

EAST KNOYLE NEWSLETTER

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The East Knoyle Newsletter

In this issue...

Welcome to this bumper packed May/June issue of the newsletter. There have been lots of activities in the village including the Easter service and VE Day celebrations. There is also a comprehensive report from Chris Cox on the responses to the pub survey.

The Editors

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.

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Parish Council News

East Knoyle Parish Councillors were included in the recent May 7th elections. Our election was uncontested as we only had 8 applicants, resulting in 3 open spaces. Term of Office is 4 years.

Your Parish Council going forward is:

- Chair Sue Entwistle
- Vice Chair Garry Staunton who also holds the Knoyle House Grounds remit
- Councillor Ian Tait whose remit includes the Finance Committee and Wrens Shop
- Councillor Ann White whose remit includes the Finance Committee and Planning
- Councillor Ann Ambrose whose remit includes Common Lands and the Village Hall
- Councillor Rob McCarthy who leads on Highways
- Councillor Hugo Middleton whose remit includes Planning
- Councillor Deb Bateman whose remit includes Marketing and Engagement

In addition Councillor Bridget Wayman was re-elected to Wiltshire Council representing the Nadder Valley and will remain the Parish Councils conduit and advocate in Trowbridge.

A recruitment drive will be initiated in the coming months to fill the current 3 Parish Councillor vacancies. Your Parish Council has made a real difference as evidenced by the comments and feedback at the recent Annual Parish Council meeting. It is a great time to become involved in YOUR Community so that East Knoyle and surrounding Hamlets remains a great place to reside surrounded by beautiful natural landscapes and scenery. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact the Chair Sue Entwistle for an initial chat.

The Parish Councillors said farewell to Martin Brown who has formally stepped down as Parish Clerk - his enthusiasm and energy will be missed. His contributions were recognized by the Chair who presented Martin with a token of the Councillor's appreciation for his unstinting efforts.

The Knoyle House Playground has now fully re-opened after the boundary fence was repaired and a new area adjacent to the large slide has been cleared. It is wonderful to hear the happy sounds emanating from the Playground which continues to attract visitors in healthy numbers.

And last but by no means least - The Fox and Hounds. The closure of our Village Pub at the end of March was a loss to our Community. On April 4th at the behest of a number of residents, the Parish Council applied for the Fox and Hounds to be registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). ACV status, if granted, means that if the owner decides to sell a pub, a six month moratorium on the sale may be requested by community interest groups. This gives the Community time to put together a bid to buy the pub and thus ensure that it continues to serve the local area. The owner isn't obliged to accept the bid. This ACV application has now been approved by Wiltshire Council.

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



CLAROW

Following a recent successful grant application (resulting in the planting of 550 saplings), we are keen to investigate further funding opportunities.

We invite you to put forward any suggestions to improve the local natural environment or something that might be more specific for the village such as a communal bench. If you have any suggestions please contact me by email: a.ambrose1956@gmail.com

Ann Ambrose Common Lands and Rights of Way- EKPC

Wren's Shop News

Shop Break-in - I am sure we were all shocked and dismayed by the break-in and theft from our Village Shop which occurred in the early hours of Wednesday 23rd April. Thankfully the only damage was to the front door and the thief only managed to get away with a few bottles of spirits. Due to our alarm system and key-holder arrangements the police, together with Paul Egginton and Brian Williamson, were on site quickly. We will, of course, be reviewing our security plans, although we already have robust arrangements in place.

New members of our Finance Team – by the time you read this, our long-standing colleague, Lesley Webb, will have retired from her role with our Finance Team. Lesley has volunteered for the shop for the last 15 years and has been a steady, reliable & very capable member of the team. We are very sorry to see you go Lesley, although we know you will be keeping yourself extremely busy with your other ventures. Taking Lesley's place will be Ann White. Alongside Ann we also have a new bookkeeper, Pam Bates. Both Pam & Ann has volunteered for the shop for several years and we are delighted that they has offered to take on these roles.

Looking forward to those long, hot summer days?

Cool down with chilled drinks, ice creams & lollies all on sale at Wren's.



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

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 08:00 to 18:00

Saturday: 08:00 to 16:00

Sunday/Bank Holidays: 09:00 to 12 noon

Newspapers every day

Fresh Fruit, Vegetables & Meat 6 days a week

Fresh Bread delivered 3 times a week

Croissants baked in-store daily

Hot Drinks available

Orders Taken

Tel: 01747 830735

Email: shop@wrensshop.co.uk

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

Facebook: WrensShopEastKnogle



Opening Hours

Monday to Friday : 09:00 to 13:00

(Closed Weekends & Bank Holidays)

Our Services

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

Tel: 01747 830928

Email: shop@wrensshop.co.uk

Wrens Loyalty Scheme

When Wren's Store loyalty scheme started on January 1st the objective was to stimulate growth in shop sales to address the difference in historic revenue growth (low) and the rate of inflation (high). Inflation growth had outstripped our gross sales growth for a number of years and this was clearly not sustainable.

Since January we have seen revenue growth of 10.7%, 7.6% 15.5% and 16% respectively from January to the end of April. We expect revenue growth after adjustments for inflation{2.6%} and the cost of running the scheme to be in the region of 10% in the first four months of the year.

This change in spending patterns, if sustained, will guarantee the long term future of the shop and will mean the shop committee will have money available to support village groups and good causes.

The shop management committee would like to thank you for adopting this scheme with such enthusiasm. To those who are not regular users of the shop please try out our excellent range of produce and you too can benefit from the loyalty scheme whilst being part of our thriving community shops future.



Neil Southerden Retirement from EKPC

Some of you may be aware that Neil has recently decided to retire after 20 years of involvement with East Knoyle Parish Council.

Throughout my time as Chair Neil has carried out the duties of Vice Chair. He also performed this task for our previous Chair Tim Hyde. Neil's particular area of expertise has been in the area of Planning legislation. In addition Neil has provided the Parish Council with his extensive knowledge of all things past in the workings of East Knoyle plus bringing to any debate a measured and thoughtful approach.

I'd like to conclude with a section of the email that I sent Neil having heard the news of his retirement:

"Your decision has been neither a surprise nor unexpected...but I have been left with a feeling of loss...when people leave job's/positions there are the usual platitudes bandied about...'he's a great guy' 'did a good job' etc...but you are a great guy and have done a good job...and the Parish Council will be less without you....thanks Neil.....Sue E."

If you are considering applying to become a Parish Councillor or simply would like a little more information re the process then please contact me via email at esue360@icloud.com#

Sue Entwistle

Terry Bishop Concert at Village Hall

Saturday evening, 10th May, at the East Knoyle Village Hall was the place to be if you wanted a fun time. Terry Bishop, also known as The Troubadour, has been a professional entertainer on board luxury cruise ships for the past 17 years, travelling the world many times over. He very kindly offered to drive from his home in Derbyshire to give a performance of a show, which he named 'Stuff and Nonsense', to raise money for VH funds. With a mixture of humour, music and song, Terry, with assistance from his wife Julie, entertained a packed hall for nearly two hours, resulting in unanimous acclaim and sustained applause. It was a wonderful evening and the committee are very grateful for their magnanimous generosity in providing such a memorable evening and boosting the coffers of the VH by nearly £1,000.

East Knoyle Village Hall

Paul Egginton arranged for Shaftesbury Glass to supply and fit new windows and door on the car park side of the Village Hall which replaced frames that had started to rot. A separate key is now used for the kitchen door.

Quotes are being obtained for repainting the inside of the Main Hall, it was deemed unsuitable to have volunteers using platforms to do the painting.

The Entertainer Evening for May 10th has been well advertised and we hope you will buy a ticket as it is a fund raising evening for the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st May at 7.00 pm and we welcome anyone who has an interest in the Village Hall to attend. Due to the use of the Hall over the last 9 months the accounts show a trading profit for the first time and we thank all the users of the Hall for their contribution to this being achieved. We welcome the Bridge Club who will be using the Medieval Room each week.

We look forward to the coming months and hope it will be used for Children's Parties as it is such a good venue for that.

David Jenkins

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



SAVE THE CHILDREN SUMMER FAIR
SUNDAY 1st JUNE
11 - 4.30
DOG SHOW 2.30.

ANNUAL FAIR AND FUN DOG SHOW

UPPER LEIGH FARM, EAST KNOYLE, SP3 6AP

STALLS * CLOTHES * TOMBOLA *
BRIC-A-BRAC * BARBEQUE * TEAS *
HOME MADE CAKES * and lots more

Admission: donations to
Save the Children

FR Regulator logo and Save the Children logo.



FONTHILL HOUSE GARDEN OPENING IN AID OF LADY GARDEN FOUNDATION

ROAM THROUGH THE ELEGANT GARDENS OF FONTHILL HOUSE, EXPERIENCING
DELICIOUS FOOD, ARTISAN STALLS AND A SPECTACULAR RAFFLE



ADVANCE TICKETS: £10 | ON THE GATE: £12
SUNDAY 8TH JUNE | 12 NOON TO 5PM
WILTSHIRE, SP3 5RZ

LADY ♥ GARDEN

East Knoyle Rainfall—March and April

My last words in January-February report were: Thank goodness has been dry and sunny since then [end of February]. I wish I had not said that!

March and April have been disastrously dry, robbing us of spring. Grass has not grown owing to lack of rain, a serious problem for livestock farmers. Nothing to graze on. Arable and grass crops are stressed. First crops of silage are yielding almost nothing. And no rain in prospect at least until mid-May.



March 2025. We had 0.2" (5 mm) of rain in January 2025. The 30 year average is 3.63" (92.13 mm). So this March, rainfall was 5.5% , about one 20th, of the 30 year average.

April 2025. We had total 0.87" (22 mm) in February 2025, compared to 30 year average of 2.94" (74.62 mm). So April rainfall just 30% of monthly average.

Total 1.07" in March and April, compared to average 6.57".

If you wonder why, see the image on the right. The west-east trajectory of the jet stream which brings precious rain from the Atlantic depends on winds created by a difference in temperature between polar and tropical regions. These winds keep the Jetstream in a relatively straight track, with only very slight oscillations. It seems that arctic warming has reduced the temperature difference, reduced the winds that keep the jet stream on track, and therefore the jet stream course is suffering an exaggerated (amplified) oscillation. Portugal and Spain get **our** rain and we get **their** warm air drawn up from the south. This interruption of normal service will happen more and more, in future years. The precious rain we have taken for granted will become scarcer.



Round and About



It's great to be able to start this section with Congratulations and the good news that Monica and Martin Snell have two wonderful reasons to be celebrating in early June. On June 4th Martin will have his 94th birthday, and two days later is the sixty-sixth anniversary of their wedding. What achievements! The Round and About team join the wider, and wide-spread, Snell family in wishing them both Many Happy Returns of these wonderful occasions.

There are a few newcomers to East Knoyle since the last edition. In Milton we are pleased to welcome mother and daughter Karen and Maisie. They have come from Salisbury to be nearer work and, although still settling in, are delighted to be in the country once again and are looking forward to being part of the village. In Upton, Harry, Katie and

Archie the dog have found a new home. Arriving from Bath, they too are glad to be back in a rural area and are looking forward to meeting everyone.

Many of you will already know that Michael Butler, formerly of Underhill, died last month at the age of 82, having fought courageously against cancer. Michael and Jill moved here in the early 1980s and quickly became an integral part of the community. Michael was a cavalry officer in the Queen's Own Hussars and, once retired, devoted considerable time and skill to fund-raising for good causes, not least our own church. He served as Churchwarden, and was energetic in running the fetes which were held at Moors Farm, drawing in help and support from all corners of East Knoyle and all hamlets. He was also a guide at Salisbury Cathedral, which he much enjoyed, and he helped to ensure the success of the Spire Appeal. In 2017 he and Jill took the decision to move to Shaftesbury, though they were often to be seen walking their dogs round old haunts. We send our condolences to Jill, and to Rachel, Jonathan and James and their families.

Sadly, we are aware of a number of residents who are in hospital or in care away from their own homes. Not least among these is Megan Winstone from The Street, and to her and her family we send good wishes, especially for her long-term treatment and on-going care.



The 8th of May marked the 80th anniversary of Victory In Europe Day and, once again, the village gathered at the East Knoyle war memorial to join together in a short service of remembrance and reflection. It was heartening to know that members of other parishes in the Benefice had travelled to join us on this special day and participate in the service.

To some of those present, VE Day was within living memory and whilst marking the events of 80 years ago never far from our minds was the thought that although it meant the end of the war in Europe, there were many thousands who were still fighting, or were POWs, of the Japanese - one of whom was a former chairman of the EK RBL, Douglas Morris. We would be pleased to hear of any others from East Knoyle and locally in time for VJ Day in August.

Our thanks are due to Rev. Canon Kate McFarlane who led the service, commencing with a perceptive opening address, and Alex Drake (Shaftesbury Town Band) for his rendering of The Last Post and Reveille. Sir Nick Wright and Gill Waterhouse represented the RBL with the Standards of both Branches paraded by Mark Gittins and Helen Lever. Robin Egerton, as Crucifer, led the procession to and from the memorial.

Following the service, Nicola Burrand from RBL Wiltshire joined Branch members for a celebratory buffet in the appropriately decorated marquee at the Benett Arms in Semley. Helen Lever entered the spirit of the occasion by wearing her replica Land Girl uniform. It should be noted that Helen also provided much of the decoration and also the splendid wreath at the base of the war memorial. Congratulations by the way to Rachel Naish and Nicola Burrand who demonstrated a superior knowledge (or best guesses) of WW2 rationing to win the quiz. The team at the Benett certainly 'did us proud' not only with the splendidly decorated marquee but the size and standard of the Buffet.

EVENTS

Our wide range of social events, not necessarily with a military theme, play an important part in our Branch calendar as they provide the opportunity for Branch members, and their guests, to mix socially outside of the more serious commitments of RBL business. The latest, a visit to the Witchmark Distillery at Fonthill arranged by Paul Naish, took place on the 10th April. A most interesting visit, it provided the opportunity to sample and take home some of their range of products and hear of their long term plans (good to hear them from a local business) in the most pleasing of environments.

Future events include a visit to the Army Air Museum at Middle Wallop and a full programme across the week running up to, and including, VJ Day. Details to follow in the next newsletter.

POPPY APPEAL

Thanks to the mix of Roy Halsall's summer fund raising activities and donations of coins and ad hoc items which are sold on, the total for the 24/25 Poppy Appeal continues to grow. With just four months before the appeal comes to a close in September, the total has increased to £13,418. Roy travels far and wide during the summer months and over the years he and his 'WW2 Chevvy' have become a well known fixture at many commemorative events. Recently they were selected to drive Dame Sarah Troughton, DCVO, the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, at the head of the parade of vintage military vehicles at the commemorative VE Day event in Aldbourne (where so many American Paratroopers were based prior to D Day) raising £185.60. In the process.

BRANCH MEETINGS

Finally, the move from the recently closed, and much missed, Fox and Hounds to the Benett Arms at Semley for our monthly Branch meetings has gone well. It also has allowed us to revert back to the long held tradition in place prior to Covid of meeting on the first Monday of every month, thus avoiding a clash with the other village commitments such as choir practice. With the number of village pubs dwindling over recent years we are fortunate that there is still a welcoming one so close at hand. In return we are more than happy to support them.

Next Branch Meeting: Monday 2nd June, 1830 at the Benett Arms, Semley.

Ron Clark
Branch Secretary



IN AID OF THE POPPY APPEAL

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

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

All money made will go to the Poppy Appeal.



RBL Women's Branch



The members had an informative and interesting trip in March to Mathew Burts workshop in March.

This was followed in April by the annual Easter Egg Hunt which was a huge success, raising over £400. The sunshine probably helped a lot..especially with the ice cream sales...please see the photo of our vendors in their lovely Easter bonnets. The Easter Bonnets were judged by Rev Kate McFarlane and congratulations to Val Morseman, who managed to encompass everything springlike into one hat! Huge thanks to everyone who helped, especially to Sara and Malcolm James who not only provided eggs as prizes, but helped run the outside stalls and put away, their grandson Jake who was an all round help, especially with the Easter Egg Hunt, and Joan Claydon who allowed us to use her garden again this year. Thanks also to the Village Shop who donated the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

And thank you to the members who baked, manned stalls, set up and put away, most especially to Helen, who again provided wonderful decorations for the hall.



Monday 5th May was designated a day for communities to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The ladies had a picnic in East Knoyle playground, and quite a few braved the rather chilly weather. It was lovely to be able to sit and chat as we don't often get that opportunity at meetings.



Our May meeting will be a return of Neal's Yard. The meeting will be taking place in St.Marys Church.

Gill Staunton
Branch Secretary

T@3

The next dates are Thursday 12th June, 10th July, 14th August.
Doors open at **2.45pm**, and we need to be out of the village hall by **4.30pm**.



Easter Service

There was a beautiful Easter service at St Mary's. The flowers were completely stunning, all arranged by Dawn. The candle was made by Tom and his bees. The stone cross in front of the altar had fallen from the roof of the church and shattered into pieces! It has been repaired by a sculptor who lives in our village. We are so lucky to be living in this wonderful community.



East Knoyle Village Hall 200 Club

The Village Hall 200 Club has held its THIRD draw of the year in Wren's Shop. Drawn at the start of another perfect sunny day, the winning number is 170; this month's winner is:

WILMA PIQUET £50.00

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

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

The next draw is on July 1st, when we might hope that Summer continues as blissfully as Spring, with just the odd nocturnal shower of rain.



Hymns & Pimm's – Vote for your Favourites

From the list below we shall be singing verses from 10 hymns chosen by the village of EK. To vote, please choose up to 5 titles and either write them on a slip of paper and put it in the envelope in the shop, or email your choices to ekstmary@icloud.com. This can be anonymous if you wish.

If you have a special reason for choosing a particular hymn and would like that mentioned, please tell us.

Voting closes on **9th June** – please don't delay!

- All Creatures Of Our God And King
- All Things Bright And Beautiful
- Amazing Grace
- Jerusalem
- Be Still For The Presence
- Dear Lord And Father
- Eternal Father
- Glorious Things (Abbots Leigh)
- Guide Me Oh Thou Great Redeemer (Cwm Rhondda)
- I Cannot Tell (Londonderry Air)
- Oh God Beyond All Praising (Thaxted)
- Love Divine
- Tell Out, My Soul
- We Plough The Fields And Scatter



Hymns & Pimm's

7pm on Thursday June 19th

Do you ever miss those hymns you sang at school?

A summer evening to sing a selection of well-known hymns & hear summer songs performed by the East Knoyle Choir

Join us for a glass of Pimm's and enjoy some hearty singing

The list of hymns is available now so you can vote for your favourites

Not a service, but a fun musical evening at St Mary's
No booking required All most welcome
Donations on the door towards church maintenance

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

Our school has a very close connection to East Knoyle; we are very proud to have both St Mary's & St John's church connected to our school, and lots of our children live in East & West Knoyle; travelling daily on the minibus service.

In Robins class, the topic is Spreading Our Wings! Our youngest children have an exciting journey ahead, filled with mythical creatures, storytelling, scientific discovery, and creative expression. With the appearance of a mysterious golden dragon egg in their classroom, the children have become dragon researchers, storytellers, and caretakers, diving deep into the world of dragons while also reflecting on their own growth and the journey ahead.

Owls class topic this term is Daring Dragons and Dominant Dynasties, and they are learning about the Shang Dynasty, what life was like at this time in China and how they lived their lives at that time. In their design and technology sessions they have been lino printing, and will be making some delicious Chinese foods.

The Woodpeckers went to the Bath & West Showground for their annual Field to Food Learning Day. They learned about where their food comes from; meeting different local food producers, trying different foods and learning from the farmers themselves. They are also learning about China and the Qin Shi Huang dynasty, the great wall of China and the amazing terracotta warriors, doing silk painting, Chinese artwork, making terracotta warriors and Chinese food.

Our school commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with a little 'street party' in school, the children sang 'We'll meet again' & 'White Cliffs of Dover' and enjoyed delicious cakes!

Ashleigh Muelchi – Acting Headteacher



Forest School at Wardour Catholic Primary School

At Wardour, we teach weekly Forest School sessions to all the children. We are fortunate that our extensive grounds, backing on to Wardour woods, allow us to do this. We use our wonderful school environment to make the most of learning outdoors, whatever the weather. We also have a member of staff who is a trained Forest School practitioner and recently, Friends of Wardour installed a wildlife pond for the children to use during these sessions.

We believe children should have the right to develop their confidence, self-esteem and creativity through experiencing Forest School. We aim to develop transferrable skills that will support the children's learning both inside and outside the classroom and as they continue on their journey through education and life. The process helps and facilitates more than knowledge-gathering; it helps learners develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually. It creates a safe, non-judgemental nurturing environment for learners to try out new experiences and take risks.

We want our children to grow up with a love of nature and a curiosity that encourages them to question and wonder about the world around them. At Wardour, through our Forest School sessions, we learn to respect the environment and enjoy learning from the extensive variety of wildlife that surrounds our school. Where possible, we also try and make the sessions cross curricular, incorporating subjects such as habitats and growing plants in Science; using natural media in Art and growing, preparing and cooking food on the campfire in Design Technology. The Forest School sessions are always very popular with the children.



Restoring Beauty

East Knoyle's Moviola recently showed the wonderful Iranian film *My favourite cake*. I missed it because of my son's football practice (the highlight of my week!) so was delighted to see it at Semley a month later. For those of you who haven't seen it, the central character, Mahin, is a widow, struggling with loneliness, who bravely seeks out a companion and enjoys a glorious, uplifting encounter with a kind and appreciative man, Faramarz. It is a deeply poignant film, and certainly no fairy tale, not least because the harshness of the Iranian regime - the constant threat of the Morality Police looms over simple pleasures we would take for granted.

I was particularly taken by the way we came to love and appreciate Mahin. In the opening scene she seems grotesque, bulky and ungainly, eye mask on, grumpily moaning down the phone that someone has disturbed her sleep – at midday! She certainly sees herself as old and ugly, though in an encounter with friends her warm and humorous conversation make her far more appealing. As her single evening with Faramarz progresses, she becomes increasingly attractive – her age and shape don't change, of course, but we see her face light up in the pleasure of company and attention and laughter; she radiates kindness and enthusiasm, and when she dances she is unquestionably beautiful.

I had a second encounter with unexpected beauty this Easter. Last November, the rooftop cross on St Mary's crashed down in a storm, damaging the roof and shattering into pieces in the gutter far below. John Maine, with great patience and skill, has subsequently jigsawed it back together and on Easter Day it stood before the altar in church. Chipped and scarred, it was nevertheless, undoubtedly, a thing of beauty, and now more full of meaning than before – something apparently worthless restored, something destroyed brought back to life. On Easter Sunday, many of us will have looked at that cross with a greater attentiveness and appreciation than we ever had before, in all the decades we may have walked past it.

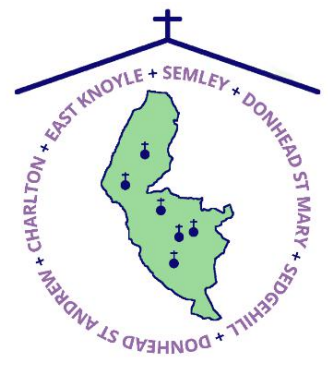
It seems an important thought to hold onto when much in our world seems ugly and broken. So much beauty still surrounds us, and often it lies in unexpected places and in unexpected people; if only we will look attentively and 'care-fully', if only we will give the space and time for that beauty to shine.

Revd Kate McFarlane

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

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

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



"COME AND SEE"
The Benefice of St Bartholomew



Photo by John Maine

Community Coffee Morning

St Mary's, East Knoyle

10.30 - 12.00

4th Tuesday of every month



Knogle Nature—The Oak Tree

There are two native species of oak trees: the Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), and the Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), the first is found chiefly in the southern half of the country on rich, heavy clay soils, and the Sessile Oak mostly further north, on poorer sandy acidic soils, and in upland areas of western England and Wales where it can form low-growing woodland clothing mountain sides. Round this village we have Pedunculate oaks only. The chief difference between them is that the Pedunculate oak has a long stalk (peduncle) connecting the acorn cup to the branch, like a smoker's pipe, whereas the Sessile oak has only a very short one. The word Oak comes from the old-English word 'ac', and appears in place names such as Acton.



Around the world are hundreds of other oak species, as oaks have evolved over millions of years, and many of these are grown in parks and gardens. Two commonly found are the Evergreen Oak, *Quercus ilex* (named from the Holly-like seedling leaves), one can be seen by the back gate to Knogle Place, and the Turkey Oak, *Quercus cerris* which has furry acorn cups. All the world's cork comes from the bark of the Cork Oak native to Spain and Portugal. In this country oak bark was stripped to be used to tan leather.

The wood being hard and durable is used in building, old ship construction, for wine barrels and for furniture; see the wonderful oak doors to the West and South of our church and inside as pulpit and altars. Oak gets even harder with age, and I remember working on an ancient beam in the old cottage we had in Milton, and had to use emery paper rather than normal sandpaper to get a smooth finish on it. If oak is in contact with iron, as for example the iron nails in old doors, a dark stain is produced: this was the main source of ink for thousands of years (scrap iron or iron sulphate left with oak bark or sawdust produces a black ink, Gum Arabic is added to make it stickier and permanent).

It is a reflection on modern taste that the most wonderful old oak furniture is now so much less in demand that it costs a tenth of historic prices: examples from the Jacobean, Carolean, and Queen Anne periods, could be bought for between £75/£300 in a local auction report I have just read. Not to mention that because it is so cheap it gets further degraded by being painted and "distressed" to make it attractive to modern eyes and to merge into the current grey miasma that passes for interior decoration.

Over 1000 invertebrate species live on the oak, some living nowhere else. The tree has mycorrhizal associations with many fungal species, and over 700 species of Lichen use the oak.

In spring the green caterpillars of the oak Tortrix moth appear in their thousands dangling on long threads and are caught by birds to feed their young. Also descending on fine threads are the caterpillars of the Winter moth adding to the feast.

Various tiny wasp species lay their eggs in oak buds and the tree reacts by producing hard round galls called marble galls, or the larger spongy round gall masses called oak apples. These were also used in ink making.

Oaks are spread by Jays which bury acorns for winter food, as do squirrels, and of course some germinate instead of being eaten.



There is much folk-lore associated with the oak: the battle between King Oak and King Holly at the solstices (I mentioned this in an earlier article), the Green Man so often found carved in churches with oak leaves and acorns, the myths around the Druids who venerated the tree, and the respect we have for ancient oaks is probably evidence of a basic human connection.

The most impressive oak in the village is along Touchorne Lane past the last houses out of Milton on the way to the Green: a stunning specimen. We have more ancient oaks in England than anywhere else in the world; the nearest very impressive one is in a field near the church at Silton, south of Zeals. This is called Wyndham's Oak after a 17 century judge and is about 1000 years old; see photo.

Sadly, as for Elms and Ash trees, Oaks are suffering from disease: Oak Decline disease caused by a bacterium has been with us for centuries, but is now accelerating and is now thought to be spread by bark beetles.



East Knoyle Honey Bees - Notes from the Milton Apiary – 24

It is early-May and we have had an amazing start to the year. There has been some fantastic blossom across East Knoyle – the bees are loving it!!! The queens are laying 1,500 to 2,000 eggs a day. The poor old queens (young in our case) are laying around the clock. Each hive contains one colony and, usually (hopefully) one mated queen. She rests for 5-10 mins in every 30 mins of egg laying, for her retinue feed and groom her. We should have honey in the shop by early June. The Bees must dry out the nectar to 17-18% water content otherwise (and if the beekeeper extracts uncapped comb) there is too much water + sugar + Yeasts = Mead!!!!

Before I bang-on about how busy the bees are – we ought to have a quick heads-up on the Yellow Legged (Asian) Hornet situation. As a reminder and compared to our local European Hornet. Asian Hornets are smaller, much darker and look like they have waded across a saucer of yellow paint. They never come out at night.

Last year there were 71 sightings, including 24 nests. This year we have had 13 sightings so far, including 2 nests.

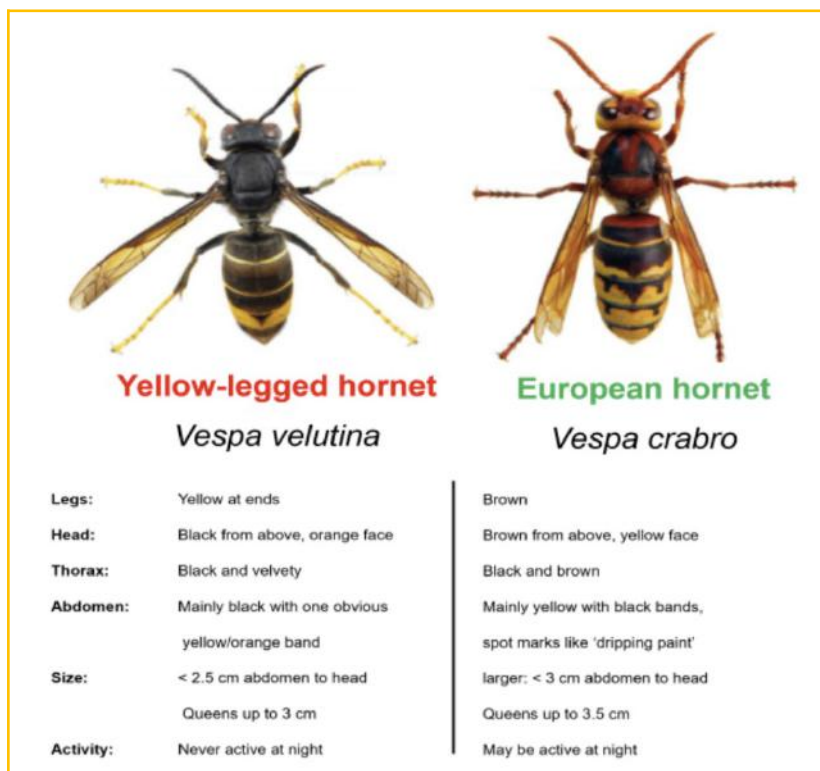
[Yellow-legged hornet 2025 rolling update »](#)
[APHA - National Bee Unit - BeeBase.](#)

1 hitched a lift to Shropshire, 9 have crossed the Channel, in benign weather conditions, to Kent and 3 are in Hampshire – including 2 sightings in Marchwood. So far, we may be getting away with it. **If you have any questions / concerns about Yellow Legged Asian Hornets – please do not hesitate to get in touch – and get the App.**

Back to the busy bees. The colonies are expanding and currently number ~30,000 + bees per colony. Roughly 10% of each colony are Drones. The sisterhood has decided that, as there is lots of food (pollen and nectar) it is time to create slightly larger wax cells – to inform the queen, in the dark, that she must lay unfertilised eggs. These unfertilised eggs grow into male bees that are haploid in that they only have half the chromosomes (16) of their sisters. Amazing. The rest of the colony, apart from the queen contains 3 weeks (15 - 20,000) of eggs and larvae. 3 weeks (15,000) of house bees that do the cleaning, nursing, drying honey, packing pollen and guarding. 3 weeks (15,000) of foraging bees that collect nectar, pollen, water and propolis. The foragers use up their glycogen reserves in their flight muscles and after 800 km flying (according to the Germans), pop their clogs and die on the wing, within 2 miles of the apiary. In short, at this time of the year, bees live for about 6 weeks as House and Foraging bees and our gardens are all the better for it!

If you have any further questions about bees and hornets – please get in touch.

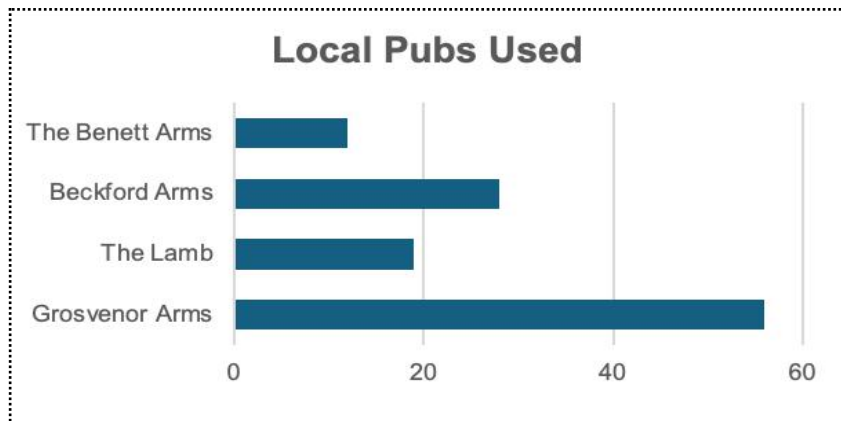
Tom EK 246



Feedback from the Fox and Hounds Survey

Thank you everyone who completed and returned the recent questionnaire into your views on the Fox and Hounds pub. We received 97 responses which were from a mix of households and individuals. With c300 households and an adult population of c600 in East Knoyle, we think this gives a representative view of what people would like to see happen at the pub under new management.

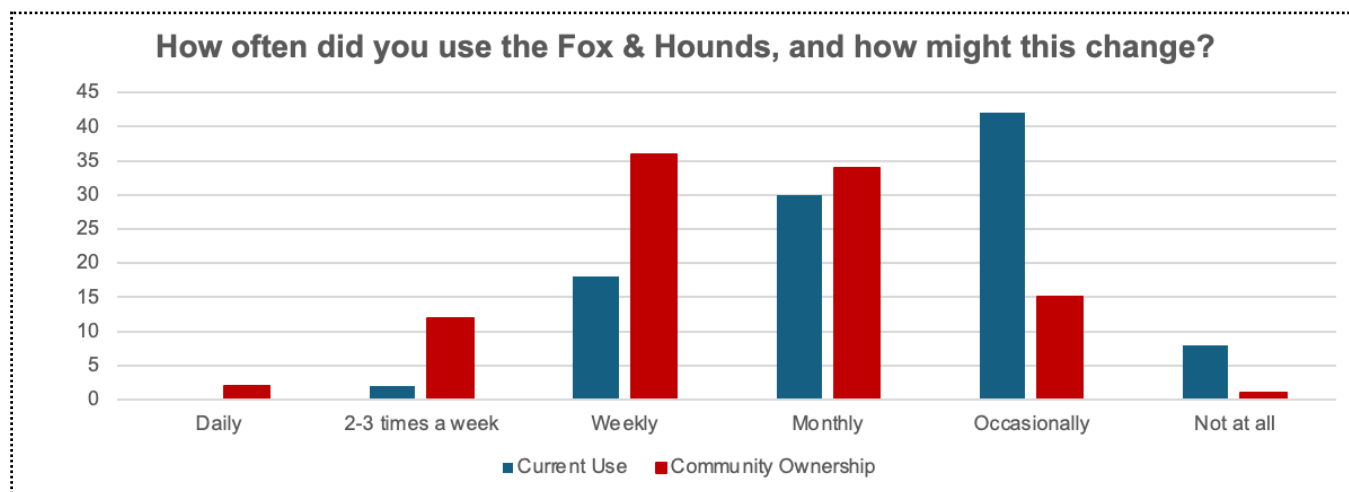
If there was to be a community-funded purchase of the pub, then the views expressed in the questionnaires will be useful in how the pub is redeveloped and managed. A community survey is also a pre-condition of the Plunkett Foundation before it provides advice to the setting up of a community business. There is still the hope that the pub will attract a new tenant, or maybe a new owner, for whom we hope this survey would also be useful.



There is clearly affection and support for the pub amongst the village but also disappointment that it has fallen behind the standards set, for example, by the Beckford and Chickpea groups of pubs. These small chains have left the Fox and Hounds behind in recent years in terms of the facilities, professionalism and quality of service on offer. The good news is that with some investment and new management the Fox and Hounds can regain its position as 'the village pub' which currently, it seems, it's lost to the Grosvenor in Hindon in particular. Of the 97 responses, 56 named the Grosvenor as a pub that they go to.

Only 20% of the survey respondents currently use the Fox and Hounds weekly or more often, 30% monthly, with 50% visiting it only occasionally or not at all. Under community ownership and new management, then these numbers might improve to 50% using the pub at least weekly, 34% monthly, and just 16% going only occasionally or less often. One would expect this same improvement could be achieved under new management whether there's a change in ownership or not.

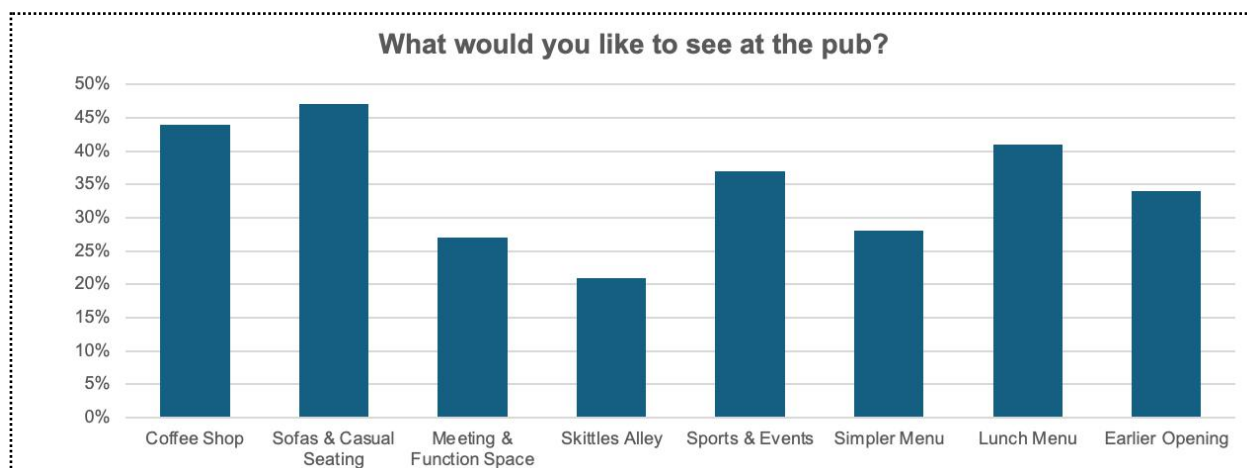
As with all pubs, food is clearly critical to the success of the Fox and Hounds. 88% of respondents go to the pub to eat, every visit or sometimes. For some, the food offered at the pub needs to be improved but there is no appetite for it to 'go gastro' (and there's a wish to keep the bars to accommodate drinkers who aren't eating). Instead, people want good quality, local and seasonal produce that is freshly cooked. To facilitate this a smaller, variable menu with specials would make sense. Instead of simply offering the same evening menu, a reduced lunch menu would be popular (41% of respondents), offering soups, sandwiches, and salads etc. The previous inflexibility regarding the need to book was also off-putting for some.



There's also a call for a better selection of wines, beers and spirits, including sourcing more local producers, such as Stone Daisy in Fonhill, with some interest in better alcohol-free options.

There has been a recent influx of families - and even the arrival of babies! - into the village and the survey highlighted that in terms of opening times, seating and menus, the Fox and Hounds was not a practical or attractive destination for those with children. For these families (and for others who want earlier opening, especially on Friday evenings and at weekends and bank holidays), longer hours would be welcomed, and this could contribute to a more diverse and inclusive clientele and less 'masculine' atmosphere.

For other community pubs we've visited, a second stream of income is common, such as letting rooms or retail. In the case of the Fox and Hounds a café offering morning coffee, cake and snacks would be the obvious option – you only need to look at how busy garden centres and the cafés in neighbouring villages are! This was liked by 44% of respondents and

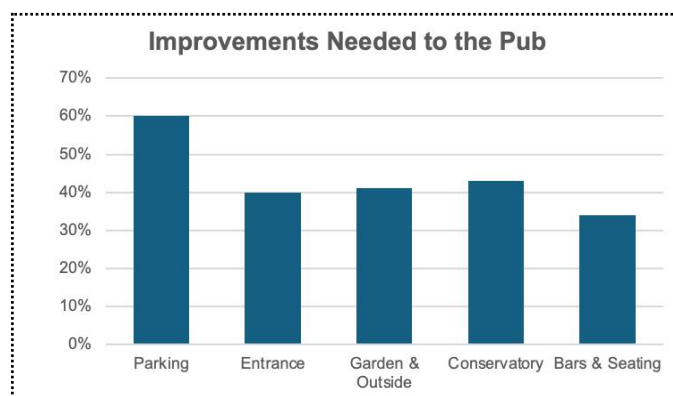


would sit comfortably with the wish to see more sofas and casual seating (47%).

The average score for the importance of having a pub in the village is 4.8 (out of a maximum of 5). Only 3 of the 97 respondents scored this at below 4. Amongst some new villagers the pub was a consideration in their move to East Knoyle and this is consistent with studies that suggest a correlation between having a good pub and property values.

The overwhelming message is that a warmer welcome and efficient and professional staff will make an important difference going forward – this was evidently lacking at times under the previous management and was a key reason for the Fox and Hounds falling out of favour with the village. There are also areas of the pub that require investment.

A lot of respondents would like to see more parking but acknowledge that this will be difficult and would impinge on the common land. This will therefore require the cooperation of the Parish Council and maybe the use of grassed stabilisation grids that can minimise any loss of 'green space'. It's felt more could be provided so that customers can enjoy the great views from the common land – including serving food outside.



Access for the disabled and for buggies etc. needs to be provided, perhaps via the courtyard garden, and the entrance could be made more attractive, including relocating the smoking area away from the main entrance.

The survey demonstrates a strong dislike of the conservatory which is seen as an uncomfortable, poorly designed and under-used space. This should be redeveloped and reworked to create an appealing area and also make a connection with the courtyard garden, of which some respondents were unaware.

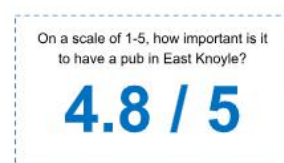
There's also an interest in the closed building which might be reopened and used for functions, casual seating, meeting spaces, and a TV screen for major sports and special events, or reinstated for skittles and other pub games. It could also be used for quizzes, music and themed nights which are suggested in the survey responses. In the rest of the bar and dining areas, the décor, lighting and seating could all be improved according to respondents, all without losing the traditional pub 'feeling'. The toilets could also do with refurbishment.

Other ideas to enhance the building include replacement of dated pictures with art by village artists, more use of the log-burners, brighter fabrics and wallcoverings, more comfortable seating – outside as well as inside, repositioned till and coffee machine to release bar space, and improved signage including a more suitable pub sign.

So the key message from the survey to the future owners and managers of the Fox and Hounds is that the village values the pub and in supporting it, expects to receive a warm welcome and good service from its staff – arguably something that's more straightforward to arrange than redesigning, refurbishing and repurposing the different parts of the fine building and its surrounds.

40% of the respondents indicated they would be willing to help any community bid to buy the pub by providing practical help and advice. The community pubs that we've visited so far have significantly benefited from a variety of skills and trades contributed by members of their communities. In this survey 39 of the 97 respondents indicated that they would be willing to financially support any bid by the community to take on the Fox and Hounds.

If you would still like to express your opinion on the pub and its future, or have more to say, then please email foxandhoundspetition@gmail.com.



Farewell to Murray Seator

A large gathering of villagers attended the fox and hounds on Friday, March 28th to say goodbye to Murray who has left the fox and hounds for new ventures. He was presented with a Val Morseman painting of East Knoyle. We all wish him well.



T@3 celebrates VE Day @ 80

Since May's T@3 fell on May 8th, it felt only fitting to host it as a commemoration 'street party' in honour of all those who gave their all 80 years ago, including from our own village.

The bunting was out, and everyone came in red, white and blue for their delicious tea. A table of photos and objects from Terry and Sue Coombes helped share personal stories of the war, and encourage conversations and remembrances. Those in attendance had the added pleasure of a comedy skit performed by the Knights (as East Knoyle's ENSA), a themed quiz, and a singalong to round off the affair.

During our rendition of They'll Always Be An England, participants were encouraged to sing for whichever country they chose, to mark the spirit of international camaraderie. And whilst we sang, we remembered that "never was so much owed by so many to so few".



First and foremost, I am very pleased to have been re-elected as your representative for the Nadder Valley Division at Wiltshire Council. Although I stood on the Conservative ticket, I will always offer to assist anyone in the Division if they need help with the Council. My email address is bridget.wayman@wiltshire.gov.uk or telephone 07769 677318.

From a political point of view, the results of the election mean that no party has an overall majority and, at the time of writing, there are various negotiations ongoing to see who can form an administration. Whoever is successful will only have a very small majority and the next four years will not be an easy ride, I fear.

A report from the Police recently said that the local neighbourhood team would be increasing their presence in the rural community which will give local communities the opportunity to engage with officers and express your concerns. While I will continue to press the Roads Policing Unit to patrol the A350, particularly when motorbikes do their Tuesday night and weekend runs (at high speed along the bypass), if local people can also express their concerns about the speeding vehicles, the message ought to get through that we would like to see some enforcement.

And please keep reporting potholes on the MyWilts App or on the Council's website. With the additional funding allocated to highway maintenance in this year's budget, I expect to see an improvement in our roads, although I think we will need to allocate additional funding for many years to come to get all our roads back up to a good standard. Perhaps the government will increase the capital funding for highways to councils which might ease the burden somewhat. Nor am I sure what the priorities will be for the new council administration.

When the dust settles, I hope to be able to report with more clarity.

Flower and Vegetable Show 9th August 2025

The wonderful Committee that run this classically English Flower and Vegetable Show meet up at the beginning of the year and, amongst other things, discuss what the "Theme" for the show should be. We have a "Theme" in order to allow the competitive spirits (that's you dear reader) to use their imaginative skills to create some glorious decorations, flower arrangements and pictures. The "theme" needs to be something we are familiar with; something that is fun, not complicated and something that brings us all a little bit closer.

We twiddled our thumbs, looked out of the window and had another sip of wine. Little did we know it, but it was staring us in the face. It's where we live and breathe. It's what creates friendships; it helps us to enjoy community; it's where we have fun and enjoy the company of others. It's the shop and the playpark; it's also the Church and the Village Hall; it's the quiz night; it's a walk through the woods. It's the same in hundreds of other communities like ours, it where we are privileged to live.

The theme for this year's show is **"Our Village"**

Bill Willmott, Chairman

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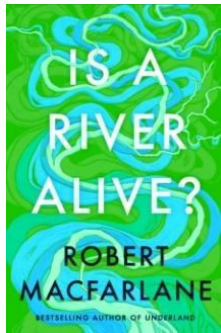
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Free Delivery in East Knoyle

Hulloh again, it's been a while and we are delighted to be back.

As the weather has improved and there's greenery in abundance this month's selection features some excellent natural history books newly published and brimming with spring-like promise.



Is A River Alive by Robert MacFarlane £25

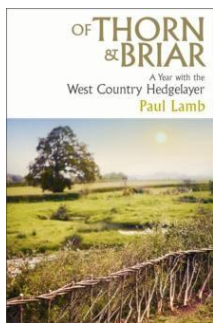
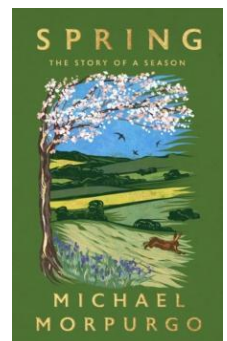
At its heart is a single, transformative idea: that rivers are not mere matter for human use, but living beings – who should be recognized as such in both imagination and law. Inspired by the activists, artists and lawmakers of the young 'Rights of Nature' movement, Macfarlane takes the reader on an exhilarating exploration of the past, present and futures of this ancient, urgent concept. special edition of Is a River Alive?,

At Winstone's we have a special edition signed and stamped by the author, with exclusive endpapers designed by Daniel Coe, a ribbon marker, and exclusive content – an extra page at the end of the book containing 'A Riversong', a poem written by Robert

Macfarlane.

SPRING The Story of a Season by Michael Morpurgo £16.99

Morpurgo, the author of some of the nation's best-loved children's books of our age, has lived for fifty years on Nethercott Farm adjoining the River Torridge in Devon. With his wife Kate, he founded an educational charity called 'Farms for City Children', to enable urban children to experience life in the countryside and on a farm for a week. This elegy to the coming of spring is a short but beautifully written evocation of that life. Organised into ten short chapters starting in March and ending in June, Morpurgo takes us through the passage of the season, often in the company of the poets and writers who have gone before him



Michael watches lambs being born on the farm, delights in a fanfare of bluebells in the woods, and sings to the birds, dressed in his wellies and dressing gown.

Of Thorn and Briar. A Year with a West Country Hedgelayers by Paul Lamb £20

Paul Lamb is a hedgelayers. From the end of summer until the birds nest in the spring, he maintains the ancient boundaries of the British countryside.

He lives in his wagon, as many itinerant farm workers used to, and travels the south-west corner of England, restoring an important but often forgotten part of our country.

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The Cinephile

(Reviews of Some Recent Films)

One to One: John and Yoko ****(An eye opening and refreshing, rollercoaster ride in and out of bed with John and Yoko in a poignantly timely release with echoes of our own social, political times.)

This very original piece of documentary filmmaking embeds us into the lives of these two icons during a brief, eighteen-month period from 1970-72.

With access to extraordinary recordings of their phone calls at the time, we are shown an unusual insight into the continuous energy and curiosity of both characters. Lennon in particular, unshackled from The Beatles, has arrived in Manhattan to discover multi channel television, which he describes as: "like a window on the world". He's the proverbial kid in a candy store. Like a child, his enthusiasm is infectious, as he and Yoko constantly 'brainstorm' ideas with one another and with their circle of activist friends. Their daily routine of interviews, phone calls, concerts, art installations and bedded TV watching are intercut with those newsreel images of the era in a frenetic Kaleidoscope, which dances a dreamlike mosaic of the lives they led.

Lennon, contrary to the sullen Liverpudlian we are used to seeing, is full of lust for life and an intoxicating sense that, they really can change the world. A world which is a refreshing reminder that the apparent Armageddon we may think we face with the geo-politics of today, has been faced by others in the past, who have survived. (mostly).

Co-directed by Sam Rice-Edwards and Kevin Macdonald, the prolific Scottish director who has also brought us films ranging from The Last King of Scotland and the Mauritanian to Whitney and Touching The Void

Adolescence *** (Bonus*)**. (Utterly mesmerizing and brilliant British Drama made for Netflix, about a young boy who is arrested under suspicion of murder.)

This four-part television drama has impacted the national consciousness, prompting debate across the media, the teaching profession and among politicians. The Prime Minister declared that he had watched it with his teenage daughter and son. It has set records, with Variety magazine reporting that with 66.3 million views it is Netflix's best ever two week total for a limited series. (That was on March 25th. Apparently this figure has since topped 100 million). This makes it the most watched limited series and the most watched UK title ever, with a whopping 161,000,000 hours of viewing.

Two other notable points about Adolescence, (both have been widely discussed), are the challenging nature of the content and the fact that each episode is filmed entirely in one shot.

It is a tale told through the experiences of one family. Through this lens it addresses the wider story of a troubled adolescence in modern Western society and the brutal devastation that is caused by knife crime. What makes the writing so good and so compelling is that it works with spectrums, rather than absolutes. There is no good and evil here, (although it would be easier if there were). There are no goodies and baddies. Instead there are lots and lots of questions and the answers raise more questions. If there is one conclusion, which becomes clear, it is that through social media and children's 24 hour access to it we have let an evil genie out of the box. As one character says: "We take pains to teach them how to cross roads and not talk to strangers. We rarely teach them how to navigate the internet." The effects continue to be devastating and no one knows what to do about it.

Do not let the seriousness of the subject matter put you off. This is a human story told with extraordinary humility and that makes for rewarding viewing.

The one shot phenomenon is often aspired to and talked about, in awe, amongst filmmakers. Previous notable examples include the opening shot of Scorsese's Goodfellas and Sam Mendes entire war film 1917, which was in fact not one shot but was edited to look like it.

Adolescence really does use one shot, as in the camera doesn't stop running for each episode. This is an admirable technical feat. It requires choreographing cast and crew around pre-dressed, pre-lit scenes across different locations in a hugely complicated and risky fifty-five minute dance with the camera. The effect is a restlessly intense viewing experience. Like theatre, single shot filming gives the actors a chance to rehearse thoroughly and play out each episode without interruption. This is a luxury not previously afforded to actors on screen.

There is not the space here to do justice to the staggering individual performances. The entire cast is flawless. It's astounding as an ensemble piece. Steven Grahame is heartbreaking, Ashley Walters and Erin Docherty are rock solid and fifteen year old first timer Owen Cooper's performance as the accused boy will smack you in the face, knock you over and leave you floored. It's a performance equal to that of teenage actor, Laurence Bould, fifty-five years ago, in Ken Loach's wonderful Film, Kes.

Watch this and be part of history. Like Loach's Cathy Come Home this is the kind of rare filmmaking which forces change.

A Complete Unknown.****(Beautiful biog of Bob Dylan's early years.) **A Real Pain ******(Brilliant, funny, heartbreaking story of two young Jewish Americans on a holocaust memorial tour) **The Alto Knights *****((History lesson about Gangsters from Robert De Niro) **Black Bag ****(Full of star names, but ultimately unsatisfying spy movie with a confusing plot)..



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Let there be Light

A note for your diaries!

**At St Catherine's Church, Sedgehill
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We are delighted to welcome Christine Riding, Director of Collections and Research at the National Gallery, to speak at an

**Evensong with the Benefice Choir
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The title of Christine's talk is 'Let there be light' based on the candlelight paintings of Joseph Wright of Derby to be shown in the forthcoming exhibition this autumn at the National Gallery.

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Photo by Lucy Halls

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Share with your community

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

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

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

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

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



**DEADLINE FOR
July / August 2025
Newsletter
10th July 2025**

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