

BREMHILL, FOXHAM, THE TYTHERTONS AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

January 2015

The Newsletter

Happy
New Year
2015

In this issue: • More rural arts • Broadband update
• Parish Council news • Maud Heath? • Small thoughts
• Royal Rice Pud • Childhood memories • WI updates



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 7th Jan Viewing for 3000 house riverside development
- 9th Jan Pizza Evening - Tytherton
- 23rd Jan Neighbourhood plan - East Tytherton
- 30th Jan Cheese and Wine & Auction of promises
- 31st Jan 3 Course Supper - Tytherton
- 6th Feb Neighbourhood plan - Foxham
- 7th Feb Soup and Puds - Bremhill
- 13th Feb Neighbourhood plan - Bremhill
- 28th Feb Deadline - Renew and repair grant
- 5th March Rural Arts - Seven Ages - Bremhill
- 2nd May East Tytherton May Fair



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EDITORIAL

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

A New Year presents us always with the opportunity to look forward and think about the future. However, I have recently found myself doing the opposite and looking backwards! Whether we look back with regret or pleasure, the past is important to us as it gives us a picture of what formed us. Memories are so often recalled by an object, a place or a smell and importantly, recording the past means we keep these memories intact. I regret not having sat down with my mother and a tape-recorder and talked to her about her life in the thirties during the Depression and about working within the Poor Law system - but sadly those recollections are lost now.

There have been a number of books and programmes recently telling history through objects - the history of England in 100 maps or the history of Europe in 100 objects. I don't have a hundred, but I do have a few objects which bring back memories. I still have an old, scruffy woolly dog which brings back my earliest recollections. I have an oar I used when rowing as a student, with my fellow oarsmen's names on it. There is a photograph of me on a bike I borrowed from my then girl-friend when a student and which I managed to lose! I spent an agonised two weeks trying to avoid her hoping she would forget, but not a chance - she didn't and I suffered even more agony!

Rural communities have a wealth of history and Bremhill Parish's past is admirably being investigated by a history group. We all have something of interest to recount, even if we don't always believe it can be interesting, but in fact it does all add up to a snapshot of life at a specific moment. What do you remember doing when you were seven or eight? What was school like? What was farming like in Foxham fifty/sixty years ago?

So, here's the challenge! Think of a few meaningful objects, places or other things which jog your memory about when you were younger - it doesn't matter what age! - and write a short piece for the Newsletter about them and your memories. We would be very interested to receive your accounts and to put them in the Newsletter. Don't be shy - consider the charming example in this issue! Rest assured, if you prefer to be published anonymously we will certainly do that! Let us keep alive some vivid pictures of the past.

Ewen Bird - Co-editor





ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 100 CLUB WINNERS

We have had a wonderful response to the 100 Club this year again. Thank you to all those who have subscribed. It is never too late to subscribe but it will still cost you £12 a go. The quicker you get on board the more chances you will have to win. We have collected £1920, so the total prize pot is £960. The other £920 will go towards the fabric of the Church. The monthly 1st prize this year will be £40.00 and the 2nd prize will be £24.00. The Super prize, picked in October 2015, will be £192.00.

The November winners were plucked from the bucket by Jim Scott and the December winners by Judy Scott.

November: 1st Prize, Jane Blackmore. 2nd Prize, Val Pocock.

December: 1st Prize, Cindy Ervine and Nigel Malik. 2nd Prize, Hannah Chase.

Well done to the winners and good luck to everyone for the January draw.

David Stevens



RURAL ARTS TOURING

Everyone really enjoyed the start to the festive season with 'A Victorian Christmas'. So here is news about the next event.

Seven Ages - The Kepow Theatre Company

Date: Thursday, 5th March 2015

Time: Doors open 7 pm. Start 7.30 pm

Venue: Bremhill Village Hall

This is a magical comedy about the seven stages of life. Essentially a comedy - with touching moments in it. The company has toured internationally and had five star reviews at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Marilyn and Rosie





THE BELLS OF BREMHILL

The Bremhill bells will be ringing on 30th Dec. for an hour from 2 pm in thanks giving for the life of Joan Frayling. Joan was a faithful Bremhill bell ringer for over 50 years and was due to celebrate her 89th Birthday on the 30th.

It is hoped that Bremhill church bells will ring out the Old Year & ring in the New Year. This tradition has lapsed in the last decade & depends on experienced bell ringers being available.

Would you like to become a member of the team who ring Bremhill church bells? You need a reasonable sense of rhythm and co-ordination but the most important attribute is reliability! Please contact me

Ken Webb
01249 760682



EAST TYTHERTON MAY FAIR

Proposed date Saturday 2nd May 2015.
Watch this space for further details soon!




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FRENCH EVENING

We held the French evening at Bremhill Village Hall on Friday, 21 November in aid of the fabric of St Martin's Church. We had 49 diners to commemorate the Battle of Normandy, 70 years ago this summer. Our diners came from far and wide, including a large group from Foxham.

However, we could not have done this without the wonderful help from so many kind people; all the cooks, raffle ticket sellers, the washing up brigade, Ewen, our French translator, folk who cleared all the chairs and tables, Paula, our waitress, George with his anecdotes and, of course, all who came and ate. We raised £621 net. This will go a long way to help with the much needed ventilation of the Church.

Merci beaucoup, mes amis!

David and Philippa Stevens



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2014.

To all the people who gave so generously this year a big thank you. This year the collecting box held £112.50 which was a record for Foxham and especially good as I could only get to half the village, having had an unfortunate accident which made getting in and out of the car too difficult. It was very much appreciated that some of the people who live between the church and Wood Farm rang me to see why I hadn't visited them and some even brought their donation down to me - so a big thank you for your loyalty.

This year was a special year for the Royal British Legion and your donations, and the £121 sent from the Remembrance Day collection made in the church, will all go towards the total collected for this area. This in turn will go towards the national target of £40m which, it is hoped, will be achieved this special centenary year.

Elizabeth Hannah.





FOXHAM PUMPKIN BALL

The Pumpkin Ball held on November 1st, at the Reading Room was a fun evening, much enjoyed by all who attended.

£1,550 was raised and this will be donated to St John the Baptist church, The Reading Room and Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Very many thanks to all who attended and made the evening so successful.

Fay Wardall



TYTHERTON VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Friday 9th January - Pizza Evening

Had enough of celebrations? Feel like a relaxed evening? Join us for a pizza in the Tytherton Village Hall on Friday 9th January.

Order at the bar, which is open from 6pm, and the pizzas will be delivered; pay just for what you order. No booking required.

Saturday 31st January - January Supper

A 3-course meal in the Tytherton Village Hall with a selection of casseroles, desserts, cheese and biscuits, coffee and mints. It's always a great community event - all welcome from the whole parish.

Adults £10.00 Children £5.00 Family £25.00 (for 2 adults, 2 children).

For tickets contact Mary Ann Bailey on 01249 740208 or baileyfarm@btconnect.com



CHIPPENHAM RIVERSIDE

Chippenham 2020 are intending to put in an outline planning application in February for a housing development to be known as Chippenham Riverside. This will involve the building of up to 3,000 new houses to the east of Chippenham on Bremhill Parish land at Harden's and New Lease Farms.

There will be a presentation by Chippenham 2020 of the proposed plans on Wednesday 7th January in Chippenham Town Hall. It is open to the public from 4 - 8pm.





BREMHILL PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to thank land-owners who have cleared watercourses and ditches in the Parish this year. This helps to keep our properties dry, our roads passable and people safe. It would be excellent if we could encourage all land-owners to continue with this important work. In addition Bremhill Parish Council considers that Parishioners may find the following article from Wiltshire Council interesting.

From Wiltshire Council Parish Newsletter 8th December 2014

Local flood risk management strategy

Flooding is a serious issue in Wiltshire, with extensive flooding in the north of the county taking place in 2007 and 2008, and more recently last December and the first two months 2014, when over 500 properties were affected. Wiltshire Council is the lead local flood authority for the county and has prepared a local flood risk management strategy to describe its approach to flooding and how it will work with other organisations. Wiltshire Council's local flood risk strategy seeks to:

- Improve knowledge regarding flood risk
- Improve protection from flooding
- Improve resilience to flooding
- Improve the environment
- Improve communications about flooding issues

The council is seeking the views of the public, local councils, other organisations and the public regarding the proposed strategy. You can read the strategy and make your views known online at the Wiltshire Council website. The results of the consultation will be reported to the council's cabinet when the strategy is considered for adoption early next year.

Renew & repair grant

We have to date received around 70 applications for the Government repair and renew grant which was for home owners who flooded last winter. If you know of anyone who was flooded last winter (between 1 December 2013 and 31 March 2014) and either installed, or was thinking about installing, measures to make their property more resistant or resilient to flooding, there is still time to claim. The deadline for applications is the 28th February.





More information about whether you are eligible to apply can be found on our website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/floodingrepairrenewgrant.htm>

Further help for flood victims

Wiltshire residents and businesses who suffered flooding last winter have been offered further financial support. Telephone: 0300 456 0100 , Textphone: 01225 712500 , Web: www.wiltshire.gov.uk The package of support comes from the Department of Communities and Local Government, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, and the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs. Around 500 homes were flooded in Wiltshire last winter. The schemes being extended are:

- Council Tax Relief Scheme, supporting councils to provide council tax rebates to residents whose homes were flooded.
- Business Rates Relief Scheme, supporting councils to provide business rates rebates to businesses whose premises were flooded.
- Severe Weather Recovery Scheme (communities' element) to support local authorities with the costs associated with impacts on local communities.
- Repair and Renew: which provides grants of up to £5,000 for flooded homeowners and businesses to improve the resilience of their properties; and
- Business Support Scheme, providing hardship funding to businesses affected by the floods.

Jonathon Seed, cabinet member for flooding, said: "This is excellent news for those residents and businesses who were badly hit by flooding last winter and particularly those who suffered from the exceptional rainfall in September. Hopefully this additional financial boost will help them with their continued recovery. The council works with residents, businesses, parish councils and other agencies on flood prevention throughout the year, and helps manage the emergency response during flooding. We fully understand how devastating flooding can be, and appreciate the importance of all support from national and local government, both practical and financial."

Elsbeth Norman





The following article appeared in the Bath Chronicle in 1941 and was discovered by a member of the Bremhill History Group.

NEW LIGHT ON MAUD HEATH - LEGENDS DEBUNKED WILTS EX-MAYOR'S TALK AT BATH

You have heard of the famous Causeway that runs 4½ miles from Wick Hill, in the parish of Bremhill, to Chippenham Clift. Mr E.N. Tuck, a former mayor of Chippenham and well-known public man and archaeologist in that town speaking to Bath and District Branch of Somerset Archeological Society on Thursday afternoon, debunked some of the popular legends associated with Maud Heath, the Causeway's founder.

Firstly, she was not Maud but Matilda, not Heath but Hethe, said Mr. Tuck, who produced her will (lost for years) as well as other forgotten documents.

Not a Spinster

Thus he brought chapter and verse for his really captivating story. In earlier research, continued Mr. Tuck, she was described as a spinster. In fact she was a widow. Writers, too, stated that she belonged to Langley Burrell. Instead she was an inhabitant of Bremhill. It was equally untrue that she was a poor old farm woman who used to trudge with her produce the 4½ miles to Chippenham Market.

Gentle Birth?

She was, at any rate, the wife of a prosperous farmer or even of gentler birth who left money and lands to build the famous path or causeway. Her bequest in 1474 was of the annual value of £8, but in 1904 it was £200.

Some of the houses included were in Chippenham, which carried a vote for the local M.P., so that some worth 2s. a week were let at £40 a year and the 14 years lease of two cottages actually fetched 981 guineas.

Many Changes

The path itself has undergone many vicissitudes, and the last part is not 90 years old yet. In places its route has been changed several times. Land has been bought to straighten portions out or round off corners.

Miss Russ, the hon. secretary, a fit successor to Mr G. Gray, very charmingly and eruditely thanked Mr. Tuck for his exceedingly pleasing address.





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TYTHERTON WI

On October 29th, five members made the journey to Salisbury for the annual Council meeting. We were indeed well entertained by Mike Dilger, who gave us an informative window on his background and how he 'fell' into TV. The County Police Commissioner gave us a more sober, but interesting lecture. The plus was that two of our ladies were able to chat to him and had photographs taken. Quite a bonus!



Several husbands and some interested friends came along to swell the numbers for our November talk on WW1 War Graves. Sadly there are still a number of graves hidden away in churchyards not marked or cared for by the War Graves Commission. It evidently takes much determination and diligence to register one as not yet recognised.

Our December meeting will put us all in the Christmas spirit, when Camilla Jackson of Baraka Catering is to demonstrate Christmas Canopies and Party Food. We look forward to going home inspired and cheered by a tot of mulled wine!

Joyce Gardner and Shelah Franklin.

FOXHAM STANDING ITEMS

Foxham sub-Post Office

Foxham sub-post office is open each Thursday from 9 am-12 noon. If you wish to contact the postmaster on 07973 251633.

Foxham Reading Room bookings

Cathy Hourihane is the caretaker of the Reading Room. She will take bookings on 01249 740413.

Foxham Free Library

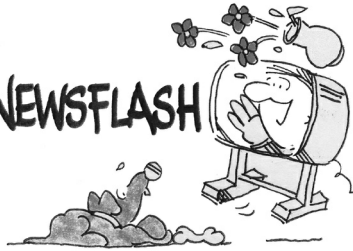
We have books from cookery, classics, sci-fi, autobiographies, gardening, romance to crafts and children books. Something for everyone! So come to the Foxham Reading Room and borrow a book (all we ask from you is to return or replace it). Book donations can be left in the Free Library, which will now be open all day Thursday 9 am to 5 pm. Any questions, contact Cathy on 01249 740413.

Tablecloths for hire in Foxham

The Foxham PCC has a set of floral tablecloths (approximately 44"/112cm sq.) for hire at a fee of £2 for the set part set. To book please contact Daphne Glass on 01249 740288.



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Following the successful Rural Arts Victorian Christmas last month, this recipe might be appropriate!

This rice pudding, a favourite with Queen Victoria, is delicious. (Serves 4):

- 4 cups water
- 2 cups long-grain rice
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1 1/2 Tbs. ground cinnamon
- 2 Tbs. butter
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 Tbs. vanilla
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1/4 cup red currant jelly

Steps:

1. Pre-heat your oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a medium saucepan bring the 4 cups of water to a boil. Stir in the rice, nutmeg and cinnamon. Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover and cook 20 minutes.
3. Remove the rice from the heat and let sit 10 minutes (with the cover still on).
4. In a medium bowl whisk together the butter, eggs, vanilla, sugar, whipping cream and red currant jelly until smooth.
5. Spoon the rice into an 8-inch baking dish. Pour the egg mixture over the rice and stir to combine.
6. Place in the oven and bake 35 minutes.
7. Remove from the oven and let cool before serving.

Chef's Note: The way this rice pudding was served to Queen Victoria is with a pitcher of heavy cream to pour over the rice. Of course, in true fashion, you would also want a cup of Earl Grey tea to accompany the dish as well (or better still, something a little stronger!).





Everybody welcome Everybody welcome

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

An early draft of the Neighbourhood Plan is now in circulation, and is being reviewed by the steering group. The next part of the process will be to hold three workshops in the parish to allow you to look at our progress and ask questions.

The steering group has provided a Landscape report to the Council for the revised Core Strategy and has reviewed the 180 questionnaires you completed. An additional 75 business questionnaires have been sent out with 30 responses, interestingly 90% of businesses in the parish are looking to expand which says a lot about the economy in the parish.

A printed copy of the Neighbourhood plan will be available soon after public feedback from the workshops has been incorporated.

The proposed dates for the workshops are 23rd January at East Tytherton Village Hall, 6th February at Foxham Village Hall, and on 13th February at Bremhill Village Hall.

So far many of you have engaged with the Neighbourhood Plan process, you have contributed to it and soon you will own it.

Please make a note of the date of your workshop and please attend, we still need your feedback for the final version.

What are key benefits of having a Parish Neighbourhood Plan?

- To enhance quality of life
- To protect our countryside and wildlife
- To support development substantiated by parishioner feedback
- To encourage businesses and arts & crafts to flourish

Please see the Parish website for the latest news on the Neighbourhood Plan. www.bremhillparish.org





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CALNE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

We have seen a decrease in crime in the Rural area, which is pleasing; however, the theft of 4x4 vehicles continue. Currently, our enquiries indicate that offenders have travelled into the area from some distance away and it is still very important for residents to remain vigilant and consider all vehicle security options and report suspicious activity.

Crimes this month

- Burglary at a house in Sandy Lane overnight. 6 Offenders arrested the following day.
- Overnight on 4th November, 4x4 stolen from Compton Bassett – recovered in Thames Valley.
- Overnight on 7th – large quantity of electric fencing taken from Foxham
- Between 21/24th – Quantity of fuel syphoned from farm vehicles at Heddington.
- Overnight on 26/27th November a Subaru Forrester 4x4 was stolen from Compton Bassett. It was located upside down in a field at Marsh Farm Hilmarton minus the wheels and shock absorbers.

We continue to identify possible vulnerable premises and persons with a view to issuing personalised crime prevention advice.

Other News

The Rural Officers continue work within the schools with upcoming chats to the children about Road Safety and visits with PATCH the drugs dog and his handler in January.

We receive a high level of complaints regarding poor parking outside the local schools. We see blocked driveways, parking on junctions and parking on hazard marking lines. We are now working with the schools to educate/warn drivers before enforcement action will be taken. Hopefully, this will result in a positive solution.

Don't forget to watch www.facebook.com/calnepolice to see all the latest news from us.

A huge thank you to all our NHW members who, in this voluntary role, give up their valuable time to support us in our fight against crime. We look



forward to working with you during the New Year. A second huge thank you to Community Speedwatch, where all our volunteers are giving up much time to make our villages safer places to live. Thank you.

This time of year, please may I appeal for help in our community. We know there are a number of people who may be vulnerable in some way (through age, disability, financial difficulty) and it is important that we look out for these people, and refer them for the correct help. If you see your neighbours or any other members of our community at risk, please let us know and we can try and secure the help needed.

Calne Neighbourhood Police Team wish to thank you for all the help, support and welcome you have given us during the past year.

WPC 319 Sonya Stockhill
Community Beat Manager, Rural
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FIBRE INTERNET UPDATE

At the time of writing, residents of East Tytherton, West End and Foxham with phone numbers starting with 01249 740 XXX are keeping a keen eye on Wiltshire Online's status checker and BT's DSL checker:

(<http://www.wiltshireonline.org/index.php/broadband-rollout>) and
(<https://www.dslchecker.bt.com/>)

hoping to see a notification that the Kellaways exchange has been fibre enabled and that Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) connections can be ordered. With a little luck, BT Openreach will deliver a welcome early Christmas present rather than a late present.

As we previously pointed out, some premises with "Exchange Only" (EO) lines will, unfortunately, not be able to access FTTC and Wiltshire Council is exploring potential solutions with BT Openreach. Until then, for these premises, ADSL will remain the only available option.

For everyone else, when FTTC becomes available:

- You will need to contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to upgrade your existing package. You should also be able to move to another ISP if you chose to (subject to your existing contract, etc.).
- Your chosen ISP will offer you different packages, most likely "up to 40 Mbps" and "up to 80 Mbps". These are maximum download speeds. As for ADSL broadband, your actual download speeds and the package or packages offered to you will depend on many factors, including the distance from the street cabinet to your premises. The connection will still use the "old" copper cabling, so the longer the cable run, the slower the connection will be.
- Watch out for any download cap in the packages offered to you as the new speeds will make downloading and streaming video more attractive and too small a cap may mean extra, unwelcome, bills. Use a download calculator and make sure you have an allowance big enough for the content you want to download.
- For most households, "up to 40 Mbps" will be sufficient. If you are given the choice, opting for 40 Mbps now does not preclude you from upgrading to an "up to 80 Mbps" connection at a later date (your ISP may charge you for the upgrade).
- If your existing broadband router is capable of supporting fibre broadband and has an Ethernet WAN port supporting PPOE, you will be



able to continue using it. If you are not sure, contact your ISP who will be able to advise you and sell or provide you with a suitable router if required.

- You should not need to upgrade your computers to use the new connection if they were able to use a previous broadband connection.


If you already have an existing broadband connection, the upgrade process should be fairly straightforward and simple: once your order is accepted and processed, a BT Openreach engineer will visit you (30 minutes to an hour) to fit a new face-plate on your telephone socket and to connect a VDSL modem within 1.5m of the face-plate (the VDSL modem will also require a power-supply). You should benefit from the higher speed when the engineer leaves. Should you have questions that you would like help with, feel free to contact us either through www.bremhillparish.org or directly.

Jérôme Semichon (jerome@ausculta.co.uk)

Scott Walsh (scottwalsh72@googlemail.com)

Richard Tucker (richard@rsjtucker.com)

(Bremhill Parish Councillor for the Foxham Ward,)



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A CHILDHOOD MEMORY -

I was born in February, 1942. My parents, George and Effie Poleykett, had been bombed out of London in 1939 and were billeted to Calne by a Mrs Woodcock (Billeting Officer) who used to lodge with them in London.

One of the earliest recollections of my childhood must have been about 1946, when I was 4 years old. We lived on the outskirts of Calne in the lodge of Vern Leaze and in those days the milk was delivered by a young man called Ken, with a horse and cart and my mother allowed me to ride with him just up the road to Mile Elm and back - I felt very grown up and proud!

I think it was 1947 that we moved to the 'old black hut' in Station Road, Calne. (I think the hut had something to do with the war - it is now demolished, of course). There were two big chestnut trees in the front garden and I can remember my mother digging a hole under one of these trees to put an old biscuit tin in the ground to keep the milk and butter cool in the hot weather. There were no fridges then - or perhaps we just couldn't afford one.

In 1957 the 'old black hut' had been taken over by Harris's factory and housed offices. This was also the place where Jim worked and where I first met him. He bet his friend that he would take me out by the end of that week - he says he lost the bet!

As I grew up there, I spent a lot of my time going to the railway station with my doll's pram and my dog 'Laddie'. I was otherwise alone, although I couldn't have been more than 8 years old at this stage. I can remember talking to all the staff and particularly remember going to the signal box to 'help' pull the signals! I couldn't, of course, they were much too hard.

I was given special treats at other times when I was allowed by the driver (well, I don't suppose I was, really) to go up into the engine, help stoke the fire and ride to the end where they turned the engine around, ready to go back to Chippenham. They were marvellous experiences and I shall never forget them. I still recall that wonderful smell which came with the engines - it was brought back to me last year whilst on holiday in Devon and riding on the Somerset steam railway.

My childhood was very happy - apart from the time when, not knowing, of course, I lay on an ants' nest. When I realised I was covered with them, I ran





home crying, but mother wasn't there. So I hid under their big four-poster bed until she came back from shopping. She then smothered me in vinegar!

I can also remember going over the road to the Wharf - where the sheltered accommodation is today. There were stables here. I cannot remember whether the horses belonged to Wiltshire's 'The Family Store' or Harris's Bacon Factory, but there were a lot of carts. I think some were canvas-covered and quite tall. They took all the waste from the factory in these horse-drawn carts and they passed where I lived on their way to Winhill, at the back of the station. They made glue there and sometimes the smell was awful! I managed to cadge a few rides but my dog was more cunning! He would lie on the side of the road as though he was hurt or injured and, occasionally, a driver would throw him a bone or something from the cart.

Most of my time, and Laddie's, in the warm months was spent going over the road, across the old bridge and down a short slope, to paddle in the little stream that led into the river Marden. I would catch tiddlers and sticklebacks, just with my two hands, by waiting for ages until they swam into my hands. I was always coming home with a jam jar full of these fish, but my mother always made me put them back.

One year, I was given a young duckling. He was so sweet - all fluffy and yellow. I remember putting some string around his neck (with help, of course) and taking him for a swim. He loved it, although sometimes I had a job to get him back again.

There was another memorable occasion in my favourite place. I met an old man, who seemed such a nice man to me. He told me he had no home or family and I felt so sorry for him that I went to ask my mother if he could stay with us - we had a spare bed and room. I think she was rather diplomatic and said he would probably be happier being a 'gentleman of the road'. Of course, I didn't understand that he was a tramp.

How things have changed - who would let their children out on their own nowadays?!

Judy Scott



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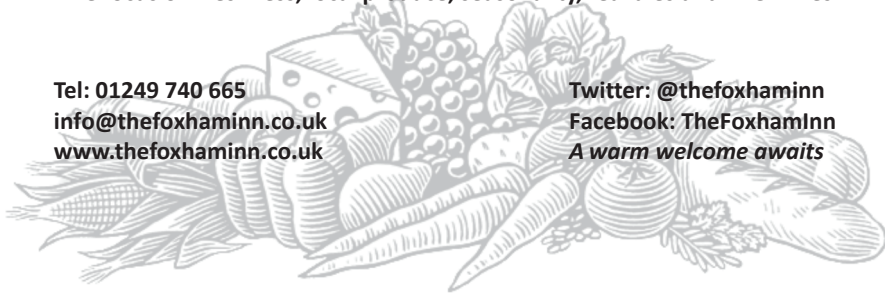


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THE FOXHAM INN NEWS

Happy New Year to One and All! We do hope you had a great festive Season and are ready to start your New Year resolutions. It's been a hectic time for us, so we are off to a sunnier climate for a week and we will be closed from the 6th January and re-open on Wednesday 14th January, 12 o'clock sharp!

Check out what's going on in 2015 on our website's events page: on January 24th we are holding a five-course dinner celebrating Scottish produce with a nod to Burns night, with a Haggis, Scotch egg, a Nip of Whisky, Bagpipes and few words from our resident Scotsman John Hay. Call us to book.

On the 17th February (Shrove Tuesday) we are having a pancake Supper Night, savoury main course pancakes with followed a choice of dessert ones.

Follow us on Twitter or Like us on Facebook to see all the latest news. Why not sign up to our Newsletter on our contact page on our Website.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Neil and Sarah Cooper



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SMALL THOUGHTS OF A LARGE CLERGYMAN

January, I have long felt, is a month without which life would be greatly improved. Cold, miserable, damp weather; long dark nights; hazardous travel conditions; the prospect of many months of the same before any chance of an improvement to say nothing of Christmas credit card bills and the like... it is, without a doubt, a miserable, harassed, snivelling, crass, over-bearing, worldly wretch of a month. There ! I'VE SAID IT, but please tell me different if you are a Januaryphile !

But , January it is, all thirty-one days of it ! So, let's dwell on a more cheerful time - Christmas. Yes, I know that was last month, and Revd Ann wrote an excellent article for the December Newsletter, and I'm certainly not going to encroach on her territory, but I would like to dwell on something that was said to me over the Christmas period - namely, "With all the other distractions at this consumer-led time of the year, how are we going to solve the problem of putting Christ back into Christmas ?" A thought that we can take with us into this New Year. But it's more complicated than it seems. In the first place I'm not clear that He ever left it, or ever fails to see us all with His grave and wonderful eyes, even when we are caught up in the annual Yuletide rat-race. But more than that, it is precisely into THIS world that He comes, not into the gentle, pastoral world of wondering shepherds and worshipping Kings.

He knew all about it before we did, and took account of dishwashers, mobile phones, sixty-inch screen televisions, computers and lap-tops, and all the other technology that modern living brings us. He knew it as long ago as the Wilderness when He said what He did about bread, and the glory of this world. As usual, He is a long way ahead of us, and at the moment I think we should be more concerned with trying to learn to put Christmas, with all its brilliant squalor, back into His hands. I don't see anybody else who can manage it, frankly, and I can't imagine a more wondrous gift than this world with all its prodigious and imaginative skill, in the hands of the one Person who ever knew how to manage it!

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful New Year

Jim Scott





ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH. Foxham

4 th January Epiphany	9.30am Holy Communion	A. Glass Ephesians 3: 1-12
11 th January Baptism of Christ With Bishop of Ramsbury	9.30am Family Service	E. Hannah Acts 19: 1-7
18 th January Epiphany 2	9.30am Holy Communion	M. Kellond Revelations 5: 1-10
25 th January Epiphany 3	6pm Evensong	R. Pegler Genesis 14: 17-20
1 st February Christ in Temple/ Candlemas	9.30am Holy Communion	D. Scott Hebrews 2: 14-end

CHURCH OFFICERS	FOXHAM	BREMHILL
Church Wardens	Elizabeth Hannah 740619	William Wyldbore-Smith 814969
	Mary Kellond 740633	Nancy Kyte 815073
Treasurer	Robert Pegler 740253	David Stevens 815337
Secretary	To be appointed	To be appointed

For any information (Weddings, Funerals, Christenings and Special services)
 Contact: Rev. Ann Massey 01249 817926 ea.massey@btinternet.com
 Rev. Jim Scott 01249 813114 jim@bremhill.com





ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, BREMHILL

	Service	Sidesmen	Readers
4 th Jan Christmas 2	8 am Holy Communion 4 pm Evensong	M Kyte A Woods & D Kyte	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Arnold Woods Matthew 2: 1-12 June Hughes
11 th Jan Epiphany 1	11 Holy Communion	A Jones & J Hughes	Acts 19: 1-7 Francis Pearson
18 th Jan Epiphany 2	4 pm Evensong	M Wells & L Jones	1 Samuel 3: 1-20 Mark Kyte John 1: 43 - end Jane Jordan
25 th Jan Epiphany 3	9.30 am Family Service	Children	John 2: 1-11 A Young Person
1st Feb Epiphany 4	8 Holy Communion 4pm Evensong	N Kyte A Heath & K Blackmore	Malachi 3: 1-5 Nicol Jordan Luke 2: 22-40 Nancy Kyte

*“May the words of my lips and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord my strength and my redeemer”.*

ST NICHOLAS, TYTHERTON LUCAS

Sunday 4 th January	Morning Service 10 am (MG)
Sunday 11 th January	Eucharist 8.30 am (JS)
Sunday 18 th January	Carol Service 10 am (RK)
Sunday 25 th January	Eucharist 8.30 am (RK)
Sunday 1 st February	Eucharist 8.30 am (MG)



MORAVIAN CHURCH, EAST TYTHERTON

Morning worship is every Sunday at 10.30 am with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. ALL WELCOME





ST MARTIN'S NOTICES

The next PCC Meeting – 28th January 2015 at The Manor Bremhill

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was a great success, in spite of fewer people, both to set up and attending. We raised some £1,200 in total. The Raffle made £826.00, and the Stalls £426.38. The Winners of the Grand Christmas Draw were – in no particular order Mr A Whitaker, F Cooper, Jackie Harris, Mark King, Pauline Webb, Mr Barlow and A. Peet. The Garden Quiz was won by Jane Shepherd. Thank you for coming and helping in any way. We are grateful for this money to keep the Church in good repair.

Church Cleaning Rota

In Church you will see a Church Cleaning Rota. If you can find an hour or two to help clean the Church or polish the Brass, please put your name down as a volunteer. It will be much appreciated. Please bring your own cleaning materials, but there is a fine vacuum cleaner at the back of the Church

Devizes Mobile Library

The library calls at Naish House Farm, Spirthill, on every other Monday afternoon at 2 pm - 2.30 pm – 12th and 26th January 2015.

There is also a library in Church, of course - just put 20p in the Fabric Collection Box and the book is yours. The books are all in two bookcases and in alphabetical order!

If you have any items of local Church or Village News for the February 2015 edition of this Newsletter, please give them to either Derek Kyte (815073) or to me Jane Jordan (812083) in time for the 8th January 2015 deadline. Thank you.





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MAUD HEATH'S CAUSEWAY

By Joan Woodcock

Kingfishers haunt the mill. The slow cows graze
On summer evenings still at Kellaways,
Tearing the lush green grass. More blue than the sky,
Wind-darting where dim fish pass, the kingfishers fly.

Yet when the bitter snow sleets into rain
The river I used to know roars high again;
Swollen and desolate where the roads drown
The brown death-dealing spate islands our town.

Rain-lashed dark, and not one star; the gale, my aching feet,
And Chippenham still so far ... in St. Mary Street
My tall fine houses wait. Butter, eggs, cheese
In my basket's sagging weight had brought me these.

But I could not forget, as my journey ends.
I said: "Let my rents to set to help my friends."
Stone-arched above the flood my Cause'y stands,
Cobbled against the mud of the river lands.

Wick Hill and Tytherton, the mill at Kellaways,
Past Langley Burrell, and on ... I sit, and gaze
To Chippenham from Wick Hill. Friend, who walks dry-shod,
Pray for me, journeying till we reach our God.

Wiltshire 1474: Trustees, 540 years later, still administer her Will. Her houses remain, whose value built and maintain her splendid Causeway. Maud Heath's statue, showing her with her market basket, is on a pillar high on Wick Hill.

Joan Woodcock lived in Calne in the 1940's and after. She was the billeting officer in Calne, helping to re-house families from London, at the time of the Second World War. She has written many published poems and was also my Godmother.

Judy Scott



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