

BREMHILL, FOXHAM, THE TYTHERTONS AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

October 2017

The Newsletter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 6th Oct Community Drinks - Foxham
- 8th Oct Bonfire Building - Bremhill
- 8th Oct Open Studios - Charcutt/Spirthill
- 15th Oct Bonfire Building - Bremhill
- 15th Oct Friends Of St Martin Harvest Supper
- 15th Oct Open Studios - Charcutt/Spirthill
- 22nd Oct Bonfire Building - Bremhill
- 25th Oct Village Hall AGM - Bremhill
- 28th Oct Churchyard clear up - St Martins
- 29th Oct Bonfire Building - Bremhill
- 5th Nov Bonfire Breakfast - Tytherton Village Hall
- 5th Nov Bonfire Night - Bremhill
- 24th Nov Opera Dudes / Rural Arts - Bremhill
- 25th Nov Christmas Craft Fair - Tytherton Village Hall
- 28th Nov Newsletter AGM - Bremhill Village Hall

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EDITORIAL

My son recently sent me a photo of him wearing a T-shirt with the inscription 'Legends are born in October'. No prizes then for guessing which month he was born in. Trouble is, so was I - ah well, can't believe everything you read, can you? However, October marks a small but significant stepping-stone in the life of the Newsletter. The team was pleased to discover that last month's edition was actually our fiftieth since we started to produce our new-style Newsletter with added colour. We felt this was a bit of an achievement and we hope that October now marks the first of the second fifty editions fulfilling the Newsletter's function to interest and inform our Community.

Looking through this issue, we can appreciate the wealth of activities which are undertaken within the Parish, thanks to the endeavours of the army of volunteers who organise them. The three village halls are busy with events such as shows, fetes, fairs, rides, concerts, coffee mornings, community drinks and meals. In the next fifty editions we hope the Newsletter will continue to announce and report on these activities, as well as regaling you with some interesting articles.

In order to produce the magazine, however, we do have costs and in the past, around this time of year, we have asked for your financial support. Our advertisers cover some of the cost of producing each magazine, but we still fall short of the total required and bills have to be paid! We have appreciated greatly the very generous donations from many in the Parish which have enabled us to meet our financial obligations and we would therefore like to ask you once again for your support. Next month we will include an envelope within the magazine for you to make a donation if you wish and we are very grateful for the continued support of our local community.

Meanwhile, do keep sending in your valued contributions. It is these reminiscences, descriptions, poems, anecdotes and photographs which give the magazine its particular character and make it part of our Community.

Ewen Bird

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SPECIAL NOTICES

ANNUAL ST MARTIN'S CHURCHYARD CLEAR-UP

This year's annual Churchyard clear-up is scheduled for Saturday, 28th October at 10 am. Please bring your own equipment. Refreshments will be provided!

Many thanks.

David Stevens

BONFIRE NIGHT

Sunday 5th November

From the beginning of October, Sunday 8th, we will start to build the bonfire. If you are free to help please do let Colin Pearson know on 07770 925899.

The actual night is always a fun-filled evening, providing an excellent community celebration, with the gates opening from 6.30 pm.

Linda Sankey

BREMILL FETE AND THE BOBBY VAN TRUST

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust was extremely honoured to be asked to be one of the chosen charities for this year's Village Fete - Ratford Races.

Derek and Sandy Chase kindly opened their ground and did they set themselves and their committee a challenge! Not one, but two events. Firstly, a typical village fete with duck racing, a tug of war, guess the weight of the cake and so much more. Local traders were given an opportunity to sell their produce. With the support of the Parish ladies, delicious cakes and teas were on offer.

The Bobby Van team were delighted to volunteer to run the bar! Surprisingly quiet in the afternoon, but we had our work cut out in the evening. The marquee turned into a straw filled "barn" to accommodate a lively group of country dancers and a hog roast. It was such fun and enjoyed by all.

Enormous thanks to everyone involved. The Trust received a donation of £1119. This will keep a van on the road for nearly a week. Vital funds for a vital charity and for that I am extremely grateful.

Jennie Shaw

THE NEWSLETTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You, our readers, are cordially invited to our AGM, which will be held at Bremhill Village Hall this year, on Tuesday, 28th November at 7.30 pm. A chance to air your grievances (!), put forward your ideas, join the committee and elect its officers.

I will not be putting myself forward for re-election as Chairperson of the Committee at the AGM. Almost 5 years is enough!

David Stevens

CHARITY BREAKFAST

In aid of Meningitis Research Foundation

Apologies, as always, for perhaps not being able to thank you in person for joining us for breakfast on Sunday, 13th August. It was so lovely to see so many people in the sunshine - a record number we think.

We thought you might like to know that together we raised in excess of £1880 including gift aid that morning. A truly amazing amount of money and again a record for us. This reminds us both how lucky we are to have such supportive and generous friends and when I handed over the money to MRF on Monday morning, they too were very appreciative.

Thank you again.

Caroline and Richard

TOWN HALL MOVIOLA

Our film for October stars Jenny Seagrove, superb in the starring role, in Another Mother's Son (12a), based on a true story in Nazi occupied Jersey during World War 2. She takes in and hides an escaped Russian POW. As the war drags on and the community spirit is fraying around the edges, she fights to preserve her family and to protect the Russian boy as if he were her own.

Showing in the Town Hall on Weds 18th Oct at 7.30 pm. Refreshments available. Tickets £6.00 from the information centre or on the door.

RURAL ARTS TOURING "OPERA DUDES"

Bremhill Village Hall - Friday 24th November 2017. Doors open at 7 pm and the Performance starts at 7.30 pm.

An ex-bricklayer and ex-Cambridge scholar, aka The Opera Dudes will be entertaining at Bremhill Village Hall with a unique blend of style, swing and SLAPSTICK in the form of grand opera showstoppers, heart-rending ballads and ridiculous impressions.

Come - and be prepared for a hilarious evening as well as some great singing. Tickets: £8 adults, £5 children from Marilyn 661369 or Rosie 813642 Bar and, as always, tasty morsels !

FIGS

Our next FIGS event is on October 9th at The Wiltshire in Royal Wootton Bassett. For more information call Neil on 01249 740665.

FESTIVAL OPEN STUDIOS

Two local artists are opening their studios during the Calne Music and Arts Festival.

Charles Rodwell and John Harris are opening their studios for visitors on Sunday 8th and 15th of October from 2 pm- 5 pm. Charles has a large selection of paintings and drawings spanning 30 years as well as sketch books showing travels abroad and local landscapes. John has a display of coastal paintings, landscapes and wildlife as well as cards. Come and see the artists in a working environment. Free entry.

Charles Rodwell
Leasview Cottage, Charlcutt SN11 9HH T: 01249 740 406

John Harris
Beards Cottage, Spirthill SN11 9HW T: 01249 760 404

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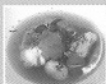
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CHRISTIAN MALFORD & FOXHAM WI

The 'Discover, Cook and Eat' fish morning in September was a great success. Thank you Des for giving us all such tasty dishes to try out at home.

Giffords Circus: Monday 16th October, 7 pm for 7.30 pm.

Dauntsey Vale group meeting at Walter Powell School, Great Somerford
Nell Gifford will give us a heart-warming and humorous review of her life, from her early years, involving circus work in America, followed by Oxford University. A passion, developed over the years, has resulted in Giffords Circus, which was established in 2000 by her and husband Toti.

Relationship between Feet and Shoes: Thursday 19th October, 7.30 pm.

Ellie Dickins from Hungerford is coming to Christian Malford village hall and will give us a wonderful insight into the world of shoes. She opened her shop because she found it difficult to get fashionable shoes for her size 10 feet. She will bring with her a selection and explain in great detail the importance of having correct fitting shoes.

Val's Walk: Monday, 16th October meet at 10.00am. Contact Val 740219

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TYTHERTON W.I.

For our meeting in October we are delighted to welcome the singing quartet 'Conchordia', from Derry Hill. They will be singing songs old and new, - joining in is welcome!

'Carols in the Moravian Church' - Advance notice that on Wednesday December 13th, together with Rev Patsy Holdsworth, our WI cordially invites members of local WIs to join us in singing favourite carols. To be followed by seasonal refreshments in the village hall.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except August, at 7.30 pm in Tytherton Village Hall. If you would like to come for a 'taster' evening you are very welcome - we are a very friendly bunch, with members from several of the local villages as well as Chippenham. Just come along or for further information ring our Secretary Rose on 07514 538551

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Christmas Gift and Craft Fair

Tytherton Village Hall

Saturday 25th November 10.00am - 4.00 pm

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pottery; home-made preserves; children's toys & books;
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HISTORY REVEALED

Bremhill

On Wednesday, 6th September at Calne Library, Julie Davis and Ally McConnell from the Wiltshire and Swindon History centre met with 16 excited Bremhill enthusiasts to find out more about this historic village. People were there from all over Wiltshire and Swindon, some to find out more about their ancestors who lived in the village, others who were curious about the history of their houses and still more for the sheer enjoyment of having a better understanding of their historic environment.

Julie opened the day by explaining how to understand what makes a place like Bremhill special, what to look for, and what type of questions to ask. She then took us through a potted history of Bremhill from Domesday to the present. Facts that I found interesting were: Bremhill means hill with brambles; the land at Bremhill was owned by Malmesbury Abbey in 937; in 1377, there were 176 poll tax payers in Bremhill; in 1692 there were 22 people in receipt of Poor Relief from the parish; in the 1840s, Lucy Simkins of Bremhill, a poor Wiltshire labouring woman, often spoke at meetings of the distress of agricultural labourers.

Ally then led the group through the sources that are available, to help discover more about the village, both online and at the History Centre in Chippenham. These include a site called Know Your Place West of England (Wiltshire) <http://www.kypwest.org.uk/tag/wiltshire/> and the Historic England Archive <http://archive.historicengland.org.uk/>, much of which is now online. At the History Centre there are ancient documents, photographs, prints and objects that are available for the public to examine by appointment and Ally brought some examples along for the group to look at.

The group then moved off for an afternoon's guided walk around Bremhill with Dorothy Treasure who talked about the architecture of the village and told us more about its history.

If you would like to take part in a project to publish a history of Bremhill, volunteers are needed to help with the Victoria County History volume. If you are interested, please contact Martin Nye on martin@cadenham.com or Helen Stuckey on 01249 740566.

NATURE MATTERS

One of the most significant landscape and habitat features that links our local villages is the River Avon. The name Avon comes from the Welsh word Afon which means 'river', so a literal translation is the River River! There are several River Avons in the country, which has led to our river being more commonly known as the Bristol Avon, with the Hampshire Avon and the Warwickshire Avon being other well known rivers.

The River Avon from Malmesbury down to Bristol, which includes our river, is a classic lowland English river being naturally wide, deep and slow flowing. This characteristic sluggishness is exacerbated as the river is impounded by weirs in many places. Fish passes have been installed on some weirs including at Kellaways and Chippenham, which has helped the river to sustain a good coarse fishery. Roach, chub, bream and eels dominate, while barbel can also be found just upstream of our villages. The middle reaches of the river are particularly diverse for fish with 14 species of fish recorded at Chippenham by the Environment Agency in 2003.

The Avon supports a diverse range of wildlife including otters, now making a remarkable comeback after being nearly hunted and persecuted to extinction by the 1960s. Otters have now been recorded in every county in the UK, which is an amazing success story for biodiversity in this country. Water vole and our native white clawed crayfish, which in contrast to the otter are in serious decline throughout the UK, are also found in some stretches of the river. Two nationally rare species of insect (white-legged damselfly and scarce chaser) inhabit the river in their larval stage and can be seen around on the wing. Birdlife includes key waterway birds such as kingfisher and grey wagtail, while swallows have been seen nesting under the bridge at Kellaways.

The ecological quality of the river is monitored by the Environment Agency using aquatic insects. A measure of quality is determined by comparing actual survey results against the insect community one would expect to see if the river was unaffected by pollution. High ecological quality is deemed to be when survey results are consistent with the predicted insect community. In general, the ecological quality across the catchment is very good. The Avon headwaters above Malmesbury are of excellent ecological quality, while between Chippenham and Bradford-on-Avon the river achieves a high ecological quality.

Stephen Dangerfield, Ecologist

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In Memory of

PRIVATE REGINALD ALFRED FREEGARD

Number 30939 2nd Battalion Devonshire regiment

Born 1898 - died 27 October, 1917 aged 19 years

Reg was born in Sutton Benger in late summer of 1898 the third child of William Freegard and his wife Sophie nee Harding, daughter of Thomas Harding, a carpenter, who had married on 24th December at All Saints Church, Christian Malford. When he was born, Reg had two elder siblings both sisters, Elizabeth K and Lucy S.

In the census of 1901 & 11 the family were living in Foxham, 3 houses away from the Foxham inn, which was then being run by an ex-naval pensioner from London and his family. A publication on Chippenham and district WW1 soldiers states that Reg was a rural postman in Foxham area before joining the Devonshire regiment. I have been unable to verify this in the post office records however.

The summer of 1917 saw the 2bn. Devonshires in action in Belgium where they suffered nearly 300 casualties, including losing their Colonel. It was in the autumn that Reg was again in battle, this time manning a machine gun with two other colleagues when a shell hit their dugout and all three were killed. Reg was buried in Lancashire cottage cemetery a few miles away.

Lancashire Cottage Cemetery was begun by the 1st East Lancashire (who have 84 graves in it) and the 1st Hampshire (who have 56) in November 1914. It was used as a front line cemetery until March 1916 and occasionally later. The cemetery was in German hands from 10th April to 29 September 1918 and they made a few burials in it during that spring and summer. The cemetery contains 256 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. There are also 13 German war graves. The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden. Reg is buried in plot 3, row "A" grave number 3.

It is interesting to note that in 1901 over 50 people with the Freegard surname were registered in Bremhill parish making it the most common surname in the parish and Reg's family eventually moved to no.30 Bremhill.

Would you like to feel more equipped for whatever life throws at you?
 Why not join us for a series of evening meetings from 7.30 - 9.30?

TOPICS AND DATES

October 4 2017 - Being Authentic - Knowing Yourself

November 14 2017 - Coping with Kids

January 17 2018 - All You Need is Love -
 Understanding Relationships

February 6 2018 - Emotional Maturity at Work

March 7 2018 - Dealing with Depression

Each individual meeting: £8. Book these 5 for £30.



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BRENDA WHITBREAD - EAST TYTHERTON

Designer/ Maker

You may have seen displays of Brenda's beautiful hand-made fabric creations at local craft fayres, garden events and village shows in the name of 'Bee Design'. Her cushions, bags, aprons and memo boards have all been subjects for her talented 'hand to eye' skills and creativity. From the start the name 'Bee' was a natural as it was her childhood nickname when she lived in Surrey.

Her interest in fabrics and sewing was influenced by her mother who was a keen embroiderer and exponent of tapestry making. What began as a family activity grew into a passion for formulating her own ideas. Brenda's designs are initially inspired by her choice of fabric patterns - just as a wood-carver sees potential form in the bough of a tree, Brenda expresses the colours and pattern of fabric into one of her sought-after 'Bee' designs.

We could also add the words 'busy bee' due to her fund-raising efforts for the Tytherton Village Hall, the WI and the Tytherton Ride. She is also a regular contributor to this newsletter.



What started as a present for her granddaughter in 2011 in the shape of a fabric covered memo board has spawned a range of beautiful fabric items designed and made by someone who loves the creative process and still sees it as a hobby rather than a commercial enterprise.

(contact; email abwhitbread@btinternet.com Tel. 01249 740367)

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BEGINNING AND ENDING WITH ROSES AROUND THE DOOR

I was born in a Maud Heath Trust property in 1925. The same property that in 1846 my maternal Grandfather was born. The property was set in a large garden which abounded with flowers, bushes and fruit trees. It was a typical English cottage garden.

In spring there were Snowdrops, Primroses, Violets, Blue and White Bells, Wall flowers and the fruit trees were heavy with blossom. In summer grew Nasturtiums, Sweet Peas, Lilies, Marigolds, Corn Flowers and Roses. On the wall beside the front door grew Honeysuckle, White Jasmine and Red Cabbage Roses. A patch of old fashioned pinky ivory Floribunda Roses grew in front of the living room window. Along the path leading to the house were more Red Cabbage Roses, Ferns, a Syringa bush and Laburnum tree.

My father's pride and joy was a Moss Rose which grew at the bottom of the garden. It was pink and the flowers were scented. The stems had green tendrils which looked just like moss. Near it was a Mrs Perkins pink Rambling Rose over a fence. The scent during the seasons and all of the different colours was so beautiful. I was so lucky to have grown up in such a lovely place.

Now I am ending my days, still in beautiful surroundings, with a lovely garden, fields, trees and wild flowers all around. Maud is still watching over me from the top of Wick Hill. I can see her monument from my bedroom window and the path, her legacy to the people of the area, passes the end of the drive.

So thank you to Maud, the enigmatic woman, I have had a very blessed life, still with Roses around the door.

*A Moonraker
alias Margaret Smith*

DO YOU HAVE A "HERITAGE" TREE IN YOUR GARDEN?

We tried for several years to put a name to the apple tree in our garden. It is a prolific producer and some of the apples weigh over a pound. The apples have a wonderful flavour, bake beautifully - light and fluffy - and are equally delicious eaten straight off the tree when ripe - sweet, with a slightly sharp taste.

Several years ago I spotted a box of these beauties in a charity shop, so I went in and asked the person in charge if she knew anything about them. "Well, my dear," said she, "this variety is called, Studley d'Or , or Studley Gold, and was specially cultivated for the Bowood Estate. All the cottages on the Estate were given an apple tree, a plum tree and a pig." It would be interesting to know how old these trees are - did they pre-date our cottages? Though some of the apple trees have been grubbed out, there are still some in gardens in Bremhill and Derry Hill.



The apples do not keep well, but I've taken to slicing and drying them, and Bob makes a powerful 17% wine - the same strength as a dry sherry. We have an old plum tree too, and have found traces of a pig-sty in the garden - even a big, old, rusty knife!

Dawn Straker-Cook

BOOK REVIEW

'Ardennes 1944' by Anthony Beevor

This is the history of Hitler's last gamble in December 1944. He pours soldiers and tanks into the snowy forests and gorges of the Ardennes in eastern France. In the most hostile conditions since Stalingrad, a million men do bloody battle to determine the end of the Second World War.



The narrative is gripping and beautifully written as it moves seamlessly from generals' command posts to the privates in their snow covered foxholes. The book is impeccably researched.

The exasperation of the American generals with Montgomery's personality is well documented, with the equal frustration of the German generals' with Hitler and his unrealistic ambitions. The barbarity of the SS is described with some unpleasant retaliation by the American soldiers as well.

The chaos, heroism and cruelty of war is laid bare in this fascinating account of the largest battle on the Western Front and the largest ever fought by the Americans. Some will remember it as the "Battle of the Bulge".

If you are at all interested in recent history, do read this book. My one criticism is that a few more maps, to help orientate the reader, would be useful.

David Stevens

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HOME PRODUCE AND GARDEN SHOW 2017

BREMHILL VILLAGE HALL

The sun shone on the day of the show. Perfect for a village show!

There were 416 entries in total made by 61 people - and the quality of the entries was great. The judges had quite a task and we would like to thank them all for coming and doing their job so well. In the afternoon there were some new activities, such as the rifle range. Nancy Kyte presented the new cup which she has given in memory of her husband Derek who died earlier this year. Next year it will be for the heaviest onion.

The auction, with auctioneer Tim Church, was great fun as always with hot bidding for the flowers. The day contributed around £1000 for the village hall. A big thank you to all those who took part and contributed to the community spirit and to all those who helped in such a variety of ways.

There were several entries from adults and children who had never entered the show before. Many received prizes and some won cups. If you have not entered the show before, why not have a go next year?

To see the full results and photographs of the show go to: www.bremhill.com/show and select produce show 2017. Some photos of the show are also shown on the back page of the newsletter.



BREMHILL PARISH COUNCIL

September 2017

Neighbourhood Plan

A report from the Examiner will be published in the next couple of weeks. Amendments may be made and returned and then a referendum.

Community Emergency Plan

Mrs McCord produced a draft of the Emergency Plan which was presented to the meeting. After discussion there were a few amendments and a little more research to be done. A revised version will be available soon.

Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal

An interesting presentation was given by representatives of The Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal Trust with an update on their progress. It was mentioned that The Trust acquired The Peterborough Arms at Dauntsey with the intention to use it as a community asset. They are very close to opening the pub, but have a few hurdles to overcome.

Japanese Knotweed

It has been reported that there is a potential sighting of Japanese Knotweed in Tytherton Lucas. This has been reported to the authorities and is awaiting identification.

Operational Flood Meeting

Mr Bailey is to attend and will put a separate report in to The Newsletter on behalf of Parish Council.

November 6th Parish Council Meeting

Mr Mark Cook the Police Community Officer will be giving a presentation on his work.

Next Meeting

This will be held on 2nd October 2017 at Bremhill Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend.

Elsbeth Norman, Clerk

DAUNTSEY VALE LINK SCHEME, (DVLS)

This year the DVLS has its 10th birthday and there will be a celebration in November to mark this milestone. DVLS, or The Link, was established to provide a service to those people who need help to get to an appointment, to go shopping or to the hairdresser or even help to change a light bulb, all things that they cannot do themselves for whatever reason.

The DVLS provides a service to Dauntsey, Christian Malford, Brinkworth and Foxham. It is accessed by the request for assistance being telephoned to a co-ordinator who then contacts a member of the team to ask them to take on the task. The service is free to the person requesting help but they can, and do, give an unspecified sum to the scheme if they so wish. The scheme is financed in part from the Council, from donations from the villages served via their Parish Councils and from personal donations. So far, our DVLS has remained in funds.

DVLS is a worthwhile scheme which, in the 10 years it has been running for, has undertaken hundreds of journeys to help people, varying from local runs to visits to local hospitals or farther afield to hospitals in Oxford or Salisbury.

I have driven for the scheme for 8 years. Recently I had a fit to drive assessment with a driving instructor as this is a requirement of the Council and paid for by the Council when a driver reaches 79 years. I was pronounced "Safe" to continue to drive for the DVLS. You do not need to be a driver to help as there is a place for people to help in the home when the need arises.

The service is there for you and anyone in the 4 villages can call on it. Other areas in the locality have their own Link schemes, but the DVLS is The Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme. If anyone wishes to use the Scheme contact the co-ordinator on 07563 769549.

Elizabeth Hannah

GARDENING NOTES

October

The best of summer is over but there are still a few vegetables coming and flowers to brighten the shorter days.

This is the time to begin to look after wildlife, so set up a bug house for insects to overwinter. Hedgehogs will be looking for a winter hibernation site and birds need more food to build up their fat stores.

Following the first frost, lift dahlia tubers, canna tubers and begonia and gladioli. They will survive if frost free. Some dahlias will survive in the ground but it is an idea to mulch with bark or compost to protect from frost. Once herbaceous perennials have finished flowering, it is a good time to dig, divide and replant them, planting Hellebores in shady areas. Dig in lots of well-rotted compost to your holes and fork in and new shrubs can get ahead before winter comes. Break the roots of pot bound plants using a hand fork vertically all around the root ball which will then encourage feeding roots to grow. Keep new plants well-watered and prune and shape up hardy shrubs and trees. Cut out diseased, weak and badly placed stems. Cut back bush roses by about half their height to stop them rocking in winter winds, but leave more tender plants and evergreens till the worst of frosts are over next year. Sow early broadbeans in a trench.

If you are growing winter crops in a greenhouse, clean it up first. Salad crops, chard and sprouting broccoli can all grow under cover, but look out for leek rust, a disfiguring disease which can also affect onions and garlic. Ensure all infected debris is binned.

Plant up Amaryllis bulbs in ordinary multi-purpose compost and plant spring bulbs in pots for indoor displays. Finally, give your garden a boost by spreading well-rotted compost, the worms will take it down into the soil for you!

Gardening Guru

Rural Arts Touring

PRESENTS

'The Girl Who Fell in Love With the Moon'

Performed by The Human Zoo Theatre Company
(Performance suitable for children aged 11+)






At the Foxham Reading Room
Friday 17th November 7 pm - 8 pm
Bar Open from 6 pm
Tickets - Adults £10 & Under 16 £7

To book or for further information contact Fiona Jarman
Fiha80@hotmail.com or 07813 878495



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THE SKY AT NIGHT

October 2017

The night sky for the month of October is full of celestial treats. We will get to see not one but two meteor showers which bring interplanetary debris, ranging from pebbles to boulders, into Earth's atmosphere. The first of these amazing phenomena takes place on the 8th October, when we will witness the Draconids meteor shower. The Draconids is considered to be a minor meteor shower, but it is an unusual shower as the best viewing is in the early evening instead of early morning like most other showers, when meteors will radiate from the constellation "Draco", but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Next up we have the Orionids Meteor Shower, produced by dust grains left behind by comet Halley, which has been known and observed since ancient times. The crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving the skies around our villages very dark for what should be a good show. Best viewing will be after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation "Orion the Hunter" which is central in the southern sky but can appear anywhere in the sky.

On the 5th October we have a full moon. The Moon will be directly opposite the Earth from the Sun and will be fully illuminated. This moon is also known as the Harvest Moon and is the full moon that occurs closest to the September equinox each year. On the 19th October we have a New Moon. It will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This will be the best time of the month to look up into the night sky because there is no moonlight to interfere and you may even get to see the Milky Way. This is also the night when Uranus, will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. Due to its distance, it will only appear as a tiny blue-green dot, but still definitely worth a look!

I was delighted when one of our residents in Foxham told me of the amazing sight when she spotted a meteor radiate across the sky in August. Take time to stop and look up into the night sky and you will be amazed at the nightly light show which is on display - and it's free of charge! So happy star gazing!

Angela Protheroe

BLACKLANDS MILL

We are fortunate enough to live in a very picturesque area and Wiltshire offers some of the best views and breath-taking scenery in the country; non more beautiful than the setting at the newly renovated Mill at Blacklands.

I was invited to a wedding that was held at the Mill recently and the natural beauty that the Mill has to offer is simply stunning. The venue, with luxurious accommodation, has recently been fully licensed for small weddings and functions and it really does offer everything to ensure that a wedding or party goes swimmingly.

Looking forward, the autumn brings its usual challenges. We expect the rain, that's a given, with the weather testing us all. However, taking a moment to appreciate what is on our doorstep can help to get us through the less cheerful months of the year.

Angie Jones-Moore

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Drinks & Hot Food

The Foxham Reading Room

Friday 6th October

From 5.30 pm

Drinks & food for sale include:

Bottled Beers, Lagers & Cider

Red & White Wine & Prosecco (by glass & bottle)

Pimms

Soft Drinks

Bowl of Chilli

HARVEST SUPPER

at

FOXHAM READING ROOMS

On Friday 27th October,

7.30pm for 8pm

£15 per ticket

Come and enjoy our Harvest Feast of three courses,
including a main course & dessert and
cheeseboard accompanied by the

FOXHAM HARVEST QUIZ

There will be a CASH BAR on the evening and also a RAFFLE

Tickets available from: Michelle Hanson 07831100440 /
Elsbeth Norman 01249740310 / Fay Wardall 01249760522

SMALL THOUGHTS OF A LARGE CLERGYMAN

A copy of an article from a very respected newspaper was given to me after our Sunday Service a few weeks ago. An article with a challenging title - not just for clergy but any member of our congregations - "Can the Church of England survive?" The article was illustrated with a picture of a beautiful church with a lone clergyman standing in the doorway watching numbers of people walking past the church, going about their normal business or leisure, with not a glance in the direction of the clergyman or his church.

Well, we know the statistics - in a population of 65 million, fewer than one million go to church regularly, a decline of 11% over the past decade. Sadly, this decline has been the Church's lot for several generations in an age when Sundays are for football and car-boot sales. Yet all is not gloom. Nationally, there has been a 14% increase in the number of men and women beginning training for the priesthood this autumn. What would be encouraging of course would be a similar increase in the numbers attending our Sunday services!



Perhaps we should look at the statistics in a different way, because we live in very different times to the age when regular attendance on a Sunday was pretty much the norm for many people. I remember reading some time ago an article by a Vicar who had analysed in great detail the numbers of people coming to his church in any one year. He found that he could divide his church-goers into three groups. There are those who come every week. Then there are those who come about once a month. The third group is those who come just at Christmas, Easter and the other festivals. He found that the occasional attenders, the second group, have stayed the same or even increased, over the past few years, and I believe that this fact is reflected in the statistics for our own churches.

Personally, I believe that, although statistics are interesting, they are only numbers. What matters, if we wish to improve those numbers and attract others into our churches is the quality of our worship and the welcome that we give. Are we being the sort of Christian community which we are taught to be in the New Testament? Do we demonstrate to the world at large that "love of

neighbour" is very much part of the ethos of our church? Is our worship sincere and heartfelt? Is the "fellowship of the Holy Spirit", that we expound in our worship and extend to all who we meet, real and strong? If we can say "yes" to all these questions then perhaps we can say "yes" to the columnist's question, "Can the Church of England survive?"

God Bless You

Jim Scott



TYTHERTON VILLAGE HALL

A big 'thank you' to Sheila and Viv for running the Coffee & Cake mornings each Friday from mid-May to mid-September. All who came very much appreciated their hard work and the cheerful welcome received. Thank you to all who came along to the mornings. Over £400 has been raised for the village hall.



A Hallowe'en Party for children

Saturday 25th October 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

For 2 - 6 year olds, come in your favourite fancy dress.

Party games; Hallowe'en High Tea; Tea & cake for accompanying adults.

£3 per child. To book see contact details below.



The Bonfire Breakfast: Sunday November 5th 9.00 am - 11.00 am

Start November 5th with a bang! (er)...and egg, bacon, mushrooms, hash browns, beans, black pudding --the choice is your. Toast etc., tea, coffee, o.j. £6 a head, no need to book.

Christmas Gift & Craft Fair - Saturday 25th November 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

For a 2nd year we are holding a Fair in the Hall. For details see the half page display ad in this month's magazine. If you are interested in having a stand, and for further details, please contact Viv (07891 340311) or Brenda (01249 740367)

Village Carol Celebration - Tuesday 19th December, 6.30 pm in the Moravian Church.

Followed by mulled wine & mince pies in the village hall.

The Bar is open each Friday evening from 8 pm: All are very welcome

For bookings and event enquiries call 07719 176753 or email

events@tythertonhall.co.uk

Look on our Hall Facebook page for news and photos of recent events

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH. FOXHAM

Sunday 1 Oct Trinity 16	9.30 am Holy Communion	D. Wilton Philippians 2:1-13
Sunday 8 Oct Trinity 17	9.30 am Family Service	E. Hannah Matthew 21:33-end
Sunday 15 Oct Trinity 18	9.30 am Holy Communion	M. Kellond Philippians 4:1-9
Sunday 22 Oct Trinity 19	6 pm Evensong	R. Pegler Exodus 33:12-end
Sunday 29 Oct	11 am HOLY COMMUNION BENEFICE AT DERRY HILL	

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, TYTHERTON LUCAS

Sunday 1 Oct	Morning Service	10 am	Eryl Spencer
Sunday 8 Oct	Eucharist	8.30 am	Peter Tremelling
Sunday 15 Oct	Mattins	10 am	Margaret Gubbins
Sunday 22 Oct	Harvest	8.30 am	Rod Key
Sunday 29 Oct	Evening Prayer	3.30 pm	Jim Scott

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, BREMHILL

	Service	Sidesmen	Readers
1 Oct Trinity 16 Green	8 Holy Communion 6 Harvest Thanksgiving	William W-S Mark Kyte Arnold Woods Gwen Woods	Philippians 2: 1-13 Prisca Wyldbore-Smith Deuteronomy 8: 7-18 Jean Pocock 2 Corinthians 9: 6-end Michael Parlett
8 Oct Trinity 17 Green	11 Holy Communion	David Stevens Judy Scott	Philippians 3: 4 -14 Francis Pearson
15 Oct Trinity 18 Green	6 Evensong	Mervyn Wells Beryl Wells	Exodus 32: 1-14 Nicol Jordan Matthew 22: 1-14 William Bailey
22 Oct Trinity 19 Green	9.30 Family	Tamsin Castle Prisca W-S	Matthew 22: 15-22 J Lamacraft
29 Oct Last Sunday after Trinity Green	10 United Benefice Sung Eucharist	St Mary's Church Calne	
5 November 4 before Advent All Saints White	8 Holy Communion 6 Evensong	Nicol Jordan Jane Jordan June Hughes Sue Tumber	Revelation 7: 9-end Tamsin Castle Isaiah 65: 17-end Mervyn Wells Matthew 5: 1-12 Jane Jordan

ST MARTIN'S NOTICES

The work on improving the ventilation of the church and repairs to the north end of the roof have been carried out. The Hatchment is back from the restorer and a faculty is being sought to allow it to be replaced on the south wall above the door. The Church Wardens will be looking at a new sign and notice board for the church.

Cleaning Rota. The Church Cleaning and Flower Rotas are in the church. 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.

Afternoon tea china for hire. Very reasonable rates. Contact Philippa on 815337. If you have any items of local Church news for the next edition of the Newsletter, please send to editor@bremhill.com by 13th of each month. Thank you.

MORAVIAN CHURCH, EAST TYHTERTON

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

CATHOLIC SERVICES

St Mary's, Chippenham

Saturdays 6 pm

Sundays 9.30 am and 6.30 pm

Station Hill, Chippenham

Canon Desmond Millett

www.stmaryschippenham.co.uk

St Edmund's, Calne

Saturdays 6 pm

Sundays 10 am

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Father Vincent Curtis

01249 813131

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Church	Elizabeth Hannah 740619	William Wyldbore- Smith 814969
Wardens	Mary Kellond 740633	David Stevens 815337
Treasurer	Robert Pegler 740253	David Stevens 815337
Secretary	Jenny Wilton	Paula Godwin

For any information (Weddings, Funerals, Christenings and Special services), please contact:

Church House: 30, Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU. Open 10.30-12.30

Tuesday to Saturday. 816522 - office@parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk

Team Rector: Rev Bob Kenway:812340

frbob@parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk

SUN-DIAL, IN THE CHURCHYARD OF BREMHILL

William Lisle Bowles

So passes silent o'er the dead thy shade.
Brief Time: and hour by hour, and day by day,
The pleasing pictures of the present fade,
And like a summer vapour steal away!

And have not they, who here forgotten lie
(Say, hoary chronicler of ages past!)
Once marked thy shadow with delighted eye,
Nor thought it fled, how certain, and how fast!

Since thou hast stood, and thus thy vigil kept,
Noting each hour, o'er mouldering stones beneath;
The pastor and his flock alike have slept,
And dust to dust proclaimed the stride of death.

Another race succeeds, and counts the hour,
Careless alike; the hour still seems to smile,
As hope, and youth, and life, were in our power;
So smiling and so perishing the while.

I heard the village bells, with gladsome sound,
When to these scenes a stranger I drew near,
Proclaim the tidings to the village round,
While memory wept upon the good man's bier.

Even so, when I am dead, shall the same bells
Ring merrily, when my brief days are gone:
While still the lapse of time thy shadow tells,
And strangers gaze upon thy humble stone!

William Bowles became vicar of St Martin's in Bremhill in 1804 and was a prolific poet. He knew, and was visited by, Coleridge and Wordsworth. He wrote many poems about his Church and here is an example. There is only one problem though. The sundial was on the cross in the churchyard but now it is missing !! Does anybody know where it is? If so, can we have it back please?

BREMHILL SHOW



Presentation of the prizes to the children.
Cups and medals. Well done to all .



A high standard of entries in the
flower and vegetable sections.