

EAST KNOYLE NEWSLETTER

Vol: 50 Issue No 6

www.east-knoyle.co.uk

November/December 2024



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The East Knoyle Newsletter

In this issue...

A note from the Editors...

Welcome to the final issue in our 50th Anniversary year.

On the 10th of January we will be holding a bingo night at the village hall to raise funds for the newsletter printing. See the advert below for more details. Eyes down for a full house!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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East Knoyle Newsletter hosting



Raising money towards the production and printing costs

Entry: £6.00 per person

Purchase at the shop or on the door

BROWSE THE NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

Celebrating 50 Years

Friday 10th January 2025

7pm - 10pm

East Knoyle Village Hall



Bring your own dabber!

Bar



Parish Council News

Knogle House Grounds and Playground.

Thanks to all the work done by the volunteers we had a very successful RoSPA review of the playground and area. There is only one outstanding area – the tunnel – which has been a challenge. This will be fenced off soon to allow the grass to regrow, so please ensure your children keep off the area. Of course, the maintenance and improvement of the playground is on-going, but the working group will review things and look at what we can do next year, and into the future. Thanks to all the donations we received we can plan for the necessary improvements. Currently we are looking at the how we can improve the overall look of the area in terms of the trees and shrubbery – a project to undertake before the spring.

Removal of vegetation overhanging roads and byways.

It is a good time of year to have a look at any trees, hedges and shrubs that home and landowners might have that have started to encroach from their property onto our roads and paths. This is a potential hazard to the public who use the highway, and it is the responsibility of landowners to ensure that their trees, hedges or shrubs do not obstruct the public highway. (Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 if you are interested!).

Anything that is causing an obstruction that is on the verges/not on your property can be reported to Wiltshire Council using the MyWilts online facility.

Highways - Fallen trees and Branches.

As we approach the winter and possible storms, please note that the procedure for reporting anything blocking our roads is to contact Wiltshire Council – either by phoning them –

0300 456 0100 (lines open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday). The emergency number is for use in extreme circumstances, where there's an immediate threat to health and safety (out of our office hours). Out of hours emergency: 03004 560 100

Or the MyWilts online system - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting

Are you interested in our Village and Common Lands? Do you have views that you feel are not being heard? East Knogle Parish Council needs a new Councillor.

The Council is looking to co-opt a new Parish Councillor. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood.

You would be joining a team of friendly and like-minded people. You can give as much time as you like to the role but have to commit to attending our monthly meetings and the preparation required.

For more details or an informal chat, please contact - Martin - clerkeastknoglepc@gmail.com

On behalf of East Knogle Parish Council we would like to thank all those who have helped make our village the place that it is and for all the work residents carry out as volunteers for the benefit of us all.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Martin Brown, Clerk. clerkeastknoglepc@gmail.com

Did you know there is a East Knogle 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.

The paper this magazine is printed on is from renewable managed forest resources, that are grown in an environmentally friendly manner.

Wren's Shop News

Christmas is Just Around the Corner....But first - We were very sorry to have to say goodbye to Claire Swann, who has been a volunteer with our village shop for many years. Claire and her husband have moved to Mere and we wish them much happiness in their new home.



Christmas Launch

Saturday 30th November from 4.30pm

Please join us at Wren's for our annual Christmas launch evening when the celebrations will start with Father Christmas who will switch on the lights. Then join the Village Choir in singing traditional Christmas carols and songs, followed by mulled wine and a selection of savoury and sweet nibbles which will be available inside the shop. All our Christmas offerings will be on display for you to begin your festive shopping and you will be able to peruse our suppliers' brochures and pre-order all your celebration foods. We look forward to seeing you all there – don't forget to bring your families & friends with you.



**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



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)





Meadow Sweet Flowers Are Coming To Wren's

By the time you read this Veronica will hopefully have her new stand installed at Wren's. You will now be able to buy her beautiful plants and bouquets from us for that special gift.

The Post Office Needs You!

- Our East Knoyle Post Office has been managed by Wren's Shop since we took over the contract in January 2023. In addition to UK and international mail, Annie Ellis provides cash withdrawals, bank deposits, travel currency, savings opportunities and we are expecting to provide delivery services next year through EVRI and DPD in addition to our current Amazon services.
- The remuneration we receive from the Post Office is based on two elements: a variable Assigned Office Payment, and a variable Transactions Payment. Both payments are subject to an element of VAT, for which the Shop is liable.
- The payments the Shop receives for Transactions is based on all our counter activity, so the more people use our services, the more the shop earns. Please continue to use our Post Office for all your banking and mail needs.

Wren's Opening Hours - Christmas & New Year

Day	Wrens' Shop	Post Office
Christmas Eve	09:00 – 16:00	09:00 – 13:00
Christmas Day	Closed	Closed
Boxing Day	09:00-12:00	Closed
Friday 27 th December	08:00 – 18:00	09:00 – 13:00
Saturday 28 th December	08:00 – 16:00	Closed
Sunday 29 th December	09:00 – 12:00	Closed
Monday 30 th December	08:00 – 18:00	09:00 – 13:00
New Year's Eve	08:00 – 18:00	09:00 – 13:00
New Year's Day	09:00 – 12:00	Closed
Thursday 2 nd January	08:00 – 18:00	09:00 – 13:00

East Knoyle Village Hall

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

Village Artists' Show is wonderful success

Over the weekend of the 26/27 October the Village Hall put on a hugely successful Art Exhibition and Sale which raised over £6,000 for the hall from over £16,000 sales and donations. The largest ever fundraising event the hall has undertaken. Hundreds of visitors from the village and many local towns and villages came to see the incredible range of art produced in East Knoyle. On show were over 150 original pieces alongside many prints/lithographs etc. produced by 22 village-based artists

John Scattergood was instrumental in organising the show based on events he has run before along with help from Paul Egginton. Thanks to everyone who came either from East Knoyle and much further afield to see the amazing paintings, sculptures, prints and jewellery. Also a huge thank you to those who bought pieces for themselves or presents.

For the first time we had paintings from many of our young residents, all of which sold (and not just their parents). Let's hope that they get the artist's bug and join the amazing number of professional and talented amateurs living in East Knoyle.

The hall was set up and manned by a wonderful group of volunteers and as you'll see by the photos an extensive display was created not only in the main hall, but in the Medieval Room too. Our thanks go to them for giving up their time to help our hall's next stage of works. A huge thanks to Tim Scott Bolton for the loan of his display boards which helped transform the space into gallery.

Thanks also to Wren's Shop and Murray Seator at the Fox and Hounds for their generous raffle prizes which raised nearly £500

Village Hall update and plans

The hall committee has been working hard to ensure our historic building is maintained and developed as a modern and practical village facility, suitable for a wide range of activities. It's not an easy job with an old listed building and a lot of costly improvements have been made over the last few years. New toilets, heating, LED lighting and acoustic dampening has now been installed. The main room now has a bright new wood look flooring laid and the Medieval Room has a fresh new carpeting. The hall has also now become the main storage facility for the Village Archive located in cabinets kindly donated by the Masons, a great relief to both Tony and Joan Claydon who have taken so much time and care looking after them in their own home for so many years. Our thanks go to them for collecting so many wonderful, historic items and photos of the village now held safely together in the hall.





I am writing this report the morning following an extremely successful Remembrance Sunday service and just a few hours before the village gathers again at the war memorial for the short Armistice Day service and two minute's silence (to be led LLM Anthony Thomas) - two occasions which bring the nation together and also indicate that our busy Branch year is coming to a close. This year, they are joined by a third notable event, a record breaking amount collected on behalf of the Poppy Appeal in just two weeks of what has become known as 'Remembrance Fortnight' which has surpassed the total raised across the whole year of the 23/24 appeal.

Remembrance

On Sunday 10th November, St. Mary's was full to capacity for the annual Remembrance Sunday service, led once again by Rev. Canon Kate McFarlane, with Robin Egerton as Crucifer. Standard Bearers Mark Gittings and Helen Lever formed the RBL ceremonial team

Following his successful debut last year, organist Christopher Dobson was accompanied by our incomparable bugler, Kent Sibley who, once again, travelled from Crewkerne to render immaculate renditions of the Last Post and Reveille. Venetia Wright read the Roll of Honour, Ian Gurney the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph. Readers were Diana Makgill and Paul Naish.

Once again, Rev. Canon Kate McFarlane delivered a most pertinent and thoughtful sermon complemented this year by Alan Knight's sensitive reading of the poem, 'With These Hands', written by a soldier during the battle of Kohima.

As is the custom, following the service, the congregation progressed in silence to the war memorial, lining the whole perimeter for the laying of wreaths and placing of wooden crosses. It was heartening to note an increased number of children who wished to place crosses around the foot of the memorial. Sir Nick Wright and Gill Waterhouse laid wreaths on behalf of the RBL, followed by Sue Entwistle (EKPC), Graham Hacker (Masonic Lodge), and Mandy Hull, in memory of her son, 'Matty'.

Thanks again are due to all those at St Mary's who contributed behind the scenes to the success of the day, not forgetting all those who participated in the planning over the previous weeks, or, the 'leaf clearers' who ensured the war memorial was free of the copious amount of fallen leaves. Finally, a special mention of Alan Entwistle who made and placed the silhouette representing the three 'Services' at the rear war memorial and Andy Burton who provided the theatrical backlighting, and electricity, during the period of darkness.

Festival of Remembrance

The previous day a party of ten Branch members attended the matinee performance of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. kindly arranged by our Chairman, Sir Nick Wright, it was certainly a memorable 'curtain raiser' to Remembrance weekend.



Amazing Poppy Appeal Success

Amazingly, over the first two weeks of the 24/25 appeal launched on the 25th October, a total of £11,565 had been collected with a number of boxes still to be counted which should easily take us over the £12,000 mark. Of that, £10,295 had been collected at Willoughby Hedge service area by Ian Gurney's hardy 'band' of 35 volunteers. All deserve a hearty thank you, but one in particular, Robin Young, merits a special mention as he collected on every one of the 17 days, covering any vacant/additional slots as well as his own. The sealed bid auction of the Brittany Ferries voucher, arranged by Steve Lonsdale, raised £400 courtesy of Alan and Sue Entwistle.

In comparison the total for the whole year of the 23/24, £12,643.77, was no mean feat in itself and, in all honesty, one we were really pleased with. Of that amount £3,180.77 was raised by Roy Halsall.

In recognition of Roy's significant fund raising efforts on behalf of the Poppy Appeal, the National Chairman of the RBL agreed the award of an RBL Gold Badge which was presented to Roy at the monthly Branch meeting on the 5th November by General, Sir Jack Deverell, RBL Wiltshire County President. Gold badges are not awarded lightly and are intended to recognise achievement rather than length of service. It is important to note that Roy was nominated for the award by his fellow Branch members who also funded the purchase of the badge - which is real gold.

Recent Events

Shortage of space requires me to make only a brief mention of three successful events since the last newsletter: two of our regular talks at Semley Village Hall, 'In the Steps of Stanley by Col. John Blashford-Snell' and a talk by Andy Sturgess, a local farmer, who built a flight simulator in the cockpit of a WW2 Lancaster bomber over a twenty year period. Simulated flights replicate the Dambusters raid, including original routes and timings. A fantastic achievement by anyone's standards. In between, Mark Gittins arranged a very successful visit to the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford.

Coming up is the combined AGM/Branch Meeting/ Lunch at 1200 on the 26th November, venue the Fox and Hounds.



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.

Community Coffee Morning

St Mary's, East Knoyle

10.30 - 12.00

4th Tuesday of every month



Moviola

Every year we like to try and show a non-mainstream film, and this is it! On **Wednesday 27th November** we are screening **RUDY (12A)**. Set in the heart of rural England, it tells the story of a young girl, forced by circumstances to act as parent to her younger siblings, alongside her father, with whom she has a fractious relationship. The dynamics of the family are delicately observed, tender and heart-warming, as Rudy deals with a newcomer in the household and developments in her own life.



This film has only had a very limited distribution, so we hope you will like it.

Our Christmas show on **Wednesday 11th December** is an altogether broader affair. The spoof mockumentary **SWEDE CAROLINE (15)** (yes, that isn't a typo!) is a very British comedy starring Aisling Bea, Fay Ripley and Richard Lumsdon and involves a scandal that rocks the world of competitive vegetable growing. Having been disqualified from the previous year's competition, Caroline finds her prize marrow plants have been stolen and sets out to solve the mystery, unearthing all manner of skulduggery on the way. It's light-hearted, comic and definitely not to be taken seriously – note to all future EK Flower and Veg Show competitors!

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

Tickets remain at the bargain price of £5. You can get them from Wren's Shop, on the door, or phone me on 01747 830594.

We start serving at 6.50 and the film starts at 7.30. Please remember to bring some cash.

Thank you for continuing to support us. We look forward to seeing you in the Village Hall.

T@3

Another year of T@3 and it's good to be able to say that it still enjoys great support in the village with between twenty-five and thirty-five villagers coming to the hall on the second Thursday of each month to enjoy tea, cake, chat and excellent company.



Our Friendly Anonymous Bakers, the FAB team who help us out by making cakes even if they don't have the time to come and join us, have been wonderfully generous again. This year they are Amanda, Babs, Bev, Lesley H, Lesley W, Sandra H, Sandra W, Sophie, Sonia and Su-Lin. Be assured, the cakes have been so much enjoyed, and they are all so different and delicious. It's such a help to the organisers to have this extra band of willing and talented cooks giving their time and expertise. We are also grateful for the thoughtful gift of some very nice tea.

The raffle has continued each month, with just a tweak to the organisation to make the afternoon run more smoothly, and has raised brilliant sums. We have donated £150 to the playground appeal, £75 to St Mary's, £75 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance and £75 to the Stars Appeal at Odstock. In addition, we bought some new table coverings to use at our meetings as the old ones had very much seen better days.

No matter if you have lived in East Knoyle for a very long time, or whether you are recently arrived, if you would like to come along on a second Thursday, please join us in the village hall. Despite the name, the doors open at 2.45 and we draw to a close at 4pm. If you'd like to find out a bit more, please email tat3ek@icloud.com. It is also helpful if you could email that same address to let us know you are coming so we can get out the right number of chairs and cater without waste.

The next dates are Thursday 12th December, Thursday 9th January, Thursday 13th February. Doors open at **2.45pm**, and we need to be out of the hall **by 4.30pm**.

East Knoyle Village Hall 200 Club

The Village Hall 200 Club has held its last draw of 2024 over the Wrens Shop counter on a cloudy Saturday morning. Autumn has the village in its grip. The winning number is 120. The deserved prize winner is:

JO CUMBERLEGE £50.00

Thanks to her 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 2025.

The next draw is on January 1st, 2025

The next draw is on September 1st.



Claire Morsman

Congratulations to Claire Morsman for receiving an award for her internationally successful eco friendly enterprise - Morsbags - presented to her last month at a London event.

Val Morsman



Memories of East Knoyle

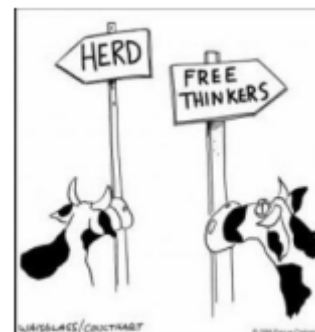
We were up in Dorset last week (October). As I was living in East Knoyle when I was 5 years old until 10, I thought you would like some of my history. We always visit the village when in the area, we live in Cornwall. My family moved to East Knoyle for my mum to work in Knoyle house- until it went bust. The old school is now a house, but the old outside toilets are still there. I remember the post office and the small bakery on the corner. Sadly during my school time many of the class mates passed away due to what is now polio. This was around 1954. When Knoyle house went bust, our family was asked to be security , then we moved into what is now I think is spring cottage. The old pump right outside. The gardens of K H were fantastic, I think they went into the woods up from the new bypass. I always remember my last day at school (before moving to Falmouth) On the walk to school a girl called Ruth who lived in a farm down the road from where the football pitch was gave me note. It said I love you. We were only 10. So many memories in a fantastic place.

Ron & Wendy Tape

East Knoyle Free Thinkers

The EK Free Thinkers Group met on the 15th November to discuss the topical private members bill on assisted dying. The title of the bill is "To allow adults who are terminally ill, subject to safeguards, to be assisted to end their own life." A pre meeting poll recorded 15 in favour, 4 don't Know's and 2 against. During the meeting we heard how similar systems operate in Canada and Holland and were expertly guided through the organised religious objections to the scheme from retired clergyman Nigel Worn. In the second half of the meeting we were presented with arguments for and against the scheme from two GP's. This was a fascinating discussion and raised many issues around the possible abuses of the scheme, palliative care alternatives, the relief of suffering and individual rights. At the end of the meeting another vote was taken and the outcome had changed to 15 in favour, 1 don't know and 3 against.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Kevin Stow kandbstow@hotmail.com. Meeting numbers are limited to 16 by the size of our current venue but we will try to accommodate new members wherever possible.



Kevin Stow

East Knoyle Spring Revue

With the nights already drawing in, it might feel like things are winding down, but like you're Spring bulbs you might be planting, some of us are planning something fun for the new year.

Planned for February/March 2025, we're looking to host an evening of entertainment in the village hall, including a specially written short comedy play. We're looking for volunteers to join the cast, so if you're at all interested and can spare time for rehearsals, please get in touch with John Tyson on be.free.kode@gmail.com

CLAROW

It's been busy behind the scenes managing our Footpaths and Common Lands. I hope you will have noticed some new replacement FP/BW signage popping up around the village? This is down to your brilliant CLAROW team who did a splendid job in highlighting the required improvements to Carys Ford our Countryside Access Officer at WCC. Carys recently confirmed that there will be further signage improvements over the next few months.

The Windmill common has just had its final cut of the year, and the next big project is to protect the 'View' which is slowly getting lost amongst vigorous growth. Plans have already been set in motion with the intention to complete the work before next spring. A practical yet light handed approach will be taken.

We are also looking at available grants to fund the low planting of areas where Himalayan Balsam is prolific. This will be a long term project but should help keep the HB under control whilst in the interim we continue to try and keep on top of it.

I am delighted to say that our CLAROW group has grown in number, so please join us if you are interested in what we do-we only meet approx every 8 weeks, however, a flurry of activity takes place on our CLAROW WhatsApp -reporting fallen trees etc. We do have some big projects coming up and will request some additional help from villagers, so please look out for future messages on the Village WhatsApp giving times, dates, location etc. Thank you.

Ann Ambrose

This is Alfred

Our local radio station (based in Shaftesbury)
107.3FM or listen online, www.thisisalfred.com

Daily local news, weather, travel (roads & rail) updates, what's on events in our area, plus features and conversations with local people and organisations.

East Knoyle residents have already appeared in regular features such as "Fashion and Flowers" (Meadowsweet Flowers), "Meet my Pet", "A Year in the life of Honeybees, and keeping your own Hives", Open Gardens, East Knoyle Fete & Dog Show, East Knoyle Art Show, plus conversations with individual residents about their interests and lives.

Do contact hello@thisisalfred.com if you have an event to publicise or an interesting story to tell.

Trish Strachan



Expectations

My mother was a teacher and a really good teacher. As a teenager myself I knew some of her students as friends, and they loved and respected her. As she grew older and more tired, however, she became gradually more negative, jaded by the endless demands of the job. She stopped enjoying teaching, with all its myriad challenges, and found the frustrations more overwhelming. The children became tougher to teach, sensing her changing attitude I'm sure, so as a result her final years until retirement were tricky.

I was reminded of her experience with this story which I was told recently:

'I was standing at a crossroads when a man came to me and said,
'Can you tell me what it's like in that village up ahead?'
I asked him what it had been like in the village through which he'd passed.
He said it had been a dreadful place.
I said, 'You'll find the next place like the last.'
As soon as he was gone, another man came by.
He too asked if the place ahead was a good place in which to stay.
I asked him what it had been like in the village through which he'd passed.
He said it had been quite wonderful.
I said, 'You'll find the next place just like the last.'

The novelist Isabel Allende wrote: "We only have what we give", a sentiment echoed by the great Christian thinker, Thomas Aquinas: "You get what you give, and what you give determines what you get back. There is no other option for it."

It's often tempting to criticise a village, a group of people or an individual, sometimes with good cause; but, if we approach people with an open hand and mind, we so often find our warmth or generosity responded to richly with matching grace and kindness.
Rev'd 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.benefbart.org.uk/events/month/



The installation of Rev'd Kate McFarlane as a Non-Residentiary Canon in Salisbury Cathedral on 23 September.

Lay Canon Sue de Candole, The Rev'd Paul Brooks, Dean of Salisbury, The Very Rev'd Nicholas Papadopoulos, Bishop of Salisbury, Rt Rev'd Stephen Lake, The Rev'd Kate McFarlane Lay Canon Alan Smith

A vertical poster for a Christmas Carol Service. At the top, the text "CLOUDS HOUSE" is written in large, colorful letters. Below it, it says "The Hon David Bernstein Chairman of Trustees The Forward Trust". The main text reads "Invites you to a CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE in aid of Clouds House". The date and time are "Thursday 12 December 7:00pm - 8:00pm" at "St Mary's Church Hindon Road, East Knoyle Salisbury SP3 6AE". At the bottom, it says "Light refreshments will be served after the service". The poster is decorated with stylized Christmas ornaments and snowflakes in shades of pink and red.

CLOUDS HOUSE

The Hon David Bernstein
Chairman of Trustees
The Forward Trust

Invites you to a
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
in aid of Clouds House

Thursday 12 December 7:00pm - 8:00pm
St Mary's Church
Hindon Road, East Knoyle
Salisbury SP3 6AE

Light refreshments will be served after the service

Knogle Nature

Mistletoe has always been associated with Christmas, but like so much of our Celtic and even earlier past, its pagan history has been disguised. It is a semi-parasite, using the host tree for water and mineral salts, but having chlorophyll is able to make its own sugars and more complex chemicals. The sexes are separate, berries only being produced on the female plant. All native evergreens had some mystical significance, but with its white sticky pairs of berries, held between splayed leaf pairs, mistletoe was associated with fertility- we still kiss under the mistletoe.



The plant has long associations with the Druids, and it is a happy coincidence that the greatest concentration of these plants locally is on the poplar trees around the Amesbury roundabout, adjacent to Stonehenge. Have a look next time you pass. Sadly, the most impressive tree for mistletoe I've ever seen was in the middle of Dinton, but it fell in gale a little while ago.

It is spread by Mistle Thrushes, who eat the berries but wipe the very sticky seed onto the bark of a tree, or excrete it, where it later grows a special rooting organ to connect with the tree's water conducting tubes. This transfer is mainly only successful on Lime, Poplars, Hawthorns or Fruit trees, but I have managed to grow one on a Sorbus in our garden, as shown in the photograph (just insert a berry under a slip of raised smooth bark). It is the only specimen I know around here, and perhaps it will spread.



It is poisonous, but has been used medicinally; evidence from preserved bog bodies suggests that it may have been used to kill people in ritual sacrifice.

Pliny, writing in the first century AD, said that the Druids, wearing white cloaks and using a gold sickle, cut mistletoe to fall upon clean sheets, for use in their ceremonies.

There is extensive folklore about this plant, but everywhere it was considered a protection against evil forces- the devil, goblins etc.

David Pickering



East Knoyle Honey Bees - Notes from the Milton Apiary – 21

It is early November and all is good in the apiaries. In keeping with the festive edition in our 50th anniversary year – there is minimal bah humbug and maximum objectivity...or Ding Dong Merrily on High.....

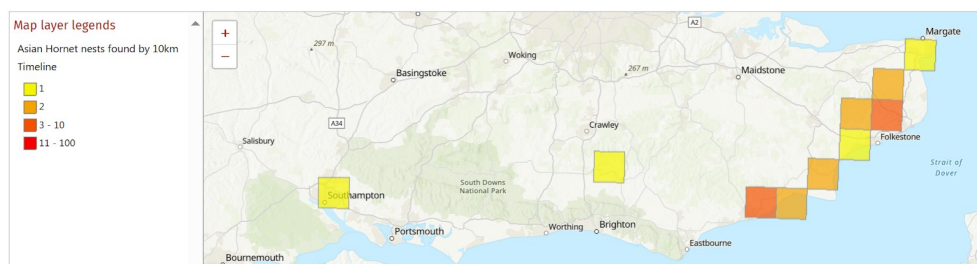
I really appreciate everyone's' interest in the Yellow Legged (Asian) Hornet. I think / hope that we may have dodged the bullet for another year – more great news. **Please get the Asian Hornet Watch App.**

In early September, I united some colonies to create large colonies that can protect themselves from wasps, they have a maximum number of foraging bees to take advantage of our bountiful supply of seasonal Ivy nectar. In the end, there weren't too many wasps (as with all pollinators), they were affected by the short and wet season and many failed to survive the long winter / late spring. I took off and extracted our light floral honey to avoid it being mixed with Ivy Honey. However, there was lots of Ivy. Before I put the hives to bed, I could smell, see and hear the bees drawing air (fanning in lines of busy bees) through the hives to dry out the Ivy nectar and convert it into rather smelly Ivy Honey – as winter stores. This has meant that I have fed the bees with minimal quantities of sugar solution – all good. Currently the bees are getting ready for winter. They are evicting the drone (male) bees – so as not to waste resources on them. The queens will create more drones when forage supplies improve in spring.

“Where have all the bees gone” – seems to be a concern. We have lots of bees but, put simply, I recorded my first visit to the hives this year on 12th Apr in 16°C and sunny. (Ghost of Christmas Present) This was a month later than in 2023 (Ghost of Christmas Past). By 25th Apr it was 9°C and cloudy. Our pollinators, including wasps and hornets have had a truncated and wet season. Key to this is the availability of nectar. Flowers, flower and may look ok, but most of them need >16°C and ideally 20°C + average day-time temperature to create nectar. The Lime Trees in the village were out for under a week and there were no warm balmy evenings in July to encourage them to create lots of nectar. Hopefully, the Ghost of Christmas future will make it impossible to park your cars under Lime Trees without them being spotted by nectar in 2025.

Back to another Dickensian character, I cannot thank Jim Hyde enough for planting 10 acres of Vetch, Phacelia and clover at the bottom of the hill in Milton. We up-gunned this heady legume mixture with Borage to create a fantastic nectar source – very close to the hives. This has meant that the Milton Apiary has performed reasonably well in the latter part of the year and produced a particularly runny honey (borage)!

Ghost of Christmas past – Asian Hornets - By mid-November 2023, 72 nests had been destroyed compared to only 23 nests at beginning of November this year. This was because there were excellent hornet conditions in northern France and Benelux in 2022. This caused an increase in numbers in 2023 crowding out hornets and forcing them to hitch a lift or fly over the channel (aided by warm SE winds from the continent) to Kent / Sussex. The French Invasive Pest Control people have not done particularly well – I don't know what the French for Horlicks is to describe this débâcle! Our National Bee Unit (NBU) monitoring teams had a frantic time in 2023 but have hopefully kept a lid on it in 2024. See map of nest sites. NBU scientists are mapping the genome of every hornet they receive to determine which nest it came from, if it has been destroyed or if it is a lone hornet that has hitched a lift from France. Like the one on a warehouse floor in Preston 19th March 24. See photo. Ghost of Christmas future – we must stay vigilant and keep an eye out for: distinctive yellow legs, black antennae, black thorax and smaller than our common European Hornet.



“Ding Dong!” Deck the Halls and Have a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year from all the East Knoyle Bees – even the Wild (Free Living) ones!! - Tom EK 246

Celebrating Age in East Knoyle

A performance of “Stories in the Dust” was the latest event provided by Wiltshire’s Celebrate Age – a scheme to encourage older citizens to regain the habit of going out and enjoying the shared experience of watching a performance in the company of friends and neighbours. The young professional actors and their technician loved our village hall. This small touring company are taking this play to venues all over the south of England (including Salisbury Playhouse). Everything they needed came in the back of a small van and in just over an hour from their arrival, they were on stage. We were entertained to a thought –provoking play, with live music and lighting effects, telling of a journey, always going west, through a deserted landscape. How fortunate were we to enjoy this right here on our doorstep. On a rather dull damp October day, the afternoon finished perfectly with tea and cake.

The next Celebrate Age event is The Salisbury Big Band Christmas Concert at the Nadder Centre in Tisbury on Tuesday 10th December. If you know of an older person who would benefit from an afternoon of free festive entertainment, please encourage them to come. Watch out for the poster and flyers in the shop. Transport can be arranged. A phone call to book a place is all that is needed



The poster features a string of colorful Christmas lights at the top. A blue circular logo with the text 'CELEBRATING Age Wiltshire' is positioned at the top center. Below it, the text reads: 'Salisbury Big Band Christmas Concert', 'Nadder Centre, Tisbury', and 'Tuesday 10th December, 1.30 - 3.30pm'. A photograph of the band members is shown on the left. To the right of the photo, the text says: 'Celebrate Christmas with the Salisbury Big Band. Come along and enjoy great live music and a festive afternoon tea. All welcome.' At the bottom, a red box contains the text: 'This is a free event, but booking is required. Please contact Karen Linaker on 01722 434697 or email karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk'.

Celebrating Age Wiltshire: bringing live music, theatre, art & heritage to your local community



Chilmark Remembers

There was a terrible tragedy in Chilmark in 1989 when 3 sisters lost their lives in a fire at their home, the then vicarage. One of sisters, Delia, was a pupil at the primary school.

A tree was planted in Delia’s memory but when building work took place in the 2000s the tree was sadly lost.

The building work resulted in a new school hall which is very much the heart of the school today. After consultation with Delia’s family, the wider community and the school council it was decided to rename the school hall as the Delia Hall.

The Right Reverend Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury, visited the school to lead a service of reflection and remembrance when a new plaque was unveiled.

Delia’s brother, Joseph, who was also a former pupil attended the service and played the piano and worship leaders, from Year 6, assisted Bishop Andrew during the service.

It was a moving occasion and comforting to know that Delia’s memory will live on in Chilmark Fonthill Bishop CofE Primary School.

Thank You

Terry Coombs of The Green EK would like to express his heartfelt thanks to the many friends in the village who sent cards, well wishes and helped with Billy during his recent stay in hospital. Your kindness and support have meant a great deal to him.

Thank you!

Coffee Morning

Ruth Gregg's Coffee Morning for Crisis made £524 which was a splendid effort



Autumn Musical Evening

This year's Musical Evening attracted an almost capacity audience to St Mary's Church, who were once again treated to a great evening of entertainment from our local musicians and singers.

Apart from the music it is a wonderful social event with everyone enjoying the drinks and nibbles after the show.

This year we raised a record breaking amount through everyone's kind donations which will benefit both St Mary's Church and Jessie's Fund. Thank you all for your donations and to all those who help on the night and of course – to the musicians and singers!

See you next year – book early!!



Recycle Your Christmas Tree for Salisbury Hospice Charity

On the afternoon of 15th November, Reggie the alpaca, along with his friends Joey, Alan and Calippo the goat from Barefoot Barns, brought smiles and festive cheer to Salisbury Hospice patients, families and staff. The Alpacas visit marked the official launch of the much-loved Christmas Tree Collection and Recycling Scheme, with online registration opening today.

The scheme, in partnership with JustHelping and proudly sponsored by Sampson Coward, provides a simple way to recycle your real Christmas tree while supporting Salisbury Hospice Charity and the local community. In exchange for a donation, volunteers will collect and recycle your tree, taking one less task off your post-Christmas to-do list.

By registering your tree, you're not only helping to provide essential care to patients and families in need of end-of-life care, but you're also making a positive environmental impact. The collected trees are donated to local farms where they are chipped for compost, animal bedding, or even used to feed alpacas and goats!

After costs, 90% of the funds raised will directly benefit Salisbury Hospice Charity, while the remaining 10% will be distributed to charities in the local community, including Salisbury & South Wilts Scouts.

The Christmas Tree Collection will take place from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th January, across the following postcode areas: SP1, SP2, SP3, SP4, SP5, SP6, SP7, SP9, SO20 6, and SO20 8, with volunteers collecting trees from 8 am each day.

The scheme is run in partnership with JustHelping, a charity which helps support volunteers, businesses, and charities to contribute to the local community and the environment. JustHelping's national Christmas tree collection raises essential funds for hospices and communities throughout the country.

This year's Christmas Tree Collection is proudly sponsored by Sampson Coward, whose generous support helps make the event possible. Supported by Barefoot Barns, Stump Grinders, Ockenden Tree Services, Walsh Tree Services and Newbourne Farm Composting.



Recycle your Christmas tree for Salisbury Hospice Charity and other local charities

We welcome donations in return for the collection and recycling of your real Christmas tree

Collecting between 10th - 12th January



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JustHelping supports volunteers, businesses and charities to contribute to their community and the environment. Our national Christmas tree collection raises essential funds for hospices and communities.

Register your tree by 6th January at charityxmasreecollection.com

Salisbury Hospice Charity, Registered Charity No. 1123314, Registered Office: Salisbury Hospice Charity, Osbeck Road, Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

Photo by Spencer Mulholland Photography

10 Questions to.....Diana Makgill

For our festive edition, we are lucky enough to pose 10 Questions to our village matriarch (apologies for going Beekeeping on you!). Hon. Diana Makgill CVO has insisted that I don't pontificate on how jolly smart she is..... However, I think it is fantastic that Diana can trace her family back through great moments in our history. Her father was the 12th Viscount of Oxfuird (Scottish Peerage created for the 1st Baronet in 1651). James (Jimmy) Makgill from Fife, was ennobled by James V1th (of Scotland – later James 1st of England) as one of 100 Barons who sponsored 6 colonists each, to settle the apply named, Nova Scotia. We will return to Canada later.

Diana missed out on the roaring 20's and was born 4th Jan 1930, in London. Her older sister tragically died in infancy from a Small Pox injection. Her Grandfather and Great Grandfather were both diplomats. Her Great Grandfather was first

Ambassador to Washington. Her Grandfather was an administrator on St. Kitts and Nevis. He died, a young man, in post and his body was brought back on a battleship. The memorial to Diana's Grandfather is tended by a charming Rasta – who, on a recent trip - Diana may have taken rather a shine to. This absolutely cannot be corroborated! Diana's father, a veteran of The Great War was an Officer in the Coldstream Guards and spent the 30's preparing for the gathering storm across Europe. This included training Special Operations Executive (SOE) agents.

In her early childhood, Diana was brought up by her Aunt in Slades (Wise) House and later, where Diana lives now, in Clouds Lodge. Her Aunt bought the then under gardener's cottage off the Wyndhams, when the original Clouds estate was finally carved up. In September 1940, the 10 year old Diana was sent to live with her Great Aunt in Canada and departed from Liverpool. She was aboard the RMS Duchess of Atholl that carried Bank of England bullion for safe keeping. Ahead of her in the convoy, steamed the SS City of Benares. She carried 197 passengers, including 90 children, part of the CORB (Children of the Overseas Reception Board) scheme to evacuate children to the Dominions. According to The National Archive in Kew; on 17th September, 600 miles out from Ireland, at 10pm in miserable gale-force conditions, the German U-Boat Wolf Pack descended on the convoy and sank SS City of Benares. 134 passengers and crew perished that night, including 70 children. Diana's view is that the bullion carrying Duchess of Atholl was probably the intended target. The CORB scheme ceased after the demise of the City of Benares. Diana always remembers the 70 children at the annual Garden of Remembrance, at Westminster Abbey.

Diana finally made it to Canada and took a train across the continent to Vancouver Island where she was received by the Great Aunt and enrolled at Strathcona School outside Victoria. After the War, she returned to East Knoyle and trained as a nanny at Clouds House. In the swinging 50's, Diana made it up to London and worked as a Social Secretary for Lord and Lady Selkirk in Admiralty House. After which she followed her family calling and joined the Diplomatic Service as Diplomatic Welfare Officer looking after new diplomats to the Court of St James. Throughout her 30 years at the FCO, she was promoted Member, Lieutenant and finally Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. More terrifyingly (for the Newsletter Editors), she concluded her career as Protocol Consultant. On retiring, Diana became President of the Woman's Section of the EK RBL (Diana has been awarded the RBL Women's Section Golden Award as County Vice President). She is a member of the PCC and Deanery Synod and recently collected the Kilminster Award for services to the Prayer Book Society, as president of the Salisbury Branch. Oh, and I almost forgot to mention that she was received in Private Audience by HM The Queen – a truly great privilege.....



Right Diana 10 Questions:

1. What is your guilty pleasure? – Negroni Cocktails
2. What is your favourite book? - Love and Trust
3. What has been your favourite holiday? - Staying with my cousin outside Philadelphia riding her horses and having a really good time
4. What is your favourite film? - Brief Encounter
5. What is your favourite sport? – Riding
6. What was your first job? – Nanny
7. What in your opinion, is the biggest threat facing the world? - Donald Trump
8. What are your hopes for the coming year? - Seeing Friends and Family
9. Who would be your top 3 dinner party guests (dead or alive)?
 - Sir Martin Charteris, Private Secretary to the Late Queen Elizabeth
 - Farah Pahlavi, former Queen and last Empress (Shahbanu) of Iran
 - Winston Churchill
10. And finally, snog, marry, avoid (for clarification – names are chosen by interviewer and sprung on interviewee – you can feel the tension.....):
 - Micheal Cane – SNOG
 - Sir Anthony Hopkins – MARRY
 - Donald Trump – AVOID

Diana, have a very happy Christmas and thank you for answering 10 Questions for the East Knoyle Newsletter.

Meadowsweetflowers

Drop by On The Hill to see Veronica with Meadowsweetflowers at Throdmill Cottage SP36BL.

Meadowsweetflowers is feeling festive and ready to greet you for this Christmas time .

It is bursting at the seams with Christmas wreaths ,festive table centres, advent calendars, candles a plenty ,beautiful bulb planters and plants ,perfect gifts and so many present ideas .

Veronica will be open 10-1 Wednesday-Saturday, but as Christmas approaches she will be beavering away most of the time, if the fairy lights are on she will be open !



Meadowsweetflowers is also supplying the Wren shop with grab and go bunches and planters ,perfect for when you are hurrying off to a festive event . For something more special or personalised call in on Veronica or call 07956102178 .

Veronica once again thanks the villagers for their continued support throughout 2024 .

Keeping Warm this Winter

There are real concerns about the proposed changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance - there was insufficient warning to bring this change in this winter, nor was there anything in the Labour manifesto about this. Most pensioners live on a fixed income and do not have the opportunity to supplement their income as working people do - the proposals mean that Winter Fuel Allowance will only be paid to people in receipt of Pension Credit or certain other means tested benefits.

I was pleased therefore to support a motion at Wiltshire Council which called for “the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, urging a review of Labour's decision to end the Winter Fuel Payment. We also encourage officers to coordinate a social media and press campaign to show Wiltshire residents how to check their eligibility and register for pension credits.”

I understand that from 1st November the Department of Work and Pensions will be writing to pensioners in receipt of housing benefit to encourage them to apply for pension credit before the deadline of 21st December. There's a pension credit quick calculator at <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator> which may be helpful in the first instance.

If you do qualify (or are borderline it may still be worth applying) you will need to follow the steps to apply for Pension Credit, it is a long form so please give yourself time and don't give up! Advice and information are also available in Wiltshire libraries which are also Warm Spaces.

There is also energy efficiency information and grants advice on the Wiltshire Council website detailing support and links on this subject, which can be found here <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1417/Home-energy-efficiency>. Warm and Safe Wiltshire is a commitment from Wiltshire Council to help residents live in safer and healthier homes. The energy advice line for Warm and Safe is provided by the Centre for Sustainable Energy on behalf of Wiltshire Council. You can also phone 0800 038 5722 or email warmandsafe@cse.org.uk. The scheme aims to support residents through the installation of draught-proofing measures, smoke alarms to improve fire safety and providing advice on reducing energy use, switching energy suppliers, reducing condensation and damp problems and controlling heating.

A new scheme means that residents can now borrow thermal imaging cameras from Wiltshire Libraries to check for heat loss from their properties to inform home upgrades and save money on energy bills. The cameras are available free of charge and can help people make small improvements, such as covering gaps causing drafts in the home, or consider if more substantial home upgrades would be appropriate such as insulation. For more information, see <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/10315/thermal-imaging-cameras>

I hope this is helpful – please do look out for your neighbours this winter, I am always pleased to help if I can. Please get in touch – bridget.wayman@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Paul Naish doing a grand job repainting the defibrillator phone box



Flag bearers at the Remembrance Service

The Cinephile

(Reviews of Some Recent Films)

Gladiator 2 *** (Epic sequel with silly Romans providing lots of gore and fun).

It's always interesting to see long careers and at 86, Ridley Scott, who not only directed the original *Gladiator*, but has also directed such mega hits as *Bladerunner*, *Alien* and more recently *Napoleon*, (to name a few), is having a long career. The film stars, quick to rise to fame; Paul Mescal, and the well established; Denzel Washington. Mescal, through *Normal People*, (which put him on the map), to *Aftersun*, (reviewed here), and *Gladiator 2*, is certainly getting great opportunities to show his versatility and that he has that quality of being consistently watchable.

There are some extraordinary, epic battle scenes to start off, lots of gory, crazy fight scenes in The Colosseum, and some very good cameo roles. And the whole thing is photographed quite remarkably.

The Apprentice** (Glossy production about the rise of Trump)

Warning: This film has a rape scene in it. (Remember: You can't 'un-see'!)

This is, however, a well produced story about how Donald Trump grew powerful; tutored in his ugly ways by a cut throat New York Lawyer, Roy Cohn. For those of a certain vintage, it's really a period piece set in Manhattan in the '70's and 80's and is for that reason only, a little nostalgic. From the perspective of 2024, it also functions as a startling illustration of how attitudes change from decade to decade.

Promoted as "The film that Trump doesn't want you to see", it was described by the president elect as a "defamatory, politically disgusting hatchet job" intended to harm his 2024 presidential campaign. His lawyers managed to delay, but eventually not extinguish, the production and the distribution of this film. Like all his misdemeanours, in the end, it hasn't stopped him. So, the story portrayed in this film? It's probably all a pack of lies. Right?

Surviving October 7th: We Will Dance Again **** (An extraordinary film made up from the mobile phone video footage of those who were attacked by Hamas militia)

This is a harrowing glimpse into the brutal assault on partygoers at the Nova Music Festival - one of the sites in Israel attacked by Hamas on 7 October 2023. It is shockingly compelling to see the mobile phones view of such an inconceivable event. This rather unique film shows the most deplorable and the most noble traits of the human. There is one scene in particular which illustrates an extraordinary act of bravery and self-sacrifice. (Still available on BBC i-player). Definitely worth watching if you can bare it.

The Substance * (Demi Moore, rather bravely, bares all in this paradoxical vanity project in very bad taste.)

This film sits in a genre called Body Horror, which pretty much sums it up. Demi Moore's character is a TV host, who is fired by sexist, ageist, boss because, let's face it, she's getting on a bit. On the face of it this film appears to be a project of little substance, but behind the body horror and the brash, shiny, cartoon style, it raises some interesting questions about our cultures values.

The Outrun **** (A beautiful British film with a star performance from Saoirse Ronan)

Saoirse Ronan is quite a good actor. At just thirty years old she seems to have been on our screens for many years and has won plenty of awards which include a Golden Globe Award, in addition to nominations for four Academy Awards and five British Academy Film Awards. An astonishing record.

This quite small, modest film about the recovery of a young alcoholic is a good example of what makes her so special. Her performance is totally convincing.

Don't be put off by the weight of the subject matter, this is a beautiful film, that looks at causes and effect in a gentle, empathetic, humane way. Shot between the drinker's gritty streets of London and the most isolated parts of Orkney, the cinematography and the characters linger in the consciousness.

Paris Texas ***** (Wim Wender's 1984 release celebrates its fortieth anniversary with a re-release by Curzon cinemas.)

Another film about the effects of human troubles, in this case, on the family. Harry Dean Stanton, in the lead, is mesmerizing as is Nastassja Kinski playing his estranged wife. A large part of the story examines fatherhood and child actor, Hunter Carson is quite wonderful as the son.

It is exquisitely written by playwrite and actor Sam Shepherd, who was never known for pulling his punches and gorgeously photographed by the ever prolific Robbie Muller, still working today (He has just shot *Bird*, soon to be released, directed by the British Andrea Arnold) and a master of his trade.

Every Little Thing*** (A delightful documentary about injured Humming Birds and their carer. Available on you tube)





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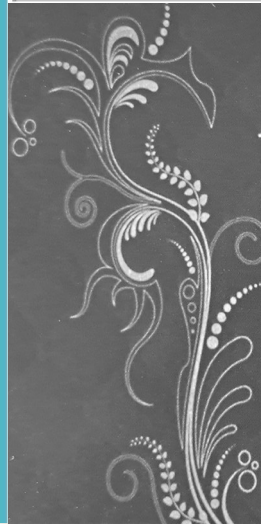


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East Knoyle villagers love reading the newsletter. It is a great way to share information, and to stay connected. Please feel free to send us articles, letters, recipes, reviews, photographs and anything else you'd like to share.

We'd love to hear from you.

eastknoylenewsletter@gmail.com

Useful contacts

Village Website 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, Shaftesbury	01747 865700
Crime	Rural Crime Reporting Line	0800 783 0137
	PCSO Stewart Hunt	101 or 07423765925
Village Shop	Wren's Shop	01747 830735
	East Knoyle Post Office	01747 830928
Utilities	National Gas Helpline	0800 111 999
	National Power Cut Helpline	105
	Wessex Water	0345 600 4600
	CJM Tree Services 24/7 call out	07745 745257
East Knoyle Church	St Mary's Church	01747 830174

Merry Christmas



**DEADLINE FOR
January / February 2025
Newsletter
10th January 2025**

(Newsletters are normally distributed around 10 days after the copy deadline)