

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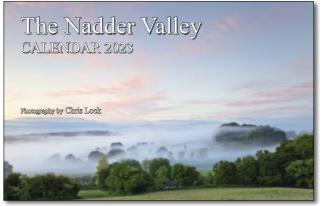


The Nadder Valley CALENDAR 2023





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Last year, sales of the 2022 calendar raised £2,720 for Wiltshire based international children's charity **Hope and Homes for Children** (reg. charity no. 1089490). This money supports the charity's overseas programmes, including their work in Ukraine. The 2023 calendar is now available and all proceeds will once again be donated to the charity. Priced at £11.00 and with images by professional photographer Chris Lock, this beautiful calendar celebrates the local landscape in all its seasonal glory.

You can buy your copy from: Tisbury Post Office, Ansty PYO & Farm Shop, Bird & Carter, Fonthill Bishop, Spectrum Design and Print, Wilton, Valley News, Wilton

Compton Events

An exciting series of talks is planned this autumn at Compton Chamberlayne Village Hall.

STARTING AT 7PM, EACH TALK SHOULD LAST AROUND ONE HOUR WITH TIME FOR QUESTIONS AFTERWARDS.

A glass of wine and nibbles will be available from 6.30pm.

All talks will cost £15, and tickets are available from:
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Friday 4th November

Charlie Walker is an explorer specialising in human-powered expeditions. He lives between London and Bowerchalke.

A trek along Siberia's frozen Lena River

This year Charlie has undertaken a self-supported trek along Siberia's frozen Lena River from Yakutsk to the Arctic Coast at 72° North, to photograph and document the region's remote indigenous communities. Hear how he was imprisoned in Russia, not knowing how long he would be detained.





Nadder Valley Benefice – Church Services

DATE 2 October		9 October			16 October		23 October			30 October					
SUNDAY Trinity 16		Trinity 17		Trinity 18		Last after Trinity			4 before Advent						
SOUTHERN AREA															
Ansty	11.15	AAS Harvest	JA	11.15	PC	МН	11.15	НСвср	TF	11.15	AAC	GS	-	-	-
Compton Chamberlayne	09.30	PC _T Patronal	GS	-	-	-	11.15	AAS	JA	-	-	-	09.30	PC _T Area Service	GS
Fovant	08.00	HC _{O2T}	GS	-	-	-	18.00	E _{BCP}	МН	09.30	PC	GS	-	-	-
Sutton Mandeville	18.00	E _{BCP} Harvest	GS	09.30	PC _{02T}	МН	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swallowcliffe	11.15	PCT	GS	18.00	E _{BCP}	SE	08.00	HC _{BCP}	EB	11.15	Мвср	LAY	-	-	-
NORTHERN AREA															
Barford St Martin	11.15	AAC Harvest	ЕВ	09.30	Mcw	LAY	09.30	HCBCP	EB	09.30	AAC	ЕВ	-	-	-
Baverstock	18.00	E _{BCP} Harvest	ЕВ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chilmark	11.15	AAC	ЈМН	09.30	AAS Harvest	EB	11.15	AAC	ЕВ	11.15	MPr/M	LAY	-	-	-
Dinton	09.30	AAC	ЕВ	11.15	AAC Harvest	EB	09.30	AAC	TF	09.30	Mcw	МН	-	-	-
Teffont Evias	-	-	-	11.15	AAC	TF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teffont Magna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.15	AAS Harvest	ЕВ	10.00	AAC Area Service	ЕВ
WESTERN AREA															
Chicklade	18.00	E _{BCP} Harvest	JN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hindon	09.30	PC	JN	09.30	AAC	CF	18.00	Евср	SE	09.30	PC	SE	-	-	-
Fonthill Bishop	-	-	-	08.00 17.00	HC _{BCP} E _{BCP} Harvest	JMH JMH	09.30	Мвср	JA	-	-	-	10.00	PC _{BCP} Area Service Patronal	JMH/ JN
Fonthill Gifford	08.00	НСвср	МН	11.15	Мвср	JMH/ +SL	08.00	HC _{BCP}	SE	11.15	Мвср	ЈМН	-	-	-
Tisbury	09.30	AAS	ЈМН	09.30	PC	+SL/ JMH	09.30	PC	МН	08.00	HC _{BCP}	ЈМН			
										09.30	PC	ЈМН			
							18.00	EBCP Choral	JA						



Do you need a little quiet time? ...and space to find

Healing and Wholeness



We would like to invite you to join us for a time of prayer and contemplation For yourself and for those whom you care about when times are difficult and you need a quiet space.

6.00pm Wednesday October 12th

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

A time of prayer for you and all the needs of your world.

Jesus says "Come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest"

SERVICES

MPr

AAC All Age Communion AAS All Age Service BCP Book of Common Prayer CbE Communion be Extension CW Common Worship Evensong or Evening Prayer FC All Age Family Communion HC Holy Communion (said) HC_{O2T/C} Order 2 Communion, traditional/contemporary Mattins or Morning Prayer

Morning Praise

PC Order 1 Communion (with hymns) Order 1 Communion. РСт traditional language (with hymns) Order 2 Communion, PC_{02T} traditional language (with hymns) PCo2T/C Order 2 Communion, traditional/contemporary RS Reflective Service SoP Songs of Praise SoW All Age Service of the Word

CLERGY

Colin Fox EΒ Elaine Brightwell GS Graham Southgate Judy Anderson JΑ Juliette Hulme **JMH** JN Jo Naish МН Mark Hayter Simon Evans SE +SL The Bishop of Salisbury TF Tina Fox

Children's Holiday Autumn Workshop

Wednesday 26th October 2pm-4pm IN THE HINTON HALL TISBURY

An afternoon of fantastic creative activities , music and story, interesting challenges and more with the Nadder Valley Team.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!

Contact Revd Jo Naish on 01747871820 or email – revdjoannanaish@gmail.com to book your spot.

All children will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times so come and join us in exploring our faith together in new and unexpected ways.

Revisiting our memories

This week we spoke to a small Mothers' Union group. It's been in the diary forever, and finally the date arrived. They wanted to hear about a trip we took to Canada. When we came to prepare for it, we were taken by surprise to find that this took place in 2015, seven years ago! How time flies! The pandemic seems to have removed a chunk of our lives, doesn't it?

However, presenting the details of our trip was a lovely experience and took us back to some very happy days.

As Christians, we are told that we should live in the present, don't look back and do not worry about the future. In these times we are living, however, how do we not worry? Isn't it just human nature...? Every one of us is affected by what is going on in our world today, whether it be the war in Ukraine, continued symptoms or fear of Covid, taking care of our elderly along with the struggles of the NHS and the care system, housing issues, job worries, and, dare I say, how we are going to keep warm this winter...

I'm afraid I don't have the answer to these problems but what I can say is that it did us good to revisit our Canada trip and share our memories. So, may I suggest we all, on a regular basis, take some time out, away from the worries of this world today. Take a trip down memory lane – Not to dwell on the past, but to treasure our memories, the good ones. Look at old photo albums, watch a video, be with friends or family to enjoy a cuppa or a glass of something and escape the worries of today.

Be grateful for what we have and have had in the past.

After I wrote this piece the sad news came through about Her Majesty's passing away. What an amazing person she was and how it has brought back all our memories of times we may have seen her or even met her. She was well aware of how important our communities are and some of the memories for me are of the street parties we had celebrating various jubilees!

May God bless you all through these sad and tricky times.

Revd Tina Fox Associate Minister





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Tisbury Bowls and Croquet Club and Momentous Moments

David Morley - Chairman, Tisbury Bowls and Croquet Club

EVERYONE'S FOCUS THROUGHOUT MUCH OF SEPTEMBER has quite rightly been on the sad, sad news about the Queen. Sad because, inevitable as it was, some-day, it was somehow surprising, and almost 'shocking' in its enormity, when it actually had happened. This great lady was suddenly no longer there to guide our affairs of State, so soon after her pivotal role in formalising the appointment of her 15th Prime Minister! That said, mourning gave a wonderful opportunity for peaceful reflection of all the different ways that her very presence affected our everyday lives. It also allowed time for the carefully structured mechanism of succession of the monarchy to happen, and for 'her people' to become comfortable with life as subjects of King Charles III.

Queen Elizabeth the Second had been the patron of the Croquet Association, a role that perhaps took her back to when, eighty years ago at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, she first met (and played croquet with), the man she would one day marry.

As the seasons change, Bowls players

will typically gravitate to 'indoor Bowls' at this time of the year. By contrast, Croquet will continue to be played throughout much of the winter, subject only to the conditions of the green, which in turn will be most affected by the weather.

The Tisbury Bowls and Croquet Club (TBCC), officially opened in June of this year, since which time membership has increased to over forty, with three quarters of these being interested in playing Croquet (and many of these have a genuine interest to give Bowls a try!). Our aim for 2023 is to comfortably grow that number by a further 20-30 new members.

Amongst the current Club members are a number of experienced croquet players, several of whom really enjoy the prospect of teaching those who are either new to the sport or who want to improve their standard of play.



edit to: Britannia Museum, Dartmouth.

The next few months are the ideal period to come and see what this growing interest in Croquet is all about. An introductory game, with some good quality instruction available, will soon show just how interesting the game is whilst at the same time bringing people together, often in mixed groups drawn from a variety of age-groups. TBCC's "WhatsApp"

facility helps to keep members in touch with what games are going on and who is looking for partners (or opponents!). If players like what they have experienced, the membership list for the 2023 season will soon be open and a year's subscription to the Club, as a Christmas Present could make a brilliant start for many to the New Year! — **DM**

Do please contact us on: info@tisburybowlsandcroquet.com soon, and quite literally, GET THE BALL ROLLING!!

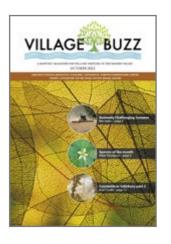
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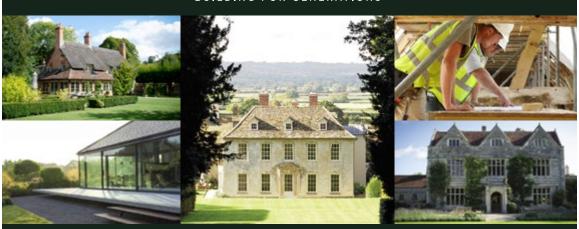
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