

# EAST KNOYLE NEWSLETTER

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March/April 2026



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# The East Knoyle Newsletter

## In this issue ...

A note from the Editors.....

40 days and 40 nights is almost up and it is nearly time to wish you "Happy Easter"

Not sure the Ewe on the front cover agrees.....

This Newsletter is packed with the joys of spring:

NEW FEATURE: Celebrate the achievements of remarkable individuals in the village

World Book Day was a great success.

Parish Council is getting Iain Hamilton at the Forge to build a beacon and is applying for a grant for playground equipment in Knoyle House Grounds

Andrew Knight explains how he hopes to find a buyer and keep the Fox & Hounds operating as a pub.

The Shop have some amazing gifts in their Easter Raffle

The Village Hall had a fantastic Music Quiz evening and showed the key 6 Nations rugby games. They were greatly enjoyed by all the Irish, Scottish and French villagers.....

The RBL shocked us all by winning the much-vaunted Stillwell Cup.....for the 5<sup>th</sup> time!

The Easter Egg hunt will take place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

And David Pickering has helped us distinguish between the various Tits, we may see and hear around the village

Have a lovely spring

The Editors

*The paper this magazine is printed on is from renewable managed forest resources*

This month's cover: photo TK

sheep: John Saxton

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## Parish Council News

Introducing our new Parish Councillor, Leigh Williams who has been co-opted onto the Parish Council. His farming experience and local knowledge will be a great asset going forward. There are still 2 Parish Councillor vacancies that we are seeking to fill so if you are interested in a preliminary chat about the role please contact either the Chair, Councillor Garry Staunton, or the Parish Clerk.

The new Fire Beacon has now been commissioned and is being made by our local blacksmith. It is portable and will enable East Knoyle to safely fulfil its national beacon responsibilities whilst also being available for local activities. Please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.

The remedial works to the old oak tree at Knoyle House Grounds should hopefully be completed by the end of March, this is Subject to Planning consent as it is a conservation area. This is one of several works being undertaken in this area. The overgrown shrubbery and vegetation on both sides of the boundary wall will be cleared and removed. The final repairs to 2 items of equipment in the playground are being completed by the manufacturer and the new accessible picnic bench, funded by Cranborne Chase has been received and will be installed when the ground is drier!

Our first National Lottery bid, for new playground equipment, has been submitted, thanks to the many residents who signed the Community Support statement at Wrens Shop. We should hear the outcome by end April - fingers crossed!

The Parish Council held its first Community event of the year on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March in celebration of World Book Day. Many thanks to Councillors Ambrose and Bateman for making this happen. Based on its success our plan is to make this an annual event. The Parish Council is actively looking at further Community events for 2026, so watch this space.

A date for your diary, 7pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, at the Village Hall We will be holding the East Knoyle Parish Council Annual meeting to which all residents are invited. It is your chance to hear what the Parish Council has done over the past 12 months, to ask questions and raise points for future consideration. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

As spring and summer draw nearer please don't forget that the Parish Council has a marquee that can be rented for local functions and activities. Contact the Parish Clerk for your booking.

Peter Dean

Parish Clerk



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### 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.



## Wren's Shop News

The Shop continues to enjoy fantastic sales. January and February have shown an increase (compared to last year). And, of course, our Loyalty Scheme discounts has been a great incentive for our customers. Thanks to all our shoppers the takings are up on the last few years.



**Easter Raffle** – do you have your Easter raffle ticket yet? You can buy tickets at the Shop for a chance of winning TWO beautiful hand-decorated Easter eggs. The raffle will be drawn Easter weekend on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm. Good Luck.

As usual, all money made from the raffle will be reinvested back into the local community.



Many of you will have noticed some changes to the front of the Shop. We have created a '**Gifting Corner**' next to our greeting cards where you will find a lovely selection of scented candles, soaps, and diffusers and children's items.

With Easter and birthdays coming up, these would make the perfect gift. We also have a good selection of chocolates and biscuits.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, our Community Shop will have reached it's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Shop is very much the heart of the village and we are looking forward to celebrating this special day with you. So please put the date in your diary – there will be more news soon

Are you interested in volunteering – it would be great to have you join us. Just drop by the Shop and speak to any of the volunteers, or

**Stocktaking** – will be carried out in the afternoon of Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. We would like to say a very big thank you to all of those involved.



Wishing you all a Happy Springtime  
East Knoyle Community Shop Committee.

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### Help with church cleaning

Would you be willing to spend a couple of hours once every few months to help with cleaning the church just to Hoover, dust and sweep.

We usually work in pairs so if you could spare the time we would be very grateful.

Please contact Helen Curtis 01747830589 or [r.curtis589@btinternet.com](mailto:r.curtis589@btinternet.com)





**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

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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](mailto:shop@wrensshop.co.uk)

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

Facebook: WrensShopEastKnogle



**East Knogle  
Post Office**

**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
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- Travel Money Cards

Tel: 01747 830928

## Celebrating World Book Day in the Village Hall

On Saturday 7th of March the Parish Council organised a world book day event in the village hall. It was a fun morning with crafts for the children to do and every child could choose a book to take home with them.

We also had three amazing readers from the village Mj, David Webster and Ann-Marie Dean who spoilt us with their captivating stories. A huge thank you to all three... it was very enjoyable.

A big thank you to Lucy Cameron and Gill Stanton for helping with refreshments and also Ann Ambrose for getting books and craft materials together.

Thank you to our village shop for supplying the refreshments.

Looking forward to next year when we will be doing it all again.



## East Knoyle Village Hall

The Music Quiz, for which Kevin Stow designed the questions, was a great success with an oral set of questions from Kevin's brother -in-law to add to the entertainment, a knowledge of the variants of a Scottish accent was necessary to enable you to answer the questions. Our thanks go to Lizzie Gascoyne who organised the Ploughman's and to Paul Naish who put together the tables; Ann White very kindly stood in for Jill Caudle as the scorer, and very ably kept track of the pile of sheets delivered by Kevin's team. The combination of the ticket sales, the bar profit, and the raffle produced over £1100 towards the next project.



The Six Nations viewing in the VH started off with a good attendance but the last game with Italy playing England had 3 attending. We shall review the overall attendance and decide if it is viable to put on this event in future.

We hope we can keep track of the Air Ambulance Skip contents in future and have it replaced without people being disappointed when they turn up to place their donated goods in the skip.

Looking ahead, we aim to have occasional performances of plays or musicals through the projector on the big screen and good notice of such events will be posted in the usual way.

Tanya Farnaby has started attending to the garden at the VH and is looking forward to bringing it up to the same standard as it was a couple of years ago; some of you would know Tanya and Steve as they lived in East Knoyle before they moved to the Donheads.

As many of you might know Martin Brown has asked to stand down as our Master of the Quiz. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to undertake the task with a group of helpers to produce the November Quiz, please contact David Jenkins on 07973 692032

Happy Easter,

David Jenkins.



## ★ EAST KNOYLE'S GOT TALENT! ★

### LET'S CELEBRATE SOME REMARKABLE INDIVIDUALS THAT LIVE IN EAST KNOYLE.

Our aim over the next few issues is to share with you some of the achievements of these individuals.

**Mary Jane** can often be seen wandering around the village maybe with a husband or dog in tow, or on her own striding out. She and Gareth have lived in EK for over 25 years. She was brought up on Orkney until she was 7, her parents in the medical profession, then had a spell of nursing (presumably following parents advice!!) then not following their advice...she worked long haul with BA as cabin crew until her son Oliver was born!

Mary Jane has now achieved a Masters in Psychotherapy which amongst other things means she can have initials after her name! What an achievement - it has taken her just over 7 years of hard slog to get this - often working at the same time, alongside being a mum, wife, friend to many.

She practises in Bath and from her calm and collected manner I am sure that she has brought relief and strength to many individuals who have been lucky enough to be one of her patients. This is a hugely demanding occupation and one that very few can do - we are very lucky that she chose this path.

So raise your coffee mug/glass of vino to her!

Anon



## East Knoyle rainfall January and February 2026

A spectacularly wet January was followed by a wetter-than-average February.

**JANUARY 2026.** We had 8.07" (205mm) in January 2026. The 30 year average is 3.63" (92.13 mm). So this January, rainfall was over twice (actually 2.2 times) the 30 year average. Unending rain and we never saw the sun. (January 2025 was above average too, 5.75" / 146 mm.)

**FEBRUARY 2026.** We had total 4.95" (125.7mm) in February 2026, compared to 30 year average of 2.94" (74.62 mm). This was 68% above monthly average. Mid-February saw the end of the 40 days and 40 nights continuous biblical rainfall.

Nat Page



## Round and About

We record with sadness the death of Jeryl Hills, who has been a quiet and respected member of the village for 52 years. Many people will remember her as a dedicated Brown Owl, and for the Pyrenean Mountain dogs which often stood at her gate on The Green, observing passers by. She was for many years on the nursing staff at Odstock and then the Westminster Hospital, later using her expertise as a village first responder. She will be greatly missed by her three daughters, her grandchildren and her many friends in the village and further afield.



Condolences go to Martin Spooner, and to Simon and Lindsay, on the death of Margaret. The Spooners have lived in the area for many years, moving to East Knoyle on their retirement from farming in Hindon. They quickly settled in to The Street, where Margaret was a valued and friendly member of the community.

Welcome to Dee and Stephen Jenkins who are now living in Upton. They very much appreciate the walks available to them, and are enjoying being part of the WhatsApp group. Dee says that if you come across a black labrador without a collar it could be theirs, so please do get in touch!

A welcome, too, goes to Charlotte Lorrimer and Charles Gutteridge who are moving to the centre of the village from Donhead St Mary because they want exactly that, a village centre location. Keen gardeners, Charlotte and Charles have their own successful careers – Charles as a Doctor and Charlotte as an artist who is about to show work in a food-themed exhibition in Shaftesbury.

Eve and Geoff Cockrell have recently moved to The Green and are delighted to be part of such a welcoming and peaceful community. After many years living in a busy town setting, they were keen to find somewhere closer to nature and immediately fell in love with the village. Outside work are enjoying exploring the surrounding area with their little dog 'Jimmy'. They very much hope to make the village their long-term home and look forward to getting to know more of their neighbours.

We hope that all of these will quickly settle into East Knoyle and become valued and valuable members of our community.



## Wiltshire Connect

Wiltshire's *On Demand* low fare bus service. 24/7 booking on the app or online up to 30 minutes before departure. 6am-8pm Mon-Fri & 8am-7.30pm on Saturdays.



[www.wiltshireconnect.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireconnect.co.uk)

## Royal British Legion



On the 31st of January a small delegation from our Branch travelled to Trowbridge for the RBL Wiltshire County Conference as four time winners of the Stillwell Cup (awarded to the 'Most Efficient Small Branch in Wiltshire'). They returned a few hours later as winners for a fifth time, with the cup still firmly in our Chairman's grasp.

As you will have read on four previous occasions, this cup is awarded for performance across all elements of Branch activity, not just compliance with the stringent administrative requirements of the RBL but also performance in upholding the main pillars of the RBL's responsibilities, particularly, Remembrance. support of the Poppy Appeal and community engagement. Celebrations are now well and truly over and our focus now turns very much to the year ahead and a schedule of talks/events and visits is rapidly taking shape - which includes:



Sir Nick Wright receiving the trophy from General Sir Jack Deverell, County President.

**9th April** - From Milbourne Port to Bletchley Park', a talk by Liz Lamas on the experiences of her mother, Mary Tyler (nee Southcombe), who decoded Japanese signals at Bletchley Park during WW2 and in later life was an active and tireless campaigner for a fairer society, earning an entry in the Debretts Guide to Distinguished People for her work.

**17th June** - The founder of the National Memorial Arboretum, David Childes, has kindly agreed to give a talk on its evolution from small beginnings through to a major year round centre of Remembrance and contemplation for the nation set in 450 acres of beautiful woodland and gardens.

**6th August** - Following the warm reception Charlotte Carty received for her two previous talks on the battle of Kohima and the last year of the Burma campaign, she has kindly agreed to give a third talk on the post war development of the area and particularly the work of the Naga Educational Trust which supports the local indigenous people who, along with other tribes, did so much to make victory in the Burma campaign possible.

More information re all of the above together with updates on possible visits to Bletchley Park and the Arboretum will follow in due course. Remember, all our talks/events and visits are open to non-members so please do come along if something catches your eye - you will be most welcome.

### Remembrance

The RBL is hosting a national commemorative event at the National Arboretum on Friday, 22nd May marking the 15th anniversary of the end of the war in Iraq (Op TELIC) and to honour the service, sacrifice and the 179 British personnel who lost their lives between 2003 and 2011.

On the same day, our village will have the opportunity to participate in the occasion when a short service of commemoration, led by Rector, Canon Kate McFarlane, will take place at the village war memorial, commencing at 1055. Whilst remembering all those who lost their lives or suffered in the conflict it will be Matthew Hull of East Knoyle who lost his life aged 23, ironically to so called 'friendly fire', on the 28th March 2003 who, along with his family, will be uppermost in our thoughts.

The RBL continues to support many Iraq War veterans still living with the consequences of the conflict, including physical and mental health recovery programmes, help with finances, debt, money advice and adapting to civilian life. It has also represented over 700 veterans at tribunals in England under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and helped over 20,000 beneficiaries for grants totalling £11.8 million.

### Visits:

The first visit of the year took place on the 12th March when members and guests had an introductory talk and tour of the Boscombe Down Aviation collection at Old Sarum airfield (see photo) kindly arranged by Paul Naish. The volunteers there very much encourage a 'hands on' approach to visitors touching and sitting in the aircraft which brings an interesting element to any visit.

### Poppy Appeal

A reminder that the current total for the 2025/6 Poppy Appeal stands at £12,284.80. However, with Roy Halsall poised in the wings with a list of summer events to attend and our schedule of talks already confirmed, that total will move significantly upwards and onwards over the coming months.

Ron Clark  
Branch Secretary  
T: 830354



At Boscombe Down Aviation Collection

## The Women's Branch of the Royal British Legion

met in St. Mary's Church on Monday February 9th, when after a brief meeting we were treated to a fascinating talk by Ann-Marie Dean who spoke about her time living in Oman and her extensive and very interesting collection of Omani jewellery, some of which she brought along to show us.



## The annual Easter Egg Hunt

**The date of this event has been changed and will take place on Tuesday 31st March**



It will be held at the Village Hall starting with the Easter Egg Hunt itself at 2pm.

Doors to the hall will open at 2.15 where there will be lots of stalls including teas, coffee, sandwiches and cakes, ice-cream, plus hook a duck, face painting, Easter themed crafts and much more.

And don't forget the Easter Bonnet Parade which will take place at 3.30 ...both children and adults are encouraged to enter...this will be judged by Revd Kate McFarlane.

The Easter Egg Hunt is free, and entry to the hall will be £2 per adult.

Please note this is a cash only event. It is our biggest fund raising event of the year, so please do come along, enjoy home made cakes, enter the raffle, and have fun whilst raising money for the support of the families of both past and present members of our armed forces

The East Knoyle, Semley and Sedgehill Branch welcome new members. Please contact Helen Lever ([helen08.lever@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helen08.lever@hotmail.co.uk)) or Gill Staunton ([gill.staunton@btinternet.com](mailto:gill.staunton@btinternet.com)) for more information.

We not only organise events to raise money, but enjoy some interesting talks and trips out.

Gill Staunton  
Secretary



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## The Fox and Hounds – What's Happening?

Dear Editors,

Thank you for the invitation to respond to the articles that have appeared in the newsletter.

There have been articles in The East Knoyle Newsletter over the past few months about The Fox and Hounds and the owners and we have heard negativity towards us, "the owners". Could we please be referred to as Andrew and Doreen Knight as we have names like all the other people mentioned in the last newsletter as I'm sure everyone knows who we are. We have lived in the village for 40 years and ran the pub for fifteen years until the year 2000.

Just in case any of you are in doubt as to our intentions with the pub, we want it to stay as a pub. In fact, in 1998, in our time running The Fox we gained 2nd place in Wiltshire Life 's 70 Best Pubs in Wiltshire and we have the vision of what a great little pub it can be. There has been no application for change of use. We don't want that. So, just to reassure you all, we would like to find a buyer or a new tenant for The Fox and we're glad to hear the community support us in our search to find someone. And just to remind everyone; we have maintained The Green since last April so any future tenant/owner can continue working positively with the mutually beneficial agreement we have with the Parish Council. We have not left this task to burden the Parish Council's limited budget.

We appreciate the community syndicate's offer which was based upon the valuation they commissioned, but we declined it based upon the valuation we commissioned. The offer was low and came with quite restrictive conditions whilst the pub is for sale and whilst the funds were raised. With these in mind and that research suggests only 2% of Assets of Community Value become community owned we thought we would keep the asset. From our perspective, the Asset of Community Value complicates the selling process and seems to add to those challenges by prolonging the time needed to secure funds—though we believe things could move along much faster if another offer came in!

I am sure Chris Cox who wrote the article "The Fox and Hounds-What's Happening" meant no offence or hurt in his letter, but given the rumours we've heard circulating in East Knoyle and beyond, we felt it necessary to share our perspective in a balanced and measured way.

Thank you again,

Andrew and Doreen Knight.

## Moviola



We have had to swop round our March and April films, due to availability, so now, on **Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>** we are having **Four Mothers (15)**. Set in Dublin, Edward, an emerging novelist, juggles his life with writing and being a carer for his mother, who has been physically impaired by a stroke. When his publishers arrange a

promotional tour of the US, he battles with his duty of care to his mother and his dreams of career success. His conflict is further exacerbated by his three friends, who proceed to leave their own mothers with him so they can go off to a Pride festival in the Mediterranean.

Spiky dialogue, with engaging performances from all the ladies, makes this an entertaining film, while the relationship between mother and son provides a rich source of humour, as well as giving us food for thought on the interesting dynamic between the caring and the cared-for.

On **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April** we will be showing **The Choral (12A)**, with some stellar names both in front and behind the camera. Written by Alan Bennett and directed by Nicholas Hytner (*The Lady in the Van*, *The Madness of King George*), it stars Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allum, Alun Armstrong and Simon Russell-Beale.

It is 1916 and as the First World War rages on the Western Front, the ambitious committee of a Yorkshire choral society, that has lost many of its members to the army, decides to press ahead and recruit whoever they can, to swell the ranks. They also recruit Dr. Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) as the new choir master. Guthrie is a controversial figure with a murky past and a penchant for German music and composers. As conscript papers start to arrive, the whole community discover that the best response to the chaos around them is to make music together.

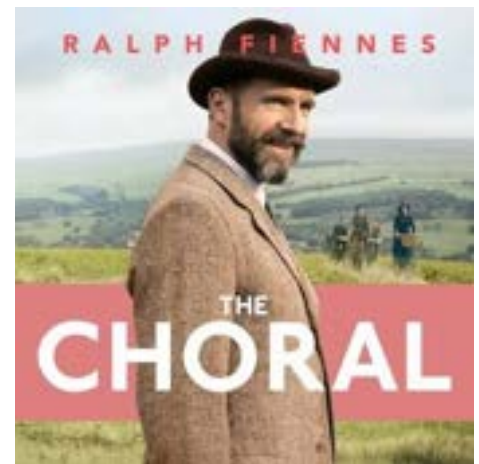
We are serving potatoes before the film as usual. There is a bar with wine, soft drinks, snacks and ice creams.

The tickets are £5 each from Wren's Shop or on the door. Please remember to bring some cash.

We start serving at 6.50 and the film starts at 7.30.

We very much look forward to seeing you in the Village Hall.

Sara Southerden



Tisbury and District Link Scheme provides transport to medical appointments. Most of our drivers come from Tisbury area so coming out to East Knoyle to collect clients adds quite a lot to their journeys and often they won't volunteer. Although we cover EK we have no volunteer drivers in the area. We do have 2 new clients in EK though.

We are seeking potential drivers; it would be a shame for your community to miss out on being able to access our help to get to hospital or appointments. Maybe drivers would just be willing to take EK residents and that would be fine. They can do as much or little as they like. We reimburse 45p a mile.

Please could you help?

Many thanks

Sally Naish [tisburylink@gmail.com](mailto:tisburylink@gmail.com)

## East Knoyle Village Hall 200 Club

The Village Hall 200 Club has held its second draw of 2026 on a lovely sunny day. Spring now has the village in its grip. The winning number is 206. The deserved prize winners are:

**IAN and Jackie Gurney      £50.00**

Thanks to Jan and Alan and to all subscribers; you 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. Let's look forward to even more activities in the Hall in 2026.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**ANNUAL FUN FAIR & FUN DOG**  
**SHOW**  
**SUNDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026**  
**UPPER LEIGH FARM**  
**EAST KNOYLE**

**IN AID OF SAVE THE CHILDREN**

This year will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this hugely popular event which is run by the Shaftesbury Branch of Save the Children. Over those years, with your support, it has raised thousands of pounds for this wonderful charity.

**Donations** to any of the stalls are very welcome. Please let us know if you could bake a cake or some savoury items, donate plants, bric-a-brac, bottles for the bottle tombola or items for the traditional tombola. We would also love good quality books or jigsaw puzzles or good quality clothes. Just let us know and we will collect from you.

**Help** to run the various stalls is also always very gratefully received. If you feel that you could spare a few hours to assist us on the day, or before hand, or can donate any of the above items, please contact:

Katie Page  
[katiepage@copac.org.uk](mailto:katiepage@copac.org.uk)  
01747 830278

## T@3

Are you a resident or ex-resident of East Knoyle? If so, do come along to T@3 on the second Thursday of each month. To avoid wastage it is a real help to email [tat3ek@icloud.com](mailto:tat3ek@icloud.com) to indicate attendance. 24 hours' notice even better! Doors open at **2.45pm**, and we need to be out of the village hall **by 4.30pm**. Next dates: 9th April, 14th May.



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



## World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day in March, the children came to school dressed as a favourite book character, and their costumes were amazing! We held a special assembly, a team quiz and the children made bookmarks and potato book characters.

## Robins class

This term we have loved exploring our topic *The Land of Dinosaurs*. We enjoyed learning about the famous palaeontologist Mary Anning before discovering where dinosaurs once roamed in our geography lessons. To finish the term, the children designed, planned, and created their own movable dinosaur skeletons in Design and Technology, developing creativity, resilience, and problem-solving skills along the way.



## Owls Class

Owls class are learning about Rainforests this term, they have been looking at where Rainforests are in the world, and what kind of environment they are. They have been learning about the different plants and animals that inhabit rainforests and the adaptations that they have which allow them thrive.

The children made rainforest dioramas to bring their learning to life through a hands-on, 3D model. The diorama helps children visualise and represent the four distinct layers of the rainforest—the emergent layer, canopy, understorey, and forest floor—and learn which plants and animals live in each.



## Woodpeckers Class

Woodpeckers have been learning about The Tudors this term. We have learned all about King Henry VIII and his dreadful rule, where people were executed by the thousands and his wives changed every few years! We looked into the short but bloody reign of Queen Mary, known as 'Bloody Mary'. We have been painting The Armada Portrait and looking into the symbolism within that painting and linking this to modern day 'selfies' and how people only show you what they WANT you to see, especially on the internet.



## Wardour Catholic Primary School

### – Baking Bread

As part of our Design and Technology curriculum, children have the opportunity to work with food while learning how to cook and understand the principles of nutrition and healthy eating. Encouraging a love of cooking also allows pupils to be creative. Learning to cook is an important life skill that enables children to feed themselves and others well and affordably, both now and in the future.



St George's class have been learning about bread making. They researched the history of bread and created prototype bread rolls using salt dough to help them evaluate how they could improve their final products. The class were also delighted to welcome local baker Peppa Portman, who worked with the children to make cinnamon buns and bread rolls—with impressive results! The wonderful smell of freshly baked bread has been drifting through the school.



## Faith in Art



### **The Crucifixion**

*c. 1420-1423, Fra Angelico*

I recently read an engrossing book called *All the Beauty of the World* by Patrick Bringley. Bringley was pursuing a successful career in the US but, when his older brother fell ill and died at just 26, he needed a change of direction and a change of pace, so took work as a museum guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Leaving after 10 years there, he ponders which single work he would take with him, were he allowed. Though not a religious man, he chose this Crucifixion and I was moved by his reasoning.

In its sadness and depiction of death it reminded Bringley of his brother, but also, he says, this representation of Christ on the cross made him think of a figure on the mast of some storm-tossed ship; 'It's the centre around which the rest of the world seems to rock and wheel.'

At the next level we see a rabble of onlookers, some modest, some resplendent; their faces conveying a rich range of responses - solemn, curious, bored, preoccupied. This he says represents 'the muddle of everyday life; detailed, incoherent, sometimes dull, sometimes gorgeous'; people with their own busy lives to lead and agendas to pursue, even as momentous events unfold.

Finally there's the bottom register, where the tone shifts again as compassionate figures tend to Christ's grief-stricken mother. Unlike the distracted onlookers their eyes and minds are all focussed in the same direction, and it's squarely towards where they can do good. This, Bringley says, is our example to follow; 'In my life I will be needed and have needs; the hope is I will do everything I can and have others do the same for me.'

Though Bringley would not call himself a religious man I think he has captured something key to the Easter story. Suffering is all too common in our world, but God has entered into the worst we humans suffer and shared that pain with us. What matters now is how we each choose to respond; whether we can show the attentiveness and kindness of those who tend Mary, tenderly reaching out to support and comfort any who need us. There is so much work to be done in our storm-tossed world, but a God of love remains at our mast, as we set about it.

Revd Kate McFarlane



### **Community Coffee Morning**

**St Mary's, East Knoyle**

10.30 - 12.00

4th Tuesday of every month



## Knogle Nature Bird Song

I covered this subject a year or so ago but this modified version is very topical with birds now singing everywhere, especially of course at dawn and in the evening. Recognising individual birdsong opens up a wonderful new world, enriching one's experience, and making an otherwise ordinary walk so much more rewarding. It is especially worth getting up early for the dawn chorus.

I strongly recommend an app for your mobile phone called Merlin Bird ID. Once installed you just press the green button and it will record and identify any bird song. Here though are some helpful hints on recognition just using your ears!

**WOOD PIGEON**, we all know this one because it coos "my big toe's bleeding, my big toe's bleeding, my big toe's bleeding: LOOK."

**COLLARED DOVE**, has spread all over the country since arriving in the 1950's, and it's song is just three notes: coo coo cook repeated endlessly. Very elegant birds once kept as pets.

**GREAT TIT**, calls "teacher teacher" endlessly, but if the phrase is slightly slurred, not clear, it is a Coal Tit.

**BLUE TIT**, and tits in general are called titmice, and I think it may be because they all make mouse-like squeaks; often heard as you walk by big hedges. If the squeaks are particularly high-pitched and near a yew tree, they may be from a Gold Crested Wren, (older ears cannot hear these high pitches).

**ROBIN**, a very plaintive song and bird is often friendly so can be seen, helping identification.

**WREN**, very loud for a small bird, and rather like a football rattle or winding up a clockwork motor.

**BLACKCAP**, the commonest member of the warbler family round here. If the song you hear isn't a blackbird or any of the others mentioned so far, and consists of short bursts of a melody with wide octave range, some notes quite high and shrill, then it is probably a blackcap. They are often on Sandpit Hill, and along Slades (the long track between Milton and the village), and heard on Church Road singing from Park Copse. Many now spend winter here, but most, like the other Warblers, fly hundreds of miles from the



*Mistle Thrush*

**MISTLE THRUSH**, bigger and more upright than the song thrush, and song can be confused with the blackbird, but it is sadder, in a minor key, and consists of short sad phrases followed by similar length pauses; it is as if it were asking questions and waiting for answers. It often sings high on a tree, and doesn't mind wind and rain, hence sometimes called the Storm Cock. This is a much commoner bird than I had realised before I learnt its song.

**CHAFFINCH**, often just sings a harsh "pink pink pink" but has another song heard everywhere which sounds like "chippy chippy chippy choo". This has been compared to a bowler running up to bowl and releasing the ball!

**GREENFINCH**, very common, song often just twittering, but has another sound that is very characteristic of spring, a high breathy "treeeeeeeeeeeall", with a sharp lower final note: you will hear it everywhere.

**SONG THRUSH**, almost as tuneful as the blackbird but keeps repeating its phrases eg "filleep filleep filleep". Quite a small bird.

**BLACKBIRD**, by far the most melodious common bird, singing early and late in the day, often from a high perch, many rich phrases but not obviously repetitive.

**HEDGE SPARROW**, also called the Hedge Accentor or Dunnock, is a small brown bird which often sits on hedge tops, and its song seems to say "I'm only a little bird with a very little song". Listen for it on the hedge opposite the old school in Church Road.

**STARLING**, very familiar and imitates the songs of other birds or indeed mechanical sounds. We had one in Milton who used to copy the telephone and caused many wasted journeys back to the house. Congregate in huge flocks called 'murmurations', though I haven't seen such round here.

**CHIFFCHAFF**, fly up from the far south to arrive from the beginning of March. Easy to recognise as they just keep saying their name. When you think about it we name many birds in this way eg Cuckoo, Peewit, Pipit, etc.

YouTube is a useful source of bird song recordings for confirmation.

David Pickering



*Black Cap*

## New Vic @ Tisbury Events



Friday March 27th,	Jazz -The David Newton Trio	7.30pm,
Sunday April 12th,	Magic Lantern Vermigliio	7:00pm
Saturday April 18th April	NLive - All My Sons	7.30pm
Sunday April 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Carnival Film – The Choral	4:00 pm
Friday April 24th,	The Jon Lloyd Quartet	7.30pm
Sunday April 26th April	RBO -The Magic Flute	5.00pm

### Friday 27th March, **Jazz -The David Newton Trio** 7.30pm

Dave Newton (piano) has won Best UK Jazz Piano Player (British Jazz Awards) no less than sixteen times!

Dave's reputation as an exquisite accompanist for singers spread rapidly. He regularly worked with Stacey Kent, with whom he spent ten years recording and travelling all over the world. At the same time, he composed and recorded music for many television productions and over twenty US TV movies plus two new Alan Ayckbourn productions.

### Sunday 12th April, **Magic Lantern – Vermiglio** (Italian 2024) (15) Run time 120 mins 7pm

1944, Vermiglio, a remote mountain village. The arrival of Pietro, a deserter, into the family of the local teacher, and his love for the teacher's eldest daughter, will change the course of everyone's life.

The film premiered at the 81st Venice International Film Festival, where it won the Grand Jury Prize. It was selected as the Italian entry for Best International Feature Film at the 97th Academy Awards. It received 14 nominations at the 70th David di Donatello, and won 7 awards, including Best Film.

### Saturday 18th April **NLive - All My Sons** Run time 135 mins 7.30pm

Bryan Cranston and Marianne Jean-Baptiste feature in the five-star West End adaptation of Arthur Miller's classic, directed by Ivo Van Hove.

America, 1947, Joe and Kate Keller are a success story, but their contented lives are about to shatter. A figure from the past forces long buried truths to the surface lying bare the price of their American dream.

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April **Carnival Film – The Choral** 4 pm

1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's ambitious committee, determined to press ahead, decides to recruit local young males to swell their ranks. They must also engage a new chorus master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) – driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

### Sunday 26th April **RBO -The Magic Flute** 3 hours and 5 minutes, including one interval 5.00pm

Mozart's fantastical opera glitters in David McVicar's enchanting production, conducted by French conductor Marie Jacquot in her Covent Garden debut, and Finnegan Downie Dear.

Prince Tamino promises the Queen of the Night that he will rescue her daughter Pamina from the enchanter Sarastro. He begins his quest, accompanied by the bird-catcher Papageno – but all is not as it seems...

Tamino and Papageno discover Sarastro is a wise and kind leader. They undergo three ordeals. By the end they are united with their true loves: Tamino with Pamina, and Papageno with his Papagena.

continues

## Jazz

Friday April 24th **The Jon Lloyd Quartet** – 7.30pm

This UK based group presents vibrant European Contemporary Jazz, played by a quartet of superb musicians. There is a direct beauty to their music which audiences really respond to, whether jazz fans or not. A calming antidote to the rigours of modern life!

“The quartet’s sound emerges from the mutual understanding and anticipation shared by saxophone and piano... miraculous... bass and drums pick up on the telepathy too.” Nigel Jarrett, Jazz Journal, 2024

The leader and composer is tenor and soprano saxophonist Jon Lloyd. Jon has been part of the UK jazz scene for several decades and has now turned his attention to European contemporary jazz; using classical and non-western music influences as well as jazz sources to write vibrant, melodic and emotionally engaging new jazz compositions.

The quartet also comprises the virtuosic pianist John Law (Congregation, Re-Creations, Art of Sound Trio with Yuri Golubev, Asaf Sirkis), Nick Pini (Laura Marling, Seth Lakeman, Izzie Yardley, Iain Ballamy) on double bass and Alex Goodyear (Yetii, Simon Spillett, Re-Creations, Jake McMurchie) on drums.

Our Jazz season finale will be a hugely joyful event with Afternoon in Paris (29th May). We’re planning a little something extra too, so make sure you get your tickets nice and early!



No caption needed!

### South West Wiltshire Community Support

Age UK Wiltshire is working to improve the wellbeing of older people living in South West Wiltshire, by offering support, access to information and practical help.

Please get in touch on 01722 444840  
or use our [online contact form](#) by searching  
'South West Wiltshire Community Support Age UK Wiltshire'



Wiltshire Council has launched **Digital Wiltshire.**



It includes a simple mobile 'not spot' reporting tool, which we strongly encourage you to use. Identifying areas with poor mobile coverage is vital for improving connectivity and ensuring reliable communication—especially during emergencies.

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

## Cllr Bridget Wayman report



Wiltshire Council had its full council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February to agree the budget for 26/27. In my 20 years as a councillor, I don't think I have seen a worse prepared budget. The administration has chopped and changed its mind so much that it became difficult to understand what exactly was being proposed.

The current suite of Waste contracts required numerous decisions on whether to extend some of the contracts and tendering for new contracts. Essentially, the waste collection service will cease to be undertaken by Hills and a newly formed LATCO (Local Authority Trading Company) will take on the waste collection service from 1<sup>st</sup> August this year. This will include a separate weekly food waste collection (as required by the Environment Act 2021).

The decision paper on all the numerous changes went to cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> December and included a proposal to gather public feedback in 2026 on the closure of 2 Household Recycling Centres in the north of the county because Hills, who run these two, had doubled their price for the service. With no discussion whatsoever, the cabinet arbitrarily changed the recommendation to close those HRCs. Cue a massive outcry from the affected areas, including in Calne where the Leader of Wiltshire Council is also the Mayor of the town.

Curiously, on the night of a vote of no confidence in the Mayor, he was able to tell them

(without having made known this news to Wiltshire councillors) that the two HRCs would remain open as a reduction in price had been agreed with Hills.

It is worth noting that Hills had proposed an increase of 120%, but the brilliant negotiations had reduced the increase to 100%.

The administration's budget had included the cost saving of the closure of the two HRCs, so a substantial sum was required to be found to fund their retention.

There will be a Waste survey from 17<sup>th</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> April asking for views on Waste:-

The survey will have five sections:

1. **About you** – to help provide targeted advice and communications
2. **Waste and recycling habits** - Identify opportunities for increased recycling and waste reduction
3. **Three-weekly household waste collections** - Identify ways the council can support residents during the transition
4. **HRC usage** – assess how frequently people use the HRCs and impact of introducing a booking system as well as understand out of county usage
5. **Booking system at HRCs** - insight to design a booking system that works for majority

**[Please complete the survey if you are currently using the Shaftesbury HRC.](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/futurewaste)**

**[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/futurewaste](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/futurewaste)**

The draft budget also included cutting funding for Community Transport, including the Link schemes. The cabinet member for Finance did apologise for the cut after another public outcry when the Conservative group had highlighted this terrible decision, but it also demonstrated to me that the cabinet member for Highways, under whose remit Community Transport falls, failed to comprehend the enormity of the proposal. So, that budget cut was hurriedly reinstated, thankfully.

The draft budget also included additional income that will come from raising car parking charges (fairly standard as charges have not been raised for 4 years), but also from extending chargeable parking hours from 8am-6pm to 7am-7pm and bringing Sunday charges in line with the weekday hourly charges instead of the flat rate charge. This smacks of milking drivers for every penny they can get, with a complete disregard for people attending concerts, theatres, cinemas and the nighttime economy in general, and Sunday worshippers, especially at Salisbury cathedral.

On 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2026, a full council proposal was put forward to charge a 100% premium on empty homes and a graduating penalty on long term empty homes. The 100% premium proposal was lost after an outcry from opposition councillors, including me, but a month later the administration introduced an amendment to their budget trying to reintroduce these penalties. Because there were combined objections from sufficient members, the administration realised they would lose that amendment and that was withdrawn.

Potholes are the bane of all our lives at the moment, as they are across the whole country. This is due to a lack of long term investment by the Department of Transport; funding to the Council for highway maintenance comes via DfT. In the last two years of the Conservative administration, an additional £20 million from savings was used to reinvest in our highways. At the budget, the new administration will borrow £5m a year for 3 years to increase funding for highway maintenance, but that borrowing will saddle Wiltshire Council taxpayers with interest and repayment costs adding up to about £60m over the next 60 years! The Conservative alternative budget, by making prudent and costed savings (not borrowing), had proposed increasing highway expenditure by £6.25m a year.

The Conservative budget would have protected parish stewards, a much appreciated service by local parish councils, retained the Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme (PEAS), scrapped the extended hours parking charges and Sunday weekday rates introduction, and made savings over the 3 year Medium Term Financial Strategy to deliver a financial surplus, unlike the Liberal Democrat budget which will deliver a £6m loss.

After a very frustrating day, the Liberal Democrats' budget was approved with the support of the Labour Group and the Independents. The Leader of the Independents said he thought the Liberal Democrats should be given the chance to run the administration with their budget. I can only hope that this will only be for a year as the Council's finances will be in a pretty parlous state by the time of the next election.

# East Knoyle Honey Bees - Notes from the East Knoyle Apiaries – 29

It is around the Ides of March and we have lost a couple of colonies. Compared to last year, spring is later. Bit of a relief, as it gives me time to study (bees), read up on Asian Hornets and do some hive maintenance. Our colony losses are probably because I bred 1-2 poor queens last year. It is difficult to tell, but the sisterhoods in the colonies appear to have agreed with me and were dissatisfied with their queens. They then tried to supersede (supersedure is the process) their queens (in most cases their mother) by killing her and growing, generally only two queen cells. Two virgin princesses emerge and may fight it out to take over the colony. The only snag is that it was possibly too late in the year for her to get successfully mated. The colony then slowly dies off.

This year, I am starting early and am concentrating on breeding quality queens. We will finish with the use of delicate queen rearing colonies, well in advance of the late summer wasp menace. I try and create massive thumping colonies by July so that they can take advantage of the blackberries and late season hedgerow flowers (willow herbs, mallows and my favourite, meadow sweat). The only snag is (another one!) that these massive, and slightly aggressive (we say “defensive”) colonies have been chasing Sue Lucas around her beautiful garden and pooing on her neighbours’ cars – they particularly like German cars. Before Christmas, I moved most of these colonies, to negate these issues. That said, Jim Hyde has planted ~10 acres of wildflower meadow below Haddon Wood, just uphill from the Milton apiary. It is becoming so well established that I will bring a couple of friendly hives back to the nursery apiary in Milton.

**ASIAN HORNETS.** We should probably call them Yellow Legged Hornets. Not because I am being particularly politically correct. *Nigrithorax* is the *Vespa Velutina* colour morph (sub-species) that hitched a lift in some pottery to a French bonsai retailer, in 2004. The rest is history and they stopped counting nests in France once they reached 500k! There are 12 other sorts of colour morph across Asia. Our version is known as the Yellow Legged Hornet for obvious reasons and not the black thorax hornet. In Beekeeping land, we refer to them as Yellow Legged Asian Hornets (YLAH).

Since the January Article, where we discussed the two secondary nests on the Dorset coast (Ringstead on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and Swyre on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov), DEFRA have formally identified them as Risk Level: High. In other words, 18-50% risk of producing sexual adults. I am assuming that Swyre is Higher Hi-Risk.

To explain, we will look at the lifecycle. Similar to wasps and all *Vespas*. A mated queen emerges from hibernation (Foundress). She established a nest (YLAH Primary – see pic. And then a Secondary. Wasps only have one). She lays female eggs and grows the colony with female workers. In late summer / autumn, she lays male eggs and two weeks later she lays female queen eggs (Gynes). The idea is to keep the siblings apart and prevent a Blackmore Vale situation.....

Sarah Bunker’s seminal work (*The Asian Hornet Handbook*) explains that in France YLAH nests are at their largest in late October / early November. Given the latitude, this is probably earlier for us. Sarah sites a French study in 2015 that estimates a healthy nest having on average 436 workers and, in one case a maximum of 1,742 workers at that, maximum nest size, time of the year. Nests in the UK are generally about half the size ~25cm in diameter when compared to those in Jersey and France. Sarah’s analysis from 2018/19 indicates that they have between 70 and 130 adult hornets (some may have escaped). The National Nee Unit (NBU) have not told us the size of the Dorset nests and whether they are related. Sarah sites another French study from 2011 that estimates an average of 350 gynes females and 900 drone males found in a healthy nest in November. As a ROM figure, if the two nests in Dorset are unrelated and we have 200 gynes from each. By the time they are successfully mated and survive hibernation 5%-10% will emerge in spring. This means 20-40 fertile Foundress queen YLAH will emerge in the next week or so (at time of writing) and head up the A350! They migrate about 20 km. YLAH spread across France at 80km a year. Aided by jumping on lorries and hiding in camping equipment etc.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

Get the Asian Hornet Watch app. Improve awareness. You will note in this photo of a Primary nest demonstrates all the key combat indicators: Yellow legs, very black especially thorax, orange face, significantly smaller than our European Hornet and doesn’t fly at night.

At this time of the year, hornets are often seen gathering nectar from Camelias

In the summer, we can also start to monitor. BBKA have currently advised against Spring Trapping. It is particularly ineffective and risks killing other pollinators (insect by-catch). In the summer, I hope you will join me in setting up monitoring stations across the area. They

are a honey jar, with a wick and filled with attractant. See Photo. The idea is to stick them on bird tables and windowsills. We can surround and interdict the A350. This picture from Kent shows YLAH being marked, so that they can be tracked.

I need to make a couple of videos on bait station and trap building and how to concoct the attractant. I will see if we can get some of the ingredients in Wren’s Shop.

If any of you have any experience in making You Tube / TikTok videos, can you get in touch? I need a hand.

I hope you have downloaded the Asian Hornet Watch App and are steeling yourself to help me combat this invasive species. In France, one nest consumes 11.3kg of insects a year. It is not just a beekeepers’ problem.

Tom 07967 552025 [tomkenyon@tegk.co.uk](mailto:tomkenyon@tegk.co.uk)



## VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Huge thanks to all that turned out on the last day of February for our Annual Litter Pick.

It is very disappointing, of course, that we need to do this at all, that some members of society wilfully discard their rubbish about our beautiful countryside leaving it to kindly volunteers to clear up their mess.

But for the nearly 30 members of the community who turned up on a thankfully bright, dry day, they can be rightly satisfied that, for now at least, they have a largely litter free parish having collected at least 50 bags of assorted rubbish.



I should give special mention for lone Zatloukal for personally collecting at least a dozen bags, much of which was collected in the week previous. But thanks must go to all the volunteers for making our community a better place.

Paul Nash



### OLD FONTHILL ABBEY GROUNDS

Bluebell woods and rhododendrons  
Lakeside walks and Abbey views  
Barbecue and homemade refreshments

**SUNDAYS 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026**



10.30 – 4.30  
SP3 6SP on the Hindon – Newtown lane  
(Must close in high winds)

Entry donation – suggest £10 per adult  
Polite dogs welcome

In aid of Cure Parkinson's and local charities



24 Apr  
The Momentum Group Presents: Real  
Talk Fridays

The Momentum Group at Shaftesbury Arts Centre  
presents: An Audience with Andy Sturgess  
Building a Lancaster Bomber & Re-Flying the  
Legendary Dambusters Raid.

 Shaftesbury  
Arts Centre  
Box Office: 01747 854321

# Winstone's

love books, love reading

'Independent bookseller of the year'

**Free Delivery to  
East Knoyle  
Residents**

Welcome to the March edition of our newsletter and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us over the past year, its very much appreciated.

## Upcoming Events



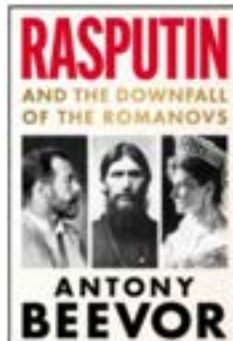
We have a couple of new events that may be of interest. Liz Earle, ex East Knoyle resident and wellness expert will be talking about her new book *How to Age* on 30<sup>th</sup> April, and Clare Leslie Hall, a Dorset based thriller writer whose book, *Broken Country*, was selected for Reese Witherspoon's book club also joins us on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Tickets are available in store or online.



## Other exciting new book news

**Anthony Beevor – *Rasputin and the Downfall of the Romanovs***

**Hardback, £25**



Just as Rasputin cast a spell over the Romanovs, his legend has bewitched historians. More than a century later, we still fail to comprehend fully the collapse of the greatest autocracy on Earth. Was there any truth to the wild tales that brought down the empire? Or was his true legacy an unsettling lesson on the potency of myth? From the bestselling author of *Stalingrad* comes a fascinating and deeply insightful historical post-mortem. One of the best stories in history told by a gold standard historian.

**Joanne Harris – *Vianne***

**Paperback, £10.99**

Joanne Harris returns to the world of *Chocolat*. On a warm July evening, Sylviane Rochas scatters her mother's ashes in New York and lets the changing wind blow her to the French seaside town of Marseille. For the first time in her life, Vianne holds the future in her own hands. Charming her way into a job as a waitress in a local Bistrot, she knows that she is not here to stay - when her child is born in a few months, she must be gone.



### Sherborne

8 Cheap Street, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 3PX

Phone: 01935 816128

Email: [winstonebooks1@gmail.com](mailto:winstonebooks1@gmail.com)

### Frome

9-10 Cheap St, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1BN

Phone: 01373 473111

Email: [winstonebooks3@gmail.com](mailto:winstonebooks3@gmail.com)

**winstonebooks.co.uk**

## The Cinephile

(Reviews of Some Recent Films)



**Train Dreams \*\*\*\***(This is a staggeringly beautiful film. The competence of the craftsmanship resonates).

Idaho, early 20th Century. Robert, (played quite beautifully by Joel Egerton), is a logger. He's a tough stoical man working a brutal job, which is constantly taking its toll on him and those working around him. The work is a constant physical strain, cutting and felling huge trees to clear the land for the railroads. Many of his colleagues have are dying around him from gruesome accidents and it only seems to be a matter before Robert might find himself crushed to death by a fallen tree.

But Robert is driven by love and a quiet determination to get the jobs done and survive. Between jobs, he travels long journeys back home to the log Cabin where his beloved wife Gladys, (Felicity Jones), waits patiently and provides soothing solace for a few days or weeks before he must-strength regained-return to rhythm of his working life.

The agony is that they share the kind of love that dreams are made of. They light each other up, they hold each other through their hardships and they savour their moments together with a lighthearted joyfulness most people dream of.

This is an exquisitely made film. The performances are strong, the craftsmanship is excellent and the scenery is beautiful. It is written and photographed with a magical realism, which leaves the viewer with the sense that perhaps they have just come out of a dream.

The story, like life, is tough but it's worth it.



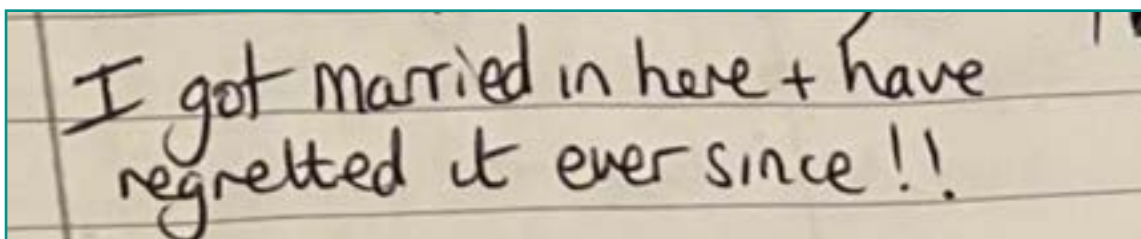
**The History of Sound \*\*\*\*** (Another beautiful love story, set in period America, about a shared passion for music.)

This film is also set in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and in the vastness of the American landscape. Lionel, (Paul Mescal) and David, (Josh O'Connor) share a love and talent for music and meet, as students, at the Boston Conservatoire. They embark on a project together, travelling to remote parts of the country, mostly by foot, on a research and conservation mission with the aim of recording traditional folk music for historical posterity.

They travel from place to place, hauling their equipment, almost like pack mules, across the vast, dramatically beautiful American landscape, which itself seems to act upon them as an aphrodisiac. Their isolation enables them the privacy to bath in each other's love.

Echoing the characters approach to their work, the filmmaking is committed, restrained and precise. Huge importance is placed in the aesthetic. The locations and period detail of costume and sets is remarkable.

cont. over



Spotted by a reader in St Mary's Visitor's book

## The Cinefile cont.



**The Secret Agent \*\*\*\*\*** (Seriously stylish, apparently seamless, Brazilian political thriller depicting life under the 1970's dictatorship.)

Wagner Moura plays Armamdo, a man on the run from two hitmen, who have been employed by a right wing business man, who Armamdo called out when he tried to withdraw financing from the University where Armamdo taught in order to funnel it into his own corrupt business interests.

It's a slow burn of a film, with Armamdo waiting in hiding while he tries to get a false passport so that he and his son can leave the country for safety.

The drama too is mostly quiet, brooding, an examination of what life is like when, (if you have liberal leanings), you're trying to survive in a world where none of your values count anymore. (It feels horribly close to what's going on in North America right now). There's a wonderful cast of kooky characters who, like revolutionaries in hiding, co-exist, somehow, together and care for one another. All under the protectorate of a seriously characterful, old, chain-smoking angel figure, played by a non-actor with extraordinary confident originality.

This is a thriller all right, but a world away from quick cuts, over stylization and hip music. Where Tarantino keyed into youth culture, this is a picture of deep maturity.

It is a sublimely beautiful film, both in its technical execution, but most importantly in its humanity.

**Is This Thing On \*\*\*** (Charming drama/comedy about the breakdown of a marriage and how revealing that can be.)

**Wuthering Heights \*** (Really Withering Lows.)

Once again, writer, director, producer and new film bizz superpower proves that she can spend money and make money, but he seems incapable of making an interesting film. Like her last Film, Saltburn, this has the subtlety of a sledgehammer and is emotionally Vacuous.

Martin Clunes's performance as Cathy's father Mr Earnshaw is the only thing worth a penny.

**The Walsh Sisters \*\*\*\*** (BBC Iplayer.)

A six part drama series from the BBC, about a family of five grown up, Irish sisters and their messy lives. Set in the present.

This is first class drama, beautifully acted and written, very moving and highly recommended.

March 2026



## Knogle Place Open Garden

Lizie De La Moriniere & family will be opening the beautiful gardens of Knogle Place for the National Garden Scheme, which has been funding numerous nursing and health charities since 1927.

The Gardens will be open on Saturday 30th May between 2-5pm

Full details can be found here

<https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/knogle-place-sp3/>

We would love to welcome you to our gardens, and in doing so raise some money for some great causes. We will be selling tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits to support the church fabric fund and village hall. We would greatly appreciate any donations of homemade cakes and baked goods.

Please do contact us on [liziedelam@knogleplace.co.uk](mailto:liziedelam@knogleplace.co.uk) to let us know if you can help and what you'd like to bake. Vegan and Coeliac options are most welcome.

# PILATES

at East Knoyle Village Hall

Pilates Matwork classes with Lisa Supple  
 Beginners - Intermediate level  
 Come and join me to build your core strength and flexibility!

Block of 10 classes £100  
 Trial class £12

**CLASS TIMES**  
 MONDAY 18.00  
 THURSDAY 16.40  
 THURSDAY 18.00

All classes are 60 minutes long, if you would like to book a trial class or to find out more please get in touch



[lisasupple1@mac.com](mailto:lisasupple1@mac.com)  
 07977 410973



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## Share with your community

East Knoyle villagers love reading the newsletter. It is a great way to share information.

Please send us articles, letters, recipes, reviews, photographs and anything else you'd like to share. We'd love to hear from you.

*Articles may be edited at the discretion of The Editor*

## Useful contacts

Village Website [www.east-knoyle.co.uk](http://www.east-knoyle.co.uk)

Where you can also find online copies of the current and previous editions of the newsletter

Service		Number
Doctor	Hindon Surgery	01747 820222
	Tisbury Surgery	01747 870204
	Abbey View Medical Centre	01747 865700
Crime	Rural Crime Reporting Line	0800 783 0137
	PCSO Alice Moore	101 or 07795 020508
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East Knoyle Church	St Mary's Church	01747 830174

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Newsletters are normally distributed around 10 days after the copy deadline.

