

EAST KNOYLE NEWSLETTER

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July/August 2025



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eastknoylenewsletter@gmail.com



The East Knoyle Newsletter

Welcome to this Summer Edition of the newsletter. Plenty of events have recently taken place and there are more to follow over the coming months. Read more about all of them in this issue.

Thank you to Jim Hyde for the cover photo .

The Editors

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Parish Council News

East Knoyle Parish Councillors and friends, old and new, gathered at the Village Hall to express their heartfelt thanks to Neil Southerden who recently stepped down from the Council after some 30 years of involvement. The Chair presented Neil with a token of appreciation for his contribution to the community, he and his sense of humour will be greatly missed – photo to be selected

Your Parish Council has a new Councillor, Eric Brunner who was appointed at the July meeting. Eric lives in Milton and I'm sure you will both congratulate him on this new role and benefit from his lived experiences. The Parish Council still has 2 Councillor vacancies. It is a very rewarding role so if you are intrigued by the prospect can we suggest you come along to a Parish Council meeting and see the Council in action or alternatively have an initial conversation with either the Chair or Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council has now agreed and signed a new 20 year lease for Wren's shop, and as befits this valuable Community asset has not increased the lease rent. Lease includes 5 year reviews and will provide certainty of tenure going forward.

The Parish Council owns a marquee that is available for village and private functions. Setup and takedown are included in the service. For more information please contact the Parish Clerk

Peter Dean - East Knoyle Parish Clerk
Email: clerkeastknoylepc@gmail.com



Did you know there is a East Knoyle village WhatsApp group?

The purpose of which is to relay important information quickly to those in the village, such as a tree blocking a road lost dogs or cats

Please message Deb Bateman on 07713 321 530 to be added.



Wanted: Editor for Our Village Magazine – Step Into the Role for 2026!

Our cherished village magazine is looking for a new editor to take the reins starting in January 2026 as Karen will be stepping down from the editorial group.

If you would like to help keep our community connected through the written word, we'd love to hear from you! All you need is a Windows PC/laptop that has Microsoft Publisher and some experience in using Office applications. Or if you have experience using another publication software/website we are happy to hear from you, as Publisher will be discontinued towards the end of 2026.

To ensure a smooth transition, Karen is happy for the incoming editor to shadow her for the last two issues of 2025. Please speak to Karen, Deb or Tom or email eastknoylenewsletter@gmail.com for more information.

Wren's Shop News

New 20 Year Lease Is Signed

It is difficult to believe that the original lease on our Community Shop was signed 20 years ago. Where did all that time go? At the beginning of this year the Management Committee began negotiations with the Parish Council to renew the lease for a further 20 years. These negotiations were successfully completed and the new lease has now been signed. We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for making this process so smooth and, indeed, our rent on the premises has not been increased. This enables us to continue to invest in the business and the community at the same level for the foreseeable future. Our particular thanks go to Sue Entwistle, Chair of the Parish Council, and our legal advisors, Adam Cleal and Brian Williamson.



Privacy Policy

A new privacy policy has been developed which covers the use of all the personal information which we hold, whether this is because you have a customer account with us, you volunteer with us or you are a member of the Association. This policy can be viewed on our website: <http://www.wrens-shop.co.uk> or you can request a hard copy of it by emailing: shop@wrensshop.co.uk or by telephoning us on 830735.

Thank You To Everyone Who Supports Our Community Shop So Enthusiastically



**Owned & Run by the Community
For the Community**

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 08:00 to 18:00

Saturday: 08:00 to 16:00

Sunday/Bank Holidays: 09:00 to 12 noon

Newspapers every day

Fresh Fruit, Vegetables & Meat 6 days a week

Fresh Bread delivered 3 times a week

Croissants baked in-store daily

Hot Drinks available

Orders Taken

Tel: 01747 830735

Email: shop@wrensshop.co.uk

<http://www.wrens-shop.co.uk>

Facebook: WrensShopEastKnogle



Opening Hours

Monday to Friday : 09:00 to 13:00

(Closed Weekends & Bank Holidays)

Our Services

- *Amazon Drop-off & Collections
- *Banking - cash withdrawals, cheque/cash deposits
- *Banking Balances
- *Bill Payments & Top-up
- *Drop & Go Drop-off
- *Customs Forms for International Postage
- *Euros on Demand, Other Currencies - to order
- *ParcelForce UK & Worldwide (incl Large Parcels)
- *Postal Orders
- *Royal Mail Letters & Parcels (Inland/International)
- *Royal Mail Redirections
- *Royal Mail 24/48Hr Tracked &/or Signed For
- *Savings & Investments
- *Special Delivery, Tracked & Signed-for Postage
- *Stamps (1st & 2nd Class & International)
- *Travel Money Cards

Tel: 01747 830928

Email: shop@wrensshop.co.uk

Your Community Shop needs you!

Our thriving Community Shop is looking for new volunteers to join the 50+ Existing volunteer work force.

What can we offer?

- It's a great chance to give something back to our lovely village community.
- If you are new to the village this is simply the best way to integrate and meet new people it might otherwise take you years to get to know.
- Flexible work to suit your personal circumstances. Some enjoy working the same shift each week, others volunteers, when they can find time. Most shifts are 2 hours long. {more if you want}
- Training will be provided, you can serve customers or fill shelves, preferably both !!
- There are Jobs for early birds opening the shop and closing duties that start after the Shop has shut.
- If you don't get out enough and need company in a friendly environment, this is for you.
- A Christmas party which is free to all volunteers.

If you are interested in being part of our volunteer team contact Kevin Stow on **kandbstow@hotmail.com**



East Knoyle's Mystery Bus Service

Most of the village, especially those living near the War Memorial and Playground, will have noticed a new Reds Bus Stop sign newly attached to one of the signposts. We waited for a timetable, or a notice on the village noticeboards, or at the very least, some notification to our Parish Council.....but no information has appeared. The consequence is, unsurprisingly, the occasional bus travels through the village, empty.

Sue, Chairman of the Parish Council, asked me to find out what the village is thinking about the bus service. Very few people know any more about it and have even used it. I have attached the timetables below, which I found on the internet.

Bus 26, goes to and from Salisbury once on a Tuesday and once on a Saturday.
Bus 86, goes to Shaftesbury once on a Thursday, providing 2 hours in Shaftesbury.

The feedback, I have received from customers in Wren's Shop, is overwhelmingly negative. Comments include, times do not cater for working or education hours, fear of missing the bus home without alternatives because there is only one bus a day, too early to use a bus pass, too short a stay in either Salisbury or Shaftesbury, not enough time to go to an appointment at the hospital, bus route does not go to Hindon so no use for Hindon surgery.....

Link to 26, 26A 27 timetable <https://bit.ly/46uXUky>

Link to 86 Thursday time table <http://bit.ly/45XIINY>

Trish Strachan



East Knoyle Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting took place on 21st May and the new Committee was elected which is David Jenkins Chair, Paul Egginton Vice Chair and Treasurer, Jill Caudle Secretary, Jill Hockham Booking Secretary, Ann Ambrose, Alistair Campbell, Helen Lever, Phil Lever, Paul Naish and John Scattergood.

The Treasurer announced that the Village Hall income has exceeded the running costs for the first time and which means all the fund raising can be put towards the various projects that need to be undertaken in an old building.

The Committee look forward to providing the Teas at the Flower and Vegetable Show and the marquee will be used by the RBL the following day.

A note for the diary The Quiz Night will be on November 22nd and we thank Martin Brown being the Quizmaster.

Paul Egginton and John Scattergood are putting together a 'Cash in the Attic' Fair towards the end of October – an opportunity to offload some of the gems that are lurking in your attics!

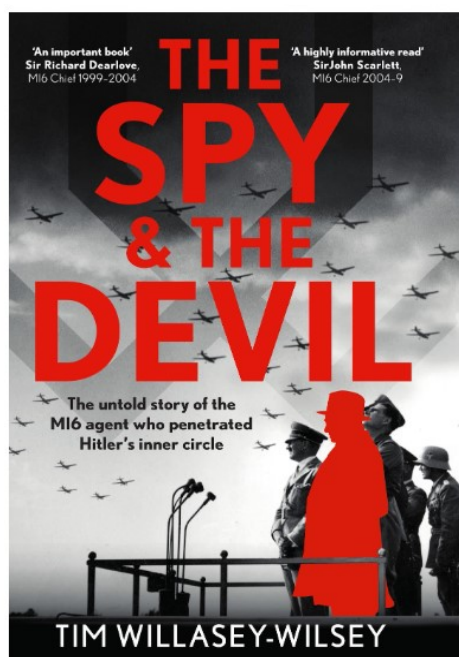
David Jenkins

For Village Hall Bookings & Availability - eastknoylevillagehall@gmail.com



UNCOVERING THE SPY AND THE DEVIL

The search for MI6's most secret pre-war agent



AN ILLUSTRATED TALK
by Tim Willasey-Wilsey CMG
Former diplomat

Saturday 20th September at 5.30 for 6pm
at EAST KNOYLE VILLAGE HALL
in aid of Save the Children

Tickets £15
Refreshments, Raffle

Tickets available in advance from **East Knoyle Village Shop**; and from
Katie Page (katiepage@copac.org.uk)
Payments (or donations) by Cheque to Save the Children or
BACS: a/c name Save the Children DC26, a/c no. 65586718, sort code 08-02-28



Save the Children



Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

The Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust has raised and distributed £1.7M to churches and chapels across Wiltshire for critical fabric repairs and community enhancements.

Their main source of income is the annual sponsored bike ride and walk Ride and Stride. Several local churches have received grants including St Mary's East Knoyle.

Please join us this year and visit some of the interesting and historic Wiltshire churches that will be welcoming visitors taking part with cake and refreshments on Saturday September 13th.

Who

Young and old will all enjoy the event whether on foot or on wheels. Some major sponsorship has been raised by eight year olds!

Locally

East Knoyle, Semley, Sedgehill, Donhead St Mary, Charlton, Donhead St Andrew and Wardour Chapel will all be open and a six mile group walk between Wardour and Charlton with a picnic lunch in Donhead St Andrew is being planned involving clever things with cars.

Rest of Wiltshire

A list of open churches and eleven suggested trails can be found on the WHCT website www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk

Plan your Day

First step: contact hugomiddleton2@gmail.com for a Sponsorship Form. Sponsors can donate by cheque or through a JustGiving page.

Next: invite some friend to join you, decide where to go, plan a picnic.

Saturday September 13th

East Knoyle Rainfall—May and June

The drought continues, grass is not growing, fields are turning brown. We have a tough summer ahead.

MAY. We had 0.58" (15mm) in May. The 29 year average is 2.54" (65mm), so rainfall was under a quarter of the average..

JUNE. Similar story in June. We had total 1.56" (39.7mm) in June, compared to 29 year average of 2.31" (58.7 mm). So June rainfall was 69% of the 29 year average.

This was not nearly enough to make up for the dry preceeding months. In the four months March-June we have had a total of 3.21" compared to 29 year average of 11.42".

Nat Page



Round and About

Although there seem to be a lot of houses on the market at the moment, the R&A team is only aware of two farewells to be mentioned this time. Up on The Green, Silvie and Drew have moved from Green Farm to be nearer one of their daughters and their grandchildren. They created a super garden with both formal and wild areas and were keen students of the wildlife they encountered in it. Drew produced a book of photos as a result, bEast Knoyle, and presented the archive group with a copy. Silvie, an artist and writer, compiles Catalogues Raisonnés. From The Street, Dawn Mackain Bremner has moved to Motcombe, after more than thirty years here with her husband Fergus.

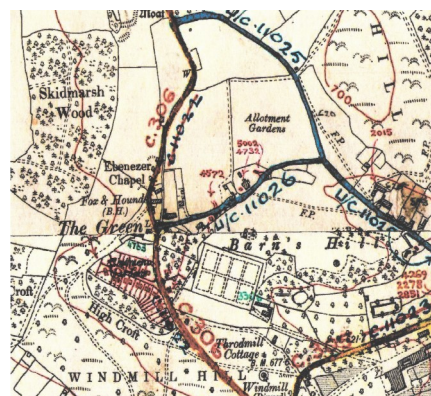
A familiar figure in the village, a stalwart supporter of both the shop and St Mary's, famed for her coffee cakes and her meringues, a brilliant tennis player and horsewoman, Dawn will be much missed.

Sadly we record the death of Simon Hunt from Shaftesbury Road, father, grandfather and then long-term partner of Babs. Simon was 87 when he died last month after a period of illness. For many years he masterminded the Fete when it was held at Knoyle Place, and did so with style and great energy from their home in Holloway. We send our sympathy to Babs, to Alex and her family and to all the Hunts.

Very established residents may well remember the Homes family who used to live in Holloway House. Ron was the artist who painted the wonderful backdrop to the stage in the village hall, and lone used to run the Guides. They moved away to Shaftesbury about 35 years ago, but Ron is buried here and lone, who died in June at the grand age of 99, will be laid to rest with him. Our condolences go to their daughters and grandchildren.

In an issue earlier this year we mentioned the various jobs which need to be done to keep Wren's Shop in fine fettle. This time we would like to spotlight St Mary's, and the numerous volunteers who help to maintain it. One of the things visitors often mention is the fact that it is open for people to admire the Wren Plasterwork, or just sit in peace – thank you opening/closing team. Then there are always lovely flowers, provided and arranged by a team co-ordinated by Cilla. Another group, led by Helen, clean and

hoover each week. There are candles to be bought and installed (amazing how many are used!); bells to be rung for services, weddings, funerals, national occasions and practices on Mondays – Nicki masterminds all this. The clock is kept in going, the organ is serviced and the flag is raised as appropriate. The church yard and extension are cared for under the Eco-church scheme so that access to graves should be easy but a lot of the area is left for wildlife. Hedges have to be trimmed, and oil ordered so that the building does not suffer from damp in the winter. Enormous thanks go to all involved whether they have formal responsibility or just help out because they know something needs doing. We are lucky to have a Grade 1 listed building in our midst, and people—not necessarily on the PCC - who care about it.



Despite a busy event schedule it is the 24/25 Poppy Appeal that headlines this latest report for, with two months to go before the close of the appeal at the end of September, the great news is that we have already surpassed our previous best ever total of £15,173 and raised to date £15,737.

The tremendous start made in November with a total of £12,829 raised in two weeks collecting at Willoughby Hedge (previous best £9,988) and the auction of a Brittany Ferry ticket has been maintained through the summer months by Roy Halsall selling Poppy appeal merchandise at an extensive list of commemorative events across southern and south west counties. With four events left he has so far this summer raised £2,857 - figures that speak for themselves - so we are on track to exceed the £16k mark in what is already an award winning year.



Roy's summer efforts will be boosted by two talks we have scheduled in July and August (see below) so, in the circumstances it is only appropriate that our annual Strawberry and Pimms tea, held to thank all the supporters and volunteers who give their time and/or money to the appeal throughout the year, will be taking place on the Sunday 10th August (2,00pm on the lawn of EK village hall) and will provide an ideal curtain raiser to our 'VJ week programme'.



Events

On the 2nd July a party of Branch members visited the Army Flying Museum in Middle Wallop, kindly arranged by our Standard Bearer, Mark Gittins and were given an extensive tour of the impressive collection from the earliest days of Army flying to modern helicopters. By an amazing coincidence, it turned out that our informative and knowledgeable tour guide, retired Senior 'Apache' Instructor Andy Huzan, was a former pupil of EK School and a chorister at St. Mary's during the early 1970s.

The Branch were also well represented at the annual Fovant Badges Drumhead service which is held annually on the nearest Sunday to the 1st July, the anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 in which so many regiments stationed at Fovant fought.

Prior to going to press one of our future diary dates included, on the 17th July, a talk at Semley Village Hall on the work of the Commonwealth Graves Commission.

VJ Week 10th-16th August

Arrangements for VJ week are:

- 10th August - Strawberry and Pimms, 2.00pm EKVH
- 12th August, - The Forgotten Army, a talk by Charlotte Carty, 6.00pm, Semley VH.. Tickets £8 in advance or £10 on the door.
- 15th August - Commemorative Service, 80th Anniversary of VJ Day 10.55am, EK village war memorial
- 16th August - Bus tour to Imber on Salisbury Plain.

Next Branch meeting: 2nd August, 1830, Benett Arms, Semley.
Ron Clark, Branch Secretary.



IN AID OF THE POPPY APPEAL

Do you have any odd coins or notes, old or foreign currency? Even Euros! Old watches (working or not). Small items of militaria or interest, including Jewellery.
Gold or silver scrap.

Please contact Roy Halsall 830499, or leave at the Village Shop Post Office.

All money made will go to the Poppy Appeal.

2025/26 East Knoyle Fantasy Football League

With the Premier League season starting on 16th Aug the EK Fantasy Football League Managers are limbering up for another season.

Top manager last year was Sian Coward, our first lady champion, and we will be presenting her with the trophy at our pre-season training camp.

If you would like to join the League then please contact me at the e-mail address below. The rules and regs are straightforward and help is available for new managers.

Last year we had 26 managers of which 7 were Ladies and it would be great to add a few more ladies to the managers roster this year.

For more info contact kandbstow@hotmail.com

The 24th Fun Fair and Fun Dog Show at Upper Leigh Farm in aid of SAVE THE CHILDREN 1st June 2025

It was the perfect English summer's day with a gentle breeze and plenty of warmth which brought so many friends and visitors over to the farm for our Annual Fun Day and Fun Dog Show. There were countless stalls spread over the drive and in the gardens tempting purchasers to try Fred's local honey from the Fonthill beehives which could then be conveniently popped into one of Miggles Moroccan baskets together with a successful win of wine from the Tombola, a silver candlestick from the Bric-a-Brac, a vintage dress or two from the Boutique and a pair of Mexican earrings to complement "the look". Then to relax with a pot of tea under the plum tree while trying to choose from a dazzling assortment of cakes and goodies on offer at the refreshments tent, all the while being serenaded and entertained by Conor, our much-loved local busker from Shaftesbury.

Back on the drive tempting chargrilled burgers, sourced locally by Karalyne Hyde and expertly grilled by Tim satisfied the still-hungry and there was a chance to admire the visiting alpacas in the shade. Throughout the afternoon, David Hockham and his team thoroughly delighted all dog lovers with their masterly command of canine virtues and the various entrants surpassed themselves with their engaging tricks and antics. By the end of the afternoon the ring was studded with a ripple of rosettes and countless happy, wagging tails.

We made a record-breaking sum of just under £5,000 for Save the Children (Shaftesbury Branch) and the committee would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of our helpers, stallholders, volunteers and those attending for making it such a happy and successful day.

We look forward to seeing you in 2026 which will mark the 25th anniversary of this event and, as near as we can trace, very likely the 75th anniversary of our Shaftesbury branch.

Katie Page



TISBURY & DISTRICT LINK SCHEME (TISBUS)

ARE DESPERATELY IN NEED OF VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

ARE THERE FOLKS OUT THERE WHO ARE WILLING TO ASSIST THIS CHARITY IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE A SERVICE TO OUTLYING VILLAGES IN THIS AREA HELPING PEOPLE GET TO SHOPS OR ON ORGANISED OUTINGS TO VARIOUS INTERESTING PLACES?

A VALID DRIVING LICENCE IS OBVIOUSLY A NECESSITY BUT OTHERWISE DRIVERS OFFER THEIR TIME AS AND WHEN THEY ARE ABLE TO, WITH THEIR OWN MILEAGE REPAID.

THE TISBUS PICKS UP AND RETURNS PASSENGERS "DOOR TO DOOR" THROUGHOUT OUR VILLAGES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT

DAVE ON 07500 802525



SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 10:30

Silent Auction bar BBQ Bottle stall Teas and cakes

Jams Cakes and produce stalls Book Art stall Raffle

Face painting Vintage clothes Bric-a brac Ice creams

ALL AROUND THE VILLAGE HALL

Hymns & Pimm's

The villagers who braved the heat of June 19th to meet in the cool of St Mary's enjoyed an evening of great organ playing, delicious Pimm's, hearty singing and a few well-chosen and beautifully read summer readings. The Community Choir entertained us with two of the songs they have prepared for the Shaftesbury Fringe, and the Benefice Choir sang Brother James' Air. Both of those were welcome breaks for our vocal chords as we lustily sang the village's ten favourite hymns, including Guide me Oh Thou Great Jehovah, Jerusalem and Tell out my Soul, and we thank the members of both choirs for their help and support. The readers were Sally Webster, Alan Knight and Kate and Stephen Dobson who, very sportingly, read "Promises" by Caroline Drew – a new and light-hearted take on marriage vows. David Webster knitted the whole evening together in inimitable fashion, explaining any local connections of the chosen hymn-writers or composers. Our thanks go to David Power and Jane Beaumont, our organists, without whose skill and careful planning the evening would not have been possible. Many of those who attended have taken the trouble to say how much they enjoyed it and often asked 'will it happen again next year?' Watch this space!

East Knoyle Village Fete

Silent auction

Items include original art by Tim Scott Bolton and John Maine RA, a pair of tickets to the Theatre Royal in Bath and at least three others to be announced in August

Place your bids on the East Knoyle village website from August. Full details available at Wrens shop

Flower & Vegetable Show 9th August

Just a reminder that the Show is less than a month away! We are all being tested to keep up watering in this long period without rain, but we are all in the same boat so the competition should be equal. I remember something similar happening last year, and much of the vegetable produce was smaller than usual, so please still submit your entries even if they don't reach your usual high standard. The school holidays are about to start and we are hoping the children's classes will be as exciting as usual. Flowers, vegetables, baking, preserves, children - these are the backbone of the Show, but how about some interesting photos as well? Come along to the Village Hall, have tea, buy a winning raffle ticket, have fun.

Val Morsman



East Knoyle Village Hall 200 Club

The Village Hall 200 Club has held its FOURTH draw of the year in Wren's Shop. Drawn on another blisteringly hot, sunny day, the winning number is 142; this month's winner is:

BRIAN CLOSE £50.00

Thanks to Brian and to all subscribers, who are helping to maintain and to improve East Knoyle Village Hall.

New supporters are cordially welcome to join at any time for only £12 a year. Just ring Sara and Neil Southerden on 830594 or leave a message in the Shop.

The next draw is on September 1st, when we might hope that Summer continues as sunnily as it has been, with just the odd nocturnal shower of rain.



Fox and Hounds – What's Happening?

- The pub is still being advertised for sale or rent.
- The pub owner has requested a review of Wiltshire Council's decision to designate the Fox and Hounds as an Asset of Community Value.
- We have qualified for advice from the Plunkett Foundation in the creation of a cooperative or community benefit society to own the pub. This gives us access to the expertise and experience of an organisation that has been involved in most of the UK's 200 community pubs (which have a very high success rate – nearly all are still in business) and numerous other community businesses, including setting up Wren's Shop in the village several years ago. Most importantly, advice from Plunkett will cover company structure and ownership, public fund-raising and loan agreements.
- We are making preparations to get a third party valuation and a building survey of the property which would underpin any future offer to buy the freehold of the Fox and Hounds.
- To help pay for the valuation and survey, and any other professional fees and miscellaneous costs that can't be avoided, we're raising a 'fighting fund' and asking for donations. If the project doesn't proceed, any unspent donations will be returned pro rata. If the project does proceed these donations will be returned to the donors in full.
- If you would like to donate to the fighting fund, please contact Chris Cox on 07980 780753 or chris@emailcox.com for a confidential chat. Please help if you can.

A village without a pub is just some houses J Clarkson 2025

T@3

T@3 takes place on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at **2.45pm**, and we need to be out of the village hall **by 4.30pm**.



St Mary's and St John's Hindon Primary School

Our school has been very busy in the months since the last newsletter; the summer term leading up to the holidays is always packed with trips and interesting topic work.

Our Robins children have been finishing their dragon topic with a fantastic art project where they designed and made their own amazing dragon eggs which were so beautifully decorated. They also made 3D dragons using push pins to enable body parts such as the legs and tails to be able to move.

The Owls children have been learning about how the human body is formed, focusing specifically on bones and muscles. They made their own mini skeletons using cotton buds.

Our Woodpeckers and Kingfishers children rounded off their topic work on China by planning and making a Chinese banquet for their parents who came into school to taste delicious food prepared by their children. This class also attended a Countryside learning day hosted by the Fonthill Estate where they learned all about various aspects of estate management including wildlife, arable, forestry, livestock, sustainability, and game management.

Our monthly 'Open the Book' worship sessions are eagerly anticipated by the children and huge thanks go to the volunteers in East Knoyle who give up their time to come into our school and deliver such engaging and thought-provoking worship sessions.

Our whole school headed off to Studland for a fun end of term beach day where many sandcastles were built and picnic lunches consumed. All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day. At the time of writing this article we have less than two weeks before we say farewell to our Year 6 pupils as they prepare to leave us ready for the next part of their journey at Secondary School; we are immensely proud of them and wish them well.



'Storyraid' at Wardour Catholic Primary School

Last term, we were very excited to welcome 'storyraid' to school. Storyraids are a wonderfully engaging Swedish concept which work in the following way:

Several storytellers arrived at school together - the staff knew what was going to happen, but pupils had no idea! Each storyteller knocked on the classroom door and walked in: "Sorry to disturb you but I'm looking for people to tell a quick story to. Can I tell one to you?" A 15 minute story followed, before the teller left as suddenly as they came. This happened all over school and the 'storyraid' was in progress. The element of surprise created the excitement that something out-of-the-ordinary was happening (though the schedule has been carefully planned between the storytellers and staff). Each class received three visits throughout the day from different tellers.

The surprise factor meant that already by break time the school was buzzing in a way that can't be replicated by a 'normal' storytelling visit. Children compare experiences and before they know it, they're swapping the stories they've heard and the playground fills with storytelling. Staff were able to benefit from an evening of storytelling training and the children also took part in storytelling workshops during the afternoon. A huge thank you to Friends of Wardour, who funded this fantastic day, which was also subsidised by the Arts Council.



Polarised?

Since 2003, the American dictionary publishing company, Merriam-Webster, chooses a 'Word of the Year' which reflects key events or global preoccupations and is being widely used in the media. In 2020, you might be able to guess, it was pandemic; 2021 – vaccination; 2022 – gaslighting; 2023 – authentic, perhaps as people increasingly began to mistrust what they were seeing or hearing.

2024's Word of the Year was 'polarization', defined as "division into two sharply distinct opposites; especially, a state in which the opinions, beliefs, or interests of a group or society no longer range along a continuum but become concentrated at opposing extremes."

Recently, in church, we read the Good Samaritan, one of Jesus' most famous parables, which has been told and retold thousands of times through the centuries. It struck me how sad it is that its theme is still so pertinent.

Jesus himself was speaking to a polarised society, suppressed under Roman rule but also fiercely divided between Samaritans and Jews, each deeply resenting the others and unable to see anything they hold in common.

Many of Jesus' listeners will have been scandalised by his parable, as a response to that key question, 'Who is my neighbour?' His Jewish listeners would find it hard to imagine that a Samaritan would stop to help a Jew on the side of the road, but Jesus invites his listeners to realize that a bitter enemy had the capacity to be merciful and generous, while some of their own people showed callous disregard. Jesus specifically says the Samaritan was 'moved with pity' at the sight of the wounded man; he is able to look beyond the man as 'enemy', a nameless representative of a group who hated his own people. He sees another human being and treats him as 'he would want to have been treated'. That sounds so glib, but it is radical and revolutionary – to step beyond the wider history, personal experiences and deep prejudices of our own group and truly see another human being as our neighbour; and even, to realise that we might learn something from our enemies about kindness and generosity.

This may be an old, old tale we have heard many times before but it's profoundly and urgently relevant. In our polarised world, to step across a divide takes courage, self-awareness, and above all compassion – the willingness to ease the sufferings of those with whom we have nothing in common except, of course, our humanity!

Revd Kate McFarlane

Please do make use of our Foodbank collection box by the door to St Mary's.)

To find out the details of which services are taking place around the Benefice please visit

www.benofbart.org.uk/events/month/



Community Coffee Morning

St Mary's, East Knoyle

10.30 - 12.00

4th Tuesday of every month



Knole Nature—Invasive Plants

Some of you may have noticed recent activity on parts of the extensive Common Lands in the village. This was supported by the Parish Council and was carried out by a group called CLAROW (Common Lands and Rights of Way group) which includes Councillors and volunteers and works hard to look after our wild areas. The challenge was to kill two very invasive species one of which has to be controlled by law.

1. JAPANESE KNOTWEED :this is a perennial plant that may look innocent but can grow taller than a man and has roots that can travel 17 m sideways, and 3m deep in the ground. It can penetrate concrete and damage drains and foundations. To sell a house you are legally obliged to say if it is on your land. The PC has the problem of eradicating it because selfish stupid people have in the past dumped it illegally, and it has spread. It is little comfort to know that in Japan they eat it when young like asparagus (after complicated preparation). A small infestation can be eradicated by repeatedly cutting it down so the roots starve- this can take years. Otherwise a potent herbicide has to be used and the emerging plants sprayed several times a year. This has been very successful with our many patches as the herbicide is translocated to the deep roots.

These areas are:

- i. To the left of the top of the footpath connecting Holloway to Wise Lane, where a large bare area shows where it was.
- ii. At the corner of the turn of the steep hill from Underhill to the windmill.
- iii. At three places on the left going up Sandpit Hill.

Please let us know if you still see it in any of these places.

It was introduced to this country as to so many others, in the early nineteenth century, and spread deliberately as a desirable garden plant. It is very tolerant of drought, extremes of temperature and light levels. We should think of it as a very successful plant but unwelcome plant.



2. HIMALAYAN BALSAM: This is an annual plant that can be a nuisance wherever it grows but is a particular threat to water courses. In the village it grows extensively in a wide band to the right of the footpath going steeply downhill from near the SW corner of the Fox and Hounds Green through High Croft wood to the bottom footpath; it follows the line of electricity posts and cables. The Conservation worry is that seeds will end up in the watercourses of the valley below. These seeds come from fascinating explosive pods which can shoot seeds up to 17 m. Like the Knotweed it was introduced as a desirable garden plant, and oddly enough the whole plant is edible and I'm told delicious. Bees love it as nectar source and many people appreciate its flowers. It grows up to head high and its removal by many hands though far from complete has taken mammoth effort, and if you see it on your walks do pull it up (preferably before seed setting). It too was probably dumped there initially.

Many plants are introduced from other countries for our gardens, and in their turn can become very invasive, usually because they have left behind their natural predators and growth checks. A lovely one is the trailing *Campanula poscharskyana* along the Churchyard road bank, and another is the very fashionable little Mexican Daisy which is spreading everywhere and is much loved. Others include various forms of *Cotoneaster* which has become a real pest in many places elsewhere. A particular hate of mine is *Cherry Laurel*. Sold as very cheap hedging, it has poisonous leaves which release cyanide when damaged, and is spreading horribly in Park Copse, our biggest local wood: nothing can eat it, and birds don't even nest in it. Where it grows, it shades out all ground flora and the woodland becomes ecologically dead. It too is a beast to get rid of, and it took us 5 years to be rid of a short hedge in our previous cottage in Milton as it keeps growing from massive deep roots. Huge patches were cut down as part of the Ash clearance on the North side of Wise Lane but now it flourishes as if nothing has happened. If you need an evergreen hedge, plant Yew: it is quick to grow and very controllable throughout its long life.

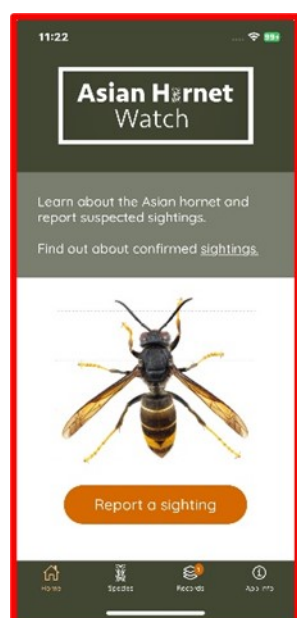
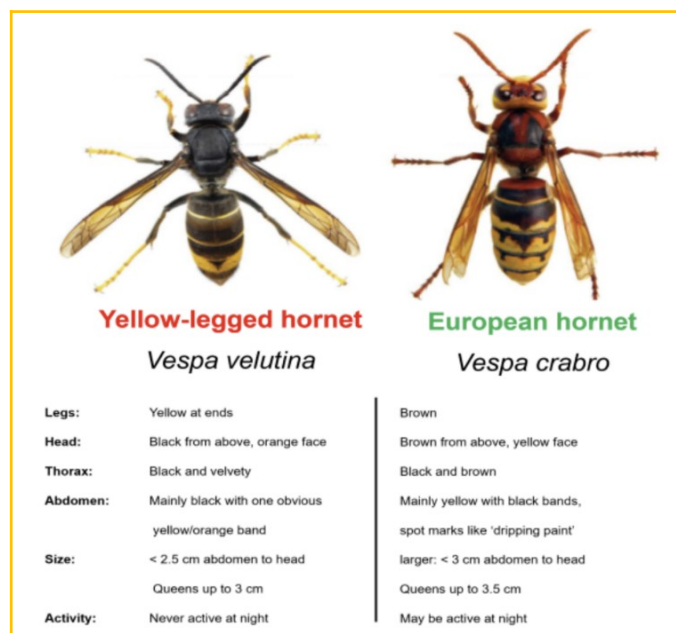


Even using imported plants in aquaria has caused great problems to our river systems once they escape.

David Pickering

East Knoyle Honey Bees - Notes from the Milton Apiary – 25

It is early-July and the beekeeping year in EK is beginning to draw to a close with the early “going-over” of the Blackberry flowers, Meadow Sweet and various Willow Herbs. Our bees collected pots of nectar throughout the amazing spring and early summer. Foraging bees each return with 35mg of nectar and transfer it to the House Bees who continue to dry it out to ~18% of volume. The honey is then ripened over a few weeks. The House Bees mix nectar (hydrolysis) with a series of enzymes including invertase, diastase and glucose oxidase to break it down into simple sugars (sucrose, fructose and glucose). The glucose oxidase further catalyses the oxidation of the glucose to hydrogen peroxide. This is one of the main ingredients in the anti-bacterial property of honey and not just for sticking on my hair!!



Chemistry is the building block of life. I am currently processing (extracting) heavy Supers of honey weighing 2-3 stone each. It is amazing, if each colony collects 4 stone in honey – it will have had to collect ~10-14 stone of nectar, throughout the season. Honey has ~40% higher density than nectar to complicate the maths. The 10-14 stone does not include the nectar that is consumed as food for the colony (200,000 bees), throughout the year. I am sure you found the chemistry fascinating. However, the volume of nectar collection (and therefore pollination) is off the scale! It is this efficiency in nectar collection driven by the internal hive communications (sharing nectar source information and dance) that is one of the arguments for having fewer bee colonies in UK. They possibly crowd-out other native pollinators; butterflies' solitary bees etc. This may be the case in Berlin and central London where there are many bee hives. I don't think it applies to South Wilts. According to the National Bee Unit's Bee Base, we have a much lower density of bee hives numbers. The current count is 114 within 10km of EK, as opposed to 717 within 10km of Fulham Broadway tube station. This does depend on all beekeepers registering with the National Bee Unit (NBU). The NBU delivers the Bee Health Programme on behalf of Defra and manages and controls bee pests and diseases through a team of 60 Regional and

County Bee Inspectors. These ladies and gentlemen are in the vanguard of protecting us (all our pollinators) from the threat of the Asian Hornet / Yellow Legged Hornet (YLH). So, what is the situation?

Last year, there were 71 sightings, including 24 nests. This year, we have had 55 sightings so far, including 18 nests. [Yellow-legged hornet 2025 rolling update » APHA - National Bee Unit - BeeBase](#). 1 hitched a lift to Shropshire, 1 to County Durham, 43 in Kent, 5 in Sussex, 4 in Hampshire (Southampton) and 1, rather worryingly, in Dorset in a garden in Verwood. It doesn't look that brilliant, however the NBU have not offered up any commentary on the situation.

If you have any questions / concerns about Yellow Legged Asian Hornets – please do not hesitate to get in touch – and get the App. Tom EK 246



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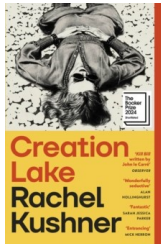
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As I am writing, Liam the Channel 4 News weatherman is telling me with wide eyed expression that we may reach 30+ degrees this weekend. So, whether you are escaping to cooler shores, staying in-doors or found a shady spot you may need a distraction.

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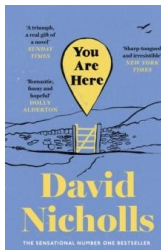
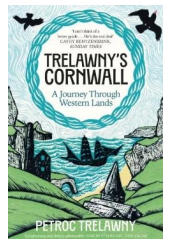


Rachel Kushner – Creation Lake

A novel about a seductive and cunning American woman who infiltrates an anarchist collective in France. A propulsive page-turner of glittering insights and dark humour. A secret agent, a thirty-four-year-old American woman of ruthless tactics, bold opinions, and clean beauty, who is sent to do dirty work in France.

Petroc Trelawny - Trelawny's Cornwall: A Journey through Western Lands

An outstanding homage to Cornwall - its history, traditions and topography. It takes you on a journey around the area, blending personal reminiscences with a real sense of place. The Radio 3 presenter is an engaging guide and brings enthusiasm and charm to the task.

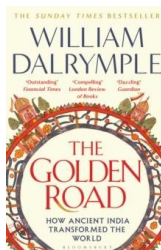
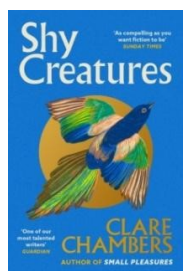


David Nicholls – You Are Here

Thrown together on the 'Coast to Coast' walk, these are two people navigating through life not knowing where they are going. But as the conversation falters and starts then progresses with bumps along the way, they are right where they should be. This isn't a sappy romance. It's witty, clever, fun with lots of sarcasm and humour threaded in and these characters are authentic and charming.

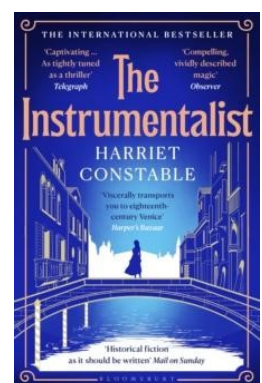
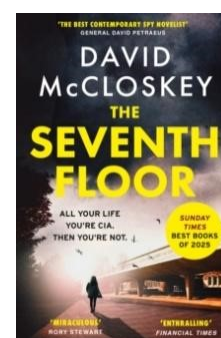
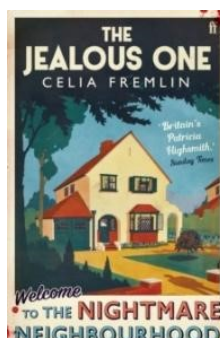
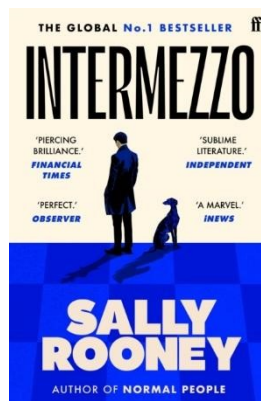
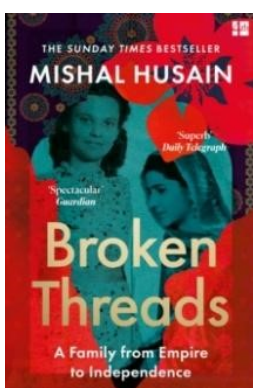
Clare Chambers – Shy Creatures

The focus is on a psychiatric hospital in Croydon, 1964. Helen is an art therapist; Gil is a charismatic psychiatrist and colleague. Based on the true story of a mute man discovered living in a derelict house with his elderly, aunt. It's apparent he's not been out of the house in decades and neighbours are totally unaware of his existence. We find he has real artistic talent and Helen tries to uncover his story.



William Dalrymple – The Golden Road

Fascinating look at India's massive cultural influence on the ancient world. An epic journey along a vast network of cultural and intellectual exchanges that once stretched from the Red Sea to the Pacific. This sweeping historical narrative aims to restore India to its rightful place as the forgotten heart of the ancient world.



The Cinephile

(Reviews of Some Recent Films)



The Ballad of Wallace Island **** (whimsical, nostalgic tale of one fans obsession with a pair of broken musicians.)

The plot to this charming film is somewhat implausible, but after a while that doesn't seem to matter, because by the end the suspension of disbelief has been worth it. A seemingly lonely and sulky middle aged man, Herb (Tom Basden), is on a boat on his way to meet another lonely, but unstoppably cheerful Widower, Charles (Tim Key), who lives alone, in a rambling old house on a remote island. Why? Well, Herb used to be a famous folk musician in a duo called McGyer and Mortimer, (Carey Mulligan) and Charles, (the host), was a super fan who has just won the lottery and booked them to come to the island to perform. The situation is uncomfortable as there is something creepy, almost by definition, about a super fan. What's worse is that it turns out that there isn't a hotel on the island and Herb is staying with Charles, who cannot resist constant commentary and a run of bad jokes. Worse still, unbeknown to Herb, Charles has invited Nell, his former lover and band mate, (and he hasn't 'got over' her yet). Charles has arranged the reunion for his audience of one. The existence of the film itself is an illustration of the determination it takes to get films made. The Director, James Griffiths started out making music videos, then TV Commercials, then a short film, which was a shorter version of this in 2008. It won best short at the Edinburgh Film Festival. James then went out to LA to make a living directing drama for television. So he has spent a career getting everything in the right place and creating the opportunity to make The Ballad and have it distributed in cinemas properly. The experience shows. It's competent film making. The performances are pitch perfect. Really it's a two hander between Key and Basden who tussle beautifully, as wounded men, unexpectedly rebuilding one another. Mulligan's presence is short and sweet, but she glows and anchors the story, showing a clarity of thinking to the men who are grappling with their own emotional wretchedness. The craftsmanship is unpretentious, which serves the story well and only when McGyer and Mortimer eventually perform for Charles does the camera go close and beautifully captures what that means for him. It's sincere.

A New Kind of Wilderness ***** (Top quality documentary filmmaking which won best International Doc at The Sundance Film Festival and packs an emotional punch.)

This, truly lovely film, tells the Story of a young couple who are following their dream. Maria and Nik have bought an idyllic farm in beautiful part of Norway where, with their three children, they are living a self-contained feral life. The children are home educated by both parents. Financial needs are met by Maria's income as a photographer. They also live off the farm, where they all work. Their life is productive, full of love and idyllic.

Brilliant director, Silje Evensmo Jacobson, saw Maria's Blog about their wild and free lifestyle choices and approached the family to start to make her film. As a fellow photographer Silje develops a trusting and intimate relationship with Maria and staying behind her camera she begins to create a beautiful portrait of the family as they go through their daily life.

But then Maria is diagnosed with cervical cancer and tragically, dies. Silje stops filming. Later she has a conversation with Nik about returning to the family to complete the film and tentatively, concerned about how it might affect the children, Nik agrees.

Having been dependent on Maria's income to pay the mortgage on the farm, Nik and the children must now navigate not only the loss of a mother and wife, but also the loss of their home and their alternative lifestyle. They must return from nature back into town and contemporary society: To school and jobs and most horrifyingly, to social media and exams.

Mostly they cope, because they are a remarkable family with a strong foundation.

It's a wonderfully crafted film, beautifully shot and edited. Maria is always present both literally and later spiritually. It's a meditation on life and death, survival and resilience and it is a triumph.

Warfare ***** (A Bloody and unflinching picture of one US Seal Platoon's plight as they commandeer an Iraqi house to observe the enemy's movements.)

This is technically brilliant film making, which blurs the lines between drama and documentary and is all the more affecting for it. This film has been criticized for it's American centric perspective-Iraqis appear as distant shady threatening figures-but writer Alex Garland, (The Beech, Civil War), is smarter than that. Here he is co-writing with Ray Mendoza, a soldier who survived the mission. They give the last word to the Iraqi women who has just been through a terrifying ordeal, handcuffed and shut with her family in their bedroom, while the battle destroys their house around them. As the Americans leave, the rubble soaking up their own blood, she approaches one soldier and asks: Why, Why? He doesn't have an answer and that resonates like Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor.

Riefenstahl *** (Fascinating, but sickening portrait of the brilliant German filmmaker as she spends her life after the war trying to convince herself and us that she wasn't complicit with the Nazis.)

Salt Path **** (Poetic, life affirming film adaptation of the book.)

Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs make a handsome couple. Broken: Their beloved children have fledged the nest; their family farm repossessed and Isaac's character, Moth, has been diagnosed with a life-limiting brain disorder. They decide to walk their way to some kind of recovery along the South West's coastline.

Parthenope *** (Stunningly beautiful, but hugely pretentious Italian filmmaking. Great fun if you take it with a pinch of salt and bath in its sumptuousness).

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Now Available on the East Knoyle website - 'Events in East Knoyle Calendar'.

The purpose of this calendar is not to advertise events as such, just to make us all aware of what might be happening during the year. It will also help organisers of additional events choose suitable dates. It will be available on the East Knoyle website – <https://www.east-knoyle.co.uk/>

The calendar will not take the place of the excellent monthly diary already on the website. It will run alongside it, showing 'one-off events' (not regular activities, meetings, clubs, etc.). Have a look and plan your year! It is quite amazing what is happening on our doorstep.

Please Note - It will be updated but relies on the 'calendar keeper' being informed by organisers, so always check nearer the time!



DEADLINE FOR September / October 2025 Newsletter 10th September 2025

(Newsletters are normally distributed around 10 days after the copy deadline, subject to articles being submitted in time)